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# **PATRIOTIC IAS** **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

## **THE HINDU NEWSPAPER**

### **10 APRIL 2026**

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<b>PCS Special:</b>	<b>10 April</b>
<b>10A</b>	<b>C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer, passes away</b> <b>सी.डी. गोपीनाथ, भारत के सबसे उम्रदराज टेस्ट क्रिकेटर, का निधन</b>



**Liquid runway**



Connecting remote locations: A de Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter seaplane conducts a test run on the Ganga at Pashulok Barrage, in Rishikesh on Thursday. India is moving closer to commercial seaplane services that could boost access to remote destinations. PTI

Connecting remote locations: A **de Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter seaplane** conducts a test run on the Ganga at Pashulok Barrage, in Rishikesh on Thursday. India is moving closer to commercial seaplane services that could boost access to remote destinations.

## C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer, passes away

**PCS**  
**Sports Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Former India cricketer C.D. Gopinath passed away here on Thursday. He was 96.

Gopinath had been India's oldest Test cricketer and the last member of the country's maiden Test win against England in 1952. He is survived by wife Comala, three children and grandchildren.

A right-handed batter, Gopinath featured in eight Tests for India between 1951 and 1960 and scored 242 runs with a highest score of 50 not out.

In an accomplished First Class career, Gopinath played 83 games for Madras and accumulated 4,259 runs at a healthy average of 42.16, including nine centuries and 23 half-centuries.

He was a key member of the Ranji Trophy-winning Madras (now Tamil Nadu) squad in the 1954-55 season.

Gopinath dabbled in various sports, including tennis, hockey, football and took to cricket only at the age of 17 during his days at the Madras Christian College.

He quickly rose through the ranks and received his India cap within four years, against the visiting Englishmen at the Brabourne Stadium in 1951.

Known to be a stylish batter, Gopinath made an impressive debut, scoring an unbeaten 50 and 42 in the second Test of the series.

In the final Test at the Chepauk stadium, Gopinath scored 35 and stitched a vital 93-run stand for the seventh wicket with Polly Umrigar. India went on to win the match by an innings and eight runs to post its maiden Test victory and draw the five-match series 1-1.

**Long association**

Former India leg-spinner V.V. Kumar recalled his seven-decade-long association with Gopinath and hailed his captaincy. In 2025, when Kumar turned 90, Gopinath took part in the former's birthday cele-



**Special guest:** Gopinath catches up on the news as 'Bada Bheem' the gaar keeps watch at his Coonoor residence. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



**Astute leader:** Former India spinner V.V. Kumar says Gopinath could handle any situation with aplomb. FILE PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

brations. "He was my first captain and was instrumental in making me a good leg-spinner. His captaincy was such that he could handle any situation with aplomb," said Kumar.

"I was lucky to have him. Any player who enters a competitive level like the Ranji Trophy would like to have a captain who understands and guides them properly in crucial situations."

"I would go a further step and say that probably India has missed a very good captain, who didn't get his due share in the years starting from 1952 onwards. He had a vast knowledge of cricketers and what they could do," he added.

**Aggressive skipper**

Elaborating on his captaincy style, Kumar felt that Gopinath was aggressive in his approach.

"He was the most aggressive captain I had played under. It was an area he specialised in. He taught me how to be aggressive and did not want to bowl just maidens, but

attack the batter straight away."

Commenting on his batting, Kumar said that Gopinath was a strong backfoot player. "He was a strong off-side player and had a very good square-cut. One good thing about his batting was that he was quick to judge the length and had a second or two more than the others. Growing up in Madras, he was a very good player of spin," said Kumar.

After his playing career, Gopinath served as chairman of the national selection committee and as team manager on the 1979 tour of England. He was also as an administrator and was the vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association from 1977 to 1986.

The BCCI and the TNCA condole his demise. "Beyond his achievements on the field, Shri Gopinath was a true gentleman. His dedication, passion, and exemplary sportsmanship will always be remembered and will continue to inspire generations to come," said the TNCA.

## 10A. C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer, passes away

**सी.डी. गोपीनाथ, भारत के सबसे उम्रदराज टेस्ट क्रिकेटर, का निधन**

- **C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer, passes away.**

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- Former India cricketer C.D. Gopinath passed away here on Thursday.

**पूर्व भारतीय क्रिकेटर सी.डी. गोपीनाथ का गुरुवार को निधन हो गया।**

- He was 96.
- वे 96 वर्ष के थे।

- Gopinath had been India's oldest Test cricketer and the last member of the country's maiden Test win against England in 1952.

**गोपीनाथ भारत के सबसे उम्रदराज टेस्ट क्रिकेटर थे और 1952 में इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ पहली टेस्ट जीत के अंतिम सदस्य थे।**

- He is survived by wife Comala, three children and grandchildren.

**उनके परिवार में पत्नी कोमला, तीन बच्चे और पोते-पोतियां हैं।**

- A right-handed batter, Gopinath featured in eight Tests for India between 1951 and 1960 and scored 242 runs with a highest score of 50 not out.

**दाएं हाथ के बल्लेबाज गोपीनाथ ने 1951-1960 के बीच 8 टेस्ट खेले और 242 रन बनाए, जिसमें सर्वोच्च स्कोर 50 नाबाद रहा।**

- In an accomplished First Class career, Gopinath played 83 games for Madras and accumulated 4,259 runs at a healthy average of 42.16, including nine centuries and 23 half-centuries.

**अपने फर्स्ट क्लास करियर में उन्होंने 83 मैच खेले और 4,259 रन बनाए, औसत 42.16, जिसमें 9 शतक और 23 अर्धशतक शामिल हैं।**



- He was a key member of the Ranji Trophy-winning Madras (now Tamil Nadu) squad in the 1954-55 season.  
वे 1954-55 रणजी ट्रॉफी विजेता मद्रास टीम के प्रमुख सदस्य थे।
- Gopinath dabbled in various sports, including tennis, hockey, football and took to cricket only at the age of 17 during his days at the Madras Christian College.  
उन्होंने टेनिस, हॉकी, फुटबॉल भी खेले और 17 वर्ष की उम्र में क्रिकेट शुरू किया।
- He quickly rose through the ranks and received his India cap within four years, against the visiting Englishmen at the Brabourne Stadium in 1951.  
वे तेजी से आगे बढ़े और 1951 में ब्रेबॉर्न स्टेडियम में भारत के लिए पदार्पण किया।
- Known to be a stylish batter, Gopinath made an impressive debut, scoring an unbeaten 50 and 42 in the second Test of the series.  
स्टाइलिश बल्लेबाज के रूप में उन्होंने डेब्यू में 50 नाबाद और 42 रन बनाए।
- In the final Test at the Chepauk stadium, Gopinath scored 35 and stitched a vital 93-run stand for the seventh wicket with Polly Umrigar.  
चेपॉक स्टेडियम में उन्होंने 35 रन बनाए और पॉली उमरीगर के साथ 93 रन की साझेदारी की।
- India went on to win the match by an innings and eight runs to post its maiden Test victory and draw the five-match series 1-1.  
भारत ने यह मैच पारी और 8 रन से जीता और पहली टेस्ट जीत हासिल कर सीरीज 1-1 से ड्रॉ की।

## Long association

### लंबा जुड़ाव

- Former India leg-spinner V.V. Kumar recalled his seven-decade-long association with Gopinath and hailed his captaincy.  
वी.वी. कुमार ने गोपीनाथ के साथ अपने 70 वर्षों के जुड़ाव को याद किया और उनकी कप्तानी की सराहना की।
- In 2025, when Kumar turned 90, Gopinath took part in the former's birthday celebrations.  
2025 में, जब कुमार 90 वर्ष के हुए, तब गोपीनाथ समारोह में शामिल हुए।
- "He was my first captain and was instrumental in making me a good leg-spinner.  
उन्होंने कहा कि गोपीनाथ उनके पहले कप्तान थे और उन्हें बेहतर लेग स्पिनर बनाने में मदद की।
- His captaincy was such that he could handle any situation with aplomb," said Kumar.  
उनकी कप्तानी ऐसी थी कि वे हर स्थिति को बेहतर तरीके से संभालते थे।
- "I was lucky to have him.  
मैं भाग्यशाली था कि वे मेरे कप्तान थे।
- Any player who enters a competitive level like the Ranji Trophy would like to have a captain who understands and guides them properly in crucial situations."  
हर खिलाड़ी चाहता है कि उसे ऐसा कप्तान मिले जो रणजी ट्रॉफी जैसे स्तर पर मार्गदर्शन करे।
- "I would go a further step and say that probably India has missed a very good captain, who didn't get his due share in the years starting from 1952 onwards.  
भारत ने एक बेहद अच्छे कप्तान को खो दिया जिसे उचित अवसर नहीं मिला।
- He had a vast knowledge of cricketers and what they could do," he added.  
उन्हें खिलाड़ियों की गहरी समझ थी।

## Aggressive skipper

### आक्रामक कप्तान

- Elaborating on his captaincy style, Kumar felt that Gopinath was aggressive in his approach.  
कुमार ने कहा कि गोपीनाथ की कप्तानी शैली आक्रामक थी।
- "He was the most aggressive captain I had played under.  
वे सबसे आक्रामक कप्तान थे जिनके अधीन मैंने खेला।
- It was an area he specialised in.  
यह उनकी विशेषता थी।
- He taught me how to be aggressive and did not want to bowl just maidens, but attack the batter straight away."  
उन्होंने मुझे आक्रामक खेल सिखाया और बल्लेबाज पर सीधे हमला करना सिखाया।



- Commenting on his batting, Kumar said that Gopinath was a strong backfoot player. कुमार ने कहा कि गोपीनाथ बैकफुट खिलाड़ी के रूप में मजबूत थे।
- “He was a strong off-side player and had a very good square-cut. वे ऑफ-साइड पर मजबूत थे और उनका स्क्वायर कट शानदार था।
- One good thing about his batting was that he was quick to judge the length and had a second or two more than the others. वे गेंद की लंबाई को जल्दी समझते थे और दूसरों से बेहतर प्रतिक्रिया देते थे।
- Growing up in Madras, he was a very good player of spin,” said Kumar. मद्रास में पले-बढ़े होने के कारण वे स्पिन के अच्छे खिलाड़ी थे।
- After his playing career, Gopinath served as chairman of the national selection committee and as team manager on the 1979 tour of England. अपने करियर के बाद वे राष्ट्रीय चयन समिति के अध्यक्ष और 1979 इंग्लैंड दौरे के मैनेजर रहे।
- He was also as an administrator and was the vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association from 1977 to 1986. वे प्रशासक भी रहे और 1977-1986 तक TNCA के उपाध्यक्ष रहे।
- The BCCI and the TNCA condoled his demise. BCCI और TNCA ने उनके निधन पर शोक व्यक्त किया।
- “Beyond his achievements on the field, Shri Gopinath was a true gentleman. मैदान के बाहर भी वे एक सच्चे सज्जन थे।
- His dedication, passion, and exemplary sportsmanship will always be remembered and will continue to inspire generations to come,” said the TNCA. उनकी समर्पण, जुनून और खेल भावना आने वाली पीढ़ियों को प्रेरित करती रहेगी।

## GS Paper 1: Society

10 April 2026

### TOPICS COVERED

10A

**Nari Shakti, India's defining reform for the next decade**  
नारी शक्ति, भारत का अगले दशक का निर्णायक सुधार

## Nari Shakti, India's defining reform for the next decade

GS I: Society

MOB

Over the past decade, India has done something few nations have achieved at scale: it has moved women's empowerment from intent to infrastructure. This shift did not happen organically; it was designed. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, policy has placed women at the centre of development recognising that when women move forward, entire economies accelerate. The results are visible and measurable. More than 57 crore bank accounts have been opened under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana, with over 55% held by women, giving millions their first foothold in the formal financial system. Nearly 10 crore women, organised into over 90 lakh self-help groups, are now driving grassroots entrepreneurship and local economic resilience. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has reached over 10.5 crore households, reducing health risks and freeing women from time-intensive labour. Moreover, access to credit has expanded, with close to 70% of MUDRA loans going to women entrepreneurs. Female labour force participation has also risen to nearly 37%, reversing a long-standing decline. In healthcare, programmes such as the Ayushman Bharat and the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan have expanded access and reduced vulnerability at critical life stages. Initiatives like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme have begun to shift deeply embedded social attitudes. Individually, these are strong programmes. Taken together, they represent a structural shift in how India views women not as recipients of support, but as drivers of growth. For policymakers and administrators, this offers a clear lesson: scale works when design, delivery, and accountability are aligned. In healthcare, where the author's expertise lies, outcomes improve when systems are built



**Sangita Reddy**  
Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals

Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but institutionally

around real needs, and not theoretical models. Where access is simplified; delivery is consistent; and outcomes are tracked, impact follows. And yet, the next phase will demand even greater focus, as the challenge before us is no longer policy creation, it is policy penetration.

### The last mile

Despite the scale of programmes, awareness gaps remain. Enrolment is uneven, and last-mile delivery continues to depend on local capacity. For every woman who has accessed opportunity, there are many more who remain on the margins due to lack of access. This is where administrative leadership becomes decisive.

India must move from announcing schemes to ensuring saturation; from measuring outputs to tracking outcomes; and from eligibility on paper to access in practice. District-level ownership, data-driven monitoring, and convergence across departments will be critical. And while technology can accelerate this, it cannot replace on-ground accountability. Therefore, the question for every policymaker is simple: how do we ensure that no eligible woman is left out?

This is where the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam can become one of the most consequential reforms of our time. By expanding women's representation in legislative bodies, it creates the possibility of aligning policy design with lived experience. Women leaders can bring their insights shaped by community realities which can strengthen programmes, and their delivery, targeting, and adoption. Additionally, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam when implemented with intent, can trigger a multiplier effect with more women in leadership, more responsive policy, higher participation, and stronger leadership pipelines, making reform self-reinforcing. Globally, we are entering a decade defined by

knowledge, innovation, and technology. India already has a strong base, with one of the highest proportions of women in STEM education globally. This is an opportune moment to translate this gain into leadership across sectors such as healthcare, science, enterprise, and governance without losing time.

The past decade has shown what is possible when political will aligns with policy design. With today's strong foundation, the implementation of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam can move empowerment beyond access, to authority.

### The way forward

However, representation must translate into capability, and capability must be built through institutional support to ensure that implementation delivers results. Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but institutionally. This means structured mentorship, policy exposure, and administrative support systems that enable effective governance.

It also means rethinking how the country designs policy itself. Programmes must be simpler to access and faster to deliver. Feedback loops must be strengthened so that policy evolves with need. And success must be measured not just by coverage, but by change in outcomes across sectors. As India moves towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, this is not a peripheral agenda – it is central to its success. Women's participation is directly linked to economic growth, social stability, and institutional effectiveness.

If India can achieve saturation in access, strengthen participation, and enable leadership, it will not just empower its women – it will redefine its growth trajectory. For policymakers and administrators, the mandate is clear: the time to implement is now.



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## 10A. Nari Shakti, India's defining reform for the next decade नारी शक्ति, भारत का अगले दशक का निर्णायक सुधार

- **Over the past decade, India has done something few nations have achieved at scale: it has moved women's empowerment from intent to infrastructure.**  
पिछले दशक में भारत ने वह किया है जो बहुत कम देशों ने बड़े स्तर पर किया है: इसने महिला सशक्तिकरण को इरादे से आगे बढ़ाकर संरचना में बदल दिया है।
- This shift did not happen organically; it was designed.  
यह परिवर्तन स्वाभाविक रूप से नहीं हुआ; इसे योजनाबद्ध तरीके से लागू किया गया।
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, policy has placed women at the centre of development recognising that when women move forward, entire economies accelerate.  
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के नेतृत्व में नीतियों ने महिलाओं को विकास के केंद्र में रखा है, यह मानते हुए कि जब महिलाएं आगे बढ़ती हैं, तो पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था तेजी से आगे बढ़ती है।
- The results are visible and measurable.  
इसके परिणाम स्पष्ट और मापनीय हैं।
- More than **57 crore bank accounts** have been opened under the **PM Jan Dhan Yojana**, with over **55% held by women**, giving millions their first foothold in the formal financial system.  
प्रधानमंत्री जन धन योजना के तहत **57 करोड़ से अधिक बैंक खाते** खोले गए हैं, जिनमें से **55% से अधिक महिलाओं के नाम पर** हैं, जिससे लाखों महिलाओं को औपचारिक वित्तीय प्रणाली में पहली बार प्रवेश मिला है।
- Nearly **10 crore women**, organised into over **90 lakh self-help groups**, are now driving grassroots entrepreneurship and local economic resilience.  
लगभग **10 करोड़ महिलाएं**, जो **90 लाख से अधिक स्वयं सहायता समूहों** में संगठित हैं, अब जमीनी स्तर पर उद्यमिता और स्थानीय आर्थिक मजबूती को बढ़ा रही हैं।
- The **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** has reached over **10.5 crore households**, reducing health risks and freeing women from time-intensive labour.  
प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना **10.5 करोड़ से अधिक परिवारों** तक पहुंच चुकी है, जिससे स्वास्थ्य जोखिम कम हुए हैं और महिलाओं को समय लेने वाले श्रम से मुक्ति मिली है।
- Moreover, access to credit has expanded, with close to **70% of MUDRA loans going to women entrepreneurs**.  
इसके अलावा, ऋण तक पहुंच बढ़ी है, जहां लगभग **70% मुद्रा ऋण महिला उद्यमियों** को दिए गए हैं।
- Female labour force participation has also risen to nearly **37%**, reversing a long-standing decline.  
महिला श्रम भागीदारी दर भी बढ़कर लगभग **37%** हो गई है, जिससे लंबे समय से चली आ रही गिरावट उलट गई है।
- In healthcare, programmes such as the **Ayushman Bharat** and the **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan** have expanded access and reduced vulnerability at critical life stages.  
स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में **आयुष्मान भारत** और **प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षित मातृत्व अभियान** जैसे कार्यक्रमों ने महत्वपूर्ण जीवन चरणों में पहुंच बढ़ाई है और जोखिम कम किया है।
- Initiatives like the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** scheme have begun to shift deeply embedded social attitudes.  
**बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ** जैसी पहल ने गहराई से जमी सामाजिक सोच को बदलना शुरू किया है।
- Individually, these are strong programmes.  
व्यक्तिगत रूप से ये सभी मजबूत कार्यक्रम हैं।
- Taken together, they represent a structural shift in how India views women not as recipients of support, but as drivers of growth.  
साथ मिलकर ये इस बात का संकेत देते हैं कि भारत महिलाओं को केवल सहायता प्राप्त करने वाली नहीं बल्कि विकास की प्रेरक शक्ति के रूप में देख रहा है।
- For policymakers and administrators, this offers a clear lesson: **scale works when design, delivery, and accountability are aligned**.  
नीति निर्माताओं और प्रशासकों के लिए यह एक स्पष्ट संदेश है: **जब डिजाइन, क्रियान्वयन और जवाबदेही एक साथ हों, तब बड़े स्तर पर सफलता मिलती है।**
- In healthcare, where the author's expertise lies, outcomes improve when systems are built around real needs, and not theoretical models.



