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Firefighting drill: A Canadair CL-415 aircraft drops water during a demonstration at the launch of France's national wildfire prevention campaign in Nîmes, southern France, on Thursday. AFP



Former LS Secretary General Subhash Kashyap passes away

PCS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Lok Sabha Secretary General and constitutional expert Subhash C. Kashyap passed away on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 97.

Mr. Kashyap was part of the high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to prepare a legal framework on simultaneous elections. Author of over 100 books, he served as the Secretary General of Lok Sabha from 1983 to 1990.

He served Parliament for over 37 years from the time of Jawaharlal Nehru's first Lok Sabha to the 9th Lok Sabha.

Born in 1929 in a family of freedom fighters in Bijnor in the then United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), he actively took part in the struggle for Independence as a teenager.



Subhash C. Kashyap

He received his higher education and professional training at Allahabad, New Delhi, Washington DC, London and Geneva.

He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan.

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the demise of Mr. Kashyap is extremely sad and offered condolences to his family. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla condoled his demise and said it is a profound loss to Indian parliamentary democracy, constitutional discourse and public life.

05J6. Former LS Secretary General Subhash Kashyap passes away पूर्व लोकसभा महासचिव सुभाष कश्यप का निधन

• Former **Lok Sabha Secretary General** and constitutional expert **Subhash C. Kashyap** passed away on Thursday after prolonged illness.

पूर्व लोकसभा महासचिव एवं संवैधानिक विशेषज्ञ सुभाष सी.

कश्यप का गुरुवार को लंबी बीमारी के बाद निधन हो गया।

• He was 97.

वे 97 वर्ष के थे।

• Mr. Kashyap was part of the **high-level committee** headed by former President **Ram Nath Kovind** to prepare a legal framework on **simultaneous elections**.

श्री कश्यप पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद की अध्यक्षता वाली उच्चस्तरीय समिति के सदस्य थे, जिसका गठन एक साथ चुनाव (Simultaneous Elections) के लिए कानूनी ढाँचा तैयार करने हेतु किया गया था।

• **Author of over 100 books**, he served as the **Secretary General of Lok Sabha from 1983 to 1990**.

100 से अधिक पुस्तकों के लेखक श्री कश्यप ने 1983 से 1990 तक लोकसभा महासचिव के रूप में कार्य किया।

• He served Parliament for over **37 years** from the time of **Jawaharlal Nehru's first Lok Sabha** to the **9th Lok Sabha**.

उन्होंने जवाहरलाल नेहरू की प्रथम लोकसभा से लेकर नौवीं लोकसभा तक 37 वर्षों से अधिक समय तक संसद की सेवा की।

• Born in **1929** in a family of **freedom fighters** in **Bijnor** in the then **United Provinces** (now **Uttar Pradesh**), he actively took part in the struggle for Independence as a teenager.

उन्का जन्म 1929 में तत्कालीन यूनाइटेड प्रोविंसेज़ (वर्तमान

उत्तर प्रदेश) के बिजनौर में एक स्वतंत्रता सेनानी परिवार में हुआ था और उन्होंने किशोरावस्था में ही स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में सक्रिय भागीदारी की थी।

• He received his **higher education** and professional training at **Allahabad, New Delhi, Washington DC, London and Geneva**.

उन्होंने अपनी उच्च शिक्षा तथा व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण इलाहाबाद, नई दिल्ली, वॉशिंगटन डी.सी., लंदन तथा जेनेवा में प्राप्त किया।



- He was also awarded the **Padma Bhushan**.
उन्हें पद्म भूषण से भी सम्मानित किया गया था।

Maruti Suzuki unveils 'India's first' flex-fuel car

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. unveiled 'India's first' flex-fuel car giving flexibility to clients to operate on any blend of ethanol and petrol from E20 to E100.

Maruti said it was introducing the technology in Wagon R which long pioneered alternative fuel vehicles in India, including CNG and LPG. In addition to a significant reduction in oil imports, flex-fuel vehicles can help boost farmers' income, Maruti said.

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, said India imported a large quantity of crude every year. Biofuels such as ethanol were an important pathway towards reducing this dependence.

05J6. QUIZ

5. This island country, which is part of Oceania, achieved independence within the British Commonwealth on this day in 1970? **Ans: Tonga**

05J6. Maruti Suzuki unveils 'India's first' flex-fuel car

मारुति सुजुकी ने 'भारत की पहली' फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल कार का अनावरण किया

- **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.** unveiled 'India's first' flex-fuel car giving flexibility to clients to operate on any blend of ethanol and petrol from E20 to E100.

मारुति सुजुकी इंडिया लिमिटेड ने 'भारत की पहली' फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल कार का अनावरण किया, जो ग्राहकों को E20 से E100 तक एथेनॉल और पेट्रोल के किसी भी मिश्रण पर वाहन चलाने की सुविधा प्रदान करती है।

Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist, filmmaker Marjane Satrapi dies at 56

PCS
Associated Press
PARIS

Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist and filmmaker Marjane Satrapi, a prominent advocate for women's rights and author of *Persepolis*, has died at 56, the French presidency said on Thursday.

"Her passing marks the loss of a leading figure of French culture and an artist devoted to freedom, whose work carried a universal message and earned her immense international acclaim," the French presidency said.

President Emmanuel Macron and his wife "pay tribute to a remarkable artist who transformed an Iranian childhood into a



Marjane Satrapi

universal fable," the statement said.

News broadcaster *BFM TV* and other French media reported Satrapi has "died of sadness" a little over a year after the death of her husband, Swedish film producer and actor Mattias Ripa, according to a statement from people close to the artist.

The French Academy of Fine Arts, of which she was a member, expressed its deep sadness paying tribute to "a passionate advocate for cinema and film education" who earlier this year created a foundation to help international students come to Paris to study film.

Satrapi is best-known for her monochrome autobiographical comic book and film *Persepolis*, a coming-of-age tale set against the Islamic Revolution in her native Iran.

Persepolis won the Film Critics Grand Prix at the Cannes Festival in 2007 and the César Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2008, in addition to being nominated for Best

Animated Feature at the 2008 Oscars.

Her graphic novels also include *Broderies (Embroideries)* and *Poulet aux prunes (Chicken with plums)*, which also was adapted into a film. As a filmmaker, she has directed several works including *La Bande des Jotas (The Gang of Jotas)* and *Radioactive (Madame Curie)*, a biography about the Polish physicist Marie Curie.

Satrapi also coordinated the book *Femme, vie, liberté (Woman, Life, Freedom)* together with a group of artists and academics to illustrate the revolts that occurred in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022 at the hands of "morality police".



05J6.Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist, filmmaker Marjane Satrapi dies at 56 प्रख्यात ईरानी-फ्रांसीसी कार्टूनिस्ट, फिल्म निर्माता मार्जाने सात्रापी का 56 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- Acclaimed **Iranian-French** cartoonist and filmmaker **Marjane Satrapi**, a prominent advocate for **women's rights** and author of **Persepolis**, has died at 56, the French presidency said on Thursday.
प्रख्यात ईरानी-फ्रांसीसी कार्टूनिस्ट और फिल्म निर्माता मार्जाने सात्रापी, जो महिला अधिकारों की प्रमुख समर्थक और **Persepolis** की लेखिका थीं, का 56 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया, फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति कार्यालय ने गुरुवार को कहा।

French Open: Errani-Vavassori pair retains mixed doubles title



Italy's Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori retained the French Open mixed doubles title on Thursday, defeating American Evan King and Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski 4-6, 6-3, [10-4]. The duo is the first to defend the title since Ivan Dodig and Latisha Chan (2018, 2019). It was the pair's fourth mixed doubles trophy in the last seven Slams.

05J6. French Open: Errani-Vavassori pair retains mixed doubles title

फ्रेंच ओपन: एरानी-वावासोरी जोड़ी ने मिश्रित युगल खिताब बरकरार रखा

- Italy's **Sara Errani** and **Andrea Vavassori** retained the **French Open mixed doubles title** on Thursday, defeating American **Evan King** and Canadian **Gabriela Dabrowski** 4-6, 6-3, [10-4].

इटली की सारा एरानी और आंद्रेआ वावासोरी ने गुरुवार को फ्रेंच ओपन मिश्रित युगल खिताब बरकरार रखते हुए अमेरिका के इवान किंग और कनाडा की गैब्रिएला डब्रोव्स्की को 4-6, 6-3, [10-4] से हराया।

- The duo is the first to defend the title since **Ivan Dodig** and **Latisha Chan** (2018, 2019).

यह जोड़ी इवान डोडिग और लतीशा चान (2018, 2019) के बाद इस खिताब का सफलतापूर्वक बचाव करने वाली पहली जोड़ी बनी है।

- It was the pair's **fourth mixed doubles trophy** in the last **seven Slams**.
यह पिछले सात ग्रैंड स्लैम में इस जोड़ी की चौथी मिश्रित युगल ट्रॉफी थी।

GS Paper II: Polity	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling उच्चतम न्यायालय के मसौदा नियम न्यायिक निर्णयों और गवाह प्रोफाइलिंग के लिए एआई के उपयोग पर रोक लगाते हैं



Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling

They underline that AI systems used in court processes must 'function solely in an assistive capacity' and remain 'strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority'; comments and suggestions invited from the public till June 20

GS II: Polity

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Prohibiting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to determine judicial outcomes, the Supreme Court AI committee has proposed draft regulations that bar AI-assisted sentencing without mandatory human oversight, prevent AI systems from profiling parties or witnesses, and disallow the use of "opaque" or "unexplainable" AI systems in any court process.

The proposed regulations come amid concerns expressed by the top court in recent months over the growing reliance on AI by courts in rendering judgments. In March, a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha chided a trial court for relying on non-existent judgments generated with the help of AI, observing that it was not merely "an error in decision-making" but amounted to judicial "misconduct".

The preliminary draft of the 'Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026', made pub-



The draft regulations permit the use of AI for administrative functions such as case listing and scheduling. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

lic on Wednesday, underlines that AI systems used in court processes must "function solely in an assistive capacity" and remain "strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority".

The committee, chaired by Supreme Court judge Justice P.S. Narasimha and comprising Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V., Anoop Chitkara and Suraj Govindaraj, has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders as well as members of the public on the draft regulations before they are finalised.

The deadline for sub-

mitting responses is June 20. Under the draft regulations, the processing of personal data through AI systems shall be governed by the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. It also underlines that AI systems must not "perpetuate, amplify, or introduce bias" on grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, gender, disability, language, economic status, or any other ground prohibited under the Constitution.

'Human-in-the-loop'

"Applications involving higher levels of risk to personal liberty, any lawful

right of a person, or the integrity of judicial outcomes shall be subject to correspondingly heightened safeguards, including mandatory human-in-the-loop requirements and independent oversight," the draft states.

It further cautions that AI-assisted judicial systems should not "widen digital divides" and must remain accessible to all stakeholders, including those from rural, economically disadvantaged, or linguistically diverse communities.

While the draft regulations permit the use of AI for administrative functions such as case management, preparation of cause lists, scheduling of hearings, transcription of court proceedings and translation of judgments, they make it clear that AI systems cannot be used for "risk scoring" in court processes. This includes assessing flight risk, predicting recidivism, evaluating bail eligibility, or determining the credibility of parties or witnesses.

It also bars authorities from using AI systems for the surveillance or contin-

uous monitoring of judicial officers, advocates, litigants and other stakeholders, "except as may be specifically authorised by applicable law for the time being in force".

'Apex body'

To supervise the adoption of AI in the judiciary and steer standard-setting and policy development, the draft regulations propose the creation of a full-time "apex body" at the Supreme Court.

The apex body, it recommends, would comprise two Supreme Court judges nominated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), one of whom shall serve as the ex-officio chairperson; two High Court Chief Justices and two High Court judges nominated by the CJI; one member from an institution of national importance or any institution of repute, as nominated by the CJI; an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; a finance expert and a cybersecurity expert nominated by the CJI; among others.

05J6. Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling

उच्चतम न्यायालय के मसौदा नियम न्यायिक निर्णयों और गवाह प्रोफाइलिंग के लिए एआई के उपयोग पर रोक लगाते हैं

- Prohibiting the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to determine judicial outcomes, the **Supreme Court AI Committee** has proposed draft regulations that bar **AI-assisted sentencing** without mandatory human oversight, prevent AI systems from profiling parties or witnesses, and disallow the use of "**opaque**" or "**unexplainable**" AI systems in any court process.

न्यायिक परिणामों के निर्धारण के लिए **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** के उपयोग पर रोक लगाते हुए **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय एआई समिति** ने ऐसे प्रारूप विनियम प्रस्तावित किए हैं, जो अनिवार्य मानवीय निगरानी के बिना **एआई-सहायता प्राप्त दंड निर्धारण** पर प्रतिबंध लगाते हैं, पक्षकारों अथवा गवाहों की प्रोफाइलिंग को रोकते हैं तथा किसी भी न्यायिक प्रक्रिया में "**अस्पष्ट**" (**Opaque**) अथवा "**अव्याख्येय**" (**Unexplainable**) एआई प्रणालियों के उपयोग की अनुमति नहीं देते।

- The proposed regulations come amid concerns expressed by the top court in recent months over the growing reliance on AI by courts in rendering judgments. ये प्रस्तावित विनियम हाल के महीनों में न्यायालयों द्वारा निर्णय देने की प्रक्रिया में **एआई** पर बढ़ती निर्भरता को लेकर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा व्यक्त चिंताओं की पृष्ठभूमि में सामने आए हैं।
- In **March**, a Bench headed by **Justice P.S. Narasimha** chided a trial court for relying on non-existent judgments generated with the help of AI, observing that it was not merely "**an error in decision-making**" but amounted to judicial "**misconduct**".



मार्च में न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिम्हा की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने एआई की सहायता से उत्पन्न अस्तित्वहीन निर्णयों पर भरोसा करने के लिए एक निचली अदालत को फटकार लगाई थी और कहा था कि यह केवल “निर्णय लेने में त्रुटि” नहीं बल्कि न्यायिक “कदाचार” के समान है।

- The preliminary draft of the ‘**Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026**’, made public on Wednesday, **underlines that AI systems used in court processes must “function solely in an assistive capacity” and remain “strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority”.**

बुधवार को सार्वजनिक किए गए ‘न्यायालयों में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) के उपयोग हेतु विनियम, 2026’ के प्रारंभिक मसौदे में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि न्यायालयी प्रक्रियाओं में प्रयुक्त एआई प्रणालियाँ “केवल सहायक भूमिका” में कार्य करेंगी और “मानवीय निर्णय तथा न्यायिक प्राधिकार के अधीन” रहेंगी।

- The committee, chaired by Justice P.S. Narasimha and comprising Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V., Anoop Chitkara and Suraj Govindaraj, has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders as well as members of the public on the draft regulations before they are finalised.

