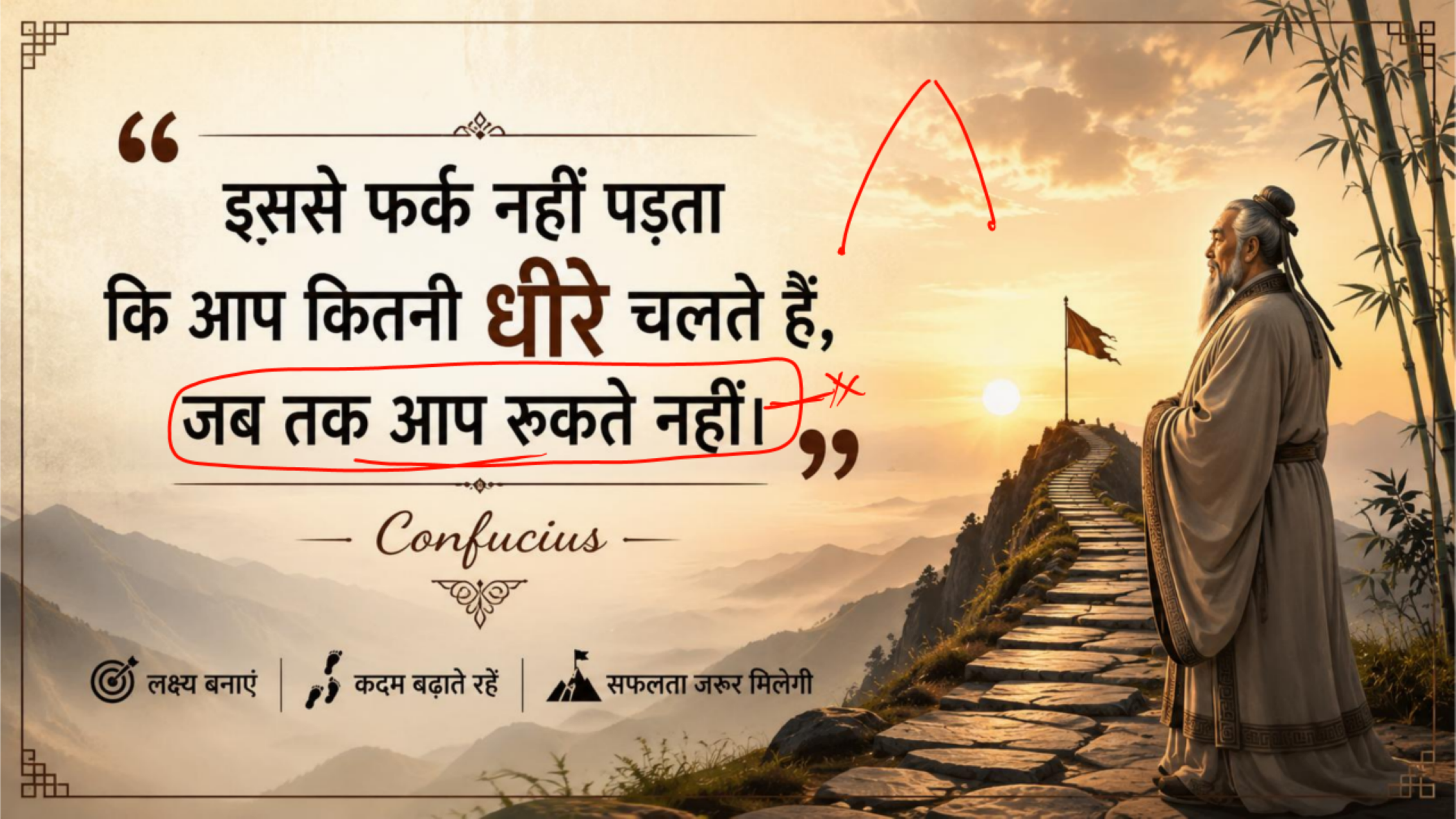
UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

ONE STOP SOLUTION

By **Faiyaz Sir**


“इससे फर्क नहीं पड़ता
कि आप कितनी धीरे चलते हैं,
जब तक आप रुकते नहीं।”
— Confucius —
लक्ष्य बनाएं
कदम बढ़ाते रहें
सफलता जरूर मिलेगी

आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. हेपेटाइटिस से निपटने के लिए भारत की लड़ाई
2. स्टार्ट-अप विलेज एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप प्रोग्राम (SVEP)
3. महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

PIB Backgrounder

हेपेटाइटिस से निपटने के लिए भारत की लड़ाई

Posted On: 27 JUL 2026 10:45AM by PIB Delhi

Biology
Is update

हेपेटाइटिस से निपटने के लिए भारत की लड़ाई

स्रोत : PIB

चर्चा में क्यों

'हैपेटाइटिस से निपटने के लिए भारत की लड़ाई' वर्तमान में चर्चा में है क्योंकि भारत सरकार ने वर्ष 2030 तक हैपेटाइटिस को पूरी तरह समाप्त करने का लक्ष्य रखा है। इस उद्देश्य के लिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने देश में चल रहे कार्यक्रमों की प्रगति रिपोर्ट और नई रणनीतियों को साझा किया है।

परिचय

हैपेटाइटिस यकृत (लिवर) में होने वाली सूजन है, जो मुख्य रूप से वायरस, दूषित पानी, असुरक्षित रक्त या अन्य जहरीले पदार्थों के कारण होती है। चूँकि यह बीमारी अक्सर शुरुआती चरणों में कोई स्पष्ट लक्षण नहीं दिखाती और चुपचाप शरीर को अंदर से खोखला करती है, इसलिए इसे **'साइलेंट किलर'** कहा जाता है।

हैपेटाइटिस के फैलने के तरीके

दूषित भोजन और पानी से

हैपेटाइटिस ए और ई आमतौर पर गंदा पानी या दूषित खाना खाने से फैलते हैं।

संक्रमित रक्त और तरल पदार्थों से

हैपेटाइटिस बी, सी और डी संक्रमित खून, असुरक्षित यौन संबंध, या संक्रमित सुई व सिरिंज के इस्तेमाल से फैलते हैं।

मां से बच्चे में

यह संक्रमण गर्भवती माँ से उसके नवजात शिशु में भी पहुँच सकता है।

मुख्य लक्षण

पीलिया

आँखें और त्वचा का पीला होना

गहरा पेशाब

पेशाब का रंग गहरा होना

कमजोरी

अत्यधिक कमजोरी और थकान

पेट दर्द

पेट में दर्द, उल्टी और भूख न लगना

हैपेटाइटिस के प्रकार

हैपेटाइटिस मुख्य रूप से पाँच प्रकार का होता है (A, B, C, D और E):

हैपेटाइटिस A और E

यह दूषित भोजन और पानी के सेवन (मल-मुँह मार्ग) तथा खराब सफाई के कारण फैलता है। यह आमतौर पर अपने-आप ठीक हो जाता है और इसके लिए किसी विशेष एंटीवायरल दवा की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।

हैपेटाइटिस B और C

यह सबसे खतरनाक माने जाते हैं क्योंकि इनसे सिरोसिस (Cirrhosis) और लिवर कैंसर जैसी गंभीर व जानलेवा बीमारियाँ हो सकती हैं। यह संक्रमित रक्त, असुरक्षित इंजेक्शन, सुई साझा करने और जन्म के समय संक्रमित माँ से बच्चे में फैलता है।

हैपेटाइटिस D

यह संक्रमण केवल उन्हीं लोगों को होता है जो पहले से हैपेटाइटिस B (HBV) से ग्रसित होते हैं।

भारत की स्थिति

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) की 'ग्लोबल हैपेटाइटिस रिपोर्ट 2026' के अनुसार, भारत दुनिया में हैपेटाइटिस के सबसे बड़े रोग भार का सामना करने वाले अग्रणी देशों में शामिल है। भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर कुल हैपेटाइटिस मामलों का लगभग **11.6%** वहन करता है, जिससे यह चीन के बाद दुनिया में दूसरे स्थान पर है।

4 करोड़

हैपेटाइटिस बी (HBV)

भारत में अनुमानित तौर पर लगभग 4 करोड़ लोग क्रोनिक हैपेटाइटिस बी के संक्रमण के साथ जीवन जी रहे हैं, जो अकेले वैश्विक बोझ का लगभग 11% हिस्सा है।

95%

कुल मौतों का प्रमुख कारक

WHO की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, हैपेटाइटिस बी और सी के वायरस वैश्विक स्तर पर होने वाली कुल हैपेटाइटिस जनित मौतों का लगभग 95% हिस्सा बनाते हैं।

60 लाख–1.2 करोड़

हैपेटाइटिस सी (HCV)

देश में लगभग 60 लाख से 1.2 करोड़ लोग हैपेटाइटिस सी से पीड़ित हैं। कुल मामलों के लिहाज से भारत इस वायरस से प्रभावित होने वाले शीर्ष देशों में दूसरे पायदान पर है।

69% / 58%

शीर्ष देशों में स्थिति

भारत उन शीर्ष 10 देशों में शामिल है, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर हैपेटाइटिस बी से होने वाली कुल मौतों का 69% और हैपेटाइटिस सी से होने वाली कुल मौतों का 58% हिस्सा सामूहिक रूप से वहन करते हैं।

इस बड़े बोझ के मुख्य कारण

अंडर-डायग्नोसिस (जाँच में कमी)

सबसे बड़ी चुनौती यह है कि लाखों मरीजों को पता ही नहीं होता कि वे संक्रमित हैं, क्योंकि इसके लक्षण सालों तक छिपे रहते हैं।

जागरूकता का अभाव

ग्रामीण और जमीनी स्तर पर बीमारी के फैलने के तरीकों (जैसे संक्रमित रेज़र का दोबारा इस्तेमाल या असुरक्षित सुई) को लेकर जागरूकता की भारी कमी है।

मां से बच्चे में ट्रांसमिशन

गर्भावस्था के दौरान स्क्रीनिंग की कमी के कारण यह वायरस पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी आसानी से ट्रांसफर हो जाता है।

राष्ट्रीय वायरल हैपेटाइटिस नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम (NVHCP)

भारत में हैपेटाइटिस के भारी बोझ को कम करने और वर्ष 2030 तक इसे पूरी तरह समाप्त करने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा कई महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम और अभियान चलाए जा रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रीय वायरल हैपेटाइटिस नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम भारत सरकार के स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय द्वारा चलाया जा रहा एक एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय अभियान है। इसके प्रमुख पहलुओं की पूरी जानकारी नीचे दी गई है।

कब शुरू हुआ?

NVHCP की शुरुआत स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा **28 जुलाई 2018** को (विश्व हैपेटाइटिस दिवस के अवसर पर) की गई थी। इसका मुख्य लक्ष्य संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs) के अनुरूप वर्ष 2030 तक देश से हैपेटाइटिस सी (C) को पूरी तरह समाप्त करना और हैपेटाइटिस बी (B) के मामलों में भारी कमी लाना है।

इसके तहत क्या-क्या किया जाता है?

यह कार्यक्रम मुख्य रूप से हैपेटाइटिस वायरस ए, बी, सी, डी और ई सभी को कवर करता है। इसके तहत निम्नलिखित प्रमुख रणनीतियों पर काम किया जा रहा है।

→ **मुफ्त जाँच और निदान (Free Diagnostics)**

देश के नामित सरकारी अस्पतालों और केंद्रों पर हैपेटाइटिस बी और सी की महंगी आणविक जाँचें (जैसे- Viral Load Test) पूरी तरह मुफ्त की जाती हैं।

→ **मुफ्त दवाएँ (Free Drugs)**

हैपेटाइटिस सी के पूर्ण इलाज (12-सप्ताह का कोर्स) के लिए बेहद महंगी एंटीवायरल दवाएँ (DAAs) और हैपेटाइटिस बी के आजीवन प्रबंधन की दवाएँ मरीजों को मुफ्त दी जाती हैं।

→ **निगरानी और रोकथाम**

महामारी के प्रति संवेदनशील हैपेटाइटिस ए (A) और ई (E) के प्रकोप पर 'एकीकृत रोग निगरानी कार्यक्रम' (IDSP) के नेटवर्क से नज़र रखी जाती है।

NVHCP: अतिरिक्त रणनीतियाँ और सफलताएँ

मां से बच्चे में सुरक्षा

गर्भवती महिलाओं की अनिवार्य हैपेटाइटिस-बी स्क्रीनिंग होती है और नवजात शिशुओं को संक्रमण से बचाने के लिए जन्म के 24 घंटे के भीतर 'बर्थ डोज' सुनिश्चित की जाती है।

डिजिटल ट्रैकिंग (Paperless System)

प्रत्येक मरीज के पंजीकरण और इलाज की प्रगति पर नज़र रखने के लिए NVHCP-MIS पोर्टल का उपयोग किया जाता है, जो पूरी तरह पेपरलेस प्रणाली है।

राष्ट्रीय हेल्पलाइन

सूचना और सहायता के लिए टोल फ्री नंबर **1800-11-6666** काम कर रहा है।

सफलता

करोड़ों लोगों की स्क्रीनिंग

कार्यक्रम के तहत अब तक **21 करोड़** से अधिक लोगों की हैपेटाइटिस जाँच की जा चुकी है।

लाखों मरीजों का सफल इलाज

देश भर में फैले **1,153** विशेष स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों के माध्यम से **6.12 लाख** से अधिक हैपेटाइटिस मरीजों का मुफ्त इलाज किया जा चुका है।

