

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

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अपने सपनों की सुंदरता में
विश्वास रखते हैं। ”

— एलिनॉर रूजवेल्ट —

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आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

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पत्र सूचना कार्यालय

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार



हमारे बारे में

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

गैलरी

अनुसंधान इकाई

मीडिया सुविधाएं

आर्काइव

तथ्यों की जांच

होम / All Factsheet / Factsheet Details

Social Welfare

एशियाई खेल 2026

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 06 OCT 2026 17:28 PM

नई दिल्ली से आइची-नागोया तक भारत की यात्रा

UPSC
BPSC
UPPSC
Examination

एशियाई खेल 2026 एक नजर में

213

- एशियाई खेल, जिसे एशियाड के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, एशिया की सबसे बड़ी खेल प्रतियोगिता है, जो हर चार साल में एक बार आयोजित की जाती है। वे एशिया ओलंपिक परिषद (ओसीए) द्वारा आयोजित किए जाते हैं और इसमें वर्तमान में 45 भागीदार देश या क्षेत्र हैं। 20वें एशियाई खेल 19 सितंबर से 4 अक्टूबर, 2026 तक जापान के आइची-नागोया में आयोजित किए गए थे। “एक एशिया की कल्पना” आधिकारिक नारा था। इससे पहले तोक्यो (1958) और हिरोशिमा (1994) में हुए एशियाई खेलों के बाद तीसरी बार जापान ने एशियाई खेलों की मेजबानी की है।
- यह प्रमुख आयोजन 16 दिनों की गहन विश्व स्तरीय प्रतियोगिताओं में आयोजित किया गया था। इसमें एथलेटिक उत्कृष्टता के भव्य प्रदर्शन में 43 खेल और 71 खेल विधाएं शामिल थे। खेलों के दौरान 469 रोमांचक आयोजनों में कुल 1,407 पदक प्रदान किए गए।



19 sep - 4 oct

- एशियाई खेलों के साथ-साथ, जापान 18 अक्टूबर से 24 अक्टूबर, 2026 तक आइची-नागोया में 5वें एशियाई पैरा खेलों की मेजबानी भी कर रहा है। जापान ने पहली बार पैरा खेलों की मेजबानी की है।

• एशियाई खेल 2026 प्रतीक को समझना

- आधिकारिक प्रतीक का रंग और डिज़ाइन स्थानीय और सांस्कृतिक महत्व को खेल की गतिशीलता के साथ जोड़ता है। जबकि वक्र जीवंतता का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, बैंगनी, सुनहरी और हरी केंद्र रेखाएं लोगों को एकजुट करने और चमकीले लाल सूरज की ओर बढ़ने की छवि पैदा करती हैं - जो एशिया ओलंपिक परिषद (ओसीए) का आधिकारिक प्रतीक है। बैंगनी आइची के प्रीफेक्चुरल फूल, आईरिस का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है; सोना किंशाची का प्रतीक है, जो नागोया कैसल के प्रतिष्ठित गोल्डन टाइगर-फिश छत के गहने हैं; और हरा रंग आइची-नागोया की मजबूत पर्यावरणीय चेतना को दर्शाता है, जिसे एक्सपो 2005 आइची, सीओपी10 और ईएसडी पर यूनेस्को विश्व सम्मेलन जैसी ऐतिहासिक घटनाओं के माध्यम से बढ़ावा दिया गया है। प्रतीक में एशिया, आइची और नागोया के पहले अक्षर शामिल हैं: "ए" को बैंगनी वक्र और केंद्र रेखा में, "एन" बैंगनी और सोने में दर्शाया गया है।

• एशियाई खेल 2026 आधिकारिक शुभंकर

- 20वें एशियाई खेलों का शुभंकर "होनोहोन", एथलीटों के उग्र जुनून का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। यह नाम जापानी शब्द 'होनोहो' से लिया गया है, जो लौ के लिए जापानी शब्द की उत्पत्ति से जुड़ा है। इसका डिज़ाइन शचिहोको से प्रेरित है, जो नागोया कैसल के विशिष्ट प्रतीकों में से एक है और आइची-नागोया के रक्षक देवता हैं।



1951 में पहला एशियाई खेल: भारत की संस्थापक भूमिका

- एशियाई खेलों के साथ भारत का संबंध बहुत शुरुआत से है, जब पहला एशियाई खेल 1951 में नई दिल्ली में आयोजित किया गया था। यह एशियाई देशों के बीच संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद के प्रयासों की पृष्ठभूमि के खिलाफ किया गया था, जिसमें एशिया के कई क्षेत्रों को हाल ही में उपनिवेशवाद से मुक्त किया गया था।
- एशियाई खेल प्रतियोगिता का विचार भारत द्वारा एकता प्रदर्शित करने और एशियाई देशों के बीच संबंधों के पुनर्निर्माण के साधन के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, जिन्हें युद्ध ने तोड़ दिया था। एशियाई खेलों का विचार सबसे पहले भारत की अंतरराष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति (आईओसी) के सदस्य प्रो. जी.डी. सौंधी द्वारा कल्पना की गई थी। एशियाई खेलों को आयोजित करने का सुझाव पहली बार 1947 में नई दिल्ली में आयोजित एशियाई देशों के एक सम्मेलन में दिया गया, और इसे एशियाई खेल कहने का निर्णय लिया गया था।
- उद्घाटन एशियाई खेल मार्च, 1951 में नई दिल्ली में आयोजित किए गए थे। राष्ट्रपति डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद ने उन्हें नेशनल स्टेडियम में खोलने की घोषणा की। ग्यारह देशों ने उस पहले आयोजन में छह खेलों में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने के लिए 489 एथलीटों को भेजा। भारत उस वर्ष जापान के बाद पदक तालिका में दूसरे स्थान पर रहा। तब से, खेल एक बड़ा आयोजन बन गया है जो खेल के माध्यम से दोस्ती को बढ़ावा देता है और विविधता को पहचानकर विश्व शांति में योगदान देता है।

10C



- भारत ने एशियाई खेल 2026 में अपने अब तक के सबसे बड़े बहु-खेल प्रतिनिधिमंडलों में से एक को मैदान में उतारा, जिसमें 36 खेल स्पर्धाओं में 501 एथलीट दल शामिल थे। दल में 300 से अधिक एथलीट एशियाई खेलों में पदार्पण कर रहे थे।
- टीम के प्रस्थान से पहले 8 सितंबर, 2026 को नई दिल्ली में एक भव्य विदाई समारोह आयोजित किया गया। केंद्रीय मंत्री डॉ. मांडविया, भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ (आईओए) की अध्यक्ष डॉ. पी.टी. उषा और शेफ डी मिशन सहदेव यादव ने इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया और आधिकारिक दल की जर्सी का अनावरण किया गया। भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ ने इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया।



MAST

- 19 सितंबर, 2026 को उद्घाटन समारोह में, दो बार की ओलंपिक पदक विजेता मनु भाकर और कबड्डी खिलाड़ी पवन सेहरावत ने भारत की परेड का नेतृत्व किया।

Handwritten notes: China, Japan, Korea, India (circled around the list).

आइची-नागोया 2026 में भारत ने स्वर्ण पदक जीता

- 2026 एशियाई खेलों में भारत के अभियान को 21 स्वर्ण पदक से उजागर किया गया, जो सटीक स्पर्धाओं और टीम खेलों में मजबूत प्रदर्शन से जुड़ा था। तीरंदाजी ने शूटिंग और मुक्केबाजी द्वारा समर्थित 5 खिताबों के साथ स्वर्ण तालिका में सबसे आगे रहा, जिसमें प्रत्येक ने 3 स्वर्ण पदक जीते। टीम खेलों में, भारत ने क्रिकेट, हॉकी और कबड्डी में एक व्यापक "गोल्ड रश" को अंजाम दिया, प्रत्येक खेल में 2 स्वर्ण पदक हासिल किए। असाधारण प्रदर्शन में पुरुष क्रिकेट टीम ने फाइनल में पाकिस्तान को 19 रनों से हराया, पुरुष हॉकी टीम ने मलेशिया पर 5-1 की शानदार जीत के साथ अपना महाद्वीपीय खिताब बरकरार रखा और पुरुषों और महिलाओं दोनों की कबड्डी प्रतियोगिताओं में दोहरी स्वर्ण जीत हासिल की। इसके अलावा कुश्ती (2), एथलेटिक्स (1) और गोल्फ (1) में स्वर्ण पदक ने भारत के कुल 21 पदकों को लाया, जो महाद्वीपीय खेल क्षेत्र में देश के मजबूत और विविध प्रदर्शन को दर्शाता है।

एशियाई खेल 2026 में भारत की पदक तालिका				
खेल-वार ब्रेकडाउन				
खेल	गोल्ड	सिल्वर	कांस्य	कुल
एथलेटिक्स	1	9	14	24
शूटिंग	3	8	4	15
तीरंदाजी	5	2	2	9
बॉक्सिंग	3	0	3	6
कुश्ती	2	2	2	6

स्ववैश	0	2	3	5
नौकायन	0	1	2	3
क्रिकेट	2	0	0	2
हॉकी	2	0	0	2
कबड्डी	2	0	0	2
गोल्फ	1	1	0	2
भारोत्तोलन	0	1	0	1
वुशु	0	1	0	1
बैडमिंटन	0	0	1	1
कुराश (कुश्ती)	0	0	1	1
मिश्रित मार्शल आर्ट	0	0	1	1
रोइंग	0	0	1	1
सेपक टकरा	0	0	1	1
सॉफ्ट टेनिस	0	0	1	1
टेबल टेनिस	0	0	1	1
कुल	21	27	37	85

• आइची-नागोया 2026 एशियाई पैरा खेलों में भारत की भागीदारी

- आइची-नागोया 2026 एशियाई पैरा खेल 18 से 24 अक्टूबर, 2026 तक जापान में आयोजित किए जाएंगे। इन खेलों में एशिया भर की 45 राष्ट्रीय पैरालंपिक समितियों के लगभग 3,000 एथलीटों के भाग लेने की उम्मीद है। इन खेलों में अठारह पैरा खेल शामिल होंगे।
- भारत खेलों के लिए अपनी मान्यता प्राप्त राष्ट्रीय पैरालंपिक समिति, भारतीय पैरालंपिक समिति के माध्यम से भाग लेगा। यह एशियाई पैरा खेलों में भारत की पांचवीं उपस्थिति को चिह्नित करेगा, जो हांगजो 2022 एशियाई पैरा खेलों में 29 स्वर्ण पदक सहित 111 पदक जीतने के बाद होगा। 111 पदकों में से, महिला एथलीटों ने 40 पदक (पदक तालिका का 36%) का योगदान दिया। इससे पहले, भारत ने 2010 के आयोजन में 14, 2014 में 33 और 2018 में 72 पदक जीते थे।

जमीनी स्तर से वैश्विक मंच तक: खेलों के लिए भारत की नीति को बढ़ावा

- खेलो भारत नीति**
- सरकार ने 1 जुलाई, 2025 को भारत की राष्ट्रीय खेल नीति, खेलो भारत नीति शुरू की। यह एक मजबूत, समावेशी और प्रदर्शन-संचालित खेल प्रणाली का निर्माण करना चाहता है। यह प्रशिक्षण और सुविधाओं में ग्रामीण-शहरी अंतर को पाटने पर केंद्रित है। यह प्रशिक्षण लागत को कम करने के लिए सामुदायिक भागीदारी और साझेदारी पर जोर देता है। यह नीति 2036 ओलंपिक में उत्कृष्टता पर अपनी दृष्टि निर्धारित करती है। यह राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 के तहत खेलों को स्कूली शिक्षा से जोड़ती है। यह महिलाओं, आदिवासी समुदायों और दिव्यांगजनों का भी समर्थन करता है।
- रिकॉर्ड वित्तीय सहायता**
- केंद्रीय बजट 2026-27 में खेल मंत्रालय को रिकॉर्ड 4,479.88 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए हैं। यह 2013-14 में 1,219 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक है। मंत्रिमंडल ने 2026-27 से 2030-31 के लिए एक संशोधित खेलो इंडिया योजना को भी मंजूरी दी है। राष्ट्रीय खेल संघों को समर्थन देने के साथ, संयुक्त परिव्यय 36,441 करोड़ रुपये है। अकेले खेलो इंडिया को 2026-27 के लिए 924.35 करोड़ रुपये प्राप्त हुए। इससे पहले, इस योजना में 2021-22 से 2025-26 के लिए 3,790.50 करोड़ रुपये का परिव्यय था। बजट में खेल सामग्री के निर्माण के लिए 500 करोड़ रुपये भी निर्धारित किए गए हैं।

