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05\_02\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Home Ministry asks States to prevent improper depiction of the State Emblem of India / गृह मंत्रालय ने राज्यों से भारत के राज्य प्रतीक का अनुचित चित्रण रोकने को कहा
2. 'El Salvador to accept deportees from U.S. of any nationality' / 'अल साल्वाडोर अमेरिका से किसी भी राष्ट्रियता के निर्वासितों को स्वीकार करेगा'

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# Home Ministry asks States to prevent improper depiction of the State Emblem of India

GS Paper I: Art and Culture

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has asked State governments to prevent the misuse and improper depiction of the State Emblem of India emphasising that the Lion Capital logo is incomplete without the motto – Satyamev Jayate – in Devanagari script.

“It has been brought to notice of this Ministry that various government agencies which are using the State Emblem of India on their stationery, publications, seals, vehicles, buildings, websites etc., often omit the motto “Satyamev Jayate” and are only depicting the profile of the Lion Capital. Further, the design is not in conformity with the design set out in the Appendix I & II of the

**The Home Ministry further said that the State Emblem is the official seal of the Government of India**

Schedule of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005,” the Ministry said in a letter to the Chief Secretaries of the States.

The State Emblem is incomplete without the motto ‘Satyamev Jayate’ inscribed (in Devanagari script) below the profile of the Lion Capital. Incomplete display of the State Emblem is a violation of the aforesaid Act, the Ministry said in the letter.

The Ministry further said that the State Emblem is the official seal of the Government of India, an

adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.

The Emblem consists of the profile of the Lion Capital showing three Lions mounted on the abacus, with a Dharma Chakra in the Centre, a bull on the right, a galloping horse on the left and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left with the motto ‘Satyamev Jayate’ written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital.

“It may be noted that the use of the State Emblem of India is restricted to the authorities/purposes specified in the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 and the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007,” the Ministry said.

## Home Ministry asks States to prevent improper depiction of the State Emblem of India

### गृह मंत्रालय ने राज्यों से भारत के राज्य प्रतीक का अनुचित चित्रण रोकने को कहा

#### Union Home Ministry's Directive on Misuse of State Emblem

#### केंद्र सरकार का राज्य प्रतीक के दुरुपयोग पर निर्देश

- The Union Home Ministry has asked State governments to prevent the misuse and improper depiction of the State Emblem of India, emphasizing that the Lion Capital logo is incomplete without the motto "Satyamev Jayate" in Devanagari script. \*\*केंद्र सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय ने राज्य सरकारों से भारत के राज्य प्रतीक के दुरुपयोग और गलत चित्रण को रोकने के

लिए कहा है, यह जोर देते हुए कि शेर के शिल्प का लोगो बिना "सत्यमेव जयते" के देवनागरी लिपि में लिखे बिना अधूरा है।

- The Ministry stated that various government agencies using the emblem on **stationery, publications, seals, vehicles, buildings, and websites** often omit the motto "Satyamev Jayate" and depict only the profile of the **Lion Capital**. मंत्रालय ने कहा कि विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियाँ जो स्टेशनरी, प्रकाशन, मुद्राएं, वाहन, भवन और वेबसाइट पर प्रतीक का उपयोग करती हैं, अक्सर "सत्यमेव जयते" के नारे को छोड़ देती हैं और केवल शेर के शिल्प का प्रोफाइल दिखाती हैं।
- The Ministry highlighted that this improper depiction violates the **State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005**. मंत्रालय ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि इस गलत चित्रण से भारत के राज्य प्रतीक (दुरुपयोग की रोकथाम) अधिनियम, 2005 का उल्लंघन होता है।
- The **State Emblem** is the official seal of the **Government of India**, adapted from the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. राज्य प्रतीक भारत सरकार की आधिकारिक मुहर है, जिसे अशोक के सारनाथ शेर के शिल्प से अनुकूलित किया गया है।
- The emblem consists of the profile of the **Lion Capital** showing three lions mounted on the **abacus**, with a **Dharma Chakra** in the center, a **bull** on the right, a **galloping horse**



on the left, and outlines of **Dharma Chakras** on the extreme right and left. प्रतीक में शेर के शिल्प का प्रोफाइल है, जिसमें तीन शेर अधिष्ठान पर चढ़े हुए हैं, बीच में धर्म चक्र है, दाएं तरफ बैल, बाएं तरफ घुड़सवार घोड़ा, और अत्यंत दाएं और बाएं तरफ धर्म चक्र की रूपरेखाएँ हैं।

- Below the profile of the **Lion Capital**, the motto "**Satyamev Jayate**" is inscribed in **Devanagari script**. शेर के शिल्प के प्रोफाइल के नीचे "सत्यमेव जयते" का नारा देवनागरी लिपि में लिखा गया है।
- The Ministry emphasized that the use of the **State Emblem** is restricted to the authorities and purposes specified in the **State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005** and the **State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007**. मंत्रालय ने यह जोर दिया कि राज्य प्रतीक का उपयोग उन प्राधिकरणों और उद्देश्यों तक सीमित है जो भारत के राज्य प्रतीक (दुरुपयोग की रोकथाम) अधिनियम, 2005 और भारत के राज्य प्रतीक (उपयोग का विनियमन) नियम, 2007 में निर्दिष्ट हैं।

## 'El Salvador to accept deportees from U.S. of any nationality'

**GS Paper I: World History**

SAN SALVADOR

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio left El Salvador on Tuesday with an agreement from that country's President to accept deportees from the U.S. of any nationality, including violent American criminals now imprisoned in the United States.

"We can send them, and he will put them in his jails," Mr. Rubio said of migrants of all nationalities detained in the U.S. "And, he's also offered to do the same for dangerous criminals currently in custody and serving their sentences in the United States even though they are U.S. citizens or legal residents."



Marco Rubio

After Mr. Rubio spoke, a U.S. official said Mr. Trump's Republican administration had no current plans to try to deport American citizens but called Mr. Bukele's offer significant. The U.S. government cannot deport American citizens, and such a move would be met with legal challenges.

## 'El Salvador to accept deportees from U.S. of any nationality'

'अल साल्वाडोर अमेरिका से किसी भी राष्ट्रियता के निर्वासितों को स्वीकार करेगा'

**U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's Agreement with El Salvador**

अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो का एल सलवाडोर के साथ समझौता

- On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** left **El Salvador** with an agreement from the country's **President** to accept **deportees** from the U.S. of any nationality, including **violent American criminals** now imprisoned in the United States. मंगलवार को, अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री **मार्को रुबियो एल सलवाडोर** से एक समझौते के साथ लौटे जिसमें देश के राष्ट्रपति ने अमेरिका से किसी भी राष्ट्रियता के वापस भेजे गए लोगों को स्वीकार करने का समझौता किया, जिसमें **हिंसक अमेरिकी अपराधी** भी शामिल हैं जो अब संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में कैद हैं।



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- Mr. Rubio stated, "We can send them, and he will put them in his **jails**." रुबियो ने कहा, "हम उन्हें भेज सकते हैं, और वह उन्हें अपनी जेलों में रखेंगे।"
- The President of El Salvador also offered to accept **dangerous criminals** currently in custody and serving sentences in the U.S., even if they are **U.S. citizens** or **legal residents**. एल सल्वाडोर के राष्ट्रपति ने यह भी प्रस्ताव दिया कि वे **खतरनाक अपराधियों** को भी स्वीकार करेंगे जो वर्तमान में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में हिरासत में हैं और अपनी सजा काट रहे हैं, भले ही वे **अमेरिकी नागरिक** या **कानूनी निवासी** हों।
- After Mr. Rubio spoke, a U.S. official clarified that the **Trump Republican administration** had no current plans to deport **American citizens** but acknowledged that Mr. **Bukele's offer** was **significant**. रुबियो के बयान के बाद, एक अमेरिकी अधिकारी ने स्पष्ट किया कि **ट्रंप रिपब्लिकन प्रशासन** के पास **अमेरिकी नागरिकों** को निर्वासित करने की कोई वर्तमान योजना नहीं है, लेकिन उन्होंने **बुकले का प्रस्ताव महत्वपूर्ण** बताया।
- The **U.S. government** cannot deport **American citizens**, and such a move would face **legal challenges**. **अमेरिकी सरकार अमेरिकी नागरिकों** को निर्वासित नहीं कर सकती, और ऐसी कार्रवाई को **कानूनी चुनौतियों** का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

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

### 1. PM slams Opposition in LS, mocks Kejriwal / प्रधानमंत्री ने

लोकसभा में विपक्ष पर हमला किया, केजरीवाल का उपहास उड़ाया

### 2. HC should get first shot at pleas on UAPA amendment, says SC / यूएपीए संशोधन पर याचिकाओं पर हाईकोर्ट को पहले

सुनवाई करनी चाहिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट का बयान

### 3. Will Resolve Governor-T.N. Govt. Tussle in the Spirit of the

Constitution, Says SC / राज्यपाल-तमिलनाडु सरकार के टकराव को

संविधान की भावना में हल करेंगे: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

### 4. The U.S.'s WHO exit, a chance to reshape global health /

अमेरिका का WHO से बाहर निकलना, वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य को पुनः आकार

देने का अवसर

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## 5. India-Indonesia ties as a beacon for global relations / भारत-इंडोनेशिया संबंध वैश्विक संबंधों के लिए एक प्रकाशस्तंभ के रूप में

## 6. Learning steps / सीखने के चरण

## 7. Cess and Surcharge Continue to Shrink States' Tax Share / सेस और सरचार्ज राज्यों के कर हिस्से को लगातार कम कर रहे हैं

### PM slams Opposition in LS, mocks Kejriwal

GS Paper II: Polity

Nistula Hebbar  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of polling in the national capital, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Modi said, unlike others, his government “lived the spirit of the Constitution”, saving public funds for development rather than building a “Sheesh Mahal (grand palace)” – a dig at former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal.

Responding to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for

**The Prime Minister said, unlike others, his government 'lived the spirit of the Constitution'**

her address to both Houses of Parliament, Mr. Modi laid out his government's record on development, stating that “it is only our third term”, and exuding confidence in his political authority.

“Some parties are like AAPda (disaster) for the future of the youth,” he said.

He added that while his government's schemes saved lot of money, it was

not used to build a ‘Sheesh Mahal’, a reference to Mr. Kejriwal's renovation of his residence as Chief Minister.

Noting that his government had plugged leakages in the disbursal of welfare funds to the poor, he took a dig at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying that those who entertain themselves by getting photo sessions done in huts of the poor will find the talk about the poor in Parliament boring. This was an allusion to Mr. Gandhi's comments after President's Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint Houses of Parliament on Friday.

The Prime Minister ad-

ded that while his government lived the spirit of the Constitution guiding the Indian state, “some people are openly speaking the language of urban naxals”. Those who “declare a war” against the Indian state can neither understand the Constitution nor the country's unity, he asserted. This too was a reference to Mr. Gandhi's comments last month that his party was “now fighting the BJP, the RSS, and the Indian state itself”.

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OPPOSITION HITS BACK

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### PM slams Opposition in LS, mocks Kejriwal

प्रधानमंत्री ने लोकसभा में विपक्ष पर हमला किया, केजरीवाल का उपहास उड़ाया

On the eve of polling in the national capital, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में मतदान की पूर्व संध्या पर, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने लोकसभा में विपक्ष पर तीखा हमला किया।

- Mr. Modi said, unlike others, his government “lived the spirit of the Constitution”, saving public funds for development rather than building a “Sheesh Mahal (grand palace)” — a dig at former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal. श्री मोदी ने कहा कि दूसरों के विपरीत, उनकी सरकार “संविधान की भावना के अनुरूप कार्य करती है”, और विकास के लिए सार्वजनिक धन बचाती है, बजाय इसके कि “शीश महल” बनाया जाए — यह दिल्ली के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और आप प्रमुख अरविंद केजरीवाल पर कटाक्ष था।
- Responding to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President, Mr. Modi laid out his government's record on development, stating that “it is only our third term”, and exuding confidence in his political authority.



राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव की बहस का जवाब देते हुए, श्री मोदी ने अपनी सरकार के विकास रिकॉर्ड को प्रस्तुत किया और कहा कि "यह केवल हमारी तीसरी पारी है", और उन्होंने अपनी राजनीतिक स्थिति पर विश्वास जताया।

- "Some parties are like AAPda (disaster) for the future of the youth," he said.

"कुछ पार्टियां युवाओं के भविष्य के लिए आपदा (AAPda) जैसी हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

- He added that while his government's schemes saved a lot of money, it was not used to build a 'Sheesh Mahal', a reference to Mr. Kejriwal's renovation of his residence as Chief Minister.

उन्होंने यह भी जोड़ा कि उनकी सरकार की योजनाओं से बहुत पैसा बचा, लेकिन इसे "शीश महल" बनाने में खर्च नहीं किया गया, यह मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में श्री केजरीवाल के निवास के नवीनीकरण की ओर इशारा था।

- Noting that his government had plugged leakages in the disbursement of welfare funds to the poor, he took a dig at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying that those who entertain themselves by getting photo sessions done in huts of the poor will find the talk about the poor in Parliament boring.

यह बताते हुए कि उनकी सरकार ने गरीबों को कल्याणकारी धन के वितरण में होने वाली गड़बड़ियों को रोका है, उन्होंने कांग्रेस सांसद राहुल गांधी पर कटाक्ष किया और कहा कि जो लोग गरीबों की झोपड़ियों में फोटो सेशन करवाकर खुद का मनोरंजन करते हैं, उन्हें संसद में गरीबों पर चर्चा उबाऊ लगेगी।

- This was an allusion to Mr. Gandhi's comments after President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint Houses of Parliament on Friday.

यह शुक्रवार को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू के संसद के दोनों सदन को संबोधन के बाद श्री गांधी की टिप्पणी की ओर संकेत था।

- The Prime Minister added that while his government lived the spirit of the Constitution guiding the Indian state, "some people are openly speaking the language of urban naxals".

प्रधानमंत्री ने आगे कहा कि उनकी सरकार संविधान की भावना का पालन कर रही है जो भारतीय राज्य का मार्गदर्शन करती है, लेकिन "कुछ लोग खुलेआम अर्बन नक्सलियों की भाषा बोल रहे हैं"।

- Those who "declare a war" against the Indian state can neither understand the Constitution nor the country's unity, he asserted.

जो लोग भारतीय राज्य के खिलाफ "युद्ध" की घोषणा करते हैं, वे न तो संविधान को समझ सकते हैं और न ही देश की एकता को, उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा।

- This too was a reference to Mr. Gandhi's comments last month that his party was "now fighting the BJP, the RSS, and the Indian state itself".

यह भी पिछले महीने श्री गांधी की उस टिप्पणी की ओर संकेत था कि उनकी पार्टी "अब भाजपा, आरएसएस और स्वयं भारतीय राज्य से लड़ रही है"।



# HC should get first shot at pleas on UAPA amendment, says SC

GS Paper II: Violation of FR, Judicial Review

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said petitions challenging the 2019 amendment in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) that confers the Centre with “discretionary, unfettered and unbound powers” to categorise a person as a ‘terrorist’, must be first heard and decided by the High Court.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna said the High Court must have the first opportunity to apply its mind to the problem.

The petitioners, including Delhi resident Sajal Awasthi, urged the Bench to have one High Court, preferably Delhi, hear the petitions.

The Bench said it would upload its order on February 5.

## Fundamental rights

The petitioners said the amended law allowed the state to freely encroach upon the fundamental rights of dignity, free

speech, and reputation. It highlighted how the law could be used to bring disrepute to a person, and even worse, rob him or her liberty. The heavy burden to prove the state machinery wrong would lie on the person, they said.

“The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019, seeks to substantially modify Chapter VI of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and Section 35 and 36 therein. The new Section 35 of the UAPA Act, 1967, empowers the Central government to categorise any individual as ‘terrorist’ and add name of such a person in Schedule 4 of the Act,” Mr. Awasthi had contended.

The petition said the right to reputation was an intrinsic part of fundamental right to life with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution, and tagging an individual a “terrorist” even before the commencement of trial or any application of judicial mind over it, did not amount to following of “procedure established by law”.

चाहिए।

- The petitioners, including Delhi resident Sajal Awasthi, urged the Bench to have one High Court, preferably Delhi, hear the petitions. याचिकाकर्ताओं, जिनमें दिल्ली निवासी साजल अवस्थी भी शामिल हैं, ने पीठ से अनुरोध किया कि किसी एक हाईकोर्ट, अधिमानतः दिल्ली, में इन याचिकाओं की सुनवाई हो।
- The Bench said it would upload its order on February 5. पीठ ने कहा कि वह 5 फरवरी को अपना आदेश अपलोड करेगी।

# HC should get first shot at pleas on UAPA amendment, says SC

यूएपीए संशोधन पर याचिकाओं पर हाईकोर्ट को पहले सुनवाई करनी चाहिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट का बयान

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said petitions challenging the 2019 amendment in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) that confers the Centre with “discretionary, unfettered, and unbound powers” to categorise a person as a ‘terrorist’, must be first heard and decided by the High Court.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को कहा कि 2019 संशोधन को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं, जो गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां (रोकथाम) अधिनियम (UAPA) के तहत केंद्र सरकार को किसी व्यक्ति को 'आतंकी' घोषित करने के लिए निर्णय लेने की असीमित और अटूट शक्ति प्रदान करता है, को पहले हाईकोर्ट में सुना और निपटाया जाना चाहिए।

- A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna said the High Court must have the first opportunity to apply its mind to the problem. भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने कहा कि हाईकोर्ट को इस मुद्दे पर विचार करने का पहला अवसर मिलना

## Fundamental Rights

### मौलिक अधिकार



- The petitioners said the **amended law** allowed the **state** to freely **encroach upon the fundamental rights of dignity, free speech, and reputation**.  
याचिकाकर्ताओं ने कहा कि संशोधित कानून राज्य को गरिमा, अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और प्रतिष्ठा जैसे मौलिक अधिकारों पर बिना किसी रोक-टोक के हस्तक्षेप करने की अनुमति देता है।
- It highlighted how the **law** could be used to bring **disrepute** to a person, and even worse, **rob him or her of liberty**.  
इसमें बताया गया कि यह कानून किसी व्यक्ति की प्रतिष्ठा को धूमिल करने और इससे भी गंभीर रूप से उसकी स्वतंत्रता छीनने के लिए उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- The **heavy burden** to prove the **state machinery wrong** would lie on the **person accused** under this law.  
इस कानून के तहत आरोपी व्यक्ति पर राज्य तंत्र को गलत साबित करने का भारी बोझ डाल दिया जाएगा

## Provisions of UAPA Amendment 2019

### यूएपीए संशोधन 2019 के प्रावधान

- The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019**, seeks to **substantially modify Chapter VI of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and Section 35 and 36** therein.  
गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां (रोकथाम) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2019, 1967 के यूएपीए अधिनियम के अध्याय VI और इसके अनुच्छेद 35 व 36 में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन करता है।
- The **new Section 35** of the **UAPA Act, 1967**, empowers the **Central government** to **categorise any individual as a 'terrorist'** and add the name of such a person in **Schedule 4 of the Act**.  
यूएपीए अधिनियम, 1967 की नए अनुच्छेद 35 के तहत, केंद्र सरकार को किसी भी व्यक्ति को 'आतंकी' घोषित करने और उसका नाम अधिनियम की अनुसूची 4 में जोड़ने का अधिकार दिया गया है।

## Violation of Article 21

### अनुच्छेद 21 का उल्लंघन

- The **petition** said the **right to reputation** was an **intrinsic part of the fundamental right to life with dignity** under **Article 21** of the **Constitution**.  
याचिका में कहा गया कि प्रतिष्ठा का अधिकार, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत गरिमा के साथ जीवन के मौलिक अधिकार का अंतर्निहित हिस्सा है।
- **Tagging an individual as a 'terrorist'** even before the **commencement of trial or any judicial scrutiny** did not follow the **procedure established by law**.  
किसी व्यक्ति को मुकदमे की शुरुआत से पहले या न्यायिक जांच के बिना 'आतंकी' करार देना, कानून द्वारा स्थापित प्रक्रिया का पालन नहीं करता है।



# Will resolve Governor-T.N. govt. tussle in the spirit of the Constitution, says SC

The Governor's table is empty, says Attorney General R. Venkataramani, appearing for the Governor's office; T.N. terms his actions 'ex-facie illegal, without jurisdiction and in gross violation of Constitution'

**GS Paper II: Center State Relation**

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday promised to resolve the tug of war between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor R.N. Ravi "in the spirit of the Constitution", and in the "interest of one and all", even while holding out hope that the freeze in ties could be resolved over a cup of coffee before the scheduled court hearing on February 6.

The clash of views between the Governor and the M.K. Stalin-led government is over myriad issues, ranging from delay in giving assent to key Bills on higher education issues, pending sanction of prosecutions, remission of prisoners, government orders, and constitution of search committees for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs).

"The Governor's table is empty. There is nothing on it at all," Attorney General R. Venkataramani, appear-



Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during the Republic Day celebration in Chennai. FILE PHOTO:PTI

ing for the Governor's office, told a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan.

He was referring to the Governor's action of referring 10 re-enacted Bills, largely concerning higher education, to the President on November 18, 2023.

The President had subsequently assented to one Bill, rejected seven, and did not consider the remaining two proposed laws.

The State, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, and advocate Sa-

barish Subramanian, argued that the decision of the Governor to reserve the case for the President's consideration was "ex-facie illegal, without jurisdiction and in gross violation of the Constitution".

**'Without jurisdiction'**

"The grant of assent to the Bill by Her Excellency, the Hon'ble President of India is unconstitutional and without jurisdiction. Instead, Union government should have advised Her Excellency to return the 10 Bills back to the Hon'ble Governor as it is complete-

ly in gross violation of the principles of Constitution under the first proviso to Article 200 [Governor's assent to Bills]," the State government said.

Justice Pardiwala queried whether there were any specific considerations that ought to weigh on the Governor for referring a Bill to the President and, subsequently, how the President would look into a Bill sent by the Governor.

Mr. Singhvi, taking the court through Article 200, said a Governor has three options when a Bill is referred to him for assent by the Legislature – he must give assent or withhold assent or reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.

In case the assent is withheld, if it is not a Money Bill, the proposed law must be returned to the State Legislature "as soon as possible", with comments. If the Bill is reiterated by the Legislature, the Governor has no option but to grant assent, he said.

## Will Resolve Governor-T.N. Govt. Tussle in the Spirit of the Constitution, Says SC

राज्यपाल-तमिलनाडु सरकार के टकराव को संविधान की भावना में हल करेंगे: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court on Tuesday promised to resolve the tug of war between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor R.N. Ravi "in the spirit of the Constitution" and in the "interest of one and all."

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को तमिलनाडु सरकार और राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि के बीच जारी तनाव को "संविधान की भावना में" और

"सभी के हित में" हल करने का आश्वासन दिया।

- The court held out hope that the **freeze in ties** could be resolved **over a cup of coffee** before the scheduled court hearing on **February 6**.

