UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

ONE STOP SOLUTION

By **Faiyaz Sir**



The Indian EXPRESS

THE HINDU

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24 OCTOBER

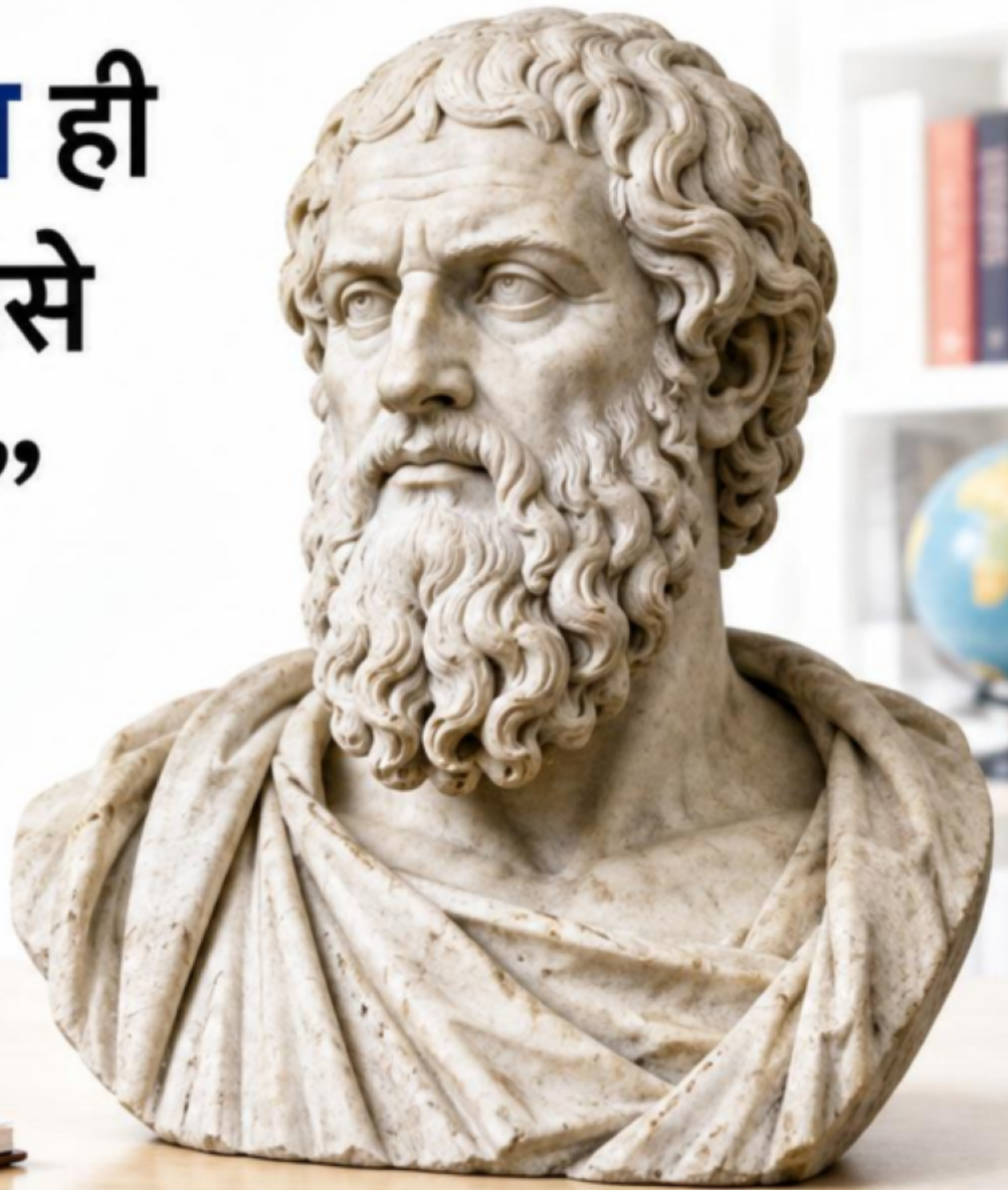
COMPLETE COVERAGE | EXAM FOCUSED | ANALYSIS MADE EASY | STATIC + CURRENT INTEGRATION

STAY AHEAD STAY PREPARED

Result Mitra

“स्वयं पर विजय पाना ही सबसे पहली और सबसे बड़ी जीत है।”

— प्लेटो —
(Plato)



