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## **THE HINDU NEWSPAPER**

### **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **26 JUNE 2025**

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27\_06\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Ensure issue of birth certificate before discharge of newborns, RGI tells States

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नवजात शिशुओं को छुट्टी देने से पहले जन्म प्रमाण पत्र जारी करना सुनिश्चित करें: आरजीआई ने राज्यों से कहा

## 2. What sparked the Keeladi controversy? कीलाडी विवाद कैसे शुरू हुआ?

# Ensure issue of birth certificate before discharge of newborns, RGI tells States

GS Paper I: Society

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Registrar-General of India (RGI) has asked all States to ensure that birth certificates are issued to mothers of newborn children before they are discharged from hospitals, particularly government run-hospitals, which account for more than 50% of institutional births in the country.

The RGI office said the registrar should give the birth certificate as soon as the registration of birth is completed "but not later than seven days" in an electronic or other format.

"You will appreciate that this office, in its endeav-

our of making the registration process smooth and user-friendly, has taken several steps to improve the Civil Registration System, including amendment to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, corresponding amendment to State Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, development of a new Central CRS portal, etc. In view of the increased importance of the birth certificate, it is the need of the hour that the certificate is delivered to the mother of the newborn child before her discharge from the hospital, especially by the government hospitals where more than 50% of total in-

**Registrar-General of India issues letter to States as document's utility has increased in recent past**

stitutional births occur," the June 12 letter by the RGI office said.

It said government hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres across the country are working as registration units and the registrars of such units should be sensitised to the importance of immediate issue of birth certificate as its utility has been recently increased manifold.

From October 1, 2023,

the digital birth certificate is the single document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, marriage registration among others. A birth certificate is issued by the Registrar in accordance with Section 12 of the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969. The RBD Act, 1969 which was amended in 2023, mandates registration of all births and deaths on the Centre's portal from October 1, 2023. Earlier, States maintained their own database and shared statistics with the RGI office under the Union Home Ministry.

## Ensure issue of birth certificate before discharge of newborns, RGI tells States

नवजात शिशुओं को छुट्टी देने से पहले जन्म प्रमाण पत्र जारी करना सुनिश्चित करें: आरजीआई ने राज्यों से कहा

Issuance of Birth Certificates to Mothers Before Hospital Discharge  
अस्पताल से छुट्टी से पहले माताओं को जन्म प्रमाणपत्र जारी करना



- The **Registrar-General of India (RGI)** has asked all **States** to ensure that **birth certificates** are issued to mothers of newborn children before they are discharged from hospitals, particularly **government-run hospitals**, which account for more than **50% of institutional births in the country**.  
भारत के **पंजीयक जनरल (RGI)** ने सभी **राज्यों** से यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहा है कि **नवजात शिशुओं की माताओं को जन्म प्रमाणपत्र** अस्पताल से छुट्टी से पहले जारी किया जाए, विशेषकर **सरकारी अस्पतालों** में, जो देश में संस्थागत जन्मों का **50% से अधिक** हिस्सा रखते हैं।
- The **RGI office** said the **registrar** should give the birth certificate as soon as the registration of birth is completed “but not later than **seven days**” in an electronic or other format.  
**RGI कार्यालय** ने कहा कि **जन्म प्रमाण पत्र** जन्म का पंजीकरण पूरा होते ही, परंतु **सात दिनों से अधिक नहीं, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक या अन्य किसी प्रारूप** में दिया जाना चाहिए।
- “You will appreciate that this office, in its endeavour of making the registration process **smooth** and **user-friendly**, has taken several steps to improve the **Civil Registration System**, including **amendment to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**, corresponding amendment to **State Registration of Births and Deaths Rules**, development of a new **Central CRS portal**, etc.  
"आप समझेंगे कि यह कार्यालय पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया को **सरल** और **उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल** बनाने के अपने प्रयास में **नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली** को सुधारने के लिए कई कदम उठा चुका है, जिनमें **1969 के जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण अधिनियम** में संशोधन, **राज्य जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण नियमों** में संबंधित संशोधन, एक नया **केंद्रीय CRS पोर्टल** का विकास आदि शामिल हैं।"
- In view of the **increased importance** of the birth certificate, it is the need of the hour that the certificate is delivered to the mother of the newborn child **before her discharge** from the hospital, especially by the **government hospitals** where more than **50%** of total institutional births occur,” the **June 12 letter** by the RGI office said.  
**जन्म प्रमाणपत्र** के बढ़े हुए महत्व को देखते हुए, यह समय की मांग है कि यह प्रमाणपत्र **माताओं को अस्पताल से छुट्टी से पहले** दे दिया जाए, खासकर उन **सरकारी अस्पतालों** में जहाँ कुल संस्थागत जन्मों का **50% से अधिक** होता है," यह बात **12 जून के पत्र** में RGI कार्यालय द्वारा कही गई।
- It said **government hospitals, community health centres** and **primary health centres** across the country are working as **registration units** and the registrars of such units should be **sensitised** to the importance of **immediate issue** of birth certificate as its utility has been recently **increased manifold**.  
इसमें कहा गया कि देश भर के **सरकारी अस्पताल, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र** और **प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र पंजीकरण इकाइयों** के रूप में कार्य कर रहे हैं और इन इकाइयों के **पंजीयकों** को तत्काल **जन्म प्रमाणपत्र जारी करने** के महत्व को लेकर **संवेदनशील** बनाया जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि इसकी उपयोगिता हाल ही में **कई गुना बढ़ गई है**।



- From **October 1, 2023**, the **digital birth certificate** is the **single document** to **prove the date of birth** for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, marriage registration, among others.  
1 अक्टूबर 2023 से, डिजिटल जन्म प्रमाणपत्र विभिन्न सेवाओं जैसे कि शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में प्रवेश, सरकारी नौकरियाँ, विवाह पंजीकरण आदि के लिए जन्म तिथि प्रमाणित करने वाला एकमात्र दस्तावेज़ है।
- A **birth certificate** is issued by the **Registrar** in accordance with **Section 12** of the **Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969**.  
जन्म प्रमाणपत्र पंजीयक द्वारा जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1969 की धारा 12 के अनुसार जारी किया जाता है।
- The **RBD Act, 1969**, which was **amended in 2023**, mandates registration of all **births and deaths** on the **Centre's portal** from **October 1, 2023**.  
1969 का RBD अधिनियम, जिसे 2023 में संशोधित किया गया, के अनुसार 1 अक्टूबर 2023 से सभी जन्म और मृत्यु का पंजीकरण केंद्र के पोर्टल पर अनिवार्य है।
- **Earlier, States** maintained their own database and shared statistics with the **RGI office** under the **Union Home Ministry**.



**Swelling dam:** The water level at the Idukki reservoir rose to 2,356.06 ft on Thursday. The catchment areas of the reservoir recorded 120.4 mm of rainfall in 24 hours as Idukki witnessed heavy rain on the day. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY



पहले, राज्य अपने-अपने डेटाबेस को बनाए रखते थे और आंकड़ों को गृह मंत्रालय के तहत RGI कार्यालय के साथ साझा करते थे।

# What sparked the Keeladi controversy?

What was the dispute between the archaeologist and the ASI? Why did the ASI ask for a rewrite of the Keeladi report? Why did political parties react strongly to the decision? How did the public and historians respond to the findings?

IGS Paper I: A&C

## EXPLAINER

D. Suresh Kumar

### The story so far:

In June 17, archaeologist K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, whose excavation at Keeladi in Tamil Nadu drew the nation's attention, was transferred yet again, this time from New Delhi to Greater Noida. Mr. Ramakrishna, who was serving as the Director (Antiquity) and as Director of the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA), will now be the Director of the NMMA only. The NMMA unit, set up in 2007, according to sources, remains almost defunct. Over two years after Mr. Ramakrishna submitted his 982-page report on the first two phases of excavations carried out at Keeladi between 2014 and 2016, a fresh controversy erupted last month. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) mandated that he revise his report, but he refused to do it. This disagreement sparked a political clash between the Centre and Tamil Nadu.

### How did Keeladi excavation begin?

Keeladi has become a symbol of pride for many in Tamil Nadu. Over a decade ago, Amarnath Ramakrishna, then the ASI's Superintending Archaeologist, had initiated excavations at a site known as the Pallichanthai Tidal in Keeladi, originally a coconut grove spanning 100 acres. He had identified over 100 sites for excavation along the Vaigai River, but Keeladi stood out.

It was in Keeladi that they unearthed over 7,500 ancient artifacts, including wall structures, drainage systems, and wells – all evidence of a sophisticated urban society that thrived. What was even more compelling was the carbon dating, which revealed that these elements are over 2,160 years old, dating back to the 2nd century BCE, which is the time of the Sangam period in Tamil history.



K. Amarnath Ramakrishna at the Keeladi excavation site. FILE PHOTO

### What made the findings significant?

Archaeologists were stunned by a few findings. Most importantly, there was no evidence of religious symbols at the excavation site, which hinted at the secular nature of the civilisation.

So, naturally, the excitement around Keeladi's discoveries was palpable. Tamil historians and enthusiasts saw it as proof of an advanced ancient Tamil civilisation, but soon after, things took a sharp turn.

### What did political critics accuse the Centre of doing?

It all began in 2017, when the ASI transferred Mr. Ramakrishna to Assam just as the excavations were ramping up after the first two phases. Back then, political critics accused the Centre of deliberately derailing the excavations. It is because the Centre that had promised funding and support for further digs delayed both after the second phase.

The local political climate grew tense with some alleging that the Centre was trying to suppress Tamil heritage. By 2017, the excavations had entered its third phase, this time, under archaeologist P.S. Sriraman. After excavating just around 400 square meters, he reported a lack of continuity in the brick structures

previously discovered.

### Did State's findings resolve the issue?

The Madras High Court stepped in, with judges visiting the excavation site. The court then directed the ASI to continue the excavations and allowed the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology to get involved. The department, in 2019, published a report asserting that Keeladi was an urban settlement dating back to the Sangam era between the 6th century BCE and the 1st century CE.

Since the third phase, the State Archaeology Department has continued the project, but these findings have not helped resolve the issue; instead, the drama has escalated. In January 2023, Mr. Ramakrishna, who was transferred back to Tamil Nadu, submitted his report on the first two phases of excavation.

### What did the ASI ask Ramakrishna to do with the report?

For about two-and-a-half years, this report remained with the ASI, and just last month, the ASI sent Mr. Ramakrishna a letter to revise the report. The ASI questioned the dating and depth of certain findings, suggesting the evidence for the earliest period, as it "appeared to

be very early," and said it needed further analysis. Mr. Ramakrishna, however, stood firm and refused to rewrite his conclusions, defending his work as scientifically sound, based on rigorous archaeological standards. He argued that the report's chronology was backed by stratigraphic sequences, material culture and even Accelerator Mass Spectrometry.

### Why did the ASI's decision spark political outrage?

Against this backdrop, many political parties in Tamil Nadu have slammed the ASI's decision. They have termed it a blatant attempt to suppress Tamil heritage. They argued that the Centre's refusal to acknowledge Keeladi's significance was not just about science but also about politics. Amid the backlash, the Union Minister for Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, said Mr. Ramakrishna's findings were not technically well-supported and further scientific studies were required to validate the findings. He sought more results, data, and evidence because he said a single finding cannot change the entire discourse.

### Why did AIADMK stay silent initially?

Interestingly, the AIADMK, which was in power when the Keeladi report was published, remained silent for a long time on the current controversy. However, on June 18, senior leader R.B. Udhayakumar contended that the Centre had sought more information by way of ensuring "additional corroboration." He also said, "if the Keeladi report is rejected, the AIADMK will be the first party to express its voice of protest."

### The controversy is not just about one report or one excavation; it is a clash of narratives.

The Centre insists on scientific validation while Tamil Nadu views it as a matter of historical recognition. The State government is pressing on with its excavations, which are under way, and it has already set up a new museum at Keeladi, drawing thousands of visitors.

## THE GIST

Archaeologist Amarnath Ramakrishna's transfer from New Delhi to Greater Noida and the ASI's demand to revise his 982-page Keeladi excavation report sparked renewed controversy.

The ASI questioned the dating and depth of the findings, but Ramakrishna defended his conclusions as scientifically sound, citing stratigraphy and Accelerator Mass Spectrometry.

The move drew political outrage in Tamil Nadu, with parties accusing the Centre of suppressing Tamil heritage, turning Keeladi into a flashpoint between science, politics, and identity.

**What sparked the Keeladi controversy?  
कीलाडी विवाद कैसे शुरू हुआ?**



What was the dispute between the archaeologist and the ASI? Why did the ASI ask for a rewrite of the Keeladi report? Why did political parties react strongly to the decision? How did the public and historians respond to the findings?

पुरातत्वविद् और एसआई के बीच विवाद क्या था? एसआई ने कीलाड़ी रिपोर्ट को फिर से लिखने की मांग क्यों की? राजनीतिक दलों ने इस निर्णय पर कड़ी प्रतिक्रिया क्यों व्यक्त की? जनता और इतिहासकारों ने निष्कर्षों पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त की?

### Keeladi Excavation Controversy

#### कीलाड़ी खुदाई विवाद

- On **June 17**, archaeologist **K. Amarnath Ramakrishna**, whose excavation at **Keeladi in Tamil Nadu** drew the nation's attention, was transferred yet again, this time from **New Delhi to Greater Noida**.  
17 जून को पुरातत्वविद् के. अमरनाथ रामकृष्ण, जिनकी तमिलनाडु के कीलाड़ी में खुदाई ने राष्ट्र का ध्यान खींचा था, को एक बार फिर नई दिल्ली से ग्रेटर नोएडा स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया।
- Mr. Ramakrishna, who was serving as the **Director (Antiquity) and as Director of the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA)**, will now be the **Director of the NMMA only**.  
श्री रामकृष्ण जो डायरेक्टर (पुरावशेष) और राष्ट्रीय स्मारक और पुरावशेष मिशन (NMMA) के निदेशक के रूप में कार्यरत थे, अब केवल NMMA के निदेशक होंगे।
- The **NMMA unit, set up in 2007, according to sources, remains almost defunct**.  
2007 में स्थापित NMMA इकाई, स्रोतों के अनुसार, लगभग निष्क्रिय बनी हुई है।
- Over **two years** after Mr. Ramakrishna submitted his **982-page report** on the **first two phases of excavations carried out at Keeladi between 2014 and 2016**, a fresh controversy erupted last month.  
2014 और 2016 के बीच कीलाड़ी में की गई खुदाई के पहले दो चरणों पर श्री रामकृष्ण द्वारा 982-पृष्ठों की रिपोर्ट सौंपे जाने के दो वर्षों से अधिक समय बाद, पिछले महीने एक नया विवाद शुरू हुआ।
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** mandated that he revise his report, but he **refused** to do it.  
भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (ASI) ने उनसे उनकी रिपोर्ट संशोधित करने को कहा, लेकिन उन्होंने ऐसा करने से इनकार कर दिया।
- This disagreement sparked a **political clash** between the **Centre and Tamil Nadu**.  
इस असहमति ने केंद्र और तमिलनाडु के बीच राजनीतिक टकराव को जन्म दिया।

How did Keeladi excavation begin?

कीलाड़ी खुदाई की शुरुआत कैसे हुई?



- Keeladi has become a symbol of **pride** for many in **Tamil Nadu**.  
कीलाड़ी तमिलनाडु के कई लोगों के लिए **गौरव का प्रतीक** बन गया है।
- Over a decade ago, **Amarnath Ramakrishna**, then the **ASI's Superintending Archaeologist**, had initiated excavations at a site known as the **Pallichanthai Tidal** in Keeladi, originally a **coconut grove spanning 100 acres**.  
एक दशक पहले, **अमरनाथ रामकृष्ण**, जो उस समय **ASI के अधीक्षक पुरातत्वविद्** थे, ने कीलाड़ी में **पल्लीचंथई टाइडल** नामक स्थल पर खुदाई शुरू की थी, जो मूल रूप से **100 एकड़ में फैला नारियल का बाग** था।
- He had identified over **100 sites** for excavation along the **Vaigai River**, but **Keeladi** stood out.  
उन्होंने **वैगई नदी** के किनारे खुदाई के लिए **100 से अधिक स्थलों** की पहचान की थी, लेकिन **कीलाड़ी** सबसे अलग रहा।
- **It was in Keeladi that they unearthed over 7,500 ancient artifacts, including wall structures, drainage systems, and wells** — all evidence of a **sophisticated urban society** that thrived.  
कीलाड़ी में उन्होंने **7,500 से अधिक प्राचीन कलाकृतियाँ** खोजीं, जिनमें **दीवार की संरचनाएँ, जल निकासी प्रणाली, और कुएँ** शामिल थे — ये सभी एक **समृद्ध शहरी समाज** के प्रमाण थे।
- What was even more compelling was the **carbon dating**, which revealed that **these elements are over 2,160 years old**, dating back to the **2nd century BCE**, which is the time of the **Sangam period** in Tamil history.  
इससे भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण था **कार्बन डेटिंग**, जिसने दिखाया कि ये अवशेष **2,160 साल पुराने** हैं, जो **ईसा पूर्व दूसरी शताब्दी** के हैं, यानी **तमिल इतिहास के संगम काल** के समय के हैं।

#### What made the findings significant?

खोजों को महत्वपूर्ण किसने बनाया?

- Archaeologists were stunned by a few findings.  
कुछ खोजों से **पुरातत्वविद् स्तब्ध** रह गए।
- Most importantly, **there was no evidence of religious symbols at the excavation site, which hinted at the secular nature of the civilisation**.  
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण यह था कि खुदाई स्थल पर **धार्मिक प्रतीकों का कोई प्रमाण नहीं** मिला, जो उस सभ्यता की **धर्मनिरपेक्ष प्रकृति** को दर्शाता है।
- So, naturally, the excitement around **Keeladi's discoveries** was palpable.  
इसलिए **कीलाड़ी की खोजों** को लेकर उत्साह स्पष्ट था।
- **Tamil historians and enthusiasts** saw it as proof of an **advanced ancient Tamil civilisation**, but soon after, things took a **sharp turn**.  
**तमिल इतिहासकारों और उत्साही लोगों** ने इसे एक **विकसित प्राचीन तमिल सभ्यता** का प्रमाण माना, लेकिन जल्द ही घटनाक्रम ने **तीव्र मोड़** ले लिया।

#### What did political critics accuse the Centre of doing?

राजनीतिक आलोचकों ने केंद्र पर क्या आरोप लगाया?



- It all began in **2017**, when the **ASI transferred Mr. Ramakrishna to Assam** just as the excavations were ramping up after the first two phases.  
यह सब **2017** में शुरू हुआ, जब **ASI ने श्री रामकृष्ण को असम स्थानांतरित कर दिया**, ठीक तब जब खुदाई पहले दो चरणों के बाद जोर पकड़ रही थी।
- Back then, political critics accused the Centre of **deliberately derailing the excavations**.  
उस समय, राजनीतिक आलोचकों ने केंद्र पर **जानबूझकर खुदाई को पटरी से उतारने का आरोप लगाया**।
- It is because the **Centre that had promised funding and support for further digs delayed both** after the second phase.  
ऐसा इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि **केंद्र**, जिसने आगे की खुदाई के लिए **वित्तीय सहायता और समर्थन का वादा किया था**, ने दूसरे चरण के बाद **दोनों में देरी** की।
- The local political climate grew **tense** with some alleging that the Centre was trying to **suppress Tamil heritage**.  
स्थानीय राजनीतिक माहौल **तनावपूर्ण** हो गया क्योंकि कुछ लोगों ने आरोप लगाया कि केंद्र **तमिल विरासत को दबाने** की कोशिश कर रहा है।
- By **2017**, the excavations had entered its **third phase**, this time under archaeologist **P.S. Sriraman**.  
**2017** तक खुदाई **तीसरे चरण** में प्रवेश कर चुकी थी, इस बार पुरातत्वविद् **पी.एस. श्रीरामन** के नेतृत्व में।
- After excavating just around **400 square meters**, he reported a **lack of continuity** in the **brick structures** previously discovered.  
लगभग **400 वर्ग मीटर** खुदाई के बाद, उन्होंने पहले खोजी गई **ईंट की संरचनाओं में निरंतरता की कमी** की रिपोर्ट दी।

### Did State's findings resolve the issue?

क्या राज्य की खोजों ने मुद्दे को सुलझाया?

- The **Madras High Court** stepped in, with judges visiting the excavation site.  
**मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय** ने हस्तक्षेप किया और न्यायाधीशों ने खुदाई स्थल का दौरा किया।
- The **court then directed the ASI to continue the excavations and allowed the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology to get involved**.  
अदालत ने **ASI** को खुदाई जारी रखने का निर्देश दिया और **तमिलनाडु राज्य पुरातत्व विभाग** को इसमें शामिल होने की अनुमति दी।
- The department, in **2019**, published a report asserting that **Keeladi was an urban settlement dating back to the Sangam era between the 6th century BCE and the 1st century CE**.  
विभाग ने **2019** में एक रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित की जिसमें यह बताया गया कि **कीलाड़ी एक शहरी बस्ती थी, जो ईसा पूर्व 6वीं शताब्दी से ईस्वी 1वीं शताब्दी के संगम काल की है**।
- Since the **third phase**, the **State Archaeology Department** has continued the project, but these findings have **not helped resolve the issue**; instead, the



drama has escalated.

तीसरे चरण से, राज्य पुरातत्व विभाग ने परियोजना जारी रखी है, लेकिन इन खोजों ने मुद्दे को सुलझाने में मदद नहीं की; बल्कि, विवाद और बढ़ गया।

- In January 2023, Mr. Ramakrishna, who was transferred back to Tamil Nadu, submitted his report on the first two phases of excavation.

जनवरी 2023 में, श्री रामकृष्ण, जिन्हें फिर से तमिलनाडु स्थानांतरित किया गया था, ने खुदाई के पहले दो चरणों पर अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की।

What did the ASI ask Ramakrishna to do with the report?

ASI ने रामकृष्ण से रिपोर्ट के साथ क्या करने को कहा?

- For about two-and-a-half years, this report remained with the ASI, and just last month, the ASI sent Mr. Ramakrishna a letter to revise the report.

लगभग ढाई साल तक यह रिपोर्ट ASI के पास रही, और पिछले महीने, ASI ने श्री रामकृष्ण को रिपोर्ट संशोधित करने के लिए पत्र भेजा।

- The ASI questioned the dating and depth of certain findings, suggesting the evidence for the earliest period, as it “appeared to be very early,” and said it needed further analysis.

ASI ने कुछ निष्कर्षों की तिथि और गहराई पर सवाल उठाए, यह कहते हुए कि प्रारंभिक काल के प्रमाण “बहुत पुराने प्रतीत होते हैं” और इसके लिए अधिक विश्लेषण की आवश्यकता है।

- Mr. Ramakrishna, however, stood firm and refused to rewrite his conclusions, defending his work as scientifically sound, based on rigorous archaeological standards.