अदालत ने उम्मीद जताई कि रिश्तों में जमी बर्फ को 6 फरवरी को निर्धारित सुनवाई से पहले चर्चा के माध्यम से हल किया जा सकता है।

### Key Issues in the Dispute

#### विवाद के प्रमुख मुद्दे

- The dispute between **Governor R.N. Ravi** and the **M.K. Stalin-led government** is over several issues, including:

राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि और एम.के. स्टालिन के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार के बीच कई मुद्दों पर विवाद है, जिनमें शामिल हैं:



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- **Delay in giving assent to key Bills on higher education.**  
उच्च शिक्षा से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण विधेयकों को मंजूरी देने में देरी।
- **Pending sanction of prosecutions and remission of prisoners.**  
अभियोजन की स्वीकृति लंबित और कैदियों की रिहाई में देरी।
- **Government orders and the constitution of search committees for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs).**  
उप-कुलपतियों (V-Cs) की नियुक्ति के लिए खोज समितियों के गठन और सरकारी आदेशों पर मतभेद।

## Governor's Stand on Bills

### विधेयकों पर राज्यपाल का रुख

- **Attorney General R. Venkataramani**, appearing for the Governor's office, stated: "The Governor's table is empty. There is nothing on it at all."  
महान्यायवादी आर. वेंकटरमणी, जो राज्यपाल के कार्यालय की ओर से पेश हुए, ने कहा:  
"राज्यपाल की टेबल खाली है। उस पर कुछ भी नहीं है।"
- On November 18, 2023, the Governor referred 10 re-enacted Bills (mostly related to higher education) to the President.  
18 नवंबर 2023 को, राज्यपाल ने 10 पुनः प्रस्तुत विधेयकों (मुख्यतः उच्च शिक्षा से जुड़े) को राष्ट्रपति के पास भेज दिया।
- The President's response to these Bills:  
इन विधेयकों पर राष्ट्रपति की प्रतिक्रिया:
  - One Bill was assented to.  
एक विधेयक को मंजूरी दी गई।
  - Seven Bills were rejected.  
सात विधेयक खारिज कर दिए गए।
  - Two Bills were not considered.  
दो विधेयकों पर कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया।

## Tamil Nadu Government's Argument

### तमिलनाडु सरकार की दलील

- Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, A.M. Singhvi, and P. Wilson argued that the Governor's decision to refer the Bills to the President was:  
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता मुकुल रोहतगी, ए.एम. सिंघवी और पी. विल्सन ने तर्क दिया कि विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति के पास भेजने का राज्यपाल का निर्णय:
  - "Ex-facie illegal" (स्पष्ट रूप से अवैध)।
  - "Without jurisdiction" (अधिकार क्षेत्र से बाहर)।
  - "In gross violation of the Constitution" (संविधान का गंभीर उल्लंघन)।

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- The State government further argued:  
राज्य सरकार ने आगे तर्क दिया:
  - Granting assent to the Bill by the President is unconstitutional and without jurisdiction.  
राष्ट्रपति द्वारा विधेयक को मंजूरी देना असंवैधानिक और अधिकार क्षेत्र से बाहर है।
  - The Union government should have advised the President to return the 10 Bills to the Governor under **Article 200 (Governor's assent to Bills)**, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत केंद्र सरकार को राष्ट्रपति को सलाह देनी चाहिए थी कि वे 10 विधेयकों को राज्यपाल के पास वापस भेजें।

## Supreme Court's Query on Article 200

### अनुच्छेद 200 पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट की पूछताछ

- Justice J.B. Pardiwala asked whether there were **specific considerations** that should guide the **Governor's decision** to refer a Bill to the **President**.  
न्यायमूर्ति जे.बी. पारदीवाला ने पूछा कि राज्यपाल द्वारा किसी विधेयक को राष्ट्रपति के पास भेजने के लिए विशेष मानदंड क्या होने चाहिए।
- A.M. Singhvi explained the **three options available** to the **Governor** under **Article 200** when a **Bill is sent for assent**:  
ए.एम. सिंघवी ने बताया कि अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत राज्यपाल के पास तीन विकल्प होते हैं जब कोई विधेयक मंजूरी के लिए भेजा जाता है:
  1. **Give assent** to the Bill.  
विधेयक को स्वीकृति देना।
  2. **Withhold assent** to the Bill.  
विधेयक को स्वीकृति देने से इनकार करना।
  3. **Reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President**.  
विधेयक को राष्ट्रपति के विचार के लिए सुरक्षित रखना।
- If the **Governor withholds assent**, and if it is **not a Money Bill**, the proposed law **must be returned to the State Legislature** "as soon as possible" with **comments**.  
यदि राज्यपाल किसी विधेयक को अस्वीकार करते हैं, और वह मनी बिल नहीं है, तो विधेयक को जल्द से जल्द राज्य विधानसभा को टिप्पणी के साथ लौटाना होगा।
- If the **Legislature reiterates the Bill**, the **Governor has no option but to grant assent**.  
यदि विधानसभा उस विधेयक को फिर से पारित करती है, तो राज्यपाल को उसे मंजूरी देनी ही होगी।



# The U.S.'s WHO exit, a chance to reshape global health

GS Paper II: International Organization

**O**n January 20, 2025, the United States government issued an executive order to withdraw from membership of the World Health Organization (WHO). This has raised apprehensions that reduced funding for WHO would impact the functionality of the organisation. However, as the executive decision by the U.S. government has already been made, it is time to reflect on some fundamental questions such as why a single country's exit from WHO is causing so much concern. How can the U.S.'s exit from WHO be converted into an opportunity to create a stronger WHO? Why is there a need for an increasingly greater role of countries in Asia and Africa in global health.

## Funding intricacies

To understand the impact of the **U.S.'s withdrawal on WHO funding**, we need to understand WHO's funding system. There are two broad categories of funding sources. In the first, the **assessed contribution (or AC)** is a fixed amount each **WHO member-state must pay annually as a sort of membership fee**. This is what the **U.S. President has argued as being disproportionately high (for the U.S.) and cited as one of the four reasons for the U.S.'s decision regarding its withdrawal**. The assessed contributions ensure assured funding, which WHO uses to pay the salaries of regular staff, both technical and administrative, and maintain day-to-day functioning. This is the minimum resources the organisation needs to ensure a continuity of operations.

The other funding pool is from **voluntary contributions (or VC)** which comes from a range of donor agencies and additional contributions from WHO member-states. VCs are broadly for projects and other time-bound activities. WHO uses VC funds in the hiring of short-term staff and consultants. However, the problem with VC funds is that these are – as the name suggests – voluntary, always time-bound, linked to specific activities, and, thus, unpredictable.

For example, many member-states and donors provide funds for polio elimination, patient safety, primary health care or antimicrobial resistance-related work. These contributions are tight-jacketed and non-transferable to other activities. With the U.S.'s withdrawal from WHO, the VC would also be impacted, as many U.S.-based or U.S.-aligned donors may either reduce, or worse, completely stop the funding to WHO. As an example, the ongoing turmoil and uncertain fate of USAID would additionally impact WHO funding. Clearly, the financial impact on WHO is likely to be far greater than the direct share of the U.S. government funds for WHO.

Another argument given for the U.S.'s withdrawal, which has been used frequently by some others to criticise WHO, is that the organisation is highly bureaucratic, acts slow and is in need of urgent reforms. This is partially true



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It is time for the countries in the global south to support WHO and initiate collaborative actions to reshape the global health agenda

and to be fair in assessment, every global institution needs some reforms and WHO is not any different. In fact, there is far more to WHO's credit than the occasional systemic blips it has faced. In this era of emerging and multi-sectoral challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, climate change, global warming and animal health, increasing re-emergence of diseases and a steep rise in lifestyle diseases, the world needs a stronger WHO, more than ever.

## Why institutions fail

In their book, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (they were conferred the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2024) hypothesize, *inter alia*, that nations thrive upon the foundation and the strengths of functioning and stronger institutions.

Expanding the analogy at a global level, the world needs stronger institutions for peace and global health. However, in the last few decades, the fibres of global collaboration have been damaged. There is rising nationalism in many countries and 'Nation first' is becoming a vote-catcher for many leaders. This phenomenon of hyper-nationalism is global but relatively new, and, thus, arguably more virulent in high-income countries. Hyper-nationalism often undermines global institutions.

With the U.S.'s exit from WHO, the likelihood of key multi-country alliances such G-7, G-20 and others stepping in to support and fund WHO are feeble. Yet, for its tremendous body of work in the last 75 years, it is a moral imperative for all countries that the alternatives are explored to protect and save global institutions. The legitimate governments and elected political leaders in the global south and countries such as India, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand, Egypt and many others need to step up to support WHO in specific, and the United Nations in general.

There is another important consideration – the inexcusable gap in global health priorities and funding. The health challenges which affect the countries in Asia and Africa are grossly underfunded; mPox did not get global attention till it started affecting people in high-income countries in 2022. The vaccines and drugs against mPox are barely available in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other settings where disease is most rampant but offered liberally in the U.S. which has a few mPox cases. This is a reminder that high-income countries continue to shape the policies, health agenda and command influence in global health, inadvertently widening health inequities. Global health has arguably been a case of 'He who pays the piper calls the tune'.

The decision to recall U.S. government personnel who have been seconded to WHO and subsequent apprehension that such a step would slow down ongoing programmes reflect how

global health agencies are a little too dependent on subject experts originating from a single or select few countries. Global health will be better off if a pool of subject experts in various areas of public health are available from different countries and in the majority of the countries. There are a few things which should be considered immediately.

## The global south must act

First, countries in the global south, especially Asia and Africa, must team up to supplement WHO funding gap after the U.S.'s exit. BRICS could be one such platform. Second, countries such as India, Ethiopia, Ghana, and others in the global south need to invest in training of experts not just in public health but also global health (these are different areas). For example, India should have trained experts in conditions which affect Africa and diseases which are not prevalent in our country. The era of providing only financial support to any country is behind us. It is time for 'pooled' technical expertise in health, as in any other sector. Third, the countries in the global south should set up a few premier institutions at the country or at regional levels through inter-country collaboration to train their experts in global health. It is the expertise from low- and middle-income countries which will be of help to each other and to WHO by the secondment of such experts. That way, global health can improve at a much lower cost than by expertise from high-income countries.

Fourth, we have been hearing of reforms in WHO for a long time. One of the steps which should be considered urgently is to trim staff and move the headquarters to one of the regional offices in Brazzaville (Congo), Cairo, Manila or New Delhi. This would reduce the headquarter's operational costs. Though this might be a problem in terms of air connectivity, the time and the focus of WHO's work needs to be on geographies where attention is needed: Africa and Asia. It would be a very strategic move to scale down the headquarters and move specific divisions to the regional offices.

It is very likely that four years later or some time in future, when there is a new U.S. President, the U.S. would rejoin WHO. However, till then, the U.S.'s withdrawal should be explored as an opportunity for the public health community and political leadership in the global south to initiate country and regional level and collaborative actions to reshape the global health agenda, which is much under the influence and the guidance of high-income countries. Global health should not be at the mercy of funding or the expertise from one or a handful of high-income countries. It must be truly a joint venture for the entire world, led by the global south.

*The views expressed are personal*



## The U.S.'s WHO exit, a chance to reshape global health अमेरिका का WHO से बाहर निकलना, वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य को पुनः आकार देने का अवसर

On January 20, 2025, the United States government issued an executive order to withdraw from membership of the World Health Organization (WHO).

20 जनवरी 2025 को, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की सरकार ने कार्यकारी आदेश जारी किया जिससे WHO की सदस्यता से बाहर होने की घोषणा की।

- This has raised apprehensions that **reduced funding** for WHO would impact the **functionality of the organisation**.  
इससे यह आशंका उत्पन्न हुई है कि WHO की फंडिंग में कटौती से संस्था की कार्यक्षमता प्रभावित होगी।
- However, as the **executive decision** by the **U.S. government** has already been made, it is time to reflect on some fundamental questions.  
हालांकि, चूंकि अमेरिकी सरकार का कार्यकारी निर्णय पहले ही लिया जा चुका है, अब कुछ मौलिक प्रश्नों पर विचार करने का समय है।
- Why is a **single country's exit from WHO** causing so much concern?  
एक देश का WHO से बाहर निकलना इतनी बड़ी चिंता क्यों पैदा कर रहा है?
- How can the **U.S.'s exit** from WHO be converted into an **opportunity** to create a **stronger WHO**?  
अमेरिका का WHO से बाहर निकलना कैसे एक मजबूत WHO बनाने का अवसर बन सकता है?
- Why is there a need for an **increasingly greater role** of **countries in Asia and Africa** in **global health**?  
वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य में एशिया और अफ्रीका के देशों की भूमिका बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता क्यों है?

### Funding intricacies

#### फंडिंग की जटिलताएँ

- To understand the impact of the **U.S.'s withdrawal on WHO funding**, we need to understand **WHO's funding system**.  
अमेरिका के WHO से बाहर निकलने के प्रभाव को समझने के लिए, हमें WHO की फंडिंग प्रणाली को समझना होगा।
- There are two broad categories of **funding sources**:  
WHO की फंडिंग के दो मुख्य स्रोत हैं:
  - **Assessed contribution (AC): A fixed amount each WHO member-state must pay annually as a sort of membership fee.**



- आंकी गई योगदान (AC): प्रत्येक WHO सदस्य-देश को वार्षिक रूप से एक निश्चित राशि सदस्यता शुल्क के रूप में देनी होती है।
- This ensures **assured funding to pay salaries of regular staff** and maintain **day-to-day functioning**.  
यह निश्चित फंडिंग सुनिश्चित करता है जिससे नियमित कर्मचारियों का वेतन और दैनिक संचालन बनाए रखा जा सके।
  - The **U.S. President** has argued that **AC for the U.S. is disproportionately high**, citing it as one of the reasons for **withdrawal**.  
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने तर्क दिया कि अमेरिका के लिए AC असमान रूप से अधिक है, और इसे बाहर निकलने के कारणों में से एक बताया।
  - **Voluntary Contributions (VC)**: These come from **donor agencies** and additional **contributions from member-states**.  
**स्वैच्छिक योगदान (VC)**: यह अनुदान एजेंसियों और सदस्य-राज्यों से अतिरिक्त योगदान के रूप में आता है।
  - **VCs are time-bound** and often restricted to **specific activities**, making them **unpredictable**.  
VC सीमित समय के लिए होता है और अक्सर विशिष्ट गतिविधियों के लिए निर्धारित होता है, जिससे यह अनिश्चित बन जाता है।
  - Example: Many donors provide funds for **polio elimination, patient safety, primary health care**, etc.  
उदाहरण: कई दाता पोलियो उन्मूलन, मरीजों की सुरक्षा, प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल आदि के लिए फंड देते हैं।
  - The **U.S.'s withdrawal** could impact **VCs**, as many **U.S.-based donors** may **reduce or stop funding**.  
अमेरिका के बाहर निकलने से VC प्रभावित हो सकता है, क्योंकि कई अमेरिकी दाता फंडिंग कम या बंद कर सकते हैं।
  - Example: **USAID's uncertain fate** may further **impact WHO funding**.  
उदाहरण: USAID का अनिश्चित भविष्य भी WHO की फंडिंग पर प्रभाव डाल सकता है।

## Why institutions fail

### संस्थाएँ क्यों विफल होती हैं

- **Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson** in their book "**Why Nations Fail**" state that nations thrive on **strong institutions**.  
डैरॉन एसिमोग्लू और जेम्स ए. रॉबिन्सन ने अपनी पुस्तक "व्हाई नेशंस फेल" में बताया कि राष्ट्र मजबूत संस्थानों पर फलते-फूलते हैं।
- The world needs **stronger institutions** for **peace and global health**.  
दुनिया को शांति और वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य के लिए मजबूत संस्थानों की आवश्यकता है।



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- **Hyper-nationalism** is rising, weakening **global collaboration** and **global institutions**.  
हाइपर-नेशनलिज्म बढ़ रहा है, जिससे वैश्विक सहयोग और वैश्विक संस्थाएँ कमजोर हो रही हैं।
- The **U.S.'s exit** could reduce the likelihood of **G-7, G-20 stepping in** to support WHO.  
अमेरिका के बाहर निकलने से G-7, G-20 जैसे समूहों द्वारा WHO को समर्थन देने की संभावना कम हो सकती है।

## The global south must act

### वैश्विक दक्षिण को कदम उठाने चाहिए

- Countries in the **global south**, particularly **Asia and Africa**, should **supplement WHO funding**.  
वैश्विक दक्षिण के देश, विशेष रूप से एशिया और अफ्रीका, को WHO की फंडिंग में योगदान देना चाहिए।
- **BRICS** could be a **potential platform** for this.  
BRICS इसके लिए एक संभावित मंच हो सकता है।
- Countries like **India, Ethiopia, Ghana** must **invest in training global health experts**.  
भारत, इथियोपिया, घाना जैसे देशों को वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों के प्रशिक्षण में निवेश करना चाहिए।
- WHO headquarters could be **shifted to Brazzaville, Cairo, Manila, or New Delhi** to reduce costs.  
WHO का मुख्यालय ब्राज़ाविल, काहिरा, मनीला या नई दिल्ली स्थानांतरित करना लागत में कमी ला सकता है।
- The **U.S. may rejoin WHO in the future**, but till then, the **global south must lead global health initiatives**.  
भविष्य में अमेरिका WHO में फिर शामिल हो सकता है, लेकिन तब तक वैश्विक दक्षिण को स्वास्थ्य पहलों का नेतृत्व करना चाहिए।

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# India-Indonesia ties as a beacon for global relations

## GS Paper II: India-Indonesia

It was a great honour for this writer to have accompanied President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia, who was the chief guest at India's spectacular 76th Republic Day celebrations. The magnificence of the occasion was not only reflected in the vibrant displays of India's democracy, diversity and military strength, but was also a timely reminder of the deep and enduring relationship between the countries, which can be a beacon for wider international relations.

### The evolution of ties

Indeed, as India celebrated its first Republic Day in 1950, marking its new destiny as a sovereign and democratic nation, it was Indonesia's founding father, President Sukarno, who graced the occasion as chief guest.

In subsequent decades, as the two countries embraced their independence, they have built strong ties, spanning economics, politics and culture. In fact, this year was the fourth time that an Indonesian President has been chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. Mr. Prabowo's visit, and his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighted the shared ambition of the two leaders to further increase collaboration in areas that include trade, maritime security, health and technology.

As two of the world's largest and fastest growing economies, Indonesia and India have immense potential to become the cornerstone for prosperity and security for the entire Indo-Pacific region and beyond. In particular, this writer's visit convinced him that there are three key areas of trade, security and geo-politics.

First, whilst the two countries signed a trade agreement back in 1966, from today's vantage point there is a huge amount that can be done to grow economic ties between the two countries. As Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, this writer co-chaired the CEOs Forum alongside Indian business leader Ajay S. Shriram in New Delhi. Bringing together senior



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In strengthening their bonds, the two countries can lay the foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable future for Asia and the world

business leaders from India and Indonesia, we identified five key sectors that should be prioritised to unlock mutual growth, boost innovation and strengthen bilateral ties, i.e., in energy, food and agriculture, health care, manufacturing and technology.

### Trade and security as pillars

Throughout the discussions, it became clear that there are immense opportunities to increase bilateral trade, which currently stands at just under \$30 billion. There is the potential to quadruple the volume of trade in the next 10 years. Ambitious growth targets reflect the confidence the two nations have in each other's potential and in their continued partnership.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty, India and Indonesia are forecast to grow by 6.5% and 5.1%, respectively, this year, which is well above the global growth average of 3.3%. This reflects their expanding markets, young and dynamic workforces as well as growing consumer demand.

There is also huge untapped potential for both countries to benefit from intelligent investment that can position them as leaders in energy transition. While Indonesian investment in India stands at \$653.8 million and India has invested \$1.56 billion in Indonesia, this only scratches the surface of what is possible. By deepening their investments and supply chains in sectors such as clean energy, technology and manufacturing, the two countries can lead the global effort against climate change.

Security is the second pillar of the India-Indonesia partnership. In recent years, they have made significant strides in strengthening defensive ties, culminating in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018, which is already yielding significant dividends, particularly in enhancing maritime security in their shared waters.

But defensive cooperation is only one aspect of their multifaceted relationship. During Mr.

Prabowo's visit, Mr. Modi and Mr. Prabowo committed to strengthening collaboration in areas such as counterterrorism and cyber security to keep the two countries safe.

As two large, populous nations with growing military capabilities, this is essential if the two countries are to address the complex geopolitical dynamics of the Indo-Pacific and safeguard its stability and prosperity for generations to come.

### International relations

A third element of the bilateral relationship is how it fits in the global context. Outside of the Indo-Pacific, India and Indonesia are both navigating a geo-political environment that is constantly shifting. At the start of the year, Indonesia was formally invited to join the BRICS group of emerging economies. In that club of powerful emerging economies, it joins India and, of course, China too. At the same time, both Indonesia and India have important relationships with the United States and other western countries. The new U.S. administration led by President Donald Trump has threatened to introduce a new set of tariffs, and it remains to be seen what will happen.

It is obvious that tariffs and non-tariff barriers are impediments to free trade and carry risks for the global economy. Indonesia, as a key source of natural resources such as nickel, copper, tin and bauxite, wants to be able to export to the U.S., India and other markets.

President Prabowo's visit to India was a reminder of the importance of Indonesia's bilateral relationship with Indonesia. Their partnership, 76 years old, continues to grow in strength and their potential to shape the future of the Indo-Pacific and the global economy is vast. As the two countries continue to work together through trade, security and their geo-political ties, they will not just strengthen the bonds between the two great nations but also lay the foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable future for Asia and the world.

## India-Indonesia ties as a beacon for global relations

भारत-इंडोनेशिया संबंध वैश्विक संबंधों के लिए एक प्रकाशस्तंभ के रूप में

It was a great honour for this writer to have accompanied President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia, who was the chief guest at India's 76th Republic Day celebrations.

