

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

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By **Faiyaz Sir**

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**ANALYSIS
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**STAY AHEAD
STAY PREPARED**



**थक कर
मत रुकना,
मंज़िल अभी
बाकी है।**



आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक भंडार (NAD)
2. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

नवीनतम विश्लेषक

- पोषण ट्रैकर
- खेल के कमरों से वैश्विक बाज़ारों तक : टॉय बिज़ 2026 में भारतीय खेलौना उद्योग की कहानी
- राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक भंडार (एनएडी)
- भारत के खेलौना परितंत्र को मजबूत करना

बुनियादी ढांचा

- भारत में हाई-स्पीड रेल का भविष्य: विस्तार के लिए मानकीकृत मार्ग का...
- अष्टलक्ष्मी – भारत की विकास गाथा के केंद्र में स्थित पूर्वोत्तर
- जीवन की सुगमता: भारत की समावेशी प्रगति की यात्रा

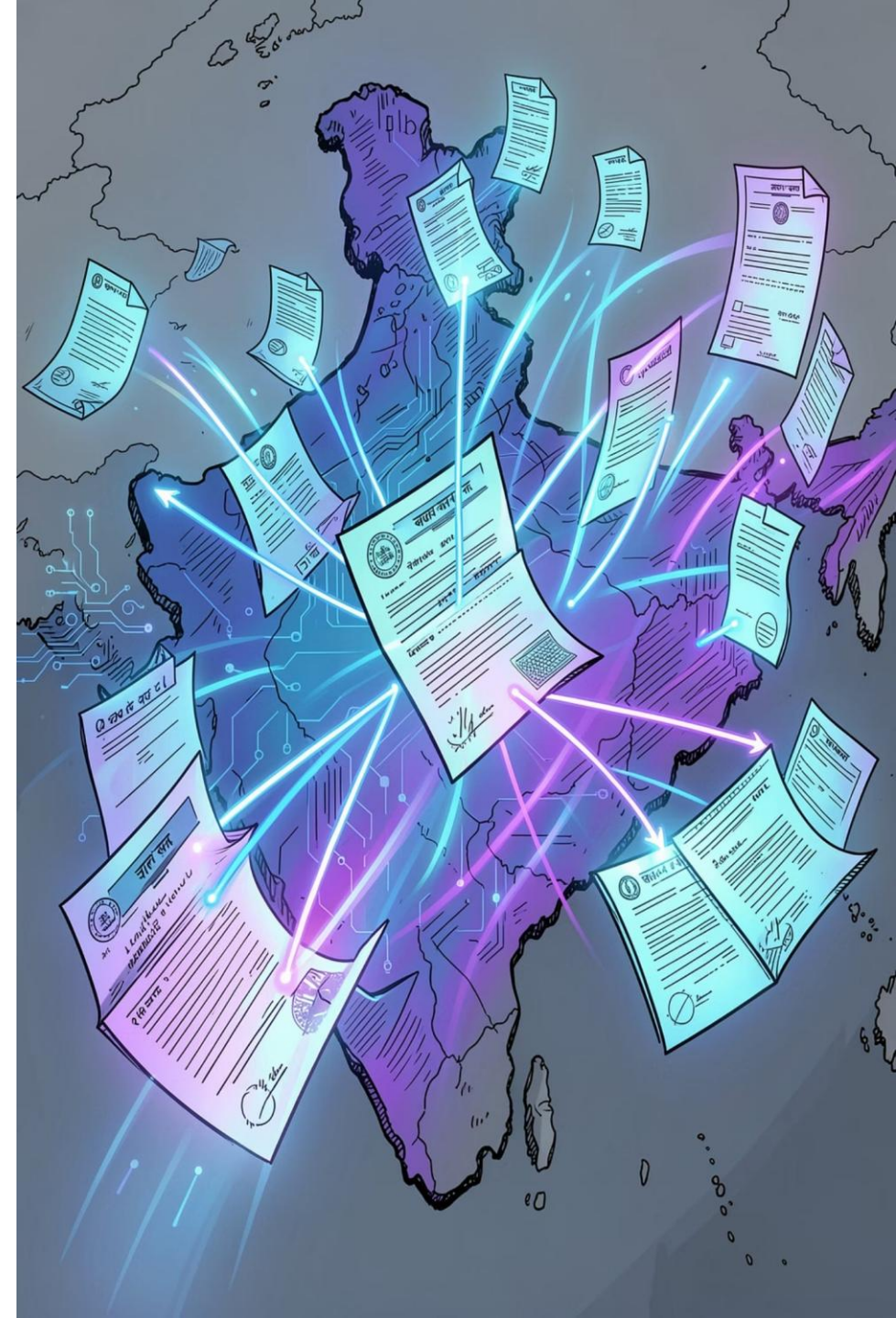
प्रौद्योगिकी

- मानस : मादक पदार्थों के विरुद्ध एक डिजिटल कवच
- गगन: भारत के आसमान में सटीकता के साथ मार्ग-निर्देशन
- डिजिटल इंडिया

ऊर्जा और पर्यावरण

- भारत में एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण
- विश्व वायु दिवस 2026
- भारत की जैव-विविधता: प्रतिबद्धताएँ और उपलब्धियाँ

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक भंडार (NAD)— भारत की शैक्षणिक अखंडता का डिजिटल आधारस्तंभ





परिचय: शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड प्रबंधन की वर्तमान स्थिति

भारत की शिक्षा प्रणाली विश्व की सर्वाधिक व्यापक और विविधतापूर्ण प्रणालियों में से एक है। नवीनतम आंकड़ों (2024-25) के अनुसार, भारत में लगभग 14.71 लाख स्कूल, 1,420 विश्वविद्यालय, 53,583 कॉलेज, 16,795 स्वतंत्र शिक्षण संस्थान और 280 शोध एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान कार्यरत हैं। ये संस्थान प्रतिवर्ष लाखों अकादमिक रिकॉर्ड जैसे—डिग्री, डिप्लोमा, सर्टिफिकेट, मार्कशीट और मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट जारी करते हैं।

पारंपरिक चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण

इतनी विशाल संख्या में कागजी रिकॉर्ड का प्रबंधन करना अत्यंत खर्चीला, समयसाध्य और अक्षम साबित हो रहा है। इसकी प्रमुख समस्याएँ निम्नलिखित हैं:

दस्तावेज़ सुरक्षा

भौतिक दस्तावेज़ों के खोने, खराब होने या उनमें जालसाजी (धोखाधड़ी) होने का निरंतर खतरा बना रहता है।

प्रक्रियात्मक देरी और NEP 2020

प्रक्रियात्मक देरी

मानवीय सत्यापन प्रक्रिया के कारण छात्रों, शिक्षण संस्थानों और नियोजकों के लिए अनावश्यक देरी होती है।

नीतिगत दृष्टिकोण और एनईपी (NEP) 2020

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 एक लचीली, बहु-विषयक और छात्र-केंद्रित शिक्षा प्रणाली की परिकल्पना करती है। इसे सुदृढ़ करने के लिए मल्टीपल एंट्री-मल्टीपल एग्जिट (MEME), नेशनल क्रेडिट फ्रेमवर्क (NCRF) और एकाडेमिक बैंक ऑफ क्रेडिट्स (ABC) जैसी पहलों को लागू किया गया है। इन सुधारों के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए एक ऐसी डिजिटल प्रणाली अनिवार्य थी जो सुरक्षित और इंटरऑपरेबल हो।

एनएड (NAD): संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली

अकादमिक पुरस्कारों को डिजिटल रूप से स्टोर करने, सत्यापित करने और जारी करने हेतु राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक भंडार (NAD) एक देशव्यापी व्यवस्था है।

संचालन

2020 से इसे डिजिलॉकर (1 जुलाई 2015 को लॉन्च) के माध्यम से लागू किया गया है।

Key Enablers of India's Toy Industry



TOYS DRIVING INDIA'S EXPORT STORY (in US\$ Million)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

एकीकृत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र और शासन संरचना

एकीकृत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र

इसमें स्वचालित स्थायी शैक्षणिक खाता रजिस्ट्री (APAAR) और एकाडेमिक बैंक ऑफ क्रेडिट्स (ABC) का समावेश है, जो छात्रों के क्रेडिट स्कोर और अकादमिक मोबिलिटी को प्रबंधित करते हैं।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय सत्यापन

एनएड को 'ई-संद' सेवा के साथ जोड़ा गया है, जिससे शैक्षणिक दस्तावेजों का इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वेरिफिकेशन, अटेस्टेशन और एपोस्टिल (Apostille) संभव हुआ है। यह विदेश में अवसरों की तलाश कर रहे छात्रों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

NAD की शासन संरचना

प्रमुख मंत्रालय

शिक्षा मंत्रालय मुख्य उत्तरदायी है।

नोडल एजेंसी

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) को डिजिलॉकर के माध्यम से कार्यान्वयन हेतु नोडल एजेंसी नियुक्त किया गया है।

कार्यप्रणाली

शिक्षण संस्थान सत्यापित डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड्स जारी करते हैं, जिन्हें छात्र डिजिलॉकर के माध्यम से सुरक्षित एक्सेस और साझा कर सकते हैं।

कानूनी मान्यता

आईटी अधिनियम, 2000 के तहत, एनएड के डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड्स भौतिक दस्तावेजों के समान ही कानूनी रूप से मान्य हैं।

कानूनी और विनियामक ढांचा

यह प्रणाली एक मजबूत कानूनी आधार पर काम करती है, जिसमें शामिल हैं:

सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000

यह इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकॉर्ड और डिजिटल हस्ताक्षरों को कानूनी मान्यता देता है।

डिजिटल लॉकर नियम, 2016

यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि दस्तावेज़ केवल उपयोगकर्ता की स्पष्ट मंजूरी से ही साझा किए जाएं।

नेशनल ई-ऑथेंटिकेशन फ्रेमवर्क (एनईएएफ)

यह सुरक्षित पहचान की पुष्टि और प्रमाणीकरण के तरीके उपलब्ध कराता है।

डिजिटल वर्कफ़्लो की प्रक्रिया

एनएड का संचालन एक व्यवस्थित डिजिटल चक्र के तहत होता है:

01

निर्माण

शिक्षण संस्थानों द्वारा अवॉर्ड जारी करना।

03

पहुंच

दस्तावेज़ों का छात्र के डिजिलॉकर खाते से स्वतः जुड़ना।

02

अपलोड

संस्थानों द्वारा डिजिटल रूप से सत्यापित रिकॉर्ड्स को एनएड/डिजिलॉकर पर अपलोड करना।

