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# PATRIOTIC IAS

## THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### 31 MAY 2025

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31\_05\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. PM to attend 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Ahilyabai today

प्रधानमंत्री आज अहिल्याबाई की 300वीं जयंती समारोह में होंगे शामिल

2. A Nine-Year-Old Bonded Labourer

एक नौ साल का बंधुआ मज़दूर

3. Taking baby steps to regulate pre-schools

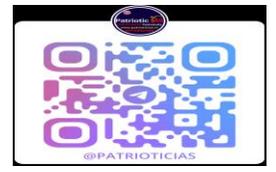
प्री-स्कूल को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में छोटे-छोटे कदम

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#### 4. Toll in Nigeria flash floods rises to 115, say rescuers

नाइजीरिया में बाढ़ से मरने वालों की संख्या 115 हुई, बचावकर्मियों ने

कहा

### PM to attend 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Ahilyabai today

GS Paper I: History

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will preside over the commemoration of the 300<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of erstwhile queen of Indore Ahilyabai Holkar.

The event, which will be held Jamburi Maidan, Bhopal, is being organised jointly by the Union Culture Ministry and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Ahilyabai Holkar is remembered for her people-centric policies, deep commitment to economic and socio-cultural issues, specially those that affected the lives of women. She encouraged education of women and their participation in the social and religious life of the local community.

She also supported and encouraged women weavers to make Maheshwari

**The events are a part of the Union Culture Ministry's campaign to celebrate India's culture and heritage**

sarees, an official statement by the Union Culture Ministry said here on Friday.

**Commemorative coin**

This event is a part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to commemorate and celebrate India's heritage and remember the visionaries who have shaped the foundations of Bharat, the statement said.

On the occasion, the PM would also release a commemorative coin and stamp in her honour. There would also be an exhibition that chronicles her life, works, and contributions to Indian society and culture.

### PM to attend 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Ahilyabai today

प्रधानमंत्री आज अहिल्याबाई की 300वीं जयंती समारोह में होंगे शामिल

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Ahilyabai Holkar, the erstwhile queen of Indore, on Saturday.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार को इंदौर की पूर्व रानी अहिल्याबाई होल्कर की 300वीं जयंती समारोह में शामिल होंगे।

• The event will take place at Jamburi Maidan, Bhopal, and is being organised jointly by the Union Culture Ministry and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

यह कार्यक्रम भोपाल के जंबूरी मैदान में आयोजित होगा और इसे केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय तथा मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से आयोजित किया जा रहा है।

### Legacy and Contributions of Ahilyabai Holkar

#### अहिल्याबाई होल्कर की विरासत और योगदान

- Ahilyabai Holkar is remembered for her **people-centric policies** and strong commitment to **economic** and **socio-cultural** development, especially for the **welfare of women**.  
अहिल्याबाई होल्कर को उनकी जन-केंद्रित नीतियों और आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक विकास के प्रति गहरी प्रतिबद्धता के लिए याद किया जाता है, विशेषकर महिलाओं के कल्याण के लिए।
- She promoted **women's education** and their active **participation** in the **social** and **religious life** of the community.



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उन्होंने महिला शिक्षा और समाज की सामाजिक और धार्मिक गतिविधियों में उनकी भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित किया।

- She also supported **women weavers** and encouraged the making of **Maheshwari sarees**, according to an official statement by the **Union Culture Ministry**.

केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय के आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, उन्होंने महिला बुनकरों को सहयोग दिया और महेश्वरी साड़ियों के निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित किया।

## Commemorative Initiatives

### स्मरणीय पहलें

- The event is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to **commemorate India's heritage** and honour **visionaries** who helped shape the **nation's foundation**.

यह कार्यक्रम भारत की धरोहर के संरक्षण और देश की नींव रखने वाले महान व्यक्तित्वों को सम्मानित करने के मंत्रालय के प्रयासों का हिस्सा है।

- On this occasion, the **Prime Minister** will also release a **commemorative coin and stamp** in honour of **Ahilyabai Holkar**.

इस अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री अहिल्याबाई होल्कर के सम्मान में एक स्मृति सिक्का और डाक टिकट भी जारी करेंगे।

- An **exhibition** will also be organised, showcasing her **life, works**, and **contributions** to **Indian society and culture**.

एक प्रदर्शनी भी आयोजित की जाएगी जिसमें उनके जीवन, कार्यों और भारतीय समाज और संस्कृति में योगदान को प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा।



## GROUND ZERO



Mannepalli Ankamma holds her employer's daughter. Ankamma's nine-year-old son was taken away from her as 'collateral' for a debt and was later found dead. C.N. RAO



In addition to migrant labourers from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh, the most marginalised locals fall prey to the system

**RAAVI SUNIL KUMAR**  
Convener of the Vetti Vimochana Coalition

others do not share their troubles. They fear being beaten up by their employers."

He recalls another incident in which two bonded labourers died of electrocution while working in a field in Palnadu district. "Though this happened a few months ago, the labourers' families still work as bonded labourers," he says.

### Kotaiah's escape

Katti Kotaiah, 56, who also belongs to the Yanadi community, escaped the clutches of his employer at Chilakaluripeta town.

Kotaiah lives in a Yanadi colony at Alluru, a village near the Kothapatnam beach in Prakasam district. About 400 Yanadis live in the colony. At least 10 members live in one hut.

Like Ankamma, Kotaiah blames himself for what happened. "It was my fault that I accepted a loan of ₹10,000 from a creditor in Chilakaluripeta in Palnadu district. At the time, we had no work, no food, and no access to drinking water. So, I took the money," he says.

To repay that amount, his family of seven, including three children, had to work as bonded labourers for around 20 years. "We set out to work when my son's three children were toddlers. Now they are between 16 and 20," he says. By the time of their release last year, that debt of ₹1,500 had risen to ₹15 lakh. The family was sold more than thrice, and worked as bonded labourers un-

PATRIOTIC



# A nine-year-old bonded labourer

Last week, a duck farmer was arrested on charges of keeping a child from Andhra Pradesh as 'collateral' for a loan and then killing him in Tamil Nadu. Though bonded labour has long been banned by law, it continues to be practised, say activists. **Nellore Sravani** reports on how the boy's mother, Ankamma, a woman from a tribal community, tried in vain to bring her child back home

CS Paper: Society

Two years ago, Mannepilli Ankamma, a woman from a tribal community in Andhra Pradesh, who does not know her age, decided to work for N. Muthu, a 60-year-old duck farmer. He promised her a salary of ₹24,000 a month for herding cows and helping him run a sweet shop in Satyavedu, a town in the Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh. Ankamma took an advance of ₹15,000 from him. When she was unable to repay the amount, Muthu took away her youngest son, M. Venkatesh, as 'collateral'. He also allegedly inflated the amount she owed him to ₹42,000.

On April 9, Ankamma spoke to Venkatesh over the phone. The nine-year-old boy told her that he was busy tending to Muthu's ducks in Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu. Ankamma lives in Thurakapalle village in Duttalur mandal of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh, where she works in her current employer Siva Reddy's lemon orchard. She assured her child that she would be there in two days with ₹42,000 of cash in hand. She promised that he would be home soon. Before ending the call, Ankamma asked Venkatesh what he had eaten for lunch. **Curd-ice**, he said, an improvement over the previous day's meal of **rice mixed with water**.

That was the last time Ankamma spoke to him.

**Buried by the river**

A week later, clutching wads of cash, Ankamma travelled to Satyavedu, about 270 kilometres from her village. But Muthu refused the money.

"He used casteist slurs against me," she recalls. "He also told me that my son had run away with his phone and some cash." **Dejected**, Ankamma returned home.

When a month passed and there was still no word from Venkatesh, **Reddy** helped her file a First Information Report (FIR) at the Satyavedu police station on May 19.

The police began their investigation. On being questioned, Muthu told them that Venkatesh had died of jaundice on April 12 at a private hospital at Pudupalayam in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. He confessed that he had buried the boy near the Palar river.

The police found Venkatesh's decomposed body and informed Ankamma. "I knew it was him. He was wearing a vest and shorts. I knew it was my boy though he had become unrecognisable," says Ankamma, her cheeks wet with tears.

While the medical officer from the Chengalpattu Government Medical College declined to share the post-mortem report, the Pattur police quoted the report and said that the stated cause of death was "blunt force injury to the head by (a) heavy weapon". The injuries were "sufficient to cause death in ordinary course of nature".

At first, Muthu, his wife, and son were arrested under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2016; and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

On May 24, Deputy Superintendent of Police G. Ravi Kumar, who probed the case, said Section 103 (I) (murder) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, was also added to the FIR.

Bonded labour is a system where creditors force debtors to repay debts through labour. The Act prohibits any person from making advances

under, or in pursuance of, the bonded labour system. It also prohibits compelling a person to render bonded or forced labour. However, the practice continues till date, say activists.

**A debt that cost a son**

Sitting on a flat rock outside Reddy's house on the outskirts of Thurakapalle village, Ankamma cries softly. Thurakapalle is 8 km from Duttalur town. A narrow muddy pavement leads to the village. The silence of the surroundings is broken by the crowing of roosters.

Reddy's house stands in the midst of a vast expanse of lemon orchards. Ankamma and her husband Prakash get paid ₹15,000 a month for taking care of Reddy's 12-acre orchard, tending to 10 buffaloes, and doing other odd jobs for him.

Ankamma and Prakash do not have a house. "This is home," she says, pointing to a small hut-like structure, perched precariously on four logs. The logs are covered on top by a tarpaulin sheet. There is just enough space for them to sleep.

When Reddy is around, Prakash and Ankamma sit on the ground. "They are Reddulu (Reddys). They are 'big' people," Ankamma says with a reverential tone. She believes that what happened was all her fault. "We will not leave Siva Reddy until our last breath. We had left him to work for Muthu and that is why this happened to us. From now on, we will be loyal to him."

Two years ago, Ankamma and Prakash went to work for Muthu after Ankamma's mother told her that he may pay more. Taking an advance of ₹15,000 from Muthu, they began taking his ducks for grazing. Though he promised them a salary of ₹24,000 a month, Muthu did not give them anything more than the advance amount.

The couple slept in the fields under the sky. They often stayed awake at night, fearing snakes and scorpions. They moved from place to place every week, foraging for feed. They offered to repay the debt in instalments, but Muthu refused.

Ankamma has three children from her previous marriage - Chenchu Krishna (15), Ravi

Lakshamma (12), and Venkatesh. When her first husband died last year, she and Prakash left for Guduru, near Tirupati district, for his final rites. When they did not return, an enraged Muthu went in search of them. He took Venkatesh away, saying the boy was 'collateral'.

"Everyone says we will get some cash (compensation)," says Ankamma. "But we will not demand anything except justice for my son."

The Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer - 2021 states that immediate financial assistance of up to ₹30,000 is guaranteed to individuals rescued from bonded labour. Once the accused is convicted, the aid can go up to ₹3 lakh, depending on the severity of the case. Ravi Kumar, the administrative officer at the Revenue Divisional Officer's (RDO) office in Sullurpeta, says the Tirupati administration is considering providing a housing site and compensation to the family. Satyavedu falls under the purview of the Sullurpeta RDO.

Activists say the administration should also issue a 'release certificate' to Ankamma's family. "Release certificates can be issued only to those in bonded labour. Technically, only the boy was a bonded labourer. Since he is dead, the family is not eligible for the certificate," Kumar explains.

**'Poor, unlettered, and fearful'**

Andhra Pradesh is both a source and a destination State for bonded labour. "The problem is not as prevalent as it used to be, but many cases do not come to light these days. In addition to migrant labourers from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh, the most marginalised locals fall prey to the system," says Kanti Sunil Kumar, convener of the Vetti Vimochana Coalition, a group of NGOs working on bonded labour issues. According to data compiled by the group, 402 people have been rescued from bonded labour in the State from January 2023 to date. Most of them, including Ankamma, belong to the Yanadi community.

A report from the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, published in 2008, says the Yanadis are one of the 59 Denotified Tribes and 60 Nomadic Tribes of Andhra Pradesh. As per the 2011 Census, there were more than 5 lakh Yanadis in the composite State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Noorbasha Babavali, a research assistant at the Centre for Study of Social Inclusion at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, says the Yanadis are extremely poor. Only 35-35% of them are literate. "They have been exploited as they don't know about the legal system. Their fear of society keeps them away from the mainstream. They don't own any assets and stay on the canal banks and in hilly areas," Ankamma says she did not know that *vetti chakiri* (bonded labour) is illegal.

"Many Yanadis do not open up to strangers even if they are offered help," says Ch. Venkateswarlu, a Yanadi leader from Alluru, a village near Ongole in Prakasam district. "Unlike Ankamma,

more than thrice, and worked as bonded labourers under different employers, says Kotiah.

He says their job was to cut Subabul logs, used primarily in the pulp and paper industry. He and his wife cut two tonnes of logs every day. "In a week, if we cut 14 tonnes, we would get ₹1,500," he says. As per current rates, a worker is supposed to get around ₹500 for cutting one tonne.

"These jobs were always fine in the first five months. Then, our employers would not give us wages daily. They would give us just ₹1,000 a week. We had to work even when we fell sick. They restricted our movements," he says.

Kotiah says a policeman asked him to leave the employer during the pandemic. "But I told him that I owed my employer ₹2 lakh," he says. Kotiah sold his house, received as part of a government scheme, for ₹1 lakh to clear the debt.

It was only when Kotiah's friend died that he decided to leave. "We told our employer that we have to vote in the election (June 2024). He let us go. We never went back, despite warnings." This year, too, the employer created a ruckus in Alluru demanding that they all come back, he recalls. District officials of Prakasam intervened and gave the family protection and release certificates.

Venkateswarlu says that while the government hands out release certificates to survivors, the rehabilitation takes place so late in some cases that a few people, who find themselves without land and work after their release from bonded labour, go back to their old employers.

Today, Kotiah lives in a spacious hut with a sofa, cot, and cooler. He says civil society members got him these necessities. Kotiah sells fish for a living. "Some days, I get ₹200 and some days I make ₹400. Today I got only ₹100. But at least no one is torturing us," he says.

**No action plan in place**

"Apart from duck-rearing units, bonded labour cases are reported from areas where Subabul is grown extensively," says Ramesh, who belongs to the Rural Organisation for Poverty Eradication Services, a registered NGO.

In duck-rearing units, children are mostly chosen as labourers. "One has to be agile and quick to stop the ducks from escaping. Duck farmers, mostly ferukals (another Scheduled Tribe community), hire Yanadis to work for them. The conditions are harsh, with no electricity and no proper food," says Ramesh.

In his report 'Bonded Labour in India: Its Incidence and Pattern', former Jawaharlal Nehru University professor Ravi S. Srivastava says that the Supreme Court directed all the States to collect information on the prevalence of bonded labour in India. The survey was held in 1996. No cases were identified in Andhra Pradesh. However, the government subsequently identified and released 37,988 bonded labourers till 2004.

"Since then, no systematic survey has been carried out. Bonded labour persists both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sector, although vestiges of hereditary bondage exist in traditional sectors," he says.

Of the 402 people who have been rescued in the past two years by the Vetti Vimochana Coalition, members say FIRs have been booked only in seven cases. "There is no Standard Operating Procedure or State action plan for the identification, rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labourers in Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, States such as Tamil Nadu and Delhi have a robust system in place," explains Kumar.

While the Bonded Labour Act provides for punishment for up to three years, there is no data on how many people have been punished. The law mandates a district-level vigilance and monitoring committee to be in place. "This was formed in Prakasam only last year," Kumar says. Officials of the Revenue, Tribal Welfare, Social Welfare, and Labour Departments say they are not sure which of them is responsible for enforcing the Act.

"It is important to identify bonded labour as an organised crime," says Venkateswarlu. "The government should have a nodal department to deal with pre- and post-rescue operations. It should also have a toll-free number for people in distress. If there had been one, Ankamma would not have lost her son."



Katti Kotiah, 56, who also belongs to the Yanadi community, escaped the clutches of his employer at Chilikalipeta town. Kotiah and his wife Katti Gangamma (in the centre), depend on fishing for their livelihood these days. G.N. Rao

## A Nine-Year-Old Bonded Labourer

एक नौ साल का बंधुआ मज़दूर

A duck farmer was arrested last week for keeping a child from Andhra Pradesh as 'collateral' for a loan and later killing him in Tamil Nadu.

पिछले सप्ताह एक बतख पालन किसान को आंध्र प्रदेश के एक बच्चे को कर्ज के बदले गिरवी रखने और बाद में तमिलनाडु में उसकी हत्या करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया।



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- Although **bonded labour** has been **banned by law**, activists say it **continues to be practised**.  
हालाँकि **बंधुआ मज़दूरी** को **कानून द्वारा प्रतिबंधित** किया गया है, लेकिन कार्यकर्ताओं का कहना है कि यह अभी भी प्रचलित है।

## Two Years Ago दो साल पहले

- Mannepalli Ankamma, a woman from a **tribal community** in Andhra Pradesh, took up a job with **N. Muthu**, a **60-year-old duck farmer**, who promised her **₹24,000 a month** for herding cows and working in his sweet shop.  
आंध्र प्रदेश की एक **आदिवासी महिला** मण्नेपल्ली अंकाम्मा ने **60 वर्षीय बतख किसान एन. मुथु** के साथ काम शुरू किया, जिसने उसे **₹24,000 प्रति माह** गाय चराने और मिठाई की दुकान में मदद करने का वादा किया।
- Ankamma took an **advance of ₹15,000** from Muthu.  
अंकाम्मा ने मुथु से **₹15,000 की अग्रिम राशि** ली थी।
- When she failed to repay, Muthu took her **youngest son M. Venkatesh** as '**collateral**' and later **inflated the debt to ₹42,000**.  
जब वह यह रकम नहीं लौटा पाई, तो मुथु ने उसके **सबसे छोटे बेटे एम. वेंकटेश** को गिरवी रख लिया और बाद में **कर्ज़ को ₹42,000 तक बढ़ा दिया**।

## Last Phone Call अंतिम फोन कॉल

- On **April 9**, Ankamma spoke to Venkatesh on phone. The **9-year-old boy** told her he was **taking care of ducks** in **Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu**.  
**9 अप्रैल** को अंकाम्मा ने वेंकटेश से फोन पर बात की। **9 साल के बच्चे** ने बताया कि वह **तमिलनाडु के कांचीपुरम में बतखों की देखभाल** कर रहा है।
- Ankamma promised she would come with **₹42,000 in two days** and bring him home.  
अंकाम्मा ने वादा किया कि वह **दो दिनों में ₹42,000 लेकर आएगी** और उसे घर ले जाएगी।
- Venkatesh said he had **curd-rice** for lunch, better than the **previous day's rice with water**.  
वेंकटेश ने बताया कि उसने दोपहर में **दही-चावल** खाया, जो **पिछले दिन के पानी वाले चावल** से बेहतर था।
- That was the **last time** Ankamma spoke to her son.  
वह अपने बेटे से बात करने का **आखिरी मौका** था।



## Buried by the River

### नदी किनारे दफनाया गया

- A week later, Ankamma travelled **270 km to Satyavedu** with cash, but **Muthu refused to take the money.**  
एक सप्ताह बाद अंकाम्मा 270 किमी दूर सत्यवेडु नकद लेकर पहुँची, लेकिन मुथु ने पैसे लेने से इनकार कर दिया।
- She said he used **casteist slurs** and claimed Venkatesh had **run away with his phone and cash.**  
उसने बताया कि मुथु ने जातिसूचक गालियाँ दीं और कहा कि वेंकटेश उसका फोन और पैसे लेकर भाग गया।
- Disheartened, Ankamma returned home.  
निराश होकर अंकाम्मा घर लौट आई।
- After a month without news, her employer **Siva Reddy helped her file an FIR on May 19** at the **Satyavedu police station.**  
एक महीने तक कोई खबर न मिलने पर उसके मालिक शिवा रेड्डी ने 19 मई को सत्यवेडु पुलिस थाने में प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराने में मदद की।
- Police investigation revealed that Venkatesh **died on April 12** at a **private hospital in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu**, and was **buried near the Palar river.**  
पुलिस जांच में सामने आया कि वेंकटेश की 12 अप्रैल को तमिलनाडु के तिरुवन्नमलै में एक निजी अस्पताल में मृत्यु हुई और उसे पालार नदी के पास दफनाया गया।
- Ankamma identified the **decomposed body** from his **vest and shorts.**  
अंकाम्मा ने शव की बनावट बिगड़ने के बावजूद उसकी बनीयान और निकर से पहचान की।

## Post-mortem and Legal Action

### पोस्टमॉर्टम और कानूनी कार्रवाई

- The medical officer didn't share the report, but police said **post-mortem revealed "blunt force injury to the head by heavy weapon"**.  
चिकित्सा अधिकारी ने रिपोर्ट साझा नहीं की, लेकिन पुलिस के अनुसार पोस्टमॉर्टम में पाया गया कि सिर पर भारी वस्तु से प्रहार किया गया था।
- The injury was **sufficient to cause death**, as per the report.  
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार यह चोट मृत्यु के लिए पर्याप्त थी।
- Muthu, his wife, and son were **arrested under multiple Acts**, including the **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, Child Labour Act, 1986, Juvenile Justice Act, 2016**, and the **SC/ST Atrocities Act, 1989.**  
मुथु, उसकी पत्नी और बेटे को कई कानूनों के तहत गिरफ्तार किया गया, जिनमें बंधुआ मज़दूरी



उन्मूलन अधिनियम, 1976, बाल श्रम अधिनियम, 1986, जुवेनाइल जस्टिस अधिनियम, 2016, और एससी/एसटी अत्याचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1989 शामिल हैं।

- On May 24, Section 103(1) (Murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 was also added to the FIR.

24 मई को भारतीय न्याय संहिता, 2023 की धारा 103(1) (हत्या) भी एफआईआर में जोड़ी गई।

## Bonded Labour System Still Exists

### बंधुआ मज़दूरी आज भी जारी

- Bonded labour is a system in which creditors force debtors to repay loans through labour.

बंधुआ मज़दूरी एक ऐसी प्रणाली है जिसमें लेनदार कर्ज चुकाने के लिए मज़दूरों को मज़दूरी करने के लिए मजबूर करते हैं।

- The law prohibits any person from making advances under this system or forcing anyone into bonded labour.

कानून के अनुसार किसी भी व्यक्ति को इस प्रणाली के तहत अग्रिम राशि देना या किसी को बंधुआ मज़दूरी के लिए मजबूर करना प्रतिबंधित है।

- Despite the legal ban, the practice continues, according to activists.

कानूनी प्रतिबंध के बावजूद यह प्रथा आज भी जारी है, ऐसा कार्यकर्ताओं का कहना है।

## A Debt That Cost a Son

### एक कर्ज जिसने बेटे की जान ले ली

- Ankamma sat crying softly on a flat rock outside Reddy's house on the outskirts of Thurakapalle village, which is 8 km from Duttaluru town.

अंकम्मा थुरकापल्ली गाँव के बाहरी इलाके में स्थित रेड्डी के घर के बाहर एक समतल चट्टान पर चुपचाप रो रही थीं, जो दत्तलूरु कस्बे से 8 किलोमीटर दूर है।

- The road to the village is a narrow, muddy path, and the silence is broken only by the crowing of roosters.

गाँव तक का रास्ता संकरा और कीचड़ भरा है, और वहाँ की खामोशी को केवल मुर्गी की बाँग तोड़ती है।

- Reddy's house is surrounded by vast lemon orchards. Ankamma and her husband Prakash earn ₹15,000 a month for taking care of his 12-acre orchard, 10 buffaloes, and doing other odd jobs.

रेड्डी का घर चारों ओर फैले नींबू के बागानों से घिरा है। अंकम्मा और उनके पति प्रकाश को रेड्डी के 12 एकड़ के बाग, 10 भैंसों और अन्य छोटे-मोटे कामों के लिए ₹15,000 प्रति माह मिलते हैं।

- They do not own a house. Ankamma pointed to a small hut-like shelter on four logs covered with a tarpaulin sheet, saying, "This is home."