इस लेखक के लिए यह एक बड़ी सम्मान की बात थी कि उन्होंने इंडोनेशिया के राष्ट्रपति प्रवोवो सुबियांतो के साथ यात्रा की, जो भारत के 76वें गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि थे।



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- The **magnificence** of the occasion showcased **India's democracy, diversity, and military strength**, while also highlighting the deep and **enduring relationship** between the two nations.  
इस अवसर की भव्यता ने भारत के लोकतंत्र, विविधता और सैन्य शक्ति को दर्शाया, साथ ही दोनों देशों के बीच गहरे और स्थायी संबंधों को उजागर किया।

## The Evolution of Ties संबंधों का विकास

- India's first Republic Day in 1950** was graced by **Indonesia's founding father, President Sukarno**, as the chief guest.  
1950 में भारत के पहले गणतंत्र दिवस पर इंडोनेशिया के संस्थापक पिता, राष्ट्रपति सुकर्णो, मुख्य अतिथि थे।
- In subsequent decades, **India and Indonesia** have built strong ties across **economics, politics, and culture**.  
आने वाले दशकों में, भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने अर्थव्यवस्था, राजनीति और संस्कृति के क्षेत्र में मजबूत संबंध बनाए।
- President Prabowo's visit** and his meeting with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** emphasized **trade, maritime security, health, and technology cooperation**.  
राष्ट्रपति प्रवोवो की यात्रा और उनकी प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से मुलाकात ने व्यापार, समुद्री सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और प्रौद्योगिकी सहयोग को बढ़ावा दिया।

## Trade and Security as Pillars

### व्यापार और सुरक्षा प्रमुख स्तंभ के रूप में

- India and Indonesia signed a trade agreement in 1966**, but today there is vast potential for expanding **economic ties**.  
भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने 1966 में एक व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, लेकिन आज आर्थिक संबंधों को बढ़ाने की अपार संभावनाएं हैं।
- The **Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Indian business leaders** identified **five key sectors** for strengthening trade:  
इंडोनेशियाई वाणिज्य मंडल और भारतीय व्यापारिक नेताओं ने व्यापार को मजबूत करने के लिए पांच प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की पहचान की:
  - Energy (ऊर्जा)
  - Food and Agriculture (खाद्य और कृषि)
  - Health Care (स्वास्थ्य देखभाल)
  - Manufacturing (निर्माण उद्योग)
  - Technology (प्रौद्योगिकी)

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- Bilateral trade currently stands at just under \$30 billion, with potential to quadruple in the next 10 years.  
वर्तमान में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार लगभग \$30 बिलियन है, जिसे अगले 10 वर्षों में चार गुना बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
- **India and Indonesia's projected GDP growth rates for 2024 are 6.5% and 5.1% respectively, well above the global growth average of 3.3%.**  
2024 के लिए भारत और इंडोनेशिया की अनुमानित जीडीपी वृद्धि दर क्रमशः 6.5% और 5.1% है, जो वैश्विक औसत 3.3% से कहीं अधिक है।
- Indonesian investment in India is \$653.8 million, while India's investment in Indonesia is \$1.56 billion.  
इंडोनेशिया का भारत में निवेश \$653.8 मिलियन है, जबकि भारत का इंडोनेशिया में निवेश \$1.56 बिलियन है।

## Security Cooperation

### सुरक्षा सहयोग

- India and Indonesia signed a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018**, enhancing maritime security and defense cooperation.  
भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने 2018 में एक व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे समुद्री सुरक्षा और रक्षा सहयोग मजबूत हुआ।
- During President Prabowo's visit, India and Indonesia pledged to strengthen counterterrorism and cybersecurity cooperation.  
राष्ट्रपति प्रवोवो की यात्रा के दौरान, भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने आतंकवाद-रोधी और साइबर सुरक्षा सहयोग को मजबूत करने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई।

## International Relations

### अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध

- In 2024, Indonesia was formally invited to join BRICS, alongside India and China.  
2024 में, इंडोनेशिया को औपचारिक रूप से BRICS में शामिल होने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया, जहां भारत और चीन पहले से सदस्य हैं।
- **Both India and Indonesia maintain important relationships with the United States and other Western nations.**  
भारत और इंडोनेशिया दोनों अमेरिका और अन्य पश्चिमी देशों के साथ महत्वपूर्ण संबंध बनाए रखते हैं।
- The new U.S. administration under President Donald Trump has threatened to introduce new tariffs, affecting Indonesia's exports of **nickel, copper, tin, and bauxite**.

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अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के नेतृत्व में नई अमेरिकी सरकार ने नए टैरिफ लागू करने की धमकी दी, जिससे इंडोनेशिया के निकल, तांबा, टिन और बाँक्साइट निर्यात प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।

- President Prabowo's visit reinforced the 76-year-old partnership between India and Indonesia, which is expected to shape the future of the Indo-Pacific and global economy.

राष्ट्रपति प्रवोवो की यात्रा ने भारत और इंडोनेशिया के 76 साल पुराने साझेदारी को मजबूत किया, जो इंडो-पैसिफिक और वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के भविष्य को आकार दे सकता है।

- Through trade, security, and geopolitical collaboration, both nations will strengthen ties and contribute to a more prosperous and sustainable Asia and the world.

व्यापार, सुरक्षा और भू-राजनीतिक सहयोग के माध्यम से, दोनों देश अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करेंगे और एक अधिक समृद्ध और टिकाऊ एशिया और विश्व में योगदान देंगे।

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GS Paper II: Education

## Learning steps

India must further strengthen its investment in school education

**B**esides some high-profile announcements, such as an AI Centre of Excellence for education with an allocation of ₹500 crore, broadband connectivity for schools, the expansion of five third-generation IITs, and increased funding for Indian knowledge systems, Budget 2025 has promised higher allocations for education compared to last year's revised estimates. There was a 7% increase for higher education, although the actual expenditure for 2023-24 was 10% more than the 2025-26 Budget estimates. A key challenge in higher education is that the ambitious UGC reforms, modelled on advanced nations, require significant funding. For instance, introducing four-year degree programmes, allowing students to take courses across multiple institutions, implementing bi-annual admissions, and other structural changes demand substantial finances, which will inevitably fall upon State governments. However, Budget 2025 does not appear to adequately address these financial concerns. The release of the ASER 2024 report in the same week as the Union Budget highlighted gaps in India's school education system, particularly in foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN). While the report indicated that learning losses from the COVID-19 pandemic have been recovered, and, in some cases, FLN levels are at their highest ever, India still has some way to go before achieving full FLN, the 2026-27 target under the NIPUN Bharat scheme.

Compared to the 2024-25 revised estimates (RE), school education has been allocated an additional ₹11,000 crore, a 16% increase. However, as a percentage of the total Budget, this increase is only 0.12 percentage points, bringing the allocation to 1.55%. In higher education, the Budget fraction remains unchanged at 0.99%. While institutions such as Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan continue to receive significant funding, the increase does reflect higher inflows to States, which are the primary implementers of school education programmes. The Centre has been keen on fully implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), which proposes a 5+3+3+4 system that includes five years of early education up to Class 3. Early education is being prioritised as the key to achieving full FLN, but a critical gap remains: the two years before Class 1 are managed by underpaid anganwadi workers, who are already overburdened and often lack adequate training to deliver on FLN goals. A focused FLN drive is pivotal to achieving full FLN, a prerequisite for building a highly skilled workforce and leveraging India's demographic dividend. Over the next few years, depending on the progress made, the government must further strengthen school education investments to ensure India meets its full FLN target. Time is of the essence.

## Learning steps

### सीखने के चरण

India must further strengthen its investment in school education

भारत को स्कूली शिक्षा में अपने निवेश को और मजबूत करना चाहिए

• Besides some **high-profile announcements**, such as an **AI Centre of Excellence** for education with an allocation of **₹500 crore**, broadband connectivity for schools, the expansion of **five third-generation IITs**, and increased funding for **Indian knowledge systems**, **Budget 2025** has promised **higher allocations for education** compared to last year's revised estimates.

• कुछ उच्च-प्रोफाइल घोषणाओं के अलावा, जैसे कि शिक्षा के लिए ₹500 करोड़ के आवंटन के साथ AI सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस, स्कूलों के लिए ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी, तीसरी पीढ़ी के पांच आईआईटी का विस्तार, और भारतीय ज्ञान प्रणालियों के लिए बढ़ी हुई फंडिंग, बजट 2025 ने पिछले वर्ष के संशोधित अनुमान की तुलना में शिक्षा के लिए उच्च आवंटन का वादा किया है।

• There was a **7% increase for higher education**, although the actual expenditure for **2023-24** was **10% more** than the **2025-26 Budget estimates**.

• उच्च शिक्षा के लिए 7% की वृद्धि हुई, हालांकि 2023-24 का वास्तविक व्यय 2025-26 के बजट अनुमान से 10% अधिक था।

• A key challenge in higher education is that the **ambitious UGC reforms**, modeled on advanced nations, require **significant funding**.

• उच्च शिक्षा में एक प्रमुख चुनौती यह है कि विकसित देशों के मॉडल पर आधारित महत्वाकांक्षी यूजीसी सुधार काफी वित्तीय संसाधन मांगते हैं।

• For instance, **introducing four-year degree programmes**, allowing students to take **courses across multiple institutions**, implementing **bi-annual admissions**, and other **structural changes** demand substantial finances, which will inevitably fall upon **State governments**.

• उदाहरण के लिए, चार वर्षीय डिग्री कार्यक्रमों की शुरुआत, छात्रों को कई संस्थानों में पाठ्यक्रम लेने की अनुमति, छमाही प्रवेश प्रक्रिया, और अन्य संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन, भारी वित्तीय संसाधन मांगते हैं, जिसका बोझ अनिवार्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों पर पड़ेगा।

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- However, **Budget 2025** does not appear to adequately address these **financial concerns**.
- हालांकि, **बजट 2025** इन वित्तीय चिंताओं को पर्याप्त रूप से संबोधित नहीं करता है।
- The release of the **ASER 2024 report** in the same week as the **Union Budget** highlighted **gaps in India's school education system**, particularly in **foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN)**.
- **ASER 2024 रिपोर्ट** के केंद्रीय बजट के साथ जारी होने से **भारत की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली में कमियों** पर प्रकाश डाला गया, विशेष रूप से **आधारभूत साक्षरता और संख्यात्मकता (FLN)** में।
- While the report indicated that **learning losses** from the **COVID-19 pandemic** have been recovered, and in some cases, **FLN levels** are at their **highest ever**, India still has **some way to go** before achieving **full FLN, the 2026-27 target under the NIPUN Bharat scheme**.
- रिपोर्ट में संकेत दिया गया कि **कोविड-19 महामारी** के कारण हुए सीखने के नुकसान की भरपाई हो चुकी है, और कुछ मामलों में **FLN स्तर** अपने सर्वोच्च स्तर पर है, फिर भी **भारत को पूर्ण FLN प्राप्त करने में अभी समय लगेगा**, जो कि **निपुण भारत योजना** के तहत **2026-27 का लक्ष्य** है।
- Compared to the **2024-25 revised estimates (RE)**, school education has been allocated an additional **₹11,000 crore**, a **16% increase**.
- **2024-25 के संशोधित अनुमान (RE)** की तुलना में, स्कूली शिक्षा के लिए **₹11,000 करोड़** का अतिरिक्त आवंटन, जो **16% की वृद्धि** है।
- However, as a **percentage of the total Budget**, this increase is only **0.12 percentage points**, bringing the allocation to **1.55%**.
- हालांकि, **कुल बजट के प्रतिशत के रूप में**, यह वृद्धि केवल **0.12 प्रतिशत अंक** है, जिससे आवंटन **1.55%** तक पहुंच गया है।
- In **higher education**, the **Budget fraction remains unchanged at 0.99%**.
- उच्च शिक्षा में, **बजट का हिस्सा 0.99%** पर स्थिर बना हुआ है।
- While institutions such as **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan** continue to receive **significant funding**, the increase reflects **higher inflows to States**, which are the **primary implementers of school education programmes**.
- हालांकि, **केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन** जैसी संस्थाओं को काफी वित्तीय सहायता मिलती रहती है, वृद्धि राज्यों को अधिक धन प्रवाह को दर्शाती है, जो **स्कूली शिक्षा कार्यक्रमों के प्रमुख कार्यान्वाहक** हैं।
- The **Centre** has been keen on **fully implementing the National Education Policy (NEP)**, which proposes a **5+3+3+4 system** that includes **five years of early education up to Class 3**.
- **केंद्र सरकार राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP)** के पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध रही है, जिसमें **5+3+3+4 प्रणाली** का प्रस्ताव है, जो **कक्षा 3 तक पांच वर्षों की प्रारंभिक शिक्षा** को शामिल करता है।
- Early education is being prioritized as the key to **achieving full FLN**, but a critical gap remains: the **two years before Class 1** are managed by **underpaid anganwadi workers**, who are already **overburdened** and often lack **adequate training** to deliver on **FLN goals**.
- **पूर्ण FLN प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रारंभिक शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है**, लेकिन एक



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महत्वपूर्ण कमी बनी हुई है: कक्षा 1 से पहले के दो वर्षों का प्रबंधन कम वेतन पाने वाले आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा किया जाता है, जो पहले से ही अधिक कार्यभार से ग्रस्त हैं और अक्सर FLN लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए उचित प्रशिक्षण की कमी होती है।

- A focused FLN drive is pivotal to achieving full FLN, a prerequisite for building a highly skilled workforce and leveraging India's demographic dividend. पूर्ण FLN प्राप्त करने के लिए एक केंद्रित FLN अभियान महत्वपूर्ण है, जो एक उच्च कुशल कार्यबल के निर्माण और भारत के जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश का लाभ उठाने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Over the next few years, depending on the progress made, the government must further strengthen school education investments to ensure India meets its full FLN target. Time is of the essence.

अगले कुछ वर्षों में, प्रगति के आधार पर, सरकार को स्कूली शिक्षा में निवेश को और मजबूत करना चाहिए ताकि भारत अपने पूर्ण FLN लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर सके। समय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

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# Cess and surcharge continue to shrink States' tax share

The divisible pool of taxes has shrunk, and the share of southern States in it has also dwindled further

GS Paper II: Center State Relation Finance

## DATA POINT

Samreen Wani

Of every ₹100 that the Union government collects as tax, ₹10-11 is collected as cesses and surcharges, a trend unchanged since the pandemic year 2020-21. Also, the government spends ₹1-2 in collecting every ₹100 of tax; this is called the cost of collection. The amount collected as cesses and surcharges, along with the cost of collection, is not included in the divisible pool of taxes, a portion of which is meant to be shared with the States.

The share of cesses and surcharges, along with the cost of collection, reached a high of ₹13.5 for every ₹100 collected as taxes by the Centre in 2021-22 – the highest ratio in at least over a decade. Since then, it has gradually declined and is expected to be around ₹10.97 according to the latest Budget Estimates (BE) for 2025-26. In contrast, in many years before the pandemic, this figure ranged only between ₹5 and ₹7.

### Divisible pool has shrunk

Let us now look at these figures from the perspective of the divisible pool. Given that the share of cesses and surcharges has increased over the years, the divisible pool has shrunk. Since the pandemic year 2020-21, the divisible pool has fallen to less than ₹90 for every ₹100 that the Centre collects. It is expected to remain below ₹90, according to BE for 2025-26, presented on February 1. In contrast, in many years before the pandemic, this figure ranged between ₹91 and ₹95.

Chart 1 shows the share (in %) of the divisible pool in the Centre's gross tax collection over the years (left axis). It also shows cesses, surcharges, and the cost of collection of taxes as a share of the Centre's gross tax collection over the years (right axis).

Currently, all the States put to-

gether get 41% of the divisible pool, a figure arrived at as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission for the FY 21-26 period. Before that, the share was pegged at 42% of the divisible pool between FY16 and FY20, a massive increase from the 32% share before FY16.

However, the consistent rise in the share of cesses and surcharges has meant that the Finance Commissions' recommendations have been rendered less effective, as the divisible pool itself is shrinking. Many experts have previously pointed out that despite a formula in place, in practice the actual devolution to the States falls short of the agreed recommendations. In fact, many non-BJP ruling States now want this share to increase to 50% from 41%.

GST compensation cess was not included in the list of cesses considered, as it was collected to compensate the States for revenue loss due to implementation of GST.

### Usage of cess

While the rise in cesses and surcharges is one part of the problem, they are often not used for the specific purposes for which they were collected.

Many Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit reports have pointed out that these cesses are not being completely transferred to the reserve funds or adequately utilised for the intended purposes. For instance, the crude oil cess is meant to be transferred to the oil industry development body, which is not followed. In the latest three such reports, the CAG pointed out that about ₹2.19 lakh crore in cesses meant for transfer to the designated Reserve Funds between FY20 to FY22 did not happen.

While all the States put together get 41% of the divisible pool, the share of each State in that is calculated based on a formula, which is decided by the Finance Commission. Predominantly, it is decided by income distance, which mea-

sures how far a State is from the State with the highest per capita income. Other factors such as population, demographic performance (population control), forest cover, area and efficiency in tax collection are also given weightage.

Certain States have also raised an issue with the way their share in the divisible pool is being calculated as they feel that the formula is subject to political bias and they are losing out on account of economic and social progress.

### Share of States in divisible pool

The share of various States in the divisible pool has undergone significant changes since FY02, as shown in Table 2. The share of all the southern States has fallen. Kerala's share fell from 3.08% in FY02 to 2.5% in FY17 and is estimated to fall even further to 1.9% in FY26 (BE). Tamil Nadu's share shrunk from 5.46% in FY02 to 4.02% in FY17 and is expected to remain at the same level in FY26. Karnataka's has come down from 4.98% in FY02 to 3.6% in FY26 BE. The share of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana together declined from 7.7% in FY02 to 6.75% in FY17 and is expected to drop to 6.1% in FY26. West Bengal and Odisha's shares have also come down consistently in the period. In contrast, the shares of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat have increased in this period.

States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar continue to receive the bulk of the share. Bihar is expected to get 10.1% in FY26, slightly lower than 11.49% in FY02; and Uttar Pradesh is expected to get 17.9% in FY26, slightly lower than 19.15% in FY02.

As the data show, not only is the divisible pool shrinking, but the share allocated to certain States – most of which are in south India and parts of the east – is also dwindling. This imbalance explains why many of these States now feel short changed.

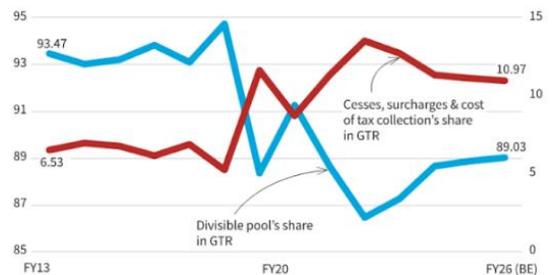
## Smaller chunk

The data for the charts was taken from the Budget documents and CMIE. It also includes The Hindu's calculations



**Unfair share:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman upon her arrival at the Parliament House complex to present the Budget

**Chart 1:** The chart shows the share of the divisible pool (left axis) and cesses, surcharges & the cost of tax collection (right axis) in Centre's gross tax revenue (GTR). Both figures in %



**Table 2:** State-wise distribution of the divisible pool in %

	FY02	FY07	FY12	FY17	FY22	FY26
AP & Telangana	7.73	7.36	6.94	6.75	6.15	6.1
Karnataka	4.98	4.46	4.33	4.71	3.65	3.6
Tamil Nadu	5.46	5.31	4.97	4.02	4.08	4.1
Kerala	3.08	2.67	2.34	2.5	1.93	1.9
West Bengal	8.2	7.06	7.26	7.32	7.52	7.5
Odisha	5.03	5.16	4.78	4.64	4.53	4.5
Maharashtra	4.71	5	5.2	5.52	6.32	6.3
Rajasthan	5.49	5.61	5.85	5.5	6.03	6.0
Gujarat	2.87	3.57	3.04	3.08	3.48	3.5
Madhya Pradesh	6.47	6.71	7.12	7.55	7.85	7.9
Chhattisgarh	2.4	2.65	2.47	3.08	3.41	3.4
Jharkhand	3.03	3.36	2.8	3.14	3.31	3.3
Bihar	11.49	11.03	10.92	9.67	10.06	10.1
Uttar Pradesh	19.15	19.26	19.68	17.96	17.94	17.9
Assam	3.25	3.24	3.63	3.31	3.13	3.1
Northeast*	1.85	2.18	2.52	4.6	5.42	5.4
Small States**	4.81	5.4	6.16	6.65	5.24	5.2

Note: \*States include Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura

\*\* Includes Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and J&K. No data for J&K for 2021-22 and 2025-26 since it has become a Union Territory

## Cess and Surcharge Continue to Shrink States' Tax Share

सेस और सरचार्ज राज्यों के कर हिस्से को लगातार कम कर रहे हैं

Of every ₹100 that the Union government collects as tax, ₹10-11 is collected as cesses and surcharges.