प्रतिभा की शीघ्र पहचान ✓

- खेलो इंडिया जमीनी स्तर के खेलों के लिए प्रमुख कार्यक्रम है। जुलाई 2026 तक, इसने 1,067 खेलो इंडिया केंद्र स्थापित किए थे। इसने 3,176 करोड़ रुपये की 349 नई खेल बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है। यह 2,745 खेलो इंडिया एथलीटों को कोचिंग, उपकरण, चिकित्सा देखभाल और मासिक भत्ते का समर्थन करता है। 2018 से अब तक 63,000 से अधिक एथलीटों ने खेलो इंडिया गेम्स में भाग लिया है।
- खेलो इंडिया राइजिंग टैलेंट आइडेंटिफिकेशन (कीर्ति) पहल 9 से 18 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों में प्रतिभा की पहचान करती है और उनका पोषण करती है। इसके 174 प्रतिभा मूल्यांकन केंद्र निष्पक्ष, योग्यता-आधारित चयन के लिए डेटा टूल का उपयोग करते हैं।

शीर्ष एथलीटों का समर्थन ✓

- लक्ष्य ओलंपिक पोडियम योजना (टॉप्स) भारत के एथलीटों का समर्थन करती है। यह विदेशी प्रशिक्षण, अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिताओं, कोचिंग शिविरों और विशेष उपकरणों के माध्यम से एथलीटों का समर्थन करता है। एथलीटों को 50,000 रुपये का मासिक वजीफा मिलता है। विकास समूह में जूनियर एथलीटों को प्रति माह 25,000 रुपये मिलते हैं। अप्रैल 2026 तक, टॉप्स 55 कोर एथलीट, 62 पैरा कोर एथलीटों और 140 डेवलपमेंट एथलीटों का समर्थन करता है; इसके अतिरिक्त, 67 कोर एथलीट हॉकी में हैं। टॉप्स ने टोक्यो 2020 और पेरिस 2024 ओलंपिक खेलों में भारत के पदकों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

शिक्षा, फिटनेस और निष्पक्ष खेल

- इम्फाल में राष्ट्रीय खेल विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना 2018 में हुई थी। यह खेल विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, प्रबंधन और कोचिंग में शिक्षा प्रदान करता है।
- फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट लोगों को फिटनेस को दैनिक जीवन का हिस्सा बनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है। संसद ने अगस्त 2025 में राष्ट्रीय खेल शासन विधेयक पारित किया। यह खेल संगठनों को मान्यता देने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय खेल बोर्ड का प्रावधान करता है। एक राष्ट्रीय खेल न्यायाधिकरण खेल विवादों का निपटारा करेगा।

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा (Prelims Question)

प्रश्न: एशियाई खेल 2026 (20th Asian Games) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. 20वें एशियाई खेलों का आयोजन जापान के आइची-नागोया (Aichi-Nagoya) में किया गया।
2. यह पहली बार है जब जापान ने एशियाई खेलों की मेजबानी की है।
3. एशियाई खेलों का नियमन और आयोजन 'एशिया ओलंपिक परिषद' (Olympic Council of Asia - OCA) द्वारा किया जाता है।

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

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

पि-एम
9 20वें एशियाई खेलों में
वर्ग पदक
जीतने वाले
मिलाई ??

पि-एम
खेलों → अंतराष्ट्रीय
राजनीति

मुख्य परीक्षा (Mains Question)

- "अंतराष्ट्रीय बहु-खेल स्पर्धाएँ (जैसे एशियाई खेल) केवल एथलेटिक उत्कृष्टता प्रदर्शित करने का माध्यम नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह सॉफ्ट पावर (Soft Power) और खेल कूटनीति (Sports Diplomacy) का भी एक सशक्त मंच हैं।" एशियाई खेल 2026 के संदर्भ में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The status of U.S. blockade on Cuba

U.S. blockade and decades-old embargo on Cuba have worsened the island's economic and humanitarian crisis, with fuel shortages disrupting electricity, food distribution, healthcare as Havana seeks to ease the crisis, Trump administration's pressure and demand for regime change continue to constrain Cuba's options

WORLD INSIGHT

Srinivasan Ramani
Santhari Parthasarathy

The story so far:

It has been nearly nine months since the U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order threatening tariffs on any country that supplies Cuba with oil, and the U.S. Coast Guard began intercepting tankers and ships bound for the island. Power cuts in Cuba have since become very common, often lasting beyond 12 hours a day and even close to 20 hours in some provinces. Independent UN human rights experts condemned these actions, calling them "energy starvation" and an "unlawful blockade" of the island country, as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported. In July 2025, the UN General Assembly voted D6-9 (with 30 abstentions) to debate the blockade despite U.S. objections. Mr. Trump, meanwhile, has threatened a takeover of the island nation – a threat that is unlawful according to the UN Charter, which prohibits "the threat or use of force" against a country's political independence. The new blockade is over and above a 64-year-old embargo by the U.S.

Embargo or blockade?

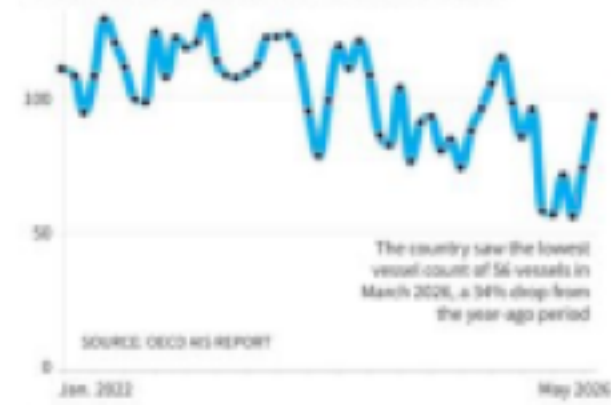
Following the 1959 Cuban revolution, the Cuban government led by Fidel Castro nationalised U.S.-owned property in 1959-60. The U.S. responded, imposing a partial "embargo" on Cuban trade in October 1960 and making it full-fledged in 1962. Cuba terms the measures of *Hoguan*, or a blockade, as it goes beyond mere bilateral trade and is exemplified by further measures taken by the U.S. on Cuban foreign trade. The Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 barred foreign subsidiaries of U.S. firms from trading in Cuba, and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 wrote the embargo into law, so that only the U.S. Congress can lift it. It also allowed lawsuits against foreign firms using property in Cuba that was confiscated from the Americans.

After coming to power, Mr. Trump expanded further on these punitive measures by bringing Cuba back on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list (without any justification after it was briefly removed by the outgoing Biden administration in January 2025). This has meant that banks find it difficult to deal with Cuban entities. In May, the Trump administration imposed secondary sanctions on foreign firms dealing with the Cuban state and its military conglomerate, GAESA. It has also indicted former Cuban President Raul Castro on problematic charges, besides the January 29 order, which declared a national emergency and authorised extra duties on goods from any country that sells or provides oil to Cuba.

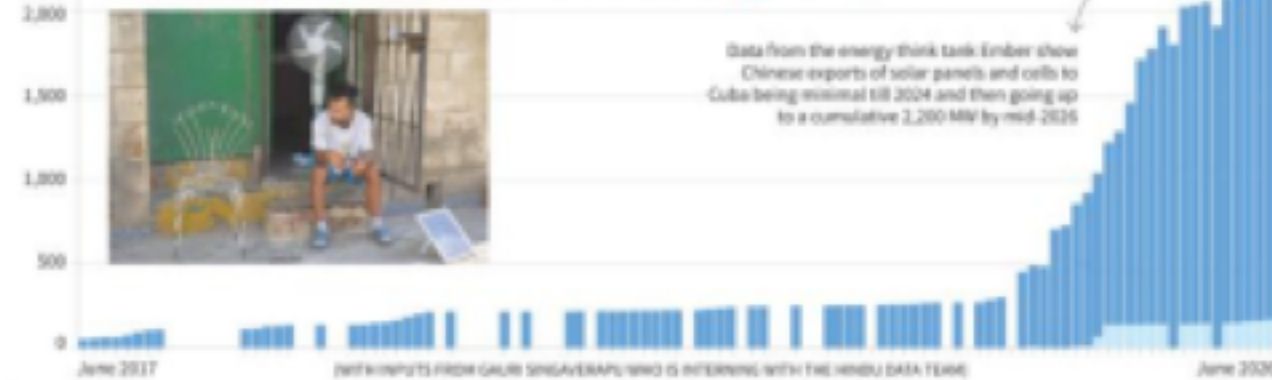
Year after year in the UN General Assembly, since 1962, there has been near-unanimous demand to end the "embargo", but the resolutions are not binding, and this has allowed the U.S. to continue it. Havana claims that the cumulative damage of the embargo has been to the tune of \$178.7 billion and \$8.08 billion in the year up to February 2026 itself, which includes just one month of the fuel blockade. These costs are not just lost U.S. trade, but also the impact on Cuba's overall trade because of what the embargo imposes. For example, ships docking in Cuba are barred from

Fragile lifelines | Fewer ships and disrupted trade underline growing pressure on Cuba's economy

The chart shows the number of vessels en route to Cuba



The chart shows the export of solar panels and cells to Cuba (in capacity)



U.S. ports for 180 days, which has led to increased freight costs. With the U.S. imposing financial sanctions, banks refuse Cuban payments, and imports of medical equipment and machinery have also been affected.

Has this hostility against Cuba always been the case?

U.S. policy towards Cuba has been motivated largely by the lobbying efforts of Cuban exiles based in Miami, Florida, who fled the island following the Revolution. These hardliners include those born to Cuban immigrant parents, such as current Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who have sought the collapse of the communist system in Cuba. They have also strongly backed the Trump administration's actions, as making conditions that are "ripe for regime change", according to the International Crisis Group.

The hostility against Cuba experienced a brief thaw during former President Barack Obama's second tenure. In December 2014, he and Raul Castro announced a normalisation of ties, which led to embassies reopening, Cuba being taken off the terrorism list, and culminating in a visit to Havana by Mr. Obama. Travel and remittance rules were eased, but the embargo still stayed. Mr. Trump reverted much of it during his first tenure before imposing stronger restrictions in his second tenure, which intensified after U.S. forces attacked Venezuela and abducted its president, Nicolas Maduro and took control over the Latin American country's fuel and energy resources since then.

Why was Venezuela an important lifeline for Cuba?

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, which affected the Cuban economy severely, leading to what was called a "special period", Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez signed an "oil for services" agreement in 2000. This led to the Barrio Adentro health missions (neighbourhood medical services) provided by Cuban

doctors in Venezuela. Some 40,000 Cuban doctors, teachers and other professionals worked in Venezuela, while the country supplied about 1,00,000 barrels of oil a day on relatively easy terms. Cuba also resold some of the oil for hard currency, according to U.S. officials, to mitigate the impact of the U.S. financial sanctions.

Meanwhile, mismanagement of the state oil company PDVSA, the 2014 crash in oil prices and later U.S. sanctions cut Venezuela's oil output to a third by the late 2010s, leading to lowered shipments to Cuba. The imports met, by late 2025, only about a quarter of Cuban demand for oil and about a third of its oil imports.

In January 2026, that came to naught too after the U.S. took control of Venezuela's oil sector. Mexico, which had supplied about 44% of Cuba's oil imports, then suspended deliveries. Russia has not been able to step up and fill in the gap either, with just sporadic ships managing to deliver supplies to Cuba since the naval blockade.

What was the impact of the fuel blockade?

The International Crisis Group lists "severe disruption to transportation, food distribution, health care, water systems and communications" in the country. On May 7, three UN Special Rapporteurs said fuel scarcity was keeping people from hospitals and children from school. They cited a backlog of more than 90,000 surgeries, 10,000 of them for children, and delays in infant immunisation.

The scale of the impact is shown in satellite imagery data. An index of night-time light intensity built from NASA satellite data, a proxy for electricity use, fell from about 10-12 in 2021-25 to around six by mid-2026. Ships reaching Cuba have been reduced from 100-120 a month to just 50-60 in early 2026 and oil cargoes have become sporadic. The impact of the sanctions has also meant a large drop in employment in industries such as tourism – which the Cuban government sought to utilise to shore up its dollar reserves –

and mining and shipping. The naval blockade has also occurred at a time when one in five Cubans have emigrated in the past five years due to the weak economy.

How is China helping Cuba mitigate the fuel shortage?

On September 23, President Miguel Diaz-Canel said that Cuba has installed 1,418 MW of solar capacity in 144 parks and would pass 1,500 MW by the end of 2026. He said that renewables already generate 21.4% of the country's electricity. Much of the equipment for these installations have arrived from China. Data from the energy think tank Ember show Chinese exports of solar panels and cells to Cuba being minimal till 2024 and then going up to a cumulative 2,200 MW by mid-2025. In September, reports showed that a third batch of 5,000 standalone solar systems donated by China arrived for public buildings and isolated homes, after shipments in August and November 2025. But power blackouts persist because solar power is not generated after sunset, when demand peaks and battery storage is inadequate in Cuba. The power grid also relies on aging oil-fired plants.

Chinese customs data also show China's imports from Cuba rising from about \$50 million in 2015 to \$320 million in 2022, with commodities such as zinc ores, nickel products, lead and silver ores, lobsters, cigars and rum. But this trade fell to \$230 million in 2025 and \$145 million roughly in 2026 so far.

What other reforms has Havana embarked upon?