04

सहमति-आधारित शेयरिंग

केवल छात्र की स्पष्ट मंजूरी के बाद ही नियोजता या संस्थान इनका उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

सत्यापन, मुख्य लाभ और हितधारकों के लिए लाभ

5. सत्यापन

अधिकृत संस्थाओं द्वारा रीयल-टाइम सत्यापन, जिससे धोखाधड़ी का जोखिम समाप्त होता है।

एनएड (NAD) के मुख्य लाभ



सुलभता

छात्रों को अपने शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड्स तक जीवन भर, कहीं से भी डिजिटल पहुंच प्राप्त होती है।



पेपरलेस और सुरक्षित

कागजी दस्तावेजों की निर्भरता समाप्त होती है; डेटा पूरी तरह सुरक्षित और भरोसेमंद है।



तत्काल सत्यापन

नियोजता और संस्थानों द्वारा दस्तावेजों की प्रामाणिकता की तुरंत जांच संभव है, जिससे भर्ती और प्रवेश प्रक्रियाएँ सरल होती हैं।



धोखाधड़ी पर रोक

प्रमाणित डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड्स के कारण शैक्षणिक जालसाजी और धोखाधड़ी का जोखिम न्यूनतम हो जाता है।



वैश्विक मानक

यह प्रणाली भारत के अकादमिक क्रेडेंशियल प्रबंधन को अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुरूप बनाती है।

हितधारकों के लिए लाभ

छात्र

अपने क्रेडेंशियल्स को जीवन भर कहीं से भी एक्सेस करने और साझा करने की सुविधा।

शैक्षणिक संस्थान

फर्जीवाड़े पर नियंत्रण और रिकॉर्ड प्रबंधन में सटीकता।



नियोजता/संस्थाएँ और निष्कर्ष

नियोजता/संस्थाएँ

वास्तविक समय में दस्तावेजों की प्रामाणिकता की जांच, जिससे भर्ती प्रक्रिया तेज होती है।

निष्कर्ष

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक भंडार (NAD) भारत के डिजिटल शासन ढांचे का एक अपरिहार्य हिस्सा है। यह न केवल भौतिक दस्तावेजों पर निर्भरता को कम करता है, बल्कि एक नागरिक-केंद्रित, पारदर्शी और भरोसेमंद शिक्षा प्रणाली का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है। यह डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त भारत के निर्माण में एक मील का पत्थर है।

UPSC प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न

प्रश्न. 'राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक भंडार' (NAD) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह देशव्यापी व्यवस्था शिक्षा मंत्रालय के तहत विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) द्वारा डिजिलॉकर के माध्यम से कार्यान्वित की जा रही है।
2. सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 के तहत एनएडी (NAD) के डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड्स को भौतिक दस्तावेजों के समान ही कानूनी दर्जा प्राप्त है।
3. 'ई-सनद' सेवा के साथ इसका एकीकरण विदेशों में उच्च शिक्षा या रोजगार के लिए जाने वाले भारतीय नागरिकों के दस्तावेज प्रमाणीकरण को सुगम बनाता है।
4. इस व्यवस्था के तहत पंजीकृत शिक्षण संस्थान छात्र की स्पष्ट सहमति के बिना भी उसके अकादमिक रिकॉर्ड को किसी अन्य संगठन के साथ साझा कर सकते हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?

- (A) केवल एक
(C) केवल तीन

- (B) केवल दो
(D) सभी चारों

भारत-इंडोनेशिया ने 20 प्रमुख समझौतों पर किए हस्ताक्षर, रिश्तों को नई ऊंचाई

रक्षा, महत्वपूर्ण खनिज, समुद्री सुरक्षा और तकनीकी सहयोग को मिलेगी नई मजबूती

जकार्ता, 10 जुलाई (एजेंसी):

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की इंडोनेशिया यात्रा के दौरान भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने रक्षा, महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों और समुद्री सुरक्षा सहित कई क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए 20 प्रमुख समझौतों (MoUs) पर हस्ताक्षर किए। यह दौरा भारत की 'एक्ट ईस्ट नीति' और इंडो-पैसिफिक रणनीति को नई गति देने वाला साबित होगा।



प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और इंडोनेशिया के राष्ट्रपति जोको विडोडो बैठक के दौरान।

यात्रा के प्रमुख परिणाम

1 रक्षा एवं सामरिक सहयोग

- इंडोनेशिया ने भारत के साथ 'आ Astra' मिसाइल की खरीद पर मुहर लगाई।
- 'ब्रह्मोस' सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल कार्यक्रम का विस्तार करने पर सहमति।
- मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य के पास साबांग बंदरगाह (Sabang Port) के संयुक्त विकास पर सहमति, चीन की मैरीटाइम सिल्क रोड को काउंटर करने में मिलेगी मदद।



2 महत्वपूर्ण खनिज और आपूर्ति शृंखला

- क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स (जैसे निकल और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्व) पर महत्वपूर्ण समझौता।
- SAIL और PT Krakatau Steel द्वारा इंडोनेशिया में स्टेनलेस-स्टील स्लैब विनिर्माण इकाई स्थापित करने का समझौता।



3 डिजिटल और तकनीकी सहयोग

- भारत के UPI को इंडोनेशिया के डिजिटल पेमेंट सिस्टम के साथ एकीकृत करने की दिशा में प्रगति।
- इंडोनेशिया के आगामी चुनावों के लिए भारत EVM तकनीक विकसित करने में देगा सहायता।



4 शिक्षा और सांस्कृतिक कटनीति

- IIM बैंगलोर इंडोनेशिया के सिंघासारी (Singhasari) विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र में अपना पहला विदेशी परिसर स्थापित करेगा।
- भारत के ASI और इंडोनेशिया के सहयोग से प्रभावानन मंदिर परिसर के संरक्षण और जीर्णोद्धार की घोषणा।

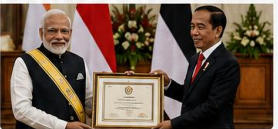


5 वैश्विक मंचों पर साझेदारी

- संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में सुधार और 'ग्लोबल साउथ' के हितों की वकालत पर जोर।
- इंडोनेशिया ने 2026 में भारत की ब्रिक्स (BRICS) अध्यक्षता को समर्थन की पुष्टि की।

सर्वोच्च सम्मान

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को नई ऊंचाई पर ले जाने के लिए इंडोनेशिया का सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान 'बिंटंग आदिपुर्ण' (Bintang Adipurna) प्रदान किया गया।



रणनीतिक महत्व (UPSC दृष्टिकोण से)

- इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में भारत की रणनीतिक स्थिति को मजबूती।
- रक्षा सहयोग और क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स समझौते भारत की आर्थिक और सुरक्षा हितों के लिए अहम।
- डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और चुनावी तकनीक में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर को बल।
- ग्लोबल साउथ और बहुपक्षीय मंचों पर भारत-इंडोनेशिया की साझेदारी और प्रभाव को बढ़ावा।

“यह यात्रा भारत की 'MAHASAGAR' विजन और हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा व स्थिरता को बनाए रखने के लिए दोनों देशों के साझा दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की इंडोनेशिया यात्रा के दौरान भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने रक्षा, महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों और समुद्री सुरक्षा को कवर करते हुए 20 प्रमुख समझौतों (MoUs) पर हस्ताक्षर किए। यह दौरा भारत की 'एक्ट ईस्ट नीति' और इंडो-पैसिफिक (हिंद-प्रशांत) रणनीति को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक बड़ा रणनीतिक कदम है। यूपीएससी (UPSC) के दृष्टिकोण से इस यात्रा के प्रमुख परिणाम और रणनीतिक महत्व निम्नलिखित हैं:

- 1. रक्षा एवं सामरिक सहयोग (Defence and Strategic Cooperation)** ब्रह्मोस और ए Astra मिसाइल: इंडोनेशिया ने भारत के साथ रक्षा संबंधों को गहरा करते हुए स्वदेशी 'अ Astra' मिसाइल की खरीद पर मुहर लगाई और 'ब्रह्मोस' सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल कार्यक्रम का विस्तार किया। साबांग बंदरगाह (Sabang Port): मलाक्का जलडमरूमध्य के पास स्थित साबांग बंदरगाह के संयुक्त विकास को लेकर बनी सहमति, चीन की मैरीटाइम सिल्क रोड को काउंटर करने में भारत को रणनीतिक बढ़त दिलाएगी।
- 2. क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स (Critical Minerals) और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला महत्वपूर्ण खनिज:** भारत और इंडोनेशिया के बीच क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स (जैसे निकल और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्व) पर महत्वपूर्ण समझौता हुआ। यह भारत की इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) क्रांति और उन्नत तकनीकी विनिर्माण के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। SAIL का निवेश: स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (SAIL) और पीटी क्राकाटाउ स्टील (PT Krakatau Steel) द्वारा इंडोनेशिया में स्टेनलेस-स्टील स्लैब विनिर्माण इकाई स्थापित करने का समझौता हुआ है।

3. डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और तकनीकी सहयोग डिजिटल लेनदेन: भारत के यूनिकाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) को इंडोनेशिया के डिजिटल पेमेंट सिस्टम के साथ एकीकृत करने की दिशा में कार्य प्रगति पर है। EVM तकनीकी: दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र के रूप में भारत, इंडोनेशिया के आगामी चुनावों के लिए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीन (EVM) विकसित करने में तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करेगा। यह भारतीय चुनाव आयोग की दक्षता का अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रमाण है।

4. शिक्षा और सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति (Cultural Diplomacy) IIM का विदेशी परिसर: भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (IIM) बेंगलूर इंडोनेशिया के सिंघासारी (Singhasari) विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र में अपना पहला विदेशी परिसर (offshore campus) स्थापित करेगा। प्रम्बानन मंदिर: भारत के पुरातात्विक सर्वेक्षण (ASI) और इंडोनेशिया के सहयोग से यूनेस्को (UNESCO) विश्व धरोहर स्थल 'प्रम्बानन मंदिर परिसर' के संरक्षण और जीर्णोद्धार की घोषणा की गई।

5. वैश्विक मंचों पर साझेदारी (Global South) दोनों देशों ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में सुधार और 'ग्लोबल साउथ' (Global South) के हितों की वकालत करने पर जोर दिया। इंडोनेशिया ने 2026 में भारत की ब्रिक्स (BRICS) अध्यक्षता को समर्थन की पुष्टि की है।

6. सर्वोच्च सम्मान: प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को नई ऊंचाइयों पर ले जाने के लिए इंडोनेशिया का सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान 'बिंटानग आदिपूर्णा' (Bintang Adipurna) प्रदान किया गया। यह यात्रा भारत की 'MAHASAGAR' विजन और हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा व स्थिरता को बनाए रखने के लिए दोनों देशों के साझा दृष्टिकोण (Shared Vision) को दर्शाती है।

India, Australia move to deepen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

Amid geostrategic uncertainties, Prime Minister Modi, his Australian counterpart, Albanese, adopt declaration to expand maritime security ties and defence collaboration; the countries also seal pacts on civil nuclear energy and critical minerals

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

India and Australia on Thursday adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, committing to significantly deepen military engagement, strengthen defence industrial collaboration, and expand maritime security cooperation amid growing geostrategic uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific region. The two countries also sealed pacts on civil nuclear energy and critical minerals sectors.

