UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

ONE STOP SOLUTION

By **Faiyaz Sir**



The Indian EXPRESS

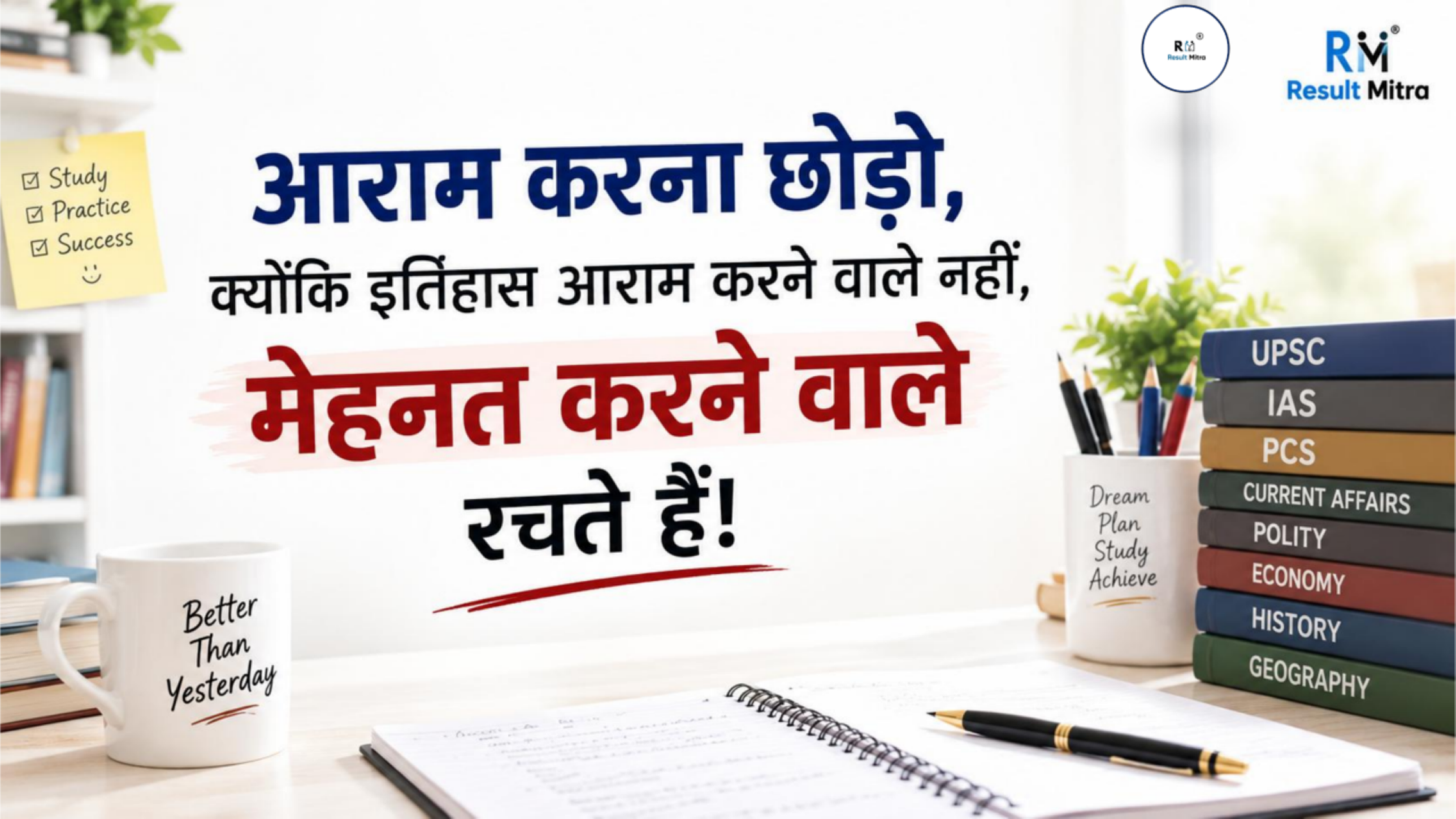
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आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

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होम / सभी विश्लेषक / Explainer Details
Rural Prosperity
सरस मेला 2026
ग्रामीण महिलाओं के उद्यमों को राष्ट्रीय बाज़ारों तक पहुँचाना
Posted On: 21 OCT 2026 11:03AM

- सरस मेला की यात्रा **1999** में शुरू हुई, जब दिल्ली में लगभग 65 लाभार्थियों के साथ पहला राष्ट्रीय सरस मेला आयोजित किया गया था। तब से, यह मंच **राष्ट्रीय, क्षेत्रीय, राज्य और ज़िला स्तरों** तक फैल गया है। अब तक, कुल **117 राष्ट्रीय सरस मेले** आयोजित किए जा चुके हैं और इनकी **वार्षिक बिक्री ₹200 करोड़ से अधिक** रही है। राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश भी साल में कम से कम दो राज्य-स्तरीय सरस मेले आयोजित करते हैं, जिससे **देश भर में हर साल लगभग 50 ऐसे आयोजन** होते हैं। क्षेत्रीय और ज़िला-स्तरीय आयोजन स्थानीय उत्पादकों को अपने उत्पाद बेचने के बेहतर अवसर प्रदान करते हैं। ये सभी आयोजन बाज़ार खोजने, ब्रांडिंग करने, खरीदार-विक्रेता के बीच संबंध बनाने और उद्यम विकास में मदद करते हैं।

जहाँ ग्रामीण उद्यम को मिलते हैं नए अवसर

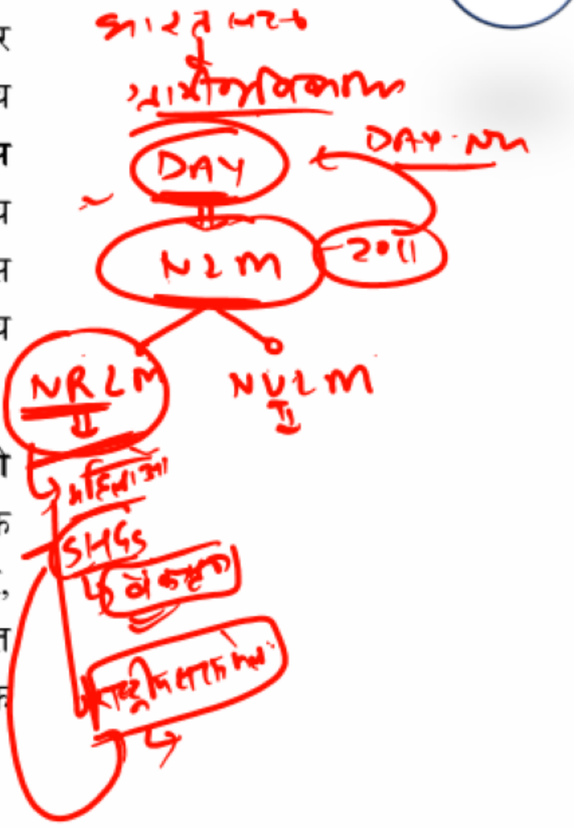
- भारत की ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था पारंपरिक कौशल, हस्तशिल्प और उद्यमशीलता की प्रतिभा से समृद्ध है। **महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह (एसएचजी)** इस प्रतिभा को स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं से जोड़ने में मदद करते हैं। इनके उत्पादों में हथकरघा और हस्तशिल्प से लेकर प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थ और स्थानीय स्तर पर बनी अन्य वस्तुएं शामिल हैं। हालाँकि, किसी उत्पाद को तैयार करना तो बस पहला कदम है। ग्रामीण उद्यमियों को आगे बढ़ने के लिए ग्राहकों, बाजार की जानकारी और नए अवसरों की भी ज़रुरत होती है। **सरस मेला** महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाले उद्यमों को उपभोक्ताओं, खरीदारों और विभिन्न संस्थानों के करीब लाकर इस अंतर को पाटने का काम करते हैं। सरकार द्वारा **दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना-राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (डीएवाई-एनआरएलएम)** के तहत आयोजित किए जाने वाले सरस मेला पिछले लगभग तीन दशकों में काफी विकसित हुए हैं। अब ये केवल प्रदर्शनियां नहीं रह गई हैं। ये मेले उत्पादों को बेचने, उपभोक्ताओं की पसंद को समझने, व्यावसायिक संबंध बनाने और बड़े बाजारों तक पहुँचने का एक मंच प्रदान करते हैं।

- **आंध्र प्रदेश के विजयवाड़ा** में आयोजित राष्ट्रीय सरस मेला इस सफ़र में एक नया कदम है, क्योंकि यह **दिल्ली-एनसीआर क्षेत्र के बाहर आयोजित होने वाला पहला राष्ट्रीय सरस मेला** है। यह आयोजन 13 अक्टूबर 2026 से 31 अक्टूबर 2026 तक विजयवाड़ा के पुन्नामी घाट पर चल रहा है। इसमें **34 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** की लगभग **1,500** महिला एसएचजी उद्यमी और लखपति दीदियां **650 से अधिक स्टॉलों** के माध्यम से अपने उत्पादों का प्रदर्शन कर रही हैं। इस मेले में क्षेत्रीय वस्त्र, हस्तशिल्प, प्राकृतिक और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थ, तथा अन्य ग्रामीण उत्पाद शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा, यहाँ एक **इंडिया फूड कोर्ट, सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियां और सीखने के लिए विशेष स्थान** भी मौजूद हैं, जो इस अनुभव को और भी बेहतर बनाते हैं।

- **राष्ट्रीय सरस मेला का विकेंद्रीकरण** एक व्यापक विकास दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है यानी राष्ट्रीय मंचों को पूरे भारत में उत्पादकों और उपभोक्ताओं के करीब लाना। यह स्थानीय कौशल को नए बाजारों से जोड़ता है और साथ ही महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाले उद्यमों के विकास में मदद करता है। यह आयोजन अन्य राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रमों के विकेंद्रीकरण का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है। यह दृष्टिकोण, ब्रिक्स और जी20 बैठकों जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयोजनों को क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर आयोजित करने की नीति के अनुरूप है।

लखपति दीदी: आजीविका को अधिक स्थाई बनाना

- लखपति दीदी पहल, डीएवाई-एनआरएलएम (दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना-राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन) के अंतर्गत आजीविका को बेहतर बनाने की एक परिणाम-उन्मुख पहल है। यह स्वयं सहायता समूहों और उनके संघों के ज़रिए जुड़ी महिलाओं के नेटवर्क पर आधारित है। इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य महिलाओं और उनके परिवारों को आजीविका के विभिन्न अवसरों के ज़रिए एक टिकाऊ आय प्राप्त करने में मदद करना है। **लखपति दीदी उस स्वयं सहायता समूह (एसएचजी) की सदस्य को कहा जाता है, जिसके परिवार की वार्षिक आय कम से कम ₹1 लाख हो** और यह आय लगातार बनी रहे। इस आय का आकलन कम से कम चार कृषि मौसमों और/या व्यावसायिक चक्रों के आधार पर किया जाता है। **अगस्त 2023** में इस पहल को राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बड़ा बढ़ावा मिला, जब सरकार ने **दो करोड़ लखपति दीदी** बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा। **अंतरिम बजट 2024-25** में इस लक्ष्य को बढ़ाकर तीन करोड़ कर दिया गया। इसके बाद, **दिसंबर 2025 तक इस पहल ने तीन करोड़** का मील का पत्थर हासिल कर लिया।



- **फरवरी 2026** में, सरकार ने **लखपति दीदी योजना के तहत छह करोड़ का बढ़ा हुआ लक्ष्य** घोषित किया। इस नए चरण में **आय में हुई वृद्धि को बनाए रखने** और उद्यमों को आगे बढ़ाने पर विशेष जोर दिया गया है। इस प्रयास में बाजार तक पहुंच, उत्पादों की दृश्यता, ब्रांडिंग और बिक्री के भरोसेमंद माध्यम बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। सरस मेले आजीविका सृजन से लेकर उद्यम विकास तक के इस सफर में मदद करते हैं। ये मेले थोक ऑर्डर, संस्थागत बिक्री और लंबे समय तक चलने वाले बाजार संबंधों के अवसर भी पैदा कर सकते हैं। विजयवाड़ा मेला सफल उद्यमियों के लिए समर्पित जगह, व्यावसायिक सीख और संस्थागत सहयोग के जरिए इन संबंधों को साकार करता है। यहाँ महिलाएं अपने अनुभव साझा कर सकती हैं, नए तरीके सीख सकती हैं और अपने उद्यमों को मजबूत बनाने के उपाय तलाश सकती हैं।