उनके पास अपना घर नहीं है। अंकम्मा ने चार खंभों पर टिकी एक छोटी सी झोपड़ी की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा, "यही हमारा घर है।"



- There's only enough space to sleep, and when Reddy is around, they sit on the ground out of respect, as he is a "Reddy" and a "big man," according to Ankamma.  
झोपड़ी में केवल सोने भर की जगह है, और जब रेड्डी आसपास होते हैं तो वे ज़मीन पर बैठते हैं क्योंकि अंकम्मा के अनुसार वह एक "रेड्डी" और "बड़े आदमी" हैं।
- Ankamma blames herself for what happened and vows never to leave Siva Reddy again.  
अंकम्मा खुद को इस घटना के लिए दोष देती हैं और कसम खाती हैं कि अब वे सिवा रेड्डी को कभी नहीं छोड़ेंगी।
- Two years ago, they had gone to work for **Muthu**, after Ankamma's mother said he would pay more. They took an **advance of ₹15,000**.  
दो साल पहले वे **मुथु** के यहाँ काम करने गए थे क्योंकि अंकम्मा की माँ ने कहा था कि वहाँ ज़्यादा पैसे मिलेंगे। उन्होंने **₹15,000 की एडवांस राशि** ली थी।
- Muthu promised **₹24,000 per month** but never paid anything beyond the advance.  
मुथु ने **₹24,000 प्रति माह** देने का वादा किया था, लेकिन एडवांस के अलावा कुछ नहीं दिया।
- They slept in the open fields and stayed awake at night fearing snakes and scorpions, moving place to place every week.  
वे खुले खेतों में सोते थे और साँप-बिच्छुओं के डर से रात भर जागते थे, हर हफ्ते एक जगह से दूसरी जगह जाते थे।
- They offered to repay the debt in instalments, but Muthu refused.  
उन्होंने कर्ज किस्तों में चुकाने की पेशकश की, लेकिन मुथु ने इनकार कर दिया।
- Ankamma had **three children** from a previous marriage — **Chenchu Krishna (15), Ravu Lakshamma (12), and Venkatesh**.  
अंकम्मा की पहली शादी से **तीन संतानें** थीं — **चेंचू कृष्णा (15), रावु लक्षमम्मा (12) और वेंकटेश**।
- After her first husband died last year, she and Prakash went to Guduru for the **final rites**.  
जब पिछले साल उनके पहले पति की मृत्यु हुई, तो अंकम्मा और प्रकाश **गुडुरु** अंतिम संस्कार के लिए गए।
- When they didn't return, an angry Muthu came searching for them and took away **Venkatesh** as 'collateral'.  
जब वे वापस नहीं आए, तो नाराज़ मुथु उन्हें खोजने आया और **वेंकटेश** को 'जमानत' के रूप में ले गया।
- Ankamma says, "Everyone says we'll get some cash (compensation), but we only want **justice** for my son."  
अंकम्मा कहती हैं, "हर कोई कह रहा है कि हमें कुछ **मुआवज़ा** मिलेगा, लेकिन हमें सिर्फ अपने बेटे के लिए **न्याय** चाहिए।"
- The **Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer - 2021** assures **immediate financial assistance up to ₹30,000**, and up to **₹3 lakh** after conviction, depending on severity.  
**बॉन्डेड लेबरर के पुनर्वास के लिए केंद्रीय योजना - 2021** के तहत **₹30,000 तक की तात्कालिक सहायता**



और दोषसिद्धि के बाद ₹3 लाख तक की राशि दी जा सकती है, जो मामले की गंभीरता पर निर्भर करती है।

- **Ravi Kumar**, the administrative officer at the **Sullurpeta RDO office**, said Tirupati administration may provide a **housing site and compensation**.  
रवि कुमार, जो सुल्लुरपेटा आरडीओ कार्यालय के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी हैं, ने कहा कि तिरुपति प्रशासन आवासीय भूमि और मुआवज़ा देने पर विचार कर रहा है।
- Activists say that the administration should issue a **'release certificate'** to the family. सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं का कहना है कि प्रशासन को परिवार को **'रिहाई प्रमाणपत्र'** देना चाहिए।
- But Ravi Kumar says only **bonded labourers** are eligible for this certificate, and since the **boy is dead**, the family is not eligible.  
लेकिन रवि कुमार के अनुसार यह प्रमाणपत्र केवल **बंधुआ मज़दूरों** को दिया जाता है, और चूंकि लड़का मर चुका है, परिवार इसके पात्र नहीं है।

## 'Poor, unlettered, and fearful'

### 'गरीब, अशिक्षित और भयभीत'

- Andhra Pradesh is both a **source** and a **destination** State for **bonded labour**.  
आंध्र प्रदेश **बंधुआ मजदूरी** के लिए एक स्रोत और एक गंतव्य राज्य दोनों है।
- The problem is **not as prevalent** as before, but **many cases remain hidden** today.  
समस्या पहले जैसी व्यापक नहीं है, लेकिन आज भी कई मामले सामने नहीं आते।
- Migrant labourers from **Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh** along with **marginalised locals** fall prey to the system.  
ओडिशा, मध्य प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल और छत्तीसगढ़ से आए प्रवासी मजदूर और स्थानीय हाशिये पर पड़े लोग इस व्यवस्था के शिकार होते हैं।
- As per data from the **Vetti Vimochana Coalition**, **402 people** have been **rescued** from bonded labour in **Andhra Pradesh** since **January 2023**.  
वेटी विमोचना गठबंधन के अनुसार, जनवरी 2023 से अब तक आंध्र प्रदेश में 402 लोगों को बंधुआ मजदूरी से मुक्त कराया गया है।
- Most of the rescued individuals, including Ankamma, belong to the **Yanadi** community.  
मुक्त कराए गए अधिकतर लोग, जिनमें अंकम्मा भी शामिल हैं, **यानादी समुदाय** से हैं।

## Yanadi Tribe and Social Conditions

### यानादी जनजाति और सामाजिक स्थिति

- According to a **2008 report** by the **National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes**, Yanadis are one of the **59 Denotified** and **60 Nomadic Tribes** of Andhra Pradesh.  
2008 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यानादी आंध्र प्रदेश की 59 विमुक्त और 60 घुमंतू जनजातियों में से एक हैं।



- As per the 2011 Census, there were over 5 lakh Yanadis in the combined State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.  
2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार, संयुक्त आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना में 5 लाख से अधिक यानादी थे।
- Only 35.35% of Yanadis are literate.  
केवल 35.35% यानादी साक्षर हैं।
- They live in extreme poverty, have no knowledge of the legal system, and avoid the mainstream due to social fear.  
वे अत्यधिक गरीबी में रहते हैं, कानूनी प्रणाली की जानकारी नहीं रखते और सामाजिक भय के कारण मुख्यधारा से दूर रहते हैं।
- Many Yanadis live on canal bunds and in hilly areas, without owning any assets.  
कई यानादी नहर के किनारों और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में रहते हैं और उनके पास कोई संपत्ति नहीं होती।
- Ankamma said she did not know that vatti chakiri (bonded labour) is illegal.  
अंकम्मा ने कहा कि उन्हें यह पता नहीं था कि वेटी चाकिरी (बंधुआ मजदूरी) अवैध है।
- Many Yanadis do not share their troubles due to fear of employers.  
कई यानादी अपने नियोजकों के डर से अपनी समस्याएं साझा नहीं करते।
- In one incident, two bonded labourers died due to electrocution in Palnadu district, but their families still continue in bondage.  
एक घटना में पालनाडु जिले में दो बंधुआ मजदूरों की बिजली करंट लगने से मौत हो गई, लेकिन उनके परिवार अब भी बंधुआ मजदूरी कर रहे हैं।

## Kotaiah's Escape and Story of Bondage कोटैया की मुक्ति और बंधन की कहानी

- Katti Kotaiah, aged 56, from the Yanadi community, escaped bonded labour in Chilakaluripeta.  
56 वर्षीय कट्टी कोटैया, जो यानादी समुदाय से हैं, ने चिलकलुरिपेटा में बंधुआ मजदूरी से भाग निकला।
- He lived in Alluru, near Kothapatnam beach, where 400 Yanadis reside.  
वह कोथपट्टनम समुद्र तट के पास के अल्लूरू गांव में रहते हैं, जहां 400 यानादी रहते हैं।
- His family of seven, including three children, worked as bonded labourers for 20 years to repay a loan of ₹10,000.  
उनका सात लोगों का परिवार, जिसमें तीन बच्चे शामिल हैं, ने ₹10,000 के ऋण को चुकाने के लिए 20 साल तक बंधुआ मजदूरी की।
- The debt rose from ₹1,500 to ₹15 lakh over time.  
समय के साथ कर्ज ₹1,500 से बढ़कर ₹15 लाख हो गया।
- The family was sold more than three times to different employers.  
इस परिवार को तीन बार से अधिक बार विभिन्न मालिकों को बेचा गया।
- They worked by cutting Subabul logs, producing two tonnes a day, but earned only ₹1,500 a week.  
उन्होंने सबबुल की लकड़ियां काटी, रोजाना दो टन, लेकिन उन्हें सप्ताह में ₹1,500 ही मिलते थे।



- As per current rates, one should get **₹500 per tonne**, meaning they were **grossly underpaid**.  
वर्तमान दरों के अनुसार, एक टन पर **₹500** मिलना चाहिए, जिससे यह स्पष्ट है कि उन्हें **काफी कम भुगतान** किया गया।
- Employers **reduced wages**, withheld pay, and **restricted movements**.  
मालिकों ने **वेतन घटा दिया**, भुगतान रोका और **आवागमन पर रोक** लगाई।
- During the **pandemic**, a policeman advised Kotaiah to leave, but he feared a **₹2 lakh debt**.  
**महामारी** के दौरान, एक पुलिसकर्मी ने कोटैया को छोड़ने की सलाह दी, लेकिन वह **₹2 लाख के कर्ज** से डरे हुए थे।
- Kotaiah **sold his house** (received under a government scheme) for **₹1 lakh** to repay the debt.  
कोटैया ने **सरकारी योजना** के तहत मिला घर **₹1 लाख** में **बेच दिया** ताकि कर्ज चुका सकें।
- After a friend's **death**, he left, using the excuse of voting in **June 2024 elections**, and **never returned**.  
एक दोस्त की **मौत** के बाद उन्होंने **जून 2024 के चुनाव** में **वोट डालने का बहाना** बनाकर छोड़ दिया और **वापस नहीं लौटे**।
- This year, the employer came to **Alluru**, demanding their return, but **district officials intervened** and provided **protection and release certificates**.  
इस साल, मालिक **अल्लूरु** आया और उन्हें वापस बुलाया, लेकिन **जिला अधिकारियों ने हस्तक्षेप** कर उन्हें **सुरक्षा और मुक्ति प्रमाणपत्र** दिए।
- Sometimes, due to **lack of land and employment**, freed labourers **return to the same employers**.  
कभी-कभी **जमीन और रोजगार के अभाव** में **मुक्त मजदूर** फिर से **उन्हीं मालिकों के पास लौट जाते हैं**।
- Kotaiah now sells **fish**, earning **₹100 to ₹400** a day.  
अब कोटैया **मछली बेचते हैं**, और **₹100 से ₹400** रोज कमाते हैं।

## No Action Plan in Place

### कोई कार्य योजना नहीं है

- Bonded labour cases arise in **duck-rearing units** and areas with **Subabul plantations**.  
**बत्ख पालन इकाइयों और सबाबुल के बागानों में बंधुआ मजदूरी** के मामले सामने आते हैं।
- In duck units, mostly **children** are employed, especially by **Yerukula** families, in **harsh conditions with no electricity or food**.  
**बत्ख पालन में ज्यादातर बच्चों को यरुकुला समुदाय द्वारा कठिन परिस्थितियों में बिजली और भोजन के बिना काम पर रखा जाता है।**
- As per a report by **Ravi S. Srivastava**, the **1996 Supreme Court-mandated survey** found **no bonded labour cases** in Andhra Pradesh.



रवि एस. श्रीवास्तव की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 1996 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा अनिवार्य सर्वेक्षण में आंध्र प्रदेश में कोई मामला नहीं पाया गया।

- However, the government later **identified and released 37,988 bonded labourers till 2004.**

हालांकि, सरकार ने बाद में 2004 तक 37,988 बंधुआ मजदूरों की पहचान कर उन्हें मुक्त किया।

- Since then, **no systematic survey** has been conducted.

तब से अब तक कोई व्यवस्थित सर्वेक्षण नहीं हुआ है।

- Of the **402 rescues** by Vetti Vimochana Coalition, **FIRs were filed in only seven cases.**

वेट्टी विमोचना गठबंधन द्वारा 402 मजदूरों को मुक्त कराने में से, केवल 7 मामलों में एफआईआर दर्ज हुई।

- **No SOP or State action plan** exists in Andhra Pradesh for **identifying, rescuing, and rehabilitating** bonded labourers.

आंध्र प्रदेश में बंधुआ मजदूरों की पहचान, बचाव और पुनर्वास के लिए कोई एसओपी या राज्य कार्य योजना नहीं है।

- **Tamil Nadu and Delhi** have **robust systems** in place for this.

तमिलनाडु और दिल्ली में इसके लिए मजबूत व्यवस्थाएं हैं।

- The **Bonded Labour Act** allows for **punishment up to 3 years**, but **no data is available** on actual punishments.

बंधुआ श्रम अधिनियम में तीन साल तक की सजा का प्रावधान है, लेकिन सजा का कोई आंकड़ा उपलब्ध नहीं है।

- A **district-level vigilance and monitoring committee** is mandatory but was formed in **Prakasam** only last year.

एक जिला स्तरीय निगरानी समिति अनिवार्य है, लेकिन प्रकाशम जिले में यह केवल पिछले वर्ष बनी।

- Departments like **Revenue, Tribal Welfare, Social Welfare, and Labour** are **unsure of responsibility.**

राजस्व, जनजातीय कल्याण, सामाजिक कल्याण, और श्रम विभाग को जिम्मेदारी स्पष्ट नहीं है।

- **Bonded labour** should be recognised as **organised crime**, and there must be a **nodal department** with a **toll-free helpline.**

बंधुआ मजदूरी को संगठित अपराध के रूप में मान्यता मिलनी चाहिए और इसके लिए एक नोडल विभाग और टोल-फ्री हेल्पलाइन होनी चाहिए।

- Venkateswarlu said that if a **toll-free number** had existed, **Ankamma would not have lost her son.**

वेंकटेश्वरलु ने कहा कि अगर टोल-फ्री नंबर होता, तो अंकम्मा को अपना बेटा नहीं खोना पड़ता।



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**In focus:** According to an estimate, there are around 45,000 pre-schools across Karnataka, out of which about 20,000 are integrated pre-schools in government and private schools, permitted by the DSEL. FILE PHOTO

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# Taking baby steps to regulate pre-schools

The Department of School Education and Literacy, earlier this week, issued an order making registration mandatory for all newly started pre-schools in Karnataka. But stakeholders tell Jayanth R. that more needs to be done to regulate such institutions in the interest of children's education and safety

GS Paper I: Society

Exactly how many pre-schools are there in Karnataka? The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has no accurate answer to this question, thanks to the fact that there has so far been no system in place for registering all pre-schools in the State.

A lack of separate rules and regulations or a consistent monitoring system has led to the mushrooming of private pre-schools or early childhood care education centres across Karnataka.

While pre-schools running as part of government and private schools are obtaining permission from the DSEL, most standalone pre-schools are operating without any approval. In addition, most of those run by corporates as franchise schools and pre-schools too are operating without a monitoring mechanism.



There have been allegations that the government or the DSEL has no control over pre-schools, and parents are being exploited by way of exorbitant fees, expensive textbooks, etc. In addition, questions have been raised about the safety and protection of children.

Now, for the first time, the Karnataka government has taken steps to register all types of pre-primary schools, including play homes, Montessori, and nurseries, with objectives including child safety and streamlining of private pre-schools.

## What the order says

The DSEL issued an order on May 27, 2025, stating that, as per the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Classification and Registration) Rules, 1997, pre-primary education means non-formal education below the first standard for children between the ages of three and five, whether called play homes, Montessori, nursery, etc. The department stated in the order that all "newly started" pre-schools must be registered compulsorily.

Trusts and school managements have been allowed to apply before starting new private unaided pre-primary schools through the newly developed online module on the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal.

Criteria adopted for registration to start a new private unaided pre-primary school include having a building with a carpet area of one square metre per student, subject to a minimum of 2,000 sq. ft, preferably on the ground floor with a playground, either owned or taken on lease for at least 30 years. In addition, the order states that a building fitness certificate and fire safety clearance certificates should be obtained from the competent authority. Physical safety (infrastructure, health, and transportation), personal and sexual safety, and social and emotional safety should be ensured.

\*From this year, registration of all pre-schools



There is a rule that pre-schools should be started only on the ground floor of a building for the safety of children. However, many standalone pre-schools are functioning on the upper floors.

B.N. YOGANANDA, president of the Parents Association

has been made mandatory. This order has been sent to all district and taluk-level officers, who have been instructed to register all types of pre-schools in their jurisdiction. Till now, there were no regulations in the department regarding the registration of pre-schools. We also developed a separate module on the SATS portal for pre-schools to register, and it is mandatory for all new pre-schools to register," says KV. Trilokchandra, Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has made registration of pre-schools under its jurisdiction mandatory from this academic year.

## No clarity on numbers

According to an estimate, there are around 45,000 pre-schools across the State, out of which about 20,000 are integrated pre-schools in government and private schools, permitted by the DSEL. However, the department does not have information about the number of standalone pre-schools, including those run as part of franchise chains. Though some standalone pre-schools are run after obtaining permission from the DSEL, the department is not monitoring them in any way, once permitted.

Now, although the government has made registration mandatory for new pre-schools starting from 2025-26, there is no clarity on whether these rules apply to existing schools.

There is now a demand from parents, educationists, and other stakeholders to issue comprehensive regulations or standard operating procedures (SOPs) applicable to all pre-schools across the State for the safety of children.

## What are the demands

Stakeholders point out that many aspects, including fees, are arbitrary in pre-schools. Although the government has no control over fee fix-



Although the government has made registration mandatory for new pre-schools starting from 2025-26, there is no clarity on whether these rules apply to existing schools. FILE PHOTO

ation in private schools, the rules allow for the regulation of a fee increase of only 10% to 12% a year. In addition, the details of the fees charged by private schools have to be published on the notice board.

However, since none of these rules apply to pre-schools, a modest private pre-school in tier-1 cities like Bengaluru charges ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 per student a year. There are even instances of big private schools charging ₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh a year for pre-school admission.

"Pre-schools have become a big business now, and they charge more than regular schools. Private pre-schools charge huge fees in the name of uniforms, textbooks, and other things. If parents question this, schools tell them to enrol their children elsewhere. That's why the government should bring in fee regulation for private pre-schools," said Tanuja M., mother of a pre-school child and a bank employee in Bengaluru.



As per rules, there should be no fixed curriculum in pre-schools. Children should have a play-based method of learning, according to V.P. Niranjanaradhya, development educationist. FILE PHOTO

Safety of children and the absence of a child-friendly atmosphere are also a concern, as many of the standalone pre-schools in the State are being run in residential houses and commercial complexes without any safety measures.

"There is a rule that pre-schools should be started only on the ground floor of a building for the safety of children. However, many standalone pre-schools are functioning on the upper floors. Despite several complaints to the Education Department in this regard, nothing has changed. If an accident occurs, who is responsible?" asks B.N. Yogananda, president of the Parents Association.

## No uniform curriculum

Another issue often flagged is the absence of a uniform curriculum in pre-schools. Earlier, the State government had implemented the 'Chilli Pili-Plus' curriculum in the pre-schools under its jurisdiction and in those in anganwadi centres. It has now been updated as 'Chilli Pili-Plus+'. However, there is no uniform or single curriculum applicable to all pre-schools in the State.

"As per rules, there should be no fixed curriculum in pre-schools. Children should have a play-based method of learning. Children are taught to write right from the start in many pre-schools. But language learning includes listening, learn-

ing, speaking, reading, and finally writing. Imposing the writing method at the pre-school level will affect the learning of children. Therefore, the State government should take steps to implement a curriculum that is applicable to all pre-schools and is conducive to the overall development of children," says V.P. Niranjanaradhya, development educationist.

## Age limit violation

Some pre-schools are also found to be enrolling children who are underage, violating the age criteria, leading to problems later when they join primary school.

As per the National Education Policy-2020, in July 2022, the DSEL made it mandatory for the completion of six years by June 1 for admission to class 1. Accordingly, the age for admission to Montessori was set at three years, for LKG at four years, and for UKG at five. However, as a temporary step, the department relaxed the six-year age cap for school enrolment for two years. According to that order, it was mandatory to follow the age rule from 2025-26. But, despite the order, most pre-schools continue to enrol children who are under the minimum age. Under pressure, the government recently postponed the implementation of the age limit rule for admission to class 1 to the next year.

## SOP for pre-schools

"Child protection is a fundamental right in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC talks of children's survival rights, developmental rights, protection rights, and participation rights. In addition, according to Article 39(e) and (f) of the Indian Constitution, it is the responsibility of the State to raise children in a healthy and meaningful way. Even if the State does not run any institutions, it should formulate guidelines or SOPs for those who run institutions. There are no regulations related to the safety of children in pre-schools and protection from exploitation and discrimination. Therefore, in the interest of the protection of children, the Karnataka government should bring a comprehensive regulation or SOP for pre-schools," says Niranjanaradhya.

He points out that Section II of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, focuses on pre-school education for children. It mandates that the government provide free pre-school education to children above the age of three to prepare them for elementary education and offer early childhood care and education until they turn six. "The Karnataka Education Act, 1983, has allowed the government to regulate all pre-schools, including government and private ones. Therefore, the State Education Policy that the Karnataka government intends to implement should at least make appropriate rules regarding the regulation and management of pre-schools," he says.

## New regulation welcomed

Meanwhile, the Associated Managements of Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), an association of private school managements, has termed the order issued by the government on registration of pre-schools as a good start.

"Although the State government had issued an order on the registration of pre-schools in 2018, the department has not implemented it. Despite several appeals and protests, unauthorised pre-schools have continued to mushroom. Since there is no fee regulation, they are exploiting children and parents. In many places, there is not even a minimum infrastructure. Therefore, the government has made the registration of pre-primary schools mandatory from this year, which is a healthy development. From now on, all types of pre-schools in the State must be registered compulsorily. If they are not registered, they will be considered unauthorised. IDs will not be created in SATS for children in such pre-schools," says D. Shashikumar, general secretary of the KAMS.

## Taking baby steps to regulate pre-schools

### प्री-स्कूल को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में छोटे-छोटे कदम

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) recently issued an order making registration mandatory for all newly started pre-schools in Karnataka.

स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग (DSEL) ने हाल ही में एक आदेश जारी किया जिसमें कर्नाटक में शुरू होने वाले सभी नए प्री-स्कूलों के लिए पंजीकरण अनिवार्य कर दिया गया।



- However, stakeholders believe that **more needs to be done** to regulate these institutions for the **education and safety of children**.

हालांकि, हितधारकों का मानना है कि **बच्चों की शिक्षा और सुरक्षा** के लिए इन संस्थानों को विनियमित करने के लिए **अभी और कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता** है।

## Lack of accurate data

### सटीक आंकड़ों की कमी

- There is no accurate count of how many **pre-schools** exist in Karnataka due to the absence of a **registration system** until now.

अब तक **पंजीकरण प्रणाली** नहीं होने के कारण कर्नाटक में कितने **प्री-स्कूल** हैं, इसका कोई **सटीक आंकड़ा** नहीं है।

## Unregulated growth of private pre-schools

### निजी प्री-स्कूलों की अनियमित वृद्धि

- The absence of specific rules and consistent monitoring has led to the **mushrooming** of private pre-schools across the State.

नियमों और लगातार निगरानी की **अनुपस्थिति** के कारण पूरे राज्य में **निजी प्री-स्कूलों की भारी वृद्धि** हुई है।

- While pre-schools under government and private schools have permission, **most standalone pre-schools operate without any approval**.

जहां सरकारी और निजी स्कूलों से जुड़े प्री-स्कूलों को अनुमति मिली है, वहीं **अधिकांश स्वतंत्र प्री-स्कूल बिना किसी मंजूरी** के चल रहे हैं।

- Many corporate-run **franchise pre-schools** are also functioning **without monitoring mechanisms**.

कई कॉर्पोरेट संचालित **फ्रेंचाइज़ी प्री-स्कूल** भी **बिना किसी निगरानी प्रणाली** के संचालित हो रहे हैं।

## Concerns raised by parents and public

### अभिभावकों और जनता द्वारा जताई गई चिंताएं

- There are **allegations** that the DSEL has **no control** over pre-schools and that **parents are being exploited** with **high fees** and **expensive textbooks**.

ऐसे आरोप हैं कि DSEL का प्री-स्कूलों पर कोई **नियंत्रण** नहीं है और **अभिभावकों से अधिक शुल्क और महंगी किताबों** के जरिए **शोषण** हो रहा है।

- There are also serious concerns about **children's safety and protection**.

**बच्चों की सुरक्षा और संरक्षण** को लेकर भी गंभीर चिंताएं हैं।



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## Government's first steps towards regulation

### सरकार द्वारा विनियमन की दिशा में पहला कदम

- For the **first time**, the Karnataka government is moving to register **all types of pre-primary schools**, including **play homes, Montessori, and nurseries**.  
पहली बार, कर्नाटक सरकार सभी प्रकार के प्री-प्राइमरी स्कूलों जैसे कि प्ले होम, मॉटेसरी और नर्सरी का पंजीकरण करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ी है।
- The objectives include **ensuring child safety** and **streamlining private pre-schools**.  
इसके उद्देश्यों में बच्चों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना और निजी प्री-स्कूलों को सुव्यवस्थित करना शामिल है।

## Details of the new order

### नए आदेश का विवरण

- The DSEL issued an order on **May 27, 2025**, under the **Karnataka Educational Institutions (Classification and Registration) Rules, 1997**.  
DSEL ने 27 मई 2025 को कर्नाटक शैक्षणिक संस्थान (वर्गीकरण और पंजीकरण) नियम, 1997 के तहत एक आदेश जारी किया।
- It defines **pre-primary education** as non-formal education for children aged **3 to 5 years**, including **play homes, Montessori, and nursery**.  
इसमें प्री-प्राइमरी शिक्षा को 3 से 5 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों के लिए अनौपचारिक शिक्षा के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है, जिसमें प्ले होम, मॉटेसरी और नर्सरी शामिल हैं।
- The order states that **all newly started pre-schools** must **register compulsorily**.  
आदेश में कहा गया है कि सभी नए प्री-स्कूलों को अनिवार्य रूप से पंजीकृत करना होगा।

## Application process and criteria

### आवेदन प्रक्रिया और मानदंड

- Trusts and school managements can now apply through a new **online module** on the **Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal**.  
अब ट्रस्ट और स्कूल प्रबंधन SATS पोर्टल पर बनाए गए ऑनलाइन मॉड्यूल के माध्यम से आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

## To start a new pre-school, the institution must have:

### एक नया प्री-स्कूल शुरू करने के लिए संस्थान के पास निम्नलिखित होना चाहिए:

- A **building with at least 1 sq. metre per student**, and **minimum 2,000 sq. ft area**, preferably on the **ground floor**.

