

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**

Impossible

सिर्फ तब तक है,
जब तक

कोशिश नहीं होती।

दूर-दूर



UPSC
IAS
PCS
DREAM

Don't Stop Until You're Proud

सब दिन यह मेहनत आपकी पहचान बन जाएगी!

मेहनत हतनी खातोड़ी से करो कि यफलता बहुत और मया से।

Focus Today Success Tomorrow

Never Give Up Great Things Take Time

05:00

DISCIPLINE
FOCUS
CONSISTENCY
SUCCESS

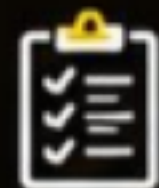
INDIAN POLITY
INDIAN ECONOMY
MODERN HISTORY
GEOGRAPHY
ENVIRONMENT
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CURRENT AFFAIRS



लक्ष्य स्पष्ट रखो



नियमित
अध्ययन करो



योजना
बनाओ



कड़ी मेहनत
करो



सफलता
जरूर मिलेगी

आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. विश्व व्यापार संगठन में भारत की 8वीं व्यापार नीति समीक्षा (TPR 2026)
2. एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण नीति
3. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

PIB + TIFR

→ I.R. → WFO
→ Economy

→
→
→ F&E
→ S&T



वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय

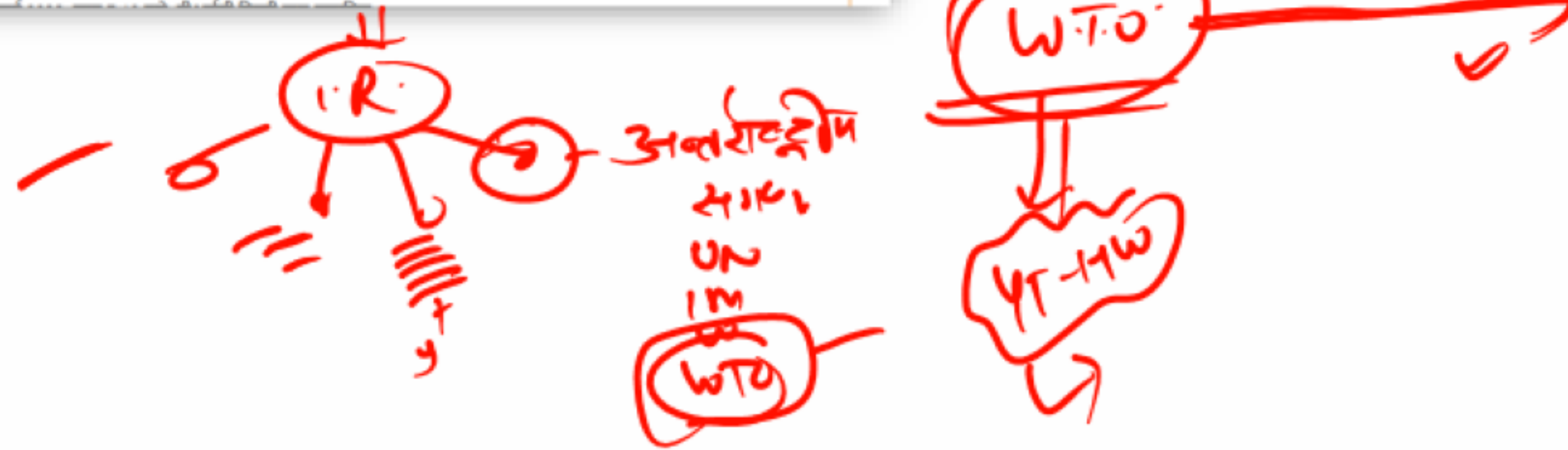
WTO

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) में भारत की 8वीं व्यापार नीति समीक्षा 21 और 23 जुलाई 2026 को निर्धारित है।

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) की 8वीं व्यापार नीति समीक्षा में भारत के प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व वाणिज्य सचिव श्री राजेश अग्रवाल करेंगे।

PIB

चापाटनी
हजारा



चर्चा में क्यों?

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) में भारत की 8वीं व्यापार नीति समीक्षा (TPR) बैठक 21 से 23 जुलाई 2026 तक जिनेवा, स्विट्जरलैंड में WTO मुख्यालय में आयोजित की गई। इस महत्वपूर्ण समीक्षा में वाणिज्य विभाग के सचिव राजेश अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में एक उच्च-स्तरीय भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने भाग लिया।

यह समीक्षा 1 जनवरी 2021 से 31 दिसंबर 2025 तक की पाँच वर्षों की अवधि को कवर करती है और इस दौरान भारत की व्यापार नीतियों, आर्थिक प्रदर्शन तथा संरचनात्मक सुधारों का व्यापक आकलन करती है।

पृष्ठभूमि

WTO - व्यापार नीति समीक्षा

WTO - के सदस्य -
 1. USA
 2. EU
 3. China
 4. Japan

उत्पत्ति और विकास

व्यापार नीति समीक्षा तंत्र (TPRM) की उत्पत्ति 1989 में GATT के तहत उरुग्वे दौर के समझौतों के दौरान हुई थी और 1995 में WTO की स्थापना के बाद इसे स्थायी दर्जा दिया गया। भारत की पिछली यानी 7वीं समीक्षा जनवरी 2021 में हुई थी।

समीक्षा चक्र

WTO के नियमों के अनुसार, वैश्विक व्यापार में हिस्सेदारी के आधार पर शीर्ष चार व्यापारिक देशों (अमेरिका, यूरोपीय संघ, चीन और जापान) की समीक्षा हर 3 साल में होती है। भारत सहित अगले 16 विकासशील देशों की समीक्षा हर 5 साल में की जाती है, जिसके तहत 2026 में भारत की 8वीं समीक्षा संपन्न हुई।

द्वि-दस्तावेज़ी आधार

यह समीक्षा दो मुख्य रिपोर्टों पर आधारित होती है - संबंधित देश (भारत) द्वारा प्रस्तुत सरकारी नीतिगत रिपोर्ट और WTO सचिवालय द्वारा तैयार की गई स्वतंत्र विश्लेषणात्मक रिपोर्ट।

USA — 

8वीं व्यापार नीति समीक्षा (TPR 2026) के प्रमुख बिंदु

✓ व्यापार का ऐतिहासिक प्रदर्शन

समीक्षा अवधि (2021-25) के दौरान भारत का कुल व्यापार (वस्तु और सेवाएं) वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में **USD 863.1 बिलियन** के रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुंच गया, जो पिछले वर्ष (2023-24) की तुलना में **6.3%** की वृद्धि दर्शाता है। ✓

✓ आर्थिक सुधारों की सराहना

भारत ने महामारी के बाद अर्थव्यवस्था को पटर पर लाने के लिए किए गए सुधारों जैसे—जीएसटी (GST) का सरलीकरण, प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) मानदंडों में ढील, और दिवाला एवं दिवालियापन संहिता (IBC) को मजबूती से वैश्विक मंच पर रखा। ✓

✓ वैश्विक ध्यान के केंद्र

सदस्य देशों के प्रश्नों का मुख्य फोकस भारत की महत्वाकांक्षी योजनाओं जैसे 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान', 'विकसित भारत @2047', एमएसएमई (MSME) क्षेत्र को समर्थन, और व्यापार में महिलाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ाने वाली नीतियों पर था। इस दौरान WTO सदस्य देशों ने **900 से अधिक** लिखित प्रश्न पूछे। ✓

डिजिटल सीमा शुल्क और TFA अनुपालन

केंद्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड (CBIC) ने 'डिजिटल सीमा शुल्क सुधारों' का प्रदर्शन किया। भारत ने यह भी प्रदर्शित किया कि उसने WTO के व्यापार सुविधा समझौते (TFA) की श्रेणी 'A' की प्रतिबद्धताओं को शत-प्रतिशत लागू कर दिया है, जिससे सीमा पर कागजी कार्रवाई और माल निकासी का समय न्यूनतम हो गया है। ✓

व्यापार नीति समीक्षा (Trade Policy Review – TPR) क्या है?

उद्देश्य

यह WTO का एक अनिवार्य निगरानी कार्य है जिसका उद्देश्य सदस्य देशों की व्यापार नीतियों की पारदर्शिता, समझ और पूर्वानुमेयता को बढ़ाना है।

TPR का उद्देश्य सदस्य देशों पर कोई कानूनी दायित्व थोपना, व्यापारिक विवादों को सुलझाना या दंड देना नहीं है।

समीक्षा की व्यापकता

यह विशुद्ध रूप से एक नीतिगत मूल्यांकन मंच है।

समीक्षा केवल सीमा शुल्क (Tariffs) तक सीमित नहीं होती, बल्कि इसमें गैर-टैरिफ बाधाएँ (NTBs), बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकार (IPR), पर्यावरण नीतियां, सरकारी खरीद और निवेश नीतियां भी शामिल होती हैं।



समीक्षा का महत्व TPR



वैश्विक विश्वास में वृद्धि ✓

यह समीक्षा दुनिया के सामने यह साबित करती है कि भारत वैश्विक व्यापार नियमों और बहुपक्षीय व्यापार प्रणाली (Multilateral Trading System) के प्रति पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध है।



निवेश को प्रोत्साहन →

व्यापार नीतियों में पारदर्शिता और स्थिरता की पुष्टि होने से विदेशी निवेशकों (FDI) और बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों का भारतीय बाजार पर भरोसा बढ़ता है।



नीतिगत सुधार का अवसर

अन्य सदस्य देशों द्वारा पूछे गए 900+ प्रश्नों से भारत को यह समझने का मौका मिलता है कि वैश्विक समुदाय उसकी घरेलू नीतियों को किस नजरिए से देखता है, जिससे भविष्य की नीतियों को अधिक वैश्विक-अनुकूल बनाया जा सके।

प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ (WTO सदस्यों द्वारा उठाए गए मुद्दे)

समीक्षा के दौरान कई विकसित और विकासशील देशों ने भारत की व्यापार नीति के कुछ पहलुओं पर चिंताएँ भी व्यक्त कीं:

1 उच्च सीमा शुल्क (High Tariffs) ✓

कई देशों ने शिकायत की कि भारत में कृषि उत्पादों और कुछ विनिर्माण वस्तुओं पर औसत सीमा शुल्क अभी भी अन्य विकासशील देशों की तुलना में अधिक है।

2 गैर-टैरिफ बाधाएँ (NTBs) ✓

भारत द्वारा गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण आदेश (QCOs), आयात लाइसेंसिंग (जैसे लैपटॉप और कंप्यूटर आयात पर प्रतिबंध) और कड़े फाइटोसैनिटरी (SPS) नियमों के उपयोग पर सवाल उठाए गए।

3 सब्सिडी और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' ✓

सदस्य देशों ने तर्क दिया कि उत्पादन लिंकड प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजना और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के तहत दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी कुछ हद तक संरक्षणवादी प्रकृति की है, जिससे विदेशी प्रतिसपर्धियों को नुकसान हो सकता है।

4 व्यापार घाटा ✓

चीन और कुछ अन्य देशों के साथ भारत का लगातार बढ़ता व्यापार घाटा भारतीय निर्यात की प्रतियोगितात्मकता पर सवाल खड़े करता है।

आगे की राह

→ टैरिफ संरचना का युक्तिकरण

भारत को अपनी 'मेक इन इंडिया' नीति को कमजोर किए बिना, कच्चे माल और मध्यवर्ती वस्तुओं पर टैरिफ को धीरे-धीरे कम करना चाहिए ताकि वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखला (GVC) में एकीकरण आसान हो सके।

→ मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTAs) का रणनीतिक उपयोग

भारत को यूरोपीय संघ (EU), ब्रिटेन (UK) और अन्य प्रमुख साझेदारों के साथ चल रही द्विपक्षीय FTA वार्ताओं को तेजी से तार्किक निष्कर्ष तक पहुंचाना चाहिए, जिससे घरेलू विनिर्माण को बड़े बाजार मिल सकें।

→ नीतिगत स्थिरता और पूर्वानुमेयता

आयात प्रतिबंधों या अचानक निर्यात प्रतिबंधों (जैसे चावल, गेहूं या चीनी पर) के बजाय दीर्घकालिक और स्थिर व्यापार नीतियां अपनानी चाहिए, जिससे भारत एक विश्वसनीय वैश्विक सप्लायर बन सके।

→ रसद लागत में कमी

राष्ट्रीय रसद नीति और पीएम गतिशक्ति के माध्यम से देश के भीतर लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत को कम करना होगा, ताकि वैश्विक बाजार में हमारे उत्पाद अधिक प्रतियोगी बन सकें।



UPSC PYQ

Q. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए: (2017) ✓

1. भारत ने WTO के 'व्यापार सुविधा समझौते' (Trade Facilitation Agreement - TFA) का अनुमोदन किया है।
2. TFA, WTO के वर्ष 2013 के बाली मंत्रीस्तरीय पैकेज एक भाग है।
3. TFA फरवरी 2017 में लागू हुआ था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (A) केवल 1 और 2
- (B) केवल 1 और 3
- (C) केवल 2 और 3
- (D) 1, 2 और 3 ✓

UPSC PYQ

2017

UPSC PYQ

TRIMS

Q. 'व्यापार-संबंधित निवेश उपायों' (Trade-Related Investment Measures - TRIMS) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा किए जाने वाले आयात पर मात्रात्मक प्रतिबंध निषिद्ध होते हैं।
- ये वस्तुओं और ~~सेवाओं~~ दोनों के व्यापार से संबंधित निवेश उपायों पर लागू होते हैं।
- ये विदेशी निवेश के नियमन से संबंधित नहीं हैं।