हालांकि श्री रामकृष्ण ने अपने निष्कर्षों को दोबारा लिखने से इनकार कर दिया और अपने कार्य को वैज्ञानिक रूप से ठोस और कठोर पुरातात्विक मानकों पर आधारित बताया।

- He argued that the report’s chronology was backed by stratigraphic sequences, material culture, and even Accelerator Mass Spectrometry.

उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि रिपोर्ट की कालानुक्रमिकता को स्तरीकरण अनुक्रम, सांस्कृतिक सामग्री, और यहां तक कि एक्सेलेरेटर मास स्पेक्ट्रोमेट्री द्वारा समर्थित किया गया है।

Why did the ASI’s decision spark political outrage?

ASI के फैसले ने राजनीतिक नाराज़गी क्यों भड़काई?

- Against this backdrop, many political parties in Tamil Nadu have slammed the ASI’s decision.

इस पृष्ठभूमि में, तमिलनाडु की कई राजनीतिक पार्टियों ने ASI के फैसले की कड़ी आलोचना की।

- They have termed it a blatant attempt to suppress Tamil heritage.

उन्होंने इसे तमिल विरासत को दबाने का एक स्पष्ट प्रयास बताया।

- They argued that the Centre’s refusal to acknowledge Keeladi’s significance was not just about science but also about politics.



उनका तर्क था कि कीलाड़ी के महत्व को स्वीकार करने से केंद्र का इनकार केवल विज्ञान नहीं बल्कि राजनीति से भी जुड़ा हुआ है।

- Amid the backlash, the **Union Minister for Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, said Mr. Ramakrishna's findings were **not technically well-supported** and **further scientific studies** were required to **validate** the findings. विरोध के बीच, केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि श्री रामकृष्ण के निष्कर्ष तकनीकी रूप से पर्याप्त रूप से समर्थित नहीं हैं और उन्हें मान्य करने के लिए और वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन की आवश्यकता है।
- He sought **more results, data, and evidence** because he said a **single finding** cannot **change the entire discourse**. उन्होंने अधिक परिणाम, डेटा और प्रमाण की मांग की क्योंकि उनके अनुसार, एकमात्र निष्कर्ष से पूरा विमर्श नहीं बदला जा सकता।

**Why did AIADMK stay silent initially?**

**AIADMK शुरू में चुप क्यों रही?**

- Interestingly, the **AIADMK**, which was in power when the **Keeladi report** was published, remained **silent** for a long time on the current controversy. दिलचस्प बात यह है कि **AIADMK**, जो **कीलाड़ी रिपोर्ट** प्रकाशित होने के समय सत्ता में थी, मौजूदा विवाद पर लंबे समय तक चुप रही।
- However, on **June 18**, senior leader **R.B. Udhayakumar** contended that the **Centre had sought more information** by way of ensuring "**additional corroboration**." हालांकि **18 जून** को वरिष्ठ नेता **आर.बी. उदयकुमार** ने तर्क दिया कि केंद्र ने "अतिरिक्त पुष्टि" सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **अधिक जानकारी** मांगी थी।
- He also said, "if the **Keeladi report** is **rejected**, the **AIADMK** will be the **first party** to express its **voice of protest**." उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि "अगर **कीलाड़ी रिपोर्ट** को **अस्वीकृत** किया गया, तो **AIADMK** पहली पार्टी होगी जो **विरोध की आवाज** उठाएगी।"

**The controversy is not just about one report or one excavation**

**यह विवाद केवल एक रिपोर्ट या एक खुदाई के बारे में नहीं है**

- The controversy is **not just about one report or one excavation**; it is a **clash of narratives**. यह विवाद **सिर्फ एक रिपोर्ट या खुदाई तक सीमित नहीं है**; यह **विचारों की टकराहट** है।
- The **Centre** insists on **scientific validation** while **Tamil Nadu** views it as a matter of **historical recognition**. केंद्र जहां **वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण** पर जोर दे रहा है, वहीं **तमिलनाडु** इसे **ऐतिहासिक मान्यता** का विषय मानता है।
- The **State government** is pressing on with its **excavations**, which are **under way**, and it has already **set up a new museum** at **Keeladi**, drawing **thousands**



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



of visitors.

राज्य सरकार अपनी खुदाई जारी रखे हुए है, और उसने कीलाड़ी में एक नया संग्रहालय स्थापित कर दिया है, जहां हजारों दर्शक आ रहे हैं।

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

- 1. India declines to endorse joint statement at the SCO over exclusion of Pahalgam**  
भारत ने पहलगाम को बाहर रखने पर एससीओ में संयुक्त बयान का समर्थन करने से इनकार कर दिया
- 2. Staggered polls cannot be considered an immutable feature of Constitution: ex-CJI**  
चरणों में चुनाव कराना संविधान की अपरिवर्तनीय विशेषता नहीं मानी जा सकती: पूर्व सीजेआई
- 3. 'Additional demand behind delay in Jal Jeevan Mission'**  
'जल जीवन मिशन में देरी के पीछे अतिरिक्त मांग'
- 4. At Bangkok event, a commitment to count every birth and death**  
बैंकॉक कार्यक्रम में, प्रत्येक जन्म और मृत्यु की गणना करने की प्रतिबद्धता
- 5. Vaccinating India**  
भारत में टीकाकरण
- 6. Fathoming America's plan to manage AI proliferation**  
एआई प्रसार को प्रबंधित करने की अमेरिका की योजना की समझ
- 7. Is voter registration being subject to fraud?**  
क्या मतदाता पंजीकरण में धोखाधड़ी हो रही है?



# India declines to endorse joint statement at the SCO over exclusion of Pahalgam

IGS Paper II: SCO

**Saurabh Trivedi**  
NEW DELHI

India declined to endorse the joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in China, and pushed for including tougher language on terrorism that would reflect the Indian position, particularly in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the document on Thursday as it did not mention the Pahalgam attack but included militant activities in Balochistan. Pakistan and China were trying to divert attention from terrorism, and the document would have diluted India's position on critical issues, particularly terrorism and regional security, sources added.

In his address at the SCO meet in Qingdao, Mr. Singh said a terror group, The Resistance Front, had carried



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Qingdao. ANI VIDEO GRAB

out a "dastardly and heinous attack" on innocent tourists at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, killing 26 innocent civilians, including a Nepali national. The TRF, a proxy of the UN-designated Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility for the attack, he said.

"Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the hands of non-state actors and terror

groups. Dealing with these challenges requires decisive action. It is imperative that those who sponsor, nurture and utilise terrorism for their narrow and selfish ends must bear the consequences. Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide shelter to terrorists. There should be no place for such double standards. SCO should not hesitate to criticise such nations," Mr. Singh said.

including tougher language on terrorism that would reflect the Indian position, particularly after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

भारत ने चीन में आयोजित शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) रक्षा मंत्रियों की बैठक में संयुक्त बयान का समर्थन करने से इनकार कर दिया, और आतंकवाद पर कड़े शब्दों को शामिल करने पर जोर दिया जो 22 अप्रैल को पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले के बाद भारत की स्थिति को दर्शाए।

- Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the document on Thursday as it did not mention the Pahalgam attack but included militant activities in Balochistan.

**India declines to endorse joint statement at the SCO over exclusion of Pahalgam**

**भारत ने पहलगाम को बाहर रखने पर एससीओ में संयुक्त बयान का समर्थन करने से इनकार कर दिया**

**India's Stand at SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting एससीओ रक्षा मंत्रियों की बैठक में भारत का रुख**

- India declined to endorse the joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in China, and pushed for



सूत्रों के अनुसार गुरुवार को रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने दस्तावेज़ पर हस्ताक्षर करने से इनकार कर दिया क्योंकि इसमें पहलगाम हमले का उल्लेख नहीं था लेकिन इसमें बलूचिस्तान में उग्रवादी गतिविधियों को शामिल किया गया था।

- **Pakistan and China** were trying to **divert attention** from terrorism, and the document would have **diluted India's position** on **critical issues**, particularly **terrorism and regional security**, sources added.

सूत्रों ने बताया कि पाकिस्तान और चीन आतंकवाद से ध्यान भटकाने की कोशिश कर रहे थे, और यह दस्तावेज़ महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों, खासकर आतंकवाद और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा पर भारत की स्थिति को कमजोर कर देता।

### Rajnath Singh's Address at SCO Meet एससीओ बैठक में राजनाथ सिंह का संबोधन

- In his address at the **SCO meet in Qingdao**, Mr. Singh said a terror group, **The Resistance Front (TRF)**, had carried out a "**dastardly and heinous attack**" on innocent tourists at **Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir**, killing **26 innocent civilians**, including a **Nepali national**.

**किंगदाओ में एससीओ बैठक** में अपने संबोधन में श्री सिंह ने कहा कि एक आतंकवादी समूह, **द रेजिस्टेंस फ्रंट (TRF)** ने जम्मू और कश्मीर के पहलगाम में निर्दोष पर्यटकों पर "**कायराना और जघन्य हमला**" किया, जिसमें **26 निर्दोष नागरिक**, जिनमें एक **नेपाली नागरिक** भी शामिल था, मारे गए।

- The **TRF**, a **proxy of the UN-designated Lashkar-e-Taiba**, had **claimed responsibility** for the attack, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि **TRF**, जो कि **संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा नामित लश्कर-ए-तैयबा** का प्रॉक्सी समूह है, ने इस हमले की जिम्मेदारी ली थी।

### India's Position on Terrorism at SCO एससीओ में आतंकवाद पर भारत की स्थिति

- "**Peace and prosperity** cannot co-exist with **terrorism** and **proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction** in the hands of **non-state actors and terror groups**."

"शांति और समृद्धि का अस्तित्व आतंकवाद और गैर-राज्य तत्वों व आतंकी संगठनों के हाथों में सामूहिक विनाश के हथियारों के प्रसार के साथ नहीं हो सकता।"

- **Dealing with these challenges** requires **decisive action**.

इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए **निर्णायक कार्रवाई** आवश्यक है।

- It is imperative that those who **sponsor, nurture and utilise terrorism** for their **narrow and selfish ends** must **bear the consequences**.

यह आवश्यक है कि जो लोग **आतंकवाद को प्रायोजित, पोषित और उपयोग करते हैं** अपने **संकीर्ण और स्वार्थी उद्देश्यों** के लिए, उन्हें **परिणाम भुगतने** चाहिए।



- Some countries use **cross-border terrorism** as an **instrument of policy** and provide **shelter to terrorists**.  
कुछ देश सीमापार आतंकवाद को नीति के उपकरण के रूप में इस्तेमाल करते हैं और आतंकवादियों को शरण देते हैं।
- There should be **no place for such double standards**.  
ऐसे दोहरे मापदंडों के लिए कोई स्थान नहीं होना चाहिए।
- **SCO** should not hesitate to **criticise such nations**,” Mr. Singh said.  
श्री सिंह ने कहा कि एससीओ को ऐसे देशों की आलोचना करने में हिचकिचाना नहीं चाहिए।

## Staggered polls cannot be considered an immutable feature of Constitution: ex-CJI

GS Paper II: Simultaneous Election  
NEW DELHI

Conducting free and fair elections is a basic feature of the Constitution, but the Constitution does not say that polls can be free and fair only if they are held non-simultaneously, former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has opined, according to sources, in his written submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee reviewing the proposed legislation aiming to introduce simultaneous elections.

Justice Chandrachud, who served as the CJI from November 2022 to November 2024, will present his views to the panel on July 11. Justice J.S. Kehar, who served as CJI between January and August 2017, has



Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud will present his views on simultaneous elections to a Parliamentary Joint Committee on July 11. PTI

also been invited by the panel, which is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Their predecessors who had met the panel earlier had pointed out several infirmities in the legislation,

according to sources.

Justice Chandrachud, as per sources, has dismissed the contention that holding simultaneous elections would blur the distinction between different tiers of government, since voters may prioritise national issues over regional concerns if the election cycles are synchronised. This ar-

gument, he said, is based on the assumption that the Indian electorate is “naive” and can be easily “manipulated”. This contention, he has argued, flies in the face of the universal adult franchise which has been part of the Constitution since its inception.

He further said in his submission, as per sources, that “staggered elections cannot be considered as a feature of the original Constitution, let alone an immutable feature.”

According to sources, he has also referred to the concern that simultaneous elections could marginalise smaller parties or regional parties. But this problem, he said, exists independent and irrespective of the simultaneous election legislation.

**Staggered polls cannot be considered an immutable feature of Constitution: ex-CJI**

**चरणों में चुनाव कराना संविधान की अपरिवर्तनीय विशेषता नहीं मानी जा सकती: पूर्व सीजेआई**



## Simultaneous Elections and Constitutional Debate

### एकसाथ चुनाव और संवैधानिक बहस

- **Conducting free and fair elections is a basic feature** of the Constitution, but the Constitution does not say that polls can be free and fair **only if they are held non-simultaneously**, former **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** has opined, according to sources, in his written submission to the **Parliamentary Joint Committee** reviewing the proposed legislation aiming to introduce **simultaneous elections**.

मुफ्त और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराना संविधान की एक मूल विशेषता है, लेकिन संविधान यह नहीं कहता कि चुनाव तभी निष्पक्ष हो सकते हैं जब वे **अलग-अलग समय पर कराए जाएं**, ऐसा पूर्व भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश **डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़** ने संयुक्त संसदीय समिति को दिए गए अपने लिखित बयान में कहा है, जो **एकसाथ चुनावों** को लागू करने के प्रस्तावित कानून की समीक्षा कर रही है।

- Justice **Chandrachud**, who served as the **CJI from November 2022 to November 2024**, will present his views to the panel on **July 11**.  
न्यायमूर्ति **चंद्रचूड़**, जिन्होंने **नवंबर 2022 से नवंबर 2024 तक** भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में कार्य किया, **11 जुलाई** को समिति के सामने अपने विचार प्रस्तुत करेंगे।
- Justice **J.S. Kehar**, who served as **CJI between January and August 2017**, has also been invited by the panel, which is reviewing the **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024** and the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024**.

**जनवरी से अगस्त 2017 तक** भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश रहे **न्यायमूर्ति जे.एस. खेहर** को भी समिति द्वारा आमंत्रित किया गया है, जो **संविधान (129वां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024** और **संघ राज्य क्षेत्र कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024** की समीक्षा कर रही है।

- Their predecessors who had met the panel earlier had pointed out several **infirmities in the legislation**, according to sources.

सूत्रों के अनुसार, उनके पूर्ववर्ती जो पहले समिति से मिले थे, उन्होंने इस कानून में कई **कमजोरियों** की ओर इशारा किया था।

- Justice Chandrachud, as per sources, has **dismissed the contention that holding simultaneous elections would blur the distinction between different tiers of government**, since voters may prioritise **national issues** over **regional concerns** if the election cycles are synchronised.

सूत्रों के अनुसार, **न्यायमूर्ति चंद्रचूड़** ने इस **दावे को खारिज** किया है कि **एकसाथ चुनाव** कराने से सरकार के **विभिन्न स्तरों के बीच अंतर धुंधला** हो जाएगा, क्योंकि यदि चुनाव चक्र एक साथ हों तो मतदाता **राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों** को **क्षेत्रीय मुद्दों** से ऊपर रख सकते हैं।

- This argument, he said, is **based on the assumption that the Indian electorate is "naive" and can be easily "manipulated"**.

उन्होंने कहा कि यह तर्क इस धारणा पर आधारित है कि **भारतीय मतदाता "भोले"** हैं और उन्हें आसानी से **"प्रभावित"** किया जा सकता है।



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- This contention, he has argued, **flies in the face** of the **universal adult franchise**, which has been part of the Constitution **since its inception**.  
उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यह दावा **सार्वभौमिक वयस्क मताधिकार** के **विरोध** में है, जो संविधान का हिस्सा **उसकी स्थापना से ही** रहा है।
- He further said in his submission, as per sources, that “**staggered elections cannot be considered as a feature of the original Constitution, let alone an immutable feature.**”  
उन्होंने अपने बयान में आगे कहा, सूत्रों के अनुसार, कि “**चरणबद्ध चुनावों को मूल संविधान की विशेषता नहीं माना जा सकता, और न ही उन्हें अपरिवर्तनीय विशेषता समझा जा सकता है।**”
- According to sources, he has also referred to the concern that **simultaneous elections could marginalise smaller parties or regional parties.**  
सूत्रों के अनुसार, उन्होंने इस चिंता का भी उल्लेख किया है कि **एकसाथ चुनाव से छोटी पार्टियों या क्षेत्रीय दलों को हाशिये पर डाला जा सकता है।**

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- But this problem, he said, exists independent and irrespective of the simultaneous election legislation.  
लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि यह समस्या स्वतंत्र रूप से और एकसाथ चुनाव विधेयक से अलग अस्तित्व में है।

## 'Additional demand behind delay in Jal Jeevan Mission'

GS Paper II: Government Scheme

NEW DELHI

Additional demand and the realisation that groundwater sources alone would be insufficient to provide potable piped water to all households have contributed to delays in the Jal Jeevan Mission, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil said at a press conference on Thursday.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that all rural households – estimated at around 19 crore – would be covered by 2024, when approximately 16% (or 3.2 crore households) had piped water connections.

In her Budget speech in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the scheme had been extended to 2028 with an “enhanced outlay”.

“If you consider the data until March 2024, we were pretty much on target. Subsequently, about four crore additional houses that required piped water connections were added. There have been some mistakes made by contractors. We also discovered that in some places groundwater resources would not be enough to provide water and so we’d need surface water [from rivers, lakes

and will be more infrastructure intensive],” Mr. Patil said.

According to the Minister, 80% of rural households – around 15.6 crore – have been provided with piped water connections. Since 2019, the government has spent ₹3.6 lakh crore towards achieving this goal.

Budget documents show that the Jal Shakti Ministry expects to spend ₹67,000 crore in 2025-26, slightly lower than the ₹69,992 crore it spent in 2023-24. For 2024-25, the Ministry had provisioned ₹70,000 crore between March 2024 and March 2025. However, as of February, the actual expenditure stood at only ₹22,694 crore – indicating under-utilisation of nearly ₹50,000 crore despite budgetary allocation.

The Ministry’s website continues to list the target as 19.3 crore households, unchanged from the initial estimate in 2019. *The Hindu* reached out to officials for clarity, but no response was available at press time.

The mission aims to provide every rural household a tap water connection, delivering 55 litres per capita per day of water that meets BIS:10500 standards, according to the website.

## 'Additional demand behind delay in Jal Jeevan Mission'

### 'जल जीवन मिशन में देरी के पीछे अतिरिक्त मांग'

#### Delays in Jal Jeevan Mission जल जीवन मिशन में देरी

- **Additional demand** and the realisation that **groundwater sources alone would be insufficient to provide potable piped water to all households** have contributed to **delays in the Jal Jeevan Mission**, Union Jal Shakti Minister **C.R. Patil** said at a press conference on **Thursday**.

अतिरिक्त मांग और यह समझ कि केवल भूमिगत जल स्रोत सभी घरों को पीने योग्य नल जल प्रदान करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं होंगे, ने जल जीवन मिशन में देरी में योगदान दिया है, यह बात केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री सी.आर. पाटिल ने गुरुवार को एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कही।

- **In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had announced that all **rural households** — estimated at around **19 crore** — would be covered by **2024**, when approximately **16%** (or **3.2 crore households**) had piped water connections.

2019 में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने घोषणा की थी कि सभी ग्रामीण घरों — अनुमानित 19 करोड़ — को 2024 तक कवर किया जाएगा, जबकि उस समय लगभग 16% (या 3.2 करोड़ घरों) में नल से जल कनेक्शन था।

- In her **Budget speech in February**, **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** stated that the scheme had **been extended to 2028 with an “enhanced outlay”**.

फरवरी में अपने बजट भाषण में, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि इस योजना को 2028 तक बढ़ा दिया गया है और इसके लिए "बढ़ा हुआ आवंटन" किया गया है।

- “If you consider the data until **March 2024**, we were pretty much on target. Subsequently, about **four crore additional houses** that required piped water connections were added.



“यदि आप मार्च 2024 तक के आंकड़ों पर गौर करें, तो हम लक्ष्य के काफी करीब थे। इसके बाद लगभग चार करोड़ अतिरिक्त घरों को नल जल कनेक्शन की आवश्यकता के रूप में जोड़ा गया।

- There have been some **mistakes made by contractors**.  
कुछ ठेकेदारों द्वारा गलतियाँ भी हुई हैं।
- We also discovered that in some places **groundwater resources** would not be enough to provide water and so **we'd need surface water [from rivers, lakes and will be more infrastructure intensive]**,” Mr. Patil said.  
हमने यह भी पाया कि कुछ स्थानों पर **भूमिगत जल संसाधन** पर्याप्त नहीं होंगे, इसलिए हमें **सतही जल** [नदियों, झीलों से और इसमें अधिक अधोसंरचना की आवश्यकता होगी] की जरूरत होगी,” श्री पाटिल ने कहा।
- According to the Minister, **80% of rural households — around 15.6 crore — have been provided with piped water connections**.  
मंत्री के अनुसार, **80% ग्रामीण घरों — यानी लगभग 15.6 करोड़ —** को नल जल कनेक्शन प्रदान किया जा चुका है।
- **Since 2019, the government has spent ₹3.6 lakh crore towards achieving this goal**.  
**2019** से अब तक सरकार इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए **₹3.6 लाख करोड़** खर्च कर चुकी है।
- **Budget documents** show that the Jal Shakti Ministry expects to spend **₹67,000 crore in 2025–26**, slightly lower than the **₹69,992 crore** it spent in **2023–24**.  
**बजट दस्तावेजों** से पता चलता है कि जल शक्ति मंत्रालय **2025–26 में ₹67,000 करोड़** खर्च करने की उम्मीद कर रहा है, जो **2023–24 के ₹69,992 करोड़** से थोड़ा कम है।
- For **2024–25**, the Ministry had provisioned **₹70,000 crore** between **March 2024 and March 2025**.  
**2024–25** के लिए, मंत्रालय ने **मार्च 2024 से मार्च 2025** के बीच **₹70,000 करोड़** का प्रावधान किया था।
- However, **as of February, the actual expenditure stood at only ₹22,694 crore — indicating underutilisation of nearly ₹50,000 crore despite budgetary allocation**.  
हालांकि, **फरवरी** तक वास्तविक खर्च केवल **₹22,694 करोड़** था — जो दिखाता है कि बजटीय आवंटन के बावजूद लगभग **₹50,000 करोड़** का **अल्प उपयोग** हुआ।
- The **Ministry's website** continues to list the target as **19.3 crore households, unchanged from the initial estimate in 2019**.  
मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट पर लक्ष्य अभी भी **19.3 करोड़ घर** दिखाया गया है, जो **2019 के प्रारंभिक अनुमान से अपरिवर्तित** है।
- The Hindu reached out to officials for clarity, but no response was available at press time.  
द हिंदू ने स्पष्टता के लिए अधिकारियों से संपर्क किया, लेकिन **प्रेस समय तक कोई जवाब नहीं** मिला।
- The **mission aims to provide every rural household a tap water connection, delivering 55 litres per capita per day of water that meets BIS:10500**



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**standards**, according to the website.

