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# PATRIOTIC IAS

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### 26 MARCH 2026

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GS Paper 1: Society	
TOPICS COVERED	26 March 2026
26Mar	2 resign from NCTP over Transgender Persons Bill ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स बिल को लेकर NCTP से 2 ने इस्तीफा दिया
26Mar	Transgender Bill receives RS approval amid uproar उथल-पुथल के बीच ट्रांसजेंडर बिल को राज्यसभा की मंजूरी
26Mar	The Transgender Persons Amendment Bill, a flawed fix ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स संशोधन विधेयक, एक त्रुटिपूर्ण समाधान

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## 2 resign from NCTP over Transgender Persons Bill

**Ashna Butani**

**GS I: Society**

Soon after the **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which takes away the right to self-determination of gender, two members and community representatives resigned from their posts at the **National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP)**.

They cited the amendment Bill which they called "a step backward for our fundamental rights to self-identification and dignity."

**Kalki Subramaniam**, member and Southern region representative, submitted her resignation to the Union Minister, stating that she cannot continue to hold a seat at a table where "collective voice has been silenced on a matter of such existential importance." She said she will be filing a public interest litigation plea in the Supreme Court, with many others.

**Rituparna Neog**, member and North East region representative, said, "I cannot be a part of something that refused to listen to the community," she told *The Hindu* on Wednesday evening.

## 26Mar. 2 resign from NCTP over Transgender Persons Bill

### ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स बिल को लेकर NCTP से 2 ने इस्तीफा दिया

• Soon after the **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which takes away the right to self-determination of gender, **two members and community representatives resigned from their posts at the National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP)**.

जैसे ही **राज्यसभा** ने **ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स (राइट्स प्रोटेक्शन) संशोधन बिल, 2026** पास किया, जो लिंग की **स्वयं-निर्धारण** का अधिकार छीनता है, दो सदस्य और समुदाय के प्रतिनिधियों ने **राष्ट्रीय ट्रांसजेंडर परिषद (NCTP)** में अपनी पदों से इस्तीफा दे दिया।

• They cited the amendment Bill which they called "a step backward for our fundamental rights to self-identification and dignity."

उन्होंने संशोधन बिल का हवाला दिया, जिसे उन्होंने "हमारे **मौलिक अधिकारों पर पीछे कदम, स्व-पहचान और गरिमा के लिए**" कहा।

• **Kalki Subramaniam**, member and Southern region representative, submitted her resignation to the **Union Minister**, stating that she cannot continue to hold a seat at a table where "collective voice has been silenced on a matter of such existential importance."

**काल्कि सुब्रमण्यम**, सदस्य और दक्षिणी क्षेत्र की प्रतिनिधि, ने अपना इस्तीफा **केंद्रीय मंत्री** को सौंपा, यह कहते हुए कि वह ऐसे **मेज पर अपनी सीट नहीं रख सकती**, जहां **सामूहिक आवाज़** ऐसे **अस्तित्वगत महत्व** के मामले में **दबाई गई है**।

• She said she will be filing a **public interest litigation plea** in the **Supreme Court**, with many others.

उन्होंने कहा कि वह **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में कई अन्य लोगों के साथ **जनहित याचिका** दायर करेंगी।

• **Rituparna Neog**, member and North East region representative, said, "I cannot be a part of something that refused to listen to the community," she told **The Hindu** on Wednesday evening.

**रितुपर्णा नेओग**, सदस्य और उत्तर-पूर्व क्षेत्र की प्रतिनिधि, ने कहा, "मैं उस चीज़ का हिस्सा नहीं बन सकती जिसने समुदाय की बात सुनने से इनकार किया," उन्होंने बुधवार शाम **द हिंदू** से कहा।

### National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP)

- The **National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP)** is a statutory advisory body established under the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**
- It works under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- It aims to **protect rights and promote welfare of transgender persons in India**

### Legal Basis

- Provided under **Section 16** of the Act
- Rules notified in **2020** (Transgender Persons Rules, 2020)
- Gives statutory backing to **policy formulation and monitoring**

### Composition of NCTP

- **Chairperson:** Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Minister of State, Social Justice



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- **Members:** Representatives from key ministries: Health, Education, Labour, Home Affairs, etc.
- **NITI Aayog representative**
- **State Governments (rotational representation)**
- **5 representatives from transgender community**
- Experts from NGOs and civil society

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# Transgender Bill receives RS approval amid uproar

DMK, Trinamool demanded the Bill be sent to a select committee of the House for scrutiny; Union Minister says it will ensure protection to persons who face discrimination due to biological issues

GS I: Society  
The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, a day after the Lok Sabha cleared the legislation. The Opposition had demanded the Bill should be sent to a select committee of the House for further scrutiny as it had provisions that would have an impact on the dignity of the third gender people.

Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar, countering the Opposition's charges against the Bill, said it is an effort to take along all segments of the society together.

The Minister said the Bill will ensure protection to only those who face discrimination due to biological issues and added that transgender people will continue to get legal recognition and protection.

"The Narendra Modi government is committed to protecting all those people who are suffering due to biological reasons," he said



LGBTQIA+ community members during a protest demanding repeal of the Transgender Amendment Bill, 2026, in Mumbai. REUTERS

adding that transgender welfare boards have been set up in over 30 States. "This Bill will bring administrative clarity and protect rights of the transgender persons," he said, adding: "This Bill is not merely a legal reform but a pathway to justice for those who have long faced social exclusion and discrimination due to their identity."

**Takes away rights: DMK**  
DMK MP Tiruchi Siva argued that the amendments take away the right of self-

identification and forces transgender persons to present themselves before a medical board for gender identification. "I am voicing for the people who cannot come to Parliament," Mr. Siva said and demanded that the Bill must be sent to a select committee for consultation with all stakeholders, legal experts, civil society and transgender community.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale said that only 32,000 transgender persons out of their five lakh population (according to

2011 Census) have obtained certificates and identity cards so far under the existing Act. "They are afraid to come out in the first place," he said.

**Social bias: Trinamool**  
Mr. Gokhale said that 31% of transgender people in India have attempted suicide and out of them, 50% were below the age of 20. "They are attempting suicide because of the discrimination that they are facing everyday," the Trinamool MP said adding that as if social discrimination was not enough, now the government is going to "start discriminating" against them.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas said the new legislation is an exclusionary restrictive measure.

"Recently, the Supreme Court-appointed committee conveyed to the government not to proceed with this piece of legislation. What happened to that? Why is it that the government is not considering the request of the Supreme Court-appointed committee?" Mr. Brittas asked.

## 26Mar. Transgender Bill receives RS approval amid uproar उथल-पुथल के बीच ट्रांसजेंडर बिल को राज्यसभा की मंजूरी

- **DMK, Trinamool** demanded the Bill be sent to a **select committee of the House for scrutiny**; **the Union Minister** says it will ensure protection to persons who face discrimination due to biological issues.  
डीएमके, तृणमूल ने मांग की कि बिल को संसद की चयन समिति को समीक्षा के लिए भेजा जाए; केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि यह उन व्यक्तियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करेगा जो जैविक कारणों से भेदभाव का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- The **Rajya Sabha** on Wednesday passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill**, a day after the **Lok Sabha** cleared the legislation.  
बुधवार को राज्यसभा ने ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स (राइट्स प्रोटेक्शन) संशोधन बिल पारित किया, एक दिन बाद जब लोकसभा ने इस विधेयक को मंजूरी दी।
- The Opposition had demanded the Bill should be sent to a **select committee of the House for further scrutiny** as it had provisions that would have an impact on the **dignity of the**



### third gender people.

विपक्ष ने मांग की थी कि बिल को संसद की चयन समिति को आगे की समीक्षा के लिए भेजा जाए, क्योंकि इसमें ऐसे प्रावधान थे जो तीसरे लिंग के लोगों की गरिमा पर प्रभाव डाल सकते थे।

- **Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar**, countering the Opposition's charges against the Bill, said it is an effort to take along all segments of the society together.

केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय और सशक्तिकरण मंत्री वीरेंद्र कुमार, बिल के खिलाफ विपक्ष के आरोपों का जवाब देते हुए, ने कहा कि यह समाज के सभी वर्गों को साथ लेकर चलने का प्रयास है।

- The Minister said the Bill will ensure protection to only those who face **discrimination due to biological issues** and added that **transgender people** will continue to get **legal recognition and protection**.

मंत्री ने कहा कि बिल केवल उन लोगों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करेगा जो **जैविक कारणों से भेदभाव का सामना कर रहे हैं**, और जोड़े कि **ट्रांसजेंडर लोग कानूनी मान्यता और सुरक्षा** प्राप्त करते रहेंगे।

- "The **Narendra Modi government** is committed to protecting all those people who are suffering due to biological reasons," he said, adding that **transgender welfare boards** have been set up in over 30 States.

उन्होंने कहा, "नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार उन सभी लोगों की सुरक्षा के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है जो **जैविक कारणों से पीड़ित हैं**, और यह जोड़ते हुए कि **ट्रांसजेंडर कल्याण बोर्ड** 30 से अधिक राज्यों में स्थापित किए गए हैं।

- "This Bill will bring administrative clarity and protect rights of the **transgender persons**," he said, adding: "This Bill is not merely a legal reform but a **pathway to justice** for those who have long faced **social exclusion and discrimination due to their identity**."

उन्होंने कहा, "यह बिल प्रशासनिक स्पष्टता लाएगा और **ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों** के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा करेगा," और जोड़ा: "यह बिल केवल कानूनी सुधार नहीं है बल्कि उनके लिए **न्याय** का मार्ग है जिन्होंने लंबे समय से अपनी **पहचान के कारण सामाजिक बहिष्कार और भेदभाव** का सामना किया है।"

### Takes away rights: DMK अधिकार छीनता है: डीएमके

- **DMK MP Tiruchi Siva** argued that the amendments take away the right of **self-identification** and force **transgender persons** to present themselves before a **medical board for gender identification**.

डीएमके सांसद तिरुचि शिवा ने तर्क दिया कि संशोधन **स्व-पहचान के अधिकार** को छीनते हैं और **ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों** को **लिंग पहचान के लिए चिकित्सा बोर्ड** के सामने पेश होने के लिए मजबूर करते हैं।

- "I am voicing for the people who cannot come to **Parliament**," Mr. Siva said and demanded that the Bill must be sent to a **select committee** for consultation with all stakeholders, legal experts, civil society and **transgender community**.

"मैं उन लोगों के लिए आवाज़ उठा रहा हूँ जो **संसद** में नहीं आ सकते," श्री शिवा ने कहा और मांग की कि बिल को सभी **हितधारकों, कानूनी विशेषज्ञों, नागरिक समाज और ट्रांसजेंडर समुदाय** के परामर्श के लिए **चयन समिति** को भेजा जाए।

- **Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale** said that only 32,000 **transgender persons** out of their five lakh population (according to 2011 Census) have obtained **certificates and identity cards** so far under the existing Act.

**तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद साकेत गोखले** ने कहा कि केवल 32,000 **ट्रांसजेंडर लोग** अपने पांच लाख की जनसंख्या में से (2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार) ने अब तक मौजूदा अधिनियम के तहत **प्रमाणपत्र और पहचान पत्र** प्राप्त किए हैं।

- "They are afraid to come out in the first place," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "वे सबसे पहले बाहर आने से डरते हैं।"

### Social bias: Trinamool सामाजिक पक्षपात: तृणमूल

- Mr. Gokhale said that 31% of **transgender people in India** have attempted suicide and out of them, 50% were below the age of 20.

श्री गोखले ने कहा कि भारत में 31% **ट्रांसजेंडर लोगों** ने आत्महत्या का प्रयास किया है और उनमें से 50% की उम्र 20 वर्ष से कम थी।



- “They are attempting suicide because of the discrimination that they are facing everyday,” the Trinamool MP said adding that as if **social discrimination** was not enough, now the government is going to “start discriminating” against them.  
“वे हर दिन जिस भेदभाव का सामना कर रहे हैं उसके कारण आत्महत्या का प्रयास कर रहे हैं,” तृणमूल सांसद ने कहा और जोड़ा कि जैसे सामाजिक भेदभाव पर्याप्त नहीं था, अब सरकार उनके खिलाफ भेदभाव शुरू करने जा रही है।
- **CPI(M) MP John Brittas** said the new legislation is an **exclusionary restrictive measure**. **CPI(M) सांसद जॉन ब्रिट्टास** ने कहा कि नई कानून निर्माण एक बहिष्कारक और प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय है।
- “Recently, the **Supreme Court-appointed committee** conveyed to the government not to proceed with this piece of legislation.  
“हाल ही में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट-नियुक्त समिति** ने सरकार को इस कानून निर्माण को आगे न बढ़ाने के लिए सूचित किया।
- What happened to that? Why is it that the government is not considering the request of the **Supreme Court-appointed committee**?” Mr. Brittas asked.  
उसका क्या हुआ? क्यों सरकार **सुप्रीम कोर्ट-नियुक्त समिति** की अनुरोध पर विचार नहीं कर रही है?” श्री ब्रिट्टास ने पूछा।

## The Transgender Persons Amendment Bill, a flawed fix

GS I: Society

**T**he Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 79 of 2026), introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 13, 2026, makes several sharp changes to the 2019 Act. It narrows the definition of “transgender person” to only specific socio-cultural identities such as kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta, eunuch, or biologically-defined intersex variations, or persons forcibly compelled into such an identity through mutilation, castration, amputation, or any surgical, chemical or hormonal procedure. It explicitly excludes persons with different sexual orientations and non-heteronormative gender fluid identities.

The Bill removes the right to “self-perceived gender identity” from Section 4(2), replaces the simple District Magistrate process with a medical board “authority” headed by a Chief Medical Officer, and mandates hospitals to report every transgender surgery to the District Magistrate and the authority.

### Perpetuating structural problems

The government claims that the new amendments fix the vagueness and implementation failures of the 2019 Act. Every year, thousands of intersex infants are killed or undergo medically unethical, non-consensual sex-selective surgeries that mutilate their bodies without regard for lifelong physical and psychological trauma, all in pursuit of a false “normalcy”. Millions of intersex individuals remain ghosts in our Census systems, their births and deaths unregistered, rendering them invisible to legal protections and social services.

Even the highest authorities fail to grasp the fundamental distinctions between sex identity and gender identity, or between intersex variations and transgender identities, which fuels rampant discrimination. The Bill itself refers to male and female as “gender identity”, which is fundamentally wrong – male and female are sex identities. By clubbing sex identity under the gender column, the Bill creates new problems where it is meant to solve existing ones.

The government does not have reliable data on transgender and intersex persons in India. They want to grant us rights but do not know who we are. Separating sex and gender identity as different categories on official documents would address the root causes of this problem.

Despite the new wording, the Bill still lumps “persons with intersex variations” inside the definition of a “transgender person.” The term “transgender persons” often conflates distinct identities. The Trans Act’s definition includes persons with intersex variations under “transgender”, which erases intersex-specific needs. Intersex is a natural biological spectrum (recorded 1%-2% globally). Transgender identity is a psychological and social construct.



**Gopi Shankar Madurai**

Special Monitor for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC) Rights, National Human Rights Commission of India

The Bill only deepens the conflation of gender identities and ignores core crises

Retaining this conflation under one label violates rights under Article 21 to bodily integrity and privacy. It leaves out intersex infants without any specific ban on “normalising” surgeries and ignores repeated calls for separate intersex legislation.

The Bill’s definition also contradicts established international standards: the United Nations and the World Health Organization define intersex as innate variations in sex characteristics that do not fit typical male or female binaries, requiring distinct legal recognition and explicit protections against non-consensual medical interventions. By forcing intersex persons into a transgender category, the Bill undermines these global definitions and erodes the very human rights framework that India has committed to uphold.

The Bill leaves the outdated title, National Council for Transgender Persons, and all State Welfare Boards unchanged. It ignores the long-standing proposal to rebrand them as a National GIESC Welfare Council and State GIESC Welfare Boards (GIESC is Gender Identity/Expression and Sex Characteristics). This keeps the entire policy architecture trapped under the problematic “transgender” umbrella instead of creating a scientifically accurate, inclusive framework. The government continues to promote a single identity at the national level. This heteronormative bill erases the reality that GIESC communities, including transgender persons, may have diverse sexual orientations such as transgay, translesbian, transbisexual, or queer.

### Legally empowering exploitative structures

New clauses in Section 18 introduce rigorous imprisonment (between five to 14 years) for forcing adults or children into “transgender presentation” plus begging or servitude. Yet, the Bill does nothing to regulate or dismantle the colonial hijra jamath-gharana system. By targeting only external perpetrators while leaving internal hierarchies untouched, the amendment effectively legitimises and empowers the long-standing hijra jamath-gharana system, codifying it into law. These structures are not inherently traditional; earlier Indic frameworks were more inclusive and rooted in a broader, affirmative understanding of diverse identities, free from later external influences.

At present, chief hijra nayaks control chelas’ earnings from begging and prostitution, trapping gender non-conforming children (often abandoned) in bonded labour. Meanwhile, thousands of gender non-conforming children, abandoned or rejected by families, are thrust into exploitative hijra jamath gharanas, havelis, and dayars, where education is a distant dream; instead, and forced into begging and prostitution. State police often refuse to register missing

child complaints for gender non-conforming children, and there are no dedicated policies to address their vulnerability to trafficking and abuse. There is also no framework for reform, rehabilitation, or protection of minors within these systems. By protecting these colonial-era identities without evidence-based safeguards, the government is undermining earlier inclusive traditions.

The Bill contains no requirement for genetic counselling by medical geneticists before certification, intersex surgeries and health management. It offers no mandate for India-specific longitudinal studies on “affirming surgeries” and raises serious privacy concerns due to inadequate safeguards.

Instead of addressing the problems faced by diverse GIESC communities such as administrative barriers and unregulated medical practices which include gender-affirming surgeries and hormone therapies (Government of India promotes freely despite severe health risks) the Bill offers only superficial measures with little relevance to their needs. Despite the 2019 UN CRPD recommendations to prioritise intersex welfare and dignity, these concerns remain largely neglected.

### No intersectionality

The Bill contains no intersectional lens for caste, disability, poverty or religion. Transgender persons from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe or disabled backgrounds will continue to face compounded discrimination with zero targeted remedies. It also fails to protect India’s family-dependent societal structures by skipping any requirement for rigorous, evidence-based research before policy changes. Most critically, the Bill is completely silent on civil and marriage rights of diverse GIESC identities. It offers no provisions for marriage, adoption, inheritance, divorce, or succession for transgender persons, leaving them without full legal recognition in family law, and perpetuating their exclusion from the very institutions that define citizenship and dignity in Indian society.

The 2026 Amendment Bill tightens some definitions and increases penalties for forced exploitation, but leaves every core structural flaw untouched – the hetero-normative erasure of diverse SOGIESC identities, the complete neglect of civil and marriage rights, the legal entrenchment of colonial hijra structures at the expense of ancient Indic heritage. India needs a scientific, culturally grounded approach that separates biological sex characteristics from gender identity, prioritises evidence over ideology, bans non-consensual intersex surgeries, ensures equal rights, dismantles exploitative systems, and protects the dignity of intersex persons and gender non-conforming children. The Constitution demands nothing less.



## 26Mar. The Transgender Persons Amendment Bill, a flawed fix ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन्स संशोधन विधेयक, एक त्रुटिपूर्ण समाधान

- **The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 79 of 2026)**, introduced in the Lok Sabha on **March 13, 2026**, makes several **sharp changes** to the 2019 Act.  
ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026, जिसे 13 मार्च 2026 को लोकसभा में प्रस्तुत किया गया, 2019 के अधिनियम में कई महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव करता है।
- It narrows the definition of **“transgender person”** to only specific **socio-cultural identities** such as kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta, eunuch, or biologically-defined **intersex variations**, or persons forcibly compelled into such an identity.  
यह ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति की परिभाषा को सीमित कर केवल कुछ सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक पहचान और इंटरसेक्स भिन्नताओं तक सीमित करता है।
- It explicitly excludes persons with different **sexual orientations** and **non-heteronormative gender fluid identities**.  
यह अलग-अलग यौन अभिविन्यास और लैंगिक तरल पहचान वाले व्यक्तियों को स्पष्ट रूप से बाहर करता है।
- The Bill removes the right to **“self-perceived gender identity”** from Section 4(2).  
यह विधेयक धारा 4(2) से स्व-निर्धारित लैंगिक पहचान का अधिकार हटा देता है।
- It replaces the simple District Magistrate process with a **medical board “authority”** headed by a **Chief Medical Officer**.  
यह जिला मजिस्ट्रेट की प्रक्रिया को हटाकर चिकित्सकीय प्राधिकरण स्थापित करता है जिसकी अध्यक्षता मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी करेंगे।
- It mandates hospitals to report every **transgender surgery** to the District Magistrate and the authority.  
यह अस्पतालों को हर लैंगिक परिवर्तन सर्जरी की सूचना देने के लिए बाध्य करता है।

### Perpetuating structural problems संरचनात्मक समस्याओं को बनाए रखना

- The government claims that the amendments fix **vagueness and implementation failures** of the 2019 Act.  
सरकार का दावा है कि ये संशोधन अस्पष्टता और कार्यान्वयन की विफलताओं को दूर करते हैं।
- Every year, thousands of **intersex infants** are killed or undergo **non-consensual surgeries** causing lifelong trauma.  
हर साल हजारों इंटरसेक्स शिशु मारे जाते हैं या बिना सहमति के सर्जरी से गुजरते हैं, जिससे जीवनभर आघात होता है।
- Millions of intersex individuals remain **invisible in Census systems** with unregistered births and deaths.  
लाखों इंटरसेक्स व्यक्ति जनगणना में अदृश्य बने रहते हैं, जिनके जन्म और मृत्यु दर्ज नहीं होते।
- Even authorities fail to understand the distinction between **sex identity and gender identity**.  
प्राधिकरण भी लैंगिक पहचान और जैविक पहचान के अंतर को समझने में विफल रहते हैं।
- The Bill refers to male and female as **“gender identity”**, which is fundamentally wrong.  
विधेयक पुरुष और महिला को लैंगिक पहचान कहता है, जो मूल रूप से गलत है।
- By clubbing **sex identity under gender**, the Bill creates new problems.  
जैविक पहचान को लैंगिक पहचान में मिलाकर यह विधेयक नई समस्याएँ पैदा करता है।
- The government lacks **reliable data** on transgender and intersex persons.  
सरकार के पास ट्रांसजेंडर और इंटरसेक्स व्यक्तियों का विश्वसनीय डेटा नहीं है।
- Separating **sex and gender identity** in official documents would address the issue.  
आधिकारिक दस्तावेजों में जैविक और लैंगिक पहचान को अलग करना इस समस्या का समाधान कर सकता है।
- The Bill still lumps **intersex persons** within the definition of **transgender person**.  
यह विधेयक अभी भी इंटरसेक्स व्यक्तियों को ट्रांसजेंडर की परिभाषा में शामिल करता है।
- The term **“transgender persons”** often conflates **distinct identities**.  
ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों शब्द कई भिन्न पहचानों को मिला देता है।