Dream
Plan
Achieve

UPSC
IAS
PCS
General Studies

आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

- एग्री-वोल्टेइक्स
- Honey Trap – Pakistan
- PLFS
- Student, Farmer Protest
- Land Warfare Doctrine
- VB-G RAM G
- SC – Voters Right
- Ladakh
- India-USA BTA
- US Midterm Election
- Oil Price Hike
- FDI
- Israel – Palestine Conflict
- India-Azerbaijan
- UNSC
- France – UK (Rummy)
- Greece – Ban on Social Media
- BIZA – Crickter
- BCCI Junio Selection Committee

Revision

Technology

एग्री-वोल्टेइक्स

भारत के खेतों को ऊर्जा प्रदान करना, एक टिकाऊ भविष्य का निर्माण करना

Posted On: 23 OCT 2026 11:32AM

कृषि और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के मिलन बिंदु पर, खेती की ज़मीन को अधिक उत्पादक बनाने का एक नया और अभिनव माध्यम मौजूद है। 'एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स' में एक ही ज़मीन पर फसल उगाने और सौर ऊर्जा पैदा करने का काम एक साथ किया जाता है। इससे किसानों को अपनी आय के स्रोत बढ़ाने में सहायता मिलती है और साथ ही वे भारत के स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उपयोग में परिवर्तन में भी योगदान दे सकते हैं। खाद्य उत्पादन और सौर ऊर्जा को एक साथ लाने से, यह ज़मीन के बेहतर उपयोग, खेती को अधिक उपजाऊ बनाने और ग्रामीण इलाकों में टिकाऊ समृद्धि लाने की दिशा में एक उत्कृष्ट रास्ता खोलता है।

कृषि फार्मों के लिए सौर ऊर्जा और एक स्वच्छ भविष्य

- भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था में कृषि एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है, जो लगभग 46.1 प्रतिशत आबादी के लिए आजीविका का मुख्य स्रोत है। वर्ष 2025-26 में कृषि और संबद्ध क्षेत्रों का सकल मूल्य वर्धन (जीवीए) 52.08 लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है। इस महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र को बनाए रखने के लिए सिंचाई और खेती से जुड़े अन्य कार्यों के लिए विश्वसनीय और किफायती ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता होती है। सौर ऊर्जा इन दैनिक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में सहायता कर सकती है और साथ ही भारत के स्वच्छ ऊर्जा की ओर बदलाव को भी आगे बढ़ा सकती है।
- भारत की विशाल कृषि भूमि, खेती के साथ सौर ऊर्जा का उत्पादन करने की बड़ी संभावनाएं प्रदान करती है। वर्ष 2023-24 के भूमि उपयोग आंकड़ों के अनुसार, देश का कुल क्षेत्रफल 306.96 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है, जिसमें से लगभग 55 प्रतिशत कृषि भूमि है। शुद्ध बुआई का क्षेत्र 138.99 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है, जबकि कुल फसल क्षेत्र 217.88 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है। भूमि का यह बड़ा आधार कृषि उत्पादन के साथ-साथ सौर बिजली उत्पादन के अवसर भी देता है। किसान सिंचाई पंप चलाने के लिए सौर ऊर्जा का उपयोग कर सकते हैं, जिससे पारंपरिक बिजली पर उनकी निर्भरता कम होगी। साथ ही, वे अतिरिक्त बिजली को ग्रिड में बेचकर अतिरिक्त आय भी कमा सकते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, सौर ऊर्जा से चलने वाले सिंचाई पंप फसलों की सिंचाई के लिए दिन के समय बिजली उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं, जिससे डीजल से चलने वाले पंपों पर निर्भरता कम हो जाएगी।



- **कृषि-वोल्टेइक तकनीक** एक ही भूमि पर फसल की खेती और सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन को एकीकृत करके इस प्रक्रिया को और आगे ले जाती है। फसल की पंक्तियों के ऊपर या बीच में लगाए गए सौर पैनल निरंतर खेती के साथ-साथ बिजली उत्पादन की सुविधा प्रदान करते हैं। फसल, पैनल के डिज़ाइन और स्थानीय परिस्थितियों के आधार पर, आंशिक छायांकन से मिट्टी में नमी की कमी को कम करने में भी सहायता मिल सकती है। यह परिकल्पना भूमि उपयोग दक्षता में सुधार कर सकती है, कृषि आय में विविधता ला सकती है और खाद्य एवं ऊर्जा सुरक्षा दोनों को मजबूत कर सकती है। अनुसंधान, क्षेत्र प्रदर्शन और नीति विकास के माध्यम से, भारत कृषि-वोल्टेइक तकनीक को विभिन्न कृषि परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल बनाने के माध्यमों की खोज कर रहा है। यह किसानों की आजीविका को भारत की नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा संबंधी व्यापक महत्वाकांक्षाओं से जोड़ने का एक आशाजनक मार्ग प्रदान करता है।