न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिम्हा की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति, जिसमें न्यायमूर्ति संजीव सचदेवा, राजा विजयराघवन वी., अनूप चितकारा तथा सूरज गोविंदराज शामिल हैं, ने विनियमों को अंतिम रूप देने से पूर्व हितधारकों और आम जनता से सुझाव एवं टिप्पणियाँ आमंत्रित की हैं।

- The deadline for submitting responses is **June 20**.
प्रतिक्रियाएँ प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि **20 जून** निर्धारित की गई है।
- Under the draft regulations, the processing of **personal data** through AI systems shall be governed by the provisions of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.
प्रारूप विनियमों के अनुसार एआई प्रणालियों के माध्यम से **व्यक्तिगत डेटा** के प्रसंस्करण को **डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023** के प्रावधानों द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जाएगा।
- This includes assessing **flight risk**, predicting **recidivism**, evaluating **bail eligibility**, or determining the credibility of parties or witnesses.
इसमें **फरार होने की संभावना**, **पुनः अपराध करने की संभावना**, **जमानत पात्रता का मूल्यांकन**, अथवा पक्षकारों और गवाहों की विश्वसनीयता का निर्धारण शामिल है।
- It also bars authorities from using AI systems for the **surveillance** or continuous monitoring of judicial officers, advocates, litigants and other stakeholders, “**except as may be specifically authorised by applicable law for the time being in force**”.
यह न्यायिक अधिकारियों, अधिवक्ताओं, वादकारियों तथा अन्य हितधारकों की **निगरानी (Surveillance)** अथवा सतत पर्यवेक्षण के लिए एआई प्रणालियों के उपयोग पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाता है, सिवाय उन परिस्थितियों के जहाँ प्रचलित कानून द्वारा विशेष रूप से इसकी अनुमति दी गई हो।

‘Apex body’

‘शीर्ष निकाय’

- To supervise the adoption of AI in the judiciary and steer standard-setting and policy development, the draft regulations propose the creation of a **full-time “apex body” at the Supreme Court**.
न्यायपालिका में एआई के उपयोग की निगरानी तथा मानक निर्धारण एवं नीतिगत विकास का मार्गदर्शन करने हेतु मसौदा विनियम **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** में एक पूर्णकालिक “शीर्ष निकाय” के गठन का प्रस्ताव रखते हैं।
- The **apex body**, it recommends, would comprise **two Supreme Court judges** nominated by the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, one of whom shall serve as the **ex-officio chairperson**.
सिफारिश के अनुसार इस शीर्ष निकाय में **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI)** द्वारा नामित **दो सर्वोच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश** होंगे, जिनमें से एक **पदेन अध्यक्ष (Ex-officio Chairperson)** के रूप में कार्य करेगा।
- It would also include **two High Court Chief Justices** and **two High Court judges** nominated by the CJI.



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इसमें दो उच्च न्यायालयों के मुख्य न्यायाधीश तथा दो उच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश भी शामिल होंगे, जिन्हें मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नामित किया जाएगा।

- One member from an **institution of national importance** or any institution of repute, as nominated by the CJI, would also be part of the body.

राष्ट्रीय महत्व के संस्थान अथवा किसी प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान से मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नामित एक सदस्य भी इस निकाय का हिस्सा होगा।

- An officer not below the rank of **Joint Secretary** in the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, a **finance expert**, and a **cybersecurity expert** nominated by the CJI would also be included, among others.

इसके अतिरिक्त इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय का संयुक्त सचिव स्तर से कम नहीं का एक अधिकारी, एक वित्त विशेषज्ञ, तथा मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नामित एक साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ भी इस निकाय में शामिल होंगे।

GS Paper II: Governance		05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
05J6	Minorities enjoy full freedom in India, are able to practise their faith: Rijuju भारत में अल्पसंख्यकों को पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त है, वे अपने धर्म का पालन करने में सक्षम हैं: रिजिजू	
05J6	Data hygiene डेटा स्वच्छता	



Minorities enjoy full freedom in India, are able to practise their faith: Rijiju

GS II: Governance

Ishta Mishra

Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said minorities in India enjoy full freedom and are able to practise their faith and way of life without hindrance. He said efforts were being made from outside the country to project a false narrative of persecution.

“No individual had been compelled to leave the country because of religious identity... Criticise government policies if you wish, but do not spread falsehoods,” he said while attacking the Opposition. Speaking at the Ministry’s ‘Reforms Utsav’ to mark 12 years of the Narendra Modi government, Mr. Rijiju highlighted technology-driven initiatives but said that details of nearly 45% of Waqf properties are yet to be uploaded on the UMEED portal and that issues on scholarship remain unresolved.

UMEED is a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties. It was launched on June 6, 2025,



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju at the Reforms Utsav event organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

with an initial six-month deadline to register around nine lakh such properties spread across India.

‘Labour-heavy process’

“There are so many shortcomings in different State Waqf boards... the documents of properties are faulty... in some places, thousands of acres are recorded on paper, but the land on ground tells a different story. We are continuously organising workshops and sessions to help Mutawallis register the Waqf properties. It is a labour-intensive process and will take some time,” he said.

The Minister admitted that scholarship delivery, one of the Ministry’s largest welfare initiatives, remained affected by investigations into alleged fraud in several States. Referring to cases where scholarships were reportedly claimed in the names of fictitious students, Mr. Rijiju said he hoped that ongoing CBI inquiries would conclude soon and the programme could resume.

‘Wait for probe to finish’

“We cannot start the scholarships by excluding those institutions which are being investigated for fraud. So we will have to wait un-

til the investigation is finished,” he added.

Mr. Rijiju said the Ministry’s annual budget has increased from ₹1,949 crore in 2014 to ₹4,115 crore at present, a 111% jump. But government outreach efforts received limited attention and negative developments attracted disproportionate coverage, he said.

During the event, which was attended by beneficiaries of various schemes, the Ministry featured demos for an AI-enabled helpline for hajj pilgrims.

“The chatbot will be accessible through an app that pilgrims will be able to place phone calls with, in addition to being available on WhatsApp. The voice chatbot is only available on its own app since WhatsApp calls are banned by the Saudi government,” an official said.

There will be an escalation bot to handle complex queries where human assistance is required, a Gnaani.ai representative said at the event. The firm’s chatbot will be rolled out in the coming months on the Ministry’s behalf and will support queries in 12 languages.

05J6. Minorities enjoy full freedom in India, are able to practise their faith: Rijiju

भारत में अल्पसंख्यकों को पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त है, वे अपने धर्म का पालन करने में सक्षम हैं: रिजिजू

- But he said that details of nearly **45% of Waqf properties** are yet to be uploaded on the **UMEED portal** and that issues on **scholarship** remain unresolved.

किन्तु उन्होंने कहा कि लगभग **45% वकफ संपत्तियों** का विवरण अभी भी **UMEED पोर्टल** पर अपलोड किया जाना शेष है तथा छात्रवृत्ति से संबंधित समस्याएँ अभी तक हल नहीं हुई हैं।



- **UMEED is a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties.**

GS II: Governance

Data hygiene

Census enumerators should not face difficulties in the name of re-verification

It is disturbing that some Census 2027 enumerators in States such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are facing issues for extremely unusual reasons. In these two States where the first phase of the Census – Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) – is under way, they have been advised to “revisit households and correct the data discrepancies” and “not to select options that may show the government in a poor light”. Re-verification is a legitimate part of any study or survey but this must be done to reflect reality accurately, not to manage perceptions. In Rajasthan, the issue arises from a circular of the Director of Census Operations to district-level officials regarding discrepancies identified in field data. Apparently, the objective is to ensure that data are accurately recorded, using appropriate options in the questionnaire. However, in some cases, enumerators have been told to record data based on assumptions. For example, if some households do not have toilets, enumerators have been told to check whether toilets are available nearby, on the basis of which the entry can be changed from “open defecation” to “[having] access to latrine”. In Uttar Pradesh, the message seems to be not to present facts as they are, raising concerns about data integrity and reliability for a crucial and sensitive exercise.

The present episode brings to the fore the efficacy of programmes such as the country’s long-running campaign against open defecation. While many States have made tangible progress, it would be unrealistic to conclude that the problem has been eliminated. For administrative purposes, including funding, it is reasonable to classify cities and villages on the basis of certain parameters as Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF Plus and ODF Plus Model. But, the critical question is whether such a classification reflects reality and comes into conflict with the enumerators’ work. It is the responsibility of policymakers to ensure that Census data are accurate and credible. They must also sensitise people to provide correct information, as public policies and welfare schemes are formulated on the basis of these data and ultimately benefit them. The authorities must recognise and resolve the legitimate difficulties faced by enumerators. As the significance of the Census hardly needs any reiteration, the Union government should be quite liberal in enhancing allowances for enumerators to ensure efficient and timely work. It should not only be conscious of the financial outlay involved – about ₹11,718 crore for the entire country – but also of the need to make reliable data publicly available for purposes such as targeted and inclusive policymaking. The government should send a clear message that data sanitisation must not be undertaken under the guise of re-verification.

- In Rajasthan, the issue arises from a circular of the Director of Census Operations to district-level officials regarding discrepancies identified in field data.

राजस्थान में यह मुद्दा जनगणना संचालन निदेशक द्वारा जिला स्तरीय अधिकारियों को जारी उस परिपत्र से उत्पन्न हुआ है, जिसमें क्षेत्रीय आँकड़ों में पाई गई विसंगतियों का उल्लेख किया गया है।

- Apparently, the objective is to ensure that data are accurately recorded, using appropriate options in the questionnaire.

प्रतीत होता है कि इसका उद्देश्य प्रश्नावली में उपयुक्त विकल्पों का उपयोग करते हुए आँकड़ों का सटीक अभिलेखन सुनिश्चित करना है।

UMEED वक्फ संपत्तियों के रियल-टाइम अपलोडिंग, सत्यापन और निगरानी हेतु एक केंद्रीकृत डिजिटल मंच है।

- It was launched on June 6, 2025, with an initial six-month deadline to register around nine lakh properties spread across India.

इसे 6 जून 2025 को प्रारम्भ किया गया था और पूरे भारत में फैली लगभग नौ लाख संपत्तियों के पंजीकरण के लिए प्रारम्भिक छह माह की समय-सीमा निर्धारित की गई थी।

‘Labour-heavy process’

‘अत्यधिक श्रम-सघन प्रक्रिया’

- “We are continuously organising workshops and sessions to help Mutawallis register the Waqf properties.”

“हम मुतवल्लियों को वक्फ संपत्तियों का पंजीकरण कराने में सहायता देने के लिए निरंतर कार्यशालाएँ और प्रशिक्षण सत्र आयोजित कर रहे हैं।”

05J6. Data hygiene

डेटा स्वच्छता

- It is disturbing that some Census 2027 enumerators in States such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are facing issues for extremely unusual reasons.

यह चिंताजनक है कि राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों में कुछ जनगणना 2027 प्रगणक (Enumerators) अत्यंत असामान्य कारणों से समस्याओं का सामना कर रहे हैं।

- In these two States where the first phase of the Census — Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) — is under way, they have been advised to “revisit households and correct the data discrepancies” and “not to select options that may show the government in a poor light”.

इन दोनों राज्यों में, जहाँ जनगणना का प्रथम चरण — गृह-सूचीकरण एवं आवास जनगणना (HLO) — चल रहा है, प्रगणकों को “परिवारों का पुनः दौरा कर आँकड़ों में पाई गई विसंगतियों को सुधारने” तथा “ऐसे विकल्पों का चयन न करने” की सलाह दी गई है जो सरकार को नकारात्मक रूप में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

- Reverification is a legitimate part of any study or survey but this must be done to reflect reality accurately, not to manage perceptions.

पुनः सत्यापन (Reverification) किसी भी अध्ययन अथवा सर्वेक्षण का वैध भाग है, किन्तु इसका उद्देश्य वास्तविकता को सही रूप में प्रतिबिंबित करना होना चाहिए, न कि धारणाओं का प्रबंधन करना।



- However, in some cases, enumerators have been told to record data based on assumptions. हालाँकि, कुछ मामलों में प्रगणकों को अनुमानों के आधार पर आँकड़े दर्ज करने के लिए कहा गया है।
- For example, if some households do not have toilets, enumerators have been told to check whether toilets are available nearby, on the basis of which the entry can be changed from “open defecation” to “[having] access to latrine”.
उदाहरण के लिए, यदि कुछ परिवारों के पास शौचालय नहीं हैं, तो प्रगणकों से यह जाँच करने को कहा गया है कि क्या आसपास शौचालय उपलब्ध हैं, जिसके आधार पर प्रविष्टि को “खुले में शौच” से बदलकर “शौचालय तक पहुँच उपलब्ध” किया जा सकता है।
- In Uttar Pradesh, the message seems to be not to present facts as they are, raising concerns about data integrity and reliability for a crucial and sensitive exercise.
उत्तर प्रदेश में संदेश यह प्रतीत होता है कि तथ्यों को उनके वास्तविक स्वरूप में प्रस्तुत न किया जाए, जिससे इस महत्वपूर्ण और संवेदनशील प्रक्रिया की आँकड़ों की सत्यनिष्ठा तथा विश्वसनीयता को लेकर चिंताएँ उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- The present episode brings to the fore the efficacy of programmes such as the country’s long-running campaign against open defecation.
वर्तमान प्रकरण खुले में शौच के विरुद्ध देश में लंबे समय से चलाए जा रहे अभियानों जैसे कार्यक्रमों की प्रभावशीलता को सामने लाता है।
- For administrative purposes, including funding, it is reasonable to classify cities and villages on the basis of certain parameters as Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF Plus and ODF Plus Model.
प्रशासनिक उद्देश्यों, जिनमें वित्तपोषण भी शामिल है, के लिए नगरों और गाँवों को कुछ मानकों के आधार पर ओपन डिफेकेशन फ्री (ODF), ODF प्लस तथा ODF प्लस मॉडल के रूप में वर्गीकृत करना उचित है।
- It is the responsibility of policymakers to ensure that Census data are accurate and credible.
यह नीति-निर्माताओं की जिम्मेदारी है कि वे सुनिश्चित करें कि जनगणना के आँकड़े सटीक और विश्वसनीय हों।
- They must also sensitise people to provide correct information, as public policies and welfare schemes are formulated on the basis of these data and ultimately benefit them.
उन्हें लोगों को सही जानकारी प्रदान करने के लिए भी जागरूक करना चाहिए, क्योंकि सार्वजनिक नीतियाँ और कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ इन्हीं आँकड़ों के आधार पर बनाई जाती हैं और अंततः इन्हीं को लाभ पहुँचाती हैं।
- It should not only be conscious of the financial outlay involved — about ₹11,718 crore for the entire country — but also of the need to make reliable data publicly available for purposes such as targeted and inclusive policymaking.
उसे न केवल इसमें होने वाले वित्तीय व्यय — पूरे देश के लिए लगभग ₹11,718 करोड़ — के प्रति सजग रहना चाहिए, बल्कि लक्षित तथा समावेशी नीति-निर्माण जैसे उद्देश्यों के लिए विश्वसनीय आँकड़ों को सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध कराने की आवश्यकता को भी समझना चाहिए।
- The government should send a clear message that data sanitisation must not be undertaken under the guise of re-verification.
सरकार को स्पष्ट संदेश देना चाहिए कि आँकड़ों के कृत्रिम परिशोधन (Data Sanitisation) को पुनः सत्यापन के नाम पर नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- An ODF Plus village is defined as a village which sustain its Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean. There are 3 progressive stages of ODF Plus villages:
 - **ODF Plus Aspiring:** A Village which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for Solid Waste Management OR Liquid Waste Management
 - **ODF Plus Rising:** A village which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for BOTH Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management
 - **ODF Plus Model:** A village which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for both



Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management; observes visual cleanliness, i.e., minimal litter, minimal stagnant wastewater, no plastic waste dump in public places; and displays ODF Plus Information, Education & Communication (IEC) messages

GS Paper II: International Relations		05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
05J6	Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy मोदी और डेलसी की मुलाकात में ऊर्जा साझेदारी द्विपक्षीय एजेंडे में सबसे प्रमुख रही	
05J6	BRICS experts discuss asset recovery challenges ब्रिक्स विशेषज्ञों ने परिसंपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की	
05J6	Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas माली ने प्रमुख शहरों और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बाहर मोटरसाइकिलों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया	
05J6	Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies राज्य के गोपनीय रहस्य हासिल करने के लिए भर्तीकर्ताओं के रूप में सामने आ रहे चीनी जासूस, एजेंसियों ने दी चेतावनी	
05J6	'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises' 'सूडान, डीआर कांगो और कोलंबिया उपेक्षित विस्थापन संकटों की सूची में शीर्ष पर'	
05J6	How ISWAP emerged as the dominant jihadist force in Africa's Lake Chad basin अफ्रीका के लेक चाड बेसिन में ISWAP कैसे प्रमुख जिहादी शक्ति बनकर उभरा	

Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy

PM holds discussions with Venezuela's Acting President on also expanding cooperation in critical minerals, technology, agriculture and health; importance of Global South solidarity emphasised

GS II: IR

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India's partnership with Venezuela is of "immense importance" for the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, welcoming Delcy Rodriguez, the Acting President of Venezuela, even as the South American country called "energy security a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship".