- Intersex is a **natural biological spectrum (1%-2% globally)** while transgender identity is a **psychological and social construct**.  
इंटरसेक्स एक **प्राकृतिक जैविक स्थिति (1%-2%)** है जबकि ट्रांसजेंडर पहचान एक **मनोवैज्ञानिक और सामाजिक संरचना** है।
- Retaining this **conflation violates rights under Article 21 to bodily integrity and privacy**.  
इस मिश्रण को बनाए रखना **अनुच्छेद 21** के तहत **शारीरिक अखंडता और निजता** के अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करता है।
- It leaves out intersex infants without any ban on **“normalising” surgeries**.  
यह इंटरसेक्स शिशुओं को बिना किसी **सामान्य बनाने वाली सर्जरी पर प्रतिबंध** के छोड़ देता है।
- It ignores repeated calls for **separate intersex legislation**.  
यह **अलग इंटरसेक्स कानून** की मांगों को नजरअंदाज करता है।
- The Bill's definition also contradicts **established international standards: the United Nations and the World Health Organization define intersex as innate variations in sex characteristics that do not fit typical male or female binaries**.  
विधेयक की परिभाषा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों** का भी विरोध करती है: संयुक्त राष्ट्र और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन इंटरसेक्स को **जन्मजात जैविक भिन्नता** के रूप में परिभाषित करते हैं जो सामान्य पुरुष या महिला श्रेणियों में नहीं आती।
- It requires **distinct legal recognition** and explicit protections against **non-consensual medical interventions**.  
इसके लिए **अलग कानूनी पहचान** और **बिना सहमति के चिकित्सा हस्तक्षेप से सुरक्षा** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- By forcing intersex persons into a **transgender category**, the Bill undermines these **global definitions** and erodes the **human rights framework**.  
इंटरसेक्स व्यक्तियों को **ट्रांसजेंडर श्रेणी में डालकर**, यह विधेयक **वैश्विक परिभाषाओं** को कमजोर करता है और **मानवाधिकार ढांचे** को क्षति पहुंचाता है।
- The Bill leaves the outdated title, **National Council for Transgender Persons**, and all **State Welfare Boards** unchanged.  
यह विधेयक पुराने नाम **राष्ट्रीय ट्रांसजेंडर परिषद** और सभी **राज्य कल्याण बोर्डों** को अपरिवर्तित रखता है।
- It ignores the proposal to rebrand them as **National GIESC Welfare Council** and **State GIESC Welfare Boards**.  
यह इन्हें **राष्ट्रीय जीआईईएससी कल्याण परिषद** और **राज्य जीआईईएससी कल्याण बोर्ड** में बदलने के प्रस्ताव को नजरअंदाज करता है।
- This keeps the policy architecture trapped under the **“transgender” umbrella** instead of a **scientifically accurate, inclusive framework**.  
इससे पूरी नीति व्यवस्था **ट्रांसजेंडर ढांचे** के तहत सीमित रहती है, बजाय एक **वैज्ञानिक और समावेशी ढांचे** के।
- The government continues to promote a **single identity** at the national level.  
सरकार राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर **एकल पहचान** को बढ़ावा देती रहती है।
- This **heteronormative bill** erases the reality of diverse sexual orientations within GIESC communities.  
यह **विषमलैंगिक मानक आधारित विधेयक** विविध यौन पहचानों की वास्तविकता को नकारता है।

### Legally empowering exploitative structures शोषणकारी संरचनाओं को कानूनी शक्ति देना

- New clauses in Section 18 introduce **rigorous imprisonment (5 to 14 years)** for forcing people into **transgender presentation** plus begging or servitude.  
धारा 18 में नए प्रावधान **5 से 14 वर्ष के कठोर कारावास** का प्रावधान करते हैं, यदि किसी को **लैंगिक रूप धारण** और भीख या सेवा में मजबूर किया जाए।
- Yet, the Bill does nothing to dismantle the **hijra jamath-gharana system**.  
फिर भी यह विधेयक **हिजड़ा जमात-घराना प्रणाली** को समाप्त करने के लिए कुछ नहीं करता।
- By targeting only external perpetrators and ignoring internal hierarchies, it **legitimises and empowers** this system.  
केवल बाहरी अपराधियों को निशाना बनाकर और आंतरिक संरचना को अनदेखा कर यह प्रणाली को **वैध और सशक्त** बनाता है।



- Earlier Indic frameworks were more **inclusive and affirmative**.  
पहले के भारतीय ढांचे अधिक **समावेशी और सकारात्मक** थे।
- At present, chief hijra nayaks control **chelas' earnings** from begging and prostitution.  
वर्तमान में हिजड़ा प्रमुख **शिष्यों की कमाई** को नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- This traps gender non-conforming children in **bonded labour**.  
इससे लैंगिक रूप से अलग बच्चों को **बंधुआ श्रम** में फंसा दिया जाता है।
- Thousands of such children are pushed into **exploitative gharanas**, where **education is denied**.  
हजारों बच्चों को **शोषणकारी घरानों** में धकेला जाता है, जहाँ **शिक्षा से वंचित** रखा जाता है।
- They are forced into **begging and prostitution**.  
उन्हें **भीख और वेश्यावृत्ति** के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है।
- State police often refuse to register **missing child complaints**.  
राज्य पुलिस अक्सर **लापता बच्चों की शिकायत** दर्ज नहीं करती।
- There are no policies addressing **trafficking and abuse risks**.  
**तस्करी और शोषण के जोखिम** से निपटने के लिए कोई नीति नहीं है।
- There is no framework for **reform, rehabilitation, or protection of minors**.  
**सुधार, पुनर्वास और बच्चों की सुरक्षा** के लिए कोई ढांचा नहीं है।
- By protecting these **colonial-era identities** without safeguards, the government undermines earlier **inclusive traditions**.  
इन **औपनिवेशिक पहचान संरचनाओं** को बिना सुरक्षा उपायों के बनाए रखकर सरकार पहले की **समावेशी परंपराओं** को कमजोर कर रही है।
- The Bill contains no requirement for **genetic counselling** by medical geneticists before certification, intersex surgeries and **health management**.  
विधेयक में प्रमाणन, इंटरसेक्स सर्जरी और **स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन** से पहले **आनुवंशिक परामर्श** की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- It offers no mandate for **India-specific longitudinal studies** on **affirming surgeries** and raises serious **privacy concerns** due to inadequate safeguards.  
यह **भारत-विशिष्ट दीर्घकालिक अध्ययन** का कोई प्रावधान नहीं करता और अपर्याप्त सुरक्षा के कारण गंभीर **गोपनीयता चिंताएँ** उत्पन्न करता है।
- Instead of addressing problems such as **administrative barriers** and **unregulated medical practices**, the Bill offers only **superficial measures**.  
**प्रशासनिक बाधाओं और अनियंत्रित चिकित्सा प्रथाओं** जैसी समस्याओं को हल करने के बजाय यह विधेयक केवल **ऊपरी उपाय** प्रदान करता है।
- It ignores issues related to **gender-affirming surgeries and hormone therapies**, despite severe **health risks**.  
यह **लैंगिक पुष्टि सर्जरी और हार्मोन उपचार** से जुड़े मुद्दों को नजरअंदाज करता है, जबकि इनमें गंभीर **स्वास्थ्य जोखिम** होते हैं।
- Despite the **2019 UN CRPD recommendations**, concerns of intersex welfare and dignity remain **neglected**.  
**2019 के अंतरराष्ट्रीय सिफारिशों** के बावजूद इंटरसेक्स के कल्याण और गरिमा से जुड़े मुद्दे **उपेक्षित** हैं।

### No intersectionality अंतर्संबंधिता का अभाव

- The Bill contains no **intersectional lens** for caste, disability, poverty or religion.  
यह विधेयक जाति, विकलांगता, गरीबी या धर्म के लिए कोई **अंतर्संबंधी दृष्टिकोण** नहीं रखता।
- Transgender persons from **Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe** or disabled backgrounds face **compounded discrimination** with no remedies.  
**अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति** या विकलांग पृष्ठभूमि के ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों को **दोगुना भेदभाव** झेलना पड़ता है और कोई समाधान नहीं है।
- It fails to protect **family-dependent societal structures** by skipping **evidence-based research**.  
यह **परिवार आधारित सामाजिक संरचनाओं** की रक्षा में विफल है क्योंकि **प्रमाण आधारित शोध** को नजरअंदाज करता है।



- The Bill is silent on **civil and marriage rights** of diverse identities.  
यह विधेयक **नागरिक और वैवाहिक अधिकारों** पर पूरी तरह मौन है।
- It offers no provisions for **marriage, adoption, inheritance, divorce, or succession**.  
इसमें **विवाह, गोद लेना, उत्तराधिकार, तलाक या संपत्ति अधिकार** का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।
- It leaves persons without **full legal recognition in family law**.  
इससे लोगों को **पारिवारिक कानून में पूर्ण कानूनी मान्यता** नहीं मिलती।
- It perpetuates **exclusion from key social institutions**.  
यह उन्हें **महत्वपूर्ण सामाजिक संस्थाओं से बाहर** रखता है।
- The **2026 Amendment Bill** tightens definitions and increases penalties but leaves **core structural flaws** untouched.  
**2026 संशोधन विधेयक** परिभाषाओं को सख्त करता है और दंड बढ़ाता है, लेकिन **मुख्य संरचनात्मक समस्याएँ** बनी रहती हैं।
- It continues **hetero-normative erasure** of diverse identities.  
यह विविध पहचानों के **विषमलैंगिक आधार पर मिटाए जाने** को जारी रखता है।
- It neglects **civil and marriage rights** and entrenches **colonial hijra structures**.  
यह **नागरिक और वैवाहिक अधिकारों** की अनदेखी करता है और **औपनिवेशिक हिजड़ा संरचनाओं** को मजबूत करता है।
- India needs a **scientific and culturally grounded approach** separating **biological sex and gender identity**.  
भारत को **वैज्ञानिक और सांस्कृतिक रूप से आधारित दृष्टिकोण** की आवश्यकता है जो **जैविक लिंग और लैंगिक पहचान** को अलग करे।
- It must prioritise **evidence over ideology** and ban **non-consensual intersex surgeries**.  
इसमें **विचारधारा के बजाय प्रमाण** को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए और **बिना सहमति की सर्जरी** पर रोक लगानी चाहिए।
- It should ensure **equal rights**, dismantle **exploitative systems**, and protect **dignity of children**.  
इसे **समान अधिकार, शोषणकारी प्रणालियों का अंत और बच्चों की गरिमा की रक्षा** सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए।
- The Constitution demands **nothing less**.  
संविधान इससे **कम कुछ नहीं चाहता**।

## GS Paper II: Polity,

### TOPICS COVERED

26 March 2026

26Mar

'Vande Mataram advisory not a threat to conform'

'वंदे मातरम् सलाह पालन करने के लिए बाध्य करने की धमकी नहीं है'



# ‘Vande Mataram advisory not a threat to conform’

Ministry's advisory on National Song only prescribes protocol and those who do not sing it will not face any action, says SC; even then, there is burden on those who refuse to sing, argues petitioner

GS II: Polity  
Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the January 28 guidelines issued by Union Home Ministry on playing National Song *Vande Mataram* in full at public and ceremonial occasions are not a “threat to conform” and do not fall foul of constitutional freedoms.

“...it is only an advisory... The Ministry feels the National Song is as much an expression of the national identity. You may have a different point of view. But we feel you have vague apprehensions of discrimination which do not have a clear nexus with the advisory now... But please come immediately to us as and when you feel you have been discriminated against or singled out on the plank of this advisory,” Justice Joymalya Bagchi addressed petitioner Muhammed Sayeed Noori, represented by senior advocate Sanjay Hegde.

Mr. Hegde began his arguments by noting the Ministry's circular made the singing of the National Song “mandatory” and compelled citizens to participate in a social demonstration of loyalty which



goes against one's individual conscience. He pointed out that the circular has instructed the three-minute National Song to be played before the 55-second National Anthem, reducing the status of the latter to an “epilogue”.

#### Anthem vs. Song

Chief Justice Surya Kant, heading the three-judge Bench, said there was absolutely nothing in the January 28 circular to show that people who did not play or sing the National Song would face penal or adverse action.

“Even if there is no penalty and even if today there is no legal sanction, there is a huge burden on somebody who refuses to sing or stand up,” Mr. Hegde argued.

“What is that burden in

law here? The circular prescribes a protocol of when and how the National Song must be played, what is to be done when it is played, etc. We can understand if somebody sends you a notice saying you did not play or stand up for the National Song and your institution should be closed or derecognised as a result,” the Chief Justice reacted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta intervened to emphasise that respect for the National Song was organic and, ideally, even an advisory was not necessary. He referred to Article 51A of the Constitution, which made it a fundamental duty to respect the National Flag and National Anthem.

Mr. Hegde said the National Anthem and National Song were distinct from each other. “..It was on Ja-

nuary 24, 1950 that Rajendra Prasad, as President of the Constituent Assembly, ended the controversy by saying *Jana Gana Mana* would be the National Anthem and *Vande Mataram* the National Song. When the Parliament subsequently inserted Article 51A [in the 42nd Constitutional Amendment], it spoke only of the National Anthem,” he explained.

He said India was a country which paid equal respect to all religions and everyone's individual conscience, even that of an atheist. Mr. Mehta retorted that it was not as if people were being compelled to sing *bhajans*.

Justice Bagchi referred to the circular which said, “In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song”. “The expression ‘may’ means you could sing as much as not sing. It allows individual conscience to take the decision,” he said.

Mr. Hegde said patriotism cannot be compelled, provoking the Chief Justice to ask if “patriotism cannot be compelled even for the National Anthem”.

The court refused to entertain the petition, terming it “premature”.

## 26Mar. ‘Vande Mataram advisory not a threat to conform’ ‘वंदे मातरम् सलाह पालन करने के लिए बाध्य करने की धमकी नहीं है’

- The Ministry's advisory on National Song *Vande Mataram* only prescribes protocol and those who do not sing it will not face any action, says SC; even then, there is burden on those who refuse to sing, argues petitioner.

मंत्रालय की राष्ट्रीय गीत वंदे मातरम् पर सलाह केवल प्रोटोकॉल निर्धारित करती है और जो लोग इसे नहीं गाएंगे, उन्हें किसी प्रकार की कार्रवाई का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा; इसके बावजूद, जो लोग इसे गाने से इनकार करते हैं, उन पर बोझ पड़ता है, याचिकाकर्ता ने तर्क दिया।

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the January 28 guidelines issued by Union Home Ministry on playing National Song *Vande Mataram* in full at public and ceremonial occasions are not a “threat to conform” and do not fall foul of constitutional freedoms.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को कहा कि 28 जनवरी को गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा सार्वजनिक और औपचारिक अवसरों पर



**राष्ट्रीय गीत वंदे मातरम्** को पूरी तरह से बजाने के लिए जारी की गई दिशानिर्देश “अनुकूल होने की धमकी” नहीं है और यह संवैधानिक स्वतंत्रताओं का उल्लंघन नहीं करती।

- “...it is only an advisory... The Ministry feels the National Song is as much an expression of the national identity.  
“...यह केवल एक सलाह है... मंत्रालय महसूस करता है कि **राष्ट्रीय गीत** राष्ट्रीय पहचान की अभिव्यक्ति के रूप में है।
- You may have a different point of view.  
आपका दृष्टिकोण अलग हो सकता है।
- But we feel you have vague apprehensions of discrimination which do not have a clear nexus with the advisory now...  
लेकिन हमें लगता है कि आपको भेदभाव के अस्पष्ट संदेह हैं जिनका इस सलाह से स्पष्ट संबंध नहीं है...
- But please come immediately to us as and when you feel you have been discriminated against or singled out on the plank of this advisory,” Justice Joymalya Bagchi addressed petitioner Muhammed Sayeed Noori, represented by senior advocate Sanjay Hegde.  
लेकिन कृपया तुरंत हमारे पास आएं जब भी आपको लगे कि इस सलाह के आधार पर आपके साथ भेदभाव किया गया है या आपको अलग किया गया है,” न्यायमूर्ति **जॉयमलया बागची** ने याचिकाकर्ता **मुहम्मद सैयद नूरी** से कहा, जिनका प्रतिनिधित्व वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **संजय हेगड़े** कर रहे थे।
- Mr. Hegde began his arguments by noting the Ministry’s circular made the singing of the **National Song “mandatory”** and compelled citizens to participate in a social demonstration of loyalty which goes against one’s individual conscience.  
श्री **हेगड़े** ने अपने तर्क की शुरुआत यह नोट करते हुए की कि मंत्रालय का परिपत्र **राष्ट्रीय गीत को “अनिवार्य”** बनाता है और नागरिकों को एक सामाजिक वफादारी प्रदर्शन में भाग लेने के लिए मजबूर करता है जो किसी की व्यक्तिगत अंतःकरण के खिलाफ है।
- He pointed out that the circular has instructed the three-minute **National Song** to be played before the 55-second **National Anthem**, reducing the status of the latter to an “epilogue”.  
उन्होंने यह इंगित किया कि परिपत्र ने 55 सेकंड के **राष्ट्रीय गान** से पहले तीन मिनट का **राष्ट्रीय गीत** बजाने का निर्देश दिया है, जिससे बाद वाले की स्थिति “उपसंहार” तक घट जाती है।

## Anthem vs. Song गान बनाम गीत

- Chief Justice Surya Kant, heading the three-judge Bench, said there was absolutely nothing in the January 28 circular to show that people who did not play or sing the **National Song** would face penal or adverse action.  
मुख्य न्यायाधीश **सूर्य कांत**, जो तीन-न्यायाधीशीय बेंच के प्रमुख हैं, ने कहा कि 28 जनवरी के परिपत्र में बिल्कुल कुछ भी ऐसा नहीं है जिससे यह पता चले कि जो लोग **राष्ट्रीय गीत** नहीं बजाएंगे या गाएंगे, उन्हें दंडात्मक या प्रतिकूल कार्रवाई का सामना करना पड़ेगा।
- “Even if there is no penalty and even if today there is no legal sanction, there is a huge burden on somebody who refuses to sing or stand up,” Mr. Hegde argued.  
“भले ही कोई दंड न हो और भले ही आज कोई कानूनी प्रतिबंध न हो, जो कोई गाने या खड़े होने से इनकार करता है, उस पर बड़ा बोझ होता है,” श्री **हेगड़े** ने तर्क दिया।
- “What is that burden in law here? The circular prescribes a protocol of when and how the **National Song** must be played, what is to be done when it is played, etc.  
“यहां कानून में वह बोझ क्या है? परिपत्र यह प्रोटोकॉल निर्धारित करता है कि कब और कैसे **राष्ट्रीय गीत** बजाया जाना चाहिए, इसे बजाते समय क्या किया जाना चाहिए, आदि।
- We can understand if somebody sends you a notice saying you did not play or stand up for the **National Song** and your institution should be closed or derecognised as a result,” the Chief Justice reacted.  
हम समझ सकते हैं यदि कोई आपको नोटिस भेजता है जिसमें कहा गया है कि आपने **राष्ट्रीय गीत** नहीं बजाया या खड़े नहीं हुए और आपके संस्थान को बंद या निरस्त किया जाना चाहिए,” मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta intervened to emphasise that respect for the **National Song** was organic and, ideally, even an advisory was not necessary.  
**सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता** ने हस्तक्षेप किया और जोर दिया कि **राष्ट्रीय गीत** के प्रति सम्मान स्वाभाविक है और आदर्श रूप में, यहां तक कि एक सलाह भी आवश्यक नहीं थी।



- He referred to Article 51A of the Constitution, which made it a fundamental duty to respect the **National Flag and National Anthem**.  
उन्होंने संविधान के अनुच्छेद 51A का उल्लेख किया, जिसने **राष्ट्रीय ध्वज और राष्ट्रीय गान** का सम्मान करना एक मौलिक कर्तव्य बनाया।
- Mr. Hegde said the **National Anthem** and **National Song** were distinct from each other.  
श्री हेगड़े ने कहा कि **राष्ट्रीय गान** और **राष्ट्रीय गीत** एक-दूसरे से अलग हैं।
- “.It was on January 24, 1950 that Rajendra Prasad, as President of the Constituent Assembly, ended the controversy by saying **Jana Gana Mana** would be the **National Anthem** and **Vande Mataram** the **National Song**.  
“..यह 24 जनवरी, 1950 को था जब **राजेंद्र प्रसाद**, संविधान सभा के अध्यक्ष के रूप में, ने विवाद को समाप्त करते हुए कहा कि **जन गण मन** राष्ट्रीय गान होगा और **वंदे मातरम्** राष्ट्रीय गीत होगा।
- When the Parliament subsequently inserted Article 51A [in the 42nd Constitutional Amendment], it spoke only of the **National Anthem**,” he explained.  
जब संसद ने बाद में अनुच्छेद 51A [42वें संविधान संशोधन में] जोड़ा, तो यह केवल **राष्ट्रीय गान** के बारे में ही बोला,” उन्होंने समझाया।
- He said India was a country which paid equal respect to all religions and everyone’s individual conscience, even that of an atheist.  
उन्होंने कहा कि भारत एक ऐसा देश है जो सभी धर्मों और प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की व्यक्तिगत अंतःकरण, यहां तक कि एक नास्तिक की भी, को समान सम्मान देता है।
- Mr. Mehta retorted that it was not as if people were being compelled to sing bhajans.  
श्री मेहता ने पलटवार किया कि ऐसा नहीं है कि लोगों को भजनों को गाने के लिए मजबूर किया जा रहा है।
- Justice Bagchi referred to the circular which said, “In all schools, the day’s work may begin with community singing of the **National Song**”.  
न्यायमूर्ति **बागची** ने परिपत्र का संदर्भ दिया जिसमें कहा गया, “सभी स्कूलों में, दिन का कार्य सामूहिक **राष्ट्रीय गीत** गायन से शुरू हो सकता है।”
- “The expression ‘may’ means you could sing as much as not sing.  
“May’ शब्द का अर्थ है कि आप गा सकते हैं जितना कि गा भी नहीं सकते।
- It allows individual conscience to take the decision,” he said.  
यह व्यक्तिगत अंतःकरण को निर्णय लेने की अनुमति देता है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Mr. Hegde said patriotism cannot be compelled, provoking the Chief Justice to ask if “patriotism cannot be compelled even for the **National Anthem**”.  
श्री हेगड़े ने कहा कि देशभक्ति को मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता, जिससे मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने पूछा कि “क्या **राष्ट्रीय गान** के लिए भी देशभक्ति को मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता”?
- The court refused to entertain the petition, terming it “premature”.  
अदालत ने याचिका को स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर दिया, इसे “अप्रसंगिक” करार देते हुए।

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26 March 2026

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26Mar	<b>Govt. defends stand as Opposition raises Pakistan role in Iran</b> सरकार ने अपने रुख का बचाव किया, विपक्ष ने ईरान में पाकिस्तान की भूमिका उठाई
26Mar	<b>Immigration, visa issuance scheme gets 5-year extension</b> इमिग्रेशन, वीजा जारी करने की योजना को 5 साल के लिए बढ़ाया गया
26Mar	<b>Patrolling along China border increased significantly after 2020 Galwan clash, data show</b> 2020 गलवान झड़प के बाद चीन सीमा पर गश्ती में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि, आंकड़े दिखाते हैं



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# Tehran dismisses U.S. attempt to end conflict, sets own terms

Halting aggression, reparations, and recognition of its 'sovereignty' over the Strait of Hormuz are part of Tehran's terms; U.S. is offering sanctions relief in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait

GS II: IR  
Stanly Johny

Iran on Wednesday dismissed a U.S. proposal to end the war and set out its own terms for peace, even as it continued trading fire with Israel.