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**Website : patrioticias.in**



प्रत्येक छात्र के लिए कम से कम 1 वर्ग मीटर और कुल न्यूनतम 2,000 वर्ग फुट का भवन, जो प्राथमिकता से ग्राउंड फ्लोर पर हो।

- A **playground**, owned or leased for **minimum 30 years**.  
खेल का मैदान, जो न्यूनतम 30 वर्षों के लिए किराए या स्वामित्व में हो।
- **Fitness and fire safety certificates** from competent authorities.  
सक्षम अधिकारियों से भवन की फिटनेस और फायर सेफ्टी प्रमाणपत्र।
- Assurance of **physical, personal and sexual**, and **emotional safety**.  
भौतिक, व्यक्तिगत और यौन, और भावनात्मक सुरक्षा की सुनिश्चितता।

## Implementation status

### कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति

- According to **K.V. Trilokchandra**, Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction, all **district and taluk officers** have been instructed to register all types of pre-schools.  
**K.V. त्रिलोकचंद्र**, सार्वजनिक निर्देश विभाग के आयुक्त के अनुसार, सभी **जिला और तालुका अधिकारियों** को प्री-स्कूलों के पंजीकरण का निर्देश दिया गया है।
- A separate **module on SATS portal** has been developed, and **registration is mandatory for all new pre-schools**.  
**SATS पोर्टल** पर एक अलग **मॉड्यूल** विकसित किया गया है और **सभी नए प्री-स्कूलों के लिए पंजीकरण अनिवार्य** है।
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has also made **pre-school registration mandatory** from this academic year.  
**केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (CBSE)** ने भी इस शैक्षणिक वर्ष से **प्री-स्कूल पंजीकरण अनिवार्य** कर दिया है।

## Lack of clarity about existing schools

### मौजूदा स्कूलों को लेकर स्पष्टता नहीं

- There are an estimated **45,000 pre-schools** in Karnataka.  
कर्नाटक में लगभग **45,000 प्री-स्कूल** होने का अनुमान है।
- Out of these, about **20,000** are **integrated with government and private schools** and permitted by the DSEL.  
इनमें से लगभग **20,000 प्री-स्कूल**, **सरकारी और निजी स्कूलों से जुड़े** हैं और DSEL से अनुमति प्राप्त हैं।
- However, DSEL has **no information** on the number of **standalone or franchise pre-schools**.  
हालांकि DSEL के पास **स्वतंत्र या फ्रेंचाइज़ी प्री-स्कूलों की संख्या की कोई जानकारी नहीं** है।



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- Though some standalone schools have permission, the **department does not monitor them**.  
हालांकि कुछ स्वतंत्र स्कूलों को अनुमति मिली है, लेकिन विभाग उनकी निगरानी नहीं करता।
- Currently, **registration is only mandatory for new pre-schools starting from 2025-26, and it is unclear if the rule applies to existing schools**.  
वर्तमान में, 2025-26 से शुरू होने वाले नए प्री-स्कूलों के लिए ही पंजीकरण अनिवार्य है और यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि यह नियम मौजूदा स्कूलों पर लागू होता है या नहीं।

## Call for comprehensive regulations

### व्यापक नियमों की मांग

- Parents, educationists, and stakeholders are now **demanding comprehensive regulations or standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all pre-schools to ensure children's safety**.  
अब अभिभावक, शिक्षाविद् और हितधारक बच्चों की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी प्री-स्कूलों पर लागू होने वाले व्यापक नियमों या मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाओं (SOPs) की मांग कर रहे हैं।

## Demands of Stakeholders Regarding Pre-schools in Karnataka

### कर्नाटक में प्री-स्कूलों को लेकर हितधारकों की मांगें

### Arbitrary Fee Structure in Pre-schools

#### प्री-स्कूलों में मनमाना शुल्क ढांचा

- Many stakeholders highlight that **fees and other aspects** in pre-schools are **arbitrary**.  
कई हितधारक यह बताते हैं कि प्री-स्कूलों में शुल्क और अन्य पहलू मनमाने हैं।
- While private schools can increase fees by only **10% to 12%** annually as per current rules, these rules do **not apply to pre-schools**.  
जहां मौजूदा नियमों के अनुसार निजी स्कूल केवल 10% से 12% तक ही शुल्क बढ़ा सकते हैं, वहीं ये नियम प्री-स्कूलों पर लागू नहीं होते।
- Pre-schools in cities like Bengaluru charge **₹30,000 to ₹50,000** per student per year; some elite schools charge **₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh**.  
बेंगलुरु जैसे शहरों में प्री-स्कूल ₹30,000 से ₹50,000 प्रति वर्ष प्रति छात्र तक लेते हैं; कुछ बड़े स्कूल ₹1 लाख से ₹1.5 लाख तक वसूलते हैं।
- Parents complain that these charges are taken in the name of **uniforms, textbooks, and other items**, and if questioned, parents are told to leave.  
माता-पिता शिकायत करते हैं कि ये शुल्क यूनिफॉर्म, किताबें और अन्य चीजों के नाम पर वसूले जाते हैं, और अगर सवाल उठाया जाए तो स्कूल उन्हें बच्चा कहीं और दाखिल कराने को कहता है।



## Lack of Safety and Child-friendly Infrastructure

### सुरक्षा और बाल-अनुकूल संरचना की कमी

- Many standalone pre-schools operate in **residential buildings and commercial complexes** without safety measures.  
कई स्वतंत्र प्री-स्कूल आवासीय भवनों और व्यावसायिक परिसरों में बिना सुरक्षा उपायों के चलते हैं।
- There is a rule that pre-schools should function **only on ground floors**, but many run on **upper floors**, risking child safety.  
एक नियम है कि प्री-स्कूल केवल ग्राउंड फ्लोर पर चलने चाहिए, लेकिन कई ऊपरी मंज़िलों पर संचालित हो रहे हैं, जिससे बच्चों की सुरक्षा खतरे में पड़ती है।
- Despite complaints to the **Education Department**, no action has been taken.  
शिक्षा विभाग से कई शिकायतों के बावजूद कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई है।

## Absence of a Uniform Curriculum

### एक समान पाठ्यक्रम की अनुपस्थिति

- There is **no single curriculum** across all pre-schools in the State.  
राज्य के सभी प्री-स्कूलों में कोई एक समान पाठ्यक्रम लागू नहीं है।
- The government's '**Chili-Pili**' curriculum was implemented only in anganwadis and government pre-schools and updated as '**Chili Pili-Plus**'.  
सरकार का 'चिली-पिली' पाठ्यक्रम केवल आंगनवाड़ियों और सरकारी प्री-स्कूलों में लागू हुआ और अब इसे 'चिली-पिली प्लस' में अपडेट किया गया है।
- Rules recommend a **play-based learning approach**, but many schools **start writing** from the beginning, affecting children's learning.  
नियमों के अनुसार खेल आधारित शिक्षा पद्धति अपनानी चाहिए, लेकिन कई स्कूलों में शुरू से ही लिखना सिखाया जाता है, जिससे बच्चों की सीखने की प्रक्रिया प्रभावित होती है।
- Experts demand a **uniform, child-centric curriculum** for holistic development.  
विशेषज्ञ एक समान, बाल केंद्रित पाठ्यक्रम की मांग कर रहे हैं ताकि बच्चों का समग्र विकास हो सके।

## Age Limit Violations in Pre-schools

### प्री-स्कूलों में आयु सीमा उल्लंघन

- Many pre-schools are admitting children **below the minimum age**, which creates issues during **Class 1** admissions.  
कई प्री-स्कूल न्यूनतम आयु से कम बच्चों को दाखिला दे रहे हैं, जिससे कक्षा 1 में प्रवेश के समय समस्याएं होती हैं।
- As per **NEP 2020** and the **DSEL's 2022 order**, children must complete **6 years by June 1** for Class 1 admission.



राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 और 2022 में डीएसईएल के आदेश के अनुसार, कक्षा 1 में प्रवेश के लिए बच्चों की 1 जून तक 6 वर्ष की आयु पूरी होनी चाहिए।

- The age criteria are: **Montessori - 3 years, LKG - 4 years, UKG - 5 years.**  
आयु मानदंड हैं: **मॉन्टेसरी - 3 वर्ष, एलकेजी - 4 वर्ष, यूकेजी - 5 वर्ष।**
- Despite these rules, most pre-schools continue to admit **underage children**, and the government recently **postponed** implementation of the age rule to **next year.**  
इन नियमों के बावजूद अधिकांश प्री-स्कूल **कम आयु** के बच्चों को दाखिला दे रहे हैं, और सरकार ने हाल ही में इस आयु नियम के **क्रियान्वयन को अगले वर्ष तक टाल दिया है।**

## Need for SOPs and Regulation

### एसओपी और विनियमन की आवश्यकता

- The **UNCRC** and **Article 39(e) and (f)** of the Indian Constitution mandate **child protection and care.**  
**यूएनसीआरसी और भारतीय संविधान का अनुच्छेद 39 (e) और (f)** बच्चों की सुरक्षा और देखभाल सुनिश्चित करने की बात करते हैं।
- There is **no SOP** or regulation for **safety, exploitation protection, and non-discrimination** in private pre-schools.  
निजी प्री-स्कूलों में बच्चों की **सुरक्षा, शोषण से बचाव और भेदभाव से संरक्षण** के लिए कोई एसओपी या विनियमन नहीं है।
- Section 11 of the **Right to Education Act, 2009**, mandates **free pre-school education** for children **above age 3.**  
**शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2009** की धारा 11 के तहत **3 वर्ष से अधिक आयु** के बच्चों के लिए **निःशुल्क प्री-स्कूल शिक्षा अनिवार्य है।**
- The **Karnataka Education Act, 1983**, empowers the State to **regulate both government and private pre-schools.**  
**कर्नाटक शिक्षा अधिनियम, 1983** राज्य सरकार को **सरकारी और निजी दोनों प्री-स्कूलों के विनियमन** का अधिकार देता है।
- Experts demand a **comprehensive regulation or SOP** for pre-schools under the upcoming **State Education Policy.**  
विशेषज्ञ चाहते हैं कि आगामी **राज्य शिक्षा नीति** में प्री-स्कूलों के लिए **समग्र विनियमन या एसओपी** लाया जाए।

## Welcome for New Regulation and Mandatory Registration

### नए विनियमन और अनिवार्य पंजीकरण का स्वागत



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- KAMS (Associated Managements of Schools in Karnataka) supports the **government's new order for pre-school registration**.  
कर्नाटक स्कूल प्रबंधन संघ (KAMS) ने सरकार के नए प्री-स्कूल पंजीकरण आदेश का समर्थन किया है।
- An earlier **2018 order** on registration was **not implemented**, allowing **unauthorised pre-schools** to flourish.  
पहले 2018 में जारी आदेश को लागू नहीं किया गया, जिससे अनधिकृत प्री-स्कूल बढ़ते रहे।
- Lack of regulation led to **exploitation of parents and children** and existence of **poor infrastructure** in many schools.  
विनियमन की कमी के कारण माता-पिता और बच्चों का शोषण हुआ और कई स्कूलों में बुनियादी ढांचे की भारी कमी देखी गई।
- From this year, **registration of all pre-schools is mandatory**, and **unregistered schools** will not get **SATS IDs** for children.  
इस वर्ष से सभी प्री-स्कूलों का पंजीकरण अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है, और अवैध स्कूलों के बच्चों को SATS आईडी नहीं दी जाएगी।

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## Toll in Nigeria flash floods rises to 115, say rescuers

GS Paper I: Geography

Agence France-Press  
MOKWA

**Flash floods** that ripped through parts of central Nigeria have killed at least 115 people, an emergency services official said on Friday.

Teams of rescuers continued to search for missing residents after torrential rains late on Wednesday through early Thursday washed away and submerged dozens of homes in and around the town of Mokwa, located on the banks of Niger River.

"We have so far recovered 115 bodies and more are expected to be recovered because the flood washed people into the River Niger," a spokesperson for the Niger State Emergency Management Agency said.

**Toll in Nigeria flash floods rises to 115,  
say rescuers**

**नाइजीरिया में बाढ़ से मरने वालों की संख्या 115  
हुई, बचावकर्मियों ने कहा**

Flash floods that swept through parts of central Nigeria have killed at least 115 people, according to an emergency services official on Friday.

शुक्रवार को एक आपातकालीन सेवा अधिकारी के अनुसार, नाइजीरिया के मध्य हिस्सों में आई अचानक बाढ़ ने कम से कम 115 लोगों की जान ले ली है।

- Teams of **rescuers** are still searching for **missing residents** after **torrential rains** from **late Wednesday** to **early Thursday** caused severe damage.

बुधवार रात से गुरुवार सुबह तक हुई मूसलधार बारिश के बाद लापता निवासियों की तलाश में बचाव दल अब भी जुटे हुए हैं।

- The **rains washed away** and **submerged dozens of homes** in and around the town of **Mokwa**, which is located on the banks of the **Niger River**.

यह बारिश नाइजर नदी के किनारे स्थित मोकवा शहर और उसके आसपास दर्जनों घरों को बहा ले गई और डुबो दिया।

- "We have so far **recovered 115 bodies** and **more are expected**, because the flood **washed people into the River Niger**," said a **spokesperson** for the **Niger State Emergency Management Agency**.

नाइजर राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन एजेंसी के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, "अब तक 115 शव बरामद किए गए हैं और और शव मिलने की आशंका है क्योंकि बाढ़ ने लोगों को नाइजर नदी में बहा दिया है।"



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## TOPICS COVERED GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, and International Relations)

- 1. Parliamentary panel to look into admission, job reservation for Muslim OBCs in AMU, Jamia Millia**  
अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय और जामिया मिल्लिया में मुस्लिम ओबीसी के लिए दाखिला और नौकरी में आरक्षण की जांच करेगी संसदीय समिति
- 2. SC flags YouTuber's 'scandalous' remarks against senior judge**  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सीनियर जज के खिलाफ यूट्यूबर की 'आपत्तिजनक' टिप्पणी पर संज्ञान लिया
- 3. Chief of Defence Staff, top Pakistani General to attend conference in Singapore**  
चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ और पाकिस्तान के शीर्ष जनरल सिंगापुर सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे
- 4. Centre asks States to raise enrolment in govt. schools**  
केंद्र ने राज्यों से सरकारी स्कूलों में नामांकन बढ़ाने को कहा
- 5. Centre grants nod to Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund to receive foreign donations**  
केंद्र सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष को विदेशी दान प्राप्त करने की अनुमति दी
- 6. Pakistan's India War**  
पाकिस्तान का भारत युद्ध



## Parliamentary panel to look into admission, job reservation for Muslim OBCs in AMU, Jamia Millia

GS Paper II: Reservation in Minority institutions

NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel on the welfare of Other Backward Classes will meet with officials of the Education Ministry and representatives of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia over measures taken by them to secure representation of OBCs in admissions and employment this June.

### Meeting on June 13

The meeting schedule for the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of OBCs noted that on June 13, the above-mentioned representatives of the Union Ministry and the minority institutions will be expected to give "evidence" on the measures



AMU has no reservation policy for admissions or employment based on religion or socio-economic category. FILE PHOTO

they have taken to secure the representation of OBCs in their universities, both in admissions and employment, along with measures taken for their welfare.

Sources aware of the agenda for the meeting have told *The Hindu* that the parliamentary committee intends to pursue a qu-

ota for Muslim OBC communities within these minority institutions, both for admissions and in employment.

A member of the panel told *The Hindu*, "The panel understands that these are minority institutions that do not provide for quotas for Scheduled Castes,

Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs. But the question that the committee feels the need to ask is why these institutions do not have a specific quota for Muslims who fall under the OBC socio-economic category."

Currently, AMU has no reservation policy for admissions or employment based on religion or socio-economic category.

JMI has a reservation policy for admissions under which a 10% quota is reserved for Muslim OBCs and STs but does not have a reservation policy for SCs, STs and OBCs in employment as per a Parliamentary reply.

The parliamentary committee is currently chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party's Satna MP Ganesh Singh.

While the AMU has no reservation policy for admissions or employment apart from the quota reserved for students who have studied in schools run by the AMU, the JMI implements a reservation policy in admission to courses, which was notified in 2011.

### Quota in detail

As per the JMI reservation policy available on their website, the university reserved 30% of seats in each course for candidates who are Muslims; 10% is reserved for Muslim women; and a 10% quota is reserved for Muslim candidates from either OBC or ST backgrounds. Apart from this, the JMI has quotas earmarked for persons with disabilities and internal students of Jamia.

## Parliamentary panel to look into admission, job reservation for Muslim OBCs in AMU, Jamia Millia

अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय और जामिया मिल्लिया में मुस्लिम ओबीसी के लिए दाखिला और नौकरी में आरक्षण की जांच करेगी संसदीय समिति

A parliamentary panel on the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) will meet with officials of the Education Ministry, and representatives of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) in June.

अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (ओबीसी) के कल्याण पर गठित एक संसदीय समिति जून में शिक्षा मंत्रालय, अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय (एएमयू) और जामिया मिल्लिया इस्लामिया (जेएमआई) के प्रतिनिधियों से मुलाकात करेगी।



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- The panel will assess the **measures taken to secure representation of OBCs in admissions and employment** in these universities.  
समिति इन विश्वविद्यालयों में दाखिले और रोजगार में ओबीसी प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उठाए गए उपायों का मूल्यांकन करेगी।

## Meeting on June 13

### 13 जून को बैठक होगी

- The committee will hold its meeting on **June 13**, where officials are expected to provide **evidence of steps taken** to ensure OBC representation and **welfare measures**.  
समिति की बैठक 13 जून को होगी, जिसमें अधिकारियों से ओबीसी प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और कल्याण उपायों पर साक्ष्य प्रस्तुत करने की अपेक्षा की गई है।
- Sources say that the panel is focusing on securing a **quota for Muslim OBC communities** in these **minority institutions** for both **admissions and jobs**.  
सूत्रों के अनुसार, समिति इन अल्पसंख्यक संस्थानों में मुस्लिम ओबीसी समुदायों के लिए दाखिले और नौकरियों में आरक्षण सुनिश्चित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है।
- A panel member said that while **these are minority institutions not bound to implement quotas for SCs, STs, and OBCs**, the panel wants to know **why there is no specific quota for Muslim OBCs**.  
एक सदस्य ने कहा कि भले ही ये अल्पसंख्यक संस्थान हैं जिन्हें एससी, एसटी और ओबीसी के लिए आरक्षण लागू करने की बाध्यता नहीं है, लेकिन समिति यह जानना चाहती है कि मुस्लिम ओबीसी वर्ग के लिए विशेष आरक्षण क्यों नहीं है।

## Current Reservation Policies

### वर्तमान आरक्षण नीतियाँ

- AMU currently has no reservation policy based on religion or socio-economic category for admissions or employment.**  
एएमयू में वर्तमान में धर्म या सामाजिक-आर्थिक श्रेणी के आधार पर दाखिले या नौकरियों के लिए कोई आरक्षण नीति नहीं है।
- JMI follows an admission reservation policy that includes a 10% quota for Muslim OBCs and STs, but it does not implement reservation for SCs, STs, or OBCs in employment.**  
जेएमआई में दाखिले की आरक्षण नीति है जिसमें मुस्लिम ओबीसी और एसटी के लिए 10% आरक्षण शामिल है, लेकिन नौकरियों में एससी, एसटी या ओबीसी के लिए कोई आरक्षण लागू नहीं है।

## Committee Leadership and Policy Details

### समिति की अध्यक्षता और नीति विवरण

**Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur**  
**Email Id : info@patrioticias.in**  
**Contact Number : 9971932488**  
**Website : patrioticias.in**



- The **Parliamentary Committee** is chaired by **Ganesh Singh**, BJP MP from Satna. संसदीय समिति की अध्यक्षता सतना से बीजेपी सांसद गणेश सिंह कर रहे हैं।
- While **AMU** only offers **quota for students** who have studied in its own schools, **JMI** implements a **reservation policy** notified in **2011**. एमएमयू केवल उन छात्रों को आरक्षण देता है जिन्होंने इसके अधीन स्कूलों में पढ़ाई की है, जबकि जेएमआई एक आरक्षण नीति लागू करता है जो 2011 में अधिसूचित की गई थी।

## Quota in Detail

### आरक्षण का विवरण

- As per **JMI's reservation policy**, **30% of seats** in each course are reserved for **Muslim candidates**, **10% for Muslim women**, and **10% for Muslim OBCs or STs**. जेएमआई की आरक्षण नीति के अनुसार, प्रत्येक पाठ्यक्रम में **30% सीटें मुस्लिम उम्मीदवारों**, **10% मुस्लिम महिलाओं**, और **10% मुस्लिम ओबीसी या एसटी उम्मीदवारों** के लिए आरक्षित हैं।
- The university also reserves seats for **persons with disabilities** and **internal students**. विश्वविद्यालय दिव्यांगजनों और आंतरिक छात्रों के लिए भी सीटें आरक्षित करता है।

## SC flags YouTuber's 'scandalous' remarks against senior judge

GS Paper II: Contempt of Court  
The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took *suo motu* cognisance of "scandalous, contemptuous and defamatory" remarks made by **Ajay Shukla**, through his YouTube channel, about a senior judge of the top court.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Justice A.G. Masih and Justice A.S. Chandurkar said in a short order that such remarks brought the institution of judiciary into disrepute.

Chief Justice Gavai said free speech was subject to reasonable restrictions, and making defamatory and contemptuous comments about a sitting Supreme Court judge cannot be protected in the name of freedom of expression.

Attorney General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta were present in the court room.

Mr. Mehta said the comments were grave in nature and he was glad the court had taken cognisance of them. It was he who sug-



Free speech is subject to reasonable restrictions, says CJI B.R. Gavai.

gested to the Bench to additionally describe Mr. Shukla's comments as "defamatory and contemptuous".

The court directed the "taking down" of the social media post with immediate effect.

Mr. Shukla's YouTube channel had recently posted a video on Supreme Court judge, Justice Bela M. Trivedi.

The court issued notice to Mr. Shukla, editor-in-chief of Varprad Media Private Ltd, a digital channel hosted on YouTube.

The Bench scheduled the *suo motu* contempt case after the vacations, possibly in July.

## SC flags YouTuber's 'scandalous' remarks against senior judge

### सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सीनियर जज के खिलाफ यूट्यूबर की 'आपत्तिजनक' टिप्पणी पर संज्ञान लिया

The Supreme Court on Friday took *suo motu* cognisance of "scandalous, contemptuous and defamatory" remarks made by **Ajay Shukla** through his YouTube channel about a senior judge of the top court.

शुक्रवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अजय शुकला द्वारा अपनी यूट्यूब चैनल पर शीर्ष अदालत के एक वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीश के बारे में की गई "आपत्तिजनक, अवमाननात्मक और मानहानिकारक" टिप्पणियों पर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया।

- A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, Justice A.G. Masih, and Justice A.S. Chandurkar stated in a short order that such remarks bring the judiciary into disrepute.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई, न्यायमूर्ति ए.जी. मसीह, और न्यायमूर्ति ए.एस. चंदुरकर की तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने एक संक्षिप्त आदेश में कहा कि इस प्रकार की टिप्पणियां न्यायपालिका की प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुंचाती हैं।

- Chief Justice Gavai said **freedom of speech** is subject to **reasonable restrictions**, and **defamatory and contemptuous**



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



comments about a **sitting Supreme Court judge** cannot be protected under **freedom of expression**.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश गवई ने कहा कि अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर उचित प्रतिबंध लागू होते हैं, और कार्यरत सुप्रीम कोर्ट जज के खिलाफ मानहानिकारक व अवमाननात्मक टिप्पणियों को अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के तहत सुरक्षा नहीं दी जा सकती।

## Views of Legal Authorities

### कानूनी अधिकारियों की राय

- **Attorney General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta** were present in the courtroom.  
महान्यायवादी आर. वेंकटरमणि और सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता अदालत कक्ष में उपस्थित थे।
- **Mr. Mehta** said the comments were of **grave nature**, and he was glad the court had taken cognisance of them.  
श्री मेहता ने कहा कि टिप्पणियां गंभीर प्रकृति की थीं और उन्होंने प्रसन्नता जताई कि अदालत ने इस पर संज्ञान लिया।
- He suggested that the Bench additionally describe Mr. Shukla's comments as **"defamatory and contemptuous."**  
उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि पीठ को श्री शुक्ला की टिप्पणियों को अतिरिक्त रूप से "मानहानिकारक और अवमाननात्मक" बताया जाना चाहिए।

## Court Actions and Orders

### अदालत की कार्रवाइयाँ और आदेश

- The court directed the **immediate removal** of the **social media post**.  
अदालत ने सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट को तुरंत हटाने का निर्देश दिया।
- Mr. Shukla's **YouTube channel** had recently posted a **video on Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M. Trivedi**.  
श्री शुक्ला के यूट्यूब चैनल ने हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की न्यायमूर्ति बेला एम. त्रिवेदी पर एक वीडियो पोस्ट किया था।
- The court issued **notice** to Mr. Shukla, **editor-in-chief** of **Varprad Media Private Ltd**, a **digital channel** hosted on YouTube.  
अदालत ने यूट्यूब पर प्रसारित एक डिजिटल चैनल वरप्रद मीडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के मुख्य संपादक श्री शुक्ला को नोटिस जारी किया।
- The **suo motu contempt case** has been scheduled **after the vacations**, possibly in **July**.  
यह स्वतः संज्ञान अवमानना मामला अवकाशों के बाद, संभवतः जुलाई में सुना जाएगा।



# Working closely with India on defence, security matters: New Zealand Deputy PM

GS Paper II: India-New Zealand

**Kanoo Bhattacherjee**

NEW DELHI

In the current era of “great uncertainty”, New Zealand has started working “more closely” with India in the fields of defence and security, said Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand here on Friday.

Speaking at an event, Mr. Peters gave an overview of his country’s foreign policy, and said that freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region is “crucial” for New Zealand.

“During a time of great uncertainty, instability and disorder, we have taken steps to work more closely on matters of defence and security with India. A recently signed Defence Cooperation Arrangement will facilitate closer links between our militaries,” Mr. Peters said, speaking at a fireside chat organised by



Winston Peters

the Ananta Aspen Centre.

Mr. Peters, who was among the global leaders who had joined India in condoling the loss of lives in the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, said that security cooperation between the two sides is increasing. “The New Zealand Navy is leading Combined Task Force 150, charged with securing trade routes and countering terrorism, smuggling, and piracy in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden,” he added.

To deal with the uncer-

tain and unpredictable conditions in the fields of security and economy, New Zealand has “reset” its foreign policy and is “significantly increasing” its “focus and resources” on South and South-east Asia, Mr. Peters said. Describing India as a “geopolitical giant”, he said that India has emerged as an “indispensable security actor in both regional and global spheres. In the prevailing international circumstances, he argued in favour of giving space to diplomacy.

“Since war and instability is everyone’s calamity, diplomacy is the business of us all. We have observed that at this moment in time the ability to talk with, rather than at, each other has never been more needed,” Mr. Peters said, arguing in favour of safeguarding rights of countries like New Zealand that he described as a “small state”.

## Working closely with India on defence, security matters: New Zealand Deputy PM

**रक्षा और सुरक्षा मामलों में भारत के साथ घनिष्ठ सहयोग: न्यूज़ीलैंड के उप प्रधानमंत्री**

In the current era of “great uncertainty”, New Zealand has begun to work more closely with India in the fields of defence and security, said Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, on Friday.

वर्तमान समय में “गहरे अनिश्चितता” के दौर में, न्यूज़ीलैंड ने भारत के साथ रक्षा और सुरक्षा के क्षेत्रों में अधिक निकटता से सहयोग करना शुरू कर दिया है, यह बात

**न्यूज़ीलैंड के उप प्रधानमंत्री और विदेश मंत्री विंस्टन पीटर्स ने शुक्रवार को कही।**

- Speaking at an event, Mr. Peters gave an overview of his country’s **foreign policy** and said that **freedom of navigation** in the **Indo-Pacific region** is **crucial** for New Zealand. एक कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए श्री पीटर्स ने अपने देश की **विदेश नीति** का अवलोकन प्रस्तुत किया और कहा कि **इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में नेविगेशन की स्वतंत्रता** न्यूज़ीलैंड के लिए **अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण** है।
- He said New Zealand has taken steps to collaborate more with India on defence and security during this time of **instability and disorder**.



उन्होंने कहा कि न्यूजीलैंड ने इस अस्थिरता और अव्यवस्था के समय में भारत के साथ रक्षा और सुरक्षा पर अधिक सहयोग करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं।

- A recently signed **Defence Cooperation Arrangement** will help build **closer links** between the two militaries.

हाल ही में हस्ताक्षरित रक्षा सहयोग समझौता दोनों सेनाओं के बीच निकट संबंधों को बढ़ावा देगा।

- Mr. Peters was speaking at a **fireside chat** organised by the **Ananta Aspen Centre**.

श्री पीटर्स अनंता एस्पेन सेंटर द्वारा आयोजित एक फायरसाइड चैट में बोल रहे थे।

- He was one of the **global leaders** who had joined India in **condoling the loss of lives** in the **April 22 terror attack** in **Pahalgam**.

