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By **Faiyaz Sir**



The Indian EXPRESS

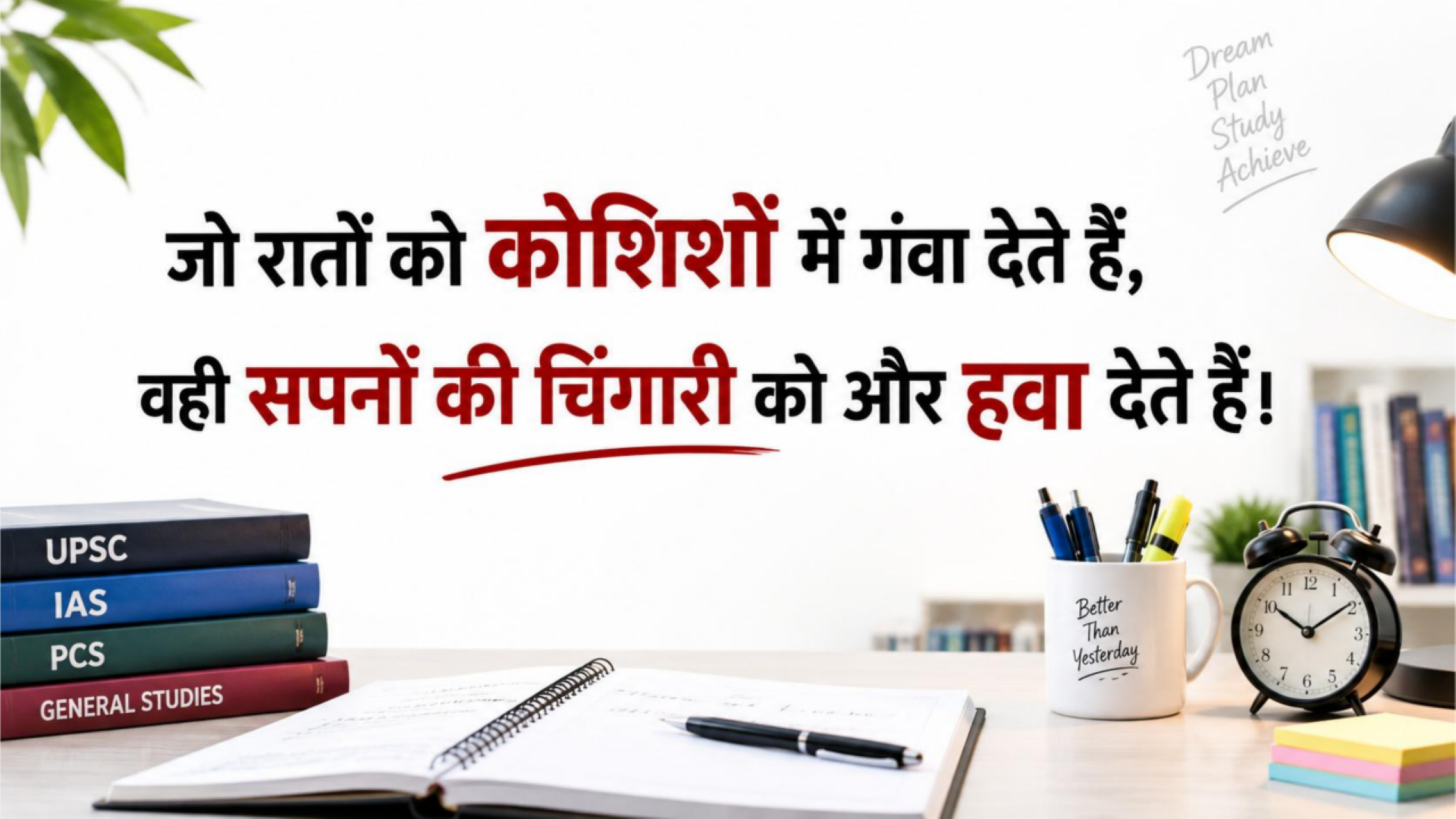
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आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

- **Preventive Detention**
- **KVIC**
- **महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य**

What is preventive detention?

What does the law permit, and where must the State draw the line? What safeguards does the Constitution provide against arbitrary detention? How has preventive detention evolved in India? What is the difference between preventive detention and prohibitory orders?

EXPLAINER

Rizvi Lia M.

The story so far:

The Delhi Police detained more than 5,000 protesters as they tried to reach Jantar Mantar for the protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and a rollback of the SIR. In the lead-up to the protests in Delhi, there was a nationwide crackdown on protesters by the police force. Among those detained and brutally manhandled by the Delhi police were leaders of various political factions, former Chief Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, lawyers, journalists, students, activists, and reportedly people who were not even part of the protest. Police detained people at representatives' residences even before the protest started, and en route to the protest site. However, the Supreme Court on October 11 directed the Centre and the Delhi Police to ensure free movement of people "subject to law and order".

This prompts an understanding of what preventive detention is, how it can be imposed, and how it came into practice.



AISA's Neha Bora during a protest march at Connaught Place in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

What is preventive detention?

'Preventive detention' means detention of a person without a trial or conviction by a court. The primary objective of preventive detention is not to punish an individual for a past offence but to prevent him from committing an offence in the future.

Power of preventive detention can be exercised by the authorities on the grounds of public order, security of the State, and law and order.

The National Security Act, 1980 (NSA) allows for preventive detention if the government is satisfied that a person's activities are prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of the State.

What is a prohibitory order under the BNSS?

Section 163 of the BNSS largely retains the spirit of its predecessor, Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. It empowers a District Magistrate, a Sub-Divisional Magistrate, or any other Executive Magistrate specially empowered by the State Government, to issue orders when there is sufficient ground for proceeding and immediate prevention or speedy remedy is desirable. The primary objective is to prevent obstruction, annoyance, or injury to any person lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health, or safety, or a disturbance of the public tranquillity, or a riot, or an affray.

The provision is preventive in nature, designed to avert potential harm rather than to punish past acts. The Magistrate must be satisfied that there is an urgency that necessitates an immediate order, even without prior notice to the affected parties.

The power is extraordinary and is intended for situations where the normal course of law enforcement might be too slow to prevent immediate harm. The order must clearly state the material facts upon which it is based, ensuring transparency and providing grounds for potential challenge.

Furthermore, orders under Section 163 BNSS are subject to judicial review by the High Courts under their revisional jurisdiction. The Supreme Court, in cases like *Babulal Parate v. State of Maharashtra* (1961) and *Madhu Limaye v. Sub-Divisional Magistrate* (1971), has consistently emphasised that these powers must be exercised judiciously, proportionately, and only when there is an imminent threat to public order, and not as a routine measure.

How has preventive detention evolved?

Preventive detention in India has evolved from a colonial tool used to suppress political dissent into a legal mechanism intended to protect national security and public order. During British rule, laws such as the Rowlatt Act, 1919, and the Defence of India Act, 1939, allowed the authorities to detain individuals without trial, often targeting freedom fighters and political opponents.

After Independence, India retained preventive detention, introducing the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, which remained in force until 1969. The Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), 1971, further expanded detention powers and was widely used against political opponents during the Emergency (1975-1977). It was repealed in 1978.

The National Security Act (NSA), 1980, subsequently established a continuing legal framework for preventive detention. Other laws, including the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974, also authorised preventive detention for specific purposes.

Meanwhile, amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, expanded the state's powers to address terrorism and unlawful activities.

Over time, the Supreme Court's interpretation of personal liberty has also evolved. *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978) established that procedures restricting personal liberty must be just, fair and reasonable. However, concerns over prolonged detention without trial, inadequate judicial oversight and the potential misuse of these laws continue to raise questions about the balance between national security and fundamental rights.

What did the Supreme Court order on October 11?

With respect to the Delhi protests, the Supreme Court convened what it called an "extraordinary, exceptional" Sunday (October 11, 2020) hearing to direct the Union government and the Delhi Police to stop illegal detentions and allow free and smooth movement of people and traffic, as well as the operations of Metro and rail services, but "subject to law and public order".

The Supreme Court directed that Delhi Metro and railway services operate normally, and that internet services remain available in accordance with the law. It said the movement of people and vehicles across Delhi must not be unnecessarily obstructed and that barricades must be reviewed based on law-and-order and traffic requirements. The court said there must be no unlawful detention and that all detentions must follow the procedure established by law. It also directed that peaceful assemblies be allowed in accordance with the law, except in areas where prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) are in force. Any notice board announcing Section 163 restrictions near the Supreme Court must be removed, if still in place, to ensure access to the Supreme Court and other courts. The court also recorded the assurance that lawyers, journalists and other professionals would not be prevented from performing their duties.

The court issued notice in contempt proceedings alleging violation of its October 9 order and directed the authorities to submit a compliance report by October 13, including details of Metro restrictions and railway advisories. Habeas corpus petitions alleging mass detentions will also be heard with the main cases on October 13. The court said the State must explain the circumstances, manner and legal justification for the alleged detentions, emphasising its duty under Article 32 of the Constitution to protect and enforce fundamental rights.

What have the courts said about preventive detention?

Earlier, in *Babulal Parate v. State of Maharashtra* (1961), the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 144 CrPC but said it could be used only in emergencies to prevent specific threats to public order. The court held that the power was not "unlimited or untrammelled" and had to be exercised within the limits set by law.

In *Khudiram Das v. State of West Bengal* (1975) Supreme Court observed that the requirement of communication of grounds of detention acts as a check against arbitrary and capricious exercise of power. The detaining authority cannot whisk away a person and put him behind bars at its own sweet will. It must have grounds for doing so and those grounds must be communicated to the detenu, so that, not only the detenu may know what are the facts and materials before the detaining authority on the basis of which he is being deprived of his personal liberty, but he can also invoke the power of judicial review, howsoever limited and peripheral it may be. The detenu has to be afforded an opportunity of making a representation against the order of detention.

In 2012, the Supreme Court criticised the government for imposing Section 144 against a sleeping crowd at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi during protests against the Congress-led UPA government. "Such a provision can be used only in grave circumstances for maintenance of public peace. The efficacy of the provision is to prevent some harmful occurrence immediately. Therefore, the emergency must be sudden and the consequences sufficiently grave," the court said.

In *Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan v. Union of India* (2018), the Supreme Court set aside a National Green Tribunal order banning all protests along Jantar Mantar Road. The court said a complete ban was excessive, observing that the "solution was not to ban the demonstrations altogether". It directed the authorities to create a system to regulate protests and grant permissions.

The Supreme Court in the case of *Shaik Nazneen v. State of Telangana* (2022) observed that powers to be exercised under the preventive detention laws are exceptional powers which have been given to the Government for its exercise in an exceptional situation as it strikes hard on the freedom and liberty of an individual, and thus cannot be exercised in a routine manner.

According to *Ameena Begum v. State of Telangana* (2023), Supreme Court observed that to unchain the shackles of preventive detention, it is important that the safeguards enshrined in our Constitution, particularly under the "golden triangle" formed by Articles 14, 19 and 21, are diligently enforced.

Article 14 ensures equality before the law, Article 19 provides important freedoms such as freedom of speech, expression, assembly, and movement, and Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.

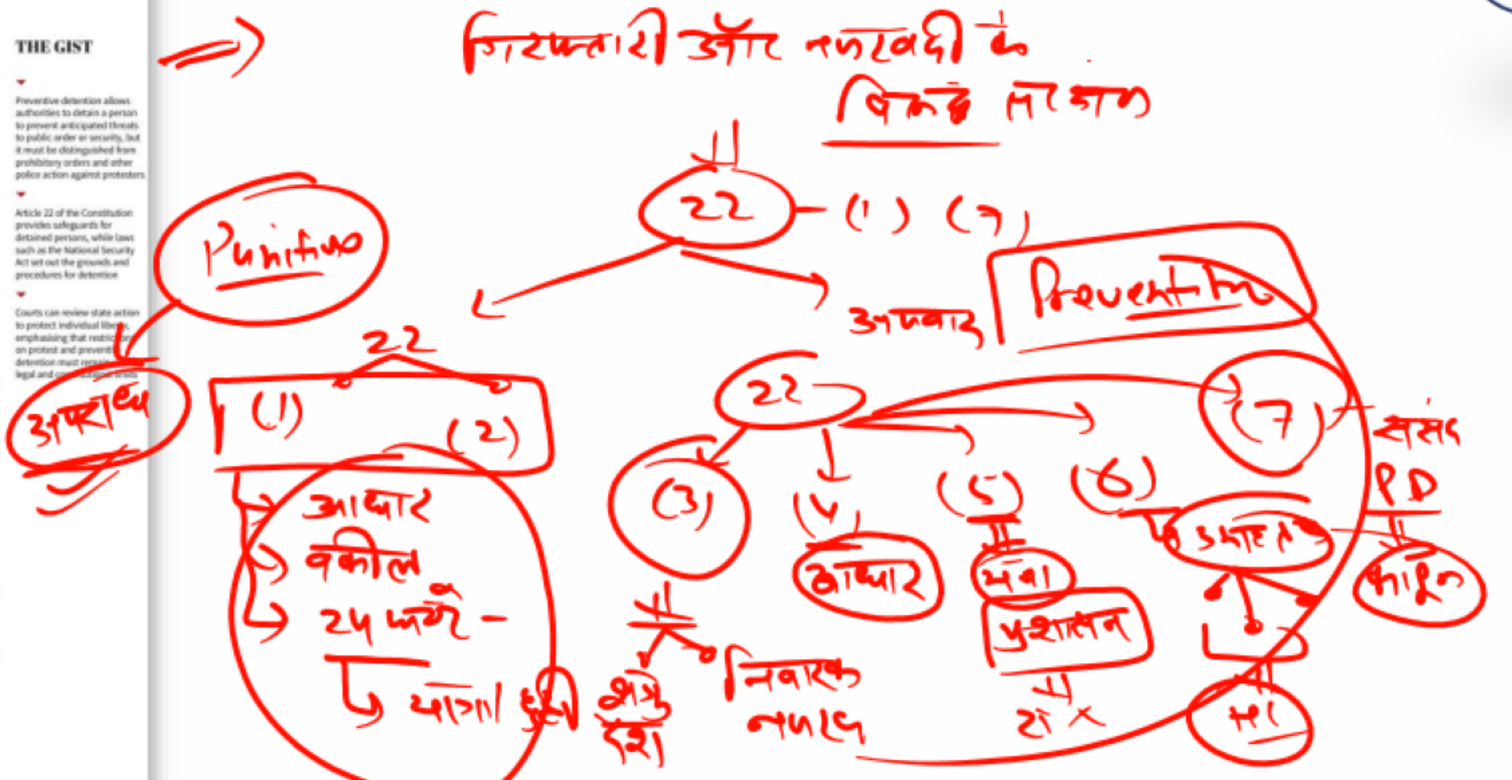
What are the safeguards against preventive detention in the Constitution?