The U.S. proposal offered a ceasefire and sanctions relief in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran, according to state-run Press TV, has laid down five conditions to end the war, which the U.S. and Israel launched on February 28 with the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several other leaders. Tehran is seeking: "a complete halt" to aggression and assassinations; "concrete mechanisms" to prevent future attacks; payment of war damages and reparations; an end to fighting on "all fronts"; and recognition of its "exercise of sovereignty" over the Strait of Hormuz, which it calls its "natural and legal right".

"Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," a senior security official said, according to Press TV. The official, who is not named in the report, said Washington has put forward proposals through various diplomatic channels that are "excessive" and "disconnected from reality" on the battlefield.

**'Very big present'**  
U.S. President Donald Trump, who had backed off from his threat to attack Iran's power infrastructure claiming that Washington



First responders at a site struck by a projectile in Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv in Israel, as the missile war in West Asia continues. AFP

and Tehran were in talks, said on Tuesday that Iran had given him "a very big present worth a tremendous amount of money", adding that "we are dealing with the right people". "I think we're going to end [the war]," Mr. Trump said without elaborating on the "present".

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters on Wednesday dismissed reports about talks, adding that the U.S. is calling its "defeat" an agreement.

The comments from Mr. Trump, who has put off his threatened strikes until Friday, came amid reports that the Pentagon was planning to deploy thousands of troops from the elite 82nd Airborne Division to West Asia.

The Associated Press earlier cited two Pakistani officials as saying that Isla-

mabad had delivered the U.S. plan to Tehran. The proposal addresses sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear programme, limits on its missile programme, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and restrictions on Iran's support for non-state militias in West Asia such as Hezbollah and Hamas, said the officials.

#### Sarcastic response

"We are closely monitoring all U.S. movements in the region, especially troop deployments," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday in a social media post. "What the generals have broke[n], the soldiers can't fix; instead, they will fall victim to [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's delusions. Do not test our

resolve to defend our land," he added. He later warned about a possible invasion of an Iranian island with the support of an unnamed regional country.

"If the self-proclaimed superpower of the world could have escaped this predicament, it would have done so by now. Do not call your defeat an agreement," Central Headquarters spokesperson Lt. Col. Ebrahim Zolfaqari said in a video statement. "Has the level of your infighting reached the point of negotiating with yourselves?" he asked, sarcastically.

#### Fire exchanges on

While the U.S. and Iran issued contradicting claims about talks, Tehran and Tel Aviv continued to attack each other on Wednesday.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that it targeted Iran's "sole facility" for the development of submarines, and other weapons manufacturing sites in Isfahan. Iran fired at least 13 salvos of missiles at Israel on Tuesday, in which nine people were wounded.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement on Wednesday that it launched missiles at central and northern Israel as well as U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf region. "Strategic points and military centers located in the northern occupied territories were smashed under the heavy and sustained missile attacks of the IRGC's Aerospace Force," the Guards said.

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## 26Mar. Tehran dismisses U.S. attempt to end conflict, sets own terms तेहरान ने संघर्ष समाप्त करने के अमेरिकी प्रयास को खारिज किया, अपनी शर्तें रखीं

- Halting aggression, reparations, and recognition of its 'sovereignty' over the Strait of Hormuz are part of Tehran's terms; the U.S. is offering sanctions relief in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait. आक्रामकता को रोकना, क्षतिपूर्ति, और हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पर अपनी 'संप्रभुता' की मान्यता तेहरान की शर्तों का हिस्सा हैं; अमेरिका बदले में प्रतिबंधों में राहत देने की पेशकश कर रहा है, यदि इस्लामिक गणराज्य अपने परमाणु कार्यक्रम को छोड़ दे और जलडमरूमध्य को फिर से खोल दे।
- Iran on Wednesday dismissed a U.S. proposal to end the war and set out its own terms for peace, even as it continued trading fire with Israel.



ईरान ने बुधवार को युद्ध समाप्त करने के अमेरिकी प्रस्ताव को खारिज कर दिया और शांति के लिए अपनी शर्तें रखीं, जबकि वह इज़राइल के साथ गोलीबारी जारी रखे हुए है।

- The U.S. proposal offered a **ceasefire** and **sanctions relief** in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.  
अमेरिकी प्रस्ताव में **युद्धविराम** और **प्रतिबंधों में राहत** की पेशकश की गई थी, बदले में इस्लामिक गणराज्य से उसके परमाणु कार्यक्रम को छोड़ने और हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को फिर से खोलने की मांग की गई थी।
- Iran, according to state-run Press TV, has laid down five conditions to end the war, which the U.S. and Israel launched on February 28 with the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several other leaders.  
सरकारी प्रेस टीवी के अनुसार, ईरान ने युद्ध समाप्त करने के लिए पांच शर्तें रखी हैं, जिसे अमेरिका और इज़राइल ने 28 फरवरी को सर्वोच्च नेता आयतोल्ला अली खामेनेई और कई अन्य नेताओं की हत्या के साथ शुरू किया था।
- Tehran is seeking: “a complete halt” to aggression and assassinations; “concrete mechanisms” to prevent future attacks; payment of war damages and reparations; an end to fighting on “all fronts”; and recognition of its “exercise of sovereignty” over the Strait of Hormuz, which it calls its “natural and legal right”.  
तेहरान मांग कर रहा है: आक्रामकता और हत्याओं का “पूर्ण अंत”; भविष्य के हमलों को रोकने के लिए “ठोस तंत्र”; युद्ध क्षति और क्षतिपूर्ति का भुगतान; “सभी मोर्चों” पर लड़ाई का अंत; और हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पर अपनी “संप्रभुता के प्रयोग” की मान्यता, जिसे वह अपना “प्राकृतिक और कानूनी अधिकार” बताता है।
- “Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met,” a senior security official said, according to Press TV.  
प्रेस टीवी के अनुसार, एक वरिष्ठ सुरक्षा अधिकारी ने कहा, “ईरान युद्ध को तब समाप्त करेगा जब वह स्वयं ऐसा निर्णय करेगा और जब उसकी शर्तें पूरी होंगी।”
- The official, who is not named in the report, said Washington has put forward proposals through various diplomatic channels that are “excessive” and “disconnected from reality” on the battlefield.  
अधिकारी, जिसका नाम रिपोर्ट में नहीं है, ने कहा कि वाशिंगटन ने विभिन्न कूटनीतिक माध्यमों से ऐसे प्रस्ताव रखे हैं जो “अत्यधिक” हैं और युद्धक्षेत्र की वास्तविकता से “कटे हुए” हैं।

### ‘Very big present’ ‘बहुत बड़ा उपहार’

- U.S. President Donald Trump, who had backed off from his threat to attack Iran’s power infrastructure claiming that Washington and Tehran were in talks, said on Tuesday that Iran had given him “a very big present worth a tremendous amount of money”, adding that “we are dealing with the right people”.  
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप, जिन्होंने ईरान के ऊर्जा ढांचे पर हमला करने की अपनी धमकी से पीछे हटते हुए कहा था कि वाशिंगटन और तेहरान बातचीत कर रहे हैं, ने मंगलवार को कहा कि ईरान ने उन्हें “बहुत बड़ी राशि के बराबर एक बहुत बड़ा उपहार” दिया है, और जोड़ा कि “हम सही लोगों से निपट रहे हैं।”
- “I think we’re going to end [the war],” Mr. Trump said without elaborating on the “present”.  
“मुझे लगता है कि हम [युद्ध] समाप्त करने जा रहे हैं,” श्री ट्रंप ने “उपहार” के बारे में विस्तार से बताए बिना कहा।
- Iran’s Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters on Wednesday dismissed reports about talks, adding that the U.S. is calling its “defeat” an agreement.  
ईरान के खातम अल-अनबिया केंद्रीय मुख्यालय ने बुधवार को बातचीत की खबरों को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि अमेरिका अपनी “हार” को समझौता बता रहा है।
- The comments from Mr. Trump, who has put off his threatened strikes until Friday, came amid reports that the Pentagon was planning to deploy thousands of troops from the elite 82nd Airborne Division to West Asia.  
श्री ट्रंप, जिन्होंने अपने प्रस्तावित हमलों को शुक्रवार तक टाल दिया है, की यह टिप्पणी ऐसे समय आई जब खबरें थीं कि पेंटागन पश्चिम एशिया में 82वीं एयरबोर्न डिवीजन के हजारों सैनिकों को तैनात करने की योजना बना रहा है।
- The Associated Press earlier cited two Pakistani officials as saying that Islamabad had delivered the U.S. plan to Tehran.  
एसोसिएटेड प्रेस ने पहले दो पाकिस्तानी अधिकारियों का हवाला देते हुए कहा था कि इस्लामाबाद ने अमेरिकी योजना तेहरान तक पहुंचाई है।



- The proposal addresses sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear programme, limits on its missile programme, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and restrictions on Iran's support for non-state militias in West Asia such as Hezbollah and Hamas, said the officials.  
अधिकारियों ने कहा कि प्रस्ताव में प्रतिबंधों में राहत, ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम में कमी, उसके मिसाइल कार्यक्रम पर सीमाएं, हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को फिर से खोलना और हिज्बुल्लाह तथा हमास जैसे गैर-राज्य मिलिशिया के लिए ईरान के समर्थन पर प्रतिबंध शामिल हैं।

### Sarcastic response व्यंग्यात्मक प्रतिक्रिया

- "We are closely monitoring all U.S. movements in the region, especially troop deployments," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday in a social media post.  
"हम क्षेत्र में अमेरिका की सभी गतिविधियों, विशेष रूप से सैनिक तैनाती, पर करीबी नजर रख रहे हैं," ईरान के संसद अध्यक्ष मोहम्मद बाकर गालिबाफ ने बुधवार को सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा।
- "What the generals have broken, the soldiers can't fix; instead, they will fall victim to [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's delusions. Do not test our resolve to defend our land," he added.  
"जनरलों ने जो तोड़ा है, सैनिक उसे ठीक नहीं कर सकते; बल्कि वे [इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री बेजामिन] नेतन्याहू के भ्रम का शिकार होंगे। हमारी भूमि की रक्षा के संकल्प को मत परखिए," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- He later warned about a possible invasion of an Iranian island with the support of an unnamed regional country.  
उन्होंने बाद में एक अज्ञात क्षेत्रीय देश के समर्थन से एक ईरानी द्वीप पर संभावित आक्रमण की चेतावनी दी।
- "If the self-proclaimed superpower of the world could have escaped this predicament, it would have done so by now. Do not call your defeat an agreement," Central Headquarters spokesperson Lt. Col. Ebrahim Zolfaqari said in a video statement.  
"यदि दुनिया की स्वयंभू महाशक्ति इस स्थिति से बच सकती, तो अब तक बच चुकी होती। अपनी हार को समझौता मत कहिए," केंद्रीय मुख्यालय के प्रवक्ता लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल इब्राहिम ज़ोलफकारी ने वीडियो बयान में कहा।
- "Has the level of your infighting reached the point of negotiating with yourselves?" he asked, sarcastically.  
"क्या आपकी आंतरिक लड़ाई इस स्तर तक पहुंच गई है कि आप स्वयं से ही बातचीत कर रहे हैं?" उन्होंने व्यंग्यात्मक रूप से पूछा।

### Fire exchanges on गोलीबारी जारी

- While the U.S. and Iran issued contradicting claims about talks, Tehran and Tel Aviv continued to attack each other on Wednesday.  
जहां अमेरिका और ईरान ने बातचीत को लेकर विरोधाभासी दावे किए, वहीं तेहरान और तेल अवीव ने बुधवार को एक-दूसरे पर हमले जारी रखे।
- The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that it targeted Iran's "sole facility" for the development of submarines, and other weapons manufacturing sites in Isfahan.  
इज़राइल रक्षा बल (IDF) ने कहा कि उसने पनडुब्बी विकास के लिए ईरान की "एकमात्र सुविधा" और इस्फहान में अन्य हथियार निर्माण स्थलों को निशाना बनाया।
- Iran fired at least 13 salvos of missiles at Israel on Tuesday, in which nine people were wounded.  
ईरान ने मंगलवार को इज़राइल पर कम से कम 13 मिसाइल हमले किए, जिसमें नौ लोग घायल हुए।
- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement on Wednesday that it launched missiles at central and northern Israel as well as U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf region.  
ईरान के इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC) ने बुधवार को बयान में कहा कि उसने मध्य और उत्तरी इज़राइल के साथ-साथ फारस की खाड़ी क्षेत्र में अमेरिकी ठिकानों पर मिसाइलें दागीं।
- "Strategic points and military centers located in the northern occupied territories were smashed under the heavy and sustained missile attacks of the IRGC's Aerospace Force," the



Guards said.

“उत्तरी कब्जे वाले क्षेत्रों में स्थित रणनीतिक बिंदु और सैन्य केंद्र IRGC की एयरोस्पेस फोर्स के भारी और लगातार मिसाइल हमलों से ध्वस्त कर दिए गए,” गार्ड्स ने कहा।

## Govt. defends stand as Opposition raises Pakistan role in Iran

**GS II: IR**  
**Sobhana K. Nair**  
**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

Parrying the questions raised by the Opposition regarding the reported central role played by Pakistan in mediating between the U.S. and Iran, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday termed the neighbouring country a “dalal” and said that it had been playing this role since 1981.

He was addressing an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the recent developments in West Asia and their impact on India. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri also assured the gathering that India continued to maintain a strategic petroleum reserve of 74 days. While the country was not facing any imminent energy crisis, he noted that the supply cycle for LPG had extended from 20 days to 45 days. This, he said, should stabilise soon.

### ‘Balanced position’

Responding to criticism over India’s “silence”, Mr. Jaishankar asserted that with nearly one crore Indians living in West Asian countries, it was crucial for India’s strategic and economic interests to maintain a balanced position. India, he said, remained in a unique position, able to communicate with all sides.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent talks with Iranian authorities, he said two Indian ships had been allowed to sail through the Strait of Hormuz, while 18 others still in the region would soon set sail for Indian shores. He said that the U.S. continued to be India’s biggest trading partner,

- India, he said, remained in a unique position, able to communicate with all sides. उन्होंने कहा कि भारत एक अनूठी स्थिति में है, जहां वह सभी पक्षों से संवाद कर सकता है।



S. Jaishankar

while Israel was a key technological partner.

The External Affairs Minister also said that the U.S. sanctions on India had a long history and that previous administrations in Washington had deployed them in the past. While the Opposition “shamed” the government, he said that India’s import of Russian oil never completely stopped.

### ‘Meet unsatisfactory’

Barring the Trinamool Congress, all Opposition parties attended the meeting. Their questions covered India’s silence on the assassination of Iran’s late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei; the timing of PM Modi’s visit to Tel Aviv – two days before the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran; Pakistan’s role as a mediator; the rise in LPG prices due to the ongoing crisis; and India’s commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement.

Speaking to presspersons later, senior Congress leader Tariq Anwar described the meeting as “unsatisfactory.”

Senior CPI(M) leader John Brittas said, “All the Opposition leaders who spoke said that the government should have taken a position on the unilateral attack by the United States against a sovereign, independent country, Iran.”

## 26Mar. Govt. defends stand as Opposition raises Pakistan role in Iran

सरकार ने अपने रुख का बचाव किया, विपक्ष ने ईरान में पाकिस्तान की भूमिका उठाई

• Parrying the questions raised by the Opposition regarding the reported central role played by Pakistan in mediating between the U.S. and Iran, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday termed the neighbouring country a “dalal” and said that it had been playing this role since 1981.

विपक्ष द्वारा उठाए गए सवालों का जवाब देते हुए, जिसमें अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच मध्यस्थता में पाकिस्तान की कथित केंद्रीय भूमिका का मुद्दा था, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने बुधवार को पड़ोसी देश को “दलाल” बताया और कहा कि वह 1981 से यह भूमिका निभा रहा है।

• He was addressing an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the recent developments in West Asia and their impact on India.

वह रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में हुई सर्वदलीय बैठक को संबोधित कर रहे थे, जिसमें पश्चिम एशिया के हालिया घटनाक्रम और उनके भारत पर प्रभाव पर चर्चा हुई।

• Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri also assured the gathering that India continued to maintain a strategic petroleum reserve of 74 days.

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप पुरी ने भी बैठक को आश्वासन दिया कि भारत 74 दिनों का रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार बनाए हुए है।

• While the country was not facing any imminent energy crisis, he noted that the supply cycle for LPG had extended from 20 days to 45 days.

हालांकि देश किसी तात्कालिक ऊर्जा संकट का सामना नहीं कर रहा है, उन्होंने बताया कि एलपीजी की आपूर्ति चक्र 20 दिनों से बढ़कर 45 दिन हो गया है।

• This, he said, should stabilise soon. उन्होंने कहा कि यह स्थिति जल्द ही स्थिर हो जाएगी।

### ‘Balanced position’ ‘संतुलित स्थिति’

• Responding to criticism over India’s “silence”, Mr. Jaishankar asserted that with nearly one crore Indians living in West Asian countries, it was crucial for India’s strategic and economic interests to maintain a balanced position.

भारत की “चुप्पी” पर आलोचना का जवाब देते हुए, श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशियाई देशों में लगभग एक करोड़ भारतीय रहते हैं, इसलिए भारत के रणनीतिक और आर्थिक हितों के लिए संतुलित रुख बनाए रखना आवश्यक है।



- Citing Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** recent talks with Iranian authorities, he said two Indian ships had been allowed to sail through the **Strait of Hormuz**, while 18 others still in the region would soon set sail for Indian shores.  
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** की ईरानी अधिकारियों के साथ हालिया बातचीत का हवाला देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि दो भारतीय जहाजों को **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** से गुजरने की अनुमति मिल गई है, जबकि क्षेत्र में मौजूद 18 अन्य जहाज जल्द ही भारत के लिए रवाना होंगे।
- He said that the **U.S.** continued to be India's biggest **trading partner**, while **Israel** was a key **technological partner**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **अमेरिका** भारत का सबसे बड़ा **व्यापारिक साझेदार** बना हुआ है, जबकि **इज़राइल** एक प्रमुख **तकनीकी साझेदार** है।
- The External Affairs Minister also said that the **U.S. sanctions** on India had a long history and that previous administrations in Washington had deployed them in the past.  
विदेश मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि भारत पर **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** का लंबा इतिहास रहा है और वाशिंगटन के पूर्व प्रशासन भी इन्हें लागू कर चुके हैं।
- While the Opposition "**shamed**" the government, he said that India's import of **Russian oil** never completely stopped.  
जबकि विपक्ष ने सरकार को "**शर्मिंदा**" किया, उन्होंने कहा कि भारत का **रूसी तेल** आयात कभी पूरी तरह बंद नहीं हुआ।

### 'Meet unsatisfactory' 'बैठक असंतोषजनक'

- Barring the **Trinamool Congress**, all Opposition parties attended the meeting.  
**तृणमूल कांग्रेस** को छोड़कर सभी विपक्षी दल बैठक में शामिल हुए।
- Their questions covered India's silence on the assassination of Iran's late Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**; the timing of PM Modi's visit to **Tel Aviv** — two days before the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran; Pakistan's role as a mediator; the rise in **LPG prices** due to the ongoing crisis; and India's commitment to the **Non-Aligned Movement**.  
उनके सवालोंने ईरान के दिवंगत सर्वोच्च नेता **आयतोल्ला अली खामेनेई** की हत्या पर भारत की चुप्पी; पीएम मोदी की **तेल अवीव** यात्रा का समय — जो अमेरिका और इज़राइल द्वारा ईरान पर हमले से दो दिन पहले हुई; मध्यस्थ के रूप में पाकिस्तान की भूमिका; चल रहे संकट के कारण **एलपीजी कीमतों** में वृद्धि; और **गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन** के प्रति भारत की प्रतिबद्धता शामिल थे।
- Speaking to presspersons later, senior **Congress** leader **Tariq Anwar** described the meeting as "**unsatisfactory**."  
बाद में पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए वरिष्ठ **कांग्रेस** नेता **तारिक अनवर** ने बैठक को "**असंतोषजनक**" बताया।
- Senior **CPI(M)** leader **John Brittas** said, "All the Opposition leaders who spoke said that the government should have taken a position on the unilateral attack by the United States against a sovereign, independent country, Iran."  
वरिष्ठ **सीपीआई(एम)** नेता **जॉन ब्रिट्टास** ने कहा, "जिन सभी विपक्षी नेताओं ने बात की, उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार को एक संप्रभु, स्वतंत्र देश ईरान पर अमेरिका के एकतरफा हमले पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट करना चाहिए था।"



# Immigration, visa issuance scheme gets 5-year extension

GS II: IR

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) scheme for a period of five years from April 1, 2026 till March 31, 2031 with a budget outlay of ₹1,800 crore, the government stated on Wednesday.

The IVFRT platform seeks to interlink and optimise functions related to immigration, visa issuance and registration of foreigners in India. The core objective of the scheme started in 2010 is to modernise and upgrade immigration and visa services within a

**IVFRT system has enabled 100% contactless visa process leading to faster processing**

secure and integrated service delivery framework.

“After the recent enactment of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 and its subsequent rules and order, it has become imperative to strengthen and modernise the Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) system to effectively meet emerging requirements and future challenges in the domain of immigration control and

foreigner management, including illegal migration,” the government stated.

The scheme has covered 117 Immigration Posts, 15 Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) and 854 Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs)/ Superintendents of Police (SPs)/ Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) across the country.

The IVFRT system has enabled a 100% contactless visa process with on-line appointment scheduling and payment facilities, leading to faster visa processing times with 91.24% of e-visa applications cleared within 72 hours during the past five years, it further stated.