स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में, जहां लेखक की विशेषज्ञता है, परिणाम तब बेहतर होते हैं जब प्रणालियां वास्तविक जरूरतों पर आधारित होती हैं, न कि सैद्धांतिक मॉडल पर।

- Where access is simplified; delivery is consistent; and outcomes are tracked, impact follows. जहां पहुंच सरल होती है, सेवाएं नियमित रूप से प्रदान की जाती हैं और परिणामों को ट्रैक किया जाता है, वहां प्रभाव स्वतः दिखाई देता है।
- And yet, the next phase will demand even greater focus, as the challenge before us is no longer policy creation, it is **policy penetration**.  
फिर भी, अगला चरण और अधिक ध्यान की मांग करेगा, क्योंकि अब चुनौती नीति निर्माण नहीं बल्कि **नीति का प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन** है।

## The last mile

### अंतिम चरण

- Despite the scale of programmes, **awareness gaps** remain. कार्यक्रमों के बड़े स्तर के बावजूद, **जागरूकता में अंतर** बना हुआ है।
- Enrolment is uneven, and last-mile delivery continues to depend on **local capacity**. नामांकन असमान है, और अंतिम चरण की डिलीवरी अभी भी **स्थानीय क्षमता** पर निर्भर करती है।
- For every woman who has accessed opportunity, there are many more who remain on the margins due to lack of access.  
हर उस महिला के लिए जिसने अवसर प्राप्त किया है, कई अन्य महिलाएँ हैं जो पहुंच की कमी के कारण हाशिये पर बनी हुई हैं।
- This is where **administrative leadership** becomes decisive. यहीं पर **प्रशासनिक नेतृत्व** निर्णायक बन जाता है।
- India must move from announcing schemes to ensuring **saturation**; from measuring outputs to tracking **outcomes**; and from eligibility on paper to access in practice.  
भारत को योजनाओं की घोषणा से आगे बढ़कर **संतृप्ति** सुनिश्चित करनी होगी; आउटपुट मापने से आगे बढ़कर **परिणामों** को ट्रैक करना होगा; और कागज पर पात्रता से वास्तविक पहुंच तक जाना होगा।
- District-level ownership, **data-driven monitoring**, and convergence across departments will be critical.  
जिला स्तर पर स्वामित्व, **डेटा-आधारित निगरानी**, और विभागों के बीच समन्वय महत्वपूर्ण होंगे।
- And while technology can accelerate this, it cannot replace **on-ground accountability**. और जबकि तकनीक इसे तेज कर सकती है, यह **जमीनी जवाबदेही** का स्थान नहीं ले सकती।
- Therefore, the question for every policymaker is simple: how do we ensure that no eligible woman is left out?  
इसलिए, प्रत्येक नीति निर्माता के लिए सवाल सरल है: हम कैसे सुनिश्चित करें कि कोई भी पात्र महिला छूट न जाए?
- This is where the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** can become one of the most consequential reforms of our time.  
यहीं पर **नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम** हमारे समय के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण सुधारों में से एक बन सकता है।
- By expanding women's representation in **legislative bodies**, it creates the possibility of aligning policy design with lived experience.  
**विधायी संस्थाओं** में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व को बढ़ाकर, यह नीति निर्माण को वास्तविक अनुभवों के साथ जोड़ने की संभावना पैदा करता है।
- Women leaders can bring their insights shaped by community realities which can strengthen programmes, and their delivery, targeting, and adoption.  
महिला नेता अपने सामुदायिक अनुभवों से प्राप्त दृष्टिकोण ला सकती हैं, जो कार्यक्रमों और उनकी डिलीवरी, लक्ष्य निर्धारण और अपनाने को मजबूत कर सकते हैं।
- Additionally, the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, when implemented with intent, can trigger a **multiplier effect** with more women in leadership, more responsive policy, higher participation, and stronger leadership pipelines, making reform self-reinforcing.  
इसके अलावा, **नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम**, जब उद्देश्य के साथ लागू किया जाए, तो यह एक **गुणक प्रभाव** उत्पन्न कर सकता है जिसमें अधिक महिला नेतृत्व, अधिक उत्तरदायी नीतियां, उच्च भागीदारी और मजबूत नेतृत्व श्रृंखला बनती है, जिससे सुधार स्वयं को मजबूत करता है।
- Globally, we are entering a decade defined by **knowledge, innovation, and technology**.  
वैश्विक स्तर पर, हम एक ऐसे दशक में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं जो **ज्ञान, नवाचार और प्रौद्योगिकी** द्वारा परिभाषित है।



- India already has a strong base, with one of the highest proportions of women in **STEM education** globally.  
भारत के पास पहले से ही एक मजबूत आधार है, जहां वैश्विक स्तर पर **STEM शिक्षा** में महिलाओं का अनुपात सबसे अधिक है।
- This is an opportune moment to translate this gain into leadership across sectors such as **healthcare, science, enterprise, and governance** without losing time.  
यह एक उपयुक्त समय है कि इस उपलब्धि को **स्वास्थ्य, विज्ञान, उद्यम और शासन** जैसे क्षेत्रों में नेतृत्व में परिवर्तित किया जाए।
- The past decade has shown what is possible when **political will** aligns with policy design.  
पिछले दशक ने दिखाया है कि जब **राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति** नीति निर्माण के साथ जुड़ती है, तो क्या संभव है।
- With today's strong foundation, the implementation of **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam** can move empowerment beyond access, to authority.  
आज की मजबूत नींव के साथ, **नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम** का कार्यान्वयन सशक्तिकरण को केवल पहुंच से आगे बढ़ाकर अधिकार तक ले जा सकता है।

### The way forward आगे का मार्ग

- However, representation must translate into **capability**, and capability must be built through **institutional support** to ensure that implementation delivers results.  
हालांकि, प्रतिनिधित्व को **क्षमता** में बदलना होगा, और क्षमता को **संस्थागत समर्थन** के माध्यम से विकसित करना होगा ताकि कार्यान्वयन परिणाम दे सके।
- Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but **institutionally**.  
अगले पांच वर्षों में, भारत को महिलाओं को केवल चुनावी ही नहीं बल्कि **संस्थागत नेतृत्व** के लिए तैयार करने में निवेश करना होगा।
- This means structured **mentorship, policy exposure, and administrative support systems** that enable effective governance.  
इसका अर्थ है संरचित **मेंटॉरशिप, नीति अनुभव और प्रशासनिक समर्थन प्रणाली** जो प्रभावी शासन को सक्षम बनाएं।
- It also means rethinking how the country designs policy itself.  
इसका यह भी अर्थ है कि देश को नीति निर्माण के तरीके पर पुनर्विचार करना होगा।
- Programmes must be simpler to access and faster to deliver.  
कार्यक्रमों को अधिक सरल और तेज़ बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- Feedback loops must be strengthened so that policy evolves with need.  
फीडबैक प्रणाली को मजबूत किया जाना चाहिए ताकि नीतियां आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार विकसित हों।
- And success must be measured not just by coverage, but by change in **outcomes across sectors**.  
और सफलता को केवल कवरेज से नहीं बल्कि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में **परिणामों में बदलाव** से मापा जाना चाहिए।
- As India moves towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by **2047**, this is not a peripheral agenda — it is central to its success.  
जैसे-जैसे भारत **2047** तक विकसित राष्ट्र बनने के अपने लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है, यह कोई गौण एजेंडा नहीं बल्कि इसकी सफलता का केंद्र है।
- Women's participation is directly linked to **economic growth, social stability, and institutional effectiveness**.  
महिलाओं की भागीदारी सीधे **आर्थिक विकास, सामाजिक स्थिरता और संस्थागत प्रभावशीलता** से जुड़ी है।
- If India can achieve **saturation in access**, strengthen participation, and enable leadership, it will not just empower its women — it will redefine its growth trajectory.  
यदि भारत **पहुंच में संतृप्ति** प्राप्त कर सके, भागीदारी को मजबूत करे और नेतृत्व को सक्षम बनाए, तो यह न केवल महिलाओं को सशक्त करेगा बल्कि अपनी विकास दिशा को पुनर्परिभाषित करेगा।
- For policymakers and administrators, the mandate is clear: the time to implement is now.  
नीति निर्माताओं और प्रशासकों के लिए संदेश स्पष्ट है: अब कार्यान्वयन का समय है।



TOPICS COVERED	
10A	<b>Rajasthan ACB arrests retired IAS officer Subodh Agarwal in Jal Jeevan Mission scam</b> राजस्थान एसीबी ने जल जीवन मिशन घोटाले में सेवानिवृत्त IAS अधिकारी सुबोध अग्रवाल को गिरफ्तार किया
10A	<b>'Swatantryaveer' is not conferred by any government. on Savarkar, says grandnephew</b> 'स्वातंत्र्यवीर' उपाधि किसी सरकार द्वारा सावरकर को नहीं दी गई, पोते के बेटे (grandnephew) का बयान
10A	<b>Follow rituals and observances of a temple or stay out, says SC Bench hearing Sabarimala case</b> मंदिर की परंपराओं और अनुष्ठानों का पालन करें या बाहर रहें, सबरीमाला मामले की सुनवाई में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की टिप्पणी
10A	<b>Have elections in India become plutocratic?</b> क्या भारत में चुनाव धनतंत्र (Plutocratic) बन गए हैं?

## Rajasthan ACB arrests retired IAS officer Subodh Agarwal in Jal Jeevan Mission scam

GS II: Polity  
**Mohammed Iqbal**  
JAIPUR

In a major breakthrough, Rajasthan's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Subodh Agarwal in connection with the alleged irregularities amounting to ₹960 crore in the tender process for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Mr. Agarwal was on the run since an arrest warrant was issued against him by a court.

Mr. Agarwal was arrested in Delhi and was later brought to the ACB headquarters here by a team of the Bureau sleuths, official sources said here. He was being interrogated by the ACB officers and will be produced before a special court here within the stipulated



Subodh Agarwal

period of 24 hours.

The ACB's investigation into the alleged JJM scam, which began in 2024, has led to the arrest of 10 accused, while three others are absconding. While Mr. Agarwal has been arrested during the ongoing crackdown, the authorities have also initiated action to attach the properties of the absconding accused.

The ACB had formed 40 teams to search for the retired IAS officer, who was

Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, during the alleged irregularities. The teams conducted raids at over 100 locations across nearly 21 cities, including Jaipur, Mumbai and New Delhi. Mr. Agarwal reportedly surrendered before a court in Delhi, after which was arrested.

Large-scale irregularities were found in the JJM tender process, as two private firms allegedly secured contracts by submitting forged completion certificates, according to the ACB. Despite the officials being aware of the irregularities, no action was taken at the time. The scrutiny of evidence and the raids revealed fake billing, financial irregularities and violations in the tender process.

10A.

**Rajasthan ACB arrests retired IAS officer Subodh Agarwal in Jal Jeevan**



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



## Mission scam

### राजस्थान एसीबी ने जल जीवन मिशन घोटाले में सेवानिवृत्त IAS अधिकारी सुबोध अग्रवाल को गिरफ्तार किया

- Rajasthan ACB arrests retired IAS officer Subodh Agarwal in Jal Jeevan Mission scam.  
राजस्थान एसीबी ने जल जीवन मिशन घोटाले में सेवानिवृत्त IAS अधिकारी सुबोध अग्रवाल को गिरफ्तार किया।
- In a major breakthrough, Rajasthan's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Subodh Agarwal in connection with the alleged irregularities amounting to ₹960 crore in the tender process for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).  
एक बड़ी सफलता में, राजस्थान एंटी-करप्शन ब्यूरो (ACB) ने गुरुवार को सुबोध अग्रवाल को ₹960 करोड़ की कथित अनियमितताओं के मामले में जल जीवन मिशन (JJM) के टेंडर प्रक्रिया से जुड़े मामले में गिरफ्तार किया।
- Mr. Agarwal was on the run since an arrest warrant was issued against him by a court.  
श्री अग्रवाल गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी होने के बाद से फरार थे।
- Mr. Agarwal was arrested in Delhi and was later brought to the ACB headquarters here by a team of the Bureau sleuths, official sources said here.  
श्री अग्रवाल को दिल्ली में गिरफ्तार किया गया और बाद में एसीबी की टीम उन्हें मुख्यालय लेकर आई।
- He was being interrogated by the ACB officers and will be produced before a special court here within the stipulated period of 24 hours.  
उन्हें एसीबी अधिकारियों द्वारा पूछताछ की जा रही है और 24 घंटे के भीतर विशेष अदालत में पेश किया जाएगा।
- The ACB's investigation into the alleged JJM scam, which began in 2024, has led to the arrest of 10 accused, while three others are absconding.  
2024 में शुरू हुई JJM घोटाले की जांच में अब तक 10 आरोपियों की गिरफ्तारी हुई है, जबकि 3 फरार हैं।
- While Mr. Agarwal has been arrested during the ongoing crackdown, the authorities have also initiated action to attach the properties of the absconding accused.  
जहां अग्रवाल को गिरफ्तार किया गया है, वहीं फरार आरोपियों की संपत्ति जब्त करने की कार्रवाई भी शुरू की गई है।
- The ACB had formed 40 teams to search for the retired IAS officer, who was Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, during the alleged irregularities.  
एसीबी ने पूर्व अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव (PHED) रहे अग्रवाल की तलाश के लिए 40 टीमें बनाई थीं।
- The teams conducted raids at over 100 locations across nearly 21 cities, including Jaipur, Mumbai and New Delhi.  
इन टीमों ने 100 से अधिक स्थानों पर, लगभग 21 शहरों में छापेमारी की, जिनमें जयपुर, मुंबई और नई दिल्ली शामिल हैं।
- Mr. Agarwal reportedly surrendered before a court in Delhi, after which was arrested.  
अग्रवाल ने कथित तौर पर दिल्ली की अदालत में आत्मसमर्पण किया, जिसके बाद उन्हें गिरफ्तार किया गया।
- Large-scale irregularities were found in the JJM tender process, as two private firms allegedly secured contracts by submitting forged completion certificates, according to the ACB.  
एसीबी के अनुसार, JJM टेंडर प्रक्रिया में बड़े पैमाने पर अनियमितताएं पाई गईं, जहां दो निजी कंपनियों ने फर्जी प्रमाणपत्र देकर ठेके हासिल किए।
- Despite the officials being aware of the irregularities, no action was taken at the time.  
अधिकारियों को जानकारी होने के बावजूद उस समय कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई।
- The scrutiny of evidence and the raids revealed fake billing, financial irregularities and violations in the tender process.  
जांच और छापों में फर्जी बिलिंग, वित्तीय अनियमितताएं और टेंडर प्रक्रिया में उल्लंघन सामने आए।



# ‘Swatantryaveer’ honorific not conferred by any govt. on Savarkar, says grandnephew

GS II: Polity

Chinmay Gaikwad

MUMBAI

The title ‘Swatantryaveer’ was not given to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar by any government, but by writer Sadashiv Ranade in a biography, testified Satyaki Savarkar, grandnephew of the political ideologue, before a special MP/MLA court in Pune.

Mr. Satyaki, complainant in a criminal defamation case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged derogatory remarks against Savarkar, made the statement on Wednesday before Special Judge Amol Shinde while being cross-examined by Mr. Gandhi’s counsel Milind Pawar. “It is true to say that the ‘Swatantryaveer’

GS I: History



Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

title is not granted by [any] government to Savarkar. It is not true to say that the title of Swatantryaveer was not bestowed upon him by the people,” Mr. Satyaki said during his testimony.

He said he does not possess any document to show that the public had conferred the title on Savarkar. “It is true to say that the tit-

le of Swatantryaveer is given to Savarkar in the biography written by Sadashiv Ranade. I do not know whether the title given to Savarkar by Ranade was his imagination,” he stated.

Mr. Satyaki also accepted that Savarkar went to London for studies during British rule and lived there for four years. He agreed that Savarkar wrote several books and articles during that period, and that some of these works were published under other names to avoid attention from British authorities.

However, he accepted that he could not tell what these books contain.

The defamation complaint alleges that Mr. Gandhi made statements against Savarkar on multi-

ple occasions, including a speech on March 5, 2023, at the Overseas Congress event in the United Kingdom. Mr. Satyaki claimed that Mr. Gandhi accused Savarkar of writing a book in which he described beating up a Muslim person – an assertion Mr. Satyaki says is false, and that no such incident occurred. The complainant has submitted news reports and a YouTube link of Mr. Gandhi’s speech as evidence.

Savarkar’s grandnephew has sought punishment for Mr. Gandhi under Section 500 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code and compensation under Section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The cross-examination will continue on April 13.

## 10A. ‘Swatantryaveer’ is not conferred by any government. on Savarkar, says grandnephew

### ‘स्वातंत्र्यवीर’ उपाधि किसी सरकार द्वारा सावरकर को नहीं दी गई, पोते के बेटे (grandnephew) का बयान

- ‘Swatantryaveer’ is not conferred by any government. on Savarkar, says grandnephew. ‘स्वातंत्र्यवीर’ उपाधि किसी सरकार द्वारा सावरकर को नहीं दी गई, ऐसा उनके grandnephew ने कहा।
- Mr. Satyaki also accepted that Savarkar went to London for studies during British rule and lived there for four years. सत्यकी ने यह भी स्वीकार किया कि सावरकर ब्रिटिश शासन के दौरान पढ़ाई के लिए लंदन गए और वहां चार साल रहे।
- He agreed that Savarkar wrote several books and articles during that period, and that some of these works were published under other names to avoid attention from British authorities. उन्होंने माना कि सावरकर ने उस समय कई पुस्तकें और लेख लिखे और कुछ को छद्म नामों से प्रकाशित किया।
- However, he accepted that he could not tell what these books contain. हालांकि, उन्होंने माना कि उन्हें इन पुस्तकों की सामग्री के बारे में जानकारी नहीं है।
- Mr. Satyaki claimed that Mr. Gandhi accused Savarkar of writing a book in which he described beating up a Muslim person — an assertion Mr. Satyaki says is false, and that no such incident occurred. सत्यकी ने दावा किया कि गांधी ने सावरकर पर एक पुस्तक में मुस्लिम व्यक्ति को पीटने का वर्णन करने का आरोप लगाया, जिसे उन्होंने झूठा बताया।
- Savarkar’s grandnephew has sought punishment for Mr. Gandhi under Section 500 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code and compensation under Section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. सावरकर के grandnephew ने गांधी के खिलाफ IPC की धारा 500 (मानहानि) और CrPC की धारा 357 के तहत सजा और मुआवजा मांगा है।



# Follow rituals and observances of a temple or stay out, says SC Bench hearing Sabarimala case

GS II: Polity  
Krishnadās Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said a person who wants to visit a temple has to follow the *sampradaya* (traditional practices) of the shrine or stay out.

The court, in the Sabarimala reference, said people may have their own personal beliefs, but the rituals and observances of a temple have to be followed if one desires to worship there.

**'Can't change practice'**  
"You may have your own personal belief, but you cannot try to change the practice or *sampradaya* followed in a temple..."

Either you adhere to it or leave it. In Kerala, in some temples, you have to wear dhoti. If you cannot do it, you cannot enter there... There is no choice, except to go under the *sampradaya* attached to a temple or a denomination. The moment you question the practice, you go out of the denomination," Justice M.M. Sundresh, a member of the nine-judge Bench, said.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading the Bench, said that in Guruvayoor temple, devotees have to take off their shirts to enter. "In gurdwaras, you have to cover your head," he said.

Senior advocate C.S.



Petitioners say the 2018 verdict, which allowed women of all ages to enter Sabarimala, didn't apply the *sampradaya* test. LEJU KAMAL

Vaidyanathan, appearing for the Nair Service Society and other devotees' organisations, said the Sabarimala judgment of 2018, which lifted the "ancient" prohibition

on women of menstruating age from entering the shrine, did not apply the '*sampradaya* test'. The 2018 verdict had rejected the argument that

the prohibition was an ancient custom and a core belief.

The judgment had declared the bar a violation of women's right to religious freedom and equality.

"Hindus can belong to several *sampradayas*. They can visit any temple. But if a Hindu wants to visit a particular temple, the *sampradaya* attached to that temple must be followed," Justice B.V. Nagarathna observed.

Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, for the Centre, said the management of the affairs in a temple and the manner of conduct of worship were intrinsic to the faith of the devotee.

