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11\_02\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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# Trump proposes tariffs on steel, aluminium imports

GS Paper II: US

### Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said the U.S. will impose 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports, including from Canada and Mexico, as well as other import duties later in the week.

“Any steel coming into the United States is going to have a 25% tariff,” he told presspersons on Sunday on Air Force One as he flew from Florida to New Orleans to attend the Super Bowl. When asked about aluminium, he responded, “aluminium, too” will be subject to the trade penalties.

### Reciprocal tariffs

Mr. Trump also reaffirmed that he would announce “reciprocal tariffs” – “probably Tuesday or Wednesday” – meaning that the U.S. would impose import duties on products in cases in which another

country has levied duties on U.S. goods.

country has levied duties on U.S. goods.

“If they are charging us 130% and we’re charging them nothing, it’s not going to stay that way,” he said.

Mr. Trump has said he sees import taxes as tools to force concessions on issues such as immigration but also as a source of revenue to help close the government’s budget deficit.

**INDIA STAYS STOIC**

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## Metal merchandise

U.S. imports most of its aluminium and steel from Canada, China and Mexico. Tables show imports in \$ billion (2018-2023)



1	Canada	\$57.3bn
2	China	\$18.5bn
3	Mexico	\$9.6bn
4	UAE	\$8.9bn
5	India	\$4.5bn



1	China	\$85.1bn
2	Canada	\$71.4bn
3	Mexico	\$58.4bn
..		
9	India	\$15.6bn

## India may offer lower duties to pacify Trump

### NEW DELHI

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to hold bilateral talks with U.S. President Donald Trump this week, which will likely include intense parleys on tariffs, India could offer fresh cuts in import duties on items of U.S. interest, such as the uniquely American pecan nuts grown in its southwestern States. » PAGE 12

## Trump Proposes Tariffs on Steel, Aluminium Imports

ट्रम्प ने इस्पात,

एल्यूमीनियम

आयात पर टैरिफ

लगाने का प्रस्ताव

दिया

President Donald Trump has said the U.S. will impose 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports, including from Canada and Mexico, as well



राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने कहा कि अमेरिका 25% टैरिफ सभी इस्पात और एल्यूमीनियम आयात पर लगाएगा, जिसमें कनाडा और मैक्सिको भी शामिल हैं, और सप्ताह के अंत में अन्य आयात शुल्क भी लगाए जाएंगे।

- “Any steel coming into the United States is going to have a 25% tariff,” he told presspersons on Sunday on Air Force One as he flew from Florida to New Orleans to attend the Super Bowl.  
"अमेरिका में आने वाले किसी भी इस्पात पर 25% टैरिफ लगेगा," उन्होंने रविवार को एयर फ़ोर्स वन में प्रेस को बताया, जब वे फ्लोरिडा से न्यू ऑरलियन्स जा रहे थे सुपर बाउल में भाग लेने के लिए।
- When asked about aluminium, he responded, “aluminium, too” will be subject to the trade penalties.  
जब एल्यूमीनियम के बारे में पूछा गया, तो उन्होंने उत्तर दिया, "एल्यूमीनियम भी" व्यापार दंड के अधीन होगा।

## Reciprocal Tariffs

### पारस्परिक टैरिफ

- Mr. Trump also reaffirmed that he would announce “reciprocal tariffs” — “probably Tuesday or Wednesday” — meaning that the U.S. would impose import duties on products in cases where another country has levied duties on U.S. goods.  
श्री ट्रम्प ने यह भी पुष्टि की कि वह "पारस्परिक टैरिफ" की घोषणा करेंगे — "संभवतः मंगलवार या बुधवार" — जिसका अर्थ है कि अमेरिका उन उत्पादों पर आयात शुल्क लगाएगा, जहां किसी अन्य देश ने अमेरिकी वस्तुओं पर शुल्क लगाया है।
- “If they are charging us 130% and we’re charging them nothing, it’s not going to stay that way,” he said.  
"अगर वे हमसे 130% शुल्क वसूल रहे हैं और हम उनसे कुछ नहीं ले रहे, तो यह ऐसा नहीं रहेगा," उन्होंने कहा।
- Mr. Trump has said he sees import taxes as tools to force concessions on issues such as immigration but also as a source of revenue to help close the government’s budget deficit.  
श्री ट्रम्प ने कहा कि वह आयात करों को रियायतें दिलाने का साधन मानते हैं, जैसे आप्रवासन, और इसे राजस्व का स्रोत भी मानते हैं, जिससे सरकार के बजट घाटे को कम करने में मदद मिलेगी।



# Why didn't Governor inform T.N. about his objections to Bills: SC

GS Paper II: Center-State Relation

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the long "silence" of the Tamil Nadu Governor, spanning months and years, to the State's Bills, culminating in his withholding of consent and the reference of at least 10 Bills to the President for consideration.

Addressing Attorney-General of India R. Venkataramani, who appeared for Governor R.N. Ravi, Justice J.B. Pardiwala said the Governor definitely had "something in his mind" when he withheld consent to the Bills sent to him for assent by the State government. Yet, the Governor did not communicate what was irking him about the proposed laws. "So, he goes quiet for one or two years... He withholds consent... Then suddenly he says I have referred them to the President," observed Justice Pardiwala, accompanied by Justice R. Mahadevan on the Bench.

Mr. Venkataramani said the Governor had earlier communicated to the State his objections regarding the constitution of the search-cum-selection committee for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors of State universities. The Governor-Chancellor had sought the inclusion of the University Grants Commission Chairperson's nominee in the search-cum-selection committee. The State Bills, passed subsequently, sought to remove the Governor, who was also *ex-officio* Chancellor of these universities, from the Vice-Chancellor appointment process.



Then why did you [Governor] keep silent about the Bills? They [the State] would have probably agreed with you

**JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA**  
Supreme Court Judge

"Then why did you keep silent about the Bills? Why did you not tell the State government about your reservations if you found them repugnant?... They [the State] would have probably agreed with you..." Justice Pardiwala reacted to the submission from the top law officer.

**'Not a formality'**

The judge, turning Mr. Venkataramani's submissions that the Governor had earlier raised objections about the Vice-Chancellors' appointment process on its head, said that then the Assembly's reconsideration of the 10 Bills at its special sitting on November 18, 2023, would not have been just an "empty formality". "The Assembly would have known what his objections were," Justice Pardiwala remarked.

The court reserved the case for judgment.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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## Why didn't Governor Inform T.N. About His Objections to Bills: SC राज्यपाल ने तमिलनाडु को बिलों पर अपनी आपत्तियों की जानकारी क्यों नहीं दी: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the long "silence" of the Tamil Nadu Governor, spanning months and years, on the State's Bills, culminating in his withholding of consent and referring at least 10 Bills to the President for consideration.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल की लंबे समय तक "चुप्पी" पर सवाल उठाया, जो कई महीनों और वर्षों तक चली, और अंततः उन्होंने स्वीकृति रोक दी तथा कम से कम 10 विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति के पास विचार के लिए भेज दिया।

- Addressing Attorney General of India R. Venkataramani, who appeared for Governor R.N. Ravi, Justice J.B. Pardiwala said the Governor definitely had "something in his mind" when he withheld consent to the Bills sent to him for assent by the State government.

भारत के अटॉर्नी जनरल आर. वेंकटरमणि, जो राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि की ओर से उपस्थित हुए, को संबोधित करते हुए न्यायमूर्ति जे.बी.

पारदीवाला ने कहा कि राज्यपाल के मन में निश्चित रूप से कुछ था, जब उन्होंने राज्य सरकार द्वारा भेजे गए बिलों को स्वीकृति देने से रोका।

- Yet, the Governor did not communicate what was irking him about the proposed laws.

फिर भी, राज्यपाल ने यह नहीं बताया कि उन्हें इन प्रस्तावित कानूनों से क्या समस्या थी।

- "So, he goes quiet for one or two years... He withholds consent... Then suddenly he says I have referred them to the President," observed Justice Pardiwala, accompanied by Justice R. Mahadevan on the Bench.

"तो, वह एक या दो साल तक चुप रहते हैं... फिर स्वीकृति रोक लेते हैं... और अचानक कहते हैं कि मैंने इन्हें राष्ट्रपति के पास भेज दिया है,"



न्यायमूर्ति पारदीवाला ने कहा, जो न्यायमूर्ति आर. महादेवन के साथ पीठ में थे।

## Governor's Justification

### राज्यपाल का स्पष्टीकरण

- **Mr. Venkataramani** said the **Governor** had earlier communicated to the **State** his objections regarding the **constitution of the search-cum-selection committee** for the **appointment of Vice-Chancellors of State universities**.  
श्री वेंकटरमणि ने कहा कि राज्यपाल ने पहले राज्य सरकार को सूचित किया था कि उन्हें राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलपतियों की नियुक्ति के लिए खोज-सह-चयन समिति के गठन पर आपत्ति थी।
- The **Governor-Chancellor** had sought the **inclusion of the University Grants Commission Chairperson's nominee** in the **search-cum-selection committee**.  
राज्यपाल-चांसलर ने विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) के अध्यक्ष के नामित व्यक्ति को खोज-सह-चयन समिति में शामिल करने की मांग की थी।
- The **State Bills**, passed subsequently, sought to **remove the Governor**, who was also **ex-officio Chancellor of these universities**, from the **Vice-Chancellor appointment process**.  
बाद में पारित राज्य विधेयकों में यह प्रस्ताव रखा गया कि राज्यपाल, जो इन विश्वविद्यालयों के पदेन चांसलर भी थे, को कुलपति नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया से हटा दिया जाए।

## Court's Response

### कोर्ट की प्रतिक्रिया

- "Then why did you keep silent about the Bills? Why did you not tell the State government about your reservations if you found them repugnant?" Justice Pardiwala reacted to the submission from the top law officer.  
"फिर आपने इन बिलों पर चुप्पी क्यों साधी? अगर आपको इनमें आपत्ति थी तो आपने राज्य सरकार को इसके बारे में क्यों नहीं बताया?" न्यायमूर्ति पारदीवाला ने शीर्ष विधि अधिकारी की दलील पर प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- "They [the State] would have probably agreed with you..." he added.  
"वे [राज्य सरकार] शायद आपसे सहमत हो जाते..." उन्होंने जोड़ा।

