



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



# PATRIOTIC IAS

## THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17 JULY 2025

To watch an in-depth discussion on the topic, click on the YouTube link below: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

For regular updates on UPSC and PCS preparation, join our Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

18\_07\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Raziyya Sultan, Nur Jehan dropped from new Class 8 history textbook

कक्षा 8 की नई इतिहास की पाठ्यपुस्तक से रजिया सुल्तान और नूरजहाँ को हटाया गया



## Jumbo feast



**Cultural celebration:** The annual *Aanayoottu* (elephant feeding) ceremony held on the first day of *Karkkidakam*, the last month of the Malayalam calendar, at the *Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur* on Thursday. K.K. NAJEEB

PATRIOTIC



# Raziyya Sultan, Nur Jehan dropped from new Class 8 history textbook

GS I: History

**Maitri Porecha**  
NEW DELHI

Influential women icons Raziyya Sultan, who once ruled the Delhi Sultanate, and Nur Jehan, from the Mughal era, have been omitted from the new Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) social science textbook introduced from the current academic year (2025-26).

While students earlier learnt about the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals in Class 7, the new Class 7 textbook culminate before the 12th century timeline. This content has now been included in part one of the new Class 8 textbook.

In the older textbook, two chapters – one on the Delhi Sultanate and another on the Mughals – were taught in the Class 7 book *Our Pasts - II*. It had a section dedicated to the story

**New textbooks follow the philosophy of National Education Policy, says official**

of Raziyya Sultan, daughter of Sultan Iltutmish. A similar chapter in the new Class 8 textbook omits her mention. In the old book, Raziyya, who became the ruler (Sultan) in 1236 and continued her reign till 1240, had been described as more “able” and “qualified” than all her brothers.

The new Class 8 textbook that features the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals in chapter two, *Reshaping India's Political Map*, does not mention any woman ruler or queen of the time. For instance, it also omits the mention of Emperor Jahangir's wife Nur Jehan, who in the old textbook had been referred to as having “in-

fluence in Jahangir's court”. The old textbook also stated that silver coins were “struck in the name of the Queen Begum Nur Jehan” and seals were issued in her name. Messages inscribed on the seals granted her the status of an equal to Emperor Jahangir, the book said.

In the chapter on Mughals in the new textbook, references to Rani Durgavati, queen of Garha Kingdom, one of the Gond kingdoms in central India, have been freshly added. It mentions that she “led her troops and fought bravely”, against Mughal Emperor Akbar's attempts to attack her kingdom in 1564.

In chapter three, *The Rise of the Marathas*, a section titled “Mighty Maratha Women”, mentions Tarabai as a “fearless warrior queen”, who resisted Emperor Aurangzeb's expansion efforts. She has been

called “the architect of the northward Maratha expansion”.

Michel Danino, NCERT's Curricular Area Group head for social science textbooks, told *The Hindu* that a section on Begum Hazrat Mahal of Awadh had been included in chapter four - *The Colonial Era in India*. She has been called a “heroine”, who joined “the rebels during the 1857 uprising.”

**No mention of Tipu**

References to Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan and his predecessor Haidar Ali have been removed. “It is important to understand that the new textbooks are not modelled on the old ones because the new books follow the new educational philosophy of the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework 2023,” Mr. Danino said.

## Raziyya Sultan, Nur Jehan dropped from new Class 8 history textbook

कक्षा 8 की नई इतिहास की पाठ्यपुस्तक से रजिया सुल्तान और नूरजहाँ को हटाया गया

- **Raziyya Sultan**, the first and only woman ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, and **Nur Jehan**, the powerful consort of **Mughal emperor Jahangir**, have been **excluded** from the **new NCERT Class 8 social science textbook** introduced for the **2025–26 academic year**.  
दिल्ली सल्तनत की पहली और एकमात्र महिला शासक रजिया सुल्तान और मुगल सम्राट जहांगीर की शक्तिशाली पत्नी नूरजहाँ को 2025–26 के नए एनसीईआरटी कक्षा 8 सामाजिक विज्ञान की पाठ्यपुस्तक से हटा दिया गया है।
- Previously, **Class 7 textbooks** included chapters on both the **Delhi Sultanate** and the **Mughals**, featuring Raziyya as more “**able and qualified**” than her brothers, and Nur Jehan as an influential political figure.  
पहले कक्षा 7 की पुस्तकों में दिल्ली सल्तनत और मुगल साम्राज्य पर अध्याय थे, जिनमें रजिया को अपने भाइयों से अधिक “योग्य और सक्षम” बताया गया था, और नूरजहाँ को एक प्रभावशाली राजनीतिक हस्ती के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया था।
- The **new Class 7 book** ends before the **12th century**, pushing Delhi Sultanate and Mughal content into **Class 8**, where **no mention of any woman ruler or queen** is made in Chapter 2:



*Reshaping India's Political Map.*

नई कक्षा 7 की किताब 12वीं सदी से पहले समाप्त हो जाती है, जिससे दिल्ली सल्तनत और मुगलों से संबंधित सामग्री को कक्षा 8 में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया है, लेकिन अध्याय 2 (भारत का राजनीतिक नक्शा) में किसी भी महिला शासक का उल्लेख नहीं है।

- **Nur Jehan's contributions** such as her **court influence**, issuance of **seals in her name**, and **silver coins minted** bearing her identity, have all been **removed** from the revised content. नूरजहाँ की उपलब्धियाँ जैसे दरबार पर प्रभाव, उनके नाम की मुहरें, और चांदी के सिक्के जो उनके नाम पर जारी किए गए थे, नए पाठ्यक्रम से हटा दिए गए हैं।
- However, new additions include:
  - **Rani Durgavati**, who led her troops against **Akbar's invasion** in 1564. रानी दुर्गावती, जिन्होंने 1564 में अकबर के आक्रमण का बहादुरी से मुकाबला किया।
  - **Tarabai**, noted as a "**fearless warrior queen**", and described as the "**architect of the northward Maratha expansion**". ताराबाई, जिन्हें "निर्भीक योद्धा रानी" और "मराठा उत्तरवर्ती विस्तार की शिल्पकार" बताया गया है।
- Chapter 4 also adds **Begum Hazrat Mahal** of Awadh, termed as a "**heroine**" of the **1857 revolt**. अध्याय 4 में अवध की बेगम हज़रत महल को शामिल किया गया है, जिन्हें 1857 के विद्रोह की "वीरांगना" कहा गया है।
- In contrast, **references to Tipu Sultan** and his father **Haidar Ali** have also been **removed** entirely. इसके विपरीत, टीपू सुल्तान और उनके पिता हैदर अली का कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है।
- **Michel Danino**, **NCERT's curriculum head for social science**, defended the revisions, saying the **new textbooks are based on the NEP 2020 and National Curriculum Framework 2023**, not on older formats. एनसीईआरटी के सामाजिक विज्ञान पाठ्यक्रम प्रमुख मिशेल डानीनो ने इन परिवर्तनों का बचाव करते हुए कहा कि नई पाठ्यपुस्तकें राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 और राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यचर्या ढांचा 2023 पर आधारित हैं, न कि पुराने प्रारूप पर।

To watch an in-depth discussion on the topic, click on the YouTube link below: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

For regular updates on UPSC and PCS preparation, join our Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

18\_07\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. **Russian oil: India calls out 'double standards'**  
रूसी तेल: भारत ने 'दोहरे मापदंड' की निंदा की
2. **Ahmedabad sparkles as the cleanest big city in India**  
अहमदाबाद भारत का सबसे स्वच्छ बड़ा शहर बना



**3. Glitches in Poshan app hinders beneficiaries' registration in Haryana**

हरियाणा में पोषण ऐप में गड़बड़ियों से लाभार्थियों के पंजीकरण में बाधा

**4. CARA directs State adoption agencies to intensify counselling**

CARA ने राज्य गोद लेने वाली एजेंसियों को परामर्श सेवाएं तेज करने का निर्देश दिया

**5. NHRC seeks report on Haryana gang rape**

एनएचआरसी ने हरियाणा सामूहिक बलात्कार मामले पर रिपोर्ट मांगी

**6. Nurse case: India in touch with 'friendly governments'**

नर्स मामला: भारत 'मित्र सरकारों' के संपर्क में

**7. Scrap digital attendance system for MGNREGS workers, says Congress**

मनरेगा मजदूरों के लिए डिजिटल उपस्थिति प्रणाली को खत्म किया जाए: कांग्रेस

**8. PAC flags high failure rate of Aadhaar biometric verification, seeks review**

पीएसी ने आधार बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन की उच्च विफलता दर की ओर इशारा किया, समीक्षा की मांग की

**9. SC reverses its judgment, grants custody of 'anxious' child to mother**

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपना फैसला पलटा, 'चिंतित' बच्चे की कस्टडी मां को दी

**10. The parameters of 'success' in Bihar's poll roll revision**

बिहार में मतदाता सूची संशोधन में 'सफलता' के मानदंड

**11. Middle Ground**

मध्य मार्ग

**12. Should Political Leaders Retire at 75?**

क्या राजनीतिक नेताओं को 75 वर्ष की आयु में सेवानिवृत्त हो जाना चाहिए?

**13. French military leaves Senegal, ending a 65-year troop presence**

फ्रांसीसी सेना सेनेगल से रवाना, 65 साल पुरानी सैन्य उपस्थिति समाप्त

**14. U.K., Germany sign friendship treaty, deepening ties amid threats**

ब्रिटेन और जर्मनी ने मैत्री संधि पर हस्ताक्षर किए, खतरों के बीच संबंध और गहरे हुए



# Russian oil: India calls out 'double standards'

Centre responds to U.S. Bill seeking to impose duties on India and others buying Russian oil

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte also issued a threat, in particular to China, India, and Brazil

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri says India would 'deal' with sanctions when they are passed

GS Paper II: India Russia

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

India has cautioned against "double standards", even as U.S. lawmakers consider a Bill that would impose 500% duties on India and other countries buying Russian oil.

The Ministry of External Affairs's (MEA) comments come after indications that U.S. President Donald Trump is backing the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025, introduced by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, and threat of secondary tariffs of 100% on countries that continue trade on sanctioned Russian products.

On Wednesday, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who met with Mr. Trump and members of the U.S. Congress, also is-

sued a threat, in particular to China, India, and Brazil, who are among the top buyers of Russian crude oil, oil products, and coal. "Beijing and Delhi" should push Russian President Vladimir Putin towards ending the war in Ukraine, or face tariffs, the chief of the military alliance said.

Responding to questions on the issue on Thursday, the MEA said it was following the developments closely.

## 'Diverse sources'

"Securing the energy needs of our people is understandably an overriding priority for us. In this endeavour, we are guided by what is there on offer in the markets, as also by the prevailing global circumstances," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We would particularly

## Strong stand

The 'Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025', expected to be introduced in U.S. Congress in August, mandates 500% duties on goods and services from countries buying Russian oil



### What the NATO chief said

- India, China, and Brazil should tell Vladimir Putin to be serious about peace talks with Ukraine
- Continuing to do business with Russia will 'slam back' on these countries
- The secondary sanctions by U.S. will hit these countries 'very hard'

### Centre's response

- Securing energy needs is an 'overriding priority' for the government
- India is guided by what markets offer and global circumstances
- Maintain caution against double standards on the matter

caution against any double standards on the matter," he added.

At an industry event in Delhi on Thursday, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri said that India would "deal" with sanctions when they are passed, pointing out that

India has diversified its supply sources, buying oil from about 40 countries now, as opposed to 27 in the past.

However, despite requests from Tehran, India has not so far reversed a decision taken under pressure from the first Trump

administration in 2017, to stop all oil imports from Iran.

However, while Russia sells about half its oil exports to China, and about 38% to India (as of February 2025), it exports only about 6% to the EU countries.

The latest comments from the government come as lawmakers in the U.S. prepare to go forward with the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025 that has been introduced in the House and Senate, with 87 and 84 co-sponsors respectively, cutting across party lines.

Section 17 of the Act proposes to impose 500% *ad valorem* duties on countries that buy, er "oil, uranium, natural gas, petroleum products, or petrochemical products that originated in the Russian Federation".

In Washington on July 2, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had confirmed that India's "concerns" about the Bill and "interests in energy security" had been conveyed to Mr. Graham who, along with Democrat Senator Richard Blumenthal, is sponsoring the Bill.

Mr. Graham has said that he believes Mr. Trump supports the law which would give him the power to waive the duties for a period of six months. However, the Republican lawmaker has urged the U.S. President to impose the sanctions earlier than the 50-day deadline proposed at present.

### Talks on trade, tariffs

Amidst intense negotiations over tariffs, as well as market access to India, particularly in the areas of

agriculture, dairy and genetically modified produce, New Delhi has also been coordinating with the U.S. government about the deportation of Indians illegally resident in the U.S.

On Thursday, Mr. Jaiswal said that 1,563 Indian nationals have been deported in the first six months of Mr. Trump's second tenure, from January 20 to July 15 this year.

According to ICE statistics, 1,529 immigration violators were deported in all of 2024, and far less than in the three preceding years. After protests in India over the first few batches of deportees being handcuffed and shackled on board military flights in February this year, the U.S. agreed to send Indians back by commercially chartered flights, including as recently as last week.

## Russian oil: India calls out 'double standards'

## रूसी तेल: भारत ने 'दोहरे मापदंड' की निंदा की

### India cautioned against "double standards"...

### भारत ने "डबल स्टैंडर्ड" के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी...

- India has cautioned against "**double standards**", even as **U.S. lawmakers consider a Bill that would impose 500% duties on India and other countries buying Russian oil.**  
भारत ने "डबल स्टैंडर्ड" के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी है, जबकि अमेरिका के सांसद उन देशों, जिनमें भारत भी शामिल है, पर **500% शुल्क** लगाने वाले बिल पर विचार कर रहे हैं जो रूसी तेल खरीदते हैं।
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**'s comments come after indications that U.S. President **Donald Trump** is backing the **Russian Sanctions Act, 2025**, introduced by Republican Senator **Lindsey Graham**, and threat of **secondary tariffs of 100%** on countries that continue trade on sanctioned Russian products.  
यह टिप्पणी विदेश मंत्रालय की ओर से सामने आई है जब संकेत मिले कि अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प**, रिपब्लिकन सीनेटर **लिंगसे ग्राहम** द्वारा पेश "रशियन सैनक्संस एक्ट, 2025" का समर्थन कर रहे हैं और **100% द्वितीयक शुल्क** की धमकी दे रहे हैं उन देशों को जो प्रतिबंधित रूसी उत्पादों का व्यापार जारी रखते हैं।
- On Wednesday, **NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte**, who met with Mr. **Trump** and members of the U.S. Congress, also issued a threat, in particular to **China, India, and Brazil**, who are among the top **buyers of Russian crude oil, oil products, and coal.**  
बुधवार को, NATO महासचिव **मार्क रुटे**, जो **ट्रम्प** और अमेरिकी कांग्रेस सदस्यों से मिले, ने विशेष रूप से **चीन, भारत और ब्राज़ील** को चेतावनी दी, जो **रूसी कच्चे तेल, तेल उत्पादों और कोयले** के शीर्ष खरीदारों में से हैं।
- "Beijing and Delhi" should push Russian President **Vladimir Putin** towards ending the war in Ukraine, or face tariffs, the chief of the military alliance said.  
सैन्य गठबंधन प्रमुख ने कहा कि "बीजिंग और दिल्ली" को रूसी राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** पर यूक्रेन में युद्ध को समाप्त करने के लिए दबाव डालना चाहिए, अन्यथा **शुल्क** झेलने होंगे।



- Responding to questions on the issue on Thursday, the MEA said it was following the developments closely.  
इस मुद्दे पर गुरुवार को सवाल के जवाब में विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि वह विकास को बारीकी से देख रहा है।

### 'Diverse sources' "विविध स्रोत"

- "Securing the energy needs of our people is understandably an overriding priority for us. In this endeavour, we are guided by what is there on offer in the markets, as also by the prevailing global circumstances," MEA spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said.  
"हमारे लोगों की ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं को सुरक्षित करना हमारी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है। इस प्रयास में, हम बाजार की उपलब्धता और वैश्विक परिस्थितियों द्वारा निर्देशित हैं," विदेश मंत्रालय प्रवक्ता रंधीर जैसवाल ने कहा।
- "We would particularly caution against any double standards on the matter," he added.  
"हम इस मामले में किसी भी डबल स्टैंडर्ड के खिलाफ विशेष रूप से सतर्क रहेंगे," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- At an industry event in Delhi on Thursday, **Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri** said that India would "deal" with sanctions when they are passed, pointing out that India has diversified its supply sources, **buying oil from about 40 countries now, as opposed to 27 in the past.**  
गुरुवार को दिल्ली में एक उद्योग आयोजन में केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री **हरदीप पुरी** ने कहा कि भारत "प्रतिबंधों से निपटेगा" जब वे पारित हो जाएंगे, यह इंगित करते हुए कि भारत ने अपनी आपूर्ति स्रोतों को विविधित किया है, अब लगभग 40 देशों से तेल खरीदता है, जबकि पूर्व में यह संख्या 27 थी।
- However, despite requests from Tehran, India has not so far reversed a decision taken under pressure from the first Trump administration in 2017, to stop all oil imports from Iran.  
हालांकि, तेहरान के अनुरोधों के बावजूद, भारत ने अब तक 2017 में पहले ट्रम्प प्रशासन के दबाव में लिए गए **ईरान से सभी तेल आयात बंद करने** के निर्णय को वापस नहीं लिया है।
- However, while **Russia sells about half its oil exports to China, and about 38% to India (as of February 2025), it exports only about 6% to the EU countries.**  
हालांकि, रूस अपनी तेल निर्यात का लगभग आधा चीन को बेचता है, और लगभग 38% भारत को (फरवरी 2025 तक), जबकि यह केवल 6% यूरोपीय संघ (EU) देशों को निर्यात करता है।
- The latest comments from the government come as lawmakers in the U.S. prepare to go forward with the **Russian Sanctions Act, 2025** that has been introduced in the House and Senate, with **87 and 84 cosponsors** respectively, cutting across party lines.  
सरकार की नवीनतम टिप्पणियाँ तब आई हैं जब अमेरिकी सांसद "रशियन सैनक्स एक्ट, 2025" को आगे बढ़ाने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं, जिसे प्रतिनिधि सभा और सीनेट में क्रमशः 87 और 84 सह-प्रायोजकों ने पेश किया है, जो सभी दलों को पार करता है।
- **Section 17 of the Act proposes to impose 500% ad valorem duties on countries that buy, sell or transfer "oil, uranium, natural gas, petroleum products, or petrochemical products that originated in the Russian Federation."**  
इस अधिनियम की धारा 17 प्रस्तावित करती है उन देशों पर 500% एड वेलोरम शुल्क लगाने की जो "तेल, यूरेनियम, प्राकृतिक गैस, पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों, या पेट्रोकेमिकल उत्पादों" का व्यापार करते हैं जो रूसी संघ में उत्पन्न हुए।
- In Washington on **July 2**, External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** had confirmed that India's "concerns" about the Bill and "interests in energy security" had been conveyed to Mr. **Graham** who, along with Democrat Senator **Richard Blumenthal**, is sponsoring the Bill.  
वाशिंगटन में 2 जुलाई को विदेश मंत्री **S. जयशंकर** ने पुष्टि की कि भारत की "बिल के बारे में चिंताएं और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में हित" श्री ग्राहम को बताया गया था, जो डेमोक्रेट सीनेटर **रिचर्ड ब्लुमेन्थल** के साथ इस बिल के प्रायोजक हैं।
- Mr. **Graham** has said that he believes Mr. **Trump** supports the law which would give him the power to waive the duties for a period of **six months**. However, the Republican lawmaker has urged the U.S. President to impose the sanctions earlier than the **50-day** deadline proposed



at present.

श्री ग्राहम ने कहा कि उन्हें विश्वास है कि श्री ट्रम्प इस कानून का समर्थन करते हैं, जो उन्हें छह महीने के लिए शुल्क माफ करने की शक्ति देगा। हालांकि, इस रिपब्लिकन सांसद ने अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति से आग्रह किया है कि वे वर्तमान में प्रस्तावित 50-दिन की समय सीमा से जल्दी प्रतिबंध लागू करें।

### Talks on trade, tariffs

#### व्यापार, शुल्क पर बातचीत

- Amidst intense negotiations over tariffs, as well as market access to India, particularly in the areas of **agriculture, dairy and genetically modified produce**, **New Delhi** has also been coordinating with the U.S. government about the **deportation of Indians illegally resident in the U.S.**  
शुल्कों और विशेष रूप से कृषि, डेयरी एवं आनुवांशिक रूप से परिवर्तित उत्पादों के क्षेत्र में भारत की बाजार पहुंच को लेकर जोरदार बातचीत के बीच, नई दिल्ली अवैध रूप से अमेरिका में निवासरत भारतीयों के निर्वासन को लेकर भी अमेरिकी सरकार से समन्वय कर रही है।
- On Thursday, Mr. **Jaiswal** said that **1,563 Indian nationals** have been deported in the **first six months of Mr. Trump's second tenure**, from **January 20 to July 15** this year.  
गुरुवार को श्री जैसवाल ने कहा कि **1,563 भारतीय नागरिक** को इस वर्ष **20 जनवरी से 15 जुलाई** तक, **ट्रम्प की दूसरी कार्यकाल की पहली छह महीनों** में निर्वासित किया गया है।
- According to ICE statistics, **1,529 immigration violators** were deported in all of **2024**, and far less than in the three preceding years.  
ICE आंकड़ों के अनुसार, पूरे **2024** में **1,529 आत्रजन उल्लंघनकर्ता** निर्वासित किए गए, जो पिछले **तीन वर्षों** की तुलना में बहुत कम है।
- After protests in India over the first few batches of **deportees being handcuffed and shackled on board military flights** in February this year, the U.S. agreed to send Indians back by **commercially chartered flights**, including as recently as last week.  
इस वर्ष फरवरी में पहले कुछ निर्वासितों को **हैंडकफ और बेड़ी बांधकर सैन्य विमान में बैठाए जाने** पर भारत में जबरदस्त विरोध हुआ, तब अमेरिका ने **व्यावसायिक चार्टर्ड विमानों** द्वारा भारतीयों को वापस भेजने पर सहमति दी, जिसमें **पिछले सप्ताह** भी ऐसा हुआ।



# Ahmedabad sparkles as the cleanest big city in India

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Ahmedabad was named the cleanest big city in India, followed by Bhopal and Lucknow, in the Centre's annual "Swachh Survekshan" cleanliness survey.

Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Vijayawada were among 23 cities that entered the newly introduced "Super Swachh League", which recognises sustained excellence in cleanliness among cities, in the "million-plus population" category.

President Droupadi Murmu gave away the "Swachh Survekshan 2024-25" awards to the winners on Thursday.

Noida, Chandigarh, and Mysore, among others, entered the league in the "3 to 10 lakh population" ca-

Pristine places

The "Swachh Shahar", or Clean City category, was introduced this year to promote new cities in the cleanliness rankings

**Million-plus cities (More than 10 lakh population)**

- Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
- Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
- Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
- Big cities (3 lakh-10 lakh population)
- Mira-Bhayandar (Maharashtra)

■ Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

■ Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)

**Medium cities (50,000-3 lakh population)**

- Dewas (Madhya Pradesh)
- Karhad (Maharashtra)
- Karnal (Haryana)

**Small cities (20,000-50,000 population)**

- Panaji (Goa)
- Aska (Odisha)
- Kumhari (Chhattisgarh)

**Very small cities (Less than 20,000 population)**

- Bilha (Chhattisgarh)
- Chikiti (Odisha)
- Shalgaonj (Uttar Pradesh)



tegory while New Delhi made the cut in the "50,000 to 3 lakh population" category of the league.

In order to promote new cities in the cleanliness rankings, this year's awards introduced the "Swachh Shahar", or Clean City category, in which Ah-

medabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow secured top three positions in the list of cities with a population of more than 10 lakh. In the "3-10 lakh population" group, Mira-Bhayandar of Maharashtra topped the list, followed by Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh) and Jamshedpur (Jharkhand).

The award for the "Best Ganga Town" was given to Prayagraj, while Secunderabad Cantonment was honoured as the Best Cantonment Board for its exemplary sanitation efforts. Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, and Gorakhpur were declared "Best Saifai-Mitra Surakshit Shehar"

for their outstanding commitment to the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.

The Uttar Pradesh government, Prayagraj Mela Authority and Prayagraj Municipal Corporation were recognised for their exceptional urban waste management during the Maha Kumbh, the world's largest religious congregation, which witnessed an estimated footfall of 66 crore earlier this year.

**The 3R approach**

Under this year's format, smaller cities found a level playing ground with big cities in the survey, the government said.

Also, following the "One City, One Award" principle, the top-performing cities from each State were recognised as "Promising Swachh Shehars" (Promis-

ing Clean Cities). A total of 34 cities across various States and Union Territories earned this distinction, showcasing their notable progress in urban cleanliness and sanitation excellence.

President Murmu complimented the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry for promoting the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" (3R) approach and commended the waste-to-wealth memento presented to her.

"Waste is best" is the mantra and it gives strength to "circularity in economy", she added.

According to the government, 14 crore people participated in the survey through face-to-face interactions, the Swachhata App, MyGov and social media platforms in over 4,500 cities.

## Ahmedabad sparkles as the cleanest big city in India

## अहमदाबाद भारत का सबसे स्वच्छ बड़ा शहर बना

### Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards

### स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2024-25 पुरस्कार

- Ahmedabad was named the **cleanest big city** in India, followed by **Bhopal** and **Lucknow**, in the Centre's annual "**Swachh Survekshan**" cleanliness survey.  
भारत में **सबसे स्वच्छ बड़े शहर** के रूप में **अहमदाबाद** को चुना गया, इसके बाद **भोपाल** और **लखनऊ** का स्थान रहा, जो कि केंद्र सरकार के वार्षिक "**स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण**" स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण का हिस्सा था।
- **Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Vijayawada** were among **23 cities** that entered the newly introduced "**Super Swachh League**", which recognises **sustained excellence in cleanliness** among cities, in the "**million-plus population**" category.  
**इंदौर, सूरत, नवी मुंबई** और **विजयवाड़ा** उन **23 शहरों** में शामिल थे जिन्होंने "**सुपर स्वच्छ लीग**" में प्रवेश किया, जो कि **10 लाख से अधिक जनसंख्या** वाले शहरों में **लगातार उत्कृष्ट स्वच्छता प्रदर्शन** को मान्यता देता है।
- **President Droupadi Murmu** gave away the "**Swachh Survekshan 2024-25**" awards to the winners on **Thursday**.  
राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने गुरुवार को "**स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2024-25**" पुरस्कार विजेताओं को प्रदान किए।
- **Noida, Chandigarh, and Mysore**, among others, entered the league in the "**3 to 10 lakh population**" category while **New Delhi** made the cut in the "**50,000 to 3 lakh population**" category of the league.  
**नोएडा, चंडीगढ़** और **मैसूर** जैसे शहरों ने **3 से 10 लाख जनसंख्या** श्रेणी में लीग में प्रवेश किया, जबकि **नई दिल्ली** ने **50,000 से 3 लाख जनसंख्या** श्रेणी में स्थान पाया।
- In order to promote new cities in the cleanliness rankings, this year's awards introduced the "**Swachh Shahar**", or **Clean City** category, in which **Ahmedabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow** secured top three positions in the list of cities with a **population of more than 10 lakh**.  
स्वच्छता रैंकिंग में नए शहरों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, इस वर्ष "**स्वच्छ शहर**" श्रेणी शुरू की गई, जिसमें



अहमदाबाद, भोपाल और लखनऊ ने 10 लाख से अधिक जनसंख्या वाले शहरों में शीर्ष तीन स्थान प्राप्त किए।

- In the "3-10 lakh population" group, **Mira-Bhayandar** of Maharashtra topped the list, followed by **Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)**.  
3-10 लाख जनसंख्या समूह में महाराष्ट्र का मीरा-भायंदर सूची में शीर्ष पर रहा, इसके बाद बिलासपुर (मध्य प्रदेश) और जमशेदपुर (झारखंड) का स्थान रहा।
- The award for the "Best Ganga Town" was given to **Prayagraj**, while **Secunderabad Cantonment** was honoured as the **Best Cantonment Board** for its **exemplary sanitation efforts**.  
"सर्वश्रेष्ठ गंगा शहर" का पुरस्कार प्रयागराज को मिला, जबकि सिकंदराबाद छावनी को उत्कृष्ट स्वच्छता प्रयासों के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ छावनी बोर्ड के रूप में सम्मानित किया गया।
- Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, and Gorakhpur** were declared "Best Saifai Mitra Surakshit Shehar" for their **outstanding commitment to the safety and dignity of sanitation workers**.  
विशाखापट्टनम, जबलपुर और गोरखपुर को स्वच्छता कर्मियों की सुरक्षा और गरिमा के प्रति उत्कृष्ट प्रतिबद्धता के लिए "बेस्ट सफाई मित्र सुरक्षित शहर" घोषित किया गया।
- The **Uttar Pradesh government, Prayagraj Mela Authority, and Prayagraj Municipal Corporation** were recognised for their **exceptional urban waste management** during the **Maha Kumbh**, the **world's largest religious congregation**, which witnessed an estimated footfall of **66 crore** earlier this year.  
उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार, प्रयागराज मेला प्राधिकरण और प्रयागराज नगर निगम को इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में आयोजित 66 करोड़ की अनुमानित भीड़ वाले विश्व के सबसे बड़े धार्मिक आयोजन महाकुंभ के दौरान शहरी कचरा प्रबंधन में असाधारण योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।

### The 3R approach

#### 3R दृष्टिकोण

- Under this year's format, **smaller cities** found a **level playing ground** with big cities in the survey, the government said.  
सरकार ने बताया कि इस वर्ष के प्रारूप के तहत छोटे शहरों को भी बड़े शहरों के समान अवसर मिला।
- Also, following the "**One City, One Award**" principle, the **top-performing cities from each State** were recognised as "**Promising Swachh Shehars**" (**Promising Clean Cities**).  
साथ ही, "एक शहर, एक पुरस्कार" सिद्धांत के तहत, प्रत्येक राज्य के सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करने वाले शहरों को "प्रॉमिसिंग स्वच्छ शहर" के रूप में मान्यता दी गई।
- A total of **34 cities** across various States and Union Territories earned this distinction, showcasing their **notable progress in urban cleanliness and sanitation excellence**.  
विभिन्न राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के कुल 34 शहरों को यह उपाधि मिली, जिन्होंने शहरी स्वच्छता और उत्कृष्ट सफाई व्यवस्था में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति दिखाई।
- President Murmu** complimented the **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** for promoting the "**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**" (3R) approach and commended the **waste-to-wealth memento** presented to her.  
राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने केंद्रीय आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय को "कम करो, पुनः उपयोग करो, पुनर्चक्रण करो (3R)" दृष्टिकोण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सराहा और उन्हें कचरे से संपदा में परिवर्तित उपहार के लिए सराहना की।
- "**Waste is best**" is the mantra and it gives strength to "**circularity in economy**", she added.  
उन्होंने कहा कि "वेस्ट इज़ बेस्ट" मंत्र है और यह "अर्थव्यवस्था में परिपत्रता" को बल देता है।



- According to the government, **14 crore people** participated in the survey through **face-to-face interactions, the Swachhata App, MyGov, and social media platforms** in over **4,500 cities**.

