

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

 **ONE STOP SOLUTION**

By **Faiyaz Sir**



**COMPLETE
COVERAGE**



**EXAM
FOCUSED**



**ANALYSIS
MADE EASY**



**STATIC + CURRENT
INTEGRATION**



**STAY AHEAD
STAY PREPARED**

“ आपका भविष्य

इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि
आप **आज** क्या करते हैं।

”

— महात्मा गांधी



लक्ष्य तय करें



नियमित अध्ययन करें



धैर्य और अनुशासन रखें



सफलता निश्चित है



आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. भारत के वस्त्र उद्योग में स्थिरता और चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था
2. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



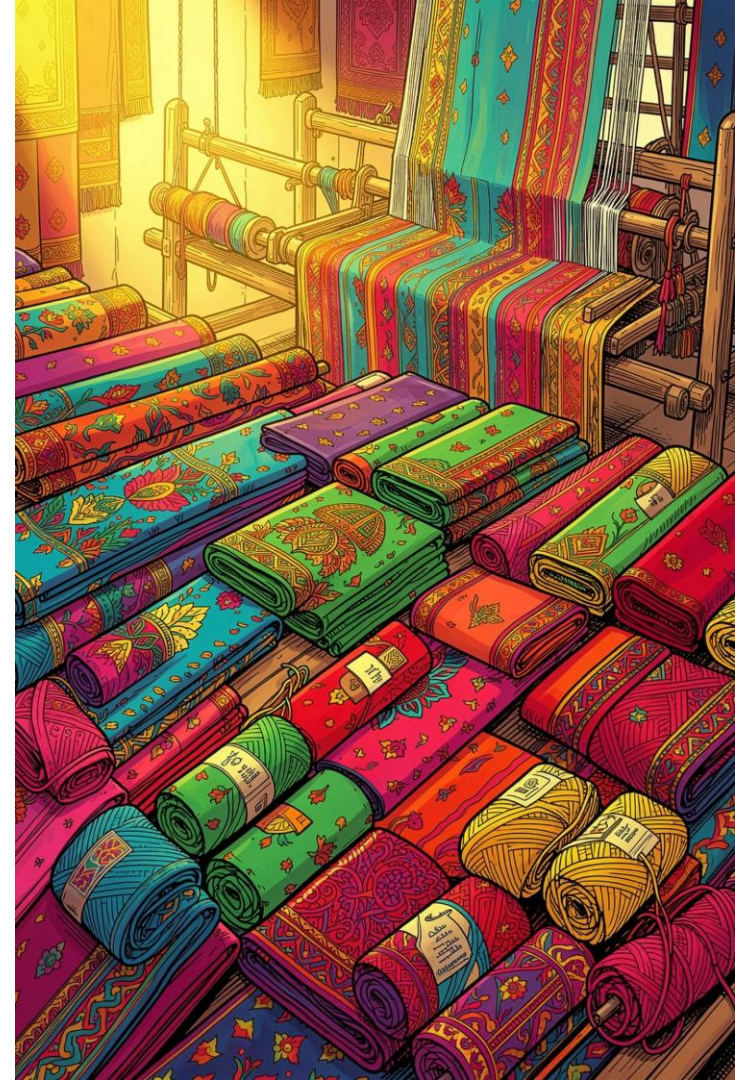
केंद्रीय वस्त्र मंत्री श्री गिरिराज सिंह ने भारत टेक्स 2026 का उद्घाटन किया; भारत के सबसे बड़े वैश्विक वस्त्र आयोजन में रिकॉर्ड अंतरराष्ट्रीय भागीदारी के साथ हुआ शुभारंभ

भारत टेक्स 2026 - जहां भारत का वस्त्र विजन विश्व के व्यापारिक लक्ष्यों से मिलता है

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 14 JUL 2026 7:24PM by PIB Delhi

केंद्रीय वस्त्र मंत्री श्री गिरिराज सिंह ने आज नई दिल्ली स्थित भारत मंडपम में भारत टेक्स 2026 का उद्घाटन किया। यह भारत का प्रमुख वैश्विक वस्त्र आयोजन है, जिसके साथ ही विश्व के सबसे बड़े एकीकृत वस्त्र मूल्य श्रृंखला आयोजन का रिकॉर्ड अंतरराष्ट्रीय भागीदारी के साथ शुभारंभ हुआ।

भारत के वस्त्र उद्योग में स्थिरता और चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था—एक व्यापक विश्लेषण





प्रस्तावना: वस्त्र उद्योग का आर्थिक और रणनीतिक महत्व

भारत का वस्त्र और परिधान उद्योग देश की विनिर्माण क्षमता का आधार स्तंभ है। 'चरखा' (संवैधानिकता और आत्मनिर्भरता का प्रतीक) से लेकर आधुनिक तकनीकी वस्त्रों तक, यह क्षेत्र भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देता है:

आर्थिक योगदान

भारत की GDP में लगभग 2% और विनिर्माण सकल बाजार मूल्य में लगभग 11% का योगदान।

वैश्विक स्थिति

भारत दुनिया का छठा सबसे बड़ा वस्त्र निर्यातक है, जिसकी वैश्विक व्यापार में लगभग 4% हिस्सेदारी है।

सामाजिक प्रभाव

यह क्षेत्र 45 मिलियन से अधिक लोगों को प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार प्रदान करता है, जिसमें ग्रामीण श्रमिक और महिलाएँ प्रमुख हैं।

उद्योग की मुख्य विशेषताएँ

विविधता

यह उद्योग कपास, जूट, सिल्क, ऊन और सिंथेटिक फाइबर जैसे प्राकृतिक और मानव निर्मित दोनों प्रकार के रेशों पर आधारित है।

'5F' विजन

भारत सरकार का विजन "फार्म टू फाइबर, फाइबर टू फैक्टरी, फैक्टरी टू फैशन, फैशन टू फॉरन" पर आधारित है, जिसका उद्देश्य पूरी मूल्य श्रृंखला को एकीकृत करना है।

सांस्कृतिक विरासत

भारत अपनी समृद्ध हस्तशिल्प, हथकरघा (Handloom) और बुनकर परंपराओं के लिए विश्व प्रसिद्ध है।

2. चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था (Circular Economy) का सिद्धांत

वस्त्र उद्योग में चक्रीयता का अर्थ है—संसाधनों का पुनः उपयोग (Reuse), पुनर्चक्रण (Recycle) और लंबे समय तक उपयोग। इसका उद्देश्य 'टेक-मेक-डिसपोज' मॉडल को हटाकर 'रिड्यूस-रीसायकल-रीजेनरेट' मॉडल को अपनाना है, जिससे ऊर्जा, रसायन और जल की खपत कम हो।

भारत में वस्त्र अपशिष्ट का डेटा-आधारित मानचित्रण:

अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन: प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 7.8 मिलियन टन वस्त्र अपशिष्ट प्रबंधित किया जाता है, जिसका 90% से अधिक स्रोत कारखाना स्क्रेप (उपभोक्ता-पूर्व) और उपभोक्ता-बाद का अपशिष्ट है।

रिकवरी और पुनर्चक्रण

रिकवरी और पुनर्चक्रण

कुल अपशिष्ट का 70% से अधिक हिस्सा
अपसाइक्लिंग या पुनः उपयोग में लाया जाता है।

उपभोक्ता-पूर्व दक्षता

कताई क्षेत्र में 'बंद-लूप चक्रीयता' (Closed-loop circularity) का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है, जहाँ कताई से निकलने वाले लगभग सभी अपशिष्ट पदार्थों का पुनः उपयोग किया जाता है।

सामाजिक प्रभाव

यह इकोसिस्टम लगभग 40-45 लाख
आजीविकाओं को सहारा देता है, जिसमें
हाशिए पर रहने वाली महिलाएँ अग्रणी हैं।

3. स्थानीय नवाचार मॉडल (सफलता की कहानियाँ)

भारत में स्थानीय स्तर पर विकसित तीन मॉडल चक्रीयता के पथप्रदर्शक हैं:

नवी मुंबई मॉडल

भारत की पहली नगर निगम वस्त्र रिकवरी सुविधा। इसने
30 मीट्रिक टन पोस्ट-कंज्यूमर अपशिष्ट का संग्रहण कर
41,000 वस्तुओं का प्रसंस्करण किया है।

पानीपत हब

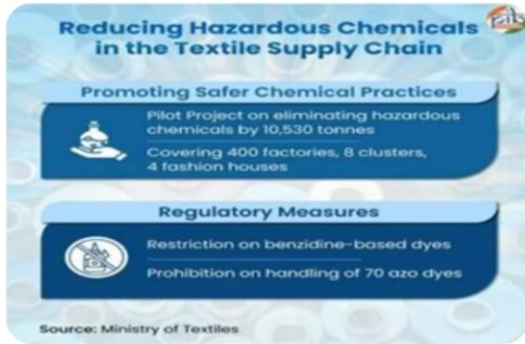
यह प्रतिदिन 3,500-5,250 टन अपशिष्ट का
प्रबंधन करने वाला प्रमुख 'डाउनस्ट्रीम रिसाइक्लिंग
हब' है, जो 'टेक्सटाइल-टू-टेक्सटाइल' पुनर्चक्रण की
प्रबल संभावना पैदा करता है।

मंगोलपुरी नेटवर्क

दिल्ली का कतरन बाजार अनौपचारिक नेटवर्क और
औपचारिक रिसाइक्लिंग केंद्रों के बीच एक
महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी है, जो प्रतिदिन 10 टन से अधिक
छाँटा हुआ कचरा आपूर्ति करता है।

'प्रहार' जैसी रणनीतिक नीति—मूल्य श्रृंखला का चार-चरणीय रूपांतरण

अ. इनपुट चरण: फाइबर और रसायन



जैविक फाइबर

‘जैविक उत्पादन के लिए राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम’ (NPOP) और ‘जूट-ICARE’ कार्यक्रम (10 राज्यों के 289 ब्लॉकों में विस्तारित, ~2.15 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र) का समर्थन।

प्राकृतिक रेशे

‘न्यू एज फाइबर मिशन’ (MM-III) का उद्देश्य रेमी, सिसल और अलसी जैसे प्राकृतिक रेशों को बढ़ावा देना है।

रसायन नियंत्रण

‘भारत में फैशन आपूर्ति श्रृंखला से खतरनाक रसायनों को समाप्त करना’ पायलट परियोजना (400 कारखानों में लागू), जिससे 1,47,000 tCO₂eq उत्सर्जन कम करने का लक्ष्य है। साथ ही 70 azo डाई (Azo dyes) और स्थायी प्रदूषकों (POPs) पर कड़ा प्रतिबंध।

ब. उत्पादन चरण: सतत विनिर्माण

PM-MITRA पार्क

2027-28 तक 4,445 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय से 7 पार्कों का विकास। दिसंबर 2025 तक 27,434 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश के MoUs पर हस्ताक्षर।