## 26Mar. Immigration, visa issuance scheme gets 5-year extension इमिग्रेशन, वीजा जारी करने की योजना को 5 साल के लिए बढ़ाया गया

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the continuation of the **Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) scheme** for a period of five years from April 1, 2026 till March 31, 2031 with a budget outlay of ₹1,800 crore, the government stated on Wednesday. सरकार ने बुधवार को कहा कि **केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने इमिग्रेशन, वीजा, विदेशी पंजीकरण और ट्रैकिंग (IVFRT) योजना** को 1 अप्रैल 2026 से 31 मार्च 2031 तक पांच साल के लिए जारी रखने की मंजूरी दी है, जिसकी बजट राशि ₹1,800 करोड़ है।
- The **IVFRT platform** seeks to interlink and optimise functions related to **immigration, visa issuance and registration of foreigners in India**. **IVFRT प्लेटफॉर्म** का उद्देश्य भारत में **इमिग्रेशन, वीजा जारी करना और विदेशी पंजीकरण** से संबंधित कार्यों को जोड़ना और अनुकूलित करना है।
- The core objective of the scheme started in 2010 is to modernise and upgrade **immigration and visa services** within a secure and integrated service delivery framework. 2010 में शुरू हुई योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य एक सुरक्षित और एकीकृत सेवा वितरण ढांचे के भीतर **इमिग्रेशन और वीजा सेवाओं** को आधुनिक और उन्नत बनाना है।
- “After the recent enactment of the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025** and its subsequent rules and order, it has become imperative to strengthen and modernise the **Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) system** to effectively meet emerging requirements and future challenges in the domain of **immigration control and foreigner management, including illegal migration**, the government stated. “हाल ही में पारित **इमिग्रेशन और विदेशी अधिनियम, 2025** और उसके बाद के नियमों और आदेशों के बाद, यह आवश्यक हो गया है कि **इमिग्रेशन, वीजा और विदेशी पंजीकरण और ट्रैकिंग (IVFRT) प्रणाली** को



मजबूत और आधुनिक बनाया जाए ताकि इमिग्रेशन नियंत्रण और विदेशी प्रबंधन, जिसमें अवैध प्रवासन भी शामिल है, में उत्पन्न होने वाली आवश्यकताओं और भविष्य की चुनौतियों को प्रभावी ढंग से पूरा किया जा सके," सरकार ने कहा।

- The scheme has covered 117 Immigration Posts, 15 Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) and 854 Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs)/ Superintendents of Police (SPs)/ Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) across the country.  
योजना ने पूरे देश में 117 इमिग्रेशन पोस्ट, 15 फॉरेनर्स रीजनल रजिस्ट्रेशन ऑफिसर्स (FRROs) और 854 फॉरेनर्स रजिस्ट्रेशन ऑफिसर्स (FROs)/ पुलिस अधीक्षक (SPs)/ डिप्टी कमिश्नर ऑफ पुलिस (DCPs) को शामिल किया है।
- The IVFRT system has enabled a 100% contactless visa process with online appointment scheduling and payment facilities, leading to faster visa processing times with 91.24% of e-visa applications cleared within 72 hours during the past five years, it further stated.

IVFRT प्रणाली ने 100% संपर्क रहित वीजा प्रक्रिया को सक्षम किया है, जिसमें ऑनलाइन अपॉइंटमेंट शेड्यूलिंग और भुगतान सुविधाएँ शामिल हैं, जिससे तेज वीजा प्रसंस्करण समय संभव हुआ है, और पिछले पांच वर्षों में 91.24% ई-वीजा आवेदन 72 घंटों के भीतर निपटाए गए हैं, यह आगे बताया गया।

## Patrolling along China border increased significantly after 2020 Galwan clash, data show

GS II: IR

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

Patrolling by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) along the China border has seen a significant rise after the 2020 incident in eastern Ladakh's Galwan valley when 20 soldiers were killed in violent clashes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The Union Home Ministry's annual report for 2024-25, which was published on Wednesday, stated that from April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, as many as 4,503 patrols were conducted by the ITBP, the primary border guarding force deployed along the 3,488-km China border. On an average, the ITBP conducted 500 patrols per month during the period. "ITBP ensured security of the border and remained vigi-



ITBP remained vigilant during heightened security scenarios along the India-China border, the report said.

lant during heightened security scenarios along the Indo-China border. To keep strict vigilance, ITBP conducted 4,503 patrols along Indo-China border," the report said.

A comparison with the previous reports show that 6,561 patrols were conducted between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, a 15-month window averaging about 437 patrols per month, while 2,899 patrols

were conducted between April 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, with an average of 322 patrols per month. The corresponding data for other years were not available but the numbers reflect a marked escalation in border patrols since 2017-18, when only 2,083 patrols were recorded over the year, around 173 patrols per month.

Till 2023, there were at least 26 patrolling points, out of 65 PPs in eastern Ladakh that were not being patrolled by Indian troops since April-May 2020. In eastern Ladakh, several areas that were being patrolled earlier have been turned into "buffer zones" with the Chinese Army also not sending their troops. The PPs are used to assert territorial claims along the undefined Line of Actual Control as there is no mutually agreed border.



## 26Mar. Patrolling along China border increased significantly after 2020 Galwan clash, data show

### 2020 गलवान झड़प के बाद चीन सीमा पर गश्ती में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि, आंकड़े दिखाते हैं

- Patrolling by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** along the China border has seen a significant rise after the 2020 incident in eastern Ladakh's **Galwan valley** when 20 soldiers were killed in violent clashes with the **Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)**.  
चीन सीमा पर **इंडो-तिब्बती सीमा पुलिस (ITBP)** द्वारा गश्ती में 2020 के ईस्टर्न लद्दाख के **गलवान घाटी** घटना के बाद महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि देखी गई, जब **चीन की पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी (PLA)** के साथ हिंसक झड़पों में 20 सैनिक मारे गए थे।
- The **Union Home Ministry's annual report for 2024-25**, which was published on Wednesday, stated that from April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, as many as 4,503 patrols were conducted by the ITBP, the primary border guarding force deployed along the 3,488-km China border.  
बुधवार को प्रकाशित **केंद्र गृह मंत्रालय की 2024-25 वार्षिक रिपोर्ट** में कहा गया कि 1 अप्रैल 2024 से 31 दिसंबर 2024 तक, कुल 4,503 गश्तें **ITBP** द्वारा की गईं, जो 3,488-किमी चीन सीमा पर तैनात प्रमुख सीमा सुरक्षा बल है।
- On an average, the ITBP conducted 500 patrols per month during the period.  
औसतन, इस अवधि में ITBP ने प्रति माह 500 गश्तें कीं।
- **"ITBP ensured security of the border and remained vigilant during heightened security scenarios along the Indo-China border.**  
**"ITBP ने सीमा की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की और भारत-चीन सीमा पर बढ़ी हुई सुरक्षा परिस्थितियों के दौरान सतर्क रहा।**
- To keep strict vigilance, ITBP conducted 4,503 patrols along Indo-China border," the report said.  
कड़ी निगरानी बनाए रखने के लिए, ITBP ने भारत-चीन सीमा पर 4,503 गश्तें कीं," रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।
- A comparison with the previous reports show that 6,561 patrols were conducted between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, a 15-month window averaging about 437 patrols per month, while 2,899 patrols were conducted between April 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, with an average of 322 patrols per month.  
पिछली रिपोर्टों की तुलना से पता चलता है कि 1 जनवरी 2023 से 31 मार्च 2024 तक 6,561 गश्तें की गईं, 15 महीने की अवधि में औसतन लगभग 437 गश्तें प्रति माह, जबकि 1 अप्रैल 2022 से 31 दिसंबर 2022 तक 2,899 गश्तें की गईं, औसतन 322 गश्तें प्रति माह।
- The corresponding data for other years were not available but the numbers reflect a marked escalation in border patrols since 2017-18, when only 2,083 patrols were recorded over the year, around 173 patrols per month.  
अन्य वर्षों के लिए संबंधित डेटा उपलब्ध नहीं था, लेकिन आंकड़े 2017-18 से सीमा गश्तों में स्पष्ट वृद्धि को दर्शाते हैं, जब वर्षभर में केवल 2,083 गश्तें दर्ज की गईं, लगभग 173 गश्तें प्रति माह।
- Till 2023, there were at least 26 patrolling points, out of 65 PPs in eastern Ladakh that were not being patrolled by Indian troops since April-May 2020.  
2023 तक, ईस्टर्न लद्दाख के 65 गश्ती बिंदुओं में से कम से कम 26 गश्ती बिंदु ऐसे थे जिन पर भारतीय सैनिक अप्रैल-मई 2020 से गश्त नहीं कर रहे थे।
- In eastern Ladakh, several areas that were being patrolled earlier have been turned into "buffer zones" with the Chinese Army also not sending their troops.  
ईस्टर्न लद्दाख में, कई क्षेत्र जो पहले गश्त किए जा रहे थे, उन्हें **"बफर जोन"** में बदल दिया गया है, और चीनी सेना ने भी अपने सैनिक नहीं भेजे हैं।
- The PPs are used to assert territorial claims along the undefined **Line of Actual Control** as there is no mutually agreed border.  
गश्ती बिंदुओं का उपयोग **वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC)** के साथ क्षेत्रीय दावे जताने के लिए किया जाता है, क्योंकि कोई आपसी सहमत सीमा नहीं है।



<b>GS Paper III: Economy,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>26 March 2026</b>
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>India aiming for 60% non-fossil fuel power sources by 2035</b> भारत 2035 तक 60% गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन ऊर्जा स्रोतों का लक्ष्य रख रहा है
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>Cabinet approves revamped UDAN scheme with changes in subsidy</b> कैबिनेट ने सब्सिडी में बदलाव के साथ नया UDAN योजना मंजूर किया
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>Centre asks RBI to keep retail inflation target at 4% till 2031</b> केंद्र ने आरबीआई से कहा कि खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति लक्ष्य 2031 तक 4% पर बनाए रखा जाए
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>What is at stake at the WTO's MC14?</b> WTO की MC14 में क्या दांव पर लगा है?
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>RBI scraps treasury bill sale to support banking liquidity</b> आरबीआई ने बैंकिंग तरलता को समर्थन देने के लिए ट्रेजरी बिल बिक्री रद्द की
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>MoPNG issues directions to strengthen natural gas infra</b> MoPNG ने प्राकृतिक गैस अवसंरचना को मजबूत करने के लिए निर्देश जारी किए
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>FM defends Centre's right to levy cess, says Constitution allows it</b> वित्त मंत्री ने केंद्र के उपकर लगाने के अधिकार का बचाव किया, कहा संविधान इसकी अनुमति देता है

## India aiming for 60% non-fossil fuel power sources by 2035

**GS III: Economy**  
**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

Updating its climate goals, India has pledged that by 2035, 60% of its installed electricity capacity will comprise non-fossil sources. It also aims to reduce by 47% the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP from 2005 level and to increase its carbon sink to 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes.

These targets make up its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which are to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"We will easily achieve these goals... [with] the speed with which we are expanding our non-fossil sources," Union Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing on Wednesday following a Cabinet meeting.

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was required to issue an updated NDC in 2025, which

spells out its voluntary actions towards transitioning away from fossil fuel and improving energy-efficiency measures.

At the 30th edition of the Conference of Parties in Belem, Brazil, in November last year, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that India would announce the NDC by the "year-end".

### Current commitments

India's current NDC, officially conveyed to the United Nations in August 2022, commits to the following by 2030: having 50% of its capacity of installed electric power from non-fossil sources; reducing the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP by 44%; and increasing its carbon sink to at least 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

The Conference of Parties, or CoP, is a body of nations that convenes annually to discuss climate issues and proposals to transition their economies

### Green goals

The targets set for 2035 under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) are part of India's formal climate pledges under the Paris Agreement



Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by **47%** from 2005 level

Achieve **60%** installed electric power from non-fossil fuel energy resources

Create carbon sink of **3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through forest and tree cover

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was required to update its NDC by 2025 with actions towards curbing fossil fuel and improving energy efficiency

### away from fossil fuel.

Currently, about 52% of India's installed electricity capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources – a target achieved well before the deadline – though only about 25% of the power generated is non-fossil. These sources include solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear power. As of 2019, say official estimates, India had achieved an emissions intensity of 36% from 2005-2020.

A carbon sink of 1.97 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent had already been created from 2005 to 2019. However, forest and tree cover accounts for about 24.6% of India's geographical area as of 2021, which is higher than the 21% in 2005, but still less than the national policy goal of 33%.

### 'Strong resolve'

"In shaping India's NDC for 2031-2035, the government has considered the out-

comes of the first Global Stocktake (GST), principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), and equity with a view to harmonize national realities, developmental priorities, energy security and the need for greater ambition in climate action, in line with the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement," the Environment Ministry said in a statement.

Initiated in 2021, the GST assesses the world's collective progress towards limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, concluding that nations are not on track. Several independent analysts have suggested that while India may meet its 2030 NDC targets, it is not enough to keep the globe on a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway.

Independent analysts said India was picking up the slack for developed countries.

India's NDC target had

come amid a "rollback of climate policies" and "unilateral trade measures" by developed, rich countries, Vaibhav Chaturvedi, senior fellow, Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), told *The Hindu*.

"It demonstrates a strong resolve to address transmission and land availability constraints faced by the renewables sector. The 47% emissions intensity target shows that energy security and prices cannot be taken for granted."

"At a time when developed countries are backtracking on ambition, deepening their fossil fuel entrenchment, and dragging the world towards military conflict, the signal from India shows that Global South (developing country) leadership on climate ambition is concrete and real," Avantika Goswami, of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an influential think tank, said in a statement.

### 26Mar. India aiming for 60% non-fossil fuel power sources by 2035 भारत 2035 तक 60% गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन ऊर्जा स्रोतों का लक्ष्य रख रहा है

- Updating its climate goals, India has pledged that by 2035, 60% of its installed electricity capacity will comprise non-fossil sources.  
अपने जलवायु लक्ष्यों को अद्यतन करते हुए, भारत ने वादा किया है कि 2035 तक उसकी स्थापित बिजली क्षमता का 60% गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों से होगा।



- It also aims to reduce by 47% the **intensity of emissions** per unit of GDP from 2005 level and to increase its **carbon sink** to 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes.  
यह 2005 के स्तर से प्रति GDP इकाई **उत्सर्जन तीव्रता** को 47% तक कम करने और अपने **कार्बन सिंक** को 3.5 से 4 अरब टन तक बढ़ाने का भी लक्ष्य रखता है।
- These targets make up its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**, which are to be communicated to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.  
ये लक्ष्य उसके **राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDC)** का हिस्सा हैं, जिन्हें **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन रूपरेखा अभिसमय (UNFCCC)** को सूचित किया जाना है।
- “We will easily achieve these goals... [with] the speed with which we are expanding our **non-fossil sources**,” Union Information Technology Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** said at a briefing on Wednesday following a Cabinet meeting.  
“हम इन लक्ष्यों को आसानी से प्राप्त कर लेंगे... जिस गति से हम अपने **गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों** का विस्तार कर रहे हैं,” केंद्रीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री **अश्विनी वैष्णव** ने बुधवार को कैबिनेट बैठक के बाद ब्रीफिंग में कहा।
- As a signatory to the **Paris Agreement**, India was required to issue an updated NDC in 2025, which spells out its voluntary actions towards transitioning away from **fossil fuel** and improving **energy-efficiency** measures.  
**पेरिस समझौते** के हस्ताक्षरकर्ता के रूप में, भारत को 2025 में अद्यतन NDC जारी करना आवश्यक था, जिसमें **जीवाश्म ईंधन** से दूर जाने और **ऊर्जा दक्षता** सुधारने के लिए स्वैच्छिक कदम बताए गए हैं।
- At the 30th edition of the **Conference of Parties** in Belem, Brazil, in November last year, Environment Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** said that India would announce the NDC by the “year-end”.  
पिछले वर्ष नवंबर में ब्राज़ील के बेलेम में आयोजित **कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ पार्टिज़ (CoP)** के 30वें संस्करण में पर्यावरण मंत्री **भूपेंद्र यादव** ने कहा था कि भारत वर्ष के अंत तक NDC की घोषणा करेगा।

## Current commitments वर्तमान प्रतिबद्धताएँ

- India’s current NDC, officially conveyed to the United Nations in August 2022, commits to the following by 2030: having 50% of its capacity of installed electric power from **non-fossil sources**; reducing the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP by 44%; and increasing its **carbon sink** to at least 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent.  
भारत का वर्तमान NDC, जिसे अगस्त 2022 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र को आधिकारिक रूप से भेजा गया था, 2030 तक निम्नलिखित लक्ष्यों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है: अपनी स्थापित विद्युत क्षमता का 50% **गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों** से प्राप्त करना; प्रति GDP इकाई उत्सर्जन तीव्रता को 44% तक कम करना; और अपने **कार्बन सिंक** को कम से कम 2.5 से 3 अरब टन CO2 समतुल्य तक बढ़ाना।
- The **Conference of Parties (CoP)** is a body of nations that convenes annually to discuss **climate issues** and proposals to transition their economies away from **fossil fuel**.  
**कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ पार्टिज़ (CoP)** देशों का एक निकाय है जो हर वर्ष **जलवायु मुद्दों** और अपनी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को **जीवाश्म ईंधन** से दूर ले जाने के प्रस्तावों पर चर्चा के लिए एकत्रित होता है।
- Currently, about 52% of India’s installed electricity capacity comes from **non-fossil fuel sources** — a target achieved well before the deadline — though only about 25% of the power generated is non-fossil.  
वर्तमान में, भारत की स्थापित बिजली क्षमता का लगभग 52% **गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों** से आता है — यह लक्ष्य समय सीमा से पहले ही हासिल कर लिया गया — हालांकि उत्पन्न बिजली का केवल लगभग 25% ही गैर-जीवाश्म है।
- These sources include **solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear power**.  
इन स्रोतों में **सौर, पवन, जलविद्युत, बायोमास, और परमाणु ऊर्जा** शामिल हैं।
- As of 2019, say official estimates, India had achieved an emissions intensity of 36% from 2005-2020.  
आधिकारिक अनुमानों के अनुसार, 2019 तक भारत ने 2005-2020 के दौरान 36% उत्सर्जन तीव्रता हासिल कर ली थी।
- A carbon sink of 1.97 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent had already been created from 2005 to 2019.  
2005 से 2019 के बीच 1.97 अरब टन CO2 समतुल्य का **कार्बन सिंक** पहले ही बनाया जा चुका था।



- However, **forest and tree cover** accounts for about 24.6% of India's geographical area as of 2021, which is higher than the 21% in 2005, but still less than the national policy goal of 33%. हालांकि, 2021 तक भारत के भौगोलिक क्षेत्र का लगभग 24.6% **वन और वृक्ष आच्छादन** है, जो 2005 के 21% से अधिक है, लेकिन अभी भी राष्ट्रीय नीति के 33% लक्ष्य से कम है।

### 'Strong resolve'

#### 'मजबूत संकल्प'

- "In shaping India's NDC for 2031-2035, the government has considered the outcomes of the first **Global Stocktake (GST)**, principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**, and equity with a view to harmonize national realities, developmental priorities, energy security and the need for greater ambition in climate action, in line with the purpose and long-term goals of the **Paris Agreement**," the Environment Ministry said in a statement.  
"2031-2035 के लिए भारत के NDC को तैयार करते समय, सरकार ने पहले **ग्लोबल स्टॉकटेक (GST)** के परिणाम, **सामान्य लेकिन विभेदित जिम्मेदारियाँ और संबंधित क्षमताएँ (CBDR-RC)** के सिद्धांत, और समानता को ध्यान में रखा है, ताकि राष्ट्रीय वास्तविकताओं, विकासात्मक प्राथमिकताओं, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और जलवायु कार्रवाई में अधिक महत्वाकांक्षा की आवश्यकता के साथ संतुलन बनाया जा सके, जो **पेरिस समझौते** के उद्देश्यों और दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्यों के अनुरूप है," पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने बयान में कहा।
- Initiated in 2021, the GST assesses the world's collective progress towards limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, concluding that nations are not on track.  
2021 में शुरू किया गया GST वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि को 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक सीमित करने की दिशा में दुनिया की सामूहिक प्रगति का आकलन करता है, और निष्कर्ष निकालता है कि देश सही मार्ग पर नहीं हैं।
- Several independent analysts have suggested that while India may meet its 2030 NDC targets, it is not enough to keep the globe on a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway.  
कई स्वतंत्र विश्लेषकों ने सुझाव दिया है कि भले ही भारत अपने 2030 NDC लक्ष्यों को पूरा कर ले, यह वैश्विक तापमान को 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस के मार्ग पर बनाए रखने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- Independent analysts said India was picking up the slack for **developed countries**.  
स्वतंत्र विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि भारत **विकसित देशों** की कमी को पूरा कर रहा है।
- India's NDC target had come amid a "rollback of **climate policies**" and "unilateral trade measures" by developed, rich countries, **Vaibhav Chaturvedi**, senior fellow, Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), told The Hindu.  
भारत का NDC लक्ष्य ऐसे समय आया है जब विकसित, समृद्ध देशों द्वारा "**जलवायु नीतियों में कमी**" और "एकतरफा व्यापार उपाय" अपनाए जा रहे हैं, यह बात CEEW के वरिष्ठ फेलो **वैभव चतुर्वेदी** ने कही।
- "It demonstrates a strong resolve to address **transmission and land availability constraints** faced by the renewables sector.  
"यह नवीकरणीय क्षेत्र द्वारा सामना की जा रही **प्रसारण और भूमि उपलब्धता बाधाओं** को दूर करने के लिए मजबूत संकल्प को दर्शाता है।
- The 47% emissions intensity target shows that **energy security** and prices cannot be taken for granted."  
47% उत्सर्जन तीव्रता का लक्ष्य दर्शाता है कि **ऊर्जा सुरक्षा** और कीमतों को हल्के में नहीं लिया जा सकता।"
- "At a time when developed countries are backtracking on ambition, deepening their fossil fuel entrenchment, and dragging the world towards military conflict, the signal from India shows that **Global South** (developing country) leadership on climate ambition is concrete and real," **Avantika Goswami**, of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an influential think tank, said in a statement.  
"जब विकसित देश अपनी महत्वाकांक्षाओं से पीछे हट रहे हैं, जीवाश्म ईंधन पर अपनी निर्भरता बढ़ा रहे हैं और दुनिया को सैन्य संघर्ष की ओर धकेल रहे हैं, ऐसे समय में भारत का संकेत दिखाता है कि **ग्लोबल साउथ** (विकासशील देशों) का जलवायु नेतृत्व ठोस और वास्तविक है," प्रभावशाली थिंक टैंक CSE की **अवंतिका गोस्वामी** ने बयान में कहा।



# Cabinet approves revamped UDAN scheme with changes in subsidy

**GS III: Economy**  
**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

In a significant policy shift, the Centre has extended the subsidy period for airlines on select Tier-2 and Tier-3 routes from three to five years, after a large share of those routes fell into disuse. The shift comes under the modified UDAN scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday with a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore.

The subsidy will also shift from a levy embedded in airfares to direct funding from the exchequer.

Out of the total ₹28,840 crore outlay for the modified UDAN scheme, ₹10,043 crore is set aside for a subsidy to support airlines flying on regional routes over the next 10 years. A government official explained that airlines would receive subsidy support for specific routes for five years at a stretch.

Under the earlier



The revised scheme will also support airport operations and maintenance at selected airports. FILE PHOTO

scheme design, these subsidies were not funded by the exchequer but through a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) levy built into airfares on non-UDAN routes.

#### Viability concerns

Subsidies were also capped at three years to push airlines towards self-sustaining routes. However, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report found that only 7% to 10%

of these routes had remained viable beyond the subsidy period. As of February 2026, of the 663 routes launched under the UDAN scheme since 2017, 327 routes had been discontinued, according to data recently presented in Parliament by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol.

The ₹28,840 crore outlay marks a nearly six-fold jump in funding for UDAN. At its launch in 2017, the

government had earmarked ₹4,500 crore over 10 years, primarily to revive unused airports.

Under the modified UDAN announced on Wednesday, 100 airports will be redeveloped from unused airstrips, with an outlay of ₹12,159 crore over eight years, aimed at expanding the regional aviation network.

The revised scheme, however, goes beyond infrastructure development to also support airport operations and maintenance at low traffic airports, capped at ₹3.06 crore per airport and ₹90 lakh per heliport or water aerodrome, with a total estimated cost of ₹2,577 crore covering around 441 aerodromes.

