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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

19 JUNE 2026

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GS Paper 1: History	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6 QUIZ	



Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This U.S. President signed a declaration of war against Britain, initiating the War of 1812, which arose from U.S. grievances over oppressive maritime practices during the Napoleonic Wars? **Ans: James Madison**
2. Which English musician, born on this day, gained global fame with the Beatles? **Ans: Paul McCartney**
3. The SALT II treaty was signed by which two countries? **Ans: The U.S., Soviet Union**
4. On this day in 1940, which French General, broadcasting from London, after France fell to the Nazis, appealed to his compatriots to continue World War II under his leadership? **Ans: Charles de Gaulle**
5. Where did British explorer and mountaineer George Mallory, born on this day in 1886, disappear? **Ans: Mount Everest**
6. This American suffragist was fined after being convicted for voting in the 1872 presidential election, though she refused to pay it. **Ans: Susan B. Anthony**
7. Identify this person. She became the first American woman to fly into outer space in 1983. **Ans: Sally Ride**

Early Birds

Abhay Krishnan | Prithvi Chouhan | Yashica | Prem Nath Tiwari | Alisha Yadav

history.

- He achieved worldwide fame as a founding member of The Beatles, serving as bassist, vocalist, and songwriter alongside John Lennon.
- The Beatles transformed popular music through innovative songwriting and recording techniques.
- Following the band's breakup in 1970, McCartney enjoyed successful careers with Wings and as a solo artist.

3. SALT II Treaty

- The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) Treaty was signed on June 18, 1979, by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna.
- The agreement aimed to curb the production and deployment of strategic nuclear weapons by the two Cold War superpowers.
- Although the U.S. The Senate never formally ratified the treaty following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, both countries largely adhered to its provisions for several years.
- SALT II represented a major effort toward nuclear arms control and strategic stability.

4. Charles de Gaulle's Appeal from London

- **Answer: Charles de Gaulle**
- On June 18, 1940, French General Charles de Gaulle delivered his historic "Appeal of 18 June" from London after France's defeat by Nazi Germany.
- Broadcast through the BBC, he urged French citizens, soldiers, and officials to continue resisting German occupation rather than accept surrender.
- The speech became a symbol of French resistance during World War II and laid the foundation for the Free French movement.
- De Gaulle later emerged as one of France's most influential leaders and served as President of the French Republic.

5. George Mallory and Mount Everest

- British explorer and mountaineer George Mallory, born on June 18, 1886, is remembered for his pioneering attempts to climb Mount Everest.
- During the 1924 British Everest Expedition, Mallory and fellow climber Andrew Irvine disappeared near the summit.
- Their fate remained one of mountaineering's greatest mysteries for decades. Mallory's body was discovered in 1999, but it remains uncertain whether he reached the summit before his death.
- His famous response to why he wanted to climb Everest—"Because it is there"—has become legendary.



6. Susan B. Anthony and Voting Rights

- Susan B. Anthony was a leading American suffragist and **advocate for women's rights**.
- In the 1872 U.S. presidential election, she **voted despite laws prohibiting women from doing so**.
- She was **subsequently arrested, tried, and fined \$100**.
- Anthony refused to pay the fine, arguing that she had exercised her constitutional rights as a citizen.
- Her act of civil disobedience became a landmark event in the women's suffrage movement. Decades later, the **Nineteenth Amendment granted American women the right to vote in 1920**.

GS Paper 1: Society		19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
19J6	Silent scream that lingers: Boong's quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice लंबे समय तक गूंजती मौन चीख: 'बूंग' का पितृसत्तात्मक अन्याय के साथ शांत आत्ममंथन	

Silent scream that lingers: *Boong's* quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice

Beyond the engaging drama of a boy's longing for his long-missing father, the film touches upon the complex gender dynamics of Manipuri society; it also compels viewers to pause and reflect on the deeply embedded patriarchal structures, urging much-needed social introspection

GS Paper 1: Society
Pradip Phanjoubam

The Manipuri movie *Boong* written and directed by Laxmipriya Devi and co-produced by Farhan Akhtar, was understandably celebrated in Manipur for its cinematic brilliance, and for the pride it brought the place, after all it was the first Indian film to win a prestigious BAFTA award, the British equivalent of the Oscar, in the children's film category in 2026. I watched it with my family on the third day of its theatrical release in Imphal.

Beyond the engaging drama of a boy's longing for his long-missing father, and the intimate glimpses his search offers into the complex and emotionally fragile inter-community relationships in multi-ethnic Manipur, the film also struck a deeper, raw nerve among the Manipuri audience.

As the show ended and lights flooded back into the theatre, there was a palpable sense of catharsis – the kind that good performing arts leave behind. Yet, some women remained seated, quietly wiping off tears, taking a few extra moments to regain composure before rising to join the rest of the audience.

Manipur's gender equation reality is complex. At one level, women have historically been at the forefront of many social, economic and political upheavals. Across both the hills and the valley, exclusive women-run markets thrive, and in the agrarian economy, men and women function as equal partners. The fact that the director of *Boong* is a woman reflects this sinew of gender empowerment too.

The Meira Paibi movement amongst Meiteis, which also manifests under different nomenclatures amongst hill communities, is the most prominent alibi of Manipuri women's well-deserved image as social torchbearers.

During the colonial period, in 1904 and again in 1939, women rose to protest against British policies, ultimately forcing their withdrawal. These uprisings are now commemorated as *Nupi Lan* or women's war.

The first was against the forced labour of Manipuri men to rebuild the British Residency in Imphal, which had been gutted in an arson attack by disgruntled elements; the second opposed the large-scale export of rice from the State to support the British World War II effort, which led to severe shortages for local consumption.

Patriarchy persists

Despite this, there are strongly entrenched gender oppressive patriarchal norms which have persisted. This is especially true among Meiteis, who continue to carry the albatrosses of a feudal past. Polygamy is arguably the most troubling.

The practice persists since it is normalised, even though not encouraged. This is particularly common among the elite section, where keeping mistresses or even taking more than one wife, is not uncommon. Many of Manipur's current set of Ministers and MLAs would be guilty of this despicable feudal legacy.

The hurt and humiliation endured by women who suffer this fate are profound. Even those who are spared often live with anxiety over the vulnerability of their

daughters and loved ones. As the practice has become normalised within society, this deeply gendered anguish largely remains invisible.

Women often become gatekeepers of the patriarchal order that oppresses them, reflecting what Frantz Fanon characterised as the silent desire of the oppressed to emulate their oppressors. Hence, even women vigilantes tend to overlook men who betray marital fidelity, accepting it as destiny. However, if a woman were to make this breach, these same vigilantes often become the harshest moral police.

Change, however, may not be too far away. Although, no study has yet established a connection, rising cases of divorce among younger Meiteis may be a herald of Fanon's "mailed fist".

In the spirit that good art is hiding good art, *Boong* succeeds in drawing up a non-dogmatic but piercing portrayal of this inherent gender injustice. Boong's father, Joykumar – a carpenter and timber trader played by Hamom Sadananda – works along the India-Myanmar border, in the town of Moreh and the neighbouring township of Tamu in Myanmar.

At some point, the family loses contact with him and for a prolonged period. Many presume he is dead or has joined the insurgents, but the family refuses to give up. Boong, or Brojendro, played by Gugun Kipgen, yearns to find his father and bring the good news to his mother Mandakini, played by Bala Hijam.

On one occasion the boy dupes his mother that his school was organising a 2-day school excursion to Ukhrul district and would like to be part of the tour. He then slips away to make a trip to Moreh

instead. His bosom friend, a Manipuri Marwari, Raju Agarwal, played by Angom Sanamatum, follows him there out of concern. The families of the boys learn of the trip but too late. The two boys' adventure is thrilling. Boong traces his father in Tamu, but to his horror, discovers that he has remarried and has a daughter.

The final scene is powerful. Boong finds his mother, on crutches after a scooter accident, waiting for him at their courtyard. Both know the truth – and both know that the other knows. The boy tells his mother bluntly "Baba is dead". The camera then closes in on her. She pauses a while before asking in resignation, "Is he doing well?" Boong replies, "Yes" and hugs her.

Bala's breathing deepens; her face reddens, and her eyes well up. She is forced to confront what she had long suspected but tried not to believe. Not a word is spoken, yet her tearing pain, numbing humiliation, and seething anger surface – along with a quiet resolve to remain standing for the sake of her son.

For those sensitive enough to hear it, her silent, agonised scream is deafening. For many others who have endured this betrayal themselves, or have witnessed loved ones suffer it, Bala's silent scream becomes their own.

Powerful as this portrayal of an invisible oppressive order is, life may well settle back into its old, abnormal normal. Yet, for many, Bala's silent scream affirms that *Boong* is, at its heart, a desperate appeal for social introspection.

Pradip Phanjoubam is Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics, and the author of two books.

19J6. Silent scream that lingers: *Boong's* quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice

लंबे समय तक गूंजती मौन चीख: 'बूंग' का पितृसत्तात्मक अन्याय के साथ शांत आत्ममंथन

- The Manipuri movie *Boong* written and directed by Laxmipriya Devi and co-produced by Farhan Akhtar, was understandably celebrated in Manipur for its cinematic brilliance, and for the pride it brought the place, after all it was the first Indian film to win a prestigious BAFTA

Award, the British equivalent of the Oscar, in the **Children's Film Category** in 2026.

मणिपुरी फिल्म बूंग, जिसका लेखन और निर्देशन **लक्ष्मीप्रिया देवी** ने किया तथा जिसका सह-निर्माण **फरहान अख्तर** ने किया, अपनी उत्कृष्ट सिनेमाई प्रस्तुति और मणिपुर को गौरवान्वित करने वाली उपलब्धि के कारण स्वाभाविक रूप से **मणिपुर** में व्यापक रूप से सराही गई। यह वर्ष 2026 में **बाल फिल्म श्रेणी** में प्रतिष्ठित **ब्रिटिश चलचित्र एवं दूरदर्शन कला अकादमी पुरस्कार** प्राप्त करने वाली **पहली भारतीय फिल्म** बनी।

- I watched it with my family on the third day of its theatrical release in **Imphal**. मैंने इसे **इम्फाल** में इसके प्रदर्शन के तीसरे दिन अपने परिवार के साथ देखा।
- Beyond the engaging drama of **a boy's longing for his long-missing father**, and the intimate glimpses his search offers into the complex and emotionally fragile **inter-community relationships in multi-ethnic Manipur**, the film also struck a deeper, raw nerve among the **Manipuri audience**. अपने लंबे समय से लापता पिता के प्रति एक बालक की व्याकुलता पर आधारित मार्मिक कथा तथा **बहु-जातीय मणिपुर** में जटिल और भावनात्मक रूप से संवेदनशील **अंतर-सामुदायिक संबंधों** की झलकियों से परे, इस फिल्म ने मणिपुरी दर्शकों की भावनाओं को गहराई से स्पर्श किया।
- As the show ended and lights flooded back into the theatre, there was a palpable sense of **catharsis — the kind that good performing arts leave behind**. प्रदर्शन समाप्त होने और सभागार में प्रकाश पुनः फैलने के बाद वहाँ **भावनात्मक शुद्धि एवं आत्ममुक्ति** की स्पष्ट अनुभूति थी, जैसा प्रभाव उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन कलाएँ छोड़ जाती हैं।
- Yet, some women remained seated, quietly wiping off tears, taking a few extra moments to regain composure before rising to join the rest of the audience. फिर भी कुछ महिलाएँ अपनी आँखों से आँसू पोंछते हुए अपनी भावनाओं को संयत करने के लिए कुछ अतिरिक्त समय तक बैठी रहीं और उसके बाद ही अन्य दर्शकों के साथ बाहर निकलीं।
- **Manipur's gender equation reality** is complex. **मणिपुर में लैंगिक संबंधों की वास्तविकता** जटिल है।
- At one level, **women have historically been at the forefront of many social, economic and political upheavals**. एक स्तर पर महिलाएँ ऐतिहासिक रूप से अनेक **सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनीतिक आंदोलनों** के अग्रभाग में रही हैं।
- **Across both the hills and the valley, exclusive women-run markets thrive, and in the agrarian economy, men and women function as equal partners**. पर्वतीय और घाटी दोनों क्षेत्रों में पूर्णतः **महिलाओं द्वारा संचालित बाजार** फल-फूल रहे हैं और **कृषि आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था** में पुरुष तथा महिलाएँ समान भागीदार के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- The fact that the director of **Boong** is a woman reflects this sinew of **gender empowerment** too. यह तथ्य कि **बूंग** की निर्देशक एक महिला हैं, **महिला सशक्तिकरण** की इसी सशक्त परंपरा को प्रतिबिंबित करता है।
- The **Meira Paibi movement amongst Meiteis**, which also manifests under different nomenclatures amongst hill communities, is the most prominent alibi of Manipuri women's well-deserved image as **social torchbearers**. **मेइती समुदाय** के बीच चलने वाला **मेइरा पैबी आंदोलन**, जो पर्वतीय समुदायों में विभिन्न नामों से भी विद्यमान है, मणिपुरी महिलाओं की **सामाजिक पथप्रदर्शक** के रूप में स्थापित प्रतिष्ठा का सबसे प्रमुख उदाहरण है।
- During the **colonial period**, in 1904 and again in 1939, women rose to protest against **British policies**, ultimately forcing their withdrawal. **औपनिवेशिक काल** में 1904 और पुनः 1939 में महिलाओं ने **ब्रिटिश नीतियों** के विरुद्ध व्यापक विरोध प्रदर्शन किए, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ब्रिटिश प्रशासन को अपने निर्णयों से पीछे हटना पड़ा।
- These uprisings are now commemorated as **Nupi Lan or Women's War**. इन आंदोलनों को आज **नूपी लान** अथवा **महिला युद्ध** के रूप में स्मरण किया जाता है।



- The first was against the **forced labour** of Manipuri men to rebuild the **British Residency in Imphal**, which had been gutted in an arson attack by disgruntled elements.
पहला आंदोलन मणिपुरी पुरुषों से बलपूर्वक श्रम कराकर इम्फाल स्थित ब्रिटिश रेजिडेंसी के पुनर्निर्माण के विरुद्ध था, जिसे असंतुष्ट तत्वों द्वारा किए गए आगजनी हमले में नष्ट कर दिया गया था।
- The second opposed the **large-scale export of rice** from the State to support the **British World War II effort**, which led to severe shortages for local consumption.
दूसरा आंदोलन राज्य से बड़े पैमाने पर चावल के निर्यात के विरुद्ध था, जो ब्रिटिश द्वितीय विश्वयुद्ध प्रयासों के समर्थन हेतु किया जा रहा था और जिसके कारण स्थानीय उपभोग के लिए गंभीर खाद्यान्न संकट उत्पन्न हो गया था।

Patriarchy persists पितृसत्ता अब भी बनी हुई है

- Despite this, there are strongly entrenched **gender-oppressive patriarchal norms** which have persisted.
इसके बावजूद लैंगिक उत्पीड़नकारी पितृसत्तात्मक मान्यताएँ गहराई से जड़ें जमाए हुए हैं और आज भी बनी हुई हैं।
- This is especially true among **Meiteis**, who continue to carry the albatrosses of a **feudal past**. यह विशेष रूप से मेइती समुदाय में दिखाई देता है, जो अब भी अपने सामंती अतीत के बोझ को ढो रहा है।
- Polygamy is arguably the most troubling.**
बहुविवाह संभवतः सबसे अधिक चिंताजनक प्रथा है।
- The practice persists since it is normalised, even though not encouraged.
यह प्रथा इसलिए बनी हुई है क्योंकि इसे सामाजिक रूप से सामान्य मान लिया गया है, भले ही इसे प्रोत्साहित न किया जाता हो।
- This is particularly common among the **elite section**, where keeping mistresses or even taking more than one wife, is not uncommon.
यह विशेष रूप से अभिजात वर्ग में अधिक प्रचलित है, जहाँ उपपत्नी रखना या एक से अधिक विवाह करना असामान्य नहीं माना जाता।
- Many of Manipur's current set of **Ministers and MLAs** would be guilty of this **despicable feudal legacy**.
मणिपुर के अनेक वर्तमान मंत्री और विधायक इस निंदनीय सामंती विरासत के दोषी माने जा सकते हैं।
- The hurt and humiliation endured by women who suffer this fate are profound.
इस स्थिति का सामना करने वाली महिलाओं द्वारा सहा जाने वाला दुःख और अपमान अत्यंत गहरा होता है।
- Even those who are spared often live with anxiety over the vulnerability of their daughters and loved ones.
यह पीड़ा न झेलने वाली महिलाएँ भी अपनी बेटियों और प्रियजनों की असुरक्षा को लेकर निरंतर चिंता में रहती हैं।
- As the practice has become normalised within society, this deeply gendered anguish largely remains invisible.
चूँकि यह प्रथा समाज में सामान्यीकृत हो चुकी है, इसलिए यह गहरी लैंगिक पीड़ा प्रायः अदृश्य बनी रहती है।
- Women often become **gatekeepers of the patriarchal order** that oppresses them, reflecting what **Frantz Fanon** characterised as the silent desire of the oppressed to emulate their oppressors.
महिलाएँ अनेक बार उसी पितृसत्तात्मक व्यवस्था की संरक्षक बन जाती हैं जो उनका दमन करती है, जो फ्रान्ज़ फैनन द्वारा वर्णित उस प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है जिसमें उत्पीड़ित लोग अपने उत्पीड़कों का अनुकरण करने लगते हैं।
- Hence, even **women vigilantes** tend to overlook men who betray marital fidelity, accepting it as destiny.



इसी कारण **महिला प्रहरी समूह** भी वैवाहिक निष्ठा भंग करने वाले पुरुषों को प्रायः अनदेखा कर देते हैं और इसे नियति मान लेते हैं।

- However, if a woman were to make this breach, these same vigilantes often become the **harshes moral police**.

किन्तु यदि कोई महिला ऐसा करे, तो यही समूह सबसे कठोर **नैतिक प्रहरी** बन जाते हैं।

- Change, however, may not be too far away.
हालाँकि परिवर्तन अब बहुत दूर नहीं प्रतीत होता।
- Although, no study has yet established a connection, rising cases of **divorce among younger Meiteis** may be a herald of Fanon's "**mailed fist**".
यद्यपि अभी तक किसी अध्ययन ने प्रत्यक्ष संबंध स्थापित नहीं किया है, फिर भी **युवा मेइती समुदाय में बढ़ते तलाक के मामले** फैनन की "**लोहे की मुट्ठी**" जैसी प्रतिक्रिया के संकेतक हो सकते हैं।

- In the spirit that good art is hiding good art, **Boong** succeeds in drawing up a non-dogmatic but piercing portrayal of this inherent **gender injustice**.

श्रेष्ठ कला की परंपरा का पालन करते हुए **बूंग** इस अंतर्निहित **लैंगिक अन्याय** का गैर-उपदेशात्मक किन्तु अत्यंत मार्मिक चित्रण प्रस्तुत करने में सफल होती है।

- **Boong's father, Joykumar** — a carpenter and timber trader played by **Hamom Sadananda** — works along the **India-Myanmar border**, in the town of **Moreh** and the neighbouring township of **Tamu** in Myanmar.