वेबसाइट के अनुसार, इस मिशन का उद्देश्य प्रत्येक ग्रामीण घर को **नल जल कनेक्शन** प्रदान करना है, जिससे **प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति दिन 55 लीटर** जल उपलब्ध हो जो **BIS:10500 मानकों** को पूरा करता हो।

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# At Bangkok event, a commitment to count every birth and death

Governments across Asia and the Pacific decide to ensure registration of all vital events of the population by 2030: an estimated 14 million children in the region still do not have their births registered by their first birthday and every year, an approximate 6.9 million deaths go unrecorded

GS Paper II: International Institutions

Ramya Kannan

**G**overnments across Asia and the Pacific, on Thursday, signed off on a landmark decision to ensure that all births are registered and all deaths are recorded by 2030, at the third Ministerial conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, Thailand. This is expected to bring the vision of universal, inclusive and resilient CRVS systems a step closer to reality.

The United Nations defines civil registration and vital statistics as the "continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events of the population in accordance with the law".

## What are the vital events?

These vital events include births, deaths and marriages, divorces, besides causes of death. The focus of the nations is on registering births and deaths as a fundamental aspect of a person's legal identity, and besides, grant access to a whole range of life-cycle benefits/functions for any one living in a society. Birth registration grants individuals formal legal recognition, enabling access to essential rights and services, including health services. Death certificates serve as legal proof of death, supporting families with matters such as inheritance, insurance and other administrative processes.

In 2014, the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), launched the "CRVS Decade" to "Get every one in the picture." The decadal progress was measured in a review that was then launched as a publication last week.

In her preface to the publication, Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, wrote: "Importantly, civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems help protect populations in vulnerable situations, as birth and marriage registration can serve as safeguards against child marriage, trafficking and modern slavery by verifying age and identity."

Acknowledging legal identity in good governance and justice, is also target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Birth registration has an intergenerational impact, empowering registered mothers to secure legal identity and rights for their children, breaking cycles of invisibility and exclusion.

Earlier, speaking to presspersons, Ms. Alisjahbana said the ID card is the most important part of every one's wallet, and as such it goes beyond a mere document. There have been accelerated actions by many countries that have led to better registration rates in these nations, and the successes have come as a result of collaborative work in the region and learning from each other's work.

As a result, over the past decade, in the countries in the Asia Pacific region, the number of children under five who are unregistered had dropped from 135 million in 2012 to 51 million, a reduction of more than 60%. 29 countries currently



**Planning ahead:** The third Ministerial conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok, Thailand. X/@UNESCAP

also significantly improved, the ESCAP acknowledged.

However, despite this progress, an estimated 14 million children across the region still do not have their births registered by their first birthday. Every year, an approximate 6.9 million deaths also go unrecorded.

## Extension of deadline

Responding to a question on the future of the programme, Ms. Alisjahbana said: "We have been very fortunate in seeing significant progress, and political will and investments in this decade. They have paid off. But there is a lot of work to be done yet, and there is in place a very good momentum to accelerate operations and digitalisation to ensure registration. So the consensus among member nations is to extend it to 2030."

With the chosen decade complete, but 100% registration still not achieved, the Declaration has decided to extend the roadmap to 2030, the end of the decade, with people at the centre. It calls for inclusive and accessible service delivery, harnessing the power of digital transformation, strengthening legal foundations and building inter-operable data systems. The governments also provided commitments to ensuring gender equity in registration, safeguarding personal data and privacy.

## Indian scenario

In India, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner is responsible for civil registration as well as the production of vital statistics. The Ministry of Health supports the civil registration system providing incentives for registration, manpower and logistics support under the National Health Mission. There is no fee for birth registration within the prescribed period of 21 days, although fees for birth certificates may vary according to State/local body.

The Indian national CRVS coordination mechanism was established in August 2015, while a national CRVS strategy and a



Civil registration and vital statistics systems help protect populations in vulnerable situations, as birth and marriage registration can serve as safeguards against child marriage, trafficking and modern slavery by verifying age and identity

**ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA**  
Under-Secretary-General, UN

need and importance of registration, low priority accorded to the system of civil registration by the States, lack of coordination among the concerned departments and low level of reporting by registration units.

To tackle these issues, several initiatives were launched. Among these measures were developing a software application for online and offline registration of birth and death covering the entire gamut of the civil registration system: registration of events, generation of certificates, and generation of statistical tables and reports. In addition, a new project on data digitisation is being implemented, with the support of UNICEF, to keep old records in easy to retrieve digital form has started. This will help in storage of registers in electronic format and allow easy access to the records.

## Digital transformation

Ms. Alisjahbana earlier acknowledged this, in response to a question from *The Hindu*, that India with its strength and leadership in digital transformation has helped a lot with rolling out a CRVS system that can be implemented digitally. Tanja Sejersen, Statistician, ESCAP, who spoke to presspersons, along with Ms. Alisjahbana, said, the use of technology has been super helpful in certain countries in advancing the principle of registration, but in other countries, could be a stumbling block. There has been,

Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, said the country has embarked on citizen-centric activities that will make universal registration possible across the country. The registration of births and deaths is mandatory under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969, and amendments to it, have made possible digital registration of births and deaths and the recognition of electronic documents that can be stored safely and securely in the Digilocker by all, obviating the need for presenting hard copies of documents.

In India, legal provisions now cover the registration of adopted, orphaned, abandoned, surrendered, and surrogate children, along with children of single parents or unmarried mothers. It has been made mandatory for medical institutions to provide cause of death certificates to the Registrar. He added that a new central CRVS portal had been launched too. As a result of these proactive policies, the registration of births had increased from just over 86% at the beginning of the CRVS decade to over 96% in India, he said.

Children participants at the Ministerial conference made a strong pitch for ensuring registration for all children irrespective of the many variables that may make it difficult for their parents to register their births. "Bureaucracy shouldn't be the reason we remain invisible," they said.

As the conference wound to a conclusion, the nations' commitments seemed solid. If commitments count, then strident steps had already been made towards achieving universal registration in the Asia and Pacific region. The words of Siromi Turaga, Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney General, Fiji, during his address at the Ministerial event, must go home though, to every nation: "The progress of the decade was only possible because of shared commitment in the region. As we look ahead to 2030...together we can ensure that every person in our region is seen



## At Bangkok event, a commitment to count every birth and death

### बैंकॉक कार्यक्रम में, प्रत्येक जन्म और मृत्यु की गणना करने की प्रतिबद्धता

**Governments across Asia and the Pacific** decide to ensure registration of all vital events of the population by 2030; an estimated 14 million children in the region still do not have their births registered by their first birthday and every year, an approximate 6.9 million deaths go unrecorded

एशिया और प्रशांत क्षेत्र की सरकारों ने 2030 तक जनसंख्या की सभी महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं का पंजीकरण सुनिश्चित करने का निर्णय लिया है; अनुमान है कि इस क्षेत्र में अभी भी 14 मिलियन बच्चों का जन्म उनके पहले जन्मदिन तक पंजीकृत नहीं होता है और हर साल लगभग 6.9 मिलियन मौतें बिना पंजीकरण के रह जाती हैं।

#### Universal Birth and Death Registration by 2030

##### 2030 तक सार्वभौमिक जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण

- **Governments across Asia and the Pacific**, on Thursday, signed off on a landmark decision to ensure that all births are registered and all deaths are recorded by 2030, at the third Ministerial conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, Thailand. एशिया और प्रशांत क्षेत्र की सरकारों ने गुरुवार को एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय पर हस्ताक्षर किए, ताकि 2030 तक सभी जन्मों का पंजीकरण और सभी मौतों का रिकॉर्ड सुनिश्चित किया जा सके, यह निर्णय बैंकॉक, थाईलैंड में तीसरे नागरिक पंजीकरण और महत्वपूर्ण आंकड़े मंत्री सम्मेलन में लिया गया।
- This is expected to bring the vision of universal, inclusive and resilient CRVS systems a step closer to reality. इससे सार्वभौमिक, समावेशी और लचीले CRVS सिस्टम के लक्ष्य को वास्तविकता के करीब लाने की उम्मीद है।
- The United Nations defines civil registration and vital statistics as the “continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events of the population in accordance with the law”. संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अनुसार, नागरिक पंजीकरण और महत्वपूर्ण आंकड़े वह प्रक्रिया है जिसमें जनसंख्या की महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं की सतत, स्थायी, अनिवार्य और सार्वभौमिक रिकॉर्डिंग कानून के अनुसार की जाती है।
- Vital events include births, deaths, marriages, divorces, besides causes of death. महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं में जन्म, मृत्यु, विवाह, तलाक और मृत्यु के कारण शामिल होते हैं।



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- The focus of the nations is on **registering births and deaths as a fundamental aspect of a person's legal identity**, and to grant **access to a range of life-cycle benefits/functions** for any person in society.  
देशों का ध्यान जन्म और मृत्यु के पंजीकरण पर है, जो किसी व्यक्ति की कानूनी पहचान का एक मूलभूत पहलू है, और समाज में किसी भी व्यक्ति को जीवन चक्र लाभों/कार्यक्रमों तक पहुँच देने का माध्यम है।
- **Birth registration grants individuals formal legal recognition, enabling access to essential rights and services, including health services.**  
जन्म पंजीकरण व्यक्ति को औपचारिक कानूनी मान्यता प्रदान करता है, जिससे स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं सहित आवश्यक अधिकारों और सेवाओं तक पहुँच संभव होती है।
- **Death certificates serve as legal proof of death, supporting families in inheritance, insurance and other administrative processes.**  
मृत्यु प्रमाण पत्र, मृत्यु का कानूनी प्रमाण होते हैं, जो परिवारों को उत्तराधिकार, बीमा और अन्य प्रशासनिक प्रक्रियाओं में सहायता करते हैं।

### CRVS Decade and Progress

#### CRVS दशक और प्रगति

- **In 2014, the UN ESCAP launched the "CRVS Decade" to 'Get everyone in the picture.'**  
2014 में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एशिया-प्रशांत आर्थिक और सामाजिक आयोग (ESCAP) ने "CRVS दशक" शुरू किया, जिसका उद्देश्य था: 'हर व्यक्ति को तस्वीर में लाना।'
- The **decadal progress** was measured in a **review publication** launched last week.  
दशक की प्रगति को एक समीक्षा प्रकाशन के रूप में मापा गया, जो पिछले सप्ताह जारी किया गया था।
- In her **preface** to the publication, **Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP**, wrote that **CRVS systems help protect populations in vulnerable situations.**  
इस प्रकाशन की भूमिका में, आर्मिदा साल्सियाह अलीशजबाना, संयुक्त राष्ट्र की अवर महासचिव और ESCAP की कार्यकारी सचिव, ने लिखा कि **CRVS सिस्टम कमजोर परिस्थितियों में लोगों की सुरक्षा में मदद करता है।**
- **Birth and marriage registration can safeguard against child marriage, trafficking and modern slavery by verifying age and identity.**  
जन्म और विवाह पंजीकरण, बचपन में विवाह, तस्करी और आधुनिक दासता से आयु और पहचान की पुष्टि कर बचाव कर सकता है।

### Legal Identity and SDGs

#### कानूनी पहचान और सतत विकास लक्ष्य (SDGs)

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- Acknowledging **legal identity in good governance and justice is target 16.9 of the SDGs.**  
कानूनी पहचान को सुशासन और न्याय में मान्यता देना, **SDGs का लक्ष्य 16.9** है।
- **Birth registration has an intergenerational impact, empowering registered mothers to secure legal identity and rights for their children, breaking cycles of invisibility and exclusion.**  
जन्म पंजीकरण का पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी प्रभाव होता है, जो पंजीकृत माताओं को अपने बच्चों के लिए कानूनी पहचान और अधिकार सुरक्षित करने में सक्षम बनाता है, और **अदृश्यता और बहिष्करण के चक्र** को तोड़ता है।
- Speaking to presspersons, **Ms. Alisjahbana** said the **ID card** is the **most important part** of everyone's wallet and goes beyond a mere document.  
सुश्री अलीशजबाना ने प्रेस से बात करते हुए कहा कि **पहचान पत्र (ID कार्ड)** हर व्यक्ति के बटुए का **सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा** है और यह केवल एक दस्तावेज नहीं है।
- **Accelerated actions** by many countries have led to **better registration rates**, resulting from **collaborative work** and **regional learning.**  
कई देशों की तेज़ कार्यवाहियों से बेहतर पंजीकरण दर हासिल हुई है, जो सहयोगात्मक प्रयासों और क्षेत्रीय अनुभवों से सीखने का परिणाम है।

### Statistics and Achievements

#### आँकड़े और उपलब्धियाँ

- Over the past decade, the number of **unregistered children under five** in Asia-Pacific dropped from **135 million in 2012 to 51 million**, a **reduction of over 60%.**  
पिछले दशक में, एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में **5 वर्ष से कम आयु के अपंजीकृत बच्चों** की संख्या **2012 में 135 मिलियन से घटकर 51 मिलियन** हो गई, जो कि **60% से अधिक की कमी** है।
- **29 countries** reported **over 90% registration of births** in a year, and **30 countries** have achieved this for **death registration.**  
**29 देशों ने एक वर्ष में 90% से अधिक जन्म पंजीकरण** और **30 देशों ने मृत्यु पंजीकरण** के लिए यह उपलब्धि हासिल की है।
- The **quality of cause of death reporting** has also **significantly improved**, ESCAP acknowledged.  
**मृत्यु के कारणों की रिपोर्टिंग की गुणवत्ता** में भी महत्वपूर्ण सुधार हुआ है, यह ESCAP द्वारा स्वीकार किया गया।

### Challenges and Roadmap to 2030

#### चुनौतियाँ और 2030 तक की योजना

- Despite progress, **14 million children** still do not have **births registered by their first birthday.**  
प्रगति के बावजूद, **14 मिलियन बच्चे** अभी भी अपनी पहली वर्षगांठ तक जन्म पंजीकृत नहीं करा सके हैं।



- Every year, about **6.9 million deaths** go **unrecorded** in the region.  
हर वर्ष, क्षेत्र में लगभग **6.9 मिलियन मौतें अविभाजित** रह जाती हैं।
- Responding to a question, **Ms. Alisjahbana** said there is now a **strong momentum** to **accelerate operations and digitalisation**, and member nations have agreed to **extend the programme to 2030**.  
एक सवाल के जवाब में, **सुश्री अलीशजबाना** ने कहा कि **प्रचंड गति** से **कार्य और डिजिटलीकरण** को आगे बढ़ाया जा रहा है, और सदस्य देशों ने **कार्यक्रम को 2030 तक बढ़ाने** पर सहमति व्यक्त की है।
- The **Declaration** calls for **inclusive and accessible service delivery, digital transformation, strong legal foundations, and inter-operable data systems**.  
यह घोषणा **समावेशी और सुलभ सेवा वितरण, डिजिटल परिवर्तन, मजबूत कानूनी आधार और इंटर-ऑपरेबल डेटा सिस्टम** की मांग करती है।
- Governments committed to **gender equity, safeguarding personal data and privacy**.  
सरकारों ने **लैंगिक समानता, व्यक्तिगत डेटा की सुरक्षा और गोपनीयता** सुनिश्चित करने का संकल्प लिया।

### Indian Scenario भारत की स्थिति

- **In India, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner is responsible for civil registration and vital statistics.**  
भारत में, **महानिबंधक और जनगणना आयुक्त नागरिक पंजीकरण और महत्वपूर्ण आंकड़ों** के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।
- The **Ministry of Health** supports the system through **incentives, manpower and logistics under the National Health Mission**.  
**स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन** के तहत **प्रोत्साहन, जनशक्ति और लॉजिस्टिक्स** के माध्यम से इस प्रणाली का समर्थन करता है।
- There is **no fee for birth registration** within the **prescribed period of 21 days**, though **fees for certificates** may vary by **State/local body**.  
**जन्म पंजीकरण** के लिए निर्धारित **21 दिनों की अवधि** के भीतर कोई **शुल्क नहीं** है, हालांकि **प्रमाण पत्र के शुल्क राज्य/स्थानीय निकाय** के अनुसार भिन्न हो सकते हैं।

### CRVS Developments and Digital Transformation in India भारत में CRVS विकास और डिजिटल परिवर्तन

- The **Indian national CRVS coordination mechanism** was established in **August 2015**, while a **national CRVS strategy** and a **comprehensive assessment** are still in progress.  
**भारतीय राष्ट्रीय CRVS समन्वय तंत्र** की स्थापना **अगस्त 2015** में की गई थी, जबकि **राष्ट्रीय CRVS रणनीति और व्यापक मूल्यांकन** अभी प्रगति पर हैं।



- In 2011, the Office of the Registrar-General identified challenges such as **lack of awareness** regarding the need and importance of registration, **low priority** accorded by the States, **lack of coordination** among concerned departments, and **low reporting** by registration units.  
2011 में, महानिबंधक कार्यालय ने पंजीकरण की आवश्यकता और महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता की कमी, राज्यों द्वारा कम प्राथमिकता, संबंधित विभागों के बीच समन्वय की कमी, और पंजीकरण इकाइयों द्वारा कम रिपोर्टिंग जैसी चुनौतियों की पहचान की।
- To tackle these issues, **several initiatives** were launched.  
इन समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए कई पहलों की शुरुआत की गई।
- Among these were **developing a software application for online and offline registration of birth and death**, covering the **entire gamut** of the civil registration system: registration of events, generation of certificates, and generation of statistical tables and reports.  
इनमें जन्म और मृत्यु के ऑनलाइन और ऑफलाइन पंजीकरण के लिए सॉफ्टवेयर एप्लिकेशन का विकास शामिल था, जो **संपूर्ण नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली** को कवर करता है: घटनाओं का पंजीकरण, प्रमाण पत्रों का निर्माण और सांख्यिकीय तालिकाओं और रिपोर्टों का निर्माण।
- A new project on **data digitisation** is being implemented, with support from **UNICEF**, to keep **old records in easy-to-retrieve digital form**.  
डेटा डिजिटलीकरण पर एक नई परियोजना, **UNICEF** के सहयोग से लागू की जा रही है, ताकि **पुराने रिकॉर्डों को आसानी से प्राप्त होने योग्य डिजिटल रूप में संरक्षित** किया जा सके।
- This will help in **storage of registers in electronic format** and allow **easy access to records**.  
यह रजिस्ट्रों को **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रूप में संग्रहित** करने और **रिकॉर्डों तक आसान पहुंच** सुनिश्चित करने में मदद करेगा।

## Digital Transformation डिजिटल परिवर्तन

- **Ms. Alisjahbana**, in response to a question, acknowledged that **India's strength and leadership in digital transformation** has helped a lot in rolling out a CRVS system that can be **implemented digitally**.  
एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में, **सुश्री अलीशजबाना** ने स्वीकार किया कि **भारत की डिजिटल परिवर्तन में ताकत और नेतृत्व** ने डिजिटल रूप से लागू किए जा सकने वाले **CRVS सिस्टम** के क्रियान्वयन में बहुत सहायता की है।
- **Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician at **ESCAP**, said that the **use of technology** has been **super helpful** in some countries in advancing registration, though in others it could be a **stumbling block**.  
**ESCAP की सांख्यिकीविद् तान्या सेजर्सन** ने कहा कि कुछ देशों में **तकनीक का उपयोग**



पंजीकरण को बढ़ावा देने में बहुत सहायक रहा है, लेकिन अन्य देशों में यह एक बाधा बन सकता है।

- Since the launch of the **CRVS decade**, there has been a broader push for **linking digital transformation**.  
**CRVS दशक** की शुरुआत के बाद से **डिजिटल परिवर्तन को जोड़ने** की दिशा में व्यापक प्रयास किए गए हैं।
- **India's representative** at the Ministerial conference, **Nityanand Rai**, Minister of State, **Ministry of Home Affairs**, said the country has launched **citizen-centric activities** to make **universal registration** possible across the country.  
मंत्री सम्मेलन में भारत के प्रतिनिधि, **गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री नित्यानंद राय** ने कहा कि देश ने **नागरिक-केंद्रित गतिविधियाँ** शुरू की हैं, ताकि पूरे भारत में **सार्वभौमिक पंजीकरण** संभव हो सके।
- The **Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969** mandates the registration of births and deaths, and **amendments** have enabled **digital registration** and recognition of **electronic documents** that can be stored in **Digilocker**, eliminating the need for **hard copies**.  
**जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1969 (RBD)** जन्म और मृत्यु के पंजीकरण को अनिवार्य करता है, और **संशोधनों** ने **डिजिटल पंजीकरण** और **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक दस्तावेजों की मान्यता** को संभव बनाया है, जिन्हें **डिजीलॉकर** में संग्रहित किया जा सकता है और **हार्ड कॉपी की आवश्यकता** समाप्त हो जाती है।

### Inclusive Legal Provisions समावेशी कानूनी प्रावधान

- In India, legal provisions now cover **registration of adopted, orphaned, abandoned, surrendered, and surrogate children**, along with **children of single parents or unmarried mothers**.  
भारत में, कानूनी प्रावधानों में अब **गोद लिए गए, अनाथ, त्यागे गए, समर्पित, और सरोगेट बच्चों**, साथ ही **एकल माता-पिता या अविवाहित माताओं के बच्चों** का पंजीकरण शामिल है।
- It has been made **mandatory for medical institutions** to provide **cause of death certificates** to the Registrar.  
**चिकित्सा संस्थानों के लिए अनिवार्य** किया गया है कि वे **मृत्यु के कारण के प्रमाण पत्र** रजिस्ट्रार को प्रदान करें।
- A new **central CRVS portal** has also been launched.  
एक नया **केंद्रीय CRVS पोर्टल** भी लॉन्च किया गया है।
- As a result of these proactive policies, **registration of births has increased from just over 86% at the beginning of the CRVS decade to over 96% in India**.  
इन सक्रिय नीतियों के परिणामस्वरूप, भारत में **जन्म पंजीकरण** की दर **CRVS दशक की शुरुआत में 86% से बढ़कर 96% से अधिक** हो गई है।



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## Voices from the Ground जमीनी स्तर से आवाज़ें

- **Children participants** at the Ministerial conference strongly advocated for **registration for all children**, regardless of the challenges their parents may face.  
मंत्रि सम्मेलन में शामिल बच्चों ने सभी बच्चों का पंजीकरण सुनिश्चित करने की जोरदार वकालत की, चाहे उनके माता-पिता को इसमें कितनी भी चुनौतियों का सामना क्यों न करना पड़े।
- They said, "**Bureaucracy shouldn't be the reason we remain invisible.**"  
उन्होंने कहा, "नौकरशाही वह कारण नहीं होनी चाहिए कि हम अदृश्य बने रहें।"

## Commitment and Regional Unity प्रतिबद्धता और क्षेत्रीय एकता

- As the conference concluded, the **nations' commitments** appeared **solid**.  
जैसे ही सम्मेलन समाप्त हुआ, देशों की प्रतिबद्धताएँ मजबूत प्रतीत हुईं।



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- If commitments count, then strident steps have already been taken towards achieving universal registration in the Asia and Pacific region.

