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# PATRIOTIC IAS

## THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### 11 JULY 2025

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11\_07\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. The real fertility crisis is one of agency, says UNFPA Asia Pacific director

वास्तविक प्रजनन संकट एजेंसी का है, कहती हैं UNFPA एशिया-प्रशांत निदेशक

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2. **Aiding India's Progress with Choice, Control and Capital**  
चयन, नियंत्रण और पूंजी के साथ भारत की प्रगति में सहायता
3. **Caught in violence while reporting on protests against violence**  
हिंसा के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शनों की रिपोर्टिंग के दौरान हिंसा में  
फँसना

## The real fertility crisis is one of agency, says UNFPA Asia Pacific director

SS Paper I: Human Geography

WORLD POPULATION DAY

Ramya Kannan

Nations across the world reacted predictably to the conclusion of the UNFPA's Global State of the World's Population Report released last month, some with a sense of alarm, and others with the assurance of having fast-tracked policies to improve declining populations. The media mostly headlined falling fertility rates. But the real fertility crisis, said Pio Smith, Asia-Pacific Regional Director for the UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health and rights agency, is one of agency.

"It is not about too many or too few births. At the UNFPA, we're looking at those fertility outcomes that are shaped by a range of different factors," he told journalists on the sidelines of the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, held in Bangkok

late last month. "There have been many demographic alarm bells, about falling population rates, and some have missed the mark. And there have been anticipatory responses, and some have been effective and some less so. And they varied, I would say, across regions and across the globe. Very often, what we see at UNEPA is that, the headlines, the policymakers too often frame the decline in fertility rates as the result of deliberate choice."

"At the UNEPA, we are unmasking that to say, very often, it is women who are too seldom able to make voluntary informed choices about their reproductive opportunities. Particularly when you look at, you know, about a quarter of women are unable to say no to sex," he added.

The report underlined that women are, all too often blamed for these demographic shifts. Some governments are employing drastic measures to incentivise young people to



Pio Smith, Asia-Pacific Regional Director for the UNFPA, which works with countries to provide support to people to form families. RAMYA KANNAN

make fertility decisions in line with national targets. But the real crisis is that the most consequential reproductive decision a human being can make - when, whether and with whom to have a child - is being undermined.

### The 'alarm bell'

It is true, Mr. Smith adds, that it falling fertility is often the face of a woman. It begins with the lack of equality and equity that is afforded to girls and

women from the beginning of life.

"And that's the alarm bell. That she is unable to exercise her choice and decide whether she wants to have a family. And if she does, is she able to do so in an economically and socially responsible and acceptable way?" Mr. Smith answered that himself: "That's why at the UNFPA, we're advocating for a lifecycle approach that invests in women so that their health, but also their education

and other needs, are equitably invested in by governments throughout their life."

The UNFPA is tasked with working with governments in nearly 150 countries across the world to provide real support to people to form the families that they want to, resting on a rights-based approach to fertility. So what is this 'real support' and what does a rights-based approach entail?

### A rights-based approach

Mr. Smith lists these as cost of living, gender norms, social pressure, and uncertainty about the future - including about wars, conflicts, and pandemics. "The urgency is really clear for us - demographic transitions are accelerating, but people's choices are increasingly constrained," he says. In effect, real support is not 'about baby bonuses or coercive policies'.

"It's actually about providing support that empowers people to help create the families

that they want. That includes various elements like affordable housing, childcare, decent work, and equitable pay. It's also about parental leave for all parents and all families. It's about accessible fertility care, reproductive health services also that are accessible, particularly to our adolescents," Mr. Smith listed.

The UNFPA is also advocating among member countries to provide better support and legal recognition for all family types. Same-sex couples face certain legal and social barriers to full access. In this context, the social aspect is almost more important because legal conditions can be created, but social barriers may still stymie equal access. So acting on the social conditioning too is important.

"We are calling on governments to invest in rights-based systems, that would enable reproductive autonomy, regardless of a country's fertility rate. We have a programme around demographic resi-

lience (2:05) and that offers policy support to help governments harness the opportunities that are available to them and that come with demographic change," according to Mr. Smith.

He added that it would not be good enough just to have a policy. "You need leadership that is going to be courageous and that's going to have the foresight to look into these demographic changes. They also have to make sure that the policies are responsive, and that they're investing."

(The reporter was at the 3rd Ministerial Conference on CRVS held in Bangkok at the invitation of UNESCAP. (ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in))

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## The real fertility crisis is one of agency, says UNFPA Asia Pacific director

### वास्तविक प्रजनन संकट एजेंसी का है, कहती हैं UNFPA एशिया-प्रशांत निदेशक

- The release of the **UNFPA's Global State of the World's Population Report** last month triggered varied reactions — some **alarmed**, others confident due to proactive **population policies**.

UNFPA की वैश्विक जनसंख्या रिपोर्ट के पिछले महीने जारी होने पर प्रतिक्रियाएँ मिलीं — कुछ चिंतित थीं, जबकि अन्य जनसंख्या नीतियों के कारण आश्वस्त थीं।

- Media coverage mostly focused on **falling fertility rates**, but **Pio Smith**, UNFPA's Asia-Pacific Regional Director, stated the real crisis is one of **agency**.

मीडिया कवरेज में ज्यादातर ध्यान गिरती प्रजनन दरों पर रहा, लेकिन UNFPA के एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्रीय निदेशक पियो स्मिथ ने कहा कि वास्तविक संकट एजेंसी का है।



- “It is not about **too many or too few births**. At the UNFPA, we focus on **fertility outcomes shaped by many factors**,” he said during the **3rd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Bangkok**.  
“यह बात बहुत अधिक या बहुत कम जन्मों की नहीं है। UNFPA में हम उन प्रजनन परिणामों पर ध्यान देते हैं जो कई कारकों से प्रभावित होते हैं,” उन्होंने बैंकॉक में हुई 3री मंत्री स्तरीय नागरिक पंजीकरण और महत्वपूर्ण आंकड़े सम्मेलन के दौरान कहा।
- He noted that **headlines and policies** often assume **declining fertility** as a result of **deliberate choice**, missing deeper factors.  
उन्होंने बताया कि **सुर्खियाँ और नीतियाँ** अक्सर गिरती प्रजनन दरों को जानबूझकर किए गए विकल्प के रूप में मानती हैं, और गहरे कारणों को नज़रअंदाज़ कर देती हैं।
- “Often, it is **women** who **seldom** get to make **voluntary and informed choices** about their **reproductive opportunities**. Around a **quarter** of women **can’t say no to sex**,” he said.  
“अक्सर महिलाओं को अपने प्रजनन अधिकारों के बारे में **स्वैच्छिक और सूचित निर्णय** लेने का मौका नहीं मिलता। लगभग चौथाई महिलाएं सेक्स से इनकार नहीं कर सकतीं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The report highlighted that **women are unfairly blamed** for demographic changes, while **some governments** push aggressive **pro-natal policies** to meet **national fertility targets**.  
रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि **जनसांख्यिकीय बदलावों** के लिए **महिलाओं को अनुचित रूप से दोषी ठहराया जाता है**, जबकि **कुछ सरकारें राष्ट्रीय प्रजनन लक्ष्यों** को पूरा करने के लिए **जन्म बढ़ाने वाली नीतियाँ** अपनाती हैं।
- The real crisis, he stressed, is about **whether women can freely choose when, whether, and with whom to have children**.  
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि असली संकट यह है कि क्या महिलाएं यह **स्वतंत्रता से तय** कर सकती हैं कि वे **कब, कैसे और किसके साथ बच्चे पैदा करना चाहती हैं**।

### The ‘Alarm Bell’ ‘चेतावनी की घंटी’

- Mr. Smith said **declining fertility** is often represented by a **woman’s face**, beginning with the **lack of equality and opportunity** given to girls from birth.  
श्री स्मिथ ने कहा कि **गिरती प्रजनन दर** अक्सर **एक महिला के चेहरे** से जुड़ी होती है, जो बचपन से **लड़की को मिलने वाली समानता और अवसरों की कमी** से शुरू होती है।
- “That’s the **alarm bell** — when a girl **cannot decide whether she wants a family**, or if she can **raise it safely and responsibly**,” he added.  
“यही है **चेतावनी की घंटी** — जब एक लड़की यह **निर्णय नहीं ले सकती** कि वह परिवार चाहती है या नहीं, और क्या वह उसे **सुरक्षित और जिम्मेदारी से पाल सकती है**,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- At UNFPA, we support a **lifecycle approach** — investing in **women’s health, education, and well-being** throughout their lives.  
UNFPA में हम **जीवनचक्र आधारित दृष्टिकोण** का समर्थन करते हैं — जिसमें **महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और कल्याण** में पूरे जीवन भर निवेश किया जाता है।

### A Rights-Based Approach to Fertility प्रजनन के लिए अधिकार-आधारित दृष्टिकोण

- UNFPA works with **governments in 150 countries** to ensure that people can form families based on **choice and rights**, not compulsion.



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UNFPA दुनिया के 150 देशों की सरकारों के साथ यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए काम करता है कि लोग स्वतंत्रता और अधिकारों के आधार पर परिवार बना सकें, जबरदस्ती नहीं।

- The 'real support' includes creating systems that enable **informed reproductive choices**, **removing barriers**, and promoting **gender equality**.

यह 'वास्तविक समर्थन' उन प्रणालियों को बनाना है जो सूचित प्रजनन विकल्पों को सक्षम करें, रुकावटों को हटाएँ, और लैंगिक समानता को बढ़ावा दें।

### Demographic Constraints and Real Support: UNFPA's Perspective

जनसांख्यिकीय प्रतिबंध और वास्तविक समर्थन: UNFPA का दृष्टिकोण

- Mr. Smith lists these as **cost of living, gender norms, social pressure, and uncertainty about the future** – including about wars, conflicts, and pandemics.

श्री स्मिथ ने इन्हें जीविका की लागत, लैंगिक मानदंड, सामाजिक दबाव, और भविष्य को लेकर अनिश्चितता – जैसे युद्ध, संघर्ष, और महामारियाँ के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किया।

- “The urgency is really clear for us — **demographic transitions** are accelerating, but **people's choices** are increasingly **constrained**,” he says.

“हमारे लिए यह अत्यंत स्पष्ट है — जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन तेज हो रहे हैं, लेकिन लोगों के विकल्प तेजी से सीमित हो रहे हैं,” वे कहते हैं।

- In effect, **real support** is not about **'baby bonuses or coercive policies'**.

वास्तव में, वास्तविक समर्थन का अर्थ 'बच्चे पैदा करने के बोनस या दबावकारी नीतियों' से नहीं है।

- “It's actually about providing support that **empowers people** to help create the **families that they want**.”

“यह वास्तव में लोगों को सशक्त बनाने वाला समर्थन प्रदान करने की बात है, जिससे वे अपनी इच्छित परिवार संरचना बना सकें।”

- That includes various elements like **affordable housing, childcare, decent work, and equitable pay**.

इसमें शामिल हैं: सुलभ आवास, बाल देखभाल, सम्मानजनक काम, और समान वेतन जैसी विभिन्न व्यवस्थाएँ।

- “It's also about **parental leave for all parents and all families. It's about accessible fertility care, reproductive health services, particularly to adolescents**,” Mr. Smith listed.

“यह सभी माता-पिता और परिवारों के लिए अभिभावकीय अवकाश, सुलभ प्रजनन देखभाल, और प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं, विशेष रूप से किशोरों के लिए उपलब्ध कराने की बात है,” श्री स्मिथ ने बताया।

### Legal and Social Support for All Families

सभी परिवारों के लिए कानूनी और सामाजिक समर्थन

- The UNFPA is also advocating among **member countries** to provide better **support and legal recognition for all family types**.

UNFPA सदस्य देशों के बीच सभी प्रकार के परिवारों के लिए बेहतर समर्थन और कानूनी मान्यता की वकालत कर रहा है।

- **Same-sex couples** face certain **legal and social barriers** to full access.

समलैंगिक जोड़ों को कानूनी और सामाजिक बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है जिससे उन्हें पूर्ण रूप से अधिकार नहीं मिलते।

- In this context, the **social aspect** is almost more important because **legal conditions** can be created, but **social barriers** may still stymie equal access.

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इस संदर्भ में, सामाजिक पहलू अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि कानूनी स्थिति बनाई जा सकती है, लेकिन सामाजिक बाधाएँ अब भी समान पहुंच को रोक सकती हैं।

- So acting on the **social conditioning** too is important.  
इसलिए सामाजिक मानसिकता पर काम करना भी महत्वपूर्ण है।

### Call for Rights-Based Systems and Leadership अधिकार-आधारित प्रणालियों और नेतृत्व की अपील

- “We are calling on governments to **invest in rights-based systems** that enable **reproductive autonomy**, regardless of a country’s **fertility rate**.”  
“हम सरकारों से अधिकार-आधारित प्रणालियों में निवेश करने की अपील कर रहे हैं, जो प्रजनन स्वायत्तता को सक्षम करें, चाहे देश की प्रजनन दर कुछ भी हो।”
- “We have a programme around **demographic resilience** that offers **policy support** to help governments harness **opportunities** that come with **demographic change**.”  
“हमारे पास जनसांख्यिकीय लचीलापन पर एक कार्यक्रम है जो सरकारों को जनसांख्यिकीय बदलाव के साथ आने वाले अवसरों का लाभ उठाने में मदद करने के लिए नीतिगत समर्थन प्रदान करता है।”
- He added that it would not be good enough just to have a **policy**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि केवल नीति होना पर्याप्त नहीं होगा।
- “You need **leadership** that is **courageous** and has the **foresight** to look into these **demographic changes**.”  
“आपको ऐसा नेतृत्व चाहिए जो साहसी हो और जिसके पास इन जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तनों को समझने की दूरदृष्टि हो।”
- “They also have to make sure that the **policies are responsive**, and that they’re **investing**.”  
“उन्हें यह भी सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि नीतियाँ प्रतिक्रियाशील हों और वे निवेश कर रहे हों।”



## United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

### Full Form and Establishment

- UNFPA stands for **United Nations Population Fund**
- Originally known as the **United Nations Fund for Population Activities**
- Retains the acronym **UNFPA** for historical reasons
- **Established: 1969** by a resolution of the **UN General Assembly**
- **Headquarters: New York, United States**

### Mission and Mandate

UNFPA's mission is to deliver:

"A world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled."

### Mandated areas:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Population data collection and analysis
- Women's and girls' empowerment
- Gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence (GBV)

### Key Areas of Work

#### Reproductive Health

- Ensures **access to family planning services**, including **modern contraceptives**
- Promotes **safe motherhood** by training **midwives** and strengthening **maternal health services**
- Works to eliminate **obstetric fistula** and reduce **maternal mortality**

#### Youth and Adolescents

- Offers **life skills and sexuality education**
- Advocates for **youth-friendly reproductive health services**
- Promotes **meaningful youth engagement** in policymaking

#### Gender Equality and GBV Prevention

- Works to end **gender-based violence**, including **child marriage** and **female genital mutilation (FGM)**
- Empowers women and girls through **education, economic participation, and legal rights advocacy**

#### Population and Development



- Provides **technical assistance for population censuses, surveys, and demographic analysis**
- Helps governments link population trends with **sustainable development goals (SDGs)**
- Supports **migration policy, urban planning, and climate resilience strategies**

## Aiding India's progress with choice, control and capital

ISS Paper II Society

**W**ith the world's population having crossed the eight billion mark, looking at the macros is all but natural. However, there has to be an equal focus on the micro-vulnerable groups, key populations and individuals on the fringes. We must endeavour to ensure that the promise of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP) is kept, and that every person gets the right to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

This year, the United Nations has announced its theme for World Population Day as "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world". It highlights the ICDP's special focus on youth, by affirming their right to accurate information, education and services in order to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. It also reflects a simple but pressing need: of bringing youth to the centre when envisioning the future, ensuring their freedom of choice and opportunities.

### Home to the largest youth population

UNICEF reports there being 371 million youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years in India, making it the world's largest youth population. This is a number that stretches existing resources and systems. But with the right investments in education, skills and also access to health, nutrition, and family planning services, it can become a powerful driver of national progress. Unleashing this youth potential in India could boost its GDP by up to \$1 trillion by 2030, unlocking a demographic divide as projected by the World Bank and NITI Aayog, while significantly reducing unemployment and improving social outcomes.

India has made significant strides with initiatives such as 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and the National Adolescent Health Programme, reducing child marriage and adolescent fertility rates. Yet, there is still room to do more as a nation in order to address persistent challenges such as limited reproductive autonomy, socio-cultural barriers and gender inequality. These continue to restrict many young people (especially young women) from realising their true potential.

For instance, the prevalence of child marriages in India has reduced by half since 2006, but is still reported at 23.3% (National Family Health Survey-5, 2019-21). Further, teenage childbearing among women in the age group of 15 to 19 years was pegged at 7% nationally. But in some States, the rate was reported to be more than double, highlighting stark regional disparities (National Family Health Survey-5). In addition, the recently published State of World Population Report 2025 by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) underscores the lack of reproductive autonomy

### Shrishi Pandey

is Manager, Social and Economic Empowerment, IPE Global (international development consulting firm)

### Ashish Mukherjee

is Vice-President, Social and Economic Empowerment, IPE Global

### Raghvesh Ranjan

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With the right investments in education, skills and access to health, nutrition and family planning services, India's youth population can boost national progress

and the crisis of fertility aspirations, particularly among women. More than a third of Indian adults (36%) face unintended pregnancies, while another 30% reported unmet reproductive goals, i.e., an inability to exercise their choice about the number of children they have. Almost 23% of Indian adults faced both.

### Issue of child marriage

The need is for a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy which includes education, contraception access, nutrition, mental health support and community empowerment to tackle the root causes rather than addressing symptoms.

UNICEF reports that each additional year of secondary education can reduce the likelihood of child marriage by up to 6%. Project Udaan (implemented by IPE Global in Rajasthan between 2017 and 2022), used this as its basis; it became an example of how a streamlined, 360° approach can drive meaningful change for young people.

The initiative addressed the challenge of early marriages and teenage pregnancies by keeping girls in secondary school through the strategic use of government scholarship schemes, improving their awareness of sexual and reproductive health, and improving access to modern contraceptives for young women, which helped bolster the voice and reproductive agency of girls and women. The initiative led to almost 30,000 child marriages being prevented and nearly 15,000 teenage pregnancies being averted, while also ensuring an education and a bright future for these girls.

Similarly, the Advika programme, launched by the Government of Odisha in partnership with UNICEF-UNFPA in 2019-20, has made strides in preventing child marriage through strategies which include strengthening state systems, fostering awareness about child protection issues, and empowering adolescents through education, skill development and leadership training. Its youth-focused approach has enabled about 11,000 villages to be declared child marriage-free; in 2022, nearly 950 child marriages were stopped.

Addressing child marriage and early pregnancy is essential, but true empowerment means going further – equipping adolescents, especially girls, with the skills, the education and the opportunities they need to lead independent and meaningful lives, while also fostering enabling environments that support their agency, voice and participation in decisions that affect them. This includes the timing of their marriage, reproductive freedom (whether or not to have children, the age at which they have the first child, the number of children they wish to have), or how they choose to live meaningful lives on

their own terms. At the heart of this empowerment lies economic independence. When economically empowered, women gain the resources, the confidence and the voice to shape their futures and contribute meaningfully to society.

To address the issues surrounding women's economic empowerment and the low female labour force participation, Project Manzil is being implemented by IPE Global in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan in six selected districts (2019-25). The programme which utilises a human-centred design approach, understands the aspirations of young women, then aligns skill training with these aspirations, and enables them to have unhindered access to dignified employment opportunities at gender-friendly workplaces. As with all effective programmes, this

has been complemented with addressing harmful social norms through consistent behaviour change communication strategies. The project has made families prosperous and has also transformed communities. For instance, it helped 28,000 young women (ages 18 to 21 years) to complete skill training at government skill training centres – 16,000 were employed, making them the first generation of women from their communities to enter skilled professions. Empowered by financial stability, these young women exude better negotiation power to delay or get married.

### Accelerating progress

The State of World Population 2025 report aptly focuses on rights-based, multi-sector investments and underscores that progress hinges on expanding universal access to contraception, safe abortion, maternal health and infertility care, and also in removing structural barriers such as education, housing, childcare and workplace flexibility. It also emphasises that investing in girls' education, life-skills development, conditional cash transfers, community mobilisation and health services delivers measurable gains. Programmes such as Udaan, Advika and Manzil showcase how these investments can be brought to life and improve the future of youth everywhere.

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has rightly called for this World Population Day to celebrate the potential and the promise the largest-ever generation of youth holds. It is important to remember that they are entitled to shape their futures by making informed choices about their health, families, careers and lives. India stands at a defining moment on its development journey, and its success will depend on how well it can understand the aspirations of its youth, amplifying the voices of young women, and helping unlock opportunities for them.



**Aiding India's Progress with Choice, Control and Capital**  
**चयन, नियंत्रण और पूंजी के साथ भारत की प्रगति में सहायता**



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## World Population Day and Youth Empowerment विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस और युवाओं को सशक्त बनाना

- With the world's population having crossed the **eight billion mark**, looking at the **macros** is all but natural.  
दुनिया की जनसंख्या आठ अरब के आंकड़े को पार कर चुकी है, इसलिए **समग्र दृष्टिकोण** अपनाना स्वाभाविक है।
- However, there has to be an equal focus on the **micro-vulnerable groups, key populations and individuals on the fringes**.  
हालांकि, **सूक्ष्म स्तर के कमजोर समूहों, प्रमुख जनसंख्या वर्गों और हाशिये पर पड़े व्यक्तियों** पर भी समान ध्यान देना आवश्यक है।
- We must endeavour to ensure that the promise of the **1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)** is kept.  
हमें यह सुनिश्चित करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए कि **1994 की जनसंख्या और विकास पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन (ICPD)** का वादा पूरा किया जाए।
- **Every person gets the right to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination, and violence**.  
हर व्यक्ति को अपनी **यौन और प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य** पर **जानकारी पर आधारित निर्णय** लेने का अधिकार मिले, जो **जबरदस्ती, भेदभाव और हिंसा** से मुक्त हो।
- This year, the United Nations has announced its theme for **World Population Day** as **“Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world”**.  
इस वर्ष, संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस की थीम घोषित की है: **“युवाओं को सक्षम बनाना कि वे एक न्यायपूर्ण और आशावादी दुनिया में अपने इच्छित परिवार बना सकें”**।
- It highlights the ICPD's special focus on youth, affirming their **right to accurate information, education, and services**.  
यह ICPD द्वारा युवाओं पर दिए गए **विशेष ज़ोर** को रेखांकित करता है, और उनके **सटीक जानकारी, शिक्षा और सेवाओं के अधिकार** की पुष्टि करता है।
- It reflects a pressing need to bring **youth to the centre** when envisioning the future, ensuring their **freedom of choice and opportunities**.  
यह एक ज़रूरी आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है: **भविष्य की कल्पना करते समय युवाओं को केंद्र में लाना** और उनके **चयन की स्वतंत्रता और अवसरों** को सुनिश्चित करना।

## India's Youth Demographic and Its Potential भारत की युवा जनसंख्या और उसकी संभावनाएँ

- UNICEF reports there being **371 million youth (age 15 to 29 years)** in India, making it the **world's largest youth population**.  
यूनिसेफ के अनुसार भारत में **371 मिलियन युवा (आयु 15 से 29 वर्ष)** हैं, जो इसे **दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी युवा आबादी** बनाते हैं।
- This stretches existing **resources and systems**, but with **right investments in education, skills, health, nutrition, and family planning**, it can drive **national progress**.  
यह मौजूदा **संसाधनों और प्रणालियों** पर दबाव डालता है, लेकिन अगर **शिक्षा, कौशल, स्वास्थ्य, पोषण, और परिवार नियोजन** में सही निवेश हो, तो यह **राष्ट्रीय प्रगति** का स्रोत बन सकता है।
- Unleashing this youth potential could boost **GDP by up to \$1 trillion by 2030**, unlocking the **demographic dividend** (World Bank and NITI Aayog).

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इस युवा क्षमता को उजागर करने से 2030 तक जीडीपी में \$1 ट्रिलियन तक की वृद्धि हो सकती है और यह जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश को साकार कर सकता है (विश्व बैंक और नीति आयोग के अनुसार)।

- It could also significantly reduce unemployment and improve social outcomes. यह बेरोजगारी को काफी हद तक कम कर सकता है और सामाजिक परिणामों को बेहतर बना सकता है।

### Policy Achievements and Persistent Challenges नीतिगत उपलब्धियाँ और लगातार बनी चुनौतियाँ

- India has made strides with initiatives such as ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ and the National Adolescent Health Programme, reducing child marriage and adolescent fertility rates. भारत ने ‘बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ’ और राष्ट्रीय किशोर स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से बाल विवाह और किशोरावस्था में प्रजनन दर को कम करने में प्रगति की है।
- However, challenges remain, like limited reproductive autonomy, socio-cultural barriers, and gender inequality. हालांकि, सीमित प्रजनन स्वायत्तता, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक बाधाएं, और लैंगिक असमानता जैसी चुनौतियाँ अब भी बनी हुई हैं।
- These issues continue to restrict many young people, especially young women, from realizing their true potential. ये समस्याएँ कई युवाओं, विशेष रूप से युवा महिलाओं, को उनकी वास्तविक क्षमता हासिल करने से रोकती हैं।

### Data and Disparities in Reproductive Health प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य में आंकड़े और क्षेत्रीय असमानताएँ

- Child marriages have reduced by half since 2006, but still stand at 23.3% (National Family Health Survey-5, 2019-21). 2006 से बाल विवाह की दर आधी हो गई है, फिर भी यह अब भी 23.3% है (राष्ट्रीय पारिवारिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण-5, 2019-21)।
- Teenage childbearing among women aged 15 to 19 was 7% nationally, but more than double in some States. 15 से 19 वर्ष की महिलाओं में किशोरावस्था में मातृत्व की दर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर 7% रही, लेकिन कुछ राज्यों में यह दोगुनी से भी अधिक रही।
- The UNFPA’s State of World Population Report 2025 highlights lack of reproductive autonomy and crisis of fertility aspirations, especially among women. संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष (UNFPA) की विश्व जनसंख्या रिपोर्ट 2025 में प्रजनन स्वायत्तता की कमी और प्रजनन आकांक्षाओं के संकट को विशेष रूप से महिलाओं के संदर्भ में उजागर किया गया है।
- Over 36% of Indian adults face unintended pregnancies, and 30% report unmet reproductive goals. 36% से अधिक भारतीय वयस्कों को अनचाही गर्भधारण का सामना करना पड़ता है और 30% की प्रजनन इच्छाएँ अधूरी रह जाती हैं।
- Almost 23% of Indian adults faced both issues. लगभग 23% भारतीय वयस्कों को दोनों समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ा।



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## Issue of Child Marriage

### बाल विवाह का मुद्दा

- The need is for a **comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy** which includes **education, contraception access, nutrition, mental health support and community empowerment** to tackle the **root causes** rather than addressing symptoms.  
आवश्यकता है एक **व्यापक, बहुआयामी रणनीति** की, जिसमें **शिक्षा, गर्भनिरोधक की उपलब्धता, पोषण, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सहायता और समुदाय को सशक्त बनाना** शामिल हो ताकि **लक्षणों के बजाय मूल कारणों** को दूर किया जा सके।
- UNICEF reports that **each additional year of secondary education can reduce the likelihood of child marriage by up to 6%**.  
यूनिसेफ की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **माध्यमिक शिक्षा** का प्रत्येक अतिरिक्त वर्ष बाल विवाह की संभावना को **6% तक कम कर सकता है।**
- **Project Udaan** (implemented by IPE Global in Rajasthan between **2017 and 2022**) used this as its basis; it became an example of how a **streamlined, 360° approach** can drive **meaningful change** for young people.  
राजस्थान में **IPE ग्लोबल** द्वारा **2017 से 2022 के बीच लागू किया गया 'प्रोजेक्ट उड़ान'**, इस आधार पर काम करता है; यह इस बात का उदाहरण बन गया कि **संगठित, 360° दृष्टिकोण** कैसे युवाओं के लिए **सार्थक परिवर्तन** ला सकता है।
- The initiative addressed the challenge of **early marriages and teenage pregnancies by keeping girls in secondary school through the strategic use of government scholarship schemes, improving their awareness of sexual and reproductive health, and improving access to modern contraceptives for young women.**  
इस पहल ने **कम उम्र में विवाह और किशोरावस्था में गर्भधारण** की चुनौती को संबोधित किया, **सरकारी छात्रवृत्ति योजनाओं के रणनीतिक उपयोग के माध्यम से लड़कियों को माध्यमिक विद्यालय में बनाए रखा, उनकी यौन और प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य की जागरूकता बढ़ाई और आधुनिक गर्भनिरोधकों तक पहुंच सुनिश्चित की।**
- This helped **bolster the voice and reproductive agency** of girls and women.  
इससे लड़कियों और महिलाओं की **आवाज़ और प्रजनन अधिकार** मजबूत हुए।
- The initiative led to **almost 30,000 child marriages being prevented and nearly 15,000 teenage pregnancies being averted**, while also ensuring an **education and a bright future** for these girls.  
इस पहल ने **लगभग 30,000 बाल विवाह रोके और करीब 15,000 किशोर गर्भधारण को टाला, साथ ही इन लड़कियों के लिए शिक्षा और उज्ज्वल भविष्य सुनिश्चित किया।**

## Advika Programme

### अद्विका कार्यक्रम

- The **Advika programme, launched by the Government of Odisha** in partnership with UNICEF-UNFPA in **2019-20**, has made strides in **preventing child marriage through strategies like strengthening state systems, raising awareness, and empowering adolescents.**  
**2019-20 में ओडिशा सरकार द्वारा यूनिसेफ-यूएनएफपीए के सहयोग से शुरू किया गया 'अद्विका कार्यक्रम', राज्य प्रणालियों को मजबूत करना, जागरूकता बढ़ाना और किशोरों को सशक्त बनाना** जैसी रणनीतियों के माध्यम से **बाल विवाह रोकने में सफल रहा है।**

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- Its **youth-focused approach** has enabled about **11,000 villages** to be declared **child marriage-free**; in 2022, nearly **950 child marriages** were stopped.  
इसके युवा केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण से करीब 11,000 गांवों को बाल विवाह मुक्त घोषित किया गया; 2022 में लगभग 950 बाल विवाह रोके गए।

### True Empowerment सच्चा सशक्तिकरण

- Addressing **child marriage and early pregnancy** is essential, but true empowerment means **equipping adolescents** (especially girls) with **skills, education and opportunities** to lead **independent and meaningful lives**.  
बाल विवाह और शुरुआती गर्भावस्था को संबोधित करना जरूरी है, लेकिन सच्चे सशक्तिकरण का मतलब है कि किशोरों (विशेष रूप से लड़कियों) को कौशल, शिक्षा और अवसरों से सुसज्जित करना ताकि वे स्वतंत्र और सार्थक जीवन जी सकें।
- It also involves creating **enabling environments** that support their **agency, voice and participation** in decisions affecting them.  
इसमें ऐसे **सक्षम वातावरण** बनाना भी शामिल है जो उनके **निर्णय, आवाज और भागीदारी** का समर्थन करते हों।
- This includes decisions like **timing of marriage, reproductive freedom**, and the **number of children** they wish to have.  
इसमें निर्णय जैसे **विवाह का समय, प्रजनन की स्वतंत्रता** और वे **कितने बच्चे चाहते हैं**, शामिल हैं।
- At the heart of this empowerment lies **economic independence**.  
इस सशक्तिकरण के केंद्र में है **आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता**।
- When **economically empowered**, women gain **resources, confidence and voice** to shape their futures and contribute to society.  
जब महिलाएं **आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त होती हैं**, तो वे **संसाधन, आत्मविश्वास और आवाज़** प्राप्त करती हैं जिससे वे अपना भविष्य आकार दे सकती हैं और समाज में योगदान कर सकती हैं।

### Project Manzil प्रोजेक्ट मंज़िल

- To address **women's economic empowerment** and **low female labour force participation**, **Project Manzil** is being implemented by IPE Global with the Government of Rajasthan in six districts (2019-25).  
महिलाओं की आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण और महिला श्रम बल में कम भागीदारी को संबोधित करने के लिए, **प्रोजेक्ट मंज़िल** को IPE ग्लोबल द्वारा राजस्थान सरकार के सहयोग से **छह जिलों में (2019-25)** लागू किया जा रहा है।
- The programme uses a **human-centred design approach**, understands the **aspirations of young women**, aligns **skill training** accordingly, and provides **dignified employment** in **gender-friendly workplaces**.  
यह कार्यक्रम **मानव-केंद्रित डिज़ाइन दृष्टिकोण** का उपयोग करता है, **युवा महिलाओं की आकांक्षाओं** को समझता है, उसी अनुरूप **कौशल प्रशिक्षण** करता है और **लैंगिक-सहिष्णु कार्यस्थलों** में **गरिमापूर्ण रोजगार** प्रदान करता है।
- The programme also addresses **harmful social norms through behaviour change communication strategies**.