1. DAY-NRLM (दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना - राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन)

- **कब शुरू हुई:**
  - इस योजना की शुरुआत मूल रूप से **जून 2011** में **NRLM** (राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन) के नाम से की गई थी।
  - **नवंबर 2015** में इसका नाम बदलकर **DAY-NRLM** (दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना - NRLM) कर दिया गया।
- **कौन सा मंत्रालय चला रहा है:**
  - यह **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय** (*Ministry of Rural Development*, भारत सरकार) द्वारा चलाई जाती है।
- **मुख्य उद्देश्य:**
  - ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से गरीबी दूर करना।
  - ग्रामीण महिलाओं को **स्वयं सहायता समूह (Self Help Groups - SHGs)** से जोड़ना।
  - महिलाओं को आसान किश्तों पर बैंक लोन, वित्तीय साक्षरता और स्वरोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करना।

2. लखपति दीदी योजना (Lakhpati Didi Yojana)

- **कब शुरू हुई:**
  - इस पहल की आधिकारिक घोषणा प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा **15 अगस्त 2023** को स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर की गई थी।
- **कौन सा मंत्रालय चला रहा है:**
  - यह कोई अलग स्वतंत्र योजना नहीं है, बल्कि **DAY-NRLM के अंतर्गत ही चलाया जाने वाला एक विशेष अभियान (Initiative)** है।
  - इसे भी **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय** (*Ministry of Rural Development*) ही लागू कर रहा है।
- **मुख्य उद्देश्य:**
  - स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) से जुड़ी ग्रामीण महिलाओं की वार्षिक आय (सालाना कमाई) को कम से कम **₹1 लाख या उससे अधिक** बनाना।
  - इसके लिए महिलाओं को कृषि, पशुपालन, सिलाई, एलईडी बल्ब बनाने और ड्रोन चलाने (*ड्रोन दीदी*) जैसे विभिन्न कौशल (Skills) का प्रशिक्षण, ऋण और बाजार से जुड़ाव प्रदान किया जाता है।

मदरसा मेला

सिविल सेवा प्रारंभिक परीक्षा (UPSC Prelims Questions)

प्रश्न 1: 'दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना - राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन' (DAY-NRLM) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इस कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गरीब परिवारों को स्व-रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करना और वित्तीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देना है।
2. इस योजना के तहत स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) को केवल व्यावसायिक बैंकों से ही ऋण उपलब्ध कराया जाता है, सहकारी बैंकों की इसमें कोई भूमिका नहीं होती है।
3. यह योजना 'ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय' (Ministry of Rural Development) के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण के अधीन संचालित होती है।

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

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

सिविल सेवा मुख्य परीक्षा (UPSC Mains Questions)

- "स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHG) आंदोलन और 'दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना-राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन' (DAY-NRLM) ने ग्रामीण भारत में महिला सशक्तिकरण और गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में एक क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन लाया है।" इस कथन के आलोक में 'लखपति दीदी' जैसी पहलों की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए कि वे किस प्रकार ग्रामीण महिलाओं की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुदृढ़ कर रही हैं।

पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Infrastructure

बदलाव के साथ नई उड़ान

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 20 OCT 2026 10:07 AM

उड़ान के जरिए क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क को नए सिरे से परिभाषित करने के 10 साल

2026 में उड़ान (UDAN) को दस साल पूरे हो जाएंगे। पिछले एक दशक में, इसने भारत के क्षेत्रीय विमानन नेटवर्क का विस्तार करने के साथ, ऐसे क्षेत्रों को जोड़ा है जहां हवाई सेवाएं नहीं थीं या बहुत कम थीं और हवाई यात्रा तक पहुंच को बेहतर बनाया गया है। क्षेत्रीय संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) ने पर्यटन, चिकित्सा सुविधाओं, कृषि व्यापार और स्थानीय रोजगार को बढ़ावा दिया है; तेजू, देवघर और किशनगढ़ जैसे हवाई अड्डे इसके प्रभाव को दर्शाते हैं। 'संशोधित उड़ान' की शुरुआत इस योजना के अगले चरण को दर्शाती है। इसका मुख्य ध्यान विमानन बुनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत करने, परिचालन की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने और क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क का विस्तार करने पर है।

क्षेत्रीय भारत को जोड़ना

- क्षेत्रीय विकास में हवाई संपर्क एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। यह बाजारों तक पहुंच आसान बनाता है, पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देता है और आर्थिक अवसरों का विस्तार करता है। हालांकि, हवाई यात्रा तक व्यापक पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए दूर-दराज और कम सेवाओं वाले क्षेत्रों को जोड़ना बहुत जरूरी है। इस जरूरत को समझते हुए, 'राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन नीति 2016' ने **वित्तीय सहायता और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास के जरिए किफायती क्षेत्रीय संपर्क को प्राथमिकता दी।**

- इसी उद्देश्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए, **21 अक्टूबर 2016** को **'क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना' (आरसीएस)** शुरू की गई, जिसे **'उड़ान' (उड़े देश का आम नागरिक)** के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। इस योजना का मुख्य लक्ष्य एक सरल लेकिन क्रांतिकारी सोच पर आधारित है: क्षेत्रीय मार्गों पर ऐसी हवाई यात्रा उपलब्ध कराना जो **किफायती होने के साथ-साथ आर्थिक रूप से व्यावहारिक और लाभदायक** भी हो।

- **'उड़ान' के दस साल पूरे होने पर**, हम देख सकते हैं कि इसने क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क का विस्तार किया है और उन हवाई अड्डों को जोड़कर नागरिकों के लिए हवाई यात्रा को सुलभ बनाया है, जहां पहले कोई सेवा नहीं थी या बहुत कम सेवा थी। पिछले एक दशक पर नजर डालें तो भारत के नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र का तेजी से विस्तार हुआ है। **भारत अब दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा घरेलू विमानन बाजार** बन गया है, जहां चालू **हवाई अड्डों की संख्या 2014 में 74 थी, जो आज बढ़कर 166 हो गई है।** इस बड़े बदलाव के केंद्र में 'उड़ान' योजना ही है।

- इस प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, **4 जुलाई 2026** को 'उड़ान' का अगला चरण शुरू किया गया। अब यह योजना केंद्र और **राज्यों/केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों की साझेदारी** पर अधिक जोर देती है। इसके साथ ही, हवाई पट्टियों और हेलीपैड की पहचान करने के लिए **'एयरोड्रोम विकास के लिए चैलेंज मोड पोर्टल'** (Challenge Mode Portal for Aerodrome Development) भी शुरू किया जाएगा। इन सभी कदमों से क्षेत्रीय विमानन बुनियादी ढांचे का और अधिक विस्तार होगा।

उड़ान का पहला दशक

- **अप्रैल 2017** में **शिमला से दिल्ली** के बीच **पहली आरसीएस-उड़ान विमान सेवा** के उद्घाटन के साथ, 'उड़ान' योजना अपने परिचालन चरण में प्रवेश कर गई। तब से, इस योजना ने क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क का विस्तार किया है।
- **परिचालन में लाए गए रूट:** इस योजना के तहत पूरे भारत में 687 क्षेत्रीय रूटों पर परिचालन शुरू किया गया है।
- **परिचालन में लाए गए हवाई अड्डे (एयरोड्रोम):** कुल 95 हवाई अड्डों को परिचालन में लाया गया है, जिनमें 17 हेलीपोर्ट और 02 वाटर एयरोड्रोम शामिल हैं।
- **संचालित उड़ानें:** इस योजना के तहत 3.68 लाख से अधिक उड़ानें संचालित की गई हैं।
- **यात्रियों की यात्रा:** इस योजना ने 1.72 करोड़ यात्रियों के लिए हवाई यात्रा को सुलभ बनाया है।

- **उड़ान के अगले चरण की शुरुआत**

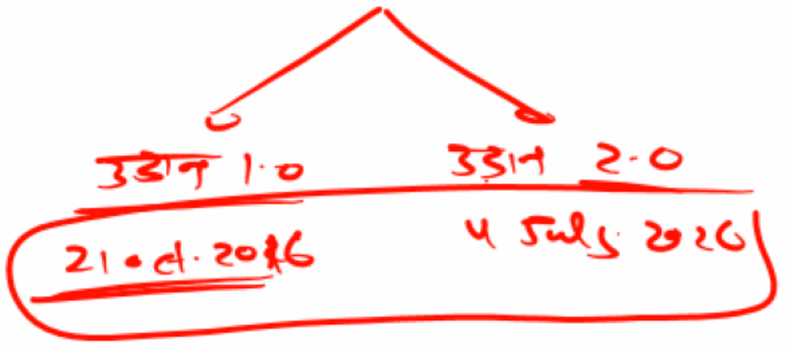
- अपनी शुरुआत के बाद से, आरसीएस-उड़ान योजना के कई संस्करण जारी किए जा चुके हैं। अब तक की उपलब्धियों को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, **4 जुलाई 2026** को उड़ान योजना का अगला चरण औपचारिक रूप से लॉन्च किया गया। **यह योजना दस वर्षों (वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 से वित्त वर्ष 2035-36 तक)** के लिए लागू की जाएगी, जिसका कुल बजट **28,840 करोड़ रुपये** है। अब मुख्य जोर एक ऐसा इकोसिस्टम तैयार करने पर है, जो 'मेड इन इंडिया' (भारत में निर्मित) नागरिक विमानों को बढ़ावा दे सके।
- यह योजना **किफायती हवाई यात्रा, टिकाऊ क्षेत्रीय विमानन संचालन, 'चैलेंज मोड' ढांचे के माध्यम से हवाई अड्डों के विकास और स्वदेशी विमान निर्माण** पर जोर देती है।
- संशोधित उड़ान योजना में क्षेत्रीय विमानन के टिकाऊ विकास और दीर्घकालिक व्यवहार्यता को समर्थन देने के लिए विशेष उपाय शामिल किए गए हैं।
- **एयरड्रोम का विकास (कैपेक्स):** मौजूदा ऐसी हवाई पट्टियों से 100 हवाई अड्डे विकसित किए जाएंगे, जहां अभी तक कोई सेवा उपलब्ध नहीं है। इसके लिए आठ वर्षों में 12,159 करोड़ रुपये का बजट रखा गया है। इसका मतलब है कि प्रति हवाई अड्डे के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित करने का प्रस्ताव है।

- **एयरड्रोम का संचालन और रखरखाव (ओएंडएम):** लगभग 441 एयरड्रोम के लिए तीन वर्षों तक संचालन और रखरखाव (ओएंडएम) सहायता दी जाएगी, जिस पर अनुमानित 2,577 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे। यह वित्तीय सहायता प्रति हवाई अड्डा प्रति वर्ष अधिकतम 3.06 करोड़ रुपये और प्रति हेलीपोर्ट या वाटर एयरड्रोम प्रति वर्ष 0.90 करोड़ रुपये तक सीमित होगी।
- **आधुनिक हेलीपैड का विकास:** 200 आधुनिक हेलीपैड विकसित किए जाएंगे, जिनमें से प्रत्येक की अनुमानित लागत 15 करोड़ रुपये होगी। आठ वर्षों में इसके लिए कुल 3,661 करोड़ रुपये का बजट प्रस्तावित है।
- **विमानन कंपनियों के लिए 'वायबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग':** क्षेत्रीय मार्गों (regional routes) पर उड़ान भरने वाली एयरलाइनों की मदद के लिए दस वर्षों में 10,043 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए हैं। यह फंडिंग अधिकतम पांच वर्षों तक मिलेगी, जिसमें तीसरे वर्ष से सहायता राशि धीरे-धीरे कम होती जाएगी और रूट की विशिष्टता केवल तीन वर्षों तक सीमित रहेगी।
- **आत्मनिर्भर भारत और स्वदेशी विमानन क्षमता:** पवन हंस के लिए दो एचएएल ध्रुव हेलीकॉप्टर और अलायंस एयर के लिए दो एचएएल डॉर्नियर विमान खरीदने हेतु 400 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित करने का प्रस्ताव है। यह पहल 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के तहत स्वदेशी विमानन को बढ़ावा देती है और इसका उद्देश्य दूर-दराज के इलाकों तथा कठिन भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करना है।