केंद्र सरकार द्वारा कर के रूप में एकत्र किए गए प्रत्येक ₹100 में से ₹10-11 सेस और सरचार्ज के रूप में एकत्र किए जाते हैं।

- This trend has remained unchanged since the **pandemic year 2020-21**.  
यह प्रवृत्ति महामारी वर्ष 2020-21 से अपरिवर्तित बनी हुई है।
- The government spends ₹1-2 in collecting every ₹100 of tax, known as the **cost of collection**.  
सरकार प्रत्येक ₹100 कर संग्रह पर ₹1-2 खर्च करती है, जिसे संग्रह लागत (**cost of collection**) कहा जाता है।
- The amount collected as **cesses and surcharges**, along with the **cost of collection**, is **not included in the divisible pool of taxes**.  
सेस और सरचार्ज से प्राप्त राशि, साथ ही संग्रह लागत, विभाज्य कर पूल में शामिल नहीं होती है।
- The share of **cesses and surcharges** along with the cost of collection reached a high of ₹13.5 per ₹100 in 2021-22, the highest in over a decade.  
2021-22 में, ₹100 कर संग्रह पर ₹13.5 सेस और सरचार्ज के रूप में लिया गया, जो पिछले दशक में सबसे अधिक था।
- This has gradually declined and is expected to be around ₹10.97 in 2025-26 (BE).  
यह धीरे-धीरे घटा है और 2025-26 (BE) में लगभग ₹10.97 रहने की उम्मीद है।

### Divisible Pool Has Shrunk

विभाज्य कर पूल सिकुड़ गया है

- Since 2020-21, the **divisible pool** has fallen to less than ₹90 for every ₹100 collected.  
2020-21 से, विभाज्य पूल प्रत्येक ₹100 कर संग्रह पर ₹90 से कम हो गया है।
- In many years before the pandemic, this figure ranged between ₹91-95.  
महामारी से पहले के वर्षों में, यह आंकड़ा ₹91-95 के बीच था।
- Currently, all States together get 41% of the divisible pool, as per the 15th Finance Commission (FY 21-26).  
वर्तमान में, सभी राज्यों को विभाज्य पूल का 41% मिलता है, जिसे 15वें वित्त आयोग (FY 21-26) ने तय किया है।
- Before this, the share was 42% (FY16-FY20), and before that, it was 32%.  
इससे पहले, यह हिस्सा FY16-FY20 में 42% था और उससे पहले 32% था।
- The rise in **cesses and surcharges** has made **Finance Commission recommendations less effective** as the divisible pool itself is shrinking.  
सेस और सरचार्ज में वृद्धि ने वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों को कम प्रभावी बना दिया है क्योंकि विभाज्य पूल ही घट रहा है।



- Many non-BJP ruling States now demand that the States' share be increased to 50% from 41%.  
कई गैर-भाजपा शासित राज्य अब राज्यों के हिस्से को 41% से बढ़ाकर 50% करने की मांग कर रहे हैं।
- GST Compensation Cess was not included in the list of cesses considered here.  
GST मुआवजा सेस को यहां शामिल नहीं किया गया है।

## Usage of Cess

### सेस का उपयोग

- Many CAG audit reports have pointed out that cesses are not being fully transferred to reserve funds or used for intended purposes.  
कई कैग (CAG) ऑडिट रिपोर्टों ने बताया है कि सेस को पूरी तरह से रिजर्व फंड में स्थानांतरित नहीं किया गया या निर्धारित उद्देश्यों के लिए उपयोग नहीं किया गया।
- Example: Crude Oil Cess is supposed to be transferred to the Oil Industry Development Fund, but this is not followed.  
उदाहरण: कूड ऑयल सेस को तेल उद्योग विकास कोष में स्थानांतरित किया जाना चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होता है।
- In the latest three CAG reports, about ₹2.19 lakh crore in cesses meant for transfer (FY20-FY22) did not happen.  
नवीनतम तीन कैग रिपोर्टों में पाया गया कि FY20-FY22 के दौरान ₹2.19 लाख करोड़ का सेस रिजर्व फंड में स्थानांतरित नहीं किया गया।

## Share of States in the Divisible Pool

### विभाज्य पूल में राज्यों का हिस्सा

- States receive 41% of the divisible pool, but each State's share is calculated using a formula set by the Finance Commission.  
राज्यों को विभाज्य पूल का 41% मिलता है, लेकिन प्रत्येक राज्य का हिस्सा वित्त आयोग के तय फॉर्मूले के अनुसार तय किया जाता है।
- Major factor: Income Distance (how far a State is from the highest per capita income State).  
मुख्य कारक: आय दूरी (एक राज्य सबसे अधिक प्रति व्यक्ति आय वाले राज्य से कितना दूर है)।
- Other factors: Population, demographic performance, forest cover, area, tax efficiency.  
अन्य कारक: जनसंख्या, जनसांख्यिकीय प्रदर्शन, वन क्षेत्र, क्षेत्रफल, कर संग्रह दक्षता।
- Some States argue that the formula is politically biased and penalizes them for economic and social progress.  
कुछ राज्यों का तर्क है कि यह फॉर्मूला राजनीतिक रूप से पक्षपाती है और आर्थिक और सामाजिक प्रगति करने वाले राज्यों को नुकसान पहुंचाता है।



## Changing Share of States in Divisible Pool

### विभाज्य पूल में राज्यों का बदलता हिस्सा

- Southern States' share has declined significantly since FY02.  
FY02 से दक्षिणी राज्यों का हिस्सा काफी घट गया है।
- Kerala: 3.08% (FY02) → 2.5% (FY17) → 1.9% (FY26 BE).  
केरल: 3.08% (FY02) → 2.5% (FY17) → 1.9% (FY26 BE)।
- Tamil Nadu: 5.46% (FY02) → 4.02% (FY17) → 4.02% (FY26 BE).  
तमिलनाडु: 5.46% (FY02) → 4.02% (FY17) → 4.02% (FY26 BE)।
- Karnataka: 4.98% (FY02) → 3.6% (FY26 BE).  
कर्नाटक: 4.98% (FY02) → 3.6% (FY26 BE)।
- Andhra Pradesh + Telangana: 7.7% (FY02) → 6.75% (FY17) → 6.1% (FY26 BE).  
आंध्र प्रदेश + तेलंगाना: 7.7% (FY02) → 6.75% (FY17) → 6.1% (FY26 BE)।
- West Bengal & Odisha's share has also declined.  
पश्चिम बंगाल और ओडिशा का हिस्सा भी घटा है।
- Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat have seen an increase in their share.  
मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, राजस्थान और गुजरात के हिस्से में वृद्धि हुई है।
- Uttar Pradesh: 19.15% (FY02) → 17.9% (FY26 BE).  
उत्तर प्रदेश: 19.15% (FY02) → 17.9% (FY26 BE)।
- Bihar: 11.49% (FY02) → 10.1% (FY26 BE).  
बिहार: 11.49% (FY02) → 10.1% (FY26 BE)।
- Southern and Eastern States feel shortchanged due to these changes.  
दक्षिणी और पूर्वी राज्यों को इन बदलावों के कारण नुकसान महसूस हो रहा है।

## Cesses and Surcharges in India

### उपकर और अधिभार

- The Government of India collects revenue through taxes, cesses, and surcharges.  
भारत सरकार करों, उपकरों और अधिभारों के माध्यम से राजस्व एकत्र करती है।
- While taxes (direct and indirect) form the main source, cesses and surcharges are additional levies imposed for specific purposes.  
कर (प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष) मुख्य स्रोत होते हैं, जबकि उपकर और अधिभार विशेष उद्देश्यों के लिए अतिरिक्त लगाए जाते हैं।



## 1. Cess

### उपकर

#### Definition | परिभाषा

- A **cess** is a tax levied for a **specific purpose** and must be used only for that purpose.  
उपकर एक कर है, जो किसी विशिष्ट उद्देश्य के लिए लगाया जाता है और केवल उसी उद्देश्य के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।
- It can be imposed on **both direct and indirect taxes**.  
इसे प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष दोनों करों पर लगाया जा सकता है।

#### Key Features of Cess

##### उपकर की विशेषताएँ

1. **Specific Purpose:** Revenue collected can only be used for the stated objective.  
विशिष्ट उद्देश्य: जो राजस्व एकत्र होता है, वह केवल उसी उद्देश्य के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।
2. **Temporary in Nature:** Imposed for a limited period until the goal is met.  
अस्थायी प्रकृति: इसे तब तक लागू किया जाता है जब तक कि लक्ष्य पूरा न हो जाए।
3. **Collected and Retained by the Centre:** It is not shared with states under the Finance Commission.  
केंद्र सरकार द्वारा संग्रहित और रखी जाती है: इसे वित्त आयोग के तहत राज्यों के साथ साझा नहीं किया जाता।

#### Examples of Cess in India

##### भारत में उपकर के उदाहरण

Cess Name	Purpose	Year Introduced
Education Cess	Funding primary and secondary education	2004
Health and Education Cess	Financing health and education schemes	2018
Swachh Bharat Cess	Improving sanitation and cleanliness	2015



Krishi Kalyan Cess	Supporting farmers' welfare	2016
Infrastructure Cess	Funding infrastructure projects	2016
Road and Infrastructure Cess	Development of rural roads and infrastructure	2018

## Surcharge

### अधिभार

- A **surcharge** is an additional charge **levied on existing taxes** (direct tax like income tax) for general revenue purposes.

अधिभार किसी मौजूदा कर (जैसे आयकर) पर लगाया जाने वाला अतिरिक्त शुल्क है, जिसका उपयोग सामान्य राजस्व उद्देश्यों के लिए किया जाता है।

- It is not imposed for any specific purpose and is used as per the government's discretion.

यह किसी विशिष्ट उद्देश्य के लिए नहीं लगाया जाता, बल्कि सरकार की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार उपयोग किया जाता है।

### Key Features of Surcharge

#### अधिभार की विशेषताएँ

- No Specific Purpose:** The government can use it for any expenditure.  
कोई विशिष्ट उद्देश्य नहीं: सरकार इसे किसी भी खर्च के लिए उपयोग कर सकती है।
- Applies Only on Direct Taxes:** Imposed on income tax, corporate tax, etc.  
केवल प्रत्यक्ष करों पर लागू: यह आयकर, कॉर्पोरेट कर आदि पर लगाया जाता है।
- Collected and Retained by the Centre:** It is **not shared with states**.  
केंद्र सरकार द्वारा संग्रहित और रखा जाता है: इसे राज्यों के साथ साझा नहीं किया जाता।

### Examples of Surcharge in India

#### भारत में अधिभार के उदाहरण

Surcharge Name	Who Pays?	Rate
Income Tax Surcharge	Individuals earning above ₹50 lakh	10% - 37%



<b>Corporate Tax Surcharge</b>	Companies earning above ₹1 crore	7% - 12%
<b>Surcharge on Super-Rich</b>	Individuals earning above ₹5 crore	37%
<b>Surcharge on Dividend Income</b>	High-income earners receiving dividends	10%

## Key Differences Between Cess and Surcharge

### उपकर और अधिभार में अंतर

Feature	Cess (उपकर)	Surcharge (अधिभार)
<b>Purpose</b>	Collected for a specific purpose (e.g., education, health)	Used for general revenue needs
<b>Applicability</b>	Can be imposed on both direct and indirect taxes	Levied only on direct taxes (income tax, corporate tax)
<b>Revenue Sharing</b>	Not shared with states	Not shared with states
<b>Time Limit</b>	Temporary, ends when purpose is fulfilled	Can continue indefinitely
<b>Usage</b>	Only for the purpose for which it was collected	Can be used for any government expenditure

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

- 1. Can't seek undertaking from award winners, govt. tells House panel / पुरस्कार विजेताओं से शपथ पत्र नहीं लिया जा सकता, सरकार ने संसदीय समिति से कहा**



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2. **Budget allocation of ₹500 cr. for cotton insufficient, say farmers and activists / कपास के लिए ₹500 करोड़ का बजट अपर्याप्त, किसानों और कार्यकर्ताओं की राय**
3. **The financial toxicity of cancer care in India / भारत में कैंसर देखभाल की वित्तीय विषाक्तता**
4. **Why the tax cuts are a one way gamble / कर कटौती एकतरफा जुआ क्यों है?**
5. **'Monetary and fiscal policies need to work in tandem' / 'मौद्रिक और राजकोषीय नीतियों को मिलकर काम करने की जरूरत है'**
6. **Budget effect: Tata Power mulls nuclear reactor biz foray / बजट प्रभाव: टाटा पावर परमाणु रिएक्टर व्यवसाय में उतरने पर विचार कर रही है**
7. **Scans of seemingly empty space reveal black holes not far from earth / खाली प्रतीत होने वाले अंतरिक्ष के स्कैन से पता चला है कि पृथ्वी से कुछ ही दूरी पर ब्लैक होल हैं**
8. **A piercing eye in the desert / रेगिस्तान में एक पैनी नज़र**

### **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors designed to generate electric power up to **300 megawatts (MW) per unit, approximately one-third the capacity of traditional nuclear reactors.**
- These reactors are characterized by their modular construction, allowing for factory fabrication and subsequent transportation to installation sites, which enhances quality control and reduces construction timelines.

#### **Key Features of SMRs:**

- **Modular Design:** SMRs are constructed in modules within factories, ensuring consistent quality and efficiency. These modules can be transported to various locations, including remote areas with limited infrastructure.

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- **Enhanced Safety:** Incorporating advanced safety features, SMRs utilize inherent and passive safety systems that minimize the need for active controls or human intervention, thereby reducing the risk of accidents.
- **Flexibility:** SMRs can be deployed individually or in clusters, providing scalable power solutions tailored to specific energy demands.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** The modular approach and reduced size lead to lower initial capital investments and potentially decreased operational costs.

#### Applications of SMRs:

- **Electricity Generation:** SMRs offer a reliable and continuous power supply, making them suitable for both urban and remote settings.
- **Industrial Use:** Beyond electricity, SMRs can provide process heat for industries such as chemical manufacturing, desalination, and hydrogen production.
- **Replacement of Aging Power Plants:** SMRs present a viable option for replacing outdated fossil fuel-based power plants, contributing to decarbonization efforts.

#### Global Developments:

- As of recent data, over 80 SMR designs are in various stages of development worldwide.
- Countries like Argentina, China, and Russia are advancing in SMR construction, with several projects nearing completion.

#### India's Perspective:

- In India, there is a growing interest in adopting SMR technology to meet the nation's energy requirements and environmental goals.
- The **Atomic Energy Act of 1962** is under review to potentially allow **private sector and startup participation in promoting SMR technology** domestically.
- NITI Aayog member and scientist V.K. Saraswat has emphasized the potential of SMRs in replacing aging thermal power plants and meeting distributed energy demands.
- He advocates for accelerating nuclear power plant projects under fleet mode production to address base load requirements promptly.

#### Recent Updates:

- In the 2025 Union Budget, India proposed amendments to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1962.
- These changes aim to attract foreign and private investments into the nuclear sector, facilitating the development of SMRs and expanding nuclear power infrastructure.
- The government has set ambitious targets, including establishing a Nuclear Energy Mission with a budget of ₹200 billion and operationalizing SMRs by 2033, aligning with India's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.

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**GS Paper III: Environment**

## Can't seek undertaking from award winners, govt. tells House panel

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Culture Ministry has said that obtaining a signed undertaking from writers prior to award announcement that they would not return the honour for any reason, including political protests, would compromise the confidentiality of the selection process.

It also expressed doubts before a parliamentary committee over the legal enforceability of such an undertaking as pre-declaration commitment.

The Ministry's response came following the reitera-

tion of a suggestion by the Department Related Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture that an undertaking should be taken beforehand from shortlisted candidates for Akademi awards that they would not return the awards for "political reasons".

The panel had made the recommendation in 2023 and reiterated it in its action-taken report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

In its response, the Culture Ministry said: "The Ministry agrees with the Committee's perspective and would like to avoid controversies in all regards. Ho-

wever, obtaining a signed commitment from the writer prior to the award announcement would unfortunately compromise the confidentiality surrounding the selection process. Additionally, the legal enforceability of such a pre-declaration commitment might be uncertain."

The parliamentary panel said it understood the Ministry's concern about confidentiality and legal implications related to obtaining signed commitments, but suggested that the commitment document should include a non-disclosure clause to protect against breach of confidentiality.

**Can't seek undertaking from award winners, govt. tells House panel**

**पुरस्कार विजेताओं से शपथ पत्र नहीं लिया जा सकता, सरकार ने संसदीय समिति से कहा**

**The Union Culture Ministry has stated that obtaining a signed undertaking from writers before the award announcement, ensuring they would not return the honour for any reason, including political protests, would**



compromise the confidentiality of the selection process.

केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि पुरस्कार की घोषणा से पहले लेखकों से हस्ताक्षरित शपथ पत्र लेना, जिसमें वे किसी भी कारण, विशेष रूप से राजनीतिक विरोध के लिए पुरस्कार वापस न करने की पुष्टि करें, चयन प्रक्रिया की गोपनीयता को प्रभावित करेगा।

- The Ministry also expressed doubts about the **legal enforceability** of such an undertaking as a **pre-declaration commitment** before a **parliamentary committee**. मंत्रालय ने एक संसदीय समिति के समक्ष इस तरह के पूर्व-घोषणा प्रतिबद्धता की कानूनी अनिवार्यता को लेकर भी संदेह जताया।
- The Ministry's response was given after the **Department Related Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture** reiterated its suggestion that an **undertaking** should be taken in advance from shortlisted candidates for **Akademi awards**, ensuring they would not return the awards for **political reasons**. मंत्रालय की यह प्रतिक्रिया तब आई जब परिवहन, पर्यटन और संस्कृति संबंधी स्थायी समिति ने अकादमी पुरस्कारों के लिए चयनित उम्मीदवारों से पहले ही यह शपथ पत्र लेने का सुझाव दोहराया कि वे राजनीतिक कारणों से पुरस्कार वापस नहीं करेंगे।
- The **panel had first made this recommendation in 2023** and reiterated it in its **action-taken report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday**. समिति ने यह सिफारिश 2023 में पहली बार दी थी और इसे सोमवार को लोकसभा में पेश की गई कार्यान्वयन रिपोर्ट में दोहराया।
- The **Culture Ministry** stated: "The Ministry agrees with the Committee's perspective and would like to avoid **controversies**. However, obtaining a **signed commitment** from the writer before the **award announcement** would compromise the **confidentiality** of the selection process. Additionally, the **legal enforceability** of such a **pre-declaration commitment** might be uncertain." संस्कृति मंत्रालय ने कहा: "मंत्रालय समिति के दृष्टिकोण से सहमत है और विवादों से बचना चाहता है। हालांकि, पुरस्कार की घोषणा से पहले लेखक से हस्ताक्षरित प्रतिबद्धता लेना चयन प्रक्रिया की गोपनीयता को प्रभावित करेगा। इसके अलावा, इस तरह की पूर्व-घोषणा प्रतिबद्धता की कानूनी अनिवार्यता अनिश्चित हो सकती है।"
- The **parliamentary panel** acknowledged the Ministry's concern about **confidentiality and legal implications** but suggested that the **commitment document** should include a **non-disclosure clause** to prevent a **breach of confidentiality**. संसदीय समिति ने मंत्रालय की गोपनीयता और कानूनी प्रभावों को लेकर चिंता को समझा, लेकिन सुझाव दिया कि प्रतिबद्धता दस्तावेज़ में गोपनीयता उल्लंघन को रोकने के लिए एक गोपनीयता अनुच्छेद (non-disclosure clause) जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।



# Budget allocation of ₹500 cr. for cotton insufficient, say farmers and activists

GS Oaer III: Budget

Ashokamithran T.  
MUMBAI

Cotton farmers in Maharashtra are seeking **major changes in terms of technology**, and increased allocations **to fix the problem of falling productivity**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹500 crore for the National Cotton Technology Mission in the Union Budget for 2025-26** presented on February 1. Farmers, experts, and activists, however, say this allocation alone is not sufficient to solve the productivity crisis.

Cotton yields have been on a declining trend in the past decade. According to data from the United States Foreign Agricultural Service, it was **461 kg per hectare in 2024-25, declining 8% from 502 kg in 2014-15**. According to G.H. Wairale, senior cotton technologist based in Maharashtra, the current demand for cotton from the textile sector is



The allocation for a cotton mission is merely cosmetic and intended to mask the more fundamental problems in the sector

**ASHOK DHAWALE**  
President of All India Kisan Sabha

around **350 lakh bales**, but the current production is just around **300 lakh bales**.

## Quality seeds

Farmers and experts blame the **lack of newer seeds and innovative methods of farming the crop for the lower productivity**. "We have been farming using the same method since independence," says Dilip Thakare, a cotton farmer based in Akola, Maharashtra.

Cotton farmers in India have been using the Bollgard-2 variety of cotton for about two decades. "The

variety provided good yields in the first few years but has begun to decline in recent years. The bollworms still attack the cotton plant, creating an average damage of about 30%-40% of the crop," Mr. Thakare said. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee in India has not approved the use of the Bollgard-3 variety yet.

The second problem is farming methods.

## Mechanised farming

Mr. Thakare farms cotton, soyabean, and red gram on his 67-acre farm. He uses the high density planting system. This method, he said, earned him a higher yield compared to other farmers. He also made an attempt to use machines to pick the cotton. He, however, maintains that this cannot be done by other farmers as the method is more expensive. "The government needs to allocate more than the current

₹500 crore to bring in this method," Mr. Thakare said, suggesting at least twice what has been provided.

"The allocation for a cotton mission in the Budget is merely cosmetic and intended to mask the more fundamental problems in the cotton sector - need for remunerative prices, reduction of input costs, effective crop insurance cover, and priority to agriculture in bank lending policy," said Ashok Dhawale, national president of All India Kisan Sabha.

"Today, 90% plus of the cotton growers are not able to avail themselves of even the MSP declared by the Central government because there is absolutely no procurement by it or any of its agencies directly," Mr. Dhawale said.

He reiterated the need for implementing the M.S. Swaminathan Commission report recommending support prices 50% more than the comprehensive cost.

# Budget allocation of ₹500 cr. for cotton insufficient, say farmers and activists

कपास के लिए ₹500 करोड़ का बजट अपर्याप्त, किसानों और कार्यकर्ताओं की राय

Cotton farmers in Maharashtra are seeking major changes in terms of technology and increased allocations to fix the problem of falling productivity.

महाराष्ट्र के कपास किसान तकनीक और बजट आवंटन में वृद्धि की मांग कर रहे हैं ताकि गिरती उत्पादकता की समस्या को हल किया जा सके।

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹500 crore for the National Cotton Technology Mission in the Union Budget for 2025-26**, presented on February 1. वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने ₹500 करोड़ राष्ट्रीय कपास प्रौद्योगिकी मिशन के लिए 1 फरवरी को प्रस्तुत 2025-26 के केंद्रीय बजट में आवंटित किए।
- Farmers, experts, and activists say this allocation alone is not sufficient to solve the productivity crisis. किसान, विशेषज्ञ और कार्यकर्ता मानते हैं कि यह आवंटन सिर्फ अपने आप में उत्पादकता संकट को हल करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।

## Declining Cotton Productivity

गिरती हुई कपास उत्पादकता

- Cotton yields have been on a **declining trend** in the past decade. पिछले दशक में कपास की पैदावार गिरावट के रुझान पर रही है।
- According to data from the United States Foreign Agricultural Service, cotton yield was **461 kg per hectare in 2024-25, declining 8% from 502 kg in 2014-15**.



संयुक्त राज्य कृषि सेवा (US Foreign Agricultural Service) के अनुसार, 2024-25 में कपास की पैदावार 461 किलोग्राम प्रति हेक्टेयर रही, जो 2014-15 के 502 किलोग्राम प्रति हेक्टेयर से 8% की गिरावट को दर्शाती है।

- G.H. Wairale, senior cotton technologist, stated that current demand for cotton from the textile sector is around 350 lakh bales, but the current production is just around 300 lakh bales.

वरिष्ठ कपास प्रौद्योगिकीविद् जी.एच. वाइराले के अनुसार, वस्त्र क्षेत्र में कपास की मौजूदा मांग लगभग 350 लाख गांठ है, जबकि वर्तमान उत्पादन केवल 300 लाख गांठ के आसपास है।

## Quality Seeds Issue

### गुणवत्ता वाले बीजों की समस्या

- Farmers and experts blame the lack of newer seeds and innovative farming methods for the lower productivity.

किसान और विशेषज्ञ नए बीजों की कमी और नवाचार आधारित कृषि विधियों की अनुपस्थिति को कम उत्पादकता का कारण मानते हैं।

- Dilip Thakare, a cotton farmer from Akola, Maharashtra, says, "We have been farming using the same method since independence."

अकोला, महाराष्ट्र के कपास किसान दिलीप ठाकरे कहते हैं, "हम आजादी के बाद से उसी पद्धति से खेती कर रहे हैं।"

- Indian farmers have been using the Bollgard-2 variety of cotton for about two decades.

भारतीय किसान पिछले लगभग दो दशकों से Bollgard-2 किस्म के कपास का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।

- "The Bollgard-2 variety provided good yields initially but has declined in recent years due to bollworm attacks, causing 30%-40% crop damage," said Mr. Thakare.

"Bollgard-2 किस्म ने शुरुआत में अच्छी पैदावार दी, लेकिन हाल के वर्षों में गिरावट आई है, क्योंकि बॉलवॉर्म के हमलों से 30%-40% फसल को नुकसान हुआ है," श्री ठाकरे ने कहा।

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has not approved the Bollgard-3 variety yet.

जेनेटिक इंजीनियरिंग अप्रूवल कमेटी (GEAC) ने अभी तक Bollgard-3 किस्म को मंजूरी नहीं दी है।

## Farming Methods and Mechanization

### कृषि विधियाँ और मशीनीकरण

- Mr. Thakare farms cotton, soybean, and red gram on his 67-acre farm.