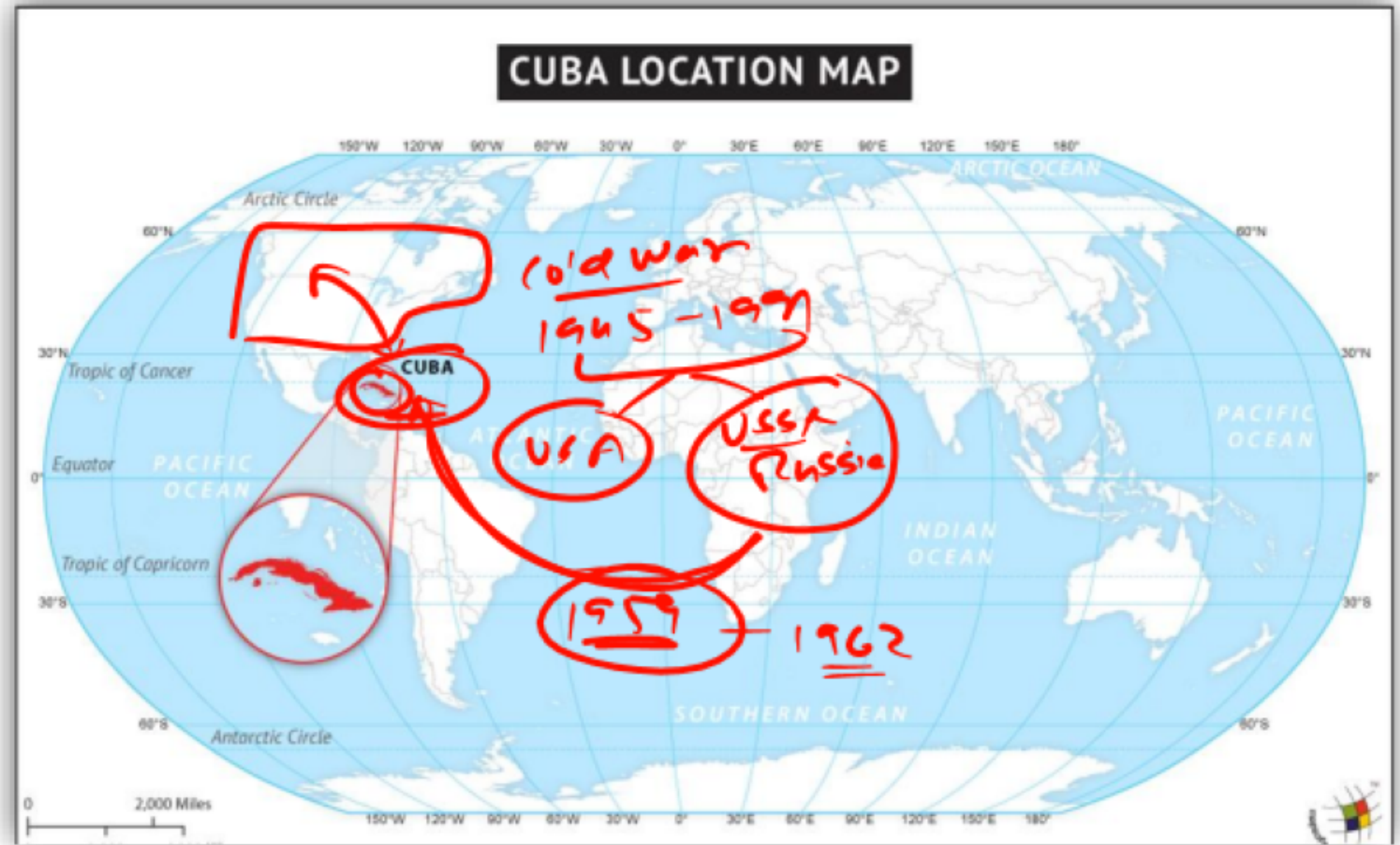
Havana approved 176 reforms in June to expand private enterprise and foreign investment, but the blockade continues to stymie these. Back-channel talks with the Trump administration have continued but there is little progress because the latter demands regime change while Havana insists that it "will not compromise on its sovereignty or political constitution", according to ICG.

THE GIST

The U.S. has tightened pressure on Cuba through secondary sanctions, restrictions on foreign firms and a fuel blockade, building on the 64-year-old embargo that has raised trade, shipping and financial costs for Havana.

Venezuela's oil-for-services arrangement had long been a crucial lifeline for Cuba, but falling Venezuelan production, U.S. intervention and the suspension of Mexican supplies have left the island struggling to meet its fuel needs.

Cuba is turning to Chinese-backed solar power and reforms to private enterprise and foreign investment to cope, but inadequate battery storage, an ageing power grid and continued sanctions have limited their impact.



— Donald Trump:

- ↳ Russian Iran:
- ↳ India - 100% 12.5%
- ↳ W. Africa -
- ↳ Latin America:
- ↳ Europe - Greenland

"The status of U.S. blockade on Cuba" (क्यूबा पर अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी की स्थिति)

- क्यूबा पर अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी (Blockade) की स्थिति
- क्यूबा पर अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी और दशकों पुरानी आर्थिक पाबंदी (Embargo) ने द्वीप देश के आर्थिक और मानवीय संकट को और गहरा कर दिया है। ईंधन की कमी से बिजली, भोजन वितरण और स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रभावित हुई हैं। जहाँ हवाना (क्यूबा की राजधानी) संकट को कम करने की कोशिश कर रहा है, वहीं ट्रम्प प्रशासन का दबाव और शासन परिवर्तन (Regime Change) की मांग क्यूबा के विकल्पों को सीमित कर रही है।

सार

- **अमेरिका का बढ़ता दबाव:** अमेरिका ने द्वितीयक प्रतिबंधों (Secondary Sanctions), विदेशी फर्मों पर प्रतिबंधों और ईंधन नाकेबंदी के माध्यम से क्यूबा पर दबाव बढ़ा दिया है। 64 साल पुराने प्रतिबंधों के कारण हवाना के लिए व्यापार, शिपिंग और वित्तीय लागत काफी बढ़ गई है।
- **वेनेजुएला की घटती मदद:** वेनेजुएला का "तेल के बदले सेवा" समझौता लंबे समय से क्यूबा के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण जीवनरेखा था, लेकिन वेनेजुएला का उत्पादन घटने, अमेरिकी हस्तक्षेप और मैक्सिकन आपूर्तियों के निलंबित होने से क्यूबा ईंधन की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है।
- **चीन समर्थित सौर ऊर्जा:** क्यूबा सौर ऊर्जा और निजी उद्यम/विदेशी निवेश के सुधारों की ओर रुख कर रहा है। हालांकि, अपर्याप्त बैटरी भंडारण, पुराना पावर ग्रिड और निरंतर प्रतिबंधों के कारण इनका प्रभाव सीमित रहा है।

1. अब तक की कहानी

- अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प द्वारा क्यूबा को तेल आपूर्ति करने वाले किसी भी देश पर टैरिफ लगाने की धमकी देने वाले कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए लगभग नौ महीने बीत चुके हैं। अमेरिकी तटरक्षक बल (US Coast Guard) ने इस द्वीप की ओर जाने वाले टैंकरों और जहाजों को रोकना शुरू कर दिया है। क्यूबा में बिजली की कटौती आम हो गई है, जो कुछ प्रांतों में दिन में 12 घंटे से अधिक और 20 घंटे के करीब तक चलती है।
- स्वतंत्र संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार विशेषज्ञों ने इन कार्रवाइयों की निंदा करते हुए इसे "ऊर्जा भुखमरी" (Energy Starvation) और द्वीप देश की "गैर-कानूनी नाकेबंदी" करार दिया है। जुलाई 2026 में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने अमेरिकी आपत्तियों के बावजूद नाकेबंदी के खिलाफ 136-9 से मतदान किया (30 देश अनुपस्थित रहे)। हालांकि, श्री ट्रम्प ने द्वीप देश पर कब्जा करने की धमकी दी है — एक ऐसी धमकी जो संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के अनुसार अवैध है, जो किसी देश की राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता के खिलाफ "बल के प्रयोग या धमकी" को प्रतिबंधित करता है। नई नाकेबंदी अमेरिका द्वारा लागू 64 साल पुराने प्रतिबंधों के अतिरिक्त है।

2. पाबंदी (Embargo) या नाकेबंदी (Blockade)?

- 1959 की क्यूबा क्रांति के बाद, फिदेल कास्त्रो के नेतृत्व वाली क्यूबा सरकार ने 1959-60 में अमेरिकी स्वामित्व वाली संपत्तियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया था। जवाब में अमेरिका ने अक्टूबर 1960 में क्यूबा के व्यापार पर आंशिक प्रतिबंध लगाया और 1962 में इसे पूर्ण पाबंदी में बदल दिया। क्यूबा इन उपायों को 'ब्लॉकेओ' (नाकेबंदी) कहता है, क्योंकि यह द्विपक्षीय व्यापार से आगे बढ़कर अन्य देशों के व्यापार को भी प्रभावित करता है।
- 1992 के 'क्यूबन डेमोक्रेसी एक्ट' ने क्यूबा में व्यापार करने वाली अमेरिकी कंपनियों की विदेशी सहायक कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया, और 1996 के 'हेल्म्स-बर्टन एक्ट' ने इस पाबंदी को कानून बना दिया। ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने क्यूबा को पुनः 'आतंकवाद के राज्य प्रायोजक' (State Sponsors of Terrorism) की सूची में डालकर इन उपायों का विस्तार किया। इससे बैंकों के लिए क्यूबा की संस्थाओं के साथ लेनदेन करना कठिन हो गया है।
- 1992 के बाद से हर साल संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में इस पाबंदी को समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव भारी बहुमत से पारित होता है, लेकिन ये प्रस्ताव बाध्यकारी नहीं होते। क्यूबा का दावा है कि फरवरी 2026 तक इस प्रतिबंध से कुल \$178.7 बिलियन का नुकसान हुआ है।

3. क्या क्यूबा के प्रति यह दुश्मनी हमेशा से ऐसी ही रही है?

- क्यूबा के प्रति अमेरिकी नीति काफी हद तक मियामी (फ्लोरिडा) में रहने वाले क्यूबाई निर्वासितों और कट्टरपंथियों के लॉबिंग प्रयासों से संचालित होती रही है।
- हालाँकि, पूर्व राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा के दूसरे कार्यकाल के दौरान दोनों देशों के संबंधों में थोड़ी नरमी आई थी। दिसंबर 2014 में, बराक ओबामा और राउल कास्त्रो ने संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने की घोषणा की, जिससे दूतावास फिर से खुले, क्यूबा को आतंकवाद की सूची से हटाया गया और ओबामा ने हवाना का दौरा किया। लेकिन ट्रम्प ने अपने पहले कार्यकाल में इनमें से अधिकांश नीतियों को उलट दिया और अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल में प्रतिबंधों को और कड़ा कर दिया।

4. वेनेजुएला क्यूबा के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण जीवनरेखा क्यों था?

- सोवियत संघ के विघटन के बाद क्यूबा की अर्थव्यवस्था बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुई थी। 2000 में फिदेल कास्त्रो और उगो चावेज़ ने "सेवा के बदले तेल" समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इसके तहत क्यूबा ने वेनेजुएला में लगभग 40,000 डॉक्टर, शिक्षक और अन्य पेशेवर भेजे, जबकि वेनेजुएला ने रियायती दरों पर प्रतिदिन लगभग 1,00,000 बैरल तेल की आपूर्ति की।

5. ईंधन की कमी का क्या प्रभाव पड़ा?

- इंटरनेशनल क्राइसिस ग्रुप के अनुसार, ईंधन की कमी से "परिवहन, खाद्य वितरण, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, जल प्रणाली और संचार व्यवस्था में गंभीर बाधा उत्पन्न हुई है।"
- अस्पतालों में 96,000 से अधिक सर्जरी लंबित हैं (जिन्हें टाला गया है), जिनमें से 11,000 बच्चों की हैं।
- बच्चों के टीकाकरण में देरी हो रही है।
- क्यूबा पहुँचने वाले जहाजों की संख्या घट गई है।
- पर्यटन जैसे उद्योगों में रोजगार घटने से अर्थव्यवस्था को भारी नुकसान पहुंचा है। पिछले पांच वर्षों में कमजोर अर्थव्यवस्था के कारण पांच में से एक क्यूबाई नागरिक देश छोड़ चुका है।

✓ 6. चीन ईंधन की कमी को दूर करने में क्यूबा की मदद कैसे कर रहा है?

- राष्ट्रपति मिगुएल डियाज-कैनेल ने कहा कि क्यूबा ने 144 पार्क में 1,418 मेगावाट (MW) की सौर क्षमता स्थापित की है और 2026 के अंत तक 1,500 मेगावाट पार कर जाएगा। चीन ने इसके लिए उपकरण और सौर पैनल प्रदान किए हैं।
- हालांकि, सूर्यास्त के बाद सौर ऊर्जा से बिजली उत्पन्न नहीं हो सकती और अपर्याप्त बैटरी भंडारण के कारण रात में ब्लैकआउट की स्थिति बनी रहती है। चीन के साथ क्यूबा का व्यापार भी अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के दबाव के कारण हाल के वर्षों में घटा है।

7. हवाना ने और क्या नए सुधार शुरू किए हैं?