वह उन वैश्विक नेताओं में शामिल थे जिन्होंने 22 अप्रैल को पहलगाम में हुए आतंकी हमले में जान गंवाने वालों के लिए भारत के साथ शोक व्यक्त किया था।

- He said **security cooperation** between India and New Zealand is **increasing**.

उन्होंने कहा कि भारत और न्यूजीलैंड के बीच सुरक्षा सहयोग में वृद्धि हो रही है।

- The **New Zealand Navy is leading Combined Task Force 150**, which is responsible for **securing trade routes and countering terrorism, smuggling, and piracy in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden**.

न्यूजीलैंड नौसेना संयुक्त टास्क फोर्स 150 का नेतृत्व कर रही है, जो हिंद महासागर और अदन की खाड़ी में व्यापार मार्गों की सुरक्षा और आतंकवाद, तस्करी और समुद्री लूट से निपटने की जिम्मेदारी निभा रही है।

- To address **uncertain and unpredictable** conditions in **security and economy**, New Zealand has **reset** its **foreign policy**.

सुरक्षा और अर्थव्यवस्था में अनिश्चित और अप्रत्याशित परिस्थितियों से निपटने के लिए, न्यूजीलैंड ने अपनी विदेश नीति को पुनः निर्धारित किया है।

- New Zealand is now **significantly increasing** its **focus and resources** on **South and Southeast Asia**.

न्यूजीलैंड अब दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया पर अपना ध्यान और संसाधन काफी बढ़ा रहा है।

- Describing India as a **“geopolitical giant”**, Mr. Peters said India has emerged as an **indispensable security actor** in both **regional and global spheres**.

भारत को "भू-राजनीतिक महाशक्ति" बताते हुए श्री पीटर्स ने कहा कि भारत क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक दोनों स्तरों पर एक अपरिहार्य सुरक्षा कारक के रूप में उभरा है।

- He argued in favour of giving more **space to diplomacy** in the current **international circumstances**.

उन्होंने वर्तमान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों में कूटनीति को अधिक स्थान देने की वकालत की।

- He said, **“Since war and instability is everyone’s calamity, diplomacy is the business of us all.”**

उन्होंने कहा, “चूंकि युद्ध और अस्थिरता हम सभी के लिए आपदा है, इसलिए कूटनीति हम सभी का कार्यक्षेत्र है।”

- He stressed that the ability to **talk with** rather than **talk at** each other is more needed now than ever before.



उन्होंने जोर दिया कि एक-दूसरे से संवाद स्थापित करना, केवल एकतरफा बोलने की बजाय, आज के समय में पहले से कहीं ज्यादा जरूरी है।

- He also said that the rights of small states like New Zealand must be safeguarded. उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि न्यूजीलैंड जैसे छोटे देशों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा की जानी चाहिए।

## Chief of Defence Staff, top Pakistani General to attend conference in Singapore

GS Paper II: India's Foreign Policy

**Subhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

Barely weeks after the ceasefire between the two militaries following Operation Sindoor, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Pakistan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shamshad Mirza will address parallel sessions at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday.

While the military leaders are not expected to meet, the four-day conflict that broke out when India launched strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, is likely to be one of the issues discussed at the conference, which is hosted annually by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. French President Emmanuel Macron gave a keynote address on Friday. U.S. Defense Secretary Peter Hegseth and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will address the conference on Saturday.

General Chauhan will speak along with military chiefs from Brazil, Germany, and Ukraine, and the chief of the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific Command at a panel on "Defence Innovation Solutions for Future Challenges", where the develop-



General Anil Chauhan

ment and use of drone warfare, cyberware, and artificial intelligence are likely to be discussed.

In a simultaneous session, General Mirza will be part of a panel with military counterparts and officials from Canada, Fiji, and the Pacific Islands Forum, speaking about "Regional Crisis Management Mechanisms".

In an interview to Reuters on the sidelines of the conference, General Mirza said that troop levels at the border had "almost come back" to the situation prior to the Pahalgam terror attack. "This [conflict] lowers the threshold between two countries who are contiguous nuclear powers," General Mirza was quoted as saying in the interview. "In the future, it will not be restricted to the disputed territory. It would come down to [the] whole of India and [the] whole of Pa-

kistan," he said, calling the situation a "dangerous trend" and adding that Pakistan is "open to dialogue" with India.

The External Affairs Ministry and the Defence Ministry did not comment on the interview. On Thursday, however, the External Affairs Ministry had rejected Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's suggestion of talks, saying that India would only talk to Pakistan about the return of wanted terrorists and Pakistani troops vacating Kashmir, and no other talks are possible until Pakistan stops supporting terror groups on its territory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in May that any terrorist attack in future would be seen as an "act of war" that India would respond to.

**U.S.'s new ambitions**

Mr. Hegseth's speech on the U.S.'s "new ambitions" for Indo-Pacific security will also be closely watched at the conference that brings U.S. and Chinese defence officials on the same platform. The Trump administration's vision for the Quad Summit that India is hosting this year will be significant.

(With inputs from Devesh K. Pandey)

## Chief of Defence Staff, top Pakistani General to attend conference in Singapore

### चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ और पाकिस्तान के शीर्ष जनरल सिंगापुर सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे

Just weeks after the ceasefire that followed Operation Sindoor, India's Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Pakistan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shamshad Mirza will address parallel sessions at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday. Although they are not expected to meet directly, the recent four-day conflict, which began when India conducted strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, is expected to be one of the key issues discussed at the forum.

- ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद हुआ युद्धविराम केवल कुछ हफ्तों पहले ही हुआ था, और अब भारत के चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ जनरल अनिल चौहान तथा पाकिस्तान के जॉइंट चीफ्स ऑफ स्टाफ के चेयरमैन जनरल शामशाद मिर्जा शनिवार को सिंगापुर

में होने वाले शांग्री-ला डायलॉग में समानांतर सत्रों को संबोधित करेंगे। हालांकि दोनों सैन्य प्रमुखों की सीधी मुलाकात की संभावना नहीं है, फिर भी हाल ही में हुआ चार दिवसीय संघर्ष, जो भारत द्वारा पाकिस्तान में आतंकी ढांचे पर किए गए हमलों के बाद शुरू हुआ था, इस सम्मेलन में प्रमुख चर्चा का विषय होगा।

- The event is organized every year by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. On Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron delivered the keynote address, while on Saturday, U.S. Defense Secretary Peter Hegseth and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim are scheduled to speak.



- यह सम्मेलन हर वर्ष लंदन स्थित इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर स्ट्रेटेजिक स्टडीज़ द्वारा आयोजित किया जाता है। शुक्रवार को फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रॉन ने मुख्य भाषण दिया, और शनिवार को अमेरिका के रक्षा सचिव पीटर हेगसेथ तथा मलेशिया के प्रधानमंत्री अनवर इब्राहिम अपने विचार रखेंगे।
- **General Chauhan** will speak in a panel titled “**Defence Innovation Solutions for Future Challenges**”, along with military leaders from **Brazil, Germany, Ukraine**, and the **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**. The panel will likely explore emerging themes such as **drone warfare, cyberwarfare**, and **artificial intelligence** in military strategies.
- जनरल चौहान "भविष्य की चुनौतियों के लिए रक्षा नवाचार समाधान" नामक पैनल में भाग लेंगे, जिसमें उनके साथ ब्राज़ील, जर्मनी, यूक्रेन, और अमेरिकी इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड के सैन्य प्रमुख भी शामिल होंगे। यह पैनल ड्रोन युद्ध, साइबर युद्ध, और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता जैसे उभरते विषयों पर चर्चा करेगा।
- At the same time, **General Shamshad Mirza** will be part of another session discussing “**Regional Crisis Management Mechanisms**”, joined by officials from **Canada, Fiji**, and the **Pacific Islands Forum**.
- इसी समय, जनरल शामशाद मिर्ज़ा एक अन्य सत्र में भाग लेंगे जिसमें "क्षेत्रीय संकट प्रबंधन तंत्र" पर चर्चा होगी, और इसमें कनाडा, फिजी, तथा पैसिफिक आइलैंड्स फोरम के अधिकारी भी शामिल होंगे।
- In a **Reuters** interview during the conference, **General Mirza** stated that **troop levels at the India-Pakistan border** had “**almost returned**” to the state before the **Pahalgam terror attack**.
- सम्मेलन के दौरान रॉयटर्स को दिए गए एक साक्षात्कार में, जनरल मिर्ज़ा ने कहा कि **भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर तैनात सैनिकों की संख्या "पहलगाम आतंकी हमले" से पहले जैसी स्थिति में "लगभग लौट आई है"**।
- He warned that the latest conflict had “**lowered the threshold**” between the two **nuclear-armed neighbours**, adding that future conflicts might affect not just **disputed territories** but potentially the “**whole of India and the whole of Pakistan.**”
- उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि यह हालिया संघर्ष "दो परमाणु हथियार संपन्न पड़ोसी देशों के बीच की सीमा को कमजोर करता है" और कहा कि भविष्य में संघर्ष केवल विवादित क्षेत्रों तक सीमित नहीं रहेगा, बल्कि "पूरा भारत और पूरा पाकिस्तान" प्रभावित हो सकता है।
- Calling the trend **dangerous**, he also mentioned that **Pakistan is open to dialogue** with India.
- उन्होंने इसे एक **खतरनाक प्रवृत्ति** बताया और कहा कि **पाकिस्तान संवाद के लिए तैयार है**।
- The **External Affairs Ministry** and **Defence Ministry of India** did **not comment** on this interview.
- However, on **Thursday**, the **External Affairs Ministry** firmly **rejected Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's suggestion** for talks, stating that India is only willing to talk about the **return of wanted terrorists** and **withdrawal of Pakistani troops** from **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**.
- It also emphasized that **no dialogue is possible** until **Pakistan stops supporting terrorist groups** operating on its territory.
- भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय और रक्षा मंत्रालय ने इस साक्षात्कार पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी। हालांकि, गुरुवार को विदेश मंत्रालय ने पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़ शरीफ़ के बातचीत के प्रस्ताव को खारिज



करते हुए कहा कि भारत केवल वांछित आतंकवादियों की वापसी और पाक अधिकृत कश्मीर से पाकिस्तानी सेना की वापसी पर ही चर्चा करेगा। भारत ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि जब तक पाकिस्तान अपनी ज़मीन पर आतंकवादी समूहों को समर्थन देना बंद नहीं करता, तब तक कोई भी वार्ता संभव नहीं है।

- In May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that any future terrorist attack would be seen as an “act of war”, and India would retaliate appropriately.
- मई में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने घोषणा की थी कि भविष्य में कोई भी आतंकी हमला "युद्ध का कार्य" माना जाएगा और भारत उचित प्रतिक्रिया देगा।

## U.S.'s new ambitions for Indo-Pacific security

### हिंद-प्रशांत सुरक्षा के लिए अमेरिका की नई महत्वाकांक्षाएं

- The speech by U.S. Defense Secretary Peter Hegseth outlining America's new ambitions for Indo-Pacific security is expected to draw significant attention. This conference brings together U.S. and Chinese defence officials on the same platform, highlighting the region's strategic tensions. The Trump administration's vision for the upcoming Quad Summit, which India is hosting this year, is also likely to be an important part of the discussions.
- अमेरिकी रक्षा सचिव पीटर हेगसेथ द्वारा हिंद-प्रशांत सुरक्षा के लिए अमेरिका की नई महत्वाकांक्षाओं पर दिया जाने वाला भाषण विशेष ध्यान आकर्षित करेगा। यह सम्मेलन अमेरिका और चीन के रक्षा अधिकारियों को एक ही मंच पर लाता है, जिससे क्षेत्रीय रणनीतिक तनावों पर ध्यान केंद्रित होता है। इसके साथ ही, ट्रंप प्रशासन की क्वाड शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए दृष्टि, जिसे भारत इस वर्ष आयोजित कर रहा है, भी चर्चाओं का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा होगी।



# Centre asks States to raise enrolment in govt. schools

Education Ministry flags **increasing trend of students choosing private schools**, it asks States such as Uttarakhand, Telangana, T.N. and A.P. to identify the root cause and take remedial measures

GS Paper II: Education Sector

**Maitri Porecha**  
NEW DELHI

Flagging a “disturbing trend” of students choosing private schools over government schools in at least 11 States and Union Territories, including Uttarakhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, the Union Education Ministry has asked these States to take “remedial steps” to reverse the trend.

The issue was pointed out to individual States in Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings held in March and April this year to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for 2025-26.

In Telangana, for instance, the PAB meeting minutes note that as per the **Unified District Information System for Education plus (UDISE+)** 2023-24 data, out of 42,901 schools in the State, 70% (30,022) are government schools and 28.26% (12,126) are unaided schools. “Total enrolment in government schools is only 38.11% (27.8 lakh) as compared to 60.75% (44.31 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools,”



**Student exodus:** Centre says that despite spending large amount of money, govt. school enrolment is seeing a steady drop. AFP

the minutes note.

School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar expressed his concerns that in spite of spending a large amount of money, students are moving away from government schools. He suggested that States should make a sincere analysis of the root cause so as to take remedial steps and reverse this trend.

**‘Govt. school brand’**

A similar trend was observed in Uttarakhand, where enrolment in unaided schools has steadily increased except for the pandemic period of 2021-22. In Uttarakhand, the minutes note, as per UDISE+ 2023-24, out of 22,551 schools in

the State, 71.84% (16, 201) are government schools and 23.29% (5252) are unaided schools. “However, total enrolment in government schools is only 36.68% (8.7 lakh) as compared to 54.39% (12.90 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools,” the minutes state.

In Tamil Nadu, the Education Ministry observed that as per UDISE+ 2023-24, 64% of government schools in the State have 37% enrolment whereas 21% of unaided school have 46% enrolment. “In this regard, State was urged to build the government school brand so as to increase enrolment and make best use of the availa-

ble resources,” the minutes state.

In Andhra Pradesh, the UDISE+ 2023-24 data show that out of 61,373 schools in the State, 45,000 (73.32%) are government schools and 15,232 (24.82%) are unaided schools. “However, total enrolment in government schools is 46.33% (40.5 lakh) as compared to 52.09% (45.53 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools. Enrolment trend during 2021-22 to 2023-24 suggests that enrolment in unaided schools is steadily increasing,” the minutes state.

In Maharashtra, the State’s Principal Secretary for Education & Sports attributed the reduction in enrolment in government and aided schools, from over 1.63 crore students in 2018-19 to a little over 1.5 crore in 2023-24, to a data cleansing exercise, using Aadhaar verification.

Kerala’s Principal Secretary for Education said a similar exercise had been done there as well, when concerns were raised about the reduction of students in government and aided schools, from close to 46.37 lakh in 2022-23 to 45.50 lakh in 2023-24.

## Centre asks States to raise enrolment in govt. schools

केंद्र ने राज्यों से सरकारी स्कूलों में नामांकन बढ़ाने को कहा

The Union Education Ministry has flagged a “disturbing trend” of students choosing private schools over government schools in at least 11 States and Union Territories, including Uttarakhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने कम से कम 11 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में, विशेष रूप से उत्तराखंड, तेलंगाना, तमिलनाडु और आंध्र प्रदेश में, छात्रों द्वारा सरकारी स्कूलों के बजाय निजी

स्कूलों को चुनने की "चिंताजनक प्रवृत्ति" को चिह्नित किया है।

- States have been asked to take “remedial steps” to reverse this trend. राज्यों से इस प्रवृत्ति को उलटने के लिए "सुधारात्मक कदम" उठाने को कहा गया है।
- This issue was raised in **Project Approval Board (PAB)** meetings held in **March and April 2025** under the **Samagra Shiksha** scheme. यह मुद्दा **समग्र शिक्षा योजना** के तहत **मार्च और अप्रैल 2025** में हुई **प्रोजेक्ट अप्रूवल बोर्ड (PAB)** बैठकों में उठाया गया था।



## Telangana Case

### तेलंगाना का मामला

- As per **UDISE+ 2023-24**, out of **42,901 schools** in Telangana, **70% (30,022)** are **government schools**, while **28.26% (12,126)** are **unaided private schools**.  
**UDISE+ 2023-24** के अनुसार, तेलंगाना में कुल **42,901 स्कूलों** में से **70% (30,022)** सरकारी स्कूल हैं, जबकि **28.26% (12,126)** निजी (अमान्यताप्राप्त) स्कूल हैं।
- Only **38.11% (27.8 lakh)** students are enrolled in **government schools**, whereas **60.75% (44.31 lakh)** are in **unaided schools**.  
सिर्फ **38.11% (27.8 लाख)** छात्र सरकारी स्कूलों में नामांकित हैं, जबकि **60.75% (44.31 लाख)** छात्र निजी स्कूलों में पढ़ते हैं।
- School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar** noted that despite **large expenditure**, students are shifting away from government schools.  
**स्कूल शिक्षा सचिव संजय कुमार** ने कहा कि **भारी खर्च** के बावजूद छात्र सरकारी स्कूलों से दूर हो रहे हैं।
- He urged States to sincerely **analyze the root causes** and take action to **reverse the trend**.  
उन्होंने राज्यों से **मूल कारणों का ईमानदारी से विश्लेषण** करने और प्रवृत्ति को उलटने के लिए कदम उठाने को कहा।

## Uttarakhand Case

### उत्तराखंड का मामला

- In **Uttarakhand**, enrolment in **unaided schools** has steadily **increased**, except during the **pandemic year 2021-22**.  
उत्तराखंड में **2021-22** की महामारी अवधि को छोड़कर, निजी स्कूलों में नामांकन लगातार बढ़ा है।
- As per **UDISE+ 2023-24**, of the **22,551 schools** in the State, **71.84% (16,201)** are **government schools** and **23.29% (5,252)** are **unaided schools**.  
**UDISE+ 2023-24** के अनुसार, राज्य के **22,551 स्कूलों** में से **71.84% (16,201)** सरकारी और **23.29% (5,252)** निजी (अमान्यताप्राप्त) स्कूल हैं।
- However, only **36.68% (8.7 lakh)** of students are enrolled in government schools, while **54.39% (12.90 lakh)** are enrolled in unaided schools.  
हालांकि, केवल **36.68% (8.7 लाख)** छात्र सरकारी स्कूलों में और **54.39% (12.90 लाख)** छात्र निजी स्कूलों में नामांकित हैं।

## Tamil Nadu Case

### तमिलनाडु का मामला

- According to **UDISE+ 2023-24**, **64%** of the **government schools** in Tamil Nadu have just **37% enrolment**, while **21%** of **unaided schools** have **46% enrolment**.



UDISE+ 2023-24 के अनुसार, तमिलनाडु में 64% सरकारी स्कूलों में केवल 37% नामांकन है, जबकि 21% निजी स्कूलों में 46% नामांकन है।

- The Centre advised the State to **build the government school brand to increase enrolment and optimize resources.**

केंद्र ने राज्य को सरकारी स्कूल ब्रांड को मजबूत करने, नामांकन बढ़ाने और संसाधनों के बेहतर उपयोग की सलाह दी।

## Andhra Pradesh Case

### आंध्र प्रदेश का मामला

- As per UDISE+ 2023-24, Andhra Pradesh has **61,373 schools**, out of which **73.32% (45,000)** are government schools and **24.82% (15,232)** are unaided schools.

UDISE+ 2023-24 के अनुसार, आंध्र प्रदेश में 61,373 स्कूल हैं, जिनमें से 73.32% (45,000) सरकारी स्कूल और 24.82% (15,232) निजी स्कूल हैं।

- Enrolment in government schools is **46.33% (40.5 lakh)**, while **52.09% (45.53 lakh)** are in unaided schools.

सरकारी स्कूलों में नामांकन 46.33% (40.5 लाख) है, जबकि निजी स्कूलों में 52.09% (45.53 लाख) छात्र हैं।

- Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, enrolment in unaided schools has been **steadily increasing.**

2021-22 से 2023-24 के बीच निजी स्कूलों में नामांकन लगातार बढ़ा है।

## Maharashtra and Kerala Cases

### महाराष्ट्र और केरल का मामला

- In Maharashtra, the **Principal Secretary for Education & Sports** stated that the drop in enrolment from **over 1.63 crore in 2018-19 to just over 1.5 crore in 2023-24** is due to a **data cleansing exercise using Aadhaar verification.**

महाराष्ट्र में शिक्षा और खेल विभाग के प्रमुख सचिव ने कहा कि 2018-19 में 1.63 करोड़ से 2023-24 में 1.5 करोड़ से थोड़ा अधिक छात्रों की गिरावट आधार सत्यापन के तहत डेटा शुद्धिकरण प्रक्रिया के कारण हुई है।

- Similarly, Kerala's **Principal Secretary for Education** said a **similar Aadhaar-based process** was conducted, leading to a decline from **46.37 lakh in 2022-23 to 45.50 lakh in 2023-24.**

इसी तरह, केरल के शिक्षा सचिव ने कहा कि वहां भी आधार आधारित समान प्रक्रिया के तहत नामांकन 2022-23 में 46.37 लाख से घटकर 2023-24 में 45.50 लाख हो गया।



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

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

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# Centre grants nod to Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund to receive foreign donations

GS Paper II: Governance

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has granted the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, registration to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Maharashtra, enabling it to receive foreign donations for "social" programmes.

This is the first time that a State government relief body has been granted permission to receive foreign funds under the Act to supplement financial assistance to those affected by natural calamities, major accidents, communal riots, terrorist attacks or those in need of medical and educational help. The relief funds of State governments usually run on domestic donations and contributions.

In 2018, India had declined foreign aid for Kerala flood relief.

The Maharashtra CMRF is registered as a Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, its website said. It is managed by the State of Maharashtra under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, who exercises overall supervision and control of the funds.

## In 2018, India had declined foreign aid for Kerala flood relief

According to a tender floated in February, the average number of transactions handled by the CMRF are between 1 lakh and 1.5 lakh per year.

## PM CARES Fund

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) - set up in March 2020 to tackle distress situations such as that posed by the COVID-19 pandemic - was exempted from the FCRA provisions, and a "separate account for receiving foreign donations" was opened.

The Home Ministry regulates foreign donations through the FCRA to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect country's internal security. It is compulsory to register under the Act, first enacted in 1976, if an association, group, or NGO intends to receive foreign donations. The 1976 Act was repealed and replaced with a new legislation in 2010. It was further amended in 2020.

## Centre grants nod to Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund to receive foreign donations

केंद्र सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष को विदेशी दान प्राप्त करने की अनुमति दी

The Union Home Ministry has granted FCRA registration (2010) to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) of Maharashtra, allowing it to receive foreign donations for social programmes.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष (CMRF) को FCRA पंजीकरण (2010) प्रदान किया है, जिससे वह सामाजिक कार्यक्रमों के लिए विदेशी दान प्राप्त कर सकता है।

• This is the first time a State government relief body has been permitted to receive foreign funds under the Act to support victims of natural calamities, major accidents, communal riots, terrorist attacks, or those in need of medical and educational help.

यह पहली बार है कि किसी राज्य सरकार के राहत निकाय को प्राकृतिक आपदाओं, बड़े हादसों, सांप्रदायिक दंगों, आतंकवादी हमलों या चिकित्सा एवं शैक्षणिक सहायता की आवश्यकता वाले लोगों की मदद के लिए विदेशी फंड प्राप्त करने की अनुमति मिली है।

• Relief funds of State governments usually rely on domestic donations and contributions.

राज्य सरकारों के राहत कोष आमतौर पर घरेलू दान और योगदान पर ही निर्भर रहते हैं।

• In 2018, India had declined foreign aid for Kerala flood relief.

2018 में भारत ने केरल बाढ़ राहत के लिए विदेशी सहायता लेने

से इनकार कर दिया था।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur  
Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)  
Contact Number : 9971932488  
Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- The **Maharashtra CMRF** is registered as a **Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950**, and is managed by the **State of Maharashtra** under the **chairmanship of the Chief Minister**, who exercises **overall control**.  
महाराष्ट्र मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष (CMRF) को बॉम्बे पब्लिक ट्रस्ट अधिनियम, 1950 के तहत ट्रस्ट के रूप में पंजीकृत किया गया है और यह मुख्यमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में राज्य सरकार द्वारा संचालित होता है, जो पूर्ण नियंत्रण रखते हैं।
- As per a tender released in **February**, the **average number of transactions** handled by CMRF annually is between **1 lakh and 1.5 lakh**.  
फरवरी में जारी एक निविदा के अनुसार, CMRF द्वारा हर वर्ष **1 लाख से 1.5 लाख** के बीच औसतन लेनदेन किए जाते हैं।

## PM CARES Fund

### पीएम केयर्स फंड

- The **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES)**, created in **March 2020** to address **distress situations** like the **COVID-19 pandemic**, was **exempted from FCRA provisions** and had a **separate account for foreign donations**.  
प्रधानमंत्री नागरिक सहायता एवं आपातकालीन राहत कोष (PM CARES) को मार्च 2020 में COVID-19 महामारी जैसी आपात स्थितियों से निपटने के लिए स्थापित किया गया था, जिसे FCRA प्रावधानों से छूट दी गई और विदेशी दान के लिए अलग खाता खोला गया।

## FCRA Regulations and Amendments

### FCRA नियम और संशोधन

- The **Home Ministry** regulates **foreign donations** through the **FCRA** to ensure such funds do not **affect national internal security**.  
गृह मंत्रालय FCRA के माध्यम से विदेशी दान को नियंत्रित करता है ताकि ऐसे फंड राष्ट्रीय आंतरिक सुरक्षा को प्रभावित न करें।
- **Registration under FCRA** is mandatory for any **association, group, or NGO** intending to receive **foreign funds**.  
FCRA के तहत पंजीकरण किसी भी संस्था, समूह या NGO के लिए अनिवार्य है जो विदेशी फंड प्राप्त करना चाहता है।
- The original **FCRA Act of 1976** was **repealed and replaced** by a new **Act in 2010**, which was further **amended in 2020**.  
मूल FCRA अधिनियम 1976 को रद्द करके 2010 में नया अधिनियम लाया गया था, जिसे 2020 में संशोधित किया गया था।



## Pakistan's India war

**A**s India reflects on the outcome of the brief military conflict with Pakistan in early May, it may be worthwhile to ponder over the current reality that even as India's cultural diversity and sweep of history may be unparalleled in a civilisational context, it remains prone to attacks from countries in its vicinity and beyond. An incorrigible Pakistan is continually finding ways and means every few years to provoke a conflict, and despite being worsted in every one of these conflicts and wars, remains undeterred, seeking to 'bleed India by a thousand cuts'.

The very existence of a secular democratic India appears to be anathema to Pakistan. As India progresses towards becoming a global power (it is already the fourth largest economy in the world), Pakistan is descending into near anarchy. Yet this neighbour of ours, dominated by a military mindset, is contriving to find ways and means of undermining India's progress. Peace for India, hence, depends on who rules Pakistan, which almost invariably is the military. There are no easy solutions to this problem, and India needs to prepare for war at all times.