बूंग के पिता **जॉयकुमार**, जिनकी भूमिका **हामोम सदानंद** ने निभाई है, एक बढई और लकड़ी व्यापारी हैं जो **भारत-म्यांमार सीमा** पर स्थित **मोरेह** तथा म्यांमार के पड़ोसी नगर **तामू** में कार्य करते हैं।

- At some point, the family loses contact with him and for a prolonged period.
एक समय ऐसा आता है जब परिवार का उनसे लंबे समय तक संपर्क टूट जाता है।
- Many presume he is dead or has joined the insurgents, but the family refuses to give up.
बहुत से लोग मान लेते हैं कि वह मर चुके हैं या विद्रोही समूहों में शामिल हो गए हैं, किन्तु परिवार आशा नहीं छोड़ता।
- **Boong**, or **Brojendro**, played by **Gugun Kipgen**, yearns to find his father and bring the good news to his mother **Mandakini**, played by **Bala Hijam**.
बूंग अथवा **ब्रोजेन्द्रो**, जिसकी भूमिका **गुगुन कपगेन** ने निभाई है, अपने पिता को खोजकर यह शुभ समाचार अपनी माँ **मंदाकिनी** तक पहुँचाना चाहता है, जिनकी भूमिका **बाला हिजाम** ने निभाई है।
- On one occasion the boy dupes his mother that his school was organising a **two-day excursion** to **Ukhrul district** and would like to be part of the tour.
एक अवसर पर वह अपनी माँ से कहता है कि उसके विद्यालय द्वारा **उखरूल जिले** की दो दिवसीय शैक्षणिक **यात्रा** आयोजित की जा रही है और वह उसमें भाग लेना चाहता है।
- He then slips away to make a trip to **Moreh** instead.
किन्तु वह गुप्त रूप से **मोरेह** की यात्रा पर निकल जाता है।
- His bosom friend, a **Manipuri Marwari, Raju Agarwal**, played by **Angom Sanamatum**, follows him there out of concern.
उसका घनिष्ठ मित्र, एक **मणिपुरी मारवाड़ी राजू अग्रवाल**, जिसकी भूमिका **अंगोम सनामतुम** ने निभाई है, चिंता के कारण उसके पीछे वहाँ पहुँच जाता है।
- The families of the boys learn of the trip but too late.
लड़कों के परिवारों को इस यात्रा की जानकारी मिलती है, लेकिन तब तक बहुत देर हो चुकी होती है।
- The two boys' adventure is thrilling.
दोनों लड़कों का साहसिक अभियान अत्यंत रोमांचक है।
- Boong traces his father in **Tamu**, but to his horror, discovers that he has remarried and has a daughter.
बूंग **तामू** में अपने पिता को खोज लेता है, किन्तु यह जानकर स्तब्ध रह जाता है कि उन्होंने पुनर्विवाह कर लिया है और उनकी एक पुत्री भी है।



- The **final scene** is powerful.
अंतिम दृश्य अत्यंत प्रभावशाली है।
- Boong finds his mother, on crutches after a scooter accident, waiting for him at their courtyard.
बूंग अपनी माँ को, जो स्कूटर दुर्घटना के बाद बैसाखियों के सहारे चल रही होती हैं, घर के आँगन में उसकी प्रतीक्षा करते हुए पाता है।
- Both know the truth — and both know that the other knows.
दोनों सत्य जानते हैं — और दोनों यह भी जानते हैं कि दूसरा भी सत्य से परिचित है।
- The boy tells his mother bluntly, “**Baba is dead.**”
बालक अपनी माँ से स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहता है, “**बाबा मर चुके हैं।**”
- The camera then closes in on her.
इसके बाद कैमरा माँ के चेहरे पर केंद्रित हो जाता है।
- She pauses a while before asking in resignation, “**Is he doing well?**”
वह कुछ क्षण रुककर शांत स्वीकृति के साथ पूछती है, “**क्या वह ठीक हैं?**”
- Boong replies, “**Yes,**” and hugs her.
बूंग उत्तर देता है, “**हाँ,**” और उन्हें गले लगा लेता है।
- Bala’s** breathing deepens; her face reddens, and her eyes well up.
बाला की साँसें गहरी हो जाती हैं, चेहरा लाल पड़ जाता है और आँखें आँसुओं से भर उठती हैं।
- She is forced to confront what she had long suspected but tried not to believe.
उन्हें उस सत्य का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिसका उन्हें लंबे समय से संदेह था, किन्तु जिसे स्वीकारने से वह बचती रही थीं।
- Not a word is spoken, yet her **pain, humiliation, anger and resilience** surface.
एक भी शब्द बोले बिना उनका **दर्द, अपमान, क्रोध और धैर्य** स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आ जाता है।
- She remains standing for the sake of her son.
वह अपने पुत्र के लिए दृढ़ बनी रहती हैं।
- For those sensitive enough to hear it, her **silent, agonised scream** is deafening.
जो लोग उसे समझ पाने की संवेदनशीलता रखते हैं, उनके लिए उसकी **मौन और पीड़ाभरी चीख** अत्यंत तीव्र प्रतीत होती है।
- For many others who have endured this betrayal themselves, or have witnessed loved ones suffer it, **Bala’s silent scream** becomes their own.
जो लोग स्वयं इस विश्वासघात को झेल चुके हैं या अपने प्रियजनों को इससे पीड़ित होते देख चुके हैं, उनके लिए **बाला की मौन चीख** उनकी अपनी चीख बन जाती है।
- Powerful as this portrayal of an invisible oppressive order is, life may well settle back into its old, abnormal normal.
यद्यपि यह अदृश्य दमनकारी व्यवस्था का अत्यंत प्रभावशाली चित्रण है, फिर भी जीवन संभवतः पुनः अपनी पुरानी असामान्य सामान्यता में लौट जाएगा।
- Yet, for many, **Bala’s silent scream** affirms that **Boong** is, at its heart, a desperate appeal for **social introspection**.
फिर भी अनेक लोगों के लिए **बाला की मौन चीख** यह स्थापित करती है कि **बूंग** मूलतः **सामाजिक आत्ममंथन** के लिए की गई एक मार्मिक और गहन अपील है।

GS Paper II: Polity		19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
19J6	Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act टेलीग्राम की याचिका ने एक बार फिर सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69A को चर्चा के केंद्र में ला दिया है।	



Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act

GS II: Polity

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

The Centre's move to block Telegram has once again drawn attention to Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, a provision that gives the government the power to direct intermediaries to block access to online information under specified circumstances.

The temporary ban on the platform, which was initially misused for the medical entrance examination paper leak and misinformation campaigns, was aimed at curbing another paper leak during the NEET-UG retest. Telegram has approached the Delhi High Court challenging the ban, which is set to last till June 22, and the judgment has been reserved.

Section 69A of the IT Act



Telegram has approached the Delhi HC challenging the ban, which is set to last till June 22.

authorises the Union government to block public access to any information via any computer resource, including applications and websites, if it is satisfied that such blocking is necessary "in the interest of India's sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence".

But the restriction may interfere with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which protects freedom of speech and expression. Therefore, the orders under Section 69A must be issued with the procedural safeguards established by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access to Information by the Public) Rules, 2009.

In *Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India*, the Supreme Court examined the validity of the indefinite blanket ban on internet services in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, and the court held that freedom of speech and expression, as well as freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade, business, or occupation over the internet, are protected by Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g). The court also concluded that orders restricting internet access must

meet the proportionality test: they must be required, use the least restrictive measures available, and be open to judicial review.

Article 19(1)(g) provides the right to practice any profession or to engage in any occupation, trade, or business. A ban on a platform that has about 150 million users in India will disrupt many creators, educators, and entrepreneurs running broadcast groups, and prevent them from maintaining communication with their subscribers. It thus limits one's ability to earn a living.

Section 79 of the IT Act also establishes intermediary safe harbour provision, which means platforms are not liable for third-party content if they exercise due diligence, follow the Information Technology Rules, 2021, and act quickly upon receiving knowledge of illegal content.

19J6. Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act
टेलीग्राम की याचिका ने एक बार फिर सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69A को चर्चा के केंद्र में ला दिया है।

- The Centre's move to block Telegram has once again drawn attention to **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000**, a provision that gives the government the power to direct intermediaries to block access to online information under specified circumstances. केंद्र सरकार द्वारा टेलीग्राम पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के कदम ने एक बार फिर सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 की धारा 69ए की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। यह एक ऐसा प्रावधान है जो सरकार को निर्धारित परिस्थितियों में मध्यस्थ मंचों को ऑनलाइन सूचना तक पहुँच अवरुद्ध करने का निर्देश देने की शक्ति प्रदान करता है।
- **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act** authorises the **Union government** to block public access to any information via any computer resource, including applications and websites, if it is satisfied that such blocking is necessary in the interest of **India's sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order**, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any **cognizable offence**.



सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69ए केंद्र सरकार को यह अधिकार देती है कि वह अनुप्रयोगों और वेबसाइटों सहित किसी भी संगणकीय संसाधन के माध्यम से उपलब्ध सूचना तक सार्वजनिक पहुँच को अवरुद्ध कर सकती है, यदि उसे यह संतोष हो कि ऐसा करना भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता, भारत की रक्षा, राज्य की सुरक्षा, विदेशी राज्यों के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध, लोक व्यवस्था अथवा किसी संज्ञेय अपराध के लिए उकसावे को रोकने के हित में आवश्यक है।

- But the restriction may interfere with **Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution**, which protects **freedom of speech and expression**.
किन्तु ऐसा प्रतिबंध संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(1)(क) से टकरा सकता है, जो वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा करता है।
- Therefore, the **orders under Section 69A must be issued with the procedural safeguards established by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access to Information by the Public) Rules, 2009**.
इसलिए धारा 69ए के अंतर्गत जारी आदेशों को सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (जनता द्वारा सूचना तक पहुँच अवरुद्ध करने की प्रक्रिया एवं सुरक्षा उपाय) नियम, 2009 में निर्धारित प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपायों का पालन करते हुए जारी किया जाना चाहिए।
- In **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India**, the **Supreme Court** examined the validity of the indefinite blanket ban on internet services in the erstwhile State of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
अनुराधा भसीन बनाम भारत संघ मामले में उच्चतम न्यायालय ने पूर्ववर्ती जम्मू और कश्मीर राज्य में इंटरनेट सेवाओं पर लगाए गए अनिश्चितकालीन व्यापक प्रतिबंध की वैधता की समीक्षा की थी।
- The court held that **freedom of speech and expression**, as well as freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade, business, or occupation over the internet, are protected by **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g)**.
न्यायालय ने कहा कि वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता तथा इंटरनेट के माध्यम से किसी व्यवसाय, व्यापार, पेशे या रोजगार को संचालित करने की स्वतंत्रता, अनुच्छेद 19(1)(क) और अनुच्छेद 19(1)(ग) द्वारा संरक्षित है।
- The court also concluded that orders restricting internet access must meet the **proportionality test**; they must be required, use the **least restrictive measures** available, and be open to **judicial review**.
न्यायालय ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि इंटरनेट पहुँच को प्रतिबंधित करने वाले आदेशों को आनुपातिकता परीक्षण पर खरा उतरना चाहिए; वे आवश्यक हों, उपलब्ध न्यूनतम प्रतिबंधात्मक उपायों का उपयोग करें तथा न्यायिक समीक्षा के लिए खुले हों।
- **Article 19(1)(g)** provides the right to practice any profession or to engage in any occupation, trade, or business.
अनुच्छेद 19(1)(ग) प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को किसी भी पेशे का पालन करने अथवा किसी व्यवसाय, व्यापार या रोजगार में संलग्न होने का अधिकार प्रदान करता है।
- **Section 79 of the Information Technology Act** also establishes the **intermediary safe harbour provision**, which means platforms are not liable for **third-party content** if they exercise **due diligence**, follow the **Information Technology Rules, 2021**, and act quickly upon receiving knowledge of illegal content.
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 79 में मध्यस्थ सुरक्षित आश्रय प्रावधान भी निहित है। इसके अनुसार यदि मंच उचित सतर्कता बरतते हैं, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी नियम, 2021 का पालन करते हैं तथा अवैध सामग्री की जानकारी मिलने पर शीघ्र कार्रवाई करते हैं, तो उन्हें तृतीय पक्ष सामग्री के लिए उत्तरदायी नहीं ठहराया जाएगा।

GS Paper II: Governance	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	PM to release ₹18,880 crore for farmers tomorrow



	प्रधानमंत्री कल किसानों के लिए ₹18,880 करोड़ जारी करेंगे।
19J6	Assam NHM confirms seven Japanese encephalitis deaths असम राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (एनएचएम) ने जापानी एन्सेफलाइटिस से सात मौतों की पुष्टि की।
19J6	PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees प्रधानमंत्री कर्मचारियों को ₹2,400 करोड़ की प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान करेंगे।
19J6	NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges एनएफएचएस-6 पोषण संबंधी चुनौतियों के बीच प्रगति को दर्शाता है
19J6	What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah? निपाह के संदर्भ में केरल की जोखिम-प्रोफाइल क्या है?



GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

PM to release ₹18,880 crore for farmers tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 23rd instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on Saturday from Tarakeswar, West Bengal. Over 9.44 crore eligible farmers will receive ₹2,000 each, and ₹18,880 crore will be transferred directly into beneficiary accounts. "Over 2.18 crore women farmers will receive the benefit," the Union Agriculture Ministry said in a release. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh

PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will disburse ₹2,400 crore worth incentives under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) here on Friday. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told presspersons here on Thursday that 15 lakh beneficiaries will receive the incentive as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

He added that Mr. Modi will interact with a few first-time employees and employers benefiting under PM-VBRY. The total outlay for the scheme is ₹99,446 crore, and is targeted to create 3.5 crore jobs in two years. He said first-time employees will get benefits worth ₹15,000 and employers will receive up to ₹3,000 per month per new employee. The scheme is to boost employment in the manufacturing sector, he said.

19J6. PM to release ₹18,880 crore for farmers tomorrow

प्रधानमंत्री कल किसानों के लिए ₹18,880 करोड़ जारी करेंगे।

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 23rd instalment of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme** on Saturday from Tarakeswar, West Bengal.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार को पश्चिम बंगाल के तारकेश्वर से प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि योजना की 23वीं किस्त जारी करेंगे।

- Over 9.44 crore eligible farmers will receive ₹2,000 each, and ₹18,880 crore will be transferred directly into beneficiary accounts.

इस अवसर पर 9.44 करोड़ से अधिक पात्र किसानों को प्रत्येक के खाते में 2,000 रुपये प्रदान किए जाएंगे तथा कुल 18,880 करोड़ रुपये सीधे लाभार्थियों के बैंक खातों में स्थानांतरित किए जाएंगे।

- Mr. Modi will also launch the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** and the **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme**.

प्रधानमंत्री प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना तथा पुनर्गठित मौसम आधारित फसल बीमा योजना का भी शुभारंभ करेंगे।

19J6. Assam NHM confirms seven Japanese encephalitis deaths

असम राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (एनएचएम) ने जापानी एन्सेफलाइटिस से सात मौतों की पुष्टि की।

- Seven people have died of **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)** in Assam since the beginning of the year, while 32 others have died of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** as of June 17, according to a statement issued by the **State unit of the National Health Mission (NHM)** on Thursday.

असम में वर्ष की शुरुआत से अब तक जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर के कारण सात लोगों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है, जबकि 17 जून तक तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ सिंड्रोम के कारण 32 अन्य लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है। यह जानकारी गुरुवार को राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन की राज्य इकाई द्वारा जारी एक वक्तव्य में दी गई।

- Almost 62% of all Japanese Encephalitis deaths in India since 2018 have been reported from Assam, according to national data.



राष्ट्रीय आँकड़ों के अनुसार, वर्ष 2018 के बाद से भारत में जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर से होने वाली कुल मृत्यु का लगभग 62 प्रतिशत हिस्सा असम में दर्ज किया गया है।

- Outbreaks usually occur between **May and October**, with the peak period being **July and August**.

इस रोग के प्रकोप सामान्यतः मई से अक्टूबर के बीच देखे जाते हैं, जबकि इसका सर्वाधिक प्रभाव जुलाई और अगस्त में होता है।

- Noting that the two distinct conditions are not interchangeable, **Assam NHM Executive Director Abhijit Sarma** clarified that **Japanese Encephalitis** is one cause of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome**, but not all **AES** cases are caused by **JE**.

इन दोनों अलग-अलग चिकित्सीय अवस्थाओं को एक-दूसरे का पर्याय न मानने की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हुए असम राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के कार्यकारी निदेशक अभिजीत शर्मा ने स्पष्ट किया कि जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर, तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ सिंड्रोम के कारणों में से एक है, किन्तु तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ सिंड्रोम के सभी मामले जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर के कारण नहीं होते हैं।

19J6. PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees

प्रधानमंत्री कर्मचारियों को ₹2,400 करोड़ की प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान करेंगे।

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will disburse **₹2,400 crore worth incentives** under the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)** on Friday.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शुक्रवार को प्रधानमंत्री विकसित भारत रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत 2,400 करोड़ रुपये की प्रोत्साहन राशि वितरित करेंगे।

- The **total outlay** for the scheme is **₹99,446 crore**, and it is targeted to create **3.5 crore jobs in two years**.

इस योजना का कुल परिव्यय 99,446 करोड़ रुपये है तथा इसका लक्ष्य दो वर्षों में 3.5 करोड़ रोजगार अवसरों का सृजन करना है।

- **Employers will receive up to ₹3,000 per month per new employee.**

नियोक्ताओं को प्रत्येक नए कर्मचारी के लिए प्रतिमाह 3,000 रुपये तक की सहायता राशि प्रदान की जाएगी।

- The scheme is intended to boost **employment in the manufacturing sector**.

इस योजना का उद्देश्य विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में रोजगार सृजन को बढ़ावा देना है।



NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges

GS II: Governance

The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 report presents a mixed progress card for India, offering reasons to cheer while also presenting clear signals to pause and reflect. On the bright side, stunting levels (for children under five), which indicate long periods of sub-optimal food intake with other deprivations, have declined from 35.5% to 29.3%. Though a modest decline, any gain is welcome given the complexity of the task that involves strengthening women's access to knowledge and resources, improved water and sanitation, and ensuring access to healthy affordable diets. Wasting levels that indicate whether children have adequate weight for their height, show no change, except for severe forms of wasting. The pattern across indicators makes one thing clear: gains in child nutrition are due to better health-care access, immunisation coverage, maternal education and improvements in housing, water and sanitation, while feeding practices and access to quality diets remain weak and continue to limit progress.

Institutional births have reached 90%, with public health facilities accounting for 58% of births; 91% of deliveries were attended by skilled medical personnel and 95% of mothers were visited at least once by health personnel during the antenatal period.

Equally gratifying is vaccination coverage for children – 87% of children between 12 and 23 months of age are now fully vaccinated. Since private facilities account for only about 3% of vaccinations, the high coverage reflects the strong outreach efforts of frontline workers – Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi workers (AWW), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM). These national averages hide regional disparities, but access to health services has improved across States.

Poor feeding practices

Despite the high rate of institutional births, only about 50% of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of life, indicating that the health system must intensify efforts to support early initiation of breastfeeding. About 60% of children between the ages of six to eight months, receive solid/semi-solid food, while only 15% between six to 23 months receive an adequate diet. Improving the timely initiation of complementary feeding and ensuring that all children receive an adequate diet are key to reducing undernutrition. In India, complementary feeding is closely linked to the



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annaprāsana ritual, typically performed between six and 12 months – any delay will result in growth faltering.

A growing and under-explored determinant of child nutrition in India is maternal time poverty. Women perform multiple roles within and outside the home. NFHS-6 reports that about 30% of women engaged in paid work during the past 12 months, but this significantly underestimates their overall work burden. A large proportion of women in informal economies engage in unpaid family labour, in farming/fisheries, livestock care, and domestic chores. There are no clear estimates of the percentage of young mothers with children between six-23 months who are in the work force and there is very little documentation on how women manage child feeding with their other work roles. In many rural areas, in the absence of crèches, women leave their infants and young children with older family members or the child's older sibling (usually a girl), impacting both breastfeeding and complementary feeding, when they are out in the fields.

The processed food trap

Recent consumer expenditure survey results show that households are spending less on cereals and more on dairy, processed foods and beverages, with the latter two forming a large part of the expenditure. This creates an impression of diversity which is not the same as nutritional adequacy. A nutritionally adequate diet would have to follow the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) food-based dietary guidelines. Unfortunately, for a sizeable section of the population, a nutritious diet consisting of pulses, millets, fruits and vegetables, animal foods and nuts is unaffordable. Processed foods, in contrast, are easily available, ready to eat and packaged in affordable packs.

The first 1,000 days – from pregnancy to a child's second birthday – form the most critical window for healthy physical and cognitive development (most brain growth occurs in the first five years). We need disaggregated data for the 0-2 age group, currently unavailable, as stunting typically peaks during the second year of life and growth faltering often begins much earlier. The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan programme currently focuses on identification and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children. Prevention of growth faltering must

receive greater priority. Early identification of stagnation in weight or length, with timely counselling and support to mothers, is central to prevention.

Empowering frontline nutrition workers

Monthly anthropometric data for young children is collected by AWWs. Strengthening their skills in data collection would improve data quality. The huge volume of collected data should be analysed locally and feedback provided to the ASHAs and AWWs for timely action.

For this task, recruitment of a nutritionist and a data analyst at the district level is needed. Where possible, digital tools can be used to supplement in person counselling, by providing both workers and mothers practical information on how, when and what to feed young children at different ages, based on locally available healthy foods.

Behaviour change communication efforts should be culturally grounded, integrating practices such as annaprāsana to reinforce timely and appropriate complementary feeding. Joint capacity building of AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs in assessing feeding practices and advising families with effective communication materials on improving diets using locally available, affordable foods would enhance the quality of counselling and reduce the risk of undernutrition.

Multisectoral convergence is critical to addressing child malnutrition, yet it remains weak. Child nutrition should be a standing agenda item in Gram Sabha and Panchayat discussions. Local planning must prioritise improvements in Anganwadi infrastructure, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities, as these foundational services directly influence child growth and health.

Engaging men in childcare, promoting shared domestic responsibilities, and strengthening support to mothers can significantly enhance feeding and caregiving behaviours. Many non-governmental organisations in India have developed crèche models that combine childcare, nutrition and early learning, and can be run by trained local women. From a gender perspective, crèches are not only child development interventions; they are social infrastructure that enables women's economic participation and reduces unpaid care burdens. With coordinated action across sectors and communities, meaningful and sustained progress in child nutrition is entirely achievable.

