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# PATRIOTIC IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

# 12 FEBRUARY 2026

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12 February

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**5. Know your English**  
**अपनी अंग्रेज़ी जानें**

## BJP's Ritu Tawde becomes Mumbai's 8th woman Mayor

PCS

MUMBAI

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Ritu Tawde took charge as the Mayor of Mumbai on Wednesday, with Sanjay Ghadi of the Shiv Sena as her deputy, in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters. Ms. Tawde is the city's eighth woman Mayor.

It was a smooth sailing for the BJP, which saw its corporator as the Mayor of the country's richest municipal corporation for the first time in 44 years.

Ms. Tawade, who became the 78th Mayor of Mumbai, said, "We are determined to implement effective schemes for women empowerment, employment opportunities for youth, care for senior citizens and for the poor and needy. Digital systems and AI will be used to provide corruption-free admini-



Ritu Tawde

nistration. I would like to assure you that service will be given more importance than politics." Her appointment as Mayor also breaks the 25-years-old rule of undivided Shiv Sena.

In the elections held on January 15 after four years, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 89 corporators elected, while the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) won 29 seats, both together crossing the majority figure of 114 in the 227-member BMC house.

Following the results, the reservation lottery was drawn in which the Mumbai Mayor seat was reserved for woman.

and needy. Digital systems and AI will be used to provide corruption-free administration. I would like to assure you that service will be given more importance than politics."

मुंबई की 78वीं महापौर बनीं सुश्री तावड़े ने कहा, "हम महिला सशक्तिकरण, युवाओं के लिए रोजगार के अवसर, वरिष्ठ नागरिकों तथा गरीब और जरूरतमंदों की देखभाल के लिए प्रभावी योजनाएं लागू करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। भ्रष्टाचार-मुक्त प्रशासन देने के लिए डिजिटल सिस्टम और एआई का उपयोग किया जाएगा। मैं आपको आश्चस्त करना चाहती हूँ कि राजनीति से अधिक सेवा को महत्व दिया जाएगा।"

- Her appointment as Mayor also breaks the **25-years-old rule of undivided Shiv Sena**. महापौर के रूप में उनकी नियुक्ति **अविभाजित शिवसेना के 25 वर्ष पुराने शासन** को भी समाप्त करती है।
- In the elections held on **January 15** after four years, the **BJP emerged as the single largest party with 89 corporators** elected, while the **Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) won 29 seats**, both together crossing the majority figure of **114** in the **227-member BMC house**. चार वर्षों बाद **15 जनवरी** को हुए चुनावों में **भाजपा 89 पार्षदों** के साथ सबसे बड़ी पार्टी बनकर उभरी, जबकि **शिवसेना (एकनाथ शिंदे गुट)** ने **29 सीटें** जीतीं, और दोनों ने मिलकर **227 सदस्यीय BMC सदन** में **114** के बहुमत के आंकड़े को पार किया।

### BJP's Ritu Tawde becomes Mumbai's 8th woman Mayor

**भाजपा की ऋतु तावड़े मुंबई की 8वीं महिला महापौर बनीं**

• **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Ritu Tawde** took charge as the Mayor of Mumbai on Wednesday, with **Sanjay Ghadi** of the Shiv Sena as her deputy, in the presence of **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** and Deputy Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** at the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** headquarters.

**भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP)** की **ऋतु तावड़े** ने बुधवार को **मुंबई** की महापौर के रूप में पदभार संभाला, उनके साथ **शिवसेना** के **संजय घाड़ी** उपमहापौर बने, यह कार्यक्रम **महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस** और **उपमुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे** की उपस्थिति में **बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका (BMC)** मुख्यालय में हुआ।

• Ms. Tawde is the city's **eighth woman Mayor**.

सुश्री तावड़े शहर की **आठवीं महिला महापौर** हैं।

• It was smooth sailing for the **BJP**, which saw its corporator as the Mayor of the **country's richest municipal corporation for the first time in 44 years**. यह **भाजपा** के लिए आसान जीत रही, जिसने **44 वर्षों** में पहली बार देश के सबसे धनी नगर निगम में अपने पार्षद को महापौर बनते देखा।

• Ms. Tawade, who became the **78th Mayor of Mumbai**, said, "We are determined to implement effective schemes for **women empowerment, employment opportunities for youth, care for senior citizens** and for the **poor**



- Following the results, the reservation lottery was drawn in which the **Mumbai Mayor seat** was reserved for women.  
परिणामों के बाद आरक्षण लॉटरी निकाली गई, जिसमें **मुंबई महापौर पद** को महिला के लिए आरक्षित किया गया।

## Glimpse of a new Uttar Pradesh, says Chief Minister for ₹9.12-lakh-crore Budget

**PCS**

**Mayank Kumar**  
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday presented an over a ₹9.12-lakh-crore Budget for 2026-27 in the Assembly, with major allocations set aside for education, agriculture, health, and infrastructure.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the Budget will prove to be a milestone in building a developed Uttar Pradesh.

“The Budget is a vivid glimpse of the new Uttar Pradesh. This Budget will provide new impetus to the State towards fulfilment of public aspirations, employment generation, expansion of investment, and welfare of farmers,” he said, adding that the budget is a part of a “larger vision of establishing the State as a \$1-trillion economy by the year 2029-30”.

Presenting the Budget, Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said the allocations reflect the economic strength of the State and present a “clear road map” for long-term fiscal stability and sustainable



U.P. Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presenting the budget in the Assembly on Wednesday. SANDEEP SAXENA

development. “This is the biggest ever Budget for U.P. The Budget size is almost 12.9% higher than the previous Budget. Our focus is on the overall development of each sector,” he said.

Of the total Budget presented, 19.5% was set aside for capital expenditure, aimed at giving new momentum to infrastructure, industrial development, roads, energy, and urban and rural infrastructure; and 12.4% for education, 9% and 6% for agriculture and health respectively.

### ‘Farewell Budget’

A provision of ₹37,956 crore has been made for

medical, health and family welfare, while an amount of ₹500 crore has been approved for the Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana.

The Budget failed to enthruse the Opposition parties. Stating that this is a “farewell Budget” for the BJP government, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav said, “The BJP has forgotten the promises made to the people. It is misleading the public with figures and propaganda. There is nothing in the budget for the poor, the farmers, and the youth.”

He alleged that the government has not been able to spend even 50% of the Budget for 2025-26.

### Glimpse of a new Uttar Pradesh, says Chief Minister for ₹9.12-lakh-crore Budget

#### ₹9.12 लाख करोड़ के बजट को नए उत्तर प्रदेश की झलक बताते मुख्यमंत्री

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** on Wednesday presented an **over ₹9.12-lakh crore Budget for 2026-27 in the Assembly, with major allocations set aside for education, agriculture, health, and infrastructure.**  
उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने बुधवार को विधानसभा में 2026-27 के लिए ₹9.12 लाख करोड़ से अधिक का बजट प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें शिक्षा, कृषि, स्वास्थ्य और अवसंरचना के लिए प्रमुख आवंटन निर्धारित किए गए हैं।
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** said the Budget will prove to be a milestone in building a developed Uttar Pradesh.



**मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ** ने कहा कि यह बजट विकसित उत्तर प्रदेश के निर्माण में मील का पत्थर साबित होगा।

- “The Budget is a vivid glimpse of the new Uttar Pradesh. This Budget will provide new impetus to the State towards fulfilment of public aspirations, employment generation, expansion of investment, and welfare of farmers,” he said, adding that the budget is a part of a “larger vision of establishing the State as a **\$1-trillion economy by the year 2029-30**”.
- Presenting the Budget, **Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna** said the allocations reflect the economic strength of the State and present a “clear road map” for long-term fiscal stability and sustainable development.

बजट प्रस्तुत करते हुए **वित्त मंत्री सुरेश कुमार खन्ना** ने कहा कि ये आवंटन राज्य की आर्थिक मजबूती को दर्शाते हैं और दीर्घकालिक वित्तीय स्थिरता तथा सतत विकास के लिए “स्पष्ट रोडमैप” प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

- “This is the biggest ever Budget for U.P. The Budget size is almost **12.9% higher than the previous Budget**. Our focus is on the overall development of each sector,” he said.
- Of the total Budget presented, **19.5%** was set aside for capital expenditure, aimed at giving new momentum to infrastructure, industrial development, roads, energy, and urban and rural infrastructure; and **12.4% for education, 9% and 6% for agriculture and health respectively**.

प्रस्तुत कुल बजट में से **19.5%** पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए निर्धारित किया गया, जिसका उद्देश्य अवसंरचना, औद्योगिक विकास, सड़कें, ऊर्जा तथा शहरी और ग्रामीण अवसंरचना को नई गति देना है; तथा **12.4% शिक्षा के लिए**, और क्रमशः **9% और 6% कृषि और स्वास्थ्य** के लिए निर्धारित किया गया।

## ‘Farewell Budget’

### ‘विदाई बजट’

- A provision of **₹37,956 crore** has been made for medical, health and family welfare, while an amount of **₹500 crore** has been approved for the **Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana**.  
चिकित्सा, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण के लिए **₹37,956 करोड़** का प्रावधान किया गया है, जबकि **मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना** के लिए **₹500 करोड़** की स्वीकृति दी गई है।
- The Budget failed to enthuse the Opposition parties.  
यह बजट विपक्षी दलों को उत्साहित करने में विफल रहा।
- Stating that this is a “farewell Budget” for the **BJP government, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav** said, “The BJP has forgotten the promises made to the people. It is misleading the public with figures and propaganda. There is nothing in the budget for the poor, the farmers, and the youth.”  
यह कहते हुए कि यह **भाजपा सरकार** के लिए “विदाई बजट” है, **समाजवादी पार्टी (SP) अध्यक्ष अखिलेश यादव** ने कहा, “भाजपा ने जनता से किए गए वादों को भुला दिया है। वह आंकड़ों और प्रचार के माध्यम से जनता को गुमराह कर रही है। बजट में गरीबों, किसानों और युवाओं के लिए कुछ भी नहीं है।”
- He alleged that the government has not been able to spend even **50% of the Budget for 2025-26**.  
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि सरकार **2025-26 के बजट का 50% भी खर्च नहीं कर पाई है**।



## The fine imposed on Telegram by a Russian court

PCS

**11** million roubles. A Russian court has fined the Telegram messaging app around 11 million roubles (\$142,210.73) for refusing to remove banned content which the authorities regard as extremist. The state communications watchdog said that Telegram would face further restrictions. REUTERS

## The ne imposed on Telegram by a Russian court रूसी अदालत द्वारा Telegram पर लगाया गया जुर्माना

• **11 in a million roubles.** A Russian court has fined the Telegram messaging app around 11 million roubles (\$142,210.73) for refusing to remove banned content which the authorities regard as extremist.

**11 मिलियन रूबल।** एक रूसी अदालत ने Telegram मैसेजिंग ऐप पर लगभग 11 मिलियन रूबल (\$142,210.73) का जुर्माना लगाया है, क्योंकि उसने प्रतिबंधित सामग्री हटाने से इनकार किया, जिसे अधिकारी चरमपंथी मानते हैं।

• The state communications watchdog said that Telegram would face further restrictions.

राज्य संचार निगरानी प्राधिकरण ने कहा कि Telegram को आगे और प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

## Know your English

English  
S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "red carpet welcome?" (Prof. C. Venkataramaiah, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh)

When you are given a "red carpet welcome" or the "red carpet treatment", you are given special treatment on your arrival at some place. You are treated as a guest of honour. As the expression suggests, a thick red carpet is usually rolled out when someone who is considered important visits a place.

When Nelson Mandela visited India, he was given a red carpet welcome. The famous film star was rather disappointed that he wasn't given the red carpet treatment. I was quite surprised that they gave me a red carpet welcome.

The question is, why a red carpet and not a carpet of a different colour? In the old days, the colour red was always associated with honour. Important people wore red robes. For example, the robe that a king wore was always red. The colour red was also associated with magic; fairies were always shown wearing red caps. This sense of red meaning something important is retained in the expression "red letter day". People often refer to important or special days as "red letter days".

Preethi says that 21 October is a red letter day because that's the day she arrived in America.

Scholars claim that it was during the French Revolution that red began to acquire a negative meaning. The people who killed all the nobles during the revolution called themselves "red republicans". Nowadays of course communists are referred to as "reds".

What is the difference in meaning between "stationary" and "stationery"? (Ankit R. Vyas, Chennai)

When an object remains "stationary", it does not move, it stands still.

The train remained stationary for several hours. The truck hit a stationary car. How did Promod manage to run into a stationary bus?

"Stationery", on the other hand, refers to items usually associated with writing – pen, pencil, paper, etc. The secretary informed me that we had run out of stationery.

Could you tell me where the nearest stationery shop is?

Both "stationery" and "stationary" are pronounced the same way. The first two syllables are pronounced like the word "station". The "e" and "a" in the suffix "ery" and "ary" are pronounced like the "a" in "China". The main stress is on the first syllable "sta".

What are goose pimples? (Santhana Krishnan, Vellore, Tamil Nadu)

The pimples that a teenaged goose gets are called goose pimples! Just joking! Do you remember the last time you got terribly scared about something? Usually when someone gets scared, the hairs on their skin stand up and the skin begins to develop small bumps. In fact, the skin begins to look like it is covered by a series of dots. These bumps that you get when you feel scared, excited or cold are called goose pimples. They are also called "goose flesh" and "goose bumps".

Published in The Hindu on July 27, 1999.

disappointed that he wasn't given the red carpet treatment.

प्रसिद्ध फिल्म स्टार काफी निराश थे कि उन्हें रेड कार्पेट ट्रीटमेंट नहीं दिया गया।

- I was quite surprised that they gave me a red carpet welcome. मैं काफी आश्चर्यचकित था कि उन्होंने मुझे रेड कार्पेट वेलकम दिया।
- The question is, why a red carpet and not a carpet of a different colour? प्रश्न यह है कि लाल कालीन ही क्यों और किसी अन्य रंग का कालीन क्यों नहीं?
- In the old days, the colour red was always associated with honour. पुराने समय में लाल रंग को हमेशा सम्मान से जोड़ा जाता था।
- Important people wore red robes. महत्वपूर्ण लोग लाल वस्त्र पहनते थे।

## Know your English अपनी अंग्रेज़ी जानें

• What is the meaning and origin of the expression "red carpet welcome?" (Prof. C. Venkataramaiah, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh) "रेड कार्पेट वेलकम" अभिव्यक्ति का अर्थ और उत्पत्ति क्या है? (प्रो. सी. वेंकटरमैया, तिरुपति, आंध्र प्रदेश)

• When you are given a "red carpet welcome" or the "red carpet treatment", you are given special treatment on your arrival at some place.

जब आपको "रेड कार्पेट वेलकम" या "रेड कार्पेट ट्रीटमेंट" दिया जाता है, तो किसी स्थान पर आपके आगमन पर आपको विशेष सम्मान दिया जाता है।

• You are treated as a guest of honour. आपके साथ सम्मानित अतिथि की तरह व्यवहार किया जाता है।

• As the expression suggests, a thick red carpet is usually rolled out when someone who is considered important visits a place.

जैसा कि अभिव्यक्ति से स्पष्ट है, जब कोई महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति किसी स्थान पर आता है तो आमतौर पर एक मोटा लाल कालीन बिछाया जाता है।

• When Nelson Mandela visited India, he was given a red carpet welcome.

जब नेल्सन मंडेला भारत आए, तो उन्हें रेड कार्पेट वेलकम दिया गया।

• The famous film star was rather



- For example, the robe that a king wore was always red.  
उदाहरण के लिए, राजा जो वस्त्र पहनता था वह हमेशा लाल होता था।
- The colour red was also associated with magic; fairies were always shown wearing red caps.  
लाल रंग को जादू से भी जोड़ा जाता था; परियों को हमेशा लाल टोपी पहने हुए दिखाया जाता था।
- This sense of red meaning something important is retained in the expression “red letter day”.  
लाल का कुछ महत्वपूर्ण अर्थ होना “रेड लेटर डे” अभिव्यक्ति में बना हुआ है।
- People often refer to important or special days as “red letter days”.  
लोग अक्सर महत्वपूर्ण या विशेष दिनों को “रेड लेटर डेज़” कहते हैं।
- Preethi says that 21 October is a red letter day because that’s the day she arrived in America.  
प्रीति कहती है कि 21 अक्टूबर एक रेड लेटर डे है क्योंकि उसी दिन वह अमेरिका पहुँची थी।
- Scholars claim that it was during the French Revolution that red began to acquire a negative meaning.  
विद्वानों का दावा है कि फ्रांसीसी क्रांति के दौरान लाल रंग ने नकारात्मक अर्थ लेना शुरू किया।
- The people who killed all the nobles during the revolution called themselves “red republicans”.  
क्रांति के दौरान सभी कुलीनों को मारने वाले लोग खुद को “रेड रिपब्लिकन्स” कहते थे।
- Nowadays of course communists are referred to as “reds”.  
आजकल कम्युनिस्टों को “रेड्स” कहा जाता है।
- What is the difference in meaning between “stationary” and “stationery”? (Ankit R. Vyas, Chennai)  
“स्टेशनरी” और “स्टेशनरी” के अर्थ में क्या अंतर है? (अंकित आर. व्यास, चेन्नई)
- When an object remains “stationary”, it does not move, it stands still.  
जब कोई वस्तु “स्टेशनरी” रहती है, तो वह नहीं हिलती, वह स्थिर रहती है।
- The train remained stationary for several hours.  
ट्रेन कई घंटों तक स्थिर रही।
- The truck hit a stationary car.  
ट्रक ने एक स्थिर कार को टक्कर मारी।
- How did Promod manage to run into a stationary bus?  
प्रमोद एक स्थिर बस से कैसे टकरा गया?
- “Stationery”, on the other hand, refers to items usually associated with writing — pen, pencil, paper, etc.  
दूसरी ओर, “स्टेशनरी” का संबंध आमतौर पर लेखन से जुड़ी वस्तुओं — पेन, पेंसिल, कागज़ आदि — से है।
- The secretary informed me that we had run out of stationery.  
सचिव ने मुझे बताया कि हमारी स्टेशनरी समाप्त हो गई है।
- Could you tell me where the nearest stationery shop is?  
क्या आप मुझे बता सकते हैं कि सबसे नज़दीकी स्टेशनरी की दुकान कहाँ है?
- Both “stationery” and “stationary” are pronounced the same way.  
“स्टेशनरी” और “स्टेशनरी” दोनों का उच्चारण एक जैसा है।
- The rst two syllables are pronounced like the word “station”.  
पहले दो वर्णांश का उच्चारण “स्टेशन” शब्द की तरह होता है।
- The “e” and “a” in the sux “ery” and “ary” are pronounced like the “a” in “China”.  
“ery” और “ary” प्रत्यय में “e” और “a” का उच्चारण “चाइना” के “a” की तरह होता है।
- The main stress is on the rst syllable “sta”.  
मुख्य बल पहले वर्णांश “sta” पर होता है।
- What are goose pimples? (Santhana Krishnan, Vellore, Tamil Nadu)  
गूस पिम्पल्स क्या होते हैं? (संताना कृष्णन, वेल्लोर, तमिलनाडु)
- The pimples that a teenaged goose gets are called goose pimples!  
एक किशोर हंस को जो पिम्पल्स होते हैं उन्हें गूस पिम्पल्स कहते हैं!
- Just joking!  
मज़ाक कर रहा हूँ!
- Do you remember the last time you got terribly scared about something?  
क्या आपको याद है कि आखिरी बार आप किसी बात से बहुत डर गए थे?
- Usually when someone gets scared, the hairs on their skin stand up and the skin begins to develop small bumps.  
आमतौर पर जब कोई डरता है, तो उसकी त्वचा के बाल खड़े हो जाते हैं और त्वचा पर छोटे-छोटे उभार बनने लगते हैं।



- In fact, the skin begins to look like it is covered by a series of dots. वास्तव में, त्वचा ऐसा दिखने लगती है जैसे वह बिंदुओं की श्रृंखला से ढकी हो।
- These bumps that you get when you feel scared, excited or cold are called goose pimples. जब आप डरते, उत्साहित होते या ठंड महसूस करते हैं तो जो उभार होते हैं उन्हें गूस पिम्पल्स कहते हैं।
- They are also called "goose mesh" and "goose bumps". उन्हें "गूस फ्लेश" और "गूस बम्प्स" भी कहा जाता है।

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

1. **India** won gold in this team sport in the first Asian games held in New Delhi. **Ans: Football**
2. Australia beat Germany in the final of this world cup held in India in 2010. **Ans: Hockey**
3. Name the player who won his first title beating Viswanathan Anand in 2013 in Chennai. **Ans: Magnus Carlsen**
4. This person won the race when India last hosted a Formula 1 race on this circuit. **Ans: Sebastian Vettel; Buddh International Circuit**
5. India is preparing to host the Commonwealth Games again here in this year. **Ans: Ahmedabad; 2030**

Visual: Name this Manchester City and England star. **Ans: Phil Foden**

**Early Birds:** Tamal Biswas| Arun Kumar Singh| Abhiroop Bose| Yeshu Pandey| Syed Sufyan Kirmani

- Published in The Hindu on July 27, 27 जुलाई, 1999 को द हिंदू में प्रकाशित।

## QUIZ

### India's Gold in Football – First Asian Games, New Delhi (1951)

#### Background

- The **first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in March 1951**, marking a historic moment for independent India in international sports.
- Football was one of the major team events included in the competition, drawing participation from leading Asian nations and symbolizing regional sporting unity after colonial rule.
- **India won the gold medal in football by defeating Iran 1–0** in the final.
- The decisive goal was scored by **Sahu Mewalal**. This victory established India as an early football power in Asia and boosted

national pride in the post-independence era.

### Hockey World Cup 2010 – Australia's Victory

- The **2010 Men's Hockey World Cup was hosted by India in New Delhi**, organized by the International Hockey Federation with twelve leading teams.
- **Australia defeated Germany 2–1 in the final** at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, winning their second World Cup title through attacking efficiency and solid defense.

### Magnus Carlsen's First World Chess Championship Title (2013)

- The **World Chess Championship 2013 was held in Chennai, India, between defending champion Viswanathan Anand and Norwegian challenger Magnus Carlsen**.
- Carlsen, known for his exceptional positional play and endgame mastery, entered the match as the world's top-ranked player, representing a new generation of modern chess excellence and scientific preparation in international chess competition.
- Magnus Carlsen defeated Viswanathan Anand with a score of 6.5–3.5, securing his first World Chess Championship title.
- His victory marked a generational shift in world chess and began a long period of dominance.
- Carlsen successfully defended the title multiple times afterward, becoming one of the greatest chess players in history and promoting global popularity of competitive chess.

### Sebastian Vettel – Last Formula One Race Hosted in India

- **India last hosted a Formula One race at the Buddh International Circuit, during the 2013 Indian Grand Prix.**
- **Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel dominated the race, securing pole position, fastest lap, and victory, completing a hat trick of Indian Grand Prix wins from 2011 to 2013.**

### Commonwealth Games 2030 – Proposed Host Ahmedabad



- India is preparing a bid to host the Commonwealth Games 2030 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, aiming to strengthen its global sporting profile after successfully hosting the 2010 Games in New Delhi.
- The proposal focuses on world class infrastructure, including the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave and modern urban transport.
- If finalized, it would mark India's second time hosting the Commonwealth Games, promoting sports development, tourism growth, investment, and international sporting cooperation.

## Gisèle Pelicot publicly recounts harrowing discovery of ex-husband's rape crimes

Associated Press  
PARIS

Gisèle Pelicot's brain froze as the French police officer revealed the unthinkable. "Fifty-three men had come to our house to rape me," she recalls him telling her. Sharing details of the horror that until now had largely been reserved for French courts, Pelicot is publicly telling her story of survival and courage in her own words, in a book and her first series of interviews since a landmark trial in 2024 turned her into a global icon against sexual violence and imprisoned her husband who knocked her out with drugs so other men could assault her inert body.

Extracts of "A Hymn to Life, Shame Has to Change Sides," published Tuesday by French newspaper Le Monde, reworded to November 2, 2020 — the day when her world fell apart. Her then-husband, Dominique Pelicot, had been summoned by police for questioning after a supermarket security guard caught him secretly taking video up women's skirts.

"Super guy" husband Gisèle accompanied him and was completely unprepared for the bombshell delivered by the officer, Laurent Perret. Gradually, and with care, he explained how the man she regarded as a loving husband and whom she de-

scribed as "a super guy" had, in fact, made her the unwitting victim of his perversions.

"I am going to show you photos and videos that are not going to please you," the officer said, words she recounts in the book. The first showed a man raping a woman who had been laid out on her side and dressed up in a suspender belt.

"That's you in this photo," the officer said. He then showed her another photo, and another after that — drawn from a collection of images that Dominique Pelicot took of his wife over the years when he regularly knocked her unconscious by lacing her food and drink with



Extracts of Gisèle Pelicot's book *A Hymn to Life, Shame Has to Change Sides* were published on Tuesday by Le Monde. AP

drugs, so strangers he invited to their home could assault her as he filmed.

Gisèle Pelicot couldn't believe that the inert woman in the photos was her. "I didn't recognize the individuals. Nor this wo-

man. Her cheek was so flabby. Her mouth so limp. She was a rag doll," she writes in her book.

"My brain stopped working in the office of Deputy Police Sergeant Perret."

The shocking case and her courage in demanding that it be tried in open court spurred a national reckoning about the blight of rape culture. The harrowing trial ended in December 2024 with guilty verdicts for all 51 defendants.

Dominique Pelicot and 49 other men were convicted of rapes and sexual assaults over a period of nearly a decade. Another man was convicted of drugging and raping his own wife with Dominique Pelicot's help.

Dominique Pelicot, found guilty on all charges, was given the maximum possible sentence of 20 years in prison. The sentences ranged from three

to 15 years imprisonment for the other convicted men. Only one of them subsequently appealed and saw his sentence for rape increased from nine to 10 years imprisonment.

**Open court hearing** In the book extracts published by Le Monde, Pelicot says that accepting the possibility of a closed-door trial would have protected her abusers and left her alone with them in court, "hostage to their looks, their lies, their cowardice and their scorn."

"No one would know what they had done to me. Not a single journalist would be there to write their names next to their crimes," she explains.

"Above all, not a single woman could walk in and sit in the courtroom to feel less alone."

The 73-year-old adds that had she been twenty years younger, "I might not have dared to refuse a closed-door hearing." "I would have feared the stares," she writes. "Those damned stares of a woman of my generation has always had to contend with, those damned stares that make you hesitate in the morning between trousers and a dress, that follow you or ignore you, flatter you and embarrass you. Those damned stares that are supposed to tell you who you are, what you're worth, and then abandon you as you grow older."

## Gisèle Pelicot publicly recounts harrowing discovery of ex-husband's rape crimes

गिज़ेल पेलिकोट ने पूर्व-पति के बलात्कार अपराधों की भयावह खोज को सार्वजनिक रूप से बयान किया

- **Gisèle Pelicot's brain froze as the French police officer revealed the unthinkable.** गिज़ेल पेलिकोट का दिमाग सुन्न हो गया जब एक फ्रांसीसी पुलिस अधिकारी ने अकल्पनीय बात उजागर की।
- **"Fifty-three men had come to our house to rape me,"** she recalls him telling her. "53 पुरुष हमारे घर मुझे बलात्कार करने आए थे," वह बताती हैं कि अधिकारी ने उनसे यह कहा।
- **Sharing details of the horror that until now had largely been reserved for French courts, Pelicot is publicly telling her story of survival and courage in her own words, in a book and her first series of interviews since a landmark trial in 2024 turned her into a global icon against sexual violence and imprisoned her husband who knocked her out with drugs so other men could assault her inert body.**

अब तक मुख्य रूप से फ्रांसीसी अदालतों तक सीमित इस भयावहता के विवरण साझा करते हुए, पेलिकोट अपनी जीवित बचने और साहस की कहानी अपने शब्दों में, एक पुस्तक और साक्षात्कारों की पहली श्रृंखला में बता रही हैं, क्योंकि 2024 में एक ऐतिहासिक मुकदमे ने उन्हें यौन हिंसा के खिलाफ वैश्विक प्रतीक बना दिया और उनके पति को कैद कर दिया, जिसने उन्हें ड्रग्स देकर बेहोश किया ताकि अन्य पुरुष उनके निष्क्रिय शरीर पर हमला कर सकें।

- **Extracts of "A Hymn to Life, Shame Has to Change Sides,"** published Tuesday by French newspaper Le Monde, reworded to November 2, 2020 — the day when her world fell apart. फ्रांसीसी अखबार Le Monde द्वारा मंगलवार को प्रकाशित "A Hymn to Life, Shame Has to Change Sides" के अंश 2 नवंबर, 2020 — उस दिन — पर लौटते हैं जब उनकी दुनिया बिखर गई।
- **Her then-husband, Dominique Pelicot, had been summoned by police for questioning after a supermarket security guard caught him secretly taking video up women's skirts.** उनके तत्कालीन पति, डोमिनिक पेलिकोट, को पुलिस ने पूछताछ के लिए बुलाया था जब एक सुपरमार्केट सुरक्षा गार्ड ने उन्हें महिलाओं की स्कर्ट के अंदर गुप्त रूप से वीडियो बनाते हुए पकड़ा।

## 'Super guy' husband 'सुपर गाइ' पति

- **Gisèle accompanied him and was completely unprepared for the bombshell delivered by the officer, Laurent Perret.**



गिज़ेल उनके साथ गईं और अधिकारी लॉरेंट पेरे द्वारा दिए गए चौकाने वाले खुलासे के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार नहीं थीं।

- **Gradually, and with care, he explained how the man she regarded as a loving husband and whom she described as “a super guy” had, in fact, made her the unwitting victim of his perversions.**  
धीरे-धीरे और सावधानी से, उन्होंने बताया कि जिसे वह एक प्रेमपूर्ण पति और “सुपर गाइ” कहती थीं, उसने वास्तव में उन्हें अपनी विकृतियों का अनजाने में शिकार बना दिया।
- **“I am going to show you photos and videos that are not going to please you,” the officer said, words she recounts in the book.**  
“मैं आपको ऐसी तस्वीरें और वीडियो दिखाने जा रहा हूँ जो आपको पसंद नहीं आएंगे,” अधिकारी ने कहा, ये शब्द वह पुस्तक में याद करती हैं।
- **The first showed a man raping a woman who had been laid out on her side and dressed up in a suspender belt.**  
पहली तस्वीर में एक पुरुष एक महिला के साथ बलात्कार करता दिख रहा था जिसे करवट लिटाया गया था और सस्पेंडर बेल्ट पहनाई गई थी।
- **“That’s you in this photo,” the officer said.**  
“इस तस्वीर में आप ही हैं,” अधिकारी ने कहा।
- **He then showed her another photo, and another after that — drawn from a collection of images that Dominique Pelicot took of his wife over the years when he regularly knocked her unconscious by lacing her food and drink with drugs, so strangers he invited to their home could assault her as he filmed.**  
इसके बाद उन्होंने एक और फोटो और फिर एक और दिखाई — उन तस्वीरों के संग्रह से जिन्हें डोमिनिक पेलिकोट ने वर्षों तक अपनी पत्नी की ली थीं, जब वह नियमित रूप से उनके भोजन और पेय में ड्रग्स मिलाकर उन्हें बेहोश कर देते थे, ताकि घर बुलाए गए अजनबी उन पर हमला कर सकें जबकि वह फिल्म बनाते थे।
- **Gisèle Pelicot couldn’t believe that the inert woman in the photos was her.**  
गिज़ेल पेलिकोट को विश्वास नहीं हो रहा था कि तस्वीरों में दिखाई गई निष्क्रिय महिला वही थीं।
- **“I didn’t recognize the individuals. Nor this woman. Her cheek was so flabby. Her mouth so limp. She was a rag doll,” she writes in her book.**  
“मैं व्यक्तियों को नहीं पहचान पाई। न ही इस महिला को। उसका गाल बहुत ढीला था। उसका मुंह इतना शिथिल था। वह एक कपड़े की गुड़िया जैसी थी,” वह अपनी पुस्तक में लिखती हैं।
- **“My brain stopped working in the office of Deputy Police Sergeant Perret.”**  
“डिप्टी पुलिस सार्जेंट पेरे के कार्यालय में मेरा दिमाग काम करना बंद कर गया।”
- **The shocking case and her courage in demanding that it be tried in open court spurred a national reckoning about the blight of rape culture.**  
इस चौकाने वाले मामले और इसे खुली अदालत में चलाने की उनकी मांग के साहस ने बलात्कार संस्कृति पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आत्ममंथन को प्रेरित किया।
- **The harrowing trial ended in December 2024 with guilty verdicts for all 51 defendants.**  
यह भयावह मुकदमा दिसंबर 2024 में सभी 51 आरोपियों के लिए दोषी करार दिए जाने के साथ समाप्त हुआ।
- **Dominique Pelicot and 49 other men were convicted of rapes and sexual assaults over a period of nearly a decade.**  
डोमिनिक पेलिकोट और अन्य 49 पुरुषों को लगभग एक दशक की अवधि में बलात्कार और यौन हमलों का दोषी ठहराया गया।
- **Another man was convicted of drugging and raping his own wife with Dominique Pelicot’s help.**  
एक अन्य पुरुष को ड्रग्स देकर अपनी ही पत्नी के साथ बलात्कार करने का दोषी ठहराया गया, जिसमें डोमिनिक पेलिकोट की मदद थी।
- **Dominique Pelicot, found guilty on all charges, was given the maximum possible sentence of 20 years in prison.**  
सभी आरोपों में दोषी पाए गए डोमिनिक पेलिकोट को अधिकतम संभव 20 वर्ष की सजा सुनाई गई।
- **The sentences ranged from three to 15 years imprisonment for the other convicted men.**  
अन्य दोषी पुरुषों को 3 से 15 वर्ष तक की कैद की सजा दी गई।
- **Only one of them subsequently appealed and saw his sentence for rape increased from nine to 10 years imprisonment.**  
उनमें से केवल एक ने बाद में अपील की और उसकी बलात्कार की सजा 9 से बढ़ाकर 10 वर्ष कर दी गई।



## Open court hearing खुली अदालत में सुनवाई

- In the book extracts published by Le Monde, Pelicot says that accepting the possibility of a closed-door trial would have protected her abusers and left her alone with them in court, “hostage to their looks, their lies, their cowardice and their scorn.”**  
**Le Monde** में प्रकाशित पुस्तक अंशों में, पेलिकोट कहती हैं कि बंद-द्वार मुकदमे की संभावना स्वीकार करना उनके अपराधियों की रक्षा करता और उन्हें अदालत में उनके साथ अकेला छोड़ देता, “उनकी नजरों, उनके झूठ, उनकी कायरता और उनके तिरस्कार की बंधक।”
- “No one would know what they had done to me. Not a single journalist would be there to write their names next to their crimes,” she explains.**  
“किसी को पता नहीं चलता कि उन्होंने मेरे साथ क्या किया। एक भी पत्रकार वहां नहीं होता जो उनके नाम उनके अपराधों के साथ लिखता,” वह समझाती हैं।
- “Above all, not a single woman could walk in and sit in the courtroom to feel less alone.”**  
“सबसे बढ़कर, एक भी महिला अदालत कक्ष में आकर बैठ नहीं पाती ताकि वह खुद को कम अकेला महसूस करे।”
- The 73-year-old adds that had she been twenty years younger, “I might not have dared to refuse a closed-door hearing.”**  
**73 वर्षीय** पेलिकोट जोड़ती हैं कि यदि वह बीस वर्ष छोटी होतीं, “तो शायद बंद-द्वार सुनवाई से इनकार करने का साहस नहीं करती।”
- “I would have feared the stares,” she writes.**  
“मैं उन नजरों से डरती,” वह लिखती हैं।
- “Those damned stares a woman of my generation has always had to contend with, those damned stares that make you hesitate in the morning between trousers and a dress, that follow you or ignore you, flatter you and embarrass you. Those damned stares that are supposed to tell you who you are, what you’re worth, and then abandon you as you grow older.”**  
“वे अभिशप्त नजरें जिनका मेरी पीढ़ी की महिला को हमेशा सामना करना पड़ा है, वे नजरें जो आपको सुबह पैट और ड्रेस के बीच हिचकिचाने पर मजबूर करती हैं, जो आपका पीछा करती हैं या आपको अनदेखा करती हैं, आपकी चापलूसी करती हैं और आपको शर्मिंदा करती हैं। वे नजरें जो आपको बताने का दावा करती हैं कि आप कौन हैं, आपकी क्या कीमत है, और फिर जैसे-जैसे आप बूढ़ी होती हैं, आपको छोड़ देती हैं।”

### GS Paper 1: History,

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12 February 2026

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| 1. | <b>Tamil Brahmi inscriptions in Egypt point to ancient trade links</b><br>मिस्र में तमिल ब्राह्मी अभिलेख प्राचीन व्यापारिक संबंधों की ओर संकेत करते हैं |
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## Tamil Brahmi inscriptions in Egypt point to ancient trade links

**GS1 History A&C**  
**N. Sai Charan**  
CHENNAI

A path-breaking finding has shed new light on trade links between ancient Tamilagam, other parts of India, and the Roman Empire. Two researchers have identified close to 30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit and Sanskrit at tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. These inscriptions are said to belong to the period between the 1st and 3rd Centuries C.E.

The inscriptions were identified during a study in 2024 and 2025 by Charlotte Schmid, Professor at the French School of Asian Studies (EFEO) in Paris, and Ingo Strauch, Professor at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. The team documented the inscriptions across six tombs in the Theban Necropolis. They fol-

lowed in the footsteps of French scholar Jules Baillet, who surveyed the Valley of the Kings in 1926 and published more than 2,000 Greek graffiti marks.