सरकार के अनुसार, 14 करोड़ लोगों ने इस सर्वेक्षण में भाग लिया, जो कि सामना-सामना बातचीत, स्वच्छता ऐप, माईगव और सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से 4,500 से अधिक शहरों में किया गया।

## Glitches in Poshan app hinders beneficiaries' registration in Haryana

**GS II: Government Scheme**

**Ashna Butani**  
ROHTAK

After completing her pre-school duty, Usha Rani, a 47-year-old anganwadi worker, walked through the winding alleys of Marodhi Jattan village in Rohtak, Haryana, to meet her assigned beneficiaries - seven pregnant women and three lactating mothers - and get them registered on the Poshan Tracker app for availing dietary benefits.

The facial recognition of her beneficiaries at the app, made mandatory by the Centre since July 1, has been pending. Ms. Rani tried numerous times to get them registered, but an 'error' message popped up every time. The anganwadi worker apologised to the beneficiaries for the inconvenience and told them



An anganwadi worker trying to register a beneficiary on the mobile app at Marodhi Jattan village in Rohtak. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

she would try to get them registered soon so that they can avail themselves of the take-home ration and other benefits.

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has directed anganwadi workers to complete the authentication of beneficiaries, which in-

cludes facial recognition and Aadhaar e-KYC on the Poshan Tracker app. The initiative is for monitoring the implementation of Poshan Abhiyaan, a health scheme to improve the nutrition parameters in children and women.

The Ministry has also ordered registration of all be-

neficiary children through their guardians' or parents' Aadhaar cards on the app.

Under the scheme, anganwadi workers and helpers are tasked to provide supplementary nutrition for infants, lactating and pregnant mothers, pre-school education, health check-ups and immunisation for children up to six years.

Ms. Rani said getting the beneficiaries registered on the app is not as easy as it seems. She mentioned that in some cases, the app fails to register the women beneficiary's face. Moreover, there are a few cases of typos in the beneficiary's name in the Aadhaar card, which the app is not accepting.

Another anganwadi worker, Sushila, 44, who

does not know how to operate a smartphone and takes the help of her daughter, Monika, 22, said poor or lack of internet connectivity at some places and at times, technical glitches in the app, are the other hurdles.

"In one case, we tried for more than 30 minutes to get the facial recognition of the beneficiary registered. We tried multiple angles and locations, but in vain," said Ms. Sushila.

A pregnant woman in the village, who did not wish to be named, said, "My husband has lost his mobile phone, and my Aadhaar card was linked to his number, as I do not have a phone. To register on the Poshan app, my husband's number must be active. I have stopped receiving the dietary supple-

ments as I am not registered on the app."

**Digital divide**

While the Ministry has maintained that integrating technology into its programmes ensures that benefits reach the last mile swiftly and transparently, the beneficiaries argue that digitisation has only increased their problems.

According to 'Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom 2025' by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, against 94% men in rural Haryana, 74.2% of women have access to a mobile phone.

Ms. Rani said she wants to keep up with digitisation, but anganwadi workers have not received any specific training for this purpose.

## Glitches in Poshan app hinders beneficiaries' registration in Haryana हरियाणा में पोषण ऐप में गड़बड़ियों से लाभार्थियों के पंजीकरण में बाधा

- After completing her preschool duty, **Usha Rani**, a 47-year-old **anganwadi worker**, walked through the winding alleys of **Marodhi Jattan village** in **Rohtak, Haryana**, to meet her assigned beneficiaries – **seven pregnant women and three lactating mothers** – and get them registered on the **Poshan Tracker app** for availing dietary benefits.

प्रेस्कूल ड्यूटी पूरी करने के बाद, 47 वर्षीय आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता उषा रानी हरियाणा के रोहतक जिले के मारोही जट्टा गांव की गलियों में अपने सात गर्भवती और तीन स्तनपान कराने वाली लाभार्थियों से मिलने और उन्हें पोषण ट्रेकर ऐप पर पंजीकृत करने गईं।

- The **facial recognition**, made **mandatory by the Centre since July 1**, kept failing with repeated **'error' messages**.

1 जुलाई से केंद्र द्वारा अनिवार्य की गई फेस रिकग्निशन बार-बार 'त्रुटि' संदेश दिखाकर विफल हो रही है।

- Ms. Rani apologized to the beneficiaries and promised to try again so they could get **take-home ration** and **other benefits**.

उषा रानी ने लाभार्थियों से माफी मांगी और आश्वासन दिया कि वह दोबारा प्रयास करेगी ताकि उन्हें घर ले जाने वाला राशन और अन्य लाभ मिल सकें।

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** has directed anganwadi workers to complete **facial recognition and Aadhaar e-KYC** on the Poshan Tracker app.

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं को पोषण ट्रेकर ऐप पर फेस रिकग्निशन और आधार ई-केवाईसी पूरा करने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

- The initiative is to monitor **Poshan Abhiyaan**, aimed at improving **nutrition in children and women**.



इस पहल का उद्देश्य पोषण अभियान की निगरानी करना है, जो बच्चों और महिलाओं के पोषण स्तर को सुधारने के लिए है।

- Registration of all **beneficiary children** is also mandated using **parents' or guardians' Aadhaar cards**.  
सभी लाभार्थी बच्चों का पंजीकरण माता-पिता या अभिभावक के आधार कार्ड से करना अनिवार्य है।
- Under the scheme, anganwadi workers provide **supplementary nutrition, preschool education, health check-ups, and immunisation** for children up to 6 years.  
इस योजना के तहत आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता छह साल तक के बच्चों को पूरक पोषण, पूर्व-विद्यालय शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य जांच और टीकाकरण उपलब्ध कराते हैं।
- Ms. Rani said **technical issues** such as the app failing to detect faces or rejecting due to **name mismatches in Aadhaar** make registration difficult.  
उषा रानी ने बताया कि तकनीकी समस्याओं जैसे चेहरे की पहचान विफल होना या आधार कार्ड में नाम की त्रुटियों के कारण ऐप पंजीकरण नहीं कर पाता।
- Another worker, **Sushila, 44**, depends on her daughter **Monika, 22**, as she cannot operate a smartphone.  
44 वर्षीय आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता सुशीला को स्मार्टफोन नहीं चलाना आता, इसलिए वह अपनी बेटी मोनिका (22 वर्ष) की मदद लेती हैं।
- Sushila also reported **poor internet connectivity** and frequent **app glitches**.  
सुशीला ने खराब इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी और ऐप में बार-बार आ रही तकनीकी समस्याओं की शिकायत की।
- "In one case, we tried for more than **30 minutes** using multiple angles and locations, but facial recognition still failed," she said.  
एक मामले में हमने 30 मिनट से अधिक समय तक कई कोणों और स्थानों से प्रयास किया लेकिन चेहरा पहचान नहीं पाया," सुशीला ने कहा।
- A **pregnant woman** said she stopped receiving **dietary supplements** because her Aadhaar was linked to her **husband's lost phone**, and she has no phone of her own.  
एक गर्भवती महिला ने बताया कि उसका आधार उसके पति के खोए हुए फोन से लिंक है, और उसके पास खुद का फोन नहीं है, इस कारण वह ऐप पर पंजीकृत नहीं हो सकी और पोषण संबंधी लाभ मिलना बंद हो गया।
- **Digital divide**: While the Ministry claims technology improves **transparency and delivery**, beneficiaries argue digitisation has **increased their problems**.  
डिजिटल खाई: जहां मंत्रालय का दावा है कि तकनीक पारदर्शिता और सेवा पहुंच में सुधार लाती है, वहीं लाभार्थियों का कहना है कि डिजिटलीकरण ने उनकी समस्याएं बढ़ा दी हैं।
- As per '**Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom 2025**', **74.2% of rural women** in Haryana have mobile access, compared to **94% of men**.  
'कॉम्प्रेहेंसिव मॉड्यूलर सर्वे: टेलीकॉम 2025' के अनुसार, हरियाणा में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 74.2% महिलाओं के पास मोबाइल है, जबकि पुरुषों में यह आंकड़ा 94% है।
- Ms. Rani expressed willingness to adopt digitisation but said **no specific training** has been provided to anganwadi workers.  
उषा रानी ने डिजिटलीकरण को अपनाने की इच्छा जताई, लेकिन कहा कि आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं को इसके लिए कोई विशेष प्रशिक्षण नहीं दिया गया है।



# Nurse case: India in touch with 'friendly governments'

GS II: West Asia  
Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

The Indian government is in contact with "local authorities" in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, as well as with some "friendly governments" in the region to push for the release of Nimisha Priya, an Indian nurse who is on death row in Yemen, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

Apart from the rebel Houthi administration that controls the Yemeni capital, India has been in touch with officials in Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other neighbouring countries who can influence the Houthis, officials said.

The remarks came a day after official sources confirmed that the scheduled July 16 execution of Ms. Priya had been "postponed".

## Sensitive matter: MEA

"This is a sensitive matter and the Government of India has been offering all possible assistance in the case. We have provided le-



Nimisha Priya

gal assistance and appointed a lawyer to assist the family. We have also arranged regular consular visits and been in constant touch with the local authorities and the family members. This included concerted efforts in recent days to seek more time for the family of Ms. Priya," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Reports had suggested that Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar, a religious leader from Kerala, had played a role in getting the execution postponed. Asked about this, Mr. Jaiswal said: "As far as the role of the entity you mentioned, I have no information to share."

- **Recent efforts have also been made to get more time for Ms. Priya's family.** हाल के दिनों में प्रिया के परिवार को अधिक समय दिलाने के लिए विशेष प्रयास किए गए हैं।
- **There were reports that Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar, a religious leader from Kerala, played a role in the postponement of the execution.** रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, केरल के धार्मिक नेता कंथापुरम ए.पी. अबूबकर मुस्लियार ने फांसी टालने में भूमिका निभाई थी।
- **When asked about his involvement, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "I have no information to share about the entity you mentioned."** जब इस संबंध में सवाल किया गया तो विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रंधीर जैसवाल ने कहा: "आपके द्वारा उल्लेखित व्यक्ति के बारे में मेरे पास साझा करने के लिए कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

## Nurse case: India in touch with 'friendly governments'

### नर्स मामला: भारत 'मित्र सरकारों' के संपर्क में

• The Indian government is in contact with local authorities in Sana'a, Yemen's capital, and also with friendly governments in the region to seek the release of Nimisha Priya, an Indian nurse on death row in Yemen.

भारत सरकार यमन की राजधानी सना में स्थानीय अधिकारियों और क्षेत्र के कुछ मित्र देशों के संपर्क में है, ताकि यमन में मृत्युदंड की सजा झेल रही भारतीय नर्स निमिषा प्रिया की रिहाई सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

• Besides the Houthi administration, India has engaged with Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other neighbouring countries that have influence over the Houthis.

हौथी प्रशासन के अलावा, भारत ने सऊदी अरब, ईरान और अन्य पड़ोसी देशों के अधिकारियों से संपर्क किया है जिनका हौथियों पर प्रभाव है।

• These developments follow confirmation that the scheduled execution on July 16 of Ms. Priya has been postponed.

यह बयान ऐसे समय आया है जब एक दिन पहले आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि 16 जुलाई को होने वाली निमिषा प्रिया की फांसी को टाल दिया गया है।

• MEA termed it a sensitive matter, saying India has provided legal assistance, appointed a lawyer, facilitated regular consular visits, and remained in constant contact with both local authorities and Priya's family.

विदेश मंत्रालय ने इसे एक संवेदनशील मामला बताया और कहा कि भारत सरकार ने कानूनी सहायता, वकील की नियुक्ति, नियमित वाणिज्यिक मुलाकातों और स्थानीय अधिकारियों व प्रिया के परिवार के साथ निरंतर संपर्क बनाए रखा है।



# CARA directs State adoption agencies to intensify counselling

GS II: Governance

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** has issued comprehensive directions to all **State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARAs)** to strengthen and institutionalise structured counselling services throughout the adoption process – from pre-adoption, to during adoption, and post-adoption stages.

These directions have been issued via a communication dated July 7 under the powers conferred by the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021)**, and are aligned with the provisions laid down under the **Adoption Regulations, 2022**, an official statement said here on Thursday.

CARA is a statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which acts as the nodal agency for the adoption of Indian children, both within the country and internationally.

This latest initiative aims to reinforce the psychosocial support framework for

**CARA is a statutory body which acts as the nodal agency for the adoption of Indian children**

all key stakeholders – prospective adoptive parents, adopted children, and biological parents who surrender their child for adoption.

**Critical component**

CARA has emphasised that counselling is a critical component of the adoption process and is necessary to ensure emotional preparedness, smooth transition, and long-term well-being of both the children and the families involved.

The memorandum reiterates the mandatory nature of structured and need-based counselling services, as prescribed under various provisions of the **Adoption Regulations, 2022**.

The State adoption boards have been instructed to designate or empanel qualified counsellors at the district and State levels.

surrender their child for adoption.

यह नवीनतम पहल सभी प्रमुख हितधारकों — संभावित गोद लेने वाले माता-पिता, गोद लिए गए बच्चे, और अपने बच्चे को गोद देने वाले जैविक माता-पिता — के लिए मनोसामाजिक सहायता ढांचे को मजबूत करने का लक्ष्य रखती है।

## Critical component महत्वपूर्ण घटक

- **CARA** has emphasised that **counselling** is a **critical component** of the adoption process, essential for **emotional preparedness, smooth transition, and the long-term well-being** of both children and families.

**CARA** ने ज़ोर दिया है कि **परामर्श** दत्तक ग्रहण प्रक्रिया का एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक है जो भावनात्मक रूप से तैयार रहने, सहज रूपांतरण और बच्चों व परिवारों के दीर्घकालिक कल्याण के लिए आवश्यक है।

## CARA directs State adoption agencies to intensify counselling

**CARA ने राज्य गोद लेने वाली एजेंसियों को परामर्श सेवाएं तेज करने का निर्देश दिया**

- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** has issued **comprehensive directions** to all **State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARAs)** to **strengthen and institutionalise structured counselling services** throughout the **adoption process** — from **pre-adoption**, to **during adoption**, and **post-adoption** stages.

केंद्रीय दत्तक ग्रहण संसाधन प्राधिकरण (CARA) ने सभी राज्य दत्तक ग्रहण संसाधन एजेंसियों (SARA) को पूर्व-दत्तक, दत्तक ग्रहण के दौरान और दत्तक ग्रहण के बाद की सभी अवस्थाओं में संरचित परामर्श सेवाओं को मजबूत और संस्थागत करने के लिए विस्तृत निर्देश जारी किए हैं।

- These directions were issued via a communication dated **July 7** under the powers conferred by the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021)** and aligned with the **Adoption Regulations, 2022**.

ये निर्देश 7 जुलाई की अधिसूचना के माध्यम से बाल न्याय (देखरेख और संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 2015 (2021 में संशोधित) के तहत प्रदत्त शक्तियों के तहत जारी किए गए और दत्तक ग्रहण विनियम, 2022 के प्रावधानों के अनुरूप हैं।

- **CARA** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, serving as the **nodal agency** for the **adoption of Indian children**, both **domestically and internationally**.

**CARA**, महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय के तहत एक वैधानिक निकाय है, जो भारतीय बच्चों के देश और विदेश दोनों में गोद लेने के लिए प्रमुख एजेंसी के रूप में कार्य करता है।

- This latest initiative aims to reinforce the **psychosocial support framework** for all key stakeholders — **prospective adoptive parents, adopted children, and biological parents** who



## NHRC seeks report on Haryana gang rape

GS II: Statutory Bodies

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday issued notice to the Haryana government and Railway Ministry in the case of a gang rape of a woman in an empty compartment of a stationary train in Panipat city of Haryana.

The victim was later thrown on the rail tracks by the perpetrators, where a train ran over her leg. She is being treated at a hospital after police found her on the railway tracks in Sonapat on the night of June 26.

Observing that the matter raises concerns on serious violation of human rights, the Commission issued notices to the Chairman, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways and the Director General of Police, Haryana calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

The report is expected to include the status of the health of the victim and compensation, if any, provided to her by the authorities.

- The memorandum reiterates the mandatory nature of structured and need-based counselling services, as required by various provisions of the Adoption Regulations, 2022.

इस ज्ञापन में दत्तक ग्रहण विनियम, 2022 के विभिन्न प्रावधानों के अनुसार संरचित और आवश्यकता-आधारित परामर्श सेवाओं की अनिवार्यता को दोहराया गया है।

- State adoption boards have been directed to designate or empanel qualified counsellors at both the district and State levels. राज्य दत्तक ग्रहण बोर्डों को निर्देश दिया गया है कि वे जिले और राज्य स्तर पर योग्य परामर्शदाताओं की नियुक्ति या पैनल तैयार करें।

## NHRC seeks report on Haryana gang rape

### एनएचआरसी ने हरियाणा सामूहिक बलात्कार मामले पर रिपोर्ट मांगी

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday issued notice to the Haryana government and the Railway Ministry regarding the gang rape of a woman in an empty compartment of a stationary train in Panipat city, Haryana.

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने गुरुवार को हरियाणा सरकार और रेल मंत्रालय को हरियाणा के पानीपत शहर में खड़ी ट्रेन के खाली डिब्बे में महिला के साथ गैंगरेप के मामले में नोटिस जारी किया।

- The victim was later thrown on the railway tracks by the culprits, where a train ran over her leg.

पीड़िता को बाद में दोषियों ने रेलवे ट्रैक पर फेंक दिया, जहाँ एक ट्रेन उसका पैर कुचलते हुए निकल गई।

- She is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital after being found on the railway tracks in Sonapat on the night of June 26.

उसे 26 जून की रात सोनीपत में रेलवे ट्रैक पर पाया गया था और अब वह अस्पताल में इलाज करा रही है।

- Observing that the matter raises serious human rights violations, the Commission issued notices to the Chairman, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, and the Director General of Police, Haryana.

आयोग ने यह मानते हुए कि मामला गंभीर मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन से जुड़ा है, रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष, रेल मंत्रालय, और हरियाणा के पुलिस महानिदेशक को नोटिस जारी किया।

- NHRC has called for a detailed report on the incident within two weeks.

एनएचआरसी ने दो सप्ताह के भीतर इस घटना पर एक विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है।

- The report is expected to include the health status of the victim and any compensation provided to her by the authorities. रिपोर्ट में पीड़िता की स्वास्थ्य स्थिति और उसे दी गई किसी भी मुआवज़े की जानकारी शामिल करने को कहा गया है।



# Scrap digital attendance system for MGNREGS workers, says Congress

[GS II: Government Scheme]

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Describing the system as “unworkable” and “counterproductive”, the Congress on Thursday demanded that the digital capture of attendance of workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) must be withdrawn.

The Hindu had reported on Tuesday the Union Rural Development Ministry's directions on July 8 to the States, flagging the various ways the National Mobile Monitoring System, aimed at bringing in transparency, was being manipulated. Three years ago, the government had made it mandatory for all MGNREGS workers to use this platform for marking their attendance.

**Uploading photographs**  
It required them to upload their photographs twice a day at the worksite.

It was found that to meet this requirement, irrelevant photographs were



The National Mobile Monitoring System was made mandatory for all MGNREGS workers to mark their attendance. FILE PHOTO

being uploaded, among other discrepancies.

“FAST is the self-declared motto of the Modi Government. It actually stands for First Announce Second Think,” Congress general secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a statement. Since its introduction, Mr. Ramesh said the Congress has highlighted the operational problems with the NMMS and the government's July 8 notification was a final “acknowledgement” of the problem.

The NMMS, Mr. Ramesh said, ended up excluding many genuine workers be-

cause of Internet connectivity and other reasons without effectively checking the fake workers since they can go twice a day to be photographed, get paid without working for a minute.

Engaging the administration from top to bottom to verify the photos is going to waste the precious time of MGNREGS functionaries. He demanded that the government must affirm “task-based payments”.

Nikhil Dey, founder member of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, said, that the July 8 order is a

confession that NMMS doesn't work but the solution offered is misplaced and misdirected. “The government is paying the MGNREGS labourer for the work carried out not simply for showing up. A photo, even if clicked twice a day doesn't show whether any work was carried out,” he said. Instead of imposing newer and more complicated measures on the workers, Mr. Dey argued that the government must hold the supervisory authorities and the engineers accountable.

“A worker is paid on the basis of measurements by the engineers, first in carving out the work and then in appraising how much of it has been done. Instead of tasking the entire administration to look at photographs, shouldn't the government come up with monitoring mechanisms for supervisory authorities and engineers. Let them need to produce geo-tagged and geo-fenced photographs of the times they go to the field,” he said.

## Scrap digital attendance system for MGNREGS workers, says

## Congress मनरेगा मजदूरों के लिए डिजिटल उपस्थिति प्रणाली को खत्म किया जाए: कांग्रेस

• Describing the digital attendance system as “unworkable” and “counterproductive”, the Congress on Thursday demanded that the digital capture of attendance under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) be withdrawn.

कांग्रेस ने गुरुवार को डिजिटल बताते हुए महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (मनरेगा) में डिजिटल उपस्थिति दर्ज करने की प्रणाली को वापस लेने की मांग की।

- On July 8, the Union Rural Development Ministry flagged various ways the **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)** — aimed at transparency — was being manipulated, as reported by *The Hindu*.

द हिंदू की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 8 जुलाई को केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने बताया कि पारदर्शिता के उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई राष्ट्रीय मोबाइल निगरानी प्रणाली (NMMS) को कई तरीकों से गलत ढंग से इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।

- The government had made it **mandatory** for all **MGNREGS workers** to use NMMS for **marking attendance** by uploading **two photos per day** from the **worksite**. सरकार ने सभी मनरेगा श्रमिकों के लिए कार्यस्थल से दिन में दो बार फोटो अपलोड कर उपस्थिति दर्ज करना अनिवार्य कर दिया था।
- However, it was found that to meet this requirement, **irrelevant or fake photos** were being uploaded, indicating major **discrepancies**. लेकिन यह पाया गया कि इस नियम को पूरा करने के लिए अप्रासंगिक या नकली फोटो अपलोड किए जा रहे थे, जिससे गंभीर गड़बड़ियों का पता चला।
- **Congress leader Jairam Ramesh** criticised the system, calling the Modi government's approach “**First Announce, Second Think**”. कांग्रेस नेता जयराम रमेश ने इस प्रणाली की आलोचना करते हुए मोदी सरकार के दृष्टिकोण को “पहले घोषणा, बाद में सोच” करार दिया।
- He stated that **genuine workers were being excluded** due to **internet issues**, while **fake workers** could still **mark attendance** and get paid without working.



उन्होंने कहा कि इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी जैसी समस्याओं के कारण असली श्रमिकों को बाहर किया जा रहा है, जबकि नकली श्रमिक अभी भी उपस्थिति दर्ज करके बिना काम किए भुगतान ले सकते हैं।

- Verifying all photos is consuming **valuable time** of MGNREGS functionaries, Ramesh said, adding that the system should shift to **task-based payments** instead.  
रमेश ने कहा कि सभी फोटो की जांच में **मनरेगा कर्मचारियों का बहुमूल्य समय बर्बाद हो रहा है**, और सरकार को **कार्य आधारित भुगतान प्रणाली** अपनानी चाहिए।
- **Nikhil Dey**, founding member of **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan**, said the July 8 order is a **confession that NMMS doesn't work**, and the proposed solutions are **misguided**.  
**मजदूर किसान शक्ति संगठन के संस्थापक सदस्य निखिल डे** ने कहा कि **8 जुलाई का आदेश इस बात की स्वीकृति है कि NMMS काम नहीं करता**, और सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित समाधान **गुमराह करने वाले हैं**।
- He pointed out that **photos don't prove actual work**, and the real accountability should lie with **engineers and supervisory authorities** who measure the work done.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **फोटो यह नहीं दर्शाते कि काम हुआ या नहीं**, और असली जवाबदेही **अभियंताओं और पर्यवेक्षकों** की होनी चाहिए, जो कार्य की माप और **मूल्यांकन** करते हैं।
- Mr. Dey suggested that instead of burdening workers, the government should require **geotagged and geo-fenced photos from supervisors and engineers**.  
डे ने सुझाव दिया कि सरकार को श्रमिकों पर बोझ डालने के बजाय **अभियंताओं और पर्यवेक्षकों से जियोटैग और जियोफेंस की गई फोटो** की मांग करनी चाहिए।

## PAC flags high failure rate of Aadhaar biometric verification, seeks review

**GS II: Parliamentary Committee**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee has called for a review of the functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), flagging several concerns, including the high rate of failure of Aadhaar biometric verification which can lead to many beneficiaries being excluded from social welfare schemes.

At its meeting on Thursday, the committee, headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, received a briefing from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) team, which produced a 2021 report on the UIDAI. The panel also listened to oral evidence from officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,



Such failures lead to wrongful exclusion of beneficiaries from welfare programmes, it says.

and the UIDAI. "This is a common man's issue. We flagged various problems and have raised several questions," Mr. Venugopal told presspersons.

### **Serious issue**

Across party lines, the MPs on the committee pointed out that biometric verification failure is a serious issue since the majority of the government's social

welfare schemes are tied directly to Aadhaar. This has led to many eligible beneficiaries being prevented from receiving food rations or jobs, under schemes such as the Public Distribution System or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, because their biometric data no longer matches the UIDAI record.

The UIDAI officials, according to sources, explained that in many cases of people doing hard labour, their fingerprints are not read properly by the machines. In the case of elderly people, there is often a failure in matching iris patterns. However, the officials also insisted that the UIDAI is constantly upgrading its systems to address these challenges.

Sources said that several MPs also cited various re-

ports to underline the dangers of data leaks. The UIDAI officials claimed that their central repository is unbreachable, and their investigations have shown that whatever leak has come from the enrolment centres. They added that UIDAI has strengthened the monitoring mechanism to plug all holes.

Some estimates suggest that there are more Aadhaar cards currently in use than the total population of the country, indicating possible duplications as well as delays in deactivating the cards of the deceased. The UIDAI officials said that in the case of the deceased, it is dependent on voluntary deactivation. The PAC directed the UIDAI to act proactively to clean up the list of Aadhaar card holders.

## PAC flags high failure rate of Aadhaar biometric verification, seeks review

**पीएसी ने आधार बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन की उच्च विफलता दर की ओर इशारा किया, समीक्षा की मांग की**

- The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** of **Parliament** has called for a **review** of the functioning of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, citing the **high failure rate** of

**Aadhaar biometric verification** which is **excluding beneficiaries** from social welfare schemes.

**संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC)** ने **भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण (UIDAI)** के कामकाज की **समीक्षा की मांग की है**, क्योंकि **आधार बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन की उच्च विफलता दर** के कारण कई लाभार्थी **सरकारी योजनाओं से वंचित हो रहे हैं**।

- The committee, led by **senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal**, met on **Thursday** and was briefed by the **CAG team**, which prepared the **2021 UIDAI audit report**.  
**वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता के.सी. वेणुगोपाल** की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने **गुरुवार** को बैठक की और इसमें **कैंग (CAG)** की टीम ने **2021 की UIDAI रिपोर्ट** पर जानकारी दी।



- Officials from the **Ministry of Electronics and IT** and **UIDAI** also gave oral evidence. Mr. Venugopal called this a “**common man’s issue**” and said **multiple problems** were raised. इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय और UIDAI के अधिकारियों ने भी समिति के सामने मौखिक बयान दिए। श्री वेणुगोपाल ने इसे “**आम आदमी का मुद्दा**” बताया और कहा कि **कई समस्याएं उठाई गईं**।

### Serious Issue: Exclusion from welfare schemes

गंभीर मुद्दा: कल्याणकारी योजनाओं से वंचित

- MPs across party lines agreed that **biometric failures** are a **serious concern**, as **many government welfare schemes** like **PDS** and **MGNREGS** are **linked to Aadhaar**. सभी दलों के सांसदों ने माना कि बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन की विफलता एक गंभीर चिंता है, क्योंकि PDS और मनरेगा जैसी कई सरकारी योजनाएं सीधे आधार से जुड़ी हैं।
- Due to mismatch in biometric data, **eligible beneficiaries are being denied food rations or job wages**. बायोमेट्रिक डेटा में मेल नहीं होने के कारण, योग्य लाभार्थियों को राशन या मजदूरी नहीं मिल पा रही है।
- UIDAI officials** stated that fingerprint mismatch occurs in **manual labourers**, and **iris scan fails for elderly** people. They claimed UIDAI is **upgrading systems** to resolve this. UIDAI अधिकारियों ने बताया कि मजदूरों में उंगलियों के निशान और बुजुर्गों में आंखों की पहचान मशीनें सही से नहीं पढ़ पातीं। उन्होंने कहा कि UIDAI इन समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए प्रणालियों को उन्नत कर रहा है।

### Concerns over data leaks and duplication

डेटा लीक और डुप्लिकेशन पर चिंता

- MPs cited reports raising alarms about **data leaks**, but UIDAI claimed its **central repository is secure**, and **leaks occur at enrolment centres**. सांसदों ने डेटा लीक पर चिंता जताई, लेकिन UIDAI ने दावा किया कि उसकी केंद्रीय प्रणाली सुरक्षित है और लीक केवल नामांकन केंद्रों से हो रहे हैं।
- UIDAI said it has **strengthened monitoring mechanisms** to plug vulnerabilities. UIDAI ने कहा कि उसने निगरानी तंत्र को मजबूत किया है ताकि सभी कमजोरियों को रोका जा सके।
- There are reportedly **more Aadhaar cards in circulation than India’s population**, indicating **duplication** and **delay in deactivating cards of deceased persons**. बताया गया कि देश की जनसंख्या से अधिक आधार कार्ड प्रचलन में हैं, जो डुप्लिकेशन और मृत व्यक्तियों के कार्ड को निष्क्रिय करने में देरी का संकेत है।
- UIDAI responded that **deactivation after death is voluntary**, and not automatic. UIDAI ने कहा कि मृत्यु के बाद कार्ड का निष्क्रियकरण स्वैच्छिक है, यह स्वतः नहीं होता।
- The **PAC directed UIDAI to proactively clean up the Aadhaar database** and fix issues with **biometric verification and duplication**. PAC ने UIDAI को निर्देश दिया कि वह आधार डाटाबेस को सक्रिय रूप से शुद्ध करे और बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन और डुप्लिकेशन की समस्याओं को हल करे।



# SC reverses its judgment, grants custody of 'anxious' child to mother

GS II: Judiciary

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

A child's anxiety over separation from his mother stirred the Supreme Court into reviewing its own judgment in a custody case.

