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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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GS Paper II: Governance,

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04 April 2026

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विदेश का भय

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GS II: Governance

Fear of the foreign

The FCRA amendments are unfair in principle and procedure

The Centre wants to restrict foreign contributions to individuals and organisations in India, but intends to do so in a selective and opaque manner. A fresh set of amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, or FCRA, now temporarily stalled due to protests, is an attempt by the Centre to empower itself to arbitrarily take control of assets owned by recipients of foreign contributions. Introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026, the Bill to amend the FCRA proposes a comprehensive statutory framework for a new “designated authority” to seize, manage, and dispose of assets of organisations that lose their FCRA licence. Cloaked in the rhetoric of national security and foreign interventions, the move smacks of bad faith, or even worse, a devious scheme to snatch assets built through legal means. Once an FCRA registration ceases to exist, the designated authority can take control of assets built using foreign funds – schools, hospitals, places of worship – and use them. This process is proposed to be automatic and instantaneous upon the discontinuation of the FCRA status, requiring no judicial determination or adjudicatory process. In effect, the Centre that grants FCRA permission can decide to withdraw that permission, and benefit from its own decision. This is unfair in both principle and procedure, and Christian groups that run numerous health and educational institutions are particularly concerned, given that they may have received contributions from abroad.

The Bill has been postponed for now, but the government has no plans to abandon it. The FCRA was first enacted in 1976, and reenacted in 2010 during the UPA regime and amended in 2020 under Narendra Modi – progressively tightening the receipt and use of foreign funds. It is notable that state policy seeks foreign money in a range of domains – from infrastructure to technology, and entertainment to real estate. Regulatory regimes can be credible only when they are transparent and even-handed. That is not the case with the FCRA restrictions. Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas said his parliamentary questions regarding FCRA cancellations, non-renewals, and related data had been disallowed since 2024. That leaves one with the reasonable assumption that the government allows only some to receive foreign funds. That built-in favouritism apart, the design of the proposed legislation violates the principles of natural justice. The assets built legally with foreign funds before an organisation loses its FCRA clearance cannot justly be subject to seizure under any subsequent regulatory action. The Centre must rethink its approach on this issue and ensure that any regulations on foreign funds it introduces are fair, transparent, and steer clear of what exists on the ground.

Fear of the foreign

विदेश का भय

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Amendments

विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम (FCRA) संशोधन

- A fresh set of amendments to the FCRA aims to empower the Centre to take control of assets of recipients.

FCRA संशोधन का उद्देश्य केंद्र को संपत्तियों पर नियंत्रण लेने की शक्ति देना है।

- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026. यह विधेयक 25 मार्च 2026 को लोकसभा में प्रस्तुत किया गया।

- It proposes a framework for a “designated authority” to seize, manage and dispose assets of organisations losing FCRA licence.

इसमें एक “निर्धारित प्राधिकरण” बनाने का प्रस्ताव है जो संपत्तियों को जब्त, प्रबंधित और निपटान कर सके।

- Once FCRA registration ends, the authority can take control of assets like schools, hospitals, places of worship.

FCRA पंजीकरण समाप्त होते ही स्कूल, अस्पताल, धार्मिक स्थल जैसी संपत्तियों पर नियंत्रण लिया जा सकता है।

- This process is proposed to be automatic and instantaneous, without judicial determination.

यह प्रक्रिया स्वतः और तुरंत लागू होगी, जिसमें न्यायिक प्रक्रिया की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।

- The Centre can withdraw FCRA permission and benefit from its own decision.

केंद्र अनुमति वापस लेकर स्वयं लाभ उठा सकता है।

- This is considered unfair in principle and procedure.

इसे सिद्धांत और प्रक्रिया दोनों में अनुचित माना जा रहा है।

- The FCRA was first enacted in 1976, re-enacted in 2010, and amended in 2020.

FCRA पहली बार 1976 में लागू, फिर 2010 में पुनः लागू, और 2020 में संशोधित हुआ।

GS Paper II: International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

04 April 2026

04A	India and Azerbaijan reset ties a year after Operation Sindoor row ऑपरेशन सिंदूर विवाद के एक साल बाद भारत और अज़रबैजान ने संबंधों को पुनः स्थापित किया
04A	Ship carrying Iranian crude heading to India changes course to China ईरानी कच्चा तेल लेकर भारत आ रहा जहाज चीन की ओर मुड़ा
04A	UNSC delays vote on authorising force to protect Strait of Hormuz यूएनएससी ने हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य की सुरक्षा के लिए बल प्रयोग पर मतदान टाला
04A	Min Aung Hlaing elected Myanmar President; to be sworn in next week मिन आंग ह्लाइंग म्यांमार के राष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित; अगले सप्ताह शपथ लेंगे



India and Azerbaijan reset ties a year after Operation Sindoor row

GS II: IR

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

After a year of tensions between India and Azerbaijan over Operation Sindoor, the governments decided to reset ties as senior officials met in Baku for the 6th round of Foreign Office consultations.

The talks, held between Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (West) Sibi George and Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov on Friday are the first such talks since 2022, and after major differences over Azerbaijan-Pakistan and India-Armenia relations.

In a statement, the MEA said the two sides "comprehensively reviewed" the state of bilateral relations. "The issues discussed included trade, technology, tourism, pharmaceuticals, energy, culture, people-to-people exchanges and fight against cross-border terrorism,"



MEA Secretary Sibi George and Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov during a discussion in Baku on Friday. ANI

the statement added.

Azerbaijan has recently resumed crude oil exports, which make up 98% of the country's exports to India, while ONGC Videsh has a stake in oil and gas fields and an energy pipeline in the country.

The reference to cross-border terrorism in the statement is significant as last year, New Delhi had been angered by Azerbaijan's strikes on Pakistani sites during Operation Sindoor, and indicates that the two countries have smoothed

over some of their differences. In a statement on May 7 last year, the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry has "condemned military attacks against Pakistan that killed and injured several civilians," and called on all parties to "resolve the conflict through diplomatic means."

Azerbaijan and Pakistan have a close strategic partnership, given Islamabad's support to Azerbaijan in the dispute over Nagorno Karabakh, while Azerbaijan accused India of arming Armenia in the conflict.

In September, during a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev had also accused India of blocking Azerbaijan's ascension to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation membership.

"India has attempted to retaliate against Azerbaijan in international organisations, but stressed that this holds no significance for Azerbaijan, as brotherly relations take precedence above all," a statement from his office on September 1, 2025 said.

Sources said that during talks on Friday, the two sides had agreed to "resolve differences through open dialogue and discussion". Mr. George called on the Foreign Policy Adviser to President Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov of Azerbaijan where they "reviewed the bilateral ties and exchanged views on matters of common interest".

04A. India and Azerbaijan reset ties a year after Operation Sindoor row ऑपरेशन सिंदूर विवाद के एक साल बाद भारत और अज़रबैजान ने संबंधों को पुनः स्थापित किया

- After a year of tensions between India and Azerbaijan over **Operation Sindoor**, the governments decided to reset ties as senior officials met in **Baku** for the 6th round of **Foreign Office consultations**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर को लेकर भारत और अज़रबैजान के बीच एक साल के तनाव के बाद, दोनों सरकारों ने संबंधों को पुनः स्थापित करने का निर्णय लिया, जब वरिष्ठ अधिकारी **बाकू** में **विदेश कार्यालय परामर्श** के छठे दौर के लिए मिले।
- The talks, held between Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (West) **Sibi George** and Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister **Elnur Mammadov** on Friday are the first such talks since 2022, and after major differences over **Azerbaijan-Pakistan and India-Armenia relations**.
शुक्रवार को विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) के सचिव (पश्चिम) **सिबी जॉर्ज** और अज़रबैजान के उप विदेश मंत्री **एलनूर मम्मदोव** के बीच हुई ये वार्ता 2022 के बाद पहली ऐसी वार्ता है, और यह **अज़रबैजान-पाकिस्तान और भारत-आर्मेनिया संबंधों** पर बड़े मतभेदों के बाद हुई है।
- In a statement, the MEA said the two sides "comprehensively reviewed" the state of **bilateral relations**.
एक बयान में, MEA ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने **द्विपक्षीय संबंधों** की स्थिति की "व्यापक समीक्षा" की।
- "The issues discussed included **trade, technology, tourism, pharmaceuticals, energy, culture, people-to-people exchanges and fight against cross-border terrorism**," the



statement added.

बयान में जोड़ा गया कि चर्चा किए गए मुद्दों में **व्यापार, प्रौद्योगिकी, पर्यटन, फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, ऊर्जा, संस्कृति, लोगों के बीच आदान-प्रदान और सीमा पार आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई** शामिल थे।

- Azerbaijan has recently resumed **crude oil exports**, which make up 98% of the country's exports to India, while **ONGC Videsh** has a stake in oil and gas fields and an energy pipeline in the country.

अज़रबैजान ने हाल ही में **कच्चे तेल के निर्यात** को फिर से शुरू किया है, जो भारत को उसके कुल निर्यात का 98% है, जबकि **ONGC विदेश** की वहां तेल और गैस क्षेत्रों तथा एक ऊर्जा पाइपलाइन में हिस्सेदारी है।

- The reference to **cross-border terrorism** in the statement is significant as last year, New Delhi had been angered by Azerbaijan's protest of India's strikes on Pakistani sites during **Operation Sindoor**, and indicates that the two countries have smoothed over some of their differences.

बयान में **सीमा पार आतंकवाद** का उल्लेख महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि पिछले साल नई दिल्ली अज़रबैजान द्वारा **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के दौरान पाकिस्तानी ठिकानों पर भारत के हमलों के विरोध से नाराज़ था, और यह दर्शाता है कि दोनों देशों ने अपने कुछ मतभेद सुलझा लिए हैं।

- In a statement on May 7 last year, the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry has "condemned military attacks against Pakistan that killed and injured several civilians," and called on all parties to "resolve the conflict through diplomatic means."

पिछले साल 7 मई के एक बयान में, अज़रबैजान के विदेश मंत्रालय ने "पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ सैन्य हमलों की निंदा की थी, जिसमें कई नागरिक मारे गए और घायल हुए," और सभी पक्षों से "कूटनीतिक माध्यमों से संघर्ष का समाधान करने" का आह्वान किया था।

- Azerbaijan and Pakistan have a close **strategic partnership**, given Islamabad's support to Azerbaijan in the dispute over **Nagorno Karabakh**, while Azerbaijan accused India of arming **Armenia** in the conflict.

अज़रबैजान और पाकिस्तान के बीच घनिष्ठ **रणनीतिक साझेदारी** है, क्योंकि **नागोर्नो-काराबाख** विवाद में इस्लामाबाद ने अज़रबैजान का समर्थन किया है, जबकि अज़रबैजान ने भारत पर **आर्मेनिया** को हथियार देने का आरोप लगाया।

- In September, during a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**, Azerbaijan President **Ilham Aliyev** had also accused India of blocking Azerbaijan's ascension to the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation membership**.

सितंबर में, पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री **शहबाज़ शरीफ** के साथ बैठक के दौरान, अज़रबैजान के राष्ट्रपति **इल्हाम अलीयेव** ने भारत पर अज़रबैजान की **शंघाई सहयोग संगठन सदस्यता** में बाधा डालने का आरोप लगाया था।

- "India has attempted to retaliate against Azerbaijan in international organisations, but stressed that this holds no significance for Azerbaijan, as brotherly relations take precedence above all," a statement from his office on September 1, 2025 said.

1 सितंबर 2025 को उनके कार्यालय के एक बयान में कहा गया कि "भारत ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों में अज़रबैजान के खिलाफ जवाबी कार्रवाई करने की कोशिश की है, लेकिन यह अज़रबैजान के लिए कोई महत्व नहीं रखता क्योंकि भाईचारे के संबंध सबसे ऊपर हैं।"

- Sources said that during talks on Friday, the two sides had agreed to "resolve differences through open dialogue and discussion".

सूत्रों ने कहा कि शुक्रवार की वार्ता के दौरान दोनों पक्षों ने "खुले संवाद और चर्चा के माध्यम से मतभेदों को सुलझाने" पर सहमति जताई।



Ship carrying Iranian crude heading to India changes course to China

GS II: IR

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Ping Shun, a Chinese oil tanker carrying Iranian crude oil, that had crossed the Strait of Hormuz and signalling that it was heading to **Vadinar, India**, for the past three days is now signalling it was headed for China, according to **marine logistics and commodity markets analytics company Kpler**.

The vessel, carrying more than one lakh tonne of crude oil, is signalling that it is headed to **Dongying in northern China**, according to ship tracker websites. As of now, Ping Shun is heading south off the west coast of India.

Sanctioned by U.S.

Ping Shun was sanctioned by the U.S. in February of this month. The sanctions notice says that the ship was involved in **Pars crude**



A diversion: Ping Shun is owned and managed by companies located in Shandong, China. AFP (For representation purpose only).

oil through ship-to-ship transfers with the sanctioned **National Iranian Tanker Company** with the motive of obfuscating the oil's Iranian origin. The tanker has delivered several shipments to China.

As per shipping database equasis, Ping Shun is owned and managed by companies located in Shandong, China. Shipping sources say that Ping

Shun likely switched off automatic identification system (AIS) or was spoofing while crossing the Strait.

This would have been the first time in almost seven years that India would have been buying Iranian oil. The U.S. had, through a "general licence" said that the Iranian oil already loaded as on March 20 would be allowed to be sold and delivered until

April 19. But reports suggested Indian customers were reluctant to take in Iranian crude over contractual terms. Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, had said at an official media briefing that **purchase of Iranian oil are "all techno-commercial decisions taken by the oil marketing companies"**.

Iran continues to be locked out of the global financial system due to U.S. sanctions, making payments difficult to process.

Meanwhile, **Green Sanvi**, a LPG tanker owned by the Indian operations of Mitsui OSK Ltd. and registered in India, was crossing the Strait of Hormuz on April 3. It would be the seventh Indian-flagged LPG carrier crossing the strait and headed to India.

Green Sanvi is carrying more than 46,000 tonne of LPG.

04A. Ship carrying Iranian crude heading to India changes course to China ईरानी कच्चा तेल लेकर भारत आ रहा जहाज चीन की ओर मुड़ा

- **Ping Shun**, a Chinese oil tanker carrying **Iranian crude oil**, that had crossed the **Strait of Hormuz** and signalling that it was heading to **Vadinar, India**, for the past three days is now signalling it was headed for **China**, according to marine logistics and commodity markets analytics company **Kpler**.

पिंग शुन, एक चीनी तेल टैंकर जो **ईरानी कच्चा तेल** ले जा रहा था, जिसने **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** पार कर लिया था और पिछले तीन दिनों से **भारत के वाडीनार** की ओर जाने का संकेत दे रहा था, अब **चीन** की ओर जाने का संकेत दे रहा है, समुद्री लॉजिस्टिक्स और कमोडिटी मार्केट एनालिटिक्स कंपनी **क्प्लर** के अनुसार।

- The vessel, carrying more than **one lakh tonne of crude oil**, is signalling that it is headed to **Dongying in northern China**, according to ship tracker websites.
यह जहाज, जो **एक लाख टन से अधिक कच्चा तेल** ले जा रहा है, अब **उत्तरी चीन के डोंगयिंग** की ओर जाने का संकेत दे रहा है, जहाज ट्रैकिंग वेबसाइटों के अनुसार।
- As of now, **Ping Shun** is heading south off the **west coast of India**.
वर्तमान में, **पिंग शुन** भारत के **पश्चिमी तट** के दक्षिण की ओर बढ़ रहा है।

Sanctioned by U.S.

अमेरिका द्वारा प्रतिबंधित

- **Ping Shun** was sanctioned by the **U.S.** in February of this month.
पिंग शुन पर इस महीने फरवरी में **अमेरिका** ने प्रतिबंध लगाया था।
- The sanctions notice says that the ship was involved in **Pars crude oil** through **ship-to-ship transfers** with the sanctioned **National Iranian Tanker Company** with the motive of



obfuscating the oil's Iranian origin.