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यह कार्यक्रम व्यवहार परिवर्तन संचार रणनीतियों के माध्यम से हानिकारक सामाजिक मान्यताओं को भी संबोधित करता है।

- The project has made **families prosperous** and also **transformed communities**. इस परियोजना ने **परिवारों को समृद्ध** और **समाज को परिवर्तित** किया है।
- For instance, it helped **28,000 young women (ages 18 to 21 years) complete skill training at government centres — 16,000 were employed, becoming the first generation of skilled women** in their communities.

उदाहरण के लिए, इसने **28,000 युवा महिलाओं (18 से 21 वर्ष की आयु)** को सरकारी केंद्रों में **कौशल प्रशिक्षण** पूरा करने में मदद की — जिनमें से **16,000 को रोजगार मिला**, और वे अपने समुदायों की **पहली कुशल महिला पीढ़ी** बनीं।

- Empowered by **financial stability**, these young women **exude better negotiation power to delay or decide on marriage**.

**वित्तीय स्थिरता** से सशक्त हुईं ये युवा महिलाएं **शादी को टालने या तय करने में बेहतर निर्णय क्षमता** दिखाती हैं।

#### Accelerating Progress

#### प्रगति को तेज़ करना

- The **State of World Population 2025 report** aptly focuses on **rights-based, multi-sector investments** and underscores that progress hinges on expanding **universal access to contraception, safe abortion, maternal health and infertility care**, and also in removing **structural barriers such as education, housing, childcare and workplace flexibility**.

**विश्व जनसंख्या स्थिति 2025 रिपोर्ट** उपयुक्त रूप से **अधिकार-आधारित, बहु-क्षेत्रीय निवेश** पर केंद्रित है और यह रेखांकित करती है कि प्रगति इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि **गर्भनिरोधक, सुरक्षित गर्भपात, मातृ स्वास्थ्य और बांझपन देखभाल तक सार्वभौमिक पहुंच** को कैसे बढ़ाया जाए, और **शिक्षा, आवास, बाल देखभाल और कार्यस्थल लचीलापन** जैसी **संरचनात्मक बाधाओं** को कैसे हटाया जाए।

- It also emphasises that **investing in girls' education, life-skills development, conditional cash transfers, community mobilisation and health services** delivers measurable gains. यह यह भी जोर देती है कि **लड़कियों की शिक्षा, जीवन-कौशल विकास, सशर्त नकद स्थानांतरण, समुदायों की सक्रिय भागीदारी और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** में निवेश से **मापनीय लाभ** मिलते हैं।

- Programmes such as **Udaan, Advika and Manzil** showcase how these investments can be brought to life and **improve the future of youth everywhere**.

**उड़ान, अद्विका और मंज़िल** जैसे कार्यक्रम यह दिखाते हैं कि इन निवेशों को किस प्रकार **ज़मीनी स्तर** पर लागू किया जा सकता है और **हर जगह युवाओं के भविष्य को बेहतर** बनाया जा सकता है।

- The **UN Secretary-General, António Guterres**, has rightly called for this **World Population Day** to celebrate the **potential and the promise** the **largest-ever generation of youth** holds.

**संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस** ने उचित रूप से इस **विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस** पर अब तक की **सबसे बड़ी युवा पीढ़ी की क्षमता और वादे का उत्सव मनाने का आह्वान** किया है।

- It is important to remember that they are **entitled to shape their futures** by making **informed choices about their health, families, careers and lives**.

यह याद रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि युवाओं को अपने **स्वास्थ्य, परिवार, करियर और जीवन** के बारे में **सूचित निर्णय** लेकर अपने **भविष्य को आकार देने का अधिकार** है।

- **India** stands at a **defining moment** on its development journey, and its success will depend on how well it can **understand the aspirations of its youth, amplifying the voices of young women, and helping unlock opportunities** for them.

**भारत** अपने विकास यात्रा के एक **निर्णायक मोड़** पर खड़ा है, और इसकी सफलता इस बात पर निर्भर



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करेगी कि वह अपने युवाओं की आकांक्षाओं को कितनी अच्छी तरह समझता है, युवा महिलाओं की आवाज़ को कैसे सशक्त करता है, और उनके लिए अवसरों के द्वार खोलने में कितना सफल होता है।

## UNICEF

- **Established on December 11, 1946**, in New York as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, to aid children affected by World War II.
- Became a permanent UN agency and renamed the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in **1953**.
- Awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in October 1965** for its global efforts in reducing disparities and fostering international solidarity.

## 2. Mission & Core Functions

UNICEF works in over **190 countries and territories**, driven by its mandate from the UN General Assembly to ensure every child's right to survive, develop, be protected, and participate.

**Key Focus Areas** include:

- **Child health & immunization:** Largest global vaccine provider
- **Nutrition & sanitation:** Combats child malnourishment and improves WASH
- **Education:** Supports early learning, inclusive classrooms
- **Child protection:** Safeguards against violence, exploitation
- **Humanitarian response:** Delivers relief during crises
- **Social policy & advocacy:** Strengthens national child rights and policies

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**PICTURE OF THE WEEK**

All eyes on Pandharpur



KS Paper I, A&C  
Warkaris, members of a Hindu religious tradition called the Warkari Sampradaya, dance on the banks of the Chandrabhagha river on the occasion of Ashadhi Ekadashi in Pandharpur in Maharashtra. Ashadhi Ekadashi is a significant pilgrimage for devotees of Lord Vitthal. EMMANUAL YOGINI

## Ashadhi Ekadashi

### Basic Information

- **Occasion:** Hindu religious observance
- **Falls on:** Ekadashi (11th day) of the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase) of the Ashadha month (June–July)
- **2025 Date:** Likely to fall in July 2025 (exact date varies yearly by lunar calendar)
- **Significance:** Marks the beginning of Chaturmas (four holy months); Lord Vishnu is believed to go into yogic sleep (Yoga Nidra)
- **Main Deity Worshipped:** Lord Vitthal (Vithoba) – a form of Lord Vishnu/Krishna

### Religious Significance

- On this day, Lord Vishnu is believed to rest in the Ksheer Sagar (cosmic ocean) until Prabodhini Ekadashi (in Kartik month, four months later).
- Thus, no auspicious ceremonies (like marriages) are held during Chaturmas.
- Devotees fast, offer special prayers, sing bhajans and abhangas, and engage in charitable acts.



## Cultural and Regional Importance

- **Maharashtra: Pandharpur Wari Yatra**
- **Ashadhi Ekadashi** is the **culmination of the Warkari pilgrimage** (Pandharpur Wari), one of the largest and oldest annual foot pilgrimages in the world.
- Devotees (called **Warkaris**) walk hundreds of kilometers to reach **Pandharpur**, the main temple town of **Lord Vitthal and Rukmini**.
- Pilgrims carry **palkhis (palanquins)** of famous **saints like Sant Dnyaneshwar (from Alandi)** and **Sant Tukaram (from Dehu)**.
- Devotional songs called **abhangas** are sung in groups, accompanied by traditional instruments like **ektara, taal, and mridangam**.

## Other States

- Celebrated in **Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha** with **regional variations**.
- In **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**, it is often associated with **Lord Vishnu and Lord Jagannath**.

## Associated Saints and Bhakti Tradition

- Deeply connected to the **Bhakti Movement** in Maharashtra.
- Prominent saints:
  - **Sant Tukaram**
  - **Sant Dnyaneshwar**
  - **Sant Namdev**
  - **Sant Eknath**

## Sant Tukaram (17th Century)

**Birth:** c. 1608 CE | **Place:** Dehu, Maharashtra

**Language:** Marathi

## Key Contributions:

- Composed thousands of **Abhangas** (devotional poems) in praise of **Lord Vitthal (Vithoba)**.
- Emphasized **personal devotion (bhakti)** over rituals and caste.
- Promoted **equality, non-violence, and humility** in worship.
- Rejected idol worship in temples dominated by the elite; promoted **community worship and kirtans**.



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### Notable Facts:

- Was a **contemporary of Shivaji Maharaj**.
- His **palkhi (palanquin)** from Dehu to Pandharpur is a central part of the **Wari Yatra** every Ashadhi Ekadashi.
- His teachings are deeply embedded in the **Warkari Sampradaya**.

### Sant Dnyaneshwar (Jnaneshwar) (13th Century)

**Birth:** 1275 CE | **Place:** Alandi, Maharashtra

**Language:** Marathi

### Key Contributions:

- Wrote the **Dnyaneshwari**, a **Marathi commentary on the Bhagavad Gita**, which made Sanskrit philosophy accessible to the common people.
- Promoted **universal brotherhood and divine unity (advaita)**.
- Preached that **spiritual liberation is possible for all**, regardless of caste or gender.
- Introduced complex Vedantic concepts in a **simple vernacular form**.

### Notable Facts:

- Took **Sanjeevan Samadhi** (voluntary death while alive in meditation) at **Alandi** at the age of just 21.
- His **palkhi** also travels during the Wari Yatra, starting from Alandi.

### Sant Namdev (13th Century)

**Birth:** c. 1270 CE | **Place:** Narsi, Hingoli, Maharashtra

**Language:** Marathi, Hindi, Punjabi

### Key Contributions:

- Devoted his life to **bhakti of Lord Vitthal**.
- Composed **abhangas and hymns** that focused on **love and devotion over ritualism**.
- Strong advocate of **equality among castes**; spoke against Brahmanical orthodoxy.
- His hymns appear in the **Guru Granth Sahib**, showing his **pan-Indian influence**.

### Notable Facts:

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- Travelled to **Punjab, Delhi, and even South India**, spreading his message of devotion.
- Considered a **spiritual link between the Varkari and Sikh Bhakti traditions**.
- He is equally revered in **Maharashtra and Punjab**.

### **Sant Eknath (16th Century)**

**Birth:** c. 1533 CE | **Place:** Paithan, Maharashtra

**Language:** Marathi

### **Key Contributions:**

- Translated the **Bhagavata Purana** into Marathi (called **Eknathi Bhagavat**).
- Promoted **ethical living (sadachara), truthfulness, and devotion**.
- Advocated **social justice**, denounced untouchability, and uplifted marginalized communities.
- Known for composing **bhajans, abhangas, and bharuds (satirical poems)**.

### **Notable Facts:**

- Emphasized **integrity and humility in daily life**.
- Believed that **serving humanity is equal to serving God**.
- Considered a **bridge between Dnyaneshwar's philosophy and Tukaram's devotional movement**.

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

### **1. Supreme Court on Voter List Revision in Bihar**

**बिहार में मतदाता सूची संशोधन पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट**

### **2. Indian team for U.S. again to seek clarity on tariffs and negotiate trade deal further**

**अमेरिका के लिए भारतीय टीम फिर से शुल्क पर स्पष्टता प्राप्त करने और व्यापार समझौते पर आगे बातचीत करने के लिए**

### **3. Zonal Councils now 'engines of cooperation' and not just discussion forums, says Shah**



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ज़ोनल काउंसिल अब केवल चर्चा मंच नहीं बल्कि 'सहयोग के इंजन' बन गए हैं, शाह ने कहा

4. **NITI Aayog suggests reduced 'core' grant support for State S&T bodies** नीति आयोग ने राज्य एसएंडटी निकायों के लिए 'कोर' अनुदान सहायता कम करने का सुझाव दिया
5. **Centre, UNICEF to provide career counselling for Eklavya students**  
केंद्र और यूनिसेफ द्वारा एकलव्य छात्रों के लिए करियर परामर्श प्रदान किया जाएगा
6. **Widen the Net**  
जाल (नेट) को फैलाएँ
7. **The need to safeguard the right to vote**  
मतदान के अधिकार की सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता
8. **UN Warning Over US Sanctions on Expert**  
संयुक्त राष्ट्र की अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों पर चेतावनी



# 'Consider Aadhaar, EPIC, ration card as proof'

The Supreme Court was hearing pleas against the special intensive revision of the voter list in Bihar

It says issue goes to very roots of democracy, and list of 11 documents for voter verification is not exhaustive

Court notes that the revision in Bihar appeared nebulous – neither 'summary' nor 'special'

SS Paper II: elections

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission (EC) to consider Aadhaar, elector photo identity card (EPIC), and ration card as proof for voter registration in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar.

The court referred to the EC's submission that its list of 11 documents for verification of voters was not "exhaustive". "Therefore, in our *prima facie* view, since the list [of documents] is not exhaustive, it would be in the interest of justice if the EC would also consider the following documents, Aadhaar, EPIC, issued by the EC itself, and ration card," the court dictated in its order.

**No stay**

A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymaya Bagchi allowed the SIR in Bihar to "go on". It did not pass any interim order

of stay. The court listed the case for further hearing on July 28, prior to the publication of the draft electoral rolls in August.

The court said its judicial review of the SIR would focus on the EC's power to undertake the exercise, the manner in which it was conducted, and the chosen timing, which, it described as "very short". It noted that the revision in Bihar appeared nebulous – neither "summary" nor "special" as defined under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

"This issue is very important. It goes to the very roots of our democracy. It is about the right to vote," Justice Dhulia observed.

The EC objected to Aadhaar, stating it was a document for identity verification and not proof of citizenship. Aadhaar, it said, was also issued to non-citizens who were ordinarily resident at a place.

"The Aadhaar Act

## SIR in top court

The Supreme Court will take up for further hearing on **July 28** the case against the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar



**1** What the court will focus on: **Election Commission's power to undertake the exercise;** the manner in which it is conducted; and the **chosen timing** just months ahead of the Assembly election

**2** Court finds the revision **nebulous** – neither 'summary' nor 'special' as defined under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950

**3** Petitioners call it '**citizenship screening**' of **vulnerable groups under the guise of voter registration**; Election Commission has no jurisdiction to ascertain citizenship

The Aadhaar Act clearly says it is not proof of citizenship. The EC cannot exalt the status of the Aadhaar. – EC

If I want a caste certificate, I show my Aadhaar. A document like Aadhaar, considered basic for getting other documents, is not part of the 11 documents? The entire exercise of SIR is about identity only.

**JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA**

clearly says it is not proof of citizenship. The EC cannot exalt the status of the Aadhaar," senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the commission, submitted.

Justice Dhulia, however, remarked that Aadhaar was one of the primary identity documents, and the SIR was about establishing identity. "If I want a caste certificate, I

show my Aadhaar. A document like Aadhaar, considered basic for getting other documents, is not part of the 11 documents? Caste certificate is one of the documents among the 11, but not Aadhaar? The entire exercise of SIR is about identity only. You want to know whether this person is A or B," he said.

Justice Bagchi con-

cluded, stating that none of the 11 documents listed in the EC's June 24 notification established citizenship. "The statute, Representation of the People Act, allows Aadhaar," Justice Bagchi said.

The EC was also represented by senior advocate K.K. Venugopal.

Mr. Dwivedi urged the court to clarify that it would be at the commis-

sion's "discretion" to accept Aadhaar, EPIC or ration cards. Justice Dhulia responded that the court's order was "clear".

Mr. Dwivedi said the revision was necessary, as the last intensive revision in Bihar was in 2003. He said 60% of enumerations – around 5.5 crore – had already been completed, with half uploaded on the EC's new digital platform, ECI Net. "For the first time, we have created ECI Net where the documents would be uploaded. This drive need not be repeated, except for adding names," he said.

'Citizenship screening' The petitioners, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Shadan Farasat and Vrinda Grover, described the SIR as "citizenship screening" of vulnerable groups under the guise of voter registration. They argued that the EC had no jurisdiction to ascertain citizenship, which

was the responsibility of the Union Home Ministry.

Citing a Bihar government survey, Mr. Sibal submitted that 87% of the population had Aadhaar, while only 14% had matriculation certificates and 2% had passports. "This means a substantial portion of the population risk disenfranchisement despite having an Aadhaar. The burden has suddenly fallen on the citizen to prove she is indeed a citizen," he said.

Justice Bagchi raised questions about the strict deadlines of the SIR process. "You say within 30 days citizens have to do this and another 30 days they have to do that... The timing is very short... Why is SIR so election-focused," he asked.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan questioned why the SIR, meant to be implemented nationwide, began in Bihar ahead of the election later this year.

**USED IN EARLIER ELECTIONS**  
» PAGE 5

## Supreme Court on Voter List Revision in Bihar बिहार में मतदाता सूची संशोधन पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission (EC) to consider Aadhaar, elector photo identity card (EPIC), and ration card as proof for voter registration in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को चुनाव आयोग (EC) से बिहार में चल रहे विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) के दौरान मतदाता पंजीकरण के लिए आधार, इलेक्टर फोटो पहचान पत्र (EPIC) और राशन कार्ड को प्रमाण के रूप में मानने के लिए कहा।

- The court referred to the EC's submission that its list of **11 documents** for verification of voters was not "exhaustive".

कोर्ट ने EC के इस कथन का उल्लेख किया कि मतदाता सत्यापन के लिए उसकी 11 दस्तावेजों की सूची "सम्पूर्ण" नहीं है।

- "Therefore, in our *prima facie* view, since the list [of documents] is not exhaustive, it would be in the interest of justice if the EC would also consider the following documents, **Aadhaar, EPIC**, issued by the EC itself, and **ration card**," the court dictated in its order.

"इसलिए, हमारे **प्रथम दृष्टया** विचार में, चूंकि दस्तावेजों की सूची सम्पूर्ण नहीं है, न्याय के हित में होगा कि



EC निम्नलिखित दस्तावेजों को भी माने: आधार, स्वयं EC द्वारा जारी EPIC, और राशन कार्ड," कोर्ट ने अपने आदेश में कहा।

- A Bench of Justices **Sudhanshu Dhulia** and **Joymalya Bagchi** allowed the **SIR in Bihar** to “go on”.  
जस्टिस **सुधांशु धूलिया** और **जॉयमाल्य बागची** की पीठ ने बिहार में **SIR** को “जारी रखने” की अनुमति दी।
- It did not pass any interim order of **stay**.  
इसने कोई अंतरिम **रोक** लगाने का आदेश नहीं दिया।
- The court listed the case for further hearing on **July 28**, prior to the publication of the draft electoral rolls in **August**.  
कोर्ट ने इस मामले की अगली सुनवाई **28 जुलाई** को तय की, जो **अगस्त** में मसौदा मतदाता सूची के प्रकाशन से पहले होगी।
- The court said its judicial review of the **SIR** would focus on the **EC’s power** to undertake the exercise, the **manner** in which it was conducted, and the chosen **timing**, which, it described as “**very short**”.  
कोर्ट ने कहा कि **SIR** की न्यायिक समीक्षा **EC की शक्ति**, इसे संचालित करने के तरीके और चयनित समय पर केंद्रित होगी, जिसे उसने “**बहुत कम**” बताया।
- It noted that the revision in Bihar appeared **nebulous** — neither “**summary**” nor “**special**” as defined under **Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**.  
उसने नोट किया कि बिहार में यह संशोधन **अस्पष्ट** प्रतीत होता है — ना तो “**संक्षिप्त**”, ना ही “**विशेष**”, जैसा कि **1950 के जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 21** के तहत परिभाषित है।
- “This issue is very important. It goes to the very **roots of our democracy**. It is about the **right to vote**,” Justice Dhulia observed.  
“यह मुद्दा बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। यह हमारे **लोकतंत्र की जड़ों** से जुड़ा है। यह **मतदान के अधिकार** के बारे में है,” जस्टिस धूलिया ने कहा।
- The EC objected to **Aadhaar**, stating it was a document for **identity verification** and not proof of **citizenship**.  
EC ने **आधार** पर आपत्ति जताई, यह कहते हुए कि यह **पहचान सत्यापन** का दस्तावेज है, न कि **नागरिकता** का प्रमाण।
- Aadhaar, it said, was also issued to **non-citizens** who were ordinarily resident at a place.  
उसने कहा कि आधार **गैर-नागरिकों** को भी जारी किया जाता है, जो सामान्य रूप से किसी स्थान पर निवास करते हैं।
- “The **Aadhaar Act** clearly says it is not proof of **citizenship**. The EC cannot exalt the status of the Aadhaar,” senior advocate **Rakesh Dwivedi**, appearing for the commission, submitted.  
“**आधार अधिनियम** स्पष्ट रूप से कहता है कि यह **नागरिकता** का प्रमाण नहीं है। EC आधार की स्थिति को ऊंचा नहीं कर सकता,” आयोग की ओर से उपस्थित वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **राकेश द्विवेदी** ने कहा।
- Justice Dhulia, however, remarked that **Aadhaar** was one of the **primary identity documents**, and the **SIR** was about establishing **identity**.  
लेकिन जस्टिस धूलिया ने टिप्पणी की कि **आधार** एक **प्रमुख पहचान दस्तावेजों** में से एक है, और **SIR** की प्रक्रिया **पहचान स्थापित करने** के बारे में है।
- “If I want a **caste certificate**, I show my Aadhaar. A document like **Aadhaar**, considered basic for getting other documents, is not part of the **11 documents**?  
“अगर मुझे **जाति प्रमाणपत्र** चाहिए, तो मैं अपना आधार दिखाता हूँ। **आधार** जैसा दस्तावेज, जिसे अन्य दस्तावेजों के लिए मूल माना जाता है, वह **11 दस्तावेजों** में शामिल नहीं है?”



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- Caste certificate is one of the documents among the **11**, but not Aadhaar?  
**जाति प्रमाणपत्र इन 11 दस्तावेजों में से एक है, लेकिन आधार नहीं?**
- The entire exercise of **SIR** is about **identity only**.  
पूरी **SIR** प्रक्रिया केवल **पहचान** के बारे में है।
- You want to know whether this person is **A or B**,” he said.  
आप यह जानना चाहते हैं कि यह व्यक्ति **A है या B**, उन्होंने कहा।

## Supreme Court Hearing on Document Verification दस्तावेज़ सत्यापन पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट की सुनवाई

- Justice **Bagchi** concurred with the observation that none of the **11 documents** listed in the **Election Commission's (EC) June 24 notification** could establish **citizenship**. He said that the **Representation of the People Act** allowed the use of **Aadhaar**. The EC was also represented by senior advocate **K.K. Venugopal** during the hearing.  
जस्टिस **बागची** ने इस बात से सहमति जताई कि **24 जून की EC अधिसूचना** में सूचीबद्ध **11 दस्तावेजों** में से कोई भी **नागरिकता** स्थापित नहीं करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम** में **आधार** के उपयोग की अनुमति है। इस सुनवाई में **EC** का प्रतिनिधित्व वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **के.के. वेणुगोपाल** ने भी किया।
- Senior advocate **Rakesh Dwivedi**, appearing for the **EC**, requested the court to clarify that accepting **Aadhaar**, **EPIC**, or **ration cards** should be left to the Commission's **discretion**. However, Justice **Dhulia** replied that the court's order was “**clear**” on the matter.  
**EC** की ओर से पेश वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **राकेश द्विवेदी** ने अदालत से अनुरोध किया कि **आधार**, **EPIC**, या **राशन कार्ड** को स्वीकार करने का अधिकार आयोग के **विवेकाधिकार** पर छोड़ा जाए। लेकिन जस्टिस **धूलिया** ने कहा कि इस मामले में अदालत का आदेश “**स्पष्ट**” है।
- Mr. **Dwivedi** justified the revision process by highlighting that the last **intensive revision in Bihar** took place in **2003**. He informed the court that about **60% of enumerations**— nearly **5.5 crore entries**— had already been completed, and nearly half of them had been uploaded on the **EC's new digital platform, ECI Net**. He added that for the **first time**, the **ECI Net** was being used to upload documents and that this process would not need to be repeated except for adding new names.  
श्री **द्विवेदी** ने तर्क दिया कि यह संशोधन आवश्यक था क्योंकि बिहार में अंतिम **गहन पुनरीक्षण 2003** में हुआ था। उन्होंने अदालत को बताया कि लगभग **60% गणनाएँ**, यानी करीब **5.5 करोड़ प्रविष्टियाँ**, पहले ही पूरी हो चुकी हैं और उनमें से आधी **EC के नए डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म ECI Net** पर अपलोड हो चुकी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि **पहली बार ECI Net** के माध्यम से दस्तावेज अपलोड किए जा रहे हैं और यह प्रक्रिया केवल नए नाम जोड़ने के लिए ही दोहराई जाएगी।

## Concerns Raised Over Citizenship Screening नागरिकता जांच को लेकर उठी चिंताएँ

- The petitioners, represented by senior advocates **Kapil Sibal**, **A.M. Singhvi**, **Gopal Sankaranarayanan**, **Shadan Farasat**, and **Vrinda Grover**, described the **special intensive revision (SIR)** as a process of “**citizenship screening**” targeting vulnerable groups under the guise of voter registration. They argued that the **Election Commission (EC)** had no jurisdiction to verify **citizenship**, as this responsibility belonged to the **Union Home Ministry**.

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याचिकाकर्ताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता कपिल सिब्बल, ए.एम. सिंघवी, गोपाल शंकरनारायणन, शादान फरासत और वृंदा ग्रोवर ने किया और उन्होंने विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) को कमजोर वर्गों की “नागरिकता जांच” बताया, जो मतदाता पंजीकरण के नाम पर की जा रही है। उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि चुनाव आयोग (EC) के पास नागरिकता की जांच करने का अधिकार नहीं है क्योंकि यह जिम्मेदारी केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय की है।

- Citing a Bihar government survey, Mr. Sibal pointed out that 87% of the population had Aadhaar, while only 14% had matriculation certificates, and a mere 2% had passports. He warned that a large section of the population could face disenfranchisement despite having Aadhaar. He said the burden of proving citizenship had now unfairly shifted to the individual citizen.

बिहार सरकार के एक सर्वेक्षण का हवाला देते हुए श्री सिब्बल ने बताया कि 87% आबादी के पास आधार है, जबकि केवल 14% के पास मैट्रिकुलेशन प्रमाणपत्र और सिर्फ 2% के पास पासपोर्ट है। उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि आधार होने के बावजूद बड़ी आबादी मतदाता सूची से बाहर हो सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि अब नागरिकता साबित करने का बोझ अनुचित रूप से आम नागरिक पर डाल दिया गया है।

- Justice Bagchi raised concerns about the strict deadlines of the SIR process. He questioned why citizens were being required to complete one stage in 30 days and another in the following 30 days, calling the timing very short. He asked why the SIR process was being conducted in such an election-focused manner.