\*\*श्री ठाकरे अपने 67 एकड़ के खेत में कपास, सोयाबीन और अरहर की खेती करते हैं।



- He uses the high-density planting system, which has given him higher yield compared to other farmers.  
वे उच्च घनत्व रोपण प्रणाली (High-Density Planting System) का उपयोग करते हैं, जिससे उन्हें अन्य किसानों की तुलना में अधिक पैदावार मिली है।
- He attempted mechanized cotton picking but found it too expensive for most farmers.  
उन्होंने मशीनों द्वारा कपास की तुड़ाई की कोशिश की, लेकिन यह अधिकतर किसानों के लिए बहुत महंगी पड़ी।
- He suggests that the government should allocate at least twice the current ₹500 crore for mechanization.  
वे सुझाव देते हैं कि सरकार को मशीनीकरण के लिए मौजूदा ₹500 करोड़ के बजट से कम से कम दोगुना आवंटित करना चाहिए।

## Criticism of Budget Allocation

### बजट आवंटन की आलोचना

- Ashok Dhawale, national president of All India Kisan Sabha, said, "The ₹500 crore allocation is merely cosmetic and does not address fundamental problems."  
अखिल भारतीय किसान सभा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष अशोक धावले ने कहा, "₹500 करोड़ का आवंटन केवल दिखावटी है और यह मूलभूत समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं करता।"
- He emphasized the need for:  
उन्होंने निम्नलिखित आवश्यकताओं पर जोर दिया:
  - Remunerative prices for farmers (किसानों को लाभकारी मूल्य)
  - Reduction in input costs (इनपुट लागत में कमी)
  - Effective crop insurance coverage (प्रभावी फसल बीमा कवरेज)
  - Priority to agriculture in bank lending policy (बैंक ऋण नीति में कृषि को प्राथमिकता)
- 90% of cotton farmers are unable to sell at MSP due to lack of direct procurement by the government or its agencies.  
90% से अधिक कपास किसान MSP पर अपनी फसल बेचने में असमर्थ हैं, क्योंकि सरकार या उसकी एजेंसियों द्वारा प्रत्यक्ष खरीद नहीं की जाती।
- He reiterated the need for implementing the M.S. Swaminathan Commission report, which recommends support prices 50% more than the comprehensive cost.  
उन्होंने एम.एस. स्वामीनाथन आयोग की रिपोर्ट लागू करने की आवश्यकता दोहराई, जो समग्र लागत से 50% अधिक समर्थन मूल्य देने की सिफारिश करती है।



# The financial toxicity of cancer care in India

GS Paper III: S&T

“Sir, I don’t have the money for the test,” said Vijay, a low-income lung cancer patient from Hyderabad. His oncologist replied, “Without the money, he has only a few months left.” The test – a 12-gene next-generation DNA sequencing panel – could have guided a life-saving treatment plan.

Genomics-informed precision medicine, or targeted therapy, offers the right treatment to the right patient at the right time, making previously untreatable cancers treatable. Yet, these breakthroughs, along with the latest treatments such as immunotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, and proton therapy, remain out of reach for many people from low and middle-income backgrounds.

Take 70-year-old Aslam, who has oral cancer. Immunotherapy for him would cost nearly ₹10 lakh annually, adding to the ₹25 lakh he has already spent over five years. His son, an IT professional, exhausted insurance, savings, and even sold their ancestral land to continue the treatment.

Financial toxicity is the least assessed and most devastating toxicity of cancer. It impacts not just the person with the disease but also his family and the following generations. From selling assets to skipping meals to afford treatment, the burden often traps thousands of families in a cycle of generational poverty that is economic, social, and nutritional in nature.

## Public and private healthcare

One of the key barriers to equitable cancer care is its cost, which includes both direct medical expenses, such as diagnostics, medicines, and hospitalisation, and non-medical expenses such as travel, lodging, and food. Areen, a cancer patient, exemplifies this struggle: “I had ₹500. I spent ₹200 on travel and ₹200 on medicines. I have ₹100 left. How will I go home?”

Private and public insurance



**Vid Karmarkar**

Founder of Canseva Foundation



**Parth Sharma**

Community physician, public health researcher and the Founder of Nivarana

Indian philanthropy, CSR initiatives, government funding, and nonprofits hold the power to alleviate the economic burden of cancer care

schemes, such as Ayushman Bharat, pay only for inpatient costs. Outpatient expenses such as diagnostic workups, post-discharge care, and follow-up tests must be paid out-of-pocket (OOP) by patients. Such expenditure constitutes nearly 50% of total healthcare costs.

India’s public health expenditure has always been less than 2% of GDP. Consequently, public hospitals often face shortages of healthcare personnel, diagnostic and treatment facilities, and essential medications. Delays in diagnostic tests and surgeries further strain the system. This burden is compounded by the fact that many cancer cases are diagnosed at advanced stages, leading to higher treatment costs and poorer outcomes.

Given the limited public health facilities, private healthcare is a thriving business. The Indian hospital market is valued at close to ₹8 lakh crore with a CAGR of 8%. Is letting private healthcare thrive going to worsen the financial toxicity of cancer?

## Addressing financial toxicity

In India, public healthcare is a State subject. To finance the direct medical cost of cancer care, some States such as Delhi, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Kerala have implemented several schemes. To support direct non-medical costs the Indian Railways and Air India offer discounted fares, whereas States such as Himachal Pradesh and Haryana provide free bus travel for cancer patients.

Additionally, efforts from NGOs and networks have also helped. For example, the National Cancer Grid has reduced the cost of 40 high-value cancer drugs by 82% through pooled procurement. The Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Center in Assam has adopted a holistic approach to reduce OOP, along with accommodation, meals, and temporary employment opportunities for caregivers accompanying patients.

Only a strong political will and

strategic investment in the public health system will address the financial toxicity of cancer.

However, until government spending on public health improves, nonprofits play a crucial role in reducing this problem. By working at the grassroots level and conducting pilot projects, they can generate evidence that governments can scale up to inform policies.

In India, nearly 3 lakh nonprofits are registered on the Darpan portal managed by NITI Aayog, with over 85,000 focused on health and family welfare. But only a fraction of these specialise in cancer care. Larger nonprofits work across the cancer care continuum, from prevention to treatment. Smaller ones often operate in niche areas, such as by assisting low-income patients with paperwork, securing funding, and arranging essentials.

Individual philanthropy, impact investments, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding are central to financing nonprofits. Under India’s CSR Act of 2014, companies meeting certain criteria must allocate funds for social causes. In 2022-23, the healthcare sector received over ₹6,800 crore in CSR funding. However, granular data on specific areas like cancer remains limited.

The Forbes’ 2024 report showed that the combined wealth of India’s 100 richest individuals surged to ₹8.4 lakh crore. A growing segment of the population has surplus wealth that can be donated while they benefit from tax exemptions. Critical catalytic capital would enable younger nonprofits to establish themselves and scale their impact. However, individual philanthropy is lagging far below its potential.

With a rising pollution, rapid urbanisation, and unhealthy lifestyle changes, the health and financial toll of cancer is set to rise significantly. Indian philanthropy, CSR initiatives, government funding, and nonprofits hold the power to alleviate the economic burden of cancer care.



## The financial toxicity of cancer care in India

### भारत में कैंसर देखभाल की वित्तीय विषाक्तता

#### Financial Toxicity in Cancer Treatment

#### कैंसर उपचार में वित्तीय विषाक्तता

- **Vijay**, a low-income **lung cancer** patient from **Hyderabad**, said, "Sir, I don't have the money for the test."  
विजय, जो हैदराबाद से एक कम आय वाला फेफड़े का कैंसर रोगी है, ने कहा, "सर, मेरे पास टेस्ट के लिए पैसे नहीं हैं।"
- His **oncologist** replied, "Without the money, he has only a few months left."  
उनके ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट ने जवाब दिया, "पैसे के बिना, उसके पास केवल कुछ महीने बाकी हैं।"
- The test — a **12-gene next-generation DNA sequencing panel** — could have guided a **life-saving treatment plan**.  
यह टेस्ट — एक 12-जीने का नेक्स्ट-जेनरेशन डीएनए सिक्वेंसिंग पैनल — एक जीवन रक्षक उपचार योजना में मदद कर सकता था।
- **Genomics-informed precision medicine** offers the right treatment to the right patient at the right time, making previously untreatable cancers treatable.  
जीनोमिक्स-जानकारी युक्त सटीक चिकित्सा सही उपचार को सही रोगी को सही समय पर प्रदान करती है, जिससे पहले से अचिकित्स्य कैंसर का इलाज संभव हो जाता है।
- However, these breakthroughs, along with the latest treatments such as **immunotherapy**, **monoclonal antibodies**, and **proton therapy**, remain out of reach for many people from low and middle-income backgrounds.  
हालाँकि, ये विज्ञान में प्रगति, साथ ही नवीनतम उपचार जैसे इम्यूनोथेरेपी, मोनोक्लोनल एंटीबॉडीज, और प्रोटॉन थेरेपी, कई निम्न और मध्य आय वाले लोगों के लिए पहुंच से बाहर हैं।
- **Aslam**, a **70-year-old** oral cancer patient, faces the burden of **₹10 lakh annually** for immunotherapy, adding to the **₹25 lakh** he has already spent over **five years**.  
अस्लम, एक 70 वर्षीय मुंह के कैंसर के रोगी, को इम्यूनोथेरेपी के लिए ₹10 लाख प्रति वर्ष का बोझ उठाना पड़ता है, इसके अलावा उसने पाँच सालों में पहले ही ₹25 लाख खर्च किए हैं।
- His son, an **IT professional**, exhausted insurance, savings, and even sold their **ancestral land** to continue the treatment.  
उनके बेटे, एक आईटी पेशेवर, ने बीमा, बचत का उपयोग किया और इलाज जारी रखने के लिए उन्होंने अपना पारंपरिक जमीन तक बेच दी।
- **Financial toxicity** is the least assessed and most devastating toxicity of cancer, impacting not just the person with the disease but also their family and future generations.  
वित्तीय विषाक्तता कैंसर की सबसे कम आंकी जाने वाली और सबसे विनाशकारी विषाक्तता है, जो न केवल रोगी को बल्कि उनके परिवार और भविष्य की पीढ़ियों को भी प्रभावित करती है।



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- The burden often traps thousands of families in a cycle of **generational poverty**, which is economic, social, and nutritional in nature.  
यह बोझ अक्सर हजारों परिवारों को पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी गरीबी के चक्र में फंसा देता है, जो आर्थिक, सामाजिक और पोषण संबंधी होता है।

## Public and Private Healthcare

### सार्वजनिक और निजी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल

- One of the key barriers to equitable cancer care is its **cost**, including both **direct medical expenses**, such as diagnostics, medicines, and hospitalisation, and **non-medical expenses**, such as travel, lodging, and food.  
कैंसर देखभाल में समानता के प्रमुख अवरोधों में से एक इसकी लागत है, जिसमें सीधे चिकित्सा खर्च, जैसे निदान, दवाइयाँ, और अस्पताल में भर्ती, और गैर-चिकित्सा खर्च, जैसे यात्रा, आवास, और भोजन शामिल हैं।
- **Afreen**, a cancer patient, exemplifies this struggle: "I had ₹500. I spent ₹200 on travel and ₹200 on medicines. I have ₹100 left. How will I go home?"  
अफ्रीन, एक कैंसर रोगी, इस संघर्ष का उदाहरण देती है: "मेरे पास ₹500 थे। मैंने ₹200 यात्रा में और ₹200 दवाइयों पर खर्च किए। मेरे पास ₹100 बाकी हैं। मैं घर कैसे जाऊँगी?"
- Private and public **insurance schemes**, such as **Ayushman Bharat**, pay only for **inpatient costs**. **Outpatient expenses**, such as diagnostic workups, post-discharge care, and follow-up tests, must be paid **out-of-pocket** (OOP) by patients.  
निजी और सार्वजनिक बीमा योजनाएँ, जैसे आयुष्मान भारत, केवल इनपैशेंट खर्चों का भुगतान करती हैं। आउटपैशेंट खर्चों, जैसे निदान परीक्षण, डिस्चार्ज के बाद की देखभाल, और अनुवर्ती परीक्षण, को रोगियों को आउट-ऑफ-पॉकेट (OOP) भुगतान करना पड़ता है।
- Such **expenditure** constitutes nearly **50%** of total healthcare costs.  
ऐसा व्यय कुल स्वास्थ्य देखभाल खर्चों का लगभग **50%** बनता है।
- **India's public health expenditure** has always been less than **2% of GDP**, resulting in shortages of healthcare personnel, diagnostic and treatment facilities, and essential medications in public hospitals.  
भारत का सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य खर्च हमेशा **GDP के 2%** से कम रहा है, जिसके कारण सार्वजनिक अस्पतालों में स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों, निदान और उपचार सुविधाओं, और आवश्यक दवाओं की कमी हो गई है।
- Delays in diagnostic tests and surgeries further strain the system, and many cancer cases are diagnosed at **advanced stages**, leading to higher treatment costs and poorer outcomes.  
निदान परीक्षणों और सर्जरी में देरी प्रणाली पर और दबाव डालती है, और कई कैंसर मामलों का निदान **उन्नत चरणों** में किया जाता है, जिससे उपचार की लागत बढ़ जाती है और परिणाम खराब होते हैं।
- Given the limited public health facilities, **private healthcare** is a thriving business, with the Indian hospital market valued at close to **₹8 lakh crore** and a **CAGR of 8%**.

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सीमित सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं को देखते हुए, निजी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल एक फलता-फूलता व्यापार है, जिसमें भारतीय अस्पताल बाजार की ₹8 लाख करोड़ के करीब और 8% की CAGR अनुमानित है।

- The question arises: Is letting private healthcare thrive going to worsen the **financial toxicity** of cancer?

सवाल उठता है: क्या निजी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल को फलने-फूलने देना कैंसर की वित्तीय विषाक्तता को और खराब करेगा?

### Addressing Financial Toxicity

#### वित्तीय विषाक्तता को संबोधित करना

- In **India**, public healthcare is a **State subject**.  
भारत में, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल राज्य का विषय है।
- Some States, such as **Delhi, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Kerala**, have implemented several schemes to finance the **direct medical cost of cancer care**.  
कुछ राज्य, जैसे दिल्ली, महाराष्ट्र, पंजाब, और केरल, ने कैंसर देखभाल के प्रत्यक्ष चिकित्सा खर्चों को वित्तपोषित करने के लिए कई योजनाएं लागू की हैं।
- To support **direct non-medical costs**, **Indian Railways** and **Air India** offer discounted fares, while states like **Himachal Pradesh** and **Haryana** provide **free bus travel** for cancer patients.  
प्रत्यक्ष गैर-चिकित्सीय खर्चों का समर्थन करने के लिए, भारतीय रेलवे और एयर इंडिया रियायती किराया प्रदान करते हैं, जबकि हिमाचल प्रदेश और हरियाणा जैसे राज्य कैंसर रोगियों के लिए मुफ्त बस यात्रा प्रदान करते हैं।
- Efforts from **NGOs** and networks have also helped.  
एनजीओ और नेटवर्क्स के प्रयासों ने भी मदद की है।
- For example, the **National Cancer Grid** has reduced the cost of **40 high-value cancer drugs** by **82%** through **pooled procurement**.  
उदाहरण के लिए, नेशनल कैंसर ग्रिड ने 40 उच्च मूल्य वाली कैंसर दवाओं की लागत को 82% तक कम किया है, संयुक्त खरीद के माध्यम से।
- The **Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Center** in **Assam** has adopted a **holistic approach** to reduce **out-of-pocket expenses (OOP)**, along with **accommodation, meals, and temporary employment** opportunities for caregivers accompanying patients.  
असम में काचर कैंसर अस्पताल और अनुसंधान केंद्र ने आलोचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है ताकि आउट-ऑफ-पॉकेट खर्च को कम किया जा सके, साथ ही रहने की सुविधा, भोजन, और रोगियों के साथ आने वाले देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए अस्थायी रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान किए हैं।
- Only a strong **political will** and **strategic investment** in the public health system will address the financial toxicity of cancer.  
केवल एक मजबूत राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में रणनीतिक निवेश ही कैंसर की वित्तीय विषाक्तता का समाधान करेगा।



- However, until **government spending on public health** improves, **nonprofits** play a crucial role in reducing this problem.  
हालांकि, जब तक सरकार का सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पर खर्च नहीं बढ़ता, गैर-लाभकारी संस्थाएं इस समस्या को कम करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं।
- By working at the **grassroots level** and conducting **pilot projects**, they can generate **evidence** that governments can scale up to inform **policies**.  
ग्रासरूट स्तर पर काम करके और पायलट परियोजनाएं संचालित करके, वे साक्ष्य उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं जिन्हें सरकारें नीतियों को सूचित करने के लिए बढ़ा सकती हैं।
- In **India**, nearly **3 lakh nonprofits** are registered on the **Darpan portal** managed by **NITI Aayog**, with over **85,000** focused on **health and family welfare**.  
भारत में, लगभग 3 लाख गैर-लाभकारी संगठन नीति आयोग द्वारा प्रबंधित दर्पण पोर्टल पर पंजीकृत हैं, जिनमें से 85,000 से अधिक स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण पर केंद्रित हैं।
- But only a fraction of these specialize in **cancer care**.  
लेकिन इनमें से केवल एक हिस्सा कैंसर देखभाल में विशेषज्ञ हैं।
- Larger **nonprofits** work across the cancer care continuum, from **prevention to treatment**.  
बड़े गैर-लाभकारी संगठन कैंसर देखभाल की निवारण से लेकर उपचार तक की प्रक्रिया में काम करते हैं।
- Smaller ones often operate in niche areas, such as assisting **low-income patients** with **paperwork**, securing **funding**, and arranging **essentials**.  
छोटे संगठन अक्सर विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों में काम करते हैं, जैसे कम आय वाले मरीजों को कागजी कार्रवाई में मदद करना, वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करना, और आवश्यकताओं की व्यवस्था करना।
- **Individual philanthropy**, **impact investments**, and **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** funding are central to financing **nonprofits**.  
व्यक्तिगत धर्मार्थ कार्य, प्रभाव निवेश, और कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी (CSR) फंडिंग गैर-लाभकारी संगठनों को वित्तपोषित करने के लिए केंद्रीय हैं।
- Under **India's CSR Act of 2014**, companies meeting certain criteria must allocate funds for **social causes**.  
भारत के CSR अधिनियम 2014 के तहत, कंपनियों को जो कुछ मानदंडों को पूरा करती हैं, उन्हें सामाजिक कारणों के लिए धन आवंटित करना चाहिए।
- In **2022–23**, the **healthcare sector** received over **₹6,800 crore** in **CSR funding**.  
2022–23 में, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल क्षेत्र को ₹6,800 करोड़ से अधिक का CSR फंडिंग प्राप्त हुआ।
- However, granular data on specific areas like **cancer** remains limited.  
हालांकि, कैंसर जैसे विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों पर विशद डेटा सीमित रहता है।
- The **Forbes' 2024 report** showed that the combined wealth of **India's 100 richest individuals** surged to **₹8.4 lakh crore**.  
फोर्ब्स 2024 रिपोर्ट ने दिखाया कि भारत के 100 सबसे अमीर व्यक्तियों की संयुक्त संपत्ति ₹8.4 लाख करोड़ तक पहुँच गई।
- A growing segment of the population has surplus wealth that can be donated while they benefit from **tax exemptions**.



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आबादी का एक बढ़ता हुआ हिस्सा ऐसी अतिरिक्त संपत्ति रखता है जिसे दान किया जा सकता है, जबकि वे करों में छूट का लाभ उठाते हैं।

- **Critical catalytic capital** would enable younger nonprofits to establish themselves and scale their impact.

महत्वपूर्ण उत्प्रेरक पूंजी युवा गैर-लाभकारी संगठनों को अपने आप को स्थापित करने और उनके प्रभाव को बढ़ाने में सक्षम बनाएगी।

- However, **individual philanthropy** is lagging far below its potential.

हालाँकि, व्यक्तिगत धर्मार्थ कार्य अपने पूर्ण संभावनाओं से बहुत पीछे है।

- With **rising pollution, rapid urbanisation, and unhealthy lifestyle changes**, the **health and financial toll** of cancer is set to rise significantly.

वृद्धि हो रही प्रदूषण, तेजी से शहरीकरण, और अस्वस्थ जीवनशैली परिवर्तन के साथ, कैंसर का स्वास्थ्य और वित्तीय बोझ काफी बढ़ने वाला है।

- **Indian philanthropy, CSR initiatives, government funding, and nonprofits** hold the power to alleviate the economic burden of cancer care.

भारतीय धर्मार्थ कार्य, CSR पहलों, सरकारी फंडिंग, और गैर-लाभकारी संगठनों के पास कैंसर देखभाल के आर्थिक बोझ को कम करने की शक्ति है।

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# Why the tax cuts are a one way gamble

In a world where expenditure by the government is directly linked to tax revenue, any shortfall on the tax side will show up on the expenditure side as well. Despite the fall of 8% in the effective tax rate, the Budget has estimated direct tax collection to go up by 14%

GS Paper III: Taxation, Resources

## ECONOMIC NOTES

Rohit Azad  
Indranil Chowdhury

It would not be an exaggeration to say that this is the biggest tax cut that the middle class has ever got in any Union Budget. To be sure, the tax-paying middle class in India is nowhere near "middle" of the income spectrum and, hence, those who would directly benefit from these cuts are a minuscule minority (between 2-3% of the population). Nevertheless, it is indeed a significant cut in tax rates for every class of taxpayer. For those earning between ₹7-₹12 lakh a year, it is a complete tax rebate, which was earlier applicable to only those below ₹7 lakh. For others earning more than ₹12 lakh, the exemption limit has increased from ₹3 to ₹4 lakh. The rest of the tax slabs have also changed favourably along with a cut in the marginal tax rates. So, everyone earning more than ₹7 lakh stands to gain in taxes payable. No wonder this step, as noted by the Finance Minister, will lead to a fall in tax revenue to the tune of ₹1 lakh crore. This is 8% of the direct income tax collection of ₹12.57 lakh crore in the current year.

Budgets are an exercise in both a redistribution of income (through differential variation in tax rates) and affecting the level of economic activity through its expenditure decisions.

Since the tax rebate has implications for both, and a lot of the plans of the 2025 Budget ride on it, this piece primarily focuses on this unprecedented fall in income tax rates.

### The logic behind the tax rebates

Despite the fall of 8% in the effective tax rate as a result of this policy, the Budget has estimated direct tax collection to go up by 14%. A simple arithmetic calculation would tell us that this requires the rise of income to be around 24% (see Box 1). With a projected growth of 10.1% in nominal GDP, this means more than double the growth in taxpayers' income. This may or may not happen. Let's discuss each of the two scenarios.

First, the optimistic scenario. In the backdrop of higher tax exemption limits (from ₹7 to ₹12 lakh for zero tax and ₹3 to ₹4 lakh for those earning more than ₹2 lakh), this would require either a significant rise in the number of people earning more than ₹12 lakh and/or a significant rise in the income of the current taxpayers, that is, what economists would call higher tax buoyancy. If it's the latter, this means further concentration of income in the hands of the upper classes. This may just further the K-shaped growth that the country has witnessed since the pandemic. And if it's the former, this may reflect some upward mobility at the upper end of the income spectrum.