किफायती जेनरिक दवाओं की क्रांति

भारत ने स्वदेशी जेनरिक एंटीवायरल दवाओं का उत्पादन कर इलाज की लागत को प्रति मरीज हजारों डॉलर से घटाकर कुछ सौ रुपयों में समेट दिया है, जिसका खर्च भी सरकार खुद उठाती है।

सेवाओं का विकेंद्रीकरण

यह सेवाएँ अब जिला अस्पतालों से निकलकर प्राथमिक और स्थानीय स्वास्थ्य उप-केंद्रों (ग्रासरूट स्तर) तक पहुँचाई जा चुकी हैं, जिससे ग्रामीण आबादी तक भी इसकी पहुँच आसान हुई है।

अन्य प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम

सार्वभौमिक टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम (UIP)

हैपेटाइटिस बी से बच्चों को बचाने के लिए इसे भारत के राष्ट्रीय टीकाकरण अभियान में शामिल किया गया है।

- **जन्म डोज (Birth Dose):** नवजात शिशुओं को जन्म के पहले 24 घंटों के भीतर हैपेटाइटिस बी की पहली खुराक मुफ्त दी जाती है।
- **पेंटावैलेंट वैक्सीन:** इसके बाद बच्चों को 6वें, 10वें और 14वें सप्ताह में पेंटावैलेंट वैक्सीन (जिसमें हैपेटाइटिस बी भी शामिल है) की खुराक दी जाती है।

मां से बच्चे में संक्रमण रोकना

गर्भवती महिलाओं से उनके होने वाले बच्चों में हैपेटाइटिस बी के प्रसार को रोकने के लिए विशेष अभियान चलाया जा रहा है:

- सभी गर्भवती महिलाओं की अनिवार्य हैपेटाइटिस-बी जाँच की जाती है।
- संक्रमित माताओं से पैदा होने वाले बच्चों को जन्म के तुरंत बाद हैपेटाइटिस बी वैक्सीन के साथ-साथ Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin (HBIG) का इंजेक्शन मुफ्त दिया जाता है।

एकीकृत रोग निगरानी कार्यक्रम (IDSP)

- दूषित पानी और भोजन से फैलने वाले हैपेटाइटिस ए (HAV) और हैपेटाइटिस ई (HEV) महामारियों की निगरानी इस नेटवर्क के जरिए की जाती है।
- किसी भी क्षेत्र में इसके मामले बढ़ते ही तुरंत पानी की शुद्धता और स्वच्छता संबंधी कदम उठाए जाते हैं।

सुरक्षित रक्त और सुई प्रबंधन (Injection Safety)

- **ब्लड बैंकों की स्क्रीनिंग:** देश के सभी ब्लड बैंकों में खून चढ़ाने से पहले हैपेटाइटिस बी और सी की कड़ी स्क्रीनिंग अनिवार्य है।
- **सुरक्षित सुइयाँ:** अस्पतालों में संक्रमण को रोकने के लिए 'ऑटो-डिसेबल' (सिरिंज और सुइयों के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है।

जागरूकता और हेल्पलाइन

सरकार ने देशव्यापी जागरूकता अभियान शुरू किया है और मरीजों की सहायता के लिए टोल-फ्री राष्ट्रीय हेल्पलाइन नंबर **1800-11-6666** जारी किया है।

चुनौतियाँ: डायग्नोसिस और डिटेक्शन गैप (जाँच की कमी)

अंडर-रिपोर्टिंग और अनजाने मामले

भारत में हैपेटाइटिस के **80% से अधिक** मरीजों को पता ही नहीं है कि वे संक्रमित हैं। चूंकि इसके लक्षण सालों तक दिखाई नहीं देते (साइलेंट किलर), लोग तब तक अस्पताल नहीं जाते जब तक कि लिवर पूरी तरह खराब (सिरोसिस या कैंसर) न हो जाए।

महंगी निजी जाँचें

हालाँकि सरकारी केंद्रों पर जाँच मुफ्त है, लेकिन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उन्नत आणविक परीक्षणों (जैसे RT-PCR या वायरल लोड टेस्ट) की मशीनें उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। निजी लैब्स में ये जाँचें बहुत महंगी हैं।

ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में ढाँचागत असमानता

उपचार केंद्रों का केंद्रीकरण

देश के **1,153** विशेष उपचार केंद्र मुख्य रूप से बड़े शहरों या जिला अस्पतालों तक सीमित हैं। प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों (PHCs) और ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य उप-केंद्रों के स्तर पर अभी भी दवाओं और विशेषज्ञों (लिवर रोग विशेषज्ञों) की भारी कमी है।

लॉजिस्टिक्स और कोल्ड चेन की समस्या

ग्रामीण भारत में बिजली की कटौती के कारण हैपेटाइटिस-बी टीकों की प्रभावशीलता बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक 'कोल्ड चेन' को बनाए रखना एक बड़ी चुनौती है।

अन्य प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ

टीकाकरण कवरेज में कमियाँ (Vaccination Gaps)

- **बर्थ डोज (Birth Dose) की धीमी रफ्तार:** राष्ट्रीय नीति के अनुसार नवजात शिशु को जन्म के पहले 24 घंटे के भीतर हैपेटाइटिस बी की 'बर्थ डोज' मिलनी चाहिए। लेकिन, आज भी घर पर होने वाले प्रसवों या ग्रामीण इलाकों में जागरूकता की कमी के कारण लाखों बच्चे इस पहली सुरक्षात्मक खुराक से वंचित रह जाते हैं।
- **वयस्क टीकाकरण की कमी:** भारत में वयस्कों के लिए कोई राष्ट्रीय हैपेटाइटिस-बी टीकाकरण अभियान नहीं है। स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों को छोड़कर, आम वयस्क आबादी को अपने खर्च पर टीका लगवाना पड़ता है, जिससे कवरेज बहुत कम है।

हैपेटाइटिस सी (HCV) के लिए वैक्सीन का न होना

हैपेटाइटिस बी के लिए तो प्रभावी टीका उपलब्ध है, लेकिन हैपेटाइटिस सी के लिए दुनिया में कोई वैक्सीन नहीं है। इसकी रोकथाम पूरी तरह से केवल सुरक्षित सुई, सुरक्षित यौन संबंध और संक्रमित रक्त से बचने पर निर्भर है, जिससे इसका प्रसार रोकना अधिक चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है।

सामाजिक कलंक और जागरूकता का अभाव (Stigma & Awareness)

- **एचआईवी जैसा सामाजिक कलंक:** समाज में आज भी हैपेटाइटिस बी और सी को लेकर एक डर और कलंक की भावना है (क्योंकि यह असुरक्षित यौन संबंध और सुइयों से भी फैलता है)। इस डर के कारण लोग जाँच कराने और खुलकर इलाज कराने से कतराते हैं।
- **असुरक्षित प्रथाएँ:** ग्रामीण इलाकों और कस्बों में आज भी अनधिकृत डॉक्टरों (क्वैक्स) द्वारा एक ही सुई का बार-बार इस्तेमाल करना, सैलून में संक्रमित उस्तरों का प्रयोग और असुरक्षित टैटू बनवाना संक्रमण को लगातार बढ़ावा दे रहा है।

SVEP

दीनदयाल अन्त्योदय योजना
DAY - ग्रामीण आजीविका
DAY - NRLM
SHG
ग्रामपंचायत
सी-लीड्स
SVEP
YI-HW

स्टार्ट-अप विलेज एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप प्रोग्राम (SVEP)

स्रोत : PIB

चर्चा में क्यों? हाल ही में जारी आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत संचालित 'स्टार्ट-अप विलेज एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप प्रोग्राम' (SVEP) ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गैर-कृषि व्यवसायों को बढ़ावा देने में अभूतपूर्व सफलता हासिल की है। 30 जून, 2026 तक इस कार्यक्रम ने देश भर में **4.32 लाख से अधिक** ग्रामीण व्यवसायों को सफलतापूर्वक सहायता पहुँचाई है। सरकार द्वारा इस योजना के निरंतर विस्तार हेतु फरवरी 2026 तक कुल **₹942.09 करोड़** का केंद्रीय हिस्सा जारी किया जा चुका है, जो ग्रामीण स्तर पर उद्यम-आधारित विकास की बढ़ती प्राथमिकता को रेखांकित करता है।

पृष्ठभूमि

संतुलित क्षेत्रीय विकास

भारत की बहुसंख्यक आबादी गाँवों में निवास करती है, और कृषि पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता के कारण ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्रच्छन्न बेरोजगारी एक बड़ी समस्या है।

गैर-कृषि क्षेत्रों का विस्तार

कृषि से अलग क्षेत्रों में स्वरोजगार के अवसर पैदा करना आवश्यक है ताकि ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को लचीलापन मिल सके।

शहरी पलायन पर रोक

ग्रामीण स्तर पर टिकाऊ आजीविका और रोजगार सृजित होने से महानगरों की ओर होने वाले अनियंत्रित पलायन पर अंकुश लगाया जा सकता है।

समावेशी वृद्धि

महिलाओं, अनुसूचित जातियों (SC), अनुसूचित जनजातियों (ST) और अन्य वंचित वर्गों को मुख्यधारा से जोड़कर आर्थिक असमानता को दूर किया जा सकता है।

स्टार्ट-अप विलेज एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप प्रोग्राम (SVEP) क्या है?

यह ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के तहत 2016 में शुरू किया गया SVEP, भारत की सबसे बड़ी आजीविका पहलों में से एक—**दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना – राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (DAY-NRLM)** की एक प्रमुख उप-योजना है।

उद्देश्य: यह योजना स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) और उनके परिवार के सदस्यों को खेती से अलग क्षेत्रों में छोटे और टिकाऊ उद्यम शुरू करने के लिए वित्तीय सहायता, संस्थागत सहयोग और व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करती है।

व्यापक कवरेज: डीएवाई-एनआरएलएम के तहत जून 2026 के मध्य तक **10.29 करोड़ से अधिक** ग्रामीण परिवारों को SHGs में संगठित किया जा चुका है, जो SVEP के लिए एक मजबूत आधार प्रदान करते हैं।

SVEP की मुख्य विशेषताएँ और कार्यप्रणाली

सामुदायिक निर्णय प्रक्रिया

SVEP की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता यह है कि इसमें स्थानीय स्तर पर उद्यमों को फंड देने और उनकी देखरेख करने से जुड़े निर्णय समुदाय स्तर पर लिए जाते हैं।

रोडमैप और वित्तपोषण

इसे राज्य ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (SRLM) के ज़रिए लागू किया जाता है, जिसमें प्रति ब्लॉक **₹6.50 करोड़** का प्रावधान और प्रति उद्यम औसतन **₹27,083** का निवेश शामिल है।

संस्थागत ढांचा

ब्लॉक स्तर: ब्लॉक रिसोर्स सेंटर-एंटरप्राइज़ प्रमोशन (BRC-EP) कार्यक्रम के क्रियान्वयन में मदद करता है।
सीआरपी-ईपी (CRP-EP): प्रशिक्षित 'कम्युनिटि रिसोर्स परसन-एंटरप्राइज़ प्रमोशन' स्थानीय स्तर पर उद्यमियों को मेंटरिंग, व्यापार योजना और क्रेडिट दिलाने में सहायता करते हैं।

कम्युनिटि एंटरप्राइज़ फंड (CEF)

सामुदायिक संस्थाएँ CEF के माध्यम से ऋण का प्रबंधन और अनुमोदन करती हैं।

सामाजिक समावेश

इस कार्यक्रम में यह अनिवार्य है कि कम से कम **60%** लाभार्थी महिलाएँ हों तथा दिव्यांगों और SC/ST/अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों की भागीदारी सुनिश्चित की जाए। (वर्तमान में लगभग **86%** उद्यमी इन्हीं वंचित समुदायों से हैं)।

डिजिटल एकीकरण

बिज़नस प्लानिंग, लोन मूल्यांकन और उद्यम की ट्रैकिंग के लिए डिजिटल एमआईएस (MIS) टूल्स का उपयोग किया जाता है।

SVEP का महत्व

99%

मुनाफ़े में उद्यम

क्वालिटि काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (QCI) के मिड-टर्म मूल्यांकन के अनुसार, SVEP से जुड़े 99% उद्यम मुनाफ़े में रहे हैं और इन उद्यमों का परिवार की कुल आय में **57%** तक योगदान रहा है।

₹39K

औसत मासिक कमाई

उद्यम से होने वाली औसत मासिक कमाई लगभग ₹39,000 (विनिर्माण इकाइयों में **₹47,800** तक) दर्ज की गई है, और **96%** उद्यमियों ने बचत में वृद्धि की बात कही है।

75%+

महिला स्वामित्व

कुल उद्यमों में से 75% से अधिक का स्वामित्व या प्रबंधन महिलाओं के पास है, जिससे ग्रामीण महिलाओं में आत्मनिर्भरता और नेतृत्व क्षमता का विकास हुआ है।

सामाजिक स्तर में सुधार: इसके प्रभाव से ग्रामीण परिवारों के जीवन स्तर, स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता और बच्चों की शिक्षा में सकारात्मक बदलाव आया है।

चुनौतियाँ

औपचारिक वित्त तक पहुँच

पारंपरिक बैंकिंग संस्थाओं द्वारा ग्रामीण सूक्ष्म उद्यमों को ऋण देने में कई बार हिचकिचाहट दिखाई जाती है, जिससे वित्तीय समावेशन बाधित होता है।