- हवाना ने निजी उद्यमों (Private Enterprises) और विदेशी निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 176 सुधारों को मंजूरी दी है। लेकिन अमेरिकी प्रतिबंध इन पहलों को बाधित कर रहे हैं। अमेरिका और क्यूबा के बीच बैक-चैनल वार्ताएँ हुई हैं, लेकिन प्रगति न के बराबर है क्योंकि ट्रम्प प्रशासन शासन परिवर्तन (Regime Change) पर अड़ा है, जबकि क्यूबा अपनी संप्रभुता और संवैधानिक ढांचे से समझौता न करने पर कायम है।

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा (Prelims Question)

- प्रश्न: 'हेल्म्स-बर्टन अधिनियम' (Helms-Burton Act) तथा 'क्यूबन डेमोक्रेसी एक्ट' (Cuban Democracy Act), जो हाल ही में चर्चा में रहे, का संबंध निम्नलिखित में से किस विषय से है?

- A. लैटिन अमेरिका और कैरेबियाई देशों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम
- ☒ B. क्यूबा के विरुद्ध संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका द्वारा लागू आर्थिक व वाणिज्यिक प्रतिबंध (Embargo/Blockade)
- C. वैश्विक दक्षिण (Global South) के देशों के बीच ऊर्जा व्यापार संधि
- D. विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) के तहत अवैध व्यापार विवाद निवारण तंत्र

मुख्य परीक्षा (Mains Question)

- "एकतरफा आर्थिक प्रतिबंध (Unilateral Economic Sanctions) और क्षेत्रीय नाकेबंदी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून तथा बहुपक्षवाद (Multilateralism) के सिद्धांतों को चुनौती देते हैं।" क्यूबा पर अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के संदर्भ में इस कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए तथा इसका 'वैश्विक दक्षिण' (Global South) पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Rahul calls SIR 'treason' as INDIA unites against ECI; MPs detained

LoP leads sit-in at Akashvani Bhawan after protest march to ECI headquarters stopped; PM Modi 'stole votes to hijack the country', he says; Opposition leaders demand CEC's removal, suspension of SIR, and restoration of deleted names in rolls

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

“What has been done to my country is treason,” Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on Tuesday even as the Opposition parties closed ranks, marching from Parliament to the Election Commission of India's (ECI) headquarters to demand the scrapping of special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, restoration of the names deleted from the rolls, and sacking of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Later in the evening, Mr. Gandhi, his sister - Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other MPs were forcibly removed, detained and huddled into a bus even as Mr. Gandhi resisted, attempting to wriggle out of the vehicle's window.

Before being detained, Mr. Gandhi, along with Ms. Vadra and Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, held a sit-in at Akashvani Bhawan, just a few metres from Nirvachan Sadan, where the protest march was stopped at 11 a.m. by Delhi Police.

Around 6 p.m., the Congress reached out to all parties to join the sit-in. Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien and Mahua Moitra, Indian Union Muslim League (UML)'s E.T. Muhammad Basheer, and Samajwadi Party (SP)'s Mohibullah Nadvi, who were removed earlier in the day by the police, returned to



Rally call: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on barricades during the INDIA bloc-led protest march, demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

join Mr. Gandhi.

While the Aam Aadmi Party and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam stayed away from the protest, all 19 parties that attended the September 30 Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) meeting were represented at the sit-in. Top Opposition leaders, including SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut, and Nationalist Congress Party (SP)'s Supriya Sule, were seen walking together.

For the first time, Biju Janata Dal, which maintains a distance from both the ruling side and the IN-

DIA bloc, joined in.

Mr. Yadav accused the ECI of working for the BJP. “Only BJP members can vote. BJP's workers can be India's citizens,” he said, accusing the government of using multiple measures to “steal the mandate”. He accused the ECI of especially targeting the “Pichde, Dalit and Apsankhyak (PDA)” (backward, Dalit and minorities).

Mr. Banerjee was seen raising slogans while standing beside Mr. Gandhi.

The march began at 10.30 a.m. from Makar Dwar of Parliament, with the leaders carrying a banner reading: “Election

Commission is compromised – Sack Gyanesh Kumar”.

Slogans such as “vote chor gaddi chodh” (vote thief leave the seat), “Gyanesh Kumar isifa do” (Gyanesh Kumar resign) were raised, and leaders were seen carrying placards reading “BJP hi CEC hai” and “Democracy not for sale”.

The detained Parliamentarians were taken to Kingsway Camp police station. They were released later at 10.15 pm. The INDIA bloc will hold another protest on Wednesday.

MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 5

Could not accept 'unusual demand' for meet outside premises: ECI

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) said on Tuesday that INDIA bloc parties had demanded a meeting with the full commission at a venue outside its premises which was “unusual” and therefore “could not be accepted”. The ECI said that it had proposed that its senior-most officer on duty could be sent to the meeting venue, adding that this “unprecedented” offer was also declined by the protesting leaders. » PAGE 5

SIR

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

➤ ECI - UPSC Constitutional & Legal Provisions

2011-15
324-329

➤ CEC - Constitutional & Legal Provisions

324
1991
2023
EC

➤ SIR - Article 324/RPA 1950 Section 21

SIR - निर्देशिका 21(3)

➤ RPA - 1950

महत्वपूर्ण - चुनावों में लीप का कार्य
अधिकार - घोषणा
21 - मतदाता सूची - निर्माण
व्यक्तियों - CEO, ERO, BLO

SIR
ECI

2013
RPA-1950

➤ Section 28 - Registration of Electors Rules 1960 - Form - 6,7,8

महत्वपूर्ण नियम बना लकी है -
चुनावों लुप्तता -

1960 - RER-1960

वर्तमान
ECI
कायदा
नियम
Form 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

➤ RPA - 1951 - Section 29(A) - Registration of Political Parties

चुनावों का सम्बन्ध
उम्मीदवारों की घोषणा
राजनीति दलों का भी
29(A)

➤ ECINET

➤ ERONET

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Centre plans five-pronged reforms as GST Council meets tomorrow

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Centre will propose a five-pronged plan for the next set of reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system at the upcoming GST Council meeting on Thursday, according to sources in the Union Finance Ministry.

These reforms are aimed at automating and easing a lot of the current administrative bottlenecks in the GST system, and reducing the compliance burden, especially for small businesses. Rates, including the GST on the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions, will not be on the agenda.

The proposal covers process reforms, structural reforms, ease of living and doing business, exports of services, and e-commerce.

Some of the key changes proposed involve automatic invoice matching between buyers and sellers, reducing paperwork

Reform proposal

The five-pronged plan aims at automating and easing administrative bottlenecks in the GST system

FOCUS ON:

- Process reforms
- Structural reforms
- Ease of living and doing business
- Export of services
- E-commerce

- Key beneficiaries will be small businesses, inter-State businesses, and service exporters

The proposals will be discussed at the GST Council meeting and, if approved, will be implemented in a staggered manner



around claiming input tax credits (ITC), reducing the number of times small taxpayers have to file returns, and removing multi-State registrations for small businesses looking to sell across the country.

Relief measures

The Centre will share a concept note with States on allowing small taxpayers who supply only to consumers to file their returns once a year instead of once a month as is currently the case.

At the moment, provid-

ing a service to a foreign client through a branch abroad is not counted as export of service. The Centre will propose to amend this to categorise such businesses as export.

At the moment, 61% of taxpayers receive their GST registration within three working days without the need for a tax officer's involvement, an official in the Union Finance Ministry said. The Centre will now propose a streamlining of processes for the remaining taxpayers so as to avoid "unnecessary qu-

eries" and rejections.

Further, the Centre will propose an upgrade to the existing invoice management system to match invoices in such a manner that corrections and changes made to an invoice by the seller are recorded at each step and automatically reflected in the buyer's invoice.

"This would avoid a large number of notices issued to taxpayers due to invoice mismatches," the official explained.

At the moment, businesses complain that their input tax credits are often held up because their suppliers have not filed their returns. The Centre is now trying to address this issue.

Further, the Centre will propose that ordinary business costs, that currently do not get refunded as ITC, should be brought into the ITC system. In addition, taxes paid on input services, earlier not eligible for ITC, will be proposed to be made eligible.

- GST Act
- GST Council

YouTube Homework

- Direct & Indirect Tax

2016

↳ 1 July 2017

↳ 10/11/17

↳ 27/9 (A)

↳ GST Council

↳ अनुसंधान कार्य

↳ 15/11 - 21/11/17

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Surya, India' first indigenous fleet support ship, launched

It is a floating supply powerhouse that can sustain protracted, high-intensity naval engagements; Rajnath urges Indian shipyards to look beyond self-reliance and aim at international markets

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Navy's first indigenous fleet support ship (FSS-1), named *Surya*, and laid the keel for the fifth vessel of the series, FSS-5, at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command



Homemade vessel: Rajnath Singh speaking at the launch of the fleet support ship, *Surya*, in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. V. RAJU

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalala, HSL CMD Rear Admiral C. Raghuram, and other dignitaries.

The Minister urged Indian shipyards to look beyond self-reliance towards global competitiveness, aiming to serve inter-

national markets, build a presence in marine technology, and provide advanced ship repair services.

The massive Fleet Support Ship (FSS) initiative is backed by a landmark ₹19,000-crore contract

between the Ministry of Defence and HSL to construct five indigenous auxiliary vessels.

The FSS platform, with 82% indigenous content, serves as a floating supply powerhouse, engineered to sustain protracted, high-intensity naval engagements and battle groups far from home ports.

Its internal storage holds up to 20,000 tonnes of high-speed diesel, 2,500 tonnes of aviation turbine fuel, fresh water, alongside dry cargo containers for ammunition and spares. It can simultaneously transfer fuel, stores, and personnel to multiple warships to maintain continuous high-seas deployment.

- **'सूर्या' (FSS-1 / Fleet Support Ship-1)** भारतीय नौसेना का पहला स्वदेशी फ्लीट सपोर्ट शिप (Fleet Support Ship) है। इसे 6 अक्टूबर 2026 को विशाखापत्तनम में हिंदुस्तान शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (HSL) में लॉन्च किया गया।
- **मुख्य बिंदु:**
- **प्रकार:** फ्लीट सपोर्ट शिप (FSS)
- **वजन / विस्थापन:** लगभग 43,500 टन
- **निर्माणकर्ता:** हिंदुस्तान शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (HSL), विशाखापत्तनम
- **मुख्य कार्य:** समुद्र में तैनात भारतीय नौसेना के युद्धपोतों को ईंधन, हथियार, गोला-बारूद, भोजन और पानी (Replenishment at sea) प्रदान करना।
- **रणनीतिक महत्व:** इसके जरिए नौसेना के जहाजों को बार-बार बंदरगाह (Port) पर वापस नहीं आना पड़ेगा, जिससे वे लंबे समय तक हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र (IOR) में तैनात रह सकेंगे और भारत की समुद्री क्षमता व परिचालन सीमा (Operational Reach) बढ़ेगी।

More than half of overnight travel is by bus: NSO survey

India's first national travel survey finds 55.8% of overnight household journeys are by bus and 17.7% by rail; two-wheelers are main mode of transport for daily work, accounting for 42.6% of journeys

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Buses are used significantly more than trains for overnight travel in India, with more than half of all household overnight journeys undertaken by bus, according to the country's first-ever National Household Travel Survey released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Monday.

The survey found that 55.8% of overnight household journeys are undertaken by bus, compared with 17.7% by inter-city railways. Together, buses and railways account for nearly three-fourths, or 73.5% of all overnight travel. Cars account for 15.1% of such journeys, while two-wheelers make up another 8.8%.

Railway use is significantly higher among urban households. About 22.7% of urban households use rail for overnight journeys, compared with around 14% of rural households.

Overnight journeys, however, are largely not undertaken for tourism. The survey found that 70.2% of



The survey found that 70.2% of overnight household trips are for social, communication, and religious purposes. FILE PHOTO

overnight household trips are for social, communication, and religious purposes. Culture, leisure, sports and tourism account for just 7.4% of such trips.

The daily commute

The pattern changes sharply when it comes to daily travel to work. Two-wheelers are the dominant mode of transport for workers, accounting for 42.6% of journeys. Their share rises to 52.3% among urban workers, compared with 37.1% in rural areas.

Public transport has a much smaller share of daily workforce mobility nationally. Buses account for

6.7% of work trips, while trains, the monorail, and trams together account for 2.1%. However, urban mass transit is considerably more important in some States and cities.

In Maharashtra, metro, suburban rail, monorail, and trams account for 20.7% of urban worker commutes, followed by West Bengal at 16.5% and Delhi at 14.4%, against the national urban average of 5%.

The survey also shows that most Indians have relatively short daily commutes.

The average journey to a fixed workplace takes 25

minutes, with the average rising to 27 minutes in urban areas.

The average monthly expenditure on commuting to a fixed workplace is ₹785 per worker.

Urban workers spend substantially more, at ₹1,044 a month, compared with ₹612 for rural workers. Male workers spend an average of ₹835 on their commute each month, against ₹533 for female workers.