जस्टिस बागची ने SIR प्रक्रिया की कड़ी समय-सीमा पर चिंता जताई। उन्होंने सवाल उठाया कि नागरिकों से क्यों कहा जा रहा है कि वे एक चरण को 30 दिनों में और दूसरे को अगले 30 दिनों में पूरा करें, और इस समय-सीमा को बहुत कम बताया। उन्होंने पूछा कि यह SIR प्रक्रिया इतनी चुनाव-केंद्रित क्यों है।

- Advocate Sankaranarayanan questioned why the SIR, which was meant to be implemented nationwide, had begun specifically in Bihar ahead of the elections later this year. अधिवक्ता शंकरनारायणन ने सवाल उठाया कि जो SIR देशभर में लागू की जानी थी, वह इस वर्ष के अंत में होने वाले चुनावों से पहले केवल बिहार में ही क्यों शुरू की गई है।



# Indian team for U.S. again to seek clarity on tariffs and negotiate trade deal further

IGS Paper II: India-US

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

An Indian team of trade negotiators will soon be travelling to the U.S. once again, to seek clarity on several recent announcements from Washington, including a proposed 10% tariff on imports from BRICS countries, as well as to continue negotiations for a “mini” trade deal and a wider bilateral investment treaty.

According to sources and trade experts, the prospect of an added tax on all BRICS members – apart from the tariffs mentioned in U.S. President Donald Trump’s letters already sent to several BRICS countries – calls into question the sanctity of any trade deal with the U.S.

Mr. Trump first raised the spectre of a tariff on BRICS countries last Sunday, and then doubled down on it during a Cabinet briefing on Tuesday. “Anybody that’s in BRICS is getting a 10% charge pretty soon... If they’re a member of BRICS, they’re going to have to pay a 10% tariff.”

## Tariff letters

His announcement came a day after he sent letters to 14 countries reimposing higher tariffs on them effective from August 1. Then, on Wednesday, he sent similar letters to eight more countries.

The recipients of these letters include three BRICS countries – Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia. Mr. Trump’s threat of a BRICS tariff is, therefore, causing

## On the table

Indian negotiators are going to the U.S. for the third time in the past few months. A U.S. team visited India twice during this time

### What New Delhi wants:

- Clarity on several recent announcements from Washington, including a proposed 10% tariff on imports from BRICS countries

- Assurance on how a BRICS tariff will affect India and the deal that is being negotiated

- Negotiations for a “mini” trade deal and a wider bilateral investment treaty



A file photo of PM Narendra Modi with President Trump

some confusion among Indian policymakers.

In its letters, the U.S. threatened to impose import tariffs of 50% on Brazil, 30% on South Africa, and 32% on Indonesia.

As per a trade deal agreed with China towards the end of June, the U.S. will impose 30% tariffs on Chinese imports.

“More clarity has to come from the U.S. side,” an official told *The Hindu*. “They have already sent letters to some countries, and have entered into an agreement with China, and now are saying they will impose additional tariffs on BRICS countries. Do the tariffs in the letters include this 10% additional tariff or not? How will a BRICS tariff affect India and the current proposed deal that is being negotiated?”

Apart from the letters to specific countries, Mr. Trump also announced a 50% tariff on all copper imports coming into the U.S.

Another government official confirmed to *The Hindu* that India plans to seek additional clarity on this.

“We are engaged with

the U.S. team virtually, and an Indian team will be heading to the U.S. soon,” the second official said. “Along with clarity on this, negotiations will continue on the mini deal as well as the overall bilateral trade agreement (BTA).”

## Trump’s warning

This would be the third time that an Indian team of negotiators has travelled to the U.S. in the past few months to discuss the trade deal. A U.S. team has also travelled to India twice during this time.

According to trade experts, these latest announcements call into question existing deals with the U.S.

“Trump’s unpredictability raises concerns that even signed deals may be revisited,” said Ajay Srivastava, former Director-General of Foreign Trade and founder of the think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative.

“Trump’s warning makes it clear: any country seen as aligning with BRICS positions may face new tariffs, regardless of previous deals.”

**Indian team for U.S. again to seek clarity on tariffs and negotiate trade deal further**  
**अमेरिका के लिए भारतीय टीम फिर से शुल्क पर स्पष्टता प्राप्त करने और व्यापार समझौते पर आगे बातचीत करने के लिए**

**An Indian team of trade negotiators will soon be travelling to the U.S. once again, to seek clarity on several recent announcements from Washington, including a proposed 10% tariff on imports from BRICS countries, as well as to continue negotiations for a “mini” trade deal and a wider bilateral investment treaty.**

**भारतीय व्यापार वार्ताकारों की एक टीम जल्द ही फिर से अमेरिका की यात्रा करेगी ताकि वाशिंगटन से हाल की कई घोषणाओं पर स्पष्टता प्राप्त की जा सके, जिनमें BRICS देशों से आयात पर प्रस्तावित 10% शुल्क शामिल है, और साथ ही एक “मिनी” व्यापार समझौते और व्यापक द्विपक्षीय निवेश संधि के लिए बातचीत जारी रखी जा सके।**

- According to sources and trade experts, the prospect of an added



tax on all BRICS members, apart from the tariffs mentioned in U.S. President Donald Trump's letters already sent to several BRICS countries, calls into question the sanctity of any trade deal with the U.S.

सूत्रों और व्यापार विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, सभी BRICS सदस्य देशों पर अतिरिक्त कर लगाने की संभावना, जो पहले ही कई BRICS देशों को भेजे गए अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के पत्रों में उल्लिखित शुल्क से अलग है, किसी भी अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार समझौते की पवित्रता पर सवाल उठाती है।

- Mr. Trump first raised the spectre of a tariff on BRICS countries last Sunday, and then doubled down on it during a Cabinet briefing on Tuesday.  
श्री ट्रम्प ने सबसे पहले पिछले रविवार को BRICS देशों पर शुल्क लगाने का संकेत दिया था और फिर मंगलवार को कैबिनेट ब्रीफिंग के दौरान इसे और अधिक मजबूत किया।
- “Anybody that’s in BRICS is getting a 10% charge pretty soon... If they’re a member of BRICS, they’re going to have to pay a 10% tariff.”  
“जो कोई भी BRICS में है, उस पर जल्द ही 10% शुल्क लगेगा... अगर वे BRICS के सदस्य हैं, तो उन्हें 10% शुल्क देना होगा।”
- His announcement came a day after he sent letters to 14 countries reimposing higher tariffs on them effective from August 1.  
उनकी यह घोषणा उस दिन के एक दिन बाद आई जब उन्होंने 14 देशों को पत्र भेजे, जिनमें 1 अगस्त से प्रभावी अधिक शुल्क फिर से लागू किए गए।
- Then, on Wednesday, he sent similar letters to eight more countries.  
फिर बुधवार को उन्होंने आठ और देशों को इसी तरह के पत्र भेजे।
- The recipients of these letters include three BRICS countries — Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia.  
इन पत्रों के प्राप्तकर्ताओं में तीन BRICS देश शामिल हैं — ब्राज़ील, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, और इंडोनेशिया।
- Mr. Trump’s threat of a BRICS tariff is, therefore, causing some confusion among Indian policymakers.  
इस प्रकार श्री ट्रम्प द्वारा BRICS शुल्क की धमकी के कारण भारतीय नीति निर्माताओं में कुछ भ्रम उत्पन्न हो रहा है।
- In its letters, the U.S. threatened to impose import tariffs of 50% on Brazil, 30% on South Africa, and 32% on Indonesia.  
अपने पत्रों में अमेरिका ने ब्राज़ील पर 50% आयात शुल्क, दक्षिण अफ्रीका पर 30%, और इंडोनेशिया पर 32% शुल्क लगाने की धमकी दी है।
- As per a trade deal agreed with China towards the end of June, the U.S. will impose 30% tariffs on Chinese imports.  
जून के अंत में चीन के साथ किए गए व्यापार समझौते के अनुसार, अमेरिका चीनी आयात पर 30% शुल्क लगाएगा।
- “More clarity has to come from the U.S. side,” an official told The Hindu.  
एक अधिकारी ने द हिंदू को बताया, “\*अमेरिका की ओर से और स्पष्टता आनी चाहिए।”
- “They have already sent letters to some countries, and have entered into an agreement with China, and now are saying they will impose additional tariffs on BRICS countries.  
“वे पहले ही कुछ देशों को पत्र भेज चुके हैं, और चीन के साथ एक समझौते में प्रवेश कर चुके हैं, और अब कह रहे हैं कि वे BRICS देशों पर अतिरिक्त शुल्क लगाएंगे।”
- Do the tariffs in the letters include this 10% additional tariff or not?  
क्या पत्रों में उल्लिखित शुल्कों में यह 10% अतिरिक्त शुल्क शामिल है या नहीं?



- How will a **BRICS tariff** affect **India** and the current **proposed deal** that is being negotiated?  
यह **BRICS शुल्क** भारत और वर्तमान में **बातचीत** किए जा रहे **प्रस्तावित समझौते** को कैसे प्रभावित करेगा?

## Trump's Additional Tariff Announcements and India's Response ट्रम्प की अतिरिक्त शुल्क घोषणाएँ और भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- Apart from the letters to **specific countries**, Mr. **Trump** also announced a **50% tariff** on all **copper imports** coming into the **U.S.**  
कुछ **विशिष्ट देशों** को भेजे गए पत्रों के अलावा, श्री **ट्रम्प** ने **अमेरिका** में आने वाले सभी **तांबे के आयात** पर **50% शुल्क** लगाने की भी घोषणा की।
- Another **government official** confirmed to **The Hindu** that **India** plans to seek additional clarity on this.  
एक अन्य **सरकारी अधिकारी** ने **द हिंदू** को पुष्टि की कि **भारत** इस पर अतिरिक्त स्पष्टता प्राप्त करने की योजना बना रहा है।
- “We are engaged with the **U.S. team** virtually, and an **Indian team** will be heading to the **U.S.** soon,” the second official said.  
दूसरे अधिकारी ने कहा, “हम **अमेरिकी टीम** के साथ आभासी रूप से बातचीत कर रहे हैं, और एक **भारतीय टीम** जल्द ही **अमेरिका** जाएगी।”
- “Along with clarity on this, negotiations will continue on the **mini deal** as well as the overall **U.S.-India bilateral trade agreement (BTA).**”  
“इस पर स्पष्टता के साथ-साथ, **मिनी डील** और समग्र **द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते (BTA)** पर बातचीत जारी रहेगी।”
- This would be the **third time** that an **Indian team of negotiators** has travelled to the **U.S.** in the past **few months** to discuss the **trade deal.**  
यह पिछले **कुछ महीनों** में **भारतीय वार्ताकारों** की टीम द्वारा **अमेरिका** की तीसरी यात्रा होगी ताकि **व्यापार समझौते** पर चर्चा की जा सके।
- A **U.S. team** has also travelled to **India** twice during this time.  
इस दौरान **अमेरिकी टीम** भी **भारत** में **दो बार** यात्रा कर चुकी है।
- According to **trade experts**, these latest announcements call into question **existing deals with the U.S.**  
**व्यापार विशेषज्ञों** के अनुसार, ये ताज़ा घोषणाएँ **अमेरिका के साथ मौजूदा समझौतों** पर सवाल उठाती हैं।
- “**Trump’s unpredictability** raises concerns that even **signed deals** may be revisited,” said **Ajay Srivastava**, former **Director-General of Foreign Trade** and founder of the think-tank **Global Trade Research Initiative.**  
पूर्व **विदेश व्यापार महानिदेशक** और थिंक टैंक **ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव** के संस्थापक **अजय श्रीवास्तव** ने कहा, “**ट्रम्प की अप्रत्याशितता** से यह चिंता बढ़ती है कि यहां तक कि **हस्ताक्षरित समझौते** भी पुनः समीक्षा के दायरे में आ सकते हैं।”
- “**Trump’s warning** makes it clear: any country seen as aligning with **BRICS positions** may face new **tariffs**, regardless of **previous deals.**”  
“**ट्रम्प की चेतावनी** स्पष्ट करती है कि जो कोई भी देश **BRICS की नीतियों** के साथ जुड़ा हुआ दिखेगा, उसे पिछले समझौतों की परवाह किए बिना नए **शुल्कों** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।”



# Zonal Councils now 'engines of cooperation' and not just discussion forums, says Shah

GS Paper II: Inter-state Relations

**Press Trust of India**

RANCHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said zonal councils have transformed from being mere discussion forums into "engines of cooperation", noting that 83% of issues taken up in their meetings have been resolved.

Mr. Shah made the remark at the 27th Eastern Zonal Council meeting, attended by representatives from the four eastern States – Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal – including Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi.

## 'Long-pending issues'

"In today's meeting, long-pending complex issues related to Masanjore Dam, Taiyabpur Barrage, and Indrapuri Reservoir were dis-



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren with Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi as Home Minister Amit Shah looks on, in Ranchi on Thursday. ANI

cussed in detail in addition to the issues related to division of assets and liabilities of many Public Sector Undertakings between Bihar and Jharkhand, which were pending since the time of division of Bihar, and decisive steps were taken with mutual consent towards their resolution," Mr. Shah said.

The Home Minister said the number of zonal coun-

cil meetings rose to 63 between 2014 and 2025 as compared with 25 between 2004 and 2014. He said the Centre was committed to advancing the development of States with renewed focus and direction, calling for collective efforts to achieve this goal.

Mr. Shah said Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha have become free from Naxalism to a large extent.

**Zonal Councils now 'engines of cooperation' and not just discussion forums, says Shah**

**ज़ोनल काउंसिल अब केवल चर्चा मंच नहीं बल्कि 'सहयोग के इंजन' बन गए हैं, शाह ने कहा**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said zonal councils have transformed from being mere discussion forums into "engines of cooperation", noting that 83% of issues taken up in their meetings have been resolved.

गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को कहा कि ज़ोनल काउंसिल अब केवल चर्चा मंच नहीं बल्कि "सहयोग के इंजन" बन गए हैं, और उनकी बैठकों में उठाए गए 83% मुद्दों का समाधान किया

जा चुका है।

- Mr. Shah made the remark at the 27th Eastern Zonal Council meeting, attended by representatives from the four eastern States — Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal — including Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi.

श्री शाह ने यह टिप्पणी 27वीं पूर्वी ज़ोनल काउंसिल बैठक में की, जिसमें झारखंड, बिहार, ओडिशा और पश्चिम बंगाल के प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया, जिनमें झारखंड के मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन और उनके ओडिशा समकक्ष मोहन चरण मांझी शामिल थे।

- 'Long-pending issues' 'लंबित मुद्दे'



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- “In today’s meeting, **long-pending complex issues** related to **Masanjore Dam, Taiyabpur Barrage, and Indrapuri Reservoir** were discussed in detail in addition to the issues related to **division of assets and liabilities of many Public Sector Undertakings** between **Bihar and Jharkhand**, which were pending since the time of **division of Bihar**, and decisive steps were taken with mutual consent towards their resolution,” Mr. Shah said.  
शाह ने कहा, “आज की बैठक में **मसंजोर डैम, तैयबपुर बैराज और इंद्रपुरी जलाशय** से संबंधित लंबे समय से लंबित **जटिल मुद्दों**, साथ ही **बिहार और झारखंड** के बीच कई **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों की संपत्ति और देनदारियों के विभाजन** से संबंधित मुद्दों पर विस्तार से चर्चा हुई, जो **बिहार के विभाजन** के समय से लंबित थे, और उनके समाधान की दिशा में आपसी सहमति से निर्णायक कदम उठाए गए।”
- The Home Minister said the number of **zonal council meetings** rose to **63 between 2014 and 2025** as compared with **25 between 2004 and 2014**.  
गृह मंत्री ने कहा कि **2014 से 2025** के बीच **ज़ोनल काउंसिल बैठकों** की संख्या बढ़कर **63** हो गई, जबकि **2004 से 2014** के बीच केवल **25** बैठकें हुई थीं।
- He said the **Centre** was committed to advancing the development of **States** with renewed focus and direction, calling for **collective efforts** to achieve this goal.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार** नए दृष्टिकोण और दिशा के साथ **राज्यों के विकास** को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है और इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए **सामूहिक प्रयासों** का आह्वान किया।
- Mr. Shah said **Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha** have become free from **Naxalism** to a large extent.  
श्री शाह ने कहा कि **बिहार, झारखंड और ओडिशा** काफी हद तक **नक्सलवाद** से मुक्त हो गए हैं।



# NITI Aayog suggests reduced 'core' grant support for State S&T bodies

GS Paper II: Center State Relations

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The NITI Aayog has recommended that the Department of Science and Technology (DST) cut its 'core grant support' for State Science and Technology (S&T) Councils and pare them down to 'project-based support'. The recommendations are part of a report, "Roadmap for strengthening State Science and Technology Councils", made public on Thursday.

The State S&T Councils are a vital source of funding for scientific research, science popularisation, patent applications, and scientific policy-support activities.

## Minuscule source

Since the 1970s, such councils have acted to "decentralise" scientific governance such that States can



NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson Suman Bery with V. K. Saraswat and Jitendra Singh during the release of the report on Thursday. PTI

execute science and research in tune with their specific socio-economic conditions. Funds from the Union government, primarily the DST, are already a minuscule source of revenue. For instance, of the ₹300-crore annual budget in Gujarat's State Science and Technology Council, only ₹1.07 crore came from the Centre. In the case of Kerala's ₹150 crore, the

Centre's contribution was zero. From 2016 to 2022, the DST notes, 28 States and three Union Territories have been supported.

However, the bulk of India's scientific output and productivity was coming from Centrally funded institutions, with the NITI Aayog, in its report, saying that in recent decades, the State S&T Councils have been facing an "uphill

task" of keeping up with rapid changes in the research and development (R&D) landscape. "As evident from some recent reports, a significant part of India's S&T research outcomes come from Central government institutions, and the State-administered institutions are yet to make a meaningful contribution..." the report notes.

The report, which was a result of a two-month consultation with representatives from State Councils, has several findings. The comparative budget analysis of State S&T Councils for 2023-24 and 2024-25, it says, revealed a 17.65% increase in total funding, reflecting growing investment in scientific research and innovation at the State level. However, the disparity in allocations "raised concern" about regional imbalances in S&T development.

**NITI Aayog suggests reduced 'core' grant support for State S&T bodies** नीति आयोग ने राज्य एस&टी निकायों के लिए 'कोर' अनुदान सहायता कम करने का सुझाव दिया

• The NITI Aayog has recommended that the Department of Science and Technology

(DST) cut its 'core grant support' for State Science and Technology (S&T) Councils and pare them down to 'project-based support'.

नीति आयोग ने विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DST) को राज्य विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी परिषदों (State S&T Councils) के लिए 'कोर अनुदान सहायता' को कम कर 'परियोजना आधारित सहायता' में बदलने की सिफारिश की है।

- The recommendations are part of a report, "Roadmap for strengthening State Science and Technology Councils," made public on Thursday.

ये सिफारिशें "राज्य विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी परिषदों को मजबूत करने का रोडमैप" नामक रिपोर्ट का हिस्सा हैं, जो गुरुवार को सार्वजनिक की गई।

- The State S&T Councils are a vital source of funding for scientific research, science popularisation, patent applications, and scientific policy-support activities. राज्य S&T परिषदें वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान, विज्ञान लोकप्रियकरण, पेटेंट आवेदन, और वैज्ञानिक नीति समर्थन गतिविधियों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण वित्त पोषण स्रोत हैं।
- Since the 1970s, such councils have acted to "decentralise" scientific governance such that States can execute science and research in tune with their specific socio-economic conditions. 1970 के दशक से, इन परिषदों ने "वैज्ञानिक शासन के विकेंद्रीकरण" के रूप में कार्य किया है ताकि राज्य अपनी विशिष्ट सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिस्थितियों के अनुसार विज्ञान और अनुसंधान को लागू कर सकें।



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- Funds from the Union government, primarily the DST, are already a **minuscule source of revenue**.  
केंद्र सरकार, मुख्य रूप से DST से मिलने वाले फंड पहले से ही **राजस्व का नगण्य स्रोत** हैं।
- For instance, of the **₹300-crore annual budget** in Gujarat's State Science and Technology Council, only **₹1.07 crore** came from the Centre.  
उदाहरण के लिए, गुजरात राज्य विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी परिषद के **₹300 करोड़ वार्षिक बजट** में से केवल **₹1.07 करोड़** केंद्र से आए।
- In the case of Kerala's **₹150 crore**, the Centre's contribution was **zero**.  
केरल के **₹150 करोड़** के मामले में केंद्र का योगदान **शून्य** था।
- From **2016 to 2022**, the DST notes, **28 States** and **three Union Territories** have been supported.  
DST के अनुसार, **2016 से 2022 तक 28 राज्यों और तीन केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** को सहायता दी गई है।
- The bulk of India's scientific output and productivity was coming from **Centrally funded institutions**, with the NITI Aayog saying that in recent decades, the State S&T Councils have been facing an **"uphill task"** of keeping up with rapid changes in the **research and development (R&D) landscape**.  
भारत के वैज्ञानिक उत्पादन और उत्पादकता का अधिकांश हिस्सा **केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वित्तपोषित संस्थानों** से आ रहा है, और नीति आयोग ने कहा कि हाल के दशकों में राज्य S&T परिषदें **अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) परिदृश्य** में तेजी से हो रहे बदलावों के साथ तालमेल बिठाने में **"कठिन चुनौती"** का सामना कर रही हैं।
- "As evident from some recent reports, a significant part of India's S&T research outcomes come from **Central government institutions**, and the **State-administered institutions** are yet to make a **meaningful contribution...**," the report notes.  
"कुछ हालिया रिपोर्टों से स्पष्ट है कि भारत के विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी अनुसंधान परिणामों का एक बड़ा हिस्सा **केंद्र सरकार के संस्थानों** से आता है, और **राज्य द्वारा संचालित संस्थान** अभी भी **महत्वपूर्ण योगदान** देने में असमर्थ हैं..." रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है।
- The report, which was a result of a **two-month consultation** with representatives from State Councils, has several findings.  
यह रिपोर्ट, जो राज्य परिषदों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ **दो महीने के परामर्श** का परिणाम थी, कई निष्कर्ष प्रस्तुत करती है।
- The comparative budget analysis of **State S&T Councils for 2023-24 and 2024-25**, it says, revealed a **17.65% increase in total funding**, reflecting growing investment in **scientific research and innovation** at the State level.  
**2023-24 और 2024-25 के लिए राज्य S&T परिषदों के तुलनात्मक बजट विश्लेषण** में **कुल वित्तपोषण में 17.65% वृद्धि** दिखी, जो राज्य स्तर पर **वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और नवाचार** में बढ़ते निवेश को दर्शाती है।
- However, the disparity in allocations **"raised concern"** about **regional imbalances** in S&T development.  
हालांकि, आवंटन में असमानता ने **विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विकास में क्षेत्रीय असंतुलन** के बारे में **"चिंता"** बढ़ा दी।



# Centre, UNICEF to provide career counselling for Eklavya students

GS Paper II: Social Justice

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), which administers over 470 Eklavya schools for tribal students across the country, has started a programme with UNICEF to provide psychometric assessment, career-counselling, and training in life-skills and self-esteem for the 1.38 lakh students enrolled in these schools, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs said on Thursday.

Called TALASH – which stands for ‘Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills, and Self-Esteem Hub’ – the programme is an ‘innovative digital platform designed to equip EMRS [Eklavya Model Residential Schools] students with essential tools for self-discovery and career planning,’ the Ministry said in a statement. ‘It promotes



A common aptitude test will be designed for Eklavya students which will result in a ‘career card’ for them. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

self-awareness, helps students make informed career choices, and builds essential life skills.’

A common aptitude test will be designed on this platform for students studying across the Eklavya schools, which will result in a ‘career card’ for each student, suggesting the ‘best career options’ each of them is suited for. This will be paired with career-

counselling services and special sections to train them in life-skills, such as ‘problem solving, communication, and handling emotions’.

#### Mentoring support

There will also be a portal that will give educators the resources to ‘effectively mentor and support students in their academic and personal journeys’,

the Ministry said. So far, over 180 teachers have been trained across 75 Eklavya schools; by the end of the year, the programme is expected to be rolled out in all Eklavya schools.

‘TALASH is a testament to our commitment to providing tribal students with opportunities to realise their full potential. Through this initiative, we aim to bridge gaps in education and empower the next generation of tribal leaders,’ said NESTS Commissioner Ajeet Kumar Srivastava.

NESTS has also signed two memoranda of understanding with Tata Motors and the Ex-Navodayan Foundation (an alumni group of the Jawahar Navodaya Schools) to start coaching programmes for Eklavya school students aiming to crack competitive exams like IIT-JEE and NEET.

**Centre, UNICEF to provide career counselling for Eklavya students**  
**केंद्र और यूनिसेफ द्वारा एकलव्य छात्रों के लिए करियर परामर्श प्रदान किया जाएगा**

**The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), which administers over 470 Eklavya schools for tribal students across the country, has started a programme with UNICEF to provide psychometric assessment, career**

**counselling, and training in life-skills and self-esteem for the 1.38 lakh students enrolled in these schools, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs said on Thursday.**

राष्ट्रीय आदिवासी छात्र शिक्षा समिति (NESTS), जो पूरे देश में 470 से अधिक एकलव्य स्कूलों का संचालन करती है, ने UNICEF के साथ मिलकर इन स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले 1.38 लाख छात्रों के लिए साइकोमेट्रिक मूल्यांकन, करियर परामर्श और जीवन कौशल और आत्म-सम्मान में प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है, केंद्रीय जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को कहा।

- Called **TALASH** — which stands for ‘Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills, and Self-Esteem Hub’ — the programme is an ‘innovative digital platform’ designed to equip EMRS [Eklavya Model Residential Schools] students with essential tools for self-discovery and career planning, the Ministry said in a statement.

इसे **TALASH** कहा जाता है — जिसका अर्थ है ‘Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills, and Self-Esteem Hub’ — यह कार्यक्रम EMRS [एकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय स्कूल] छात्रों को आत्म-खोज और करियर योजना के लिए आवश्यक उपकरणों से लैस करने वाला एक आधुनिक डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म है, मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा।

- It promotes **self-awareness**, helps students make **informed career choices**, and builds essential **life skills**.

यह **आत्म-जागरूकता** को बढ़ावा देता है, छात्रों को **सुसूचित करियर विकल्प** बनाने में मदद करता है और आवश्यक **जीवन कौशल** विकसित करता है।



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- A **common aptitude test** will be designed on this platform for students studying across the **Eklavya schools**, which will result in a “**career card**” for each student, suggesting the “**best career options**” each of them is suited for.  
इस प्लेटफॉर्म पर **एकलव्य स्कूलों** में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों के लिए **सामान्य योग्यता परीक्षण** तैयार किया जाएगा, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप प्रत्येक छात्र के लिए एक “**करियर कार्ड**” बनेगा, जो उनके लिए उपयुक्त “**सर्वश्रेष्ठ करियर विकल्प**” का सुझाव देगा।
- This will be paired with **career-counselling services** and special sections to train them in **life-skills**, such as “**problem solving, communication, and handling emotions**”.  
इसे **करियर परामर्श सेवाओं** और “**समस्या समाधान, संवाद और भावनाओं को संभालने**” जैसे **जीवन कौशल** में प्रशिक्षण देने वाले विशेष अनुभागों के साथ जोड़ा जाएगा।

## Mentoring support मार्गदर्शन समर्थन

- There will also be a **portal** that will give **educators** the resources to “**effectively mentor and support students in their academic and personal journeys**”, the Ministry said.  
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि एक **पोर्टल** भी होगा जो **शिक्षकों** को छात्रों की **शैक्षणिक और व्यक्तिगत यात्रा** में “**प्रभावी रूप से मार्गदर्शन और समर्थन**” करने के लिए संसाधन प्रदान करेगा।
- So far, over **180 teachers** have been trained across **75 Eklavya schools**; by the end of the year, the programme is expected to be rolled out in **all Eklavya schools**.  
अब तक **75 एकलव्य स्कूलों** में **180 से अधिक शिक्षकों** को प्रशिक्षित किया गया है; वर्ष के अंत तक इस कार्यक्रम को **सभी एकलव्य स्कूलों** में लागू किए जाने की उम्मीद है।
- “**TALASH** is a testament to our commitment to providing **tribal students** with opportunities to realise their **full potential**. Through this initiative, we aim to **bridge gaps in education** and **empower the next generation of tribal leaders**,” said NESTS Commissioner Ajeet Kumar Srivastava.  
“**TALASH** हमारे **आदिवासी छात्रों** को उनकी **पूर्ण क्षमता** साकार करने के अवसर प्रदान करने के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है। इस पहल के माध्यम से, हम **शिक्षा में अंतर को पाटने** और **आदिवासी नेताओं की अगली पीढ़ी को सशक्त बनाने** का लक्ष्य रखते हैं,” NESTS आयुक्त **अजीत कुमार श्रीवास्तव** ने कहा।
- NESTS has also signed two **memoranda of understanding** with **Tata Motors** and the **Ex-Navodayan Foundation** (an alumni group of the **Jawahar Navodaya Schools**) to start **coaching programmes** for Eklavya school students aiming to crack competitive exams like **IIT-JEE and NEET**.  
NESTS ने **टाटा मोटर्स** और **Ex-Navodayan Foundation** (**जवाहर नवोदय स्कूलों के पूर्व छात्रों का समूह**) के साथ दो **समझौता ज्ञापनों** पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, ताकि **एकलव्य स्कूलों के छात्रों** के लिए **IIT-JEE और NEET** जैसी **प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं** की तैयारी हेतु **कोचिंग कार्यक्रम** शुरू किए जा सकें।



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GS Paper II: Elections

## Widen the net

The ECI must heed Court's view on including more accessible documents

**T**he Supreme Court of India's pointed observations on Thursday regarding Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are a crucial course correction for the Election Commission of India (ECI), which it must heed immediately. By urging the ECI to consider including the Aadhaar, the Elector Photo Identity Card, and the ration card among the acceptable documents for identity verification, the Court has acknowledged the critique of the SIR that the 11 documents listed for verification are a restrictive and unnecessary barrier to voter registration. The Court has nudged the ECI toward inclusivity in a way that could help resolve the core issues with the SIR. The Court rightly observed that "the entire exercise of SIR is about identity only", that none of the 11 documents currently listed are "telltale ones for citizenship", and that they are all meant to prove identity. It also rightly went on to question why Aadhaar, which is "considered basic for getting other documents", is excluded while dependent documents such as caste certificates are accepted, exposing the inconsistency in the ECI's position. The ECI's objection to Aadhaar as merely proving residence rather than citizenship reveals a misunderstanding of the practical realities of Bihar, besides legal precedents. For example, data show that while 87% of Bihar's population have an Aadhaar card, only 45%-50% are matriculates and close to just 2% have passports.