[GS Paper II: Government Policy]

## Vaccinating India

The prevalence of zero-dose children remains high among the poor

**I**n the bright side, vaccine coverage globally, between 1980 and 2023, doubled for six diseases including measles, polio and tuberculosis. Also, at 75% globally, there has been a sharp fall in the number of zero-dose children – those who have not received the first dose of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) vaccine – during the same time period. The number of zero-dose children is a crucial performance marker and an indicator of vaccination coverage inequities. Despite increased immunisation coverage over the decades, in 2023, at 1.44 million, India, according to *The Lancet*, still had the second largest number of zero-dose children, and is among the eight countries with over 50% of the nearly 16 million zero-dose children globally. Most of the zero-dose children globally are in countries that are conflict-affected or with limited resources for vaccination programmes – India has neither of the two problems. However, about 23 million babies were born in 2023 in India, the highest in the world; in 2024, China, which has the second highest number of newborns globally, reported just 9.5 million newborns. Though the number of zero-dose children is staggering, when seen in the context of the number of newborns in 2023, the percentage of zero-dose children in India is 6.2%. A study in 2021 found that India had sharply reduced the percentage of zero-dose children, from 33.4% in 1992 to 10.1% in 2016. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of zero-dose children was 1.4 million in 2019 but this swelled to 2.7 million in 2021 and then dropped to 1.1 million in 2022 before increasing to 1.44 million in 2023.

As in the 2021 study, a large percentage of zero-dose children are in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. There is also a relatively high proportion of them in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Over the years, the difference in zero-dose children based on gender, caste, and rural-urban status has reduced substantially. However, prevalence remains high among the poor, mothers with low education, Scheduled Tribes and Muslims. Focus is needed to immunise children in hard-to-reach tribal areas, urban slums where there is a huge migrant population, and in reducing vaccine hesitancy among Muslim households with newborn children. India has much work to do to meet WHO's Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) – halving zero-dose children relative to 2019. With the number of zero-dose children in 2023 (1.44 million) only about nearly reaching the 2019 level of 1.4 million, India needs greater and sustained efforts to halve this number in the next five years.

यदि प्रतिबद्धताएँ मायने रखती हैं, तो एशिया और प्रशांत क्षेत्र में सार्वभौमिक पंजीकरण प्राप्त करने की दिशा में सशक्त कदम पहले ही उठाए जा चुके हैं।

- Siromi Turaga, Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney General, Fiji, said: “The progress of the decade was only possible because of shared commitment in the region. As we look ahead to 2030... together we can ensure that every person in our region is seen, heard and counted.”

फिजी के न्याय मंत्री और कार्यवाहक अटॉर्नी जनरल सिरोमी तुरगा ने कहा: “इस दशक की प्रगति केवल क्षेत्र की साझा प्रतिबद्धता के कारण संभव हो सकी। जब हम 2030 की ओर देखते हैं... तो हम मिलकर सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं कि हमारे क्षेत्र का हर व्यक्ति देखा जाए, सुना जाए और गिना जाए।”

## Vaccinating India भारत में टीकाकरण

The prevalence of zero-dose children remains high among the poor

गरीबों में शून्य खुराक वाले बच्चों का प्रचलन उच्च बना हुआ है

Global and Indian Progress on Zero-Dose Children  
शून्य-खुराक बच्चों पर वैश्विक और भारतीय प्रगति

- On the bright side, vaccine coverage globally, between 1980 and 2023, doubled for six diseases including measles, polio and tuberculosis. सकारात्मक पक्ष यह है कि 1980 से 2023 के बीच वैश्विक टीकाकरण कवरेज में खसरा, पोलियो और तपेदिक सहित छह बीमारियों के लिए दोगुनी वृद्धि हुई है।
- At 75% globally, there has been a sharp fall in the number of zero-dose children — those who have not received the first dose of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) vaccine — during the same time period. उसी अवधि में, वैश्विक स्तर पर 75% की दर से शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या — जिन्होंने डिप्थीरिया, टेटनस और पर्टुसिस (DTP) वैक्सिन की पहली खुराक भी नहीं ली है — में तेजी से गिरावट आई है।

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- The number of zero-dose children is a **crucial performance marker** and an **indicator of vaccination coverage inequities**.  
शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रदर्शन संकेतक और टीकाकरण कवरेज में असमानताओं का संकेतक है।
- Despite **increased immunisation coverage** over the decades, in **2023**, at **1.44 million**, India, according to The Lancet, still had the **second largest number of zero-dose children**, and is among the **eight countries** with over **50% of the nearly 16 million** zero-dose children globally.  
दशकों में टीकाकरण कवरेज में वृद्धि के बावजूद, 2023 में, 1.44 मिलियन के साथ, द लैंसेट के अनुसार, भारत में अब भी दूसरी सबसे बड़ी संख्या में शून्य-खुराक बच्चे थे और यह उन आठ देशों में शामिल है जहां वैश्विक 16 मिलियन शून्य-खुराक बच्चों में से 50% से अधिक हैं।
- Most of the zero-dose children globally are in **conflict-affected countries** or countries with **limited resources** for vaccination programmes — **India has neither of the two problems**.  
वैश्विक स्तर पर अधिकांश शून्य-खुराक बच्चे संघर्ष प्रभावित देशों या सीमित संसाधनों वाले देशों में हैं — जबकि भारत को इनमें से कोई समस्या नहीं है।
- About **23 million babies** were born in **India** in **2023**, the **highest in the world**; in **2024**, **China**, with the second highest number of newborns globally, reported just **9.5 million** newborns.  
2023 में भारत में लगभग 2.3 करोड़ शिशुओं का जन्म हुआ, जो दुनिया में सबसे अधिक था; 2024 में, चीन, जो दूसरे स्थान पर है, ने केवल 95 लाख नवजात दर्ज किए।
- Though the number of zero-dose children is staggering, when seen in the context of the number of newborns in **2023**, the **percentage of zero-dose children** in India is **6.2%**.  
भले ही शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या चौंकाने वाली हो, लेकिन जब इसे 2023 के नवजात शिशुओं की संख्या के संदर्भ में देखा जाए, तो भारत में यह 6.2% है।
- A **study in 2021** found that India had sharply **reduced the percentage of zero-dose children**, from **33.4% in 1992** to **10.1% in 2016**.  
2021 के एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि भारत ने शून्य-खुराक बच्चों का प्रतिशत 1992 में 33.4% से घटाकर 2016 में 10.1% कर दिया था।
- Before the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the number of zero-dose children was **1.4 million** in **2019**, but this **swelled to 2.7 million** in **2021** and then **dropped to 1.1 million** in **2022**, before **increasing to 1.44 million** in **2023**.  
कोविड-19 महामारी से पहले, 2019 में शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या 1.4 मिलियन थी, जो 2021 में बढ़कर 2.7 मिलियन हो गई, फिर 2022 में घटकर 1.1 मिलियन हुई, और 2023 में फिर बढ़कर 1.44 मिलियन हो गई।

State-wise and Social Disparities  
राज्यवार और सामाजिक असमानताएँ



- As in the **2021 study**, a large percentage of zero-dose children are in **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat**.  
2021 के अध्ययन की तरह, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, महाराष्ट्र, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात में शून्य-खुराक बच्चों का प्रतिशत अधिक है।
- There is also a relatively high proportion of them in **Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh**.  
मेघालय, नागालैंड, मिजोरम और अरुणाचल प्रदेश में भी इनकी संख्या तुलनात्मक रूप से अधिक है।
- Over the years, the **difference in zero-dose children** based on **gender, caste, and rural-urban status** has **reduced substantially**.  
वर्षों में, लिंग, जाति और ग्रामीण-शहरी स्थिति के आधार पर शून्य-खुराक बच्चों में अंतर में काफी कमी आई है।
- However, **prevalence remains high** among the **poor, mothers with low education, Scheduled Tribes, and Muslims**.  
हालांकि, गरीबों, कम शिक्षित माताओं, अनुसूचित जनजातियों और मुस्लिमों के बीच शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या अभी भी अधिक बनी हुई है।
- **Focus is needed** to immunise children in **hard-to-reach tribal areas, urban slums with huge migrant population, and in reducing vaccine hesitancy** among **Muslim households** with newborn children.  
दुर्गम जनजातीय क्षेत्रों, शहरी झुग्गियों में जहां प्रवासी आबादी अधिक है, और मुस्लिम परिवारों में वैक्सीन झिझक को कम करने पर विशेष ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

#### Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030)

#### टीकाकरण एजेंडा 2030 (IA2030)

- India has **much work to do** to meet **WHO's Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030)** — **halving zero-dose children** relative to **2019**.  
भारत को विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) के टीकाकरण एजेंडा 2030 (IA2030) को पूरा करने के लिए काफी कार्य करना होगा — 2019 के सापेक्ष शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या को आधा करना है।
- With the number of **zero-dose children in 2023 (1.44 million)** only about nearly reaching the **2019 level of 1.4 million**, India needs **greater and sustained efforts** to halve this number in the **next five years**.  
2023 में शून्य-खुराक बच्चों की संख्या 1.44 मिलियन होकर लगभग 2019 के स्तर 1.4 मिलियन पर पहुंच गई है, ऐसे में भारत को अगले पांच वर्षों में इस संख्या को आधा करने के लिए अधिक और सतत प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है।



## Fathoming America's plan to manage AI proliferation

ISS Paper III: AI

The announcement by the United States of the rescission of its Framework for AI Diffusion, a set of export controls for Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology announced earlier this year, has been viewed as a good thing. The Framework was considered counterproductive to AI technology development and diplomatic relations. However, recent developments suggest that controls on AI are likely to persist, albeit in different forms.

### A flawed blueprint

Earlier this year, during the final week of its tenure, the Joe Biden administration announced the AI Diffusion Framework. Combining export controls and export licences for AI chips and model weights, it effectively viewed AI like nuclear weapons. Under the proposed framework, countries such as China and Russia were embargoed, trusted allies were favoured, and others restricted in their access to advanced AI technology. The rationale for these rules was that computational power dictates AI capabilities: the greater the compute, the better the AI. In the last decade, the compute used in advanced AI models has nearly doubled every 10 months. Following this logic, for the U.S. to preserve its lead, it needed to prevent adversaries from acquiring powerful compute while ensuring that AI development stays within the U.S. and its close allies.

While export controls on AI hardware predated the framework, they were not sweeping. The Framework aimed to tighten these controls and establish a predictable system to streamline regulatory processes and standardise conditions. However, imposing such sweeping restrictions, affecting adversaries and partners alike, brought many unintended effects, proving counterproductive.

The framework set a concerning precedent for technology cooperation with the U.S., especially for its allies. It signalled U.S. willingness to dictate how other nations conducted their affairs,

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The rescission of the AI Diffusion Framework appears to be more a change in tactics than a fundamental shift in strategy

incentivising them to hedge against U.S. actions. Consequently, U.S. allies had reasons to invest in alternatives to the U.S. ecosystem, pursuing their own strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty.

Additionally, the framework would treat AI, a civilian technology with military applications, as if it were a military technology with civilian uses. Unlike nuclear technology, AI innovation is inherently civilian in its origins and international in scope. Confining the development geographically within the U.S. could prove counterproductive.

Finally, the system created an enduring incentive for the global scientific ecosystem to develop pathways to circumvent the need for powerful compute to make powerful AI, thereby undermining the very lever that the U.S. sought to employ. China's DeepSeek R1 exemplifies this. Years of export controls spurred algorithmic and architectural breakthroughs, enabling DeepSeek to rival the best AI models from the U.S. with a fraction of the compute. Such trends can make export controls on AI chips an ineffective policy instrument.

It is for these reasons that the Trump administration revoked the AI Diffusion Framework. This is welcome news for India, which was not favourably placed under the framework. However, the underlying U.S. thinking and approach towards AI diffusion will likely persist, manifesting in other forms. The AI technology race is still on, and the U.S. intent to restrict Chinese access to AI chips still endures.

### The possible replacement

Notwithstanding the rescinded Framework, the current U.S. administration has taken firm steps toward further preventing Chinese access to AI chips. For instance, in March 2025, the administration expanded the scope of the existing export controls and added several companies to its entity list (blacklist). It has also released several new guidelines to strengthen the

enforcement of these controls.

New provisions are reportedly under consideration, such as on-chip features to monitor and restrict the usage of AI chips. These could include rules at the hardware level limiting chip functionality or restricting certain use cases. Recently, U.S. lawmakers introduced new legislation mandating built-in location tracking for AI chips to prevent their illicit diversion into China, Russia and other countries of concern. In effect, these measures seek to enforce the goals of the AI diffusion framework technologically rather than through trade restrictions.

### The related concerns

Such measures are problematic in their own way. New concerns related to ownership, privacy and surveillance will proliferate. While malicious actors might be sufficiently motivated to circumvent these controls, legitimate and beneficial use by others could be inadvertently discouraged. Such developments undermine user autonomy and lead to trust deficits. Just like the old framework, this will lead to concerns about losing strategic autonomy for any nation buying AI chips. Yet again, both adversaries and allies will feel compelled to hedge against their reliance on the U.S. AI ecosystem and invest in alternatives.

The rescission of the AI Diffusion Framework represents a notable policy reversal. Yet, it appears to be more a change in tactics than a fundamental shift in the U.S. strategy to manage AI proliferation. Should these technologically-driven control measures gain traction in U.S. policy discourse and be implemented, they risk replicating the negative consequences of the original AI Diffusion Framework. Ultimately, should this path be pursued, it would indicate that the crucial lessons from the Framework and its eventual withdrawal have not been fully assimilated, potentially jeopardising the very U.S. leadership in AI it ostensibly seeks to protect.

## Fathoming America's plan to manage AI proliferation

## एआई प्रसार को प्रबंधित करने की अमेरिका की योजना की समझ

The announcement by the United States of the rescission of its Framework for AI Diffusion

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका द्वारा अपने AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क के वापस लेने की घोषणा

- The announcement by the United States of the rescission of its Framework for AI Diffusion, a set of export controls for Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology announced earlier this year, has been viewed as a good thing.  
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका द्वारा इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में घोषित कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) तकनीक के लिए एक्सपोर्ट कंट्रोल के सेट AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क को वापस लेने की घोषणा को एक अच्छी बात माना गया है।
- The Framework was considered counterproductive to AI technology development and diplomatic relations. However, recent developments suggest that controls on AI are likely to persist, albeit in different forms.



इस फ्रेमवर्क को AI तकनीक के विकास और कूटनीतिक संबंधों के लिए हानिकारक माना गया था। हालांकि, हाल की घटनाएं यह संकेत देती हैं कि AI पर नियंत्रण बने रहेंगे, हालांकि विभिन्न रूपों में।

## A flawed blueprint एक दोषपूर्ण योजना

- Earlier this year, during the **final week** of its tenure, the **Joe Biden administration** announced the **AI Diffusion Framework**.  
इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, अपने कार्यकाल के अंतिम सप्ताह में, जो बिडेन प्रशासन ने AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क की घोषणा की।
- Combining **export controls** and **export licences** for **AI chips** and **model weights**, it effectively viewed AI like **nuclear weapons**.  
AI चिप्स और मॉडल वेट्स के लिए एक्सपोर्ट कंट्रोल और एक्सपोर्ट लाइसेंस को मिलाकर, इसे प्रभावी रूप से परमाणु हथियारों की तरह देखा गया।
- Under the proposed framework, countries such as **China** and **Russia** were **embargoed**, **trusted allies** were favoured, and others **restricted** in their access to **advanced AI technology**.  
प्रस्तावित फ्रेमवर्क के तहत, चीन और रूस जैसे देशों पर प्रतिबंध लगाए गए, भरोसेमंद सहयोगियों को वरीयता दी गई, और अन्य को उन्नत AI तकनीक तक पहुंच सीमित की गई।
- The rationale for these rules was that **computational power** dictates **AI capabilities**: the greater the compute, the better the AI.  
इन नियमों का तर्क यह था कि कंप्यूटेशनल पावर AI क्षमताओं को निर्धारित करता है: जितना अधिक कंप्यूट होगा, उतना बेहतर AI होगा।
- In the last decade, the **compute used in advanced AI models** has nearly **doubled every 10 months**.  
पिछले दशक में, उन्नत AI मॉडल में उपयोग होने वाला कंप्यूट लगभग हर 10 महीने में दोगुना हो गया है।
- Following this logic, for the **U.S.** to preserve its lead, it needed to prevent **adversaries** from acquiring powerful compute while ensuring that **AI development** stays within the **U.S.** and its **close allies**.  
इस तर्क का पालन करते हुए, अमेरिका को अपनी बढ़त बनाए रखने के लिए, विरोधियों को शक्तिशाली कंप्यूट हासिल करने से रोकना था और साथ ही AI विकास को अमेरिका और उसके करीबी सहयोगियों तक सीमित रखना था।
- While **export controls** on **AI hardware** predated the framework, they were not sweeping.  
AI हार्डवेयर पर एक्सपोर्ट कंट्रोल फ्रेमवर्क से पहले भी थे, लेकिन वे व्यापक नहीं थे।
- The Framework aimed to **tighten** these controls and establish a **predictable system** to **streamline regulatory processes** and **standardise conditions**.  
फ्रेमवर्क का उद्देश्य इन नियंत्रणों को कड़ा करना और नियामक प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने तथा शर्तों को मानकीकृत करने के लिए एक पूर्वानुमेय प्रणाली स्थापित करना था।



- However, imposing such **sweeping restrictions**, affecting adversaries and partners alike, brought many **unintended effects**, proving **counterproductive**.  
हालांकि, ऐसे **व्यापक प्रतिबंध** लगाना, जो **विरोधियों** और **सहयोगियों** दोनों को प्रभावित करते थे, कई **अनपेक्षित प्रभाव** लेकर आया और यह **हानिकारक** साबित हुआ।
- The framework set a concerning **precedent** for **technology cooperation** with the U.S., especially for its **allies**.  
यह फ्रेमवर्क अमेरिका के साथ **तकनीकी सहयोग** के लिए एक **चिंताजनक मिसाल** कायम करता है, खासकर उसके **सहयोगियों** के लिए।
- It signalled U.S. willingness to **dictate** how other nations conducted their affairs, incentivising them to **hedge against U.S. actions**.  
इसने यह संकेत दिया कि अमेरिका अन्य देशों के कामकाज को **नियंत्रित** करने के लिए तैयार है, जिससे वे अमेरिका की कार्रवाइयों के खिलाफ **सावधानी बरतें**।
- Consequently, U.S. allies had reasons to invest in **alternatives** to the U.S. ecosystem, pursuing their own **strategic autonomy** and **technological sovereignty**.  
परिणामस्वरूप, अमेरिकी सहयोगियों के पास अमेरिकी इकोसिस्टम के **विकल्पों** में निवेश करने के कारण थे, ताकि वे अपनी **रणनीतिक स्वतंत्रता** और **तकनीकी संप्रभुता** हासिल कर सकें।
- Additionally, the framework would treat AI, a **civilian technology with military applications**, as if it were a **military technology with civilian uses**.  
इसके अतिरिक्त, यह फ्रेमवर्क AI को, जो एक **सैन्य अनुप्रयोगों वाली नागरिक तकनीक** है, मानो एक **सैन्य तकनीक के रूप में नागरिक उपयोगों** के साथ मानता।
- Unlike **nuclear technology**, AI innovation is inherently **civilian** in its origins and **international** in scope.  
**परमाणु तकनीक** के विपरीत, AI नवाचार स्वाभाविक रूप से **नागरिक** है और इसका दायरा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय** है।
- Confining the development geographically within the U.S. could prove **counterproductive**.  
विकास को भौगोलिक रूप से **अमेरिका** के भीतर सीमित करना **हानिकारक** साबित हो सकता है।
- Finally, the system created an enduring incentive for the **global scientific ecosystem** to develop pathways to **circumvent the need for powerful compute** to make powerful AI, thereby **undermining** the very lever that the U.S. sought to employ.  
अंत में, इस प्रणाली ने **वैश्विक वैज्ञानिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** के लिए एक स्थायी प्रोत्साहन बनाया ताकि वे शक्तिशाली कंप्यूट की आवश्यकता को **बायपास** करने के तरीके विकसित करें, जिससे अमेरिका की कोशिश की गई रणनीति **कमजोर** हो गई।
- China's **DeepSeek R1** exemplifies this.  
चीन का **DeepSeek R1** इसका उदाहरण है।
- Years of export controls spurred **algorithmic** and **architectural breakthroughs**, enabling DeepSeek to rival the best AI models from the U.S. with a fraction of the compute.



वर्षों के एक्सपोर्ट कंट्रोल ने एल्गोरिदमिक और आर्किटेक्चरल प्रगति को बढ़ावा दिया, जिससे DeepSeek अमेरिकी सर्वश्रेष्ठ AI मॉडलों के समान प्रदर्शन कर सका, वह भी कम कंप्यूट के साथ।

- Such trends can make **export controls on AI chips an ineffective policy instrument.**

ऐसे रुझान AI चिप्स पर एक्सपोर्ट कंट्रोल को एक अप्रभावी नीति उपकरण बना सकते हैं।

It is for these reasons that the Trump administration revoked the AI Diffusion Framework

इसी कारण ट्रंप प्रशासन ने AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क को वापस ले लिया

- It is for these reasons that the **Trump administration revoked the AI Diffusion Framework.**

इन्हीं कारणों से ट्रंप प्रशासन ने AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क को वापस ले लिया।

- **This is welcome news for India, which was not favourably placed under the framework.**

यह भारत के लिए स्वागत योग्य खबर है, क्योंकि भारत को इस फ्रेमवर्क के तहत अनुकूल स्थिति नहीं मिली थी।

- However, the underlying **U.S. thinking and approach towards AI diffusion** will likely **persist**, manifesting in other forms.

हालांकि, अमेरिका की AI डिफ्यूजन के प्रति सोच और दृष्टिकोण संभवतः जारी रहेगा, और यह अन्य रूपों में प्रकट होगा।

- The **AI technology race is still on, and the U.S. intent to restrict Chinese access to AI chips still endures.**

AI तकनीक की दौड़ अभी भी जारी है, और अमेरिका का चीन के AI चिप्स तक पहुंच को रोकने का इरादा अभी भी कायम है।

The possible replacement

संभावित विकल्प

- Notwithstanding the **rescinded Framework**, the current **U.S. administration has taken firm steps** toward further preventing **Chinese access to AI chips.**

वापस लिए गए फ्रेमवर्क के बावजूद, वर्तमान अमेरिकी प्रशासन ने चीन के AI चिप्स तक पहुंच को रोकने के लिए मजबूत कदम उठाए हैं।

- For instance, in **March 2025**, the administration **expanded the scope** of the existing **export controls** and added several companies to its **entity list (blacklist).**

उदाहरण के लिए, मार्च 2025 में, प्रशासन ने मौजूदा एक्सपोर्ट कंट्रोल के दायरे को बढ़ाया और कई कंपनियों को अपनी एंटीटी लिस्ट (ब्लैकलिस्ट) में शामिल किया।

- It has also released several **new guidelines** to strengthen the **enforcement** of these controls.