In a push to improve last-mile connectivity, particularly in remote and difficult terrains, the scheme also proposes to develop 200 helipads, each costing ₹15 crore, amounting to an investment of ₹3,661 crore.

## 26Mar. Cabinet approves revamped UDAN scheme with changes in subsidy कैबिनेट ने सब्सिडी में बदलाव के साथ नया UDAN योजना मंजूर किया

- In a significant policy shift, the **Centre** has extended the subsidy period for **airlines** on select **Tier-2 and Tier-3 routes** from three to five years, after a large share of those routes fell into disuse.  
एक महत्वपूर्ण नीति बदलाव में, **केंद्र** ने चुनिंदा **टीयर-2 और टीयर-3 मार्गों** पर **एयरलाइन** के लिए सब्सिडी अवधि को तीन साल से बढ़ाकर पांच साल कर दिया, क्योंकि इन मार्गों का बड़ा हिस्सा अनुपयोग में चला गया।
- The shift comes under the **modified UDAN scheme**, approved by the **Union Cabinet** on Wednesday with a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore.  
यह बदलाव **संशोधित UDAN योजना** के तहत आया है, जिसे बुधवार को **केंद्रीय कैबिनेट** ने कुल ₹28,840 करोड़ की राशि के साथ मंजूरी दी।
- The subsidy will also shift from a levy embedded in **airfares** to direct funding from the **exchequer**.  
सब्सिडी भी **हवाई किराए** में शामिल लेवी से सीधे **कोषागार** से फंडिंग में बदल जाएगी।
- Out of the total ₹28,840 crore outlay for the **modified UDAN scheme**, ₹10,043 crore is set aside for a **subsidy** to support **airlines flying on regional routes** over the next 10 years.  
कुल ₹28,840 करोड़ की राशि में से **संशोधित UDAN योजना** के लिए ₹10,043 करोड़ **सब्सिडी** के लिए अलग रखी गई है, जो अगले 10 वर्षों में **क्षेत्रीय मार्गों पर उड़ने वाली एयरलाइन** का समर्थन करेगी।
- A government official explained that **airlines** would receive **subsidy support** for specific routes for five years at a stretch.



एक सरकारी अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरलाइन को विशेष मार्गों के लिए लगातार पांच वर्षों तक **सब्सिडी समर्थन** मिलेगा।

- Under the earlier scheme design, these **subsidies** were not funded by the **exchequer** but through a **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) levy** built into **airfares** on non-UDAN routes.

पहले की योजना में, ये **सब्सिडी कोषागार** से फंड नहीं की जाती थीं बल्कि गैर-UDAN मार्गों पर **हवाई किराए** में शामिल **क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना (RCS) लेवी** के माध्यम से दी जाती थीं।

## Viability concerns

### कार्यशीलता संबंधी चिंताएँ

- Subsidies were also capped at three years to push **airlines** towards self-sustaining routes. सब्सिडी को भी तीन साल तक सीमित किया गया था ताकि **एयरलाइन** स्व-निर्भर मार्गों की ओर बढ़ें।
- However, a **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report** found that only 7% to 10% of these routes had remained viable beyond the **subsidy period**. हालांकि, एक **लेखापरीक्षक और नियंत्रक (CAG) रिपोर्ट** में पाया गया कि इन मार्गों में केवल 7% से 10% ही **सब्सिडी अवधि** के बाद भी कार्यशील बने रहे।
- As of February 2026, of the 663 routes launched under the **UDAN scheme** since 2017, 327 routes had been discontinued, according to data recently presented in **Parliament** by **Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol**. फरवरी 2026 तक, 2017 से **UDAN योजना** के तहत लॉन्च किए गए 663 मार्गों में से 327 मार्ग बंद हो चुके थे, जैसा कि हाल ही में **संसद** में **राज्य मंत्री नागर विमानन मुरलीधर मोहोल** द्वारा प्रस्तुत आंकड़ों में बताया गया।
- The ₹28,840 crore outlay marks a nearly six-fold jump in funding for **UDAN**. ₹28,840 करोड़ की राशि **UDAN** के लिए फंडिंग में लगभग छह गुना वृद्धि को दर्शाती है।
- At its launch in 2017, the government had earmarked ₹4,500 crore over 10 years, primarily to revive unused **airports**. 2017 में लॉन्च के समय, सरकार ने 10 वर्षों में ₹4,500 करोड़ निर्धारित किए थे, मुख्य रूप से अनुपयोगी **हवाई अड्डों** को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए।
- Under the **modified UDAN** announced on Wednesday, 100 **airports** will be redeveloped from unused **airstrips**, with an outlay of ₹12,159 crore over eight years, aimed at expanding the **regional aviation network**. बुधवार को घोषित **संशोधित UDAN** के तहत, 100 **हवाई अड्डों** को अनुपयोगी **हवाई पट्टियों** से पुनः विकसित किया जाएगा, जिसमें आठ वर्षों में ₹12,159 करोड़ की राशि का प्रावधान है, जिसका उद्देश्य **क्षेत्रीय विमानन नेटवर्क** का विस्तार करना है।
- The revised scheme, however, goes beyond **infrastructure development** to also support **airport operations and maintenance** at low traffic **airports**, capped at ₹3.06 crore per **airport** and ₹90 lakh per **heliport** or **water aerodrome**, with a total estimated cost of ₹2,577 crore covering around 441 **aerodromes**. हालांकि, संशोधित योजना केवल **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकास** तक सीमित नहीं है बल्कि कम यातायात वाले **हवाई अड्डों** पर **हवाई अड्डा संचालन और रखरखाव** का समर्थन भी करती है, जिसे प्रति **हवाई अड्डा** ₹3.06 करोड़ और प्रति **हेलिपोर्ट** या **जल हवाई अड्डा** ₹90 लाख तक सीमित किया गया है, जिसकी कुल अनुमानित लागत ₹2,577 करोड़ है और लगभग 441 **हवाई अड्डों** को कवर करती है।
- In a push to improve **last-mile connectivity**, particularly in remote and difficult terrains, the scheme also proposes to develop 200 **helipads**, each costing ₹15 crore, amounting to an investment of ₹3,661 crore. **अंतिम मील कनेक्टिविटी** को सुधारने के प्रयास में, विशेष रूप से दूरदराज और कठिन इलाकों में, योजना 200 **हेलिपैड** विकसित करने का भी प्रस्ताव करती है, प्रत्येक की लागत ₹15 करोड़, जो कुल ₹3,661 करोड़ के निवेश के बराबर है।



# What is at stake at the WTO's MC14?

What is the context in which MC14 is taking place? What has weakened the WTO's dispute settlement system? What are the key issues before MC14? Why is the e-commerce moratorium contentious? What role should India play at MC14?

GS III: Economy

## EXPLAINER

Prabhush Ranjan

The story so far:

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) will take place from March 26 to 29 at Yaoundé, Cameroon. The conference is the WTO's highest decision-making body and generally meets once every two years. It is empowered to make all decisions on WTO law and to chart a path for the organisation's future work.

**What is the context in which MC14 is taking place?**

MC14 is taking place amid rising geopolitical rivalry between the U.S. and China, ongoing global conflicts, and the mounting securitisation of international trade relations. Furthermore, trade multilateralism appears to be in retreat, while unilateralism is on the rise. The U.S. has, over the last year, launched a massive assault on trade multilateralism by weaponising tariffs. Arbitrary tariff impositions by the U.S. grossly violate the cardinal rules that underpin the WTO, namely the most favoured nation (MFN) rule, which epitomises non-discrimination, and the obligation not to impose tariffs beyond bound rates. The U.S. has also begun signing new, one-sided trade agreements with countries through tariff coercion.

**Why is trade multilateralism reeling under a crisis?**

There is a growing belief in Washington that the WTO, which the U.S. was instrumental in creating in 1995, has not served American interests well. The meteoric rise of China in the last two decades has significantly narrowed the gap between Washington and Beijing. Moreover, China's accession to the WTO, which the U.S. facilitated, has not had the desired impact of disciplining Beijing's state-led industrial policies.

Consequently, the U.S. now wants to



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eliminate all legal constraints that apply to it, such as WTO law, to take on the Chinese threat head-on. For this reason, the U.S. paralysed the WTO's dispute settlement system by relentlessly blocking the appointment of members to the Appellate Body – the organisation's highest judicial arm.

Another key reason for the crisis is the WTO's inability to draft new trade rules due to consensus-based decision-making. Over the past three decades, the WTO has created only two new agreements: the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. The sluggishness in forming new trade rules has pushed countries to seek new venues for trade law-making, such as free trade agreements (FTAs).

**What are the key issues in MC14?**

A fundamental issue at MC14 is whether plurilateral agreements, such as the Investment Facilitation for Development, endorsed by over 120 countries, and the Agreement on Electronic Commerce, should be incorporated into the WTO rulebook.

Although the WTO is a multilateral organisation, it allows plurilateral trade agreements – agreements between fewer

than all WTO members. These are typically included in Annex 4 of the WTO treaty. Plurilateral agreements bind only the signatories. However, for inclusion in Annex 4, such agreements must be approved by consensus among all WTO members.

Given the difficulty of achieving consensus, many countries believe that plurilateral agreements are the way forward to reinvigorate the WTO's legislative function. On the other hand, a few countries, such as India, argue that inaugurating the plurilateral rule-making door would open a Pandora's box and lead to the fragmentation of the system. It will be riveting to see whether countries can break this logjam at MC14.

Another key issue is the WTO's e-commerce moratorium. First agreed in 1998 and renewed every two years, this agreement among WTO member countries not to impose tariffs on electronic transmissions has benefited digital trade. This moratorium is set to expire on March 31. While the developed world wants it to be made permanent, the choice is not so easy for developing countries like India. Given the rise in digital trade, continuing the moratorium could lead to significant revenue losses for

developing countries.

The 166 WTO member countries meeting in Cameroon are also expected to deliberate on issues of special and differential treatment (SDT) for developing and least developed countries (LDCs). SDT, part of the 'WTO reforms', recognises that, since not all WTO members are on an equal footing, special rights shall be conferred on developing countries and LDCs. The U.S. is keen to weaken the SDT principle by prohibiting larger economies, such as China, India, Brazil, and Indonesia, from enjoying special rights.

On dispute settlement reforms, it is critical to unequivocally demand the restoration of the Appellate Body to put the WTO's dispute settlement system back on track.

The U.S. is also expected to use MC14 to challenge foundational WTO principles, such as the MFN rule. Developing countries that benefit from these principles should strongly oppose such efforts.

**What should be India's role?**

India, which has always maintained its support for trade multilateralism, needs to walk the talk. It should regain its role as the normative leader for the third world by using the MC14 to articulate the importance of multilateralism and to forge alliances with other developing countries.

To do so, New Delhi should not shy away from re-visiting its deeply entrenched positions, such as opposing plurilateral agreements. India, along with other countries, should also consider other innovative solutions, such as electing Appellate Body members through voting. If MC14 fails to strengthen the WTO and promote trade multilateralism, it will represent a victory for America's blatant unilateralism and its effort to establish a new global trade order rooted in coercion. This will be detrimental to the developing world. (Prabhush Ranjan is a Professor and Vice Dean (Research), Jindal Global Law School. Views are personal)

## THE GIST

MC14 takes place amid rising U.S.-China rivalry, global conflicts, and the retreat of trade multilateralism, with unilateralism and tariff coercion on the rise.

Key issues include plurilateral agreements, the e-commerce moratorium, SDT, and restoring the Appellate Body, with developing countries seeking to protect the WTO system.

## 26Mar. What is at stake at the WTO's MC14? WTO की MC14 में क्या दांव पर लगा है?

- The World Trade Organization's (WTO) 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) विश्व व्यापार संगठन का 14वां मंत्रीस्तरीय सम्मेलन
- The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) will take place from March 26 to 29 at Yaoundé, Cameroon. 14वां मंत्रीस्तरीय सम्मेलन 26 से 29 मार्च तक कैमरून के याओंडे में आयोजित होगा।
- It is the WTO's highest decision-making body and meets once every two years. यह डब्ल्यूटीओ का सर्वोच्च निर्णय लेने वाला निकाय है और हर दो वर्ष में बैठक करता है।
- It is empowered to make decisions on WTO law and set the organisation's future agenda. इसे डब्ल्यूटीओ कानून पर निर्णय लेने और संगठन की भविष्य की दिशा तय करने का अधिकार है।

What is the context in which MC14 is taking place?  
एमसी14 किस संदर्भ में हो रहा है?

- MC14 is happening amid U.S.-China rivalry, global conflicts, and securitisation of trade. एमसी14 अमेरिका-चीन प्रतिद्वंद्विता, वैश्विक संघर्ष और व्यापार के सैन्यीकरण के बीच हो रहा है।
- Trade multilateralism is in retreat, while unilateralism is rising. बहुपक्षीय व्यापार व्यवस्था कमजोर हो रही है जबकि एकतरफावाद बढ़ रहा है।
- The U.S. has weaponised tariffs, undermining trade multilateralism. अमेरिका ने टैरिफ को हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया है।
- Arbitrary tariffs violate MFN rule (non-discrimination) and bound tariff limits. मनमाने टैरिफ सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र सिद्धांत और निर्धारित टैरिफ सीमा का उल्लंघन करते हैं।



- The U.S. is signing **one-sided trade agreements using tariff coercion**.  
अमेरिका दबाव डालकर एकतरफा व्यापार समझौते कर रहा है।

### Why is trade multilateralism reeling under a crisis? बहुपक्षीय व्यापार संकट में क्यों है?

- The U.S. believes WTO has **not served its interests well**.  
अमेरिका मानता है कि डब्ल्यूटीओ ने उसके हितों की रक्षा नहीं की।
- China's rise has **narrowed the gap with the U.S.**  
चीन के उदय ने अमेरिका के साथ अंतर कम कर दिया है।
- China's WTO entry did not discipline its **state-led industrial policies**.  
चीन की डब्ल्यूटीओ सदस्यता उसके राज्य-नियंत्रित औद्योगिक नीतियों को नियंत्रित नहीं कर सकी।
- The U.S. wants to remove **legal constraints like WTO law to counter China**.  
अमेरिका चीन से निपटने के लिए डब्ल्यूटीओ कानून जैसे कानूनी प्रतिबंध हटाना चाहता है।
- It paralysed the **dispute settlement system by blocking Appellate Body appointments**.  
उसने अपील निकाय में नियुक्तियाँ रोककर विवाद निपटान प्रणाली को ठप कर दिया।
- WTO's **consensus-based decision-making makes new rule-making difficult**.  
डब्ल्यूटीओ की सर्वसम्मति आधारित प्रणाली नए नियम बनाने में बाधा बनती है।
- In three decades, only two agreements were made: **Trade Facilitation Agreement and Fisheries Subsidies Agreement**.  
तीन दशकों में केवल दो समझौते बने: व्यापार सुविधा समझौता और मत्स्य सब्सिडी समझौता।
- Slow rule-making has pushed countries towards **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**.  
धीमी प्रक्रिया के कारण देश मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।

### What are the key issues in MC14? एमसी14 के प्रमुख मुद्दे क्या हैं?

- A key issue is whether **plurilateral agreements like Investment Facilitation for Development and E-commerce Agreement** should be included in the WTO rulebook.  
मुख्य मुद्दा यह है कि बहुपक्षीय से अलग समझौते जैसे निवेश सुविधा समझौता और ई-कॉमर्स समझौता को डब्ल्यूटीओ नियमों में शामिल किया जाए या नहीं।
- These agreements are supported by **120+ countries**.  
इन समझौतों को 120 से अधिक देशों का समर्थन प्राप्त है।
- WTO allows **plurilateral agreements among fewer members**.  
डब्ल्यूटीओ सीमित देशों के बीच समझौते की अनुमति देता है।
- Such agreements are included in **Annex 4** and bind only **signatories**.  
ये समझौते एनेक्स 4 में शामिल होते हैं और केवल हस्ताक्षर करने वाले देशों पर लागू होते हैं।
- Inclusion in Annex 4 requires **consensus of all members**.  
इन्हें शामिल करने के लिए सभी सदस्यों की सहमति आवश्यक होती है।
- Many countries see plurilateral deals as a way to **revive WTO rule-making**.  
कई देश इन्हें डब्ल्यूटीओ की नीति निर्माण प्रक्रिया को पुनर्जीवित करने का तरीका मानते हैं।
- Countries like **India oppose them, fearing fragmentation of the system**.  
भारत जैसे देश इनका विरोध करते हैं क्योंकि इससे व्यवस्था के विखंडन का खतरा है।
- The ability to **break this deadlock** will be crucial at MC14.  
इस गतिरोध को तोड़ना सम्मेलन की सफलता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा।
- Another issue is the **e-commerce moratorium** (no tariffs on electronic transmissions).  
दूसरा मुद्दा ई-कॉमर्स मोरेटोरियम है, जिसमें डिजिटल लेन-देन पर कर नहीं लगाया जाता।
- First agreed in **1998** and renewed every **two years**.  
यह 1998 में शुरू हुआ और हर दो साल में नवीनीकृत होता है।
- It is set to expire on **March 31**.  
यह 31 मार्च को समाप्त होने वाला है।
- **Developed countries want it permanent, while developing countries fear revenue loss**.  
विकसित देश इसे स्थायी बनाना चाहते हैं, जबकि विकासशील देश राजस्व हानि से चिंतित हैं।



- Another issue is **Special and Differential Treatment (SDT)** for developing countries and **LDCs**.  
एक अन्य मुद्दा **विशेष और अलग व्यवहार** है जो विकासशील और कम विकसित देशों को दिया जाता है।
- **SDT gives special rights recognising unequal development levels.**  
यह **विशेष अधिकार प्रदान करता है** क्योंकि सभी देश समान स्तर पर नहीं हैं।
- The **U.S. wants to weaken SDT for large economies like India, China, Brazil, Indonesia.**  
अमेरिका **भारत, चीन, ब्राजील, इंडोनेशिया जैसे देशों** के लिए इस व्यवस्था को कमजोर करना चाहता है।
- Another issue is **dispute settlement reform**, especially restoring the **Appellate Body**.  
एक अन्य मुद्दा **विवाद समाधान प्रणाली में सुधार और अपील निकाय की बहाली** है।
- The U.S. may challenge **core WTO principles like MFN.**  
अमेरिका **सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र सिद्धांत** जैसे मूल सिद्धांतों को चुनौती दे सकता है।
- Developing countries should **oppose such attempts strongly.**  
विकासशील देशों को ऐसे प्रयासों का **कड़ा विरोध करना चाहिए**।

**What should be India's role?  
भारत की भूमिका क्या होनी चाहिए?**

- India should reaffirm its support for **trade multilateralism.**  
भारत को **बहुपक्षीय व्यापार व्यवस्था के समर्थन** को मजबूत करना चाहिए।
- It should act as a **leader of the developing world.**  
इसे **विकासशील देशों का नेतृत्वकर्ता** बनना चाहिए।
- India should build **alliances with other developing countries.**  
भारत को अन्य विकासशील देशों के साथ **साझेदारी बनानी चाहिए**।
- **It should reconsider rigid positions like opposing plurilateral agreements.**  
भारत को **बहुपक्षीय समझौतों के विरोध जैसे कठोर रुख पर पुनर्विचार** करना चाहिए।
- Countries may consider **innovative solutions** like voting for Appellate Body members.  
देश **नवीन उपाय** जैसे मतदान द्वारा नियुक्ति पर विचार कर सकते हैं।
- Failure of MC14 would strengthen **U.S. unilateralism and coercive trade order.**  
एमसी14 की विफलता से **अमेरिका का एकतरफावाद और दबाव आधारित व्यापार व्यवस्था** मजबूत होगी।
- This would harm the **developing world.**  
इससे **विकासशील देशों को नुकसान** होगा।



GS III: Economy

## RBI scraps treasury bill sale to support banking liquidity

India's central bank rejected all bids at a treasury bill auction on Wednesday, its first such move in 13 months, in a step expected to support banking system liquidity ahead of the financial year-end on March 31. The government had planned to raise ₹350 billion (\$3.72 billion) through the sale of 91-day, 182-day and 364-day treasury bills, but the Reserve Bank of India did not accept any bids. The latest move is expected to boost the liquidity surplus by ₹350 billion. REUTERS

## **26Mar. RBI scraps treasury bill sale to support banking liquidity**

**आरबीआई ने बैंकिंग तरलता को समर्थन देने के लिए ट्रेजरी बिल बिक्री रद्द की**

- The **government had planned to raise ₹350 billion (\$3.72 billion)** through the sale of 91-day, 182-day and 364-day treasury bills, but the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** did not accept any bids.

सरकार ने 91-दिन, 182-दिन और 364-दिन के ट्रेजरी बिलों की बिक्री के माध्यम से ₹350 अरब (\$3.72 अरब) जुटाने की योजना बनाई थी, लेकिन **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI)** ने किसी भी बोली को स्वीकार नहीं किया।

- The **latest move is expected to boost the liquidity surplus by ₹350 billion.**

यह नवीनतम कदम ₹350 अरब तक **तरलता अधिशेष** को बढ़ाने की उम्मीद है।



## MoPNG issues directions to strengthen natural gas infra

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted reforms to ease provisions towards expanding piped gas network – both domestic and commercial. Late on Tuesday, the government invoked the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), seeking to accelerate the push for piped natural gas. The Ministry stressed

that the reforms were aimed at “addressing delays in approvals and access to land, and enabling faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas”, alongside instituting an investor-friendly network and improving last-mile connectivity.

The gazette notification underlines that in housing areas, the relevant entities would have to grant necessary permission to “lay,

build or expand” a pipeline within three days of receiving an application. Further, they would have 48 hours to accord approvals for last-mile connectivity.

In public areas that are not housing areas, the gazette clarifies that if the entity concerned neither rejects nor grants permission for laying of pipelines within the stipulated timelines, the application would be “deemed approved”.

## 26Mar. MoPNG issues directions to strengthen natural gas infra MoPNG ने प्राकृतिक गैस अवसंरचना को मजबूत करने के लिए निर्देश जारी किए

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted reforms to ease provisions towards expanding piped gas networks — both domestic and commercial.

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय (MoPNG) ने घरेलू और वाणिज्यिक दोनों के लिए पाइपड गैस नेटवर्क के विस्तार हेतु प्रावधानों को आसान बनाने के लिए सुधार लागू किए हैं।

Late on Tuesday, the government invoked the **Essential Commodities Act**

(ECA), seeking to accelerate the push for piped natural gas.

मंगलवार देर रात, सरकार ने आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम (ECA) को लागू किया, ताकि पाइपड प्राकृतिक गैस के विस्तार को तेज किया जा सके।

- The Ministry stressed that the reforms were aimed at “addressing delays in approvals and access to land, and enabling faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas”, alongside instituting an investor-friendly network and improving last-mile connectivity.

मंत्रालय ने जोर दिया कि ये सुधार “अनुमतियों और भूमि तक पहुंच में देरी को दूर करने तथा आवासीय क्षेत्रों सहित प्राकृतिक गैस अवसंरचना के तेज विकास को सक्षम बनाने” के लिए हैं, साथ ही एक निवेशक-अनुकूल नेटवर्क स्थापित करने और लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी को सुधारने के लिए भी हैं।

- The gazette notification underlines that in housing areas, the relevant entities would have to grant necessary permission to “lay, build or expand” a pipeline within three days of receiving an application.