## 'Not a Formality'

### 'सिर्फ एक औपचारिकता नहीं'

- The judge, turning **Mr. Venkataramani's submissions** that the **Governor** had earlier raised objections about the **Vice-Chancellors' appointment process** on its head, said that then the **Assembly's reconsideration** of the **10 Bills** at its **special sitting on November 18, 2023**, would not have been just an "empty formality".  
न्यायाधीश ने श्री वेंकटरमणि की इस दलील को पलटते हुए, कि राज्यपाल ने पहले कुलपति नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया पर आपत्ति जताई थी, कहा कि 18 नवंबर, 2023 को विशेष सत्र में विधानसभा द्वारा इन 10 विधेयकों पर पुनर्विचार सिर्फ एक "खाली औपचारिकता" नहीं होता।
- "The Assembly would have known what his objections were," Justice Pardiwala remarked.  
"विधानसभा को पता होता कि उनकी आपत्तियाँ क्या थीं," न्यायमूर्ति पारदीवाला ने टिप्पणी की।



- The court reserved the case for judgment.  
कोर्ट ने इस मामले में फैसला सुरक्षित रखा।

## Maharashtra move to stop funding eggs in MDM sparks concerns

GS Paper II: Government Policies and Schemes

NEWS ANALYSIS

**Ashokamithran T.**  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government's recent decision to withdraw ₹50 crore in funding for eggs and millet-based sweet dishes in State-run schools under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM) has sparked criticism.

"Egg pulao and sweet khichdi/naachni satya... are being given in alternative form. The management committee should try to provide the benefits of the two recipes and the sugar required for other recipes through public participation. No additional funds will be provided by the government," a Government Resolution dated January 28 had stated.

An analysis of data from the State budget for 2024-



Eggs being served to students of a Karnataka government school. Nearly 16 States have eggs on the midday meal menu. FILE PHOTO

25 shows that Maharashtra is estimated to spend only 0.04% of its total expenditure of ₹6.12 lakh crore on the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme (PM-POSHAN), which provides nutritious food to schoolchildren.

The Maharashtra government's spending on PM-POSHAN, including Central grants, has been less than 1% of the total expenditure over the last four

years. This share has been steadily on the decline.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 mandates a daily protein intake of 12 gm for primary level students and 20 gm for upper primary level students. The midday meal scheme was envisioned to bring children to school by providing them lunch, thereby encouraging enrolment while solving the problem of malnourishment. The scheme

was later merged with the PM-POSHAN programme, a Centrally-sponsored initiative, in which the Union government bears 60% of the costs and the State government covers the remaining 40%. Nearly 16 States have eggs on the midday meal menu.

### Halted after a year

In Maharashtra, eggs were added to the midday meal menu only in November 2023, nearly two decades after the programme was implemented in the State. Just over a year later, the State has decided to discontinue funding for it.

Maharashtra's decision to cut costs comes amid maintaining a fiscal deficit to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio below the 3% legal mandate over the past five years, according to data from PRS Legislative Research. The State

government had a fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio of 1.9% in 2022-23, the year eggs were introduced in school meals, which was the lowest in five years.

Anna Adhikar Abhiyan, an NGO working on food and nutrition issues, argued that "financial constraints" cannot justify the decision and it is "ironic" that one of the wealthiest States would cut funding for a critical scheme.

Activists pointed out that even the existing funding is "grossly insufficient".

Data from NITI Aayog's fact sheet on the State's nutrition situation show that as of 2019, about 35% of children under the age of five are underweight and 36% stunted. These numbers have stayed more or less the same since 2015-16.

For poor households, purchasing eggs for children can be a significant ex-

pense, especially considering the rising trend in food prices. Barring two months, monthly consumer food price inflation has exceeded 8% between November 2023 and December 2024, according to National Statistics Office data.

The Opposition has condemned the decision, with Atul Londhe, spokesperson of the Maharashtra Congress, calling it a clear indication of "financial and mental bankruptcy".

Aaditya Thackeray, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA from Worli, echoed this sentiment. "For most students, the midday meal is the only source of nutrition. Once again, this clearly proves that the government belongs to the greedy politicians elected by EVMs. It doesn't belong to the people, especially the children in schools who have no vote, no voice," he said.

## Maharashtra Move to Stop Funding Eggs in MDM Sparks Concerns

मध्याह्न भोजन योजना में अंडों की फंडिंग रोकने के महाराष्ट्र सरकार के फैसले पर चिंता

The Maharashtra government's recent decision to withdraw ₹50 crore in funding for eggs and millet-based sweet dishes in State-run schools under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM) has sparked criticism.

महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा राज्य संचालित स्कूलों में मध्याह्न भोजन योजना (MDM) के तहत अंडों और बाजरा आधारित मीठे व्यंजनों के लिए ₹50 करोड़ की फंडिंग हटाने के हालिया फैसले की आलोचना हो रही है।

- "Egg pulao and sweet khichdi/naachni satya... are being given in alternative form."

"अंडा पुलाव और मीठी खिचड़ी/नाचनी सत्य... वैकल्पिक रूप में दिए जा रहे हैं।"

- The management committee should try to provide the benefits of these two recipes and the sugar required for other recipes through public participation.

प्रबंधन समिति को इन दो व्यंजनों के लाभ और अन्य व्यंजनों के लिए आवश्यक चीनी को जनभागीदारी के माध्यम से प्रदान करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए।



- **No additional funds** will be provided by the **government**, according to a **Government Resolution dated January 28**.  
28 जनवरी को जारी सरकारी प्रस्ताव के अनुसार, सरकार द्वारा कोई अतिरिक्त फंड प्रदान नहीं किया जाएगा।

## Budget Analysis

### बजट विश्लेषण

- An analysis of **State budget 2024-25** shows that **Maharashtra** is estimated to spend only **0.04%** of its total expenditure of **₹6.12 lakh crore** on the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme (PM-POSHAN)**, which provides **nutritious food to schoolchildren**.  
राज्य बजट 2024-25 के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि महाराष्ट्र अपने ₹6.12 लाख करोड़ के कुल खर्च का केवल 0.04% प्रधानमंत्री पोषण शक्ति निर्माण योजना (PM-POSHAN) पर खर्च करेगा, जो स्कूली बच्चों को पोषक आहार प्रदान करती है।
- The **Maharashtra government's spending** on **PM-POSHAN**, including **Central grants**, has been **less than 1%** of the total expenditure over the last **four years**.  
महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा केंद्र सरकार के अनुदान सहित, **PM-POSHAN योजना** पर किया गया खर्च पिछले चार वर्षों में कुल खर्च का 1% से भी कम रहा है।
- This share has been **steadily on the decline**.  
यह हिस्सा लगातार घटता जा रहा है।

## Nutritional Standards & Impact

### पोषण मानक और प्रभाव

- The **National Food Security Act, 2013** mandates a **daily protein intake** of **12 gm** for **primary level students** and **20 gm** for **upper primary level students**.  
राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 2013 के तहत प्राथमिक स्तर के छात्रों के लिए प्रतिदिन 12 ग्राम प्रोटीन और उच्च प्राथमिक स्तर के छात्रों के लिए 20 ग्राम प्रोटीन अनिवार्य किया गया है।
- The **Midday Meal Scheme** was envisioned to **bring children to school** by **providing them lunch**, thereby encouraging **enrolment** while solving the problem of **malnourishment**.  
मध्याह्न भोजन योजना का उद्देश्य बच्चों को स्कूल लाना था, ताकि उन्हें दोपहर का भोजन दिया जा सके, जिससे नामांकन को बढ़ावा मिले और कुपोषण की समस्या का समाधान हो।
- The scheme was later **merged with PM-POSHAN**, a **Centrally-sponsored initiative**, where the **Union government bears 60%** of the costs and the **State government covers the remaining 40%**.  
यह योजना बाद में **PM-POSHAN कार्यक्रम** के साथ विलय कर दी गई, जो एक केंद्र प्रायोजित पहल है, जिसमें केंद्र सरकार 60% खर्च वहन करती है और राज्य सरकार शेष 40% खर्च उठाती है।
- **Nearly 16 States** have **eggs on the midday meal menu**.  
लगभग 16 राज्यों में मध्याह्न भोजन मेनू में अंडे शामिल हैं।

## Halted After a Year

### एक वर्ष बाद रोक लगा दी गई



- In **Maharashtra**, eggs were added to the **midday meal menu only in November 2023**, nearly **two decades** after the programme was implemented in the State.  
महाराष्ट्र में अंडों को मध्याह्न भोजन मेनू में नवंबर 2023 में जोड़ा गया, जो कि इस योजना के राज्य में लागू होने के लगभग दो दशक बाद हुआ।
- Just **over a year later**, the **State has decided to discontinue funding** for it.  
एक साल बाद ही, राज्य सरकार ने इसके लिए फंडिंग बंद करने का निर्णय लिया।

## Financial Considerations

### वित्तीय विचार

- Maharashtra's decision to **cut costs** comes amid maintaining a **fiscal deficit to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio below the 3% legal mandate** over the past five years, according to **PRS Legislative Research**.  
महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने खर्च में कटौती का फैसला पिछले पांच वर्षों में सकल राज्य घरेलू उत्पाद (GSDP) के लिए 3% की कानूनी सीमा से नीचे वित्तीय घाटा बनाए रखने के मद्देनजर लिया है, PRS विधायी अनुसंधान के अनुसार।
- The **State government had a fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio of 1.9% in 2022-23**, the year **eggs were introduced in school meals**, which was the **lowest in five years**.  
राज्य सरकार का 2022-23 में वित्तीय घाटा-GSDP अनुपात 1.9% था, जो कि पिछले पांच वर्षों में सबसे कम था, और इसी वर्ष स्कूल भोजन में अंडे जोड़े गए थे।