बाज़ार संपर्क

ग्रामीण उत्पादों के लिए स्थानीय बाज़ारों की सीमाएँ और बड़े शहरी या ई-कॉमर्स बाज़ारों तक सीधी पहुँच का अभाव एक बड़ी बाधा है।

कौशल और तकनीकी अंतराल

अधिकांश उद्यमी पहली पीढ़ी के होते हैं, जिन्हें आधुनिक व्यवसाय प्रबंधन, डिजिटल मार्केटिंग और गुणवत्ता मानकीकरण का सीमित ज्ञान होता है।

बुनियादी ढाँचे की कमी

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में निरंतर बिजली आपूर्ति, परिवहन और कोल्ड चेन जैसी लॉजिस्टिक्स कमियों के कारण उत्पादन लागत प्रभावित होती है।

आगे की राह

1 विस्तृत बाज़ार एकीकरण

ग्रामीण उत्पादों को राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाज़ारों से जोड़ने के लिए 'सरस मेलों', ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म्स और Government e-Marketplace (GeM) के साथ मजबूत समन्वय स्थापित करना चाहिए।

2 कौशल उन्नयन और प्रशिक्षण

ग्रामीण उद्यमियों के लिए विशेष तकनीकी कार्यशालाओं और गुणवत्ता प्रमाणन शिविरों का नियमित आयोजन किया जाना चाहिए।

3 मजबूत बैंक लिंकेज

वाणिज्यिक बैंकों और वित्तीय संस्थानों को ग्रामीण सूक्ष्म ऋणों के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील बनाना और आसान शर्तों पर कर्ज़ उपलब्ध कराना आवश्यक है।

4 क्लस्टर आधारित विकास

'एक जिला एक उत्पाद' (ODOP) योजना के साथ SVEP का अभिसरण करके ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विशिष्ट विनिर्माण क्लस्टर विकसित किए जाने चाहिए।

5 दीर्घकालिक निगरानी

BRC-EP और CRP-EP कैडर के निरंतर क्षमता निर्माण और डिजिटल एमआईएस व्यवस्था को और अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने से यह मॉडल आने वाले समय में 'विकसित भारत' के विज़न की एक मजबूत नींव बनेगा।

UPSC PYQ

Q. राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (NRLM) ग्रामीण गरीबों के आजीविका विकल्पों में सुधार करने का प्रयास कैसे करता है? (2012)

1. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बड़ी संख्या में गैर-निर्माण उद्योग और कृषि-व्यवसाय केंद्र स्थापित करके।
2. स्वयं सहायता समूहों को मजबूत करके और कौशल विकास प्रदान करके।
3. किसानों को बीज, उर्वरक, डीजल पंप सेट और सूक्ष्म सिंचाई उपकरण सुपत में आपूर्ति करके।

नीचे दिए गए कूट का उपयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनिए:

[A] केवल 1	[B] केवल 2
[C] 1 और 3 दोनों	[D] 1, 2 और 3

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा हेतु अभ्यास प्रश्न

ग्रामीण विकास से संबंधित 'स्टार्ट-अप विलेज एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप प्रोग्राम' (SVEP) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय द्वारा कार्यान्वित एक केंद्रीय क्षेत्र की योजना है।
2. इसका प्राथमिक ध्यान ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कृषि और संबद्ध गतिविधियों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना है।
3. इसके तहत ब्लॉक स्तर पर 'कम्युनिटि रिसोर्स परसन-एंटरप्राइज़ प्रमोशन' द्वारा ग्रामीण उद्यमियों को हैंडहोल्डिंग सहायता दी जाती है।

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

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

मुख्य परीक्षा अभ्यास प्रश्न

प्रश्न: "कल्याणकारी योजनाओं पर निर्भरता को कम करते हुए 'उद्यम-आधारित विकास' की ओर बढ़ना ग्रामीण भारत के सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिदृश्य को बदल रहा है।" 'स्टार्ट-अप विलेज एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप प्रोग्राम' (SVEP) के विशेष संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार ज़मीनी स्तर की उद्यमिता और संस्थागत सहयोग ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था में समावेशी विकास, महिला सशक्तिकरण और दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं। **(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

CJP warns of fresh protests over government's 'breach of promise'

Centre violating assurance of not taking action against protesters, says Cockroach Janta Party; hundreds of students held while many are under surveillance, says spokesperson; Bihar withdraws FIRs; Bengal and Assam follow suit, says the CJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday warned of fresh protests, accusing the Centre of violating its assurance that no punitive action would be taken against protesters.

"We are observing a complete breach of the agreement regarding no police action against the protesters. Hundreds of students have been arrested in Bihar and Bengal, and hundreds are being surveilled/harassed in Delhi and other States," CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka said in a post on X.

The statement came following reports of crackdown on volunteers assisting protesters with logistics in various States.

The Bihar government announced later in the evening that it was withdrawing all FIRs against protesters registered before 6 p.m. on July 26. FIRs in West Bengal and Assam have also been withdrawn, the CJP said on Monday night.

However, Mr. Ranka, in a late-night post, said volunteers from Rajasthan were being harassed and demanded coordination between the Centre and State governments to withdraw FIRs. The CJP was awaiting a written agreement from the Centre by Tuesday, he added.

In Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav alleged that many students in Prayagraj have been abducted by a special team of police in a vehicle without number plates.

CJP leaders Saurav Das, centre, and Ashutosh Ranka, right, with Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and others in New Delhi. R. V. MOORTHY

Continued crackdown

"Under the guise of the Prayagraj protest, many students have been picked up by the U.P. Police's special team in an unmarked vehicle. When the Union government had promised that no action would be taken against any student, then on whose orders is such deceit taking place," Mr. Yadav wrote in a post on X, also posting a video news report in support of his claims. The Prayagraj police have registered two FIRs at the Civil Lines police station in connection with the alleged vandalism of two SUVs and attack during Saturday's student protest.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who addressed a press conference with CJP leaders on Monday, said if governments file FIRs against people who peacefully protested in different parts of the country, the CJP will create a framework to track the affected people. "They (CJP) will create a website where lawyers who are willing to provide help can register their names, location and the kind of help they can offer. I will personally contribute ₹1 crore... our lawyers will support them across India," he said.

In NDA-ruled Bihar, the police issued a statement saying a total of 694 individuals were taken into custody across the State following a protest on July 25. Among those detained, 339 minors and students were released following verification, and 355 individuals involved in violent incidents have been produced before the court.

In BJP-ruled West Bengal, Kolkata Police on Monday arrested two more persons in connection with the violence that erupted at Esplanade area following a police crackdown on protesters demanding the resignation of Mr. Pradhan.

With this, the total number of arrests after the violence rose to 16.

Addressing the press conference, Mr. Ranka reiterated the Centre's assurances given during the third round of talks on July 25.

"We had submitted a written draft of this agreement to J.P. Naddaji and Jitendra Singhji, and it was agreed that the government would share its written copy of the agreement with us by Tuesday. If the government does not share the written agreement by tomorrow, and if students, youth, and protesters who have been arrested or detained in different States are not released, the Cockroach Janta Party will once again be forced to protest," he said, adding that multiple reports have emerged in Delhi about the detention of volunteers who supported the protesters with logistics.

On Saturday, the CJP called off a 36-day protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi after the Union government agreed to its three main demands, including the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister. "We demand that all the FIRs against the protesters be immediately withdrawn, students be released and no future FIRs be filed (in line with an agreement) by Delhi police/Central investigative agencies/police in BJP-allied States, failing which we will be forced to sit on protest again," Mr. Ranka said. Congress-affiliated National Students' Union of India also accused the Centre of going back on its promise.

Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda said in a post on X, "Multiple platforms are reporting that Jantar Mantar protesters and also protesters elsewhere are being targeted by authorities. This contradicts the promise made by the government. If anyone needs legal aid/ support, contact my team by tagging @TeamDeepender."

(With inputs from Nikhil M. Babu in Delhi, Senjuti Sengupta in Kolkata, Mayank Kumar in Lucknow, Amit Bhelari and Amarnath Tewary in Patna)

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 4 & 5

CJP

'He was not part of Bihar bandh': students' families allege wrongful arrests

Several students arrested after Saturday protest were sent to Beur Central Jail in Patna in the early hours of Monday; State police not cooperating, violated basic rights, says lawyer working on case

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Families of several students arrested during last Saturday's 'Bihar bandh' faced a tense night as their wards were sent to Beur Central Jail here in the early hours of Monday, leaving relatives scrambling for legal help and information about the charges.

Thousands of people, including students, took part in the agitation in support of the Jantar Mantar protest demanding the resignation of then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak.

Prince Kumar, a resident of Begusarai and the elder brother of Piyush Kumar, said the Gandhi Maidan police of Patna [illegible] arrested his younger brother and that he was running from pillar to post to secure his release.

"I have no idea under what charges he has been arrested. He was sent to jail at 3 a.m. He was not even part of the protest; he had gone to purchase second-hand books for competitive examinations near Gandhi Maidan, where the protest had begun, and the police picked him up from there," Mr. Prince said.

Security personnel trying to disperse protesters during the 'Bihar bandh' in Patna on Saturday

Mohammad Rashid, a resident of Kankarbagh in the State capital, said his relative Mohammad Shariq Quraishi was arrested by the police on the day of the protest when he had gone to a petrol pump. "After the clash between the police and protesters, he tried to leave the area, but the Gandhi Maidan police caught him. On July 25, the entire day, the police did not even inform us about the police station where he had been taken. The next day, on July 26, I received a call from the Kankarbagh police station. When I went there, they asked me to visit the Gandhi Maidan police station, but I did not find him there. Then I went to the civil court after learning from the media that all protesters had been taken there for production before the magistrate. I found him sitting in a police van," Mr. Rashid said.

Several lawyers are actively working on the case. One of them, Patna High Court advocate Pooja Kishore, said the police were not cooperating and had violated basic rights, including the right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.

"I am closely working on the case and have applied for bail as most of them have been illegally arrested. The arrested students were denied the opportunity to meet lawyers, and the police shared the FIR only this evening. Students from vulnerable backgrounds, including many who were not even involved in the protests, have faced humiliation for over 48 hours. Last night, the police released the minor and female students, but 85 students out of the 144 have been sent to Beur Jail," Ms. Kishore told *The Hindu*.

Despite resignation, Dharmendra Pradhan remains BJP's strongman in Odisha

NEWS ANALYSIS

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as Union Education Minister on July 25 following protests against the alleged NEET paper leak has dented the image of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Though he is unlikely to return to the Union Cabinet in the near future, his stature as a party strongman in Odisha remains largely intact.

Mr. Pradhan is the longest-serving Union Minister from Odisha. As a key figure in the BJP's inner circle, he has arguably wielded more power at the Centre than any politician from the State since the late Biju Patnaik.

"The resignation may be a temporary setback, forcing him to stay away from political activities or governance for a couple of months. He, however, continues to be the quintessential power centre in Odisha politics," veteran political commentator Rabi Das said.

Meanwhile, detractors argue that as a mere Member of Parliament, he won't command the same pull he had as a Union Minister. In politics, power often dictates loyalty and leaders in Odisha who once aligned with him may now reconsider their allegiance in light of his resignation.

The true test of his influence in Odisha will come with the next rejig in the Mohan Majhi Cabinet, which is long overdue. With multiple Cabinet Ministers professing their loyalty to the former Union Minister and a large section of BJP MLAs in his camp, any drop, reshuffle, or new induction will reveal how much sway Mr. Pradhan still holds.

Deep roots in party

Since his early days in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Mr. Pradhan has been an active member of the Sangh Parivar and the BJP. He is one of the few recognisable figures in Odisha, owing in part to the legacy of his late father, Debendra Pradhan, who served as a Union Minister.

Mr. Pradhan rose to national prominence after the BJP came to power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. Even before that, he had been working quietly in the party alongside leaders like the late Arun Jaitley and later in close coordination with Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Over the past 12 years, he has remained deeply embedded in both the Central government and the party organisation.

Dharmendra Pradhan being welcomed by [illegible] at Parliament [illegible]

Mr. Pradhan was the BJP's undeclared chief ministerial face in the last Assembly election. Under his leadership, the party fought the 2017 local body polls and the 2019 general and State elections, making electoral gains against the then powerful Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government under former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

However, the 2024 Lok Sabha election did not yield the desired results for the BJP, forcing Mr. Pradhan to remain committed to national politics.

Since Mr. Majhi took over as Chief Minister, Mr. Pradhan has kept himself away from the State government's affairs. However, his grip over the government is an open secret, with loyalists holding important positions.

Although his resignation came amid massive student protests, visits by senior BJP leaders, including Mr. Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, signalled that he continues to hold importance within the party.

When Mr. Pradhan arrived at Parliament on Monday, National Democratic Alliance MPs welcomed him with chants of "Dharmendra Pradhan *Zindabad*". The show of support suggests that the BJP views him as a 'victim' of the paper leak row rather than a 'liability'.

State of affairs

The rousing welcome also sent a clear message to the State BJP leadership: Mr. Pradhan cannot be sidelined in party affairs.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin's social media post praising Mr. Pradhan's performance as a Minister, followed by similar posts from Mr. Majhi, State Ministers and MLAs, underlined that this message had been effectively delivered.