The Court's earlier judgments remain relevant too, having decisively rejected putting the "onus of proof of citizenship" on voters already enrolled in previous elections. This precedent contradicts the SIR's approach of treating every voter as a potential non-citizen unless proven otherwise and which risks significant disenfranchisement of electors despite their having valid identification. While not staying the SIR, the Court also listed the judicial review of the whole process, including its timing and nature, which "goes to the very roots of our democracy [and] is about the right to vote". The Court has reminded the ECI that its mandate, under Article 324, is to facilitate democratic participation, and not to create obstacles. There has been enough confusion on the ground following a more liberal reading of the ECI's SIR rules on document submission and verification by the Chief Electoral Officer, which was overruled by the Chief Election Commissioner. With its suggestion on expanding the list of verifiable documents, the Court has provided the ECI an opportunity to transform the SIR from a dangerously exclusionary exercise – one that could affect marginalised citizens – into a genuinely inclusive process.

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## Widen the Net जाल (नेट) को फैलाएँ

The ECI must heed Court's view on including more accessible documents

ECI को अदालत की राय का पालन करना चाहिए जिसमें अधिक सुलभ दस्तावेजों को शामिल करने पर जोर दिया गया है।

- The Supreme Court of India's pointed observations on Thursday regarding Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are a crucial course correction for the Election Commission of India (ECI), which it must heed immediately.  
भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट की गुरुवार को की गई टिप्पणियाँ, बिहार में चल रही विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) प्रक्रिया को लेकर, ECI के लिए एक आवश्यक सुधार हैं जिन्हें तत्काल माना जाना चाहिए।
- By urging the ECI to consider including the Aadhaar, the Elector Photo Identity Card, and the ration card among the acceptable documents for identity verification, the Court has acknowledged the critique that the 11 documents listed for verification are a restrictive and unnecessary barrier to voter registration.  
कोर्ट ने ECI से आग्रह किया कि वह पहचान सत्यापन के लिए आधार, मतदाता फोटो पहचान पत्र और राशन कार्ड को स्वीकार्य दस्तावेजों में शामिल करने पर विचार करे, जिससे यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि 11 सूचीबद्ध दस्तावेज मतदाता पंजीकरण में एक अनावश्यक और सीमित बाधा हैं।
- The Court has nudged the ECI toward inclusivity, which could help resolve the core issues with the SIR.  
कोर्ट ने ECI को समावेशिता की ओर प्रोत्साहित किया है, जिससे SIR से संबंधित मूल समस्याओं का समाधान हो सकता है।
- The Court rightly observed that the “entire exercise of SIR is about identity only”, and that none of the 11 documents currently listed are “telltale ones for citizenship”, and that they are all meant to prove identity.  
कोर्ट ने सही टिप्पणी की कि “SIR की पूरी प्रक्रिया केवल पहचान से संबंधित है”, और यह कि सूचीबद्ध 11 दस्तावेजों में से कोई भी “नागरिकता को स्पष्ट रूप से प्रमाणित करने वाला नहीं है”, ये सभी पहचान प्रमाण के लिए हैं।
- It also rightly questioned why Aadhaar, which is “considered basic for getting other documents”, is excluded while dependent documents such as caste certificates are accepted, exposing inconsistency in ECI's position.  
कोर्ट ने यह भी सही सवाल उठाया कि आधार, जो “अन्य दस्तावेज प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक माना जाता है”, उसे बाहर क्यों रखा गया जबकि जाति प्रमाण पत्र जैसे निर्भर दस्तावेज को स्वीकार किया गया, जिससे ECI की स्थिति में असंगति उजागर होती है।
- The ECI's objection to Aadhaar as merely proving residence rather than citizenship reveals a misunderstanding of Bihar's realities, besides legal precedents.  
\*\*ECI द्वारा आधार को केवल निवास प्रमाण मानना, न कि नागरिकता का, यह बिहार की वास्तविकताओं और कानूनी मिसालों की गलत समझ को दर्शाता है।
- For example, data show that while 87% of Bihar's population have an Aadhaar card, only 45%-50% are matriculates and close to just 2% have passports.  
उदाहरण के लिए, आंकड़े बताते हैं कि बिहार की 87% आबादी के पास आधार कार्ड है, जबकि केवल 45%-50% लोग मैट्रिक पास हैं और केवल 2% के पास पासपोर्ट है।



- The Court's earlier judgments remain relevant too, having decisively rejected putting the “onus of proof of citizenship” on voters already enrolled in previous elections.  
कोर्ट के पहले के फैसले भी प्रासंगिक हैं, जिनमें पहले से पंजीकृत मतदाताओं पर “नागरिकता का प्रमाण देने का बोझ” डालने को अस्वीकार किया गया था।
- This precedent contradicts the SIR's approach of treating every voter as a potential non-citizen unless proven otherwise, risking significant disenfranchisement despite valid identification.  
यह मिसाल SIR के उस दृष्टिकोण का विरोध करती है जिसमें हर मतदाता को संभावित गैर-नागरिक माना जाता है, जिससे वैध पहचान के बावजूद बड़े पैमाने पर मताधिकार से वंचित होने का खतरा है।
- While not staying the SIR, the Court also listed judicial review of the whole process, including its timing and nature, which “goes to the very roots of our democracy [and] is about the right to vote”.  
हालांकि SIR पर रोक नहीं लगाई गई, लेकिन कोर्ट ने पूरी प्रक्रिया की न्यायिक समीक्षा, समय और स्वरूप सहित, को सूचीबद्ध किया, जो “हमारे लोकतंत्र की जड़ों से जुड़ी है [और] यह मतदान के अधिकार से संबंधित है।”
- The Court has reminded the ECI that its mandate, under Article 324, is to facilitate democratic participation, not to create obstacles.  
कोर्ट ने ECI को याद दिलाया कि उसका दायित्व अनुच्छेद 324 के तहत लोकतांत्रिक भागीदारी को सुगम बनाना है, न कि बाधाएँ उत्पन्न करना।
- There has been confusion on the ground due to a more liberal reading of SIR rules by the Chief Electoral Officer, which was overruled by the Chief Election Commissioner.  
मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी द्वारा SIR नियमों की उदार व्याख्या के कारण स्थानीय स्तर पर भ्रम उत्पन्न हुआ, जिसे मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ने अस्वीकृत कर दिया।
- With its suggestion on expanding the list of verifiable documents, the Court has given the ECI an opportunity to transform the SIR from a dangerously exclusionary exercise to a genuinely inclusive process.  
सत्यापन योग्य दस्तावेजों की सूची का विस्तार करने के सुझाव के साथ कोर्ट ने ECI को अवसर दिया है कि वह SIR को खतरनाक रूप से बहिष्कारी प्रक्रिया से एक वास्तविक समावेशी प्रक्रिया में बदल सके।



# The need to safeguard the right to vote

What did the Supreme Court say about electoral rolls revision in Bihar? Is the right to vote a fundamental right in India? Can electoral roll errors invalidate an election? How can India balance electoral vigilance with the inclusion of genuine voters?

ISSUE: THE RIGHT TO VOTE

## LETTER & SPIRIT

Kartikay Singh

### The story so far:

On July 10, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission (EC) to consider Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, and ration cards as acceptable documents for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. It has listed the batch of petitions challenging the EC's decision for further hearing on July 28. The court's remark – that the question of 'right to vote' goes to the very root of the functioning of our republic – has cast a spotlight on the foundational processes of India's electoral machinery and the genesis of India's 'universal adult suffrage' (UAS). India's constitutional promise of the 'right to vote' differs significantly from that of many Western democracies. Reflecting the flawed belief, espoused by thinkers like J.S. Mill, that voting should be reserved for the "enlightened" and denied to the "ignorant," countries like the U.K. initially restricted the franchise to male property owners. Universal male suffrage emerged only in 1918, and women were granted the right to vote a decade later in 1928. In the U.S., although the 15th and 19th Amendments extended voting rights to African Americans (1870) and women (1920), systemic barriers such as poll taxes and literacy tests continued to disenfranchise many for decades thereafter.

### How was universal adult suffrage made real in India?

In sharp contrast, far from gradualism and the 'privileged class' criteria, India's choice of immediate, universal inclusion ensured 'democratic equality' from the outset, bypassing the prolonged and often violent struggles seen elsewhere. Article 326 of the Constitution granted every adult citizen the right to vote, regardless of gender, caste, religion, education, or property, at a time when most of the world moved cautiously. Initially set at 21 years of age, this threshold was lowered to 18 by the 61st Constitutional Amendment in 1989. This commitment to a robust, inclusive democracy found further constitutional reinforcement in a series of Supreme Court judgments, notably starting with *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973), which established democracy as part of the 'basic structure' doctrine. For this ideal to function meaningfully, people should be able to freely decide the fate of their government, an unassailable right that shapes governance and must never be compromised.

This inclusive vision was operationalised through two key laws: the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which governs the preparation and revision of electoral rolls; and the 1951 Act, which regulates election conduct, candidature, and electoral offences. The EC has repeatedly introduced administrative innovations to realise this 'constitutional promise'. Notably, the then Chief Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen, faced with the task of enrolling 173 million largely illiterate voters, turned a logistical hurdle into a democratic breakthrough by introducing election symbols, making UAS practically accessible.

In India, EC has a great responsibility to reach the last citizen, wherever they may be, to actualise their 'right to elect'. As Winston Churchill once said, "At the bottom of all tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into a little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper..." His words



A Booth Level Officer checks documents during special investigation revision of electoral rolls, at Kamalpur Village, in Bihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

remain a timeless reminder that the health of any democracy ultimately rests on the sanctity of the 'right to vote'.

### Is voting a fundamental right in India?

The legal status of the 'right to vote' in India has long been debated. Although Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and K.T. Shah proposed including it in the Constitution's fundamental rights part, the Constituent Assembly's Advisory Committee ultimately rejected the idea. Importantly, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India* (2006) held that the 'right to elect' is a statutory right under Section 62 of the RPA, 1951, and not a fundamental or constitutional right.

Later in 2016, though a two-judge bench in *Rajbala v. State of Haryana* described the 'right to vote' as a constitutional right, the larger bench ruling in *Kuldip Nayar* prevails. Again, in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (2023), the top court declined to pronounce on the issue, noting that it had already been settled by the five-judge Bench in the *Kuldip Nayar* judgment. However, in his dissent, Justice Ajay Rastogi asserted that the 'right to vote' is an expression of Article 19(a) and reflects the essence of Article 21. Yet, as this view remains a minority opinion, the 'right to elect' continues to be recognised as a statutory right under prevailing law.

Nevertheless, even though it is not a fundamental right, courts have regarded the right to vote as an inseparable part of democracy, anchoring their reasoning in the idea that it enables citizens to shape governance, making it a "democratic imperative" vital to the Indian republic's survival. As philosopher John Dewey said, democracy is not just a form of government, but a social and personal ideal.

### Why does electoral roll accuracy matter?

Free and fair elections rest on accurate electoral rolls, under the RPA, 1950. Inaccuracies – such as mass omissions, ineligible inclusions, duplicates, or incorrect entries – undermine the "one person, one vote" principle by enabling impersonation, disenfranchisement, or dilution of votes, ultimately distorting the people's mandate. Therefore, the EC is empowered under Section 21 of the 1950 Act to prepare and revise these rolls to ensure integrity.

While discrepancies may arise, courts have consistently held that only

substantial and systemic errors that demonstrably "materially affected" the election outcome can compromise the sanctity of the electoral roll. Minor mistakes or isolated disenfranchisement are insufficient. Allegations like those in Bihar warrant scrutiny, but it must also be noted that purification of rolls is necessary because just as the exclusion of an eligible voter undermines democracy, so does the inclusion of an ineligible name. Therefore, rather than disrupting or delaying the exercise, efforts should focus on helping improve the process. The Supreme Court's suggestion to include more accepted documents helps safeguard every genuine elector's right to be represented.

While the right to inclusion or objection in electoral rolls is conferred on individuals, not political parties, the court in *Lakshmi Charan Sen v. A.K.M. Hassan Usman* (1985) observed that in a largely illiterate and politically unaware electorate, parties should take steps to ensure eligible voters are included and ineligible ones are removed. Given India's party-based Parliamentary system, such vigilance will help to preserve 'electoral integrity'.

### Who qualifies as an ordinary resident?

The EC under Article 324 serves as the constitutional guardian of elections, with powers of superintendence, direction, and control. A key duty is preparing accurate electoral rolls, guided by Section 19 of the RPA, 1950, which mandates that any citizen aged 18 or above, "ordinarily resident" in a constituency and not disqualified, is entitled to be registered. "Ordinary resident" implies a genuine, continuous presence, not a temporary stay. For example, a student living in a hostel may not qualify if their permanent home and intent to return lie elsewhere. Mere temporary absence from one's place of ordinary residence does not negate one's status as an ordinary resident of that location. This criterion prevents fraudulent registrations and ensures voters maintain real ties to their constituencies, preserving representative accountability.

Interestingly, the Manmohan Singh case (1991) exemplifies judicial scrutiny on this front. His election from Assam was challenged for lack of "ordinary residence," leading the court to clarify that ordinary residence means habitual, regular, and genuine presence, not a temporary or casual stay or a nominal address. Beyond ordinary voters, India's

electoral system accommodates those unable to vote conventionally. Under Rule 18 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, "postal ballots" are available to service voters like armed forces personnel, paramilitary, armed State police posted outside, and government staff abroad, and voters on election duty. Overseas electors – Indian citizens living abroad without foreign citizenship – can register under Section 20A of the RPA, 1950. However, they must vote in person, as they are currently ineligible for postal or proxy voting.

One of the most contentious issues regarding the SIR exercise in Bihar is the debate on 'citizenship verification'. In *Lal Babu Hussein v. ERO* (1995), the court quashed two EC directives (1992 and 1994) allowing District Collectors and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to identify and delete alleged foreigners from voter rolls. The Supreme Court noted that the poll body guidelines put the "onus of proof of citizenship" on the person involved, even disregarding that several persons were voters in previous elections.

The court ruled that EROs must give due weight to past electoral rolls, conduct full inquiries, and follow quasi-judicial procedures, ensuring natural justice and adherence to the Citizenship Act and Constitution. These safeguards must guide the current exercise as well. Moreover, allegations or vague suspicions cannot justify the exclusion of individuals from citizenship or voter lists without credible evidence and due process, according to the judgments in *Lal Babu and Md. Rahim Ali* (2024).

### What is next?

The Bihar SIR controversy and broader electoral reform debates highlight a core democratic truth: India's democracy depends on electoral rolls that are accurate, inclusive, and accessible. As the Supreme Court prepares to resume hearings on July 28, the EC must complete the exercise with a careful balance between genuine vigilance and inclusion to uphold the fairness of the process. Public awareness should empower voters to verify and update their entries, making them active custodians of electoral integrity. Safeguarding the vote is not merely a statutory obligation; it is a shared democratic responsibility, requiring vigilant institutions, informed citizens, and forward-looking legal reforms.

*Kartikay Singh is a lawyer based in New Delhi*

## THE GIST

▼ The Supreme Court, while hearing challenges to the special intensive revision in Bihar, suggested that the Election Commission consider Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration card as acceptable documents, a move aimed at improving access and reducing wrongful exclusions.

▼ The Election Commission, under Article 324, is empowered to revise electoral rolls under Section 21 of the RPA, 1950 – but this process must balance vigilance with inclusion, and follow due process to avoid wrongful disenfranchisement.

▼ The right to vote in India is a statutory right, not a fundamental one, but it is treated as a 'democratic imperative' essential to the survival of the Indian republic.

**The need to safeguard the right to vote**



## मतदान के अधिकार की सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता

On July 10, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission (EC) to consider Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, and ration cards as acceptable documents for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

10 जुलाई को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चुनाव आयोग (EC) को निर्देश दिया कि वह बिहार में मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) के लिए आधार कार्ड, वोटर आईडी कार्ड और राशन कार्ड को स्वीकार्य दस्तावेज माने।

- It has listed the batch of petitions challenging the EC's decision for further hearing on July 28. इसने 28 जुलाई को सुनवाई के लिए चुनाव आयोग के निर्णय को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं की एक श्रृंखला को सूचीबद्ध किया है।
- The court's remark — that the question of 'right to vote' goes to the very root of the functioning of our republic — has cast a spotlight on the foundational processes of India's electoral machinery and the genesis of India's 'universal adult suffrage' (UAS).  
अदालत की टिप्पणी — कि 'मतदान का अधिकार' हमारे गणराज्य के कामकाज की जड़ों से जुड़ा हुआ है — ने भारत की चुनावी व्यवस्था की बुनियादी प्रक्रियाओं और भारत में 'सर्वजन वयस्क मताधिकार (UAS)' की उत्पत्ति को केंद्र में ला दिया है।
- India's constitutional promise of the 'right to vote' differs significantly from that of many Western democracies.  
भारत में 'मतदान के अधिकार' का संवैधानिक वादा, कई पश्चिमी लोकतंत्रों से काफी अलग है।
- Reflecting the flawed belief, espoused by thinkers like J.S. Mill, that voting should be reserved for the "enlightened" and denied to the "ignorant," countries like the U.K. initially restricted the franchise to male property owners.  
J.S. Mill जैसे विचारकों द्वारा प्रतिपादित इस त्रुटिपूर्ण विश्वास को दर्शाते हुए कि केवल "प्रबुद्ध" ही मतदान करें और "अज्ञानी" न करें, U.K. जैसे देशों ने प्रारंभ में मताधिकार को केवल पुरुष संपत्ति मालिकों तक सीमित रखा।
- Universal male suffrage emerged only in 1918, and women were granted the right to vote a decade later in 1928.  
सर्वजन पुरुष मताधिकार केवल 1918 में आया, और महिलाओं को मतदान का अधिकार 1928 में, एक दशक बाद मिला।
- In the U.S., although the 15th and 19th Amendments extended voting rights to African Americans (1870) and women (1920), systemic barriers such as poll taxes and literacy tests continued to disenfranchise many for decades thereafter.  
U.S. में, भले ही 15वें और 19वें संशोधनों ने अफ्रीकी अमेरिकियों (1870) और महिलाओं (1920) को मताधिकार प्रदान किया, लेकिन पोल टैक्स और साक्षरता परीक्षणों जैसे प्रणालीगत अवरोधों ने अगले कई दशकों तक उन्हें मताधिकार से वंचित रखा।

How was universal adult suffrage made real in India?

भारत में सर्वजन वयस्क मताधिकार को कैसे वास्तविक बनाया गया?

- In sharp contrast, far from gradualism and the 'privileged class' criteria, India's choice of immediate, universal inclusion ensured 'democratic equality' from the outset.  
इसके विपरीत, 'विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त वर्ग' की कसौटी और धीरे-धीरे लागू करने की प्रवृत्ति से दूर, भारत



का तत्काल और सार्वभौमिक समावेशन का विकल्प शुरू से ही 'लोकतांत्रिक समानता' सुनिश्चित करता है।

- **Article 326** of the Constitution granted **every adult citizen** the right to vote, regardless of **gender, caste, religion, education, or property**, at a time when most of the world moved cautiously.

**अनुच्छेद 326** ने, जब अधिकांश विश्व सावधानीपूर्वक आगे बढ़ रहा था, तब **लिंग, जाति, धर्म, शिक्षा या संपत्ति** की परवाह किए बिना **हर वयस्क नागरिक** को मताधिकार प्रदान किया।

- Initially set at **21 years of age**, this threshold was **lowered to 18** by the **61st Constitutional Amendment in 1989**.

शुरू में यह आयु **21 वर्ष** निर्धारित थी, जिसे **1989 के 61वें संविधान संशोधन** द्वारा **18 वर्ष** कर दिया गया।

- This commitment to a **robust, inclusive democracy** found further **constitutional reinforcement** in a series of **Supreme Court judgments**, notably starting with **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)**, which established **democracy** as part of the '**basic structure**' doctrine.

एक **मजबूत और समावेशी लोकतंत्र** के प्रति यह प्रतिबद्धता **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अनेक निर्णयों**, विशेष रूप से **केसवानंद भारती बनाम केरल राज्य (1973)** से शुरू होकर, जिसमें **लोकतंत्र को 'मूल संरचना' सिद्धांत** का हिस्सा घोषित किया गया, के माध्यम से **संवैधानिक समर्थन** प्राप्त करती है।

- For this ideal to function meaningfully, people should be able to **freely decide** the fate of their government, an **unassailable right** that shapes governance and must **never be compromised**. इस आदर्श के वास्तविक रूप में कार्यान्वित होने के लिए, लोगों को अपनी सरकार का भाग्य **स्वतंत्र रूप से तय करने** का अवसर मिलना चाहिए — यह एक **अखंडनीय अधिकार** है, जो शासन को आकार देता है और जिसे **कभी भी कम नहीं किया जाना चाहिए**।

### Operationalisation through Laws and EC Innovations

#### कानूनों और चुनाव आयोग के नवाचारों के माध्यम से कार्यान्वयन

- This **inclusive vision** was operationalised through two key laws: the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, which governs the **preparation and revision of electoral rolls**; and the **1951 Act**, which regulates **election conduct, candidature, and electoral offences**.

इस **समावेशी दृष्टिकोण** को दो प्रमुख कानूनों के माध्यम से कार्यान्वित किया गया: **जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950**, जो मतदाता सूची की तैयारी और संशोधन को नियंत्रित करता है; और **1951 का अधिनियम**, जो **चुनावी प्रक्रिया, उम्मीदवारों और चुनाव अपराधों** को नियंत्रित करता है।

- The EC has repeatedly introduced **administrative innovations** to realise this '**constitutional promise**'.

**चुनाव आयोग (EC)** ने इस '**संवैधानिक वादे**' को पूरा करने के लिए लगातार **प्रशासनिक नवाचारों** को अपनाया है।

- Notably, the then **Chief Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen**, faced with the task of enrolling **173 million largely illiterate voters**, turned a logistical hurdle into a **democratic breakthrough** by introducing **election symbols**, making UAS practically accessible.

विशेष रूप से, उस समय के **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त सुकुमार सेन** ने **17.3 करोड़ अधिकांश निरक्षर मतदाताओं** को पंजीकृत करने की चुनौती को **चुनावी प्रतीकों** की शुरुआत करके एक **लोकतांत्रिक उपलब्धि** में बदल दिया, जिससे UAS व्यावहारिक रूप से सुलभ हो गया।

### The Role of the EC and the Citizen

#### चुनाव आयोग और नागरिक की भूमिका



- In India, the EC has a great responsibility to reach the **last citizen**, wherever they may be, to actualise their '**right to elect**'.  
भारत में, **चुनाव आयोग (EC)** की बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है कि वह **हर अंतिम नागरिक** तक पहुंचे, चाहे वे कहीं भी हों, ताकि उनका '**निर्वाचन का अधिकार**' वास्तविक हो सके।
- As **Winston Churchill** once said, "At the bottom of all tributes paid to democracy is the **little man**, walking into a **little booth**, with a **little pencil**, making a **little cross** on a **little bit of paper...**"  
जैसा कि **विंस्टन चर्चिल** ने एक बार कहा था, "लोकतंत्र को दी गई सभी श्रद्धांजलियों के मूल में है एक **छोटा आदमी**, जो एक **छोटे बूथ** में जाता है, एक **छोटी सी पेंसिल** से एक **छोटे से कागज पर एक छोटा सा निशान** लगाता है..."
- His words remain a timeless reminder that the **health of any democracy** ultimately rests on the **sanctity of the 'right to vote'**.  
उनके शब्द आज भी यह **समयहीन याद दिलाते हैं** कि किसी भी लोकतंत्र का स्वास्थ्य अंततः '**मतदान के अधिकार की पवित्रता**' पर निर्भर करता है।

### Is Voting a Fundamental Right in India?

क्या भारत में मतदान एक मौलिक अधिकार है?

- The legal status of the '**right to vote**' in India has long been **debated**.  
भारत में '**मतदान के अधिकार**' की कानूनी स्थिति लंबे समय से **विवादित** रही है।
- Although **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and **K.T. Shah** proposed including it in the Constitution's **fundamental rights** part, the **Constituent Assembly's Advisory Committee** ultimately **rejected** the idea.  
हालांकि **डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर** और **के.टी. शाह** ने इसे संविधान के **मौलिक अधिकारों** में शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव रखा था, लेकिन **संविधान सभा की सलाहकार समिति** ने अंततः इस विचार को **अस्वीकार** कर दिया।
- A **Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court in **Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006)** held that the '**right to elect**' is a **statutory right** under **Section 62 of the RPA, 1951**, and not a **fundamental or constitutional right**.  
**कुलदीप नायर बनाम भारत संघ (2006)** में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** की **संवैधानिक पीठ** ने निर्णय दिया कि '**निर्वाचन का अधिकार**', **जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951** की धारा 62 के तहत एक **वैधानिक अधिकार** है, न कि **मौलिक या संवैधानिक अधिकार**।
- Later in **2016**, though a **two-judge bench** in **Rajbala v. State of Haryana** described the '**right to vote**' as a **constitutional right**, the **larger bench ruling** in **Kuldip Nayar** prevails.  
बाद में **2016** में, **राजबाला बनाम हरियाणा राज्य** में एक **दो-न्यायाधीशीय पीठ** ने '**मतदान के अधिकार**' को **संवैधानिक अधिकार** बताया, लेकिन **कुलदीप नायर** में दिए गए **बड़ी पीठ के निर्णय** को ही मान्यता प्राप्त है।
- Again, in **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023)**, the **Supreme Court** declined to pronounce on the issue, noting that it had already been **settled** by the **five-judge Bench** in the **Kuldip Nayar** judgment.  
फिर **अनूप बरनवाल बनाम भारत संघ (2023)** में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने इस मुद्दे पर कोई निर्णय देने से इनकार कर दिया, यह कहते हुए कि इसे पहले ही **कुलदीप नायर** में **पांच-न्यायाधीशीय पीठ** द्वारा **निर्णीत** किया जा चुका है।
- However, in his **dissent**, **Justice Ajay Rastogi** asserted that the '**right to vote**' is an expression of **Article 19(1)(a)** and reflects the **essence of Article 21**.



हालांकि, अपने भिन्न मत में न्यायमूर्ति अजय रस्तोगी ने कहा कि 'मतदान का अधिकार', अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a) की अभिव्यक्ति है और अनुच्छेद 21 का मूल सार दर्शाता है।

- Yet, as this view remains a **minority opinion**, the 'right to elect' continues to be recognised as a **statutory right** under prevailing law.

लेकिन चूंकि यह राय **अल्पमत मत** है, इसलिए वर्तमान कानून के तहत 'निर्वाचन का अधिकार' को **वैधानिक अधिकार** के रूप में ही मान्यता प्राप्त है।

- Nevertheless, even though it is **not a fundamental right**, courts have regarded the **right to vote** as an **inseparable part of democracy**, anchoring their reasoning in the idea that it enables **citizens to shape governance**, making it a "democratic imperative" vital to the **Indian republic's survival**.

फिर भी, भले ही यह **मौलिक अधिकार नहीं** है, न्यायालयों ने **मतदान के अधिकार को लोकतंत्र का अभिन्न अंग माना** है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि यह नागरिकों को **शासन को आकार देने** की शक्ति देता है और **भारतीय गणराज्य के अस्तित्व** के लिए यह एक "लोकतांत्रिक आवश्यकता" है।

- As philosopher **John Dewey** said, **democracy** is not just a form of government, but a **social and personal ideal**.