Better health
care alone
cannot
overcome
India's nutrition
challenges

19J6. NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges

एनएफएचएस-6 पोषण संबंधी चुनौतियों के बीच प्रगति को दर्शाता है

- Institutional births have reached 90%**, with public health facilities accounting for **58%** of births; **91%** of deliveries were attended by skilled medical personnel and **95%** of mothers were visited at least once by health personnel during the antenatal period.
संस्थागत प्रसव का स्तर 90% तक पहुँच गया है, जिनमें से 58% प्रसव सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में हुए; 91% प्रसव कुशल स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की देखरेख में सम्पन्न हुए तथा 95% माताओं से गर्भावस्था के दौरान कम-से-कम एक बार स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों ने संपर्क किया।
- Equally gratifying is **vaccination coverage for children — 87% of children between 12 and 23 months of age are now fully vaccinated.**
इसी प्रकार बच्चों का टीकाकरण कवरेज भी संतोषजनक है — 12 से 23 माह आयु वर्ग के 87% बच्चे अब पूर्ण रूप से टीकाकृत हैं।
- Since **private facilities account for only about 3% of vaccinations**, the high coverage reflects the strong outreach efforts of frontline workers — **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers (AWW), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM).**
चूँकि निजी संस्थानों का योगदान केवल लगभग 3% टीकाकरण तक सीमित है, इसलिए यह उच्च कवरेज अग्रिम पंक्ति के कार्यकर्ताओं — मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (ASHA), आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता (AWW) और सहायक नर्स दाई (ANM) — के प्रभावी प्रयासों को दर्शाता है।

Poor feeding practices

अपर्याप्त आहार संबंधी व्यवहार

- Despite the high rate of **institutional births**, only about **50%** of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of life, indicating that the health system must intensify efforts to support early initiation of breastfeeding.
संस्थागत प्रसवों की उच्च दर के बावजूद, केवल लगभग **50%** नवजात शिशुओं को जन्म के पहले घंटे के भीतर स्तनपान कराया जाता है, जो दर्शाता है कि स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को शीघ्र स्तनपान प्रारम्भ कराने के लिए अपने प्रयास और तेज करने होंगे।
- About **60%** of children between the ages of **six to eight months**, receive solid/semi-solid food, while only **15%** between **six to 23 months** receive an adequate diet.
छह से आठ माह आयु के लगभग **60%** बच्चों को ठोस अथवा अर्ध-ठोस आहार प्राप्त होता है, जबकि छह से 23 माह आयु वर्ग के केवल **15%** बच्चों को पर्याप्त आहार मिल पाता है।
- In India, complementary feeding is closely linked to the **annaprasana ritual**, typically performed between **six and 12 months** — any delay will result in growth faltering.
भारत में पूरक आहार की शुरुआत अन्नप्राशन संस्कार से घनिष्ठ रूप से जुड़ी होती है, जो सामान्यतः छह से 12 माह की आयु के बीच सम्पन्न किया जाता है — इसमें किसी भी प्रकार की देरी बच्चे की वृद्धि में अवरोध उत्पन्न कर सकती है।
- NFHS-6 reports that about **30%** of women engaged in paid work during the past 12 months, but this significantly underestimates their overall work burden.
NFHS-6 के अनुसार, पिछले 12 महीनों के दौरान लगभग **30%** महिलाएँ वेतनभोगी कार्यों में संलग्न थीं, किंतु यह उनके कुल कार्यभार का वास्तविक आकलन नहीं दर्शाता।
- In many rural areas, in the absence of **crèches**, women leave their infants and young children with older family members or the child's older sibling (usually a girl), impacting both breastfeeding and complementary feeding, when they are out in the fields.
अनेक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शिशु देखभाल केंद्रों (Crèches) के अभाव में महिलाएँ खेतों में कार्य करने जाते समय अपने शिशुओं और छोटे बच्चों को परिवार के बड़े सदस्यों या बच्चे के बड़े भाई-बहन (अधिकतर लड़की) के पास छोड़ देती हैं, जिससे स्तनपान और पूरक आहार दोनों प्रभावित होते हैं।

The processed food trap

प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों का जाल

- The first **1,000 days** — from pregnancy to a child's second birthday — form the most critical window for healthy physical and cognitive development (most brain growth occurs in the first five years).
पहले **1,000 दिन** — अर्थात् गर्भावस्था से लेकर बच्चे के दूसरे जन्मदिन तक — स्वस्थ शारीरिक और संज्ञानात्मक विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अवधि होते हैं (मस्तिष्क का अधिकांश विकास जीवन के पहले पाँच वर्षों में होता है)।
- The **Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan** programme currently focuses on identification and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children.
प्रधानमंत्री समग्र पोषण योजना (POSHAN Abhiyaan) वर्तमान में गंभीर रूप से कुपोषित बच्चों की पहचान और पुनर्वास पर केंद्रित है।
- Monthly **anthropometric data** for young children is collected by **AWWs**.
छोटे बच्चों के मासिक शारीरिक माप संबंधी आँकड़े (Anthropometric Data) आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं (AWWs) द्वारा एकत्र किए जाते हैं।
- Behaviour change communication** efforts should be culturally grounded, integrating practices such as **annaprasana** to reinforce timely and appropriate complementary feeding.

व्यवहार परिवर्तन संचार (Behaviour Change Communication) के प्रयास सांस्कृतिक रूप से आधारित होने चाहिए तथा अन्नप्राशन जैसी परंपराओं को शामिल करना चाहिए, ताकि समय पर और उचित पूरक आहार को प्रोत्साहन मिल सके।

- Joint capacity building of AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs in assessing feeding practices and advising families with effective communication materials on improving diets using locally available, affordable foods would enhance the quality of counselling and reduce the risk of undernutrition.

AWWs, ASHAs और ANMs की संयुक्त क्षमता-वृद्धि, ताकि वे भोजन संबंधी व्यवहार का आकलन कर सकें और स्थानीय रूप से उपलब्ध किफायती खाद्य पदार्थों के माध्यम से आहार सुधार के लिए परिवारों को प्रभावी संचार सामग्री के साथ परामर्श दे सकें, परामर्श की गुणवत्ता को बेहतर बनाएगी तथा कुपोषण के जोखिम को कम करेगी।

- Multisectoral convergence is critical to addressing child malnutrition, yet it remains weak. बहु-क्षेत्रीय अभिसरण (Multisectoral Convergence) बाल कुपोषण से निपटने के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, किन्तु यह अभी भी कमजोर बना हुआ है।



What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah?

How do ecological and human factors intersect in driving spillovers? Will it be possible to prevent recurrent spillovers events? What has Kerala learnt from the multiple outbreaks? What makes Kerala's Nipah response effective in containing outbreaks? Why is Nipah classified as a high-threat pathogen within Kerala's zoonotic landscape?

CS II: Governance

EXPLAINER

C. Maya

The story so far:

Kerala's first encounter with Nipah virus (NiV) was in 2018, which identified 23 cases (including 18 lab-confirmed ones). The case fatality rate was 91% and there were two survivors. Since then, Kerala has recorded numerous spillovers of NiV.

In 2019, a lone case was identified in Ernakulam and the person survived the infection. In 2021, a 12-year-old boy was detected with the infection in Malappuram. In 2023, Nipah resulted in a cluster of six cases in Kozhikode. Two single cases each were reported from separate spillover events from Malappuram, in July and September in 2024. In 2025, four cases of Nipah were reported from two districts, Malappuram and Palakkad and epidemiological investigations reported that none of these cases appeared to be linked to each other, suggesting independent spillover events from the natural reservoir.

NiV has resurfaced again in Kozhikode now and a 43-year-old, who tested positive for the virus, is battling for life at Kozhikode Medical College.

Why is Nipah recurring in Kerala?

Research has consistently identified the Indian flying fox bat (*Pteropus medius*) or the fruit bat as the natural reservoir of Nipah virus in Kerala. Serological studies and viral detection in bats have shown that the virus is circulating in bat colonies in the State, particularly in northern districts.

In the 2018 Kerala outbreak, about 25% of the sampled bats were found to be positive for Nipah viral RNA and in subsequent events too, bat samples had revealed the presence of NiV.

The *Pteropus* species are found across the State and very near human settlements. A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.

Why is Nipah spillover risk highest in Kerala between April and September?

The recurrent NiV spillovers in Kerala with fair regularity suggest that the virus has established itself in the environment. The peak Nipah virus spillover risk in the State is from April to September, when the abundance of seasonal fruit-laden trees, increased bat foraging activity, bat breeding season and viral shedding dynamics coincide, increasing the risk of human exposure. This pattern has not changed in Kerala since the very first outbreak.

Because of the perennial natural virus reservoir in the State, it might not be possible to prevent recurrent NiV spillover events in Kerala.

What makes Kerala particularly vulnerable to zoonotic diseases?

It is the convergence of ecological, demographic, climatic factors and increased human-wildlife interface that makes Kerala a special lab for zoonotic diseases.

The Western Ghats, which stretches along the State's eastern flank, is one of the world's richest biodiversity spots and the tropical rainforest climate sustains



Renewed alert: Nipah virus has resurfaced in Kozhikode now, with a 43-year-old patient battling for life at the Government Medical College Hospital. A security guard installs a warning board outside Nipah isolation ward at the hospital on June 11, 2026. K.RAGESH

The WHO has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens

several hundred species of birds, reptiles and mammals. But only about 1,60,000 sq. km of this rich biosphere is formally protected. The high population density in Kerala and the increased presence of human settlements, plantations, and agricultural lands immediately adjacent to and along the forest fringes increases the opportunities for human-wildlife interactions and facilitates exposure to novel pathogens.

Scientific literature links emerging zoonoses to deforestation, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation and agricultural intensification. When wildlife habitats are disturbed, the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements and cultivated food sources. Scientists also warn that climate-related ecological disruptions could be important contributors to future spillover risk in the case of Nipah.

Nipah is just one among Kerala's broader zoonotic risk profile, which includes other pathogenic diseases like Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, rabies and avian influenza.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens (HTPs) – Nipah, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and KFD – which have a high mortality profile and high transmissibility with pandemic potential. Nipah has been classified by the WHO as a priority pathogen because of its lethality, unpredictability and its alarming

potential to cause widespread outbreaks or even the next pandemic.

How is Kerala responding to the recurrent threat of zoonotic events like Nipah?

The recurrent spillover incidents in Kerala has primed the health system about the importance of sharp and coordinated disease surveillance, rapid pathogen identification and containment efforts to ensure that human-to-human transmissions do not occur, resulting in a wide outbreak.

The 2018 brush with Nipah took the health system by surprise. Of the 23 cases identified in the outbreak, only the index case had contracted the infection in the community. All the remaining cases were due to nosocomial transmission (the spread of pathogens within healthcare facilities) in three different hospitals.

Kerala used the 2018 experience as an opportunity to develop a clinical algorithm for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen diagnostic and research capacities and augment standard infection control practices in hospitals. Clinicians in the State have become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion when they encounter unusual cases of acute encephalitis syndrome and to watch for clustering of cases.

The State now has a stringent system for monitoring all acute encephalitis cases of unknown etiology, screening of severe respiratory infections as well as early lab confirmation and detection of pathogens through its expanded Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) networks and intensive health emergency management measures.

In all its Nipah outbreaks, the health system's public health response has demonstrated that it can rapidly identify

the index case and swiftly contain the event. After the initial event, human-to-human transmission has occurred only once in 2023.

How is Kerala strengthening its preparedness against recurring Nipah outbreaks?

The recurrence of Nipah in Kerala and the State's swift public health response every time has been a demonstration of the resilience of the State's health system. With the State harbouring a natural reservoir of Nipah virus and a perennial risk of virus spillovers, the Health department's focus has been on creating community awareness about the situation so that the bat-human interface is reduced.

As part of its 'One Health' strategies, it has developed a massive community-based surveillance network supported by over 2.5 lakh trained volunteers at the grassroots, who track and report unusual disease trends, including unusual animal or bird deaths, to enable early detection of zoonotic outbreaks such as Nipah and Mpox.

In 2023, the State set up the One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience at Kozhikode, which has been focusing on building community awareness, resilience and capacity to minimise spillover events and to mount a swift response to any such events.

It has documented every single outbreak in Kerala and prioritised Nipah research for the future, focusing on disease epidemiology, sero surveillance studies and host factors research.

The State government, along with National Institute of Virology (NIV), is also involved in a project to develop indigenous monoclonal antibodies against Nipah, specific to the Bangladesh strain of NiV circulating in Kerala.

THE GIST

▼ A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.

▼ Kerala used the 2018 experience as an opportunity to develop a clinical algorithm for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen diagnostic and research capacities and augment standard infection control practices in hospitals.

▼ With the State harbouring a natural reservoir of Nipah virus and a perennial risk of virus spillovers, the Health department's focus has been on creating community awareness about the situation so that the bat-human interface is reduced.

19J6. What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah?

निपाह के संदर्भ में केरल की जोखिम-प्रोफाइल क्या है?

- **Kerala's first encounter with Nipah virus (NiV) was in 2018**, which identified **23 cases** (including **18 lab-confirmed ones**).

केरल में निपाह विषाणु का पहला प्रकोप वर्ष 2018 में सामने आया, जिसमें 23 मामलों की पहचान की गई थी, जिनमें 18 प्रयोगशाला द्वारा पुष्ट मामले शामिल थे।

- The **case fatality rate was 91%** and there were **two survivors**.
इस दौरान मृत्यु दर 91% थी और दो व्यक्ति जीवित बचे थे।

Why is Nipah recurring in Kerala?

केरल में निपाह संक्रमण बार-बार क्यों उभर रहा है?

- Research has consistently identified the **Indian flying fox bat (Pteropus medius)** or the **fruit bat as the natural reservoir of Nipah virus** in Kerala.
अनुसंधानों ने लगातार यह स्थापित किया है कि भारतीय उड़न लोमड़ी चमगादड़ (प्टेरोपस मेडियस) अथवा फलाहारी चमगादड़ केरल में निपाह विषाणु का प्राकृतिक भंडार है।
- Serological studies and viral detection in bats** have shown that the **virus is circulating in bat colonies**, particularly in **northern districts** of the State.
प्रतिरक्षी-विज्ञान संबंधी अध्ययनों तथा चमगादड़ों में विषाणु की पहचान से यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि यह विषाणु राज्य के चमगादड़ समूहों, विशेषकर उत्तरी जिलों में सक्रिय रूप से संचरित हो रहा है।
- The **Pteropus species** are found across the State and very near **human settlements**.
प्टेरोपस प्रजाति के चमगादड़ पूरे राज्य में तथा मानव बस्तियों के अत्यंत निकट पाए जाते हैं।
- A mapping study of **bat-roosting sites** by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of **zoonotic exposure**.
केरल वन अनुसंधान संस्थान के वन्यजीव जीवविज्ञान विभाग द्वारा किए गए चमगादड़ों के विश्राम स्थलों के मानचित्रण अध्ययन में पाया गया कि लगभग सभी विश्राम स्थल मानव आवासों के निकट स्थित हैं, जिससे पशुजन्य संक्रमण के जोखिम में वृद्धि होती है।
- The **peak Nipah virus spillover risk** in the State is from **April to September**, when the abundance of **seasonal fruit-laden trees**, increased **bat foraging activity**, **bat breeding season** and **viral shedding dynamics** coincide, increasing the risk of human exposure.
राज्य में निपाह विषाणु संक्रमण-प्रसार का सर्वाधिक जोखिम अप्रैल से सितंबर के बीच रहता है, जब मौसमी फलों से लदे वृक्षों की अधिकता, चमगादड़ों की भोजन खोज गतिविधियों में वृद्धि, प्रजनन काल तथा विषाणु उत्सर्जन की प्रक्रियाएँ एक साथ घटित होती हैं, जिससे मनुष्यों के संपर्क में आने का जोखिम बढ़ जाता है।

What makes Kerala particularly vulnerable to zoonotic diseases?

केरल को पशुजन्य रोगों के प्रति विशेष रूप से संवेदनशील क्या बनाता है?

- Scientific literature links emerging zoonoses to deforestation, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation and agricultural intensification.**
वैज्ञानिक साहित्य उभरते हुए पशुजन्य रोगों को वनों की कटाई, आवास विखंडन, नगरीकरण तथा कृषि के तीव्रीकरण से जोड़ता है।
- When wildlife habitats are disturbed, the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements and cultivated food sources.**
जब वन्यजीवों के आवासों में व्यवधान उत्पन्न होता है, तो पशु मानव बस्तियों और कृषि-आधारित खाद्य स्रोतों के अधिक निकट आने के लिए विवश हो जाते हैं।
- Scientists also warn that climate-related ecological disruptions could be important contributors to future spillover risk in the case of Nipah.**
वैज्ञानिक यह भी चेतावनी देते हैं कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से उत्पन्न पारिस्थितिकीय व्यवधान भविष्य में निपाह संक्रमण-प्रसार के जोखिम को बढ़ाने वाले महत्वपूर्ण कारक हो सकते हैं।
- Nipah is just one among Kerala's broader zoonotic risk profile, which includes other pathogenic diseases like Kyasanur Forest Disease, leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, rabies and avian influenza.**
निपाह केरल के व्यापक पशुजन्य रोग जोखिम परिदृश्य का केवल एक हिस्सा है, जिसमें क्यासानूर वन रोग,



लेप्टोस्पायरसिस, स्क्रब टाइफस, जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर, वेस्ट नाइल ज्वर, रेबीज़ तथा पक्षी इन्फ्लुएंजा जैसे अन्य रोग भी शामिल हैं।

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some **high threat pathogens (HTPs) — Nipah, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and KFD** — which have a high mortality profile and high transmissibility with pandemic potential.

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने केरल को कुछ उच्च-जोखिम रोगजनकों — निपाह, पक्षी इन्फ्लुएंजा (एच5एन1) और क्यासानूर वन रोग — के प्रति सतर्क रहने की चेतावनी दी है, क्योंकि इनमें उच्च मृत्यु-दर, तीव्र संचरण क्षमता तथा महामारी उत्पन्न करने की संभावना होती है।

- Nipah** has been classified by the **World Health Organisation** as a **priority pathogen** because of its **lethality, unpredictability and alarming potential** to cause widespread outbreaks or even the next pandemic.

निपाह को विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने एक प्राथमिकता प्राप्त रोगजनक के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है, क्योंकि इसकी घातकता, अप्रत्याशितता तथा व्यापक प्रकोप अथवा अगली महामारी उत्पन्न करने की चिंताजनक क्षमता अत्यधिक है।

How is Kerala responding to the recurrent threat of zoonotic events like Nipah?

केरल निपाह जैसी बार-बार होने वाली पशुजन्य रोग घटनाओं के खतरे का सामना कैसे कर रहा है?

- The recurrent **spillover incidents** in Kerala has primed the **health system** about the importance of **sharp and coordinated disease surveillance, rapid pathogen identification and containment efforts** to ensure that **human-to-human transmission** does not occur, resulting in a wide outbreak.

केरल में बार-बार होने वाली संक्रमण-प्रसार घटनाओं ने स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था को यह समझा दिया है कि प्रभावी और समन्वित रोग निगरानी, त्वरित रोगजनक पहचान तथा नियंत्रण उपाय कितने महत्वपूर्ण हैं, ताकि मनुष्य से मनुष्य में संक्रमण न फैल सके और व्यापक प्रकोप को रोका जा सके।

- All the remaining cases were due to **nosocomial transmission** (the spread of pathogens within healthcare facilities) in three different hospitals.

शेष सभी मामले अस्पतालजनित संक्रमण प्रसार के कारण हुए थे, अर्थात् स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों के भीतर रोगजनकों के फैलाव के परिणामस्वरूप, और ये तीन अलग-अलग अस्पतालों से जुड़े थे।

- Kerala used the **2018 experience** as an opportunity to develop a **clinical algorithm** for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen **diagnostic and research capacities** and augment **infection control practices** in hospitals.

केरल ने वर्ष 2018 के अनुभव को अवसर के रूप में उपयोग करते हुए तृतीयक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में उभरते विषाणुजनित संक्रमणों के लिए नैदानिक कार्य-पद्धति, निदान एवं अनुसंधान क्षमता तथा अस्पतालों में संक्रमण नियंत्रण व्यवस्थाओं को सुदृढ़ किया।

- The State now has a stringent system for monitoring all **acute encephalitis cases of unknown etiology**, screening of **severe respiratory infections** as well as early **laboratory confirmation** and detection of pathogens through its expanded **Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory network** and intensive health emergency management measures.

राज्य में अब अज्ञात कारणों वाले तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ मामलों, गंभीर श्वसन संक्रमणों की जाँच, शीघ्र प्रयोगशाला पुष्टि तथा विस्तारित विषाणु अनुसंधान एवं निदान प्रयोगशाला नेटवर्क के माध्यम से रोगजनकों की पहचान के लिए सुदृढ़ व्यवस्था स्थापित है।

- With the State harbouring a **natural reservoir of Nipah virus** and a perennial risk of **virus spillovers**, the Health Department's focus has been on creating **community awareness so that the bat-human interface is reduced**.

राज्य में निपाह विषाणु के प्राकृतिक भंडार की उपस्थिति तथा संक्रमण-प्रसार के स्थायी जोखिम को देखते हुए स्वास्थ्य विभाग का ध्यान सामुदायिक जागरूकता बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित है, ताकि चमगादड़-मानव संपर्क को कम किया जा सके।

- As part of its **One Health strategy**, it has developed a massive **community-based surveillance network** supported by over **2.5 lakh trained volunteers** at the grassroots. अपनी एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य रणनीति के अंतर्गत राज्य ने 2.5 लाख से अधिक प्रशिक्षित स्वयंसेवकों के सहयोग से एक विशाल सामुदायिक निगरानी तंत्र विकसित किया है।
- In 2023, the State set up the **One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience at Kozhikode**. वर्ष 2023 में राज्य ने कोझिकोड में निपाह अनुसंधान एवं सामुदायिक प्रत्यास्थता हेतु एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य केंद्र की स्थापना की।
- It has documented **every single outbreak** in Kerala and prioritised **Nipah research** for the future, focusing on **disease epidemiology, sero-surveillance studies** and **host factor research**. इसने केरल में हुए प्रत्येक प्रकोप का दस्तावेजीकरण किया है तथा भविष्य के लिए निपाह अनुसंधान को प्राथमिकता दी है, जिसमें रोग महामारी-विज्ञान, प्रतिरक्षी सर्वेक्षण अध्ययन और आश्रयदाता कारक अनुसंधान पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।
- The State government, along with the **National Institute of Virology**, is also involved in a project to develop **indigenous monoclonal antibodies** against Nipah, specific to the **Bangladesh strain** of the virus circulating in Kerala. राज्य सरकार, राष्ट्रीय विषाणु विज्ञान संस्थान के साथ मिलकर, केरल में प्रचलित विषाणु की बांग्लादेशीय उपप्रजाति के विरुद्ध स्वदेशी एकल-वंशीय प्रतिरक्षी प्रतिद्वन्द्वों के विकास की परियोजना पर भी कार्य कर रही है।

GS Paper II: International Relations		19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
19J6	U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord	
	ट्रम्प और पेज़ेशकियन द्वारा शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने के बाद अमेरिका ने ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर लगी नाकाबंदी हटा ली।	

U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Thursday lifted a blockade of Iranian ports imposed during the West Asia war after President Donald Trump signed a deal to end the conflict, as uncertainty surrounded planned talks in Switzerland aiming to take the accord further.