Article 22 of the Constitution provides safeguards against arbitrary preventive detention. Under Article 22(4), a person generally cannot be detained for more than three months without an Advisory Board reviewing the case, subject to the constitutional requirements and exceptions. Under Article 22(5), the authorities must communicate the grounds of detention to the detainee as soon as possible and give them an opportunity to make a representation against the order. The grounds must be communicated in a manner that allows the detainee to effectively challenge the detention.

Preventive detention orders are also subject to judicial review. Courts can examine whether the authorities followed the law, considered relevant material and complied with constitutional safeguards. Therefore, the power must be exercised carefully and cannot be used arbitrarily.

THE GIST

- Preventive detention allows authorities to detain a person to prevent anticipated threats to public order or security, but it must be distinguished from prohibitory orders and other police action against protesters
- Article 22 of the Constitution provides safeguards for detained persons, while laws such as the National Security Act set out the grounds and procedures for detention
- Courts can review state action to protect individual liberty, emphasising that restrictions on protest and preventive detention must remain within legal and constitutional limits



निवारक नजरबंदी (Preventive Detention) क्या है?

- **कानून क्या अनुमति देता है, और राज्य को कहाँ सीमा तय करनी चाहिए? मनमानी हिरासत से बचाने के लिए संविधान क्या सुरक्षा उपाय प्रदान करता है? भारत में निवारक नजरबंदी का विकास कैसे हुआ है? निवारक नजरबंदी और निषेधात्मक आदेशों (Prohibitory Orders) के बीच क्या अंतर है?**

संक्षेप में (THE GIST)

- **निवारक नजरबंदी** अधिकारियों को सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था या सुरक्षा के लिए संभावित खतरों को रोकने के लिए किसी व्यक्ति को हिरासत में लेने की अनुमति देता है। हालांकि, इसे प्रदर्शनकारियों के खिलाफ निषेधात्मक आदेशों और पुलिस कार्रवाई से अलग समझा जाना चाहिए।
- संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 22** हिरासत में लिए गए व्यक्तियों के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय प्रदान करता है, जबकि राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NSA) जैसे कानून हिरासत के आधार और प्रक्रियाओं को निर्धारित करते हैं।
- अदालतें व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा के लिए राज्य की कार्रवाई की समीक्षा कर सकती हैं। वे इस बात पर जोर देती हैं कि विरोध और निवारक नजरबंदी पर प्रतिबंध कानूनी और संवैधानिक सीमाओं के भीतर ही रहने चाहिए।

अब तक की कहानी (The story so far)

- दिल्ली पुलिस ने 5,000 से अधिक प्रदर्शनकारियों को जंतर-मंतर पहुँचने की कोशिश के दौरान हिरासत में लिया। वे मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार के इस्तीफे और SIR की वापसी की माँग को लेकर विरोध प्रदर्शन कर रहे थे। दिल्ली में विरोध प्रदर्शनों से पहले, पुलिस द्वारा प्रदर्शनकारियों पर देशव्यापी कार्रवाई की गई थी। हिरासत में लिए गए लोगों में विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के नेता, पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री, विपक्ष के नेता, वकील, पत्रकार, छात्र, कार्यकर्ता और ऐसे लोग शामिल थे जो विरोध का हिस्सा भी नहीं थे।
- प्रदर्शन स्थल पर पहुँचने से पहले ही पुलिस ने लोगों को उनके आवासों से उठाया। हालाँकि, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 11 अक्टूबर को केंद्र और दिल्ली पुलिस को "कानून और व्यवस्था के अधीन" लोगों की आवाजाही की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने का निर्देश दिया।
- यह इस बात की समझ पैदा करता है कि निवारक नजरबंदी क्या है, इसे कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है, और यह चलन में कैसे आया।

निवारक नजरबंदी (Preventive Detention) क्या है?

- **निवारक नजरबंदी** का अर्थ है किसी व्यक्ति को बिना किसी मुकदमे (trial) या अदालत द्वारा दोषी ठहराए हिरासत में रखना। इसका प्राथमिक उद्देश्य किसी व्यक्ति को अतीत में किए गए अपराध के लिए सजा देना नहीं, बल्कि उसे भविष्य में कोई अपराध करने से रोकना है।
- निवारक नजरबंदी की शक्ति का प्रयोग अधिकारियों द्वारा सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था, राज्य की सुरक्षा और कानून व्यवस्था के आधार पर किया जा सकता है।
- **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NSA), 1980** निवारक नजरबंदी की अनुमति देता है यदि सरकार संतुष्ट है कि किसी व्यक्ति की गतिविधियाँ भारत की रक्षा, विदेशी शक्तियों के साथ संबंध, या राज्य की सुरक्षा के प्रतिकूल हैं।

BNSS के तहत निषेधात्मक आदेश (Prohibitory Order) क्या है?

- **भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS) की धारा 163** काफी हद तक अपने पूर्ववर्ती धारा **144 (CrPC)** की भावना को बरकरार रखती है। यह जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, उप-विभागीय मजिस्ट्रेट या राज्य सरकार द्वारा अधिकृत किसी भी अन्य कार्यकारी मजिस्ट्रेट को आदेश जारी करने का अधिकार देती है जब कार्रवाई के लिए पर्याप्त आधार हों।
- **मुख्य उद्देश्य:** किसी व्यक्ति के वैध रोजगार में बाधा, परेशानी, या क्षति को रोकना, या मानव जीवन, स्वास्थ्य या सुरक्षा के लिए खतरे, या सार्वजनिक शांति में व्यवधान को रोकना।
- **प्रकृति:** यह उपाय निवारक प्रकृति का है, जिसे अतीत के कृत्यों को दंडित करने के बजाय संभावित नुकसान को रोकने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- **न्यायिक समीक्षा:** BNSS की धारा 163 के तहत आदेश उच्च न्यायालयों द्वारा उनकी पुनरीक्षण अधिकारिता (revisional jurisdiction) के तहत न्यायिक समीक्षा के अधीन हैं।

निवारक नजरबंदी का विकास कैसे हुआ?

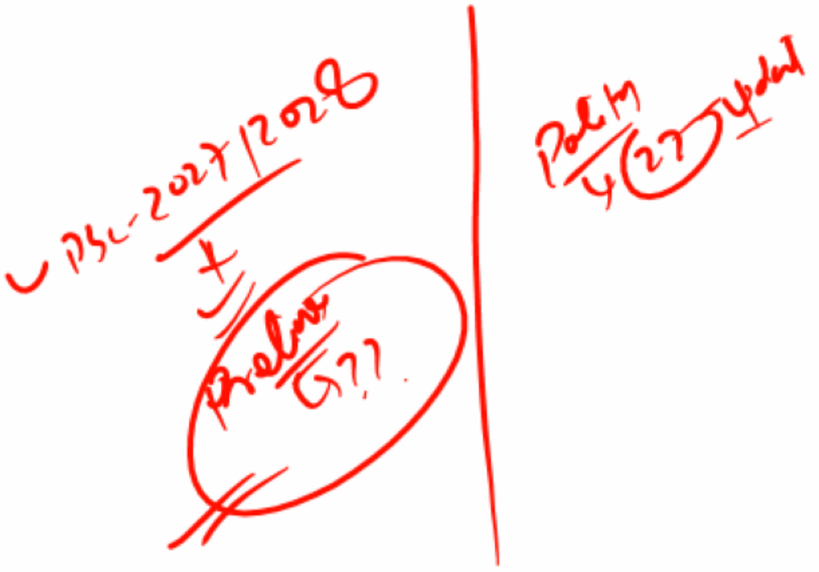
- भारत में निवारक नजरबंदी एक औपनिवेशिक उपकरण से विकसित होकर एक कानूनी तंत्र में बदला है, जिसका उद्देश्य राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था की रक्षा करना है। ब्रिटिश शासन के दौरान, **रौलट एक्ट (1919)** और **डिफेंस ऑफ इंडिया एक्ट (1939)** जैसे कानूनों ने अधिकारियों को बिना मुकदमे के व्यक्तियों को हिरासत में लेने की अनुमति दी, जिसका इस्तेमाल अक्सर स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों और राजनीतिक विरोधियों के खिलाफ किया जाता था।
- **स्वतंत्रता के बाद:** भारत ने **निवारक नजरबंदी अधिनियम, 1950** पेश किया, जो 1969 तक लागू रहा।
- **MISA (1971):** आंतरिक सुरक्षा रखरखाव अधिनियम (MISA) ने हिरासत शक्तियों का विस्तार किया और आपातकाल (1975-1977) के दौरान राजनीतिक विरोधियों के खिलाफ इसका व्यापक रूप से उपयोग किया गया। इसे 1978 में निरस्त कर दिया गया।
- **NSA (1980) और UAPA (1967):** बाद में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम (1980) और गैर-कानूनी गतिविधियां (रोकथाम) अधिनियम (UAPA) में संशोधनों के माध्यम से राज्य को आतंकवादी और गैर-कानूनी गतिविधियों से निपटने के लिए व्यापक शक्तियाँ दी गईं।

निवारक नजरबंदी पर अदालतों ने क्या कहा है?

- **बाबूलाल पराते बनाम महाराष्ट्र राज्य (1961):** सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने धारा 144 CrPC की संवैधानिक वैधता को बरकरार रखा, लेकिन कहा कि इसका इस्तेमाल केवल सार्वजनिक शांति के लिए आसन्न खतरों को रोकने के आपातकालीन मामलों में किया जा सकता है।
- **खुदीराम दास बनाम पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य (1975):** सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने देखा कि नजरबंदी के आधारों के बारे में बताना मनमानी और अकारण शक्ति के प्रयोग के खिलाफ एक जांच के रूप में कार्य करता है।
- **रामलीला मैदान मामला (2012):** सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोए हुए प्रदर्शनकारियों पर धारा 144 लगाने के लिए सरकार की आलोचना की और कहा कि इसका उपयोग केवल सार्वजनिक शांति बनाए रखने के लिए गंभीर परिस्थितियों में ही किया जा सकता है।
- **शेख नाज़नीन बनाम तेलंगाना राज्य (2022):** सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि निवारक नजरबंदी कानूनों के तहत प्रयोग की जाने वाली शक्तियाँ असाधारण शक्तियाँ हैं और इन्हें सामान्य तरीके से इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा सकता।
- **अमीना बेगम बनाम तेलंगाना राज्य (2023):** कोर्ट ने कहा कि निवारक नजरबंदी की बेड़ियों को खोलने के लिए संविधान (विशेष रूप से अनुच्छेद 14, 19 और 21) द्वारा निहित सुरक्षा उपायों को कड़ाई से लागू किया जाना चाहिए।

संविधान में निवारक नजरबंदी के खिलाफ क्या सुरक्षा उपाय हैं?

- संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 22** मनमानी निवारक नजरबंदी के खिलाफ सुरक्षा उपाय प्रदान करता है:
- **अनुच्छेद 22(4):** किसी व्यक्ति को सलाहकार बोर्ड (Advisory Board) की समीक्षा के बिना तीन महीने से अधिक समय के लिए नजरबंद नहीं किया जा सकता।
- **अनुच्छेद 22(5):** अधिकारियों को नजरबंद किए गए व्यक्ति को जल्द से जल्द नजरबंदी के आधार बताने होंगे और उसे आदेश के खिलाफ अभ्यावेदन (representation) देने का अवसर देना होगा।
- **न्यायिक समीक्षा (Judicial Review):** निवारक नजरबंदी के आदेश न्यायिक समीक्षा के अधीन हैं। अदालतें यह जांच कर सकती हैं कि क्या अधिकारियों ने कानून का पालन किया, प्रासंगिक सामग्री पर विचार किया और संवैधानिक सुरक्षा उपायों का अनुपालन किया।



प्रारंभिक परीक्षा के प्रश्न (Prelims Questions)

भारत में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NSA), 1980 और गैर-कानूनी गतिविधियां (रोकथाम) अधिनियम (UAPA), 1967 के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. NSA के तहत किसी व्यक्ति को बिना किसी औपचारिक आरोप के भी निवारक नजरबंदी में लिया जा सकता है।
2. UAPA को मूल रूप से आतंकवाद से निपटने के लिए लागू किया गया था और इसे कभी संशोधित नहीं किया गया है।
3. ये दोनों कानून राज्य को राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था की रक्षा के लिए असाधारण शक्तियाँ प्रदान करते हैं।

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

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

मुख्य परीक्षा के प्रश्न (Mains Questions)

- **"औपनिवेशिक काल के कानूनों से लेकर आधुनिक भारत में सुरक्षा अधिनियमों (जैसे NSA और UAPA) तक, निवारक नजरबंदी का विचार लगातार विकसित हुआ है।"** भारत में निवारक नजरबंदी के ऐतिहासिक विकास की चर्चा कीजिए और बताइए कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और राज्य की सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन कैसे स्थापित किया है?

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खादी और ग्रामोद्योग: परंपरा से उद्यम तक

- किसी गांव में घूमता चरखा कभी राष्ट्रवाद का प्रतीक हुआ करता था। आज, वही भावना ग्रामीण उद्यमों के एक बढ़ते परिवेश के माध्यम से नया आकार ले रही है। शहद, हर्बल उत्पाद, केले के रेशे, वस्त्र और अन्य ग्रामोद्योग पारंपरिक हुनर के लिए नई संभावनाएं पैदा कर रहे हैं।
- आत्मनिर्भरता की यह भावना **वोकल फॉर लोकल** और **आत्मनिर्भर भारत** के दृष्टिकोण के साथ निरंतर प्रतिध्वनित हो रही है। वित्त, प्रौद्योगिकी और प्रशिक्षण तक पहुंच के जरिए पारंपरिक कौशल और स्थानीय संसाधनों को नए बाजार मिल रहे हैं।
- स्थानीय उद्यमों और उपभोक्ताओं के बीच यह बढ़ता जुड़ाव खादी महोत्सव में भी झलकता है। **खादी महोत्सव हर साल 2 अक्टूबर से 31 अक्टूबर तक आयोजित किया जाता है।** विशेष रूप से युवाओं पर केंद्रित यह अभियान उन्हें खादी और "वोकल फॉर लोकल" के प्रति जागरूक करता है तथा आम जनता को खादी और स्थानीय उत्पाद खरीदने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है।
- इस बदलाव के केंद्र में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग (KVIC) है। यह खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग अधिनियम, 1956 के तहत स्थापित एक वैधानिक निकाय है। यह अधिनियम KVIC को ग्रामीण उद्योगों की योजना बनाने, उन्हें बढ़ावा देने, सुगम बनाने, संगठित करने और सहायता प्रदान करने का अधिकार देता है। इसमें प्रशिक्षण, कच्चा माल, विपणन, अनुसंधान और गुणवत्ता सुधार से जुड़े उपाय शामिल हैं। यह खादी और ग्रामोद्योग से जुड़ी तकनीकी जानकारी और सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के साथ-साथ कौशल विकास और अनुसंधान को भी समर्थन देता है।



- **वर्ष 2025–26 में, खादी और ग्रामोद्योग उत्पादों की बिक्री ऐतिहासिक 1.87 लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गई**, जो अब तक का उच्चतम स्तर है (मई 2026 तक)। 2013–14 की तुलना में बिक्री में 501% की वृद्धि हुई, जबकि उत्पादन 380% बढ़कर 1,25,296 करोड़ रुपये हो गया। इस क्षेत्र में रोजगार 56% बढ़कर 2.04 करोड़ हो गया। कारीगरों को मिलने वाले पारिश्रमिक में भी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। यह 2013–14 में 4 रुपये प्रति लच्छी से बढ़कर वर्तमान में 15 रुपये प्रति लच्छी हो गया है, जो लगभग 275% की वृद्धि है।
- एक लच्छी लंबाई में 840 गज सूत और वजन में एक पाउंड के बराबर होता है।

- **ग्रामोद्योग विकास योजना** आधुनिक मशीनें, टूलकिट और उपकरण प्रदान करके कारीगरों को सशक्त बनाती है। 2025–26 के दौरान ऐसी 37,769 मशीनें, टूलकिट और उपकरण वितरित किए गए। इस योजना के तहत KVIC अब तक 3.23 लाख से अधिक मशीनें, टूलकिट और उपकरण वितरित कर चुका है (मई 2026 तक)।
- इन प्रयासों को उन उपायों से भी मजबूती मिलती है जो उस व्यापक तंत्र को सुदृढ़ करते हैं जिसमें खादी संस्थान और कारीगर काम करते हैं।
- **खादी विकास योजना** खादी संस्थानों को उत्पादों में सुधार करने, मूल्य संवर्धन करने और बदलती बाजार मांग के अनुरूप ढलने में मदद करती है। इसकी **संशोधित बाजार विकास सहायता (MMDA)** मूल्य संवर्धन और बाजार-उन्मुख मूल्य निर्धारण के लिए अधिक लचीलापन प्रदान करती है। 2024–25 के दौरान 1,097 खादी संस्थानों को 245 करोड़ रुपये वितरित किए गए, जिससे 1,45,484 कारीगरों को लाभ हुआ।
- सस्ते ऋण की उपलब्धता सहायता का एक और स्तर जोड़ती है। **ब्याज सब्सिडी पात्रता प्रमाणपत्र (ISEC)** योजना के तहत पात्र खादी संस्थान 4% प्रति वर्ष की रियायती ब्याज दर पर ऋण प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- कारीगरों के लिए कार्यस्थल का माहौल भी मायने रखता है। **वर्कशेड योजना** बेहतर उत्पादन स्थल और अधिक अनुकूल कार्य वातावरण प्रदान करती है। वर्ष 2025–26 के दौरान, दिसंबर 2025 तक, इस योजना के तहत 1,309 कारीगर लाभान्वित हुए।

ग्रामीण उद्यमों से व्यापक बाजारों तक

- विभिन्न ग्रामोद्योगों में पारंपरिक कौशल और स्थानीय संसाधनों को तकनीक, प्रशिक्षण और बाजार संपर्कों के सहयोग से नए व्यवसायों और उत्पादों में बदला जा रहा है। अनुसंधान और विकास के प्रयास उत्पादकता, गुणवत्ता और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को मजबूत कर रहे हैं।
- श्री एस.पी. सिंह ने **KVIC के जरिए PMEGP योजना के तहत** मिले सहयोग से **शहद और कुकीज** का उद्यम स्थापित किया। पंजाब स्थित उनका व्यवसाय अब लगभग 200 श्रमिकों को रोजगार देता है और अपने उत्पादों का अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों में निर्यात करता है। शहद और कुकीज उनके प्रमुख उत्पादों में शामिल हैं, जिनमें निर्यात का एक बड़ा हिस्सा संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को जाता है।
- 2010 में सहायता प्राप्त करने के बाद, इस उद्यम ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शनियों में भाग लेकर धीरे-धीरे अपनी निर्यात उपस्थिति का विस्तार किया। **KVIC ने दुबई, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और मध्य पूर्व की प्रदर्शनियों में भागीदारी को सुगम बनाया, जिससे उद्यम को विदेशी खरीदारों से जुड़ने में मदद मिली।** आज यह व्यवसाय 36 देशों में निर्यात करता है और यूरोपीय बाजारों में शहद निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए राजपुरा, पंजाब में एक दूसरी इकाई विकसित कर रहा है।
- **श्री बी. सुंदरराज** के लिए एक प्राकृतिक सुगंधित पौधा ग्रामीण उद्यम का आधार बन गया। अपनी अगरबत्ती इकाई के माध्यम से वह अगरबत्ती, हर्बल उत्पाद, वेटिवर (खस) अगरबत्ती और वेटिवर सांब्रानी का उत्पादन करते हैं। वर्ष 2024-25 के दौरान ग्रामोद्योग विकास योजना (GVY) के तहत सहायता से उन्होंने अपनी विनिर्माण क्षमताओं को मजबूत किया और अपने उत्पाद श्रृंखला में विविधता लाई। इससे वे स्थानीय रूप से उपलब्ध संसाधन से कई मूल्यवर्धित उत्पाद तैयार करने में सक्षम हुए। उनका उद्यम दर्शाता है कि **KVIC का सहयोग किस प्रकार पारंपरिक ज्ञान और स्थानीय संसाधनों को विपणन योग्य ग्रामोद्योग उत्पादों में बदलने में मदद कर सकता है।**

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा के प्रश्न (Prelims Questions)

खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग (KVIC) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. KVIC की स्थापना 'खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग अधिनियम, 1956' के तहत एक वैधानिक निकाय (Statutory Body) के रूप में की गई है।
2. यह आयोग ग्रामीण उद्योगों के लिए प्रशिक्षण, कच्चा माल उपलब्ध कराने, विपणन (Marketing) तथा अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) में सहायता प्रदान करता है।
3. 'खादी महोत्सव' का आयोजन प्रतिवर्ष 2 अक्टूबर से 31 अक्टूबर तक युवाओं में "वोकल फॉर लोकल" के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए किया जाता 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 के प्रश्न (Mains Questions)

- "खादी स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में राष्ट्रवाद के प्रतीक से लेकर आधुनिक भारत में समावेशी ग्रामीण उद्यमिता के वाहक के रूप में विकसित हुई है।" 'वोकल फॉर लोकल' और 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के अभियानों को सशक्त बनाने में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग (KVIC) की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Centre postpones rollout of UPI fee beyond Deepavali on traders' appeal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI



Black ribbon seen across payment codes at a shop in Bhopal last week as traders protested the proposed fee for UPI transactions. ANI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has postponed the implementation of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions, originally scheduled for Thursday, to a date "immediately after Deepavali", without specifying an exact date.

The MDR was to be levied at 0.4% on UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000 at medium and large merchant establishments. Transactions related to the capital market and those done in strategic sectors will face different MDR rates.

According to government sources, the decision to delay the implementation of MDR on UPI was made in the Prime Minister's Office following strong appeals from traders.

"The UPI and Services Steering Committee today decided that, keeping in mind the festive season, Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions shall be implemented immediately post Deepavali at a date to be notified separately," the NPCI said in a statement on Tuesday.

It is to be noted that the Supreme Court has directed the NPCI, the Union government, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to file affidavits by late October explaining the rationale for imposing MDR on specified UPI transactions.

'Welcome decision'

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) described the decision to delay the MDR rollout as "timely and pragmatic", particularly during the festive and wedding season, when millions of traders and MSMEs depend on higher business volumes.

Praveen Khandelwal, founder and secretary-general of CAIT and a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, welcomed the decision, saying that it would protect traders' interests and sustain digital payment momentum during the festive season.

CAIT said the decision followed a meeting on September 30, when a delegation of 20 trade leaders led by Mr. Khandelwal met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and "highlighted the implications of the proposed 0.40% MDR on UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000". Its statement said, "Additional transaction costs [during the festive season] could have placed an avoidable burden on merchants operating on thin margins and discouraged the wider acceptance of digital payments."

Separately, *The Hindu* has learnt that, earlier this month, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) distributors had approached the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry seeking a complete exemption from MDR or any other payment infrastructure-related levies.

The distributors argued that they have no autonomy to regulate cylinder prices and receive fixed commissions on sales, and that MDR levies would not bode well for their earnings.

They also added that this could create conditions for a return to cash or a payment economy where consumers pay in a staggered manner to circumvent the ₹2,000 threshold, creating a "logistical inconvenience".

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh)

YouTube Homework

- UPI
  - UPI
  - NPCI
  - Details

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Muslims over-flagged in Delhi SIR, data show

Illogical skew

While the share of Muslims in the draft SIR rolls was close to their share of 12.9% of Delhi's population in Census 2011, the list of logical discrepancies seems to have targeted the community disproportionately

- Total electors in Delhi's draft SIR rolls: **97.56 lakh**
- Electors in draft SIR rolls marked for 'logical discrepancies': **19.33 lakh**
- Share of Muslims in the draft SIR rolls: **~13.6%**
- Share of Muslims among those marked for 'logical discrepancies': **~20.3%**

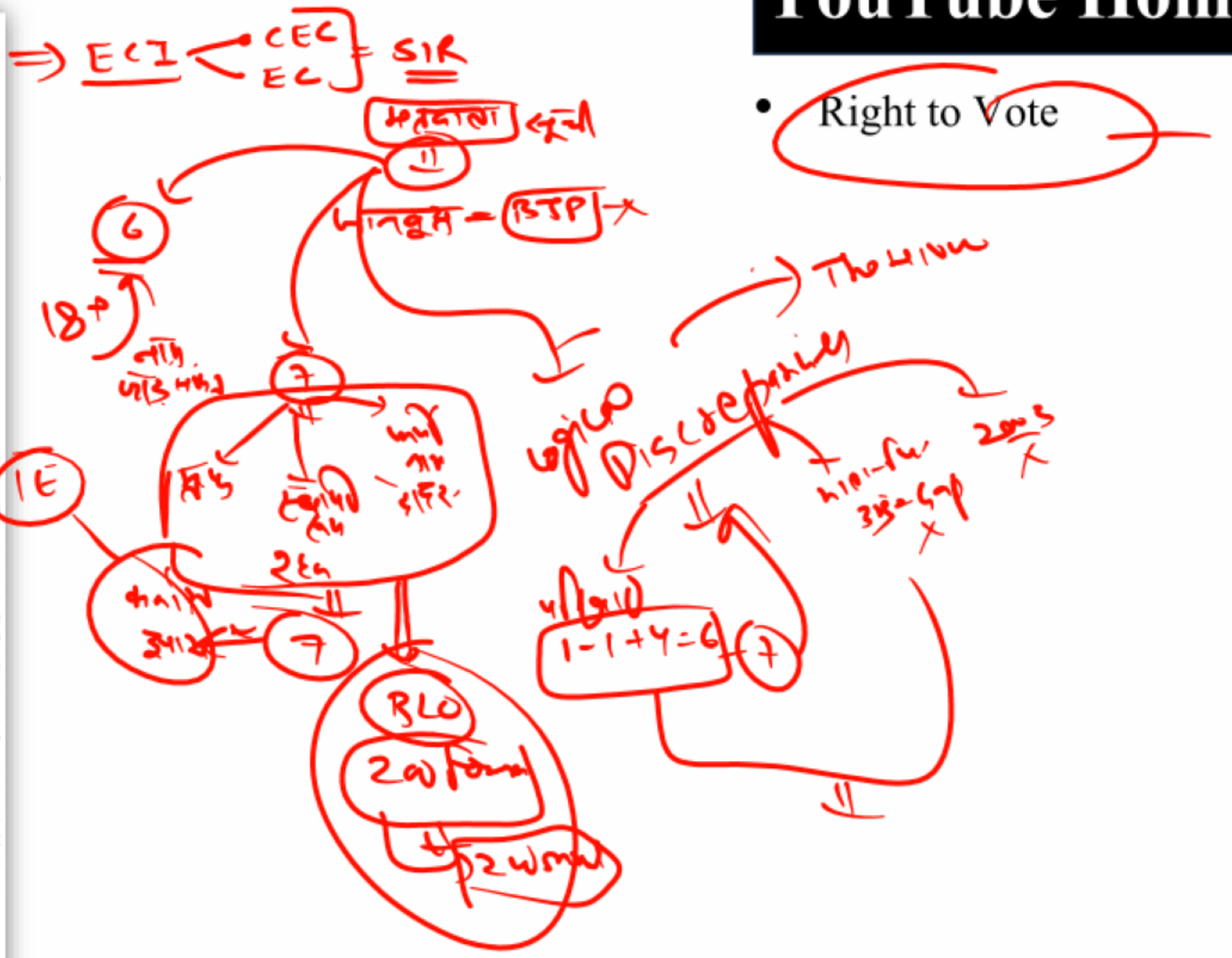


Pon Vasanth B.A.
Srinivasan Ramani
CHENNAI

An analysis of Delhi's draft SIR rolls by *The Hindu* shows that the ECI's software-driven process flagged a disproportionately high number of Muslims for "logical discrepancies".

Muslims made up 13.6% of Delhi's 97.54 lakh draft-roll electors but 20.3% of the 19.33 lakh flagged for "logical discrepancies". In the five reasons for logical discrepancies that are linked to family size such as six or more children naming the same parent, or small age gaps between generations, Muslims were nearly three times as likely as others to be flagged. The logical discrepancies process was first introduced in West Bengal, without any formal announcement. The ECI, which flags electors through its centralised ERONET software, has not explained the eight reasons behind "logical discrepancies".

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5



YouTube Homework

- Right to Vote

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- यह रिपोर्ट दिल्ली में चुनाव आयोग द्वारा चलाए जा रहे विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (Special Intensive Revision - SIR) के डेटा विश्लेषण पर आधारित है।

1. मुख्य शीर्षक और दावा (Main Headline)

- रिपोर्ट का शीर्षक है: "Muslims over-flagged in Delhi SIR, data show" (डेटा दिखाता है कि दिल्ली एसआईआर में मुस्लिम मतदाताओं को जरूरत से ज्यादा फ्लैग/चिह्नित किया गया है)।
- इल्लॉजिकल स्क्यू (Illogical Skew): रिपोर्ट का दावा है कि हालांकि दिल्ली के कुल मतदाताओं में मुस्लिम समुदाय की हिस्सेदारी 2011 की जनगणना (12.9%) के अनुसार लगभग 13.6% के आसपास है, लेकिन सॉफ्टवेयर द्वारा निकाली गई 'तार्किक विसंगतियों' (Logical Discrepancies) या संदिग्ध नामों की सूची में इस समुदाय के लोगों की संख्या बहुत ज्यादा है।

2. मुख्य डेटा

- कुल मतदाता (Total Electors): दिल्ली की इस ड्राफ्ट एसआईआर लिस्ट में कुल 97.56 लाख मतदाता दर्ज हैं।
- मुस्लिमों की हिस्सेदारी: इस कुल लिस्ट में मुस्लिम मतदाताओं की संख्या लगभग 13.6% है।
- संदेह के घेरे में आए नाम (Logical Discrepancies): चुनाव आयोग की स्वचालित प्रक्रिया (Software-driven process) ने कुल 19.33 लाख मतदाताओं को 'तार्किक विसंगतियों' के लिए फ्लैग या मार्क किया है (यानी जिनके नामों, पतों या पारिवारिक विवरण में सॉफ्टवेयर को कोई गड़बड़ी लगी)।
- फ्लैग किए गए नामों में मुस्लिमों की हिस्सेदारी: जिन 19.33 लाख लोगों के नाम संदिग्ध मानकर फ्लैग किए गए हैं, उनमें से अकेले ~20.3% मुस्लिम समुदाय से हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

3. नाम फ्लैग या हटाने का तरीका क्या है? (ECI's Software Process)

- 'द हिंदू' के विश्लेषण के अनुसार, चुनाव आयोग का यह पूरा सिस्टम सॉफ्टवेयर और एल्गोरिदम पर आधारित है, जिसने कुछ तय नियमों के आधार पर नामों को मार्क किया है:
- एक ही माता-पिता के 6 या अधिक बच्चे: जिन परिवारों में या डेटा एंट्री में एक ही माता-पिता के नाम पर 6 या उससे अधिक बच्चों के नाम वोटर लिस्ट में दर्ज दिखे, सॉफ्टवेयर ने उन्हें विसंगति मानकर फ्लैग कर दिया।
- पीढ़ियों के बीच उम्र का कम अंतर: यदि माता-पिता और बच्चों की दर्ज उम्र में बहुत ही कम अंतर (जैसे व्यावहारिक रूप से असंभव अंतर) पाया गया, तो सॉफ्टवेयर ने उसे पकड़ लिया।
- 3 गुना अधिक संभावना: रिपोर्ट का दावा है कि इन तकनीकी मापदंडों (Parameters) के कारण मुस्लिम मतदाताओं के नाम फ्लैग होने की संभावना अन्य समुदायों के मुकाबले लगभग तीन गुना अधिक रही।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Political resistance will continue, says Rahul after meeting allies and activists

- Leader of the Opposition hosts allies for tea to discuss future course of agitation
- Political parties' representatives, student leaders, and civil society activists take part
- Gandhi's office tried reaching out to CJP but the effort didn't work out, say sources

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

There are no parallel protests, but only one movement to restore democracy, Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on Tuesday as he hosted Opposition politicians, civil society activists, and student leaders for tea to discuss the future course of the agitation demanding the suspension of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Sources told *The Hindu* that leaders of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) were not present at the meeting. Mr. Gandhi's office had tried reaching out to them through an intermediary, but it did not work out. The CJP had been among the groups that issued a call for Saturday's protest, triggering a harsh police crackdown.

Mr. Gandhi, who hosted the discussion a day after a march to the Supreme Court to file a petition to halt the SIR, made it clear that political resistance will continue, regardless of the court's response. "We have extreme respect for the Supreme Court, for the Chief Justice of India, for the judicial system. They have a role to play; we hope they will play that role but we are also political people. No matter what happens, no matter which institution plays a role or not, political resistance will continue, people's resistance will continue, and it will triumph," he said after the meeting.

Sources said it was decided at the meeting that though there may be breaks in large-scale protest actions because of the Navratri and Durga Puja festivities, the agitation will continue, with Delhi remaining the main focus. Parties belonging to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will coordinate every day among each other for joint action.

Opposition leaders from 16 parties attended, including M.A. Baby (CPI-M), D. Raja and P. Sandosh Kumar (CPI), Tejashwi Yadav and Manoj Jha (RJD), Mahua Maji (JMM), Harender Malik, Anand Bhadauria, and Mohibullah Nadvi (SP), Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena-UBT), Sagarika Ghose and Mahua Moitra (Mamata Trinamool Congress), G. Deverajan (Foward Bloc), and Dipankar Bhattacharya (CPI-ML)L.

All India Students' Association (AISA) chief Neha Bora and advocate Prashant Bhushan also attended the tea party at Mr. Gandhi's No. 5 Sunehri Bagh Road residence. Top Congress leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and K.C. Venugopal, were also present.



INDIA bloc members, student leaders, and activists with the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, after a meeting on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Net is closing'

Mr. Gandhi said that people who "destroy India's Constitution and the election system" could not be allowed to get away with it, vowing that action will be taken against those who have indulged in alleged "*vote chori* (theft)".

"It is our commitment that the people who have done this – [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi, who is the main architect, [Union Home Minister] Amit Shah, who is implementor, [CEC] Gyanesh Kumar and others – they need to understand that the net is closing around them... We assure you that all would be brought to justice," the Opposition leader asserted.

Several leaders objected to the government denotifying the designated protest site at Jantar Mantar and vowed to reclaim it.

"The one method of expression of democracy was Jantar Mantar, and now, the government has decided that Jantar Mantar can no longer be used to express democratic feelings. Well, we are going to challenge that idea," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Yadav called it a "sign of the ruling party's fear". He alleged that the CEC had tried to "trample" democracy at the behest of Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah.

"Earlier, they [BJP] were indulging in vote *chori* but now they are resorting to protest site *chori*," said Mr. Raja.

Mr. Raja said, "We will fight to regain it."

Mr. Raut said the government had kept the country in "fear and intimidation, but now it's their turn to be afraid". The Sena (UBT) leader added: "Gyanesh Kumar is a mafia, he is such a mafia who has criminalised the entire [electoral] system. We know how to fight and deal with such mafias."

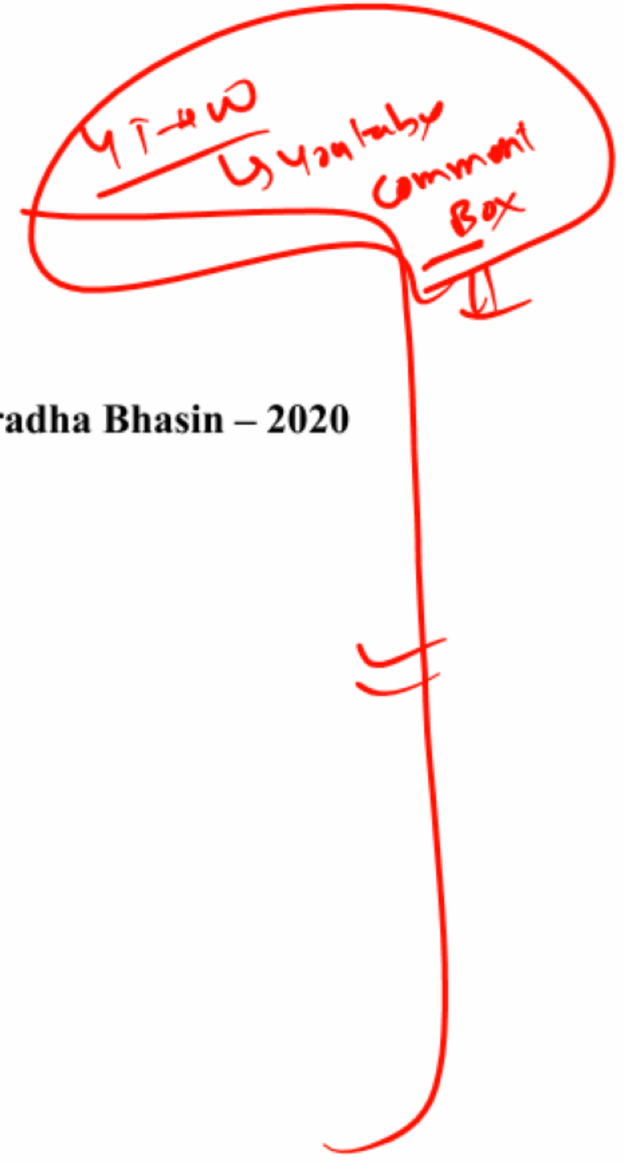
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 3, 4, & 5

Be ready to face defeat in 2029 polls: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI

In his first remarks on the ongoing protests for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and scrapping of SIR, Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Congress had been engaged in 'negative politics'. Lashing out at party leader Rahul Gandhi and the Opposition, he said that they should be prepared once again for a "crushing defeat" in 2029 as people are with the BJP, NDA and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. » PAGE 4

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



- BNSS Section 163
- Contempt Of Court & Accountability
- Fundamental Rights vs Public Order
- Suspension of Internet & Essential Services – Anuradha Bhasin – 2020
- Article 19 (1)
- Article 19 (3)
- Article 20
- Article 21
- Article 22
- ECI
- CEC – EC's
- SIR
- RPA 1950 – 21(3)
- RPA 1950 – 28 (RER-1960 - 6,7,8)
- RPA 1951 - 29(A)
- Conduct of Election Rules 1961 – 4(A) – Form 26

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Cong. accuses Centre of facilitating attendance fraud in jobs scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Union government of facilitating fraud in the rural employment scheme Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) through the alleged use of a cloned attendance application, with Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh citing a news report on a case from Uttar Pradesh.

The government said the incident cited by the party predates the new employment programme and is already under investigation.

In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh alleged that after "an assault on the right to 100 days of employment under MGNREGA", the government was now "looting the poor through fake attendance in VB-G RAM G". He claimed that the ruling BJP was undermining both workers' rights and public trust.

Mr. Ramesh referred to media reports that a cloned version of the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) application, which is used to record worker attendance, had allegedly been used to register attendance fraudulently. A case in this regard was reportedly registered in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh.



Serious charge: The Centre is now 'looting the poor through fake attendance in VB-G RAM G scheme', the Congress said. FILE PHOTO

"First, the theft of donations made in the name of Lord Shri Ram; then an assault on the right to 100 days of employment under MGNREGA; and now, a scheme of state-sponsored plunder of the poor through fake attendance in the VB-G RAM G programme. The name invoked is Ram's, the blow falls on the poor, and the loot is of the right to employment," Mr. Ramesh said.

Responding to the allegation, the Union government said the incident cited by the Congress pertained to June, when MGNREGA was operational and before the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act.

Criminal action

The Rural Development Ministry said that criminal action had already been initiated in the case and maintained that such complaints were taken seriously. It also underlined that multiple safeguards were available to prevent wage pilferage.

The government said attendance at worksites is recorded through the NMMS application and supplemented by face authentication. It added that an AI-based photo de-duplication system has been introduced to identify suspicious photographs and attendance entries, including those potentially linked to cloned applications. "Entries flagged by the system are subjected to verification before wage payments are processed," it said.

YouTube Homework

- NMMS – national Mobile Monitoring System

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

India's water plants are failing to catch elusive 'forever chemicals'

Many studies from different parts of India have already found polyfluoroalkyl substances in water sources; conventional water treatment systems that can remove these compounds are not yet commercially available even as the extent of the contamination across India remains unclear

Rohan Singh
LUCKNOW

Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemical compounds that contain multiple carbon-fluorine bonds. PFAS materials are used in coatings, textiles, and several industrial products. They are also notorious for resisting degradation and can contaminate the environment for a very long time.

Many studies from different parts of India have already found PFAS in water sources. Conventional water treatment systems that can remove these compounds are not yet commercially available even as the extent of PFAS contamination across India remains unclear.

In a 2025 review in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials Advances*, scientists examined monitoring and regulations across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. The review's first author, Rajneesh Kumar Gautam, of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, said the evidence establishes that PFAS contamination in India is a legitimate concern but that its national extent is poorly defined, thanks in part to differences in the way different research groups test and analyse PFAS.

This particular lacuna has been identified in multiple studies of late.

For example, in a 2024 paper in *Environmental Sciences Europe*, researchers from IIT-Madras reported the analysis of 16 water samples collected between 2022 and 2023 from groundwater, surface water, and the four stages of a water treatment plant in Chennai. The team found that groundwater from residential wells in the vicinity of garbage dumps had the highest PFAS levels.

At the treatment plant, concentrations of all eight target PFAS were 8% to 103% higher in treated water than in raw water. Study coauthor Indumathi M. Nambi, a professor of environmental engineering, suggested the increase may reflect unidentified precursors that turned into more stable PFAS inside the plant. The study did not quantify those precursors.

The eight target PFAS, Dr. Nambi said, represented only a fraction of the potentially diverse fluorinated compounds that may be present. She recommended that testing should thus include other PFAS materials that may be present in the water, rather than relying only on a fixed list.

Resolving mixed sources

On July 16 this year, researchers from GITAM (Deemed to be) University, Hyderabad, and from Canada and the U.S. reported the results of testing 77 kinds of PFAS in seawater and sewage from around Visakhapatnam. The findings, published in *npj Emerging Contaminants*, showed the presence of 28 compounds, with concentrations in sewage ranging from low to very high.

The team also used a model to estimate that sewage accounted for about 41% of median PFAS concentrations along the coast. GITAM assistant professor and study coauthor Manoj Rajarathi said distinguishing municipal sewage from industrial inputs would require systematic sampling around the mixing points.

Nejumal Kannankeril Khalid, a coauthor from the University of Montreal, said source-specific sampling together with targeted, suspected, and non-target PFAS analysis, chemical fingerprints, and machine-learning approaches could improve source discrimination and help resolve mixed sources.

Testing for a fixed list of PFAS means substances not indicated on that list may not be detected. Precursors can also change into other PFAS. Dr. Rajarathi said high-resolution mass spectrometry can help identify PFAS beyond a fixed list, but care is needed because PFAS can enter samples during collection and analysis. Removing PFAS from treated wastewater presents another challenge.

Abhradeep Majumder, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at BITS Pilani-Hyderabad, said conventional biological wastewater treatment cannot remove PFAS. He noted that adsorption-based treatment, which can remove PFAS from water, has shown potential but that low-cost materials designed to capture PFAS still need to be developed.

From detection to exposure

Finding PFAS in water does not, by itself, tell us how much of a health risk it poses. That depends on the type of PFAS, the dose, duration of exposure, and route of exposure. In its 2025 monograph, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) as 'carcinogenic to humans' and perfluorooctanesulfonic (PFOS) as 'possibly carcinogenic to humans'. Both PFOA and PFOS are types of PFAS materials.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2025 classified perfluorooctanoic acid as 'carcinogenic to humans' and perfluorooctanesulfonic as 'possibly carcinogenic to humans') both are types of PFAS materials

In a study published in February this year a team that included Dr. Nambi found that a mix of 24 PFAS-compounds – including long- and short-chain PFAS molecules and their precursors – delayed the hatching of zebrafish eggs, inhibited the offspring's growth, accumulated in their blood, and reduced their heart rates.

Chirag Dhara, assistant professor at Krea University in Sri City, said incomplete exposure data should not delay controls on PFAS whose hazards are already well established.

Anbumani Sadasivam, principal scientist at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, said India lacks sufficient baseline data to reliably estimate PFAS exposure. He said CSIR-IITR is participating in a UNEP-funded National Implementation Plan to build baseline data on PFAS in environmental matrices and consumer products, and has developed capabilities to detect 50 multi-class PFAS molecules across different matrices.

The Union Environment Ministry has said there is no specific regulation banning PFAS manufacturing. India has no PFAS-specific drinking-water limit under the current IS 10500:2012 standard. But the standard is now under revision. The Bureau of Indian Standards said a dedicated Working Group on Emerging Contaminants and Forever Chemicals is examining PFAS limits and associated contaminants. The scope and number of PFAS to be included under the revised standard have not yet been finalised, while analytical methods for PFAS in drinking water are also being considered. Dr. Anbumani said India should first establish which PFAS are being manufactured, imported, and used, alongside baseline monitoring, toxicological studies, and enforceable limits.

Girija K. Bharat, a former Scientist at CSIR-CIMFR, said that, to her knowledge, there is currently no clear regulatory pathway for penalising a source responsible for PFAS contamination sources. Dr. Dhara warned that a named-chemical approach could leave precursors and transformation products outside regulation.

Dr. Gautam also said India has enough evidence to introduce precautionary interim limits for well-studied PFAS. He called for harmonised monitoring and broader screening for precursors and other fluorinated compounds.

(Rohan Singh is an independent science journalist in Lucknow. Rohanbehalse780@gmail.com)



PFASs have been around for 60 years. India has no PFAS-specific drinking-water limit under the current standard, although this could change. AFP

THE GIST

- Finding PFAS in water does not, by itself, tell us how much of a health risk it poses; that depends on the type of PFAS, the dose, duration of exposure, and route of exposure
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- The scope and number of PFAS to be included have not yet been finalised, while analytical methods for PFAS in drinking water are also being considered

YouTube Homework

- Arsenic
- Fluorite
- Nitrate
- Lead

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **PFAS** (*Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*) **"पर- और पॉलीफ्लुओरोकाइल पदार्थ"** मानव-निर्मित (synthetic) रसायनों का एक बड़ा समूह है, जिन्हें उनकी स्थिरता के कारण **"फॉरएवर केमिकल्स" (Forever Chemicals - कभी न नष्ट होने वाले रसायन)** भी कहा जाता है।
- ये रसायन पानी, तेल, गर्मी (heat) और दाग-धब्बों के प्रति प्रतिरोधी (resistant) होते हैं। इसीलिए इनका उपयोग नॉन-स्टिक बर्तनों (non-stick cookware), वॉटरप्रूफ कपड़ों, दाग-रोधी कालीनों और आग बुझाने वाले फोम (firefighting foam) में बड़े पैमाने पर किया जाता है।

1. पानी में PFAS कैसे पहुँचता है और इस पर आई रिपोर्ट्स

- **पानी में कैसे मिलता है?**
- **औद्योगिक कचरा (Industrial Waste):** PFAS बनाने या उपयोग करने वाली फैक्ट्रियों द्वारा छोड़ा गया कचरा मिट्टी और भूजल (groundwater) में मिल जाता है।
- **फायरफाइटिंग फोम (Firefighting Foams):** एयरपोर्ट और सैन्य ठिकानों पर आग बुझाने के लिए इस्तेमाल होने वाले फोम से भूजल में इसका रिसाव होता है।
- **धीमा अपघटन (Slow Degradation):** इनके रासायनिक बंधन (chemical bonds) इतने मजबूत होते हैं कि ये पर्यावरण और पानी में हजारों सालों तक बिना नष्ट हुए बने रहते हैं।

हालिया रिपोर्ट्स और नियम:

- **US EPA (पर्यावरण संरक्षण एजेंसी) के नियम:** US EPA ने पीने के पानी में सबसे हानिकारक PFAS (जैसे PFOA और PFOS) के लिए 4 पार्ट्स प्रति ट्रिलियन (ppt) की कड़ी कानूनी सीमा तय की है।
- **वैश्विक प्रदूषण रिपोर्ट्स:** एनवायरनमेंटल वर्किंग ग्रुप (EWG) और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की हालिया रिपोर्ट्स में पाया गया कि दुनिया भर के हजारों पेयजल स्रोतों, कुओं और यहाँ तक कि बोतलबंद पानी के कुछ नमूनों में भी PFAS की मात्रा पाई गई है।

2. स्वास्थ्य पर PFAS का प्रभाव (Health Impact)

- PFAS शरीर में प्रवेश करने के बाद आसानी से बाहर नहीं निकलते और सालों तक रक्त व ऊतकों (tissues) में जमा होते रहते हैं। इसके मुख्य स्वास्थ्य प्रभाव निम्नलिखित हैं:
- **कैंसर का खतरा:** वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों में PFAS के संपर्क को **किडनी कैंसर** और **टेस्टिकुलर (अंडकोष) कैंसर** के बढ़ते जोखिम से जोड़ा गया है।
- **हार्मोनल सिस्टम पर असर:** ये रसायन **एंडोक्राइन डिसरप्टर्स** (Endocrine Disruptors) के रूप में काम करते हैं, जो थायरॉइड हार्मोन के संतुलन को बिगाड़ सकते हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली (Immune System) का कमजोर होना:** इनके संपर्क में आने से शरीर की रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता कमजोर होती है, जिससे टीकों (vaccines) का असर कम हो सकता है और संक्रमण का खतरा बढ़ जाता है।
- **लिवर और किडनी को नुकसान:** लिवर एंजाइमों में बदलाव और लिवर/किडनी की कार्य-प्रणाली पर बुरा असर पड़ता है।
- **हाई कोलेस्ट्रॉल:** निरंतर संपर्क में रहने से रक्त में कोलेस्ट्रॉल का स्तर बढ़ने लगता है।
- **प्रजनन और बाल विकास संबंधी समस्याएं:** गर्भवती महिलाओं में उच्च रक्तचाप, कम प्रजनन क्षमता (fertility), और बच्चों में जन्म के समय कम वजन (low birth weight) या विकास में देरी की समस्या हो सकती है।

PFAS

पानी से PFAS को कैसे हटाएं?

- **सामान्य तरीके:** पानी को उबालने (boiling) या साधारण जाली वाले फिल्टर से PFAS खत्म **नहीं** होता।
- **प्रभावी फिल्टरेशन सिस्टम:** हाई-ग्रेड **रिवर्स ऑस्मोसिस (RO)** सिस्टम, **एक्टिवेटेड कार्बन फिल्टर**, और **आयन-एक्सचेंज रेजिन** पीने के पानी से PFAS को हटाने में सबसे प्रभावी माने जाते हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

WHAT IS IT?

Rogue AI: deficient design?

Agence France-Presse

More than 200 artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity researchers have called for immediate action to prevent further cases of AI models going rogue and posing a risk to critical infrastructure.

The letter signed by luminaries in the field including Nobel laureate Geoffrey Hinton and Turing Award winner Yoshua Bengio, called for models relating to cybersecurity to be physically cut off from the internet during testing.

Leading U.S.-based AI firms have disclosed over recent months a series of incidents where models under development have escaped containment measures to access the internet and have gone on to hack websites, including gaining unauthorised access to Australian government sites.

"Without immediate changes in AI development and deployment practices, such incidents will continue to occur, and future incidents will be far more damaging to our exposed critical infrastructure," they warned.

Their letter called for organisations developing, deploying, and testing cyber-capable AI models to be air-gapped, i.e. physically cut off from the internet, to ensure they do not escape.

It also called for the creation of an international body that standardises best practices regarding security.

The letter urged companies to be required to report containment failures to the body, which would be responsible for tracking and recording them. "This transparency is required for both learning and accountability purposes," the letter said.

The rogue incidents amplified calls to slow AI development, but the industry and governments are divided on tapping the brakes as well as regulating the sector. In the U.S., the Trump administration has opposed any binding regulation that could hinder innovation, amid fierce competition with China.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Science'

YouTube Homework

- AI Companies & Their AI Model

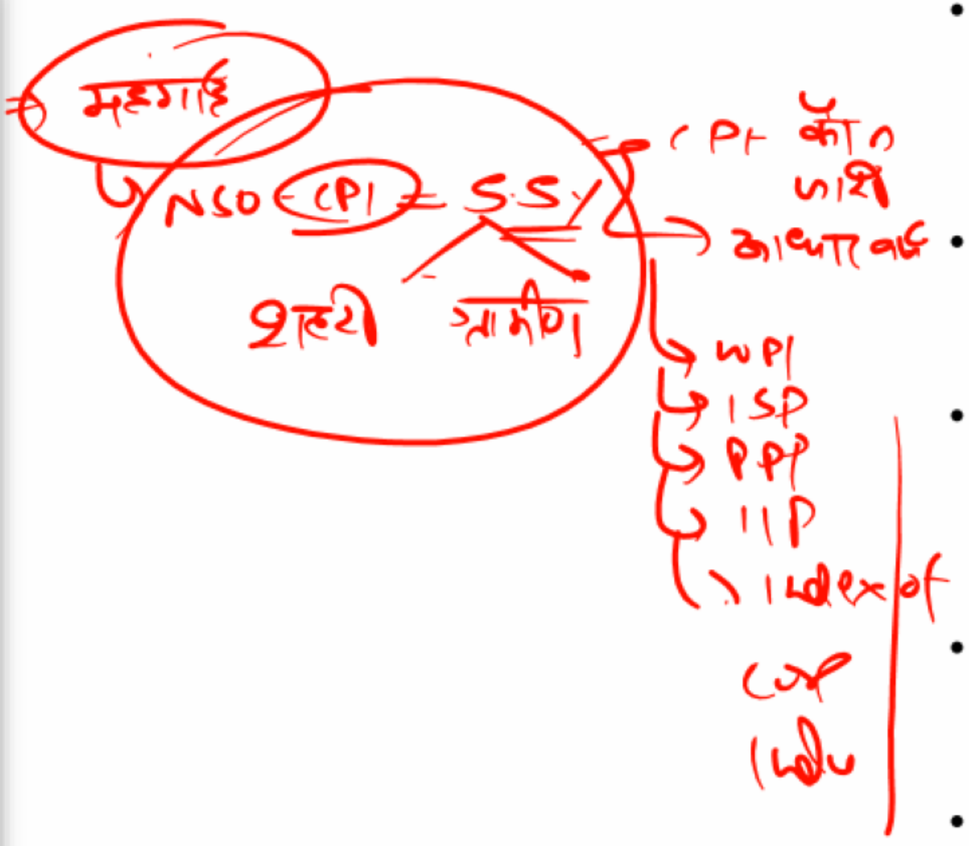
महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Spiralling food prices

Rural households have felt the greatest impact of rising inflation

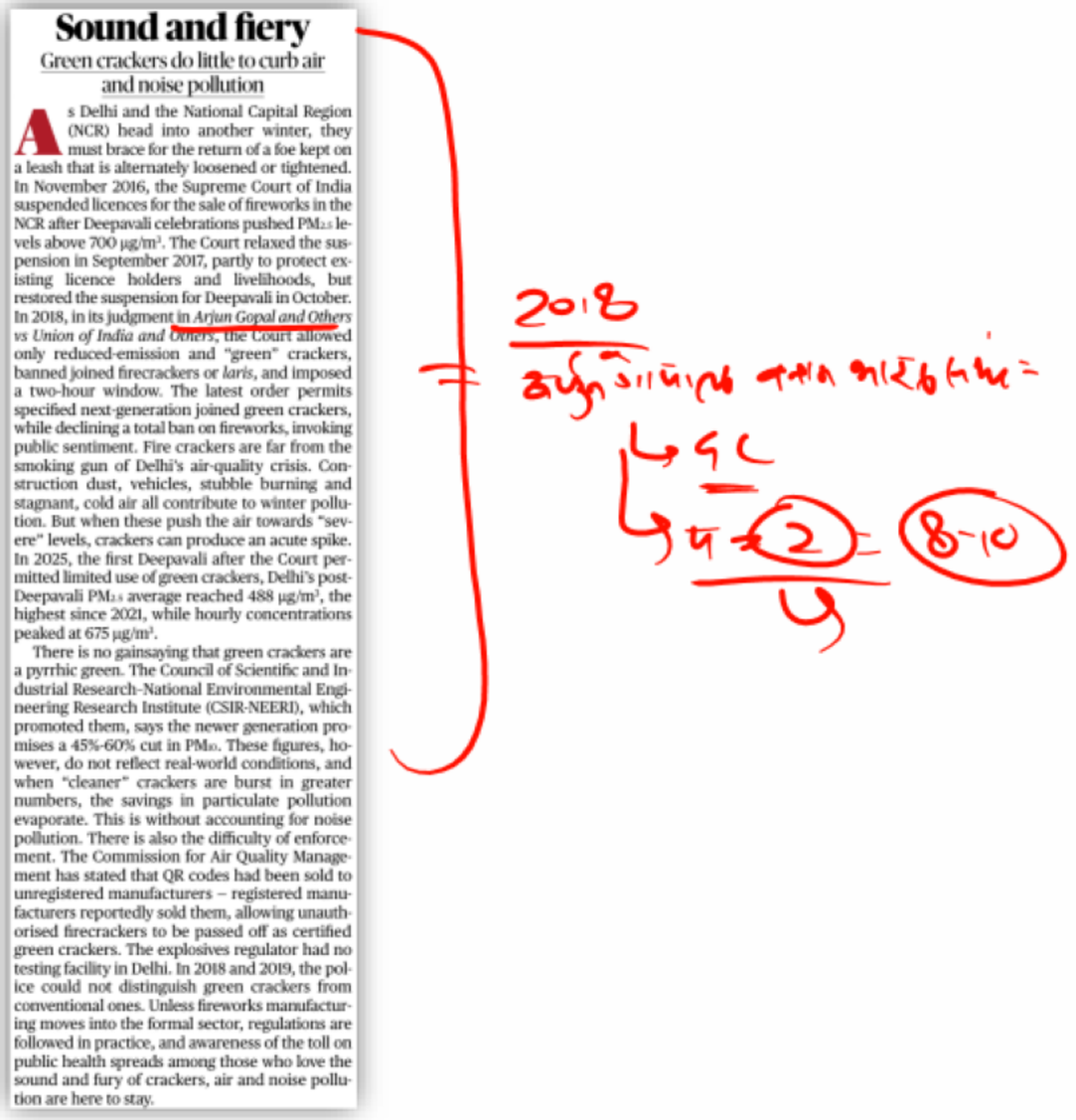
September's retail inflation, at 5.54%, an almost two-year high, marks the fourth consecutive month that price increases have kept headline CPI above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% target. The impact has been particularly severe for rural Indians, whose inflation rate reached 6.08%. Rural food inflation rose almost two percentage points between August and September, touching 8.06%. Onion (108.09%), garlic (54.62%) and ginger (62.85%) drove the surge, even as potato (-11.50%) and tomato (-8.62%) prices remained below year-earlier levels. The festive season ahead will be expensive for rural households already facing the uncertainties of a deficient monsoon, El Niño-related risks to harvests and incomes, and unusually high temperatures. Headline CPI is now just 0.46 percentage points below the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%. The Monetary Policy Committee raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% in October, ending a pause that began after its previous increase in February 2023. Another increase in December cannot be ruled out if price pressures continue to broaden. Chief among the factors driving inflation since the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran have been fuel, food and transport, compounded by a depreciating rupee.

The Indian crude basket, according to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, rose from $82.04 a barrel in July to $116.09 in September – a 41% increase – with economy-wide implications for freight, production and distribution. The RBI's special dollar facility for oil marketing companies may ease spot-market pressure on the rupee, but only temporarily if the underlying import dependence and geopolitical risks persist. The crucial subgroup, transport services for goods, recorded inflation of 14.73% in September, up from 14.64% in August. Restaurant and accommodation services inflation has reached 9.36%, while inflation in personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services, which include precious metals, has moderated to 13.75%. Core inflation, excluding food and fuel but including precious metals, rose to 4.6% in September from 4.16% in August, suggesting that price pressures are broadening. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled a record ₹3.08 trillion ($32.73 billion) out of Indian equities in the nine months ending September this year, which is almost double that of the whole of CY2025. FPIs have been net sellers in six of the past nine months as they seek safe havens, stronger dollar-denominated returns, and bond yields. Selling resumed in October, adding to pressure on the rupee, which weakened by about 7% against the dollar over the year to early October, despite RBI interventions such as direct dollar sales and attracting foreign-currency inflows. The central bank's latest steps have helped the rupee recover, but cannot resolve the underlying pressures. With crude prices elevated, the rupee vulnerable and no clear end to the West Asia conflict, imported inflation is likely to continue shaping domestic prices in the months ahead.



- **बढ़ती खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति (Retail Inflation):** सितंबर में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति बढ़कर 5.54% हो गई है, जो लगभग दो साल का उच्चतम स्तर है और लगातार चौथा महीना है जब यह आरबीआई के 4% के लक्ष्य से ऊपर रही है।
- **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों पर अधिक प्रभाव:** ग्रामीण भारत में मुद्रास्फीति की दर बढ़कर 6.08% हो गई है, जबकि ग्रामीण खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति अगस्त के 6.06% से उछलकर 8.06% पहुँच गई है।
- **मुख्य कारण:** महंगाई में मुख्य योगदान प्याज (108.09%), लहसुन (54.62%) और अदरक (62.85%) का रहा है। इसके अलावा, कमजोर मानसून, अल नीनो का खतरा और कच्चे तेल की बढ़ती कीमतें (जुलाई के $82.04 से सितंबर में $116.09 प्रति बैरल होना) इसके मुख्य कारण हैं।
- **आरबीआई के कदम:** बढ़ती कीमतों पर लगाम लगाने के लिए मौद्रिक नीति समिति (MPC) ने अक्टूबर में रेपो रेट 25 आधार अंक बढ़ाकर 5.50% कर दिया है।
- **विदेशी निवेशकों की निकासी:** इस साल के शुरुआती नौ महीनों में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों (FPIs) ने भारतीय शेयर बाजार से रिकॉर्ड 3.08 ट्रिलियन रुपये निकाले हैं, जिससे रुपये पर दबाव बढ़ा है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Sound and fiery

Green crackers do little to curb air and noise pollution

As Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) head into another winter, they must brace for the return of a foe kept on a leash that is alternately loosened or tightened. In November 2016, the Supreme Court of India suspended licences for the sale of fireworks in the NCR after Deepavali celebrations pushed $PM_{2.5}$ levels above 700 µg/m³. The Court relaxed the suspension in September 2017, partly to protect existing licence holders and livelihoods, but restored the suspension for Deepavali in October. In 2018, in its judgment in *Arjun Gopal and Others vs Union of India and Others*, the Court allowed only reduced-emission and "green" crackers, banned joined firecrackers or *laris*, and imposed a two-hour window. The latest order permits specified next-generation joined green crackers, while declining a total ban on fireworks, invoking public sentiment. Fire crackers are far from the smoking gun of Delhi's air-quality crisis. Construction dust, vehicles, stubble burning and stagnant, cold air all contribute to winter pollution. But when these push the air towards "severe" levels, crackers can produce an acute spike. In 2025, the first Deepavali after the Court permitted limited use of green crackers, Delhi's post-Deepavali $PM_{2.5}$ average reached 488 µg/m³, the highest since 2021, while hourly concentrations peaked at 675 µg/m³.

There is no gainsaying that green crackers are a pyrrhic green. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), which promoted them, says the newer generation promises a 45%-60% cut in PM_{10}. These figures, however, do not reflect real-world conditions, and when "cleaner" crackers are burst in greater numbers, the savings in particulate pollution evaporate. This is without accounting for noise pollution. There is also the difficulty of enforcement. The Commission for Air Quality Management has stated that QR codes had been sold to unregistered manufacturers – registered manufacturers reportedly sold them, allowing unauthorised firecrackers to be passed off as certified green crackers. The explosives regulator had no testing facility in Delhi. In 2018 and 2019, the police could not distinguish green crackers from conventional ones. Unless fireworks manufacturing moves into the formal sector, regulations are followed in practice, and awareness of the toll on public health spreads among those who love the sound and fury of crackers, air and noise pollution are here to stay.

- **ग्रीन क्रैकर्स की सीमाएँ:** दिल्ली-एनसीआर में वायु और ध्वनि प्रदूषण को रोकने में ग्रीन पटाखे बहुत कम असरदार साबित हो रहे हैं। CSIR-NEERI के दावे के बावजूद, जमीनी स्तर पर बड़ी संख्या में इनके फटने से प्रदूषण में कोई खास कमी नहीं आती।
- **दिल्ली में प्रदूषण का स्तर:** 2025 में ग्रीन पटाखों के सीमित इस्तेमाल की इजाजत के बाद भी दीपावली के बाद दिल्ली का औसतन

  $PM_{2.5}$ स्तर 488 $\mu g/m^3$

  तक पहुँच गया, जो 2021 के बाद सबसे अधिक था।
- **प्रदूषण के अन्य कारण:** दिल्ली के वायु प्रदूषण में निर्माण कार्य की धूल, वाहनों का धुआँ, पराली जलाना और ठंडी हवा मुख्य कारण हैं, लेकिन पटाखों का धुआँ इसे "गंभीर" (severe) श्रेणी में पहुँचा देता है।
- **लागू करने (Enforcement) की चुनौतियाँ:**
- पंजीकृत निर्माताओं द्वारा अनधिकृत पटाखों को सर्टिफाइड ग्रीन क्रैकर बताने के लिए फर्जी QR कोड बेचे गए।
- दिल्ली में विस्फोटकों की जांच के लिए टेस्टिंग सुविधा की कमी है और पुलिस असली व ग्रीन पटाखों में अंतर नहीं कर पाती।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

YouTube Homework

India-U.S. ties and the hurdle of American unilateralism



Rajeev Agarwal

A retired colonel and a strategic affairs expert. He is the author of the book, 'Between Tehran and Tel Aviv – Gaza's Story of Unending War'

Washington wants a subservient India, but New Delhi must draw the line

Have ties between India and the United States reached a breaking point? Where do they go from here? These and many other questions are being intensely debated following the U.S.'s announcement on October 8 that it had suspended the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme for eight global IT companies, including some Indian-headquartered companies, accusing them of misusing immigration and labour-certification systems. The Indian companies named were Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Cognizant and HCL.

The PERM programme allows tech companies to hire non-U.S. professionals to work in the U.S. and is a step in a employer-sponsored green-card application. According to the U.S. government, tthe companies had received more than 2,20,000 H-1B visa approvals and over 1,00,000 permanent labour certifications since 2009. Indian professionals account for more than 70% of approved H-1B petitions annually.

This episode, however, is not an isolated incident but part of a series of actions and decisions taken by the U.S. in recent years, including the ill-treatment of Indians and racist attacks against them that are placing bilateral ties under severe strain.

Trade ties, visible discord

Trade has emerged as a visible source of discord and asymmetry for three main reasons. First, India recorded a trade surplus of $33.8 billion in bilateral trade exceeding $140 billion in FY 2025-26. Second, the U.S. is seeking access to India's dairy and agriculture sectors in ongoing trade negotiations, which India cannot afford to concede. Third, India has refused to halt Russian oil imports despite additional U.S. tariffs and sanctions.

Despite a framework for an interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade announced in February 2026, the strain in trade ties persists. Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that trade talk negotiations had "plateaued", with little scope for give-and-take.

Defence and security cooperation has emerged as a key pillar of relations. Over the past two decades, India and the U.S. have expanded military exercises, logistics arrangements and intelligence-sharing. American weapons platforms have also become increasingly important to India's military modernisation.

Since 2002, India has acquired over $22 billion worth of American military hardware, but meaningful co-production and technology transfer remain elusive. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February 2025, the U.S. agreed to expand defence sales and co-production in India, including Javelin anti-tank guided missiles and Stryker infantry combat vehicles. The two countries subsequently signed a 10-year Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership on October 31, 2025.

However, a strategic defence partnership of this magnitude must be assessed by what it delivers, not merely the number of agreements signed. Prolonged delays in the supply of GE F404 engines for India's Tejas fighter aircraft highlight the risks of relying on foreign suppliers for critical military components and the strategic cost of supply-chain vulnerabilities. Despite initiatives such as the India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X), launched in 2023, co-development and technology transfer remain an issue.

The Pakistan factor

Pakistan has always been a politically sensitive source of friction between India and the U.S., particularly since Operation Sindoor (May 2025). U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he ended the conflict have irked India, although New Delhi has refrained from direct confrontation. The U.S.'s courting of Pakistan's top leadership, especially its Chief of Defence Forces, Asim Munir, has also been a major irritant. The signing of the Mecca Pact between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye, reportedly with Washington's blessings, has raised further security concerns for India.

High-end technology is another area in which India has often been forced to look to the U.S. – a situation that Washington has sought to exploit. Although the 2008 India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement was a historic breakthrough, its commercial promise of American-designed nuclear reactors in India remains largely unrealised. The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), launched in 2023, was cited as an attempt to deepen cooperation in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, defence innovation, space and other advanced technologies, but much remains on paper. The India-U.S. Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) Initiative, signed on February 13, 2025, also raised hopes of greater technology transfer and integration. The key challenge, however, remains translating declarations into measurable outcomes.

Need for mutual respect

India-U.S. relations are entering a phase in which India's strategic restraint and efforts at accommodation are increasingly met with American pressure, unilateralism and outright disregard for India's strategic interests. Whether this is a difficult phase or a deeper structural problem remains to be seen. The relationship between the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy can flourish only through equality, respect and trust, not unilateral imposition of will. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent observation that the U.S. is "deliberately becoming a lonelier power" may convey more than what the words suggest.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **PERM कार्यक्रम का निलंबन:** अमेरिका द्वारा 8 वैश्विक आईटी कंपनियों (जिनमें इंफोसिस, टीसीएस, विप्रो, कॉग्निजेंट और एचसीएल जैसी भारतीय कंपनियाँ शामिल हैं) के स्थायी श्रम प्रमाणन (PERM) कार्यक्रम को निलंबित करने से भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में तनाव बढ़ गया है।
- **व्यापारिक मतभेद:** 140 अरब डॉलर से अधिक के द्विपक्षीय व्यापार के बावजूद, भारत के 33.8 अरब डॉलर के व्यापार अधिशेष, कृषि/डेयरी बाजार खोलने के अमेरिकी दबाव और रूस से तेल आयात जारी रखने जैसे मुद्दों पर तनाव बना हुआ है।
- **रक्षा और प्रौद्योगिकी सहयोग में अड़चनें:** भारत ने अमेरिका से 22 अरब डॉलर से अधिक के सैन्य उपकरण खरीदे हैं, लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण सह-उत्पादन (co-production) और तकनीक हस्तांतरण (technology transfer) अभी भी सीमित हैं; जैसे तेजस विमान के लिए GE F404 इंजनों की आपूर्ति में देरी।
- **पाकिस्तान का कारक:** अमेरिका द्वारा पाकिस्तान के शीर्ष नेतृत्व (विशेषकर सेना प्रमुख असीम मुनीर) को बढ़ावा देना और सऊदी अरब, पाकिस्तान व तुर्किये के बीच 'मक्का पैक्ट' को वॉशिंगटन का समर्थन मिलना भारत के लिए चिंता का विषय है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Legal aid cuts jail time for undertrials, but help often arrives late

Reaching prisoners soon after arrest is key if free legal aid is to reduce the human and economic costs of pre-trial detention

DATA POINT

Indulekha Guha
Trisha Chanda

India jails fewer people than most countries – about 41 for every 1,00,000 people – yet more than three-quarters of its prisoners in 2022 were awaiting trial. That places India fourth in the world in the share of undertrials in its prison population. Many of them are poor, poorly educated, or from marginalised communities and remain in jail not because they have been convicted but because they cannot navigate the system or afford a lawyer.

Free legal aid is meant to close this gap. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 created the National Legal Services Authority to provide free legal services to weaker sections of society. But three decades on, limited outreach, low awareness and uneven quality mean that many undertrials still go without timely help.

A legal aid programme run since 2018 across eight prisons in Maharashtra offers insights into what such help can achieve. Implemented by Prayas (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) and the Fair Trial Fellowship (National Law University, Delhi), and funded by the Azim Premji Foundation, it targets those least able to secure representation: casual workers, women abandoned by their families, minorities, or migrant workers.

By analysing the records of over 22,000 undertrials assisted between 2018 and 2023, it was found that the typical participant is 29 years old, and that close to half have studied only up to primary school. Further, 18% are women and 57% are casual wage workers. By comparing their outcomes with the district court records in Maharashtra and used national labour force and time use surveys, the costs of detention were estimated.

To begin with, programme participants obtain bail far more often than the average applicant. Across 29 districts, 84% of participants' bail applications succeeded, compared with 26% of all applications in the same district courts between 2015 and 2020. Participants did better in 28 of the 29 districts. The gap persists even within categories of offence severity, so it is not simply because the programme serves people accused of minor crimes. Within the programme, bail outcomes change sharply at intake. Before intake, the share of participants granted bail ranged from about 1% to 6% across groups by gender, income, education and occupation. After intake, it ranged from 61% to 92%.

Timing, however, matters a great deal. Participants spent on average 171 days – more than five months – in jail before they entered the programme. Those released on bail spent a further 115 days in custody on average, taking the total from arrest to release to about eight months. In 2018, about 37% of Maharashtra's 26,898 undertrials had been held for more than a year **(Table 1)**.

The cost of detention

Detention before trial is costly for people who mostly live on daily earnings. The wages participants lose in custody was estimated by matching them to similar workers in the Periodic Labour Force Survey and multiplying their daily wage by the number of days they were detained. The losses are large relative to their incomes. From arrest to release, average losses reach up to about ₹2 lakh for some age groups, while more than 60% of participants earn less than ₹80,000 a year. Losses rise with age and peak among workers in their 50s **(Chart 2)**.

Losses also vary by group. After intake alone, those facing the most serious charges lose about ₹80,000 on average, nearly four times the ₹21,000 lost by those accused of the least severe offences. This is driven mainly by longer detention rather than higher earnings. Graduates and regular wage workers also lose more, since their wages are higher **(Chart 3)**.

The uncomfortable question this raises is: why do so many undertrials wait months for help that is already their right? Legal aid is usually seen as a matter of rights. These findings suggest it is also an intervention with economic returns. By helping undertrials file bail applications, coordinate with advocates, gather documents and meet release conditions, the programme appears to cut through the procedural frictions that prolong detention.

Shorter detention can ease prison overcrowding, lower public spending on prisons, and limit income losses for vulnerable households. The most actionable lesson concerns timing. Legal aid can improve outcomes after intake, but it cannot recover the months already spent in jail. Identifying eligible prisoners at or soon after arrest could substantially raise its impact. Better data would also help. Caste, religion, income and migration status are missing for much of the sample, which limits what can be said about who benefits most.

Comparing participants with similar defendants in court records would allow a rigorous evaluation of the programme's effect, and tracking people after release would show whether the gains last. As governments seek to widen access to justice, legal aid works best when it reaches undertrial prisoners early enough to prevent unnecessary detention.

Note: Programme participants are not randomly selected, so the comparisons are descriptive rather than causal. Wage and time losses are accounting estimates of the value of time spent in custody: predicted daily wages from the PLFS 2017-18 multiplied by days detained. Since undertrials differ from the general population, they should be read as upper-bound estimates. Each period is averaged over participants with valid dates for that period.

Cost of delayed justice

Data for the charts were sourced from authors' calculations using Azim Premji Foundation programme records and the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18



Table 1: Time spent in custody by programme participants (in days)

Period	Participants	Average	Maximum
Arrest to programme intake	18,093	171	1,843
Intake to release on bail	8,987	115	1,122
Arrest to release on bail	8,921	239	2,039

Durations after intake are for participants with a recorded release date

Chart 2: Age-wise predicted wage loss of participants during their detention for the period between intake to release. After intake alone, those facing the most serious charges lose about ₹80,000 on average, nearly four times the ₹21,000 lost by those accused of the least severe offences.

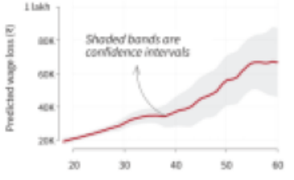
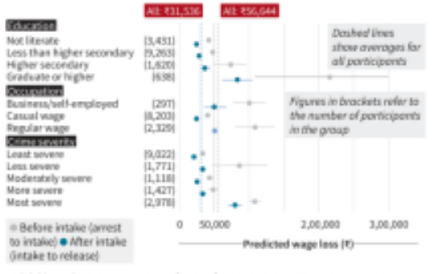
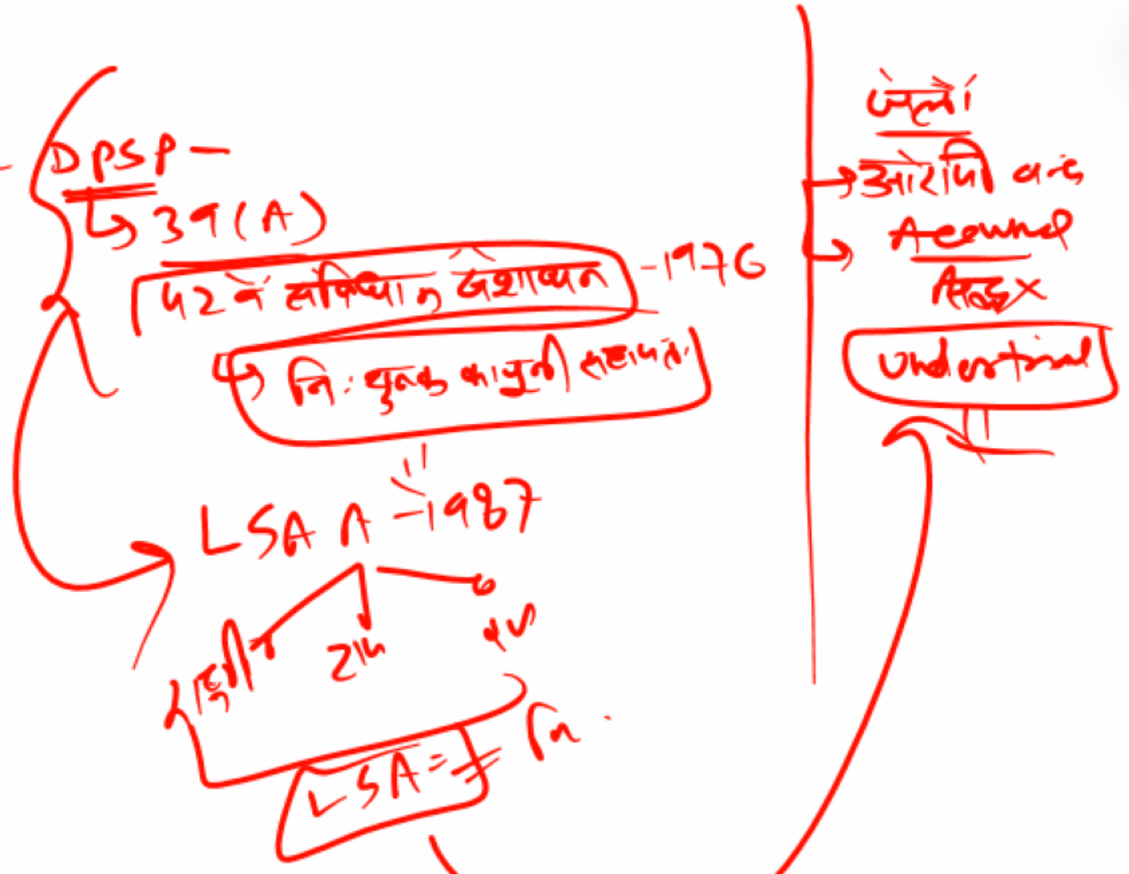


Chart 3: Predicted wage loss before and after programme intake by group. Each participant is counted once, by their most serious case. The chart excludes unemployed participants and those outside the labour force



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महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

"Legal aid cuts jail time for undertrials, but help often arrives late"

- **मुख्य विषय और परिचय (Context & Overview)**
- **मुद्दा:** निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता (Free Legal Aid) विचाराधीन कैदियों (Undertrials) की जेल अवधि और उनके आर्थिक नुकसान को कम करती है, लेकिन सहायता पहुँचने में होने वाली देरी एक बड़ी चुनौती बनी हुई है।
- **संवैधानिक व कानूनी आधार:**
  - **अनुच्छेद 39A:** राज्य का यह दायित्व है कि वह अवसर की समानता के आधार पर न्याय को बढ़ावा दे और निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता प्रदान करे।
  - **विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, 1987 (Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987):** इसके तहत **NALSA** (राष्ट्रीय विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण) की स्थापना समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को मुफ्त कानूनी सेवाएं देने के लिए की गई।

भारत में विचाराधीन कैदियों की स्थिति (Key Statistics)

- **चौथा स्थान:** भारत जेलों में विचाराधीन कैदियों के प्रतिशत के मामले में विश्व में **चौथे स्थान** पर है।
- **वैश्विक अनुपात:** भारत में प्रति $1,00,000$ लोगों पर औसतन 41 लोग जेल में हैं, लेकिन इनमें से **तीन-चौथाई (75% से अधिक) विचाराधीन कैदी** हैं जिन्हें अभी तक दोषी सिद्ध नहीं किया गया है (वर्ष 2022 का डेटा)।
- **सामाजिक-आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि:** अधिकांश विचाराधीन कैदी गरीब, कम शिक्षित (जैसे कि प्राथमिक शिक्षा तक सीमित) या समाज के हाशिए पर स्थित समुदायों से आते हैं। वे न्याय प्रणाली को समझने या निजी वकील का खर्च उठाने में असमर्थ होने के कारण जेल में रहते हैं, न कि अपराध साबित होने के कारण।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

3. कानूनी सहायता कार्यक्रम का प्रभाव (Impact of Free Legal Aid)

- महाराष्ट्र की 8 जेलों में 'प्रयास' (TISS) और 'द फेयर ट्रायल फेलोशिप' (NLU दिल्ली) द्वारा 22,000 से अधिक कैदियों पर किए गए अध्ययन के मुख्य निष्कर्ष:
- **जमानत मिलने की दर (Bail Success Rate):**
  - कानूनी सहायता कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने वाले **84% कैदियों की जमानत याचिकाएं मंजूर हुईं**, जबकि जिला अदालतों का सामान्य औसत केवल 26% था (2015-2020 का डेटा)।
- **समय का महत्व (Timing Matters):**
  - कैदियों ने कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने (Intake) से पहले ही औसतन **171 दिन (5 महीने से अधिक)** जेल में बिता दिए थे।
  - कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने के बाद, जिन्हें जमानत मिली उन्हें रिहा होने में औसतन **115 दिन और** लगे।
  - यानी गिरफ्तारी से रिहाई तक का कुल समय औसतन **8 महीने (239 दिन)** रहा।

4. पूर्व-सुनवाई हिरासत की आर्थिक व मानवीय लागत (Cost of Pre-Trial Detention)

- **मजदूरी का नुकसान (Wage Loss):**
  - गिरफ्तारी से रिहाई के बीच विचाराधीन कैदी अपनी दिहाड़ी/वेतन खो देते हैं।
  - औसतन एक कैदी को **₹80,000 से ₹2,00,000** तक का वित्तीय नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है।
  - **60% से अधिक** प्रतिभागी ₹80,000 से कम का नुकसान उठाते हैं, जो उनकी कम आय के स्तर को दर्शाता है।
- **उम्र और अपराध की गंभीरता के अनुसार नुकसान:**
  - 50 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के श्रमिकों और गंभीर अपराधों के आरोपी कैदियों को अधिक समय तक हिरासत में रहने के कारण अधिक आर्थिक नुकसान होता है।
  - गंभीर आरोपों का सामना करने वाले कैदियों को औसतन **₹80,000** का नुकसान होता है, जो कम गंभीर अपराधों के आरोपियों (लगभग ₹21,000) से चार गुना अधिक है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

BIMSTEC adopts 'Delhi Declaration' on terrorism

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

India hosted the first-ever meeting of the Home Ministers of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries on Tuesday, where the regional bloc adopted a declaration to counter radicalisation, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, prevent the misuse of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, and tackle terrorist recruitment.

Bangladesh, the chair of BIMSTEC, was represented by Manzur Morshed Chowdhury, Senior Secretary in its Home Ministry, instead of Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, a key member in Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Cabinet.

The "Delhi Declaration" signed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, also called for curbing terror financing through adherence to internationally agreed counter-terror financing and anti-money laundering standards, consistent with domestic and international laws.



Diplomatic mission: Amit Shah with other delegates during the first meeting of Home Ministers of the BIMSTEC countries. PTI

The declaration said the member states "strongly condemn terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, wherever, by whomsoever and for whatever purposes committed; reiterate our determination to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law; and in this context, call for effective implementation of the sanctions measures of the UN Security Council, including of the 1267 Sanctions Committee".

The grouping expressed condolences and solidarity with victims of terrorist attacks in member states and their families, as well as the governments of the affected states. It called for those responsible to be brought to justice in accordance with applicable domestic and international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Areas of cooperation

Union Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted five key areas of cooperation: drug control, counter-terrorism and legal cooperation, repatriation of fugitive criminals, cybersecurity and cybercrime investigations, and institutional cooperation and capacity building. He called for a coordinated regional approach to combating illicit financial transactions and terror financing and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation among law enforcement, intelligence, and border management agencies.

"India has always believed in sovereignty and peaceful resolutions to any dispute. We are committed to cooperating to face challenges emanating from International terrorism, organised crime and narco-trade," Mr. Shah said.

He said criminal networks run their operations beyond international borders and take advantage of regional lacunae.

"This is why regional cooperation is a must. Their strategy is changing; they are using encrypted communication, social media, drones, cryptocurrency and the dark web to recruit and propagate illegal activities. This is why real-time intelligence-sharing and cooperation is required to check these crimes. None of the member countries should shelter such criminals. We should cooperate in the extradition of such criminals," he added.

Mr. Shah flagged "human trafficking and cyber slavery" as grave concerns". "Sharing of actionable intelligence should be a priority among BIMSTEC countries," he said.

YouTube Homework

- BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC
↳ सदस्य देशों
का उद्देश्य
पहली बार

↳ कब
↳ सदस्य
↳ चार्टर
↳ विशेषताएँ

- BRICS
- UNSC
- ICJ
- ICC
- SCO
- UNHRC

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Saudi Arabia strikes oil facility in Yemen's capital, say Houthis

The group threatens to target Riyadh International Airport, a refinery, and an Aramco facility in Dammam if Saudi Arabia proceeds with the strike; Trump accuses Houthis of trying to drive up the oil prices ahead of the U.S. midterm elections

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

Yemen's Houthis (Ansar Allah) said Saudi Arabia struck an oil facility in Sanaa on Tuesday, after the Riyadh-led coalition told civilians to leave the surrounding area in its first evacuation order for the Yemeni capital since the war flared up again.

After a series of strikes on the kingdom's airports and energy sites, the coalition's spokesperson said people should leave an oil facility belonging to the Yemen Petroleum Company on the western outskirts of Sanaa before it was attacked.



The Saudi-led coalition's warning was its first evacuation order for Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since the war escalated again. AFP

An *AFP* correspondent in Sanaa reported hearing an explosion, while a breaking news alert on the Houthi-affiliated *Al-Masirah TV* channel said "Saudi aggression targets the oil company in Al-Sabaha, west of Sanaa".

The Saudi-led coalition is yet to confirm the reported strike.

Swiftly responding to the earlier coalition warning, the Houthis had issued a threat to target Riyadh's international airport, a refinery, and an Aramco facility in Dammam if the strike went ahead.

"The Yemeni Armed Forces urge all citizens to immediately evacuate and move away from targets that our forces will strike should the Saudi enemy target," military spokesperson Yahya Saree wrote on X, identifying the three targets.

Saudi Arabia was still weathering fresh attacks on Tuesday, with the coalition saying its forces intercepted three drones north of the kingdom's capital Riyadh.

Many countries have issued travel warnings to their citizens in Saudi Arabia, most recently France, which told its citizens to avoid the airports in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday accused Houthi militants of deliberately trying to drive up oil prices ahead of the midterm elections and warned that he would "never forget" their attacks on Saudi Arabia.

"The Houthis are behaving very badly," Mr. Trump wrote in a Truth Social post, accusing the group of resuming attacks at Iran's behest after a period of relative quiet following U.S. strikes in Yemen last year.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



A participant at a protest against then Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest in March 2025. AFP

Hungary removes 'anti-LGBTQ' parts from Orban-era law

Agence France-Presse
BUDAPEST

Hungarian lawmakers on Tuesday voted to remove anti-LGBTQ provisions in a 2021 "child protection" law adopted under nationalist ex-leader Viktor Orban.

Parliament passed a bill to amend the law with 139 votes in favour and 51 votes against, marking the first significant reversal of Mr. Orban's curbs targeting the LGBTQ community since pro-EU Prime Minister Peter Magyar took power in May.

Instead of banning the "portrayal" or "promotion" of sexual and gender diversity in content accessible to children, the new law will simply seek to protect under-18s from material that can "seriously impair the child's physical, intellectual, emotional or moral development".

Mr. Magyar won a landslide victory in April elections, ending a 16-year stretch in power for Mr. Orban.

The European Union welcomed the vote as an "important signal of commitment for our common values" after Mr. Orban's restrictions were found to be in breach of EU rules.

Mr. Magyar did not address LGBTQ rights during his election campaign, though he has since struck a friendly tone and indicated willingness to revise some Orban-era policies.

But ahead of the vote on Tuesday, he cast the planned changes not as a restoration of rights but a strengthening of child-protection rules "regardless of sexual orientation".

Mr. Orban's Fidesz party voted against the amendment, accusing the government of "neutering" the original law due to EU pressure.

However, the governing Tisza party has a comfortable two-thirds majority, which enabled it to pass the bill without any opposition support.

YouTube Homework

- LGBTQ - Rights

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

New hypersonic weapons highlight arms race on the Korean peninsula

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

South Korea test-fired its first homegrown hypersonic missile last week, days after the North announced the AI-assisted launch of an intermediate-range hypersonic missile.

On its AI-assisted missile, Pyongyang has said there was "no way to avoid" the missile that was "capable of changing its flight orbit at a low altitude". It also said that the missile's "wave-like trajectory mode" left South Korea and Japan unable to track it effectively.

Hong Min of the Korea Institute for National Unification told AFP the launch was "a demonstration of an entire range of missile systems". "It sends a signal that North Korea has weapons capable of evading interception across different ranges," he said.



A picture released by North Korea shows the test-firing of a tactical ballistic missile conducted on Monday. AFP

South Korea called its missle a "key strategic asset capable of changing the course of the battlefield". Its "unpredictable flight trajectories and overwhelming speed" could enable strikes on key strategic targets and provide a new deterrence capability on the peninsula, it said.

The decision for Seoul to publicly disclose the test was also a political one, said Jung Heon-joo, a public policy professor at Yonsei University in Seoul. "Possessing this hypersonic technology could signal to potential adversaries that South Korea has a range of weapons options and that attacking it would not be easy," he told AFP.

North Korea also fired multiple ballistic missiles off its east coast on Monday, with experts saying the mixed launches may have been intended to complicate the ability of South Korean and U.S. defence systems to respond.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य


RUSSIA
CHINA
NORTH KOREA
DEMILITARIZED ZONE
Korean Peninsula
EAST SEA (SEA OF JAPAN)
CHINA
SOUTH KOREA
YELLOW SEA
JAPAN
0 100 200 mi
0 100 200 km
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महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

भारत की राष्ट्रपति विजयवाड़ा में राष्ट्रीय सरस मेले में शामिल होंगी

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 13 OCT 2026 7:13PM by PIB Delhi

भारत की राष्ट्रपति, श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मु 14 से 15 अक्तूबर, 2026 तक आंध्र प्रदेश का दौरा करेंगी।

15 अक्तूबर, 2026 को राष्ट्रपति विजयवाड़ा, आंध्र प्रदेश में केन्द्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय और आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा आयोजित राष्ट्रीय सरस मेले में शामिल होंगी।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- राष्ट्रीय सरस मेला (Rashtriya Saras Mela) भारत सरकार के **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (Ministry of Rural Development)** द्वारा शुरू की गई एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण और कल्याणकारी पहल है। यह मुख्य रूप से **महिला सशक्तिकरण (Women Empowerment)** और ग्रामीण कारीगरों को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से आयोजित किया जाने वाला एक राष्ट्रीय स्तर का मेला है।
- आसान शब्दों में कहें, तो यह एक ऐसा मंच है जहाँ भारत के गाँवों की हुनरमंद महिलाएँ और शिल्पकार अपने हाथों से बनाए गए बेहतरीन उत्पादों (जैसे हस्तशिल्प, कपड़े, जैविक उत्पाद और पारंपरिक व्यंजन) को सीधे शहरों के ग्राहकों के सामने प्रदर्शित और बिक्री करते हैं।

इसका आयोजन क्यों किया जा रहा है? (उद्देश्य)

- राष्ट्रीय सरस मेले के आयोजन के पीछे कई बड़े और दूरगामी लक्ष्य हैं:
- 1. महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHG) का आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण: गाँवों में महिलाएँ छोटे-छोटे स्वयं सहायता समूह (Self Help Groups) बनाकर काम करती हैं। इस मेले के ज़रिए उन्हें अपनी आजीविका को मजबूत करने और आत्मनिर्भर बनने का अवसर मिलता है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

प्रधानमंत्री ने भारत में अपनी मौजूदगी बढ़ाने की ब्लूमबर्ग की योजनाओं का स्वागत किया

माइक ब्लूमबर्ग ने भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि और वैश्विक नेतृत्व की ओर बढ़ने को सराहा

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 13 OCT 2026 10:05PM by PIB Delhi

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने भारत में अपनी मौजूदगी बढ़ाने और देश की अर्थव्यवस्था, बाज़ारों और लोगों के साथ जुड़ाव को और मज़बूत करने की ब्लूमबर्ग की योजनाओं का स्वागत किया है।

माइक ब्लूमबर्ग ने X पर पोस्ट में प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को "लगातार कार्यकाल में भारत के सबसे लंबे समय तक सेवा करने वाले निर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री" बताया। उन्होंने भारत की तेज़ी से होती आर्थिक वृद्धि और वैश्विक नेतृत्व की ओर बढ़ने की सराहना की। उन्होंने भारत के भविष्य के लिए प्रधानमंत्री के विज़न का भी ज़िक्र किया और भारत में ब्लूमबर्ग के 30 वर्ष पूरे होने और देश में विस्तार की योजनाओं पर चर्चा करने पर खुशी ज़ाहिर की।

X पर माइक ब्लूमबर्ग की पोस्ट का जवाब देते हुए, प्रधानमंत्री श्री मोदी ने कहा कि उनसे मिलकर खुशी हुई और भारत में 30 वर्ष पूरे करने पर ब्लूमबर्ग को बधाई दी।

श्री मोदी ने भारत में अपनी मौजूदगी बढ़ाने और देश की अर्थव्यवस्था, बाज़ारों और लोगों के साथ जुड़ाव को और मज़बूत करने की ब्लूमबर्ग की योजनाओं का स्वागत किया। उन्होंने भारत की विकास गाथा से विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उपलब्ध हो रहे अपार अवसरों पर भी जानकारी दी।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- **ब्लूमबर्ग न्यू इकोनॉमी फोरम (Bloomberg New New Economy Forum)** के बारे में मुख्य बातें संक्षेप में:
- **स्थापना व संस्थापक:** इसकी शुरुआत वर्ष **2018** में **माइकल ब्लूमबर्ग (Michael Bloomberg)** द्वारा की गई थी।
- **मुख्य उद्देश्य:** इसका उद्देश्य वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में आ रहे बड़े बदलावों (जैसे विकासशील देशों/ग्लोबल साउथ का उभार, तकनीक, जलवायु परिवर्तन और व्यापार) पर चर्चा करना और उनके समाधान तलाशना है।
- **कौन हिस्सा लेता है?:** इसमें दुनिया भर के शीर्ष सरकारी नेता (राष्ट्रपति, प्रधानमंत्री, मंत्री), बड़ी कंपनियों के सीईओ (CEOs), अर्थशास्त्री और विचार-प्रवर्तक (thought leaders) शामिल होते हैं।
- **किन विषयों पर ध्यान केंद्रित होता है?:**
  - वैश्विक व्यापार और निवेश
  - जलवायु परिवर्तन और हरित ऊर्जा (Green Energy)
  - प्रौद्योगिकी और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI)
  - शहरीकरण और स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा (Global Health)

- यह कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?यह प्रतिष्ठित फोरम भारत में पहली बार आयोजित हो रहा है।
- स्थान: नई दिल्ली के ताज पैलेस होटल (Taj Palace Hotel) में इसका आयोजन किया गया है।
- तारीख: यह तीन दिवसीय सम्मेलन 13 से 15 अक्टूबर 2026 तक चल रहा है।
- प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने इसके उद्घाटन सत्र को संबोधित किया है, जिसमें वैश्विक मंच पर भारत की बढ़ती आर्थिक साख और तकनीकी विकास पर जोर दिया गया।

Home Assignment

- ❑ World Bio-Fuel Day
- ❑ SBM – स्वच्छ भारत मिशन

1. R-Logical

प्रश्न: निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा देश लाल सागर (Red Sea) से अपनी सीमा साझा नहीं करता है?

(A) मिस्र (Egypt)
(B) सऊदी अरब (Saudi Arabia)
(C) इथियोपिया (Ethiopia)
(D) सूडान (Sudan)

Overview

- Preventive Detention
- KVIC
- UPI
- SIR – Delhi Draft Roll
- SIR - Protest
- VB – G RAM G
- PFAS
- Rogue AI
- CPI Inflation
- Green Crackers
- India-US
- Free Legel Aid
- BIMSTEC
- SA - Houthi
- Hungry LGBTQ
- Bloomburg New economy Forum
- Rashtriya Saras Mela

Thank You

Result Mitra

Thanks For Watching

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