प्रतिबंध नोटिस में कहा गया है कि यह जहाज प्रतिबंधित **नेशनल ईरानी टैंकर कंपनी** के साथ **जहाज-से-जहाज स्थानांतरण** के माध्यम से **पार्स कच्चे तेल** के लेनदेन में शामिल था, जिसका उद्देश्य तेल की ईरानी उत्पत्ति को छिपाना था।

- The tanker has delivered several shipments to **China**.
यह टैंकर कई खेप **चीन** को पहुंचा चुका है।
- As per shipping database **equasis**, Ping Shun is owned and managed by companies located in **Shandong, China**.
शिपिंग डेटाबेस **इकासिस** के अनुसार, पिंग शुन का स्वामित्व और प्रबंधन **चीन के शानडोंग** स्थित कंपनियों के पास है।
- Shipping sources say that Ping Shun likely switched off **automatic identification system (AIS)** or was spoofing while crossing the Strait.
शिपिंग स्रोतों का कहना है कि पिंग शुन ने जलडमरूमध्य पार करते समय संभवतः **ऑटोमैटिक आइडेंटिफिकेशन सिस्टम (AIS)** बंद कर दिया था या उसमें छेड़छाड़ की थी।
- This would have been the first time in almost **seven years** that India would have been buying **Iranian oil**.
यह लगभग **सात वर्षों** में पहली बार होता जब भारत **ईरानी तेल** खरीदता।
- The U.S. had, through a "**general licence**" said that the Iranian oil already loaded as on **March 20** would be allowed to be sold and delivered until **April 19**.
अमेरिका ने "**जनरल लाइसेंस**" के माध्यम से कहा था कि **20 मार्च** तक लोड किया गया ईरानी तेल **19 अप्रैल** तक बेचा और वितरित किया जा सकता है।
- But reports suggested Indian customers were reluctant to take in Iranian crude over **contractual terms**.
लेकिन रिपोर्टों के अनुसार भारतीय ग्राहक **संविदात्मक शर्तों** के कारण ईरानी कच्चा तेल लेने में हिचकिचा रहे थे।
- **Sujata Sharma**, Joint Secretary, **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**, had said at an official media briefing that purchase of Iranian oil are "all **techno-commercial decisions** taken by the oil marketing companies".
पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव **सुजाता शर्मा** ने एक आधिकारिक मीडिया ब्रीफिंग में कहा था कि ईरानी तेल की खरीद "तेल विपणन कंपनियों द्वारा लिए गए सभी **तकनीकी-व्यावसायिक निर्णय** हैं।"
- Iran continues to be locked out of the global financial system due to **U.S. sanctions**, making payments difficult to process.
अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के कारण ईरान अभी भी वैश्विक वित्तीय प्रणाली से बाहर है, जिससे भुगतान प्रक्रिया कठिन हो गई है।
- Meanwhile, **Green Sanvi**, a **LPG tanker** owned by the Indian operations of **Mitsui OSK Ltd.** and registered in India, was crossing the **Strait of Hormuz** on April 3.
इस बीच, **ग्रीन सैनवी**, जो **मित्सुई OSK लिमिटेड** के भारतीय संचालन के स्वामित्व वाला और भारत में पंजीकृत एक **LPG टैंकर** है, 3 अप्रैल को **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** पार कर रहा था।
- It would be the seventh **Indian-flagged LPG carrier** crossing the strait and headed to India.
यह सातवां **भारतीय ध्वज वाला LPG वाहक** होगा जो जलडमरूमध्य पार करके भारत की ओर जा रहा है।
- **Green Sanvi** is carrying more than **46,000 tonne of LPG**.
ग्रीन सैनवी 46,000 टन से अधिक LPG ले जा रहा है।



UNITED NATIONS

UNSC delays vote on authorising force to protect Strait of Hormuz



GS II: IR

REUTERS

The UN Security Council has postponed a vote scheduled for Friday on authorising the use of "defensive" force to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz from Iranian attacks, according to the official programme. The 15-member body was set to vote on Friday morning. No new date has been given for voting on the draft. AFP

- No new date has been given for voting on the draft. मसौदे पर मतदान के लिए कोई नई तारीख नहीं दी गई है।

04A. UNSC delays vote on authorising force to protect Strait of Hormuz यूएनएससी ने हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य की सुरक्षा के लिए बल प्रयोग पर मतदान टाला

The UN Security Council has postponed a vote scheduled for Friday on authorising the use of "defensive" force to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz from Iranian attacks, according to the official programme.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) ने आधिकारिक कार्यक्रम के अनुसार शुक्रवार को निर्धारित उस मतदान को स्थगित कर दिया है जिसमें ईरानी हमलों से हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में नौवहन की सुरक्षा के लिए "रक्षात्मक" बल के उपयोग को अधिकृत करना था।

The 15-member body was set to vote on Friday morning.

15 सदस्यीय निकाय को शुक्रवार सुबह मतदान करना था।

Min Aung Hlaing elected Myanmar President; to be sworn in next week

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
NAYPYIDAW

Myanmar's pro-military lawmakers elected junta chief Min Aung Hlaing as President on Friday, with the ex-armed forces commander set to maintain his rule in a civilian guise after snatching power by force five years ago.

The coup-leading general ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, triggering a civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people. Parliament Speaker Aung Lin Dwe announced Min Aung Hlaing was elected President, chosen by military-aligned MPs installed in a recent election overseen by the junta he leads.



Min Aung Hlaing secured 429 of 584 votes cast in the upper and lower houses of Parliament in the capital Naypyidaw. AP

Min Aung Hlaing secured 429 of 584 votes cast in the upper and lower houses of Parliament in the capital Naypyidaw on Friday, a Parliament official said.

While the junta touted Parliament's reopening

last month as a return of power to the people, analysts describe it as civilian window dressing intended to launder the military's continuing rule.

"There is no hope for the country under his presidency. The country will

only get worse," said a 50-year-old Yangon resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The pro-military Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won more than 80% of parliamentary seats contested in the phased poll that concluded in January. Serving members of the armed forces also occupy unelected seats making up a quarter of the total.

Min Aung Hlaing is expected to be sworn in as President next week.

Myanmar's military has ruled the restive Southeast Asian nation for most of its post-independence history and presents itself as the only force guarding it from rupture and ruin.

04A. Min Aung Hlaing elected Myanmar President; to be sworn in next week मिन आंग ह्लाइंग म्यांमार के राष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित; अगले सप्ताह शपथ लेंगे

- Myanmar's pro-military lawmakers elected junta chief Min Aung Hlaing as President on Friday, with the ex-armed forces commander set to maintain his rule in a civilian guise after



snatching power by force five years ago.

म्यांमार के सैन्य समर्थक विधायकों ने जुंटा प्रमुख मिन आंग ह्लाइंग को शुक्रवार को राष्ट्रपति चुना, जो पांच साल पहले बलपूर्वक सत्ता हथियाने के बाद अब नागरिक रूप में अपना शासन जारी रखने वाले हैं।

- The coup-leading general ousted the elected government of **Aung San Suu Kyi** in 2021, triggering a **civil war** that has killed tens of thousands of people.
तख्तापलट का नेतृत्व करने वाले जनरल ने 2021 में **आंग सान सू की** की निर्वाचित सरकार को हटा दिया, जिससे **गृह युद्ध** शुरू हुआ जिसमें हजारों लोग मारे गए।
- **Parliament Speaker Aung Lin Dwe** announced Min Aung Hlaing was elected President, chosen by military-aligned MPs installed in a recent election overseen by the junta he leads.
संसद अध्यक्ष आंग लिन द्वे ने घोषणा की कि मिन आंग ह्लाइंग राष्ट्रपति चुने गए हैं, जिन्हें हालिया चुनाव में चुने गए सैन्य समर्थक सांसदों द्वारा चुना गया।
- Min Aung Hlaing secured **429 of 584 votes** cast in the upper and lower houses of Parliament in the capital **Naypyidaw** on Friday, a Parliament official said.
संसद के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि राजधानी **नेपीडॉ** में संसद के दोनों सदनों में डाले गए **584 में से 429** **वोट** मिन आंग ह्लाइंग को मिले।
- While the junta touted Parliament's reopening last month as a return of power to the people, analysts describe it as **civilian window dressing** intended to launder the military's continuing rule.
जहां जुंटा ने पिछले महीने संसद के पुनः खुलने को जनता को सत्ता वापसी बताया, वहीं विश्लेषक इसे सेना के निरंतर शासन को वैध दिखाने के लिए **नागरिक दिखावा** मानते हैं।
- "There is no hope for the country under his presidency. The country will only get worse," said a 50-year-old **Yangon** resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity.
"उनकी अध्यक्षता में देश के लिए कोई उम्मीद नहीं है। देश और खराब होगा," **यांगून** के एक 50 वर्षीय निवासी ने गुमनाम रहने की शर्त पर कहा।
- The pro-military **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)** won more than **80% of parliamentary seats** contested in the phased poll that concluded in January.
सैन्य समर्थक **यूनियन सॉलिडेरिटी एंड डेवलपमेंट पार्टी (USDP)** ने जनवरी में समाप्त हुए चरणबद्ध चुनाव में **80% से अधिक संसदीय सीटें** जीतीं।
- Serving members of the armed forces also occupy **unelected seats** making up a quarter of the total.
सशस्त्र बलों के वर्तमान सदस्य भी **बिना चुनाव वाली सीटों** पर हैं, जो कुल का एक चौथाई हिस्सा हैं।
- Min Aung Hlaing is expected to be sworn in as President next week.
मिन आंग ह्लाइंग के अगले सप्ताह राष्ट्रपति पद की शपथ लेने की उम्मीद है।
- Myanmar's military has ruled the restive Southeast Asian nation for most of its **post-independence history** and presents itself as the only force guarding it from rupture and ruin.
म्यांमार की सेना ने अपने **स्वतंत्रता के बाद के अधिकांश इतिहास** में इस अशांत दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देश पर शासन किया है और खुद को देश को टूटने और बर्बादी से बचाने वाली एकमात्र शक्ति के रूप में प्रस्तुत करती है।

GS Paper III: Economy,

TOPICS COVERED

04 April 2026

04A	Russia expresses readiness to boost oil, LNG supplies to India रूस ने भारत को तेल और LNG आपूर्ति बढ़ाने की तत्परता जताई
04A	Kerala's development decade केरल का विकास दशक
04A	Patented drug tariffs: 'India more or less shielded' पेटेंट दवाओं पर टैरिफ: 'भारत लगभग सुरक्षित'
04A	MSMEs 'reluctant' to switch over to piped natural gas supplies एमएसएमई पाइपड नेचुरल गैस आपूर्ति में बदलाव को लेकर 'अनिच्छुक'



Russia expresses readiness to boost oil, LNG supplies to India

Russian Deputy PM Manturov discusses trade, fertilizers, connectivity, people-to-people ties with Modi; Russia cites 'particular attention' paid to cooperation in sectors like oil, gas; joint project for production of urea under development, says Manturov

GS III: Economy

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Amid the oil shock and supply chain disruptions triggered by the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, Russia has assured that its energy companies have the capacity to "steadily increase" the supply of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India, and also "continue" to address India's fertilizer needs.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, on a two-day visit, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and discussed the supply of fertilizers.

"We discussed our mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, fertilizers, connectivity and people-to-people ties," said Mr. Modi, who "welcomed sustained efforts from both sides" to realise the agreements of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit hosted here in December 2025.

The visit is being seen as part of the preparations by the two sides ahead of the



Narendra Modi interacts with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

upcoming BRICS summit to be hosted by India and the India-Russia annual summit scheduled in Russia this year.

According to the Russian embassy, Mr. Manturov said that Russia has increased supplies of "in-demand mineral fertilizers to India by 40% and is ready to continue meeting India's needs for this product".

He also mentioned that a joint project for the production of carbamide (urea) is "under development". "Particular attention was paid to cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Manturov con-

firmed that Russian companies have the capacity to steadily increase supplies of oil and liquefied natural gas to the Indian market," said the embassy readout.

Mr. Manturov also met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and the leaders discussed continued energy supply to India.

In a press note, the External Affairs Ministry said Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Manturov "exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the conflict in West

India-bound oil heads to China?

CHENNAI

Ping Shun, an Iranian crude oil carrier that had been showing it was heading to India, for three days after crossing the Strait of Hormuz, is heading to China, as per marine logistics and commodity markets analytics firm Kpler. » PAGE 11

Asia." Mr. Manturov said Russia will deepen nuclear cooperation with India. Other topics such as industrial cooperation, space and educational projects were discussed in the meetings.

Mr. Manturov's Delhi visit, which ended on Friday, took place days after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Mr. Jaishankar addressed a conference on bilateral relations through a video link on March 23, during which Mr. Lavrov indicated Russia's preparations for the annual summit.

Mr. Lavrov had expressed Russia's support

for the BRICS where India is the current Chair.

The group has attracted attention in recent weeks as it has not made a statement on the evolving situation in West Asia, though Russia, India and China, who form a trilateral subgroup called RIC, have indicated that they will work closely within BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the UN on issues that affect common interests of the Global South.

This was followed by the March 30 Foreign Office Consultations between India and Russia led by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko.

This week, the Indian side hosted Vladimir Yakushev, First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council (Upper House) of the Federal Assembly of Russia. On Thursday, Mr. Yakushev met Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

04A. Russia expresses readiness to boost oil, LNG supplies to India

रूस ने भारत को तेल और LNG आपूर्ति बढ़ाने की तत्परता जताई

- Russian Deputy PM Manturov discusses trade, fertilizers, connectivity, people-to-people ties with Modi; Russia cites 'particular attention' paid to cooperation in sectors like oil, gas; joint project for production of urea under development, says Manturov
रूसी उप प्रधानमंत्री मंतुरोव ने मोदी के साथ व्यापार, उर्वरक, कनेक्टिविटी और लोगों के बीच संबंधों पर चर्चा की; रूस ने तेल और गैस जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग पर 'विशेष ध्यान' देने की बात कही; यूरिया उत्पादन के लिए संयुक्त परियोजना विकासधीन है, मंतुरोव ने कहा

- Amid the oil shock and supply chain disruptions triggered by the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, Russia has assured that its energy companies have the capacity to "steadily increase" the supply of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India, and also "continue" to address India's fertilizer needs.

अमेरिका-इज़राइल द्वारा ईरान पर युद्ध से उत्पन्न तेल झटके और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला व्यवधानों के बीच, रूस ने आश्वासन दिया है कि उसकी ऊर्जा कंपनियों में भारत को तेल और तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (LNG) की आपूर्ति को "लगातार बढ़ाने" की क्षमता है और भारत की उर्वरक आवश्यकताओं को "जारी रखने" की भी क्षमता है।

- Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, on a two-day visit, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and discussed the supply of fertilizers.

रूसी उप प्रधानमंत्री डेनिस मंतुरोव ने दो दिवसीय यात्रा के दौरान गुरुवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से मुलाकात की और उर्वरकों की आपूर्ति पर चर्चा की।

- "We discussed our mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, fertilizers, connectivity and people-to-people ties," said Mr. Modi, who "welcomed sustained efforts from both sides" to realise the agreements of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit hosted here in December 2025.

"हमने व्यापार, उर्वरक, कनेक्टिविटी और लोगों के बीच संबंधों में पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी सहयोग पर



चर्चा की," श्री मोदी ने कहा, जिन्होंने दिसंबर 2025 में आयोजित **23वें भारत-रूस वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन** के समझौतों को साकार करने के लिए दोनों पक्षों के निरंतर प्रयासों का स्वागत किया।

- The visit is being seen as part of the preparations by the two sides ahead of the upcoming **BRICS summit** to be hosted by India and the India-Russia annual summit scheduled in Russia this year.

इस यात्रा को आगामी **BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन**, जिसकी मेजबानी भारत करेगा, और इस वर्ष रूस में होने वाले भारत-रूस वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन की तैयारियों के हिस्से के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

- According to the Russian embassy, Mr. Manturov said that Russia has increased supplies of "in-demand **mineral fertilizers** to India by **40%** and is ready to continue meeting India's needs for this product".