The declaration, adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, outlines an ambitious road map to elevate defence ties through strategic consultations, enhanced interoperability between the armed forces, expanded military exercises, and greater collaboration in defence science, technology, and industrial supply chains.

A statement released by the office of the Australian Prime Minister mentioned that, under the declaration, the two sides agreed to hold regular consultations



Tactical ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, in Melbourne on Thursday, AP

tions on defence-related developments in the Indo-Pacific affecting their shared interests, increase the complexity of bilateral and multilateral military exercises, accelerate efforts to improve interoperability and information sharing between their armed forces, and expand aircraft deployments from each other's territories.

The deal also envisages deeper personnel exchanges through education, training, and liaison appointments, while exploring opportunities to cooperate in recruiting skilled personnel for their respective defence workforces.

Mr. Modi emphasised

the importance of a free and stable Indo-Pacific and highlighted the growing engagement between the two nations in the defence domain. "The Indo-Pacific is not just the confluence of two oceans. It also symbolises the shared aspirations of like-minded democracies like India and Australia," he said.

The agreement on civil nuclear energy to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to fuel nuclear power projects came nearly 12 years after the two countries inked a historic civil nuclear cooperation pact.

"Today, we have signed an important agreement in

the field of nuclear energy. This will open the way for uranium supplies from Australia to India and give new impetus to our clean energy objectives," he said.

He also announced the launch of the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains and said both sides will also work together on a critical minerals corridor.

Under the provisions of the energy security framework, India and Australia vowed to strengthen energy security by maintaining a stable, secure and reliable supply of coal, diesel, other liquid fuels and natural gas. The two countries

will implement an India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Road Map to strengthen coordination across the Indian Ocean and the wider Indo-Pacific. Both sides committed to encouraging greater integration between their defence industries, building resilient supply chains and expanding collaboration in defence innovation, science and technology.

The leaders noted that the new declaration builds upon the India-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2009 and complements existing institutional mechanisms, including the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue, and Defence Ministers' Dialogue. They also reiterated support for regional institutions, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association, ASEAN-led regional architecture and the Pacific Islands Forum, describing them as key platforms for addressing global challenges.

(With inputs from PTI)

RELATED REPORT ON
► PAGE 4

Modi hails Australia's social media ban on minors, signals curbs

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday praised Australia's ban on social media access for teenagers, in the clearest indication so far that the Union government is mulling similar curbs.

"I have followed you closely, and the way you have legislated and worked to protect society in IT and social media is inspiring the world," Mr. Modi told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in remarks open to the press.

Australia's Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act, 2024, requires social media platforms to detect and block access to children below the age of 16.

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, had confirmed discussions for similar curbs in India during the AI Impact Summit earlier in February.

'Right way to go'

"Certainly there is a need for protecting our children, protecting our society... we are in a conversation regarding age-based restrictions with the various social media plat-

Digital control

Several countries are following Australia's footsteps to curb social media use by children

Malaysia: under-16s barred from owning social accounts

Indonesia: minors blocked from 'high-risk' platforms

France: Bill passed to ban social media use by under-15s

forms... the right way to go about this," he said.

In conversations and public remarks, officials at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have said that India is exploring a "graded" set of restrictions that would allow some social media access while blocking some categories of content depending on the age cohort of a minor.

It is not yet clear if the government is planning to bring this into action with a law in Parliament or with amendments to the Information Technology (Inter-

mediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which have been the main legal way for the government to introduce rules for requirements like labelling AI-generated images.

Building a durable India-Australia partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia this week has been big on substance and high on optics. The choreography is familiar now given the warmth in the relationship: a forward-leaning leadership interaction, a massive diaspora event and a joint statement packed with deliverables and road maps. The Australian government sees India as central to its economic diversification strategy. Its new economic road map and packed ministerial calendar for India underwrite this intent. The elite consensus seems bipartisan and the convergence only growing.

Turning convergence into alignment

Yet, the harder part for most strategic relationships is drawing the line between convergence and alignment. The two might sound like synonyms, but they are not. Convergence is two countries arriving at similar conclusions about the world for their own reasons. Alignment is what happens when those separate conclusions are built into matching capabilities, institutions and habits of engagement. India and Australia have achieved a great deal of the first. The real test of this visit, and of the years after it, is whether it endures by delivering the second.

The convergence is not in doubt, and it is easy to see why it has deepened. Both countries are hedging against overdependence in a global in transition. Australia's dependence on China, and its alliance dependence on an unpredictable Washington, have come under visible strain. This year's Lowy Institute Poll found trust in the United States at a record low of 31%, with a narrow margin of Australians saying that Canberra should distance itself from Washington under U.S. President Donald Trump. India is running its parallel diversification across energy suppliers, defence platforms and critical minerals processing, driven by a similar instinct.

New Delhi wants to limit its exposure; the Iran and Ukraine conflicts have driven home that any single-point dependency, however longstanding, is now a liability. No country can single-handedly balance China or hedge against American unpredictability. Together, and alongside partners such as Japan, they improve their odds. That is genuine convergence.

This visit has produced tangible evidence of that strategic lock-in. A Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation delivers a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Australia's Maritime Border Command and the



Shruti Pandala
Inaugural India Chair at The Lowy Institute, Sydney, Australia

Indian Coast Guard and adopts an India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap to address shared threat perceptions. These are practical mechanisms that deepen interoperability without altering the basic character of the relationship: India remains a trusted security partner, not an ally. On energy security, Australian uranium has been legally available to India since the bilateral 2014 civil nuclear agreement, but it never actually moved commercially, largely because India's own nuclear liability law made foreign suppliers nervous about exposure.

That changed with the SHANTI Act last December, which reformed that liability regime. The agreement on uranium has operationalised a deal lying dormant for a decade. The summit also launched the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS), while reaffirming the complementarity to the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership as focusing on building resilient technology partnerships through flexible multilateral arrangements. These are examples of alignment beginning to take institutional form.

There are focus areas, there are problems

But for alignment to be durable, convergence must translate into operational overlap. This is most consequential in the Indian Ocean, a region where Australian and Indian interests overlap most naturally. Both are Indian Ocean states with real stakes in the region's sea lanes. India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region has emerged as a key hub for maritime domain awareness, even as Australia pays closer attention to its western seaboard and Indian Ocean approaches. The two navies have converged on similar risk assessments of shadow fleets, threats to undersea cables and coercive activity below the threshold of conflict.

The new Coast Guard MoU and Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap narrow the gap between strategic intent and operational cooperation. Yet, Australia's most consequential force-structure decisions, from AUKUS (trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.) to its broader defence posture, remain oriented towards the Western Pacific, while India's strategic planners continue to divide attention between continental threats and maritime challenges. The shared ground is real; it is simply narrower than the political convergence sometimes suggests.

Economically, the pattern is similar. Trade has

grown sharply since the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement came into force, but industry voices behind closed doors argue that growth sits disproportionately with large firms. Smaller exporters on both sides remain unaware of how to use it. Track 1.5 dialogues have flagged this as an operationalisation gap.

The knowledge deficit is more obvious when one looks at Australian public consciousness on India. This year's Lowy Poll found only 5% of Australians expect India to be the world's most important power a decade from now, against 54% for China, even as trust in India remains comparatively high. Convergence at the top has not yet trickled down into wider awareness of India's strategic heft.

The diaspora opportunity

The diaspora remains the biggest opportunity to change this, but with a caveat. Indian-origin Australians are now the country's largest immigrant-born community, ahead of the U.K.-born population for the first time. Political leadership has celebrated the diaspora's contribution, and a Centre for Australia-India Relations study finds that Australians broadly recognise it as skilled migrants, students and workers. But recognising the diaspora as a cultural asset, or an electoral constituency, is not alignment. Alignment would require translating that diaspora leverage into a public case for why India matters economically to the average Australian. It would require institutionalising the diaspora's comparative advantage in helping Australian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises navigate Indian regulatory and business culture, and vice versa, rather than leaving that work to individual champions. It would also mean untangling the mobility of Indian professionals from Australia's increasingly fraught migration politics.

Mr. Modi's visit has provided fresh ballast for these conversations about the future of the India-Australia partnership. His message on Australian Pension funds investing in India particularly resonated in the room when he said India would not just treat them as capital but as a marker of strategic trust imposed by Australian families in India. These statements matter because they build the broader public consciousness of India as a trusted partner for the future. Convergence got India and Australia to the table; it is these steps that institutionalise engagement incrementally that build alignment that endures.

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय



ऑस्ट्रेलियाई प्रधानमंत्री के साथ जॉइंट प्रेस स्टेटमेंट के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री का प्रेस स्टेटमेंट

प्रतिष्ठित तिथि: 09 JUL 2026 11:33AM by PIB Delhi

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की 8-10 जुलाई 2026 की ऑस्ट्रेलिया यात्रा के दौरान भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच कई महत्वपूर्ण समझौते और घोषणाएँ हुईं। मुख्य बिंदु इस प्रकार हैं:

1. रक्षा एवं सुरक्षा (Defence & Security)

- **Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC)** पर हस्ताक्षर।
- दोनों देशों ने सैन्य सहयोग, रक्षा उद्योग, साइबर सुरक्षा, आतंकवाद-रोधी सहयोग और हिंद-प्रशांत (Indo-Pacific) क्षेत्र में साझेदारी बढ़ाने पर सहमति जताई।
- संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यासों और नौसैनिक सहयोग को और मजबूत करने का निर्णय लिया गया।

2. Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap

- समुद्री सुरक्षा के लिए नई **Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap (MSCR)** अपनाई गई।
- इसमें सूचना साझा करना (Information Sharing), समुद्री निगरानी (Maritime Domain Awareness) और संयुक्त ऑपरेशनल सहयोग बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया गया।

3. यूरेनियम आपूर्ति (Civil Nuclear Agreement)

- 2014 के भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया असैन्य परमाणु समझौते को लागू करने के लिए **Administrative Arrangement** अंतिम रूप दिया गया।
- इससे ऑस्ट्रेलिया से भारत को शांतिपूर्ण उद्देश्यों के लिए यूरेनियम की आपूर्ति का रास्ता साफ हो गया।

4. ऊर्जा सुरक्षा (Energy Security)

- **India-Australia Joint Statement on Energy Security** जारी किया गया।
- दोनों देशों ने LNG, पारंपरिक ऊर्जा, परमाणु ऊर्जा और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा (Clean Energy) में सहयोग बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया।

5. Critical Minerals और Clean Energy

- लिथियम, कोबाल्ट, रेयर अर्थ मिनरल्स जैसे **Critical Minerals** की सप्लाई चेन मजबूत करने पर सहमति।
- ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, सौर ऊर्जा और अन्य नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने की घोषणा की गई।

6. व्यापार और निवेश

- 2022 के Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) को आगे बढ़ाकर **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** की दिशा में तेजी लाने पर सहमति।
- ऑस्ट्रेलिया की ओर से भारत में **AUD 500 मिलियन (लगभग ₹2,800 करोड़ से अधिक)** के निवेश की घोषणा की गई।

7. प्रौद्योगिकी और AI

- कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), डिजिटल तकनीक, साइबर सुरक्षा और उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों में सहयोग बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया गया।

Monsoon has covered the entire country, a day later than normal, says IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Thursday, a day later than its normal date, after advancing into the remaining parts of the north Arabian Sea, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab, India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said.

The nationwide coverage came 35 days after the monsoon reached Kerala

on June 5. While the advance was slower than in recent years, the July 9 date is not unusual historically.

Since 1971, the monsoon has covered the country on dates ranging from June 16 in 2013 to August 15 in 2002, according to IMD data.

The monsoon's progress has accelerated over the past week, accompanied by widespread heavy rainfall across several parts of

the country.

Delhi and the National Capital Region received significant rainfall overnight and on Thursday, causing waterlogging and traffic disruptions in several areas.

The recent wet spell, however, does not necessarily indicate how rainfall will evolve through the rest of the month.

The IMD has forecast below-normal rainfall for the country as a whole in



Water traffic: Children have fun in a waterlogged road after a heavy spell of rain in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

July, defined as less than 94% of the long-period average, even as some parts of northwest and north-

east India, east-central India and the eastern peninsula may receive normal to above-normal rainfall. July receives the highest rainfall among the monsoon months and is critical for agriculture.

India's current monsoon rainfall deficit stands at 15%, a sharp improvement from 38% on June 30.

Historical data show no simple relationship between the date of nationwide monsoon coverage

and the eventual June-September rainfall.

However, some prominent El Niño years associated with deficient monsoons also saw delayed coverage.

In 2002, one of India's most severe monsoon drought years, the monsoon covered the country only on August 15, the latest date in the 1971-2025 record.

In 2009, another major drought year, coverage was

completed on July 3, while in 2015 it occurred relatively early, on June 26.

The contrasting dates underline that the speed of the monsoon's geographical advance is not, by itself, a reliable indicator of seasonal rainfall.

El Niño can weaken monsoon circulation and affect the amount and distribution of rainfall even after the monsoon has formally covered the entire country.

YouTube Homework

- ☐ El-nino
- ☐ La-Nina
- ☐ MJO
- ☐ IOD

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Gujarat launches data centre policy, targets ₹6 lakh crore investments, 7.5 GW capacity

Abhinay Deshpande

AHMEDABAD

Seeking to position itself as India's preferred destination for hyperscale data centres, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven digital infrastructure, the Gujarat government on Thursday unveiled its first-ever Data Centre Policy (2026-29), targeting investments of ₹6 lakh crore and the creation of 7.5 gigawatts (GW) of data centre capacity over the policy period.

The policy, launched by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar, offers a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including capital subsidy, interest subsidy, power tariff support, reimbursement of State GST (SGST), exemption from stamp duty and registration charges, and financial assistance for cap-



New beginning: Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during the launch of Gujarat Data Centre Policy in Gandhinagar. X/@CMOGUJ

itive desalination plants to meet the sector's high water requirements.

'Preferred destination'

The new policy aims to make Gujarat a preferred destination for data centre investments and help it compete with established hubs such as Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. "Gujarat is the first State to bring this policy. We are confident it will attract investments of ₹6 lakh

crore, create 7.5 GW of data centre capacity and generate significant employment," Chief Secretary M.K. Das said.

The government said the policy has been designed to capitalise on the rapid growth of AI, cloud computing, digital payments, e-commerce, electronics manufacturing and other data-intensive sectors, while strengthening Gujarat's position in India's digital economy.

Australia announces repatriation of three antiquities taken from Tamil Nadu temples

R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

Australia will repatriate three ancient artefacts stolen from temples in Tamil Nadu, including a Chola-era bronze trident, a granite Nandi idol and a Karthikeya sculpture, in a move announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country.

The Union Ministry of Culture said in a press statement, "In a profound testament to the civilisational resonance anchoring modern diplomacy, Australia is set to repatriate three culturally significant ancient antiquities to India. These artefacts include a ceremonial bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali, a majestic granite idol of Nandi, and a basalt sculpture depicting the six-headed Karthikeya." All these items date back to the 11th and 12th Centuries and were originally sourced from temples in Tamil Nadu. The official



Precious legacy: A Nandi sculpture, a Karthikeya (Shanmukha) idol and a Bhadrakali trident are among the antiquities that are to be returned. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

announcement of the repatriation coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia, further emphasising the strong cultural alignment between the two nations, the Ministry said.

The three antiquities, currently housed in the National Gallery of Australia, are being repatriated under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) after investigations by the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID established that they had been removed from temples in Tamil Nadu and trafficked

overseas.

Commenting on the repatriation of the idols, S. Vijaya Kumar, cultural enthusiast and co-founder of India Pride, said the return of these three artefacts marks the conclusion of a process that should have happened many years ago.

More than a decade has passed since the National Gallery of Australia's independent provenance review by former High Court Justice Susan Crennan AC identified significant shortcomings in the provenance of these objects. The re-

view concluded that the ownership histories of two idols did not establish lawful export from India.

The Bhadrakali Trident was acquired from Temple Gallery, New York, with a provenance tracing ownership only to Dr. P.S. Rao, Chennai, before entering the gallery in 1993. Justice Crennan concluded that this ownership history did not establish that the object had been legally exported. It has now been identified as originating from Sri Kasi Viswanatha Swamy Temple, Kolluman-

gudi, Tiruvarur district.

The Stone Nandi was purchased from Carlton Rochell Asian Art based on an elaborate provenance claiming that Mexican diplomat Mario Calderon had assembled the sculpture in Goa before it passed through inheritance to Pedro Silva Villasenor in Mexico. The Crennan Review found that this ownership chain was not convincingly corroborated, and subsequent investigation identified the sculpture as originating from the temple in Tamil Nadu.

The Karthikeya (Shanmukha) followed a provenance similar to the Bhadrakali Trident, again relying upon ownership through Dr. P.S. Rao and Temple Gallery. Justice Crennan's review concluded that there was insufficient evidence to establish a lawful export from India. It has now been identified as originating from Naganathaswamy Temple, Manambadi, Thanjavur.

YouTube Homework

- ☐ Dancing Girl
- ☐ Raja Ravi Verma

NDA-ruled States, universities object to centralisation provisions in VBSA

Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya among States to raise concerns over the Centre's powers; universities seek safeguards, parliamentary monitoring; BHU warns that Bill could turn an independent regulator into arm of the Union govt.

Sobhana K. Nair
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

NDA-ruled States, including Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya, have raised concerns over provisions in the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, warning a parliamentary panel that the proposed legislation would centralise powers over higher education regulation.

The Bill proposes a structural overhaul of higher education in the country, by repealing the statutory Acts governing the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and replacing them with a single apex body called the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA).

The Bill is currently under review by a joint parliamentary committee headed by BJP MP D. Purandeswari. *The Hindu* accessed submissions made to the parliamentary panel, which is in the final stages of preparing its report.

Apart from State governments, Central and State universities and institutes have also criticised the Bill, raising concerns over the Centre's expanded powers, the absence of State representation in the proposed regulatory structure, ambiguities in its scope, and the transition process following the winding up of the UGC,



The Bill proposes an overhaul of higher education by repealing the statutory Acts governing the UGC, the AICTE, and the NCTE and replacing them with a single apex body. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

AICTE, and NCTE.

Bypassing States

Some of the strongest objections came from Andhra Pradesh, which is ruled by the Telugu Desam Party, a BJP ally. The State argued that several provisions of the Bill could render its legislative authority over higher education "a dead letter" and sought mandatory consultation before decisions affecting State universities are taken. The State also cautioned against Clause II that allows the Regulatory Council to bypass State universities in granting degrees, saying it could lead to "constitutional friction".

The State government further suggested a clause explicitly preventing the Centre from taking action prejudicial to the autonomy, functioning, and governance of State institutes and universities.

BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh has also raised concerns over what it de-

scribed as limited State representation in the proposed regulatory council.

The Meghalaya government – led by the National People's Party, which is a BJP ally – recommended an explicit provision defining the respective powers of the Centre and the States. It proposed that the Centre be responsible for coordination, standards, accreditation, and quality assurance, while States retain authority over the establishment, governance, administration, staffing, financing, and overall functioning of State universities.

Key vulnerability

Central universities and institutes such as the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), the Central University of Rajasthan and the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Chittoor, as well as State universities in Assam, Maharashtra, and Jammu and Kashmir, have objected to

provisions that they said could increase centralisation.

Several institutions told the panel that clauses requiring the new regulatory structure to follow directions from the Centre represented the Bill's "most critical vulnerability".

While some universities cautioned that dismantling the UGC, AICTE, and NCTE simultaneously could cause "significant institutional disruption", others argued that the Bill concentrated regulatory powers and created the possibility of "arbitrary interventions". Institutions called for phased implementation, parliamentary oversight of powers exercised by the Centre under the Bill, and mandatory notice and consultation with States before such powers are invoked.

BHU noted that Clause 45 gives finality to the Centre's policy directions and binds the VBSA to them, "effectively subordinating the regulator to the executive", while Clause 47 empowers the Centre to supersede the VBSA and dissolve it. The university told the panel that these provisions risked turning an independent regulator into "an arm of the government of the day".

Clause 45 empowers the Centre to issue binding policy directions to the Commission, gives it the final say on what constitutes a policy matter, and allows it to assign additional functions. Clause 47 allows the Centre to suspend or supersede the Commission or its councils for up to a

year. IIIT Chittoor said a possible implication of Clause 45 was the expansion of Centre's influence across the three councils proposed under the structure, which could end up shaping institutional academic operations. SNDT Women's University, Pune, said that without checks and balances, consultation and parliamentary oversight, the provisions could lead to "excessive centralisation".

Fee escalation

Congress-ruled Telangana said the Bill's structure does not adequately recognise the role of State governments. It sought the deletion of Clause II, which empowers the Union government-backed Regulatory Council to authorise independent accredited colleges to grant degrees directly, bypassing the State governments. It also argued that the Bill neither empowers the Regulatory Council to regulate fees nor preserves the existing framework, potentially allowing fee escalation.

Telangana's Higher Education Department described Clause 45 as the "single most centralising clause" in the Bill, calling it a "self-judging clause" that gives the Centre the final authority in disputes with councils under the VBSA framework.

The department argued that the provision expanded Central authority over the structure without granting States corresponding powers over matters relating to their own universities.

YouTube Homework

☐ AISHE

Why more Indian couples are being diagnosed with secondary infertility

Analyses of India's National Family Health Survey data show secondary infertility rose from roughly 19.5% in the early 1990s to about 28.6% by 2015-2016 – close to a doubling in a single generation; there are multiple factors that are contributing to this including age-related issues and changes in the body between the first and the second child

Richika Sahay Shukla

A few weeks ago, a couple sat in my consulting room looking almost apologetic. They already had a bright six-year-old waiting at home. “We feel silly taking your time, doctor,” the mother said. “We have one child. Everyone keeps telling us to just be grateful.” And then, quietly, she started to cry.

I have heard that phrase – “at least you have one” – more times than I can count. It is almost always meant kindly. It almost always lands like a door being shut. And it is one of the reasons the couples I see struggling to conceive a second time carry their grief so silently.

Understanding the condition

The condition has a name: secondary infertility – the difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy after you have already had a baby. For years it was brushed aside as a non-problem. The numbers say otherwise.

Analyses of India's National Family Health Survey data show secondary infertility rose from roughly 19.5% in the early 1990s to about 28.6% by 2015-2016 – close to a doubling in a single generation. It is now one of the most common reasons a “previously fertile” couple walks in, bewildered. “We didn't even try the first time,” they say. “Why is it so hard now?”

Part of the answer is the calendar. A generation ago, most couples finished their families in their twenties. Today a first baby often arrives at the age of 31 or 32 – after the degree, the

job, the EMI, the move to a rented flat in a city.

By the time life finally feels “ready” for a second child, the mother may be aged 36 or 38, and fertility, unfairly, does not wait for our life plans. Egg numbers and quality fall with every passing year; clinics in cities including Delhi/NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai and others, have reported a sharp rise in women seeking help only after the age of 35.

But age is just one thread. In the years between the first and second child, bodies change. Weight creeps up. The thyroid quietly slips. As many as one in five Indian women now lives with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), which tends to worsen with time. A Caesarean section may have left adhesions; an old, untreated infection may have scarred a fallopian tube. And – this matters – the problem is very often on the man's side. Sperm counts fall with weight, stress, smoking and even the polluted air so many of us breathe. Yet in my experience, Indian men will wait years longer than their wives before agreeing to a simple semen test, convinced that “we already have a child, so it can't be me.”

Layered over all of this is something newer: our phones. Social media has, in many ways, been a gift for fertility awareness. Couples now arrive far better informed than a decade ago; the taboo is finally cracking; brave women share IVF journeys that once would have been whispered about. But scroll through any feed and you also meet the other side – an unending stream of “Baby No. 2!” announcements, and picture-perfect siblings.

For a woman in her fourth month of trying, or recovering from a second miscarriage,



Growing concern: Secondary infertility is the difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy after you have already had a baby. GETTY IMAGES

that scroll is a slow bruise. The comparison is relentless – and so is the family WhatsApp group where an aunt asks, yet again, when the “good news” is coming. I have also watched social media do harm the other way: glossy reels promising IVF “success in one cycle,” or home remedies that persuade a couple to delay proper testing by a year they cannot afford to lose.

Telling the truth
So what do I tell the couple crying in my room? First, that their pain is real and they are allowed to feel it. Wanting a sibling for the child you adore is not ingratitude; it is love asking

Egg numbers and quality fall with every passing year; clinics in cities including Delhi/National Capital Region, Bengaluru, Mumbai and others, have reported a sharp rise in women seeking help only after the age of 35

for a little more room. Second, that this is a medical condition, not a moral verdict – not a punishment, not *nuzar*, not something they did wrong. Third, that timing matters. If a woman is under the age of 35 and has tried for a year, or over the age of 35 and has tried for six months, both partners – together – should be evaluated. Do not let the calendar run, out of politeness.

And I tell them the truth about hope, honestly. Modern fertility care helps a great many couples in exactly this situation, and IVF succeeds for many even in their late thirties and forties. But I will never promise a guaranteed outcome, and I would gently warn anyone against a clinic that does. What I can promise is a clear answer and a plan.

If there is one thing I wish more of us understood, it is this: the woman who “already has one” may be quietly grieving a child who simply has not arrived yet. She does not need to be reminded how lucky she is. She needs to be asked how she is. Often the most healing thing a family member, a friend – or a doctor – can do is stop offering gratitude as a cure, and simply listen.

(Dr. Richika Sahay Shukla is co-founder and medical director, India IVF Fertility. director@indiabf.in)

GETTY IMAGES

YouTube Homework

☐ NFHS-6

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Far from over

Iran and the U.S. must address the trust deficit for their talks to progress

It took only 20 days for the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding (MoU), which promised to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and launch talks about outstanding issues, including Iran's nuclear programme, to start unravelling. On Tuesday night, the U.S. carried out sweeping air strikes in Iran after three tankers were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran struck American bases in Kuwait and Bahrain after which Mr. Trump declared that the ceasefire was over. While he is known for making exaggerated claims, the current crisis poses the biggest challenge to the peace process since the June 17 MoU. The crisis did not emerge overnight. From the outset, the agreement had three major sticking points – Israel's war in Lebanon; Iran's access to its frozen funds and the status of the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran sees Israel's refusal to withdraw from southern Lebanon, along with Washington's push for a parallel trilateral framework involving the U.S., Lebanon and Israel, as violations of the spirit of the MoU. And, despite talks, Iran has yet to get access to its frozen funds. Finally, Iran appears determined to assert control over the Strait. It has opened a “safe passage route” along its coast, while the U.S. is backing an alternative route along Oman's coast.

Iran fears that the U.S. is trying to strip away the leverage it established over the Strait during the war by promoting an alternative route. The U.S. does not want Iran to emerge as the sole custodian of a strategic waterway. These conflicting positions trigger skirmishes, further undermining the MoU. What Mr. Trump, who senses strategic defeat, is trying to do is to mount economic and military pressure on Tehran to change its position on the Strait. He can continue his air campaign, but his years-long maximum pressure and 40 days of bombing have done little to alter Iran's negotiating positions. If he returns to war over Hormuz, Iran's stance on its nuclear programme – still unaddressed – would only get hardened. If war resumes, it would be bad news for the whole West Asia region and the entire global economy. Mr. Trump is at a strategic dead end, and instead of digging deeper, should stick to his way-out road map – the MoU. An obstacle in the peace process is the complete absence of trust. Mr. Trump's public tirades and abuses against Iran's leadership and hyperbolic threats, which are detached from ground realities, are not helping his cause. Equally, if Iran continues targeting commercial vessels, it risks being seen as an aggressor rather than a victim. Both sides should address the trust deficit, resolve the sticking points in the MoU and begin serious talks about the outstanding issues for a final settlement.

SIR in Manipur is a pathway to exclusion

Manipur is one of the States covered under Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being implemented by the Election Commission of India (ECI) currently. The SIR has already drawn adverse criticism from civil society organisations and the Opposition, particularly after the recent Bihar and West Bengal elections, due to its hasty, disproportionate and summary deletion of voters from voters' lists, resulting in the disenfranchisement of large sections of politically "undesirable" communities and voters. Concerns have been expressed by informed citizens about the lack of transparency and often blatant bias of the State and the ruling party in relation to the SIR, and its relationship with the planned delimitation, the 2029 elections and perhaps even an oddly timed Census. These concerns apply to Manipur as well. In addition, there are features of the situation in Manipur that are little known outside – and even within – the State, making the implementation of the SIR in Manipur even more egregious.

Fractured social fabric

First, Manipur has been in the throes of an intense ethnic conflict involving the majority Meiteis (54% of the population, inhabiting the dense Imphal Valley), the Kuki-Zo peoples (15%, inhabiting the surrounding hills) and, more recently, the Manipuri Nagas (26%, mainly in the northern part of Manipur). It has resulted in over 260 deaths in pogroms, attacks, and retaliatory violence; displaced some 60,000 people within and outside Manipur; led to the burning of hundreds of villages and places of worship; and witnessed unimaginable atrocities, including beheadings, dismemberment, and rapes as forms of collective punishment, disproportionately inflicted on the Kuki-Zo.

It has led to a demand by the Kuki-Zo for a 'Separate Administration' for themselves – and an equally stout opposition by the Meiteis to it – while many Manipuri Nagas led by the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah), or NSCN-IM, remain committed to their decades old demand for integration of Naga-inhabited areas in a sovereign 'Nagalim'. Many are backed by political, militant and proscribed insurgent groups of diverse persuasions.

Three years after the start of the conflict, not a single case of violence has been brought to book through the courts. An Inquiry Commission



Gautam Mukhopadhyaya

Former Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Afghanistan and Syria, and engaged in issues facing the northeast of India

Manipur's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls risks deepening exclusion amid ethnic conflict, displacement, and identity challenges

formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has yet to present its report. Thousands of internally displaced persons languish in camps with little relief.

Ethnic divisions have worsened and spread. Long-standing Naga-Kuki hostilities have been added to the three-year-old Meitei-Kuki conflict marked by the burning of villages (mostly Kuki), ambushes, and recently in May, the killing of three Thadou-Kuki pastors, and, in retaliation, tit-for-tat hostage-taking and the horrific killing of six Nagas in Kuki custody that has in turn set off a full economic blockade of Kangpokpi district. In response, State and central security forces have appeared passive, paralysed and at times, biased.

The conduct of the State government has been widely viewed as partisan, but the role of the Centre and even courts cannot be said to be above board. Conducting the SIR under these conditions, under a pretence of normalcy, is inexplicable.

Narratives driving electoral exclusion

Second, unlike the rest of the country, where the SIR is being driven by the central government through the ECI with the partisan support of the ruling party, in Manipur the demand to "cleanse" the State of alleged "illegal migrants" – a code word for Kukis – is in line with perceptions of politically radicalised Meiteis and Manipuri Nagas, who together constitute about 80% of the population. These allegations have no basis in Census figures for over a century, and are based on recent distortions of history, fake narratives and loud propaganda that feed directly into the SIR exercise. They create a very negative environment for a fair SIR, particularly in mixed areas, that is itself, *ipso facto*, biased against certain communities.

Third, there are several features peculiar to the Kukis themselves that lend themselves to their victimisation by the SIR. The first reason is that close to 50,000 Kuki-Zo remain displaced and scattered in Manipur and outside. There does not seem to be any provision in place for their fair enumeration.

The second reason is that together with their displacement, many are known to have lost many of their identity, residence, election, education and other documents that could have helped establish their voter credentials. There are visual records of Kuki-Zo educational certificates, Aadhaar cards, and driving licences in Imphal being destroyed after the violence of May 2023.

The third reason is that customary naming systems – where names are derived from the last syllable of complex parental names, nicknames often substitute formal names, and names are converted from tribal names to English orthography – create vast scope "logical discrepancies", making people far more vulnerable to exclusion than in States such as West Bengal. Possibly, more than 90% of Kuki-Zo people are unlikely to be able to produce a single, consistent spelling of their own names, let alone maintain consistency across generations.

The fourth reason is that by some historical anomaly, Manipuri tribals, both Kuki-Zo and Naga, do not enjoy Sixth Schedule status, although they enjoy some measure of autonomy under Article 371C and very weak Autonomous Councils.

This served them well during periodic bouts of violence and displacement, most recently during the Naga-Kuki violence of the 1990s, which again disproportionately affected the Kukis. Village chiefs and local authorities were then able to certify the identities of villagers under their jurisdiction. Such arrangements are unlikely to be recognised in the present exercise and prevailing atmosphere.

Finally, the Kuki-Zo leadership appears, for some reason, unaware of the nature, motivations, and implications of the SIR exercise. They seem to believe, perhaps naively, that as Indian citizens who have lived here all their lives and in possession of necessary documents, including voter ID cards, they have nothing to fear, and that opposing the exercise would amount to an admission of guilt. The dangers of the SIR now appear to be dawning on them, with some Kuki-Zo civil society organisations issuing statements highlighting its shortcomings, although opposition has yet to take a political form.

Safeguarding belonging

A nationwide SIR is now a *fait accompli* following the ruling by the Supreme Court of India in its favour. However, the process can still be made fairer and more sensitive to the risks of exclusion. Unless measures are adopted to limit its potential harm, by 2029 we may see a pathway to statelessness not only for the Kuki-Zo but also for other tribal communities in the Northeast, with their plight obscured amid the broader exclusion and disenfranchisement of Muslims labelled as "illegal migrants".

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

SIR (Special Intensive Revision) क्या है?

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** भारत के Election Commission of India द्वारा मतदाता सूची (Electoral Roll) को पूरी तरह अद्यतन और शुद्ध करने के लिए चलाया जाने वाला विशेष अभियान है।

मुख्य उद्देश्य

- अपात्र (Ineligible) मतदाताओं के नाम हटाना।
- नए पात्र मतदाताओं के नाम जोड़ना।
- मृत, स्थानांतरित (Shifted) या डुप्लिकेट मतदाताओं के नाम हटाना।
- मतदाता सूची को त्रुटिरहित और अद्यतन बनाना।

SIR के दौरान क्या किया जाता है?

- घर-घर जाकर मतदाता सत्यापन।
- पहचान और निवास संबंधी दस्तावेजों का सत्यापन।
- नए मतदाताओं का पंजीकरण।
- आपत्तियों और दावों (Claims & Objections) का निपटारा।
- अंतिम मतदाता सूची का प्रकाशन।

महत्व

- स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करना।
- फर्जी मतदान पर रोक लगाना।
- लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया की विश्वसनीयता बढ़ाना।

Fact

- **अनुच्छेद 324** - चुनावों का अधीक्षण, निर्देशन और नियंत्रण Election Commission of India के पास है।
- मतदाता सूची का प्रावधान मुख्यतः **Representation of the People Act, 1950** के अंतर्गत किया गया है।
- चुनाव आयोग समय-समय पर **Summary Revision** तथा आवश्यकता होने पर **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** आयोजित करता है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** भारत का एक स्वतंत्र संवैधानिक निकाय (Independent Constitutional Body) है, जो देश में लोकसभा, राज्यसभा, राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति तथा राज्य विधानसभाओं के चुनाव स्वतंत्र, निष्पक्ष और पारदर्शी ढंग से कराने के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

स्थापना

- **स्थापना:** 25 जनवरी 1950
- **संवैधानिक आधार:** अनुच्छेद 324
- **मुख्यालय:** नई दिल्ली
- **राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस:** 25 जनवरी (2011 से)

संरचना

- **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (Chief Election Commissioner - CEC)** - 1
- **अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (Election Commissioners - ECs)** - 2
- वर्तमान में आयोग तीन सदस्यीय है।

नियुक्ति

- राष्ट्रपति द्वारा नियुक्ति की जाती है।
- वर्तमान व्यवस्था के अनुसार, चयन एक समिति की सिफारिश पर होता है, जिसमें:
 - प्रधानमंत्री
 - लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता (या सबसे बड़े विपक्षी दल के नेता)
 - प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा नामित एक केंद्रीय कैबिनेट मंत्री

कार्यकाल

- 6 वर्ष या 65 वर्ष की आयु, जो पहले हो।

प्रमुख कार्य

- लोकसभा एवं राज्य विधानसभा चुनाव कराना।
- राष्ट्रपति एवं उपराष्ट्रपति का चुनाव कराना।
- मतदाता सूची (Electoral Roll) तैयार एवं अद्यतन करना।
- राजनीतिक दलों का पंजीकरण करना।
- चुनाव चिन्ह (Election Symbols) आवंटित करना।
- आदर्श आचार संहिता (Model Code of Conduct) लागू कराना।
- चुनाव खर्च की निगरानी करना।
- स्वतंत्र एवं निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करना।

हटाने की प्रक्रिया

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC):

हटाने की प्रक्रिया सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के समान है। संसद में विशेष बहुमत से प्रस्ताव पारित होने पर ही हटाया जा सकता है।

अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (ECs):

राष्ट्रपति हटा सकते हैं, लेकिन मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की सिफारिश आवश्यक होती है।

महत्वपूर्ण अनुच्छेद

- **अनुच्छेद 324** - चुनाव आयोग की शक्तियाँ एवं दायित्व।
- **अनुच्छेद 325** - धर्म, जाति आदि के आधार पर मतदाता सूची से किसी को वंचित नहीं किया जा सकता।
- **अनुच्छेद 326** - वयस्क मताधिकार (18 वर्ष या अधिक आयु) के आधार पर मतदान का अधिकार।
- **अनुच्छेद 327** - चुनाव संबंधी कानून बनाने की संसद की शक्ति।
- **अनुच्छेद 328** - राज्य विधानमंडल की चुनाव संबंधी कानून बनाने की शक्ति।
- **अनुच्छेद 329** - चुनाव संबंधी मामलों में न्यायालय के हस्तक्षेप पर सीमाएँ।

Why is the Centre revising the NFSA?

Why has the Centre proposed changing AAY foodgrain entitlements? How will the proposed amendment affect households? Why are Tamil Nadu and Kerala opposing? Could the amendment widen regional disparities in foodgrain allocation?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far: On July 6, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay urged the Centre to retain the present provision of 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) meant for the poorest of the poor, and not to make it a per capita system. The next day, the CPIM Polit Bureau voiced its concern and demanded that the proposed amendment to the entitlement criteria be dropped. About 10 days ago, immediately after the Union government made public its plan to amend the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Kerala's Food Minister Anoop Jacob expressed reservations over the move.

What is the amendment mooted?

On June 24, the Union Food and Public Distribution (F&PD) Department, while publishing a draft amendment Bill to the NFSA, said every person belonging to AAY households would be entitled to seven kg of foodgrains per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household per month. At present, the entitlement is for the entire household with a ceiling of 35 kg per month. The proposed amendment covers the first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 3 (Right to receive foodgrains at subsidised prices by persons belonging to eligible households) of the Act. The public can comment on the amendments till July 13 and send their views by email to suneel.sachdeva@nic.in and saurabhomar.edu@gov.in.

Why is the change being proposed?

The existing household-based entitlement, though intended as a protective measure for the most vulnerable families, results in significant inequities depending upon the size of the household, according to the F&PD Department. Smaller households receive a higher per-capita entitlement, whereas larger households receive a lower per-capita entitlement, which may fall below the entitlement available to priority households.

The aim and purpose are to remove intra-category inequities, provide for more rational foodgrain allocation, and better align entitlements with nutritional requirements, a note prepared by the department said.

However, the proposed amendment does not seek to address the inclusion of ineligible persons as beneficiaries, a problem that persists at the State level.

What is the story behind the two southern States' opposition?

It is not for the first time that the two States are articulating their opposition to matters concerning the food policy, as their contemporary political history has an important ingredient – the politics of food. Kerala, which has a long history of the public distribution system (PDS) dating back to the now abolished princely State of Travancore, introduced informal food distribution mechanisms to mitigate the food shortage of the poor and vulnerable, and was perhaps the first to launch a formal PDS in 1962, three years before the establishment of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). At least on two occasions – 1952 and 1967 – Tamil Nadu saw political upsets, the incumbent regime getting reduced to a minority in 1952 and being shown the door (in 1967). The reason was that the governments of

Grains of debate

The Centre's proposed amendment to the National Food Security Act has triggered concerns that foodgrain allocations under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana could fall for many households in the southern States



Table 1: AAY coverage, beneficiaries and foodgrain allocation

State	Ceiling of households (in lakh)	AAY coverage No. of households (in lakh)	No. of persons (in lakh)	Allocation of foodgrains* for 2026-27 (in tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	9.09	8.48	22.48	3,81,557
Karnataka	12	10.3	42.72	4,66,740
Kerala	5.96	5.93	18.53	2,50,236
Tamil Nadu	18.65	18.57	62.21	7,82,771
Telangana	6.49	5.64	15.66	2,38,074
Puducherry** (0.1)	0.82	0.24	0.77	9*
Share of the South	52.51	49.16	162.37	21,13,378
All India	290	217.01	777.41	99,30,942

Source: Foodgrain bulletin for May 2026, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

* No industry follows the concept of direct benefit transfer; no allocation has been made
** foodgrains - rice, wheat and coarse grains

the periods in question were not being swift in handling the rice shortage. Since 1967, successive Chief Ministers of the State have been cautious in taking decisions with regard to the subject of rice.

It was no wonder that the two States were vociferous in their stand in the run-up to the formulation of the NFSA. Though the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) took charge in 2011 in Kerala, the government did not agree to the implementation of the 2013 law – an Act of Parliament – despite the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance regime at the Centre pushing the legislation. The main reservation it had was that the NFSA would lead to the removal of a "large number of poor families" from the list of beneficiaries and put an "enormous financial burden" on the State. However, the then Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy, at one point in time, committed himself to the enforcement of the law in his State, though it was left to his successor, Pinarayi Vijayan, to take the formal decision.

In Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha, as Chief Minister, virulently opposed the law because immediately after she came to power in May 2011, her government started the distribution of rice, free to all the ration cardholders, regardless of their economic status. She had criticised the government for stating that those who would be left out of the NFSA would not

be eligible to receive free rice. Eventually, she extracted a major concession from the Union government that the existing allocations, as they stood in 2013, for all the States would be legally safeguarded.

Hence, it was no surprise that the two southern neighbours joined the rest of the country in November 2016 in implementing the law.

Why are Tamil Nadu and Kerala opposing the amendment to NFSA? Explaining how Kerala would be affected by the latest move, Mr. Jacob has pointed out that States such as his, characterised by nuclear families, will be at a disadvantage as there will be a reduction in the quantity of free foodgrains for families with fewer than five members. He has recalled that even in 2013, when the law took effect, his State took the stand that the AAY cardholders deserved "special consideration," a position that it continues. "As a consumption State, any cut in Kerala's allocation is a matter of concern," Mr. Jacob stated.

Mr. Vijay, who referred in his letter to Mr. Modi about how the amendment

would cause a fall in the monthly allocation of foodgrains from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes, stated that the number of AAY cardholders below the family size of five members is 15.78 lakh (out of a total of 18.64 lakhs), covering 58.51 lakh beneficiaries (total: 69.27 lakhs). "Rice provided to the AAY cardholders is a staple ingredient of all three meals of the day and cannot be substituted with any other commodity from the open market, resulting in substantial out of pocket expenses," he said.

Besides, Anuradha Talwar, a functionary of the Right to Food Campaign, said that the amendment would bring a "North-South divide" in foodgrain allocation, as families in northern States would get higher allocations as their average family size was bigger than that of the southern States.

What is the way forward?

Ideally, such a change should have been subjected to greater public scrutiny to arrive at a consensus. However, T. Sadagopan, president, Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre and veteran activist who served on the State government's panels on food, suggests that the Centre chalk out a middle path by making the allocation of 30 kg per family, irrespective of family members. This would help the Union government to cut down its subsidy bill.

THE GIST

▼ The Centre has proposed amending the NFSA to change AAY foodgrain entitlements from a household-based system to a per capita allocation of 7 kg per person, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household, to address inequities in the existing system.

▼ Tamil Nadu and Kerala have opposed the proposal, arguing that it will reduce foodgrain allocations for households with fewer than five members and increase the burden on poor families, particularly in States with predominantly nuclear families.

▼ While the Centre says the amendment will make foodgrain distribution more equitable, critics warn it could widen regional disparities, and some have suggested a middle path of a fixed 30 kg allocation per household.

Table 2: Off-take and distribution in the Southern States

How the South fared during the current financial year up to the month of May 2026 (tonnes)

State	Allocation	Off-take (drawn)	Distributed
Andhra Pradesh	63,993	63,993	57,837
Karnataka	76,790	57,316	35,003
Kerala	41,706	39,812	20,458
Tamil Nadu	1,36,462	1,90,135	1,21,709
Telangana	39,679	59,519	38,893
Share of the South	3,52,230	4,10,375	2,73,900
All India	16,55,505	17,24,185	11,75,621

YouTube Homework

- ☐ PDS
- ☐ Ration Card
- ☐ AAY

AI poses a relatively lower risk to India's GCC jobs: CEA

Nageswaran says most of India's Global Capability Centres are engaged in cutting-edge work rather than providing low-cost support, which is what AI can easily and cheaply replace

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are not just low-cost support in a new form, but are areas where cutting edge work is taking place, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Thursday. As such, these GCC jobs are also at a relatively lower risk of being replaced by Artificial Intelligence (AI), he added.

However, the CEA did warn against the dangers of complacency, saying that other countries are already copying India's model.

"It is cutting edge and increasingly so," Mr. Nageswaran said while speaking at a session during the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) GCC Business Summit. "Global banks run their risk systems and trading platforms in Mumbai and Bangalore and elsewhere as well, car makers design their vehicles' embedded systems from Chennai and Pune, semiconductor firms carry out chip design, pharmaceutical companies run clinical analytics here, and consumer firms build and own entire digital products here in India," he added.

Mr. Nageswaran said that the intellectual property created in these centers is real, with the patents being filed here, the products shipped from India and global roles increasingly held by people



CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran speaks at the inaugural session of the CII GCC Business Summit 2026 on Thursday. BY ARRANGEMENT

sitting in India.

The CEA also sought to answer whether these GCCs would be under threat from the rise of AI and would these GCC jobs be automated soon.

"Part of the model is indeed exposed," Mr. Nageswaran conceded. "The work that was routine, repetitive and rule bound is exactly the work that AI does most easily and most cheaply as well. If a centre's value rests only on doing simple tasks at low cost, then the value is under real threat. We should not pretend otherwise."

However, he also said that this is not where most Indian centres are today, and that this was not the direction in which they are headed.

"Artificial intelligence does not build, deploy or govern itself," Mr. Nageswaran explained. "Someone has to design these systems, train them, test them, correct them and

hold them to account. Someone has to decide where they should be used and where they must not be used."

"Someone has to carry the responsibility when they fail," he added. "And that work is expanding and not shrinking. And a large and growing share of this kind of work is being done in India."

Complacency matters

The CEA, however, cautioned against complacency, saying that standing still meant allowing others to catch up. "Other countries are watching us and copying us," he asserted. "Our costs are rising. In some skills, our talent is already scarce, so indispensability is not a title that India can hold on to forever."

He added that the move from cost centres to capability centres, and from execution to innovation has to be made by firms and by people, with the govern-

'India aims to be strategic leader in hosting GCCs'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said India aspires to become a "strategic leader" in hosting global capability centres (GCCs) of MNCs and become indispensable to the world's knowledge economy. India possesses "every ingredient" required to lead this transformation, she said.

ment acting as a support.

"Skilling is the clearest case," Mr. Nageswaran said. "We produce a very large number of graduates each year. We do not yet produce enough of those who are ready on day one. By some estimates, fewer than half of them are ready for the job on the day they arrive."

"Closing that gap means universities, industry and the government working together, not one after the other, but at the same time," he said.

He further said that the position India currently holds in the global capability centre market was one that it has to keep earning, over and over.

"The moment we believe we have arrived is the moment others begin to catch up," he said. "So let us not celebrate too early. Let us treat this success not as a finishing line, but as a foundation or a milestone."

YouTube Homework

□ AI

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Global Capability Center (GCC)

- GCC (Global Capability Center) किसी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी (MNC) का ऐसा केंद्र होता है, जहाँ से वह IT, AI, R&D, Finance, Data Analytics, Cyber Security जैसे महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक कार्य संचालित करती है।

मुख्य बिंदु:

- पहले इसे Global In-house Center (GIC) कहा जाता था।
- भारत GCC का प्रमुख वैश्विक हब है।
- प्रमुख शहर: बेंगलुरु, हैदराबाद, पुणे, चेन्नई, गुरुग्राम।
- लाभ: रोजगार, FDI, तकनीकी विकास और नवाचार (Innovation) को बढ़ावा।

U.S., Iran exchange more attacks across West Asia, threatening deal

Iran reports U.S. strikes around the perimeter of Bushehr nuclear plant as U.S. officials say they hit about 90 Iranian military targets; new fighting erupted hours before the burial of Khamenei; Tehran officials report that U.S. attacks killed 17 people

Agence France-Presse
MASHHAD

New fighting erupted between the United States and Iran hours ahead of the burial of long-time Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Thursday, with Tehran targeting U.S. allies in the region and American strikes hitting the perimeter of an Iranian nuclear power plant.

The renewed hostilities, triggered by tensions over the Strait of Hormuz, sparked concerns of a return to full-scale war after an April ceasefire and a June U.S.-Iran accord ended five weeks of conflict.



Mourners carry a banner against Donald Trump as they gather on the day of Khamenei's burial in Mashhad on Thursday. REUTERS

This was the second day in a row that the decades-old foes exchanged attacks, with Iranian officials reporting the U.S. attacks had killed 17 people.

The Islamic republic said it had resumed its attacks targeting U.S. assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, while sirens blared in Jordan – another U.S. ally

– where the military said it had intercepted eight missiles launched from Iran.

The fighting came with Iran preparing to bury Khamenei, who was killed alongside close family members on the first day of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran on February 28, in his hometown of Mashhad.

'Effort to overshadow'

The United States targeted the perimeter of Iran's only civilian nuclear plant with a strike on Thursday, Iranian state media reported, citing the deputy governor of Bushehr province.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. attacks

targeted civilian infrastructure, including railway bridges, and described the strikes as a "gross war crime".

U.S. military officials said Thursday's strikes hit approximately 90 Iranian military targets, including air defence systems, missile and drone storage sites.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards accused the United States of an "effort to overshadow" Khamenei's funeral with its attacks.

In a sign of the security tensions, at least one fighter jet escorted the plane carrying Khamenei's coffin to its final burial in Mashhad.

Ukrainian drones strike Russian oil depots, tankers

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian drones hit more Russian oil facilities and set two oil tankers ablaze in the Sea of Azov on Thursday, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump pledged to grant Kyiv a licence to manufacture the Patriot air defence systems to protect its cities.

A top Ukrainian official, meanwhile, cautioned that it could take a year or more for the country to produce Patriot interceptor missiles.

A Ukrainian drone strike triggered a fire at an oil depot in the western Russian city of Tver, according to acting Governor Vitaly Korolyov.