उड़ान के अंतर्गत क्षेत्रीय बदलाव

- उड़ान के तहत क्षेत्रीय हवाई अड्डों के चालू होने से क्षेत्रीय केंद्रों में सामाजिक-आर्थिक बदलाव आया है, जिससे स्थानीय व्यापार, चिकित्सा सुविधाओं तक पहुंच, पर्यटन और रोजगार को बढ़ावा मिला है।

- **बिहार में पूर्णिया हवाई अड्डा**
- **अरुणाचल प्रदेश में तेजू हवाई अड्डा**
- **झारखंड में देवघर हवाई अड्डा**
- **राजस्थान में किशनगढ़ हवाई अड्डा**



प्रारंभिक परीक्षा प्रश्न (UPSC Prelims Questions)

प्रश्न 1: क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क योजना 'उड़ान' (UDAN - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह योजना नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय (Ministry of Civil Aviation) की एक प्रमुख योजना है, जिसका उद्देश्य देश के गैर-सेवा-प्राप्त (Unserved) और कम-सेवा-प्राप्त (Underserved) हवाई अड्डों को जोड़ना है।
2. इस योजना के तहत एयरलाइन ऑपरेटरों को सस्ती हवाई यात्रा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए व्यवहार्यता अंतर वित्तपोषण (Viability Gap Funding - VGF) प्रदान किया जाता है।
3. क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क को बढ़ावा देने के अलावा, यह योजना पर्यटन, चिकित्सा सुविधाओं और कृषि-व्यापार के विकास में भी योगदान देती है।

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

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

MAU

मुख्य परीक्षा प्रश्न (UPSC Mains Questions)

- **"क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क योजना 'उड़ान' (UDAN) ने भारत के क्षेत्रीय विमानन नेटवर्क का विस्तार करके और टायर-2 एवं टायर-3 शहरों को जोड़कर समावेशी विकास को गति दी है।" इस योजना के 10 वर्षों के प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन कीजिए तथा भारत के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में इसकी भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए।**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



How exposed is India to foreign tech?

Elon Musk's reported restrictions on satellite services to Ukraine show the risks of India's dependence on foreign-controlled technology, from satellite navigation to cloud computing and military equipment; gaps in domestic capabilities can leave critical infrastructure exposed to external pressure

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

U.S. space tycoon Elon Musk recently throttled the military-grade Starshield network provided by his company SpaceX to Ukraine in retaliation for Ukraine's attacks on Russian oil infrastructure, The Wall Street Journal has reported. Musk's actions are not without precedent – with a similar move in 2022 (although SpaceX disputed media reports) – but his most recent transgression should put other countries still using or planning to use his services on alert.

That includes India. The Indian government and industry have thus far resisted Starlink's entry. Musk is unhappy and likely to keep pushing. On the flip side, quite a bit of India's critical infrastructure is exposed to services provided by other foreign operators. They have acted lawfully so far, but the country still retains strong incentives to substitute them with homegrown alternatives.

The worst possible outcome on the spectrum of possibilities vis-à-vis India is for a foreign operator to directly restrict a continuing service. Two other possibilities include foreign-controlled platforms disrupting access to an otherwise Indian system and a foreign supplier non-abruptly degrading India's ability to sustain important capabilities.

Satellite communications

The Indian government has currently licensed three companies to provide satellite communications services: Starlink, the Indian subsidiary of Eutelsat OneWeb, and Jio Satellite Communications. As of October 16, none had received the security clearance they need to offer broadband services provided by commercial satellites.

Musk's SpaceX controls Starlink and retains the ability to manage its network and restrict services (if needed). Eutelsat OneWeb is backed by the governments of European countries and its satellite network is effectively controlled by the continental bloc. The Bharti group has invested in it to the tune of 26%.

The French company Eutelsat operates the Eutelsat OneWeb satellite network, in which the French government holds a 29.05% stake, the British government 19.89%, and Bharti Space 17.88%. Bharti Airtel also separately owns 28% of OneWeb's Indian subsidiary.

Finally, Jio Platforms and the Luxembourg-based communications satellites provider SES announced a joint venture in 2022 in which Jio would own 50% in exchange for being able to use the provider's satellites. However, again, even majority Indian ownership of the business doesn't yield control of the network to Jio.

That said, India doesn't depend all that much on foreign satellite networks for communications at large: most ordinary telephone and internet traffic travels over terrestrial networks and the two score communications satellites the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched since 1981 support broadcasting and strategic communications. The country also has dedicated military satellite communications capabilities.

Note, however, that the three aforementioned ventures plan to provide satellite broadband services alone.

Satellite navigation

India's position is particularly weak here because it has fumbled the setting up of its NavIC constellation, a group of satellites to provide position and navigation services over the Indian subcontinent the same way the U.S. GPS system does around the world.

On July 29 this year, Minister of State for the Department of Space Jitendra Singh admitted in Parliament that only three NavIC satellites are at present able to provide positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) signals, i.e., that the constellation currently can't provide standalone positioning services. At least four satellites are required for this purpose.

The U.S. discontinued its policy to be able to deliberately degrade global civilian GPS accuracy in 2000 and committed to not reinstating that mechanism. However, it retains the ability to deny PNT services for military purposes over specific areas.

A less-than-direct but nonetheless important reason India hasn't been able to maintain NavIC's functional integrity is ISRO's ongoing difficulties with improving its launch rate.

Cloud computing and IT

Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud currently provide cloud-computing infrastructure and managed services to thousands of businesses and public institutions in India, with Gartner forecasting that Indians' expenditure on cloud services would reach $17.5 billion in 2026.

That said, the government operates its own cloud infrastructure, called MeghRaj, through the National Informatics Centre (NIC). In December 2020, the government reported that 2,170 ministries and departments were hosting applications on MeghRaj, but that they also depended on empanelled private cloud providers, including those based abroad.

In February, AWS and an Indian company named Yotta announced they would deploy AWS Outposts technology for MeghRaj 2.0, allowing cloud services managed by AWS to operate from within NIC data centres and thus keeping Indian data physically within India.

However, the AWS documentation says Outposts need a connection to an AWS regional control system for monitoring and software updates, meaning it's possible the arrangement will continue to leave Indian physical infrastructure exposed to a management service controlled by foreign operators.

In the cloud-computing as in the satellite services domain, while the providers' actions are constrained by contracts and Indian law, the services they deliver technically depend on their systems.

Finally, experts have also called to increase adoption of open-source software, including operating systems. The Union government's 2015 policy already made open-source software the preferred option for e-governance projects. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, has developed the Linux-based 'Bharat Operating System Solutions'.

A good example from recent memory was a defective update from the U.S. cybersecurity company CrowdStrike disrupting Windows computers worldwide, including at Indian airlines, airports, and securities firms. Not all disruptive actions are retaliatory but are disruptive nonetheless.

Digital payments

The National Payments Corporation of India operates the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the domestic infrastructure provides India with considerable independence from Visa and Mastercard. That said, the consumer-facing layer is non-trivially concentrated in businesses controlled by foreign players such as Google Pay, owned by Google.

However, Google Pay shutting down would not disrupt UPI itself: users could simply switch to another solution, such as PhonePe. (Although U.S.-based Walmart has a majority stake in PhonePe, it can't control the underlying infrastructure itself – unlike with the Jio-SES venture.)

That said, banks also operate within payment and correspondent banking networks that involve foreign institutions. This is why, for instance, the European Union decided in 2022 to disconnect select Russian banks from the SWIFT transaction-messaging network, significantly upsetting the ability of affected banks to access international payment channels.

India could face comparable disruptions if foreign governments imposed sanctions affecting Indian financial institutions even if the relevant banks have not violated Indian law. As a result, in the larger scheme, domestic payment systems like UPI insulate against but don't eliminate exposure to the risks accompanying cross-border commerce.

Military equipment

After the Operation Shakti nuclear tests in 1998, the U.S. imposed sanctions on India, including restricting military supplies. As a result, the Comptroller and Auditor General later found that the 30 LHTEC T800 helicopter engines Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. had ordered from a U.S.-based manufacturer in April that year couldn't be delivered. So HAL mined the arrangement and ordered replacements from a French manufacturer.

Both parties here acted within the law (such as they were) and neither engaged in unilateral corporate retaliation like Musk has. Yet a foreign political decision still disturbed an Indian procurement programme.

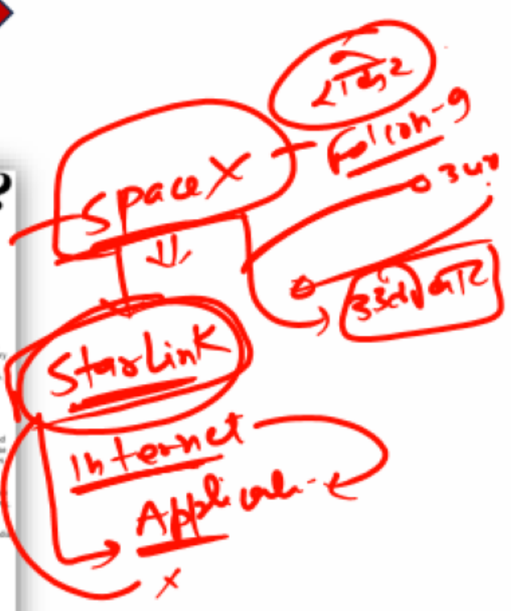
According to a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) analysis published in March this year, India was the world's second-largest importer of major arms between 2021 and 2025. Russia accounted for 40% of these imports, with India increasingly also purchasing equipment from France, Israel, and the U.S.

Even the indigenous Tejas fighter programme banks on U.S.-made GE Aerospace engines, and delays in the delivery of these machines have already constrained production and pushed delivery deadlines.

THE GIST

- India's satellite broadband, cloud computing and military programmes rely partly on foreign-controlled networks, systems and equipment
- NavIC's operational shortcomings and India's dependence on foreign cloud management systems expose gaps in domestic capabilities
- Homegrown alternatives such as UPI offer greater autonomy, but dependence on foreign suppliers and international financial networks leaves India vulnerable to disruptions

The Indian government and industry have thus far resisted Starlink's entry. Elon Musk is unhappy and likely to keep pushing. REUTERS



YouTube Homework

- NAVIC

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

विदेशी तकनीक पर भारत कितना निर्भर है? (How exposed is India to foreign tech?)

- यूक्रेन में एलन मस्क की स्टारलिंक (Starlink) सेवाओं पर पाबंदियों ने यह साबित कर दिया है कि विदेशी तकनीकों पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता किसी भी देश के बुनियादी ढांचे के लिए जोखिम पैदा कर सकती है।
- भारत का सैटेलाइट ब्रॉडबैंड, क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग और सैन्य उपकरण काफी हद तक विदेशी नेटवर्क और प्रणालियों पर निर्भर हैं।

प्रमुख क्षेत्र और स्थिति:

- **सैटेलाइट ब्रॉडबैंड (Satellite Communications):**
  - Starlink, Eutelsat OneWeb और Jio Satellite को भारत में सेवाएं देने के लिए लाइसेंस मिला है, लेकिन सुरक्षा मंजूरी (Security Clearance) की वजह से ये अभी पूरी तरह शुरू नहीं हुई हैं।
- **नेविगेशन (Satellite Navigation - NavIC):**
  - भारत का अपना नेविगेशन सिस्टम **NavIC** अभी पूरी क्षमता से काम नहीं कर पा रहा है क्योंकि इसके केवल 3 उपग्रह ही सटीक सेवाएं दे रहे हैं (जबकि कम से कम 4 की आवश्यकता होती है)।
- **क्लॉउड कंप्यूटिंग (Cloud Computing & IT):**
- भारत में AWS, Microsoft Azure और Google Cloud जैसी विदेशी कंपनियां क्लाउड सेवाओं पर हावी हैं।
- हालांकि भारत के पास अपना **MeghRaj** क्लाउड ढांचा है, लेकिन अधिकांश सरकारी विभाग भी निजी/विदेशी क्लाउड पर निर्भर हैं।
- **डिजिटल भुगतान (Digital Payments):**
- **UPI** (NPCI द्वारा निर्मित) ने भारत को Visa और Mastercard जैसी विदेशी कंपनियों से स्वतंत्रता दी है।
- हालांकि, PhonePe और Google Pay जैसे विदेशी स्वामित्व वाले ऐप्स का मार्केट शेयर काफी अधिक है, लेकिन बुनियादी ढांचा (UPI) पूरी तरह से भारतीय है।
- **सैन्य उपकरण (Military Equipment):**
- भारत 2021-2025 के दौरान दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा हथियार आयातक रहा है (रूस, फ्रांस, इजराइल और अमेरिका पर निर्भरता)।
- विदेशी कंपनियों पर निर्भरता के कारण डिलीवरी में देरी (जैसे Tejas लड़ाकू विमान के लिए GE engines) और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में बाधाएं आती हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Core industrial growth hits historic high of 7.9%

Index of Core Industries in Sept. records highest growth since new data series began in April 2024; coal, refinery products, iron ore drive growth; cement and steel also see robust increase

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's core industrial growth accelerated to a historic high of 7.9% in September, driven by a turnaround in the coal sector and increased activity in the refinery products and iron ore sectors.