### The Pakistan of today

Today, it is fashionable to talk of the disintegration of the world order. The deafening silence of the world to the 'genocide' taking place in Gaza, with innocent civilians being killed at an alarming rate, contrasts with the din and noise – and the numerous efforts at peace – being made to end the Ukraine conflict. This dichotomy of approach stems from a grim truth or reality, viz., that the world has different standards when it comes to the killing of Asians and Europeans. If there is any further evidence needed to demonstrate that the international order is crumbling and that 'might is again becoming right', one has only to look at the recent conflict provoked by Pakistan, which the West scrambled to end once they found Pakistan was the loser.

A crucial 'sub-text' to how bigger nations intervene to end a conflict between smaller entities is also now becoming available. For instance, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has bartered his critical mineral resources to gain U.S. support in the war against Russia. In the Pakistan context, it is now being surmised that U.S. interest in claiming to have brought peace between Pakistan and India (notwithstanding denial by the latter) stems from U.S. interest in Pakistan's store of critical minerals, such as lithium, copper and rare earths. Also, intrinsic to this is the fact that the military in Pakistan, which is and has been, the critical player in the regional sweepstakes, is unlikely to forget the U.S. President's 'gesture' even if there is little substance to his claims.

Peace in the subcontinent is the major casualty today, and not solely because of the short (recent) India-Pakistan conflict. India, and the region itself



**M.K. Narayanan**

Former Director, Intelligence Bureau; former National Security Adviser; and former Governor of West Bengal

today, confronts a military Pakistan which has shed the cloak of democracy and is today a virtual military dictatorship. It has a titular civilian Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who is standing in for his brother (Nawaz Sharif), who is legally constrained from holding an electoral office.

More important, the government is 'in hock' to the army, and the latter after having denied Imran Khan an opportunity to contest elections, is now showing its true colours. A few weeks ago, Pakistan's current Chief of Army Staff, Gen., now Field Marshal, Asim Munir proclaimed that Pakistan is not a democracy, but a religious entity. He went on to say that in the history of humanity, there had been only two states based on the 'Kalima'. The first was the Riyasat-e-medina. The second, 1,300 years later, was Pakistan. He added that 'Pakistan is different from Hindus in every possible aspect of life – religion, custom, tradition, thoughts and ambitions' and that 'Kashmir was the jugular vein'. The rest is history – a future in which further conflicts should be anticipated.

### What to expect next

It might, hence, be useful to surmise what one might expect from the recent India-Pakistan conflict. It is certain that there will be a recrudescence of religious nationalism, not only in Pakistan, but across parts of South and West Asia. Next, is the impact of the technological revolution – limited though the conflict might have been. The conflict has demonstrated the criticality of ensuring 'escalation dominance' in the shortest possible time. Furthermore, one should view the recent conflict as a kind of 'proxy conflict' between hi-tech military suppliers on either side. Each has been more anxious than the other to know how their equipment performed – the Rafale versus China's J-10C, for instance – hoping to find better answers to their respective electronic signatures during future operations.

Also, India and Pakistan have demonstrated their ability to flood the heavens with inexpensive expendable reconnaissance and strike vehicles. Above all, there is a realisation that there is more to drones' warfare than was known till date.

Reams have been written about Pakistan's use of Turkish Songer drones and China's J-10C during the recent conflict. India is said to have responded by using Kamikaze drones and the like. What is evident from all this is that air defence today involves several multi-layered air defence systems. Unproven, however, is whether Pakistan could integrate a Pakistani ground radar illuminating an Indian target enabling a Chinese J-10C fighter to launch its missile to hit its target as both China and Pakistan propaganda make out. The latter is solely in the realm of speculation – essentially by Pakistan and China – though what comes out loud and clear is the versatility of airborne early warning systems and the kind of

system integration in place. All this has brought a new dimension to airborne warfare. Today's 'noise' is, hence, all about air-to-air engagement, with speculation being rife as to whether Chinese-origin weapon and air defence mechanisms have the measure of India's Rafale fighters and Western equipment. To equipment manufacturers, it is the effectiveness of the 'kill chain' that matters, or is more important, than the capabilities of specific fighters.

What is, however, proven is that the Aakash Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile alongside Russia's S-400 and the Barak (jointly developed with Israel) provided India with more than adequate cover. India possibly did not need to employ or demonstrate its ultimate weapon, the Brahmos (jointly developed with Russia). Pakistan clearly has no answer to it. Both sides did, however, show an improved capability for electronic counter-counter measures to penetrate enemy jamming and evasion tactics.

### Technological warfare of the future

The conflict, however, demonstrated in no uncertain terms that future wars will essentially be technological in nature. Technological dominance and the speed with which escalation takes place will dictate the course of future wars. Currently, India has an edge over Pakistan as far as escalation dominance is concerned, but this need not always be the case. It is also important to remember that in a fragmented, multipolar, geopolitical environment, there will be little scope or time for imposing restraint on a party, once a major conflict begins. Arms control agreements also may have little relevance in future wars. Worse, it is already the best known secret that new nuclear warheads and cruise missiles are being designed and kept in readiness for use. The realisation needs to dawn that the nuclear threshold is narrowing rapidly.

It is germane to mention here that while India's position on land, sea, and air is more than adequate to deal with a Pakistan, the situation could alter in the event of a two-front war involving both China and Pakistan. In such a situation, India will need to balance the combined capabilities of Pakistan and China and this will throw up some neglected aspects such as India's lack of a dedicated satellite system and satellite-based surveillance network. It bears repetition that modern warfare increasingly depends on space-based assets to act as an early warning system and for a variety of tasks, apart from tracking and communication. This lacuna will need to be overcome in real time before the next outbreak of a major conflict, whether with Pakistan, China, or any other country, occurs. To reiterate, India cannot afford to overlook its inadequacies as far as space-based capabilities are concerned. Space is the new domain of warfare, and India must be fully prepared for this eventuality.

Pakistan, dominated by a military mindset, is contriving to find ways and means of undermining India's progress

## Pakistan's India War

## पाकिस्तान का भारत युद्ध

As India reflects on the outcome of the brief military conflict with Pakistan in early May, it must also consider its vulnerability to attacks despite having a rich cultural heritage and long civilisational history.



जब भारत मई की शुरुआत में पाकिस्तान के साथ हुए संक्षिप्त सैन्य संघर्ष के परिणाम पर विचार करता है, तो उसे अपनी समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत और दीर्घ सभ्यतागत इतिहास के बावजूद हमलों के प्रति अपनी असुरक्षा पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए।

- An incorrigible Pakistan keeps finding ways to provoke conflict every few years, and even after losing every time, it continues with its strategy to “bleed India by a thousand cuts.”

एक सुधारने में असमर्थ पाकिस्तान हर कुछ वर्षों में संघर्ष को उकसाने के तरीके ढूंढता रहता है, और हर बार हारने के बावजूद वह "हज़ार ज़ख्मों से भारत को कमजोर करने" की रणनीति पर कायम है।

- The very existence of a secular democratic India is intolerable for Pakistan. धर्मनिरपेक्ष और लोकतांत्रिक भारत का अस्तित्व ही पाकिस्तान के लिए असहनीय है।
- As India moves toward becoming a global power and is already the fourth largest economy in the world, Pakistan is descending into anarchy.

जब भारत वैश्विक शक्ति बनने की ओर बढ़ रहा है और पहले से ही दुनिया की चौथी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है, वहीं पाकिस्तान अराजकता की ओर जा रहा है।

- Pakistan’s military-dominated mindset continues to find ways to undermine India’s growth.

पाकिस्तान की सैन्य-प्रधान मानसिकता भारत की प्रगति को कमजोर करने के नए तरीकों की तलाश में रहती है।

- Therefore, India’s peace depends on who governs Pakistan, and most often, it is the military.

इसलिए, भारत में शांति इस पर निर्भर करती है कि पाकिस्तान पर कौन शासन करता है, और अधिकतर समय यह सैन्य तंत्र होता है।

- There are no easy solutions, and India must remain prepared for war at all times.

इस समस्या का कोई आसान समाधान नहीं है, और भारत को हर समय युद्ध के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।

## The Pakistan of Today

### आज का पाकिस्तान

- Today, many talk about the disintegration of the world order, especially when the silence on Gaza contrasts with the global focus on Ukraine.

आज, बहुत से लोग वैश्विक व्यवस्था के विघटन की बात करते हैं, विशेषकर जब गाज़ा पर चुप्पी और यूक्रेन पर वैश्विक ध्यान की तुलना की जाती है।

- This contrast reveals that the world applies different standards to the killing of Asians and Europeans.

यह विरोधाभास दिखाता है कि दुनिया एशियाइयों और यूरोपीयों की हत्या पर भिन्न मापदंड अपनाती है।

- One more proof of a crumbling global order is how the West rushed to end the recent conflict when it realized Pakistan was losing.



वैश्विक व्यवस्था के टूटने का एक और प्रमाण यह है कि जब पश्चिम ने देखा कि पाकिस्तान हार रहा है, तो उन्होंने हालिया संघर्ष को समाप्त करने की जल्दी की।

- A **key sub-text** is how **larger nations** intervene between **smaller states** for their own gain.  
एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू यह भी है कि कैसे बड़ी शक्तियाँ, छोटे देशों के बीच संघर्ष में अपने लाभ के लिए हस्तक्षेप करती हैं।
- For instance, **Ukraine's President Zelenskyy** traded **critical minerals** to gain **U.S. support** against Russia.  
उदाहरण के लिए, यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति ज़ेलेन्स्की ने रूस के खिलाफ अमेरिकी समर्थन पाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों का सौदा किया।
- Similarly, **U.S. interest** in **Pakistan's critical minerals** like **lithium, copper, and rare earths** may explain its role in ending the India-Pakistan conflict.  
इसी तरह, लिथियम, कॉपर और रेयर अर्थ्स जैसे पाकिस्तान के महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों में अमेरिका की रुचि इस संघर्ष को समाप्त करने में उसकी भूमिका को समझा सकती है।
- The **Pakistan military**, a **key regional player**, is unlikely to forget the **U.S. President's gesture**, even if there was **little substance** in the claim.  
पाकिस्तानी सेना, जो इस क्षेत्र की मुख्य शक्ति है, शायद अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति के संकेत को नहीं भूलेगी, भले ही उस दावे में बहुत कम सार था।
- **Peace in South Asia** is the main victim, and not just due to the **recent India-Pakistan conflict**.  
दक्षिण एशिया में शांति आज सबसे बड़ी पीड़िता है, और इसका कारण सिर्फ हालिया भारत-पाक संघर्ष नहीं है।
- Today's Pakistan is a **military dictatorship** with a **nominal civilian Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif**, standing in for his brother **Nawaz Sharif**, who is **legally disqualified**.  
आज का पाकिस्तान एक सैन्य तानाशाही है, जिसमें एक नाममात्र के नागरिक प्रधानमंत्री, शहबाज़ शरीफ, हैं जो अपने भाई नवाज़ शरीफ की जगह खड़े हैं, जिन्हें कानूनी रूप से अयोग्य ठहराया गया है।
- The **government is controlled by the army**, which **denied Imran Khan** the right to contest and is now showing its **true authoritarian nature**.  
सरकार पर सेना का नियंत्रण है, जिसने इमरान खान को चुनाव लड़ने से वंचित कर दिया और अब वह अपनी तानाशाही प्रवृत्ति दिखा रही है।
- A few weeks ago, **Chief of Army Staff Gen. Asim Munir**, now **Field Marshal**, said that **Pakistan is not a democracy but a religious entity**.  
कुछ हफ्ते पहले, थल सेना प्रमुख जनरल असीम मुनीर, जो अब फील्ड मार्शल हैं, ने कहा कि पाकिस्तान कोई लोकतंत्र नहीं, बल्कि एक धार्मिक राष्ट्र है।
- He added that in human history, only **two states were founded on the Kalima** — first the **Riyasat-e-Medina**, and second, **1300 years later, Pakistan**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि मानव इतिहास में केवल दो राज्य 'कलिमा' पर आधारित थे — पहला रियासत-ए-मदीना, और 1300 साल बाद, पाकिस्तान।



- He further declared that **Pakistan is different from Hindus** in every way — **religion, customs, traditions, thoughts, and ambitions**, and that **Kashmir is the jugular vein**.  
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि पाकिस्तान हर रूप में हिंदुओं से अलग है — धर्म, रिवाज, परंपराएं, सोच और महत्वाकांक्षाएं, और कश्मीर उसकी शिरा है।
- This indicates that **future conflicts** in the region are **inevitable**.  
यह दर्शाता है कि क्षेत्र में भविष्य के संघर्ष अनिवार्य हैं।

## What to Expect Next

### आगे क्या अपेक्षा की जा सकती है

- One can expect a **recrudescence of religious nationalism** not only in **Pakistan**, but also across parts of **South and West Asia** as a result of the recent India-Pakistan conflict.  
हालिया भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष के परिणामस्वरूप न केवल पाकिस्तान, बल्कि दक्षिण और पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों में भी धार्मिक राष्ट्रवाद के पुनरुत्थान की संभावना है।
- Despite being **limited in scale**, the conflict has highlighted the impact of the **technological revolution** and the importance of ensuring **escalation dominance** quickly.  
हालांकि यह संघर्ष सीमित स्तर का था, लेकिन इसने प्रौद्योगिकी क्रांति के प्रभाव और तेज़ी से प्रभुत्व स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता को उजागर किया है।
- The conflict functioned as a kind of **proxy war** between **hi-tech military suppliers** on both sides.  
यह संघर्ष दोनों पक्षों के उच्च तकनीकी सैन्य आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के बीच एक प्रकार का प्रॉक्सी युद्ध बन गया।
- There was keen interest in testing the performance of weapons like **Rafale** and **China's J-10C** for future warfare scenarios.  
भविष्य के युद्ध परिदृश्यों के लिए राफेल और चीन के J-10C जैसे हथियारों के प्रदर्शन का परीक्षण करने में विशेष रुचि दिखाई गई।
- India and Pakistan demonstrated the ability to **flood the skies with low-cost, expendable reconnaissance and strike drones**.  
भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों ने कम लागत वाले, नष्ट किए जा सकने वाले निगरानी और हमलावर ड्रोन से आकाश को भरने की क्षमता दिखाई।
- Pakistan reportedly used **Turkish Songer drones** and **Chinese J-10C**, while India deployed **Kamikaze drones**.  
पाकिस्तान ने कथित रूप से तुर्की के सांगर ड्रोन और चीनी J-10C का प्रयोग किया, जबकि भारत ने कामिकाज़े ड्रोन तैनात किए।
- The conflict showed the emergence of **multi-layered air defence systems**, although some integration claims remain **speculative**.



यह संघर्ष बहु-स्तरीय वायु रक्षा प्रणालियों के उभरने को दर्शाता है, हालांकि कुछ एकीकरण दावे अभी भी काल्पनिक हैं।

- There is now greater appreciation for the **versatility of airborne early warning systems** and their **system integration** capabilities.

अब हवाई प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों और उनकी प्रणाली एकीकरण क्षमताओं के महत्व को अधिक समझा जा रहा है।

- The current discourse is focused on **air-to-air engagement**, and the competition between **Chinese-origin equipment** and **India's Rafale and Western systems**.  
वर्तमान चर्चा हवाई टकराव और चीनी मूल के उपकरणों तथा भारत के राफेल और पश्चिमी प्रणालियों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा पर केंद्रित है।
- For manufacturers, the key metric is the efficiency of the **"kill chain"** rather than individual fighter capability.  
निर्माताओं के लिए मुख्य मापदंड **"किल चेन"** की प्रभावशीलता है, न कि केवल किसी एक लड़ाकू विमान की क्षमता।
- Systems like **Akash QRSAM, Russia's S-400, and Barak (jointly developed with Israel)** gave India strong air defence cover.  
आकाश क्यूआरएसएम, रूस की S-400 और इज़राइल के साथ संयुक्त रूप से विकसित बराक जैसे सिस्टम ने भारत को मज़बूत वायु रक्षा प्रदान की।
- India did not have to use the **BrahMos missile** (jointly developed with Russia), which **Pakistan has no answer to**.  
भारत को ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल (जो रूस के साथ संयुक्त रूप से विकसित की गई है) का प्रयोग करने की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ी, और पाकिस्तान के पास इसका कोई जवाब नहीं है।
- Both countries showed advancement in **electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCM) to overcome enemy jamming and evasion**.  
दोनों देशों ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक काउंटर-काउंटरमेज़र (ECCM) में प्रगति दिखाई जिससे वे शत्रु की जैमिंग और बचाव तकनीकों को पार कर सकें।

## Technological Warfare of the Future

### भविष्य का तकनीकी युद्ध

- The conflict has made it evident that **future wars** will be **predominantly technological** in nature.  
यह संघर्ष स्पष्ट करता है कि भविष्य के युद्ध मुख्य रूप से प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित होंगे।
- The key to success will be **technological dominance** and the **speed of escalation**.  
सफलता की कुंजी प्रौद्योगिकीय प्रभुत्व और तेज़ी से युद्ध स्तर पर जाने की क्षमता होगी।
- India currently holds an **edge over Pakistan** in terms of escalation, but this may not last forever.  
फिलहाल पाकिस्तान की तुलना में भारत को बढ़त प्राप्त है, लेकिन यह हमेशा बनी नहीं रह सकती।



- In a **fragmented, multipolar world**, there may be **little time** to impose restraint once a **major conflict** begins.  
विखंडित और बहुध्रुवीय दुनिया में, बड़ा संघर्ष शुरू होने पर संयम थोपने के लिए समय बहुत कम होगा।
- **Arms control agreements** may become increasingly irrelevant.  
हथियार नियंत्रण समझौते धीरे-धीरे अप्रासंगिक हो सकते हैं।
- It is now widely known that **new nuclear warheads and cruise missiles** are being **designed and kept ready**.  
अब यह खुला रहस्य है कि नई परमाणु वॉरहेड्स और क्रूज़ मिसाइलें तैयार की जा रही हैं और तैनाती के लिए तैयार रखी जा रही हैं।
- The **nuclear threshold** is **rapidly narrowing**, which raises serious security concerns.  
परमाणु सीमा तेज़ी से संकुचित हो रही है, जिससे गंभीर सुरक्षा चिंताएँ उत्पन्न हो रही हैं।
- While India is well-positioned in **land, sea, and air**, a **two-front war** involving both **China and Pakistan** could change the equation.  
हालाँकि भारत की स्थिति स्थल, समुद्र और वायु में मजबूत है, लेकिन अगर चीन और पाकिस्तान दोनों के साथ दो-तरफा युद्ध होता है, तो स्थिति बदल सकती है।
- India would then need to match the **combined military capabilities** of both adversaries.  
भारत को तब दोनों विरोधियों की संयुक्त सैन्य क्षमताओं के मुकाबले की आवश्यकता होगी।
- This exposes India's **deficiency in satellite systems** and **space-based surveillance**.  
यह भारत की उपग्रह प्रणालियों की कमी और अंतरिक्ष-आधारित निगरानी को उजागर करता है।
- **Modern warfare** relies on **space assets** for early warning, communication, tracking, and operational coordination.  
आधुनिक युद्ध में प्रारंभिक चेतावनी, संचार, ट्रैकिंग और संचालन समन्वय के लिए अंतरिक्ष संसाधनों पर निर्भरता बढ़ रही है।
- India must **urgently overcome** this gap before another **major conflict** arises.  
भारत को किसी अन्य बड़े संघर्ष से पहले इस कमी को तत्काल दूर करना होगा।
- **Space is the new domain of warfare**, and India must be **fully prepared** for this.  
अंतरिक्ष युद्ध का नया क्षेत्र बन चुका है, और भारत को इसके लिए पूरी तरह तैयार रहना होगा।



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### GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, IS)

- 1. GDP Growth at 6.5%, the Slowest Since Pandemic**  
जीडीपी वृद्धि 6.5% पर, महामारी के बाद सबसे धीमी
- 2. Protests spread in Arunachal Pradesh against new hydroelectric projects**  
अरुणाचल प्रदेश में नए जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन फैला
- 3. India Will Have 1 Billion Internet Users by This Fiscal Year**  
भारत में इस वित्तीय वर्ष तक 1 अरब इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता होंगे
- 4. Three more firms get GPU access under IndiaAI Mission**  
इंडियाएआई मिशन के तहत तीन और कंपनियों को GPU एक्सेस मिला
- 5. Don't merely enrol students, but equip them with skills**  
केवल छात्रों का नामांकन न करें, बल्कि उन्हें कौशल से लैस करें
- 6. Steep Decline**  
तेज़ गिरावट
- 7. Smoke, sorrow and a system on fire**  
धुआं, दुख और एक धधकती व्यवस्था
- 8. Government meets fiscal deficit target of 4.8% for FY25**  
सरकार ने FY25 के लिए 4.8% का राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य प्राप्त किया
- 9. China has 'totally violated' Geneva deal with U.S. on tariffs: Trump**  
चीन ने अमेरिका के साथ टैरिफ पर जिनेवा समझौते का पूरी तरह उल्लंघन किया: ट्रंप



# GDP growth at 6.5%, the slowest since pandemic

Though real GDP growth in Q4 accelerated to 7.4%, the fastest quarterly growth in 2024-25, it was still slower than 8.4% in Q4 of the previous fiscal; quarterly GDP growth in Q3 stood at 6.4%

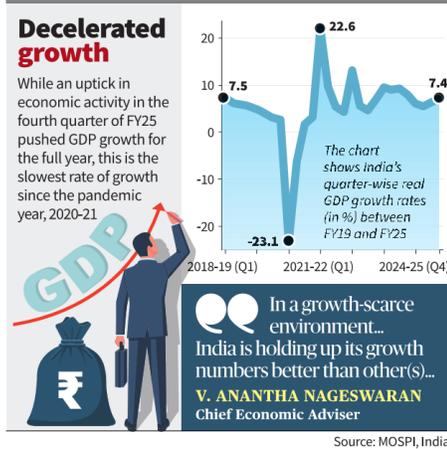
GS Paper III: Economy

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

**W**hile a significant uptick in economic activity in the fourth quarter (Q4) of financial year 2024-25 pushed Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the full year to 6.5%, as per the provisional estimates for 2024-25 released by the government on Friday, this is the slowest since the pandemic year 2020-21.

As per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, real GDP growth in Q4 of 2024-25 accelerated to 7.4%, the fastest quarterly growth in the year. It was still slower than 8.4% growth seen in Q4 of the previous financial year. Quarterly GDP growth in Q3 stood at 6.4%.

**'India held its own'**  
Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, in a press briefing following the release of the data, sought



to downplay the post-COVID slowdown of the economy, saying that India has held its own in a "growth-scarce" global environment. "If you look in real terms, India's growth rate differential in comparison to the average growth rate of advanced economies was on the lower side dur-

ing the 'boom era' between 2003 and 2010," Mr. Nageswaran explained. "The growth differential post-COVID is higher than the growth differential in the 'boom era'." "In other words, in a growth-scarce environment post COVID and despite the rising uncertainties due to political

conflicts and trade tensions, India is holding up its growth numbers better than many advanced economies," he added.

The agriculture sector continued its strong performance in Q4, leading to a relatively strong showing for the full year. The manufacturing sector's growth stood at 4.8% in Q4 of FY25, the second fastest quarterly growth in the year, on a high base of 11.3% in Q4 of the previous year. The sector grew 4.5% in the full financial year 2024-25. The construction sector returned to double-digit growth of 10.8% in the fourth quarter, the fastest in the year, and faster than the 8.7% seen in Q4 of 2023-24. The sector's full-year growth stood at 9.4% in 2024-25, down from 10.4% in 2023-24.

The data released on Friday showed that growth in household consumption quickened to 7.2% in 2024-25 from 5.6% in the previous year.

**GDP Growth at 6.5%, the Slowest Since Pandemic**

**जीडीपी वृद्धि 6.5% पर, महामारी के बाद सबसे धीमी**

A significant uptick in economic activity in Q4 of FY 2024-25 pushed GDP growth for the full year to 6.5%, according to provisional estimates released by the government on Friday.

वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की चौथी तिमाही में आर्थिक गतिविधियों में उल्लेखनीय तेजी ने पूरे वर्ष की जीडीपी वृद्धि को 6.5% तक पहुंचा दिया, जैसा कि शुक्रवार को सरकार द्वारा जारी अनंतिम अनुमान में बताया गया।

- This is the **slowest growth rate** since the **pandemic year 2020-21**.

यह वृद्धि दर महामारी वर्ष 2020-21 के बाद सबसे धीमी है।

**Q4 GDP Growth at 7.4%**

**चौथी तिमाही में जीडीपी वृद्धि 7.4%**

- The data from the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** show that real GDP growth in Q4 of 2024-25 accelerated to **7.4%**, the fastest quarterly growth in the year.



सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2024-25 की चौथी तिमाही में वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि बढ़कर 7.4% हो गई, जो वर्ष की सबसे तेज तिमाही वृद्धि थी।

- However, this was still slower than the 8.4% growth seen in Q4 of the previous financial year.

हालांकि यह वृद्धि अभी भी पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष की चौथी तिमाही में देखी गई 8.4% वृद्धि से कम थी।

### Q3 GDP Growth at 6.4%

#### तीसरी तिमाही में जीडीपी वृद्धि 6.4%

- Quarterly GDP growth in Q3 of 2024-25 stood at 6.4%. 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही में तिमाही जीडीपी वृद्धि 6.4% रही।

### India Held Its Own Despite Global Slowdown

#### वैश्विक मंदी के बावजूद भारत ने अपनी स्थिति बनाए रखी

- Chief Economic Adviser **V. Anantha Nageswaran** downplayed concerns over post-COVID slowdown, saying India has “held its own” in a **growth-scarce global environment**.

मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार **वी. अनंत नागेश्वरन** ने कोविड के बाद की मंदी की चिंताओं को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि भारत ने विकास की कमी वाले वैश्विक माहौल में “अपनी स्थिति बनाए रखी” है।

- He explained that India’s **growth differential** post-COVID is **higher** than during the **2003–2010 boom era**.

उन्होंने समझाया कि कोविड के बाद भारत की वृद्धि में अंतर 2003–2010 के बूम युग की तुलना में अधिक है।

- He added that despite **political conflicts** and **trade tensions**, India is performing **better** than many **advanced economies**.

उन्होंने यह भी जोड़ा कि राजनीतिक संघर्षों और व्यापार तनावों के बावजूद भारत कई विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की तुलना में बेहतर प्रदर्शन कर रहा है।

### Sectoral Growth in Q4

#### चौथी तिमाही में क्षेत्रवार वृद्धि

- The **agriculture sector** continued strong performance in Q4, contributing positively to full-year growth.