Mr. Trump and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a deal on Wednesday meant to end the war, with Tehran agreeing to dilute its enriched uranium in return for large-scale economic relief. The signing of the deal set in motion a 60-day period for talks on wider issues between the two sides.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtab Khamenei endorsed the talks with the U.S. in a statement.

It remained unclear if the two sides, who have had no diplomatic relations following the 1979 Islamic revolution, would hold a signing ceremony and talks in Switzerland on Friday as announced.

The U.S. forces lifted their parallel naval blockade of Iranian ports that had prevented ships from sailing to or from the Islamic republic, the U.S. military said, noting that its warships "will remain in the general area".

The U.S. military, which had enforced its own blockade after Iran shut



Trump and Pezeshkian sign the agreement to end the war. @WHITEHOUSE/X/AFP

Trump defends Iran deal; calls critics 'fools'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at critics of his agreement with Iran on Thursday, calling those who accused him of offering concessions to end the war "fools", ahead of negotiations in Switzerland on

implementing the deal.

Oil prices tumbled after the U.S. President and his Iranian counterpart separately signed their accord to end the West Asia war, with the Strait of Hormuz to reopen but two months of negotiations lying ahead.

"These fools, who think I haven't been tough

enough on Iran, when the Stock Market Just Hit A RECORD HIGH, and Oil prices are 'tumbling' down, are either jealous, bad people, or stupid," Mr. Trump posted on social media hours after signing the deal.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 14

the Strait at the start of the war, has allowed at least 12 ships to pass through, Vice President J.D. Vance said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Trump put his signature to the memorandum of understanding during a candle-lit dinner at the Palace of Versailles following a G7 summit, as host

French President Emmanuel Macron and other guests applauded, a video posted by a Trump aide showed. "Just signed it," Mr. Trump told the media as he emerged from the palace.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said the document

"was finalised with the signatures of the Presidents".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, who mediated the agreement, said on X that it "shall enter into force with immediate effect".

'OPENS DOOR FOR IRAN'
» PAGE 12

1936. U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord

ट्रंप और पेज़ेशकियन द्वारा शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने के बाद अमेरिका ने ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर लगी नाकाबंदी हटा ली।

- Mr. Trump and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a deal on Wednesday meant to end the war, with Tehran agreeing to dilute its enriched uranium in return for large-scale economic relief.

श्री ट्रंप और ईरान के राष्ट्रपति मसूद पेज़ेशकियन ने बुधवार को युद्ध समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसके अंतर्गत तेहरान ने संवर्धित यूरेनियम को कम करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की, जिसके बदले उसे व्यापक आर्थिक राहत प्रदान की जाएगी।



- It remained unclear if the two sides, who have had **no diplomatic relations following the 1979 Islamic Revolution**, would hold a signing ceremony and talks in Switzerland on Friday as announced.
यह स्पष्ट नहीं हो सका कि **1979 की इस्लामी क्रांति** के बाद से जिन दोनों देशों के बीच राजनयिक संबंध नहीं हैं, वे शुक्रवार को स्विट्जरलैंड में घोषित हस्ताक्षर समारोह और वार्ता आयोजित करेंगे या नहीं।
- The **U.S. forces lifted their parallel naval blockade of Iranian ports that had prevented ships from sailing to or from the Islamic republic**, the U.S. military said, noting that its warships "will remain in the general area".
अमेरिकी सेनाओं ने ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर लागू अपनी समानांतर **नौसैनिक नाकेबंदी** भी समाप्त कर दी, जिसके कारण जहाजों का ईरान से आना-जाना बाधित था। अमेरिकी सेना ने कहा कि उसके युद्धपोत "सामान्य क्षेत्र में बने रहेंगे"।
- Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Trump put **his signature to the memorandum of understanding during a candle-lit dinner at the Palace of Versailles following a G7 Summit**, as host **French President Emmanuel Macron** and other guests applauded, a video posted by a Trump aide showed.
बुधवार को इससे पहले, **जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** के बाद **वर्साय महल** में आयोजित दीपप्रकाशित रात्रिभोज के दौरान श्री ट्रंप ने **समझौता जापान** पर हस्ताक्षर किए। ट्रंप के एक सहयोगी द्वारा साझा किए गए वीडियो में मेजबान **फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रॉन** तथा अन्य अतिथियों को तालियाँ बजाते हुए देखा गया।
- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, who mediated the agreement**, said on X that it "shall enter into force with immediate effect".
समझौते में मध्यस्थता करने वाले **पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़ शरीफ़** ने सामाजिक माध्यम मंच पर कहा कि यह समझौता "तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू होगा।"

GS Paper III: Economy		19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
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Govt. ratifies 8.25% EPF interest rate for FY26

GS III: Economy
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has ratified 8.25% rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2025-26, which is likely to be credited to over seven crore contributing members this month.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provides the rate of interest on EPF after it gets ratified by the government through the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has given its concurrence to the 8.25% rate of interest fixed by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the EPFO, a source said on Thursday.

On March 2, the CBT, in a meeting chaired by the Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, had decided to fix 8.25% rate of interest for FY 2025-26, marking the third consecutive year this rate has been maintained.

Under the new ecosystem developed by the EPFO, the interest on the EPF would be credited into subscribers' accounts immediately, the source said.

19J6. Govt. ratifies 8.25% EPF interest rate for FY26

सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए ईपीएफ पर 8.25% ब्याज दर को मंजूरी प्रदान कर दी है।

The government has ratified an 8.25% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2025-26, which is likely to be credited to more than seven crore contributing members this month.

सरकार ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि जमा राशि पर 8.25 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर को अनुमोदित कर दिया है, जिसे इस माह सात करोड़ से अधिक अंशदायी सदस्यों के खातों में जमा किए जाने की संभावना है।

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provides the rate of interest on EPF after it is ratified by the government through the Finance Ministry.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि पर ब्याज दर तभी लागू करता है, जब उसे वित्त मंत्रालय के माध्यम से सरकार की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो जाती है।

The Finance Ministry has given its concurrence to the 8.25% interest rate fixed by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the EPFO.

वित्त मंत्रालय ने कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन की सर्वोच्च निर्णायकारी संस्था केंद्रीय न्यासी बोर्ड द्वारा निर्धारित 8.25 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर को अपनी स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है।

On March 2, the Central Board of Trustees, in a meeting chaired by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, had decided to fix the 8.25% interest rate for financial year 2025-26.

2 मार्च को केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया की अध्यक्षता में

आयोजित केंद्रीय न्यासी बोर्ड की बैठक में वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए 8.25 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर निर्धारित करने का निर्णय लिया गया था।

- This marks the third consecutive year that the same rate of interest has been maintained.

यह लगातार तीसरा वर्ष है जब समान ब्याज दर को बरकरार रखा गया है।

- Under the new ecosystem developed by the EPFO, the interest on EPF deposits will be credited into subscribers' accounts immediately.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन द्वारा विकसित नई प्रणाली के अंतर्गत कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि पर देय ब्याज राशि अब अंशधारकों के खातों में तत्काल जमा कर दी जाएगी।

19J6. Essential upgrades

आवश्यक उन्नयन

- The updates to India's statistical system are welcome, albeit long overdue.

GS III: Economy Essential upgrades

The updates to India's statistical system are welcome, albeit long overdue

The government has, in recent months, implemented several long-overdue but welcome upgrades to India's statistical databases. Wide-ranging, they cover the way the country measures Gross Domestic Product (GDP), industrial production, and price changes at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels. These updates have not only made India's key economic statistics more representative of reality, but have also brought them in line with international best practices. The most basic change across all indices has been the updating of base years. Until recently, the base years for GDP, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) were either 2011 or 2012. As such, these measures were significantly outdated and less reflective of reality with each passing year. In February, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the new series of national accounts data, including GDP, with a base year of 2022-23. The new series incorporates methodological improvements and new data sources, making it more granular and robust. Some of these, such as the double-deflator approach, have long been demanded by statisticians and international bodies, including the IMF.

Similarly, MoSPI had in February also released the new series of the CPI with an updated base year of 2024, a more inclusive basket of items measured, and more accurate weightages. This has enabled a more realistic reading of retail inflation, a key metric in interest-rate decisions. In early June, MoSPI then released the new series of the IIP as well. The base year was updated to 2022-23 and the index's data collection was strengthened. This, too, eventually feeds into more accurate GDP data. The other factor to be highlighted is that the data upgrades have not been limited to just MoSPI. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry also updated its WPI, releasing the new series on Monday. A more accurate WPI and CPI yield a more accurate GDP deflator, which strengthens the way that statisticians derive real GDP growth after having adjusted for inflation. The Commerce Ministry also released a new Producer Price Index (PPI), which is to replace the WPI in five years. A PPI is the standard among developed economies and provides more information about both goods and service price levels at the producer stage. With all these, the IMF is sure to improve the recurring 'C' grade it has given India's national accounts data. These, it is hoped, will also be capped off by a time-bound release of the new Census with no further delays.

भारत की सांख्यिकीय प्रणाली में किए गए अद्यतन स्वागतयोग्य हैं, यद्यपि वे काफी विलंब से अपेक्षित थे।

- The government has, in recent months, implemented several long-overdue but welcome upgrades to India's **statistical databases**.
सरकार ने हाल के महीनों में भारत के सांख्यिकीय डेटाबेस में कई लंबे समय से अपेक्षित किंतु स्वागतयोग्य सुधार लागू किए हैं।
- Wide-ranging, they cover the way the country measures **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, industrial production, and price changes at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels.
ये सुधार व्यापक हैं और इनमें देश द्वारा सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP), औद्योगिक उत्पादन तथा खुदरा, थोक और उत्पादक स्तरों पर मूल्य परिवर्तनों को मापने की पद्धति शामिल है।
- These updates have not only made India's key economic statistics more representative of reality, but have also brought them in line with international best practices.
इन अद्यतनों ने न केवल भारत के प्रमुख आर्थिक आँकड़ों को वास्तविकता के अधिक अनुरूप बनाया है, बल्कि उन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के अनुरूप भी कर दिया है।
- The most basic change across all indices has been the updating of **base years**.
सभी सूचकांकों में सबसे मूलभूत परिवर्तन आधार वर्ष का अद्यतन करना रहा है।
- Until recently, the **base years for GDP, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** were either 2011 or 2012.
हाल तक GDP, उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI), थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) और औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) के आधार वर्ष 2011 या 2012 थे।
- As such, these measures were significantly outdated and less reflective of reality with each passing year.
इस कारण ये मापदंड काफी पुराने हो चुके थे और प्रत्येक वर्ष के साथ वास्तविकता को कम दर्शा रहे थे।
- In February, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the new series of national accounts data, including **GDP**, with a base year of **2022-23**.
फरवरी में सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) ने 2022-23 को आधार वर्ष मानते हुए GDP सहित राष्ट्रीय आय लेखों की नई श्रृंखला जारी की।
- The new series incorporates methodological improvements and new data sources, making it more granular and robust.
नई श्रृंखला में पद्धतिगत सुधारों और नए डेटा स्रोतों को शामिल किया गया है, जिससे यह अधिक विस्तृत और सुदृढ़ बन गई है।
- Some of these, such as the **double-deflator approach**, have long been demanded by statisticians and international bodies, including the **IMF**.
इनमें से कुछ सुधार, जैसे डबल-डिफ्लेटर दृष्टिकोण, लंबे समय से सांख्यिकीविदों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) सहित अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं द्वारा माँगे जाते रहे हैं।
- Similarly, **MoSPI** had in February also released the new series of the **CPI** with an updated base year of **2024**, a more inclusive basket of items measured, and more accurate weightages.
इसी प्रकार, MoSPI ने फरवरी में CPI की नई श्रृंखला भी जारी की, जिसमें 2024 को आधार वर्ष बनाया गया, अधिक समावेशी वस्तु-टोकरी को शामिल किया गया तथा अधिक सटीक भारांक निर्धारित किए गए।
- This has enabled a more realistic reading of retail inflation, a key metric in interest-rate decisions.
इससे खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति का अधिक यथार्थवादी आकलन संभव हुआ है, जो ब्याज दर निर्धारण का एक प्रमुख संकेतक है।
- In early June, **MoSPI** then released the new series of the **IIP** as well.
जून की शुरुआत में MoSPI ने IIP की नई श्रृंखला भी जारी की।
- The base year was updated to **2022-23** and the index's data collection was strengthened.
इसका आधार वर्ष 2022-23 कर दिया गया तथा सूचकांक के डेटा संग्रह तंत्र को और मजबूत बनाया गया।



- This, too, eventually feeds into more accurate **GDP** data.
यह भी अंततः अधिक सटीक **GDP** आँकड़ों में योगदान देता है।
- The other factor to be highlighted is that the data upgrades have not been limited to just **MoSPI**.
उल्लेखनीय बात यह भी है कि डेटा सुधार केवल **MoSPI** तक सीमित नहीं रहे हैं।
- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** also updated its **WPI**, releasing the new series on Monday.
वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय ने भी अपने **WPI** को अद्यतन करते हुए सोमवार को इसकी नई श्रृंखला जारी की।
- A more accurate **WPI** and **CPI** yield a more accurate **GDP deflator**, which strengthens the way that statisticians derive real GDP growth after having adjusted for inflation.
अधिक सटीक **WPI** और **CPI**, अधिक सटीक **GDP डिफ्लेटर** प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे मुद्रास्फीति के समायोजन के बाद वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि का आकलन अधिक विश्वसनीय हो जाता है।
- The **Commerce Ministry** also released a new **Producer Price Index (PPI)**, which is to replace the **WPI** in five years.
वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने एक नया उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक (**PPI**) भी जारी किया है, जो अगले पाँच वर्षों में **WPI** का स्थान लेगा।
- A **PPI** is the standard among developed economies and provides more information about both goods and service price levels at the producer stage.
PPI विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में मानक सूचकांक है और यह उत्पादक स्तर पर वस्तुओं तथा सेवाओं दोनों के मूल्य स्तरों के बारे में अधिक जानकारी प्रदान करता है।
- With all these, the **IMF** is sure to improve the recurring 'C' grade it has given India's national accounts data.
इन सभी सुधारों के साथ **IMF** द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रीय आय आँकड़ों को दी जाने वाली बार-बार की 'C' ग्रेडिंग में सुधार होने की संभावना है।



The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs

GS III: Economy

Recently, the CEO of a large multinational called to ask whether the upcoming visit of the United States Trade Representative to India could result in tariff rates returning to around 18% or settling at a different level.

Such conversations reflect the extent to which trade negotiations are often viewed through the prism of headline tariff numbers. Yet, in practice, tariff rates are only one part of the picture. The more significant determinants of market access and competitiveness frequently lie elsewhere. This presents an opportunity for India to move beyond a narrow focus on tariff bargaining and instead address the broader set of factors that shape trade outcomes.

When India and the U.S. issued a joint statement in February 2026 agreeing on a framework for an interim trade agreement, the headlines highlighted the obvious: the tariff numbers. The U.S. reciprocal rate cut to 18%. India's pledge to move toward zero duties on American goods. The "\$500 billion" purchase commitment. But the White House fact sheet buried the more consequential admission — that both sides needed to negotiate the removal of non-tariff barriers. The U.S. deploys its own formidable non-tariff barriers arsenal while India has its quality regulations. The tariff headline was the press release. The NTBs on both sides are the actual problem.

For decades, trade diplomacy revolved around tariffs. Governments negotiated reductions in import duties, and success in trade talks was measured in percentage points shaved off customs rates. In today's hyper-regulated global economy, tariffs barely matter. The real obstacles are faced in the laboratory and the law offices through NTBs.

NTBs are the regulations, certifications, licensing rules, and product requirements that goods must meet before entering a market. They include technical regulations, environmental rules, health and safety requirements, packaging standards and testing procedures. Unlike tariffs, which are transparent and easy to measure, these regulatory hurdles operate within the system and exert a far-reaching influence on trade.

NTBs, the quiet trade weapon
Since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, average tariff rates



Anuj Gupta
Managing Director
of BowerGroupAsia

Tariffs dominate the headlines, but regulations increasingly determine trade outcomes

among its members have fallen by nearly half, yet governments have not abandoned protectionism. As tariffs declined, NTBs surged. Today, they affect around 90% of global trade — a sixfold increase over the past three decades.

The regulatory landscape has expanded just as rapidly. More than half of the 20,000 global product and safety regulations introduced over the past 70 years have emerged since 2000, creating a dense web of overlapping rules that complicates cross-border commerce and raises compliance costs, particularly for smaller exporters. The WTO itself reflects this shift. In 2025 alone, governments submitted over 7,700 notifications of NTBs and health-related trade measures, 10 times more than in 1995.

Among major economies, the European Union (EU) is the most extensive user of these regulatory tools. According to the World Trade Organization and World Bank data, non-tariff measures cover roughly about 94% of imports entering the EU, compared with about 77% in the U.S. and nearly 45% in India. Each major economy deploys these barriers differently. The EU has built the world's most expansive regulatory architecture for trade, with NTBs concentrated in environmental rules, chemical safety regulations, product standards, packaging requirements and climate-related policies such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the EU Deforestation Regulation. These rules are justified as protections, often acting as powerful filters on trade.

The American NTBs are driven by strategic competition, security concerns and technological dominance. Export controls, entity lists and restrictions on semiconductors, AI chips and advanced computing hardware increasingly limit rivals' access to critical technology supply chains. India has traditionally relied more on tariffs, but this is changing. As part of its industrial strategy, New Delhi is expanding quality regulations on imports of electronics, machinery and chemicals to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on external supply chains.

The Indian experience
India's own FTA record makes the point sharply. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India agreement has been in force since 2010, yet preferential tariff utilisation among Indian businesses remains below 50%, largely

because non-tariff barriers (NTBs) make claiming these benefits commercially impractical. Indonesian registration requirements restrict Indian pharmaceutical exports, while Thai customs procedures force gems and jewellery exporters to reroute shipments through Hong Kong. Tariffs have fallen, but trade barriers remain.

Japan and South Korea tell a similar story. Despite an FTA with Japan since 2011, Indian pharmaceutical exports remain negligible because market approvals can take five to seven years and Japan has resisted recognising international testing standards. With South Korea, bilateral trade reached \$27 billion in 2024-25, but India accounted for only \$6.5 billion. Overall, India's FTA utilisation rate is about 25%, compared with 70%-80% for developed economies. The agreements existed on paper; the barriers remained in practice.

The next frontier of trade

This does not mean abandoning legitimate environmental or consumer protections, but regulatory systems must be transparent and proportionate. Otherwise, they risk fragmenting global markets at precisely the moment when supply chains are being re-organised.

India's newer agreements signal a genuine shift. The United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement explicitly mandates automatic recognition of medicines approved by major global regulators, and requires mutual acceptance of laboratory testing that eliminates duplicate compliance costs. The India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, in force since October 2025, goes further with mutual recognition of standards, streamlined conformity assessment, and a dedicated sub-committee mandated to address NTBs on an ongoing basis. For the first time, NTB reduction is a legally binding obligation.

The politics of trade still talks about tariffs. The economics of trade has already moved on. In the 21st century, the real barriers are regulatory. If the West wants a serious economic pivot to the east, addressing those barriers will matter far more than cutting tariffs ever did.