A 2024 judgment of the top court had confirmed a Kerala High Court decision to shift the custody of the child permanently from the mother to the biological father. The mother had remarried after the couple's divorce over a decade ago, and was lately intending to move abroad.

The father had moved the High Court, seeking custody of the child. The High Court concluded the move abroad would upend the 12-year-old boy's stable life, and he ought to stay back in India with his father. The top court had confirmed the High Court decision on appeal.



The court acknowledged the child had been in exclusive care of the mother since infancy.

Seeking a review of the judgment, the mother, represented by senior advocate Liz Mathew and advocate Vishnu Sharma A.S., said she had been the primary caregiver of the child since his infancy. The boy had hardly known his father. They had met only during occasional visits over the years.

The mother submitted that the child had been deeply impacted by the top court's judgment. He had

since been exhibiting "anxiety and fears, with a high risk for separation anxiety disorder". She produced evaluation reports from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, to this effect. Ms. Mathew argued that the new evidence was a compelling circumstance to entertain the review petition and set aside the judgment.

In an open court hearing, which was itself a rare occurrence, a Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath agreed with Ms. Mathew. The court concluded its judgment did indeed have a "calamitous effect" on the mental health of the boy.

Justice Nath, who authored the judgment, acknowledged the child had been in the exclusive care of the mother since infancy.

The court said the stepfather had also provided a

"shield of affection" for the child.

"The minor child in question is presently 12 years old and at the cusp of adolescence. The factors defining the best interests of a child are multiple and range from quality education, a nurturing family environment, healthy worldly experiences, provision of basic amenities of life, meeting of financial requirements, access to a friendly social system, to imparting of spiritual and cultural learnings. The list is naturally not an exhaustive one. However, the essential feature is that a secure, supportive and loving family forms the bedrock of a healthy childhood," the court said.

Granting the biological father visitation rights, the court said he must not make any crude remarks to the child, which may impact the latter's well-being.

## SC reverses its judgment, grants custody of 'anxious' child to mother

### सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपना फैसला पलटा, 'चिंतित' बच्चे की कस्टडी मां को दी

- The **Supreme Court** reversed its **2024 judgment** that had upheld the **Kerala High Court's decision** to transfer **custody of a 12-year-old boy** from his **mother** to his **biological father**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपना 2024 का फैसला पलटते हुए केरल हाईकोर्ट के उस निर्णय को निरस्त कर दिया, जिसमें 12 वर्षीय बच्चे की कस्टडी मां से लेकर जैविक पिता को दी गई थी।
- The earlier judgment had reasoned that the **mother's intent to move abroad** would disrupt the child's **stable life in India**.  
पहले के फैसले में तर्क दिया गया था कि मां का विदेश जाने का इरादा बच्चे के भारत में स्थिर जीवन को बाधित करेगा।
- The **mother**, represented by **senior advocate Liz Mathew** and **advocate Vishnu Sharma A.S.**, filed a **review petition**, stating she was the child's **primary caregiver since infancy**, and the father had only **occasional contact** with him.  
सीनियर एडवोकेट लिज़ मैथ्यू और वकील विष्णु शर्मा ए.एस. की ओर से पेश हुई मां ने पुनर्विचार याचिका



दायर की, जिसमें कहा गया कि वह बचपन से ही बच्चे की मुख्य देखभालकर्ता रही हैं, जबकि पिता से बहुत कम मुलाकातें हुई थीं।

- She submitted **medical reports** from **Christian Medical College, Vellore**, showing the boy was suffering from **severe anxiety and risk of separation anxiety disorder** due to the earlier court order.

उन्होंने **क्रिश्चियन मेडिकल कॉलेज, वेल्लोर** की **चिकित्सीय रिपोर्टें** पेश कीं, जो दिखाती थीं कि **पिछले कोर्ट फैसले से बच्चे में गंभीर चिंता और अलगाव की आशंका विकार** के लक्षण सामने आए हैं।

- In a **rare open court hearing**, the Bench led by **Justice Vikram Nath** agreed to reconsider the case, acknowledging the "**calamitous effect**" the earlier judgment had on the child's **mental health**.

**न्यायमूर्ति विक्रम नाथ** की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने **एक असाधारण ओपन कोर्ट सुनवाई** में माना कि पिछले फैसले का बच्चे के **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर "विनाशकारी प्रभाव"** पड़ा।

- The court noted the child had always been in the **exclusive care of the mother** and that the **stepfather** had given a "**shield of affection**".

अदालत ने कहा कि बच्चा हमेशा से **मां की विशेष देखरेख में** रहा है, और **सौतेले पिता** ने उसे "**स्नेह की ढाल**" प्रदान की है।

- Stressing on the **best interests of the child**, the court cited multiple factors:

**बच्चे के सर्वोत्तम हितों पर जोर देते हुए**, अदालत ने कई कारकों का उल्लेख किया:

- **Quality education** (गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा)
- **Supportive family environment** (सहायक पारिवारिक वातावरण)
- **Healthy worldly exposure** (स्वस्थ सामाजिक अनुभव)
- **Financial and emotional stability** (आर्थिक और भावनात्मक स्थिरता)
- **Spiritual and cultural grounding** (आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक सीख)

- The **Supreme Court granted custody to the mother**, while allowing **visitation rights to the biological father**, instructing him not to make **crude or harmful remarks** to the child.

**सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने बच्चे की **कस्टडी मां को सौंपी**, जबकि **जैविक पिता को मिलने का अधिकार** देते हुए निर्देश दिया कि वे बच्चे को कोई भी **आपत्तिजनक या हानिकारक टिप्पणी न करें**।



# The parameters of 'success' in Bihar's poll roll revision

GS II: Elections

**M**easuring success is complicated; assessing the impact of one's action can be even more challenging. The desire to be successful is different from the desperation to demonstrate success.

Stakeholders have different yardsticks for measuring performance depending on their interest leaving the vital question "how does one measure one's own success?" The Election Commission of India (ECI) could perhaps be in a trilemma in the wake of its June 24, 2025 announcement of its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar, caught among political parties, citizens, the judiciary, and its own conscience.

Once again, it finds itself in an avoidable imbroglio, responding to the judiciary's questions arising out of the justified anxiety of millions of electors, valid apprehensions of neutral observers and unverified suspicion of political interest groups.

The ECI embarked on a seemingly laudable and perfectly legal exercise to purify electoral rolls, declaring its resolve to include all "eligible" and exclude "ineligible" persons. The underlying assumption was that some "ineligible" people had infiltrated the electoral rolls, escaping detection during its due process of documentary and physical scrutiny that Electoral Registration Officers carry out before listing anyone in the electoral rolls. Even the mandatory periodic revisions could not filter them out over the years. No one could possibly object to this effort, however formidable the task. Yet, the ECI found itself facing a barrage of opposition from political parties and civil society organisations for undertaking this mammoth exercise and imposing an impossible demand on clueless citizens in Bihar as they prepare to exercise their most powerful right – of electing their representatives. It is akin to asking for a marriage certificate after years of happy married life with children as proof of a legal union.

#### An institution of repute

To be sure, if there is one organisation in the country that is capable of carrying out gigantic exercises, it would, without doubt, be the ECI. From preparing the first electoral rolls in the 1950s in trying circumstances, to updating the rolls necessitated by the reorganisation of States



**Ashok Lavasa**

is former Election Commissioner and Union Finance Secretary of India

in 1956 when it was suggested that the term of the House be extended to allow the ECI enough time to revise the rolls. The ECI did not want a constitutional amendment because of its inability to complete a mandatory requirement and lived up to the challenge. Since then, it has repeatedly demonstrated its capabilities in handling mega tasks with astounding success.

Whether it is enrolling a billion people or setting up a million polling stations, mobilising over 18 lakh polling officials for conducting elections and training them, or dealing with moving 30 lakh electronic voting machines, the ECI has done it with aplomb, ably supported by the government machinery. In the process, it has earned the gratitude of an entire country and the envy of democracies across the world. Countries that may have the spirit but not the systems have often looked upon the ECI as a model in creating standard operating procedures, in galvanising resources, and its effective consultative approach in building consensus among political parties.

This has earned the ECI the trust of voters and imparted it a credibility that has been acknowledged by the media, supported by civil society organisations and earned it the respect of the judiciary. Indeed, some have referred to it as "gold standard", belying the cynics who believe that "all that glitters is not gold."

#### The Bihar exercise

It is in this backdrop that the sudden announcement by the ECI to carry out a purge of the Bihar electoral rolls has invited unpleasant reactions. As opponents question the ECI's motives of raising the spectre of mass disenfranchisement, the ECI is in overdrive trying to demonstrate the ease with which this apparently unwieldy operation involving nearly eight crore registered electors in Bihar is being completed.

Meanwhile, it has eased some stringent procedures, allowing those enrolled after 2003 to use the entries of their parents in the 2003 electoral rolls to support their citizenship claim. It has also allowed Booth Level Officers (BLO) to accept enumeration forms without the prescribed document to prove the eligibility of the post-2003 electors. The relaxations by the ECI obviously ramped up the daily submission of enumeration forms giving the ECI the basis for claiming

success of its operations and the 'support' of the affected electors. This, supposedly, would deflate the clamour of the complainants and perhaps convince the higher judiciary that the political sound and fury signifies nothing.

It, however, remains unclear how the BLOs will "recommend" for inclusion in the draft roll such electors whose forms are not accompanied by documents and how the Electoral Registration Officer/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer decides their eligibility in the absence of those documents. Will the ECI ask such electors to provide the proof of their eligibility/citizenship after the draft roll is published on August 1? If it agrees to expand the list of prescribed documents, as suggested by the Supreme Court of India (to consider the Aadhaar card, Electoral Photo Identity Card, or EPIC and ration card), will it not simply amount to verification of identity, and not citizenship? Are we then not back to square one?

Will the indicator of the ECI's success be the number of "duly filled" forms submitted along with "self-attested documents" and electors readmitted to the rolls that were supposed to be purified? Or, will its success be the number of "ineligible" electors disenfranchised? Those who are dead, who have migrated or have enrolled twice should have been weeded out in the normal course. Did their exclusion warrant this extraordinary exercise?

#### On presumption of citizenship

By ascribing presumption of citizenship to the electors in the 2003 list, is the ECI claiming that after its current SIR, all those in the electoral rolls will be accepted by the government as citizens as in the Citizenship Act and no one's credentials will hereafter be questioned? Is the government willing to accept this presumption?

No individual is responsible for being born where she is, nor for creating documentary evidence of the date and place of her birth, parentage or citizenship. The authority empowered by the law is. Like many countries, India too has a law under which it is not the ECI that is designated as the competent authority: at least not as yet. However, broad the ECI's shoulders are, they may not be strong enough to carry someone else's burden.

Let us see for whom the bell tolls in Bihar.

It remains to be seen whether the Election Commission of India is able to ensure a fair exercise of verification in Bihar

## The parameters of 'success' in Bihar's poll roll revision

### बिहार में मतदाता सूची संशोधन में 'सफलता' के मानदंड

- Measuring success is complicated; assessing the impact of one's action can be even more challenging.  
सफलता का मापन जटिल है; किसी के कार्यों के प्रभाव का आकलन करना और भी चुनौतीपूर्ण हो सकता है।
- The desire to be successful is different from the desperation to demonstrate success.  
सफल होने की इच्छा, सफलता को दिखाने की बेचैनी से अलग होती है।
- Stakeholders have different yardsticks for measuring performance depending on their interest leaving the vital question "how does one measure one's own success?"  
हितधारकों के पास अपने-अपने हितों के अनुसार प्रदर्शन मापने के अलग-अलग मापदंड होते हैं, जिससे यह महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न खड़ा होता है – "कोई अपनी सफलता का आकलन कैसे करे?"
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) could perhaps be in a trilemma in the wake of its June 24, 2025 announcement of its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar, caught among political parties, citizens, the judiciary, and its own conscience.  
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) शायद 24 जून 2025 को बिहार में मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) की घोषणा के बाद एक त्रिलेम्मा में है, जहां वह राजनीतिक दलों, नागरिकों, न्यायपालिका और अपनी आत्मचेतना के बीच फंसा हुआ है।



- Once again, it finds itself in an **avoidable imbroglio**, responding to the judiciary's questions arising out of the justified anxiety of millions of electors, valid apprehensions of neutral observers and unverified suspicion of political interest groups.  
एक बार फिर, यह एक **टाली जा सकने वाली उलझन** में फंसा हुआ है, जहां उसे **करोड़ों मतदाताओं की उचित चिंता, निरपेक्ष पर्यवेक्षकों की वैध आशंकाओं, और राजनीतिक हित समूहों के अपुष्ट संदेहों** के कारण न्यायपालिका के प्रश्नों का उत्तर देना पड़ रहा है।

### The Intent of ECI

#### निर्वाचन आयोग का उद्देश्य

- The ECI embarked on a seemingly **laudable** and **perfectly legal** exercise to **purify electoral rolls**, declaring its resolve to include all "**eligible**" and exclude "**ineligible**" persons.  
ECI ने **मतदाता सूचियों को शुद्ध** करने की एक **प्रशंसनीय** और **पूर्णतः वैध** प्रक्रिया शुरू की, जिसमें सभी "**योग्य**" व्यक्तियों को शामिल करने और "**अयोग्य**" व्यक्तियों को बाहर करने की **प्रतिबद्धता** घोषित की।
- The underlying assumption was that some "**ineligible**" people had infiltrated the electoral rolls, escaping detection during its due process of documentary and physical scrutiny that Electoral Registration Officers carry out before listing anyone in the electoral rolls.  
इसका मूल **अनुमान** था कि कुछ "**अयोग्य**" व्यक्ति **मतदाता सूचियों में प्रवेश** कर गए हैं, जो **दस्तावेजी और भौतिक जांच** की प्रक्रिया के दौरान निर्वाचन पंजीकरण अधिकारियों की नजरों से बच निकले।
- Even the mandatory **periodic revisions** could not filter them out over the years.  
यहां तक कि अनिवार्य **सामयिक संशोधन** भी उन्हें वर्षों से **छांटने में असफल** रहे।

### The Resistance and Burden

#### विरोध और बोझ

- No one could possibly object to this effort, however formidable the task.  
इस प्रयास का कोई विरोध नहीं कर सकता, चाहे कार्य कितना भी **कठिन** क्यों न हो।
- Yet, the ECI found itself facing a **barrage of opposition** from **political parties** and **civil society organisations** for undertaking this **mammoth exercise** and imposing an **impossible demand** on **clueless citizens in Bihar** as they prepare to exercise their most powerful right — of electing their representatives.  
फिर भी, ECI को इस **विशाल कार्य** को शुरू करने और **बिहार के अनभिज्ञ नागरिकों** पर एक **असंभव मांग** थोपने को लेकर **राजनीतिक दलों** और **नागरिक समाज संगठनों** से **विपक्ष के तीव्र प्रहार** का सामना करना पड़ा, जब ये नागरिक अपने **सबसे शक्तिशाली अधिकार** — अपने प्रतिनिधियों को चुनने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं।
- It is akin to asking for a **marriage certificate** after years of **happy married life** with children as proof of a legal union.  
यह ऐसा है जैसे **सालों की सुखी वैवाहिक जीवन** और **बच्चों** के बाद किसी से **कानूनी विवाह का प्रमाण** स्वरूप **विवाह प्रमाणपत्र** मांगा जाए।

### An institution of repute

#### एक प्रतिष्ठित संस्था

- To be sure, if there is one organisation in the country that is capable of carrying out **gigantic exercises**, it would, without doubt, be the **ECI**.  
निश्चित रूप से, अगर देश में कोई एक संस्था है जो **विशाल कार्यों** को अंजाम देने में सक्षम है, तो वह निःसंदेह **ECI (भारत निर्वाचन आयोग)** है।
- From preparing the **first electoral rolls in the 1950s** in trying circumstances, to updating the rolls necessitated by the **reorganisation of States in 1956** when it was suggested that the term of the House be extended to allow the ECI enough time to revise the rolls.  
**1950 के दशक** में कठिन परिस्थितियों में **पहली मतदाता सूची** तैयार करने से लेकर, **1956 में राज्यों के पुनर्गठन** के कारण सूचियों को अद्यतन करने तक, जब यह सुझाव दिया गया कि **संसद का कार्यकाल बढ़ाया जाए** ताकि ECI को सूची संशोधन के लिए पर्याप्त समय मिल सके।



- The ECI did not want a **constitutional amendment** because of its inability to complete a **mandatory requirement** and lived up to the challenge.  
ECI अपनी ओर से किसी **अनिवार्य शर्त** को पूरा करने में असमर्थता के कारण किसी **संवैधानिक संशोधन** को नहीं चाहता था और उसने **इस चुनौती को स्वीकार किया**।
- Since then, it has repeatedly demonstrated its **capabilities** in handling **mega tasks** with **astounding success**.  
तब से लेकर अब तक ECI ने बार-बार यह सिद्ध किया है कि वह **विशाल कार्यों** को **शानदार सफलता** के साथ संभालने की **क्षमता** रखता है।

### Unmatched Execution

#### बेजोड़ क्रियान्वयन

- Whether it is enrolling a **billion people**, or setting up a **million polling stations**, mobilising over **18 lakh polling officials** for conducting elections and training them, or dealing with moving **30 lakh electronic voting machines**, the ECI has done it with **aplomb**, ably supported by the **government machinery**.  
चाहे वह **एक अरब लोगों का पंजीकरण** हो, या **दस लाख मतदान केंद्रों की स्थापना**, **18 लाख से अधिक चुनाव कर्मचारियों** को चुनाव के लिए तैनात करना और प्रशिक्षित करना हो, या **30 लाख ईवीएम मशीनों** को संभालना, ECI ने यह सब **निपुणता** के साथ किया है, और उसे **सरकारी तंत्र** से पूर्ण सहयोग मिला है।
- In the process, it has earned the **gratitude** of an entire country and the **envy** of democracies across the world.  
इस प्रक्रिया में ECI ने पूरे देश की **कृतज्ञता** और दुनियाभर के लोकतंत्रों की **ईर्ष्या** अर्जित की है।

### Global Recognition

#### वैश्विक पहचान

- Countries that may have the **spirit** but not the **systems** have often looked upon the ECI as a **model** in creating **standard operating procedures**, in galvanising resources, and its effective **consultative approach** in building **consensus among political parties**.  
जिन देशों में **इच्छाशक्ति** तो है पर **तंत्र** नहीं, उन्होंने ECI को एक **मॉडल संस्था** के रूप में देखा है — **मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाएँ** बनाने, संसाधनों को **सक्रिय** करने, और **राजनीतिक दलों के बीच सहमति** बनाने की उसकी **सलाहकार पद्धति** के लिए।
- This has earned the ECI the **trust of voters** and imparted it a **credibility** that has been acknowledged by the **media**, supported by **civil society organisations**, and earned it the **respect of the judiciary**.  
इससे ECI को **मतदाताओं का विश्वास** प्राप्त हुआ है और इसे ऐसी **विश्वसनीयता** मिली है जिसे **मीडिया** ने स्वीकार किया है, **नागरिक समाज संगठनों** ने समर्थन दिया है, और इसे **न्यायपालिका का सम्मान** भी प्राप्त हुआ है।
- Indeed, some have referred to it as **"gold standard"**, belying the **cynics** who believe that **"all that glitters is not gold."**  
वास्तव में, कुछ लोगों ने इसे **"गोल्ड स्टैंडर्ड"** कहा है, जो उन **निंदकों** की सोच को गलत साबित करता है जो मानते हैं कि **"जो चमकता है वह हमेशा सोना नहीं होता।"**

### The Bihar exercise

#### बिहार अभ्यास

- It is in this backdrop that the sudden announcement by the ECI to carry out a purge of the Bihar electoral rolls has invited unpleasant reactions.  
इसी पृष्ठभूमि में, बिहार की मतदाता सूची को शुद्ध करने के लिए **ECI द्वारा अचानक की गई घोषणा** ने **अप्रिय प्रतिक्रियाएँ** आमंत्रित की हैं।
- As opponents question the ECI's motives of raising the spectre of mass disenfranchisement, the ECI is in overdrive trying to demonstrate the ease with which this apparently unwieldy operation involving nearly **eight crore registered electors in Bihar** is being completed.



जब विपक्ष ECI की मंशा पर सवाल उठाता है कि क्या यह व्यापक मताधिकार वंचन का प्रयास है, तब ECI लगभग आठ करोड़ पंजीकृत मतदाताओं को शामिल करने वाले इस कठिन अभियान को सहजता से पूरा करने का प्रदर्शन करने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

- Meanwhile, it has eased some stringent procedures, allowing those enrolled after **2003** to use the entries of their parents in the **2003 electoral rolls** to support their citizenship claim. इस बीच, ECI ने कुछ कठोर प्रक्रियाओं में ढील दी है, जिससे **2003 के बाद पंजीकृत लोगों** को उनके **माता-पिता की 2003 की मतदाता सूची** का उपयोग **नागरिकता के दावे** को समर्थन देने के लिए करने की अनुमति दी गई है।
- It has also allowed Booth Level Officers (BLO) to accept enumeration forms without the prescribed document to prove the eligibility of the post-2003 electors. **Booth Level Officers (BLO)** को यह भी अनुमति दी गई है कि वे **2003 के बाद के मतदाताओं** की पात्रता सिद्ध करने वाले **निर्धारित दस्तावेज के बिना भी गणना फॉर्म स्वीकार** कर सकें।
- The relaxations by the ECI obviously ramped up the daily submission of enumeration forms giving the ECI the basis for claiming success of its operations and the 'support' of the affected electors. ECI द्वारा दी गई इन छूटों से **गणना फॉर्मों का दैनिक सबमिशन** स्पष्ट रूप से बढ़ गया, जिससे ECI को अपने **अभियान की सफलता और प्रभावित मतदाताओं के समर्थन** का दावा करने का आधार मिल गया।
- This, supposedly, would deflate the clamour of the complainants and perhaps convince the higher judiciary that the political sound and fury signifies nothing. यह संभवतः **शिकायतकर्ताओं के शोरगुल को कम करेगा** और शायद **उच्च न्यायापालिका** को यह समझाने में सफल होगा कि **राजनीतिक विवादों का कोई खास महत्व नहीं है**।
- It, however, remains unclear how the BLOs will "recommend" for inclusion in the draft roll such electors whose forms are not accompanied by documents and how the Electoral Registration Officer/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer decides their eligibility in the absence of those documents. हालांकि, यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि **BLO** कैसे **ऐसे मतदाताओं को प्रारूप सूची में सम्मिलित करने की सिफारिश करेंगे** जिनके फॉर्म के साथ कोई दस्तावेज नहीं है, और **ERO/AERO** दस्तावेजों के बिना उनकी **पात्रता का निर्धारण कैसे करेंगे**।
- Will the ECI ask such electors to provide the proof of their eligibility/citizenship after the draft roll is published on **August 1**? क्या ECI ऐसे मतदाताओं से **1 अगस्त को प्रारूप सूची के प्रकाशन के बाद** उनकी **पात्रता/नागरिकता का प्रमाण** देने को कहेगा?
- If it agrees to expand the list of prescribed documents, as suggested by the **Supreme Court of India** (to consider the **Aadhaar card, EPIC, or ration card**), will it not simply amount to verification of identity, and not citizenship? यदि यह **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** के सुझाव के अनुसार **निर्धारित दस्तावेजों की सूची** का विस्तार करता है (जैसे **आधार कार्ड, EPIC या राशन कार्ड**), तो क्या यह सिर्फ **पहचान की पुष्टि** नहीं होगी, **नागरिकता की नहीं?**
- Are we then not back to square one? तो क्या हम फिर से **शुरुआत की स्थिति** में नहीं पहुंच गए हैं?
- Will the indicator of the ECI's success be the number of "duly filled" forms submitted along with "self-attested documents" and electors readmitted to the rolls that were supposed to be purified? क्या ECI की सफलता का संकेतक यह होगा कि कितने **"पूरी तरह भरे हुए फॉर्म"** और **"स्वप्रमाणित दस्तावेजों"** के साथ सबमिट किए गए, और कितने मतदाता **फिर से मतदाता सूची में जोड़े गए** जिन्हें शुद्ध किया जाना था?
- Or, will its success be the number of "ineligible" electors disenfranchised? या फिर इसकी सफलता इस बात में होगी कि कितने **"अयोग्य" मतदाताओं को मताधिकार से वंचित किया गया?**
- Those who are dead, who have migrated or have enrolled twice should have been weeded out in the normal course.



मृत, प्रवास कर चुके या दो बार पंजीकृत मतदाताओं को सामान्य प्रक्रिया में ही सूची से हटाया जाना चाहिए था।

- Did their exclusion warrant this extraordinary exercise?  
क्या इनकी निकासी के लिए इस असाधारण अभ्यास की आवश्यकता थी?

### On presumption of citizenship

#### नागरिकता की धारणा पर

- By ascribing presumption of citizenship to the electors in the **2003 list**, is the ECI claiming that after its current **SIR**, all those in the electoral rolls will be accepted by the government as citizens as in the **Citizenship Act** and no one's credentials will hereafter be questioned?  
**2003 सूची** के मतदाताओं को **नागरिकता की धारणा** देने से, क्या ECI यह दावा कर रहा है कि उसके वर्तमान **SIR** के बाद, **मतदाता सूची में दर्ज सभी लोगों को सरकार नागरिकता अधिनियम के अनुसार नागरिक मान लेगी**, और किसी की भी साख पर आगे सवाल नहीं उठाया जाएगा?
- Is the government willing to accept this presumption?  
क्या सरकार इस **धारणा को स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार** है?
- No individual is responsible for being born where she is, nor for creating documentary evidence of the date and place of her birth, parentage or citizenship.  
कोई व्यक्ति इस बात के लिए **जिम्मेदार नहीं है कि वह कहां पैदा हुआ**, और ना ही उसके पास जन्म, माता-पिता या नागरिकता का **दस्तावेजी प्रमाण होना अनिवार्य** है।
- The authority empowered by the law is.  
इसके लिए **कानून द्वारा अधिकृत संस्था जिम्मेदार** है।
- Like many countries, India too has a law under which it is not the ECI that is designated as the competent authority: at least not as yet.  
कई देशों की तरह, भारत में भी एक **कानून है जिसके तहत ECI को अब तक सक्षम प्राधिकारी नहीं माना गया है**।
- However, broad the ECI's shoulders are, they may not be strong enough to carry someone else's burden.  
हालांकि, ECI के कंधे चाहे कितने भी चौड़े क्यों न हों, वे किसी और की जिम्मेदारी उठाने के लिए पर्याप्त **मजबूत नहीं हो सकते**।

Let us see for whom the bell tolls in Bihar.

आइए देखें कि **बिहार में किसके लिए घड़ी बजती है**।



GS II: Russia-Ukraine

## Middle ground

Trump must ask Russia to back down from its maximalist position

President Donald Trump has made a U-turn on Ukraine, shifting from his campaign pledge to end the war within 24 hours of taking office to promising to send more weapons to Ukraine and threatening to impose "severe tariffs" on Russia and its trading partners if the crisis is not resolved in 50 days. The shift reflects the complex realities on the ground. Ukraine, which has lost more than 20% of its territories, including its Sea of Azov coastline, to Russia since 2014, agreed to a ceasefire, under pressure from the Trump administration, based on the current frontline. Russia had initially responded to Mr. Trump's peace push. It agreed to a naval ceasefire in the Black Sea, and halted attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure for 30 days. Moscow also declared brief ceasefires and sent negotiators to Istanbul for talks with Kyiv on June 2, despite a drone strike by Ukraine deep inside Russia, targeting its bombers. But after the U.S. joined Israel to bomb Iran, despite Tehran's nuclear talks with Washington, Russia accelerated attacks on Ukraine with drone attacks and troop advances in the Dnipropetrovsk region. In a call with Mr. Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would not back down from his goals in Ukraine. Caught between an intransigent Moscow and pressure from his allies, Mr. Trump seems to have decided to change course.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump has ruled out giving Ukraine long-range offensive weapons. The plan is to send defensive weapons, including Patriot systems and ammunition to Ukraine through NATO allies. While Patriots could be effective in shielding Ukraine's skies from Russian missile strikes, they are unlikely to alter the balance in the battlefield. And, the U.S.'s ability to hurt Russia through direct tariffs is limited as bilateral trade stood at just \$3 billion in 2024. But if Mr. Trump opts for secondary tariffs, the impact would extend to other countries, including India, China, and Brazil. Since the start of the Ukraine war, the U.S. and Europe have imposed multiple layers of sanctions on Russia, which have failed to impact the Kremlin's war policies. By threatening to penalise third countries for Russia's actions, Mr. Trump is doubling down on a failed policy, and also jeopardising the energy security of countries such as India, an American partner. Mr. Trump must realise that he cannot resolve global conflicts through imperial-style ultimatums and threats. Instead, sustained diplomacy with Moscow and Kyiv is essential. Russia must come down from its maximalist demands, and Ukraine's security concerns should be addressed. His focus should be on finding a middle ground between the Russian and Ukrainian positions to achieve a durable peace.