Venezuela is still dealing with the aftermath of the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro by the U.S. military in January. Officials said Ms. Rodriguez, whose country is dealing with 'political transition' and 'fundamental economic transformation', described India as a "trusted partner". The leader, who arrived here on Wednesday, is on a five-day visit.

"We had extensive discussions on expanding our



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Venezuelan Acting President Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

cooperation in energy, critical minerals, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties. As a valued partner in Latin America, our close cooperation with Venezuela holds immense importance for the Global South. We will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our nations," said Mr. Modi after the meeting.

A press release from the Venezuelan government said the meeting was aimed at "strengthening the role of both nations in the geopolitical context of the Global South and on boosting mutually beneficial macroeconomic agreements". It described India as "one of the main destinations for the Nation's energy exports, making energy security a funda-

mental pillar of the bilateral relationship".

Ms. Rodriguez, who was accompanied by Ministers of Economy, Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology, and Transport and Communications, conducted a "comprehensive review of the mutual cooperation map", the press note said, adding that the bilateral relation is in an "excellent state".

Officials revealed that Ms. Rodriguez discussed the political situation in Venezuela in a "frank conversation" with Mr. Modi during official-level talks and over the working lunch that followed. "We all know there was a transition in Venezuela, and we are working with a government that is friendly and that wants partnership with India. We want to reciprocate that," said Rudendra Tandon, Secretary (East) of the External Affairs Ministry, while briefing the media.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



05J6. Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy मोदी और डेलसी की मुलाकात में ऊर्जा साझेदारी द्विपक्षीय एजेंडे में सबसे प्रमुख रही

India–Venezuela Partnership and Global South Cooperation भारत–वेनेजुएला साझेदारी और वैश्विक दक्षिण सहयोग

- India's partnership with **Venezuela** is of “immense importance” for the **Global South**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said on Thursday, welcoming **Delcy Rodriguez**, the Acting President of Venezuela, even as the South American country called “energy security” a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने गुरुवार को कहा कि वेनेजुएला के साथ भारत की साझेदारी “वैश्विक दक्षिण (Global South)” के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। उन्होंने वेनेजुएला की कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति डेलसी रोड्रिगेज़ का स्वागत किया, जबकि दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश ने “ऊर्जा सुरक्षा” को द्विपक्षीय संबंधों का एक मूलभूत स्तंभ बताया।
- The leader, who arrived here on Wednesday, is on a **five-day visit**.
बुधवार को भारत पहुँची यह नेता पाँच दिवसीय यात्रा पर हैं।
- “We had extensive discussions on expanding our cooperation in **energy, critical minerals, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties.**”
“हमने ऊर्जा, महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों, प्रौद्योगिकी, कृषि, स्वास्थ्य तथा जन-से-जन संपर्कों में सहयोग के विस्तार पर व्यापक चर्चा की।”
- Ms. Rodriguez, who was accompanied by Ministers of **Economy, Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology, and Transport and Communications**, conducted a “comprehensive review of the mutual cooperation map”, the press note said.
प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, अर्थव्यवस्था, विदेश मामलों, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, तथा परिवहन एवं संचार मंत्रियों के साथ आई सुश्री रोड्रिगेज़ ने “पारस्परिक सहयोग के समग्र ढाँचे की व्यापक समीक्षा” की।

GS II: IR

BRICS experts discuss asset recovery challenges

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 2 organised the inaugural meeting on the BRICS's expert network on asset recovery, marking a significant milestone within the Anti-Corruption Working Group under **India's 2026 BRICS presidency**, the agency said on Thursday. Asset recovery is the central pillar of modern anti-corruption and financial crime enforcement, Rahul Navin, Director, ED, said, welcoming global delegates. The Chair called for stricter alignment with the Financial Action Task Force's guidance for asset recovery and inter-agency cooperation. Deliberations included mutual operational challenges among member countries.

05J6. BRICS experts discuss asset recovery challenges

ब्रिक्स विशेषज्ञों ने परिसंपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की

- The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** on **June 2** organised the inaugural meeting of the **BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery**, marking a significant milestone within the **Anti-Corruption Working Group** under **India's 2026 BRICS Presidency**, the agency said on Thursday.
प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ED) ने 2 जून को संपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति पर ब्रिक्स विशेषज्ञ नेटवर्क (BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery) की उद्घाटन बैठक आयोजित की, जो भारत की 2026 ब्रिक्स अध्यक्षता के अंतर्गत भ्रष्टाचार-रोधी कार्य समूह (Anti-Corruption Working Group) में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। एजेंसी ने गुरुवार को यह जानकारी दी।
- The Chair called for stricter alignment with the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** guidance for **asset recovery** and **inter-agency cooperation**.
अध्यक्ष ने संपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति तथा विभिन्न एजेंसियों के बीच सहयोग (Inter-Agency Cooperation) के संबंध में वित्तीय कार्रवाई कार्यबल (FATF) के दिशानिर्देशों के साथ अधिक सख्त सामंजस्य स्थापित करने का आह्वान किया।



Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas



GS II: IR

AFP

Mali has banned the use of motorcycles with engines of 125 cc or above outside of major cities and urban locales as the country battles a jihadist insurgency, according to a government order. Motorcycles are the preferred means of transport for jihadist groups in Mali, which has been plunged into a security crisis. AFP

05J6. Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas

माली ने प्रमुख शहरों और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बाहर मोटरसाइकिलों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

- Mali has banned the use of motorcycles with engines of 125 cc or above outside of major cities and urban locales as the country battles a jihadist insurgency, according to a government order.

माली ने 125 सीसी या उससे अधिक इंजन वाली मोटरसाइकिलों के प्रमुख शहरों और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बाहर उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है, क्योंकि देश जिहादी विद्रोह से जूझ रहा है। यह एक सरकारी आदेश के अनुसार किया गया है।

- Motorcycles are the preferred means of transport for jihadist groups in Mali, which has been plunged into a security crisis.

मोटरसाइकिलें, माली में जिहादी समूहों के लिए परिवहन का पसंदीदा साधन हैं, जो एक गंभीर सुरक्षा संकट में फँस गया है।

Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies



GS II: IR

ISTOCKPHOTO

Chinese spies are posing as job recruiters to trick staff in western governments into disclosing sensitive information, the Five Eyes alliance of security agencies has warned. People with security clearance, military personnel, journalists and academics are among those targeted, the Five Eyes added. AFP

05J6. Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies

राज्य के गोपनीय रहस्य हासिल करने के लिए भर्तीकर्ताओं के रूप में सामने आ रहे चीनी जासूस, एजेंसियों ने दी चेतावनी

- Chinese spies are posing as job recruiters to trick staff in western governments into disclosing sensitive information, the Five Eyes alliance of security agencies has warned.

चीनी जासूस, नौकरी भर्तीकर्ताओं के रूप में सामने आकर पश्चिमी सरकारों के कर्मचारियों को संवेदनशील जानकारी उजागर करने के लिए धोखा दे रहे हैं, ऐसा फाइव आइज़ गठबंधन की सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने चेतावनी देते हुए कहा है।

'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises'



REUTERS

Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia top the list of the world's most neglected displacement crises, Norwegian Refugee Council, a prominent Norwegian aid group said on Thursday, noting that nationalism and rearmament campaigns grabbed attention in wealthy countries. AFP

05J6. 'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises'

‘सूडान, डीआर कांगो और कोलंबिया उपेक्षित विस्थापन संकटों की सूची में शीर्ष पर’

- Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia top the list of the world's most neglected displacement crises, Norwegian Refugee Council, a prominent Norwegian aid group said on Thursday, noting that nationalism and rearmament campaigns grabbed attention in wealthy countries.

सूडान, डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो और कोलंबिया दुनिया के सबसे अधिक उपेक्षित विस्थापन संकटों की सूची में शीर्ष पर हैं। यह बात नॉर्वेजियन रिफ्यूजी काउंसिल, जो एक प्रमुख नॉर्वेजियन सहायता संगठन है, ने गुरुवार को कही। संगठन ने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि समृद्ध देशों में राष्ट्रवाद और पुनः शस्त्रीकरण अभियानों ने लोगों का



ध्यान अधिक आकर्षित किया है।

How ISWAP emerged as the dominant jihadist force in Africa's Lake Chad basin

The Islamic State West Africa Province steadily eclipsed Boko Haram to become the most powerful militant organisation in the region; with a structured command system and strong territorial presence, what began as a local insurgency in Nigeria is now one of Africa's major transnational security threats

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

R. Tejaswini

A joint operation by Nigerian forces and U.S. African Command that killed 175 Islamic militants has drawn attention to the complex security situation in Lake Chad basin. The operation has renewed the focus on Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), which has steadily eclipsed Boko Haram to become the most powerful jihadist organisation operating in the basin.

In recent months, Washington has expanded military and intelligence support to Nigeria as part of broader efforts to counter Islamic State affiliates operating across West Africa.

The strikes carried out on May 16 and 18 killed Abu-Bilal al-Minuki, a senior ISIS-linked commander associated with ISWAP – the Islamic State's affiliate in West Africa. They also destroyed checkpoints and weapons used by the group, dealing a temporary setback to its operations. Abu al-Minuki was killed along with his lieutenants on his compound in a helicopter-borne assault.

He was a key figure in providing guidance for facilitating ISIL-linked operations across the Lake Chad basin. He was part of the Boko Haram group until the splinter and joined ISWAP which pledged al-

liance to ISIS. Abu al-Minuki was described by U.S. President Donald Trump as the "second in command of ISIS globally" and "the most active terrorist in the world".

ISWAP traces its origin to Boko Haram, popularly translated as Western education is forbidden, a militant Islamic movement that emerged in the early 2000s in northeastern Nigeria under the leadership of Mohammad Yusuf. The movement's primary objective was to establish an Islamist regime and oppose western education and democracy.

Following the death of Mohammed Yusuf in the wake of clashes between Boko Haram and Nigerian forces in 2009, Abubakar Shekau assumed leadership. Under his leadership, the network's operational capabilities expanded, frequently attacking security and police forces. It subsequently evolved into a violent insurgent movement.

It was the 2014 Chibok incident where 276 school girls were abducted that brought global attention to the insurgency. The U.S. State Department designated Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Deep fissures develop

Differences over ideological and strategic matters intensified divisions within the network, despite its growing influence.



Soldiers aboard a Multinational Joint Task Force boat in Lake Chad, where the regional force coordinates counter-terrorism efforts. AFP

Increasing disagreements over Shekau's leadership led to many commanders breaking away to form Ansaru, a new jihadist faction closely linked to the al-Qaeda. The organisation under Shekau's leadership not only sanctioned attacks against the Nigerian state and Christians but also against state-aligned Muslims.

Shekau was accused of ignoring the organisation's consultative structure and making decisions independently, drawing criticism from senior commanders.

Divisions deepened within the group as Boko Haram pledged loyalty to the Islamic state in 2015.

The ISIS was concerned about the faction's conduct under Shekau, particularly his violence against Muslims and use of women and children in suicide bombing. According to the UN-

ICEF, between 2014 and 2016, nearly 20% of Boko Haram's suicide bombers were children, three quarters of whom were girls.

Amid growing disagreements, ISIS appointed Abu Musab-Al-Barnawi as the head of its West African affiliate, sidelining Shekau. This decision led to a split within Boko Haram.

This split was a major turning point, as it introduced another armed group – ISWAP – which aligned with ISIS in the Lake Chad region, while Shekau's faction remained Boko Haram.

ISWAP and Boko Haram differed in their operational conduct, despite sharing jihadist roots and the objective of establishing governments based on Islamic law. ISWAP presented itself as more focused on military and state forces and restrained towards

Muslim civilians than Boko Haram under Shekau.

Stronger structure

Unlike Boko Haram under Shekau, ISWAP developed a more structured command system and a stronger territorial presence. It relies on the consultative structure (*shura*) supported by regional commanders rather than centring authority on a single leader. By taxing residents and economic activities including fishing and farming zones, the group developed a structured revenue system around the Lake Chad basin rather than depending on looting and kidnappings like Boko Haram. The group has exploited the region's fragile socio-economic conditions and weak governance, to recruit members from local communities.

ISWAP's organisational structure, established revenue system and influence over communities marginalised by the states helped it emerge as a dominant jihadist force. Ideological legitimacy and strategic guidance by ISIS has also benefited the network's operation.

ISWAP does not operate in Nigeria alone, but has a significant presence in neighbouring states, resulting in a regional security challenge. Porous borders, weak governance and gaps in intelligence sharing among affected states have contributed to

its growing influence in the basin. Military operations face challenges due to porous borders around the Lake Chad basin which facilitates the movement of fighters and weapons across national borders.

In response Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin have formed the Multinational Joint Task Force to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts.

Rivalry within the jihadist movement has also shaped the conflict.

Frequent clashes between ISWAP and Shekau's Boko Haram faction reflected a broader struggle for territory, recruits and influence across the basin.

Weakening of Boko Haram, following the death of Shekau in 2021 during these clashes, consolidated ISWAP's position as the dominant jihadist force in the region. They leveraged the porous borders between Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon as well as gaps in regional security cooperation to operate across national boundaries.

To overcome its conventional military disadvantages, ISWAP fights asymmetrically through ambushes, improvised explosive devices and influence over communities marginalised by the state. Still, ISWAP's expansion has transformed what began as a localised insurgency in Nigeria into one of Africa's most resilient transnational security challenges.

05J6. How ISWAP emerged as the dominant jihadist force in Africa's Lake Chad basin

अफ्रीका के लेक चाड बेसिन में ISWAP कैसे प्रमुख जिहादी शक्ति बनकर उभरा

- The **Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP)** steadily eclipsed **Boko Haram** to become the most powerful militant organisation in the region; with a structured command system and strong territorial presence, what began as a local insurgency in Nigeria is now one of Africa's major transnational security threats.