कृषि क्षेत्र ने चौथी तिमाही में मजबूत प्रदर्शन जारी रखा, जिससे पूरे वर्ष की वृद्धि को सकारात्मक योगदान मिला।

- The **manufacturing sector** grew by **4.8%** in Q4 of FY25, the **second-fastest** quarterly growth of the year, although on a high base of **11.3%** in Q4 of the previous year.



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विनिर्माण क्षेत्र ने FY25 की चौथी तिमाही में 4.8% की वृद्धि दर्ज की, जो वर्ष की दूसरी सबसे तेज तिमाही वृद्धि थी, हालांकि यह पिछले वर्ष की चौथी तिमाही के 11.3% के उच्च आधार पर थी।

- The sector grew by 4.5% in the full financial year 2024-25.  
यह क्षेत्र पूरे वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में 4.5% की वृद्धि दर्ज कर पाया।
- The construction sector returned to double-digit growth of 10.8% in Q4, faster than the 8.7% seen in Q4 of 2023-24.  
निर्माण क्षेत्र ने चौथी तिमाही में 10.8% की दोहरे अंकों की वृद्धि दर्ज की, जो 2023-24 की चौथी तिमाही के 8.7% से अधिक थी।
- The sector's full-year growth stood at 9.4% in 2024-25, down from 10.4% in 2023-24.  
इस क्षेत्र की पूरे वर्ष की वृद्धि 2024-25 में 9.4% रही, जो 2023-24 के 10.4% से कम थी।

## Household Consumption Growth

### घरेलू खपत में वृद्धि

- Household consumption growth rose to 7.2% in 2024-25, up from 5.6% in the previous year.  
घरेलू खपत की वृद्धि 2024-25 में बढ़कर 7.2% हो गई, जो पिछले वर्ष की 5.6% थी



# Protests spread in Arunachal Pradesh against new hydroelectric projects

GS Paper III: Environment  
**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

An intense opposition to a proposed mega-dam in the Siang River belt has set off a chain of protests against other hydropower projects in Arunachal Pradesh.

A society representing several villages wrote to the Dibang Valley district authorities on May 29, voicing its "strong and reasoned objection" to the 400 megawatt Mihundo (Mihumdon) Hydroelectric Project proposed on the Dri River. Scheduled to be commissioned in 2026, this run-of-the-river project was assigned to the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam.

The Ekhomey Mowo Welfare Society, based in Anini, the district headquarters, said the project was illegal as the mandatory free, prior, and informed consent was not obtained from the Gram Sabha or the residents of Angrim Valley who would be affected.

The society's general se-



Opposition to the projects was triggered by protests against the proposed mega-dam in the Siang River belt. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cretary, Morey Molo, and treasurer Aisi Mow underlined the district's seismic and ecological vulnerability, asserting that the locals "do not want dam-based development on our ancestral lands".

Opposition to the Dri River project came a day after residents of the remote Nukung and Mla villages voiced their resistance to the proposed 1200 MW Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project on the Lohit River in Anjaw district during a public consultation and so-

cial impact assessment review.

According to the social impact assessment report prepared by the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Nukung and Mla villages would be severely affected by the project.

In a letter to the Anjaw Deputy Commissioner, the Nukung Welfare Society said that the project was unacceptable to the indigenous communities in the area.

"The total obliteration

of our ancestral land by a project we did not consent to is unacceptable and illegal," Roshan Tawsik, the society's chairman, said.

The villagers pointed out that the potential submergence of sacred Mishmi tribal cultural and spiritual sites by the mega-dam was of particular concern. These sites include Kutung Graam, the abode of the community's supreme deity and Parshuram Kund downstream.

Meanwhile, the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum vowed to intensify its agitation against the proposed 11,000 MW Siang Upper Multi-purpose Project and the "militarisation" of the targeted sites along the Siang River.

The government has been pushing this project to be executed by the NHPC, arguing that it would help minimise the adverse impact of a 60,000 MW hydroelectric project China has been planning on the Yarlung Tsangpo River upstream.

## Protests spread in Arunachal Pradesh against new hydroelectric projects

अरुणाचल प्रदेश में नए जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन फैला

An intense opposition to a proposed mega-dam in the Siang River belt has triggered a series of protests against other hydropower projects in Arunachal

### Pradesh.

सियांग नदी क्षेत्र में प्रस्तावित एक बड़े बांध के खिलाफ तीव्र विरोध ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश में अन्य जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं के खिलाफ भी विरोध प्रदर्शनों की श्रृंखला शुरू कर दी है।

- A society representing several villages wrote to the **Dibang Valley** district authorities on **May 29**, voicing its "strong and reasoned objection" to the **400 megawatt Mihundo (Mihumdon) Hydroelectric Project on the Dri River**. कई गांवों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले एक संगठन ने 29 मई को दीबांग घाटी जिला प्रशासन को पत्र लिखकर द्री नदी पर प्रस्तावित 400 मेगावाट मिहुंदो (मिहुंदोन) जलविद्युत परियोजना पर अपना "गंभीर और तर्कसंगत विरोध" जताया।
- This **run-of-the-river project**, scheduled for **commissioning in 2026**, was assigned to **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam**. 2026 में शुरू होने वाली यह रन-ऑफ-द-रिवर परियोजना सतलुज जल विद्युत निगम को सौंपी गई है।



## Objections from Local Communities

### स्थानीय समुदायों की आपत्तियाँ

- The **Ekhomey Mowo Welfare Society**, based in **Anini**, stated the project is **illegal** as no **free, prior, and informed consent** was taken from the **Gram Sabha** or **Angrim Valley residents**.  
अनिनी में स्थित एकोमी मवो वेलफेयर सोसाइटी ने कहा कि यह परियोजना अवैध है क्योंकि ग्राम सभा या अंग्रिम घाटी के निवासियों से मुक्त, पूर्व और सूचित सहमति नहीं ली गई।
- The society's **General Secretary Morey Molo** and **Treasurer Aisi Mow** highlighted the district's **seismic and ecological vulnerability**, and said that locals **"do not want dam-based development"** on their **ancestral lands**.  
संगठन के महासचिव मोरे मोलो और कोषाध्यक्ष आइसी मव ने जिले की भूकंपीय और पारिस्थितिक संवेदनशीलता को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि स्थानीय लोग अपने पारंपरिक भूमि पर "बांध आधारित विकास" नहीं चाहते।

## Protests in Anjaw District

### अंजॉ जिला में विरोध प्रदर्शन

- The objection to the Dri River project came a day after residents of **Nukung** and **Mla villages** protested against the **1200 MW Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project on the Lohit River in Anjaw district**.  
द्री नदी परियोजना के खिलाफ आपत्ति, अंजॉ जिला में लोहित नदी पर प्रस्तावित 1200 मेगावाट कलाई-II जलविद्युत परियोजना के खिलाफ नुकुंग और म्ला गांवों के निवासियों द्वारा विरोध के एक दिन बाद सामने आई।
- The protest was during a **public consultation and social impact assessment review**. यह विरोध एक सार्वजनिक परामर्श और सामाजिक प्रभाव मूल्यांकन समीक्षा के दौरान हुआ।
- The **social impact assessment report** by **GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment** found that **Nukung** and **Mla villages** would be **severely affected** by the project.  
जीबी पंत राष्ट्रीय हिमालयी पर्यावरण संस्थान की सामाजिक प्रभाव मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, नुकुंग और म्ला गांव इस परियोजना से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित होंगे।
- In a letter to the **Anjaw Deputy Commissioner**, the **Nukung Welfare Society** said the project was **unacceptable to indigenous communities**.  
अंजॉ के उपायुक्त को लिखे पत्र में नुकुंग वेलफेयर सोसाइटी ने कहा कि यह परियोजना स्थानीय जनजातीय समुदायों के लिए अस्वीकार्य है।
- **Roshan Tawsik**, chairman of the society, said, "The **obliteration of our ancestral land** by a project **we did not consent to is unacceptable and illegal**."  
संस्था के अध्यक्ष रोशन तावसिक ने कहा, "हमारी पूर्वजों की भूमि का पूर्ण विनाश किसी ऐसी परियोजना द्वारा जिसे हमने स्वीकृति नहीं दी, अस्वीकार्य और अवैध है।"



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- The villagers raised concern over the **potential submergence** of **sacred Mishmi tribal cultural and spiritual sites**, including **Kutung Graam** and **Parshuram Kund**.  
ग्रामीणों ने पवित्र मिश्मी जनजातीय सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक स्थलों, जैसे कि कुटुंग ग्राम और परशुराम कुंड, के जलमग्न होने की आशंका पर चिंता जताई।

## Siang River Agitation

### सियांग नदी पर आंदोलन

- The **Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum** pledged to intensify protests against the proposed **11,000 MW Siang Upper Multi-purpose Project** and the "**militarisation**" of affected sites along the **Siang River**.  
सियांग स्वदेशी किसान मंच ने 11,000 मेगावाट सियांग अपर बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजना और सियांग नदी के किनारे प्रभावित स्थलों के "**सैन्यीकरण**" के खिलाफ अपने आंदोलन को तेज करने की घोषणा की।
- The government has been promoting this project to be executed by **NHPC**, arguing it would help **minimise the adverse impact** of a **60,000 MW hydroelectric project** being planned by **China** on the **Yarlung Tsangpo River** upstream.  
सरकार इस परियोजना को **एनएचपीसी** द्वारा निष्पादित किए जाने के लिए आगे बढ़ा रही है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि यह **यारलुंग सांगपो नदी** पर **चीन** द्वारा प्रस्तावित **60,000 मेगावाट** की **जलविद्युत परियोजना** के **प्रतिकूल प्रभाव** को कम करने में मदद करेगी।



# India will have 1 billion Internet users by this fiscal year'

The BharatNet investments in rural and remote connectivity are the largest in the world, says Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region; almost 2.14 lakh gram panchayats were connected in the first phase and the next phase is about connecting another 2.64 lakh gram panchayats, he says, adding that a central network operating hub will be put in place for maintenance

[GS Paper III: Digital connectivity]

## INTERVIEW

### Jyotiraditya Scindia

**Yarghese K. George**  
**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

With increasing data usage, the Internet market has grown from around 250 million to 974 million subscribers, says Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (NER). Laying stress on the role of innovation and investment, Mr. Scindia discusses the potential of India's telecom industry and the way ahead for improving connectivity. Edited excerpts:

**This year's theme for the India Mobile Congress (IMC) is 'Innovate to Transform'. What's the**

**message here for the domestic telecom industry?**

India has already proven itself to be the second largest telecom market in the world. In the last 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, the mobile market grew from roughly 1 billion to 1.2 billion customers; we have also hugely grown data usage and the Internet market from around 250 million to 974 million Internet subscribers. We should be able to hit one billion Internet users within the first half of next year, or even within this fiscal year. Calling prices have gone from 50 paise to 0.003 paise a minute; and data has gone from ₹287 to ₹9 a GB. We are today the cheapest data market in the world.

With such a large market, it is important for India to start pioneering the product space and therefore IMC's theme this year of 'Innovate to Transform' very much ties in with its

theme last year, 'The Future is Now'. Many products are also now being made in India.

We have gone from importing 80% of our mobile phone requirements to becoming a huge exporter of about ₹1.75 lakh crore worth of mobile phones. The Bharat 6G Alliance that we've put together is working on contributing a minimum 10% of patents to the world of 6G. And it is our hope that in this year's IMC, we will have over 150,000 visitors from 150 countries.

**With telecom equipment, homegrown technologies like OpenRAN and 5G were designed but their use in networks was not widespread.**

Which is why, in the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme – which has been tremendously successful, with over ₹4,000 crore of investment and ₹80,000 crore in revenue, close to ₹16,000 crore of exports,



25,000 jobs created, it's been a runaway success – we introduced last year, a 1% design-led incentive. Therefore, I want to design, produce and export in India.

**We hear a lot about Starlink and satellite communications. What else is being done in the long term plan for improving terrestrial connectivity in remote areas?**

As far as BharatNet is concerned, in the first phase,

we laid almost 7 lakh kilometres of fibre optic cables. We connected almost 2.14 lakh gram panchayats. We're now working on BharatNet II.

Mind you, this is the largest public sector investment in connectivity to the grassroots level in the world, of \$16.9 billion (₹1.39 lakh crore). What we're doing in BharatNet II is connecting the balance 2.64 lakh gram panchayats. The total number of villages in India is about 6.5 lakh, of which 2.64 lakh are gram panchayats. Along with that, we have put together many new systems in BharatNet II which were not prevalent in BharatNet I.

**Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) has been suffering financially for multiple quarters. They have also had a setback at the Supreme Court, which**

**refused to revise the calculation for their Adjusted Gross Revenue dues. To what extent is the government willing to step in and make sure that there are at least three private operators in the telecom market?**

We have three private operators and one state-owned operator. I think that's a very healthy environment. Having said that, I think each company has to manage its own profit and loss (P&L) and balance sheet. We have done an equity conversion of almost ₹37,000 crore with VIL. The government now holds 49%. We don't intend to increase that stake above 49% at any point in the future.

**On the Department of Posts: what impact has the Post Office Act, 2023 had on modernising India Post?**

The Indian postal department is one of the most robust, largest distribution

and logistics networks of any organisation – and I'm weighing my words – in the world. And in the modern day, to be able to optimise its service delivery to a logistics organisation, the amendment to the Post Office Act empowers us to provide that flexibility to our Department, to be able to serve new markets, niche or otherwise.

A lot of the new changes that we are being able to put in place of making it a comprehensive service provider; not only mail, but postal life insurance, post office savings bank, and the India Post Payments Bank – which is making profits three years early.

We're thinking of coming up with a digital access code for every single latitude and longitude in the country.

Today, the postal department is empowered to be able to deliver all those capabilities by the amendments to the Act. (For full interview, visit [newsthrive.com/news/indiaspeaks](https://www.newsthrive.com/news/indiaspeaks))

## India Will Have 1 Billion Internet Users by This Fiscal Year

### भारत में इस वित्तीय वर्ष तक 1 अरब इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता होंगे

The BharatNet investments in rural and remote connectivity are the largest in the world, said Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region.

ग्रामीण और दूरदराज़ के क्षेत्रों में कनेक्टिविटी के लिए भारतनेट में किया गया निवेश दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा है, यह बात संचार और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र विकास मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने कही।

- In the first phase, almost **2.14 lakh gram panchayats** were connected, and the next phase will connect another **2.64 lakh gram panchayats**.

पहले चरण में लगभग **2.14 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों** को जोड़ा गया, और अगले चरण में **2.64 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों** को जोड़ा जाएगा।

- A **central network operating hub** will be established to manage and maintain the system.

प्रणाली के प्रबंधन और रखरखाव के लिए एक **केंद्रीय नेटवर्क ऑपरेटिंग हब** स्थापित किया जाएगा।

## India's Expanding Internet Market

### भारत का विस्तृत होता इंटरनेट बाज़ार

- The Internet market in India has grown from about **250 million to 974 million subscribers**.

भारत में इंटरनेट बाज़ार **25 करोड़ से बढ़कर 97.4 करोड़ उपयोगकर्ताओं** तक पहुँच चुका है।



- India is expected to reach **1 billion Internet users** by the **first half of the next year** or **within this fiscal year**.  
भारत के अगले वर्ष की पहली छमाही या इस वित्तीय वर्ष के भीतर 1 अरब इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता तक पहुँचने की उम्मीद है।
- India has become the **cheapest data market** in the world — data cost has come down from ₹287 to just **₹9 per GB**.  
भारत आज दुनिया का सबसे सस्ता डेटा बाजार बन गया है — डेटा की कीमत ₹287 से घटकर ₹9 प्रति GB हो गई है।

## Domestic Manufacturing and Innovation

### घरेलू निर्माण और नवाचार

- India moved from **importing 80%** of mobile phones to exporting **₹1.75 lakh crore** worth of mobile phones.  
भारत ने मोबाइल फ़ोन का 80% आयात करने से लेकर अब ₹1.75 लाख करोड़ के मोबाइल फ़ोन निर्यात करने तक प्रगति की है।
- The **Bharat 6G Alliance** aims to contribute at least **10% of patents** globally for 6G technology.  
भारत 6G एलायंस का लक्ष्य वैश्विक स्तर पर 6G तकनीक के कम से कम 10% पेटेंट में योगदान देना है।
- Over **1.5 lakh visitors** from **150 countries** are expected at this year's **India Mobile Congress (IMC)**.  
इस वर्ष के इंडिया मोबाइल कांग्रेस (IMC) में 1.5 लाख से अधिक आगंतुकों और 150 देशों की भागीदारी की उम्मीद है।

## Design and Production-Led Growth

### डिज़ाइन और उत्पादन-आधारित विकास

- A **1% design-led incentive** was introduced under the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme**, which brought in **₹4,000 crore** of investment and **₹80,000 crore** in revenue.  
उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन योजना (PLI) के तहत 1% डिज़ाइन-प्रेरित प्रोत्साहन शुरू किया गया, जिससे ₹4,000 करोड़ का निवेश और ₹80,000 करोड़ की आय हुई।
- The PLI scheme led to **₹16,000 crore of exports** and created around **25,000 jobs**.  
इस योजना से ₹16,000 करोड़ के निर्यात और लगभग 25,000 नौकरियों का सृजन हुआ।

## BharatNet II: Strengthening Rural Connectivity

### भारतनेट II: ग्रामीण कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत बनाना



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- In the first phase, **7 lakh km** of fibre optic cable was laid.  
पहले चरण में **7 लाख किलोमीटर** फाइबर ऑप्टिक केबल बिछाई गई।
- **BharatNet II** will connect the remaining **2.64 lakh gram panchayats**.  
**भारतनेट II** के तहत बाकी **2.64 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों** को जोड़ा जाएगा।
- The project is valued at **\$16.9 billion (₹1.39 lakh crore)** — the **largest public sector investment** in grassroots connectivity.  
यह परियोजना **\$16.9 बिलियन (₹1.39 लाख करोड़)** की है — जो कि **जमीनी स्तर की कनेक्टिविटी में सबसे बड़ा सार्वजनिक निवेश** है।
- Technological upgrades include:
  - Using **MPLS routers** instead of GPON routers
  - Improved **network topology** to avoid disconnection from a single cut
  - **10-year maintenance mandate** for implementation agencies
  - Establishment of **central network operating centre**
  - Deployment of **independent engineers** for monitoringतकनीकी उन्नयन में शामिल हैं:
  - **GPON राउटर** की जगह **MPLS राउटर** का उपयोग
  - एकल कट से नेटवर्क बंद न हो, इसके लिए **बेहतर नेटवर्क टोपोलॉजी**
  - कार्यान्वयन एजेंसियों के लिए **10 साल का रखरखाव दायित्व**
  - **केंद्रीय नेटवर्क ऑपरेटिंग सेंटर** की स्थापना
  - निगरानी के लिए **स्वतंत्र इंजीनियरों** की तैनाती

## Vodafone Idea and Government Stake

### वोडाफोन आइडिया और सरकार की हिस्सेदारी

- Vodafone Idea Ltd. has been **financially struggling** and lost a case on **AGR dues** in the **Supreme Court**.  
वोडाफोन आइडिया लिमिटेड को **आर्थिक संकट** का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और **एजीआर बकाया** पर **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में केस हार गई।
- The government has converted **₹37,000 crore** of equity and now holds a **49% stake**, but does not plan to go beyond that.  
सरकार ने **₹37,000 करोड़** की इक्विटी को बदला है और अब **49% हिस्सेदारी** रखती है, लेकिन इसे इससे अधिक बढ़ाने की योजना नहीं है।

## Modernising India Post

### भारत डाक सेवा का आधुनिकीकरण

- India Post is among the **largest logistics and distribution networks** in the world.  
भारत डाक सेवा दुनिया के **सबसे बड़े लॉजिस्टिक्स और वितरण नेटवर्कों** में से एक है।



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- The **Post Office Act, 2023** has given **flexibility** to India Post to serve **new and niche markets**.  
पोस्ट ऑफिस अधिनियम, 2023 ने भारत डाक सेवा को नई और विशेष बाजारों में सेवाएं देने की लचीलापन प्रदान की है।
- India Post now provides a **comprehensive service** — mail, postal life insurance, savings bank, and the **India Post Payments Bank**, which is **making profits 3 years ahead of schedule**.  
अब भारत डाक सेवा **समग्र सेवाएं** दे रही है — डाक, डाक जीवन बीमा, बचत बैंक, और **इंडिया पोस्ट पेमेंट्स बैंक**, जो कि **3 साल पहले ही लाभ में आ गया है**।
- There is a plan to introduce a **digital access code** for every **latitude and longitude** in India.  
भारत के हर **अक्षांश और देशांतर** के लिए **डिजिटल एक्सेस कोड** लाने की योजना है।

## Three more firms get **GPU** access under **IndiaAI Mission**

**GS Paper III: S&T**

Three firms – Gurugram-based Soket AI, Delhi-based Gan.AI, and Bengaluru-based Gnani.ai – have been selected in the IndiaAI Mission's ongoing drive to facilitate the development of an indigenous foundational AI large language model (LLM). “Like Sarvam AI” – which was selected earlier this year as the first such firm – “these three teams also have a very big target in front of them,” IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. By being selected, these firms will get access to the Common Compute facility, giving them access to thousands of graphics processing units (GPUs) on which AI models are trained and deployed.

इंडियाएआई मिशन के तहत स्वदेशी फाउंडेशनल एआई बड़े भाषा मॉडल (LLM) के विकास के लिए चुना गया है।

- These firms are part of the **ongoing drive** to create **India's own LLM capabilities** under the national AI strategy.  
ये कंपनियाँ **राष्ट्रीय एआई रणनीति** के तहत **भारत के अपने LLM क्षमताओं** के निर्माण के लिए चल रही पहल का हिस्सा हैं।

## Three more firms get **GPU** access under **IndiaAI Mission**

**इंडियाएआई मिशन के तहत तीन और कंपनियों को GPU एक्सेस मिला**

**Three firms — Gurugram-based Soket AI, Delhi-based Gan.AI, and Bengaluru-based Gnani.ai — have been selected under the IndiaAI Mission to support the development of an indigenous foundational AI large language model (LLM).**

**गुरुग्राम स्थित सोकेट एआई, दिल्ली की गैन.एआई, और बेंगलुरु की ज्ञान.ai को**



- “Like **Sarvam AI**” — which was selected earlier this year — “these three teams also have a very **big target** in front of them,” said IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.  
आईटी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा, “जैसे कि सरवम एआई, जिसे इस साल की शुरुआत में चुना गया था, वैसे ही इन तीन टीमों के सामने भी एक बहुत बड़ा लक्ष्य है।”
- By being selected, these firms will gain access to the **Common Compute facility**, enabling them to use **thousands of GPUs for training and deploying AI models**.  
चयनित होने पर, ये कंपनियाँ कॉमन कंप्यूट सुविधा का लाभ प्राप्त करेंगी, जिससे वे हज़ारों GPU का उपयोग एआई मॉडल के प्रशिक्षण और तैनाती के लिए कर सकेंगी।

## Don't merely enrol students, but equip them with skills

GS Paper III: Skilling

As the admission season for colleges and universities begins, institutions across India are once again promoting their programmes under banners promising knowledge, transformation, and research excellence. This growth in enrolment at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD levels suggests a dynamic academic landscape full of potential. Yet, beneath this expansion lies an important challenge: degrees are proliferating faster than meaningful job opportunities.

### A gap that needs attention

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics, the unemployment rate in India tends to increase with higher education levels. This paradox reveals a critical gap between academic achievement and employability – a gap that requires urgent attention.

This challenge is particularly acute in India's vast network of non-elite institutions in Tier 2 and tier 3 colleges, where most students pursue BA, BCom, or BSc degrees and their corresponding master's programmes. These institutions often face resource constraints and limited industry connections, operating with curricula that have not kept pace with the evolving job market. While elite colleges make headlines for placement challenges, the gradual erosion of employability in everyday colleges often goes unnoticed.

In many such institutions, instruction remains largely theoretical, with limited emphasis on real-world skills. For example, an English literature student might study Shakespearean tragedy yet miss out on learning practical skills such as writing professional emails. Similarly, an economics graduate may understand complex



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Viewing education as a social contract that guarantees a meaningful connection between learning and livelihood is essential

theories but struggle with everyday tools such as Excel. This disconnect means millions of educated young people find it difficult to translate their degrees into career opportunities.

This situation stems partly from a deeply entrenched academic culture that values scholarship and abstraction over practical application. Within many academic circles – even prestigious ones – higher education is often celebrated as an end in itself, while immediate employment is sometimes subtly undervalued. Postgraduate degrees and PhDs are frequently pursued not just for intellectual fulfilment but as a refuge from the job market, creating a cycle where many graduates end up teaching in the very colleges that perpetuate the same system.

It is important to recognise that successive governments have acknowledged this issue. Initiatives such as Skill India, Start-Up India, and the National Education Policy have pushed for skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship. However, the transformation remains incomplete. Many undergraduate and postgraduate programmes continue to emphasise rote learning over practical skills. While new courses in AI or entrepreneurship are being introduced, they often lack depth, and integration into the broader curriculum.

### A broader societal challenge

Countries such as China and Japan have successfully aligned education with economic strategies by elevating technical and vocational education to a central role in workforce development. In India, vocational training is still often perceived as a fallback option, both within academia and society. This stigma limits the

appeal and effectiveness of skill-based education, despite its vital role in economic empowerment.

This contradiction highlights a broader societal challenge: degrees are highly valued as symbols of upward mobility, but they increasingly fail to guarantee it. This is not a call to abandon liberal education or abstract learning – they remain essential for critical thinking and creativity. However, education must also provide tangible economic benefits. Degrees should offer pathways to agency and dignity, especially for students from smaller towns and under-resourced institutions.

A way forward lies in integrating practical skill modules – communication, digital literacy, budgeting, data analysis, hospitality, tailoring, and health services – into general degree programmes as core elements, not optional extras. Doctoral education should be diversified to prepare candidates for policy, analytics, consulting, development, and industry roles, not solely academia. Research remains vital, but it must be pursued by those inclined towards it.

Finally, the widespread aspiration for government jobs reflects the limited opportunities graduates currently perceive. While these roles remain important, expanding private sector and entrepreneurial pathways through improved employability will offer youth a broader range of options. Enhancing skills and opportunities can reduce the over-dependence on competitive exams. India's growing economy demands an education system that not just enrolls students, but equips students with skills. Viewing education as a social contract that guarantees a meaningful connection between learning and livelihood is essential.

## Don't merely enrol students, but equip them with skills

केवल छात्रों का नामांकन न करें, बल्कि उन्हें कौशल से लैस करें

As the admission season for colleges and universities begins, institutions across India are promoting their programmes with promises of knowledge, transformation, and research excellence.