नीचे दिए गए कूट का उपयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

- (A) केवल 1 और 2
(B) केवल 2
(C) केवल 1 और 3
(D) 1, 2 और 3

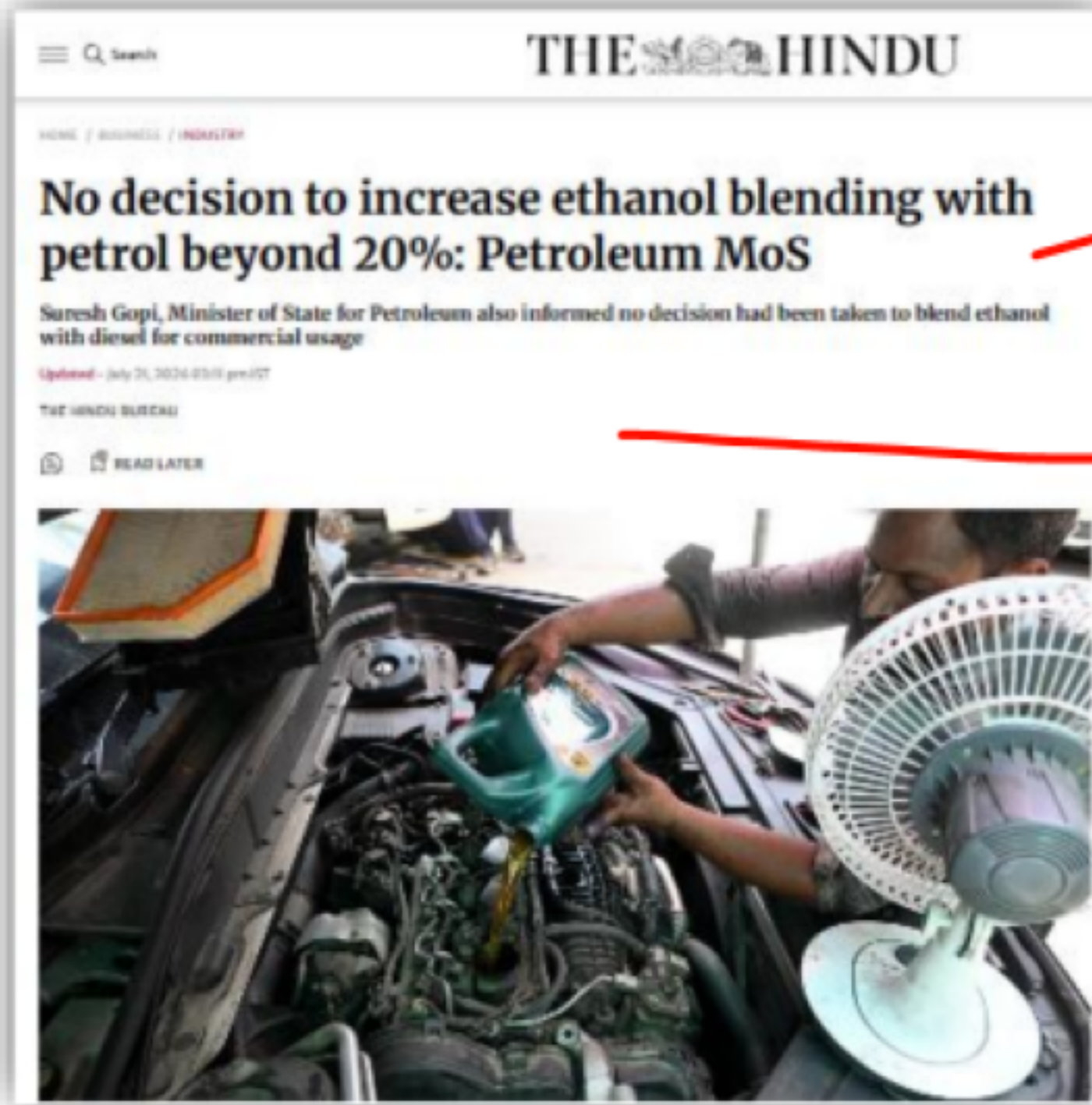
41-100

वर्तमान - 800
L 1000 - 1000
L 1000 - 1000
L 1000 - 1000
L 1000 - 1000

41-100
Answer
Comment Box

UPSC मुख्य परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न:

"विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) के व्यापार नीति समीक्षा तंत्र (TPRM) के आलोक में, भारत की आत्मनिर्भरता और वैश्विक आर्थिक एकीकरण के बीच संतुलन बनाने की नीति का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।" (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)



गान्धी मां वृषिकुपगिरि

कालेचना

चर्चा में क्यों?

हाल ही में राज्यसभा में पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय द्वारा यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि सरकार का वर्तमान में पेट्रोल में एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण (Ethanol Blending) को 20% से आगे बढ़ाने या डीजल में इसके व्यावसायिक उपयोग का कोई तात्कालिक निर्णय नहीं है। यह बयान ऐसे समय में आया है जब देश हरित ऊर्जा और जैव-ईंधन के क्षेत्र में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है।



वर्तमान नीतिगत स्थिति और सरकारी रुख

वर्तमान सीमा

भारत ने निर्धारित समय से पांच साल पहले ही 2025 में पेट्रोल में 20% एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण (E20) का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया था। वर्तमान में 15% से लेकर E19-E20 तक का सम्मिश्रण व्यापक रूप से उपयोग में है।

भविष्य के आधार

पेट्रोलियम राज्य मंत्री सुरेश गोपी के अनुसार, सम्मिश्रण को 20% से आगे बढ़ाने का कोई भी निर्णय व्यापक वैज्ञानिक मूल्यांकन, वाहन अनुकूलता (Vehicle Compatibility), हितधारक परामर्श और घरेलू उत्पादन क्षमता पर निर्भर करेगा।

राजकोषीय प्रोत्साहन

जून 2026 में सरकार ने 22% से 30% तक के उच्च एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण वाले पेट्रोल को केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क (Central Excise Duty) से छूट दी है, और ब्यूरो ऑफ इंडियन स्टैंडर्ड्स (BIS) ने इसके तकनीकी मानक भी अधिसूचित किए हैं।

वाहन सुरक्षा और तकनीकी पहलू

वाहनों की स्थिति

देश में संचालित 20 करोड़ से अधिक दो-पहिया और 3 करोड़ से अधिक पेट्रोल कारों पर इन सम्मिश्रणों का सकारात्मक प्रभाव देखा गया है। सरकार के अनुसार, वर्तमान में एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण के कारण किसी भी व्यापक इंजन फेलियर या वाहन क्षति के प्रमाणित साक्ष्य सामने नहीं आए हैं।

डीजल में चुनौतियां

डीजल इंजन की दहन प्रक्रिया (Combustion Process) पेट्रोल इंजनों से भिन्न होती है, जिसके कारण डीजल में एथेनॉल का व्यावसायिक सम्मिश्रण तकनीकी रूप से अधिक जटिल है और इस पर अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

कच्चे तेल के आयात पर निर्भरता को कम करना और विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत करना।



कार्बन उत्सर्जन को कम करके 'शुद्ध-शून्य' (Net Zero) लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करना।



गन्ने और अन्य कृषि उपजों से एथेनॉल उत्पादन के माध्यम से किसानों की आय में वृद्धि करना।

चुनौतियाँ और आगे की राह

चुनौतियाँ

- **फीडस्टॉक की उपलब्धता:** खाद्य सुरक्षा और ईंधन आवश्यकताओं के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखते हुए पर्याप्त मात्रा में एथेनॉल का उत्पादन करना।
- **वाहन अनुकूलता:** उच्च सम्मिश्रण (जैसे E20 से ऊपर) के लिए ऑटोमोबाइल निर्माताओं (OEMs) द्वारा नए और अधिक अनुकूलित इंजन डिजाइन तैयार करना।
- **आपूर्ति श्रृंखला बुनियादी ढांचा:** पूरे देश में सम्मिश्रण और भंडारण के लिए विशिष्ट बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास करना।

आगे की राह

- **चरणबद्ध विस्तार:** वैज्ञानिक परीक्षणों के परिणामों के आधार पर ही उच्च सम्मिश्रण (E20+) की ओर चरणबद्ध तरीके से बढ़ना।
- **अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D):** डीजल इंजनों के लिए वैकल्पिक जैव-ईंधन प्रौद्योगिकियों और उन्नत जैव-एथेनॉल (Second Generation Ethanol) पर अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देना।
- **किसान और उद्योग समन्वय:** कृषि कचरे (पराली और बायोमास) से एथेनॉल उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देकर ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को और अधिक मजबूत करना।

निष्कर्ष

भारत का एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण कार्यक्रम ऊर्जा स्वतंत्रता और पर्यावरण के क्षेत्र में एक क्रांतिकारी कदम है। हालांकि सरकार ने अभी 20% की सीमा से आगे बढ़ने पर रोक लगाई है, लेकिन यह सतर्क दृष्टिकोण तकनीकी स्थिरता, वाहन सुरक्षा और दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक स्थिरता को सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में एक संतुलित और दूरदर्शी कदम है।

E20 क्या है?

E20 एक प्रकार का ईंधन मिश्रण है, जिसमें 20% एथेनॉल और 80% पेट्रोल का उपयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ इससे संबंधित मुख्य बिंदु दिए गए हैं:

अर्थ

'E' का मतलब एथेनॉल (Ethanol) है और '20' इसका प्रतिशत है। यह हरित ऊर्जा और जैव-ईंधन को बढ़ावा देने की एक पहल है।

उद्देश्य

इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य कच्चे तेल (Crude Oil) के आयात पर भारत की निर्भरता को कम करना, विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत करना और कार्बन उत्सर्जन को घटाकर पर्यावरण की रक्षा करना है।

फीडस्टॉक

एथेनॉल मुख्य रूप से गन्ने के रस, मोलैसस (शीरा), और अनाज (जैसे मक्का और टूटे हुए चावल) से तैयार किया जाता है।

लक्ष्य प्राप्ति

भारत सरकार ने निर्धारित समय से पांच साल पहले ही वर्ष 2025 में देश भर में E20 पेट्रोल के लक्ष्य को हासिल कर लिया है।

वाहन अनुकूलता

वर्तमान में भारत में संचालित अधिकांश आधुनिक वाहन ई20 ईंधन पर सुचारू रूप से कार्य करने के लिए अनुकूलित किए गए हैं।

प्रारंभिक प्रश्न

प्रश्न: भारत की जैव ईंधन संबंधी राष्ट्रीय नीति के अनुसार, निम्नलिखित में से किसका उपयोग जैव ईंधन के उत्पादन के लिए कच्चे माल के रूप में किया जा सकता है? (2020)

1. कसावा ✓
2. क्षतिग्रस्त गेहूं के दाने ✓
3. मूंगफली के बीज ~~✗~~
4. चने की दाल ~~✗~~
5. सड़े हुए आलू ✓
6. मीठे चुकंदर ✓

~~Biofuel~~

नीचे दिए गए कोड का उपयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनें:

(a)

केवल 1, 2, 5 और 6 ✓

(b)

केवल 1, 3, 4 और 6

(c)

केवल 2, 3, 4 और 5

(d)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 और 6

प्रश्न: भारत की एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण (Ethanol Blending) नीति के संदर्भ में

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1

कथन 1

भारत ने निर्धारित समय से पांच साल पहले ही वर्ष 2025 में पेट्रोल में 20% एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण (E20) का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया है।
- 2

कथन 2

सरकार ने पेट्रोल में एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण को 20% से आगे बढ़ाकर तुरंत 30% अनिवार्य कर दिया है और डीजल में इसके व्यावसायिक उपयोग की घोषणा भी कर दी है।
- 3

कथन 3

जून 2026 में सरकार ने 22% से 30% तक के उच्च एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण वाले पेट्रोल को केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क (Central Excise Duty) से छूट प्रदान की है।

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

- (a)

केवल 1 और 3
- (b)

~~केवल 2 और 3~~
- (c)

~~केवल 1 और 2~~
- (d)

1, 2 और 3

मुख्य परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न

41-4w

☐ प्रश्न: "भारत में एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण कार्यक्रम ने ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था को गति दी है, परंतु इसके दीर्घकालिक विस्तार के मार्ग में कुछ तकनीकी एवं संरचनात्मक चुनौतियाँ भी विद्यमान हैं।" इस कथन के आलोक में एथेनॉल सम्मिश्रण नीति के लाभों का विश्लेषण करते हुए इसके समक्ष मौजूद प्रमुख चुनौतियों और भविष्य की रणनीतिक राह पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Cong. leaders held after sit-in at PM's home

Rahul leads march by party, other Opposition leaders to PM's home amid anti-govt. protests | Centre sends emissaries to hold talks with MPs; the talks fail and a minority joins the area | Detained leaders released at night; 'This is the beginning of the end of Modi regime', says Cong.

Indhira K. Nair
NEW DELHI

People regroup at CJP protest site once again
The principal Opposition party, the Congress, on Tuesday took the leadership of the anti-government agitation protesting the issue of paper leaks and revoking education reforms, with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, leading a party contingent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's doorstep. They were accompanied by other top Opposition leaders, including Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav.

Taken by surprise, the Delhi Police scurried into action, leading to a showdown between the two sides.

Three hours into the sit-in and after a failed attempt to negotiate with the MPs, the police forcibly cleared the area and detained several leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, who resisted by lying flat on the road, Mr. Yadav, and Mayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi.

"Modi, try every pressure, even all your might—this fight for justice for students will not stop or be halted," Mr. Gandhi posted on X, while being detained at Chattramall Stadium. Speaking to the media from the same location, Congress general secretary, organisational K.C. Venugopal said that in the last two days, the Modi government's real face had been exposed. "This is the beginning of the end of the Modi regime," he said.



Leaders of the Opposition party Gandhi being detained by the police outside the Prime Minister's residence on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Ankur Singh)

"Yesterday, the police attacked students and today they misbehaved with Mr. Gandhi," Mr. Venugopal said.

The Congress MPs were detained at different locations in the capital before being released late on Tuesday night. Earlier, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia

Reach out to the youth, Modi tells MPs in alliance

NEW DELHI

A day after the crackdown on protesters taking out a march over the NEET question paper leak, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told MPs that his government had taken "strict action" against those involved in the leak. Ensuring that the government was a "national responsibility" and not a matter for party politics, he said and appealed to the MPs to maintain a positive outreach and "guide and help" youngsters with regard to their aspirations.