जैसा कि दार्शनिक **जॉन डेवी** ने कहा, **लोकतंत्र** केवल शासन प्रणाली नहीं, बल्कि एक **सामाजिक और व्यक्तिगत आदर्श** है।

#### Why Does Electoral Roll Accuracy Matter?

**मतदाता सूची की शुद्धता क्यों आवश्यक है?**

- **Free and fair elections rest on accurate electoral rolls**, under the **RPA, 1950**.  
**निःशुल्क और निष्पक्ष चुनाव** की नींव **सटीक मतदाता सूचियों** पर निर्भर करती है, जो **जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950** के तहत आती हैं।
- Inaccuracies — such as **mass omissions, ineligible inclusions, duplicates, or incorrect entries** — undermine the "one person, one vote" principle by enabling **impersonation, disenfranchisement, or dilution of votes**, ultimately distorting the **people's mandate**.  
**गलतियाँ** — जैसे कि **बड़े पैमाने पर विलोपन, अयोग्य नामों की प्रविष्टि, दोहराव या गलत प्रविष्टियाँ** — "एक व्यक्ति, एक मत" सिद्धांत को कमजोर करती हैं और इससे **छद्म मतदान, मताधिकार से वंचन, या मतों की कमजोर पड़ने** जैसी समस्याएँ उत्पन्न होती हैं, जो अंततः **जनादेश को विकृत** कर देती हैं।
- Therefore, the EC is empowered under **Section 21** of the **1950 Act** to **prepare and revise** these rolls to ensure **integrity**.  
इसलिए, **चुनाव आयोग (EC)** को **1950 अधिनियम की धारा 21** के तहत इन सूचियों को **तैयार और संशोधित करने** का अधिकार प्राप्त है ताकि **प्रामाणिकता सुनिश्चित** की जा सके।
- While discrepancies may arise, courts have consistently held that only **substantial and systemic errors** that demonstrably "**materially affected**" the election outcome can compromise the **sanctity of the electoral roll**.  
भले ही कुछ **विसंगतियाँ** उत्पन्न हों, लेकिन न्यायालयों ने लगातार यह माना है कि केवल वही **गंभीर और प्रणालीगत त्रुटियाँ**, जो स्पष्ट रूप से "**चुनाव के परिणाम को प्रभावित**" करती हैं, **मतदाता सूची की पवित्रता** को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।
- **Minor mistakes or isolated disenfranchisement are insufficient**.  
**छोटी गलतियाँ या एकल मताधिकार से वंचन पर्याप्त नहीं** हैं।
- Allegations like those in **Bihar warrant scrutiny**, but it must also be noted that **purification of rolls** is necessary because just as the **exclusion of an eligible voter** undermines democracy, so does the **inclusion of an ineligible name**.



बिहार जैसे आरोपों की जाँच आवश्यक है, लेकिन यह भी ध्यान देना चाहिए कि सूचियों की शुद्धिकरण आवश्यक है, क्योंकि जैसे एक पात्र मतदाता का बाहर किया जाना लोकतंत्र को नुकसान पहुँचाता है, वैसे ही एक अयोग्य नाम का शामिल होना भी उसे कमजोर करता है।

- Therefore, rather than **disrupting or delaying** the exercise, efforts should focus on helping **improve the process**.  
इसलिए, इस प्रक्रिया को **बाधित या विलंबित करने** के बजाय, प्रयास **प्रक्रिया में सुधार** पर केंद्रित होने चाहिए।
- The **Supreme Court's suggestion** to include more **accepted documents** helps safeguard every **genuine elector's right to be represented**.  
**सुप्रीम कोर्ट** का अधिक **स्वीकृत दस्तावेजों** को शामिल करने का सुझाव, हर **वैध मतदाता के प्रतिनिधित्व के अधिकार** की सुरक्षा करता है।
- While the **right to inclusion or objection** in electoral rolls is conferred on **individuals**, not **political parties**, the court in **Lakshmi Charan Sen v. A.K.M. Hassan Uzzaman (1985)** observed that in a largely **illiterate and politically unaware electorate**, parties should take steps to ensure **eligible voters are included and ineligible ones are removed**.  
जबकि **मतदाता सूची में नाम जोड़ने या आपत्ति दर्ज कराने का अधिकार व्यक्तियों** को दिया गया है, न कि **राजनीतिक दलों** को, फिर भी **लक्ष्मी चरण सेन बनाम ए.के.एम. हसन उज्जमां (1985)** में कोर्ट ने कहा कि एक **अशिक्षित और राजनीतिक रूप से अज्ञानी मतदाता वर्ग में दलों को यह सुनिश्चित करने की जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए कि पात्र मतदाता शामिल हों और अयोग्य नाम हटाए जाएं**।
- Given India's **party-based Parliamentary system**, such **vigilance** will help to preserve **'electoral integrity'**.  
भारत की **दलीय संसदीय प्रणाली** को देखते हुए, इस प्रकार की **सतर्कता**, **'चुनावी अखंडता'** को बनाए रखने में सहायक होगी।  
ChatGPT said:

**Who qualifies as an ordinary resident?**

**साधारण निवासी के रूप में कौन पात्र होता है?**

- The EC under **Article 324** serves as the **constitutional guardian of elections**, with powers of **superintendence, direction, and control**.  
**अनुच्छेद 324 के तहत चुनाव आयोग (EC)** चुनावों का **संवैधानिक संरक्षक** होता है, जिसके पास **निरीक्षण, निर्देश और नियंत्रण** की शक्तियाँ होती हैं।
- A key duty is preparing **accurate electoral rolls**, guided by **Section 19 of the RPA, 1950**, which mandates that any **citizen aged 18 or above**, "**ordinarily resident**" in a constituency and not **disqualified**, is entitled to be registered.  
एक मुख्य कर्तव्य है **सटीक मतदाता सूची** तैयार करना, जो **जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 की धारा 19** द्वारा निर्देशित है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि कोई भी **18 वर्ष या उससे अधिक आयु का नागरिक**, जो किसी क्षेत्र में "**साधारण निवासी**" हो और **अयोग्य न हो**, पंजीकरण के लिए पात्र है।
- "**Ordinary resident**" implies a **genuine, continuous presence**, not a **temporary stay**.  
"**साधारण निवासी**" का अर्थ है **वास्तविक और निरंतर उपस्थिति**, न कि कोई **अस्थायी निवास**।
- For example, a **student living in a hostel** may not qualify if their **permanent home and intent to return** lie elsewhere.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **हॉस्टल में रहने वाला छात्र** पात्र नहीं हो सकता यदि उसका **स्थायी घर और लौटने का इरादा** कहीं और हो।



- Mere **temporary absence** from one's place of ordinary residence does not negate one's status as an **ordinary resident** of that location.  
किसी व्यक्ति के साधारण निवास स्थान से अस्थायी अनुपस्थिति उसका साधारण निवासी होने का दर्जा समाप्त नहीं करती।
- This criterion prevents **fraudulent registrations** and ensures voters maintain **real ties** to their constituencies, preserving **representative accountability**.  
यह मापदंड धोखाधड़ी वाले पंजीकरण को रोकता है और यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि मतदाता अपने क्षेत्र से वास्तविक संबंध बनाए रखें, जिससे प्रतिनिधि उत्तरदायित्व बना रहता है।
- Interestingly, the **Manmohan Singh case (1991)** exemplifies **judicial scrutiny** on this front.  
दिलचस्प रूप से, **मनमोहन सिंह मामला (1991)** इस संदर्भ में **न्यायिक जांच** का उदाहरण है।
- His **election from Assam** was challenged for lack of "**ordinary residence**," leading the court to clarify that **ordinary residence** means **habitual, regular, and genuine presence**, not a **temporary or casual stay** or a **nominal address**.  
उनका असम से चुनाव "साधारण निवास" के अभाव में चुनौती दी गई थी, जिसके चलते अदालत ने स्पष्ट किया कि साधारण निवास का अर्थ है नियमित, सामान्य और वास्तविक उपस्थिति, न कि कोई अस्थायी या औपचारिक निवास।
- Beyond ordinary voters, India's electoral system accommodates those unable to vote conventionally.  
सामान्य मतदाताओं के अलावा, भारत की चुनाव प्रणाली उन लोगों के लिए भी व्यवस्था करती है जो पारंपरिक रूप से मतदान नहीं कर सकते।
- Under **Rule 18 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961**, 'postal ballots' are available to **service voters** like **armed forces personnel, paramilitary, armed State police posted outside, government staff abroad, and voters on election duty**.  
चुनाव संचालन नियम, 1961 के नियम 18 के तहत, 'डाक मतपत्र' उन सेवा मतदाताओं के लिए उपलब्ध हैं जैसे कि सशस्त्र बल के कर्मी, अर्धसैनिक बल, बाहर तैनात राज्य पुलिस, विदेशों में सरकारी कर्मचारी, और मतदान ड्यूटी पर लगे कर्मचारी।
- **Overseas electors** — Indian citizens living abroad without foreign citizenship — can register under **Section 20A of the RPA, 1950**.  
विदेशी मतदाता — जो विदेश में रहने वाले भारतीय नागरिक हैं और जिनके पास विदेशी नागरिकता नहीं है — वे जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 की धारा 20A के तहत पंजीकरण करा सकते हैं।
- However, they must **vote in person**, as they are currently **ineligible for postal or proxy voting**.  
हालांकि, उन्हें व्यक्तिगत रूप से मतदान करना होगा, क्योंकि वे वर्तमान में डाक या प्रतिनिधि मतदान के लिए अयोग्य हैं।

#### Citizenship Verification and Voter Exclusion

##### नागरिकता सत्यापन और मतदाता को बाहर करना

- One of the most **contentious issues** regarding the **SIR exercise in Bihar** is the debate on '**citizenship verification**'.  
बिहार में विशेष सघन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) से जुड़ा एक सबसे विवादास्पद मुद्दा है 'नागरिकता सत्यापन' पर बहस।
- In **Lal Babu Hussein v. ERO (1995)**, the court **quashed** two EC directives (1992 and 1994) allowing **District Collectors and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs)** to identify and delete alleged **foreigners** from voter rolls.  
लाल बाबू हुसैन बनाम ERO (1995) में, अदालत ने 1992 और 1994 के दो चुनाव आयोग निर्देशों को रद्द



कर दिया, जो जिला कलेक्टरों और निर्वाचक नामावली अधिकारियों (EROs) को मतदाता सूची से कथित विदेशी हटाने की अनुमति देते थे।

- The Supreme Court noted that the **poll body guidelines** put the “onus of proof of citizenship” on the person involved, even disregarding that several persons were **voters in previous elections**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि **चुनाव आयोग के दिशानिर्देशों में नागरिकता साबित करने का दायित्व** व्यक्ति पर डाल दिया गया था, भले ही वे **पिछले चुनावों में मतदाता** रह चुके हों।
- The court ruled that **EROs must give due weight to past electoral rolls, conduct full inquiries, and follow quasi-judicial procedures, ensuring natural justice and adherence to the Citizenship Act and Constitution.**  
अदालत ने आदेश दिया कि **EROs को पिछली मतदाता सूचियों को पर्याप्त महत्व देना, पूर्ण जांच करना, और अर्ध-न्यायिक प्रक्रिया का पालन करना चाहिए, जिससे प्राकृतिक न्याय और नागरिकता अधिनियम व संविधान का पालन सुनिश्चित हो।**
- These **safeguards must guide the current exercise as well.**  
ये **सुरक्षात्मक उपाय** वर्तमान प्रक्रिया का भी मार्गदर्शन करने चाहिए।
- Moreover, **allegations or vague suspicions cannot justify the exclusion of individuals from citizenship or voter lists without credible evidence and due process, according to judgments in Lal Babu and Md. Rahim Ali (2024).**  
इसके अलावा, **आरोप या अस्पष्ट संदेह बिना विश्वसनीय साक्ष्य और न्यायिक प्रक्रिया के किसी को नागरिकता या मतदाता सूची से बाहर नहीं किया जा सकता, यह बात लाल बाबू और मोहम्मद रहीम अली (2024) के निर्णयों में स्पष्ट की गई है।**

What is next?

अब आगे क्या?

- The **Bihar SIR controversy and broader electoral reform debates highlight a core democratic truth: India’s democracy depends on electoral rolls that are accurate, inclusive, and accessible.**  
**बिहार SIR विवाद और व्यापक चुनावी सुधार बहसों एक मूल लोकतांत्रिक सत्य को उजागर करती हैं: भारत का लोकतंत्र सटीक, समावेशी और सुलभ मतदाता सूचियों पर निर्भर करता है।**
- As the **Supreme Court prepares to resume hearings on July 28, the EC must complete the exercise with a careful balance between genuine vigilance and inclusion to uphold the fairness of the process.**  
जैसे ही **सुप्रीम कोर्ट 28 जुलाई को सुनवाई फिर से शुरू करने जा रहा है, चुनाव आयोग (EC) को सतर्कता और समावेशन के बीच संतुलन बनाकर इस प्रक्रिया को निष्पक्षता के साथ पूरा करना चाहिए।**
- **Public awareness should empower voters to verify and update their entries, making them active custodians of electoral integrity.**  
**जन-जागरूकता को मतदाताओं को अपनी प्रविष्टियों की जांच और अद्यतन करने में सक्षम बनाना चाहिए, जिससे वे चुनावी अखंडता के सक्रिय संरक्षक बन सकें।**
- **Safeguarding the vote is not merely a statutory obligation; it is a shared democratic responsibility, requiring vigilant institutions, informed citizens, and forward-looking legal reform.**  
**मतदान की रक्षा केवल एक वैधानिक दायित्व नहीं है; यह एक सांझी लोकतांत्रिक जिम्मेदारी है, जिसके लिए सतर्क संस्थाओं, जागरूक नागरिकों और दूरदर्शी कानूनी सुधारों की आवश्यकता है।**



# U.S. curbs against Albanese set dangerous precedent: UN

UN rights chief also calls for a halt to attacks against people appointed by the UN and the ICC; the UN Human Rights Council special rapporteur says she will continue to do what she has to do

GS Paper II: International Institutions

**Agence France-Presse**  
GENEVA

**T**he UN warned on Thursday that Washington was setting a "dangerous precedent" by imposing sanctions on a UN expert for criticising U.S. policy on Gaza and called for the cancellation of the action.

UN rights chief Volker Turk also called for a halt to "attacks and threats" against people appointed by the UN and international institutions such as the **International Criminal Court**, whose judges have also been hit with U.S. sanctions.

"I urge the prompt reversal of U.S. sanctions



**Ruffling feathers:** The U.S. sanctioned Francesca Albanese for her efforts to prompt ICC action against U.S. and Israeli officials. AP

against a special rapporteur of the **UN Human Rights Council**, **Francesca Albanese**, in response to work she has undertaken under the mandate on the situation of human rights

in the occupied Palestinian territory," Mr. Turk said in a statement.

**UN chief Antonio Guterres's** spokesman insisted that "the imposition of sanctions on special rap-

porteurs is a dangerous precedent".

The use of unilateral sanctions against any UN expert or official "is unacceptable", spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday announced that Washington was sanctioning Ms. Albanese "for her illegitimate and shameful efforts to prompt (ICC) action against U.S. and Israeli officials, companies, and executives".

Ms. Albanese said the sanctions were "calculated to weaken my mission". "I will continue to do what I have to do," she said during a visit to Slovenia.

## UN Warning Over US Sanctions on Expert संयुक्त राष्ट्र की अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों पर चेतावनी

- The UN warned on Thursday that Washington was setting a "dangerous precedent" by imposing sanctions on a UN expert for criticising U.S. policy on Gaza and called for the cancellation of the action.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने गुरुवार को चेतावनी दी कि वाशिंगटन ने गाज़ा पर अमेरिकी नीति की आलोचना करने पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र के एक विशेषज्ञ पर प्रतिबंध लगाकर एक "खतरनाक मिसाल" कायम की है और इस कार्रवाई को रद्द करने की मांग की।

- UN rights chief Volker Turk also called for a halt to "attacks and threats" against people appointed by the UN and international institutions such as the **International Criminal Court**, whose judges have also been hit with U.S. sanctions.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार प्रमुख वोल्कर टर्क ने भी संयुक्त राष्ट्र और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं जैसे कि



अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय द्वारा नियुक्त लोगों पर "हमलों और धमकियों" को रोकने की अपील की, जिनके न्यायाधीशों पर भी अमेरिकी प्रतिबंध लगाए गए हैं।

- "I urge the prompt reversal of U.S. sanctions against a special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Council, Francesca Albanese, in response to work she has undertaken under the mandate on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory," Mr. Turk said in a statement.

श्री टर्क ने एक बयान में कहा, "मैं संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद के विशेष रिपोर्टर फ्रांसेस्का अल्बानीज़ पर लगाए गए अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों को तुरंत हटाने का आग्रह करता हूँ, जो उन्होंने अधिकृत फ़िलिस्तीनी क्षेत्रों में मानवाधिकारों की स्थिति पर अपने जनादेश के तहत किए गए कार्यों के उत्तर में लगाए गए हैं।"

- UN chief Antonio Guterres's spokesman insisted that "the imposition of sanctions on special rapporteurs is a dangerous precedent".

संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख एंटोनियो गुटेरेस के प्रवक्ता ने जोर देकर कहा कि "विशेष रिपोर्टरों पर प्रतिबंधों का लगाया जाना एक खतरनाक मिसाल है।"

- The use of unilateral sanctions against any UN expert or official "is unacceptable", spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York.

प्रवक्ता स्टेफ़न दुजारिक ने न्यूयॉर्क में संवाददाताओं से कहा कि किसी भी संयुक्त राष्ट्र विशेषज्ञ या अधिकारी पर एकतरफ़ा प्रतिबंधों का उपयोग "स्वीकार्य नहीं" है।

- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday announced that Washington was sanctioning Ms. Albanese "for her illegitimate and shameful efforts to prompt (ICC) action against U.S. and Israeli officials, companies, and executives".

अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रूबियो ने बुधवार को घोषणा की कि वाशिंगटन सुश्री अल्बानीज़ पर "अमेरिकी और इज़राइली अधिकारियों, कंपनियों और कार्यकारियों के खिलाफ (ICC) की कार्रवाई को उकसाने के उनके अवैध और शर्मनाक प्रयासों" के लिए प्रतिबंध लगा रहा है।

- Ms. Albanese said the sanctions were "calculated to weaken my mission". "I will continue to do what I have to do," she said during a visit to Slovenia.

सुश्री अल्बानीज़ ने कहा कि ये \*\*प्रतिबंध "मेरे मिशन को कमजोर करने की योजना के तहत लगाए गए हैं"। उन्होंने स्लोवेनिया की यात्रा के दौरान कहा, "मैं वही करती रहूंगी जो मुझे करना है।"

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

### 1. Centre identifies domestic firm for S-400 air defence system maintenance, repair, overhaul

सेंटर ने S-400 वायु रक्षा प्रणाली के रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहॉल के लिए घरेलू फर्म की पहचान की

### 2. 'TB death audits, like maternal mortality model, can aid elimination'

'मातृ मृत्यु दर मॉडल की तरह टीबी मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा उन्मूलन में सहायता कर सकती है'



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

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

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



**3. Bridge too far**

बहुत दूर का पुल

**4. Curse of Perfectionism: Why Superman is a timeless superhero we could all relate to?**

पूर्णता का अभिशाप: क्यों सुपरमैन एक शाश्वत सुपरहीरो है जिससे हम सभी जुड़ सकते हैं?

**5. Google's New AI Initiatives for India's Agriculture and Cultural Diversity**

भारत के कृषि और सांस्कृतिक विविधता के लिए गूगल की नई एआई पहलें

**6. U.S. President Donald Trump's Endorsement of 500% Tariff on Russian Oil Imports**

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा रूसी तेल आयात पर 500% शुल्क के समर्थन की घोषणा

**7. Efforts to Capture Refrigerant in Indonesia's Fight Against Climate Change**

जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ इंडोनेशिया के प्रयासों में रेफ्रिजरेंट कैप्चर

**8. Fossil Fuel Rebound in EU Power Sector in Early 2025**

2025 की शुरुआत में EU के बिजली क्षेत्र में जीवाश्म ईंधन की वापसी

**9. Flood without rain in Nepal raises concerns about glacial lake outburst**



## नेपाल में बिना बारिश के बाढ़ से हिमनद झीलों के फटने की चिंता बढ़ी

# Centre identifies domestic firm for S-400 air defence system maintenance, repair, overhaul

GS Paper III: Defence

**Saurabh Trivedi**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence has identified an Indian firm to establish a maintenance repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 air defence system in the country.

India now has three S-400 missile systems. Officially named Sudarshan Chakra, the S-400 had played a crucial role in taking down Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards more than 15 Indian cities, in retaliation for Operation Sindoor launched by India in May.

A senior official in the Defence Ministry has confirmed that the plan to es-



**Critical support:** The S-400 had played a crucial role in taking down Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards Indian cities. AFP

tablish an MRO facility was in the pipeline for some time but after Operation Sindoor, it was fast-tracked and an Indian firm has been identified for the job. The selection was done after several phases of secur-

ity clearance and capability testing. Rules of engagement (RoE) have been drafted. Russia's Almaz-Antey, the manufacturer of the S-400 system, will collaborate with an Indian firm to establish the

facility in India. A formal announcement will made soon.

### 'Landmark move'

Another official who was aware of the development said that it is a landmark achievement under India-Russia military technical cooperation. "Now India will be self-reliant in maintaining advance air defence systems and it aligns with the 'Make In India' initiative of the government. It will help to overcome the challenges posed by international sanctions and supply chain disruption," the official said.

India launched Operation Sindoor in the first week of May targeting ter-

ror camps in Pakistan, in response to the attack on tourists in Pahalgam on April 22. On the intervening night of May 7-8, Pakistan attempted to engage more than 15 military targets using drones and missiles in northern and western part of the country. The Integrated Counter UAS Grid and Air Defence systems intercepted and neutralised the ballistic missiles and drones aimed at military installations.

India had earlier placed an order with Russia for five S-400 missile systems, and three have been delivered. Russia confirmed that of the remaining two S-400s, one will be delivered in 2026 and in 2027.

## Centre identifies domestic firm for S-400 air defence system maintenance, repair, overhaul

## सेंटर ने S-400 वायु रक्षा प्रणाली के रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहॉल के लिए घरेलू फर्म की पहचान की

The Ministry of Defence has identified an Indian firm to establish a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 air defence system in the country.

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने देश में S-400 वायु रक्षा प्रणाली के लिए रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहॉल (MRO) सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए एक भारतीय फर्म की पहचान की है।

- India now has three S-400 missile systems. Officially named Sudarshan Chakra, the S-400 had played a crucial role in taking down Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards more than 15 Indian cities, in retaliation for Operation Sindoor launched by India in May.



अब भारत के पास तीन S-400 मिसाइल प्रणालियाँ हैं। इसे आधिकारिक तौर पर **सुदर्शन चक्र** कहा जाता है। S-400 ने मई में भारत द्वारा शुरू किए गए **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के प्रतिशोध में 15 से अधिक भारतीय शहरों की ओर दागे गए **पाकिस्तानी ड्रोन और मिसाइलों** को गिराने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी।

- A senior official in the **Defence Ministry** has confirmed that the plan to establish an **MRO facility** was in the pipeline for some time but after **Operation Sindoor**, it was fast-tracked and an **Indian firm** has been identified for the job.

**रक्षा मंत्रालय** के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने पुष्टि की है कि **MRO सुविधा** स्थापित करने की योजना कुछ समय से प्रक्रिया में थी, लेकिन **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के बाद इसे तेजी से आगे बढ़ाया गया और इसके लिए एक **भारतीय फर्म** की पहचान की गई है।

- The selection was done after several phases of **security clearance** and **capability testing**. **Rules of Engagement (RoE)** have been drafted.

चयन कई चरणों की **सुरक्षा मंजूरी** और **क्षमता परीक्षण** के बाद किया गया। **नियोजन के नियम (RoE)** तैयार किए गए हैं।

- **Russia's Almaz-Antey**, the manufacturer of the **S-400 system**, will collaborate with an **Indian firm** to establish the facility in **India**. A formal announcement will be made soon.

**S-400 प्रणाली** के निर्माता **रूस की अल्माज़-एंटेई** कंपनी, इस सुविधा को **भारत** में स्थापित करने के लिए एक **भारतीय फर्म** के साथ सहयोग करेगी। एक आधिकारिक घोषणा जल्द ही की जाएगी।

- Another official who was aware of the development said that it is a **landmark achievement** under **India-Russia military technical cooperation**. "Now India will be **self-reliant** in maintaining **advance air defence systems** and it aligns with the '**Make in India**' initiative of the government. It will help to overcome the challenges posed by **international sanctions** and **supply chain disruption**," the official said.

इस विकास से परिचित एक अन्य अधिकारी ने कहा कि यह **भारत-रूस सैन्य तकनीकी सहयोग** के तहत एक **ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि** है। अधिकारी ने कहा, "अब भारत उन्नत **वायु रक्षा प्रणालियों** के रखरखाव में **आत्मनिर्भर** होगा और यह सरकार की '**मेक इन इंडिया**' पहल के अनुरूप है। यह **अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबंधों** और **आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में व्यवधान** से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों को पार करने में मदद करेगा।"

- **India** launched **Operation Sindoor** in the **first week of May**, targeting **terror camps in Pakistan**, in response to the attack on **tourists in Pahalgam on April 22**.

**भारत** ने 22 अप्रैल को **पहलगाम में पर्यटकों पर हमले** के जवाब में **मई के पहले सप्ताह में पाकिस्तान में आतंकी शिविरों** को निशाना बनाकर **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** शुरू किया।

- On the intervening night of **May 7-8**, **Pakistan** attempted to engage more than **15 military targets** using **drones and missiles** in the **northern and western parts of the country**.

**7-8 मई** की मध्यरात्रि को **पाकिस्तान** ने देश के **उत्तर और पश्चिमी हिस्सों में ड्रोन और मिसाइलों** का उपयोग करके **15 से अधिक सैन्य ठिकानों** को निशाना बनाने का प्रयास किया।

- The **Integrated Counter UAS Grid and Air Defence systems** intercepted and neutralised the **ballistic missiles and drones aimed at military installations**.

**एकीकृत काउंटर यूएएस ग्रिड और वायु रक्षा प्रणालियों** ने **सैन्य प्रतिष्ठानों** को लक्षित करने वाले **बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों और ड्रोनों** को रोक दिया और निष्क्रिय कर दिया।

- **India** had earlier placed an order with **Russia** for **five S-400 missile systems**, and **three** have been delivered.

**भारत** ने पहले **रूस** के साथ **पाँच S-400 मिसाइल प्रणालियों** का ऑर्डर दिया था, जिनमें से **तीन** वितरित की जा चुकी हैं।



- **Russia confirmed that of the remaining two S-400s, one will be delivered in 2026 and another in 2027.**

रूस ने पुष्टि की कि शेष दो S-400 में से एक 2026 में और दूसरा 2027 में वितरित किया जाएगा।

# 'TB death audits, like maternal mortality model, can aid elimination'

Soumya Swaminathan emphasises the need to prioritise reducing TB deaths and prevalence and incidence of the disease, stating that finding gaps, addressing them, and having an ambitious plan need to be focused on; our short-term focus, in the next National Strategic Plan, is to reduce TB mortality, she adds

CGS Paper III: S&T

Maitri Porecha

**A** detailed dissection of every tuberculosis-related death at the district level or a 'TB death audit,' much like the public health approach adopted by the Centre to reduce maternal deaths, will prove to be useful towards meeting India's TB elimination goals, Soumya Swaminathan, Principal Advisor for the National TB Elimination Programme in India told *The Hindu*.

"Like COVID, TB is also a pandemic, but it has been around for a very long time. It affects the poor and vulnerable in every country. Even one dengue death gets picked up immediately by the media, and gets reported. Still, 800 to 900 people die every day of TB in the country, but the news of a TB death hardly ever makes it to the newspaper," she said.

Dr. Swaminathan noted that among the challenges facing National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is the further reduction in TB mortality rates to meet the End TB and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. From an estimated 35 deaths per 1,00,000 population in 2015, India has brought down this rate to 22 per 1,00,000 according to the latest official data. "However, we still have case fatality rates ranging from 5% to 10% in different states. These rates are higher for drug-resistant TB. These deaths are mostly happening in the economically-productive age group of 25 to 55 years," she said.

## TB Death Audit

India has significantly reduced its maternal mortality rate (MMR) by expanding the scope for institutional delivery, better antenatal and postnatal care and by undertaking district-wise maternal death audits which are headed by the district collectors. "Everyone has to sit and explain why that [maternal] death happened and how it could have been prevented. Can we adopt a similar approach for TB," asked Dr. Swaminathan.

"The District Collector should be aware of how many TB deaths occur, and non-programme partners should be engaged in audits of randomly selected cases. These could be community medicine departments of nearby medical colleges or public health institutes. It should not be the TB programme itself that does the death audits. TB deaths should be presented, analysed along with reasons, and the discussions could lead to improvements in service delivery" she added. The deaths are most likely caused by a combination of complications due to TB, along with social and economic risk factors.

Citing an example, Dr. Swaminathan said that National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases runs a 'difficult to treat,' virtual TB clinic (using the ECHO platform), where cases are presented and discussed every month, for the benefit of doctors and nurses across the country. The case of a 19-year-old belonging to a poor migrant family who succumbed to



**Public awareness:** Students conduct a rally to raise awareness on TB, a contagious disease that is treatable and preventable, and yet continues to kill millions each year, in Hyderabad. FILE PHOTO

TB in Delhi was presented. Her father had previously died of TB and her sister had also contracted the infection. "They worked as house maids and had initially sought treatment with private doctors. By the time she got admitted, she had extensive bilateral TB and was in respiratory failure. The fact that a 19-year-old girl died of drug sensitive TB points to the need for every patient to be notified and followed up by the TB programme. Any number of such cases are occurring every day. Are we paying attention and trying to improve the system?"

## Tamil Nadu model

Tamil Nadu's Kasanai Erappila Thittam (TN-KET) meaning 'TB death free project,' was jointly started by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) and the State government for all aged 15 years and older with drug-susceptible TB notified by public facilities, with a goal to reduce deaths by 30% in this group.

According to NIE data, during April - June 2022, 14,961 TB patients were notified out of which 11,599 (78%) were triaged. It was found that of these 1509 (13%) were at high risk of severe illness. Of these 48% were severely undernourished, another 50% had respiratory insufficiency, and 29% were unable to stand without support. Of the 1509 patients, 1128 (75%) were assessed at a nodal inpatient care facility. Of these 993 were confirmed as severely ill, and 909 (92%) were admitted. Of those admitted 4% patients succumbed to their illness. As a result of implementing TN-KET, Tamil



The District Collector should be aware of how many TB deaths occur, and non-programme partners should be engaged in audits of randomly selected cases. These could be community medicine departments of nearby medical colleges or public health institutes

**Soumya Swaminathan**  
Principal Advisor for the NTEP

Nadu now routinely captures BMI data for all adults with TB (notified from public facilities).

In the southern States, people have co-morbidities such as diabetes, alcoholism and in the north, there is severe malnutrition and severe anaemia, Dr. Swaminathan observed. In any case, every TB patient must be clinically evaluated for co-morbidities and risk factors and these should be treated too.

Dr. Swaminathan pressed on the need to prioritise reducing TB deaths, along with reducing prevalence, and incidence of the disease. "China has a death rate of 3 per 1,00,000 from TB, while India has a death rate of 22 per 1,00,000. We need to find gaps, address them and have an ambitious plan," she said.

"Our short-term focus, in the next National Strategic Plan, is to reduce TB mortality. Incidence reduction will take time, whatever we do, because we don't have a highly efficacious vaccine. Unless we start finding everyone and treating

them, we will not have a rapid incidence reduction," she adds.

Dr. Swaminathan said that the National TB prevalence Survey and State-specific Prevalence Surveys in Gujarat, Rajasthan reveal that sub-clinical TB accounts for 40% to 50% of cases. "Which means, you will not pick them up with symptom screening and our national programme was entirely based on symptom screening. So, we were straightforwardly missing half of the active TB in population," she said.

According to her, the solution is to have widespread use of X-ray backed up by an AI algorithm. "The hand-held X-ray technology with AI is green lighted by the World Health Organization (WHO), STOP TB Partnership and ICMR. In fact, six government hospitals in Mumbai applied X-ray screening and their case notifications went up by 10% to 12%," she stated.

Upfront molecular testing until last year in India was 30%. The 100-day TB elimination campaign aimed at strengthening diagnostics and linkage to treatment, as well as efforts by CTD to expand upfront molecular testing should pay dividends this year, she added. Upfront molecular testing involves offering tests which can pick up TB as well as drug-resistance to TB bacteria leading to accurate treatment, which improves chances of the patient's recovery. Screening of household contacts should be made convenient as they cannot be expected to spend days in going and getting themselves screened. This can happen now with the highly portable hand-held X-ray devices which many States have started using.

## The crucial role of nutrition

She also emphasised on providing good nutrition to TB patients and their families. "The RATIONS trials led by Anurag Bhargava in Jharkhand among a population with BMI as low as 16 and 17 has demonstrated that almost 50% secondary household cases could be prevented just by providing good nutritional support. We don't yet have a vaccine with 50% efficacy so if we give adequate calories and protein, it acts like natural protector from bacteria."

Commenting on the Nikshay Mitra Programme floated by the Centre for nutrition support to TB patients, Dr. Swaminathan said that while the goal was laudable, its success depends on volunteers coming forward to donate nutrition support and this may not be uniform across all geographies. "Also, the ability to deliver it [nutritional support] may be limited in remote areas," she emphasised. The government's move to double the amount meted out under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) - (an earlier amount of ₹500 per month provided to TB patients during treatment, has now been increased to ₹1000) would go a long way towards meeting the patients' nutritional needs, and more research is needed in ways to improve the family's nutritional status, wherever needed. (porechamaitri@thehindu.co.in)

## THE GIST

Dr. Swaminathan noted that among the challenges facing National TB Elimination Programme is the further reduction in TB mortality rates to meet the End TB and Sustainable Development Goals targets

Every TB patient must be clinically evaluated for co-morbidities — such as diabetes, alcoholism, severe anaemia, and risk factors — and these should be treated

She also emphasised the importance of providing good nutrition to TB patients and their families, citing the RATIONS trials led by Anurag Bhargava in Jharkhand



## ‘TB death audits, like maternal mortality model, can aid elimination’

### ‘मातृ मृत्यु दर मॉडल की तरह टीबी मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा उन्मूलन में सहायता कर सकती है’

- Soumya Swaminathan emphasises the need to prioritise reducing TB deaths and prevalence and incidence of the disease.  
सौम्या स्वामीनाथन ने टीबी से होने वाली मौतों और बीमारी की प्रसारता और घटनाओं को कम करने को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता पर ज़ोर दिया,
- stating that finding gaps, addressing them, and having an ambitious plan need to be focused on;  
यह कहते हुए कि कमियों की पहचान, उन्हें दूर करना, और एक महत्वाकांक्षी योजना बनाना प्राथमिकता होनी चाहिए;
- our short-term focus, in the next National Strategic Plan, is to reduce TB mortality, she adds  
उन्होंने कहा कि अगली राष्ट्रीय रणनीतिक योजना में हमारा अल्पकालिक लक्ष्य टीबी मृत्यु दर को कम करना है।

#### TB Death Audit and India’s Elimination Goals

#### टीबी मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा और भारत के उन्मूलन लक्ष्य

- A detailed dissection of every tuberculosis-related death at the district level or a ‘TB death audit,’ much like the public health approach adopted by the Centre to reduce maternal deaths, will prove to be useful towards meeting India’s TB elimination goals, Soumya Swaminathan, Principal Advisor for the National TB Elimination Programme in India told The Hindu.  
जिले स्तर पर प्रत्येक टीबी से संबंधित मृत्यु का विस्तृत विश्लेषण या ‘टीबी मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा,’ जैसे कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा मातृ मृत्यु दर को कम करने के लिए अपनाई गई सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पद्धति, भारत के टीबी उन्मूलन लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगी, यह बात राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम की प्रधान सलाहकार सौम्या स्वामीनाथन ने द हिंदू को बताई।
- “Like COVID, TB is also a pandemic, but it has been around for a very long time.  
“कोविड की तरह, टीबी भी एक महामारी है, लेकिन यह बहुत लंबे समय से मौजूद है।
- It affects the poor and vulnerable in every country.  
यह हर देश में गरीबों और असहायों को प्रभावित करता है।
- Even one dengue death gets picked up immediately by the media, and gets reported.  
एक डेंगू मौत को भी मीडिया तुरंत उठाती है और रिपोर्ट करती है।
- Still, 800 to 900 people die every day of TB in the country, but the news of a TB death hardly ever makes it to the newspaper,” she said.  
फिर भी देश में हर दिन 800 से 900 लोग टीबी से मरते हैं, लेकिन टीबी से हुई मौत की खबर शायद ही कभी अखबारों में आती है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Dr. Swaminathan noted that among the challenges facing the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is the further reduction in TB mortality rates to meet the End TB and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets.  
डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने कहा कि राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम (NTEP) के सामने जो चुनौतियाँ हैं, उनमें से



एक है टीबी मृत्यु दर को और घटाना ताकि एंड टीबी और सतत विकास लक्ष्य (SDG) को पूरा किया जा सके।

- From an estimated **35 deaths per 1,00,000 population in 2015**, India has brought down this rate to **22 per 1,00,000**, according to the latest official data.  
2015 में प्रति 1,00,000 जनसंख्या पर अनुमानित 35 मौतों से भारत ने यह दर घटाकर 22 प्रति 1,00,000 कर दी है, यह नवीनतम आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार है।
- “However, we still have **case fatality rates** ranging from **5% to 10%** in different states.  
“हालांकि, अब भी विभिन्न राज्यों में मामले मृत्यु दर 5% से 10% के बीच है।
- These rates are higher for **drug-resistant TB**.  
ये दरें दवा प्रतिरोधी टीबी के मामलों में अधिक हैं।
- These deaths are mostly happening in the **economically-productive age group of 25 to 55 years**,” she said.  
ये मौतें मुख्यतः 25 से 55 वर्ष की आर्थिक रूप से उत्पादक आयु वर्ग में हो रही हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

### TB Death Audit

#### टीबी मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा

- India has significantly reduced its **maternal mortality rate (MMR)** by expanding the scope for **institutional delivery, better antenatal and postnatal care**, and by undertaking **district-wise maternal death audits which are headed by the district collectors**.  
भारत ने प्रसव संस्थागत सुविधा, बेहतर गर्भकालीन और प्रसवोत्तर देखभाल, और जिला-वार मातृ मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा, जो जिला कलेक्टरों की अध्यक्षता में होती है, के माध्यम से मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) को काफी कम किया है।
- “Everyone has to sit and explain why that [maternal] death happened and how it could have been prevented.  
“सभी को बैठकर यह बताना होता है कि वह [मातृ] मृत्यु क्यों हुई और इसे कैसे रोका जा सकता था।
- Can we adopt a similar approach for TB,” asked Dr. Swaminathan.  
क्या हम टीबी के लिए भी ऐसा ही तरीका अपना सकते हैं?” डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने पूछा।
- “The **District Collector** should be aware of how many **TB deaths** occur, and **non-programme partners** should be engaged in **audits of randomly selected cases**.  
“जिला कलेक्टर को यह जानकारी होनी चाहिए कि कितनी टीबी मौतें हो रही हैं, और गैर-कार्यक्रम साझेदारों को यादृच्छिक रूप से चुने गए मामलों की लेखा-परीक्षा में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।
- These could be **community medicine departments** of nearby **medical colleges** or **public health institutes**.  
ये नजदीकी मेडिकल कॉलेजों या जन स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों के सामुदायिक चिकित्सा विभाग हो सकते हैं।
- It should not be the **TB programme itself** that does the **death audits**.  
मृत्यु लेखा-परीक्षा टीबी कार्यक्रम द्वारा स्वयं नहीं की जानी चाहिए।
- **TB deaths should be presented, analysed along with reasons**, and the discussions could lead to **improvements in service delivery**”, she added.  
टीबी मौतों को प्रस्तुत, कारणों सहित विश्लेषित किया जाना चाहिए, और चर्चाएं सेवा वितरण में सुधार की दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकती हैं,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- The deaths are most likely caused by a **combination of complications due to TB**, along with **social and economic risk factors**.  
ये मौतें सबसे अधिक संभावना है कि टीबी से संबंधित जटिलताओं, के साथ-साथ सामाजिक और आर्थिक जोखिम कारकों के संयोजन के कारण हो रही हैं।



## Virtual TB Clinic and Patient Case Study वर्चुअल टीबी क्लिनिक और रोगी का उदाहरण

- Citing an example, Dr. Swaminathan said that **National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases** runs a ‘**difficult to treat**’ virtual TB clinic (using the **ECHO platform**), where cases are presented and discussed every month, for the benefit of doctors and nurses across the country.  
एक उदाहरण देते हुए डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने कहा कि **टीबी और श्वसन रोगों का राष्ट्रीय संस्थान ‘कठिन उपचार’ वर्चुअल टीबी क्लिनिक** (जिसमें **ECHO प्लेटफॉर्म** का उपयोग होता है) चलाता है, जहाँ हर महीने मामले प्रस्तुत किए जाते हैं और देश भर के डॉक्टरों व नर्सों के लाभ के लिए चर्चा की जाती है।
- The case of a **19-year-old** belonging to a **poor migrant family** who succumbed to TB in **Delhi** was presented.  
एक **19 वर्षीय** युवती का मामला प्रस्तुत किया गया, जो एक **गरीब प्रवासी परिवार** से थी और **दिल्ली** में टीबी से मर गई थी।
- **Her father had previously died of TB and her sister had also contracted the infection.**  
उसके पिता पहले **टीबी** से मर चुके थे और उसकी बहन को भी **संक्रमण हो गया था**।
- “They worked as **house maids** and had initially sought treatment with **private doctors.**  
“वे **घरेलू कामगार** के रूप में काम करती थीं और शुरू में **निजी डॉक्टरों** से इलाज कराया था।
- By the time she got admitted, she had **extensive bilateral TB** and was in **respiratory failure.**  
जब तक उसे भर्ती किया गया, तब तक उसे **द्विपार्श्वीय व्यापक टीबी** थी और वह **श्वसन विफलता** की स्थिति में थी।
- The fact that a **19-year-old girl died of drug sensitive TB** points to the need for every patient to be **notified and followed up** by the **TB programme.**  
यह तथ्य कि **19 वर्षीय युवती दवा-संवेदनशील टीबी** से मर गई, यह दर्शाता है कि हर मरीज को **टीबी कार्यक्रम द्वारा अधिसूचित और फॉलोअप** किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any number of such cases are occurring every day. Are we paying attention and trying to improve the system?”  
इस तरह के अनेक मामले हर दिन हो रहे हैं। क्या हम ध्यान दे रहे हैं और व्यवस्था में सुधार की कोशिश कर रहे हैं?”

## Tamil Nadu Model – TN-KET तमिलनाडु मॉडल – टीएन-केईटी

- **Tamil Nadu’s Kasanoi Erappila Thittam (TN-KET)** meaning ‘**TB death free project,**’ was jointly started by the **Indian Council of Medical Research’s National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE)** and the **State government** for all aged **15 years and older** with **drug-susceptible TB** notified by public facilities, with a goal **to reduce deaths by 30% in this group.**  
**तमिलनाडु का कसनोई एराप्पिला थिट्टम (टीएन-केईटी)** जिसका अर्थ है ‘**टीबी मृत्यु मुक्त परियोजना**’, को **भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR)** के **राष्ट्रीय महामारी विज्ञान संस्थान (NIE)** और **राज्य सरकार** द्वारा **15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के दवा-संवेदनशील टीबी मरीजों** के लिए शुरू किया गया, इसका लक्ष्य इस समूह में **मौतों को 30% तक कम करना** है।
- According to **NIE data**, during **April - June 2022**, **14,961 TB patients** were notified, out of which **11,599 (78%)** were triaged.  
**NIE आंकड़ों** के अनुसार **अप्रैल-जून 2022** के दौरान **14,961 टीबी मरीजों** की अधिसूचना हुई, जिनमें से **11,599 (78%)** की प्राथमिक जांच की गई।



- Of these, 1,509 (13%) were at high risk of severe illness.  
इनमें से 1,509 (13%) मरीजों को गंभीर बीमारी के उच्च जोखिम में पाया गया।
- Of these, 48% were severely undernourished, 50% had respiratory insufficiency, and 29% were unable to stand without support.  
इनमें से 48% गंभीर रूप से कुपोषित, 50% को श्वसन अपर्याप्तता थी और 29% बिना सहारे खड़े नहीं हो सकते थे।
- Of the 1,509 patients, 1,128 (75%) were assessed at a nodal inpatient care facility.  
1,509 मरीजों में से 1,128 (75%) की जांच नोडल रोगी देखभाल केंद्र पर की गई।
- Of these, 993 were confirmed as severely ill, and 909 (92%) were admitted.  
इनमें से 993 को गंभीर रूप से बीमार घोषित किया गया और 909 (92%) को भर्ती किया गया।
- Of those admitted, 4% patients succumbed to their illness.  
भर्ती किए गए मरीजों में से 4% मरीज अपनी बीमारी से मर गए।
- As a result of implementing TN-KET, Tamil Nadu now routinely captures BMI data for all adults with TB (notified from public facilities).  
टीएन-केईटी को लागू करने के परिणामस्वरूप तमिलनाडु अब नियमित रूप से सभी वयस्क टीबी मरीजों का BMI डेटा रिकॉर्ड करता है (जो सार्वजनिक संस्थानों से अधिसूचित होते हैं)।

### Co-Morbidities and Regional Challenges सह-रुग्णता और क्षेत्रीय चुनौतियाँ

- In the southern States, people have co-morbidities such as diabetes and alcoholism, and in the north, there is severe malnutrition and severe anaemia, Dr. Swaminathan observed.  
डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने बताया कि दक्षिणी राज्यों में लोगों को मधुमेह और मद्यपान जैसी सह-रुग्णताएं होती हैं, जबकि उत्तर भारत में गंभीर कुपोषण और गंभीर एनीमिया पाया जाता है।
- In any case, every TB patient must be clinically evaluated for co-morbidities and risk factors, and these should be treated too.  
किसी भी स्थिति में हर टीबी मरीज की सह-रुग्णताओं और जोखिम कारकों के लिए क्लिनिकल जांच होनी चाहिए और उनका इलाज भी किया जाना चाहिए।

### Need for Focused Strategy and National Strategic Plan केंद्रित रणनीति और राष्ट्रीय रणनीतिक योजना की आवश्यकता

- Dr. Swaminathan pressed on the need to prioritise reducing TB deaths, along with reducing prevalence and incidence of the disease.  
डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने कहा कि टीबी मौतों को कम करने को प्राथमिकता देना आवश्यक है, साथ ही बीमारी की प्रचलन दर और घटनाओं की दर को भी कम करना जरूरी है।
- “China has a death rate of 3 per 1,00,000 from TB, while India has a death rate of 22 per 1,00,000.  
“चीन में टीबी से मृत्यु दर 3 प्रति 1,00,000 है, जबकि भारत में यह 22 प्रति 1,00,000 है।
- We need to find gaps, address them, and have an ambitious plan,” she said.  
हमें कमियाँ ढूंढनी, उन्हें दूर करना और एक महत्वाकांक्षी योजना बनानी होगी,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “Our short-term focus, in the next National Strategic Plan, is to reduce TB mortality.  
“हमारी अगली राष्ट्रीय रणनीतिक योजना में लघु अवधि का लक्ष्य टीबी मृत्यु दर को कम करना है।
- Incidence reduction will take time, whatever we do, because we don’t have a highly efficacious vaccine.



घटनाओं में कमी समय लेगी, चाहे हम कुछ भी करें, क्योंकि हमारे पास बहुत प्रभावशाली वैक्सीन नहीं है।

- Unless we start **finding everyone and treating them**, we will not have a **rapid incidence reduction**,” she adds.

जब तक हम हर मरीज को ढूँढकर इलाज शुरू नहीं करते, तब तक घटनाओं में तेज़ी से कमी नहीं हो सकती,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

**Sub-Clinical TB and Need for X-ray Screening**

**सब-क्लिनिकल टीबी और एक्स-रे स्क्रीनिंग की आवश्यकता**

- Dr. Swaminathan said that the **National TB Prevalence Survey and State-specific Prevalence Surveys in Gujarat, Rajasthan** reveal that **sub-clinical TB** accounts for **40% to 50% of cases**. डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने कहा कि गुजरात और राजस्थान में राष्ट्रीय टीबी प्रसार सर्वेक्षण और राज्य-विशिष्ट प्रसार सर्वेक्षणों से पता चलता है कि सब-क्लिनिकल टीबी 40% से 50% मामलों के लिए ज़िम्मेदार है।
- “Which means, you will not pick them up with **symptom screening** and our **national programme** was entirely based on **symptom screening**.

“इसका मतलब है कि आप उन्हें **लक्षण-आधारित जांच** से नहीं पकड़ सकते, जबकि हमारा **राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम** पूरी तरह से **लक्षण-आधारित जांच** पर आधारित था।

- So, we were straightaway **missing half of the active TB** in population,” she said. इसलिए, हम सीधे तौर पर **जनसंख्या में सक्रिय टीबी के आधे मामलों को खो रहे थे**,” उन्होंने कहा।
- According to her, the solution is to have **widespread use of X-ray** backed up by an **AI algorithm**.

उनके अनुसार, समाधान है कि **एक्स-रे का व्यापक उपयोग** किया जाए जिसे **एआई एल्गोरिदम** द्वारा समर्थित किया जाए।

- “The **hand-held X-ray technology with AI** is green lighted by the **World Health Organization (WHO), STOP TB Partnership and ICMR**.

“हैंडहेल्ड एक्स-रे तकनीक जो **एआई** से युक्त है, उसे **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO), STOP TB पार्टनरशिप और ICMR** द्वारा **स्वीकृति** मिल चुकी है।

- In fact, **six government hospitals in Mumbai** applied **X-ray screening** and their **case notifications** went up by **10% to 12%**,” she stated. वास्तव में, **मुंबई के छह सरकारी अस्पतालों ने एक्स-रे जांच लागू की और उनकी मामलों की अधिसूचना में 10% से 12% की वृद्धि हुई**,” उन्होंने कहा।

**Upfront Molecular Testing and Household Screening**

**प्रारंभिक आणविक परीक्षण और परिवार स्तर की जांच**

- **Upfront molecular testing** until last year in India was **30%**. भारत में पिछले वर्ष तक **प्रारंभिक आणविक परीक्षण 30%** था।
- The **100-day TB elimination campaign** aimed at strengthening **diagnostics and linkage to treatment**, as well as efforts by **CTD** to expand upfront molecular testing should pay dividends this year, she added.

**100-दिवसीय टीबी उन्मूलन अभियान** का उद्देश्य **निदान और उपचार से जोड़ने** की व्यवस्था को मजबूत करना था, और **CTD** के प्रयासों से **प्रारंभिक आणविक परीक्षण** को विस्तार देने की कोशिश की गई है, जो इस वर्ष लाभकारी हो सकती है, उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- **Upfront molecular testing** involves offering **tests which can pick up TB** as well as **drug-resistance** to TB bacteria, leading to **accurate treatment**, which improves chances of the **patient’s recovery**.



प्रारंभिक आणविक परीक्षण में टीबी का पता लगाने वाले परीक्षण और टीबी बैक्टीरिया की दवा-प्रतिरोध क्षमता का मूल्यांकन शामिल है, जिससे सटीक इलाज संभव होता है और मरीज के ठीक होने की संभावना बढ़ती है।

- **Screening of household contacts** should be made convenient as they cannot be expected to spend days in going and getting themselves screened.  
परिवार के संपर्कों की जांच को सुविधाजनक बनाया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि उनसे यह अपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती कि वे कई दिन जांच के लिए खर्च करें।
- This can happen now with the **highly portable handheld X-ray devices** which many States have started using.  
अब यह संभव है क्योंकि कई राज्यों ने अत्यधिक पोर्टेबल हैंडहेल्ड एक्स-रे उपकरण का उपयोग शुरू कर दिया है।

### The Crucial Role of Nutrition पोषण की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका

- She also emphasised on providing **good nutrition** to TB patients and their families.  
उन्होंने टीबी मरीजों और उनके परिवारों को अच्छा पोषण उपलब्ध कराने पर जोर दिया।
- “The **RATIONS trials** led by **Anurag Bhargava** in **Jharkhand** among a population with **BMI as low as 16 and 17** has demonstrated that **almost 50% secondary household cases** could be prevented just by providing **good nutritional support**.  
“झारखंड में **अनुराग भार्गव** द्वारा किए गए **RATIONS ट्रायल्स** में देखा गया कि जिन लोगों का **BMI 16 और 17** जितना कम था, वहां लगभग **50% द्वितीयक घरेलू मामले** सिर्फ **अच्छे पोषण समर्थन** से रोके जा सकते थे।
- We don't yet have a **vaccine with 50% efficacy** so if we give **adequate calories and protein**, it acts like **natural protector from bacteria**.”  
हमारे पास अभी **50% प्रभावशीलता वाला टीका** नहीं है, इसलिए अगर हम पर्याप्त कैलोरी और प्रोटीन दें, तो यह **प्राकृतिक जीवाणु रक्षक** की तरह कार्य करता है।”

### Nikshay Mitra and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) निक्षय मित्र और प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT)

- Commenting on the **Nikshay Mitra Programme** floated by the Centre for **nutrition support to TB patients**, Dr. Swaminathan said that while the **goal was laudable**, its success depends on **volunteers coming forward to donate nutrition support** and this may not be **uniform across all geographies**.  
केंद्र द्वारा शुरू किए गए **टीबी मरीजों के लिए पोषण समर्थन हेतु निक्षय मित्र कार्यक्रम** पर टिप्पणी करते हुए डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने कहा कि इसका **लक्ष्य सराहनीय** है, लेकिन इसकी सफलता इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि **स्वयंसेवक पोषण सहायता के लिए आगे आएंगे**, और यह **सभी क्षेत्रों में समान रूप से** नहीं हो सकता।
- “Also, the ability to **deliver it [nutritional support]** may be **limited in remote areas**,” she emphasised.  
“इसके अलावा, इसे **दूरदराज के इलाकों में पहुंचाने की क्षमता भी सीमित** हो सकती है,” उन्होंने जोर दिया।
- The government's move to **double the amount** meted out under the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** — (an earlier amount of **₹500 per month** provided to TB patients during treatment, has



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

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SS Paper III: Disaster Management

## Bridge too far

A regular audit of all major infrastructure projects is a must

**I**n July 9, a span of a 40-year-old bridge in Vadodara in Gujarat caved in, sending half-a-dozen vehicles into the Mahisagar river below. On Thursday, 18 people were confirmed dead. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has ordered an investigation into the cause, which locals have alleged to be the long-standing neglect by local authorities. On June 15, an iron pedestrian bridge over the Indrayani river in Pune district collapsed due to overloading, leaving four dead. In May, a concrete slab being hoisted by a crane at the site of the construction of a bridge over the Kathajodi river in Cuttack fell on workers below, killing three. Similarly, in 2024, the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse in Mumbai resulted in 17 fatalities. And in 2023, there were more accidents – a girder failure at an under-construction railway bridge in Mizoram left 26 workers dead; a rooftop billboard collapse killed two women in Lucknow; and a pillar collapse at a metro construction site in Bengaluru killed a mother and her toddler. In 2022, the Morbi suspension bridge over the Machchhu river, again in Gujarat, failed, killing more than 140 people. These are only some of the hundreds of incidents involving the catastrophic failure of public infrastructure. They are accompanied by road accidents and deadly fires in crowded areas, both of which regularly claim many lives.

Even if they are isolated, they are not entirely accidental: they are symptoms of India's ageing infrastructure that is being tested, especially in peri-urban areas, as industrial growth and urban populations expand. Facilities such as bridges, roads and hospitals that were designed for some number of users, are progressively giving way under the weight of more. So also are the departments responsible for their upkeep, many of which remain underfunded, understaffed or complacent. While the authorities have ordered investigations into these incidents, few have yielded failure analysis reports into the public domain. Some also prompted audits but they were restricted to infrastructure of the same type. Given the evident ubiquity of the problem, India must modify asset-creating initiatives such as the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund to have additional priorities and adjust the incentives of rehabilitative schemes such as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation to help regularly maintain ageing urban assets in all centres, with greater frequency in those peopled by 10 lakh or more. Second, while baseline audit frameworks for municipal bridges exist, they must be enforced more uniformly and transparently. Finally, until then, accidents must trigger a probe by a statutory body plus a mandatory audit of all major infrastructure, and States must endeavour to publish the findings at the earliest.

now been increased to ₹1000) would go a long way towards meeting the patients nutritional needs, and more research is needed in ways to improve the family's nutritional status, wherever needed.

सरकार द्वारा प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) के तहत मात्रा को दोगुना करने — (पहले ₹500 प्रति माह दिया जाता था, जिसे अब ₹1000 कर दिया गया है) — से मरीजों की पोषण आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में मदद मिलेगी, और उन परिवारों की पोषण स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए और शोध की आवश्यकता है जहाँ ज़रूरत हो।

## Bridge too far बहुत दूर का पुल

A regular audit of all major infrastructure projects is a must. सभी प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं का नियमित ऑडिट करना अनिवार्य है।

- On July 9, a span of a 40-year-old bridge in Vadodara in Gujarat caved in, sending half-a-dozen vehicles into the Mahisagar river below.  
9 जुलाई को गुजरात के वडोदरा में 40 साल पुराने पुल का एक हिस्सा टूट गया, जिससे लगभग आधा दर्जन वाहन नीचे महिसागर नदी में गिर गए।
- On Thursday, 18 people were confirmed dead.  
गुरुवार को 18 लोगों की मृत्यु की पुष्टि हुई।
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has ordered an investigation into the cause, which locals have alleged to be the long-standing neglect by local authorities.  
मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र पटेल ने जांच के आदेश दिए हैं, स्थानीय लोगों का आरोप है कि यह स्थानीय प्रशासन की वर्षों से चली आ रही उपेक्षा के कारण हुआ।
- On June 15, an iron pedestrian bridge over the Indrayani river in Pune district collapsed due to overloading, leaving four dead.  
15 जून को पुणे जिले में इंद्रायणी नदी पर बना एक लोहे का पैदल पुल अत्यधिक भार के कारण गिर गया, जिससे चार लोगों की मौत हो गई।
- In May, a concrete slab being hoisted by a crane at a bridge construction site over the Kathajodi river in Cuttack fell on workers, killing three.  
मई में कटक में कठाजोड़ी नदी पर पुल निर्माण स्थल पर क्रेन से उठाई जा रही कंक्रीट की स्लैब गिर गई, जिससे तीन श्रमिकों की मौत हो गई।
- In 2024, the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse in Mumbai resulted in 17 fatalities.  
2024 में मुंबई के घाटकोपर में होर्डिंग गिरने की घटना में 17 लोगों की मौत हो गई।
- In 2023, more accidents occurred — a girder failure at an under-construction railway bridge in Mizoram killed 26 workers.

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2023 में और भी हादसे हुए — मिज़ोरम में एक निर्माणाधीन रेलवे पुल में गर्डर गिरने से 26 श्रमिकों की मौत हो गई।

- A rooftop billboard collapse killed two women in Lucknow; a pillar collapse at a metro construction site in Bengaluru killed a mother and her toddler.  
लखनऊ में छत पर लगे बिलबोर्ड गिरने से दो महिलाओं की मौत हुई; बेंगलुरु में मेट्रो निर्माण स्थल पर स्तंभ गिरने से एक मां और उसका बच्चा मारे गए।
- In 2022, the Morbi suspension bridge over the Machchhu river in Gujarat failed, killing more than 140 people.  
2022 में गुजरात की मच्छू नदी पर बना मोर्बी झूला पुल टूट गया, जिससे 140 से अधिक लोगों की मौत हो गई।
- These are only some of the hundreds of incidents involving the catastrophic failure of public infrastructure.  
ये सैकड़ों घटनाओं में से कुछ उदाहरण हैं, जिनमें सार्वजनिक बुनियादी ढांचे की विनाशकारी विफलता हुई।
- They are accompanied by road accidents and deadly fires in crowded areas, both of which regularly claim many lives.  
इनके साथ भीड़भाड़ वाले इलाकों में सड़क दुर्घटनाएं और घातक आग लगने की घटनाएं भी होती हैं, जो नियमित रूप से कई जानें लेती हैं।
- Even if they are isolated, they are not entirely accidental: they are symptoms of India's ageing infrastructure being tested, especially in peri-urban areas.  
भले ही ये घटनाएं अलग-थलग हों, लेकिन वे पूरी तरह से दुर्घटनावश नहीं हैं: ये भारत की जर्जर होती बुनियादी ढांचे के परीक्षण का परिणाम हैं, विशेष रूप से शहरी किनारे के क्षेत्रों में। Bridges, roads, and hospitals designed for a specific number of users are giving way under increased pressure.  
पुल, सड़कें और अस्पताल, जो एक निश्चित संख्या के उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए बनाए गए थे, अधिक दबाव में जर्जर हो रहे हैं।
- Departments responsible for upkeep are often underfunded, understaffed, or complacent.  
रख-रखाव के लिए जिम्मेदार विभाग अक्सर अपर्याप्त फंड, कमी वाले स्टाफ, या लापरवाही से ग्रस्त रहते हैं।
- Investigations are ordered, but few failure analysis reports enter the public domain.  
जांच के आदेश दिए जाते हैं, लेकिन बहुत कम विफलता विश्लेषण रिपोर्टें सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में आती हैं।
- Some prompted audits, but these were limited to the same type of infrastructure.  
कुछ मामलों में ऑडिट हुए, लेकिन वे केवल उसी प्रकार की अवसंरचना तक सीमित थे।
- India must modify asset-creating initiatives such as the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund, adding new priorities.  
भारत को शहरी बुनियादी ढांचा विकास निधि जैसी संपत्ति निर्माण योजनाओं में नए प्राथमिकता क्षेत्रों को जोड़ना चाहिए।
- Rehabilitative schemes such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) must help maintain ageing urban assets, especially in cities with 10 lakh+ population.  
अटल मिशन फॉर रीजुवनेशन एंड अर्बन ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन (AMRUT) जैसी पुनर्वास योजनाओं को पुराने शहरी ढांचों का रखरखाव करना चाहिए, खासकर 10 लाख से अधिक जनसंख्या वाले शहरों में।
- Baseline audit frameworks for municipal bridges exist, but they must be enforced uniformly and transparently.



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नगरपालिका पुलों के लिए मूलभूत ऑडिट ढांचे मौजूद हैं, लेकिन उन्हें समान रूप से और पारदर्शिता के साथ लागू किया जाना चाहिए।

- Until then, **accidents must trigger a probe** by a **statutory body** and a **mandatory audit** of all **major infrastructure**.

तब तक, हर हादसे के बाद एक वैधानिक निकाय द्वारा जांच और सभी प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचे का अनिवार्य ऑडिट किया जाना चाहिए।

- States must **publish the findings** at the **earliest**.

राज्य सरकारों को जांच की रिपोर्टों को शीघ्रता से प्रकाशित करना चाहिए।

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## Google unveils AI innovations to make agri practices more data-driven, efficient

IGS Paper III: S&T

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Google on Thursday unveiled new open-source AI innovations and initiatives aimed at strengthening India's agriculture sector and making AI models more sensitive to India's linguistic and cultural diversity.

The company unveiled the **Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) API** that provides information on crops and field activity across India, empowering the ecosystem to build targeted solutions that support agricultural productivity and resilience.

Researchers at Google DeepMind have also collaborated with IIT-Kharagpur to build localised datasets on India's rich cultural tapestry as part of Google's Amplify Initiative.

### Foundational research

"At Google, along with charting new frontiers in foundational AI, which forms the backbone of many of our launches in the Gemini era, we have continued advancing fundamental research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity," Dr. Manish Gupta, Senior Director for India and APAC at Google DeepMind said at a roundtable in Ananta, Google's office in Bengaluru.

According to Alok Talekar, lead, agriculture and sustainability research Google DeepMind, with AI research and especially with AMED building on the foundation of Agricultural Landscape Understanding, Google was working on ac-



Google DeepMind researchers have tied up with IIT-Kharagpur to build localised datasets.

celerating crucial shifts, transforming broad insights to granular, real-time data, so that increasingly impactful solutions not only translate into benefit for India's farmers, but also bolster the nation against rising climate risks.

Madhurima Maji, lead program manager, Amplify Initiative for India at Google said, AI models could be even more helpful with a deeper understanding of the vastness and complexity of the lived human experience. "Through the Amplify Initiative, we are meticulously building the rich, hyperlocal context and cultural understanding that transforms raw information into profound knowledge. So that any and every Large Language Model can be fundamentally helpful and genuinely relevant to diverse realities," he added.

Dr. Mainack Mandal, Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur said, "We've been inspired by the results this initiative has achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa, and look forward to ensuring the groundwork we lay here translates into AI that is more responsive to India's incredible plurality."

## Google's New AI Initiatives for India's Agriculture and Cultural Diversity भारत के कृषि और सांस्कृतिक विविधता के लिए गूगल की नई एआई पहलें

• Google on Thursday unveiled new open-source AI innovations and initiatives aimed at strengthening India's agriculture sector and making AI models more sensitive to India's linguistic and cultural diversity.

गुरुवार को Google ने नए ओपन-सोर्स एआई नवाचारों और पहलों का अनावरण किया, जिनका उद्देश्य भारत के कृषि क्षेत्र को सशक्त बनाना और एआई मॉडलों को भारत की भाषाई और सांस्कृतिक विविधता के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील बनाना है।

• The company unveiled the Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) API that provides information on crops and field activity across India, empowering the ecosystem to build targeted solutions that support agricultural productivity and resilience.

कंपनी ने एग्रीकल्चरल मॉनिटरिंग एंड इवेंट डिटेक्शन (AMED) API का अनावरण किया, जो पूरे भारत में फसलों और खेतों की गतिविधियों की जानकारी प्रदान करता है, जिससे पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को कृषि उत्पादकता और लचीलापन बढ़ाने के लिए लक्षित समाधान बनाने में सशक्त बनाया जा सके।

• Researchers at Google DeepMind have also collaborated with IIT-Kharagpur to build localised datasets on India's rich cultural tapestry as part of Google's Amplify Initiative.

Google DeepMind के शोधकर्ताओं ने IIT-खड़गपुर के साथ मिलकर भारत की समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विविधता पर स्थानीयकृत डेटा सेट बनाने के लिए सहयोग किया है, जो Google की Amplify Initiative का हिस्सा है।

### Foundational Research मौलिक अनुसंधान

• "At Google, along with charting new frontiers in foundational AI, which forms the backbone of many of our launches in the Gemini era, we have continued advancing fundamental research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity," Dr. Manish Gupta, Senior Director for India and APAC at Google DeepMind said at a roundtable in Ananta, Google's office in Bengaluru.

"Google में, मौलिक एआई के क्षेत्र में नई सीमाओं का अन्वेषण करने के साथ-साथ, जो Gemini युग के कई लॉन्च का मूल आधार है, हम मानवता के सामने आने वाली सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को संबोधित करने वाले मौलिक अनुसंधान को लगातार आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं," यह बात डॉ. मनीष गुप्ता, सीनियर



डायरेक्टर, India और APAC, Google DeepMind ने बेंगलुरु स्थित Google के अनंता कार्यालय में एक गोलमेज बैठक में कही।

- According to Alok Talekar, lead, agriculture and sustainability research Google DeepMind, with AI research and especially with AMED building on the foundation of Agricultural Landscape Understanding, Google was working on accelerating crucial shifts, transforming broad insights to granular, real-time data, so that increasingly impactful solutions not only translate into benefit for India's farmers, but also bolster the nation against rising climate risks.

**आलोक तालेकर**, लीड - कृषि और स्थिरता अनुसंधान, Google DeepMind के अनुसार, **एआई अनुसंधान** और विशेष रूप से AMED, जो **Agricultural Landscape Understanding** पर आधारित है, के माध्यम से Google महत्वपूर्ण बदलावों को तेज करने, **व्यापक अंतर्दृष्टियों को सूक्ष्म, वास्तविक-समय डेटा में बदलने** पर काम कर रहा है, ताकि प्रभावशाली समाधान न केवल **भारत के किसानों को लाभ** पहुंचाएं बल्कि **जलवायु जोखिमों के विरुद्ध देश को मजबूत** भी करें।

### Amplify Initiative for Cultural Understanding

#### सांस्कृतिक समझ के लिए Amplify Initiative

- Madhurima Maji, lead program manager, Amplify Initiative for India at Google said, AI models could be even more helpful with a deeper understanding of the vastness and complexity of the lived human experience.

**मधुरिमा माजी**, प्रोग्राम मैनेजर, **Amplify Initiative for India**, Google ने कहा कि एआई मॉडल **मानव अनुभव की विशालता और जटिलता** की गहरी समझ के साथ और भी अधिक सहायक हो सकते हैं।

- "Through the Amplify Initiative, we are meticulously building the rich, hyperlocal context and cultural understanding that transforms raw information into profound knowledge. So that any and every Large Language Model can be fundamentally helpful and genuinely relevant to diverse realities," he added.

"Amplify Initiative के माध्यम से हम **समृद्ध, हाइपरलोकल संदर्भ और सांस्कृतिक समझ** को सावधानीपूर्वक विकसित कर रहे हैं जो **कच्ची जानकारी को गहन ज्ञान में बदल** देता है। ताकि **हर बड़ा भाषा मॉडल** मूल रूप से सहायक और **विभिन्न वास्तविकताओं के लिए प्रासंगिक** हो सके," उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- Dr. Mainack Mandal, Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur said, "We've been inspired by the results this initiative has achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa, and look forward to ensuring the groundwork we lay here translates into AI that is more responsive to India's incredible plurality."

**डॉ. मैनक मंडल**, असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर, **IIT खड़गपुर** ने कहा, "हम इस पहल के **उप-सहारा अफ्रीका में प्राप्त परिणामों से प्रेरित** हुए हैं और आशा करते हैं कि हम यहां जो **आधारशिला रख रहे हैं**, वह ऐसे एआई में परिवर्तित हो जो **भारत की अद्भुत बहुलता के प्रति अधिक उत्तरदायी** हो।"



## Trump threatens 500% tariff on countries importing oil from Russia

ISS Paper III: Energy Sector

Rishi Ranjan Kala

NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump has endorsed a Bill that proposes a 500% tariff on countries importing oil from Russia, a development that can disrupt India's crude oil supplies.

India's crude oil purchases from Russia has risen from less than 2% of total imports in 2022 to as high as 40% in a couple of years. In FY25, Russia accounted for 35% of India's total crude oil imports.

Responding to reports on further sanctions on Russian crude, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri explained that Russian oil was never under global sanctions. Sensible decision-makers around the world were aware of the realities of global oil supply chains and how India was only helping global markets by buying discounted oil under a price cap from wherever it can.

"Russia is one of the largest crude producers with an output of over 9 million barrels/day. Imagine the chaos if this oil, amounting to about 10% of the global oil supply of around 97 million, vanishes from the market. It will force the world to reduce its consumption, and as consumers will be chasing reduced supplies, the prices would've spiralled to over \$120-130/barrel," the Minister said on X.

Any disruption of the Russia oil trade will not only jeopardise India's energy security but also lead to a higher import bill and possibly a higher current account deficit (CAD).

**India's oil purchases from Russia has risen from less than 2% of total imports in 2022 to as high as 40%**

About the proposed Bill, Trump told reporters during a Cabinet briefing on Tuesday: "I'm looking at it. It's an optional Bill. It's totally at my option. They pass it totally at my option and terminate it totally at my option, and I'm looking at it very strongly."

Mr. Trump's comments came even as last week, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said he had shared India's concerns with Republican Senator Lindsey Graham over the Bill - Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025. "I think our concerns and our interests in energy security have been made conversant to him," he had said in Washington, DC on July 2.

In April 2025, Senators Lindsey Graham (Republican-South Carolina) and Richard Blumenthal (Democrat-Connecticut) led 50 U.S. Senators - evenly divided by party affiliation - to introduce primary and secondary sanctions against Russia and actors supporting Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

These sanctions would be imposed if Russia refuses to engage in good faith negotiations for a lasting peace with Ukraine or initiates another effort, including military invasion, that undermines the sovereignty of Ukraine after peace is negotiated.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

## U.S. President Donald Trump's Endorsement of 500% Tariff on Russian Oil Imports अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा रूसी तेल आयात पर 500% शुल्क के समर्थन की घोषणा

• U.S. President Donald Trump has endorsed a Bill that proposes a 500% tariff on countries importing oil from Russia, a development that can disrupt India's crude oil supplies.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने एक विधेयक का समर्थन किया है जिसमें रूस से तेल आयात करने वाले देशों पर 500% शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव है, जो भारत की कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति को बाधित कर सकता है।

• India's crude oil purchases from Russia has risen from less than 2% in 2022 to as high as 40% in a couple of years.

भारत का रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीदना 2022 में 2% से भी कम था, जो कुछ वर्षों में 40% तक पहुंच गया है।

• In FY25, Russia accounted for 35% of India's total crude oil imports. FY25 में, रूस ने भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल आयात में 35% हिस्सेदारी निभाई।

• Responding to reports on further sanctions on Russian crude, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri explained that Russian oil was never under global sanctions.

तेल मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने रूसी कच्चे तेल पर आगे प्रतिबंधों की रिपोर्टों पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए कहा कि रूसी तेल कभी भी वैश्विक प्रतिबंधों के दायरे में नहीं था।

• Sensible decision-makers around the world were aware of the realities of global oil supply chains and how India was only helping global markets by buying discounted oil under a price cap from wherever it can.

दुनियाभर के समझदार नीति-निर्माता वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं की वास्तविकताओं से अवगत हैं और समझते हैं कि भारत मूल्य सीमा के तहत सस्ता तेल खरीदकर वैश्विक बाजारों की मदद कर रहा है।

• "Russia is one of the largest crude producers with an output of over 9 million barrels/day.

"रूस दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा कच्चा तेल उत्पादक है, जिसकी उत्पादन क्षमता 9 मिलियन बैरल/दिन से अधिक है।"

• Imagine the chaos if this oil, amounting to about 10% of the global oil supply of around 97 million, vanishes from the market.

सोचिए कि यदि यह तेल, जो लगभग 97 मिलियन बैरल/दिन की वैश्विक आपूर्ति का 10% है, बाजार से गायब हो जाए तो क्या अराजकता होगी।

• It will force the world to reduce its consumption, and as consumers will be chasing reduced supplies, the prices would've spiralled to over \$120-130/barrel," the Minister said on X.

इससे दुनिया को अपनी खपत कम करनी पड़ेगी, और उपभोक्ता जब घटती आपूर्ति का पीछा करेंगे तो कीमतें \$120-130/बैरल तक पहुंच जाएंगी," मंत्री ने X पर कहा।



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- Any disruption of the **Russia oil trade** will not only **jeopardise India's energy security** but also lead to a **higher import bill** and possibly a **higher current account deficit (CAD)**.  
रूस के तेल व्यापार में किसी भी तरह की बाधा भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को खतरे में डाल सकती है, साथ ही आयात बिल बढ़ा सकती है और चालू खाता घाटा (CAD) को भी प्रभावित कर सकती है।

### Trump's Statement and Bill Status

#### ट्रंप का बयान और विधेयक की स्थिति

- About the proposed Bill, **Trump** told reporters during a **Cabinet briefing on Tuesday**: "I'm looking at it. It's an optional Bill. It's totally at my option.  
प्रस्तावित विधेयक के बारे में, ट्रंप ने मंगलवार को कैबिनेट ब्रीफिंग के दौरान पत्रकारों से कहा: "मैं इसे देख रहा हूँ। यह एक वैकल्पिक विधेयक है। यह पूरी तरह से मेरे विकल्प पर आधारित है।"
- They pass it totally at my option and terminate it totally at my option, and I'm looking at it very strongly."  
इसे पारित करना और समाप्त करना पूरी तरह से मेरे निर्णय पर निर्भर है, और मैं इसे गंभीरता से देख रहा हूँ।

### India's Diplomatic Response

#### भारत की राजनयिक प्रतिक्रिया

- Mr. Trump's comments came even as last week, **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** said he had shared **India's concerns** with **Republican Senator Lindsey Graham** over the Bill — **Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025**.  
ट्रंप की टिप्पणियाँ ऐसे समय आई हैं जब पिछले सप्ताह, **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर** ने कहा कि उन्होंने इस विधेयक — **Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025** — पर **भारत की चिंताओं को रिपब्लिकन सीनेटर लिंगसे ग्राहम** के साथ साझा किया है।
- "I think our concerns and our interests in energy security have been made conversant to him," he had said in **Washington, DC on July 2**.  
"मुझे लगता है कि ऊर्जा सुरक्षा से संबंधित हमारी चिंताओं और हितों को उनके सामने स्पष्ट रूप से रखा गया है," उन्होंने 2 जुलाई को वाशिंगटन डी.सी. में कहा।

### U.S. Legislative Push Against Russia

#### अमेरिका की रूस के खिलाफ विधायी पहल

- In **April 2025**, Senators **Lindsey Graham (Republican-South Carolina)** and **Richard Blumenthal (Democrat-Connecticut)** led **50 U.S. Senators** – evenly divided by party affiliation – to introduce **primary and secondary sanctions** against Russia and actors supporting Russia's aggression in Ukraine.  
अप्रैल 2025 में, सीनेटर लिंगसे ग्राहम (रिपब्लिकन-साउथ कैरोलिना) और रिचर्ड ब्लूमथल (डेमोक्रेट-कनेक्टिकट) ने 50 अमेरिकी सीनेटरों (दोनों दलों के बराबर संख्या में) का नेतृत्व करते हुए **रूस और यूक्रेन में उसकी आक्रामकता का समर्थन करने वालों पर प्राथमिक और द्वितीयक प्रतिबंधों** की पहल की।
- These sanctions would be imposed if **Russia refuses to engage in good faith negotiations** for a lasting peace with Ukraine or initiates another effort, including **military invasion**, that undermines the **sovereignty of Ukraine** after peace is negotiated.

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ये प्रतिबंध तब लागू किए जाएंगे यदि रूस यूक्रेन के साथ स्थायी शांति के लिए ईमानदार बातचीत करने से इनकार करता है या यदि वह सैन्य आक्रमण सहित कोई और प्रयास करता है, जिससे यूक्रेन की संप्रभुता को खतरा पहुंचे।

## Indonesian firm catches coolants to stop global warming

GS Paper III: S&T

Agence France-Presse  
JAKARTA

In the basement of a Jakarta housing complex, surrounded by the silver piping of the air-conditioning system, Indonesian technician Ari Sobaruddin is doing his part to tackle climate change.

Mr. Ari and his colleagues will spend 12 hours capturing AC refrigerant to stop this "super-pollutant" -- thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide -- from leaking into the atmosphere.

It is plodding, sweaty work, but Ari, a member of climate start-up Recoilit, does not mind.

"I love it because it's about preserving nature, saving nature," the 30-year-old technician told AFP. Recoilit began working in Indonesia in 2021 to



**Leak check:** Ari Sobaruddin of Recoilit, checking AC refrigerant stored in cylinders at the company's warehouse in Jakarta. AFP

tackle what it considers an often-overlooked contributor to climate change: refrigerants.

These gases found in air-conditioners, fridges and cars are an old environmental problem.

In the 1970s, research showed refrigerants called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were destroying the

ozone layer. Countries agreed to phase them out under a deal that came into force in 1989.

While their replacements, particularly hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are less harmful to the ozone layer, they still have major climate warming properties. "And those are in AC units, in the form of refrigerant banks... everywhere in developing countries right now," said Recoilit's head of operations Yosaka Eka Putranta.

### 'Growing problem'

There are international agreements to phase out HFCs too, but, particularly in developing countries, they will be in use for decades yet.

Demand is increasing as climate change fuels record temperatures and expanding middle classes seek cooling and refrigeration. "It is a growing problem because we need our indoor environments to be more resilient to climate change," said Robyn Schofield, associate professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of Melbourne.

HFCs are expected to account for between 7 and

19% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, according to the United Nations.

The risk comes during maintenance or disposal, when refrigerants like the HFC Ari is capturing can be released accidentally or on purpose. In Indonesia, as in most countries, this venting is illegal, but enforcement is limited.

"It's odourless, we cannot trace it. (Capturing) it takes so much resources. The machine, the people," said Recoilit's senior business development manager Erik Cahyanta.

"So some people just release it." Recoilit trains, equips and incentivises technicians to capture refrigerant so it can be destroyed.

Technicians get 50,000 rupiah (\$3) per kilogram of recovered refrigerant, which Recoilit sends to a

government-approved cement kiln or municipal incinerator to be destroyed.

While refrigerant can be recycled or reused, Recoilit argues this is imperfect.

"Who's going to guarantee that when the refrigerants are injected again... they are going to stay there without another venting?" said Yosaka. Recoilit sells carbon credits based on the amount of refrigerant it destroys, priced at \$75 a unit. Carbon credits have faced criticism in recent years, and Benja Faecks of Carbon Market Watch warned that "offsetting" can give the impression "that emissions can simply be erased through financial transactions".

Recoilit argues its carbon credits are robust because it measurably destroys a climate-warming gas.

## Efforts to Capture Refrigerant in Indonesia's Fight Against Climate Change

### जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ इंडोनेशिया के प्रयासों में रेफ्रिजरेंट कैप्चर

- In the basement of a Jakarta housing complex, surrounded by the silver piping of the air-conditioning system, Indonesian technician Ari Sobaruddin is doing his part to tackle climate change.

जकार्ता के एक हाउसिंग कॉम्प्लेक्स के बेसमेंट में, एयर-कंडीशनिंग सिस्टम की सिल्वर पाइपिंग के बीच, इंडोनेशियाई तकनीशियन अरि सोबरुद्दीन जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने के लिए अपना योगदान दे रहे हैं।

- Mr. Ari and his colleagues will spend 12 hours capturing AC refrigerant to stop this "super-pollutant" -- thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide -- from leaking into the atmosphere.

श्री अरि और उनके सहयोगी 12 घंटे तक एसी रेफ्रिजरेंट को कैप्चर करने में लगेगे ताकि यह "सुपर-प्रदूषक" -- जो कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड से हजारों गुना अधिक शक्तिशाली है -- वायुमंडल में रिसने से रोका जा सके।



- It is plodding, sweaty work, but Ari, a member of climate start-up Recoolit, does not mind. यह धीमा और पसीने से भीगा हुआ कार्य है, लेकिन क्लाइमेट स्टार्टअप Recoolit से जुड़े अरि को इससे कोई परेशानी नहीं है।
- “I love it because it’s about preserving nature, saving nature,” the 30-year-old technician told AFP. “मुझे यह पसंद है क्योंकि यह प्रकृति को संरक्षित करने और बचाने से जुड़ा है,” 30 वर्षीय तकनीशियन ने AFP को बताया।
- Recoolit began working in Indonesia in 2021 to tackle what it considers an often-overlooked contributor to climate change: refrigerants. Recoolit ने 2021 में इंडोनेशिया में काम शुरू किया ताकि वह जलवायु परिवर्तन के अक्सर उपेक्षित कारण: रेफ्रिजरेंट्स से निपट सके।
- These gases found in air-conditioners, fridges and cars are an old environmental problem. ये गैसें जो एसी, फ्रिज और कारों में पाई जाती हैं, एक पुरानी पर्यावरणीय समस्या हैं।
- In the 1970s, research showed refrigerants called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were destroying the ozone layer. 1970 के दशक में, शोध में पाया गया कि क्लोरोफ्लोरोकार्बन (CFCs) नामक रेफ्रिजरेंट्स ओजोन परत को नष्ट कर रहे थे।
- Countries agreed to phase them out under a deal that came into force in 1989. देशों ने इन्हें चरणबद्ध रूप से समाप्त करने पर सहमति जताई, यह समझौता 1989 में लागू हुआ।
- While their replacements, particularly hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are less harmful to the ozone layer, they still have major climate warming properties. इनके स्थान पर आए हाइड्रोफ्लोरोकार्बन (HFCs), ओजोन परत के लिए कम हानिकारक हैं, लेकिन इनकी जलवायु को गर्म करने की क्षमता अभी भी काफी अधिक है।
- “And those are in AC units, in the form of refrigerant banks... everywhere in developing countries right now,” said Recoolit’s head of operations Yosaka Eka Putranta. “और ये रेफ्रिजरेंट्स एसी यूनिट्स में रेफ्रिजरेंट बैंक्स के रूप में विकासशील देशों में हर जगह मौजूद हैं,” Recoolit के ऑपरेशन्स प्रमुख योसाका एका पुट्रान्ता ने कहा।

### ‘Growing Problem’

#### ‘बढ़ती हुई समस्या’

- There are international agreements to phase out HFCs too, but, particularly in developing countries, they will be in use for decades yet. HFCs को चरणबद्ध रूप से समाप्त करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय समझौते हैं, लेकिन विशेष रूप से विकासशील देशों में ये अभी भी दशकों तक उपयोग में रहेंगे।
- Demand is increasing as climate change fuels record temperatures and expanding middle classes seek cooling and refrigeration. जलवायु परिवर्तन से रिकॉर्ड तोड़ तापमान बढ़ने के कारण और मध्यम वर्ग द्वारा कूलिंग व रेफ्रिजरेशन की मांग के चलते मांग बढ़ रही है।
- “It is a growing problem because we need our indoor environments to be more resilient to climate change,” said Robyn Schofield, associate professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of Melbourne. “यह एक बढ़ती समस्या है क्योंकि हमें अपने इनडोर वातावरण को जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रति अधिक अनुकूल बनाना होगा,” मेलबर्न विश्वविद्यालय की वायुमंडलीय रसायन विज्ञान की सहयोगी प्रोफेसर रॉबिन शोफील्ड ने कहा।



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- HFCs are expected to account for between 7 and 19% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, according to the United Nations.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अनुसार, HFCs से 2050 तक अनुमानित 7% से 19% ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन की उम्मीद है।

### Leakage and Regulation Issues

#### रिसाव और विनियमन से जुड़ी समस्याएं

- The risk comes during **maintenance or disposal**, when refrigerants like the HFC Ari is capturing can be released accidentally or on purpose.  
मेंटेनेंस या निपटान के दौरान अरि द्वारा कैप्चर किए जा रहे HFC जैसे रेफ्रिजरेंट्स के जानबूझकर या गलती से रिसाव की संभावना होती है।
- In **Indonesia**, as in most countries, this **venting is illegal**, but **enforcement is limited**.  
इंडोनेशिया में, जैसा कि अधिकांश देशों में होता है, इस **वेंटिंग को अवैध माना गया है**, लेकिन **प्रवर्तन सीमित है**।
- “It’s **odourless**, we cannot trace it. (Capturing) it takes so much resources. **The machine, the people**,” said Recoolit’s senior business development manager **Erik Cahyanta**.  
“यह **गंधहीन है**, हम इसका पता नहीं लगा सकते। इसे कैप्चर करने में **बहुत संसाधन लगते हैं – मशीन, लोग**,” Recoolit के वरिष्ठ व्यवसाय विकास प्रबंधक **एरिक काह्यान्ता** ने कहा।
- “So some people just **release it**.” Recoolit **trains, equips and incentivises technicians** to capture refrigerant so it can be destroyed.  
“इसलिए कुछ लोग बस **इसे छोड़ देते हैं**।” Recoolit **तकनीशियनों को प्रशिक्षित, उपकरण प्रदान करता है और प्रोत्साहित करता है** ताकि वे रेफ्रिजरेंट को कैप्चर कर सकें और उसे नष्ट किया जा सके।

### Destruction, Recycling & Carbon Credits

#### नष्ट करना, पुनर्चक्रण और कार्बन क्रेडिट

- Technicians get **50,000 rupiah (\$3) per kilogram** of recovered refrigerant, which Recoolit sends to a **government-approved cement kiln or municipal incinerator** to be destroyed.  
तकनीशियनों को **प्रति किलोग्राम 50,000 इंडोनेशियाई रुपिया (\$3)** मिलता है, जिसे Recoolit **सरकारी स्वीकृत सीमेंट भट्टी या नगर निगम के इनसिनरेटर** में नष्ट करने के लिए भेजता है।
- While refrigerant can be **recycled or reused**, Recoolit argues this is **imperfect**.  
हालांकि रेफ्रिजरेंट को **रिसायकल या पुनः उपयोग** किया जा सकता है, Recoolit का मानना है कि यह **अपूर्ण समाधान है**।
- “Who’s going to guarantee that when the refrigerants are injected again... they are going to stay there without another venting?” said **Yosaka**.  
“कौन सुनिश्चित करेगा कि जब रेफ्रिजरेंट्स को दोबारा इंजेक्ट किया जाएगा... तो वे **बिना किसी और रिसाव के वहीं रहेंगे**?” **योसाका** ने कहा।
- Recoolit sells **carbon credits based on the amount of refrigerant it destroys**, priced at **\$75 a unit**.  
Recoolit उस **रेफ्रिजरेंट की मात्रा** के आधार पर **कार्बन क्रेडिट बेचता है** जिसे वह नष्ट करता है, और इसकी कीमत **प्रति यूनिट \$75 है**।
- Carbon credits** have faced criticism in recent years, and **Benja Faecks of Carbon Market Watch** warned that “offsetting” can give the impression “that **emissions can simply be erased through financial transactions**”.