इस्लामिक स्टेट वेस्ट अफ्रीका प्रोविंस (ISWAP) ने धीरे-धीरे बोको हराम को पीछे छोड़ते हुए क्षेत्र का सबसे शक्तिशाली उग्रवादी संगठन बनने का स्थान हासिल किया; संगठित कमांड प्रणाली और मजबूत क्षेत्रीय



उपस्थिति के साथ, जो नाइजीरिया में एक स्थानीय विद्रोह के रूप में शुरू हुआ था, वह अब अफ्रीका के प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा खतरों में से एक बन गया है।

- A joint operation by **Nigerian forces** and **U.S. African Command** that killed 175 Islamic militants has drawn attention to the complex security situation in **Lake Chad basin**.
नाइजीरियाई बलों और अमेरिकी अफ्रीकी कमांड के संयुक्त अभियान, जिसमें 175 इस्लामी उग्रवादी मारे गए, ने लेक चाड बेसिन की जटिल सुरक्षा स्थिति की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।
- According to the **UNICEF**, between 2014 and 2016, nearly 20% of Boko Haram's suicide bombers were children, three quarters of whom were girls.
यूनिसेफ के अनुसार, 2014 से 2016 के बीच बोको हराम के लगभग 20% आत्मघाती हमलावर बच्चे थे, जिनमें से तीन-चौथाई लड़कियाँ थीं।
- Amid growing disagreements, **ISIS appointed Abu Musab-Al-Barnawi as the head of its West African affiliate, sidelining Shekau**.
बढ़ते मतभेदों के बीच ISIS ने अबू मुसाब-अल-बरनावी को अपने पश्चिम अफ्रीकी सहयोगी संगठन का प्रमुख नियुक्त किया, जिससे शेकाऊ को किनारे कर दिया गया।
- In response **Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin have formed the Multinational Joint Task Force** to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts.
इसके जवाब में नाइजीरिया, नाइजर, चाड, कैमरून और बेनिन ने आतंकवाद-रोधी प्रयासों के समन्वय हेतु मल्टीनेशनल जॉइंट टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया है।
- They leveraged the **porous borders between Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon as well as gaps in regional security cooperation to operate across national boundaries**.
उन्होंने नाइजीरिया, नाइजर, चाड और कैमरून के बीच की छिद्रपूर्ण सीमाओं तथा क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा सहयोग की कमियों का लाभ उठाकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमाओं के पार अपनी गतिविधियाँ संचालित कीं।

- The **Lake Chad** is freshwater lakes.
- The basin is shared by four main countries: **Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon**.

GS Paper III: Economy		05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
05J6	Centre's investment body flagged Nicobar port as lacking in 'strategic goals' केंद्र की निवेश संस्था ने निकोबार बंदरगाह को 'रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों' से वंचित बताया	
05J6	India, U.K. launch observatory to expand critical minerals partnership भारत और ब्रिटेन ने महत्वपूर्ण खनिज साझेदारी के विस्तार हेतु ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी की शुरुआत की	
05J6	House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme संसदीय समिति ने सीएजी रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए कौशल विकास कार्यक्रम पर सरकार को फटकार लगाई	
05J6	India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए सरकारी बॉन्ड पर पूंजीगत लाभ कर हटाएगा भारत	



Centre's investment body flagged Nicobar port as lacking in 'strategic goals'

GS III: Economy

EXCLUSIVE

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body that appraises large public investments, had on August 2024 termed the proposed International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island as lacking in "strategic objectives".

Following the August meeting, it had advised the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) to include a strategic case in its proposal. A little over a year later, the same project was formally notified as a "strategic project" by the Ministry of Defence, according to records of a March 2026 meeting viewed by *The Hindu*.

The "strategic" nature of the proposed ₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Project, which consists of the ICTP, a township, airport, a gas-powered power plant, and a tourism zone, has been the Centre's excuse, since at least 2022, for not making public the contents of a report by a High Powered Committee (HPC) on the cumulative environmental impact of the project.

It has also denied Right To Information requests on environmental clearances for the project on the same grounds.

The PIB's view surfaces in records of meetings held on March 17 and 19, 2026, by another Finance Ministry body – the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) – tasked with vetting project proposals worth ₹500 crore and above involving a partnership with private players.

The Hindu has viewed

The Nicobar question

The "strategic" nature of the project has been the Centre's excuse for not making public the contents of a report by a High Powered Committee on the environmental impact of the project

The Public Investment Board, a Finance Ministry body, termed the port-component of the Nicobar project as "lacking strategic objectives" in August 2024

A year later, the Ministry of Defence labels it as a "strategic project"



In the last year or so, the ₹81,000-crore project is being cast in a maritime security lens, centred around the threat from China

the PPPAC meeting records and reached out to the Finance Ministry for comment, but has not received one till press time.

The proposal, sponsored by the MoPSW with the Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) in Chennai as the implementing agency, sought PPPAC clearance to build the port in two phases and, crucially, approval for ₹12,230 crore as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to make the commercially marginal project bankable. VGF is a one-time grant given to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of commercial (financial) viability.

Shift in narrative

The PPPAC cleared the proposal "unanimously" though it refused the VGF, recommending instead that the MoPSW use its internal budget for the same.

Earlier this week, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh wrote to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav that "...the narrative on the Great Nicobar Island Project has suddenly shifted... faced with incontrovertible evidence of its hugely adverse ecological impacts, the Union Government is now emphasizing its supposed strategic rationale."

He added that "...the Great Nicobar Island Project as presently conceived is overwhelmingly a com-

mercial enterprise".

"Until the environment clearance [accorded in November 2022] there was no real reference by the Government of it being a strategic project... and even then it was only the airport [with civilian and military use]," researcher and author Pankaj Sekhsaria, who has extensively documented the project's environmental threat, told *The Hindu*.

The ICTP is a significant component of the much bigger Great Nicobar Island Development Project and is a Ministry of Home Affairs initiative, with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO) as the proponent of the overall project and holder of environmental clearance.

The 2021 documents that conceived the Great Nicobar programme and the January 2023 Expression of Interest for the port described it as a means of capturing transshipment cargo currently routed through Colombo, Singapore, and Port Klang, with the government estimating annual foreign exchange savings of about \$200 million, cumulatively reaching around \$1 billion by 2047.

In the last year or so, the project has volubly been cast in a maritime security lens, centred around the threat from China.

05J6. Centre's investment body flagged Nicobar port as lacking in 'strategic goals'

केंद्र की निवेश संस्था ने निकोबार बंदरगाह को 'रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों' से वंचित बताया

Great Nicobar Project and Strategic Status

ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना और सामरिक दर्जा

- The **Public Investment Board (PIB)**, a **Finance Ministry** body that appraises large public investments, had in **August 2024** termed the proposed **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP)** at **Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island** as lacking in "strategic objectives".

लोक निवेश बोर्ड (PIB), जो वित्त मंत्रालय की एक संस्था है और बड़े सार्वजनिक निवेशों का मूल्यांकन करती है, ने अगस्त 2024 में ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप के गलाथिया खाड़ी में प्रस्तावित अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंटेनर ट्रांसशिपमेंट पोर्ट (ICTP) को "सामरिक उद्देश्यों" से रहित बताया था।

- Following the August meeting, it had advised the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** to include a strategic case in its proposal.

अगस्त की बैठक के बाद, उसने पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय (MoPSW) को अपने प्रस्ताव में सामरिक औचित्य शामिल करने की सलाह दी थी।

- The PIB's view surfaces in records of meetings held on **March 17 and 19, 2026**, by another **Finance Ministry** body — the **Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC)** — tasked with vetting project proposals worth **₹500 crore and above** involving a partnership with private players.

PIB का दृष्टिकोण 17 और 19 मार्च 2026 को आयोजित बैठकों के अभिलेखों में सामने आया, जिन्हें वित्त मंत्रालय की एक अन्य संस्था **पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप मूल्यांकन समिति (PPPAC)** ने आयोजित किया था, जिसका कार्य **₹500 करोड़ या उससे अधिक मूल्य की सार्वजनिक-निजी**

भागीदारी वाली परियोजनाओं का परीक्षण करना है।

- The proposal, sponsored by the **MoPSW with Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)** in Chennai as the implementing agency, sought PPPAC clearance to build the port in two phases and, crucially, approval for **₹12,230 crore as Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to make the commercially marginal project bankable.

यह प्रस्ताव, जिसे **MoPSW** ने प्रस्तुत किया था तथा जिसमें **चेन्नई स्थित कामराजर पोर्ट लिमिटेड (KPL)**

कार्यान्वयन एजेंसी थी, बंदरगाह को दो चरणों में विकसित करने और परियोजना को वित्तीय रूप से व्यवहार्य

बनाने हेतु **₹12,230 करोड़ की वायबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग (VGF)** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने के उद्देश्य से PPPAC

के समक्ष रखा गया था।



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

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

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- The ICTP is a significant component of the much bigger **Great Nicobar Island Development Project** and is a **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** initiative, with the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO)** as the proponent of the overall project and holder of environmental clearance.

ICTP, व्यापक ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना का एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक है और यह गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) की एक पहल है, जिसमें अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह समेकित विकास निगम लिमिटेड (ANIIDCO) परियोजना का प्रस्तावक तथा पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति धारक है।

- The **2021 documents** that conceived the Great Nicobar programme and the **January 2023 Expression of Interest** for the port described it as a means of capturing **transshipment cargo** currently routed through **Colombo, Singapore, and Port Klang**, with the government estimating annual foreign exchange savings of about **\$200 million**, cumulatively reaching around **\$1 billion by 2047**.

2021 में तैयार किए गए ग्रेट निकोबार कार्यक्रम के दस्तावेजों तथा जनवरी 2023 की अभिरुचि अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest) में इस बंदरगाह को कोलंबो, सिंगापुर और पोर्ट क्लॉंग के माध्यम से वर्तमान में संचालित ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो को आकर्षित करने के साधन के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया था। सरकार ने इससे प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 200 मिलियन डॉलर की विदेशी मुद्रा बचत तथा 2047 तक लगभग 1 बिलियन डॉलर की संचयी बचत का अनुमान लगाया था।

PATRIOTIC IAS



India, U.K. launch observatory to expand critical minerals partnership

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seeking to expand cooperation and technology-sharing in the realm of critical minerals, India and the United Kingdom on Thursday formally launched the Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO).

The observatory was first announced during U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to India in October last year with an objective to "expand mineral coverage, further integrate advanced technologies and unlock new bilateral investment opportunities".

The platform – to be jointly operated by India's Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN), Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad and U.K.'s University of Cambridge – will institute a data-driven platform to monitor and analyse global critical mineral supply chains.

In a social media post, Union Minister for Mines



Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper launching the critical minerals observatory. ANI

and Minerals G. Kishan Reddy wrote, "This is a major step towards strengthening critical mineral supply chains, supporting clean energy transitions, and building resilient global supply chains through the India-U.K. partnership."

Minister meets official
Meanwhile, during a meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on Thursday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India and the U.K. were well-positioned to construct a new

future-oriented and mutually beneficial partnership on the back of their newly firmed-up comprehensive trade deal and the defence industrial road map. Mr. Jaishankar said both sides "reviewed ongoing progress in our cooperation focusing on trade, technology, supply chains, defence, climate, education and people to people ties. Also spoke about new opportunities in clean energy, AI and critical minerals".

The two sides also exchanged views on global developments including in

Ukraine, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

In his remarks, Mr. Jaishankar also highlighted the "remarkable developments" in the bilateral ties in recent months while pointing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.K. last July, followed by U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's trip to India in October.

Ms. Cooper also met Mr. Modi. "Appreciated the deepening of the India-UK partnership in recent times that has unlocked unprecedented growth opportunities for both our countries," Mr. Modi said on social media.

Ms. Cooper emphasised greater access to critical minerals and improved information-sharing would be mutually beneficial to both countries. According to the announcement readout, Ms. Cooper stated the observatory could also serve "as a foundation for broader cooperation across the critical minerals sector and related strategic industries."

(With PTI inputs)

05J6. India, U.K. launch observatory to expand critical minerals partnership

भारत और ब्रिटेन ने महत्वपूर्ण खनिज साझेदारी के विस्तार हेतु ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी की शुरुआत की

- Seeking to expand cooperation and technology-sharing in the realm of **critical minerals**, **India** and the **United Kingdom** on Thursday formally launched the **Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)**.

महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों (Critical Minerals) के क्षेत्र में सहयोग और प्रौद्योगिकी साझेदारी का विस्तार करने के उद्देश्य से भारत और यूनाइटेड किंगडम ने गुरुवार को औपचारिक रूप से क्रिटिकल मिनेरल्स ग्लोबल सप्लाई चैन ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी (GSCO) की शुरुआत की।

- The **observatory** was first announced during **U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's** visit to **India** in **October last year** with an objective to "**expand mineral coverage, further integrate advanced technologies and unlock new bilateral investment opportunities**".



इस ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी की पहली घोषणा ब्रिटेन के प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टार्मर की पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर में भारत यात्रा के दौरान की गई थी, जिसका उद्देश्य “खनिज कवरेज का विस्तार करना, उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों का और अधिक एकीकरण करना तथा नए द्विपक्षीय निवेश अवसरों को खोलना” था।

- The platform — to be jointly operated by India's **Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN)**, **Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad** and U.K.'s **University of Cambridge** — will institute a **data-driven platform** to monitor and analyse global critical mineral supply chains.

यह मंच भारत की टेक्नोलॉजी इनोवेशन इन एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड माइनिंग फाउंडेशन (TEXMiN), भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईएसएम) धनबाद तथा ब्रिटेन के कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से संचालित किया जाएगा और वैश्विक महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं की निगरानी एवं विश्लेषण हेतु एक डेटा-आधारित मंच स्थापित करेगा।

- In a social media post, **Union Minister for Mines and Minerals G. Kishan Reddy** wrote, “This is a major step towards strengthening **critical mineral supply chains**, supporting **clean energy transitions**, and building **resilient global supply chains** through the India-U.K. partnership.”

सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में केंद्रीय खान एवं खनिज मंत्री जी. किशन रेड्डी ने लिखा, “यह महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं को सुदृढ़ करने, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा संक्रमण को समर्थन देने तथा भारत-ब्रिटेन साझेदारी के माध्यम से लचीली वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं के निर्माण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।”

Minister meets official

मंत्री की वरिष्ठ अधिकारी से भेंट

- Mr. Jaishankar said both sides “**reviewed ongoing progress in our cooperation focusing on trade, technology, supply chains, defence, climate, education and people-to-people ties.**”

श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने “व्यापार, प्रौद्योगिकी, आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं, रक्षा, जलवायु, शिक्षा और जन-से-जन संबंधों पर केंद्रित सहयोग की प्रगति की समीक्षा की।”

- “Also spoke about new opportunities in **clean energy, AI and critical minerals.**”
“इसके साथ ही स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) तथा महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों में नए अवसरों पर भी चर्चा की गई।”

- The two sides also exchanged views on global developments including in **Ukraine, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific.**

दोनों पक्षों ने यूक्रेन, पश्चिम एशिया तथा हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र से संबंधित वैश्विक घटनाक्रमों पर भी विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया।

- Ms. Cooper emphasised greater access to **critical minerals** and improved **information-sharing** would be mutually beneficial to both countries.

सुश्री कूपर ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों तक अधिक पहुँच और बेहतर सूचना-साझाकरण दोनों देशों के लिए पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी होगा।

- According to the announcement readout, Ms. Cooper stated the observatory could also serve “**as a foundation for broader cooperation across the critical minerals sector and related strategic industries.**”

घोषणा के आधिकारिक विवरण के अनुसार, सुश्री कूपर ने कहा कि यह ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी “महत्वपूर्ण खनिज क्षेत्र तथा उससे संबंधित सामरिक उद्योगों में व्यापक सहयोग की आधारशिला के रूप में कार्य कर सकती है।”



House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, pulled up the government over its flagship skilling programme, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Citing the audit report tabled by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the panel said the scheme disproportionately focused on skilling for jobs with low demand, such as retail.

The PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), launched in July 2015 with the objective of enabling a large number of youths to take up industry-relevant skill training.

Citing the findings of the report, panel members noted during the deliberations that there was a mismatch between training and demand. They said the skilling efforts were heavily



K.C. Venugopal

focused on sectors with low demand, such as apparel, electronics, and retail, which together accounted for 40% of trainees. In contrast, sectors such as food processing, which require more trained personnel, accounted for only 0.48% of trainees. Similarly, only 3.8% of trainees were skilled for the tourism sector.

Lack of planning

Panel members from both the Opposition and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party questioned the lack of planning, despite the programme being in operation since 2015. According to

sources, many members said the government did not seem to have learnt from the scheme's shortcomings. It was also pointed out that only 41% of trainees were placed. The programme has also been hit by repeated instances of fraudulent appointment letters.

The CAG report cited multiple examples. In one instance, Neelima Moving Pictures was awarded skill certifications to 33,493 participants for 21 job roles across eight States between January and November 2020. However, the company was found to be non-existent. The audit report noted that no responsibility had been fixed for such fraudulent claims.

Defending the scheme and its implementation, the government blamed State governments, which, it said, were the implementing agencies.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Venugopal said unemployment remained the biggest threat facing the country.

05J6. House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme

संसदीय समिति ने सीएजी रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए कौशल विकास कार्यक्रम पर सरकार को फटकार लगाई

• **Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**, headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, pulled up the government over its flagship skilling programme, the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**.

वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता के.सी. वेणुगोपाल की अध्यक्षता वाली संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) ने सरकार की प्रमुख कौशल विकास योजना प्रधानमंत्री कौशल विकास योजना (PMKVY) को लेकर सरकार की आलोचना की।

• **Citing the audit report tabled by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**, the panel said the scheme disproportionately focused on skilling for jobs with **low demand**, such as **retail**.

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की लेखा-परीक्षण रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए समिति ने कहा कि इस योजना में रिटेल जैसे कम मांग वाले रोजगार क्षेत्रों के लिए कौशल प्रशिक्षण पर असंगत रूप

से अधिक ध्यान दिया गया।

- The **PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, launched in **July 2015** with the objective of enabling a large number of youths to take up **industry-relevant skill training**.

PMKVY, कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता मंत्रालय (MSDE) की प्रमुख योजना है, जिसे जुलाई 2015 में बड़ी संख्या में युवाओं को उद्योग-संबंधित कौशल प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से प्रारम्भ किया गया था।

- Citing the findings of the report, panel members noted during the deliberations that there was a **mismatch between training and demand**. रिपोर्ट के निष्कर्षों का उल्लेख करते हुए समिति के सदस्यों ने विचार-विमर्श के दौरान कहा कि **प्रशिक्षण और बाजार की मांग के बीच असंगति** विद्यमान है।

- They said the skilling efforts were heavily focused on sectors with low demand, such as **apparel, electronics, and retail, which together accounted for 40% of trainees**. उन्होंने कहा कि कौशल विकास प्रयास मुख्यतः **परिधान (Apparel), इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और रिटेल** जैसे कम मांग वाले क्षेत्रों पर केंद्रित रहे, जिनमें कुल **40% प्रशिक्षार्थी** शामिल थे।

- In contrast, **sectors such as food processing, which require more trained personnel, accounted for only 0.48% of trainees**.

इसके विपरीत, अधिक प्रशिक्षित मानव संसाधन की आवश्यकता वाले **खाद्य प्रसंस्करण (Food Processing)** क्षेत्र में केवल **0.48% प्रशिक्षार्थियों** को प्रशिक्षण दिया गया।

- Similarly, **only 3.8% of trainees were skilled for the tourism sector**.

इसी प्रकार, **पर्यटन क्षेत्र** के लिए केवल **3.8% प्रशिक्षार्थियों** को कौशल प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया गया।



India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds

Lack of Planning

योजनागत कमी

- It was also pointed out that **only 41% of trainees were placed.**

यह भी उल्लेख किया गया कि केवल 41% प्रशिक्षार्थियों को ही रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जा सका।

05J6. India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds

विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए सरकारी बॉन्ड पर पूंजीगत लाभ कर हटाएगा भारत

- India plans to scrap **capital gains tax on foreign portfolio investments in government securities**, which could help boost such inflows, a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

भारत सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेश पर पूंजीगत लाभ कर (Capital Gains Tax) समाप्त करने की योजना बना रहा है, जिससे ऐसे निवेश प्रवाह को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है, ऐसा इस मामले से परिचित एक स्रोत ने गुरुवार को कहा।

- Foreign investors are subject to a long-term capital gains tax of 12.5% on listed shares and bonds held longer than 12 months.**

विदेशी निवेशकों को सूचीबद्ध शेयरों और बॉन्डों पर, जिन्हें 12 महीने से अधिक समय तक रखा गया हो, 12.5% दीर्घकालिक पूंजीगत लाभ कर (Long-Term Capital Gains Tax) देना पड़ता है।

- A withholding tax of 20% they pay on interest earned in government bonds may also be removed,** the source said.

स्रोत के अनुसार, सरकारी बॉन्डों पर अर्जित ब्याज पर विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा दिया जाने वाला 20% विदहोल्डिंग टैक्स (Withholding Tax) भी हटाया जा सकता है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology

05 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED

05J6	Union govt. to train BDOs in planning systems केंद्र सरकार योजना प्रणालियों में बीडीओ को प्रशिक्षण देगी
05J6	Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured सनस्क्रीन लोशन पर SPF संख्या को समझना और इसका मापन कैसे किया जाता है
05J6	'Rural, urban India almost same in video watching' वीडियो देखने में ग्रामीण और शहरी भारत लगभग समान'

05J6. Union govt. to train BDOs in planning systems

केंद्र सरकार योजना प्रणालियों में बीडीओ को प्रशिक्षण देगी

- In an effort to strengthen **grassroots governance**, the **Ministry of Rural Development** is planning to train **2,000 Block Development Officers (BDOs)**, focusing the training on **decentralised planning**.

जमीनी स्तर के शासन (Grassroots Governance) को सुदृढ़ करने के प्रयास के तहत ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय 2,000 खंड विकास अधिकारियों (BDOs) को प्रशिक्षण देने की योजना बना रहा है, जिसमें विशेष ध्यान विकेन्द्रीकृत नियोजन (Decentralised Planning) पर केंद्रित होगा।

- The officers will be trained in the use of **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** and **Management Information Systems (MIS)**, which have become crucial especially with the new rural employment law — **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission**.



इन अधिकारियों को भौगोलिक सूचना प्रणाली (GIS) तथा प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली (MIS) के उपयोग का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा, जो विशेष रूप से नए ग्रामीण रोजगार कानून — विकसित भारत-रोजगार एवं आजीविका गारंटी मिशन — के संदर्भ में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हो गए हैं।

- Rural Development Secretary Rohit Kansal said that training modules such as this are aimed at strengthening the “last-mile delivery architecture”.

ग्रामीण विकास सचिव रोहित कंसल ने कहा कि इस प्रकार के प्रशिक्षण माँड्यूल का उद्देश्य “अंतिम छोर तक सेवा पहुँचाने वाली व्यवस्था (Last-Mile Delivery Architecture)” को और अधिक सशक्त बनाना है।

Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured

Athi SS III: S&T
CHENNAI

Sun Protection Factor, or SPF, is designed to measure protection against ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation, the part of sunlight primarily responsible for sunburns. But it does not tell the whole story about sun protection, nor does a higher SPF automatically mean better protection. Understanding what SPF measures, and what it does not, can help in making more informed decisions about skin protection.

In standard testing, sunscreen is applied to the skin and researchers compare how much ultraviolet exposure is needed to produce redness, or erythema, on protected skin versus unprotected skin, says **Katheeya Nasika**, consultant dermatologist, Rela Hospital, Chennai. “If an SPF is 30, theoretically the amount of UV exposure needed to cause minimal erythema on sunscreen-applied skin would be 30 times higher than on

unprotected skin,” she explains.

Narayanan A., consultant dermatologist at SRM Prime Hospital, Chennai, points out however that “the testing is conducted under controlled conditions using a specified amount of sunscreen. In real life, most people apply far less sunscreen than is used during laboratory testing, meaning actual protection may be lower than the SPF listed on the label.”

What do SPF numbers mean?

One of the most common misconceptions is that SPF values increase protection in a straight line. According to K.R. Sharmatha, senior consultant dermatologist, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, SPF 30 blocks about 95-97% of UVB radiation, SPF 50 blocks roughly 97-98%, and SPF 80 blocks close to 99%. The difference is one roughly one percentage point, with protection gains becoming progressively smaller at higher SPF values. While higher SPF provides



Shield and defence: Experts and dermatologists say that SPF 30 provides adequate protection for most people when applied correctly. GETTY IMAGES

somewhat greater protection, the difference between SPF 30 and SPF 50 is far smaller than most people imagine. A sunscreen's SPF value only

measures protection against UVB radiation. Pushpa Gnanaraj, senior consultant dermatologist, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Vanagaram, Chennai, notes that UVA penetrates

more deeply. UVA radiation is strongly linked to pigmentation, photoaging, wrinkles and loss of skin elasticity. For this reason, experts emphasise that SPF alone should not determine sunscreen choice. They recommend choosing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with PA+++ protection, which indicates protection against UVA rays as well as products that provide protection against both UVA and UVB radiation rather than focusing solely on the SPF number.

Experts also say that SPF 30 provides adequate protection for most people when applied correctly. “Anything above SPF 30 is okay for Indian skin,” says Dr. Nasika. She recommends SPF 30 as a minimum, while SPF 50 or higher for outdoor sports, extended sun exposure, or individuals with photosensitive skin conditions.

Application matters

Many tend to overlook correct application. Experts recommend applying sunscreen 15 to 20 minutes

before sun exposure and ensuring that exposed areas such as the face, neck, hands and forearms are covered. Reapplication is essential every two to three hours during outdoor exposure, especially after washing the face or if the product is not water-resistant. And for people working outdoors, and in sports, experts recommend waterproof formulations. High-SPF sunscreens also require regular reapplication because sunscreen does not block 100% of UV radiation. A properly applied SPF 30 sunscreen may offer better protection than an SPF 100 product applied inadequately.

The difference between the benefits that SPF 30 and SPF 50 offer is small. The more important factors are choosing a broad-spectrum product, applying it correctly, and reapplying it regularly. This summer, stay safe under the sun. Understanding SPF is less about finding the highest number and more about using sunscreen effectively and consistently. (athira.elsa@thehindu.co.in)

05J6. Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured

सनस्क्रीन लोशन पर SPF संख्या को समझना और इसका मापन कैसे किया जाता है

- **Sun Protection Factor (SPF), or SPF**, is designed to measure protection against **ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation**, the part of sunlight primarily responsible for **sunburns**.

सन प्रोटेक्शन फैक्टर (SPF) को अल्ट्रावायलेट-बी (UVB) विकिरण से सुरक्षा को मापने के लिए विकसित

किया गया है, जो सूर्य के प्रकाश का वह भाग है जो मुख्य रूप से **सनबर्न (त्वचा झुलसने)** के लिए उत्तरदायी होता है।

- In standard testing, **sunscreen** is applied to the skin and researchers compare how much ultraviolet exposure is needed to produce **redness, or erythema**, on protected skin versus unprotected skin, says **Katheeya Nasika**, consultant dermatologist, Rela Hospital, Chennai. चेन्नई के रेला अस्पताल की परामर्शदाता त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ **कथीजा नासिका** के अनुसार, मानक परीक्षण में त्वचा पर **सनस्क्रीन** लगाया जाता है और शोधकर्ता यह तुलना करते हैं कि संरक्षित तथा असंरक्षित त्वचा पर **लालिमा** अथवा **एरिथेमा** उत्पन्न करने के लिए कितने पराबैंगनी विकिरण की आवश्यकता होती है।
- “If an **SPF is 30**, theoretically the amount of UV exposure needed to cause minimal erythema on sunscreen-applied skin would be 30 times higher than on unprotected skin,” she explains. वे बताती हैं, “यदि **SPF 30** है, तो सैद्धांतिक रूप से **सनस्क्रीन** लगी त्वचा पर न्यूनतम **एरिथेमा** उत्पन्न करने के लिए आवश्यक UV विकिरण की मात्रा असंरक्षित त्वचा की तुलना में 30 गुना अधिक होगी।”

What do SPF numbers mean?

SPF संख्याओं का क्या अर्थ है?

- According to **K.R. Sharmatha**, senior consultant dermatologist, **SIMS Hospital**, Chennai, **SPF 30** blocks about **95-97% of UVB radiation**, **SPF 50** blocks roughly **97-98%**, and **SPF 80** blocks close to **99%**.



चेन्नई के SIMS अस्पताल की वरिष्ठ परामर्शदाता त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ के.आर. शर्मथा के अनुसार, SPF 30 लगभग 95-97% UVB विकिरण को रोकता है, SPF 50 लगभग 97-98% को रोकता है और SPF 80 लगभग 99% तक सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।

- While higher SPF provides somewhat greater protection, the difference between SPF 30 and SPF 50 is far smaller than most people imagine.
यद्यपि अधिक SPF कुछ अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है, किन्तु SPF 30 और SPF 50 के बीच का अंतर उतना अधिक नहीं है जितना अधिकांश लोग समझते हैं।
- A sunscreen's SPF value only measures protection against UVB radiation.
किसी सनस्क्रीन का SPF मान केवल UVB विकिरण के विरुद्ध सुरक्षा को मापता है।
- Pushpa Gnanaraj, senior consultant dermatologist, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Vanagaram, Chennai, notes that UVA penetrates more deeply.
चेन्नई के वनगरम स्थित अपोलो स्पेशलिटी हॉस्पिटल्स की वरिष्ठ परामर्शदाता त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ पुष्पा गनाराज बताती हैं कि UVA विकिरण त्वचा में अधिक गहराई तक प्रवेश करता है।
- UVA radiation is strongly linked to pigmentation, photoageing, wrinkles and loss of skin elasticity.
UVA विकिरण का संबंध त्वचा के वर्णक परिवर्तन, फोटोएजिंग, झुर्रियों तथा त्वचा की लोच में कमी से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- For this reason, experts emphasise that SPF alone should not determine sunscreen choice.
इसी कारण विशेषज्ञ इस बात पर बल देते हैं कि केवल SPF के आधार पर सनस्क्रीन का चयन नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।
- They recommend choosing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with PA+++ protection, which indicates protection against UVA rays as well as products that provide protection against both UVA and UVB radiation rather than focusing solely on the SPF number.
वे PA+++ सुरक्षा वाले ब्रॉड-स्पेक्ट्रम सनस्क्रीन का चयन करने की सलाह देते हैं, जो UVA किरणों से सुरक्षा का संकेत देता है तथा ऐसे उत्पादों को प्राथमिकता देने की अनुशंसा करते हैं जो UVA और UVB विकिरण दोनों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।
- She recommends SPF 30 as a minimum, while SPF 50 or higher for outdoor sports, extended sun exposure, or individuals with photosensitive skin conditions.
वे न्यूनतम SPF 30 की अनुशंसा करती हैं, जबकि बाहरी खेल गतिविधियों, लंबे समय तक धूप में रहने अथवा प्रकाश-संवेदनशील त्वचा संबंधी स्थितियों वाले व्यक्तियों के लिए SPF 50 या उससे अधिक उपयुक्त मानती हैं।