इसने इन नियंत्रणों के कड़ाई से पालन को मजबूत करने के लिए कई नई गाइडलाइनें भी जारी की हैं।

- New provisions are reportedly under consideration, such as **on-chip features to monitor and restrict the usage of AI chips**.  
नई प्रावधानों पर विचार किया जा रहा है, जैसे कि ऑन-चिप फीचर्स जो AI चिप्स के उपयोग की निगरानी और प्रतिबंधित कर सकें।
- These could include rules at the **hardware level** limiting chip **functionality** or restricting certain **use cases**.  
इनमें **हार्डवेयर स्तर** पर ऐसे नियम शामिल हो सकते हैं जो चिप की **कार्यक्षमता** को सीमित करें या कुछ विशिष्ट **उपयोग मामलों** को प्रतिबंधित करें।
- Recently, **U.S. lawmakers introduced new legislation** mandating **built-in location tracking** for AI chips to prevent their illicit diversion into **China, Russia and other countries of concern**.  
हाल ही में, **अमेरिकी विधायकों ने नया कानून पेश किया** है जो AI चिप्स के लिए **बिल्ट-इन लोकेशन ट्रैकिंग** अनिवार्य करता है ताकि उन्हें **चीन, रूस और अन्य चिंताजनक देशों** में अवैध रूप से जाने से रोका जा सके।
- In effect, these measures seek to enforce the goals of the AI diffusion framework **technologically** rather than through **trade restrictions**.  
प्रभावतः, ये उपाय AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क के उद्देश्यों को **व्यापार प्रतिबंधों के बजाय तकनीकी रूप से लागू करने** की कोशिश करते हैं।

### The related concerns संबंधित चिंताएं

- Such measures are **problematic** in their own way.  
ऐसे उपाय अपने तरीके से **समस्याग्रस्त** हैं।
- New concerns related to **ownership, privacy and surveillance** will proliferate.  
**मालिकाना हक, निजता और निगरानी** से संबंधित नई चिंताएं बढ़ेंगी।
- While **malicious actors** might be sufficiently motivated to circumvent these controls, **legitimate and beneficial use** by others could be inadvertently discouraged.  
जहां **दुष्ट तत्व** इन नियंत्रणों को तोड़ने के लिए प्रेरित हो सकते हैं, वहीं दूसरों द्वारा **वैध और लाभकारी उपयोग** अनजाने में हतोत्साहित हो सकता है।
- Such developments undermine **user autonomy** and lead to **trust deficits**.  
ऐसे विकास **उपयोगकर्ता की स्वायत्तता** को कमजोर करते हैं और **विश्वास की कमी** पैदा करते हैं।
- Just like the old framework, this will lead to concerns about losing **strategic autonomy** for any nation buying AI chips.



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

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पुराने फ्रेमवर्क की तरह, यह किसी भी देश के लिए **रणनीतिक स्वतंत्रता खोने** की चिंताओं को जन्म देगा जो AI चिप्स खरीदता है।

- Yet again, both **adversaries and allies** will feel compelled to **hedge against their reliance on the U.S. AI ecosystem** and invest in **alternatives**.  
फिर से, दोनों **विरोधी और सहयोगी** अपने आप को **अमेरिका के AI इकोसिस्टम पर निर्भरता से बचाने** के लिए मजबूर महसूस करेंगे और **विकल्पों** में निवेश करेंगे।
- The rescission of the AI Diffusion Framework represents a notable **policy reversal**.  
AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क का वापस लेना एक महत्वपूर्ण **नीति परिवर्तन** दर्शाता है।
- Yet, it appears to be more a **change in tactics** than a **fundamental shift** in the U.S. strategy to manage AI proliferation.  
फिर भी, यह लगता है कि यह AI प्रसार को नियंत्रित करने की अमेरिकी रणनीति में एक **मूलभूत बदलाव** की बजाय **रणनीति में बदलाव** है।
- Should these **technologically-driven control measures** gain traction in U.S. policy discourse and be implemented, they risk replicating the **negative consequences** of the original AI Diffusion Framework.  
यदि ये **तकनीकी रूप से प्रेरित नियंत्रण उपाय** अमेरिकी नीति संवाद में स्थान बनाते हैं और लागू होते हैं, तो वे मूल AI डिफ्यूजन फ्रेमवर्क के **नकारात्मक परिणामों** को दोहरा सकते हैं।
- Ultimately, should this path be pursued, it would indicate that the crucial lessons from the Framework and its eventual withdrawal have **not been fully assimilated**, potentially jeopardising the very U.S. **leadership in AI** it ostensibly seeks to protect.  
अंततः, यदि इस रास्ते पर आगे बढ़ा गया तो यह संकेत होगा कि फ्रेमवर्क से मिले महत्वपूर्ण सबक और इसके अंततः वापस लेने को **पूरी तरह से नहीं समझा गया है**, जिससे अमेरिका की उस **AI नेतृत्व** को खतरा हो सकता है जिसे वह बाहरी रूप से संरक्षित करना चाहता है।



## Is voter registration being subject to fraud?

GS Paper II: Elections

PARLEY

**B**eginning with the Maharashtra Assembly elections last year, Opposition parties have made many allegations regarding manipulations in electoral rolls. The Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, and others have raised the matter both inside and outside Parliament. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has maintained that it is impossible to tamper with voter rolls. Two days ago, it issued instructions for holding **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in Bihar for the Assembly elections to ensure that the names of all eligible citizens are included, the name of no ineligible citizens are included, and to introduce complete transparency in the process of addition or deletion of electors in the electoral rolls. Is voter registration being subject to fraud? Praveen Chakravarty and Rangarajan R. discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Sreeparna Chakrabarty. Edited excerpts:

**Mr. Chakravarty, let's start with you. You have studied and written on the Maharashtra Assembly elections extensively. What are your major concerns?**

**Praveen Chakravarty:** The main issue that the Congress and the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, have raised about the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections is that there was an abnormal, sudden, and almost unexplainable increase in the number of electors. It was a statistical outlier, an anomaly.

The Maharashtra Assembly elections were held just six months after the Lok Sabha polls. A group of people voted in Maharashtra for the Lok Sabha elections. Six months later, while there may be some more people voting during the Assembly elections, you don't expect the number to rise in an alarming way. But that is exactly what we found. There was an increase of more than 40 lakh voters in just those months. It is not the number 40 lakh in absolute terms that is significant. In the previous five years, the total number of new voters added in Maharashtra was only 32 lakh. So is this new increase logical?

Under what conditions do new voters register? When the ECI adds voters, 80-90% of them are either those turning 18 or adults who had not enrolled before. Did lakhs and lakhs of people in Maharashtra suddenly turn 18 or decide to become new voters in just five months while they were not to be found in the previous five years? Who are these new voters? Where did they come from? How did they enroll? What documents were checked? Were they verified?

**Rangarajan R.:** As far as the electoral rolls are



Voters wait to cast their vote during the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections, in Akola. ANI

concerned, I agree that there may be some issues. But to say that the entire voter registration process could be fudged and could be manipulated to a large extent is stretching it a bit far. *The Hindu* data team published an article about this sudden spurt after the Lok Sabha elections and before the Assembly elections in 2024. They found that during 2004, there were 30 lakh new voters added in a period of five months. In 2009, between April and October, 30 lakh voters were added. In 2014, between April and October, 27 lakh voters were added. Between April and November 2024, 40 lakh voters were added.

One reason why there could have been a sudden spurt is that the cut-off date for enrolling, which was earlier January 1 of every year, has been made quarterly. So that could have played a small and important role in the increase. I am not claiming that the electoral rolls are absolutely fine, but there are enough checks and balances. As someone who has worked in the civil services and has conducted elections, I am not for a minute saying that everything is hunky-dory and no reforms are required. There are a lot of reforms required. Aadhaar seeding has probably helped in reducing issues in databases such as PAN. There are valid concerns about seeding the Aadhaar database into the electoral rolls, but that is perhaps the way forward to ensure that there are no duplicates. Wrongful inclusions are not allowed, but the big risk is that there can be wrongful exclusions. And that is something which needs to be addressed carefully.

**The ECI has said that it is nearly impossible to tamper with electoral rolls and has asked why the Congress did not use the appeals process when the final rolls were shared for the Maharashtra Assembly polls. What is your response to that, Mr. Chakravarty?**



To clean up the electoral rolls of wrongful inclusions and exclusions and ensure utmost correctness, a detailed physical exercise such as the one planned by the ECI for Bihar is required.

**R. RANGARAJAN**

**PC:** I think there is a lot of conceptual misunderstanding around this issue. I'm going to speak as a data scientist. While Mr. Rangarajan, quoting the *The Hindu* data team, rightly pointed out some figures for 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2024, what he did not mention is the context of the 40 lakh increase. All numbers have a context. Trends and not levels are important to understand big data.

In 2004, when 30 lakh voters were added in the five months between the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, do you know how many voters were added in the previous five years? 61 lakh voters, twice. In 2009, when 30 lakh voters were added in the five months, 70 lakh voters were added in the previous five years. In 2014, when 27 lakh new voters were added in the five months, 48 lakh voters were added in the previous five years. So, the statistical anomaly that I am pointing out here is not the 40 lakh. It is the illogical and suspicious trend of more new voters in five months than in five full years.

In Maharashtra, fertility levels have been falling for the last two decades. This means that the total number of newborns would have only decreased every year. This also means that the number of people turning 18 would have decreased from 2004. The population may increase, but the number of people turning 18 would have decreased. My simple point is that it is humanly impossible for Maharashtra to produce that many more people in five months than in the previous five years.

Regarding your question about whether Congress's booth-level agents were sleeping... Let us say there is a burglary in your home. You go to the police station to file a complaint. What if the police station turned to you and said, your security guard was sleeping, so we can't do anything? The ECI has a constitutional responsibility to conduct free and fair elections in this country. If all the responsibility is outsourced to political parties, why have an independent constitutional body? But I am not denying here that the Congress's organisation should be much stronger than what it is.

**RR:** First, to give due credit to *The Hindu*, the data team's article does mention these increases that Mr. Chakravarty talked about. However, I agree that if there is indeed an anomaly, the

failure of a party's organisational wing to check, cross-check, and file appeals cannot absolve a constitutional authority of their responsibility.

**Mr. Chakravarty, you have been asking for electoral rolls to be given in machine-readable format for both the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. You have also been demanding CCTV footage after 5 p.m. claiming that there is a surge in voter turnout after that. Could you explain these demands?**

**PC:** We are asking for it to be in digital or machine-readable format because they (ECI) can give you these scanned images or papers and ask you (the party) to go manage it.

Regarding your second point, we are saying – and we have shown using the ECI's summary data – that there is an abnormal surge. We also know that there was some abnormal increase in voting happened after 5 p.m. Now, is it or is it not the responsibility of a constitutional body to preserve the trust and confidence of the institution by coming out and saying here is the footage? Every time we raise a question, BJP leaders are the ones responding. We never asked the BJP to respond. We're only asking the ECI.

**The ECI has said that beginning with the Bihar Assembly elections later this year, there will be a SIR of electoral rolls across the country. What do you think about this?**

**PC:** This is a tacit admission by the ECI that all is not well with the electoral rolls. Also, is this the right way to clean up the rolls? This is as good as going back and saying we are almost rendering the last 20 years of voter roll revisions defunct and we're just going to start afresh.

**RR:** To clean up the electoral rolls of wrongful inclusions and exclusions and ensure utmost correctness, a detailed physical exercise such as the one planned by the ECI for Bihar is required. It can still be subject to allegations of manipulation and bias in favour of the ruling party. To overcome such accusations, it must be done in a fair and transparent manner by giving wide publicity to the public at large. While it is undoubtedly the legal responsibility of the ECI, all political parties are very important stakeholders in this exercise, representing the citizenry. They should own up and participate in this exercise as much as possible to ensure a robust electoral roll.



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

## Is voter registration being subject to fraud? क्या मतदाता पंजीकरण में धोखाधड़ी हो रही है?

### Concerns over Electoral Roll Manipulation in Maharashtra महाराष्ट्र में मतदाता सूची में हेरफेर पर चिंता

- Beginning with the **Maharashtra Assembly elections** last year, **Opposition parties** have made many allegations regarding manipulations in electoral rolls.

पिछले वर्ष महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनावों से शुरू होकर, विपक्षी दलों ने मतदाता सूचियों में हेरफेर को लेकर कई आरोप लगाए हैं।

- The **Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi**, and others have raised the matter both inside and outside Parliament.

विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी और अन्य लोगों ने यह मुद्दा संसद के अंदर और बाहर दोनों जगह उठाया है।



- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has maintained that it is impossible to tamper with voter rolls.  
भारतीय चुनाव आयोग (ECI) का कहना है कि मतदाता सूची के साथ छेड़छाड़ करना असंभव है।
- Two days ago, it issued instructions for holding **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls** in Bihar for the **Assembly elections** to ensure that the names of **all eligible citizens are included**, the name of **no ineligible citizens are included**, and to introduce **complete transparency** in the process of **addition or deletion** of electors in the electoral rolls.  
दो दिन पहले, आयोग ने बिहार में विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए मतदाता सूची की विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) कराने का निर्देश जारी किया ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि सभी योग्य नागरिकों के नाम शामिल हों, कोई भी अयोग्य व्यक्ति शामिल न हो, और मतदाताओं को जोड़ने या हटाने की प्रक्रिया में पूरी पारदर्शिता हो।

### Concerns Raised by Praveen Chakravarty प्रवीण चक्रवर्ती द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताएँ

- The main issue that the **Congress** and **Rahul Gandhi** have raised about the **2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections** is that there was an **abnormal, sudden, and almost unexplainable increase in the number of electors**.  
कांग्रेस और राहुल गांधी ने 2024 महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनावों के संबंध में जो मुख्य मुद्दा उठाया है, वह मतदाताओं की संख्या में असामान्य, अचानक और लगभग अजीबो-गरीब वृद्धि है।
- It was a **statistical outlier**, an **anomaly**.  
यह एक सांख्यिकीय अपवाद था, एक असामान्यता।
- The Maharashtra Assembly elections were held just **six months after** the **Lok Sabha polls**.  
महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनाव लोकसभा चुनावों के सिर्फ छह महीने बाद हुए थे।
- A group of people voted in Maharashtra for the **Lok Sabha elections**. Six months later, while there may be some more people voting during the Assembly elections, you don't expect the number to rise in an **alarming way**.  
महाराष्ट्र में लोकसभा चुनावों के लिए लोगों ने मतदान किया। छह महीने बाद, विधानसभा चुनावों में कुछ और लोग मतदान कर सकते हैं, लेकिन इतनी तेज वृद्धि की उम्मीद नहीं होती।
- But that is exactly what we found. There was an **increase of more than 40 lakh voters in just those months**.  
लेकिन यही देखने को मिला — केवल इन महीनों में 40 लाख से अधिक मतदाताओं की वृद्धि हुई।



- It is not the number **40 lakh in absolute terms** that is significant. In the **previous five years**, the **total number of new voters added** in Maharashtra was only **32 lakh**.  
यहाँ **40 लाख की संख्या का आंकिक महत्त्व** नहीं है, बल्कि यह तथ्य है कि **पिछले पाँच वर्षों में महाराष्ट्र में सिर्फ 32 लाख नए मतदाता** जोड़े गए थे।
- So is this new increase logical?  
तो क्या यह **नई वृद्धि तर्कसंगत** है?
- Under what conditions do new voters register? When the **ECI adds voters**, **80-90%** of them are either those **turning 18** or **adults who had not enroled before**.  
नए मतदाता किन परिस्थितियों में **पंजीकरण कराते हैं?** जब **ECI मतदाताओं को जोड़ता है**, तो उनमें से **80-90%** या तो **18 वर्ष के हो रहे युवा** होते हैं या **ऐसे वयस्क जो पहले पंजीकृत नहीं हुए थे**।
- Did lakhs and lakhs of people in Maharashtra suddenly **turn 18** or decide to become new voters in just **five months** while they were not to be found in the previous **five years**?  
क्या महाराष्ट्र में लाखों लोगों ने अचानक **18 वर्ष की उम्र पूरी कर ली** या केवल **पांच महीनों में नए मतदाता बनने का निर्णय लिया**, जबकि वे पिछले **पाँच वर्षों में नहीं दिखे?**
- Who are these new voters? Where did they come from? How did they enrol? What documents were checked? Were they verified?  
ये **नए मतदाता कौन हैं?** वे **कहाँ से आए?** उन्होंने **कैसे पंजीकरण कराया?** **कौन से दस्तावेज जांचे गए?** क्या उनकी **सत्यापन प्रक्रिया हुई?**

#### Response by Rangarajan R. रंगराजन आर. की प्रतिक्रिया

- As far as the **electoral rolls** are concerned, I agree that there may be **some issues**.  
जहाँ तक **मतदाता सूचियों** की बात है, मैं मानता हूँ कि इसमें **कुछ समस्याएं** हो सकती हैं।
- But to say that the **entire voter registration process** could be **fudged and manipulated** to a large extent is **stretching it a bit far**.  
लेकिन यह कहना कि **पूरे मतदाता पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया में बड़ी हेरफेर** हो सकती है, यह **कुछ ज्यादा ही कहना** होगा।
- The **Hindu data team** published an article about this **sudden spurt** after the **Lok Sabha elections** and before the **Assembly elections in 2024**.  
**हिंदू डेटा टीम** ने **लोकसभा चुनावों के बाद और 2024 के विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले हुई अचानक वृद्धि** पर एक लेख प्रकाशित किया।
- They found that during **2004**, there were **30 lakh new voters** added in a period of **five months**.  
उन्होंने पाया कि **2004 में पाँच महीनों के भीतर 30 लाख नए मतदाता** जोड़े गए थे।



- In 2009, between April and October, 30 lakh voters were added.  
2009 में, अप्रैल से अक्टूबर के बीच 30 लाख मतदाता जोड़े गए।
- In 2014, between April and October, 27 lakh voters were added.  
2014 में, अप्रैल से अक्टूबर के बीच 27 लाख मतदाता जोड़े गए।
- Between April and November 2024, 40 lakh voters were added.  
अप्रैल से नवंबर 2024 के बीच 40 लाख मतदाता जोड़े गए।
- One reason why there could have been a sudden spurt is that the cut-off date for enrolling, which was earlier January 1, has been made quarterly.  
इस अचानक वृद्धि का एक कारण यह हो सकता है कि नामांकन की कट-ऑफ तिथि, जो पहले 1 जनवरी थी, अब त्रैमासिक कर दी गई है।
- So that could have played a small and important role in the increase.  
इससे इस वृद्धि में छोटा लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण योगदान हो सकता है।
- I am not claiming that the electoral rolls are absolutely fine, but there are enough checks and balances.  
मैं यह दावा नहीं कर रहा कि मतदाता सूचियाँ पूरी तरह सही हैं, लेकिन इसमें पर्याप्त जाँच और संतुलन हैं।
- As someone who has worked in the civil services and has conducted elections, I am not for a minute saying that everything is hunky-dory and no reforms are required.  
एक ऐसा व्यक्ति जिसने नागरिक सेवाओं में कार्य किया है और चुनाव कराए हैं, मैं यह नहीं कह रहा कि सब कुछ ठीक है और कोई सुधार आवश्यक नहीं है।
- There are a lot of reforms required.  
काफी सुधारों की आवश्यकता है।
- Aadhaar seeding has probably helped in reducing issues in databases such as PAN.  
आधार सीडिंग ने संभवतः PAN जैसे डेटाबेस में समस्याओं को कम करने में मदद की है।
- There are valid concerns about seeding the Aadhaar database into the electoral rolls, but that is perhaps the way forward to ensure that there are no duplicates.  
मतदाता सूची में आधार डेटा जोड़ने को लेकर वाजिब चिंताएं हैं, लेकिन शायद यही एक आगे का रास्ता है ताकि डुप्लिकेट नामों को रोका जा सके।
- Wrongful inclusions are not allowed, but the big risk is that there can be wrongful exclusions.  
गलत तरीके से नाम जोड़ना अनुमति नहीं है, लेकिन सबसे बड़ा खतरा यह है कि गलत तरीके से नाम हटाए जा सकते हैं।
- And that is something which needs to be addressed carefully.  
और यह एक ऐसा विषय है जिसे सावधानीपूर्वक संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए।



## ECI's Defence and Praveen Chakravarty's Response चुनाव आयोग का बचाव और प्रवीण चक्रवर्ती की प्रतिक्रिया

- The **ECI** has said that it is **nearly impossible to tamper with electoral rolls** and has asked why the **Congress** did not use the **appeals process** when the **final rolls** were shared for the **Maharashtra Assembly polls**.  
चुनाव आयोग (ECI) ने कहा है कि मतदाता सूची के साथ छेड़छाड़ करना लगभग असंभव है और पूछा है कि महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए अंतिम सूची जारी होने पर कांग्रेस ने अपील प्रक्रिया का उपयोग क्यों नहीं किया।
- **PC**: I think there is a lot of **conceptual misunderstanding** around this issue.  
प्रवीण चक्रवर्ती: मुझे लगता है कि इस मुद्दे को लेकर काफी सैद्धांतिक भ्रम है।
- I'm going to speak as a **data scientist**.  
मैं एक **डेटा वैज्ञानिक** के रूप में बात कर रहा हूँ।
- While Mr. Rangarajan, quoting the **The Hindu data team**, rightly pointed out some **figures for 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2024**, what he did not mention is the **context of the 40 lakh increase**.  
जबकि श्री रंगराजन ने **हिंदू डेटा टीम** का हवाला देते हुए **2004, 2009, 2014 और 2024** के आंकड़े सही तरीके से बताए, उन्होंने **40 लाख की वृद्धि के संदर्भ** का उल्लेख नहीं किया।
- **All numbers have a context. Trends and not levels are important to understand big data.**  
हर आंकड़े का एक संदर्भ होता है। बड़े डेटा को समझने के लिए प्रवृत्तियाँ महत्वपूर्ण होती हैं, न कि केवल स्तर।
- In **2004**, when **30 lakh voters** were added in the five months between the **Lok Sabha and Assembly elections**, do you know how many voters were added in the previous **five years**? **61 lakh voters**, twice.  
**2004** में जब **लोकसभा और विधानसभा चुनावों के बीच 30 लाख मतदाता** जोड़े गए, तो क्या आप जानते हैं कि पिछले **पाँच वर्षों में** कितने मतदाता जोड़े गए थे? **61 लाख**, यानी दोगुना।
- In **2009**, when **30 lakh voters** were added in five months, **70 lakh voters** were added in the previous five years.  
**2009** में, जब **पाँच महीनों में 30 लाख मतदाता** जोड़े गए, तो पिछले **पाँच वर्षों में 70 लाख मतदाता** जोड़े गए थे।
- In **2014**, when **27 lakh new voters** were added in five months, **48 lakh voters** were added in the previous five years.  
**2014** में, जब **पाँच महीनों में 27 लाख नए मतदाता** जोड़े गए, तब पिछले **पाँच वर्षों में 48 लाख मतदाता** जोड़े गए थे।
- So, the **statistical anomaly** that I am pointing out here is not the **40 lakh**.  
इसलिए मैं जिस **सांख्यिकीय असमानता** की ओर इशारा कर रहा हूँ, वह केवल **40 लाख की संख्या** नहीं है।
- It is the **illogical and suspicious trend of more new voters in five months than in five full years**.