जैसे ही कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए प्रवेश सत्र शुरू होता है, भारत भर के संस्थान अपने कार्यक्रमों का प्रचार ज्ञान, परिवर्तन, और अनुसंधान उत्कृष्टता के वादों के साथ कर रहे हैं।



- The rise in **undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD** enrolments reflects a dynamic academic environment.  
स्नातक, स्नातकोत्तर, और पीएचडी नामांकनों में वृद्धि एक गतिशील शैक्षणिक वातावरण को दर्शाती है।
- However, **degrees** are increasing **faster** than **meaningful job opportunities**, revealing a growing gap.  
हालांकि, डिग्रियां इतनी तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं कि वे **उपयुक्त नौकरी के अवसरों** से आगे निकल गई हैं, जिससे एक बड़ा अंतर सामने आ रहा है।

## A gap that needs attention

### एक अंतर जिसे ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है

- According to **Ministry of Statistics** data, the **unemployment rate increases** with **higher education levels**.  
सांख्यिकी मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, शिक्षा का स्तर बढ़ने के साथ-साथ बेरोजगारी दर भी बढ़ती है।
- This points to a serious **gap between academic achievement and employability**.  
यह शैक्षणिक उपलब्धियों और रोजगार योग्यता के बीच एक गंभीर अंतर को दर्शाता है।
- The issue is more intense in **non-elite Tier 2 and Tier 3 colleges**, where students typically pursue **BA, BCom, or BSc** degrees.  
यह समस्या गैर-प्रतिष्ठित टियर 2 और टियर 3 कॉलेजों में अधिक गहरी है, जहां छात्र आमतौर पर बीए, बीकॉम, या बीएससी की पढ़ाई करते हैं।
- These colleges face **resource constraints, limited industry links, and outdated curricula**.  
इन कॉलेजों को संसाधनों की कमी, उद्योग से सीमित संपर्क, और पुराने पाठ्यक्रमों की समस्या है।
- While elite institutions face **placement challenges**, everyday colleges see a **silent erosion of employability**.  
जहां प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों को प्लेसमेंट की चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, वहीं सामान्य कॉलेजों में रोजगार योग्यता का धीरे-धीरे क्षरण होता जा रहा है।

## Lack of practical skills

### व्यावहारिक कौशल की कमी

- In many colleges, teaching remains **theoretical**, with little focus on **practical skills**.  
कई कॉलेजों में पढ़ाई अब भी सैद्धांतिक है और व्यावहारिक कौशल पर कम ध्यान दिया जाता है।
- An **English literature** student may study Shakespeare but not learn **email writing**, while an **economics** graduate may know theories but not tools like **Excel**.  
एक अंग्रेजी साहित्य का छात्र शेक्सपियर पढ़ सकता है, लेकिन ईमेल लेखन नहीं सीखता; एक अर्थशास्त्र स्नातक को सिद्धांत आते हैं, लेकिन एक्सेल जैसे उपकरण नहीं।
- This leads to millions of **educated youth** struggling to find **relevant careers**.  
इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि शिक्षित युवा भी उपयुक्त करियर खोजने में संघर्ष करते हैं।



## Academic culture and systemic cycle

### शैक्षणिक संस्कृति और प्रणालीगत चक्र

- The problem is rooted in an academic culture that **prefers scholarship over application**.  
यह समस्या एक ऐसी शैक्षणिक संस्कृति में निहित है जो अनुप्रयोग की तुलना में विद्वता को प्राथमिकता देती है।
- Even in prestigious settings, **education is seen as an end**, while **employment** is subtly downplayed.  
प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में भी, शिक्षा को स्वयं में उद्देश्य माना जाता है, जबकि रोजगार को कम महत्व दिया जाता है।
- **Postgraduate degrees and PhDs** are often pursued as **refuge from the job market**, leading to more teachers who repeat the same cycle.  
स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री और पीएचडी अक्सर नौकरी के बाजार से बचने के साधन के रूप में ली जाती हैं, जिससे वही चक्र दोहराने वाले शिक्षक पैदा होते हैं।

## Government efforts and unfinished transformation

### सरकारी प्रयास और अधूरी परिवर्तन प्रक्रिया

- Successive governments have taken steps through initiatives like **Skill India, Start-Up India**, and the **National Education Policy**.  
सरकारों ने स्किल इंडिया, स्टार्ट-अप इंडिया, और राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से कदम उठाए हैं।
- These aim to boost **skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship**.  
इनका उद्देश्य कौशल विकास, व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण, और उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देना है।
- But transformation is **still incomplete**; most courses still rely on **rote learning over practical skills**.  
लेकिन परिवर्तन अब भी अधूरा है; अधिकांश पाठ्यक्रमों में अब भी रटंत शिक्षा को व्यावहारिक कौशल पर प्राथमिकता दी जाती है।
- New programmes in **AI and entrepreneurship** are being launched, but they often **lack depth and integration**.  
एआई और उद्यमिता जैसे नए पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन इनमें अक्सर गहराई और संगठनात्मक समावेशन की कमी होती है।

## A broader societal challenge

### एक व्यापक सामाजिक चुनौती

- Countries such as **China and Japan** have successfully aligned education with economic strategies by elevating **technical and vocational education** to a central role in



### workforce development.

चीन और जापान जैसे देशों ने तकनीकी और व्यावसायिक शिक्षा को कौशल विकास में केंद्रीय स्थान देकर शिक्षा को आर्थिक रणनीतियों के साथ सफलतापूर्वक जोड़ा है।

- In India, vocational training is still often perceived as a **fallback option**, both within academia and society.  
भारत में, व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण को अब भी अकादमिक और सामाजिक दोनों स्तरों पर एक वैकल्पिक विकल्प के रूप में देखा जाता है।
- This **stigma** limits the appeal and effectiveness of **skill-based education**, despite its **vital role** in **economic empowerment**.  
यह कलंक कौशल-आधारित शिक्षा की लोकप्रियता और प्रभावशीलता को सीमित करता है, जबकि इसका आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान होता है।
- This contradiction highlights a broader societal challenge: degrees are highly valued as **symbols of upward mobility**, but they increasingly fail to **guarantee** it.  
यह विरोधाभास एक बड़ी सामाजिक चुनौती को उजागर करता है: डिग्रियों को सामाजिक प्रगति के प्रतीक के रूप में देखा जाता है, लेकिन वे अब इसे सुनिश्चित करने में विफल हो रही हैं।
- This is not a call to abandon **liberal education** or **abstract learning** — they remain essential for **critical thinking** and **creativity**.  
यह उदार शिक्षा या सैद्धांतिक अध्ययन को छोड़ने का आग्रह नहीं है — ये आलोचनात्मक सोच और रचनात्मकता के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
- However, education must also provide **tangible economic benefits**.  
हालांकि, शिक्षा को वास्तविक आर्थिक लाभ भी प्रदान करने चाहिए।
- Degrees should offer pathways to **agency and dignity**, especially for students from **smaller towns** and **under-resourced institutions**.  
डिग्रियों को सशक्तिकरण और गरिमा के मार्ग देने चाहिए, विशेषकर छोटे शहरों और संसाधन-वंचित संस्थानों के छात्रों के लिए।

### A way forward

#### आगे का रास्ता

- A way forward lies in **integrating practical skill modules** — such as **communication, digital literacy, budgeting, data analysis, hospitality, tailoring, and health services** — into general degree programmes as **core elements**, not **optional extras**.  
आगे का रास्ता यह है कि व्यावहारिक कौशल मॉड्यूल — जैसे कि संचार, डिजिटल साक्षरता, बजट बनाना, डेटा विश्लेषण, अतिथि सेवा, सिलाई, और स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं — को सामान्य डिग्री कार्यक्रमों में मुख्य भाग के रूप में जोड़ा जाए, न कि केवल वैकल्पिक विकल्प के रूप में।
- **Doctoral education** should be **diversified** to prepare candidates for roles in **policy, analytics, consulting, development, and industry**, not solely **academia**.  
डॉक्टरेट शिक्षा को विविध किया जाना चाहिए ताकि छात्र केवल शैक्षणिक क्षेत्र में ही नहीं, बल्कि नीति, विश्लेषण, परामर्श, विकास, और उद्योग जैसे क्षेत्रों के लिए भी तैयार हो सकें।



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- **Research** remains vital, but it must be pursued by those who are **genuinely inclined** towards it.  
अनुसंधान महत्वपूर्ण बना रहेगा, लेकिन इसे उन्हीं के द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए जो इसके प्रति वास्तव में रुचि रखते हों।
- The widespread **aspiration for government jobs** reflects the **limited opportunities** graduates currently perceive.  
सरकारी नौकरियों के प्रति व्यापक आकर्षण यह दर्शाता है कि स्नातकों को वर्तमान में सीमित अवसर नजर आते हैं।
- While these roles remain important, expanding **private sector** and **entrepreneurial pathways** through improved **employability** will offer youth a **broader range of options**.  
हालांकि ये नौकरियाँ अभी भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं, लेकिन निजी क्षेत्र और उद्यमशीलता के मार्गों का विस्तार करके, रोजगार योग्यता को सुधारने से युवाओं को अधिक विकल्प मिल सकते हैं।
- Enhancing **skills** and **opportunities** can reduce the **over-dependence on competitive exams**.  
कौशल और अवसरों को बढ़ाकर प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता को कम किया जा सकता है।
- India's **growing economy** demands an education system that not just **enrols students**, but **equips them with skills**.  
भारत की विकसित होती अर्थव्यवस्था एक ऐसी शिक्षा प्रणाली की मांग करती है जो केवल छात्रों को नामांकित ही न करे, बल्कि उन्हें कौशलों से लैस भी करे।
- Viewing education as a **social contract** that guarantees a meaningful connection between **learning and livelihood** is essential.  
शिक्षा को एक सामाजिक अनुबंध के रूप में देखना आवश्यक है, जो शिक्षा और आजीविका के बीच सार्थक संबंध की गारंटी देता हो।



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## Steep decline

Rural consumption remains poor despite the lowering of inflation

GS Paper III: Rural Economy

India's factory output performance measured monthly by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) slowed to an eight-month low of 2.7% in April, at the start of fiscal 2026. It also marked a steep decline, almost halving from last April's 5.2% growth. This correlates with the monthly gauge of the eight core sectors by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which posted a 0.5% growth in April, also an eight-month low. More significantly, it is a steep decline from last April's 6.9%. The eight core sectors make up about 40% of the weight of items included in the IIP. This comes on the back of a 4% growth in industrial output for the last fiscal, which was the lowest in the past four years. Of particular concern is the contraction in mining by 0.2%, the first since August 2024. While the absolute value of mining exports has risen in the past decade from \$25 billion in FY15 to \$42 billion in FY25, its share in exports has fallen from 8.1% to 5.1%. This still constitutes a not-so-insignificant share in India's overall goods exports at a time of great trade volatility. However, both manufacturing and power production also slowed to 3.4% (4.2%) and 1.1% (10.2%), respectively, in April.

While trade and tariff-related uncertainties are most likely to have impacted goods output, the continuing contraction in consumer non-durables' output for the third consecutive month suggests persistently low rural consumption, as essentials such as food make up a significant portion of consumer non-durables. This is a clear indication that despite retail inflation hitting an almost 6-year low at 3.16% in April, it has not translated into higher spending power for rural communities, where consumer non-durables have the most demand. Food prices contracted for the sixth straight month to 2.14%, which led to below MSP rates for most staples at mandis. The government must focus on raising rural incomes by implementing MSPs for farm produce more systematically. This would aid in increasing rural consumption. However, a surge in capital goods output to 20.3% in April, albeit from a low base, indicates confidence in the domestic economy as investors continue with their plans to diversify exports, attempting to rely less on the U.S. With trade-related sectors expected to continue to stay volatile in the near-term, the Centre must push the private sector to increase capital expenditure at home. This will increase incomes, and aid in raising consumption demand. Export-oriented sectors must also aim to ring-fence themselves from tariff, price and supply chain shocks by ensuring a robust domestic presence, while also diversifying outside the traditional export regions of the U.S. and the EU.

to 3.4% (from 4.2%) and 1.1% (from 10.2%) respectively in April.

## Steep Decline

### तेज़ गिरावट

India's factory output, measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, slowed to an eight-month low of 2.7% in April, marking the beginning of fiscal 2026.

भारत का फैक्ट्री उत्पादन, जिसे औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) से मापा जाता है, अप्रैल में घटकर 2.7% रह गया, जो कि वित्तीय वर्ष 2026 की शुरुआत में आठ महीने का न्यूनतम स्तर है।

• This was a sharp decline from 5.2% in April 2025.

यह अप्रैल 2025 के 5.2% की तुलना में एक तेज गिरावट है।

• The eight core sectors, which contribute about 40% to the IIP, posted just 0.5% growth in April, also an eight-month low, down from 6.9% last year.

आठ प्रमुख क्षेत्रों, जो IIP में लगभग 40% योगदान करते हैं, ने अप्रैल में केवल 0.5% की वृद्धि दर्ज की, जो कि आठ महीनों में सबसे कम रही, जबकि पिछले साल यह 6.9% थी।

• For the entire last fiscal year, industrial output growth was 4%, the lowest in the past four years.

पिछले पूरे वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि 4% रही, जो कि पिछले चार वर्षों में सबसे कम थी।

• The mining sector contracted by 0.2%, the first such decline since August 2024.

खनन क्षेत्र में 0.2% की गिरावट दर्ज की गई, जो कि अगस्त 2024 के बाद पहली बार है।

• Despite mining exports increasing from \$25 billion in FY15 to \$42 billion in FY25, its share in total exports declined from 8.1% to 5.1%.

हालांकि FY15 में 25 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर FY25 में 42 अरब डॉलर तक खनिज निर्यात हुआ है, फिर भी इसका कुल निर्यात में हिस्सा 8.1% से घटकर 5.1% हो गया है।

• Manufacturing and power production also slowed down



निर्माण और बिजली उत्पादन भी अप्रैल में क्रमशः 3.4% (पहले 4.2%) और 1.1% (पहले 10.2%) तक गिर गए।

- Uncertainties in **trade and tariffs** likely affected goods output.  
व्यापार और शुल्कों में अनिश्चितताओं ने माल उत्पादन को प्रभावित किया होगा।
- The output of **consumer non-durables** contracted for the **third consecutive month**, indicating **persistent low rural consumption**, as these goods mainly include essentials like food.  
तीसरे लगातार महीने में उपभोक्ता गैर-स्थायी वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में गिरावट आई, जो यह दर्शाता है कि ग्रामीण खपत लगातार कम बनी हुई है, क्योंकि इनमें मुख्य रूप से खाद्य जैसे आवश्यक सामान शामिल होते हैं।
- Retail inflation dropped to a **six-year low** of **3.16%** in April, but this has **not boosted rural spending power**.  
अप्रैल में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति 3.16% पर आ गई जो कि छह साल का न्यूनतम स्तर है, लेकिन इससे ग्रामीण खर्च करने की क्षमता नहीं बढ़ी है।
- **Food prices** declined for the **sixth straight month**, reaching **2.14%**, which caused prices of staples to fall **below MSP** in many mandis.  
खाद्य पदार्थों की कीमतें लगातार छठे महीने गिरीं, और यह 2.14% तक पहुंच गई, जिससे अधिकांश मंडियों में अनाज की कीमतें **MSP से नीचे** चली गई।
- The government needs to **systematically implement MSPs** to help raise **rural incomes** and thus **boost rural consumption**.  
सरकार को **MSP को व्यवस्थित रूप से लागू** करना चाहिए ताकि **ग्रामीण आय बढ़े** और **ग्रामीण खपत** को प्रोत्साहन मिल सके।
- On a positive note, **capital goods output** surged to **20.3%** in April, albeit from a **low base**, indicating **confidence in the domestic economy**.  
एक सकारात्मक संकेत में, अप्रैल में **पूंजीगत वस्तुओं का उत्पादन 20.3%** तक बढ़ गया, हालांकि यह **कम आधार** से है, फिर भी यह **घरेलू अर्थव्यवस्था में विश्वास** को दर्शाता है।
- This reflects **investors' interest in diversifying exports** and relying **less on the U.S.**  
यह **निवेशकों की रुचि** को दर्शाता है कि वे **निर्यात को विविध बनाना** चाहते हैं और **अमेरिका पर कम निर्भर** होना चाहते हैं।
- Given the continued volatility in **trade-related sectors**, the government must encourage the **private sector to increase capital expenditure domestically**.  
व्यापार-सम्बंधित क्षेत्रों में लगातार अस्थिरता को देखते हुए, सरकार को **निजी क्षेत्र को घरेलू पूंजी व्यय बढ़ाने** के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए।
- This will lead to **higher incomes** and **boost consumption demand**.  
इससे **आय में वृद्धि** होगी और **उपभोग मांग** को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।
- **Export-oriented sectors** must protect themselves from **tariff, price, and supply chain shocks** by maintaining a **strong domestic base** and expanding beyond **traditional export markets** like the **U.S. and EU**.  
निर्यात-उन्मुख क्षेत्रों को **शुल्क, मूल्य और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला झटकों** से बचाव के लिए **मजबूत घरेलू आधार**



बनाए रखना चाहिए और अमेरिका और यूरोपीय संघ जैसे परंपरागत बाजारों के बाहर भी विस्तार करना चाहिए।



**A city's shock:** Panic-stricken people gathered around the century-old Modi residence in Gulzar Houz, Hyderabad, which was gutted by a devastating fire in the early hours of May 18, claiming 17 members of the family. RAMAKRISHNA G.

PATRI



# Smoke, sorrow and a system on fire

Two weeks ago, a fierce blaze tore through a century-old Hyderabad home near Charminar, claiming 17 of a family, including eight children. Even as grieving relatives point the finger at a slow, ill-equipped emergency response, the tragedy has also exposed how aging neighbourhoods with cramped homes, blocked exits and faulty wiring can turn a single short circuit into a catastrophe. **Naveen Kumar and Lavpreet Kaur** uncover the gaps in safety and emergency readiness

SS Paper III: Disaster Management

SS Paper I: A&C: Charminar

The stench of smoke still hung heavy over Hyderabad's Gulzar Houz circle, hours after the blaze had died down.

Locals gathered in stunned silence, staring at the blackened ruins of what was once the bustling ancestral home of the Modis near the historic Charminar.

The fire broke out around dawn. Smoke was first spotted rising from a ground-floor shop in the century-old ground plus 2 structure, and within minutes, flames leapt from the windows, engulfing the building. Parked motorcycles at the entrance turned into fuel, blocking the only access point and intensifying the inferno.

This was no ordinary residence. Built in the early 1900s by Manoharlal Poonamchand, founder of Modi Pearls, the home had housed generations of the Modi family – pearl merchants who migrated from Rajasthan. The traditional Nizam-Hyderabad structure, with its central courtyard and narrow staircases, had no external balconies or fire escapes.

Just a day before, on May 17, the family had gathered for a rare reunion at a relative's home in Attapur, about 10 kilometres away. Summer vacation had brought the extended family, scattered around different parts of the country, under one roof – elders exchanging memories, children darting through hallways. No one imagined it would be their last evening together.

By the next morning, 17 members of the family, including eight children, had perished.

At the time of the fire, family heads Prahlad and Rajendra Modi, their wives, children, and grandchildren were in the house. Some survived – one of the five brothers, Bankat Chand Modi, his wife Shakuntala, and his sisters Aasha and Varsha.

In a moment of tragic heroism, Bankat's son, Abhishek, had rushed back in to save the others. He did not make it out alive.

As news spread, family members rushed to Gulzar Houz. Dhruv Modi, barely in his 20s, arrived in shorts and slippers, sprinting from Attapur. From Himayyannagar and other parts of the city, relatives followed, only to find the fire still raging and no fire engine in sight, despite a station just 800 metres away.

Ignoring the danger, Dhruv and a few locals entered the smoke-filled home. "One of my aunts was holding a baby. Neither of them was breathing," he later said.

**Soot, ashes and unanswered questions**  
What Dhruv saw still haunts him. "The claim that the fire team arrived within a minute of receiving a call is absurd. Even when they showed up, they



All 17 of our family members trapped inside died. Four got out on their own. Who did the Fire department save? They came asking us for torches and water. Is that how an emergency team operates?

**GOVIND MODI**  
A family member

didn't have proper gear or working hoses, not even water pressure. They struggled to open basic valves. What is the point of fire trucks if they can't deliver water?"

His father, Govind Modi, voiced the family's anguish. "This wasn't just one department's failure. Fire, electricity, disaster response... everyone failed."

Inside, Dhruv says, he saw confusion and hesitation. "One fireman just stood there, flashing a torch from the doorway. I told them that people were stuck upstairs, but they hesitated because of the smoke. I took a surgical mask and climbed up myself. My grandfather was unconscious. His skin was peeling off as I tried to carry him," he recalls.

With help from locals, Dhruv managed to rescue three people. "One policeman tied a handkerchief over his face and came in with me. Another man, a local maybe, joined us too."

"The failure didn't end there. "Even the ambulances didn't have oxygen," adds Govind. "Stretchers came only after we screamed at them. Until then, we used blankets to carry people down."

Dhruv went inside thrice. "Got one person out. Went back, got another. The third time, the smoke was too much. Only after three people were pulled out did proper equipment show up. That's how bad it was."

Govind dismisses the claim that the building was poorly ventilated, stating there were two large openings and a skylight. "If smoke needed a way out, it had one. But even that didn't help. YouTube videos are full of lies. Wrong names, wrong ages, wrong everything. They say the Fire department acted in time. They didn't. And the system? This is India. We all know how it works."

Among those who rushed in were two locals, Mir Zahed and Mohd. Azmath, who, after finishing morning prayers, had stopped by for chai on their way home. They were strolling around Gulzar Houz when they heard women screaming: "Bhaiya, bachao!"

That was enough. With no fire engines yet on scene, the duo ran into the smoke, smashing through barriers until they found a woman huddled in a room, shielding four or five children with her body. "The flames were already at the door. We broke it down," says Zahed.

From outside, the house seems untouched – its facade masked by rows of pearl and jewellery shops. The only hint of the horror inside is a faint black scar on a shutter. But beyond it lies devastation: charred beams, crumbling walls, ash-covered rooms. Ironically, it was the same shop where Miss World 2025 contestants had bought

pearls just days before.

Now barricaded and under constant police watch, the building sees daily visits from officials of Forensic Science Lab, Fire department, Child Rights Commission, and a State-appointed six-member probe committee. But for the survivors, answers remain as distant as relief that never came.

The six-member panel includes top officials – Fire Services director general Y. Nagi Reddy, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner R.V. Karnan, Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, Southern Power Distribution Company Limited of Telangana chief Musharraf Faruqi, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency commissioner A.V. Ranganath, and Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durishetty.

Just outside the narrow passage to the gutted house, a scorched jewellery cabinet stands behind smudged glass, salvaged from the ashes – its pearls still like a mute witness to the abrupt end of a century-old family business. Since that morning, their shops have remained shuttered, cloaked in silence and grief.

The Modis had built modern, three-storey buildings in Upperally, Attapur. Grey-and-white facades, elevators on each floor for the elderly – everything was ready. Everything but for the shifting part.

"We wanted them to move out of the Gulzar Houz residence, but my father, Prahlad, insisted on staying at the ancestral home. My younger brother Pankaj and his family stayed back to care for my parents, till they were ready to shift," shares Govind.

"But they were finally going to move this year," Dhruv adds quietly.

The dusty verandah turned into a mourning hall. The day after the fire, people streamed in – politicians, neighbours, distant relatives. The heat was stifling, but it was the weight of loss that hung heavier. All the men in the family had tonsured their heads, shaved their beards, save for a small tuft left at the back – a mark of mourning.

Among the mourners was Nawab Mir Najaf Ali Khan, great-grandson of Hyderabad's sixth Nizam, whose family once wore jewels crafted by the Modis generations ago. As he entered, Sunil Modi broke down and clutched him tightly, sobbing in his arms.

"Because the Fire Services personnel did not come on time, our little ones are gone. If only they had acted sooner, maybe some of our children would still be alive," Sunil whispered as his words dissolved into helpless sobs.

**No checks, no licences**  
Chief Investigator at Nagpur-based Forensic Fire and Cyber Investigators, Nilesh Ulunde, who inspected the scene on May 22, attributed the fire to a short circuit in an inverter battery installed in a ground-floor shop. "The battery was continuously receiving power, and multiple short circuits occurred within it. That sparked the initial fire, which then triggered a short circuit in the air conditioner, releasing dense, choking smoke," he explains.

Normally, a Miniature Circuit Breaker (MCB) would trip and cut power in case of a fault. "But here, the battery kept supplying power, allowing

the fire to spread quickly through the building," he notes.

Electrical Inspector with Telangana government, Kantha Rao, who was part of the inspection team, confirms the AC compressor was burnt out and both the inverter and AC unit were suspected ignition points. "The MCB didn't trip, which raises questions. If it had, we would suspect overload, but there is no evidence of that."

Aging insulation often causes short circuits in old homes, he adds. "If multiple ACs are running, like the eight here, and the system isn't rated for it, the MCB may fail to respond. Most residential MCBs aren't built for such sustained heavy loads, especially in buildings with outdated wiring."

The century-old house had no recent record of electrical testing. Rao says while modern interiors often include woodwork, false ceilings and mood lighting, electrical safety is usually overlooked. "Appliances keep getting added, but no one checks system capacity. In old homes with poor ventilation and no fire exits, it is a deadly mix."

On regulatory checks, he clarifies: "We don't oversee homes drawing below 650 volts [above 650 volts is considered high voltage and unsafe for general use]. It is the owner's responsibility. Sadly, no one checks anything unless there is a disaster. Stricter enforcement is essential. Unlicensed, untrained electricians are doing installations unchecked and no one stops them until it is too late."

**Apathy fanned the flames**

The Modi family has called out the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services for issuing what they say is a factually incorrect statement. From the names and ages of the deceased to the claim that 17 people were rescued, they say the department failed to verify basic details.

"There was no rescue. All 17 of our family members trapped inside died. Four got out on their own. Who did the Fire department save? They came asking us for torches and water. Is that how an emergency team should operate," asks Govind.

Sunil, aged around 60, says the fire crew arrived unprepared: "It took them 15 minutes to unroll a hose, and even then, there was barely any water pressure to fight the flames."

In its official statement, the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services said they received the call at 6.16 a.m. The Moghalpura water tender was dispatched a minute later and reached the site by 6.20 a.m. A total of 12 fire tenders were eventually deployed from across the city, including from Gowliguda, CLB, High Court, and the Secretariat.

The fire began on the ground floor and quickly spread. A Bronto Skylift was used to reach upper floors, but the building's design, lacking windows facing the road, forced firefighters to drill through a wall to access the first floor. An official, Venkanna, was injured during the operation and hospitalized.

In all, 11 vehicles and 87 personnel responded. A fire-fighting robot was brought in but not used. Only eight fire tenders used breathing apparatus. Four people were rescued from the terrace via ladders. The blaze was brought under control in about two hours.

Challenges included a narrow staircase, heavy smoke, intense heat, no alternate exit and bikes parked at the entrance that blocked access and fuelled the fire. Officials mention coordination efforts with GHMC, police, Health, Revenue and Water Board teams.