The latest data on the Index of Core Industries shows that last month's growth was the highest since at least April 2024, which is the earliest month for which the new series has data.

Even though a comparison with the old series is not strictly statistically sound, it does provide some context for the current rate of growth. The growth in September 2026 was the highest in nearly three years when compared with the old series.

Within the index, the coal sector grew 10.7% last month, albeit on a low base as it had contracted 1.1% in September last year. This was still a 13-month high for the sector. Similarly, the refinery products sector saw growth unexpectedly accelerate to 10.3% in September, from 5.6% a month earlier. Even after including this month's unusual growth, however, the sector's average growth for the first half of this financial year stood at just 1%.

The iron ore sector, on the other hand, has seen strong double-digit growth for nearly a year now, and last month carried forward this trend with growth coming in at 18.4%, though this was only a two-month high.

"Coal and iron ore output witnessed a meaningful pickup in their year-on-year growth rates in September 2026 compared to August 2026," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, said. "While this was aided by a low base, the sequential uptick in coal was quite strong, amid low stocks at power plants."

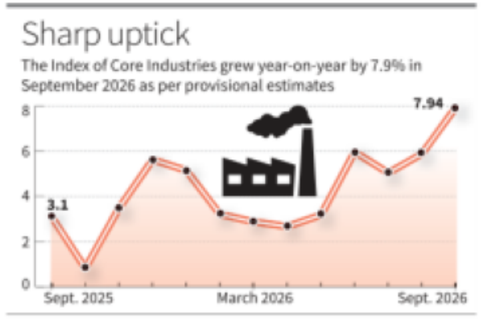
The electricity sector also continued to do well, growing 11.4% last month, although this was slightly slower than the 13.1% recorded in August.

Cement, steel sectors

The two construction-related sectors – cement and steel – did well in September. While growth in the steel sector quickened to 4.9%, that in the cement sector came in at a relatively robust 9.8%, albeit slower than in August.

The domestic crude oil sector contracted 1.4% in September, somewhat better than the contraction of 3.6% in the previous month. The natural gas sector contracted 4.6% last month, a little better than the 4.9% contraction it saw in August.

The fertilizer sector contracted 11.7% in September, continuing the trend for a seventh consecutive month.



YouTube Homework

- CPI
- WPI
- IIP
- ISP
- PPI

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

कोर औद्योगिक विकास दर बढ़कर 7.9% के ऐतिहासिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुँची

- **मुख्य वृद्धि:** सितंबर 2026 में भारत का कोर औद्योगिक विकास (Index of Core Industries) बढ़कर **7.9%** के ऐतिहासिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुँच गया है।
- **मुख्य चालक (Drivers):** इस वृद्धि में मुख्य रूप से **कोयला, रिफाइनरी उत्पाद, लौह अयस्क (iron ore), सीमेंट और स्टील** के क्षेत्रों का मजबूत प्रदर्शन शामिल है।
- **विभिन्न क्षेत्रों का प्रदर्शन:**
  - **कोयला (Coal):** कोयला क्षेत्र में 10.7% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जो पिछले साल इसी महीने में आई गिरावट के बाद सुधार को दर्शाती है।
  - **रिफाइनरी उत्पाद (Refinery Products):** इस क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर उछलकर **10.3%** हो गई (जो अगस्त में 5.6% थी)।
  - **बिजली (Electricity):** बिजली क्षेत्र में भी अच्छा प्रदर्शन जारी रहा और पिछले महीने इसमें **11.4%** की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
  - **सीमेंट और स्टील (Cement & Steel):** निर्माण से जुड़े इन दोनों क्षेत्रों ने अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया; सीमेंट क्षेत्र में **9.8%** और स्टील क्षेत्र में **4.9%** की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
- **गिरावट वाले क्षेत्र:** इसके विपरीत, कच्चा तेल (-1.4%), प्राकृतिक गैस (-4.6%) और उर्वरक (-11.7%) के क्षेत्रों में गिरावट दर्ज की गई।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Data breach exposes 3,897 SBI customers' key data on Dark Web

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday informed stock exchanges about an incident involving breach of certain data, five days after it received communications from its Threat Intelligence Service Provider, the Defence Cyber Agency, and CERT-In concerning a suspected exposure of customer information on the Dark Web.

"During the preliminary analysis of approximately 3,75,000 records available on the Dark Web, 3,897 customer records containing Personally Identifiable Information were identified," SBI told the exchanges as per SEBI norms, and noted that cyber incident response and containment protocols were promptly activated.

The exposed information included customers' registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses, residential addresses, branch and CIF identifiers, lead IDs, and metadata associated with loan/lead records and other related files, SBI, stated.

It said a detailed investigation was required to establish the authenticity and completeness of the exposed data, determine the potential source and extent of the exposure, and assess the associated risks to customers and the bank.



SBI said a detailed investigation would establish the authenticity of the data, the potential source, and extent of the exposure. REUTERS

Additionally, an independent CERT-In-empanelled cybersecurity agency was engaged to conduct a comprehensive assessment and investigate the nature and extent of the alleged compromise, it said.

Emphasising that this incident does not have any material impact on the bank's financial performance or business continuity, SBI said that it's core business functions continue to operate normally without disruptions.

"A detailed assessment is currently under way and appropriate remedial and preventive measures are being implemented as required," the bank said.

Meanwhile, the Internet Freedom Foundation, in a statement issued on Wednesday, said that the SBI did not detect the breach itself and learned of it from outside agencies after the data had already been published.

"On the same day, a threat monitoring account on X flagged a claim by a group calling itself "Siriusism" that it had released 3.75 lakh rows of SBI data and 2,722 PDF documents, including loan applications and account opening forms," the Foundation said.

"The bank's disclosure does not mention these documents. It also does not say what the remaining records, beyond the 3,897 it has identified, contain," it stated.

'Inform customers'

At the time of this statement, the Foundation pointed out that SBI had not said that it had informed any of the affected customers, and its disclosure was silent on the point.

"Five days passed between the alert and today's filing. The filing assures investors that the incident has no material impact on the bank's operations. However, it does not state anything to the 3,897 people whose phone numbers, dates of birth and home addresses are now with fraudsters," the Foundation highlighted.

The Internet Freedom Foundation called on SBI to inform every affected customer directly and without further delay.

YouTube Homework

CERT-in

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Bihar relaxes curbs to provide jobs under VB-G RAM G in 38 districts hit by floods, drought

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Bihar Rural Development Department on Wednesday said employment will be provided under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme to workers in 22 flood-affected and 16 drought-hit districts.

Under the rural employment scheme, launched across the country on July 1, infrastructure development, asset creation and other development works are to be undertaken with funding shared by the Central and State governments in a 60:40 ratio.

According to an order issued by the department, urgent restoration and repair of damaged infrastructure is required in the 22 flood-hit districts. The department identified these districts as Arwal, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, Gopalganj, Katihar, Khagaria, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Munger, Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, Patna, East Champaran, Purnia, Saharsa, Samastipur, Saran, Supaul, and Vaishali.

Crops damaged

The order stated that there was substantial decline in demand for agricultural workers following damage to rabi crops in the 16 districts that experienced drought-like conditions this year due to below normal levels of rainfall.

These districts were identified as Araria, Aurangabad, Banka, Gaya Ji, Jamui, Jehanabad, Kaimur, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Nalanda, Nawada, Rohtas, Sheikhpura, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, and Siwan.

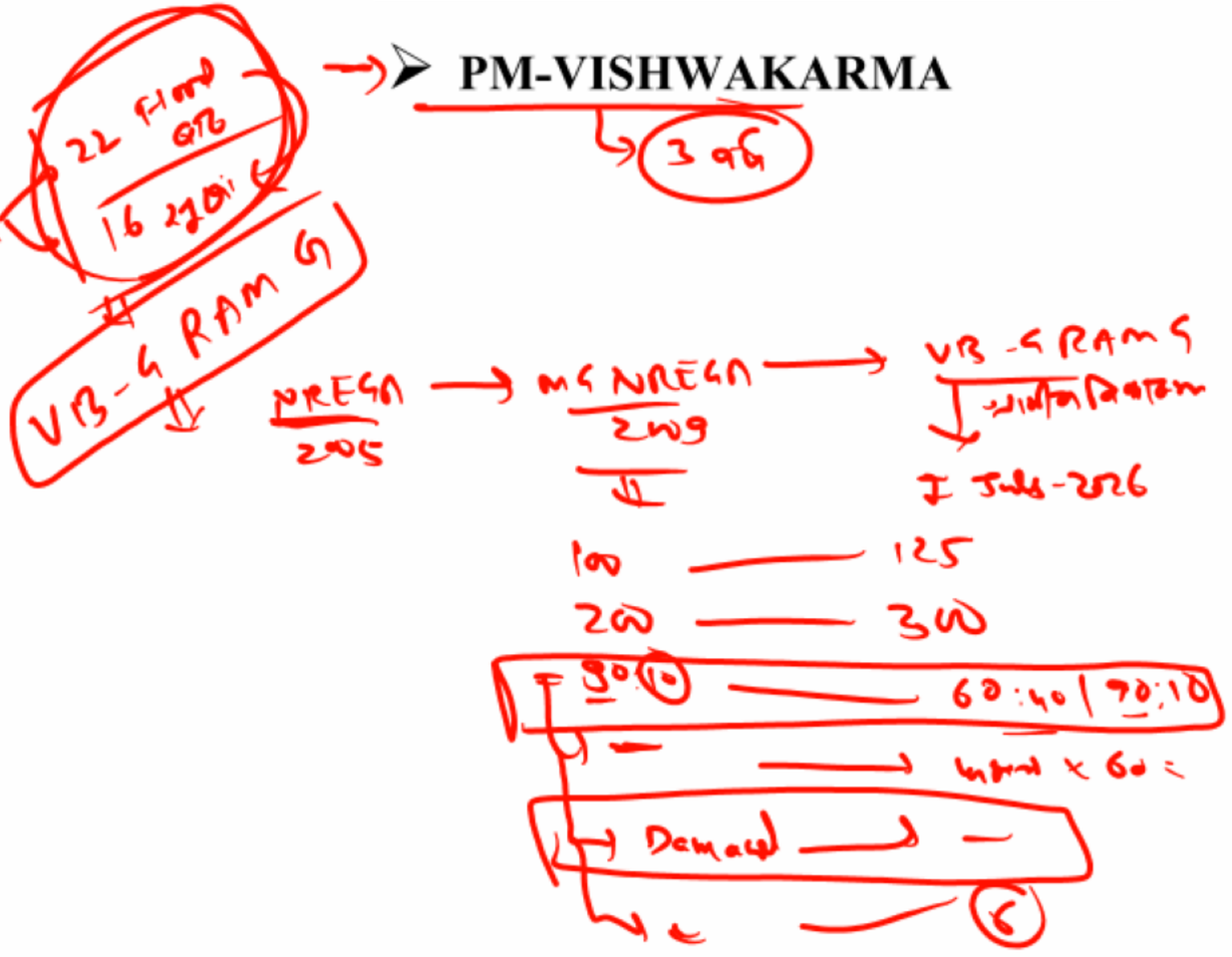
It added that employment opportunities must also be ensured for workers returning home in view of the upcoming festivals.