His exit now leaves Odisha's berth in the Union Cabinet open. Top contenders include BJP vice-president and Kendrapara MP Baijayant Panda as well as Rajya Sabha member Sujeet Kumar. A section within the State BJP is also advocating for the inclusion of State president and Rajya Sabha MP Manmohan Samal. Party sources suggest Mr. Pradhan's influence is likely to be a significant factor in the decision-making process.

The former Education Minister's clout in the State BJP will face a key test next year during the rural and urban local body polls. With the BJD having swept the 2022 panchayat and civic elections, the Mohan Majhi government is under immense pressure to secure a win. A setback in these upcoming polls would mark a major embarrassment for the State BJP leadership, making the former Union Minister's role as a master poll strategist all the more crucial.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

SC mulls guidelines for police conduct during mass protests

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Observing that the constitutional right to peaceful protest must be protected, the Supreme Court on Monday indicated that it may consider framing uniform guidelines to regulate police conduct during large-scale demonstrations.

"The right to peaceful protest is absolutely guaranteed under the Constitution. So long as it is a peaceful agitation, merely because there is agitation, there cannot be [police excesses]... If there is police excess committed, it should be independently examined. Merely because there is agitation, it does not mean there should be a lathi charge. Discipline is integral to the democratic process," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant orally remarked. The observations came as multiple petitions concerning protests over examination issues, including pleas alleging police excesses during the July 20 march to Parliament as well as those concerning the alleged "aerial firing" by police in Bihar, were mentioned before the Bench.

The top court agreed to hear all pending petitions together on Tuesday.

The CJI-led Bench, which also comprised Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, said it was equally concerned about injuries suffered by both protesters and police personnel during such protests, and stressed that "self-imposed discipline" on the part of both citizens and law enforcement was

> Merely because there is agitation, it does not mean there should be a lathi charge. Discipline is integral to the democratic process
>
> **SURYA KANT** Chief Justice of India

essential to the functioning of a democracy.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh urged the court to frame uniform guidelines governing police action during protests, pointing out that allegations of police excesses were not confined to Delhi but had surfaced across the country.

The Chief Justice agreed that a standard operating protocol appeared necessary: "...if some anti-social elements have done anything, that can also be looked into."

Meanwhile, retired Intelligence Bureau Special Director Yashovardhan Azad, along with two other victims of alleged pellet-gun injuries, moved the Supreme Court on Monday seeking a ban on the use of wholly or partly metallic kinetic projectiles fired from pump-action or projectile-action guns (PAG), or pellet guns, for crowd control by law enforcement agencies. The petition also sought exemplary compensation for all those allegedly injured by pellet firing during the July 20 protests.

20 July → मार्च → संसद

SC ← याची-पार्टी

Petition

Right to peaceful Protest

YouTube Homework

Supreme Court

- appointment
- collegium
- work
- Transfer
- Formation

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **Right to Peaceful Protest** भारतीय संविधान में किसी एक अनुच्छेद में सीधे-सीधे "Right to Protest" के रूप में नहीं लिखा गया है, बल्कि यह कई मौलिक अधिकारों से मिलकर बनता है।

मुख्य अनुच्छेद:

- **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a)** – अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता (Freedom of Speech and Expression)
- **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(b)** – **शांतिपूर्वक और बिना हथियारों के एकत्र होने का अधिकार (Right to Assemble Peaceably and Without Arms)**
- **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(c)** – संघ या संगठन बनाने का अधिकार (Right to Form Associations or Unions)

क्या यह अधिकार पूर्ण (Absolute) है?

- **नहीं।** इस पर **अनुच्छेद 19(3)** के तहत **युक्तिसंगत प्रतिबंध (Reasonable Restrictions)** लगाए जा सकते हैं, जैसे:
- भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता
- लोक व्यवस्था (Public Order)
- राज्य की सुरक्षा

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Include independent auditor in temple SIT: SC

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Calling for a "qualitative and impartial" investigation, the Supreme Court on Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh government to include an independent forensic auditor in the reconstituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged theft of donations at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.

Hearing a batch of petitions seeking an independent probe into the alleged financial irregularities in the affairs of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant also directed the SIT to submit a status report on the progress of the investigation within two weeks.

"Since the nature of the investigation involves the alleged misappropriation of trust funds, the learned Solicitor-General, representing the State of Uttar Pradesh, has fairly agreed that an auditor with experience in forensic auditing shall also be associated as a member of the SIT," the Bench, including Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, said.

Appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta informed the Bench that a four-member SIT headed by Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Kiran S. had been constituted to investigate the alleged embezzlement of donations at the temple. He said the panel had been reconstituted in compliance with the top court's earlier directions.

Earlier, the Bench had cautioned all parties against "politicising" the investigation and asked the State government to consider placing the ongoing police probe under the supervision of the three-member SIT that had first uncovered *prima facie* evidence of the alleged fraud.

"We would like you to take instructions whether the same SIT that examined the issue earlier can supervise the investigation. Those senior officials have first-hand experience of the matter," the Bench had told Mr. Mehta, referring to the committee comprising Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Mr. Kiran, and Special Secretary (Finance) Neel Ratan.

Solicitor- General Tushar Mehta had apprised the court that IGP Kiran S. would head the probe into Ram Temple donation theft. AFP

On Monday, Mr. Mehta apprised the court that Mr. Kiran would head the investigation. The State government has included Inspector-General of Police (Ayodhya Range) Somen Barma and Senior Superintendent of Police (Ayodhya) Gaurav Grover as members in the reconstituted SIT.

The Chief Justice then said that an "eminent, independent" chartered accountant with expertise in forensic auditing be included in the investigation team. Mr. Mehta agreed to the suggestion.

'Let SIT do its job'

Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat, appearing for one of the petitioners, submitted that there were "large-scale reports" raising doubts over whether donations made by devotees from across the country had actually reached the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. He urged the Bench to direct the Trust to upload details of all donation receipts on its website to ensure transparency.

"Receipts were collected for the Trust from all over the country. People have donated ₹100, ₹500 and other amounts. There are large-scale reports that ultimately the money has not reached the Trust. Whatever receipts the Trust has received should be put on the website. That way, people will know whether their money has reached the Trust or not," Mr. Kamat submitted. He added that the proceedings were not adversarial in nature and that there should be "nothing to hide".

The Bench, however, declined to issue such a direction at this stage, observing that the SIT should first be allowed to complete its probe. It instead asked Mr. Kamat to place his suggestions on record so that appropriate directions could be considered at a later stage, if necessary.

The matter has been posted for further hearing after two weeks. The Bench directed the SIT to place its status report on record and indicated that it would continue to monitor the progress of the investigation.

Several petitions

One of the petitions has been filed by petitioner-in-person Narendra Kumar Goswami, who has sought a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged scam along with an audit of the Trust's finances by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Another petition, moved by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Sudhakar Singh, seeks a court-supervised CBI probe along with a comprehensive forensic audit of the finances of the temple Trust. Mr. Singh has also urged the top court to ensure the preservation of all financial records, including physical documents, digital ledgers, UPI transaction logs and bank statements, so that the integrity of the evidence is maintained during the investigation.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Govt. introduces paper leak Bill in Lok Sabha; debate likely today

Six hours allocated for discussion; 91 amendments moved by members, says Speaker as he brokers truce between govt. and Opposition, which demanded a discussion on police action on protesting students; Ram Temple, E20 issues may be raised

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday introduced in the Lok Sabha a Bill providing for harsher penalties and time-bound investigations into examination paper leaks amid a huge uproar by the Opposition members, who demanded a discussion on the police action on protesting students in the country.

The stalemate is likely to end on Tuesday, with Speaker Om Birla brokering a truce between the Treasury and the Opposition benches on Monday afternoon, sources said. The floor leaders of both National Democratic Alliance and Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had been in touch since the morning.

Six hours have been allocated for the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, and 91 amendments have been moved by Lok Sabha members cutting across party lines, Mr. Birla announced in the House earlier.

Presiding officer Dilip Saikia arriving to conduct the proceedings of the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session on Monday. ANI

The Bill seeks to amend the anti-paper leak law with stricter punishment of up to 10 years in jail and ₹50 lakh fine.

The proposed legislation, which seeks to amend an existing law, was first promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a midnight Instagram post last week in a bid to quell the students' protest at Jantar Mantar.

The Bill was introduced by Union Minister of State for PMO and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh even as the Opposition protested and sloganeered over the police crackdown on students during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led July 20 protest march to Parliament as well as in some States like West Bengal and Bihar.

No let-up in protests

The Opposition, which had been protesting since 11 a.m., when the House was convened, was unrelenting and did not let the Bill be taken up for discussion and passage despite repeated appeals from Mr. Birla as well as Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. He said several members, including those from the Opposition, were prepared to participate in the debate but the Congress and "some of its friends" were causing disruptions and not allowing a debate. At 2 p.m., however, the Speaker said both ruling and Opposition sides should try and arrive at a decision by 5 p.m. till when the House was adjourned.

Senior Congress leaders are understood to have met the Speaker after this and agreed to the discussion being taken up on Tuesday.

"All political parties have agreed to discuss the anti-paper leak Bill on Tuesday. Following Om Birla's initiative and sustained dialogue, floor leaders of political parties have agreed to commence discussion on the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill 2026," sources said.

Opposition sources said they were now looking to widen the offensive by targeting the government over the alleged Ram Temple donation embezzlement case and ethanol-blended fuel.

With the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election due in early 2027, the Samajwadi Party is seeking to use the Ram Temple issue to make inroads among the BJP's core support base of Ram devotees, while the Congress has held over 50 press conferences demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the alleged donation theft.

"We shouldn't allow the BJP to hijack our religion. We are all very proud Hindus and not political Hindus like them," a senior Congress leader told *The Hindu*.

The Opposition plans to highlight concerns over ethanol-blended fuel, which it believes resonate with the middle class, another key BJP constituency.

And with the CJP taking limelight for spearheading the Gen-Z protests and the government appearing intent on sidelining Opposition parties, these parties do not want to give much elbow room to the government.

YouTube Homework

- Higher Education
  - UGC
  - NTA
  - NEET → OSM
  - CBSE → 3R Formula
  - VBSA Bill 2025
  - NCERT
    - Dancing Girl
    - Kuching
    - Emergency

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- हाल ही में संसद में **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** (Anti-Paper Leak Bill) पेश किया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य 2024 के कानून को और अधिक कठोर बनाकर पेपर लीक, संगठित नकल और परीक्षा माफिया पर सख्त कार्रवाई करना है।

मुख्य प्रावधान

- **सजा बढ़ाई गई**
  - पेपर लीक या अन्य गंभीर परीक्षा धोखाधड़ी में **कम से कम 5 वर्ष की सजा**, जो **10 वर्ष तक** हो सकती है।
  - पहले न्यूनतम सजा 3 वर्ष थी।
- **जुर्माना बढ़ाया गया**
  - दोषियों पर ~~**₹50 लाख तक का**~~ **जुर्माना**।
  - संगठित अपराध या संस्थागत स्तर पर संलिप्तता के मामलों में **₹10 करोड़ तक का जुर्माना** लगाया जा सकता है।
- **Special Fast Track Courts**
  - प्रत्येक राज्य में विशेष फास्ट ट्रैक अदालतों की व्यवस्था।
  - मामलों का शीघ्र निपटारा सुनिश्चित करने का लक्ष्य।
- **समयबद्ध जांच**
  - पेपर लीक मामलों की जांच निर्धारित समय-सीमा में पूरी करने का प्रावधान।
  - विशेष लोक अभियोजक (Special Public Prosecutors) की नियुक्ति का भी प्रावधान।
- **Special Task Force (STF)**
  - पेपर लीक और संगठित परीक्षा अपराधों की जांच के लिए विशेष टास्क फोर्स का गठन।
- **कंपनियों/एजेंसियों पर कार्रवाई**
  - यदि कोई संस्था या एजेंसी दोषी पाई जाती है, तो उस पर भारी आर्थिक दंड लगाया जा सकता है और उसे भविष्य की परीक्षाओं से कई वर्षों तक प्रतिबंधित किया जा सकता है।

यह कानून किन परीक्षाओं पर लागू होगा?

- यह कानून ~~**केंद्र सरकार द्वारा**~~ **आयोजित सार्वजनिक परीक्षाओं** पर लागू होगा, जैसे:
- UPSC
- SSC
- NTA (NEET, CUET, JEE आदि)
- RRB
- IBPS तथा अन्य केंद्रीय भर्ती/प्रवेश परीक्षाएँ।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Court seeks Centre's reply on plea over anti-defection law

Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal has challenged the interpretation of the 'merger' exception under Paragraph 4 of Tenth Schedule, contends issue is unlikely to be resolved through legislative process

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Union government's response on a petition filed by senior advocate Kapil Sibal challenging the interpretation of the "merger" exception under the anti-defection law contained in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Independent Rajya Sabha member has questioned the interpretation of the "merger" exception under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule, whereby a political party is deemed to have "merged" with another political party solely on the basis that two-thirds of the members of its legislature party have claimed such a merger even "if there is no other indication" that the original political party has actually merged. Mr. Sibal, appearing as petitioner-in-person, submitted before a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe that such an interpretation of Paragraph 4 would have "huge repercussions" for the polity as an electoral majority

> This has huge repercussions... The electoral verdict can be changed. A minority can become a majority and a majority can become a minority
>
> **KAPIL SIBAL**
> Rajya Sabha member

can be turned into a minority by resorting to mergers.

He argued that the Constitution does not permit a situation where a legislature party can, by itself, bring about a deemed merger of the original political party without any formal merger process or approval of party leadership.