## Criticism from Activists

### कार्यकर्ताओं की आलोचना

- **Anna Adhikar Abhiyan**, an NGO working on **food and nutrition issues**, argued that "**financial constraints**" cannot justify the decision.  
अन्ना अधिकार अभियान, जो भोजन और पोषण मुद्दों पर कार्य करता है, ने तर्क दिया कि "वित्तीय बाधाएं" इस निर्णय को उचित नहीं ठहरा सकतीं।
- The NGO said it is "**ironic**" that one of the **wealthiest States** would **cut funding** for a **critical scheme**.  
इस संगठन ने कहा कि यह "विडंबना" है कि सबसे धनी राज्यों में से एक इस महत्वपूर्ण योजना की फंडिंग में कटौती कर रहा है।
- Activists pointed out that even the **existing funding is "grossly insufficient"**.  
कार्यकर्ताओं ने बताया कि मौजूदा फंडिंग भी "अत्यंत अपर्याप्त" है।

## Nutritional Concerns

### पोषण संबंधी चिंताएँ

- Data from **NITI Aayog's fact sheet** on the **State's nutrition situation** shows that as of **2019**, about **35% of children under the age of five** are **underweight**, and **36% are stunted**.  
नीति आयोग की तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2019 तक, पांच साल से कम उम्र के 35% बच्चे कम वजन के हैं और 36% अविकसित हैं।



- These numbers have **stayed more or less the same** since **2015-16**.  
ये आंकड़े 2015-16 से लगभग समान बने हुए हैं।
- For **poor households**, purchasing **eggs for children** can be a **significant expense**, especially considering the **rising trend in food prices**.  
गरीब परिवारों के लिए बच्चों के लिए अंडे खरीदना एक बड़ी लागत हो सकती है, खासकर जब खाद्य कीमतों में वृद्धि हो रही हो।
- Barring **two months**, **monthly consumer food price inflation** has exceeded **8%** between **November 2023** and **December 2024**, according to **National Statistics Office (NSO)** data.  
राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) डेटा के अनुसार, नवंबर 2023 से दिसंबर 2024 के बीच मासिक उपभोक्ता खाद्य मूल्य मुद्रास्फीति ने 8% को पार कर लिया, केवल दो महीनों को छोड़कर।

## Political Reactions राजनीतिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ

- The **Opposition** has **condemned the decision**, with **Atul Londhe**, spokesperson of the **Maharashtra Congress**, calling it a **clear indication of "financial and mental bankruptcy"**.  
विपक्ष ने इस फैसले की निंदा की, महाराष्ट्र कांग्रेस के प्रवक्ता अतुल लोंढे ने इसे "वित्तीय और मानसिक दिवालियापन" का स्पष्ट संकेत बताया।
- **Aaditya Thackeray**, **Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA** from **Worli**, echoed this sentiment.  
आदित्य ठाकरे, शिवसेना (UBT) के विधायक (वर्ली से), ने भी इसी भावना को दोहराया।
- **"For most students, the midday meal is the only source of nutrition."**  
"अधिकांश छात्रों के लिए, मध्याह्न भोजन ही पोषण का एकमात्र स्रोत है।"
- He further said, **"Once again, this clearly proves that the government belongs to the greedy politicians elected by EVMs. It doesn't belong to the people, especially the children in schools who have no vote, no voice."**  
उन्होंने आगे कहा, "एक बार फिर, यह साबित करता है कि सरकार केवल ईवीएम से चुने गए लालची नेताओं की है। यह जनता की नहीं, विशेष रूप से स्कूलों के उन बच्चों की नहीं, जिनके पास न वोट है, न आवाज़।"



GS Paper II: Article 355 and 356

## Emergency exit

N. Biren Singh is finally shown the door, but peace in Manipur is elusive

In a long overdue decision, N. Biren Singh resigned as Chief Minister of Manipur on Sunday. It was reportedly under duress due to growing dissidence within the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government even as the Opposition Congress planned a no-confidence motion in the Assembly. The Supreme Court of India had recently sought the services of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory to provide a "sealed-cover report" on "leaked audio tapes" that it is examining, allegedly featuring Mr. Singh as an instigator of the ethnic conflict that has raged for months between two communities in the State. These proximate reasons apart, Mr. Singh's continuation was long made untenable with the ethnic conflict having shown few signs of abating, and him being seen as championing the cause of chauvinists from one group. In any case, the Union Government had, de facto, used the provisions of Article 355 to seize control over law and order without declaring its imposition. The BJP and its allies had also lost both Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 general election, indicating a fatigue in the valley and hill regions with the State government. Mr. Singh's rhetoric about the Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities, persistently accusing them of being "infiltrators" from Myanmar and providing a haven to "drug dealers" and illicit crop cultivators, fuelled the antipathy on both sides of the conflict, while his inability to rein in violent groups that openly brandished sophisticated weapons – many looted from police armories – created a culture of impunity. With the BJP persisting with his leadership, there was little hope for any reconciliation as civil society activists refused to engage in peace talks.

The Union government and the BJP should now make the best use of the opportunity by looking for a new leader who is unburdened by the shenanigans of Mr. Singh's rule and willing to work towards genuine reconciliation. Second, the Union government should accelerate the process of involving civil society leaders in talks, yet again, to address immediate issues such as the rehabilitation and return of over 60,000 displaced people. This will lay the ground for a political solution and address grievances in the hills and the valley. There are enough instruments in India's federal system that allow for creative solutions within the state-system, which have also worked well in other parts of the country in ending conflicts. But confidence-building measures and an end to wanton violence are a necessity before such solutions are mooted. Mr. Singh's resignation should pave the way for more such measures and it would be remiss on the part of the government to not follow up on these quickly.

व्यवस्था पर नियंत्रण स्थापित किया, बिना इसे आधिकारिक रूप से लागू किए।

## Electoral Setback

### चुनावी झटका



## Emergency Exit

### आपातकालीन निकास

N. Biren Singh has finally been shown the door, resigning as Chief Minister of Manipur on Sunday.

एन. बीरेन सिंह को आखिरकार बाहर का रास्ता दिखा दिया गया, उन्होंने रविवार को मणिपुर के मुख्यमंत्री पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया।

- The resignation reportedly happened under duress due to growing dissidence within the BJP-led NDA government and the Opposition Congress planning a no-confidence motion in the Assembly.

यह इस्तीफा दबाव में हुआ, क्योंकि भाजपा-नीत एनडीए सरकार में असंतोष बढ़ रहा था और विपक्षी कांग्रेस विधानसभा में अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लाने की योजना बना रही थी।

## Legal and Political Pressures

### कानूनी और राजनीतिक दबाव

- The Supreme Court of India had recently sought the services of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory to provide a "sealed-cover report" on leaked audio tapes allegedly featuring Mr. Singh as an instigator of the ethnic conflict in Manipur.

भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में केंद्रीय फॉरेंसिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला को "सीलबंद रिपोर्ट" देने के लिए कहा था, जिसमें लीक हुए ऑडियो टेप शामिल थे, जिनमें श्री सिंह को जातीय संघर्ष भड़काने वाला बताया गया।

- The ethnic conflict in the State has shown few signs of abating, making Mr. Singh's continuation untenable as he was seen as favoring one group.

राज्य में जातीय संघर्ष के शांत होने के कम संकेत मिले, जिससे श्री सिंह का पद पर बने रहना असंभव हो गया, क्योंकि उन्हें एक पक्ष का समर्थन करने वाला माना गया।

- The Union Government had, de facto, used Article 355 to seize control over law and order without officially declaring its imposition.

केंद्र सरकार ने अनौपचारिक रूप से अनुच्छेद 355 का उपयोग करके कानून और

- The **BJP and its allies lost both Lok Sabha seats** in the **2024 general election**, indicating **discontent in both valley and hill regions** with the State government.  
भाजपा और उसके सहयोगी 2024 के आम चुनाव में दोनों लोकसभा सीटें हार गए, जिससे मैदानी और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में सरकार के प्रति असंतोष झलकता है।

## Ethnic Conflict and Singh's Role

### जातीय संघर्ष और सिंह की भूमिका

- **Mr. Singh's rhetoric against the Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities**, persistently accusing them of being **"infiltrators" from Myanmar** and harboring **"drug dealers" and illicit crop cultivators**, fueled the conflict further.  
श्री सिंह की बयानबाजी कुकी-जो-हमार समुदायों के खिलाफ थी, जिसमें वे उन्हें म्यांमार से "घुसपैठिए" बताते और "ड्रग डीलर" व अवैध फसल उगाने वालों का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाते, जिससे संघर्ष और बढ़ गया।
- His **inability to control violent groups that brandished sophisticated weapons**, including many **looted from police armories**, created a **culture of impunity**.  
उनकी हिंसक समूहों पर नियंत्रण की असमर्थता, जिन्होंने उन्नत हथियारों का खुलेआम प्रदर्शन किया, जिनमें से कई पुलिस शस्त्रागार से लूटे गए थे, ने निर्दोषता की संस्कृति को जन्म दिया।
- As the **BJP persisted with his leadership**, there was **little hope for reconciliation**, and **civil society activists refused to engage in peace talks**.  
जब तक भाजपा ने उनके नेतृत्व को बनाए रखा, सुलह की कोई उम्मीद नहीं थी, और नागरिक समाज के कार्यकर्ताओं ने शांति वार्ता में शामिल होने से इनकार कर दिया।

## The Way Forward

### आगे का रास्ता

- The **Union government and the BJP** should **look for a new leader** who is **unburdened by Singh's tenure** and committed to **genuine reconciliation**.  
केंद्र सरकार और भाजपा को एक नए नेता की तलाश करनी चाहिए, जो सिंह के शासन की विफलताओं से मुक्त हो और वास्तविक सुलह के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हो।
- The **Union government should accelerate efforts** to involve **civil society leaders in peace talks** to address issues like **rehabilitation** and the **return of over 60,000 displaced people**.  
केंद्र सरकार को नागरिक समाज के नेताओं को शांति वार्ता में शामिल करने की प्रक्रिया तेज करनी चाहिए, जिससे पुनर्वास और 60,000 से अधिक विस्थापित लोगों की वापसी जैसे मुद्दों का समाधान हो।
- There are **instruments in India's federal system** that allow for **creative solutions** to ethnic conflicts, which have **worked well in other regions**.  
भारत की संघीय प्रणाली में ऐसे प्रावधान हैं, जो जातीय संघर्षों के रचनात्मक समाधान की अनुमति देते हैं, और जो अन्य क्षेत्रों में सफलतापूर्वक लागू किए गए हैं।
- **Confidence-building measures** and **ending violence** are **prerequisites before proposing solutions**.  
विश्वास बहाली के उपाय और हिंसा का अंत किसी भी समाधान को लागू करने से पहले आवश्यक हैं।
- **Mr. Singh's resignation** should **pave the way for more peace initiatives**, and the **government must act swiftly** to build upon this opportunity.