- In a call with Mr. Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would not back down from his goals in Ukraine. ट्रम्प के साथ एक कॉल में रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने कहा कि वे यूक्रेन में अपने लक्ष्यों से पीछे नहीं हटेंगे।

## Middle Ground मध्य मार्ग

## Middle Ground मध्य मार्ग

Trump must ask Russia to back down from its maximalist position  
ट्रम्प को रूस से उसके अधिकतमवादी रुख से पीछे हटने को कहना चाहिए

- President Donald Trump has made a **U-turn on Ukraine**, shifting from his campaign pledge to end the war within **24 hours of taking office** to promising to **send more weapons** to Ukraine and threatening to impose "**severe tariffs**" on Russia and its trading partners if the crisis is not resolved in **50 days**. राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने यूक्रेन को लेकर यू-टर्न लिया है, जहां उन्होंने अपने चुनावी वार्द में सत्ता संभालने के 24 घंटे के भीतर युद्ध समाप्त करने की बात कही थी, वहीं अब उन्होंने यूक्रेन को और हथियार भेजने और यदि संकट 50 दिनों में हल नहीं होता तो रूस और उसके व्यापारिक भागीदारों पर "कड़े शुल्क" लगाने की धमकी दी है।
- The shift reflects the **complex realities on the ground**. यह बदलाव जमीनी हकीकतों की जटिलता को दर्शाता है।
- Ukraine, which has lost more than 20% of its territories**, including its **Sea of Azov coastline**, to Russia since **2014**, agreed to a **ceasefire**, under pressure from the Trump administration, based on the current frontline. यूक्रेन, जिसने 2014 से रूस के हाथों अपनी 20% से अधिक क्षेत्रफल, जिसमें आजोव सागर का तटवर्ती इलाका भी शामिल है, खो दिया है, ट्रम्प प्रशासन के दबाव में वर्तमान फ्रंटलाइन के आधार पर संघर्षविराम के लिए सहमत हुआ।
- Russia had initially responded to Mr. Trump's **peace push**. रूस ने शुरुआत में ट्रम्प की शांति पहल पर प्रतिक्रिया दी थी।
- It agreed to a naval ceasefire in the Black Sea**, and halted attacks on Ukraine's **energy infrastructure** for **30 days**. रूस ने काला सागर में नौसैनिक संघर्षविराम को स्वीकार किया और 30 दिनों तक यूक्रेन की ऊर्जा अवसंरचना पर हमले रोक दिए।
- Moscow also declared brief ceasefires and sent negotiators to Istanbul** for talks with Kyiv on **June 2**, despite a **drone strike by Ukraine** deep inside Russia, targeting its bombers. यूक्रेन द्वारा रूस के अंदर गहराई में किए गए ड्रोन हमले के बावजूद, मास्को ने भी संक्षिप्त संघर्षविराम की घोषणा की और 2 जून को कीव से वार्ता के लिए इस्तांबुल में वार्ताकार भेजे।
- But after the U.S. joined Israel to bomb Iran**, despite Tehran's **nuclear talks** with Washington, Russia **accelerated attacks** on Ukraine with **drone attacks** and **troop advances** in the **Dnipropetrovsk region**. लेकिन जब अमेरिका ने तेहरान के परमाणु वार्ताओं के बावजूद ईरान पर बमबारी में इज़राइल का साथ दिया, तब रूस ने ड्रोन हमलों और सेना की प्रगति के साथ इनीप्रोपेत्रोव्स्क क्षेत्र में यूक्रेन पर तेज़ हमले शुरू कर दिए।



- Caught between an **intransigent Moscow** and **pressure from his allies**, Mr. Trump seems to have decided to **change course**.  
एक तरफ **अडिग मास्को** और दूसरी तरफ **अपने सहयोगियों के दबाव** के बीच फंसे ट्रम्प ने लगता है कि **अपना रुख बदलने का फैसला किया है**।
- Nevertheless, **Mr. Trump has ruled out giving Ukraine long-range offensive weapons**.  
इसके बावजूद, ट्रम्प ने यूक्रेन को **दीर्घ दूरी की आक्रामक हथियार प्रणाली** देने से इंकार कर दिया है।
- The plan is to send **defensive weapons, including Patriot systems and ammunition to Ukraine through NATO allies**.  
योजना है कि **रक्षा प्रणाली**, जिनमें **पैट्रियट सिस्टम** और **गोला-बारूद** शामिल हैं, **नाटो सहयोगियों** के माध्यम से यूक्रेन भेजे जाएं।
- While Patriots could be effective in **shielding Ukraine's skies** from Russian missile strikes, they are **unlikely to alter the balance** in the battlefield.  
**पैट्रियट सिस्टम** यूक्रेन के आसमान को रूसी मिसाइल हमलों से **सुरक्षित करने में प्रभावी** हो सकते हैं, लेकिन ये **युद्धभूमि की स्थिति को बदलने में सक्षम नहीं होंगे**।
- And, the **U.S.'s ability to hurt Russia through direct tariffs is limited as bilateral trade stood at just \$3 billion in 2024**.  
और अमेरिका की **प्रत्यक्ष शुल्क** के माध्यम से रूस को नुकसान पहुंचाने की क्षमता सीमित है क्योंकि **2024 में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार केवल \$3 बिलियन** था।
- But if Mr. Trump opts for **secondary tariffs**, the impact would extend to other countries, including **India, China, and Brazil**.  
लेकिन यदि ट्रम्प **द्वितीयक शुल्क** लगाने का विकल्प चुनते हैं, तो इसका प्रभाव **भारत, चीन और ब्राज़ील** जैसे अन्य देशों तक फैल जाएगा।
- Since the start of the Ukraine war, the U.S. and Europe have imposed **multiple layers of sanctions** on Russia, which have **failed to impact** the Kremlin's war policies.  
यूक्रेन युद्ध की शुरुआत से ही अमेरिका और यूरोप ने रूस पर **कई स्तरों पर प्रतिबंध** लगाए हैं, जो **क्रेमलिन की युद्ध नीतियों पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं डाल सके**।
- By threatening to **penalise third countries** for Russia's actions, Mr. Trump is **doubling down on a failed policy**, and also **jeopardising the energy security** of countries such as **India**, an American partner.  
रूस की कार्रवाइयों के लिए **तीसरे देशों को दंडित करने की धमकी देकर**, ट्रम्प एक **असफल नीति को और आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं** और **भारत** जैसे अमेरिकी साझेदार देशों की **ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को खतरे में डाल रहे हैं**।
- Mr. Trump must realise that he cannot resolve global conflicts through **imperial-style ultimatums** and threats.  
ट्रम्प को यह समझना चाहिए कि वे **साम्राज्यवादी शैली की धमकियों** और **अल्टीमेटम** से वैश्विक संघर्षों का समाधान नहीं कर सकते।
- Instead, **sustained diplomacy with Moscow and Kyiv** is essential.  
इसके बजाय, **मास्को और कीव के साथ निरंतर कूटनीति** आवश्यक है।
- Russia must come down from its **maximalist demands**, and Ukraine's **security concerns** should be addressed.  
रूस को अपनी **अधिकतमवादी मांगों** से पीछे हटना चाहिए और यूक्रेन की **सुरक्षा चिंताओं** को संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए।

His focus should be on **finding a middle ground** between the Russian and Ukrainian positions to **achieve a durable peace**.



उनका ध्यान रूसी और यूक्रेनी रुख के बीच मध्य मार्ग खोजने पर होना चाहिए ताकि स्थायी शांति प्राप्त की जा

## Should political leaders retire at 75?

SS II: Polity

PARLEY



**Manisha Priyam**  
Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor, Monash University

**T**he suggestion of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat last week that leaders should step aside at the age of 75 triggered a debate. Opposition leaders saw Mr. Bhagwat's comment as a nudge from the RSS to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is turning 75 in September, to step down. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has maintained a studied silence on the issue. Should political leaders retire at 75? Manisha Priyam and Rahul Verma discuss the issue in a conversation moderated by Sobhana K. Nair. Edited excerpts:

**Is politics across the globe and especially in India geared in such a way that politicians reach their peak only in old age?**



**Rahul Verma**  
Associate Professor, Shiv Nadar School of Law, and Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

**Manisha Priyam:** Do people prefer younger leaders? Yes. But why don't they get younger leaders? This depends on several imperatives such as who controls the party machinery, who controls the party purse strings, and whether such leaders can garner resources. We have often seen that those who reach the top hold on to their position. For instance, Lahu Prasad gained popularity at a young age. At the age of 42, he became Chief Minister of Bihar in 1990. He held on to the president's position at the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav had to fight his father Mulayam Singh Yadav for the leadership position in the Samajwadi Party.

Regarding Mr. Bhagwat's suggestion: this is not the first time that such a remark is coming from the RSS. This (unsaid rule) was used effectively in 2014 to allow Prime Minister Narendra Modi to (push out some older leaders and) nominate his own people at the top levels. But come September, I don't see Mr. Modi stepping down. Today, the RSS requires the BJP machinery much more than the BJP requires the RSS. Mr. Bhagwat does not control the levers of power in India; they clearly remain with Mr. Modi.

**Rahul Verma:** As per one research study, less than 10% of all elected representatives globally are below the age of 35. Once you come to India, this problem actually accentuates. From the first Lok Sabha in 1952 to the current Lok Sabha in 2024, the average age of our parliamentarians has actually gone up. The number of MPs who are below the age of 40 has declined over time and the number of MPs who are above the age of 60 has increased. The problem is not that we don't have newer faces coming into politics; the problem is, as Professor Priyam said, that the



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. PTI

older generation of leaders does not easily cede space to younger ones. Also, perhaps, a political party itself is unwilling to bid farewell to an established leader fearing that it will destabilise the existing structure.

At the same time, I am not sure that voters would actually prefer younger politicians. It might be alright to have a 30-35-year-old MP or MLA, but I think voters would prefer older candidates for the post of Chief Minister or Prime Minister.

As far as Mr. Bhagwat's comment is concerned, I concur with Professor Priyam that we are unlikely to see any change (regarding Prime Minister Modi's position).

**Is there any evidence which shows that nations led by younger leaders perform better?**

**MP:** We have a large number of nations where there is no form of democracy, let alone change of political leadership. These include China and Russia. And we see various forms of either party authoritarianism or one-man rule in these countries.

In parallel, we also have the example of the U.K. where there have been several Prime Ministers taking office in their 40s, from Tony Blair to David Cameron. The British example tells us that when people want political change, that political change also comes by way of political leadership change. And I think we need to understand that link better.

As for India, we are now the world's youngest nation. Our political leadership needs to reflect this aspect of our democracy. A political democracy survives by reincarnating legitimacy



Age is not the only criteria; the health and mental faculty of a leader is equally important. Unfortunately, we have no empirical evidence to point out a direct correlation between a nation's economic health and the age of its leadership

**RAHUL VERMA**

and renegotiating its social compact with people. On the question of age and political leadership, it must turn towards seeking younger people as political leaders. And these younger leaders should not come from established political families alone.

**RV:** As per the available performance analysis of Indian parliamentarians, we know that younger leaders may not necessarily be better parliamentarians. Data shows that MPs above 60 years of age have 80% attendance in Parliament, while those below 40 have 73-74% average attendance. The older MPs ask for more questions in Parliament.

At the same time, I would add the caveat that age is not the only criteria; the health and mental faculty of a leader is equally important. Unfortunately, we have no empirical evidence to point at a direct correlation between a nation's economic health and the age of its leadership.

Some studies have pointed out that the governance models of younger leaders may vary drastically from that of an older leadership.

There can be material differences in the decisions taken by a younger or an older leader. Younger leaders are much more likely to invest their budget in economic activities of job creation and infrastructure development, while their budgets for social welfare measures, especially health-related schemes, may be low. Younger leaders do govern differently, but one can't say if it is necessarily better.

**Should there be a concrete law or regulatory mechanism to retire political leaders or to ensure that a leader who is facing mental or physical challenges steps down?**

**MP:** There has been a lot of speculation around Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's health, especially after some of his television appearances. Even in the election season, his political statements were few and far between. Under the provisions of the Constitution, it would be perfectly legitimate for the Governor to seek a health report of the Chief Minister. People have a right to know if the health of the

Chief Minister has been severely compromised. But in Mr. Kumar's case, it is unlikely that such a step will be taken. I do feel this is a mockery of democratic processes. And it is not only Bihar; we have seen numerous examples in the past from various States. In Tamil Nadu, the truth about former Chief Minister Jayalithaa's health was concealed from the voters. The unfortunate reality is that in such cases, the people have to wait until the elections to feel the change.

Though we never had a similar situation at the Centre, considering that the Prime Minister is always under the public glare, should we have a hard cut-off date for retirement? I am not sure. But we must have a transparent mechanism by way of which the electorate is kept informed about their leader's health. Here though, the greater responsibility is of the political parties. We could have a term limit for the Prime Minister and for Chief Ministers, though.

**RV:** Yes, it is desirable to have politicians who are in the best of health and are able to make sound decisions. But how do we achieve this end? Every solution to address this issue comes with its own set of problems. Prescribing a retirement age will also require creating structures that enable career progression in politics faster. That can't be done if we have fixed the minimum age to contest elections at 25 years. Over 8,000 candidates contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Less than 100 competitive candidates were below the age of 30. So just bringing in laws won't change any of this.

Even term limits are not exactly an effective solution. Look at the U.S. It has a term limit, yet we saw Joe Biden leading the country at 81 while struggling with cognitive issues. He was succeeded by Donald Trump, who is 79 years old. But as Professor Priyam says, there is a conversation across the globe about how the citizens are perhaps entitled to have access to health bulletins of their leaders. Though, again, this isn't exactly an elegant solution. What if the country is on the verge of a war or some kind of economic crisis? An adverse health bulletin of the leader would only add to panic in such a situation. It doesn't even have to be a catastrophic problem; even the markets could react badly if the medical bulletin of the leader is not good. So while it is desirable that no person should remain in office if they aren't mentally or physically fit, it cannot be regulated through legislation or any formal system.



To listen to the full interview  
Scan the code or go to the link  
[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

सके।

## Should Political Leaders Retire at 75?

### क्या राजनीतिक नेताओं को 75 वर्ष की आयु में सेवानिवृत्त हो जाना चाहिए?

- The suggestion of **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** chief **Mohan Bhagwat** last week that leaders should step aside at the age of **75** triggered a debate.  
**राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (RSS)** के प्रमुख **मोहन भागवत** का यह सुझाव कि नेताओं को **75 वर्ष** की आयु में पद छोड़ देना चाहिए, पिछले सप्ताह एक बहस की वजह बना।
- Opposition leaders saw Mr. Bhagwat's comment as a **nudge** from the RSS to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, who is turning **75 in September**, to step down.  
विपक्षी नेताओं ने भागवत की टिप्पणी को **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी**, जो **सितंबर में 75 वर्ष** के हो रहे हैं, के लिए **RSS की ओर से संकेत** माना।
- The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** has maintained a **studied silence** on the issue.  
**भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP)** ने इस मुद्दे पर **चुप्पी साधी हुई है**।
- Should political leaders retire at 75? **Manisha Priyam** and **Rahul Verma** discuss the issue in a conversation moderated by **Sobhana K. Nair**.  
क्या राजनीतिक नेताओं को 75 पर सेवानिवृत्त हो जाना चाहिए? इस पर **मनीषा प्रियम** और **राहुल वर्मा** ने **सोभना के. नायर** की बातचीत में चर्चा की।



## Do politicians peak only in old age?

क्या राजनेताओं का शिखर केवल वृद्धावस्था में आता है?

- **Manisha Priyam:** Do people prefer younger leaders? Yes. But why don't they get younger leaders? It depends on who controls the **party machinery, resources, and purse strings.**  
**मनीषा प्रियम:** क्या लोग युवा नेताओं को पसंद करते हैं? हां। लेकिन वे मिलते क्यों नहीं? यह इस पर निर्भर करता है कि **पार्टी संगठन, संसाधनों और वित्तीय नियंत्रण** पर किसका अधिकार है।
- Those who reach the top often **hold on to their position.**  
जो नेता शीर्ष पर पहुंचते हैं, वे अक्सर **अपनी स्थिति बनाए रखते हैं।**
- For example, **Lalu Prasad** became **Chief Minister of Bihar at 42** in **1990**, but continued to hold the **president's position** in **RJD.**  
उदाहरण के लिए, **लालू प्रसाद** ने **1990** में **42 वर्ष की उम्र** में बिहार के **मुख्यमंत्री** पद की शपथ ली, लेकिन **राजद** के अध्यक्ष पद पर बने रहे।
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, **Akhilesh Yadav** had to **fight his father Mulayam Singh Yadav** for the leadership in **Samajwadi Party.**  
उत्तर प्रदेश में, **अखिलेश यादव** को अपने पिता **मुलायम सिंह यादव** से सपा की नेतृत्व की लड़ाई लड़नी पड़ी।

## RSS, Modi, and Power Equations

RSS, मोदी और सत्ता का समीकरण

- Regarding Mr. Bhagwat's suggestion: this is **not the first time** such a remark has come from the **RSS.**  
भागवत के सुझाव के संदर्भ में: इस प्रकार की टिप्पणी **पहली बार नहीं** आई है **RSS** से।
- This **unsaid rule** was **used in 2014** to allow PM **Modi to sideline older leaders** and bring his own team.  
यह **अनकहा नियम 2014** में **इस्तेमाल** किया गया था जिससे **मोदी** ने **वरिष्ठ नेताओं को दरकिनार** कर अपने लोगों को आगे लाया।
- But come **September**, I don't see **Mr. Modi stepping down.**  
लेकिन **सितंबर** आने पर, मैं **मोदी के पद छोड़ने** की संभावना नहीं देखती।
- Today, the **RSS requires the BJP machinery more** than the BJP needs the RSS.  
आज **RSS को BJP की मशीनरी की अधिक आवश्यकता** है बजाय इसके कि BJP को RSS की।
- **Mr. Bhagwat** does not control the **levers of power** in India; they remain with **Mr. Modi.**  
**श्री भागवत** के पास भारत में **सत्ता की बागडोर नहीं** है; यह अब **श्री मोदी** के पास है।

## Young Faces in Global and Indian Politics

वैश्विक और भारतीय राजनीति में युवा चेहरों की स्थिति

- **Rahul Verma:** According to a study, **less than 10%** of elected representatives globally are **under 35.**  
**राहुल वर्मा:** एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, वैश्विक रूप से **35 वर्ष से कम आयु के** **منتخب प्रतिनिधियों की संख्या 10% से भी कम** है।
- In **India**, this trend is worse. From **1952 to 2024**, the **average age of Lok Sabha MPs** has gone **up.**  
भारत में यह प्रवृत्ति और खराब है। **1952 से 2024 तक लोकसभा सांसदों की औसत आयु में वृद्धि हुई** है।
- Number of **MPs under 40** has **declined**, while number of MPs **above 60** has **increased.**  
**40 वर्ष से कम आयु के सांसदों की संख्या घटी** है, जबकि **60 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के सांसदों की संख्या बढ़ी** है।
- The problem isn't the **lack of new faces**, but the **older generation's reluctance to cede space.**  
समस्या **नए चेहरों की कमी नहीं**, बल्कि **वरिष्ठ नेताओं की सत्ता न छोड़ने की प्रवृत्ति** है।



- Political parties **fear instability** and therefore are **unwilling to retire old leaders**.  
राजनीतिक दल अस्थिरता के डर से वरिष्ठ नेताओं को हटाने से हिचकते हैं।

### Do Voters Want Young Leaders?

क्या मतदाता युवा नेताओं को चाहते हैं?

- Voters may be **fine with a 30–35-year-old MP or MLA**, but **prefer older candidates** for **Chief Minister or Prime Minister**.  
मतदाता शायद 30–35 वर्ष के सांसद या विधायक से संतुष्ट हों, लेकिन मुख्यमंत्री या प्रधानमंत्री के लिए वे वरिष्ठ उम्मीदवारों को पसंद करते हैं।

### Conclusion on Bhagwat's Remark

भागवत की टिप्पणी पर निष्कर्ष

- Rahul Verma:** I agree with **Professor Priyam**, we are **unlikely to see any change** in **Mr. Modi's position**.  
राहुल वर्मा: मैं प्रोफेसर प्रियम से सहमत हूँ, हमें मोदी की स्थिति में किसी बदलाव की संभावना नहीं दिखती।

### Is there any evidence which shows that nations led by younger leaders perform better?

क्या कोई साक्ष्य है जो दिखाता है कि युवा नेताओं द्वारा शासित राष्ट्र बेहतर प्रदर्शन करते हैं?

- MP: We have a large number of nations where there is no form of democracy, let alone change of political leadership. These include **China and Russia**.  
MP: हमारे पास कई ऐसे देश हैं जहाँ लोकतंत्र का कोई स्वरूप नहीं है, राजनीतिक नेतृत्व में बदलाव की बात तो दूर की है। इनमें चीन और रूस शामिल हैं।
- And we see various forms of either **party authoritarianism or one-man rule** in these countries.  
और इन देशों में हम विभिन्न प्रकार की दलीय तानाशाही या एक व्यक्ति के शासन को देखते हैं।
- In parallel, we also have the example of the **U.K.** where there have been several Prime Ministers taking office in their **40s**, from **Tony Blair to David Cameron**.  
दूसरी ओर हमारे पास यू.के. का उदाहरण है, जहाँ टोनी ब्लेयर से लेकर डेविड कैमरन तक कई प्रधानमंत्री 40 की उम्र में पद ग्रहण कर चुके हैं।
- The British example tells us that when people want **political change**, that political change also comes by way of **political leadership change**.  
ब्रिटिश उदाहरण हमें बताता है कि जब लोग राजनीतिक बदलाव चाहते हैं, तो वह नेतृत्व परिवर्तन के ज़रिए आता है।
- And I think we need to understand that **link** better.  
और मुझे लगता है कि हमें इस कड़ी को बेहतर ढंग से समझने की जरूरत है।
- As for India, we are now the world's **youngest nation**. Our political leadership needs to reflect this aspect of our **democracy**.  
भारत की बात करें तो हम आज दुनिया के सबसे युवा देश हैं। हमारा राजनीतिक नेतृत्व हमारी लोकतांत्रिक संरचना के इस पहलू को दर्शाना चाहिए।
- A **political democracy** survives by reincarnating **legitimacy** and renegotiating its **social compact** with people.  
एक राजनीतिक लोकतंत्र लोगों के साथ अपनी वैधता को पुनः स्थापित कर और अपने सामाजिक अनुबंध को पुनः समझौता कर ही जीवित रहता है।
- On the question of **age and political leadership**, it must turn towards seeking **younger people** as political leaders.  
आयु और राजनीतिक नेतृत्व के प्रश्न पर, इसे युवाओं को नेतृत्व की भूमिका में लाने की ओर मुड़ना चाहिए।
- And these younger leaders should not come from **established political families** alone.  
और ये युवा नेता केवल स्थापित राजनीतिक परिवारों से ही नहीं आने चाहिए।



- RV: As per the available **performance analysis** of Indian parliamentarians, we know that **younger leaders may not necessarily be better parliamentarians**.  
RV: भारतीय सांसदों के उपलब्ध प्रदर्शन विश्लेषण के अनुसार, हमें पता है कि युवा नेता जरूरी नहीं कि बेहतर सांसद हों।
- Data shows that **MPs above 60 years of age** have **80% attendance** in Parliament, while those **below 40** have **73–74% average attendance**.  
आंकड़े बताते हैं कि **60 वर्ष से अधिक आयु** वाले सांसदों की संसद में **80% उपस्थिति** होती है, जबकि **40 वर्ष से कम उम्र** वालों की औसत उपस्थिति **73–74%** होती है।
- The older MPs ask **far more questions** in Parliament.  
**बुजुर्ग सांसद** संसद में **काफी अधिक प्रश्न** पूछते हैं।
- At the same time, I would add the caveat that **age is not the only criteria**; the **health and mental faculty** of a leader is equally important.  
साथ ही मैं यह जोड़ना चाहूंगा कि **आयु ही एकमात्र मानदंड नहीं है**; एक नेता की **स्वास्थ्य और मानसिक क्षमता** भी उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Unfortunately, we have **no empirical evidence** to point at a direct correlation between a nation's **economic health** and the **age of its leadership**.  
दुर्भाग्यवश, हमारे पास ऐसा **कोई ठोस साक्ष्य नहीं है** जो किसी राष्ट्र की **आर्थिक स्थिति** और उसके **नेतृत्व की आयु** के बीच सीधे संबंध को दर्शा सके।
- Some studies have pointed out that the **governance models** of younger leaders may **vary drastically** from that of an older leadership.  
कुछ अध्ययनों ने यह बताया है कि युवा नेताओं के **शासन मॉडल** पुराने नेतृत्व से **काफी अलग हो सकते हैं**।
- There can be **material differences** in the decisions taken by a **younger or an older leader**.  
**युवा या बुजुर्ग नेता** द्वारा लिए गए निर्णयों में **सार्विक अंतर** हो सकता है।
- Younger leaders are much more likely to **invest their budget in economic activities of job creation and infrastructure development**, while their budgets for **social welfare measures**, especially **health-related schemes**, may be low.  
युवा नेता अपने बजट का अधिक हिस्सा **रोजगार सृजन और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास** जैसी **आर्थिक गतिविधियों** में लगाते हैं, जबकि **सामाजिक कल्याण योजनाओं**, विशेष रूप से **स्वास्थ्य संबंधी योजनाओं**, में उनका बजट कम हो सकता है।
- Younger leaders do **govern differently**, but one can't say if it is **necessarily better**.  
युवा नेता निश्चित रूप से **अलग तरीके से शासन** करते हैं, लेकिन यह कहना मुश्किल है कि वह **ज़रूर बेहतर** होते हैं।

**Should there be a concrete law or regulatory mechanism to retire political leaders or to ensure that a leader who is facing mental or physical challenges steps down?**

**क्या राजनीतिक नेताओं को सेवानिवृत्त करने या मानसिक या शारीरिक चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे नेता को पद छोड़ने के लिए कोई ठोस कानून या नियामक तंत्र होना चाहिए?**

- There has been a lot of speculation around **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's health**, especially after some of his television appearances.  
**बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के स्वास्थ्य** को लेकर काफी अटकलें लगाई गई हैं, खासकर उनके कुछ टीवी पर आने के बाद।
- Even in the **election season**, his political statements were **few and far between**.  
**चुनाव के मौसम** में भी, उनके राजनीतिक बयान **बहुत कम और छिटपुट** थे।
- Under the provisions of the Constitution, it would be **perfectly legitimate** for the **Governor to seek a health report** of the Chief Minister.  
संविधान के प्रावधानों के तहत, यह **पूरी तरह वैध** होगा कि **राज्यपाल मुख्यमंत्री की स्वास्थ्य रिपोर्ट** मांगें।
- People have a **right to know** if the **health of the Chief Minister** has been **severely compromised**.  
लोगों को यह **जानने का अधिकार** है कि **मुख्यमंत्री का स्वास्थ्य** गंभीर रूप से **प्रभावित** हुआ है या नहीं।
- But in Mr. Kumar's case, it is **unlikely** that such a step will be taken.  
लेकिन श्री कुमार के मामले में, यह **असंभावित** है कि ऐसा कोई कदम उठाया जाएगा।



- I do feel this is a **mockery of democratic processes**.  
मुझे लगता है कि यह **लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रियाओं का मजाक** है।
- And it is not only Bihar; we have seen numerous examples in the past from **various States**.  
और यह केवल बिहार की बात नहीं है; हमने पहले **विभिन्न राज्यों** से कई उदाहरण देखे हैं।
- In **Tamil Nadu**, the truth about **former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's health** was **concealed from the voters**.  
तमिलनाडु में, पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री जयललिता के स्वास्थ्य के बारे में सच्चाई को **मतदाताओं से छुपाया गया था**।
- The **unfortunate reality** is that in such cases, the people have to wait until the **elections to force the change**.  
यह **दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण सच्चाई** है कि ऐसे मामलों में लोगों को **परिवर्तन के लिए चुनाव तक इंतज़ार करना पड़ता है**।
- Though we never had a similar situation at the **Centre**, considering that the **Prime Minister** is always under **public glare**, should we have a **hard cut-off date for retirement?**  
हालांकि केंद्र में ऐसी स्थिति कभी नहीं रही, चूंकि **प्रधानमंत्री हमेशा जनता की नजरों में होते हैं**, क्या हमें **सेवानिवृत्ति की अंतिम तिथि** निर्धारित करनी चाहिए?
- I am not sure. But we must have a **transparent mechanism** by way of which the **electorate** is **kept informed** about their leader's **health**.  
मैं निश्चित नहीं हूँ। लेकिन हमें एक **पारदर्शी तंत्र** की आवश्यकता है जिससे **मतदाता** अपने नेता के **स्वास्थ्य** के बारे में **सूचित रह सकें**।
- Here though, the greater responsibility is of the **political parties**.  
यहां **राजनीतिक दलों की बड़ी जिम्मेदारी** है।
- We could have a **term limit** for the **Prime Minister** and for **Chief Ministers**, though.  
हम **प्रधानमंत्री और मुख्यमंत्रियों** के लिए एक **कार्यकाल सीमा** निर्धारित कर सकते हैं।
- **RV**: Yes, it is desirable to have politicians who are in the **best of health** and are able to make **sound decisions**.  
**RV**: हां, यह वांछनीय है कि राजनीतिज्ञ **स्वस्थ हों और सटीक निर्णय** ले सकें।
- But how do we achieve this end? Every solution to address this issue comes with its own set of problems.  
लेकिन हम इसे कैसे प्राप्त करें? इस समस्या को हल करने के हर उपाय के साथ **अपनी समस्याएं भी आती हैं**।
- Prescribing a **retirement age** will also require creating structures that **enable career progression** in politics faster.  
एक **सेवानिवृत्ति आयु** निर्धारित करने के लिए राजनीति में **तेजी से करियर विकास** की संरचनाएं भी बनानी होंगी।
- That can't be done if we have fixed the **minimum age to contest elections at 25 years**.  
यह संभव नहीं है यदि हमने **चुनाव लड़ने की न्यूनतम आयु 25 वर्ष** तय कर रखी है।
- Over **8,000 candidates** contested the **2024 Lok Sabha polls**.  
**2024 लोकसभा चुनावों में 8,000 से अधिक उम्मीदवारों** ने भाग लिया।
- Less than **100 competitive candidates** were **below the age of 30**.  
**30 वर्ष से कम आयु के प्रतिस्पर्धी उम्मीदवारों की संख्या 100 से भी कम थी**।
- So just bringing in laws won't change any of this.  
इसलिए केवल कानून बनाना इस स्थिति को नहीं बदल सकता।
- Even **term limits** are not exactly an **effective solution**.  
यहां तक कि **कार्यकाल की सीमाएं** भी कोई **प्रभावी समाधान नहीं हैं**।
- Look at the **U.S**. It has a term limit, yet we saw **Joe Biden** leading the country at **81** while struggling with **cognitive issues**.  
**अमेरिका** को देखिए। वहां कार्यकाल सीमा है, फिर भी **जो बाइडेन** ने **81 वर्ष** की उम्र में देश का नेतृत्व किया जबकि वह **संज्ञानात्मक समस्याओं** से जूझ रहे थे।
- He was succeeded by **Donald Trump**, who is **79 years old**.  
उनके बाद **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** आए, जो **79 वर्ष** के हैं।
- But as Professor Priyam says, there is a **conversation across the globe** about how the **citizens are perhaps entitled to have access to health bulletins** of their leaders.  
लेकिन जैसा कि प्रोफेसर प्रियम कहते हैं, पूरी दुनिया में यह **बहस** है कि **नागरिकों को अपने नेताओं की स्वास्थ्य रिपोर्ट तक पहुंच का अधिकार** होना चाहिए।



- Though, again, this isn't exactly an **elegant solution**.  
हालांकि यह भी कोई **उत्तम समाधान** नहीं है।
- What if the country is on the verge of a **war** or some kind of **economic crisis**?  
अगर देश **युद्ध** या किसी प्रकार की **आर्थिक संकट** के कगार पर हो तो क्या होगा?
- An **adverse health bulletin** of the leader would only **add to panic** in such a situation.  
ऐसे में नेता की **नकारात्मक स्वास्थ्य रिपोर्ट** केवल **घबराहट बढ़ाएगी**।
- It doesn't even have to be a **catastrophic problem**; even the **markets could react badly** if the medical bulletin of the leader is not good.  
यह जरूरी नहीं कि यह कोई **विनाशकारी स्थिति** हो; यदि नेता की चिकित्सा रिपोर्ट अच्छी नहीं हो तो **बाजार भी बुरी तरह प्रतिक्रिया कर सकते हैं**।
- So while it is desirable that **no person should remain in office** if they aren't **mentally or physically fit**, it cannot be **regulated easily**.  
इसलिए, यह वांछनीय है कि यदि कोई व्यक्ति **मानसिक या शारीरिक रूप से फिट** नहीं है तो वह **पद पर न रहे**, लेकिन इसे **आसान तरीके से विनियमित** नहीं किया जा सकता।

## DAKAR

### French military leaves Senegal, ending a 65-year troop presence



AFP

#### GS II: Africa

France on Thursday formally handed its last two military bases to Senegal, ending a 65-year troop presence and leaving no permanent French camps in west or central Africa. This move echoes continent-wide demands for sovereignty as France consolidates its military presence only in Djibouti. AFP

क्योंकि फ्रांस अब केवल **जिबूती** में अपनी सैन्य उपस्थिति बनाए रख रहा है।

### **French military leaves Senegal, ending a 65-year troop presence** **फ्रांसीसी सेना सेनेगल से रवाना, 65 साल पुरानी सैन्य उपस्थिति समाप्त**

#### **France Ends Military Presence in Senegal** **फ्रांस ने सेनेगल में सैन्य उपस्थिति समाप्त की**

- France on **Thursday** formally handed its **last two military bases** to **Senegal**, ending a **65-year troop presence** and leaving no permanent French camps in **west or central Africa**.  
फ्रांस ने **गुरुवार** को औपचारिक रूप से अपनी **अंतिम दो सैन्य छावनियाँ** सेनेगल को सौंप दीं, जिससे **65 वर्षों की सैन्य उपस्थिति** समाप्त हो गई और **पश्चिम या मध्य अफ्रीका** में कोई स्थायी फ्रांसीसी शिविर नहीं बचा।
- This move echoes **continent-wide demands for sovereignty** as France consolidates its military presence only in **Djibouti**.