"Despite constraints, we stopped the fire from spreading to nearby buildings," says an official.

## Smoke, sorrow and a system on fire

### धुआं, दुख और एक धधकती व्यवस्था

Two weeks ago, a fierce blaze tore through a century-old home near Charminar in Hyderabad, killing 17 members of a family, including eight children.

दो हफ्ते पहले हैदराबाद के चारमीनार के पास एक सौ साल पुराने घर में भीषण आग लगने से 17

परिजन, जिनमें आठ बच्चे शामिल थे, मारे गए।

- The incident revealed how aging neighbourhoods with cramped homes, blocked exits, and faulty wiring can turn a short circuit into a disaster.



इस घटना ने दिखाया कि जर्जर मोहल्ले, जहां तंग घर, बंद रास्ते और गलत वायरिंग हो, वहां शॉर्ट सर्किट भी तबाही बन सकता है।

## The fire and the house

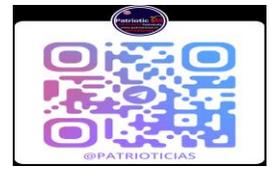
### आग और वह मकान

- The smell of **smoke** lingered over **Gulzar Houz** hours after the fire was put out.  
गुलजार हौज़ पर आग बुझने के कई घंटे बाद भी धुं की बदबू फैली हुई थी।
- The ancestral home of the **Modi family**, pearl merchants from **Rajasthan**, had turned into blackened ruins.  
राजस्थान से आए मोदी परिवार के पुश्तैनी घर की इमारत जलकर काली राख बन चुकी थी।
- The fire started at **dawn** in a **ground-floor shop** of the **G+2 structure** and spread quickly due to **parked motorcycles** blocking the only entrance.  
आग सुबह तड़के ग्राउंड फ्लोर की एक दुकान में लगी और वहां खड़ी मोटरसाइकिलों ने एकमात्र रास्ता बंद कर दिया जिससे आग तेजी से फैली।
- Built in the **early 1900s** by **Manoharlal Poonamchand**, the house had **no balconies** or **fire escapes**.  
1900 के दशक की शुरुआत में मनोहरलाल पूनमचंद द्वारा बनाए गए इस घर में बैलकनी या आग से बचने का रास्ता नहीं था।

## The family and the tragedy

### परिवार और त्रासदी

- A day earlier, on **May 17**, the family had gathered for a **reunion** in **Attapur**, about **10 km away**.  
एक दिन पहले, 17 मई को परिवार अट्टापुर में 10 किमी दूर एक पुनर्मिलन के लिए इकट्ठा हुआ था।
- By the next morning, **17 people**, including **eight children**, had died.  
अगली सुबह तक 17 लोग, जिनमें आठ बच्चे थे, मारे जा चुके थे।
- Family heads **Prahlad and Rajendra Modi**, their wives, children, and grandchildren were inside during the fire.  
आग के समय परिवार के प्रमुख प्रहलाद और राजेंद्र मोदी, उनकी पत्नियाँ, बच्चे और पोते-पोतियाँ घर में थे।
- Only a few survived, including **Bankat Chand Modi**, his wife **Shakuntala**, and sisters **Aasha** and **Varsha**.  
कुछ ही लोग बचे, जिनमें बंकत चंद मोदी, उनकी पत्नी शकुंतला और बहनें आशा और वर्षा शामिल थीं।
- In a heroic act, **Abhishek**, son of Bankat, ran back in to save others but died.  
बंकत का बेटा अभिषेक दूसरों को बचाने के लिए वापस दौड़ा, लेकिन वह नहीं बच पाया।



## Emergency failure and delayed response

### आपात सेवाओं की विफलता और देर से प्रतिक्रिया

- When relatives arrived, the fire was still burning and **no fire engine** was on site, despite a station just **800 metres away**.  
जब रिश्तेदार पहुंचे, आग जल रही थी और **800 मीटर दूर** स्टेशन होने के बावजूद **कोई फायर इंजन** नहीं था।
- **Dhruv Modi**, in his 20s, rushed from Attapur in shorts and slippers, entered the house with some locals.  
**ध्रुव मोदी**, जो अपने **20 के दशक** में हैं, **अट्टापुर** से चप्पल और शॉर्ट्स में दौड़कर आए और कुछ स्थानीय लोगों के साथ घर में घुसे।
- He saw one aunt **holding a baby**; neither was breathing.  
उन्होंने देखा कि उनकी एक चाची **एक बच्चे को पकड़े** थीं, दोनों की **सांसें बंद** थीं।
- **Govind Modi** called it a **systemic failure** involving **fire, electricity, and disaster response** departments.  
**गोविंद मोदी** ने इसे **फायर, बिजली और आपदा विभागों की संपूर्ण विफलता** बताया।
- Dhruv claimed the fire team came late, had **no proper gear, malfunctioning hoses, and no water pressure**.  
**ध्रुव** ने कहा कि टीम देर से आई, उनके पास **उपयुक्त उपकरण, काम कर रही पाइप, और पानी का दबाव** नहीं था।
- One fireman just **flashed a torch** and hesitated to go inside.  
एक दमकलकर्मी बस **टॉर्च जलाकर खड़ा** था और अंदर जाने में **हिचकिचा** रहा था।
- Dhruv went in with a **surgical mask**, found his **unconscious grandfather**, and his **skin was peeling**.  
**ध्रुव** ने **सर्जिकल मास्क** पहनकर प्रवेश किया, **बेशुद्ध दादा** को पाया, जिनकी **त्वचा छिल** रही थी।
- Dhruv rescued **three people** with help from a **policeman** and a **local man**.  
**ध्रुव** ने एक **पुलिसवाले** और एक **स्थानीय व्यक्ति** की मदद से **तीन लोगों को बचाया**।
- Ambulances arrived **without oxygen**; **stretchers** came only after shouting.  
**ऑक्सीजन के बिना एम्बुलेंस** आई; **स्ट्रेचर** तब ही आए जब **चिल्लाना पड़ा**।
- Equipment arrived only **after three people** were rescued.  
**तीन लोगों के बचने के बाद ही उपकरण** लाए गए।

## Structural flaws and misinformation

### संरचनात्मक खामियां और गलत जानकारी

- Govind denied poor ventilation claims, citing **two large openings** and a **skylight**.  
**गोविंद** ने **खराब वेंटिलेशन** की बात को नकारा और कहा कि वहां **दो बड़े खुलने वाले रास्ते** और एक **स्काईलाइट** था।



- He called **YouTube videos** misleading with **wrong names, ages**, and praised **none** of the emergency services.

उन्होंने कहा कि यूट्यूब वीडियो में गलत नाम, उम्र दिए गए और किसी आपात सेवा की प्रशंसा नहीं की जा सकती।

## Acts of bravery

### बहादुरी के कार्य

- Two locals, **Mir Zahed** and **Mohd. Azmath**, heard screams and ran inside before fire engines arrived.  
दो स्थानीय लोग, **मीर जाहेद** और **मोहम्मद अजमथ**, ने चीखें सुनीं और फायर इंजन आने से पहले घर में घुसे।
- They broke a door to save a **woman shielding four or five children** from the flames.  
उन्होंने एक महिला को बचाया, जो चार या पाँच बच्चों को आग से ढककर छिपा रही थीं।

## Aftermath and destruction

### परिणाम और तबाही

- From outside, the house appears untouched due to **pearl and jewellery shops** masking the facade.  
बाहर से देखने पर घर **मोती और गहनों की दुकानों** से ढका हुआ लगता है और असली तबाही नजर नहीं आती।
- Inside, it is filled with **charred beams, crumbling walls**, and **ash-covered rooms**.  
अंदर **जली हुई लकड़ियाँ, गिरती दीवारें, और राख से भरे कमरे** हैं।
- Ironically, the shop was the same where **Miss World 2025 contestants** bought pearls days earlier.  
विडंबना है कि यही वह दुकान थी जहां **मिस वर्ल्ड 2025 की प्रतिभागियों** ने कुछ दिन पहले **मोती खरीदे** थे।

## Aftermath of the Fire Tragedy and Investigation

### आग की त्रासदी के बाद की स्थिति और जांच

- The building is now **barricaded** and under **constant police watch**, with **daily visits** from officials of the **Forensic Science Lab, Fire Department, Child Rights Commission**, and a **State-appointed six-member probe committee**.  
इमारत अब **बैरिकेडेड** है और लगातार पुलिस निगरानी में है, जहां **फॉरेंसिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, फायर डिपार्टमेंट, बाल अधिकार आयोग, और राज्य द्वारा नियुक्त छह सदस्यीय जांच समिति** के अधिकारी हर दिन दौरा करते हैं।



- Despite investigations, **survivors** still await **answers** and **relief**.  
जांचों के बावजूद, पीड़ितों को अब भी **जवाब** और **राहत** का इंतजार है।

## Six-Member Probe Committee

### छह सदस्यीय जांच समिति

- The committee includes **Fire Services DG Y. Nagi Reddy, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, Telangana SPDCL Chief Musharraf Faruqui, Hyderabad Disaster Response Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, and Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durishetty.**

समिति में फायर सर्विसेज के डीजी वाई. नागी रेड्डी, जीएचएमसी कमिश्नर आर.वी. कर्णन, हैदराबाद पुलिस कमिश्नर सी.वी. आनंद, तेलंगाना एसपीडीसीएल प्रमुख मुशर्रफ फारूकी, आपदा प्रतिक्रिया आयुक्त ए.वी. रंगनाथ, और कलेक्टर अनुदीप दुरीशेट्टी शामिल हैं।

## Symbol of Loss

### हानि का प्रतीक

- A **scorched jewellery cabinet** behind **smudged glass** remains as a **mute witness** to the **century-old family business** that ended abruptly.  
धुंधले कांच के पीछे एक जली हुई आभूषण अलमारी अब सदी पुराने पारिवारिक व्यवसाय के अचानक अंत की गवाह बन गई है।
- Their **shops have stayed closed** since the fire, enveloped in **grief and silence**.  
आग लगने के बाद से उनकी दुकानें बंद हैं, शोक और चुप्पी में डूबी हुई।

## Unmoved Shifting Plan

### स्थानांतरण योजना अधूरी रह गई

- The Modis had constructed **modern three-storey buildings** in **Upperpally, Attapur**, with **elevators** and **grey-white façades**, but shifting was still pending.  
मोदी परिवार ने अपरपल्ली, अत्तापुर में तीन मंज़िला आधुनिक इमारतें बनाई थीं, जिनमें लिफ्ट और ग्रे-सफेद बाहरी हिस्से थे, लेकिन स्थानांतरण अभी नहीं हुआ था।
- Prahlaad Modi insisted on staying in their **ancestral home**. His son **Pankaj and family** stayed back to take care of them.  
प्रहलाद मोदी अपने पैतृक घर में रहने पर अड़े रहे। उनके बेटे पंकज और परिवार उनके साथ रहकर देखभाल करते थे।
- "They were finally going to move this year," said **Dhruv**.  
"वे इस साल आखिरकार स्थानांतरित होने वाले थे," ध्रुव ने कहा।



## Mourning and Legacy

### शोक और विरासत

- The **verandah** became a **mourning hall**; many **politicians, neighbours, and relatives** visited despite the **oppressive heat**.  
बरामदा एक शोक सभा बन गया; भारी गर्मी के बावजूद कई राजनीतिज्ञ, पड़ोसी, और रिश्तेदार वहां आए।
- All men had **tonsured heads, shaved beards** except for a **mourning tuft** at the back.  
सभी पुरुषों ने सिर मुंडवा लिया, दाढ़ी हटा दी, केवल पीछे एक शोक चोटी छोड़ी गई।
- Nawab Mir Najaf Ali Khan**, great-grandson of **Hyderabad's sixth Nizam**, attended and was embraced by **Sunil Modi**, who broke down crying.  
हैदराबाद के छठे निज़ाम के परपोते नवाब मीर नजफ़ अली खान आए, और सुनील मोदी ने रोते हुए उन्हें गले से लगा लिया।

## Cause of Fire: Technical Findings

### आग का कारण: तकनीकी निष्कर्ष

- Nilesh Ukunde**, Chief Investigator from **Nagpur**, said the fire was caused by a **short circuit** in an **inverter battery** which overheated and led to a **choking smoke** via the **air conditioner**.  
नागपुर के प्रमुख जांचकर्ता नीलेश उकुंडे ने बताया कि आग इन्वर्टर बैटरी में शॉर्ट सर्किट से लगी, जिससे एयर कंडीशनर में भी शॉर्ट सर्किट हुआ और घना धुआं निकला।
- A **Miniature Circuit Breaker (MCB)** failed to trip, letting the **fire spread rapidly**.  
एमसीबी (Miniature Circuit Breaker) ट्रिप नहीं हुई, जिससे आग तेजी से फैल गई।
- Kantha Rao**, **Telangana Electrical Inspector**, confirmed the **AC compressor** was **burnt**, and **wiring system** was outdated.  
कंठा राव, तेलंगाना के विद्युत निरीक्षक ने पुष्टि की कि एसी का कंप्रेसर जल गया था और वायरिंग सिस्टम पुराना था।
- No recent electrical testing** had been done in the **century-old house**.  
सदी पुराने घर में हाल की कोई विद्युत जांच नहीं की गई थी।
- Old insulation, overuse of ACs, and unrated wiring systems** likely contributed to the failure.  
पुरानी इन्सुलेशन, एसी का अधिक प्रयोग, और अप्रमाणित वायरिंग सिस्टम के कारण ये विफलता हुई।
- Rao emphasized that **residential safety** is often **ignored**, especially in homes with **false ceilings, woodwork, and no ventilation**.  
राव ने कहा कि रिहायशी सुरक्षा अक्सर नज़रअंदाज़ की जाती है, खासकर झूठी छतों, लकड़ी के काम, और कम वेंटिलेशन वाले घरों में।
- Regulatory checks are **not mandated** for systems **below 650 volts**; hence, the **owners** are responsible.



650 वोल्ट से कम सिस्टम के लिए नियमित जांच अनिवार्य नहीं है; इसलिए मालिकों की जिम्मेदारी होती है।

## Negligence and Misreporting

### लापरवाही और गलत रिपोर्टिंग

- The Modi family **accused** Telangana Fire Services of making a **factually incorrect statement**, including **wrong names, ages**, and a **false claim** of rescuing **17 people**. मोदी परिवार ने तेलंगाना फायर सर्विसेज पर तथ्यात्मक रूप से गलत बयान देने का आरोप लगाया, जिसमें गलत नाम, उम्र, और 17 लोगों को बचाने का झूठा दावा शामिल है।
- “There was **no rescue**. All **17 family members** died. **Four escaped on their own**,” said Govind.  
“कोई बचाव नहीं हुआ। हमारे सभी 17 परिवारजन मारे गए। चार लोग खुद निकले,” गोविंद ने कहा।
- **Sunil Modi** said the crew took **15 minutes** to unroll a **hose**, and **water pressure** was too low.  
सुनील मोदी ने बताया कि टीम को पाइप खोलने में 15 मिनट लगे, और पानी का दबाव बहुत कम था।

## Fire Department's Response

### फायर डिपार्टमेंट की प्रतिक्रिया

- The **Fire Services** claimed they received the call at **6:16 a.m.**, dispatched a **Moghalpura tender at 6:17 a.m.**, and reached the site by **6:20 a.m.**  
फायर सर्विसेज का कहना है कि उन्हें सुबह 6:16 बजे कॉल मिली, 6:17 बजे मोगलपुरा टेंडर रवाना हुआ और 6:20 बजे मौके पर पहुंच गया।
- Eventually, **12 fire tenders** from across the city were deployed.  
बाद में शहर भर से 12 फायर टेंडर तैनात किए गए।
- A **Bronto Skylift** was used as the building had **no windows facing the road**, and firemen had to **drill through a wall**.  
एक ब्रॉन्टो स्काईलिफ्ट का उपयोग किया गया क्योंकि इमारत में सड़क की ओर खिड़कियां नहीं थीं, और दमकलकर्मियों को दीवार तोड़नी पड़ी।
- **One official, Venkanna**, was **injured** during the operation.  
एक अधिकारी वेंकन्ना इस अभियान में घायल हुए।
- In total, **11 vehicles** and **87 personnel** responded; a **robot** was brought in but **not used**.  
कुल 11 वाहन और 87 कर्मचारी मौजूद थे; एक रोबोट लाया गया लेकिन प्रयोग नहीं हुआ।



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- Only **8 firefighters** had **breathing apparatus**, and **4 people** were rescued from the **terrace**.  
केवल 8 दमकलकर्मी के पास सांस लेने के उपकरण थे और 4 लोगों को छत से बचाया गया।
- The fire was **controlled in about two hours**, but access was hindered by a **narrow staircase**, **heavy smoke**, **intense heat**, **no alternate exit**, and **bikes at the entrance**.  
आग को लगभग दो घंटे में काबू किया गया, लेकिन संकरी सीढ़ी, घना धुआं, तेज़ गर्मी, कोई वैकल्पिक निकास नहीं, और प्रवेश द्वार पर बाइक की वजह से रुकावटें आईं।
- Officials coordinated with **GHMC**, **police**, **Health**, **Revenue**, and **Water Board teams** to prevent the fire from spreading further.  
अधिकारियों ने जीएचएमसी, पुलिस, स्वास्थ्य, राजस्व, और जल बोर्ड टीमों के साथ मिलकर आग को और फैलने से रोका।

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# Government meets **fiscal deficit** target of **4.8%** for **FY25**

Fiscal deficit, or difference between total expenditure and total revenue, at ₹15.77 lakh crore, stood at 4.8% based on latest provisional estimates of GDP for FY25; income tax collections fall short

GS Paper III: Government Accounting

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Government of India has met its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of GDP in 2024-25 though total receipts came in slightly lower than expected, as per data released by the **Controller General of Accounts**.

The Centre's total revenue – counting tax, non-tax and capital receipts – came in at ₹30.78 lakh crore in 2024-25 or 97.8% of its revised estimates for the year. Total expenditure stood at ₹46.55 lakh crore, also 97.8% of the estimates.

The fiscal deficit, the difference between total ex-

## Fiscal math

Total revenue fell short of the revised estimates due in large part to shortfall in miscellaneous capital receipts



- Centre earned just 52.1% of revised projections via miscellaneous capital receipts
- Divestment receipts stood at ₹10,131.32 crore in 2024-25
- Income tax collections at ₹11.83 lakh crore were almost 6% lower than estimates

penditure and total revenue, at ₹15.77 lakh crore, stood at 4.8% of GDP based on the latest provisional estimates for the year.

As part of the Centre's fiscal consolidation glide path, Finance Minister Nir-

mala Sitharaman had, in Budget speech in February, targeted fiscal deficit of 4.4% of GDP for FY26.

Closer examination of the data show total revenue fell short of the revised estimates due in large part

to a shortfall in miscellaneous capital receipts, that includes disinvestment proceeds. There was also a minor shortfall in tax revenue. The Centre earned ₹17,202 crore as miscellaneous capital receipts or just 52.1% of revised estimates for FY25. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management data show the government earned ₹10,131.32 crore via disinvestments in 2024-25.

Corporate tax collection at ₹9.87 lakh crore in FY25 was 0.7% higher than revised estimates. Income tax collections, on the other hand, at ₹11.83 lakh crore were almost 6% lower than revised estimate.

## Government meets fiscal deficit target of 4.8% for FY25

**सरकार ने FY25 के लिए 4.8% का राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य प्राप्त किया**

The Government of India has achieved its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of GDP for 2024-25, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts.

भारत सरकार ने 2024-25 के लिए जीडीपी का 4.8% का राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिया है, जैसा कि नियंत्रक महालेखाकार द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों में बताया गया है।

- The **fiscal deficit**, which is the **difference between total expenditure and total revenue**, stood at **₹15.77 lakh crore** in FY25.  
राजकोषीय घाटा, जो कि कुल व्यय और कुल राजस्व के बीच का अंतर होता है, FY25 में ₹15.77 लाख करोड़ रहा।



- The Centre's **total revenue** (including tax, non-tax, and capital receipts) was **₹30.78 lakh crore**, or **97.8%** of the revised estimate.  
केंद्र सरकार की कुल आय (कर, गैर-कर और पूंजी प्राप्तियां मिलाकर) **₹30.78 लाख करोड़** रही, जो संशोधित अनुमान का **97.8%** है।
- The **total expenditure** for FY25 was **₹46.55 lakh crore**, also **97.8%** of the revised estimate.  
FY25 के लिए कुल व्यय **₹46.55 लाख करोड़** रहा, जो संशोधित अनुमान का भी **97.8%** है।

## Fiscal Deficit Target for FY26

### FY26 के लिए राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य

- As part of the fiscal consolidation plan, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had set a target of **4.4% of GDP** for FY26 during her **February budget speech**.  
वित्तीय स्थिरीकरण योजना के तहत, वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने **फरवरी के बजट भाषण** में FY26 के लिए **जीडीपी का 4.4%** का लक्ष्य रखा था।

## Reasons for Revenue Shortfall

### राजस्व की कमी के कारण

- The total revenue fell slightly short of the revised estimates due to a **shortfall in miscellaneous capital receipts**, especially from **disinvestment**.  
कुल राजस्व में थोड़ी कमी आई, जिसका मुख्य कारण **विविध पूंजी प्राप्तियों** में कमी, विशेष रूप से **निवेश विनिवेश** से था।
- The Centre earned only **₹17,202 crore** as miscellaneous capital receipts, which is **52.1%** of the revised estimates.  
केंद्र सरकार ने **₹17,202 करोड़** ही **विविध पूंजी प्राप्तियों** से अर्जित किए, जो कि संशोधित अनुमानों का **52.1%** है।
- Data from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management show that the government earned **₹10,131.32 crore** from **disinvestments** in **2024-25**.  
**निवेश और सार्वजनिक संपत्ति प्रबंधन विभाग** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, सरकार ने **2024-25** में **निवेश विनिवेश** से **₹10,131.32 करोड़** की कमाई की।

## Performance of Tax Revenue

### कर राजस्व का प्रदर्शन

- **Corporate tax collection** stood at **₹9.87 lakh crore**, which was **0.7% higher** than the revised estimates.  
**कॉर्पोरेट टैक्स संग्रह** **₹9.87 लाख करोड़** रहा, जो संशोधित अनुमानों से **0.7% अधिक** था।



- **Income tax collections**, however, were ₹11.83 lakh crore, which is almost 6% lower than the revised estimate.

हालांकि, आयकर संग्रह ₹11.83 लाख करोड़ रहा, जो संशोधित अनुमान से लगभग 6% कम है।

## Scent of roses



GS Paper III: Agriculture: Prelims

**Rosy future:** Men carry plastic bags filled with rose petals to a scales early in the morning in the Rose Valley, near the village of Cherganovo. Bulgaria is widely accepted as the largest producer and exporter of rose oil in the world. As per its Ministry of Agriculture, the so-called "liquid gold" had an average price for 2023 of €9168 a kg. To produce 1 kg of rose oil, 3-4 tonne of rose flowers are needed. AFP



## WASHINGTON

# China has 'totally violated' Geneva deal with U.S. on tariffs: Trump



REUTERS

GS Paper III: External Sector

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said China had violated a deal with the U.S. to mutually roll back tariffs and trade restrictions for critical minerals and issued a new veiled threat to get tougher with Beijing. A U.S. official said it appears China was moving slow on promises to issue export licences for rare earth minerals. REUTERS

China has 'totally violated' Geneva deal with U.S. on tariffs: Trump  
चीन ने अमेरिका के साथ टैरिफ पर जिनेवा समझौते का पूरी तरह उल्लंघन किया: ट्रंप

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump stated that China has totally violated a deal with the U.S. to mutually roll back tariffs and trade restrictions on critical minerals.

शुक्रवार को अमेरिकी

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा कि चीन ने महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों पर टैरिफ और व्यापार प्रतिबंधों को आपसी सहमति से हटाने के अमेरिका के साथ हुए समझौते का पूरी तरह उल्लंघन किया है।

- He also issued a new veiled threat to adopt a tougher stance against Beijing. उन्होंने बीजिंग के खिलाफ और सख्त रुख अपनाने की नई परोक्ष चेतावनी भी दी।
- A U.S. official noted that China appears to be moving slowly on its promises to issue export licences for rare earth minerals. एक अमेरिकी अधिकारी ने बताया कि चीन दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनिजों के निर्यात लाइसेंस जारी करने के वादों पर धीरे-धीरे काम कर रहा है।



## *Ocean rescue*



GS Paper III: Environment

Staff from Local Ocean Conservation and fishermen lifting a mature **Loggerhead sea turtle** into a car after it was caught in fishing gear in open water. It is being taken for observation before being released back into the ocean. AFP

## **TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)**

- Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Sham released from prison**

हांगकांग के लोकतंत्र समर्थक कार्यकर्ता जिम्मी शैम जेल से रिहा हुए



## HONG KONG

### Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Sham released from prison



PCS

AP

Hong Kong's pro-democracy and LGBTQ+ activist Jimmy Sham was freed on Friday after over four years in prison for his role in the city's largest national security case. Mr. Sham, known for leading 2019 protests, continued LGBTQ+ advocacy while jailed, winning a landmark court ruling. AP

- Mr. Sham, who led the **2019 protests**, continued his **LGBTQ+ advocacy** while in prison. **2019 के विरोध प्रदर्शनों** का नेतृत्व करने वाले शैम ने जेल में रहते हुए भी **LGBTQ+ के पक्ष में अपनी सक्रियता** जारी रखी।
- During his time in prison, he also **won a landmark court ruling** supporting LGBTQ+ rights. जेल में रहने के दौरान उन्होंने **LGBTQ+ अधिकारों** के समर्थन में एक ऐतिहासिक अदालती फैसला भी जीता।

### Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Sham released from prison

हांगकांग के लोकतंत्र समर्थक कार्यकर्ता जिम्मी शैम जेल से रिहा हुए

**Jimmy Sham**, a pro-democracy and LGBTQ+ activist in Hong Kong, was released on Friday after spending over four years in prison.

हांगकांग के लोकतंत्र समर्थक और LGBTQ+ कार्यकर्ता जिम्मी शैम को शुक्रवार को चार साल से अधिक जेल में रहने के बाद रिहा किया गया।

- He was imprisoned for his role in the city's **largest national security case**. उन्हें शहर के **सबसे बड़े राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा मामले** में उनकी भूमिका के लिए जेल भेजा गया था।



## *New horizons*



**Crossing a milestone:** Cadets from the National Defence Academy take part in the passing out parade marking the culmination of the 148th training course at Khetrapal Parade Ground in Pune. The first batch of 17 women cadets were part of the cohort. EMMANUAL YOGINI

PATRIOTIC



## Beached box



**Salvage effort:** A container from *MSC Elsa 3* that sank off Kochi being retrieved by a team of experts at Vaniyakudi near Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PATRIOTIC