Presenting their findings in a paper titled *From the Valley of the Kings to India: Indian Inscriptions in Egypt* at the ongoing International Conference on Tamil Epigraphy, the scholars said the individuals who made these inscriptions came from the north-western, western and southern regions of the Indian subcontinent, with those from the latter forming the majority.

### Visitor graffiti

Visitors had left brief inscriptions and graffiti by carving their names on the walls of corridors and rooms, marking their presence in the tombs, the researchers said, adding that

these sets of inscriptions appear inside the tombs alongside larger bodies of graffiti in other languages, primarily Greek. Within such settings, the Indian visitors seem to have followed an existing practice of leaving their names inside the tombs, they said.

The name *Cikai Korran* (pronounced 'Kotran') appears repeatedly. It was inscribed eight times across five tombs. The name was found near entrances and high on interior walls among other graffiti marks. In one tomb, it appears at a height of about four metres at the entrance, Mr. Strauch said. "The name *Cikai Korran* is revealing, as its first element may be connected to the Sanskrit *sikhā*, meaning tuft or crown. While this is not a common personal name, the second element, *korran*, is more distinctly Tamil. It carries strong war-



A Tamil Brahmi inscription with the name *Cikai Korran* in one of the tombs at the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

like associations, as it derives from a root, *korram*, meaning victory and slaying. This root is echoed in the Chera warrior goddess *Koravai* and the term *koravan*, meaning king," Ms. Schmid said.

### More finds

The name *korran* also came up in other finds in Egypt. It appears in *Korra-*

*pumān*, written on a sherd discovered at Berenike, a Red Sea port city, in 1995. The name also occurs in the Sangam corpus, where the Chera king *Pitānkorran*, praised in the *Purananooru*, is sometimes directly addressed as *korran*, the scholars pointed out, adding that these parallel attestations in inscriptions from Pugalur, the ancient

Chera capital, dated back to the 2nd or 3rd century C.E.

Two other individuals also left their names in Tamil Brahmi in these tombs. One inscription reads *Kopān varata kantān* (*Kopān* came and saw). The name *Kopān* has also been found at Ammankovilpatti in Tamil Nadu. Other Tamil names identified include *Cātaṅ* and *Kīraṅ*.

K. Rajan, academic and research adviser, Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, said the findings are significant as they shed light on the trade links between ancient Tamilagam from the Malabar Coast and the Roman Empire.

He said that earlier work in Egypt had focused on the Red Sea port city of Berenike, where excavations were conducted for several years and attention has now moved to the Nile river valley.

## Tamil Brahmi inscriptions in Egypt point to ancient trade links मिस्र में तमिल ब्राह्मी अभिलेख प्राचीन व्यापारिक संबंधों की ओर संकेत करते हैं

- A path-breaking finding has shed new light on trade links between ancient **Tamilagam**, other parts of India, and the **Roman Empire**.  
एक ऐतिहासिक खोज ने प्राचीन **तमिलगम**, भारत के अन्य भागों और **रोमन साम्राज्य** के बीच व्यापारिक संबंधों पर नई रोशनी डाली है।
- Two researchers have identified close to **30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit and Sanskrit at tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt**.  
दो शोधकर्ताओं ने मिस्र के **Valley of the Kings** में स्थित कब्रों में **तमिल ब्राह्मी, प्राकृत और संस्कृत** में लगभग **30 अभिलेख** पहचाने हैं।
- These inscriptions are said to belong to the period between the **1st and 3rd Centuries C.E**.  
इन अभिलेखों को **1वीं से 3वीं शताब्दी ईस्वी** के बीच का माना गया है।
- The inscriptions were identified during a study in **2024 and 2025** by **Charlotte Schmid**, Professor at the **French School of Asian Studies (EFEO)** in Paris, and **Ingo Strauch**, Professor at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland.  
इन अभिलेखों की पहचान **2024 और 2025** में पेरिस स्थित **French School of Asian Studies (EFEO)** की प्रोफेसर **Charlotte Schmid** और स्विट्ज़रलैंड के लॉज़ेन विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेसर **Ingo Strauch** द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन के दौरान हुई।
- The team documented the inscriptions across six tombs in the **Theban Necropolis**.  
टीम ने **Theban Necropolis** की छह कब्रों में इन अभिलेखों का दस्तावेजीकरण किया।
- They followed in the footsteps of French scholar **Jules Baillet**, who surveyed the Valley of the Kings in **1926** and published more than **2,000 Greek graffiti marks**.  
उन्होंने फ्रांसीसी विद्वान **Jules Baillet** के नक्शेकदम पर चलते हुए कार्य किया, जिन्होंने **1926** में Valley of the Kings का सर्वेक्षण किया था और **2,000 से अधिक ग्रीक ग्रैफिटी चिह्न** प्रकाशित किए थे।
- Presenting their findings in a paper titled **From the Valley of the Kings to India: Indian Inscriptions in Egypt** at the ongoing **International Conference on Tamil Epigraphy**, the scholars said the individuals who made these inscriptions came from the north-western, western and southern regions of the Indian subcontinent, with those from the latter forming the majority.  
**International Conference on Tamil Epigraphy** में प्रस्तुत अपने शोधपत्र **From the Valley of the Kings to India: Indian Inscriptions in Egypt** में विद्वानों ने कहा कि ये अभिलेख बनाने वाले व्यक्ति भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के उत्तर-पश्चिमी, पश्चिमी और दक्षिणी क्षेत्रों से आए थे, जिनमें दक्षिणी क्षेत्र के लोग बहुसंख्यक थे।

**Visitor graffiti**  
**आगंतुक ग्रैफिटी**



- Visitors had left brief inscriptions and graffiti by carving their names on the walls of corridors and rooms, marking their presence in the tombs, the researchers said, adding that these sets of inscriptions appear inside the tombs alongside larger bodies of graffiti in other languages, primarily **Greek**.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने कहा कि आगंतुकों ने गलियारों और कमरों की दीवारों पर अपने नाम उकेरकर संक्षिप्त अभिलेख और ग्रैफिटी छोड़ी, जिससे उन्होंने कब्रों में अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज की, और ये अभिलेख मुख्यतः **ग्रीक** सहित अन्य भाषाओं की बड़ी संख्या में ग्रैफिटी के साथ भीतर दिखाई देते हैं।
- Within such settings, the Indian visitors seem to have followed an existing practice of leaving their names inside the tombs, they said.  
उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे परिवेश में भारतीय आगंतुकों ने कब्रों के भीतर अपने नाम छोड़ने की प्रचलित परंपरा का अनुसरण किया प्रतीत होता है।
- The name **Cikai Korran** (pronounced 'Kotran') appears repeatedly.  
**Cikai Korran** (उच्चारण 'कोत्रन') नाम बार-बार दिखाई देता है।
- It was inscribed eight times across five tombs.  
यह नाम पाँच कब्रों में आठ बार अंकित पाया गया।
- The name was found near entrances and high on interior walls among other graffiti marks.  
यह नाम प्रवेश द्वारों के पास और आंतरिक दीवारों पर ऊँचाई पर अन्य ग्रैफिटी चिह्नों के बीच पाया गया।
- In one tomb, it appears at a height of about four metres at the entrance, Mr. Strauch said.  
श्री स्ट्राउच ने कहा कि एक कब्र में यह नाम प्रवेश द्वार पर लगभग चार मीटर की ऊँचाई पर अंकित है।
- "The name Cikai Korran is revealing, as its first element may be connected to the Sanskrit śikhā, meaning tuft or crown.  
"Cikai Korran नाम महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि इसका पहला भाग संस्कृत **śikhā** से जुड़ा हो सकता है, जिसका अर्थ जूड़ा या मुकुट है।
- While this is not a common personal name, the second element, korran, is more distinctly Tamil.  
हालांकि यह सामान्य व्यक्तिगत नाम नहीं है, दूसरा भाग, korean, अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से तमिल है।
- It carries strong warlike associations, as it derives from a root, korram, meaning victory and slaying.  
इसमें प्रबल युद्ध-संबंधी अर्थ हैं, क्योंकि यह korram मूल से निकला है, जिसका अर्थ विजय और वध है।
- This root is echoed in the Chera warrior goddess **Korravai** and the term korravan, meaning king," Ms. Schmid said.  
यह मूल चेरा योद्धा देवी **Korravai** और शब्द korravan, जिसका अर्थ राजा है, में भी परिलक्षित होता है," सुश्री शिमिड ने कहा।

### More finds अन्य खोजें

- The name korran also came up in other finds in Egypt.  
korean नाम मिस्र में अन्य खोजों में भी मिला।
- It appears in **Korrapumān**, written on a sherd discovered at **Berenike**, a Red Sea port city, in **1995**.  
यह **Korrapumān** में दिखाई देता है, जो **1995** में लाल सागर के बंदरगाह शहर **Berenike** में मिले एक टुकड़े पर लिखा मिला।
- The name also occurs in the **Sangam corpus**, where the Chera king **Pittānkorran**, praised in the **Purananooru**, is sometimes directly addressed as korran, the scholars pointed out, adding that these parallel attestations in inscriptions from **Pugalur**, the ancient Chera capital, dated back to the **2nd or 3rd century C.E.**  
विद्वानों ने बताया कि यह नाम **Sangam corpus** में भी मिलता है, जहाँ **Purananooru** में प्रशंसित चेरा राजा **Pittānkorran** को कभी-कभी सीधे korean कहा गया है, और **Pugalur**, प्राचीन चेरा राजधानी, के अभिलेखों में भी इसके समान प्रमाण **2वीं या 3वीं शताब्दी ईस्वी** के हैं।
- Two other individuals also left their names in Tamil Brahmi in these tombs.  
दो अन्य व्यक्तियों ने भी इन कब्रों में तमिल ब्राह्मी में अपने नाम छोड़े।
- One inscription reads **Kopān varata kantan** (Kopān came and saw).  
एक अभिलेख में लिखा है **Kopān varata kantan** (कोपान आया और देखा)।



- The name Kopān has also been found at **Amman Kovilpatti** in **Tamil Nadu**.  
Kopān नाम **तमिलनाडु** के **Ammankovilpatti** में भी मिला है।
- Other Tamil names identified include Cātan and Kiran.  
पहचाने गए अन्य तमिल नामों में Cātan और Kiran शामिल हैं।
- **K. Rajan**, academic and research adviser, **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology**, said the findings are significant as they shed light on the trade links between ancient Tamilagam from the **Malabar Coast** and the Roman Empire.  
**K. Rajan**, शैक्षणिक एवं शोध सलाहकार, **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology**, ने कहा कि ये खोजें महत्वपूर्ण हैं क्योंकि ये **Malabar Coast** के प्राचीन तमिलगम और रोमन साम्राज्य के बीच व्यापारिक संबंधों पर प्रकाश डालती हैं।
- He said that earlier work in Egypt had focused on the Red Sea port city of **Berenike**, where excavations were conducted for several years and attention has now moved to the **Nile river valley**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि मिस्र में पहले का कार्य लाल सागर के बंदरगाह शहर **Berenike** पर केंद्रित था, जहाँ कई वर्षों तक उत्खनन किया गया और अब ध्यान **Nile river valley** की ओर स्थानांतरित हो गया है।

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Vande Mataram to be played before National Anthem: govt.

Fresh set of guidelines issued to States and government bodies but no formal statement made by the Centre; it says when the National Song is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention

**GS I: History**  
**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Union government has said in a set of instructions to the States and government bodies that the National Song, *Vande Mataram*, should be sung or played before the National Anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, when both the songs are played at an event.

The fresh set of guidelines were uploaded on the Union Home Ministry website on February 6, but no formal announcement or a statement was issued.

It states that whenever the official version of the National Song, around 3.1 minutes long, is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. "However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary, the National Song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the National Song," it said.

The Ministry said the instructions were being issued for general informa-

## Setting the tone

Key guidelines for singing and playing the National Song

- *Vande Mataram* should be sung or played before the National Anthem when both are performed at an event

- The audience must stand at attention when the official version, around 3 minutes 10 seconds long, is sung or played

- Standing is not required if it is played as part of a newsreel or documentary



**Proud moment:** A tableau celebrating 150 years of *Vande Mataram* during the Republic Day Parade. PTI

- The official version shall be accompanied by mass singing during unfurling of the National Flag, cultural occasions, or ceremonial functions other than parades

tion and guidance on the official version of the song, the occasions on which it is to be played or sung, and about the need for paying respect to the song by observance of proper decorum on such occasions.

It said that *Vande Mataram*, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, is known as the "National Song, which is to be sung on arrival and departure of the President at formal state functions and other functions organised by the government, immediately before and after the President addresses the nation

over All India Radio and television, on arrival and departure of the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor at formal state functions, when the National Flag is brought on parade, any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the Government of India".

### When a band plays it

"When the National Song is played by a band, the song will be preceded by a roll of drums to assist the audience to know that it is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the Na-

tional Song is about to be played," the Ministry said.

The official version shall be played accompanied by mass singing on the unfurling of the National Flag, on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades. The mass singing could be arranged by having a choir of adequate size, suitably stationed, which would be trained to coordinate its singing with the band.

It may be sung on occasions which, though not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of Ministers and others, the Ministry said.

"It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained," the Ministry said.

"In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song..." it added.

## Vande Mataram to be played before the National Anthem: govt.

### राष्ट्रीय गान से पहले वंदे मातरम् बजाया जाएगा: सरकार

- Fresh set of **guidelines** issued to States and government bodies but no formal statement made by the Centre; it says when the **National Song** is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention

राज्यों और सरकारी निकायों को नई दिशानिर्देश जारी किए गए लेकिन केंद्र द्वारा कोई औपचारिक बयान जारी नहीं किया गया; इसमें कहा गया है कि जब **राष्ट्रीय गीत** गाया या बजाया जाए तो श्रोता सावधान मुद्रा में खड़े हों

- The Union government has said in a set of instructions to the States and government bodies that the **National Song, Vande Mataram**, should be sung or played before the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**, when both the songs are played at an event.

केंद्र सरकार ने राज्यों और सरकारी निकायों को निर्देशों के एक सेट में कहा है कि **राष्ट्रीय गीत, वंदे मातरम्**, को **राष्ट्रीय गान, जन गण मन**, से पहले गाया या बजाया जाना चाहिए, जब किसी कार्यक्रम में दोनों गीत बजाए जाएं।



- The fresh set of guidelines were uploaded on the **Union Home Ministry** website on **February 6**, but no formal announcement or a statement was issued.  
नई दिशानिर्देशों को **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** की वेबसाइट पर **6 फरवरी** को अपलोड किया गया, लेकिन कोई औपचारिक घोषणा या बयान जारी नहीं किया गया।
- It states that whenever the official version of the National Song, around **3.1 minutes** long, is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention.  
इसमें कहा गया है कि जब भी राष्ट्रीय गीत का आधिकारिक संस्करण, लगभग **3.1 मिनट** लंबा, गाया या बजाया जाए, तो श्रोता सावधान मुद्रा में खड़े हों।
- “However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary, the National Song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the National Song,” it said.  
“हालांकि, जब किसी न्यूज़रील या डॉक्यूमेंट्री के दौरान राष्ट्रीय गीत फिल्म के हिस्से के रूप में बजाया जाता है, तो श्रोताओं से खड़े होने की अपेक्षा नहीं की जाती क्योंकि खड़े होने से फिल्म का प्रदर्शन बाधित होगा और राष्ट्रीय गीत की गरिमा बढ़ाने के बजाय अव्यवस्था और भ्रम पैदा होगा,” इसमें कहा गया।
- The Ministry said the instructions were being issued for general information and guidance on the official version of the song, the occasions on which it is to be played or sung, and about the need for paying respect to the song by observance of proper decorum on such occasions.  
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ये निर्देश गीत के आधिकारिक संस्करण, उसे कब गाया या बजाया जाना है, और ऐसे अवसरों पर उचित शिष्टाचार का पालन करते हुए गीत का सम्मान करने की आवश्यकता के संबंध में सामान्य जानकारी और मार्गदर्शन के लिए जारी किए जा रहे हैं।
- It said that **Vande Mataram**, written by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, is known as the “National Song, which is to be sung on arrival and departure of the **President** at formal state functions and other functions organised by the government, immediately before and after the President addresses the nation over **All India Radio and television**, on arrival and departure of the **Governor or Lieutenant-Governor** at formal state functions, when the **National Flag** is brought on parade, any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the **Government of India**”.  
इसमें कहा गया है कि **वंदे मातरम्**, जिसे **बंकिम चंद्र चटर्जी** ने लिखा, “राष्ट्रीय गीत” के रूप में जाना जाता है, जिसे औपचारिक राज्य समारोहों और सरकार द्वारा आयोजित अन्य कार्यक्रमों में **राष्ट्रपति** के आगमन और प्रस्थान पर, राष्ट्रपति द्वारा **ऑल इंडिया रेडियो और टेलीविजन** पर राष्ट्र को संबोधित करने से ठीक पहले और बाद में, औपचारिक राज्य समारोहों में **राज्यपाल या उपराज्यपाल** के आगमन और प्रस्थान पर, जब **राष्ट्रीय ध्वज** परेड में लाया जाता है, और अन्य किसी भी अवसर पर जिसके लिए **भारत सरकार** विशेष आदेश जारी करे, गाया जाना है।

### When a band plays it जब बैंड इसे बजाता है

- “When the National Song is played by a band, the song will be preceded by a roll of drums to assist the audience to know that it is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the National Song is about to be played,” the Ministry said.  
“जब राष्ट्रीय गीत को बैंड द्वारा बजाया जाता है, तो गीत से पहले ड्रम की थाप दी जाएगी ताकि श्रोता जान सकें कि इसे बजाया जाने वाला है, जब तक कि यह संकेत देने का कोई अन्य विशेष तरीका न हो कि राष्ट्रीय गीत बजाया जाने वाला है,” मंत्रालय ने कहा।
- The official version shall be played accompanied by mass singing on the unfurling of the **National Flag**, on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades.  
आधिकारिक संस्करण को **राष्ट्रीय ध्वज** फहराने के अवसर पर, सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों या परेड के अलावा अन्य औपचारिक समारोहों में सामूहिक गायन के साथ बजाया जाएगा।
- The mass singing could be arranged by having a choir of adequate size, suitably stationed, which would be trained to coordinate its singing with the band.  
सामूहिक गायन के लिए उपयुक्त आकार का एक कोयर व्यवस्थित किया जा सकता है, जिसे उपयुक्त स्थान पर तैनात किया जाए और जिसे बैंड के साथ तालमेल बिठाकर गाने के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया जाए।
- It may be sung on occasions which, though not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of **Ministers** and others, the Ministry said.



मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इसे उन अवसरों पर भी गाया जा सकता है जो सख्ती से औपचारिक न हों, लेकिन **मंत्रियों** और अन्य लोगों की उपस्थिति के कारण महत्व रखते हों।

- “It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of the official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained,” the Ministry said.

“उन अवसरों की संपूर्ण सूची देना संभव नहीं है जिन पर राष्ट्रीय गीत के आधिकारिक संस्करण का गायन (बजाने से अलग) अनुमति दी जा सकती है। लेकिन राष्ट्रीय गीत के सामूहिक गायन के साथ गाए जाने पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, जब तक कि यह मातृभूमि को सलाम के रूप में उचित सम्मान के साथ और उचित शिष्टाचार बनाए रखते हुए किया जाए,” मंत्रालय ने कहा।

- “In all schools, the day’s work may begin with community singing of the National Song...,” it added.  
“सभी स्कूलों में, दिन का कार्य राष्ट्रीय गीत के सामूहिक गायन के साथ शुरू हो सकता है...,” इसमें जोड़ा गया।

### GS Paper 1: Society

#### TOPICS COVERED

12 February 2026

1. **No plans for distinct legal recognition for denotified tribes: Centre**  
**विमुक्त जनजातियों के लिए अलग कानूनी मान्यता की कोई योजना नहीं: केंद्र**



## No plans for distinct legal recognition for denotified tribes: Centre

GS I: Society

Abhinav Lakshman  
NEW DELHI

The Union government is not considering any proposal for distinct legal and constitutional recognition of a category on a par with the SC/ST/OBC classifications for the denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes in India, the Tribal Affairs Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

This comes even as these communities (formerly classified as “criminal” under the colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871) are organising to push for a “separate column” in the upcoming 2027 Census forms for themselves, in the hopes of building it up into a movement for a fresh classification for communities that were once labelled “criminal”.

In a meeting held on January 30, officials of the Social Justice Ministry assured leaders of the community that they will be counted in the Census.

Replying to a question from MPs Manoj Kumar Jha (Rashtriya Janata Dal) and Sandosh Kumar P. (CPI) about the issue and the government’s plans for such a new classification, the Ministry said it had consulted with the Social Justice Ministry, which said, “There is no such proposal or plan under consideration.”

## No plans for distinct legal recognition for denotified tribes: Centre विमुक्त जनजातियों के लिए अलग कानूनी मान्यता की कोई योजना नहीं: केंद्र

The **Union government** is not considering any proposal for distinct legal and constitutional recognition of a category on a par with the **SC/ST/OBC classifications** for the **denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes** in India, the **Tribal Affairs Ministry** told the **Rajya Sabha** on Wednesday.

केंद्र सरकार भारत में विमुक्त, घुमंतू और अर्ध-घुमंतू जनजातियों के लिए **SC/ST/OBC वर्गीकरण** के समान किसी अलग कानूनी और संवैधानिक मान्यता के प्रस्ताव पर विचार नहीं कर रही है, यह **जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय** ने बुधवार को **राज्यसभा** में बताया।

This comes even as these communities (formerly classified as “criminal” under the colonial-era **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**) are organising to push for a “**separate column**” in the upcoming **2027 Census** forms for themselves, in the hopes of building it up into a movement for a fresh classification for communities that were once labelled “criminal”.

यह तब सामने आया है जब ये समुदाय (जिन्हें औपनिवेशिक काल के **क्रिमिनल ट्राइब्स एक्ट, 1871** के तहत पहले “अपराधी” के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया था) आगामी **2027 की जनगणना** प्रपत्रों में अपने लिए एक “अलग कॉलम” की मांग को लेकर संगठित हो रहे हैं, ताकि इसे उन समुदायों के लिए नए वर्गीकरण के आंदोलन में बदला जा सके जिन्हें कभी “अपराधी” कहा गया था।

In a meeting held on **January 30**, officials of the **Social Justice Ministry** assured leaders of the community that they will be counted in the Census.

**30 जनवरी** को हुई एक बैठक में **सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय** के अधिकारियों ने समुदाय के नेताओं को आश्वासन दिया कि उन्हें जनगणना में गिना जाएगा।

Replying to a question from MPs **Manoj Kumar Jha (Rashtriya Janata Dal)** and **Sandosh Kumar P. (CPI)** about the issue and the government’s plans for such a new classification, the Ministry said it had consulted with the **Social Justice Ministry**, which said, “There is no such proposal or plan under consideration.”

इस मुद्दे और ऐसे नए वर्गीकरण के लिए सरकार की योजनाओं पर सांसदों **मनोज कुमार झा (राष्ट्रीय जनता दल)** और **संतोष कुमार पी. (सीपीआई)** के प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए मंत्रालय ने कहा कि उसने **सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय** से परामर्श किया है, जिसने कहा, “ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव या योजना विचाराधीन नहीं है।”

### GS Paper 1: Geography

#### TOPICS COVERED

12 February 2026

1. **Ken-Betwa linking project protest turns violent; 3 cases filed**  
केन-बेतवा लिंकिंग परियोजना विरोध प्रदर्शन हिंसक; 3 मामले दर्ज

#### QUIZ

**Number of troops deployed by the U.S. to train Nigerian military**  
नाइजीरियाई सेना को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए U.S. द्वारा तैनात सैनिकों की संख्या



# Ken-Betwa linking project protest turns violent; 3 cases filed

GS I: Geography:  
Meh Mapping  
BHOPAL

Three cases have been filed in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur against a group of people after a protest they were carrying out against the Ken-Betwa river-linking project and the arrest of a local activist turned violent, officers said on Wednesday.

According to the police, locals from various villages under the Bijawar tehsil were on Tuesday evening protesting for various demands, including the release of Amit Bhatnagar, who is also a leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and better compensation and rehabilitation for those affected by the ambitious project. The demonstration, however, turned violent late in the night leading to stone pelting by protesters and blockading of the tehsil premises.

The protesters included tribals, women and workers of Opposition parties such as the Congress, AAP and Samajwadi Party.

"We have identified about 10 people who tried to create nuisance and are working to detain them," said Chhatarpur Superintendent of Police Agam Jain, adding that one FIR

**The protesters included tribals, women and workers of Oppn. parties. The FIRs have been filed against more than 40 unidentified people**

has been lodged over manhandling government officials, another for blockading and a third for allegedly assaulting passers-by. The FIRs have been filed against more than 40 unidentified people.

Mr. Jain said that senior officials also held meetings with the representatives of the protesters on Wednesday and addressed their concerns.

## First of 30 projects

Flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 25, 2024, the Ken-Betwa link project is the first of 30 such link projects under a National Perspective Plan to divert water from rivers with 'surplus water' to those with 'deficit water'. The project plans to transfer excess water from the Ken river basin to the Betwa river basin in the Bundelkhand region that covers parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

tried to create nuisance and are working to detain them," said **Chhatarpur Superintendent of Police Agam Jain**, adding that one **FIR** has been lodged over manhandling government officials, another for blockading and a third for allegedly assaulting passers-by.

"हमने लगभग 10 लोगों की पहचान की है जिन्होंने उपद्रव करने की कोशिश की और उन्हें हिरासत में लेने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं," **छतरपुर पुलिस अधीक्षक अगम जैन** ने कहा, यह जोड़ते हुए कि एक **FIR** सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ मारपीट के मामले में, दूसरी घेराबंदी के लिए और तीसरी राहगीरों पर कथित हमले के लिए दर्ज की गई है।

- The FIRs have been filed against more than 40 unidentified people. इन FIR 40 से अधिक अज्ञात लोगों के खिलाफ दर्ज की गई हैं।
- Mr. Jain said that senior officials also held meetings with the representatives of the protesters on Wednesday and addressed their concerns. श्री जैन ने कहा कि वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने बुधवार को प्रदर्शनकारियों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठकें भी कीं और उनकी चिंताओं का समाधान किया।

## Ken-Betwa linking project protest turns violent; 3 cases filed केन-बेतवा लिंकिंग परियोजना विरोध प्रदर्शन हिंसक; 3 मामले दर्ज

• Three cases have been filed in **Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur** against a group of people after a protest they were carrying out against the **Ken-Betwa river-linking project** and the arrest of a local activist turned violent, officers said on Wednesday.

**मध्य प्रदेश के छतरपुर** में लोगों के एक समूह के खिलाफ तीन मामले दर्ज किए गए हैं, जब **केन-बेतवा नदी-लिंकिंग परियोजना** और एक स्थानीय कार्यकर्ता की गिरफ्तारी के खिलाफ किया जा रहा उनका विरोध प्रदर्शन हिंसक हो गया, अधिकारियों ने बुधवार को कहा।

• According to the police, locals from various villages under the **Bijawar tehsil** were on Tuesday evening protesting for various demands, including the release of **Amit Bhatnagar**, who is also a leader of the **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**, and better compensation and rehabilitation for those affected by the ambitious project.

पुलिस के अनुसार, **बिजावर तहसील** के विभिन्न गांवों के स्थानीय लोग मंगलवार शाम विभिन्न मांगों को लेकर विरोध कर रहे थे, जिनमें **अमित भटनागर** की रिहाई शामिल थी, जो **आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP)** के नेता भी हैं, तथा इस महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना से प्रभावित लोगों के लिए बेहतर मुआवजा और पुनर्वास की मांग शामिल थी।

• The demonstration, however, turned violent late in the night leading to stone pelting by protesters and blockading of the tehsil premises. हालांकि, यह प्रदर्शन देर रात हिंसक हो गया, जिसके चलते प्रदर्शनकारियों द्वारा पथराव किया गया और तहसील परिसर की घेराबंदी की गई।

• The protesters included tribals, women and workers of Opposition parties such as the **Congress, AAP and Samajwadi Party**.

प्रदर्शनकारियों में आदिवासी, महिलाएं और विपक्षी दलों जैसे **कांग्रेस, AAP और समाजवादी पार्टी** के कार्यकर्ता शामिल थे।

• "We have identified about 10 people who



## First of 30 projects 30 परियोजनाओं में पहली

- Flagged off by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **December 25, 2024**, the **Ken-Betwa link project** is the first of **30** such link projects under a **National Perspective Plan** to divert water from rivers with 'surplus water' to those with 'deficit water'.  
**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** द्वारा **25 दिसंबर, 2024** को शुभारंभ की गई **केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना**, 'अधिशेष जल' वाली नदियों से 'जल-अभाव' वाली नदियों की ओर पानी मोड़ने के लिए **राष्ट्रीय परिप्रेक्ष्य योजना** के तहत ऐसी **30** लिंक परियोजनाओं में पहली है।
- The project plans to transfer excess water from the **Ken river basin** to the **Betwa river basin** in the **Bundelkhand region** that covers parts of **Madhya Pradesh** and **Uttar Pradesh**.  
यह परियोजना **केन नदी बेसिन** से अतिरिक्त जल को **बेतवा नदी बेसिन** में स्थानांतरित करने की योजना बनाती है, जो **बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र** में स्थित है और **मध्य प्रदेश** तथा **उत्तर प्रदेश** के कुछ हिस्सों को कवर करता है।

### Answers to February 5 quiz:

1. Location of fort through which IST's time meridian passes – **Ans: Prayagraj**
2. New Zealand territory with a 45-minute timezone offset – **Ans: Chatham Islands**
3. Country with the most number of timezones – **Ans: France**
4. Republic with the earliest timezone on the earth – **Ans: Kiribati**
5. Country in the 'wrong' timezone for more than 80 years – **Ans: Spain**

Visual: Pips

**First contact:** K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas  
| Anmol Agrawal

## QUIZ

### Indian Standard Time Meridian and Prayagraj Fort

#### Explanation

The **Indian Standard Time (IST)** is based on the **82°30' East longitude**, chosen to provide a uniform time across the country. This standard meridian passes near the historic Allahabad Fort in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, situated close to the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. The location was selected for central positioning within India. IST is calculated as 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, ensuring nationwide synchronization.

### Chatham Islands – Unique 45-Minute Time Zone

The Chatham Islands, a territory of New Zealand located in the Pacific Ocean, observe a distinctive time zone known as **Chatham Standard Time (CHAST)**, which is **12 hours 45 minutes ahead of Coordinated Universal Time**. During daylight saving, Chatham Daylight Time becomes UTC plus 13 hours 45 minutes. This unusual 45 minute offset reflects the islands' geographical position east of mainland New Zealand and ensures accurate local time for residents and administration.

### France – Country with the Most Time Zones

France has the highest number of time zones in the world, totaling twelve when its overseas regions and territories are included. Metropolitan France follows Central European Time, while overseas areas such as French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Mayotte, and territories in the Pacific and Antarctic regions observe different time zones. This wide distribution across the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans creates multiple offsets, making France the country with the greatest global time zone spread.

### Kiribati – Republic with the Earliest Time Zone

Kiribati, an island republic in the central Pacific Ocean, observes the world's earliest time zone, UTC plus 14 hours, on its Line Islands such as Kiritimati. In 1995, the government shifted the International Date Line eastward for national unity, placing all its islands on the same calendar day. This makes Kiribati among the first countries to welcome each new day and New Year, highlighting its unique geopolitical and geographical positioning.



## Spain – Country in the ‘Wrong’ Time Zone

Spain has followed Central European Time (UTC plus 1) since 1940, despite its geographical position aligning more closely with Greenwich Mean Time (UTC plus 0). The shift was introduced during World War II to synchronize with Germany. For over eighty years, Spain has remained one hour ahead of its natural solar time, causing later sunsets, altered daily schedules, and ongoing debates about returning to the geographically appropriate time zone.

## Number of troops deployed by the U.S. to train Nigerian military

GS I: Geography:  
Mapping

**200** United States will deploy 200 troops to Nigeria to train its armed forces in their fight against jihadist groups, as Washington increases military cooperation with the West African country. The additional troops will provide “training and technical guidance”. AFP

सहयोग बढ़ा रहा है।

- The additional troops will provide “training and technical guidance”. अतिरिक्त सैनिक “प्रशिक्षण और तकनीकी मार्गदर्शन” प्रदान करेंगे।

## Number of troops deployed by the U.S. to train Nigerian military

नाइजीरियाई सेना को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए U.S. द्वारा तैनात सैनिकों की संख्या

- 200
- The United States will deploy 200 troops to Nigeria to train its armed forces in their fight against jihadist groups, as Washington increases military cooperation with the West African country.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका अपने सशस्त्र बलों को जिहादी समूहों के खिलाफ लड़ाई में प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए नाइजीरिया में 200 सैनिक तैनात करेगा, क्योंकि वॉशिंगटन पश्चिम अफ्रीकी देश के साथ सैन्य

## GS Paper II: Polity,

### TOPICS COVERED

12 February 2026

1.	<b>NHRC notice over workers' deaths in coal mine blast</b> कोयला खदान विस्फोट में श्रमिकों की मौत पर एनएचआरसी का नोटिस
2.	<b>NDA leaders to file notice against Rahul for remarks on Puri</b> पुरी पर टिप्पणी के लिए राहुल के खिलाफ नोटिस दाखिल करेंगे एनडीए नेता
3.	<b>Speaker directs Lok Sabha Secretariat to correct notice seeking his removal</b> स्पीकर ने लोकसभा सचिवालय को उनके हटाने की मांग वाले नोटिस में सुधार करने का निर्देश दिया
4.	<b>Judicial drift in the Special Intensive Revision hearings</b> विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण सुनवाई में न्यायिक विचलन
5.	<b>The Constitution enters the sanctum</b> संविधान गर्भगृह में प्रवेश करता है
6.	<b>Have States gained from the 16th FC?</b> क्या राज्यों को 16वें वित्त आयोग से लाभ हुआ है?



## NHRC notice over workers' deaths in coal mine blast

GS II: Polity: Statutory Bodies

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday said it has issued a notice to the Meghalaya government and the State police chief over reports that 18 workers died after a blast in an "illegal coal mine" in the Thangskai area of East Jaintia Hills earlier this month.

The commission said the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights of the victims.

### Two weeks

Therefore, it has issued notices to the chief secretary and director general of police of Meghalaya, seeking a detailed report in two weeks, the statement said.

"The report is expected to include the status of rescue operation, compensation to the aggrieved families and police investigation as well as steps taken or proposed by the authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur," the rights panel said.

## NHRC notice over workers' deaths in coal mine blast कोयला खदान विस्फोट में श्रमिकों की मौत पर एनएचआरसी का नोटिस

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday said it has issued a notice to the Meghalaya government and the State police chief over reports that 18 workers died after a blast in an "illegal coal mine" in the Thangskai area of East Jaintia Hills earlier this month. राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने इस महीने की शुरुआत में ईस्ट जयंतिया हिल्स के थांगसकाई क्षेत्र में एक "अवैध कोयला खदान" में विस्फोट के बाद 18 श्रमिकों की मौत की खबरों पर मेघालय सरकार और राज्य पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस जारी किया है।

The commission said the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights of the victims. आयोग ने कहा कि समाचार रिपोर्ट की सामग्री, यदि सत्य है, तो पीड़ितों के मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के गंभीर मुद्दे उठाती है।

### Two weeks दो सप्ताह

Therefore, it has issued notices to the chief secretary and director general of police of Meghalaya, seeking a detailed report in two weeks, the statement said.

इसलिए, उसने मुख्य सचिव और मेघालय के पुलिस महानिदेशक को दो सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है, बयान में कहा गया।

"The report is expected to include the status of rescue operation, compensation to the aggrieved families and police investigation as well as steps taken or proposed by the authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur," the rights panel said.

"रिपोर्ट में बचाव अभियान की स्थिति, पीड़ित परिवारों को मुआवजा और पुलिस जांच के साथ-साथ ऐसी घटनाएं दोबारा न हों यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अधिकारियों द्वारा उठाए गए या प्रस्तावित कदम शामिल होने की अपेक्षा है," अधिकार पैनल ने कहा।



# NDA leaders to file notice against Rahul for remarks on Puri

GS II: Polity  
The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Accusing Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of making “unsubstantiated allegations” against Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri without giving notice, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday said the ruling alliance members would file a notice against Mr. Gandhi for “breach of privilege”.

“We will file the necessary notice with the Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition did not make any useful substantive contribution to the Budget discussion but only made some wild allegations,” Mr. Rijiju said, soon after Mr. Gandhi’s speech got over.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister said the notice would be placed before the Chair seeking authentication of Mr. Gandhi’s assertions. While Mr. Gandhi promised to authenticate what he had spoken, Mr. Rijiju said, “I know he cannot authenticate them because he lied. He lied in the House.”

**Minister’s clarification**  
Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Puri said he had taken over as India’s Ambassador to the United Nations in New York in 2009 and remained there for eight years. “There are references to possibly three or four meetings [with Jeffrey Epstein] in eight years,” he said, adding that during that time he was a member of the International Peace Institute (IPI).

“I was Secretary-General of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM)... the chair of this commission was a former Prime Minister of Australia. My boss at IPI,



Hardeep Singh Puri

Terje Rod-Larsen, was someone who knew the infamous Epstein. As part of an IPI and ICM delegation, I met Epstein on a few occasions – three or at most four times,” he said.

About an email dated November 13, 2014, released as part of Epstein Files, Mr. Puri said it was exchanged as his contacts introduced him to Reid Hoffman, the founder of LinkedIn. Then as a private citizen, he wrote to Mr. Hoffman about the immense opportunities India presented in the Internet-based economic activity.

**‘Minimal interaction’**  
Stressing that his interaction was minimal, he quoted an email exchange between Larsen and Jeffrey Epstein dated December 25, 2015, in which Epstein referred to Mr. Puri as “two-faced”. “What does it mean? The man [being referred to] is not okay...,” Mr. Puri said. In that email exchange, Larsen had written to Epstein: “Have you heard the saying: when you meet an Indian and a snake, kill the Indian first!”