The views expressed are personal

19J6. The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs

व्यापार में वास्तविक बाधाएँ अब शुल्क (टैरिफ) नहीं रह गई हैं

- Recently, the CEO of a large multinational called to ask whether the upcoming visit of the **United States Trade Representative** to India could result in **tariff rates returning to around 18% or settling at a different level**.
हाल ही में एक बड़ी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी ने यह पूछने के लिए संपर्क किया कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के व्यापार प्रतिनिधि की भारत यात्रा के परिणामस्वरूप क्या शुल्क दरें पुनः लगभग 18% तक लौट सकती हैं या किसी अन्य स्तर पर स्थिर हो सकती हैं।
- The **U.S. reciprocal rate cut to 18%**.
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने पारस्परिक शुल्क दर को 18% तक घटा दिया।
- But the White House fact sheet buried the more consequential admission — that **both sides needed to negotiate the removal of non-tariff barriers**.
किन्तु व्हाइट हाउस के तथ्य-पत्र में एक अधिक महत्वपूर्ण स्वीकारोक्ति छिपी हुई थी — कि दोनों पक्षों को गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं को हटाने के लिए वार्ता करनी होगी।
- The **U.S. deploys its own formidable non-tariff barriers arsenal while India has its quality regulations**.
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका अपनी शक्तिशाली गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं का उपयोग करता है, जबकि भारत के पास अपने गुणवत्ता संबंधी विनियम हैं।
- The tariff headline was the press release.
शुल्क संबंधी घोषणा केवल समाचार शीर्षक थी।

- The real obstacles are faced in the laboratory and the law offices through NTBs.
वास्तविक बाधाएँ प्रयोगशालाओं और विधिक संस्थानों में गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं के रूप में सामने आती हैं।
- NTBs are the regulations, certifications, licensing rules, and product requirements that goods must meet before entering a market.
गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ वे विनियम, प्रमाणन, अनुज्ञप्ति संबंधी नियम और उत्पाद आवश्यकताएँ हैं जिन्हें किसी बाजार में प्रवेश से पहले वस्तुओं को पूरा करना पड़ता है।
- They include technical regulations, environmental rules, health and safety requirements, packaging standards and testing procedures.
इनमें तकनीकी विनियम, पर्यावरणीय नियम, स्वास्थ्य एवं सुरक्षा आवश्यकताएँ, पैकेजिंग मानक तथा परीक्षण प्रक्रियाएँ शामिल हैं।
- Unlike tariffs, which are transparent and easy to measure, these regulatory hurdles operate within the system and exert a far-reaching influence on trade.
शुल्कों के विपरीत, जो पारदर्शी और आसानी से मापे जा सकते हैं, ये नियामकीय बाधाएँ व्यवस्था के भीतर कार्य करती हैं और व्यापार पर व्यापक प्रभाव डालती हैं।

NTBs, the quiet trade weapon

गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ : व्यापार का मौन हथियार

- Since the establishment of the **World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995**, average tariff rates among its members have fallen by nearly half, yet governments have not abandoned protectionism.
1995 में विश्व व्यापार संगठन की स्थापना के बाद से इसके सदस्य देशों के बीच औसत शुल्क दरें लगभग आधी हो गई हैं, फिर भी सरकारों ने संरक्षणवाद का परित्याग नहीं किया है।
- As tariffs declined, NTBs surged.
जैसे-जैसे शुल्क दरें घटीं, गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ बढ़ती गईं।
- Today, they affect around 90% of global trade — a sixfold increase over the past three decades.
आज वे वैश्विक व्यापार के लगभग 90% हिस्से को प्रभावित करती हैं, जो पिछले तीन दशकों में छह गुना वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।
- The regulatory landscape has expanded just as rapidly.
नियामकीय परिदृश्य भी उतनी ही तीव्र गति से विस्तृत हुआ है।
- More than half of the 20,000 global product and safety regulations introduced over the past 70 years have emerged since 2000, creating a dense web of overlapping rules that complicates cross-border commerce and raises compliance costs, particularly for smaller exporters.
पिछले 70 वर्षों में लागू किए गए 20,000 वैश्विक उत्पाद एवं सुरक्षा विनियमों में से आधे से अधिक वर्ष 2000 के बाद अस्तित्व में आए हैं, जिससे परस्पर जुड़े नियमों का एक जटिल जाल निर्मित हो गया है जो सीमा-पार व्यापार को कठिन बनाता है तथा विशेष रूप से छोटे निर्यातकों के लिए अनुपालन लागत बढ़ाता है।
- The WTO itself reflects this shift.
विश्व व्यापार संगठन स्वयं भी इस परिवर्तन को दर्शाता है।
- In 2025 alone, governments submitted over 7,700 notifications of NTBs and health-related trade measures, 10 times more than in 1995.
केवल 2025 में ही सरकारों ने गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं और स्वास्थ्य-संबंधी व्यापार उपायों से संबंधित 7,700 से अधिक अधिसूचनाएँ प्रस्तुत कीं, जो 1995 की तुलना में दस गुना अधिक हैं।
- Among major economies, the **European Union (EU)** is the most extensive user of these regulatory tools.
प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में **यूरोपीय संघ** इन नियामकीय उपकरणों का सबसे व्यापक उपयोगकर्ता है।
- According to the World Trade Organization and World Bank data, non-tariff measures cover roughly about 94% of imports entering the EU, compared with about 77% in the U.S. and nearly 45% in India.

विश्व व्यापार संगठन और विश्व बैंक के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, यूरोपीय संघ में प्रवेश करने वाले लगभग 94% आयात गैर-शुल्कीय उपायों के अंतर्गत आते हैं, जबकि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में यह लगभग 77% और भारत में लगभग 45% है।

- Each major economy deploys these barriers differently.
प्रत्येक प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था इन बाधाओं का उपयोग अलग-अलग तरीके से करती है।
- The EU has built the world's most expansive regulatory architecture for trade, with NTBs concentrated in environmental rules, chemical safety regulations, product standards, packaging requirements and climate-related policies such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the EU Deforestation Regulation.
यूरोपीय संघ ने व्यापार के लिए विश्व की सबसे व्यापक नियामकीय संरचना विकसित की है, जिसमें गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ पर्यावरणीय नियमों, रासायनिक सुरक्षा विनियमों, उत्पाद मानकों, पैकेजिंग आवश्यकताओं तथा कार्बन सीमा समायोजन तंत्र और वन-विनाश नियंत्रण संबंधी विनियम जैसी जलवायु-संबंधी नीतियों पर केंद्रित हैं।
- The American NTBs are driven by strategic competition, security concerns and technological dominance.
अमेरिकी गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ रणनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा, सुरक्षा चिंताओं और प्रौद्योगिकीय प्रभुत्व से प्रेरित हैं।
- Export controls, entity lists and restrictions on semiconductors, AI chips and advanced computing hardware increasingly limit rivals' access to critical technology supply chains.
निर्यात नियंत्रण, संस्थागत प्रतिबंध सूचियाँ तथा अर्धचालकों, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित चिपों और उन्नत संगणन उपकरणों पर प्रतिबंध प्रतिद्वंद्वियों की महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकी आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं तक पहुँच को लगातार सीमित कर रहे हैं।
- India has traditionally relied more on tariffs, but this is changing.
भारत पारंपरिक रूप से शुल्कों पर अधिक निर्भर रहा है, किन्तु अब यह स्थिति बदल रही है।

The Indian experience भारतीय अनुभव

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India agreement has been in force since 2010, yet preferential tariff utilisation among Indian businesses remains below 50%, largely because non-tariff barriers make claiming these benefits commercially impractical.
दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई राष्ट्रों के संगठन-भारत समझौता वर्ष 2010 से लागू है, फिर भी भारतीय व्यवसायों द्वारा अधिमान्य शुल्क लाभों का उपयोग 50% से कम बना हुआ है, मुख्यतः इसलिए क्योंकि गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ इन लाभों का व्यावसायिक उपयोग कठिन बना देती हैं।
- Overall, India's FTA utilisation rate is about 25%, compared with 70%-80% for developed economies.
समग्र रूप से भारत की मुक्त व्यापार समझौता उपयोग दर लगभग 25% है, जबकि विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में यह 70% से 80% के बीच है।
- The agreements existed on paper; the barriers remained in practice.
समझौते कागज़ों पर मौजूद थे, किन्तु व्यवहार में बाधाएँ बनी रहीं।

The next frontier of trade व्यापार की अगली सीमा

- The United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement explicitly mandates automatic recognition of medicines approved by major global regulators, and requires mutual acceptance of laboratory testing that eliminates duplicate compliance costs.
संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के साथ व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता प्रमुख वैश्विक नियामकों द्वारा स्वीकृत

औषधियों की स्वतः मान्यता का स्पष्ट प्रावधान करता है तथा प्रयोगशाला परीक्षाओं की पारस्परिक स्वीकृति को अनिवार्य बनाता है, जिससे दोहराई जाने वाली अनुपालन लागत समाप्त होती है।

- The **India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement**, in force since October 2025, goes further with mutual recognition of standards, streamlined conformity assessment, and a dedicated sub-committee mandated to address **non-tariff barriers on an ongoing basis**.

भारत-यूरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ व्यापार एवं आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता, जो अक्टूबर 2025 से लागू है, मानकों की पारस्परिक मान्यता, सरलीकृत अनुरूपता मूल्यांकन तथा गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं के निरंतर समाधान हेतु समर्पित उपसमिति जैसी व्यवस्थाओं के माध्यम से और आगे बढ़ता है।

- **For the first time, NTB reduction is a legally binding obligation.** पहली बार गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं में कमी एक विधिक रूप से बाध्यकारी दायित्व बनी है।
- The **politics of trade still talks about tariffs.** व्यापार की राजनीति आज भी शुल्कों की चर्चा करती है।
- The **economics of trade has already moved on.** किन्तु व्यापार का अर्थशास्त्र उससे आगे बढ़ चुका है।

Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb?



Rajan Wadhwa
Former President, Automotive Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra

PARLEY

India is witnessing an unprecedented expansion in higher education. Over the past decade, thousands of new colleges and universities have been established, producing millions of graduates every year. Yet unemployment of the educated remains a growing concern. Nearly one in three graduates are unemployed. Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb? Rajan Wadhwa and O.R.S. Rao discuss the question in a conversation moderated by M. Kalyanaraman. Edited excerpts:



O. R. S. Rao
Chancellor, ICFAI University, Sikkim

Is India producing more graduates than the economy can absorb?

O.R.S. Rao: The numbers point to a widening gap between the growth in graduates and the growth in jobs. In engineering alone, the number of graduates has risen sharply over the past few years while job creation has not kept pace. Earlier, the IT services sector was the principal employer of engineering graduates. Today, hiring by IT services firms has slowed considerably, even though sectors such as banking and financial services, manufacturing, defence and space technologies have expanded their recruitment. The challenge is that these new opportunities have not grown fast enough to absorb the increasing number of graduates entering the labour market.

A second issue is the nature of investment. Much of the recent investment in sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology has been capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive. As a result, large investments do not necessarily translate into proportionate job creation.

Has AI made the problem worse?

ORSR: We are in the middle of a major technological transition. AI is changing the nature of work much faster than how educational institutions can adapt. Companies now want graduates who can work with AI systems, validate AI-generated outputs, understand responsible and ethical AI use, and solve complex problems using technology. Four years ago, when many of today's graduates entered college, these skills were not widely discussed. Universities cannot redesign programmes overnight, and students cannot acquire entirely new competencies instantly. As a result, many graduates are entering a labour market that demands skills different from those they were trained for.

Is employability more important than just



Keeping up: Candidates who came for a mega job fair at the Government Engineering College in Thrissur in 2025. NAJEEB K.K.

job creation?

Rajan Wadhwa: There is certainly a growing concern about employability, particularly among engineering graduates. The problem is often a mismatch between what is taught and what the industry requires. Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving. When they enter the industry, employers frequently find that they need substantial additional training in order to contribute effectively. Companies run their own training programmes to bridge this gap. This was far less common a few decades ago.

Has manufacturing failed to create enough opportunities?

RW: Manufacturing still has considerable potential, but it too is undergoing profound change. People often focus on the impact of AI on software jobs, but manufacturing is also being transformed by automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 systems. Historically, a large number of engineers were employed in supervisory and operational roles on factory floors. Today, many of those functions are automated. Digital manufacturing systems require fewer people to oversee production processes. As a result, the number of engineering jobs generated by manufacturing is not increasing at the pace many people expected. Even as factories expand output, they often require fewer workers and supervisors than before.

Does that mean the future is one of permanent jobless growth?

RW: I would not go that far. India's push towards self-reliance in sectors such as defence,



Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving

RAJAN WADHERA

aerospace and advanced manufacturing is creating new opportunities. There is increasing emphasis on domestic design and product development, and that is encouraging. The challenge is that automation and digitalisation are reducing labour requirements even as industries grow. Therefore, employment growth may not automatically match economic growth. This makes it even more important for educational institutions and industry to work together. Curricula needs to be aligned much more closely with industry requirements.

Has India focused too much on manufacturing and too little on innovation?

ORSR: Over many years, India became increasingly proficient at manufacturing products designed elsewhere; manufacturing alone does not create enough opportunities for highly trained engineers. The real value lies in research, development and design. Countries that control intellectual property and technology create far more opportunities for engineers than countries that simply manufacture products. Recent global developments have reinforced this lesson. Increasing restrictions on access to critical technologies such as semiconductors and strategic components have shown that excessive dependence on external technologies carries risks. India therefore needs to invest much more aggressively in indigenous research, innovation and product development.

Has India made progress in indigenous design capabilities?

RW: It would be incorrect to say that India remains only a manufacturing base. Over the last decade, companies such as Mahindra and Tata Motors have developed significant design and engineering capabilities. Indian engineers today are designing vehicles, platforms, transmissions and other complex systems that would previously have been developed elsewhere. The issue is not whether these capabilities exist. The issue is scale. The number of high-quality engineering graduates being produced is larger than the number of advanced R&D and design roles currently available.

What role should entrepreneurship play?

ORSR: Neither government nor industry can create enough jobs for every graduate. We need more graduates to become creators of enterprises rather than only seekers of employment. One major challenge is access to risk capital. Traditional lenders prefer established businesses and proven revenue streams. Innovation, however, requires investors willing to support ideas at an early stage. India's startup ecosystem has made significant progress, but much more needs to be done to support deep-technology ventures.

What should India focus on in the AI era?

ORSR: India should focus not only on infrastructure but also on products. There is a significant need for sovereign AI as nations with those systems seek to restrict access. Product companies create intellectual property, innovation and high-value employment. The goal should be to develop products not only for India but for global markets. We should identify strategic areas where India can become a global leader. UPI's success demonstrates that India is capable of building world-class digital platforms.

What needs to change in higher education?

ORSR: Industry-academia collaboration must become much deeper. Universities cannot design relevant programmes without industry participation, and industry cannot expect job-ready graduates without contributing to curriculum, internships and skill development.

Looking ahead, what are the priorities?

ORSR: Three priorities stand out. First, India must significantly increase investment in research and development. Second, industry and academia must work together much more closely. Third, we need a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages innovation and supports risk-taking.

RW: I would add that India must continue building indigenous capabilities in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing. The opportunities are real, particularly in sectors such as defence and aerospace. The challenge is ensuring that education, industry and policy move in the same direction.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

19J6. Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb?
क्या भारत अर्थव्यवस्था द्वारा समाहित की जा सकने वाली संख्या से अधिक स्नातक तैयार कर रहा है?



- In engineering alone, the number of graduates has risen sharply over the past few years while job creation has not kept pace.
केवल अभियांत्रिकी क्षेत्र में ही पिछले कुछ वर्षों में स्नातकों की संख्या में तीव्र वृद्धि हुई है, जबकि रोजगार सृजन उसी गति से नहीं बढ़ पाया है।
- Earlier, the IT services sector was the principal employer of engineering graduates.
पूर्व में सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी सेवा क्षेत्र अभियांत्रिकी स्नातकों का प्रमुख नियोजक था।
- Today, hiring by IT services firms has slowed considerably, even though sectors such as banking and financial services, manufacturing, defence and space technologies have expanded their recruitment.
आज सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी सेवा कंपनियों द्वारा भर्ती में उल्लेखनीय कमी आई है, यद्यपि बैंकिंग एवं वित्तीय सेवाओं, विनिर्माण, रक्षा तथा अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में भर्ती का विस्तार हुआ है।
- The challenge is that these new opportunities have not grown fast enough to absorb the increasing number of graduates entering the labour market.
चुनौती यह है कि ये नए अवसर श्रम बाजार में प्रवेश करने वाले बढ़ते हुए स्नातकों की संख्या को समाहित करने के लिए पर्याप्त गति से नहीं बढ़े हैं।
- Much of the recent investment in sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology has been capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive.
अर्धचालकों, उन्नत विनिर्माण और प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में हाल के अधिकांश निवेश श्रम-प्रधान होने के बजाय पूंजी-प्रधान रहे हैं।

Has AI made the problem worse?

क्या कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता ने समस्या को और गंभीर बना दिया है?

- Companies now want graduates who can work with AI systems, validate AI-generated outputs, understand responsible and ethical AI use, and solve complex problems using technology.
अब कंपनियाँ ऐसे स्नातक चाहती हैं जो कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियों के साथ कार्य कर सकें, उसके द्वारा उत्पन्न परिणामों का सत्यापन कर सकें, उसके उत्तरदायी एवं नैतिक उपयोग को समझ सकें तथा प्रौद्योगिकी की सहायता से जटिल समस्याओं का समाधान कर सकें।
- Four years ago, when many of today's graduates entered college, these skills were not widely discussed.
चार वर्ष पूर्व, जब आज के अनेक स्नातकों ने महाविद्यालय में प्रवेश लिया था, तब इन कौशलों पर व्यापक चर्चा नहीं होती थी।
- Universities cannot redesign programmes overnight, and students cannot acquire entirely new competencies instantly.
विश्वविद्यालय अपने पाठ्यक्रमों को एक ही रात में पुनर्गठित नहीं कर सकते, और छात्र भी तुरंत नए कौशल अर्जित नहीं कर सकते।
- As a result, many graduates are entering a labour market that demands skills different from those they were trained for.
परिणामस्वरूप, अनेक स्नातक ऐसे श्रम बाजार में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं जो उनसे उन कौशलों की अपेक्षा करता है जिनके लिए उन्हें प्रशिक्षित नहीं किया गया था।

Is employability more important than just job creation?

क्या केवल रोजगार सृजन की तुलना में रोजगार-योग्यता अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है?

- The problem is often a mismatch between what is taught and what the industry requires.
समस्या प्रायः इस बात से उत्पन्न होती है कि जो पढ़ाया जाता है और उद्योगों को जिस प्रकार के कौशल की आवश्यकता होती है, उनमें असंगति होती है।



- Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving.
छात्र उत्कृष्ट शैक्षणिक उपलब्धियों के साथ स्नातक हो सकते हैं, किन्तु उन्हें प्रयोगशालाओं, विनिर्माण परिवेश, सामूहिक कार्य तथा वास्तविक जीवन की समस्याओं के समाधान का सीमित अनुभव होता है।
- When they enter the industry, employers frequently find that they need substantial additional training in order to contribute effectively.
जब वे उद्योगों में प्रवेश करते हैं, तो नियोक्ताओं को प्रायः यह महसूस होता है कि प्रभावी योगदान देने के लिए उन्हें अतिरिक्त प्रशिक्षण की आवश्यकता है।
- Companies run their own training programmes to bridge this gap.
इस अंतर को पाटने के लिए कंपनियाँ अपने स्वयं के प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम संचालित करती हैं।
- This was far less common a few decades ago.
कुछ दशक पहले यह स्थिति बहुत कम देखने को मिलती थी।

Has manufacturing failed to create enough opportunities?

क्या विनिर्माण क्षेत्र पर्याप्त अवसर सृजित करने में विफल रहा है?

- People often focus on the impact of AI on software jobs, but manufacturing is also being transformed by automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 systems.
लोग प्रायः कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के सॉफ्टवेयर क्षेत्र की नौकरियों पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं, किन्तु विनिर्माण क्षेत्र भी स्वचालन, रोबोटिक प्रौद्योगिकी और चौथी औद्योगिक क्रांति आधारित प्रणालियों द्वारा परिवर्तित हो रहा है।
- Digital manufacturing systems require fewer people to oversee production processes.
डिजिटल विनिर्माण प्रणालियों में उत्पादन प्रक्रियाओं की निगरानी के लिए अपेक्षाकृत कम लोगों की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Even as factories expand output, they often require fewer workers and supervisors than before.
कारखानों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि होने पर भी उन्हें पहले की तुलना में कम श्रमिकों और पर्यवेक्षकों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है।

Does that mean the future is one of permanent jobless growth?

क्या इसका अर्थ यह है कि भविष्य स्थायी रोजगारविहीन विकास का होगा?

- RW: I would not go that far.
राजन वाधेरा: मैं इतना आगे नहीं जाऊँगा।
- India's push towards self-reliance in sectors such as defence, aerospace and advanced manufacturing is creating new opportunities.
रक्षा, वैमानिकी तथा उन्नत विनिर्माण जैसे क्षेत्रों में भारत का आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर बढ़ता प्रयास नए अवसरों का सृजन कर रहा है।
- There is increasing emphasis on domestic design and product development, and that is encouraging.
घरेलू अभिकल्पना और उत्पाद विकास पर बढ़ता हुआ जोर उत्साहवर्धक है।
- The challenge is that automation and digitalisation are reducing labour requirements even as industries grow.
चुनौती यह है कि उद्योगों के विस्तार के साथ-साथ स्वचालन और डिजिटलीकरण श्रम की आवश्यकता को कम कर रहे हैं।
- Therefore, employment growth may not automatically match economic growth.
इसलिए रोजगार वृद्धि स्वतः ही आर्थिक वृद्धि के समान गति से नहीं हो सकती।
- This makes it even more important for educational institutions and industry to work together.
इससे शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और उद्योगों के बीच सहयोग और अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है।

- Curricula needs to be aligned much more closely with industry requirements.
पाठ्यक्रमों को उद्योगों की आवश्यकताओं के साथ कहीं अधिक निकटता से समन्वित किया जाना चाहिए।

Has India focused too much on manufacturing and too little on innovation?

क्या भारत ने विनिर्माण पर अत्यधिक और नवाचार पर बहुत कम ध्यान दिया है?