"This has huge repercussions for our polity... The electoral verdict can be changed. A minority can become a majority and a majority can become a minority," Mr. Sibal submitted.

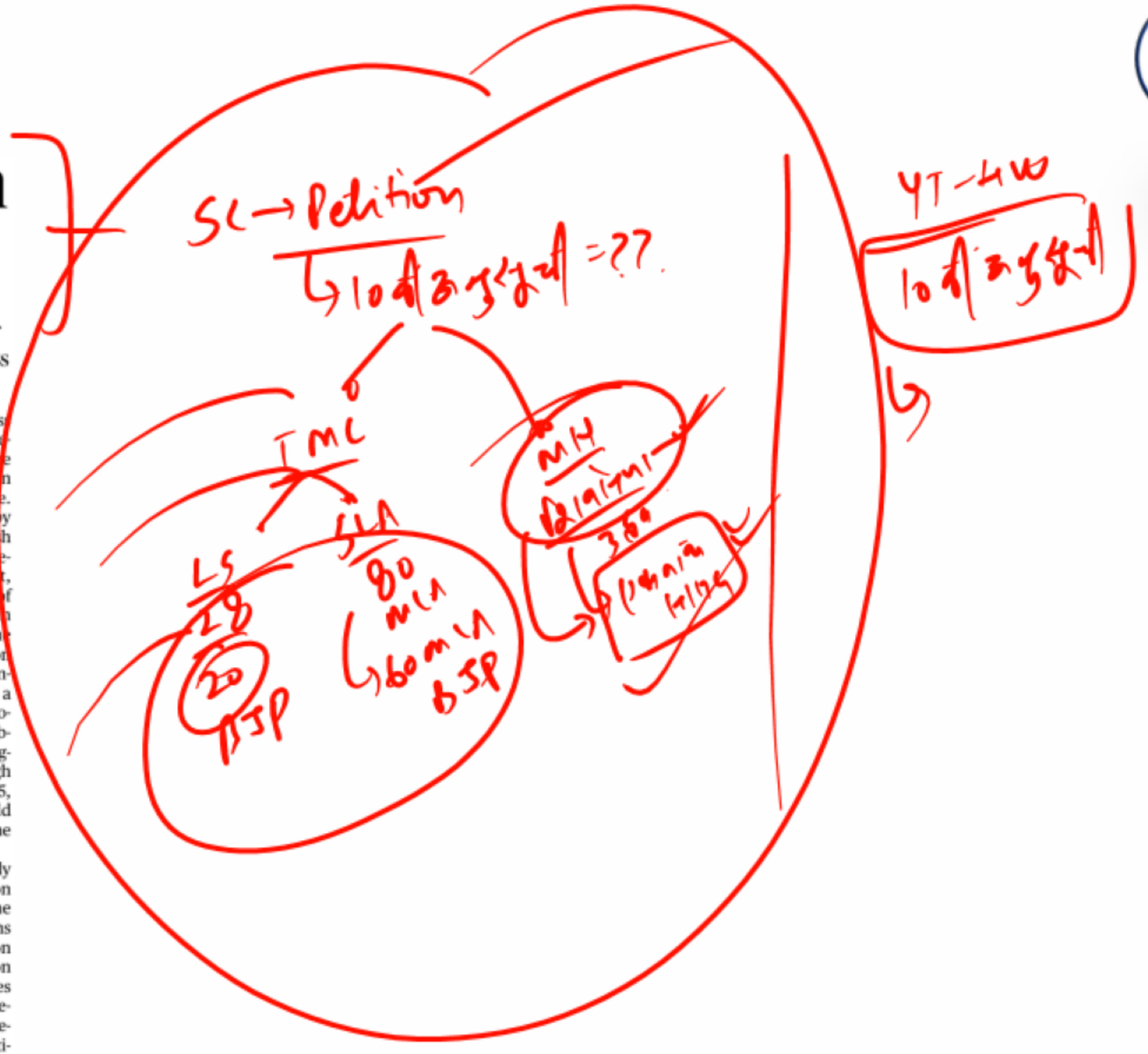
'Issues for Parliament'

While acknowledging the concerns raised about the operation of the Tenth Schedule, the Bench expressed its disinclination to entertain the plea, observing that any shortcomings in the anti-defection law were matters for Parliament to take a call on.

"These are issues typically to be raised before the floor of the House.. If not, then at least before political parties. The Tenth Schedule is intended to regulate the mechanism between the legislators... What transpired in the working of the Tenth Schedule, we have been seeing enormous issues", Justice Narasimha remarked.

Mr. Sibal submitted that the issue was unlikely to be resolved through the legislative process because the prevailing interpretation benefited those in power. He also referred to the 2022 Goa defection matter which is pending before the top court. In 2022, eight of 10 Congress MLAs in Goa, claiming to form two-thirds of the Congress legislature party, had declared a "merger" with the BJP and sought protection under the Tenth Schedule. The separate plea filed by Congress leader Girish Chodankar, pending before the Supreme Court, argues that "mergers of State legislature parties in Opposition led by the Leader of the Opposition are not only a constitutional sin but also amount to a direct attack on the democratic setup of an Assembly". The petition challenges the Bombay High Court's January 16, 2025, judgment, which upheld the legislators' move to the BJP as a valid "merger".

The Bench ultimately agreed to issue notice on the plea and examine the competing interpretations of the merger exception under the anti-defection law. The petition argues that, more than two decades after the Tenth Schedule was amended, political actors have increasingly sought to exploit the presumption contained in Paragraph 4(2) as a means of circumventing the anti-defection law.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Forced labour farce

India should not let the U.S.'s new tariffs push it towards a trade deal

The 10% tariff that the United States has imposed on India and several other countries over their imports of goods supposedly made using forced labour is merely an attempt to restore permanent tariffs and, once again, highlight the benefits of a trade deal with the U.S. The U.S. Supreme Court's February 2026 decision dealt a body blow to the U.S.'s attempts to secure trade deals. The main threat, of high reciprocal tariffs, had been removed. U.S. President Donald Trump's solution, of a temporary 10% tariff on all countries, suffered from two weaknesses: it would expire in 150 days, and was levied on all countries equally, regardless of whether they had a deal with the U.S. or not. Those tariffs have now expired. The Section 301 'forced labour' tariffs announced last week are more permanent, and have carved out benefits for those with trade deals with the U.S. For example, while U.S. imports from India will face a 10% tariff over and above the base tariff the U.S. charges everybody, the European Union and Taiwan will face a total tariff of 10%. Similar benefits have been accorded to Japan, South Korea and Switzerland, all of which also have trade deals with the U.S. at various stages of formalisation. If stopping forced labour was the primary focus, tariffs would have been applied equally across all offenders, regardless of trade deal status. The tariffs would also not have had as many product-wise exemptions and country-wise quotas as the final version has.

There is also the question of whether the U.S. should be penalising other countries for their trade with third parties. India has not been accused of using forced labour, yet faces tariffs because others have been. This, soon after the U.S. government told a court that it did not want to act as the "world police". India has done well to reduce the proposed 12.5% tariffs to a final 10%, the same as or better than most of its competitors. All it took was a notification banning the import of goods made using forced labour. The action itself will be difficult to enforce, since it will require countries such as China and Malaysia to allow Indian government officials to visit and investigate their labour conditions. But simply issuing the notification won India a tariff reduction. However, uncertainty persists since the other Section 301 investigation, on excess capacity, is yet to play out and could result in further tariffs. It is highly unlikely that India will accept a trade deal until those tariffs become clear. That said, the tariffs should not push India towards a deal. Experience has shown that the U.S. tariff landscape can change radically even after a deal is signed.

अमेरिका के द्वारा -

अमेरिकी व्यापार अधिनियम-1974

Section-301

पहले 12.5%

अब 10%

YouTube Homework

- TB & NTB

टैरिफ बैरियर और नॉन-टैरिफ बैरियर

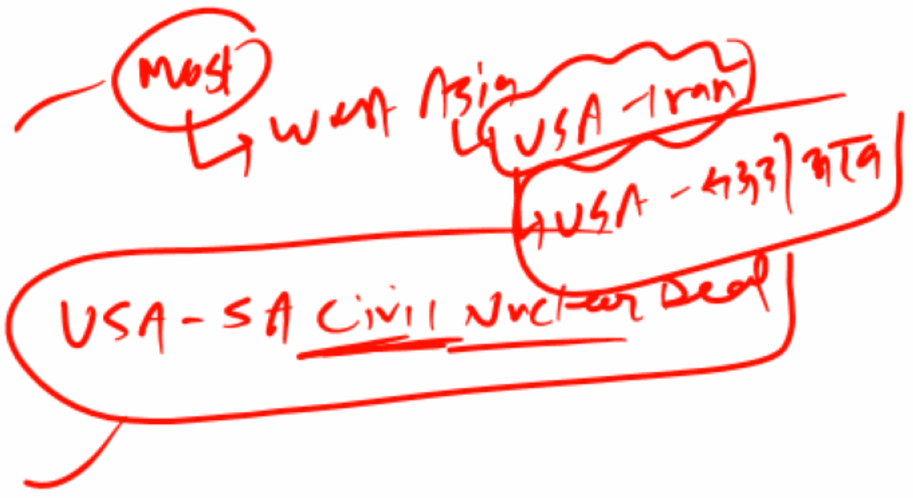
महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

All art, no deal

Donald Trump miscalculated timing and substance of Saudi nuclear deal

The announcement of a United States-Saudi Arabia civil nuclear deal, in the midst of a U.S.-Iran war that began over Tehran's nuclear programme, could hardly have come at a worse time. Matters became more complicated when U.S. President Donald Trump, after the agreement had been signed, added a new condition: that Saudi Arabia should join the Abraham Accords. Saudi Arabia has long sought to develop a civilian nuclear programme. Crown Prime Mohammad bin Salman, or MBS, wants to end the kingdom's "addiction" to oil. His Vision 2030 aims to diversify the economy through finance, megaprojects, tourism and power-hungry artificial intelligence (AI) data centres. The kingdom currently relies heavily on oil and gas for electricity generation. Saudi officials believe that nuclear power would help meet rising domestic energy demand, while freeing more oil and gas for export. MBS first took up his nuclear ambitions with Mr. Trump during the latter's first presidential term. His successor Joe Biden offered a deal but made it contingent on Riyadh joining the Abraham Accords. At that time, Saudi Arabia appeared open to normalising ties with Israel, but Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel and Israel's genocidal war on Gaza prompted the Saudis to shelve the idea. The July 22 deal suggested that Riyadh and Washington continued talks and remained keen on nuclear cooperation.

As a signatory to the NPT, Saudi Arabia has every right to pursue a peaceful nuclear programme. But the agreement announced by U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright leaves open the possibility of nuclear enrichment on Saudi soil. This flies in the face of the U.S. opposition to any Iranian enrichment on its soil. The agreement, according to U.S. media reports, does not require Saudi Arabia to adopt the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which grants inspectors broad powers to conduct short-notice inspections. The omission has fuelled concerns that the kingdom could eventually acquire the technical capability to weaponise its nuclear programme. Facing domestic criticism, Mr. Trump declared that the deal would proceed only if Saudi Arabia joined the Abraham Accords – a condition which was conspicuously absent when the agreement was signed. This apparent reversal is unlikely to reassure Riyadh, which is already questioning the reliability of U.S. security guarantees. If the deal eventually goes ahead, Tehran is likely to harden its position on enrichment in any future nuclear talks with the U.S. If Mr. Trump's objective was to reassure a long-standing ally while signalling strategic leverage over a regional rival, the execution of the deal has had the opposite effect. Ill-timed diplomacy, ambiguous provisions and shifting conditions have deepened Saudi concerns and strengthened Iran's resolve. That is the result of Mr. Trump's version of the "art of the deal".



YouTube Homework

- India-Australia
  - 1 July - 2026
  - असैन्य परमाणु समझौता
- USA - India Civil Nuclear Deal - 2008
  - 123 समझौता

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

USA–Saudi Arabia Civil Nuclear Deal (2026)

क्या है यह समझौता?

- अमेरिका और सऊदी अरब ने **30-वर्षीय Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (123 Agreement)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इसके तहत अमेरिका सऊदी अरब को **परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र (Nuclear Power Plants), तकनीक, ईंधन चक्र से जुड़ी विशेषज्ञता और निवेश** उपलब्ध कराएगा ताकि सऊदी अरब बिजली उत्पादन के लिए परमाणु ऊर्जा का उपयोग कर सके।

123 Agreement क्या होता है?

- यह अमेरिका के **Atomic Energy Act, 1954** की **Section 123** के अंतर्गत होने वाला द्विपक्षीय परमाणु सहयोग समझौता है।
- इसके बिना अमेरिका किसी देश के साथ नागरिक परमाणु तकनीक साझा नहीं कर सकता।

समझौते की मुख्य बातें

- सऊदी अरब अमेरिकी तकनीक से **न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर** स्थापित कर सकेगा।
- समझौता सऊदी अरब को **यूरेनियम संवर्धन (Uranium Enrichment)** की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने की अनुमति देता है, जो सबसे विवादास्पद पहलू है।
- यह समझौता लगभग **30 वर्षों** के लिए होगा।

यह विवादित क्यों है?

1. Uranium Enrichment

- यूरेनियम संवर्धन का उपयोग:
- **शांतिपूर्ण उद्देश्य** → परमाणु बिजली उत्पादन।
- **सैन्य उद्देश्य** → अत्यधिक संवर्धित यूरेनियम से परमाणु हथियार भी बनाए जा सकते हैं।
- इसी कारण विशेषज्ञों को **Nuclear Proliferation (परमाणु प्रसार)** की चिंता है।

2. "Gold Standard" का पालन नहीं

- अमेरिका ने 2009 में UAE के साथ हुए परमाणु समझौते में यह शर्त रखी थी कि UAE:
- यूरेनियम संवर्धन नहीं करेगा।
- प्लूटोनियम पुनःप्रसंस्करण नहीं करेगा।
- इसे **Gold Standard** कहा जाता है। लेकिन सऊदी समझौते में यह कठोर शर्त शामिल नहीं है।

3. IAEA Safeguards

- आलोचकों का कहना है कि समझौते में **IAEA Additional Protocol** जैसी कठोर निरीक्षण व्यवस्था शामिल नहीं है, जिससे निगरानी को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ी हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Beyond compliance, India's road to cleaner mobility

CAFE-III

The debate over India's proposed Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) III norms comes at a crucial time for the global automobile industry as it transitions from internal combustion engines (ICE) to electrified powertrains. It also highlights India's vulnerability to imported crude oil amid renewed geopolitical tensions. The framework India adopts today will influence investment, technology choices and energy security for decades.

CAFE III, compliance or transformation

The Power Ministry's July 16 draft notification marks the third iteration of CAFE III after months of industry lobbying. While some manufacturers pushed for stricter norms, others sought flexibility. The proposal attempts a compromise, but the question remains whether it prioritises compliance over transformation.

CAFE norms set annual sales-weighted average fuel-efficiency targets for manufacturers' passenger vehicle fleets rather than individual models. Introduced in the United States in 1975 after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, they aimed to reduce oil dependence and protect consumers from high fuel costs. The rules caused automakers to adopt smaller, more efficient vehicles. This also helped accelerate the rise of Japanese manufacturers.

From the 1990s, fuel-efficiency regulations gained a second purpose: reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. In the United States, the EPA's Endangerment Finding brought greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, with later emissions standards aligned closely with CAFE rules. While technology-neutral, the rules encouraged innovation in hybrids and electric vehicles (EV). Ironically, the Obama administration's $465 million Department of Energy loan to Tesla in 2010 helped accelerate an EV industry now dominated by China.

China's experience is even more instructive. It introduced mandatory fuel-consumption standards in 2004, initially regulating individual vehicle models by weight rather than fleet averages. As car ownership surged, concerns over oil imports and urban air pollution grew. The standards tightened over time before China changed direction in 2018 with the introduction of its Dual Credit System.

Under this framework, manufacturers must meet both Corporate Average Fuel Consumption (CAFC) standards and New Energy Vehicle (NEV) credit requirements. Fuel-efficiency compliance alone is insufficient. Companies that fail to earn enough NEV credits through EV or plug-in hybrid production must purchase credits from those with surplus EV production, creating a market that rewards innovation and penalises delayed electrification. For example, in India, Maruti Suzuki could remain NEV credit-deficient by 18% despite having highly fuel-efficient ICE models if it had no EVs in its portfolio. It would need to buy credits from companies such as Tata Motors or Mahindra, which generate NEV credits through their EV portfolios. While CAFC credits can be banked, carried forward or transferred within corporate groups, NEV credits cannot be offset in the same way. The results are evident. According to the International Energy Agency's Global EV Outlook 2026, China sold more than 13 million electric cars in 2025, accounting for almost 55% of new passenger vehicle sales. Comparable figures were about 27% in the European Union, nearly 10% in the U.S. and around 4% in India.

Kunal Shankar

Weak fuel efficiency norms risk keeping the country dependent on imported oil

India's own debate has centred on differences between Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra. An earlier proposal effectively carved out lighter small cars from the full stringency of CAFE III. That exemption has since been removed. The current proposal seeks to reduce average emissions from around 113 gCO_2/km to 77 gCO_2/km by FY2031-32. On paper, that appears ambitious. Yet, the headline target tells only part of the story.

The cost of flexibility

The revised framework introduces several flexibility mechanisms that, taken together, substantially reduce its effective stringency.

The first is the Carbon Neutrality Factor, which awards compliance benefits for vehicles compatible with higher ethanol blends and other fuels. Yet, the government has informed Parliament that no decision has been taken to move beyond E20 blending (20% plant-based ethanol with 80% regular petrol). Manufacturers therefore receive compliance advantages for technologies whose long-term policy trajectory remains uncertain. Ethanol is also more expensive than petrol, and has lower energy density, and therefore delivers lower mileage – a fact belatedly acknowledged by the Centre after it drew severe criticism.

The second is the use of super credits. Battery EVs, plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles receive additional weight in fleet calculations. While this encourages cleaner technologies, it also means that fewer actual low-emission vehicle sales are required to offset higher-emission models. Strong hybrids, which generally rely primarily on the ICE while using electric propulsion over relatively short distances and at lower speeds, also receive super-credit benefits despite offering only partial electrification.

The third mechanism is banking and trading of compliance credits. Manufacturers outperforming their targets can accumulate credits and sell them to others. In addition, the draft allows companies to buy credits directly from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) at administratively fixed prices if deficits remain after trading. The BEE is therefore not a market exchange but effectively a seller of last resort.

In theory, this introduces efficiency into the system. In practice, it allows companies that are lagging to meet compliance requirements without upgrading their own technology. Moreover, the draft notification allows manufacturers to buy compliance credits from the BEE at ₹2,500 per gram of CO_2/km in FY2028, rising to ₹4,500 by FY2032. By comparison, the Energy Conservation Act prescribes additional penalties of ₹25,000 or ₹50,000 per vehicle depending on the extent of non-compliance. Expressed in CAFE terms, the lower penalty threshold is broadly equivalent to a little over ₹5,000 per gram of CO_2/km, implying that the proposed buyout price begins at less than half that level.

Finally, compliance is assessed over three-year blocks before shifting to two-year blocks, allowing manufacturers to average performance across multiple years rather than meeting targets annually. Therefore, delays in one year can be compensated in another.

The case of CNG

Taken together, these mechanisms significantly alter the stringency of these regulations. Which raises a fundamental question: What is the purpose of a regulation?

Regulation should shape markets rather than simply accommodate prevailing market preferences. India's own experience with compressed natural gas (CNG) illustrates the point. Once policy support aligned with regulatory certainty, manufacturers rapidly introduced CNG variants. Regulation can create markets as much as respond to them.

To put this in perspective: manufacturers' voluntary commitments already average nearly 20% EV share by 2030, with several original equipment manufacturers aiming for 30% or higher. In effect, the revised regulation attempts only half of what the industry itself has committed to. The timing also matters. India remains heavily dependent on imported crude, exposing the economy to geopolitical shocks, imported inflation and currency pressures. Strengthening fuel-efficiency standards is therefore not merely an environmental objective. It is an energy-security strategy, an industrial policy and a macroeconomic imperative.

These developments highlight the urgency and significance of revising India's CAFE norms, as they offer an opportunity to address a macroeconomic vulnerability while helping meet India's Glasgow commitment on energy efficiency.

India should seize this opportunity to position itself alongside the world's leading automotive markets in the transition to low-carbon mobility.

kunal.shankar@thehindu.co.in

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

CAFE क्या है?

- CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) ऐसे मानक हैं जो किसी **एक कार मॉडल** पर नहीं, बल्कि **किसी वाहन निर्माता (Automaker) के पूरे बेड़े (Fleet)** की औसत ईंधन दक्षता और CO_2 उत्सर्जन को नियंत्रित करते हैं। इन्हें **ऊर्जा दक्षता ब्यूरो (Bureau of Energy Efficiency - BEE), विद्युत मंत्रालय** लागू करता है।

हाल की स्थिति

- **16 जुलाई 2026** को केंद्र सरकार ने **Draft CAFE-III Norms** सार्वजनिक परामर्श (Public Consultation) के लिए जारी किए।
- ये नियम **1 अप्रैल 2027** से लागू होने का प्रस्ताव है और **31 मार्च 2032** तक प्रभावी रहेंगे।

मुख्य उद्देश्य

- पेट्रोल और डीज़ल की खपत कम करना।
- CO_2 उत्सर्जन में कमी लाना।
- कच्चे तेल (Crude Oil) के आयात पर भारत की निर्भरता घटाना।
- इलेक्ट्रिक और हाइब्रिड वाहनों को बढ़ावा देना।
- भारत के जलवायु लक्ष्यों (Climate Commitments) को पूरा करना।

प्रमुख प्रावधान

- Passenger Vehicles (M1 Category) के लिए अधिक कड़े Fuel Efficiency Targetsl
- Fleet-average CO_2 उत्सर्जन को चरणबद्ध तरीके से कम किया जाएगा।
- Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles (PHEVs) और Range-Extended EVs को भी नए ढांचे में शामिल किया गया है।
- वाहन कंपनियों को पूरे Fleet का औसत लक्ष्य पूरा करना होगा, न कि प्रत्येक मॉडल का।

Facts

- **Full Form:** Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)
- **नोडल संस्था:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- **मंत्रालय:** Ministry of Power
- **लागू होगा:** M1 Category Passenger Vehicles (9 सीट तक, 3.5 टन से कम)
- **Draft जारी:** जुलाई 2026
- **प्रस्तावित लागू तिथि:** 1 अप्रैल 2027
- **अवधि:** 2027–2032

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

To fix unemployment, fix the economy first

Arun Maira

Author of 'Reimagining India's Economy: The Road to a More Equitable Society'

The Cockroach Janta Party's movement has highlighted the political urgency for reforming the economy to create more employment for India's youth. Fixing the education system alone will not solve the unemployment problem. The basic structure of the economy must be reformed.

China and India, the only two countries in the world with populations exceeding one billion, have the greatest need for meaningful employment. If citizens are not fully employed, and incomes of masses do not rise, their economies cannot grow. China has done much better than India in this regard; the per capita income of Chinese citizens has risen roughly eight times faster than Indians' in the last 30 years.

India's leaders find themselves in the middle of conflicting trends. First, they are pushing ahead with reforms for 'ease of doing business'; diluting the rights of workers to organise; and weakening environmental protection. Second, they are promoting the wide-spread application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve 'productivity' (and other benefits) in agriculture, industry, health and education, with productivity defined, purely in economic terms, as more output with less human input. Third, they also see the need to change the pattern of growth and increase employment elasticity. Employment elasticity is the amount of meaningful employment created with each unit of GDP growth, in which India has been a laggard since the liberal market economic reforms of the 1990s.

Since India has the largest population of youth in the world, its economic growth should have the highest employment elasticity. However, the increased adoption of AI will only make it worse.

The China model

China has invested billions to become an AI superpower and has raced to integrate the technology across a range of industries. By 2024, more than two million robots were already working in Chinese factories. And in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, Meituan, the nation's largest food delivery service, has experimented with using small autonomous robots to deliver food. But China's advances in AI have run headlong into a growing problem: anxiety over the workers who could be displaced.

China's political and economic history reveals that, despite being an authoritarian country, the Chinese government is very attentive to what people are thinking and saying on the Internet. History has taught them that another revolution will form if disenchanted and educated youth rise along with the disgruntled workers and peasants. They know they must respond.

Unemployment has been increasing in China. The unemployment rate for migrant workers rose to 5.7% in March this year, which has been the highest in nearly three years for China, while youth unemployment stood at 16.3% in April. Moreover, 70% of unemployed young people are university graduates, with older laid-off workers facing prolonged periods of joblessness.

However, Chinese courts have been swift to act. A court ruled in May that a tech company had illegally laid-off a worker after replacing him with AI software. Another ruled that, "the development of artificial intelligence technology should be applied to liberating labour, promoting employment and improving people's livelihood". And yet another ruled that "companies that benefit from technology must, at the same time, adopt social responsibilities and protect worker rights".

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced in January that it would roll out policies to address the impact of AI on jobs, including targeted support for key industries. In June, the State Council issued a plan on implementing an "employment-first" strategy for the 2026-2030 period. Party officials have proposed sweeping government interventions such as requiring employers to offer training to help workers adapt to an AI-centric job market.

The Chinese government's 'people-first' ideology has served China's economy and its people well. China's leaders have remained socialists; they have always put the needs of common citizens, and the stability of China's society, above economists' demands for deregulation of markets and prices, especially with respect to labour, food, education, health, and housing.

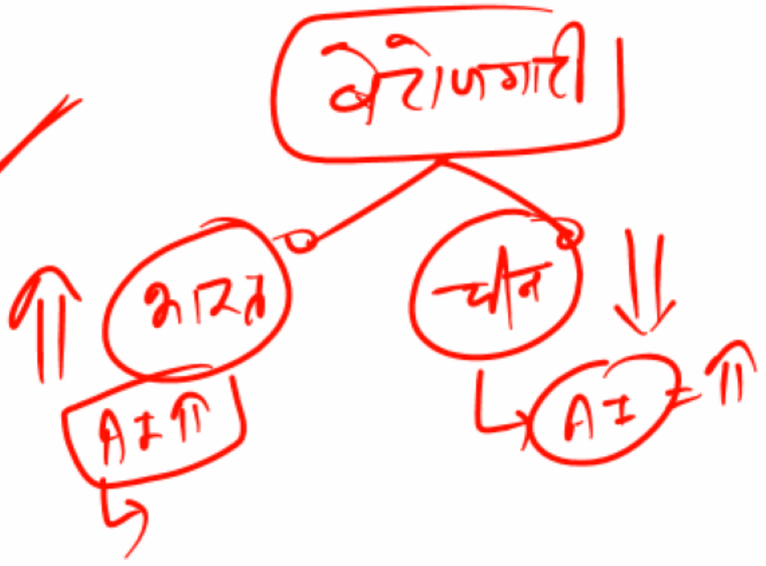
The road ahead for India

Indian income levels must rise rapidly – in agriculture, manufacturing, and services. The government has added 'ease of living' to 'ease of doing business' as the purpose of the reforms required for India to become 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. To make it a reality, it will have to put more teeth into its policies to increase employment and incomes, and stave off the negative impacts that AI will have on employment. Policies must require that employers take more responsibility for training their own workers; they must be restrained from laying them off.

New policies must put workers' rights ahead of capitalists' rights, as China has done. India's labour market reforms, with the four labour codes, are directed to improve 'ease of doing business', which is undoubtedly necessary. However, the 'ease of doing business' must now become subordinate to the ease of living and earning for all citizens.

India's leaders would do well to learn from China's leaders on how to navigate this moment in history. The rights of all workers must be firmly protected. While the views of financial investors must be heard, the views of workers and small-time entrepreneurs must be heard much more.

The 'ease of doing business' must now become subordinate to the ease of living and earning for all citizens



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **Employment Elasticity (EE)** वह माप है जो बताता है कि **GDP (या आर्थिक उत्पादन) में 1% की वृद्धि होने पर रोजगार (Employment) में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि होती है।**

सूत्र (Formula)

- $\text{Employment } Elasticity = \frac{\%\ \text{रोज़गार में परिवर्तन}}{\%\ GDP\ \text{में परिवर्तन}}$

उदाहरण

- मान लीजिए:
- GDP में **10%** वृद्धि हुई।
- रोजगार में **2%** वृद्धि हुई।
- तो,
- **Employment Elasticity = 2 ÷ 10 = 0.2**
- अर्थात **GDP में 1% वृद्धि होने पर रोजगार केवल 0.2% बढ़ा।**

इसका अर्थ कैसे समझें?

1. High Employment Elasticity

- आर्थिक विकास के साथ अधिक नौकरियाँ पैदा होती हैं।
- इसे **Job-rich Growth** कहा जाता है।
- **उदाहरण:** EE = **0.8**
- GDP 10% बढ़ी ⟶ रोजगार 8% बढ़ा।

2. Low Employment Elasticity

- अर्थव्यवस्था बढ़ रही है, लेकिन रोजगार बहुत कम बढ़ रहा है।
- इसे **Jobless Growth** की स्थिति माना जाता है।
- **उदाहरण:** EE = **0.1**
- GDP 10% बढ़ी ⟶ रोजगार केवल 1% बढ़ा।

भारत के संदर्भ में

- भारत में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में **Employment Elasticity अपेक्षाकृत कम** रही है।
- इसका प्रमुख कारण:
  - पूंजी-प्रधान (Capital-intensive) उद्योगों का विस्तार।
  - Automation और AI का बढ़ता उपयोग।
  - सेवाक्षेत्र की ऐसी वृद्धि जिसमें रोजगार अपेक्षाकृत कम सृजित होता है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

N.P.K - ??

What is India's policy on urea production?

What are the key changes in the National Investment Policy for Urea 2026?

A. M. Jigeesh

Amid concerns of fertilizer shortage during the ongoing kharif season due to the situation in West Asia, greater demand because of *El Niño* and complaints of over-use of chemical fertilizers such as urea, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026.

The new policy is aimed at self-reliance in urea production, a sector which is dependent on imports. According to the Government, the policy will encourage new investments in the urea sector for setting up the gas-based urea manufacturing units in the country.

The key changes in the policy, compared to the existing policy, include the separation of fixed and variable costs for greater transparency, introduction of a viable Return on Equity (RoE) band with a floor at 12% and a ceiling at 16%, and mitigation of foreign exchange risk through conversion of fixed cost into Indian rupees after four years based on prevailing exchange rates.

How has the urea policy evolved?

The Union Government had announced such a policy for urea sector in 2012, 2013 and it was amended in October 2014 to facilitate fresh investment.

Six new urea units have been set up under the 2012 policy, which includes four set up through Joint Venture Companies (JVC) of nominated PSUs and two set up by the private companies. At present, there are 33 operational urea manufacturing units with total reassessed/installed capacity of 269.42 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), according to the Union Fertilizers Ministry.

"There is a need to increase the indigenous production of Urea. There is a gap in the indigenous production and demand of urea in the country which is filled by the import of urea," the Government had said.

The Government amended the policy further in May 2015 for the existing 25 gas-based urea units and it led to additional production of urea by 20-25 LMT as compared to the production during 2014-15 annually.

From 225 LMT per annum during 2014-15, the current production from all these units has reached 314.07 LMT during 2023-24. "During 2025-26, 293.30 LMT of Urea was produced in the country," the Government says.

What is India's fertilizer subsidy bill?

The total fertilizers subsidy in 2025-26 is ₹ 2,17,281.10 crore. In 2024-25, it was ₹1,77,162.06 crore. Out of this, the urea subsidy alone for 2025-26 was ₹1,42,175.74 crore and for 2024-25 it was ₹1,24,319.50 crore. For phosphorus, and potassium, the subsidy component is ₹74,999.99 crore and ₹52,810 crore respectively. For promotion of organic fertilizers, the Government provided a subsidy of ₹105.37 crore and ₹32.56 crore in the last two financial years.

How is urea made available?

According to the data provided by the Government in Parliament, as on March 3, 2026, the country has the requirement of 370.84 LMT of urea for the kharif season. The availability is 432.44 LMT, out of which 381.59 LMT will be for sale under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system where all subsidised fertilizers will be sold to buyers is made through Point of Sale (PoS) devices "installed at each retailer shop and the beneficiaries are identified through Aadhaar Card, KCC, Voter Identity Card etc". In 2024-25, the requirement was 364.01 LMT and availability was 443.83 LMT.

The Government claims that it has taken steps to promote the balanced and efficient use of fertilizers. "The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which advocates the judicious and scientific integration of organic sources, chemical fertilizers, and biological inputs for efficient and sustainable nutrient management," the Ministry said adding that the INM aims to meet the nutrient requirements of crops in an economical and environmentally sustainable manner while maintaining long-term soil fertility. It had also experimented with Nano Urea, which is yet to get popularity among farmers, apparently after controversies over its scientific efficacy and result.

THE GIST

- The Centre recently approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026, which is aimed at self-reliance in urea production, a sector which is dependent on imports.
- The Union Government had announced such a policy for urea sector in 2012, 2013 and it was amended in October 2014 to facilitate fresh investment.

YouTube Homework

➢ Agriculture Subsidy

उर्वरक - ??

अर्थशास्त्र

Economy

कृषि - कृषि सब्सिडी

उर्वरक सब्सिडी

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **NIPU-2026 (National Investment Policy for Urea-2026)** भारत सरकार की नई निवेश नीति है, जिसका उद्देश्य **घरेलू यूरिया उत्पादन बढ़ाना, आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना और उर्वरक क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल करना** है। इस नीति को केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने जुलाई 2026 में मंजूरी दी।

NIPU-2026 की आवश्यकता क्यों पड़ी?

- भारत में हर वर्ष लगभग **4 करोड़ टन यूरिया** की मांग है।
- घरेलू उत्पादन लगभग **3 करोड़ टन** है।
- शेष मांग पूरी करने के लिए भारत को बड़ी मात्रा में **यूरिया आयात** करना पड़ता है।
- NIPU-2026 का लक्ष्य इस आयात निर्भरता को कम करना है।

प्रमुख प्रावधान

- **NIP-2012** की जगह **NIPU-2026** लागू किया गया।
- **नई गैस-आधारित (Gas-based) Greenfield Urea Plants** लगाने के लिए निवेश को प्रोत्साहन।
- निवेशकों को बेहतर **Return on Equity (RoE)** का प्रावधान (12%–16% का बैंड)।
- विदेशी मुद्रा (Forex) जोखिम कम करने के लिए नई व्यवस्था।
- लागत निर्धारण (Pricing Framework) को अधिक पारदर्शी बनाया गया।
- सरकार के अनुसार, प्रत्येक नए संयंत्र पर लगभग **₹250 करोड़** तक की बचत संभव होगी।

प्रमुख उद्देश्य

- घरेलू यूरिया उत्पादन बढ़ाना।
- आयात बिल कम करना।
- किसानों को समय पर यूरिया उपलब्ध कराना।
- **आत्मनिर्भर भारत (Atmanirbhar Bharat)** को बढ़ावा देना।
- खाद्य सुरक्षा (Food Security) को मजबूत करना।

Facts

- **Full Form:** National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)
- **मंत्रालय:** Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers
- **स्वीकृति:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
- **फोकस:** Gas-based Urea Plants
- **प्रतिस्थापित नीति:** New Investment Policy (NIP), 2012

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

AA and Cul tan

YouTube Homework

- UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in India

37
7
1
45

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With Sarnath becoming India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site, here's a quiz on the other sites in the country

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Apart from the Taj Mahal, which other properties from India were the first to be given UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 1983?

QUESTION 2
What is unique about the Khangchendzonga National Park inscribed to the list in 2014?

QUESTION 3
Name the inscribed property that is spread across Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh?

QUESTION 4
Name the two sites that were at different times part of 'World Heritage in Danger' list?

QUESTION 5
Which site is transnational, being shared with six other countries?

QUESTION 6
Inscribed in 2003, which site exhibits the earliest traces of human life in India?

QUESTION 7
Which Indian currency notes feature the Konark Sun Temple and the Sanchi Stupa?

Visual question: Name this World Heritage Site and the State in which it is located. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Vincent van Gogh's painting 'The Starry Night depicts' the view from the window of this institution where he was staying. **Ans: The Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France**

2. This fellow artist was invited by Van Gogh to live and work with him in the "Yellow House" at Arles. **Ans: Paul Gauguin**

3. Van Gogh was deeply influenced by Japanese woodblock prints, a style collectively known by this Japanese term. **Ans: Ukiyo-e**

4. Van Gogh's profession before he decided to become an artist. **Ans: He worked as an art dealer (and later also served as a teacher, bookseller's assistant and lay preacher)**

5. Van Gogh died in July 1890 in this French village. **Ans: Auvers-sur-Oise**

Visual: This is generally believed to be the only painting Vincent van Gogh sold during his lifetime. Identify it. **Ans: The Red Vineyard (The Red Vineyard at Arles)**

Early birds: Tamal Biswas| K.N. Viswanathan| Erfanally Oosmany| Piyali Tuli| Arun Kumar Singh

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

भारत का 45वाँ UNESCO World Heritage Site: सारनाथ (Sarnath)

- **25 जुलाई 2026** को उत्तर प्रदेश के **सारनाथ (Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath)** को UNESCO की **World Heritage List** में शामिल किया गया। इसके साथ ही यह **भारत का 45वाँ UNESCO World Heritage Site** बन गया। यह निर्णय दक्षिण कोरिया के **बुसान (Busan)** में आयोजित **UNESCO World Heritage Committee के 48वें सत्र** में लिया गया।

सारनाथ कहाँ स्थित है?

- **राज्य:** उत्तर प्रदेश
- **निकटतम शहर:** वाराणसी (लगभग 10 किमी)
- **प्राचीन नाम:** ऋषिपत्तन (ऋषिपत्तन/इसिपतन) एवं मृगदाव (Deer Park)

सारनाथ का ऐतिहासिक महत्व

- यहीं पर **भगवान बुद्ध** ने **बोधगया में ज्ञान प्राप्ति** के बाद अपना **प्रथम उपदेश (First Sermon)** दिया था।
- इस घटना को **धर्मचक्र प्रवर्तन (Dhammacakkappavattana)** कहा जाता है।
- यहीं **बौद्ध संघ (Sangha)** की स्थापना हुई, इसलिए यह बौद्ध धर्म के चार प्रमुख तीर्थस्थलों में से एक है।

प्रमुख स्मारक

- **धमेख स्तूप (Dhamek Stupa)** – प्रथम उपदेश का स्मारक।
- **चौखंडी स्तूप (Chaukhandi Stupa)** – जहाँ बुद्ध अपने पाँच शिष्यों से मिले।
- **अशोक स्तंभ (Ashoka Pillar)** – इसका सिंहशीर्ष (Lion Capital) भारत का **राष्ट्रीय प्रतीक (National Emblem)** है।
- **मूलगंध कुटी विहार (Mulagandha Kuti Vihara)**।
- **सारनाथ पुरातत्व संग्रहालय (Sarnath Archaeological Museum)** – यहाँ मूल सिंहशीर्ष सुरक्षित है।

Facts

- **45वाँ UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath
- **राज्य:** उत्तर प्रदेश
- **UNESCO मान्यता:** 2026
- **UNESCO समिति का 48वाँ सत्र:** बुसान, दक्षिण कोरिया
- **भारत में कुल UNESCO World Heritage Sites: 45**
- **विश्व स्तर पर भारत की रैंक: 6वीं**, तथा **एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में 2वीं** सबसे अधिक World Heritage Sites वाला देश।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

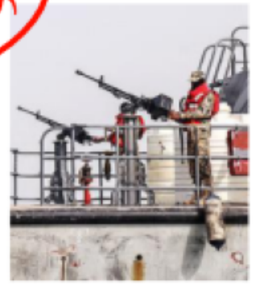
Red Sea shipping slows after Houthi hits on Saudi Arabia

Reuters
SINGAPORE

Ship traffic through Bab el-Mandeb fell on Sunday after Yemeni Houthis attacked Saudi oil installations along the Red Sea coast, while transit through the Strait of Hormuz stayed low over the weekend, shipping data from Kpler showed on Monday.

Eleven commodity vessels passed through the Bab el-Mandeb strait on Sunday, the lowest level in months, the data showed.

Red Sea traffic has been disrupted off the coast of Yemen since last week by the Iran-aligned Houthis, who want to blockade Saudi exports, expanding the U.S.-Iran conflict that has already choked oil supply through the Strait of Hormuz.



Navy sailors from the Yemen's Aden-based government seen aboard a vessel patrolling in the Red Sea on Monday. AFP

Seven of the vessels that passed through strait were oil tankers with three of them entering the Red Sea. Two of them are very large crude carriers (VLCCs) heading to the port of Yanbu to load Saudi crude while the third is a Russian-linked ship, the data showed.

Four vessels exited the Red Sea on Sunday. Another ship is exiting the waterway through the Bab el-Mandeb strait.

Lull in Hormuz

Fewer than 10 commodity vessels passed through the Strait of Hormuz daily over the weekend even though the U.S. and Iran have paused strikes in West Asia, shipping data from Kpler showed.

Seven vessels transited on Sunday including three Iranian-linked oil products tankers that exited the strait, the data showed.

On Saturday, there were only three vessels that passed through with their transponders switched off.

On Friday, seven vessels passed, mostly exiting the Gulf, including two VLCCs carrying crude from Iraq and the UAE and a tanker carrying fuel oil.

With Houthi blockade on Saudi Arabia, Bab el-Mandeb returns to centre stage

The latest escalation of tensions in West Asia has revived concerns over the security of one of the world's busiest maritime corridors; even a limited disruption along the route can force costly detours, delay shipments and drive up freight costs, underscoring the strategic importance of the Strait

NEWS ANALYSIS

Smriti Sudesh

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait has returned to the geopolitical spotlight after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement announced on July 20 a maritime blockade against Saudi Arabia, warning that Saudi-linked vessels transiting the strategic waterway would be targeted. Shortly afterward, the group reinforced the warning by emailing shipping companies, directing them not to load or unload cargo at Saudi ports or risk being attacked "in any location" within its operational reach. This is a major escalation of the latest simmering regional conflict to be reignited by the war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran.

The warning has revived concerns over the security of one of the world's busiest maritime corridors.

Even without a complete closure, the threat of attacks was enough to influence commercial decisions, because disruption in this narrow waterway can have consequences that extend far beyond West Asia.

The announcement came days after an attack on Sanaa International Airport on July 13. Yemen's Saudi Arabia-based government claimed it carried out the strike to prevent an Iranian plane from landing; the Houthis blamed Riyadh and responded with retaliatory missile attacks.

In a statement, the group said the maritime embargo was an "eye for an eye" response both to that recent incident and to what they describe as nearly 12-year Saudi-led blockade of Yemen's ports and airports during the country's civil war. The timing of the latest escalation is significant. For months, the Houthis largely stayed away from threatening commercial vessels, even as the U.S. and Israel carried out military operations against Iran. They avoided opening a direct front against Saudi Arabia, which had spent recent years trying to reduce tensions with the group after years of war in Yemen.

The 'Gate of Tears'

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait, whose Arabic name means "Gate of Tears", separates Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula from Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. At its narrowest point, it is only about 30 km wide. Yet, this relatively small stretch of water forms the southern gateway to the Suez Canal, linking the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and, ultimately, the Indian Ocean. Every vessel travelling between Europe and Asia through the Suez Canal must first pass through the Bab el-Mandeb, making it one of the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints.

Strategic Strait: Bab el-Mandeb forms the southern gateway to the Suez Canal, linking Red Sea with Gulf of Aden and, Indian Ocean. AFP

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), around 9.3 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products transited the Bab el-Mandeb each day in 2023.

The volumes eventually dropped, following the start of Houthi attacks, by more than half, averaging roughly 4.1 million barrels per day in 2024 and remaining near 4.2 million barrels per day by 2025.

The Strait's importance stems from geography rather than size. Commercial ships transporting crude oil, liquefied natural gas, manufactured goods, food products, automobiles, and industrial equipment use the route because it offers the shortest maritime connection between Europe and Asia.

Instead of sailing around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa, vessels can transit the Bab el-Mandeb and the Suez Canal, saving both time and fuel.

The difference is substantial. A diversion around the Cape of Good Hope typically adds 10 to 15 days to a voyage, depending on the destination. For shipping companies operating on tight schedules, longer voyages reduce the availability of vessels, disrupt logistics networks, and raise freight charges. Industries dependent on just-in-time deliveries can quickly feel the impact of delayed shipments. This is why the Bab el-Mandeb is often grouped with other strategic maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Strait of Malacca, and the Panama Canal.

Each serve as a narrow passage through which a disproportionate share of global commerce flows. Hence, any disruption, whether caused by conflict or natural disasters, can ripple across international markets.

More than just shipping

For the Houthis, the Bab el-Mandeb represents more than a commercial shipping lane. It is a strategic lever. Unlike conventional military powers, the Houthis do not possess a large navy capable of controlling regional waters. Instead, they have relied on asymmetric tactics, including drones, ballistic missiles and attacks on commercial shipping, to project influence beyond Yemen. By threatening vessels transiting one of the world's busiest maritime corridors, the group can impose economic costs on regional rivals while ensuring that the conflict remains an international concern.

The consequences of prolonged disruption would extend well beyond the immediate conflict zone. This is huge setback for India. India has significant economic and strategic interests in maintaining stability around the Bab el-Mandeb. A substantial share of India's trade with Europe passes through the Red Sea corridor, making the route important for exporters of pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles, chemicals, and machinery. India imports more than 85% of the crude oil it consumes. Longer voyages increase freight costs and delivery times, reducing the competitiveness of Indian products in overseas markets.

The country is also one of the world's largest importers of crude oil. Although India's energy supplies arrive through multiple routes, higher global oil prices resulting from instability in major maritime corridors increase the country's import bill and can eventually feed into domestic fuel prices and inflation.

The Bab el-Mandeb may be only 30 km wide at its narrowest point, but it has become one of the world's most consequential waterways. As long as global trade continues to rely on the Red Sea-Suez Canal corridor, instability in the Bab el-Mandeb will remain a concern not only for countries in West Asia but also for governments and consumers across the world.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

YT-HW

- लाल सागर
- बाब-अल-मेंडब
- अदन की खाड़ी
- फ़ारस सागर
- ओमान सागर
- लाल सागर
- हार्मुज जलसन्धि

हूती

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Iran says it still controls Hormuz, not involved in negotiations with the U.S.

Six ships turned back after trying to pass the strait without permission, Iran state media reports; amid halt in campaign by both sides, Trump says 'good chance' of progress in talks to produce a deal, dismisses concerns on ammunition shortage

Reuters
DUBAI

Iran said on Monday it was still in control of the Strait of Hormuz and not seeking to resume peace talks with the U.S., after President Donald Trump halted a two-week bombing campaign that his top brass told him had run its course.

Following 13 successive nights of bombing that provoked Tehran to fire on U.S. bases, Mr. Trump halted the campaign over the weekend. Iran said it would pause its own attacks for as long as the U.S. pause in bombing endures.

On Monday, Mr. Trump said that diplomacy with Iran could produce a deal to end the war, but warned that Washington would resume military strikes if negotiations failed.

Tehran backdrop: A woman walks near a billboard depicting U.S. President Donald Trump in the Iranian capital on Monday. REUTERS

"I have a lot of patience... We'll see what happens. I think there is a good chance that something could happen," Mr. Trump told reporters. "If it doesn't, we go back to doing what we were doing two days ago."

Mr. Trump's had suspended the campaign following advice from his top brass that the bombing, aimed at breaking Iran's grip on strait, had reached the limits of what it could achieve, according to a U.S. official and U.S. media reports.

The official said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, had also expressed concern over the depletion of air defence weapons.

But Mr. Trump dismissed concerns that five months of war had depleted U.S. munitions.

"We have a lot of ammunition," he said. "We have a lot of the mid-level stuff too, more than we could ever use, no matter what."

Earlier in the day, Esmail Baghaei, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in a televised press conference that Iran had not asked to resume peace talks with the U.S.

In a clear bid to signal that the U.S. bombing had failed in its objective, Tehran indicated it was still in control of the crucial waterway. Several Iranian state media outlets carried the same report that Iran had turned around six "offending ships" on Monday that had attempted to cross the strait without its permission. "The traffic route in Hormuz is the route specified by Iran, and other routes are contaminated and have no way out," the state media reports said.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Gyaneshwari finishes with silver after a gripping duel

The Indian comes second best to Nigerian Didih in 53kg event despite successfully completing all her attempts; the latter secures the gold after setting both Commonwealth and Games records

CWEALTH GAMES

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

There hadn't been a more gripping weightlifting contest at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games here than the women's 53kg event on Monday.

In a battle that went right down to the final lift, Nigeria's Onome Omolola Didih edged out India's Gyaneshwari Yadav to claim the gold medal.

Gyaneshwari lifted a total of 199kg, while Didih produced a total of 206kg – both a Commonwealth and Games record. The Nigerian also rewrote the record books in the individual lifts, establishing both Commonwealth and Games records in the snatch (93kg) and clean and jerk (113kg).

Gyaneshwari had produced a flawless performance by successfully completing all her attempts with remarkable composure and precision.

The duel reached its climax in the clean and jerk. Gyaneshwari opened with a successful 103kg lift, while Didih responded with 105. In the second round, the former confidently cleared 107, only for the latter stay ahead with 110.

Making a big impression: Gyaneshwari bagged a silver in her maiden Games. PTI

With the pressure mounting, Gyaneshwari raised the bar to 111 for her final attempt and nailed it, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

Didih, however, replied with an outstanding lift of 113 to seal the gold medal in dramatic fashion.

The moment she completed the winning lift, the 22-year-old waved to the spectators before turning towards the television cameras and shaking her head in celebration.

Didih established her as one of Africa's leading lifters by winning the 55 kg gold in the African championships in Moka, Mauritius, last year. Later in 2025, she also won the Commonwealth championships in Ahmedabad in 53kg. With the gold here, Didih has firmly established herself as the premier lifter in the Commonwealth.

Earlier, Gyaneshwari was on a roll in the snatch series, comfortably clearing 82, 85 and 88kg. Those effortless lifts suggested she was well poised for the clean and jerk.

But Didih was a different beast altogether. Every challenge Gyaneshwari posed, Didih answered with an even bigger lift, staying one step ahead throughout the contest.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- 2026 **Commonwealth Games (Glasgow, Scotland)** अभी जारी हैं (23 जुलाई–2 अगस्त 2026)। इसलिए पदक तालिका प्रतिदिन बदल रही है। **28 जुलाई 2026** तक भारत का प्रदर्शन इस प्रकार है:

भारत की स्थिति (28 जुलाई 2026 तक)

- **रैंक: 8वाँ स्थान**
- **स्वर्ण:** 2
- **रजत:** 5
- **कांस्य:** 3
- **कुल पदक: 10**

भारत के पदक विजेता

खिलाड़ी	खेल/स्पर्धा	पदक
Mirabai Chanu	वेटलिफ्टिंग (महिला 48kg)	स्वर्ण
Sharmila Dhankar	पैरा एथलेटिक्स (शॉट पुट F57)	स्वर्ण
Chanambam Rishikanta Singh	वेटलिफ्टिंग (पुरुष 60kg)	रजत
Raja Muthupandi	वेटलिफ्टिंग (पुरुष 65kg)	रजत
Sarvesh Kushare	एथलेटिक्स (हाई जंप)	रजत
Valluri Ajaya Babu	वेटलिफ्टिंग (पुरुष 79kg)	रजत
Gyaneshwari Yadav	वेटलिफ्टिंग (महिला 53kg)	रजत
Jhandu Kumar	पैरा पावरलिफ्टिंग	कांस्य
Bindyarani Devi	वेटलिफ्टिंग (महिला 58kg)	कांस्य
Shilpa K. Shyla	पैरा एथलेटिक्स (शॉट पुट F57)	कांस्य

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

शीर्ष 5 देश (28 जुलाई 2026 तक)

रैंक	देश	स्वर्ण	रजत	कांस्य	कुल
1	ऑस्ट्रेलिया	26	13	20	59
2	इंग्लैंड	8	13	11	32
3	कनाडा	7	8	6	21
4	नाइजीरिया	6	4	0	10
5	स्कॉटलैंड	5	4	2	11

Facts

- **23वें Commonwealth Games**
- **आयोजन स्थल:** Glasgow, Scotland
- **तिथि:** 23 जुलाई – 2 अगस्त 2026
- **भाग लेने वाले देश/क्षेत्र:** 74 Commonwealth Games Associations
- **कुल खेल:** 10
- **कुल स्वर्ण पदक स्पर्धाएँ:** 215

Overview

- Hepatitis
- SVEP
- CJP
- Right to Peacefull Protest
- Ram Mandir
- Anti paper Leak Bill
- 10th Schedule
- Forced Labor
- USA-Saudi Arab
- CAFÉ III
- Employment Elasticity
- NIPU
- UNESCO
- Red Sea
- Hormuz
- Common Wealth