The survey also highlights a gender disparity in workforce mobility. While 61.9% of male workers undertake work-related trips of more than one kilometre, the corresponding share for women is only 41.9%.

There is also a gender gap in commuting expenditure: male workers spend an average of ₹835 a month, compared with ₹533 for female workers.

The National Household Travel Survey, conducted between July 2025 and June 2026, covered 4,92,023 households and 20,34,371 people across 14,274 villages and 10,377 urban blocks.

YouTube Homework

→ मिलाना ऊपर
लेना है यहाँ
हस्ता
Survey
National Household
Travel Survey - 2025-26
NSO

NSO

MOSPI
4

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- नेशनल हाउसहोल्ड ट्रैवल सर्वे (NHTS 2025–26)
- आयोजन: सांख्यिकी मंत्रालय (MoSPI) के NSO द्वारा देश में पहली बार आयोजित सर्वेक्षण।
- कार्यस्थल आवागमन (Workplace Commute):
 - टू-व्हीलर (42.6%): काम पर जाने के लिए सबसे ज्यादा इस्तेमाल किया जाने वाला साधन।
 - पैदल यात्रा (28.3%): लोग काम पर पैदल जाते हैं (ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 36%)।
 - सार्वजनिक परिवहन: केवल 15% लोग ही बस, ट्रेन या मेट्रो का उपयोग करते हैं।
- समय और खर्च:
 - औसत खर्च: ₹785 प्रति माह (शहरी: ₹1,044 | ग्रामीण: ₹612)।
 - समय: 83.4% लोग 30 मिनट से कम समय में अपने काम पर पहुँच जाते हैं।
- नीतिगत महत्व: इस डेटा का उपयोग 'PM गति शक्ति योजना' और सार्वजनिक परिवहन प्रणाली में सुधार के लिए किया जाएगा।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



There is no one-size-fits-all approach to climate action, India says at pre-COP31 talks

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav has called for equal attention to adaptation, mitigation, and means of implementation as the world heads towards the United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP31 Summit, in Antalya in Türkiye in November.

The principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) must be upheld "in letter and spirit," Mr. Yadav said.

Addressing the Leaders' Plenary in Fiji, where he is leading India's delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) pre-COP31 meetings, Mr. Yadav said there could be no "one-



Bhupendra Yadav

size-fits-all" pathway to climate action.

Local studies and assessments, he said, were key to identifying emerging challenges, mitigation and adaptation measures, and the resources needed, a press statement from the Environment Ministry said. The talks in Nadi, Fiji, and on the atoll nation of Tuvalu, co-hosted by Australia, Fiji and Tuvalu, are a precursor to the COP31 in Türkiye. Referring to In-

dia's long coastline and islands, Mr. Yadav said the country understood the challenges of Pacific Island countries. Institutions such as the Indian Space Research Organisation, the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, and the National Centre for Coastal Research had built expertise in coastal vulnerability assessment, shoreline change mapping, marine spatial planning, and integrated coastal management.

Shared knowledge

India also uses space-based Earth observation for shoreline monitoring, inundation assessment, cyclones, extreme weather early warning, and climate risk assessment, Mr. Yadav said, and offered to share this knowledge with Pacific partner countries.

UN
UNFCCC
COP-31
CBDR-RC

YouTube Homework

- UNFCCC
- UNEP

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

In this Delhi studio, tintype brings chemistry into every portrait

Tintype is a traditional, hand-made photographic process from the mid-19th century that made portrait photography more accessible outside the formal and expensive studios of the time; it seems simple yet it conceals a process that demands scientific precision — and therein lies its charm

Aditya Ansh
NEW DELHI

In an age when a portrait can be made in a fraction of a second, Vishnu Kapoor, artist and assistant professor at O.P.J.S. Global University, Sonapat, spends several minutes making one photograph, much of the time spent negotiating with chemistry.

In his Delhi-NCR studio, Mr. Kapoor works with tintype, a 19th-century photographic process in which an image is created directly on a metal plate.

The French photographer Adolphe Alexandre Martin is credited with developing the technique in 1853, two years after Frederick Scott Archer invented the wet-plate collodion process.

Chemically demanding

Unlike processes that produced glass negatives or paper prints, tintypes created a positive image directly on a dark metal plate.

Mr. Kapoor takes a plate with collodion, a syrupy solution of nitrocellulose dissolved in ether and alcohol. He pours it onto a metal plate to form a thin, sticky film, and sensitises it in a silver nitrate bath in which the iodides and bromides react with silver nitrate to form light-sensitive silver iodide and silver bromide.

Finally, he exposes these light-sensitive compounds through a large-format camera, and develops the images in a dark room using a ferrous sulphate solution acidified with glacial acetic acid and thinned with alcohol; it amplifies the latent image by converting more exposed silver halides into visible metallic silver.

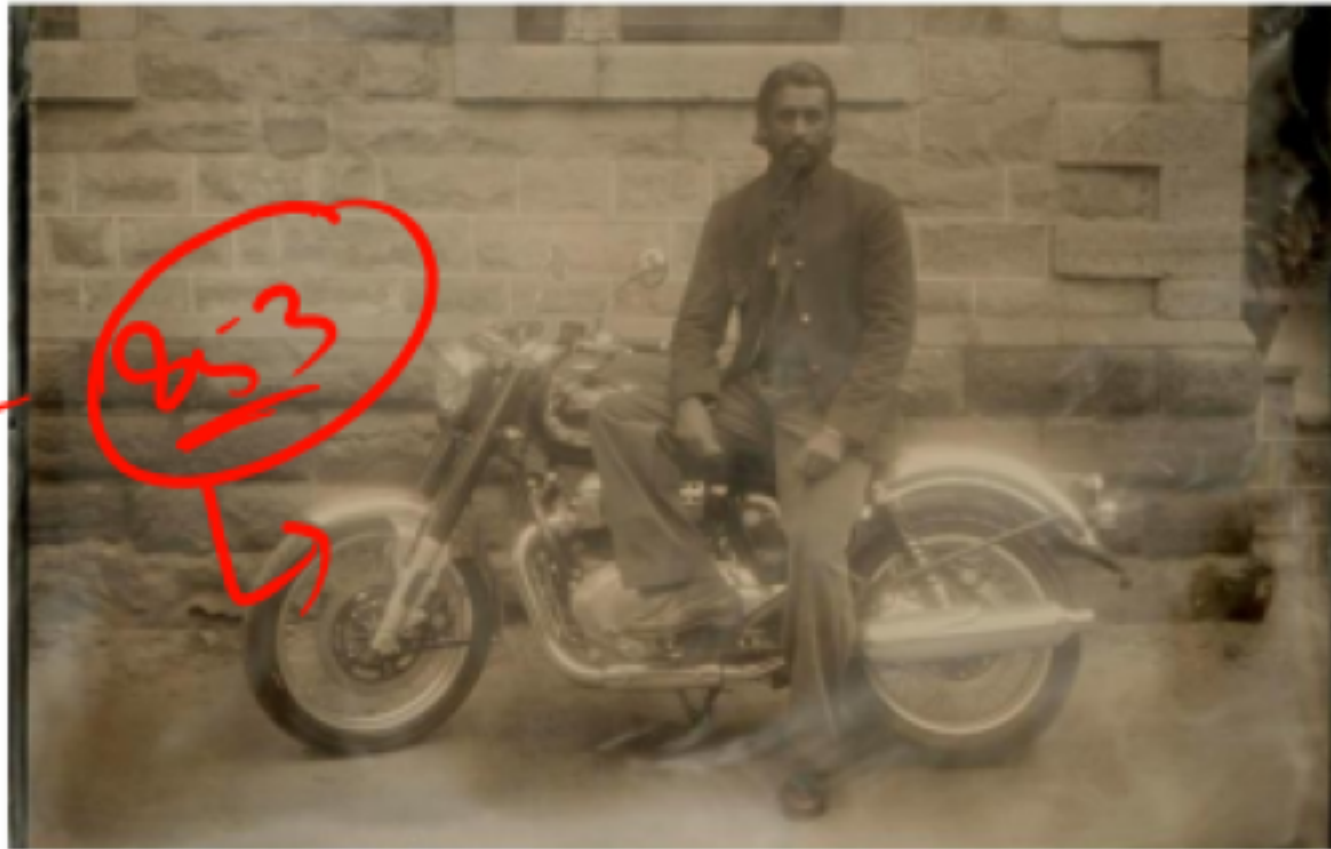
The entire sequence from coating to fixing must be completed while the plate remains wet. There is also no negative to reprint from, so duplicating tintypes is equally arduous.

19th century process

In the mid-19th century, the tintype process was valued for being relatively inexpensive and durable. The dominant photographic process of the era was the daguerreotype. It was costly because it required silver-plated copper sheets as the base material plus iodine and mercury vapour to develop images. Together with the labour-intensive crafting process, each daguerreotype was a luxury item.

Tintypes, however, afforded portraits outside the more formal, expensive photographic studios of the period. In India as well, the process formed part of the early history of photography.

In 1864, a British photographer named T. Murray introduced Sawai Ram Singh II



A tintype of Padmanabh Singh, of the erstwhile ruling dynasty of Jaipur State; (Below) portrait in tintype. VISHNU KAPOOR/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



of Jaipur to the tintype camera and documented his court, architecture, and lives of women in the royal zenana. Murray is also known to have helped the ruler develop a royal archive of visuals.

According to Mr. Kapoor, the Jaipur royal photographer Ram Singh also used the process. "It is a very traditional, hand-made process," Mr. Kapoor said. But its apparent simplicity conceals a process that demands scientific precision.

Mr. Kapoor first learnt tintype photography during his master's degree at the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, which he spent coating plates, photographing, developing, drying, and finally varnishing the finished image.

The way tintype works also affects the photographer and the subject. The CMOS sensors in today's digital cameras are so fast that a person needs to pose for just a second. On the other hand, the light-sensitive compounds in tintype photography 'record' the light over 8-10 seconds, so the subjects need to present themselves still for that period.

For a portrait, as Mr. Kapoor put it,

"The person is performing ..., presenting themselves."

The image emerges in 10 to 15 minutes thereafter.

Weather and chemistry

That said, the photograph's most unpredictable component is the weather. "The chemistry is very volatile and humidity plays a crucial role," Mr. Kapoor said.

"During the monsoon, the humidity causes the tintypes to develop spots," Matthew Fossier, a U.S. tintype practitioner in Texas, said.

Dust is another serious problem. As dust particles settle on the wet collodion layer, they interrupt the formation of silver halide crystals. When the plate is developed, the affected area produces metallic silver differently from the surrounding film, and which appears as an opaque or transparent spot.

Temperature fluctuations can create other artefacts as well, per Mr. Fossier. The collodion contains volatile solvents and heat makes them evaporate faster, leaving the film to become sticky. The plate must be moved quickly to the silver nitrate bath, where silver ions react with the halides in the collodion to form the light-sensitive silver-halide layer. If the collodion has begun to set unevenly by

then, however, the resulting layer can be uneven as well.

He added that the effect is pronounced when pouring the collodion, which reduces the time available to get the plate into the silver bath.

According to Mr. Kapoor, the Delhi-NCR temperatures require him to adjust his solutions: "Heat acts as a catalyst (and) more heat means reactions are faster. The developer has to be managed."

The developer is a chemical solution that reveals the image captured on a sensitised metal plate after exposure. But in warmer weather, the developer works faster, causing streaks or an uneven fog to appear in the picture.

To avoid this, Mr. Kapoor dilutes the developer to change its strength and how long it stays on the plate, slowing the reaction, and allowing the picture to develop clearly.

Photography arrived in India in the 19th century, and the wet collodion processes became ubiquitous as tintypes circulated in Indian towns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, however, Mr. Kapoor said "only a handful of photographers in India practise tintype". (Aditya Ansh is an independent media writer based in New Delhi. adityaansh30@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Tintype created images directly on metal plates; it was developed by French photographer Adolphe Alexandre Martin in 1853, two years after Frederick Scott Archer invented the wet-plate collodion process.

The process was popular because it was cheap and durable unlike the more expensive daguerreotype; it made portrait photography accessible to more people outside formal studios.

Tintypes became common in towns across the country during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; today, however, only a few photographers in India still practise the process.

Art & Culture
of India
L. Tintype

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- टिनटाइप (Tintype) 19वीं सदी (1850 के दशक) की एक पुरानी और पारंपरिक फोटोग्राफी तकनीक है, जिसे फेरोटाइप (Ferrottype) भी कहा जाता है।

1. Tintype क्या है?

- **तकनीक:** इसमें फोटो किसी कागज या डिजिटल सेंसर पर नहीं, बल्कि लोहे या एल्युमीनियम की एक पतली धातु की प्लेट पर सीधे ली जाती है।
- **प्रक्रिया:** धातु की प्लेट पर प्रकाश-संवेदनशील रसायनों (Collodion और Silver Nitrate) का लेप लगाया जाता है। इसके बाद इसे कैमरे में रखकर एक्सपोज किया जाता है और गीली अवस्था में ही विकसित (Develop) किया जाता है।
- **विशेषता:**
 - इस प्रक्रिया से बनी हर तस्वीर यूनिक (इकलौती) होती है, क्योंकि इसका कोई 'नेगेटिव' नहीं बनता जिससे दूसरी कॉपी बनाई जा सके।
 - ये तस्वीरें ऐतिहासिक, थोड़ी डार्क, विंटेज और बेहद टिकाऊ (सैकड़ों साल तक खराब न होने वाली) होती हैं।

2. यह चर्चा में क्यों है?