राजपत्र अधिसूचना में कहा गया है कि आवासीय क्षेत्रों में संबंधित इकाइयों को आवेदन प्राप्त होने के तीन दिनों के भीतर पाइपलाइन “बिछाने, निर्माण या विस्तार” की आवश्यक अनुमति देनी होगी।

- Further, they would have 48 hours to accord approvals for last-mile connectivity. इसके अलावा, उनके पास लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी की मंजूरी देने के लिए 48 घंटे होंगे।
- In public areas that are not housing areas, the gazette clarifies that if the entity concerned neither rejects nor grants permission for laying of pipelines within the stipulated timelines, the application would be “deemed approved”.

गैर-आवासीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में, राजपत्र स्पष्ट करता है कि यदि संबंधित इकाई निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर पाइपलाइन बिछाने की अनुमति न तो अस्वीकार करती है और न ही देती है, तो आवेदन को “स्वतः स्वीकृत” माना जाएगा।

## FM defends Centre’s right to levy cess, says Constitution allows it

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday emphatically reiterated the Centre’s right to collect cesses and surcharges, saying the Constitution allowed it and the Centre would continue to use the provision.

However, she added that over the last six years, the government had spent on the States 105% of what



Nirmala Sitharaman

She was replying to the Lok Sabha debate on the Finance Bill 2026, which was passed on Tuesday following the conclusion of her speech.

“The Constitution makers knew what they are doing, and we all pay respects to them,” she said, in response to comments by several MPs about the Centre’s levy of cesses and surcharges that are not part of the divisible pool that is shareable with the States.

it had collected through cesses and surcharges. That is, its spending has exceeded its collections.

## 26Mar. FM defends Centre’s right to levy cess, says Constitution allows it वित्त मंत्री ने केंद्र के उपकर लगाने के अधिकार का बचाव किया, कहा संविधान इसकी अनुमति देता है

However, she added that over the last six years, the government had spent 105% of what it had collected on the States through cesses and surcharges.

हालांकि, उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले छह वर्षों में सरकार ने राज्यों पर उस राशि का 105% खर्च किया है जो उसने उपकर और अधिभार के माध्यम से एकत्र की थी।

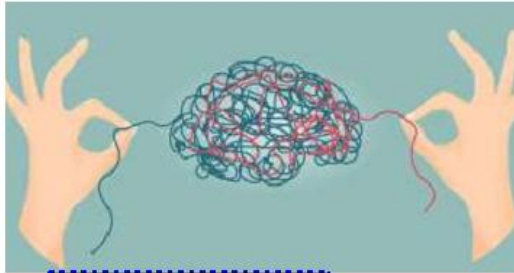
That is, its spending has exceeded its collections.



अर्थात, उसका खर्च उसकी वसूली से अधिक रहा है।

- She was replying to the **Lok Sabha debate on the Finance Bill 2026**, which was passed on Tuesday following the conclusion of her speech.  
वह **लोकसभा में वित्त विधेयक 2026 पर बहस** का जवाब दे रही थीं, जिसे उनके भाषण के समापन के बाद मंगलवार को पारित किया गया।

<b>GS Paper III: S&amp;T,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>26 March 2026</b>
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>Database of psychiatric disorders launched</b> मनोवैज्ञानिक विकारों का डेटाबेस लॉन्च किया गया
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>Antiprotons take a ride in novel test by CERN scientists</b> एंटीप्रोटॉन ने CERN वैज्ञानिकों के नए परीक्षण में ली सवारी
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>QUIZ</b>
<b>26Mar</b>	<b>What is mineral water and how does it naturally contain dissolved minerals?</b> मिनरल वाटर क्या है और इसमें घुले खनिज प्राकृतिक रूप से कैसे होते हैं?



GS III: S&T

## Database of psychiatric disorders launched

CALM-Brain, the country's first-of-its-kind digital repository on brain structure and psychiatric disorders, was launched in Bengaluru on Wednesday. It was developed by researchers at the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind, a partnership between the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) - TIFR. Compiled from Indian patient data, CALM-Brain will be made open source.

सोर्स बनाया जाएगा।

## 26Mar. Database of psychiatric disorders launched

### मनोवैज्ञानिक विकारों का डेटाबेस लॉन्च किया गया

- **CALM-Brain**, the country's first-of-its-kind **digital repository on brain structure and psychiatric disorders**, was launched in **Bengaluru** on Wednesday. **CALM-Brain**, जो **मस्तिष्क संरचना और मनोवैज्ञानिक विकारों** पर देश का अपनी तरह का पहला **डिजिटल भंडार** है, बुधवार को **बेंगलुरु** में लॉन्च किया गया।

- It was developed by researchers at the **Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind**, a partnership between the **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)** and the **National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) - TIFR**.

इसे **रोहिणी नीलकणी सेंटर फॉर ब्रेन एंड माइंड** के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा विकसित किया गया, जो **नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेंटल हेल्थ एंड न्यूरोसाइंसेज (NIMHANS)** और **नेशनल सेंटर फॉर बायोलॉजिकल साइंसेज (NCBS) - TIFR** के बीच साझेदारी है।

- Compiled from **Indian patient data**, **CALM-Brain** will be made **open source**.  
**भारतीय मरीजों के डेटा** से संकलित **CALM-Brain** को **ओपन**



## Antiprotons take a ride in novel test by CERN scientists

GS III: S&T  
Associated Press

Scientists in Geneva took some antiprotons out for a spin – a very delicate one – in a truck, in a never-tried-before test drive that has been deemed a success.

If this so-called antimatter came into contact with actual matter, even for a fraction of an instant, it would have been annihilated in a quick flash of energy. So experts at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, over the course of four hours on Tuesday, brought about 100 antiprotons on the road. The antiprotons were suspended in a vacuum inside a specially designed box and held in place by supercooled magnets. After easing them from the lab and onto the truck, the scientists transported the antimatter on a half-hour drive to test how the infinitesimal particles could be transported by road without seeping out. The antiprotons were then taken back to the lab in the final stage that concluded with applause and a bottle of champagne.

**For every type of particle that exists in the universe, there is a corresponding antiparticle, with an opposite charge. Manipulating antimatter, like antiprotons, can be tricky business**

CERN spokesperson Sophie Tesauri called the experiment successful. It was not immediately clear how many antiprotons had survived the entire journey, but roughly 91 of 100 were still there after the truck's trip.

Manipulating antimatter, like antiprotons, can be tricky business. As scientists understand the universe today, for every type of particle that exists, there is a corresponding antiparticle, exactly matching the particle but with an opposite charge. If those opposites come into contact, they "annihilate" each other, setting off lots of energy, depending on the masses involved. Any bumps in the road on the test journey that are not compensated for by the

specially-designed box could spoil the whole exercise. "The motivation behind these experiments is to compare matter and antimatter with extremely high accuracy and watch for differences which we might have not seen yet," said Stefan Ulmer, the leader and spokesperson for Tuesday's experiment.

The experiment was a first step toward making good on hopes, one day, to deliver CERN antiprotons to researchers at Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany, which is about eight hours away in normal driving conditions. The antiprotons were encased in a 1,000-kg box called a transportable antiproton trap. It was compact enough to fit through ordinary laboratory doors and fit on a truck. It used superconducting magnets cooled to -269°C that allowed the antiprotons to remain suspended in a vacuum – not touching the inner walls, which are made of matter. The mass in the test – slightly less than that of about 100 hydrogen atoms – is so little, experts say, that the worst possible outcome was the loss of the antiprotons. Even if they did touch matter, any release of energy would be unnoticeable. Only an oscilloscope, which picks up electrical signals, would have been able to detect it. The trap, says Ms. Tesauri, "is supposed to contain these antiprotons no matter what: if the truck stops, if it starts again, if it has to slam on the brakes – all that".

Work remains: the trap can contain the antiprotons on its own for only about four hours, and the drive to Düsseldorf is twice that.

## 26Mar. Antiprotons take a ride in novel test by CERN scientists एंटीप्रोटॉन ने CERN वैज्ञानिकों के नए परीक्षण में ली सवारी

• Scientists in Geneva took some antiprotons out for a spin — a very delicate one — in a truck, in a never-tried-before test drive that has been deemed a success.

जिनेवा में वैज्ञानिकों ने कुछ antiprotons को एक ट्रक में बेहद नाजुक परीक्षण यात्रा पर ले जाया — एक ऐसा परीक्षण जो पहले कभी नहीं किया गया था और जिसे सफल माना गया है।

• If this so-called antimatter came into contact with actual matter, even for a fraction of an instant, it would have been annihilated in a quick flash of energy.

यदि यह तथाकथित antimatter वास्तविक पदार्थ के संपर्क में आता, भले ही एक क्षण के अंश के लिए, तो यह तुरंत ऊर्जा की चमक के साथ नष्ट हो जाता।

• So experts at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, over the course of four hours on Tuesday, brought about 100 antiprotons on the road.

इसलिए European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) के विशेषज्ञों ने मंगलवार को चार घंटे के दौरान लगभग 100 antiprotons को सड़क पर ले जाया।

- The antiprotons were suspended in a vacuum inside a specially designed box and held in place by supercooled magnets.

antiprotons को एक विशेष रूप से डिजाइन किए गए बॉक्स में वैक्यूम के भीतर निलंबित रखा गया और अत्यधिक ठंडे चुंबकों द्वारा स्थिर रखा गया।

- After easing them from the lab and onto the truck, the scientists transported the antimatter on a half-hour drive to test how the infinitesimal particles could be transported by road without seeping out.

प्रयोगशाला से ट्रक पर लाने के बाद, वैज्ञानिकों ने आधे घंटे की यात्रा में antimatter को ले जाकर यह परीक्षण किया कि इन अत्यंत सूक्ष्म कणों को बिना रिसाव के सड़क द्वारा कैसे ले जाया जा सकता है।

- The antiprotons were then taken back to the lab in the final stage that concluded with applause and a bottle of champagne.



इसके बाद अंतिम चरण में antiprotons को वापस प्रयोगशाला लाया गया, जो तालियों और शैपेन के साथ समाप्त हुआ।

- **CERN spokesperson Sophie Tesauri called the experiment successful.**  
CERN की प्रवक्ता **Sophie Tesauri** ने इस प्रयोग को सफल बताया।
- **It was not immediately clear how many antiprotons had survived the entire journey, but roughly 91 of 100 were still there after the truck's trip.**  
यह तुरंत स्पष्ट नहीं था कि कितने antiprotons पूरी यात्रा में बचे रहे, लेकिन लगभग **100 में से 91** ट्रक यात्रा के बाद मौजूद थे।
- **Manipulating antimatter, like antiprotons, can be tricky business.**  
antiprotons जैसे antimatter को नियंत्रित करना एक कठिन कार्य हो सकता है।
- **As scientists understand the universe today, for every type of particle that exists, there is a corresponding antiparticle, exactly matching the particle but with an opposite charge.**  
वैज्ञानिकों की वर्तमान समझ के अनुसार, प्रत्येक कण के लिए एक समान प्रतिपदार्थ कण होता है, जो समान होता है लेकिन उसका आवेश विपरीत होता है।
- **If those opposites come into contact, they “annihilate” each other, setting off lots of energy, depending on the masses involved.**  
यदि ये विपरीत कण संपर्क में आते हैं, तो वे एक-दूसरे को नष्ट कर देते हैं और इसमें शामिल द्रव्यमान के अनुसार ऊर्जा उत्पन्न होती है।
- **Any bumps in the road on the test journey that are not compensated for by the specially-designed box could spoil the whole exercise.**  
परीक्षण यात्रा के दौरान सड़क के किसी भी झटके, जिसे विशेष बॉक्स द्वारा संतुलित नहीं किया गया हो, पूरे प्रयोग को खराब कर सकते हैं।
- **“The motivation behind these experiments is to compare matter and antimatter with extremely high accuracy and watch for differences which we might have not seen yet,” said Stefan Ulmer, the leader and spokesperson for Tuesday’s experiment.**  
मंगलवार के इस प्रयोग के नेता **Stefan Ulmer** ने कहा कि इन प्रयोगों का उद्देश्य पदार्थ और प्रतिपदार्थ की अत्यधिक सटीक तुलना करना और उन अंतर को देखना है जिन्हें अभी तक नहीं देखा गया है।
- **The experiment was a first step toward making good on hopes, one day, to deliver CERN antiprotons to researchers at Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany, which is about eight hours away in normal driving conditions.**  
यह प्रयोग भविष्य में CERN antiprotons को जर्मनी के **Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf** तक पहुँचाने की दिशा में पहला कदम था, जो सामान्य परिस्थितियों में लगभग आठ घंटे की दूरी पर है।
- **The antiprotons were encased in a 1,000-kg box called a transportable antiproton trap.**  
antiprotons को **1,000 किलोग्राम** के एक बॉक्स में रखा गया जिसे transportable antiproton trap कहा जाता है।
- **It was compact enough to fit through ordinary laboratory doors and fit on a truck.**  
यह इतना कॉम्पैक्ट था कि सामान्य प्रयोगशाला के दरवाजों से गुजर सके और ट्रक पर रखा जा सके।
- **It used superconducting magnets cooled to -269°C that allowed the antiprotons to remain suspended in a vacuum — not touching the inner walls, which are made of matter.**  
इसमें **-269°C** तक ठंडे किए गए superconducting magnets का उपयोग किया गया जिससे antiprotons वैक्यूम में निलंबित रहे और अंदर की दीवारों को नहीं छुआ।
- **The mass in the test — slightly less than that of about 100 hydrogen atoms — is so little, experts say, that the worst possible outcome was the loss of the antiprotons.**  
इस परीक्षण में द्रव्यमान — लगभग **100 हाइड्रोजन परमाणुओं से थोड़ा कम** — इतना कम था कि सबसे खराब परिणाम केवल antiprotons का खो जाना हो सकता था।
- **Even if they did touch matter, any release of energy would be unnoticeable.**  
यदि वे पदार्थ के संपर्क में आते भी, तो ऊर्जा का उत्सर्जन नगण्य होता।
- **Only an oscilloscope, which picks up electrical signals, would have been able to detect it.**  
केवल एक oscilloscope, जो विद्युत संकेतों को पकड़ता है, ही इसे पहचान सकता था।
- **The trap, says Ms. Tesauri, “is supposed to contain these antiprotons no matter what: if the truck stops, if it starts again, if it has to slam on the brakes — all that”.**



श्रीमती Tesauri के अनुसार, यह ट्रैप किसी भी स्थिति में antiprotons को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए बनाया गया है — चाहे ट्रक रुके, चले या अचानक ब्रेक लगाए।

- **Work remains: the trap can contain the antiprotons on its own for only about four hours, and the drive to Düsseldorf is twice that.**

अभी कार्य बाकी है: यह ट्रैप केवल लगभग चार घंटे तक antiprotons को सुरक्षित रख सकता है, जबकि Düsseldorf तक की यात्रा इसका दोगुना समय लेती है।

#### Answers to March 19 quiz:

1. Minimum amount of fissile material for a chain reaction – **Ans: Critical mass**
  2. Method used to eliminate mosquitoes' breeding grounds – **Ans: Drain the swamp**
  3. When too much NaCl in soil dehydrates plants – **Ans: Salting the earth**
  4. Name for assets that threaten the health of institutions – **Ans: Toxins**
  5. Temperature point when an environment is ready to combust – **Ans: Flashpoint**
- Visual: **Runaway**

#### First contact

Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Soumit Chakraborty | Anmol Agrawal | Malik Mohd. Amir

#### 26Mar. QUIZ

##### Critical Mass (Minimum Amount of Fissile Material)

- **Critical mass is the minimum amount of fissile material required to sustain a self-maintaining nuclear chain reaction.**
  - It represents the threshold at which the number of neutrons produced during fission equals the number of neutrons lost through escape or absorption, allowing the reaction to continue steadily.

##### Method to Eliminate Mosquitoes' Breeding Grounds – Drain the Swamp

- **Draining the swamp refers to the removal of stagnant water sources where mosquitoes lay eggs and larvae develop.**
- Mosquitoes require standing water for breeding, and eliminating such habitats disrupts their life cycle.
- **Mosquitoes undergo four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult, with the first three stages occurring in water.**
- When stagnant water is drained or removed, larvae cannot survive, breaking the transmission cycle.

##### Salting the Earth (Effect of Excess NaCl in Soil)

- Salting the earth refers to the condition where **excess sodium chloride (NaCl) accumulates in soil, making it unsuitable for plant growth.**
- High salinity increases the **osmotic pressure of soil water, preventing plant roots from absorbing sufficient water.**

##### Toxins (Assets that Threaten the Health of Institutions)

- Toxins, in an institutional context, refer to **harmful elements or assets that weaken the functioning, integrity, and sustainability of organizations.**
- Institutional toxins include corruption, lack of transparency, inefficiency, nepotism, and misuse of authority.
- These factors reduce trust and accountability within organizations.

##### Flashpoint (Temperature at which Environment is Ready to Combust)

- **Flashpoint is the lowest temperature at which a substance produces enough vapour to ignite in the presence of an external ignition source such as a spark or flame.**
- It is a key parameter in fire safety and is widely used in chemical science, petroleum studies, and industrial safety standards to classify flammable and combustible materials.



# What is mineral water and how does it naturally contain dissolved minerals?

Mineral water comes from a protected underground reservoir and retains the natural minerals it has acquired from geological processes over years, decades or even centuries; in India, tap water is drawn from rivers and borewells and disinfected with residual chlorine

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

**M**illions of people around the world drink mineral water every day because their tap water is unsafe or because they prefer the taste. It's packed with naturally occurring minerals that support bone and muscle health and governments and health organisations promote it as a clean, reliable source of hydration.

## What is mineral water?

Mineral water is water that naturally contains dissolved minerals and trace elements. It comes from a protected underground reservoir, like a spring or aquifer, and has a specific composition of minerals. Unlike ordinary tap water, which treatment plants produce by filtering and purifying water drawn from rivers or groundwater, mineral water retains the natural minerals it has acquired from geological processes it has been a part of over years, decades or even centuries.

As rainwater and snowmelt slowly percolate through layers of limestone, granite, sandstone or volcanic basalt, the minerals from the surrounding rocks dissolve in the water, and the differences in pressure underground push this enriched water back towards the surface, where it emerges as a spring or collects in a subterranean reservoir. Producers then drill wells or tap natural springs and flow the water into containers, using pumps if required.

## How is mineral water regulated?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Parliament and the Council both have regulations that stipulate that mineral water must come from a geologically stable source, which producers must undertake to protect; that separate batches of the same water must have the same profile of minerals; and that producers must not chemically treat it to alter its mineral composition.

In India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) stipulate that natural mineral water must come from underground sources such as natural springs and borewells, must be protected by various formations that ensure the water is free from pollution, and should ideally be collected in conditions that guarantee the original bacteriological and chemical composition.

As in the U.S. and the EU, the BIS standard IS 13428 requires the water's TDS and the relative proportions of various minerals to be stable over time and across producers' batches. Producers are also prohibited from treating the water to change its mineral composition, and instead are only allowed to filter or decant it, aerate it, and sterilise it. Chemical decontamination, such as by adding chlorine, is also disallowed.

Finally, unlike many food products in India, mineral water requires mandatory certification: to sell mineral water, producers must have both an FSSAI license and a BIS certificate and every bottle must carry the ISI mark (according to IS 13428). The FSSAI also requires the bottle to be labelled with the location and name of the source and the levels of various minerals, and disallows the packager from claiming the water has any medicinal or healing properties.



GETTY IMAGES

## How is mineral water packaged?

To meet these strict criteria, producers usually bottle the water directly at or near the source. Once they extract the water, they filter it to remove particulate matter and elements such as iron to ensure the liquid is clear. Producers may also pass it through ultraviolet light for disinfection and adjust the level of dissolved carbon dioxide to produce still or sparkling variants.

Finally, the producers store the water in tanks and package it in glass bottles, PET bottles or aluminium cans at or near the source to avoid contamination or changes in composition. That said, the storage materials come with tradeoffs of their own. For instance, glass is chemically inert and doesn't react with the water but it must be handled with care; PET is light but can leach small amounts of plastic over time, especially when it's hot; and aluminium cans are most recyclable but require an internal plastic lining to prevent the metal from reacting with the water, which reintroduces concerns about chemical leaching and increases costs.

Packaged drinking water is not always the same as natural mineral water. Producers may start with tap or groundwater, purify it through reverse osmosis, then add back small amounts of minerals to improve taste. Similarly, spring water comes from a natural underground source but doesn't need to meet the same strict standards for mineral consistency.

That said, under 'bottled water', the U.S. FDA encompasses Artesian water, mineral water, sparkling bottled water, spring water, and purified water (including distilled, deionised, and/or demineralised water or water that has undergone reverse osmosis). Artesian

water is groundwater being pushed to the surface due to pressure created underground by impermeable rocks.

**boiled into steam and condensed back to liquid, in the process leaving all dissolved solids, including minerals as well as contaminants, behind in the vessel. As a result the condensed water is nearly pure H<sub>2</sub>O, and tastes very different, almost hollow. It does not form scales on metal surfaces and behaves in the sort of predictable way that research laboratories and diagnostic labs prize.**

However, while it is safe to drink, distilled water is not advised for regular human consumption because, aside from being devoid of minerals, it can also draw minerals out of surfaces it comes in contact with, including food and, potentially to a small degree, biological tissue.

Industries also treat water according to their needs. They may soften it to remove calcium and magnesium, deionise it to strip it of almost all dissolved ions or alter its chemistry to use in boilers or cooling systems. They could also demineralise it to prevent scaling and/or add compounds like sodium phosphate to lower its corrosion potential. Industrial water is neither safe nor suitable for human consumption.

To prepare municipal tap water, finally, treatment plants draw water from natural sources like rivers and groundwater, remove pathogens and chemical pollutants by filtering and chlorinating it, and add disinfectants such as chlorine. Unless a local authority specifically softens it, tap water retains its dissolved minerals. Its mineral content varies enormously by region: London's tap water is noticeably hard because it comes from chalk aquifers while many Scandinavian cities supply naturally soft water low in minerals.

## How is tap water 'made' in India?

The main source of water that eventually becomes tap water in India is rivers and deep borewells.

Because the pathogen loads are higher in tropical areas, municipalities subsequently disinfect it more aggressively than in temperate or cold regions like North America or Scandinavia. Among other steps, they add alum to make dirt clump together so that it filters out more easily, and add residual chlorine, meaning more chlorine than what is required to disinfect the water, so that water disinfected at first becomes reinfected later if, say, a leaky pipe exposes it to sewage.

In fact, such 'mixing' is so common that most Indian municipalities don't guarantee potable tap water. Among the few exceptions are Puri in Odisha and parts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

Tap water is a State responsibility while the Union government sets the standards. The IS 10500:2012 standard prescribes limits for the quantity of minerals in potable water but also has room for variations. For instance, while the TDS limit is 500 mg/l, it can go up to 2,000 mg/l if no alternative source is available.

Rajasthan, Gujarat, and parts of Delhi/NCR have very high mineral content, including calcium and magnesium, because their groundwater lies in aquifers rich in minerals, whereas cities and States drawing water from Himalayan rivers or areas with high rainfall, such as Mumbai and parts of Kerala, have much softer water with lower mineral levels.

water is groundwater being pushed to the surface due to pressure created underground by impermeable rocks.