### Worst-case scenario

Now, the pessimistic scenario. If the tax buoyancy does not quite work out, the implication of it is going to fall on the poor and disadvantaged of this country.

In a world where expenditure by the government is directly linked to tax revenue, any shortfall on the tax side will show up on the expenditure side as well. With the Fiscal Responsibility Budgetary Management Act (FRBM) in place, governments are bound by how much they can spend over and above their tax revenue and that deficit limit is set in the Budget every year (see Box 2). The state effectively loses control over how much it

## Cut in taxes, rise in income?

The Union Budget for 2025-26 gave a significant cut in tax rates for every class of taxpayer. For those earning between ₹7-₹12 lakh a year, it is a complete tax rebate, which was earlier applicable to only those below ₹7 lakh. For others earning more than ₹12 lakh, the exemption limit has increased from ₹3 to ₹4 lakh



### Box 1

$$T = t \cdot Y$$

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T} = \frac{\Delta t}{t} + \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} + \left( \frac{\Delta t}{t} + \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} \right)$$

$$\therefore 0.14 = -0.08 + 0.92 \frac{\Delta Y}{Y}$$

$$100 + \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} = 23.9\%$$

where,

$T$  = income tax revenue  
 $t$  = average income tax rate  
 $Y$  = total taxpayers' income

### Box 2

$$G = T - d \cdot Y$$

$$G = T + d \cdot Y$$

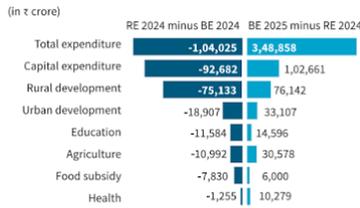
$$G = (t + d) \cdot Y$$

where,

$G$  = total government expenditure  
 $T$  = total tax revenue  
 $Y$  = Output (GDP)  
 $d$  = FRBM deficit target  
 $t$  = total tax-GDP ratio



Chart 1: Delivery versus promises in fiscal expenditure



RE: Revised Estimate; BE: Budget Estimate

Source: Authors' calculations, various budget documents, Government of India

can spend, and the fiscal policy becomes pro-cyclical (it increases or decreases with GDP) instead of countercyclical as it is supposed to be. The idea of fiscal policy arose in economics from the assumption that it could be expanded in conditions of slowdown and contracted during booms. Adherence to FRBM does the exact opposite.

This government's track record on strictly adhering to its deficit targets is quite telling. In a year, when the government was worried about a four-year low in economic growth, it has dared to revise its deficit target down from 5% as announced in the 2024 Budget to 4.8%. No wonder this fall in deficit has been managed through an almost across the board cut in expenditures compared to the figures announced in Budget 2024 (Chart 1 shows categories of expenses where there has been a fall). The left column in the chart shows the difference between what the Finance Minister announced last year and what the revised expenses actually were. As is evident, there has been a fall of ₹1 lakh crore in total expenditure. So, the government fell way short of its 2024 promises in terms of its commitments. The promises made in Budget 2025 (the right column of chart 1) are a significant jump from the revised figures of the last Budget. These promises

can only be fulfilled if revenue plans turn out to be correct otherwise there would have to be similar (or more) cuts in the actual expenses made in 2025-26.

That the government is extremely serious about managing its deficit becomes clearer if one looks at some of the schemes that have been associated with the Prime Minister. Chart 2 presents the difference between the Budget and Revised Estimates for some of these important schemes. It can be seen that the cut has been across most of the flagship schemes. So, when this government promises fiscal consolidation, it really means it, no matter what the underlying economic circumstances are. The only exception to this rule is perhaps the pandemic where fiscal consolidation was paused for a brief while.

### Fiscal consolidation or contraction?

What is additionally worrying on this count is that the Finance Minister has announced an even lower deficit target this Budget, down from 4.8% (RE 2024) to 4.4% (BE 2025). It's not fiscal consolidation alone, it's fiscal contraction. If a 4.8% couldn't deliver a turnaround in growth, a 4.4% is less likely to. Even if you were a fiscal hawk, now is not the time to be one. With growth slowing down, the

government requires exogenous stimuli (exogenous to the current level of activity), which propels the economy. Such an exogenous stimulus usually comes from exports, corporate investment or government expenditure. With the last lever gone (as expenditure becomes pro-cyclical), the government is effectively banking on exports and corporate investment to bring about a turnaround in growth. If we go by the 2025 Economic Survey, policymakers are not very optimistic about global demand, so it is clear they are expecting the corporate sector to take up the slack.

If corporate investment has not picked up despite tax cuts or aggressive capex spending over the last four years, there has to be the expectation that the income tax cuts would increase consumption demand, which would require an increase in investment, thereby setting a virtuous cycle of growth begetting growth. Yet again, we are back to income tax cuts. Does putting all your eggs in one basket make sense when things are not going your way? And yet, this is what the government seems to have done. It's a one way gamble.

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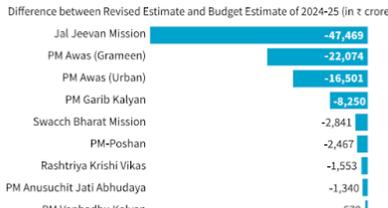
## THE GIST

▼ Budgets are an exercise in both a redistribution of income (through differential variation in tax rates) and affecting the level of economic activity through its expenditure decisions.

▼ This government's track record on strictly adhering to its deficit targets is quite telling. In a year, when the government was worried about a four-year low in economic growth, it has dared to revise its deficit target down from 5% as announced in the 2024 Budget to 4.8%.

▼ What is additionally worrying on this count is that the Finance Minister has announced an even lower deficit target this Budget, down from 4.8% (RE 2024) to 4.4% (BE 2025). It's not fiscal consolidation alone, it's fiscal contraction.

Chart 2: Cut in expenditure of some flagship schemes





## Why the tax cuts are a one way gamble

### कर कटौती एकतरफा जुआ क्यों है?

In a world where expenditure by the government is directly linked to tax revenue, any shortfall on the tax side will show up on the expenditure side as well. Despite the fall of 8% in the effective tax rate, the Budget has estimated direct tax collection to go up by 14%

ऐसी दुनिया में जहां सरकार द्वारा किया जाने वाला व्यय सीधे कर राजस्व से जुड़ा हुआ है, कर पक्ष में कोई भी कमी व्यय पक्ष पर भी दिखाई देगी। प्रभावी कर दर में 8% की गिरावट के बावजूद, बजट में प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह में 14% की वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया गया है।

#### Biggest Tax Cut for the Middle Class

मध्यवर्ग के लिए सबसे बड़ा कर कटौती

- It would not be an exaggeration to say that this is the **biggest tax cut** that the **middle class** has ever got in any **Union Budget**.  
यह कहना अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगा कि यह सबसे बड़ी कर कटौती है जो मध्यवर्ग को कभी भी किसी संघीय बजट में मिली है।
- The tax-paying middle class in **India** is nowhere near “middle” of the **income spectrum**, and hence, those who would directly benefit from these cuts are a **minuscule minority** (between **2-3%** of the population).  
भारत में कर चुकाने वाला मध्यवर्ग आय वितरण के “मध्य” के आसपास कहीं नहीं है, और इसलिए, जो सीधे इन कटौतियों से लाभान्वित होंगे वे बहुत कम संख्या (लगभग 2-3% जनसंख्या) के लोग हैं।
- Nevertheless, it is indeed a **significant cut** in **tax rates** for every class of taxpayer.  
फिर भी, यह हर करदाता वर्ग के लिए कर दरों में महत्वपूर्ण कटौती है।
- For those earning between **₹7 lakh** and **₹12 lakh** a year, it is a **complete tax rebate**, which was earlier applicable only to those below **₹7 lakh**.  
जो लोग ₹7 लाख से ₹12 लाख तक सालाना कमाते हैं, उनके लिए यह पूर्ण कर छूट है, जो पहले केवल ₹7 लाख से कम आय वाले लोगों पर लागू थी।
- For others earning more than **₹12 lakh**, the **exemption limit** has increased from **₹3 lakh** to **₹4 lakh**.  
जो लोग ₹12 लाख से अधिक कमाते हैं, उनके लिए छूट सीमा ₹3 लाख से बढ़कर ₹4 लाख हो गई है।
- The rest of the **tax slabs** have also changed favourably, along with a **cut** in the **marginal tax rates**.  
बाकी कर स्लैब्स भी अनुकूल रूप से बदले हैं, साथ ही मार्जिनल कर दरों में कटौती की गई है।



- So, everyone earning more than ₹7 lakh stands to gain in **taxes payable**.  
इसलिए, जो भी ₹7 लाख से अधिक कमाते हैं, उन्हें **भुगतान करने योग्य करों** में लाभ होगा।
- No wonder this step, as noted by the **Finance Minister**, will lead to a fall in **tax revenue** to the tune of ₹1 lakh crore.  
कोई आश्चर्य नहीं कि इस कदम से, जैसा कि **वित्त मंत्री** ने उल्लेख किया है, **कर राजस्व** में ₹1 लाख करोड़ की गिरावट आएगी।
- This is **8%** of the **direct income tax collection** of ₹12.57 lakh crore in the current year.  
यह इस वर्ष के ₹12.57 लाख करोड़ के **प्रत्यक्ष आयकर संग्रह** का **8%** है।
- **Budgets** are an exercise in both a redistribution of **income** (through differential variation in **tax rates**) and affecting the level of **economic activity** through its **expenditure decisions**.  
**बजट आय** के पुनर्वितरण (कर दरों में **भिन्नतात्मक परिवर्तन** के माध्यम से) और इसके **व्यय निर्णयों** के माध्यम से **आर्थिक गतिविधि** के स्तर को प्रभावित करने का एक अभ्यास है।
- Since the **tax rebate** has implications for both, and a lot of the plans of the **2025 Budget** ride on it, this piece primarily focuses on this **unprecedented fall in income tax rates**.  
चूंकि **कर छूट** दोनों के लिए प्रभाव डालती है, और **2025 बजट** की कई योजनाएँ इस पर निर्भर करती हैं, यह लेख मुख्य रूप से **आयकर दरों में इस अभूतपूर्व गिरावट** पर केंद्रित है।

### The Logic Behind the Tax Rebates

#### कर छूट के पीछे की तर्कशक्ति

- Despite the **fall of 8%** in the **effective tax rate** as a result of this policy, the **Budget** has estimated **direct tax collection** to go up by **14%**.  
इस नीति के परिणामस्वरूप **प्रभावी कर दर** में **8%** की गिरावट के बावजूद, **बजट** ने अनुमान लगाया है कि **प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह** में **14%** का इजाफा होगा।
- A simple **arithmetic calculation** would tell us that this requires the rise of **income** to be around **24%**.  
एक साधारण **गणितीय गणना** से पता चलेगा कि इसके लिए **आय** में लगभग **24%** की वृद्धि आवश्यक होगी।
- With a projected growth of **10.1%** in **nominal GDP**, this means more than double the growth in **taxpayers' income**.  
**नाममात्र GDP** में **10.1%** की अनुमानित वृद्धि के साथ, इसका मतलब है कि **करदाताओं की आय** में वृद्धि दोगुनी से अधिक होगी।
- This may or may not happen. Let's discuss each of the two **scenarios**.  
यह हो सकता है या नहीं हो सकता है। आइए हम दोनों **परिस्थितियों** पर चर्चा करें।

### Optimistic Scenario

#### आशावादी परिदृश्य

- In the backdrop of higher **tax exemption limits** (from ₹7 lakh to ₹12 lakh for zero tax and ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh for those earning more than ₹12 lakh), this would require either a



significant rise in the number of people earning more than ₹12 lakh and/or a significant rise in the income of the current taxpayers, that is, what economists would call **higher tax buoyancy**.

कर छूट सीमा में वृद्धि (₹7 लाख से ₹12 लाख तक शून्य कर और ₹3 लाख से ₹4 लाख तक उन लोगों के लिए जो ₹12 लाख से अधिक कमाते हैं) के संदर्भ में, इसके लिए या तो ₹12 लाख से अधिक कमाने वाले लोगों की संख्या में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि की आवश्यकता होगी और/या वर्तमान करदाताओं की आय में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि की आवश्यकता होगी, यानी उच्च कर प्रवृत्ति जिसे अर्थशास्त्री कहते हैं।

- If it's the latter, this means further **concentration of income** in the hands of the **upper classes**.

यदि यह बाद वाला है, तो इसका मतलब है कि आय का संकेन्द्रण उच्च वर्गों के हाथों में और अधिक होगा।

- This may just further the **K-shaped growth** that the country has witnessed since the pandemic.

यह शायद K-आकार की वृद्धि को और बढ़ावा दे सकता है, जिसे देश ने महामारी के बाद देखा है।

- And if it's the former, this may reflect some **upward mobility** at the upper end of the **income spectrum**.

और यदि यह पहला है, तो यह आय वितरण के उच्च छोर पर कुछ ऊर्ध्वगति को दर्शा सकता है।

### Worst-case Scenario

#### सबसे बुरा परिदृश्य

- If the **tax buoyancy** does not quite work out, the implication of it is going to fall on the **poor** and **disadvantaged** of this country.

यदि कर प्रवृत्ति ठीक से काम नहीं करती है, तो इसका प्रभाव देश के गरीब और वंचित वर्गों पर पड़ेगा।

- In a world where **expenditure** by the government is directly linked to **tax revenue**, any shortfall on the tax side will show up on the **expenditure side** as well.

एक ऐसी दुनिया में जहां सरकार का व्यय सीधे कर राजस्व से जुड़ा होता है, कर पक्ष में किसी भी कमी का प्रभाव व्यय पक्ष पर भी दिखेगा।

- With the **Fiscal Responsibility Budgetary Management Act (FRBM)** in place, governments are bound by how much they can spend over and above their **tax revenue** and that **deficit limit** is set in the **Budget** every year.

राजकोषीय जिम्मेदारी बजट प्रबंधन अधिनियम (FRBM) के तहत, सरकारें यह निर्धारित करने के लिए बाध्य होती हैं कि वे अपने कर राजस्व से ऊपर कितने खर्च कर सकती हैं और वह घाटा सीमा हर साल बजट में तय की जाती है।

- The state effectively loses control over how much it can spend, and the **fiscal policy** becomes **pro-cyclical** (it increases or decreases with **GDP**) instead of **countercyclical** as it is supposed to be.

राज्य प्रभावी रूप से यह नियंत्रित नहीं कर सकता कि वह कितना खर्च कर सकता है, और



राजकोषीय नीति प्रो-साइक्लिकल बन जाती है (यह GDP के साथ बढ़ती या घटती है) जबकि इसे काउंटरसाइक्लिकल होना चाहिए था।

- The idea of **fiscal policy** arose in economics from the assumption that it could be expanded in conditions of **slowdown** and contracted during **booms**.

राजकोषीय नीति का विचार अर्थशास्त्र में इस धारणा से उत्पन्न हुआ था कि इसे मंदी की स्थितियों में बढ़ाया जा सकता है और उत्सव के दौरान संकुचित किया जा सकता है।

- Adherence to **FRBM** does the exact opposite.  
**FRBM** का पालन ठीक इसके विपरीत करता है।

### Government's Track Record on Deficit Targets

#### सरकार का घाटे के लक्ष्यों पर ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड

- This government's track record on strictly adhering to its **deficit targets** is quite telling. इस सरकार का अपने घाटे के लक्ष्यों का कड़ाई से पालन करने का ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड काफी स्पष्ट है।
- In a year, when the government was worried about a **four-year low** in **economic growth**, it has dared to revise its **deficit target** down from **5%** as announced in the **2024 Budget** to **4.8%**.

एक वर्ष में, जब सरकार आर्थिक वृद्धि में चार वर्षों का न्यूनतम स्तर को लेकर चिंतित थी, उसने अपने घाटे के लक्ष्य को 2024 बजट में घोषित 5% से घटाकर 4.8% कर दिया।

- No wonder this fall in **deficit** has been managed through an almost across the board **cut in expenditures** compared to the figures announced in **Budget 2024**.

कोई आश्चर्य नहीं कि घाटा में यह गिरावट बजट 2024 में घोषित आंकड़ों की तुलना में खर्चों में लगभग हर जगह कटौती के माध्यम से संभाली गई है।

- **Chart 1** shows categories of **expenses** where there has been a fall.  
**चार्ट 1** उन खर्चों की श्रेणियां दिखाता है जहां गिरावट आई है।

- The left column in the chart shows the difference between what the **Finance Minister** announced last year and what the **revised expenses** actually were.

चार्ट में बाएं कॉलम में यह दिखाया गया है कि पिछले वर्ष वित्त मंत्री ने जो घोषणा की थी और संशोधित खर्चों में वास्तव में क्या था।

- As is evident, there has been a fall of **₹1 lakh crore** in total expenditure.

जैसा कि स्पष्ट है, कुल खर्च में ₹1 लाख करोड़ की गिरावट आई है।

- So, the government fell way short of its **2024 promises** in terms of its commitments.

इसलिए, सरकार अपने 2024 के वादों के मुकाबले अपने प्रतिबद्धताओं में काफी पीछे रह गई है।

- The promises made in **Budget 2025** are a **significant jump** from the **revised figures** of the last Budget.

**बजट 2025** में किए गए वादे पिछले बजट के संशोधित आंकड़ों से एक महत्वपूर्ण कूद हैं।

- These promises can only be fulfilled if **revenue plans** turn out to be correct, otherwise there would have to be similar (or more) cuts in the actual **expenses** made in **2025-26**.

इन वादों को केवल तभी पूरा किया जा सकता है यदि राजस्व योजनाएं सही साबित होती हैं,

अन्यथा 2025-26 में किए गए वास्तविक खर्चों में इसी तरह (या अधिक) कटौती करनी पड़ेगी।



## Government's Commitment to Deficit Management

### घाटा प्रबंधन में सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता

- That the government is extremely serious about managing its **deficit** becomes clearer if one looks at some of the schemes that have been associated with the **Prime Minister**. यह कि सरकार अपने घाटे का प्रबंधन करने को लेकर बेहद गंभीर है, यदि कोई प्रधानमंत्री से जुड़ी कुछ योजनाओं को देखे, तो यह और भी स्पष्ट हो जाता है।
- **Chart 2** presents the difference between the **Budget** and **Revised Estimates** for some of these important schemes. **चार्ट 2** इन महत्वपूर्ण योजनाओं के लिए **बजट** और **संशोधित अनुमानों** के बीच का अंतर प्रस्तुत करता है।
- It can be seen that the **cut** has been across most of the **flagship schemes**. यह देखा जा सकता है कि **कटौती** अधिकांश **ध्वजवाहक योजनाओं** में की गई है।
- So, when this government promises **fiscal consolidation**, it really means it, no matter what the underlying **economic circumstances** are. तो, जब यह सरकार **राजकोषीय समेकन** का वादा करती है, तो इसका मतलब सच में है, चाहे **आर्थिक परिस्थितियाँ** जैसी भी हों।
- The only **exception** to this rule is perhaps the **pandemic** where **fiscal consolidation** was paused for a brief while. इस नियम का एकमात्र **अपवाद** शायद **महामारी** है जहां **राजकोषीय समेकन** को थोड़े समय के लिए रोक दिया गया था।

## Fiscal Consolidation or Contraction?

### राजकोषीय समेकन या संकुचन?

- What is additionally worrying on this count is that the **Finance Minister** has announced an even lower **deficit target** this Budget, down from **4.8%** (RE 2024) to **4.4%** (BE 2025). इस बारे में जो अतिरिक्त चिंताजनक है, वह यह है कि **वित्त मंत्री** ने इस बजट में **घाटे के लक्ष्य** को और भी कम कर दिया है, जो **4.8%** (RE 2024) से घटकर **4.4%** (BE 2025) हो गया है।
- It's not **fiscal consolidation** alone, it's **fiscal contraction**. यह केवल **राजकोषीय समेकन** नहीं है, बल्कि यह **राजकोषीय संकुचन** है।
- If a **4.8%** couldn't deliver a turnaround in growth, a **4.4%** is less likely to. यदि **4.8%** से वृद्धि में बदलाव नहीं आया, तो **4.4%** से यह कम संभावना है।
- Even if you were a **fiscal hawk**, now is not the time to be one. भले ही आप एक **राजकोषीय कठोरवादी** हों, अब ऐसा बनने का समय नहीं है।
- With growth slowing down, the economy requires **exogenous stimuli** (exogenous to the current level of activity), which propels the economy. **वृद्धि** के धीमा होने के साथ, अर्थव्यवस्था को **बाहरी उत्तेजनाओं** (जो वर्तमान गतिविधि के स्तर से बाहर हैं) की आवश्यकता होती है, जो अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रेरित करती हैं।



- Such an **exogenous stimulus** usually comes from **exports, corporate investment or government expenditure**.  
ऐसी बाहरी उत्तेजना सामान्यतः निर्यात, कॉर्पोरेट निवेश या सरकारी खर्च से आती है।
- With the last lever gone (as **expenditure** becomes **pro-cyclical**), the government is effectively banking on **exports** and **corporate investment** to bring about a turnaround in growth.  
अंतिम लीवर गायब हो गया है (क्योंकि व्यय प्रो-साइक्लिकल हो जाता है), सरकार प्रभावी रूप से निर्यात और कॉर्पोरेट निवेश पर निर्भर है ताकि वृद्धि में बदलाव ला सके।
- If we go by the **2025 Economic Survey**, **policymakers** are not very optimistic about **global demand**, so it is clear they are expecting the **corporate sector** to take up the slack.  
यदि हम 2025 आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण को देखें, तो नीति निर्माताओं को वैश्विक मांग के बारे में अधिक आशावादी नहीं दिख रहे हैं, इसलिए यह स्पष्ट है कि वे कॉर्पोरेट क्षेत्र से उम्मीद कर रहे हैं कि वह कमी को पूरा करेगा।
- If **corporate investment** has not picked up despite **tax cuts** or **aggressive capex spending** over the last four years, there has to be the expectation that the **income tax cuts** would increase **consumption demand**, which would require an increase in **investment**, thereby setting a **virtuous cycle** of growth begetting growth.  
यदि कॉर्पोरेट निवेश के बावजूद पिछले चार वर्षों में कर कटौती या आक्रामक पूंजीगत व्यय के बावजूद वृद्धि नहीं हुई है, तो उम्मीद यह होनी चाहिए कि आयकर कटौती से उपभोक्ता मांग बढ़ेगी, जिसके लिए निवेश में वृद्धि करनी होगी, इस प्रकार वृद्धि को वृद्धि देने वाला एक सकारात्मक चक्र स्थापित होगा।
- Yet again, we are back to **income tax cuts**.  
फिर से, हम आयकर कटौती पर वापस आ गए हैं।
- Does putting all your **eggs in one basket** make sense when things are not going your way?  
जब चीजें आपके पक्ष में नहीं हैं, तो क्या अपने सभी अंडे एक ही टोकरी में रखना समझदारी है?
- And yet, this is what the government seems to have done. It's a **one way gamble**.  
फिर भी, यही लगता है कि सरकार ने किया है। यह एक एकतरफा सट्टा है।



# 'Monetary and fiscal policies need to work in tandem'

Ahead of RBI's monetary policy review, Finance Secretary indicates that growth impulses would get a bigger boost if interest rates are reduced

GS Paper III: Economics

Vikas Dhoot  
NEW DELHI



Tuhin Kanta Pandey

## Jan. inflation likely cooled to 4.5%-4.7%

India's retail inflation likely eased to a five month low of 4.5%-4.7% in January, from 5.2% in December, Bank of Baroda (BoB) economists said on Tuesday, citing a significant cooling in the price rise of essential commodities to 4% compared to 5.4% in the previous month. On a sequential basis, the bank's monthly Essential Commodities Index declined by a sharp 2.4%, after 0.5% dip in December, BoB economist Aditi Gupta said in a note.

gap has been pegged at 4.4% of GDP.