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कार्बन क्रेडिट को हाल के वर्षों में आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ा है, और कार्बन मार्केट वॉच के बेंजा फैक्स ने चेतावनी दी कि "ऑफसेटिंग" यह धारणा दे सकती है कि "उत्सर्जन को मात्र वित्तीय लेनदेन से समाप्त किया जा सकता है।"

- Recoolit argues its **carbon credits are robust** because it **measurably destroys a climate-warming gas.**

Recoolit का तर्क है कि उसके कार्बन क्रेडिट विश्वसनीय हैं क्योंकि वह एक जलवायु-गर्म करने वाली गैस को मापनीय तरीके से नष्ट करता है।

## 'Fossil fuels show staying power as EU clean energy output dips'

IGS Paper III, SAT

Reuters  
COLORADO

Utilities across the European Union cranked output from natural gas and coal-fired power plants during the opening half of 2025, boosting power sector emissions and reversing recent energy transition momentum.

The upswing in fossil production follows two years of steep declines in fossil use within the EU, which established Europe as a global leader in efforts to curb reliance on polluting fuels in power production.

However, year-on-year drops in output from wind farms and hydro dams deprived EU utilities of key sources of clean power during January to June,

and forced them to compensate with sharply higher generation from fossil fuel plants.

This abrupt reversal in EU fossil fuel use highlights the challenge facing even modern energy systems when weather patterns impede clean power supplies, and suggests that fossil fuels may stay rooted in global power systems for years more.

### Climate changed

EU utilities generated 13% more electricity from fossil fuels during January to June compared to the same period in 2024, which was the largest annual increase in fossil output for that period since 2017, data from think tank Ember showed.

Gas-fired generation climbed by 19% to the high-



**Output surge:** EU utilities generated 13% more electricity from fossil fuels during January to June compared to the same period in 2024. REUTERS

est in three years, while coal-fired output rose by 2% to two-year highs.

The higher gas and coal combustion resulted in power emissions rising by 9% from the year before to

297 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, and means that the EU could discharge nearly 600 million tons of CO2 this year if the current burn pace is sustained.

The main triggers of the higher fossil fuel use were steep declines in clean power supplies tied to weather conditions across Europe since late 2024. Output from wind

farms, which accounted for close to 20% of EU electricity supplies during the first half of 2024, registered the largest year-over-year fall on record during January to June, dropping by 9% to 225 terawatt hours (TWh).

Sustained low wind speeds at turbine level, especially in Germany which is home to over 30% of EU wind farm capacity, were the main drag on wind power production.

At the same time, below-expected snow and rainfall over the winter in Europe resulted in a 15% year-on-year drop in electricity output from hydro dams, which accounted for around 15% of EU electricity supplies last year.

And steady increases in installed solar capacity

look set to lift solar-powered electricity supplies to new heights over the coming months, ensuring that clean energy advocates in the EU will have something to celebrate.

However, the deep and enduring drops to wind and hydro output are also a major cause for concern, especially as climate trends indicate that further deviations in weather patterns from previous averages can be expected.

Steadily rising average temperatures are resulting in steadily declining snow coverage at low altitudes across Europe, and are pinching regional hydro dam output – despite hydro dam capacity in the EU hitting a record last year.

And while climate change is triggering more

intense storms in many areas, it is also causing more frequent wind droughts as the temperature differential between the Earth's poles and tropical areas narrows.

This phenomenon – known as Global Stilling – is a major worry for energy planners who have been banking on large scale wind farms playing a dependable role in clean electricity generation over the coming decades.

If wind speeds regularly slow to a crawl for months on end, and hydro networks continue to get only meagre snow and rainfall during the winters, EU energy suppliers will struggle to keep up with demand – even if solar output keeps climbing.

## Fossil Fuel Rebound in EU Power Sector in Early 2025

### 2025 की शुरुआत में EU के बिजली क्षेत्र में जीवाश्म ईंधन की वापसी

- Utilities across the **European Union** cranked output from **natural gas and coal-fired power plants** during the opening half of **2025**, boosting power sector emissions and **reversing recent energy transition momentum.**

यूरोपीय संघ में उपयोगिताओं ने 2025 की पहली छमाही के दौरान प्राकृतिक गैस और कोयले से चलने वाले बिजली संयंत्रों का उत्पादन बढ़ा दिया, जिससे बिजली क्षेत्र के उत्सर्जन में वृद्धि हुई और हालिया ऊर्जा संक्रमण की गति उलट गई।

- The upswing in fossil production follows **two years of steep declines** in fossil use within the EU, which had established Europe as a global leader in efforts to **curb reliance on polluting fuels** in power production.

यह जीवाश्म उत्पादन में वृद्धि EU में दो वर्षों की तीव्र गिरावट के बाद हुई, जिससे यूरोप प्रदूषणकारी ईंधनों पर निर्भरता कम करने के प्रयासों में एक वैश्विक नेता बन गया था।

- However, **year-on-year drops** in output from **wind farms and hydro dams** deprived EU utilities of **key sources of clean power** during **January to June**, and forced them to compensate with **sharply higher generation from fossil fuel plants.**

हालांकि, पवन फार्म और जलविद्युत बांधों से वार्षिक आधार पर उत्पादन में गिरावट ने जनवरी से



जून के दौरान EU की उपयोगिताओं को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के प्रमुख स्रोतों से वंचित कर दिया और उन्हें जीवाश्म ईंधन संयंत्रों से अधिक उत्पादन करने के लिए मजबूर किया।

- This abrupt reversal in EU fossil fuel use highlights the **challenge facing even modern energy systems when weather patterns impede clean power supplies**, and suggests that fossil fuels may stay rooted in global power systems for **years more**.

EU में जीवाश्म ईंधनों के उपयोग में यह अचानक परिवर्तन यह दर्शाता है कि **आधुनिक ऊर्जा प्रणालियाँ भी चुनौती का सामना करती हैं** जब मौसम की स्थितियाँ स्वच्छ ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में बाधा डालती हैं, और यह संकेत देता है कि जीवाश्म ईंधन आने वाले वर्षों तक वैश्विक बिजली प्रणाली का हिस्सा बने रह सकते हैं।

### Climate Changed जलवायु में बदलाव

- EU utilities generated **13% more electricity from fossil fuels** during **January to June** compared to the same period in **2024**, the **largest annual increase** in fossil output for that period since **2017**, according to **Ember**.

EU की उपयोगिताओं ने **जनवरी से जून** के दौरान **2024 की समान अवधि** की तुलना में **13% अधिक बिजली जीवाश्म ईंधनों से** उत्पन्न की, जो **2017 के बाद से इस अवधि के लिए सबसे बड़ा वार्षिक इजाफा** था, **एम्बर** के अनुसार।

- **Gas-fired generation** climbed by **19%** to the **highest in three years**, while **coal-fired output** rose by **2%** to **two-year highs**.

**गैस से उत्पादन में 19% वृद्धि हुई** जो **तीन वर्षों में सबसे अधिक** था, जबकि **कोयला आधारित उत्पादन 2% बढ़कर दो साल के उच्चतम स्तर** पर पहुंच गया।

- The higher gas and coal combustion resulted in **power emissions rising by 9%** from the year before to **297 million metric tons of CO2**, and means the EU could discharge **nearly 600 million tons of CO2** this year if the current burn pace is sustained.

**अधिक गैस और कोयले के जलने से पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में बिजली क्षेत्र के उत्सर्जन में 9% की वृद्धि हुई** और यह **297 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन CO2 तक** पहुंच गया, जिसका अर्थ है कि यदि यह दर बनी रही तो EU इस वर्ष लगभग **600 मिलियन टन CO2** उत्सर्जित कर सकता है।

### Main Triggers of Fossil Surge जीवाश्म ईंधन वृद्धि के मुख्य कारण

- The main triggers of the higher fossil fuel use were **steep declines in clean power supplies** tied to **weather conditions** across Europe since **late 2024**.

**2024 के अंत से पूरे यूरोप में मौसम की स्थितियों से जुड़ी स्वच्छ ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में भारी गिरावट जीवाश्म ईंधन के बढ़ते उपयोग के मुख्य कारण थे।**

- Output from **wind farms**, which accounted for close to **20% of EU electricity supplies** during the first half of **2024**, registered the **largest year-over-year fall on record** during **January to June**, dropping by **9% to 225 TWh**.

**2024 की पहली छमाही में EU की बिजली आपूर्ति का लगभग 20% प्रदान करने वाले पवन फॉर्म का उत्पादन जनवरी से जून के दौरान रिकॉर्ड स्तर की वार्षिक गिरावट के साथ 9% घटकर 225 TWh हो गया।**

- Sustained **low wind speeds** at turbine level, especially in **Germany** which hosts over **30% of EU wind farm capacity**, were the **main drag** on wind power production.



टर्बाइन स्तर पर लगातार धीमी हवा की गति, विशेष रूप से जर्मनी में, जहां EU की 30% से अधिक पवन क्षमता है, पवन ऊर्जा उत्पादन में गिरावट का मुख्य कारण थी।

- At the same time, **below-expected snow and rainfall** over the winter in Europe resulted in a **15% year-on-year drop** in electricity output from **hydro dams**, which accounted for **around 15%** of EU electricity supplies last year.

इसी समय, यूरोप में सर्दियों के दौरान **कम बर्फबारी और वर्षा** के कारण **जलविद्युत बांधों** से बिजली उत्पादन में **15% की वार्षिक गिरावट** आई, जो पिछले वर्ष EU की लगभग **15% बिजली आपूर्ति** का हिस्सा थे।

### Solar Gains and Concerns

#### सौर ऊर्जा में बढ़त और चिंताएँ

- Steady increases in **installed solar capacity** look set to **lift solar-powered electricity supplies to new heights** over the coming months, ensuring that **clean energy advocates** in the EU will have something to celebrate.

**स्थापित सौर क्षमता में निरंतर वृद्धि** आने वाले महीनों में **सौर ऊर्जा आधारित बिजली आपूर्ति को नई ऊँचाइयों तक ले जाने** के लिए तैयार दिख रही है, जिससे EU के **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा समर्थकों को जश्न मनाने** का अवसर मिल सकता है।

- However, the **deep and enduring drops** to wind and hydro output are also a **major cause for concern**, especially as **climate trends** indicate that **further deviations in weather patterns** from previous averages can be expected.

हालांकि, **पवन और जलविद्युत उत्पादन में गहरी और स्थायी गिरावट** एक गंभीर चिंता का विषय है, विशेषकर जब **जलवायु प्रवृत्तियाँ** यह दर्शाती हैं कि **मौसम पैटर्न में और अधिक विचलन** की संभावना है।

- Steadily **rising average temperatures** are resulting in **declining snow coverage at low altitudes** across Europe, pinching **regional hydro dam output** — despite **hydro dam capacity in the EU hitting a record last year**.

लगातार **बढ़ते औसत तापमान** के कारण यूरोप भर में **निचले इलाकों में बर्फ की परत में कमी** आ रही है, जिससे **क्षेत्रीय जलविद्युत उत्पादन प्रभावित** हो रहा है — जबकि पिछले वर्ष EU में **जलविद्युत क्षमता रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुंची थी**।

- And while **climate change** is triggering more **intense storms** in many areas, it is also causing **more frequent wind droughts** as the **temperature differential** between the Earth's poles and tropical areas narrows.

और जबकि **जलवायु परिवर्तन** कई क्षेत्रों में **अधिक तीव्र तूफानों** को जन्म दे रहा है, यह **अधिक बार आने वाले पवन सूखे** का भी कारण बन रहा है क्योंकि पृथ्वी के **ध्रुवों और उष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों के बीच तापमान का अंतर कम हो रहा है**।

### Global Stilling and Energy Risks

#### ग्लोबल स्टिलिंग और ऊर्जा संकट

- This phenomenon — known as **Global Stilling** — is a **major worry for energy planners** who have been banking on **large scale wind farms** playing a dependable role in **clean electricity generation** over the coming decades.

यह घटना — जिसे **ग्लोबल स्टिलिंग** कहा जाता है — **ऊर्जा योजनाकारों के लिए एक बड़ी चिंता** है, जो आने वाले दशकों में **बड़े पैमाने पर पवन फार्मों को स्वच्छ बिजली उत्पादन में एक विश्वसनीय भूमिका** निभाने की उम्मीद कर रहे थे।



- If wind speeds regularly slow to a crawl for months on end, and hydro networks continue to get only meagre snow and rainfall during winters, EU energy suppliers will struggle to keep up with demand — even if solar output keeps climbing.  
यदि हवा की गति नियमित रूप से कई महीनों तक बेहद धीमी बनी रहती है और सर्दियों में जलविद्युत नेटवर्क को बहुत कम बर्फ और वर्षा मिलती है, तो EU के ऊर्जा प्रदाता मांग को पूरा करने में संघर्ष करेंगे — भले ही सौर उत्पादन में वृद्धि होती रहे।

## Flood without rain in Nepal raises concerns about glacial lake outbursts

Sanjeev Sangaiya  
KATHMANDU

There were no rain forecasts, so no warning alert as such. But early Tuesday, massive floods on the Bhotekoshi river in Rasuwa, a district bordering China, killed at least nine people and left 19 missing.

Nepal's police and Army personnel carried out search and rescue operations throughout Tuesday, as authorities assessed the extent of the damage.

The floods also swept away the Nepal-China Friendship Bridge, disconnecting one of the key trade points between Nepal and China. Among the missing are 11 Nepalese, six Chinese, and two police personnel.

Officials and scientists, meanwhile, scrambled to

find the cause of the flooding that occurred without rain.

"It is certain by now that it was not a rain-induced flooding," said Binod Pokhrel, an associate professor at the Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology at Tribhuvan University. "Weather forecasts and satellite data showed no rainfall in the Tibet region."

Nepal's mountainous terrain is vulnerable to monsoon floods that kill scores of people and damage property every year.

While government authorities have been working on early warning systems, they have not been as effective as desired. Erratic rainfall, floods, landslides, and avalanches have become more frequent — and deadlier — in recent years,

due in part to changing climate patterns, which are increasingly causing GLOFs (Glacial Lake Outburst Floods).

### Cause unclear

After the Rasuwa flooding, the Integrated Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) said in a statement that it is too early to definitively determine the exact cause of the flood event.

"However, we can confirm that extreme rainfall was not the cause. A comprehensive investigation is required, but we need to wait for the monsoon cloud cover to clear first to obtain clear satellite imagery for detailed analysis," it said.

"While a GLOF or a Landslide Lake Outburst Flood is suspected, there is



Not a trace: A key bridge connecting China and Nepal was swept away in flooding at Rasuwa in Nepal on Wednesday. AP

no conclusive evidence yet."

ICIMOD's 2021 inventory shows that one glacial lake upstream of the Trishuli River in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China is categorised as high risk and needs close monitoring.

According to a recent ICIMOD study, the size of

glacial lakes in the upper basin increased by 33%, and their number by 16%, within three decades from 1990 to 2020.

Ngamindra Dahal, a water and climate analyst, says Nepal needs to adopt a multi-scale approach to mitigate the disasters it is facing, especially in the

northern region.

"Rasuwa floods should not be viewed in isolation. I call them synchronised events, given similar flood events in the past in the northern region," he said.

He stressed the need for a study based on local patterns in order to forecast — and respond to — such disasters. "Haphazard construction, including that of hydropower projects, can have cascading effects, resulting in floods."

The surprise floods have also raised questions about whether there was any prior information from the Chinese side.

Officials said that a few weeks ago, China had issued a notice to exercise caution along the riverbanks of rivers originating in Tibet. But since there was no forecast for rain,

the occurrence of floods, according to experts, raises suspicions that something unusual may have happened.

Mr. Pokhrel says it is not possible to forecast rainfall that leads to flooding days in advance. "When such a notice was issued back then, and now floods have occurred, it raises the suspicion that this might have resulted from some kind of incident or accident."

### Economic impact

Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, which forecasts floods and rains, also says there is no established mechanism for information sharing on floods and rains from the northern side.

Authorities said that besides the bridge linking Nepal and China being swept

away, at least 24 container trucks with goods and 35 electric vehicles were also washed away. A customs port in Rasuwa and a hydropower project dam also suffered damage.

With the linking bridge gone, trade through the Rasuwa border point — Nepal's second major trade point with China — has come to a complete halt. This route, officially opened in December 2014, was upgraded to an international checkpoint in 2017, allowing cross-border travel.

Records at the Department of Customs show that 30-40 fully loaded cargo containers were entering Nepal via the Rasuwa border point until Monday.

(Sanjeev Sangaiya is an independent journalist based in Kathmandu)

## Flood without rain in Nepal raises concerns about glacial lake outbursts

### नेपाल में बिना बारिश के बाढ़ से हिमनद झीलों के फटने की चिंता बढ़ी

#### Floods in Rasuwa, Nepal रसुवा, नेपाल में बाढ़

- There were **no rain forecasts**, so no **warning alert** as such. But early **Tuesday**, **massive floods on the Bhotekoshi river in Rasuwa**, a district bordering **China**, killed at least **nine people** and left **19 missing**.  
कोई बारिश का पूर्वानुमान नहीं था, इसलिए कोई चेतावनी अलर्ट जारी नहीं किया गया। लेकिन मंगलवार सुबह, चीन से सटे रसुवा जिले में भोटेकोशी नदी में आई भारी बाढ़ ने कम से कम 9 लोगों की जान ले ली और 19 लोग लापता हो गए।
- **Nepal's police and Army personnel** carried out **search and rescue operations** throughout Tuesday, as **authorities assessed the extent of the damage**.  
नेपाल की पुलिस और सेना के जवानों ने मंगलवार भर राहत और बचाव अभियान चलाया, जबकि प्रशासन ने नुकसान के स्तर का आकलन किया।
- The **floods also swept away the Nepal-China Friendship Bridge**, disconnecting one of the **key trade points between Nepal and China**. Among the **missing are 11 Nepalese, 6 Chinese, and 2**



police personnel.

बाढ़ ने नेपाल-चीन मैत्री पुल को भी बहा दिया, जिससे नेपाल और चीन के बीच एक प्रमुख व्यापारिक बिंदु कट गया। लापता लोगों में 11 नेपाली, 6 चीनी और 2 पुलिसकर्मी शामिल हैं।

- **Officials and scientists**, meanwhile, scrambled to find the cause of the flooding that occurred without rain.

इस बीच अधिकारियों और वैज्ञानिकों ने बिना बारिश आई बाढ़ के कारण का पता लगाने की कोशिश की।

- “It is certain by now that it was **not a rain-induced flooding**,” said **Binod Pokhrel**, an associate professor at the **Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Tribhuvan University**. त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय के जलविज्ञान और मौसम विभाग के एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर बिनोद पोखरेल ने कहा, “अब यह निश्चित है कि यह बारिश से उत्पन्न बाढ़ नहीं थी।”
- “Weather forecasts and satellite data showed no rainfall in the **Tibet region**.” “मौसम पूर्वानुमान और उपग्रह आंकड़ों में तिब्बत क्षेत्र में कोई वर्षा नहीं दिखाई दी।”
- **Nepal’s mountainous terrain is vulnerable to monsoon floods that kill scores of people and damage property every year.**

नेपाल का पर्वतीय भूभाग हर साल मानसून बाढ़ से प्रभावित होता है, जिससे कई लोगों की मौत और संपत्ति को नुकसान होता है।

- While **government authorities** have been working on **early warning systems**, they have **not been as effective** as desired. जबकि सरकारी अधिकारी प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों पर काम कर रहे हैं, वे इच्छानुसार प्रभावी नहीं रही हैं।
- **Erratic rainfall, floods, landslides, and avalanches** have become **more frequent and deadlier** in recent years, partly due to **changing climate patterns**, which are increasingly causing **GLOFs (Glacial Lake Outburst Floods)**.

अनियमित वर्षा, बाढ़, भूस्खलन और हिमस्खलन हाल के वर्षों में अधिक बार और घातक हो गए हैं, जिसका कारण बदलते जलवायु पैटर्न हैं, जो ग्लेशियल लेक आउटबर्स्ट फ्लड (GLOF) को बढ़ा रहे हैं।

#### Cause unclear कारण स्पष्ट नहीं

- After the **Rasuwa flooding**, the **Integrated Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** said it is **too early to definitively determine** the exact cause of the flood event. **रसुवा बाढ़** के बाद, **इंटीग्रेटेड सेंटर फॉर माउंटेन डेवलपमेंट (ICIMOD)** ने कहा कि इस बाढ़ का सटीक कारण स्पष्ट रूप से तय करना अभी जल्दबाज़ी होगी।
- “However, we can confirm that **extreme rainfall was not the cause**. A **comprehensive investigation** is required, but we need to **wait for the monsoon cloud cover to clear** to obtain **clear satellite imagery for detailed analysis**,” it said. “हालांकि, हम यह पुष्टि कर सकते हैं कि अत्यधिक वर्षा इसका कारण नहीं थी। इसके लिए विस्तृत जांच की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन हमें मानसून बादलों के हटने की प्रतीक्षा करनी होगी ताकि हम उपग्रह चित्रों के माध्यम से विस्तृत विश्लेषण कर सकें।”
- “While a **GLOF or a Landslide Lake Outburst Flood** is suspected, there is **no conclusive evidence yet**.” “हालांकि ग्लेशियल लेक आउटबर्स्ट फ्लड या भूस्खलन झील फटने से आई बाढ़ की आशंका है, लेकिन अभी कोई ठोस प्रमाण नहीं है।”



- ICIMOD's 2021 inventory shows that one glacial lake upstream of the Trishuli River in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China is categorised as high risk and needs close monitoring. ICIMOD की 2021 की सूची दर्शाती है कि चीन के तिब्बती स्वायत्त क्षेत्र में त्रिशूली नदी के ऊपर एक ग्लेशियल झील को उच्च जोखिम वाली श्रेणी में रखा गया है और इसे करीबी निगरानी की आवश्यकता है।
- According to a recent ICIMOD study, the size of glacial lakes in the upper basin increased by 33%, and their number by 16% from 1990 to 2020. हाल के ICIMOD अध्ययन के अनुसार, 1990 से 2020 के बीच ऊपरी बेसिन में ग्लेशियल झीलों का आकार 33% और संख्या 16% बढ़ गई है।
- With the linking bridge gone, trade through the Rasuwa border point — Nepal's second major trade point with China — has come to a complete halt. संपर्क पुल बह जाने के कारण, रसुवा बॉर्डर पॉइंट के माध्यम से व्यापार — जो कि नेपाल का चीन के साथ दूसरा प्रमुख व्यापारिक मार्ग है — पूरी तरह से बंद हो गया है।
- This route, officially opened in December 2014, was upgraded to an international checkpoint in 2017, allowing cross-border travel. यह मार्ग दिसंबर 2014 में आधिकारिक रूप से खोला गया था और 2017 में इसे एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय चेकपॉइंट के रूप में अपग्रेड किया गया, जिससे सीमा-पार यात्रा संभव हुई।
- Records at the Department of Customs show that 30–40 fully loaded cargo containers were entering Nepal via the Rasuwa border until Monday. नेपाल के सीमा शुल्क विभाग के रिकॉर्ड दिखाते हैं कि सोमवार तक रसुवा सीमा के माध्यम से 30-40 पूरी तरह से लदे माल कंटेनर नेपाल में प्रवेश कर रहे थे।

### Economic impact आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Authorities said that besides the bridge linking Nepal and China being swept away, at least 24 container trucks with goods and 35 electric vehicles were also washed away. अधिकारियों ने बताया कि नेपाल और चीन को जोड़ने वाला पुल बहने के अलावा, कम से कम 24 माल ट्रक और 35 इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन भी बह गए।
- A customs port in Rasuwa and a hydropower project dam also suffered damage. रसुवा में एक सीमा शुल्क बंदरगाह और एक जलविद्युत परियोजना का बांध भी क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया।
- Mr. Pokhrel says it is not possible to forecast rainfall that leads to flooding days in advance. श्री पोखरेल कहते हैं कि कई दिन पहले से उस वर्षा की भविष्यवाणी करना संभव नहीं है जो बाढ़ का कारण बनती है।
- “When such a notice was issued back then, and now floods have occurred, it raises the suspicion that this might have resulted from some kind of incident or accident.” “जब उस समय ऐसा नोटिस जारी किया गया था और अब बाढ़ आई है, तो यह शक पैदा करता है कि शायद यह किसी घटना या दुर्घटना के कारण हुआ हो।”
- Ngamindra Dahal, a water and climate analyst, says Nepal needs to adopt a multi-scale approach to mitigate disasters, especially in the northern region. जल और जलवायु विश्लेषक नगमिंद्र दहल कहते हैं कि नेपाल को प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए विशेष रूप से उत्तरी क्षेत्र में बहु-स्तरीय रणनीति अपनाने की आवश्यकता है।
- “Rasuwa floods should not be viewed in isolation. I call them synchronised events, given similar flood events in the past in the northern region,” he said.



उन्होंने कहा, “रसुवा की बाढ़ को अलग-थलग घटना के रूप में नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए। मैं इन्हें **सिंक्रोनाइज़्ड घटनाएँ** कहता हूँ, क्योंकि उत्तरी क्षेत्र में पहले भी इसी तरह की बाढ़ें आ चुकी हैं।”

- He stressed the need for a **study based on local patterns** in order to **forecast** — and **respond to** — such disasters.  
उन्होंने इस तरह की आपदाओं की **पूर्वानुमान और प्रतिक्रिया** के लिए **स्थानीय पैटर्न पर आधारित अध्ययन** की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- “**Haphazard construction**, including that of **hydropower projects**, can have **cascading effects**, resulting in floods.”  
“**अव्यवस्थित निर्माण**, जिसमें **जलविद्युत परियोजनाएं** शामिल हैं, **श्रृंखलाबद्ध प्रभाव** डाल सकती हैं, जिससे **बाढ़** आ सकती है।”
- The **surprise floods** have also raised questions about whether there was any **prior information** from the **Chinese side**.  
इस **अचानक आई बाढ़** ने यह सवाल भी उठाए हैं कि क्या **चीन की ओर से कोई पूर्व सूचना** दी गई थी।
- Officials said that a few weeks ago, **China had issued a notice to exercise caution** along the **riverbanks of rivers originating in Tibet**.  
अधिकारियों ने बताया कि कुछ सप्ताह पहले **चीन ने तिब्बत से निकलने वाली नदियों के किनारे सावधानी बरतने के लिए नोटिस** जारी किया था।
- But since there was **no forecast for rain**, the **occurrence of floods**, according to experts, raises **suspensions** that something **unusual** may have happened.  
लेकिन चूंकि **कोई वर्षा का पूर्वानुमान नहीं था**, इसलिए **बाढ़ की घटना** को लेकर विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार **कोई असामान्य बात** होने का **संदेह** उठता है।

## TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

### 1. Tendulkar’s portrait unveiled at MCC Museum at Lord’s

#### PICTURE PERFECT

Tendulkar’s portrait unveiled at MCC Museum at Lord’s



Sachin Tendulkar’s portrait was unveiled at the MCC Museum at Lord’s on Thursday. It was painted by Stuart Pearson Wright from a photograph taken by the artist 18 years ago. “When I saw Kapil Dev lift the trophy that moment sparked my cricketing journey. With my portrait going up inside the Pavilion feels like it’s come full circle.”

**टेंडुलकर का चित्र लॉर्ड्स के एमसीसी म्यूज़ियम में अनावरण**

**Tendulkar’s portrait unveiled at MCC Museum at Lord’s**  
**टेंडुलकर का चित्र लॉर्ड्स के एमसीसी म्यूज़ियम में अनावरण**

- Sachin Tendulkar’s portrait was unveiled at the MCC Museum at Lord’s on Thursday.  
गुरुवार को लॉर्ड्स के एमसीसी म्यूज़ियम में सचिन टेंडुलकर के चित्र का अनावरण किया गया।
- It was painted by Stuart Pearson Wright from a photograph taken by the artist 18 years ago.



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

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

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- यह स्टुअर्ट पियर्सन राइट द्वारा 18 साल पहले खींची गई एक तस्वीर से बनाया गया चित्र है।
- “When I saw Kapil Dev lift the trophy, that moment sparked my cricketing journey.  
“जब मैंने कपिल देव को ट्रॉफी उठाते हुए देखा, वह क्षण मेरी क्रिकेट यात्रा की शुरुआत थी।
  - With my portrait going up inside the Pavilion, feels like it’s come full circle.”  
मेरा चित्र पवेलियन के अंदर लगना, ऐसा लगता है जैसे यह सफ़र अब पूर्ण हो गया है।”

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