“The Epstein files are about wrongdoing and criminal offences. They contain charges that he had an island where he took people to indulge their sexual fantasies, including charges of paedophilia, and there are victims. My interaction had nothing to do with that,” he added.

## NDA leaders to file notice against Rahul for remarks on Puri

पुरी पर टिप्पणी के लिए राहुल के खिलाफ नोटिस दाखिल करेंगे एनडीए नेता

• Accusing **Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi** of making “unsubstantiated allegations” against **Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** without giving notice, **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju** on Wednesday said the ruling alliance members would file a notice against Mr. Gandhi for “breach of privilege”.

लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी पर पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी के खिलाफ बिना नोटिस दिए “अप्रमाणित आरोप” लगाने का आरोप लगाते हुए **संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरन रिजिजू** ने बुधवार को कहा कि सत्तारूढ़ गठबंधन के सदस्य श्री गांधी के खिलाफ “विशेषाधिकार हनन” का नोटिस दाखिल करेंगे।

• “We will file the necessary notice with the Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition did not make any useful substantive contribution to the Budget discussion but only made some wild allegations,” Mr. Rijiju said, soon after Mr. Gandhi’s speech.

“हम स्पीकर के पास आवश्यक नोटिस दाखिल करेंगे। विपक्ष के नेता ने बजट चर्चा में कोई उपयोगी ठोस योगदान नहीं दिया, बल्कि केवल कुछ निराधार आरोप लगाए,” श्री रिजिजू ने श्री गांधी के भाषण समाप्त होने के तुरंत बाद कहा।

• The **Parliamentary Affairs Minister** said the notice would be placed before the Chair seeking authentication of Mr. Gandhi’s assertions. While Mr. Gandhi promised to authenticate what he had spoken, Mr. Rijiju said, “I know he cannot authenticate them because he lied. He lied in the House.”

**संसदीय कार्य मंत्री** ने कहा कि यह नोटिस सदन की पीठासीन अधिकारी के समक्ष श्री गांधी के कथनों के प्रमाणीकरण की मांग के लिए रखा जाएगा। जबकि श्री गांधी ने अपने कथनों को प्रमाणित करने का वादा किया, श्री रिजिजू ने कहा, “मुझे पता है कि वह उन्हें प्रमाणित नहीं कर सकते क्योंकि उन्होंने झूठ बोला। उन्होंने सदन में झूठ बोला।”

## Minister’s clarification मंत्री का स्पष्टीकरण

• Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Puri said he had taken over as India’s Ambassador to the **United Nations in New York in 2009** and remained there for eight years. “There are references to possibly three or four meetings [with Jeffrey Epstein] in eight years,” he said, adding that during that time he was a member of the **International Peace Institute (IPI)**.

यहां एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस को संबोधित करते हुए श्री पुरी ने कहा कि उन्होंने 2009 में **न्यूयॉर्क** स्थित **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** में भारत के



राजदूत के रूप में पदभार संभाला था और वहां आठ वर्षों तक रहे। “आठ वर्षों में संभवतः तीन या चार बैठकों [जेफ्री एपस्टीन के साथ] का उल्लेख है,” उन्होंने कहा, साथ ही जोड़ा कि उस दौरान वह **इंटरनेशनल पीस इंस्टीट्यूट (IPI)** के सदस्य थे।

- “I was Secretary-General of the **Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM)**... the chair of this commission was a former Prime Minister of Australia. My boss at IPI, **Terje Rød-Larsen**, was someone who knew the infamous **Epstein**. As part of an IPI and ICM delegation, I met Epstein on a few occasions — three or at most four times,” he said.  
“मैं **इंडिपेंडेंट कमीशन ऑन मल्टीलेटरलिज्म (ICM)** का महासचिव था... इस आयोग के अध्यक्ष ऑस्ट्रेलिया के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री थे। IPI में मेरे बॉस **तेरजे रोड-लार्सन** थे, जो कुख्यात **एपस्टीन** को जानते थे। IPI और ICM के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल के हिस्से के रूप में, मैं कुछ मौकों पर — तीन या अधिकतम चार बार — एपस्टीन से मिला,” उन्होंने कहा।
- About an email dated **November 13, 2014**, released as part of **Epstein Files**, Mr. Puri said it was exchanged as his contacts introduced him to **Reid Hoffman**, the founder of **LinkedIn**. Then as a private citizen, he wrote to Mr. Hoffman about the immense opportunities India presented in Internet-based economic activity.  
**13 नवंबर, 2014** की एक ईमेल के बारे में, जो **एपस्टीन फाइल्स** के हिस्से के रूप में जारी हुई, श्री पुरी ने कहा कि यह उस समय आदान-प्रदान हुई जब उनके संपर्कों ने उन्हें **रीड हॉफमैन**, **लिंक्डइन** के संस्थापक, से परिचित कराया। तब एक निजी नागरिक के रूप में उन्होंने श्री हॉफमैन को इंटरनेट-आधारित आर्थिक गतिविधियों में भारत द्वारा प्रस्तुत विशाल अवसरों के बारे में लिखा।

### ‘Minimal interaction’ ‘न्यूनतम संपर्क’

- Stressing that his interaction was minimal, he quoted an email exchange between Larsen and **Jeffrey Epstein** dated **December 25, 2015**, in which Epstein referred to Mr. Puri as “two-faced”. “What does it mean? The man [being referred to] is not okay...,” Mr. Puri said. In that email exchange, Larsen had written to Epstein: “Have you heard the saying: when you meet an Indian and a snake, kill the Indian first!”  
अपने संपर्क को न्यूनतम बताते हुए उन्होंने **25 दिसंबर, 2015** की लार्सन और **जेफ्री एपस्टीन** के बीच हुई ईमेल बातचीत का हवाला दिया, जिसमें एपस्टीन ने श्री पुरी को “दोमुंहा” कहा था। “इसका क्या मतलब है? जिस व्यक्ति [का उल्लेख किया जा रहा है] वह ठीक नहीं है...,” श्री पुरी ने कहा। उस ईमेल में लार्सन ने एपस्टीन को लिखा था: “क्या आपने यह कहावत सुनी है: जब आप एक भारतीय और एक सांप से मिलें, तो पहले भारतीय को मारें!”
- “The **Epstein files** are about wrongdoing and criminal offences. They contain charges that he had an island where he took people to indulge their sexual fantasies, including charges of paedophilia, and there are victims. My interaction had nothing to do with that,” he added.  
“**एपस्टीन फाइल्स** गलत कामों और आपराधिक अपराधों के बारे में हैं। इनमें आरोप हैं कि उसके पास एक द्वीप था जहां वह लोगों को उनकी यौन कल्पनाओं में लिप्त होने के लिए ले जाता था, जिनमें पीडोफिलिया के आरोप भी शामिल हैं, और पीड़ित भी हैं। मेरा संपर्क उससे किसी भी तरह संबंधित नहीं था,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।



# Speaker directs Lok Sabha Secretariat to correct notice seeking his removal

**GS II: Polity**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday asked the Lok Sabha Secretariat to correct shortcomings in the Opposition's notice seeking his removal from his Constitutional office, and proceed with the corrected notice.

The revised notice will be listed after the commencement of the second phase of the Budget Session. The second phase will be held between March 9 and April 2.

"Shortcomings were found in the notice submitted by Opposition MPs on Tuesday to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla," a source in the Lok Sabha Se-



Om Birla

cretariat said. "The notice referred four times to events of February 2025, on the basis of which it could have been rejected under the rules," they added.

Mr. Birla directed the Secretariat to have the defective notice corrected and

then proceed with it. It will be taken up in the second part of the Budget Session. The first part of the session, which got under way on January 28, will go into recess on February 13.

While the Opposition's move is aimed at making a political point on the way the House has functioned, there is considerable interest in the process. Article 94 of the Constitution deals with the provisions regarding the removal of the Speaker.

## On Article 94C

The Opposition notice is under Article 94C, which states that the Speaker "may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People by a

majority of the then members of the House".

This is interpreted as the effective majority of the House, that is, more than half of the strength of the House minus the vacancies.

"The Constitution doesn't use the word effective majority but it's meant to convey the effective strength of the House," former Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary told *The Hindu*.

A minimum of 14 days' notice has to be given before a resolution seeking the removal of the Speaker can be taken up by the House, and under Article 96, the Speaker can respond to the notice for removal.

## Speaker directs Lok Sabha Secretariat to correct notice seeking his removal स्पीकर ने लोकसभा सचिवालय को उनके हटाने की मांग वाले नोटिस में सुधार करने का निर्देश दिया

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** on Wednesday asked the **Lok Sabha Secretariat** to correct shortcomings in the Opposition's notice seeking his removal from his **Constitutional office**, and proceed with the corrected notice.  
लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने बुधवार को लोकसभा सचिवालय से कहा कि वह उनके संवैधानिक पद से हटाने की मांग वाले विपक्ष के नोटिस में कमियों को ठीक करे और संशोधित नोटिस के साथ आगे बढ़े।
- The revised notice will be listed after the commencement of the second phase of the **Budget Session**. The second phase will be held between **March 9 and April 2**.  
संशोधित नोटिस को बजट सत्र के दूसरे चरण की शुरुआत के बाद सूचीबद्ध किया जाएगा। दूसरा चरण 9 मार्च से 2 अप्रैल के बीच आयोजित होगा।
- "Shortcomings were found in the notice submitted by Opposition MPs on Tuesday to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla," a source in the Lok Sabha Secretariat said. "The notice referred four times to events of **February 2025**, on the basis of which it could have been rejected under the rules," they added.  
लोकसभा सचिवालय के एक सूत्र ने कहा, "मंगलवार को लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला को हटाने के लिए विपक्षी सांसदों द्वारा प्रस्तुत नोटिस में कमियां पाई गईं।" उन्होंने जोड़ा, "नोटिस में फरवरी 2025 की घटनाओं का चार बार उल्लेख किया गया था, जिसके आधार पर इसे नियमों के तहत खारिज किया जा सकता था।"
- Mr. Birla directed the Secretariat to have the defective notice corrected and then proceed with it. It will be taken up in the second part of the **Budget Session**.  
श्री बिरला ने सचिवालय को दोषपूर्ण नोटिस को ठीक कराने और फिर उसके साथ आगे बढ़ने का निर्देश दिया। इसे बजट सत्र के दूसरे भाग में लिया जाएगा।
- The first part of the session, which got under way on **January 28**, will go into recess on **February 13**.  
सत्र का पहला भाग, जो 28 जनवरी को शुरू हुआ, 13 फरवरी को स्थगित होगा।



- While the Opposition's move is aimed at making a political point on the way the House has functioned, there is considerable interest in the process. **Article 94 of the Constitution** deals with the provisions regarding the removal of the Speaker.  
जहाँ विपक्ष का कदम सदन के कामकाज के तरीके पर एक राजनीतिक संदेश देने के उद्देश्य से है, वहीं इस प्रक्रिया में काफी रुचि है। **संविधान का अनुच्छेद 94** स्पीकर को हटाने से संबंधित प्रावधानों से जुड़ा है।

## On Article 94C अनुच्छेद 94C पर

- The Opposition notice is under **Article 94C**, which states that the Speaker "may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People by a majority of the then members of the House".  
विपक्ष का नोटिस **अनुच्छेद 94C** के तहत है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि स्पीकर को "सदन के उस समय के सदस्यों के बहुमत द्वारा पारित प्रस्ताव से उनके पद से हटाया जा सकता है।"
- This is interpreted as the effective majority of the House, that is, more than half of the strength of the House minus the vacancies.  
इसे सदन के प्रभावी बहुमत के रूप में व्याख्यायित किया जाता है, अर्थात् सदन की कुल संख्या में से रिक्तियों को घटाने के बाद शेष संख्या के आधे से अधिक।
- "The Constitution doesn't use the word effective majority but it's meant to convey the effective strength of the House," former **Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary** told The Hindu.  
पूर्व **लोकसभा महासचिव पी.डी.टी. आचार्य** ने द हिंदू से कहा, "संविधान में प्रभावी बहुमत शब्द का उपयोग नहीं किया गया है, लेकिन इसका आशय सदन की प्रभावी शक्ति को व्यक्त करना है।"
- A minimum of **14 days' notice** has to be given before a resolution seeking the removal of the Speaker can be taken up by the House, and under **Article 96**, the Speaker can respond to the notice for removal  
स्पीकर को हटाने से संबंधित प्रस्ताव को सदन में लेने से पहले कम से कम **14 दिनों का नोटिस** दिया जाना आवश्यक है, और **अनुच्छेद 96** के तहत स्पीकर हटाने के नोटिस का उत्तर दे सकते हैं।

## Judicial drift in the Special Intensive Revision hearings

CS II: Polity

In the first week of February 2026, in an unprecedented event, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, appeared before the Supreme Court of India in the ongoing hearings about the conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, which has been taking place in multiple States across India.

The Chief Minister's arguments were focused on certain procedural infirmities that were causing hardship to the residents of her State. Her intervention led to the Court passing a slew of directions on February 9, ostensibly seeking to mitigate some of these hardships. However, in the course of the hearing, the Court also made a statement: that no impediment to the SIR would be allowed across any of the States.

**Core constitutional challenge not decided**  
This statement is baffling, because in making it, the Court appears to have pre-judged the most fundamental issue before it – an issue that goes to the heart of the Court's own role as the primary organ of constitutional adjudication. Challenges to the SIR were first filed before the Court in July, when it was announced for the State of Bihar.

Among other things, these petitions questioned the constitutionality of the SIR itself. Months have passed, with SIRs announced in multiple States, and the challenges have multiplied. The Bihar election has come and gone (November 2025), with the Bihar SIR effectively having become a fait accompli. The Court has held multiple hearings, where it has, in effect, played the role of an administrator, passing directions on issues such as whether or not the Aadhaar card can be used as an identification document. However, the core constitutional challenge has not been decided, and as the Court's observations now show, the fait accompli seems to have become permanently enshrined, with any future judgment serving only to act as a retrospective validation of existing facts on the ground.

It is worth remembering that in a constitutional democracy, the Court's primary role is to ensure that other state organs comply with the Constitution, and not to transform itself into an administrator. However, the Court's conduct in the SIR case is not new: while the constitutionality of the Aadhaar programme was challenged in 2012, it was only in 2018 that a final judgment was passed, by which time Aadhaar



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The top court's conduct in the SIR case sees it moving away from its role as a constitutional court and adopting the role of administrator

had effectively become a fait accompli, too big to be undone. In the intervening six years, the Court had passed various orders about where and how Aadhaar could be used or demanded, but had not touched the constitutional challenge before it. The repetition of this pattern in the SIR case reveals a normalisation of the Court moving away from its role as a constitutional court, and adopting the role of the administrator. This is unfortunate.

### There are significant issues

Indeed, the SIR process has raised certain significant constitutional issues. Many of these issues turned upon the question of power: while the Representation of the People Act (India's umbrella election law) authorises the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct a special revision for "any constituency or any part of a constituency", and for reasons to be recorded, there is a fundamental question about whether this very specific power is also a carte blanche authorisation to conduct State and nation-wide SIRs. The wording of the section seems to imply that its purpose is a targeted and focused exercise meant to correct for distortions that might creep in in certain specific places. By contrast, the present SIRs are dragnet, large-scale revisions of the rolls that, in effect, turn them into citizenship determining exercises. Added to this is the fact that electoral rolls already exist. Thus the ongoing SIRs amount to an exercise where the entire populations of States are called upon to freshly establish their citizenship and their right to vote, without any pre-existing cause for suspicion. The constitutional question then turns upon whether the ECI can simply operate on this mass presumption of non-citizenship, and force people to prove their rights from scratch.

In 1995, in *Lal Babu Hussein and Others vs Electoral Registration Officer and Others*, the Court had held that it could not. There again, the ECI had sought to effect large-scale removal of names from the voter rolls, acting on the suspicion that in certain constituencies there were many non-voters on the rolls. The Court struck down this exercise, and in the directions that it passed, made it clear that notices for removal from the rolls would have to be directed at specific individuals, and also a disclosure of the reason for suspicion that the individual in question was not a citizen of India.

As noted above, the present SIRs completely

invert that basic process. Instead of issuing notices to specific people that it reasonably suspects are non-voters, the ECI now requires everyone to come and prove that they are voters.

It is crucial to note that multiple reports have come in from various States about arbitrary deletions and of individuals having to run from pillar to post to prove that their citizenship does not exist in a vacuum. They are the product of this fundamental inversion of the state-citizen relationship. The other troubling impact of the SIR exercise is that the wholesale revision of voter rolls has brought into play the notorious Form 7, which allows any person to "object" to the inclusion of any other person in the electoral roll. There have already been widespread reports about the misuse of Form 7 to have people struck off the rolls, en masse, from multiple States.

### An accentuation of disparities

Finally – and this was something highlighted by the West Bengal Chief Minister as well – in a country with vast material inequalities, and disparities in access to the State, documentation requirements operate asymmetrically, and, in particular, impact the vulnerable and the marginalised (people at the intersection of the axes of caste, poverty and gender). Indian Courts have long articulated an equality jurisprudence that is cognisant of material and socio-political discrimination: a process that accentuates, rather than mitigates, these disparities, violates basic constitutional principles.

It should be obvious that these are not mere "administrative" glitches that can be corrected by administrative tweaks, in the manner in which the Court has been doing for the past eight months. Rather, the specific problems of voter deletions and disenfranchisement that are being brought to the Court on a regular basis are symptoms. They are downstream from the actual issue, which is the manner in which the ongoing SIRs invert the relationship between the state and the individual, and leave the latter effectively at the mercy of the former. This is a question that goes to the heart of the constitutional order. It cannot be remedied through a mere administrative fix. Rather, it must be addressed from the perspective of a constitutional framework that genuinely affirms the dignity and participatory rights of every individual, refusing to reduce persons to mere cogs in the machine of state and administrative efficiency.



## Judicial drift in the Special Intensive Revision hearings विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण सुनवाई में न्यायिक विचलन

### Supreme Court hearings on SIR and constitutional concerns एसआईआर पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट की सुनवाई और संवैधानिक चिंताएँ

- In the **first week of February 2026**, in an unprecedented event, **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** appeared before the **Supreme Court of India** during hearings on the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls** taking place across multiple States. **फरवरी 2026 के पहले सप्ताह** में एक अभूतपूर्व घटना में **पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी** ने कई राज्यों में चल रही **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) प्रक्रिया** पर सुनवाई के दौरान **भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में उपस्थिति दर्ज की।
- Her arguments focused on **procedural infirmities** causing **hardship to residents** of her State. उनके तर्क **प्रक्रियात्मक कमियों** पर केंद्रित थे जो उनके राज्य के **निवासियों को कठिनाई** पहुंचा रही थीं।
- Her intervention led to the Court issuing a **slew of directions on February 9** aimed at mitigating hardships. उनके हस्तक्षेप के बाद न्यायालय ने **9 फरवरी** को कई निर्देश जारी किए जिनका उद्देश्य कठिनाइयों को कम करना था।
- However, the Court also stated that **no impediment to the SIR would be allowed** across any State. हालांकि, न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि **किसी भी राज्य में SIR में कोई बाधा स्वीकार नहीं की जाएगी**।

### Core constitutional challenge not decided मूल संवैधानिक चुनौती का निर्णय नहीं

- This statement appears to **pre-judge the fundamental issue**, which concerns the Court's role as the **primary organ of constitutional adjudication**. यह कथन **मूल मुद्दे का पूर्व-निर्णय** प्रतीत होता है, जो न्यायालय की **संवैधानिक न्यायनिर्णयन की मुख्य संस्था** के रूप में भूमिका से जुड़ा है।
- Challenges to the **SIR were first filed in July** when it was announced for **Bihar**. **SIR के खिलाफ पहली याचिकाएँ जुलाई** में दायर की गई थीं जब इसे **बिहार** के लिए घोषित किया गया था।
- These petitions questioned the **constitutionality of the SIR itself**. इन याचिकाओं ने **SIR की संवैधानिकता** पर ही प्रश्न उठाए।
- Months passed, **SIR announced in multiple States**, and challenges multiplied. कई महीने बीते, **कई राज्यों में SIR घोषित हुआ**, और चुनौतियाँ बढ़ती गईं।
- The **Bihar election (November 2025)** concluded, with the **Bihar SIR becoming a fait accompli**. **बिहार चुनाव (नवंबर 2025)** समाप्त हुआ और **बिहार SIR एक स्थापित तथ्य बन गया**।
- The Court held **multiple hearings** and passed directions on issues such as whether **Aadhaar can be used as identification**. न्यायालय ने **कई सुनवाई** कीं और यह जैसे मुद्दों पर निर्देश दिए कि क्या **आधार पहचान पत्र के रूप में उपयोग हो सकता है**।
- However, the **core constitutional challenge remains undecided**, making any future judgment appear as **retrospective validation**. हालांकि, **मूल संवैधानिक चुनौती अभी भी अनिर्णीत है**, जिससे भविष्य का निर्णय **पश्चात मान्यता** जैसा प्रतीत हो सकता है।
- In a **constitutional democracy**, the Court's primary role is ensuring **state compliance with the Constitution**, not acting as an **administrator**. **संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र** में न्यायालय की मुख्य भूमिका **राज्य को संविधान के अनुरूप बनाए रखना** है, न कि **प्रशासक** की तरह कार्य करना।
- This pattern is not new; the **Aadhaar programme challenge (2012–2018)** saw a final judgment only after Aadhaar became a **fait accompli**.



यह पैटर्न नया नहीं है; **आधार कार्यक्रम (2012–2018)** में अंतिम निर्णय तब आया जब आधार **स्थापित तथ्य** बन चुका था।

- During those **six years**, the Court issued various operational directions but did not decide the **constitutional challenge**.  
इन **छह वर्षों** में न्यायालय ने कई प्रशासनिक निर्देश दिए लेकिन **संवैधानिक चुनौती** पर निर्णय नहीं लिया।
- The repetition of this pattern in the **SIR case** suggests a **shift from constitutional adjudication to administrative role**, which is described as **unfortunate**.  
**SIR मामले** में इस पैटर्न की पुनरावृत्ति न्यायालय के **संवैधानिक भूमिका से प्रशासनिक भूमिका की ओर झुकाव** को दर्शाती है, जिसे **दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण** बताया गया है।

### There are significant issues महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे हैं

- Indeed, the **SIR process** has raised certain **significant constitutional issues**.  
वास्तव में, **SIR प्रक्रिया** ने कुछ **महत्वपूर्ण संवैधानिक मुद्दे** उठाए हैं।
- Many of these issues turn upon the **question of power**.  
इनमें से कई मुद्दे **शक्ति के प्रश्न** पर आधारित हैं।
- The **Representation of the People Act** authorises the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to conduct a special revision for **“any constituency or any part of a constituency”** for recorded reasons.  
**जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI)** को **“किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र या उसके किसी भाग”** में विशेष पुनरीक्षण करने की अनुमति देता है, कारण दर्ज करने की शर्त के साथ।
- A fundamental question arises whether this **specific power** is a **carte blanche** to conduct **State and nation-wide SIRs**.  
एक मूल प्रश्न उठता है कि क्या यह **विशिष्ट शक्ति** पूरे राज्य और राष्ट्रव्यापी **SIR** करने की **पूर्ण अनुमति** है।
- The wording suggests it is meant as a **targeted and focused exercise** to correct distortions in **specific places**.  
इसकी भाषा संकेत देती है कि यह **लक्षित और केंद्रित अभ्यास** है, जिसका उद्देश्य **विशिष्ट स्थानों** में विकृतियों को सुधारना है।
- By contrast, present **SIRs are large-scale dragnet revisions** turning rolls into **citizenship-determining exercises**.  
इसके विपरीत, वर्तमान **SIR व्यापक स्तर की ड्रैगनेट पुनरीक्षण प्रक्रिया** है, जो मतदाता सूची को **नागरिकता निर्धारण अभ्यास** में बदल देती है।
- Electoral rolls already exist; thus ongoing **SIRs require entire populations to re-establish citizenship and voting rights** without prior suspicion.  
मतदाता सूची पहले से मौजूद है; इसलिए वर्तमान **SIR पूरी आबादी को बिना पूर्व संदेह नागरिकता और मतदान अधिकार पुनः सिद्ध करने** को बाध्य करती है।
- The constitutional issue is whether **ECI can presume mass non-citizenship** and force people to **prove rights from scratch**.  
संवैधानिक प्रश्न यह है कि क्या **ECI सामूहिक गैर-नागरिकता मान सकता है** और लोगों को **शुरू से अधिकार सिद्ध करने** को बाध्य कर सकता है।
- In **1995, Lal Babu Hussein vs Electoral Registration Officer**, the Court held it **could not**.  
**1995 के लाल बाबू हुसैन बनाम इलेक्टोरल रजिस्ट्रेशन ऑफिसर** मामले में न्यायालय ने कहा कि **ऐसा नहीं किया जा सकता**।
- The Court struck down large-scale removal of names and required **notices to specific individuals with reasons for suspicion**.  
न्यायालय ने बड़े पैमाने पर नाम हटाने को रद्द किया और **विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों को कारण सहित नोटिस देने** का निर्देश दिया।
- Present **SIR reverses this process** — instead of targeting suspected non-voters, **everyone must prove they are voters**.  
वर्तमान **SIR इस प्रक्रिया को उलट देता है** — संदिग्ध गैर-मतदाताओं को लक्षित करने के बजाय **हर व्यक्ति को मतदाता सिद्ध करना पड़ता है**।
- Multiple reports show **arbitrary deletions** and individuals running **from pillar to post** to prove citizenship.



कई रिपोर्टों में **मनमाने ढंग से नाम हटाने** और लोगों को नागरिकता सिद्ध करने के लिए **भटकने** की बात सामने आई है।

- These problems arise from a **fundamental inversion of the state–citizen relationship**. ये समस्याएँ **राज्य-नागरिक संबंध के मूल उलटाव** से उत्पन्न हुई हैं।
- Another troubling impact is the widespread use of **Form 7**, allowing **any person to object to inclusion** of another in the roll.  
एक अन्य चिंताजनक प्रभाव **फॉर्म 7** का व्यापक उपयोग है, जो **किसी भी व्यक्ति को दूसरे के नाम पर आपत्ति** करने की अनुमति देता है।
- There are widespread reports of **misuse of Form 7** to remove people **en masse from voter rolls** across States.  
कई राज्यों में **फॉर्म 7 के दुरुपयोग** से लोगों के नाम **बड़े पैमाने पर मतदाता सूची से हटाने** की खबरें आई हैं।

### An accentuation of disparities असमानताओं का बढ़ना

- Finally — and this was highlighted by the **West Bengal Chief Minister** — in a country with vast **material inequalities** and disparities in **access to the State**, **documentation requirements operate asymmetrically**, especially affecting the **vulnerable and marginalised**.  
अंततः — और यह **पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री** द्वारा भी रेखांकित किया गया — एक ऐसे देश में जहां व्यापक **भौतिक असमानताएँ** और राज्य तक पहुँच में अंतर हैं, **दस्तावेज़ी आवश्यकताएँ असमान रूप से कार्य करती हैं**, विशेषकर **कमजोर और हाशिए पर मौजूद लोगों** को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- These include people at the intersection of **caste, poverty and gender**. इनमें वे लोग शामिल हैं जो **जाति, गरीबी और लैंगिकता** के संगम पर स्थित हैं।
- Indian Courts have long developed an **equality jurisprudence** sensitive to **material and socio-political discrimination**.  
भारतीय न्यायालयों ने लंबे समय से **समानता न्यायशास्त्र** विकसित किया है जो **भौतिक और सामाजिक-राजनीतिक भेदभाव** के प्रति संवेदनशील है।
- A process that **accentuates rather than mitigates disparities** violates **basic constitutional principles**.  
एक ऐसी प्रक्रिया जो **असमानताओं को कम करने के बजाय बढ़ाती है**, **मौलिक संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों** का उल्लंघन करती है।
- These are not mere **administrative glitches** correctable by minor administrative tweaks. ये केवल **प्रशासनिक त्रुटियाँ** नहीं हैं जिन्हें छोटे प्रशासनिक सुधारों से ठीक किया जा सके।
- The Court has been addressing issues for **eight months** through administrative directions. न्यायालय पिछले **आठ महीनों** से प्रशासनिक निर्देशों के माध्यम से इन मुद्दों को संबोधित कर रहा है।
- However, the specific problems of **voter deletions and disenfranchisement** are only **symptoms**.  
हालांकि, **मतदाता नाम हटाने और मताधिकार से वंचित करने** की समस्याएँ केवल **लक्षण** हैं।
- They arise from the deeper issue — the way **SIR inverts the relationship between the State and the individual**, leaving citizens **at the mercy of the State**.  
ये गहरे मुद्दे से उत्पन्न होती हैं — जिस प्रकार **SIR राज्य और नागरिक के संबंध को उलट देता है**, और नागरिक को **राज्य की दया पर छोड़ देता है**।
- This question strikes at the **heart of the constitutional order**.  
यह प्रश्न **संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के मूल** को प्रभावित करता है।
- It cannot be remedied by a simple **administrative fix**.  
इसे साधारण **प्रशासनिक सुधार** से ठीक नहीं किया जा सकता।
- It must be addressed within a **constitutional framework** that affirms the **dignity and participatory rights of every individual**.  
इसे एक ऐसे **संवैधानिक ढांचे** में संबोधित करना होगा जो **हर व्यक्ति की गरिमा और भागीदारी के अधिकार** की पुष्टि करता हो।
- The framework must refuse to reduce citizens to **mere cogs in the machine of state and administrative efficiency**.  
यह ढांचा नागरिकों को **राज्य और प्रशासनिक दक्षता की मशीन के केवल पुर्जे** तक सीमित करने से इंकार करना चाहिए।



# The Constitution enters the sanctum

GS II: Polity

**T**wo recent judgments of the Madras High Court – one concerning the Thiruparankundram Deepathoon and the other relating to the rights of the Thenkalai sect to recite hymns at the Kanchipuram Varadaraja Perumal temple – have brought to the fore the role of the judiciary in adjudicating religious disputes. That these matters have reached the High Court is revealing on multiple levels. First, it tells us that courts have a constitutional role in deciding religious disputes. Second, it demolishes the argument that temples are private spaces where the court or the state cannot intervene. Given the growing number of such cases, the law around religion has taken centre stage like never before.

**Shift from civil rights disputes**  
Over a hundred years ago, it was civil courts that dealt with temple disputes. In a case pertaining to entry into the Kamudhi temple in Ramanathapuram, pitched battles around civil rights to enter temple premises were fought all the way up to the Privy Council in London. In *Sankaralinga Nadan and Ors vs Raja Rajeswara Dorai and Ors* (1908), the Privy Council was called upon to decide whether the Nadar community had a right to enter the Kamudhi temple. In the pre-constitutional era, such cases around temple entry and right to co-worship were primarily regarded as disputes concerning civil rights.

In 1927, the Madras Presidency government enacted the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act to govern temples and their endowments. A slew of legislative activity followed in the next two decades, which enabled setting up of local temple committees and the auditing of temple funds which enshrined the supervisory role of the Presidency government.

All this changed when the Constitution was adopted in 1950, which introduced fundamental rights to practise religion. The



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The growing number of religious disputes before constitutional courts reflects the role of the judiciary in ensuring that religious practices do not undermine constitutional principles

freedom of worship rights in Articles 25 and 26 to worship were made applicable to individuals as well as religious denominations. However, this freedom was tempered with the requirement that rights to practise or profess religion would be subject to public order, health, and morality. This allowed the state to further regulate worship when it offended public conscience or morality.

This period ushered in a critical shift in judicial thinking. From the earlier view that these matters were civil rights disputes, the courts began looking at them from the vantage of constitutional directives. By doing so, the judiciary asserted the rights of the individual to equality and religious freedom subject to public interest restrictions. This led to the blossoming of jurisprudence around temple entry, religious freedoms, and equality in the appointment of priests. It is now a matter of debate in constitutional courts as to if and how these rights should be limited.

Nevertheless, the southern States, which belonged to the erstwhile Madras Presidency, must be credited for bringing in this jurisprudence. It started with these States enacting legislation under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act for better temple governance. These legislation and regulations, consequently, invited judicial oversight, as writ courts were called to adjudicate upon whether State intervention respected the rights of the religious denominations while safeguarding the constitutional rights of others. This led to the development of temple-related jurisprudence over the last 70 years.

### The test used by courts

In developing this jurisprudence, courts have undertaken an inquiry into whether religious practices conflict with constitutional principles. For example, where there is a restriction of the entry of certain people or where a customary practice is in conflict

with fundamental rights, such matters can be brought before constitutional courts. The constitutional court then undertakes the task of finding out whether such custom or practice is protected by the essential religious practice test. A creation of the Supreme Court, this test is to determine whether a particular custom or practice is essentially integral to the religion. Those not essentially religious were, interestingly, deemed to be “secular” and open to judicial guidance. Therefore, if a practice fails this test, then the court typically proceeds to issue directions in consonance with settled constitutional principles.

Despite criticism regarding its inconsistent interpretation in subsequent judgments, the courts have continued to use this test to bring a measure of objectivity to decisions by focusing on the core tenets of the religion itself. In *Indian Young Lawyers Association and Ors vs State of Kerala* (2018) (Sabarimala temple case), this approach underwent a significant consolidation when the Supreme Court held that even those practices considered essential to the religion cannot be shielded from judicial scrutiny if they are inconsistent with constitutional morality. Therefore, the law of the land is that religious freedoms are subject to constitutional morality, which in turn is founded on the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The growing number of religious disputes before constitutional courts reflects not only ideological polarisation within and across faiths, but also the enduring role of the judiciary in ensuring that religious practices do not undermine constitutional principles. Judicial review of religious disputes, therefore, cannot be seen as an aberration but a continuation of a long-standing constitutional engagement – one that seeks to harmonise faith with the foundational principles of the Constitution.

## The Constitution enters the sanctum संविधान गर्भगृह में प्रवेश करता है

Judiciary and religious disputes in India  
भारत में न्यायपालिका और धार्मिक विवाद

- Two recent judgments of the **Madras High Court** — concerning the **Thiruparankundram Deepathoon** and the rights of the **Thenkalai sect** to recite hymns at the **Kanchipuram Varadaraja Perumal temple** — highlight the judiciary’s role in **adjudicating religious**



### disputes.

मद्रास हाईकोर्ट के दो हालिया फैसले — थिरुपरनकुंद्रम दीपथून और कांचीपुरम वरदराज पेरुमल मंदिर में थेकलई संप्रदाय के भजन गाने के अधिकार से संबंधित — धार्मिक विवादों के निपटारे में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका को उजागर करते हैं।

- These cases show courts have a **constitutional role in deciding religious disputes**. ये मामले दिखाते हैं कि अदालतों की धार्मिक विवादों के निर्णय में संवैधानिक भूमिका है।
- They also demolish the argument that **temples are private spaces** beyond court or state intervention. ये यह तर्क भी खारिज करते हैं कि मंदिर निजी स्थान हैं जहाँ अदालत या राज्य हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकते।
- With rising such cases, **law relating to religion has taken centre stage**. ऐसे मामलों की बढ़ती संख्या के साथ धर्म से संबंधित कानून केंद्र में आ गया है।

### Shift from civil rights disputes नागरिक अधिकार विवादों से परिवर्तन

- Over a hundred years ago, **civil courts handled temple disputes**. सौ वर्ष पहले सिविल कोर्ट मंदिर विवादों का निपटारा करते थे।
- In the **Kamudhi temple entry case**, civil rights battles reached the **Privy Council in London**.  
कमुधी मंदिर प्रवेश मामले में नागरिक अधिकारों की लड़ाई लंदन की प्रिवी काउंसिल तक पहुँची।
- In **Sankaralinga Nadan vs Raja Rajeswara Dorai (1908)**, the Privy Council examined whether the **Nadar community** had the right to enter the temple.  
शंकरलिंगा नादन बनाम राजा राजेश्वर दोराई (1908) में प्रिवी काउंसिल ने जांच की कि क्या नादर समुदाय को मंदिर में प्रवेश का अधिकार है।
- In the **pre-constitutional era**, temple entry and co-worship were treated mainly as **civil rights disputes**.  
संविधान-पूर्व काल में मंदिर प्रवेश और सह-पूजा के मामले मुख्यतः नागरिक अधिकार विवाद माने जाते थे।
- In **1927**, the **Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act** was enacted to regulate temples and endowments.  
1927 में मद्रास हिंदू धार्मिक एंडोमेंट्स अधिनियम मंदिरों और दान संपत्तियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए बनाया गया।
- Subsequent laws enabled **local temple committees and auditing of temple funds**, establishing **government supervision**.  
इसके बाद के कानूनों ने स्थानीय मंदिर समितियों और मंदिर निधि ऑडिट को सक्षम बनाया, जिससे सरकारी निगरानी स्थापित हुई।
- Everything changed with the **Constitution in 1950**, introducing **fundamental rights to practise religion**.  
सब कुछ 1950 के संविधान के साथ बदल गया, जिसने धर्म का पालन करने के मौलिक अधिकार दिए।
- **Articles 25 and 26** guaranteed freedom of worship to **individuals and religious denominations**.  
अनुच्छेद 25 और 26 ने व्यक्तियों और धार्मिक संप्रदायों को पूजा की स्वतंत्रता दी।
- However, this freedom was subject to **public order, health and morality**, allowing **state regulation**.  
हालांकि यह स्वतंत्रता लोक व्यवस्था, स्वास्थ्य और नैतिकता के अधीन थी, जिससे राज्य नियमन संभव हुआ।
- This marked a **shift in judicial thinking** from civil disputes to **constitutional perspective**.  
इससे न्यायिक सोच में नागरिक विवाद से संवैधानिक दृष्टिकोण की ओर बदलाव आया।
- Courts began asserting **equality and religious freedom subject to public interest restrictions**.  
अदालतों ने सार्वजनिक हित सीमाओं के अधीन समानता और धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता को लागू करना शुरू किया।
- This led to development of jurisprudence on **temple entry, religious freedom and equality in priest appointments**.  
इससे मंदिर प्रवेश, धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता और पुजारियों की नियुक्ति में समानता पर न्यायशास्त्र विकसित हुआ।
- Today, constitutional courts debate **how and to what extent these rights should be limited**.



आज संवैधानिक अदालतों में यह बहस है कि इन अधिकारों को कैसे और किस सीमा तक सीमित किया जाए।

### Evolution of temple jurisprudence and constitutional morality मंदिर न्यायशास्त्र का विकास और संवैधानिक नैतिकता

- Nevertheless, the **southern States of the erstwhile Madras Presidency** must be credited for shaping this **jurisprudence**.  
फिर भी, पूर्व मद्रास प्रेसीडेंसी के दक्षिणी राज्यों को इस न्यायशास्त्र के विकास का श्रेय दिया जाना चाहिए।
- These States enacted laws under the **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act** for better **temple governance**.  
इन राज्यों ने बेहतर मंदिर प्रशासन के लिए हिंदू धार्मिक और धर्मार्थ एंडोमेंट्स अधिनियम के तहत कानून बनाए।
- Such legislation invited **judicial oversight**, as writ courts examined whether **State intervention respected rights of religious denominations while protecting constitutional rights of others**.  
ऐसे कानूनों ने न्यायिक निगरानी को आमंत्रित किया, जहाँ रिट अदालतों ने जांच की कि क्या राज्य हस्तक्षेप धार्मिक संप्रदायों के अधिकारों का सम्मान करते हुए दूसरों के संवैधानिक अधिकारों की रक्षा करता है।
- This led to development of **temple-related jurisprudence over 70 years**.  
इससे पिछले 70 वर्षों में मंदिर संबंधी न्यायशास्त्र विकसित हुआ।

### The test used by courts अदालतों द्वारा प्रयुक्त परीक्षण

- Courts examine whether **religious practices conflict with constitutional principles**.  
अदालतें यह जांच करती हैं कि क्या धार्मिक प्रथाएँ संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों से टकराती हैं।
- Cases involving **restriction of entry or conflict with fundamental rights** can be brought before constitutional courts.  
प्रवेश प्रतिबंध या मौलिक अधिकारों से टकराव वाले मामले संवैधानिक अदालतों में लाए जा सकते हैं।
- Courts apply the **Essential Religious Practice (ERP) test** to determine whether a practice is **integral to religion**.  
अदालतें यह तय करने के लिए आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा (ERP) परीक्षण लागू करती हैं कि कोई प्रथा धर्म का अभिन्न हिस्सा है या नहीं।
- Created by the **Supreme Court**, the test distinguishes **essential religious practices from secular practices**.  
यह परीक्षण सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा विकसित है, जो आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथाओं और धर्मनिरपेक्ष प्रथाओं में अंतर करता है।
- Practices not essential are deemed **secular and open to judicial regulation**.  
जो प्रथाएँ आवश्यक नहीं होतीं उन्हें धर्मनिरपेक्ष और न्यायिक नियंत्रण के अधीन माना जाता है।
- If a practice fails the ERP test, courts issue directions aligned with **constitutional principles**.  
यदि कोई प्रथा ERP परीक्षण में असफल होती है, तो अदालतें संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप निर्देश देती हैं।
- Despite criticism of **inconsistent interpretation**, courts continue using this test to ensure **objectivity**.  
असंगत व्याख्या की आलोचना के बावजूद अदालतें निष्पक्षता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इस परीक्षण का उपयोग करती हैं।
- In **Indian Young Lawyers Association vs State of Kerala (2018) — Sabarimala case**, the Supreme Court held that even **essential religious practices cannot escape judicial scrutiny if against constitutional morality**.  
इंडियन यंग लॉयर्स एसोसिएशन बनाम केरल राज्य (2018) — सबरीमाला मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि संवैधानिक नैतिकता के विरुद्ध होने पर आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथाएँ भी न्यायिक जांच से बच नहीं सकतीं।
- Thus, religious freedom is subject to **constitutional morality based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity**.  
इस प्रकार धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता न्याय, स्वतंत्रता, समानता और बंधुत्व पर आधारित संवैधानिक नैतिकता के अधीन है।



- The rise in religious disputes reflects **ideological polarisation and the judiciary's enduring role** in safeguarding constitutional values.  
धार्मिक विवादों की बढ़ती संख्या वैचारिक ध्रुवीकरण और संवैधानिक मूल्यों की रक्षा में न्यायपालिका की स्थायी भूमिका को दर्शाती है।
- Judicial review of religious disputes is not an aberration but a **continuation of constitutional engagement harmonising faith with constitutional principles**.  
धार्मिक विवादों की न्यायिक समीक्षा कोई असामान्यता नहीं बल्कि संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों के साथ आस्था के सामं

# Have States gained from the 16th FC?

What have been the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission? What taxes are shared between the Centre and the States? Why did the last Commission revise vertical devolution to 41%? What had industrialised States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana demanded?

GS II: Polity MCG

## EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

### The story so far:

The 16th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya has submitted its report for the period of 2026-31. The Central government has accepted its recommendations with respect to devolution of funds from Centre to States.

### What were past recommendations?

The Constitution in Article 270 provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Central government between the Centre and the States. The taxes that are shared between the Centre and the States include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central Goods and Services Tax (GST), Centre's share of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) etc. This division is based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission that is constituted every five years as per the terms of Article 280. This divisible pool, however, does not include cess and surcharge that are levied by the Centre. For the year, 2025-26, it is estimated that the divisible pool constitutes only around 81% of the gross tax revenue of the Centre after excluding cess and surcharge.

Till the 13th FC (2010-2015), the devolution involved specific transfers for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with extensive conditionalities. The share of States in Central taxes (vertical devolution) was fixed at 32%. However, since the 14th FC (2015-2020), the specific transfers for CSS were discontinued and the vertical devolution was increased to 42%. It was revised down to 41% in the 15th FC (2020-2026) due to the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

The criteria for distribution amongst the States (horizontal devolution) since the 13th FC is provided in Table 1. As can



FILE PHOTO

## The share for States

Till the 13th FC (2010-2015), the devolution involved specific transfers for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with extensive conditionalities

Table 1: Criteria for horizontal devolution amongst States

Criteria	13th FC 2010-15	14th FC 2015-20	15th FC 2020-26	16th FC 2026-31
Income distance	47.5	50	45	42.5
Population (1971)	25	17.5	-	-
Population (2011)	-	10	15	17.5
Area	10	15	15	10
Forests	-	7.5	10	10
Fiscal discipline	17.5	-	-	-
Demographic performance	-	-	12.5	10
Tax effort	-	-	2.5	-
State's contribution to GDP	-	-	-	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



be observed, higher weightage has been given for equity (income gap) and needs (population and area) when compared to efficiency (forests, demographic performance and tax effort).

### What were States' demands?

Firstly, as regards vertical devolution, 18 States had demanded that the States' share be increased from the current 41% to 50%. Few other States had demanded an increase of 45% to 48%. Many States had demanded the inclusion of cess and surcharge in the divisible pool as well as fixing a cap on cess and surcharge that could be levied by the Centre.

Secondly, as regards horizontal

devolution, many States had pitched for the continued dominance of equity parameters in the criteria. Equally, many States had recommended reducing the weight assigned to 'income distance' as a criterion. Industrialised States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana had recommended the inclusion of States' contribution to GDP among the horizontal devolution criteria.

### What did the 16th FC recommend?

With respect to the demands regarding vertical devolution, the FC opined that under the present constitutional scheme, it is neither permissible nor desirable to

fix a cap on cess and surcharge or for their inclusion in the divisible pool. These instruments may also be needed to raise resources for the Union to meet any exigencies. Similarly, the FC recommended retaining the States' share in vertical devolution at its current level of 41% considering three main reasons – the States' share in total tax revenues of the country; that much of the spending of the Union in CSS is anyway ultimately routed to the States; and that the Union government needs increased funds for defence and infrastructure.

In its approach for horizontal devolution, the FC was guided by two principles. First, changes to each State's share in the portion of divisible pool should be gradual. Second, due recognition should be given to efficiency and especially the States' contributions to growth. Accordingly, a new criterion of State's contribution to GDP has been added. The weightage to this new criterion as well as other criteria has been assigned in such a way that it spells a directional change without causing a drastic shift in States' shares.

Considering all the above factors, the share of southern and western States has marginally increased while the share of big north and central States has marginally decreased. Hence, one may conclude that it is status quo as far as vertical and horizontal devolution is concerned with a directional change towards providing due recognition for efficiency. Additionally, the following observations of the FC should be borne in mind. The Centre should progressively reduce raising revenues through cess and surcharge. The States should make their subsidies efficient and targeted, actively pursue reforms in the power sector, and rein in the levels of their fiscal deficit and debt. The Centre and States should undertake various public sector enterprise reforms.

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## THE GIST

The Constitution in Article 270 provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Central government between the Centre and the States.

With respect to the demands regarding vertical devolution, the FC opined that under the present constitutional scheme, it is neither permissible nor desirable to fix a cap on cess and surcharge or for their inclusion in the divisible pool.

In its approach for horizontal devolution, the FC was guided by two principles. First, changes to each State's share in the portion of divisible pool should be gradual. Second, due recognition should be given to efficiency and especially the States' contributions to growth.

## Have States gained from the 16th FC? क्या राज्यों को 16वें वित्त आयोग से लाभ हुआ है?

16th Finance Commission (2026-31)  
16वां वित्त आयोग (2026-31)

- The **16th Finance Commission** chaired by **Dr. Arvind Panagariya** submitted its report for **2026-31**, and the **Central government** accepted recommendations on fund devolution to States.

डॉ. अरविंद पनगारिया की अध्यक्षता में 16वें वित्त आयोग ने 2026-31 के लिए अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की और केंद्र सरकार ने राज्यों को धन हस्तांतरण संबंधी सिफारिशें स्वीकार कीं।



### What were past recommendations?

#### पूर्व सिफारिशें क्या थीं?

- **Article 270** provides the scheme for distribution of **net tax proceeds between Centre and States.**  
अनुच्छेद 270 केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच शुद्ध कर आय के वितरण का प्रावधान करता है।
- Shared taxes include **corporation tax, personal income tax, CGST, Centre's share of IGST** etc.  
साझा करों में कॉर्पोरेशन टैक्स, व्यक्तिगत आयकर, CGST और IGST में केंद्र का हिस्सा शामिल हैं।
- The distribution is based on recommendations of the **Finance Commission constituted every five years under Article 280.**  
यह वितरण अनुच्छेद 280 के तहत हर पाँच वर्ष में गठित वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों पर आधारित होता है।
- The **divisible pool excludes cess and surcharge** levied by the Centre.  
विभाज्य पूल में केंद्र द्वारा लगाए गए सेस और सरचार्ज शामिल नहीं होते।
- For **2025-26**, divisible pool is estimated at **about 81% of gross tax revenue** after excluding cess and surcharge.  
2025-26 में सेस और सरचार्ज हटाने के बाद विभाज्य पूल कुल कर राजस्व का लगभग 81% है।
- Till the **13th Finance Commission (2010-15)**, States' share in Central taxes was **32%** with conditional **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** transfers.  
13वें वित्त आयोग (2010-15) तक राज्यों का हिस्सा 32% था और केंद्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं (CSS) के साथ सशर्त हस्तांतरण होता था।
- The **14th Finance Commission (2015-20)** increased vertical devolution to **42%** and discontinued specific CSS transfers.  
14वें वित्त आयोग (2015-20) ने राज्यों का हिस्सा 42% किया और CSS हस्तांतरण समाप्त किए।
- The **15th Finance Commission (2020-26)** reduced it to **41%** due to **reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.**  
15वें वित्त आयोग (2020-26) ने जम्मू-कश्मीर पुनर्गठन के कारण इसे 41% कर दिया।
- Horizontal devolution criteria since the **13th FC** emphasised **equity (income gap) and needs (population, area) over efficiency factors.**  
13वें वित्त आयोग के बाद क्षैतिज वितरण में समानता (आय अंतर) और आवश्यकताओं (जनसंख्या, क्षेत्र) को दक्षता कारकों से अधिक महत्व दिया गया।

### What were States' demands?

#### राज्यों की मांगें क्या थीं?

- Regarding **vertical devolution**, 18 States demanded increase from **41% to 50%**; some sought **45%-48%**.  
ऊर्ध्वाधर वितरण के संदर्भ में 18 राज्यों ने हिस्सा 41% से बढ़ाकर 50% करने की मांग की, जबकि कुछ ने 45%-48% की मांग की।
- Many States demanded **including cess and surcharge in the divisible pool and fixing a cap on cess and surcharge.**  
कई राज्यों ने सेस और सरचार्ज को विभाज्य पूल में शामिल करने तथा इन पर सीमा तय करने की मांग की।
- Regarding **horizontal devolution**, many States supported continued importance of **equity parameters.**  
क्षैतिज वितरण में कई राज्यों ने समानता मानकों को महत्व बनाए रखने का समर्थन किया।
- Some States recommended reducing weight of **income distance** criterion.  
कुछ राज्यों ने आय दूरी मानदंड का भार कम करने की सिफारिश की।
- Industrialised States such as **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana** suggested including **States' contribution to GDP** as a criterion.  
महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, तमिलनाडु, कर्नाटक और तेलंगाना जैसे औद्योगिक राज्यों ने राज्यों के GDP योगदान को मानदंड में शामिल करने का सुझाव दिया।

### What did the 16th FC recommend?

#### 16वें वित्त आयोग ने क्या सिफारिश की?



- With respect to **vertical devolution**, the FC said it is **neither permissible nor desirable to cap cess and surcharge or include them in the divisible pool** under the present constitutional scheme.  
ऊर्ध्वाधर वितरण के संदर्भ में आयोग ने कहा कि वर्तमान संवैधानिक व्यवस्था में सेस और सरचार्ज पर सीमा लगाना या उन्हें विभाज्य पूल में शामिल करना न तो संभव है और न ही उचित।
- These instruments may be needed for the **Union to raise resources in exigencies**.  
ये साधन आपात परिस्थितियों में केंद्र सरकार को संसाधन जुटाने के लिए आवश्यक हो सकते हैं।
- The FC recommended **retaining States' share at 41%** in vertical devolution.  
आयोग ने ऊर्ध्वाधर वितरण में राज्यों का हिस्सा 41% बनाए रखने की सिफारिश की।
- This was based on three reasons — **States' share in total tax revenues, CSS spending routed to States, and higher Union needs for defence and infrastructure**.  
यह तीन कारणों पर आधारित था — कुल कर राजस्व में राज्यों की हिस्सेदारी, CSS के माध्यम से राज्यों को होने वाला व्यय, तथा रक्षा और बुनियादी ढांचे के लिए केंद्र की बढ़ती आवश्यकता।

### Approach to horizontal devolution क्षैतिज वितरण का दृष्टिकोण

- The FC followed two principles — **gradual changes in States' shares and recognition of efficiency and States' contribution to growth**.  
आयोग ने दो सिद्धांत अपनाए — राज्यों के हिस्से में क्रमिक परिवर्तन और दक्षता व राज्यों के विकास योगदान को मान्यता।
- A new criterion of **States' contribution to GDP** has been added.  
राज्यों के GDP योगदान को नया मानदंड बनाया गया।
- Weightage has been assigned to bring a **directional change without drastic shifts** in States' shares.  
भार निर्धारण इस प्रकार किया गया कि दिशात्मक परिवर्तन हो लेकिन राज्यों के हिस्से में बड़ा बदलाव न आए।
- The share of **southern and western States slightly increased**, while that of **large northern and central States slightly decreased**.  
दक्षिणी और पश्चिमी राज्यों का हिस्सा थोड़ा बढ़ा, जबकि बड़े उत्तरी और मध्य राज्यों का हिस्सा थोड़ा घटा।
- Overall, it is **status quo in vertical and horizontal devolution with a shift towards efficiency recognition**.  
समग्र रूप से ऊर्ध्वाधर व क्षैतिज वितरण में यथास्थिति रही, पर दक्षता को अधिक मान्यता देने की दिशा में बदलाव हुआ।
- **Other key observations of the FC**  
वित्त आयोग की अन्य महत्वपूर्ण टिप्पणियाँ
- The **Centre should progressively reduce reliance on cess and surcharge**.  
केंद्र को सेस और सरचार्ज पर निर्भरता धीरे-धीरे कम करनी चाहिए।
- States should make **subsidies efficient and targeted**.  
राज्यों को सब्सिडी को प्रभावी और लक्षित बनाना चाहिए।
- States should pursue **power sector reforms**.  
राज्यों को विद्युत क्षेत्र सुधारों को आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए।
- States should control **fiscal deficit and debt levels**.  
राज्यों को राजकोषीय घाटा और ऋण स्तर नियंत्रित रखना चाहिए।
- Both **Centre and States should undertake public sector enterprise reforms**.  
केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों को सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों में सुधार करने चाहिए।
- **जस्य का निरंतर संवैधानिक प्रयास है।**



## GS Paper II: Governance,

### TOPICS COVERED

12 February 2026

1. Release pending ₹3,000 crore under PMAY-G: Bihar to Centre  
पीएमएवाई-जी के तहत लंबित ₹3,000 करोड़ जारी करें: बिहार ने केंद्र से कहा
2. Education Ministry pushes for AI-led teaching and learning at all levels by next academic year  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष तक सभी स्तरों पर एआई-आधारित शिक्षण और अधिगम को बढ़ावा देता है

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Education Ministry pushes for AI-led teaching and learning at all levels by next academic year

**GS II: Governance:**  
**AI Education**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education is working with the goal of ensuring that artificial intelligence (AI) tools become a part of teaching and learning in one way or another from the kindergarten to the research levels by the next academic year, officials said on Wednesday.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met with leaders of 10 leading start-ups using AI in the ed-tech sector at a roundtable discussion in IIT Delhi, ahead of the government's Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave starting Thursday.

Officials told presspersons on Wednesday that the government will be launching Bodhan AI during the conclave, which is expected to lead to digital



Dharmendra Pradhan

public infrastructure (DPI) for the education sector as a whole.

Mr. Pradhan said that while the government was already working to introduce AI knowledge in curricula, the focus now will be on delivering AI-assisted applications, pushing towards "AI-sovereignty". Applications include using the tool for teacher capacity building programmes, for preparing personalised lesson plans based on con-

tent already produced by institutions like the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and State CERTs.

The Education Minister argued that while the government had made significant efforts to take digital devices and internet connectivity to far-flung areas of the country, the next challenge is to use AI to deliver content to students in these regions.

After the roundtable on Wednesday, which was also attended by Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary, Mr. Pradhan posted on social media, saying that the founders he met were "home-grown", from "middle-class and tier-III city backgrounds", "who are building indigenous AI stacks particularly for transforming the educational landscape".

## Education Ministry pushes for AI-led teaching and learning at all levels by next academic year

शिक्षा मंत्रालय अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष तक सभी स्तरों पर एआई-आधारित शिक्षण और अधिगम को बढ़ावा देता है

- The **Ministry of Education** is working with the goal of ensuring that **artificial intelligence (AI)** tools become a part of teaching and learning in one way or another from the kindergarten to the research levels by the next academic year, officials said on Wednesday.

शिक्षा मंत्रालय इस लक्ष्य के साथ काम कर रहा है कि **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई)** उपकरण अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष तक किंडरगार्टन से लेकर शोध स्तर तक किसी न किसी रूप में शिक्षण और अधिगम का हिस्सा बन जाएं, अधिकारियों ने बुधवार को कहा।

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** met with leaders of 10 leading start-ups using **AI** in the ed-tech sector at a roundtable discussion in **IIT Delhi**, ahead of the government's **Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave** starting Thursday.

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने गुरुवार से शुरू होने वाले सरकार के **भारत बोधन एआई कॉन्क्लेव** से पहले **आईआईटी दिल्ली** में आयोजित एक गोलमेज चर्चा में एड-टेक क्षेत्र में **एआई** का उपयोग करने वाले 10 प्रमुख स्टार्ट-अप्स के नेताओं से मुलाकात की।



- Officials told presspersons on Wednesday that the government will be launching **Bodhan AI** during the conclave, which is expected to lead to **digital public infrastructure (DPI)** for the education sector as a whole.  
अधिकारियों ने बुधवार को पत्रकारों से कहा कि सरकार कॉन्क्लेव के दौरान **बोधन एआई** लॉन्च करेगी, जिससे पूरे शिक्षा क्षेत्र के लिए **डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (डीपीआई)** की दिशा में प्रगति होने की उम्मीद है।
- Mr. Pradhan said that while the government was already working to introduce **AI knowledge in curricula**, the focus now will be on delivering **AI-assisted applications**, pushing towards **“AI-sovereignty”**.  
श्री प्रधान ने कहा कि जबकि सरकार पहले से ही **पाठ्यक्रम में एआई ज्ञान** शामिल करने पर काम कर रही है, अब ध्यान **एआई-सहायता प्राप्त अनुप्रयोगों** को प्रदान करने और **“एआई-सॉवरेनिटी”** की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने पर होगा।
- Applications include using the tool for **teacher capacity building programmes**, for preparing **personalised lesson plans** based on content already produced by institutions like the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** and State CERTs.  
अनुप्रयोगों में **शिक्षक क्षमता निर्माण कार्यक्रमों** के लिए उपकरण का उपयोग, तथा **व्यक्तिगत पाठ योजनाएं** तैयार करना शामिल है, जो पहले से **राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद (एनसीईआरटी)** और राज्य सीईआरटी जैसे संस्थानों द्वारा तैयार की गई सामग्री पर आधारित होंगी।
- The **Education Minister** argued that while the government had made significant efforts to take digital devices and internet connectivity to far-flung areas of the country, the next challenge is to use **AI** to deliver content to students in these regions.  
**शिक्षा मंत्री** ने तर्क दिया कि जबकि सरकार ने देश के दूर-दराज क्षेत्रों तक डिजिटल उपकरण और इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी पहुंचाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास किए हैं, अगली चुनौती इन क्षेत्रों के छात्रों तक सामग्री पहुंचाने के लिए **एआई** का उपयोग करना है।
- After the roundtable on Wednesday, which was also attended by **Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary**, Mr. Pradhan posted on social media, saying that the founders he met were **“home-grown”**, from **“middle-class and tier-III city backgrounds”**, **“who are building indigenous AI stacks** particularly for transforming the educational landscape”.  
बुधवार को हुई गोलमेज बैठक के बाद, जिसमें **कौशल विकास मंत्री जयंत चौधरी** भी उपस्थित थे, श्री प्रधान ने सोशल मीडिया पर पोस्ट किया कि जिन संस्थापकों से वह मिले वे **“होम-ग्रोन”**, **“मध्यम वर्ग और टियर-III शहरों की पृष्ठभूमि”** से हैं, **“जो विशेष रूप से शैक्षिक परिदृश्य को बदलने के लिए स्वदेशी एआई स्टैक्स बना रहे हैं।”**

<b>GS Paper II: International Relations</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>12 February 2026</b>
1.	<b>Govt. plans guidelines on books by veterans</b> सरकार द्वारा पूर्व सैनिकों की पुस्तकों पर दिशानिर्देश की योजना
2.	<b>Elections in Bangladesh: looking towards the future</b> बांग्लादेश में चुनाव: भविष्य की ओर देखते हुए
3.	<b>Trump's Venezuela attack a footnote in West's history of imperial plunder</b> ट्रंप का वेनेजुएला पर हमला पश्चिम के साम्राज्यवादी शोषण के इतिहास का एक फुटनोट
4.	<b>NATO launches 'Arctic Sentry' mission after Greenland crisis</b> ग्रीनलैंड संकट के बाद नाटो ने 'आर्कटिक सेंट्री' मिशन शुरू किया
5.	<b>BNP accuses Jamaat-e-Islami of trying to buy votes before polling</b> बीएनपी ने मतदान से पहले जमात-ए-इस्लामी पर वोट खरीदने की कोशिश का आरोप लगाया
6.	<b>Tajikistan president's long absence from public raises health questions</b> ताजिकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति की सार्वजनिक जीवन से लंबी अनुपस्थिति से स्वास्थ्य पर सवाल



# Govt. plans guidelines on books by veterans

Ministry held a meeting to frame regulations for both serving and retired personnel, says official

The Centre will lay down a framework that must be followed before any manuscript is sanctioned

The OSA continues to apply for life, making it an offence to disclose classified, or sensitive data

SS II IR

Saurabh Trivedi  
NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy surrounding the unpublished memoir, *Four Stars of Destiny*, of former Army chief General M.M. Naravane (retd.), the Defence Ministry is working on detailed guidelines for serving and retired armed forces personnel who wish to publish books in future.

The proposed guidelines will spell out the process to be followed before any manuscript is cleared for publication.

A senior defence official confirmed that a meeting was held recently to frame a new set of rules, during which a detailed presentation was made. The upcoming framework is expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act.

At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers. Instead, different legal and service frameworks apply to serving personnel and retirees. In both cases, national security and protection of classified information remain the primary red lines.

There are no specific service rules barring serving personnel or retired Army officers from authoring or publishing books. However, the freedom operates within a legal grey area. The Official Secrets Act (OSA) continues to apply for life, even after retirement, making it a criminal offence to disclose classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security.

While retired personnel are no longer governed by the Army Act or Army

## Fresh framework

The upcoming guidelines are expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act (OSA)



Tricky words: LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with a copy of the unpublished memoir of former Army chief M.M. Naravane. PTI

At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers

The OSA makes disclosure of classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security a criminal offence

The Act continues to apply to an officer for life, even after retirement

rules in matters of publication, statutory laws remain applicable. If a manuscript contains operational or sensitive details, authors are expected to submit it to the Ministry for clearance. The relevant department then verifies and cross-checks the content before granting approval.

For serving Army per-

sonnel, the rules are explicit and mandatory. Service rules and defence service regulations require prior written permission before undertaking any literary, political or remunerative activity outside official duties. Requests are routed through a chain of command and may require clearance up to Army

Headquarters or the MoD, depending on the nature of the content.

Material relating to classified information, operational details, internal procedures, equipment capabilities, intelligence inputs, or issues affecting national security or foreign relations is strictly prohibited. Even fictional works may face restrictions if they closely resemble real operations or disclose identifiable details.

## Individual's judgment

Lt. Gen. (retd.) D.P. Pandey said, "When an Army person retires, he or she is as much a civilian as anyone else but the facet of Official Secrets Act remains. After retirement, it largely comes down to individual's maturity and judgment regarding what to write and how to present it. One should avoid writing on matters that are classified

and not in open domain. However, retired personnel are free to express their personal opinions about politics and matters of national security. If any content falls under the Official Secrets Act, prior permission from the MoD is required."

He further mentioned that in his view, material that is already in the public domain can be written about. There is a laid-down process within the respective Services to grant permission for publication if a book mentions issues related to national interest. If any information published in a book is found to be incorrect or unlawful, there are legal provisions to deal with such infringements.

On Tuesday, Gen. Naravane endorsed Penguin Random House India's (PRHI) statement that his memoir has not been published. PRHI clarified it

holds sole publishing rights and that no print or digital copies have been released or distributed. This followed a First Information Report by the Delhi Police over alleged illegal circulation of the unpublished manuscript. The row intensified after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questioned conflicting claims, prompting the PRHI to state that pre-order announcements do not amount to publication.

In the case of civil servants, the Centre had amended the Pension Rules for Civil Servants in 2021, prohibiting retired officials in intelligence or security related organisations to publish any information related to their organisation without clearance from the competent authority.

FIR OVER 'MEMOIR'  
» PAGE 4

## Govt. plans guidelines on books by veterans

### सरकार द्वारा पूर्व सैनिकों की पुस्तकों पर दिशानिर्देश की योजना

- Ministry held a meeting to frame regulations for both serving and retired personnel, says official  
मंत्रालय ने सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त दोनों कर्मियों के लिए नियम बनाने हेतु बैठक आयोजित की, अधिकारी ने कहा
- The Centre will lay down a framework that must be followed before any manuscript is sanctioned  
केंद्र एक ऐसा ढांचा निर्धारित करेगा जिसका पालन किसी भी पांडुलिपि को स्वीकृति से पहले किया जाना आवश्यक होगा
- The OSA continues to apply for life, making it an offence to disclose classified, or sensitive data  
OSA जीवनभर लागू रहता है, जिससे वर्गीकृत या संवेदनशील जानकारी का खुलासा करना अपराध बन जाता है
- Amid the controversy surrounding the unpublished memoir, **Four Stars of Destiny**, of former Army chief General **M.M. Naravane** (retd.), the Defence Ministry is working on detailed guidelines for serving and retired armed forces personnel who wish to publish books in future.  
पूर्व सेना प्रमुख जनरल **एम.एम. नरवणे** (सेवानिवृत्त) की अप्रकाशित आत्मकथा **Four Stars of Destiny** को लेकर विवाद के बीच, रक्षा मंत्रालय भविष्य में पुस्तक प्रकाशित करने की इच्छा रखने वाले सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त सशस्त्र बल कर्मियों के लिए विस्तृत दिशानिर्देशों पर काम कर रहा है।
- The proposed guidelines will spell out the process to be followed before any manuscript is cleared for publication.  
प्रस्तावित दिशानिर्देश किसी भी पांडुलिपि को प्रकाशन के लिए मंजूरी से पहले अपनाई जाने वाली प्रक्रिया को स्पष्ट करेंगे।
- A senior defence official confirmed that a meeting was held recently to frame a new set of rules, during which a detailed presentation was made.  
एक वरिष्ठ रक्षा अधिकारी ने पुष्टि की कि हाल ही में नए नियमों का मसौदा तैयार करने के लिए बैठक हुई, जिसमें विस्तृत प्रस्तुति दी गई।
- The upcoming framework is expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act.  
आगामी ढांचे में मौजूदा सेवा नियमों के साथ-साथ **Official Secrets Act** के प्रावधानों को शामिल किए जाने की अपेक्षा है।



- At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers.  
वर्तमान में सेवानिवृत्त सेना अधिकारियों द्वारा पुस्तक लेखन को विशेष रूप से नियंत्रित करने वाला कोई एक समेकित कानून नहीं है।
- Instead, different legal and service frameworks apply to serving personnel and retirees.  
इसके बजाय, सेवारत कर्मियों और सेवानिवृत्तों पर अलग-अलग कानूनी और सेवा ढांचे लागू होते हैं।
- In both cases, national security and protection of classified information remain the primary red lines.  
दोनों ही मामलों में, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और वर्गीकृत जानकारी की सुरक्षा प्रमुख सीमाएँ बनी रहती हैं।
- There are no specific service rules barring ex-servicemen or retired Army officers from authoring or publishing books.  
पूर्व सैनिकों या सेवानिवृत्त सेना अधिकारियों को पुस्तक लिखने या प्रकाशित करने से रोकने वाले कोई विशेष सेवा नियम नहीं हैं।
- However, freedom operates within a legal grey area.  
हालांकि, यह स्वतंत्रता एक कानूनी अस्पष्ट क्षेत्र के भीतर संचालित होती है।
- The Official Secrets Act (OSA) continues to apply for life, even after retirement, making it a criminal offence to disclose classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security.  
**Official Secrets Act (OSA)** सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी जीवनभर लागू रहता है, जिससे वर्गीकृत जानकारी, संवेदनशील परिचालन विवरण, या राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के प्रतिकूल किसी भी सामग्री का खुलासा करना आपराधिक अपराध बन जाता है।
- While retired personnel are no longer governed by the Army Act or Army rules in matters of publication, statutory laws remain applicable.  
यद्यपि सेवानिवृत्त कर्मी प्रकाशन संबंधी मामलों में अब **Army Act** या सेना नियमों द्वारा नियंत्रित नहीं होते, वैधानिक कानून लागू रहते हैं।
- If a manuscript contains operational or sensitive details, authors are expected to submit it to the Ministry for clearance.  
यदि किसी पांडुलिपि में परिचालन या संवेदनशील विवरण हों, तो लेखकों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे उसे मंजूरी के लिए मंत्रालय को प्रस्तुत करें।
- The relevant department then verifies and cross-checks the content before granting approval.  
संबंधित विभाग स्वीकृति देने से पहले सामग्री का सत्यापन और मिलान करता है।
- For serving Army personnel, the rules are explicit and mandatory.  
सेवारत सेना कर्मियों के लिए नियम स्पष्ट और अनिवार्य हैं।
- Service rules and defence service regulations require prior written permission before undertaking any literary, political or remunerative activity outside official duties.  
सेवा नियम और रक्षा सेवा विनियम आधिकारिक कर्तव्यों के बाहर किसी भी साहित्यिक, राजनीतिक या पारिश्रमिक गतिविधि से पहले लिखित अनुमति की मांग करते हैं।
- Requests are routed through a chain of command and may require clearance up to Army Headquarters or the MoD, depending on the nature of the content.  
अनुरोध कमांड की श्रृंखला के माध्यम से भेजे जाते हैं और सामग्री की प्रकृति के अनुसार **Army Headquarters** या **MoD** तक मंजूरी की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।
- Material relating to classified information, operational details, internal procedures, equipment capabilities, intelligence inputs, or issues affecting national security or foreign relations is strictly prohibited.  
वर्गीकृत जानकारी, परिचालन विवरण, आंतरिक प्रक्रियाओं, उपकरण क्षमताओं, खुफिया सूचनाओं, या राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अथवा विदेशी संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले मुद्दों से संबंधित सामग्री सख्ती से प्रतिबंधित है।
- Even fictional works may face restrictions if they closely resemble real operations or disclose identifiable details.  
यहाँ तक कि काल्पनिक रचनाएँ भी प्रतिबंधों का सामना कर सकती हैं यदि वे वास्तविक अभियानों से अत्यधिक मेल खाती हों या पहचान योग्य विवरण प्रकट करती हों।

## Individual's judgment व्यक्ति का निर्णय



- Lt. Gen. (retd.) **D.P. Pandey** said, "When an Army person retires, he or she is as much a civilian as anyone else but the facet of Official Secrets Act remains.  
लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) **डी.पी. पांडेय** ने कहा, "जब कोई सेना का व्यक्ति सेवानिवृत्त होता है, तो वह अन्य किसी भी व्यक्ति की तरह नागरिक होता है, लेकिन **Official Secrets Act** का पहलू बना रहता है।
- After retirement, it largely comes down to an individual's maturity and judgment regarding what to write and how to present it.  
सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद, यह काफी हद तक व्यक्ति की परिपक्वता और निर्णय पर निर्भर करता है कि क्या लिखना है और उसे कैसे प्रस्तुत करना है।
- One should avoid writing on matters that are classified and not in the open domain.  
व्यक्ति को उन मामलों पर लिखने से बचना चाहिए जो वर्गीकृत हैं और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में नहीं हैं।
- However, retired personnel are free to express their personal opinions about politics and matters of national security.  
हालांकि, सेवानिवृत्त कर्मी राजनीति और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के मामलों पर अपनी व्यक्तिगत राय व्यक्त करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं।
- If any content falls under the Official Secrets Act, prior permission from the MoD is required."  
यदि कोई सामग्री **Official Secrets Act** के अंतर्गत आती है, तो **MoD** से पूर्व अनुमति आवश्यक है।"
- He further mentioned that in his view, material that is already in the public domain can be written about.  
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि उनके विचार में जो सामग्री पहले से सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में है, उस पर लिखा जा सकता है।
- There is a laid-down process within the respective Services to grant permission for publication if a book mentions issues related to national interest.  
यदि कोई पुस्तक राष्ट्रीय हित से जुड़े मुद्दों का उल्लेख करती है, तो प्रकाशन की अनुमति देने के लिए संबंधित सेवाओं में निर्धारित प्रक्रिया है।
- If any information published in a book is found to be incorrect or unlawful, there are legal provisions to deal with such infringements.  
यदि किसी पुस्तक में प्रकाशित कोई जानकारी गलत या अवैध पाई जाती है, तो ऐसे उल्लंघनों से निपटने के लिए कानूनी प्रावधान हैं।
- On Tuesday, Gen. Naravane endorsed **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)**'s statement that his memoir has not been published.  
मंगलवार को, जनरल नरवणे ने **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)** के उस बयान का समर्थन किया कि उनकी आत्मकथा प्रकाशित नहीं हुई है।
- PRHI clarified it holds sole publishing rights and that no print or digital copies have been released or distributed.  
**PRHI** ने स्पष्ट किया कि उसके पास एकमात्र प्रकाशन अधिकार हैं और कोई प्रिंट या डिजिटल प्रतियाँ जारी या वितरित नहीं की गई हैं।
- This followed a **First Information Report** by the Delhi Police over alleged illegal circulation of the unpublished manuscript.  
यह अप्रकाशित पांडुलिपि के कथित अवैध प्रसार पर दिल्ली पुलिस द्वारा दर्ज **First Information Report** के बाद हुआ।
- The row intensified after Congress leader **Rahul Gandhi** questioned conflicting claims, prompting the PRHI to state that pre-order announcements do not amount to publication.  
विवाद तब तेज हुआ जब कांग्रेस नेता **राहुल गांधी** ने परस्पर विरोधी दावों पर सवाल उठाए, जिसके बाद **PRHI** ने कहा कि प्री-ऑर्डर घोषणाएँ प्रकाशन के बराबर नहीं हैं।
- In the case of civil servants, the Centre had amended the Pension Rules for Civil Servants in **2021**, prohibiting retired officials in intelligence or security related organisations to publish any information related to their organisation without clearance from the competent authority.  
सिविल सेवकों के मामले में, केंद्र ने **2021** में सिविल सेवकों के पेंशन नियमों में संशोधन किया, जिसमें खुफिया या सुरक्षा संबंधित संगठनों के सेवानिवृत्त अधिकारियों को सक्षम प्राधिकारी की अनुमति के बिना अपने संगठन से संबंधित कोई भी जानकारी प्रकाशित करने से प्रतिबंधित किया गया।



# Elections in Bangladesh: looking towards the future

Which are the two major blocs competing in the Bangladesh elections? What is the referendum for?

**Tabshir Shams**

**The story so far:**

The fate of the 'Second Liberation' of Bangladesh shall be decided on February 12, the day of its general elections.

Around 12.7 crore voters are going to cast their vote for 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) and for a national referendum on the July charter.

**Who is contesting in this election?**

A total of 2,034 candidates, including 275 independents, are contesting this election. There are 80 candidates from the minority Hindu community and 85 women candidates. There were 17 Hindu MPs in the 2024 Jatiya Sangsad. Currently, there are 59 registered political parties in Bangladesh, of which 51 are participating in the elections. There are two major blocs – the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and a 11 party alliance which

includes Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) among others. The BNP is contesting for 292 seats out of the 300, leaving the remaining seats for its coalition partners. Jamaat is contesting in 224 seats; they have no women candidates, and only one Hindu candidate. The NCP, a youth party that emerged after the July Revolution, is contesting in 30 seats.

**What is the Awami League's status?**

The Awami League (AL), which was the party of the ousted former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, has had its registration suspended by the Bangladesh election commission. In May 2025, the interim government headed by Mohd. Yunus banned all activities of Awami League under the Anti-Terrorism Act. According to Transparency International Bangladesh, 1,785 cases had been filed nationwide against AL activists and supporters as of November 19, 2025. AFM

Bahauddin Nasim, joint general secretary of the Awami League, told *The Hindu* on February 8, that the party has boycotted the election and instructed its supporters not to vote. Ms. Hasina has maintained that the elections are undemocratic, and that a large section of the population will boycott the polls.

**What is the national referendum?**

Apart from the general elections, citizens are also required to vote "Yes" or "No" on the July charter. After the ouster of Ms. Hasina, following mass protests against her government, in 2024, faith was reposed in Nobel Laureate Mohd. Yunus. Mr. Yunus was appointed Chief Adviser to the interim government and also made chair of the National Consensus Commission (NSC). The NSC was to suggest structural reforms to the state which include constitutional, electoral, and judicial amendments. Of the 166 recommendations of the NSC, 84 were

taken up forming the "National Charter of July 2025". Major reforms in the charter are centred around making constitutional bodies more independent, proposing a bicameral legislature, and increasing women's representation in parliament. If the "Yes" vote prevails then the newly formed parliament will be bound to implement the charter's provisions within 180 days. If its "No", then the risk of one-party rule and weak institutions will loom over Bangladesh's future.

**What have been India's observations?**

India was invited by Mr. Yunus as an observer for the elections. More than 330 international observers, double that of the previous controversial 2024 elections, have been invited as observers. India is yet to confirm this invitation.

India remains the largest trading partner of Bangladesh in South Asia. Many infrastructure and connectivity projects like the Kolkata-Khulna, Agartala-Akhaura, Haldibari-Chilahati as well as the 1,000 MW electricity export to Bangladesh and the Tripura-Comilla power link are the strategic pillars of this bilateral relationship. However, since the 2024 regime change, there has been a degree of ambivalence between the two nations. Only time will tell how the relationship will progress between the two neighbours.

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## THE GIST

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Apart from the general elections, citizens are also required to vote "Yes" or "No" on the July charter.

## Elections in Bangladesh: looking towards the future বাংলাদেশ में चुनाव: भविष्य की ओर देखते हुए

The fate of the 'Second Liberation' of Bangladesh  
बांग्लादेश की 'दूसरी मुक्ति' का भविष्य

- The fate of the 'Second Liberation' of Bangladesh will be decided on **February 12**, the day of **general elections**.  
बांग्लादेश की 'दूसरी मुक्ति' का भविष्य 12 फरवरी को होने वाले आम चुनावों में तय होगा।
- Around **12.7 crore voters** will vote for **300 seats of Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament)** and a **national referendum on the July charter**.  
लगभग 12.7 करोड़ मतदाता 300 सीटों वाली जातीय संसद तथा जुलाई चार्टर पर राष्ट्रीय जनमत संग्रह के लिए मतदान करेंगे।

**Who is contesting in this election?**

**इस चुनाव में कौन मुकाबले में है?**

- A total of **2,034 candidates**, including **275 independents**, are contesting.  
कुल 2,034 उम्मीदवार, जिनमें 275 निर्दलीय शामिल हैं, चुनाव लड़ रहे हैं।
- There are **80 Hindu minority candidates** and **85 women candidates**.  
इसमें 80 हिंदू अल्पसंख्यक उम्मीदवार और 85 महिला उम्मीदवार हैं।
- There were **17 Hindu MPs in 2024 Jatiya Sangsad**.  
**2024 की जातीय संसद में 17 हिंदू सांसद थे।**
- There are **59 registered political parties**, of which **51 are participating**.  
कुल 59 पंजीकृत राजनीतिक दल हैं, जिनमें से 51 चुनाव में भाग ले रहे हैं।
- Two major blocs are **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** and an **11-party alliance including Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP)**.  
दो प्रमुख गठबंधन हैं — बांग्लादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी (BNP) और 11 दलों का गठबंधन जिसमें जमात-ए-इस्लामी व नेशनल सिटिजन पार्टी (NCP) शामिल हैं।
- The **BNP is contesting 292 seats**, leaving the rest to allies.  
**BNP 292 सीटों पर चुनाव लड़ रही है, शेष सीटें सहयोगियों को दी गई हैं।**
- Jamaat is contesting 224 seats**, with **no women candidates and only one Hindu candidate**.  
**जमात 224 सीटों पर चुनाव लड़ रही है, जिसमें कोई महिला उम्मीदवार नहीं और केवल एक हिंदू उम्मीदवार है।**



- The **NCP**, a youth party after the **July Revolution**, is contesting **30 seats**.  
NCP, जो जुलाई क्रांति के बाद उभरी युवा पार्टी है, 30 सीटों पर चुनाव लड़ रही है।

### What is the Awami League's status? अवामी लीग की स्थिति क्या है?

- The **Awami League (AL)**, party of former PM **Sheikh Hasina**, has had its **registration suspended** by the election commission.  
पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना की पार्टी अवामी लीग का पंजीकरण निलंबित कर दिया गया है।
- In **May 2025**, the interim government led by **Mohd. Yunus** banned **AL activities** under **Anti-Terrorism Act**.  
मई 2025 में मोहम्मद यूनुस के नेतृत्व वाली अंतरिम सरकार ने आतंकवाद निरोधक अधिनियम के तहत अवामी लीग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।
- **1,785 cases** were filed against AL activists till **November 19, 2025**.  
19 नवंबर 2025 तक अवामी लीग कार्यकर्ताओं पर 1,785 मामले दर्ज हुए।
- AL has **boycotted the election** and asked supporters **not to vote**.  
अवामी लीग ने चुनाव का बहिष्कार किया और समर्थकों से मतदान न करने को कहा।
- **Sheikh Hasina** called the elections **undemocratic** and predicted **large-scale boycott**.  
शेख हसीना ने चुनाव को अलोकतांत्रिक बताया और व्यापक बहिष्कार की बात कही।

### What is the national referendum? राष्ट्रीय जनमत संग्रह क्या है?

- Citizens will vote **Yes/No on the July Charter** along with elections.  
नागरिक चुनाव के साथ जुलाई चार्टर पर हाँ/ना मतदान करेंगे।
- After **2024 protests** and **Hasina's ouster**, **Nobel Laureate Mohd. Yunus** became **Chief Adviser** of interim government and head of **National Consensus Commission (NCC)**.  
2024 के विरोध प्रदर्शनों और हसीना के पदच्युत होने के बाद नोबेल विजेता मोहम्मद यूनुस अंतरिम सरकार के मुख्य सलाहकार और राष्ट्रीय सहमति आयोग के प्रमुख बने।
- Out of **166 NCC recommendations**, **84** formed the **National Charter of July 2025**.  
166 सिफारिशों में से 84 से जुलाई 2025 का राष्ट्रीय चार्टर बना।
- Major reforms include **independent constitutional bodies**, **bicameral legislature**, and **increased women representation**.  
मुख्य सुधारों में स्वतंत्र संवैधानिक संस्थाएँ, द्विसदनीय संसद और महिलाओं की बढ़ी हुई भागीदारी शामिल हैं।
- If **"Yes" wins**, parliament must implement reforms within **180 days**.  
यदि "हाँ" जीतती है, तो संसद को 180 दिनों में सुधार लागू करने होंगे।
- If **"No" wins**, risk of **one-party rule** and **weak institutions** will persist.  
यदि "नहीं" जीतती है, तो एकदलीय शासन और कमजोर संस्थाओं का खतरा बना रहेगा।

### What have been India's observations? भारत के क्या अवलोकन रहे हैं?

- India was invited as an **election observer** by **Mohd. Yunus**.  
मोहम्मद यूनुस ने भारत को चुनाव पर्यवेक्षक के रूप में आमंत्रित किया।
- More than **330 international observers**, double the **2024 elections**, were invited.  
330 से अधिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यवेक्षक, जो 2024 चुनाव से दोगुने हैं, आमंत्रित किए गए।
- India has **not yet confirmed** participation.  
भारत ने अभी पुष्टि नहीं की है।
- India is **Bangladesh's largest trading partner** in **South Asia**.  
भारत दक्षिण एशिया में बांग्लादेश का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है।
- Key connectivity projects include **Kolkata-Khulna**, **Agartala-Akhaura**, **Haldibari-Chilahati**, **1,000 MW power export**, and **Tripura-Comilla link**.  
मुख्य संपर्क परियोजनाओं में कोलकाता-खुलना, अगरतला-अखौरा, हल्दीबाड़ी-चिलाहाटी, 1,000 मेगावाट बिजली निर्यात, और त्रिपुरा-कोमिल्ला लिंक शामिल हैं।



- Since the **2024 regime change**, relations show **some ambivalence**. **2024 के सत्ता परिवर्तन के बाद संबंधों में कुछ अनिश्चितता** देखी गई है।
- Future of **India-Bangladesh relations** depends on evolving political developments. **भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों का भविष्य** राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम पर निर्भर करेगा।

## Trump's Venezuela attack a footnote in West's history of imperial plunder

Writers argue why Latin American underdevelopment should be seen as a structural byproduct of western development, of mainly Britain in the 17th to the early 20th centuries, and the U.S. from the 19th century onwards

CS II: IR

Suhit K. Sen

In even the most liberal western commentary, U.S. President Donald Trump's invasion of Venezuela presages the destruction of a rules-based international order, which itself presumes that nations are equal. It's actually a footnote in the bloody and barbarous history of the colonial subjugation and rapine of the world by the 'West'.

Latin America has been savagely pillaged for over half a millennium, beginning with Christopher Columbus's landing in 1492. What followed was a genocide in which the autochthons were either killed or enslaved to work at extracting their own natural resources for the benefit of Europe.

### 'Civilising' mission

The magnificent civilisations of the Mayans, Aztecs and Incas were razed as European 'civilisation' was transplanted in its place. In *A History of Venezuela*, Guillermo Morón recounts this history from an unabashedly Eurocentric perspective, lauding the theft of a country and a continent as a civilising mission in which well-intentioned priests and benevolent conquistadors brought the fruits of European enlightenment to savages stranded on the lowest rungs of the civilisational ladder.

There are references to cruelties, but those remain in metaphorical parentheses. There is a recognition that the native civilisations played some role in the shaping of Venezuela, through cultural intermingling and miscegenation. But Morón's perspective prevents him from recognising forced assimilation as just another face of barbarous extermination or banishment to the margins.

Morón's history of the 19th and 20th

centuries, independence from Spain and since, notes the preponderance of dictatorship over democracy in Venezuela. But since he can't see the structures of colonialism/imperialism and neocolonialism/neo-imperialism, he attributes this to the temperament of the people. Nor can he recognise, in the underdevelopment of the region, the structural role of colonialism and neocolonialism.

### Indictment of colonialism

Eduardo Galeano makes up for these lacks in his searing indictment of colonialism in *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*. Framed in dependency theory, Galeano's story sees Latin American underdevelopment as a structural byproduct of western development, of mainly Britain in the 17th to the early 20th centuries, and the U.S. from the 19th onwards.

But Galeano's is not a bloodless accounting of political economy. It is a rich history of peoples that takes readers on a journey from the barbarities of Francisco Pizarro, the illiterate pig-breeder who was given Spanish imperial licence to forage for empire, to the slick boardrooms in U.S. metropolises which provoked and financed coups and massacres every time a Latin American dispensation tried to forge a path to the development of its nations and peoples. Galeano notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Cuban revolutionaries to construct not just an independent economy that worked for all the people, but a just society that was bound by the ties of fraternity and cooperation. It also notes the manner in which U.S. corporate interests funded the coup d'état through which Augusto Pinochet overthrew the legitimate socialist government of Salvador Allende. The U.S. state

generously provided training to the putschists.

### Coups, and aftermath

Naomi Klein provides agonising details of the manufactured coup in *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. In its quest to subordinate and exploit Latin America, the U.S. propped up the bloodiest of dictators who were willing to do its bidding. The British did the same in the 19th century and till World War II destroyed its empire and made it a second-rate power.

The development of the core of the world capitalist system, based on the export of the infinitely squeezed surplus value of the peripheries, which is precisely what keeps them underdeveloped and immiserised, required draconian comprador regimes that would keep people – labour power – terrorised and industries denationalised. Galeano shows wonderfully through theory and human stories how metropolitan economic centres plundered natural resources and labour to first fire capitalism and then extend it.

### The Venezuela story

Gregory Wilpert takes the Venezuelan story forward to 2006, providing a critical account of Hugo Chávez's attempts to break free of the stranglehold of the capitalist-imperialist system and build a national economy and society that worked for the poorest. In *Changing Venezuela by Taking Power: The History and Policies of the Chávez Government*, he concluded that while the 'Bolivarian' project was a beacon to the world on account of the possibilities of democratic socialism it contained, it was incomplete, and beset by internal contradictions and external besiegement, again stoked by the U.S. state. There was no unambiguous hope, Wilpert concluded presciently, that

the revolution would bear fruit.

There were three main arenas in which Chávez and his party promoted participatory democracy: politics, society and the economy. In trying to remould the political system as more people-centric, Chávez introduced a new constitution in 1999. It made provisions for more accountable governance by including two more branches for auditing, introduced referenda for legislation and recall, which were unsuccessfully deployed against him, and decentralised power to communities. In the economic sphere, the Chávez dispensation gestured at workers' role in managing industries, promoted the cooperative movement, nationalised some industries, including partially the oil sector, though he failed to curb the dependence on oil, which kept the economy vulnerable to sudden shocks. In the social and economic sector, the Chávez administration made a major break by providing constitutional guarantees for women and indigenous people. He also expanded urban and rural land reforms to give entitlements to the poor, buttressing these with reform of the state health and educational systems.

The failure of the Venezuelan way, as compared to the Cuban path, can be explained largely by geopolitics. Cuba had the benefit of a bipolar world and thus Soviet assistance; in Chavez's unipolar world of U.S. hegemony, there was just the unremitting 'enemy action' of the hegemon and its allies, and no source of succour. And fifth columnists like Maria Corina Machado at hand to derail the experiment. This prompted an authoritarian turn.

For the moment, though, another western capitalist assault has won another battle, hopefully not the war humanity must wage.

The author is a historian and journalist.

## Trump's Venezuela attack a footnote in West's history of imperial plunder ट्रंप का वेनेजुएला पर हमला पश्चिम के साम्राज्यवादी शोषण के इतिहास का एक फुटनोट

- **Writers argue why Latin American underdevelopment** should be seen as a **structural byproduct of western development**, of mainly Britain in the **17th to the early 20th centuries**, and the **U.S. from the 19th century onwards**  
लेखकों का तर्क है कि लैटिन अमेरिका का अ विकास को पश्चिमी विकास का एक संरचनात्मक परिणाम माना जाना चाहिए, मुख्यतः ब्रिटेन द्वारा 17वीं से प्रारंभिक 20वीं शताब्दी तक, और अमेरिका द्वारा 19वीं शताब्दी के बाद से

U.S. invasion of Venezuela and colonial legacy  
वेनेजुएला पर अमेरिकी आक्रमण और औपनिवेशिक विरासत



- Even liberal western commentary says **U.S. President Donald Trump's invasion of Venezuela** threatens the **rules-based international order** based on equality of nations.

उदार पश्चिमी टिप्पणियों के अनुसार भी **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का वेनेजुएला पर आक्रमण** राष्ट्रों की समानता पर आधारित **नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था** को खतरे में डालता है।

- It is seen as a **footnote in the violent colonial history of western domination** of the world.

इसे विश्व पर पश्चिमी प्रभुत्व के **हिंसक औपनिवेशिक इतिहास का एक अध्याय** माना जाता है।

- **Colonial destruction of Latin America** लैटिन अमेरिका का औपनिवेशिक विनाश
- Latin America has been exploited for **over half a millennium since Christopher Columbus landed in 1492.** लैटिन अमेरिका का शोषण **1492 में क्रिस्टोफर कोलंबस के आगमन से आधी सहस्राब्दी से अधिक समय से** होता रहा है।
- This led to **genocide, slavery, and extraction of natural resources** for Europe. इसके परिणामस्वरूप **नरसंहार, दासता और यूरोप के लिए प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का शोषण** हुआ।



### 'Civilising' mission 'सभ्य बनाने' का मिशन

- Great civilisations of **Mayans, Aztecs and Incas were destroyed** and replaced by European civilisation.  
**मायन, एज़टेक और इंका सभ्यताओं को नष्ट कर यूरोपीय सभ्यता स्थापित की गई।**
- Historian **Guillermo Morón** portrayed colonial conquest as a **civilising mission by priests and conquistadors.**  
इतिहासकार **गिलेर्मो मोरोन** ने औपनिवेशिक विजय को **पादरियों और विजेताओं द्वारा सभ्य बनाने का मिशन** बताया।
- He acknowledged some cruelty but framed colonialism as **cultural intermixing and assimilation.**  
उन्होंने कुछ क्रूरताओं को स्वीकार किया, पर औपनिवेशिकता को **सांस्कृतिक मिश्रण और आत्मसात** के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया।
- His perspective ignored **forced assimilation and structural colonial exploitation.**  
उनका दृष्टिकोण **बलपूर्वक आत्मसात और संरचनात्मक औपनिवेशिक शोषण** को नजरअंदाज करता है।
- He attributed Venezuela's **dictatorships and underdevelopment to people's temperament,** not colonial structures.  
उन्होंने वेनेजुएला की **तानाशाही और अविास का कारण लोगों के स्वभाव को** बताया, न कि औपनिवेशिक संरचनाओं को।

### Indictment of colonialism औपनिवेशिकता की निंदा

- **Eduardo Galeano's book "Open Veins of Latin America"** strongly criticises colonialism.  
**एदुआर्दो गालेआनो की पुस्तक "ओपन वेन्स ऑफ लैटिन अमेरिका"** औपनिवेशिकता की तीखी आलोचना करती है।
- Using **dependency theory,** he argued Latin America's underdevelopment is a **structural by-product of western development,** especially **Britain (17th-20th century) and the U.S. (from 19th century).**  
**निर्भरता सिद्धांत** के अनुसार उन्होंने कहा कि लैटिन अमेरिका का अविास **पश्चिमी विकास का संरचनात्मक परिणाम** है, विशेषकर **ब्रिटेन (17वीं-20वीं सदी) और अमेरिका (19वीं सदी से)।**



- Galeano described brutality from **Francisco Pizarro's conquests to U.S.-backed coups and massacres** in Latin America.  
गालेआनो ने फ्रांसिस्को पिजारो की विजय से लेकर अमेरिका समर्थित तख्तापलट और नरसंहारों तक की क्रूरता का वर्णन किया।
- He praised the **Cuban revolution's effort to build an independent and just society**.  
उन्होंने क्यूबा क्रांति के स्वतंत्र और न्यायपूर्ण समाज निर्माण के प्रयास की प्रशंसा की।
- He noted **U.S. corporate support for the coup by Augusto Pinochet against Salvador Allende** and training to the putschists.  
उन्होंने सल्वाडोर अयेन्दे के खिलाफ ऑगस्टो पिनोचे के तख्तापलट में अमेरिकी कॉर्पोरेट समर्थन और विद्रोहियों को प्रशिक्षण का उल्लेख किया।

### Coups, and aftermath तख्तापलट और उसके परिणाम

- Naomi Klein in "**The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism**" describes details of **manufactured coups**.  
नाओमी क्लेइन ने "द शॉक डॉक्ट्रिन: द राइज़ ऑफ डिजास्टर कैपिटलिज़्म" में कृत्रिम रूप से बनाए गए तख्तापलट का वर्णन किया।
- In its effort to dominate **Latin America**, the **U.S. supported brutal dictators** willing to serve its interests.  
लैटिन अमेरिका पर प्रभुत्व के प्रयास में अमेरिका ने क्रूर तानाशाहों का समर्थन किया जो उसके हितों की सेवा करते थे।
- **Britain also followed similar practices in the 19th century until World War II**, after which its empire declined.  
ब्रिटेन ने भी 19वीं सदी से द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध तक ऐसी ही नीतियाँ अपनाईं, जिसके बाद उसका साम्राज्य कमजोर हो गया।
- The global capitalist system developed through **extraction of surplus from peripheries**, keeping them **underdeveloped and poor**.  
वैश्विक पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था परिधीय क्षेत्रों से अधिशेष के शोषण पर आधारित थी, जिससे वे अविकसित और गरीब बने रहे।
- This required **authoritarian comprador regimes** that suppressed people and **denationalised industries**.  
इसके लिए दमनकारी दलाल शासनों की आवश्यकता थी जो जनता को दबाए रखते और उद्योगों का राष्ट्रीयकरण समाप्त करते।
- Galeano showed how **metropolitan economic centres exploited labour and resources** to expand capitalism.  
गालेआनो ने दिखाया कि महानगरीय आर्थिक केंद्रों ने श्रम और संसाधनों का शोषण कर पूंजीवाद को फैलाया।

### The Venezuela story वेनेज़ुएला की कहानी

- Gregory Wilpert analysed **Hugo Chávez's efforts to break capitalist-imperialist control** and build a pro-poor society.  
ग्रेगरी विल्पर्ट ने ह्यूगो चावेज़ के पूंजीवादी-साम्राज्यवादी नियंत्रण से मुक्त होने और गरीब समर्थक समाज बनाने के प्रयासों का विश्लेषण किया।
- In "**Changing Venezuela by Taking Power**" (2006) he said the **Bolivarian project showed possibilities of democratic socialism** but remained incomplete.  
"चेज़िंग वेनेज़ुएला बाय टेकिंग पावर" (2006) में उन्होंने कहा कि बोलीवारियन परियोजना लोकतांत्रिक समाजवाद की संभावनाएँ दिखाती है, पर अधूरी रही।
- The project faced **internal contradictions and external pressure, especially from the U.S.**  
यह परियोजना आंतरिक विरोधाभासों और बाहरी दबाव, विशेषकर अमेरिका से, से घिरी रही।
- Chávez promoted **participatory democracy in politics, society and economy**.  
चावेज़ ने राजनीति, समाज और अर्थव्यवस्था में सहभागी लोकतंत्र को बढ़ावा दिया।



- He introduced a **new Constitution in 1999** ensuring **accountability, referenda and decentralisation**.  
उन्होंने 1999 में नया संविधान लागू किया, जिसमें जवाबदेही, जनमत संग्रह और विकेंद्रीकरण शामिल था।
- Economically, he promoted **worker participation, cooperatives and partial nationalisation including oil sector**.  
आर्थिक रूप से उन्होंने श्रमिक भागीदारी, सहकारी आंदोलन और तेल क्षेत्र सहित आंशिक राष्ट्रीयकरण को बढ़ावा दिया।
- However, **dependence on oil remained**, making the economy vulnerable to shocks.  
फिर भी तेल पर निर्भरता बनी रही, जिससे अर्थव्यवस्था झटकों के प्रति संवेदनशील रही।
- Chávez introduced **constitutional guarantees for women and indigenous people** and expanded **land, health and education reforms**.  
चावेज़ ने महिलाओं और आदिवासियों के लिए संवैधानिक अधिकार दिए तथा भूमि, स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा सुधार लागू किए।

### Why the Venezuelan path struggled वेनेज़ुएला मॉडल क्यों संघर्षरत रहा

- Cuba succeeded partly due to **Soviet support in a bipolar world**, while Chávez faced a **unipolar U.S.-dominated world**.  
क्यूबा को द्विध्रुवीय विश्व में सोवियत समर्थन मिला, जबकि चावेज़ को एकध्रुवीय अमेरिकी प्रभुत्व वाले विश्व का सामना करना पड़ा।
- Persistent **external pressure and internal opposition** pushed Venezuela towards **authoritarian tendencies**.  
लगातार बाहरी दबाव और आंतरिक विरोध ने वेनेज़ुएला को सत्तावादी प्रवृत्तियों की ओर धकेला।
- For now, another **western capitalist intervention has won a battle**, though not necessarily the war for humanity's future.  
फिलहाल एक और पश्चिमी पूंजीवादी हस्तक्षेप ने एक लड़ाई जीत ली है, पर मानवता की अंतिम लड़ाई अभी बाकी है।

## BRUSSELS

### NATO launches 'Arctic Sentry' mission after Greenland crisis



GS II: IR

NATO on Wednesday said it had launched a new mission to bolster security in the Arctic, in a move to assuage U.S. President Donald Trump after he backed off claims on Greenland. NATO said the "multi-domain activity" would initially pull together work already being carried out by alliance members in the region. AFP

को एक साथ समन्वित करेगी।

### NATO launches 'Arctic Sentry' mission after Greenland crisis ग्रीनलैंड संकट के बाद नाटो ने 'आर्कटिक सेंट्री' मिशन शुरू किया

- NATO on Wednesday said it had launched a new mission to bolster security in the Arctic, in a move to assuage U.S. President Donald Trump after he backed off claims on Greenland.  
नाटो ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने आर्कटिक में सुरक्षा मजबूत करने के लिए एक नया मिशन शुरू किया है, यह कदम अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप को आश्वस्त करने के लिए उठाया गया है जब उन्होंने ग्रीनलैंड पर अपने दावों से पीछे हट गए।
- NATO said the "multi-domain activity" would initially pull together work already being carried out by alliance members in the region.  
नाटो ने कहा कि यह "मल्टी-डोमेन गतिविधि" प्रारंभ में क्षेत्र में गठबंधन सदस्यों द्वारा पहले से किए जा रहे कार्यों



# BNP accuses Jamaat-e-Islami of trying to buy votes before polling

The accusation was made after a Jamaat leader was caught with nearly **74 lakh taka (₹55 lakh)** in Saidpur airport in north Bangladesh; the Islamist party said the incident was a 'staged drama' to project the party in negative light ahead of the vote

GS II: IR

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
DHAKA

**H**ours before polling, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Wednesday accused Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) of attempting to sabotage the election process by using money power.

The accusation was made after a Jamaat leader was caught with nearly 74 lakh taka (₹55 lakh) in Saidpur airport in north Bangladesh.

Jel said the incident was a "staged drama" by law enforcement agencies.

"At a time when all banks, financial institutions, business transac-



**Poll fiasco:** Residents walking past a campaign banner of a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate in Bangladesh's Jessore district. AFP

tions and activities are closed to prevent illegal financial dealings in the election, naturally, questions are arising everywhere - from what source did

the top leader of Jamaat in one district obtain this vast amount of money, for what purpose, to whom was it intended for, and why was he travelling from Dhaka to

Thakurgaon on the eve of election," said Mahdi Amin, spokesperson of the BNP's Election Steering Committee, alleging that there have been reports of Jamaat leaders distributing cash in multiple other constituencies including Dhaka-15, where Jel's chief Shafigur Rahman is contesting the election.

The BNP and Jamaat, which were coalition partners during 2001-06, are pitted against each other in the absence of the Awami League, whose activities remain banned.

Over the past several days, the two parties have clashed on multiple occasions and on Tuesday in

Bogura, a BNP leader was injured after he was allegedly attacked by Jamaat supporters. Mr. Amin accused Jel of collecting bKash financial transfer numbers and Voter IDs of citizens and planning to hand over cash to voters. "The Saidpur Airport incident cannot be viewed as an isolated event," said Mr. Amin. He added that "a particular party" is accumulating "domestic weapons" and intimidating voters.

Jamaat held a press conference soon after the incident was reported and said concerted attempts were being made to project the party in negative light.

## BNP accuses Jamaat-e-Islami of trying to buy votes before polling

### बीएनपी ने मतदान से पहले जमात-ए-इस्लामी पर वोट खरीदने की कोशिश का आरोप लगाया

- The accusation was made after a Jamaat leader was caught with nearly 74 lakh taka (₹55 lakh) in Saidpur airport in north Bangladesh; the Islamist party said the incident was a 'staged drama' to project the party in negative light ahead of the vote  
यह आरोप तब लगाया गया जब उत्तर बांग्लादेश के सईदपुर हवाई अड्डे पर एक जमात नेता के पास से लगभग 74 लाख टका (₹55 लाख) बरामद किए गए; इस इस्लामी पार्टी ने कहा कि यह घटना वोट से पहले पार्टी को नकारात्मक रूप में पेश करने के लिए एक 'रचा हुआ नाटक' थी।
- Hours before polling, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Wednesday accused Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) of attempting to sabotage the election process by using money power.  
मतदान से कुछ घंटे पहले, बांग्लादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी (BNP) ने बुधवार को जमात-ए-इस्लामी (Jel) पर धनबल का उपयोग कर चुनाव प्रक्रिया को बाधित करने का आरोप लगाया।
- The accusation was made after a Jamaat leader was caught with nearly 74 lakh taka (₹55 lakh) in Saidpur airport in north Bangladesh.  
यह आरोप तब लगाया गया जब उत्तर बांग्लादेश के सईदपुर हवाई अड्डे पर एक जमात नेता के पास से लगभग 74 लाख टका (₹55 लाख) बरामद किए गए।
- Jel said the incident was a "staged drama" by law enforcement agencies.  
Jel ने कहा कि यह घटना कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों द्वारा रचा गया एक "रचा हुआ नाटक" था।
- "At a time when all banks, financial institutions, business transactions and activities are closed to prevent illegal financial dealings in the election, naturally, questions are arising everywhere - from what source did the top leader of Jamaat in one district obtain this vast amount of money, for what purpose, to whom was it intended for, and



why was he travelling from Dhaka to Thakurgaon on the eve of election,” said Mahdi Amin, spokesperson of the BNP’s Election Steering Committee, alleging that there have been reports of Jamaat leaders distributing cash in multiple other constituencies including Dhaka-15, where Jel’s chief Shafiqur Rahman is contesting the election.

“जब चुनाव में अवैध वित्तीय लेन-देन को रोकने के लिए सभी बैंक, वित्तीय संस्थान, व्यावसायिक लेन-देन और गतिविधियाँ बंद हैं, तो स्वाभाविक रूप से हर जगह सवाल उठ रहे हैं – एक जिले में जमात के शीर्ष नेता ने इतनी बड़ी धनराशि किस स्रोत से प्राप्त की, किस उद्देश्य से, किसे देने के लिए, और वह चुनाव की पूर्व संध्या पर ढाका से ठाकुरगांव क्यों जा रहे थे,” महदी अमीन, बीएनपी की इलेक्शन स्टीयरिंग कमेटी के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि ढाका-15 सहित कई अन्य निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में, जहां Jel प्रमुख शफीकुर रहमान चुनाव लड़ रहे हैं, जमात नेताओं द्वारा नकदी बांटने की रिपोर्टें हैं।

- **The BNP and Jamaat, which were coalition partners during 2001-06, are pitted against each other in the absence of the Awami League, whose activities remain banned.**  
BNP और जमात, जो 2001-06 के दौरान गठबंधन सहयोगी थे, अब एक-दूसरे के खिलाफ हैं, जबकि अवामी लीग, जिसकी गतिविधियाँ प्रतिबंधित हैं, अनुपस्थित है।
- **Over the past several days, the two parties have clashed on multiple occasions and on Tuesday in Bogura, a BNP leader was injured after he was allegedly attacked by Jamaat supporters.**  
पिछले कई दिनों में दोनों दल कई बार भिड़ चुके हैं और मंगलवार को बोगुरा में एक बीएनपी नेता कथित तौर पर जमात समर्थकों के हमले में घायल हो गए।
- **Mr. Amin accused Jel of collecting bKash financial transfer numbers and Voter IDs of citizens and planning to hand over cash to voters.**  
श्री अमीन ने Jel पर नागरिकों के bKash वित्तीय ट्रांसफर नंबर और मतदाता पहचान पत्र एकत्र करने तथा मतदाताओं को नकद देने की योजना बनाने का आरोप लगाया।
- **“The Saidpur Airport incident cannot be viewed as an isolated event,” said Mr. Amin.**  
“सईदपुर हवाई अड्डा घटना को एक अलग-थलग घटना के रूप में नहीं देखा जा सकता,” श्री अमीन ने कहा।
- **He added that “a particular party” is accumulating “domestic weapons” and intimidating voters.**  
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि “एक विशेष पार्टी” “घरेलू हथियार” जमा कर रही है और मतदाताओं को डराने की कोशिश कर रही है।
- **Jamaat held a press conference soon after the incident was reported and said concerted attempts were being made to project the party in negative light.**  
घटना की रिपोर्ट आने के तुरंत बाद जमात ने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस की और कहा कि पार्टी को नकारात्मक रूप में पेश करने के लिए सुनियोजित प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।



# Tajikistan president's long absence from public raises health questions

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse  
DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan's long-time leader Emomali Rakhmon has not appeared in public for two weeks, raising questions about the health of the president of the Central Asian nation bordering Afghanistan and China.

Mr. Rakhmon came to power of the poor mountainous ex-Soviet republic at the start of a five-year civil war that erupted in 1992, a year after Tajikistan declared independence.

A Soviet-era cotton farm boss, he played a key role in ending the conflict and has ruled the nation with an iron fist ever since — casting himself as a guarantor of stability to a population traumatised by war and fearing destabilisation from Afghanistan.



Tajikistan's main TV channel broadcast songs with sombre melodies this week — a Soviet-era practice when leaders fell ill or died. AP

The last time live images of the 73-year-old were aired was on January 28 during a meeting with security chiefs.

The two-week absence is unusual given Mr. Rakhmon has built a cult of personality and his movements are meticulously reported by the govern-

ment-controlled press.

On Monday, an old video posted on his official social media accounts further stoked questions about his health.

"No one is eternal. But who ensures the immortality of parents? Their children, provided they are well-raised, their grand-

children and great-grandchildren. If we raise them, educate them, and give them a trade, they will perpetuate our name," Mr. Rakhmon said in the video. It was not clear when it was filmed.

The country's main television channel has this week broadcast songs with sombre melodies and published a photo of Mr. Rakhmon on a black background with the quote, "The man of the Sun Dynasty". In the Soviet Union, sombre music was often broadcast when leaders fell ill or died.

In another unusual move, the presidential administration — which never publishes Mr. Rakhmon's schedule ahead of time — announced that he would attend "numerous events ... in the coming days."

## Tajikistan president's long absence from public raises health questions

### ताजिकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति की सार्वजनिक जीवन से लंबी अनुपस्थिति से स्वास्थ्य पर सवाल

- Tajikistan's long-time leader Emomali Rakhmon has not appeared in public for two weeks, raising questions about the health of the president of the Central Asian nation bordering Afghanistan and China.

ताजिकिस्तान के लंबे समय से नेता इमोमाली रखमोन दो सप्ताह से सार्वजनिक रूप से दिखाई नहीं दिए हैं, जिससे अफगानिस्तान और चीन की सीमा से लगे इस मध्य एशियाई देश के राष्ट्रपति के स्वास्थ्य पर सवाल उठ रहे हैं।

- Mr. Rakhmon came to power of the poor mountainous ex-Soviet republic at the start of a five-year civil war that erupted in 1992, a year after Tajikistan declared independence.

श्री रखमोन ने 1992 में शुरू हुए पांच वर्षीय गृहयुद्ध की शुरुआत में इस गरीब पर्वतीय पूर्व-सोवियत गणराज्य की सत्ता संभाली, जो ताजिकिस्तान की स्वतंत्रता की घोषणा के एक वर्ष बाद हुआ था।

- A Soviet-era cotton farm boss, he played a key role in ending the conflict and has ruled the nation with an iron fist ever since — casting himself as a guarantor of stability to a population traumatised by war and fearing destabilisation from Afghanistan.

सोवियत-युग के कपास फार्म प्रमुख रहे उन्होंने संघर्ष को समाप्त करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई और तब से देश पर लोहे की मुट्टी से शासन किया है — खुद को युद्ध से आहत और अफगानिस्तान से अस्थिरता से डरने वाली आबादी के लिए स्थिरता का गारंटर बताया है।

- The last time live images of the 73-year-old were aired was on January 28 during a meeting with security chiefs.

73 वर्षीय नेता की अंतिम बार लाइव तस्वीरें 28 जनवरी को सुरक्षा प्रमुखों के साथ बैठक के दौरान प्रसारित हुई थीं।



- **The two-week absence is unusual given Mr. Rakhmon has built a cult of personality and his movements are meticulously reported by the government-controlled press.**  
यह दो सप्ताह की अनुपस्थिति असामान्य है क्योंकि श्री रखमोन ने **व्यक्तित्व पंथ** बनाया है और उनकी गतिविधियों की जानकारी **सरकार-नियंत्रित प्रेस** द्वारा विस्तार से दी जाती है।
- **On Monday, an old video posted on his official social media accounts further stoked questions about his health.**  
सोमवार को उनके **आधिकारिक सोशल मीडिया खातों** पर पोस्ट किया गया एक पुराना वीडियो उनके स्वास्थ्य को लेकर सवालियों को और भड़काता है।
- **“No one is eternal. But who ensures the immortality of parents? Their children, provided they are well-raised, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If we raise them, educate them, and give them a trade, they will perpetuate our name,” Mr. Rakhmon said in the video.**  
“कोई भी अमर नहीं है। लेकिन माता-पिता की अमरता कौन सुनिश्चित करता है? उनके बच्चे, यदि वे अच्छी तरह से पाले जाएं, उनके पोते और परपोते। यदि हम उन्हें पालें, शिक्षित करें और कोई पेशा दें, तो वे हमारे नाम को आगे बढ़ाएंगे,” श्री रखमोन ने वीडियो में कहा।
- **It was not clear when it was filmed.**  
यह स्पष्ट नहीं था कि इसे कब फिल्माया गया था।
- **The country’s main television channel has this week broadcast songs with sombre melodies and published a photo of Mr. Rakhmon on a black background with the quote, “The man of the Sun Dynasty”.**  
देश के मुख्य **टेलीविजन चैनल** ने इस सप्ताह गंभीर धुनों वाले गीत प्रसारित किए और काले पृष्ठभूमि पर श्री रखमोन की तस्वीर प्रकाशित की, जिस पर उद्धरण था, **“द मैन ऑफ द सन डायनेस्टी”**।
- **In the Soviet Union, sombre music was often broadcast when leaders fell ill or died.**  
**सोवियत संघ** में, जब नेता बीमार पड़ते थे या मर जाते थे, तब अक्सर गंभीर संगीत प्रसारित किया जाता था।
- **In another unusual move, the presidential administration — which never publishes Mr. Rakhmon’s schedule ahead of time — announced that he would attend “numerous events ... in the coming days.”**  
एक अन्य असामान्य कदम में, **राष्ट्रपति प्रशासन** — जो कभी भी श्री रखमोन का कार्यक्रम पहले से प्रकाशित नहीं करता — ने घोषणा की कि वे **“आने वाले दिनों में कई कार्यक्रमों”** में भाग लेंगे।

<b>GS Paper III: Economy,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>12 February 2026</b>
1.	<b>Sensitive items out of U.S. statement on deal with India</b> <b>भारत के साथ समझौते पर अमेरिकी बयान से संवेदनशील वस्तुएँ हटाई गईं</b>
2.	<b>Two-day tech summit to explore how enterprises can boost their resilience</b> <b>उद्यम अपनी लचीलापन कैसे बढ़ा सकते हैं, इस पर दो-दिवसीय टेक शिखर सम्मेलन</b>
3.	<b>No reduction in States’ share in tax devolution, FM asserts in Lok Sabha</b> <b>राज्यों के कर हस्तांतरण में कोई कमी नहीं, लोकसभा में वित्त मंत्री का दावा</b>
4.	<b>Budget gives science missions big figures but core funding gaps persist</b> <b>बजट में विज्ञान मिशनों को बड़े आंकड़े मिले लेकिन कोर फंडिंग की कमी बनी रही</b>
5.	<b>The CPI base revision exercise measures a slice of life</b> <b>सीपीआई आधार संशोधन अभ्यास जीवन के एक हिस्से को मापता है</b>
6.	<b>Taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade</b> <b>पिछले दशक में करदाताओं का आधार दोगुने से अधिक हुआ</b>
7.	<b>SMEs unfamiliar with capital markets, lack intermediaries: SEBI</b> <b>पूंजी बाजारों से अपरिचित एसएमई, मध्यस्थों की कमी: सेबी</b>
8.	<b>As exports wilt, home market blooms for rose</b> <b>निर्यात मुरझाए, घरेलू बाजार में गुलाब खिले</b>



# Sensitive items out of U.S. statement on deal with India

**GS III: Economy**  
**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

The U.S. on Wednesday backtracked on changes it made to the India-U.S. joint statement and the White House factsheet on the India-U.S. framework for the interim agreement on trade, removing references to 'pulses', 'agricultural products', 'digital service tax' and Indian 'commitments' on investing \$500 billion. The references, which were not in the original joint statement, had led to questions being raised in New Delhi.

Opposition leaders asked the government to clarify its position after officials had categorically said that sensitive agricultural items were not included in the deal and that India had "intended" but not given a binding commitment to investing \$500 billion in American products over a period of five years. "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," the corrected factsheet read.

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over \$500 billion of U.S. energy, information and communication technology, coal, and other products", a line which earlier also included "agricultural" products.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a question on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out

## Taking back

The references had raised concerns after not being present in the original India-U.S. joint statement



### Dropped references:

- Pulses
- Agricultural products
- Digital service tax
- 'Commitments' on investing \$500 billion

to the U.S. government to request the changes. The U.S. did not issue any statement before quietly amending the two documents available online.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Trade Representative's office deleted another entry related to the India-U.S. deal. The social media post showed a map of India including in it Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. This is in line with India's official map but runs counter to the U.S.'s official maps that show the two regions as "disputed territory". The post had led to the question of whether the U.S. was changing its position in India's favour.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told *Fox News* on Wednesday, "India has already started winding down purchases of Russian energy products and are already ramping back up purchases of American energy and other sources."

The government has not so far denied the U.S. contention that it has given up Russian oil, saying only that its policy is to "diversify" energy procurement and this would be in "national interest".

बिलियन से अधिक की खरीद का इरादा रखता है", इस पंक्ति में पहले "कृषि" उत्पाद भी शामिल थे।

- The **External Affairs Ministry** did not respond to a question on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out to the U.S. government to request the changes.

## Sensitive items out of U.S. statement on deal with India

भारत के साथ समझौते पर अमेरिकी बयान से संवेदनशील वस्तुएँ हटाई गईं

• The **U.S.** on Wednesday backtracked on changes it made to the **India-U.S. joint statement** and the **White House factsheet** on the India-U.S. framework for the interim agreement on trade, removing references to 'pulses', 'agricultural products', 'digital service tax' and Indian 'commitments' on investing **\$500 billion**.

अमेरिका ने बुधवार को व्यापार पर अंतरिम समझौते के लिए भारत-अमेरिका संयुक्त बयान और व्हाइट हाउस तथ्यपत्र में किए गए परिवर्तनों पर पीछे हटते हुए 'दालें', 'कृषि उत्पाद', 'डिजिटल सेवा कर' और **\$500 बिलियन** निवेश संबंधी भारतीय 'प्रतिबद्धताओं' के संदर्भ हटा दिए।

• The references, which were not in the original joint statement, had led to questions being raised in **New Delhi**.

ये संदर्भ, जो मूल संयुक्त बयान में नहीं थे, **नई दिल्ली** में प्रश्न उठने का कारण बने।

• Opposition leaders asked the government to clarify its position after officials had categorically said that sensitive agricultural items were not included in the deal and that India had "intended" but not given a binding commitment to investing **\$500 billion** in American products over a period of five years.

विपक्षी नेताओं ने सरकार से अपना रुख स्पष्ट करने को कहा, जब अधिकारियों ने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा था कि संवेदनशील कृषि वस्तुएँ समझौते में शामिल नहीं थीं और भारत ने पाँच वर्षों में अमेरिकी उत्पादों में **\$500 बिलियन** निवेश करने का "इरादा" जताया था, पर बाध्यकारी प्रतिबद्धता नहीं दी थी।

• "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," the corrected factsheet read.

"भारत सभी अमेरिकी औद्योगिक वस्तुओं और अमेरिकी खाद्य तथा कृषि उत्पादों की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला पर, जिनमें 'dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits तथा अन्य उत्पाद शामिल हैं, शुल्क समाप्त या कम करेगा," संशोधित तथ्यपत्र में कहा गया।

• "India intends to buy more American products and purchase over **\$500 billion** of U.S. energy, information and communication technology, coal, and other products", a line which earlier also included "agricultural" products.

"भारत अधिक अमेरिकी उत्पाद खरीदने और अमेरिकी ऊर्जा, सूचना एवं संचार प्रौद्योगिकी, कोयला तथा अन्य उत्पादों के **\$500**



**विदेश मंत्रालय** ने इस प्रश्न पर प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी कि क्या सरकार या भारतीय दूतावास ने परिवर्तनों के अनुरोध के लिए अमेरिकी सरकार से संपर्क किया था।

- The U.S. did not issue any statement before quietly amending the two documents available online.  
ऑनलाइन उपलब्ध दोनों दस्तावेजों में चुपचाप संशोधन करने से पहले अमेरिका ने कोई बयान जारी नहीं किया।
- Meanwhile, the **U.S. Trade Representative's office** deleted another entry related to the India-U.S. deal.  
इस बीच, **अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधि कार्यालय** ने भारत-अमेरिका समझौते से संबंधित एक अन्य प्रविष्टि हटा दी।
- The social media post showed a map of India including in it **Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir** and Chinese-controlled **Aksai Chin**.  
सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में भारत का एक मानचित्र दिखाया गया जिसमें **पाकिस्तान-अधिकृत कश्मीर** और चीन-नियंत्रित **अक्साई चिन** शामिल थे।
- This is in line with India's official map but runs counter to the U.S.'s official maps that show the two regions as "disputed territory".  
यह भारत के आधिकारिक मानचित्र के अनुरूप है, लेकिन अमेरिकी आधिकारिक मानचित्रों के विपरीत है जो इन दोनों क्षेत्रों को "विवादित क्षेत्र" के रूप में दर्शाते हैं।
- The post had led to the question of whether the U.S. was changing its position in India's favour.  
इस पोस्ट ने यह प्रश्न खड़ा किया कि क्या अमेरिका भारत के पक्ष में अपना रुख बदल रहा है।
- **U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer** told **Fox News** on Wednesday, "India has already started winding down purchases of Russian energy products and are already ramping back up purchases of American energy and other sources."  
**अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधि जैमीसन ग्रीर** ने बुधवार को **Fox News** से कहा, "भारत ने पहले ही रूसी ऊर्जा उत्पादों की खरीद कम करना शुरू कर दिया है और अमेरिकी ऊर्जा तथा अन्य स्रोतों की खरीद बढ़ा रहा है।"
- The government has not so far denied the U.S. contention that it has given up Russian oil, saying only that its policy is to "diversify" energy procurement and this would be in "national interest".  
सरकार ने अब तक अमेरिका के इस दावे का खंडन नहीं किया है कि उसने रूसी तेल छोड़ दिया है, केवल इतना कहा है कि उसकी नीति ऊर्जा खरीद में "विविधीकरण" की है और यह "राष्ट्रीय हित" में होगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Two-day tech summit to explore how enterprises can boost their resilience

GS III: Economy

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Government officials, academics, and industry leaders will come together at the The Hindu Group's Tech Summit 2026 on February 12 and 13 to deliberate on various issues at the intersection of technology and governance, building resilience in industry, and the challenges and opportunities from Artificial Intelligence.

Titled "Continuity Unbroken: Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World", the summit's first day will focus on enterprise resilience and governance with key features being data privacy in biometric platforms, technology-led disaster recovery, evolution of next-generation governance and compliance frameworks, and cyberresilience in an AI-driven world. The second day will examine topics like AI-first digital transformation, integrated data security management, state perspectives on technology-driven economic growth, and the develop-



ment of industry-ready talent for an AI-driven future.

The event will be inaugurated by G. Viswanathan, founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology. He will also deliver the keynote address. Raju Vegesna, chairman and managing director, Sify Technologies, will deliver a special address.

The panel discussions will explore resilience not merely as risk mitigation but as a structural capability embedded within organisational DNA.

Dr. Viswanathan said that India had long excelled in theoretical knowledge but had often fallen short in practical knowledge. "A leading model we can draw

inspiration from is Germany," he said, adding that, in Germany, candidates seeking to teach in universities of applied sciences are required to have at least five years of professional experience. Stating that VIT was one of the first institutions to have mandated that a part of every course was to be delivered by industry experts, he pointed out that VIT had ensured that industry professionals and senior leaders actively participated at various levels, including the Academic Council and the curriculum design committee.

The summit is supported by Skylar Information Technologies, KBR, Tally, and Virtusa as associate partners; G Square as realty partner; CIO as knowledge partner; MMA as industry partner; Startup Singam as ecosystem partner; Nexus as gift partner; and the Government of Karnataka as State partner.

The event will be live streamed on [newsth.live/](https://www.newsth.live/) **THTSYTI**



**Two-day tech summit to explore how enterprises can boost their resilience**  
**उद्यम अपनी लचीलापन कैसे बढ़ा सकते हैं, इस पर दो-दिवसीय टेक शिखर सम्मेलन**

- Government officials, academics, and industry leaders will come together at **The Hindu Group's Tech Summit 2026** on **February 12 and 13** to deliberate on various issues at the intersection of technology and governance, building resilience in industry, and the challenges and opportunities from **Artificial Intelligence**.

सरकारी अधिकारी, शिक्षाविद और उद्योग जगत के नेता **The Hindu Group's Tech Summit 2026** में **12 और 13 फरवरी** को एकत्र होंगे, जहां प्रौद्योगिकी और शासन के संगम, उद्योग में लचीलापन निर्माण, तथा कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर चर्चा की जाएगी।



- Titled “**Continuity Unbroken: Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World**”, the summit’s first day will focus on enterprise resilience and governance with key features being data privacy in biometric platforms, technology-led disaster recovery, evolution of next-generation governance and compliance frameworks, and cyberresilience in an AI-driven world.  
“**Continuity Unbroken: Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World**” शीर्षक वाले इस शिखर सम्मेलन के पहले दिन का केंद्र बिंदु उद्यम लचीलापन और शासन होगा, जिसमें बायोमेट्रिक प्लेटफॉर्म में डेटा गोपनीयता, प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित आपदा पुनर्प्राप्ति, अगली पीढ़ी के शासन और अनुपालन ढांचे का विकास, तथा एआई-प्रेरित दुनिया में साइबर लचीलापन प्रमुख विषय होंगे।
- The second day will examine topics like AI-first digital transformation, integrated data security management, state perspectives on technology-driven economic growth, and the development of industry-ready talent for an AI-driven future.  
दूसरे दिन एआई-प्रथम डिजिटल परिवर्तन, एकीकृत डेटा सुरक्षा प्रबंधन, प्रौद्योगिकी-प्रेरित आर्थिक विकास पर राज्यों के दृष्टिकोण, तथा एआई-प्रेरित भविष्य के लिए उद्योग-तैयार प्रतिभा के विकास जैसे विषयों पर चर्चा होगी।
- The event will be inaugurated by **G. Viswanathan**, founder and Chancellor, **Vellore Institute of Technology**.  
इस कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन **जी. विश्वनाथन**, संस्थापक और कुलाधिपति, **वेल्लोर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी** द्वारा किया जाएगा।
- He will also deliver the keynote address.  
वह मुख्य भाषण भी देंगे।
- **Raju Vegesna**, chairman and managing director, **Sify Technologies**, will deliver a special address.  
**राजू वेगेसना**, अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक, **सिफी टेक्नोलॉजीज**, विशेष संबोधन देंगे।
- The panel discussions will explore resilience not merely as risk mitigation but as a structural capability embedded within organisational DNA.  
पैनल चर्चाएं लचीलेपन को केवल जोखिम न्यूनीकरण के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि संगठनात्मक डीएनए में निहित एक संरचनात्मक क्षमता के रूप में तलाशेंगी।
- Dr. Viswanathan said that India had long excelled in theoretical knowledge but had often fallen short in practical knowledge.  
डॉ. विश्वनाथन ने कहा कि भारत लंबे समय से सैद्धांतिक ज्ञान में उत्कृष्ट रहा है, लेकिन व्यावहारिक ज्ञान में अक्सर पीछे रह गया है।
- “A leading model we can draw inspiration from is **Germany**,” he said, adding that, in Germany, candidates seeking to teach in universities of applied sciences are required to have at least **five years of professional experience**.  
“एक प्रमुख मॉडल जिससे हम प्रेरणा ले सकते हैं, वह **जर्मनी** है,” उन्होंने कहा, और जोड़ा कि जर्मनी में अनुप्रयुक्त विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालयों में पढ़ाने के इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों के पास कम से कम **पांच वर्ष का पेशेवर अनुभव** होना आवश्यक है।
- Stating that VIT was one of the first institutions to have mandated that a part of every course was to be delivered by industry experts, he pointed out that VIT had ensured that industry professionals and senior leaders actively participated at various levels, including the Academic Council and the curriculum design committee.  
यह बताते हुए कि वीआईटी उन पहले संस्थानों में से एक था जिसने हर पाठ्यक्रम का एक भाग उद्योग विशेषज्ञों द्वारा पढ़ाया जाना अनिवार्य किया, उन्होंने कहा कि वीआईटी ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि उद्योग पेशेवर और वरिष्ठ नेता विभिन्न स्तरों पर, जिसमें अकादमिक परिषद और पाठ्यक्रम डिजाइन समिति शामिल हैं, सक्रिय रूप से भाग लें।
- The summit is supported by **Skylar Information Technologies, KBR, Tally, and Virtusa** as associate partners; **G Square** as realty partner; **CIO** as knowledge partner; **MMA** as industry partner; **Startup Singam** as ecosystem partner; **Nexus** as gift partner; and the **Government of Karnataka** as State partner.  
इस शिखर सम्मेलन को सहयोगी भागीदार के रूप में **स्काईलर इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजीज, केबीआर, टैली और वर्चुसा**; रियल्टी भागीदार के रूप में **जी स्क्वेयर**; ज्ञान भागीदार के रूप में **सीआईओ**; उद्योग भागीदार के रूप में **एमएमए**; पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र भागीदार के रूप में **स्टार्टअप सिंगम**; उपहार भागीदार के रूप में **नेक्सस**; और राज्य भागीदार के रूप में **कर्नाटक सरकार** का समर्थन प्राप्त है।
- The event will be live streamed on [newsth.live/THTSYT1](https://newsth.live/THTSYT1)  
यह कार्यक्रम [newsth.live/THTSYT1](https://newsth.live/THTSYT1) पर लाइव स्ट्रीम किया जाएगा।



# No reduction in States' share in tax devolution, FM asserts in Lok Sabha

Minister counters Opposition, says that resources that will be transferred to the States is estimated at ₹25.44 lakh crore; Constitution gives Centre authority to collect cesses and surcharges, she adds

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday dismissed allegations by Opposition members that the Centre was not transferring 41% of the divisible pool of taxes to the States, as mandated by the 15th Finance Commission, asserting that the required transfers were made every year.

The 15th Finance Commission had recommended that for 2020 to 2026, the Centre should transfer 41% of its divisible pool of taxes to the States, which the Centre had accepted.

"Often, we are accused of not transferring the 41% that the 15th Finance Commission has recommended," Ms. Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha, during her reply to the debate on the Union Budget.

"I assure you, it is 41% that we have transferred to the States. We have not reduced any State's devolvable tax," she said.

The Union Finance Minister said the total resources to be transferred to the States, including the devolution and under Centrally sponsored schemes,

This Budget has been prepared as the first Budget in the second quarter of the 21st century... So, this Budget covers a lot of issues from 2026 to 2050

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN  
Union Finance Minister



was estimated at ₹25.44 lakh crore for 2026-27.

"This entails an increase of ₹2.7 lakh crore over 2025-26 and is ₹3.78 lakh crore more than the actuals of 2024-25," she said.

"The 16th Finance Commission analysed the States' share transferred by the Centre to the States from 2018-19 to 2022-23 and concluded that in each of these years, the devolution made by the Centre exactly matches the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission," Ms. Sitharaman added.

#### Devolution pool

She said that it was the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) that audited the Centre's finances and decided what the net proceeds of the Centre were, after subtracting from the gross tax receipts the cess-

es and surcharges collected by the Centre.

"Out of that, have we transferred 41% of the divisible pool, that is what should be looked at, not the gross tax revenue," the senior BJP leader said. "The Constitution gives the Centre the authority to collect cesses and surcharges."

The Finance Minister sought to counter charges levelled by Opposition members that the Centre was shrinking the divisible pool of taxes by focusing more on cesses and surcharges, which the States cannot gain from.

"The cesses and surcharges are collected for a particular purpose such as health cess, education cess, road cess," Ms. Sitharaman said. "These do not benefit the Centre, they go to the States in terms of

building schools, hospitals, roads in the States."

#### Medium-term Budget

The Finance Minister explained why the Union Budget included several announcements that were aimed at the medium and long term.

"This Budget has been prepared as the first Budget in the second quarter of the 21st century," she said.

"So, this Budget covers a lot of issues from 2026 to 2050. We are also starting the new five-year cycle of the new Finance Commission and therefore the estimates are largely on the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission," she said.

"By doing these [longer term announcements], which are leading us towards the medium and long term, we are also continuing our push in building infrastructure," she said.

"It is not just roads and National highways, we are also looking at waterways so that the cost of logistics can come down and States that are in the hinterland will have the advantage of moving goods faster at a lesser cost," she said.

## No reduction in States' share in tax devolution, FM asserts in Lok Sabha राज्यों के कर हस्तांतरण में कोई कमी नहीं, लोकसभा में वित्त मंत्री का दावा

- Minister counters Opposition, says that resources that will be transferred to the States is estimated at **₹25.44 lakh crore**; Constitution gives Centre authority to collect **cesses and surcharges**, she adds  
मंत्री ने विपक्ष का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि राज्यों को हस्तांतरित किए जाने वाले संसाधनों का अनुमान **₹25.44 लाख करोड़** है; उन्होंने जोड़ा कि संविधान केंद्र को **उपकर और अधिभार** एकत्र करने का अधिकार देता है।



- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** on Wednesday dismissed allegations by Opposition members that the Centre was not transferring **41% of the divisible pool of taxes** to the States, as mandated by the **15th Finance Commission**, asserting that the required transfers were made every year.  
केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बुधवार को विपक्ष के सदस्यों के उन आरोपों को खारिज किया कि केंद्र राज्यों को **विभाज्य कर पूल का 41%** नहीं दे रहा है, जैसा कि **15वें वित्त आयोग** द्वारा निर्धारित किया गया था, और कहा कि आवश्यक हस्तांतरण हर वर्ष किए गए हैं।
- The **15th Finance Commission** had recommended that for **2020 to 2026**, the Centre should transfer **41%** of its divisible pool of taxes to the States, which the Centre had accepted.  
**15वें वित्त आयोग** ने सिफारिश की थी कि **2020 से 2026** तक केंद्र अपने विभाज्य कर पूल का **41%** राज्यों को हस्तांतरित करे, जिसे केंद्र ने स्वीकार किया था।
- “Often, we are accused of not transferring the **41%** that the 15th Finance Commission has recommended,” Ms. Sitharaman said in the **Lok Sabha**, during her reply to the debate on the **Union Budget**.  
“अक्सर हम पर आरोप लगाया जाता है कि हम 15वें वित्त आयोग द्वारा सुझाए गए **41%** का हस्तांतरण नहीं करते,” श्रीमती सीतारमण ने **लोकसभा** में **केंद्रीय बजट** पर बहस के जवाब में कहा।
- “I assure you, it is **41%** that we have transferred to the States. We have not reduced any State’s devolvable tax,” she said.  
“मैं आपको आश्वस्त करती हूँ, हमने राज्यों को **41%** ही हस्तांतरित किया है। हमने किसी भी राज्य के हस्तांतरणीय कर में कमी नहीं की है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The Union Finance Minister said the total resources to be transferred to the States, including the devolution and under **Centrally sponsored schemes**, was estimated at **₹25.44 lakh crore for 2026-27**.  
केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि हस्तांतरण और **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं** सहित राज्यों को हस्तांतरित किए जाने वाले कुल संसाधनों का अनुमान **2026-27 के लिए ₹25.44 लाख करोड़** है।
- “This entails an increase of **₹2.7 lakh crore** over 2025-26 and is **₹3.78 lakh crore** more than the actuals of 2024-25,” she said.  
“यह 2025-26 की तुलना में **₹2.7 लाख करोड़** की वृद्धि है और 2024-25 के वास्तविक आंकड़ों से **₹3.78 लाख करोड़** अधिक है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “The **16th Finance Commission** analysed the States’ share transferred by the Centre to the States from **2018-19 to 2022-23** and concluded that in each of these years, the devolution made by the Centre exactly matches the recommendation of the **15th Finance Commission**,” Ms. Sitharaman added.  
“**16वें वित्त आयोग** ने **2018-19 से 2022-23** तक केंद्र द्वारा राज्यों को हस्तांतरित हिस्से का विश्लेषण किया और निष्कर्ष निकाला कि इन प्रत्येक वर्षों में केंद्र द्वारा किया गया हस्तांतरण **15वें वित्त आयोग** की सिफारिशों से पूरी तरह मेल खाता है,” श्रीमती सीतारमण ने जोड़ा।

## Devolution pool विभाज्य कर पूल

- She said that it was the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** that audited the Centre’s finances and decided what the net proceeds of the Centre were, after subtracting from the gross tax receipts the **cesses and surcharges** collected by the Centre.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG)** केंद्र की वित्तीय स्थिति का लेखा परीक्षण करता है और सकल कर प्राप्तियों में से केंद्र द्वारा एकत्रित **उपकर और अधिभार** घटाने के बाद शुद्ध आय निर्धारित करता है।
- “Out of that, have we transferred **41% of the divisible pool**, that is what should be looked at, not the gross tax revenue,” the senior BJP leader said.  
“उसमें से क्या हमने **विभाज्य पूल का 41%** हस्तांतरित किया है, यही देखा जाना चाहिए, न कि सकल कर राजस्व,” वरिष्ठ भाजपा नेता ने कहा।
- “The **Constitution** gives the Centre the authority to collect **cesses and surcharges**.”  
“**संविधान** केंद्र को **उपकर और अधिभार** एकत्र करने का अधिकार देता है।”
- The Finance Minister sought to counter charges levelled by Opposition members that the Centre was shrinking the divisible pool of taxes by focusing more on **cesses and surcharges**, which the States cannot gain from.



वित्त मंत्री ने विपक्ष के उन आरोपों का जवाब देने की कोशिश की कि केंद्र **उपकर और अधिभार** पर अधिक ध्यान देकर विभाज्य कर पूल को घटा रहा है, जिससे राज्यों को लाभ नहीं मिलता।

- “The **cesses and surcharges** are collected for a particular purpose such as **health cess, education cess, road cess**,” Ms. Sitharaman said.  
“**उपकर और अधिभार** एक विशेष उद्देश्य के लिए एकत्र किए जाते हैं जैसे **स्वास्थ्य उपकर, शिक्षा उपकर, सड़क उपकर**,” श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा।
- “These do not benefit the Centre, they go to the States in terms of building schools, hospitals, roads in the States.”  
“इनका लाभ केंद्र को नहीं मिलता, ये राज्यों में स्कूल, अस्पताल और सड़कें बनाने के रूप में राज्यों को जाते हैं।”

## Medium-term Budget

### मध्यम-अवधि बजट

- The Finance Minister explained why the **Union Budget** included several announcements that were aimed at the medium and long term.  
वित्त मंत्री ने समझाया कि **केंद्रीय बजट** में मध्यम और दीर्घ अवधि को लक्षित कई घोषणाएं क्यों शामिल की गईं।
- “This Budget has been prepared as the first Budget in the second quarter of the **21st century**,” she said.  
“यह बजट **21वीं सदी** की दूसरी तिमाही का पहला बजट है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “So, this Budget covers a lot of issues from **2026 to 2050**. We are also starting the new five-year cycle of the new **Finance Commission** and therefore the estimates are largely on the recommendations of the **16th Finance Commission**,” she said.  
“इसलिए यह बजट **2026 से 2050** तक के कई मुद्दों को कवर करता है। हम नए **वित्त आयोग** के नए पांच-वर्षीय चक्र की भी शुरुआत कर रहे हैं और इसलिए अनुमान मुख्य रूप से **16वें वित्त आयोग** की सिफारिशों पर आधारित हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “By doing these [longer term announcements], which are leading us towards the medium and long term, we are also continuing our push in building infrastructure,” she said.  
“इन [दीर्घकालिक घोषणाओं] के माध्यम से, जो हमें मध्यम और दीर्घ अवधि की ओर ले जा रही हैं, हम बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण को भी आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “It is not just roads and **National highways**, we are also looking at **waterways** so that the cost of logistics can come down and States that are in the hinterland will have the advantage of moving goods faster at a lesser cost,” she said.  
“यह केवल सड़कों और **राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों** तक सीमित नहीं है, हम **जलमार्गों** पर भी ध्यान दे रहे हैं ताकि लॉजिस्टिक्स की लागत कम हो सके और आंतरिक क्षेत्रों में स्थित राज्यों को कम लागत पर तेजी से माल परिवहन का लाभ मिल सके,” उन्होंने कहा।



# Budget gives science missions big figures but core funding gaps persist

The 2026-27 Union Budget touted science as an engine of growth but leading researchers in India see familiar gaps; they say that while new funds and big-ticket missions look impressive, basic research, state universities, and core institutes still face stagnant support and uncertain disbursement

**GS III: Economy: Budget**

T.V. Padma  
Vasudevan Mukunth  
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

**T**he Union Budget 2026-27 presented science as an instrument of growth, with large numbers on biopharma, semiconductors, carbon capture, and research-linked industrial finance on paper. However, expert reactions to this budget point to a more fragile reality.

As the state attempts to move from adopting technologies to creating them, by building mission-linked platforms in biopharma, semiconductors, critical materials, and climate, it seems that the limiting factor isn't the ambition of schemes but what the government actually delivers – including reliable and timely funds, autonomy for research institutions, and the transparency and performance of large finance vehicles for innovation.

In 2023-24, allocation for the Department of Biotechnology was revised down from ₹2,683.86 crore (BE) to ₹1,607.32 crore (RE), and actual spending fell further to ₹1,467.34 crore. Likewise for the Department of Science and Technology, from ₹7,931.05 crore (BE) to ₹4,891.78 crore (RE) and actuals of ₹4,002.67 crore. Even in 2024-25, when the Department of Biotechnology's RE of ₹2,460.13 crore exceeded its BE, the Department of Science and Technology experienced a sizeable cut from ₹8,029.01 crore (BE) to ₹5,661.45 crore (RE).

## Biopharma SHAKTI

Against this backdrop, L.S. Shashidhara, director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, framed the biopharma outlay as engage but incomplete. He pointed to "significant funding shortfalls following major changes introduced in 2024-25 to the fund-flow system" and to delays in the transition from the Science and Engineering Research Board to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

According to him, some of the under-spending in recent years may have been less about lack of intent and more about administrative disruption. The budget, he said, has at least avoided "punishing" science departments for that disruption by cutting overall allocations.

The biggest allocation this year was for a new programme called 'Biopharma SHAKTI', of ₹10,000 crore over five years. Department of Biotechnology secretary Rajesh Gokhale said it will address non-communicable diseases and scale indigenous development and manufacturing of biologics and biosimilars. He linked it explicitly to the earlier DBT-National Biopharma Mission.

Dr. Gokhale also said the next set of ambitions would include cell and gene therapy missions, biomufacturing hubs and biofoundries, and "Moolankur" hubs that integrate AI with biology.

## Big-ticket infra

The technical case for such a push is obvious. India has real competencies in vaccines, diagnostics, and bioengineering. The issue is whether the outlay will broaden the base or only thicken the top layer of applied



Students, science and technology enthusiasts, and others visit the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

programmes. Dr. Shashidhara expressed caution related to this: if Biopharma SHAKTI is administered primarily through the Department of Pharmaceuticals, as planned, it could privilege downstream manufacturing goals while neglecting the upstream life-science ecosystem that produces the tools and ideas.

So he asked that the Department of Pharmaceuticals "actively engage the broader life sciences community" in design and implementation. He also said longstanding prevention programmes and the routine issuance of small- and medium-sized grants could deliver high social returns – but only if agencies and the Finance Ministry's Expenditure Division fix the problem of "smooth and timely fund flow".

A similar tension appears in the budget's embrace of big-ticket infrastructure linked to 'missions'. N. Kalaiselvi, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) director-general N. Kalaiselvi read the budget as "a strong and reassuring affirmation" of science as an engine of growth and self-reliance.

She highlighted sustained support to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the CSIR and welcomed mission-mode initiatives such as Biopharma SHAKTI, India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, the new carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) mission, and expanded support for electronic components manufacturing, and critical minerals.

## Gap in astronomy

IIT-Madras Institute Professor T. Pradeep also welcomed the way the budget embedded research "across multiple mission-mode initiatives" and said platforms and infrastructure that span multiple sectors, such as clinical trial networks and industry-linked training centres, could improve India's

**As the state attempts to move from adopting technologies to creating them, by building mission-linked platforms in biopharma, semiconductors, critical materials, and climate sectors, it seems that the limiting factor isn't the ambition of schemes but what the government actually delivers**

translational capacity and "full-stack" capabilities. His proviso, however, was that the budget "largely presents policy perspectives". He also said he expected "various missions/ministries to allocate sector-specific funding" in the coming years.

This has in fact been a recurring problem in India's research ecosystem: the government often proclaims science as a foundation for missions but often defers the stable, long-term financing required for that foundation to future plans.

Raman Research Institute director Tarun Souradeep remarked favourably on the budget's support for major national observational facilities and recalled the various spin-off technologies these facilities have produced, including CCD imaging and instruments for high-frequency communications.

## 'Globally fashionable script'

However, National Institute of Advanced Studies adjunct professor C.P. Rajendran articulated a counterpoint: that while the Finance Ministry's proposal to upgrade four astronomy facilities, including the National Large Solar Telescope and the National Large Optical Infrared Telescope, at ₹3,500 crore could strengthen the field, the support for the Indian Institute of Astrophysics has stagnated while a set of autonomous institutes including the Institute has

received only ₹1,623 crore.

More broadly, Dr. Rajendran said the budget followed a "globally fashionable script" that privileges applied sectors such as space applications and semiconductors while continuing to underfund basic research.

He added that India's gross expenditure on R&D has hovered around 0.64-0.7% of GDP for years, which when adjusted for inflation amounts to cuts in real terms. He also said the state's hope that private capital will carry domestic R&D hasn't materialised at the required scale.

While Dr. Shashidhara welcomed the ₹20,000 crore for the Research, Development and Innovation Fund, Dr. Rajendran recalled that a promise in the 2024-25 budget to deploy ₹1 lakh crore over seven years has been followed by only ₹3,000 crore disbursed so far.

Likewise, Panjab University vice-chancellor Renu Vig lauded the budget's emphasis on "university townships" as a move towards integrated industry in education but she also argued that the Centre shouldn't bypass legacy State universities in favour of new enclaves. Instead, she suggested a "thematic cluster" where "a legacy State university leads in the basic sciences, humanities, and regional innovation, while technical institutes provide the necessary toolsets.

"This kind of multi-disciplinarity is the core of the National Education Policy 2020 and it is already in the DNA of legacy institutions. These universities educate more than 80% of our students and have built the nation's intellectual foundation over decades; they are a national asset that must be nurtured to ensure the success of India's new educational map," Dr. Vig added. (T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi. [tvpadma\\_10@yahoo.co.in](mailto:tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in); [Vasudevan Mukunth is science editor, The Hindu. mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in](mailto:Vasudevan Mukunth is science editor, The Hindu. mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in))

**Budget gives science missions big figures but core funding gaps persist**



## बजट में विज्ञान मिशनों को बड़े आंकड़े मिले लेकिन कोर फंडिंग की कमी बनी रही

- **Union Budget 2026-27 presented science as an instrument of growth, with large numbers on biopharma, semiconductors, carbon capture, and research-linked industrial finance on paper.**  
केंद्रीय बजट 2026-27 ने विज्ञान को विकास के एक उपकरण के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें बायोफार्मा, सेमीकंडक्टर्स, कार्बन कैप्चर और अनुसंधान-सम्बद्ध औद्योगिक वित्त पर बड़े प्रावधान कागज पर दिखाए गए।
- However, expert reactions to this budget point to a more fragile reality.  
हालांकि, विशेषज्ञों की प्रतिक्रियाएँ इस बजट की एक अधिक **नाजुक वास्तविकता** की ओर संकेत करती हैं।
- As the state attempts to move from adopting technologies to creating them, by building mission-linked platforms in biopharma, semiconductors, critical materials, and climate, it seems that the limiting factor isn't the ambition of schemes but what the government actually delivers — including reliable and timely funds, autonomy for research institutions, and the transparency and performance of large finance vehicles for innovation.  
जैसे-जैसे राज्य तकनीकों को अपनाने से उन्हें विकसित करने की ओर बढ़ने का प्रयास करता है, और बायोफार्मा, सेमीकंडक्टर्स, क्रिटिकल मटेरियल्स तथा जलवायु में मिशन-आधारित प्लेटफॉर्म बना रहा है, ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि सीमित करने वाला कारक योजनाओं की महत्वाकांक्षा नहीं बल्कि सरकार द्वारा वास्तविक रूप से प्रदान की जाने वाली चीजें हैं — जैसे विश्वसनीय और समय पर फंड, अनुसंधान संस्थानों की स्वायत्तता, तथा नवाचार के बड़े वित्तीय साधनों की पारदर्शिता और प्रदर्शन।
- **In 2023-24, allocation for the Department of Biotechnology was revised down from ₹2,683.86 crore (BE) to ₹1,607.32 crore (RE), and actual spending fell further to ₹1,467.34 crore.**  
2023-24 में जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के लिए आवंटन ₹2,683.86 करोड़ (BE) से घटाकर ₹1,607.32 करोड़ (RE) कर दिया गया, और वास्तविक व्यय और घटकर ₹1,467.34 करोड़ रह गया।
- **Likewise for the Department of Science and Technology, from ₹7,931.05 crore (BE) to ₹4,891.78 crore (RE) and actuals of ₹4,002.67 crore.**  
इसी प्रकार विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के लिए आवंटन ₹7,931.05 करोड़ (BE) से घटकर ₹4,891.78 करोड़ (RE) हो गया और वास्तविक व्यय ₹4,002.67 करोड़ रहा।
- Even in 2024-25, when the Department of Biotechnology's RE of ₹2,460.13 crore exceeded its BE, the Department of Science and Technology experienced a sizeable cut from ₹8,029.01 crore (BE) to ₹5,661.45 crore (RE).  
2024-25 में भी, जब जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग का RE ₹2,460.13 करोड़ उसके BE से अधिक था, तब विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग को ₹8,029.01 करोड़ (BE) से घटाकर ₹5,661.45 करोड़ (RE) कर दिया गया।

### Biopharma SHAKTI बायोफार्मा शक्ति

- Against this backdrop, **L.S. Shashidhara**, director of the **National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru**, framed the biopharma outlay as welcome but incomplete.  
इस पृष्ठभूमि में एल.एस. शशिधर, नेशनल सेंटर फॉर बायोलॉजिकल साइंसेज, बेंगलुरु के निदेशक ने बायोफार्मा आवंटन को स्वागतयोग्य लेकिन अपूर्ण बताया।
- He pointed to **“significant funding shortfalls following major changes introduced in 2024-25 to the fund-flow system”** and to delays in the transition from the **Science and Engineering Research Board** to the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation**.  
उन्होंने **“2024-25 में फंड-फ्लो प्रणाली में किए गए बड़े बदलावों के बाद महत्वपूर्ण फंडिंग कमी”** और साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग रिसर्च बोर्ड से अनुसंधान नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन में परिवर्तन में देरी की ओर संकेत किया।
- According to him, some of the under-spending in recent years may have been less about lack of intent and more about administrative disruption.  
उनके अनुसार, हाल के वर्षों में कुछ कम व्यय का कारण इरादे की कमी से अधिक प्रशासनिक व्यवधान हो सकता है।
- The budget, he said, has at least avoided **“punishing” science departments** for that disruption by cutting overall allocations.



उन्होंने कहा कि बजट ने कम से कम कुल आवंटन में कटौती करके विज्ञान विभागों को “दंडित” करने से बचा लिया है।

- The biggest allocation this year was for a new programme called ‘**Biopharma SHAKTI**’, of **₹10,000 crore over five years**.

इस वर्ष सबसे बड़ा आवंटन एक नए कार्यक्रम ‘बायोफार्मा शक्ति’ के लिए था, जो पांच वर्षों में ₹10,000 करोड़ का है।

- **Department of Biotechnology secretary Rajesh Gokhale** said it will address **non-communicable diseases** and scale **indigenous development and manufacturing of biologics and biosimilars**.

जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के सचिव राजेश गोखले ने कहा कि यह गैर-संचारी रोगों को संबोधित करेगा और बायोलॉजिक्स तथा बायोसिमिलर्स के स्वदेशी विकास और विनिर्माण को बढ़ाएगा।

- He linked it explicitly to the earlier **DBT-National Biopharma Mission**.  
उन्होंने इसे स्पष्ट रूप से पूर्व के **DBT-नेशनल बायोफार्मा मिशन** से जोड़ा।
- Dr. Gokhale also said the next set of ambitions would include **cell and gene therapy missions, biomanufacturing hubs and biofoundries, and “Moolankur” hubs that integrate AI with biology**.

डॉ. गोखले ने यह भी कहा कि अगली महत्वाकांक्षाओं में सेल और जीन थेरेपी मिशन, बायोमैनुफैक्चरिंग हब और बायोफाउंड्रीज़, तथा “मूलांकुर” हब शामिल होंगे जो AI को जीवविज्ञान के साथ एकीकृत करते हैं।

### Big-ticket infra बिग-टिकट इंफ्रा

- The technical case for such a push is obvious.  
ऐसे प्रोत्साहन के लिए तकनीकी आधार स्पष्ट है।
- **India has real competencies in vaccines, diagnostics, and bioengineering**.  
भारत के पास वैक्सीन, डायग्नोस्टिक्स और बायोइंजीनियरिंग में वास्तविक क्षमता है।
- The issue is whether the outlay will broaden the base or only thicken the top layer of **applied programmes**.  
मुद्दा यह है कि क्या यह व्यय आधार को व्यापक बनाएगा या केवल एप्लाइड प्रोग्राम्स की ऊपरी परत को ही मजबूत करेगा।
- **Dr. Shashidhara** expressed caution related to this: if **Biopharma SHAKTI** is administered primarily through the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, as planned, it could privilege **downstream manufacturing** goals while neglecting the **upstream life-science ecosystem that produces the tools and ideas**.

डॉ. शशिधर ने इस पर सावधानी व्यक्त की: यदि बायोफार्मा शक्ति को योजना के अनुसार मुख्यतः फार्मास्यूटिकल्स विभाग के माध्यम से संचालित किया गया, तो यह डाउनस्ट्रीम विनिर्माण लक्ष्यों को प्राथमिकता दे सकता है और उन उपकरणों व विचारों को उत्पन्न करने वाले अपस्ट्रीम लाइफ-साइंस इकोसिस्टम की उपेक्षा कर सकता है।

- So he asked that the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** “actively engage the broader life sciences community” in design and implementation.  
इसलिए उन्होंने कहा कि फार्मास्यूटिकल्स विभाग को डिजाइन और कार्यान्वयन में विस्तृत लाइफ साइंसेज समुदाय को सक्रिय रूप से शामिल करना चाहिए।
- He also said longstanding **prevention programmes** and the routine issuance of **small- and medium-sized grants** could deliver high social returns — but only if agencies and the **Finance Ministry’s Expenditure Division** fix the problem of “**smooth and timely fund flow**”.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि लंबे समय से चल रहे रोकथाम कार्यक्रम और नियमित रूप से दिए जाने वाले छोटे और मध्यम अनुदान उच्च सामाजिक लाभ दे सकते हैं — लेकिन तभी जब एजेंसियाँ और वित्त मंत्रालय का व्यय प्रभाग “सुचारु और समय पर फंड फ्लो” की समस्या को ठीक करें।

- A similar tension appears in the budget’s embrace of **big-ticket infrastructure linked to ‘missions’**.  
ऐसा ही तनाव बजट में ‘मिशन’ से जुड़े बड़े इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को अपनाने में भी दिखाई देता है।
- **N. Kalaiselvi, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) director-general**, read the budget as “**a strong and reassuring affirmation**” of science as an engine of growth and **self-reliance**.



एन. कलाईसेल्वी, काउंसिल फॉर साइंटिफिक एंड इंडस्ट्रियल रिसर्च (CSIR) की महानिदेशक ने बजट को विकास और आत्मनिर्भरता के इंजन के रूप में विज्ञान की “मजबूत और आश्वस्त पुष्टि” बताया।

- She highlighted sustained support to the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research** and the **CSIR** and welcomed **mission-mode initiatives** such as **Biopharma SHAKTI, India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, the new carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) mission, and expanded support for electronic components manufacturing, and critical minerals.**

उन्होंने वैज्ञानिक और औद्योगिक अनुसंधान विभाग और CSIR को निरंतर समर्थन पर प्रकाश डाला तथा मिशन-मोड पहल जैसे बायोफार्मा शक्ति, इंडिया सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन 2.0, नया कार्बन कैप्चर उपयोग और भंडारण (CCUS) मिशन, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कंपोनेंट्स विनिर्माण के लिए विस्तारित समर्थन और क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स का स्वागत किया।

### Gap in astronomy खगोल विज्ञान में अंतर

- **IIT-Madras Institute Professor T. Pradeep** also welcomed the way the budget embedded research “**across multiple mission-mode initiatives**” and said platforms and infrastructure that span multiple sectors, such as **clinical trial networks and industry-linked training centres**, could improve India’s **translational capacity** and “**full-stack**” capabilities. आईआईटी मद्रास के प्रोफेसर टी. प्रदीप ने भी बजट में अनुसंधान को “कई मिशन-मोड पहलों में समाहित” करने के तरीके का स्वागत किया और कहा कि **क्लिनिकल ट्रायल नेटवर्क और उद्योग-संबद्ध प्रशिक्षण केंद्र** जैसे बहु-क्षेत्रीय प्लेटफॉर्म और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर भारत की ट्रांसलेशनल क्षमता और “फुल-स्टैक” क्षमताओं को सुधार सकते हैं।

- His proviso, however, was that the budget “**largely presents policy perspectives**”. हालांकि, उनकी शर्त यह थी कि बजट “**मुख्यतः नीतिगत दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत करता है**”।

- He also said he expected “**various missions/ministries to allocate sector-specific funding**” in the coming years.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि आने वाले वर्षों में “**विभिन्न मिशन/मंत्रालय क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट फंडिंग आवंटित करेंगे**”।

- This has in fact been a recurring problem in India’s **research ecosystem**: the government often proclaims science as a foundation for missions but often defers the **stable, long-term financing required for that foundation to future plans.**

वास्तव में यह भारत के **अनुसंधान पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** में एक बार-बार आने वाली समस्या रही है: सरकार अक्सर विज्ञान को मिशनों की नींव के रूप में घोषित करती है, लेकिन उस नींव के लिए आवश्यक **स्थिर, दीर्घकालिक वित्तपोषण** को भविष्य की योजनाओं पर टाल देती है।

- **Raman Research Institute director Tarun Souradeep** remarked favourably on the budget’s support for **major national observational facilities** and recalled the various **spin-off technologies** these facilities have produced, including **CCD imaging and instruments for high-frequency communications.**

रमन रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट के निदेशक तरुण सूरदीप ने राष्ट्रीय प्रमुख अवलोकन सुविधाओं के लिए बजट के समर्थन की सराहना की और याद दिलाया कि इन सुविधाओं ने **स्पिन-ऑफ तकनीकों** का विकास किया है, जिनमें **CCD इमेजिंग और हाई-फ्रीक्वेंसी कम्युनिकेशन के उपकरण** शामिल हैं।

### ‘Globally fashionable script’

#### ‘वैश्विक रूप से प्रचलित स्क्रिप्ट’

- However, **National Institute of Advanced Studies adjunct professor C.P. Rajendran** articulated a counterpoint: that while the **Finance Ministry’s proposal** to upgrade **four astronomy facilities**, including the **National Large Solar Telescope and the National Large Optical Infrared Telescope, at ₹3,500 crore** could strengthen the field, the support for the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics** has stagnated while a set of **autonomous institutes** including the Institute has received only **₹1,623 crore.**

हालांकि, **नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एडवांस्ड स्टडीज के एडजंक्ट प्रोफेसर सी.पी. राजेंद्रन** ने एक विपरीत दृष्टिकोण रखा: कि जबकि **वित्त मंत्रालय का प्रस्ताव चार खगोल विज्ञान सुविधाओं को अपग्रेड करने का**, जिसमें **नेशनल लार्ज सोलर टेलीस्कोप और नेशनल लार्ज ऑप्टिकल इन्फ्रारेड टेलीस्कोप** शामिल हैं,



₹3,500 करोड़ में क्षेत्र को मजबूत कर सकता है, वहीं इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एस्ट्रोफिजिक्स के लिए समर्थन स्थिर रहा है जबकि संस्थान सहित स्वायत्त संस्थानों के समूह को केवल ₹1,623 करोड़ प्राप्त हुए हैं।

- More broadly, Dr. Rajendran said the budget followed a “globally fashionable script” that privileges applied sectors such as space applications and semiconductors while continuing to underfund basic research.  
विस्तृत रूप से, डॉ. राजेंद्रन ने कहा कि बजट एक “वैश्विक रूप से प्रचलित स्क्रिप्ट” का अनुसरण करता है जो स्पेस एप्लिकेशंस और सेमीकंडक्टर्स जैसे एप्लाइड सेक्टर को प्राथमिकता देता है जबकि बेसिक रिसर्च को कम वित्तपोषित करता रहता है।
- He added that India's gross expenditure on R&D has hovered around 0.64-0.7% of GDP for years, which when adjusted for inflation amounts to cuts in real terms.  
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि भारत का R&D पर सकल व्यय वर्षों से लगभग GDP का 0.64-0.7% रहा है, जो मुद्रास्फीति के अनुसार समायोजित करने पर वास्तविक रूप से कटौती के बराबर है।
- He also said the state's hope that private capital will carry domestic R&D hasn't materialised at the required scale.  
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि घरेलू R&D को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए निजी पूंजी पर राज्य की आशा अपेक्षित स्तर पर साकार नहीं हुई है।
- While Dr. Shashidhara welcomed the ₹20,000 crore for the Research, Development and Innovation Fund, Dr. Rajendran recalled that a promise in the 2024-25 budget to deploy ₹1 lakh crore over seven years has been followed by only ₹3,000 crore disbursed so far.  
जहां डॉ. शशिधर ने रिसर्च, डेवलपमेंट और इनोवेशन फंड के लिए ₹20,000 करोड़ का स्वागत किया, वहीं डॉ. राजेंद्रन ने याद दिलाया कि 2024-25 के बजट में सात वर्षों में ₹1 लाख करोड़ तैनात करने के वादे के बावजूद अब तक केवल ₹3,000 करोड़ ही जारी हुए हैं।
- Likewise, Panjab University vice-chancellor Renu Vig lauded the budget's emphasis on “university townships” as a move towards integrated industry in education but she also argued that the Centre shouldn't bypass legacy State universities in favour of new enclaves.  
इसी प्रकार, पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी की कुलपति रेणु विग ने शिक्षा में एकीकृत उद्योग की दिशा में कदम के रूप में बजट के “यूनिवर्सिटी टाउनशिप” पर जोर की सराहना की, लेकिन उन्होंने यह भी तर्क दिया कि केंद्र को नए परिसरों के पक्ष में पुराने राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों को नजरअंदाज नहीं करना चाहिए।
- Instead, she suggested a “thematic cluster” where “a legacy State university leads in the basic sciences, humanities, and regional innovation, while technical institutes provide the necessary toolsets.”  
इसके बजाय, उन्होंने एक “थीमैटिक क्लस्टर” का सुझाव दिया जहां “एक पुराना राज्य विश्वविद्यालय बेसिक साइंसेज, मानविकी और क्षेत्रीय नवाचार में नेतृत्व करे, जबकि तकनीकी संस्थान आवश्यक टूलसेट प्रदान करें।”
- “This kind of multi-disciplinarity is the core of the National Education Policy 2020 and it is already in the DNA of legacy institutions.”  
“इस प्रकार की बहु-विषयकता राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 का मूल है और यह पहले से ही पुराने संस्थानों के डीएनए में है।”
- “These universities educate more than 80% of our students and have built the nation's intellectual foundation over decades; they are a national asset that must be nurtured to ensure the success of India's new educational map,” Dr. Vig added.  
“ये विश्वविद्यालय हमारे 80% से अधिक छात्रों को शिक्षित करते हैं और दशकों में राष्ट्र की बौद्धिक नींव का निर्माण किया है; ये एक राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति हैं जिन्हें भारत के नए शैक्षिक मानचित्र की सफलता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पोषित किया जाना चाहिए,” डॉ. विग ने जोड़ा।



# The CPI base revision exercise measures a slice of life

GS III: Economy

MOB

Inflation, one of the most closely watched macroeconomic indicators, is something that most people feel in daily life in their routine household expenses. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) captures this reality by tracking the prices of goods and services that households regularly consume, turning everyday experiences into an official measure of inflation. For the common man, the CPI is like a quiet mirror of daily life capturing, inter alia, the changing cost of basic needs such as food on the plate, rent for the roof over the head, and fuel for the journey to work.

## More than a simple number

Though it appears as a simple number, it speaks for households, guiding income and social security adjustments so that life's essentials remain within reach. CPI-based inflation is also the primary indicator for the Reserve Bank of India to help guide it in decisions such as interest rates and inflation control. Therefore, when the CPI reflects reality, policies respond better to what people are truly experiencing.

Inflation is not just about prices going up. It is about how these price changes affect household budgets. That is why making sure that the index reflects current consumption patterns is just as important as tracking the prices themselves. This is the context in which India's ongoing CPI base update from the year 2012 to 2024 must be seen.

Since the last base revision, the economy has changed significantly, urbanisation has grown, services have expanded, digital platforms have changed buying habits, and household spending has diversified.

The CPI 2024 series has, therefore, been updated using the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2023-24. As people's preferences and expenses changed over time, the importance (weightage) given to different goods and services in the CPI has also been adjusted.



**Saurabh Garg**  
is Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

It will better trace how prices shape daily life and policy decisions

Items on which households now spend more have been given greater weight, with less weight for those that account for a smaller share of spending. This ensures that the CPI measures price changes that really affect household budgets. The consumption basket has also been updated to reflect emerging trends, such as growing spending on services, driven by rising incomes and changing lifestyles.

Updating the way that the CPI is calculated is just as important as updating what it measures. The revised CPI is more closely aligned with international standards while retaining features specific to India. This makes it easier to compare India's inflation with other countries. From the perspective of households, this matters because it helps policymakers understand how price changes in India fit into the global picture, without losing sight of what affects daily life.

Data collection for the CPI has been upgraded to keep pace with how people shop and spend. While traditional market surveys still track prices, particularly of food and other essentials, the 2024 framework has introduced that captures online prices for items such as telecom services, airfares, and certain other services.

## A wider database

The adoption of computer-assisted price collection in the new series has reduced manual errors and allowed real-time checks, improving the quality and timeliness of price data. Quality and timeliness of the CPI matter because these shape decisions that touch everyday life, such as how high loans are, how much savings earn, and how rising prices influence household budgets.

In the new base year, the CPI draws more on official data from government sources, railfares, postal charges, fuel prices, and items sold through the public distribution system. This means that these numbers are captured with greater precision by mitigating the chances of

errors and biases that can occur in market surveys. This integration of survey data, administrative records and digital price sources represents a marked improvement over earlier practices and provides a more reliable picture of how prices are changing.

The massive institutional effort behind a base revision exercise of this scale is also worth noting. It involves coordination across field offices, statistical divisions and national and international expert bodies.

The process involves extensive scrutiny of methodology, testing of alternatives and consultation with economists and domain specialists. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has engaged with expert groups, international organisations and stakeholders to ensure that the changes are transparent, easy to understand and methodologically sound.

Even with updates to the basket, weights, and data sources, the CPI keeps its core purpose, capturing how prices change from a household's point of view. This continuity matters because it lets us compare prices over time. In other words, the index is being improved without losing the connection to everyday life, so that it remains a reliable guide for policymakers.

## In context

The CPI reminds us that behind every statistic lies the lived experience of millions, and that numbers, ultimately, are about people. It quietly traces how prices shape daily life and inform policy decisions. Through the ongoing base revision exercise, MoSPI has ensured that the CPI continues to be accurate, up-to-date, and consistent over time, so that it remains not just a number, but a true mirror capturing the realities faced across the country.

*The views expressed are personal*

## The CPI base revision exercise measures a slice of life सीपीआई आधार संशोधन अभ्यास जीवन के एक हिस्से को मापता है

### Inflation and Consumer Price Index (CPI) मुद्रास्फीति और उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI)

- Inflation is one of the most closely watched **macroeconomic indicators** and is felt in **daily household expenses**.  
मुद्रास्फीति सबसे महत्वपूर्ण **मैक्रोइकोनॉमिक संकेतकों** में से एक है और इसका प्रभाव **दैनिक घरेलू खर्चों** में महसूस होता है।
- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** tracks prices of goods and services regularly consumed by households, turning everyday experience into an **official measure of inflation**.  
**उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI)** घरों द्वारा नियमित रूप से उपभोग की जाने वाली वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की कीमतों को मापता है, जिससे दैनिक अनुभव **आधिकारिक मुद्रास्फीति माप** बन जाता है।
- For the common man, CPI reflects the changing cost of **food, rent and fuel**.  
सामान्य व्यक्ति के लिए CPI **खाद्य, किराया और ईंधन** की बदलती लागत को दर्शाता है।

### More than a simple number सिर्फ एक संख्या से अधिक

- Though it appears as a simple number, CPI guides **income and social security adjustments** so that essentials remain within reach.  
हालांकि यह एक साधारण संख्या प्रतीत होती है, CPI **आय और सामाजिक सुरक्षा समायोजन** का मार्गदर्शन करती है ताकि आवश्यक वस्तुएं उपलब्ध रहें।
- **CPI-based inflation** is the primary indicator for the **Reserve Bank of India** in decisions on **interest rates and inflation control**.



CPI आधारित मुद्रास्फीति भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के लिए ब्याज दर और मुद्रास्फीति नियंत्रण से जुड़े निर्णयों का मुख्य संकेतक है।

- When CPI reflects reality, **policies respond better** to people's actual experiences. जब CPI वास्तविकता को दर्शाता है, तो **नीतियाँ बेहतर प्रतिक्रिया देती हैं**।
- Inflation is not just rising prices but how price changes affect **household budgets**. मुद्रास्फीति केवल कीमत बढ़ना नहीं बल्कि **घरेलू बजट पर प्रभाव** भी है।
- Therefore, updating the index to reflect **current consumption patterns** is essential. इसलिए सूचकांक को **वर्तमान उपभोग पैटर्न** के अनुसार अपडेट करना आवश्यक है।
- This is the context of India's ongoing **CPI base revision from 2012 to 2024**. इसी संदर्भ में भारत में **CPI आधार वर्ष 2012 से 2024 तक संशोधन** किया जा रहा है।
- Since the last revision, the economy has changed — **urbanisation, services growth, digital platforms, diversified spending**.

पिछले संशोधन के बाद अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलाव आया — **शहरीकरण, सेवाओं का विस्तार, डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म, विविध खर्च**।

- The **CPI 2024 series** is updated using **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24**.

**CPI 2024 श्रृंखला** को **घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण 2023-24** के आधार पर अपडेट किया गया है।

- Weightage of goods and services has been adjusted based on **changing preferences and spending**.

वस्तुओं और सेवाओं का भार **बदलती पसंद और खर्च** के अनुसार समायोजित किया गया है।

- Items with higher spending now have **greater weight**, and others less.

जिन वस्तुओं पर अधिक खर्च होता है उन्हें **अधिक भार** दिया गया है।

- This ensures CPI reflects **real impact on household budgets**.

इससे CPI **घरेलू बजट पर वास्तविक प्रभाव** दर्शाता है।

- The consumption basket now reflects **growing service spending** due to **rising income and lifestyle changes**.

उपभोग टोकरी अब **सेवाओं पर बढ़ते खर्च** को दर्शाती है, जो **आय वृद्धि और जीवनशैली परिवर्तन** के कारण है।

- Updating the **calculation method** is as important as updating what CPI measures.

**गणना पद्धति** को अपडेट करना भी उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितना CPI के माप को अपडेट करना।

- The revised CPI aligns with **international standards** while retaining **India-specific features**. संशोधित CPI **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों** के अनुरूप है और साथ ही **भारत-विशिष्ट विशेषताएँ** बनाए रखता है।

- This allows easier comparison of **India's inflation with other countries**.

इससे **भारत की मुद्रास्फीति की अन्य देशों से तुलना** आसान होती है।

- For households, this helps policymakers understand price changes in the **global context** while focusing on **daily life impact**.

यह नीति निर्माताओं को **वैश्विक संदर्भ** में कीमत परिवर्तन समझने और **दैनिक जीवन पर प्रभाव** पर ध्यान देने में मदद करता है।

- Data collection for CPI has been upgraded to match **modern shopping and spending patterns**.

CPI के लिए डेटा संग्रह को **आधुनिक खरीदारी और खर्च पैटर्न** के अनुसार अपडेट किया गया है।

- Traditional market surveys still track **food and essential prices**.

पारंपरिक बाजार सर्वेक्षण अभी भी **खाद्य और आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कीमतें** मापते हैं।

- The **2024 framework** now captures **online prices** for items like **telecom services, airfares and certain services**.

**2024 ढांचा** अब **टेलीकॉम सेवाओं, हवाई किराए और अन्य सेवाओं की ऑनलाइन कीमतें** भी शामिल करता है।

#### A wider database एक व्यापक डाटाबेस

- The adoption of **computer-assisted price collection** in the new series has reduced **manual errors** and enabled **real-time checks**, improving **quality and timeliness of price data**. नई श्रृंखला में **कंप्यूटर-सहायता प्राप्त मूल्य संग्रह** अपनाने से **मानवीय त्रुटियाँ** कम हुई हैं और **रियल-टाइम जांच** संभव हुई है, जिससे **मूल्य डेटा की गुणवत्ता और समयबद्धता** बेहतर हुई है।



- Quality and timeliness of CPI matter because they influence decisions on **loan costs, savings returns, and household budgets**.  
CPI की गुणवत्ता और समयबद्धता महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह ऋण लागत, बचत पर रिटर्न और घरेलू बजट से जुड़े निर्णयों को प्रभावित करती है।
- In the new base year, CPI relies more on **official government data** such as **railfares, postal charges, fuel prices, and public distribution system items**.  
नए आधार वर्ष में CPI अधिक **सरकारी आधिकारिक डेटा** जैसे रेल किराया, डाक शुल्क, ईंधन कीमतें और **सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुएं** पर निर्भर करता है।
- This improves **precision** and reduces chances of **errors and biases** present in market surveys.  
इससे **सटीकता** बढ़ती है और बाजार सर्वेक्षणों में होने वाली **त्रुटियों और पक्षपात** की संभावना कम होती है।
- Integration of **survey data, administrative records and digital price sources** provides a **more reliable picture of price changes**.  
**सर्वेक्षण डेटा, प्रशासनिक रिकॉर्ड और डिजिटल मूल्य स्रोतों** का एकीकरण **कीमत परिवर्तनों की अधिक विश्वसनीय तस्वीर** प्रस्तुत करता है।
- The base revision requires **massive institutional effort** involving coordination across **field offices, statistical divisions and expert bodies**.  
आधार संशोधन के लिए **विशाल संस्थागत प्रयास** की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसमें **फील्ड कार्यालयों, सांख्यिकीय विभागों और विशेषज्ञ निकायों** का समन्वय शामिल है।
- The process includes **methodology scrutiny, testing alternatives and consultation with economists and domain experts**.  
इस प्रक्रिया में **पद्धति की जांच, वैकल्पिक परीक्षण और अर्थशास्त्रियों व विशेषज्ञों से परामर्श** शामिल है।
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** consulted **expert groups, international organisations and stakeholders** to ensure **transparency and methodological soundness**.  
**सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI)** ने **विशेषज्ञ समूहों, अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों और हितधारकों** से परामर्श किया ताकि **पारदर्शिता और पद्धति की मजबूती** सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- Despite updates in **basket, weights and data sources**, CPI retains its **core purpose — measuring price change from a household perspective**.  
**उपभोग टोकरी, भार और डेटा स्रोतों** में बदलाव के बावजूद CPI अपना **मुख्य उद्देश्य — घरेलू दृष्टिकोण से मूल्य परिवर्तन मापना** बनाए रखता है।
- This continuity allows **comparison of prices over time**.  
यह निरंतरता **समय के साथ कीमतों की तुलना** संभव बनाती है।
- Thus, CPI is improved while maintaining its **connection with everyday life**, remaining a **reliable guide for policymakers**.  
इस प्रकार CPI में सुधार हुआ है जबकि इसका **दैनिक जीवन से संबंध** बना हुआ है और यह **नीति निर्माताओं के लिए विश्वसनीय मार्गदर्शक** बना रहता है।

### In context संदर्भ में

- CPI reminds us that behind every statistic lies the **lived experience of millions** and that numbers are ultimately about **people**.  
CPI हमें याद दिलाता है कि हर आंकड़े के पीछे **लाखों लोगों का जीवन अनुभव** होता है और अंततः **संख्याएँ लोगों के बारे में** होती हैं।
- It traces how **price changes shape daily life and inform policy decisions**.  
यह दिखाता है कि **कीमत परिवर्तन दैनिक जीवन और नीतिगत निर्णयों** को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं।
- Through the ongoing **base revision exercise**, MoSPI has ensured CPI remains **accurate, up-to-date and consistent over time**.  
चल रहे **आधार संशोधन अभ्यास** के माध्यम से MoSPI ने सुनिश्चित किया है कि CPI **सटीक, अद्यतन और समय के साथ सुसंगत** रहे।
- Thus CPI remains not just a number but a **true mirror of realities across the country**.  
इस प्रकार CPI केवल एक संख्या नहीं बल्कि **देश भर की वास्तविकताओं का सच्चा दर्पण** बना रहता है।



# Taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade

Expansion of the base has coincided with an improvement in tax administration efficiency

GS III: Economy

MOB

## DATA POINT

Chandrasekar K.

India's direct tax system has undergone a significant expansion over the last decade, marked by a sharp rise in the number of taxpayers as well as sustained improvements in administrative efficiency. Time-series data released by the Income-Tax Department indicate that this expansion has been broad-based and persistent, reflecting deeper formal participation rather than a short-lived compliance surge.

Between Assessment Year (AY) 2013-14 and AY2024-25, the total number of taxpayers, defined as persons who either filed a return of income or in whose case tax was deducted at source, increased from 5.26 crore to 12.13 crore.

This increase, which more than doubles the taxpayer base, represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 7.89% over 11 years, underscoring the sustained nature of the expansion. It marks one of the most important structural shifts in India's direct tax landscape since the wider adoption of the Permanent Account Number.

A disaggregated view of the data shows that individual taxpayers remain the primary drivers of this expansion. As illustrated in **Chart 1**, the number of individual taxpayers rose from 4.96 crore in AY2013-14 to 11.61 crore in AY2024-25, translating into a CAGR of about 8% over the period.

Growth was largely steady in the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, with year-on-year increases mostly in the high single digits. The contraction visible in AY2020-21, when individual taxpayers declined by nearly 9%, coincides with the disruption caused by the pandemic. This was followed by strong recovery, with growth accelerating to double digits in the most recent assessment years, indicating renewed momen-

turn in the expansion of the individual tax base.

While individuals dominate the tax system in scale, the expansion has not been confined to households alone. **Chart 2** shows the combined trend for non-individual taxpayers, comprising firms, companies, Hindu Undivided Families, Associations of Persons or Body of Individuals, local authorities, artificial juridical persons, and other residual PAN categories.

In absolute terms, the non-individual taxpayer base increased steadily from about 0.29 crore in AY2013-14 to nearly 0.48 crore by AY2024-25, corresponding to a CAGR of roughly 5% over the period.

Growth among non-individual taxpayers has been more moderate than among individuals, but also more stable. Year-on-year growth rates generally remained within the 4% to 7% range in the pre-pandemic years. The pandemic's impact is again evident in AY2020-21, when growth slowed sharply to below 1% before recovering gradually in subsequent years.

However, unlike individuals, the post-pandemic rebound among non-individuals has been measured, with growth stabilising at around 5% in recent assessment years. This pattern suggests that formalisation has progressed across organisational and business entities, albeit at a steadier pace than individuals.

### Cost of collection

The expansion of the taxpayer base has coincided with a marked improvement in tax administration efficiency. As shown in **Chart 3**, the cost of collecting direct taxes fell from 1.36% in FY2000-01 to 0.41% in FY2024-25. The figure for FY2024-25 is provisional and may be updated later. This long-term decline has occurred despite a substantial increase in the number of taxpayers and total tax collections.

The temporary rise in the cost

ratio around FY2020-21 reflects pandemic-related disruptions rather than structural weakening. Since then, the ratio has fallen to its lowest level in the available data series, indicating sustained improvements in administrative efficiency.

Several institutional and technological changes help explain these trends. Over the past decade, the tax administration has increasingly relied on digital filing systems, pre-filled returns, faceless assessments, and expanded third-party information reporting. These measures have reduced compliance frictions and enabled the system to manage a larger taxpayer base without a commensurate increase in administrative resources.

Unlike headline filing statistics that focus on absolute counts, the evidence presented here draws on taxpayer-level data, and long-term CAGR trends to assess the durability of India's tax base expansion.

Taken together, the evidence from taxpayer levels, growth rates, CAGR patterns, and collection costs points to a structural strengthening of India's direct tax system. Revenues are being mobilised from a broader cross-section of taxpayers even as administrative efficiency improves, thereby reinforcing the stability and sustainability of public finances and embedding taxation more firmly within the formal economy. This transition has important implications for revenue resilience, equity, and long-term fiscal planning nationwide.

It is to be noted that growth rates are calculated on a year-on-year basis using taxpayer headcount data.

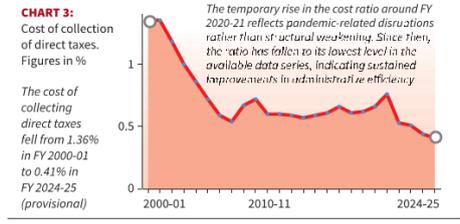
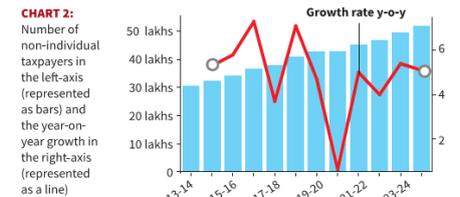
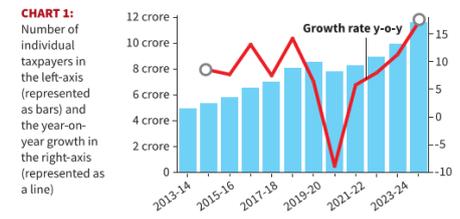
CAGR is computed for the period AY2013-14 to AY2024-25 using unrounded values, and figures for AY2024-25 and FY2024-25 are provisional.

The writer is with the Indian Statistical Service. The views expressed are personal



## Rising numbers

The data for the charts were sourced from the Income-Tax Department, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Time Series Data on Direct Taxes (FY 2000-01 to 2024-25)



## Taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade पिछले दशक में करदाताओं का आधार दोगुने से अधिक हुआ

- Expansion of the base has coincided with an improvement in tax administration efficiency  
आधार का विस्तार कर प्रशासन की दक्षता में सुधार के साथ हुआ

### Expansion of India's Direct Tax System भारत की प्रत्यक्ष कर प्रणाली का विस्तार

- India's direct tax system has expanded significantly over the last decade, with a sharp rise in number of taxpayers and improved administrative efficiency.  
भारत की प्रत्यक्ष कर प्रणाली में पिछले दशक में उल्लेखनीय विस्तार हुआ है, जिसमें करदाताओं की संख्या में वृद्धि और प्रशासनिक दक्षता में सुधार हुआ है।



- Time-series data from the **Income-Tax Department** show the expansion is **broad-based and persistent**, reflecting deeper **formal participation**.  
आयकर विभाग के समय-श्रृंखला डेटा से पता चलता है कि यह विस्तार व्यापक और स्थायी है तथा औपचारिक भागीदारी को दर्शाता है।
- Between **AY 2013-14 and AY 2024-25**, total taxpayers increased from **5.26 crore to 12.13 crore**.  
आकलन वर्ष 2013-14 से 2024-25 के बीच कुल करदाता 5.26 करोड़ से बढ़कर 12.13 करोड़ हो गए।
- This doubling of taxpayer base represents a **CAGR of about 7.89% over 11 years**.  
करदाता आधार का यह दोगुना होना 11 वर्षों में लगभग 7.89% CAGR दर्शाता है।
- It marks a major structural shift since the widespread adoption of the **Permanent Account Number (PAN)**.  
यह पैन (PAN) के व्यापक उपयोग के बाद सबसे बड़ा संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन है।

### Individual taxpayers driving expansion व्यक्तिगत करदाता विस्तार के मुख्य चालक

- Individual taxpayers increased from **4.96 crore (AY2013-14) to 11.61 crore (AY2024-25)**.  
व्यक्तिगत करदाता 4.96 करोड़ (2013-14) से बढ़कर 11.61 करोड़ (2024-25) हो गए।
- This reflects a **CAGR of about 8%**.  
यह लगभग 8% CAGR दर्शाता है।
- Growth was steady before **COVID-19**, mostly in **high single digits** annually.  
COVID-19 से पहले वृद्धि स्थिर रही और अधिकांश वर्षों में उच्च एकल अंक में रही।
- In **AY2020-21**, individual taxpayers fell by **about 9%** due to pandemic disruption.  
आकलन वर्ष 2020-21 में महामारी के कारण व्यक्तिगत करदाता लगभग 9% घटे।
- This was followed by **strong recovery and double-digit growth** in recent years.  
इसके बाद हाल के वर्षों में मजबूत सुधार और दो अंकों की वृद्धि हुई।
- This indicates renewed momentum in expansion of the **individual tax base**.  
यह व्यक्तिगत कर आधार के विस्तार में नई गति दर्शाता है।

### Non-individual taxpayers trend गैर-व्यक्तिगत करदाताओं की प्रवृत्ति

- Non-individual taxpayers include **firms, companies, HUFs, AOP/BOI, local authorities and artificial juridical persons**.  
गैर-व्यक्तिगत करदाताओं में फर्म, कंपनियाँ, HUF, AOP/BOI, स्थानीय प्राधिकरण और कृत्रिम न्यायिक व्यक्ति शामिल हैं।
- Their number rose from **0.29 crore (AY2013-14) to about 0.48 crore (AY2024-25)**.  
इनकी संख्या 0.29 करोड़ (2013-14) से बढ़कर लगभग 0.48 करोड़ (2024-25) हो गई।
- This represents a **CAGR of roughly 5%**.  
यह लगभग 5% CAGR दर्शाता है।
- Growth was **moderate but stable**, mostly within **4%–7% range** before pandemic.  
वृद्धि मध्यम लेकिन स्थिर रही और महामारी से पहले अधिकतर 4%–7% के बीच रही।
- In **AY2020-21**, growth slowed to **below 1%** due to pandemic impact.  
आकलन वर्ष 2020-21 में महामारी के कारण वृद्धि 1% से कम हो गई।
- Growth gradually recovered and stabilised around **5% in recent years**.  
इसके बाद वृद्धि धीरे-धीरे सुधरी और हाल के वर्षों में लगभग 5% पर स्थिर हुई।
- This suggests **formalisation has progressed among businesses and organisations**, though at a slower pace than individuals.  
यह दर्शाता है कि व्यवसायों और संगठनों में औपचारिककरण बढ़ा है, हालांकि व्यक्तियों की तुलना में धीमी गति से।

### Cost of collection संग्रहण लागत



- The expansion of the **taxpayer base** has coincided with improved **tax administration efficiency**.  
करदाता आधार के विस्तार के साथ कर प्रशासन दक्षता में सुधार हुआ है।
- The **cost of collecting direct taxes** fell from **1.36% (FY2000-01) to 0.41% (FY2024-25)**.  
प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह लागत 1.36% (2000-01) से घटकर 0.41% (2024-25) हो गई।
- The **FY2024-25 figure is provisional** and may be revised later.  
**2024-25 का आंकड़ा अस्थायी है** और बाद में संशोधित हो सकता है।
- This decline occurred despite growth in **taxpayers and total tax collections**.  
यह गिरावट करदाताओं और कुल कर संग्रह में वृद्धि के बावजूद हुई।
- A temporary rise around **FY2020-21** reflected **pandemic disruptions**, not structural weakness.  
**2020-21 के आसपास अस्थायी वृद्धि महामारी के प्रभाव के कारण थी**, न कि संरचनात्मक कमजोरी।
- Since then, the ratio has fallen to its **lowest level**, showing improved **administrative efficiency**.  
तब से यह अनुपात न्यूनतम स्तर पर आ गया, जो बेहतर प्रशासनिक दक्षता दर्शाता है।

### Reasons behind improved efficiency दक्षता सुधार के कारण

- Tax administration increasingly uses **digital filing, pre-filled returns, faceless assessments and third-party data**.  
कर प्रशासन अब डिजिटल फाइलिंग, प्री-फिल्ड रिटर्न, फेसलेस असेसमेंट और थर्ड-पार्टी डेटा का उपयोग करता है।
- These measures reduced **compliance friction** and helped manage a larger taxpayer base efficiently.  
इन उपायों से **अनुपालन कठिनाइयाँ** कम हुईं और बड़े करदाता आधार का कुशल प्रबंधन संभव हुआ।
- Evidence is based on **taxpayer-level data, year-on-year growth and long-term CAGR trends**.  
यह विश्लेषण करदाता स्तर डेटा, वर्ष-दर-वर्ष वृद्धि और दीर्घकालिक CAGR पर आधारित है।
- **Structural strengthening of tax system**  
कर प्रणाली का संरचनात्मक सुदृढीकरण
- Data show **structural strengthening of India's direct tax system**.  
डेटा भारत की प्रत्यक्ष कर प्रणाली के संरचनात्मक सुदृढीकरण को दर्शाते हैं।
- Revenue is mobilised from a **broader taxpayer base with improved efficiency**.  
राजस्व विस्तृत करदाता आधार और बेहतर दक्षता से प्राप्त हो रहा है।
- This improves **stability and sustainability of public finances** and deepens **formalisation of the economy**.  
इससे सार्वजनिक वित्त की स्थिरता और स्थायित्व बढ़ता है तथा अर्थव्यवस्था का औपचारिकीकरण मजबूत होता है।
- The transition has implications for **revenue resilience, equity and long-term fiscal planning**.  
इस परिवर्तन का प्रभाव राजस्व स्थिरता, समानता और दीर्घकालिक वित्तीय योजना पर पड़ता है।

### Technical notes तकनीकी टिप्पणियाँ

- Growth rates are calculated using **year-on-year taxpayer headcount data**.  
वृद्धि दर वर्ष-दर-वर्ष करदाता संख्या डेटा के आधार पर निकाली जाती है।
- **CAGR is calculated for AY2013-14 to AY2024-25** using unrounded values.  
**CAGR आकलन वर्ष 2013-14 से 2024-25 के लिए बिना राउंड किए गए मूल्यों पर आधारित है।**
- Figures for **AY2024-25 and FY2024-25 are provisional**.  
**2024-25 के आंकड़े अस्थायी हैं।**



# SMEs unfamiliar with capital markets, lack intermediaries: SEBI

Practical guidance not clear, internal governance systems to handle SME IPOs not yet mature, making IPO process cumbersome, says Pandey

GS III: Economy

**Ashokamithran T.**  
MUMBAI

**S**mall and Medium Enterprises (SME) face limited access to intermediary facilities such as merchant bankers and are unfamiliar with capital markets, which make it challenging for them to go public, said SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

“Greater SME participation in markets also diversifies financing channels, reduces risk concentration in banking sector and frees bank capacity for genuine



**Shift focus:** Greater SME participation in markets diversifies financing channels, cuts banking sector risk, says SEBI chief.

working capital and priority lending. Yet, SME capital market is under-scaled relative to India’s potential.” Practical guidance is un-

clear and internal governance systems to handle SME IPOs have not matured making the process cumbersome, he added.

## SMEs unfamiliar with capital markets, lack intermediaries: SEBI पूँजी बाजारों से अपरिचित एसएमई, मध्यस्थों की कमी: सेबी

- **Practical guidance not clear, internal governance systems to handle SME IPOs not yet mature, making IPO process cumbersome, says Pandey**  
व्यावहारिक मार्गदर्शन स्पष्ट नहीं, एसएमई आईपीओ संभालने के लिए आंतरिक शासन प्रणालियाँ अभी परिपक्व नहीं, जिससे आईपीओ प्रक्रिया जटिल हो जाती है, पांडेय ने कहा
- **Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) face limited access to intermediary facilities such as merchant bankers and are unfamiliar with capital markets, which make it challenging for them to go public, said SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey.**  
स्मॉल एंड मीडियम एंटरप्राइजेज (SME) को सर्वोत्तम बैंकर जैसे मध्यस्थ सुविधाओं तक सीमित पहुँच का सामना करना पड़ता है और वे पूँजी बाजारों से अपरिचित हैं, जिससे उनके लिए सार्वजनिक होना चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है, सेबी अध्यक्ष तुहिन कान्त पांडेय ने कहा।
- **“Greater SME participation in markets also diversifies financing channels, reduces risk concentration in the banking sector and frees bank capacity for genuine working capital and priority lending. Yet, the SME capital market is under-scaled relative to India’s potential.”**  
“बाजारों में एसएमई की अधिक भागीदारी वित्तपोषण चैनलों में विविधता लाती है, बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में जोखिम एकाग्रता को कम करती है और वास्तविक कार्यशील पूँजी तथा प्राथमिकता ऋण के लिए बैंक क्षमता को मुक्त करती है। फिर भी, एसएमई पूँजी बाजार भारत की क्षमता के सापेक्ष कम विकसित है।”
- **Practical guidance is unclear and internal governance systems to handle SME IPOs have not matured making the process cumbersome, he added.**  
व्यावहारिक मार्गदर्शन अस्पष्ट है और एसएमई आईपीओ को संभालने के लिए आंतरिक शासन प्रणालियाँ परिपक्व नहीं हुई हैं, जिससे प्रक्रिया जटिल हो जाती है, उन्होंने जोड़ा।



# As exports wilt, home market blooms for rose

**GS III: Economy**

**Aishwarya Kumar**  
**Tejaswini S**  
BENGALURU

Valentine's Week is round the corner, yet all is not rosy for India's flower growers. While roses flood the markets ahead of February 14, farmers exporting the blooms are grappling with soaring air freight costs that have sharply eroded their competitiveness in international markets.

The global flower trade is dominated by growers in Kenya, Ethiopia and Colombia. India was once a consistent exporter as well, but its position has weakened in recent years.

"After Covid, air freight charges have gone up by around 200% and an 18% on air freight has made exports even more unviable,"



**Losing charm:** However, exports from the State have declined this season due to the high air freight cost and taxes.

said Srikanth Bollapally, president, Grower Flower Council of India and Director of the South India Floriculture Association.

#### Indian exports

India exported over 10 million flower stems in the first 10 days of the Valen-

tine season last year.

This year, exports during the same period have dropped to 3-4 million stems, he added.

Karnataka, one of India's key floriculture hubs, reflects this trend. The State accounts for nearly 30% of India's rose output,

producing close to 10 lakh stems a day during peak periods. However, exports from the State have declined this season due to the high air freight cost and taxes, said T.M. Aravind, President, South India Floriculture Association.

Mr. Aravind said freight rates vary by destination. Shipments to West Asia cost around ₹100 per kg, while shipments to Malaysia and Singapore are priced at about ₹110 per kg, including GST.

For Europe, particularly the Netherlands, freight costs range between ₹180 and ₹200 per kg.

#### Local Demand

Amid this gloom, the domestic market has emerged as a bright spot. Increased marketing and changing

consumption patterns have pushed domestic demand this season, "for the first time, beating exports," Mr. Bollapally said.

Rose prices during Valentine's Week, which hovered at ₹15-20 per stem last year, have risen to ₹25-30 this season.

#### Online sales hope

Online delivery platforms have also fuelled the demand. Q-commerce majors Blinkit and Swiggy are sourcing roses for February 14 delivery, contributing to higher offtake, said Edwin Samuel, owner of Four seasons depot.

It may be rosy at home but remains thorny globally unless freight rates and tax burdens are eased.

(The writers are with the Hindu businessline)

## As exports wilt, home market blooms for rose निर्यात मुरझाए, घरेलू बाजार में गुलाब खिले

- **Valentine's Week is round the corner, yet all is not rosy for India's flower growers.**  
वैलेंटाइन वीक नजदीक है, फिर भी भारत के फूल उत्पादकों के लिए सब कुछ गुलाबी नहीं है।
- **While roses flood the markets ahead of February 14, farmers exporting the blooms are grappling with soaring air freight costs that have sharply eroded their competitiveness in international markets.**  
14 फरवरी से पहले बाजारों में गुलाबों की बाढ़ है, लेकिन इन फूलों का निर्यात करने वाले किसान बढ़ती हवाई माल भाड़ा लागत से जूझ रहे हैं, जिसने अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों में उनकी प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को तेजी से कम कर दिया है।
- **The global flower trade is dominated by growers in Kenya, Ethiopia and Colombia.**  
वैश्विक फूल व्यापार पर केन्या, इथियोपिया और कोलंबिया के उत्पादकों का प्रभुत्व है।
- **India was once a consistent exporter as well, but its position has weakened in recent years.**  
भारत भी कभी एक निरंतर निर्यातक था, लेकिन हाल के वर्षों में उसकी स्थिति कमजोर हुई है।
- **"After Covid, air freight charges have gone up by around 200% and an 18% GST on air freight has made exports even more unviable," said Srikanth Bollapally, president, Grower Flower Council of India and Director of the South India Floriculture Association.**  
"कोविड के बाद, हवाई माल भाड़ा शुल्क लगभग 200% बढ़ गया है और हवाई माल भाड़े पर 18% जीएसटी ने निर्यात को और भी अव्यवहार्य बना दिया है," श्रीकांत बोल्लापल्ली, अध्यक्ष, ग्रोअर फ्लावर काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया और निदेशक, साउथ इंडिया फ्लोरीकल्चर एसोसिएशन ने कहा।

### Indian exports भारतीय निर्यात

- **India exported over 10 million flower stems in the first 10 days of the Valentine season last year.**  
भारत ने पिछले वर्ष वैलेंटाइन सीजन के पहले 10 दिनों में 10 मिलियन से अधिक फूलों की डंडियाँ निर्यात की थीं।



- This year, exports during the same period have dropped to 3-4 million stems, he added.  
इस वर्ष, उसी अवधि में निर्यात घटकर 3-4 मिलियन डंडियाँ रह गया है, उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- Karnataka, one of India's key floriculture hubs, reflects this trend.  
भारत के प्रमुख फ्लोरीकल्चर हब में से एक कर्नाटक इस प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है।
- The State accounts for nearly 30% of India's rose output, producing close to 10 lakh stems a day during peak periods.  
यह राज्य भारत के गुलाब उत्पादन का लगभग 30% हिस्सा रखता है, और चरम अवधि में प्रतिदिन करीब 10 लाख डंडियाँ पैदा करता है।
- However, exports from the State have declined this season due to the high air freight cost and taxes, said T.M. Aravind, President, South India Floriculture Association.  
हालांकि, इस सीजन में राज्य से निर्यात उच्च हवाई माल भाड़ा लागत और करों के कारण घटा है, टी.एम. अरविंद, अध्यक्ष, साउथ इंडिया फ्लोरीकल्चर एसोसिएशन ने कहा।
- Mr. Aravind said freight rates vary by destination.  
श्री अरविंद ने कहा कि माल भाड़ा दरें गंतव्य के अनुसार भिन्न होती हैं।
- Shipments to West Asia cost around ₹100 per kg, while shipments to Malaysia and Singapore are priced at about ₹110 per kg, including GST.  
पश्चिम एशिया को भेजे जाने वाले माल की लागत लगभग ₹100 प्रति किलोग्राम है, जबकि मलेशिया और सिंगापुर को भेजे जाने वाले माल की कीमत जीएसटी सहित लगभग ₹110 प्रति किलोग्राम है।
- For Europe, particularly the Netherlands, freight costs range between ₹180 and ₹200 per kg.  
यूरोप, विशेषकर नीदरलैंड, के लिए माल भाड़ा लागत ₹180 से ₹200 प्रति किलोग्राम के बीच है।

### Local Demand स्थानीय मांग

- Amid this gloom, the domestic market has emerged as a bright spot.  
इस निराशा के बीच, घरेलू बाजार एक उज्वल पक्ष के रूप में उभरा है।
- Increased marketing and changing consumption patterns have pushed domestic demand this season, "for the first time, beating exports," Mr. Bollapally said.  
बढ़ी हुई मार्केटिंग और बदलते उपभोग पैटर्न ने इस सीजन में घरेलू मांग को बढ़ाया है, "पहली बार, निर्यात को पीछे छोड़ते हुए," श्री बोलापल्ली ने कहा।
- Rose prices during Valentine's Week, which hovered at ₹15-20 per stem last year, have risen to ₹25-30 this season.  
वैलेंटाइन वीक के दौरान गुलाब की कीमतें, जो पिछले वर्ष ₹15-20 प्रति डंडी थीं, इस सीजन में बढ़कर ₹25-30 हो गई हैं।

### Online sales hope ऑनलाइन बिक्री की उम्मीद

- Online delivery platforms have also fuelled the demand.  
ऑनलाइन डिलीवरी प्लेटफॉर्म ने भी मांग को बढ़ावा दिया है।
- Q-commerce majors Blinkit and Swiggy are sourcing roses for February 14 delivery, contributing to higher offtake, said Edwin Samuel, owner of Four seasons depot.  
क्यू-कॉमर्स प्रमुख ब्लिंकिट और स्विगी 14 फरवरी डिलीवरी के लिए गुलाब की सोर्सिंग कर रहे हैं, जिससे अधिक उठाव हो रहा है, एडविन सैमुअल, मालिक, फोर सीजन्स डिपो ने कहा।
- It may be rosy at home but remains thorny globally unless freight rates and tax burdens are eased.  
घरेलू स्तर पर स्थिति भले ही अच्छी हो, लेकिन जब तक माल भाड़ा दरें और कर बोझ कम नहीं होते, वैश्विक स्तर पर यह स्थिति कांटेदार बनी रहेगी।

GS Paper III: S&T,



<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>12 February 2026</b>
1. <b>Number of people suffering from cataracts as per WHO</b> <b>WHO के अनुसार मोतियाबिंद से पीड़ित लोगों की संख्या</b>	

## Number of people suffering from cataracts as per WHO

GS III: S&T

**94** in million. More than 94 million people suffer from cataracts, but half of them do not have access to the surgery needed to fix it, the World Health Organization said. Cataracts — the clouding of the eye's lens that causes blurred vision and can lead to blindness — are on the rise. AFP

## Number of people suffering from cataracts as per WHO WHO के अनुसार मोतियाबिंद से पीड़ित लोगों की संख्या

- 94
- 94 in a million. More than 94 million people suffer from cataracts, but half of them do not have access to the surgery needed to fix it, the World Health Organization said.

मिलियन में। 94 मिलियन से अधिक लोग मोतियाबिंद से पीड़ित हैं, लेकिन उनमें से आधे को इसे ठीक करने के लिए आवश्यक सर्जरी तक पहुंच नहीं है, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने कहा।

- Cataracts — the clouding of the eye's lens that causes blurred vision and can lead to blindness — are on the rise.

मोतियाबिंद — आंख के लेंस का धुंधला होना जो धुंधली दृष्टि का कारण बनता है और अंधापन तक ले जा सकता है — बढ़ रहे हैं।

<b>GS Paper III: Environment,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>12 February 2026</b>
1. <b>As the Arctic warms, threat of invasive plants looms</b> <b>जैसे-जैसे आर्कटिक गर्म हो रहा है, आक्रामक पौधों का खतरा बढ़ रहा है</b>	
2. <b>Noisy humans harm birds, affect success of breeding: study</b> <b>शोर करने वाले मनुष्य पक्षियों को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं, प्रजनन की सफलता प्रभावित: अध्ययन</b>	



## As the Arctic warms, threat of invasive plants looms

GS III: Environment  
Divya Gandhi

The frozen Arctic presents one of the most iconic stories of climate change: we have all seen pictures of icebergs collapsing into the ocean and polar bears left stranded on a shrinking patch of sea ice. The Arctic has in fact become a site of “last-chance tourism”, according to a paper published earlier this month in Nature Climate Change. Millions of visitors behold the vanishing glaciers and collectively express their “ecological grief” over the imminent change in its landscape.

In its warmest parts, the Arctic is habitat to shrubs such as bearberry, and in the coldest parts the ground is bare but for thick layers of non-vascular plants,

**Climate change and human activity are affecting Arctic ecosystems which have largely been shielded from devastating effects of alien species so far**

such as mosses and lichens, that form the tundra ecosystem. The snowy owl, the Arctic fox, the grizzly bear, seals, walruses, and belugas live here.

Now, another study published in NeoBiota has reported that thousands of alien floral species could “invade” and transform the Arctic ecology forever. These plants have a chance of surviving the warming Arctic if they manage to find a way to get there and proliferate.

The authors, at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, have already found an unexpected number of non-native species in Svalbard, including the common meadow rue, a shrub native to Russia and parts of Europe, in full bloom. In fact, they reported 2,554 vascular plants could find a suitable climatic niche in the new Arctic.

collectively express their “ecological grief” over the imminent change in its landscape. लाखों पर्यटक गायब होते ग्लेशियरों को देखते हैं और इसके परिदृश्य में आसन्न बदलाव पर सामूहिक रूप से “पर्यावरणीय शोक” व्यक्त करते हैं।

- In its warmest parts, the Arctic is habitat to shrubs such as **bearberry**, and in the coldest parts the ground is bare but for thick layers of **non-vascular plants** such as **mosses and lichens** that form the **tundra ecosystem**. इसके सबसे गर्म हिस्सों में आर्कटिक **बेयरबेरी** जैसे झाड़ियों का आवास है, और सबसे ठंडे हिस्सों में जमीन लगभग खाली रहती है, केवल **गैर-वास्कुलर पौधों** जैसे **मॉस और लाइकेन** की मोटी परतें होती हैं जो **टुंड्रा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** बनाती हैं।
- The **snowy owl, Arctic fox, grizzly bear, seals, walruses, and belugas** live here. यहां **सोई आउल, आर्कटिक फॉक्स, ग्रिजली भालू, सील, वालरस और बेलुगा** रहते हैं।
- Now, another study published in **NeoBiota** has reported that **thousands of alien floral species** could “invade” and transform the Arctic ecology forever.

“Our results show that alien species from virtually all over the world can find a niche in the Arctic. And with all the human activity in the Arctic now, there are lots of opportunities to get there,” study coauthor and university associate professor Kristine Bakke Westergaard, was quoted as saying in a release.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Nature considers alien species that displace native ones as one of the greatest threats to species diversity on the earth.

Scientists at the Norwegian University and from the University of Liverpool used data from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to reveal six major potential hotspots for introductions: western Alaska, southwestern and southeastern Greenland, northern Iceland, Fennoscandia, and Kanin-Pechora.

Unlike most areas of the world, Arctic terrestrial ecosystems have largely been shielded from the devastating effects of alien species “due to natural barriers, including short growing seasons, harsh climatic conditions, and limited human activity and disturbance,” the paper said. But climate change and increasing human activity are changing this, it added. An older inventory in the Arctic documented 341 taxa, of which 188 had become naturalised in at least one floristic province, per the paper.

The most common routes for naturalised species is “escape from confinement,” which accounts for 48% of invasive plant introductions, while “transport-stowaway” accounts for 37%. Seed contaminants and “transport via vehicles” have been important routes, each contributing 14% of introductions, the paper said. “However, a significant proportion (43%) of introductions remains classified as ‘unknown’”.

Last October, mosquitoes were found in Iceland for the first time, as global warming has made it a suitable habitat for the insect. Antarctica is currently the last remaining mosquito-free area.

**As the Arctic warms, threat of invasive plants looms**  
**जैसे-जैसे आर्कटिक गर्म हो रहा है, आक्रामक पौधों का खतरा बढ़ रहा है**

**The frozen Arctic presents one of the most iconic stories of climate change**

**जमा हुआ आर्कटिक जलवायु परिवर्तन की सबसे प्रतिष्ठित कहानियों में से एक प्रस्तुत करता है**

- The frozen Arctic presents one of the most iconic stories of **climate change**: we have all seen pictures of **icebergs collapsing into the ocean** and **polar bears stranded on shrinking sea ice**.

जमा हुआ आर्कटिक **जलवायु परिवर्तन** की सबसे प्रतिष्ठित कहानियों में से एक प्रस्तुत करता है: हम सभी ने **समुद्र में गिरते हिमखंडों और सिकुड़ती समुद्री बर्फ पर फंसे ध्रुवीय भालुओं** की तस्वीरें देखी हैं।

- The Arctic has in fact become a site of “**last-chance tourism**”, according to a paper published earlier this month in **Nature Climate Change**.

वास्तव में, आर्कटिक “**लास्ट-चांस टूरिज्म**” का स्थल बन गया है, जैसा कि इस महीने **Nature Climate Change** में प्रकाशित एक शोध पत्र में कहा गया है।

- Millions of visitors behold the **vanishing glaciers** and



अब **NeoBiota** में प्रकाशित एक अन्य अध्ययन ने बताया है कि **हजारों विदेशी पुष्प प्रजातियाँ** आर्कटिक पारिस्थितिकी को हमेशा के लिए **“आक्रमण”** कर बदल सकती हैं।

- These plants have a chance of surviving the **warming Arctic** if they manage to find a way to get there and proliferate.  
यदि ये पौधे वहाँ पहुंचने और फैलने का तरीका ढूँढ लें तो **गर्म होते आर्कटिक** में जीवित रहने का मौका रखते हैं।
- The authors at the **Norwegian University of Science and Technology** have already found an unexpected number of **non-native species** in **Svalbard**, including the **common meadow rue**, a shrub native to **Russia and parts of Europe**, in full bloom.  
**नॉर्वेजियन यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी** के शोधकर्ताओं ने पहले ही **स्वालबार्ड** में अपेक्षा से अधिक **गैर-स्थानीय प्रजातियाँ** खोज ली हैं, जिनमें **कॉमन मेडो रू** भी शामिल है, जो **रूस और यूरोप के कुछ हिस्सों** की मूल झाड़ी है और पूरी तरह खिला हुआ पाया गया।
- In fact, they reported **2,554 vascular plants** could find a suitable **climatic niche** in the new Arctic.  
वास्तव में, उन्होंने बताया कि **2,554 वास्कुलर पौधे** नए आर्कटिक में उपयुक्त **जलवायु निवास** पा सकते हैं।
- “Our results show that **alien species from virtually all over the world** can find a niche in the Arctic. And with all the **human activity** in the Arctic now, there are lots of opportunities to get there,” study coauthor **Kristine Bakke Westergaard** said.  
“हमारे परिणाम दिखाते हैं कि **दुनिया भर की विदेशी प्रजातियाँ** आर्कटिक में स्थान पा सकती हैं। और अब आर्कटिक में बढ़ती **मानव गतिविधियों** के कारण वहाँ पहुंचने के कई अवसर हैं,” सह-लेखक **क्रिस्टीन बाके वेस्टरगार्ड** ने कहा।
- The **Intergovernmental Panel on Nature** considers **alien species that displace native ones** as one of the greatest threats to **species diversity** on the earth.  
**इंटरगवर्नमेंटल पैनेल ऑन नेचर** पृथ्वी पर **प्रजातीय विविधता** के लिए **स्थानीय प्रजातियों को विस्थापित करने वाली विदेशी प्रजातियों** को सबसे बड़े खतरों में से एक मानता है।
- Scientists at the **Norwegian University** and the **University of Liverpool** used data from the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility** to reveal **six major potential hotspots: western Alaska, southwestern and southeastern Greenland, northern Iceland, Fennoscandia, and Kanin-Pechora.**  
**नॉर्वेजियन यूनिवर्सिटी और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ लिवरपूल** के वैज्ञानिकों ने **ग्लोबल बायोडायवर्सिटी इन्फॉर्मेशन फैसिलिटी** के डेटा का उपयोग करके **छह प्रमुख संभावित हॉटस्पॉट** बताए: **पश्चिमी अलास्का, दक्षिण-पश्चिम और दक्षिण-पूर्व ग्रीनलैंड, उत्तरी आइसलैंड, फेनोस्कैंडिया और कानिन-पेचोरा।**
- Unlike most areas of the world, **Arctic terrestrial ecosystems** have largely been shielded from **alien species** due to **natural barriers**, including **short growing seasons, harsh climatic conditions, and limited human activity.**  
दुनिया के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों के विपरीत, **आर्कटिक स्थलीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** को **प्राकृतिक बाधाओं** जैसे **छोटा बढ़ने का मौसम, कठोर जलवायु परिस्थितियाँ और सीमित मानव गतिविधि** के कारण **विदेशी प्रजातियों** के विनाशकारी प्रभावों से काफी हद तक बचाया गया है।
- But **climate change and increasing human activity** are changing this.  
लेकिन **जलवायु परिवर्तन और बढ़ती मानव गतिविधि** इसे बदल रहे हैं।
- An older inventory in the Arctic documented **341 taxa**, of which **188 had become naturalised** in at least one floristic province.  
आर्कटिक की एक पुरानी सूची में **341 टैक्सा** दर्ज किए गए, जिनमें से **188 कम से कम एक फ्लोरिस्टिक प्रांत में प्राकृतिक रूप से स्थापित** हो चुके थे।
- The most common route for naturalised species is **“escape from confinement” (48%)**, while **“transport-stowaway” accounts for 37%.**  
प्राकृतिक प्रजातियों के फैलाव का सबसे सामान्य मार्ग **“कैद से भागना” (48%)** है, जबकि **“ट्रांसपोर्ट-स्टोअवे” 37%** है।
- **Seed contaminants and transport via vehicles** have been important routes, each contributing **14%** of introductions.  
**बीज प्रदूषक और वाहनों के माध्यम से परिवहन** भी महत्वपूर्ण मार्ग रहे हैं, प्रत्येक का योगदान **14%** है।
- However, a significant proportion (**43%**) remains classified as **“unknown”.**  
हालांकि, एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा (**43%**) **“अज्ञात”** के रूप में वर्गीकृत बना हुआ है।
- Last **October, mosquitoes were found in Iceland for the first time** as **global warming** has made it a suitable habitat.



पिछले अक्टूबर में पहली बार आइसलैंड में मच्छर पाए गए क्योंकि वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि ने इसे उनके लिए उपयुक्त आवास बना दिया है।

- **Antarctica is currently the last mosquito-free area.**  
अंटार्कटिका वर्तमान में मच्छर-मुक्त अंतिम क्षेत्र है।

## Noisy humans harm birds, affect success of breeding: study

GS III: Environment

Agence France-Presse  
PARIS

Noise pollution is affecting bird behaviour across the globe, disrupting everything from courtship songs to the ability to find food and avoid predators, an analysis showed on Wednesday.

Researchers reviewed nearly four decades of scientific work and found that noises made by humans were interfering with the lives of birds and having "strong negative effects" on reproduction success.

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, found clear evidence of a "pervasive" impact of noise pollution on birds worldwide.

"We found that noise significantly impacts communication risk behaviours, foraging, aggression and physiology and had a strong effect on habitat use and a negative impact on reproduction," it said.

This is because birds rely on acoustic information to survive.

"They use song to find mates, calls to warn of predators, and chicks make begging calls to let their parents know they're hungry," Natalie Madden, who led the research while at the University of Michigan, said in a statement.

"So if there's loud noise in the environment, can they still hear signals from their own species?"

The study authors said some relatively simple fixes could make a big difference for birds.

Madden suggested shifting from noisier cars and machinery to electric-powered alternatives.

Buildings could also be adapted to muffle sound, said the study's senior author Neil Carter, from the University of Michigan.

"हमने पाया कि शोर संचार, जोखिम व्यवहार, भोजन खोज, आक्रामकता और शारीरिक प्रक्रियाओं को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से प्रभावित करता है और आवास उपयोग पर मजबूत प्रभाव तथा प्रजनन पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव डालता है," इसमें कहा गया।

- **This is because birds rely on acoustic information to survive.**  
ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि पक्षी जीवित रहने के लिए ध्वनिक जानकारी पर निर्भर करते हैं।
- **"They use song to find mates, calls to warn of predators, and chicks make begging calls to let their parents know they're hungry," Natalie Madden, who led the research while at the University of Michigan, said in a statement.**  
"वे साथी खोजने के लिए गीत, शिकारियों से चेतावनी देने के लिए पुकार, और चूजे भूख बताने के लिए भिक्षा पुकार का उपयोग करते हैं," नेटली मैडेन, जिन्होंने मिशिगन विश्वविद्यालय में रहते हुए इस शोध का नेतृत्व किया, ने एक बयान में कहा।
- **"So if there's loud noise in the environment, can they still hear signals from their own species?"**  
"तो यदि पर्यावरण में तेज शोर हो, तो क्या वे अपनी ही प्रजाति के संकेत सुन सकते हैं?"

## Noisy humans harm birds, affect success of breeding: study

शोर करने वाले मनुष्य पक्षियों को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं, प्रजनन की सफलता प्रभावित: अध्ययन

• **Noise pollution is affecting bird behaviour across the globe, disrupting everything from courtship songs to the ability to find food and avoid predators, an analysis showed on Wednesday.**

ध्वनि प्रदूषण वैश्विक स्तर पर पक्षियों के व्यवहार को प्रभावित कर रहा है, जिससे प्रणय गीतों से लेकर भोजन खोजने और शिकारी से बचने की क्षमता तक सब बाधित हो रहा है, बुधवार को एक विश्लेषण में यह दिखाया गया।

• **Researchers reviewed nearly four decades of scientific work and found that noises made by humans were interfering with the lives of birds and having "strong negative effects" on reproduction success.**

शोधकर्ताओं ने लगभग चार दशकों के वैज्ञानिक कार्य की समीक्षा की और पाया कि मनुष्यों द्वारा किए गए शोर पक्षियों के जीवन में हस्तक्षेप कर रहे हैं और प्रजनन सफलता पर "मजबूत नकारात्मक प्रभाव" डाल रहे हैं।

• **The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, found clear evidence of a "pervasive" impact of noise pollution on birds worldwide.**

Proceedings of the Royal Society B पत्रिका में प्रकाशित इस अध्ययन में विश्वभर में पक्षियों पर ध्वनि प्रदूषण के "व्यापक" प्रभाव के स्पष्ट प्रमाण मिले।

• **"We found that noise significantly impacts communication risk behaviours, foraging, aggression and physiology and had a strong effect on habitat use and a negative impact on reproduction," it said.**



- The study authors said some relatively simple fixes could make a big difference for birds.  
अध्ययन के लेखकों ने कहा कि कुछ अपेक्षाकृत सरल समाधान पक्षियों के लिए बड़ा अंतर ला सकते हैं।
- Madden suggested shifting from noisier cars and machinery to electric-powered alternatives.  
मैडेन ने अधिक शोर करने वाली कारों और मशीनरी से हटकर इलेक्ट्रिक-चालित विकल्पों की ओर जाने का सुझाव दिया।
- Buildings could also be adapted to muffle sound, said the study's senior author Neil Carter, from the University of Michigan.  
अध्ययन के वरिष्ठ लेखक नील कार्टर, मिशिगन विश्वविद्यालय से, ने कहा कि इमारतों को भी ध्वनि को कम करने के लिए अनुकूलित किया जा सकता है।

<b>GS Paper III: IS</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>12 February 2026</b>
1.	<b>Beldanga violence: was it fair to invoke UAPA, SC asks NIA</b> <b>बेलडांगा हिंसा: क्या UAPA लागू करना उचित था, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने NIA से पूछा</b>

## Beldanga violence: was it fair to invoke UAPA, SC asks NIA

**GS III: Internal Security**  
**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as to whether it was "fair and just" to invoke the draconian **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (UAPA) Act** in the Beldanga violence case in West Bengal without even looking at any material or evidence, and term it a "terrorist act" affecting the economic security of the nation.

"Is it just and fair to exercise your powers like that? The case diary and other documents were not placed before you. It is a pre-decisional conclusion arrived at without looking at any material, and you say Section 15 [terrorist act] of the UAPA is applicable?" Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a member of the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, asked the Central agency's counsel, Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju.

Violence erupted in Beldanga on January 16 fol-

lowing the death of a migrant worker from Jharkhand. Large numbers of people took to the streets, blocking railway tracks and a National Highway for several hours. At least 12 people were injured in the clashes, and around 30 were arrested. "Every emotional outburst cannot be packaged as affecting economic security," Justice Bagchi said.

The Calcutta High Court had, on January 20, issued various directions on the basis of petitions filed by BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari and others, including leaving it open to the Centre to conduct probe by invoking Section 6(5) of the NIA Act.

On January 26, the Home Ministry directed the NIA to take up the probe of the case. The West Bengal government had moved the top court, arguing there was no material to attract Section 15 of the UAPA. They submitted that none of the scheduled offences under the UAPA were committed.

## Beldanga violence: was it fair to invoke UAPA, SC asks NIA

### बेलडांगा हिंसा: क्या UAPA लागू करना उचित था, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने NIA से पूछा

• The **Supreme Court** on Wednesday questioned the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** as to whether it was "fair and just" to invoke the draconian **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (UAPA) Act** in the **Beldanga violence case** in **West Bengal** without even looking at any material or evidence, and term it a "terrorist act" affecting the economic security of the nation.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA) से पूछा कि क्या पश्चिम बंगाल के बेलडांगा हिंसा मामले में कठोर गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां (रोकथाम) अधिनियम (UAPA) को बिना किसी सामग्री या साक्ष्य को देखे लागू करना "उचित और न्यायसंगत" था, और इसे देश की आर्थिक सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाला "आतंकी कृत्य" कहना सही था।

• "Is it just and fair to exercise your powers like that? The case diary and other documents were not placed before you. It is a pre-decisional conclusion arrived at without looking at any material, and you say **Section 15 [terrorist act] of the UAPA** is applicable?" **Justice Joymalya Bagchi**, a member of the Bench headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant**, asked the Central agency's counsel, **Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju**.

"क्या इस तरह अपनी शक्तियों का प्रयोग करना न्यायसंगत और उचित है? केस डायरी और अन्य दस्तावेज आपके सामने नहीं रखे गए। यह बिना किसी सामग्री को देखे पहले से लिया गया निर्णय है, और आप कहते हैं कि **UAPA की धारा 15 [आतंकी कृत्य]** लागू होती है?" **मुख्य न्यायाधीश**



सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ के सदस्य न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची ने केंद्रीय एजेंसी के वकील अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर-जनरल एस.वी. राजू से पूछा।

- Violence erupted in **Beldanga** on **January 16** following the death of a migrant worker from **Jharkhand**. Large numbers of people took to the streets, blocking railway tracks and a **National Highway** for several hours. At least **12 people** were injured in the clashes, and around **30** were arrested. "Every emotional outburst cannot be packaged as affecting economic security," **Justice Bagchi** said.

**16 जनवरी** को झारखंड के एक प्रवासी मजदूर की मौत के बाद बेलडांगा में हिंसा भड़क उठी। बड़ी संख्या में लोग सड़कों पर उतर आए, कई घंटों तक रेलवे पटरियों और एक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग को अवरुद्ध कर दिया। झड़पों में कम से कम **12 लोग** घायल हुए और लगभग **30** को गिरफ्तार किया गया। "हर भावनात्मक उभार को आर्थिक सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाला नहीं कहा जा सकता," न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने कहा।

- The **Calcutta High Court** had, on **January 20**, issued various directions on the basis of petitions filed by **BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari** and others, including leaving it open to the **Centre** to conduct probe by invoking **Section 6(5) of the NIA Act**.

कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय ने **20 जनवरी** को भाजपा नेता सुवेदु अधिकारी और अन्य द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं के आधार पर विभिन्न निर्देश जारी किए थे, जिसमें केंद्र को **NIA अधिनियम की धारा 6(5)** के तहत जांच करने का विकल्प खुला रखा गया था।

- On **January 26**, the **Home Ministry** directed the **NIA** to take up the probe of the case. The **West Bengal government** had moved the top court, arguing there was no material to attract **Section 15 of the UAPA**. They submitted that none of the scheduled offences under the **UAPA** were committed.

**26 जनवरी** को गृह मंत्रालय ने **NIA** को मामले की जांच संभालने का निर्देश दिया। पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने शीर्ष अदालत का रुख करते हुए तर्क दिया कि **UAPA की धारा 15** लागू करने के लिए कोई सामग्री नहीं है। उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया कि **UAPA** के तहत निर्धारित कोई भी अपराध नहीं किया गया।