"We have to work within a certain fiscal regime, and we have, to that extent,

aided the monetary authorities to see that if they have to do what they have to do, we are supportive. The fiscal policy and monetary policy need to work in tandem, not at cross purposes... because a lot more benefit will come with monetary easing if we are able to maintain the inflation under control," Mr. Pandey remarked.

"In any case, inflationary policies can really work only in the short term in terms of pushing growth, but for sustained growth, we need to have a good grip on inflation," the Secretary underlined.

Dismissing concerns about India's tax base shrinking due to the breaks on annual incomes of up to ₹12 lakh, Mr. Pandey said the government has to be "compassionate" to taxpayers "who have been compassionate to us".

"We have had a 20-25% growth in personal income tax in the last three years. Are we shrinking the tax base? The point is that incomes must rise with the economy, and so will the taxes. We don't really gain very much loading taxes on the same people over and over again," he said, promising further reforms in the tax administration regime in the coming years so it won't be seen as 'extortionist' or 'insensitive'.

## 'Monetary and fiscal policies need to work in tandem'

'मौद्रिक और राजकोषीय नीतियों को मिलकर काम करने की जरूरत है'

Ahead of RBI's monetary policy review, Finance Secretary indicates that growth impulses would get a bigger boost if interest rates are reduced

आरबीआई की मौद्रिक नीति समीक्षा से पहले वित्त सचिव ने संकेत दिया कि अगर ब्याज दरें कम की जाती हैं तो विकास को और बढ़ावा मिलेगा

With a Non-Inflationary Budget Marked by Fiscal Discipline

वित्तीय अनुशासन से चिह्नित एक गैर-महंगाई बजट के साथ

The Centre has done its bit to support growth and aid monetary policy making, India's top Finance Ministry official said on Tuesday, signaling that monetary and fiscal policies must not work at 'cross purposes' as the economy will gain more traction if interest rates are eased once inflation is reined in.

भारत के शीर्ष वित्त मंत्रालय अधिकारी ने मंगलवार को कहा कि केंद्र ने वृद्धि का समर्थन करने और मौद्रिक नीति निर्माण में सहायता करने के लिए अपनी भूमिका निभाई है, यह संकेत देते हुए कि मौद्रिक और राजकोषीय



नीतियों को 'विरोधाभासी' तरीके से काम नहीं करना चाहिए क्योंकि अर्थव्यवस्था को ज्यादा गति तब मिलेगी जब महंगाई पर काबू पा लिया जाए और ब्याज दरें कम की जाएं।

- The subtle nudge to the **central bank** assumes significance, as it comes a day before the **Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** convenes for its **bi-monthly review**.

केंद्रीय बैंक को यह निहित संकेत महत्व रखता है, क्योंकि यह भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के मौद्रिक नीति समिति (MPC) द्वारा अपनी दो-मासिक समीक्षा के लिए बैठक से एक दिन पहले आया है।

- The **six-member MPC's** decision on whether to hold **interest rates** yet again or kick off a **rate cut cycle**, will be announced by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** on **Friday**.

छह-सदस्यीय MPC का यह निर्णय कि ब्याज दरों को फिर से स्थिर रखा जाए या दर में कटौती के चक्र की शुरुआत की जाए, RBI गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा द्वारा शुक्रवार को घोषित किया जाएगा।

- "We have maintained the **fiscal consolidation** part that's important, because we need to be **non-inflationary** in our approach," **Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey** said at an event hosted by **Assocham**.

"हमने राजकोषीय समेकन का वह हिस्सा बनाए रखा है जो महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि हमें अपनी दृष्टिकोण में गैर-महंगाई रहना चाहिए," वित्त सचिव तुहिन कांत पांडे ने असोचेम द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में कहा।

- He was referring to the **Centre** going beyond its **fiscal deficit targets** in this year, as well as next year, for which the fiscal gap has been pegged at **4.4% of GDP**.

वह इस वर्ष और अगले वर्ष के लिए केंद्र द्वारा अपने राजकोषीय घाटे के लक्ष्यों से अधिक जाने का उल्लेख कर रहे थे, जिसके लिए घाटे का आंकड़ा **4.4% जीडीपी** का निर्धारित किया गया है।

- "We have to work within a certain **fiscal regime**, and we have, to that extent, aided the **monetary authorities** to see that if they have to do what they have to do, we are supportive. The **fiscal policy** and **monetary policy** need to work in **tandem**, not at **cross purposes**... because a lot more benefit will come with **monetary easing** if we are able to maintain the **inflation under control**," Mr. Pandey remarked.

"हमें एक निश्चित राजकोषीय शासन के भीतर काम करना है, और हमने, उस हद तक, मौद्रिक प्राधिकरणों की मदद की है ताकि वे जो करना चाहते हैं, उसे कर सकें, हम सहायक हैं। राजकोषीय नीति और मौद्रिक नीति को संगत रूप से काम करना चाहिए, न कि विरोधाभासी तरीके से... क्योंकि अगर हम महंगाई को नियंत्रण में रखने में सक्षम हैं, तो मौद्रिक रियायत से बहुत अधिक लाभ मिलेगा," श्री पांडे ने टिप्पणी की।

- "In any case, **inflationary policies** can really work only in the short term in terms of pushing **growth**, but for **sustained growth**, we need to have a good grip on **inflation**," the Secretary underlined.

"किसी भी स्थिति में, महंगाई की नीतियां केवल वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कुछ समय में काम कर सकती हैं, लेकिन स्थायी वृद्धि के लिए, हमें महंगाई पर अच्छा नियंत्रण रखना होगा," सचिव ने इस पर जोर दिया।

- Dismissing concerns about **India's tax base shrinking** due to the breaks on annual incomes of up to **₹12 lakh**, Mr. Pandey said the government has to be "**compassionate**" to taxpayers "who have been compassionate to us".



भारत के कर आधार के सिकुड़ने की चिंताओं को खारिज करते हुए, श्री पांडे ने कहा कि सरकार को उन करदाताओं के प्रति “दयालु” होना चाहिए “जो हमारे प्रति दयालु रहे हैं”, जो वार्षिक आय में ₹12 लाख तक के ब्रेक के कारण चिंता का विषय थे।

- “We have had a **20-25% growth in personal income tax** in the last **three years**. Are we shrinking the tax base? The point is that **incomes** must rise with the economy, and so will the taxes. We don’t really gain very much loading taxes on the same people over and over again,” he said, promising further reforms in the **tax administration regime** in the coming years so it won’t be seen as ‘**extortionist**’ or ‘**insensitive**’.

“हमने पिछले तीन वर्षों में व्यक्तिगत आयकर में 20-25% की वृद्धि देखी है। क्या हम कर आधार को सिकुड़ रहे हैं? बिंदु यह है कि आय को अर्थव्यवस्था के साथ बढ़ना चाहिए, और उसी तरह कर भी बढ़ेंगे। हम वास्तव में वही कर लोगों पर बार-बार लोड करने से ज्यादा लाभ नहीं पाते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा, यह वादा करते हुए कि आने वाले वर्षों में कर प्रशासन प्रणाली में और सुधार किए जाएंगे ताकि इसे ‘उत्पीड़नकारी’ या ‘असंवेदनशील’ न माना जाए।

## Budget effect: Tata Power mulls nuclear reactor biz foray

### Budget effect: Tata Power mulls nuclear reactor biz foray

बजट प्रभाव: टाटा पावर परमाणु रिएक्टर व्यवसाय में उतरने पर विचार कर रही है

Tata Power's Plans for Small Modular Reactors in Response to Union Budget's ₹20,000 Crore Nuclear Energy Mission

संघीय बजट के ₹20,000 करोड़ न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी मिशन के जवाब में टाटा पावर की छोटी मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टरों में भागीदारी की योजना

- With the **Union Budget unveiling** a new **₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission** to develop at least five **indigenously designed and operational small modular reactors (SMRs)**, **Tata Power Company Ltd.** on Tuesday said it is **mulling a foray into the SMR segment**.

संघीय बजट में कम से कम पाँच स्वदेशी डिज़ाइन किए गए और परिचालन में छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMRs) विकसित करने के लिए नया ₹20,000 करोड़ न्यूक्लियर

GS Paper III: Nuclear technology  
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MUMBAI

With the Union Budget unveiling a new ₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission to develop at least five indigenously designed and operational **small modular reactors (SMRs)**, Tata Power Company Ltd. on Tuesday said it is mulling a foray into the SMR segment.

The government has said it is looking at active partnerships with private players and promised amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to encourage private investments in nuclear

energy.

Tata Power is keen to take up the opportunity to set up small modular nuclear reactors across the country, the firm’s CEO and managing director Praveer Sinha said. “We are keen to participate but are awaiting more clarity on the amendments,” he said.

The firm reported a 10% growth in consolidated net profit at ₹1,188 crore in the third quarter (Q3) ended December 31, 2024, on a 2% uptick in revenue from operations which hit ₹15,118 crore. The company’s operational capacity stood at 6.7 GW in the clean and green segment.



एनर्जी मिशन शुरू किया गया है, टाटा पावर कंपनी लिमिटेड ने मंगलवार को कहा कि वह SMR क्षेत्र में कदम रखने पर विचार कर रही है।

- The **government** has said it is looking at active **partnerships with private players** and promised **amendments** to the **Atomic Energy Act** and the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act** to encourage **private investments in nuclear energy**.

सरकार ने कहा है कि वह निजी खिलाड़ियों के साथ सक्रिय साझेदारी पर विचार कर रही है और न्यूक्लियर ऊर्जा में निजी निवेशों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एटॉमिक एनर्जी एक्ट और सिविल लाइबिलिटी फॉर न्यूक्लियर डैमेज एक्ट में संशोधन करने का वादा किया है।

- **Tata Power** is keen to take up the opportunity to set up **small modular nuclear reactors** across the country, the firm's CEO and managing director **Praveer Sinha** said. टाटा पावर पूरे देश में छोटे मॉड्यूलर न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर स्थापित करने के अवसर को लेने के लिए इच्छुक है, कंपनी के सीईओ और प्रबंध निदेशक प्रवीर सिन्हा ने कहा।

- "We are keen to participate but are awaiting more clarity on the **amendments**," he said. "हम भाग लेने के लिए इच्छुक हैं, लेकिन संशोधनों पर अधिक स्पष्टता का इंतजार कर रहे हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

- The firm reported a **10% growth** in consolidated **net profit** at **₹1,188 crore** in the third quarter (**Q3**) ended **December 31, 2024**, on a **2% uptick** in **revenue from operations** which hit **₹15,118 crore**.

कंपनी ने तीसरी तिमाही (Q3) में 10% वृद्धि की रिपोर्ट की, जो ₹1,188 करोड़ तक संविलित शुद्ध लाभ था, और ऑपरेशंस से राजस्व में 2% की वृद्धि हुई, जो ₹15,118 करोड़ तक पहुंच गया, जो 31 दिसंबर 2024 को समाप्त हुई।

- The company's **operational capacity** stood at **6.7 GW** in the **clean and green segment**.

कंपनी की संचालन क्षमता 6.7 GW थी जो स्वच्छ और हरे क्षेत्र में स्थित थी।



# Scans of seemingly empty space reveal black holes not far from earth

If a star orbits a black hole, it will appear from a distance to be orbiting empty space. Gaia projects the star's orbit on a plane in the sky while ground-based telescopes meanwhile track how light from the star is shifted by the Doppler effect. Astronomers put these details together to infer the masses of the star and of the 'blank' space

## GS Paper III: Space Technology

Shamim Haque Mondal

**A**stronomers have discovered a gigantic black hole named Gaia BH3 hiding close to the earth, the third of its kind. All three were discovered by the European Space Agency's Gaia telescope, which has been constantly monitoring the motions of billions of stars in our galaxy since 2013.

Black holes are fascinating to non-scientists and astronomers alike. They warp spacetime around them such that anything that gets close enough to the centre, even light, cannot escape back to the universe. Yet black holes are still "visible" because of the unique effects they have on their surroundings. As matter swirls around a black hole, it is compressed, heated up, and emits X-rays.

In the Milky Way, there are around a thousand black holes accompanied by X-ray emissions. Cygnus X-1 is probably the most well known.

### Cosmic geometry

Of late, the Gaia spacecraft has also been spotting the quiet ones not associated with X-ray emissions.

If a (light-emitting) star orbits a black hole, it will appear from a distance to be orbiting empty space. Gaia projects the star's orbit on a plane in the sky. Ground-based telescopes meanwhile track how light from the star is shifted by the Doppler effect to reveal its motion along our line of sight, which is perpendicular to the plane of the sky.

Putting these observations together, astronomers can determine the orientation of the star's orbit in space and based on that estimate its mass and then the mass inside the 'blank' space.

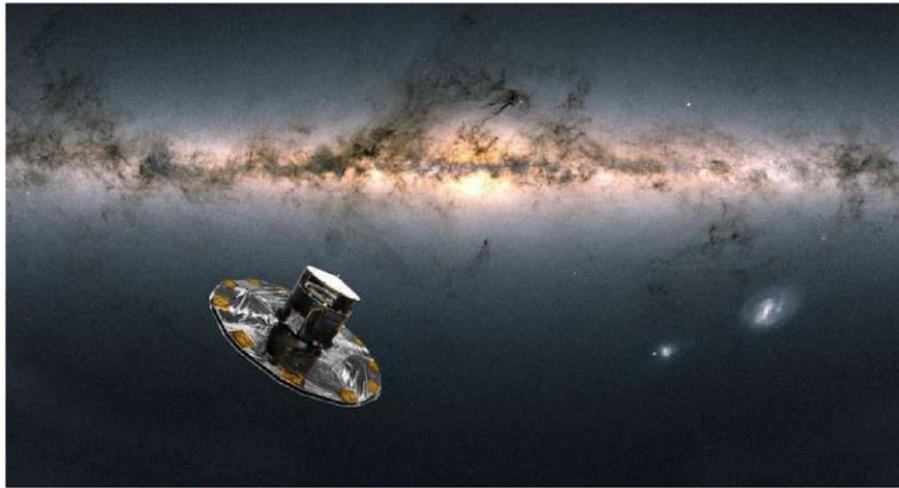
When a sufficiently massive star dies, a black hole forms.

The star's death may happen as a violent supernova explosion or a more prosaic collapse. Most supernova explosions leave behind neutron stars rather than black holes, but neutron stars can have no more than about three solar masses.

If Gaia and Kepler's third law together reveal a luminous star orbiting a dark object whose mass exceeds this threshold, it must be a black hole.

### Gaia's first black hole

On June 13, 2022, Gaia scientists published the spacecraft's third data collection comprising more than a billion stars. This dataset revealed a star going around something dark every half earth-year. Its measured velocity matched data collected by the Large Sky Area



An artist's impression of the ESA Gaia spacecraft observing the Milky Way galaxy. ESA/JATG MEDIALAB/A. MOTTINHO, CC BY-SA

### Multi-object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) in China.

The Magellan Clay telescope in Chile observed the star on July 6, 2022, and reported a much greater velocity. These and subsequent measurements, made by other telescopes more than three weeks later, suggested the star was racing around something no one could see.

The dark object and the yellow star were as far apart as the sun and Mars are. But the star was orbiting the dark region three-times faster.

For a given separation, Kepler's third law says the pair's total mass is related to the square of the orbital velocity. Because the star was moving three-times faster than Mars, the dark object must have been about nine-times as massive as the sun – which meant it could only have been a black hole.

Astronomers called the system Gaia BH1. It is located about 1,560 light years away and is the closest black hole to the earth yet. This distance is 1.4% of the Milky Way's width. The black hole at the galaxy's centre is 26,670 light years away.

### A third is revealed

A team of scientists headed by Kareem El-Badry from the California Institute of Technology observed a second black hole with a mass of nine solar masses on August 22, 2022, again by tracking a star rapidly orbiting a seemingly empty volume of space.

The team announced the discovery,



Further data from ground-based telescopes confirmed that it is many times more massive than any black hole previously found in our galaxy. Such a discovery is a rare occurrence in astronomical research

called Gaia BH2, in early 2023.

BH1 and BH2 are quite similar but Gaia BH3 – the newest – is completely different. It is the first black hole astronomers have found in the Milky Way galaxy's outer reaches and the largest known stellar-mass black hole in the galaxy.

In July 2023, astrophysicist Pasquale Panuzzo at the Paris Observatory was examining unreleased Gaia data. He was looking at what he called "binary fake solutions": stars that seemed to be orbiting massive dark objects but only because of undetected errors.

But one of the fakes turned out to be real. In fact, Panuzzo and his colleagues soon realised they had discovered the largest stellar-mass black hole to date.

Its 33 solar masses easily surpasses Cygnus X-1, the galaxy's prevailing heavyweight, by 12 solar masses. A yellow giant star nearby orbited the black hole every 11.6 years. On average, the star and the black hole are slightly closer together

than the sun and Uranus are. The team reported the discovery in April 2024.

In the sky, Gaia BH3 is located about 2,000 light years away in the constellation Aquila and appears to be a passive black hole: it is not actively pulling material in from its surroundings.

Scientists have interpreted this to mean it lacks a significant supply of matter in its neighbourhood. It does not have associated X-ray emissions either.

Studies of the composition of the star orbiting it suggested that it was very old. Harvard University astrophysicist Avi Loeb suggested in a statement that this means black holes as massive as BH3 "were made early in the universe."

Black holes of this class were first revealed in 2015 when the LIGO and VIRGO experiments detected gravitational waves emitted by a pair of black holes merging. Each possessed 30 solar masses and were located 1.2 billion light years away from the earth.

Panuzzo said in a statement, "We finally have an equivalent in our galaxy that we can study because it is so nearby."

"Further data from ground-based telescopes confirmed that it is many times more massive than any black hole previously found in our galaxy. Such a discovery is a rare occurrence in astronomical research," he added.

(Shamim Haque Mondal is a researcher in the Physics Division, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. [shamimmondal709@gmail.com](mailto:shamimmondal709@gmail.com))

## THE GIST

Black holes warp spacetime around them such that even light cannot escape. Yet they are 'visible' because of the effects they have on their surroundings. As matter swirls around a black hole, it is compressed, heated up, and emits X-rays

A black hole forms when a star dies. It may happen as a supernova or a collapse. Most supernovae leave behind neutron stars, but these are no more than three solar masses. If a luminous star is orbiting a dark object with greater mass, it must be a black hole

On June 13, 2022, scientists discovered a star orbiting something dark. They were as far apart as the sun and Mars. But the star was moving three times faster than Mars, so it must have been nine-times as massive as the sun – which meant it was a black hole. The Gaia BH1 is the closest black hole to earth yet



## Scans of seemingly empty space reveal black holes not far from earth

खाली प्रतीत होने वाले अंतरिक्ष के स्कैन से पता चला है कि पृथ्वी से कुछ ही दूरी पर ब्लैक होल हैं

If a star orbits a black hole, it will appear from a distance to be orbiting empty space. Gaia projects the star's orbit on a plane in the sky while ground-based telescopes meanwhile track how light from the star is shifted by the Doppler effect. Astronomers put these details together to infer the masses of the star and of the 'blank' space

यदि कोई तारा ब्लैक होल की परिक्रमा करता है, तो दूर से देखने पर ऐसा लगेगा कि वह खाली स्थान की परिक्रमा कर रहा है। गैया आकाश में एक समतल पर तारे की कक्षा को प्रक्षेपित करता है, जबकि ज़मीन पर स्थित दूरबीनें इस बात पर नज़र रखती हैं कि तारे से आने वाला प्रकाश डॉपलर प्रभाव द्वारा किस तरह से स्थानांतरित होता है। खगोलविदों ने इन विवरणों को एक साथ जोड़कर तारे और 'रिक्त' स्थान के द्रव्यमान का अनुमान लगाया

**Astronomers Discover Gaia BH3, a Gigantic Black Hole Close to Earth**  
खगोलशास्त्रियों ने पृथ्वी के पास एक विशाल ब्लैक होल गाइया BH3 की खोज की

- Astronomers have discovered a **gigantic black hole** named **Gaia BH3** hiding close to the Earth, the third of its kind.  
खगोलशास्त्रियों ने गाइया BH3 नामक एक विशाल ब्लैक होल खोजा है जो पृथ्वी के पास छिपा हुआ है, जो इस प्रकार का तीसरा ब्लैक होल है।
- All three black holes were discovered by the **European Space Agency's Gaia telescope**, which has been constantly monitoring the motions of billions of stars in our galaxy since **2013**.  
इन तीनों ब्लैक होल्स की खोज यूरोपीय स्पेस एजेंसी के गाइया टेलीस्कोप द्वारा की गई, जो 2013 से हमारे गैलेक्सी में अरबों सितारों की गति को निरंतर मॉनिटर कर रहा है।
- Black holes are fascinating to both **non-scientists** and **astronomers** alike.  
ब्लैक होल्स गैर-वैज्ञानिकों और खगोलशास्त्रियों दोनों के लिए आकर्षक होते हैं।
- They **warp spacetime** around them such that anything that gets close enough to the center, even **light**, cannot escape back to the universe.  
वे अपने चारों ओर स्पेसटाइम को मोड़ देते हैं, ताकि जो भी केंद्र के पास पहुंचता है, यहां तक कि प्रकाश, वह ब्रह्मांड में वापस नहीं लौट सकता।
- Yet black holes are still "**visible**" because of the unique effects they have on their surroundings.



फिर भी ब्लैक होल्स “दिखाई देते हैं” क्योंकि उनका अपने आस-पास के वातावरण पर अद्वितीय प्रभाव पड़ता है।

- As matter swirls around a black hole, it is compressed, heated up, and emits **X-rays**. जब पदार्थ ब्लैक होल के चारों ओर घुमता है, तो यह संकुचित होता है, गर्म होता है, और **X-रे** उत्सर्जित करता है।
- In the **Milky Way**, there are around a **thousand black holes** accompanied by **X-ray emissions**.

मिल्की वे में लगभग हजार ब्लैक होल्स हैं, जो **X-रे उत्सर्जन** के साथ होते हैं।

- **Cygnus X-1** is probably the most well known.  
साइग्नस **X-1** शायद सबसे प्रसिद्ध है।

## Cosmic Geometry

### काँस्मिक ज्योमेट्री

- Of late, the **Gaia spacecraft** has also been spotting the quiet ones not associated with **X-ray emissions**.