- ORSR:** Over many years, India became increasingly proficient at manufacturing products designed elsewhere; manufacturing alone does not create enough opportunities for highly trained engineers.
ओ.आर.एस. राव: अनेक वर्षों में भारत उन उत्पादों के निर्माण में अधिक दक्ष हो गया जिनकी अभिकल्पना अन्य देशों में की गई थी; केवल विनिर्माण अत्यधिक प्रशिक्षित अभियंताओं के लिए पर्याप्त अवसर उत्पन्न नहीं करता।
- The real value lies in research, development and design.
वास्तविक मूल्य अनुसंधान, विकास और अभिकल्पना में निहित है।
- Countries that control intellectual property and technology create far more opportunities for engineers than countries that simply manufacture products.
जो देश बौद्धिक संपदा और प्रौद्योगिकी पर नियंत्रण रखते हैं, वे केवल उत्पाद निर्माण करने वाले देशों की तुलना में अभियंताओं के लिए कहीं अधिक अवसर सृजित करते हैं।
- Recent global developments have reinforced this lesson.
हाल की वैश्विक घटनाओं ने इस तथ्य को और अधिक स्पष्ट किया है।
- Increasing restrictions on access to critical technologies such as semiconductors and strategic components have shown that excessive dependence on external technologies carries risks.
अर्धचालकों और रणनीतिक घटकों जैसी महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकियों तक पहुँच पर बढ़ते प्रतिबंधों ने यह दर्शाया है कि बाहरी प्रौद्योगिकियों पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता जोखिमपूर्ण है।
- India therefore needs to invest much more aggressively in indigenous research, innovation and product development.
अतः भारत को स्वदेशी अनुसंधान, नवाचार और उत्पाद विकास में कहीं अधिक आक्रामक रूप से निवेश करने की आवश्यकता है।

Has India made progress in indigenous design capabilities?

क्या भारत ने स्वदेशी अभिकल्पना क्षमताओं में प्रगति की है?

- RW:** It would be incorrect to say that India remains only a manufacturing base.
राजन वाधेरा: यह कहना गलत होगा कि भारत केवल एक विनिर्माण केंद्र बनकर रह गया है।
- Over the last decade, companies such as Mahindra and Tata Motors have developed significant design and engineering capabilities.
पिछले एक दशक में महिंद्रा और टाटा मोटर्स जैसी कंपनियों ने महत्वपूर्ण अभिकल्पना और अभियांत्रिकी क्षमताएँ विकसित की हैं।
- Indian engineers today are designing vehicles, platforms, transmissions and other complex systems that would previously have been developed elsewhere.
आज भारतीय अभियंता वाहनों, संरचनात्मक मंचों, शक्ति-संचरण प्रणालियों तथा अन्य जटिल प्रणालियों की अभिकल्पना कर रहे हैं, जिन्हें पहले अन्य देशों में विकसित किया जाता था।
- The issue is not whether these capabilities exist.
प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि ये क्षमताएँ मौजूद हैं या नहीं।
- The issue is scale.
वास्तविक प्रश्न इनके विस्तार का है।
- The number of high-quality engineering graduates being produced is larger than the number of advanced R&D and design roles currently available.

उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले अभियांत्रिकी स्नातकों की संख्या वर्तमान में उपलब्ध उन्नत अनुसंधान, विकास और अभिकल्पना संबंधी पदों की संख्या से अधिक है।

What role should entrepreneurship play?

उद्यमिता की क्या भूमिका होनी चाहिए?

- **ORSR:** Neither government nor industry can create enough jobs for every graduate.
ओ.आर.एस. राव: न तो सरकार और न ही उद्योग प्रत्येक स्नातक के लिए पर्याप्त रोजगार सृजित कर सकते हैं।
- We need more graduates to become creators of enterprises rather than only seekers of employment.
हमें अधिक से अधिक स्नातकों को केवल रोजगार खोजने वाला नहीं, बल्कि उद्यमों का सृजनकर्ता बनने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना होगा।
- One major challenge is access to risk capital.
एक प्रमुख चुनौती जोखिम पूंजी तक पहुँच की है।
- Traditional lenders prefer established businesses and proven revenue streams.
पारंपरिक ऋणदाता स्थापित व्यवसायों और प्रमाणित आय स्रोतों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- Innovation, however, requires investors willing to support ideas at an early stage.
किन्तु नवाचार के लिए ऐसे निवेशकों की आवश्यकता होती है जो प्रारम्भिक चरण में ही नए विचारों का समर्थन करने को तैयार हों।
- India's startup ecosystem has made significant progress, but much more needs to be done to support deep-technology ventures.
भारत के नवउद्यम पारितंत्र ने उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है, किन्तु गहन प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित उपक्रमों को समर्थन देने के लिए अभी बहुत कुछ किया जाना शेष है।

What should India focus on in the AI era?

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के युग में भारत को किस पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए?

- **ORSR:** India should focus not only on infrastructure but also on products.
ओ.आर.एस. राव: भारत को केवल अवसंरचना पर ही नहीं, बल्कि उत्पादों के विकास पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- There is a significant need for sovereign AI as nations with those systems seek to restrict access.
संप्रभु कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियों की अत्यधिक आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि जिन देशों के पास ऐसी प्रणालियाँ हैं वे उन तक पहुँच को सीमित करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।
- Product companies create intellectual property, innovation and high-value employment.
उत्पाद आधारित कंपनियाँ बौद्धिक संपदा, नवाचार और उच्च-मूल्य वाले रोजगार का सृजन करती हैं।
- The goal should be to develop products not only for India but for global markets.
लक्ष्य केवल भारत के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक बाजारों के लिए भी उत्पाद विकसित करना होना चाहिए।
- We should identify strategic areas where India can become a global leader.
हमें उन रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों की पहचान करनी चाहिए जहाँ भारत वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता बन सकता है।
- UPI's success demonstrates that India is capable of building world-class digital platforms.
एकीकृत भुगतान प्रणाली की सफलता यह प्रदर्शित करती है कि भारत विश्वस्तरीय डिजिटल मंच विकसित करने में सक्षम है।

What needs to change in higher education?

उच्च शिक्षा में क्या परिवर्तन आवश्यक हैं?

- **ORSR:** Industry-academia collaboration must become much deeper.
ओ.आर.एस. राव: उद्योग और शिक्षाजगत के बीच सहयोग कहीं अधिक गहरा होना चाहिए।
- Universities cannot design relevant programmes without industry participation, and industry cannot expect job-ready graduates without contributing to curriculum, internships and skill development.
 उद्योग की सहभागिता के बिना विश्वविद्यालय प्रासंगिक पाठ्यक्रम तैयार नहीं कर सकते, और उद्योग भी पाठ्यक्रम निर्माण, प्रशिक्षण-अवधि तथा कौशल विकास में योगदान दिए बिना रोजगार-योग्य स्नातकों की अपेक्षा नहीं कर सकता।

Looking ahead, what are the priorities?

भविष्य की दृष्टि से प्राथमिकताएँ क्या हैं?

- **ORSR:** Three priorities stand out.
ओ.आर.एस. राव: तीन प्राथमिकताएँ विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- First, India must significantly increase investment in research and development.
 प्रथम, भारत को अनुसंधान और विकास में निवेश को उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ाना होगा।
- Second, industry and academia must work together much more closely.
 द्वितीय, उद्योग और शिक्षाजगत को कहीं अधिक निकटता से मिलकर कार्य करना होगा।
- Third, we need a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages innovation and supports risk-taking.
 तृतीय, हमें ऐसा अधिक सशक्त उद्यमिता पारितंत्र विकसित करना होगा जो नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करे और जोखिम उठाने का समर्थन करे।
- **RW:** I would add that India must continue building indigenous capabilities in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing.
राजन वाधेरा: मैं यह भी जोड़ना चाहूँगा कि भारत को अभिकल्पना, अभियांत्रिकी और उन्नत विनिर्माण में अपनी स्वदेशी क्षमताओं का निरंतर विकास करना चाहिए।
- The opportunities are real, particularly in sectors such as defence and aerospace.
 अवसर वास्तव में उपलब्ध हैं, विशेषकर रक्षा और वैमानिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में।
- The challenge is ensuring that education, industry and policy move in the same direction.
 चुनौती यह सुनिश्चित करने की है कि शिक्षा, उद्योग और नीतियाँ एक ही दिशा में आगे बढ़ें।

Industrial Revolution	Key Feature
Industry 1.0	Mechanization using steam power
Industry 2.0	Mass production using electricity
Industry 3.0	Automation using computers and electronics
Industry 4.0	Smart, connected, data-driven systems

Revised pact with U.K. could save \$500 million for Indians

The agreement on social security, effective July 15, will save Indian firms and workers there about \$500 million worth of social security payments they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K.

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The agreement on social security that India and the U.K. have signed and that will come into force on July 15 will save Indian companies and workers there about \$500 million worth of social security payments that they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K., according to sources in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The original Agreement on Social Security, also referred to as the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), was signed in July 2025. It exempted companies in the U.K. from paying social security for the temporary Indian workers they employed for a period of three years, as long as they paid social security in India during that period.

On Wednesday, both governments announced that the DCC would come into effect on July 15 along with the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the U.K.

As per the revised agreement, the social security exemption limit has now been increased to five years, which will cover about 90-95% of the Indian workers in the U.K. and stands to significantly reduce costs for Indian companies operating in the U.K. "We have more than 75,000 workers from India



Shot in the arm: There are more than 900 Indian companies at present operational in the U.K., an official said. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

working in the U.K. and there are more than 900 Indian companies that are at present operational in the U.K.," a Commerce Ministry official explained on condition of anonymity since the matter is confidential until July 15.

"On the basis of their minimum salary levels, the savings to Indian companies in the U.K. employing temporary Indian workers will come to more than half a billion dollars," the official added.

Imbalances rectified

The issue that had arisen was that, in the absence of a DCC, companies employing Indian workers had to pay social security for these workers in India as well as in the U.K. Most of these workers were in the U.K. for up to a period of five years. However, the benefits from social security in the U.K. accrue only after 10 consecutive years

of contribution.

"This meant that most of the Indian workers there were paying double social security, and also were not able to get any benefit from the U.K. social security system," the official added. "Now, with the exemption increased from three to five years, this covers about 90-95% of the temporary Indian workers in the U.K."

Companies will need to obtain a certificate from the Indian government confirming that social security was being paid here, which they can submit to the U.K. government in order to avail of the exemption.

The CETA was also signed in July last year and was supposed to be implemented by early May 2026.

However, a fresh U.K. regulation on steel import tariffs temporarily – which had not been part of the CETA negotiations –

brought the trade deal proceedings to a halt as both countries scrambled to find a solution without having to redo the CETA itself.

"If you look at this steel measure in detail, 85% of our steel exports to the U.K. was out of this," a second official explained. "Out of about \$890 million of steel export that we do to the U.K., only \$137 million was getting affected."

"We have arrived at a deal on this steel measure, which has taken care of our concerns," they added. "It was finalised only yesterday afternoon [hours before the deal was announced]. India will not lose any market access, and will have a decent market access in the affected portions. We are satisfied with the overall deal. We are happy that our concerns on steel have been addressed."

The two officials would not reveal details of what concessions India has obtained regarding the steel tariffs as the matter was still extremely sensitive for the U.K., which was still negotiating with other countries on the matter.

However, they said that the leeway granted to India would be in the form of a mix of country-specific quotas, residual quotas and access under authorised-use schemes.

The details will be available on July 1, when the U.K.'s tariffs come into effect.

19J6. Revised pact with U.K. could save \$500 million for Indians

यू.के. के साथ संशोधित समझौता भारतीयों के लिए 500 मिलियन डॉलर की बचत कर सकता है

- The agreement on **social security**, effective **July 15**, will save Indian firms and workers there about **\$500 million** worth of social security payments they otherwise would have had to pay in the **U.K.**

15 जुलाई से प्रभावी होने वाला **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** समझौता भारतीय कंपनियों और वहां कार्यरत भारतीय श्रमिकों को लगभग **500 मिलियन डॉलर** के सामाजिक सुरक्षा भुगतान से बचाएगा, जो उन्हें अन्यथा यू.के. में चुकाने पड़ते।

- The agreement on social security that **India** and the **U.K.** have signed and that will come into force on **July 15** will save Indian companies and workers there about **\$500 million** worth of social security payments that they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K., according to sources in the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

भारत और यू.के. द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौता, जो **15 जुलाई** से लागू होगा, भारतीय कंपनियों और वहां कार्यरत भारतीयों को लगभग **500 मिलियन डॉलर** के सामाजिक सुरक्षा भुगतान से बचाएगा, जो अन्यथा उन्हें यू.के. में देना पड़ता, ऐसा **वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय** के सूत्रों ने बताया।

- The original **Agreement on Social Security**, also referred to as the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**, was signed in **July 2025**.

मूल **सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौता**, जिसे **डबल कंट्रीब्यूशन कन्वेंशन (DCC)** भी कहा जाता है, **जुलाई 2025** में हस्ताक्षरित किया गया था।

- It exempted companies in the U.K. from paying social security for the temporary Indian workers they employed for a period of three years, as long as they paid social security in India during that period.

इस समझौते के तहत यू.के. की कंपनियों को तीन वर्ष की अवधि तक कार्यरत अस्थायी भारतीय कर्मचारियों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा भुगतान से छूट दी गई थी, बशर्ते उस अवधि में भारत में सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान किया जा रहा हो।

- On Wednesday, both governments announced that the **DCC** would come into effect on **July 15** along with the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** between India and the U.K.

बुधवार को दोनों सरकारों ने घोषणा की कि **DCC** और भारत-यू.के. के बीच **व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार समझौता (CETA)** **15 जुलाई** से लागू होंगे।

- As per the revised agreement, the social security exemption limit has now been increased to **five years**, which will cover about **90-95%** of the Indian workers in the U.K. and stands to significantly reduce costs for Indian companies operating in the U.K.

संशोधित समझौते के अनुसार सामाजिक सुरक्षा छूट की सीमा अब **पांच वर्ष** कर दी गई है, जिससे यू.के. में कार्यरत लगभग **90-95%** भारतीय श्रमिकों को लाभ मिलेगा और वहां कार्यरत भारतीय कंपनियों की लागत में उल्लेखनीय कमी आएगी।

- "We have more than **75,000 workers** from India working in the U.K. and there are more than **900 Indian companies** that are at present operational in the U.K.," a Commerce Ministry official explained on condition of anonymity since the matter is confidential until July 15.

"यू.के. में भारत के **75,000 से अधिक श्रमिक** कार्यरत हैं और वहां वर्तमान में **900 से अधिक भारतीय कंपनियां** संचालित हो रही हैं," वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने नाम न बताने की शर्त पर कहा क्योंकि मामला **15 जुलाई तक गोपनीय** है।

- "On the basis of their minimum salary levels, the savings to Indian companies in the U.K. employing temporary Indian workers will come to more than **half a billion dollars**," the official

added.

अधिकारी ने कहा, “न्यूनतम वेतन स्तरों के आधार पर अस्थायी भारतीय कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त करने वाली भारतीय कंपनियों की बचत **आधे अरब डॉलर से अधिक** होगी।”

Imbalances rectified

असंतुलन दूर किए गए

- The issue that had arisen was that, in the absence of a **DCC**, companies employing Indian workers had to pay social security for these workers in India as well as in the U.K.
समस्या यह थी कि **DCC** के अभाव में भारतीय कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त करने वाली कंपनियों को भारत और यू.के. दोनों जगह सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान करना पड़ता था।
- Most of these workers were in the U.K. for up to a period of **five years**.
इनमें से अधिकांश कर्मचारी यू.के. में अधिकतम **पांच वर्षों** तक रहते थे।
- However, the benefits from social security in the U.K. accrue only after **10 consecutive years** of contribution.
हालांकि यू.के. में सामाजिक सुरक्षा के लाभ केवल **लगातार 10 वर्षों** तक योगदान देने के बाद प्राप्त होते हैं।
- “This meant that most of the Indian workers there were paying double social security, and also were not able to get any benefit from the U.K. social security system,” the official added.
अधिकारी ने कहा, “इसका अर्थ यह था कि अधिकांश भारतीय कर्मचारी दोहरी सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान कर रहे थे और फिर भी यू.के. की सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रणाली से कोई लाभ प्राप्त नहीं कर पा रहे थे।”
- “Now, with the exemption increased from three to five years, this covers about **90-95%** of the temporary Indian workers in the U.K.”
“अब छूट अवधि को तीन से बढ़ाकर पांच वर्ष करने से यू.के. में कार्यरत लगभग **90-95%** अस्थायी भारतीय कर्मचारी इसके दायरे में आ जाएंगे।”
- Companies will need to obtain a **certificate** from the Indian government confirming that social security was being paid here, which they can submit to the U.K. government in order to avail of the exemption.
कंपनियों को भारत सरकार से एक **प्रमाणपत्र** प्राप्त करना होगा, जो यह पुष्टि करेगा कि सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान भारत में किया जा रहा है, और इसे छूट प्राप्त करने के लिए यू.के. सरकार को प्रस्तुत किया जा सकेगा।
- The **CETA** was also signed in July last year and was supposed to be implemented by early **May 2026**.
CETA पर भी पिछले वर्ष जुलाई में हस्ताक्षर हुए थे और इसे **मई 2026** की शुरुआत तक लागू किया जाना था।
- However, a fresh U.K. regulation on **steel import tariffs** temporarily — which had not been part of the CETA negotiations — brought the trade deal proceedings to a halt as both countries scrambled to find a solution without having to redo the CETA itself.
हालांकि **इस्पात आयात शुल्क** से संबंधित यू.के. के एक नए नियम, जो CETA वार्ताओं का हिस्सा नहीं था, ने अस्थायी रूप से व्यापार समझौते की प्रक्रिया को रोक दिया क्योंकि दोनों देश CETA में बदलाव किए बिना समाधान खोजने में जुट गए।
- “If you look at this steel measure in detail, **85%** of our steel exports to the U.K. was out of this,” a second official explained.
एक दूसरे अधिकारी ने कहा, “यदि इस इस्पात उपाय को विस्तार से देखें, तो यू.के. को होने वाले हमारे **85%** इस्पात निर्यात इससे बाहर थे।”
- “Out of about **\$890 million** of steel export that we do to the U.K., only **\$137 million** was getting affected.”
“यू.के. को होने वाले लगभग **890 मिलियन डॉलर** के इस्पात निर्यात में से केवल **137 मिलियन डॉलर** प्रभावित हो रहे थे।”
- “We have arrived at a deal on this steel measure, which has taken care of our concerns,” they added.



उन्होंने कहा, “हम इस इस्पात उपाय पर एक समझौते पर पहुंच गए हैं, जिसने हमारी चिंताओं का समाधान कर दिया है।”

- “It was finalised only yesterday afternoon [hours before the deal was announced]. India will not lose any market access, and will have a decent market access in the affected portions. We are satisfied with the overall deal. We are happy that our concerns on steel have been addressed.”
“इसे कल दोपहर ही अंतिम रूप दिया गया था। भारत किसी भी बाजार पहुंच को नहीं खोएगा और प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में भी पर्याप्त बाजार पहुंच बनाए रखेगा। हम इस समय समझौते से संतुष्ट हैं। हमें खुशी है कि इस्पात संबंधी हमारी चिंताओं का समाधान कर दिया गया है।”
- The two officials would not reveal details of what concessions India has obtained regarding the steel tariffs as the matter was still extremely sensitive for the U.K., which was still negotiating with other countries on the matter.
दोनों अधिकारियों ने इस्पात शुल्क पर भारत को मिली रियायतों का विवरण बताने से इनकार कर दिया क्योंकि यह विषय अभी भी यू.के. के लिए अत्यंत संवेदनशील है और वह इस मामले पर अन्य देशों से भी बातचीत कर रहा है।
- However, they said that the leeway granted to India would be in the form of a mix of **country-specific quotas, residual quotas** and access under **authorised-use schemes**.
हालांकि उन्होंने कहा कि भारत को दी गई छूट देश-विशिष्ट कोटा, अवशिष्ट कोटा तथा अधिकृत उपयोग

योजनाओं के तहत पहुंच के मिश्रण के रूप में होगी।

- The details will be available on **July 1**, when the U.K.'s tariffs come into effect.
इन प्रावधानों का विवरण **1 जुलाई** को उपलब्ध होगा, जब यू.के. के शुल्क लागू होंगे।

Iron ore sees a bright future, but green steel industry fades



Higher exports: India exported 28.62 MT of iron ore in 2025 against imports of 13.87 MT. K.R. DEEPAK

GS III: Economy
Reuters
SINGAPORE

The most persistently bullish part of the commodities sector in recent years has been metals associated with the energy transition, such as copper, lithium and rare earth elements.

Iron ore miners want their product to be added to the list.

Strong demand growth for steel in South and Southeast Asia will keep demand for the raw material robust, and more than outweigh declining production in China and the Western world. That was the consensus view at this week's industry gathering in Singapore.

However, the optimism of iron ore miners wasn't replicated by advocates of decarbonising the industry, with a shift away from seeing green steel as the great hope due to the bitter realisation that it will be enormously costly.

Governments currently lack the will to legislate, regulate and incentivise a switch from making steel with coal to using renewable energies. The bullish mood in iron ore is largely built around forecasts that India will increase its steel production from around 168 million metric tons a year currently to around 400 million tons by 2035.

India is a small net exporter of iron ore, with exports of 28.62 million tons in 2025 balanced against imports of 13.87 million tons, according to data compiled by commodity analysts Kpler.

If India does more than double steel production in the next 10 years, it would almost

certainly have to boost imports, as its domestic industry would be unable to mine sufficient quantities of ore with high enough iron content to be economically viable.

There is also optimism that Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand will build more steel capacity as their economies continue to industrialise, and these will largely depend on imported iron ore.

Rio Tinto Chief Commercial Officer Bold Baatar told the Singapore Iron Ore and Steel Forum that there is a looming supply gap of 650 million tons of iron ore by 2035.

The figure accounts for new mines such as the 120 million ton-per-year Simandou project in Guinea, which is in the process of starting up.

However, Rio expects that the pace of new mine development will not match the loss of tons as mines reach the end of life.

Another factor supporting miners such as Rio, which is the world's largest producer of iron ore, is that most of the new steel capacity being built in Asia uses the traditional blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF) method of production.