He said that he was in the "mood for conflict". The Minister alleged that Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders had initially said they would vacate the area if the government agreed to a detailed debate on the recent issue of paper leaks. However, they later added the resignation of Union Education Minister Dhanendra Pradhan as a non-negotiable demand.

Mr. Gandhi, who was being escorted by police to a police station where Mr. Yadav had been detained with others as Congress workers held protests outside. Earlier, while being carried away by the police, Mr. Yadav shouted, "Narendra Modi is a coward."

Meanwhile, a day after the Delhi police cleared Jantar Mantar, the protesters continued to pour in at the venue. By evening, the crowd had swelled, spilling over to the roads radiating from the protest site.

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office J. K. Singh and Home Secretary Govind Mohan were deputed as emissaries to negotiate with the Congress leadership and spoke to Mr. Gandhi. Dr. Singh accused Mr. Gandhi of shifting the "goalposts".

"Even after Government conveyed its readiness for a comprehensive discussion, the Congress chose political spectacle over democratic debate," he said.

Union Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office J. K. Singh, the designated interlocutor

श्रीमान

Rahul changed goalposts to call off sit-in at PM's house: Centre

Education Minister Pradhan says Cong. leader exploiting students as political tool, while Jitendra Singh says Rahul initially agreed to suspend his protest if paper leak issue was discussed in Parliament, but later raised demand for Pradhan's ouster

Indira K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Union government and the BJP accused Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of "changing the goalposts" over his demands for ending his sit-in outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence over the NEET paper leak, resulting in Opposition leaders being summarily detained by Delhi Police, with BJP national president Nishu Nishu terming his conduct as "symbol of anarchy".

The man at the centre of the controversy, Education Minister Dhanendra Pradhan spoke up on Tuesday evening, pointing out that Mr. Gandhi was exploiting students "as a political tool".

"When we went there [the dharna spot] and very politely, I tried to plead before Rahul Gandhi that this was not the manner in which he should be indulging. He said yes, he was ready to suspend this dharna provided he was given an assurance that government was ready for a discussion in Parliament on the issue of NEET exam,



Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh speaking with Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi near the Prime Minister's residence. (PTI)

"For Rahul Gandhi, this is not about students. This is about manufacturing confrontation after every genuine avenue for discussion has been opened. The students of India deserve far better than being treated as props in a political campaign. They deserve certainty over chaos, solutions over slogans and responsibility over demagoguery. We owe our students more than outrage. We owe them answers, reforms and accountability. That is exactly what our government remains committed to delivering," Mr. Pradhan added.

Union Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office J. K. Singh, the designated interlocutor

the paper leakage, [and] all those issues related to this," said Mr. Singh.

Subsequently, the Minister said he got in touch with the top leadership of the government and was asked to convey that they were willing to concede the demand. When he returned to Mr. Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition brought up an additional demand for the resignation of Mr. Pradhan.

"Not gentlemanly"

"Then, I politely tried to look here, this is not done. Now, this is not a gentlemanly behaviour. He said no, it's my wish, my demands have changed. I said this doesn't behave as LoP to change goalposts that frequently. So, we had no option but to leave this part," he said.

Following this, Mr. Singh left the area and Mr. Gandhi, Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav, Mayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others were detained by the Delhi Police.

Mr. Nishu, the BJP president, raised objections to Mr. Gandhi undertaking his sit-in at Mr. Modi's residence, terming the move

as a "symbol of anarchy". "Certain parliamentary offices do not belong to any single party; the Prime Minister is not merely the leader of one party but the elected representative of 1.4 billion citizens. The behaviour exhibited by Mr. Gandhi and his team and their attempt to incite anarchy during their visit to the Prime Minister's residence clearly indicates that this is not the politics of dissent, but rather the politics of anarchy," said Mr. Nishu in a statement.

Under the best of circumstances, they were accepted. Yet, it is unfortunate that a person holding the office of LoP backs out once the process moves forward... I would tell our colleagues in the Congress opposition that we are always ready for any kind of dialogue on the floor of Parliament," he added.

According to senior government sources, the venue of Mr. Gandhi's sit-in being right outside Mr. Modi's official residence was the reason for the quick reaction and engagement by the government. "It is not a designated place of protest and is a high-security zone," said one senior Minister.

Opposition stalls Parliament for second day over NEET paper leak, police crackdown

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both Houses of Parliament remained paralysed on the second day of the Monsoon Session on Tuesday as Opposition members protested over the alleged NEET paper leak, the police crackdown on students protesting in New Delhi, and the alleged Ram Temple donation theft.

Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned twice at 11 a.m. and noon before the House was adjourned for the day at 2 p.m. Similar scenes were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha.

MPs meet Speaker

A delegation of Opposition MPs from both Houses, led by the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, met Speaker Om Birla and demanded a discussion on alleged police brutality against students protesting the education system in the national capital on Monday.

"Met the Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker today along with MPs of the Opposition. Our demand is simple: Parliament must have a detailed discussion on the brutality unleashed on students yesterday and on the government's complete lack of accountability for the examination crisis. Students were beaten for asking legitimate questions about their own future. If Parliament cannot discuss the future of India's youth,



Amid the din: A section of lawmakers raise slogans in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Tuesday. (ANI)

what is it for? The Opposition will not let this be buried. We will ensure that the students' voice is heard on the streets and in Parliament," Mr. Gandhi posted on X.

Later, speaking to the media in the Parliament Complex, Mr. Gandhi said the Speaker had told the delegation that "he has to take permission from the government for a discussion".

Earlier in the day, INDIA bloc floor leaders met in the chamber of the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, and discussed the Opposition's strategy for the day.

As soon as the Lok Sabha assembled for the Question Hour in the morning, Opposition members started raising slogans over the alleged NEET paper leak and the police lathi-charge on protesting students. Mr. Birla assured members that they would get an opportunity to raise their is-

sues as per the rules. However, as the protests continued, the Speaker adjourned the House. In the Rajya Sabha too, the first adjournment came within seven minutes of the House convening. After official papers were laid, Mr. Kharge rose to speak on the police action. Treasury Bench members raised slogans, and before Mr. Kharge could finish his remarks, Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan adjourned the House till noon.

Slogans continue

When the House met again, Secretary-General P. C. Mody read out a message from the Lok Sabha amid commotion. The House was adjourned almost immediately. During the post-lunch sitting, Opposition MPs started raising slogans as soon as proceedings started. Deputy Chairman Harivansh then adjourned the House for the day.

CJP दिल्ली हिला

1947 -> शिक्षा क्षेत्र में

4547
7547

Toxic gas kills 20 in Sikkim tunnel; 5 workers still trapped

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

20
A sudden release of suspected methane gas killed at least 20 workers inside an under-construction tunnel of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)'s Teesta State-VI Hydroelectric Project in Namchi district of Sikkim. Efforts were under way to rescue five others trapped inside the structure.

The incident occurred inside the head race tunnel under construction at Samardung on Monday afternoon "due to sudden explosive release of suspected methane gas trapped/embedded in the rocks, resulting in the generation of dense smoke and toxic gases", the NHPC

said in a statement. Twenty-five personnel were inside the tunnel during the incident, the NHPC said, citing information received from officials at the project site. Seven of the dead workers have been identified so far.

Three of them were from West Bengal, one each from Sikkim and Uttarakhand, and the rest from Assam, Namchi's Superintendent of Police, Sonam Dolma Bhutia, told journalists. A few bouts of rainfall since Monday have affected the rescue operations to some extent, she said.

"Our site engineering teams are working round the clock alongside the authorities to assist in stabilising the tunnel environment and ensuring rescue.



An ambulance inside the tunnel in Namchi, Sikkim, on Tuesday. PTI

A detailed investigation will be conducted to ascertain the cause of the incident," the NHPC said.

Rescue efforts on
The NHPC said the project team was working in close coordination with the district administration, the National Disaster Response

Force, the State Disaster Response Force, local authorities, and other emergency agencies to support the rescue operations. Apart from top officials of the NHPC, a special rescue team from the Director-General of Mines Safety has reached the site.

On Tuesday morning,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang to enquire about the situation. "The Prime Minister expressed deep concern and compassion for the affected workers and their families. He assured the State government of all possible assistance," a Sikkim government statement said.

The Chief Minister inspected the project site with Governor Om Prakash Mathur. He announced that the State government would constitute a high-level inquiry committee to ascertain the cause of the incident. The government would provide ex gratia assistance to the families of the deceased workers, Mr. Tamang said.

NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation)
क्या है?

- **NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited)** भारत सरकार के स्वामित्व वाली एक प्रमुख **जलविद्युत (Hydropower)** उत्पादन कंपनी है। यह भारत की सबसे बड़ी जलविद्युत कंपनियों में से एक है और देश में स्वच्छ (Clean) एवं नवीकरणीय (Renewable) ऊर्जा के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है।

प्रमुख तथ्य

- **स्थापना:** 1975
- **मुख्यालय:** NHPC Limited, फरीदाबाद, हरियाणा
- **मंत्रालय:** भारत सरकार का विद्युत मंत्रालय (Ministry of Power)
- **स्वामित्व:** भारत सरकार का सार्वजनिक उपक्रम (Central Public Sector Enterprise - CPSE)
- **स्थिति:** 'Navratna' CPSE

NHPC के प्रमुख कार्य

- जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं का निर्माण, संचालन एवं रखरखाव
- पम्पड स्टोरेज (Pumped Storage) परियोजनाओं का विकास।
- सौर ऊर्जा एवं पवन ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं में निवेश।
- सीमापार (Cross-border) ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं में भागीदारी।
- भारत में स्वच्छ ऊर्जा क्षमता बढ़ाने में योगदान।

प्रमुख परियोजनाएँ

- Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project
- Parbati Hydroelectric Project
- Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project
- Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Project

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking a direction to authorities to initiate an appeal process for those excluded from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) published in Assam.

The plea filed by the Assam State Jamiat Ulama came up for hearing before a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi.

The petitioner's counsel argued that people were suffering. "For those who have been excluded, there is a provision for appeal but nothing is happening," he said, adding that a separate petition raising a similar issue was already pending before the apex court.

"Issue notice," the Bench said and tagged the plea with the pending petition. The top court has sought responses from the Centre and others, including the Assam government and the office of the State Coordinator.

The updated final NRC, which validates bonafide Indian citizens of Assam, was released on August 31.



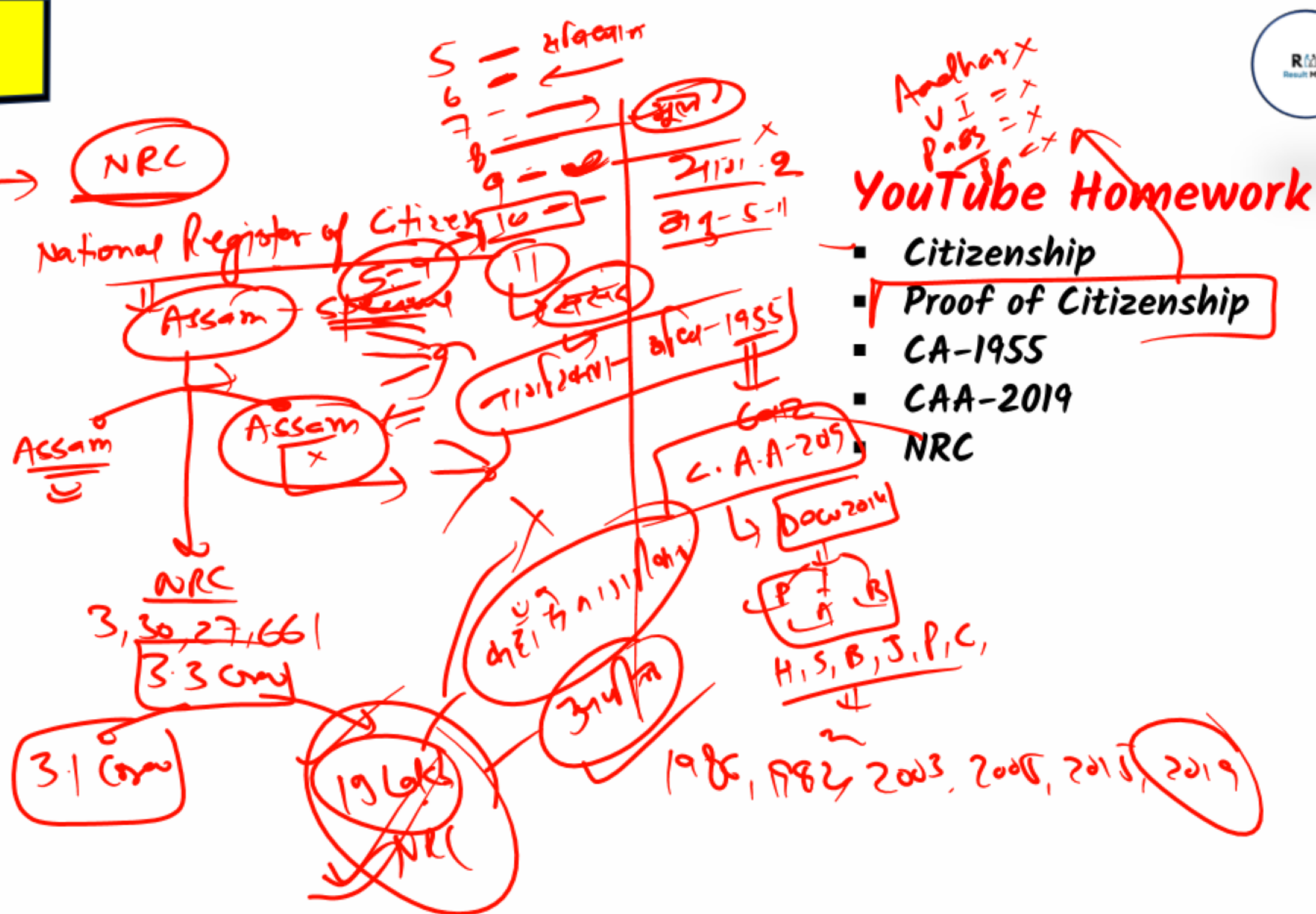
The updated final NRC list has shut out citizenship claims of over 19 lakh applicants.