MSME सशक्तीकरण

RAMP कार्यक्रम के तहत MSE-GIFT (2% ब्याज सब्सिडी) और MSE-SPISE (25% पूँजी सब्सिडी) योजनाएँ, जो सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्यमों को हरित तकनीक अपनाने में सहायता करती हैं।

भारतीय कार्बन बाजार (ICM)

वस्त्र क्षेत्र को अब स्कोप-1 (प्रत्यक्ष) और स्कोप-2 (अप्रत्यक्ष) उत्सर्जन का खुलासा करना अनिवार्य है, जिससे 'कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग स्कीम' (CCTS) के तहत प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त होता है।

स. पोस्ट-प्रोडक्शन चरण: ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन

ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम, 2026

1 अप्रैल 2026 से प्रभावी, यह उद्योगों को अपशिष्ट-से-ईंधन (RDF) का उपयोग 15% तक बढ़ाने के लिए बाध्य करता है।

NTTM

राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी वस्त्र मिशन के अंतर्गत अपशिष्ट को 'कार्बन फाइबर' जैसी उन्नत हरित सामग्रियों में बदलने हेतु आरएंडडी को बढ़ावा।



प्रमुख पहल और योजनाएँ



PM-MITRA पार्क

विश्व स्तरीय औद्योगिक बुनियादी ढाँचा तैयार करने के लिए 7 'मेगा इंटीग्रेटेड टेक्सटाइल रीजन एंड अपैरल' पार्क विकसित किए जा रहे हैं।



तकनीकी वस्त्र (Technical Textiles)

'राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी वस्त्र मिशन' (NTTM) के माध्यम से चिकित्सा, कृषि, ऑटोमोबाइल और रक्षा जैसे क्षेत्रों के लिए विशेष वस्त्रों के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है।



सततता (Sustainability)

उद्योग अब चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था (Circular Economy) की ओर बढ़ रहा है। इसमें 'इको-मार्क', 'कस्तूरी कॉटन' (प्रीमियम भारतीय कपास) और 'टेक्सटाइल वेस्ट रीसाइक्लिंग' जैसी पहलें शामिल हैं।



MSME समर्थन

लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यमों को आधुनिक तकनीक अपनाने के लिए 'MSE-GIFT' और 'MSE-SPISE' जैसी योजनाएँ चलाई जा रही हैं।

5. मानक, बाजार और जागरूकता

इको-मार्क (2024)

13 भारतीय मानकों के तहत इको-मार्क प्रमाणीकरण, जो वैश्विक खरीदारों के बीच विश्वास पैदा करता है।

ट्रेसबिलिटी

'कस्तूरी कॉटन' और 'सिल्क मार्क' जैसी पहल वैश्विक स्तर पर भारतीय उत्पादों की विशिष्ट पहचान बनाती हैं।

सार्वजनिक खरीद

वस्त्र समिति और GeM के बीच समझौता, जो पुनर्चक्रित उत्पादों की सरकारी खरीद को संस्थागत बनाता है।

जागरूकता पहल

'SU.RE' (सतत संकल्प), 'सर्कल बैक' अभियान और 'भारत टेक्स' (ग्लोबल इवेंट) जैसे मंच सततता को उद्योग संस्कृति का हिस्सा बना रहे हैं।

निष्कर्ष

भारत का वस्त्र उद्योग अपनी पारंपरिक 'पुनः उपयोग' की संस्कृति को आधुनिक नीतिगत ढाँचे (जैसे PM-MITRA, NTTM, और कार्बन बाजार) के साथ एकीकृत कर रहा है। 2030 तक 3.5 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर की पुनर्चक्रण अर्थव्यवस्था का लक्ष्य और 1 लाख हरित रोजगारों का सृजन, यह दर्शाता है कि स्थिरता न केवल पर्यावरणीय आवश्यकता है, बल्कि भारत के लिए एक 'वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धी बढ़त' (Global Competitive Advantage) भी है।

अभ्यास प्रश्न

प्रश्न: 'वस्त्र उद्योग में चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था' के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1 भारत के वस्त्र और परिधान उद्योग में 'प्री-कंज्यूमर' (कारखाना स्क्रेप) अपशिष्ट का पुनर्चक्रण दर, 'पोस्ट-कंज्यूमर' अपशिष्ट की तुलना में काफी अधिक है।
- 2 राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी वस्त्र मिशन (NTTM) के अंतर्गत, वस्त्र अपशिष्ट और बायोमास को केवल ऊर्जा उत्पादन (RDF) में बदलने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है, न कि उन्नत हरित सामग्रियों के विकास पर।
- 3 भारतीय कार्बन बाजार (ICM) के अंतर्गत, वस्त्र उद्योग को अपनी स्कोप-1 और स्कोप-2 उत्सर्जन जानकारी का खुलासा करना अनिवार्य नहीं है।
- 4 'पीएम मेगा इंटीग्रेटेड टेक्स्टाइल रीजन एंड अपैरल' (PM-MITRA) पार्क '5F' विजन पर आधारित हैं, जिसमें साझा अपशिष्ट जल उपचार संयंत्र (CETP) जैसी स्थायी अवसंरचना को शामिल किया गया है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?

(A) केवल एक	(B) केवल दो
(C) केवल तीन	(D) सभी चारों

मेन्स प्रश्न

भारत में सूती वस्त्र उद्योग के अत्यधिक विकेंद्रीकरण के कारकों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (2013)

SC weighs SOP for urgent cases affecting citizens' life and liberty

Constitutional remedies must be accessible at all time, says petition in top court; Bench headed by CJI Kant says an SOP could be put in place to reduce 'response time' in cases such as illegal detentions, demolition drives or other state actions

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to consider framing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to allow citizens to knock on the doors of the courts any time, day or night, in cases affecting life and liberty, including illegal detentions, imminent demolition of homes, deportations, custodial violence, or other state actions.

Beyond court schedules

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was hearing a petition filed by a top court advocate, Maheravish Rein, who said the courts cannot afford to close especially against the background of credible reports of late-night arrests, early-morning demolition drives, and deportation or executive actions undertaken during weekends or holidays.

"The absence of a structured and institutionalised

 The absence of a structured and institutionalised mechanism ensuring continuous judicial accessibility may result in irreversible consequences

MAHERAVISH REIN
Petitioner

mechanism ensuring continuous judicial accessibility may result in irreversible consequences before affected persons are able to approach constitutional courts... The protection of liberty cannot remain dependent upon the temporal boundaries of court schedules. In a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law, the Constitution cannot fall silent at night, nor can the protection of liberty await the morning bell of the courts," Ms. Rein sub-

 Preparation of an SOP should be undertaken by the Supreme Court on its administrative rather than judicial side

TUSHAR MEHTA
Solicitor-General

 Maybe the response from the court should come within an hour of an urgent mention

SURYA KANT
Chief Justice of India

mitted. Access to justice cannot exist merely in theory. Constitutional remedies must be practically accessible at all times, she said.

The Bench noted that an SOP could be put in place to reduce the "response time" to urgent requests in cases of life and liberty. "Maybe the response from the court should come within an hour of such an urgent mention," Chief Justice Kant noted.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the prepara-

tion of an SOP should be undertaken by the top court on its administrative rather than judicial side.

In response to the law officer, the Chief Justice noted that High Courts did not come within the administrative ambit of the top court in a federal set-up, indicating that the petition may have to be heard and orders passed on the judicial side.

Justice Joymahya Bagchi, a part of the Bench, said there was a difference in approach in accessing justice during office hours and after office hours. The judge said a "graded approach" to access to justice after court hours cannot be interpreted as a denial of justice.

Digital access

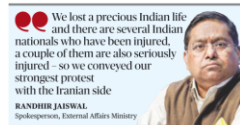
The judge pointed out that courts never "close-up" when there was digital access to justice through e-filing. "A letter, an email or a phone call would be enough to activate the justice system," Justice Bagchi said.

Ms. Rein agreed with Justice Bagchi that technological advancements, including digital filing, electronic court records and virtual hearing infrastructure had significantly enhanced the capacity of courts to provide remote access to justice.

"The present institutional framework of courts largely restricts access to judicial remedies to designated court hours, working days and limited vacation benches. As a result, individuals facing urgent violations of liberty and fundamental rights often encounter significant practical difficulty in obtaining immediate judicial protection during nights, weekends, public holidays and court recesses," Ms. Rein submitted.

"However, these technological capabilities have not yet been integrated into a uniform institutional framework enabling emergency judicial access for urgent constitutional matters outside regular court hours," she submitted.

Govt. summons Iran envoy after missile hit kills Indian sailor



Kallid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday summoned the Iranian Deputy Chief of Mission and registered a "strong protest" after one Indian sailor died and several were seriously injured when two UAE-flagged energy tankers carrying Indian seafarers were hit by Iranian cruise missiles earlier in the day.

The official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, Ranjith Jaiswal, said the Indian side had conveyed "deepest concerns" about the incident in the Strait of Hormuz and urged for "de-escalation".

"We strongly condemn these attacks and acts of violence targeting seafarers and disrupting free and safe navigation through international waters like the Strait of Hormuz. We also reiterate our deep concern on account of resumption of attacks and escalation of hostilities in the West Asian region and call for immediate cessation of violence and a return to dialogue and diplomacy in the interests of peace, security and stability in the region," said the Ministry.

Call for de-escalation

"We lost a precious Indian life and there are several Indian nationals who have been injured, a couple of them are also seriously injured - so we conveyed our strongest protest with the Iranian side on this particular matter. These attacks must stop at the earliest - at the same time there should be de-escalation and the two sides should come to the negotiating table and take the path of dialogue and diplomacy so that peace and stability can

be ensured in West Asia," said Mr. Jaiswal, calling for "safe and unimpeded navigation and flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz."

India's protest came hours after the ships MT Al Bahiyah and MT Mombasa, carrying around 30 Indian seafarers among the total crew of 46, came under attack from the Iranian side while transiting through the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday morning. One Indian crew member out of 12 Indians on board MT Al Bahiyah died and one was injured. Out of 18 Indian sailors on board MT Mombasa, nine suffered injuries while two are "reported to be seriously injured", said the Ministry. Indian diplomats and other officials in the UAE are closely monitoring the situation and extending assistance to the affected Indians on board the two vessels.

Earlier, the Ministry of Defence of the UAE had announced that both the tankers were targeted by two Iranian cruise missiles "while transiting the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz, within Omani territorial waters."

Apart from Indian citizens, two Ukrainian nationals were also injured in the incident, said the UAE authorities. UAE has condemned the incident, terming it a "blatant attack" and a "serious violation and a clear breach of international law".

The Indian government said that targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region "must cease".

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Indian seafarer recalls fear and chaos during transit through Strait of Hormuz

Vignesh P. Venkitesh
CHENNAI

Chaos, uncertainty, numbness, and conflicting orders marked the ordeal of an Indian seafarer aboard a tanker that transited the Strait of Hormuz on Monday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the seafarer, who requested anonymity, explained how the fully-loaded Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC), carrying more than two million barrels of crude oil, and its crew were caught between the threats from the Iranian Navy to turn back and encouragement to move forward from the U.S., while

transiting the strait through the southern route close to the Oman coast.