## 10A. Follow rituals and observances of a temple or stay out, says SC Bench hearing Sabarimala case

मंदिर की परंपराओं और अनुष्ठानों का पालन करें या बाहर रहें, सबरीमाला मामले की सुनवाई में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की टिप्पणी

- The court, in the Sabarimala reference, said people may have their own personal beliefs, but the rituals and observances of a temple have to be followed if one desires to worship there. अदालत ने सबरीमाला मामले में कहा कि लोगों के अपने व्यक्तिगत विश्वास हो सकते हैं, लेकिन पूजा करने के लिए मंदिर के अनुष्ठानों का पालन जरूरी है।

### 'Can't change practice' 'परंपरा बदली नहीं जा सकती'

- "You may have your own personal belief, but you cannot try to change the practice or *sampradaya* followed in a temple..."  
"आपके अपने व्यक्तिगत विश्वास हो सकते हैं, लेकिन आप मंदिर की परंपरा (*sampradaya*) बदलने की कोशिश नहीं कर सकते..."
- Either you adhere to it or leave it.  
या तो आप इसका पालन करें या छोड़ दें।
- In Kerala, in some temples, you have to wear dhoti.  
केरल के कुछ मंदिरों में धोती पहनना अनिवार्य है।
- If you cannot do it, you cannot enter there...  
यदि आप ऐसा नहीं कर सकते, तो आप प्रवेश नहीं कर सकते।
- There is no choice, except to go under the *sampradaya* attached to a temple or a denomination.  
कोई विकल्प नहीं है, सिवाय मंदिर की परंपरा के अनुसार चलने के।
- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading the Bench, said that in Guruvayoor temple, devotees have to take off their shirts to enter.  
मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत ने कहा कि गुरुवायूर मंदिर में प्रवेश के लिए शर्ट उतारनी होती है।
- "In gurdwaras, you have to cover your head," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, "गुरुद्वारों में आपको सिर ढकना होता है।"



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- Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, appearing for the Nair Service Society and other devotees' organisations, said the Sabarimala judgment of 2018, which lifted the "ancient" prohibition on women of menstruating age from entering the shrine, did not apply the 'sampradaya test'.  
सी.एस. वैद्यनाथन ने कहा कि 2018 का सबरीमाला फैसला, जिसमें महिलाओं के प्रवेश पर प्रतिबंध हटाया गया, उसमें **sampradaya test** लागू नहीं किया गया।
- The 2018 verdict had rejected the argument that the prohibition was an ancient custom and a core belief.  
2018 के फैसले ने यह तर्क खारिज किया कि यह प्रतिबंध एक प्राचीन परंपरा और मूल विश्वास था।
- The judgment had declared the bar a violation of women's right to religious freedom and equality.  
फैसले में इसे महिलाओं के धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता और समानता के अधिकार का उल्लंघन बताया गया।
- "Hindus can belong to several sampradayas."  
"हिंदू कई सम्प्रदायों से संबंधित हो सकते हैं।"
- They can visit any temple.  
वे किसी भी मंदिर में जा सकते हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS



## Have elections in India become plutocratic?



**M.R. Madhavan**  
Co-founder and president of PIS Legislative Research



**R. Rangarajan**  
Former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Policy Simplified'

IAS: Polity

PARLEY

**A**s Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry head to the polls, India's vibrant democracy is on full display once again. But behind the rallies and roadshows, there is a growing concern: elections are becoming increasingly expensive. With political parties spending heavily on campaigns, advertising, and outreach, the role of money in shaping electoral competition is under scrutiny. Data shows that nearly 93% of India's Members of Parliament are crorepatists, raising the question of whether access to political power is becoming more unequal. What does this mean for smaller parties and independent candidates? And what would it take to fix it? M.R. Madhavan and R. Rangarajan discuss in a conversation moderated by V. Nivedita. Edited excerpts:

**How expensive are elections in India?**

**M.R. Madhavan:** We actually don't know. Officially, the limit for a Lok Sabha candidate is ₹95 lakh. But we know, from talking to anyone who has contested, that they spend far higher than that. There is no official number, but there are estimates, and they vary from State to State. I have heard numbers in the range of ₹50 crore to ₹100 crore being spent in some places by each candidate. But there is no real data because none of this is accounted, audited, or reported.

**The Election Commission mandates that candidates can spend only a few lakhs, but the candidates spend higher than that. How is the EC allowing them to do that?**

**R. Rangarajan:** This is a very complicated problem. I have studied it, taught it, and even contested an election, where I spent ₹20 lakh for a parliamentary seat and got a handsome 1.35 lakh votes, about 12% of the constituency. But that is for a candidate who simply wants to participate. For winning, as Madhavan said, the official limit is ₹95 lakh for a parliamentary constituency and ₹40 lakh for an assembly segment. In reality, the expenditure runs into tens of crores. There is no limit on party's expenditure but only on candidate. It has become an uneven playing field. The Election Commission does send observers, but they are there only from the day of nomination to election day. In those 20 days, how much can they monitor? A lot of spending happens in unaccounted cash.

**Are smaller parties and independent candidates being pushed out because of high expenditure?**



Elections have become increasingly expensive. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**R.R.:** Money is not a sufficient condition to win an election, but it has become a necessary condition. People spend crores and still lose. Unless there is a strong wave in favour of a leader or a movement, which happens rarely, like the AAP's victory in Delhi in 2014. In most elections that are dominated by national and regional parties, well-meaning independents and smaller parties are only going to be also-rans. They cannot compete with the money power of larger parties.

**M.R.:** This is standard across democracies. Take the U.S., a large country with 50 States, but effectively only two major parties dominate. India has more parties, but if you look at it at the State-level, typically, there are two main contenders, sometimes three, and they eventually form coalitions. This is typical in a first-past-the-post system, where even a 1-2% margin can decide the winner. So parties tend to consolidate. Smaller parties and independents usually don't stay in power, except in rare cases.

**Is a cap necessary on election spending by individual candidates?**

**M.R.:** The problem is that we need to spend a lot of money for the size of constituencies we have, for holding rallies, and to reach out to people. Even if you are not giving money to make people vote for you, you would still need a lot of money to campaign legitimately. The current limits are too low. One option is to increase the limit. Today, even if someone raises funds transparently, they cannot spend beyond the limit without risking disqualification. So, candidates are forced to use black money.

**R.R.:** It is a catch-22 situation. Increasing limits may allow candidates to spend more white money, because the bigger parties tend to have resourceful candidates. But I think there is a logic in keeping the limit at this level. In fact,

many people will say even this limit is quite a high number. Because of the first-past-the-post system, candidates leave no stone unturned to win, including cash distribution. State funding of elections has been discussed, but it is not practical to implement.

There could be a cap on party funding as well, similar to the U.K. system, where total party spending is linked to the number of candidates. A mixed-member proportional system could also help smaller parties gain representation, but that would require major changes.

**Will imposing caps on parties' spending on elections level the playing field?**

**M.R.:** Limits can be imposed, but it will drive the spending underground. You'll have more spending with black money, which is not reported. The reported amount stays within the limit. How do you manage that given the way our country works? One option is to remove limits and focus on transparency. That is, let candidates spend money and report it accurately.

**R.R.:** Even then, the use of black money will continue. There is already no limit on party spending, yet official disclosures are far lower than actual estimates. In the 2024 general election, the BJP said it spent ₹1,500 crore and the Congress said it spent around ₹900 crore in their affidavit to the Election Commission. The official expenditure of all the big national and State parties put together is around ₹3,300-3,400 crore. But the Centre for Media Studies estimates that close to ₹1 lakh crore was spent.

**Is a level-playing field even possible?**

**R.R.:** It requires political will. One simple reform could be banning government-funded advertisements six months before elections. Currently, governments can spend on ads until elections are announced, just 35-40 days before the elections. Other reforms include proportional representation.

**M.R.:** The question is, is money the primary driver of election results? Evidence shows that parties spending heavily still lose if they fail to convince voters. I would also focus on post-election functioning. Other than the fact that they elect the prime minister or chief minister, they become irrelevant because they have to abide by the party whip. That is where we need real reforms.

**The Supreme Court scrapped electoral bonds, but the opacity remains.**

**R.R.:** I think the Supreme Court rightly struck it down. And we got to know the details of the donors because they were asked to disclose it. And we got to know who had given how much to which party. I think that was a very ill-conceived scheme.

It would have been completely opaque. Companies Act was amended to say that even loss-making companies can contribute, which is against the interests of shareholders. The electoral bond scheme would have neither brought transparency nor accountability.

**How do we build a system that has both accountability and transparency?**

**M.R.:** It's very important to have transparency because that brings in accountability. If you see 'X' has funded this party which won the election and that party takes a decision that benefits 'X', it is at least open and visible. That visibility would bring in accountability. But there's a question – should companies be allowed to fund elections? They don't have a vote. Only citizens vote.

So should such an entity be allowed to fund elections at all? We had actually banned it sometime in the late 60s. We allowed it again about 15 years later. Both were done for certain political reasons, but the fundamental question should be discussed.

**R.R.:** That is a fair point. Democracies the world over are a nexus between big corporate interests and politicians. This would require political will to change the law and that is not forthcoming, unfortunately.

**What role do civil society, pressure groups and media play in fixing the system?**

**R.R.:** I think the most important role they play is at least spreading awareness.

**M.R.:** But it's also important to note that people do know a lot of things and they act in a particular way. In fact, Milan Vaishnav had a very nice book called 'Why Crime Pays', which says that people actively vote for certain politicians who have a criminal background. That in fact benefits them in an election. Beyond awareness, we'll have to address the core reasons why people behave in a certain way so that we actually have a more thriving democracy.



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

### 10A. Have elections in India become plutocratic? क्या भारत में चुनाव धनतंत्र (Plutocratic) बन गए हैं?

- Data shows that nearly **93% of India's Members of Parliament are crorepatists**, raising the question of whether access to political power is becoming more unequal. आंकड़े बताते हैं कि भारत के लगभग **93% सांसद करोड़पति हैं**, जिससे यह सवाल उठता है कि क्या राजनीतिक सत्ता तक पहुंच अधिक असमान होती जा रही है।
- **What does this mean for smaller parties and independent candidates?** इसका छोटे दलों और स्वतंत्र उम्मीदवारों के लिए क्या अर्थ है?

### How expensive are elections in India? भारत में चुनाव कितने महंगे हैं?

- **M.R. Madhavan:** We actually don't know. एम.आर. माधवन: वास्तव में हमें नहीं पता।
- **Officially, the limit for a Lok Sabha candidate is ₹95 lakh.** आधिकारिक रूप से, एक लोकसभा उम्मीदवार के लिए सीमा ₹95 लाख है।
- I have heard numbers in the range of **₹50 crore to ₹100 crore** being spent in some places by each candidate. मैंने सुना है कि कुछ स्थानों पर प्रत्येक उम्मीदवार **₹50 करोड़ से ₹100 करोड़ तक** खर्च करता है।
- But there is no real data because none of this is accounted, audited, or reported. लेकिन कोई वास्तविक डेटा नहीं है क्योंकि यह सब न तो दर्ज किया जाता है, न ऑडिट किया जाता है और न ही रिपोर्ट किया जाता है।
- The **Election Commission mandates that candidates can spend only a few lakhs, but the candidates spend higher than that.** निर्वाचन आयोग यह निर्धारित करता है कि उम्मीदवार केवल कुछ लाख रुपये खर्च कर सकते हैं, लेकिन उम्मीदवार इससे अधिक खर्च करते हैं।



- R. Rangarajan:** I have studied it, taught it, and even contested an election, where I spent ₹20 lakh for a parliamentary seat and got a handsome 1.35 lakh votes, about 12% of the constituency.

मैंने इसका अध्ययन किया है, इसे पढ़ाया है और स्वयं चुनाव भी लड़ा है, जहां मैंने एक संसदीय सीट के लिए ₹20 लाख खर्च किए और मुझे लगभग 1.35 लाख वोट मिले, जो 12% क्षेत्र के बराबर थे।
- For winning, as Madhavan said, the official limit is ₹95 lakh for a parliamentary constituency and ₹40 lakh for an assembly segment.

जीतने के लिए, जैसा कि माधवन ने कहा, आधिकारिक सीमा संसदीय क्षेत्र के लिए ₹95 लाख और विधानसभा क्षेत्र के लिए ₹40 लाख है।
- There is no limit on party's expenditure but only on candidate.

पार्टी के खर्च पर कोई सीमा नहीं है, केवल उम्मीदवार पर है।
- It has become an uneven playing field.

यह एक असमान प्रतिस्पर्धा का मैदान बन गया है।
- The Election Commission does send observers, but they are there only from the day of nomination to election day.

निर्वाचन आयोग पर्यवेक्षक भेजता है, लेकिन वे केवल नामांकन के दिन से चुनाव तक ही रहते हैं।
- A lot of spending happens in unaccounted cash.

बहुत सारा खर्च अघोषित नकदी में होता है।
- Unless there is a strong wave in favour of a leader or a movement, which happens rarely, like the AAP's victory in Delhi in 2014.

जब तक किसी नेता या आंदोलन के पक्ष में मजबूत लहर न हो, जो बहुत कम होता है, जैसे 2014 में दिल्ली में आम आदमी पार्टी की जीत।

Is a cap necessary on election spending by individual candidates?

क्या व्यक्तिगत उम्मीदवारों के चुनावी खर्च पर सीमा आवश्यक है?

- M.R.:** The problem is that we need to spend a lot of money for the size of constituencies we have, for holding rallies, and to reach out to people.

**एम.आर.:** समस्या यह है कि हमारे निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों के आकार के कारण, रैलियां आयोजित करने और लोगों तक पहुंचने के लिए हमें बहुत अधिक धन खर्च करना पड़ता है।
- Even if you are not giving money to make people vote for you, you would still need a lot of money to campaign legitimately.

भले ही आप लोगों को वोट देने के लिए पैसा न दे रहे हों, फिर भी वैध रूप से प्रचार करने के लिए आपको काफी धन की आवश्यकता होती है।
- The current limits are too low.

वर्तमान सीमाएं बहुत कम हैं।
- One option is to increase the limit.

एक विकल्प यह है कि सीमा को बढ़ाया जाए।
- There could be a cap on party funding as well, similar to the U.K. system, where total party spending is linked to the number of candidates.

पार्टी फंडिंग पर भी सीमा लगाई जा सकती है, जैसे यू.के. प्रणाली में, जहां कुल खर्च उम्मीदवारों की संख्या से जुड़ा होता है।
- A mixed-member proportional representation system could also help smaller parties gain representation, but that would require major changes.

मिश्रित-सदस्य आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व प्रणाली छोटे दलों को प्रतिनिधित्व दिलाने में मदद कर सकती है, लेकिन इसके लिए बड़े बदलाव आवश्यक होंगे।

Will imposing caps on parties' spending on elections level the playing field?

क्या पार्टियों के चुनावी खर्च पर सीमा लगाने से समान अवसर मिलेगा?

- M.R.:** Limits can be imposed, but it will drive the spending underground.

**एम.आर.:** सीमाएं लगाई जा सकती हैं, लेकिन इससे खर्च भूमिगत हो जाएगा।
- One option is to remove limits and focus on transparency.

एक विकल्प यह है कि सीमाएं हटा दी जाएं और पारदर्शिता पर ध्यान दिया जाए।



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- That is, let candidates spend money and report it accurately.  
अर्थात, उम्मीदवारों को खर्च करने दें और उसे सही तरीके से रिपोर्ट करने दें।
- R.R.: Even then, the use of black money will continue.  
आर.आर.: तब भी काले धन का उपयोग जारी रहेगा।
- There is already no limit on party spending, yet official disclosures are far lower than actual estimates.  
पहले से ही पार्टी खर्च पर कोई सीमा नहीं है, फिर भी आधिकारिक खुलासे वास्तविक अनुमान से बहुत कम हैं।
- In the 2024 general election, the BJP said it spent ₹1,500 crore and the Congress said it spent around ₹600 crore in their affidavit to the Election Commission.  
2024 के आम चुनाव में, भाजपा ने कहा कि उसने ₹1,500 करोड़ खर्च किए और कांग्रेस ने अपने हलफनामे में लगभग ₹600 करोड़ खर्च बताए।
- The official expenditure of all the big national and State parties put together is around ₹3,300-3,400 crore.  
सभी बड़े राष्ट्रीय और राज्य दलों का कुल आधिकारिक खर्च लगभग ₹3,300-3,400 करोड़ है।
- But the Centre for Media Studies estimates that close to ₹1 lakh crore was spent.  
लेकिन सेंटर फॉर मीडिया स्टडीज का अनुमान है कि लगभग ₹1 लाख करोड़ खर्च किए गए।

Is a level-playing field even possible?

क्या समान अवसर वाला चुनावी मैदान संभव है?

- R.R.: It requires political will.  
आर.आर.: इसके लिए राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति की आवश्यकता है।
- One simple reform could be banning government-funded advertisements six months before elections.  
एक सरल सुधार यह हो सकता है कि चुनाव से छह महीने पहले सरकारी विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया जाए।
- Currently, governments can spend on ads until elections are announced, just 35-40 days before the elections.  
वर्तमान में सरकारें चुनाव घोषित होने तक, यानी केवल 35-40 दिन पहले तक, विज्ञापनों पर खर्च कर सकती हैं।
- Other reforms include proportional representation.  
अन्य सुधारों में अनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व शामिल है।
- I think that was a very ill-conceived scheme.  
मेरा मानना है कि यह एक बहुत ही गलत ढंग से बनाई गई योजना थी।
- It would have been completely opaque.  
यह पूरी तरह से अपारदर्शी होती।
- Companies Act was amended to say that even loss-making companies can contribute, which is against the interests of shareholders.  
कंपनी अधिनियम में संशोधन किया गया ताकि घाटे में चल रही कंपनियां भी योगदान दे सकें, जो शेयरधारकों के हितों के विरुद्ध है।
- The electoral bond scheme would have neither brought transparency nor accountability.  
इलेक्टोरल बॉन्ड योजना न तो पारदर्शिता लाती और न ही जवाबदेही।
- How do we build a system that has both accountability and transparency?  
हम ऐसा तंत्र कैसे बनाएं जिसमें जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता दोनों हों?
- M.R.: It's very important to have transparency because that brings in accountability.  
एम.आर.: पारदर्शिता बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह जवाबदेही लाती है।
- If you see 'X' has funded this party which won the election and that party takes a decision that benefits 'X', it is at least open and visible.  
यदि आप देखते हैं कि 'X' ने उस पार्टी को धन दिया जिसने चुनाव जीता और वह पार्टी 'X' को लाभ पहुंचाने वाला निर्णय लेती है, तो यह कम से कम खुला और दिखाई देने वाला है।
- That visibility would bring in accountability.  
यह दृश्यता जवाबदेही लाएगी।
- But there's a question — should companies be allowed to fund elections?  
लेकिन एक सवाल है — क्या कंपनियों को चुनाव में धन देने की अनुमति होनी चाहिए?
- They don't have a vote.  
उनके पास मतदान का अधिकार नहीं होता।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Only citizens vote.  
केवल नागरिक वोट देते हैं।
- So should such an entity be allowed to fund elections at all?  
तो क्या ऐसी इकाइयों को चुनाव में धन देने की अनुमति होनी चाहिए?
- We had actually banned it sometime in the late 60s.  
हमने वास्तव में इसे 1960 के दशक के अंत में प्रतिबंधित किया था।
- We allowed it again about 15 years later.  
हमने लगभग 15 साल बाद इसे फिर से अनुमति दी।
- Both were done for certain political reasons, but the fundamental question should be discussed.  
दोनों निर्णय कुछ राजनीतिक कारणों से लिए गए थे, लेकिन मूल प्रश्न पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।
- **R.R.:** That is a fair point.  
**आर.आर.:** यह एक उचित बिंदु है।
- Democracies the world over are a **nexus between big corporate interests and politicians.**  
दुनिया भर के लोकतंत्रों में **बड़े कॉर्पोरेट हितों और राजनेताओं के बीच गठजोड़** होता है।
- This would require political will to change the law and that is not forthcoming, unfortunately.  
कानून बदलने के लिए राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति की आवश्यकता होगी, जो दुर्भाग्यवश दिखाई नहीं दे रही है।

**What role do civil society, pressure groups and media play in fixing the system?**

**प्रणाली को सुधारने में नागरिक समाज, दबाव समूह और मीडिया की क्या भूमिका है?**

- **R.R.:** I think the most important role they play is at least spreading **awareness.**  
**आर.आर.:** मेरा मानना है कि उनकी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका कम से कम **जागरूकता फैलाना** है।
- **M.R.:** But it's also important to note that people do know a lot of things and they act in a particular way.  
**एम.आर.:** लेकिन यह भी ध्यान रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि लोग बहुत कुछ जानते हैं और उसी अनुसार व्यवहार करते हैं।
- In fact, **Milan Vaishnav** had a very nice book called '**Why Crime Pays**', which says that people actively vote for certain politicians who have a criminal background.  
वास्तव में, **मिलन वैष्णव** की एक प्रसिद्ध पुस्तक '**Why Crime Pays**' है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि लोग सक्रिय रूप से ऐसे नेताओं को वोट देते हैं जिनका आपराधिक पृष्ठभूमि होती है।
- That in fact benefits them in an election.  
यह वास्तव में चुनाव में उनके लिए लाभकारी होता है।
- Beyond awareness, we'll have to address the **core reasons** why people behave in a certain way so that we actually have a more **thriving democracy.**  
जागरूकता से आगे बढ़कर हमें उन **मूल कारणों** को समझना होगा कि लोग ऐसा व्यवहार क्यों करते हैं, ताकि वास्तव में एक अधिक **सशक्त लोकतंत्र** विकसित हो सके।

<b>GS Paper II: International Relations</b>		<b>10 April 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>10A</b>	<b>Investors position for a post-Orban Hungary</b> निवेशक पोस्ट-ओर्बान हंगरी के लिए स्थिति बना रहे हैं	
<b>10A</b>	<b>Worried by hits on Iran's nuclear site: IAEA's Grossi</b> ईरान के परमाणु स्थल पर हमलों से चिंतित: IAEA के ग्रॉसी	
<b>10A</b>	<b>Trump makes up with Sahel juntas with focus on U.S. mineral interests</b> ट्रंप ने साहेल सैन्य शासनों से संबंध सुधारे, ध्यान अमेरिकी खनिज हितों पर	



# Investors position for a post-Orban Hungary

CS II IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters  
LONDON/BUDAPEST

After Viktor Orban's 16-year rule in Hungary, international investors say they are primed for the once unthinkable prospect that the firebrand Prime Minister and thorn in the EU's side - could be voted out of power at the weekend.