यह कदम पूरे महाद्वीप में **संप्रभुता की मांगों** की गूँज है,



**LONDON**

## U.K., Germany sign friendship treaty, deepening ties amid threats



**GS II: Europe**

GETTY IMAGES

Britain and Germany signed a wide-ranging friendship treaty on Thursday, deepening cooperation in defence, transport, and migration. The pact includes joint weapons exports, a new AI defence factory in Britain, and a mutual assistance clause, reflecting increased cooperation amid U.S. policy uncertainties. REUTERS

amid **U.S. policy uncertainties**.

इस संधि में संयुक्त हथियार निर्यात, ब्रिटेन में एक नया एआई रक्षा कारखाना, और एक पारस्परिक सहायता खंड शामिल है, जो अमेरिकी नीतिगत अनिश्चितताओं के बीच बढ़ते सहयोग को दर्शाता है।

## **U.K., Germany sign friendship treaty, deepening ties amid threats**

**ब्रिटेन और जर्मनी ने मैत्री संधि पर हस्ताक्षर किए, खतरों के बीच संबंध और गहरे हुए**

**Britain-Germany Friendship Treaty**  
ब्रिटेन-जर्मनी मैत्री संधि

- Britain and Germany signed a **wide-ranging friendship treaty** on **Thursday**, deepening cooperation in **defence, transport, and migration**. **ब्रिटेन और जर्मनी ने गुरुवार को एक व्यापक मैत्री संधि पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे रक्षा, परिवहन और प्रवासन में सहयोग गहराया।**
- The pact includes **joint weapons exports**, a new **AI defence factory** in **Britain**, and a **mutual assistance clause**, reflecting increased cooperation

### **TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, IS)**

- 1. One killed, two injured in tiger attacks in U.P.'s Pilibhit**  
उत्तर प्रदेश के पीलीभीत में बाघ के हमले में एक की मौत, दो घायल
- 2. Kerala man missing after Houthis attack ship in Red Sea**  
लाल सागर में हूतियों के जहाज पर हमले के बाद केरल का व्यक्ति लापता
- 3. CISF undergoes high-intensity training with Army to combat threats in vital installations**  
महत्वपूर्ण ठिकानों पर खतरों से निपटने के लिए CISF ने सेना के साथ उच्च स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण शुरू किया
- 4. Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by Army**  
सेना द्वारा लद्दाख में आकाश प्राइम का सफल परीक्षण
- 5. Constitutional validity of UAPA upheld by High Court**  
उच्च न्यायालय ने यूएपीए की संवैधानिक वैधता बरकरार रखी
- 6. Air India crash probe focuses on actions of captain, says report**  
एयर इंडिया दुर्घटना की जांच कैप्टन की गतिविधियों पर केंद्रित: रिपोर्ट
- 7. Navigating Nutrition Information in the Era of Social Media**



सोशल मीडिया के युग में पोषण संबंधी जानकारी को समझना

**8. Lab-grown Cells Help Restore Insulin in 12 Persons with Severe Type 1 Diabetes**

लैब-में उगाए गए कोशिकाएं गंभीर प्रकार 1 मधुमेह वाले 12 व्यक्तियों में इंसुलिन को बहाल करने में मदद करती हैं

**9. Stepping Stone: The NASA-Axiom-ISRO Tie-up is an Admirable Outcome**

मील का पत्थर: NASA-Axiom-ISRO का सहयोग एक सराहनीय उपलब्धि है

**10. A better terror fight with J&K police under state reins**

राज्य नियंत्रण में होने पर जम्मू-कश्मीर पुलिस के साथ बेहतर आतंकवाद विरोधी लड़ाई

**11. How is China leading the green energy sector?**

चीन हरित ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कैसे अग्रणी बन रहा है?

**12. PNGRB asks city gas firms to supply piped gas to all households at uniform rate**

पीएनजीआरबी ने शहरी गैस कंपनियों से सभी घरों में एक समान दर पर पाइप से गैस की आपूर्ति करने को कहा है।

**Warm welcome**



GS III: Defence

**Port call:** One of the Indian Naval Ships of the Eastern Fleet being welcomed in Singapore. Indian Naval Ships *Delhi*, *Satpura*, *Shakti*, and *Kiltan* arrived to a warm reception from the Singapore Navy and the Indian High Commission. PTI



GS III: Environment  
UPPCS

## One killed, two injured in tiger attacks in U.P.'s Pilibhit

Two tigers attacked villagers in separate incidents within a span of three hours in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district on Thursday, killing one woman and injuring two others. The villagers staged a protest and alleged that despite repeated human-animal conflicts and spotting of tigers, the authorities had failed to provide security to them. Forest officials were directed to intensify surveillance and deploy expert teams to track the tigers. Divisional Forest Officer, Bharat Kumar, said a trained team has been deployed at the spot following official approval for the tiger's capture.

टीमों को तैनात करें ताकि बाघों का पता लगाया जा सके।

## One killed, two injured in tiger attacks in U.P.'s Pilibhit

उत्तर प्रदेश के पीलीभीत में बाघ के हमले में एक की मौत, दो घायल

**Tiger Attacks in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**  
पीलीभीत, उत्तर प्रदेश में बाघों का हमला

- Two tigers attacked villagers in **separate incidents within a span of three hours** in **Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district** on **Thursday**, killing **one woman** and injuring **two others**.  
उत्तर प्रदेश के पीलीभीत जिले में गुरुवार को तीन घंटे के भीतर अलग-अलग घटनाओं में दो बाघों ने ग्रामीणों पर हमला किया, जिसमें एक महिला की मौत हो गई और दो अन्य घायल हो गए।
- The villagers staged a **protest** and alleged that despite repeated **human-animal conflicts** and **spotting of tigers**, the **authorities had failed to provide security** to them.  
ग्रामीणों ने प्रदर्शन किया और आरोप लगाया कि बार-बार मानव-पशु संघर्ष और बाघों की मौजूदगी के बावजूद प्रशासन उन्हें सुरक्षा देने में विफल रहा।
- **Forest officials** were directed to **intensify surveillance** and **deploy expert teams** to **track the tigers**.  
वन अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया गया कि वे निगरानी बढ़ाएं और विशेषज्ञ



- **Divisional Forest Officer, Bharat Kumar**, said a **trained team** has been **deployed at the spot** following **official approval for the tiger's capture**.

प्रभागीय वन अधिकारी, भरत कुमार ने बताया कि बाघ को पकड़ने की आधिकारिक मंजूरी मिलने के बाद प्रशिक्षित टीम को मौके पर तैनात किया गया है।

## Kerala man missing after Houthis attack ship in Red Sea

GS II: West Asia

The Hindu Bureau

ALAPPUZHA

A Keralite hailing from Alappuzha district has been reported missing after a cargo vessel sank in the Red Sea following an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on July 7.

The missing person has been identified as Anilkumar Raveendran, 52, a security officer. As per relatives, Mr. Anilkumar last contacted them on July 6.

The vessel, *MV Eternity C*, a Liberian-flagged cargo ship, was en route to the Israeli port of Eilat when it came under attack.

## Kerala man missing after Houthis attack ship in Red Sea लाल सागर में हूतियों के जहाज पर हमले के बाद केरल का व्यक्ति लापता

- A Keralite from **Alappuzha district** has been **reported missing** after a cargo vessel sank in the **Red Sea** following a **Houthi rebel attack** on **July 7**.

केरल के अलप्पुझा जिले का एक व्यक्ति 7 जुलाई को यमन के हूथी विद्रोहियों के हमले के बाद रेड सी में मालवाहक जहाज डूबने के चलते लापता हो गया है।

- The missing person is **Anilkumar Raveendran**, aged **52**, who was working as a **security officer**.

लापता व्यक्ति की पहचान 52 वर्षीय अनिलकुमार रवींद्रन के रूप में हुई है, जो एक सुरक्षा अधिकारी के रूप में कार्यरत थे।

- According to relatives, Mr. Anilkumar **last contacted** his family on **July 6**. रिश्तेदारों के अनुसार, अनिलकुमार ने अंतिम बार 6 जुलाई को परिवार से संपर्क किया था।

- The vessel, **MV Eternity C**, was a **Liberian-flagged cargo ship** en route to the **Israeli port of Eilat** when it was **attacked**.

एमवी इटर्निटी सी नामक यह जहाज लाइबेरिया ध्वजधारी मालवाहक पोत था, जो इज़राइल के ईलात बंदरगाह जा रहा था, जब उस पर हमला हुआ।



# CISF undergoes high-intensity training with Army to combat threats in vital installations

**GS III: Security Forces**

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, the Union Home Ministry has enhanced security at vital installations across the country, including the Parliament building and nuclear power plants.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel deployed at the Parliament building are being trained with the Army to combat terrorist strikes, drone attacks, and internal sabotage, a CISF official said on Thursday.

Their weapons will be upgraded in the coming days too, the official said. The training module of canine squads is also being changed.

The CISF took over Par-



**Keeping a close eye:** The CISF Parliament security team during the specialised army commando training. X/@CISFHQRS

liament security in June 2024 following a security breach in the new Parliament building on December 13, 2023. It replaced the Delhi Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The Monsoon Session of Parliament begins on July 21.

The official said that the joint-training exercises with the Army will prepare the CISF to be "battle-ready" against unconventional and hybrid threats.

"The training with the Army will prepare the CISF personnel to respond swiftly to crises at high-risk

installations such as airports, nuclear facilities, government buildings, and Parliament. The emphasis is on handling complex, high-pressure scenarios such as drone incursions and coordinated terrorist attacks with precision, and calm," the official said.

## Critical sites surveyed

As part of the efforts to secure critical installations, the National Security Guard (NSG) also surveyed 17 religious sites, 21 nuclear installations and 14 sensitive locations recently.

Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security of such installations after Operation Sindoor and directed the CISF to train its personnel in the wake of emerging threats from Pakistan, the official said.

"For the first time, the CISF is conducting training at Indian Army formations in the Kashmir Valley... Previously, only a limited number of CISF personnel were allotted seats for such exercises. The goal is to equip the personnel to handle contingencies such as armed infiltration, sabotage, and multi-pronged terror strikes in both urban and rural environments," the official added.

The personnel selected for the high-intensity training are part of CISF's Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs). "Only those under 35 years of age and who have passed the Battle Physical Efficiency Test (BPET) aligned with National Security Guard (NSG) standards are eligible," said the official.

## CISF undergoes high-intensity training with Army to combat threats in vital installations

### महत्वपूर्ण ठिकानों पर खतरों से निपटने के लिए CISF ने सेना के साथ उच्च स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण शुरू किया

- Following **Operation Sindoor**, the **Union Home Ministry** has ramped up **security measures** at vital installations like the **Parliament building** and **nuclear power plants**.  
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद, केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने संसद भवन और परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्रों जैसे महत्वपूर्ण ठिकानों पर सुरक्षा कड़ी कर दी है।
- **CISF personnel** deployed at the Parliament are being trained with the **Indian Army** to tackle **terrorist strikes**, **drone attacks**, and **internal sabotage**, a CISF official said.  
संसद में तैनात CISF कर्मियों को आतंकवादी हमलों, ड्रोन हमलों और आंतरिक तोड़फोड़ से निपटने के लिए सेना के साथ प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है।
- **Weapons upgrades** and **revised canine squad modules** are also part of the overhaul.  
हथियारों को अपग्रेड करने और डॉग स्कॉड के प्रशिक्षण मॉड्यूल को बदलने की योजना भी बनाई गई है।
- CISF assumed **Parliament security** in **June 2024**, replacing **Delhi Police** and **CRPF**, after the **security breach on December 13, 2023** in the new Parliament building.  
13 दिसंबर 2023 को नई संसद में सुरक्षा चूक के बाद, जून 2024 में CISF ने संसद की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी संभाली थी, जो पहले दिल्ली पुलिस और CRPF के पास थी।
- The upcoming **Monsoon Session** of Parliament begins on **July 21**.  
संसद का मानसून सत्र 21 जुलाई से शुरू हो रहा है।
- The **joint training with the Army** aims to make CISF "**battle-ready**" against **unconventional and hybrid threats** at high-risk installations like **airports**, **nuclear facilities**, and **government buildings**.  
सेना के साथ संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण का उद्देश्य CISF को एयरपोर्ट्स, परमाणु स्थलों और सरकारी भवनों जैसे संवेदनशील ठिकानों पर असामान्य और मिश्रित खतरों से निपटने के लिए तैयार करना है।



- Emphasis is placed on responding to **drone incursions, coordinated terror attacks, and high-pressure scenarios** with **precision and calm**.  
प्रशिक्षण में ड्रोन घुसपैठ, समन्वित आतंकी हमलों और तनावपूर्ण स्थितियों से सटीक और शांतिपूर्वक निपटने पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।
- The **National Security Guard (NSG)** recently surveyed **17 religious sites, 21 nuclear installations, and 14 sensitive locations** as part of enhanced national security.  
राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा गार्ड (NSG) ने हाल ही में 17 धार्मिक स्थलों, 21 परमाणु ठिकानों और 14 संवेदनशील स्थानों का सर्वेक्षण किया है।
- **Home Minister Amit Shah** reviewed the security of critical infrastructure post Operation Sindoor and instructed CISF to prepare for **emerging threats from Pakistan**.  
गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद महत्वपूर्ण ठिकानों की सुरक्षा की समीक्षा की और पाकिस्तान से उत्पन्न हो रहे खतरों को देखते हुए CISF को तैयार रहने का निर्देश दिया।
- For the first time, **CISF is conducting training at Indian Army formations in the Kashmir Valley**. Previously, only a **few personnel** received such training.  
पहली बार CISF कश्मीर घाटी में भारतीय सेना के सैन्य ठिकानों पर प्रशिक्षण ले रही है। पहले यह प्रशिक्षण केवल कुछ कर्मियों को ही दिया जाता था।
- The focus is on preparing CISF to tackle **armed infiltration, sabotage, and multi-pronged terror strikes** in both **urban and rural areas**.  
प्रशिक्षण का उद्देश्य CISF को शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में हथियारबंद घुसपैठ, तोड़फोड़ और बहु-आयामी आतंकी हमलों से निपटने के लिए तैयार करना है।
- The **selected personnel** are from CISF's **Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs)**. Only those **under 35 years of age** and who have passed the **Battle Physical Efficiency Test (BPET)** as per **NSG standards** are eligible.  
इस उच्च स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण में CISF की त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया टीमों (QRTs) के वे कर्मी भाग ले रहे हैं जो 35 वर्ष से कम आयु के हैं और NSG मानकों के अनुसार बीपीईटी (Battle Physical Efficiency Test) उत्तीर्ण कर चुके हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by Army

GS III: Defence

**Saurabh Trivedi**  
NEW DELHI

To further strengthen the air defence system, the Army has carried out successful trials of the indigenously developed air defence system "Akash Prime" in Ladakh.

A senior official confirmed that the Army Air Defence Corps conducted the trials in collaboration with senior scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which developed the missile system.

The two-day trial was conducted at an altitude of over 15,000 feet in eastern Ladakh. The Akash Prime scored two direct hits on fast-moving aerial targets in the rarefied high-altitude atmosphere.



**On top:** The Army carried out successful trials of the indigenously developed air defence system in Ladakh. X/DRDO

The latest version of the Akash system would form the third and fourth regiments of the Akash air defence systems in the Indian Army. The Akash air defence system is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile platform.

**Prithvi-II and Agni-I**  
The Ministry of Defence on Thursday confirmed that

short-range ballistic missiles – Prithvi-II and Agni-I – were successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.

The launches validated all operational and technical parameters. These tests were conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, added the Ministry.

सेना की वायु रक्षा कोर ने रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिकों के साथ मिलकर यह परीक्षण किया, जिन्होंने यह मिसाइल प्रणाली विकसित की।

- The **two-day trial** was conducted at an **altitude of over 15,000 feet** in **eastern Ladakh**. यह दो दिवसीय परीक्षण पूर्वी लद्दाख में 15,000 फीट से अधिक ऊंचाई पर किया गया।
- The **Akash Prime** scored **two direct hits** on **fast-moving aerial targets** in the rarefied high-altitude atmosphere. आकाश प्राइम ने तेज़ी से उड़ने वाले हवाई लक्ष्यों पर दो सटीक हमले किए, वह भी कम घनत्व वाले उच्च पर्वतीय वातावरण में।
- The latest version of the Akash system would form the **third and fourth regiments** of the Akash air defence systems in the Indian Army. आकाश प्रणाली का यह नवीनतम संस्करण, भारतीय सेना में तीसरी और चौथी रेजिमेंट के रूप में शामिल होगा।
- The Akash air defence system is a **medium-range, surface-to-air missile platform**. आकाश वायु रक्षा प्रणाली एक मध्यम दूरी की सतह से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइल प्रणाली है।

## Prithvi-II and Agni-I पृथ्वी-2 और अग्नि-1

- The **Ministry of Defence** on Thursday confirmed that **short-range ballistic missiles** — **Prithvi-II** and **Agni-I** — were successfully test-fired from the **Integrated Test Range** in **Chandipur, Odisha**. गुरुवार को रक्षा मंत्रालय ने पुष्टि की कि कम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलें — पृथ्वी-2 और अग्नि-1 — को ओडिशा के चांदीपुर स्थित एकीकृत परीक्षण रेंज से सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया गया।

**Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by Army**  
सेना द्वारा लद्दाख में आकाश प्राइम का सफल परीक्षण

- To further strengthen the **air defence system**, the Army has carried out **successful trials** of the indigenously developed air defence system "**Akash Prime**" in **Ladakh**.

वायु रक्षा प्रणाली को और मजबूत करने के लिए सेना ने स्वदेशी विकसित वायु रक्षा प्रणाली "आकाश प्राइम" का लद्दाख में सफल परीक्षण किया।

- A **senior official** confirmed that the **Army Air Defence Corps** conducted the trials in collaboration with senior scientists from the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, which developed the missile system.

एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने पुष्टि की कि



- The launches **validated all operational and technical parameters.**  
इन प्रक्षेपणों ने सभी परिचालन और तकनीकी मापदंडों की पुष्टि की।
- These tests were conducted under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command**, added the Ministry.  
मंत्रालय ने बताया कि ये परीक्षण रणनीतिक बल कमान (Strategic Forces Command) के तत्वावधान में किए गए।

## Constitutional validity of UAPA upheld by High Court

GS III: Internal Security  
Purnima Sah  
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and also of Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A Division Bench comprising Justices A.S. Gadkari and Neela Gokhale held that the UAPA, in its current form, is constitutionally sound. The court rejected the 2021 petition filed by 46-year-old Anil Baburao Baile, a Mumbai resident, who was issued a notice by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in July 2020 in connection with the Elgar Parishad case.

He had challenged the validity of the UAPA, and Section 124A of the IPC, and prayed for a declaration of these laws as *ultra vires* and unconstitutional; and to quash and set aside the NIA notice issued to him.

The Bench found no merit in the arguments and dismissed the petition.

## Constitutional validity of UAPA upheld by High Court उच्च न्यायालय ने यूएपीए की संवैधानिक वैधता बरकरार रखी

- The Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).  
बॉम्बे हाईकोर्ट ने गुरुवार को गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां (रोकथाम) अधिनियम (UAPA) और भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 124A (राजद्रोह) की संवैधानिक वैधता को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाएं खारिज कर दीं।
- A Division Bench of Justices A.S. Gadkari and Neela Gokhale held that the UAPA, in its current form, is constitutionally sound.  
न्यायमूर्ति ए.एस. गडकरी और नीला गोखले की खंडपीठ ने माना कि वर्तमान स्वरूप में UAPA संविधान सम्मत है।
- The court rejected the 2021 petition filed by 46-year-old Anil Baburao Baile, a resident of Mumbai, who had received a notice from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in July 2020 in connection with the Elgar Parishad case.  
अदालत ने मुंबई निवासी 46 वर्षीय अनिल बाबुराव बैले की 2021 में दायर याचिका को खारिज कर दिया, जिन्हें जुलाई 2020 में एल्वार परिषद मामले में राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA) से नोटिस मिला था।
- He had challenged the validity of the UAPA and Section 124A, seeking a declaration that both laws were *ultra vires* and unconstitutional, and requested that the NIA notice be quashed.  
उन्होंने UAPA और धारा 124A की वैधता को चुनौती दी थी, इन्हें असंवैधानिक और विधि के विरुद्ध घोषित करने की मांग की थी, और NIA द्वारा भेजे गए नोटिस को रद्द करने की प्रार्थना की थी।
- The Bench found no merit in his arguments and dismissed the petition.  
खंडपीठ ने याचिकाकर्ता के तर्कों में कोई दम नहीं पाया और याचिका खारिज कर दी।



# Air India crash probe focuses on actions of captain, says report

GS III: GS Paper  
Reuters



The remains of the crashed Air India Boeing 787-8.

A cockpit recording of dialogue between the two pilots of the Air India flight that crashed last month indicates the captain cut the flow of fuel to the plane's engines, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper cited people familiar with U.S. officials' early assessment of evidence uncovered in the investigation into the June 12 crash in Ahmedabad that killed 260 people.

The first officer, who was flying the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, asked the more experienced captain why he moved the fuel switches to the "cutoff" position seconds after lifting off the runway, the report said. The two pilots involved were captain Sumeet Sabharwal and first officer Clive Kunder.

A preliminary report released by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Saturday said the fuel switches had switched from run to cutoff a second apart just after take-off, but it did not say how they were flipped.

One pilot was heard on the cockpit voice recorder asking the other why he cut off the fuel. "The other pilot responded that he did

not do so," the report said.

Without fuel flowing to the engines, the London-bound plane began to lose thrust. After reaching a height of 650 feet, the plane began to sink.

The fuel switches for both engines were turned back to run, and the plane automatically tried restarting the engines, the report said. But the plane was too low and too slow to be able to recover, aviation safety expert John Nance said.

On Thursday, the AAIB said it was too early to reach any "definite conclusions" on what led to the crash. "We urge both the public and the media to refrain from spreading premature narratives that risk undermining the integrity of the investigative process," AAIB chief G.V.G. Yungandhar said, adding that the investigation is still not complete.

## Air India crash probe focuses on actions of captain, says report

### एयर इंडिया हादसे की जांच का फोकस पायलट के निर्णयों पर, रिपोर्ट में खुलासा

- A cockpit voice recording from the Air India flight that crashed on June 12 in Ahmedabad, killing 260 people, indicates the captain may have cut off fuel supply to the engines seconds after takeoff, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report.

12 जून को अहमदाबाद में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुई एयर इंडिया उड़ान की कॉकपिट रिकॉर्डिंग में संकेत मिला है कि कप्तान ने टेकऑफ के तुरंत बाद इंजन की ईंधन आपूर्ति बंद कर दी, जिससे 260 लोगों की मौत हुई, यह जानकारी वाल स्ट्रीट जर्नल ने दी।

- The first officer, Clive Kunder, who was flying the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, reportedly questioned captain Sumeet Sabharwal as to why he moved the fuel switches to the "cutoff" position.

पहले अधिकारी क्लाइव कुंदर, जो विमान उड़ा रहे थे, ने कप्तान सुमीत सभरवाल से पूछा कि उन्होंने ईंधन स्विच को "कटऑफ" स्थिति में क्यों बदला।

- According to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)'s preliminary report, the fuel switches on both engines moved from "run" to "cutoff" a second apart, just after takeoff, but how this happened was not clarified.

विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (AAIB) की प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, टेकऑफ के बाद दोनों इंजनों के फ्यूल स्विच "रन" से "कटऑफ" में बदले, पर कैसे बदले यह स्पष्ट नहीं है।

- In the cockpit voice recording, one pilot asked the other why the fuel was cut, to which the other replied he did not do it.

कॉकपिट वॉयस रिकॉर्डिंग में एक पायलट ने पूछा कि ईंधन क्यों बंद किया गया, और दूसरे ने जवाब दिया कि उसने ऐसा नहीं किया।

- With fuel flow stopped, the plane lost thrust and began to sink after reaching 650 feet altitude.

ईंधन प्रवाह रुकने के कारण, विमान ने अपना बल खो दिया और 650 फीट की ऊंचाई तक पहुंचने के बाद नीचे गिरने लगा।

- Though the fuel switches were turned back to "run" and the aircraft attempted to restart, it was too low and slow to recover, said aviation expert John Nance.

ईंधन स्विच वापस "रन" पर किए गए और विमान ने इंजन दोबारा चालू करने की कोशिश की, लेकिन वह बहुत नीचे और धीमा था, जिससे संभल नहीं पाया, ऐसा उड्डयन विशेषज्ञ जॉन नैन्स ने कहा।

- The AAIB stated on Thursday that it is too early to draw conclusions, and urged the public and media to avoid premature speculation.

AAIB ने गुरुवार को कहा कि निष्कर्ष निकालना अभी जल्दबाजी होगी, और जनता व मीडिया से अपील की कि वे अनुमानों से बचें, जो जांच की निष्पक्षता को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।



- AAIB chief **G.V.G. Yugandhar** emphasized that the **investigation is ongoing**, and no **final cause** has yet been determined.  
AAIB प्रमुख जी.वी.जी. युगंधर ने बताया कि जांच अभी जारी है और अभी कोई अंतिम निष्कर्ष नहीं निकाला गया है।

# Navigating nutrition information in the era of social media

Social media thrives on black-and-white thinking, and much of the information is not always accurate; nutrition science is all about context, dose, and individuality; genetics, gut microbiome, lifestyle, stress levels, and cultural background all determine what works for you, say experts

GS III: S&T

Nabeela Khan

**D**o you start your mornings with detox water, flaxseeds, chia seeds, eat collagen for skin during the day and add a dose of magnesium for good sleep? If your answer is yes, you are not alone.

The global health and wellness market stood at \$1.4 trillion in 2024 according to a report by McKinsey, the multinational consulting firm. The report highlighted that people are prioritising wellness more than ever and are looking for science-backed products.

How is wellness and nutrition a central narrative of our conversations these days? Clinical nutritionist Amita Gadre explained: "Today, the ultimate status symbol is health and vitality. A glowing skin, a high-energy lifestyle, and a fit physique are the new aspirations. And social media is the perfect stage for this display."

However, in an information-filled world, people are struggling to understand nutrition science, an area of study that is already a complex subject.

A recent peer-reviewed study conducted of Indian students highlighted how "social media impacts an individual's eating patterns by acting as a stimulus for immediate consumption of food, cravings and trying trends." Another study from South Africa also found that social media is used to "access and implement nutrition information while showing the inability of participants to assess whether nutrition information on social media is evidence-based and correct."

A simple Google search tells us what to eat or drink and how much, for our weight concerns, skin concerns or even conditions such as diabetes. However, this information is not always accurate, as it is sometimes not backed by strong scientific evidence, may promote conflicting views and could even distort scientific findings to promote one particular food item or product. "While social media has raised awareness, it has simultaneously created a "Wild West" of information that has deeply complicated the public's understanding of nutrition," said Ms. Gadre.

So what is the science behind nutrition and food? Vikrant Ghanekar, scientific officer, Biology Cell at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education explained that the small intestine has an extensive supply of blood vessels to facilitate the uptake of nutrients. He added that "excess vitamins, minerals may not give immediate benefits because water-soluble vitamins (Vitamin B and Vitamin C) are lost through body fluids [urine] and excessive oil-soluble vitamins can be harmful for metabolism. Regular supply through fruits and leafy vegetables is enough to maintain a balance," he said. Ms. Gadre explained how eating one food may not immediately impact our



**Consumption patterns:** A recent peer-reviewed study of Indian students found that social media significantly influences eating behaviours by triggering immediate food consumption, intensifying cravings, and encouraging participation in food trends. GETTY IMAGES

health. "Take Vitamin C as an example (from oranges). It is water-soluble, so it is absorbed in the small intestine and carried in the blood. Your body takes only what it needs. The rest is excreted in urine. No amount of oranges can force your skin to glow instantly. Glow comes from a combination of hydration, healthy fats, protein and antioxidants, not just one vitamin. Also, absorption depends on gut health, the presence of other nutrients, and overall balance." "So yes, eat your oranges. But also eat your dal, rice, ghee, sabzi, nuts – glow comes from nourishment, not gimmicks."