The situation was relatively normal when they went into the Persian Gulf to load at Basrah in Iraq, but it deteriorated rapidly as they finished loading and started to return, with ships coming under attack near Oman and warnings from the Joint Maritime Information Centre moving from medium to substantial and severe threat levels. The sailor said the company instructed them to halt, and they drifted along for four days.

While the company respected the consent of the seafarers to make the risky return journey, there was also "immense pressure" from it to make the transit, the sailor said. The incentive offered was "too good to pass up", and the crew decided to take the risk.

The transit was planned to begin on the morning of July 12, and he described the scene as "absolute chaos" following an attack on GPS Galaxy, whose crew, Indians among them, were forced to abandon ship.

The initial call was to halt their transit and turn back, but the company offered to "double its incen-



Tankers and cargo vessels are seen in the Gulf of Oman, along shipping routes linking the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Sea. AP

tives" to move on, he said. Things were normal till the entry of Hormuz, a 12-hour journey from Abu Dhabi OPL, and regions such as the periphery of Abu Mas

around six smaller vessels in front of their tanker at this point, and warnings began flooding in through the very high-frequency radio system, with Iran ordering vessels not to enter as the strait was "closed".

In a dilemma

"We were not just scared, we were numb. We had reached the entrance and now had no idea what to do," the sailor said. The dilemma was whether to abort the transit or not. The smaller vessels replied that they were on their way out to the port hub and altered course, he said. However, the U.S. Navy began broadcasting messages in reply

to Iran, asking ships to move forward, reiterating that they were in "international waters and would be protected". But this was not reassuring to the crew with Iran asking them "not to trust" the U.S. side.

"It was psychological warfare, and the conflicting authority at play, not knowing whom to trust, was the most jarring aspect of the journey," he said. There were two other ships along with the tanker on the strait, and he could hear choppers and jets flying past. He said the transit could not have been possible without the support of the U.S. Navy. The ship was in contact with the U.S.

forces throughout the journey, updating its position every 10 minutes and looking out for signs of threat and reporting in detail every 10 miles.

Acknowledging that the U.S. support was "crucial" for the transit, the sailor said that he felt there was support from Iran as well.

Now miles off the dangerous territory and en route to entering the international waters in the Arabian Sea, the sailor recalled the moment the warnings started flooding the radio at the entrance to Hormuz and conceded that he would settle for just "getting to safety alive instead of the insane incentives".

YouTube Homework

❖ Settebello
❖ MARIVEX
❖ JALVEER

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- समुद्र में यात्रियों और सामान (कार्गो) को ले जाने वाले जहाजों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए सबसे प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्था अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री संगठन (IMO - International Maritime Organization) है और इसके तहत काम करने वाला सबसे मुख्य कानून UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) है।

प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाएँ (International Organizations)

- IMO (International Maritime Organization): यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) की एक विशेष एजेंसी है, जिसका मुख्यालय लंदन में है। दुनिया के 90% से अधिक व्यापारिक जहाजों के नियम, सुरक्षा, पर्यावरण प्रदूषण को रोकना और नाविकों के अधिकार तय करना इसी संस्था का काम है।
- ILO (International Labour Organization): यह संस्था जहाजों पर काम करने वाले कर्मियों और कर्मचारियों के काम के घंटे, वेतन और रहने की स्थिति (Labor Rights) को नियंत्रित करती है।

2. प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून और संधियाँ (International Laws & Conventions)

- समुद्र में जहाजों को सुचारु रूप से चलाने के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण कानून बनाए गए हैं, जिन्हें मुख्य रूप से चार स्तंभ (Four Pillars of Maritime Law) कहा जाता है:

UNCLOS (समुद्री कानून पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र अभिसमय):

- इसे "समुद्र का संविधान" कहा जाता है। यह कानून तय करता है कि समुद्र के किस हिस्से पर किस देश का अधिकार है (जैसे- प्रादेशिक समुद्र, अनन्य आर्थिक क्षेत्र या EEZ)। यह जहाजों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय जलमार्गों से बिना रोक-टोक गुजरने का अधिकार (Innocent Passage) भी देता है।

SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea):

- यह यात्रियों और मालवाहक जहाजों की सुरक्षा के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कानून है। टाइटेनिक हादसे के बाद इसे बनाया गया था। यह तय करता है कि जहाज की बनावट कैसी होगी, उसमें कितने लाइफबोट (बचाव कश्ती) होंगे, और आपातकालीन स्थिति में क्या कदम उठाए जाएंगे।

MARPOL (Marine Pollution):

- यह कानून जहाजों के कारण होने वाले समुद्री प्रदूषण को रोकता है। इसके तहत जहाज समुद्र में कचरा, तेल, या हानिकारक केमिकल नहीं फेंक सकते।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

STCW:

- यह कानून जहाजों पर काम करने वाले कप्तानों, इंजीनियरों और नाविकों की ट्रेनिंग, योग्यता और सर्टिफिकेट के स्तर को तय करता है, ताकि कोई अयोग्य व्यक्ति जहाज न चलाए।

MLC (Maritime Labour Convention):

- इसे नाविकों का बिल ऑफ राइट्स (Bill of Rights) कहा जाता है, जो जहाजों पर काम करने वाले लोगों के अधिकारों की रक्षा करता है।
- 3. नियमों को लागू कौन करता है? (Enforcement) अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाएं केवल कानून बनाती हैं, लेकिन उन्हें जमीन (या समुद्र) पर लागू करने की जिम्मेदारी दो तरह से होती है:

फ्लैग स्टेट (Flag State):

- प्रत्येक व्यापारिक जहाज किसी न किसी देश में रजिस्टर्ड होता है और उसी देश का झंडा लगाता है (जैसे- पनामा, लाइबेरिया या भारत)। उस जहाज पर नियमों का पालन करवाने की प्राथमिक जिम्मेदारी उसी देश की होती है।

पोर्ट स्टेट कंट्रोल (Port State Control):

- जब कोई विदेशी जहाज किसी देश के बंदरगाह (Port) पर आता है, तो स्थानीय अधिकारी (जैसे भारत में DG Shipping) जहाज की जांच कर सकते हैं। अगर जहाज में सुरक्षा नियमों की कमी पाई जाती है, तो उसे तब तक रोका जा सकता है जब तक वह कमी ठीक न हो जाए।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Grey hornbills thrive again in Gir as four years of successful breeding revive a lost species

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

More than 60 years after the Indian Grey Hornbill disappeared from Gujarat's Gir forests, the species has recorded four consecutive years of successful breeding following its reintroduction, according to a scientific study published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Birds*.

The findings come as Gujarat recently reported another wildlife conservation milestone, with the second Great Indian Bustard chick hatched through the "jump-start" technique surviving beyond the critical 40-day period.

The study, *Reintroduction of Indian Grey Hornbills in Gir, India: Insights into Ranging, Habitat Use, Nesting and Behavioural*



Indian Grey Hornbill

Patterns, presents the first comprehensive assessment of the reintroduction programme undertaken by the Gujarat Forest Department and its conservation partners after the species disappeared from Gir.

'Significant success'

"Wildlife conservation in Gujarat has entered a new phase, particularly in spe-

cies recovery and the protection of rare and endangered wildlife. Grey Hornbills reintroduced into the Gir landscape in 2021 have successfully established territories, adapted to their new habitat, and produced offspring, marking a major milestone in restoring a species that had disappeared from the region between the 1950s and 1960s. The research conducted following the reintroduction of the Grey Hornbill into the Gir forests is a significant success for us," Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia said.

According to Vinod Rao, Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment, "One pair successfully bred during the first year after release, while three additional breeding pairs nested in

the second year, demonstrating that the restored population is beginning to establish itself naturally. The Grey Hornbill plays a crucial ecological role as a long-distance seed disperser, helping regenerate forests by transporting seeds of fruit-bearing trees across large areas."

The project involved the release of 40 Indian Grey Hornbills in two phases. Twenty-eight birds were released between 2021 and 2022, followed by another 12 in 2023.

"Eleven males were fitted with satellite transmitters, allowing scientists to track their movements, habitat use, and breeding behaviour over several years," Mohan Ram, Conservator of Forests, Junagadh Circle, and one of the authors of the study, said.

YouTube Homework

- ❖ IUCN List
- ❖ Wild Life Protection act 1972

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- लगभग 60 साल (6 दशक) पहले यह पक्षी गिर के जंगलों से पूरी तरह गायब (विलुप्त) हो गया था। लेकिन अब वैज्ञानिकों और वन विभाग के एक साझा अध्ययन में यह पुष्टि हुई है कि गिर के जंगलों में छोड़े जाने के बाद इन पक्षियों ने न सिर्फ खुद को वहाँ ढाल लिया है, बल्कि वे पिछले 4 सालों से लगातार सफलतापूर्वक प्रजनन (Breeding) भी कर रहे हैं।

इस खबर की मुख्य बातें

1. **60 साल बाद सफल वापसी (Reintroduction Success) प्रोजेक्ट की शुरुआत:** गिर में इस प्रजाति को वापस लाने के लिए 'स्पेशीज रिकवरी प्रोग्राम' के तहत साल 2021 से 2023 के बीच गुजरात के अरावां जंगलों से लाकर कुल 40 ग्रे हॉर्नबिल पक्षी छोड़े गए थे। लगातार प्रजनन: अंतरराष्ट्रीय जर्नल 'Birds' में छपे एक वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन के अनुसार, इन पक्षियों ने गिर में अपनी टेरिटरी (इलाका) बना ली है और पिछले 4 सालों से लगातार नए बच्चों (चूजों) को जन्म दे रहे हैं। पहले साल सिर्फ एक जोड़े ने प्रजनन किया था, लेकिन दूसरे साल 3 और जोड़ों ने घोंसले बनाए।
2. **सैटेलाइट से रखी गई नजरमूवमेंट ट्रैकिंग:** वन विभाग ने 11 नर हॉर्नबिल पक्षियों पर सैटेलाइट ट्रांसमीटर (Satellite Transmitters) लगाए थे। इलाके को अपनाया: शुरुआत में ये पक्षी नए माहौल में काफी दूर (लगभग 61 वर्ग किमी क्षेत्र) तक घूमे, लेकिन धीरे-धीरे माहौल में ढलने के बाद इन्होंने अपना दायरा समेटकर 5.7 वर्ग किमी कर लिया, जो इनके वहाँ पूरी तरह सेट होने का सबूत है।