श्री सिंह का इस्तीफा अधिक शांति प्रयासों का मार्ग प्रशस्त कर सकता है, और सरकार को इस अवसर का शीघ्रता से लाभ उठाना चाहिए।

GS Paper II: India-Sri Lanka

## Troubled waters

India and Sri Lanka must facilitate discussions among their fishermen

In the latest chapter of the long-standing fisheries dispute in the Palk Bay region, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district on February 8 for alleged poaching in waters north of Mannar. Two trawlers were also impounded. On January 27, the Navy had fired at an Indian boat near Delft Island, injuring two fishermen. With these arrests, the total number of Indian fishermen detained this year has risen to 77. Just last week, a Sri Lankan court had released nine fishermen from Karaikal, Puducherry, but one other person received a six-month prison sentence. Additionally, Sri Lankan courts have been imposing hefty fines, complicating their release. Government data over the past decade, based on responses in Parliament, show that in 2024, the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka crossed the 500-mark for the first time in 10 years (528). There were 787 arrests in 2014.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on February 3, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that 97 fishermen and 216 fishing boats were still under the custody of Sri Lanka. Unlike in the past, when they were quickly released, recent years have seen rising convictions for violations of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and unlawful fishing. While Tamil Nadu and Puducherry fishermen often cross the IMBL, their counterparts in Sri Lanka's Tamil-speaking Northern Province, who are still recovering from the civil war, oppose their fishing methods, particularly ecologically destructive bottom trawling. Northern Sri Lankan fishermen are seeking a sustainable solution that protects their waters from over-exploitative fishing. Indian fishermen have repeatedly sought a fresh round of talks with their Sri Lankan counterparts, with the last such meeting having taken place in November 2016. The issue was also raised in the most recent Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo last October. However, the Anura Kumara Dissanayake-led Sri Lankan government appears reluctant to negotiate. New Delhi and Colombo must recognise that a fresh approach is required to break the deadlock rather than continuing with a business-as-usual mindset. Unlike the cases of Indian fishermen detained in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, the arrests in Sri Lanka are significantly higher. New Delhi must introduce incentives to encourage Palk Bay fishermen to move away from trawling. While this shift will take time, both governments must facilitate immediate discussions between their fishing communities to find interim solutions. It is only through proactive diplomacy and sustainable fishing policies that this ongoing conflict can be addressed effectively.

- Sri Lankan courts have been imposing hefty fines, complicating the release of detained fishermen.

## Troubled Waters

### मुश्किल हालात

In the latest chapter of the long-standing fisheries dispute in the Palk Bay region, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district on February 8 for alleged poaching in waters north of Mannar.

पाक खाड़ी क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से चले आ रहे मत्स्य विवाद के नए अध्याय में, श्रीलंकाई नौसेना ने 8 फरवरी को तमिलनाडु के रामनाथपुरम जिले के 14 मछुआरों को गिरफ्तार किया, उन पर मानार के उत्तर में अवैध रूप से मछली पकड़ने का आरोप लगाया गया।

- Two trawlers were also impounded.

दो ट्रॉलरों को भी जब्त कर लिया गया।

- On January 27, the Navy fired at an Indian boat near Delft Island, injuring two fishermen.

27 जनवरी को, नौसेना ने डेलफ्ट द्वीप के पास एक भारतीय नाव पर गोली चलाई, जिससे दो मछुआरे घायल हो गए।

- With these arrests, the total number of Indian fishermen detained this year has risen to 77.

इन गिरफ्तारियों के साथ, इस साल श्रीलंका में हिरासत में लिए गए भारतीय मछुआरों की संख्या 77 तक पहुंच गई।

## Rising Convictions and Legal Challenges

### बढ़ती सजा और कानूनी चुनौतियाँ

- Last week, a Sri Lankan court released nine fishermen from Karaikal, Puducherry, but one person received a six-month prison sentence.

पिछले हफ्ते, एक श्रीलंकाई अदालत ने पुडुचेरी के कराईकल के नौ मछुआरों को रिहा कर दिया, लेकिन एक व्यक्ति को छह महीने की जेल की सजा सुनाई गई।



श्रीलंकाई अदालतें भारी जुर्माना लगा रही हैं, जिससे हिरासत में लिए गए मछुआरों की रिहाई जटिल हो रही है।

- **Government data over the past decade shows that in 2024, the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka crossed 500 for the first time in 10 years (528 arrests).**

सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2024 में पहली बार श्रीलंका में गिरफ्तार किए गए भारतीय मछुआरों की संख्या 500 से अधिक (528) हो गई, जो पिछले 10 वर्षों में सबसे अधिक है।

- In 2014, the number of arrests was 787.  
2014 में गिरफ्तार मछुआरों की संख्या 787 थी।

## Political and Diplomatic Concerns

### राजनीतिक और कूटनीतिक चिंताएँ

- In a letter to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on February 3, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin stated that 97 fishermen and 216 fishing boats were still under Sri Lankan custody.

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने 3 फरवरी को विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर को पत्र लिखा, जिसमें उन्होंने बताया कि 97 मछुआरे और 216 मछली पकड़ने वाली नावें अभी भी श्रीलंका की हिरासत में हैं।

- Unlike the past, recent years have seen rising convictions for violations of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and unlawful fishing.  
पहले की तुलना में, हाल के वर्षों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री सीमा रेखा (IMBL) के उल्लंघन और अवैध मछली पकड़ने के मामलों में सजा बढ़ी है।

## Conflicts with Sri Lankan Fishermen

### श्रीलंकाई मछुआरों के साथ संघर्ष

- While Tamil Nadu and Puducherry fishermen often cross the IMBL, their Sri Lankan Tamil-speaking counterparts oppose their fishing methods, especially bottom trawling, which is ecologically destructive.

तमिलनाडु और पुडुचेरी के मछुआरे अक्सर IMBL पार करते हैं, लेकिन श्रीलंका के तमिल भाषी मछुआरे उनकी मछली पकड़ने की तकनीकों का विरोध करते हैं, खासकर बॉटम ट्रॉलिंग, जो पर्यावरण के लिए हानिकारक है।

- Sri Lankan fishermen seek a sustainable solution that protects their waters from over-exploitative fishing.

श्रीलंकाई मछुआरे एक स्थायी समाधान चाहते हैं, जिससे उनके जल क्षेत्र को अति-शोषण से बचाया जा सके।

## Need for Dialogue and New Approaches

### संवाद और नए तरीकों की आवश्यकता

- Indian fishermen have repeatedly sought a fresh round of talks with Sri Lankan counterparts, but the last meeting was in November 2016.



भारतीय मछुआरों ने बार-बार श्रीलंकाई मछुआरों के साथ नए दौर की बातचीत की मांग की, लेकिन आखिरी बैठक नवंबर 2016 में हुई थी।

- The issue was also raised in the **latest Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo last October**, but the **Anura Kumara Dissanayake-led Sri Lankan government seems reluctant to negotiate.**

यह मुद्दा अक्टूबर में कोलंबो में हुई जॉइंट वर्किंग ग्रुप की बैठक में भी उठाया गया था, लेकिन अनुरा कुमारा डिसानायके के नेतृत्व वाली श्रीलंकाई सरकार बातचीत के लिए उत्सुक नहीं लगती।

- **India and Sri Lanka must adopt a fresh approach to break the deadlock rather than continuing with the same strategies.**

भारत और श्रीलंका को इस गतिरोध को तोड़ने के लिए नए दृष्टिकोण अपनाने होंगे, बजाय पुरानी रणनीतियों को जारी रखने के।

## India's Role and Policy Shifts

### भारत की भूमिका और नीतिगत बदलाव

- Unlike Indian fishermen detained in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, arrests in Sri Lanka are significantly higher.

पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश, सऊदी अरब और कतर में गिरफ्तार भारतीय मछुआरों की तुलना में, श्रीलंका में गिरफ्तारियों की संख्या काफी अधिक है।

- **New Delhi must introduce incentives to encourage Palk Bay fishermen to move away from trawling.**

नई दिल्ली को प्रोत्साहन योजना लागू करनी चाहिए, ताकि पाक खाड़ी के मछुआरे ट्रॉलिंग से दूर जा सकें।

- While this shift **will take time**, both **governments must facilitate immediate discussions between their fishing communities for interim solutions.**

यह बदलाव समय लेगा, लेकिन दोनों सरकारों को अपने मछुआरों के बीच त्वरित वार्ता की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए, ताकि अंतरिम समाधान निकाला जा सके।

- Only through **proactive diplomacy and sustainable fishing policies** can this **ongoing conflict be effectively addressed.**

सक्रिय कूटनीति और टिकाऊ मछली पकड़ने की नीतियों के माध्यम से ही इस चल रहे संघर्ष का प्रभावी समाधान संभव है।



# India as a bridge between the Global North and South

GS Paper II: India and Global World Order

In his address in January 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, while addressing the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, said, "Today's India not only firmly asserts its own point but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South". Similarly, when India held the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024, last August, Mr. Modi said that India aspires to lead the required reforms to take developing countries into a new, more inclusive structure of global governance.

What has influenced India's renewed enthusiasm to champion the cause of the developing world? And, how can the country influence change to become an effective global development partner?

Unlike the **Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)**, India's motivation does not appear to be based on decolonisation or strong criticism of the West. Rather, as India attempts to increase its presence in the Global South, it is simultaneously deepening its relationships with traditional partners such as the United States and Europe. The high-level visit of Jake Sullivan, the former U.S. National Security Adviser, in January, reflects this. Mr. Modi's visit to Poland, in August 2024, also shows India's attempt to create new alliances.