- हाल के दिनों में डिजिटल और एआई-जनरेटेड फोटो (AI-generated images) के दौर में 'टिनटाइप फोटोग्राफी' एक बार फिर ट्रेंड और चर्चा में आ गई है:
- **सच्ची और प्रामाणिक कला (Authenticity):** जहाँ डिजिटल फोटो में एआई, फिल्टर और फोटोशॉप का इस्तेमाल आम हो गया है, वहीं लोग इस 170 साल पुरानी हस्तनिर्मित (hand-crafted) कला को पसंद कर रहे हैं क्योंकि इसे एडिट या फेब्रिकेट नहीं किया जा सकता।
- **पॉप कल्चर व स्पोर्ट्स में ट्रेंड:** वैश्विक स्तर पर मीडिया, फैशन और स्पोर्ट्स मीडिया-डे (जैसे NFL/Buffalo Bills मीडिया इवेंट्स) में एथलीटों व मशहूर हस्तियों के टिनटाइप पोर्ट्रेट्स के लिए इसका इस्तेमाल बढ़ा है, जिससे यह सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हुआ है।
- **फोटोग्राफी की 200वीं वर्षगांठ:** कला क्षेत्र में फोटोग्राफी के इतिहास के 200 साल पूरे होने के उपलक्ष्य में कई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शनी (जैसे FUJIKINA आदि) में पारंपरिक टिनटाइप पोर्ट्रेट सेशन और वर्कशॉप आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



कुष्ठ रोग

Break the chain

India must focus on cutting transmission of leprosy

While the prevalence of leprosy among adults and children and the grade-2 disability rate have dropped in India over the last decade, its continued transmission in many pockets constrains India's ability to meet targets outlined in the National Strategic Plan (NSP) and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-2027. By 2005, the national prevalence had dropped to under 1 case per 10,000 people, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare that India had "eliminated [leprosy] as a public health problem". However, the government became complacent and allowed the folding of the leprosy surveillance programme into the general health system. Multi-drug treatment regimens also shortened the time for which patients remained formally registered, allowing prevalence to fall and transmission to continue. Disability due to leprosy began to rise in the early 2010s, prompting door-to-door screening. Today, the NSP is right to focus on cutting transmission, in line with WHO. Since India's children accounted for around 46% of all cases reported among children in 2025, the two programmes need to move in tandem. The drop in disease burden has not been highly uneven – Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Maharashtra bear disproportionate shares of the national burden. According to the 2025-26 National Leprosy Elimination Programme report, only 148 districts have achieved 'interruption of transmission' (pending field verification) against the projected 300.

In 2025-26, workers screened more than 70 crore people in highly endemic areas, where 24,367 cases were detected, and ASHA workers flagged nearly 40 lakh suspected cases, with 48,027 cases confirmed. Workers also administered single-dose rifampicin as post-exposure prophylaxis to 91.1% of those 16.9 lakh likely to have come in contact. The government has operationalised digital surveillance and is deliberating on using the MIP vaccine to accelerate pathogen clearance in patients deemed highly infectious. One persistent set of lacunae pertains to care: research has shown nerve damage in many patients by the time they sought care, largely due to the stigma, while many clinical practitioners are unfamiliar with leprosy's pathology or misdiagnose it as a skin condition. Reading these realities together, the state should double down on interrupting transmission and make prevalence a secondary outcome. It should also resist the temptation to ease detection or revise its elimination targets – the 2025-26 report says the overall incidence overshot projections by 41%, incidence among children by 91.6%, and the grade-2 disability rate by 34% – and instead redouble its investments to meet the extant 2026-27 projections. Finally, it should commit its augmented efforts at locations and social settings where both late diagnosis and transmission remain trenchant.

भारत में कुष्ठ रोग (Leprosy) की स्थिति, लक्ष्य और WHO का दृष्टिकोण

भारत में स्थिति:

- दुनिया भर के कुल नए मामलों में से 50% से अधिक मामले भारत में दर्ज होते हैं।
- भारत में 2005 में इसे राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर "सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या" के रूप में समाप्त घोषित कर दिया था, लेकिन फिर भी हर साल 70,000 से 1,00,000 नए मामले सामने आते हैं।

भारत का लक्ष्य:

- 2027 तक शून्य संचरण (Zero Transmission): देश से कुष्ठ रोग के नए मामलों के प्रसार को पूरी तरह खत्म करना।
- बच्चों में नए मामलों और विकलांगता (Grade-2 Disability) की दर को शून्य पर लाना।

WHO ने भारत के बारे में क्या कहा?

- जाँच में तेज़ी की ज़रूरत: WHO का कहना है कि भारत को सक्रिय केस खोज (Active Case Detection) और रोगियों के संपर्क में आए लोगों की पहचान को तेज़ करना होगा, ताकि छिपे हुए मामलों को समय पर पकड़ा जा सके।
- निःशुल्क इलाज की पहुँच: WHO भारत को मल्टी-ड्रग थेरेपी (MDT) मुफ्त उपलब्ध करा रहा है और उसने निर्देश दिया है कि इस दवा की पहुँच अंतिम छोर (ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों) तक होनी चाहिए।
- सामाजिक भेदभाव का अंत: WHO ने भारत से आग्रह किया है कि कुष्ठ रोग से जुड़े सामाजिक कलंक, भेदभाव और इससे संबंधित पुराने अप्रचलित कानूनों को पूरी तरह समाप्त किया जाए ताकि मरीज बिना झिझक के इलाज के लिए आगे आ सकें।

प्रेषित 22
निर्देशिका 22
चेक 22
मह
TB मुक्त

Drugs
free
India

2030
2030

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Why growing trust in digital payments may be leaving Indians more exposed to cybercrime

UPI has become a more trusted and frequently used mode of payment in India but SPQR 2026 finds a paradox, people who trusted online banking the most and used UPI most often were more likely to have been victims of cybercrime; report shows how fraud networks exploit this trust through deceptive schemes, fake apps and 'digital arrest'

Vincent Prakash

At a roadside tea stall, the QR code neatly taped on the can of biscuits now does more work than the cash box. A scan, a password, and a satisfying beep. No change to count, no note to fumble. In a country where your vegetable vendor, the auto-driver and the doctor all get paid the same way, digital payments, especially UPI, have become a site where one's bread and butter are bought and sold.

The scale is hard to overstate. UPI has processed over 24,000 crore transactions in FY 2025-26, with the transaction values crossing ₹34 lakh crore. As the world's most populous country, India has 70% of its population connected to the internet, making it one of the most sought-after global markets for internet services and digital platforms. That trust, energy, and active user base is also a tempting target. One that is ripe to be picked on by cybercriminals. The Status of Policing in India Report (SPQR) 2026 shows how the two meet: how India uses the internet and how cybercriminals stay one step ahead of users.

Digital payments are a daily habit for Indians. About half (49%) of the respondents use UPI apps every day, while another quarter (24%) use them once or twice a week. UPI also stood out as the most frequently used online payment method, with almost half (48%) saying they use it "many times", ahead of card, wallet, and NEFT/RTGS payment methods (Table 1).

Trust follows usage. UPI garnered the most trust out of all payment

The trust test

UPI dominates online payments, but the SPQR 2026 data shows that high trust and frequent use can coexist with greater exposure to cybercrime

Table 1: UPI is the most frequently used for online payment

Online payment modes	Many times	Sometimes	Never
UPI	48	30	19
Debit/Credit card payment	30	40	30
Payment wallets	14	23	49
NEFT/RTGS	7	23	57

Note: All figures are in percentages. The rest did not respond. The categories 'never' and 'I don't make online payments' are merged to form the 'never' category.

Question asked: When making payments online, how frequently do you use the following? (UPI/NEFT/RTGS/Debit/Credit card payment/All Payment wallets - many times, sometimes, or never?)

Table 2: Those who consider online banking to be safe are more likely to be victims of cybercrime

Index of perceived safety of online banking modes of online banking	Have you been a victim of a cybercrime in the last 2-3 years, or did you help the victim clearly in registering the cyber complaint or in handling the overall issue?	Yes	No
Very safe		28	60
Somewhat safe		26	79
Somewhat unsafe		22	73
Very unsafe		14	80

Note: All figures are in percentages. The rest did not respond.

methods, with a third (34%) of the respondents considering it "very safe" and two in five (40%) considering it "somewhat safe", meaning three in four people consider it to be safe. Card payments came in second, with about two in three (65%) considering it safe – 28% considering it "very safe" and 37% "somewhat safe" – followed by wallet-based apps and mobile banking

apps. Taking all online banking modes together, a majority of the respondents find them to be safe, with about a quarter (23%) finding them "very safe" and about two in five (40%) finding them "somewhat safe". On its own, this is a success story. People trust a system they use constantly, and the system mostly delivers.

The trust paradox

SPQR also asked a different set of questions about behavior, which together measure how vulnerable a person is to unsafe online practices. Would they open a link from an unsolicited sender? A photo, video, or file from a stranger? Share an OTP with an unknown caller? And so on.

When trust is set aside vulnerability, the pattern is striking. The people most prone to unsafe online practices were also the most confident about online banking. Among the highly vulnerable, about half (49%) called online banking modes "very safe" and another 29% considered them "somewhat safe".

Among those with moderate to no vulnerability, only about a fifth, on average, considered online banking to be "very safe".

Following this thread towards victimisation, it was found that those who considered online banking modes as "very safe" were also more likely to have been victims of cybercrimes in the past 2-3 years. Among victims, 28% considered online banking modes to be "very safe" compared with 18% who considered online banking modes "very unsafe" (Table 2). As perceptions of safety decreased, so did their likelihood of being a victim.

Usage tells the same story. Those who use UPI "many times" were more likely to have been victims of cybercrime in the last 2-3 years, compared to those who "never" use it.

People's high trust and usage of online banking methods is being met with an adversary that is organised and inventive. A cybercrime expert in the report described a supply chain

that sells fraudsters "kits" of pre-activated SIM cards, bank accounts, and cell phones. For a small investment of ₹10,000-20,000 in these kits, the fraudsters can swindle someone's life savings worth tens of lakhs or crores, and remain largely untraceable. The interviewed victims further shed light on the various inventive schemes cybercriminals use to defraud people. The fraudsters create entire investment betting convincingly hold victims under 'digital arrest' for several days, and get the victims' trust and convince them to share personal information.

The deception does not stop at victims. Two people interviewed for the report, both accused of perpetrating cybercrime, said they had lost their bank accounts to fraudsters who deceived them, leaving them part of a crime they did not fully understand. Fraudsters are not only exploiting gaps in the financial system, but they are recruiting its users and leaving them to be apprehended by the police as the most replaceable link in the chain, while they themselves go untouched.

The SPQR 2026 points to an almost paradoxical association: the more people use digital payments, the more they trust them, and the more likely they are to be victims of cybercrime. But that is only one half of the picture. The other half is a sophisticated adversary who is armed with the right tools, exploits the trust people have in their financial systems, and quite tactfully plays on the human psyche to deceive their victims. (Vincent Prakash is a researcher at Common Cause)

Cybercrimes have disrupted our conventional understanding of both how crimes take place and how the systems responding to them function. While there is much to be said about the non-financial cybercrimes that may be just as prevalent as financial cybercrimes, the latter have captured the attention of the public and the media.

A recent study by Common Cause and Lokniti, CSIR, the Status of Policing in India Report (SPQR) 2026: Cybercrimes – Victim Perspectives and Systemic Responses, brings out the perspective of the common public, victims, and domain experts on this issue, focusing on how victims navigate through the complex system. The study is based on a survey of 3,306 respondents from across 36 States/UTs, along with in-depth interviews with 27 stakeholders, including victims, cybercrime experts, and others.

In financial cybercrime cases, the banking sector becomes an integral part of the reporting and resolution process, widening the traditional understanding of the core criminal justice institutions such as the police and courts. In this context, the study explores, among other things, whether banks as an institution are prepared to deal with these cases and to take accountability for security lapses.

According to the survey data, 51% of the overall respondents were victims of cybercrimes in the last 2-3 years. Among the victims, more than half (54%) were victims of digital financial frauds.

One of the first actions taken by the victim after the incident was complaining directly to the banks. More than half of the victims of digital financial fraud (52%) who were surveyed said that they had complained to the bank separately after the incident. A majority, 63%, complained within the first 24 hours.

Banker response Despite the promptness in reporting shown by many victims, the response by the banks leaves much to be

Banking on banks

Table 3: More than half of all cybercrimes involve digital financial frauds

Category of crime	Percentage
Digital financial frauds	54
Swindling of victims	32
Personal data theft	11
Cyberstalking/abuse on social media	7
Online sexual harassment	4

Note: The rest did not respond or reporting under other types of crime. All figures are in percentages.