This method is proven and cost effective, but also highly polluting, as it relies on metallurgical coal. Steel-making accounts for about 8% of global carbon emissions, making decarbonisation vital to reach climate ambitions of net zero by 2050. But while miners and steel makers are keen to talk about decarbonising their operations, the reality is that they are really only going after some low-hanging fruit with plans to increase efficiencies and use higher-grade iron ore.

Green shoots fade

Any real effort to meaningfully reduce emissions involves switching from coal to hydrogen as a reductant, and renewable electricity as a power source. But so far very little capital has been allocated to producing green steel.

Zhong Shaoliang, the deputy secretary general of the World Steel Association, told the Singapore Green Steel Forum on Wednesday that only \$20 billion has been invested in supporting green steel production.

This has led to an expected capacity of 70.8 million tons of green steel production by 2030, the bulk of it in Europe.

Given that global steel production is expected to be closing in on 2 billion tons a year by 2030, the planned green steel output is less than 4% of the total. The problem is that there is no global standard for green steel, and carbon taxes such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism in Europe aren't widespread enough to drive a meaningful shift to green steel.

The current cost of producing steel using the BF-BOF method is around \$400 a ton, according to the World Steel Association data presented this week.

However, using renewable hydrogen and electricity lifts the cost to between \$500 and \$850 a ton, depending on the location of production.

The only way to close that gap is for governments to regulate in favour of green steel, either by taxing more polluting methods or by subsidising less carbon-intensive production.

19J6. Iron ore sees a bright future, but green steel industry fades
लौह अयस्क का भविष्य उज्ज्वल दिखता है, लेकिन हरित इस्पात उद्योग की चमक फीकी पड़ रही है

- The most persistently bullish part of the **commodities sector** in recent years has been metals associated with the **energy transition**, such as **copper, lithium** and **rare earth elements**.

हाल के वर्षों में **कमोडिटी क्षेत्र** का सबसे लगातार मजबूत बना रहने वाला हिस्सा **ऊर्जा संक्रमण** से जुड़े धातु रहे हैं, जैसे तांबा, लिथियम और दुर्लभ मृदा तत्व।

- Iron ore miners want their product to be added to the list.

लौह अयस्क खनिक चाहते हैं कि उनके उत्पाद को भी इस सूची में शामिल किया जाए।

- Strong demand growth for **steel** in **South and Southeast Asia** will keep demand for the raw material robust, and

more than outweigh declining production in **China** and the **Western world**.

दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में इस्पात की मजबूत मांग वृद्धि कच्चे माल की मांग को सशक्त बनाए रखेगी और **चीन** तथा **पश्चिमी देशों** में घटते उत्पादन की भरपाई से भी अधिक प्रभाव डालेगी।

- That was the consensus view at this week's industry gathering in **Singapore**.
इस सप्ताह **सिंगापुर** में आयोजित उद्योग सम्मेलन में यही आम सहमति रही।
- However, the optimism of iron ore miners wasn't replicated by advocates of **decarbonising** the industry, with a shift away from seeing **green steel** as the great hope due to the bitter realisation that it will be enormously costly.
हालांकि लौह अयस्क खनिकों का यह आशावाद उद्योग के **कार्बनमुक्तिकरण** के समर्थकों में नहीं दिखा, क्योंकि **हरित इस्पात** को बड़ी उम्मीद के रूप में देखने का दृष्टिकोण इस कड़वी सच्चाई के कारण बदल रहा है कि यह अत्यधिक महंगा होगा।
- Governments currently lack the will to legislate, regulate and incentivise a switch from making steel with **coal** to using **renewable energies**.
वर्तमान में सरकारों में **कोयले** आधारित इस्पात उत्पादन से **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** आधारित उत्पादन की ओर बदलाव के लिए कानून बनाने, विनियमन करने और प्रोत्साहन देने की पर्याप्त इच्छा नहीं है।
- The bullish mood in iron ore is largely built around forecasts that **India** will increase its steel production from around **168 million metric tons** a year currently to around **400 million tons by 2035**.
लौह अयस्क को लेकर सकारात्मक माहौल मुख्य रूप से इस अनुमान पर आधारित है कि **भारत** अपना इस्पात उत्पादन वर्तमान के लगभग **168 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन** से बढ़ाकर **2035 तक 400 मिलियन टन** कर देगा।
- India is a small net exporter of iron ore, with exports of **28.62 million tons** in 2025 balanced against imports of **13.87 million tons**, according to data compiled by commodity analysts **Kpler**.
कमोडिटी विश्लेषक **क्प्लर** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत लौह अयस्क का एक छोटा शुद्ध निर्यातक है, जहां **2025 में 28.62 मिलियन टन** निर्यात के मुकाबले **13.87 मिलियन टन** आयात हुआ।
- If India does more than double steel production in the next **10 years**, it would almost certainly have to boost imports, as its domestic industry would be unable to mine sufficient quantities of ore with high enough iron content to be economically viable.
यदि भारत अगले **10 वर्षों** में इस्पात उत्पादन को दोगुने से अधिक बढ़ाता है, तो उसे लगभग निश्चित रूप से आयात बढ़ाना पड़ेगा, क्योंकि उसका घरेलू उद्योग पर्याप्त उच्च लौह-सामग्री वाले अयस्क का आर्थिक रूप से व्यवहार्य स्तर पर खनन नहीं कर पाएगा।
- There is also optimism that **Southeast Asian** countries such as **Vietnam**, **Indonesia** and **Thailand** will build more steel capacity as their economies continue to industrialise, and these will largely depend on imported iron ore.
यह भी उम्मीद है कि **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई** देश जैसे **वियतनाम**, **इंडोनेशिया** और **थाईलैंड** औद्योगिकीकरण जारी रहने के साथ अधिक इस्पात क्षमता विकसित करेंगे और वे मुख्यतः आयातित लौह अयस्क पर निर्भर रहेंगे।
- **Rio Tinto Chief Commercial Officer Bold Baatar** told the **Singapore Iron Ore and Steel Forum** that there is a looming supply gap of **650 million tons** of iron ore by 2035.
रियो टिंटो के मुख्य वाणिज्यिक अधिकारी **बोल्ड बातार** ने **सिंगापुर आयरन ओर एंड स्टील फोरम** में कहा कि **2035 तक लौह अयस्क की आपूर्ति में 650 मिलियन टन** की कमी आने वाली है।
- The figure accounts for new mines such as the **120 million ton-per-year Simandou project** in **Guinea**, which is in the process of starting up.
इस अनुमान में **गिनी** की **120 मिलियन टन प्रति वर्ष क्षमता वाली सिमांडू परियोजना** जैसी नई खदानों को भी शामिल किया गया है, जो शुरू होने की प्रक्रिया में हैं।
- However, Rio expects that the pace of new mine development will not match the loss of tons as mines reach the end of life.
हालांकि रियो का मानना है कि नई खदानों के विकास की गति, पुरानी खदानों के समाप्त होने से होने वाली उत्पादन हानि की भरपाई नहीं कर पाएगी।

- Another factor supporting miners such as Rio, which is the world's largest producer of iron ore, is that most of the new steel capacity being built in Asia uses the traditional **blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF)** method of production.
रियो जैसे खनिकों के पक्ष में एक अन्य कारक यह है कि एशिया में विकसित की जा रही अधिकांश नई इस्पात क्षमता पारंपरिक **ब्लास्ट फर्नेस-बेसिक ऑक्सीजन फर्नेस (BF-BOF)** पद्धति का उपयोग करती है।
- This method is proven and cost effective, but also highly polluting, as it relies on **metallurgical coal**.
यह पद्धति सिद्ध और लागत प्रभावी है, लेकिन **धातुकर्मीय कोयले** पर निर्भर होने के कारण अत्यधिक प्रदूषणकारी भी है।
- Steel-making accounts for about **8% of global carbon emissions**, making decarbonisation vital to reach climate ambitions of **net zero by 2050**.
इस्पात उत्पादन वैश्विक **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** का लगभग **8%** हिस्सा है, इसलिए **2050 तक नेट-ज़ीरो** लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए कार्बनमुक्तिकरण अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- But while miners and steel makers are keen to talk about decarbonising their operations, the reality is that they are really only going after some low-hanging fruit with plans to increase efficiency and use higher-grade iron ore.
हालांकि खनिक और इस्पात निर्माता अपने परिचालनों को कार्बनमुक्त बनाने की बात करते हैं, लेकिन वास्तविकता यह है कि वे अभी केवल दक्षता बढ़ाने और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले लौह अयस्क के उपयोग जैसे अपेक्षाकृत आसान उपायों पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं।

Green shoots fade

हरित संभावनाएं फीकी पड़ रही हैं

- Any real effort to meaningfully reduce emissions involves switching from **coal to hydrogen** as a reductant, and **renewable electricity** as a power source.
उत्सर्जन में वास्तविक और सार्थक कमी लाने के लिए **कोयले** के स्थान पर **हाइड्रोजन** को अपचायक तथा **नवीकरणीय बिजली** को ऊर्जा स्रोत के रूप में अपनाना आवश्यक है।
- But so far very little capital has been allocated to producing **green steel**.
लेकिन अब तक **हरित इस्पात** उत्पादन के लिए बहुत कम पूंजी आवंटित की गई है।
- **Zhong Shaoliang**, the deputy secretary general of the **World Steel Association**, told the **Singapore Green Steel Forum** on Wednesday that only **\$20 billion** has been invested in supporting green steel production.
विश्व इस्पात संघ के उप महासचिव **झोंग शाओलियांग** ने बुधवार को **सिंगापुर ग्रीन स्टील फोरम** में बताया कि **हरित इस्पात** उत्पादन को समर्थन देने के लिए अब तक केवल **20 अरब डॉलर** का निवेश हुआ है।
- This has led to an expected capacity of **70.8 million tons** of green steel production by **2030**, the bulk of it in **Europe**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप **2030 तक 70.8 मिलियन टन** हरित इस्पात उत्पादन क्षमता बनने की उम्मीद है, जिसका अधिकांश हिस्सा **यूरोप** में होगा।
- Given that global steel production is expected to be closing in on **2 billion tons a year by 2030**, the planned green steel output is less than **4%** of the total.
चूंकि वैश्विक इस्पात उत्पादन **2030 तक 2 अरब टन प्रतिवर्ष** के करीब पहुंचने की उम्मीद है, इसलिए नियोजित हरित इस्पात उत्पादन कुल का **4% से भी कम** है।
- The problem is that there is no global standard for **green steel**, and carbon taxes such as the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism** in Europe aren't widespread enough to drive a meaningful shift to green steel.
समस्या यह है कि **हरित इस्पात** के लिए कोई वैश्विक मानक नहीं है और यूरोप की **कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म** जैसी कार्बन कर प्रणालियां अभी इतनी व्यापक नहीं हैं कि हरित इस्पात की ओर सार्थक बदलाव ला सकें।



- The current cost of producing steel using the **BF-BOF method** is around **\$400 a ton**, according to the World Steel Association data presented this week.
 इस सप्ताह प्रस्तुत विश्व इस्पात संघ के आंकड़ों के अनुसार **BF-BOF पद्धति** से इस्पात उत्पादन की वर्तमान लागत लगभग **400 डॉलर प्रति टन** है।
- However, using **renewable hydrogen** and **electricity** lifts the cost to between **\$500 and \$850 a ton**, depending on the location of production.
 हालांकि **नवीकरणीय हाइड्रोजन** और **बिजली** के उपयोग से उत्पादन लागत बढ़कर **500 से 850 डॉलर प्रति टन** के बीच पहुंच जाती है, जो उत्पादन स्थान पर निर्भर करती है।
- The only way to close that gap is for governments to regulate in favour of **green steel**, either by taxing more polluting methods or by subsidising less carbon-intensive production.
 इस लागत अंतर को कम करने का एकमात्र तरीका यह है कि सरकारें **हरित इस्पात** के पक्ष में नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप करें, या तो अधिक प्रदूषणकारी विधियों पर कर लगाकर अथवा कम कार्बन-गहन उत्पादन को सब्सिडी देकर।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
19J6	Telegram has evolved into a new dark web, govt. tells HC सरकार ने उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि टेलीग्राम एक नए डार्क वेब के रूप में विकसित हो गया है।	
19J6	Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress 'अवसाद' और 'चिंता' से आगे: युवा आदिवासी अपनी मानसिक पीड़ा को किस प्रकार व्यक्त करते हैं	
19J6	Children with vitiligo deserve freedom from stigma and the burden of misinformation विटिलिगो से प्रभावित बच्चों को कलंक और भ्रामक जानकारी के बोझ से मुक्ति मिलनी चाहिए	
19J6	Lopsided solution असंतुलित समाधान	
19J6	MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel डीज़ल वितरण पर प्रतिबंधों से MSMEs प्रभावित	



Telegram has evolved into new dark web, govt. tells HC

Centre says the platform is used by cybercriminals, exam paper leak operators; Delhi High Court questions the platform-wide ban as it hears Telegram's challenge; it reserves judgment for Friday

GS III: S&T

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that the messaging platform Telegram had evolved into the "new dark web", arguing that its architecture and privacy features had made it a preferred tool for cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist and terror groups, and operators involved in examination paper leaks.

The government's submissions relied heavily on an Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) assessment that the platform was a growing hub for illicit online activity. The government has restricted access to the platform ahead of the June 21 NEET re-examination.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre during the hearing on Telegram's petition challenging the temporary ban imposed till June 22 under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, told the court that the enterprise behind the messaging app had

Telegram on trial

The messaging platform contests restrictions imposed under Section 69A of the IT Act



Govt.'s stand

- Used by cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist groups, and exam leak operators
- Fails to act against illegal and suspicious channels despite repeated requests
- Features can be misused to falsely portray exam papers as leaked and trigger law-and-order concerns

Telegram's stand

- Centre fails to justify emergency powers or a platform-wide ban
- Specific content can be blocked instead of restricting the entire platform

been repeatedly asked to proactively monitor and curb illegal and suspicious channels on the platform. However, the company failed to take any meaningful action, he said.

"Telegram has become the new dark web, linking threat actors. Criminals have rapidly adopted Telegram to post links on channels that connect to dark web forums through deep web links, making it hard for authorities to track and attribute criminals," he said.

Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for Telegram, said the government had failed to justify the use of emergency powers and had not demonstrated why

specific content could not be blocked, instead of disabling access to the entire platform. "The order says it is in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India. An examination like NEET will affect the sovereignty and integrity of India?" he asked.

A Bench of Justice Tejas Kataria scrutinised the government's justification for a platform-wide restriction, even as it acknowledged concerns about exam malpractice and cybercrime. "How can we stop the rights of 150 million people just because one set of citizens are appearing in examinations?" he said while hearing submissions from both sides.

The judgment has been reserved for Friday.

The Centre's affidavit also details how Telegram is allegedly used by cyber threat actors to coordinate attacks, distribute malware, and facilitate financial crime. It is alleged that Telegram channels host marketplaces for rented and mule bank accounts used in money laundering and cyber fraud. Such channels enable criminals to exchange information on bank accounts, UPI handles, and cryptocurrency conversion mechanisms while, due to the interface, it remains difficult for the police to track them because new channels emerge continuously.

To support its claims, the Centre pointed to a sharp rise in cybercrime complaints linked to Telegram. Data placed before the court show that complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal involving Telegram rose from 75,688 in 2023 to 2.75 lakh in 2025, with fraud amounts crossing ₹3,000 crore in 2025.

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19J6. Telegram has evolved into a new dark web, govt. tells HC

सरकार ने उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि टेलीग्राम एक नए डार्क वेब के रूप में विकसित हो गया है।

- The Union government on Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that the messaging platform Telegram had evolved into the "new dark web", arguing that its architecture and privacy features had made it a preferred tool for cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist and terror groups, and operators involved in examination paper leaks.

केंद्र सरकार ने गुरुवार को दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया कि संदेश सेवा मंच टेलीग्राम एक प्रकार से "नया डार्क वेब" बन गया है। सरकार का तर्क था कि इसकी संरचना और गोपनीयता संबंधी विशेषताओं ने इसे साइबर अपराधियों, धोखाधड़ी नेटवर्कों, उग्रवादी एवं आतंकवादी समूहों तथा परीक्षा प्रश्नपत्र लीक से जुड़े संचालकों का पसंदीदा माध्यम बना दिया है।

- The government's submissions relied heavily on an Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) assessment that the platform was a growing hub for illicit online activity. सरकार की दलीलें मुख्य रूप से भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र के उस आकलन पर आधारित थीं, जिसमें इस मंच को अवैध ऑनलाइन गतिविधियों के बढ़ते केंद्र के रूप में चिन्हित किया गया था।



- “Telegram has become the **new dark web**, linking **threat actors**. Criminals have rapidly adopted Telegram to post links on channels that connect to dark web forums through **deep web links**, making it hard for authorities to track and attribute criminals,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “टेलीग्राम नया डार्क वेब बन गया है, जो विभिन्न खतरा उत्पन्न करने वाले तत्वों को जोड़ रहा है। अपराधी गहन वेब कड़ियों के माध्यम से डार्क वेब मंचों से जुड़ने वाले लिंक साझा करने के लिए इसका तेजी से उपयोग कर रहे हैं, जिससे अपराधियों का पता लगाना और उनकी पहचान स्थापित करना कठिन हो जाता है।”
- Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for Telegram, said the **government had failed to justify the use of emergency powers** and had not demonstrated why specific content could not be blocked, instead of disabling access to the entire platform.
टेलीग्राम की ओर से उपस्थित वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता ध्रुव मेहता ने कहा कि सरकार आपातकालीन शक्तियों के उपयोग को उचित ठहराने में विफल रही है और यह नहीं बता सकी कि पूरे मंच को बंद करने के बजाय केवल विशिष्ट सामग्री को क्यों नहीं अवरुद्ध किया जा सकता था।
- “The order says it is in the interest of the **sovereignty and integrity of India**. An examination like **NEET** will affect the sovereignty and integrity of India?” he asked.
उन्होंने प्रश्न किया, “आदेश में कहा गया है कि यह भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता के हित में है। क्या राष्ट्रीय पात्रता सह प्रवेश परीक्षा जैसी परीक्षा भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता को प्रभावित करेगी?”
- “How can we stop the rights of **150 million people** just because one set of citizens are appearing in examinations?” he said while hearing submissions from both sides.
दोनों पक्षों की दलीलें सुनते हुए उन्होंने कहा, “हम केवल इसलिए 15 करोड़ लोगों के अधिकारों को कैसे रोक सकते हैं क्योंकि नागरिकों का एक वर्ग परीक्षा में सम्मिलित हो रहा है?”
- It is alleged that **Telegram channels host marketplaces for rented and mule bank accounts used in money laundering and cyber fraud**.
यह आरोप लगाया गया है कि टेलीग्राम के माध्यमों पर किराये पर उपलब्ध बैंक खातों और मुखौटा बैंक खातों का व्यापार होता है, जिनका उपयोग धन शोधन और साइबर धोखाधड़ी में किया जाता है।
- Such channels enable criminals to exchange information on **bank accounts, UPI handles, and cryptocurrency conversion mechanisms** while, due to the interface, it remains difficult for the police to track them because new channels emerge continuously.
ऐसे माध्यम अपराधियों को बैंक खातों, एकीकृत भुगतान पहचान संकेतकों तथा आभासी मुद्रा रूपांतरण तंत्रों से संबंधित जानकारी साझा करने में सक्षम बनाते हैं। मंच की संरचना के कारण पुलिस के लिए इनका पता लगाना कठिन बना रहता है, क्योंकि नए माध्यम लगातार उभरते रहते हैं।
- Data placed before the court show that complaints on the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** involving Telegram rose from **75,688 in 2023 to 2.75 lakh in 2025**, with **fraud amounts crossing ₹3,000 crore in 2025**.
न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत आँकड़ों के अनुसार, राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध रिपोर्टिंग पोर्टल पर टेलीग्राम से संबंधित शिकायतों की संख्या वर्ष 2023 में 75,688 से बढ़कर वर्ष 2025 में 2.75 लाख हो गई, जबकि धोखाधड़ी की राशि वर्ष 2025 में 3,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक हो गई।

Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress

Mental health systems frequently assume that emotional suffering will present itself in clinically recognisable forms. But in many Adivasi communities, distress may be communicated through stories, metaphors, or withdrawal from social life. When professionals fail to understand these expressions, the communities begin to appear 'silent'

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Sachin Barde
Christiane Ratna Kiruba

Dumbi, a tall, muscular teenager, walks silently outside his village, which consists of about 70 houses, mostly of the Adivasi Ho community, in Jharkhand. He lost his father when he was in Class 5. Now 16, and as an elder brother to three siblings, he has to both study and provide economic support to the family. For Dumbi, football had earlier been a major source of joy. Friends regularly invited him to matches in nearby villages. But over time, he stopped playing almost entirely. The burden of caring for the family at the age of 15 made him sullen and withdrawn, and also led to his habit of drinking locally-brewed liquor, as a coping mechanism.

Mental health is gaining ground in our everyday conversations, thanks to increased awareness, battles to beat stigma and a growing number of people with lived experience who are talking about it. The people at the forefront of these conversations, however, remain primarily urban-centric and from privileged socio-economic groups. Young people from Adivasi communities remain missing from most of these conversations.

India has the largest population of indigenous communities in the world. And yet, information about the mental health of these communities is scarce.