## The China factor argument

The cynical answer often circles back to India trying to counter China's growing global dominance. Trends of foreign direct investments in Africa indicate that India appears to be in a race with China, mainly focusing on countries which already have a significant Chinese presence. Further, industrialised countries are thought to be strategically partnering with India to contain China's rising international footprint. The Quad partnership, an on-going dialogue between Japan, India, Australia and the U.S., for a free and fair Indo-Pacific, is seen as one such attempt. However, the India-China competition does not give the full picture.

India is trying to create an individual identity as an emerging power in its own right to forward



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its own strategic trade, defence, and geopolitical interests. Global South countries are disillusioned with present economic paradigms, burdened with debt and conditionalities. They are not looking for another China or a new western institution. India can fill this gap while being a bridge between the Global North and Global South. To be successful, India needs to back up its rhetoric with the right strategies.

## Steps that India must take

The first is for India to double-down on its call for an alternate paradigm of development cooperation that is not solely top-down, dictated by the Global North. India often lays emphasis on equal partnerships with other developing countries, trying to set itself apart from traditional powers. In practice, it signals otherwise by putting forward strategies with an India-first approach.

The newly announced 'Global Development Compact' aimed at facilitating growth in the Global South, was described as rooted in Indian experiences and strategies. India's development story as an emerging power and being the world's largest democracy makes it unique. However, it does not hold all the policy answers. It would merit India to not only assert itself as a provider of knowledge but also be open to learning from other Global South countries to address its domestic challenges. Countries are bound to be more receptive toward a country that views them as partners. Otherwise, India may also be perceived as a big brother imposing traditional donor and recipient relationships.

Second, New Delhi has laid stress on a more human-centric approach to tackle developmental challenges. This has been defined at international fora towards promoting behavioural change via **Mission LiFE ('Lifestyle For Environment')**, which encourages low consumption lifestyles. While important, the need is to rebrand human-centric development in order to focus on building human resource and capacity, especially to tackle future sustainability challenges. Skill India or schemes that mainstream women into entrepreneurship,

will be attractive for countries in the Global South which are also seeking to grow their domestic industry. India's capacity building strategy has tended to revolve around the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme**, which implements sector-specific short-term activities. It would be more effective for longer term engagement to assist countries in creating their own institutional capacity to create a better workforce. India can leverage its experiences with micro, small and medium enterprises to foster exchanges. A focus on digital infrastructure, climate and energy solutions as well as water and food security are key areas for cooperation.

## The goal ahead

Lastly, India has called for more inclusive global governance. The nation demonstrated this intent by championing the addition of the African Union into the G-20 (in 2023) during India's presidency. India should not be content with facilitating changes in established international institutions but also learn to build domestic capacity. As India aspires to become a stronger global development player, it must establish norms, standards and systems to work with partner countries. Initially, it is beneficial to use existing institutional channels of partners such as the United Nations or Germany and France that are more experienced in development cooperation. However, the long-term goal should be for India to create its own robust domestic systems for international cooperation. Trilateral partnerships and increased engagement with new partners need to be seen as a learning by doing process, where India imbibes its experiences to scale up India-led global initiatives.

India aspires to be the 'Voice' of the Global South, but it also must 'listen' to be a good leader. When India spearheaded NAM, the country showed the world that there is a new, third option for developing countries. India should not miss out on an opportunity to do the same thing now.

*The views expressed are personal*

## India as a Bridge Between the Global North and South

### वैश्विक उत्तर और दक्षिण के बीच भारत की भूमिका

In his January 2025 address in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today's India not only firmly asserts its own point but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South."

जनवरी 2025 में ओडिशा के भुवनेश्वर में आयोजित 18वें प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस सम्मेलन में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा, "आज का भारत न केवल अपने विचारों को मजबूती से रखता है, बल्कि वैश्विक दक्षिण की आवाज को भी सशक्त रूप से उठाता है।"

- During the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024 in August, Mr. Modi stated that India aspires to lead reforms for developing countries, aiming for a new and more inclusive global governance structure.



अगस्त 2024 में आयोजित तीसरे वॉयस ऑफ ग्लोबल साउथ समिट के दौरान, मोदी जी ने कहा कि भारत विकासशील देशों के लिए सुधारों का नेतृत्व करने की आकांक्षा रखता है, ताकि एक नया और अधिक समावेशी वैश्विक शासन ढांचा बनाया जा सके।

## India's Renewed Enthusiasm for the Global South

### वैश्विक दक्षिण के लिए भारत का नया उत्साह

- Unlike the **Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)**, India's motivation is **not based on decolonization or strong criticism of the West**.  
गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM) के विपरीत, भारत की प्रेरणा उपनिवेशवाद विरोध या पश्चिम की कड़ी आलोचना पर आधारित नहीं है।
- While **expanding its presence in the Global South**, India is also **deepening its ties with traditional partners like the U.S. and Europe**.  
वैश्विक दक्षिण में अपनी उपस्थिति बढ़ाने के साथ ही, भारत पारंपरिक साझेदारों जैसे अमेरिका और यूरोप के साथ अपने संबंध मजबूत कर रहा है।
- The **high-level visit of Jake Sullivan, the former U.S. National Security Adviser, in January 2025**, reflects India's growing ties with the U.S.  
जनवरी 2025 में अमेरिका के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार जेक सुलिवन की उच्च स्तरीय यात्रा, अमेरिका के साथ भारत के गहरे होते संबंधों को दर्शाती है।
- **Modi's visit to Poland in August 2024** further highlights India's effort to **build new alliances**.  
अगस्त 2024 में मोदी जी की पोलैंड यात्रा, नए गठजोड़ बनाने के भारत के प्रयासों को दर्शाती है।

## The China Factor Argument

### चीन कारक की भूमिका

- Some argue that **India's strategy is to counter China's growing dominance**.  
कुछ लोगों का मानना है कि भारत की रणनीति चीन के बढ़ते वर्चस्व को चुनौती देने की है।
- **Foreign direct investment (FDI) trends in Africa** indicate that India is **competing with China**, particularly in countries where China already has a **significant presence**.  
अफ्रीका में प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) के रुझान बताते हैं कि भारत चीन के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है, विशेष रूप से उन देशों में जहां चीन की पहले से ही मजबूत उपस्थिति है।
- **Industrialized nations are strategically partnering with India to counter China's expanding global influence**.  
औद्योगिक देश रणनीतिक रूप से भारत के साथ साझेदारी कर रहे हैं, ताकि चीन के वैश्विक प्रभाव को सीमित किया जा सके।
- The **Quad partnership, involving Japan, India, Australia, and the U.S.**, aims to **maintain a free and fair Indo-Pacific**.  
जापान, भारत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और अमेरिका के बीच क्वाड साझेदारी, स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र बनाए रखने के लिए कार्यरत है।
- However, the **India-China rivalry does not explain the full picture**.  
हालांकि, भारत-चीन प्रतिस्पर्धा पूरी तस्वीर को नहीं दर्शाती।



## India's Independent Identity as an Emerging Power

### एक उभरती शक्ति के रूप में भारत की स्वतंत्र पहचान

- **India is creating its own independent identity to advance its strategic trade, defense, and geopolitical interests.**  
भारत अपनी स्वतंत्र पहचान बना रहा है, ताकि वह अपने रणनीतिक व्यापार, रक्षा और भू-राजनीतिक हितों को आगे बढ़ा सके।
- **Many Global South countries are disillusioned with the current economic system, as they face debt burdens and restrictive conditions.**  
कई वैश्विक दक्षिण के देश मौजूदा आर्थिक प्रणाली से असंतुष्ट हैं, क्योंकि वे ऋण के बोझ और कठोर शर्तों का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- **These nations do not want another China or a new Western institution; they seek an alternative that offers balanced partnerships.**  
ये देश न तो दूसरा चीन चाहते हैं और न ही कोई नया पश्चिमी संस्थान, बल्कि वे संतुलित साझेदारी वाला एक विकल्प चाहते हैं।
- **India can fill this gap by acting as a bridge between the Global North and Global South.**  
भारत इस अंतर को भर सकता है और वैश्विक उत्तर तथा दक्षिण के बीच एक सेतु की भूमिका निभा सकता है।
- **To succeed, India must complement its rhetoric with concrete strategies.**  
सफल होने के लिए, भारत को केवल भाषणों तक सीमित न रहकर ठोस रणनीतियां अपनानी होंगी।

### Steps that India Must Take

#### भारत को उठाने वाले आवश्यक कदम

**India must push for an alternate development paradigm that is not dictated solely by the Global North.**

**भारत को एक वैकल्पिक विकास मॉडल की वकालत करनी चाहिए, जो केवल वैश्विक उत्तर द्वारा निर्देशित न हो।**

- **India emphasizes equal partnerships with developing countries, yet its strategies often follow an India-first approach.**  
भारत विकासशील देशों के साथ समान भागीदारी पर जोर देता है, लेकिन इसकी रणनीतियाँ अक्सर भारत-प्रथम दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाती हैं।
- **The newly announced 'Global Development Compact' aims to facilitate growth in the Global South and is based on Indian experiences and strategies.**  
नया घोषित 'वैश्विक विकास संधि' (Global Development Compact) वैश्विक दक्षिण में विकास को प्रोत्साहित करने और भारतीय अनुभवों एवं रणनीतियों पर आधारित है।
- **India's status as the world's largest democracy and an emerging power makes it unique, but it does not have all the policy answers.**



भारत की दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र और एक उभरती शक्ति के रूप में स्थिति इसे अनोखा बनाती है, लेकिन इसके पास सभी नीति समाधान नहीं हैं।

- India should not only position itself as a knowledge provider but also learn from other Global South countries.

भारत को सिर्फ ज्ञान प्रदाता के रूप में ही नहीं, बल्कि अन्य वैश्विक दक्षिण देशों से भी सीखना चाहिए।

- If India is perceived as a dominant 'big brother', it may face resistance from developing nations.

यदि भारत को हावी होने वाले 'बड़े भाई' के रूप में देखा जाता है, तो यह विकासशील देशों से विरोध का सामना कर सकता है।

## A Human-Centric Approach to Development

### मानव-केंद्रित विकास की ओर भारत का दृष्टिकोण

- New Delhi stresses a human-centric approach to tackling developmental challenges.