Application matters

उपयोग की सही विधि का महत्व

- Many tend to overlook correct application.
अनेक लोग सही तरीके से लगाने के महत्व की उपेक्षा कर देते हैं।
- Experts recommend applying sunscreen 15 to 20 minutes before sun exposure and ensuring that exposed areas such as the face, neck, hands and forearms are covered.
विशेषज्ञ धूप में जाने से 15 से 20 मिनट पहले सनस्क्रीन लगाने तथा चेहरे, गर्दन, हाथों और अग्रबाहुओं जैसे खुले हिस्सों को अच्छी तरह ढकने की सलाह देते हैं।
- Reapplication is essential every two to three hours during outdoor exposure, especially after washing the face or if the product is not water-resistant.
बाहरी वातावरण में रहने के दौरान प्रत्येक दो से तीन घंटे में पुनः लगाना आवश्यक है, विशेषकर चेहरे को धोने के बाद अथवा यदि उत्पाद जल-प्रतिरोधी न हो।
- And for people working outdoors, and in sports, experts recommend waterproof formulations.
बाहरी कार्य करने वाले लोगों तथा खिलाड़ियों के लिए विशेषज्ञ वाटरपूफ फॉर्मूलेशन की अनुशंसा करते हैं।



- High-SPF sunscreens also require regular reapplication because sunscreen do not block **100% of UV radiation**.
उच्च SPF वाले सनस्क्रीन को भी नियमित रूप से पुनः लगाना आवश्यक है क्योंकि कोई भी सनस्क्रीन UV विकिरण का 100% अवरोध नहीं कर सकता।
- A properly applied **SPF 30** sunscreen may offer better protection than an **SPF 100** product applied inadequately.
सही प्रकार से लगाया गया **SPF 30** सनस्क्रीन, अपर्याप्त रूप से लगाए गए **SPF 100** उत्पाद की तुलना में बेहतर सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है।
- The more important factors are choosing a **broad-spectrum product**, applying it correctly, and reapplying it regularly.
अधिक महत्वपूर्ण कारक हैं—एक **ब्रॉड-स्पेक्ट्रम उत्पाद** का चयन करना, उसे सही प्रकार से लगाना तथा नियमित रूप से पुनः लगाना।
- Understanding **SPF** is less about finding the highest number and more about using **sunscreen** effectively and consistently.
SPF को समझने का अर्थ सबसे अधिक संख्या ढूँढना नहीं, बल्कि **सनस्क्रीन** का प्रभावी तथा नियमित उपयोग करना है।

UVA Radiation

- **UVA rays** have a longer wavelength and can penetrate deep into the skin.
- They are present throughout the day and can even pass through clouds and window glass.
- UVA rays are mainly responsible for:
 - Skin ageing and wrinkles
 - Loss of skin elasticity
 - Pigmentation and tanning
 - Long-term skin damage
- UVA rays slowly age skin over time.

UVB Radiation

- **UVB rays** have a shorter wavelength and affect the outer layers of the skin.
- They are strongest between about 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- UVB rays are mainly responsible for:
 - Sunburn
 - Skin redness
 - DNA damage in skin cells
 - Increased risk of skin cancer
- UVB rays burn skin when stay in the sun too long.

SPF (Sun Protection Factor)

- **SPF (Sun Protection Factor)** is a measure of how well a sunscreen protects the skin from **UVB rays**.
- SPF 15 blocks about 93% of UVB rays.
- SPF 30 blocks about 97% of UVB rays.
- SPF 50 blocks about 98% of UVB rays.
- Skin normally starts to burn after 10 minutes in the sun. With SPF 30 sunscreen, skin could theoretically stay about 30 times longer before burning.



'Rural, urban India almost same in video watching'

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's transition into a video-first economy is no longer restricted to metropolitan cities as daily video consumption on Meta platforms is reaching 98% in cities and 94% in rural areas, according to a Meta-commissioned study by IPSOS.

The study, comprising over 4,000 participants across metro, tier-2 and 3 cities and rural India, found 97% of users consume video content daily, highlighting video content had become the primary source of digital

engagement.

Also, the study found Reels had become the primary destination for content, culture and influence with 89% of Gen-Z users engaging with it every day. The engagement is particularly strong among women (85%) and NCCS audiences (88%). The study also found 84% of Gen-Z users and 73% of rural users discovered products through Meta Platforms.

Beauty, make-up, fashion, lifestyle, wellness, fitness, comedy, sports, and travel emerged as the most engaged genres. Among it beauty, make-up, and fashion

recorded the highest engagement with 52% of the users engaging in these genres followed by lifestyle, fitness, and wellness at 42%; comedy and humor at 39%; sports at 38%; and travel at 37%.

The study emphasised the role of content creators in shaping storytelling, conversations, trends, and brand discovery. Reels generated 60% higher creator engagement than other surveyed short-video platforms and highlighted the platform's influence on high-intent sectors such as e-commerce, automobiles, and financial services.

05J6. 'Rural, urban India almost same in video watching'

'वीडियो देखने में ग्रामीण और शहरी भारत लगभग समान'

- India's transition into a **video-first economy** is no longer restricted to **metropolitan cities** as daily video consumption on **Meta platforms** is reaching **98% in cities** and **94% in rural areas**, according to a **Meta-commissioned study** by **IPSOS**.

वीडियो-प्रथम अर्थव्यवस्था की ओर भारत का संक्रमण अब केवल महानगरीय शहरों तक सीमित नहीं रह गया है, क्योंकि मेटा प्लेटफॉर्म पर दैनिक वीडियो उपभोग शहरों में 98% और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 94% तक पहुँच रहा है। यह जानकारी IPSOS द्वारा किए गए मेटा-प्रायोजित अध्ययन के अनुसार है।

- The study, comprising over **4,000 participants** across **metro, tier-2 and 3 cities and rural India**, found **97% of users** consume video content daily, highlighting video content had become the primary source of **digital engagement**.

मेट्रो, टियर-2 और टियर-3 शहरों तथा ग्रामीण भारत के 4,000 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों पर आधारित इस अध्ययन में पाया गया कि 97% उपयोगकर्ता प्रतिदिन वीडियो सामग्री का उपभोग करते हैं, जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि वीडियो सामग्री डिजिटल सहभागिता का प्रमुख स्रोत बन चुकी है।

- Also, the study found **Reels** had become the primary destination for **content, culture and influence with 89% of Gen-Z users** engaging with it every day.

अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि रील्स सामग्री, संस्कृति और प्रभाव का प्रमुख माध्यम बन चुका है, जहाँ 89% जेन-ज़ी उपयोगकर्ता प्रतिदिन इससे जुड़ते हैं।



- **Beauty, make-up, fashion, lifestyle, wellness, fitness, comedy, sports, and travel** emerged as the most engaged genres.
ब्यूटी, मेक-अप, फैशन, लाइफस्टाइल, वेलनेस, फिटनेस, कॉमेडी, खेल और यात्रा सबसे अधिक सहभागिता वाले विषयों के रूप में उभरे।
- Among it **beauty, makeup, and fashion** recorded the highest engagement with **52% of the users** engaging in these genres followed by **lifestyle, fitness, and wellness** at **42%**; **comedy and humor** at **39%**; **sports** at **38%**; and **travel** at **37%**.
इनमें ब्यूटी, मेकअप और फैशन ने सबसे अधिक सहभागिता दर्ज की, जहाँ **52% उपयोगकर्ता** इन विषयों से जुड़े रहे। इसके बाद लाइफस्टाइल, फिटनेस और वेलनेस में **42%**, कॉमेडी और हास्य में **39%**, खेल में **38%** तथा यात्रा में **37%** सहभागिता दर्ज की गई।
- The study emphasised the **role of content creators** in shaping storytelling, conversations, trends, and brand discovery.
अध्ययन ने **कंटेंट क्रिएटर्स** की भूमिका पर जोर दिया, जो कहानी कहने, संवादों, रुझानों और ब्रांड खोज को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- **Reels** generated **60% higher creator engagement** than other surveyed **short-video platforms** and highlighted the platform's influence on high-intent sectors such as **e-commerce, automobiles, and financial services**.
रील्स ने अन्य सर्वेक्षित **शॉर्ट-वीडियो प्लेटफॉर्म** की तुलना में **60% अधिक क्रिएटर सहभागिता** उत्पन्न की और **ई-कॉमर्स, ऑटोमोबाइल तथा वित्तीय सेवाओं** जैसे उच्च-रुचि वाले क्षेत्रों पर प्लेटफॉर्म के प्रभाव को रेखांकित किया।

GS Paper III: Environment		05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
05J6	Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question भारत के जलवायु भविष्य के वित्तपोषण का प्रश्न: एक ट्रिलियन डॉलर की चुनौती	
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Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question

CS III: Environment

There is one figure that should command the attention of every policymaker, banker, and financial expert in India. India will require ₹162.5 trillion – roughly \$2.5 trillion – by 2030 to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions. Over the longer term, the cost of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 is estimated at \$10.1 trillion, nearly three times India's current GDP. This is not a counsel of despair. India has more tools to bridge this gap than it has deployed so far. But doing so requires a clear financing strategy and the institutional resolve to build mechanisms that can mobilise capital at scale.

The financing gap

Decarbonising just four sectors – steel, cement, power, and road transport, which together account for more than half of India's carbon emissions – will require \$467 billion in additional capital expenditure between 2022 and 2030, roughly \$54 billion annually, or 1.3% of GDP. These are sectors where the private sector will not lead without strong regulatory incentives, because the economics of green steel and green cement simply do not yet work without policy support.

By 2030, developing economies are estimated to need \$5 trillion to \$6 trillion for climate action. The developed world promised \$100 billion annually at Paris – and missed it. The Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) commits \$300 billion by 2035 – which India rightly considers insufficient. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s own Report on Currency and Finance estimates that India needs an additional annual investment of at least 2.5% of GDP for green financing until 2030.

The international community will not fill this gap on India's behalf. The honest answer is that India must mobilise most of it from within.

India is not starting from zero. By the end of 2024, India had issued \$55.9 billion in green, social, sustainability, and sustainability-linked debt – a 186% rise since 2021. Green debt leads, making up 83% of the total, with most funds directed to clean energy and transport. Sovereign green bonds worth ₹477 billion have helped set benchmarks and boost investor confidence. This is genuinely impressive.

The instruments exist. The challenge is deploying them at scale. India already has green bonds, sovereign green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, blended finance structures, transition finance instruments and infrastructure investment trusts. What is missing is the connective tissue: a taxonomy, a guarantee architecture, a liquidity mechanism, and the regulatory incentives that make green finance cheaper than brown finance.

The most significant shift in India's



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India's bottleneck is not funding, but the institutional architecture needed to move it where it is needed

climate-finance landscape in 2025 did not occur at a climate conference but in Mint Street. In 2025, the RBI's Climate Finance and Management of Climate Change Risks Directions for Commercial Banks and Small Finance Banks established a comprehensive framework requiring banks to integrate climate risks into their lending and risk-management practices. Importantly, eligible green activities can qualify as priority sector lending (PSL), while investments in sovereign green bonds are also recognised under the framework.

This is a bigger deal than it looks. PSL requirements are one of the most powerful levers that the RBI holds over bank behaviour. Currently, for every ₹10,000 crore in loans, banks must ensure ₹4,000 crore of PSL.

The RBI can and must go further. It has proposed accepting sovereign green bonds as collateral with more flexibility in margin requirements and adjusting reserve requirements to support credit flows to green sectors. The next frontier is differentiated capital requirements based on climate risk – essentially, making brown lending more capital-intensive and green lending less so.

The RBI's Climate Risk Information System on climate-related financial risks for commercial banks, and its inclusion of sustainable finance in its regulatory sandbox, are steps in the right direction.

The next critical step is a comprehensive climate stress-testing framework for Indian banks – one that assesses the flood risk of a loan portfolio in Bihar as rigorously as it evaluates credit risk.

The taxonomy unlocks everything else

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 that India would develop a climate-finance taxonomy. This is the foundation of the entire ecosystem. Without a clear legal definition of what counts as "green", green bonds cannot be credibly verified, PSL classifications remain questionable, international investors cannot make compliance claims, and regulators cannot effectively curb greenwashing.

The Ministry of Finance's Climate Finance Taxonomy and the Ministry of Steel's Green Steel Taxonomy will facilitate standardised sustainable investments and boost investor confidence.

The international climate finance system has one instrument that India has chronically underused: blended finance – the strategic use of public or concessional funds to de-risk private investment. Financial instruments such as green bonds, climate funds, and blended finance models are important in mobilising capital for sustainability initiatives, and unlocking

investment at scale will help drive long-term resilience in India's most climate-sensitive sectors.

Here is the arithmetic that makes blended finance so compelling. A first loss guarantee of \$100 million from a public source can unlock \$500 million to \$1 billion in private co-investment in solar, offshore wind, green hydrogen, or climate-resilient agriculture, because it absorbs the risk that private capital finds unacceptable. It needs a capitalisation injection and an expanded mandate to get there.



Where the finance gap is most acute

One dimension of India's climate finance challenge that receives almost no attention is its federally disaggregated nature. Climate adaptation – the kind of finance that protects coastal villages in Odisha, drought-proofing in Vidarbha, or spring rejuvenation in the Himalayas – is delivered at the State level. But States have neither the borrowing capacity nor the institutional infrastructure to access international climate finance. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have shown that ambitious State-level climate programming is possible. The financing architecture needs to catch up with the ambition.

There are four things that India must do now. First, finalise and enact the Climate Finance Taxonomy without further delay. It is the single most leveraged action available.

Second, the RBI must move from enabling green finance to mandating it – through differentiated capital requirements, mandatory climate stress testing for banks, and expanded PSL targets that include climate adaptation alongside mitigation.

Third, establish a State Climate Finance Facility, capitalised for example, by the Union, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and international sources, to give States and municipalities genuine access to green debt markets.

Fourth, scale sovereign green bond issuances rapidly and embed them in the SLR framework to deepen the domestic market and attract foreign capital.

India's climate-finance challenge is large and urgent, but not insurmountable. The instruments exist, the regulatory framework is taking shape, and capital is available. What is missing is not money, but the institutional capacity to deploy it at scale. Fixing that is the work of the Budget cycles. The country that solves this challenge fastest will shape the future of climate finance in the developing world.

The views expressed are personal

05J6. Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question

भारत के जलवायु भविष्य के वित्तपोषण का प्रश्न: एक ट्रिलियन डॉलर की चुनौती

Climate Finance and India's Net-Zero Transition

जलवायु वित्त और भारत का नेट-ज़ीरो संक्रमण

- India will require **₹162.5 trillion** — roughly **\$2.5 trillion** — by **2030** to meet its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.