Globally, mental health problems affect nearly one in seven adolescents aged 10-19 years, with anxiety, depression, and behavioural disorders among the most common conditions. India has one of the world's largest adolescent populations, but mental health support for young people remains deeply inadequate. The 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey estimated that 7% of adolescents aged 13-17 years, experience mental health problems, though most are unlikely to receive any formal care.

Deep inequities

Evidence from rural and Adivasi communities in mental health research remains remarkably limited despite these communities constituting around 9% of India's population. What makes this lacuna even more concerning is that Adivasi communities continue to face deep social, economic, environmental, and health inequities, with the most affected being young people.

The available research suggests that the burden may be substantial and widely neglected. A survey among Adivasi adolescents in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Meghalaya reported a 16% prevalence of mental disorders, more than double the national estimate for adolescents. Another survey among adolescent girls in



The 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey estimated that 7% of adolescents aged 13-17 years, experience mental health problems. PHOTO: SETUWORKS

rural Adivasi blocks of Jharkhand found that 12% experienced symptoms of emotional or behavioural distress. These numbers, however, reveal only part of the story.

Poverty and mental health

For many young Adivasi people, family responsibilities begin at an early age. Financial insecurity is the norm rather than the exception. The most basic of needs including clothing and school costs are difficult to meet, a reality that Adivasi children understand from a very young age. But this premature awareness frequently comes at the cost of adolescence itself, quietly compressing what should be a carefree period with constant worry, restraint, and emotional burdens they are inadequately prepared for. When this is compounded by the loss of one or both parents, it often places adolescents under intense emotional and psychological stress.

What appears in these children externally as "maturity" is often chronic anxiety and emotional exhaustion. These experiences rarely enter formal mental health statistics and go unrecognised by the system, but they shape the emotional worlds of Adivasi adolescents every day.

What often remains invisible are the emotional costs of this transition: loneliness, uncertainty, grief, interrupted education, substance use, fractured social

ties, and a growing sense of disconnection from both village and city life.

Yet distress is not always expressed in ways recognised by formal mental health systems.

In recent work with Adivasi adolescents in rural Jharkhand, researchers found that young people, caregivers, teachers, and community health workers often described distress through local idioms, bodily complaints, silence, irritability, social withdrawal, or changes in behaviour rather than psychiatric labels such as "depression" or "anxiety".

This has important implications.

Expression of distress

Mental health systems frequently assume that emotional suffering will present itself in clinically recognisable forms. But in many Adivasi communities, distress may be communicated through stories, metaphors, behaviour, or withdrawal from social life. When professionals fail to understand the expressions, communities themselves begin to appear 'silent'.

The problem, therefore, is not merely that Adivasi youth do not seek help. It is also that systems often do not know how to take them.

There is another quiet transformation taking place in villages: the erosion of intergenerational spaces. Ajay, a young community facilitator in one village from Jharkhand, reflected recently that earlier, evenings were spent sitting with elders, listening to stories and experiences. "That was our learning space," he said. "Now

most young people spend time outside villages on their smartphones."

This reflects the weakening of informal spaces where emotions, identity, memory, and belonging were once shared collectively.

What is needed

India's response to mental health among Adivasi youth cannot be limited to expanding psychiatric services into rural areas, though accessible care remains essential. A more meaningful response requires strengthening community spaces, reducing social and economic precarity, listening to local languages of distress, and creating systems where they can speak without fear or shame.

Mental health among Adivasi youth is not only a medical concern. It is also a question of dignity, justice, cultural continuity, and whether young people are allowed to imagine a future beyond survival.

Until India learns to pay heed to these quiet forms of suffering, many a youth like Dumbi will continue walking silently at the margins of our collective attention.

With inputs from Yadav Leyang, Pankaj Pan, Savitri Banra and Kamala Pan.

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THE GIST

People at the forefront of conversations on mental health remain primarily urban-centric and from privileged socio-economic groups. Young people from Adivasi communities remain missing from most of these conversations

For many young Adivasi people, family responsibilities begin at an early age. Financial insecurity is the norm rather than the exception. The most basic of needs including clothing and school costs are difficult to meet

A more meaningful response requires strengthening community spaces, reducing social and economic precarity, listening to local languages of distress, and creating systems where they can speak without fear or shame

19J6. Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress

‘अवसाद’ और ‘चिंता’ से आगे: युवा आदिवासी अपनी मानसिक पीड़ा को किस प्रकार व्यक्त करते हैं

- Dumbi, a tall, muscular teenager, walks silently outside his village, which consists of about 70 houses, mostly of the **Adivasi Ho community, in Jharkhand**.
डुम्बी, एक लंबा और मजबूत किशोर, झारखंड में स्थित अपने गाँव के बाहर चुपचाप चलता है, जिसमें लगभग 70 घर हैं और जहाँ अधिकांश लोग आदिवासी हो समुदाय से संबंध रखते हैं।
- The burden of caring for the family at the age of **15** made him sullen and withdrawn, and also led to **his habit of drinking locally-brewed liquor, as a coping mechanism**.
15 वर्ष की आयु में परिवार की देखभाल का बोझ उसे उदास और अंतर्मुखी बना गया, और इससे उसमें परिस्थितियों से निपटने के लिए स्थानीय रूप से निर्मित शराब पीने की आदत भी विकसित हो गई।
- India has the largest population of indigenous communities in the world**.
भारत में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी स्वदेशी समुदायों की जनसंख्या निवास करती है।
- The **2015-16 National Mental Health Survey** estimated that **7%** of adolescents aged **13-17 years**, experience mental health problems, though most are unlikely to receive any formal care.

2015-16 के राष्ट्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, 13-17 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के 7% किशोर मानसिक

स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं का अनुभव करते हैं, यद्यपि उनमें से अधिकांश को किसी प्रकार की औपचारिक देखभाल मिलने की संभावना नहीं होती।

- A survey among **Adivasi adolescents in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Meghalaya** reported a **16% prevalence** of mental disorders, more than double the national estimate for adolescents. गुजरात, तमिलनाडु और मेघालय के आदिवासी किशोरों पर किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण में मानसिक विकारों की **16% व्यापकता** दर्ज की गई, जो किशोरों के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुमान से दोगुने से भी अधिक है।

19J6. Children with vitiligo deserve freedom from stigma and the burden of misinformation

विटिलिगो से प्रभावित बच्चों को कलंक और भ्रामक जानकारी के बोझ से मुक्ति मिलनी चाहिए

- Yet, for thousands of children living with **vitiligo** – a chronic condition where patches of skin tend to lose pigment – this is a reality. फिर भी, **विटिलिगो** से पीड़ित हजारों बच्चों के लिए — जो एक दीर्घकालिक स्थिति है जिसमें त्वचा के कुछ हिस्सों का रंगद्रव्य कम हो जाता है — यह एक वास्तविकता है।
- Vitiligo is a medically harmless, non-contagious condition.** **विटिलिगो** चिकित्सकीय दृष्टि से हानिरहित और गैर-संक्रामक स्थिति है।
- Misunderstandings and stigma about it, however, persist.** हालाँकि, इसके बारे में भ्रान्तियाँ और **कलंक** आज भी बने हुए हैं।
- Children suffering from **vitiligo** tend to be very conscious of their appearance at an early age. **विटिलिगो** से पीड़ित बच्चे कम आयु से ही अपने बाहरी स्वरूप के प्रति अत्यधिक सजग हो जाते हैं।
- Adolescents are significantly more vulnerable as during their teenage years, they are more susceptible to concerns of appearances, belonging and acceptance.** किशोर विशेष रूप से अधिक संवेदनशील होते हैं क्योंकि किशोरावस्था में वे बाहरी रूप, अपनत्व और सामाजिक स्वीकृति से जुड़ी चिंताओं के प्रति अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं।

What needs to change

क्या बदलने की आवश्यकता है

- The condition is often assumed to be caused by poor hygiene or believed to be contagious: neither fact is true. अक्सर यह माना जाता है कि यह स्थिति खराब स्वच्छता के कारण होती है या यह संक्रामक है, जबकि इनमें से कोई भी बात सत्य नहीं है।
- Simple initiatives inside the classroom can make a difference, as when children understand that **vitiligo is an autoimmune disease and poses no health risk to others**, the **stigma and fear related to it will reduce substantially**. कक्षा के भीतर किए गए सरल प्रयास भी बड़ा परिवर्तन ला सकते हैं, क्योंकि जब बच्चे यह समझते हैं कि **विटिलिगो** एक स्व-प्रतिरक्षी रोग है और इससे दूसरों के स्वास्थ्य को कोई खतरा नहीं है, तो इससे जुड़ा कलंक और भय काफी हद तक कम हो जाएगा।
- Teachers and parents play an important role here in identifying signs of emotional distress, declining academic performances or reluctance to attend school.** भावनात्मक संकट के संकेतों, शैक्षणिक प्रदर्शन में गिरावट अथवा विद्यालय जाने में अनिच्छा की पहचान करने में शिक्षक और अभिभावक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- The true burden of **vitiligo** is rarely found in the skin itself: it is found in the silent stigma that children face. Our collective goal must be that no child feels different, or less worthy, due to the skin they live in.

हमारा सामूहिक लक्ष्य यह होना चाहिए कि कोई भी बच्चा अपनी त्वचा के कारण स्वयं को अलग या कम मूल्यवान महसूस न करे। **विटिलिगो** का वास्तविक बोझ शायद ही कभी केवल त्वचा में दिखाई देता है; यह उस मौन कलंक में निहित होता है जिसका सामना बच्चे करते हैं।

Vitiligo

- **Vitiligo** is a chronic skin condition in which white patches appear on the skin due to the loss of **melanocytes**, the cells that produce the pigment **melanin** responsible for skin, hair, and eye color.

Why is it Called an Autoimmune Disease?

- In an autoimmune disorder, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own healthy cells.
- In vitiligo:
- The immune system wrongly identifies melanocytes as harmful.
- It attacks and destroys these pigment-producing cells.
- As melanocytes disappear, the affected areas lose their color and become white.

THE HINDU

Lopsided solution

In India, regulatory oversight for pharmaceuticals needs to improve

As part of an overarching attempt to restore confidence in India's pharmaceutical supply chain after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter, the government has required a doctor's prescription for individuals to purchase syrup-based medicines. However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist. The Union Health Ministry has removed the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945, a change it had signalled when it issued the draft notification in December 2025, thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies. These products were singled out after ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG) contamination in India-made cough syrups killed over 300 children across several countries since 2022. The WHO's warnings in 2022 and 2023 also undermined assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and functioning independently. But beyond contamination, doctors have long raised concerns about how cough syrups are formulated and used. Many over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups are 'cocktails' of bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants, which can cause tremors and heart palpitations, extreme sedation or paradoxical agitation in infants, and blood pressure effects. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that cough suppressants are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous, as they can mask underlying conditions such as pneumonia or asthma. Yet, India's entrenched OTC culture makes pharmacists de facto primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas.

Most importantly, however, the contamination was the result of failures in manufacturing quality control, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access. Even now, requiring a prescription may reduce inappropriate use and push patients away from self-medication, but it could never prevent contaminated products from reaching the market in the first place. The fundamental issue is that the government continues to tolerate the pharmaceutical lobby's argument that high-end testing requirements – for stronger quality control and ultimately better drugs – will bankrupt smaller manufacturers. Second, while the Indian Pharmacopoeia and the Pharmacopoeia Internationalis updated their analytical methods to detect EG/DEG following the deaths, failures in batch testing and enforcement persist. As a result, while India has around three dozen State drug controllers, they are chronically understaffed – so without a large increase in the inspectorate, the notification is likely to be ignored sans consequence in rural areas. In a globalised economy, subpar enforcement for medicines in even one country is dangerous; that is infinitely more so in a country aspiring to remain the world's pharmacy.

19J6. Lopsided solution

असंतुलित समाधान

- In India, regulatory oversight for pharmaceuticals needs to improve.
भारत में औषधियों (फार्मास्यूटिकल्स) के लिए नियामकीय निगरानी में सुधार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।
- As part of an overarching attempt to restore confidence in India's pharmaceutical supply chain after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter, the government has required a doctor's prescription for individuals to purchase syrup-based medicines.
दवा निर्यातक के रूप में देश की प्रतिष्ठा को क्षति पहुँचाने वाली कई मौतों के बाद भारत की औषधि आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में विश्वास बहाल करने के व्यापक प्रयास के अंतर्गत सरकार ने सिरप-आधारित दवाओं की खरीद के लिए चिकित्सकीय पर्चा अनिवार्य कर दिया है।
- However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist.
हालाँकि यह एक विश्वसनीय कदम प्रतीत होता है, परंतु यह सुधारात्मक की अपेक्षा रक्षात्मक अधिक है।
- The Union Health Ministry has removed the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945, a change it had signalled when it issued the draft notification in December 2025, thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies.
केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने ड्रग्स रूल्स, 1945 की अनुसूची K से "सिरप" शब्द को हटा दिया है। यह परिवर्तन दिसंबर 2025 में जारी मसौदा अधिसूचना में संकेतित किया गया था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप अब खाँसी की सिरप केवल चिकित्सकीय पर्चे पर और लाइसेंस प्राप्त फार्मसियों के माध्यम से ही बेची जा सकेगी।

- These products were singled out after **ethylene glycol (EG)** and **diethylene glycol (DEG)** contamination in India-made cough syrups killed over 300 children across several countries since 2022.
इन उत्पादों को विशेष रूप से चिन्हित किया गया क्योंकि 2022 से भारत में निर्मित खाँसी की सिरपों में **एथिलीन ग्लाइकॉल (EG)** और **डाइएथिलीन ग्लाइकॉल (DEG)** के प्रदूषण के कारण कई देशों में 300 से अधिक बच्चों की मृत्यु हुई।
- The **WHO's warnings** in 2022 and 2023 also undermined assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and functioning independently.
2022 और 2023 में **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO)** की चेतावनियों ने इस धारणा को भी कमजोर कर दिया कि भारत की निर्यात गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण प्रणाली प्रभावी और स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य कर रही है।
- But beyond contamination, doctors have long raised concerns about how cough syrups are formulated and used.
किन्तु प्रदूषण से परे भी चिकित्सक लंबे समय से खाँसी की सिरपों की संरचना और उपयोग को लेकर चिंताएँ व्यक्त करते रहे हैं।
- Many over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups are 'cocktails' of **bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants**, which can cause tremors and heart palpitations, extreme sedation or paradoxical agitation in infants, and blood pressure effects.
अनेक ओवर-द-काउंटर (OTC) खाँसी की सिरपें **ब्रॉकोडाइलेटर्स, एंटीहिस्टामिन्स और डीकंजैस्टेंट्स** का मिश्रण होती हैं, जो कंपन, हृदय की धड़कन बढ़ना, शिशुओं में अत्यधिक सुस्ती या विपरीत रूप से उत्तेजना तथा रक्तचाप संबंधी प्रभाव उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं।
- The **American Academy of Pediatrics** has said that **cough suppressants are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous, as they can mask underlying conditions such as pneumonia or asthma.**
अमेरिकन एकेडमी ऑफ पीडियाट्रिक्स ने कहा है कि छह वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों के लिए खाँसी दबाने वाली दवाएँ काफी हद तक अप्रभावी हैं और खतरनाक भी हो सकती हैं, क्योंकि वे निमोनिया या अस्थमा जैसी अंतर्निहित स्थितियों को छिपा सकती हैं।
- Yet, India's entrenched **OTC culture** makes pharmacists de facto primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas.
फिर भी, भारत की गहराई से जड़ें जमा चुकी **OTC संस्कृति** के कारण अनेक ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में फार्मासिस्ट वास्तविक प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाता बन गए हैं।
- Most importantly, however, the **contamination was the result of failures in manufacturing quality control, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access.**
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह प्रदूषण उपभोक्ताओं की पहुँच के कारण नहीं, बल्कि **विनिर्माण गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण, कच्चे माल की जाँच तथा नियामकीय निगरानी की विफलताओं** का परिणाम था।
- Even now, requiring a prescription may reduce inappropriate use and push patients away from self-medication, but it could never prevent contaminated products from reaching the market in the first place.
आज भी चिकित्सकीय पर्चा अनिवार्य करने से अनुचित उपयोग कम हो सकता है और रोगियों को स्वयं-चिकित्सा से दूर रखा जा सकता है, किन्तु यह दूषित उत्पादों को प्रारंभ में ही बाजार तक पहुँचने से नहीं रोक सकता।
- The fundamental issue is that the government continues to tolerate the **pharmaceutical lobby's** argument that high-end testing requirements — for stronger quality control and ultimately better drugs — will bankrupt smaller manufacturers.
मूल समस्या यह है कि सरकार अभी भी **फार्मास्युटिकल लॉबी** के उस तर्क को स्वीकार करती है कि सख्त गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण और बेहतर दवाओं के लिए आवश्यक उन्नत परीक्षण मानक छोटे निर्माताओं को दिवालिया कर देंगे।
- Second, while the **Indian Pharmacopoeia** and the **Pharmacopoeia Internationalis** updated their analytical methods to detect **EG/DEG** following the deaths, failures in batch testing and



enforcement persist.

दूसरी ओर, यद्यपि **इंडियन फार्माकोपिया** और **फार्माकोपोइया इंटरनेशनलिस** ने इन मौतों के बाद **EG/DEG** की पहचान के लिए अपनी विश्लेषणात्मक विधियों को अद्यतन किया, फिर भी बैच परीक्षण और प्रवर्तन में विफलताएँ बनी हुई हैं।

- As a result, while India has around three dozen **State drug controllers**, they are chronically understaffed — so without a large increase in the inspectorate, the notification is likely to be ignored sans consequence in rural areas.
परिणामस्वरूप, यद्यपि भारत में लगभग तीन दर्जन **राज्य औषधि नियंत्रक** हैं, वे लंबे समय से कर्मियों की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं। इसलिए निरीक्षण तंत्र में पर्याप्त वृद्धि के बिना ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इस अधिसूचना की अनदेखी किए जाने की संभावना है और इसके कोई विशेष परिणाम भी नहीं होंगे।
- In a globalised economy, subpar enforcement for medicines in even one country is dangerous; that is infinitely more so in a country aspiring to remain the world's pharmacy. वैश्वीकृत अर्थव्यवस्था में किसी एक देश में भी दवाओं के लिए कमजोर प्रवर्तन खतरनाक होता है; और यह खतरा उस देश के लिए कहीं अधिक बढ़ जाता है जो स्वयं को विश्व की औषधि आपूर्ति का केंद्र बनाए रखना चाहता है।

MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel

GS III: S&T

M. Soundariya Preettha
COIMBATORE

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that consume 200 to 600 litres of high speed diesel (HSD) a day have been hit by the recently imposed procurement ceiling.

According to V. Rangaswamy, president of the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CO-DISSIA), MSMEs in the manufacturing, healthcare, commercial, and educational sectors do not have space or resources for bulk purchase and storage of HSD. Hence, they make

daily or weekly purchases from the local authorised retail outlets.

The present procurement ceiling of 200 litres a day introduced through a notification issued on June 11 is inadequate even for a single day, he said.

The government should introduce higher procurement limit for verified institutional consumers and permit registered MSMEs, and other essential service providers to procure up to 600 litres per day upon submission of GST registration certificate, factory licence, or Udyam registration certificate, he added.

HSD is used in:

- Trucks and buses
- Cars and SUVs with diesel engines
- Tractors and agricultural machinery
- Diesel generators (DG sets)
- Construction equipment

19J6. MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel

डीज़ल वितरण पर प्रतिबंधों से MSMEs प्रभावित

- Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that consume **200 to 600 litres of high speed diesel (HSD)** a day have been hit by the recently imposed **procurement ceiling**.

प्रतिदिन 200 से 600 लीटर हाई स्पीड डीज़ल (HSD) की खपत करने वाले सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (MSMEs) हाल ही में लागू की गई खरीद सीमा से प्रभावित हुए हैं।

HIGH-SPEED DIESEL (HSD)

High-Speed Diesel (HSD) is a refined petroleum fuel used in **high-speed diesel engines**, particularly those operating at speeds above about **750 revolutions per minute (RPM)**.



- Railways (many diesel locomotives)
- Industrial machinery

Why is it Called "High-Speed" Diesel?

The term refers to the **engine speed**, not the speed of the vehicle.

Example

- A modern truck engine may operate between 1,000 and 2,500 RPM.
- A tractor engine may operate around 1,500–2,000 RPM.

These are classified as high-speed diesel engines and therefore use HSD.

Characteristics of HSD

- **High Energy Content:** Provides substantial power and fuel efficiency.
- **Higher Flash Point:** Usually above 35°C. Safer to store and transport than petrol.
- **Good Lubricating Properties:** Helps reduce wear and tear in diesel engines.
- **Better Fuel Economy:** Diesel engines generally provide higher mileage than petrol engines.

HSD vs Petrol

Feature	HSD	Petrol
Engine Type	Diesel Engine	Petrol Engine
Fuel Efficiency	Higher	Lower
Torque	Higher	Lower
Flash Point	Higher	Lower
Common Use	Trucks, buses, tractors	Cars, motorcycles

HSD vs Light Diesel Oil (LDO)

Many students confuse HSD and LDO.

Feature	HSD	LDO
Use	Vehicles and high-speed engines	Industrial low-speed engines
Engine Speed	Above ~750 RPM	Below ~750 RPM
Quality	Better	Relatively lower

Environmental Concerns

Burning HSD releases:



- Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
- Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
- Particulate Matter (PM)
- Sulphur compounds (depending on fuel quality)

To reduce pollution, India has adopted **BS-VI (Bharat Stage VI)** diesel standards with very low sulphur content.

PATRIOTIC IAS