Table 4: Nearly two out of three respondents reported the fraud to the bank within 24 hours

Time taken to report the fraud after it occurred	Percentage of victims who reported the fraud to the bank within 24 hours
Within 24 hours	63
Within 48 hours	25
More than 48 hours	12

Note: The rest did not respond.

Question asked: How soon after the fraud did you report it to the bank? (within 24 hours, within 48 hours, more than 48 hours)

desired. A 2017 RBI guideline states that in cases of third-party breach due to a deficiency by either the bank or the customer, and if the customer notifies the bank within three days, the loss must be borne by the bank entirely. This was expanded on a guideline in 2026 to include those cases where the customer had been tricked or coerced into making scam payments, with limited liability being placed on the bank in such cases.

In-depth interviews with victims revealed, however, that the banks' response to cybercrimes is almost entirely focused on erasing accountability and liability. The standard response from the banks in cases of digital financial fraud is that the victim "collaborated" with the perpetrator of the cybercrime. All the victims of digital financial cybercrimes who were interviewed qualitatively, having one, said that the bank maintained this in their case, even in cases where the victim did not interact with the perpetrator at any point. Notably, the one case in which the bank did not give this response included a high net-worth individual

Victims often report fraud quickly, but face delays and poor support when seeking recovery

Table 5: Two-thirds of the victims who complained separately to the bank had their crime recovered due to a breach of personal data

Complaint made separately to the bank	Yes, it was recovered due to a breach of personal data	No, it didn't happen because of the bank's negligence
Yes	66	34
No	25	75

Note: The rest did not respond. All figures are in percentages.

Question asked: Some victims of financial cybercrimes believe that their financial data was stolen by a bank insider because of which they were targeted by criminals. In your view, do you think the crime occurred due to a breach of your personal data by the bank or its personnel?

Response: Yes, it occurred due to a breach of personal data. Statement: No, it didn't happen because of that.

Table 6: Nearly a quarter of the victims of cyber fraud are very dissatisfied with the bank's role in recovery of money

The bank's role in recovering the money	Degree of satisfaction			
	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
The bank's role in recovering the money	31	31	34	22

Note: The rest did not respond. All figures are in percentages. The table includes responses from both the victims and those who consider themselves victims of digital financial fraud.

Question asked: How satisfied were you with the following – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

with a long-standing relationship with the bank.

Low satisfaction Nitya (name changed), a Gurgaon-based journalist, got a scam call for SIM registration on a Saturday. The caller, pretending to be an Airtel employee, shared some of his personal information to appear legitimate.

A more serious obligation levelled against the banks, both by cybercrime experts as well as victims, is that of complicity in the cybercrimes, whether directly or indirectly. The survey data shows that amongst victims who complained to the bank separately, as many as 40% were of the opinion that the cybercrime occurred due to their financial data being leaked by a bank insider. Amongst those who did not complain to the bank separately, 26% held this opinion. Overall, while a significant proportion of the victims feel that the breach of their personal data enabled the cybercrime incident, this sentiment is amplified amongst those who had first-hand experience with the bank in

dealing with their case.

In-depth interviews with victims made similar grave allegations against the banks. Of the 12 digital financial fraud victims interviewed, the victims were of the opinion that bank officials were directly or indirectly complicit in the crime. One of the victims was told by the police officer investigating her case that the bank must be complicit, though no charges were filed against it.

Cybercrime experts and senior police officers dealing with these cases strongly supported this perception. They further stressed the lack of accountability for the common breaches of customer data, due to inadequate security systems.

Another major systemic loophole is the lack of due diligence by banks when opening bank accounts, which can be used as male accounts in cybercrime cases. Policing and cybercrime experts were of the opinion that banks prioritise their business interests over building secure systems. "People like you and me will lose access to our accounts due to KYC procedures, but these accounts (the cyber criminals) will never be closed", stated a former police officer.

Satisfaction with the banks

Overall, the levels of satisfaction with the banks remained low across the victims of digital financial cybercrimes, as is emerging both from the survey data as well as the in-depth interviews with victims. More than one out of five victims of digital financial fraud surveyed reported being "very dissatisfied" with the bank's role in recovering money, while 80% said that they were somewhat dissatisfied.

Amongst the in-depth interview respondents, the satisfaction levels were lower, with the victims rating the banks a poor one out of five. Even in cases where the victims were able to recover their money fully or partially, the satisfaction with the banks remained low. Notably, there was not much variation in the reported experience or satisfaction levels across private and public sector banks. (Vincent Prakash is a researcher at Status of Policing in India Report (SPQR) series. Views expressed are personal)

LI SPQR-2026

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- SPIR 2026 का पूरा नाम 'स्टेटस ऑफ पुलिसिंग इन इंडिया रिपोर्ट 2026' (Status of Policing in India Report - SPIR 2026) है।
- यह भारत में पुलिस व्यवस्था, साइबर अपराध (Cybercrime) और आम नागरिकों के न्याय तक पहुँच की स्थिति का विश्लेषण करने वाला एक प्रमुख अध्ययन है।

प्रमुख बिंदु (Key Highlights):

- प्रकाशनकर्ता (Published By): यह रिपोर्ट एनजीओ 'कॉमन कॉज' (Common Cause) और 'लोकनीति-सीएसडीएस' (Lokniti-CSDS) द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से जारी की गई है।
- मुख्य विषय: SPIR 2026 रिपोर्ट मुख्य रूप से साइबर अपराध, वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी और पुलिस रिड्रेसल (शिकायत निवारण) की प्रक्रिया पर केंद्रित है।
- रिपोर्ट के मुख्य निष्कर्ष (Key Findings):
- शिकायत दर्ज करने का दायरा:
 - साइबर अपराध के पीड़ितों में से केवल 49% लोग ही पुलिस में शिकायत दर्ज कराते हैं।
 - लगभग 39% लोग पुलिस के पास शिकायत दर्ज कराने जाते ही नहीं हैं।

यू.आर.-सरकारी
प्रमाण

- अनौपचारिक माध्यम (रिश्वत और प्रभाव):
 - रिपोर्ट में उजागर हुआ है कि साइबर अपराध के मामलों में कार्रवाई कराने के लिए 27% पीड़ितों को रिश्वत देनी पड़ी और 37% लोगों को व्यक्तिगत संपर्कों/राजनीतिक प्रभाव का सहारा लेना पड़ा।
- वंचित वर्गों पर अधिक प्रभाव:
 - गरीब और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के पीड़ितों को मामलों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए रिश्वत या अनौपचारिक नेटवर्किंग पर अधिक निर्भर रहना पड़ता है।
- नीतिगत व प्रशासनिक महत्व
- कानून व्यवस्था व जवाबदेही: यह रिपोर्ट दर्शाती है कि साइबर अपराधों के लिए केवल तकनीक बढ़ाना ही काफी नहीं है, बल्कि स्थानीय पुलिस स्टेशनों का पारदर्शी, जवाबदेह और सुलभ होना अनिवार्य है।
- सिफारिशें: रिपोर्ट में शिकायतों के समयबद्ध और ऑटोमेटेड पंजीकरण, पुलिस-बैंक के बीच त्वरित समन्वय और पारदर्शी ऑनलाइन शिकायत ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम विकसित करने पर बल दिया गया है।

National PNG Drive 3.0 expands piped gas outreach, powers cleaner future

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) new drive aims to add 50 lakh new piped gas connections, convert 40 lakh unbilled connections into active users and register 50 lakh more users by the end of the fiscal year 2027. The broader objective is to accelerate its adoption

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), along with city-gas distributors and oil-marketing companies, October 1 launched the National PNG Drive 3.0 with the target of enrolling 50 lakh domestic-piped natural gas (D-PNG) connections by the end of the fiscal year 2027.

The broader objective was to accelerate the adoption of piped natural gas, facilitate transition from liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to PNG and further ensure the existing infrastructure for PNG is effectively utilised to attain these objectives.

Push for PNG

The government's objective for promoting piped natural gas across consumer segments primarily rested on spurring access to cleaner fuels and increasing the role of natural gas in the national energy basket. This directly aligns with India's broader net-zero commitments and sustainable development goals, as well as ensuring access to cleaner, reliable and sustainable energy, it had stated.

The PNG Drives therefore were conceived as a structured intervention



New wave: Piped Natural Gas (PNG) installed in a house. THE HINDU

that sought to bridge the gap between network creation and consumer adoption, two imperative pillars that were to expand the adoption of piped gas ecosystem.

Transitioning to piped natural gas received a further impetus during the West Asia crisis with varied government orders that sought to expedite potential transition. This was primarily aimed at easing off pressure on LPG, supplies of which were bothered because of the conflict spanning across the energy route, Strait of Hormuz.

What is Drive 3.0?

The National PNG Drive 3.0 is not only targeting to add 50 lakh new domestic-PNG connections but also to convert 40 lakh connec-

tions into active users and register 50 lakh more users by the end of the fiscal year 2027. The broader objective is to accelerate its adoption

Robust business planning and supply chain readiness were also underlined as an imperative to complement consumer awareness and the adoption momentum that these drives sought to acquire.

"Scaling PNG penetration will require collaborative material planning across CGD entities such as gas meters, regulators, appliance valves, isolation valves, GI pipes and MDPE pipes," the report read.

It is essential to also note that, on August 18, to encourage city-gas distributors to spur the expansion of D-PNG, the Petroleum Ministry had announced they would be allocated an additional 200 standard cubic metres (SCM) of the lower-priced Administered Price Mechanism natural gas for every incremental billed domestic-PNG connection they scale beyond the threshold determined for their area of operation. Finally, the drive would also look to expand infrastructure in residential complexes and government colonies on a priority basis.

"The pre-campaign baseline itself indicated a significant gap between connected domestic PNG users and billed users," it had observed. Thus, the 3.0 drive underlines this among the imperatives.

Additionally, the drive would also endow focus on maximising utilisation and gasification of existing infrastructure of city-gas distributors.

According to the regulator's estimates, the country at present has about 6.9 lakh inch-kms of laid pipeline (inclusive of approxi-

mately 2.5 lakh inch-kms of steel pipeline and more than 4.41 lakh inch-kms of MDPE pipeline), which can cater to an additional 1.3 crore connections.

sumer awareness in emerging geographical areas (for operability of PNG), improved technology for installation and affordability-related notions as imperatives to spur uptake.

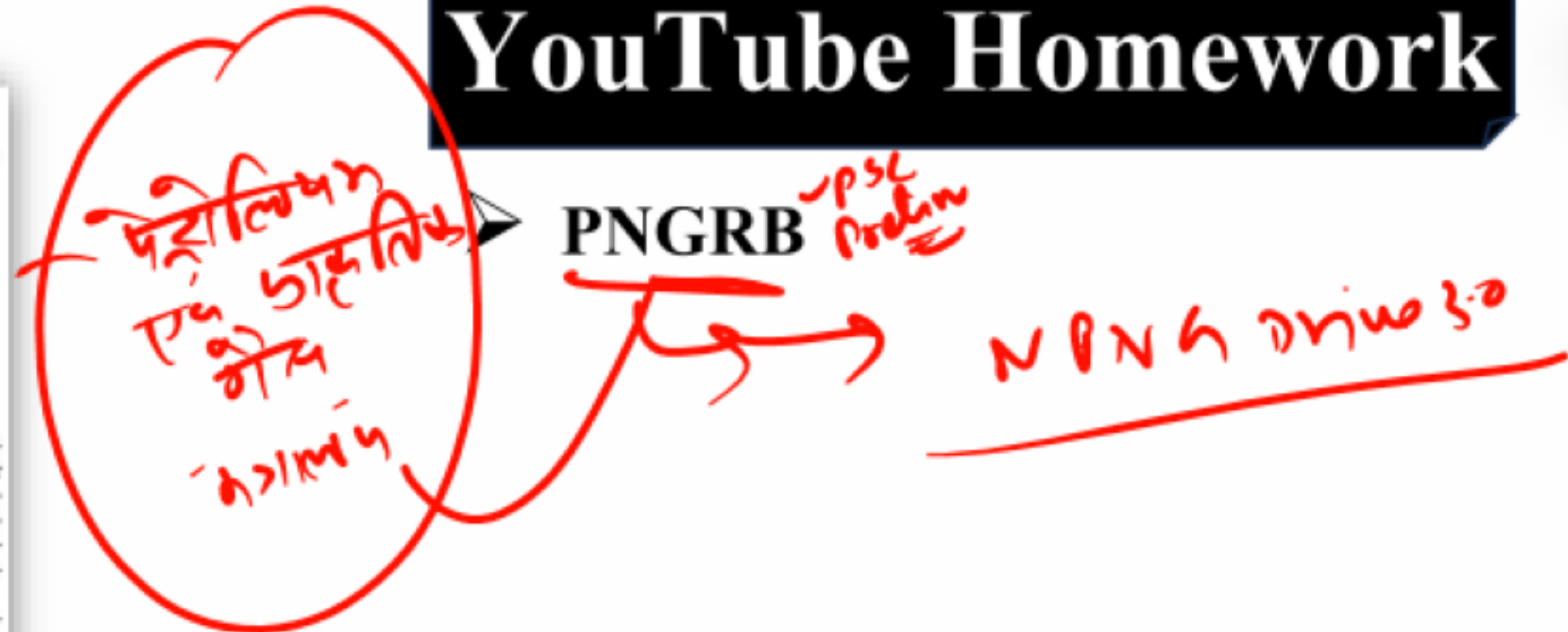
The closure report noted consumer awareness remained uneven across geographical areas (GAs). That is, the populace in mature markets of city-gas distributors were more familiar with the benefits of piped natural gas than those in emerging GAs who often required greater clarity about the process of obtaining a connection, safety aspects, comparative advantages to LPG and billing mechanism, among other things. A related concern was about affordability and addressing upfront costs, especially in the emerging GAs.

To address these concerns city-gas distributors introduced varied schemes such as security deposit waivers and conversion incentives, among other things.

This was especially at the peak of the West Asia crisis amid the government push for a transition to piped gas. The report also called for a differentiated strategy for mature and emerging geographical areas of CGD operations.

"Mature OGD markets require deeper consumer activation, billing conversion and service-level engagement," it observed.

YouTube Homework



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- **National PNG Drive 3.0** (राष्ट्रीय पीएनजी अभियान 3.0) भारत सरकार के पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (PNGRB) और पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किया गया एक राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान है।
- इसे ~~1 अक्टूबर 2026~~ को लॉन्च किया गया है।
- प्रमुख उद्देश्य
- **PNG कनेक्शन का विस्तार:** घरों (Domestic) और व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठानों (Commercial) में पाइपलाइन प्राकृतिक गैस (~~Piped Natural Gas - PNG~~) के कनेक्शन को तेजी से बढ़ाना।
- **एलपीजी (LPG) पर निर्भरता कम करना:** पारंपरिक एलपीजी सिलेंडरों के बजाय सुरक्षित, निरंतर और सुविधाजनक पाइप वाली गैस के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देना।
- **गैस-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था:** भारत को पर्यावरण-अनुकूल और 'गैस आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था' (Gas-based Economy) की ओर ले जाना।
- **सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन (CGD):** देश भर की CGD कंपनियों के बुनियादी ढांचे का अधिकतम उपयोग सुनिश्चित करना।
- साथ में लॉन्च की गई विशेष पहल:
- **MyPNG Portal:** अभियान के साथ ही 'MyPNG Portal' नाम से एक एकीकृत डिजिटल कंज्यूमर प्लेटफॉर्म शुरू किया गया है, ताकि उपभोक्ता आसानी से नए PNG कनेक्शन, सेवाओं और जानकारी के लिए आवेदन/ट्रेक कर सकें।

YouTube Homework

Houthis 'hit' Riyadh airport; Yemen military claims gains

The group denies being pushed back and says it still controlled territory seized during its recent advance along Yemen's Red Sea coast; Riyadh airport is facing temporary closures of its airspace

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

Yemen's Houthis (Ansar Allah) claimed an attack on the Saudi capital's main airport and on Tuesday denied being pushed back by government forces, who have launched a major operation to recapture lost territory.

The Houthi statements come as Yemen's military said it had removed the pro-Iran group from areas around the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a Red Sea chokepoint, and the port city of Mokha.

Claims by both sides in Yemen have been impossible to independently verify, with the situation on the ground moving fast and access for journalists difficult.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group still held all territory seized last month when they swept through



Pro-government fighters celebrate while riding vehicles in a convoy near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in Taiz on Tuesday. AFP

coastal areas along the Red Sea oil-and-cargo route.

Houthi fighters "have full control over all their advances on the ground", he posted on Telegram.

Mr. Saree said they had carried out dozens of strikes in the past few hours targeting government forces in Yemen's Al-Jawf and Marib regions, while also attacking Taiz governorate.

On Monday, the Houthis said they had struck Ri-

yadh airport and a refinery belonging to Saudi state oil giant Aramco.

Loud explosions rattled the Saudi capital on Monday evening. They were followed by another explosion on Tuesday that echoed through northern parts of the city, residents said.

Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport is facing frequent temporary closures of its airspace, according to tracking website

Flightradar24. Saudi authorities have not publicly acknowledged the closures or confirmed any strikes targeting the facility.

But on Tuesday the civil aviation authority said at least three people were wounded in attacks on Jazan and Najran airports near the Yemen border a day earlier.

Saudi Arabia, the main backer of the Yemeni government, has been providing air support for the counter-offensive launched by government forces.

Government forces claimed late Monday that they had achieved "victories on several fronts". But military sources with the government refrained from confirming Mokha's recapture, only saying they had cut the one supply route to the area.

They also said they expelled the Houthis from several areas in Taiz in the southwest.

USA - Iran

UPSC - मुख्य विन्दा

Jeffrey Archer, bestselling British novelist, dies at 86

Associated Press
LONDON

Bestselling British author Jeffrey Archer, whose career as a politician was derailed by a perjury conviction, has died. He was 86.

Archer died "suddenly and peacefully" at his home on Monday, a day before the global release of his final novel, *Adam and Eve*, publisher HarperCollins said. Like his bestseller *Kane and Abel*, the new book follows a pair of biblically named characters born on the same day to different social classes.

Both a celebrated author and scandal-plagued politician, Archer's professional life teetered between triumph and turmoil as he wrote his way through a brief prison sentence and returned to the political arena.

His writing career spanned five decades and helped him bounce back from financial ruin following some bad investments. His debut novel, *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less*, hit the shelves in 1976 and was said to have been in-



Jeffrey Archer climbed the ranks of Britain's Conservative Party under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. NAGARA GOPAL

spired by his own experience nearly going bankrupt.

He went on to spend 14 years and five months on Britain's *Sunday Times* bestseller lists and over five years on *The New York Times* bestseller lists, selling 300 million books worldwide, according to HarperCollins.

Political stint

Archer climbed the ranks of Britain's Conservative Party under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and was appointed in 1992 to the House of Lords by her successor, Prime Minister John Major.

Archer was cast out of his political party just before he was jailed on perjury charges in 2001.

Archer chronicled his time behind bars in a three-volume series titled *A Prison Diary*. The memoirs – *Hell, Purgatory* and *Heaven* – shared rare insight into the lives of inmates in British prisons, from the high-security HMP Belmarsh to the North Sea Camp open prison.

Archer is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dame Mary Archer, their two sons, two granddaughters and three grandsons, his publisher said.

86

Hundreds held in French school students' protests

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Mass protests over decrepit conditions at France's high schools descended into sporadic violence on Tuesday, leading to nearly 500 arrests and prompting President Emmanuel Macron to call an emergency meeting.

The protests started in late September with students blocking entrances to hundreds of high schools over complaints of dilapidated facilities and

teacher shortages.

U.S. President Donald Trump weighed in on Tuesday to blame the unrest in France on "mass migration" and Islam, as he pushed his global right-wing narrative ahead of tough midterm elections at home.

In France, parents, teachers and union workers joined the high school students' movement in the capital Paris and other cities.

The Interior Ministry said 256,000 people prot-



French riot police charge protesters during a demonstration by high school and university students in Paris, France, on Tuesday. REUTERS

ested nationwide, while union organisers put the figure at 450,000.

Mr. Macron was expected to meet top officials late Tuesday, including Interior

Minister Laurent Nunez and Education Minister Edouard Geffray, in response to the unrest, a government source said.

At least 488 people were arrested and 43 members of the security forces were wounded on Tuesday, the Interior Ministry announced.

Rights groups, unions and the students have accused authorities of using disproportionate force.

Police said "300 hostile individuals" attempted to confront officers.

France
B K 2024

Pioneer of IceCube neutrino detector wins physics Nobel

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

This year's Nobel Prize in Physics will be awarded to Belgium-born Francis Halzen, 82, for his contributions to IceCube, a neutrino observatory in the South Pole, and for the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin.

While there are several massive detectors for these extremely elusive particles, IceCube is designed to find high-energy neutrinos that are believed to have originated far in space from energetic collisions. These "cosmic neutrinos" with extremely high energies are very rare and an enormous volume of ice is needed to observe an adequate number of collisions.

Mr. Halzen, who is presently at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the U.S., first presented his vision for capturing neutrinos at the South Pole in 1988. Pure, undisturbed ice is an ideal medium to capture these neutrinos: when they occasionally collide with atomic nuclei, they produce charged particles that announce themselves as a flash of pale blue light.

The South Pole's ice has many advantages, as it is free from various types of interference and the area is geologically stable. Mr. Halzen's idea caught on and, just a few years later, preliminary testing was conducted on sensors in ice. IceCube covers an entire cubic kilometre (or about 917 million litres of water) and was completed in 2010. It has 5,360 optical sensors to detect the Che-



Francis Halzen

renkov light produced by neutrino interactions, with its principal scientific focus on higher-energy astrophysical neutrinos.

The Cherenkov light is the blue flash produced when a charged particle travels through a transparent medium faster than light can travel through that medium. Researchers reported the first high-energy cosmic neutrinos in 2013 and, in 2018, traced one such neutrino to a distant blazar, a galaxy with a supermassive black hole at its centre that fires a jet of particles and radiation almost directly towards earth.

"Francis Halzen has led an international team of researchers and engineers who have provided us with a fantastic instrument. His tenacity and scientific vision has paved the way for a new kind of astronomy," Mark Pearce, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, said. The neutrino interactions that are continuously collected by IceCube will provide researchers with knowledge about the violent settings in which high-energy neutrinos can be created – and could even reveal previously unknown cosmic phenomena, a statement added.

EDITORIAL
» PAGE 8

- भौतिकी (Physics) का नोबेल पुरस्कार 2026:
- विजेता: बेल्जियम में जन्मे भौतिक विज्ञानी फ्रांसिस हैलजेन (Francis Halzen), जो अमेरिका की 'यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ विस्कॉन्सिन-मैडिसन' में प्रोफेसर हैं।
- पुरस्कार की वजह: उन्हें दक्षिणी ध्रुव (South Pole) पर 'आइसक्यूब न्यूट्रिनो वेधशाला' (IceCube Neutrino Observatory) की स्थापना में निर्णायक योगदान और अंतरिक्षीय मूल के उच्च-ऊर्जा न्यूट्रिनो (High-energy Neutrinos) की खोज के लिए यह पुरस्कार दिया गया है।
- प्रमुख बिंदु (Key Highlights):
- आइसक्यूब वेधशाला (IceCube Observatory):
 - प्रो. हैलजेन ने सबसे पहले 1988 में अंटार्कटिका की शुद्ध व पारदर्शी बर्फ का उपयोग करके न्यूट्रिनो को कैप्चर करने की योजना प्रस्तुत की थी।
 - यह डिटेक्टर 1 घन किलोमीटर (1 cubic km) बर्फ में फैले 5,160 ऑप्टिकल सेंसर्स की मदद से काम करता है।

- खोज का महत्व:
- न्यूट्रिनो (Neutrinos): ये द्रव्यमान-रहित सूक्ष्म कण होते हैं जिन्हें 'घोस्ट पार्टिकल्स' (Ghost Particles) भी कहा जाता है, क्योंकि ये बिना किसी रुकावट के पूरी पृथ्वी से होकर गुजर जाते हैं।
- जब ये न्यूट्रिनो बर्फ के परमाणुओं से टकराते हैं, तो नीले रंग की प्रकाश-चमक (Cherenkov Light) उत्पन्न होती है जिसे सेंसर्स पकड़ लेते हैं।
- इस खोज ने ब्रह्मांडीय घटनाओं (जैसे सुपरमैसिव ब्लैक होल और ब्लेज़र) को समझने के लिए "न्यूट्रिनो खगोलशास्त्र" (Neutrino Astronomy) नाम की एक नई शाखा की नींव रखी है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit appointed next Indian Air Force chief

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has been appointed the next Chief of the Air Staff, the Defence Ministry announced on Tuesday.

He is currently the Vice-Chief of the Air Staff and will take over the top post on October 31, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who retires on the same day.

Air Marshal Dixit will be the 29th Chief of the Air Staff. A fighter pilot with nearly four decades of service, he has more than 3,500 hours of flying experience on a range of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, MiG variants, Jaguar, IL-78, Hawk, and Tejas, the Ministry said.

Key operations

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986, Air Marshal Dixit has held several key operational and staff appointments.

Before taking over as Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, he served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) at Headquarters Integrated De-



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

fence Staff and as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command. During his career, he has commanded a frontline fighter airbase in the Western Sector and a fighter training base in the Southern Sector.

He has also been involved in several operations and exercises, including Operation Safed Sagar, Operation Rakshak, and Operation Sindoor.

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy; Defence Staff Service College, Bangladesh; and National Defence College. He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2006, Vishisht Seva Medal in 2011, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2023 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2026 for his service.

आशुतोष दीक्षित
Air Force
chief
31 october

Home Assignment



- ☐ International Day of Peace
- ☐ VB-G RAM G

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Students
Brighter
Tomorrow

Small
Steps
Big
Results
😊

DISCIPLINE
CONSISTENCY
SUCCESS