## What effects do minerals have?

The minerals present in mineral water depend on its natural source. The most common minerals include calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonates, sulphates, chlorides, silica, and sometimes fluorides or iron in trace amounts.

Calcium and magnesium make water 'hard' and give mineral water the mouthfeel people are familiar with and have come to expect, including a slight weight and body. Higher calcium levels render a smooth or slightly chalky sensation, while magnesium introduces a subtle bitterness. Similarly, bicarbonates neutralise acidity and give the water an almost sweet finish, sulphates – associated with magnesium-rich springs – add a slightly crisp taste, and sodium imparts a faint saline note.

Dissolved minerals also raise the water's content of total dissolved solids (TDS) and change how it interacts with food, soap, pipes, and tissues, with different chemical and thermal environments (e.g. cooking), and with tissues in the human body. You may know from common experience that harder water deposits 'scales' in kettles and washing machines and doesn't lather well with soap. Its inherent chemical properties also mean hard water supports bone density and aids muscle function, although the contribution of drinking water to these outcomes is generally much smaller compared to nutrition. Bicarbonates may improve digestion.

## What are other forms of water?

When water is distilled, it means it is

## 26Mar. What is mineral water and how does it naturally contain dissolved minerals?

मिनेरल वाटर क्या है और इसमें घुले खनिज प्राकृतिक रूप से कैसे होते हैं?

- It's packed with **naturally occurring minerals** that support bone and muscle health and governments and health organisations promote it as a **clean, reliable source of hydration**.



यह प्राकृतिक रूप से पाए जाने वाले खनिजों से भरपूर है जो हड्डियों और मांसपेशियों के स्वास्थ्य का समर्थन करते हैं और सरकारें तथा स्वास्थ्य संगठन इसे स्वच्छ, विश्वसनीय जल स्रोत के रूप में बढ़ावा देते हैं।

## What is mineral water? खनिज जल क्या है?

- **Mineral water is water that naturally contains dissolved minerals and trace elements.**  
खनिज जल वह पानी है जिसमें प्राकृतिक रूप से घुले हुए खनिज और सूक्ष्म तत्व होते हैं।
- **It comes from a protected underground reservoir, like a spring or aquifer, and has a specific composition of minerals.**  
यह एक सुरक्षित भूमिगत भंडार से आता है, जैसे कि झरना या जलभृत, और इसमें खनिजों की एक विशिष्ट संरचना होती है।
- **Unlike ordinary tap water, which treatment plants produce by filtering and purifying water drawn from rivers or groundwater, mineral water retains the natural minerals it has acquired from geological processes it has been a part of over years, decades or even centuries.**  
सामान्य नल के पानी के विपरीत, जिसे उपचार संयंत्र नदियों या भूजल से लिए गए पानी को छानकर और शुद्ध करके बनाते हैं, खनिज जल अपने प्राकृतिक खनिजों को बनाए रखता है जिन्हें इसने वर्षों, दशकों या यहाँ तक कि सदियों में भूवैज्ञानिक प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से प्राप्त किया है।
- **As rainwater and snowmelt slowly percolate through layers of limestone, granite, sandstone or volcanic basalt, the minerals from the surrounding rocks dissolve in the water, and the differences in pressure underground push this enriched water back towards the surface, where it emerges as a spring or collects in a subterranean reservoir.**  
जब वर्षा जल और हिमपात धीरे-धीरे चूना पत्थर, ग्रेनाइट, बलुआ पत्थर या ज्वालामुखीय बेसाल्ट की परतों से गुजरते हैं, तो आसपास की चट्टानों के खनिज पानी में घुल जाते हैं, और भूमिगत दबाव में अंतर इस समृद्ध जल को सतह की ओर वापस धकेलता है, जहाँ यह झरने के रूप में निकलता है या भूमिगत भंडार में एकत्र होता है।
- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Parliament and the Council both have regulations that stipulate that mineral water must come from a geologically stable source, which producers must undertake to protect; that separate batches of the same water must have the same profile of minerals; and that producers must not chemically treat it to alter its mineral composition.**  
अमेरिका का खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन और यूरोपीय संसद तथा परिषद के पास ऐसे नियम हैं जो निर्धारित करते हैं कि खनिज जल भूवैज्ञानिक रूप से स्थिर स्रोत से आना चाहिए, जिसे उत्पादकों को सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए; एक ही पानी के अलग-अलग बैचों में समान खनिज प्रोफाइल होना चाहिए; और उत्पादकों को इसकी खनिज संरचना बदलने के लिए रासायनिक उपचार नहीं करना चाहिए।
- **In India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) stipulate that natural mineral water must come from underground sources such as natural springs and borewells, must be protected by various formations that ensure the water is free from pollution, and should ideally be collected in conditions that guarantee the original bacteriological and chemical composition.**  
भारत में भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण और भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो यह निर्धारित करते हैं कि प्राकृतिक खनिज जल भूमिगत स्रोतों जैसे प्राकृतिक झरनों और बोरवेल से आना चाहिए, इसे विभिन्न संरचनाओं द्वारा सुरक्षित रखा जाना चाहिए ताकि पानी प्रदूषण से मुक्त रहे, और इसे आदर्श रूप से ऐसी परिस्थितियों में एकत्र किया जाना चाहिए जो इसकी मूल जैविक और रासायनिक संरचना की गारंटी दें।
- **As in the U.S. and the EU, the BIS standard IS 13428 requires the water's TDS and the relative proportions of various minerals to be stable over time and across producers' batches.**  
अमेरिका और यूरोपीय संघ की तरह, बीआईएस मानक आईएस 13428 यह आवश्यक करता है कि पानी का टीडीएस और विभिन्न खनिजों का अनुपात समय के साथ और विभिन्न बैचों में स्थिर रहे।
- **Producers are also prohibited from treating the water to change its mineral composition, and instead are only allowed to filter or decant it, aerate it, and sterilise it.**  
उत्पादकों को पानी की खनिज संरचना बदलने के लिए उपचार करने से भी रोका गया है, और उन्हें केवल इसे छानने या अलग करने, वायुवाहित करने और निर्जलीकरण करने की अनुमति है।
- **Chemical decontamination, such as by adding chlorine, is also disallowed.**  
रासायनिक शुद्धिकरण, जैसे क्लोरीन मिलाना, भी अनुमति नहीं है।



## Mineral water certification and packaging खनिज जल प्रमाणन और पैकेजिंग

- Finally, unlike many food products in India, mineral water requires **mandatory certification**: to sell mineral water, producers must have both an **FSSAI license** and a **BIS certificate** and every bottle must carry the **ISI mark (according to IS 13428)**.  
अंततः, भारत में कई खाद्य उत्पादों के विपरीत, खनिज जल के लिए **अनिवार्य प्रमाणन** आवश्यक है: खनिज जल बेचने के लिए उत्पादकों के पास **एफएसएसएआई लाइसेंस** और **बीआईएस प्रमाणपत्र** दोनों होने चाहिए और हर बोतल पर **आईएसआई मार्क (आईएस 13428 के अनुसार)** होना चाहिए।
- The FSSAI also requires the bottle to be labelled with the location and name of the source and the levels of various minerals, and disallows the packager from claiming the water has any **medicinal or healing properties**.  
एफएसएसएआई यह भी आवश्यक करता है कि बोतल पर स्रोत का स्थान और नाम तथा विभिन्न खनिजों के स्तर लिखे हों, और पैकेजर को यह दावा करने से रोकता है कि पानी में कोई **औषधीय या उपचारात्मक गुण** हैं।

## How is mineral water packaged? खनिज जल की पैकेजिंग कैसे की जाती है?

- To meet these strict criteria, producers usually bottle the water directly at or near the source. इन कठोर मानकों को पूरा करने के लिए, उत्पादक आमतौर पर पानी को स्रोत पर या उसके पास ही बोतलबंद करते हैं।
- Once they extract the water, they filter it to remove particulate matter and elements such as iron to ensure the liquid is clear. पानी निकालने के बाद, वे इसे छानते हैं ताकि कणीय पदार्थ और लोहे जैसे तत्व हट जाएं और तरल साफ रहे।
- Producers may also pass it through **ultraviolet light** for disinfection and adjust the level of dissolved carbon dioxide to produce still or sparkling variants. उत्पादक इसे **पराबैंगनी प्रकाश** से भी गुजार सकते हैं ताकि कीटाणु नष्ट हों और घुले हुए कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड के स्तर को समायोजित करके सामान्य या झागदार रूप तैयार किया जा सके।
- Finally, the producers store the water in tanks and package it in **glass bottles, PET bottles or aluminium cans** at or near the source to avoid contamination or changes in composition. अंत में, उत्पादक पानी को टैंकों में संग्रहित करते हैं और **कांच की बोतलों, पीईटी बोतलों या एल्युमिनियम कैन** में स्रोत के पास ही पैक करते हैं ताकि प्रदूषण या संरचना में बदलाव से बचा जा सके।
- Producers may start with tap or groundwater, purify it through **reverse osmosis**, then add back small amounts of minerals. उत्पादक नल या भूजल से शुरू कर सकते हैं, इसे **रिवर्स ऑस्मोसिस** से शुद्ध करते हैं और फिर स्वाद के लिए थोड़ी मात्रा में खनिज जोड़ते हैं।
- The minerals present depend on the **natural source** and include calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonates, sulphates, chlorides, silica, and sometimes fluorides or iron. खनिजों की उपस्थिति **प्राकृतिक स्रोत** पर निर्भर करती है और इनमें कैल्शियम, मैग्नीशियम, सोडियम, पोटेशियम, बाइकार्बोनेट, सल्फेट, क्लोराइड, सिलिका और कभी-कभी फ्लोराइड या आयरन शामिल होते हैं।
- **Calcium and magnesium make water 'hard' and give it a characteristic mouthfeel.** कैल्शियम और मैग्नीशियम पानी को **'कठोर'** बनाते हैं और इसे विशिष्ट अनुभव देते हैं।
- **Higher calcium gives a smooth or slightly chalky sensation, while magnesium adds bitterness.** अधिक कैल्शियम से मुलायम या चॉक जैसा अनुभव होता है, जबकि मैग्नीशियम **कड़वाहट** लाता है।
- **Bicarbonates neutralise acidity and give an almost sweet finish.** बाइकार्बोनेट अम्लता को संतुलित करते हैं और लगभग **मीठा स्वाद** देते हैं।
- **Sulphates add a slightly crisp taste, and sodium imparts a faint saline note.** सल्फेट हल्का तीखा स्वाद देते हैं और सोडियम हल्का **नमकीन स्वाद** प्रदान करता है।
- **Dissolved minerals increase TDS and affect interaction with food, soap, pipes, and human tissues.** घुले हुए खनिज **टीडीएस** बढ़ाते हैं और भोजन, साबुन, पाइप और मानव ऊतकों के साथ परस्पर क्रिया को प्रभावित करते हैं।



- **Hard water deposits scales and doesn't lather well with soap.**  
कठोर पानी परत जमा करता है और साबुन के साथ झाग नहीं बनाता।
- **It supports bone density and muscle function, though its contribution is smaller than nutrition.**  
यह हड्डियों की घनत्व और मांसपेशियों के कार्य का समर्थन करता है, हालांकि इसका योगदान पोषण की तुलना में कम होता है।
- **Bicarbonates may improve digestion.**  
बाइकार्बोनेट पाचन में सुधार कर सकते हैं।

What are other forms of water?

पानी के अन्य रूप क्या हैं?

- **When water is distilled, it means it is boiled into steam and condensed back to liquid, in the process leaving all dissolved solids, including minerals as well as contaminants, behind in the vessel.**  
जब पानी को आसुत किया जाता है, तो इसका मतलब है कि इसे भाप में उबाला जाता है और फिर तरल में संघनित किया जाता है, इस प्रक्रिया में सभी घुले हुए ठोस, जिनमें खनिज और प्रदूषक शामिल हैं, पात्र में पीछे रह जाते हैं।
- **As a result the condensed water is nearly pure H<sub>2</sub>O, and tastes very different, almost hollow.**  
परिणामस्वरूप संघनित पानी लगभग शुद्ध एच<sub>2</sub>ओ होता है और इसका स्वाद बहुत अलग, लगभग फीका होता है।
- It does not form **scales** on metal surfaces and behaves in the sort of predictable way that research laboratories and diagnostic labs prize.  
यह धातु की सतहों पर परत नहीं बनाता और उस प्रकार से व्यवहार करता है जिसे शोध प्रयोगशालाएँ और नैदानिक प्रयोगशालाएँ पसंद करती हैं।
- However, while it is safe to drink, distilled water is not advised for regular human consumption because, aside from being devoid of minerals, it can also draw minerals out of surfaces it comes in contact with, including food and, potentially to a small degree, biological tissue.  
हालांकि यह पीने के लिए सुरक्षित है, लेकिन नियमित उपयोग के लिए आसुत जल की सलाह नहीं दी जाती क्योंकि इसमें खनिज नहीं होते और यह जिन सतहों के संपर्क में आता है उनसे खनिज खींच सकता है, जिसमें भोजन और कुछ हद तक जैविक ऊतक भी शामिल हैं।
- Industries also treat water according to their needs.  
उद्योग भी अपनी आवश्यकता के अनुसार पानी का उपचार करते हैं।
- They may **soften** it to remove calcium and magnesium, **deionise** it to strip it of almost all dissolved ions or alter its chemistry to use in boilers or cooling systems.  
वे इसे नरम कर सकते हैं ताकि कैल्शियम और मैग्नीशियम हट जाएं, इसे डीआयोनाइज कर सकते हैं ताकि लगभग सभी घुले आयन हट जाएं या इसकी रासायनिक संरचना बदल सकते हैं ताकि इसे बॉयलर या शीतलन प्रणालियों में उपयोग किया जा सके।
- They could also **demineralise** it to prevent scaling and/or add compounds like sodium phosphate to lower its corrosion potential.  
वे इसे डीमिनरलाइज भी कर सकते हैं ताकि परत बनने से रोका जा सके और/या सोडियम फॉस्फेट जैसे यौगिक जोड़ सकते हैं ताकि क्षरण की संभावना कम हो।
- **Industrial water is neither safe nor suitable for human consumption.**  
औद्योगिक जल न तो सुरक्षित है और न ही मानव उपभोग के लिए उपयुक्त है।
- **To prepare municipal tap water, treatment plants draw water from natural sources like rivers and groundwater, remove pathogens and chemical pollutants by filtering and chlorinating it, and add disinfectants such as chlorine.**  
नगर निगम का नल का पानी तैयार करने के लिए संयंत्र नदियों और भूजल जैसे प्राकृतिक स्रोतों से पानी लेते हैं, उसे छानकर और क्लोरीन मिलाकर रोगाणु और रासायनिक प्रदूषक हटाते हैं, और क्लोरीन जैसे कीटाणुनाशक मिलाते हैं।

How is tap water 'made' in India?

भारत में नल का पानी कैसे बनाया जाता है?



- The main source of water that eventually becomes tap water in India is **rivers and deep borewells**.  
भारत में नल का पानी बनने का मुख्य स्रोत **नदियाँ और गहरे बोरवेल** हैं।
- Because the pathogen loads are higher in tropical areas, municipalities subsequently disinfect it more aggressively than in temperate or cold regions like North America or Scandinavia. उष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों में रोगजनक अधिक होने के कारण नगरपालिकाएँ इसे उत्तरी अमेरिका या स्कैंडिनेविया जैसे क्षेत्रों की तुलना में अधिक आक्रामक तरीके से कीटाणुरहित करती हैं।
- Among other steps, they add **alum** to make dirt clump together so that it filters out more easily, and add **residual chlorine**.  
अन्य प्रक्रियाओं में वे **फिटकरी** मिलाते हैं ताकि गंदगी एकत्र हो जाए और आसानी से छान ली जाए, और **अवशिष्ट क्लोरीन** मिलाते हैं।
- Residual chlorine means more chlorine than required so that water remains disinfected even if contamination occurs later.  
अवशिष्ट क्लोरीन का मतलब आवश्यक मात्रा से अधिक क्लोरीन मिलाना है ताकि बाद में प्रदूषण होने पर भी पानी सुरक्षित रहे।
- In fact, such 'mixing' is so common that most Indian municipalities don't guarantee **potable tap water**.  
वास्तव में, ऐसा 'मिश्रण' इतना सामान्य है कि अधिकांश भारतीय नगरपालिकाएँ **पीने योग्य नल के पानी** की गारंटी नहीं देतीं।
- Among the few exceptions are **Puri in Odisha** and parts of **Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu**.  
कुछ अपवादों में **पुरी (ओडिशा)** और **कोयंबटूर (तमिलनाडु)** के कुछ हिस्से शामिल हैं।
- Tap water is a **State responsibility** while the Union government sets the standards.  
नल का पानी **राज्य का विषय** है जबकि मानक केंद्र सरकार निर्धारित करती है।
- The **IS 10500:2012 standard** prescribes limits for minerals but allows variations.  
**आईएस 10500:2012 मानक** खनिजों की सीमा निर्धारित करता है लेकिन कुछ भिन्नता की अनुमति देता है।
- For instance, while the **TDS limit is 500 mg/l, it can go up to 2,000 mg/l** if no alternative source is available.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **टीडीएस सीमा 500 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर** है, लेकिन यदि कोई विकल्प न हो तो यह **2000 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर** तक जा सकती है।
- **Rajasthan, Gujarat, and parts of Delhi/NCR** have very high mineral content due to mineral-rich aquifers.  
**राजस्थान, गुजरात और दिल्ली/एनसीआर के कुछ हिस्सों** में खनिज स्तर बहुत अधिक होता है क्योंकि वहाँ के जलभृत खनिजों से भरपूर हैं।
- Cities and States drawing water from **Himalayan rivers** or high rainfall areas like **Mumbai and parts of Kerala** have much softer water with lower mineral levels.  
**हिमालयी नदियों** या अधिक वर्षा वाले क्षेत्रों जैसे **मुंबई और केरल के कुछ हिस्सों** से पानी लेने वाले क्षेत्रों में पानी अधिक नरम होता है और खनिज कम होते हैं।

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# Cauvery basin to face dry spell until 2050, says study

Cauvery faces potential decline of about 3.5% of its waters between 2026 and 2050, even as its northern counterparts brace for floods; researchers warn that water sharing could get tougher

**GS III: Environment**

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

**W**hile a warming climate is expected to significantly increase the flow of most major Indian rivers, the Cauvery basin stands out as an exception. The river faces a potential “near-term decline” of approximately 3.5% of its waters between 2026 and 2050, even as its northern counterparts brace for floods, according to a study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Earth's Future*.

Given the fraught history of Cauvery water sharing between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, particularly in years of deficit rainfall, the study suggests that despite climate models projecting increased rainfall from global warming in India in the decades ahead, the Cauvery might not benefit. In such a situation, river interlinking projects, such as the proposed Godavari-Cauvery link project, might be necessary, the researchers say.

The study finds that the Cauvery experienced a 28% decline in streamflow between 1951 and 2012, based on data from Kollegal which, one of the authors told *The Hindu*, “well represented” actual flows in the Cauvery.

While the study is based

## Worry lines

An IIT Gandhinagar study paints a grim picture

- Flows in the Cauvery basin are expected to decline in the ‘near-term’ (2026-2050) and rise only ‘negligibly’ from 2051
- The river will not benefit from the increased rainfall from global warming in the decades ahead
- River interlinking projects such as the proposed Godavari-Cauvery link could help



The Cauvery riverbed lies largely exposed at the Mukkomu dam in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu. R. VENGADESH

on a modelling study and is reliant on an extrapolation, it attempts to reduce errors that can creep in from blindly applying climate models to predict the impact of global warming on Indian rainfall. To do that, the authors use a novel statistical framework and base their analysis on actual river flows between 1951 and 2012, measured at nine stations representing nine major river basins, and then extrapolates the data using a “constrained modelling” approach.

The nine rivers are the Cauvery (measured at Kollegal), the Ganga (Farakka), Brahmaputra (Bahadurabad), Indus (Bhakra), Godavari (Polavaram), Krishna (Kurundwad), Mahanadi (Basantpur), Narmada (Mandleshwar), and Tapi (Burhanpur).

Decades of failed negotiations on water sharing between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu led to the esta-

blishment of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in 1990, which took 17 years to reach a final order in 2007. The tribunal calculated total available water at 740 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet in a normal year, and allocated shares accordingly. The 2018 Supreme Court verdict allocated 404.25 tmcft to Tamil Nadu and 284.75 tmcft to Karnataka, while also declaring the Cauvery a national asset.

In 2023, Tamil Nadu requested 24,000 cusecs a day citing drought, but Karnataka refused, citing its water shortage, leading to protests in both States.

## Water shortage

Water challenges apart, the study highlights a persistent problem in climate science: while models agree that India will get warmer, they vary widely on exactly how much rain will fall. By applying obser-

vational constraints, the researchers identified that only eight out of 22 models accurately captured the seasonality of the Indian monsoon.

The source models used are the CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6), which are the latest generation of global climate models used by scientists to project future climate change

Unconstrained models show a 5% increase in the Cauvery in the near term, the researchers said, as well as a 25% increase in the Indus, 8% in the Ganga, and 16% in the Krishna. When projections were restricted to these ‘constrained’ or more reliable models, the certainty of a wetter future for most rivers increased, but the outlook for the Cauvery was grim, with the basin facing “near- and mid-term water shortages”.

The researchers were led by Dipesh Singh Chuphal and Professor Vimal Mishra of IIT Gandhinagar.

“Raw outputs have biases because of model resolution, simplified physics that global climate models use. To correct these biases and show future trends based on what is actually observed, we use constrained models,” Mr. Chuphal, the lead author of the study, told *The Hindu*. “As far as the Cauvery is concerned, it implies that water sharing could get tougher.”