3. **गिर के जंगलों के लिए क्यों है यह बड़ी खबर?** जंगलों के माली: इंडियन ग्रे हॉर्नबिल मुख्य रूप से बरगद, पीपल और करमदा जैसे फल खाते हैं। ये लंबी दूरी तक उड़कर बीजों को फैलाते हैं (Seed Dispersers), जिससे जंगलों का प्राकृतिक रूप से विस्तार होता है। इनके आने से गिर की पूरी इकोसिस्टम मजबूत होगी। पसंदीदा पेड़: इन पक्षियों ने घोंसले बनाने के लिए गिर के पुराने और परिपक्व पेड़ों (जैसे 'स्टेरकुलिया यूरेस' और 'टर्मिनलिया बेलिरिका') को चुना है।
4. हॉर्नबिल (Hornbill) अपनी अनूठी लंबी, घुमावदार चोंच और उसके ऊपर बने 'कैस्क' (Casque) यानी हेलमेट जैसी संरचना के लिए जाने जाते हैं। यह पक्षी पर्यावरण का संतुलन बनाए रखने में बेहद महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। इनकी मुख्य विशेषताएं, प्रकार और भारत में इनके पाए जाने के स्थानों की पूरी जानकारी नीचे दी गई है:

हॉर्नबिल की मुख्य विशेषताएं (Key Features) हेलमेट जैसी चोंच (Casque):

- इनकी चोंच के ऊपर एक उभरी हुई संरचना होती है जिसे 'कैस्क' कहते हैं। यह खोखली होती है और इनकी आवाज को दूर तक गूंजने (Amplifying) में मदद करती है।
- **अनोखा घोंसला (Unique Breeding Habit):** अंडे देने के समय मादा हॉर्नबिल पेड़ के खोखले (Hollow) में बैठ जाती है। इसके बाद नर और मादा मिलकर मिट्टी, गीले मलबे और पॉटी से घोंसले के प्रवेश द्वार को पूरी तरह बंद कर देते हैं। इसमें सिर्फ एक छोटी सी दरार छोड़ी जाती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **नर की जिम्मेदारी:** घोंसला बंद होने के बाद मादा और बच्चे अंदर सुरक्षित रहते हैं। नर हॉर्नबिल उसी छोटी सी दरार से मादा और बच्चों को तब तक खाना खिलाता है जब तक कि बच्चे उड़ने लायक नहीं हो जाते।
- **जंगलों के माली (Farmers of the Forest):** ये मुख्य रूप से फल (खासकर अंजीर या Ficus) खाते हैं। ये बीजों को बिना नुकसान पहुंचाए बहुत दूर-दूर तक फैलाते हैं, जिससे घने जंगलों का निर्माण होता है।
- **लंबी उम्र:** हॉर्नबिल का जीवनकाल काफी लंबा होता है। ये जंगलों में लगभग 35 से 40 साल तक जीवित रह सकते हैं।
- **हॉर्नबिल के प्रकार और भारत में उपलब्धता (Types & Distribution in India)** पूरी दुनिया में हॉर्नबिल की लगभग 62 से अधिक प्रजातियां पाई जाती हैं, जिनमें से 9 प्रजातियां भारत में मिलती हैं।
- भारत में इन्हें मुख्य रूप से तीन क्षेत्रों में देखा जा सकता है: पश्चिमी घाट (Western Ghats), उत्तर-पूर्व भारत (North-East India), और हिमालय की तलहटी।

हॉर्नबिल की प्रजाति	भारत में उपलब्धता
1. ग्रेट हॉर्नबिल (Great Hornbill)	पश्चिमी घाट, उत्तर-पूर्व भारत, तराई एवं हिमालय की तलहटी
2. इंडियन ग्रे हॉर्नबिल (Indian Grey Hornbill)	उत्तर, मध्य, पश्चिम एवं प्रायद्वीपीय भारत; शहरों और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी सामान्य
3. मालाबार ग्रे हॉर्नबिल (Malabar Grey Hornbill)	केवल पश्चिमी घाट (स्थानिक प्रजाति)
4. मालाबार पाइड हॉर्नबिल (Malabar Pied Hornbill)	पश्चिमी घाट, पूर्वी एवं मध्य भारत के कुछ नदी तटीय वन
5. ओरिएंटल पाइड हॉर्नबिल (Oriental Pied Hornbill)	उत्तर-पूर्व भारत एवं हिमालय की तलहटी
6. रिथ्ड हॉर्नबिल (Wreathed Hornbill)	केवल उत्तर-पूर्व भारत
7. रूफस-नेक्ड हॉर्नबिल (Rufous-necked Hornbill)	अरुणाचल प्रदेश एवं उत्तर-पूर्व के पर्वतीय वन
8. ऑस्टेन्स ब्राउन हॉर्नबिल (Austen's Brown Hornbill / White-throated Brown Hornbill)	ऊपरी असम एवं अरुणाचल प्रदेश के वन
9. नारकोडम हॉर्नबिल (Narcondam Hornbill)	केवल अंडमान-निकोबार के नारकोडम द्वीप पर (स्थानिक प्रजाति)

'Gold standard' India-U.K. trade deal is coming into effect today

Commerce Secretary describes pact as one of the 'most ambitious and aspirational free trade agreements' signed by the country; he adds that it will benefit farmers, fisherfolk; officials in U.K. welcome deal and highlight its multi-sectoral impact

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) that will come into force on Wednesday are a "gold standard" and one of the "most ambitious and aspirational free trade agreements" signed by India, Commerce Secretary Rakesh Agrawal said on Tuesday.

He added that the deal benefits India's farmers, fisherfolk, workers and women entrepreneurs. The India-U.K. CETA and the DCC were signed in July last year.

"This is one of the first free trade agreements (FTAs) of its kind, which establishes a future-oriented economic architecture between two major economies of the world," Mr. Agrawal said at a press briefing. "This is also one of the most ambitious and aspirational FTAs of India, which we are operationalising as till date."

"It is a gold standard and the first of its kind be-

Terms of trade

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) are set to come into force on Wednesday

- Under the CETA, the U.K. will immediately eliminate tariffs on 96.8% of its tariff lines, accounting for 97.7% of the trade value
- India will immediately eliminate tariffs on 30.3% of the trade value, with 47% more seeing tariffs eliminated in a phased manner
- The DCC will exempt Indian workers and their employers from paying social security contributions in the U.K. for 5 years if contributions are being made in India



cause of its wide sectoral coverage and deep reduction in both tariff and non tariff barriers," he added.

Under the deal, the U.K. will immediately eliminate tariffs on 96.8% of its tariff lines, accounting for 97.7% of the trade value. An additional 2% of tariff lines, amounting to 1.8% of trade value, will see reduced tariffs based on quotas. In total, this covers 98.8% of tariff lines and 99.5% of trade value.

India, on the other hand, will immediately eliminate tariffs on 30.3% of the trade value, with 47% more seeing tariffs eliminated in a phased manner. It will also provide reduced quota-based tariffs on 12.1% of the trade value. In total, this would cover 89.5% of tariff lines and 89.4% of trade value.

Officials in the U.K. have also welcomed the deal, highlighting a multi-sectoral impact. "For the City of

London, the agreement provides a strong platform to unlock even greater collaboration in financial and professional services, insurance, fintech, sustainable finance and infrastructure investment," Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman of the City of London Corporation, told *The Hindu*.

"As India continues its remarkable economic growth story, London stands ready to support the mobilisation of global capital and expertise needed to help deliver those goals," he added.

Mr. Agrawal said that the 30 chapters across which negotiations have taken place under this pact extend beyond conventional tariff liberalisation to cover digital trade, government procurement, SMEs, innovation, labour, environment, and gender.

He added that the deal addresses non-tariff barriers as well, so that issues like Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) "do not become unjustified trade restrictions for our businesses in the future".

He further explained that the deal protects India's sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, pulses, vegetables, gold and jewellery, smartphones, and critical polymers.

'Game changer'
On the DCC, he said that the agreement was a "game changer" for India's services sector and skilled workforce. "Indian employees and their employers contribute around 25% of their salary to the U.K.'s national insurance system," he said. "Their contribution is like a tax of 25% as employees are unable to draw benefits. These are like sunk costs."

He said that the DCC will ensure that workers will not need to pay double contributions towards their social security. That is, if they are paying social security in India, then they will not have to pay it in the U.K. as well for a period of five years.

According to Mr. Agrawal, this will benefit over 75,000 Indian workers and over 900 employers. (With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in London)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

भारत-यूके मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (India-UK Free Trade Agreement - FTA)

- भारत-यूके मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) एक ऐसा व्यापारिक समझौता है जिसका उद्देश्य दोनों देशों के बीच आयात-निर्यात, निवेश, सेवाओं और आर्थिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना है।

मुख्य बिंदु

- **समझौता:** भारत और यूनाइटेड किंगडम के बीच FTA
- **हस्ताक्षर:** वर्ष 2025
- **उद्देश्य:** व्यापार बढ़ाना, निवेश को प्रोत्साहन देना और दोनों देशों के लिए नए रोजगार एवं आर्थिक अवसर पैदा करना।

प्रमुख प्रावधान

- लगभग 99% भारतीय निर्यात को ब्रिटेन में शुल्क-मुक्त (Duty Free) या कम शुल्क पर बाजार उपलब्ध होगा।
- भारत कई ब्रिटिश उत्पादों पर आयात शुल्क (Tariff) चरणबद्ध तरीके से कम करेगा।
- सेवा क्षेत्र (IT, वित्त, शिक्षा, कानूनी सेवाएँ आदि) में सहयोग बढ़ेगा।

- डिजिटल व्यापार, बौद्धिक संपदा (IPR) और निवेश से जुड़े नियमों को सरल बनाया जाएगा।
- MSME और स्टार्टअप्स को नए बाजारों तक पहुँच का अवसर मिलेगा।

भारत को लाभ

- वस्त्र (Textiles), रेडीमेड गारमेंट्स
- चमड़ा एवं फुटवियर
- रत्न एवं आभूषण
- इंजीनियरिंग सामान
- कृषि एवं समुद्री उत्पाद
- फार्मास्यूटिकल्स
- IT एवं अन्य सेवा निर्यात में वृद्धि

यूके को लाभ

- ऑटोमोबाइल
- स्कॉच व्हिस्की
- जिन (Gin)
- चिकित्सा उपकरण
- उन्नत विनिर्माण उत्पाद
- वित्तीय एवं पेशेवर सेवाएँ

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

India bans import of goods made using forced labour amid pending U.S. probe

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Government of India has issued a notification banning the import of goods manufactured using forced labour, a significant step towards clearing the path towards the signing of an interim trade agreement with the U.S.

The U.S. is currently in the process of releasing its final decision on the tariffs it plans to levy on countries that it says have not done enough to stop the import of goods made using forced labour.

"The import of goods produced or manufactured, wholly or in part, through the use of forced labour is prohibited," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in its notification. It added that the Union government may, from time to time, specify the goods whose import shall be prohibited under this paragraph.

"The procedure for conducting an enquiry by the Director General of Foreign Trade into the use of forced labour in the production of such goods shall be as prescribed in the Handbook of Procedures,

The govt. said it may, from time to time, specify the goods whose import shall be prohibited

2023," it added. Under its draft proposal following an investigation, the U.S. found that India and 53 other countries "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour. As such, it proposed a tariff of 12.5% on imports from these countries.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal confirmed on Monday that India had made its submissions to the U.S. on the matter and protested the tariffs.

This pending decision has led to significant uncertainty surrounding the India-U.S. trade deal, with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Mr. Agrawal separately saying India would sign a deal only once it is established that it will receive a comparative advantage over its competitors.

One key factor in establishing this comparative advantage is to see what tariffs the U.S. plans to levy

under its various investigations. The second investigation is into whether the U.S.'s trade partners are using excess capacity to export to the U.S. to the detriment of the American economy.

According to the notification by the Commerce Ministry, "forced labour" means "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily, as defined under the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)".

According to Manoj Mishra, Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, the introduction of a prohibition on imports of goods produced through forced labour marks a significant policy shift in India's trade framework. "While India has so far relied largely on labour and criminal laws to address forced labour domestically, the Foreign Trade Policy now incorporates a dedicated trade measure aligned with international standards under the ILO Forced Labour Convention," Mr. Mishra said.

YouTube Homework

❖ *US Trade Act 1974*

❖ *Section 301*

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Rajnath flags off 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' motorcycle rally for Kargil heroes



Journey begins: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagging off the 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra', a 13-day motorcycle expedition, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday flagged off the 13-day 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra', a commemorative motorcycle expedition from the National War Memorial in New Delhi to the Kargil War Memorial in Drass.

The 1999 Kargil conflict was not just a military victory, but a chapter of courage, fortitude, discipline, and unwavering patriotism, Mr. Singh said.

The expedition, with the theme of 'One Ride, One Nation, One Salute', has been organised as part of the nationwide obser-

vance of Kargil Vijay Diwas. It will see 28 riders – including serving and retired armed forces personnel and their family members – cover nearly 1,900 km through Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh before reaching Drass on July 26.

The occasion was not merely about flagging off a motorcycle expedition but about "paying tribute to the indomitable spirit and supreme sacrifice of the soldiers who had laid down their lives defending the nation's honour", Mr. Singh said, addressing the participants.

Recalling Operation Vijay, the Minister said In-

dian soldiers achieved the impossible by fighting in extreme conditions at altitudes of nearly 20,000 ft., where oxygen was scarce and temperatures plunged to minus 40 degrees Celsius. Despite the enemy occupying dominating heights, Indian troops reclaimed every peak and bunker with exceptional courage, he said.

Paid tributes

Describing the victory as one achieved at a tremendous cost, Mr. Singh said that "more than 500 soldiers made the supreme sacrifice" during the conflict. He paid tribute to the Kargil heroes, including

Captain Vikram Batra, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, and Rifleman Sanjay Kumar. Their courage would continue to inspire generations of Indians, he said.

The Defence Minister said the Kargil victory was not merely a historical event but a lasting reminder of India's resolve to respond decisively to any threat against its sovereignty, identity and honour.

During the ceremony, an urn containing soil from the National War Memorial was handed over to the expedition members. It will be carried to the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, and ceremonially offered

in memory of the fallen soldiers.

Calling the expedition a symbol of national unity, Mr. Singh said it brought together serving personnel, veterans and civilians from different parts of the country, reflecting India's diversity under the Tricolour. He expressed confidence that the yatra would inspire patriotism among the youth and ensure that the legacy of the Kargil martyrs remains alive for future generations.

The expedition is scheduled to culminate at the Kargil War Memorial on July 26, commemorating the 27th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War.

YouTube Homework

❖ Kargil War



रक्षा मंत्रालय

कारगिल विजय दिवस 2026: रक्षा मंत्री ने राष्ट्रीय समर स्मारक से कारगिल युद्ध स्मारक तक मोटरसाईकिल यात्रा को हरी झंडी दिखाकर रवाना किया

अगले 13 दिनों में 28 बाइक सवार 1,900 किलोमीटर की दूरी तय करके भारतीय वीरों के साहस, दृढ़ संकल्प और सर्वोच्च बलिदान को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करेंगे

1999 के कारगिल युद्ध में मिली विजय भारत के उस अटूट संकल्प का प्रतीक है कि देश हमारी भूमि, पहचान और सम्मान पर किसी भी शत्रुतापूर्ण दुस्साहस का पूर्ण शक्ति से जवाब देगा: श्री राजनाथ सिंह

प्रतिष्ठित तिथि: 14 JUL 2026 1:00PM by PIB Delhi

Draft health research policy proposes overhaul of India's research ecosystem

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Centre has released the draft National Health Research Policy, 2026, that seeks to align the country's scientific research more closely with its disease burden and public health priorities, proposing a wide-ranging restructuring of India's health research ecosystem with a sharper focus on indigenous innovation, evidence-based policymaking, and measurable outcomes.

Prepared by the Department of Health Research, the draft is the first attempt at a unified national framework spanning biomedical science, clinical medicine, public health, epidemiology, digital health, health systems, behavioural sciences, and emerging technologies.

The Ministry has invited stakeholder feedback be-



Among the key proposals is a system for identifying priority research areas.

fore the policy is finalised. It aims to address longstanding problems, including fragmented research efforts, wide regional disparities in research capacity, and the slow translation of scientific findings into actual healthcare delivery and policy.

While India has built considerable scientific capability through institutions such as the Indian Council of Medical Research

(ICMR), universities, medical colleges and other research bodies, the policy points out that this capability remains concentrated in a handful of institutions and States.

Research priorities, it notes, do not always track the country's real disease burden, health-system gaps, equity concerns or its preparedness for future public health emergencies. Administrative and regulatory delays, it adds, continue to slow down research even when funding is not the constraint.

Among the key proposals is a system for periodically identifying priority research areas, based on disease burden, scientific opportunity, equity, pandemic preparedness and strategic national interest – an agenda to be drawn up in consultation with States, Union Territories, researchers, health profes-

sionals, patients and community representatives.

Three-tier structure

The draft also lays out a three-tier governance structure: a National Health Research Stewardship Committee for overall strategic coordination, the Department of Health Research as the nodal implementing agency, and the ICMR as the scientific and technical lead. States, in turn, will be expected to weave research more tightly into local health programmes and service delivery.

Ethics, research integrity, data governance, cybersecurity and community participation have been placed at the core of this framework. Long-term national targets have also been proposed for research investment, medical science Ph.D., publications, and patents.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Draft National Health Research Policy

- **Draft National Health Research Policy** का उद्देश्य भारत में **स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान (Health Research)** को अधिक प्रभावी, समन्वित और जन-केंद्रित बनाना है, ताकि शोध के परिणामों का उपयोग बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं और नीति निर्माण में किया जा सके।

मुख्य बिंदु

- स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान के लिए **राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताएँ (Research Priorities)** तय करना।
- **AI, जीनोमिक्स, डिजिटल हेल्थ और बायोटेक्नोलॉजी** जैसे उभरते क्षेत्रों को बढ़ावा देना।
- **सरकार-शैक्षणिक संस्थानों-उद्योग (PPP)** के बीच सहयोग बढ़ाना।
- **महामारी एवं स्वास्थ्य आपातकाल** के लिए तेज़ अनुसंधान क्षमता विकसित करना।
- शोध में **नैतिकता (Ethics)**, डेटा सुरक्षा और **पारदर्शिता** सुनिश्चित करना।
- शोध के निष्कर्षों को **नीति निर्माण और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों** में लागू करना।

महत्व

- भारत की **स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा (Health Security)** मजबूत होगी।
- नई दवाओं, वैक्सीन और चिकित्सा तकनीकों के विकास को गति मिलेगी।
- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** और **Viksit Bharat 2047** के लक्ष्य को समर्थन मिलेगा।

Fact

- नोडल मंत्रालय: **स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)**
- प्रमुख अनुसंधान निकाय: **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** (ICMR)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Why scientists watched a gene hop from a predator into its prey

Jumping genes are involved in the spread of antibiotic resistance and in the development of many cancers: scientists are also studying circular RNA molecules, like the one derived from the jumping intron, as next generation vaccine platforms: understanding jumping genes can thus have profound implications for medicine

Swaminathan S

Since scientists discovered jumping genes in maize in 1950, they have known that bits of DNA can move around the genome, mostly within the cell nucleus. Scientists have also found evidence of genes having jumped across species.

Now, researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Germany have reported a remarkable observation: they have visually tracked an RNA molecule, called an intron, as it jumped from one organism into another.

This is remarkable because the scientists literally caught the gene as it jumped across species, without the help of any courier.

Jumping genes – technically now called transposable elements – are responsible for the spread of antibiotic resistance and in the development of several cancers. Scientists are also studying circular RNA molecules, like the one derived from the jumping intron, as next generation vaccine platforms. Understanding the lives of jumping genes can thus have profound implications for evolution and ultimately to medicine and biotechnology.

A tiny predator

Microbial communities that occur naturally are very difficult to measure in large numbers in a lab because they will be isolated from their surroundings. So the team at Jens Harder's laboratory seeded a lab culture with a small amount of wastewater from a local sewage treatment plant.

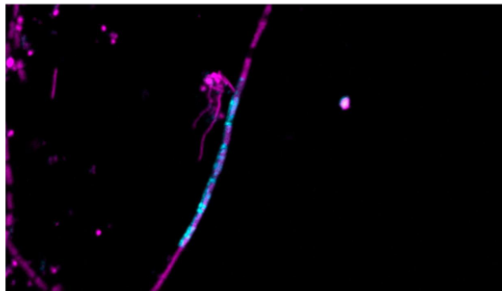
Over time, this culture of microbes came to consist of several members of archaea and bacteria. Like bacteria, archaea are another domain of life, and are also microscopic.

Microbes of both these domains lack a true nucleus. Instead, their nucleus lies in the cytoplasm itself.

The team focused on two members of this community. One member is the methane-producing archaeon, *Methanoditrix soehngenii*. The other is a bacterium so small that it is called an ultramicrobacterium. The team named it *Vulcanitoxicus archaeorivus*. It is a predator: it attaches to the surface of the archaeon, breaks apart its cell membrane, and kills it.

The rough draft

It is impractical to investigate each member of a highly diverse microbial community separately, so scientists study them en masse. In the study, the researchers identified the RNA molecules in the members' ribosomes. The ribosome is each cell's protein-making factory.



A confocal microscope image of *Methanoditrix soehngenii*. It forms long filaments of connected cells (magenta). The bright blue patch shows where researchers detected an intron RNA inside the cells using fluorescent probes. Scale bar: 5 µm (X2 400 x, 14/04/2024).

THE GIST

Living beings sometimes swap genes with viruses, which are the essential couriers of gene transfer, known as horizontal gene transfer

The new study has reported the first direct visual evidence of horizontal gene transfer across species without a courier

Studying this phenomenon helps scientists understand how organisms rapidly acquire new traits, such as antibiotic resistance or new metabolic abilities

The ribosomes in all cells of all life forms have RNAs called ribosomal RNAs (rRNA). All life forms have rRNA that perform the same function. However, each species has a unique sequence of bases that can be used to identify the species. This way, the scientists determined the composition of their lab culture.

In the ultramicrobacterium, one type of rRNA called 23S is initially made as a precursor – like a rough draft, something the cell has to edit further. This editing takes the form of losing a particular sequence of bases called the intron. Essentially, the intron is cut out of the precursor.

The intron itself is a special kind of RNA molecule with two unique roles: it cuts itself out of the precursor rRNA and joins its own ends up to acquire a circular structure. And it contains information that can allow it to "jump".

The team also analysed the rRNA sequences of the ultramicrobacterium from a previous study. This revealed that the introns were highly efficient at their task: they rarely failed.

Tracking by eye

Finally, the team decided to check visually whether the intron of the 23S rRNA of the predator jumped to the prey as the two interacted.

Other scientists at the same Max Planck Institute had already found, and

perfected, a way to track RNA visually. It consisted of tracking the RNA using a probe with a pair of special features. One, it was designed to home in on the intron (based on its sequence) and latch on to it. Two, the probe was attached to a fluorescent label – a chemical compound that glows when seen through a fluorescence microscope.

The team modified the probe so that its label would glow green in live cells but yellow in dead cells – either way only if the intron was present.

The team also could tell which cells the intron was by using the difference in appearance of the microbes. *V. archaeorivus* appears as small spots while *Methanoditrix soehngenii* appears as filaments.

This way, the team detected the intron in *Methanoditrix soehngenii* cells. Specifically, there was a faint yellow glow in the filamentous structures. This meant the cells in which the intron was present were dead.

Clearly, the intron RNA had exited the predator cells and entered the prey cells.

Truly remarkable RNA molecules are famously unstable, so how did the intron survive this jump? The researchers proposed that the intron's self-circularisation could be the reason. The circular shape of the RNA molecule allows it to resist being degraded by a cell's enzymes. The

ultramicrobacterium's genome also encodes an enzyme that could have helped the intron insert itself into foreign DNA.

There are still some unanswered questions. For example, does evolution intend for introns to be integrated into prey DNA? In the experiment, the intron actually jumped into dead cells. Why? Or, alternatively, did the intron kill the cell?

Visual confirmation that an intron can jump across two different domains of life is truly remarkable.

Still, let us remember that it happened in a laboratory culture (even if there is indirect evidence that introns do jump in the real world as well).

Living beings sometimes swap genes with viruses, which are the essential couriers of gene transfer. This is known as horizontal gene transfer. The new study, however, has reported the first direct visual evidence of horizontal gene transfer across species without a courier.

Studying this phenomenon helps scientists understand how organisms rapidly acquire new traits, such as antibiotic resistance or new metabolic abilities. It also reveals how genes move across species, potentially reshaping ecosystems and driving the rise of new disease-causing microbes.

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YouTube Homework

- ❖ GENE
- ❖ GENOME
- ❖ HGP
- ❖ Gene Therapy

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

जंपिंग जीन्स (Jumping Genes) क्या होते हैं?

- जंपिंग जीन्स, जिन्हें वैज्ञानिक भाषा में ट्रान्सपोज़ोन (Transposons) या ट्रान्सपोज़ेबल एलिमेंट्स कहा जाता है, डीएनए (DNA) के वे टुकड़े होते हैं जो जीनोम के भीतर अपनी जगह बदल सकते हैं।
- खोज:** इनकी खोज सबसे पहले अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिक बारबरा मैक्क्लिंटॉक (Barbara McClintock) ने 1940 के दशक में मक्के के दानों पर रिसर्च करते समय की थी, जिसके लिए उन्हें 1983 में नोबेल पुरस्कार मिला था।
- यह कैसे काम करते हैं?** सामान्य तौर पर हमारे जीन डीएनए में अपनी जगह पर स्थिर रहते हैं। लेकिन जंपिंग जीन्स डीएनए के एक हिस्से से 'कट या कॉपी' होकर क्रोमोसोम (गुणसूत्र) के दूसरे हिस्से में जाकर 'पेस्ट' (जुड़) हो जाते हैं।
- महत्व:** ये मानव जीनोम का लगभग 45% से 50% हिस्सा बनाते हैं। ये जीवों में आनुवंशिक विविधता (Genetic Diversity) और विकास (Evolution) को बढ़ावा देते हैं, लेकिन कभी-कभी इनके गलत जगह जंप करने से कैंसर या आनुवंशिक बीमारियां भी हो सकती हैं।

नई खोज क्या है? (The New Discovery)

- मैक्स प्लैंक इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर मरीन माइक्रोबायोलॉजी (Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology) के वैज्ञानिकों ने एक बेहद चौंकाने वाली खोज की है।

प्रजातियों के बीच जंप (Jumping Between Species)

- अब तक वैज्ञानिक मानते थे कि जंपिंग जीन्स केवल एक ही जीव की कोशिका के अंदर अपनी जगह बदलते हैं, या फिर माता-पिता से बच्चों में जाते हैं।
- लेकिन इस नई खोज में वैज्ञानिकों ने पहली बार एक जंपिंग जीन (इन्ट्रॉन) को एक प्रजाति से दूसरी प्रजाति में जाते हुए रंगे हाथों (Directly Observed) पकड़ा है।
- शिकारी से शिकार में ट्रान्सफर (Predator to Prey) शोधकर्ताओं ने देखा कि एक सूक्ष्म शिकारी बैक्टीरिया (*Candidatus Velamenicoccus archaeovorax*) ने जब अपने शिकार जीव (*Methanoxanthus soehngenii*) को नष्ट किया, तो शिकारी का जंपिंग जीन (इन्ट्रॉन) उस मरे हुए शिकार के शरीर में ट्रान्सफर हो गया।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- 'रिंग' के रूप में जीवित आरएनए (Circular RNA Stability) आमतौर पर किसी जीव या कोशिका के मरते ही उसका आरएनए (RNA) तुरंत नष्ट हो जाता है। लेकिन वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि यह खास इन्ट्रॉन आरएनए खुद को एक 'रिंग' या गोलाकार आकार (Circular RNA) में बदल लेता है। गोलाकार होने के कारण इसके खुले किनारे नहीं होते, जिससे कोशिका के नष्ट करने वाले एंजाइम इसे तोड़ नहीं पाते।
- इस अद्भुत स्थिरता के कारण यह मृत कोशिकाओं के भीतर भी सुरक्षित रहता है और दूसरी प्रजाति के जीनोम में घुसने में कामयाब हो जाता है।

इस खोज का भविष्य में क्या लाभ होगा?

- **रेवोल्यूशनरी वैक्सीन और दवाएं:** इंसानों में यह सर्कुलर आरएनए (Circular RNA) ट्यूमर और कैंसर के विकास में बड़ी भूमिका निभाता है। इस खोज से कैंसर के इलाज और ज्यादा प्रभावी RNA वैक्सीन बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।
- **इवोल्यूशन को समझना:** इससे यह साफ हो गया है कि पृथ्वी पर जीवों का विकास सिर्फ माता-पिता के जीन्स से नहीं, बल्कि अलग-अलग प्रजातियों के बीच जीन्स के इस तरह 'जंप' करने से भी तेजी से बदला है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Steady in turbulence

India must build partnerships in this age of global turmoil

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visits to Australia and New Zealand marked yet another step in India's efforts to consolidate partnerships across the Indo-Pacific. India's relations with both countries have traditionally been largely economic and people-centric, but the visits underscored an increased emphasis on strategic aspects, a fresh turn. Geopolitical competition, manifested in supply-chain disruptions and the realignment of global economic networks, is keeping the world on tenterhooks, and India has to manage the uncertainties and volatility well to be able to protect its vital interests. The visits reflected New Delhi's attempt to strengthen the southern arc of the Indo-Pacific under its Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision, and commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. India and Australia adopted a new Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, significantly upgrading the existing security framework. They agreed to enhance interoperability between their armed forces, expand military exercises, establish an Annual Defence Ministers' Dialogue, and strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, maritime security and emerging technologies. An India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap was unveiled to deepen information sharing and operational coordination in the Indo-Pacific. An immediate and consequential outcome was Australia's decision to allow uranium exports for India's civilian nuclear programme, removing a lingering obstacle in ties and boosting India's clean-energy ambitions. Both countries will also find new avenues of cooperation on critical minerals, a specific field of global uncertainty.

India-New Zealand relations are now a formal strategic partnership, with a road map for cooperation over the next four years. Key agreements announced by the countries include maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and mutual logistics support between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force. Building upon the recently concluded India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, both sides agreed to aim for a substantial expansion of bilateral trade by 2030. Avenues for agricultural cooperation are also being explored. India shares with Australia and New Zealand a concern about maintaining stability and predictability in the Indo-Pacific. Supply-chain diversification, energy security, and access to critical minerals and emerging technology are key priorities for India, which is trying to protect its strategic autonomy in a world of great volatility. The Modi government has been trying to achieve this objective through building a network of partnerships. These visits fit into that pattern. India's challenge is in keeping itself steady in an era of global turmoil, and untangled from rivalries that can do it no good. Mr. Modi's visits build on this awareness.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Two sets

Consistency marked the men's draw, and shocks and surprises the women's

When Jannik Sinner arrived at Wimbledon, there were questions aplenty. They hinged on the defeat he suffered at the French Open, where he wilted in the second round under the extreme Paris heat despite being two sets and 5-1 up. When he needed five sets to get past the first round at the All England Club, the intrigue about his physical health and state of tennis deepened. None of his achievements in the 52 weeks preceding Wimbledon – 76 wins against just six losses, and 10 titles – seemed to matter. But with two superlative performances, against Novak Djokovic in the semi-final and Alexander Zverev in the final, the World No. 1 silenced the doubters in the best possible fashion. Djokovic and Zverev were his two biggest threats, with the former a seven-time winner at SW19 and the latter the reigning Roland-Garros champion. But the Italian's top-notch serving and baseline consistency fetched him his second straight Wimbledon and fifth Major title. The success was also Sinner's tenth consecutive victory over Zverev. But even in defeat, the German can hold his head high. Since the start of 2024, men's tennis has largely been a cat-and-mouse game between Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz. Zverev's potential entry as the distinguished third will make the sport healthier.

The women's game has had a more even spread of champions, and Wimbledon has been at the forefront of producing them. It was no different this year as Linda Noskova became the tenth different women's singles winner at SW19 in as many years. The fact that Noskova, Iga Swiatek and Elena Rybakina are the only ones in this list to also feature in the current WTA top-10 is indicative of the depth in quality. The player from Czechia was spoken of but was never considered the favourite to win, for she had reached the quarterfinal stage at a Slam only once before. Yet, the 21-year-old put together a remarkable streak that culminated in the pulsating three-set triumph over compatriot Karolina Muchova (2023 French Open finalist). The most impressive bit was Noskova's resilience in roaring back after missing out on five championship points in the second set. At the start of the tournament, there was concern that such elite performances would be dulled by protests from players demanding a better revenue-sharing model from the organisers. For a second straight Major, a temporary truce was called, allowing tennis to be solely in the limelight.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Wimbledon 2026 विजेता

पुरुष एकल (Men's Singles)

- विजेता: Jannik Sinner (इटली)
- उपविजेता: Alexander Zverev (जर्मनी)
- फाइनल स्कोर: 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4
- यह सinner का लगातार दूसरा Wimbledon खिताब है।

महिला एकल (Women's Singles)

- विजेता: Linda Nosková (चेक गणराज्य)
- उपविजेता: Karolína Muchová
- फाइनल स्कोर: 6-2, 5-7, 6-3
- यह नोस्कोवा का पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब है।

Fact

- Wimbledon दुनिया का सबसे पुराना Grand Slam टेनिस टूर्नामेंट है।
- इसका आयोजन लंदन (इंग्लैंड) में घास (Grass Court) पर किया जाता है।

What is meant by 'trial in absentia'?