यह इस बात की अतार्किक और संदिग्ध प्रवृत्ति है कि पाँच महीनों में नए मतदाताओं की संख्या पाँच वर्षों से अधिक हो गई।

- In Maharashtra, fertility levels have been falling for the last two decades. महाराष्ट्र में पिछले दो दशकों से प्रजनन दर में गिरावट आ रही है।

- This means that the total number of newborns would have only decreased every year.

इसका मतलब यह है कि हर साल जन्म लेने वाले बच्चों की संख्या कम ही हुई होगी।

- This also means that the number of people turning 18 would have decreased from 2004.

इसका यह भी मतलब है कि 2004 से 18 वर्ष की उम्र में प्रवेश करने वालों की संख्या भी घटी होगी।

- The population may increase, but the number of people turning 18 would have decreased.

जनसंख्या भले ही बढ़े, लेकिन 18 वर्ष पूरे करने वालों की संख्या घटनी चाहिए थी।

- My simple point is that it is humanly impossible for Maharashtra to produce that many more people in five months than in the previous five years.

मेरी सीधी बात है कि यह मानव रूप से असंभव है कि महाराष्ट्र में पिछले पाँच वर्षों की तुलना में केवल पाँच महीनों में इतने अधिक लोग सामने आए हों।

- Regarding your question about whether Congress's booth-level agents were sleeping...

आपके इस सवाल के संबंध में कि क्या कांग्रेस के बूथ स्तर के एजेंट सो रहे थे...

- Let us say there is a burglary in your home. You go to the police station to file a complaint.

मान लीजिए कि आपके घर में चोरी होती है। आप पुलिस स्टेशन में शिकायत दर्ज कराने जाते हैं।

- What if the police station turned to you and said, your security guard was sleeping, so we can't do anything?

अगर पुलिस आपसे कहे कि आपका सुरक्षा गार्ड सो रहा था, इसलिए हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते?

- The ECI has a constitutional responsibility to conduct free and fair elections in this country.

ECI की यह संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारी है कि वह देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराए।

- If all the responsibility is outsourced to political parties, why have an independent constitutional body?

अगर सारी जिम्मेदारी राजनीतिक दलों को ही देनी है, तो फिर स्वतंत्र संवैधानिक संस्था की जरूरत ही क्या है?

- But I am not denying here that the Congress's organisation should be much stronger than what it is.

लेकिन मैं यह नहीं कह रहा कि कांग्रेस का संगठन जितना मजबूत होना चाहिए, उतना है।



## Demands for Electoral Roll Reforms and Transparency

### मतदाता सूची सुधार और पारदर्शिता की मांग

- **RR:** First, to give due credit to *The Hindu*, the data team's article does mention these increases that Mr. Chakravarty talked about.  
**आरआर:** सबसे पहले, *द हिंदू* को उचित श्रेय देना चाहिए, डेटा टीम के लेख में श्री चक्रवर्ती द्वारा बताए गए इन आंकड़ों का उल्लेख किया गया है।
- However, I agree that if there is indeed an **anomaly**, the failure of a party's organisational wing to check, cross-check, and file appeals **cannot absolve a constitutional authority** of their responsibility.  
हालांकि, मैं सहमत हूँ कि अगर वास्तव में कोई **विषमता** है, तो किसी पार्टी के संगठनात्मक विंग की विफलता **संवैधानिक संस्था को उसकी जिम्मेदारी से मुक्त नहीं कर सकती।**
- **Mr. Chakravarty**, you have been asking for **electoral rolls** to be given in **machine-readable format** for both the **Lok Sabha and Assembly polls**.  
**श्री चक्रवर्ती**, आप **लोकसभा और विधानसभा चुनावों** के लिए **मशीन-रीडेबल फॉर्मेट** में **मतदाता सूचियों** की मांग कर रहे हैं।
- You have also been demanding **CCTV footage after 5 p.m.**, claiming that there is a **surge in voter turnout** after that.  
आप **शाम 5 बजे के बाद की सीसीटीवी फुटेज** की भी मांग कर रहे हैं, यह कहते हुए कि इसके बाद **मतदान प्रतिशत में अचानक वृद्धि** होती है।

## Explanation of Demands by Praveen Chakravarty

### प्रवीण चक्रवर्ती द्वारा मांगों का स्पष्टीकरण

- **PC:** We are asking for it to be in **digital or machine-readable format** because they (ECI) can give you these **scanned images or papers** and ask you (the party) to go manage it.  
**प्रवीण चक्रवर्ती:** हम इसे **डिजिटल या मशीन-रीडेबल फॉर्मेट** में मांग रहे हैं क्योंकि वे (ECI) **स्कैन की हुई इमेज या कागज** दे देते हैं और फिर पार्टी से कह देते हैं कि इसे संभालो।
- Regarding your second point, we are saying — and we have shown using the **ECI's summary data** — that there is an **abnormal surge**.  
आपके दूसरे बिंदु के संबंध में, हम कह रहे हैं — और हमने **ECI के सारांश डेटा** का उपयोग करके दिखाया है — कि इसमें **असामान्य वृद्धि** है।
- We also know that there was some **abnormal increase in voting after 5 p.m.**  
हमें यह भी पता है कि **शाम 5 बजे के बाद मतदान में असामान्य वृद्धि** हुई थी।
- Now, is it or is it not the responsibility of a **constitutional body** to preserve the **trust and confidence** of the institution by coming out and saying **here is the footage**?  
अब, क्या यह **संवैधानिक संस्था** की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है कि वह संस्था पर **विश्वास और भरोसा बनाए रखे** और सामने आकर कहे कि **यह रही फुटेज**?
- Every time we raise a question, **BJP leaders** are the ones responding. We never asked the BJP to respond.



जब भी हम कोई सवाल उठाते हैं, तो **भाजपा नेता** जवाब देते हैं। हमने कभी भाजपा से जवाब नहीं मांगा।

- We're only asking the **ECI**.  
हम केवल **ECI** से ही पूछ रहे हैं।

### Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls मतदाता सूची का विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)

- The **ECI** has said that beginning with the **Bihar Assembly elections** later this year, there will be a **SIR of electoral rolls across the country**.  
**ECI** ने कहा है कि इस वर्ष के अंत में **बिहार विधानसभा चुनावों** से शुरू होकर **देशभर में मतदाता सूची का SIR (विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण)** होगा।
- **PC**: This is a **tacit admission** by the ECI that **all is not well with the electoral rolls**.  
**प्रवीण चक्रवर्ती**: यह **ECI** की एक मौन स्वीकृति है कि **मतदाता सूचियों में सब कुछ ठीक नहीं है**।
- Also, is this the right way to **clean up the rolls**? This is as good as going back and saying we are almost rendering the **last 20 years of voter roll revisions defunct** and we're just going to **start afresh**.  
क्या यह **सूचियों की सफाई** का सही तरीका है? यह तो ऐसा है जैसे हम कह रहे हों कि **पिछले 20 वर्षों का पूरा संशोधन अमान्य** हो गया है और अब हम **फिर से शुरुआत** करेंगे।

### RR on the SIR Process RR की SIR प्रक्रिया पर राय

- To clean up the electoral rolls of **wrongful inclusions and exclusions** and ensure **utmost correctness**, a detailed **physical exercise** such as the one planned by the ECI for Bihar is required.  
**गलत सम्मिलनों और अपवर्जनों** से मतदाता सूची को साफ करने और **पूर्ण सटीकता** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **ECI** द्वारा **बिहार में नियोजित विस्तृत भौतिक प्रक्रिया** आवश्यक है।
- It can still be subject to **allegations of manipulation and bias** in favour of the **ruling party**.  
फिर भी यह **सत्ताधारी दल के पक्ष में हेरफेर और पक्षपात के आरोपों** के अधीन हो सकता है।
- To overcome such accusations, it must be done in a **fair and transparent manner** by giving **wide publicity to the public at large**.  
ऐसे आरोपों से बचने के लिए इसे **निष्पक्ष और पारदर्शी तरीके से** और **जनता में व्यापक प्रचार** के साथ किया जाना चाहिए।
- While it is undoubtedly the **legal responsibility of the ECI**, all **political parties** are very important stakeholders in this exercise, representing the **citizenry**.  
यह निस्संदेह **ECI की कानूनी जिम्मेदारी** है, लेकिन सभी **राजनीतिक दल** इस प्रक्रिया में **नागरिकों का प्रतिनिधित्व** करते हुए महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सेदार हैं।



- They should **own up and participate** in this exercise as much as possible to ensure a **robust electoral roll**.  
उन्हें इस प्रक्रिया में उत्तरदायित्व लेकर अधिकतम रूप से भाग लेना चाहिए ताकि एक मजबूत मतदाता सूची सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

## TOPICS COVERED

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

- 1. Shukla becomes first Indian to enter the ISS**  
शुक्ला आईएसएस में प्रवेश करने वाले पहले भारतीय बने
- 2. Belousov assures Rajnath of timely delivery of S-400 systems to India**  
बेलौसोव ने राजनाथ को भारत को एस-400 सिस्टम समय पर उपलब्ध कराने का आश्वासन दिया
- 3. Two weeks on, black box data of AI flight are being analysed**  
दो सप्ताह बाद, AI उड़ान के ब्लैक बॉक्स डेटा का विश्लेषण किया जा रहा है
- 4. Shubhanshu Shukla 634th astronaut to reach space**  
शुभांशु शुक्ला अंतरिक्ष में पहुंचने वाले 634वें अंतरिक्ष यात्री
- 5. Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers cry foul over Prada's 'replica' sandal**  
कोल्हापुरी चप्पल निर्माताओं ने प्रादा की 'प्रतिकृति' चप्पल पर नाराजगी जताई
- 6. What are the most commonly used cancer drugs?**  
सबसे अधिक इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली कैंसर की दवाएँ कौन सी हैं?
- 7. MSME credit origination slid 7% in FY25 as lenders stayed off micro loans: report**  
वित्त वर्ष 2025 में एमएसएमई ऋण उत्पत्ति में 7% की गिरावट आई क्योंकि ऋणदाता माइक्रो लोन पर बने रहे: रिपोर्ट



# Shukla becomes first Indian to enter the ISS

IAF Group Captain is the pilot of the much-delayed mission and will spend two weeks on the space station; he is one of the four astronauts designated to take part in Gaganyaan mission

GS Paper III: S&T

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

**G**roup Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force created history on Thursday afternoon by becoming the first Indian to enter the International Space Station.

As the Dragon crew capsule carrying Mr. Shukla and three other astronauts as part of Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) circled earth, he greeted people back home with a “Namaskar from space”. The spacecraft then docked with the ISS at 4.01 p.m. IST as it passed over the north Atlantic Ocean.

For Mr. Shukla, this is the first step to a more ambitious mission as he is one of the four astronauts designated to take part in Gaganyaan, India’s first human spaceflight mission. The Indian Space Research Organisation, which ex-



**Mission update:** Shubhanshu Shukla and his fellow astronauts being welcomed aboard by the ISS crew. PTI

pects to conduct the first crewed flight under this mission no earlier than 2026, paid more than ₹500 crore for the Ax-4 mission to include Mr. Shukla and Prasanth Nair, another Gaganyaan designate who was part of the back-up crew for the Ax-4 mission.

On Thursday’s flight, Mr. Shukla was the mission pilot. A live videolink from NASA showed the spacecraft approaching the sta-

tion, with the docking sequence being completed at 4.15 p.m.

At the lift-off on Wednesday evening from Florida, Axiom Space – which is orchestrating the mission – had said the capsule would attempt docking in about 28 hours.

“Shubhanshu stands at the threshold entrance of International Space Station... as the world watches with excitement and ex-

pectation,” Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh wrote in a post on X.

The four astronauts aboard will spend the next two weeks at the ISS conducting scientific experiments, including eight from ISRO, and helping with the station’s upkeep.

The first delay was due to adverse weather, followed by technical issues in the Falcon 9 rocket and then on the ISS.

In the lead-up to the Ax-4 mission, both Mr. Shukla and Mr. Nair had received advanced training at NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in Texas.

Along with the other Gaganyaan designates Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap, they had previously received training in Russia. Training inputs from the U.S. and Russia are deemed valuable because of their considerable human spaceflight experience.

**Shukla becomes first Indian to enter the ISS**

**शुक्ला आईएसएस में प्रवेश करने वाले पहले भारतीय बने**

IAF Group Captain is the pilot of the much-delayed mission and will spend two weeks on the space station; he is one of the four astronauts designated to take part in Gaganyaan mission



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

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

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भारतीय वायुसेना के ग्रुप कैप्टन इस बहुप्रतीक्षित मिशन के पायलट हैं और अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर दो सप्ताह बिताएंगे; वे गगनयान मिशन में भाग लेने के लिए नामित चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों में से एक हैं।

### Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's Historic Space Mission

#### ग्रुप कैप्टन शुभांशु शुक्ला का ऐतिहासिक अंतरिक्ष मिशन

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** of the Indian Air Force created history on Thursday afternoon by becoming the **first Indian to enter the International Space Station (ISS)**.  
भारतीय वायुसेना के ग्रुप कैप्टन शुभांशु शुक्ला ने गुरुवार दोपहर को इतिहास रच दिया जब वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (ISS) में प्रवेश करने वाले पहले भारतीय बने।
- As the **Dragon crew capsule** carrying Mr. Shukla and three other astronauts as part of **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** circled Earth, he greeted people back home with a **“Namaskar from space”**.  
जब **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** का **ड्रैगन क्रू कैप्सूल**, जिसमें श्री शुक्ला और तीन अन्य अंतरिक्ष यात्री थे, पृथ्वी की परिक्रमा कर रहा था, तब उन्होंने धरती पर लोगों को **“स्पेस से नमस्कार”** कहा।
- The **spacecraft docked with the ISS at 4.01 p.m. IST** as it passed over the **North Atlantic Ocean**.  
अंतरिक्ष यान ने शाम 4:01 बजे IST पर ISS से डॉक किया, जब यह उत्तर अटलांटिक महासागर के ऊपर से गुजर रहा था।
- For Mr. Shukla, this is the **first step to a more ambitious mission**, as he is one of the **four astronauts designated for Gaganyaan**, India's **first human spaceflight mission**.  
श्री शुक्ला के लिए यह एक अधिक महत्वाकांक्षी मिशन की पहली कड़ी है, क्योंकि वे भारत के पहले मानव अंतरिक्ष मिशन 'गगनयान' के लिए चयनित चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों में से एक हैं।
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, which expects to conduct the **first crewed flight under Gaganyaan no earlier than 2026**, paid more than **₹500 crore for the Ax-4 mission** to include Mr. Shukla and **Prasanth Nair**, another Gaganyaan designate.  
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO), जो 2026 से पहले गगनयान की पहली मानवयुक्त उड़ान शुरू नहीं करेगा, ने Ax-4 मिशन में श्री शुक्ला और एक अन्य गगनयान चयनित 'प्रसांत नायर' को शामिल करने के लिए ₹500 करोड़ से अधिक का भुगतान किया।
- **Prasanth Nair** was part of the **back-up crew for the Ax-4 mission**.  
प्रसांत नायर इस Ax-4 मिशन की बैकअप क्रू का हिस्सा थे।
- On Thursday's flight, **Mr. Shukla was the mission pilot**.  
गुरुवार की उड़ान में श्री शुक्ला मिशन पायलट थे।
- A **live videolink from NASA** showed the spacecraft approaching the station, with **docking completed at 4.15 p.m.**

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NASA की लाइव वीडियो लिंक में अंतरिक्ष यान को स्टेशन के पास आते हुए दिखाया गया, और डॉकिंग शाम 4:15 बजे पूरी हो गई।

- At the lift-off on Wednesday evening from Florida, Axiom Space — which is orchestrating the mission — had said the capsule would attempt docking in about 28 hours.

बुधवार शाम फ्लोरिडा से प्रक्षेपण के समय, Ax-4 मिशन संचालित कर रही Axiom Space ने कहा था कि कैप्सूल लगभग 28 घंटे में डॉकिंग का प्रयास करेगा।

- “Shubhanshu stands at the threshold entrance of International Space Station... as the world watches with excitement and expectation,” Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh wrote in a post on X.

“शुभांशु अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन के प्रवेश द्वार पर खड़े हैं... जब पूरी दुनिया उत्साह और अपेक्षा से उन्हें देख रही है,” केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री (अंतरिक्ष) जितेंद्र सिंह ने X पर एक पोस्ट में लिखा।

### Mission Duration and Scientific Role मिशन की अवधि और वैज्ञानिक भूमिका

- The four astronauts aboard will spend the next two weeks at the ISS conducting scientific experiments, including eight from ISRO, and helping with the station’s upkeep.

चारों अंतरिक्ष यात्री अगले दो सप्ताह ISS पर बिताएंगे, जहां वे वैज्ञानिक प्रयोग करेंगे, जिनमें से आठ ISRO के होंगे, और स्टेशन की देखभाल में भी मदद करेंगे।

### Delays and Training Details विलंब और प्रशिक्षण विवरण

- The first delay was due to adverse weather, followed by technical issues in the Falcon 9 rocket and then on the ISS.

पहली विलंब का कारण था खराब मौसम, इसके बाद फाल्कन 9 रॉकेट में तकनीकी समस्याएं, और फिर ISS में समस्याएं आईं।

- In the lead-up to the Ax-4 mission, both Mr. Shukla and Mr. Nair had received advanced training at NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in Texas.

Ax-4 मिशन की तैयारी के दौरान, श्री शुक्ला और श्री नायर को टेक्सास के NASA के जॉनसन स्पेस सेंटर में उन्नत प्रशिक्षण मिला था।

- Along with the other Gaganyaan designates Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap, they had previously received training in Russia.

अन्य गगनयान चयनित अजीत कृष्णन और अंगद प्रताप के साथ, उन्होंने पहले रूस में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया था।

- Training inputs from the U.S. and Russia are deemed valuable because of their considerable human spaceflight experience.

अमेरिका और रूस से मिला प्रशिक्षण बहुमूल्य माना जाता है क्योंकि उनके पास मानव



अंतरिक्ष उड़ानों का विशाल अनुभव है।

# Belousov assures Rajnath of timely delivery of S-400 systems to India

GS Paper III: Defence

**Saurabh Trivedi**

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a comprehensive bilateral meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov in Qingdao, China, over cooperation in defence and aviation sectors between the two countries.

In Thursday's meeting, a discussion was also held over the timely delivery of S-400 air-defence systems to India, and the Russian Minister assured his Indian counterpart of the same, sources said.

In Indian service, the S-400 has been officially named "Sudarshan Chakra" after the mythological weapon of Lord Krishna. The S-400 has capability of engaging targets at ranges



An initial order of five S-400 air defence systems was placed and three were delivered. The remaining two units are on track. AFP

of up to 400 km.

An initial order of five S-400s was placed by India and three have been delivered. The remaining two S-400 units are on track, with deliveries expected to be completed in the stipulated time frame, sources said. Of the remaining two units, one is expected to be

delivered next year and the final system in 2027.

Both sides agreed to a bilateral cooperation in defence and other sectors such as aviation. A detailed discussion was also held to further strengthen the supply chain between the two countries. They also showed interest in ex-

change of technologies in the aviation sector.

During Operation Sindoor, the Russian-made S-400 systems played a critical role in intercepting and neutralising missiles and drones launched by Pakistan.

India signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Triumf, which can intercept fighter jets, ballistic missiles, and drones, making it a vital part of India's arsenal.

Mr. Singh is in Qingdao to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting on June 25-26.

On the sidelines of the multilateral summit, he will also hold bilateral talks with his counterpart from China.

## Belousov assures Rajnath of timely delivery of S-400 systems to India

बेलौसोव ने राजनाथ को भारत को एस-400 सिस्टम समय पर उपलब्ध कराने का आश्वासन दिया

India-Russia Defence Cooperation and S-400 Delivery Update

भारत-रूस रक्षा सहयोग और S-400 डिलीवरी अपडेट

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a comprehensive bilateral meeting with **Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov in Qingdao, China**, over cooperation in defence and aviation sectors between the two countries.



रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने चीन के चिंगदाओ में रूसी रक्षा मंत्री आंद्रे बेलोउसव के साथ रक्षा और विमानन क्षेत्रों में सहयोग पर एक व्यापक द्विपक्षीय बैठक की।

- In Thursday's meeting, a discussion was also held over the **timely delivery of S-400 air-defence systems** to India, and the **Russian Minister assured** his Indian counterpart of the same, sources said.

गुरुवार की बैठक में भारत को S-400 एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम की समय पर डिलीवरी पर भी चर्चा हुई, और रूसी मंत्री ने भारतीय समकक्ष को आश्वासन दिया, सूत्रों ने बताया।

- In Indian service, the **S-400 has been officially named "Sudarshan Chakra"**, after the **mythological weapon of Lord Krishna**.  
भारत में सेवा के दौरान S-400 को आधिकारिक रूप से "सुदर्शन चक्र" नाम दिया गया है, जो भगवान कृष्ण के पौराणिक अस्त्र से प्रेरित है।
- The **S-400 has the capability of engaging targets at ranges of up to 400 km**.  
S-400 की क्षमता 400 किलोमीटर तक के लक्ष्यों को भेदने की है।
- An initial **order of five S-400s** was placed by India and **three have been delivered**.  
भारत ने S-400 की पाँच यूनिटों का प्रारंभिक ऑर्डर दिया था, जिनमें से तीन यूनिट पहले ही डिलीवर की जा चुकी हैं।
- The **remaining two S-400 units** are on track, with deliveries expected to be completed in the **stipulated time frame**, sources said.  
शेष दो S-400 यूनिटें तय समय सीमा में डिलीवर की जाएंगी, सूत्रों के अनुसार।
- Of the **remaining two units**, one is expected to be delivered **next year** and the **final system in 2027**.  
शेष दो यूनिटों में से एक अगले वर्ष और अंतिम यूनिट 2027 में डिलीवर होने की संभावना है।

### Broader Cooperation and Technological Exchange

#### व्यापक सहयोग और प्रौद्योगिकी का आदान-प्रदान

- Both sides agreed to **bilateral cooperation in defence and other sectors** such as **aviation**.  
दोनों पक्षों ने रक्षा और विमानन जैसे अन्य क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय सहयोग पर सहमति जताई।
- A detailed discussion was also held to **further strengthen the supply chain** between the two countries.  
दोनों देशों के बीच सप्लाई चेन को और मजबूत करने पर विस्तृत चर्चा हुई।
- They also showed interest in **exchange of technologies** in the **aviation sector**.  
उन्होंने विमानन क्षेत्र में प्रौद्योगिकी के आदान-प्रदान में भी रुचि दिखाई।

### Operational Role of S-400 and Historical Deal

#### S-400 की संचालनात्मक भूमिका और ऐतिहासिक सौदा

- During **Operation Sindoor**, the **Russian-made S-400 systems** played a **critical role in intercepting and neutralising missiles and drones** launched by **Pakistan**.



ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान रूस निर्मित S-400 सिस्टम ने पाकिस्तान द्वारा दागे गए मिसाइलों और ड्रोनों को रोकने और नष्ट करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी।

- India signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Triumph, which can intercept fighter jets, ballistic missiles, and drones, making it a vital part of India's arsenal.

भारत ने 2018 में रूस के साथ \$5.43 बिलियन का समझौता किया था S-400 ट्रायम्फ की पाँच स्कॉड्रनों के लिए, जो लड़ाकू विमानों, बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों और ड्रोनों को इंटरसेप्ट कर सकता है, और इसे भारत के रक्षा भंडार का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बनाता है।

### SCO Summit and Other Engagements

#### SCO सम्मेलन और अन्य बैठकें

- Mr. Singh is in Qingdao to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting on June 25-26.  
श्री सिंह चिंगदाओ में 25-26 जून को होने वाली शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) रक्षा मंत्रियों की बैठक में भाग लेने के लिए मौजूद हैं।



- On the **sidelines of the multilateral summit**, he will also hold **bilateral talks with his counterpart from China**.  
बहुपक्षीय शिखर सम्मेलन के इतर, वे चीन के अपने समकक्ष के साथ द्विपक्षीय वार्ता भी करेंगे।

## Two weeks on, black box data of AI flight are being analysed

Black boxes were brought from Ahmedabad to Delhi and data extraction from both sets has been completed, says Ministry; probe team distinct from a first responder team yet to be appointed

GS Paper III: DM

**Jagrati Chandra**

NEW DELHI

**T**he two black boxes from Air India flight 171, involved in a tragic crash earlier this month, were transported from Ahmedabad to the New Delhi headquarters of the air accidents investigating agency, 12 days after the first one was retrieved and nine days after the recovery of the second.

Data extraction from both black boxes has been completed, and its analysis is under way, the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

However, more than two weeks since the crash, the **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** is yet to constitute an investigation team, distinct from its "GO Team" or a first responder team, formed on the day of the crash on June 12 led by its Director-General (DG), Group Captain G.V.G. Yugandhar.

"The black boxes were brought from Ahmedabad to Delhi by an IAF aircraft



**Deep dive:** The Boeing 787-8 aircraft involved in the crash on June 12 has two black boxes. VIJAY SONEJI

with full security on June 24, 2025," the press statement said.

The data extraction process started in the evening of June 24 by a team led by the D-G, AAIB with technical members from the AAIB and the top air crash probe agency of the U.S., National Transport Safety Board (NTSB). After the extraction comes analysis of data.

"The analysis of CVR [cockpit voice recorder] and FDR [flight data recorder] data is under way,"

the statement said.

The statement added that the **Crash Protection Module (CPM)** from the front **black box** was safely retrieved, and on June 25, 2025, the memory module was successfully accessed and its data downloaded at the AAIB lab. Experts inferred that this would mean that the black box data was not damaged in the crash.

Following questions on why the AAIB had not issued a public order announcing the composition

of a probe panel and the specialisation of each of the members even as it maintained that the probe started on the day of the crash, the Ministry statement said a "multidisciplinary team" was constituted on June 13.

The team is led by the D-G, AAIB, and includes an aviation medicine specialist, an ATC officer, and representatives from the NTSB. The same team was earlier described as a GO Team.

Former investigators associated with the AAIB said a GO Team secures initial evidence, but a separate team is formed for investigation to which all the evidence are handed over.

"As the head of a statutory body formed by an Act of Parliament that is attached to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the D-G can't conduct the probe but can order one. Infact, he is not even supposed to know what is unfolding in the probe," a former investigator said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

**Two weeks on, black box data of AI flight are being analysed**



## दो सप्ताह बाद, AI उड़ान के ब्लैक बॉक्स डेटा का विश्लेषण किया जा रहा है

Black boxes were brought from Ahmedabad to Delhi and data extraction from both sets has been completed, says Ministry; probe team distinct from a first responder team yet to be appointed

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ब्लैक बॉक्स अहमदाबाद से दिल्ली लाए गए हैं और दोनों सेटों से डेटा निकालने का काम पूरा हो चुका है; प्रारंभिक प्रतिक्रिया टीम से अलग जांच टीम की नियुक्ति अभी बाकी है

### Air India Flight 171 Crash Investigation एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट 171 दुर्घटना की जांच

- The two **black boxes** from **Air India flight 171**, involved in a **tragic crash earlier this month**, were transported from **Ahmedabad to the New Delhi headquarters** of the air accidents investigating agency, **12 days after the first one was retrieved and nine days after the recovery of the second**.  
एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट 171, जो इस महीने की शुरुआत में एक दुखद दुर्घटना में शामिल थी, उसके दो ब्लैक बॉक्स को अहमदाबाद से नई दिल्ली स्थित विमान दुर्घटना जांच एजेंसी के मुख्यालय लाया गया, जिसमें से पहला बॉक्स 12 दिन पहले और दूसरा 9 दिन पहले बरामद किया गया था।
- **Data extraction** from both black boxes has been **completed**, and its **analysis is under way**, the **Civil Aviation Ministry** said in a statement on **Thursday**.  
दोनों ब्लैक बॉक्स से डेटा एक्सट्रैक्शन की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो चुकी है, और इसका विश्लेषण चल रहा है, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को एक बयान में कहा।
- However, **more than two weeks** since the crash, the **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** is yet to **constitute an investigation team**, distinct from its **“GO Team”** or first responder team, formed on the **day of the crash on June 12** led by its **Director-General (DG), Group Captain G.V.G. Yugandhar**.  
हालांकि, दुर्घटना के दो हफ्ते से अधिक समय बीत जाने के बाद भी, विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (AAIB) ने अभी तक एक अलग जांच दल गठित नहीं किया है, जो कि दुर्घटना के दिन यानी 12 जून को बनाए गए “GO Team” से अलग हो, जिसका नेतृत्व महानिदेशक ग्रुप कैप्टन जी.वी.जी. युगंधर कर रहे हैं।
- “The black boxes were brought from Ahmedabad to Delhi by an **IAF aircraft with full security on June 24, 2025**,” the press statement said.  
प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया, “ब्लैक बॉक्स को 24 जून 2025 को पूर्ण सुरक्षा के साथ भारतीय वायु सेना के विमान द्वारा अहमदाबाद से दिल्ली लाया गया।”
- The **data extraction process** started in the **evening of June 24** by a team led by the **D-G, AAIB** with technical members from **AAIB** and the **U.S. National**



### Transport Safety Board (NTSB).

24 जून की शाम को AAIB के डी-जी के नेतृत्व में, जिसमें AAIB और अमेरिका की राष्ट्रीय परिवहन सुरक्षा बोर्ड (NTSB) के तकनीकी सदस्य शामिल थे, द्वारा डेटा निकालने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई।

- After the extraction comes **analysis of data**.  
डेटा निकालने के बाद उसका विश्लेषण किया जाता है।
- “The analysis of **CVR [cockpit voice recorder]** and **FDR [flight data recorder]** data is under way,” the statement said.  
बयान में कहा गया, “**CVR [कॉकपिट वॉयस रिकॉर्डर]** और **FDR [फ्लाइट डेटा रिकॉर्डर]** डेटा का विश्लेषण चल रहा है।”
- The statement added that the **Crash Protection Module (CPM)** from the front **black box** was **safely retrieved**, and on **June 25, 2025**, the **memory module was successfully accessed** and its data **downloaded** at the **AAIB lab**.  
बयान में यह भी कहा गया कि **फ्रंट ब्लैक बॉक्स से क्रैश प्रोटेक्शन मॉड्यूल (CPM)** को सुरक्षित रूप से निकाला गया, और **25 जून 2025** को मेमोरी मॉड्यूल को सफलतापूर्वक एक्सेस किया गया और उसका डेटा **AAIB लैब में डाउनलोड** किया गया।
- Experts inferred that this would mean that the **black box data was not damaged** in the crash.  
विशेषज्ञों ने यह निष्कर्ष निकाला कि इसका मतलब है कि **ब्लैक बॉक्स का डेटा दुर्घटना में क्षतिग्रस्त नहीं हुआ**।

### Concerns Over Investigation Panel

जांच पैनल को लेकर चिंताएं

- Following questions on why the **AAIB** had not issued a **public order announcing the composition** of a **probe panel** and the **specialisation of each of the members**, the **Ministry** said a “**multidisciplinary team**” was **constituted on June 13**.  
यह सवाल उठने के बाद कि **AAIB** ने अभी तक **जांच पैनल की संरचना और प्रत्येक सदस्य की विशेषज्ञता की सार्वजनिक घोषणा क्यों नहीं की**, मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **13 जून को एक “मल्टीडिसिप्लिनरी टीम” का गठन किया गया था**।
- The team is **led by the D-G, AAIB**, and includes an **aviation medicine specialist**, an **ATC officer**, and **representatives from the NTSB**.  
इस टीम का नेतृत्व **AAIB के डी-जी** कर रहे हैं, जिसमें एक **विमानन चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञ**, एक **एटीसी अधिकारी**, और **NTSB के प्रतिनिधि** शामिल हैं।
- The **same team** was earlier described as a **GO Team**.  
यही **टीम पहले “GO Team”** के रूप में वर्णित की गई थी।
- Former investigators associated with the **AAIB** said a **GO Team secures initial evidence**, but a **separate team is formed for investigation**, to which all the **evidence are handed over**.



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AAIB से जुड़े पूर्व जांचकर्ताओं ने कहा कि एक GO Team प्रारंभिक साक्ष्य एकत्र करती है, लेकिन जांच के लिए एक अलग टीम बनाई जाती है, जिसे सभी साक्ष्य सौंपे जाते हैं।

- “As the head of a **statutory body formed by an Act of Parliament** that is attached to the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, the **D-G can't conduct the probe but can order one.**

“नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से संबद्ध संसद के अधिनियम द्वारा गठित एक वैधानिक निकाय के प्रमुख के रूप में, डी-जी जांच नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन जांच का आदेश दे सकते हैं।

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- In fact, he is **not even supposed to know what is unfolding in the probe,**” a former investigator said, speaking on condition of anonymity.  
वास्तव में, उन्हें यह भी नहीं पता होना चाहिए कि जांच में क्या हो रहा है,” एक पूर्व जांचकर्ता ने नाम न छापने की शर्त पर कहा।

# Shubhanshu Shukla 634th astronaut to reach space

This is a phase of India's space journey, says Shukla; I am carrying the tiranga and I am very confident that the next 14 days are going to be amazing, advancing science and research, he adds

GS Paper III: S&T

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

**I**ndia's Shubhanshu Shukla became the 634th astronaut to travel to space as he entered the International Space Station on Thursday after a 28-hour journey.

Mr. Shukla and three other astronauts were formally welcomed on the space station by the members of Expedition 73 with warm hugs and handshakes.

Axiom mission commander Peggy Whitson handed out astronaut pins to Mr. Shukla, Polish astronaut Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski and Hungarian Tibor Kapu, who marked their maiden voyage to space.

“I am astronaut 634. It is a privilege to be here,” Mr. Shukla said in brief remarks at the formal welcome ceremony in the space station. “With your love and blessings, I have reached the International Space Station. It looks easy to stand here, but my head is a little heavy, facing some difficulty; but these are minor issues,” he said.

“We will get used to it.



**Warm welcome:** Axiom mission commander Peggy Whitson handing out astronaut pins to Shubhanshu Shukla, Polish astronaut Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski and Hungarian Tibor Kapu. @AXIOM\_SPACE X

This is the first step of this journey,” he added.

Mr. Shukla said over the next 14 days, he and the other astronauts will conduct scientific experiments and interact with the people on earth. “This is also a phase of India's space journey. I will keep talking to you. Let us make this journey exciting. I am carrying the tiranga and I am carrying all of you with me. The next 14 days will be exciting,” he said.

The astronaut said the ride to the space station

was wonderful and great and he was overwhelmed by the welcome he received from the crew of the orbital laboratory. “The minute I entered the International Space Station and met this crew, you just made me feel so welcome, as if you literally opened your doors, like your house doors, for us,” he said.

“That is true. It was fantastic. I just feel even better now. Whatever expectations I had of coming here were surpassed by the

view, of course, that is a big part of it, but also by you guys,” Mr. Shukla said.

“So thank you so much. I think this is fantastic, this is wonderful and I am very confident that the next 14 days are going to be amazing, advancing science and research, and working together,” he added.

In Shukla's hometown in Lucknow, his parents and relatives, teachers, friends, scores of students and onlookers greeted the successful docking with a standing ovation.



## Shubhanshu Shukla 634th astronaut to reach space शुभांशु शुक्ला अंतरिक्ष में पहुंचने वाले 634वें अंतरिक्ष यात्री

This is a phase of India's space journey, says Shukla; I am carrying the tiranga and I am very confident that the next 14 days are going to be amazing, advancing science and research, he adds

शुक्ला कहते हैं, यह भारत की अंतरिक्ष यात्रा का एक चरण है; मैं तिरंगा लेकर चल रहा हूँ और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि अगले 14 दिन अद्भुत होंगे, विज्ञान और अनुसंधान को आगे बढ़ाएंगे।

### India's Shubhanshu Shukla Becomes 634th Astronaut भारत के शुभांशु शुक्ला बने 634वें अंतरिक्ष यात्री

- India's **Shubhanshu Shukla** became the **634th astronaut to travel to space** as he entered the **International Space Station** on **Thursday** after a **28-hour journey**.  
भारत के शुभांशु शुक्ला 634वें अंतरिक्ष यात्री बने जिन्होंने अंतरिक्ष की यात्रा की, जब वे गुरुवार को 28 घंटे की यात्रा के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन में दाखिल हुए।
- Mr. Shukla and **three other astronauts** were **formally welcomed** on the space station by the members of **Expedition 73** with **warm hugs and handshakes**.  
श्री शुक्ला और तीन अन्य अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों का औपचारिक स्वागत एक्सपेडिशन 73 के सदस्यों द्वारा गर्मजोशी से गले मिलकर और हाथ मिलाकर किया गया।
- **Axiom mission commander Peggy Whitson** handed out **astronaut pins** to Mr. Shukla, **Polish astronaut Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski** and **Hungarian Tibor Kapu**, who marked their **maiden voyage to space**.  
एक्सओम मिशन कमांडर पैगी व्हिटसन ने श्री शुक्ला, पोलैंड के स्लावोस्ज़ उज़नांस्की-विस्निएव्स्की और हंगरी के तिबोर कापु को, जो पहली बार अंतरिक्ष यात्रा कर रहे थे, अंतरिक्ष यात्री पिन भेंट किए।
- "I am astronaut **634**. It is a privilege to be here," Mr. Shukla said in brief remarks at the formal welcome ceremony in the space station.  
श्री शुक्ला ने अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन में औपचारिक स्वागत समारोह में कहा, "मैं 634वां अंतरिक्ष यात्री हूँ। यहां होना एक सौभाग्य है।"
- "With your love and blessings, I have reached the **International Space Station**. It looks easy to stand here, but my head is a little heavy, facing some difficulty; but these are **minor issues**," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, "आपके प्यार और आशीर्वाद से मैं अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन तक पहुंचा हूँ। यहां खड़ा होना आसान लगता है, लेकिन मेरा सिर थोड़ा भारी महसूस हो रहा है, कुछ मुश्किलें हैं, पर ये छोटी समस्याएं हैं।"
- "We will get used to it. This is the **first step of this journey**," he added.  
"हम इसकी आदत डाल लेंगे। यह इस यात्रा का पहला कदम है," उन्होंने जोड़ा।



- Mr. Shukla said over the **next 14 days**, he and the other astronauts will conduct **scientific experiments** and **interact with the people on earth**.  
श्री शुक्ला ने कहा कि अगले **14 दिनों** में वे और अन्य अंतरिक्ष यात्री **वैज्ञानिक प्रयोग** करेंगे और **धरती पर लोगों से संवाद** करेंगे।
- “This is also a phase of **India’s space journey**. I will keep talking to you. Let us make this journey exciting. I am carrying the **tiranga** and I am carrying **all of you** with me. The next **14 days will be exciting**,” he said.  
“यह **भारत की अंतरिक्ष यात्रा** का भी एक चरण है। मैं आपसे बात करता रहूंगा। इस यात्रा को रोमांचक बनाते हैं। मैं **तिरंगा** लेकर चल रहा हूँ और **आप सभी को अपने साथ** लेकर चल रहा हूँ। अगले **14 दिन रोमांचक** होंगे,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The astronaut said the **ride to the space station** was **wonderful and great** and he was **overwhelmed** by the **welcome** he received from the **crew of the orbital laboratory**.  
अंतरिक्ष यात्री ने कहा कि **अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन की यात्रा** शानदार और **अद्भुत** थी और **ऑर्बिटल लैबोरेट्री के कू** द्वारा किया गया **स्वागत** उन्हें **भावविभोर** कर गया।
- “The minute I entered the International Space Station and met this crew, you just made me feel so welcome, as if you literally opened your doors, like your house doors, for us,” he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, “जैसे ही मैं **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन** में दाखिल हुआ और इस टीम से मिला, आपने मुझे **ऐसा स्वागत महसूस कराया**, जैसे आपने सचमुच अपने **घर के दरवाजे हमारे लिए खोल दिए**।”
- “That is true. It was fantastic. I just feel even better now. Whatever **expectations** I had of coming here were **surpassed** by the **view**, of course, that is a big part of it, but also by you guys,” Mr. Shukla said.  
श्री शुक्ला ने कहा, “यह **सच** है। यह **शानदार** था। अब मैं और भी अच्छा महसूस कर रहा हूँ। यहां आने की मेरी जो भी **उम्मीदें** थीं, वे यहां के **दृश्य** और **आप सभी** के व्यवहार से **पार** हो गईं।”
- “So thank you so much. I think this is **fantastic**, this is **wonderful** and I am very confident that the next **14 days are going to be amazing**, advancing **science and research**, and **working together**,” he added.  
“तो बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। यह **शानदार** है, यह **अद्भुत** है और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि अगले **14 दिन बेहतरीन** होंगे, हम मिलकर **विज्ञान और अनुसंधान को आगे बढ़ाएंगे**, और साथ **मिलकर काम करेंगे**,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

### Celebrations in Lucknow

#### लखनऊ में जश्न

- In **Shukla’s hometown in Lucknow**, his **parents and relatives, teachers, friends, scores of students** and **onlookers** greeted the **successful docking** with a **standing ovation**.  
लखनऊ स्थित शुक्ला के गृह नगर में उनके **माता-पिता और रिश्तेदारों, शिक्षकों, मित्रों, सैकड़ों छात्रों और दर्शकों** ने **सफल डॉकिंग पर खड़े होकर तालियों के साथ स्वागत** किया।



# Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers cry foul over Prada's 'replica' sandal

SS Paper III: GI

**Vinaya Deshpande Pandit**  
MUMBAI

Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers have taken strong exception to Italian luxury fashion brand Prada's recently showcased Men's Spring/Summer 2026 collection, alleging that the featured sandals bear a striking resemblance to the traditional Kolhapuri chappals, a product granted **Geographical Indication (GI) status by the Government of India.**

A delegation of Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Thursday to register their protest. Meanwhile, BJP Rajya Sabha member Dhananjay Mahadik said that they are in the process of filing a public interest litigation petition in the Bombay High Court against Prada.

"A team of lawyers is al-



**Timeless craft:** Kolhapuri chappals, made by over 20,000 artisans in Kolhapur, have been given the Centre's GI tag. VIJAYKUMAR PATIL

ready working on it. This is to protect the rights of our people, to safeguard their livelihoods. I will also meet Union Minister Piyush Goyal in this regard," Mr. Mahadik told *The Hindu*.

Prada has come under criticism for allegedly failing to acknowledge Kolhapur's artisans as the source of inspiration for the sandal design.

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pa-

war) MLA Rohit Pawar, in a post on X, said, "Prada's new sandal, priced approximately at ₹1 lakh, mimics Maharashtra's GI-tagged #KolhapuriChappal without crediting Kolhapur's artisans. This isn't just copying – it's cultural theft! If Prada won't respect our heritage by branding it right, the Maharashtra government must act against such #ChappalChor".

Mr. Mahadik also wrote

to the Chief Minister seeking urgent intervention to "protect the cultural heritage of Maharashtra."

In Kolhapur, the District Footwear Association convened a meeting on Thursday condemning Prada's alleged appropriation of the design. "We will also file a criminal writ petition against Prada for this," Bhupal Shete, a member of the association, told *The Hindu*. He said over 250 manufacturers and shopkeepers participated.

"There are 20,000 artisans here in Kolhapur who make these chappals. All of us manufacturers have come together to condemn Prada. We will also send a memorandum to the Sant Rohidas Charmodyog Vikas Mahamandal to take action in this matter. We are now going to approach the District Collector, the State government, and the Centre," Mr. Shete said.

## Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers cry foul over Prada's 'replica' sandal

## कोल्हापुरी चप्पल निर्माताओं ने प्रादा की 'प्रतिकृति' चप्पल पर नाराजगी जताई

### Kolhapuri Chappal Manufacturers Protest Against Prada

### कोल्हापुरी चप्पल निर्माताओं ने प्रादा के खिलाफ विरोध जताया

- Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers have taken strong exception to Italian luxury fashion brand **Prada's recently showcased Men's Spring/Summer 2026**



**collection**, alleging that the featured sandals bear a **striking resemblance** to the traditional **Kolhapuri chappals**, a product granted **Geographical Indication (GI) status** by the Government of India.

