

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

 **ONE STOP SOLUTION**

By **Faiyaz Sir**



**The Indian
EXPRESS**



THE HINDU



PIB
PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
प्रесс सूचना कार्यालय

**19
AUGUST**



**COMPLETE
COVERAGE**



**EXAM
FOCUSED**



**ANALYSIS
MADE EASY**



**STATIC + CURRENT
INTEGRATION**



**STAY AHEAD
STAY PREPARED**

“जो आज किताबों में अपना वक़्त लगा रहे हैं,
वही कल इतिहास में अपना नाम लिखाएंगे।
थोड़ा और सब्र, थोड़ा और जुनून—
एक दिन सपने हकीकत बन जाएंगे।”

आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. VB – G RAM G
2. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

EDITORIAL

Employment guarantee has slipped into limbo

Rural workers are paying a heavy price for the Union Government's ill-conceived tinkering with India's employment guarantee law. Indeed, evidence is mounting of an unprecedented crash in employment generation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and its successor, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) alias VB-G RAM G Act.

One aspect of this crash has been widely noted: the 50% decline in employment generation under VB-G RAM G in July 2026, vis-à-vis MGNREGA in the same month last year. The 50% estimate is actually based on a premature figure of 7.7 crore person-days for July 2026. The latest figure is 8.3 crore, and the final figure is likely to be around 9 crore according to the Ministry of Rural Development. But even if we accept this anticipated total for July, the decline vis-à-vis July 2025 would be above 40%, which is a massive setback.

Misleading excuse

The Ministry of Rural Development made a lame attempt to attribute this setback to the fact that a few States explicitly suspended VB-G RAM G in



Jean Drèze

Independent scholar
based in Ranchi,
Jharkhand



Mohammad Zameer

Independent scholar
based in Ranchi,
Jharkhand

VB-G RAM G
has driven
employment
guarantee into
the ditch

parts of July 2026 under Section 6 of the Act, but this is the mother of all red herrings. For one thing, these States account for a small share of total MGNREGA employment, and the July 2026 decline looks much the same in proportionate terms when these States are left out. For another, the July decline is just the continuation of a crisis that began earlier.

Some background may help. A Bill paving the way for the replacement of MGNREGA with VB-G RAM G was rushed through Parliament in December 2025. The Rural Development Minister announced, at that time, that the replacement would take place on April 1, 2026. However, nothing of the sort happened on April 1. Evidently, the Ministry was not ready for the transition. The Rules, in particular, had not been framed. MGNREGA continued, by default.

On May 22, 2026, the Ministry released draft VB-G RAM G Rules for public consultation. These Rules are mainly a rehash of MGNREGA rules and orders. Release of the final Rules began at the end of June, just on time for the official replacement of MGNREGA with VB-G RAM G on July 1. VB-G RAM G wage rates were also notified on June 30, with a minimum norm of ₹300 per day – much the same as the earlier MGNREGA norm of ₹100 per day at 2009-10 prices.

The transition, the ground reality

During the first three months of this financial year (April to June), confusion prevailed. To paraphrase Gramsci, the old world of MGNREGA was dying, and the new world of VB-G RAM G was struggling to be born. In some districts, MGNREGA functionaries refused to open new works. In many areas, there was no MGNREGA work at all. This was a serious lapse, as MGNREGA is normally at a peak during these summer months (a slack agricultural season in large parts of India). The limbo continued in July 2026, when VB-G RAM G made a faltering start.

In 2024-25 and 2025-26, the first four months of the financial year (April to July) accounted for nearly 50% of annual employment generation – 128 crore and 119 crore person-days, respectively. In 2026-27, however, MGNREGA and VB-G RAM G generated only 70 crore person-days of employment in the same months – a decline of 43% from the average of the preceding two years.

Employment declined in all major States, but the decline was far from uniform across States (see chart). It was relatively small in a few States (example, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Telangana), but larger than 40% in most States. In



At Honnakiranagi village in Kalaburagi district, Karnataka.
ARUN KULKARNI

10 out of 19 major States, the decline ranged between 60% and 85%. States where employment generation came to a virtual standstill in April-July 2026 include Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, some of India's largest and poorest States.

This crash in employment is all the more startling as the transition to VB-G RAM G was supposed to lead to a huge increase in employment generation. The VB-G RAM G allocation in the 2026-27 Union Budget is ₹95,692 crore – a little more than the actual MGNREGA expenditure in 2025-26. The total VB-G RAM G budget, inclusive of State contributions (40% of the total for most States), was due to shoot up to ₹1.5 lakh crore or so – an increase of about 70% vis-à-vis MGNREGA expenditure in 2025-26. With wages more or less unchanged in real terms, one would expect this enhanced budget to trigger a big increase in employment generation. Instead, the first four months of 2026-27 witnessed an unprecedented crash.

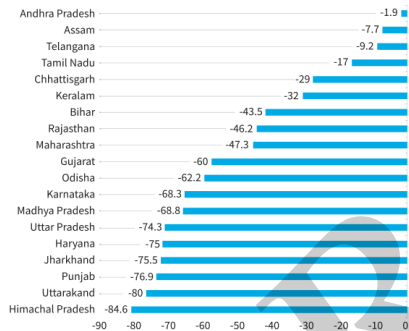
An uncertain road ahead

It is, of course, too early to pass judgement on VB-G RAM G. But the launch is certainly a damp squib as things stand. The fact that employment generation has been virtually nil for months in some of India's largest and poorest States is particularly alarming.

The situation may improve in the next few months, but it is hard to see how the projected VB-G RAM G expenditure of ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2026-27 is going to materialise. Wage payments may face serious problems too, with the imposition of facial recognition at the worksite and Centre-State cost-sharing. The outlook is bleak.

Employment decline in April-July 2026

Percentage change in person-days, April-July 2026 versus average of previous two years (same months)



Source: Calculated from Report S.1.4, MGNREGA and VB-G RAM G portals

- **VB-G RAM G** (*Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act*) भारत का एक प्रमुख ग्रामीण विकास और रोजगार कानून है।
- इस योजना/अधिनियम की पूरी विस्तृत जानकारी नीचे दी गई है:

1. सामान्य परिचय (Background)

- **कब लागू हुई:** यह विधेयक संसद द्वारा दिसंबर 2025 में पारित किया गया और **1 जुलाई 2026** से इसे देशभर के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पूरी तरह लागू कर दिया गया है।
- **किस योजना की जगह आई:** इसने 20 साल पुराने **मनरेगा (MGNREGA - 2005)** कानून को निरस्त (Repeal) करके उसकी जगह ली है।
- **कौन सा मंत्रालय चला रहा है:** इसे भारत सरकार के **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (Ministry of Rural Development)** द्वारा संचालित किया जा रहा है।

2. मुख्य प्रावधान (Key Provisions)



प्रावधान	विवरण
रोजगार की गारंटी	अब हर ग्रामीण परिवार को वर्ष में 100 दिनों के बजाय 125 दिनों का गारंटीकृत अकुशल शारीरिक रोजगार (Unskilled Manual Work) मिलेगा।
कृषि सीजन पॉज़ (Farm Season Pause)	बुवाई और कटाई (Sowing & Harvesting) के पीक कृषि सीजन के दौरान राज्यों को 60 दिनों तक काम रोकने का अधिकार दिया गया है ताकि खेतों में मजदूरों की कमी न हो। बाकी 305 दिनों में 125 दिन का रोजगार पूरा किया जाएगा।
फंडिंग पैटर्न (60:40)	मनरेगा में अकुशल मजदूरी का 100% खर्च केंद्र देता था। नए कानून में लागत केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच 60:40 (पूर्वोत्तर/हिमालयी राज्यों और UTs के लिए 90:10) के अनुपात में बांटी जाएगी।
4 मुख्य कार्य क्षेत्र (Priority Verticals)	केवल 4 क्षेत्रों में ही टिकाऊ एसेट (Durable Assets) बनाए जाएंगे: 1. जल सुरक्षा (Water Security) 2. कोर रूरल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (सड़कें, कनेक्टिविटी) 3. आजीविका इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (स्टोरेज, शेड) 4. जलवायु आपदा प्रबंधन।
तकनीकी एवं जवाबदेही	बायोमेट्रिक उपस्थिति, AI-आधारित ट्रेकिंग और <i>Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack</i> पोर्टल के जरिए पारदर्शिता अनिवार्य की गई है।

3. इसको लेकर क्या चुनौतियाँ (Challenges) आ रही हैं?

A. राज्यों पर वित्तीय बोझ (Fiscal Burden on States)

- **60:40 लागत-साझाकरण:** 100% केंद्रीय मजदूरी फंडिंग खत्म होने से राज्य सरकारों पर भारी वित्तीय दबाव पड़ रहा है। वित्तीय रूप से कमजोर राज्यों के लिए अपना 40% हिस्सा समय पर जारी करना मुश्किल हो रहा है।

B. डिजिटल एवं नेटवर्क से जुड़ी समस्याएँ

- **बायोमेट्रिक व AI अनिवार्य करना:** दूरदराज और आदिवासी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खराब इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी और सर्वर डाउन होने के कारण मजदूरों की हाजिरी दर्ज नहीं हो पाती, जिससे मजदूरी मिलने में देरी (Wage Delays) हो रही है।

C. 60 दिनों के 'वर्क पॉज़' पर विवाद

- कृषि सीजन के दौरान 60 दिन तक काम रोके जाने के प्रावधान से भूमिहीन मजदूरों के सामने उन दिनों आजीविका का संकट खड़ा हो जाता है, खासकर यदि उन्हें कृषि क्षेत्र में तुरंत काम न मिले।

D. प्रशासनिक और ग्राम पंचायत की भूमिका

- **सेंट्रलाइज्ड प्लानिंग:** विकेंद्रीकृत योजना (Gram Panchayat autonomy) के बजाय केंद्रीय और राज्य स्तरीय प्राथमिकताओं का दबाव बढ़ गया है, जिससे स्थानीय स्तर की तात्कालिक जरूरतों की उपेक्षा होने की आशंका जताई जा रही है।
- **निष्कर्ष:** VB-G RAM G योजना का लक्ष्य ग्रामीण भारत में केवल अस्थायी रोजगार देना नहीं, बल्कि 'विकसित भारत 2047' के तहत टिकाऊ बुनियादी ढांचा खड़ा करना है। हालांकि, इसके सफल कार्यान्वयन के लिए राज्यों की वित्तीय स्थिति सुधारने और डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत करने की जरूरत है।

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा (Prelims Practice Question)

- प्र. 'विकसित भारत - गारंटी फॉर रोजगार एंड आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण)' [VB-G RAM G] के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
 1. इसने महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (MGNREGA), 2005 को निरस्त कर उसका स्थान लिया है।
 2. इसके तहत प्रत्येक ग्रामीण परिवार को एक वित्तीय वर्ष में कम से कम 150 दिनों के गारंटीकृत अकुशल शारीरिक कार्य का प्रावधान है।
 3. नए अधिनियम के तहत अकुशल मजदूरी सहित पूरी योजना की लागत 100% केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वहन की जाएगी।
 4. इसमें पीक कृषि सीजन (Sowing & Harvesting) के दौरान राज्यों को 60 दिनों तक कार्य स्थगित (Work Pause) करने का अधिकार दिया गया है।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
 - A. केवल 1 और 2
 - B. केवल 1 और 4
 - C. केवल 2, 3 और 4
 - D. 1, 2, 3 और 4

2. मुख्य परीक्षा (Mains Practice Question)

प्रश्न:

- "हाल ही में लागू किया गया VB-G RAM G अधिनियम केवल रोजगार देने के बजाय ग्रामीण बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण की ओर एक बड़ा बदलाव दर्शाता है। हालांकि, राज्यों के लिए लागत-साझाकरण (Cost-Sharing) और तकनीकी बाध्यताएं इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में चुनौतियां पैदा कर सकती हैं।" समीक्षा कीजिए। (250 शब्द / 15 अंक)

SC to quash FIRs against student protesters

Top court agrees to invoke Article 142 to quash cases filed against students over NEET protests

Court is to form panel to examine protest issues; police yet to disclose list of FIRs, say petitioners

Solicitor-General says police will confine probe to the 2,873 with 'serious criminal backgrounds'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to use an exceptional power under Article 142 of the Constitution to quash first information reports (FIRs) registered against students who joined the nationwide protests against NEET-UG paper leaks that led to the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister and compelled the government to introspect.

Seeking a list of FIRs in which only students were named, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, said: "We will quash these FIRs by invoking Article 142. FIRs involving elements with serious criminal antecedents would be decided subject to discussion in court." But unless we have a list of these FIRs, how will we quash them?" the Chief Justice asked.

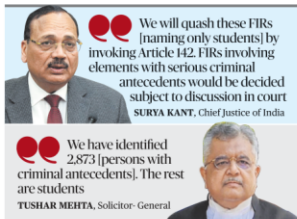
Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Delhi

Police, said the police would confine their investigation to 2,873 persons with "serious criminal background" who were identified at the protest site. He said these persons included history-sheets facing serious charges, including murder, rape, and child sexual abuse. However, advocate Vrinda Grover, defending students' right to protest, pointed out that the Delhi Police have not disclosed details regarding any of the FIRs.

The Bench said it would form a high-powered panel to examine the issues over the NEET-UG protests, and invited suggestions from the advocates appearing in the case.

'FIR details not shared'

Ms. Grover, the advocate representing students, said the national capital's police have not shared even the FIR numbers despite promising to take no action against students and youngsters who protested peacefully. Protests in Delhi, which triggered agitations across the country,



led to a police crackdown on July 20 in which pellet guns and tear gas were allegedly used.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the state cannot refer to "undesirable elements" in "generic" terms. "You have to at least identify them," Justice Bagchi said. "We have identified 2,873. The rest are students," Mr. Mehta replied.

Advocate Rizwan Ahmed, appearing for retired Air Force officer Manish Kumar Solanki, who has blamed the organisers of the NEET-UG protests, including the Cockerach

Janta Party, for the July 20 violence, objected to the court's proposed move to quash the FIRs against students. Asking if this would be a "one-off" or was the court setting a precedent, he said the students had not expressed a "shred of remorse or regret".

"The moot question here is whether the Parliament march was lawful or unlawful? The answer is, it is unlawful," he submitted. Senior advocate N. Hariharan, on the petitioners' side, said Mr. Ahmed seemed to ask the question and answer it as well.

Police's use of facial recognition under SC scrutiny

NEW DELHI

After a Delhi Police affidavit admitted the use of facial recognition system (FRS) during the NEET-UG protests in "legitimate state interest", the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will examine the "proportionality" of system's deployment. » PAGE 4

The court said there was a clear distinction between cases involving peacefully agitating students and those against criminals who infiltrated the protest to spread violence.

Legitimate expectations

"This is a question of the life and future of thousands of innocent students. Their parents spend hard-earned money for their education. They have a future. They have legitimate expectations from the system... We have to build up their confidence in the system. That is the real foundation," Chief Justice Kant observed.

The Bench sought suggestions from petitioners for framing issues to be examined by the committee while noting that allegations of police officers sexually molesting women protesters would be looked into urgently by the panel for further legal action.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for the petitioners, said the Delhi Police affidavit did not spare a single mention

about any internal or administrative action taken against police personnel allegedly captured on social media molesting women protesters.

"The affidavit has an admission of plainclothes policemen present, without name tags. Once you start indulging in these kinds of disgusting activities, some responsibility should be put on individuals who are at the head of such chain of actions," Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat asked why the state had not taken legal action against these police personnel.

"We will frame issues which the high-powered committee proposed would go into. This would include issues the committee should go into urgently. The order would be out tomorrow," the Chief Justice assured.

Ms. Grover, backed by Mr. Hariharan, said there ought to be a woman in the committee as the issues also concerned them.

YouTube Homework

- ❖ Article 22
- ❖ BNSS Section- 173 (1)
- ❖ Section 356, 187, 47, 58, 528

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **FIR (First Information Report / प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट)** किसी संज्ञेय अपराध (Cognizable Offence) की सूचना मिलने पर पुलिस द्वारा लिखित में दर्ज किया जाने वाला पहला आधिकारिक दस्तावेज होता है। इसके दर्ज होते ही अपराधिक मामले की कानूनी जांच प्रक्रिया शुरू हो जाती है।

1. FIR के वैधानिक (Legal) प्रावधान

- **भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS, 2023) - धारा 173:**
- (पूर्व में CrPC, 1973 की धारा 154)
- यह प्रावधान कहता है कि जब भी किसी संज्ञेय अपराध (गंभीर अपराध जैसे हत्या, बलात्कार, डकैती) की सूचना मिलती है, तो पुलिस अधिकारी को तुरंत FIR दर्ज करनी होगी।
- **Zero FIR:** पीड़ित व्यक्ति किसी भी थाने में (चाहे अपराध किसी भी इलाके में हुआ हो) FIR दर्ज करा सकता है। बाद में मामला संबंधित थाने को ट्रांसफर कर दिया जाता है।
- **e-FIR (इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सूचना):** BNSS के तहत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक संचार (WhatsApp/Email/Portal) के माध्यम से भी सूचना दी जा सकती है, जिसे 3 दिनों के भीतर हस्ताक्षरित करके दर्ज किया जा सकता है।
- **मुफ्त कॉपी का अधिकार:** FIR की एक प्रति (Copy) शिकायतकर्ता को तुरंत और बिल्कुल मुफ्त दी जाएगी।

2. संवैधानिक (Constitutional) प्रावधान

- FIR की प्रक्रिया भारतीय संविधान के **मौलिक अधिकारों (Fundamental Rights)** से सीधे जुड़ी है:
- **अनुच्छेद 21 (प्राण और दैहिक स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार):**
 - **ललिता कुमारी बनाम उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार (2014):** सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने फैसला दिया था कि संज्ञेय अपराध की सूचना मिलने पर FIR दर्ज करना पुलिस के लिए **अनिवार्य (Mandatory)** है। FIR न दर्ज करना नागरिक के जीवन और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार (Article 21) का उल्लंघन है।
- **अनुच्छेद 14 (समता का अधिकार):** यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि कानून के समक्ष सभी समान हैं, और किसी भी नागरिक की शिकायत पर बिना किसी भेदभाव के निष्पक्ष जांच शुरू होनी चाहिए।
- **अनुच्छेद 22 (गिरफ्तारी से संरक्षण):** FIR दर्ज होने और जांच के बाद यदि किसी व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार किया जाता है, तो उसे 24 घंटे के भीतर मजिस्ट्रेट के समक्ष पेश करना अनिवार्य है।
- **संक्षेप में:** FIR अपराध जांच की पहली सीढ़ी है। वैधानिक रूप से यह **BNSS की धारा 173** द्वारा नियंत्रित होती है, जबकि संवैधानिक रूप से यह **अनुच्छेद 21** के तहत नागरिकों के अधिकारों की रक्षा करती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **FIR Quash (FIR रद्द कराना)** का अर्थ है हाई कोर्ट (High Court) द्वारा किसी आपराधिक मामले में दर्ज की गई **प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट (FIR)** को कानूनी रूप से पूरी तरह समाप्त या खारिज कर देना।
- जब हाई कोर्ट किसी FIR को रद्द (Quash) कर देता है, तो उस मामले में आरोपी व्यक्ति के खिलाफ चल रही पुलिस जांच (Investigation) या कानूनी कार्रवाई तुरंत खत्म हो जाती है।

1. FIR Quash किस कानून के तहत होता है?

- **भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS, 2023) - धारा 528:** (पूर्व में CrPC, 1973 की धारा 482)
 - यह प्रावधान हाई कोर्ट को निहित शक्ति (Inherent Power) देता है ताकि किसी भी व्यक्ति के खिलाफ कानून का दुरुपयोग (Abuse of Process of Law) न हो और न्याय (Justice) सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।
- **संविधान का अनुच्छेद 226:** रिट याचिका (Writ Petition) दायर करके भी मौलिक अधिकारों के हनन या पुलिस की गलत कार्रवाई के आधार पर FIR रद्द कराई जा सकती है।
- **ध्यान दें:** FIR Quash करने का अधिकार केवल **हाई कोर्ट (High Court)** या **सुप्रीम कोर्ट (Supreme Court)** के पास होता है, निचली अदालत (District or Sessions Court) के पास नहीं।

- भारतीय संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 142 (Article 142)** सर्वोच्च न्यायालय (Supreme Court) को दी गई एक विशेष असाधारण शक्ति है, जो अदालत को किसी भी मामले में **"पूर्ण न्याय" (Complete Justice)** करने का अधिकार देती है।
- यदि किसी मामले में मौजूदा कानून पर्याप्त नहीं हैं या कोई स्पष्ट कानून मौजूद नहीं है, तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट अनुच्छेद 142 का प्रयोग करके ऐसा आदेश या डिक्री जारी कर सकता है जिससे पीड़ित पक्ष को पूरा न्याय मिल सके।

1. अनुच्छेद 142 की मुख्य संरचना (Main Structure)

- अनुच्छेद 142 के मुख्य रूप से दो भाग (Sub-sections) हैं:
- **अनुच्छेद 142(1):** सुप्रीम कोर्ट अपने समक्ष लंबित (pending) किसी भी मामले में 'पूर्ण न्याय' करने के लिए आवश्यक आदेश जारी कर सकता है। इस अनुच्छेद के तहत दिया गया आदेश पूरे भारत में लागू (enforceable) होता है।
- **अनुच्छेद 142(2):** इसके तहत सुप्रीम कोर्ट को किसी व्यक्ति को उपस्थित होने के लिए समन भेजने, दस्तावेज मंगाने, या अदालत की अवमानना (Contempt of Court) की जांच/सजा देने की पूरी शक्ति प्राप्त है।

Almost 2,000 Jharkhand employees stuck in limbo after govt. cancels exams

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A day after the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination and other recruitment tests were cancelled in response to a weeks-long agitation by hundreds of protesters in Ranchi, the outrage of those on the flip side of the decision started to emerge on Tuesday.

Candidates who had successfully cleared the exams and are now government employees staged a protest outside the Cabinet Secretariat on Tuesday.

The cancellation of exams by the Jharkhand government has affected 1,975 employees, many of whom were stopped by the police from entering their workplaces at the Secretariat. They said that they have not received any notice from the government barring them from entering offices or regarding termination from jobs.

The employees pointed out that they had become virtually jobless overnight following the government's decision. Many alleged that the government had cancelled the examinations without hearing their side, and threatened to take legal action against the decision.

The Jharkhand government has not only cancelled the JSSC-CGL exams but also all other exams conducted by the tainted agency, TSR Data Processing Private Limited (TDPL),



Employees gather outside the Secretariat in Ranchi on Tuesday. PTI

since 2014. Chief Minister Hemant Soren announced the decision on Monday night, following a special Cabinet meeting.

Seek fair probe

One affected employee said that he had even given up jobs in other departments, including those under the Union government, to work in his home State.

"We had passed the exam as part of the selection process, secured appointments, and were already serving on post. The cancellation of the exam has put both our jobs and our futures in darkness," said another employee shouting slogans against the government.

Another protester said, "if any irregularities did happen during the examination, a fair investigation should be conducted, and action should be taken against those found guilty. It is unfair to hold the entire examination and all the candidates appointed

through it responsible for the alleged irregularities. We should be allowed to present our side. We urge the government to reconsider the decision."

The decision was taken after hundreds of students gathered at the Jai Lal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi for 24 days, alleging irregularities in the JSSC-CGL exam, demanding its cancellation and an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The JPSC-JSSC Reform Manch continues its protest at the venue. Its leader Ravindra Paswan told *The Hindu*: "We are waiting for the official notification or the press release from the government site regarding whatever decision the government has taken after the special Cabinet meeting. We want to see the list of all examinations which have been cancelled so that the situation becomes clear. Our demand of the CBI inquiry is still pending."

BRICS calls EU's carbon tax 'punitive, unilateral'

Ministers say it could undermine efforts of developing countries to address climate change; they urge developed nations to honour financial commitment agreed to at 2025 UN climate conference

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

BRICS countries on Tuesday opposed what they described as "unilateral, punitive, discriminatory and protectionist" climate measures, including the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs), while calling for a significant increase in international funding to help developing countries adapt to climate change.

The positions were contained in the joint statement adopted at the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, held under India's chairship. The Ministers specifically said that carbon border measures such as CBAMs could "undermine developing countries' efforts to address climate change and build resilience".

The statement comes as the European Union's CBAM entered its definitive phase from January 1 this year. The mechanism re-



Union Minister Bhupendra Patel Yadav at the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

quires importers of carbon-intensive products, consisting of iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizers, hydrogen and electricity, to account for the carbon emissions associated with their production. The EU says the measure is intended to prevent "carbon leakage" – the shifting of carbon-intensive production outside the bloc because of differences in climate policies.

Significant exposure

India is among the countries with significant exposure to the mechanism,

particularly through its steel exports. A recent analysis found that iron and steel account for about 90% of India's exports to the EU that fall within the CBAM framework. A June 2026 analysis in *Nature Climate Change*, based on shipment-level trade data and facility-level emissions estimates, found that high-emission Indian steel firms had reduced their export quantities and revenues to the EU during the CBAM reporting phase, while lower-emission firms maintained their export levels.

The BRICS position the-

refore comes as the EU and India move to implement a free trade agreement negotiated earlier this year, while Indian exporters face the additional carbon-related compliance requirements in the European market.

Hike adaptation finance

The Ministers also called for an urgent increase in adaptation finance from developed countries. They said support should be "new, additional, predictable, adequate and accessible", and should be provided through grants and concessional finance without increasing the financial vulnerabilities of developing countries. They urged developed countries to meet the commitment agreed at the 2025 UN climate conference to triple adaptation finance to developing countries by 2035.

Adaptation finance is used to help countries and communities cope with climate impacts, including measures to strengthen water security, agriculture, infrastructure, and so on.

YouTube Homework

- शेर्पा बैठक (Sherpas Meeting)
- विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक (Foreign Ministers' Meeting)
- ऊर्जा मंत्रियों की बैठक (Energy Ministers' Meeting)
- स्वास्थ्य मंत्रियों की बैठक (Health Ministers' Meeting)
- शिक्षा मंत्रियों की बैठक (Education Ministers' Meeting)
- संस्कृति और यूथ वर्किंग ग्रुप की बैठकें

H1N1 cases on the rise, experts say no cause for alarm

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Several States are recording a spike in H1N1 cases, among other influenza-like illnesses, viral fevers, and respiratory tract infections. Experts say there is no cause for alarm, but advise that children with asthma and other chronic conditions might require special intervention.

The H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, is a subtype of influenza A, and can cause respiratory illness, with symptoms including fever or chills, cough, sore throat, a runny or blocked nose, headache, tiredness, and muscle or body aches. In some cases, patients may also experience vomiting and diarrhoea.

Delhi has recorded a sharp rise in H1N1 cases, with over 1,300 infections reported this monsoon season – nearly six times higher than the same period last year.

The national capital had recorded 1,344 H1N1 cases by early August, compared

with 229 cases during the corresponding period last year. Government hospitals have set up separate isolation wards, and health officials have urged vulnerable groups, including children and older adults, to take extra precautions. Special wards have been set up at hospitals to manage the surge in cases.

A Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official also said cases had gone up compared with last year, with Mumbai recording 309 cases between June 1 and August 15 this year, compared with 72 cases during the same period in 2025.

Limited testing

Bengaluru doctors say they are seeing a noticeable rise in influenza-like illness, viral fever, and respiratory tract infections among children. Doctors have also confirmed H1N1 cases, though testing is restricted to children with severe or persistent symptoms and those with severe acute respiratory illness.

At the State-run Vani Vi-



The H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, can cause respiratory illness.

las Women and Children Hospital, paediatrics head Chikkanarasa Reddy P.S. said respiratory complaints and fever account for nearly 80% of the daily paediatric outpatient load, so only children with more aggressive symptoms are being tested. In Bengaluru's Clarence High School alone, over 500 cases of influenza-like illness have been reported, with two confirmed cases of H1N1 among students, sparking concerns about transmission in classrooms and other crowded indoor settings.

At the Indra Gandhi In-

stitute of Child Health, director Narendra Babu said the hospital was seeing a steady flow of viral fever cases and confirming around two to three H1N1 cases a day among those tested.

Private sector paediatricians are reporting a sharper rise. Vikas Satwik, senior paediatrician and neonatologist at Motherhood Hospitals, said school-going children account for a substantial share. Sujatha Thyagarajan, lead and head of paediatric intensive care and paediatric emergency at Aster Women and Children Hospital, said H1N1 and other influenza A infections were rising earlier than the usual seasonal pattern.

'Early testing needed'

In Chennai, J.K. Reddy, a senior paediatrics consultant at Apollo Children's Hospital, said they have been seeing cases of H1N1 among children for the past two weeks, with a slight rise in cases this week. He advised that chil-

dren suspected of having influenza should be tested within 24 to 48 hours of developing symptoms. Anti-flu drugs are more effective if started in the first few days of fever. Government doctors also confirmed they are seeing patients with symptoms of flu-like illness, but since routine testing for H1N1 is not conducted at government hospitals, it is difficult to classify them.

Janani Sankar, medical director at the Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital in Chennai, said: "Most of the children are managed as outpatients. Some of them with extreme fatigue, severe body pain, and lack of oral intake needed hospitalisation. We are yet to see children with H1N1."

Ravinder Nayak, Telangana's Director of Public Health and Family Welfare, said the number of H1N1 cases in the State was lower than in the corresponding period last year.

Vijay Kumar, superintendent of Niloufer Hospital, Telangana's State-run

tertiary care centre specialising in maternal, neonatal, and paediatric medicine, said the hospital had seen an increase in outpatient consultations for viral fevers from June to August, but there has not been any significant rise in H1N1 or influenza cases so far.

Influenza A has been rampant in Kerala for the last three months. Cases began to spike in May, with 526 cases and six deaths, and increased through June (2,050 cases, 26 deaths) and July (2,899 cases, 31 deaths). There have been 1,476 cases and 21 deaths reported so far this month, till August 17. Cumulatively, there have been 7,421 cases and 88 deaths caused by influenza in Kerala this year, with almost all the fatalities seen in people over 50 years of age.

(With inputs from Bindu Shajan Perappadan in Delhi, Snehal Mutha in Mumbai, Afshan Yasmeen in Bengaluru, Serena Josephine M. in Chennai, Siddharth Kumar Singh in Hyderabad, and Maya C. in Thiruvananthapuram)

YouTube Homework

- Dengue
- Hepatitis
- Bitiligo
- Hexa Valent

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **H1N1 (स्वाइन फ्लू / Swine Flu)** एक प्रकार का संक्रामक वायरल इन्फेक्शन (Respiratory Infection) है, जो **इन्फ्लूएंजा A (Influenza A)** वायरस के एक स्ट्रेन के कारण होता है।

मुख्य बिंदु (Key Facts)

- **यह क्या है?** यह एक तरह का मौसमी फ्लू (Respiratory Disease) है। पहली बार 2009 में इसका बड़ा प्रकोप हुआ था, जिसके बाद WHO ने इसे महामारी (Pandemic) घोषित किया था। अब यह एक सामान्य मौसमी फ्लू (Seasonal Flu) की तरह काम करता है।
- **कैसे फैलता है?** यह संक्रमित व्यक्ति के छींकने, खांसने, या दूषित सतहों (Surfaces) को छूने के बाद मुंह/नाक छूने से एक इंसान से दूसरे इंसान में तेजी से फैलता है।

QUESTION CORNER

Helicase: the DNA separator

Vasudevan Mukunth

Helicase is an enzyme that unwinds the two strands of DNA so that the cell can copy the genetic information stored in them.

DNA is normally a double helix, i.e. two long strands held together by bonds between bases on each strand, spiralling around each other. When a cell divides, it needs to make a copy of the DNA, which requires these strands to be separated.

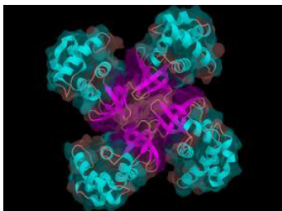
Helicase does this. First, the enzyme attaches to a particular region of DNA and moves along the molecule. It uses energy from ATP — the cell's main chemical energy source — to change its shape and force apart the two DNA strands. As it travels, the bonds between the bases on bases on each strand are broken.

The result is a Y-shaped region called the replication fork, where the two strands are exposed, much like a zipper separates two parts on a clothing item into a Y shape.

However, DNA tends to become increasingly twisted ahead of the replication fork as helicase moves along it.

Other enzymes called topoisomerases relieve this twisting and prevent the DNA from becoming tangled or breaking.

Once helicase has separated the strands, other replication machinery can use each exposed strand as a template



An illustrated view of the helicase protein in *Escherichia coli* bacteria. PHOEBUS87 (CC BY-SA)

to make a new complementary strand.

In a recent study in *Nature Communications*, scientists from the U.K. found how cells make sure they start copying DNA only at the right time: a molecular safety catch keeps the copying machine inactive until a chemical signal releases it.

For feedback and suggestions

for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **हेलिकेज़ (Helicase)** एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण **एंजाइम (Enzyme)** है, जो सभी जीवित जीवों में डीएनए (DNA) और आरएनए (RNA) की संरचना को खोलने का काम करता है।
- इसे अक्सर कोशिकाओं का **"मॉलिक्यूलर जिपर" (Molecular Zipper)** भी कहा जाता है।

हेलिकेज़ का मुख्य काम (Function)

- **DNA की अनवाइंडिंग (Unwinding DNA):** DNA का स्ट्रक्चर एक मुड़ी हुई सीढ़ी (Double Helix) की तरह होता है। हेलिकेज़ इस डबल-स्टैंडर्ड DNA के बीच बने **हाइड्रोजन बॉन्ड्स (Hydrogen Bonds)** को तोड़कर दोनों स्ट्रैंड्स को अलग-अलग (Unzip) कर देता है।
- **प्रतिकृति में मदद (DNA Replication):** जब कोशिका को विभाजित होकर नई कोशिका बनानी होती है, तब हेलिकेज़ DNA को खोलता है ताकि **DNA Polymerase** एंजाइम नया DNA स्ट्रैंड बना सके।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Time to push back

The U.S. has been emboldened to make increasing demands on India

The latest accusation levelled by the United States against India has the potential to be the most harmful to the Indian economy. A recent White House report, naming around 40 countries in all, has said that India ranks among the top 'enablers' of China's evasion of U.S. tariffs. The accusation is that India and these other countries are importing Chinese goods, making minor modifications to them, and then exporting them to the U.S. at lower tariffs than what Chinese goods would have faced. The fact that Chinese imports form a significant pillar of Indian manufacturing is no secret. Yet, the nature of these imports is slowly changing. India is gradually moving away from importing finished products, making cosmetic changes, and selling them. Instead, the share of intermediate goods in Indian imports from China has been steadily rising. That is, India is doing much of its own assembly and manufacturing in several sectors now, relying on China and other countries for the parts needed. This shift is an important step towards full-scale manufacturing in India. The U.S. has not yet announced punitive actions based on its assessment of apparent Chinese tariff evasion, though that eventuality is conceivable. However, should it do so, India must resist bowing to U.S. pressure on this issue. As even the government has admitted, Chinese imports right now are an important part of the Make in India story.

The fear of India bowing to U.S. pressure is based on precedent. In his first term as U.S. President, Donald Trump rallied against India's tariffs on high-end motorcycles. In 2018, India cut these tariffs to 50% from the earlier 60%-75%, and then cut them further to 40% in February 2025, before trade deal talks had even started. Similarly, it slashed the import duties on shrimp feed and its components in the February 2024 Budget, a key ask of the U.S. It did the same with tariffs on frozen duck and turkey. The pressure of the 50% punitive tariffs pushed India to diversify away from Russian oil, despite India's strident claims of energy sovereignty and the discount it was receiving. Russia's share in India's oil imports fell to below 20% in January 2026, from nearly double that when the 50% tariffs were imposed six months earlier. This had happened with Venezuelan oil in 2019 as well. It was the West Asia crisis, and the U.S.'s temporary reprieve, that has seen India turning back to Russian oil. Allowing FDI in the e-commerce inventory model, as India recently did, was something Amazon had been lobbying for for a decade, and a dilution of India's long-held stance. The U.S. can wield immense pressure and so concessions are understandable. But that has emboldened it to make increasing demands. India needs to start pushing back.

YouTube Homework

- USTA-1974
- Section 301

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



YouTube Homework

Beyond America

Arab states can no longer depend on the U.S. for their security needs

Donald Trump's threat to bomb Oman, a long-standing American ally in the Persian Gulf, reflects both his administration's deepening frustration with the war against Iran and Washington's declining influence in the region. This is the second time that the U.S. leader has threatened to attack Oman, which hosted talks between Washington and Tehran before he launched the war on February 28. When Mr. Trump backed down from a threatened escalation after 13 days of bombing on Iran in July, he said the U.S. and Iran were close to a deal on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which was closed by Iran after it was attacked. But Iran never said that it had agreed to a deal with the U.S. over the Strait and instead issued several demands, including releasing frozen funds and issuing sanctions relief, as preconditions for any agreement. Ever since, Oman, under U.S. influence, has been talking to Iran seeking a settlement. As Iran, which survived two rounds of U.S. bombings, refused to offer major concessions, the U.S.'s frustration with Oman has deepened. Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed that the Strait of Hormuz was open, but traffic through the waterway, through which one-fifth of the world's seaborne oil passed before the war, is nowhere near its pre-war levels.

The war has raised questions about America's regional security strategy and its commitment to the security of its allies. Over the years the U.S. had built military bases across the Persian Gulf. However, Tehran has turned these bases into a liability by repeatedly striking them and their host countries. At least 15 American bases, including the Fifth Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain, are either damaged or destroyed, which has substantially reduced the U.S.'s strategic presence. But Mr. Trump does not seem to grasp the seriousness of the situation. Instead of reassuring the allies, he is now threatening to bomb them because they are not able to deliver on his push for a face-saving deal with Iran. From day one of the war, his threats and rhetoric did little to advance America's strategic goals or deter Iran. But Mr. Trump, stuck deep in the Persian sands, appears unable to change tack. Whether he acknowledges America's growing limitations in West Asia or not, countries in the region confront a new strategic reality: the foundations of the old security architecture have been shaken. In their hour of need, American bases have turned out to be a liability. They should also recognise that the decades-old policy of containing Iran has failed. To ensure their own security and regional stability, the Persian Gulf countries need to look beyond the American security umbrella and lay the foundations for a new regional order, shaped by a cold peace between the Arab states and Iran.

PM CARES donations have dropped, and utilisation is abysmal

The corpus of PM CARES grew by 26% in two years despite drop in donations due to accrual of interests. However, utilisation of the funds has reduced

DATA POINT

Pon Vasanth B.A.

The audited financial statements of the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund, released for the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 after a delay of two years, showed that donations had dropped and the utilisation of available funds was abysmally low.

The corpus grew by 25.8% between 2022-23 and 2024-25 from ₹6,722 crore to ₹8,453 crore. However, in the same period, the utilisation dropped from ₹437.9 crore to just ₹87.5 lakh, which was 10,000 times smaller than the available corpus (Chart 1). The money flowing into funds through donations and interests from corpus far exceeded the money disbursed since 2022-23 (Chart 2).

Moreover, "refunds" from "implementing agencies" were far higher than the money utilised (Chart 3). Neither the details of these implementing agencies nor the purpose for which the refunded money was originally allotted has been made available.

Additionally, donations have also dropped sharply. The growth in the corpus was mainly due to earnings through interests. In 2024-25, the income received through interest payments (₹475 crore) was almost the same as donations (₹480 crore) (Chart 4). The sharp increase in interests' income could be attributed to the Union government moving the corpus from savings account to fixed deposits, which was the likely reason for increase in income through interests (Chart 5).

Ever since its creation as a public charitable trust in March 2020, PM-CARES has come under criticism for its lack of transparency, refusal to share information, and inordinate delays in releasing financial statements. The prolonged delay (Chart 6) in the Centre changing the auditors.

Transparency deficit

The delays in the release of financial statements were calculated using Internet Archive and the metadata available in the official website of PM-CARES Fund

CHART 1: While the corpus of the PM-CARES Fund continued to grow, the utilisation has dropped sharply after COVID-19 pandemic (values in ₹ crore)

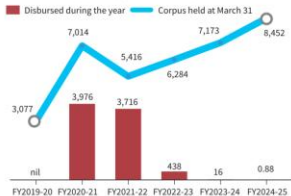


CHART 2: Since 2020-21, the money flowing into the fund has far exceeded the money disbursed (values in ₹ crore)

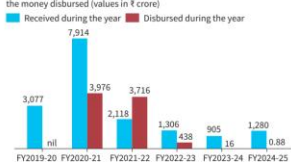


CHART 3: In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the money refunded by "implementing agencies" was much higher than the money utilised (values in ₹ crore)

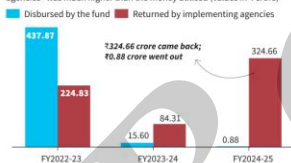


CHART 4: Donations to PM-CARES Fund has considerably reduced. In 2024-25, the income through interests' was almost the same as the donations received

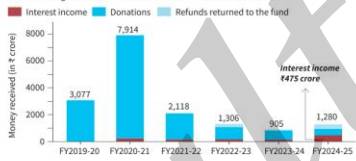


CHART 5: In 2023-24, the government moved the corpus from savings accounts to fixed deposits, which was the likely reason for increase in income through interests

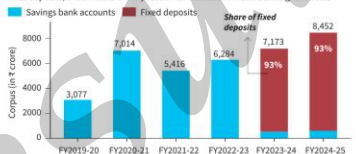


CHART 6: The table shows the delays in the release of audited statements. The last two were approved together by auditors



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **PM CARES Fund** (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund) एक समर्पित राष्ट्रीय कोष (Public Charitable Trust) है, जिसकी स्थापना भारत में आपातकालीन या संकट की स्थितियों (जैसे महामारी, प्राकृतिक आपदा) से निपटने और राहत प्रदान करने के लिए की गई थी।

स्थापना और संरचना (Establishment & Structure)

- **स्थापना:** 27 मार्च 2020 (कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान)।
- **प्रकृति:** यह एक सार्वजनिक चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट (Public Charitable Trust) है।
- **ट्रस्ट के सदस्य:**
 - **अध्यक्ष (Chairman):** भारत के प्रधानमंत्री (पदेन / Ex-officio)।
 - **अन्य ट्रस्टी:** रक्षा मंत्री, गृह मंत्री और वित्त मंत्री (भारत सरकार)।
 - इसके अलावा, प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा गृह, वित्त, कानून या समाज सेवा क्षेत्र से कुछ प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्तियों को ट्रस्टी के रूप में मनोनीत किया जाता है।

KEYWORD

A secular republic's sacrilege problem: the legal price of criticising holy writ in India

Punjab's new sacrilege law has reignited debate over the criminalisation of religious offence in a secular state; its definition of sacrilege extends beyond physical desecration of the Gurm Granth Sahib to words, signs and representations bringing expressive conduct within the scope of the law

Prathmesh Kher

In April 2020, the Governor of Punjab gave his assent to the Punjab Gur Gurm Granth Sahib Sarkar (Governance) Act, which criminalises sacrilege against the Gurm Granth Sahib with sentences ranging as high as life imprisonment. The law arrived almost immediately after passage, closing out a decade of agitation that followed the desecration incidents at Banger and Bhul Jawahar Singh Wala in 2015, and the police firing at Bhai Bal Kaur that killed two protesters. On paper, this looks like routine State legislation responding to genuine communal hurt. In substance, it is India's most severe working sacrilege law: a statute that punishes the physical desecration of a sacred text with sentences up to and including life.

The Constitution declares secularism part of its "basic structure," and a law of this kind sits awkwardly against that declaration. It permits, and in Punjab's case has now enacted, punishment for disrespect to religion in a nation-state that officially professes no religion of its own and guarantees every citizen the right to free speech. Punjab's law is only the most vivid recent example of a wider pattern: a body of provisions, some colonial in origin and some entirely contemporary, that treat criticism of religious belief and practice as a matter for the police rather than public debate.

Two wrongs, one right

Blasphemy, in the sense English ecclesiastical law first gave the word, is an expressive wrong: contemptuous or irreverent speech, writing or imagery about a god, a prophet, a scripture or a set of beliefs. Sacrilege is a different kind of wrong, the violation or defilement of something set apart as sacred, whether a place of worship, a city, or a physical object. It has historically been understood as a matter of conduct, akin to trespass and vandalism, rather than expression. The distinction sounds academic, but Indian law actually draws it in the statute book. Section 298 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, carrying forward the old Section 295 of the Penal Code, punishes inspiring or defiling a place of worship with intent to insult a religion, a sacrilege-type offence aimed at conduct. Section 299 of the BNS, carrying forward the old Section 295A, punishes deliberate and malicious insult to religious beliefs by words, signs or visible representation. Inference words on Indian law describe this expressive offence as the country's general prohibition on blasphemy.

Measured against that distinction, Punjab's new law does not sit clearly on the sacrilege side of it. The law's own definition of "sacrilege" is written in two parts: it covers any "wild and deliberate" act of desecration through physical damage, defilement, burning, tearing or theft of the Saroop, the physical volume of the Gurm Granth Sahib or part of it, but the same clause extends sacrilege equally to acts committed "by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representation or through electronic means," wherever this is of a nature to hurt the religious feelings of persons professing the Sikh faith. The first half criminalises what is done to the book



A daily walking protest for the sacrilege incident of Gurm Granth Sahib that took place in 2015, in Banger village in Punjab, on October 7, 2018. (1)

itself. The second half criminalises expressing a disrespectful opinion about it, which is precisely the blasphemy-type wrong the distinction above is meant to set apart. The line is real, but it does not always serve contact with how these laws are enforced. In 2007, the Karnataka editor K.V. Sreenivas, along with his wife and co-director Rohini, was arrested after the Karnataka daily they ran published articles questioning the right of Shirdi Sai Baba to appear naked in public. Nothing had been physically defiled. The entire complaint concerned words in print, precisely the terrain the blasphemy-type Section 295A exists to cover. That the case still proceeded to arrest and days in judicial custody shows how quickly an expressive complaint can escalate into criminal process once religious offence is involved.

A colonial legacy

India's principal blasphemy provision, Section 295A of the old Indian Penal Code (now Section 298 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita), in force since July 2023, was not an indigenous invention. Its origin lies in the story of Ranjita Kaur, a pamphlet about the marriage of the Prophet Muhammad published in Lahore in May 1924 by Mahabir Singh, under the anonymous authorship of an Aron Samdani, Pandit Chamiapp. The pamphlet did not appear until two years later, in 1926, when it was written, on the evidence of D.R. Khattar's own account of the affair, in direct retaliation for an earlier Muslim pamphlet, *Ghulam Ghulam*, which made insulting claims about the wife of Lord Rama, and it arrived in the middle of a decade in which Hindu and Muslim public in Punjab were trading such attacks with regularity. Kaur was prosecuted under Section 295A, the general provision against promoting enmity between communities. A

magistrate convicted him in 1926, the Lahore Sessions Court upheld the conviction in February 1927, and the Lahore High Court, in a judgment by Justice Tulp Singh on May 1, 1927, acquitted him, holding that however malicious and scurrilous the pamphlet was, Section 295A was meant to prevent attacks on a living community, not polemics against a deceased religious founder, however scurrilous.

The acquittal caused precisely the damage the law had been trying to prevent, and Justice Tulp Singh himself had urged the legislature to close the gap he had just identified. It did so quickly: a bill was introduced within months, referred by a Select Committee that included Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and enacted as Section 295A, replacing the Governor-General's assent on September 22, 1927. The new section criminalised "deliberate and malicious" acts intended to "outrage the religious feelings of any class of citizens, whether by words, signs, or visible representation, and now, under the BNS, explicitly by electronic means.

The law arrived too late to reach the original pamphlet, and it did not, in the event, prevent what came next. On April 6, 1928, sixteen months after Section 295A had already entered the statute book, a young Lahore carpenter named Ram Lal had already entered the statute book, declaring that he had taken revenge for the Prophet, Jinnah himself argued. Ram Lal's unsuccessful appeal against the death sentence, he was executed that October. Whatever else it achieved, Section 295A cannot be credited with preventing the very killing it was meant to outlaw. In fact, it was followed in 1927, the Supreme Court in *Ranjit Lal* versus *State of Punjab* upheld the provision's constitutionality regardless, reasoning that it fell within the "public order" exception to free speech carved out by Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

The reasoning has held for nearly a century, but it rests on a fiction that has always troubled civil libertarians: that hurt feelings, however genuinely felt, are equivalent to a threat to public order, a law meant to prevent riots has, in practice, become a general licence to prosecute writers, film-makers, and commentators whenever a sufficiently organised group of the offended chooses to complain. The Select Committee that drafted Section 295A inserted the words "deliberate and malicious" specifically to protect social reformers who might need to attack superstition or ill practice to bring about change. Jinnah went further still, advising the Central Legislative Assembly on 5 September 1927, he argued that the law had to protect "those who are engaged in bona fide and honest criticism of a religion," alongside historians and truth-seekers, then being caught by the same net meant for warring villages.

The trouble is that "bona fide and honest" is not a rule as much as an invitation to a judgement call, and it is subject to the perspective from which it is judged. The country that gave birth to this legal inheritance has since grown the other way entirely. In Pakistan and Wales, the common-law offences of blasphemy and Homicide with Intent, which Section 295A's own drafting ultimately descends, are defined by Section 7 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act of May 8, 2008, under a definition that Jinnah himself repeatedly cited as one of his own.

India introduced a colonial category of law that its former coloniser has since dismantled, and then, in Punjab's case, newly a copycat law, made its own version of the underlying idea more severe than the law it copied. (First in a three-part series)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- हाल ही में पंजाब सरकार ने जागत जोत श्री गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब सत्कार (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2026 (Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Amendment Act, 2026) को मंजूरी देकर लागू किया है।
- इस कानून की मुख्य बातें और इसके प्रावधान नीचे दिए गए हैं:

1. कानून का नाम और मुख्य उद्देश्य

- नाम:** जागत जोत श्री गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब सत्कार (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2026।
- उद्देश्य:** श्री गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब जी के 'सरूपों' की बेअदबी (Sacrilege/Deseccration) को रोकना, उनकी पवित्रता बनाए रखना और इसके लिए बहुत सख्त कानूनी सजा का प्रावधान करना।

2. मुख्य कानूनी प्रावधान (Key Provisions)

प्रावधान	विवरण
सख्त सजा का प्रावधान	बेअदबी के दोषी पाए जाने पर कम से कम 7 साल से लेकर 20 साल तक की जेल (और ₹2 लाख से ₹10 लाख तक का जुर्माना) का प्रावधान है।
साजिश पर उम्रकैद	यदि बेअदबी किसी आपराधिक साजिश या सामाजिक सौहार्द बिगाड़ने की नीयत से की गई हो, तो सजा 10 साल से लेकर उम्रकैद (Life Imprisonment) तक हो सकती है (और ₹25 लाख तक जुर्माना)।
सोशल मीडिया और AI दायरा	केवल शारीरिक नुकसान (फाड़ना/जलाना) ही नहीं, बल्कि सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट, लिखित शब्द या AI-जनरेटेड कंटेंट के जरिए भावनाओं को ठेस पहुंचाना भी इस कानून के दायरे में शामिल है।
संपत्ति जब्त	दोषी पाए जाने पर आरोपी की संपत्ति जब्त (Confiscation of Property) करने का प्रावधान है।
गंभीर अपराध श्रेणी	यह अपराध गैर-जमानती (Non-Bailable), संज्ञेय (Cognizable) और गैर-समझौतावादी (Non-Compoundable) होगा। जांच केवल DSP रैंक या उससे ऊपर का अधिकारी ही कर सकता है।
सेंट्रल रजिस्टर (ट्रैकिंग)	SGPC को एक केंद्रीय रजिस्टर बनाए रखने का काम सौंपा गया है, जिसमें गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब जी के हर स्वरूप की छपाई, वितरण और स्टोरेज का यूनिक आईडी नंबर के साथ रिकॉर्ड रहेगा।

Putin hosts Myanmar's leader for talks on deepening relationship

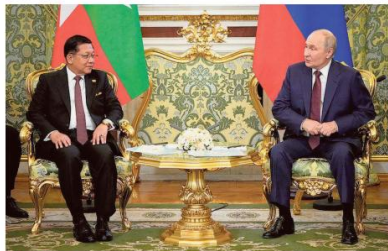
The visit is the latest in a series of trips by Min Aung Hlaing to foreign countries, including neighbouring China, India, Laos and Thailand as he seeks to strengthen international recognition and regain diplomatic standing with other countries

Associated Press
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday hosted the head of Myanmar's military-backed government, who visited Russia on a trip to boost their cooperation.

Speaking at the start of the talks with President Min Aung Hlaing, Mr. Putin noted both countries have cooperated on foreign policy and security issues and developed economic projects.

They have held joint military drills and developed plans for Russia to build a nuclear power plant, a seaport, oil refiner-



Friendly ties: Vladimir Putin with Min Aung Hlaing during their meeting at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow on Tuesday. AP

ies and other facilities in Myanmar.

The visit is the latest in a series of trips by Mr. Min Aung Hlaing to foreign countries, including neigh-

boursing China, India, Laos and Thailand as he seeks to strengthen international recognition and regain diplomatic standing with other countries.

Despite the visits, Myanmar has remained largely isolated internationally since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

Western nations have imposed economic and political sanctions in response to the takeover by the military, which he led, and its violent repression of the opposition, which has seen the deaths of thousands of civilians and given rise to a civil war.

Mutual support

Russia has defended Mr. Min Aung Hlaing's military government in international forums while Myanmar's

ruling generals have generally supported Moscow's foreign policy agenda.

During Tuesday's talks, Mr. Min Aung Hlaing thanked Mr. Putin for his political support and emphasised that Myanmar has remained a reliable partner. Russia, along with China, is a major supporter and arms supplier to Myanmar. Russian-made fighter jets are used in attacks on territory under the control of ethnic minority groups, including many allied with pro-democracy resistance forces.

The trip marks Mr. Min Aung Hlaing's seventh visit to Russia. Mr. Putin has never visited Myanmar.

Pak. court orders jailed Imran be taken to hospital

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered authorities to take imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan to a private hospital in the capital Islamabad for a medical examination, following months of concerns from his family and personal physicians about his health and access to medical care, his lawyers and party officials said.

A three-judge panel ordered that Mr. Khan be taken to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad in the coming days and examined by a medical board that will include specialists and one of his personal



Traffic police personnel stand outside the Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad, after the court ruling, on Tuesday, AFP

physicians, Faisal Sultan.

The court also ordered prison officials to allow Mr. Khan weekly meetings with family members and telephone calls with his sons. Mr. Khan's family has been struggling to secure

access to him and have him examined by physicians of his choice.

Pakistan barred visitors earlier this year after receiving intelligence reports about a possible attack on the prison where the Pakis-

tan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder is being held.

The order came months after Mr. Khan petitioned the court, asking to be transferred from a high-security prison in the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi to a hospital and to be allowed access to his personal physicians, family and lawyers.

'Health at stake'

The court said the order was being issued because Mr. Khan's health was at stake and access to medical care is protected under Pakistan's Constitution, according to Mr. Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja.

He urged Mr. Khan's supporters not to gather outside the hospital when

the former premier is taken there, saying they should avoid inconveniencing other patients.

Earlier this year, Mr. Khan was repeatedly taken to a government hospital for treatment of an eye condition.

Concerns about Mr. Khan's health intensified in late January after his family said he had lost about 85% of the vision in his right eye, an assertion the government disputed. Authorities later said Mr. Khan regained about 70% of the vision in the eye and that his condition was improving. The former cricket star-turned-politician has been in prison since 2023 after being convicted in a graft case.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय

युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय ने राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कार 2025 की घोषणा की

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 18 AUG 2026 12:50PM by PIB Delhi

युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय ने आज राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कार 2025 की घोषणा की है।

राष्ट्रीय खेल पुरस्कार प्रति वर्ष खेलों में उत्कृष्टता की पहचान और पुरस्कृत करने के लिए दिए जाते हैं।

सरकार ने भारत के उच्चतम न्यायालय के पूर्व न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) अरुण कुमार मिश्र की अध्यक्षता वाली चयन समिति की अनुशंसाओं के आधार पर विभिन्न श्रेणियों के अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित खिलाड़ियों, प्रशिक्षकों और संस्थाओं को पुरस्कार प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय



प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी के 'शक्ति की सप्तधारा' संकल्प को साकार करने में जुटेगा कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास परिवार- श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी के विकसित भारत के विजन को पूरा करने के लिए कृषि क्षेत्र को बनाएंगे समृद्ध और आत्मनिर्भर- श्री शिवराज सिंह

"शक्ति की सप्तधारा" से कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास का रोडमैप तैयार कर नई दिशा देने का काम शुरू कर दिया- श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान

2047 के विकसित भारत के लिए कृषि उत्पादन, गुणवत्ता और खाद्य प्रसंस्करण पर केंद्रीय मंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह का जोर

खेत से वैश्विक बाजार तक किसानों के उत्पादों को पहुंचाने का संकल्प- श्री शिवराज सिंह

YouTube Homework

Overview

- VB-G RAM G
- FIR & Article 142
- Student Protest
- BRICS
- H1N1
- Helicase
- India - America Tariff
- USA – IRAN
- PM Cares Fund
- Secular State & Religious Law
- Russia & Myanmar
- Pakistan – Imran Khan
- National Khel Award
- Saptdhara

Thank You

Result Mitra