नई दिल्ली विकास संबंधी चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए एक मानव-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण पर जोर देती है।

- Mission LiFE ('Lifestyle for Environment') promotes low-consumption lifestyles to encourage behavioral change.

मिशन LiFE ('पर्यावरण के लिए जीवनशैली') कम उपभोग वाली जीवनशैली को बढ़ावा देता है, जिससे व्यवहार परिवर्तन को प्रोत्साहित किया जा सके।

- The focus should be on human resource development and capacity building to tackle future sustainability challenges.

भविष्य की स्थिरता चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास और क्षमता निर्माण पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना आवश्यक है।

- Skill India and entrepreneurship programs for women will be attractive to Global South countries that aim to develop their domestic industries.

'स्किल इंडिया' और महिलाओं के लिए उद्यमिता कार्यक्रम उन वैश्विक दक्षिण देशों के लिए आकर्षक होंगे, जो अपनी घरेलू उद्योगों का विकास करना चाहते हैं।

- India's existing capacity-building programs, like ITEC, focus on short-term sector-specific activities, but a long-term engagement strategy is needed.

भारत के मौजूदा क्षमता निर्माण कार्यक्रम, जैसे ITEC, छोटे अवधि के विशिष्ट क्षेत्रीय गतिविधियों पर केंद्रित हैं, लेकिन लंबी अवधि की रणनीति आवश्यक है।

- India can help countries develop their institutional capacity for a stronger workforce.

भारत अन्य देशों को मजबूत कार्यबल के लिए अपनी संस्थागत क्षमता विकसित करने में सहायता कर सकता है।

- Digital infrastructure, climate and energy solutions, water, and food security are key areas for cooperation.

डिजिटल अवसंरचना, जलवायु और ऊर्जा समाधान, जल और खाद्य सुरक्षा सहयोग के प्रमुख क्षेत्र हैं।

## The Goal Ahead

### आगे का लक्ष्य



- **India has called for more inclusive global governance.**  
भारत ने अधिक समावेशी वैश्विक शासन की मांग की है।
- India demonstrated its commitment by **championing the African Union's inclusion in the G-20 (2023) during its presidency.**  
भारत ने अपनी G-20 अध्यक्षता (2023) के दौरान अफ्रीकी संघ को शामिल करके अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दिखाई।
- India **should not just push for changes in existing global institutions but also strengthen its domestic capacity.**  
भारत को सिर्फ मौजूदा वैश्विक संस्थानों में बदलाव की वकालत नहीं करनी चाहिए, बल्कि अपनी घरेलू क्षमता को भी मजबूत करना चाहिए।
- India must **establish norms, standards, and systems to collaborate effectively with partner countries.**  
भारत को साझेदार देशों के साथ प्रभावी सहयोग के लिए मानदंड, मानक और प्रणालियाँ स्थापित करनी चाहिए।
- **Initially, India can use existing institutional channels like the United Nations, Germany, and France** that have extensive experience in development cooperation.  
शुरुआत में, भारत संयुक्त राष्ट्र, जर्मनी और फ्रांस जैसी मौजूदा संस्थागत प्रणालियों का उपयोग कर सकता है, जिनके पास विकास सहयोग का व्यापक अनुभव है।
- **Long-term goal:** India should create **robust domestic systems for international cooperation.**  
दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य: भारत को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग के लिए मजबूत घरेलू प्रणालियाँ विकसित करनी चाहिए।
- **Trilateral partnerships and engagement with new partners** should be seen as a **learning-by-doing process** to enhance India-led global initiatives.  
त्रिपक्षीय साझेदारियाँ और नए भागीदारों के साथ सहयोग को अनुभव से सीखने की प्रक्रिया के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए, ताकि भारत द्वारा संचालित वैश्विक पहल को बढ़ाया जा सके।
- India aspires to be the **'Voice' of the Global South**, but it must also **'listen' to be an effective leader.**  
भारत वैश्विक दक्षिण की 'आवाज' बनने की आकांक्षा रखता है, लेकिन इसे एक प्रभावी नेता बनने के लिए 'सुनना' भी जरूरी है।
- **When India led NAM, it provided an alternative for developing nations.**  
जब भारत ने गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM) का नेतृत्व किया, तो इसने विकासशील देशों को एक नया विकल्प दिया।
- **India should not miss this opportunity to do the same today.**  
भारत को आज भी यही अवसर दोहराने से नहीं चूकना चाहिए।



# The problem of regulating live-in relationships

GS Paper II: UCC

Uttarakhand recently implemented a **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, governing various aspects of civil life. One of the novel aspects of the UCC is that it mandates compulsory registration of **opposite-sex live-in relationships**, and criminalises those engaged in unregistered non-marital cohabitation. While some of the provisions on live-in relationships are well intentioned, others are problematic and potentially dangerous.

## Well intentioned, but...

The biggest concerns around non-marital cohabitation tend to be the protection of the interests of the party that is rendered needy (due to childcare or other household responsibilities or a lack of independent income, for example), and of the rights of any children born to the parties. The UCC goes some way towards addressing these concerns. It declares that children born in live-in relationships will be considered legitimate, which is an improvement on the existing position of law whereby only children born through void or voidable marriages (where a marriage takes place but is legally invalid) are deemed legitimate. The essential legal remedy of maintenance in the event of desertion by a live-in partner is also provided by the law, although desertion in this context remains undefined.

Two potential problems that might arise around these provisions need consideration. First, the maintenance provision might provide a legal recourse to a woman who has been deserted. However, there is no provision for maintenance upon termination (as opposed to desertion), and termination of a live-in relationship requires nothing more than a statement of termination to be submitted to the registrar by either party. This aligns with the informal and flexible nature of non-marital cohabitation but raises its own challenges. When a live-in



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The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code erodes sexual autonomy and reinforces state and social control of individuals' sexual choices

relationship is terminated (without cause or scope for contestation), a woman may be left with no legal recourse despite needing continuing support. A related concern is that since only opposite-sex live-in relationships can be registered, the Uttarakhand government has left same-sex relationships entirely unprotected.

Second, the very definition of a 'live-in relationship' is nebulous and overbroad. Drawing from the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and case law on domestic violence, the UCC defines a 'live-in relationship' as a relationship 'in the nature of marriage'. But live-in relationships are frequently not in the nature of a marriage. Parties may not see themselves as being 'married in all but name'. Similarly, the one-month period provided for the registration of a live-in relationship appears to misunderstand the typical nature of such a relationship which does not usually have a formal date of commencement because the transformation of a casual sexual relationship, or non-cohabiting intimate sexual relationship, into a live-in relationship tends to be fluid. This legal-social mismatch is likely to compel the registration of sexual relationships that are, in fact, casual and do not require the kind of protections the UCC offers.

## The right to sexual autonomy

There are graver problems with these provisions of the UCC. In **Shakti Vahini v. Union of India (2018)**, the Supreme Court recognised an **adult's right to positive sexual autonomy**, encompassing the **freedom to make one's own choices about whether and with whom to have sexual interactions**. While this is not an unconditional right (being subject to the consent of the other party, laws on public decency, etc.), the essence of the right is that neither the state, nor an adult's family can interfere unreasonably with her consensual sexual choices. However, studies have demonstrated that parents and guardians, through legal (e.g.,

misuse of rape laws) and extra-legal (e.g., forms of social punishment including violence) means frequently undermine this right. Provisions regulating live-in relationships have the potential to enhance such parental control. The provisions in the UCC mandate that any live-in relationship be registered within one month of its commencement. While the age of sexual consent in India is 18 years, where either partner in the live-in relationship is younger than 21 years, the UCC states that information of the relationship will be sent to the person's parent/guardian. In addition to being an unjustified violation of the adult's right to privacy and sexual autonomy, this provision, by alerting disapproving parents/guardians to inter-caste or inter-religious relationships, in a context where honour-based violence is widespread, is dangerous.

The law also intensifies the control of the state over the sexual choices of individuals. The UCC requires that information of all registered live-in relationships be forwarded to the local police. Such a provision reflects a view of a live-in relationship as a potential law-and-order complication requiring state surveillance. This problematic understanding of the law is further reflected in the unsubstantiated criminalisation of the failure to register a live-in relationship for more than a month, or the refusal to register a live-in relationship after a notice to do so from the registrar – offences punishable by imprisonment and/or hefty fines.

In most jurisdictions which permit or mandate the registration of non-marital cohabitation, the purpose of the law is to extend welfare measures and safeguards available within a marriage to non-marital cohabitation. The Uttarakhand UCC, however, appears to conceptualise 'live-in relationships' as a problem to be solved through regulation. In doing so, the law erodes sexual autonomy and reinforces state and social control of sexual choices.



## The Problem of Regulating Live-in Relationships

### लिव-इन संबंधों को नियंत्रित करने की समस्या

Uttarakhand recently implemented a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), governing various aspects of civil life.

उत्तराखंड ने हाल ही में समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC) लागू की, जो नागरिक जीवन के विभिन्न पहलुओं को नियंत्रित करती है।

- One of the novel aspects of the UCC is that it mandates compulsory registration of opposite-sex live-in relationships, and criminalises those engaged in unregistered non-marital cohabitation.  
UCC के प्रमुख प्रावधानों में से एक यह है कि यह विपरीत लिंग के लिव-इन संबंधों के अनिवार्य पंजीकरण को आवश्यक बनाता है और अवैध गैर-पंजीकृत सहवास को अपराध की श्रेणी में रखता है।
- While some provisions on live-in relationships are well-intentioned, others are problematic and potentially dangerous.  
कुछ प्रावधानों का उद्देश्य सही हो सकता है, लेकिन कुछ समस्याग्रस्त और संभावित रूप से खतरनाक भी हो सकते हैं।

### Well-intentioned, but...

### सही इरादे, लेकिन...

- The biggest concerns around non-marital cohabitation tend to be the protection of the interests of the party that is rendered needy (due to childcare, household responsibilities, or lack of independent income) and the rights of any children born to the parties.  
गैर-विवाहित सहवास से जुड़ी सबसे बड़ी चिंता उन पक्षों के हितों की सुरक्षा है जो आश्रित हो जाते हैं (जैसे बच्चों की देखभाल, घरेलू जिम्मेदारियाँ, या स्वतंत्र आय की कमी) और उनके बच्चों के अधिकार।
- The UCC declares that children born in live-in relationships will be considered legitimate, which is an improvement on the existing position of law.  
UCC यह घोषित करता है कि लिव-इन संबंधों से जन्मे बच्चों को वैध माना जाएगा, जो मौजूदा कानून की तुलना में एक सुधार है।
- The essential legal remedy of maintenance in the event of desertion by a live-in partner is also provided by the law, although desertion remains undefined.  
UCC में लिव-इन पार्टनर द्वारा छोड़े जाने की स्थिति में भरण-पोषण का कानूनी उपाय प्रदान किया गया है, हालांकि 'त्याग' की परिभाषा स्पष्ट नहीं है।
- Two potential problems need consideration:  
दो संभावित समस्याओं पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता है:
  - There is no provision for maintenance upon termination of a live-in relationship.  
लिव-इन संबंध की समाप्ति के बाद भरण-पोषण का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।
  - Since only opposite-sex live-in relationships can be registered, same-sex relationships remain unprotected.



केवल विपरीत लिंग के लिव-इन संबंध ही पंजीकृत किए जा सकते हैं, जिससे समलैंगिक संबंध पूरी तरह असुरक्षित रह जाते हैं।

- The definition of a 'live-in relationship' is nebulous and overbroad.  
'लिव-इन संबंध' की परिभाषा अस्पष्ट और व्यापक है।
- The one-month registration requirement misunderstands the fluid nature of live-in relationships.  
एक महीने की पंजीकरण की शर्त लिव-इन संबंधों की लचीली प्रकृति को नहीं समझती।

## The Right to Sexual Autonomy

### यौन स्वायत्तता का अधिकार

- In *Shakti Vahini v. Union of India (2018)*, the Supreme Court recognized an adult's right to positive sexual autonomy.  
*शक्ति वाहिनी बनाम भारत संघ (2018)* में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक वयस्क के सकारात्मक यौन स्वायत्तता के अधिकार को मान्यता दी।
- This right means that neither the state nor an adult's family can interfere unreasonably in their consensual sexual choices.  
इस अधिकार का अर्थ है कि न तो राज्य और न ही परिवार किसी वयस्क के सहमति-आधारित यौन संबंधों में अनुचित हस्तक्षेप कर सकता है।
- However, parents and guardians often misuse legal and extra-legal means to control their children's sexual choices.  
हालांकि, माता-पिता और अभिभावक अक्सर कानूनी और गैर-कानूनी तरीकों से अपने बच्चों के यौन निर्णयों को नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- The UCC provisions on live-in relationships enhance parental control.  
UCC में लिव-इन संबंधों से संबंधित प्रावधान माता-पिता के नियंत्रण को बढ़ाते हैं।
- The UCC states that if a partner is younger than 21 years, information about the relationship will be sent to their parent/guardian.  
UCC के अनुसार, यदि कोई पार्टनर 21 वर्ष से कम आयु का है, तो उसके माता-पिता/अभिभावक को इसकी सूचना दी जाएगी।
- This violates an adult's right to privacy and sexual autonomy and can be dangerous in cases of inter-caste or inter-religious relationships.  
यह किसी वयस्क के निजता और यौन स्वायत्तता के अधिकार का उल्लंघन करता है और अंतरजातीय या अंतरधार्मिक संबंधों में खतरनाक हो सकता है।
- The UCC requires that all registered live-in relationships be reported to the local police, treating them as potential law-and-order issues.  
UCC में यह प्रावधान है कि सभी पंजीकृत लिव-इन संबंधों की जानकारी स्थानीय पुलिस को दी जाएगी, जिससे इन्हें कानून-व्यवस्था से जुड़ी समस्या माना जाता है।
- Failure to register a live-in relationship within one month is criminalized, with penalties including imprisonment and fines.  
एक महीने के भीतर लिव-इन संबंध का पंजीकरण न कराने को अपराध की श्रेणी में रखा गया है, जिसमें कारावास और आर्थिक दंड का प्रावधान है।
- Most jurisdictions that regulate live-in relationships aim to provide welfare benefits, but Uttarakhand UCC sees them as a problem needing regulation.  
अधिकांश कानूनी व्यवस्थाएँ लिव-इन संबंधों को कल्याणकारी लाभ प्रदान करने के लिए नियंत्रित



करती हैं, लेकिन उत्तराखंड UCC इसे एक समस्या के रूप में देखता है जिसे नियंत्रित करने की आवश्यकता है।

# Centre's allocations for justice-related schemes fluctuate

GS Paper II: Government Scheme

Allocations for modernising State police forces are severely underutilised

## DATA POINT

### The Hindu Data Team

The Central government has consistently reduced budget allocations to certain justice-related schemes and projects since 2019, shows the recently released India Justice Report 2025-26.

Data also show that not only have allocations reduced, but also, only a fraction of the envisaged allocations was actually spent on these schemes.

The Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces was formed to assist special projects and schemes that would upgrade the infrastructure of States' police as well as Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems. **Chart 1** shows the Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE), and actual expenditure of the Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces.

The Centre estimated a budget of almost ₹900 crore for FY19. This declined to around ₹780 crore in BE for FY21. In FY26, it has come down to ₹587.97 crore (BE).

While these figures are for BE, RE show a drastic reduction in allocations. For instance, the ₹780 crore that was budgeted in FY21 was revised to ₹106 crore. Such over-estimations in BE and drastic downward revisions in RE can be seen across most years. In FY25, the allocation for the fund was estimated to be ₹520.51 crore and was revised in the following year to ₹160 crore.

More importantly, the amount actually spent was even lower than the RE in most recent years. Despite an allocation of more than ₹600 crore in FY23, only ₹34.7 crore was actually spent on the modernisation of State police forces. This is about 6% of the allocation. Similarly, only 20-25% of the budgeted amounts were spent in FY21, FY23, and FY24.

The newly introduced Moderni-

sation of Forensic Capacities is aimed at improving forensic testing infrastructure across the country and addressing the shortage of forensic scientists. **Chart 2** shows the allocation of funds for the Modernisation of Forensic Capacities. There was a stark increase and then a decrease in allocations over the past few years for this scheme.

The Ministry of Home Affairs also introduced the Modernisation of Prisons Fund more than two decades ago, which aims to improve the living conditions of prisoners, renovate existing prisons, and build new cells. **Chart 3** shows the budgetary allocations for it. Despite an initial increase in budgetary allocations for this scheme, which peaked at ₹400 crore in FY23, allocations have come down to ₹300 crore each in the last two years. Until FY23, the allocation was wholly utilised, after which only 44% of the budgeted fund was utilised.

Alternatively, the schemes related to the judiciary have seen an optimal utilisation of funds over the past few years. **Chart 4** shows the BE and RE of allocations to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from FY19 to FY25. Funds allocated to NALSA have increased since FY19, but have generally remained within the range of ₹150 crore to 200 crore, with the exception of the RE of FY24, during which it increased to ₹400 crore. NALSA has reported 100% utilisation of the budgeted amounts for all the years between 2018-19 to 2023-24.

**Chart 5** shows the BE and RE of allocations for the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary from FY19 to FY26. This is a centrally sponsored scheme that was developed to enhance the judicial resources of State governments. Similar to NALSA, this fund has been utilised almost to its full potential across the past five financial years, but has seen a decrease in allocation from ₹1,123.40 crore (FY25) to ₹998 crore (FY26).

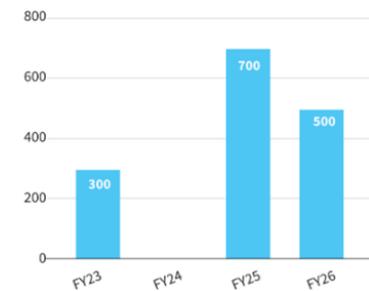
## The paper trail

The data for the charts were sourced from the Central government's Budget documents and the India Justice Report 2025-26

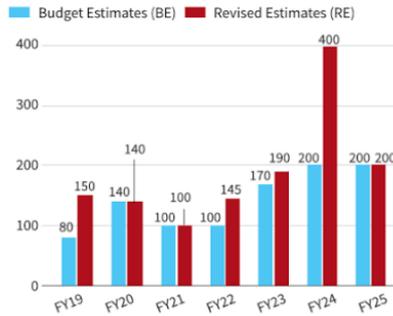
**Chart 1:** Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure of the Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces (in ₹ crore)

Years	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure (AE)
2018-19	897.29	915.79	914.12
2019-20	959.8	939.79	929.58
2020-21	784.53	106.74	159.99
2021-22	668.5	240.49	170.45
2022-23	621.45	152.52	34.72
2023-24	264.12	221.16	65.28
2024-25	520.51	160.12	-
2025-26	587.97	-	-

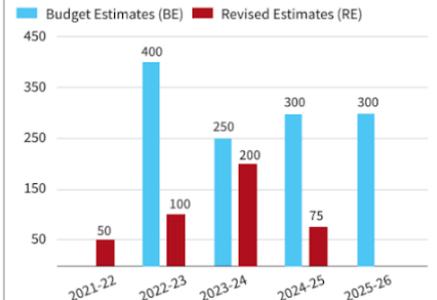
**Chart 2:** The Budget Estimates of funds for the Modernisation of Forensic Capacities from FY23 to FY26. Figures in ₹



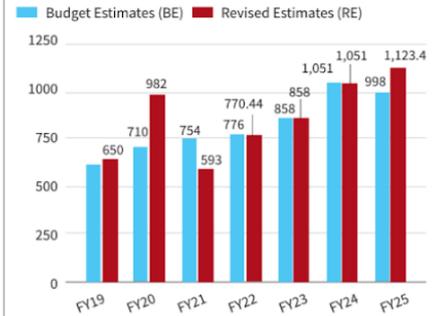
**Chart 4:** The BE and RE of allocations to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from FY19 to FY25



**Chart 3:** The allocation of funds for the modernisation of prisons from FY22 to FY26. Figures in ₹ crore



**Chart 5:** The BE and RE of allocations for the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary from FY19 to FY25



## Centre's allocations for justice-related schemes fluctuate

न्याय से संबंधित योजनाओं के लिए केंद्र के आवंटन में उतार-चढ़ाव

The Central government has consistently reduced budget allocations to certain justice-related schemes and projects since 2019, shows the recently released India Justice Report 2025-26.