भारत को अपनी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDCs) संबंधी प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के लिए वर्ष 2030 तक ₹162.5 ट्रिलियन अर्थात लगभग 2.5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की आवश्यकता होगी।



- Over the longer term, the cost of achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070** is estimated at **\$10.1 trillion**, nearly three times India's current GDP.
दीर्घकालिक दृष्टि से, वर्ष 2070 तक शुद्ध-शून्य उत्सर्जन (Net-Zero Emissions) प्राप्त करने की लागत लगभग **10.1 ट्रिलियन डॉलर** आंकी गई है, जो भारत की वर्तमान GDP का लगभग तीन गुना है।

वित्तपोषण अंतराल

- Decarbonising just four sectors — steel, cement, power, and road transport, which together account for more than half of India's carbon emissions** — will require **\$467 billion** in additional capital expenditure between **2022 and 2030**, roughly **\$54 billion annually**, or **1.3% of GDP**.
केवल चार क्षेत्रों — इस्पात, सीमेंट, विद्युत और सड़क परिवहन, जो संयुक्त रूप से भारत के आधे से अधिक कार्बन उत्सर्जन के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं — का डीकार्बोनाइजेशन करने के लिए वर्ष 2022 से 2030 के बीच अतिरिक्त **467 अरब डॉलर** के पूंजीगत व्यय की आवश्यकता होगी, जो प्रतिवर्ष लगभग **54 अरब डॉलर** अथवा **GDP का 1.3%** है।
- These are sectors where the **private sector** will not lead without strong regulatory incentives, because the economics of **green steel and green cement** simply do not yet work without policy support.
ये ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहाँ **निजी क्षेत्र** मजबूत नियामकीय प्रोत्साहनों के बिना नेतृत्व नहीं करेगा, क्योंकि **हरित इस्पात** और **हरित सीमेंट** की आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता अभी भी नीतिगत समर्थन के बिना प्रभावी नहीं है।
- The **developed world promised \$100 billion annually at Paris** — and missed it.
विकसित देशों ने **पेरिस** में प्रतिवर्ष **100 अरब डॉलर** देने का वादा किया था, किंतु वे इसे पूरा करने में विफल रहे।
- The **Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) commits \$300 billion by 2035** — which India rightly considers insufficient.
बाकु न्यू कलेक्टिव क्वांटिफाइड गोल (NCQG) के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2035 तक **300 अरब डॉलर** उपलब्ध कराने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की गई है, जिसे भारत उचित रूप से अपर्याप्त मानता है।
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s own Report on Currency and Finance** estimates that India needs an additional annual investment of at least **2.5% of GDP for green financing until 2030**.
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) की मुद्रा एवं वित्त रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत को वर्ष 2030 तक **हरित वित्तपोषण** के लिए प्रतिवर्ष कम-से-कम **GDP का 2.5%** अतिरिक्त निवेश करना होगा।
- India already has **green bonds, sovereign green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, blended finance structures, transition finance instruments and infrastructure investment trusts**.
भारत के पास पहले से ही **ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स, सॉवरेन ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स, सस्टेनेबिलिटी-लिंक्ड बॉण्ड्स, ब्लेंडेड फाइनेंस संरचनाएँ, ट्रांज़िशन फाइनेंस उपकरण तथा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट्स** उपलब्ध हैं।
- What is missing is the connective tissue: a taxonomy, a guarantee architecture, a liquidity mechanism, and the regulatory incentives that make green finance cheaper than brown finance.**
जिसकी कमी है वह है इन सबको जोड़ने वाला ढाँचा—एक **वर्गीकरण प्रणाली (Taxonomy)**, **गारंटी संरचना**, **तरलता तंत्र (Liquidity Mechanism)** तथा ऐसे नियामकीय प्रोत्साहन जो **हरित वित्त** को **परंपरागत प्रदूषणकारी वित्त (Brown Finance)** की तुलना में सस्ता बनाएँ।
- Importantly, **eligible green activities can qualify as Priority Sector Lending (PSL), while investments in sovereign green bonds are also recognised under the framework.**
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, पात्र **हरित गतिविधियाँ प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र ऋण (PSL)** के अंतर्गत आ सकती हैं, जबकि **सॉवरेन ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स** में किए गए निवेश को भी इस ढाँचे के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्रदान की गई है।

Strengthening Climate Finance Mechanisms

जलवायु वित्त तंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाना



- The **RBI's Climate Risk Information System** on climate-related financial risks for commercial banks, and its inclusion of **sustainable finance** in its regulatory sandbox, are steps in the right direction.
वाणिज्यिक बैंकों के लिए जलवायु-संबंधी वित्तीय जोखिमों पर आधारित **RBI का क्लाइमेट रिस्क इन्फॉर्मेशन सिस्टम** तथा उसके नियामकीय सैंडबॉक्स में **सतत वित्त (Sustainable Finance)** को शामिल करना सही दिशा में उठाए गए कदम हैं।
- Without a clear legal definition of what counts as “green”, **green bonds cannot be credibly verified, PSL classifications remain questionable, international investors cannot make compliance claims, and regulators cannot effectively curb greenwashing.**
“ग्रीन” की स्पष्ट कानूनी परिभाषा के अभाव में **ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स** का विश्वसनीय सत्यापन नहीं किया जा सकता, **PSL वर्गीकरण** संदिग्ध बने रहते हैं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय निवेशक अनुपालन संबंधी दावे नहीं कर सकते तथा नियामक **ग्रीनवॉशिंग** पर प्रभावी नियंत्रण नहीं कर सकते।
- The **Ministry of Finance's Climate Finance Taxonomy** and the **Ministry of Steel's Green Steel Taxonomy** will facilitate standardised sustainable investments and boost investor confidence.
वित्त मंत्रालय की क्लाइमेट फाइनेंस टैक्सोनॉमी तथा **इस्पात मंत्रालय की ग्रीन स्टील टैक्सोनॉमी** मानकीकृत सतत निवेशों को सुगम बनाएगी तथा निवेशकों का विश्वास बढ़ाएगी।
- **Climate adaptation** — the kind of finance that protects coastal villages in **Odisha**, drought-proofing in **Vidarbha**, or spring rejuvenation in the **Himalayas** — is delivered at the **State level.**
जलवायु अनुकूलन (Climate Adaptation) — अर्थात् वह वित्तीय सहायता जो **ओडिशा** के तटीय गाँवों की सुरक्षा, **विदर्भ** में सूखा-प्रतिरोधी उपायों अथवा **हिमालय** में जलस्रोतों के पुनर्जीवन के लिए आवश्यक होती है — का कार्यान्वयन **राज्य स्तर** पर किया जाता है।
- But States have neither the borrowing capacity nor the institutional infrastructure to access international **climate finance.**
किन्तु राज्यों के पास न तो पर्याप्त ऋण लेने की क्षमता है और न ही ऐसा संस्थागत ढाँचा, जिससे वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय **जलवायु वित्त** तक प्रभावी पहुँच बना सकें।
- Third, **establish a State Climate Finance Facility**, capitalised for example, by the **Union, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, and international sources, to give States and municipalities genuine access to **green debt markets.**
तीसरा, एक **राज्य जलवायु वित्त सुविधा (State Climate Finance Facility)** की स्थापना की जाए, जिसे उदाहरणस्वरूप **केंद्र सरकार, राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (NABARD)** तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्रोतों द्वारा वित्तपोषित किया जाए, ताकि राज्यों और नगर निकायों को **हरित ऋण बाजारों (Green Debt Markets)** तक वास्तविक पहुँच मिल सके।

Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

- The **Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** is a new global climate finance target adopted at the climate conference COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- It replaces the earlier goal under which developed countries were expected to mobilize **\$100 billion annually** for developing nations to tackle climate change.
- Under the NCQG, developed countries are expected to take the lead in mobilizing at least **\$300 billion per year by 2035** for developing countries.
- The broader ambition is to scale up climate-related finance from all public and private sources to around **\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035.**



A national environmental survey whose time came

GS III: Environment

Anthropologist Anna Tsing writes, "Anthropocene, -is- the epoch in which human disturbance outranks other geological forces.....although some interpreters see the name as implying the triumph of humans, the opposite seems more accurate: without planning or intention, humans have made a mess of our planet." It is in this precise predicament that India finds itself: environmental damage has slipped beyond intention and control, belonging to no one entirely and to everyone at once.

An unfolding crisis

A survey by the Yale School of the Environment of 10,751 Indians (December 2024-February 2025) found that most respondents had experienced at least one extreme event, including heat waves (71%), agricultural pests and diseases (60%), power outages (59%), water pollution (53%), droughts and water shortages (52%), and air pollution (52%). Based on Indian meteorological department and State of India's Environment findings, nearly half of the 37% of 870 river-monitoring stations recorded alarming levels of toxic heavy metals. Air pollution in 2022 reduced average life expectancy by about three years, while some parts of the country experienced extreme weather for nearly 88% of the year. The Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India estimates that 29.7% of the country's land is degraded. Yet, despite this mounting environmental crisis, India still lacks a comprehensive understanding of the state of its environment.

In India, the environment sits on the back bench – starved of funds, with only 0.07% of the annual budget allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), understaffed, and intellectually neglected. Its custodians often work in silos with overlapping jurisdictions. The result is ignorance masquerading as knowledge. The MoEFCC's annual reports outline forest-restoration



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A credible
environmental
survey is
essential for
informed
policymaking

initiatives such as the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries '+ additional forest-related activities that protect the climate), yet say little about the scale of State-wise deforestation, its impact on biodiversity and livelihoods, or the country's preparedness for future environmental challenges. Beyond these omissions, the reports often obscure the nuances behind impressive plantation figures, sidestep scrutiny of fund utilisation and environmental compliance, and overlook findings from global assessments.

The case for EnvSI

Much of this information is already measured by governments, think tanks, educational institutions and private actors, but it remains fragmented. What is missing is not data, but a system that brings it together. The remedy is to have an Annual Environmental Survey of India (EnvSI): a unified platform that aggregates evidence, conducts independent audits, issues actionable assessments and grades performance. EnvSI must provide an unsparing account of environmental reality – however uncomfortable. The objective is not merely to document what has been lost, but to identify what can still be protected.

Drafting an EnvSI would require a clear statutory mandate, functional autonomy and protected tenure for an expert-led body. It should integrate data from government agencies, independent researchers, the private sector and field-based evidence. Its methodology must combine quantitative indicators with livelihood assessments, using cross-verified datasets and rigorous analysis. Some may question the cost.

The answer is simple: the cost of not doing it is far greater, and doing it would bring some reason to the redundancy of surveying efforts. An EnvSI

could deliver four key benefits. First, it would help prevent further environmental degradation, temper climate-driven disasters, and build resilient responses through coordinated action and better resource use. Second, it would support the timely achievement of climate targets, enhance credibility and unlock climate finance. Third, it would better align economic development with conservation, while protecting tribal rights, traditional livelihoods and the interests of displaced communities. Finally, it would strengthen the commons by recognising and safeguarding the interdependence between ecosystems, species and human societies.

Finally, the template for an EnvSI already exists. The Economic Survey of India offers the Environment Ministry its clearest model: an integrated report prepared by experts under the Chief Economic Adviser, independent enough to present inconvenient truths. It draws on multiple sources, rigorously scrutinises evidence, rejects comforting narratives, and alerts policymakers to emerging challenges and necessary reforms. India constantly faces difficult trade-offs between development and conservation.

Keeping nature in sight

Home to one-sixth of humanity on just 4% of the earth's land area, India must pursue growth while meeting climate commitments. In such circumstances, environmental concerns are often pushed to the margins. An independent and audacious EnvSI can help balance growth, sustainability, livelihoods and justice. Without India's full commitment, global climate goals will remain elusive. More importantly, an EnvSI can make visible the environmental changes that have become normalised, helping build the awareness needed to protect what remains.



05J6. A national environmental survey whose time came

एक राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरणीय सर्वेक्षण जिसकी आवश्यकता का समय आ चुका है

- Anthropologist Anna Tsing writes, "Anthropocene, the epoch in which human disturbance outranks other geological forces.....although some interpreters see the name as implying the triumph of humans, the opposite seems more accurate: without planning or intention, humans have made a mess of our planet."

मानवविज्ञानी अन्ना त्सिंग लिखती हैं, "एंथ्रोपोसीन वह युग है जिसमें मानवजनित व्यवधान अन्य भूवैज्ञानिक शक्तियों से अधिक प्रभावशाली हो गया है.....यद्यपि कुछ व्याख्याकार इस नाम को मानव की विजय के रूप में देखते हैं, परंतु वास्तविकता इसके विपरीत प्रतीत होती है: बिना किसी योजना या उद्देश्य के, मनुष्यों ने हमारे ग्रह को अव्यवस्थित कर दिया है।"

- A survey by the Yale School of the Environment of 10,751 Indians (December 2024-February 2025) found that most respondents had experienced at least one extreme event, including heat waves (71%), agricultural pests and diseases (60%), power outages (59%), water pollution (53%), droughts and water shortages (52%), and air pollution (52%).

येल स्कूल ऑफ द एनवायरनमेंट द्वारा 10,751 भारतीयों पर (दिसंबर 2024 से फरवरी 2025 के बीच) किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि अधिकांश उत्तरदाताओं ने कम-से-कम एक चरम पर्यावरणीय घटना का अनुभव किया था, जिनमें लू (71%), कृषि कीट एवं रोग (60%), बिजली कटौती (59%), जल प्रदूषण (53%), सूखा एवं जल की कमी (52%), तथा वायु प्रदूषण (52%) शामिल थे।



- The **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India** estimates that **29.7%** of the country's land is degraded.
डेजर्टिफिकेशन एंड लैंड डिग्रेडेशन एटलस ऑफ इंडिया के अनुसार, देश की लगभग **29.7% भूमि** अवनत अथवा क्षरित हो चुकी है।
- The **MoEFCC's annual reports** outline forest-restoration initiatives such as the **National Afforestation Programme (NAP)** and **REDD+** (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries '+ additional forest-related activities that protect the climate), yet say little about the scale of **State-wise deforestation**, its impact on **biodiversity** and **livelihoods**, or the country's preparedness for future environmental challenges.
MoEFCC की वार्षिक रिपोर्टें राष्ट्रीय वनीकरण कार्यक्रम (NAP) तथा **REDD+** (विकासशील देशों में वनों की कटाई एवं वन क्षरण से होने वाले उत्सर्जन में कमी तथा जलवायु संरक्षण से संबंधित अतिरिक्त वन गतिविधियाँ) जैसी वन-पुनर्स्थापन पहलों का उल्लेख करती हैं, किंतु **राज्यवार वनों की कटाई**, उसके **जैव विविधता** एवं **आजीविकाओं** पर प्रभाव, अथवा भविष्य की पर्यावरणीय चुनौतियों के लिए देश की तैयारी के विषय में बहुत कम जानकारी प्रदान करती हैं।
- The remedy is to have an **Annual Environmental Survey of India (EnvSI)**: a unified platform that aggregates evidence, conducts independent audits, issues actionable assessments and grades performance.
इसका समाधान **भारत का वार्षिक पर्यावरण सर्वेक्षण (EnvSI)** है—एक ऐसा एकीकृत मंच जो प्रमाणों को समेकित करे, स्वतंत्र लेखा-परीक्षण संचालित करे, क्रियान्वयन योग्य मूल्यांकन प्रस्तुत करे तथा प्रदर्शन का आकलन करे।
- **EnvSI must provide an unsparing account of environmental reality — however uncomfortable.**
EnvSI को पर्यावरणीय वास्तविकता का निष्पक्ष और स्पष्ट विवरण प्रस्तुत करना चाहिए, चाहे वह कितना भी असुविधाजनक क्यों न हो।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management		05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
05J6	Fire and furore आग और आक्रोश	



GS III: Disaster Management

Fire and furore

Poor compliance and weak

enforcement have led to deaths in fires

Indian cities rely on an economic ecosystem in which businesses often operate beyond the approved limits while enforcement remains sporadic. A fire *per se* is not odd, but a slew of deadly fires in urban areas, from the Uphaar Cinema fire in 1997 to the Arpora nightclub fire in 2025, has involved the same vulnerabilities: overcrowding, blocked escape routes, unapproved modifications to interior spaces, poor compliance, and weak enforcement. Prior inquiries, court rulings, and promises of reform have not prevented similar safety failures from recurring. Many of the victims of the B&B fire in Delhi on June 3 were medical tourists, lodged there due to the proximity to South Delhi's hospitals. Many were also infirm and could not act quickly to escape heat or suffocation – a situation that likely prevailed in the ICU fire at a Muzaffarpur hospital on June 4, which claimed four lives, including two elderly individuals. According to the Delhi Fire Services and the Municipal Corporation, the B&B lacked a fire department clearance, violated fire safety norms, and had more than thrice as many rooms as allowed for B&Bs. These bodies are also answerable to how the facility operated in this way, especially since the Delhi High Court had directed the municipality in January to audit the city's hospitality hubs. The building had been rebuilt in 2013 and reportedly exploited land-use exemptions to bypass municipal bylaws that required wider roads for fire tenders.