**26Mar. Cauvery basin to face dry spell until 2050, says study**  
कावेरी बेसिन को 2050 तक सूखे का सामना करना पड़ेगा, अध्ययन कहता है



- Cauvery faces potential decline of about 3.5% of its waters between 2026 and 2050, even as its northern counterparts brace for floods; researchers warn that water sharing could get tougher.  
कावेरी को 2026 से 2050 के बीच अपने जल में लगभग 3.5% की संभावित कमी का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, जबकि इसकी उत्तरी समकक्ष नदियाँ बाढ़ के लिए तैयार हैं; शोधकर्ता चेतावनी देते हैं कि जल बंटवारा और कठिन हो सकता है।
- While a warming climate is expected to significantly increase the flow of most major Indian rivers, the Cauvery basin stands out as an exception.  
जबकि बढ़ती जलवायु के कारण अधिकांश प्रमुख भारतीय नदियों के प्रवाह में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि होने की उम्मीद है, कावेरी बेसिन एक अपवाद के रूप में सामने आता है।
- The river faces a potential “near-term decline” of approximately 3.5% of its waters between 2026 and 2050, even as its northern counterparts brace for floods, according to a study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar, published in the peer-reviewed journal Earth’s Future.  
इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (IIT) गांधीनगर के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन, जो सहकर्मी-समीक्षित जर्नल Earth’s Future में प्रकाशित हुआ है, के अनुसार यह नदी 2026 से 2050 के बीच अपने जल में लगभग 3.5% की “निकट-अवधि गिरावट” का सामना कर सकती है, जबकि इसकी उत्तरी नदियाँ बाढ़ के लिए तैयार हैं।
- Given the fraught history of Cauvery water sharing between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, particularly in years of deficit rainfall, the study suggests that despite climate models projecting increased rainfall from global warming in India in the decades ahead, the Cauvery might not benefit.  
कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के बीच कावेरी जल बंटवारे के तनावपूर्ण इतिहास को देखते हुए, विशेषकर कम वर्षा वाले वर्षों में, अध्ययन सुझाव देता है कि आने वाले दशकों में वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि से भारत में अधिक वर्षा के अनुमान के बावजूद कावेरी को इसका लाभ नहीं मिल सकता।
- In such a situation, river interlinking projects, such as the proposed Godavari-Cauvery link project, might be necessary, the researchers say.  
ऐसी स्थिति में, शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है कि प्रस्तावित गोदावरी-कावेरी लिंक परियोजना जैसे नदी जोड़ने के प्रोजेक्ट आवश्यक हो सकते हैं।
- The study finds that the Cauvery experienced a 28% decline in streamflow between 1951 and 2012, based on data from Kollegal which, one of the authors told The Hindu, “well represented” actual flows in the Cauvery.  
अध्ययन में पाया गया कि कावेरी ने 1951 से 2012 के बीच प्रवाह में 28% की गिरावट का अनुभव किया, जो कोल्लेगल के डेटा पर आधारित है, जिसे एक लेखक ने The Hindu को बताया कि यह कावेरी के वास्तविक प्रवाह का “अच्छा प्रतिनिधित्व” करता है।
- While the study is based on a modelling study and is reliant on an extrapolation, it attempts to reduce errors that can creep in from blindly applying climate models to predict the impact of global warming on Indian rainfall.  
हालांकि यह अध्ययन मॉडलिंग पर आधारित है और एक्सट्रपलेशन पर निर्भर करता है, यह उन त्रुटियों को कम करने का प्रयास करता है जो भारतीय वर्षा पर वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि के प्रभाव की भविष्यवाणी करने के लिए जलवायु मॉडलों को सीधे लागू करने से उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।
- To do that, the authors use a novel statistical framework and base their analysis on actual river flows between 1951 and 2012, measured at nine stations representing nine major river basins, and then extrapolate the data using a “constrained modelling” approach.  
इसके लिए, लेखकों ने एक नवीन सांख्यिकीय ढांचा अपनाया और 1951 से 2012 के बीच नौ प्रमुख नदी बेसिनों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले नौ स्टेशनों पर मापे गए वास्तविक नदी प्रवाह पर अपना विश्लेषण आधारित किया, और फिर “कंस्ट्रेन्ड मॉडलिंग” दृष्टिकोण का उपयोग करके डेटा का विस्तार किया।
- The nine rivers are the Cauvery (measured at Kollegal), the Ganga (Farakka), Brahmaputra (Bahadurabad), Indus (Bhakra), Godavari (Polavaram), Krishna (Kurundwad), Mahanadi (Basantpur), Narmada (Mandleshwar), and Tapi (Burhanpur).  
ये नौ नदियाँ हैं: कावेरी (कोल्लेगल), गंगा (फरक्का), ब्रह्मपुत्र (बहादुराबाद), सिंधु (भाखड़ा), गोदावरी (पोलावरम), कृष्णा (कुरुंदवाड़), महानदी (बसंतपुर), नर्मदा (मंडलेश्वर), और ताप्ती (बुरहानपुर)।
- Decades of failed negotiations on water sharing between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu led to the establishment of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in 1990, which took 17 years to reach a final order in 2007.



कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के बीच जल बंटवारे पर दशकों तक असफल वार्ताओं के कारण 1990 में कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण (CWDT) की स्थापना हुई, जिसे 2007 में अंतिम आदेश देने में 17 वर्ष लगे।

- The tribunal calculated total available water at 740 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet in a normal year, and allocated shares accordingly.  
न्यायाधिकरण ने सामान्य वर्ष में कुल उपलब्ध जल को 740 हजार मिलियन क्यूबिक (tmc) फीट आंका और उसी अनुसार हिस्से आवंटित किए।
- The 2018 Supreme Court verdict allocated 404.25 tmcft to Tamil Nadu and 284.75 tmcft to Karnataka, while also declaring the Cauvery a national asset.  
2018 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले में तमिलनाडु को 404.25 tmcft और कर्नाटक को 284.75 tmcft आवंटित किया गया, साथ ही कावेरी को राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति घोषित किया गया।
- In 2023, Tamil Nadu requested 24,000 cusecs a day citing drought, but Karnataka refused, citing its water shortage, leading to protests in both States.  
2023 में तमिलनाडु ने सूखे का हवाला देते हुए प्रतिदिन 24,000 क्यूसेक पानी की मांग की, लेकिन कर्नाटक ने अपने जल संकट का हवाला देते हुए मना कर दिया, जिससे दोनों राज्यों में विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए।

## Water shortage जल संकट

- Water challenges apart, the study highlights a persistent problem in climate science: while models agree that India will get warmer, they vary widely on exactly how much rain will fall.  
जल चुनौतियों के अलावा, अध्ययन जलवायु विज्ञान की एक स्थायी समस्या को उजागर करता है: जबकि मॉडल इस बात पर सहमत हैं कि भारत गर्म होगा, वे इस पर बहुत भिन्न हैं कि कितनी वर्षा होगी।
- By applying observational constraints, the researchers identified that only eight out of 22 models accurately captured the seasonality of the Indian monsoon.  
अवलोकन संबंधी बाधाओं को लागू करके, शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि 22 में से केवल आठ मॉडल भारतीय मानसून की मौसमीता को सही ढंग से दर्शाते हैं।
- The source models used are the CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6), which are the latest generation of global climate models used by scientists to project future climate change.  
उपयोग किए गए स्रोत मॉडल CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6) हैं, जो भविष्य के जलवायु परिवर्तन का अनुमान लगाने के लिए वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा उपयोग किए जाने वाले नवीनतम वैश्विक जलवायु मॉडल हैं।
- Unconstrained models show a 5% increase in the Cauvery in the near term, the researchers said, as well as a 25% increase in the Indus, 8% in the Ganga, and 16% in the Krishna.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने कहा कि बिना बाधाओं वाले मॉडल निकट भविष्य में कावेरी में 5% वृद्धि दिखाते हैं, साथ ही सिंधु में 25%, गंगा में 8% और कृष्णा में 16% वृद्धि दर्शाते हैं।
- When projections were restricted to these 'constrained' or more reliable models, the certainty of a wetter future for most rivers increased, but the outlook for the Cauvery was grim, with the basin facing "near- and mid-term water shortages".  
जब अनुमानों को इन "कंस्ट्रेन्ड" या अधिक विश्वसनीय मॉडलों तक सीमित किया गया, तो अधिकांश नदियों के लिए अधिक आर्द्र भविष्य की निश्चितता बढ़ गई, लेकिन कावेरी के लिए स्थिति गंभीर रही, जहां बेसिन को "निकट और मध्यम अवधि के जल संकट" का सामना करना पड़ेगा।
- The researchers were led by Dipesh Singh Chuphal and Professor Vimal Mishra of IIT Gandhinagar.  
शोधकर्ताओं का नेतृत्व IIT गांधीनगर के दीपेश सिंह चुफाल और प्रोफेसर विमल मिश्रा ने किया।
- "Raw outputs have biases because of model resolution, simplified physics that global climate models use.  
"कच्चे आउटपुट में मॉडल रिज़ॉल्यूशन और वैश्विक जलवायु मॉडलों द्वारा उपयोग की जाने वाली सरल भौतिकी के कारण पूर्वाग्रह होते हैं।
- To correct these biases and show future trends based on what is actually observed, we use constrained models," Mr. Chuphal, the lead author of the study, told The Hindu.  
इन पूर्वाग्रहों को ठीक करने और वास्तविक अवलोकनों के आधार पर भविष्य के रुझानों को दिखाने के लिए, हम कंस्ट्रेन्ड मॉडल का उपयोग करते हैं," अध्ययन के प्रमुख लेखक श्री चुफाल ने The Hindu को बताया।
- "As far as the Cauvery is concerned, it implies that water sharing could get tougher."  
"जहां तक कावेरी का संबंध है, इसका मतलब है कि जल बंटवारा और कठिन हो सकता है।"



# Why is Chennai's microplastic problem bigger than it looks?

What are the ecological risks of microplastics in beach sediments?

ISS III: Environment

T.V. Padma

The story so far:

Microplastics, especially nylon fibres, seem to be present rather sparsely in Chennai's beach sediments but could still wreak long-term ecological damage, new research has cautioned. A study by researchers at V.O. Chidambaram College in Thoothukudi examined the abundance, sources, and ecological risks of microplastics from beach sediment samples from 15 sites along the Chennai coast. The findings show fibres dominating, with most particles smaller than 1000 µm.

Why does low abundance not mean low risk?

"This study is important because it shows that microplastics are already present in Chennai's beach sediments, even if we don't always see them," Sekhar Selvam, senior assistant professor at the

Department of Geology, V.O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi, said. "We found that most of the microplastics are nylon fibres, which are more harmful than many other plastics." In other words, even though Chennai's beaches have fewer microplastics than many global ones, the risk to marine life remains significant.

An additional insight from the study is the disconnect between abundance-based assessments and risk-based evaluations, Shaji Erath, professor of geology at the University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, said. Traditional monitoring often focuses on microplastic counts alone.

However, the study has shown that polymer type, shape, and aging characteristics are equally, if not more, important in determining ecological risk, he added.

What are the ecological concerns?

Ecological concerns in the study are

chiefly centred on marine life and coastal ecosystems, Dr. Selvam said. Small organisms living in beach sand, such as worms, crabs, and shellfish, easily ingest the small plastic fibres, which can go on to block or injure their digestive tracts. Toxic compounds in plastics can also enter and poison their bodies.

According to Dr. Erath, besides feeding by marine microorganisms, plankton, and marine animals, hazardous polymers such as nylon pose higher ecological risks due to their persistence, chemical additives, and capacity to adsorb pollutants.

Fibre-shaped microplastics in particular can alter habitats by modifying the structure of sediments, affecting the benthic – or bottom layer – of seas and the microbial communities there, he explained. There could also be prolonged environmental exposure and long-distance transport of microplastics, highlighting the transboundary nature of microplastic pollution.

How do human activities contribute?

Most microplastics found by the Chennai study team were clearly linked to human activities, according to Dr. Selvam. These include fishing, where damaged nets and ropes shed plastic fragments that break up into microplastics; synthetic clothes, which release minuscule fibres when they are washed; tourism and beach use; and urban sewage and stormwater drains that carry plastics into the sea.

After reaching the coast, they reenter human bodies via seafood contaminated by microplastics, among other pathways. Seafood in particular can ferry both harmful chemical substances and disease-causing bacteria and other microorganisms into the body, causing tissues to become inflamed and affecting the hormonal and immune systems over longer periods.

Is it too late to act?

Right now, microplastic pollution levels are not so extreme in Chennai and better waste management, responsible fishing practices, and public awareness can still prevent a much bigger problem in the future, according to Dr. Selvam.

In the final analysis, the research has reinforced the need for timely policy-driven interventions, including better solid waste management, recycling of fishing gear, promotion of biodegradable alternatives, and public awareness, Dr. Erath said. (T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi)

THE GIST

Microplastics, especially nylon fibres, are present in Chennai's beach sediments in relatively low abundance, but low overall microplastic abundance does not necessarily imply low ecological risk.

Even small particles can cause long-term ecological damage by affecting marine life, moving up the food chain, and eventually impacting human health through contaminated seafood.

## 26Mar. Why is Chennai's microplastic problem bigger than it looks? चेन्नई की माइक्रोप्लास्टिक समस्या जितनी दिखती है उससे बड़ी क्यों है?

- The findings show **fibres dominating**, with most particles smaller than **1000 µm**. निष्कर्ष बताते हैं कि **फाइबर प्रमुख हैं**, और अधिकांश कण **1000 माइक्रोमीटर से छोटे हैं**।

Why does low abundance not mean low risk?

कम मात्रा का मतलब कम जोखिम क्यों नहीं है?

- Microplastics are already present in Chennai's beach sediments even if they are not always visible. माइक्रोप्लास्टिक चेन्नई के समुद्र तटों में मौजूद हैं, भले ही वे हमेशा दिखाई न दें।
- Most microplastics are nylon fibres, which are more harmful than many other plastics.** अधिकांश माइक्रोप्लास्टिक **नायलॉन फाइबर** हैं, जो अन्य प्लास्टिक की तुलना में अधिक हानिकारक हैं।
- Even with fewer microplastics, the risk to **marine life remains significant**. कम मात्रा के बावजूद **समुद्री जीवन के लिए जोखिम महत्वपूर्ण** बना रहता है।
- There is a disconnect between **abundance-based assessments** and **risk-based evaluations**. मात्रा आधारित आकलन और जोखिम आधारित मूल्यांकन के बीच अंतर पाया गया है।
- Traditional monitoring focuses only on **microplastic counts**. पारंपरिक निगरानी केवल **माइक्रोप्लास्टिक की संख्या** पर ध्यान देती है।
- Polymer type, shape, and aging characteristics** are equally important for ecological risk. पॉलिमर प्रकार, आकार और उम्र संबंधी विशेषताएँ पारिस्थितिक जोखिम के लिए उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

What are the ecological concerns?

पारिस्थितिक चिंताएँ क्या हैं?

- Small organisms like worms, crabs, shellfish ingest microplastics.** छोटे जीव जैसे **कीड़े, केकड़े, शेलफिश** माइक्रोप्लास्टिक को निगल लेते हैं।
- These can **block or injure digestive tracts**. इससे उनका **पाचन तंत्र अवरुद्ध या क्षतिग्रस्त** हो सकता है।
- Toxic compounds** in plastics can poison their bodies. प्लास्टिक के **विषैले तत्व** उनके शरीर को **नुकसान पहुंचा सकते हैं**।
- Hazardous polymers like **nylon** pose higher risks due to **persistence and pollutant absorption**. **नायलॉन जैसे खतरनाक पॉलिमर** अपनी **स्थायित्व और प्रदूषक अवशोषण क्षमता** के कारण अधिक जोखिम पैदा करते हैं।



- Fibre-shaped microplastics alter **sediment structure and affect benthic ecosystems**.  
फाइबर आकार के माइक्रोप्लास्टिक **तलछट संरचना** को बदलते हैं और **तलीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** को प्रभावित करते हैं।
- Microplastics can travel long distances showing **transboundary pollution**.  
माइक्रोप्लास्टिक लंबी दूरी तक फैल सकते हैं, जिससे **सीमा पार प्रदूषण** होता है।

#### How do human activities contribute? मानव गतिविधियाँ कैसे योगदान देती हैं?

- Sources include **fishing nets and ropes, synthetic clothes, tourism, and urban sewage**.  
स्रोतों में **मछली पकड़ने के जाल और रस्सियाँ, सिंथेटिक कपड़े, पर्यटन, और शहरी सीवेज** शामिल हैं।
- These plastics enter the sea and later enter humans via **seafood contamination**.  
ये प्लास्टिक समुद्र में जाकर बाद में **समुद्री भोजन के माध्यम से मनुष्यों में प्रवेश करते हैं**।
- Contaminated seafood carries **toxic chemicals and pathogens**.  
दूषित समुद्री भोजन **विषैले रसायन और रोगजनक तत्व** लाता है।
- This can cause **inflammation and affect hormonal and immune systems**.  
इससे **सूजन** होती है और **हार्मोनल व प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र** प्रभावित होते हैं।

#### Is it too late to act? क्या अब बहुत देर हो चुकी है?

- Current microplastic levels are **not yet extreme** in Chennai.  
चेन्नई में माइक्रोप्लास्टिक का स्तर अभी **अत्यधिक नहीं है**।
- Better waste management, responsible fishing, and awareness can prevent future damage**.  
**बेहतर अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, जिम्मेदार मछली पकड़ना और जागरूकता** भविष्य के नुकसान को रोक सकते हैं।
- The study highlights the need for **policy-driven interventions**.  
अध्ययन **नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता** को दर्शाता है।
- Measures include **recycling fishing gear, biodegradable alternatives, and public awareness**.  
उपायों में **मछली पकड़ने के उपकरण का पुनर्चक्रण, जैव अपघट्य विकल्प, और जन जागरूकता** शामिल हैं।

GS Paper III: IS	
TOPICS COVERED	26 March 2026
26Mar	<b>Rajya Sabha brushes aside objections by Opposition, starts debate on CAPF Bill</b> राज्यसभा ने विपक्ष की आपत्तियों को नजरअंदाज किया, CAPF बिल पर बहस शुरू की



# Rajya Sabha brushes aside objections by Opposition, starts debate on **CAPF Bill**

**GS III: Internal Security**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Brushing aside the Opposition's notices against the introduction of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF-General Administration) Bill**, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday started discussions on the legislation, moved by **Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai**.

Opposition members had moved six notices against its introduction.

The **Bill aims to regulate recruitment, deputation, promotion, and other service conditions for the paramilitary officers.**

Trinamool Congress MP **Derek O'Brien** termed the **Bill anti-federal** and alleged that **States' rights are being taken away**. Congress MP **Ajay Maken** said the **Bill is encroaching upon the rights of the judiciary**. He

**The Bill seeks to nullify historical judgments of the Supreme Court, says DMK MP Tiruchi Siva**

said six Supreme Court judgments had stated there has been an injustice to paramilitary forces.

DMK MP **Tiruchi Siva** said the **Bill seeks to nullify historical judgments of the Supreme Court that the deputation of IPS officers in CAPFs will be done away with**. He said the **Centre's stand was rejected by the apex court, and Parliament is being used to override the Supreme Court's powers**.

Responding to charges, **Mr. Rai** said the **Bill is under the ambit of the legislative competence and right of the Rajya Sabha**. He said the concerns raised by the

Opposition are baseless, and the **Bill does not interfere with judicial rights, and it is on the service conditions of police officers in CAPFs**. Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** said the **judiciary has been mandated to interpret the laws, to arbitrate and to pass judgments**. "This nation is run with the spirit of the Constitution and the **laws passed by Parliament of India and Assemblies**. How can the legislative competence of this House be taken away...," he said.

Rejecting the notices, the Deputy Chairman put the introduction of the **Bill to vote** and invited **Mr. Rai** to introduce the **Bill**.

Later, initiating the debate, **Mr. Maken** said the **paramilitary forces play a key role in protecting democracy**. "The **Bill should have gone to a Parliamentary panel for scrutiny**."

**26Mar. Rajya Sabha brushes aside objections by Opposition, starts debate on CAPF Bill**

**राज्यसभा ने विपक्ष की आपत्तियों को नजरअंदाज किया, CAPF बिल पर बहस शुरू की**

- Brushing aside the Opposition's notices against the introduction of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF-General Administration) Bill**, the **Rajya Sabha** on Wednesday started discussions on the legislation, moved by **Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai**. **केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (CAPF-जनरल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन) बिल** के परिचय के खिलाफ विपक्ष की नोटिस को नजरअंदाज करते हुए, **राज्यसभा** ने बुधवार को इस विधेयक पर चर्चा शुरू की, जिसे **केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री नित्यानंद राय** ने पेश किया।
- Opposition members had moved six notices against its introduction. विपक्ष के सदस्यों ने इसके परिचय के खिलाफ छह नोटिस प्रस्तुत किए थे।
- The **Bill aims to regulate recruitment, deputation, promotion, and other service conditions** for the paramilitary officers. यह बिल अर्धसैनिक अधिकारियों के लिए **भर्ती, डेप्यूटेशन, पदोन्नति और अन्य सेवा शर्तों** को नियंत्रित करने का उद्देश्य रखता है।



- **Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien** termed the Bill **anti-federal** and alleged that **States' rights are being taken away**.  
तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद डेरेक ओ'ब्रायन ने बिल को विरोधी-संघीय बताया और आरोप लगाया कि राज्यों के अधिकार छीने जा रहे हैं।
- **Congress MP Ajay Maken** said the Bill is **encroaching upon the rights of the judiciary**.  
कांग्रेस सांसद अजय माकन ने कहा कि यह बिल न्यायपालिका के अधिकारों में दखल दे रहा है।
- He said six **Supreme Court judgments** had stated there has been an injustice to **paramilitary forces**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि छह सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णयों में कहा गया है कि अर्धसैनिक बलों के साथ अन्याय हुआ है।
- **DMK MP Tiruchi Siva** said the Bill seeks to **nullify historical judgments of the Supreme Court** that the deputation of **IPS officers in CAPFs** will be done away with.  
डीएमके सांसद तिरुचि शिवा ने कहा कि यह बिल सुप्रीम कोर्ट के ऐतिहासिक निर्णयों को निरस्त करने का प्रयास करता है, जिसमें कहा गया था कि **CAPF में IPS अधिकारियों की डेप्यूटेशन समाप्त कर दी जाएगी**।
- He said the **Centre's stand** was rejected by the apex court, and **Parliament is being used to override the Supreme Court's powers**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि केंद्र का रुख सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा खारिज किया गया और संसद का उपयोग सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अधिकारों को दरकिनार करने के लिए किया जा रहा है।
- Responding to charges, Mr. Rai said the Bill is under the ambit of the **legislative competence** and right of the **Rajya Sabha**.  
आरोपों का जवाब देते हुए, श्री राय ने कहा कि यह बिल संसदीय क्षमता और राज्यसभा के अधिकार के दायरे में है।
- He said the concerns raised by the **Opposition** are baseless, and the Bill does not interfere with **judicial rights**, and it is on the **service conditions of police officers in CAPFs**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि विपक्ष द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताएँ निराधार हैं, और यह बिल न्यायिक अधिकारों में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करता है, बल्कि यह **CAPF में पुलिस अधिकारियों की सेवा शर्तों पर है**।
- **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju** said the judiciary has been mandated to interpret the laws, to arbitrate and to pass judgments.  
संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरन रिजिजू ने कहा कि न्यायपालिका को कानूनों की व्याख्या करने, मध्यस्थता करने और निर्णय देने का अधिकार दिया गया है।
- "This nation is run with the spirit of the Constitution and the laws passed by **Parliament of India and Assemblies**.  
"यह राष्ट्र संविधान की भावना और भारत की संसद और विधानसभाओं द्वारा पारित कानूनों के अनुसार चलता है।
- How can the **legislative competence** of this House be taken away...," he said.  
कैसे इस सदन की संसदीय क्षमता को छीना जा सकता है...," उन्होंने कहा।
- Rejecting the notices, the **Deputy Chairman** put the introduction of the Bill to vote and invited Mr. Rai to introduce the Bill.  
नोटिस को खारिज करते हुए, उपाध्यक्ष ने बिल के परिचय को मतदान के लिए रखा और श्री राय को बिल पेश करने का आमंत्रण दिया।
- Later, initiating the debate, Mr. Maken said the **paramilitary forces** play a key role in protecting democracy.  
बाद में, बहस की शुरुआत करते हुए, श्री माकन ने कहा कि **अर्धसैनिक बल** लोकतंत्र की सुरक्षा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- "The Bill should have gone to a **Parliamentary panel for scrutiny**."  
"यह बिल संसदीय पैनल के निरीक्षण के लिए जाना चाहिए था।"