#### 'Food as a cure'

What many struggle to understand or often misunderstand, is whether food can cure diseases or medical conditions. Krish Ashok, author of the book *Masala Lab* explained "good food provides ingredients for the body's immune system to function at its best (genetically determined) capacity. But beyond that, food cannot act like medicine."

It is the same with seeds, spices and water. According to Ms. Gadre, kitchen ingredients such as carom seeds or fennel seeds (*ajwain, dalcini, jeera, saunf*) are great in culinary doses and have traditional digestive benefits. When asked if they could help lose weight, she said, "To expect them to cure obesity or diabetes is taking it too far. Superfoods don't undo overeating or inactivity. Weight loss and metabolic health require exercise, stress and sleep management and calorie balance."

Commenting on daily water

requirements, she said, "Hydration is vital, but that 8-glass rule is generic. Overhydration can lead to electrolyte imbalance. A good rule of thumb: drink when you're thirsty, sip more in hot weather or after workouts, and observe your urine colour – pale yellow is ideal. Water doesn't flush toxins."

A simple keyword search – 'how to lose weight' unwraps a whole lot. Search results lead to multiple videos explaining how to lose weight with the help of 'natural ozempic'. These videos say that a concoction of vegetables such as cucumber, celery, and bitter melon constitute 'Nature's Ozempic' and claim that this can lower blood sugar and melt fat. Ozempic is an antidiabetic and anti-obesity medicine which is prescribed under medical supervision for weight management.

There are multiple videos promoting juices of certain vegetables and drinking these on empty stomach for weight loss. Ms. Gadre, commenting on this trend, explained: "There is no clinical evidence supporting these drinks for sustainable weight loss. Moreover, Ozempic is a prescription GLP-1 drug used for type 2 diabetes under strict medical supervision. You can't DIY that with karela [bitter melon]." She further warned that "Overconsumption of raw vegetable juices can cause bloating, nutrient imbalances, risk of kidney stones and even blood sugar dips if not combined with meals."

While social media promotes certain foods, it also creates fear around a few food products. This makes understanding what to eat and what not more complex.

Both sugar and carbohydrates have earned a bad reputation on social media. And while too much of either can be detrimental, many take extreme measures to curb it from their diets. The Mayo Clinic prescribes: "people need at least 130 grams of carbohydrates every day to meet the body's energy needs." A Johns Hopkins blog post on sugar explains, "Our bodies run on sugar. Removing natural sources of sugar and other carbohydrates from your diet – fruits, dairy products and grains – is not a healthy choice". Diets that cut out all carbohydrates and sugars, such as the ketogenic diet, can be harmful to your health, it says.

Ms. Gadre added: "Social media thrives on black-and-white thinking. Nutrition science is all about context, dose, and individuality. Is sugar "bad"? It depends. A spoonful in your chai is vastly different from drinking a litre of soda. The diet that worked for a 22-year-old actor in Bollywood is unlikely to be the right fit for a 45-year-old working mother in Delhi. Genetics, gut microbiome, lifestyle, stress levels, and cultural background all determine what works for you." When it comes to a nuanced understanding of nutrition science, randomised controlled trials are the gold standard to understand how and why certain foods get easily absorbed by the body. But a lot of claims are based on observations and observational studies, and therefore can or cannot be applied to everyone. (Nabeela Khan is a Delhi-based health and science journalist. [nabeelainayati@gmail.com](mailto:nabeelainayati@gmail.com))

## THE GIST

The global health and wellness market stood at \$1.4 trillion in 2024 according to a report by McKinsey, the multinational consulting firm. The report highlighted that people are prioritising wellness more than ever and are looking for science-backed products

A Google search tells us what to eat or drink and how much, for our weight concerns, skin concerns or even conditions such as diabetes. However, this information is not always accurate, as it is sometimes not backed by strong scientific evidence, may promote conflicting views and could even distort scientific findings to promote one item or product

While social media promotes certain foods, it also creates fear around a few food products. This makes understanding what to eat and what not more complex. The diet that worked for a 22-year-old actor in Bollywood is unlikely to be the right fit for a 45-year-old working mother in Delhi

## Navigating Nutrition Information in the Era of Social Media सोशल मीडिया के युग में पोषण संबंधी जानकारी को समझना

- Social media thrives on black-and-white thinking, and much of the information is not always accurate



सोशल मीडिया काले-सफेद सोच पर फलता-फूलता है, और बहुत सी जानकारी हमेशा सटीक नहीं होती।

- Nutrition science is all about context, dose, and individuality  
पोषण विज्ञान पूरी तरह से संदर्भ, मात्रा, और व्यक्तिगतता पर आधारित होता है।
- Genetics, gut microbiome, lifestyle, stress levels, and cultural background all determine what works for you, say experts  
विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, आनुवंशिकी, गट माइक्रोबायोम, जीवनशैली, तनाव का स्तर, और सांस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि सभी यह तय करते हैं कि आपके लिए क्या प्रभावी होगा।

## Wellness and Nutrition in the Age of Social Media

### सोशल मीडिया के युग में वेलनेस और पोषण

- Do you start your mornings with **detox water, flaxseeds, chia seeds**, eat **collagen** for skin during the day and add a dose of **magnesium** for good sleep?  
क्या आप अपनी सुबह **डिटॉक्स वॉटर, फ्लैक्ससीड्स, चिया सीड्स** के साथ शुरू करते हैं, दिन में **स्किन के लिए कोलेजन** लेते हैं और **अच्छी नींद** के लिए **मैग्नीशियम** लेते हैं?
- If your answer is yes, you are not alone.  
अगर आपका जवाब हाँ है, तो आप अकेले नहीं हैं।
- The **global health and wellness market** stood at **\$1.4 trillion in 2024** according to a report by **McKinsey**, the multinational consulting firm.  
**McKinsey** की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य और वेलनेस मार्केट** का आकार **2024 में \$1.4 ट्रिलियन** था।
- The report highlighted that people are **prioritising wellness** more than ever and are looking for **science-backed products**.  
रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि लोग पहले से कहीं अधिक **स्वस्थ जीवन** को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं और **वैज्ञानिक प्रमाणित उत्पादों** की तलाश में हैं।
- How is wellness and nutrition a **central narrative** of our conversations these days?  
आजकल **वेलनेस और पोषण** कैसे हमारे बातचीत का **मुख्य विषय** बन गया है?
- Clinical nutritionist **Amita Gadre** explained: "Today, the **ultimate status symbol** is **health and vitality**.  
क्लीनिकल न्यूट्रिशनिस्ट **अमिता गद्रे** ने समझाया: "आज का **अंतिम स्टेटस सिंबल** है **स्वास्थ्य और जीवंतता**।
- A **glowing skin**, a **high-energy lifestyle**, and a **fit physique** are the new aspirations.  
**चमकती त्वचा, उच्च ऊर्जा वाली जीवनशैली, और फिट शरीर** आज की नई आकांक्षाएं हैं।
- And **social media** is the perfect stage for this display.  
और यह प्रदर्शन के लिए **सोशल मीडिया** सबसे उपयुक्त मंच है।
- However, in an **information-filled world**, people are struggling to understand **nutrition science**, an area of study that is already a **complex subject**.  
हालांकि, एक **जटिल विषय** है।
- A recent **peer-reviewed study** conducted of **Indian students** highlighted how **social media impacts an individual's eating patterns** by acting as a **stimulus** for immediate consumption of food, cravings and trying trends.  
हाल ही में **भारतीय छात्रों** पर की गई एक **पीयर-रिव्यूड स्टडी** में बताया गया कि **सोशल मीडिया व्यक्तिगत खाने की आदतों को प्रभावित करता है**, जिससे **तुरंत खाना खाने की इच्छा, क्रेविंग्स, और नई ट्रेंड्स को आजमाना बढ़ जाता है**।
- Another **study from South Africa** also found that social media is used to **access and implement nutrition information** while showing the **inability of participants** to assess whether nutrition information on social media is **evidence-based and correct**.  
एक और **दक्षिण अफ्रीका की स्टडी** में पाया गया कि **सोशल मीडिया का इस्तेमाल पोषण की जानकारी प्राप्त करने और अपनाने के लिए किया जाता है**, लेकिन प्रतिभागियों को यह समझने में **असफलता** होती है कि यह जानकारी **प्रमाण आधारित और सही** है या नहीं।
- A **simple Google search** tells us what to eat or drink and how much, for our **weight concerns, skin concerns** or even conditions such as **diabetes**.



एक साधारण गूगल सर्च हमें बताता है कि हमें क्या खाना या पीना चाहिए और कितना, चाहे वह वजन, त्वचा, या डायबिटीज जैसी स्थितियों के लिए हो।

- However, this information is **not always accurate**, as it is sometimes **not backed by strong scientific evidence**, may promote **conflicting views** and could even **distort scientific findings** to promote one particular food item or product.  
हालांकि, यह जानकारी हमेशा सटीक नहीं होती, क्योंकि यह कभी-कभी मजबूत वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण पर आधारित नहीं होती, विरोधाभासी विचारों को बढ़ावा दे सकती है और वैज्ञानिक निष्कर्षों को तोड़-मरोड़ कर किसी एक उत्पाद या खाद्य वस्तु को बढ़ावा दे सकती है।
- "While social media has **raised awareness**, it has simultaneously created a '**Wild West**' of **information** that has **deeply complicated the public's understanding** of nutrition," said Ms. Gadre.  
"हालांकि सोशल मीडिया ने जागरूकता बढ़ाई है, लेकिन साथ ही इसने जानकारी का एक 'वाइल्ड वेस्ट' भी बना दिया है जिसने \*\*पोषण के प्रति लोगों की समझ को जटिल बना दिया है," ऐसा कहना है सुश्री गद्रे का।

### Science Behind Nutrition and Food पोषण और भोजन के पीछे का विज्ञान

- So what is the science behind nutrition and food? Vikrant Ghanekar, **scientific officer**, Biology Cell at **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education** explained that the **small intestine** has an extensive supply of **blood vessels** to facilitate the uptake of nutrients.  
तो पोषण और भोजन के पीछे का विज्ञान क्या है? विक्रान्त घाणेकर, वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी, बायोलॉजी सेल, होमी भाभा विज्ञान शिक्षा केंद्र ने बताया कि छोटी आंत में पोषक तत्वों के अवशोषण के लिए रक्त वाहिकाओं की अच्छी आपूर्ति होती है।
- He added that "**excess vitamins, minerals** may not give immediate benefits because **water-soluble vitamins (Vitamin B and Vitamin C)** are lost through body fluids [urine] and excessive **oil-soluble vitamins** can be harmful for **metabolism**.  
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि "अत्यधिक विटामिन और खनिज तत्काल लाभ नहीं देते क्योंकि जल-में-घुलनशील विटामिन (विटामिन B और C) शरीर के तरल पदार्थों [मूत्र] के माध्यम से बाहर निकल जाते हैं और तेल-घुलनशील विटामिनों की अधिकता मेटाबॉलिज्म के लिए हानिकारक हो सकती है।
- Regular supply through **fruits and leafy vegetables** is enough to maintain a balance," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा कि नियमित रूप से फल और पत्तेदार सब्जियों के सेवन से संतुलन बनाए रखना पर्याप्त होता है।
- Ms. Gadre explained how **eating one food** may not immediately impact our health.  
सुश्री गद्रे ने समझाया कि केवल एक प्रकार का भोजन खाने से तुरंत हमारे स्वास्थ्य पर असर नहीं पड़ता।
- "Take **Vitamin C** as an example (from oranges). It is **water-soluble**, so it is absorbed in the **small intestine** and carried in the **blood**.  
"विटामिन C का उदाहरण लें (संतरे से)। यह जल-घुलनशील होता है, इसलिए यह छोटी आंत में अवशोषित होता है और रक्त में ले जाया जाता है।
- Your body takes only what it needs. The rest is excreted in **urine**.  
आपका शरीर केवल उतना ही लेता है जितनी आवश्यकता होती है। शेष मूत्र के माध्यम से बाहर निकल जाता है।
- No amount of **oranges** can force your **skin to glow** instantly.  
कोई भी मात्रा में संतरे आपके चेहरे को तुरंत नहीं चमका सकते।
- Glow comes from a **combination of hydration, healthy fats, protein and antioxidants**, not just one vitamin.  
चमक हाइड्रेशन, हेल्दी फैट्स, प्रोटीन और एंटीऑक्सीडेंट्स के संयोजन से आती है, केवल एक विटामिन से नहीं।
- Also, **absorption** depends on **gut health**, the presence of other nutrients, and overall balance.  
साथ ही, अवशोषण आंतों के स्वास्थ्य, अन्य पोषक तत्वों की उपस्थिति और कुल संतुलन पर निर्भर करता है।
- "So yes, eat your **oranges**. But also eat your **dal, rice, ghee, sabzi, nuts** — **glow** comes from **nourishment**, not **gimmicks**."



“तो हां, अपने संतरे खाइए। लेकिन साथ ही दाल, चावल, घी, सब्जी, मेवे भी खाइए — चमक पोषण से आती है, नकली उपायों से नहीं।”

### ‘Food as a Cure’

#### ‘भोजन एक इलाज के रूप में’

- What many struggle to understand or often misunderstand, is whether **food can cure diseases or medical conditions**.  
बहुत से लोग यह समझ नहीं पाते या गलत समझते हैं कि क्या **भोजन बीमारियों** या **चिकित्सीय स्थितियों** को ठीक कर सकता है।
- Krish Ashok, author of the book **Masala Lab** explained “**good food** provides ingredients for the body’s **immune system** to function at its best (**genetically determined**) capacity.  
कृष्ण अशोक, **मसाला लैब** पुस्तक के लेखक ने समझाया कि “**अच्छा भोजन** शरीर की **प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली** को अपनी सर्वोत्तम (**आनुवंशिक रूप से निर्धारित**) क्षमता पर कार्य करने के लिए सामग्री प्रदान करता है।
- But beyond that, **food cannot act like medicine.**  
लेकिन इसके आगे **भोजन दवा की तरह काम नहीं कर सकता।**”
- It is the same with **seeds, spices and water**.  
यही बात **बीजों, मसालों और पानी** के साथ भी लागू होती है।
- According to Ms. Gadre, **kitchen ingredients** such as **carom seeds or fennel seeds (ajwain, dalchini, jeera, saunf)** are great in **culinary doses** and have traditional **digestive benefits**.  
सुश्री गाडरे के अनुसार, **अजवाइन, दालचीनी, जीरा, सौंफ** जैसे **रसोई के तत्व खानपान की मात्रा में अच्छे** होते हैं और पारंपरिक **पाचन लाभ** देते हैं।
- When asked if they could help **lose weight**, she said, “To expect them to **cure obesity or diabetes** is taking it too far.  
जब उनसे पूछा गया कि क्या वे **वजन कम करने** में मदद कर सकते हैं, तो उन्होंने कहा, “इनसे **मोटापा या डायबिटीज़** के इलाज की उम्मीद करना बहुत ज्यादा हो जाता है।
- **Superfoods** don’t undo **overeating or inactivity**.  
**सुपरफूड्स** अत्यधिक खाने या गतिहीन जीवनशैली को ठीक नहीं कर सकते।
- **Weight loss and metabolic health** require **exercise, stress and sleep management and calorie balance.**  
**वजन घटाना और मेटाबॉलिक स्वास्थ्य** के लिए **व्यायाम, तनाव और नींद का प्रबंधन तथा कैलोरी संतुलन** आवश्यक है।”
- Commenting on **daily water requirements**, she said, “**Hydration is vital**, but that **8-glass rule** is generic.  
उन्होंने **दैनिक पानी की ज़रूरतों** पर टिप्पणी करते हुए कहा, “**हाइड्रेशन जरूरी है**, लेकिन **8 गिलास का नियम** सामान्य है।
- **Overhydration** can lead to **electrolyte imbalance**.  
**अत्यधिक पानी पीने से इलेक्ट्रोलाइट असंतुलन** हो सकता है।
- A good rule of thumb: drink **when you’re thirsty**, sip more in **hot weather** or **after workouts**, and observe your **urine colour** — **pale yellow** is ideal.  
एक अच्छा तरीका है: जब **प्यास लगे** तो पीजिए, **गर्मी के मौसम** या **व्यायाम के बाद** थोड़ा और पीजिए, और अपने **मूत्र का रंग** देखिए — **हल्का पीला** आदर्श है।
- **Water doesn’t flush toxins.**  
**पानी शरीर से ज़हर (toxins) को बाहर नहीं निकालता।**”

### Misleading Online Trends

#### भ्रामक ऑनलाइन ट्रेंड्स

- A simple keyword search — ‘**how to lose weight**’ unwraps a whole lot.  
एक साधारण कीवर्ड सर्च — ‘**वजन कैसे घटाएं**’ — बहुत कुछ खोल देता है।
- Search results lead to multiple videos explaining how to lose weight with the help of ‘**natural ozempic**’.



सर्च परिणाम कई वीडियो की ओर ले जाते हैं जो 'नेचुरल ओज़ेम्पिक' की मदद से वज़न घटाने की विधि बताते हैं।

- These videos say that a **concoction of vegetables** such as **cucumber, celery, and bitter gourd** constitute '**Nature's Ozempic**' and claim that this can **lower blood sugar** and **melt fat**.

ये वीडियो कहते हैं कि खीरा, अजवाइन और करेला जैसे सब्जियों के मिश्रण को 'प्रकृति का ओज़ेम्पिक' कहा जाता है और दावा करते हैं कि यह ब्लड शुगर कम कर सकता है और चर्बी पिघला सकता है।

- **Ozempic** is an **antidiabetic and anti-obesity medicine** which is prescribed under **medical supervision** for **weight management**.

ओज़ेम्पिक एक मधुमेह और मोटापा विरोधी दवा है जिसे वज़न नियंत्रण के लिए चिकित्सकीय निगरानी में दिया जाता है।

### Understanding Nutrition Trends and Misinformation on Social Media

#### सोशल मीडिया पर पोषण प्रवृत्तियों और गलत जानकारी को समझना

- There are multiple videos promoting juices of certain vegetables and drinking these on empty stomach for weight loss.

कुछ सब्जियों के जूस और इन्हें खाली पेट पीने को लेकर कई वीडियो वायरल हैं जो वजन घटाने को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

- Ms. Gadre, commenting on this trend, explained: "There is **no clinical evidence** supporting these drinks for **sustainable weight loss**.

इस प्रवृत्ति पर टिप्पणी करते हुए Ms. Gadre ने कहा: "इन पेयों के लिए **स्थायी वजन घटाने** का समर्थन करने वाला **कोई नैदानिक प्रमाण** नहीं है।

- Moreover, **Ozempic** is a **prescription GLP-1 drug** used for **type 2 diabetes** under **strict medical supervision**.

इसके अलावा, **Ozempic** एक **प्रिस्क्रिप्शन GLP-1 दवा** है जो **टाइप 2 मधुमेह** के लिए **कठोर चिकित्सकीय निगरानी** में प्रयोग की जाती है।

- You can't DIY that with karela [bitter gourd].

आप इसे **करेला** (bitter gourd) से घर पर खुद नहीं बना सकते।

- She further warned that "**Overconsumption of raw vegetable juices** can cause **bloating, nutrient imbalances, risk of kidney stones**, and even **blood sugar dips** if not combined with meals."

उन्होंने आगे चेतावनी दी कि "**कच्ची सब्जियों के रस** का **अत्यधिक सेवन** करने से **पेट फूलना, पोषण असंतुलन, गुर्दे की पथरी का खतरा**, और यदि भोजन के साथ न लिया जाए तो **ब्लड शुगर में गिरावट** हो सकती है।

- While social media promotes certain foods, it also creates **fear** around a few food products. जहां सोशल मीडिया कुछ खाद्य पदार्थों को बढ़ावा देता है, वहीं कुछ को लेकर **डर** भी फैलाता है।

- This makes understanding what to eat and what not more **complex**.

इससे यह समझना और भी **जटिल** हो जाता है कि क्या खाना है और क्या नहीं।

- Both **sugar** and **carbohydrates** have earned a **bad reputation** on social media.

सोशल मीडिया पर **शुगर** और **कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स** दोनों की **खराब छवि** बनी हुई है।

- And while too much of either can be detrimental, many take **extreme measures** to curb it from their diets.

हालांकि इनका अत्यधिक सेवन हानिकारक हो सकता है, लेकिन कई लोग इन्हें **पूरी तरह डाइट से हटाने** जैसे **चरम उपाय** अपनाते हैं।

- The **Mayo Clinic** prescribes: "People need at least **130 grams of carbohydrates every day** to meet the body's energy needs."

**मेयो क्लिनिक** के अनुसार: "शरीर की ऊर्जा ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए **हर दिन कम से कम 130 ग्राम कार्बोहाइड्रेट** आवश्यक है।"

- A **Johns Hopkins** blog post on sugar explains, "Our **bodies run on sugar**. Removing **natural sources** of sugar and other carbohydrates from your diet — fruits, dairy products and grains — is **not a healthy choice**".



जॉन्स हॉपकिन्स के एक ब्लॉग में बताया गया है, "हमारा शरीर शुगर पर चलता है। प्राकृतिक स्रोतों जैसे फल, दूध और अनाज को डाइट से हटाना स्वस्थ विकल्प नहीं है।"

- Diets that **cut out all carbohydrates and sugars**, such as the **ketogenic diet**, can be **harmful to your health**, it says.  
ऐसे डाइट प्लान जो सभी कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स और शुगर को हटाते हैं, जैसे कि कीटो डाइट, स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक हो सकते हैं।
- Ms. Gadre added: "Social media thrives on **black-and-white thinking**. Nutrition science is all about **context, dose, and individuality**."  
Ms. Gadre ने कहा: "सोशल मीडिया काले-सफेद सोच पर चलता है। पोषण विज्ञान प्रसंग, मात्रा और व्यक्तिगत भिन्नता पर आधारित है।"
- Is sugar "bad"? It depends. A spoonful in your chai is vastly different from drinking a litre of soda.  
क्या शुगर "बुरी" है? यह निर्भर करता है। चाय में एक चम्मच चीनी एक लीटर सोडा पीने से बिलकुल अलग है।
- The diet that worked for a **22-year-old actor in Bollywood** is unlikely to be the right fit for a **45-year-old working mother in Delhi**.  
जो डाइट एक 22 साल के बॉलीवुड अभिनेता के लिए काम करती है, वह शायद दिल्ली की 45 साल की कामकाजी मां के लिए उपयुक्त न हो।
- **Genetics, gut microbiome, lifestyle, stress levels, and cultural background** all determine what works for you.  
आनुवांशिकी, आंतों के सूक्ष्मजीव, जीवनशैली, तनाव स्तर और संस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि तय करते हैं कि आपके लिए क्या उपयुक्त है।
- When it comes to a nuanced understanding of nutrition science, **randomised controlled trials** are the **gold standard**.  
पोषण विज्ञान की गहराई से समझ के लिए रैंडमाइज्ड कंट्रोल्ड ट्रायल्स को सुनहरा मानक माना जाता है।
- But a lot of claims are based on **observations** and **observational studies**, and therefore can or cannot be applied to everyone.  
लेकिन कई दावे अवलोकनों और अवलोकनात्मक अध्ययनों पर आधारित होते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें सभी पर लागू किया जा सकता है या नहीं भी किया जा सकता।



# Lab-grown cells help restore insulin in 12 persons with severe type 1 diabetes

GS III: S&T

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Every day, people with type 1 diabetes track blood sugar, adjust insulin, brace for highs and lows, and watch for signs of the next crash. Even the best technology, including pumps and sensors, can't fully replicate the natural rhythm of a healthy pancreas.

But a new study suggests an innovative approach: instead of working around the damage, what if you could replace what's missing?

A small clinical trial, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in June, tested a therapy called zimislecel: stem cell-derived islet cells infused into the liver. In 12 people with severe, long-standing type 1 diabetes, these cells began producing insulin again, improving blood sugar control and preventing dangerous lows.

It's early days and challenges remain. But for a condition where every treatment has meant compromise, zimislecel signals a way to restore what the disease took away without relying on donor organs.

Type 1 diabetes begins when the immune system attacks the islet cells, which produce insulin and



People with type 1 diabetes track blood sugar, adjust insulin and watch for signs of the next crash. GETTY IMAGES

other hormones that regulate blood sugar. Without these cells, people rely on external insulin, adjusting doses by trial and error. But despite automated delivery systems, about 75% don't reach their recommended blood sugar targets and some continue to experience episodes of low levels.

The idea of replacing lost islets isn't new. Transplants from deceased donors have reduced or eliminated insulin use in some patients. However, as it stands today, the procedure is limited by several practical and logistical hurdles, Nihal Thomas, professor of endocri-

nology and head of the Centre for Stem Cell Research at Christian Medical College, Vellore, said.

"Once the pancreas is removed, the clock starts ticking," Mr. Thomas said. "Extracting the islets isn't straightforward either. You need a Ricordi chamber, a skilled lab team, and, even then, one pancreas may not give you enough. The actual infusion is not that complex, but everything that leads up to it makes the process demanding."

Instead of harvesting islets from donors, scientists made zimislecel by growing islets from pluripotent stem cells in the lab. These were matured into functioning islets and infused into the hepatic portal vein, with the hope that these cells would take root and begin producing insulin inside the body.

The trial enrolled people who had type 1 diabetes for more than two decades, no detectable insulin production, and experienced two to four severe hypoglycaemic events in the previous year. All 12 participants received a full dose of zimislecel and were followed up for at least a year.

To prevent their bodies from rejecting the transplanted cells, they

were placed on an immunosuppressive regimen free of glucocorticoids. Within 90 days, all participants were producing C-peptide, a marker of insulin production, with levels more than doubling by day 365. Blood sugar control improved in tandem.

Phase 3 trials of zimislecel are already underway, with 50 participants from around the world who will be followed for five years.

"This study marks a promising step forward in a field that has seen remarkably slow progress over the last 70 years," Mr. Thomas said. "But if the therapy is eventually introduced to the market, important questions will remain around its cost and the side-effects related to life-long immunosuppression."

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from Delhi. [anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in](mailto:anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in))

**For feedback and suggestions**

for 'Science', please write to [science@thehindu.co.in](mailto:science@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Daily page'

## Lab-grown Cells Help Restore Insulin in 12 Persons with Severe Type 1 Diabetes

लैब-में उगाए गए कोशिकाएं गंभीर प्रकार 1 मधुमेह वाले 12 व्यक्तियों में इंसुलिन को बहाल करने में मदद करती हैं

- Every day, people with **type 1 diabetes** track blood sugar, adjust insulin, brace for highs and lows, and watch for signs of the next crash.  
हर दिन, **टाइप 1 डायबिटीज** वाले लोग **ब्लड शुगर मॉनिटर** करते हैं, **इंसुलिन समायोजित** करते हैं, उतार-चढ़ाव के लिए तैयार रहते हैं, और अगली **गंभीर गिरावट** के संकेतों पर नजर रखते हैं।
- Even the best technology, including **pumps and sensors**, can't fully replicate the natural rhythm of a **healthy pancreas**.  
**पंप और सेंसर** जैसी सबसे अच्छी तकनीक भी **स्वस्थ अग्न्याशय** की **प्राकृतिक लय** की पूरी तरह नकल नहीं कर सकती।
- But a new study suggests an innovative approach: instead of working around the damage, what if you could **replace what's missing**?  
लेकिन एक नया अध्ययन एक **नवाचारपूर्ण तरीका** सुझाता है: यदि नुकसान के चारों ओर काम करने के बजाय आप **जो गायब है उसे ही बदल दें**?
- A small clinical trial, reported in the **New England Journal of Medicine in June**, tested a therapy called **zimislecel**: stem cell-derived **islet cells infused into the liver**.  
**जून में न्यू इंग्लैंड जर्नल ऑफ मेडिसिन** में प्रकाशित एक **छोटे नैदानिक परीक्षण** ने **ज़िमिसेलेस** नामक थेरेपी का परीक्षण किया: **स्टेम सेल से प्राप्त आइलट कोशिकाएं** **लीवर में प्रविष्ट कराई गईं**।



- In **12 people with severe, long-standing type 1 diabetes**, these cells began producing insulin again, improving **blood sugar control** and preventing **dangerous lows**.  
गंभीर और लंबे समय से टाइप 1 मधुमेह से पीड़ित 12 व्यक्तियों में इन कोशिकाओं ने फिर से इंसुलिन बनाना शुरू किया, जिससे ब्लड शुगर नियंत्रण में सुधार हुआ और खतरनाक गिरावट को रोका जा सका।
- It's early days and challenges remain. But for a condition where every treatment has meant compromise, zimislecel signals a way to **restore what the disease took away** without relying on **donor organs**.  
यह अभी शुरूआती दौर है और चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं। लेकिन एक ऐसी बीमारी में जहाँ हर इलाज में समझौता होता है, जिमिसेलेस एक रास्ता दिखाता है जिससे बिना डोनर अंगों पर निर्भर हुए जो खो गया उसे बहाल किया जा सके।

### How Type 1 Diabetes Works

#### टाइप 1 डायबिटीज कैसे काम करती है

- Type 1 diabetes begins when the **immune system attacks the islets cells**, which produce **insulin and other hormones** that regulate blood sugar.  
टाइप 1 मधुमेह तब शुरू होता है जब प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली आइलट कोशिकाओं पर हमला करती है, जो इंसुलिन और अन्य हार्मोन बनाती हैं जो ब्लड शुगर को नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- Without these cells, people rely on **external insulin**, adjusting doses by **trial and error**.  
इन कोशिकाओं के बिना, लोग बाहरी इंसुलिन पर निर्भर रहते हैं, और परीक्षण और त्रुटि के आधार पर खुराक समायोजित करते हैं।
- But despite **automated delivery systems**, about **75% don't reach their recommended blood sugar targets** and some continue to experience **low levels**.  
लेकिन स्वचालित डिलीवरी सिस्टम के बावजूद, लगभग 75% लोग अनुशंसित ब्लड शुगर स्तर तक नहीं पहुँच पाते और कुछ को लगातार लो शुगर का सामना करना पड़ता है।