The tolerance of hazardous conditions with a high fire risk persists because cost-cutting entities, whether establishments or governments, overlook the value of safety measures when there is no fire, even if the measures prevented a fire. The state must inculcate fire safety using principled inspections, incentives, and sanctions, and sustain a culture in urban centres to practise it as a matter of course. Local authorities often blame owners for 'clandestine' modifications; the Delhi police have charged the B&B's owner with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. But the implication that long-standing negligence was the distal cause must extend to the absence of enforcement. The particular charge also results inconsistently in convictions, undermining the penal system's ability to deter such incidents. The misuse of provisions for B&Bs finally points to failures that the Tourism Department should investigate; the city's decision to rescind them is not adequate as an answer. Political blame-games are a red herring: a deadly fire is a product of the incidental causes on that day and systemic factors that preserved the risk. In the same vein, the government's response must encompass these factors or they may amount, once more, to little.

05J6. Fire and furore

आग और आक्रोश

- Poor compliance and weak enforcement have led to deaths in fires.

कमजोर अनुपालन और कमजोर प्रवर्तन के कारण आगजनी की घटनाओं में लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है।

- A fire *per se* is not odd, but a slew of deadly fires in urban areas, from the Uphaar Cinema fire in 1997 to the Arpora nightclub fire in 2025, has involved the same vulnerabilities: overcrowding, blocked escape routes, unapproved modifications to interior spaces, poor compliance, and weak enforcement.

स्वयं में आग लगना कोई असामान्य घटना नहीं है, किंतु वर्ष 1997 की उपहार सिनेमा अग्निकांड से लेकर वर्ष 2025 की अर्पोरा नाइटक्लब अग्निकांड तक शहरी क्षेत्रों में हुई अनेक घातक आग की घटनाओं में समान कमजोरियाँ दिखाई देती हैं—अत्यधिक भीड़, अवरुद्ध निकास मार्ग, आंतरिक संरचनाओं में अनधिकृत परिवर्तन, नियमों का अपर्याप्त अनुपालन तथा कमजोर प्रवर्तन।

- Prior inquiries, court rulings, and promises of reform have not prevented similar safety failures from recurring.

पूर्व की जाँचों, न्यायालयों के निर्णयों तथा सुधारों के आश्वासनों के बावजूद ऐसी सुरक्षा विफलताओं की पुनरावृत्ति को रोका नहीं जा सका है।

- According to the Delhi Fire Services and the Municipal Corporation, the B&B lacked a fire department clearance, violated fire safety norms, and had more than thrice as many rooms as allowed for B&Bs.

दिल्ली अग्निशमन सेवा और नगर निगम के अनुसार, उक्त बी एंड बी के पास अग्निशमन विभाग की स्वीकृति नहीं थी, उसने अग्नि सुरक्षा मानकों का उल्लंघन किया था तथा उसमें बी एंड बी के लिए अनुमत संख्या से तीन गुना अधिक कमरे थे।

- These bodies are also answerable to how the facility operated in this way, especially since the Delhi High Court had directed the municipality in January to audit the city's hospitality hubs.

ये संस्थाएँ इस बात के लिए भी उत्तरदायी हैं कि यह सुविधा इस प्रकार संचालित कैसे होती रही, विशेषकर तब जबकि दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने जनवरी में नगर निगम को शहर के आतिथ्य केंद्रों का लेखा-परीक्षण करने का निर्देश दिया था।

GS Paper III: Internal Security

05 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED

05J6

New-age fraud: 'trust is being weaponised in the digital era'

नए युग की धोखाधड़ी: 'डिजिटल युग में विश्वास को हथियार बनाया जा रहा है'



New-age fraud: 'trust is being weaponised in the digital era'

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

At a time when AI-generated deepfakes, digital arrests, cyber-enabled financial frauds and crypto-powered crime networks have become increasingly sophisticated, combating these next generation of fraud would require a fundamental shift towards advanced forensic technologies, real-time intelligence sharing and stronger collaboration between regulators, businesses and law enforcement agencies said experts at the FICCI Conference on Next-Gen Forensics: The New Age of Fraud Investigation.

Brijesh Singh, IPS, Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, said cybercrime has evolved into a highly organised and industrialised ecosystem



Too fast: Entire chain from data acquisition to money movement via crypto networks can be completed in under 30 minutes.

where specialised actors perform functions ranging from data theft and identity creation to mule networks, deepfake generation and crypto-enabled money laundering.

"Today, fraud has become an industrial-scale enterprise. By the time the first call reaches a victim, fraudsters may already

know their personal details, behavioural patterns and psychological vulnerabilities. The entire chain, from data acquisition to money movement through crypto networks can be completed in less than 30 minutes, making traditional investigative approaches increasingly ineffective," said Mr. Singh.

He said rise of AI, deepfakes and digital evidence needed complete shift in probing methodologies.

"Trust is being weaponised in the digital era. With voice cloning, deepfake technologies and fraud-as-a-service platforms becoming easily accessible, investigators need integrated forensic platforms, real-time intelligence sharing and new evidentiary frameworks to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute digital crimes," he added.

Govindayapalli Ram Mohan Rao, ED, Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department, SEBI, stated market regulator's efforts to strengthen investor protection and digital trust via technology-driven governance steps is the cornerstone of capital markets.

05J. New-age fraud: 'trust is being weaponised in the digital era'

नए युग की धोखाधड़ी: 'डिजिटल युग में विश्वास को हथियार बनाया जा रहा है'

- At a time when **AI-generated deepfakes, digital arrests, cyber-enabled financial frauds and crypto-powered crime networks** have become increasingly sophisticated, combating these **next generation of fraud** would require a fundamental shift towards **advanced forensic technologies, real-time intelligence sharing** and stronger collaboration between **regulators, businesses and law enforcement agencies** said experts at the **FICCI Conference on Next-Gen Forensics: The New Age of Fraud Investigation**.

ऐसे समय में जब AI-जनित डीपफेक, डिजिटल गिरफ्तारियाँ, साइबर-सक्षम वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी और क्रिप्टो-संचालित अपराध नेटवर्क लगातार अधिक परिष्कृत हो गए हैं, तब इस नई पीढ़ी की धोखाधड़ी से निपटने के लिए उन्नत फॉरेंसिक तकनीकों, रियल-टाइम इंटेलिजेंस साझा करने तथा नियामकों, व्यवसायों और कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों के बीच मजबूत सहयोग की दिशा में एक मौलिक बदलाव की आवश्यकता होगी, ऐसा FICCI कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑन नेक्स्ट-जनरेशन फॉरेंसिक्स: द न्यू एज ऑफ फ्रॉड इन्वेस्टिगेशन में विशेषज्ञों ने कहा।

- Brijesh Singh, IPS, Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, said cybercrime has evolved into a highly organised and industrialised ecosystem where specialised actors perform functions ranging from data theft and identity creation to mule networks, deepfake generation and crypto-enabled money laundering.**

बृजेश सिंह, IPS, प्रधान सचिव, महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने कहा कि साइबर अपराध एक अत्यधिक संगठित और औद्योगिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में विकसित हो गया है, जहाँ विशेषीकृत तत्व डेटा चोरी और पहचान निर्माण से लेकर म्यूल नेटवर्क, डीपफेक निर्माण तथा क्रिप्टो-सक्षम मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग तक की गतिविधियाँ संचालित करते हैं।



- “Today, fraud has become an **industrial-scale enterprise**. By the time the first call reaches a victim, fraudsters may already know their **personal details, behavioural patterns** and **psychological vulnerabilities**. The entire chain, from **data acquisition to money movement through crypto networks** can be completed in less than **30 minutes**, making **traditional investigative approaches increasingly ineffective**,” said Mr. Singh.

“आज, धोखाधड़ी एक औद्योगिक स्तर का कारोबार बन चुकी है। जब तक पहला कॉल किसी पीड़ित तक पहुँचता है, तब तक ठग उसके व्यक्तिगत विवरण, व्यवहारिक पैटर्न और मनोवैज्ञानिक कमजोरियों के बारे में जान चुके हो सकते हैं। डेटा प्राप्ति से लेकर क्रिप्टो नेटवर्क के माध्यम से धन के हस्तांतरण तक की पूरी श्रृंखला 30 मिनट से भी कम समय में पूरी की जा सकती है, जिससे पारंपरिक जांच पद्धतियाँ लगातार अप्रभावी होती जा रही हैं,” श्री सिंह ने कहा।
- “**Trust is being weaponised in the digital era. With voice cloning, deepfake technologies and fraud-as-a-service platforms** becoming easily accessible, investigators need **integrated forensic platforms, real-time intelligence sharing and new evidentiary frameworks** to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute digital crimes,” he added.

“डिजिटल युग में विश्वास को हथियार बनाया जा रहा है। वॉयस क्लोनिंग, डीपफेक तकनीकों और फ्रॉड-एज़-ए-सर्विस प्लेटफॉर्म के आसानी से उपलब्ध होने के कारण, जांचकर्ताओं को एकीकृत फॉरेंसिक प्लेटफॉर्म, रियल-टाइम इंटेलिजेंस साझा करने की व्यवस्था तथा नए साक्ष्यात्मक ढाँचों की आवश्यकता है ताकि डिजिटल अपराधों का प्रभावी ढंग से पता लगाया जा सके, उनकी जांच की जा सके और अपराधियों पर मुकदमा चलाया जा सके,” उन्होंने आगे कहा।
- Govindayapalli Ram Mohan Rao, ED, Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department, SEBI, stated market regulator’s efforts to strengthen investor protection and digital trust via technology-driven governance steps is the cornerstone of capital markets.**

गोविंदायापल्ली राम मोहन राव, ED, मार्केट इंटरमीडियरीज़ रेगुलेशन एंड सुपरविजन विभाग, SEBI, ने कहा कि निवेशक संरक्षण और डिजिटल विश्वास को मजबूत करने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित शासन उपायों के माध्यम से बाजार नियामक के प्रयास पूंजी बाजारों की आधारशिला हैं।

GS Paper IV: Ethics	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Robin Hood’ burglar, who funded charity with stolen gold, lands in prison चोरी किए गए सोने से परोपकारी कार्यों को वित्तपोषित करने वाला ‘रॉबिन हुड’ चोर जेल पहुँचा

‘Robin Hood’ burglar, who funded charity with stolen gold, lands in prison

Double life of Vikas Singh Takoor unravels after the latest break-in at a house in Telangana’s Vikarabad; the accused told police during interrogation that he had committed 27 burglaries since coming out of jail in 2024 and had stolen huge quantities of gold ornaments, silver, and cash, which were used to run an NGO that helped schoolchildren



ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

To the residents of his native village in Uttar Pradesh, Vikas Singh Takoor was a generous benefactor – the man behind the NGO ‘Helping Hands’ who distributed school bags to children and sponsored luxury vacations for his friends. But to the Telangana Police, he was one of the State’s most prolific and elusive burglars.

The dramatic double life of Takoor, alias Teja Singh, came crashing down following investigation into a recent break-in at Manikanta

Nagar Colony in Vikarabad, where gold ornaments weighing 15 grams and ₹2.1 lakh in cash were stolen on May 1.

Posing as a daily wage labourer by day to scout for locked houses, the accused allegedly used the massive proceeds from dozens of night-time burglaries to fund a lavish lifestyle of air travel, luxury hotels, and his local charitable activities. Vikarabad Superintendent of Police Sneha Mehra revealed that a special team tracked down Takoor through a combination of technical evidence, surveillance inputs, and CCTV footage, finally apprehending him

near Vikarabad railway station.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to a staggering 27 burglaries committed since his release from prison in June 2024 across Vikarabad, Medak, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri Commissionerate limits. Police said he admitted to stealing 1.57 kg gold, 2.56 kg silver, and ₹8.22 lakh in cash. Investigators said ‘Takoor began committing burglaries at the age of 16 and had already been arrested in 34 cases earlier. With the latest confessions, the number of cases linked to him has risen to 61.

“The accused spent

part of the proceeds on air travel, luxury hotel stays and leisure trips. He also allegedly created a charitable image in his native village through an NGO called ‘Helping Hands’, distributing school bags and notebooks to students and sponsoring trips for friends to Chennai, Goa, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Rajasthan and Dehradun,” said the SP.

The investigation also uncovered the involvement of four gold traders from Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh. Police said the accused sold stolen gold through his mother to the traders,

who allegedly encouraged him to continue committing burglaries and provided advance money whenever he faced financial difficulties.

Investigators further alleged that when the accused considered giving up crime, the traders collectively gave him ₹40,000 and encouraged him to purchase an illegal firearm.

A 5 mm pistol and the stolen gold ornaments have been recovered.

“The accused now faces a total of 61 criminal cases, including 34 previous cases and 27 offences he confessed to committing after his release from prison,” the officer added.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



05J6. 'Robin Hood' burglar, who funded charity with stolen gold, lands in prison

चोरी किए गए सोने से परोपकारी कार्यों को वित्तपोषित करने वाला 'रॉबिन हुड' चोर जेल पहुँचा

- Posing as a **daily wage labourer** by day to scout for locked houses, the accused allegedly used the massive proceeds from dozens of night-time burglaries to fund a lavish lifestyle of air travel, luxury hotels, and his local charitable activities.

आरोपी दिन में दैनिक मजदूर बनकर बंद घरों की तलाश करता था और कथित रूप से रात में की गई दर्जनों चोरियों से प्राप्त धन का उपयोग हवाई यात्राओं, आलीशान होटलों और स्थानीय परोपकारी गतिविधियों पर करता था।

- "The accused spent part of the proceeds on **air travel, luxury hotel stays and leisure trips.**" "आरोपी ने चोरी से प्राप्त धन का एक हिस्सा हवाई यात्राओं, आलीशान होटलों में ठहरने तथा मनोरंजन यात्राओं पर खर्च किया।"
- "He also allegedly created a charitable image in his native village through an NGO called '**Helping Hands**', distributing school bags and notebooks to students and sponsoring trips for friends to **Chennai, Goa, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Rajasthan and Dehradun,**" said the SP.

पुलिस अधीक्षक ने कहा, "उसने कथित रूप से 'हेल्पिंग हैंड्स' नामक संगठन के माध्यम से अपने गाँव में परोपकारी छवि बनाई, छात्रों को स्कूल बैग और नोटबुक वितरित किए तथा अपने मित्रों की चेन्नई, गोवा, विजयवाड़ा, विशाखापत्तनम, बेंगलुरु, राजस्थान और देहरादून यात्राओं का प्रायोजन किया।"

PATRIOTIC IAS