Earlier, the department had suspended construction work during the designated break from October 22 to December 10 to ensure that farm operations are not disrupted during the agricultural season.

However, officials said, the restrictions have now been lifted to provide employment to people in the disaster-hit areas.

"Bihar has been hit by disasters. Roads, bridges, culverts, pathways, embankments, and other infrastructure have suffered extensive damage. It is essential to repair and restore the damaged infrastructure so that development activities can be accelerated," Rural Development Minister Shravan Kumar told reporters.

YouTube Homework



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Malfunctioning Pink Saheli smart cards cause chaos for women commuters, bus conductors in Delhi

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI



Pink Saheli smart cards were set to replace pink paper tickets across the national capital from October 1. FILE PHOTO

Women travelling in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses are facing significant hurdles due to malfunctioning Pink Saheli smart cards, forcing many to pay a replacement fee of ₹60 for new ones. Meanwhile, DTC bus conductors remain equally confused over whether to allow women without valid smart cards to travel for free or ask them to pay, citing conflicting instructions from different depot managements.

The Delhi government introduced the smart cards in March this year, making them mandatory for women to access free travel. Officially, the older paper tickets were supposed to be discontinued on October 1. However, due to non-functioning cards and varying instructions across depots, some bus conductors continue to issue free paper tickets while others ask women to pay.

For women whose cards fail, the Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) fails to link and displays a 'check validity' prompt. Beneficiaries are being asked to get their cards replaced at the depot.

Commuters' struggle

"I had to get a new card made after paying the amount. As per rules, you are supposed to pay this fee if you have lost your card or the card is damaged. Why should I pay if the original card never worked properly? Shouldn't it be replaced free of cost?" said Raunak, a student from Delhi University's Deshbandhu College. For her, the card worked in some buses, not in others.

For Antara, another student, the card never worked at all. "I, too, had to get it made again even though it never worked for me. The staff at Netaji Subhash Place depot said I might have damaged it, spilled water on it accidentally. That never happened. Why can't they check the cards before dispensing them?" she said.

Meanwhile, amid all these technical issues, the drastic reduction in card-issuing hubs from 70 to 38 across the city has resulted in long queues.

Conductors confused

Meanwhile, the DTC Karamchari Ekta Union has written to Managing Director Niharika Rai seeking clarification over "lack of consistency in instructions".

"In some instances, conductors are instructed to issue a manual pink ticket if the ETM malfunctions, while in others, they are directed to print a machine-generated 'free ticket' without a valid card. These inconsistencies are resulting in conductors being held responsible, with some depots demanding a recall of all manually given pink tickets and others prompting reports against conductors," the complaint letter said.

YouTube Homework

- **Annapurna Scheme**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

1. पिंक सहेली स्मार्ट कार्ड क्या है?

- यह दिल्ली में **DTC और क्लस्टर (Cluster) बसों** में महिलाओं, बालिकाओं और ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों के लिए **मुफ्त और असीमित यात्रा** करने की एक डिजिटल सुविधा है।
- पहले बसों में सफर के लिए गुलाबी रंग के कागजी 'पिंक टिकट' (Paper Pink Tickets) दिए जाते थे, अब उनकी जगह इस **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) इनेबल्ड स्मार्ट कार्ड** ने ले ली है।
- इस कार्ड की खासियत यह है कि यह बसों में मुफ्त यात्रा के साथ-साथ रीचार्ज करवाने पर **दिल्ली मेट्रो और नमो भारत (Namo Bharat RRTS)** में भी सामान्य स्मार्ट कार्ड की तरह इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है (मेट्रो किराया लागू होगा)।
- पहला कार्ड **बिल्कुल मुफ्त** बनाया जाता है और इसमें कोई आय सीमा (Income Criteria) नहीं है।

2. यह कब शुरू हुई?

- इस व्यवस्था की शुरुआत **मार्च 2026** में दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा की गई थी ताकि पुरानी कागजी प्रणाली को पूरी तरह से डिजिटल और पारदर्शी बनाया जा सके।

3. इसमें क्या समस्याएँ (Issues) आ रही हैं?

- स्मार्ट कार्ड अनिवार्य होने के बाद से निम्नलिखित प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ देखी जा रही हैं:
- **वितरण केंद्रों (Distribution Centers) पर भीड़:**
  - कार्ड बनवाने और प्राप्त करने के लिए निर्धारित केंद्रों (जैसे SDM कार्यालय, DTC डिपो) पर भारी भीड़ और लंबी लाइनें लग रही हैं।
- **तकनीकी एवं सर्वर की समस्या (Technical & Server Glitches):**
  - ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन और आधार वेरिफिकेशन के दौरान OTP आने में देरी या पोर्टल स्लो होने की शिकायतें आ रही हैं।
- **जागरूकता की कमी (Lack of Awareness):**
  - कई महिलाओं, विशेषकर ग्रामीण या दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों की महिलाओं को ऑनलाइन आवेदन की प्रक्रिया और आवश्यक दस्तावेजों की पूरी जानकारी नहीं मिल पा रही है।
- **ETM मशीनों से संबंधित समस्या:**
  - बसों के अंदर कंडक्टर की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक टिकटिंग मशीन (ETM) पर कार्ड स्कैन होने में कभी-कभी तकनीकी रुकावट या सर्वर एरर की समस्या आ जाती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Reimpose President's Rule in Manipur, say Kuki-Zo groups

Council says no members were killed during President's Rule from February 2025 to February 2026; women's forum says 32 killed in violence since March and 55 houses were burnt down

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kuki-Zo groups on Wednesday demanded the reimposition of President's Rule in Manipur, claiming that at least 32 people from the community have been killed since March 2026.

President's Rule was revoked in Manipur on February 4 after being imposed a year earlier, on February 13, 2025.

The Kuki-Zo Women's Forum, Delhi said that at least 32 Kuki-Zo people, including two pregnant women and 10 other women, had been killed since March 2026 in violence it attributed to members of the Isak-Muivah faction of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF-Kamson). The Forum also claimed that around 55 houses in 14 Kuki-Zo villages had been burnt during the period.



Regional autonomy: The Kuki-Zo Council reiterated its demand for a separate administration for the community. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At a press conference in Delhi, Kuki-Zo Council spokesperson Ginza Vualzong claimed that no Kuki-Zo civilian had been killed during President's Rule. The Council sought the reimposition of Central rule "in the interest of the safety, security, and dignity of the Kuki-Zo people".

The organisation also reiterated its demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo community in the form of a Union Territory with a legislature, arguing that the prolonged ethnic conflict in the State had eroded the community's confidence in the existing administrative arrangement.

Economic hardships

Mr. Vualzong added that prices of essential commodities in the Kuki-Zo-inhabited areas of Kangpokpi, Ukhrul and Kamjong districts and the Longpi area of Noney/Tamenglong had gone beyond the reach of ordinary people.

He claimed that residents of Chassad and Aishi villages in Kamjong had faced an economic embargo, while supplies to villages in the Kotlen and Leilon areas of Kangpokpi had been obstructed. He further accused the United Naga Council (UNC) of blocking commodities bound for Kangpokpi town at Namdilong and Senapati.

As a consequence, petrol prices had risen to ₹250 a litre and LPG cylinders to ₹5,000 in affected area, he said.

'Political problem'

"Manipur is not a security problem, it is a political problem and requires the solution accordingly," he said, insisting that the continuing violence involving both the Meitei-Kuki-Zo conflict and more recent clashes involving Naga and Kuki-Zo groups demonstrated the need for a political settlement.

The violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people which started on May 3, 2023 has claimed lives of more than 350 people.

Cong. accuses BJP of failing to restore peace in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge asks how many more innocent lives must be lost before the government acts

The Congress on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of failing to restore peace in Manipur, saying the continuing violence in the strategically important border State exposed the government's inability to ensure law and order, protect constitutional rights, and safeguard national security.

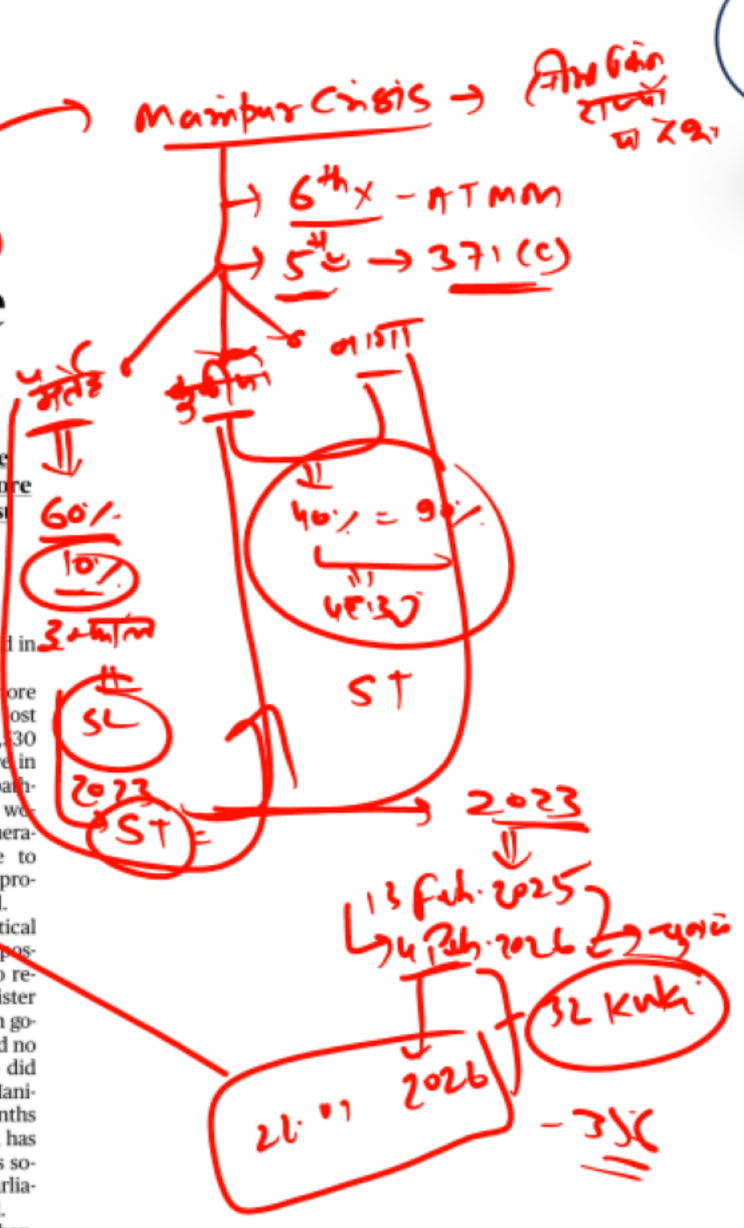
Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge posed three questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, asking how many more innocent lives must be lost before the government acts. He also questioned the efficacy of the measures taken by the Centre to end the ethnic conflict that erupted in May 2023.

"Manipur is bleeding again because of BJP's incompetence! The horrific killing of four innocent civilians in the latest spate of violence is deeply condemnable. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

Since May 2023, more than 300 people have lost their lives, while 24,330 people continue to live in relief camps under "pathetic conditions" and women, children and vulnerable families continue to bear the brunt of the prolonged crisis, he added.

"The BJP's political machinations, from imposing President's Rule to replacing the Chief Minister and reinstalling its own government, have yielded no peace. PM Modi, who did not even set foot in Manipur for nearly 29 months after violence erupted, has abysmally failed on his so-called assurance in Parliament," Mr. Kharge said.

He asked what had happened to the Peace Committee constituted by Mr. Shah in June 2023.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Supreme Court judgment opens up debate on religion-neutrality of OBC classification

NEWS ANALYSIS

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The religion-neutrality of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) classification has been thrown open for debate after the Supreme Court's recent decision that an OBC Hindu person loses the entitlement to reservation once they convert to another religion.

While the Scheduled Castes (SCs) have always been identified by a religion criterion, and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) classification has never considered religion, and the OBC classification, since its implementation after the 1992 *Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India* judgment, has remained religion-neutral.

Communities are examined for 11 social, educational, and economic backwardness indicators, and then classified as such based on a threshold score. Forms for OBC certificates across States do not ask for the religion of an applicant nor does an OBC certificate declare the holder's religion.

In deciding the question of whether a Hindu OBC person is entitled to reservation after converting to another faith, the Supreme Court Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar, in its October 15 judgment, has established that the "source of social backwardness" must necessarily be considered in this inquiry.

The judgment noted that, for a Hindu OBC individual, the "legal foundation" of their entitlement to reservation is "specifically conditioned upon membership of that Hindu social order".



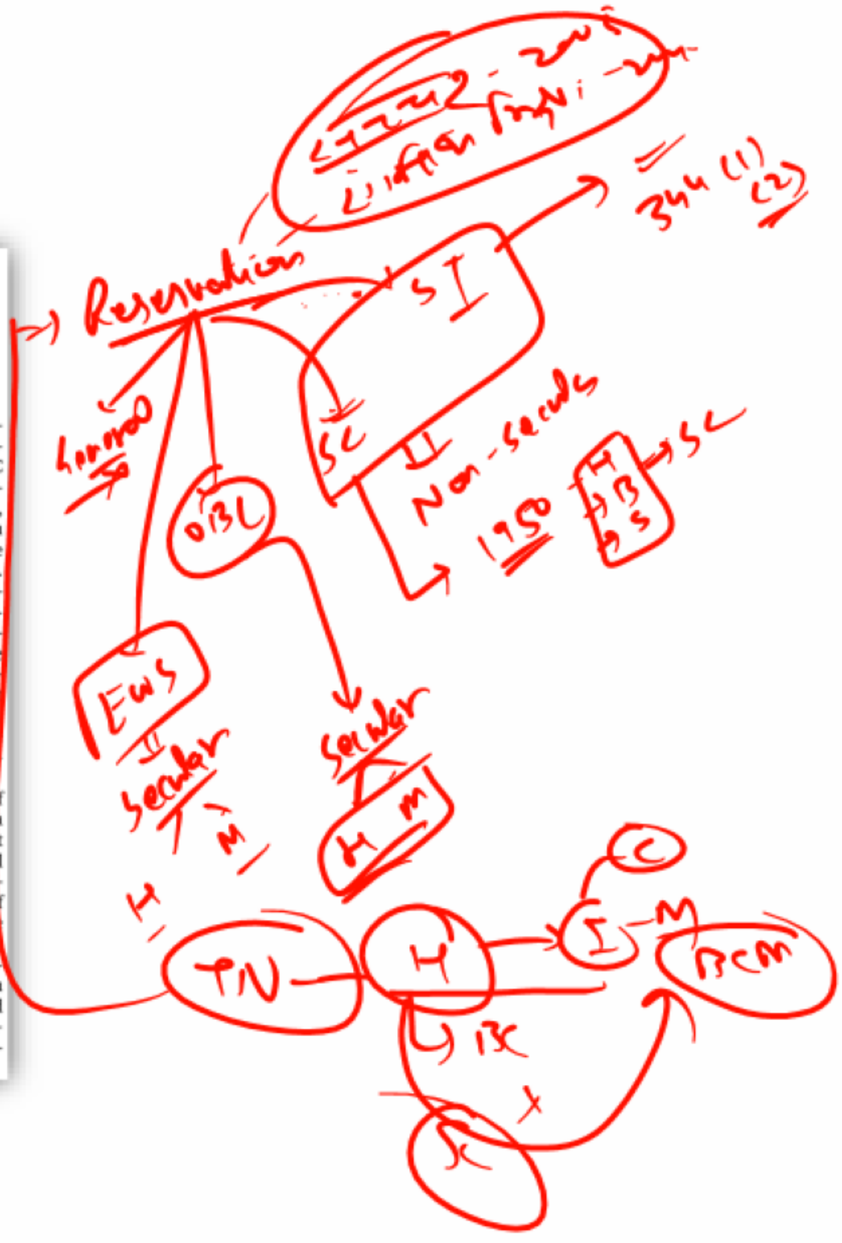
Discussing the "source of social backwardness", the court noted that while *Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India* prevented caste from being the sole criterion for OBC classification, what cannot be disregarded is that in Hindu society, the "foundational institution" of caste has historically determined social and other manifestations of backwardness.

While the court admitted that educational, economic, and other forms of backwardness may continue for an OBC person who has left the Hindu faith, their very act of choosing another faith puts them in a different "social order".

This reading of the Bench of Justices Mishra and Chandrashekhar flows from how it has understood the idea of social stratification across faiths in India, essentially noting that the source of social backwardness varies based on the nature of social stratification in any given social order. This understanding of social stratification makes a subtle departure from how the same concept was discussed in the Indra Sawhney judgment, without entering the question of the source of social backwardness, regardless of whether the communities are classes or castes, Hindu or Muslim.

Ever since *Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India* cleared the way for identifying OBC groups, the social backwardness of communities requesting OBC status has been determined with four criteria, none of which required an examination of the "source of social backwardness". Apart from markers for levels of child marriage, degree of dependence on manual labour, and female participation in the workforce, the criteria say that the applicant community (class or caste) must be "considered socially backward by others".

While the approach of the court in the Indra Sawhney case was that caste had permeated all faiths in India and the difference was just a matter of degrees of operation, the 2026 judgement makes a point of distinguishing social stratification through caste in Hindu society and "caste-like" social stratifications in non-Hindu social orders.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Parakala Prabhakar to join Dipke, Prakash Raj, others at anti-SIR protest tomorrow

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

Economist Parakala Prabhakar, actor-activist Prakash Raj, and Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke will be among those leading a nationwide protest on Friday against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Mr. Prabhakar said, "*Har gali me* Jantar Mantar!"

The protest, being organised by the People Against SIR alliance, will see activists, public figures, farmers' and workers' organisations, and student and youth groups mobilise across the country.


Parakala Prabhakar

Among others who will be joining the protest include lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan, Anjali Bharadwaj, Ganesh Devy, activist and author Tushar Gandhi, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, AISA president Neha Bora, SFI joint secretary Aishe Ghosh, and AISF national president Viraaj Devang.

The organisers have urged citizens to participate in marches and demonstrations in their respective localities, calling for a broader, people-led movement to oppose the SIR exercise.

The October 23 mobilisation follows the formation of People Against SIR last week, after an emergency consultation in Delhi attended by representatives of more than 200 organisations.

The alliance has also appealed to parties in the INDIA bloc to join the march.

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

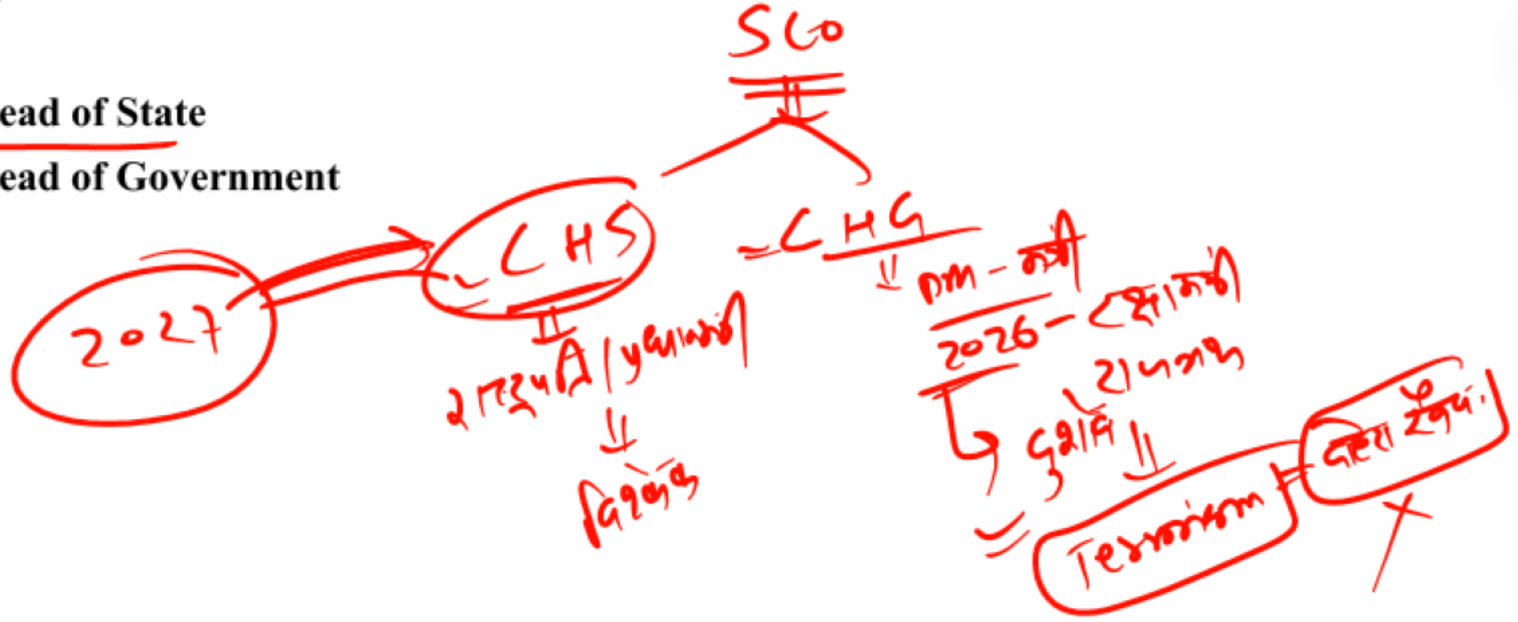
Peace for progress

Economic objectives can be met only in a stable security environment

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's address at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Tajikistan, on Tuesday marks another significant occasion since Operation Sindoor (2025) when India has used the multilateral forum to raise the issue of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. He said that regional cooperation cannot be meaningful if countries approached terrorism selectively. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's presence added significance to the remarks, underscoring New Delhi's diplomatic challenge within an organisation whose members have divergent strategic interests and security priorities. India has consistently argued that terrorism cannot be divorced from the broader agenda of regional peace, economic integration and development. By calling on SCO member-states to dismantle the ecosystem of terrorism, he reiterated that the threat must be addressed at its source rather than treated as an isolated security challenge. The intervention follows India's refusal to endorse the joint statement at the 2025 SCO Defence Ministers' meet in Qingdao, China. New Delhi had objected to a draft that failed to reflect its concerns over cross-border and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, including the Pahalgam attack (2025), while referring to militant activities in Balochistan. India maintained that such an approach would undermine the organisation's credibility by overlooking the threat it had brought before its members.

The SCO has the potential to advance regional stability, trade and connectivity instead of becoming another source of strategic friction. Yet, its effectiveness will remain limited if political disagreements prevent members from developing a common approach to security threats. India's position is not that cooperation on trade, culture, connectivity and development must be suspended until every security dispute is resolved. Rather, these objectives cannot be met independently of a stable security environment. Economic corridors require predictable borders, investors need confidence in the rule of law, and transport networks must be violence- and disruption-free. Connectivity projects such as the International North-South Transport Corridor and the development of Chabahar Port offer Central Asia connectivity with wider markets. Their long-term value, however, depends on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, alongside conditions that allow goods, capital and people to move freely. The SCO's challenge is to translate its stated commitment to combating terrorism into practical cooperation through intelligence-sharing, action against terror financing, disruption of recruitment networks and the denial of safe havens to terrorist groups. While retaining its principle against terrorism, India should lead efforts to achieve more regional cooperation in tackling it.

- **Council of Head of State**
- **Council of Head of Government**



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Prelim
UPSC-CSE-2027

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in dire straits



Mahesh Sachdev
A retired Indian Ambassador specialising in the Arab world and oil issues

Two chokepoints, one crisis — Riyadh faces growing threats to its security, oil exports and regional influence

As if the simmering trouble in the Strait of Hormuz were not bad enough, Saudi Arabia has lately been embroiled in an intensifying conflict at the Bab al-Mandeb Strait as well. West Asia's largest economy and the world's eighth-largest defence spender is no pushover. Yet, the simultaneous constrictions at its two vital chokepoints pose an unprecedented challenge to the Kingdom, already grappling with an economic downturn at home and shifting alliances abroad. The evolving situation may be the toughest test yet for Mohammed bin Salman (MbS), Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, although existential alarms seem overblown. The high-stakes crisis could have profound domestic, regional and global consequences for geopolitics, energy and global trade. A granular analysis of its causes and ramifications is called for.

An old conflict, slanted reportage

Despite media saturation with related developments, the coverage is often myopic and slanted, perpetuating several myths that need either debunking or proper nuancing. Historically, the Saudi-Al-Houthi conflict is nearly a century old. Saudi King Ibn Saud's forces defeated Yemeni Imam Yahya's tribal fighters in 1934, compelling the latter to cede three provinces in the Asir region under the Treaty of Taif. Although a bilateral border was demarcated in 2000, many Yemeni nationalists still question its finality.

Second, until 1990, Yemenis did not need visas to travel to and work in Saudi Arabia, leading millions to migrate to the booming oil economy. A significant number of Saudi nationals, particularly in the Hijaz and Asir regions, still have Yemeni ancestry, the most egregious example being al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden.

Third, sectarian differences sharpen the divisions: while Saudis are predominantly Wahhabi Sunnis, al-Houthis are mostly Zaydis, a five-worshipping Shia sect. Al-Houthis constitute around a third of Yemen's total population, with the rest being Sunnis. This sectarian divide underlies the vicious 12-year-old Yemeni civil war – Saudi Arabia supports anti-Houthi Sunni factions and accuses al-Houthis of attacking Islam's holiest cities.

Fourth, although al-Houthis have strong ties with Iran, describing the relationship as a proxy arrangement is an oversimplification, as it gives insufficient weight to their Arab identity. Al-Houthis remained inactive during the two recent United States-Iran wars. In contrast, when Israel attacked Hamas and Hezbollah in 2023-24, al-Houthis were the only Arab side to wade into hostilities, launching missile and drone attacks against Israel and disrupting shipping through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, despite intensive American and Israeli airstrikes. Rather than supporting al-Houthis, Iran recently offered to mediate between Riyadh and Sana'a. Similarly, al-Houthis have reportedly promised not to attack U.S. and Israeli assets unless in retaliation, causing U.S. President Donald Trump to vacillate over MbS's call for support. Arguably, the al-Houthis' successful closure of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait set a precedent for Iranian action in the Strait of Hormuz 18 months later.

Last but not least, the media has also been silent on al-Houthis' rationale for air and naval attacks against Saudi Arabia: retaliation for the Kingdom's decade-old air and sea blockade against them.

Similar myths are percolating about navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and need to be challenged. A 70% rise in global oil prices belies loud and repeated claims that oil and gas flows from the Gulf are near normal. Truth has been collateral damage in Trumpian hyperbole to 'talk down' U.S. pump prices ahead of crucial congressional midterm elections.

Second, Iran has been inconsistent about its self-appointed role as the 'supervisor' of Hormuz traffic. After turning a blind eye to the U.S.-protected stealthy oil shuttle for weeks, it has stepped up attacks on tankers. This has raised suspicions that Iran's Revolutionary Guards initially entered into an informal tolling arrangement with some Gulf oil exporters. However, Tehran has now decided to restrict supplies to keep oil prices high until the U.S. midterm elections.

Lastly, why has Pakistan, credited with the June 17 Islamabad Memorandum, been sidelined from a peacemaking role, even as Qatar, Iraq and even Moscow are being requisitioned? Some reports indicate that Mr. Trump has quietly demoted Islamabad as a go-between, with Iran blaming Pakistani diplomacy for being either gullible or complicit in selling him a document tilted in Iran's favour.

The Iran-Houthi pincer

Riyadh has long perceived Tehran as a geopolitical and sectarian rival and sought to resist its influence in West Asia. It remains deeply suspicious of the Iran-backed "Axis of Resistance" of non-state actors in general, and al-Houthi militias in particular. The Kingdom aims to keep Yemen as a weak but not dysfunctional state. Yemenis, on the other hand, chafe at Saudi interference and nurse their historic grievances against Riyadh.

These smouldering tensions, kept in check by a tenuous ceasefire since 2022, exploded in July 2026. In September, in a sudden escalation, the al-Houthi militia occupied coastal plains along the Red Sea, positioning themselves more strategically at the Bab al-Mandeb chokepoint, menacing nearly 12% of global maritime traffic. The Saudi-led coalition's recent counteroffensive has rekindled the fighting, with a strong Saudi bombing campaign. The al-Houthi militia retaliated by launching missiles and drones at strategic Saudi targets, including Riyadh airport and Aramco headquarters, denting Saudi Arabia's image as a safe and stable country. This is the first time in 35 years that the Kingdom's cities have come under sustained attack. Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the al-Houthi threat to Saudi-linked maritime activity, and the disruption of the Trans-Arabian Pipeline, allegedly by Iraqi Shia militias, have created a worst-case scenario for Saudi Arabia, jeopardising its vital oil exports, particularly to Asia.

The Saudis have no good options for untangling this unprecedented Iran-Houthi pincer. Despite an $83 billion defence budget, Riyadh lacks the military heft to dislodge the al-Houthis from their mountainous perches by a ground offensive. The offensive by its local Yemeni allies has bogged down into a war of attrition. Pro-Saudi stakeholders, such as the White House and the partners to the Makkah Agreement, have responded with tokenism, seemingly daunted by Yemen's reputation as a graveyard of foreign interventions and the prospects of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait being blocked again. The only other viable strategy, therefore, is to negotiate a package of measures to de-escalate tensions, lift mutual air and maritime blockades, and negotiate a truce based on the 2022 ceasefire. From Riyadh's perspective, the risks would include a loss of prestige both domestically and regionally, the possible collapse of Yemen's fractious "internationally recognised government", and the consolidation of the Tehran-Sana'a axis.

An expeditious resolution of the Yemeni crisis is a Saudi priority, as it would help insulate the Kingdom from the fallout of the next round of U.S.-Iran conflict, which could follow the U.S. midterm elections. Iran has made no secret of its intention to retaliate for American attacks on its civilian infrastructure by hitting the Gulf Arab states acting as the U.S. accomplices. In the past, Riyadh has been privately inconsistent on this issue, advising Washington to clobber Iran until regime change at one time, and also cautioning it about the potential blowback against Saudi Arabia's vulnerabilities. Unless the current fracas with Yemen is sorted out, Saudi Arabia may have to face attacks from Iran as well as the al-Houthis.

The stakes for India

Although India has avoided any direct entanglement at the two maritime chokepoints in the Arabian Peninsula, it is not immune from the impact. Beyond the ongoing economic losses and related supply disruptions from interrupted trade, high oil, gas and fertiliser prices, India needs to look after the safety and well-being of nine million of its citizens currently resident in the Gulf. It is worth recalling that in 1990-91, the huge expense involved in repatriating 1,60,000 Indians from Kuwait precipitated the economic crisis, forcing the country to pledge its sovereign gold for the first time. While India is much stronger today, it remains sobering to note that the number of Indians living in the Gulf now exceeds that figure by more than 50 times.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

सऊदी अरब संकट में: सुरक्षा, तेल और क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव पर मंडराता खतरा

- **मुख्य विषय:** हॉर्मूज जलडमरूमध्य (Strait of Hormuz) और बाब अल-मंदेब (Bab al-Mandeb) के पास बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के कारण सऊदी अरब गंभीर सुरक्षा और आर्थिक संकट का सामना कर रहा है।
- **हुथी विद्रोहियों के हमले और ईरान की भूमिका:**
  - हूती विद्रोहियों द्वारा लाल सागर और सऊदी ठिकानों (जैसे रियाद एयरपोर्ट और तेल सुविधाओं) पर लगातार मिसाइल व ड्रोन हमले किए जा रहे हैं, जिससे सऊदी अरब की आंतरिक सुरक्षा खतरे में पड़ गई है।
  - ईरान हॉर्मूज जलडमरूमध्य के यातायात को प्रभावित कर वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति पर नियंत्रण और दबाव बनाने की रणनीति अपना रहा है।
- **सऊदी अरब की चुनौतियाँ:**
  - रियाद के पास ईरान-हूती गठजोड़ से निपटने के लिए कोई आसान विकल्प नहीं बचा है।
  - यमन के संघर्ष में उलझने और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा जोखिमों के कारण देश की आर्थिक स्थिरता और तेल निर्यात प्रभावित हो रहे हैं।
- **भारत के लिए चिंता:**
  - हालांकि भारत ने प्रत्यक्ष संघर्ष से दूरी बनाई है, लेकिन खाड़ी देशों में रहने वाले लगभग 90 लाख भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा (तेल और गैस की कीमतें) तथा व्यापारिक बाधाएं भारत के लिए गंभीर चिंता का विषय हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

The struggle to preserve a fair international law

The news that South African jurist Navi Pillay is the recipient of the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize could not have come at a better time for those agonisingly disconcerted by global apathy towards international law. At a time when international law is being battered by powerful, authoritarian men, drunk on power and willing to go to any lengths to pursue their imperialistic designs, the Nobel Committee has unequivocally signalled that international law matters. The real question, however, is what kind of international law matters.

Multiple narratives shape international law. One key narrative, as mentioned, is that vital tenets of international law, such as prohibiting the use of force in international relations, have been completely shredded, with multiple wars raging. Likewise, with rising authoritarianism, there has been a precipitous waning in compliance with international human rights law and an increase in the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While the normative decline of international law has been going on for quite some time, the fall has been precipitous in recent years, accompanied by utter disdain for universally accepted international norms. This scornful attitude towards international law became evident when (then) U.S. President Joe Biden leaned heavily towards using the ambiguous term "rules-based order" instead of "international law", signalling a movement towards an era of norm-light global governance. U.S. President Donald Trump took this several notches up when he said that he did not need international law because he was guided by his own morality.



Prabhash Ranjan

Professor and Vice Dean (Research), Jindal Global Law School

Authoritarian leaders are undermining legal norms and reshaping international institutions to serve their interests

Authoritarian international law

This brings us to what Tom Ginsburg calls authoritarian international law – an attempt to create a new normative order. Thus, while authoritarian leaders attacking the fundamental tenets of international law might give the impression that they are hollowing it out, the more nuanced picture is that authoritarians are retooling international law to pursue their objectives. As Ginsburg, Shirley Scott and others argue, the liberal international law order that emerged after the Second World War and which intensified after the end of the Cold War was a product of what democratic states did on the international plane.

Although the liberal international law order's democratic credentials can always be questioned, civil, political and human rights were institutionalised and made part of its operating system. Countries created international organisations (IOs) to which they delegated significant powers, accompanied by high judicialisation – the creation of international courts and tribunals to settle disputes.

A scant respect for rights

With the rise of authoritarianism, including in liberal democracies, the fundamental nature of the liberal international legal order is being altered or, as Anne Applebaum argues, its operating system is changing. Authoritarian states view international law as a tool for coordinating regime survival. Respect for civil, political and human rights, and holding executive power accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity, has little place in the authoritarian international legal order. Innovative uses of the age-old concept of sovereignty are another key feature. While developing countries often invoke sovereignty to shape international legal norms to serve their aspirations, today, sovereignty seems to be the cloak aimed at shielding authoritarian regimes' excesses from international scrutiny. Israel's systematic rejection of reports by UN human rights bodies that chide it for human rights violations, on the grounds that they interfere in its sovereign affairs, is a case in point.

Creating weak IOs with limited independent powers is another key feature of authoritarian international law. Once created, an IO takes on a life of its own, and member-states should not be able to control on a whim. This, however, does not suit authoritarian states, which want to retain maximum power while delegating as little as possible to IOs. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a case in point. A preference for negotiation or quasi-judicial mechanisms to resolve disputes, rather than faith in third-party international adjudication, is also a pivotal attribute of authoritarian international law. The recent backlash against international courts, such as the International Criminal Court, is an example.

The need for a fightback

The kind of international law that Ms. Pillay represents is what most authoritarian regimes despise. The clearest example of this is Israel's condemnation of the Nobel prize, saying that the Nobel Committee has awarded the prize to the "greatest lie" of the 21st century. Israel was referring to Ms. Pillay's role as the Chair of the UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which concluded that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza.

Rather than serving merely as a tool for extending a regime's influence and values beyond its borders, the kind of international law that Ms. Pillay represents has a thicker conception of the rule of law, laced with values of equality, fairness, accountability and making the individual a subject of international law. Authoritarian regimes cannot be expected to develop a fair international legal order premised on justice. Other actors, including courts, civil society and academia, must therefore mount international resistance to authoritarian regimes to pave the way for a liberal and fair international law.

The views expressed are personal

2026

YouTube Homework

- Medicine (3)
- Physics (6)
- Chemistry (2)
- Economics (1)
- Peace (1)

Literature

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

निष्पक्ष अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून को बचाने का संघर्ष (The struggle to preserve a fair international law)

- **नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून:** दक्षिण अफ्रीकी न्यायविद **नवी पिल्लई (Navi Pillay)** को 2026 का नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार मिलना यह संदेश देता है कि दुनिया में बढ़ते सत्तावाद और संघर्षों के बीच अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून आज भी बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है।
- **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानदंडों का ह्रास:** शक्तिशाली और सत्तावादी नेताओं द्वारा अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून, मानवाधिकारों और युद्ध अपराध से जुड़े वैश्विक नियमों की अनदेखी की जा रही है।
- **सत्तावादी अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून (Authoritarian International Law):**
  - सत्तावादी शासक अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनों को पूरी तरह खत्म करने के बजाय अपने राजनीतिक हितों, शासन की रक्षा और अंतरराष्ट्रीय जांच से बचने के लिए संप्रभुता (sovereignty) के नाम पर नियमों को अपने हिसाब से ढाल रहे हैं।
  - ये शासन अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालयों (जैसे ICC) और मानवाधिकार संस्थाओं की निष्पक्षता का विरोध करते हैं और कमजोर अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन पसंद करते हैं।
- **संघर्ष और सुधार की आवश्यकता:**
  - नवी पिल्लई जिस कानून का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं, वह समानता, जवाबदेही और न्याय पर आधारित है।
  - एक निष्पक्ष और उदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून व्यवस्था (fair international legal order) को बनाए रखने के लिए नागरिक समाज, न्यायालयों और अकादमिक क्षेत्र को सत्तावादी ताकतों के खिलाफ एकजुट होकर आवाज उठाने की जरूरत है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

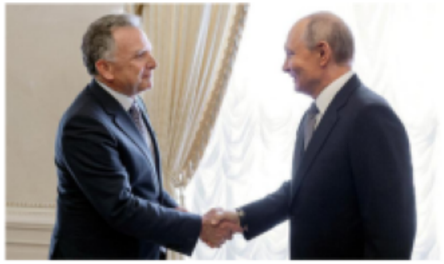
Putin agrees to resume three-way peace talks with Ukraine and U.S.

Discussions could start on or after November 10; Moscow frees retired U.S. teacher in goodwill gesture during Witkoff meet; Putin offers Trump his help to get a deal with Tehran; Zelenskyy calls for freezing of conflict with Russia as first step to talks

Reuters
ST PETERSBURG

Russian President Vladimir Putin has agreed to resume U.S.-mediated peace talks with Ukraine as soon as next month, the Kremlin said on Wednesday, after Mr. Putin met U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in Washington's latest push to stop Europe's bloodiest conflict since the Second World War.

Mr. Putin held over three hours of talks with Mr. Witkoff in Saint Petersburg, a day after what the U.S. official called a "productive" meeting with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Norway.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on Wednesday. REUTERS

The negotiations began with a goodwill gesture from Russia - the release of Stephen Hubbard, a retired U.S. school teacher held in Russia since 2022.

Wednesday's encounter unfolded amid concerns in Kyiv and among its allies that the U.S. is backing away from Ukraine.

Mr. Zelenskyy said freezing the conflict in Ukraine was the "minimum" required from Russia to bring about an end to the war.

"Right now, we have to freeze, and I think this is (the) real way to end this war," he told Fox News on Wednesday.

The Kremlin said the new three-way peace talks, which would beat a technical level, could take place in Abu Dhabi and would be focused on how to guarantee the security of Ukraine and Russia once the war ended. They could begin sometime on or after November 10, it said.

Mr. Putin also used the talks to offer to help Mr. Trump deal with Iran, saying Russia had a decades-long relationship with Tehran which it has repeatedly offered to leverage to address U.S. concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. Mr. Putin told Mr. Witkoff it was possible to get a deal with Tehran, the Kremlin said.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said Moscow will dispatch its first diesel tanker for the U.S. on Thursday, following a deal with Mr. Trump earlier this month.

Four killed in Ukraine

Meanwhile, Kyiv said on Wednesday Russian strikes killed at least four people – including two in the capital and an elderly couple in Kharkiv region.

Russian authorities in the Lugansk region, said a Ukrainian drone strike killed two people.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Turkiye, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Qatar sign defence accord

Reuters
ANKARA

Turkiye, Qatar, Pakistan, and Indonesia signed an agreement on Wednesday to boost defence cooperation and strengthen defensive capabilities, the Turkish Defence Ministry said.

In a statement, the Ministry said the countries signed the "Badr Memorandum of Understanding" in Doha as a sign of their desire to further deepen cooperation and develop partnerships.

"The agreement holds substantial economic importance," it said. "By leveraging the unique military production capabilities of each country, the initiative will facilitate cooperation and integration, enhance defence industrial capacities, and enable the fulfilment of the needs of allied nations," it added.

Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army and a robust defence industry, has been helping Gulf nations, including Qatar, where it has a military base, bolster their defences amid the Iran war.



YouTube Homework

Mecca Defence Pact

P S T

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Macron slams foreign leaders for exploiting France unrest

Associated Press
PARIS



French President Emmanuel Macron meets Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman during a visit to Riyadh on Wednesday. AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday that foreign leaders – including those "on the other side of the Atlantic" – were seeking to exploit France's tense social climate for political gain following a weekend of street violence and looting.

Protests over soaring living costs have led to widespread rioting and looting that have drawn worldwide attention. U.S. President Donald Trump has used the violence to rally his supporters, making unsubstantiated claims that Muslim migrants are responsible for the unrest.

Mr. Macron, speaking during a visit to Qatar, implied that Mr. Trump, and possibly Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is also fighting an election campaign, made "stupid comments" on the unrest for political gain, though he did not name either leader.

Mr. Macron said "there has been foreign manipulation of information in the aftermath" of the looting in Paris and other French cities last weekend. "And that has led to comments that are as unacceptable as they are stupid, from many people, including foreign leaders," he said.

Yellow vests

Further protests are planned for Thursday and Saturday following calls from student unions and groups within the "yellow vest" movement, whose demonstrations over fuel prices shook France in 2018 and 2019.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सूचकांक व रिपोर्ट (Indexes & Reports)

1. ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स (Global Hunger Index - GHI 2026)

- **जारीकर्ता:** कंसर्न वर्ल्डवाइड (Concern Worldwide) और वेल्थुंगरहिल्फे (Welthungerhilfe)
- **भारत की रैंक: 100वें स्थान पर** (122 देशों में से)
- **मुख्य बिंदु:** भारत का स्कोर 24.1 रहा, जिसे "गंभीर" (Serious) श्रेणी में रखा गया है। इसमें चाइल्ड स्टंटिंग (Child Stunting) और चाइल्ड वेस्टिंग दर की स्थिति को दर्शाया गया है।

2. ग्लोबल इनोवेशन इंडेक्स (Global Innovation Index - GII 2026)

- **जारीकर्ता:** विश्व बौद्धिक संपदा संगठन (WIPO)
- **भारत की रैंक: 38वें स्थान पर** (139 अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से)
- **मुख्य बिंदु:** भारत ने अपनी रैंकिंग में सुधार करते हुए 38वां स्थान हासिल किया है। लोअर-मिडिल-इनकम (Lower Middle-Income) समूह वाले देशों में भारत लगातार पहले स्थान पर बना हुआ है।

3. इप्सॉस क्वालिटी ऑफ केयर परसेप्शन इंडेक्स 2026 (Ipsos Quality of Care Perception Index)

- **जारीकर्ता:** इप्सॉस (Ipsos Health Service Report)
- **भारत की रैंक: तीसरा (3rd) स्थान**
- **मुख्य बिंदु:** स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता के प्रति लोगों की धारणा (Perception) के मामले में मलेशिया और सिंगापुर के बाद भारत दुनिया में तीसरे स्थान पर है।

4. वर्ल्ड रिस्क इंडेक्स 2026 (World Risk Index)

- **जारीकर्ता:** Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft / इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर इंटरनेशनल लॉ ऑफ पीस एंड आर्म्ड कन्फ्लिक्ट
- **भारत की स्थिति: 155वें स्थान पर** (181 देशों में से)
- **मुख्य बिंदु:** यह सूचकांक प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के जोखिम, संवेदनशीलता (Vulnerability) और उनसे निपटने की क्षमता का आकलन करता है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

5. वर्ल्ड एनर्जी आउटलुक 2026 (World Energy Outlook Report)

- **जारीकर्ता:** अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IEA - International Energy Agency)
- **भारत से संबंधित बिंदु:** रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर ऊर्जा मांग में वृद्धि का सबसे बड़ा चालक (Driver) बना हुआ है और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा/रिन्यूएबल ऊर्जा क्षमता बढ़ाने में तेजी से काम कर रहा है।

6. क्राफ्टन इंडिया गेमिंग रिपोर्ट / डिजिटल इंडेक्स (National Report)

- **जारीकर्ता:** क्राफ्टन इंडिया व उद्योग निकाय
- **मुख्य बिंदु:** भारत दुनिया में मोबाइल गेमिंग और डिजिटल कंटेंट कंजम्पशन (उपभोग) के मामले में शीर्ष बाजारों में शामिल है।

- NITI Aayog (नीति आयोग) के **Frontier Tech Hub** ने **अक्टूबर 2026** में एक नया फ्रेमवर्क जारी किया है:

Data Centre Evaluation Framework (डेटा सेंटर मूल्यांकन फ्रेमवर्क)

- **जारी करने की तिथि:** अक्टूबर 2026 (14–15 अक्टूबर के दौरान)
- **उद्देश्य:** राज्यों को देश में तेजी से बढ़ रहे **डेटा सेंटर (Data Centres)** के क्षेत्र में सतत (sustainable) और नियोजित विकास करने में मदद करना।
- **मुख्य बिंदु:**
  - **संसाधनों का आकलन:** यह फ्रेमवर्क राज्यों को बिजली (Power), पानी (Water) और भूमि (Land) जैसी बुनियादी आवश्यकताओं का सही आकलन करने की सलाह देता है।
  - **जल प्रबंधन:** पानी की उपलब्धता को लेकर दीर्घकालिक योजना (जैसे 20-30 साल का कैचमेंट वॉटर बैलेंस) तैयार करने पर जोर दिया गया है ताकि जल संकट वाले क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त दबाव न पड़े।
  - **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (Renewable Energy):** राज्यों को ऐसे क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता देने को कहा गया है जहां ग्रीन/रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी आसानी से उपलब्ध हो।
  - **डिजिटल सिंगल विंडो सिस्टम:** परियोजनाओं को समय पर मंजूरी दिलाने और पारदर्शिता लाने के लिए एक डिजिटल सिंगल-WINDOW मैकेनिज्म स्थापित करने का सुझाव दिया गया है।
  - **प्रोत्साहन (Incentives):** निवेशकों को मिलने वाले फायदों को रोजगार सृजन, कौशल विकास और पर्यावरण अनुकूल उपायों जैसे परिणामों (Outcomes) से जोड़ने की बात कही गई है।

Home Assignment

- ❑ World Braile Day
- ❑ Mudra Yojna

प्रश्न:

- **हाल ही में चर्चा में रहा 'मोखा पोर्ट सिटी' (Mokhah Port City) निम्नलिखित में से किस देश में स्थित है, जिसे एक नए आर्थिक और व्यापारिक केंद्र के रूप में विकसित किया जा रहा है?**

A. सऊदी अरब

B. यमन

C. संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE)

D. ओमान

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