### Limitations of Donor Transplants

#### डोनर प्रत्यारोपण की सीमाएं

- The idea of replacing lost islets isn't new. **Transplants from deceased donors** have reduced or eliminated insulin use in some patients.  
खोए हुए आइलट की जगह लेने का विचार नया नहीं है। मृत डोनरों से प्रत्यारोपण ने कुछ मरीजों में इंसुलिन के उपयोग को कम या खत्म कर दिया है।
- However, the procedure is limited by several **practical and logistical hurdles**, said **Nihal Thomas**, professor of endocrinology and head of the Centre for Stem Cell Research at **Christian Medical College, Vellore**.  
हालांकि, यह प्रक्रिया कई व्यावहारिक और लॉजिस्टिक बाधाओं से सीमित है, ऐसा कहना है वेल्लोर के क्रिश्चियन मेडिकल कॉलेज में एंडोक्रिनोलॉजी के प्रोफेसर और स्टेम सेल रिसर्च सेंटर के प्रमुख निहाल थॉमस का।
- "Once the pancreas is removed, the clock starts ticking."  
"जैसे ही अग्न्याशय निकाला जाता है, घड़ी चलना शुरू हो जाती है।"
- Extracting the islets isn't straightforward either. You need a **Ricordi chamber**, a **skilled lab team**, and, even then, **one pancreas may not give enough**.  
आइलट निकालना भी आसान नहीं होता। इसके लिए रिकार्डी चैंबर, कुशल लैब टीम, और तब भी एक अग्न्याशय से पर्याप्त कोशिकाएं नहीं मिल सकतीं।
- The actual infusion is not that complex, but everything that leads up to it makes the process **demanding**.  
असली इन्फ्यूजन जटिल नहीं है, लेकिन इसके पहले की प्रक्रिया इसे कठिन और श्रमसाध्य बना देती है।

### Zimislecel: Lab-made Islets

#### जिमिसेलेस: लैब में बनाए गए आइलट



- Instead of harvesting islets from donors, scientists made **zimislecel by growing islets from pluripotent stem cells** in the lab.  
डोनर से आइलट लेने की बजाय, वैज्ञानिकों ने **प्लुरिपोटेंट स्टेम सेल से आइलट उगाकर ज़िमिसेलेस** बनाया।
- These were matured into **functioning islets** and infused into the **hepatic portal vein**, with the hope they would **take root and begin producing insulin**.  
इन्हें **सक्रिय आइलट** में परिपक्व किया गया और **हेपेटिक पोर्टल नस** में डाला गया, इस उम्मीद से कि ये **शरीर में जमकर इंसुलिन का उत्पादन शुरू** करेंगे।

### Clinical Trial Details

#### क्लिनिकल ट्रायल का विवरण

- The trial enrolled people who had **type 1 diabetes for more than two decades**, no detectable **insulin production**, and had **2–4 severe hypoglycaemic events** in the previous year.  
इस परीक्षण में **20 वर्षों से अधिक समय से टाइप 1 मधुमेह, इंसुलिन उत्पादन शून्य, और पिछले वर्ष में 2–4 गंभीर लो शुगर घटनाओं** वाले मरीजों को शामिल किया गया।
- All **12 participants received a full dose** of zimislecel and were followed for at least **a year**.  
सभी **12 प्रतिभागियों को ज़िमिसेलेस की पूरी खुराक** दी गई और **कम से कम एक वर्ष तक निगरानी** में रखा गया।
- To prevent rejection, they were placed on an **immunosuppressive regimen free of glucocorticoids**.  
अस्वीकृति से बचने के लिए उन्हें **ग्लूकोकोर्टिकोइड रहित इम्यूनो-सप्रेसिव दवाओं** पर रखा गया।
- Within **90 days**, all participants were producing **C-peptide**, a **marker of insulin production**, with levels more than **doubling by day 365**.  
**90 दिनों के भीतर**, सभी प्रतिभागियों में **C-पेप्टाइड (इंसुलिन उत्पादन का संकेतक)** बनने लगा और **365वें दिन तक यह दोगुना से अधिक हो गया**।
- **Blood sugar control improved** in tandem.  
इसके साथ ही **ब्लड शुगर नियंत्रण में भी सुधार हुआ**।

### Future Scope and Challenges

#### भविष्य की संभावनाएं और चुनौतियां

- **Phase 3 trials** of zimislecel are already underway, with **50 participants globally**, followed for **five years**.  
ज़िमिसेलेस का **फेज 3 परीक्षण** पहले से चल रहा है, जिसमें **विश्व स्तर पर 50 प्रतिभागी** शामिल हैं और इन्हें **पाँच वर्षों तक निगरानी में रखा जाएगा**।
- "This study marks a **promising step forward** in a field that has seen **remarkably slow progress over 70 years**," Mr. Thomas said.  
श्री थॉमस ने कहा, "यह अध्ययन **एक आशाजनक कदम** है, एक ऐसे क्षेत्र में जहाँ **पिछले 70 वर्षों में बहुत धीमी प्रगति हुई है**।"



- But if the therapy is eventually introduced to the market, **important questions** will remain around its **cost** and the **side-effects** related to **life-long immunosuppression**.  
लेकिन अगर यह थेरेपी बाजार में आती है, तो इसके लागत और जीवन भर इम्यूनो-सप्रेसन से जुड़े दुष्प्रभावों को लेकर महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न बने रहेंगे।



GS III: S&T

## Stepping stone

The NASA-Axiom-ISRO tie-up is an admirable outcome

A crew of four astronauts including India's Shubhanshu Shukla completed their roughly two-week mission to the International Space Station on July 15. Mr. Shukla's trip was presumed to have been an intensive rehearsal ahead of his flight as part of India's first batch of astronauts for ISRO's 'Gaganyaan' mission, currently expected in 2027. The presumption is because the goals of Mr. Shukla's trip, which ISRO arranged for by paying north of ₹500 crore to Axiom Space, have not been officially communicated by Indian authorities. Fortunately, clarifications from Axiom and NASA have since cast more light on its purpose. While ISRO and the Department of Space are still expected to proactively disseminate what they know about their activities under Gaganyaan, not least because of the mission's ₹20,000 crore price tag, Mr. Shukla's trip ought to strengthen ISRO's preparations. Human spaceflight is a highly involved endeavour: once in space, the crew is on its own and the resources to respond to a variety of situations are limited. According to a statement ISRO published after the mission launched on June 25, Mr. Shukla and Prasanth Nair — who is also part of Gaganyaan's first cohort of astronauts and was part of the Axiom mission's backup crew — were familiarised with "advanced spacecraft systems, emergency protocols, scientific payload operations, microgravity adaptation, space medicine, and survival traits". As the mission pilot, per Axiom, Mr. Shukla was also coached on docking and undocking, manual operations, atmospheric reentry, and anomaly management. Onboard the space station, Mr. Shukla was exposed to operations in the Japanese and European modules, for which he and Mr. Nair were trained in Japan and Germany. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has also said that the Axiom mission cost less than what ISRO might have had to invest if it had to train Mr. Shukla on its own. In all, the NASA-Axiom-ISRO tie-up emerges as an admirable outcome, even as space agencies continue to closely guard space technologies for their strategic value.

Concerns that the limitations imposed by the U.S.'s International Traffic in Arms Regulations would prevent the duo from learning much may also be laid to rest. Instead, they may be replaced by concerns about ISRO's piecemeal communication. Astronauts cut inspirational figures and appeal to all ages. As India prepares for its first human spaceflight mission, there can be no better way to build excitement than by facilitating access to India's astronauts. The lack of initiative is hard to rationalise, although it is still not too late. ISRO as well as India's soft power platform will make copious gains by expanding outreach and easing public access to the spacefarers.

## Stepping Stone: The NASA-Axiom-ISRO Tie-up is an Admirable Outcome

### मील का पत्थर: NASA-Axiom-ISRO का सहयोग एक सराहनीय उपलब्धि है

- A crew of **four astronauts including India's Shubhanshu Shukla** completed their roughly **two-week mission to the International Space Station on July 15**.

भारत के शुभांशु शुक्ला सहित चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों की टीम ने 15 जुलाई को लगभग दो सप्ताह का अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन मिशन पूरा किया।

- Mr. Shukla's trip was presumed to have been an **intensive rehearsal ahead of his flight** as part of **India's first batch of astronauts for ISRO's 'Gaganyaan' mission, currently expected in 2027**.

श्री शुक्ला की यह यात्रा मानी जा रही है कि यह गगनयान मिशन के लिए उनकी उड़ान से पहले की गहन अभ्यास यात्रा थी, जो 2027 में संभावित है।

- The presumption is because the **goals of Mr. Shukla's trip**, which ISRO arranged by paying **north of ₹500 crore** to Axiom Space, **have not been officially communicated** by Indian authorities.

यह धारणा इसलिए बनी क्योंकि ISRO ने Axiom Space को ₹500 करोड़ से अधिक का भुगतान करके जो मिशन आयोजित किया, उसके लक्ष्यों को आधिकारिक रूप से साझा नहीं किया गया है।

- Fortunately, **clarifications from Axiom and NASA** have since **cast more light on its purpose**.

सौभाग्य से, Axiom और NASA द्वारा दी गई स्पष्टीकरणों ने मिशन के उद्देश्यों को स्पष्ट किया है।

- While ISRO and the Department of Space are still expected to **proactively disseminate information** about Gaganyaan, especially because of the **mission's ₹20,000 crore price tag**, Mr. Shukla's trip ought to **strengthen ISRO's preparations**.

जबकि ISRO और अंतरिक्ष विभाग से यह अपेक्षा है कि वे ₹20,000 करोड़ लागत वाले गगनयान मिशन के बारे में सक्रिय रूप से जानकारी साझा करें, श्री शुक्ला की यात्रा को ISRO की तैयारियों को मजबूत करने के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

- **Human spaceflight is a highly involved endeavour**: once in space, the crew is on its own and the resources to respond to a variety of situations are limited.

मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान एक अत्यंत जटिल कार्य है: एक बार अंतरिक्ष में जाने के बाद, टीम अपने दम पर होती है और समस्याओं से निपटने के संसाधन सीमित होते हैं।

- According to ISRO's statement after the launch on **June 25**, Mr. Shukla and **Prasanth Nair** — also part of the **first Gaganyaan cohort** and the backup crew for the Axiom mission — were trained in **advanced spacecraft systems, emergency protocols, scientific payload operations, microgravity adaptation, space medicine, and survival traits**.

25 जून को प्रक्षेपण के बाद ISRO के बयान के अनुसार, श्री शुक्ला और प्रशांत नायर — जो गगनयान के पहले दल में हैं और Axiom मिशन के बैकअप कू भी थे — को उन्नत यान प्रणालियाँ, आपात प्रोटोकॉल, वैज्ञानिक पेलोड संचालन, माइक्रोग्रैविटी अनुकूलन, स्पेस मेडिसिन और जीवित रहने के गुणों का प्रशिक्षण मिला।



- As the **mission pilot**, per Axiom, Mr. Shukla was also **coached on docking and undocking, manual operations, atmospheric reentry, and anomaly management**.  
Axiom के अनुसार, मिशन पायलट के रूप में श्री शुक्ला को डॉकिंग और अनडॉकिंग, मैनुअल संचालन, वायुमंडलीय पुनःप्रवेश और गड़बड़ी प्रबंधन का भी प्रशिक्षण दिया गया।
- Onboard the space station, Mr. Shukla was **exposed to operations in the Japanese and European modules**, for which he and Mr. Nair **were trained in Japan and Germany**.  
अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर श्री शुक्ला को जापानी और यूरोपीय मॉड्यूल में संचालन का अनुभव मिला, जिसके लिए उन्हें और श्री नायर को जापान और जर्मनी में प्रशिक्षित किया गया था।
- ISRO Chairman **V. Narayanan** has also said that the **Axiom mission cost less than** what ISRO might have had to invest if it had to **train Mr. Shukla on its own**.  
ISRO अध्यक्ष वी. नारायणन ने कहा कि Axiom मिशन की लागत ISRO द्वारा स्वयं प्रशिक्षण देने की अपेक्षित लागत से कम थी।
- In all, the **NASA-Axiom-ISRO tie-up emerges as an admirable outcome**, even as **space agencies continue to closely guard space technologies** for their strategic value.  
कुल मिलाकर, NASA-Axiom-ISRO का सहयोग एक सराहनीय परिणाम के रूप में उभरा है, भले ही अंतरिक्ष एजेंसियाँ अभी भी अंतरिक्ष तकनीकों की रणनीतिक सुरक्षा करती हैं।
- Concerns that **limitations imposed by U.S.'s International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)** would restrict learning may be laid to rest.  
यह चिंता कि अमेरिका के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शस्त्र व्यापार विनियमन (ITAR) की सीमाएं सीखने में बाधा बनेंगी, अब समाप्त मानी जा सकती हैं।
- Instead, **concerns about ISRO's piecemeal communication** may be more relevant.  
इसके बजाय, ISRO की टुकड़ों-टुकड़ों में जानकारी साझा करने की प्रवृत्ति को लेकर चिंताएं अब ज्यादा उचित प्रतीत होती हैं।
- **Astronauts cut inspirational figures and appeal to all ages**.  
अंतरिक्ष यात्री प्रेरणादायक होते हैं और सभी उम्र के लोगों को आकर्षित करते हैं।
- As India prepares for its first **human spaceflight mission**, there can be **no better way to build excitement than by facilitating access to India's astronauts**.  
जब भारत अपनी पहली मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान मिशन की तैयारी कर रहा है, तो भारत के अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को जनता के लिए सुलभ बनाना उत्साह बढ़ाने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका हो सकता है।
- The **lack of initiative is hard to rationalise**, although it is still **not too late**.  
उदासीनता को उचित ठहराना कठिन है, हालांकि अभी बहुत देर नहीं हुई है।
- **ISRO as well as India's soft power platform will make copious gains** by expanding outreach and easing public access to the spacefarers.  
ISRO और भारत के सॉफ्ट पावर प्लेटफॉर्म को काफी लाभ मिल सकता है यदि वे अपनी पहुँच का विस्तार करें और अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को आम जनता के लिए सुलभ बनाएं।



## A better terror fight with J&K police under state reins

GS III: Internal Security

On June 16, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), Manoj Sinha, emphasised that the eradication of terrorism from J&K was the government's top priority. In his address on the occasion of the passing out parade at the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur, he called upon the J&K Police (JAKP) to utilise the modern technology to counter security threats, prevent radicalisation and triumph over adverse situations. He exhorted the JAKP to adopt a multi-pronged approach and harness the power of intelligence, community engagement, technology and inter-agency collaboration, based on good old beat policing.

### Crucial asset

Mr. Sinha could not have been more accurate in underlining the role of the local police in fighting terrorism. The primacy of the local or State police as the fulcrum of counter-terror operations is a well established fact. The central forces – to include the armed forces and central police forces – always supplement and can never supplant the State forces. The strength, and hence the advantage of the local police in the given context, comes from the fact that its personnel belong to the region and know the terrain and demography like no outside force would know.

This intangible asset, as part of the repertoire of the local police, is mainly due to their connect with the local population, facilitating high-grade intelligence of terrorists who operate amidst the population. Can we deny the fact that the terrorists who were behind the Pahalgam strike on April 22, 2025, are still at large mainly due to an existing gap in human intelligence (HUMINT)? Or, for that matter, there indeed was a lack of HUMINT prior to the strike and that had it been present it could have averted Pahalgam? Unless we acknowledge the gap, learn lessons and proceed accordingly, it will be challenging to ward-off potential terror strikes.

It is upon the government to constantly



**Shashank Ranjan**

is an Indian Army veteran (colonel) with substantial experience of serving in a counter-terrorism environment. He currently teaches at the O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana

Placing the J&K police under the command of the elected government will ensure policing strategies that align with the local population's concerns

improve the functional aspects of JAKP, which could contribute to the overall consolidation of the security situation. A beginning needs to be made by placing the JAKP under the command of the government that has been elected by the people.

The local population has the most intimate connect with the elected representative, who cannot be kept out of the loop as far as the security situation is concerned. Developments such as terrorist movements and overground workers' activities in an area can never escape the notice of peoples' representatives, who are one of the most crucial stakeholders in the security matrix. It is reiterated that locals always feel more comfortable to share information with their *sarpanch* or their Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) than with someone from a central agency.

### Restore the democratic structure

J&K has a rich and vibrant democratic culture wherein the population has always participated in local body elections with much enthusiasm. In fact, the participation percentage in elections decreases as one goes up the structure to Assembly and parliamentary elections. Unfortunately, due to the fragile security situation, the local elected representatives – though elected from time to time – have never been empowered as in the constitutional provisions.

The democratic order in J&K needs to be restored, with all tiers in the structure of governance from panchayats/municipal bodies to MLAs and Members of Parliament activated and made responsible for security. In the laid-down tiered structure, the JAKP has a vital role towards participatory execution. If not, there will be an attitude of indifference on the part of peoples' representatives, with a likely trickle-down effect – of an indifferent local population – which will be detrimental to counter-terrorism.

Policymakers will have to encourage a

structured dialogue between police forces and local leaders to collaborate and address community concerns, gather information on terror-related activities and enhance public safety initiatives.

This partnership can lead to more informed decision-making and improved community engagement in policing efforts. In a diverse situation that exists in the various sub-regions of J&K, terrorism has a local flavour, contextualised by participation of local terrorist cadres operating with foreign terrorists. These diverse challenges will have to be tackled by respective local governance, against the one size fits all approach. The JAKP, with its basic unit at the *thana* level, has always been enmeshed with local governance to produce amazing results.

### Bridging the gap

In the present situation of elected representatives having been kept out of the security matrix, the desired end will always be found wanting. The policy measure of restoring the control of the JAKP under the elected government will facilitate better accountability and responsiveness to community needs, ensuring that policing strategies align with the local population's concerns and aspirations. Elected officials can play a vital role in bridging the gap between the police and the community, fostering trust and cooperation essential for effective law enforcement and counter terrorism.

By holding Assembly and parliamentary elections in J&K, we have acknowledged the agency of the people; the measures undertaken will remain an unfinished agenda if not addressed in an inclusive manner. More than terrorism, it is about granting a participatory governance model as against an elitist model, to the people. Mr. Sinha's overall aim of community engagement will remain a pipe dream if elected representatives are not incorporated with vigour, to respect the decision of the people in electing them. An improved security situation will follow.

## A better terror fight with J&K police under state reins

## राज्य नियंत्रण में होने पर जम्मू-कश्मीर पुलिस के साथ बेहतर आतंकवाद विरोधी लड़ाई

### A better terror fight with J&K police under state reins

### राज्य नियंत्रण में होने पर जम्मू-कश्मीर पुलिस के साथ बेहतर आतंकवाद विरोधी लड़ाई

- On June 16, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), Manoj Sinha, emphasised that the eradication of terrorism from J&K was the government's top priority.

16 जून 2025 को, जम्मू-कश्मीर के उपराज्यपाल मनोज सिन्हा ने ज़ोर देकर कहा कि जम्मू-कश्मीर से आतंकवाद का उन्मूलन सरकार की शीर्ष प्राथमिकता है।

- In his address on the occasion of the passing out parade at the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur, he called upon the J&K Police (JAKP) to utilise the modern technology to counter security threats, prevent radicalisation and triumph over adverse situations.

उधमपुर में शेर-ए-कश्मीर पुलिस अकादमी में पासिंग आउट परेड के अवसर पर अपने संबोधन में उन्होंने जम्मू-कश्मीर पुलिस (JAKP) से आग्रह किया कि वह आधुनिक तकनीक का उपयोग करे ताकि सुरक्षा खतरों का मुकाबला, कट्टरता की रोकथाम और विपरीत परिस्थितियों पर विजय प्राप्त की जा सके।

- He exhorted the JAKP to adopt a multi-pronged approach and harness the power of intelligence, community engagement, technology and inter-agency collaboration, based on good old beat policing.

उन्होंने JAKP से कहा कि वह बहु-आयामी रणनीति अपनाए और इंटेलिजेंस, समुदाय की



भागीदारी, तकनीक, और एजेंसियों के बीच सहयोग की शक्ति का उपयोग करे, जो बीट पुलिसिंग के सिद्धांत पर आधारित हो।

### Crucial asset महत्वपूर्ण संपत्ति

- **Mr. Sinha could not have been more accurate in underlining the role of the local police in fighting terrorism.**  
श्री सिन्हा ने स्थानीय पुलिस की भूमिका को आतंकवाद से लड़ाई में रेखांकित करते हुए बिल्कुल सही बात कही।
- **The primacy of the local or State police as the fulcrum of counter-terror operations is a well established fact.**  
यह सिद्ध तथ्य है कि स्थानीय या राज्य पुलिस आतंकवाद विरोधी अभियानों की मुख्य धुरी है।
- **The central forces — to include the armed forces and central police forces — always supplement and can never supplant the State forces.**  
केंद्रीय बल — जिनमें सशस्त्र बल और केंद्रीय पुलिस बल शामिल हैं — हमेशा पूरक होते हैं, वे राज्य बलों का स्थान नहीं ले सकते।
- **The strength, and hence the advantage of the local police in the given context, comes from the fact that its personnel belong to the region and know the terrain and demography like no outside force would know.**  
स्थानीय पुलिस की ताकत और लाभ इस तथ्य में निहित है कि इसके कर्मियों उसी क्षेत्र के निवासी होते हैं और उन्हें भूगोल और जनसांख्यिकी की उतनी जानकारी होती है जितनी किसी बाहरी बल को नहीं हो सकती।
- **This intangible asset, as part of the repertoire of the local police, is mainly due to their connect with the local population, facilitating high-grade intelligence of terrorists who operate amidst the population.**  
यह अमूर्त संपत्ति, जो स्थानीय पुलिस के अनुभव का हिस्सा है, मुख्य रूप से उनकी स्थानीय आबादी से जुड़ाव के कारण होती है, जिससे उन आतंकियों की उच्च स्तरीय खुफिया जानकारी मिलती है जो आम लोगों के बीच छिपे रहते हैं।
- **Can we deny the fact that the terrorists who were behind the Pahalgam strike on April 22, 2025, are still at large mainly due to an existing gap in human intelligence (HUMINT)?**  
क्या हम इस तथ्य को नकार सकते हैं कि 22 अप्रैल 2025 को पहलगाम हमले के पीछे रहे आतंकी अभी भी फरार हैं, मुख्य रूप से ह्यूमन इंटेलिजेंस (HUMINT) में मौजूद खामी के कारण?
- **Or, for that matter, there indeed was a lack of HUMINT prior to the strike and that had it been present it could have averted Pahalgam?**  
या फिर यह भी सच है कि हमले से पहले HUMINT की कमी थी और अगर यह मौजूद होती तो पहलगाम हमला टाला जा सकता था?
- **Unless we acknowledge the gap, learn lessons and proceed accordingly, it will be challenging to ward-off potential terror strikes.**  
जब तक हम इस खामी को स्वीकार, उससे सीख नहीं लेते और उसी अनुसार आगे नहीं बढ़ते, तब तक आगामी आतंकी हमलों को रोकना चुनौतीपूर्ण होगा।
- **It is upon the government to constantly improve the functional aspects of JAKP, which could contribute to the overall consolidation of the security situation.**  
यह सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह JAKP के कार्यात्मक पहलुओं को निरंतर बेहतर बनाए, जिससे सुरक्षा स्थिति की समग्र मजबूती में योगदान हो सके।
- **A beginning needs to be made by placing the JAKP under the command of the government that has been elected by the people.**  
इसकी शुरुआत इस तरह की जानी चाहिए कि JAKP को उस सरकार के अधीन रखा जाए जिसे जनता द्वारा चुना गया है।
- **The local population has the most intimate connect with the elected representative, who cannot be kept out of the loop as far as the security**



situation is concerned.

स्थानीय जनता का सबसे करीबी संबंध उनके चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से होता है, जिन्हें सुरक्षा मामलों से बाहर नहीं रखा जा सकता।

- **Developments such as terrorist movements and overground workers' activities in an area can never escape the notice of peoples' representatives, who are one of the most crucial stakeholders in the security matrix.**  
किसी क्षेत्र में आतंकी गतिविधियाँ और ओवरग्राउंड वर्कर्स की गतिविधियाँ जनता के प्रतिनिधियों की नजर से नहीं बच सकतीं, जो सुरक्षा ढांचे के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हितधारकों में से एक हैं।
- **It is reiterated that locals always feel more comfortable to share information with their sarpanch or their Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) than with someone from a central agency.**  
यह दोहराया जाता है कि स्थानीय लोग अपने सरपंच या विधायक (MLA) के साथ जानकारी साझा करने में अधिक सहज महसूस करते हैं बजाय किसी केंद्रीय एजेंसी के अधिकारी के।

### Restore the democratic structure

#### लोकतांत्रिक ढांचे की बहाली

- J&K has a **rich and vibrant democratic culture** wherein the population has always participated in **local body elections** with much enthusiasm.
- जम्मू-कश्मीर में एक **समृद्ध और जीवंत लोकतांत्रिक संस्कृति** है, जहां जनता ने स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों में हमेशा उत्साह से भाग लिया है।
- In fact, the participation percentage in elections **decreases** as one goes up the structure to **Assembly and parliamentary elections.**
- वास्तव में, जैसे-जैसे कोई **विधानसभा और संसदीय चुनावों** की ओर बढ़ता है, चुनावों में **भागीदारी का प्रतिशत घटता** जाता है।
- Unfortunately, due to the **fragile security situation**, the local elected representatives — though elected from time to time — have **never been empowered** as in the constitutional provisions.  
दुर्भाग्यवश, **नाज़ुक सुरक्षा स्थिति** के कारण, स्थानीय निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों को — समय-समय पर निर्वाचित होने के बावजूद — **संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के अनुसार कभी सशक्त नहीं किया गया।**
- The **democratic order** in J&K needs to be **restored**, with all tiers in the structure of governance from **panchayats/municipal bodies to MLAs and MPs** activated and made **responsible for security.**  
जम्मू-कश्मीर में **लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था** को **पुनर्स्थापित** करने की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें **पंचायतों/नगर निकायों से लेकर विधायकों और सांसदों तक** सभी शासन स्तरों को **सुरक्षा के लिए जिम्मेदार** बनाया जाए।
- In the laid-down tiered structure, the **JAKP has a vital role** towards **participatory execution.** निर्धारित स्तरबद्ध ढांचे में, **JAKP की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका** है **भागीदारीपूर्ण कार्यान्वयन** में।
- If not, there will be an **attitude of indifference** on the part of peoples' representatives, with a likely **trickle-down effect** — of an **indifferent local population** — which will be **detrimental to counter-terrorism.**  
यदि ऐसा नहीं हुआ, तो **जनप्रतिनिधियों की उदासीनता** का भाव होगा, जिससे **स्थानीय जनता की भी उदासीनता** का प्रभाव नीचे तक फैलेगा, जो **आतंकवाद-रोधी प्रयासों के लिए हानिकारक** होगा।
- **Policymakers** will have to encourage a **structured dialogue** between **police forces and local leaders** to collaborate and address community concerns, gather **information on terror-related activities** and enhance **public safety initiatives.**  
**नीति-निर्माताओं** को **पुलिस बलों और स्थानीय नेताओं** के बीच एक **संरचित संवाद** को बढ़ावा देना होगा ताकि वे मिलकर समुदाय की चिंताओं को संबोधित कर सकें, **आतंकी गतिविधियों की जानकारी** जुटा सकें और **सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा पहलों** को मजबूत बना सकें।
- This **partnership** can lead to more **informed decision-making** and improved **community engagement** in policing efforts.  
यह **साझेदारी** अधिक **सूचित निर्णय** लेने और **पुलिसिंग प्रयासों में समुदाय की भागीदारी** बढ़ाने की दिशा में मदद कर सकती है।



- In a **diverse situation** that exists in the various **sub-regions of J&K**, terrorism has a **local flavour**, contextualised by **participation of local terrorist cadres operating with foreign terrorists**.  
जम्मू-कश्मीर के विभिन्न उप-क्षेत्रों में मौजूद विविध स्थितियों में, आतंकवाद का स्थानीय स्वरूप होता है, जो स्थानीय आतंकी कैडरों द्वारा विदेशी आतंकियों के साथ मिलकर संचालित गतिविधियों से जुड़ा होता है।
- These **diverse challenges** will have to be tackled by respective **local governance**, against the **one size fits all** approach.  
इन विविध चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए स्थानीय शासन तंत्र को सक्रिय किया जाना चाहिए, न कि एक जैसे समाधान के दृष्टिकोण से।
- The **JAKP**, with its basic unit at the **thana level**, has always been **enmeshed with local governance** to produce **amazing results**.  
JAKP, जिसकी बुनियादी इकाई थाना स्तर पर है, हमेशा से स्थानीय शासन के साथ जुड़ी रही है और इसने शानदार परिणाम दिए हैं।

### **Bridging the gap खाई को पाटना**

- In the **present situation** of **elected representatives being kept out** of the **security matrix**, the desired end will always be found wanting. **वर्तमान स्थिति में**, जहां निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों को **सुरक्षा तंत्र से बाहर रखा गया है**, वहां वांछित परिणाम हमेशा अधूरे ही रहेंगे।
- The **policy measure** of **restoring the control** of the **JAKP under the elected government** will facilitate **better accountability** and **responsiveness to community needs**, ensuring that **policing strategies align with local concerns**.  
JAKP को निर्वाचित सरकार के नियंत्रण में बहाल करने की नीति उपाय से बेहतर जवाबदेही और समुदाय की जरूरतों के प्रति संवेदनशीलता सुनिश्चित होगी, जिससे पुलिसिंग रणनीतियाँ स्थानीय चिंताओं के अनुरूप होंगी।
- **Elected officials** can play a vital role in **bridging the gap between the police and the community**, fostering **trust and cooperation** essential for **effective law enforcement** and **counter terrorism**.  
निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधि, पुलिस और समुदाय के बीच की खाई को पाटने में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते हैं, जो विश्वास और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देगा और प्रभावी कानून प्रवर्तन और आतंकवाद विरोधी प्रयासों में सहायक होगा।
- By holding **Assembly and parliamentary elections** in J&K, we have **acknowledged the agency of the people**; the measures undertaken will remain an **unfinished agenda** if not addressed in an **inclusive manner**.  
जम्मू-कश्मीर में **विधानसभा और संसदीय चुनाव** करवा कर हमने **जनता की भूमिका को मान्यता दी है**; लेकिन यदि इसे **समावेशी तरीके से नहीं अपनाया गया**, तो यह एक **अधूरा एजेंडा** ही रहेगा।
- More than terrorism, it is about granting a **participatory governance model** as against an **elitist model**, to the people.  
यह सिर्फ आतंकवाद की बात नहीं है, बल्कि जनता को **भागीदारीपूर्ण शासन मॉडल** देना है, न कि कोई **विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त मॉडल**।
- Mr. Sinha's overall aim of **community engagement** will remain a **pipe dream** if **elected representatives are not incorporated** with vigour, to respect the decision of the people in electing them.  
श्री सिन्हा का **समुदाय की भागीदारी** का उद्देश्य **एक सपना मात्र** रह जाएगा यदि **निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों को सक्रिय रूप से शामिल नहीं किया गया**, जिससे जनता के निर्णय का सम्मान हो सके।
- An **improved security situation** will follow.  
इसके बाद **सुरक्षा स्थिति में सुधार** आएगा।



# How is China leading the green energy sector?

China's renewable energy revolution is the result of decades of strategic state planning and massive investments in innovation. State-owned enterprises and banks had a key role to play in the rise of China as a clean-energy superpower

GS III: Environment

## FULL CONTEXT

Kabir Jeet Singh

China installed more wind turbines and solar panels in 2024 than every other nation combined. This statistic alone underlines how China has sped ahead in the global green energy race, cornering the entirety of the renewable supply chain due to firm control over the extraction of key raw materials such as polysilicon and lithium. China also asserts dominance over the manufacturing of solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries. China's renewable energy revolution is the result of decades of strategic state planning and massive investments in innovation. Starting with modest pilot projects in the early 2000s, Beijing is now leading in solar panel and battery production. In 2024 alone, China allocated a remarkable \$940 billion into the renewable energy sector, according to U.K.-based research organisation Carbon Brief, from an initial investment of \$10.7 billion in 2006. In comparison, India's renewable energy sector received a combined total investment of \$3.4 billion in 2024-25 as per the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water, highlighting the stark gap.

### Turning crisis into opportunity

Apart from climate goals, what mainly inspired China's green revolution was a mounting crisis of extremely high levels of air pollution, coupled with concerns about energy insecurity. By the early 2000s, the country's reliance on coal had made its cities nearly unliveable, resulting in air pollution so bad in Beijing and Shanghai that it was visible from space and had garnered global attention. Importantly, growing public awareness about the adverse effects of air pollution played a key role in pressuring the government to act.

Moreover, surging electricity demand left parts of the nation teetering on the edge of blackouts. Also, increasing dependence on foreign oil triggered concerns over energy security. China's oil imports are largely dependent on West Asia and sensitive shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz and the South China Sea.

Therefore, what began as a survival strategy quickly evolved into a platform for national ambition. In less than two decades, China transitioned from an environmental underdog to a clean-energy driven superpower. The turning point came with the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010), which elevated renewable energy to a national strategic priority. The passage of the Renewable Energy Law in 2005 created legal backing for this vision, offering grid access guarantees and price incentives for wind and solar producers, particularly private enterprises that received generous government subsidies. The state poured billions into infrastructure and R&D, while provinces like Gansu, Inner Mongolia, and Jiangsu were identified as early testing grounds for wind and solar farms, in keeping with the Chinese economic practice of starting with pilot projects before scaling up.

### The role of SOEs

State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) and banks had a key role to play in executing plans that were led by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the National Energy Administration (NEA). Public sector banks provided heavy loans, while industrial



**Clean power:** Workers install solar panels at a floating solar plant in Huainan, Anhui province, China in 2017. REUTERS

giants like State Grid, Huaneng, and Genertec brought wind farms and solar parks online at record speed. As SOEs, these firms didn't face the financial limitations of the private sector.

The speed was enabled by a blend of state coordination and market dynamism. While the policy push ensured demand at home, the sheer manufacturing scale drove down prices abroad. From the start, Beijing had a global vision for its ambitions, using programmes such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to push green trade, whether through the export of solar panels, construction of hydropower stations in Africa or building wind farms in Latin America.

"The undertaking of major national projects, quickly integrating funds, technology, and policy resources, and achieving scale effects that private enterprises cannot achieve, that is what led to this growth achieved by SOEs," explains Li Menghui, representative of Genertec. SOEs translated national climate policy into large-scale action, deploying wind farms, solar parks, and high-voltage transmission lines in remote regions. Due to the substantial support provided by the central government in the form of mandates, low-interest credit, and political backing, these companies could move more quickly and take significantly greater risks to innovate than their private counterparts globally.

SOEs were also deployed to focus on niche industries, allowing them to use their vast investments in the development and enhancement of a particular technology. Specialised SOEs were not only involved in building domestic energy infrastructure but also served as ambassadors of China's green agenda abroad. SOEs account for 55% of global renewable energy investment, as per Bloomberg Finance. China's SOEs turned clean energy into a tool of statecraft, aligning economic development with

global dominance in renewable energy. Without them, China's rapid leap from fossil-fuel giant to renewable superpower with global influence would not have been possible.

### Lessons learnt

China's green energy push wasn't without bumps along the way. For instance, in the mid-2010s, wind and solar installations outpaced the ability of the national grid to absorb their output. This led to the curtailment of energy, especially in northern provinces such as Inner Mongolia, Jilin, and Gansu where wind power curtailment was as high as 20% in 2014. These bottlenecks revealed a critical gap in transmission infrastructure. Although the creation of renewable energy projects was rapid, other aspects of national infrastructure could not keep up with the growth. Beijing responded through heavy investments in ultra-high voltage transmission lines and more focus on better integrating renewables into the national grid. Over a decade, State Grid doubled its investment from \$33.31 billion in 2010 to \$88.7 billion this year, according to Reuters.

Another problem was haphazard subsidy policies to SOEs that encouraged wasteful expansion, without adequate oversight. The vast expansion of projects encouraged a build-at-all-costs mentality, leading to redundant projects and inefficiencies across the sector. To correct those issues, Beijing tightened oversight mechanisms and emphasised planning that favoured efficiency and grid-readiness over capacity. One lesson for Beijing was that in the race for renewable development, speed could not trump structure and organisation.

### Global influence

With a sprawling global network spanning 61 countries and a web of joint ventures, with local state-owned enterprises, from

Angola to Hungary to Bangladesh, China's geopolitical presence in the sector has become deeply entrenched. The current focus is on ensuring dominance in the next wave of clean energy technologies. With support guaranteed by the state to firms such as Longi, Goldwind, and CATL, production costs have been slashed due to market dominance, leading to vertical integration and economies of scale. The next wave of advancement in renewable technology will arrive in the form of AI-powered smart grids, green hydrogen, and next-generation nuclear technologies like thorium reactors, all of which Beijing has set its eyes on with the same formula of aggressive state investment, breakthrough deployment, and focus on the export of technology and influence.

The world now faces a bifurcated energy landscape, as the U.S. and its allies scramble to pump billions into reshoring clean energy industries through mechanisms like the Inflation Reduction Act. The key difference between Chinese SOEs and Western private enterprises is the ability of the Chinese state to mobilise large-scale manufacturing capabilities and properly utilise their vast scale. This enables low-cost, high-speed deployment of renewable tech, while the West grapples with higher costs, slower implementation, and far more complex political considerations on the adoption of green energy within each of their countries. The contest of the future, ultimately, will not be about panels or turbines or climate targets but who sets the rules of the global energy game. Will the future of climate tech follow Beijing's centralised, scale-driven blueprint, or will any other player be able to innovate fast enough and demonstrate a credible counter-model to offer to the world?

*Kabir Jeet Singh is a student and writer based in Beijing, with a deep interest in global economics, energy policy, and China's ascent.*

## THE GIST

From the start, Beijing had a global vision for its ambitions, using programmes such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to push green trade, whether through the exports of solar panels, construction of hydropower stations in Africa or building wind farms in Latin America.

Apart from climate goals, what mainly inspired China's green revolution was a mounting crisis of extremely high levels of air pollution, coupled with concerns about energy insecurity.

The key difference between Chinese SOEs and Western private enterprises is the ability of the Chinese state to mobilise large-scale manufacturing capabilities and properly utilise their vast scale.

**How is China leading the green energy sector?**

**चीन हरित ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कैसे अग्रणी बन रहा है?**



- **China installed more wind turbines and solar panels in 2024** than every other nation combined.  
2024 में चीन ने अन्य सभी देशों को मिलाकर जितने विंड टरबाइन और सोलर पैनल लगाए, उनसे अधिक स्थापित किए।
- This statistic alone underlines how **China has sped ahead** in the global **green energy race**, cornering the entirety of the **renewable supply chain**.  
यह आंकड़ा खुद बताता है कि कैसे चीन वैश्विक हरित ऊर्जा दौड़ में तेज़ी से आगे निकल गया है, और नवीकरणीय आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पर उसका नियंत्रण हो गया है।
- Due to **firm control over the extraction of key raw materials** such as **polysilicon** and **lithium**, China dominates the sector.  
पॉलीसिलिकॉन और लिथियम जैसे प्रमुख कच्चे माल के निष्कर्षण पर मजबूत नियंत्रण के कारण चीन इस क्षेत्र में प्रभुत्व बनाए हुए है।
- China also asserts dominance over the **manufacturing of solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries**.  
चीन सोलर पैनलों, विंड टरबाइनों, और बैटरियों के निर्माण में भी दबदबा बनाए हुए है।
- China's **renewable energy revolution** is the result of **decades of strategic state planning** and **massive investments in innovation**.  
चीन की नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्रांति, दशकों की रणनीतिक सरकारी योजना और नवाचार में बड़े निवेश का परिणाम है।
- Starting with **modest pilot projects in the early 2000s**, Beijing is now **leading in solar panel and battery production**.  
2000 के दशक की शुरुआत में मामूली पायलट परियोजनाओं से शुरू होकर, बीजिंग अब सोलर पैनल और बैटरी उत्पादन में अग्रणी बन चुका है।
- In **2024 alone**, China allocated a **remarkable \$940 billion** into the **renewable energy sector**.  
सिर्फ 2024 में ही, चीन ने नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में \$940 अरब का असाधारण निवेश किया।
- The initial investment was **\$10.7 billion in 2006**.  
प्रारंभिक निवेश 2006 में \$10.7 अरब था।
- In comparison, **India's renewable energy sector** received a combined total investment of **\$3.4 billion in 2024-25**, highlighting the **stark gap**.  
तुलना में, भारत के नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र को 2024-25 में कुल \$3.4 अरब का निवेश प्राप्त हुआ, जो बड़े अंतर को दर्शाता है।

### Turning crisis into opportunity

संकट को अवसर में बदलना

- Apart from **climate goals**, what mainly inspired China's green revolution was a **mounting crisis of extremely high levels of air pollution**, coupled with concerns about **energy insecurity**.  
जलवायु लक्ष्यों के अलावा, चीन की हरित क्रांति को प्रेरित करने वाला मुख्य कारण बेहद उच्च स्तर के वायु प्रदूषण का संकट और ऊर्जा असुरक्षा को लेकर चिंता थी।
- By the **early 2000s**, China's **reliance on coal** had made its cities nearly **unliveable**, with air pollution so bad that it was **visible from space**.  
2000 के शुरुआती वर्षों में चीन की कोयले पर निर्भरता ने उसके शहरों को लगभग रहने लायक नहीं छोड़ा, और वायु प्रदूषण इतना बुरा था कि अंतरिक्ष से दिखाई देता था।
- Growing **public awareness** about the **adverse effects of air pollution** played a key role in **pressuring the government** to act.  
वायु प्रदूषण के दुष्प्रभावों के प्रति जन जागरूकता में वृद्धि ने सरकार पर कार्रवाई का दबाव डालने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- Surging **electricity demand** left parts of the nation on the **edge of blackouts**.  
बिजली की मांग में तेज़ी ने देश के कुछ हिस्सों को ब्लैकआउट के खतरे के करीब ला दिया।
- Increasing **dependence on foreign oil** triggered **concerns over energy security**.  
विदेशी तेल पर बढ़ती निर्भरता ने ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंताएं पैदा कीं।



- China's oil imports are largely dependent on **West Asia** and **sensitive shipping lanes** through the **Strait of Hormuz** and the **South China Sea**.  
चीन का तेल आयात मुख्य रूप से **पश्चिम एशिया** और **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** व **दक्षिण चीन सागर** से गुजरने वाले **संवेदनशील समुद्री मार्गों** पर निर्भर है।
- What began as a **survival strategy** quickly evolved into a **platform for national ambition**.  
जो एक **जीवित रहने की रणनीति** के रूप में शुरू हुआ, वह जल्दी ही **राष्ट्रीय महत्वाकांक्षा के मंच** में बदल गया।
- In less than **two decades**, China transitioned from an **environmental underdog** to a **clean-energy driven superpower**.  
**दो दशकों** से भी कम समय में चीन एक **पर्यावरणीय पिछड़े देश** से **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा से संचालित महाशक्ति** बन गया।
- The **turning point** came with the **11th Five-Year Plan (2006–2010)**, which elevated **renewable energy** to a **national strategic priority**.  
**11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना (2006–2010)** के साथ **मोड़ बिंदु** आया, जिसने **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को राष्ट्रीय रणनीतिक प्राथमिकता** में बदल दिया।
- The **Renewable Energy Law** passed in **2005** created **legal backing**, offering **grid access guarantees** and **price incentives** for **wind and solar producers**.  
**2005 में पारित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा कानून** ने **कानूनी आधार** प्रदान किया, जिससे **पवन और सौर उत्पादकों को ग्रिड पहुंच की गारंटी** और **मूल्य प्रोत्साहन** मिला।
- Particularly, **private enterprises** received **generous government subsidies**.  
विशेष रूप से, **निजी कंपनियों को सरकारी सब्सिडी** में उदार सहायता मिली।
- The state invested **billions** into **infrastructure and R&D**.  
सरकार ने **इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और अनुसंधान एवं विकास** में **अरबों का निवेश** किया।
- Provinces like **Gansu, Inner Mongolia, and Jiangsu** were identified as **early testing grounds** for **wind and solar farms**.  
**गांसू, आंतरिक मंगोलिया, और जिआंगसू** जैसे प्रांतों को **पवन और सौर फार्मों के शुरुआती परीक्षण स्थल** के रूप में चुना गया।
- This was in keeping with the **Chinese economic practice** of starting with **pilot projects** before scaling up.  
यह **चीनी आर्थिक अभ्यास** के अनुसार था, जिसमें **बड़े पैमाने पर विस्तार से पहले पायलट परियोजनाएं** शुरू की जाती हैं।

### The role of SOEs

#### राजकीय उद्यमों (SOEs) की भूमिका

- State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) and banks had a key role to play in executing plans that were led by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the National Energy Administration (NEA).  
राजकीय उद्यम (SOEs) और बैंक, चीन के **राष्ट्रीय विकास और सुधार आयोग (NDRC)** तथा **राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा प्रशासन (NEA)** द्वारा संचालित योजनाओं को लागू करने में **महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका** निभा रहे थे।
- Public sector banks provided heavy loans, while industrial giants like State Grid, Huaneng, and Genertec brought wind farms and solar parks online at record speed.  
**सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों** ने **भारी ऋण** दिए, जबकि **State Grid, Huaneng और Genertec** जैसे औद्योगिक दिग्गजों ने **रिकॉर्ड गति** से पवन और सौर ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं को चालू किया।
- As SOEs, these firms didn't face the financial limitations of the private sector.  
राजकीय उद्यम होने के कारण इन कंपनियों को **निजी क्षेत्र जैसी वित्तीय सीमाओं** का सामना नहीं करना पड़ा।
- The speed was enabled by a blend of state coordination and market dynamism.  
यह **गति** राज्य समन्वय और **बाजार की गतिशीलता** के संयोजन से संभव हुई।
- While the policy push ensured demand at home, the sheer manufacturing scale drove down prices abroad.



नीतिगत समर्थन ने घरेलू मांग सुनिश्चित की, जबकि उत्पादन के बड़े पैमाने ने विदेशों में कीमतों को कम कर दिया।

- From the start, Beijing had a global vision for its ambitions, using programmes such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to push green trade, whether through the export of solar panels, construction of hydropower stations in Africa or building wind farms in Latin America. शुरुआत से ही बीजिंग की वैश्विक दृष्टि थी, जिसमें उसने **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** जैसे कार्यक्रमों का उपयोग कर ग्रीन ट्रेड को बढ़ावा दिया—चाहे वह सोलर पैनल का निर्यात, अफ्रीका में जलविद्युत संयंत्रों का निर्माण, या लैटिन अमेरिका में पवन ऊर्जा फार्म बनाना हो।
- “The undertaking of major national projects, quickly integrating funds, technology, and policy resources, and achieving scale effects that private enterprises cannot achieve, that is what led to this growth achieved by SOEs,” explains Li Menghui, representative of Genertec. “बड़े राष्ट्रीय प्रोजेक्ट्स को हाथ में लेना, तेज़ी से फंड, तकनीक और नीति संसाधनों को एकीकृत करना, और ऐसा प्रभाव और पैमाना हासिल करना जो निजी कंपनियां नहीं कर सकतीं—यही SOEs की सफलता का कारण बना,” ऐसा Genertec के प्रतिनिधि ली मेंगहुई ने बताया।
- SOEs translated national climate policy into large-scale action, deploying wind farms, solar parks, and high-voltage transmission lines in remote regions. SOEs ने राष्ट्रीय जलवायु नीतियों को बड़े पैमाने पर कार्यान्वयन में बदला और दूरदराज़ क्षेत्रों में पवन फार्म, सौर पार्क, और उच्च वोल्टेज ट्रांसमिशन लाइनें स्थापित कीं।
- Due to the substantial support provided by the central government in the form of mandates, low-interest credit, and political backing, these companies could move more quickly and take significantly greater risks to innovate than their private counterparts globally. केंद्र सरकार द्वारा आदेशों, कम ब्याज दर वाले ऋणों और राजनीतिक समर्थन के कारण ये कंपनियाँ वैश्विक निजी प्रतिस्पर्धियों की तुलना में तेज़ी से काम कर सकीं और नवाचार में बड़े जोखिम उठा सकीं।
- SOEs were also deployed to focus on niche industries, allowing them to use their vast investments in the development and enhancement of a particular technology. SOEs को विशेष तकनीकी क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए भी तैनात किया गया, जिससे वे किसी विशिष्ट तकनीक के विकास और सुधार में अपने विशाल निवेश का उपयोग कर सकें।
- Specialised SOEs were not only involved in building domestic energy infrastructure but also served as ambassadors of China’s green agenda abroad. विशेषीकृत SOEs ने न केवल घरेलू ऊर्जा ढांचा तैयार किया, बल्कि विदेशों में चीन के हरित एजेंडे के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में भी कार्य किया।
- SOEs account for 55% of global renewable energy investment, as per Bloomberg Finance. Bloomberg Finance के अनुसार, वैश्विक नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा निवेश का 55% हिस्सा SOEs द्वारा किया गया है।
- China’s SOEs turned clean energy into a tool of statecraft, aligning economic development with global dominance in renewable energy. चीन के SOEs ने स्वच्छ ऊर्जा को राज्यशक्ति के उपकरण में बदल दिया, और आर्थिक विकास को नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में वैश्विक प्रभुत्व के साथ जोड़ा।
- Without them, China’s rapid leap from fossil-fuel giant to renewable superpower with global influence would not have been possible. SOEs के बिना, चीन का तेज़ बदलाव—फॉसिल ईंधन आधारित विशाल देश से नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा महाशक्ति बनने तक—संभव नहीं हो पाता।

### Lessons learnt सीखी गई सीखें

- China’s green energy push wasn’t without bumps along the way. चीन की हरित ऊर्जा की पहल में रुकावटें भी आईं।
- For instance, in the mid-2010s, wind and solar installations outpaced the ability of the national grid to absorb their output. उदाहरण के लिए, 2010 के दशक के मध्य में, पवन और सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्रों की स्थापना ने राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड की क्षमता को पार कर दिया।



- This led to the curtailment of energy, especially in northern provinces such as Inner Mongolia, Jilin, and Gansu where wind power curtailment was as high as 20% in 2014.  
इससे ऊर्जा कटौती हुई, विशेषकर उत्तर प्रांतों जैसे इनर मंगोलिया, जिलिन और गांसू में, जहां 2014 में पवन ऊर्जा कटौती 20% तक पहुंच गई।
- These bottlenecks revealed a critical gap in transmission infrastructure.  
इन अवरोधों ने ट्रांसमिशन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में महत्वपूर्ण कमी को उजागर किया।
- Although the creation of renewable energy projects was rapid, other aspects of national infrastructure could not keep up with the growth.  
हालांकि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं का विकास तेज़ था, लेकिन अन्य राष्ट्रीय बुनियादी ढांचे उस रफ्तार से नहीं बढ़ पाए।
- Beijing responded through heavy investments in ultra-high voltage transmission lines and more focus on better integrating renewables into the national grid.  
बीजिंग ने अत्यधिक उच्च वोल्टेज ट्रांसमिशन लाइनों में भारी निवेश और राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के बेहतर एकीकरण पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- Over a decade, State Grid doubled its investment from \$33.31 billion in 2010 to \$88.7 billion this year, according to Reuters.  
**Reuters** के अनुसार, एक दशक में State Grid ने अपना निवेश **\$33.31 बिलियन (2010) से बढ़ाकर \$88.7 बिलियन (इस वर्ष)** कर दिया।
- Another problem was haphazard subsidy policies to SOEs that encouraged wasteful expansion, without adequate oversight.  
एक और समस्या थी **SOEs को दी जाने वाली अनियोजित सब्सिडी नीतियाँ**, जिन्होंने अनुचित विस्तार को प्रोत्साहित किया, पर्याप्त निगरानी के बिना।
- The vast expansion of projects encouraged a build-at-all-costs mentality, leading to redundant projects and inefficiencies across the sector.  
**परियोजनाओं का अत्यधिक विस्तार ने किसी भी कीमत पर निर्माण** की मानसिकता को बढ़ावा दिया, जिससे **अनावश्यक परियोजनाएं और अक्षमताएं** उत्पन्न हुईं।
- To correct those issues, Beijing tightened oversight mechanisms and emphasised planning that favoured efficiency and grid-readiness over capacity.  
इन समस्याओं को सुधारने के लिए, बीजिंग ने **निगरानी तंत्र को सख्त** किया और **क्षमता की बजाय दक्षता और ग्रिड की तत्परता** पर जोर दिया।
- One lesson for Beijing was that in the race for renewable development, speed could not trump structure and organisation.  
बीजिंग के लिए एक **महत्वपूर्ण सीख** यह थी कि **नवीकरणीय विकास की दौड़ में, गति संरचना और संगठन से ऊपर नहीं हो सकती।**

## Global Influence

### वैश्विक प्रभाव

- With a **sprawling global network spanning 61 countries** and a web of **joint ventures** with **local state-owned enterprises**, from **Angola to Hungary to Bangladesh**, **China's geopolitical presence** in the sector has become **deeply entrenched**.  
**61 देशों में फैले विशाल वैश्विक नेटवर्क** और **स्थानीय राज्य के स्वामित्व वाले उपक्रमों के साथ संयुक्त उद्यमों के जाल के साथ**, **अंगोला से हंगरी और बांग्लादेश तक**, **चीन की भू-राजनीतिक उपस्थिति** इस क्षेत्र में **गहराई से जड़ें जमा चुकी है।**
- The current focus is on ensuring **dominance** in the next wave of **clean energy technologies**.  
वर्तमान में ध्यान अगली पीढ़ी की **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा प्रौद्योगिकियों में प्रभुत्व** सुनिश्चित करने पर है।
- With **support guaranteed by the state** to firms such as **Longi, Goldwing, and CATL**, **production costs** have been slashed due to **market dominance**, leading to **vertical integration** and **economies of scale**.  
**Longi, Goldwing, और CATL** जैसी कंपनियों को **राज्य द्वारा गारंटीकृत समर्थन** मिलने से, **बाजार पर प्रभुत्व** के कारण **उत्पादन लागत में भारी कमी** आई है, जिससे **ऊर्ध्वाधर एकीकरण** और **ऋत लाभ** प्राप्त हुए हैं।



- The next wave of advancement in renewable technology will arrive in the form of **AI-powered smart grids, green hydrogen, and next-generation nuclear technologies** like **thorium reactors**, all of which **Beijing has set its eyes on** with the same formula of **aggressive state investment, breakneck deployment, and focus on export** of technology and influence.  
नवीकरणीय प्रौद्योगिकी में अगली प्रगति की लहर एआई-संचालित स्मार्ट ग्रिड, ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, और थोरियम रिएक्टर जैसी अगली पीढ़ी की परमाणु तकनीकों के रूप में आएगी, जिन पर बीजिंग ने अपनी नजरें गड़ा रखी हैं, उसी आक्रामक राज्य निवेश, तेज तैनाती, और प्रौद्योगिकी और प्रभाव के निर्यात पर ध्यान देने के फॉर्मूले के साथ।
- The world now faces a **bifurcated energy landscape**, as the **U.S. and its allies** scramble to **pump billions** into **reshoring clean energy industries** through mechanisms like the **Inflation Reduction Act**.  
दुनिया अब विभाजित ऊर्जा परिदृश्य का सामना कर रही है, क्योंकि अमेरिका और उसके सहयोगी इन्फ्लेशन रिडक्शन एक्ट जैसे उपायों के माध्यम से स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उद्योगों को पुनर्स्थापित करने में अरबों डॉलर झोंकने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- The key difference between **Chinese SOEs** and **Western private enterprises** is the **ability of the Chinese state** to **mobilise large-scale manufacturing capabilities** and **properly utilise their vast scale**.  
चीनी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों और पश्चिमी निजी कंपनियों के बीच मुख्य अंतर यह है कि चीनी राज्य की क्षमता बड़े पैमाने पर विनिर्माण क्षमताओं को सक्रिय करने और अपने विशाल आकार का उचित उपयोग करने में निहित है।
- This enables **low-cost, high-speed deployment** of renewable tech, while the **West grapples with higher costs, slower implementation, and complex political considerations** on the **adoption of green energy**.  
इससे कम लागत और उच्च गति से नवीकरणीय तकनीक की तैनाती संभव होती है, जबकि पश्चिमी देश अधिक लागत, धीमी कार्यान्वयन गति, और हरित ऊर्जा को अपनाने में जटिल राजनीतिक विचारों से जूझ रहे हैं।
- The **contest of the future** will not be about **panels or turbines** or **climate targets**, but **who sets the rules** of the **global energy game**.  
भविष्य की प्रतिस्पर्धा पैनल या टरबाइन या जलवायु लक्ष्यों के बारे में नहीं होगी, बल्कि यह होगी कि वैश्विक ऊर्जा खेल के नियम कौन तय करता है।



- Will the future of **climate tech** follow **Beijing's centralised, scale-driven blueprint**, or will any other player be able to **innovate fast enough** and demonstrate a **credible alternative**?  
क्या जलवायु तकनीक का भविष्य बीजिंग के केंद्रीकृत और स्केल-आधारित खाके का अनुसरण करेगा, या कोई अन्य पक्ष पर्याप्त तेज नवाचार कर एक विश्वसनीय विकल्प प्रस्तुत कर पाएगा?

## PNGRB asks city gas firms to supply piped gas to all households at uniform rate

GS III: Energy

**N. Ravi Kumar**  
HYDERABAD

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) directed city gas distribution (CGD) entities to supply piped natural gas at a uniform rate to all domestic household consumers, irrespective of daily consumption levels.

The oil regulator said this while taking note of a telescopic pricing structure for the gas supply to domestic consumers that certain CGD entities were implementing in which the per standard cubic metre (SCM) price of the commodity escalated as consumption crossed a predefined threshold.



The directive comes in context of a telescopic pricing by CGDs.

“Such pricing practices may inadvertently facilitate unauthorised use of subsidised APM (administered pricing mechanism) gas by commercial consumers who may be misclassified as domestic consumers. Additionally, genuine domestic consum-

ers with higher consumption levels may be unfairly subjected to elevated charges, despite natural gas being supplied to CGD entities at a uniform APM rate,” PNGRB said.

### Thorough review

It advised CGD firms to undertake a ‘thorough review of consumption patterns and investigate anomalous cases where domestic consumers exhibit significantly higher usage relative to industry average and take corrective measures.

It also cited government norms where natural gas is allocated at concessional rates to boost its adoption by households and the transport sector.

**PNGRB asks city gas firms to supply piped gas to all households at uniform rate**  
पीएनजीआरबी ने शहरी गैस कंपनियों से सभी घरों में एक समान दर पर पाइप से गैस की आपूर्ति करने को कहा है।

**Directive by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**  
पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस विनियामक बोर्ड (PNGRB) का निर्देश

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) directed city gas distribution (CGD) entities to supply piped natural gas at a **uniform rate** to all domestic household consumers, irrespective of daily consumption levels.

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस विनियामक बोर्ड (PNGRB) ने सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन (CGD) संस्थाओं को

निर्देश दिया कि वे सभी घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को उनकी **दैनिक खपत के स्तर की परवाह किए बिना** पाइपड नेचुरल गैस **एक समान दर** पर उपलब्ध कराएं।

- The oil regulator said this while taking note of a **telescopic pricing structure** for the gas supply to domestic consumers that certain CGD entities were implementing in which the per standard cubic metre (SCM) price of the commodity escalated as consumption crossed a predefined threshold.  
तेल नियामक ने यह बात उस समय कही जब उसने कुछ CGD संस्थाओं द्वारा घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं के लिए लागू की जा रही **टेलीस्कोपिक मूल्य निर्धारण संरचना** का संज्ञान लिया, जिसमें **प्रति स्टैंडर्ड क्यूबिक मीटर (SCM) गैस की कीमत एक निर्धारित सीमा से अधिक खपत होने पर बढ़ जाती है।**
- “Such pricing practices may inadvertently facilitate **unauthorised use of subsidised APM (administered pricing mechanism) gas** by commercial consumers who may be misclassified as domestic consumers.  
“ऐसी मूल्य निर्धारण प्रथाएं अनजाने में **व्यावसायिक उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा सब्सिडी प्राप्त APM (प्रशासित मूल्य तंत्र) गैस के अनधिकृत उपयोग** को बढ़ावा दे सकती हैं, जिन्हें घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं के रूप में गलत वर्गीकृत किया गया हो सकता है।
- Additionally, genuine domestic consumers with **higher consumption levels** may be unfairly subjected to elevated charges, despite natural gas being supplied to CGD entities at a **uniform APM rate**,” PNGRB said.  
इसके अतिरिक्त, वास्तविक घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को जिनकी **खपत अधिक होती है**, उन्हें **ऊंचे शुल्कों** का अनुचित रूप से सामना करना पड़ सकता है, जबकि CGD संस्थाओं को नेचुरल गैस **एक समान APM दर** पर आपूर्ति की जाती है,” PNGRB ने कहा।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



### Thorough review by CGD firms

#### CGD कंपनियों द्वारा समग्र समीक्षा

- It advised CGD firms to undertake a '**thorough review of consumption patterns**' and investigate anomalous cases where domestic consumers exhibit significantly higher usage relative to industry average and take corrective measures.  
यह CGD कंपनियों को सलाह देता है कि वे 'उपभोग के पैटर्न की समग्र समीक्षा' करें और उन मामलों की जांच करें जहां घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं की खपत उद्योग के औसत से काफी अधिक है और **सही कदम उठाएं**।
- It also cited **government norms** where natural gas is allocated at **concessional rates** to boost its adoption by **households** and the **transport sector**.  
इसने उन **सरकारी मानदंडों** का भी हवाला दिया जहां **घरेलू उपयोग** और **परिवहन क्षेत्र** में प्राकृतिक गैस के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उसे **रियायती दरों** पर आवंटित किया जाता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS