

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

 **ONE STOP SOLUTION**

By **Faiyaz Sir**



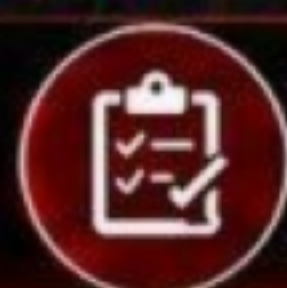
COMPLETE
COVERAGE



EXAM
FOCUSED



ANALYSIS
MADE EASY



STATIC + CURRENT
INTEGRATION



**STAY AHEAD
STAY PREPARED**



जिस दिन
बहाने खत्म होंगे,

★ — उसी दिन — ★

सफलता
की शुरुआत होगी।



आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. पैमाना (PAIMANA) और भारत में डेटा-आधारित इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर गवर्नेंस का नया युग
2. सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) और सार्वजनिक खरीद का डिजिटल रूपांतरण
3. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य (PIB + TH + IE + $\frac{5}{4}$ निष्कर्ष)



Infrastructure

पैमाना: डेटा-आधारित इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर गवर्नेंस को मज़बूत करना

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 10 AUG 2026 11:52 AM

Government
Scheme
↳ GS-2
↳ Governance
(E-Governance)
↳ ??

पैमाना (PAIMANA) और भारत में डेटा-आधारित इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर गवर्नेंस का नया युग

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) | डिजिटल इंडिया | विकसित भारत 2047

पोर्टल

Postup

PAIMANA — राष्ट्र-निर्माण के लिए प्रोजेक्ट असेसमेंट, इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर मॉनिटरिंग और एनालिटिक्स

मंत्रालय

MoSPI द्वारा विकसित — OCMS-2006 का आधुनिक डिजिटल उत्तराधिकारी

लक्ष्य

पारदर्शी, साक्ष्य-आधारित और कुशल नीति-निर्माण की डिजिटल नींव

दायरा

₹40.54 लाख करोड़ के 1,847 प्रोजेक्ट्स — 17 केंद्रीय मंत्रालय

चर्चा में क्यों?

संदर्भ और प्रासंगिकता

भारत की तीव्र आर्थिक वृद्धि और 'विकसित भारत' के संकल्प के केंद्र में एक मजबूत और आधुनिक बुनियादी ढांचा (Infrastructure) है। इसी विज़न को गति देने के लिए MoSPI द्वारा विकसित 'पैमाना' पोर्टल और इसका परफॉर्मेंस मॉनिटरिंग डैशबोर्ड डेटा-आधारित गवर्नेंस की दिशा में एक क्रांतिकारी कदम साबित हो रहा है।

पारंपरिक से डिजिटल गवर्नेंस की ओर

यह प्रणाली पारंपरिक निगरानी से आगे बढ़कर पारदर्शी, साक्ष्य-आधारित और कुशल नीति-निर्माण की नींव रख रही है। 'मिनिमम गवर्नमेंट, मैक्सिमम गवर्नेंस' की प्रतिबद्धता को यह पोर्टल व्यावहारिक रूप देता है।

1,847

सक्रिय प्रोजेक्ट्स

₹40.54L Cr

कुल संशोधित लागत

165

परफॉर्मेंस इंडिकेटर्स

20+

मंत्रालय/एजेंसियां

पैमाना (PAIMANA): पारंपरिक निगरानी से डिजिटल सुदृढ़ीकरण तक

- 1 ऐतिहासिक बदलाव — OCMS-2006 से PAIMANA तक**
पैमाना (राष्ट्र-निर्माण के लिए प्रोजेक्ट असेसमेंट, इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर मॉनिटरिंग और एनालिटिक्स) ने पुराने 'OCMS-2006' (ऑनलाइन कंप्यूटराइज्ड मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम) का स्थान लिया है। यह परिवर्तन केवल तकनीकी नहीं, बल्कि गवर्नेंस की सोच में एक मौलिक बदलाव को दर्शाता है।
- 2 PAIMANA-CRIP मॉड्यूल — केंद्रीय भंडार**
MoSPI ने **08 जुलाई 2026** को PAIMANA-CRIP नाम का एक मॉड्यूल लांच किया, जिसने DPIIT के इंटीग्रेटेड प्रोजेक्ट मॉनिटरिंग पोर्टल (IPMP) की जगह ली है। यह अब इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोजेक्ट्स के सेंट्रल रिपॉजिटरी (केंद्रीय भंडार) के रूप में कार्य कर रहा है, जिससे 'प्रगति' और पीएमजी (PMG) जैसी समीक्षा प्रणालियों को सटीक डेटा मिल रहा है।
- 3 एकीकृत डेटा एक्सचेंज — 60% ऑटो-अपडेट**
20 से अधिक मंत्रालय और एजेंसियां API (एप्लीकेशन प्रोग्रामिंग इंटरफेस) और डेटा एंट्री के माध्यम से इस पोर्टल को नियमित रूप से अपडेट कर रही हैं। उल्लेखनीय रूप से, **60%** से अधिक प्रोजेक्ट्स ऑटो-अपडेट हो रहे हैं, जिससे मानवीय त्रुटि और विलंब की संभावना न्यूनतम हो गई है।

परफॉर्मेंस मॉनिटरिंग डैशबोर्ड और व्यापक इंडिकेटर फ्रेमवर्क

अप्रैल 2026 में लॉन्च किया गया परफॉर्मेंस मॉनिटरिंग डैशबोर्ड बुनियादी ढांचे के मूल्यांकन में एक नया आयाम जोड़ता है।

शास्त्रीय और संस्थागत आधार

NIPFP के साथ मिलकर DEA की हार्मोनाइज्ड मास्टर लिस्ट (HML-2022) के अनुरूप तैयार किया गया। यह अकादमिक और नीतिगत दोनों दृष्टिकोणों को एकीकृत करता है।

बढ़ा हुआ दायरा — 165 इंडिकेटर्स

6 प्रमुख उप-क्षेत्रों को कवर करते हुए **165 इंडिकेटर्स**: पावर, सिविल एविएशन, टेलीकम्युनिकेशंस, रेलवे, सड़कें, और पोर्ट्स, शिपिंग व वॉटरवेज।

बहुआयामी मूल्यांकन के 5 आयाम

पहुंच

Access

गुणवत्ता

Quality

वित्तीय लागत एवं राजस्व

Financial Cost & Revenue

उपयोग

Utilization

वहनीयता

Affordability

यह केवल क्षेत्रीय उत्पादन (आउटपुट) तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के वास्तविक प्रदर्शन का समग्र आकलन करता है।

चल रहे प्रोजेक्ट्स की वर्तमान स्थिति (जून 2026 तक के आंकड़े)

पोर्टल के आंकड़े देश में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास की विशालता और गति को दर्शाते हैं।

1,847

कुल प्रोजेक्ट्स

17 केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों और विभागों के अंतर्गत

₹40.54L Cr

संशोधित लागत

कुल स्वीकृत परियोजना लागत

₹21.97L Cr

व्यय

संशोधित लागत का 54.18% खर्च

709

अग्रणी प्रोजेक्ट्स

80%+ भौतिक प्रगति पूर्ण

337

वित्तीय रूप से अग्रणी

80%+ वित्तीय कार्य पूर्ण

सेक्टर-वार स्थिति: ट्रांसपोर्ट और लॉजिस्टिक्स सबसे आगे

सेक्टर / मंत्रालय	प्रोजेक्ट्स की संख्या	अनुमानित लागत
ट्रांसपोर्ट और लॉजिस्टिक्स (कुल)	1,341	₹22.32 लाख करोड़
सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय	1,022	—
रेल मंत्रालय	255	—

सुशासन (Governance) और स्टेकहोल्डर सहभागिता के लाभ



सक्रिय भागीदारी

हर लाइन मिनिस्ट्री और डिपार्टमेंट के पास अपने डैशबोर्ड के लिए लॉगिन क्रेडेंशियल हैं, जिससे वे सीधे पोर्टल के जरिए प्रोजेक्ट की प्रगति की समीक्षा कर सकते हैं। यह विकेंद्रीकृत स्वामित्व की भावना को बढ़ावा देता है।



पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही

डिजिटल स्लॉट, रियल-टाइम एनालिटिक्स और मासिक समीक्षा बैठकों से विलंब (Delay) की गुंजाइश कम हुई है। जवाबदेही की एक स्पष्ट श्रृंखला स्थापित हुई है जो परियोजना स्तर से मंत्रालय स्तर तक जाती है।



सबूत-आधारित नीति-निर्माण

यह प्लेटफॉर्म नीति निर्माताओं को यह स्पष्ट रूप से देखने में मदद करता है कि किन क्षेत्रों या उप-क्षेत्रों में तात्कालिक हस्तक्षेप और वित्तीय सहायता की आवश्यकता है। डेटा-संचालित निर्णय अनुमान-आधारित नीति की जगह लेते हैं।



PAIMANA 'प्रगति' और PMG जैसी उच्च-स्तरीय समीक्षा प्रणालियों को सटीक और अद्यतन डेटा प्रदान करता है — जिससे प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय स्तर पर भी निगरानी सुदृढ़ होती है।

निष्कर्ष

"पैमाना पोर्टल केवल एक निगरानी उपकरण मात्र नहीं है, बल्कि यह भारत के प्रशासनिक ढांचे में 'मिनिमम गवर्नमेंट, मैक्सिमम गवर्नेंस' और डिजिटल इंडिया की प्रतिबद्धता का जीता-जागता प्रमाण है।"