रूसी दूतावास के अनुसार, श्री मंतुरोव ने कहा कि रूस ने भारत को "मांग में रहने वाले **खनिज उर्वरकों**" की आपूर्ति **40%** बढ़ा दी है और इस उत्पाद के लिए भारत की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए तैयार है।

- He also mentioned that a joint project for the production of **carbamide (urea)** is "under development".

उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि **कार्बामाइड (यूरिया)** के उत्पादन के लिए एक संयुक्त परियोजना "विकासाधीन" है।

- "Particular attention was paid to cooperation in the **oil and gas sector**. Manturov confirmed that Russian companies have the capacity to steadily increase supplies of oil and **liquefied natural gas** to the Indian market," said the embassy readout.

"**तेल और गैस क्षेत्र** में सहयोग पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया। मंतुरोव ने पुष्टि की कि रूसी कंपनियों के पास भारतीय बाजार में तेल और **तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस** की आपूर्ति को लगातार बढ़ाने की क्षमता है," दूतावास के बयान में कहा गया।

- Mr. Manturov also met with External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar**, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval**, and the leaders discussed continued energy supply to India.

श्री मंतुरोव ने विदेश मंत्री **एस. जयशंकर**, वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार **अजीत डोभाल** से भी मुलाकात की और नेताओं ने भारत को निरंतर ऊर्जा आपूर्ति पर चर्चा की।

- In a press note, the External Affairs Ministry said Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Manturov "exchanged views on **regional and global developments**, including the **conflict in West Asia**."

एक प्रेस नोट में विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि श्री जयशंकर और श्री मंतुरोव ने **क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक विकास**, जिसमें **पश्चिम एशिया का संघर्ष** शामिल है, पर विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया।

- Mr. Manturov said Russia will deepen **nuclear cooperation** with India.

श्री मंतुरोव ने कहा कि रूस भारत के साथ **परमाणु सहयोग** को और गहरा करेगा।

- Other topics such as **industrial cooperation, space and educational projects** were discussed in the meetings.

बैठकों में **औद्योगिक सहयोग, अंतरिक्ष और शैक्षिक परियोजनाओं** जैसे अन्य विषयों पर भी चर्चा की गई।

- Mr. Manturov's Delhi visit, which ended on Friday, took place days after Russian Foreign Minister **Sergei Lavrov** and Mr. Jaishankar addressed a conference on bilateral relations through a video link on March 23, during which Mr. Lavrov indicated Russia's preparations for the annual summit.

श्री मंतुरोव की दिल्ली यात्रा, जो शुक्रवार को समाप्त हुई, रूसी विदेश मंत्री **सर्गेई लावरोव** और श्री जयशंकर द्वारा 23 मार्च को वीडियो लिंक के माध्यम से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों पर एक सम्मेलन को संबोधित करने के कुछ दिनों बाद हुई, जिसमें श्री लावरोव ने वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए रूस की तैयारियों का संकेत दिया।

- Mr. Lavrov had expressed Russia's support for the **BRICS** where India is the current Chair.

श्री लावरोव ने **BRICS** के लिए रूस के समर्थन को व्यक्त किया था, जहां भारत वर्तमान अध्यक्ष है।

- The group has attracted attention in recent weeks as it has not made a statement on the evolving situation in **West Asia**, though Russia, India and China, who form a trilateral subgroup called **RIC**, have indicated that they will work closely within **BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the UN** on issues that affect common interests of the **Global South**.

यह समूह हाल के हफ्तों में ध्यान आकर्षित कर रहा है क्योंकि इसने **पश्चिम एशिया** की बदलती स्थिति पर कोई बयान नहीं दिया है, हालांकि रूस, भारत और चीन, जो **RIC** नामक त्रिपक्षीय समूह बनाते हैं, ने संकेत दिया है कि वे **BRICS, शंघाई सहयोग संगठन और संयुक्त राष्ट्र** के भीतर **वैश्विक दक्षिण** के साझा हितों से जुड़े मुद्दों पर मिलकर काम करेंगे।

- This was followed by the March 30 **Foreign Office Consultations** between India and Russia led by Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister **Andrey**



Rudenko.

इसके बाद 30 मार्च को भारत और रूस के बीच विदेश कार्यालय परामर्श हुआ, जिसका नेतृत्व विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री और रूस के उप विदेश मंत्री आंद्रेई रुडेको ने किया।

- This week, the Indian side hosted **Vladimir Yakushev**, First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council (Upper House) of the Federal Assembly of Russia. इस सप्ताह भारतीय पक्ष ने रूस की संघीय सभा के उच्च सदन के प्रथम उपाध्यक्ष व्लादिमीर याकुशेव की मेजबानी की।
- On Thursday, Mr. Yakushev met Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha **Harivansh Narayan Singh** and Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**. गुरुवार को श्री याकुशेव ने राज्यसभा के उपसभापति हरिवंश नारायण सिंह और लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला से मुलाकात की।

Kerala's development decade

SS III Economy

The decade from 2016 to 2026 has been a period of rapid and unprecedented economic development in the State of Kerala. These changes have been achieved despite the financial constraints imposed on the State by the Union Government. Kerala has distinguished itself as the only State to sustain a formal planning process, enabling it to significantly increase capital expenditure from 2017 onwards, contrary to the declining trend observed in 18 major States after the dissolution of the Planning Commission.

Kerala's growth rates are comparable to, and in some years higher than, the national average. Every sector of the economy has been put on a new growth path. The share of budgetary funds designated exclusively for people of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) has consistently exceeded the share of SC/STs in the State. Since 2016, administrative approval for more than 1,200 infrastructure projects has been given for projects financed by the innovative new instrument of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). Local governments are now not only instruments of people's participation but also catalysts of income-growth.

Kerala Bank was created by consolidating district cooperative banks into a single institution – a move that has strengthened financial stability, expanded rural credit, and opened the way for a people-oriented development bank. The heightened role of cooperative establishments can be illustrated with a single standout fact: Kerala is certainly the only State of the Union in which the largest civil construction company is a workers' cooperative.

On education and health

There have been major investments in school infrastructure, teacher development, curriculum renewal, and IT-enabled learning. The State has achieved universal, free elementary education with a zero per cent dropout at the preparatory and middle-school level; the dropout rates among SC/ST students are among India's lowest. Kerala is also India's first fully digital State in school education. In higher and technical education, there have been reforms in governance, curriculum, and institutional structures, along with strong public investment. All these efforts have contributed to improved national rankings for schools, universities, and colleges.

Kerala is internationally recognised for its strong public health performance, with key indicators such as an infant mortality rate of just five per 1,000 live births – better than the United States. Programmes such as the Aardram Mission and Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi have improved the health infrastructure and provided cashless health coverage (up to ₹5 lakh) to over 42 lakh families. The State has expanded services to cover mental health, non-communicable diseases, and e-health. Kerala's handling of the Nipah outbreaks and the COVID-19 pandemic has

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Vice-Chairperson,
Kerala State
Planning Board

demonstrated the strengths of the health system. In November 2025, the Government of Kerala fulfilled a historic promise to the people when it put an end to extreme poverty. The policy on housing for the poor – and the actual modern, safe, comfortable houses built for the poor – has set, as in other fields, new national standards. By February 2026, over five lakh houses were built under the LIFE Mission.

Women in Kerala have attained high levels of educational attainment, and the highest life expectancy in the country. These outcomes reflect sustained investments in education, health care, nutrition, and social security, complemented by pioneering institutional innovations such as Kudumbashree, which has emerged as a globally recognised model for women's collective empowerment, livelihoods, and local economic development. Child health is among the best in India, and the Gender Budget exceeds one-fifth of the Annual Plan outlay.

Social justice

Reflecting plan priorities, the new Elderly Budget, which takes up 19% of the State Budget for 2026-27, mainstreams senior citizens' needs across planning, pensions, health care, and local governance. Over 75% of the elderly are covered by pension schemes. Allocations to schemes for persons with disabilities have more than doubled between 2016 and 2026.

The Public Distribution System (PDS) operates as a near-universal safety net, covering nearly 95 lakh ration card-holding households. The State actively intervenes in markets through its civil supplies network in order to maintain low food-price inflation well below the national average.

Human development gains have been used as a springboard for economic growth. Growth in the primary sectors, in industry, infrastructure, and in modern services (including information technology and tourism) has been unprecedented.

The long-held perception that Kerala is unfriendly to industrial growth has been laid to rest. Industry in Kerala has been placed on a new trajectory, driven by the growth of MSMEs and modern industries, the expansion of industrial infrastructure, higher levels of value addition, a turnaround in the performance of public sector undertakings, and modernisation of traditional sectors.

In 2016, commentators said that Kerala had missed the IT bus. In 2025, however, the Global Startup Ecosystem Report reported a 147% increase in ecosystem value in Kerala. Pioneering initiatives, such as recognising Internet access as a basic right and establishing K-FON, have played a significant role.

In an international context in which workers' rights are being undermined, there has been a continuous effort in Kerala to strengthen labour law in favour of workers, including migrant workers. Kerala's policies are a vital

counter-narrative to the broader trend of deregulation.

Roads remain the backbone of mobility, and major corridor projects like the Hill Highway, alongside rapid four-laning of National Highways have significantly reduced travel time and strengthened east-west and last-mile connectivity. The Kochi Metro is now operating at scale, while the Kochi Water Metro, India's first of its kind, has demonstrated the viability of clean inland water transport. The commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Deep-Water Seaport in 2024 marked a historic milestone. The road transport corporation has stabilised and improved performance. The State achieved full electrification in 2017 and has since maintained uninterrupted power supply, while reducing technical and commercial losses. Total installed capacity expanded by 50%, with solar power emerging as the most dynamic segment.

Kerala has emerged as a national and international reference point in disaster management, demonstrating effectiveness with respect to immediate and decentralised disaster response and long-term recovery. Public investment in culture rose sharply, with allocations for culture, museums, archaeology, and heritage recording a 30% increase in 2026-27. The International Film Festival of Kerala, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, International Theatre Festival of Kerala, and IDSFFK expanded in scale and global reach. Plan outlays for sports rose by nearly 160% between 2016-17 and 2026-27, backed by over ₹3,500 crore for infrastructure, including India's first stadium for persons with disabilities.

Fiscal constraint

Kerala's capacity to finance development is constrained by a structurally imbalanced federal fiscal architecture. This imbalance has been reinforced through multiple channels: the centralisation of taxation under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the withdrawal of assured GST compensation, restrictive borrowing limits, and a growing reliance on conditional and discretionary transfers. The effective share of States in Union tax revenues has been eroded by the expanding use of cesses and surcharges outside the divisible pool, while unconditional Finance Commission transfers have been progressively supplanted by Centrally Sponsored Schemes characterised by rigid design, delays, and partial releases. Together, these developments have weakened the principles of cooperative federalism, reduced fiscal predictability, and narrowed the policy space available to Kerala to sustain public investment alongside their social and development commitments.

Over this decade, the Government of Kerala has sought to create and to present to India and the world a democratic, socially inclusive, participatory, high-growth, and sustainable alternative development policy. That effort must not be permitted to falter.

Despite a structurally discriminatory federal fiscal architecture, it is a journey marked by unprecedented human development gains and economic growth

04A. Kerala's development decade केरल का विकास दशक

- **Kerala Bank** was created by consolidating district cooperative banks into a single institution. केरल बैंक जिला सहकारी बैंकों को मिलाकर एक संस्था के रूप में बनाया गया।



- This strengthened **financial stability**, expanded **rural credit**, and enabled a **people-oriented development bank**.
इससे **वित्तीय स्थिरता**, **ग्रामीण ऋण विस्तार**, और **जन-उन्मुख विकास बैंक** को बढ़ावा मिला।
- **Kerala is the only State where the largest civil construction company is a workers' cooperative**.
केरल एकमात्र राज्य है जहाँ सबसे बड़ी निर्माण कंपनी एक **श्रमिक सहकारी संस्था** है।

On education and health शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य पर

- There have been major investments in **school infrastructure, teacher development, curriculum renewal, and IT-enabled learning**.
स्कूल अवसंरचना, शिक्षक विकास, पाठ्यक्रम सुधार, और आईटी आधारित शिक्षा में बड़े निवेश हुए हैं।
- The **State has achieved universal, free elementary education with zero per cent dropout at preparatory and middle-school level**.
राज्य ने **सार्वभौमिक और निःशुल्क प्राथमिक शिक्षा** हासिल की है, जिसमें **शून्य ड्रॉपआउट दर** है।
- **Dropout rates among SC/ST students are among India's lowest**.
SC/ST छात्रों की ड्रॉपआउट दर भारत में सबसे कम है।
- **Kerala is India's first fully digital State in school education**.
केरल भारत का पहला **पूर्ण डिजिटल स्कूल शिक्षा वाला राज्य** है।
- केरल की **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली** अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त है।
- The **infant mortality rate is just 5 per 1,000 live births**.
शिशु मृत्यु दर केवल **5 प्रति 1,000 जीवित जन्म** है।
- **In November 2025, Kerala ended extreme poverty**.
नवंबर 2025 में केरल ने अत्यधिक गरीबी समाप्त कर दी।
- The housing policy created **modern, safe, comfortable houses** for the poor.
आवास नीति के तहत गरीबों के लिए **आधुनिक, सुरक्षित और आरामदायक घर** बनाए गए।
- By **February 2026, over five lakh houses were built under the LIFE Mission**.
फरवरी 2026 तक LIFE मिशन के तहत 5 लाख से अधिक घर बनाए गए।
- Women in Kerala have attained high levels of **educational attainment** and the highest **life expectancy** in the country.
केरल की महिलाओं ने उच्च स्तर की **शैक्षिक उपलब्धि** और देश में सबसे अधिक **आयु प्रत्याशा** हासिल की है।
- These outcomes reflect sustained investments in **education, health care, nutrition, and social security**.
ये परिणाम **शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, पोषण और सामाजिक सुरक्षा** में निरंतर निवेश को दर्शाते हैं।
- These are complemented by innovations such as **Kudumbashree**.
इन्हें **कुडुम्बश्री** जैसी संस्थागत नवाचारों द्वारा मजबूत किया गया है।
- **Kudumbashree is a globally recognised model for women's empowerment, livelihoods, and local economic development**.
कुडुम्बश्री महिला सशक्तिकरण, आजीविका और स्थानीय आर्थिक विकास का वैश्विक मॉडल है।
- **Child health** in Kerala is among the best in India.
केरल में **बाल स्वास्थ्य** भारत में सबसे बेहतर है।
- The **Gender Budget exceeds one-fifth of the Annual Plan outlay**.
जेंडर बजट वार्षिक योजना व्यय का **एक-पाँचवां से अधिक** है।

Social justice सामाजिक न्याय

- The new **Elderly Budget takes up 19% of the State Budget (2026-27)**.
नया **वृद्ध बजट** राज्य बजट का **19% (2026-27)** है।
- It mainstreams senior citizens' needs in **planning, pensions, health care, and governance**.
यह वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की जरूरतों को **योजना, पेंशन, स्वास्थ्य सेवा और शासन** में शामिल करता है।
- **Over 75% of the elderly are covered by pension schemes**.
75% से अधिक बुजुर्ग पेंशन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत आते हैं।



- **Allocations for persons with disabilities have more than doubled (2016–2026).**
दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए आवंटन 2016–2026 के बीच दोगुने से अधिक हो गए हैं।
- **The Public Distribution System (PDS) covers nearly 95 lakh households.**
सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) लगभग 95 लाख परिवारों को कवर करती है।
- **The State intervenes to maintain low food-price inflation below the national average.**
राज्य खाद्य मूल्य मुद्रास्फीति को राष्ट्रीय औसत से नीचे बनाए रखने के लिए हस्तक्षेप करता है।
- **Human development gains have driven economic growth.**
मानव विकास की उपलब्धियों ने आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा दिया है।
- **Growth in primary sector, industry, infrastructure, and modern services has been unprecedented.**
प्राथमिक क्षेत्र, उद्योग, अवसंरचना और आधुनिक सेवाओं में अभूतपूर्व वृद्धि हुई है।
- **The perception that Kerala is unfriendly to industry has been laid to rest.**
केरल के उद्योग-विरोधी होने की धारणा समाप्त हो गई है।
- **Industry growth is driven by MSMEs, modern industries, infrastructure expansion, value addition, and PSU turnaround.**
उद्योग वृद्धि MSMEs, आधुनिक उद्योग, अवसंरचना विस्तार, मूल्य संवर्धन और सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के सुधार से संचालित है।
- **In 2016, Kerala was said to have missed the IT bus.**
2016 में कहा गया था कि केरल आईटी क्षेत्र में पीछे रह गया है।
- **In 2025, the Global Startup Ecosystem Report recorded a 147% increase in ecosystem value.**
2025 में ग्लोबल स्टार्टअप रिपोर्ट ने 147% वृद्धि दर्ज की।
- **Initiatives like Internet as a basic right and K-FON played a key role.**
इंटरनेट को मौलिक अधिकार और K-FON जैसी पहलों ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- **Kerala has strengthened labour laws in favour of workers, including migrant workers.**
केरल ने श्रम कानूनों को मजबूत किया है, जिसमें प्रवासी श्रमिक भी शामिल हैं।
- **These policies act as a counter-narrative to deregulation trends globally.**
ये नीतियाँ वैश्विक नियमन हटाने की प्रवृत्ति के खिलाफ एक वैकल्पिक दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत करती हैं।
- **Roads remain the backbone of mobility, and major corridor projects like the Hill Highway have strengthened connectivity.**
सड़कें परिवहन की रीढ़ बनी हुई हैं, और हिल हाईवे जैसे प्रमुख कॉरिडोर परियोजनाओं ने कनेक्टिविटी मजबूत की है।
- **Rapid four-laning of National Highways has reduced travel time.**
राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के चौड़ीकरण ने यात्रा समय को कम किया है।
- **It has improved east-west and last-mile connectivity.**
इससे पूर्व-पश्चिम और लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी बेहतर हुई है।
- **The Kochi Metro is now operating at scale.**
कोच्चि मेट्रो अब बड़े स्तर पर संचालित हो रही है।
- **The Kochi Water Metro, India's first of its kind, has proven clean inland water transport viability.**
कोच्चि वाटर मेट्रो, भारत की पहली, ने स्वच्छ अंतर्देशीय जल परिवहन की उपयोगिता साबित की है।
- **The Vizhinjam International Deep-Water Seaport (2024) marked a historic milestone.**
विज़िनजम अंतरराष्ट्रीय गहरे जल बंदरगाह (2024) एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि रहा।
- **The road transport corporation has stabilised and improved performance.**
राज्य परिवहन निगम ने स्थिरता और प्रदर्शन में सुधार किया है।
- **Kerala achieved full electrification in 2017 and maintains uninterrupted power supply.**
केरल ने 2017 में पूर्ण विद्युतीकरण हासिल किया और निरंतर बिजली आपूर्ति बनाए रखी।
- **It has reduced technical and commercial losses.**
तकनीकी और वाणिज्यिक नुकसान कम किए गए हैं।
- **Total installed capacity expanded by 50%, with solar power growing rapidly.**
कुल स्थापित क्षमता में 50% वृद्धि हुई, जिसमें सौर ऊर्जा तेजी से बढ़ी।
- **Kerala is a national and international model in disaster management.**
केरल आपदा प्रबंधन में राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मॉडल बन गया है।
- **It has shown effectiveness in decentralised response and long-term recovery.**
इसने विकेन्द्रीकृत प्रतिक्रिया और दीर्घकालिक पुनर्वास में प्रभावशीलता दिखाई है।



- Public investment in **culture** increased sharply.
संस्कृति में सार्वजनिक निवेश तेजी से बढ़ा है।
- Allocations for culture, museums, archaeology, and heritage rose by **30% (2026–27)**.
संस्कृति, संग्रहालय, पुरातत्व और विरासत के लिए आवंटन में **30% (2026–27)** वृद्धि हुई।
- Events like **IFFK, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, ITFoK, IDSFFK** expanded globally.
IFFK, कोच्चि-मुज़िरिस बिनाले, ITFoK, IDSFFK जैसे कार्यक्रम वैश्विक स्तर पर विस्तारित हुए।
- Plan outlays for sports rose by nearly **160% (2016-17 to 2026-27)**.
खेलों के लिए योजना व्यय में लगभग **160% वृद्धि (2016-17 से 2026-27)** हुई।
- Over **₹3,500 crore** was invested in sports infrastructure.
खेल अवसंरचना में **₹3,500 करोड़ से अधिक** निवेश किया गया।
- India's first stadium for **persons with disabilities** was built.
दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए भारत का पहला स्टेडियम बनाया गया।

Fiscal constraint वित्तीय बाधाएँ

- Kerala's development is constrained by an imbalanced **federal fiscal architecture**.
केरल का विकास असंतुलित **संघीय वित्तीय संरचना** से बाधित है।
- The **GST system has led to centralisation of taxation**.
GST प्रणाली ने कराधान का केंद्रीकरण किया है।
- **Withdrawal of GST compensation has affected finances**.
GST क्षतिपूर्ति हटने से वित्तीय प्रभाव पड़ा है।
- **Restrictive borrowing limits have constrained spending**.
उधारी की सीमाएँ खर्च को सीमित करती हैं।
- **Increasing reliance on conditional transfers reduces flexibility**.
शर्त आधारित हस्तांतरण पर निर्भरता लचीलापन कम करती है।
- States' share in Union taxes is reduced due to **cesses and surcharges**.
सेस और अधिभार के कारण राज्यों का हिस्सा घटा है।
- **Finance Commission transfers are replaced by rigid Centrally Sponsored Schemes**.
वित्त आयोग हस्तांतरण की जगह कठोर **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाएँ** ले रही हैं।
- **These schemes face delays and partial releases**.
इन योजनाओं में **देरी और आंशिक फंड जारी** होते हैं।
- **These developments weaken cooperative federalism**.
ये विकास **सहकारी संघवाद** को कमजोर करते हैं।
- **They reduce fiscal predictability and policy space**.
ये **वित्तीय पूर्वानुमेयता** और नीति क्षेत्र को सीमित करते हैं।

Patented drug tariffs: 'India more or less shielded'

GS III: Economy
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India is unlikely to be significantly impacted by U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of 100% tariffs on certain patented drugs, as the country primarily exports low-cost generic medicines to America, think tank GTRI said.

Mr. Trump signed an executive order on April 2, announcing the imposition of a 100% ad valorem duty on the import of certain patented pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients.

The order builds on a Section 232 investigation launched on May 1, 2025, which cited national security risks from dependence on foreign drug supplies.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the move has left "India largely protected, given its dominance in low-cost generic drug exports to the U.S." In 2025, India exported \$9.7 billion pharmaceuticals to the U.S.

04A. Patented drug tariffs: 'India more or less shielded' पेटेंट दवाओं पर टैरिफ: 'भारत लगभग सुरक्षित'

• India is unlikely to be significantly impacted by U.S. President **Donald Trump's** announcement of **100% tariffs** on certain **patented drugs**, as the country primarily exports low-cost **generic medicines** to America, think tank **GTRI** said.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** द्वारा कुछ **पेटेंट दवाओं** पर **100% टैरिफ** लगाने की घोषणा से भारत पर अधिक प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना नहीं है, क्योंकि देश मुख्य रूप से अमेरिका को कम लागत वाली **जेनेरिक दवाएँ** निर्यात करता है, थिंक टैंक **GTRI** ने कहा।

• Mr. Trump signed an **executive order** on April 2, announcing the imposition of a **100% ad valorem duty** on the import of certain patented pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients.

श्री ट्रंप ने 2 अप्रैल को एक **कार्यकारी आदेश** पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसमें कुछ पेटेंट फार्मास्यूटिकल्स और संबंधित घटकों के आयात पर **100% एड वेलोरम शुल्क** लगाने की घोषणा की गई।



- The order builds on a **Section 232 investigation** launched on May 1, 2025, which cited **national security risks** from dependence on foreign drug supplies.
यह आदेश 1 मई 2025 को शुरू की गई धारा 232 जांच पर आधारित है, जिसमें विदेशी दवा आपूर्ति पर निर्भरता से उत्पन्न राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा जोखिमों का उल्लेख किया गया था।
- The **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)** said the move has left “India largely protected, given its dominance in low-cost generic drug exports to the U.S.”
ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव (GTRI) ने कहा कि इस कदम से “भारत काफी हद तक सुरक्षित है, क्योंकि वह अमेरिका को कम लागत वाली जेनेरिक दवाओं के निर्यात में प्रमुख है।”
- In **2025**, India exported **\$9.7 billion pharmaceuticals** to the U.S.
2025 में, भारत ने अमेरिका को **9.7 अरब डॉलर की फार्मास्यूटिकल्स** का निर्यात किया।

MSMEs ‘reluctant’ to switch over to piped natural gas supplies

Industry officials point to deficiency in PNG supply post war breakout and also infrastructure insufficiencies for hesitation to switch fuels

GS III: Economy
M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs) in the manufacturing sector have expressed fears about switching over to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) from commercial LPG cylinders.

The 1.65 crore registered MSMEs are located in multiple clusters across the country and some of the States have PNG for these clusters for decades.

Sunil Desai, who runs a MSME in Vadodara, said units in Vadodara have been having PNG supply for almost 40 years now.

‘No supply guarantee’
“Yet, there is 20% to 50% reduction in supply because of the war. So, what is the guarantee on the consistency of supply for the MSMEs,” he asks.

The calorific value of PNG is a tad lower than LPG. So, industries opting for PNG should have the technical knowledge on the gas supply they are going to choose, he adds.

Anil Bhardwaj, secretary general of the Federation of Indian MSMEs, said the MSMEs were unhappy with the government’s decision asking commercial LPG cylinder customers to



ifs and butts: The calorific value of PNG is a tad lower than LPG, according to officials of some MSMEs. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Many MSMEs shift jobs such as welding to different sites and need cylinders for the purpose

register for PNG to get the additional LPG supply.

Lack infrastructure
“Not all areas of an industrial city have PNG infrastructure. Providing this will take time. The MSMEs should have the option of both, LPG and PNG. Though the units may have to make investments internally to change equipment for PNG use, what is worrying them more is the lack of PNG infrastructure, especially in the NCR and Tamil Nadu,” he added.

President of the Coim-

batore District Small Industries Association, M. Karthikeyan, said it will not be economically viable for micro industries to switch over to PNG as they will have to spend on infrastructure. Also, many units work out of rented premises.

Sudhakar Sundaravel, national head of the SME domain of the All India Professionals’ Congress, said MSMEs were not confined to a defined area.

“The concept maybe good and the industries may be willing. But, do we have the infrastructure? And when it is done in a hurry, how do we ensure safety standards?” he asks.

Many MSMEs shift jobs such as welding to different sites and need cylinders that can be carried for such jobs, he pointed out.

04A. MSMEs ‘reluctant’ to switch over to piped natural gas supplies एमएसएमई पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस आपूर्ति में बदलाव को लेकर ‘अनिच्छुक’

• Industry officials point to deficiency in PNG supply post war breakout and also infrastructure insufficiencies for hesitation to switch fuels.

उद्योग के अधिकारी युद्ध के बाद PNG आपूर्ति में कमी और बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी को ईंधन बदलने में हिचकिचाहट का कारण बताते हैं।

• The **Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs)** in the manufacturing sector have expressed fears about switching over to **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** from commercial **LPG cylinders**.
विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (MSMEs) ने व्यावसायिक **LPG सिलेंडरों** से **पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस (PNG)** में बदलाव को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है।

• The **1.65 crore registered MSMEs** are located in multiple clusters across the country and some of the States have had PNG for these clusters for decades.

देशभर में फैले विभिन्न क्लस्टरों में स्थित **1.65 करोड़ पंजीकृत MSMEs** हैं और कुछ राज्यों में इन क्लस्टरों के लिए दशकों से PNG उपलब्ध है।

• **Sunil Desai**, who runs a MSME in **Vadodara**, said units in Vadodara have been having PNG supply for almost 40 years now.
वडोदरा में MSME चलाने वाले **सुनील देसाई** ने कहा कि वडोदरा की इकाइयों को लगभग 40 वर्षों से PNG आपूर्ति मिल रही है।

‘No supply guarantee’
‘आपूर्ति की कोई गारंटी नहीं’

- “Yet, there is a **20% to 50% reduction in supply** because of the war. So, what is the guarantee on the consistency of supply for the MSMEs,” he asks.
“फिर भी युद्ध के कारण आपूर्ति में **20% से 50% की कमी** आई है। तो MSMEs के लिए आपूर्ति की निरंतरता की क्या गारंटी है,” वे पूछते हैं।
- The **calorific value of PNG** is a tad lower than LPG.
PNG का ऊष्मीय मान (कैलोरीफिक वैल्यू) LPG से थोड़ा कम होता है।



- So, industries opting for PNG should have the **technical knowledge** on the gas supply they are going to choose, he adds.
इसलिए PNG अपनाने वाले उद्योगों के पास चुनी जाने वाली गैस आपूर्ति के बारे में **तकनीकी ज्ञान** होना चाहिए, वे जोड़ते हैं।
- **Anil Bhardwaj**, secretary general of the **Federation of Indian MSMEs**, said the MSMEs were unhappy with the government's decision asking commercial LPG cylinder customers to register for PNG to get the additional LPG supply.
फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन MSMEs के महासचिव **अनिल भारद्वाज** ने कहा कि MSMEs सरकार के उस निर्णय से नाखुश हैं जिसमें व्यावसायिक LPG उपभोक्ताओं को अतिरिक्त LPG आपूर्ति पाने के लिए PNG के लिए पंजीकरण करने को कहा गया है।

Lack infrastructure बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी

- "Not all areas of an industrial city have PNG infrastructure.
"किसी औद्योगिक शहर के सभी क्षेत्रों में PNG बुनियादी ढांचा नहीं है।
- Providing this will take time.
इसे उपलब्ध कराने में समय लगेगा।
- The MSMEs should have the option of both, **LPG and PNG**.
MSMEs के पास **LPG और PNG** दोनों का विकल्प होना चाहिए।
- Though the units may have to make investments internally to change equipment for PNG use, what is worrying them more is the lack of **PNG infrastructure**, especially in the **NCR and Tamil Nadu**," he added.
हालांकि इकाइयों को PNG उपयोग के लिए उपकरण बदलने में आंतरिक निवेश करना पड़ सकता है, लेकिन उन्हें अधिक चिंता **PNG बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी**, विशेषकर **NCR और तमिलनाडु** में, की है," उन्होंने कहा।
- President of the **Coimbatore District Small Industries Association**, **M. Karthikeyan**, said it will not be economically viable for micro industries to switch over to PNG as they will have to spend on infrastructure.
कोयंबटूर जिला लघु उद्योग संघ के अध्यक्ष **एम. कार्तिकेयन** ने कहा कि सूक्ष्म उद्योगों के लिए PNG में बदलाव आर्थिक रूप से व्यवहार्य नहीं होगा क्योंकि उन्हें बुनियादी ढांचे पर खर्च करना पड़ेगा।
- Also, many units work out of rented premises.
साथ ही, कई इकाइयां किराए के परिसरों में काम करती हैं।
- **Sudhakar Sundaravel**, national head of the SME domain of the **All India Professionals' Congress**, said MSMEs were not confined to a defined area.
ऑल इंडिया प्रोफेशनल्स कांग्रेस के SME डोमेन के राष्ट्रीय प्रमुख **सुधाकर सुंदरवेल** ने कहा कि MSMEs किसी निश्चित क्षेत्र तक सीमित नहीं हैं।
- "The concept maybe good and the industries may be willing.
"यह अवधारणा अच्छी हो सकती है और उद्योग तैयार भी हो सकते हैं।
- But, do we have the infrastructure?
लेकिन क्या हमारे पास बुनियादी ढांचा है?
- And when it is done in a hurry, how do we ensure **safety standards**?" he asks.
और जब इसे जल्दबाजी में किया जाता है, तो हम **सुरक्षा मानकों** को कैसे सुनिश्चित करेंगे?" वे पूछते हैं।
- Many MSMEs shift jobs such as **welding** to different sites and need cylinders that can be carried for such jobs, he pointed out.
उन्होंने बताया कि कई MSMEs **वेल्डिंग** जैसे कार्यों को विभिन्न स्थानों पर स्थानांतरित करते हैं और ऐसे कार्यों के लिए उन्हें ले जाने योग्य सिलेंडरों की आवश्यकता होती है।

GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	04 April 2026
04A	'Mounjaro brides': weight loss jobs are part of pre-wedding preparation 'मौनजारो ब्राइड्स': शादी से पहले की तैयारी में वजन घटाने के इंजेक्शन शामिल
04A	Beyond enrichment: mapping Iran's potential sprint to a nuclear bomb



संवर्धन से आगे: परमाणु बम की ओर ईरान की संभावित तेज़ प्रगति का मानचित्रण

‘Mounjaro brides’: weight loss jabs are part of pre-wedding preparation

CS III: S&T

Reuters
HYDERABAD

Soon-to-be brides and grooms seeking shortcuts to shed pounds before the big day have become the latest consumer target for weight-loss drugs in India.