2019. The exercise shut out the citizenship claims of over 19 lakh applicants.

A total of 3,30,27,661 (3.3 crore) people had applied to be included in the NRC. Of them, 3,11,21,004 (3.1 crore) were included in the document and 19,06,657 (19.06 lakh) excluded, a statement from the NRC State Coordinator's office said.

'Issue identity cards'

In its plea, the Assam State Jamiat Ulama sought a direction to the concerned authorities to forthwith issue national identity cards under Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 read with Rule 13 of the 2003 Rules to all persons found included in the final NRC published in Assam.



India's rarest heron faces a silent end as new dam ignores its home

Once the dam in the Lohit river basin is built, it could alter the water's turbidity and flow, and lead to the local extinction of white-bellied herons; the bird was first described in 1878 based on specimens from the Teesta region; the species does not occur there today; in fact, it has been 'critically endangered' since 2007

Aditya Ansh

The white-bellied heron (*Ardea insignis*) is amongst the world's most elusive birds, nesting along fast-flowing rivers lined with old growth forests.

"India has a population of six to nine individuals distributed in three rivers: Noh Dehing River, Lohit River and Lohit River," Yumlam Benjamin Bida, project manager, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, said. "Out of these three rivers, Lohit is a tributary of the Lohit River and the river basin harbours 70% of India's white-bellied herons."

Yet on the Lohit, the Forest Advisory Committee under the Union Environment Ministry has granted in-principle clearance to a 1,200-MW hydroelectric power project that will fell more than 33,000 trees. The environmental impact assessment for the project also omitted white-bellied herons.

Borrowed time

"White-bellied herons have a very unique foraging strategy due to their huge body size" — up to around four-feet tall, Mr. Bida said. "They hunt in shallow water and their dietary composition is only fish. They wait for the fish to come near and then strike it."

He added that the dam, once it is built, will alter the water's turbidity and flow, which could lead to the bird's "local extinction".

In 1878, the British ornithologist and naturalist Allan Octavian Hume first scientifically described the white-bellied heron based on specimens from the Teesta region in eastern India. The species is not known to occur there today.

According to Mr. Bida, it is not unknown for substantial changes in river conditions to lead to highly specialised species vanishing from that landscape.

Also, "The riparian nature forest plays a critical role for white-bellied herons, both for roosting and nesting. The hydroelectric power project will clear the mature riparian forest and let it get submerged, impacting the breeding of the species."

'No human disturbance'

White-bellied herons are in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, thus enjoying the highest level of legal protection. Even so, their range and population have declined significantly in the last century.

A 2019 review by the Tropical Resources Institute recorded the birds in parts of Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, they are restricted to pockets of Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

"The white-bellied heron is known to inhabit Himalayan river systems up to



A white-bellied heron in Arunachal Pradesh. "White-bellied herons have a very unique foraging strategy due to their huge body size" — up to around four-feet tall. "They hunt in shallow water and their dietary composition is only fish." [NANASAM CC BY SA](#)

elevations of about 1,500m above sea level," Murali Krishna, a wildlife ecologist who has worked extensively in the Eastern Himalaya, said.

"Based on my several years of observation in Arunachal Pradesh, the species appears to avoid even minimal anthropogenic disturbance and usually uses tall trees for nesting, in those areas where there is no human disturbance."

Overlooked in assessment

The project is being developed by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India, Ltd. in partnership with the Arunachal Pradesh government. Its environmental impact assessment was prepared by WAPCOS, Ltd, a consultancy firm under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Although the Lohit River basin harbours most of these birds in India, the species did not feature in the project's impact assessment. According to the minutes of the Forest Advisory Committee meeting on December 19, 2025, State officials told the committee the birds had not been included because they had not been recorded within the project's diversion area.

The project also faced sustained opposition from local communities. Rohman Tanvik, resident of the Nukung Village and president of the District Congress Party Committee, said residents opposed the project since it was first proposed in 2008. "We do not want to sacrifice so much of our land and watch it getting submerged," he said.

During a public hearing in August 2025, community members questioned the reliability of the baseline data

THE GIST

India has a population of six to nine white-bellied herons distributed in three rivers: Noh Dehing River, Lohit River and Lohit River

On the Lohit, the Forest Advisory Committee under the Union Environment Ministry has granted in-principle clearance to a 1,200-MW hydroelectric power project that will fell more than 33,000 trees

However, the white-bellied herons did not feature in the project's impact assessment, drawing criticism from conservationists

प्रजातियाँ

YouTube Homework

- Species of Fauna & Flora
- Asiatic Lion
- White Rumped Vulture

2SI

BSI

White-bellied Heron



White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*)

- White-bellied Heron हाल ही में इसलिए चर्चा में है क्योंकि अरुणाचल प्रदेश के लोहित नदी क्षेत्र में प्रस्तावित Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project को वन स्वीकृति (in-principle clearance) मिलने पर इसके प्राकृतिक आवास (habitat) पर खतरे की चिंता जताई गई है। पर्यावरणविदों का कहना है कि यह क्षेत्र इस अत्यंत दुर्लभ पक्षी के भारत में बचे हुए महत्वपूर्ण आवासों में से एक है।

White-bellied Heron के बारे में

- वैज्ञानिक नाम: *Ardea insignis*
- परिवार (Family): Ardeidae
- सामान्य नाम: White-bellied Heron / Imperial Heron
- विशेषता: यह दुनिया के सबसे दुर्लभ और सबसे बड़े बगुला (Heron) प्रजातियों में से एक है तथा जीवित Heron प्रजातियों में दूसरी सबसे बड़ी मानी जाती है।

आवास (Habitat)

- पूर्वी हिमालय की तेज़ बहाव वाली नदियों और नदी तटीय (riverine) पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में पाया जाता है।
- चट्टानी नदी किनारे, वन क्षेत्रों और साफ़ जल वाली नदियों को पसंद करता है।

वितरण (Distribution)

- यह मुख्य रूप से निम्न देशों में पाया जाता है:
- भारत
- भूटान
- म्यांमार
- चीन (दक्षिण-पश्चिमी भाग)
- भारत में इसका प्रमुख वितरण:
- अरुणाचल प्रदेश
- Namdapha Tiger Reserve
- Kamlang Tiger Reserve

भोजन (Diet)

- मछलियाँ
- मेंढक
- केकड़े
- छोटे जलीय जीव
- सरीसृप

संरक्षण स्थिति (Conservation Status)

- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered (CR)
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I (सर्वोच्च कानूनी संरक्षण)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

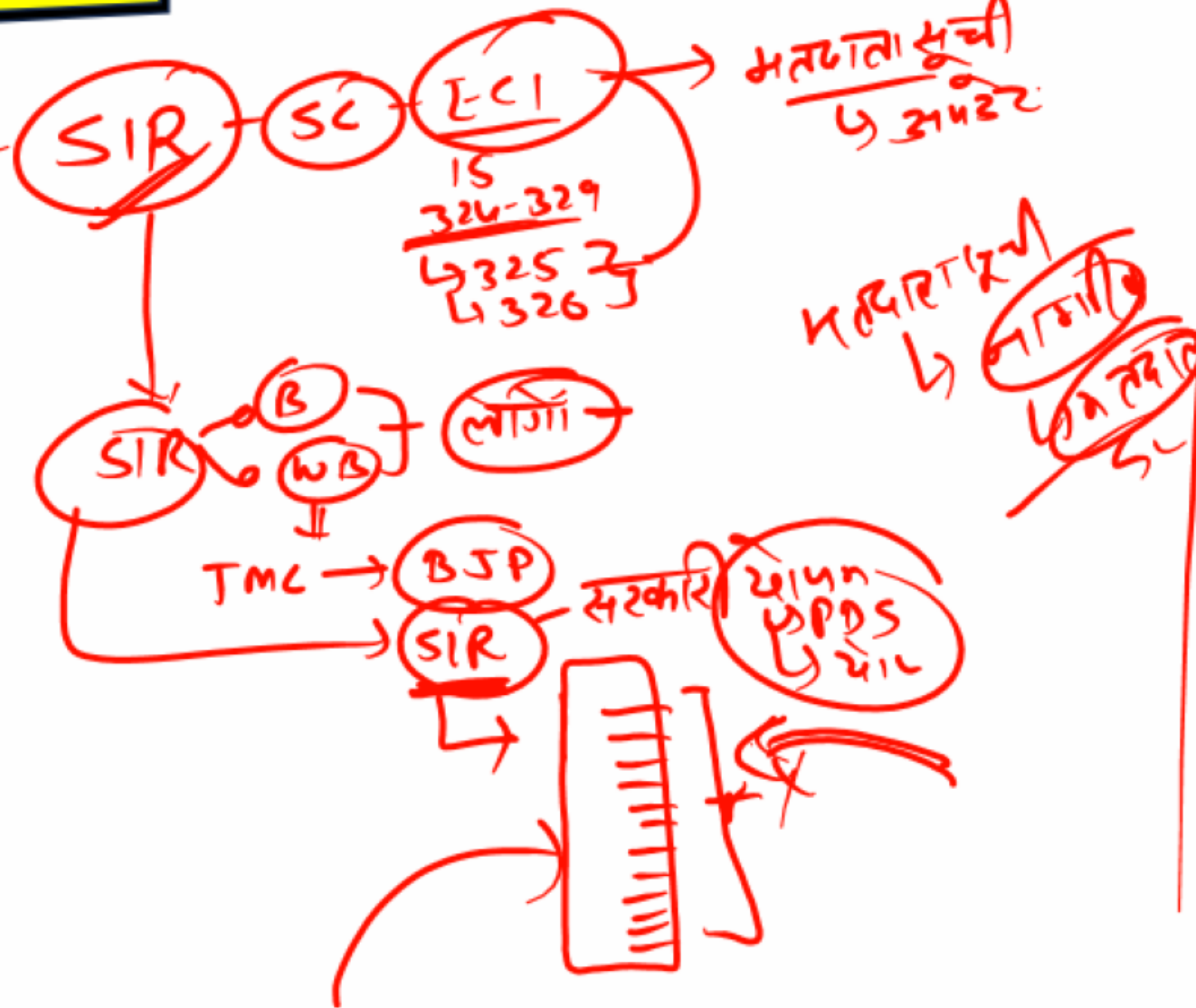


Lists of folly

A flawed SIR should not be the basis for distribution of benefits

The Supreme Court has reiterated its position that exclusion from the electoral rolls cannot have consequences unrelated to voting. The Court was responding to West Bengal government orders, issued in May-June, that linked welfare benefits and official caste certifications to the outcomes of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Those removed would become ineligible for certain welfare benefits and certifications under these orders. A May 19 notification directed that persons removed from the electoral roll should not continue as beneficiaries of the Annapurna Yojana, a cash transfer scheme for women, unless they had filed appeals before the SIR tribunal. A June 4 order directed the deletion of beneficiaries from the Public Distribution System. On May 14, the government decided to re-verify and cancel caste certificates of those persons whose names had been deleted from the rolls. These decisions run contrary to the clear instructions of the Court in the Bihar SIR case, which specifically barred authorities from using SIR outcomes for any purpose other than determining voting rights. The Court has now issued notices to the Election Commission of India, the West Bengal government and the State's Chief Electoral Officer. Approximately 34 lakh appeals have been filed against SIR outcomes in West Bengal, and only a tiny fraction of them has been disposed of, leaving millions in a precarious state of uncertainty. Their exclusion from welfare benefits, including food support, is unconscionable.

There is a legal paradox in the relationship between citizenship and the electoral roll. The roll is meant to include only citizens, but enrolment on the roll is not, by itself, proof of citizenship. This paradox apart, it is a sound and commonsensical assumption that many citizens are not enrolled as voters. In other words, all those enlisted as voters must be citizens, but not all citizens are necessarily enrolled as voters. While this may be a simple and straightforward proposition, for the State to link the absence of a person's name from the electoral roll to other aspects of civic life – especially subsistence benefits – is both illogical and cruel. In its Bihar SIR judgment, the Court clearly stated that exclusion from an electoral roll cannot by itself determine citizenship status and that SIR outcomes are linked only to electoral purposes. The specific facts and legal principles relating to the SIR notwithstanding, larger issues are also at stake. These include universal human rights that must apply to all persons, citizens and non-citizens alike. Clean electoral rolls and targeted welfare delivery can contribute to better governance. But the state must not take leave of logic and common sense.



YouTube Homework

- SIR = 15
- ECI = 324-329

15
324-329

Political minefields

Andy Burnham cannot deliver for the U.K. if he remains in survival mode

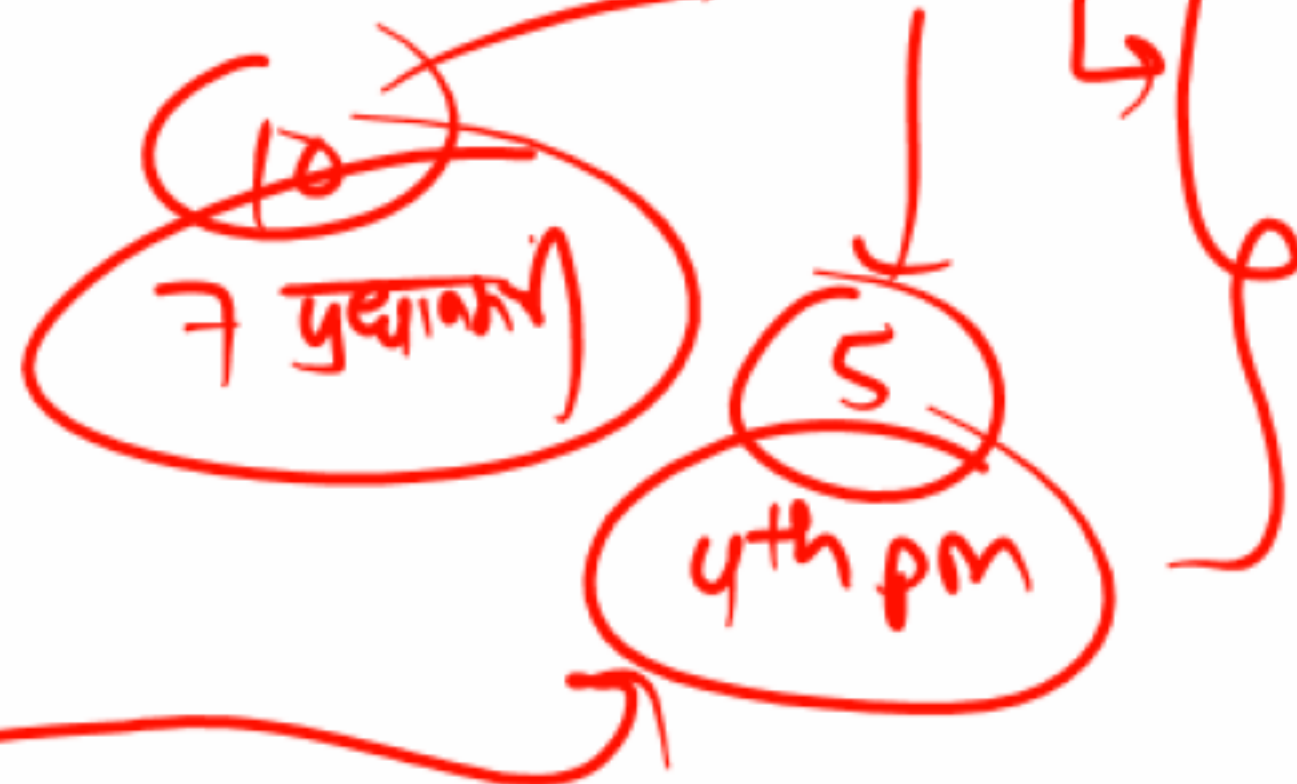
Andy Burnham, the former Mayor of Greater Manchester and the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, has picked a challenging time to enter office. The revolving doors at 10 Downing Street appear to be spinning off their hinges – he will be the seventh Prime Minister in just over a decade, and the fifth in four years. Nevertheless, he has promised a fresh start, and an economic and social revival. To truly set himself apart from the fumbling approach of his predecessor, Keir Starmer, he might have to spearhead a radical change in governance, and be willing to redefine the traditional Labour Party framework to tackle the spiralling crises of cost of living, fraying global alliances, disagreements on immigration policy and the fiscal pressures of an ageing population. He might learn from Mr. Starmer's missteps, who won Labour a resounding victory in 2024 with just 34% of the popular vote. It was, however, a "loveless landslide" according to some analysts, and had more to do with deep disenchantment with the previous Conservative governments for losing their grip on macroeconomic policy management. Although Mr. Starmer at the time vowed to restore "respect to politics", a mini scandal over government officials accepting gifts, a policy furore over botched plans to cut welfare spending, and an error of judgement in appointing Peter Mandelson, discredited by his association with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as U.K. Ambassador to the U.S., led to Mr. Starmer's ousting by his party.

To avoid continuing this cycle of leaders who appear to be unable to govern what appears to be an increasingly ungovernable polity after Brexit, and a weary public that is looking for a new model of governance to stabilise their embattled nation amidst political storms, Mr. Burnham will need to quickly implement reforms while tamping down on infighting and factionalism within Labour. He has little room to manoeuvre on public revenue given his party's promise not to raise taxes; yet he will have to find innovative ways to cut the U.K.'s welfare bill and entitlements. Similarly, he cannot abandon European allies in their support for Ukraine against Russian depredations on its soil, yet he will have to act quickly to mend fences with the Donald Trump administration to prevent further breakdown in the "special relationship". On immigration, net migration to the U.K. is said to be down compared to previous years, yet the thirst for even tighter immigration policies in some quarters is being contested by some Labour MPs and progressive leaders, who are seeking a compromise approach. He will have to step nimbly across the many political minefields in tackling these challenges, yet remember that history rewards dynamism and fresh thinking, rather than leaders stuck in survival mode.

ब्रिटेन → राजनीतिक बदलाव

कीर स्टार्मर →

Andy Burnham



YouTube Homework

India-UK



Building an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem

India's philanthropic landscape has changed more in the past decade than many realise. Domestic private giving – through family philanthropy, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and individual donors – has grown rapidly and now far outstrips annual foreign philanthropic inflows. A new generation of entrepreneurs is rethinking differently about giving, while millions of Indians are entering the markets through mutual funds, systematic investment plans (SIP), and Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Against this backdrop, the debate around the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) takes on a different meaning: less a dispute about foreign funding than a chapter in India's move toward a more self-reliant philanthropic future.

The first principle should not be controversial. Every sovereign nation has both the right and the responsibility to regulate foreign capital flowing into organisations that shape public life. This is neither unique to India nor illiberal: the United States requires disclosure under its Foreign Agents Registration Act, and Australia and several European democracies run comparable regimes. The question worth debating is not whether foreign funding should be regulated, but whether that regulation is proportionate, predictable and efficiently run.

There is also a gap between perception and reality. The impression is that tighter FCRA rules have hollowed out Indian development work; the numbers say otherwise. NITI Aayog's portal NGO Datta portal lists roughly six lakh voluntary organisations, of which only about 14,500 hold active FCRA registration. Foreign contributions have themselves doubled over the decade, from about ₹10,000 crore to around ₹22,000 crore. The sector has not been starved of money from abroad.

The rise of domestic giving

The bigger change lies at home. Domestic private philanthropy now exceeds ₹1.18 lakh crore a year – more than five times foreign inflows – according to the Bain-Dasra India Philanthropy Report 2025.

Family philanthropy is growing at double-digit rates as a new generation of wealth creators comes to see giving as part of wealth stewardship. The centre of gravity of Indian philanthropy has quietly shifted home.

None of this erases the hardship of the transition. A small number of organisations faced delayed renewals, long processing times, or cancelled registrations, disrupting work in



Ashish Dhawan

Founder and
Chairperson,
The Convergence
Foundation



Amit Chandra

Co-Founder, A.T.E.
Chandra Foundation

Domestic
giving, not
foreign funding,
is what will
define India's
philanthropic
future

education, health, livelihoods, and rural development. This was not true of the sector as a whole, but for those affected, the disruption was real and deserves acknowledgement rather than dismissal.

The transition also exposed how unevenly the sector had prepared. Many organisations operate with exemplary governance; others had gone dormant or were well-meaning groups whose documentation had not kept pace with rising expectations.

India's companies went through a similar reckoning over the past three decades: stronger governance initially felt like a burden, but it ultimately became the very thing that won investor confidence and drew in capital. The social sector can follow the same path. If money is the fuel of philanthropy, trust is its currency.

Better, not tighter regulation

The goal should be better regulation, not just tighter regulation. An administrative slip should not carry the same penalty as fraud. A structured path comprising deficiency notices, defined windows to correct errors, opportunities to provide clarification, and an independent appellate body would protect the integrity of the law while sparing genuine organisations avoidable disruption. The newly launched FCRA 2.0 platform offers a real opportunity to simplify compliance and move towards risk-based supervision.

Fixing FCRA's administration, though, is only half the task; the larger prize is to build what we would call an Atmanirbhar ('self-reliant') philanthropy ecosystem. India's giving has moved through three phases: first, a reliance on foreign philanthropy, and second, the transformation wrought by CSR, which now channels over ₹40,000 crore a year into development. The third phase must be powered by Indian families, entrepreneurs and citizens.

The most immediate opportunity sits with India's fast-growing community of high-net-worth individuals, whose giving has lagged well behind the growth in their wealth. This is where the largest pool of new domestic capital can be unlocked over the coming decade, and where policy can help most.

India's tax framework does not yet signal that philanthropy is a national priority. Deductions under Section 80G are usually limited to half the donation and capped at 10% of adjusted gross total income. Few large donors hit those limits, but tax policy is also about signalling intent – and other countries have been emphatic, from

Singapore's 250% deduction to Britain's Gift Aid top-up and America's carry-forward provisions. India need not copy them wholesale. But raising the 80G deduction from 50% to 100%, as is already allowed for some categories, and lifting the ceiling to 25%, would cost the exchequer little while meaningfully improving the flow of long-term social capital.

Expanding the donor base

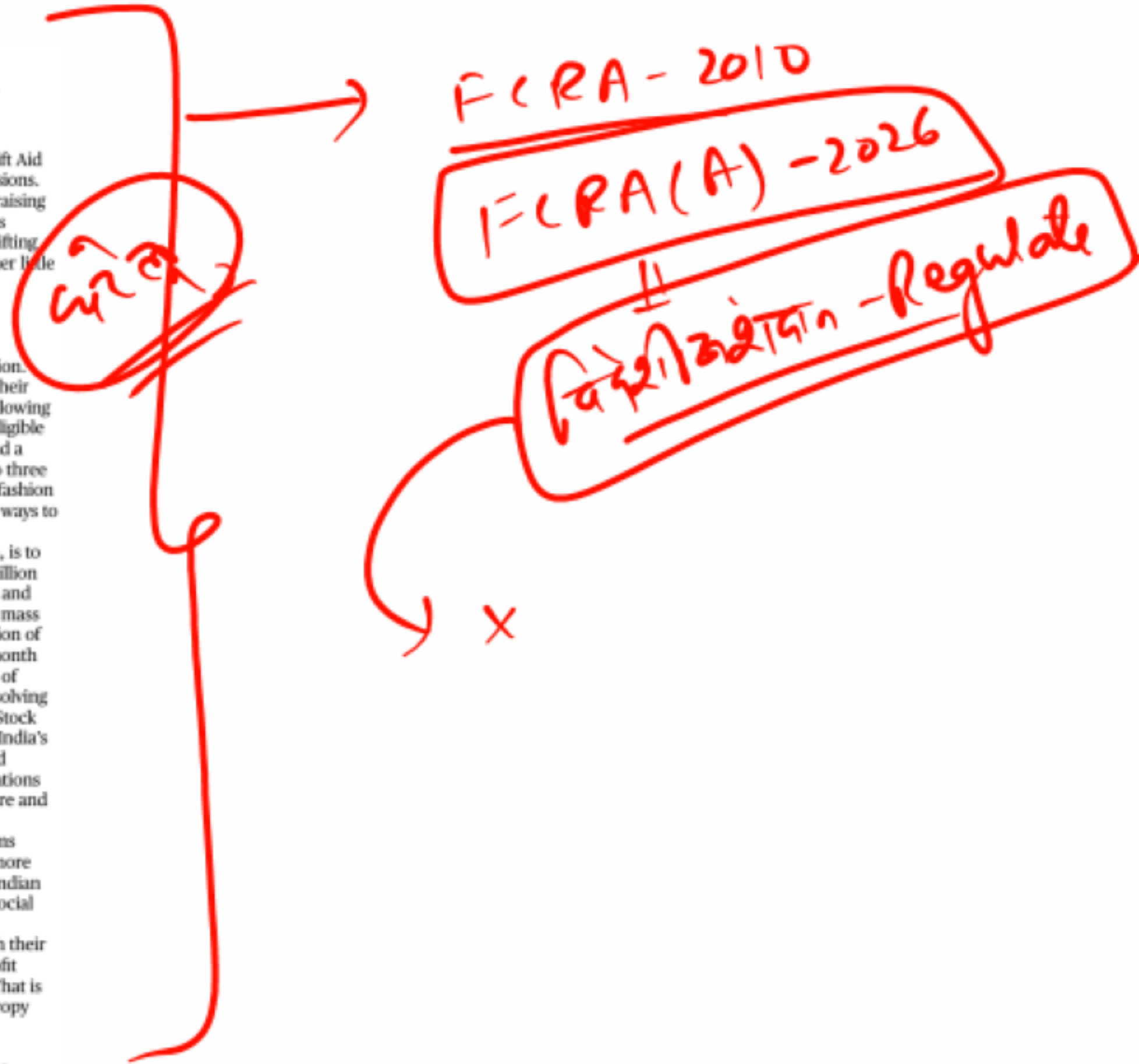
One mechanism deserves particular mention. Most first-generation entrepreneurs hold their wealth in equity, not cash. A framework allowing donations of appreciated listed shares to eligible charities – with appropriate safeguards and a reasonable disposal window of, say, one to three years so that recipients can sell in orderly fashion – could become one of the most powerful ways to unlock domestic philanthropic capital.

The next frontier, over a longer horizon, is to widen the base. India now has over 220 million demat accounts, widespread SIP investing and UPI in every pocket; the infrastructure for mass participation already exists. If even a fraction of households gave ₹100, ₹500 or ₹1,000 a month through trusted digital platforms, millions of citizens would become active partners in solving the country's social problems. The Social Stock Exchange could do for social capital what India's markets did for financial capital – a trusted national platform linking credible organisations to ordinary citizens through clear disclosure and measurable impact.

The argument runs deeper than the sums involved. Domestic philanthropy creates more than money; it creates ownership. When Indian citizens and businesses fund India's own social challenges, they bring governance, ideas, volunteering and accountability along with their capital, strengthening not just the non-profit sector but also the wider social contract. That is the real case for an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem.

Foreign philanthropy will still matter, particularly in research, innovation and the exchange of ideas. But as India approaches developed-nation status, it should complement India's social development, not shape it. The aspiration, in the end, is not merely to regulate foreign philanthropy well. It is to build a country where the overwhelming share of social transformation is financed, led and owned by Indians themselves.

That is the promise of an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem – and, we believe, the next chapter of India's development story.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Governance

Corporate Governance
CSR
Law

क्या है?

- **CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)** का अर्थ है कि कंपनियाँ अपने लाभ (Profit) का एक हिस्सा समाज, पर्यावरण और सतत विकास (Sustainable Development) के लिए खर्च करें। इसका उद्देश्य केवल मुनाफा कमाना नहीं, बल्कि समाज के प्रति अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभाना भी है।

भारत में CSR

- भारत दुनिया का पहला देश है जिसने **CSR को कानून के माध्यम से अनिवार्य (Mandatory)** बनाया।
- कानून: Companies Act, 2013
- धारा (Section): Section 135
- नियम लागू: 1 अप्रैल 2014 से

किन कंपनियों पर CSR लागू होता है?

- यदि किसी कंपनी में निम्न में से कोई एक शर्त पूरी होती है, तो CSR लागू होता है:
- **Net Worth:** ₹500 करोड़ या अधिक
- **Turnover:** ₹1,000 करोड़ या अधिक
- **Net Profit:** ₹5 करोड़ या अधिक

कितना CSR खर्च करना होता है?

- ऐसी कंपनियों को पिछले **3 वित्तीय वर्षों के औसत शुद्ध लाभ (Average Net Profit)** का **कम-से-कम 2%** CSR गतिविधियों पर खर्च करना होता है।

CSR के अंतर्गत किन क्षेत्रों में खर्च किया जा सकता है?

- Companies Act की **Schedule VII** के अनुसार, जैसे—
- ✓ शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना
- ✓ स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ
- ✓ स्वच्छता (Sanitation)
- ✓ महिला सशक्तिकरण
- ✓ कौशल विकास (Skill Development)
- ✓ पर्यावरण संरक्षण
- ✓ ग्रामीण विकास
- ✓ खेलों का विकास
- ✓ आपदा राहत
- ✓ प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्रीय राहत कोष (PMNRF) एवं अन्य अधिसूचित कोषों में योगदान

What India's young people are saying about families

Ask a grandmother in India what has changed since her time, and she will not talk to you about fertility rates. She will talk about her granddaughter, who finished college, has a city job, and is in no hurry to start a family. She will say it with pride and concern in the same breath, a blend the data reflects too.

The UNFPA survey

On World Population Day this year (July 11), UNFPA released the Demographic Futures Survey, the largest study of its kind, with over 1,08,000 young adults surveyed across 73 countries. It asked a simple question: not whether young people still wanted partnership and family, but what stood between them and it. (This year, India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare set the theme, "Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancies" or HTSP, a reminder that at the heart of every demographic number is a question of choice: whether young people can decide, freely and on their own timeline, when and how to build their families.)

India's fertility rate has settled at two children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1. Some will hear that and reach for words like "baby bust" or "population crisis". At UNFPA, we see something else entirely. This is not a warning sign but the outcome of sustained government investment across decades, in girls' education, the National Health Mission, and expanding contraceptive choice and maternal health services. The share of young women married before 18 years has fallen from 23.3% to 20.1% in just the last few years. That is a policy achievement India's institutions can rightly take credit for.

But numbers tell more than one story at once, and if we stop at the good news, we miss what young India is trying to say.

Ask young people directly, and most want what generations before them wanted. Across the



Andrea M. Wojnar

UNFPA
Representative in
India and part of
Team UN in India

Young Indians still want families, but the conditions they seek reveal their aspirations, anxieties, and changing realities

country, four in 10 women and a third of men say that two children is their ideal family size. The Demographic Futures Survey found the same pattern across countries: young people are not turning away from family life; they are asking whether the conditions exist to build it. So why the hesitation here? When we ask young couples what stands between them and the life they picture, the answers are almost always practical. Money comes first, cited by nearly four in 10. Then housing. Then job security. Then a very simple, human worry: how well can we care for our children?

That last question falls on one set of shoulders far more than another. Young women in India spend over five hours a day on unpaid housework and caregiving; young men spend about half an hour. Only 15 in every 100 young women are in paid work, compared to 55 in every 100 young men. These are not merely statistics. They help explain why so many capable young women feel that they must choose between a career and a family, when no one should have to choose at all.

The climate change issue

There is a newer worry layered on top of the old ones. The survey found that nearly all young people say climate change is disrupting their lives, and about half say it affects their peace of mind. Nearly half of young Indians also report being very worried about conflict, economic insecurity and environmental risk all at once, among the higher rates recorded anywhere. Add high youth unemployment and a mental health conversation that is only beginning in many Indian households, and a fuller picture emerges. This is not a generation rejecting parenthood. It is a generation asking, quite reasonably, whether the ground beneath it is steady enough to build on.

India is also marked by inter-State disparity. Bihar's fertility rate stands at 2.7, while Sikkim's is

just 1.0. Kerala, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have long settled below the replacement level, while Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are still catching up. These differences show that India's demographic transition is unfolding at different speeds across States, and that no single national policy can fully address every State's realities.

Responding to youth aspiration

The UNFPA's partnership with the Indian government and communities is aimed at translating what young people are telling us into practical support: high-quality, affordable and accessible childcare; families that share caregiving more equally; continued investment in stable, dignified work for young people entering the labour force; and greater attention to youth mental health, including climate anxiety, in conversations about family and the future. The private sector also has a vital role to play through parental leave, flexible work arrangements and family-friendly workplaces that enable young people to balance work and caregiving. The UNFPA has a unique role in the United Nations development system as a leader in data collection, population dynamics and evidence-based policymaking. The Demographic Futures Survey shows how population data can and must be deployed to help countries understand, plan for and adapt to demographic shifts.

India is home to 255 million young people aged 15 to 24 years, the largest generation this country, or perhaps any country, has ever raised. This is India's demographic dividend, a window of opportunity that will not remain open indefinitely. The choices we make today will determine whether this generation can fully realise its potential before that window begins to close. Young Indians are not walking away from the idea of family. They are waiting for the conditions that would let them say yes to it fully.

भारतीय युवा परिवारों के बारे में क्या कह रहे हैं

भारत की एक दादी माँ क्या बदला है अपने समय से, और वह आपसे प्रजनन दरों के बारे में बात नहीं करेंगी। वह अपनी पोती के बारे में बात करेंगी, जिसने कॉलेज पूरा किया, नौकरी करती है, और परिवार शुरू करने की कोई जल्दी नहीं है। वह गर्व और चिंता के साथ यह बात कहेंगी, और इसी साँस में कहेंगी—यह बदलाव आँकड़ों में भी दिखता है।

यूएनएफपीए

इस वर्ष (11 जुलाई) विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस पर, यूएनएफपीए ने डेमोग्राफिक फ्यूचर्स सर्वे जारी किया, जो अब तक का सबसे बड़ा सर्वे है। 73 देशों में 1,08,000 से अधिक युवा वयस्कों से पूछा गया एक सरल प्रश्न: क्या युवा अब भी साझेदारी और परिवार चाहते हैं, और उनके और इनके बीच क्या खड़ा है?

(इस वर्ष, भारत के स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने थीम रखा, “स्वस्थ समय और गर्भधारण के बीच अंतराल” या एचटीएसपी, एक याद दिलाने कि प्रत्येक जनसांख्यिकीय संख्या के केंद्र में एक चुनाव का प्रश्न है: क्या युवा लोग स्वयं निर्णय ले सकते हैं, स्वतंत्र रूप से और अपने समय पर, कि परिवार हो और उसे कैसे बनाना है।)

भारत की प्रजनन दर अब प्रति महिला दो बच्चों पर स्थिर हो गई है, जो प्रतिस्थापन स्तर 2.1 से कम है। आप “बेबी बस्ट” या “जनसंख्या संकट” जैसे शब्द सुनेंगे। यूएनएफपीए के अनुसार, हम कुछ बिल्कुल और देख रहे हैं। यह सतत सरकारी निवेश का परिणाम है—लड़कियों की शिक्षा, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन और गर्भनिरोधक विकल्प तथा मातृ स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का विस्तार। 18 वर्ष से पहले विवाह करने वाली युवा महिलाओं का अनुपात पिछले कुछ वर्षों में 23.3% से घटकर 20.1% हो गया है। यह एक ऐसी नीति उपलब्धि है जिसे भारत की संस्थाएँ सही से श्रेय ले सकती हैं।

लेकिन आँकड़े एक साथ कई कहानियाँ कहते हैं, और यदि हम केवल अच्छी खबर पर रुक जाएँ, तो



एंड्रिया एम. वोजनर

यूएनएफपीए भारत की प्रतिनिधि और संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत की भागीदार

भारतीय युवा अभी भी परिवार चाहते हैं, लेकिन वे जिन परिस्थितियों की तलाश कर रहे हैं वे उनकी आकांक्षाओं, चिंताओं और बदलती हकीकतों को दर्शाती हैं।

देशों में, चार में से 10 महिलाएँ और एक तिहाई पुरुष कहते हैं कि दो बच्चे उनका आदर्श परिवार आकार है। डेमोग्राफिक फ्यूचर्स सर्वे ने सभी में समान पैटर्न पाया है: युवा परिवार से दूर नहीं जा रहे; वे सोच रहे हैं कि क्या परिस्थितियाँ उन्हें इसे बनाने देती हैं। इसलिए यहाँ झिझक क्यों है? जब हम युवा जोड़ों से पूछते हैं कि उनके अनुसार स्थिति कैसी है और वे क्या चाहते हैं, उनके जवाब हमेशा व्यावहारिक होते हैं।

पहले पैसे की चिंता, लगभग चार में से नौ का कहना है। फिर आवास, फिर नौकरी की सुरक्षा। फिर एक बहुत सरल, मानवीय चिंता: क्या हम अपने बच्चों की अच्छी देखभाल कर पाएँगे?

यह अंतिम प्रश्न एक समूह के कंधों पर अधिक भार डालता है। भारत में युवा महिलाएँ प्रतिदिन पाँच घंटे से अधिक बिना वेतन के घरेलू काम और देखभाल में लगाती हैं; युवा पुरुष केवल आधा घंटा देते हैं। केवल हर 100 युवा महिलाओं में से 15 वेतनभोगी काम करती हैं, जबकि हर 100 युवा पुरुषों में से 55 करते हैं। ये मात्र आँकड़े नहीं हैं। ये बताते हैं कि कितनी क्षमाशील युवा महिलाएँ करियर और परिवार के बीच चुनने को बाध्य महसूस करती हैं, जबकि किसी को भी चुनना नहीं चाहिए।

जलवायु परिवर्तन का मुद्दा

एक और चिंता पुराने मुद्दों पर परत चढ़ा रही है। सर्वे ने पाया कि लगभग सभी युवा कहते हैं कि जलवायु परिवर्तन उनके जीवन को बाधित कर रहा है, और आधे का कहना है कि यह उनके भविष्य की शांति को प्रभावित करता है। लगभग आधे युवा भारतीय भी संघर्ष, आर्थिक असुरक्षा और पर्यावरणीय जोखिम की चिंता व्यक्त करते हैं। इन चिंताओं के बीच उच्च युवा बेरोजगारी और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर बातचीत—जो कई भारतीय घरों में अभी शुरू हो रही है—एक स्पष्ट चित्र उभरता है। यह वह पीढ़ी नहीं है जो मातृत्व-पितृत्व से इनकार कर रही है। यह वह पीढ़ी है जो उचित रूप से पूछ रही है कि क्या उसके पास ऐसी नींव है जिस पर वह निर्माण कर सके।

भारत राज्यों के बीच असमानता से भी चिन्तित है। बिहार की प्रजनन दर 2.7 है, जबकि सिक्किम की केवल 1.0।

केरल, दिल्ली और तमिलनाडु प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से नीचे बस गए हैं, जबकि बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और झारखंड अभी भी पकड़ बना रहे हैं। यह परिवर्तन राज्यों में अलग-अलग गति से हो रहा है, और कोई एक राष्ट्रीय नीति हर राज्य की वास्तविकताओं को पूरी तरह संबोधित नहीं कर सकती।

युवा आकांक्षाओं पर प्रतिक्रिया

भारतीय सरकार और समुदायों के साथ यूएनएफपीए की साझेदारी का उद्देश्य यह है कि युवा लोग जो कुछ कह रहे हैं, उसे व्यावहारिक समर्थन में बदलना है: उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली, सुलभ और किफायती देखभाल सेवाएँ; परिवारों में समान देखभाल; स्थिर, सम्मानजनक रोजगार के लिए निरंतर निवेश; और युवा मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, जिसमें जलवायु चिंता भी शामिल है, पर अधिक ध्यान। निजी क्षेत्र की भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है—अवकाश नीतियाँ, लचीली कार्य व्यवस्थाएँ और परिवार-अनुकूल कार्यस्थल, जो युवा लोगों को काम और देखभाल में संतुलन बनाने में सक्षम बनाते हैं।

यूएनएफपीए डेटा संग्रह, जनसंख्या गतिशीलता और साक्ष्य-आधारित नीति निर्माण में एक अद्वितीय भूमिका निभाता है और विकास प्रणाली के भीतर डेटा के नेता के रूप में कार्य करता है। डेमोग्राफिक फ्यूचर्स सर्वे दिखाता है कि जनसंख्या डेटा को समझना, योजना बनाना और जनसांख्यिकीय बदलावों के अनुकूल होना कैसे संभव है।

भारत 25.5 करोड़ युवा लोगों (15-24 वर्ष) का घर है, जो इस देश की सबसे बड़ी पीढ़ी है—या शायद किसी भी देश की। यह भारत का जनसांख्यिकीय लाभान्श, एक ऐसा अवसर है जो अनिश्चित रूप से खुला नहीं रहेगा। हमारे आज के फैसले तय करेंगे कि यह पीढ़ी अपनी पूर्ण क्षमता को कब और कैसे साकार करेगी।

युवा भारतीय परिवार के विचार से दूर नहीं जा रहे हैं। वे उन परिस्थितियों के लिए प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं जो उन्हें हाँ कहने देती हैं।

Indian Society Affair

विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस 11 जुलाई

PT-HW विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस

New trade pact a win-win for India and U.K.

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which came into force on July 15, marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of bilateral ties. More than a conventional tariff-reduction pact, the agreement reflects a strategic alignment between two major democracies seeking to recalibrate their economic engagement in a rapidly shifting global order.

The India-U.K. CETA represents one of the most wide-ranging trade agreements concluded by India in recent years. Aligned with the broader India-U.K. Vision 2035, the CETA seeks to deepen cooperation across trade, technology, climate, and innovation. The agreement reflects the growing maturity of the India-U.K. economic partnership and provides a strong institutional framework for expanding trade and investment.

Both countries have further set a target of doubling bilateral trade to over \$200 billion by 2030, an objective that now appears more achievable with the new institutional framework in place.

Gains for both sides

The headline gain for India is the zero-duty access secured for 99% of Indian exports to the U.K. This is expected to boost labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, and gems and jewellery, which are sensitive to pricing. It will also benefit high-value sectors such as engineering goods and chemicals, where margins depend on consistent market access. Tariffs ranging from 70% on processed foods to 12% on textiles will now come down to zero.

The Indian government has also addressed concerns relating to steel exports. Recognising the U.K.'s new steel measures that came into effect on July 1, both sides have agreed on arrangements that protect commercial interests, minimise market disruptions, and provide



Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General, CI

greater certainty for Indian exporters. Moreover, the import of electric vehicles will be subject to tariff-rate quotas, with tariffs being reduced in a phased manner. This reflects India's calibrated approach to balancing consumer access with continued support for domestic manufacturing. India has also retained appropriate safeguards in sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy.

The deal also opens access to government procurement markets, enabling Indian firms to bid for a wider range of public contracts in the U.K., especially in sectors such as infrastructure services and consulting.

Equally important is the agreement's emphasis on services and professional mobility. Expanded access for Indian IT, education, healthcare, financial and professional service providers strengthens India's position as a global services hub. The agreement also strengthens cooperation in education and skills by enabling U.K. institutions to establish campuses in India.

Modern provisions on digital trade, labour, gender, intellectual property, and innovation, make the agreement future-ready, enabling Indian firms to integrate into the U.K. and global value chains, while attracting investments for emerging sectors such as fintech and green technologies. These provisions will also create new opportunities for startups and Global Capability Centres to further advance collaboration in emerging technologies such as AI.

The U.K. is already India's sixth-largest investor, contributing around 5% of cumulative FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) equity inflows into India since April 2000. The agreement is expected to further strengthen bilateral investment flows.

To maximise benefits from the CETA, the Indian industry must invest in quality upgradation, standards compliance, and sustainability. Indian companies should leverage mobility

provisions to deepen their presence in the U.K. services market, build partnerships, and invest in long-term capabilities.

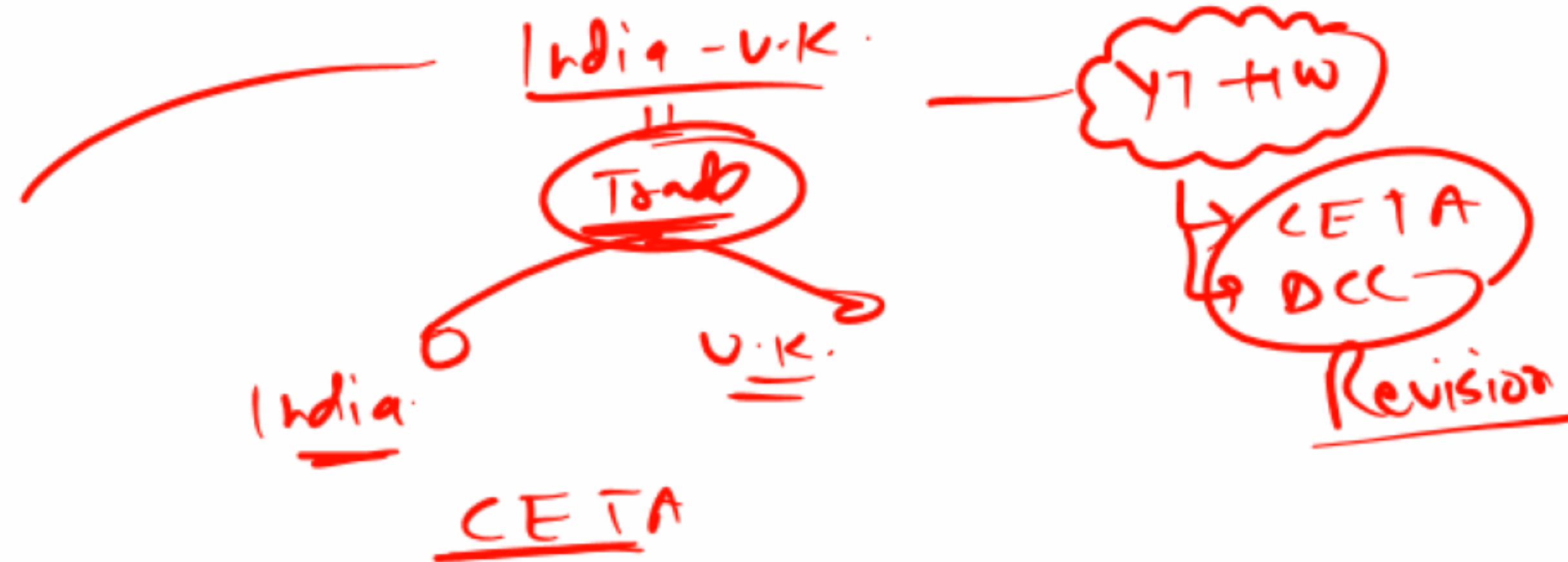
Again, with opportunities in sectors such as processed foods, textiles, handicrafts, and IT-enabled services and business services, industry bodies have a critical role to play in enabling Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to benefit from the agreement. This requires guidance on compliance and regulatory requirements, as well as procurement opportunities.

Template for the future

At a time of rising regulatory barriers across the world, the India-U.K. CETA reaffirms the value of open, rules-based trade. It supports India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision by enhancing competitiveness and complements the Make in India and Digital India schemes through greater market access, services exports, and mobility. For the U.K., the agreement strengthens its strategic economic partnership with one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Upon implementation, the CETA can reshape trade and investment flows, create quality jobs and growth, and transition India to a more competitive and innovation-driven economy thereby serving as a benchmark for trade agreements.

Furthermore, the India-U.K. CETA can also serve as a foundation for trilateral economic partnerships by combining India's manufacturing strength and skilled workforce with the U.K.'s financial, technological, and global commercial networks. The U.K.'s membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, together with the proposed India-EU trade agreement, can further create complementary opportunities for Indian businesses to integrate into wider regional value chains, diversify exports, and strengthen supply chain resilience.



The CETA can reshape trade and investment flows, create quality jobs and growth, and transition India to a more competitive and innovation-driven economy

Supreme Court / HC
Judges
Removal

Pre + Main

Polity
1st Update

Is Yashwant Varma still a judge?

The power to resign at will protects judicial independence; when misused, it helps evade accountability; the report by the committee tasked with investigating charges of misbehaviour against former judge Varma is set to come up in Parliament; what will become of Varma now that he has resigned?

EXPLAINER

G. Mohan Gopal
V. Venkatesan

Parliament is set to take up in the coming Monsoon Session the report of the committee appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, to investigate charges of misbehaviour against former judge of the Allahabad and Delhi High Courts, Yashwant Varma, who has since resigned. The allegations against him arise from the discovery in March 2025 of partially burnt currency notes in an outhouse at his official residence. Mystery surrounds his current status and the future course of the pending proceedings in Parliament.

On one hand, three months after his resignation, Mr. Varma continues to be listed by the Allahabad High Court and by the Department of Justice of the Union government as a sitting judge. This has given rise to misgivings about whether his resignation has taken effect or remains subject to acceptance by the President.

On the other, it has been reported that following Mr. Varma's resignation on April 9, 2026, his status at the Bar was changed to "active" on resumption of practice. Some of his dues and benefits as a sitting judge have reportedly been stopped since the resignation.

Four questions follow.

(1) Is Mr. Varma's resignation subject to acceptance by the President?

Our Constitution vests 13 constitutional functionaries with the "power to resign at will", without their resignation being subject to acceptance by any authority. They may resign merely by writing under their hand addressed to an authority specified in the Constitution. Needing no acceptance, the power to resign at will is an essential safeguard for the independence of these offices. It protects incumbents from being forced to work under coercion.

The offices vesting incumbents with this power are: the President; the



Publicly available data suggests that past resignations of judges have been handled in compliance with the law. S. SUBRAMANIAM

Vice-President; the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha; a judge of the Supreme Court; a judge of High Court; the Governor; the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of a State Assembly; the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of a State Legislative Council; and a member of Public Service Commission.

In contrast, Article 101 (3)(b) of the Constitution expressly says that the resignation of Members of Parliament is subject to acceptance by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Under Article 190(3)(b), the resignations of members of State Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils are subject to acceptance by the Speaker or the Chairman.

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *Union of India vs Gopal Chandra Mishra* (1978) unanimously reaffirmed the power of Supreme Court and High Court judges to resign at will.

Justice S. Murtaza Fazal Ali dissented from majority judges who held that a resigning judge could choose a future date and withdraw the resignation before that date. But Justice Ali reflected the unanimous view of the Bench that no acceptance was needed for resignation of judges. He wrote categorically that "the effectiveness of the resignation does not depend upon the acceptance of the resignation by the President...the

resignation acts *ex proprio vigore*" (automatically without requiring any external action). At least 12 High Court judges have resigned since 2017. One Supreme Court judge, Justice Dalveer Bhandari, resigned in 2012 to join the International Court of Justice. Publicly available data suggests that these resignations have been handled in compliance with the law described above.

(2) Can Mr. Varma still be held out as a sitting judge?

Since Mr. Varma ceased to be a judge on April 9, describing him after that date as a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court in the Department of Justice's list or on the website of the Allahabad High Court is clearly wrong.

There is no justification for retaining the name of a person who is not a judge in lists of sitting judges for over three months. It would only be proper for the Union Department of Justice and the Allahabad High Court to correct the error and delete his name. It would, needless to say, be illegal for him to receive any salary or benefit as a sitting High Court judge.

(3) Do the proceedings survive the resignation, now that removal from office is moot?

The Committee's report pertains to Mr. Varma's conduct prior to his resignation. The resignation, therefore, does not affect the laying of the report before both Houses and its being made public.

THE GIST

Three months after his resignation, Mr. Varma continues to be listed by the Allahabad High Court and by the Department of Justice of the Union government as a sitting judge.

Is Mr. Varma's resignation subject to acceptance by the President? Will the 'power to resign at will' continue to apply in his case?

Do the proceedings survive the resignation, now that removal from office is moot? What happens if he is found guilty of the charges?

1. Is Mr. verma's resignation subject to acceptance by the president ?

2. Can Mr. verma still be help out as a sitting Judge ? - x

3. Do the proceedings survive the resignation, now that removal from office is moot ?

4. Should the constitution be amended so that judges facing removal cannot evade accountability by resigning ?

जाँच दो नो
Varma-भूला-बा
इलीम

India's ICI gets an updated series: What has changed?

The Centre has released a revised series of the ICI updating the base year, sectoral coverage and weights. Here is what has changed and what it means for industrial growth

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

The Union Government has released an updated series of its Index of Core Industries (ICI), which is a key measure of how the main industrial sectors in India's economy are doing. This update now brings the ICI on a par with other recently updated metrics such as the national accounts (Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added), inflation, and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

What are the key changes in the new ICI series?

The previous ICI had a base year of 2011-12, which was significantly outdated. So, the first major update of the new series of the index was to bring forward

the base year to 2022-23. This makes the data more reflective of current reality, and thus makes it a more useful gauge of industrial activity.

The second major change was to increase the number of sectors covered to nine from the previous eight. The eight sectors earlier covered were coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement, electricity, and fertilizers.

Now, the government has said that owing to the intensive use of iron ore in industrial production, it has been added to the list of core industries.

Other sectoral changes include calculating steel production on a gross output basis rather than a net output basis so as to bring this in line with the IIP, which is the other major industrial production metric.

In the coal sector, the updated series

will only measure raw coal, and has excluded middling and washed coal. This change was made to eliminate the double counting that occurred in the previous series, as both middling and washed coal are made using raw coal.

Which sectors have gained or lost weight in the new ICI?

The inclusion of the iron ore sector and the resultant increase in the total number of sectors to nine would naturally lead to a redistribution of the weights among the sectors. Further, according to the government, it has revised the weights in the new series of the ICI to reflect the weights of the same sectors in the IIP.

Both of these factors have led to a significant redistribution of weights among the sectors of the ICI. The newly added iron ore sector has been assigned a

weight of 4.905% in the index, leaving that much less of the total share to be distributed among the other sectors.

The coal sector has seen a big downward revision in its significance, with its weight coming down from 10.33% to 5.596%. The natural gas sector, too, saw a major downward revision from 6.88% to 3.84%. Refinery products saw its weightage reduced from 28.04% to 22.572%.

Some sectors increased in significance. The electricity sector, for example, now makes up 30.932% of the entire index, up from the earlier 19.85%. The fertilizers sector saw its weightage increase marginally to 2.731% from 2.63%.

Have these revisions changed the final growth picture?

There is certainly a difference in the data output generated from the old series and the new series for the same periods of time. However, these variations become smaller when scaled up over time and as you move further back. That is, while the May 2026 growth of the ICI has been revised from 0.5% as per the old series to 3.2% in the new series, the full-year growth for 2025-26 was only revised from 1.1% to 1%.

Hence, just because the series has been updated, it does not mean the industrial growth picture has radically changed.

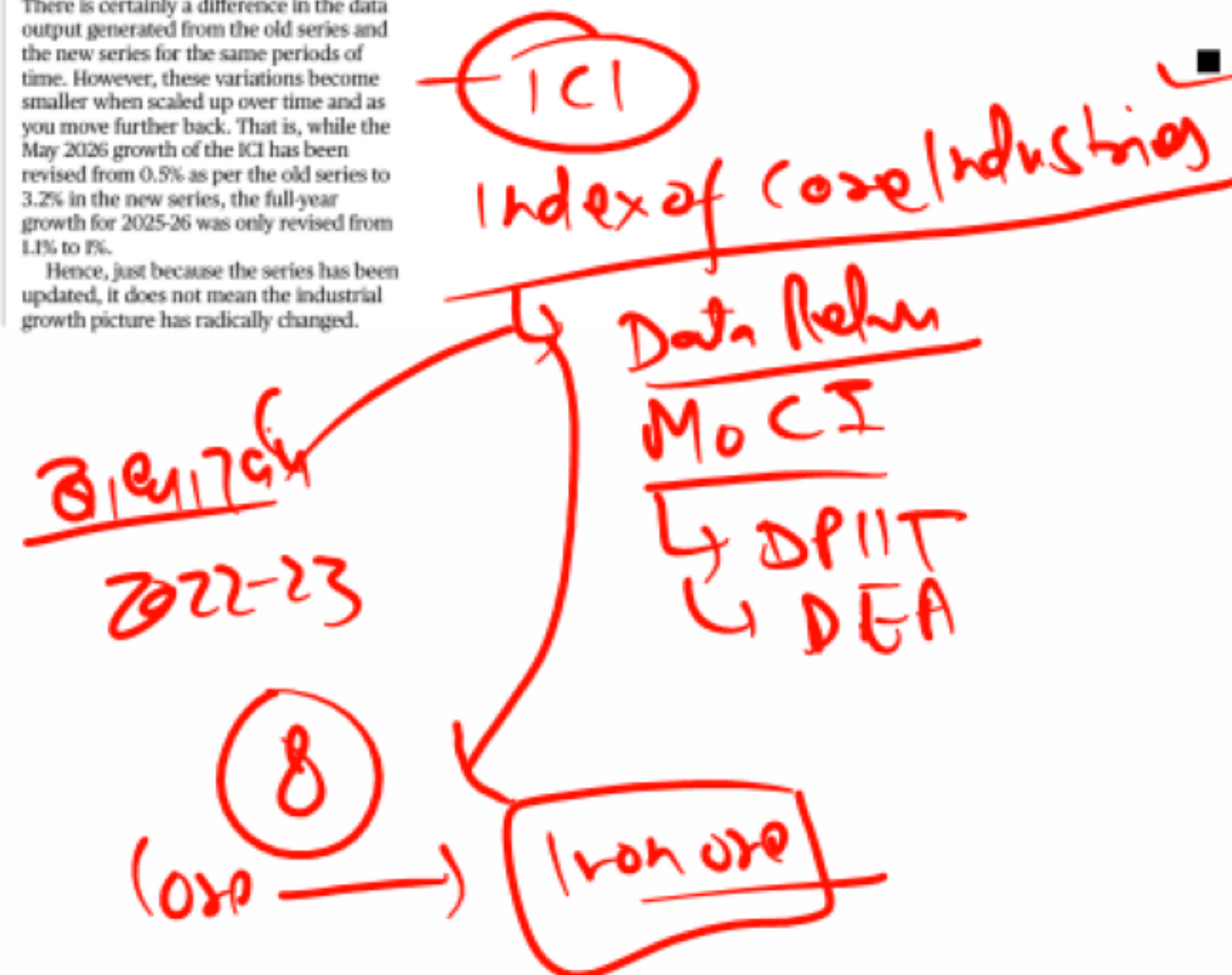
THE GIST

The Union Government has released an updated series of its Index of Core Industries (ICI), which is a key measure of how the main industrial sectors in India's economy are doing

This update now brings the ICI on a par with other recently updated metrics such as the national accounts. Changes include bringing forward the base year and increasing the number of sectors covered

YouTube Homework

- ✓ ☒ CPI
- ✓ ☒ WPI
- ✓ ☒ PPI
- ✓ ☒ IIP
- ✓ ☒ ISP



Will India's plastic notes be a better alternative?

EXPLAINER

Santosh V. Perumal
CHENNAI

India, which is among the five largest economies of the world, is still toying with the idea of introducing plastic currency, three decades after Australia put in place a full series of its denominations and as many as 60 nations use such currency in some form.

Early this month, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) currency printing arm invited global Expressions of Interest for supplying polymer substrates with embedded security features, signalling its most concrete step towards implementation since the original 2009 proposal.

Plastic banknotes, which last 2.5 to 4 times longer than cotton-paper notes, depending on denomination, need highly specialised biaxially oriented polypropylene derived from petroleum and natural gas, a sector with direct correlation to environmental concerns.

Although polymer currency offers an opportunity to modernise cash management by enhancing durability, reducing lifecycle costs and strengthening security, apprehensions concern production cost as some calculations project that it can approach or even exceed the face value of low-denomination notes. Many countries found that the production cost alone was 20-24% of the currency's value for low denominations.

The supporters of plastic currency nevertheless say lower replacement frequency can justify the higher production cost. ₹10 and ₹20 notes see the highest frequency of handling and physical deterioration,



Note the costs: Plastic banknotes may also be costlier to make than cotton-paper ones. GETTY IMAGES

ration, leading to disproportionately high replacement costs.

Large savings

Polymer notes could potentially deliver large lifecycle savings in these lower denominations, even though they are not the largest by value since the ₹500 note has consistently been the single most widely circulated denomination in India over the last five years, both by volume and by value, as per RBI annual reports.

Sustainability concerns centered around higher initial carbon footprint, plastic waste disposal and the need for specialised recycling facilities even as a previous study commissioned by the RBI and conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute found that the extended circulation lifespan will stand in good stead as fewer notes would need to be manufactured and transported over time, giving polymer a smaller overall carbon footprint than paper.

Key queries

The logic behind RBI's latest move to revive the plastic currency comes at a

time when India the country is fast going less cash-intensive and digital transactions expanding exponentially. While the stand of both the RBI and the government may seem justifiable, some certain queries remain unanswered.

Why should India invest heavily in plastic currency, most importantly when there is due to the volatility in petrochemical prices owing to the West Asian crisis-led global disruptions. Since polymer is derived from polypropylene, fluctuations in crude prices could increase manufacturing costs of plastic currency over time.

India is dependent on imports for polypropylene, which constitutes for roughly a fifth of domestic consumption even as major domestic players as Reliance Industries and Indian Oil Corporation are undertaking major capacity expansion aimed at scaling capacity significantly by 2030.

Secondly, why at a time when digital payments are booming? The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) now processes more than 24,000 crore transactions

and ₹4,875 crore in FY2025-26. Moreover, India reportedly spends almost ₹5,000 crore annually to replenish and maintain its stock of banknotes and destroys 20-24 billion soiled notes a year, most of them lower denominations, under its Clean Note Policy.

Polymer banknotes typically cost 30-60% more to manufacture than traditional cotton-paper notes as they use specialised polypropylene substrates, transparent windows, sophisticated anti-counterfeiting features and complex printing technologies.

Added to these costs, ATMs, currency sorting machines and banknote processing equipment may require recalibration to handle polymer notes. Commercial banks, cash logistics firms and retailers would incur transition costs initially.

A research paper in the *International Journal of Economics* found the cost almost doubled in lead up to the period of demonetisation (2016), driven by the printing and issue of two new series of banknotes (₹500 and ₹2,000) to replace all prior series of the same denomination in circulation. Since demonetisation, ₹200 has also been issued, leading to an increase in the cost of printing banknotes.

Average cost per note printed, it noted, follows a similar pattern, rising from ₹1.5 pre-2006 to ₹2.7 during demonetisation and resetting to pre-demonetisation levels as of 2009 suggesting marginal costs of printing currency in India may not always decrease with increased supply.

Historical perspective

RBI first mooted in 2009 to introduce 100 crore ₹10

polymer banknotes. In 2012, the Ministry of Finance informed the Parliament the notes would be introduced on a pilot basis in five cities – Kochi, Mysuru, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, and Shimla, selected for diverse climatic conditions.

The primary objective was to increase the shelf life but the project was shelved due to technological challenges.

In 2013 and 2014, the Parliament was informed that the Government remained committed to the pilot project, after which the project apparently went silent because of demonetisation and its attendant costs, including in printing new series.

What next?

Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Maudran has now invited eligible domestic and international manufacturers to submit bids by August 18 for manufacturing opacified polymer substrate sheets designed for banknote printing.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra had last month confirmed that polymer currency was again under active consideration.

As India moves towards a digital rupee and deeper financial digitisation, the long-term demand for physical cash may expand slowly, potentially reducing the economic justification for large-scale polymer adoption.

A currency is efficient only when its production and maintenance costs remain a small proportion of its purchasing power. It is not about choosing between paper and plastic; but about designing a smarter, more efficient cash ecosystem in an economy where over ₹41 lakh crore worth of currency remains in circulation despite the UPI revolution.

YouTube Homework

■ Money & Currency

भारत में Plastic Notes (Polymer Banknotes) को लेकर क्या चर्चा चल रही है?

- हाल के दिनों में RBI (Reserve Bank of India) द्वारा Polymer (Plastic) Banknotes लाने की संभावना फिर से चर्चा में है। हालांकि, अभी तक पूरे देश में प्लास्टिक नोट जारी करने का अंतिम निर्णय नहीं हुआ है। फिलहाल RBI इसकी व्यवहार्यता (feasibility) और परीक्षण (trial) पर काम कर रहा है।

Plastic (Polymer) Notes क्या होते हैं?

- Polymer Notes विशेष प्रकार के Plastic Polymer Substrate से बनाए जाते हैं। ये सामान्य कागज़ (cotton-based paper) वाले नोटों की तुलना में अधिक मजबूत और टिकाऊ होते हैं।

RBI इन्हें क्यों लाना चाहता है?

1. अधिक टिकाऊ (Longer Life)

- Polymer Notes सामान्य नोटों की तुलना में 2-4 गुना अधिक समय तक चल सकते हैं।
- इससे बार-बार नए नोट छापने की आवश्यकता कम होगी।

2. नकली नोटों पर रोक

- इनमें Transparent Window, उन्नत सुरक्षा धागे और अन्य आधुनिक सुरक्षा फीचर्स जोड़े जा सकते हैं।
- इससे नकली नोट बनाना कठिन हो जाता है।

3. कम रखरखाव लागत

- नोट लंबे समय तक चलने से छपाई और प्रतिस्थापन (replacement) की लागत घट सकती है।

4. नमी और गंदगी से सुरक्षा

- ये नोट पानी, नमी, धूल और फटने के प्रति अधिक प्रतिरोधी होते हैं।

Ed Miliband appointed Foreign Secretary; India-born Kanishka Narayan handles AI

Former Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, was named Health Secretary; Shabana Mahmood is continuing as Home Secretary; Burnham had earlier said he intended to follow through with the significant tightening of immigration that Mahmood had proposed under the Keir Starmer government

Sciram Lakshman
LONDON

Former Labour Party leader Ed Miliband was appointed U.K. Foreign Secretary on Monday as the country's new Prime Minister put together his Cabinet with some old faces from the Keir Starmer Cabinet and some new names.

Mr. Miliband – whose focus has been clean energy and climate action – was the Energy Minister in the Starmer administration. He had visited India in February 2025 to co-chair the fourth Energy Dialogue between the countries.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar congratulated his new British counterpart on X. He wrote: "The India-U.K. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has witnessed a strong momentum in recent years, including the entry into force of CETA. Look forward to working together to advance our cooperation."

Former U.K. Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, was appointed Health Secretary.

Focus on immigration
John Healey, who resigned from the Starmer Cabinet over inadequate defence investments, was appointed



Ed Miliband and Shabana Mahmood walk on Downing Street after U.K. PM Andy Burnham took office, in London, Britain. REUTERS

ed the Chancellor of the Exchequer (i.e., Finance Minister). Shabana Mahmood is continuing as Home Secretary. Mr. Burnham had earlier said he in-

tended to follow through with the significant tightening of immigration that Ms. Mahmood had proposed under the Starmer government (the details

are expected to be finalised towards the end of the year).

Wes Streeting, who had resigned as Health Secretary from the Starmer Cabinet in recent weeks and became a potential contender for the Prime Minister's job, was appointed Defence Secretary. Lisa Nandy is continuing as Culture Secretary.

India-born Kanishka Narayan, who is an MP from the Vale of Glamorgan in Wales, was elevated to the post of AI Minister. He was already a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Starmer administration, which is the equivalent of a Minister of State.

"A nation which welcomed a 12-year old and his family, gave us the best chance at opportunity, put me in Parliament as Wales' first ethnic minority MP, and now affords me the chance to make a mark in Cabinet," Mr. Narayan, who was born in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, wrote on X.

Miatta Fahnbulleh was appointed Energy Secretary, replacing Mr. Miliband. She was a junior minister in the Starmer administration, resigning shortly after Labour's losses in the May local elections. Former Home Office Minister Alex Norris was appointed Justice Secretary.

Britain -
Andy Burnham

Trump imposes 50% tariffs on Canadian goods, citing disputes

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday imposed 50% tariffs on most Canadian goods, declaring that Canada has unfairly discriminated against American autos, alcohol and dairy products.

The move could unleash a new wave of economic chaos, with risks of higher inflation and further fraying of relations between two nations that had been closely woven together before Mr. Trump's return to the White House.

The White House said in a fact sheet that the tariffs would go into effect in 30 days.



Donald Trump

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a statement that his government believes in the "benefits of free and fair trade," having signed "more than 20 new economic and security partnerships". He said Canada is prepared to negotiate with U.S. administration.

YouTube Homework

▪ India-US

कौन सी चीजें आयात करिये - 1974
की आयात - 301
12.5
↳ TB & NTB

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय



प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना ग्रामीण के अंतर्गत लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 21 JUL 2026 7:01PM by PIB Delhi

विगत पाँच वर्षों अर्थात् 2021-22 से 2025-26 के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना-ग्रामीण के अंतर्गत लक्ष्य वर्ष के दौरान स्वीकृत आवासों, पूर्ण किए गए आवासों तथा निर्माणाधीन आवासों की राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश-वार संख्या का विवरण **अनुलग्नक-I** में दिया गया है।

16.07.2026 की स्थिति के अनुसार स्वीकृत तथा पूर्ण किए गए आवासों की राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश-वार समेकित प्रगति का विवरण **अनुलग्नक-II** में दिया गया है।

यूट-एनए

PM-AY-G

↳ स्वयं

↳ मजाली

↳ विशेषज्ञ

↳ लक्ष्य / उपलब्धता

Overview

- WTO — *અમરોલીની મીટિંગ - TPR 84*
- E-20 — ✓
- CJP —
- Toxic Gas — *Silckim - Assam*
- NRC —
- White Bellied Heron — *ગુજરાત*
- SIR & Supreme Court —
- Andy Burnham — ✓
- FCRA —
- Youth & Family — *લગ્ન*
- India-UK Trade Deal — *DCC*
- Justic Yashwant Verma — ✓
- ICI new Series —
- Plastic Note — ✓
- Council of ministers of UK — ✓
- 50% Tariff on Canada — ✓
- PM - AYY —

Thank You

Result Mitra