एकीकृत डिजिटल मंच का महत्व

जिस प्रकार यह ₹150 करोड़ से अधिक लागत वाले मेगा प्रोजेक्ट्स से लेकर जमीनी स्तर के संकेतकों को एक डिजिटल मंच पर पिरो रहा है, वह आने वाले वर्षों में देश को 'विकसित भारत 2047' के आर्थिक लक्ष्यों तक पहुँचाने में एक अचूक मार्गदर्शक साबित होगा।

PAIMANA की प्रमुख उपलब्धियाँ एक नज़र में

01

OCMS-2006 → PAIMANA

पुरानी प्रणाली का आधुनिक डिजिटल रूपांतरण

02

IPMP → PAIMANA-CRIP

08 जुलाई 2026 को केंद्रीय भंडार के रूप में स्थापित

03

165 इंडिकेटर्स, 6 उप-क्षेत्र

अप्रैल 2026 में परफॉर्मेंस डैशबोर्ड लॉन्च

04

60%+ ऑटो-अपडेट

20+ मंत्रालयों का API-आधारित एकीकरण

पैमाना

8 July - 2026

→ MOSPI

→ OCMS-2006

→ IPMP-DPIIT

17/18/7/40/179

→ राष्ट्र की आधार

UPSC Prelims Practice MCQ

प्रश्न: 'पैमाना' (PAIMANA) पोर्टल के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1

इसे सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) द्वारा सेंट्रल सेक्टर के इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोजेक्ट्स की निगरानी के लिए विकसित किया गया है।

2

इसका 'PAIMANA-CRIP' मॉड्यूल वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय के अधीन DPIIT के 'इंटीग्रेटेड प्रोजेक्ट मॉनिटरिंग पोर्टल (IPMP)' का स्थान लेता है।

3

इसके परफॉर्मेंस मॉनिटरिंग डैशबोर्ड के अंतर्गत केवल सड़क और रेलवे परिवहन क्षेत्रों को ही शामिल किया गया है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2 (b) केवल 2 और 3 (c) केवल 1 और 3 (d) 1, 2 और 3

17 मंत्रालय
1847 प्रोजेक्ट्स
40 लाख करोड़

मुख्य परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न

प्रश्न: "पारंपरिक निगरानी प्रणालियों से डिजिटल और डेटा-आधारित गवर्नेंस की ओर बदलाव भारत के बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में एक निर्णायक मोड़ है।" 'पैमाना' (PAIMANA) पोर्टल और इसके परफॉर्मेंस मॉनिटरिंग डैशबोर्ड के विशेष संदर्भ में इस कथन का ~~समालोचनात्मक~~ परीक्षण कीजिए।
बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं की समय पर और कुशल डिलीवरी सुनिश्चित करने में यह किस प्रकार सहायक है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)



Economy

यहां हर खरीदारी में छिपा है एक जेम

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 08 AUG 2026 16:32 PM

डिजिटल गवर्नेंस के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक खरीद का रूपांतरण

GEM

भारत सरकार	केंद्र
मंत्रालय	मंत्रालय
विभाग	विभाग

सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) और सार्वजनिक खरीद का डिजिटल रूपांतरण

भारत की डिजिटल गवर्नेंस क्रांति और पारदर्शी सार्वजनिक खरीद की दिशा में एक ऐतिहासिक पहल





GeM
9 August - 2016

चर्चा में क्यों?

भारत की तीव्र आर्थिक वृद्धि और 'विकसित भारत' के विजन में सार्वजनिक खरीद (Public Procurement) की पारदर्शिता और दक्षता एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ है। 9 अगस्त 2016 को लॉन्च किया गया सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) आज पारंपरिक, कागजी और बिखरी हुई खरीद प्रणालियों को पूरी तरह से पारदर्शी, संपर्क-रहित और डिजिटल मंच में बदलकर एक नया इतिहास रच रहा है।

GeM: पारंपरिक खरीद से एक एकीकृत डिजिटल बाजार तक



ऐतिहासिक बदलाव

पारंपरिक खरीद प्रक्रियाओं में कागजी कार्रवाई, लंबी निविदाएं और मानवीय हस्तक्षेप अधिक था। GeM ने खरीदारों और विक्रेताओं को एक साझा ऑनलाइन मंच पर लाकर इस पूरी प्रक्रिया को सरल और मानकीकृत किया है।

व्यापक पहुँच

1.37 लाख से अधिक सरकारी खरीदार संगठनों को लगभग 25 लाख विक्रेताओं और सेवा प्रदाताओं से जोड़ता है।

उत्पाद और सेवाएं

10,660 से अधिक उत्पाद श्रेणियां और 350 सेवा श्रेणियां जैसे चिकित्सा उपकरण, वाहन किराए पर लेना, मानव संसाधन और खानपान सेवाएं शामिल हैं।

पारदर्शिता, डेटा-आधारित निर्णय और एकीकरण

उन्नत एनालिटिक्स

'GeM उपलब्धता रिपोर्ट' और 'व्यापारी विश्लेषण (Business Analytics)' खरीदारों को पिछले खरीद रुझानों, मूल्य के रुझान और अंतिम खरीद मूल्य का आकलन करने में मदद करते हैं।

सुधारात्मक कदम

आवर्ती खरीद के लिए दर अनुबंध और विक्रेताओं के लिए जमानत राशि की आवश्यकता को समाप्त करने जैसे सुधारों ने 'ईज ऑफ डूइंग बिजनेस' को बढ़ावा दिया है।

पोर्टलों का एकीकरण

CPPP, IREPS और DPPP के साथ एकीकरण से देश भर की खरीद प्रणालियों में अंतरसंचालनीयता (Interoperability) मजबूत हुई है।



समावेशी विकास और महिला व स्टार्टअप सशक्तिकरण



11L+

पंजीकृत एमएसई

₹2.36 लाख करोड़ से अधिक मूल्य के 51 लाख से अधिक ऑर्डर पूरे किए हैं।

2.1L+

महिला उद्यमी

बुनियादी पहल के तहत ₹28,000 करोड़ से अधिक की खरीद हासिल की है।

36%+

स्टार्टअप वृद्धि

स्टार्टअप्स की खरीद ₹19,000 करोड़ से अधिक रही है, सालाना वृद्धि दर के साथ।

विशेष पहलें



स्वायत्त (SAYAS)

स्टार्टअप्स, महिलाओं और युवाओं को ई-लेनदेन के माध्यम से लाभ पहुंचाना।



सरस कलेक्शन

ग्रामीण स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) के उत्पादों को राष्ट्रीय बाजार तक पहुंचाना।



GeM सुविधा केंद्र

सीएससी-एसपीवी (CSC-SPV) के सहयोग से स्थानीय स्तर पर विक्रेता पंजीकरण और सहायता प्रदान करना।

वित्तपोषण और रणनीतिक साझेदारियां

GeM सहाय

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के साथ साझेदारी में शुरू किया गया यह विशेष मोबाइल ऐप पंजीकृत योग्य विक्रेताओं को बिना किसी गिरवी या गारंटी के तत्काल कार्यशील पूंजी लोन (Working Capital Loan) उपलब्ध कराता है।

संस्थागत सहयोग

NIFM, IIPA, EPFO और UN Women जैसी संस्थाओं के साथ साझेदारियां क्षमता निर्माण, अनुपालन और लैंगिक रूप से संवेदनशील सार्वजनिक खरीद को बढ़ावा दे रही हैं।

NIFM

IIPA

EPFO

UN WOMEN



चुनौतियां और भविष्य की राह

चुनौतियां

डिजिटल साक्षरता

दूरदराज के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के छोटे कारीगरों और बुनकरों तक डिजिटल साक्षरता और तकनीकी बुनियादी ढांचे का प्रसार करना अभी भी एक चुनौती है।

आगे की राह

AI एकीकरण

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) और आधुनिक तकनीकों का एकीकरण करके खरीद प्रक्रिया को और अधिक 'स्मार्ट' बनाना।

वोकल फॉर लोकल

स्थानीय उद्यमों की मांग को बढ़ाकर 'वोकल फॉर लोकल' और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के संकल्प को जमीन पर उतारना।

वर्तमान चुनौतियाँ
डिजिटल साक्षरता और बुनियादी
ढांचा

भविष्य की दृष्टि
AI-सक्षम स्मार्ट खरीदारी
प्रणालियाँ

ग्रामीण बाधाएँ
दूरदराज किसान व कारीगर तक
पहुँच सीमित

आत्मनिर्भर भारत
स्थानीय एकीकरण और
सशक्तिकरण

निष्कर्ष

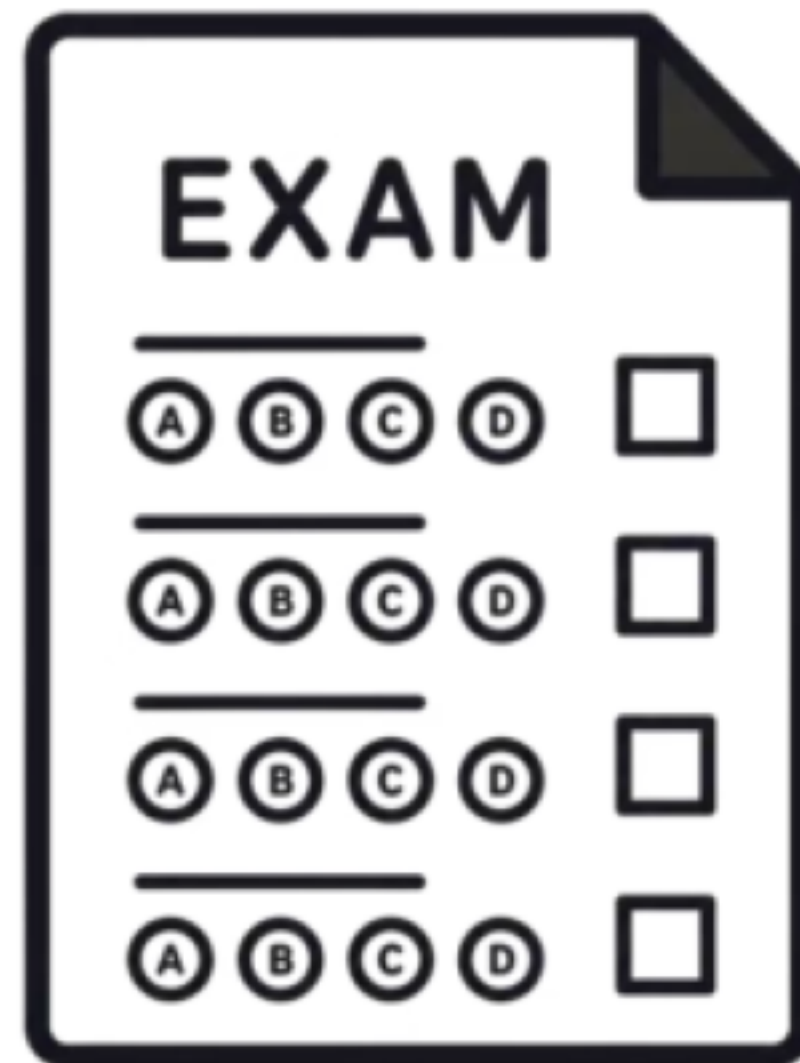
सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) केवल एक क्रय मंच मात्र नहीं है, बल्कि यह भारत के प्रशासनिक ढांचे में 'न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन' (Minimum Government, Maximum Governance) का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है।

अपने 11वें वर्ष में प्रवेश करते हुए, यह डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त, पारदर्शी और समावेशी अर्थव्यवस्था के निर्माण में एक मील का पत्थर साबित हो रहा है।

डिजिटल सशक्तिकरण	पारदर्शी शासन
25 लाख+ विक्रेता जुड़े	संपर्क-रहित खरीद प्रणाली
समावेशी विकास	
MSE, महिला, स्टार्टअप सशक्तिकरण	



प्रारंभिक परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न



प्रश्न: सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) पोर्टल के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इसे सार्वजनिक खरीद प्रक्रिया को पारदर्शी, कागज रहित और संपर्क रहित बनाने के लिए वर्ष 2016 में लॉन्च किया गया था।
2. 'GeM सहाय' पहल पंजीकृत योग्य विक्रेताओं को बिना किसी गिरवी (Collateral) के तत्काल कार्यशील पूंजी लोन प्राप्त करने की सुविधा प्रदान करती है।
3. 'वुमनिया' और 'सरस कलेक्शन' जैसी पहलें क्रमशः महिला उद्यमियों और ग्रामीण स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) के उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने से संबंधित हैं।

विकल्प:

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

मुख्य परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न

✓
प्रश्न: "सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) ने पारंपरिक सार्वजनिक खरीद की सीमाओं को दूर करते हुए डिजिटल गवर्नेंस, समावेशी विकास और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में एक उत्प्रेरक की भूमिका निभाई है।" इस कथन का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।
✓

250 शब्द

उत्तर की अनुशंसित शब्द सीमा

15 अंक

इस प्रश्न का कुल अंकभार



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Govt. agrees to debate students' protests; not enough, says Congress

Sandeep Phukan
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday offered a full-fledged discussion in the Lok Sabha on the protests by students and the police action against them, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah set to reply to the debate.

However, the Opposition refused to relent, insisting that Mr. Shah clarify who ordered the use of pellet guns on the students in Delhi.

The Opposition also insisted that the Centre agree to a discussion and issue a statement on the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The Centre's offer to break the deadlock in the Lok Sabha came at a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) in the afternoon.

"We have made it clear to the BAC of the Lok Sabha that the government is ready for a full-fledged discussion on the student and youth agitations that have been going on in different parts of the country as well as police action. The Home Minister will give a point-by-point reply to the debate on behalf of the government," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said.

Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, at a press conference, demanded accountability over the use of pellet guns, an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the police action and a statement on the alleged theft of offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

They claimed that neither had the "courage to come to the House for the past 15 days for what they

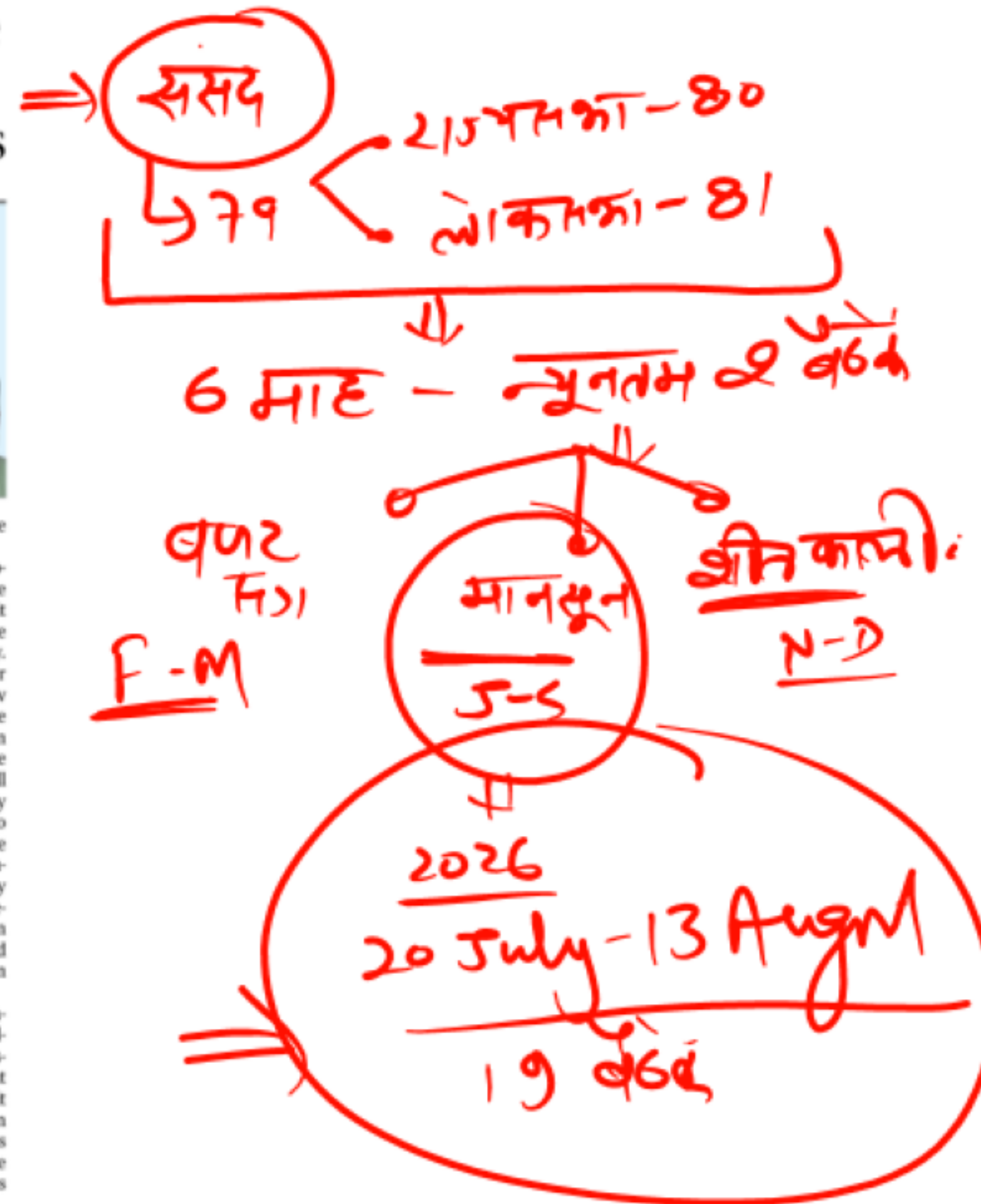


have done to the students".

Mr. Rijiju said the Opposition would have to assure the government that it would listen to the Home Minister's reply peacefully. "We have given our offer and the Opposition now has to give the assurance that it will peacefully listen to the reply of the Home Minister. Sloganeering will not be acceptable. If they want a debate, there has to be proper decorum," he said, adding, "The government never runs away from any issue or any debate, nor will it run away in future". He also repeated the government's position on the floor of the House.

Hitting back at the Union government, Mr. Gandhi asserted that the question was never about Union Home Minister Amit Shah giving "a speech on general topics" but always about who authorised "the shooting of our youngsters in Delhi".

"He [Mr. Shah] is Home Minister. Pellet guns were fired, students were beaten with 'lathis' with nails on them. The question was if Mr. Amit Shah should come clean: did he order it or did he not? If he ordered it, he is guilty of getting our children shot. And if he didn't know about it happening, he is incompetent. Either way, he should go," Mr. Gandhi said.



YouTube Homework

संसद के सत्रावसान, सत्राह्वन,
स्थगन, विधेयन =
संविधान के किन अनुच्छेदों
में किया गया
है ??

Monsoon Session 2026

- शुरुआत: 20 जुलाई 2026
- निर्धारित समाप्ति: 13 अगस्त 2026
- कुल निर्धारित बैठकें: 19
- 18वीं लोकसभा का: 8वां Session

अब तक कौन-कौन से Bills पेश हुए?

11 अगस्त तक कुल 12 नए Bills introduce हुए हैं:

Bills	तारीख	स्थिति
Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026	20 जुलाई	✓ दोनों सदनों से पारित
Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026	24 जुलाई	✓ दोनों सदनों से पारित
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026	27 जुलाई	✓ दोनों सदनों से पारित
MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026	28 जुलाई	✓ दोनों सदनों से पारित
Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026	29 जुलाई	✓ दोनों सदनों से पारित
Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026	3 अगस्त	⌚ लंबित
Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026	3 अगस्त	⚠ केवल लोकसभा से पारित
Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026	4 अगस्त	⚠ केवल लोकसभा से पारित
Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026	10 अगस्त	⚠ केवल लोकसभा से पारित
Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026	10 अगस्त	⌚ लंबित
National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026	10 अगस्त	⌚ लंबित
Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026	10 अगस्त	⌚ लंबित

1+37
38

मानसून

जन-अन-जन
+ वन्दे मातरम्

ordinance
Money Bill

15



Russia's share in oil imports jumps to 48% in June

NEW DELHI

At a time when the U.S. looks to impose a tariff of up to 100% on India for Russian oil imports, data shows Russia's share in India's oil imports rose to an all-time high of 48% in June. » PAGE 12

Russia's share in India's oil imports jumps to 48% in June

The U.S. Senate has passed a bill that will see tariffs of up to 100% being levied on top 5 countries importing Russian oil and gas; the Bill now awaits passage in the House of Representatives

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

At a time when the U.S. looks all set to enact legislation to impose a tariff of up to 100% on India for its Russian oil imports, an analysis of the latest data shows Russia's share in India's oil imports has jumped to an all-time high of 48% in June 2026.

The U.S. Senate last week passed the bipartisan Jeffrey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 which seeks to levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries that continue to buy Russian oil and gas, and that were the largest purchasers of these products from Russia over the previous year. India qualifies for tariffs under these criteria. The Bill still requires to be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives before it becomes law.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India significantly lowered its total crude oil imports in June 2026. In terms of volume, June crude oil imports at 18.2 million metric tonnes (MMT) were down 16.5% compared with May 2026, and were 13% lower than in June last year.

However, elevated crude oil prices this year have meant that the oil import bill, while 22% lower in June 2026 than in May, was still 40% higher than in June of last year.

While India drastically

War relations

Each time a recent war has spiked oil prices, India has turned to Russia



cut down on overall oil imports, its purchases from Russia bucked this trend. That is, India imported 8.7 MMT of Russian oil in June 2026, just 1% lower than in May, and 25% higher than in June of last year.

As a result of this strategy, Russia's share in India's crude oil imports jumped to 48% in terms of quantity and 48.6% in terms of the value. Russia's share has been rising consistently every month since March and the outbreak of the war in West Asia.

According to the U.S. Bill, the tariffs would apply on a country that was among the five largest importers of crude oil or natural gas from Russia during the 12 months preceding the date of the enactment of the Act, and that then continues to import oil or gas from Russia after 30 days of the enactment.

China and India are the top two importers of Russian oil and India's rising dependence on Russian oil shows it cannot quickly cut back on this source at a time when supplies through the Strait of Hormuz are still constrained.

The premium Russia has charged India for its oil has been steadily declining, data shows, from \$77.7 per tonne in April 2026 to \$10.6 per tonne in June. Russia had been providing India a discount until as recently as February 2026.

Sanctions exposure

The Bill also specifies that tariffs could be imposed on countries that have helped Russia evade sanctions. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told *The Hindu* that India has specifically taken measures to pre-empt any sanctions exposure.

"It [sanctions exposure] was pre-empted through ship-to-ship transfer operations in international waters via the Red Sea route through Yanbu and Fujairah precisely so that a single choke point, or a single sanctions regime, could not halt India-bound cargo," MoPNG said in a clarificatory note it had sent *The Hindu* in late July.

It is unclear as of now whether India's actions would entail helping Russia evade sanctions.

Apart from Russia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) too saw its share in India's oil imports rise to historic highs. India sourced 17.5% of its oil imports by volume from the UAE in June 2026 and 18% by value, the highest share for both so far.

Taken together, this means that Russia and the UAE together accounted for nearly two-thirds of India's oil imports in June 2026, the highest-ever combined share enjoyed by any two countries. The MoPNG, however, said that such concentration was not a matter of concern given Indian oil marketing companies stand ready to diversify quickly.

"Indian refineries had spent a decade acquiring the logistical flexibility to switch between crude grades and shipping routes the moment disruption struck, which is the definition of a diversification strategy, not its absence," the note said.

भारत तेल 85% आयात → डेरा → रूस
रूस गैर मुद्रा मध्य

YouTube Homework

- GCC - Gulf Cooperation Council
- NATO - 36th - तुर्की - कतरा -
- Islamic NATO

→ Islamic Saudi Turkey } Defense

भारत के crude oil (कच्चे तेल) import प्रमुख स्रोत हैं:

- ✓ रूस — भारत का सबसे बड़ा crude oil supplier — 54% 2026
48%
- ~~इराक~~
- ~~सऊदी अरब~~
- ~~UAE~~
- ~~USA~~
- ~~कुवैत~~
- ~~नाइजीरिया~~
- ~~ब्राजील~~

भारत रूस से इतना तेल क्यों खरीदता है?

- 2022 के बाद रूस पर पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों के कारण Russian crude पर **discount** मिला। भारतीय refineries ने इसका फायदा उठाकर रूस से imports काफी बढ़ाए।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

State song must be sung first, says T.N. Assembly resolution

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution to make it mandatory to render the State song, *Tamil Thai Vazhthu*, before the commencement of programmes at all educational institutions, universities, government offices, public sector undertakings, and other public institutions.

The government resolution, moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, said *Tamil Thai Vazhthu* was an expression of respect for the Tamil language and culture. It said the decision was in accordance with the linguistic and cultural rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India and aimed at preserving the cultural identity of Tamil Nadu. "Tamil is not just a language, but our life and emotion," it said.

Tamil was "one of the world's ancient classical languages" and Tamil civilisation represented one of the oldest cultural traditions in the world, it said.

Recalling the history of *Tamil Thai Vazhthu*, taken from *Manonmaniam* written by Manonmaniam Sundaranar in 1891, the resolu-



C. Joseph Vijay

tion said the government order stipulating that it be sung first at government functions came into effect on November 23, 1970. The previous Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government issued an order on December 12, 2021, according recognition to it as the State song.

Later, in a social media message, Mr. Vijay described the resolution as "historic" and thanked all political parties for supporting it. "Tamil is not just a language. It is a thought, culture, civilisation, and our life; Tamil is our soul and our emotion," he said, adding that the day on which the resolution was adopted would forever be remembered in the history of Tamil Nadu.

The DMK, however, demanded a special law to give legal status to the resolution.

विषय :-

→ T.N.

→ कावेरी :- 65 Sec

→ T.N.

→ वन्दे मातरम् → 52

2 Stanzas

6 Stanzas

3 months 10 Sec

तमिलनाडु राज्य गान

YouTube Homework

➤ Internal Politics Of T.N.



→ சோழர்
→ பாண்டியர்
→ சோழர்

→ சோழர் சாதனை பாரிசு
மானா

Karnataka has 6,805 charging stations for EVs, second-highest in country: govt. data

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Karnataka has emerged as one of India's leading States in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, with 6,805 electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) installed as of July 29 this year, according to data by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The data, released in response to an unstarred question on August 7 in the Rajya Sabha, show that Karnataka has the second-highest number of installed EV charging stations in the country, marginally behind Maharashtra, which has 6,985 stations. Karnataka's tally is 180 stations lower than Maharash-



Eco-friendly Experts attribute Karnataka's success in the sector to the State's early and proactive policies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tr's and accounts for nearly 13% of the 52,718 charging stations installed across India.

Karnataka's charging infrastructure is also substantially higher than that of southern States. Tamil Nadu has 3,839 charging stations, Telangana 3,739 and Kerala 3,399. Andhra

Pradesh has 1,976 stations and Goa 314. At the national level, Uttar Pradesh has 4,493 charging stations and Rajasthan 2,827. The reply shows wide variation among States, with several northeastern and smaller Union Territories having fewer than 100 stations.

However, the Ministry

clarified that centralised data on the number of fast and slow-charging stations are not maintained.

Meanwhile, experts attribute Karnataka's success in EV infrastructure to the State's early and proactive policy decisions, particularly its 2017 EV policy. "The extensive network of charging stations in Bengaluru demonstrates how infrastructure can help build consumer confidence. However, the focus must now shift towards improving interoperability, standardising charging tariffs and providing real-time information on charger availability to enhance the overall user experience," said transport expert M.N. Srihari.

YouTube Homework

➤ What is EV ?

➤ BSE-6

➤ CAFÉ-3

➤ Unstarred Questions

संसद

11-12 = यज्ञ

नारायण

12-1 = Zero how

1:2 = Launch

2:6 = Law making

- भारत में Public EV Charging Stations (EVCS) की राज्यवार संख्या सरकारी आँकड़ों के अनुसार कुल 29,277 Public EV Charging Stations दर्ज हैं। यह डेटा Ministry of Power के inputs पर आधारित है। ✓

Top 5 राज्य/UT:

- ~~Karnataka~~ – 6,097
- ~~Maharashtra~~ – 4,155
- ~~Uttar Pradesh~~ – 2,326
- ~~Delhi~~ – 1,967
- ~~Tamil Nadu~~ – 1,781

Tribunals Reforms Bill passed amid din in LS

Bill to set up a panel to oversee appointments to various national tribunals was cleared without a debate; Law Minister says it will bring uniformity to selection process and improve transparency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to establish a National Tribunals Commission to oversee the appointment of chairpersons and members of various tribunals, without a debate amid persistent Opposition protests demanding the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Opposition has been demanding that Mr. Shah make a statement on the police crackdown on students during the July 20 protest in New Delhi against paper leaks.

The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, introduced by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, was passed by voice vote after Opposition members, who had given notices opposing its introduction, chose not to speak amid the din.

Once passed by both Houses, the new law will repeal the Tribunals Re-



No discussion: Proceedings in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

forms Act, 2021.

The proposed commission, to be headquartered in New Delhi, will comprise a chairperson and four members – two judicial and two technical members. A retired Supreme Court judge or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court will be eligible to head the commission.

Speaking on the Bill, Mr. Meghwal said it sought to bring uniformity to the process of selection and

appointment of tribunal members and would improve efficiency, transparency and independence.

He said the legislation did not alter the jurisdiction of any tribunal. The Minister described the measure as part of the government's "reform express".

The Bill comes against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's intervention in the functioning of tribunals.

The court had struck down provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, holding that some of them were contrary to the principles of separation of powers and judicial independence and inconsistent with earlier judgments laying down standards for the appointment, tenure and functioning of tribunal members.

SC's direction

The court had also directed the establishment of an independent National Tribunals Commission with professional expertise, transparent selection procedures and an oversight mechanism for appointments.

The proposed legislation provides for the qualifications, selection and appointment of tribunal chairpersons and members, besides prescribing their salaries, allowances, tenure, resignation, removal and other service conditions.

Tribunals - Polity

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Tribunal Reform Act - 2021

TRA-2026

National Tribunal Commission

SC - R J

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7 New Delhi

दफ्तर :-

Tribunal

Chairman
Members

Congress slams new rural jobs law amid fall in employment generation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday criticised the Centre over a sharp decline in employment generation under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), which replaced the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)-era Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and said the new law should be renamed "rozgar chori" (employment theft).

Data from the Union Rural Development Ministry show that the number of person-days generated under the scheme during its first implementing month of July 2026 was 49.94% lower than the number generated under the MGNREGA in the corresponding month of the previous year.

A person-day is a unit that measures the amount of work done by one per-



Under the Modi government, the MGNREGA was scrapped, stripping millions of families of their 'right to work', and in its place, VB-G RAM G was imposed, which wiped out the employment of 50% of labourers

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress president



son in a working day.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on social media platform X, said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had wielded the "lathi" not only against the youth but also against the country's labourers.

"Under the Modi government, the MGNREGA was scrapped, stripping millions of families of their 'right to work', and in its place, VB-G RAM G was imposed, which wiped out the employment of 50% of labourers. Has the payment of ₹17,144 crore in pending MGNREGA funds

been made to the States?" Mr. Kharge said in an on-line post in Hindi.

On drought assistance

Mr. Kharge also questioned whether any assistance had been provided to drought-affected States. "There is a 26.50% shortfall in sowing for the kharif crop. Does anyone care? Has the Central government taken any steps regarding the funding pattern of VB-G RAM G, on which BJP-ruled States had demanded a review? When the country's poor labourers are suffering the most,

the Modi government is snatching away their minimum economic and social security and mocking them," he said.

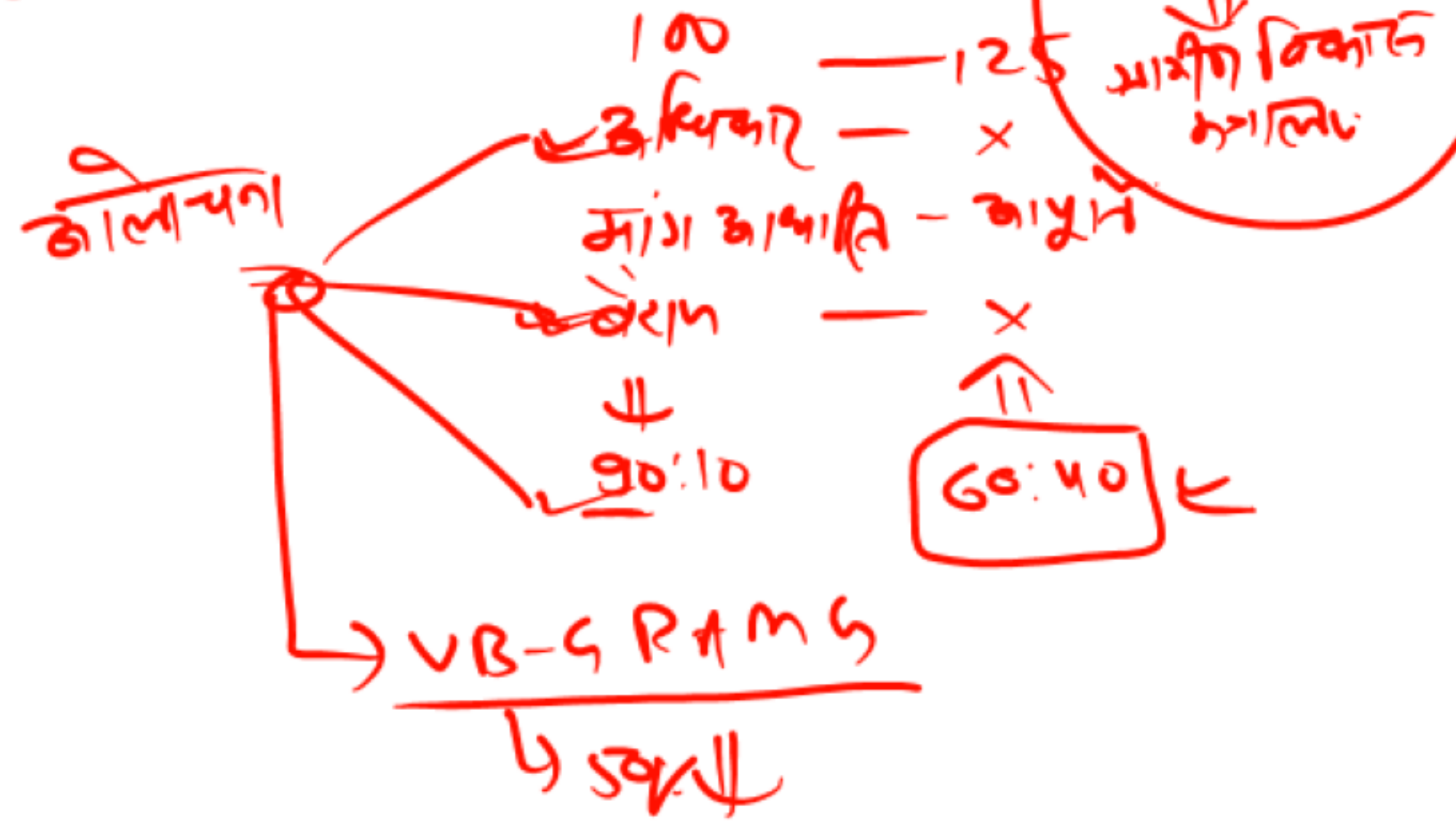
Congress general secretary (communications) and former Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh said the data from the first month of implementation of VB-G RAM G exposed "the cost of destroying the MGNREGA". He argued that the MGNREGA had empowered gram panchayats and freed workers from dependence on "the political whims of the government of the day".

"The Modi government has instead centralised the scheme, imposed a heavy financial burden on State governments, made access increasingly dependent on technology and biometric authentication, removed the guarantee of employment, and made it harder for workers to claim their rights. the VB-G RAM G is simply 'rozgar chori'," Mr. Ramesh said.

VB-G RAM G

NREGA → MGNREGA → VB-G RAM G
2005 ↓ 2009

VB-G RAM G
1 July-2026



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Agasthyamalai eviction orders still silence Forest Rights Act

The FRA does not require that traditional forest dwellers need to occupy the land they are claiming for three generations before 2005 nor does it prohibit commercial activities on all forest lands – yet the administration and the judiciary have hampered its implementation on these grounds

C.R. Bijoy

Angry outbursts and tears of desperation swept the hillside in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR), particularly in Thetti. In the last few weeks, the Forest Department has issued eviction notices to thousands of households on the Tamil Nadu side alleging they had encroached on forest land.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the Supreme Court directed a time-bound encroachment eviction plan, rehabilitation where applicable, legal action against willful violators, and post-eviction ecological restoration.

It also imposed additional penalties against its government servants found to be encroachers, and ordered the dismantling of all structures, utilities, logistical facilities, etc. within encroached forest areas.

Finally, the bench prohibited the diversion of forest land or the start of new non-forest activities within the ABR until all encroachments had been removed.

Likewise, it granted immunity from prosecution to all forest, police, revenue, and other officials involved in surveying, demarcating, and removing encroachments as part of this exercise except in cases involving mala fide or arbitrary action. Significantly, the court directed the CEC to recommend the deployment of paramilitary forces if the Tamil Nadu government failed to comply with the court's directions.

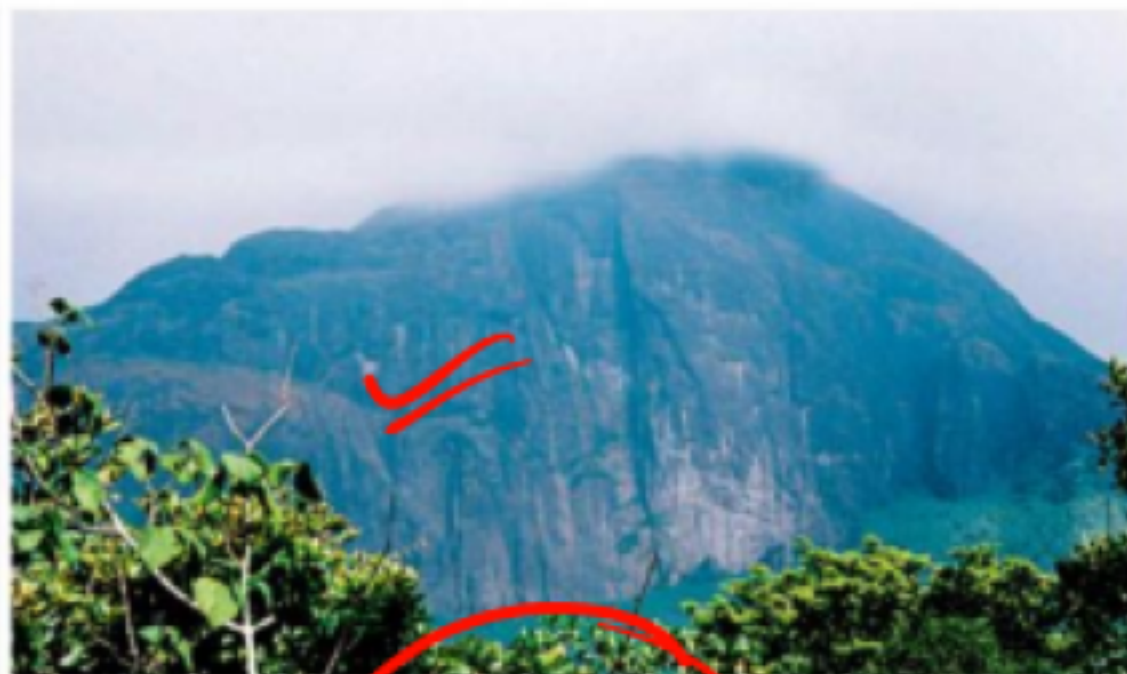
The State is also to decide on the utilisation, retention, relocation or removal of all infrastructure and other establishments belonging to the Bongaiah Barmah Trading Corporation, Ltd. (BBTCL) in the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, in consultation with the CEC.

Historical injustice

Parliament enacted the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in 2006 to undo the historical injustice suffered by forest dwellers. It recognised and vested forest rights on forest-dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who had occupied forest land before December 15, 2005.

The FRA provided for a transparent process for these individuals to claim their individual and community rights, to be verified and approved by gram sabhas, five-member sub-division and district-level committees – with representatives from the Revenue, Tribal, and Forest Departments and the elected members of panchayats – have to examine the claims and issue titles. Those forest land occupations that didn't fall within the FRA's scope could then become the actual encroachment.

But over the years, State governments, the CEC, the Forest Departments, and even the Supreme Court have ignored this basic legal fact. Despite the FRA having operated for two decades, no official has asked for data on forest land occupation falling outside the FRA's scope nor has such information been presented to the public – making the data presented on encroachment and encroachers in any form suspect.



Agasthyamalai is a 3,500 sq. km biosphere reserve straddling Tamil Nadu and Kerala. (PRFCA, Wikimedia)

In fact, in the recent hearings, the Supreme Court should have hailed the recalcitrant State governments for poor FRA implementation. The Tribal Department, which is the nodal department to implement the Act, has also been problematically silent on these infractions.

The FRA also prohibits authorities from evicting people who have allegedly encroached on forest land "till the recognition and verification procedure is complete". Violating these forest rights has been described as an atrocity under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, since 2006. Yet courts and officials have continued to breach this principle.

Nowhere does the FRA produce a requirement that other traditional forest dwellers have to have occupied the land they are claiming for three generations (75 years) before 2005. Nor does the Act prohibit commercial activities on all forest lands or cultivating commercial crops there. In fact, the FRA defines "bonafide livelihood needs" to include the "sale of surplus produce arising out of exercise of such rights". It also explicitly permits grazing on all forest lands. Yet the administration and the judiciary have hampered the FRA's implementation on these dubious grounds.

CEC's findings

The ABR spans 3,500 sq. km across Kerala including parts of Panchanathitta, Kollam, Idikkal, and Thiruvananthapuram and Tamil Nadu (Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thetti, and Dindigul).

It also covers protected areas as Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, the Srivilliputhur-Madurai Tiger Reserve, the Nilgiri Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, it includes the Periyar Tiger Reserve and the Shendurghatta Wildlife Sanctuary.

In March 2025, the Supreme Court directed the CEC to conduct an extensive

The Supreme Court directed a time-bound encroachment eviction plan, rehabilitation where applicable, legal action against willful violators, and post-eviction ecological restoration at the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Survey of the entire Agasthyamalai lands and report within three months on encroachments in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.

Based on inputs from the Forest Departments, field visits besides, and the previous Madras High Court orders pertaining to Megamalai, the CEC submitted its interim report on July 16, 2025, and the final report on January 16, 2026. The Court's latest directions were based on the contents of these reports. Five of its findings follow:

(i) Srivilliputhur-Madurai Tiger Reserve: Around 4,395 individuals encroached 5,073.2 ha across Varaswathi, Megamalai, Gandanama, and Chinnamannur, per 2020 records. The Thetti district magistrate reported 4,608 encroachers had occupied 5,072.6 ha. The CEC also recorded 88 serving or retired government employees had encroached 15 ha.

(ii) Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve: Of the 3,386.6 ha of land leased to BBTCL – of the Madras Group – roughly 3,300 ha had been handed over to the Forest Department in May 2025. The remaining 86.6 ha housed factories, offices, schools, common places with shops, weigh bridges, etc. Their dismantling was to be completed shortly. Another 10.3 hectares had been occupied by 89 families of workers involved in building the Papamam Upper and Lower Dams in 1942.

(iii) Kanyakumari Forest Division: Some 427.4 ha had been encroached by 151 persons, of which 237 ha by 47 persons was involved in court cases.

(iv) Periyar Tiger Reserve: About 700 non-tribal individuals have lived on tea estates in core areas since the early 20th century.

(v) Shendurghatta Wildlife Sanctuary: 1.3 ha had been occupied by tribal people in Kattipattana and Rosanala settlements.

Petitions dismissed

The apex court's new orders relate to appeals against the Madras High Court order denying the petitioners' claims about implementing FRA in Marjolai tea estate and rehabilitating evicted estate workers. The court subsequently extended the case's scope to cover ABR, inside which the estate is located.

The lease of the 3,386.7 ha of land leased to BBTCL for 99 years was set to expire in 2026. The Tamil Nadu government declared this land to be part of the critical tiger habitat of the Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in 2007, notified it as reserve forest in 2008, and issued the eviction notice in 2023. BBTCL then initiated a voluntary retirement scheme for its workers.

These workers filed several PILs and writ petitions challenging the scheme as well as the State's actions, but the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court both dismissed them in 2024 and 2025.

One petition had contended that as the estate had been set up in 1929, the workers should be considered for forest claims under the FRA as "other traditional forest dwellers" fulfilling residence in the region for three generations. But the High Court declared these workers to be estate employees, not forest dwellers, and circumscribed them from the FRA's ambit.

Then, the historical injustice continues. C.R. Bijoy examines natural resource conflicts and governance issues. crbijoy@gmail.com

अग्रथमलाई जंगल

तमिलनाडु + केरल

लोगों - सरंक्षित

ठाना

रिहाई

पर्यटन

HPC - Report

LSU + X

static

Ecology & Environment

YouTube Homework

- National Park - राष्ट्रीय पार्क -
 - Sanctuary - अभयारण्य - आपके राज्य के महापक्ष
 - Biosphere Reserve
 - Tiger Reserve
- आपके राज्य में
Tiger
- जंगल
UNESCO की
World Heritage

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



अगस्त्यमाला बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व (Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve)

- अगस्त्यमाला बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व (ABR) पश्चिमी घाट के दक्षिणी भाग में स्थित एक महत्वपूर्ण **Biosphere Reserve** है। यह केरल और तमिलनाडु दोनों राज्यों में फैला हुआ है।

प्रमुख तथ्य

तथ्य	जानकारी
<u>स्थापना</u>	2001 → Biosphere
<u>UNESCO मान्यता</u>	2016 → UNESCO Biosphere
<u>स्थान</u>	<u>केरल + तमिलनाडु</u>
<u>क्षेत्रफल</u>	लगभग 3,500 km²
<u>पर्वत श्रृंखला</u>	Western Ghats
<u>प्रमुख पर्वत</u>	अगस्त्यमाला/अगस्त्यकूडम
<u>ऊँचाई</u>	लगभग 1,868 मीटर
<u>नदी तंत्र</u>	तामिरापरणी, करमना आदि

जैव-विविधता

- अगस्त्यमाला क्षेत्र **Western Ghats** की अत्यधिक जैव-विविधता वाले क्षेत्रों में आता है।
- ✓ यहाँ पाए जाते हैं:
 -  अनेक औषधीय पौधे
 -  उष्णकटिबंधीय सदाबहार वन
 -  एशियाई हाथी
 -  बाघ
 -  तेंदुआ
 -  सांभर
 -  Lion-tailed macaque
 -  अनेक endemic पक्षी प्रजातियाँ
- इस क्षेत्र की एक विशेषता इसकी **high endemism** है—अर्थात कई प्रजातियाँ मुख्यतः इसी क्षेत्र या Western Ghats में पाई जाती हैं।

जनजातीय समुदाय

- इस क्षेत्र में **Kani (कानी)** जनजाति का महत्वपूर्ण संबंध है। Kani समुदाय पारंपरिक रूप से जंगलों में उपलब्ध **औषधीय पौधों** और वन संसाधनों के पारंपरिक ज्ञान के लिए जाना जाता है।

UNESCO से संबंध

- 2016 में UNESCO ने Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve को **World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)** में शामिल किया।

How India climbed up the Commonwealth ranks

DATA POINT

CHART 3: Commonwealth medal haul compared with population of nations that secured at least one medal in 2026

Nation	Population (Cr.)	Medals per million
Australia	~25	~2500
England	~25	~2400
Canada	~25	~1800
New Zealand	~4	~800
Nigeria	~20	~400
Pakistan	~80	~100
India	~160	~600

3 August
4 August
5 August

UPI and the cost of policy reversal

The government's proposal to allow an MDR of 0.25–0.5% on UPI transactions above ₹2,000 reverses a decade-long policy; taxing the payment rail could weaken incentives for banks and fintechs to invest in UPI while undermining its role in financial inclusion, formalisation and wider digital adoption

2000 ₹ ↑
↳ 0.25 - 0.5% MDR
Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill-2026
↓
Payment & Settlement System Act 2007
↓
Section-10A
↓
MDR - Merchant Discount Rate

ECONOMIC NOTES

Parag Wankar

The government has just given itself the legal room to tax the very payment habit it spent a decade building. Tucked into the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, is an amendment to Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which would allow the government to notify charges on specified electronic payment modes. The number being proposed is a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.25–0.5% on UPI transactions above ₹2,000. The official stand is that this threshold would touch only about five per cent of transactions by volume, sparing the milk-and-vegetable payments that make up the bulk of UPI's use. But it would cover roughly 65% of transaction value, which is precisely why it matters.

This is not a small, technical fix. It runs counter to a decade-long policy commitment and deserves more scrutiny than it has received.

The policy reversal

Consider the arc. Demonetisation in November 2016 was justified, among other things, as a push towards a less-cash economy. UPI, launched earlier that year, became the vehicle for that push, and its zero-MDR regime was a deliberate subsidy to get merchants and consumers off cash. It worked spectacularly. UPI now processes more transactions each month than most of the world's card networks combined. Having successfully weaned the country away from cash and towards electronic payments, the government now wants to undercut the very success it engineered.

There seems to be a continued pattern of privileging one payment mode over others via policy. India has long taxed even credit cards. Credit card interest and



The official stand is that this threshold would touch only about five per cent of transactions by volume, sparing the milk-and-vegetable payments that make up the bulk of UPI's use. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

fees attract 18% GST, making the use of credit cards unnecessarily costly. Taxing interest on revolving credit is unusual by international standards; most jurisdictions treat consumer credit interest as a private financial cost, not a taxable service. India taxes it as if using a credit card itself is a luxury.

Now UPI, the payment rail the government spent political capital promoting, is in line for similar treatment. The pattern suggests a need for a more coherent payments policy than giving in to the temptation to tax every transaction that can be observed.

There are at least two problems with this specific move beyond the optics.

Who really pays?

First, basic economic theory tells us that the person on whom a tax is levied and the person who actually bears its cost are not always the same. Moreover, UPI or any payments interface is a two-sided market, and taxing two-sided markets is genuinely tricky.

The MDR would nominally fall on merchants, as argued by the government,

collected via banks and the National Payments Corporation of India's ecosystem. But whether that cost gets passed through to merchants, on to consumers, or absorbed by banks and payment service providers depends on competitive intensity on each side of the market. Banks and fintechs compete for merchant relationships and cannot easily raise prices without losing volume to a rival offering free UPI acceptance.

The more likely outcome is that intermediaries – the banks and PSPs that built and maintain the plumbing – absorb the cost, which erodes their incentive to invest in reliability, fraud prevention and expansion into underserved segments. A tax that cannot be reliably passed through does not disappear; it most likely shows up later as degraded service or slower innovation. This is completely counterintuitive if government is proposing this tax as necessary to fund the next stage of UPI growth.

Cost to inclusion

Second, UPI has done real work on financial inclusion at the margin. It has

pulled informal transactions into a recorded, traceable digital trail – the very outcome that formalisation and tax-compliance advocates have wanted for years. There have also been attempts to provide credit based on the digital trail created by electronic payments. Every rupee that moves through UPI instead of cash is a rupee the financial institutions can eventually see and use to build a spending profile.

Charging the rail directly could undercut the incentive to use it, cutting against long-standing financial inclusion goals. The government does not need to raise revenue from every rupee that moves electronically; it needs those rupees to keep moving electronically, because that is what delivers the inclusion and compliance dividends it has been chasing since 2016.

Ideally, which payment mode to adopt should be an economic decision for participating actors. Factors such as the size of the business, consumer preferences, and relative cost of using alternative payment systems should determine their usage. Deliberate policy intervention and the current government's war on cash tilted the scales in favour of UPI. Taxing it now – however nominal or small – could change its usage patterns, and policymakers should not be surprised if one outcome is reduced UPI usage.

The proposal is being dressed up as a modest, targeted measure affecting only large-value transactions. But modest measures on payment rails have a way of expanding once the legal architecture exists. Section 10A, once amended, does not expire when this particular MDR proposal is shelved. The better outcome is for the government to leave the payments system alone, let UPI's network effects keep compounding, and find its revenue elsewhere.

(Parag Wankar, Professor & Head, Economics Department, SRM University AP)

THE GIST

The proposed framework could allow payment charges to expand beyond the current MDR plan, creating a broader revenue lever once the legal architecture is in place.

UPI's network effects depend on keeping digital payments cheaper and more convenient than cash, making any new cost a potential distortion in how businesses and consumers choose payment modes.

Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026

असल बदलाव क्या हुआ?

- पहले **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** में ऐसा प्रावधान था जिससे notified electronic payment modes पर **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** जैसे charges लगाने की अनुमति नहीं थी। नए संशोधन से सरकार को भविष्य में कुछ digital payment transactions पर charge/MDR की व्यवस्था करने की कानूनी शक्ति (enabling provision) मिल गई है।

लेकिन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात:

- अभी UPI पर कोई नया charge लागू नहीं किया गया है।
- आम लोगों के **Person-to-Person (P2P)** UPI transactions को charge करने की बात नहीं है।
- सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया है कि वास्तविकता में अधिकांश **UPI transactions free** ही रहेंगे।

फिर बदलाव क्यों?

- UPI ecosystem में banks और payment service providers को transaction processing, technology और cybersecurity की लागत आती है। नए प्रावधान से सरकार के पास भविष्य में कुछ **specified digital transactions** पर charges तय करने का विकल्प रहेगा।

CACHE



Photo of a satellite image, used for representational purposes. 10/1/2024

How did Google's AI satellite images raise safety concerns?

Google rolled back its AI image-generation feature in Google Earth within a day after users created satellite deepfakes that appeared to show violence, disasters, and other policy violations; the feature raised concerns over the misuse of fake satellite imagery for misinformation and scams.

Soham Venugopal

The story so far

A new AI feature launched by Google in late July remained active for around a day before it was pulled down by the company, amidst serious safety and misinformation concerns. The launch of the feature and its quick rollback showed how easily even casual internet users broke past Google's enterprise-level safeguards in order to create deepfake satellite images, in spite of the risks they pose.

What was the AI feature launched by Google?

Put simply, users could open Google Earth – the company's immersive satellite map of the planet – in order to zoom into a place, choose the "create image" option, and type whatever they wanted to see built on top of the original imagery.

On July 30, Google Earth's Product Manager Bryan Horowitz shared a blog post that invited users to "transform any place," with AI, the process powered by the company's image generation Nano Banana technology.

Google suggested several wholesome use cases for the feature, such as re-imagining (not visualizing) how modern-day landmarks looked in ancient times, as well as generating mock-ups of

completed real estate projects, creating educational infographics, and giving real-life locations a fantasy feel. Teachers, architects, and urban planners were invited to get creative with the prompts, and Google shared examples as well.

Why was the AI feature taken down?

On July 31, the company posted an update to its launch blog post, confirming that the AI feature in Google Earth had been rolled back over possible policy violations by others.

"We know that people uniquely trust Google Earth for a reliable view of the world. We've seen geospatial professionals using this feature for a range of useful purposes, however we've also seen people sharing screenshots of generated imagery that appear to violate our policies. So we're rolling back this feature in Google Earth while we work on implementing stronger guardrails," stated the update, adding, "It's important to note that generated images didn't appear in the main Google Earth experience for others to see and were watermarked as AI generated."

While the official notice did not blame specific parties or provide examples of the offending images, the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) showed satellite deepfake screenshots that depicted terrorist attacks, human crises, industrial accidents, environmental

destruction, and more.

Some of these images were generated by casual users who managed to access the feature, while others were the result of safety tests run by researchers. The deepfakes ranged in quality from unrealistically violent to highly natural, sparking experts' concerns.

Many users online criticized Google over the rollout of the feature, claiming that the potential for misuse of AI in satellite images far outweighed any benefits such a feature could have. Others questioned why the enterprise-level safeguards were so weak and easy to bypass when creating satellite image deepfakes that depicted violence.

What are the risks of fake AI satellite images?

Google defended its feature by highlighting that the AI-generated images did not appear as part of the public Google Earth experience. Even so, there are risks in allowing casual users to create AI satellite deepfakes for personal, commercial, or entertainment value.

Watermarks can be easily cropped out of such media, and the average user may lack the time and knowledge to further investigate a suspicious-looking satellite image – especially if it is presented in a short-form news video that is shared on social media and designed to go viral.

Satellite image deepfakes could also be

used to run real estate scams by changing land or geographic details, to the buyer's detriment. Furthermore, these images would not be appropriate to use in serious academic projects or scholarly works.

At a higher level, satellite image deepfakes could be created to spread harmful misinformation about ongoing conflicts, humanitarian tragedies, or even natural disasters.

This is not a hypothetical danger; during the Iran war in February and March this year, the Tehran Times account on X shared an AI image that appeared to show the aftermath of bombing a U.S. target. This was made with older satellite images, which helped researchers classify it as a fake.

Furthermore, satellite images themselves are not a perfect source of evidence. Multiple regions across the world have not been accurately updated over time, either due to inaccessibility or security regulations that prevent detailed street-level mapping. India and Israel are examples of such countries. To integrate high-quality AI deepfake generation features into these still fallible yet necessary resources adds yet more layers of risk.

The rollback of AI image generation in Google Earth shows that the world's largest internet company is still not ready to address these basic risks.

YouTube Homework



AI

AI

भारत सरकार के द्वारा

लगातार

Google Earth AI क्या है?

- Google ने Google Earth AI के जरिए satellite imagery को AI और Gemini की reasoning capabilities के साथ जोड़ना शुरू किया है। इसका उद्देश्य केवल satellite image दिखाना नहीं, बल्कि उसमें मौजूद patterns, objects और environmental changes को AI से समझना है।
- उदाहरण के लिए AI से पूछा जा सकता है:
- किसी क्षेत्र में forest cover कितना बदला?
- कहाँ river सूख रही है?
- कहाँ algae bloom हो रहा है?

बाढ़ के बाद कौन-से buildings/infrastructure प्रभावित हुए?

- किसी क्षेत्र में population और environmental risk का संबंध क्या है?

इसमें AI क्या करता है?

- Google के Geospatial AI models satellite और aerial imagery को analyse करते हैं। Gemini natural-language सवाल को समझकर अलग-अलग geospatial datasets—जैसे satellite imagery, maps, weather और population data—को जोड़ सकता है।

India's first privately-built FFSC rocket engine signals new dawn in space flight

Globally only three commercial companies have successfully developed high thrust FFSC engines, which are SpaceX and Stoke Space, both from the United States of America, and Land Space from China; the Bengaluru-based space company is the first Indian entity to develop this engine

NEWS ANALYSIS

Hemant C.S.

The story so far: A Bengaluru-based space firm, Astrobases Space Technologies, on August 7 unveiled India's first privately-built 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX-Methane rocket engine named EVEREST.

This makes India the fourth nation to have FFSC engine technology after Russia, USA and China.

High thrust

The FFSC rocket engines are very powerful engines where the propellant flows from the tank or the source to the rocket engine's combustion chamber.

Staged combustion refers to combustion taking place in two stages wherein the fuel flows into the rocket engine from one side and the oxidiser from the other side.

In the case of a staged combustion, the engine fuel is injected in relatively small quantities while oxidiser is on the higher side. The fuel and oxidiser which is burnt and gases generated out of it are used for turning the turbines connected to the pump.

The gases generated are not left to the atmosphere but put back into the rocket combustion chamber ensuring that the propellant is utilised and not



Frontier tech: The Full-Flow Staged Combustion LOX-Methane rocket engine. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

wasted.

Key differentiator

FFSC engines are one of the most advanced liquid rocket engine architectures. Neeraj Khandelwal, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Astrobases, told *The Hindu* that unlike conventional rocket engines—where only a portion of the propellants is used to drive the turbo-pumps—the FFSC engine routes both the fuel and the oxidiser through separate pre-burners before they enter the main combustion chamber.

"This allows the turbo-pumps to operate more efficiently while ensuring that all of the propellants



The firm has been selected under Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre's Technology Adoption Fund for development of the rocket engine

ultimately contribute to generating thrust.

The architecture offers several long-term advantages. It enables high propulsion efficiency, supports precise throttle control and is well suited for reusable launch systems.

When paired with LOX-

Methane propellants, it also benefits from cleaner combustion, which can simplify refurbishment and support faster turnaround between missions," he said.

FFSC's importance

While the FFSC cycle is significantly more complex to design and develop than conventional engine cycles, it is widely regarded as an architecture that can support reliable, high-performance and reusable launch vehicles, said Mr. Khandelwal, who founded Astrobases Space Technologies in 2024 with former ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) scientist Devakumar Thammisetty.

"At Astrobases, we see this as an important technology for building indigenous launch capability and strengthening India's long-term access to space," he said.

In rocket science FFSC engines are considered to be very challenging technology which is more efficient over conventional engines. However they are very complex to develop and execute.

First in India

Globally only three commercial companies have successfully developed high thrust FFSC engines, which are SpaceX and Stoke Space, both from the United States of America, and Land Space from China. Of these only SpaceX's Raptor is the only operational FFSC engine as of now.

The Bengaluru-based space company is the first Indian entity to develop this engine and the fourth globally.

Besides this is the first time an Indian company has built a LOX-Methane high thrust engine which bats for cleaner next-generation launch systems.

Reusable vehicles

This development also unlocks reusable launch capabilities up to 30 tonne to low earth orbit and a possible medium lift platform for launching commercial and strategic missions for

the Indian Government and from abroad. The EVEREST has been built using advanced manufacturing, including India's largest industrial 3D printer.

Test flight

The development of the engine started in 2024 and two years later the company unveiled the 800 kN FFSC rocket engine at its facility in the outskirts of Bengaluru. Subsystems of the engine have so far been tested.

Fully integrated testing including the engine hot fire campaign is planned to start in next few months at its test facility Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh. The first flight is targeted for December 2028.

Path ahead

The company said that it plans to manufacture and test around 20 engines before its first orbital flight. Currently, it has established a capacity to build six to eight engines per annum which will be scaled up to build 60 engines per annum.

The company has been selected under the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre's (IN-SPACE) Technology Adoption Fund for the development of this FFSC rocket engine. IN-SPACE is a single-window autonomous agency under the Department of Space.

YouTube Homework

✓ Agnikul Cosmos

✓ Skyroot-Vikram-1

वय। इतर
Astrobases - FFSC -
Skyroot के विक्रम-1 Everest
है
है।
Astrobases के Everest Rocket engine
मे वय।
इतर

भारत का पहला Private FFSC Rocket Engine

- हाल ही में Bengaluru-based startup Astrobase Space Technologies ने भारत का पहला privately developed Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine पेश किया है। इसका नाम “Everest” रखा गया है। इसे 7 अगस्त 2026 को unveil किया गया।

FFSC क्या होता है?

- FFSC = Full-Flow Staged Combustion
- Rocket engine में fuel और oxidizer को combustion chamber तक बहुत high pressure पर पहुँचाना पड़ता है। FFSC cycle में fuel और oxidizer दोनों की पूरी मात्रा preburners से होकर turbopumps को power देती है, और फिर combustion chamber में जाती है।

इसकी मुख्य विशेषताएँ

विशेषता	जानकारी
✓ Engine	✓ Everest
✓ Technology	Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC)
✓ Company	Astrobase Space Technologies
✓ स्थान	Bengaluru, Karnataka
✓ Fuel	Liquid Methane (CH ₄)
✓ Oxidizer	Liquid Oxygen (LOX)
✓ Thrust	लगभग 800 kN (80 tonnes)
Target	Reusable Launch Vehicle
Test Facility	Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

SAI and BAI go all out to ensure a hassle-free World championships

After the backlash during the Indian Open owing to poor infrastructure, the venue has undergone massive upgrades and refurbishment over the past six months; innovative measures taken to prevent the entry of birds and monkeys

BADMINTON

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Having suffered a massive backlash for poor infrastructure and entry of pigeons and monkeys during the India Open earlier this year, the Badminton Association of India and **SAI** have gone all out to ensure the upcoming BWF World championships go on without a glitch.

The Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, venue for the prestigious World Championships returning to India after 17 years, has undergone massive upgrades and refurbishment over the past six months, both structural and cosmetic.

"We started work in February itself. Since the infrastructure is very old, there were a lot of structural damages that we had to take care of.

"The old roof has been



In ready mode: The venue for the World championships gets the final touches. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

treated and repaired to make it waterproof, a lot of expansion joints have been treated, a lot of chairs in the seating area replaced," Ambar Pratap Singh, Executive Director of SAI's newly-formed engineering division, explained.

As for invaders of the avian and simian variety, all entry points to the main arena of the three main buildings that are part of the complex – the main badminton arena, the velodrome and the K.D. Jadhav Hall – have been equipped with automatic

glass double doors to prevent entry.

Non-toxic gel to prevent pigeons from perching over courts, imported machines to produce sound frequency to repel birds at night and employing three men to mimic langurs are among the more innova-

tive measures being taken to ensure there are no complaints.

Among other technical upgrades is the lighting system that has been changed by SAI and additional lights being deployed by BAI to eliminate any shadows on the newly-laid wooden courts.

"Lighting was not an issue during India Open also but we have made it even better now. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is satisfied with the lighting in both the competition and practice arena," BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra said.

Pratap Singh added that the recent heavy spell of rainfall had helped the officials identify any issues in the structure ahead of the event, to be held from August 17-23.

"There were a few leakages but they have all been plugged.

"One part of the K.D. Jadhav Hall has also been upgraded to be used for practice," he said.

17 August
BWF world championships - 2026
SAI
BAI

BWF World Championships 2026

- **BWF World Championships 2026**

बैडमिंटन की सबसे प्रतिष्ठित अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिताओं में से एक है। इस बार इसकी मेजबानी भारत कर रहा है। यह टूर्नामेंट 17 से 23 अगस्त 2026 तक नई दिल्ली के Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium में होगा।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

बिंदु

✓ प्रतियोगिता

✓ आयोजन

✓ मेजबान

✓ शहर

✓ स्थान

✓ संस्करण

✓ आयोजन संस्था

✓ पिछला आयोजन

भारत में पिछली बार

जानकारी

BWF World Championships 2026

17-23 अगस्त 2026

भारत

नई दिल्ली

Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium

30वाँ

Badminton World Federation (BWF)

2025 – Paris, France

2009

Overview

- PAIMANA *Portal - masPI*
- GEM *Portal*
- Monsoon Session *✓*
- Oil Import *✓ 48% → June-2026-Russia*
- Tamil Nadu State Song *← (NANA 55)*
- EV *→ (K)*
- Tribunals *→ (NTCY)*
- VB-G-RAM G *→ 1 July-2026 50% ✓*
- Agasthyamalai *→*
- UPI *→*
- Google AI Map *⊖ X*
- FFSC *→*
- BWF *✓*

Thank You

Result Mitra