कोल्हापुरी चप्पल निर्माता ने इटालियन लक्जरी फैशन ब्रांड **प्रादा की हाल ही में प्रस्तुत मेन्स स्प्रिंग/समर 2026 कलेक्शन** पर कड़ा ऐतराज जताया है, आरोप लगाते हुए कि इसमें दिखाए गए सैंडल पारंपरिक **कोल्हापुरी चप्पल से चौंकाने वाली समानता** रखते हैं, जिसे भारत सरकार द्वारा **भूगोलिक संकेत (GI) स्थिति** प्रदान की गई है।

- A delegation of Kolhapuri chappal manufacturers met **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** on **Thursday** to register their protest.  
कोल्हापुरी चप्पल निर्माताओं के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने **महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस** से **गुरुवार** को अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज कराने के लिए मुलाकात की।
- Meanwhile, **BJP Rajya Sabha member Dhananjay Mahadik** said that they are in the process of filing a **public interest litigation petition** in the **Bombay High Court** against Prada.  
इस बीच, **बीजेपी राज्यसभा सदस्य धनंजय महाडिक** ने कहा कि वे प्रादा के खिलाफ **बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय में लोकहित याचिका** दायर करने की प्रक्रिया में हैं।
- “A team of lawyers is already working on it. This is to protect the rights of our people, to safeguard their livelihoods. I will also meet Union Minister Piyush Goyal in this regard,” Mr. Mahadik told The Hindu.  
महाडिक ने कहा, “इस पर काम करने वाली एक टीम पहले से मौजूद है। यह हमारे लोगों के अधिकारों की रक्षा करने और उनकी आजीविका बचाने के लिए है। मैं इस संदर्भ में केंद्रीय मंत्री **पियूष गoyal** से भी मुलाकात करूंगा।”
- Prada has come under criticism for allegedly failing to acknowledge **Kolhapur's artisans** as the source of inspiration for the sandal design.  
प्रादा पर आरोप लगा है कि उसने सैंडल डिज़ाइन के लिए प्रेरणा के स्रोत के रूप में **कोल्हापुर के कारीगरों** को उचित श्रेय नहीं दिया।
- **Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MLA Rohit Pawar**, in a post on **X**, said, “Prada’s new sandal, priced approximately at ₹1 lakh, mimics Maharashtra’s GI-tagged **#KolhapuriChappal** without crediting Kolhapur’s artisans. This isn’t just copying — it’s cultural theft! If Prada won’t respect our heritage by branding it right, the Maharashtra government must act against such **#ChappalChor**”.  
**राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (शरदचंद्र पवार) विधायक रोहित पवार** ने **X** पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, “प्रादा का नया सैंडल, जिसकी कीमत लगभग ₹1 लाख है, महाराष्ट्र के GI-टैग्ड **#कोल्हापुरीचप्पल** की नकल है, लेकिन कोल्हापुर के कारीगरों को कोई श्रेय नहीं दिया गया। यह सिर्फ नकल नहीं है — यह **सांस्कृतिक चोरी** है! अगर प्रादा हमारे विरासत का सही सम्मान नहीं करता, तो महाराष्ट्र सरकार को ऐसे **#चप्पलचोर** के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए।”
- Mr. Mahadik also wrote to the Chief Minister seeking urgent intervention to “protect the cultural heritage of Maharashtra.”  
महाडिक ने मुख्यमंत्री को एक पत्र भी लिखा है, जिसमें महाराष्ट्र की **सांस्कृतिक विरासत की रक्षा के लिए त्वरित हस्तक्षेप** की मांग की गई है।



- In Kolhapur, the **District Footwear Association** convened a meeting on **Thursday** condemning Prada's alleged appropriation of the design. कोल्हापुर में, **जिला फुटवियर एसोसिएशन** ने **गुरुवार** को एक बैठक बुलाई और प्रादा द्वारा डिज़ाइन के कथित अधिकार हनन की निंदा की।
- "We will also file a **criminal writ petition** against Prada for this," Bhupal Shete, a member of the association, told The Hindu. एसोसिएशन के सदस्य **भूपाल शेते** ने कहा, "हम इसके लिए प्रादा के खिलाफ **फौजदारी याचिका** भी दायर करेंगे।"
- He said over **250 manufacturers and shopkeepers** participated. उन्होंने कहा कि इस बैठक में **250 से अधिक निर्माता और दुकानदारों** ने भाग लिया।
- "There are **20,000 artisans** here in Kolhapur who make these chappals. All of us manufacturers have come together to condemn Prada. We will also send a memorandum to the Sant Rohidas Charmodyog Vikas Mahamandal to take action in this matter. We are now going to approach the District Collector, the State government, and the Centre," Mr. Shete said. श्री शेते ने कहा, "कोल्हापुर में यहां **20,000 कारीगर** हैं जो ये चप्पल बनाते हैं। हम सभी निर्माता प्रादा की निंदा के लिए एकजुट हुए हैं। हम इस मामले में कार्रवाई के लिए संत रोहिदास चरमोद्योग विकास महामंडल को भी एक ज्ञापन भेजेंगे। अब हम जिला कलेक्टर, राज्य सरकार और केंद्र सरकार से संपर्क करेंगे।"

## What are the most commonly used cancer drugs?

What severe side effects do these cancer drugs carry?

GSS Paper III, SBT

Meriem Mahdi

The story so far:

A major new investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, published by *The Hindu*, has revealed that **cancer drugs shipped around the world to more than 100 countries have failed quality tests**. But what are these drugs, and how are they used? **Cancer is a disease characterised by uncontrolled cell growth**. It is caused by mutations in genes disrupting or inhibiting the normal ways in which cells divide or die. **This causes cancerous cells to develop - and when a mass of cancerous cells grows, it can form a tumour**. **Chemotherapy drugs disrupt this process, and these medicines have transformed the landscape of cancer treatment, improving outcomes for patients**. The six types of drugs in our investigation - **cisplatin, oxaliplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, methotrexate and leucovorin** - are all chemotherapy treatments.

**What is cisplatin?**

Cisplatin is a platinum-based drug that emerged in the 1960s from an unexpected discovery. Researchers found that a platinum-containing compound blocked the growth of bacteria, leading to the realisation that it could potentially be used to combat cancer.

Cisplatin works by binding to the DNA of cancer cells, preventing them from growing and dividing. It is particularly effective against testicular, ovarian, bladder, and certain lung cancers. Its introduction has improved survival rates for many patients, whether used alone or in combination with other therapies.

However, like all potent medications, cisplatin comes with side effects, including sickness, kidney damage, and hearing issues. Cisplatin also suppresses the function of the bone marrow, where new blood cells are produced. The resulting reduction in white blood cells has severe effects on patients' immune systems, leaving them vulnerable to infection.

**What is oxaliplatin?**

Oxaliplatin, like cisplatin, is a platinum-based drug. It also works by binding to and damaging the DNA of cancer cells. It is used mainly to treat the more advanced stages of colorectal cancer and following surgery for the removal of colon cancer, to wipe out remaining malignant cells.

Oxaliplatin comes with broadly similar side effects to cisplatin.

**What is cyclophosphamide?**

Cyclophosphamide is another key chemotherapy drug, often used to tackle diseases including breast cancer, some types of leukemia (a type of blood cancer), sarcoma (cancer of the connective tissues) and advanced lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes).

Cyclophosphamide disrupts the DNA of cancer cells. This limits their ability to replicate and mutate. It also causes a drop in white blood cells and can cause pain when passing urine due to inflammation of the bladder.

**What is doxorubicin?**

Often referred to as the "red devil" due to its striking colour and severe side effects, doxorubicin was derived from a type of soil bacteria called Streptomyces and was initially explored as an antibiotic.

Doxorubicin is effective against several types of cancer, including breast cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma and sarcoma. It works by interfering with the cancer cell's DNA and disrupting the replication process. It is a staple in chemotherapy protocols, despite potential side effects including heart damage, risk of infection, skin changes and hair loss.

**What is methotrexate?**

Methotrexate is very effective against various cancers, including leukaemia, lymphoma and certain types of tumour. By inhibiting the protein responsible for creating new DNA molecules, it stifles cancer cell growth. Methotrexate is given in high doses, followed by leucovorin to help protect healthy cells from damage.

**What is leucovorin?**

Leucovorin, also known as folic acid (not to be confused with folic acid), is a form of vitamin B9. It differs from the rest that were tested in the investigation in that it is not technically considered a chemotherapy drug, but a companion to chemotherapy. It was first introduced in the 1950s and was designed to manage the side effects of methotrexate, for which it is still used today.

Meriem Mahdi is with *The Bureau of Investigative Journalism*

**THE GIST**

A major investigation revealed that commonly used **chemotherapy drugs** failed quality tests after being shipped to over 100 countries.

These drugs work by **targeting cancer cells** while minimising **harm to normal cells**, but also cause severe side effects like **kidney damage, immune suppression, and heart risk**.

**What are the most commonly used cancer drugs?**



## सबसे अधिक इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली कैंसर की दवाएँ कौन सी हैं?

What severe side effects do these cancer drugs carry?

इन कैंसर दवाओं के क्या गंभीर दुष्प्रभाव हैं?

Cancer Drugs Investigation

कैंसर दवाओं की जांच

- A major new investigation by the **Bureau of Investigative Journalism**, published by **The Hindu**, has revealed that **cancer drugs shipped around the world to more than 100 countries have failed quality tests.**  
द ब्यूरो ऑफ इन्वेस्टिगेटिव जर्नलिज्म द्वारा की गई एक बड़ी नई जांच, जिसे द हिंदू ने प्रकाशित किया, ने खुलासा किया है कि **कैंसर की दवाएं जो दुनिया भर के 100 से अधिक देशों में भेजी गई हैं, गुणवत्ता परीक्षण में असफल रही हैं।**
- But what are these drugs, and how are they used?  
लेकिन ये दवाएं क्या हैं, और इन्हें कैसे उपयोग किया जाता है?
- Cancer is a disease characterised by **uncontrolled cell growth.**  
कैंसर एक ऐसी बीमारी है जो **अनियंत्रित कोशिका वृद्धि** से पहचानी जाती है।
- It is caused by **mutations in genes disrupting or inhibiting the normal ways in which cells divide or die.**  
यह **जीन में उत्परिवर्तन** के कारण होता है जो कोशिकाओं के सामान्य विभाजन या मृत्यु के तरीके को बाधित या रोकता है।
- This causes **cancerous cells to develop** – and when a mass of cancerous cells grows, it can form a **tumour.**  
इससे **कैंसरग्रस्त कोशिकाएं विकसित** होती हैं – और जब कैंसरग्रस्त कोशिकाओं का एक समूह बढ़ता है, तो यह एक **ट्यूमर** बना सकता है।
- **Chemotherapy drugs** disrupt this process, and these medicines have transformed the landscape of cancer treatment, improving outcomes for patients.  
**कीमोथेरेपी दवाएं** इस प्रक्रिया को बाधित करती हैं, और इन दवाओं ने कैंसर उपचार के क्षेत्र में क्रांति ला दी है, जिससे मरीजों के परिणाम बेहतर हुए हैं।
- The six types of drugs in our investigation — **cisplatin, oxaliplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, methotrexate and leucovorin** — are all chemotherapy treatments.  
हमारे जांच में शामिल छह प्रकार की दवाएं — **सिसप्लेटिन, ऑक्सालिप्लेटिन, साइक्लोफॉस्फामाइड, डॉक्सोरोबिसिन, मेथोट्रेक्सेट और ल्युकोवोरिन** — सभी कीमोथेरेपी उपचार हैं।

What is cisplatin?

सिसप्लेटिन क्या है?



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- **Cisplatin is a platinum-based drug** that emerged in the **1960s** from an unexpected discovery.  
सिसप्लेटिन एक प्लेटिनम आधारित दवा है जो 1960 के दशक में एक अप्रत्याशित खोज से उभरी।
- Researchers found that a **platinum-containing compound blocked the growth of bacteria, leading to the realization that it could potentially be used to combat cancer.**  
शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि प्लेटिनम युक्त यौगिक बैक्टीरिया की वृद्धि को रोकता है, जिससे यह समझ आया कि इसे कैंसर से लड़ने के लिए भी इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है।
- **Cisplatin works by binding to the DNA of cancer cells, preventing them from growing and dividing.**  
सिसप्लेटिन कैंसर कोशिकाओं के **DNA से जुड़कर** उनकी वृद्धि और विभाजन को रोकता है।
- It is particularly effective against **testicular, ovarian, bladder, and certain lung cancers.**  
यह विशेष रूप से **अंडकोष, अंडाशय, मूत्राशय और कुछ फेफड़ों के कैंसर** के खिलाफ प्रभावी है।
- Its introduction has improved **survival rates** for many patients, whether used alone or in combination with other therapies.  
इसका परिचय कई मरीजों के लिए **जीवन दर** में सुधार लेकर आया है, चाहे इसे अकेले या अन्य उपचारों के साथ उपयोग किया जाए।
- However, like all potent medications, cisplatin comes with **side effects, including sickness, kidney damage, and hearing issues.**  
हालांकि, अन्य शक्तिशाली दवाओं की तरह, सिसप्लेटिन के भी **साइड इफेक्ट्स** होते हैं, जैसे कि **उल्टी, गुर्दे की क्षति, और सुनने की समस्याएं**।
- Cisplatin also suppresses the function of the **bone marrow**, where new blood cells are produced.  
सिसप्लेटिन **अस्थि मज्जा** की कार्यक्षमता को भी दबाता है, जहां नए रक्त कोशिकाएं बनती हैं।
- The resulting reduction in **white blood cells** has severe effects on patients' **immune systems**, leaving them vulnerable to infection.  
इससे **श्वेत रक्त कोशिकाओं** की कमी होती है, जो मरीजों की **प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली** को कमजोर कर संक्रमण के लिए संवेदनशील बना देती है।

**What is oxaliplatin?**

**ऑक्सालिप्लेटिन क्या है?**

- **Oxaliplatin, like cisplatin, is a platinum-based drug.**  
ऑक्सालिप्लेटिन, सिसप्लेटिन की तरह, एक **प्लेटिनम आधारित दवा** है।
- It also works by binding to and damaging the DNA of cancer cells.  
यह भी कैंसर कोशिकाओं के DNA से जुड़कर और उसे नुकसान पहुंचाकर काम करता है।
- It is used mainly to treat the more **advanced stages of colorectal cancer** and following surgery for the removal of colon cancer, to wipe out remaining

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malignant cells.

इसे मुख्य रूप से **कोलोरेक्टल कैंसर के उन्नत चरणों** के इलाज में और कोलोन कैंसर की सर्जरी के बाद बची हुई कैंसर कोशिकाओं को खत्म करने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।

- Oxaliplatin comes with broadly similar **side effects** to cisplatin.  
ऑक्सालिप्लेटिन के **साइड इफेक्ट्स** सिसप्लेटिन से लगभग समान होते हैं।

**What is cyclophosphamide?**

**साइक्लोफॉस्फामाइड क्या है?**

- **Cyclophosphamide** is another key chemotherapy drug, often used to tackle diseases including **breast cancer, some types of leukemia (a type of blood cancer), sarcoma (cancer of the connective tissues), and advanced lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes)**.

साइक्लोफॉस्फामाइड एक और प्रमुख कीमोथेरेपी दवा है, जिसका उपयोग अक्सर **स्तन कैंसर, कुछ प्रकार के ल्यूकेमिया (रक्त कैंसर), सारकोमा (संयोजी ऊतकों का कैंसर), और उन्नत लिम्फोमा (लसिका ग्रंथियों का कैंसर)** के इलाज में किया जाता है।

- Cyclophosphamide disrupts the DNA of cancer cells.  
साइक्लोफॉस्फामाइड कैंसर कोशिकाओं के DNA को बाधित करता है।
- This limits their ability to replicate and mutate.  
इससे उनकी प्रतिकृति बनाने और उत्परिवर्तन करने की क्षमता सीमित हो जाती है।
- It also causes a drop in **white blood cells** and can cause pain when passing urine due to inflammation of the bladder.  
यह **श्वेत रक्त कोशिकाओं** की कमी भी करता है और मूत्राशय की सूजन के कारण पेशाब करते समय दर्द भी हो सकता है।

**What is doxorubicin?**

**डॉक्सोरूबिसिन क्या है?**

- Often referred to as the “**red devil**” due to its striking colour and severe side effects, doxorubicin was derived from a type of soil bacteria called **Streptomyces** and was initially explored as an antibiotic.  
इसे इसके चमकदार रंग और गंभीर दुष्प्रभावों के कारण अक्सर “**रेड डेविल**” कहा जाता है। डॉक्सोरूबिसिन मिट्टी में पाए जाने वाले एक बैक्टीरिया **स्ट्रीपटोमाइसेस** से निकाली गई थी और शुरू में इसे एक एंटीबायोटिक के रूप में खोजा गया था।
- Doxorubicin is effective against several types of cancer, including **breast cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma and sarcoma**.  
डॉक्सोरूबिसिन कई प्रकार के कैंसर के खिलाफ प्रभावी है, जिनमें **स्तन कैंसर, ल्यूकेमिया, लिम्फोमा और सारकोमा** शामिल हैं।
- It works by interfering with the cancer cell's DNA and disrupting the replication process.  
यह कैंसर कोशिका के DNA में हस्तक्षेप करता है और प्रतिकृति प्रक्रिया को बाधित करता है।



- It is a staple in chemotherapy protocols, despite potential side effects including **heart damage, risk of infection, skin changes and hair loss**.  
यह कीमोथेरेपी प्रोटोकॉल में एक मुख्य दवा है, हालांकि इसके संभावित दुष्प्रभावों में **दिल की क्षति, संक्रमण का खतरा, त्वचा में बदलाव और बाल झड़ना** शामिल हैं।

### What is methotrexate?

#### मेथोट्रेक्सेट क्या है?

- Methotrexate is very effective against various cancers, including **leukaemia, lymphoma and certain types of tumour**.  
मेथोट्रेक्सेट विभिन्न कैंसरों के खिलाफ बहुत प्रभावी है, जिनमें **ल्यूकेमिया, लिम्फोमा और कुछ प्रकार के ट्यूमर** शामिल हैं।
- By inhibiting the protein responsible for creating new DNA molecules, it stifles cancer cell growth.  
यह उस प्रोटीन को रोकता है जो नए DNA अणु बनाने के लिए जिम्मेदार होता है, जिससे कैंसर कोशिका की वृद्धि रुक जाती है।
- Methotrexate is given in high doses, followed by leucovorin to help protect healthy cells from damage.  
मेथोट्रेक्सेट उच्च मात्रा में दिया जाता है, जिसके बाद **ल्युकोवोरिन** दिया जाता है ताकि स्वस्थ कोशिकाओं को नुकसान से बचाया जा सके।

### What is leucovorin?

#### ल्युकोवोरिन क्या है?

- Leucovorin, also known as **folinic acid** (not to be confused with folic acid), is a form of **vitamin B9**.  
ल्युकोवोरिन, जिसे **फोलिनिक एसिड** भी कहा जाता है (फोलिक एसिड से भ्रमित न करें), **विटामिन B9** का एक रूप है।
- It differs from the rest that were tested in the investigation in that it is not technically considered a chemotherapy drug, but a companion to chemotherapy.  
यह बाकी दवाओं से अलग है जो जांच में परीक्षण की गई थीं क्योंकि इसे तकनीकी रूप से कीमोथेरेपी दवा नहीं माना जाता, बल्कि यह कीमोथेरेपी के साथ दिया जाने वाला साथी है।



- It was first introduced in the **1950s** and was designed to manage the side effects of methotrexate, for which it is still used today.  
इसे पहली बार **1950 के दशक** में पेश किया गया था और इसे मेथोट्रेक्सेट के दुष्प्रभावों को प्रबंधित करने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया था, जिसके लिए इसे आज भी उपयोग किया जाता है।

## MSME credit origination slid 7% in FY25 as lenders stayed off micro loans: report

GS Paper III: Economy

**Press Trust of India**  
MUMBAI

MSME credit originations declined by more than 7% in FY25, as lenders preferred to stay off writing micro-loans under ₹1 crore, a credit information company said.

The originations by value declined by 7.4% to ₹36.9 lakh crore from ₹39.9 lakh crore in FY24, the report by Crif High Mark said, adding this was because loans in the micro segment declined to ₹11.8 lakh crore in FY25 from ₹18.2 lakh crore in FY24.

By volume, the micro, small and medium enter-



Loans between ₹1-₹50 crore reported a jump.

prises originations increased to 75.8 lakh in FY25 from 64.7 lakh in FY24, it said, adding this was also possible on the back of a big jump in the micro-segment to 58 lakh

from 49.8 lakh in FY24.

From a value perspective, loans between ₹1-₹50 crore reported a jump.

Loans made to the small segment (between ₹1-10 crore) increased to ₹12.1 lakh crore in FY25 from ₹11 lakh crore in the year-ago period, while the same in the medium segment (between ₹10-50 crore) increased to ₹13 lakh crore from ₹10.7 lakh crore.

The shifts are likely indicating a “strategic pivot” by lenders toward high-value borrower segments, as per the report. There was moderation in active loans also due to sluggish rise in microloan borrowers

## MSME credit origination slid 7% in FY25 as lenders stayed off micro loans: report

**वित्त वर्ष 2025 में एमएसएमई ऋण उत्पत्ति में 7% की गिरावट आई क्योंकि ऋणदाता माइक्रो लोन पर बने रहे: रिपोर्ट**

### MSME Credit Originations एमएसएमई क्रेडिट ऑरिजिनेशन

- MSME credit originations **declined by more than 7% in FY25**, as lenders preferred to stay off writing micro-loans under **₹1 crore**, a credit information company said.

एमएसएमई क्रेडिट ऑरिजिनेशन **FY25 में 7% से अधिक घट गए**, क्योंकि ऋणदाता

₹1 करोड़ से कम के माइक्रो-लोन देने से परहेज कर रहे थे, एक क्रेडिट सूचना कंपनी ने कहा।

- The originations by value declined by **7.4% to ₹36.9 lakh crore from ₹39.9 lakh crore in FY24**, the report by Crif High Mark said, adding this was because loans in the micro segment declined to **₹11.8 lakh crore in FY25 from ₹18.2 lakh crore in FY24**.

मूल्य के आधार पर ऑरिजिनेशन में **7.4% की गिरावट हुई**, ₹39.9 लाख करोड़ से घटकर **₹36.9 लाख करोड़ FY24 से FY25 में**, क्रिफ हाई मार्क की रिपोर्ट ने कहा, और जो मुख्य कारण था माइक्रो सेगमेंट में लोन का घटकर **₹11.8 लाख करोड़ से ₹18.2 लाख करोड़ FY24 से FY25 में आना**।

- By volume, the micro, small and medium enterprises originations **increased to 75.8 lakh in FY25 from 64.7 lakh in FY24**, it said, adding this was also possible on the back of a big jump in the micro-segment to **58 lakh from 49.8 lakh in FY24**.

मात्रा के हिसाब से, माइक्रो, स्मॉल और मीडियम एंटरप्राइजेज ऑरिजिनेशन **FY25 में बढ़कर**



75.8 लाख हुए, FY24 के 64.7 लाख से, यह भी माइक्रो सेगमेंट में बड़े उछाल के कारण संभव था, जो बढ़कर 49.8 लाख से 58 लाख FY24 से FY25 में हुआ।

- From a value perspective, loans between ₹1-₹50 crore reported a jump. मूल्य के दृष्टिकोण से, ₹1-₹50 करोड़ के बीच के लोन में उछाल दर्ज किया गया।
- Loans made to the small segment (between ₹1-10 crore) increased to ₹12.1 lakh crore in FY25 from ₹11 lakh crore in FY24, while the same in the medium segment (between ₹10-50 crore) increased to ₹13 lakh crore from ₹10.7 lakh crore. छोटे सेगमेंट (₹1-10 करोड़ के बीच) को दिए गए लोन बढ़कर ₹11 लाख करोड़ से ₹12.1 लाख करोड़ FY24 से FY25 में हुए, जबकि मध्यम सेगमेंट (₹10-50 करोड़ के बीच) में लोन बढ़कर ₹10.7 लाख करोड़ से ₹13 लाख करोड़ हो गया।
- The shifts are likely indicating a “strategic pivot” by lenders toward high-value borrower segments, as per the report. रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, ये बदलाव ऋणदाताओं द्वारा उच्च-मूल्य वाले उधारकर्ता सेगमेंट की ओर एक “रणनीतिक बदलाव” की ओर संकेत करते हैं।
- There was moderation in active loans also due to sluggish rise in microloan borrowers. सक्रिय लोन में भी कमी आई है, जिसका कारण माइक्रोलोन उधारकर्ताओं की धीमी वृद्धि है।