केंद्र सरकार ने 2019 से कुछ न्याय-संबंधी योजनाओं और परियोजनाओं के बजटीय आवंटन को लगातार कम किया है, जैसा कि हाल ही में जारी इंडिया जस्टिस रिपोर्ट 2025-26 में दिखाया गया है।

- Data show that **not only have allocations reduced**, but also, **only a fraction of the envisaged allocations** was actually spent on these schemes.
  - आंकड़े बताते हैं कि केवल आवंटन ही कम नहीं हुए हैं, बल्कि निर्धारित राशि का केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा ही इन योजनाओं पर खर्च किया गया।
- The **Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces** was formed to assist **special projects and schemes** that would upgrade **State police infrastructure and Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems**.
  - राज्य पुलिस बलों के आधुनिकीकरण कोष को विशेष परियोजनाओं और योजनाओं की सहायता के लिए बनाया गया था, जिससे राज्य पुलिस के बुनियादी ढांचे और अपराध एवं अपराधी ट्रैकिंग नेटवर्क और सिस्टम को उन्नत किया जा सके।
- The **Centre estimated a budget** of almost **₹900 crore** for **FY19**, which declined to around **₹780 crore** in **BE for FY21**. In **FY26**, it has come down to **₹587.97 crore (BE)**.
  - केंद्र ने वित्त वर्ष 2019 के लिए लगभग **₹900 करोड़** का बजट निर्धारित किया था, जो वित्त वर्ष 2021 में **₹780 करोड़ (BE)** हो गया। वित्त वर्ष 2026 में यह घटकर **₹587.97 करोड़ (BE)** रह गया है।
- **Revised Estimates (RE)** show a **drastic reduction** in allocations. For example, the **₹780 crore** budgeted in **FY21** was revised to **₹106 crore**.
  - संशोधित अनुमान (RE) से आवंटन में भारी कटौती देखी गई। उदाहरण के लिए, वित्त वर्ष 2021 में **₹780 करोड़** का बजट था, जिसे घटाकर **₹106 करोड़** कर दिया गया।
- In **FY25**, the allocation for the fund was estimated to be **₹520.51 crore**, but it was revised in the following year to **₹160 crore**.
  - वित्त वर्ष 2025 में इस कोष के लिए **₹520.51 करोड़** का अनुमानित आवंटन था, लेकिन अगले वर्ष इसे **₹160 करोड़** कर दिया गया।
- Despite an allocation of **₹600 crore** in **FY23**, only **₹34.7 crore** was actually spent on the **modernisation of State police forces** (about **6%** of the allocation).
  - वित्त वर्ष 2023 में **₹600 करोड़** का आवंटन होने के बावजूद, राज्य पुलिस बलों के आधुनिकीकरण पर केवल **₹34.7 करोड़** खर्च किए गए (जो कि आवंटन का केवल **6%** है)।
- The newly introduced **Modernisation of Forensic Capacities** is aimed at **improving forensic testing infrastructure and addressing the shortage of forensic scientists**.
  - नया शुरू किया गया फॉरेंसिक क्षमता आधुनिकीकरण योजना फॉरेंसिक परीक्षण अवसंरचना में सुधार और फॉरेंसिक वैज्ञानिकों की कमी को दूर करने के लिए बनाया गया है।
- The **Modernisation of Prisons Fund**, introduced over **two decades ago**, aims to **improve prison conditions, renovate existing prisons, and build new cells**.
  - दो दशक पहले शुरू किए गए कारागार आधुनिकीकरण कोष का उद्देश्य जेल की स्थितियों में सुधार, मौजूदा जेलों का नवीनीकरण, और नई कोठरियों का निर्माण करना है।
- Despite an **initial increase** in allocations, which peaked at **₹400 crore** in **FY23**, allocations have **come down to ₹300 crore each** in the last two years.



- प्रारंभिक वृद्धि के बावजूद, जो वित्त वर्ष 2023 में ₹400 करोड़ तक पहुंची, आवंटन पिछले दो वर्षों में ₹300 करोड़ प्रति वर्ष तक कम हो गया।
- Until FY23, the **entire budget was utilised**, but after that, only **44% of the budgeted fund was utilised**.
  - वित्त वर्ष 2023 तक **संपूर्ण बजट का उपयोग** किया गया था, लेकिन उसके बाद **केवल 44% बजट राशि** का उपयोग किया गया।
- Conversely, **judiciary-related schemes** have seen **optimal utilisation of funds** over the past few years.
  - इसके विपरीत, **न्यायपालिका से संबंधित योजनाओं** में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में **अनुकूलित बजट उपयोग** देखा गया है।
- **Funds allocated to NALSA** have increased since **FY19**, generally ranging between **₹150 crore to 200 crore**, except in **FY24 (RE)**, where it increased to **₹400 crore**.
  - **NALSA को आवंटित निधि** वित्त वर्ष 2019 से बढ़ी है, जो आमतौर पर **₹150 करोड़ से 200 करोड़** के बीच रही है, लेकिन वित्त वर्ष **2024 (RE)** में यह **₹400 करोड़** हो गई।
- **NALSA has reported 100% utilisation** of the budgeted amounts for all the years between **FY19 to FY24**.
  - **NALSA ने वित्त वर्ष 2019 से 2024** के बीच सभी वर्षों के लिए **100% बजटीय उपयोग** की सूचना दी है।
- The **fund for judicial infrastructure development**, a **centrally sponsored scheme**, has been **almost fully utilised** over the past **five financial years**.
  - **न्यायिक बुनियादी ढांचा विकास के लिए निधि**, जो कि केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना है, पिछले पांच वित्तीय वर्षों में लगभग पूरी तरह से उपयोग की गई है।
- However, its **allocation has decreased** from **₹1,123.40 crore (FY25)** to **₹998 crore (FY26)**. हालांकि, इसका आवंटन घटकर **₹1,123.40 करोड़ (FY25)** से **₹998 करोड़ (FY26)** हो गया है।

**TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Economy, Science & Technology, Environment, Disaster Management, Internal Security)**

## **1. Aero India is the Kumbh of Research, says Rajnath Singh**

**एरो इंडिया है रिसर्च का कुंभ, राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा**



# Aero India is the Kumbh of research, says Rajnath Singh

GS Paper III: Internal Security

**Hemanth C.S.**  
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described Aero India as “the Kumbh of research”, as the biennial air show got under way at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, on Monday.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the show’s 15th edition, Mr. Singh said, “While Maha Kumbh is the Kumbh of introspection, Aero India is the Kumbh of research. While the Maha Kumbh focuses on internal strength, Aero India centres on external strength. While the Maha Kumbh showcases the culture of India, Aero India will display the power of India.” He added that this edition of Asia’s biggest aerospace and defence exhibition

will showcase, over the next five days, India’s aerial prowess and indigenous cutting-edge innovations alongside state-of-the-art products of global aerospace companies.

## Innovations galore

The Defence Minister said that between the last edition of the Aero India and now, India had come up with many high-tech products such as the Astra Missile, New Generation Akash Missile, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, Unmanned Surface Vessel, and the Pinaka Guided Rocket, which were being manufactured within the country.

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**Holding formation:** The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team of the Indian Air Force performing during the inauguration of Aero India 2025 at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

## Aero India is the Kumbh of Research, says Rajnath Singh

एरो इंडिया है रिसर्च का कुंभ, राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा

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रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने एरो इंडिया को "रिसर्च का कुंभ" बताया, क्योंकि द्विवार्षिक एयर शो सोमवार को येलहंका, बंगलुरु के एयर फोर्स स्टेशन में शुरू हुआ।

- Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the show’s 15th edition, Mr. Singh said, “While Maha Kumbh is the Kumbh of introspection, Aero India is the Kumbh of research.”

शो के 15वें संस्करण के उद्घाटन समारोह में बोलते हुए, श्री सिंह ने कहा, "जैसे महाकुंभ आत्मचिंतन का कुंभ है, वैसे ही एरो इंडिया रिसर्च का कुंभ है।"

- “While the Maha Kumbh focuses on internal strength, Aero India centres on external strength.”

"महाकुंभ जहां आंतरिक शक्ति पर केंद्रित है, वहीं एरो इंडिया बाहरी शक्ति पर केंद्रित है।"

- “While the Maha Kumbh showcases the culture of India, Aero India will display the power of India.”

"महाकुंभ भारत की संस्कृति को दर्शाता है, जबकि एरो इंडिया भारत की शक्ति को प्रदर्शित करेगा।"

- He added that this edition of Asia’s biggest aerospace and defence exhibition will showcase, over the next five days, India’s aerial prowess and indigenous cutting-edge innovations alongside state-of-the-art products of global aerospace companies.



उन्होंने कहा कि यह संस्करण एशिया की सबसे बड़ी एयरोस्पेस और रक्षा प्रदर्शनी है, जो अगले पांच दिनों तक भारत की हवाई क्षमता और स्वदेशी अत्याधुनिक नवाचारों के साथ-साथ वैश्विक एयरोस्पेस कंपनियों के आधुनिक उत्पादों को प्रदर्शित करेगा।

## Innovations Galore

### नवाचारों की भरमार

The **Defence Minister** said that between the **last edition of Aero India** and now, India had come up with many **high-tech products** such as the **Astra Missile, New Generation Akash Missile, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, Unmanned Surface Vessel, and the Pinaka Guided Rocket**, which were being manufactured within the country.

रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि पिछले एरो इंडिया संस्करण और अब के बीच, भारत ने कई हाई-टेक उत्पाद विकसित किए हैं, जैसे अस्त्र मिसाइल, न्यू जेनरेशन आकाश मिसाइल, ऑटोनॉमस अंडरवाटर व्हीकल, अनमैन्ड सरफेस वेसल और पिनाका गाइडेड रॉकेट, जो देश के अंदर निर्मित किए जा रहे हैं।

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