हाल ही में, **गाइया स्पेसक्राफ्ट** ने भी उन शांत ब्लैक होल्स को देखा है, जो **X-रे उत्सर्जन** से संबंधित नहीं हैं।

- If a (light-emitting) **star orbits a black hole**, it will appear from a distance to be orbiting **empty space**.

यदि कोई (प्रकाश उत्सर्जक) तारा **ब्लैक होल का परिभ्रमण करता है**, तो वह दूर से **खाली स्थान** के चारों ओर परिभ्रमण करता हुआ दिखाई देगा।

- **Gaia** projects the star's orbit on a plane in the sky.

**गाइया** तारे की कक्षा को आकाश में एक तल पर प्रक्षिप्त करता है।

- Ground-based telescopes meanwhile track how light from the star is shifted by the **Doppler effect** to reveal its motion along our line of sight, which is perpendicular to the plane of the sky.

इस बीच, भूमि आधारित टेलीस्कोप यह ट्रैक करते हैं कि तारे से प्रकाश **डॉपलर प्रभाव** द्वारा कैसे स्थानांतरित होता है, जिससे उसकी गति हमारे दृष्टिकोण रेखा के साथ प्रकट होती है, जो आकाश के तल के प्रति लंबवत होती है।

- Putting these observations together, astronomers can determine the orientation of the star's orbit in space and based on that estimate its mass and then the mass inside the 'blank' space.

इन अवलोकनों को एक साथ मिलाकर, खगोलशास्त्री तारे की कक्षा की दिशा का निर्धारण कर सकते हैं और उस पर आधारित उसका द्रव्यमान और फिर 'खाली' स्थान में द्रव्यमान का अनुमान लगा सकते हैं।

- When a sufficiently massive star dies, a **black hole forms**.

जब एक पर्याप्त विशाल तारा मरता है, तो एक **ब्लैक होल बनता है**।



- The star's death may happen as a **violent supernova explosion** or a more **prosaic collapse**.

तारे की मृत्यु हिंसक सुपरनोवा विस्फोट या एक अधिक साधारण गिरावट के रूप में हो सकती है।

- Most **supernova explosions** leave behind **neutron stars** rather than black holes, but **neutron stars** can have no more than about **three solar masses**.

अधिकांश सुपरनोवा विस्फोट ब्लैक होल के बजाय न्यूट्रॉन स्टार्स छोड़ते हैं, लेकिन न्यूट्रॉन स्टार्स का द्रव्यमान तीन सौर द्रव्यमान से अधिक नहीं हो सकता।

- If **Gaia** and **Kepler's third law** together reveal a luminous star orbiting a dark object whose mass exceeds this threshold, it must be a **black hole**.

यदि गाइया और केप्लर का तीसरा नियम मिलकर एक चमकते हुए तारे का पता लगाते हैं जो एक अंधेरे वस्तु के चारों ओर परिभ्रमण कर रहा है और जिसका द्रव्यमान इस सीमा को पार कर जाता है, तो वह ब्लैक होल ही होना चाहिए।

### Gaia's First Black Hole

#### गाइया का पहला ब्लैक होल

- On **June 13, 2022**, **Gaia scientists** published the spacecraft's third data collection comprising more than a **billion stars**.

13 जून 2022 को, गाइया वैज्ञानिकों ने अंतरिक्षयान के तीसरे डेटा संग्रह का प्रकाशन किया, जिसमें एक अरब से अधिक सितारे शामिल थे।

- This dataset revealed a star going around something dark every **half earth-year**.

इस डेटा सेट ने एक तारे को अंधेरे वस्तु के चारों ओर हर आधा पृथ्वी वर्ष में घूमते हुए दिखाया।

- Its measured velocity matched data collected by the **Large Sky Area Multi-object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST)** in **China**.

इसकी मापी गई गति चीन में स्थित बड़े आकाश क्षेत्र मल्टी-ऑब्जेक्ट फाइबर स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपिक टेलीस्कोप (LAMOST) द्वारा एकत्र किए गए डेटा से मेल खाती है।

- The **Magellan Clay telescope** in **Chile** observed the star on **July 6, 2022**, and reported a much greater velocity.

चिली में स्थित मैगेलन क्ले टेलीस्कोप ने 6 जुलाई 2022 को तारे का अवलोकन किया और एक बहुत बड़ी गति की रिपोर्ट की।

- These and subsequent measurements, made by other telescopes more than three weeks later, suggested the star was racing around something no one could see.

इन और बाद की मापों, जो अन्य टेलीस्कोपों द्वारा तीन सप्ताह से अधिक बाद की गईं, ने संकेत दिया कि तारा किसी ऐसी चीज़ के चारों ओर दौड़ रहा था जिसे कोई नहीं देख सकता था।

- The dark object and the yellow star were as far apart as the **sun and Mars** are.

अंधी वस्तु और पीला तारा उतने ही दूर थे जितनी सूरज और मंगल की दूरी होती है।

- But the star was orbiting the dark region **three-times faster**.

लेकिन तारा अंधेरे क्षेत्र के चारों ओर तीन गुना तेज़ी से परिभ्रमण कर रहा था।

- For a given separation, **Kepler's third law** says the pair's total mass is related to the square of the **orbital velocity**.



दी गई दूरी के लिए, केप्लर का तीसरा नियम कहता है कि जोड़े का कुल द्रव्यमान कक्षीय गति के वर्ग से संबंधित होता है।

- Because the star was moving **three-times faster** than Mars, the dark object must have been about **nine-times** as massive as the sun — which meant it could only have been a **black hole**.

क्योंकि तारा मंगल से तीन गुना तेज़ गति से चल रहा था, अंधी वस्तु का द्रव्यमान सूर्य से लगभग नौ गुना अधिक होना चाहिए था – जिसका मतलब था कि वह केवल एक ब्लैक होल हो सकता था।

- Astronomers called the system **Gaia BH1**.

खगोलशास्त्रियों ने इस प्रणाली को गाइया BH1 कहा।

- It is located about **1,560 light years** away and is the **closest black hole** to the earth yet. यह **1,560 प्रकाश वर्ष** दूर स्थित है और अब तक पृथ्वी के सबसे करीब ब्लैक होल के रूप में जाना जाता है।
- This distance is **1.4%** of the **Milky Way's width**. यह दूरी **मिल्की वे की चौड़ाई** का **1.4%** है।
- The black hole at the galaxy's centre is **26,670 light years** away. गैलेक्सी के केंद्र में स्थित ब्लैक होल **26,670 प्रकाश वर्ष** दूर है।

### A Third is Revealed

#### तीसरा खुलासा हुआ

- A team of scientists headed by **Kareem El-Badry** from the **California Institute of Technology** observed a second black hole with a mass of **nine solar masses** on **August 22, 2022**, again by tracking a star rapidly orbiting a seemingly empty volume of space.

कैलिफोर्निया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी के करीम एल-बद्री द्वारा नेतृत्वित वैज्ञानिकों की एक टीम ने 22 अगस्त 2022 को नौ सौर द्रव्यमान के साथ एक दूसरे ब्लैक होल का अवलोकन किया, जो एक तारे को तेजी से घेरते हुए दिखाई दिया, जो एक प्रतीत होने वाली खाली जगह के चारों ओर परिभ्रमण कर रहा था।

- The team announced the discovery, called **Gaia BH2**, in **early 2023**.

टीम ने 2023 के प्रारंभ में गाइया BH2 की खोज की घोषणा की।

- **BH1** and **BH2** are quite similar, but **Gaia BH3** — the newest — is completely different. **BH1** और **BH2** काफी समान हैं, लेकिन गाइया **BH3** — जो सबसे नया है — पूरी तरह से अलग है।

- It is the first **black hole** astronomers have found in the **Milky Way galaxy's outer reaches** and the **largest known stellar-mass black hole** in the galaxy.

यह पहला ब्लैक होल है जिसे खगोलशास्त्रियों ने मिल्की वे गैलेक्सी के बाहरी क्षेत्रों में खोजा है और यह गैलेक्सी में अब तक का सबसे बड़ा ज्ञात स्टार-मास ब्लैक होल है।



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## In July 2023, astrophysicist Pasquale Panuzzo

जुलाई 2023 में, खगोलशास्त्री पास्क्वाले पानुज्जो

- In July 2023, astrophysicist **Pasquale Panuzzo** at the **Paris Observatory** was examining unreleased **Gaia data**.  
जुलाई 2023 में, पेरिस वेधशाला के खगोलशास्त्री पास्क्वाले पानुज्जो अप्रकाशित गाइया डेटा की जांच कर रहे थे।
- He was looking at what he called “**binary fake solutions**”: stars that seemed to be orbiting **massive dark objects** but only because of undetected errors.  
वह उन चीजों की जांच कर रहे थे जिन्हें उन्होंने “**बाइनरी फेक सॉल्यूशंस**” कहा: वे तारे जो विशाल अंधी वस्तुओं के चारों ओर परिभ्रमण करते हुए प्रतीत होते थे, लेकिन केवल अज्ञात त्रुटियों के कारण।
- But one of the fakes turned out to be real.  
लेकिन उनमें से एक फेक असलियत में सही साबित हुआ।
- In fact, Panuzzo and his colleagues soon realized they had discovered the **largest stellar-mass black hole** to date.  
वास्तव में, पानुज्जो और उनके सहयोगियों ने जल्द ही महसूस किया कि उन्होंने अब तक का सबसे बड़ा स्टार-मास ब्लैक होल खोज लिया था।
- Its **33 solar masses** easily surpasses **Cygnus X-1**, the galaxy’s prevailing heavyweight, by **12 solar masses**.  
इसका **33 सौर द्रव्यमान साइग्नस X-1**, गैलेक्सी के प्रमुख भारी ब्लैक होल को **12 सौर द्रव्यमान** से आसानी से पार कर जाता है।
- A **yellow giant star** nearby orbited the black hole every **11.6 years**.  
पास में स्थित एक पीला दैत्याकार तारा हर **11.6 साल** में ब्लैक होल के चारों ओर परिभ्रमण करता था।
- On average, the star and the black hole are slightly **closer together** than the **sun and Uranus** are.  
औसतन, तारा और ब्लैक होल सूरज और यूरेनस की तुलना में थोड़े करीब होते हैं।
- The team reported the discovery in **April 2024**.  
टीम ने अप्रैल 2024 में इस खोज की रिपोर्ट दी।

## Gaia BH3 in the Sky

आसमान में गाइया BH3

- In the sky, **Gaia BH3** is located about **2,000 light years** away in the constellation **Aquila** and appears to be a **passive black hole**: it is not actively pulling material in from its surroundings.  
आसमान में, गाइया BH3 लगभग **2,000 प्रकाश वर्ष** दूर स्थित है, अक्विला नक्षत्र में और यह एक निष्क्रिय ब्लैक होल प्रतीत होता है: यह सक्रिय रूप से अपने आसपास से पदार्थ को आकर्षित नहीं कर रहा है।

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- Scientists have interpreted this to mean it lacks a significant supply of **matter** in its neighborhood.  
वैज्ञानिकों ने इसका अर्थ यह निकाला है कि इसके आसपास **पदार्थ** की कोई महत्वपूर्ण आपूर्ति नहीं है।
- It does not have associated **X-ray emissions** either.  
इसमें **X-रे उत्सर्जन** भी नहीं है।
- Studies of the composition of the star orbiting it suggested that it was very old.  
इसके चारों ओर परिभ्रमण कर रहे तारे के संघटन के अध्ययन से पता चला कि वह बहुत पुराना था।
- **Harvard University astrophysicist Avi Loeb** suggested in a statement that this means black holes as massive as **BH3** "were made early in the universe."  
**हार्वर्ड विश्वविद्यालय के खगोलशास्त्री आवी लोएब** ने एक बयान में सुझाव दिया कि इसका मतलब है कि इतने विशाल **BH3** जैसे ब्लैक होल "ब्रह्मांड में जल्दी बनाए गए थे।"

### Black Holes of This Class

#### इस श्रेणी के ब्लैक होल्स

- Black holes of this class were first revealed in **2015** when the **LIGO** and **VIRGO experiments** detected gravitational waves emitted by a pair of black holes merging.  
इस श्रेणी के ब्लैक होल्स का पहला खुलासा **2015** में हुआ था, जब **LIGO** और **VIRGO प्रयोगों** ने ब्लैक होल्स के एक जोड़े के विलय से उत्सर्जित गुरुत्वाकर्षण तरंगों का पता लगाया था।
- Each possessed **30 solar masses** and were located **1-2 billion light years** away from the Earth.  
प्रत्येक का द्रव्यमान **30 सौर द्रव्यमान** था और ये पृथ्वी से **1-2 बिलियन प्रकाश वर्ष** दूर स्थित थे।
- Panuzzo said in a statement, "We finally have an **equivalent** in our galaxy that we can study because it is so nearby."  
पानुज्जो ने एक बयान में कहा, "हमें आखिरकार हमारी गैलेक्सी में एक **समान** मिल गया है जिसे हम अध्ययन कर सकते हैं क्योंकि यह इतना पास है।"
- "Further data from **ground-based telescopes** confirmed that it is many times more massive than any black hole previously found in our galaxy. Such a discovery is a **rare occurrence** in astronomical research," he added.  
"भूमि आधारित टेलीस्कोपों से और डेटा ने पुष्टि की कि यह हमारी गैलेक्सी में अब तक पाए गए किसी भी ब्लैक होल से कई गुना अधिक द्रव्यमान वाला है। ऐसी खोज खगोलशास्त्रीय शोध में एक **दुर्लभ घटना** है," उन्होंने जोड़ा।



## A piercing eye in the desert

GS Paper III: S&T

Q

Q: What is the Extremely Large Telescope?  
 A: The Extremely Large

Telescope is planned to be one of the most capable astronomical observatories ever assembled. The telescope, currently about 60% complete, is intended to search for evidence of potential life on exoplanets and peer back in time to look for the universe's earliest stars and galaxies. Its first scientific observations are expected by the end of 2028.

It is a \$1.51 billion project of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) intergovernmental research organisation and is under construction in northern Chile. "It is going to impact practically all areas of astronomy. We are going to be able to see how the first galaxies were formed at the beginning of the universe," said astrophysicist Itziar de Gregorio, the ESO representative in Chile.

He added that researchers plan to use it to "characterise stars in other galaxies" and advance their understanding of exoplanets. In particular, we



The Extremely Large Telescope is under construction in northern Chile. Image is an illustration of the completed telescope. CREDIT: ESO

are going to be studying the atmospheres" of exoplanets for signs of life, he added.

The telescope's giant primary mirror will be made of 798 small mirrors and collectively be about 39.3 metres wide. It is situated in the middle of the arid Atacama Desert, considered one of the best places on the earth for astronomy. The telescope is located on Armazones Hill, about 3 km above sea level and about 1,000 km north of Chile's capital.

The telescope is expected to be the largest optical-infrared facility in the world for decades. The mirrors are ready and awaiting installation. — Reuters

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## A piercing eye in the desert

### रेगिस्तान में एक पैनी नज़र

#### Telescope is Planned to be One of the Most Capable Astronomical Observatories

टेलीस्कोप को अब तक का सबसे सक्षम खगोलशास्त्र अवलोकन केंद्र बनने की योजना है

- The telescope, currently about **60% complete**, is intended to search for evidence of potential life on **exoplanets** and peer back in time to look for the universe's earliest stars and galaxies.

यह टेलीस्कोप, जो वर्तमान में लगभग **60% पूरा** है, **एक्सोप्लैनेट्स** पर संभावित जीवन के प्रमाण ढूँढ़ने के लिए और समय में पीछे जाकर ब्रह्मांड के पहले तारे और आकाशगंगाओं की तलाश करने के लिए बनाया गया है।

- Its first scientific observations are expected by the end of

2028.

इसके पहले वैज्ञानिक अवलोकन **2028** के अंत तक होने की उम्मीद है।

- It is a **\$1.51 billion** project of the **European Southern Observatory (ESO)** intergovernmental research organisation and is under construction in northern **Chile**. यह **\$1.51 बिलियन** की परियोजना है जो **यूरोपीय दक्षिणी वेधशाला (ESO)** अंतर सरकारी शोध संगठन की है और यह उत्तरी **चिली** में निर्माणाधीन है।

#### Impact on Astronomy

##### खगोलशास्त्र पर प्रभाव

- "It is going to impact practically all areas of **astronomy**. We are going to be able to see how the first **galaxies** were formed at the beginning of the universe," said astrophysicist **Itziar de Gregorio**, the ESO representative in **Chile**.

"यह लगभग सभी क्षेत्रों में **खगोलशास्त्र** पर प्रभाव डालेगा। हम यह देख पाएंगे कि ब्रह्मांड की शुरुआत में पहले **आकाशगंगाओं** का निर्माण कैसे हुआ," कहा **इत्जियार डी ग्रेगोरियो**, जो **चिली** में ESO के प्रतिनिधि हैं।

- He added that researchers plan to use it to "**characterise stars** in other galaxies" and advance their understanding of **exoplanets**.

उन्होंने यह भी जोड़ा कि शोधकर्ता इसका उपयोग "अन्य आकाशगंगाओं में **तारों की विशेषताएँ** निर्धारित करने" और **एक्सोप्लैनेट्स** के बारे में अपनी समझ को आगे बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहे हैं।



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- In particular, we are going to be studying the **atmospheres** of **exoplanets** for signs of **life**, he added.  
विशेष रूप से, हम **एक्सोप्लैनेट्स** के **वायुमंडलों** का अध्ययन करेंगे ताकि **जीवन** के संकेत मिल सकें, उन्होंने जोड़ा।

### Telescope's Primary Mirror

#### टेलीस्कोप का प्रमुख दर्पण

- The telescope's giant **primary mirror** will be made of **798 small mirrors** and collectively be about **39.3 meters** wide.  
टेलीस्कोप का विशाल **प्रारंभिक दर्पण 798 छोटे दर्पणों** से बना होगा और यह कुल मिलाकर लगभग **39.3 मीटर चौड़ा** होगा।

### Location and Construction

#### स्थान और निर्माण

- It is situated in the middle of the arid **Atacama Desert**, considered one of the best places on Earth for **astronomy**.  
यह सूखा **अटाकामा रेगिस्तान** के बीच में स्थित है, जिसे पृथ्वी पर **खगोलशास्त्र** के लिए सबसे अच्छे स्थानों में से एक माना जाता है।
- The telescope is located on **Armazones Hill**, about **3 km** above sea level and about **1,000 km** north of Chile's capital.  
यह टेलीस्कोप **आर्माजोन्स हिल** पर स्थित है, जो समुद्र तल से लगभग **3 किमी ऊपर** और **चिली** की राजधानी से लगभग **1,000 किमी उत्तर** में है।

### Expected Status

#### अपेक्षित स्थिति

- The telescope is expected to be the **largest optical-infrared facility** in the world for decades.  
टेलीस्कोप को दशकों तक दुनिया की **सबसे बड़ी ऑप्टिकल-इन्फ्रारेड सुविधा** बनने की उम्मीद है।
- The mirrors are ready and awaiting installation.  
दर्पण तैयार हैं और स्थापना का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

## TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

### 1. After Indore, Bhopal also bans begging, giving alms /

इंदौर के बाद भोपाल में भी भीख मांगने और दान देने पर प्रतिबंध

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After Indore,  
Bhopal also  
bans begging,  
giving alms

PCS

The Hindu Bureau  
BHOPAL

The Bhopal district administration has imposed a ban on begging, giving alms and purchasing any goods from beggars in the Madhya Pradesh capital, authorities said on Tuesday, a month after a similar order was issued in Indore.

In an order dated February 3, Bhopal Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh invoked the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Section 163(2) to completely prohibit begging, giving alms or purchasing any items from beggars. The order also stated that those who violate the regulations will be prosecuted under BNSS Section 223.

'Involved in crime'

Earlier on January 2, Indore Collector Ashish Singh had also imposed a similar ban in the district.

"These people (involved in begging) are disobeying the government's order to curb begging and creating hindrance in traffic management. People from other States and cities are also involved in begging in the city, many of whom have a criminal history. Most of the people involved in begging are also involved in drugs," the order by Bhopal Collector reads.

The Collector said that a shelter home at a community health centre in Bhopal's Kolar area has been reserved to rehabilitate the beggars.

The order further read: "Under Section 163 of BNSS 2023, begging is completely banned within the entire revenue boundary area of Bhopal district. Legal action will be taken against the person who gives anything or buys any goods from them in violation of this order."

Meanwhile, a man in Indore was also booked on Tuesday for giving ₹10 to a beggar near a temple, police said.

## After Indore, Bhopal also bans begging, giving alms

### इंदौर के बाद भोपाल में भी भीख मांगने और दान देने पर प्रतिबंध

#### Bhopal District Administration Imposes Ban on Begging

#### भोपाल जिला प्रशासन ने भिक्षावृत्ति पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

- On February 3, 2025, Bhopal Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh imposed a ban on **begging, giving alms, or purchasing any goods** from beggars in Bhopal district. 3 फरवरी 2025 को भोपाल कलेक्टर कौशलेंद्र विक्रम सिंह ने भोपाल जिले में **भिक्षावृत्ति, दान देने, या भिखारियों से किसी भी सामान को खरीदने** पर प्रतिबंध लगाया।
- The order was issued under **Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Section 163(2)**, and those violating the order will be prosecuted under **BNSS Section 223**. यह आदेश **भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS) धारा 163(2)** के तहत जारी किया गया था, और जो लोग इस आदेश का उल्लंघन करेंगे, उनके खिलाफ **BNSS धारा 223** के तहत कार्रवाई की जाएगी।
- A similar order was issued in **Indore on January 2, 2025**, by Indore Collector **Ashish Singh**. **इंदौर में भी 2 जनवरी 2025** को इंदौर कलेक्टर **आशीष सिंह** द्वारा इसी प्रकार का आदेश जारी किया गया था।
- The ban was imposed as beggars are causing **hindrance in traffic management** and many have a **criminal history** or are involved in **drugs**. भिक्षावृत्ति पर यह प्रतिबंध इसलिए लगाया गया क्योंकि भिखारी यातायात प्रबंधन में रुकावट डाल रहे थे और उनमें से कई के पास **आपराधिक इतिहास** है या वे **नशीले पदार्थों** में लिप्त हैं।
- Many beggars are reportedly from **other states and cities**. रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कई भिखारी **अन्य राज्यों और शहरों** से आए हुए हैं।
- A **shelter home** has been reserved at a **community health center** in **Kolar** area of Bhopal for the rehabilitation of beggars. भोपाल के **कोलार** क्षेत्र में एक **समुदाय स्वास्थ्य केंद्र** में भिखारियों के पुनर्वास के लिए **शरण गृह** आरक्षित किया गया है।
- Legal action will be taken against anyone who gives alms or purchases goods from beggars. किसी भी व्यक्ति के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी जो भिखारियों से दान देता है या सामान खरीदता है।
- A man in **Indore** was booked on **February 3, 2025**, for giving ₹10 to a beggar near a temple. **इंदौर में एक व्यक्ति पर 3 फरवरी 2025** को एक मंदिर के पास भिखारी को ₹10 देने के कारण **मामला दर्ज** किया गया।