Who can be tried in absentia under BNSS? What changed under the new criminal law? How does the law protect the accused's right to fair trial? What happens if the accused later appears before the court? Why was trial in absentia introduced?

EXPLAINER

Rizmi Lia M.

The story so far:

A Special NIA Court in Jammu has issued a non-bailable warrant against Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based chief of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in connection with the investigation into the Pahalgam terror attack. The warrant was issued at the request of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The order was passed by the Special Judge of the NIA Court on July 8, two days after a supplementary chargesheet was filed against Saeed in the Pahalgam terror attack case.

Since Saeed is unlikely to appear before an Indian court, the agency is expected to seek a trial in absentia under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). In its supplementary chargesheet, the NIA has charged Hafiz Saeed both in his individual capacity and as the chief of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF).

"The accused has been charged under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The NIA has also invoked provisions relating to waging war against India and hatching a conspiracy from across the border," the agency said.

What is trial in absentia?

A trial in absentia refers to a criminal trial conducted in the absence of the accused.

Section 356 of the BNSS provides that if a person declared a proclaimed offender has absconded to evade trial and there is no immediate prospect of arrest, the court may treat the accused's absence as a



The law does not permit courts to try every accused person in their absence. It applies only to a "proclaimed offender", as defined under Section 84 of the BNSS. GETTY IMAGES

waiver of the right to be present during the proceedings. After recording its reasons in writing, the court may proceed with the inquiry, trial and pronouncement of judgment as if the accused were present.

Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), the predecessor of BNSS, Section 82(4) of CrPC allows proclamation and attachment of the property of an absconding accused, and Section 317 of CrPC allows the Judge or Magistrate to conduct trial of an accused in his absence in certain specific cases. Section 299 CrPC allows the Judge or Magistrate to record the evidence in absence of absconded accused if there is no prospect of arresting him soon.

Those provisions provide a discretion to a presiding officer to conduct an in-absentia trial only when it feels that, firstly, the personal attendance of the

accused before the court is not necessary in the interests of justice; and secondly, the accused persistently disturbs the proceedings in court. But none of those provisions allowed full-fledged trials in absentia. As a result, trials often remained pending for years until the accused was apprehended.

Whom does it apply to?

The law does not permit courts to try every accused person in their absence. It applies only to a "proclaimed offender", as defined under Section 84 of the BNSS.

Under Section 84(4), where a proclamation has been issued against a person accused of an offence punishable with imprisonment of 10 years or more, life imprisonment, or death under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, or any other law, and the person fails to appear at the specified place and time, the court

may, after making such inquiry as it considers necessary, declare the person a proclaimed offender.

Thus, trial in absentia is available only in cases involving serious offences punishable with imprisonment of at least 10 years, life imprisonment, or death, where the accused has been declared a proclaimed offender.

What are the procedural safeguards under Section 356?

Section 356 lays down several procedural safeguards before a trial can commence in the absence of the accused. These include the issuance of two consecutive warrants of arrest within an interval of at least 30 days. A notice must also be published in a local or national newspaper, giving the accused 30 days to appear before the court. In addition, the notice must be displayed at the accused's last known place of residence, and a relative or friend of the accused must be informed about the trial.

The trial cannot commence until 90 days have elapsed from the date of framing of charges, giving the accused sufficient opportunity to appear before the court. If the absconding accused does not have legal representation, the court must appoint a defence lawyer at the State's expense to safeguard the accused's right to a fair trial.

Statements of prosecution witnesses recorded before the commencement of the trial may be used as evidence against the absconding accused. However, if the accused later appears or is apprehended, the court may permit cross-examination of witnesses in the interest of justice.

The deposition and examination of witnesses may, as far as practicable, be recorded through audiovisual electronic means. Such recordings must be preserved to ensure transparency, accuracy and the integrity of the trial process, and to facilitate review if the accused is subsequently apprehended.

THE GIST

Section 356 of the BNSS provides that if a person declared a proclaimed offender has absconded to evade trial and there is no immediate prospect of arrest, the court may treat the accused's absence as a waiver of the right to be present during the proceedings.

If the accused later appears or is apprehended, the court may allow cross-examination of witnesses in the interest of justice. Witness testimony can also be recorded through audiovisual means and preserved for future review.

YouTube Homework

❖ Zero FIR

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Trial in Absentia (अनुपस्थिति में मुकदमा) क्या है?

- Trial in Absentia का अर्थ है आरोपी की अदालत में शारीरिक उपस्थिति के बिना उसके विरुद्ध मुकदमे की सुनवाई और निर्णय करना। यह व्यवस्था उन मामलों में लागू की जाती है जहाँ आरोपी जानबूझकर फरार हो और बार-बार समन या वारंट के बावजूद अदालत में उपस्थित न हो।

भारत में प्रावधान

- भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita - BNSS), 2023 में पहली बार घोषित अपराधी (Proclaimed Offender) के विरुद्ध Trial in Absentia का प्रावधान किया गया है।
- इसका उद्देश्य फरार अपराधियों द्वारा न्याय प्रक्रिया में देरी को रोकना और पीड़ितों को समय पर न्याय दिलाना है।

मुख्य शर्तें

- आरोपी को Proclaimed Offender घोषित किया गया हो।
- अदालत द्वारा समन, वारंट और अन्य कानूनी प्रक्रियाओं का पालन किया गया हो।
- पर्याप्त अवसर देने के बाद भी आरोपी जानबूझकर उपस्थित न हो।

महत्व

- न्यायिक प्रक्रिया में अनावश्यक विलंब कम होगा।
- आतंकवाद, संगठित अपराध और आर्थिक अपराध जैसे मामलों में प्रभावी कार्रवाई संभव होगी।
- फरार अपराधियों के कारण मुकदमों के लंबित रहने की समस्या कम होगी।

India's imports from China soar to \$80 bn in first half of 2026

Two-way bilateral trade was up to \$91.72 bn after six months, a 23.6% rise from last year, on track to surpass record \$155.62 bn figure from 2025

Ananth Krishnan

India's imports from China rose 21.8% in the first half of 2026 to a record \$79.41 billion, according to data released by China's General Administration of Customs on Tuesday.

Two-way bilateral trade was up to \$91.72 billion after six months, a 23.6% rise from last year, and on track to surpass the record \$155.62 billion trade figure from 2025, when China was again India's biggest trade partner in goods.

While the trade deficit reached \$67.1 billion after the first half of the year – also on track to exceed last year's record \$116.12 billion figure – India's exports to China have also registered strong growth, up by 37.2% to \$12.31 billion.

Trade deficit

India's official data on Monday showed the overall trade deficit in the month of June 2026 rose over fourfold year-on-year to \$15.3 billion in June 2026, on the back of high growth in merchandise imports and a rise in the value of crude oil, electronics and gold imports.

Indian officials are less concerned by the quantum of the trade deficit with China than by the nature of the basket of goods. India imports not only large quantities of finished electronics and other equip-



Chinese checkers: India is less concerned by the quantum of trade deficit with China than by the nature of the basket of goods. REUTERS



Obviously, we would like to be able to export more to China. This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that

VIKRAM DORAISWAMI,
India's Ambassador to China

ment from China, but also intermediates that are needed for Indian manufacturing and fuel India's own exports. A particular concern is the nature of India's exports to China, which in the past have been dominated by low value-added products such as organic chemicals, ores and seafood.

Earlier this month, India's Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami pitched for greater Indian exports to China, especially in areas where India is globally competitive such as pharmaceuticals. "Obviously, we would like to be

able to export more to China. This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that," he said, speaking at the World Peace Forum, an annual foreign policy forum in Beijing.

"How do we find ways in which India and China can be connected, with a widening basket of goods that both sides can provide each other, but also a sense that reasonable mechanisms to protect consumers can be applied in a way that enables India also to export more of the goods that it can export elsewhere in the world also to China?" he said. "In other words, it would be easier to consider that the trade wouldn't be exactly 50-50 balanced, but one side would have more exports, provided that exports consist of goods that we can also add value. If it is pure consumption goods, that becomes a little harder to sell as a reasonable mechanism for the deficit."

Inaugural Index of Services Production shows 14 sectors grew in double digits in April

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

As many as 14 of the 19 sub-sectors in the inaugural release of the government's new Index of Services Production (ISP) witnessed double-digit growth in April 2026, with the best-performing sectors including accommodation and food, retail trade, administrative and support services, and real estate.

The 19 sub-sectors measured account for about 60% of India's services sector.

The ISP is meant to be the services sector counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). While the IIP is released on the 28th of every month unless it is a weekend or holiday, the ISP will be re-



Accommodation and food was among best performing sectors.

leased on the 29th henceforth.

"The ISP represents an important milestone in strengthening India's statistical system and improving the measurement of the services sector, which accounts for more than half of the country's economic activity," the Ministry of Statistics and Pro-

gramme Implementation said in a release.

While the inaugural release does not provide a composite growth rate for the entire index, this growth rate can be calculated using the sector-wise growth rates and weightages, said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor at EY India.

"Considering the year-on-year growth in April 2026 over that in April 2025, the 19-services sector growth is at 20.8%," Mr. Srivastava said.

The base year of the trial ISPs has been set as 2024-25, and the index sources its data from several areas, including administrative data, Goods and Services Tax data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) data.

WPI inflation rises to 9.87% in June

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Wholesale price inflation rose to 9.87% in June, from 9.68% in May, led by a sharp spike in prices of non-food and food products.

The latest wholesale price index (WPI) inflation data is based on the 2022-23 base year.

As per the data, food inflation rose to 5.49% in June, from 3.60% in May, as food prices rose during

the month following a rainfall deficit due to the El Niño impact.

Non-food articles WPI inflation was also higher at 11.07%, while in minerals it was 9.45% in June.

“Mineral Oils (containing Petroleum Products), Food Articles, Manufacture of Basic Metals, and Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products have been major drivers of WPI inflation in June 2026,” the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

U.S. hits Iran and Tehran retaliates across West Asia; 3 tankers struck

The U.S. Central Command says it hit several areas in Iran, targeting 'coastal defence systems, missile and drone sites and maritime capabilities'; Tehran responded with attacks on Bahrain, Jordan and three tankers that travelled through Hormuz

Associated Press
DUBAI

The U.S. launched strikes on Iran early on Tuesday, hours after President Donald Trump vowed to reinstate an American blockade of Iranian ports and charge ships for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded with attacks on West Asia allies of the U.S.

The focus of the conflict now is the Strait of Hormuz. Iran effectively shut the passage during the war by attacking and threatening ships. It sent the price of oil, fertilizer and other goods soaring at a time when world leaders were



An explosion at Bandar Abbas Naval Base in Iran, as three Corsair unmanned surface vessels fired by the U.S. military, hit the port. AP

already struggling to address rising costs.

An interim deal signed by the U.S. and Iran was supposed to reopen the waterway, but Iran has attacked ships moving

through the strait on a route overseen by the U.S. military. The U.S. has now threatened to reopen the strait by force.

The U.S. military's Central Command said it

struck several areas in Iran, targeting 'coastal defence systems, missile and drone sites and maritime capabilities.'

Heavy cost

"These strikes will continue imposing a heavy cost on Iranian forces and degrade their ability to attack innocent civilians and commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz," the U.S. military said.

Iran responded with attacks targeting Bahrain, Jordan and three tankers that travelled through the strait.

Two of the ships were associated with the UAE and were set ablaze for a time. The Emirati Defence

Ministry said the attack on the tankers *Mombasa* and *Al Bahiyah* killed one mariner and wounded eight others. The Emirates threatened to retaliate.

Dutch shipping firm Stolt Tankers said that one of its ships came under attack. The attack on the *Stolt Magnesium* off Oman sparked a fire in the engine room, but the company said all the mariners were safe.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said the *Mombasa* and *Al Bahiyah* "ignored repeated warnings." Iran has targeted ships that use a route through the strait that passes near Oman outside of its territorial waters.

Trump backs down over 20% levy on Hormuz ships

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he was scrapping a planned levy on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz a day after he announced it, and replacing the fee with trade deals with Gulf allies.

Mr. Trump said his sudden decision to withdraw the toll – which he imposed amid fresh clashes with Iran over the vital waterway – was "based on highly productive conversations with Middle East leadership".

"I have decided to replace the 20% United States Reimbursement Fee with Trade and Investment Deals that the various Gulf States will be making into the United States," Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network.



Donald Trump

Mr. Trump did not mention any commitments by Gulf states, saying "Investments will be MASSIVE but, at the same time, extraordinarily good for them, and their future".

The U.S. leader said he would continue with a "FULL Blockade" on ships coming to and from Iranian ports but only on ships coming to and from Iranian ports, or carrying anything have to do with Iranian cargo.

Mr. Trump had declared on Monday that Washington was now the "THE GUARDIAN OF THE HORMUZ STRAIT" and would impose hefty fees on shipping to reimburse the United States for protecting the key conduit for oil and gas.

Shortly after Mr. Trump made the 20% fee proposal on Monday, the UN's shipping agency said it opposed fees on ships passing through maritime waterways but added it would await more details of what Mr. Trump had in mind.

Iran's military command had insisted it would not allow the United States to "interfere" in the strait, while also warning its Gulf neighbours – who have borne the brunt of its retaliatory attacks – against cooperating with Washington.

Cuba faces third nationwide blackout in less than 10 days

Agence France-Presse

HAVANA

Cuba's power grid failed for the third time in less than 10 days, sparking another nationwide blackout, the national electricity company said on Tuesday.

The national power grid completely went offline at about 11.05 a.m., according to the state-run UNE electricity company.

It was the third complete blackout on the Caribbean island since early July and the fifth since the start of 2026. Authorities did not immediately reveal the cause.

Cuba is reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades – one made worse by the fuel blockade imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump in January as part of a pressure campaign aimed at ending six decades of communist

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the national grid more susceptible to power outages

rule. In both of last week's blackouts, it took more than 24 hours to restore power across the island of 9.6 million people, a process made slower and more complex by fuel shortages.

In the capital Havana, power outages totalled more than 30 hours at a time, while in the outlying provinces, it was several days before electricity was restored.

Residents in the worst affected areas have vented their frustrations by setting piles on trash on fire or banging on pots and pans.

UNE says the fuel shortages have made the na-

tional grid more susceptible to outages, and made the use of emergency generators all but impossible.

Relations between Washington and Havana have been tense since the start of the year, especially since U.S. forces snatched Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro from his home in early January and brought him to the U.S. to face federal charges. Mr. Maduro had long been a staunch ally of Cuba.

Washington has authorised the arrival of only one Russian tanker which came in March. Those reserves have since been exhausted.

In addition to its oil blockade, the Trump administration has ramped up sanctions against Cuban state-owned businesses, prompting many foreign businesses to suspend operations in the country.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Outgoing U.K. PM Starmer gets France's highest award

Agence France-Presse

PARIS

Britain's outgoing Prime Minister Keir Starmer has been awarded France's highest honour, in recognition of his work on the security of Europe and Ukraine.

President Emmanuel Macron's office said he presented Mr. Starmer with the Legion d'honneur on Monday in Paris, where he was attending a summit of Ukraine's allies.

Mr. Starmer is due to leave office within days of losing the confidence of his governing Labour party over a slew of domestic policy U-turns that hit his popularity. In contrast, he is held in high regard by many foreign leaders on issues from Ukraine to forging closer European ties.

Administrative lapses, shrinking civic space put Nepal govt. under pressure

As the Balendra Shah administration marks 100 days in office, a driver's death following an altercation with police and flooding at a holding centre for landless people fuelled public anger; Shah remains silent on both issues while activists and Opposition allege suppression of dissent

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sanjeev Satgaliya
KATHMANDU

As Nepal's new government, led by Balendra Shah, a 35-year-old former Mayor of Kathmandu, completed its first 100 days in office, two incidents within 48 hours laid bare the widening gap between its promises of reform and the realities of governance.

On July 9, a ride-hailing driver self-immolated following an altercation with the city police over a parking dispute. The 25-year-old died the following day while undergoing treatment. A day later, a holding centre sheltering squatters and landless people after their eviction from Kathmandu's riversides was inundated by monsoon rains.

The incidents have fuelled public anger against the majority government, with protests flaring up in Kathmandu and elsewhere. Critics say they expose administrative failures, poor planning and increasingly high-handed style of governance.

Lingering concerns

The Shah administration now finds itself confronting many of the same questions that dogged its predecessor before last year's Gen Z protests, which swept Mr. Shah into office.



Low-profile: Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah has made just one public address and delivered only one speech in Parliament during his first 100 days in office. APF

Formed on March 27 after the Rastriya Swatantra Party's landslide victory in the March 5 elections, the government came to power promising reform, accountability and good governance. But analysts say it has failed to deliver on those promises.

Anurag Acharya, a political commentator, said the administration is increasingly mirroring the erstwhile K.P. Sharma Oli government, arguing that Prime Minister Shah has exhibited similar authoritarian tendencies.

"This government's disconnect with the public is stark," Mr. Acharya said. "While its performance on all fronts has been dismal, it is targeting critics, the media and civil society. Early signs are not good."

The criticism has been amplified by Mr. Shah's pu-

blic silence. Known for his one-way communication style since his days as Kathmandu mayor – largely through social media – he has made just one public address and delivered only one speech in Parliament during his first 100 days in office.

Mr. Shah has remained silent on both issues that have triggered public anger – the death of the ride-hailing driver and the plight of evicted squatters.

On Tuesday, Opposition lawmakers accused the government of failing in its fundamental responsibility to protect the vulnerable and the excluded. Nisral Rai, whip of the main Opposition Nepali Congress, referred to Prime Minister Shah as "Shri 8" – an allusion to the honorific "Shri 5", once reserved for Nepal's monarchs before the

country became a federal republic – suggesting a growing intolerance towards criticism, dissent and scrutiny. What began as criticism of the government's handling of two recent crises has widened into concerns over shrinking civic space, with activists, Opposition leaders and the media alleging intimidation and suppression of dissent.

Shrinking civic space

On July 11, police arrested youth activists after they called attention to the government's mishandling of evicted squatters. Majid Ansari, a lawyer and Gen Z activist, was injured during the police action and is undergoing treatment.

In a Facebook post from his hospital bed, he wrote: "I have not been informed

about the reason for my arrest so far, nor have I been shown any arrest warrant. There is no clarity about the legal status of my arrest either."

Amnesty International has called for his immediate and unconditional release.

"This arbitrary detention of activists simply for expressing solidarity with victims of forced eviction has raised serious concerns over violations of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, liberty and security of person..." said Nirajan Thapaliya, Director of Amnesty International Nepal.

"The majority of the Ministers in the current government came to power on the back of Gen Z protests in September 2025. They vehemently advocated for the right to protest and freedom of expression, and against police repression while pledging to hold law enforcement accountable for the crack-

down during the September protests. It's deplorable that within four months of taking office, the government is now forgetting its commitment and is using the same repressive tactics as its predecessor to unlawfully target young activists."

Concerns over shrinking civic space deepened further on July 13 after unattended vehicles were left outside the gates of three leading media houses in Kathmandu. One of the

vehicles was parked outside the gates of Kantipur Media Group, the country's largest media company, blocking the entry and exit of other vehicles. It was later found to belong to a member of the ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party.

Parliamentarians on Tuesday took up the issue, describing the incidents as an attempt to silence criticism.

Ramesh Malla of the Nepali Communist Party alleged that such acts were carried out by people backed by the state.

"If those in positions of power have understood that they can govern by creating an environment of fear, they are completely wrong," he said in Parliament on Tuesday. "Those who gave the mandate to govern could launch a big movement to take the mandate back."

Concerns over the government's commitment to democratic norms were evident from the early days. Yet, it continued to get the benefit of the doubt because the public, frustrated with years of misgovernance and corruption, had placed its trust in the new administration.

For a government that rode a wave of public anger against the old political order and promised a decisive break from it, the first 100 days have instead been marked by allegations of administrative failures, and a confrontational approach to criticism.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

उप राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय



उपराष्ट्रपति ने 'द वॉयस ऑफ जस्टिस: जस्टिस गवई स्पीक्स' पुस्तक का विमोचन किया

"मजबूत संस्थाएँ और न्याय व्यवस्था सत्यनिष्ठा, संवैधानिक अनुशासन तथा जनविश्वास से ही कायम रहती हैं": उपराष्ट्रपति

"संविधान लोकतांत्रिक स्थिरता और राष्ट्रीय एकता की आधारशिला बना हुआ है": उपराष्ट्रपति
वकीलों को समय-समय पर गरीब लोगों को निःशुल्क विधिक सहायता प्रदान करनी चाहिए: उपराष्ट्रपति

संवैधानिक शासन नागरिकों की आकांक्षाओं के प्रति सदैव उत्तरदायी रहना चाहिए: उपराष्ट्रपति

न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवई की न्यायिक यात्रा संवैधानिक मूल्यों के प्रति उनकी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतिबिंब है: उपराष्ट्रपति

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 14 JUL 2026 6:43PM by PIB Delhi