New Delhi wellness clinic Klarity Skin Clinic touts a “Mounjaro bride” package, while other clinics have woven weight-loss injections into “pre-wedding” transformation packages typically focused on skin treatments and hairstyle makeovers.

In a social media video, Klarity offers “guided nutrition, Mounjaro and smart workouts” to prepare brides to walk down the aisle. The clinic did not respond to a request for comment.

Eight doctors interviewed by Reuters said they have been fielding inquiries from brides, and some grooms, about taking weight-loss drugs before taking their vows. Many asked for Eli Lilly’s Mounjaro, the first GLP-1 medication to enter India’s market for both diabetes and weight loss. It has become more sought after than Novo Nordisk’s rival Wegovy, the doctors said.

“Over the last few months, over 20% of the queries we’ve received for obesity injections are from to-be brides, who also openly give us a timeline on how soon they are getting married,” said Rajat



Quick fix: Dr. Swati Pradhan displays a Mounjaro injection used for weight loss procedures at a clinic in Mumbai. REUTERS

Goel, a bariatric surgeon at Hindivine Healthcare in New Delhi.

He said he prescribed the drugs only if patients were medically eligible, not for cosmetic use.

Societal pressure

Weddings in India are grand affairs for families that can afford them, with culture and tradition exerting a strong influence. Many marriages continue to be arranged by families, often bringing expectations around physical appearance and financial status.

Aditi, a 26-year-old finance worker from Mumbai, consulted a doctor in November for a weight-loss prescription after exercise and diet failed to get the desired results.

“When I see the result, I feel happy,” Aditi said about losing 10 kilograms (22 pounds) on Mounjaro before her February wedding. “If I am not happy, I don’t feel confident. I did

not want to feel that way at the time of the wedding.”

She is one of the half a dozen brides, and one groom, who spoke to Reuters about pre-wedding use of weight-loss drugs, but asked not to use their family names due to social stigmas. They cited societal pressure to look a “certain way” at their wedding and most had discontinued the injections soon after.

Huge market

Novo and Lilly launched obesity drugs in India last year. The market is forecast to reach ₹80 billion (\$851.79million) by 2030. Mounjaro sales doubled in the months after launch, making it the highest-selling drug in the world’s most populous nation. Indian drugmakers began selling cheaper versions of Novo’s drug last month after patent on semaglutide, its active ingredient, expired, boosting access.

The drugs are intended

for adults classified as obese, or for those considered overweight with a weight-related medical condition such as diabetes, hypertension or sleep apnea.

“Mounjaro has been approved by regulators for specific medical indications and is intended to be used only under the supervision of a qualified health-care professional,” Lilly said in a statement.

The lowest Mounjaro injection pen dose sells for ₹13,125 (\$139.50) per month in India, while the highest dose costs 25,781 rupees.

Novo, which this week cut prices of Ozempic and Wegovy for the second time, is selling the lowest Wegovy dose for ₹5,660 (\$60.90) and the highest for ₹16,400 a month.

Novo said it discourages any form of self-medication of semaglutide or deviation from the indicated use on label.

India could have more than 440 million overweight or obese people by 2050, one of the world’s highest totals, according to The Lancet.

With local drugmakers flooding the market with cheaper weight-loss medicines, India’s drugs regulator raised concerns about misuse. “We understand the curiosity, but this cannot be a quick fix,” said Dr. Swati Pradhan, founder of obesity and metabolic wellness clinic Live Light.

04A. ‘Mounjaro brides’: weight loss jabs are part of pre-wedding preparation ‘मौनजारो ब्राइड्स’: शादी से पहले की तैयारी में वजन घटाने के इंजेक्शन शामिल

- Soon-to-be brides and grooms seeking shortcuts to shed pounds before the big day have become the latest consumer target for **weight-loss drugs** in India.
शादी से पहले जल्दी वजन घटाने के लिए शॉर्टकट तलाश रहे होने वाले दूल्हा-दुल्हन भारत में **वजन घटाने वाली दवाओं** के नए उपभोक्ता बन गए हैं।
- New Delhi wellness clinic **Klarity Skin Clinic** touts a “**Mounjaro bride**” package, while other clinics have woven weight-loss injections into “pre-wedding” transformation packages typically focused on skin treatments and hairstyle makeovers.
नई दिल्ली की वेलनेस क्लिनिक **क्लैरिटी स्किन क्लिनिक** “**मौनजारो ब्राइड**” पैकेज का प्रचार करती है,



जबकि अन्य क्लिनिक वजन घटाने के इंजेक्शन को “प्री-वेडिंग” ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन पैकेज में शामिल कर रहे हैं, जो आमतौर पर त्वचा उपचार और हेयरस्टाइल मेकओवर पर केंद्रित होते हैं।

- In a social media video, Klarity offers “**guided nutrition, Mounjaro and smart workouts**” to prepare brides to walk down the aisle.
एक सोशल मीडिया वीडियो में, क्लैरिटी दुल्हनों को तैयार करने के लिए “**गाइडेड न्यूट्रिशन, मौनजारो और स्मार्ट वर्कआउट्स**” की पेशकश करती है।
- The clinic did not respond to a request for comment.
क्लिनिक ने टिप्पणी के अनुरोध का जवाब नहीं दिया।
- Eight doctors interviewed by Reuters said they have been fielding inquiries from brides, and some grooms, about taking weight-loss drugs before taking their vows.
रॉयटर्स द्वारा साक्षात्कार किए गए आठ डॉक्टरों ने कहा कि उन्हें दुल्हनों और कुछ दूल्हों से शादी से पहले वजन घटाने वाली दवाएं लेने के बारे में पूछताछ मिल रही है।
- Many asked for **Eli Lilly’s Mounjaro**, the first **GLP-1 medication** to enter India’s market for both diabetes and weight loss.
कई लोगों ने **एली लिली की मौनजारो** के बारे में पूछा, जो भारत में मधुमेह और वजन घटाने दोनों के लिए पहली **GLP-1 दवा** है।
- It has become more sought after than **Novo Nordisk’s Wegovy**, the doctors said.
डॉक्टरों ने कहा कि यह **नोवो नॉर्डिस्क की वेगोवी** से अधिक लोकप्रिय हो गई है।
- “Over the last few months, over 20% of the queries we’ve received for **obesity injections** are from to-be brides, who also openly give us a timeline on how soon they are getting married,” said **Rajat Goel**, a bariatric surgeon at **Hindivine Healthcare** in New Delhi.
नई दिल्ली के **हिंदिवाइन हेल्थकेयर** के बैरियाट्रिक सर्जन **रजत गोयल** ने कहा, “पिछले कुछ महीनों में, हमें **मोटापा इंजेक्शन** के लिए मिली 20% से अधिक पूछताछ होने वाली दुल्हनों से आई है, जो हमें खुलकर बताती हैं कि उनकी शादी कितनी जल्द होने वाली है।”
- He said he prescribed the drugs only if patients were medically eligible, not for cosmetic use.
उन्होंने कहा कि वे दवाएं केवल तभी देते हैं जब मरीज चिकित्सकीय रूप से योग्य होते हैं, न कि सौंदर्य उपयोग के लिए।

Societal pressure सामाजिक दबाव

- Weddings in India are grand affairs for families that can afford them, with culture and tradition exerting a strong influence.
भारत में शादियां उन परिवारों के लिए भव्य आयोजन होती हैं जो इसे वहन कर सकते हैं, जहां संस्कृति और परंपरा का गहरा प्रभाव होता है।
- Many marriages continue to be arranged by families, often bringing expectations around **physical appearance and financial status**.
कई शादियां अभी भी परिवारों द्वारा तय की जाती हैं, जिससे अक्सर **शारीरिक रूप और आर्थिक स्थिति** से जुड़ी अपेक्षाएं उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- **Aditi**, a 26-year-old finance worker from **Mumbai**, consulted a doctor in November for a weight-loss prescription after exercise and diet failed to get the desired results.
मुंबई की 26 वर्षीय फाइनेंस कर्मचारी **अदिति** ने नवंबर में वजन घटाने के लिए डॉक्टर से परामर्श लिया, जब व्यायाम और डाइट से इच्छित परिणाम नहीं मिले।
- “When I see the result, I feel happy,” Aditi said about losing **10 kilograms (22 pounds)** on **Mounjaro** before her February wedding.
“जब मैं परिणाम देखती हूँ, तो मुझे खुशी होती है,” अदिति ने फरवरी में अपनी शादी से पहले **मौनजारो** से **10 किलोग्राम (22 पाउंड)** वजन कम करने के बारे में कहा।
- “If I am not happy, I don’t feel confident.
“अगर मैं खुश नहीं हूँ, तो मुझे आत्मविश्वास नहीं महसूस होता।
- I did not want to feel that way at the time of the wedding.”
मैं शादी के समय ऐसा महसूस नहीं करना चाहती थी।”
- She is one of the half a dozen brides, and one groom, who spoke to Reuters about pre-wedding use of weight-loss drugs, but asked not to use their family names due to **social stigmas**.
वह उन आधा दर्जन दुल्हनों और एक दूल्हे में से एक हैं जिन्होंने शादी से पहले वजन घटाने वाली दवाओं के



उपयोग पर रॉयटर्स से बात की, लेकिन सामाजिक कलंक के कारण अपने परिवार का नाम उजागर नहीं करना चाहता।

- They cited societal pressure to look a “certain way” at their wedding and most had discontinued the injections soon after.
उन्होंने शादी में “एक निश्चित तरीके” से दिखने के लिए सामाजिक दबाव का उल्लेख किया और अधिकांश ने जल्द ही इंजेक्शन लेना बंद कर दिया।

Huge market विशाल बाजार

- Novo and Lilly launched **obesity drugs** in India last year.
नोवो और लिली ने पिछले साल भारत में **मोटापा दवाएं** लॉन्च कीं।
- The market is forecast to reach **₹80 billion (\$851.79 million) by 2030**.
इस बाजार के **2030 तक ₹80 अरब (\$851.79 मिलियन)** तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है।
- **Mounjaro sales doubled** in the months after launch, making it the highest-selling drug in the world’s most populous nation.
लॉन्च के बाद के महीनों में **मौनजारो की बिक्री दोगुनी हो गई**, जिससे यह दुनिया के सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या वाले देश में सबसे अधिक बिकने वाली दवा बन गई।
- Indian drugmakers began selling cheaper versions of Novo’s drug last month after patent on **semaglutide**, its active ingredient, expired, boosting access.
भारतीय दवा निर्माताओं ने पिछले महीने **सेमाग्लूटाइड** (इसके सक्रिय घटक) के पेटेंट समाप्त होने के बाद नोवो की दवा के सस्ते संस्करण बेचना शुरू किया, जिससे पहुंच बढ़ी।
- The drugs are intended for adults classified as **obese**, or for those considered overweight with a weight-related medical condition such as **diabetes, hypertension or sleep apnea**.
ये दवाएं **मोटापे से ग्रस्त** वयस्कों या उन लोगों के लिए हैं जिन्हें वजन से संबंधित चिकित्सीय समस्याएं जैसे **मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप या स्लीप एपनिया** है।
- “Mounjaro has been approved by regulators for specific **medical indications** and is intended to be used only under the supervision of a **qualified healthcare professional**,” Lilly said in a statement.
लिली ने एक बयान में कहा, “मौनजारो को नियामकों द्वारा विशेष **चिकित्सीय उद्देश्यों** के लिए मंजूरी दी गई है और इसका उपयोग केवल **योग्य स्वास्थ्य पेशेवर** की निगरानी में किया जाना चाहिए।”
- The lowest Mounjaro injection pen dose sells for **₹13,125 (\$139.50) per month** in India, while the highest dose costs **₹25,781**.
भारत में मौनजारो इंजेक्शन की सबसे कम खुराक **₹13,125 (\$139.50) प्रति माह** में बिकती है, जबकि उच्चतम खुराक की कीमत **₹25,781** है।
- Novo, which this week cut prices of **Ozempic and Wegovy** for the second time, is selling the lowest Wegovy dose for **₹5,660 (\$60.90)** and the highest for **₹16,400 a month**.
नोवो, जिसने इस सप्ताह दूसरी बार **ओजेम्पिक और वेगोवी** की कीमतें घटाईं, वेगोवी की सबसे कम खुराक **₹5,660 (\$60.90)** और उच्चतम **₹16,400 प्रति माह** में बेच रहा है।
- Novo said it discourages any form of **self-medication of semaglutide** or deviation from the indicated use on label.
नोवो ने कहा कि वह **सेमाग्लूटाइड की स्वयं-चिकित्सा** या निर्धारित उपयोग से किसी भी प्रकार के विचलन को हतोत्साहित करता है।
- India could have more than **440 million overweight or obese people by 2050**, one of the world’s highest totals, according to **The Lancet**.
द लैंसेट के अनुसार, 2050 तक भारत में **440 मिलियन से अधिक अधिक वजन या मोटापे से ग्रस्त लोग** हो सकते हैं, जो दुनिया में सबसे अधिक में से एक होगा।
- With local drugmakers flooding the market with cheaper weight-loss medicines, India’s drugs regulator raised concerns about **misuse**.
स्थानीय दवा निर्माताओं द्वारा सस्ती वजन घटाने वाली दवाओं की भरमार के साथ, भारत के दवा नियामक ने **दुरुपयोग** को लेकर चिंता जताई।
- “We understand the curiosity, but this cannot be a quick fix,” said **Dr. Swati Pradhan**, founder of obesity and metabolic wellness clinic **Live Light**.
लाइव लाइट मोटापा और मेटाबोलिक वेलनेस क्लिनिक की संस्थापक **डॉ. स्वाति प्रधान** ने कहा, “हम जिज्ञासा को समझते हैं, लेकिन यह कोई त्वरित समाधान नहीं हो सकता।”



Beyond enrichment: mapping Iran's potential sprint to a nuclear bomb

CS.MI.S&T
NEWS ANALYSIS

Vasudevan Mukunth

Iran is expected to have around 500 kg of uranium enriched to 60%. U-235 is the uranium isotope used in nuclear weapons. Enrichment is the process of increasing the quantity of U-235 in the uranium mass. The rest will be U-238, which is a less efficient fissile material.

A nuclear weapon needs uranium to be enriched to 90%.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has estimated Iran could produce 25 kg for one atom bomb in under 10 days.

Both in June 2025 and in

the ongoing war, the U.S. and Israel attacked Natanz and Isfahan – two cities known to host facilities central to Iran's nuclear programme. However, it is not clear how many centrifuges, the devices that enrich uranium, were destroyed. Details of damages to other equipment have also been muddled.

Once uranium is enriched to 90%, the uranium hexafluoride gas used during enrichment needs to be purified and turned into a metal. This is generally expected to take a few weeks, although more modern technologies are known to complete it in six hours. Iran may already possess them; if it doesn't, setting them up could take a few months. Other equip-

ment include a cyclone separator, steel containers, and induction furnaces plus a space the size of a "large closet".

The latter are the words of Theodore Postol, professor emeritus of science, technology, and international security at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), as spoken in an interview on YouTube.

Ideally, personnel handle the uranium through secure gloveboxes, and the facility will have high-grade filters and scrubbers to reduce exposure to toxic substances.

The next step is to weaponise the uranium. While the IAEA has estimated this could take up to two years, Prof. Postol argued that if



Critical site: A satellite image taken last month shows the Natanz Nuclear Facility in Isfahan province, in central Iran. AFP

Iran is ready with the necessary equipment and processes, it could weaponise uranium "within weeks". To this end, again in ideal conditions, skilled personnel will need CNC machine tools, two-axis lathes, vacuum furnaces,

and isostatic presses. According to Prof. Postol, these and other requisite operations would be "doable in a tunnel with just a few hundreds of square metres of floor space".

If Iran has enough centrifuges to enrich 25 kg of

uranium from 60% to 90% in two weeks, has mastered weaponisation, and has pre-stashed the equipment, it could have a bomb in 3-5 weeks. But if Iran's position is like that of a new nuclear power, it could take more than a year.

Nuclear-capable state

Importantly, as Prof. Postol said, if Israel strikes Iran with a nuclear weapon, there is no difference between whether Iran responds in a matter of months or days. The point is that it's a nuclear-capable state and, given enough time, could wreak nuclear havoc in return.

Iran could also skip further enrichment and use it directly to build a nuclear

warhead. It will just take more fissile material: around 40 kg has been shown to suffice for a weapon with a kilotonne yield.

Prof. Postol also said Iran could deliver the bomb without having to test it first if it uses the gun-type design. This comes with a caveat. This design uses a conventional explosive to blow two subcritical masses of uranium together within milliseconds. Once the mass is supercritical, nuclear fission begins and proceeds at an increasing pace.

However, the design is inefficient. According to the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), around 50-60 kg of 90% enriched uranium is required to achieve a yield of

around 20 kilotonnes (kt). Using the more efficient implosion-type design, where one "shell" of subcritical uranium collapses on another, for the same yield will require 15-18 kg.

Finally, Iran has to deliver the bomb. Research has found that figuring out how to miniaturise a bomb to fit on a missile could take years. Iran's Shahab-3 missile can carry a payload of up to 1 tonne and travel more than 1,000 km. However, it's not known if Iran has successfully mated a sufficiently small nuclear warhead with the missile.

Another possibility is for Iran to load the bomb on a ship and move it close to enemy territory.

04A. Beyond enrichment: mapping Iran's potential sprint to a nuclear bomb संवर्धन से आगे: परमाणु बम की ओर ईरान की संभावित तेज़ प्रगति का मानचित्रण

- Iran is expected to have around **500 kg of uranium enriched to 60%**.
ईरान के पास लगभग **500 किलोग्राम 60% संवर्धित यूरेनियम** होने की संभावना है।
- U-235** is the uranium isotope used in **nuclear weapons**.
U-235 वह यूरेनियम समस्थानिक है जिसका उपयोग **परमाणु हथियारों** में किया जाता है।
- Enrichment** is the process of increasing the quantity of **U-235** in the uranium mass.
संवर्धन (Enrichment) वह प्रक्रिया है जिसमें यूरेनियम में **U-235** की मात्रा बढ़ाई जाती है।
- The rest will be **U-238**, which is a less efficient fissile material.
बाकी हिस्सा **U-238** होगा, जो कम प्रभावी विखंडनीय पदार्थ है।
- A **nuclear weapon** needs uranium to be enriched to **90%**.
एक **परमाणु हथियार** के लिए यूरेनियम को **90%** तक संवर्धित करना आवश्यक होता है।
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** has estimated Iran could produce **25 kg** for one atom bomb in under **10 days**.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) ने अनुमान लगाया है कि ईरान **10 दिनों से कम समय** में एक परमाणु बम के लिए **25 किलोग्राम** सामग्री तैयार कर सकता है।
- Both in **June 2025** and in the ongoing war, the **U.S. and Israel** attacked **Natanz and Isfahan** — two cities known to host facilities central to Iran's nuclear programme.
जून 2025 और वर्तमान युद्ध दोनों में, **अमेरिका और इज़राइल** ने **नतांज और इस्फहान** पर हमला किया — ये दो शहर ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम के प्रमुख केंद्र हैं।
- However, it is not clear how many **centrifuges**, the devices that enrich uranium, were destroyed.
हालांकि यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि यूरेनियम को संवर्धित करने वाले कितने **सेंट्रीफ्यूज** नष्ट हुए।
- Details of damages to other equipment have also been muddled.
अन्य उपकरणों को हुए नुकसान का विवरण भी अस्पष्ट है।
- Once uranium is enriched to **90%**, the uranium hexafluoride gas used during enrichment needs to be purified and turned into a **metal**.
जब यूरेनियम को **90%** तक संवर्धित कर लिया जाता है, तो उपयोग की गई यूरेनियम हेक्साफ्लोराइड गैस को शुद्ध करके **धातु** में बदलना पड़ता है।
- This is generally expected to take a few weeks, although more modern technologies are known to complete it in **six hours**.
यह प्रक्रिया सामान्यतः कुछ सप्ताह लेती है, हालांकि आधुनिक तकनीक इसे **छह घंटे** में भी पूरा कर सकती है।
- Iran may already possess them; if it doesn't, setting them up could take a few months.
संभव है कि ईरान के पास यह तकनीक पहले से हो; यदि नहीं, तो इसे स्थापित करने में कुछ महीने लग सकते हैं।



- Other equipment include a **cyclone separator, steel containers, and induction furnaces** plus a space the size of a “large closet”.
अन्य उपकरणों में **साइक्लोन सेपरटर, स्टील कंटेनर और इंडक्शन फर्नेस** शामिल हैं, साथ ही “बड़े अलमारी” के आकार का स्थान।
- The latter are the words of **Theodore Postol**, professor emeritus of science, technology, and international security at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, as spoken in an interview on YouTube.
यह कथन **थियोडोर पोस्टोल**, जो **MIT** में विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के प्रोफेसर एमेरिटस हैं, द्वारा यूट्यूब साक्षात्कार में कहा गया।
- Ideally, personnel handle the uranium through **secure gloveboxes**, and the facility will have high-grade filters and scrubbers to reduce exposure to toxic substances.
आदर्श रूप से, कर्मचारी यूरेनियम को **सुरक्षित ग्लवबॉक्स** के माध्यम से संभालते हैं और सुविधा में विषैले पदार्थों के संपर्क को कम करने के लिए उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले फिल्टर और स्क्रबर होते हैं।
- The next step is to **weaponise the uranium**.
अगला चरण **यूरेनियम को हथियार बनाना (Weaponisation)** है।
- While the IAEA has estimated this could take up to **two years**, Prof. Postol argued that if Iran is ready with the necessary equipment and processes, it could weaponise uranium “within weeks”.
जहां IAEA ने अनुमान लगाया है कि इसमें **दो साल** लग सकते हैं, वहीं प्रो. पोस्टोल का मानना है कि यदि ईरान के पास आवश्यक उपकरण और प्रक्रियाएं तैयार हैं, तो वह इसे “कुछ हफ्तों में” हथियार बना सकता है।
- To this end, again in ideal conditions, skilled personnel will need **CNC machine tools, two-axis lathes, vacuum furnaces**.
इसके लिए आदर्श परिस्थितियों में कुशल कर्मियों को **CNC मशीन टूल्स, टू-एक्सिस लेथ और वैक्यूम फर्नेस** की आवश्यकता होगी।
- Using the more efficient but more complex **implosion-type design**, where one ‘shell’ of subcritical uranium collapses on another, for the same yield will require **15-18 kg**.
अधिक प्रभावी लेकिन जटिल **इम्प्लोजन-प्रकार डिजाइन** में, जहां एक उप-आलोचनात्मक यूरेनियम की परत दूसरी पर गिरती है, समान शक्ति के लिए **15-18 किलोग्राम** की आवश्यकता होगी।
- Finally, Iran has to **deliver the bomb**.
अंत में, ईरान को **बम पहुंचाना** होगा।
- Research has found that figuring out how to **miniaturise a bomb to fit on a missile** could take years.
शोध से पता चला है कि बम को **मिसाइल में फिट करने के लिए छोटा बनाना** वर्षों का समय ले सकता है।
- Iran’s **Shahab-3 missile** can carry a payload of up to **1 tonne** and travel more than **1,000 km**.
ईरान की **शाहाब-3 मिसाइल 1 टन** तक भार ले जा सकती है और **1,000 किमी से अधिक** दूरी तय कर सकती है।
- However, it’s not known if Iran has successfully mated a sufficiently small nuclear warhead with the missile.
हालांकि यह ज्ञात नहीं है कि ईरान ने पर्याप्त छोटे परमाणु वारहेड को मिसाइल के साथ सफलतापूर्वक जोड़ा है या नहीं।
- Another possibility is for Iran to load the bomb on a **ship** and move it close to enemy territory.
एक अन्य संभावना यह है कि ईरान बम को **जहाज** पर लादकर दुश्मन के क्षेत्र के करीब ले जाए।
- Iran could also skip further enrichment and use it directly to build a **nuclear warhead**.
ईरान आगे संवर्धन को छोड़कर सीधे **परमाणु वारहेड** बनाने के लिए इसका उपयोग कर सकता है।
- It will just take more fissile material: around **40 kg** has been shown to suffice for a weapon with a kilotonne yield.
इसके लिए अधिक विखंडनीय पदार्थ की आवश्यकता होगी: लगभग **40 किलोग्राम** एक किलोटन क्षमता वाले हथियार के लिए पर्याप्त माना गया है।
- Prof. Postol also said Iran could deliver the bomb without having to test it first if it uses the **gun-type design**.
प्रो. पोस्टोल ने यह भी कहा कि यदि ईरान **गन-टाइप डिजाइन** का उपयोग करता है, तो वह बिना परीक्षण के भी बम पहुंचा सकता है।
- This comes with a caveat.
हालांकि इसके साथ एक चेतावनी भी है।



- This design uses a conventional explosive to blow two subcritical masses of uranium together within milliseconds.
इस डिजाइन में पारंपरिक विस्फोटक का उपयोग करके दो उप-आलोचनात्मक यूरेनियम द्रव्यमानों को मिलीसेकंड में एक साथ जोड़ा जाता है।
- Once the mass is **supercritical**, nuclear fission begins and proceeds at an increasing pace.
जैसे ही द्रव्यमान **सुपरक्रिटिकल** होता है, परमाणु विखंडन शुरू हो जाता है और तेजी से बढ़ता है।
- However, the design is inefficient.
हालांकि यह डिजाइन कम प्रभावी है।
- According to the **International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM)**, around **50-60 kg of 90% enriched uranium** is required to achieve a yield of around **20 kilotonnes (kt)**.
इंटरनेशनल पैनेल ऑन फिसाइल मटेरियल्स (IPFM) के अनुसार, लगभग **50-60 किलोग्राम 90% संवर्धित यूरेनियम** की आवश्यकता होती है ताकि लगभग **20 किलोटन (kt)** की क्षमता प्राप्त की जा सके।
- If Iran has enough centrifuges to enrich **25 kg of uranium from 60% to 90% in two weeks**, has mastered weaponisation, and has pre-stashed the equipment, it could have a bomb in **3-5 weeks**.
यदि ईरान के पास पर्याप्त सेंट्रीफ्यूज हैं जो **दो हफ्तों में 60% से 90% तक 25 किलोग्राम यूरेनियम** संवर्धित कर सकते हैं, और उसने हथियार निर्माण में महारत हासिल कर ली है, तो वह **3-5 हफ्तों में** बम बना सकता है।
- But if Iran's position is like that of a new nuclear power, it could take more than **a year**.
लेकिन यदि ईरान की स्थिति एक नए परमाणु शक्ति जैसी है, तो इसमें **एक वर्ष से अधिक** समय लग सकता है।

Nuclear-capable state परमाणु-सक्षम राज्य

- Importantly, as Prof. Postol said, if **Israel** strikes Iran with a nuclear weapon, there is no difference between whether Iran responds in a matter of months or days.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, जैसा कि प्रो. पोस्टोल ने कहा, यदि **इज़राइल** ईरान पर परमाणु हथियार से हमला करता है, तो इससे फर्क नहीं पड़ता कि ईरान महीनों में जवाब देता है या दिनों में।
- The point is that it's a **nuclear-capable state** and, given enough time, could wreak nuclear havoc in return.
मुख्य बात यह है कि यह एक **परमाणु-सक्षम राज्य** है और पर्याप्त समय मिलने पर परमाणु विनाश कर सकता है।

GS Paper III: Environment,

TOPICS COVERED

04 April 2026

04A Plan to relocate Great Nicobar's tribal communities stirs fresh concern
ग्रेट निकोबार के जनजातीय समुदायों के पुनर्वास की योजना ने नई चिंता पैदा की

04A Compliance eased for managing plastic waste
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Plan to relocate Great Nicobar's tribal communities stirs fresh concern

ESM Environment
Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A draft plan outlining the "relocation" of Nicobarese tribal communities affected by the Union government's Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega-infrastructure project "to their ancestral lands" has created confusion and is exacerbating existing apprehensions among locals.

They have been, for four years, protesting the clearance for the ₹92,000-crore project after withdrawing their consent in 2022, alleging that their forest rights had not been settled.

This draft "Comprehensive Tribal Welfare Plan", prepared by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration and circulated on March 13 for consultation with line departments and the Tribal Council of

Great Nicobar, proposes a 42.52-crore outlay over 24 months for the relocation of Nicobarese tribal communities from tsunami-affected or project-impacted areas", which involves housing, land development and basic infrastructure.

However, details of where the proposed relocation will take place and who will be relocated have left members of the Tribal Council of Great and Little Nicobar confused, according to Nicobarese community leaders who spoke to The Hindu.

They said they were handed a copy of the draft plan on March 28 and have since been called for two meetings by the district administration in Campbell Bay to sign off on it. This comes as the Union government told a Calcutta High Court Bench on March 30 that it needed 15



Green concerns: The draft was prepared by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration. AFP

days to "demonstrate that consent has been taken from the tribal people" for its project.

At a meeting on April 1, the Tribal Council submitted a letter pointing out that some aspects of the draft were unclear and requested a Hindi translation of it. They said they would need at least a month to re-

view the translated document.

Notably, while the draft plan states the GNI project "involves relocation", the Centre has repeatedly said the project would not "disturb or displace tribes".

On ancestral lands
According to a letter attached to the draft, the

plan was prepared after Tribal Council leaders demanded a return to ancestral villages on the west coast of GNI that were destroyed in the 2004 tsunami, after which communities were shifted to encampments in Rajiv Nagar and New Chingeh near Campbell Bay.

However, the draft plan states, "The project involves relocation to Rajiv Nagar (32 households, 101 persons) and New Chingeh (30 households, 117 persons)."

In a section, the plan proposes Pulobhabhi for "community purposes" of residents in Rajiv Nagar, to "facilitate periodic visits to ancestral lands", while adding, "an option shall remain open" for families to return to ancestral villages outside the project area. For New Chingeh residents, the plan records their desire to return to

Old Chingeh and Pulo Baha, but notes a final decision will be taken after assessing land availability and consultations, while their existing accommodations will be upgraded.

Further, the plan lists all enumerated families in Rajiv Nagar and New Chingeh (62 families in total) and then states: "Proposed relocation site: Pulobhabhi, western coast of GNI".

The tables in the draft also add to the ambiguity: allocations are made for upgrading 62 homes and building only 30 new homes, while another section states permanent shelters "will be built for all 62 households" - neither part explicitly mentions where these homes would come up. District authorities have not yet responded to The Hindu's queries on what exactly the plan proposes.

A leader of the Tribal

Council said Pulobhabhi is just one among several ancestral village sites, and the proposal lists only about 13 pre-tsunami Nicobarese villages when there are many more.

In New Delhi on March 20, Great and Little Nicobar Tribal Council chief Barnabas Manju had said the community has long demanded a return to all ancestral villages along the west coast since displacement in 2004.

Soon after the project was granted Stage-I clearance in 2022, the community withdrew their consent, fearing that it would encroach on their forest lands, including ancestral villages, preventing their return.

Council leaders say the apprehension has been exacerbated as the administration has not clearly explained project boundaries.

04A. Plan to relocate Great Nicobar's tribal communities stirs fresh concern ग्रेट निकोबार के जनजातीय समुदायों के पुनर्वास की योजना ने नई चिंता पैदा की

- A draft plan outlining the "relocation" of Nicobarese tribal communities affected by the Union government's Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega-infrastructure project "to their ancestral lands" has created confusion and is exacerbating existing apprehensions among locals.

केंद्र सरकार की ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप (GNI) मेगा-इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर परियोजना से प्रभावित निकोबारी जनजातीय समुदायों के "पुनर्वास" की रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत करने वाली एक मसौदा योजना, "उन्हें उनके पैतृक भूमि पर" ले जाने की बात करती है, जिससे स्थानीय लोगों में भ्रम पैदा हुआ है और मौजूदा आशंकाएं बढ़ गई हैं।

- They have been, for four years, protesting the clearance for the ₹92,000-crore project after withdrawing their consent in 2022, alleging that their forest rights had not been settled. वे पिछले चार वर्षों से ₹92,000 करोड़ की परियोजना को मंजूरी दिए जाने के खिलाफ विरोध कर रहे हैं, 2022 में अपनी सहमति वापस लेने के बाद, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि उनके वन अधिकारों का निपटारा नहीं किया गया था।
- This draft "Comprehensive Tribal Welfare Plan", prepared by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration and circulated on March 13 for consultation with line departments and the Tribal Council of Great Nicobar, proposes a 42.52-crore outlay over 24 months for the "relocation of Nicobarese tribal communities from tsunami-affected or project-impacted areas", which involves housing, land development and basic infrastructure.

यह मसौदा "समग्र जनजातीय कल्याण योजना", जिसे अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप प्रशासन द्वारा तैयार किया गया और 13 मार्च को संबंधित विभागों तथा ग्रेट निकोबार जनजातीय परिषद के साथ परामर्श के लिए प्रसारित किया गया, 24 महीनों में 42.52 करोड़ रुपये के व्यय का प्रस्ताव करता है, जिसमें "सुनामी प्रभावित या परियोजना प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से निकोबारी जनजातीय समुदायों के पुनर्वास" के लिए आवास, भूमि विकास और बुनियादी ढांचा शामिल है।

- However, details of where the proposed relocation will take place and who will be relocated have left members of the Tribal Council of Great and Little Nicobar confused, according to Nicobarese community leaders who spoke to The Hindu.

हालांकि, प्रस्तावित पुनर्वास कहां होगा और किन लोगों का पुनर्वास किया जाएगा, इसके विवरण ने ग्रेट और लिटिल निकोबार की जनजातीय परिषद के सदस्यों को भ्रमित कर दिया है, जैसा कि निकोबारी समुदाय के नेताओं ने द हिंदू से कहा।

- They said they were handed a copy of the draft plan on March 28 and have since been called for two meetings by the district administration in Campbell Bay to sign off on it.

उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें 28 मार्च को मसौदा योजना की एक प्रति दी गई थी और तब से उन्हें कैम्पबेल बे में जिला प्रशासन द्वारा इस पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए दो बैठकों में बुलाया गया है।



- This comes as the Union government told a **Calcutta High Court Bench** on March 30 that it needed 15 days to “demonstrate that consent has been taken from the tribal people” for its project.
यह उस समय हुआ जब केंद्र सरकार ने 30 मार्च को **कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय की पीठ** को बताया कि उसे अपनी परियोजना के लिए “यह दिखाने के लिए 15 दिन चाहिए कि जनजातीय लोगों से सहमति ली गई है।”
- At a meeting on April 1, the Tribal Council submitted a letter pointing out that some aspects of the draft were unclear and requested a Hindi translation of it.
1 अप्रैल की बैठक में, जनजातीय परिषद ने एक पत्र प्रस्तुत किया जिसमें मसौदे के कुछ पहलुओं को अस्पष्ट बताया गया और इसका हिंदी अनुवाद मांगा गया।
- They said they would need at least a month to review the translated document.
उन्होंने कहा कि अनुवादित दस्तावेज़ की समीक्षा के लिए उन्हें कम से कम एक महीने की आवश्यकता होगी।
- Notably, while the draft plan states the GNI project “involves relocation”, the Centre has repeatedly said the project would not “disturb or displace tribes”.
ध्यान देने योग्य है कि जहां मसौदा योजना में कहा गया है कि GNI परियोजना “पुनर्वास शामिल करती है”, वहीं केंद्र ने बार-बार कहा है कि यह परियोजना जनजातियों को “परेशान या विस्थापित” नहीं करेगी।

On ancestral lands पैतृक भूमि पर

- According to a letter attached to the draft, the plan was prepared after Tribal Council leaders demanded a return to **ancestral villages on the west coast of GNI** that were destroyed in the **2004 tsunami**, after which communities were shifted to encampments in **Rajiv Nagar and New Chingenh near Campbell Bay**.
मसौदे के साथ संलग्न एक पत्र के अनुसार, यह योजना तब तैयार की गई जब जनजातीय परिषद के नेताओं ने **GNI के पश्चिमी तट पर स्थित पैतृक गांवों** में लौटने की मांग की, जो **2004 की सुनामी** में नष्ट हो गए थे, जिसके बाद समुदायों को **कैम्पबेल बे के पास राजीव नगर और न्यू चिंगेन्ह** में बसाया गया था।
- However, the draft plan states, “The project involves relocation to **Rajiv Nagar (32 households, 101 persons) and New Chingenh (30 households, 117 persons)**.”
हालांकि, मसौदा योजना में कहा गया है, “परियोजना में **राजीव नगर (32 परिवार, 101 व्यक्ति) और न्यू चिंगेन्ह (30 परिवार, 117 व्यक्ति)** में पुनर्वास शामिल है।”
- In a section, the plan proposes **Pulobhabi** for “community purposes” of residents in Rajiv Nagar, to “facilitate periodic visits to ancestral lands”, while adding, “an option shall remain open” for families to return to ancestral villages outside the project area.
एक खंड में, योजना **पुलोभाभी** को राजीव नगर के निवासियों के “सामुदायिक उद्देश्यों” के लिए प्रस्तावित करती है, ताकि “पैतृक भूमि की समय-समय पर यात्रा को सुविधाजनक बनाया जा सके”, साथ ही यह भी जोड़ती है कि परियोजना क्षेत्र के बाहर पैतृक गांवों में लौटने का “विकल्प खुला रहेगा।”
- For New Chingenh residents, the plan records their desire to return to **Old Chingenh and Pulo Baha**, but notes a final decision will be taken after assessing land availability and consultations, while their existing accommodations will be upgraded.
न्यू चिंगेन्ह के निवासियों के लिए, योजना में **ओल्ड चिंगेन्ह और पुलो बहा** में लौटने की उनकी इच्छा दर्ज की गई है, लेकिन यह भी कहा गया है कि अंतिम निर्णय भूमि उपलब्धता और परामर्श के बाद लिया जाएगा, जबकि उनके मौजूदा आवासों को उन्नत किया जाएगा।
- Further, the plan lists all enumerated families in Rajiv Nagar and New Chingenh (62 families in total) and then states: “Proposed relocation site: **Pulobhabi, western coast of GNI**”.
इसके अलावा, योजना में राजीव नगर और न्यू चिंगेन्ह की सभी सूचीबद्ध परिवारों (कुल 62 परिवार) को सूचीबद्ध किया गया है और फिर कहा गया है: “प्रस्तावित पुनर्वास स्थल: **पुलोभाभी, GNI का पश्चिमी तट**।”
- The tables in the draft also add to the ambiguity: allocations are made for upgrading 62 homes and building only 30 new homes, while another section states permanent shelters “will be built for all 62 households” — neither part explicitly mentions where these homes would come up.
मसौदे की तालिकाएं भी अस्पष्टता बढ़ाती हैं: 62 घरों के उन्नयन और केवल 30 नए घरों के निर्माण के लिए आवंटन किया गया है, जबकि एक अन्य खंड में कहा गया है कि स्थायी आश्रय “सभी 62 परिवारों के लिए बनाए जाएंगे” — दोनों में से किसी में भी स्पष्ट रूप से यह नहीं बताया गया है कि ये घर कहां बनाए जाएंगे।
- District authorities have not yet responded to The Hindu’s queries on what exactly the plan proposes.



जिला अधिकारियों ने अभी तक द हिंदू के इस प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया है कि योजना वास्तव में क्या प्रस्तावित करती है।

- A leader of the Tribal Council said Pulobhabi is just one among several ancestral village sites, and the proposal lists only about 13 pre-tsunami Nicobarese villages when there are many more.

जनजातीय परिषद के एक नेता ने कहा कि पुलोभाभी कई पैतृक गांव स्थलों में से केवल एक है, और प्रस्ताव में केवल लगभग 13 पूर्व-सुनामी निकोबारी गांवों को सूचीबद्ध किया गया है, जबकि ऐसे और भी कई गांव हैं।

- In New Delhi on March 20, Great and Little Nicobar Tribal Council chief **Barnabas Manju** had said the community has long demanded a return to all ancestral villages along the west coast since displacement in 2004.

20 मार्च को नई दिल्ली में, ग्रेट और लिटिल निकोबार जनजातीय परिषद के प्रमुख **बरनाबास मंजू** ने कहा था कि समुदाय 2004 में विस्थापन के बाद से पश्चिमी तट के सभी पैतृक गांवों में लौटने की मांग लंबे समय से कर रहा है।

- Soon after the project was granted **Stage-I clearance in 2022**, the community withdrew their consent, fearing that it would encroach on their **forest lands**, including ancestral villages, preventing their return.

2022 में परियोजना को **स्टेज-1 मंजूरी** मिलने के तुरंत बाद, समुदाय ने अपनी सहमति वापस ले ली, यह डर जताते हुए कि यह उनकी **वन भूमि**, जिसमें पैतृक गांव भी शामिल हैं, पर अतिक्रमण करेगा और उनकी वापसी को रोक देगा।

- Council leaders say the apprehension has been exacerbated as the administration has not clearly explained **project boundaries**.

परिषद के नेताओं का कहना है कि प्रशासन ने **परियोजना की सीमाओं** को स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं बताया है, जिससे

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Compliance eased for managing plastic waste

Companies that fail to meet their targets can carry forward the shortfall for up to three years; they can also meet their obligations by purchasing credits from others that exceed their targets

GS III: Environment

NEW DELHI

India's latest amendment to its Plastic Waste Management Rules leaves headline recycling targets unchanged, but introduces a series of provisions that allows companies to shift their compliance deadlines.

These provisions include allowing companies that fail to meet their targets in 2025-26 to carry forward the shortfall for up to three years, provided they make up at least a third of the deficit annually. Prior to this, companies were bound to comply annually.

"The unfulfilled target for the year 2025-26 may be carried forward for three subsequent years starting 2026-27... provided that at least one-third of the unfulfilled target is met in each of those years, until the entire carried-forward target is achieved," says a gazette notification by the Environment Ministry dated March 31.

The rules also formalise a system of tradable certificates, enabling companies to meet their obligations by purchasing credits from others that exceed their targets. While this creates



The Rules require companies to collect and process the equivalent of 100% of the plastic they introduce into the market. K.V.S. GIRI

flexibility and may reduce compliance costs, it also means firms are not necessarily required to recycle their own plastic footprint.

Targets also do not apply where other regulations – for example, food safety standards – restrict the use of recycled plastic. This could exclude significant segments of packaging from the mandate, particularly in the food and beverage sector.

The 2026 amendment retains a phased set of targets for recycled content and reuse in plastic packaging, continuing the trajectory first introduced under the Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) framework in 2022, which for the first time specified collection targets for plastic waste producers and users of plastic packaging.

For 2025-26, producers and importers must ensure that rigid plastic packaging (Category I) contains at least 30% recycled material, rising to 60% by 2028-29. Flexible plastics (Category II) are subject to a 10% requirement in 2025-26, increasing to 20% thereafter, while multi-layered plastics (Category III) must meet a 5% threshold, rising to 10%. In parallel, the rules mandate reuse obligations for rigid packaging:

10% for smaller containers (0.9-4.9 litres), 70% for large water packaging, and 10% for large non-water packaging in 2025-26, with incremental increases over time.

Category 1 includes PET water or soft drink bottles or HDPE milk bottles/shampoo bottles. These are the easiest to collect. Category 2 includes Plastic carry bags/grocery bags, snack or chips packets (single-layer flexible film). Category 3 or multi-layered plastic, such as small cartons and foil snack wrappers, are the hardest to collect.

India's plastic waste rules require companies to collect and process the equivalent of 100% of the plastic they introduce into the market by 2024-25, marking the final phase of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rollout. However, there is no public evidence to suggest that this target has been fully achieved in practice. No comprehensive public dataset or official assessment demonstrates system-wide compliance, and much of the reporting continues to rely on self-declarations through a centralised portal.

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04A. Compliance eased for managing plastic waste प्लास्टिक कचरा प्रबंधन के लिए अनुपालन में ढील दी गई

- Companies that fail to meet their targets can carry forward the shortfall for up to three years; they can also meet their obligations by purchasing credits from others that exceed their targets.
जो कंपनियां अपने लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने में विफल रहती हैं, वे कमी को तीन वर्षों तक आगे बढ़ा सकती हैं; वे अपने दायित्वों को पूरा करने के लिए उन कंपनियों से क्रेडिट खरीद सकती हैं जो अपने लक्ष्य से अधिक हासिल करती हैं।
- India's latest amendment to its **Plastic Waste Management Rules** leaves headline recycling targets unchanged, but introduces a series of provisions that allows companies to shift their compliance deadlines.
भारत के **प्लास्टिक कचरा प्रबंधन नियमों** में नवीनतम संशोधन प्रमुख रीसाइक्लिंग लक्ष्यों को अपरिवर्तित रखता है, लेकिन कंपनियों को अनुपालन की समयसीमा बदलने की अनुमति देने वाले कई प्रावधान पेश करता है।
- These provisions include allowing companies that fail to meet their targets in **2025-26** to carry forward the shortfall for up to three years, provided they make up at least a third of the deficit annually.
इन प्रावधानों में यह शामिल है कि जो कंपनियां **2025-26** में अपने लक्ष्य पूरे नहीं कर पाती हैं, वे कमी को तीन साल तक आगे बढ़ा सकती हैं, बशर्ते वे हर साल कम से कम एक-तिहाई कमी को पूरा करें।
- Prior to this, companies were bound to comply annually.
इससे पहले, कंपनियों के लिए हर साल अनुपालन करना अनिवार्य था।
- "The unfulfilled target for the year **2025-26** may be carried forward for three subsequent years starting **2026-27**... provided that at least one-third of the unfulfilled target is met in each of those years, until the entire carried-forward target is achieved," says a **gazette notification by the Environment Ministry dated March 31**.
"वर्ष **2025-26** के लिए अपूर्ण लक्ष्य को **2026-27** से शुरू होने वाले अगले तीन वर्षों के लिए आगे बढ़ाया जा



सकता है... बशर्ते कि हर वर्ष कम से कम एक-तिहाई अपूर्ण लक्ष्य पूरा किया जाए, जब तक कि पूरा आगे बढ़ाया गया लक्ष्य हासिल न हो जाए," यह **31 मार्च की पर्यावरण मंत्रालय की राजपत्र अधिसूचना** में कहा गया है।

- The rules also formalise a system of **tradable certificates**, enabling companies to meet their obligations by purchasing credits from others that exceed their targets.
नियम **व्यापार योग्य प्रमाणपत्रों** की प्रणाली को भी औपचारिक रूप देते हैं, जिससे कंपनियां अपने लक्ष्य से अधिक हासिल करने वालों से क्रेडिट खरीदकर अपने दायित्व पूरे कर सकती हैं।
- While this creates flexibility and may reduce compliance costs, it also means firms are not necessarily required to recycle their own plastic footprint.
हालांकि इससे लचीलापन आता है और अनुपालन लागत कम हो सकती है, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह भी है कि कंपनियों को अपने स्वयं के प्लास्टिक कचरे को रीसायकल करना अनिवार्य नहीं रहेगा।
- Targets also do not apply where other regulations — for example, **food safety standards** — restrict the use of recycled plastic.
लक्ष्य वहां लागू नहीं होते जहां अन्य नियम — जैसे **खाद्य सुरक्षा मानक** — पुनर्नवीनीकरण प्लास्टिक के उपयोग को सीमित करते हैं।
- This could exclude significant segments of packaging from the mandate, particularly in the **food and beverage sector**.
इससे पैकेजिंग के महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से, विशेष रूप से **खाद्य और पेय क्षेत्र** में, इस अनिवार्यता से बाहर हो सकते हैं।
- The **2026 amendment** retains a phased set of targets for recycled content and reuse in plastic packaging, continuing the trajectory first introduced under the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework in 2022**, which for the first time specified collection targets for plastic waste producers and users of plastic packaging.
2026 का संशोधन प्लास्टिक पैकेजिंग में पुनर्नवीनीकरण सामग्री और पुनः उपयोग के लिए चरणबद्ध लक्ष्यों को बनाए रखता है, जो **2022 में विस्तारित उत्पादक उत्तरदायित्व (EPR) ढांचे** के तहत शुरू की गई दिशा को जारी रखता है, जिसने पहली बार प्लास्टिक कचरा उत्पादकों और उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए संग्रह लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए थे।
- For **2025-26**, producers and importers must ensure that rigid plastic packaging (**Category I**) contains at least **30% recycled material**, rising to **60% by 2028-29**.
2025-26 के लिए, उत्पादकों और आयातकों को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि कठोर प्लास्टिक पैकेजिंग (**श्रेणी I**) में कम से कम **30% पुनर्नवीनीकरण सामग्री** हो, जो **2028-29 तक 60%** हो जाएगी।
- Flexible plastics (**Category II**) are subject to a **10% requirement in 2025-26**, increasing to **20% thereafter**, while multi-layered plastics (**Category III**) must meet a **5% threshold**, rising to **10%**.
लचीले प्लास्टिक (**श्रेणी II**) के लिए **2025-26 में 10% की आवश्यकता** है, जो बाद में **20%** हो जाएगी, जबकि बहु-स्तरीय प्लास्टिक (**श्रेणी III**) को **5% सीमा** पूरी करनी होगी, जो **10%** तक बढ़ेगी।
- In parallel, the rules mandate **reuse obligations** for rigid packaging: **10% for smaller containers (0.9-4.9 litres)**, **70% for large water packaging**, and **10% for large non-water packaging in 2025-26**, with incremental increases over time.
साथ ही, नियम कठोर पैकेजिंग के लिए **पुनः उपयोग दायित्व** अनिवार्य करते हैं: **छोटे कंटेनरों (0.9-4.9 लीटर) के लिए 10%**, **बड़े जल पैकेजिंग के लिए 70%**, और **2025-26 में बड़े गैर-जल पैकेजिंग के लिए 10%**, जो समय के साथ बढ़ेंगे।
- **Category 1** includes **PET water or soft drink bottles or HDPE milk bottles/shampoo bottles**.
श्रेणी 1 में **PET पानी या सॉफ्ट ड्रिंक की बोतलें या HDPE दूध/शैम्पू की बोतलें** शामिल हैं।
- These are the easiest to collect.
इनको एकत्र करना सबसे आसान होता है।
- **Category 2** includes **Plastic carry bags/ grocery bags, snack or chips packets (single-layer flexible film)**.
श्रेणी 2 में **प्लास्टिक कैरी बैग/ग्रॉसरी बैग, स्नैक या चिप्स के पैकेट (एकल-परत लचीली फिल्म)** शामिल हैं।
- **Category 3** or multilayered plastic, such as **small cartons and foil snack wrappers**, are the hardest to collect.
श्रेणी 3 या बहु-स्तरीय प्लास्टिक, जैसे **छोटे कार्टन और फॉयल स्नैक रेपर**, को एकत्र करना सबसे कठिन होता है।
- India's plastic waste rules require companies to collect and process the equivalent of **100% of the plastic** they introduce into the market by **2024-25**, marking the final phase of the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rollout**.



भारत के प्लास्टिक कचरा नियमों के अनुसार कंपनियों को 2024-25 तक बाजार में डाले गए 100% प्लास्टिक के बराबर संग्रह और प्रसंस्करण करना आवश्यक है, जो विस्तारित उत्पादक उत्तरदायित्व (EPR) लागू करने का अंतिम चरण है।

- However, there is no public evidence to suggest that this target has been fully achieved in practice.
हालांकि, ऐसा कोई सार्वजनिक प्रमाण नहीं है जो यह दर्शाए कि यह लक्ष्य व्यवहार में पूरी तरह हासिल किया गया है।
- No comprehensive public dataset or official assessment demonstrates system-wide compliance, and much of the reporting continues to rely on **self-declarations through a centralised portal**.
कोई व्यापक सार्वजनिक डेटा सेट या आधिकारिक मूल्यांकन पूरे सिस्टम में अनुपालन को नहीं दर्शाता है, और अधिकांश रिपोर्टिंग अभी भी **केंद्रीकृत पोर्टल के माध्यम से स्व-घोषणाओं** पर निर्भर करती है।

GS Paper III: IS

TOPICS COVERED

04 April 2026

04A	Indigenous stealth frigate INS Taragiri commissioned स्वदेशी स्टेल्थ फ्रिगेट INS तारागिरी का कमीशन किया गया
04A	INS Aridhaman, nuclear-powered submarine, enters India's naval fleet INS अरिधमन, परमाणु-संचालित पनडुब्बी, भारतीय नौसेना बेड़े में शामिल



GS III: Internal Security

Indigenous stealth frigate INS Taragiri commissioned

In a significant boost to India's maritime security and the 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative, the **guided-missile stealth frigate INS Taragiri** was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the **Eastern Naval Command base in Visakhapatnam** on Friday. The ceremony, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, marked the induction of a vessel that represents a generational leap in naval engineering. Powered by a combined diesel or gas propulsion engine and equipped with supersonic surface-to-surface missiles and advanced anti-submarine suites, the frigate is now a cornerstone of the Eastern Fleet.

04A. Indigenous stealth frigate INS Taragiri commissioned

स्वदेशी स्टेल्थ फ्रिगेट INS तारागिरी का कमीशन किया गया

• In a significant boost to India's **maritime security** and the '**Aatmanirbharta**' initiative, the guided-missile stealth frigate **INS Taragiri** was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** at the **Eastern Naval Command base in Visakhapatnam** on Friday.

भारत की **समुद्री सुरक्षा** और '**आत्मनिर्भरता**' पहल को एक महत्वपूर्ण बढ़ावा देते हुए, गाइडेड-मिसाइल स्टेल्थ फ्रिगेट **INS तारागिरी** को शुक्रवार को **विशाखापत्तनम स्थित पूर्वी नौसेना कमान बेस** पर **भारतीय नौसेना** में शामिल किया गया।

• The ceremony, attended by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Chief of Defence Staff General **Anil Chauhan**, and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral **Dinesh K. Tripathi**, marked the induction of a vessel that represents a **generational leap in naval engineering**.

इस समारोह में रक्षा मंत्री **राजनाथ सिंह**, चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ



जनरल अनिल चौहान, और नौसेना प्रमुख एडमिरल दिनेश के. त्रिपाठी शामिल हुए, और यह एक ऐसे पोत के शामिल होने का प्रतीक था जो नौसैनिक इंजीनियरिंग में पीढ़ीगत छलांग को दर्शाता है।

- Powered by a **combined diesel or gas propulsion engine** and equipped with **supersonic surface-to-surface missiles** and advanced **anti-submarine suites**, the frigate is now a cornerstone of the **Eastern Fleet**.

संयुक्त डीजल या गैस प्रोपल्शन इंजन द्वारा संचालित और सुपरसोनिक सतह से सतह पर मार करने वाली मिसाइलों तथा उन्नत पनडुब्बी रोधी प्रणालियों से लैस, यह फ्रिगेट अब पूर्वी बेड़े का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ बन गया है।

INS Aridhaman, nuclear-powered submarine, enters India's naval fleet

GS III: Internal Security

Sumit Bhattacharjee
VISAKHAPATNAM

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over a brief ceremony to formally commission the country's third nuclear submarine, *INS Aridhaman* (S4), which is the third in the Arihant-class of SSBNs (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear), on Friday at Visakhapatnam.

The vessel, being part of the strategic weapons programme, falls under the domain of the Strategic Forces and is part of the country's nuclear triad. As per sources in the Navy, the commissioning was not made public and was carried out quietly, but Mr. Singh dropped enough hints to acknowledge the commissioning of the vessel.

While the event was



The nuclear submarine *INS Aridhaman* ahead of its commissioning ceremony in Visakhapatnam. PTI

kept under wraps, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted a cryptic message on X, describing the submarine as: "It's not words but power, 'Aridhaman!'"

Sources in the Navy said that the commissioning of *INS Aridhaman* was on the cards, as the submarine had already undergone extensive sea trials, and it

coincided with Mr. Singh's visit to Visakhapatnam for the commissioning of the stealth guided-missile frigate *INS Taragiri*.

The closely guarded SSBN project, initially launched as the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project, is being executed by the Ship Building Centre (SBC) in Visakha-

patnam. The first vessel was launched in July 2009 and was quietly commissioned in 2016. The second indigenously built SSBN, *INS Arighaat*, was commissioned in August 2024.

While *Arihant* and *Arighaat* are smaller vessels of about 6,000 tonnes, *Aridhaman* (S4) and S4* are bigger vessels of about 7,000 tonnes. The S4* (which may be named *Arisudan*) is currently undergoing sea trials.

Compared to its predecessors, *Aridhaman* and its successor S4* will have more firepower.

India is already one of the nations, along with the U.S., Russia, China, and France, to possess a nuclear triad capability, which means it has the ability to launch nuclear-tipped missiles from air, land, and sea.

04A. INS Aridhaman, nuclear-powered submarine, enters India's naval fleet INS अरिधमन, परमाणु-संचालित पनडुब्बी, भारतीय नौसेना बेड़े में शामिल

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** presided over a brief ceremony to formally commission the country's third **nuclear submarine, INS Aridhaman (S4)**, which is the third in the **Arihant-class of SSBNs (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear)**, on Friday at **Visakhapatnam**.

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने शुक्रवार को विशाखापत्तनम में देश की तीसरी परमाणु पनडुब्बी, **INS अरिधमन (S4)**, जो अरिहंत-श्रेणी के **SSBN (सबमर्सिबल शिप बैलिस्टिक न्यूक्लियर)** में तीसरी है, को औपचारिक रूप से कमीशन करने के लिए एक संक्षिप्त समारोह की अध्यक्षता की।

- The vessel, being part of the **strategic weapons programme**, falls under the domain of the **Strategic Forces** and is part of the country's **nuclear triad**.

यह पोत **रणनीतिक हथियार कार्यक्रम** का हिस्सा होने के कारण **स्ट्रेटेजिक फोर्स** के अंतर्गत आता है और देश के **परमाणु त्रय (न्यूक्लियर ट्रायड)** का हिस्सा है।

- As per sources in the Navy, the commissioning was not made public and was carried out quietly, but Mr. Singh dropped enough hints to acknowledge the commissioning of the vessel. नौसेना के स्रोतों के अनुसार, इस कमीशनिंग को सार्वजनिक नहीं किया गया और इसे चुपचाप संपन्न किया गया, लेकिन श्री सिंह ने इसके कमीशनिंग को स्वीकार करने के लिए पर्याप्त संकेत दिए।
- While the event was kept under wraps, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** posted a cryptic message on X, describing the submarine as: "It's not words but power, 'Aridhaman!'"



हालांकि इस कार्यक्रम को गुप्त रखा गया, रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने X पर एक रहस्यमय संदेश पोस्ट किया, जिसमें पनडुब्बी का वर्णन करते हुए कहा: “यह शब्द नहीं बल्कि शक्ति है, ‘अरिधमन!’”

- Sources in the Navy said that the commissioning of **INS Aridhaman** was on the cards, as the submarine had already undergone extensive **sea trials**, and it coincided with Mr. Singh’s visit to Visakhapatnam for the commissioning of the **stealth guided-missile frigate INS Taragiri**. नौसेना के सूत्रों ने कहा कि **INS अरिधमन** का कमीशन पहले से तय था, क्योंकि पनडुब्बी ने पहले ही व्यापक **समुद्री परीक्षण** पूरे कर लिए थे, और यह श्री सिंह की **स्टेल्थ गाइडेड-मिसाइल फ्रिगेट INS तारागिरी** के कमीशनिंग के लिए विशाखापत्तनम यात्रा के साथ मेल खाता है।
- The closely guarded **SSBN project**, initially launched as the **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project**, is being executed by the **Ship Building Centre (SBC)** in Visakhapatnam. कड़ी सुरक्षा में रखा गया **SSBN परियोजना**, जिसे प्रारंभ में **एडवांस्ड टेक्नोलॉजी वेसल (ATV) परियोजना** के रूप में शुरू किया गया था, का निष्पादन विशाखापत्तनम के **शिप बिल्डिंग सेंटर (SBC)** द्वारा किया जा रहा है।
- The first vessel was launched in July 2009 and was quietly commissioned in 2016. पहला पोत जुलाई 2009 में लॉन्च किया गया था और 2016 में चुपचाप कमीशन किया गया।
- The second indigenously built **SSBN, INS Arighaat**, was commissioned in August 2024. दूसरी स्वदेशी रूप से निर्मित **SSBN, INS अरिघाट**, को अगस्त 2024 में कमीशन किया गया था।
- While **Arihant and Arighaat** are smaller vessels of about **6,000 tonnes**, **Aridhaman (S4) and S4*** are bigger vessels of about **7,000 tonnes**. जहां **अरिहंत और अरिघाट** लगभग **6,000 टन** के छोटे पोत हैं, वहीं **अरिधमन (S4) और S4*** लगभग **7,000 टन** के बड़े पोत हैं।
- The **S4*** (which may be named **Arisudan**) is currently undergoing **sea trials**. **S4*** (जिसका नाम **अरिसुदन** हो सकता है) वर्तमान में **समुद्री परीक्षणों** से गुजर रहा है।
- Compared to its predecessors, **Aridhaman and its successor S4*** will have more **firepower**. अपने पूर्ववर्तियों की तुलना में, **अरिधमन और उसका उत्तराधिकारी S4*** में अधिक **मारक क्षमता (फायरपावर)** होगी।
- India is already one of the nations, along with the **U.S., Russia, China, and France**, to possess a **nuclear triad capability**, which means it has the ability to launch nuclear-tipped missiles from **air, land, and sea**. भारत पहले से ही **अमेरिका, रूस, चीन और फ्रांस** के साथ उन देशों में शामिल है जिनके पास **परमाणु त्रय क्षमता** है, जिसका अर्थ है कि वह **हवा, जमीन और समुद्र** से परमाणु हथियार ले जाने वाली मिसाइलें दाग सकता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS