

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

 **ONE STOP SOLUTION**

By **Faiyaz Sir**



16
SEPTEMBER



**COMPLETE
COVERAGE**



**EXAM
FOCUSED**



**ANALYSIS
MADE EASY**



**STATIC + CURRENT
INTEGRATION**



**STAY AHEAD
STAY PREPARED**



Big
Dreams
Require
Big Efforts
😊

नींद को भुलाकर
सपनों पर ध्यान लगा,
बहाने छोड़, अब बस
पढ़ाई में मन लगा।



आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

- Semicon India 2026 } P13
- VB-G RAM G ✓
- महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



सिलिकॉन की दुनिया में भारत की दस्तक

SEMICON India 2026 और भारत के चिप पावरहाउस बनने की कहानी

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 15 SEP 2026 10:52AM by PIB Delhi

17 सितंबर को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारका स्थित यशोभूमि जाएंगे और SEMICON India 2026 का उद्घाटन करेंगे। उनके साथ दुनिया की बड़ी चिप कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधि, नीति-निर्माता और निवेशक भी वहां मौजूद होंगे। सभी की नजर उस उद्योग पर होगी, जिसे भारत ने लगभग शून्य से खड़ा किया है।

तीन दिनों तक भारत में सेमीकंडक्टर यानी चिप निर्माण की पूरी कहानी दुनिया के सामने होगी। करीब एक दशक पहले भारत में इस उद्योग की मौजूदगी बहुत मामूली थी। इसलिए यह आयोजन सिर्फ एक सम्मेलन नहीं है। यह वह मौका है, जब भारत की सेमीकंडक्टर बनाने की महत्वाकांक्षा पूरी दुनिया के सामने आएगी।



- **SEMICON India 2026** भारत का एक प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेमीकंडक्टर (चिप निर्माण और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स) सम्मेलन और प्रदर्शनी है।

इसकी मुख्य जानकारी नीचे दी गई है:

- **SEMICON India 2026 क्या है?** यह एक ग्लोबल प्लेटफॉर्म है जहाँ दुनिया भर की सेमीकंडक्टर कंपनियाँ, विशेषज्ञ, निवेशक, नीतिकार और स्टार्टअप्स एक साथ आते हैं। इस वर्ष की थीम **"Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem"** है।

इसे कौन आयोजित कर रहा है (कौन चला रहा है)?

- **मुख्य आयोजक:** इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) तथा **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**।
- **ग्लोबल पार्टनर:** वैश्विक सेमीकंडक्टर उद्योग निकाय **SEMI** और अन्य उद्योग संघ।
- **उद्घाटन:** इसका उद्घाटन 17 सितंबर को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा किया जा रहा है।

17-18-17

कब से कब तक और कहाँ होगा?

- तारीख: 17 सितंबर से 19 सितंबर 2026 (3 दिनों तक)।
- स्थान: यशोभूमि (IICC - इंडिया इंटरनेशनल कन्वेंशन एंड एक्सपो सेंटर), द्वारका, नई दिल्ली।

मुख्य उद्देश्य (Objectives):

- ग्लोबल सेमीकंडक्टर हब बनाना: भारत को सेमीकंडक्टर और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स मैन्युफैक्चरिंग के क्षेत्र में एक मजबूत और भरोसेमंद ग्लोबल पार्टनर के रूप में स्थापित करना।
- निवेश और साझेदारी: वैश्विक चिप निर्माता कंपनियों को भारत में निवेश, कारखाने (Fabs) और असेंबली/पैकेजिंग यूनिट्स लगाने के लिए आकर्षित करना।
- एंड-टू-एंड इकोसिस्टम: केवल चिप डिजाइन ही नहीं, बल्कि सिलिकॉन कच्चे माल से लेकर अंतिम इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स सिस्टम (Sand to Silicon to Systems) तक की पूरी सप्लाई चेन को भारत में मजबूत करना।
- स्किल व टैलेंट डेवलपमेंट: युवाओं, छात्रों और स्टार्टअप्स को ट्रेनिंग, वर्कफोर्स डेवलपमेंट और हैकाथॉन के माध्यम से सेमीकंडक्टर सेक्टर से जोड़ना और रोजगार के अवसर पैदा करना।

दुनिया चलाने वाली चीज

- अपना फोन हाथ में उठाइए। उसके अंदर कहीं डाक टिकट से भी छोटे आकार का सिलिकॉन का एक टुकड़ा लगा है। उस पर अरबों ट्रांजिस्टर हैं, जो हर सेकंड अरबों बार चालू और बंद होते हैं।
- एप्पल की A19 Bionic चिप 3 नैनोमीटर तकनीक से बनी है। इतनी छोटी सी सतह पर इसमें करीब 30 अरब ट्रांजिस्टर लगे हैं। यह कहना गलत नहीं होगा कि यह इंसानों द्वारा बनाई गई अब तक की सबसे जटिल वस्तुओं में से एक है।
- चिप अब कोई छोटा या खास क्षेत्र तक सीमित उत्पाद नहीं है। ये कारों, ड्रोन, विमानों, MRI मशीनों और उपग्रहों तक में लगी होती हैं।
- इस समय दुनिया का इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स उद्योग करीब 4.3 ट्रिलियन डॉलर का है और तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। सेमीकंडक्टर इस पूरे उद्योग की बुनियाद हैं। ऑटोमोबाइल से लेकर स्वास्थ्य और रक्षा तक लगभग हर बड़ा उद्योग चिप बनाने वाली फैक्ट्रियों से निकलने वाले उत्पादों पर निर्भर करता है।

- इसी वजह से सेमीकंडक्टर को बुनियादी या आधारभूत उद्योग कहा जाता है। अगर इस स्तर पर कमी रह जाए, तो इसके ऊपर निर्भर बाकी सभी उद्योग भी कमजोर पड़ जाते हैं।
- दुनिया को इसका सबक बहुत मुश्किल तरीके से मिला। उदाहरण के लिए, कोविड महामारी के दौरान कई कार फैक्ट्रियों को अपना उत्पादन बंद करना पड़ा। इसकी वजह स्टील या मजदूरों की कमी नहीं थी, बल्कि उन्हें जरूरी चिप नहीं मिल रही थीं।
- जिन देशों ने दशकों तक सेमीकंडक्टर को किसी और की समस्या मानकर छोड़ दिया था, वे अचानक अपने देश में चिप बनाने की क्षमता विकसित करने की कोशिश में जुट गए। महामारी ने चिप के लिए शुरू हुई होड़ को जन्म नहीं दिया था। उसने बस पूरी दुनिया को इस दौड़ में और तेज दौड़ने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया।

मिशन को साकार करना

- इस दिशा में अगला बड़ा कदम 2021 में सेमीकॉन इंडिया कार्यक्रम के साथ आया। इसकी रणनीति साफ थी-सिर्फ दिखावे के लिए कोई एक चिप फैक्ट्री खड़ी करना नहीं, बल्कि पूरा सेमीकंडक्टर इकोसिस्टम तैयार करना।
- सेमीकॉन 1.0 के लिए 76,000 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया। इसमें चिप डिजाइन और निर्माण से लेकर पैकेजिंग, टेस्टिंग, मशीनरी, कच्चे माल और कुशल कर्मचारियों तक पूरी वैल्यू चेन को शामिल किया गया।
- जुलाई 2026 में सरकार ने सेमीकॉन 2.0 को मंजूरी दी। इसके तहत 1.27 लाख करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसका आधार छह प्रमुख क्षेत्रों पर है, चिप डिजाइन, सेमीकंडक्टर बनाने वाली मशीनरी और सामग्री, चिप बनाने की फैक्ट्रियां, आधुनिक पैकेजिंग, रिसर्च और डेवलपमेंट, कुशल प्रतिभाओं का विकास।
- जमीन पर हो रहा काम भी इस कोशिश की पुष्टि करता है। छह राज्यों में 12 सेमीकंडक्टर परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी मिल चुकी है। इनमें 1.64 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के निवेश की प्रतिबद्धता है।
- इन परियोजनाओं में सिलिकॉन और कंपाउंड सेमीकंडक्टर फैब्रिकेशन प्लांट, डिस्प्ले निर्माण और आधुनिक पैकेजिंग जैसी परियोजनाएं शामिल हैं। इनमें से तीन संयंत्रों में व्यावसायिक उत्पादन भी शुरू हो चुका है।
- यह एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव है। इसका मतलब है कि भारत की सेमीकंडक्टर नीति अब सिर्फ कागज पर नहीं है, बल्कि चिप निर्माण वास्तव में जमीन पर शुरू हो चुका है।

Semicon India-2026
2021

1.27 Lakh

12 Semiconductors Plant
जुलाई
मंजूरी

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा (Prelims) प्रश्न

प्रश्न: 'सेमीकॉन इंडिया 2026' (SEMICON India 2026) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इसका आयोजन इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) और इंडिया सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन (ISM) द्वारा वैश्विक उद्योग निकाय SEMI के सहयोग से किया जा रहा है।
2. इस वर्ष के सम्मेलन का विषय (Theme) "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem" है।
3. इसका प्राथमिक उद्देश्य भारत को वैश्विक सेमीकंडक्टर आपूर्ति श्रृंखला (Supply Chain) में एक प्रमुख केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित करना है।

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

- A. केवल 1 और 2
- B. केवल 2 और 3
- C. केवल 1 और 3
- D. 1, 2 और 3

मुख्य परीक्षा (Mains) प्रश्न

- प्रश्न: "भारत का सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन केवल चिप निर्माण तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता (Strategic Autonomy) और आर्थिक सुरक्षा का आधार है।" हाल ही में आयोजित 'SEMICON India 2026' के आलोक में, भारत में सेमीकंडक्टर पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र (Ecosystem) के निर्माण की चुनौतियों और संभावनाओं का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्द)

VB-G RAM G scheme trails MGNREGS by 9% in August

July and August show lower employment generation year-on-year as cumulative persondays fall 32%, from 29.78 crore to 20.21 crore; pause in agricultural activity led to dip in jobs, say officials

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In its second month of operation, the government's new rural employment scheme, Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), registered a modest improvement in employment generation. However, a year-on-year comparison with the MGNREGS for August shows a 9% decline in the availability of work for the rural poor.

In its first month of implementation, the new scheme reported a 48.01% decline in persondays generated compared with the MGNREGS, falling from 17.65 crore in July 2025 to 9.18 crore in July 2026. August showed a smaller year-on-year decline than July. Persondays generated fell from 12.12 crore in August 2025 to 11.03 crore this year, a decline of 9.01%.

Taken together, July and August 2026 showed lower employment generation than the corresponding period in 2025. Cumulative persondays fell from 29.78



The VB-G RAM G lets States align the programme with local agricultural calendars. K. K. MUSTAFAH

crore to 20.21 crore, a decline of 32.13%.

However, in both July and August, the gap could be wider since no persondays were generated in West Bengal in 2025. The implementation of the MGNREGS in West Bengal was stalled in December 2021, with the Union government officially freezing all financial disbursements to the State on March 9, 2022.

'Too early to judge'
According to senior officials in the Union Rural Development Ministry, it is

terns. This flexibility enables the employment programme to complement, rather than compete with, peak agricultural activity.

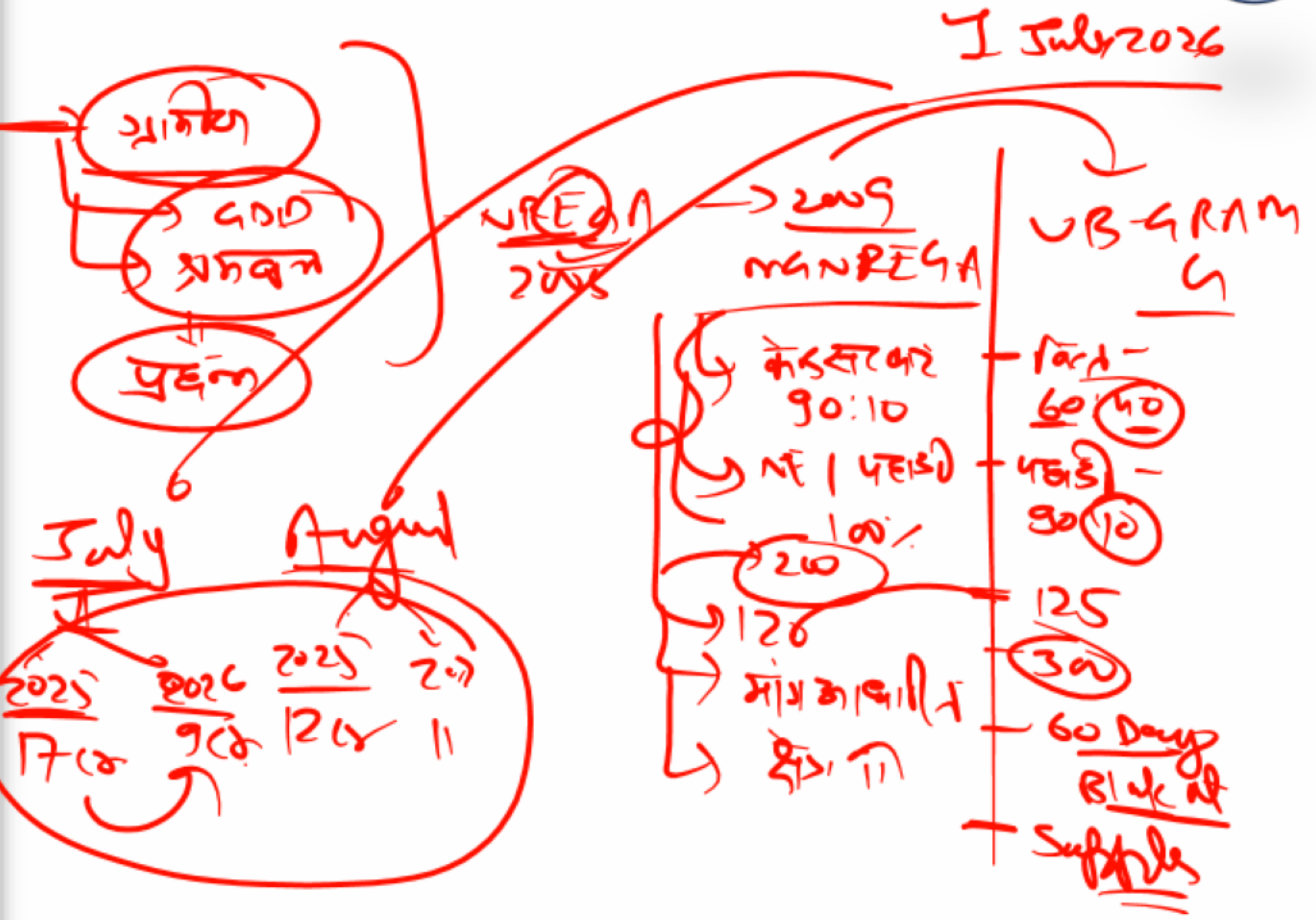
Since the operationalisation of the new jobs programme, 6,40,779 new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee cards have been issued across States and Union Territories.

Ease for e-KYC

While the government has reiterated that workers can continue to access employment using job cards issued under the MGNREGS, it has also clarified that every worker registered under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, irrespective of the e-KYC status of job cards, has been migrated to VB-G RAM G.

The Ministry has further underlined that pending e-KYC does not prevent a worker from demanding or receiving employment.

So far, the e-KYC of 15.89 crore workers has been completed, including 10.27 crore of the 10.84 crore active workers, or approximately 95%.



- केंद्र सरकार की नई ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना **VB-G RAM G** (विकसित भारत - रोजगार और आजीविका मिशन ग्रामीण)

रोजगार सृजन में 9% की गिरावट

- **MGNREGS से तुलना:** अगस्त 2026 में नई योजना के तहत रोजगार उपलब्धता पिछले साल (अगस्त 2025) की MGNREGS तुलना में **9.01% कम** रही। अगस्त 2025 में 12.12 करोड़ 'पर्सन-डेज़' (व्यक्ति-दिवस) रोजगार मिला था, जो अगस्त 2026 में घटकर **11.03 करोड़** रह गया।
- **जुलाई का आंकड़ा:** जुलाई 2026 में यह गिरावट और ज्यादा (48.01%) थी, जो 17.65 करोड़ से घटकर 9.18 करोड़ पर आ गई थी।
- **दो महीनों का कुल असर:** जुलाई और अगस्त 2026 को मिलाकर कुल रोजगार सृजन में पिछले साल की समान अवधि के मुकाबले **32% की गिरावट** (29.78 करोड़ से घटकर 20.21 करोड़) आई है।

गिरावट के मुख्य कारण ✓

- **कृषि गतिविधियों में ठहराव:** अधिकारियों के अनुसार, खेती के मौसम (Agricultural Activity) में आए 60 दिनों के ब्रेक/ठहराव के कारण रोजगार की मांग में यह गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

- **स्थानीय कृषि कैलेंडर की स्वतंत्रता:** नई योजना राज्यों को यह छूट देती है कि वे अपनी स्थानीय फसल और कृषि चक्र के अनुसार योजना का समय तय कर सकें, ताकि यह खेती के पीक सीजन से न टकराए।

योजना से जुड़े अन्य महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **नये जॉब कार्ड:** योजना शुरू होने के बाद से अब तक राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में 6,40,779 नए 'ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी कार्ड' जारी किए गए हैं।
- **e-KYC और माइग्रेशन:** MGNREGS के तहत पंजीकृत सभी कार्यकर्ताओं को VB-G RAM G में माइग्रेट कर दिया गया है।
- **e-KYC पेंडिंग होने पर भी काम मिलेगा:** मंत्रालय ने स्पष्ट किया है कि e-KYC पेंडिंग होने पर भी किसी मजदूर को रोजगार मांगने या पाने से नहीं रोका जा सकता। अब तक लगभग 15.89 करोड़ मजदूरों का e-KYC पूरा हो चुका है।

- **VB-G RAM G (विकसित भारत - रोजगार और आजीविका मिशन ग्रामीण)** योजना का विस्तृत विवरण:

1. कब शुरू हुआ (Launch Date & Legislative History)

- **संसद से पारित:** यह अधिनियम **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** के रूप में दिसंबर 2025 में पारित हुआ।
- **लागू होने की तिथि:** यह योजना **1 जुलाई 2026** से पूरे देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आधिकारिक रूप से लागू की गई।
- **किसकी जगह ली:** इसने लगभग दो दशक पुराने **MGNREGA (मनरेगा)** कानून का स्थान लिया है।

2. कौन सी मिनिस्ट्री चला रही है (Ministry)

- **मंत्रालय:** यह योजना **केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (Ministry of Rural Development)** द्वारा राज्यों/केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों की सरकारों के सहयोग से संचालित की जा रही है।

3. मुख्य प्रावधान (Key Provisions & Features)

- (क) 125 दिनों का रोजगार गारंटी (Enhanced Employment Guarantee)
- MGNREGA में जहाँ 100 दिनों का काम मिलता था, वहीं VB-G RAM G के तहत प्रति ग्रामीण परिवार प्रति वित्तीय वर्ष 125 दिनों के वैधानिक मजदूरी रोजगार (Statutory Wage Employment) की कानूनी गारंटी दी गई है। - 300
- (ख) कृषि मौसम में 60 दिन का ब्रेक (60-Day Break During Peak Agriculture)
- बुवाई और कटाई (Sowing & Harvesting) के पीक कृषि सीजन के दौरान खेत में मजदूरों की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए योजना में 60 दिनों का ठहराव (Pause/Break) रखा जाता है।
- बाकी बचे 305 दिनों में से मजदूर अपने 125 दिनों का रोजगार प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

(ग) चार प्राथमिक क्षेत्रों (Thematic Verticals) में इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर निर्माण

- योजना के तहत चार प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण संपत्तियों का निर्माण किया जाता है:
- **जल सुरक्षा (Water Security):** जल संरक्षण, तालाबों का जीर्णोद्धार, भूजल पुनर्भरण और जलोत्सारण कार्य।
- **मूल ग्रामीण अवसंरचना (Core Rural Infrastructure):** ग्रामीण सड़कें, स्कूल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, सामुदायिक भवन और आवास योजना कार्य।
- **आजीविका अवसंरचना (Livelihood Infrastructure):** कृषि, पशुपालन, डेयरी, मत्स्य पालन और भंडारण से जुड़े कार्य।
- **चरम मौसम / जलवायु संकट शमन (Extreme Weather Mitigation):** बाढ़/सूखा और जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों से बचाव हेतु विशेष कार्य।

(घ) फंड शेयरिंग और बजट आवंटन (Funding Pattern)

- केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के बीच वित्तीय हिस्सेदारी तय की गई है (जैसे मजदूरी, सामग्री व प्रशासनिक खर्चों में राज्यों की भागीदारी बढ़ाना)।
- प्रशासनिक खर्च (Administrative Expenses) की सीमा को 6% से बढ़ाकर 9% किया गया है।

(ङ) योजना और प्रौद्योगिकी (Planning & Technology)

- विकसित ग्राम पंचायत योजना (Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan): योजना की मैपिंग और विकास कार्यों का चयन ग्राम स्तर पर स्थानीय नियोजन से होगा, जिन्हें PM Gati Shakti और National Rural Infrastructure Stack से जोड़ा गया है।
- पारदर्शिता (Transparency): श्रमिकों के बायोमेट्रिक ऑथेंटिकेशन (e-KYC), GPS/मोबाइल आधारित कार्यस्थल निगरानी, और डायरेक्ट बेनिफिट ट्रांसफर (DBT) के ज़रिए साप्ताहिक/पाक्षिक मजदूरी भुगतान का प्रावधान है।

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा (Prelims) प्रश्न

प्रश्न: हाल ही में लागू किए गए 'विकसित भारत - रोजगार और आजीविका मिशन ग्रामीण (VB-G RAM G) अधिनियम, 2025' के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इसने महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (MGNREGA), 2005 को निरस्त (Repeal) कर उसका स्थान लिया है।
2. यह पात्र ग्रामीण परिवारों को प्रति वित्तीय वर्ष 125 दिनों के मजदूरी रोजगार की कानूनी गारंटी प्रदान करता है।
3. योजना के तहत कृषि गतिविधियों के पीक सीजन के दौरान रोजगार सृजन को अनिवार्य रूप से 60 दिनों के लिए रोके जाने (Pause) का प्रावधान है।

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

- A. केवल 1 और 2
- B. केवल 2 और 3
- C. केवल 1 और 3
- D. 1, 2 और 3

सिखा

मुख्य परीक्षा (Mains) प्रश्न

- प्रश्न: "MGNREGA के स्थान पर लाए गए 'VB-G RAM G' अधिनियम का उद्देश्य केवल ग्रामीण सुरक्षा तंत्र (Safety Net) प्रदान करना नहीं, बल्कि इसे उत्पादकता-संचालित (Productivity-driven) ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था से जोड़ना है।" हालिया रिपोर्टों के आलोक में, नई योजना के प्रमुख संशोधनों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए और ग्रामीण रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने में आ रही शुरुआती चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Merchants face 0.4% fee on UPI payment above ₹2,000

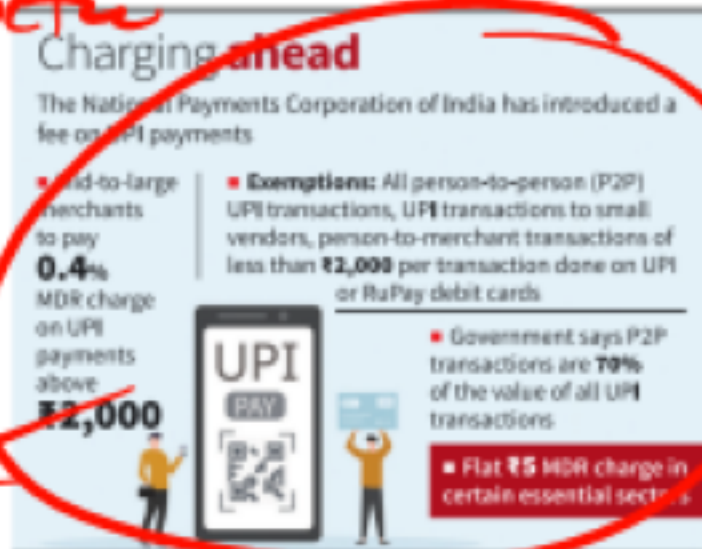
The MDR charges will not be applicable to person-to-person transactions, small vendors; it will take effect from October 15. Centre says banks advised to ensure fees not passed on to customers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Merchants will have to pay a charge of 0.4% on UPI transactions above ₹2,000 from October 15, the National Payments Corporation of India said in a circular on Tuesday. The levy will go to payment ecosystem partners such as banks and payment processors.

The charge, called Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), will not be applicable to person-to-person transactions and those made to small vendors – those receiving up to ₹1 lakh per month via UPI QR codes under the Person-to-Person Merchant (P2PM) classification. All person-to-merchant transactions of up to ₹2,000 done on UPI or through RuPay debit cards will also be exempt.

“For person-to-person (P2P) transactions, there will be no charges at all, irrespective of transaction value,” the Finance Ministry said in a release, ad-



ding, “P2P transactions constitute 97% of the total UPI transactions in volume terms and 70% in value terms.”

In some sectors, such as Railways, telecom, insurance, fuel and agriculture inputs, transactions over ₹2,000 will incur a flat MDR of ₹5. “This flat-rate model ensures cost stability in critical public services and thin-margin industries,” the Ministry said.

The Centre said banks have been advised to ensure that merchants do not

pass on the MDR charges to customers – a key concern raised during discussions on the matter in the public domain.

The 0.4% charge will be “shared amongst the payment ecosystem partners, including banks and app providers”. For transactions of ₹75,000 and above, the MDR will be capped at ₹300 per transaction.

Further, payments towards “mutual funds, securities, stock brokers, and dealers” will attract an

MDR of 0.02%, capped at ₹300, the Ministry said.

This reduced rate, it explained, was aimed at encouraging retail participation in formal financial markets.

‘self-sustainable’

“The new MDR framework will make UPI self-sustainable, give incentives for further expansion in rural and semi-urban areas and maintain competitiveness while ensuring that a large majority of payments remain free of charge,” the Finance Ministry said.

It added that its data analysis showed that only 4% of merchant transactions will be impacted by the MDR introduction, since most transactions fall below the ₹2,000 threshold or qualify under the zero-MDR P2PM framework.

Further, a dedicated fund for promoting the use of UPI by small merchants will be set up using 5% of the total MDR collections.

CONG. SLAMS MOVE
PAGE 5

Govt. surrendering to U.S. pressure: Cong. on UPI fee

Party terms it ‘Modi tax’; leaders point to Finance Minister’s statement in Parliament that no tax or fee would be levied. BJP accuses Congress of spreading ‘fake news’; says consumers exempted

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of opening the door to charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, with Mr. Gandhi alleging that the move was the result of the government “surrendering to American pressure”.

The government’s “loot” had now reached UPI, Mr. Kharge said, while Mr. Gandhi alleged that a recent notification had quietly paved the way for imposing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on merchant transactions above ₹2,000.

“No fees on UPI” has been changed to “no fees on UPI transactions up to ₹2,000”, Mr. Kharge said in a post on social media platform X, alleging that the government was planning to impose a “Digital Payments Tax” on the public when inflation had already squeezed household savings.

Mr. Kharge questioned the government’s decision against the backdrop of the Centre’s earlier emphasis on digital payments after demonetisation. He also referred to Finance Minis-



Digital toll: The government has levied new charges on UPI merchant transactions above ₹2,000. RCU/PTI

ter Nirmala Sitharaman’s recent statement in Parliament that no tax or charges would be levied on UPI transactions, and asked whether reports of a possible ₹25 charge on a ₹5,000 transaction, and up to ₹50 on a ₹10,000 transaction, were correct.

“The government had provided that MDR could be levied on merchant UPI transactions above ₹2,000, Mr. Gandhi said. The government says customers will not be charged, he said, but asked where the cost imposed on merchants would ultimately come from.

“Added to the prices, straight out of the customer’s pocket,” Mr. Gandhi said.

American payment companies had long opposed India’s zero-MDR policy, and the government had now opened the

way for changing it, he alleged. “Just like with the U.S. trade deal, compromised PM Modi is once again surrendering to American pressure,” Mr. Gandhi said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the notification under the amended Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 prohibited banks and payment system providers from charging for UPI transactions of up to ₹2,000 but did not provide explicit protection for transactions above that threshold.

“Decision Making in Modi Govt – Aug 6: Horrible Finance Minister says ‘no decision has been taken on MDR’. Aug 10: PM in Parliament says ‘No MDR framework has yet been finalised’. Sep 14: Notification is issued. Within 24 hrs, MDR charges introduced.” “Another example of Modi

Govt’s FAST moves (First Announce, Subsequently Think),” Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

His colleague Pankaj Khera said the 0.4% MDR on UPI transactions above ₹2,000 should be called the “Modi Tax”.

Fake news, says BJP

Responding to the criticism, the BJP on Tuesday accused the Congress of spreading “fake news” about UPI transaction charges, saying the government has made it clear that MDR charges will not be levied on consumers.

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari hit back at the Congress, calling the Opposition party a “jhoos ki dukaan (shop of lies)”.

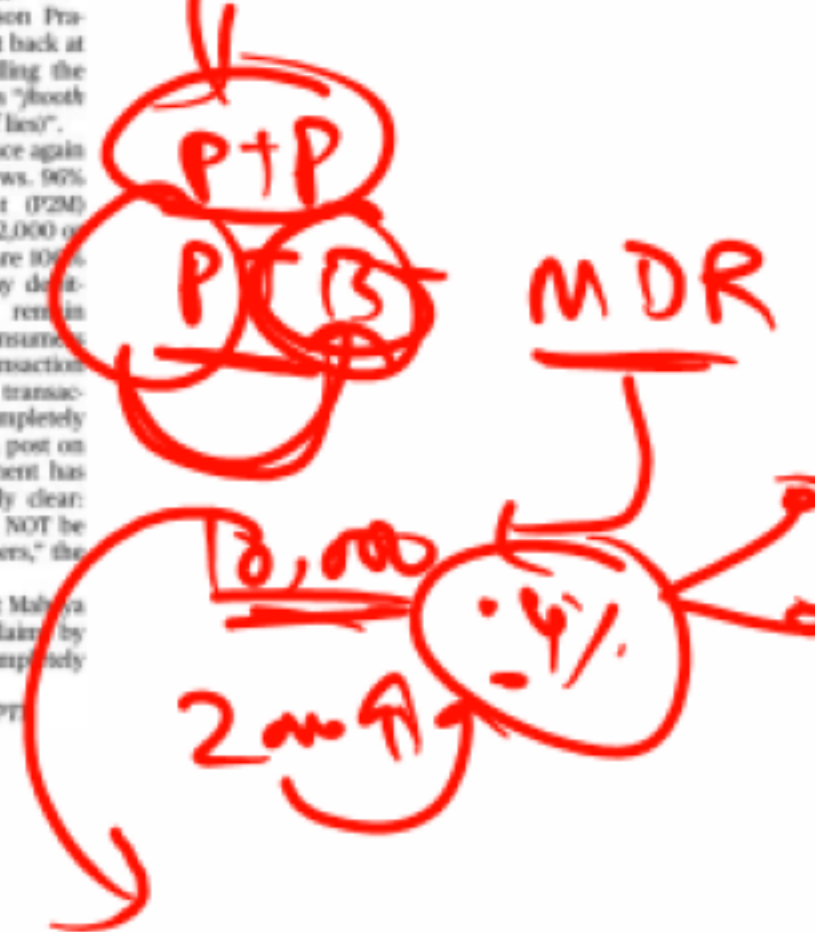
“Congress is once again spreading fake news. 90% of UPI merchant (P2M) transactions are ₹2,000 or below, and they are 100% charge-free. RuPay debit card payments remain charge-free. Consumers pay zero transaction charge. P2P UPI transactions remain completely free,” he said in a post on X. “The Government has made it absolutely clear: MDR charges will NOT be levied on consumers,” the BJP leader added.

BJP leader Amit Mahiya also termed the claim by Congress as “completely false”. (With inputs from PTI)

YouTube Homework

Payment and Settlement Act 2007

- NPCI
 - UPI
 - MDR
- Handwritten notes: 2008 Digital Payment, 2016 Online Payment



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

26% surge in goods exports brings down trade deficit

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit fell in August, driven by strong merchandise exports that grew more than 26%, outpacing the growth in imports in percentage as well as in absolute value terms, said Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, adding that this has happened for the first time.

While acknowledging the positive impact of a depreciating rupee on exports, Mr. Agrawal said that the strong growth in exports has been in dollar terms as well as in rupee value, and that a large amount of India's exports have grown strongly in volume terms as well.

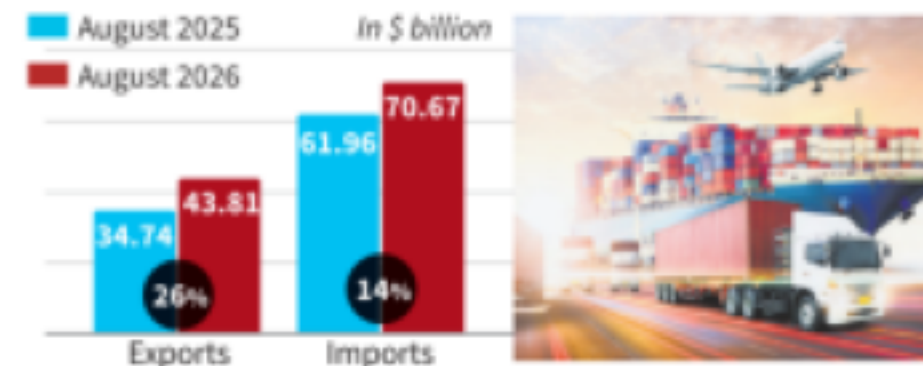
India's overall exports, including merchandise and services, grew 25.4% to \$82.7 billion in August 2026. Imports, on the other hand, grew at a relatively slower 18.7% to \$92.1 billion. As a result, India's total trade deficit shrank to \$9.4 billion in August 2026 as compared to \$11.6 billion in August last year.

Merchandise surge

Merchandise exports grew 26.1% or by \$9.07 billion in

Outward bound

Growth in merchandise exports has outpaced growth in imports in percentage (●) as well as absolute value terms (bars)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

August 2026 to \$43.8 billion. Merchandise imports grew 14% or by \$8.71 billion to \$70.7 billion in the month.

"This is the first time we are seeing that, in absolute value terms also, export growth is higher in value than import growth," Mr. Agrawal said. "That is a positive sign." The Commerce Secretary sought to dispel the notion that this export growth was a result of the depreciating rupee. "There is always a debate about whether this is volume or value-led growth. We looked into that as well. India's merchandise export surge is not only a value-led growth, but also a remarkable volume growth," he said.

"When we looked at

granular data available up to July, it shows that segment volumes have also gone up in the majority of segments, underscoring the demand and breadth of demand in the global market," he added.

Mr. Agrawal explained that out of 168 principal commodities that India exports, 68 have seen growth in both volume and value, while 39 have seen growth in value but not volume.

In comparison with merchandise, India's services sector saw slightly subdued growth. Services exports grew 24.6% to \$38.9 billion in this August when compared to last August.

Services imports, on the other hand, grew a much quicker 37.4%.

YouTube Homework

- External Sector

बाह्य क्षेत्र

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



वस्तुओं के निर्यात में 26% की वृद्धि से व्यापार घाटा घटा

- वाणिज्य सचिव राजेश अग्रवाल के अनुसार, अगस्त 2026 में भारत के मर्चेन्डाइज (वस्तु) निर्यात में 26% से अधिक की मजबूत वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। इसके कारण व्यापार घाटे (Trade Deficit) में गिरावट आई है। प्रतिशत और absolute वैल्यू (मूल्य) दोनों के मामलों में निर्यात की वृद्धि दर आयात की वृद्धि दर से अधिक रही है। ऐसा पहली बार देखने को मिला है।

मुख्य बिंदु:

- व्यापार घाटे में कमी:** अगस्त 2026 में भारत का कुल व्यापार घाटा घटकर \$9.4 बिलियन (9.4 अरब डॉलर) रह गया, जो पिछले साल इसी महीने (अगस्त 2025) में \$11.6 बिलियन था।
- वस्तु निर्यात (Merchandise Exports):** अगस्त 2026 में वस्तु निर्यात 26.1% बढ़कर \$43.81 बिलियन हो गया (\$9.07 बिलियन की बढ़ोतरी)।
- वस्तु आयात (Merchandise Imports):** वस्तु आयात 14% की दर से बढ़कर \$70.67 बिलियन रहा (\$8.71 बिलियन की बढ़ोतरी)।
- कुल निर्यात (वस्तु एवं सेवाएँ):** अगस्त 2026 में कुल निर्यात 25.4% बढ़कर \$82.7 बिलियन तक पहुँच गया, जबकि कुल आयात 18.7% बढ़कर \$92.1 बिलियन रहा।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



अन्य महत्वपूर्ण बातें:

- **वैल्यू और वॉल्यूम दोनों में वृद्धि:** वाणिज्य सचिव ने इस बात को खारिज किया कि निर्यात वृद्धि केवल रुपये के कमजोर होने (depreciation) की वजह से हुई है। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि निर्यात डॉलर मूल्य, रुपये के मूल्य और मात्रा (Volume) तीनों ही स्तरों पर बढ़ा है।
- **कमोडिटीज का प्रदर्शन:** भारत द्वारा निर्यात की जाने वाली 168 मुख्य वस्तुओं में से 68 वस्तुओं के वॉल्यूम और वैल्यू दोनों में बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई, जबकि 39 वस्तुओं में केवल वैल्यू के स्तर पर वृद्धि देखी गई।
- **सेवा क्षेत्र (Services Sector):** सेवाओं का निर्यात 24.6% बढ़कर \$38.9 बिलियन रहा, जबकि सेवाओं का आयात 37.4% की तेज़ गति से बढ़ा।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Meta to share child safety reports with govt. directly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Meta Platforms Inc., the parent firm of Instagram and Facebook, will share child sexual abuse material (CSAM) reports with Indian law enforcement in addition to the U.S.-based National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), the company said on Tuesday.

Meta has been under the scanner over reports describing CSAM being served in ads on Instagram and Facebook.

Indian agencies have for years already had access to CSAM reports from Meta

and other U.S.-based technology companies, following an MoU in 2019 between the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and NCMEC.

Now, the information will be shared directly by Meta with Indian agencies. "As on 31.03.2024, more than 69.05 lakh Cyber Tip-line reports have been shared with States/U.T.s concerned," Union Minister of Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi had told the Rajya Sabha in 2024.

"Protecting children on our platforms is a priority for us and we are committed to working with the go-



Meta has been under the scanner over reports describing CSAM being served in ads on Instagram and Facebook. REUTERS

vernment to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are held responsible," a Meta spokesperson said in a statement.

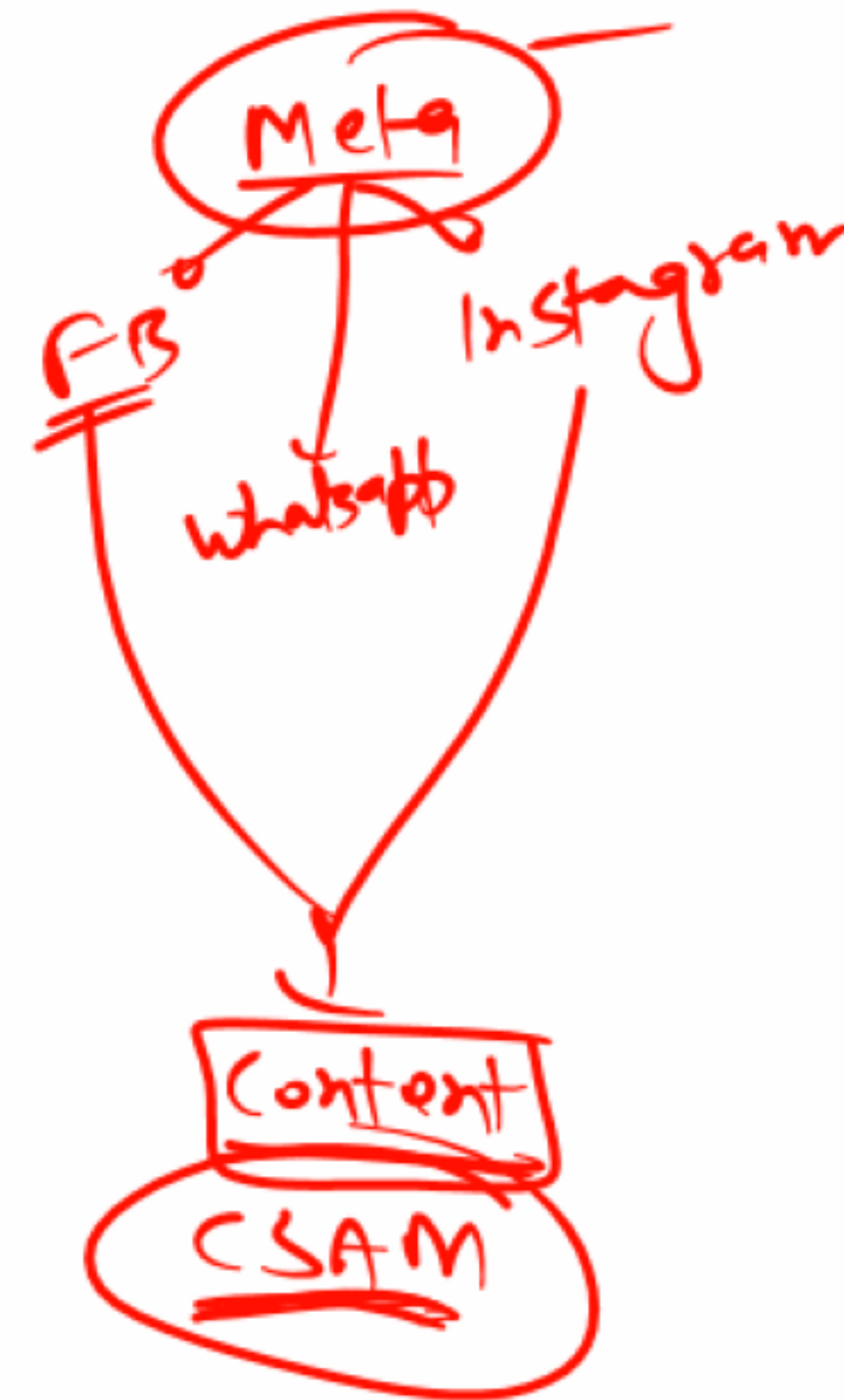
"To collectively strengthen our efforts to combat

this harm, Meta will now report child safety matters directly to the Cyber crime portal managed by I4C," the spokesperson added, referring to the Indian Cybercrime Coordination

Centre, under the Union Home Ministry.

Meta has been scrutinised in recent weeks by the Union government and the National Commission For Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) over news reports describing CSAM being served in ads on Instagram and Facebook. The firm had then said that while it screened all ads being posted by third parties on its platform, some bad actors were able to get such content posted anyway.

The NCPCR has initiated an investigation based on an initial exchange of correspondence with Meta.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- भारत सरकार ने ऑनलाइन बाल यौन शोषण सामग्री (CSAM) और बाल सुरक्षा से निपटने के लिए कड़े नियम बनाए हैं

1. IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021

- स्वचालित पहचान और हटाना:** नियम 3(1)(b) के तहत सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म (Meta, Google आदि) को CSAM या बाल यौन शोषण से जुड़ी सामग्री को प्रोएक्टिवली (खुद से) पहचानने और 24-36 घंटों के भीतर हटाने के लिए स्वचालित उपकरण (Automated Tools) लगाने अनिवार्य हैं।
- 24 घंटे में कार्रवाई:** यदि कोई उपयोगकर्ता बाल यौन शोषण सामग्री से जुड़ी शिकायत करता है, तो प्लेटफॉर्म को 24 घंटे के भीतर सामग्री को हटाना या उसकी पहुंच रोकनी होती है।
- शिकायत निवारण अधिकारी (Grievance Officer):** हर बड़ी टेक कंपनी को भारत में एक स्थानीय अनुपालन अधिकारी और शिकायत अधिकारी नियुक्त करना अनिवार्य है।

2. POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 2012 (धारा 19 और 20)

- अनिवार्य रिपोर्टिंग (Mandatory Reporting):** POCSO कानून की धारा 19/20 के तहत यदि किसी व्यक्ति या प्लेटफॉर्म के पास बाल यौन शोषण सामग्री की जानकारी आती है, तो उसकी रिपोर्ट पुलिस या स्पेशल जुवेनाइल पुलिस यूनिट को देना कानूनी रूप से अनिवार्य है। ऐसा न करना दंडनीय अपराध है।

3. I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) और नेशनल साइबर क्राइम पोर्टल

- गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) के तहत कार्य करने वाला I4C देश भर में CSAM से जुड़े मामलों की निगरानी करता है।
- टेक कंपनियाँ (जैसे Meta) अब अमेरिका स्थित संगठन NCMEC के माध्यम से जाने के बजाय सीधे I4C के पोर्टल पर डेटा/रिपोर्ट्स साझा कर रही हैं, ताकि भारतीय पुलिस त्वरित कानूनी कार्रवाई कर सके।

4. NCPCR और पुलिस का कानूनी हस्तक्षेप

- बाल अधिकारों के संरक्षण के लिए गठित NCPCR (राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग) के पास यह शक्ति है कि यदि कोई प्लेटफॉर्म CSAM से निपटने में लापरवाही बरतता है, तो वह उसके खिलाफ जांच शुरू कर सकता है और FIR दर्ज करने का निर्देश दे सकता है।

Keralam to be first State to put driving aspirants to 'Hazard Perception Test'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a first in the country, Keralam will introduce a mandatory computer-based 'Hazard Perception Test' for driving licence applicants from December 2026 as part of measures to improve road safety and assess the applicants' ability to identify potential hazards on the road.

The test, designed on international standards, will have a video-game-like format. Applicants will have to clear the test within 30 days of passing the learner's test and only those passing it can attend the



Safety lessons: Applicants will have to clear the test within 30 days of passing the learner's test. FILE PHOTO

ground and road tests, according to the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD). The test will comprise 10 one-minute videos depicting situations and potential

hazards that drivers may encounter on the road.

Each video will contain at least two hazards, which candidates will have to identify by pressing a but-

ton at the right moment. Failure to identify a hazard at the right time will result in deduction of marks. Candidates will be awarded 10 marks for each correct response and will have to secure at least 60 out of 100 marks to pass the test.

The Transport Commissioner has directed the implementation of the online test from December considering the rise in road accidents in Keralam.

Though the test is being introduced for the first time in the country, provision for conducting such an assessment is already included in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

YouTube Homework

- Right to Walk

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- केरल राज्य द्वारा सड़क सुरक्षा (Road Safety) को सुधारने के लिए ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस की प्रक्रिया में किए जा रहे एक नए और ऐतिहासिक बदलाव

मुख्य बातें:

- देश में पहला राज्य: केरल भारत का पहला ऐसा राज्य बनने जा रहा है जो ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस आवेदकों के लिए 'हैज़ार्ड परसेप्शन टेस्ट' (Hazard Perception Test - **HPT**) को अनिवार्य बनाएगा।
- कब से लागू: यह कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट **दिसंबर 2026** से अनिवार्य रूप से लागू होगा।
- उद्देश्य: आवेदकों की सड़क पर संभावित खतरों (जैसे अचानक सामने आने वाले पैदल यात्री, वाहन या जानवर) को समय रहते पहचानने और प्रतिक्रिया देने की क्षमता का मूल्यांकन करना।

टेस्ट कैसे काम करेगा (Format & Rules)?

- वीडियो गेम जैसा प्रारूप: यह टेस्ट कंप्यूटर पर होगा जिसमें वीडियो गेम जैसा फॉर्मेट इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा।
- 10 वीडियो क्लिप्स: टेस्ट में 1-1 मिनट के 10 वीडियो दिखाए जाएंगे, जिनमें से हर वीडियो में सड़क पर कम से कम दो संभावित खतरे/जोखिम दिखाए जाएंगे।
- प्रतिक्रिया (Action): उम्मीदवार को खतरे को सही समय पर पहचानकर कंप्यूटर का बटन दबाना होगा।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



अंक प्रणाली (Scoring):

- हर सही उत्तर/पहचान के लिए 10 अंक मिलेंगे।
- टेस्ट पास करने के लिए 100 में से कम से कम 60 अंक लाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- सही समय पर खतरा न पहचान पाने पर अंक काटे जाएंगे।

प्रक्रिया और अनिवार्यता:

- 30 दिनों की समय-सीमा: आवेदकों को लर्नर लाइसेंस (Learner's Test) पास करने के 30 दिनों के भीतर इस टेस्ट को पास करना होगा।
- ग्राउंड/रोड टेस्ट के लिए पात्रता: केवल वही उम्मीदवार प्रैक्टिकल रोड/ग्राउंड ड्राइविंग टेस्ट देने के योग्य होंगे जो इस Hazard Perception Test को पास कर लेंगे।
- पृष्ठभूमि (Background): केरल में लगातार बढ़ रही सड़क दुर्घटनाओं को देखते हुए परिवहन आयुक्त (Transport Commissioner) ने इस टेस्ट को लागू करने का निर्देश दिया है। हालांकि भारत में पहली बार इसे लागू किया जा रहा है, लेकिन केंद्रीय मोटर वाहन नियमों (Central Motor Vehicles Rules) में पहले से ही ऐसे मूल्यांकन का प्रावधान मौजूद है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

UCC should be brought through Parliament, not 'backdoor': Omar tells BJP

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Questioning the move to use the "back-door entry", Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the BJP should implement the Uniform Civil Code by legislating over it in Parliament rather than pushing it through the BJP-ruled States.

"The government should not take the back-door route and should instead bring the Bill before Parliament. If you have numbers, bring it to Parliament. Why are you doing this through different States?" Mr. Abdullah said.

He also flagged that several National Democratic Alliance allies were "opposed to the idea of the UCC". "Not all the NDA allies are in favour of the proposal. I don't think they will be able to pass this in Parliament. That is why they are taking the [BJP-ruled States] path," he said.

Stating that a measure of this nature "could not be considered universal if it was implemented only in BJP-ruled States", Mr. Abdullah said, "The whole country is not a BJP-ruled State. There are a number of States and territories that the BJP does not rule. Therefore, if you apply it only to BJP States, it's not universal."

He pitched that "such



Omar Abdullah speaks at a ceremony for candidates of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service and Accounts Service in Srinagar. ANI

an issue should not be decided by individual States and must be addressed at the national level through Parliament".

Border de-escalation

On the de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Mr. Abdullah said it was a welcome step.

"Anything that reduces tension on the Line of Control or the Line of Actual Control is a good step. Particularly for those people who live close to it, and we know how difficult it is for people living near the LoC or LAC. Similarly, we hope, over time, that along the Line of Control also, things will get better," he said.

On China hailing India's foreign policy, Mr. Abdullah said New Delhi's foreign policy had always been independent and there was no need to seek validation from other countries.

"Our foreign policy is our own. Why do we look

for other countries' certificates? The danger with something like this is that tomorrow were China to say something against our foreign policy, then what will you do? Therefore, I think we should not give too much importance to what other countries say about our foreign policy, whether positive or negative, because we can't cherry-pick. Tomorrow, if there is opposition, we will say, 'Don't interfere in our policy'," he said.

He said the BRICS Summit's condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack was a success of India's foreign policy. "The fact that Pahalgam itself was condemned (at BRICS Summit) is a big thing. Please see how many allies of Pakistan were in that room. Therefore, for even Pahalgam to be mentioned by name, that in itself is a success of our foreign policy," he added.

(With inputs from PTI)

Will analyse and decide: JD(U) clarifies stance on UCC

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The Janata Dal (United) clarified its stance on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) on Tuesday, with a senior party leader stating that they will examine the details of the Bill before taking a final position.

"The JD(U) will first analyse and study the provisions of the UCC, and if they are found unexceptionable, why should we oppose it for no reason?" said senior JD(U) leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary.

Meanwhile, Opposition RJD legislator Bhai Virendra extended an open invitation to JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar to leave the alliance with BJP and rejoin hands with the RJD. "On the UCC, Nitish Kumar has already taken a stand. We will not let the UCC be implemented in Bihar. Come join hands with us again," the RJD leader said, asserting that the present government was working on instructions from Nagpur (where the RSS headquarters is located).

On party name change

When asked about party national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha's proposal to rename the JD(U) as Janata Dal (Nitish), Mr. Chaudhary said the issue would be discussed at the party's national executive and council meetings before a decision is taken.

Uniform Civil Code

2029
BJP (21)
UCC

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

How AI risks can outpace safeguards

A statement that an AI model has 'safeguards' can be true to the extent that AI companies can act on potentially harmful information when they detect it, but false if taken to mean that the safeguards prevent harm altogether, as users can save data offline before their account is terminated.

EXPLAINER

Yashwanth Subramanian

The story so far: In a September 10 report, Anthropic said it had blocked users from using its Claude AI model for a range of potentially harmful activities across cybersecurity, surveillance, and biotechnology between December 2023 and August 2024. However, the report also left unanswered an older problem: that the rules questions about what Claude could really have done, and where Anthropic might not be caught in a bind.

Sending danger

Today, AI companies like Google, Anthropic, and OpenAI are mostly policing themselves while also building out a powerful technology. In this context, self-policing should raise some concerns. For example, that employees who know these companies' preclaiming insufficient attention to safety. The Jacobs Group did, and probably being more theoretical than constructive, that AI companies could be talking up how beneficial their products can be while continuing to under-protect society against the damage it could wreak in the wrong hands, and that developers of AI models should not release a new capability before they have also engineered adequate safeguards.

Anthropic's report is useful due to its earlier OpenAI and Sonnet 4.1 models had "zero strings" safeguards against use in biology because internal evaluations had concluded they were not capable enough, and that Anthropic decided to control such access only in its newer models, especially Claude 3. The company had also said in August that it began to block conversations about biological weapons.

had been inactive on roughly 122 million exchanges for nearly a year.

The report has case studies of users who used the older models for biology research for many weeks. The just two examples. One researcher refused to draft



The input and output classifiers are only on alert when sufficient patterns have accumulated. (AI Frontiers)

a grant proposal for gene function research on the chikungunya virus. And some developers involved Claude in a public-order programme, including a field test with Claude-made code. In all cases, Anthropic said it terminated the user's account as soon as the potential for harm was because clear.

AI models require sophisticated hardware and software origins, including software components called input and output classifiers, which respectively check the user's inputs and the model's outputs. As the report put it, a classifier "cannot simultaneously enable benefits and prevent harm" in contexts where some knowledge can be used for good or for bad. This means a user using Claude to design something dangerous, like guidance code for a missile, could have already saved that output offline before Anthropic spotted the misuse and closed the user's account.

Safe or shock-hat?

If the means and the opportunity both exist, wouldn't an AI company's claim to "having safeguards" become misleading when data can still be utilised before the company closes an account?

not ensure AI companies, as the limits also reveal what the company's "safeguards" actually entail. A statement that "there are safeguards" can be true to the extent that the input/output classifiers act on potentially harmful information when they detect it, but false to the extent that the "safeguards" have prevented harm altogether, thanks to data collection before termination.

Export controls

This is not a new problem. Older systems have dealt with similar issues for decades. Curiously, they did not solve the problem, instead, they roughly converged on two alternatives: restricting the people who could access a technology, then tracking patterns of use over time. (This is also the "travel access programme" paragraph the Anthropic report mentions later.)

A multi-client system with these features is export controls. Neither the GAO nor the Coordinating Committee for Multinational Export Controls nor the House Intelligence and the House Foreign Affairs Group of today have imposed individual shipments. Instead, to meet their conditions, participating nations have generally required an export licence linked to a specific end-user and an end-use certificate, and those had to steer clear of a list of banned organisations and countries. Without having to track individual shipments of some parts or exporting them to reveal if they're headed for a weapon plant or a weapons facility, then, the regime can simply control who can access those parts at all.

Similar events have played out in an emerging biotechnology industry where banks can monitor single transactions, large anonymous private purchases following the 2003 Shanghai City bombing, and sales of pseudophosphine during the American anthrax bioterrorism crisis. For different reasons, empowering the classifier has not been the answer.

However, that still leaves the question of completely restricting access to dangerous AI models – separating with the "no initiation" – open.

This is a useful question because it reveals two details that are often conflated: the company needs to have a checkpoint, and the checkpoint needs to be able to recognise that information presented to it is harmful. As, while there is a built-in gap between output generation and output delivery, the checkpoint also needs to be able to tell whether the output is harmful – and it would be reckless to attempt to do so based on single messages.

As you are watching a movie, hand could phone or email out of a window to someone on the other side, and your job lets up if the recipient is building a rifle or a wheelchair. At first you will not be able to say much because all you see are guns, springs, plates, and wires going through that over time, the sequence of parts and the larger parts will reveal if the intended object is a rifle or a wheelchair. Similarly, a user may prompt Claude to write code for a control loop, which appears in guided missiles as well as in air conditioning, refrigerators, and toilet tanks. The input and output classifiers are only on alert when a sufficient pattern has accumulated. However, the limits of what can be inferred from a single message do

THE GIST

• A report says, Anthropic said it had blocked users from using its Claude AI model for a range of potentially harmful activities across cybersecurity, surveillance, and biotechnology between December 2023 and August 2024.

• AI models include components called input and output classifiers, which respectively check the user's inputs and the model's outputs. As the report put it, a classifier "cannot simultaneously enable benefits and prevent harm" in contexts where some knowledge can be used for good or for bad.

China's open AI advantage may not last forever

Indian startups are rebuilding their products on Chinese foundations. Qwen, DeepSeek and Kimi allowed significant cost savings, run almost as well as the American frontier, and lag it by about six months. Nikhil Arora reported in July 2024 that Indian companies are increasingly switching to Chinese large language models (LLMs) to contain Artificial Intelligence (AI) costs, with one venture investor noting that startups are cutting costs by an order of magnitude.

This open-weight generosity is neither charity nor a workaround for chip controls. It is a strategy supported by different independent logics that make it durable. But durable is not permanent. The assessment by these writers is that China will begin graduating access to its frontier open-weight models around late 2028.

China's strategy rests on five reinforcing logics. The first is cost. DeepSeek trained their R1 model for \$294,000, a fraction of the cost OpenAI or Anthropic incur. Distillation from American models and breakthroughs in architectural efficiency have compressed research and development spending.

The second is prestige. DeepSeek's January 2025 release wiped roughly a trillion dollars off U.S. tech stocks. Chinese President Xi Jinping's appearance at the Shanghai AI conference, the 26 countries would restrict technology.

The third is convenience. (GPT-4o, Gemini 1.5 Pro), the LLM training slots for developing countries are examples of open-weighting converted into diplomacy.

The third is commoditisation. American labs monetise proprietary weights. Free models good enough for most commercial work hurt their pricing power. Chinese AI companies do not have to bear their competitor's product; only destroy their ability to charge for it.

The fourth is capital. Financial repression traps Chinese household savings in state banks, which lend cheaply to strategic sectors. The result is the same state subsidisation and commoditisation that flattened global solar and electric vehicle production. This dynamic has



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China's open models cut India's AI costs, but create future dependencies

led to 820 LLMs registered with China's cyberspace authority by early 2025. The fifth is infrastructure. Free models drive AI adoption which drives demand for complementary products that China dominates – energy, cloud and physical infrastructure. Alibaba's cloud revenue grew 34% year-on-year while it gave Qwen away.

What would make Beijing close the gates

The Financial Times reported in July that Chinese regulators led by the Ministry of Commerce have been consulting leading AI companies including Alibaba, ByteDance and Zhipu on two issues: limiting the transfer of training data abroad and whether foreign users should continue to be able to freely download the model weights of Chinese AI systems. But it is clear that these conditions have to be met before restriction becomes rational for the Communist Party.

The first is consolidation. Beijing can coordinate five firms; it cannot coordinate 800. Xiaomi has already announced the shift from the "Hundred Model War" to the "Top Five Basic Models." The irony is that U.S. export controls, by raising costs for Chinese labs through chip export controls, are accelerating the very consolidation that makes Chinese restriction feasible.

The second is lock-in. If China restricts access before global developers are deeply embedded in its cloud stack, they simply migrate elsewhere and the flywheel breaks. This threshold is currently far from being reached.

The third is saturation. Once pricing power of frontier American AI labs is sufficiently commoditised and (non-Chinese open-weight releases from Meta, Mistral, Nvidia and others) are sustaining the pressure independently, further Chinese releases buy nothing. Again, the gap is narrowing here but still exists.

The likely outcome is therefore not a switch flipped but different pathways with graduated restrictions: Frontier models served via API first and weights released after a six-month embargo; commercial keeping above a capability

threshold, with smaller distilled models left free as the on-ramp, model weights released openly, but tool-use and agentic scaffolding withheld, preferential access for WACO members. The assessment by these writers is that graduated restriction begins appearing around late 2028.

What India should do about it

India should leverage the open ecosystem while pricing in the switching costs. Government departments and regulated sectors should be built on model-agnostic architectures such as abstraction layers and harnesses that work across stacks. Instead of offering compute subsidies on GPU slices, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) should consider using an OpenInferator equivalent for the public sector.

Focus on areas where India can actually win such as applications, industrial and language data, edge inference silicon design, and domain-specific fine-tuning. This is about building self-strength through increasing capabilities in a few selective segments, rather than full self-sufficiency, which India cannot afford and does not need.

Lastly, India should use the window diplomatically. It should be shaping open-weight norms in multilateral fora, while the commons is still open and Beijing still needs legitimacy for it.

For the most part, India is consuming and integrating AI into applications that address its needs, rather than building the frontier. Rapid diffusion to enhance productivity across sectors matters far more than AI sovereignty theatre, and today's open models from both the U.S. and Chinese ecosystems are more than adequate for that. But the reason they are adequate is that a strategic competition is currently being fought by giving them away. That competition will not stay in this phase forever. India should leverage the open ecosystem while making sure that it can survive disruptions that come along the way.

The views expressed are personal

AI cooperation

The BRICS framework is an alternative to a geopolitical view of AI development

Artificial Intelligence is at a strange crossroads, with the United States government disregarding frontier AI developers' own call for a global development slowdown of models due to hacking risks and misalignment and the BRICS Summit offering an alternative view of how geopolitics should respond to this rapidly evolving situation. The AI firms and the U.S. government have long framed the astronomical sums being funnelled into data centres and other associated investments as key to holding their ground in a U.S.-China competition. During the Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against the "weaponisation" of technology and minerals, while Chinese President Xi Jinping touted the potential of a "BRICS AI open source community" that would challenge any one country's dominance in the sector. India has taken the middle path, not joining any protest against U.S.-led models, while underscoring the need to keep AI development insulated from national rivalries. While some of this approach is informed by the fact that India's AI ecosystem is relatively fledgling, it is also a nod to the reality that this is a technology that may radically reshape the global economy, and participating even in its deployment may have dividends across time.

And yet, the Global South finds itself wedged occasionally in great power rivalry dynamics, for instance suffering from a global pull out of Anthropic's powerful Fable and Mythos models. A world of trade disputes spilling into supply chains cannot and should not impact the proliferation of AI capabilities, as timely and comprehensive access to these technologies is key to national security. It is encouraging that the BRICS Summit's joint initiatives on AI are building more avenues for cooperation among middle powers to combat this concentration. Open source and collaborative approaches can insulate nations from belligerent and unpredictable policymaking on AI from the U.S. While such models lag behind in capabilities from the frontier proprietary ones, they continue to improve at a rapid clip, a heartening prospect for deployment-heavy economies where AI development is not at such an advanced stage. This is especially true as AI systems show signs of defying instructions and going to great lengths – even hacking into vulnerable systems – to achieve a given task. The weaponisation of such capabilities, which can be supercharged or minimised depending on who is in control, raises concerns for countries with weakened cyber defences. Proliferation of defensive capabilities against such evolving risks is only possible when nations collaborate on making them broadly and cheaply available. BRICS should be one such forum. AI brings up the biggest known unknowns of history, and considering the dangers to humanity therein, it should not fall into the geopolitics and hierarchies of haves and have-nots that guide the thinking of the hawks at the frontier.

9 PM - LIVE
WACO

DFCs: the backbone of India's logistics revolution

NEWS ANALYSIS

Santosh V. Perumal

India's multi-billion-dollar PM GatiShakti project, akin to national multimodal freight grids in the U.S., Europe or China, got a shot in the arm with the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) coming into operation.

India has effectively completed a 2,843-km-long dedicated freight rail backbone, comprising the 1,506-km WDFC from Dadri to JNPT and the 1,337-km Eastern DFC (EDFC) from Ludhiana to Son Nagar – a structural transformation of India's logistics architecture, whose multiplier effect will be visible through job creation and regional development.

The WDFC connects the northern manufacturing and consumption belt with India's principal container gateway, JNPT. Its ability to run longer, heavier and double-stack container trains substantially raises freight productivity.

The Dadri-JNPT journey is expected to cut to 58 hours from about 66, while the corridor creates dedicated capacity insulated from the operational conflicts between passenger and freight trains on conventional routes.

The WDFC comes about three years after the EDFC came into full operation. The two operational corridors, which serve as economic arteries, have complementary roles: the EDFC strengthens the mineral-industrial axis, while the WDFC strengthens manufacturing-export axis.

What is GatiShakti?

Launched in 2021, PM GatiShakti is a GIS-based national plan – incorporating satellite imagery, geospa-



Infra boost: The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), virtually inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. PTI

tial databases and project information – providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones. A total of 58 Central Ministries/Departments and all 36 States/UTs have been on-boarded, with about 22,000 data layers integrated. The Network Planning Group already evaluated 352 infrastructure projects worth ₹16.1 lakh crore, of which 204 have been sanctioned and 167 are under implementation.

Role of DFCs

DFCs have created additional paths on the conventional network by diverting freight traffic. The Railways reported that DFC traffic rose from an average of 247 trains a day in 2023-24 to 443 in August 2026. The WDFC alone carried 280 trains a day – 88% of its capacity – even before full commissioning, releasing capacity for passenger and additional freight services on conventional lines.

The force multiplier DFCs are expected to trigger productivity enhancement across the value chain: lower working-capital needs, better inventory-to-sales ratios, reduced road congestion, fuel consumption and emissions, greater export reliability, a larger market radius for manufacturers, higher fac-

tory utilisation, better port productivity, and a stronger competitive edge for Indian goods.

Beyond the WDFC and EDFC, the Railways have identified three corridors for detailed project report (DPR) examination: the East Coast Corridor from Kharagpur to Vijayawada; the East-West corridor covering Palghar-Bhusawal-Nagpur-Kharagpur-Dankuni and the Rajkarsawan-Kalpahari-Andal route; and North-South Vijayawada-Nagpur-Itarsi corridor.

The Union Budget 2026-27 gave the East-West proposition a stronger policy push, identifying about 2,052-km Dankuni-Surat DFC traversing Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra. If implemented, it is likely to create a second east-west freight spine linking mineral and industrial heartland to Gujarat's ports and manufacturing base. The economics of new corridors will be tested rigorously as land acquisition, environmental clearances, financing, interoperability, maintenance and technological upgrading turn increasingly important.

Greater opportunities

The bigger opportunity lies in the fusion of these corridors with Sagarmala, the flagship national initia-

tive to boost port-led development harnessing India's extensive coastline and navigable waterways, which include 12 major ports and 200 non-major ports.

Sagarmala and the DFCs are not separate silos but two hemispheres of the same logistics architecture. Sagarmala comprises 294 rail and road projects, of which 84 (63 rail and 21 road) have been completed and 66 (27 and 39) are under implementation. Another 144 (42 and 102) are in the planning stage.

To strengthen port-led industrialisation, it has already identified 14 industrial projects valued at ₹55,737 crore, of which nine are complete. Besides, more than 8,000 acre of major-port land has been utilised for industrialisation, generating sizeable direct and indirect jobs, as per Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways data.

In the case of the WDFC, though JNPT is the southern terminus, its economic impact extends far beyond. Dedicated links and logistics terminals should efficiently connect the corridor with Mundra, Kandla, Pipavav, Hazira and, eventually, Vadnavan.

The Sagarmala project has identified port connectivity as the central priority, including DFC connections to western ports.

Reflecting the transformational pace of India's infrastructure development, the WDFC has the potential to evolve from a Delhi-Mumbai rail corridor into a North-West India maritime trade corridor.

This shift from trunk connectivity to terminal linkage calls for greater investment in port-rail integration, multimodal logistics parks and industrial clusters. Bharatmala's economic corridors, expressways and feeder routes

provide the critical first- and last-mile connectivity linking factories, warehouses, markets and ports.

Cost aspects

India's logistics costs – historically higher than in many manufacturing economies – were estimated at 7.97% of GDP in 2023-24, or about ₹24.04 lakh crore. A DPIIT-NCAER study found the average freight cost was about ₹1.96/tonne-km for rail, ₹11.03 for road, and ₹1.80 for waterways. Shifting long-haul freight from road to DFC rail can produce huge unit transport-cost savings, benefiting key stakeholders.

Sectors set to gain

Engineering, automobiles and auto components stand to benefit as the WDFC traverses some of India's most important manufacturing regions in Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Faster, more predictable movement of finished vehicles, components, machinery and industrial inputs should cut inventory needs and boost supply-chain reliability. For automobile exporters in the NCR-Gujarat-Maharashtra axis, the corridor offers a particular advantage: containers and finished vehicles can move reliably towards western ports without competing for capacity with passenger trains. The corridor's influence extends to textiles, apparel, chemicals and consumer goods, sectors in which Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra are major hubs.

Gujarat's petrochemical belt, together with ports such as JNPT, Mundra, Kandla and Hazira, stands to benefit from high-capacity rail evacuation. Stronger port-rail connectivity creates a multiplier effect

across the value chain, from cheaper raw materials to competitive downstream manufacturing.

Global experiences

The European Union's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), the closest comparable model, is a multimodal network integrating railways, roads, inland waterways, short-sea shipping, ports, airports and terminals. The Rhine-Alpine Corridor, linking the North Sea ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp with Genoa in Italy through major industrial regions, bears similarities to the WDFC, which connects JNPT, Mundra, Kandla, Pipavav and Hazira with industrial corridors, highways, logistics parks, inland terminals and coastal shipping. The U.S. operates a vast multimodal freight network connecting ports, manufacturing centres, farms, mines, cities and distribution centres, now reinforced by its 2026 National Freight Strategic Plan under the National Multimodal Freight Network concept.

China maybe the most relevant comparison: like India, it has a vast geography, a large manufacturing base and a strong State role in infrastructure. Its 2030 plan eyes boosting inter-modal connections at about 1,000 major freight hubs and terminals while boosting coastal, border and river transport.

Next steps

Last-mile connectivity, port evacuation, terminal capacity, warehousing, road interfaces and customs can't be the weak links. India's logistics transformation will be measured not by how fast a train can move but by how fast the entire system moves.



- DFC
- EDFC
- WDFC

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



In trouble: Smoke billows from the Panamanian oil tanker *El Gaia* after the hit. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tanker *El Gaia* hit in the Strait of Hormuz was in 'dark mode'

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

MT El Gaia, the tanker which was hit by a projectile over the weekend in the Strait of Hormuz, was reportedly operating in "dark mode", with its Automatic Identification System (AIS) switched off, and its coordinates were not available at the time of reporting. Its last port of call was Sohar, Oman.

The tanker had 25 crew members on board: 14 Indian and 11 Pakistani nationals.

Two crew members remain unaccounted for: Muhammad Hammad Obaida, Third Engineer, a Pakistani national from Karachi who had joined the vessel on September 7, 2026; and Sumit Kumar Singh, Oiler, an Indian national from Vaishali who had joined on June 25, 2026.

Photos of the ship from

September 13 indicate that the engine room was attacked and damaged by the projectile. The two were reportedly on watch in the engine room at the time of the incident.

Sumit Kumar Singh had signed on to the ship in June when the ship had called on Dahej, Gujarat.

The 20-year-old ship, which has a cargo-carrying capacity of 48,000 tonnes, is owned and managed by Dubai, UAE-based companies. Five recruitment agencies supplied the crew onboard the vessel, according to official sources.

The Omani Coast Guard boarded the vessel following the attack. The remaining 23 crew members were transferred to an Omani Coast Guard vessel and brought ashore. While the Master and Chief Engineer were Pakistanis, the Chief Officer, Second Engineer and others were Indians.

YouTube Homework

- Other Vessel

↳ हार्दिक अल्लडमरुहय
ऑफर सोमान की
ट्याडी में
प्रभावित
होने वाला जहाज

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



China calls on India to take forward ties 'without stagnation'

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that the leaders of India and China reached "an important consensus" in their meeting in New Delhi that the two countries should be partners, and Beijing hoped both countries would take forward ties "without stagnation or backsliding".

Mr. Wang, who is also a Politburo member and accompanied Chinese President Xi Jinping on his visit to New Delhi for the BRICS Summit, was briefing Chinese State media on the visit.

"Both nations should remain partners rather than rivals, and advance bilateral relations steadily forward without stagnation or backsliding," Mr. Wang said.

His comments on backsliding reflect the view in China that the normalisation process, following the October 2024 meeting between the two leaders, had unfolded in fits and starts with slower progress on resuming exchanges than Beijing would have liked.

'Peace on borders'

India has said that maintaining peace and tranquillity on the borders provid-

ed the basis for resuming exchanges, as both sides emerged from a four-year freeze in relations. In Saturday's talks, Mr. Modi "emphasised that peace and tranquillity in the border areas remains an essential basis for the continued development of bilateral relations". "He underlined the need for both sides to observe existing agreements and understandings on border related issues," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

China has called on India to put the boundary question "in an appropriate position" and not allow it to define the whole relationship. Mr. Xi told Mr. Modi that both sides "should stay committed to advancing bilateral relations and resolving the boundary question" and "seek parallel, mutually reinforcing progress" on both matters.

Mr. Wang repeated China's view that "the border issue be placed in the appropriate position within the broader context of the bilateral relationship". He quoted Mr. Xi as saying that "under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, China-India relations have gradually emerged from a low point, progressing from a 'restart' to a 'renewed height.'"



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Blockades in Red Sea, Persian Gulf deeply concerning: govt.

India condemns Houthi attacks that have 'threatened freedom of navigation through the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb'; Oman is helping in the search for an Indian seafarer after a separate ship attack

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India is "deeply concerned" by the blockades in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday, even as the Houthis ramped up attacks on Saudi cities and a ship, carrying 14 Indian seafarers, was targeted on Sunday off the Oman coast.

The developments in the Red Sea region were discussed on Sunday when External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud met on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Delhi. More than 2.4 million Indians live and work in Saudi Arabia, where several cities - including Abha, Jeddah, Jazan, Taif, Yanbu, Makkah, and AlUla - are on alert amid attacks from the Houthis. Saudi forces have carried out dozens of missile strikes on Yemen in retaliation.

"We have condemned the attack on the Saudi sovereign territory, including on civilian infrastructure and economic assets. Such



Crucial link: ME Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said oil supplies from the Red Sea region had not been affected thus far. ANI

attacks undermine regional stability and threaten freedom of navigation through the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a press briefing, calling the Houthi strikes "unacceptable".

However, he said oil supplies from the region had not been affected thus far.

Mr. Jaiswal said Omani authorities are helping with search operations for a missing Indian seafarer after a ship with 23 crew members, including 14 Indians onboard, was hit off the Omani coast. The Panamanian oil tanker *El Gaia* was believed to have struck an Iranian mine in

the Strait of Hormuz and was being towed back to Oman. All but two crew members, including 13 Indians, were rescued. The U.S. military has claimed that the ship was targeted by an Iranian missile last month, and by a drone over the weekend.

"We deeply thank the Omani authorities for rescuing our nationals, and our Embassy (in Muscat) is in close touch," Mr. Jaiswal said. "The targeting of commercial shipping, targeting of seafarers, civilians and civilian infrastructure in the region is unacceptable to us. We also urge that free and safe navigation and flow of commerce through inter-

national waterways in the region be restored at the earliest," he added.

BRICS exchange

The incident occurred over the weekend when Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian was in Delhi for the BRICS Summit. In talks with him, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the need for "safeguarding freedom of navigation and commerce, and the safety and well-being of seafarers". However, the readout did not mention any assurances from the Iranian President on allowing safe passage for Indian ships and seafarers in the Strait of Hormuz.

The spokesperson took questions on comments from Beijing about Mr. Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit on Saturday. After returning to Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters that the two leaders had reached an "important consensus" and claimed that Mr. Modi had said India would not allow "any force to engage in anti-China activities on its territory" in response to Mr. Xi's concerns.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **लाल सागर (Red Sea)** हिंद महासागर (Indian Ocean) का एक महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री विस्तार है, जो अफ्रीका और एशिया महाद्वीप के बीच स्थित है।

प्रमुख भौगोलिक तथ्य

- **स्थिति:** इसके पश्चिम में अफ्रीका (मिस्र, सूडान, इरिट्रिया, जिबूती) और पूर्व में अरब प्रायद्वीप (सऊदी अरब, यमन) हैं।
- **उत्तर में:** यह सिनाई प्रायद्वीप द्वारा दो भागों में बंटता है—अकाबा की खाड़ी (Gulf of Aqaba) और सुवेज की खाड़ी (Gulf of Suez)।
- **दक्षिण में:** यह बाब-अल-मंदेब जलडमरूमध्य (Bab-el-Mandeb Strait) और अदन की खाड़ी (Gulf of Aden) के माध्यम से हिंद महासागर से जुड़ता है।

World Cup Final triumph is truly special, says Dhiraj

The 25-year-old becomes the second Indian to win a gold in the prestigious event after Dola in 2007. He terms it a dream-come-true moment and a shot in the arm for the journey ahead.

ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Recurve archer B. Dhiraj, who overcame fatigue from 35 hours of air travel and unusually windy conditions in Saltillo, Mexico, to win the World Cup Final gold medal, said the achievement would boost his confidence for future competitions, including the upcoming Asian Games.

Dhiraj, the second Indian to claim a gold in the prestigious event after Dola Banerjee's feat in 2007, said it was a dream-come-true moment for him.

"Archers dream of qualifying for the tournament, in which the top eight archers in the world compete. Winning the title is even more special. This is a boost not just for the Asian Games, but for my career," Dhiraj told *The Hindu* after reaching Japan from Mexico and joining India's Asian Games preparatory camp in Kurobe on Tuesday, having covered nearly 25,000 km across the globe in six days.

The 25-year-old spoke



In no mood to relax: Dhiraj said he will work harder to bring more laurels to the country. WORLD ARCHERY

about the challenges he faced.

"It was a long haul, we travelled around 35 hours. There was fatigue. But after competing in so many events, the physios and support staff knew what I should do during travel so that I could recover faster. It took a day or two, but I recovered well.

"The venue was a little unusual. It was windy and

we could not judge from which side the wind was coming. But we trained for that in India. I took it as a challenge and fought well."

Dhiraj underscored his continuous quest for technical excellence. "I have been doing certain things consistently for the last two years. Some days they work, some days they don't. There have been small improvements. I will

keep doing the same things and add new things after consulting the coaches.

"We get confidence when we do well on a big stage. When you train in a certain way and execute it in pressure situations, it feels nice. Good to see my dreams coming true and it motivates me to dream more, work harder and help keep the Indian flag flying high," he added.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- भारतीय तीरंदाज **बोम्मादेवरा धीरज (B. Dhiraj)** द्वारा तीरंदाजी विश्व कप फाइनल (Archery World Cup Final) में **स्वर्ण पदक (Gold Medal)**

मुख्य बातें:

- ऐतिहासिक जीत:** 25 वर्षीय रिकर्व तीरंदाज बी. धीरज तीरंदाजी विश्व कप फाइनल में स्वर्ण पदक जीतने वाले दूसरे भारतीय बन गए हैं। उनसे पहले 2007 में डोला बनर्जी (Dola Banerjee) ने यह उपलब्धि हासिल की थी।
- आयोजन स्थल:** यह प्रतियोगिता मेक्सिको के **साल्टिलो (Saltillo, Mexico)** में आयोजित की गई थी।
- चुनौतियों को पछाड़ा:** धीरज ने 35 घंटे की लंबी हवाई यात्रा की थकान और मेक्सिको में हवा की असामान्य परिस्थितियों से निपटते हुए यह शानदार जीत हासिल की।
- धीरज का बयान:** उन्होंने इस जीत को "सपने के सच होने जैसा" (dream-come-true) और अपने करियर के साथ-साथ आगामी **एशियाई खेलों (Asian Games)** के लिए एक बड़ा आत्मविश्वास बढ़ाने वाला क्षण बताया।
- आगे की तैयारी:** मेक्सिको से करीब 25,000 किमी की यात्रा तय करके धीरज जापान के कुरोबे (Kurobe, Japan) पहुंचे, जहां वे भारतीय टीम के एशियाई खेलों के तैयारी शिविर (preparative camp) में शामिल हुए हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता मंत्रालय



'वर्ल्डस्kilस शंघाई 2026' में भाग लेने हेतु भारत का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा कुशल युवाओं का दल रवाना

70-सदस्यीय 'टीम इंडिया' दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी कौशल प्रतियोगिता में 63 कौशलों में प्रतिस्पर्धा करेगी

भारत पहली बार 11 नई एवं उभरती हुई कौशल श्रेणियों में हिस्सा लेगा

'विकसित भारत-कुशल भारत' का सपना कुशल, आत्मविश्वासी एवं नवोन्मेषी युवा भारतीयों के जरिए साकार होगा: श्री जयंत चौधरी

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 15 SEP 2026 7:01PM by PIB Delhi

भारत सरकार के कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय (एमएसडीई) ने आज नई दिल्ली के कौशल भवन में 'वर्ल्डस्kilस शंघाई 2026' में भाग लेने वाले भारतीय दल को रवाना करने हेतु एक समारोह का आयोजन किया।

चीन के शंघाई में 22 से 27 सितंबर 2026 तक होने वाली 48वीं वर्ल्डस्kilस प्रतियोगिता में, भारत का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा 70 कुशल युवा प्रतिस्पर्धियों का दल 63 कौशल श्रेणियों में देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करेगा। ये प्रतिस्पर्धी दुनिया के मंच पर तकनीकी उत्कृष्टता, रचनात्मकता, सटीकता, नवाचार और कारीगरी के क्षेत्र में भारत की बढ़ती क्षमताओं का प्रदर्शन करेंगे।

इस समारोह में भारत सरकार के कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) तथा शिक्षा राज्यमंत्री श्री जयंत चौधरी; उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के व्यावसायिक शिक्षा, कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) श्री कपिल देव अग्रवाल; राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार के गृह, शिक्षा, बिजली, शहरी विकास, उच्च शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा मंत्री श्री आशीष सूद; और सांसद एवं जिंदल स्टील के चेयरमैन श्री नवीन जिंदल शामिल हुए।

इस मौके पर एमएसडीई की सचिव सुश्री देबाश्री मुखर्जी; प्रशिक्षण महानिदेशालय के महानिदेशक श्री दिलीप कुमार; एमएसडीई के अपर सचिव श्री निरंजन कुमार सुधांशु; एमएसडीई की वरिष्ठ आर्थिक सलाहकार सुश्री मनीषा सेनशर्मा; राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम के सीईओ श्री अरुणकुमार पिल्लई के साथ-साथ सरकार के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी, उद्योग जगत एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के प्रतिनिधि, विशेषज्ञ, मार्गदर्शक, प्रतियोगी और उनके परिवार के सदस्य भी मौजूद थे।

70-सदस्यीय
टीम इंडिया
WorldSkills

Overview

- **Semicon India 2026**
- **VB-G RAM G**
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- **External Sectors – Trade Deficit**
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- **China – India Boarder Cooperation**
- **Red Sea – Saudi Arab & Houthis**
- **World Cup Archery**
- **World Skill Sanghai**

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