Hungary's Parliamentary election on Sunday is set to be the most market-sensitive in Europe this year, political analysts say, given Orban's frequent clashes with Brussels over issues ranging from immigration to his closeness to Russia.

Sharp share price falls of companies linked to Orban

along with currency market volatility gauges indicating potential extreme moves in the forint, show investors are clearly betting on change.

## Orban 'defeat'

"I would say the market is positioning for an Orban defeat," said Viktor Szabo, an EM debt portfolio manager at Aberdeen in London, which has been increasing its exposure to Hungary's government bonds over the last month.

Orban's position has become precarious following three years of economic stagnation, a cost-of-living crisis since the war in Ukraine and revelations about his ties to Russia.

Opinion polls point to the 62-year-old being beaten by former Fidesz party ally



Uncertain outcome: A person wears a mask depicting Viktor Orban in Budapest, Hungary. REUTERS

Peter Magyar though political analysts say there is a range of potential outcomes, including Orban clinging to power.

Hungary's government bonds are in the spotlight

for investors because a win for Magyar and his Tisza party could start to unlock some €18 billion (\$21 billion) of EU funding that has been frozen due to concerns over democratic

standards. The amount is equivalent to about 8% of Hungary's expected gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

"That money would provide a much-needed

boost to investment, which has been a weak spot for years in Hungary," Szabo explained, adding that better growth would also help the government's finances.

## Close call

Budapest currently has one of the EU's largest budget deficits at over 5%. Its debt-to-GDP ratio is also above 70% and rising, meaning that rating agency S&P Global has the country just one downgrade away from 'junk' status.

Political analysts stress the election result might not go the way polls currently indicate - raising risks for investors betting on the most market-friendly outcome of victory for the pro-EU Tisza party.

"In the current situation, anything is possible

from a Tisza constitutional supermajority to a Fidesz majority," political scientist Andrea Szabo said.

She cautions the polls may be underestimating support for Fidesz. The far-right Our Homeland party could also win enough support to become a "king-maker," opening a path for Fidesz and Orban to stay in power.

In any case, the EU's longest-serving leader may not go down without a fight, potentially complicating any transition to a new government, some analysts warn.

While Hungary's currency, stock market and bonds have largely outperformed on the prospect of a Tisza victory, without a parliamentary supermajority - something analysts at

JPMorgan see as only a 5-10% probability - rolling back even Orban's most contested policies would be complicated.

"The European Commission has previously released funding in response to reforms, so a Tisza government could plausibly secure access to limited tranches," analysts at Capital Economics said.

"That said, it's unlikely that the EU would formally lower the thresholds for unlocking frozen funds."

**Boost for Forint**  
The outcome of the vote will also affect other countries such as Ukraine - where Orban is currently blocking a €30 billion EU loan - and others around Europe where right-wing populists eye power.

## 10A. Investors position for a post-Orban Hungary निवेशक पोस्ट-ओर्बान हंगरी के लिए स्थिति बना रहे हैं

- Investors position for a post-Orban Hungary.  
निवेशक पोस्ट-ओर्बान हंगरी के लिए अपनी स्थिति बना रहे हैं।
- After **Viktor Orban's** 16-year rule in Hungary, international investors say they are primed for the once unthinkable prospect that the firebrand Prime Minister and thorn in the EU's side - could be voted out of power at the weekend.  
विक्टर ओर्बान के 16 साल के शासन के बाद, अंतरराष्ट्रीय निवेशकों का कहना है कि अब यह संभव है कि प्रधानमंत्री को सत्ता से बाहर किया जा सकता है।
- Hungary's Parliamentary election on Sunday is set to be the most market-sensitive in Europe this year, political analysts say, given Orban's frequent clashes with Brussels over issues ranging from immigration to his closeness to Russia.  
हंगरी का संसदीय चुनाव इस वर्ष यूरोप में सबसे मार्केट-संवेदनशील माना जा रहा है, क्योंकि ओर्बान के ब्रसेल्स से कई मुद्दों पर टकराव रहे हैं।
- Sharp share price falls of companies linked to Orban along with currency market volatility gauges indicating potential extreme moves in the forint, show investors are clearly betting on change.  
ओर्बान से जुड़ी कंपनियों के शेयर में गिरावट और फोरिंट मुद्रा में अस्थिरता से संकेत मिलता है कि निवेशक बदलाव की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।

## Orban 'defeat' ओर्बान की 'हार'

- "I would say the market is positioning for an Orban defeat," said Viktor Szabo, an EM debt portfolio manager at Aberdeen in London, which has been increasing its exposure to Hungary's government bonds over the last month.  
विक्टर स्ज़ाबो ने कहा कि बाजार ओर्बान की हार की तैयारी कर रहा है और उनकी कंपनी ने हंगरी के सरकारी बॉन्ड्स में निवेश बढ़ाया है।
- Orban's position has become precarious following three years of economic stagnation, a cost-of-living crisis since the war in Ukraine and revelations about his ties to Russia.  
तीन साल की आर्थिक ठहराव, महंगाई संकट और रूस से संबंधों के कारण ओर्बान की स्थिति कमजोर हो गई है।
- Opinion polls point to the 62-year-old being beaten by former Fidesz party ally Peter Magyar though political analysts say there is a range of potential outcomes, including Orban clinging to power.  
ओपिनियन पोल के अनुसार पीटर मग्यार ओर्बान को हरा सकते हैं, हालांकि कई संभावित परिणाम संभव हैं।
- Hungary's government bonds are in the spotlight for investors because a win for Magyar and his Tisza party could start to unlock some €18 billion (\$21 billion) of EU funding that has been frozen due to concerns over democratic standards.



सरकारी बॉन्ड्स निवेशकों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं क्योंकि टिस्ज़ा पार्टी की जीत से €18 बिलियन EU फंड खुल सकता है।

- The amount is equivalent to about 8% of Hungary's expected gross domestic product (GDP) this year.  
यह राशि हंगरी के GDP का लगभग 8% है।
- "That money would provide a much-needed boost to investment, which has been a weak spot for years in Hungary," Szabo explained, adding that better growth would also help the government's finances.  
यह धन निवेश को बढ़ावा देगा और सरकारी वित्त को भी मजबूत करेगा।

### Close call कड़ी टक्कर

- Budapest currently has one of the EU's largest budget deficits at over 5%.  
बुडापेस्ट में 5% से अधिक बजट घाटा है।
- Its debt-to-GDP ratio is also above 70% and rising, meaning that rating agency S&P Global has the country just one downgrade away from 'junk' status.  
ऋण-से-GDP अनुपात 70% से अधिक है और बढ़ रहा है, जिससे S&P Global ने देश को 'जंक' स्थिति के करीब बताया है।
- Political analysts stress the election result might not go the way polls currently indicate - raising risks for investors betting on the most market-friendly outcome of victory for the pro-EU Tisza party.  
विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि चुनाव परिणाम पोल के अनुसार नहीं भी हो सकते, जिससे निवेशकों के लिए जोखिम बढ़ता है।
- "In the current situation, anything is possible from a Tisza constitutional supermajority to a Fidesz majority," political scientist Andrea Szabo said.  
एंड्रिया स्ज़ाबो ने कहा कि वर्तमान स्थिति में टिस्ज़ा सुपरमेजॉरिटी से लेकर फिदेस्ज़ बहुमत तक कुछ भी संभव है।
- She cautions the polls may be underestimating support for Fidesz.  
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि पोल फिदेस्ज़ के समर्थन को कम आंक सकते हैं।
- The far-right Our Homeland party could also win enough support to become a "kingmaker," opening a path for Fidesz and Orban to stay in power.  
Our Homeland पार्टी भी "किंगमेकर" बन सकती है और ओर्बान को सत्ता में बनाए रख सकती है।
- In any case, the EU's longest-serving leader may not go down without a fight, potentially complicating any transition to a new government, some analysts warn.  
विश्लेषकों के अनुसार EU के सबसे लंबे समय तक सेवा देने वाले नेता बिना संघर्ष के नहीं हटेंगे।
- While Hungary's currency, stock market and bonds have largely outperformed on the prospect of a Tisza victory, without a parliamentary supermajority - something analysts at JPMorgan see as only a 5-10% probability - rolling back even Orban's most contested policies would be complicated.  
टिस्ज़ा जीत की संभावना से बाजार मजबूत है, लेकिन सुपरमेजॉरिटी के बिना नीतियों को बदलना कठिन होगा।
- "The European Commission has previously released funding in response to reforms, so a Tisza government could plausibly secure access to limited tranches," analysts at Capital Economics said.  
European Commission पहले सुधारों पर फंड जारी कर चुका है, इसलिए टिस्ज़ा सरकार को सीमित फंड मिल सकता है।
- "That said, it's unlikely that the EU would formally lower the thresholds for unlocking frozen funds."  
हालांकि EU द्वारा शर्तों में ढील देना संभव नहीं है।

### Boost for Forint फोरिंट के लिए बढ़ावा

- The outcome of the vote will also affect other countries such as Ukraine - where Orban is currently blocking a €90 billion EU loan - and others around Europe where right-wing



populists eye power.

चुनाव का परिणाम यूक्रेन सहित अन्य देशों को भी प्रभावित करेगा, जहां ओबामा €90 बिलियन EU ऋण को रोक रहे हैं।

## Worried by hits on Iran's nuclear site: IAEA's Grossi

Attacks on nuclear plants, such as the recent strikes inside the premises of Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant, should never happen, says IAEA chief. A candidate for UN Secretary-General, he says UN reform is a process that countries themselves have decided to channel through an intergovernmental process; the international community should ensure that nuclear weapons are never used, he adds

INTERVIEW

Rafael Grossi

Suhassini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

Attacks like the one on Iran's Bushehr nuclear site must never happen again, and the world must avoid a moment where nuclear weapons, even in a limited way, would be used, says Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, welcoming news of the U.S.-Iran ceasefire. In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Grossi, who is running for UN Secretary General this year, says UNSC reform is possible, and that India has a "legitimate" claim to a seat.

What is your reaction to the U.S.-Iran ceasefire,

and the talks ahead?

As a diplomat, as a man of peace, as the head of an international organisation in the area of peace and international security, I would say that we are relieved and we are happy to see that at least, for some time, the war is stopping, and that an opening is there in front of us for diplomacy. The IAEA will play a constructive role to support these processes, as we have been doing in the past.

How worried are you that the kind of conflict we've seen already, the strikes near Bushehr, Isfahan, other nuclear sites, have had a dangerous impact?

Specifically on radiological consequences, there have been none so far, which doesn't mean that what has been happening is not

serious and grave. We were very concerned this past weekend, when a number of direct hits were seen inside the premises of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and we have been in touch, with all sides, Iran, Israel, U.S., and Russia because this is partially operated by the state company Rosatom.

We have been engaging in some consultations with all in order to try to prevent the occurrence of this type of event in the future. So far, so good, but of course, it's something that should never, should never happen.

Was there a point which you were worried, given U.S. President Trump's threats?

The IAEA has been playing a role in two ongoing wars – one that has reached a ceasefire point, and another that hasn't, between



Russia and Ukraine, so we're always on a state of alert.

Thanks to the very efficient work of mediation, [India's] neighbours in Pakistan, Egypt and some others trying to bring the two belligerents together, [we have a ceasefire]. Of course, there was a concern, but at the same time, as even President Trump was saying that there were intense negotiations ongoing, there was hope. We see that the [nuclear threat] is not hypothetical.

It is a moment of reflection where we as the international community, the IAEA, the United Nations, have to make sure that we do not get to a moment where nuclear weapons, even in a limited way, would be used.

You are a candidate for the UN Secretary General elections this year. What is your agenda?

War has returned in a furious way to different parts

of the world, even in your country and the neighbourhood (India-Pakistan), and in Cambodia-Thailand, Azerbaijan-Armenia, Sudan-South Sudan, Ukraine and Russia.

I think we need to remember why the United Nations was established after the cataclysmic events of the Second World War. The IAEA and I have been engaged with the belligerents. We have been preventing nuclear accidents, we have been trying to move into the solution of this issue in Iran. This is what inspired me for the [UNSG post].

Can you offer a way forward on UNSC reforms, which seem stuck?

Obviously, the Secretary General does not have a magic wand. This is a process that countries themselves have decided to

channel through an intergovernmental negotiating process. The UN Secretary General can do a lot in terms of having conversations, in terms of bringing people together, and in recognising the role of countries. India has a global role and a legitimate aspiration.

India rejects UN involvement in the Kashmir dispute and has also asked the UN monitoring group on India and Pakistan to wind up its operations. As UN Secretary General, what would be your stand?

I think it's a matter that needs to be discussed. I am very aware of the position of India, and also of Pakistan. I think it's important that we recognise that, as it happened just a few months ago (May 2025), there is an issue of instability, that needs to be ad-

dressed in dialogue with all the parties.

You were involved very closely with India about a decade ago at Nuclear Suppliers Group, over its application for membership, that hasn't come through yet. Is there any chance of that now?

As chair of the nuclear suppliers group (2016), I was pushing for an NSG that would be reflective and inclusive of all the big players in the nuclear industry. India continues to be one, which by the way, deserves to be congratulated for the very recent breakthrough in terms of the criticality of a fast breeder reactor (Kalpakkam). At that time, we were not so far from getting it, I continue to be optimistic about the possibility [of India's membership]. (Full interview at [newstlive.com](https://www.newstlive.com))

### 10A. Worried by hits on Iran's nuclear site: IAEA's Grossi ईरान के परमाणु स्थल पर हमलों से चिंतित: IAEA के ग्रॉसी

- Worried by hits on Iran's nuclear site: IAEA's Grossi. IAEA के ग्रॉसी ने ईरान के परमाणु स्थल पर हमलों को लेकर चिंता जताई।
- Attacks on nuclear plants, such as the recent strikes inside the premises of **Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant**, should never happen, says IAEA chief; a candidate for UN Secretary-General, he says UN reform is a process that countries themselves have decided to channel through an intergovernmental process; the international community should ensure that nuclear weapons are never used, he adds. IAEA प्रमुख ने कहा कि **Bushehr परमाणु संयंत्र** जैसे हमले कभी नहीं होने चाहिए; उन्होंने कहा कि **UN सुधार एक अंतर-सरकारी प्रक्रिया है** और दुनिया को सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि **परमाणु हथियार** कभी उपयोग न हों।
- Attacks like the one on Iran's Bushehr nuclear site must never happen again, and the world must avoid a moment where nuclear weapons, even in a limited way, would be used, says **Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi**, welcoming news of the U.S.-Iran ceasefire. **राफेल ग्रॉसी** ने कहा कि **Bushehr परमाणु स्थल** जैसे हमले दोबारा नहीं होने चाहिए और दुनिया को उस स्थिति से बचना चाहिए जहां **परमाणु हथियारों का उपयोग** हो।
- In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Grossi, who is running for **UN Secretary General** this year, says UNSC reform is possible, and that India has a "legitimate" claim to a seat. **ग्रॉसी**, जो **UN महासचिव पद** के उम्मीदवार हैं, ने कहा कि **UNSC सुधार संभव है और भारत का वैध दावा है**।
- What is your reaction to the **U.S.-Iran ceasefire**, and the talks ahead? **अमेरिका-ईरान युद्धविराम** और आगे की बातचीत पर आपकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?
- As a diplomat, as a man of peace, as the head of an international organisation in the area of peace and international security, I would say that we are relieved and we are happy to see that at least, for some time, the war is stopping, and that an opening is there in front of us for diplomacy.

उन्होंने कहा कि एक **राजनयिक** और **शांति समर्थक** के रूप में वे खुश हैं कि **फिलहाल युद्ध रुका है** और **कूटनीति के लिए अवसर बना है**।



- The IAEA will play a constructive role to support these processes, as we have been doing in the past.  
**IAEA** इन प्रक्रियाओं में **रचनात्मक भूमिका** निभाएगा।
- How worried are you that the kind of conflict we've seen already, the strikes near Bushehr, Isfahan, and other nuclear sites, have had a dangerous impact?  
क्या **Bushehr, Isfahan** और अन्य **परमाणु स्थलों** पर हमलों से खतरनाक प्रभाव पड़ा है?
- Specifically on radiological consequences, there have been none so far, which doesn't mean that what has been happening is not serious and grave.  
अब तक **रेडियोलॉजिकल प्रभाव** नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन स्थिति **गंभीर** है।
- We were very concerned this past weekend, when a number of direct hits were seen inside the premises of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and we have been in touch with all sides, Iran, Israel, U.S., and Russia because this is partially operated by the state company Rosatom.  
**Bushehr प्लांट** पर हमलों से चिंता बढ़ी और **ईरान, इजराइल, अमेरिका, रूस** से संपर्क किया गया।
- We have been engaging in some consultations with all in order to try to prevent the occurrence of this type of event in the future.  
भविष्य में ऐसे घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए **सभी पक्षों से बातचीत** जारी है।
- So far, so good, but of course, it's something that should never, should never happen.  
अब तक स्थिति ठीक है, लेकिन यह कभी नहीं होना चाहिए।
- Was there a point which you were worried about, given the U.S. President Trump's threats?  
क्या **ट्रंप की धमकियों** से चिंता हुई?
- The IAEA has been playing a role in two ongoing wars — one that has reached a ceasefire point, and another that hasn't, between Russia and Ukraine, so we're always on a state of alert.  
**IAEA** दो युद्धों में सक्रिय है—एक में **सीजफायर** और दूसरा **रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध**—इसलिए हमेशा सतर्क है।
- Thanks to the very efficient work of mediation, [India's] neighbours in Pakistan, Egypt and some others trying to bring the two belligerents together, [we have a ceasefire].  
**मध्यस्थता प्रयासों** से **पाकिस्तान, मिस्र** आदि ने युद्धविराम में मदद की।
- Of course, there was a concern, but at the same time, as even President Trump was saying that there were intense negotiations ongoing, there was hope.  
चिंता थी, लेकिन **वार्ता जारी** होने से उम्मीद भी थी।
- We see that the [nuclear threat] is not hypothetical.  
**परमाणु खतरा** वास्तविक है।
- You were involved very closely with India about a decade ago at the Nuclear Suppliers Group, over its application for membership, that hasn't come through yet.  
आप **NSG** में भारत की सदस्यता प्रक्रिया में शामिल थे।
- Is there any chance of that now?  
क्या अब इसकी संभावना है?
- As chair of the nuclear suppliers group (2016), I was pushing for an NSG that would be reflective and inclusive of all the big players in the nuclear industry.  
उन्होंने कहा कि वे **NSG** को **समावेशी** बनाना चाहते थे।
- India continues to be one, which by the way, deserves to be congratulated for the very recent breakthrough in terms of the criticality of a fast breeder reactor (Kalpakkam).  
**भारत** को **कलपक्कम फास्ट ब्रीडर रिएक्टर** उपलब्धि के लिए बधाई दी जानी चाहिए।
- At that time, we were not so far from getting it, I continue to be optimistic about the possibility [of India's membership].  
उस समय सदस्यता करीब थी और अब भी **आशावाद** है।
- Can you offer a way forward on UNSC reforms, which seem stuck?  
**UNSC सुधार** पर आगे का रास्ता क्या है?
- Obviously, the Secretary General does not have a magic wand.  
**महासचिव** के पास कोई जादुई समाधान नहीं है।
- This is a process that countries themselves have decided to channel through an intergovernmental negotiating process.  
यह **अंतर-सरकारी वार्ता प्रक्रिया** है।



- The UN Secretary General can do a lot in terms of having conversations, in terms of bringing people together, and in recognising the role of countries.  
**UN महासचिव संवाद और सहयोग को बढ़ा सकते हैं।**
- India has a global role and a legitimate aspiration.  
**भारत की वैश्विक भूमिका और वैध आकांक्षा है।**
- India rejects UN involvement in the Kashmir dispute and has also asked the UN monitoring group on India and Pakistan to wind up its operations.  
**भारत ने कश्मीर मुद्दे में UN की भूमिका को अस्वीकार किया है।**
- As UN Secretary General, what would be your stand?  
**महासचिव बनने पर आपका क्या रुख होगा?**
- I think it's a matter that needs to be discussed.  
**यह एक ऐसा मुद्दा है जिस पर चर्चा आवश्यक है।**
- I am very aware of the position of India, and also of Pakistan.  
**वे भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों के रुख से परिचित हैं।**
- I think it's important that we recognise that, as happened just a few months ago (May 2025), there is an issue of instability that needs to be addressed in dialogue with all the parties.  
**मई 2025 की घटनाओं से स्पष्ट है कि अस्थिरता का समाधान संवाद से होना चाहिए।**

## Trump makes up with Sahel juntas with focus on U.S. mineral interests

GS II: IR

WASHINGTON

After years of sidelining the Sahel's military rulers, the United States under President Donald Trump is shifting to engagement and prioritising the quest for security and minerals over promotion of democracy.

The Trump administration has made little secret that Africa is not its top priority but has watched warily as China and Russia make inroads in countries rich in uranium, gold, lithium and other resources vital in the modern economy. The U.S. had suspended the bulk of its security and other assistance to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger after military takeovers from 2020 to 2023. Niger booted out some



The U.S. suspended a bulk of its security assistance to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger after military takeovers from 2020 to 2023. REUTERS

1,000 U.S. troops, along with forces of former colonial power France, with the U.S. under former President Joe Biden obliged to shut down a remote base built at a cost of \$100 million from which U.S. forces flew drones across the vast, unstable region.

For Nick Checker, the Trump administration's top official in the State De-

partment's Africa bureau, the U.S. needs to be "dealing with the world as it is" and should have no illusions that it can "impose our will" and create democracies.

"Just by engaging, that itself is a tool; it's not an endorsement of how these governments came to power," Mr. Checker told AFP.

The countries, among

the world's poorest, have shown an openness to U.S. investment despite their vows to protect sovereignty. Mr. Trump has put high emphasis on securing minerals, a key focus in his conflict diplomacy both in Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Under Biden, the U.S. emphasised moving away from a military-led approach seen in the French operation and strongly backed regional bloc ECO-WAS in rejecting coups.

Ebenezer Obadare, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said, "I think there's a lot of short-termism the U.S. might regret – this new emphasis of, we just want to do business with you and we don't want to care about any other thing."

### 10A. Trump makes up with Sahel juntas with focus on U.S. mineral interests ट्रंप ने साहेल सैन्य शासनों से संबंध सुधारे, ध्यान अमेरिकी खनिज हितों पर

- Trump makes up with Sahel juntas with focus on U.S. mineral interests.  
**ट्रंप ने साहेल सैन्य शासनों से संबंध सुधारते हुए अमेरिकी खनिज हितों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।**
- After years of sidelining the Sahel's military rulers, the United States under President Donald Trump is shifting to engagement and prioritising the quest for security and minerals over



promotion of democracy.

कई वर्षों तक साहेल के सैन्य शासकों को नजरअंदाज करने के बाद, डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के नेतृत्व में अमेरिका अब सुरक्षा और खनिजों को लोकतंत्र से अधिक प्राथमिकता दे रहा है।

- The Trump administration has made little secret that Africa is not its top priority but has watched warily as China and Russia make inroads in countries **rich in uranium, gold, lithium and other resources vital in the modern economy**.  
ट्रंप प्रशासन ने स्पष्ट किया है कि **अफ्रीका** उसकी प्राथमिकता नहीं है, लेकिन **चीन और रूस** के बढ़ते प्रभाव पर नजर रख रहा है।
- The **U.S. had suspended the bulk of its security and other assistance to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger after military takeovers from 2020 to 2023**.  
अमेरिका ने **बुर्किना फासो, माली और नाइजर** में 2020-2023 के सैन्य तख्तापलट के बाद सहायता रोक दी थी।
- Niger booted out some 1,000 U.S. troops, along with forces of former colonial power France, with the U.S. under former President Joe Biden obliged to shut down a remote base built at a cost of \$100 million from which U.S. forces flew drones across the vast, unstable region.  
नाइजर ने लगभग **1000 अमेरिकी सैनिकों** और **फ्रांसीसी बलों** को बाहर कर दिया, जिससे अमेरिका को **\$100 मिलियन का बेस** बंद करना पड़ा।
- For Nick Checker, the Trump administration's top official in the State Department's Africa bureau, the U.S. needs to be "dealing with the world as it is" and should have no illusions that it can "impose our will" and create democracies.  
निक चेकर के अनुसार, अमेरिका को दुनिया को **जैसी है वैसी स्वीकार** करना चाहिए और लोकतंत्र थोपने का प्रयास नहीं करना चाहिए।
- "Just by engaging, that itself is a tool; it's not an endorsement of how these governments came to power," Mr. Checker told AFP.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **संपर्क बनाए रखना ही एक साधन है**, यह सरकारों के सत्ता में आने का समर्थन नहीं है।
- The countries, among the world's poorest, have shown an openness to U.S. investment despite their vows to protect sovereignty.  
ये देश, जो **दुनिया के सबसे गरीब देशों** में हैं, **अमेरिकी निवेश** के लिए खुले हैं।
- Mr. Trump has put high emphasis on securing minerals, a key focus in his conflict diplomacy both in Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of Congo**.  
ट्रंप ने **खनिज संसाधनों की सुरक्षा** पर जोर दिया है, जो **यूक्रेन और कांगो** में उनकी नीति का हिस्सा है।
- Under Biden, the U.S. emphasised moving away from a military-led approach seen in the French operation and strongly backed regional bloc **ECOWAS** in rejecting coups.  
बाइडेन प्रशासन ने सैन्य दृष्टिकोण से **हटकर** और **ECOWAS** का समर्थन करते हुए तख्तापलट का विरोध किया।

<b>GS Paper III: Economy</b>		<b>10 April 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>10A</b>	<b>West Asia war cuts India's growth outlook to 6.6%</b> <b>पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध से भारत की विकास दर का अनुमान घटकर 6.6% हुआ</b>	



# West Asia war cuts India's growth outlook to 6.6%

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The World Bank has revised downwards India's growth outlook for 2026-27 to 6.6% from 7.2%, citing the impact of the war in West Asia on household and government consumption, as well as on industrial activity.

The India Development Update report by the World Bank said that "in the absence of the conflict", India's GDP growth was projected at 7.2%, a reflection of better-than-expected growth in 2025-26, "strong initial momentum" in the fourth quarter of that year and a "broad pro-growth reform agenda". "Growth is now projected at 6.6% in FY27, reflecting headwinds from the Middle East conflict – assum-

## Revised figures

World Bank reports says that 'in the absence of the conflict', India's GDP growth would have been 7.2%

### OUTLOOK FOR FY27:

Real GDP growth: **6.6% vs 7.6%** in FY26

Inflation (Consumer Price Index): **4.9% vs 2.3%** in FY26

Net FDI, inflow (as % of GDP): **0.6 vs 0.5** in FY26



ing an extended disruption in global energy (oil and gas) supply till end-2026," the report said.

The India Development Update report is a companion to the South Asia Economic Update 2026. That report had projected growth in South Asia to slow to 6.3% in 2026 from

7% in 2025 due to disruptions in energy markets.

The World Bank's Acting Director for India Paul Procee noted that there are things that can be done to boost growth. "Boosting private sector-led growth will be critical to strengthening economic resilience and supporting

more young people to enter the workforce," Mr. Procee said.

### Cross-sector slowdown

The report said that industrial activity is expected to slow to 7.5% in 2026-27 from 8.8% in the previous year. It said that the manufacturing sector – especially electronics, automobiles, and other tradable goods – will prop up industrial growth.

"However, higher input costs and decreased export demand from the Gulf region will weigh on overall industrial growth," the report said. "Business services are likely to be impacted by the global economic slowdown and higher input costs (particularly of LPG) will adversely impact food and accommodation services."

The report went on to say that there are "substantial downside risks" to its outlook, suggesting that growth could slow further if the conflict in West Asia is prolonged. "Although India can absorb temporary shocks, its reliance on energy imports from the region leaves the external balance, inflation, and fiscal position vulnerable," the report said. A disrupted labor market in Gulf economies could significantly lower remittances.

Notably, the report further said that, if the government and oil marketing companies continue to shield consumers from the full brunt of higher energy prices through excise rate cuts and increased subsidies, the government's fiscal consolidation efforts could reverse.

## 10A. West Asia war cuts India's growth outlook to 6.6%

### पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध से भारत की विकास दर का अनुमान घटकर 6.6% हुआ

- The West Asia war cuts India's growth outlook to 6.6%.  
पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध ने भारत की विकास दर का अनुमान घटाकर 6.6% कर दिया।
- The World Bank has revised downwards India's growth outlook for 2026-27 to 6.6% from 7.2%, citing the impact of the war in West Asia on household and government consumption, as well as on industrial activity.  
विश्व बैंक ने 2026-27 के लिए भारत की विकास दर को 7.2% से घटाकर 6.6% कर दिया है, जिसका कारण पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध का घरेलू उपभोग, सरकारी खर्च और औद्योगिक गतिविधि पर प्रभाव बताया गया है।
- The India Development Update report by the World Bank said that "in the absence of the conflict", India's GDP growth was projected at 7.2%, a reflection of better-than-expected growth in 2025-26, "strong initial momentum" in the fourth quarter of that year and a "broad pro-growth reform agenda".  
इंडिया डेवलपमेंट अपडेट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, "यदि संघर्ष न होता", तो भारत की GDP वृद्धि 7.2% रहने का अनुमान था, जो 2025-26 में बेहतर प्रदर्शन, मजबूत प्रारंभिक गति और विकासोन्मुख सुधारों का परिणाम था।
- "Growth is now projected at 6.6% in FY27, reflecting headwinds from the Middle East conflict — assuming an extended disruption in global energy (oil and gas) supply till end-2026," the report said.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि 2027 में विकास दर 6.6% रहने का अनुमान है, जो मध्य पूर्व संघर्ष के कारण ऊर्जा आपूर्ति (तेल और गैस) में बाधा को दर्शाता है।
- The India Development Update report is a companion to the South Asia Economic Update 2026.  
इंडिया डेवलपमेंट अपडेट रिपोर्ट South Asia Economic Update 2026 की सहायक रिपोर्ट है।
- That report had projected growth in South Asia to slow to 6.3% in 2026 from 7% in 2025 due to disruptions in energy markets.  
उस रिपोर्ट में दक्षिण एशिया की वृद्धि 2025 के 7% से घटकर 2026 में 6.3% होने का अनुमान लगाया गया था, जिसका कारण ऊर्जा बाजार में व्यवधान है।
- The World Bank's Acting Director for India Paul Procee noted that there are things that can be done to boost growth.  
विश्व बैंक के कार्यवाहक निदेशक Paul Procee ने कहा कि विकास को बढ़ाने के लिए कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं।



- “Boosting private sector-led growth will be critical to strengthening economic resilience and supporting more young people to enter the workforce,” Mr. Procee said.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **निजी क्षेत्र आधारित विकास** को बढ़ाना **आर्थिक मजबूती** और युवाओं को **रोजगार** देने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा।

### Cross-sector slowdown सभी क्षेत्रों में मंदी

- The report said that industrial activity is expected to slow to 7.5% in 2026-27 from 8.8% in the previous year.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि **औद्योगिक गतिविधि** 2026-27 में **8.8% से घटकर 7.5%** हो सकती है।
- It said that the manufacturing sector — especially electronics, automobiles, and other tradable goods — will prop up industrial growth.  
इसमें कहा गया कि **मैन्युफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर**, विशेषकर **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, ऑटोमोबाइल्स** और अन्य **व्यापार योग्य वस्तुएं**, औद्योगिक विकास को सहारा देंगे।
- “However, higher input costs and decreased export demand from the Gulf region will weigh on overall industrial growth,” the report said.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि **उच्च लागत और खाड़ी क्षेत्र से कम निर्यात मांग** औद्योगिक विकास पर दबाव डालेंगे।
- “Business services are likely to be impacted by the global economic slowdown and higher input costs (particularly of LPG) will adversely impact food and accommodation services.”  
**बिजनेस सेवाएं** वैश्विक मंदी से प्रभावित होंगी और **LPG जैसी लागत बढ़ने से खाद्य और आवास सेवाएं** प्रभावित होंगी।
- The report went on to say that there are “substantial downside risks” to its outlook, suggesting that growth could slow further if the conflict in West Asia is prolonged.  
रिपोर्ट ने कहा कि इसके अनुमान में **महत्वपूर्ण जोखिम** हैं और यदि **पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष लंबा चला**, तो विकास और धीमा हो सकता है।
- “Although India can absorb temporary shocks, its reliance on energy imports from the region leaves the external balance, inflation, and fiscal position vulnerable,” the report said.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि भारत **अस्थायी झटकों** को सह सकता है, लेकिन **ऊर्जा आयात पर निर्भरता** के कारण **बाहरी संतुलन, मुद्रास्फीति और राजकोषीय स्थिति** कमजोर हो सकती है।
- A disrupted labor market in Gulf economies could significantly lower remittances.  
**खाड़ी देशों** में श्रम बाजार में व्यवधान से **रेमिटेंस** में भारी गिरावट आ सकती है।
- Notably, the report further said that, if the government and oil marketing companies continue to shield consumers from the full brunt of higher energy prices through excise rate cuts and increased subsidies, the government’s fiscal consolidation efforts could reverse.  
रिपोर्ट ने यह भी कहा कि यदि सरकार और **तेल विपणन कंपनियां** उपभोक्ताओं को **ऊंची ऊर्जा कीमतों** से बचाने के लिए **कर कटौती** और **सब्सिडी** जारी रखती हैं, तो **राजकोषीय संतुलन सुधार प्रयास** प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।

<b>GS Paper III: Science and Technology</b>		<b>10 April 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>10A</b>	<b>India’s first Quantum Reference Facility to be launched in A.P.</b> भारत की पहली क्वांटम रेफरेंस फैसिलिटी आंध्र प्रदेश में शुरू होगी	
<b>10A</b>	<b>Semaglutide is off patent: what does this mean for obesity in India?</b> सेमाग्लूटाइड का पेटेंट समाप्त: भारत में मोटापे के लिए इसका क्या अर्थ है?	
<b>10A</b>	<b>How will Gaganyaan astronauts return safely to earth?</b> गगनयान अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुरक्षित रूप से पृथ्वी पर कैसे लौटेंगे?	
<b>10A</b>	<b>Reining in medicine prices despite war impact on inputs, says official</b> इनपुट पर युद्ध के प्रभाव के बावजूद दवाइयों की कीमतों को नियंत्रित किया गया: अधिकारी	



# India's first Quantum Reference Facility to be launched in A.P.

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

VIJAYAWADA

India's first quantum computing testing beds, called Quantum Reference Facility, will be dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on April 14, coinciding with the World Quantum Day, says P.S. Pradyumna, Secretary to the Chief Minister.

Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Mr. Pradyumna said the two testing beds, developed as part of the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facilities under the State government's Amaravati Quantum Valley

programme, were coming up at SRM University A.P.

They were being developed in partnership with the Amaravati Quantum Research Facility and Qubit Force. At SRM University, a team of 50 researchers, students and scientists was working on assembling the quantum computing ecosystem.

"Till date, we did not have a quantum testing computer in the country that can be used as a reference to test different components of the quantum computing ecosystem," Mr. Pradyumna said, adding that Andhra "is the first State to take this up."

## 10A. India's first Quantum Reference Facility to be launched in A.P.

भारत की पहली क्वांटम रेफरेंस फैसिलिटी आंध्र प्रदेश में शुरू होगी

• India's first Quantum Reference Facility to be launched in A.P.

भारत की पहली क्वांटम रेफरेंस फैसिलिटी आंध्र प्रदेश में शुरू की जाएगी।

• India's first quantum computing testing beds, called Quantum Reference Facility, will be dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on April 14, coinciding with the World Quantum Day, says P.S. Pradyumna, Secretary to the Chief Minister.

भारत के पहले क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग टेस्टिंग बेड, जिन्हें Quantum Reference Facility कहा जाता है, का उद्घाटन मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू द्वारा 14 अप्रैल (World Quantum Day) को किया जाएगा, ऐसा पी.एस. प्रद्युम्न ने कहा।

• Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Mr. Pradyumna said the two testing beds, developed as part of the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facilities under the State government's Amaravati Quantum Valley programme, were coming up at SRM University A.P.

विजयवाड़ा में मीडिया से बात करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि दो टेस्टिंग बेड, जो Amaravati Quantum Valley programme

के तहत विकसित किए जा रहे हैं, SRM University A.P. में स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं।

• They were being developed in partnership with the Amaravati Quantum Research Facility and Qubit Force.

इन्हें Amaravati Quantum Research Facility और Qubit Force के सहयोग से विकसित किया जा रहा है।

• At SRM University, a team of 50 researchers, students and scientists was working on assembling the quantum computing ecosystem.

SRM University में 50 शोधकर्ताओं, छात्रों और वैज्ञानिकों की टीम क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग इकोसिस्टम तैयार कर रही है।

• "Till date, we did not have a quantum testing computer in the country that can be used as a reference to test different components of the quantum computing ecosystem," Mr. Pradyumna said, adding that Andhra "is the first State to take this up."

उन्होंने कहा, "अब तक देश में ऐसा कोई क्वांटम टेस्टिंग कंप्यूटर नहीं था जो विभिन्न घटकों का परीक्षण कर सके," और जोड़ा कि आंध्र प्रदेश इस पहल को शुरू करने वाला पहला राज्य है।



# Semaglutide is off patent: what does this mean for obesity in India?

India is facing a growing epidemic of obesity and metabolic disease and GLP1 drugs are one form of treatment; while a reduction in costs means easier and more widespread access to these drugs, it must be remembered that they serve as add-ons to the fundamental precepts of lifestyle modifications and exercise

ESMIL SAT

Nanditha Ramchandran

**W**hen Rakesh (name changed) first walked into the clinic, he could not fit into a chair with armrests due to his body weight. Weighing 169 kg, Rakesh had almost given up on his weight loss goals, having tried multiple diets, and attempted various forms of exercise.

"I am fed up, doc!", he said. "I cannot even drive a car - I cannot fit in the seat!" Fast forward to today and Rakesh walks in, having lost 37 kgs, over a span of 9 months.

"It has changed my life!" he said. "I can drive again! I swim now, I feel so much more confident".

What changed his life was GLP1 therapy, the 'weight loss' drugs that have revolutionised the way we treat metabolic disease!

As his doctor, what I see, goes far beyond the numbers on the scale: GLP1 therapy has improved Rakesh's metabolic health, reduced his cardiovascular risk, improved his fatty liver and optimised his cholesterol and blood pressure. These, therefore, are not just weight-loss drugs; they are disease-modifying agents that target the root of metabolic disease.

GLP1 therapy has taken the world by storm in recent times. These drugs, which have been around for almost two decades now for the management of diabetes, gained popularity, when their indication expanded beyond diabetes, as anti-obesity/weight management drugs.

Obesity has been found to be the main reason for the increasing prevalence of diabetes in all populations. Therefore, targeting obesity seems to be the right strategy, especially at individual levels. GLP1 therapy, in that regard, has been a game-changer, transforming the management of both obesity and diabetes.

## The Indian context

The growing burden of type 2 diabetes and metabolic disease, including obesity, in India, is a matter of grave concern. This is related to changing food habits, especially an increase in the consumption of fat, as well as sedentary lifestyles. Indians have a high risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, even with lower levels of generalised obesity due to what is known as the "thin-fat" phenotype. This means that even if not obese by overall body weight, Indians have higher body fat percentage and higher insulin resistance, thus increasing our risk for type 2 diabetes and lifestyle diseases.

Targeted therapies such as GLP1, combined with lifestyle changes, can play a crucial role in addressing this growing epidemic in India. GLP1 therapy, when used in the right individual, is a great option for the typical "insulin resistant" Indian. Through its actions, it can result in meaningful weight loss - reducing waist circumference and body fat and improving metabolic health.

On March 22, the originator company,



**New-found popularity:** From ₹11,000 to ₹18,000 a month for a pen, the cost of GLP1 has now dropped to around ₹5,000 per month, making it more affordable and thus increasing access. GETTY IMAGES

Novo Nordisk's patent for semaglutide (the active ingredient) expired, and the floodgates opened. More than 50 companies in India have now launched semaglutide at almost half the price that multinational companies sold it at.

What does this mean for India? One of the biggest barriers for GLP1 therapy so far, the cost, may now be overcome. From ₹11,000 to ₹18,000 a month for a pen, the cost has now dropped to around ₹5,000 per month, making it more affordable and thus increasing access.

## Who can take it?

GLP1 therapy has clear indications, as to who can use it and when.

Being primarily an antidiabetic agent, its use in type 2 diabetes is clear. In people without diabetes, these drugs have been approved for weight reduction. Here, they can be used in anyone with a BMI of over 27, suffering from obesity-related complications such as obstructive sleep apnea, diabetes, hypertension etc., or in a person with a BMI of over 30 without diabetes. This is a boon to many, in whom lifestyle changes alone do not suffice, and in fact, bridges the gap between lifestyle management and bariatric surgery for obesity management.

It is important to note that these drugs are not shortcuts and not for casual use or as cosmetic quick fixes.

## Do they really work, and how?

The short answer is yes. But this also depends on two factors: pharmacogenomics, as each person's response to a drug may be different, and tolerability to the drug, which in turn determines compliance to taking it, and

case with dose escalation, as weight loss is best with higher doses.

GLP1 therapy, primarily works through natural pathways in the body, by regulating/suppressing appetite, delaying gastric emptying time and other mechanisms. Hence the response to the drug is largely dependent on each person's natural response. On an average, a good response would be between 10 to 15% of body weight loss from baseline weight.

As with any other drug, GLP1 therapy must only be used under medical supervision, by a certified health professional.

Side effects are mainly gastro-intestinal (due to the mechanism of action) and include - nausea, loss of appetite, burping and in some cases, diarrhea. However it is important to note, that these side effects are usually transient, and subside after the first few weeks. With medical guidance, these side effects can be mitigated to a large extent.

As far as safety is concerned, there is a rare association with pancreatic inflammation, thyroid tumours and rare case reports of eye complications. Proper guidance and monitoring are key to safe and effective use.

## When one stops

If you lost a lot of weight through diet and exercise, and then stopped both, what would happen? You would potentially regain the weight. The same principle applies to GLP1 therapy. As with any intervention, stopping the drugs may cause a regaining of weight to some extent. This serves to illustrate the fact that obesity is a chronic, relapsing condition, requiring long-term treatment.

It is important to reiterate that GLP1 therapy is not a replacement to lifestyle changes or a shortcut for weight loss. It is only an add-on to lifestyle modifications, including diet and exercise.

Another factor to remember while on GLP1 therapy is that it is important to include strength training/muscle strengthening, and sufficient protein in the diet, so as to reduce muscle loss. A study found that the use of semaglutide, when combined with sufficient protein intake and resistance training, resulted in fat mass loss of 18%, and although lean body mass initially dropped, it was subsequently maintained and stabilised.

India is facing a growing epidemic of obesity and metabolic disease, including in the young population.

This looming crisis demands immediate attention and action. GLP1 drugs are one form of treatment and while exciting, there is an urgent necessity to tackle the problem on other fronts. We need to change food policies to reduce consumption of processed food and reduce fat content in marketed food products. Similarly, urban and town planning must be rejigged to encourage physical activity.

Obesity now is considered a chronic metabolic disease. While clinicians today have an effective tool, with GLP1 therapy enriching the landscape of options, the real question that remains is, will this translate into meaningful change in public health? Only time and our actions now, will tell.

(Dr. Nanditha Ramchandran is director and consultant diabetologist at Dr. A. Ramchandran's Diabetes Hospitals in Chennai. Drnanditharamchandran@gmail.com)

## THE GIST

▼ The growing burden of type 2 diabetes and metabolic disease, including obesity, in India, is a matter of grave concern. GLP1 therapy, in that regard, has been a game-changer, transforming the management of both obesity and diabetes

▼ GLP1 therapy, when used in the right individual, is a great option for the typical "insulin resistant" Indian. Through its actions, it can result in meaningful weight loss - reducing waist circumference and body fat and improving metabolic health

▼ On March 22, the originator company, Novo Nordisk's patent for semaglutide (the active ingredient) expired, and the floodgates opened. More than 50 companies in India are now selling semaglutide at cheaper rates than the multinational companies

## 10A. Semaglutide is off patent: what does this mean for obesity in India? सेमाग्लूटाइड का पेटेंट समाप्त: भारत में मोटापे के लिए इसका क्या अर्थ है?

- India is facing a growing epidemic of obesity and metabolic disease and GLP1 drugs are one form of treatment; while a reduction in costs means easier and more widespread access to these drugs, it must be remembered that they serve as add-ons to the fundamental precepts of lifestyle modifications and exercise  
भारत मोटापा और मेटाबोलिक रोगों की बढ़ती महामारी का सामना कर रहा है और GLP 1 दवाएं उपचार का एक रूप हैं; जबकि लागत में कमी का अर्थ इन दवाओं तक आसान और व्यापक पहुंच है, यह याद रखना चाहिए कि ये जीवनशैली में बदलाव और व्यायाम के मूल सिद्धांतों के साथ सहायक के रूप में कार्य करती हैं
- When Rakesh (name changed) first walked into the clinic, he could not fit into a chair with armrests due to his body weight.  
जब राकेश (नाम बदला हुआ) पहली बार क्लिनिक में आया, तो वह अपने शरीर के वजन के कारण आर्मरिस्ट वाली कुर्सी में फिट नहीं हो पा रहा था।



- Weighing **169 kg**, Rakesh had almost given up on his weight loss goals, having tried multiple diets, and attempted various forms of exercise.  
**169 किलोग्राम** वजन वाले राकेश ने कई डाइट और विभिन्न प्रकार के व्यायाम करने के बाद लगभग अपने वजन घटाने के लक्ष्य छोड़ दिए थे।
- "I am fed up, doc!", he said.  
"मैं परेशान हो चुका हूँ, डॉक्टर!", उसने कहा।
- "I cannot even drive a car - I cannot fit in the seat!"  
"मैं कार भी नहीं चला सकता - मैं सीट में फिट नहीं हो पाता!"
- Fast forward to today and Rakesh walks in, having lost **37 kgs**, over a span of **9 months**.  
आज की स्थिति में राकेश आता है, जिसने **9 महीनों** में **37 किलोग्राम** वजन कम कर लिया है।
- "It has changed my life!" he said.  
"इसने मेरी जिंदगी बदल दी है!", उसने कहा।
- "I can drive again! I swim now, I feel so much more confident".  
"मैं फिर से गाड़ी चला सकता हूँ! मैं अब तैरता हूँ, मैं बहुत अधिक आत्मविश्वासी महसूस करता हूँ।"
- What changed his life was **GLP1 therapy**, the 'weight loss' drugs that have revolutionised the way we treat metabolic disease!  
जिस चीज़ ने उसकी जिंदगी बदल दी वह थी **GLP1 थेरेपी**, यानी 'वजन घटाने वाली' दवाएं जिन्होंने मेटाबोलिक रोगों के उपचार के तरीके को बदल दिया है।
- As his doctor, what I see, goes far beyond the numbers on the scale: **GLP1 therapy** has improved Rakesh's metabolic health, reduced his cardiovascular risk, improved his fatty liver and optimised his cholesterol and blood pressure.  
एक डॉक्टर के रूप में, जो मैं देखता हूँ वह केवल वजन से कहीं अधिक है: **GLP1 थेरेपी** ने राकेश के मेटाबोलिक स्वास्थ्य को बेहतर किया है, उसके हृदय संबंधी जोखिम को कम किया है, फैटी लिवर में सुधार किया है और कोलेस्ट्रॉल व रक्तचाप को संतुलित किया है।
- These, therefore, are not just weight-loss drugs: they are **disease-modifying agents** that target the root of metabolic disease.  
इसलिए ये केवल वजन घटाने वाली दवाएं नहीं हैं: ये **रोग-संशोधित करने वाले एजेंट** हैं जो मेटाबोलिक रोग के मूल कारण पर काम करते हैं।
- **GLP1 therapy** has taken the world by storm in recent times.  
हाल के समय में **GLP1 थेरेपी** ने दुनिया में क्रांति ला दी है।
- These drugs, which have been around for almost two decades now for the management of diabetes, gained popularity, when their indication expanded beyond diabetes, as anti-obesity/weight management drugs.  
ये दवाएं, जो लगभग दो दशकों से मधुमेह के प्रबंधन के लिए उपयोग में हैं, तब लोकप्रिय हुईं जब इनका उपयोग मधुमेह से आगे बढ़कर मोटापा/वजन प्रबंधन के लिए किया जाने लगा।
- Obesity has been found to be the main reason for the increasing prevalence of diabetes in all populations.  
मोटापा सभी जनसंख्या समूहों में मधुमेह की बढ़ती दर का मुख्य कारण पाया गया है।
- Therefore, targeting obesity seems to be the right strategy, especially at individual levels.  
इसलिए मोटापे को लक्षित करना सही रणनीति प्रतीत होती है, विशेषकर व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर।
- **GLP1 therapy**, in that regard, has been a game-changer, transforming the management of both obesity and diabetes.  
इस संदर्भ में **GLP1 थेरेपी** एक गेम-चेंजर साबित हुई है, जिसने मोटापा और मधुमेह दोनों के प्रबंधन को बदल दिया है।

### The Indian context भारतीय संदर्भ

- The growing burden of **type 2 diabetes** and metabolic disease, including obesity, in India, is a matter of grave concern.  
भारत में **टाइप 2 मधुमेह** और मेटाबोलिक रोगों (जिसमें मोटापा शामिल है) का बढ़ता बोझ गंभीर चिंता का विषय है।
- This is related to changing food habits, especially an increase in the consumption of fat, as well as sedentary lifestyles.  
यह बदलती खान-पान की आदतों, विशेषकर वसा के अधिक सेवन और निष्क्रिय जीवनशैली से जुड़ा हुआ है।



- Indians have a high risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, even with lower levels of generalised obesity due to what is known as the “thin-fat” phenotype.  
भारतीयों में कम सामान्य मोटापे के बावजूद मधुमेह और हृदय रोग का जोखिम अधिक होता है, जिसे “थिन-फैट” फेनोटाइप कहा जाता है।
- This means that even if not obese by overall body weight, Indians have higher body fat percentage and higher insulin resistance, thus increasing our risk for type 2 diabetes and lifestyle diseases.  
इसका अर्थ है कि भले ही कुल शरीर वजन से मोटापा न हो, भारतीयों में शरीर में वसा प्रतिशत और इंसुलिन प्रतिरोध अधिक होता है, जिससे टाइप 2 मधुमेह और जीवनशैली रोगों का खतरा बढ़ता है।
- Targeted therapies such as **GLP1**, combined with lifestyle changes, can play a crucial role in addressing this growing epidemic in India.  
**GLP1** जैसी लक्षित थेरेपी, जीवनशैली में बदलाव के साथ मिलकर, भारत में इस बढ़ती महामारी से निपटने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकती हैं।
- GLP1 therapy**, when used in the right individual, is a great option for the typical “insulin resistant” Indian.  
उचित व्यक्ति में उपयोग करने पर **GLP1 थेरेपी** एक “इंसुलिन रेसिस्टेंट” भारतीय के लिए बेहतरीन विकल्प है।
- Through its actions, it can result in meaningful weight loss – reducing waist circumference and body fat and improving metabolic health.  
इसके प्रभाव से महत्वपूर्ण वजन घटता है – कमर का घेरा और शरीर की चर्बी घटती है तथा मेटाबोलिक स्वास्थ्य सुधरता है।
- On **March 22**, the originator company, **Novo Nordisk’s** patent for **semaglutide** (the active ingredient) expired, and the floodgates opened.  
**22 मार्च** को मूल कंपनी **नोवो नॉर्डिस्क** का **सेमाग्लूटाइड** (सक्रिय घटक) का पेटेंट समाप्त हो गया और इसके बाद बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन शुरू हो गया।
- More than **50 companies in India** have now launched semaglutide at almost half the price that multinational companies sold it at.  
भारत में अब **50 से अधिक कंपनियों** ने सेमाग्लूटाइड को लगभग आधी कीमत पर लॉन्च किया है, जितनी कीमत पर बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियां इसे बेचती थीं।
- What does this mean for India?  
इसका भारत के लिए क्या अर्थ है?
- One of the biggest barriers for **GLP1 therapy** so far, the cost, may now be overcome.  
अब तक **GLP1 थेरेपी** के सबसे बड़े अवरोधों में से एक, यानी लागत, अब कम हो सकती है।
- From **₹11,000 to ₹18,000 a month** for a pen, the cost has now dropped to around **₹5,000 per month**, making it more affordable and thus increasing access.  
जहां पहले एक पेन की कीमत **₹11,000 से ₹18,000 प्रति माह** थी, अब यह घटकर लगभग **₹5,000 प्रति माह** हो गई है, जिससे यह अधिक किफायती हो गई है और इसकी पहुंच बढ़ गई है।

#### Who can take it?

#### कौन इसे ले सकता है?

- GLP1 therapy** has clear indications, as to who can use it and when.  
**GLP1 थेरेपी** के स्पष्ट संकेत हैं कि इसे कौन और कब उपयोग कर सकता है।
- Being primarily an **antidiabetic agent**, its use in **type 2 diabetes** is clear.  
मुख्य रूप से एक **एंटी-डायबिटिक एजेंट** होने के कारण, इसका उपयोग **टाइप 2 मधुमेह** में स्पष्ट है।
- In people without diabetes, these drugs have been approved for **weight reduction**.  
बिना मधुमेह वाले लोगों में, इन दवाओं को **वजन घटाने** के लिए स्वीकृत किया गया है।
- Here, they can be used in anyone with a **BMI of over 27**, suffering from obesity-related complications such as **obstructive sleep apnea, diabetes, hypertension** etc., or in a person with a **BMI of over 30 without diabetes**.  
यहां, इन्हें उन लोगों में उपयोग किया जा सकता है जिनका **BMI 27 से अधिक** है और जो **ऑब्स्ट्रक्टिव स्लीप एपनिया, मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप** जैसी जटिलताओं से ग्रस्त हैं, या ऐसे व्यक्ति जिनका **BMI 30 से अधिक** है और उन्हें मधुमेह नहीं है।
- This is a boon to many, in whom **lifestyle changes** alone do not suffice, and in fact, bridges the gap between lifestyle management and **bariatric surgery** for obesity management.



यह उन कई लोगों के लिए वरदान है, जिनमें केवल **जीवनशैली परिवर्तन** पर्याप्त नहीं होते, और यह मोटापा प्रबंधन में जीवनशैली प्रबंधन और **बेरियाट्रिक सर्जरी** के बीच की खाई को भरता है।

- It is important to note that these drugs are not **shortcuts** and not for casual use or as **cosmetic quick fixes**.

यह ध्यान रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि ये दवाएं **शॉर्टकट** नहीं हैं और न ही सामान्य उपयोग या **कॉस्मेटिक त्वरित समाधान** के लिए हैं।

### Do they really work, and how?

क्या ये वास्तव में काम करती हैं, और कैसे?

- The short answer is **yes**.  
संक्षिप्त उत्तर है **हाँ**।
- But this also depends on two factors: **pharmacogenomics**, as each person's response to a drug may be different, and **tolerability to the drug**, which in turn determines compliance to taking it, and ease with dose escalation, as weight loss is best with higher doses.  
लेकिन यह दो कारकों पर भी निर्भर करता है: **फार्माकोजीनोमिक्स**, क्योंकि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की दवा के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया अलग हो सकती है, और **दवा सहनशीलता**, जो दवा लेने की निरंतरता और डोज बढ़ाने की आसानी को निर्धारित करती है, क्योंकि अधिक डोज पर वजन घटाना बेहतर होता है।
- GLP1 therapy**, primarily works through natural pathways in the body, by regulating/suppressing appetite, delaying **gastric emptying time** and other mechanisms.  
**GLP1 थेरेपी** मुख्य रूप से शरीर के प्राकृतिक मार्गों के माध्यम से काम करती है, भूख को नियंत्रित/कम करके, **गैस्ट्रिक खाली होने के समय** को धीमा करके और अन्य तंत्रों द्वारा।
- Hence the response to the drug is largely dependent on each person's natural response.  
इसलिए दवा की प्रतिक्रिया काफी हद तक प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की प्राकृतिक प्रतिक्रिया पर निर्भर करती है।
- On an average, a good response would be between **10 to 15% of body weight loss** from baseline weight.  
औसतन, एक अच्छा परिणाम प्रारंभिक वजन से **10 से 15% वजन घटाने** के बीच होता है।
- As with any other drug, **GLP1 therapy** must only be used under **medical supervision**, by a certified health professional.  
किसी भी अन्य दवा की तरह, **GLP1 थेरेपी** का उपयोग केवल **चिकित्सकीय निगरानी** में, एक प्रमाणित स्वास्थ्य पेशेवर द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए।
- Side effects are mainly **gastro-intestinal** (due to the mechanism of action) and include — **nausea, loss of appetite, burping** and in some cases, **diarrhea**.  
इसके दुष्प्रभाव मुख्यतः **गैस्ट्रो-इंटेस्टाइनल** होते हैं (क्रिया-तंत्र के कारण) और इनमें **मतली, भूख में कमी, डकार** और कुछ मामलों में **दस्त** शामिल हैं।
- However it is important to note, that these side effects are usually **transient**, and subside after the first few weeks.  
हालांकि यह ध्यान रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि ये दुष्प्रभाव सामान्यतः **अस्थायी** होते हैं और कुछ हफ्तों के बाद कम हो जाते हैं।
- With medical guidance, these side effects can be mitigated to a large extent.  
चिकित्सकीय मार्गदर्शन के साथ, इन दुष्प्रभावों को काफी हद तक कम किया जा सकता है।
- As far as safety is concerned, there is a rare association with **pancreatic inflammation, thyroid tumours** and rare case reports of **eye complications**.  
सुरक्षा के संदर्भ में, इसका दुर्लभ संबंध **अग्राशय सूजन, थायरॉयड ट्यूमर** और कुछ दुर्लभ मामलों में **आंखों की जटिलताओं** से पाया गया है।
- Proper guidance and monitoring are key to safe and effective use.  
सही मार्गदर्शन और निगरानी सुरक्षित और प्रभावी उपयोग के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

### When one stops

जब कोई इसे बंद करता है

- If you lost a lot of weight through **diet and exercise**, and then stopped both, what would happen?  
यदि आपने **डाइट और व्यायाम** के माध्यम से काफी वजन कम किया और फिर दोनों को बंद कर दिया, तो क्या होगा?



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- You would potentially regain the weight.  
आपका वजन फिर से बढ़ सकता है।
- The same principle applies to **GLP1 therapy**.  
यही सिद्धांत **GLP1 थेरेपी** पर भी लागू होता है।
- As with any intervention, stopping the drugs may cause a regaining of weight to some extent.  
किसी भी उपचार की तरह, दवा बंद करने से कुछ हद तक वजन वापस बढ़ सकता है।
- This serves to illustrate the fact that **obesity is a chronic, relapsing condition**, requiring long-term treatment.  
यह इस तथ्य को दर्शाता है कि **मोटापा एक दीर्घकालिक और पुनरावर्ती स्थिति** है, जिसके लिए दीर्घकालिक उपचार की आवश्यकता होती है।
- It is important to reiterate that **GLP1 therapy** is not a replacement to lifestyle changes or a shortcut for weight loss.  
यह दोहराना महत्वपूर्ण है कि **GLP1 थेरेपी** जीवनशैली परिवर्तन का विकल्प या वजन घटाने का शॉर्टकट नहीं है।
- It is only an add-on to **lifestyle modifications**, including diet and exercise.  
यह केवल **जीवनशैली में बदलाव**, जिसमें डाइट और व्यायाम शामिल हैं, के साथ सहायक है।
- Another factor to remember while on **GLP1 therapy** is that it is important to include **strength training/muscle strengthening**, and sufficient **protein** in the diet, so as to reduce muscle loss.  
**GLP1 थेरेपी** के दौरान यह भी महत्वपूर्ण है कि **स्ट्रेंथ ट्रेनिंग/मांसपेशी सुदृढ़ीकरण** और आहार में पर्याप्त **प्रोटीन** शामिल किया जाए, ताकि मांसपेशियों का नुकसान कम हो।
- A study found that the use of **semaglutide**, when combined with sufficient protein intake and **resistance training**, resulted in fat mass loss of **18%**, and although lean body mass initially dropped, it was subsequently maintained and stabilised.  
एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **सेमाग्लूटाइड** के उपयोग से, जब इसे पर्याप्त प्रोटीन और **रेजिस्टेंस ट्रेनिंग** के साथ जोड़ा गया, तो वसा द्रव्यमान में **18%** की कमी आई, और हालांकि शुरुआत में लीन बॉडी मास कम हुआ, बाद में यह स्थिर और संतुलित हो गया।
- India is facing a growing epidemic of **obesity and metabolic disease**, including in the young population.  
भारत **मोटापा और मेटाबोलिक रोगों** की बढ़ती महामारी का सामना कर रहा है, जिसमें युवा आबादी भी शामिल है।
- This looming crisis demands immediate attention and action.  
यह उभरता संकट तत्काल ध्यान और कार्रवाई की मांग करता है।
- GLP1 drugs** are one form of treatment and while exciting, there is an urgent necessity to tackle the problem on other fronts.  
**GLP1 दवाएं** उपचार का एक रूप हैं और यद्यपि यह उत्साहजनक हैं, लेकिन अन्य मोर्चों पर समस्या से निपटना भी अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- We need to change **food policies** to reduce consumption of **processed food** and reduce fat content in marketed food products.  
हमें **खाद्य नीतियों** में बदलाव करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि **प्रोसेस्ड फूड** का सेवन कम हो और बाजार में उपलब्ध खाद्य उत्पादों में वसा की मात्रा कम हो।
- Similarly, **urban and town planning** must be rejigged to encourage **physical activity**.  
इसी प्रकार, **शहरी और नगर नियोजन** को इस तरह पुनर्गठित किया जाना चाहिए कि **शारीरिक गतिविधि** को बढ़ावा मिले।
- Obesity now is considered a **chronic metabolic disease**.  
अब मोटापा एक **दीर्घकालिक मेटाबोलिक रोग** माना जाता है।
- While clinicians today have an effective tool, with **GLP1 therapy** enriching the landscape of options, the real question that remains is, will this translate into meaningful change in **public health**?  
जहां आज चिकित्सकों के पास एक प्रभावी साधन है और **GLP1 थेरेपी** विकल्पों को समृद्ध कर रही है, वहीं वास्तविक प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह **जन स्वास्थ्य** में सार्थक बदलाव ला पाएगा?
- Only time and our actions now, will tell.  
केवल समय और हमारे वर्तमान कार्य ही यह बताएंगे।



# How will Gaganyaan astronauts return safely to earth?

Why can't parachutes alone ensure a safe landing? How does Gaganyaan module lose its enormous speed?

GS III S&T  
Unnikrishnan Nair S.

The story so far:

The Gaganyaan crew module, which will host the Indian astronauts on their human spaceflight mission, will orbit the earth at about 7,800 m/s. When it re-enters the atmosphere, it will have to shed its kinetic energy. The atmospheric drag itself will be the primary brake, taking away most of its energy in a process called aerobraking. To further reduce the module's velocity for a soft landing, a multi-stage parachute system will be deployed once the module comes within 12 km of the ground. A typical recovery system includes all the items required to soft-land the module in sea or on land after aerobraking. This includes parachutes, locating devices to find out where the module has splashed down, and a system to ensure the module is pointing in a favourable direction in case it drops in the sea. For touchdown on

MOB

land, apart from parachutes, the recovery system will fire braking motors to reduce the impact velocity before touchdown. The Russian Soyuz and Chinese Shenzhou modules are designed for terrestrial landing and use retro-rockets for braking.

Why do parachutes alone not suffice?

As the land is hard, touching down on land needs to be around 1-2 m/s. The module can, however, tolerate landing at around 7-9 m/s in the sea, as water is a natural energy absorber.

Land touchdowns also require vast, empty territories free of people or buildings, while offering easier crew recovery and quicker refurbishing of the module.

Sea landings are preferred by countries that lack large deserts or plains. However, it requires recovery ships, flotation bags, and specialised gear to keep the crew safe in rough waters.

Reducing a module's velocity to less than 2 m/s using parachutes alone is

impractical due to the inverse-square relationship between speed and drag area. To slow a module from 7 m/s to 1 m/s, the parachute will have to be roughly 49x larger, incurring a large weight and volume penalty.

A parachute that large would also be difficult to deploy without tangling.

Why is the landing zone elliptical?

When a module returns to the earth, it doesn't aim for a bull's-eye but rather a large ellipse. This is because the module's kinetic energy is concentrated almost entirely along its flight track. At hypersonic speeds, minor fluctuations in atmospheric density or re-entry conditions like velocity can cause the module to over- or undershoot its target by hundreds of kilometres.

In contrast, energy available to make any significant path changes in a direction sideways to its track is very low and hence lateral deviations are minimal. The result is a landing footprint significantly

elongated along the path of travel.

Once a module is in the water, recovery teams use predictive tracking, electronic signalling, and visual aids to find it. The module transmits its GPS coordinates and homing signals to satellites and aircraft and also releases a bright green fluorescent dye.

If the splashdown is at night or in low visibility, flashing from high-intensity strobe lights from the module will be used to locate it. To ensure it stands out against the deep indigo colour of the water, the module and its flotation bags are painted international orange.

How will the Gaganyaan crew module be recovered?

The Gaganyaan recovery operation will be led by the Indian Navy, plus other stakeholders. After the module is slowed by parachutes, it will splash down in the Bay of Bengal. Immediately after, the parachutes will be released to avoid any entanglement and the flotation bags will automatically inflate.

Once naval divers find and secure the module with a flotation collar and towing gear, it will be winched onto a ship's deck to safely extract the crew.

(Unnikrishnan Nair S. is former director, VSSC and IIST; founding director, HSFC; and an expert in launch vehicle systems, orbital re-entry and human spaceflight technologies; Currently Dr Sarabhai Professor at VSSC)

## THE GIST

The crew module sheds most of its kinetic energy through aerobraking, with atmospheric drag acting as the primary brake, followed by a multi-stage parachute system and, for land touchdowns, braking motors to ensure a soft landing.

Due to high re-entry speeds and limited lateral control, the landing zone is an elongated ellipse, and recovery involves locating devices, GPS signals, and Indian Navy-led operations after splashdown in the Bay of Bengal.

## 10A. How will Gaganyaan astronauts return safely to earth?

गगनयान अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुरक्षित रूप से पृथ्वी पर कैसे लौटेंगे?

Why can't parachutes alone ensure a safe landing?

केवल पैराशूट सुरक्षित लैंडिंग क्यों सुनिश्चित नहीं कर सकते?

- How does the Gaganyaan module lose its enormous speed?  
गगनयान मॉड्यूल अपनी अत्यधिक गति कैसे कम करता है?
- The **Gaganyaan crew module**, which will host the Indian astronauts on their human spaceflight mission, **will orbit the earth at about 7,800 m/s**.  
गगनयान क्रू मॉड्यूल, जो भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को उनके मानव अंतरिक्ष मिशन में ले जाएगा, लगभग **7,800 मीटर/सेकंड** की गति से पृथ्वी की परिक्रमा करेगा।
- **When it re-enters the atmosphere, it will have to shed its kinetic energy**.  
जब यह वायुमंडल में पुनः प्रवेश करेगा, तो इसे अपनी गतिज ऊर्जा कम करनी होगी।
- The **atmospheric drag itself will be the primary brake, taking away most of its energy in a process called aerobraking**.  
वायुमंडलीय घर्षण ही मुख्य ब्रेक का काम करेगा, जो एरोब्रेकिंग प्रक्रिया में इसकी अधिकांश ऊर्जा को कम कर देगा।
- To further reduce the module's velocity for a soft landing, a **multi-stage parachute system will be deployed once the module comes within 12 km of the ground**.  
सॉफ्ट लैंडिंग के लिए गति को और कम करने हेतु, जब मॉड्यूल जमीन से **12 किमी** के भीतर आएगा, तब **मल्टी-स्टेज पैराशूट प्रणाली** तैनात की जाएगी।
- A typical **recovery system** includes all the items required to soft-land the module in sea or on land after aerobraking.  
एक सामान्य **रिकवरी सिस्टम** में वे सभी उपकरण शामिल होते हैं जो एरोब्रेकिंग के बाद समुद्र या भूमि पर सॉफ्ट लैंडिंग के लिए आवश्यक होते हैं।
- This includes **parachutes, locating devices**, and a system to ensure the module is pointing in a favourable direction in case it drops in the sea.  
इसमें **पैराशूट, लोकेशन डिवाइस** और ऐसा तंत्र शामिल होता है जो सुनिश्चित करता है कि समुद्र में गिरने पर मॉड्यूल सही दिशा में हो।
- For touchdown on land, apart from parachutes, the recovery system will fire **braking motors** to reduce the impact velocity before touchdown.  
भूमि पर उतरने के लिए, पैराशूट के अलावा, रिकवरी सिस्टम **ब्रेकिंग मोटर्स** का उपयोग करेगा ताकि प्रभाव की गति कम हो सके।
- The **Russian Soyuz and Chinese Shenzhou** modules are designed for terrestrial landing and use **retro-rockets** for braking.



रूसी सोयूज और चीनी शेनझोउ मॉड्यूल भूमि पर उतरने के लिए बनाए गए हैं और वे रेट्रो-रॉकेट्स का उपयोग करते हैं।

### Why do parachutes alone not suffice? केवल पैराशूट क्यों पर्याप्त नहीं हैं?

- As the land is hard, touching down on land needs to be around **1-2 m/s**.  
भूमि कठोर होती है, इसलिए वहां उतरने की गति लगभग **1-2 मीटर/सेकंड** होनी चाहिए।
- The module can, however, tolerate landing at around **7-9 m/s** in the sea, as water is a natural energy absorber.  
मॉड्यूल समुद्र में **7-9 मीटर/सेकंड** की गति से उतर सकता है क्योंकि पानी एक प्राकृतिक ऊर्जा अवशोषक है।
- Land touchdowns also require vast, empty territories free of people or buildings, while offering easier crew recovery and quicker refurbishing of the module.  
भूमि पर उतरने के लिए बड़े, खाली क्षेत्र की आवश्यकता होती है जहां लोग या इमारतें न हों, जबकि इससे चालक दल की रिकवरी और मॉड्यूल की मरम्मत आसान होती है।
- Sea landings are preferred by countries that lack large deserts or plains.  
जिन देशों के पास बड़े रेगिस्तान या मैदान नहीं हैं, वे समुद्री लैंडिंग को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- However, it requires **recovery ships, flotation bags**, and specialised gear to keep the crew safe in rough waters.  
हालांकि इसके लिए **रिकवरी जहाज, फ्लोटेशन बैग** और विशेष उपकरणों की आवश्यकता होती है ताकि चालक दल को सुरक्षित रखा जा सके।
- Reducing a module's velocity to less than **2 m/s** using parachutes alone is impractical due to the **inverse-square relationship** between speed and drag area.  
केवल पैराशूट का उपयोग करके मॉड्यूल की गति को **2 मीटर/सेकंड** से कम करना संभव नहीं है क्योंकि गति और ड्रैग क्षेत्र के बीच **व्युत्क्रम वर्ग संबंध** होता है।
- To slow a module from **7 m/s to 1 m/s**, the parachute will have to be roughly **49x larger**, incurring a large weight and volume penalty.  
मॉड्यूल को **7 मीटर/सेकंड से 1 मीटर/सेकंड** तक धीमा करने के लिए पैराशूट को लगभग **49 गुना बड़ा** होना पड़ेगा, जिससे वजन और आकार बहुत बढ़ जाएगा।
- A parachute that large would also be difficult to deploy without tangling.  
इतना बड़ा पैराशूट बिना उलझे तैनात करना भी कठिन होगा।

### Why is the landing zone elliptical? लैंडिंग क्षेत्र अंडाकार क्यों होता है?

- When a module returns to the earth, it doesn't aim for a bull's-eye but rather a **large ellipse**.  
जब मॉड्यूल पृथ्वी पर लौटता है, तो वह सटीक बिंदु के बजाय एक **बड़े अंडाकार क्षेत्र** को लक्ष्य बनाता है।
- This is because the module's **kinetic energy** is concentrated almost entirely along its flight track.  
ऐसा इसलिए होता है क्योंकि मॉड्यूल की **गतिज ऊर्जा** लगभग पूरी तरह उसकी उड़ान दिशा में केंद्रित होती है।
- At **hypersonic speeds**, minor fluctuations in atmospheric density or re-entry conditions like velocity can cause the module to over- or undershoot its target by hundreds of kilometres.  
**हाइपरसोनिक गति** पर वायुमंडलीय घनत्व या पुनः प्रवेश की स्थितियों में छोटे बदलाव भी मॉड्यूल को सैकड़ों किलोमीटर आगे या पीछे ले जा सकते हैं।
- In contrast, energy available to make any significant path changes sideways to its track is very low and hence lateral deviations are minimal.  
इसके विपरीत, पार्श्व दिशा में मार्ग बदलने के लिए उपलब्ध ऊर्जा बहुत कम होती है, इसलिए पार्श्व विचलन न्यूनतम होते हैं।
- The result is a landing footprint significantly elongated along the path of travel.  
इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि लैंडिंग क्षेत्र यात्रा मार्ग के साथ लंबा होता है।
- Once a module is in the water, recovery teams use **predictive tracking, electronic signalling, and visual aids** to find it.  
जब मॉड्यूल पानी में पहुंचता है, तो रिकवरी टीमों **पूर्वानुमान ट्रैकिंग, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक संकेत और दृश्य साधनों** का उपयोग करके उसे ढूंढती हैं।



- The module transmits its **GPS coordinates** and homing signals to satellites and aircraft and also releases a bright green **fluorescent dye**.  
मॉड्यूल अपने **GPS निर्देशांक** और संकेत उपग्रहों और विमानों को भेजता है और एक चमकीला हरा **फ्लोरोसेंट रंग** भी छोड़ता है।
- If the splashdown is at night or in low visibility, flashing from high-intensity **strobe lights** from the module will be used to locate it.  
यदि रात में या कम दृश्यता में लैंडिंग होती है, तो मॉड्यूल की उच्च तीव्रता वाली **स्ट्रोब लाइट्स** से इसे ढूंढा जाएगा।
- To ensure it stands out against the deep indigo colour of the water, the module and its flotation bags are painted **international orange**.  
गहरे नीले पानी में स्पष्ट दिखने के लिए मॉड्यूल और फ्लोटेशन बैग को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय नारंगी रंग** से रंगा जाता है।

### How will the Gaganyaan crew module be recovered?

गगनयान क्यू मॉड्यूल को कैसे पुनः प्राप्त किया जाएगा?

- The **Gaganyaan recovery operation** will be led by the **Indian Navy**, plus other stakeholders.  
गगनयान रिकवरी ऑपरेशन का नेतृत्व **भारतीय नौसेना** करेगी, साथ ही अन्य एजेंसियां भी शामिल होंगी।
- After the module is slowed by parachutes, it will splash down in the **Bay of Bengal**.  
पैराशूट से गति कम होने के बाद, मॉड्यूल **बंगाल की खाड़ी** में उतरेगा।
- Immediately after, the parachutes will be released to avoid any entanglement and the flotation bags will automatically inflate.  
इसके तुरंत बाद, उलझने से बचने के लिए पैराशूट अलग कर दिए जाएंगे और फ्लोटेशन बैग स्वतः फूल जाएंगे।
- Once naval divers find and secure the module with a **flotation collar and towing gear**, it will be winched onto a ship's deck to safely extract the crew.  
जब नौसेना के गोताखोर मॉड्यूल को ढूंढकर **फ्लोटेशन कॉलर और टोइंग गियर** से सुरक्षित कर लेंगे, तब उसे जहाज के डेक पर खींचकर चालक दल को सुरक्षित निकाला जाएगा।

## Reining in medicine prices despite war impact on inputs, says official

GS III: S&T

**Saptarno Ghosh**  
NEW DELHI

A senior official in India's Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers said there has been no major rise in prices of pharmaceutical drugs despite the West Asia war impacting global supply chains of some essential inputs, particularly solvents and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

The Centre has taken note of the disruptions and devising strategies to meet the challenges, Joint Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals Satyaprakash T. L. said, adding propylene, ammonia and



The Centre is working to ensure continuous flow of inputs.

methanol were the key solvents the pharmaceutical industry needs and whose supplies have been affected. Butanol is needed in smaller quantities for certain antibiotics. Propylene

remains the most critical input since it is used in Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) and Isobutyl Benzene production, which are used in medicines such as Ibuprofen. A significant share of propylene supply is being met through BPCL's Kochi and Mumbai refineries and supplied to major manufacturers of Isopropyl Alcohol.

### Uninterrupted supply

The Ministry and the Department are working in coordination with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential inputs for pharma-

ceutical manufacturing, the official said at an inter-ministerial briefing.

With methanol supply emerging as an area of concern, Assam Petrochemicals and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals (GNFC) agreed to supply adequate quantities.

Availability of methylated ammonium products, used as intermediates for medicines, is being closely monitored, he said.

Supplies of aluminium for pharmaceutical packaging faced constraints. Restoration of the supply is 'underway' and expected to normalise within a week, he said.



## 10A. Reining in medicine prices despite war impact on inputs, says official इनपुट पर युद्ध के प्रभाव के बावजूद दवाइयों की कीमतों को नियंत्रित किया गया: अधिकारी

- Reining in medicine prices despite war impact on inputs, says official.  
अधिकारी ने कहा कि युद्ध के प्रभाव के बावजूद दवाइयों की कीमतों को नियंत्रित रखा गया है।
- A senior official in India's **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** said there has been no major rise in prices of pharmaceutical drugs despite the West Asia war impacting global supply chains of some essential inputs, particularly solvents and **active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)**.  
रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध के बावजूद फार्मास्यूटिकल दवाओं की कीमतों में कोई बड़ी वृद्धि नहीं हुई है, हालांकि सॉल्वेंट्स और API की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है।
- The Centre has taken note of the disruptions and devising strategies to meet the challenges, Joint Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals Satyaprakash T. L. said, adding propylene, ammonia and methanol were the key solvents the pharmaceutical industry needs and whose supplies have been affected.  
केंद्र सरकार ने इन बाधाओं पर ध्यान दिया है और समाधान की रणनीति बना रही है, सत्यप्रकाश टी.एल. ने कहा, और बताया कि प्रोपलीन, अमोनिया और मेथेनॉल मुख्य सॉल्वेंट्स हैं जिनकी आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है।
- Butanol is needed in smaller quantities for certain antibiotics.  
ब्यूटेनॉल कुछ एंटीबायोटिक्स के लिए कम मात्रा में आवश्यक है।
- Propylene remains the most critical input since it is used in **Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA)** and Isobutyl Benzene production, which are used in medicines such as Ibuprofen.  
प्रोपलीन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण इनपुट है क्योंकि इसका उपयोग **Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA)** और **Isobutyl Benzene** बनाने में होता है, जो **Ibuprofen** जैसी दवाओं में उपयोग होते हैं।
- A significant share of propylene supply is being met through BPCL's Kochi and Mumbai refineries and supplied to major manufacturers of Isopropyl Alcohol.  
BPCL की कोच्चि और मुंबई रिफाइनरी से प्रोपलीन की आपूर्ति की जा रही है और इसे IPA निर्माताओं को दिया जा रहा है।

### Uninterrupted supply निर्बाध आपूर्ति

- The **Ministry and the Department** are working in coordination with the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential inputs for pharmaceutical manufacturing, the official said at an inter-ministerial briefing.  
मंत्रालय और विभाग पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर दवा निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक इनपुट्स की निरंतर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं।
- With methanol supply emerging as an area of concern, **Assam Petrochemicals and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals (GNFC)** agreed to supply adequate quantities.  
मेथेनॉल आपूर्ति चिंता का विषय बनने पर असम पेट्रोकेमिकल्स और GNFC ने पर्याप्त आपूर्ति का आश्वासन दिया।
- Availability of methylated ammonium products, used as intermediates for medicines, is being closely monitored, he said.  
मेथाइलेटेड अमोनियम उत्पादों की उपलब्धता, जो दवाओं के इंटरमीडिएट हैं, पर कड़ी निगरानी रखी जा रही है।
- Supplies of aluminium for pharmaceutical packaging faced constraints.  
फार्मा पैकेजिंग के लिए एल्युमिनियम की आपूर्ति में बाधा आई।
- Restoration of the supply is 'underway' and expected to normalise within a week, he said.  
उन्होंने कहा कि आपूर्ति की बहाली जारी है और एक सप्ताह में सामान्य होने की उम्मीद है।



<b>GS Paper III: Environment</b>		<b>10 April 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>10A</b>	<b>Climate change reshaping disease patterns, straining health systems: report</b> <b>जलवायु परिवर्तन रोग पैटर्न को बदल रहा है, स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों पर दबाव: रिपोर्ट</b>	

**Golden harvest**



Earthy yields: Agriculture workers harvest turmeric in a field on the outskirts of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. KXS. GRI

Earthy yields: Agriculture workers harvest turmeric in a field on the outskirts of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on Thursday.

## Climate change reshaping disease patterns, straining health systems: report

**GS III: Environment**  
**Geetha Srimathi**  
CHENNAI

Climate change is emerging as a major public health threat in India, reshaping disease patterns, straining healthcare systems, and placing nearly 40% of districts at high risk from extreme weather events, according to a new report.

The report, *Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience*, by Dasra, a philanthropy fund organisation, highlights how rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, floods, and cyclones are no longer isolated events but part of a continuous cycle of disruption affecting health, livelihoods, and access to care across the country.

**Changing disease landscape**  
Extreme weather events in India are increasing in frequency and intensity, bringing both immediate and long-term risks, the report notes. Floods trigger outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera and hepatitis, while heatwaves lead to dehydration, heatstroke, and increased cardiovascular stress. The report says climate change is altering how diseases spread. Warmer temperatures and shifting

rainfall patterns are expanding the range of vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria into new regions. Areas that were previously unaffected, including Shimla, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Himalayan foothills, are now reporting cases. The report also identifies Pune as a major dengue hotspot, with cases expected to rise further. Non-communicable diseases are also linked to climate stress. Heat exposure has been associated with higher cardiovascular mortality, while worsening air pollution contributes to respiratory illnesses and chronic conditions. Climate change, the report says, is acting as a "health-risk multiplier", increasing both disease burden and pressure on healthcare systems.

**Unequal burden**  
The impact is not evenly distributed. Vulnerable communities – including rural populations, informal workers, women, and children – face the greatest risks. These groups are often the least equipped to cope with climate shocks, deepening existing inequalities. Extreme heat, for instance, reduces labour productivity and increases health risks for outdoor



**Big impact:** Vulnerable communities – including rural populations, informal workers, women, and children – face the biggest impact of climate change. KXS. GRI

workers. The report notes that India lost an estimated 160 billion labour hours due to heat exposure in 2021. Women and children face heightened risks from climate-related health impacts. The report notes that exposure to extreme heat is linked to a 16% increase in the odds of preterm birth

during heatwaves, with risks rising further for every 1 degree Celsius increase in temperature. Air pollution, particularly fine particulate matter (PM2.5), has been associated with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, including pre-eclampsia, as well as increased gestational blood pressure. As

infants and young children have limited ability to regulate body temperature, it makes them more prone to heat stress, dehydration, and respiratory illnesses. Exposure to air pollution is also linked to low birth weight, asthma, and reduced lung function, the report says. Climate disasters also disrupt access to healthcare. Floods and cyclones can damage hospitals, cut off roads, and interrupt the supply of medicines and vaccines. In remote areas, even a small disruption can leave communities without access to basic services. Beyond direct health impacts, climate change is also affecting livelihoods and economic stability. Rising healthcare costs, loss of income, and reduced productivity are creating a cycle of vulnerability, particularly for those already at risk.

**Efforts taken**  
Despite these challenges, the report highlights growing efforts to address the climate-health link. Over the past decade, India has begun to move from broad climate policies to more targeted approaches that recognise the connection between climate and health. Initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate

Change and Human Health and State-level action plans are helping shape local responses. Heat Action Plans, which include early warnings and preparedness measures, are now being implemented in several cities and districts. These efforts are helping communities adapt to both immediate shocks and long-term climate risks.

**Challenges ahead**  
However, the report identifies several challenges, including a lack of local, disaggregated data linking climate events to health outcomes, limiting targeted interventions. Funding for adaptation remains constrained and skewed towards mitigation, while weak public awareness and fragmented data systems further hinder effective response. The report calls for stronger collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector, along with greater investment in local data systems and climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure. It also calls for placing health at the centre of climate policy, rather than treating it as a secondary concern. (geetha.srimathi@thehindu.co.in)

### 10A. Climate change reshaping disease patterns, straining health systems: report

### जलवायु परिवर्तन रोग पैटर्न को बदल रहा है, स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों पर दबाव: रिपोर्ट

- Climate change is emerging as a major public health threat in India, reshaping disease patterns, straining healthcare systems, and placing nearly 40% of districts at high risk from extreme weather events, according to a new report. जलवायु परिवर्तन भारत में एक प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य खतरे के रूप में उभर रहा है, जो रोग पैटर्न को बदल रहा है, स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों पर दबाव डाल रहा है और लगभग 40% जिलों को चरम मौसम घटनाओं के उच्च जोखिम में डाल रहा है, एक नई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार।
- The report, *Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience*, by Dasra, a philanthropy fund organisation, highlights how rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, floods, and cyclones are no longer isolated events but part of a continuous cycle of disruption affecting health, livelihoods, and access to care across the country.



**Dasra** नामक परोपकारी संस्था द्वारा तैयार रिपोर्ट **Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience** यह दर्शाती है कि बढ़ते तापमान, अनियमित वर्षा, बाढ़ और चक्रवात अब अलग-अलग घटनाएं नहीं हैं, बल्कि एक निरंतर व्यवधान चक्र का हिस्सा हैं जो देशभर में स्वास्थ्य, आजीविका और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुंच को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं।

### Changing disease landscape रोग परिदृश्य में परिवर्तन

- Extreme weather events in India are increasing in frequency and intensity, bringing both immediate and long-term risks, the report notes.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत में चरम मौसम घटनाओं की आवृत्ति और तीव्रता बढ़ रही है, जिससे तत्काल और दीर्घकालिक दोनों प्रकार के जोखिम उत्पन्न हो रहे हैं।
- Floods trigger outbreaks of **water-borne diseases** such as **cholera and hepatitis**, while heatwaves lead to dehydration, heatstroke, and increased cardiovascular stress.  
बाढ़ **जलजनित रोगों** जैसे **हैजा और हेपेटाइटिस** के प्रकोप को बढ़ाती है, जबकि हीटवेव से निर्जलीकरण, हीटस्ट्रोक और हृदय संबंधी तनाव बढ़ता है।
- The report says climate change is altering how diseases spread.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार जलवायु परिवर्तन रोगों के फैलने के तरीके को बदल रहा है।
- Warmer temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are expanding the range of **vector-borne diseases** such as **dengue and malaria** into new regions.  
बढ़ते तापमान और बदलते वर्षा पैटर्न **वेक्टर जनित रोगों** जैसे **डेंगू और मलेरिया** के प्रसार को नए क्षेत्रों तक बढ़ा रहे हैं।
- Areas that were previously unaffected, including **Shimla, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Himalayan foothills**, are now reporting cases.  
वे क्षेत्र जो पहले प्रभावित नहीं थे, जैसे **शिमला, जम्मू-कश्मीर के कुछ हिस्से और हिमालयी पाद क्षेत्र**, अब मामलों की रिपोर्ट कर रहे हैं।
- The report also identifies **Pune** as a major dengue hotspot, with cases expected to rise further.  
रिपोर्ट में **पुणे** को एक प्रमुख डेंगू हॉटस्पॉट के रूप में पहचाना गया है, जहां मामलों के और बढ़ने की संभावना है।
- Non-communicable diseases are also linked to climate stress.  
असंक्रामक रोग भी जलवायु तनाव से जुड़े हुए हैं।
- Heat exposure has been associated with higher **cardiovascular mortality**, while worsening air pollution contributes to respiratory illnesses and chronic conditions.  
हीट एक्सपोजर को उच्च **हृदय संबंधी मृत्यु दर** से जोड़ा गया है, जबकि बढ़ता वायु प्रदूषण श्वसन रोगों और दीर्घकालिक बीमारियों में योगदान देता है।
- Climate change, the report says, is acting as a **“health-risk multiplier”**, increasing both disease burden and pressure on healthcare systems.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार जलवायु परिवर्तन एक **“स्वास्थ्य-जोखिम गुणक”** के रूप में कार्य कर रहा है, जिससे रोग भार और स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों पर दबाव दोनों बढ़ रहे हैं।

### Unequal burden असमान बोझ

- The impact is not evenly distributed.  
इसका प्रभाव समान रूप से वितरित नहीं है।
- Vulnerable communities — including **rural populations, informal workers, women, and children** — face the greatest risks.  
संवेदनशील समुदाय — जिनमें **ग्रामीण आबादी, असंगठित श्रमिक, महिलाएं और बच्चे** शामिल हैं — सबसे अधिक जोखिम का सामना करते हैं।
- These groups are often the least equipped to cope with climate shocks, deepening existing inequalities.  
ये समूह अक्सर जलवायु झटकों से निपटने के लिए सबसे कम तैयार होते हैं, जिससे मौजूदा असमानताएं और बढ़ जाती हैं।



- Extreme heat, for instance, reduces **labour productivity** and increases health risks for outdoor workers.  
उदाहरण के लिए, अत्यधिक गर्मी **श्रम उत्पादकता** को कम करती है और बाहरी कामगारों के लिए स्वास्थ्य जोखिम बढ़ाती है।
- The report notes that India lost an estimated **160 billion labour hours** due to heat exposure in 2021.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत ने 2021 में गर्मी के कारण लगभग **160 अरब श्रम घंटे** खो दिए।
- Women and children face heightened risks from **climate-related health impacts**.  
महिलाएं और बच्चे **जलवायु संबंधी स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों** से अधिक जोखिम का सामना करते हैं।
- The report notes that exposure to extreme heat is linked to a **16% increase in the odds of preterm birth** during heatwaves, with risks rising further for every **1 degree Celsius** increase in temperature.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार अत्यधिक गर्मी के संपर्क को हीटवेव के दौरान **असमय जन्म की संभावना में 16% वृद्धि** से जोड़ा गया है, और तापमान में हर **1 डिग्री सेल्सियस** वृद्धि के साथ यह जोखिम और बढ़ जाता है।
- Air pollution, particularly **fine particulate matter (PM2.5)**, has been associated with **hypertensive disorders in pregnancy**, including **pre-eclampsia**, as well as increased gestational blood pressure.  
वायु प्रदूषण, विशेष रूप से **सूक्ष्म कण (PM2.5)**, गर्भावस्था में **उच्च रक्तचाप संबंधी विकारों**, जिसमें **प्री-एक्लेम्पसिया** शामिल है, तथा गर्भावधि रक्तचाप में वृद्धि से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- As infants and young children have limited ability to regulate body temperature, it makes them more prone to **heat stress, dehydration, and respiratory illnesses**.  
चूंकि शिशुओं और छोटे बच्चों में शरीर के तापमान को नियंत्रित करने की क्षमता सीमित होती है, इसलिए वे **हीट स्ट्रेस, निर्जलीकरण और श्वसन रोगों** के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील होते हैं।
- Exposure to air pollution is also linked to **low birth weight, asthma, and reduced lung function**, the report says.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वायु प्रदूषण के संपर्क को **कम जन्म वजन, अस्थमा और फेफड़ों की कार्यक्षमता में कमी** से भी जोड़ा गया है।
- Climate disasters also disrupt access to **healthcare**.  
जलवायु आपदाएं **स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** तक पहुंच को भी बाधित करती हैं।
- Floods and cyclones can damage hospitals, cut off roads, and interrupt the supply of **medicines and vaccines**.  
बाढ़ और चक्रवात अस्पतालों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकते हैं, सड़कों को बाधित कर सकते हैं और **दवाओं और टीकों** की आपूर्ति को रोक सकते हैं।
- In remote areas, even a small disruption can leave communities without access to basic services.  
दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में, एक छोटा सा व्यवधान भी समुदायों को बुनियादी सेवाओं से वंचित कर सकता है।
- Beyond direct health impacts, climate change is also affecting **livelihoods and economic stability**.  
प्रत्यक्ष स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों के अलावा, जलवायु परिवर्तन **आजीविका और आर्थिक स्थिरता** को भी प्रभावित कर रहा है।
- Rising healthcare costs, loss of income, and reduced productivity are creating a cycle of vulnerability, particularly for those already at risk.  
बढ़ती स्वास्थ्य लागत, आय में कमी और घटती उत्पादकता विशेष रूप से पहले से जोखिम में मौजूद लोगों के लिए असुरक्षा का चक्र बना रही है।

### Efforts taken

#### किए गए प्रयास

- Despite these challenges, the report highlights growing efforts to address the **climate-health link**.  
इन चुनौतियों के बावजूद, रिपोर्ट **जलवायु-स्वास्थ्य संबंध** को संबोधित करने के बढ़ते प्रयासों को रेखांकित करती है।
- Over the past decade, India has begun to move from broad climate policies to more targeted approaches that recognise the connection between **climate and health**.



पिछले दशक में, भारत ने व्यापक जलवायु नीतियों से हटकर अधिक लक्षित दृष्टिकोण अपनाना शुरू किया है जो **जलवायु और स्वास्थ्य** के बीच संबंध को पहचानते हैं।

- Initiatives such as the **National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health** and State-level action plans are helping shape local responses.  
**नेशनल एक्शन प्लान ऑन क्लाइमेट चेंज एंड ह्यूमन हेल्थ** और राज्य स्तरीय कार्य योजनाएं स्थानीय प्रतिक्रियाओं को आकार देने में मदद कर रही हैं।
- **Heat Action Plans**, which include early warnings and preparedness measures, are now being implemented in several cities and districts.  
**हीट एक्शन प्लान**, जिनमें प्रारंभिक चेतावनी और तैयारी के उपाय शामिल हैं, अब कई शहरों और जिलों में लागू किए जा रहे हैं।
- These efforts are helping communities adapt to both immediate shocks and long-term climate risks.  
ये प्रयास समुदायों को तात्कालिक झटकों और दीर्घकालिक जलवायु जोखिमों दोनों के अनुकूल बनने में मदद कर रहे हैं।

### Challenges ahead

#### आगे की चुनौतियां

- However, the report identifies several challenges, including a lack of **local, disaggregated data** linking climate events to health outcomes, limiting targeted interventions.  
हालांकि, रिपोर्ट कई चुनौतियों की पहचान करती है, जिनमें जलवायु घटनाओं को स्वास्थ्य परिणामों से जोड़ने वाले **स्थानीय, विभाजित आंकड़ों** की कमी शामिल है, जिससे लक्षित हस्तक्षेप सीमित हो जाते हैं।
- Funding for adaptation remains constrained and skewed towards **mitigation**, while weak public awareness and fragmented data systems further hinder effective response.  
अनुकूलन के लिए वित्तपोषण सीमित है और **मिटिगेशन** की ओर झुका हुआ है, जबकि कमजोर जन जागरूकता और बिखरी हुई डेटा प्रणाली प्रभावी प्रतिक्रिया में और बाधा डालती हैं।
- The report calls for stronger collaboration between **government, civil society, and the private sector**, along with greater investment in local data systems and **climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure**.  
रिपोर्ट **सरकार, नागरिक समाज और निजी क्षेत्र** के बीच मजबूत सहयोग की मांग करती है, साथ ही स्थानीय डेटा प्रणालियों और **जलवायु-लचीली स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना** में अधिक निवेश की आवश्यकता बताती है।
- It also calls for placing health at the centre of **climate policy**, rather than treating it as a secondary concern.  
यह **जलवायु नीति** के केंद्र में स्वास्थ्य को रखने की भी मांग करती है, न कि इसे द्वितीयक चिंता के रूप में देखने की।