Oil reservoirs also were set ablaze by drones in Vyazniki, in the southern



People queue to refuel their cars at a petrol station in Moscow as Ukrainian strikes on its facilities crimp domestic supply. AFP

Stavropol region, said Governor Vladimir Vladimirov, forcing the evacuation of several apartment buildings near the facility.

In the Sea of Azov, Ukrainian drones set two oil tankers on fire, according to Rostov Governor Yuri Slusar, who said one of the ships was still burning and its crew evacuated.

The attack was the latest in a series of strikes on oil tankers in the area in recent days, part of Ukraine efforts to cut fuel supplies to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its defences downed 73 Ukrainian drones during the past day.

Syria welcomes U.S. announcement of removal from blacklist

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Damascus welcomed a U.S. announcement that it would remove Syria from its list of "state sponsors of terrorism", a move that one economist said opened the door to economic recovery and foreign investment.

"A dark page in Syria's history has been turned," Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani wrote on X.

The United States announced on Wednesday that it would remove Syria from its blacklist of countries it accuses of supporting terrorism, a designation it placed on Syria nearly five decades ago



Asaad al-Shaibani

and which had curbed investment in the country.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry called the move "an important development in the course of Syrian-American relations".

The move will be effective in 45 days unless lawmakers take the unlikely step of blocking it.

Push to disarm Hezbollah deepens rifts in Lebanon, raises civil war fears

A U.S.-brokered peace deal between Lebanon and Israel envisions an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon, but makes a full withdrawal conditional on Hezbollah's disarmament; this has infuriated the Iran-backed militant group, deepened political tensions and raised fears of renewed civil conflict

NEWS ANALYSIS

Associated Press
BEIRUT

A deal between Lebanon and Israel was billed as paving the way for peace. But in Lebanon, it is deepening long-time divisions and raising fears of political paralysis or even a return to civil war.

The U.S.-brokered deal envisions an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon and an eventual peace agreement between the two countries – which technically remain in a state of war nearly 80 years after Israel's establishment. But the agreement says a full Israeli withdrawal will happen only after Hezbollah is disarmed, infuriating the Iran-backed militant group.

Lebanon's Western-backed government and Hezbollah have exchanged angry words, and the militant group's supporters have blocked major roads in protest. One Hezbollah lawmaker said the country would plunge into civil war if the government tries to force the group's disarmament.

The tensions have stirred up memories of Lebanon's devastating 1975-1990 civil war and reminded many of more recent clashes between Hezbollah gunmen and pro-govern-

ment fighters in 2008. They also have raised deep questions over whether the U.S.-brokered deal will be able to get off the ground.

A resumption of the war between the U.S. and Iran would further complicate the deal's prospects and raise the risk of renewed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

The deal is expected to top the agenda when Lebanese President Joseph Aoun heads to the White House on July 21.

Lebanon's political landscape has been divided for over two decades between one coalition that is Western-backed and another that is supported by Iran and led by Hezbollah. Both camps see the outcome of the new agreement as existential.

The latest war between Israel and Hezbollah erupted in March, triggered by the joint U.S.-Israel war launched against Iran days earlier.

Hezbollah, which entered the conflict without seeking approval from the government, has sought to link the end of its war against Israel to the outcome of broader U.S.-Iran talks. The Lebanese government, trying to minimise Iran's influence, aimed to keep the two tracks separate and negotiate a ceasefire directly with Israel.

The pro-Hezbollah camp was jubilant when



Hezbollah supporters take to the streets in Beirut to protest against the agreement signed between the U.S., Israel and Lebanon. *AFP*

the ceasefire deal between Iran and the U.S. explicitly called for an end to the war in Lebanon.

That led to a truce that has substantially reduced the intensity of the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. But Israeli troops continue to occupy large swaths of southern Lebanon, and hundreds of thousands of people remain displaced from villages and city neighbourhoods that have been almost entirely demolished. The linkage to the U.S.-Iran ceasefire was widely seen as boosting Hezbollah's standing and cementing Iran's influence over Lebanon.

But days later, the tables turned as Israel and Lebanon announced their June 26 "framework agreement" in Washington. That deal conditioned withdrawal of Israeli forces on disarmament of Hezbollah

throughout the country. Lebanese government officials have hailed the deal as a step toward liberating occupied areas of the south and allowing the displaced to go home.

Open-ended occupation But with Israel giving no timeline for its withdrawal, Hezbollah and its supporters have accused the government of agreeing to an open-ended Israeli occupation.

Hezbollah supporters protested and blocked roads in Beirut. Some burned banners bearing the slogan "Lebanon First" – seen as a dig at the Iran-backed group. The group's leader, Naim Kassem, called the deal a "humiliation" and said Hezbollah would not honour it.

Hassan Fadlallah, an influential Hezbollah legislator, went even further, saying the government "will

not be able to enforce the agreement signed in Washington unless they go, with American support, to civil war."

Such rhetoric brought back memories of May 2008, when the government decided to dismantle Hezbollah's telecommunications network. The group sent gunmen to the streets and engaged in intense clashes with pro-government fighters in Beirut and elsewhere. The government was forced to annul its decision.

Hezbollah is now demanding that the government abolish its March 2 decision that considered Hezbollah's military and security activities illegal.

Lebanon's Prime Minister, Nawaf Salam, says the agreement with Israel will restore the state's sovereignty over the entire country and has pushed back against Hezbollah's rhetoric.

"I am not looking for a confrontation with Hezbollah but neither myself nor anyone in the government will accept to be blackmailed by Hezbollah," Mr. Salam recently told the local LBC TV station.

For now, there are no signs of the verbal threats spilling over into violence – in large part because the deal is deadlocked.

Israel and Lebanon have agreed to establish two "pilot zones" where the Israeli military is to turn over control to the Lebanese Army

after clearing the areas of any Hezbollah presence.

Mr. Salam has said the implementation could begin soon. But on the ground, there has been little movement.

"There is no schedule for the withdrawal or anything else," said a Lebanese military official. He said the Army has received no information about when or how the Israeli withdrawal will proceed.

The initial pilot zones announced by Lebanese and Israeli officials include the towns of Froun, Ghandouriyeh and Zawtar. Israeli troops were not present in most of that area to begin with, raising questions about how a withdrawal could take place. The official said the Lebanese Army had pushed for pilot zones that were larger and included more area occupied by Israeli forces.

An Israeli military official said the Army is still waiting for instructions from the political leadership on when the withdrawal will take place.

Lebanon has a history of political violence, but its sectarian power-sharing system, divided among Shia and Sunni Muslims, Christians and Druze, has also been prone to deadlock.

Powerful Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally, has warned the deal "will not pass, and it will not be implemented in its current form."

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Labour leadership contest takes Burnham closer to U.K. PM's office

Agence France Presse

LONDON

Veteran politician Andy Burnham took another step towards becoming the U.K.'s next Prime Minister Thursday as nominations to replace Keir Starmer as Labour leader formally opened.

The 56-year-old is the only Labour Member of Parliament (MP) to have publicly said they are a candidate to succeed Mr. Starmer, who announced he was quitting last month.

A steady trickle of MPs entered Labour's parliamentary office on Thursday morning to nominate the person they want to lead Britain's ruling party. In the absence of a contest, Mr. Burnham is expected



Fresh face: Andy Burnham is expected to be crowned Labour's new leader and Prime Minister-in-waiting at a conference on July 17. AFP

to be crowned Labour's new leader – and Prime Minister-in-waiting – at a conference on July 17.

Mr. Burnham, nicknamed the 'King of the North' for winning three consecutive Greater Manchester mayoral elections, would then replace Mr. Starmer at 10 Downing

Street three days later. "There's no one else," one Labour MP told AFP.

If a contest does take place, then the victor would be announced on August 29 following a ballot of Labour members and affiliated unions.

Mr. Burnham's path to Downing Street looked in-

creasingly assured after former armed forces minister Al Carns ruled himself out of the running late Wednesday. Mr. Carns had said he had hoped a leadership contest would give the party the "opportunity for a proper debate". "But months of internal Labour politics isn't what the country needs right now," he said, throwing his support behind Mr. Burnham.

Mr. Burnham needs the support of 81 of Labour's 402 MPs to become a formal candidate, a tally that he will surpass easily.

Many MPs feel he is the party's best chance of clawing back support from Nigel Farage's anti-immigrant Reform UK party before the next general election, expected in 2029.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय



श्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने कोयंबटूर में राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण की 29वीं बैठक की अध्यक्षता की

बैठक में भारत के बाघ क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने, प्रबंधन के तरीकों को बेहतर बनाने और संरक्षण पर चर्चा की गई

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 09 JUL 2026 6:49PM by PIB Delhi

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- भारत सरकार के पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) के अंतर्गत एक वैधानिक (Statutory) निकाय है, जो देश में बाघों के संरक्षण और Project Tiger के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के लिए कार्य करता है।

मुख्य तथ्य

- स्थापना: 2005 (Project Tiger की सिफारिशों के बाद)
- वैधानिक दर्जा: 2006
- कानूनी आधार: वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 की धारा 38L
- मंत्रालय: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC)
- मुख्यालय: नई दिल्ली

प्रमुख कार्य

- बाघ संरक्षण की नीतियाँ बनाना।
- टाइगर रिजर्व की निगरानी करना।
- बाघों की जनगणना (Tiger Census) कराना।
- शिकार (Poaching) रोकने के उपाय करना।
- राज्यों को वित्तीय एवं तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करना।

UPSC/PCS Fact

- Project Tiger की शुरुआत: 1973
- NTCA = बाघ संरक्षण के लिए भारत का वैधानिक प्राधिकरण।

गृह मंत्रालय



केन्द्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री श्री अमित शाह ने आज नई दिल्ली में सीमांत जिला पुलिस अधीक्षक सम्मेलन-2026 को संबोधित किया

इस सम्मेलन से समग्र सीमा सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण को संस्थागत रूप मिला है आने वाले समय में तटीय सीमा सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में भी हम समग्रता से आगे बढ़ेंगे

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय



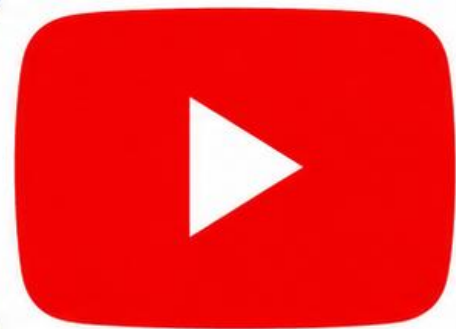
महाराष्ट्र के नागपुर में तीसरी ब्रिक्स परिवहन कार्य समूह की
बैठक शुरू हुई

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 09 JUL 2026 7:35PM by PIB Delhi

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