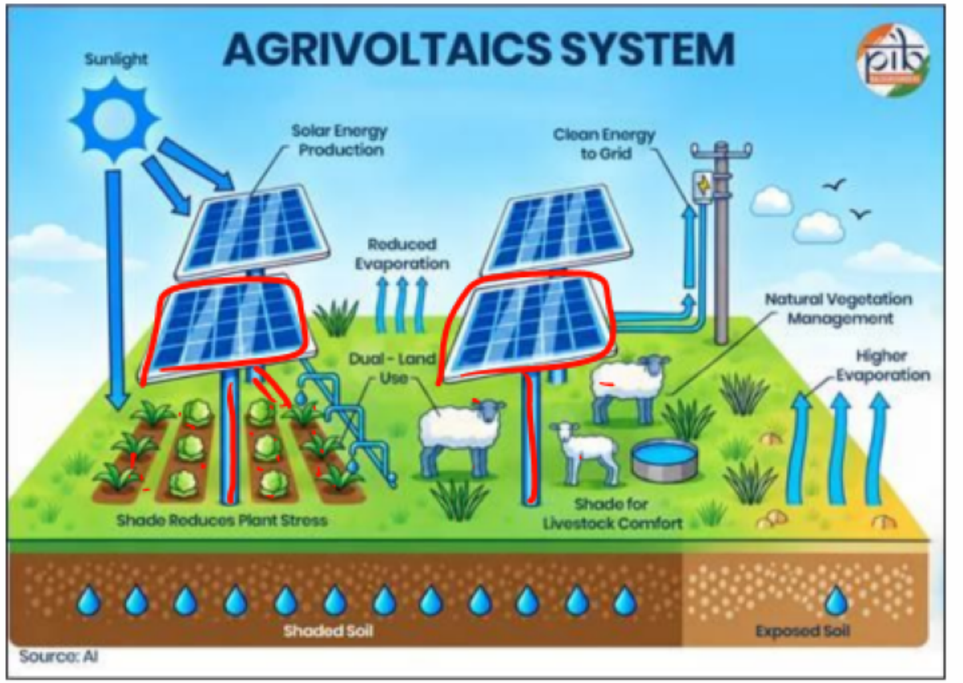
- नई दिल्ली में 21-23 अक्टूबर 2026 को आयोजित होने वाला 7वां 'एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स विश्व सम्मेलन' - सौर ऊर्जा और कृषि के एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक वैश्विक मंच के रूप में कार्य करता है। इसका विषय "पावरिंग द ग्लोबल साउथ" है। उद्योग, अनुसंधान, नीति और वित्त क्षेत्रों के हितधारकों को एक साथ लाने वाला यह सम्मेलन, एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स में उभरते अवसरों पर केंद्रित है। इसका उद्देश्य भूमि के कुशल उपयोग को बढ़ावा देना, कृषि की स्थिरता को मजबूत करना और कम कार्बन उत्सर्जन वाली अर्थव्यवस्था की ओर बदलाव में सहयोग देना है।

एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स: कृषि और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के बीच सेतु

- एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स, को एग्रिसोलर या दोहरे उपयोग वाला सोलर भी कहा जाता है। यह भूमि के उपयोग की क्षमता को अधिकतम करता है, फ़सलों के लिए छाया प्रदान करता है और किसानों को अतिरिक्त लाभ पहुँचाता है।

एग्रीवोल्टाइक प्रणालियों की डिज़ाइन और कार्यप्रणाली

- एग्रीवोल्टाइक प्रणाली कृषि बुनियादी ढांचे को सौर प्रतिष्ठानों के साथ जोड़ती है, जिसे स्थानीय खेती की स्थितियों के अनुरूप ढाला जाता है। यह तकनीक कई प्रमुख घटकों के माध्यम से काम करती है



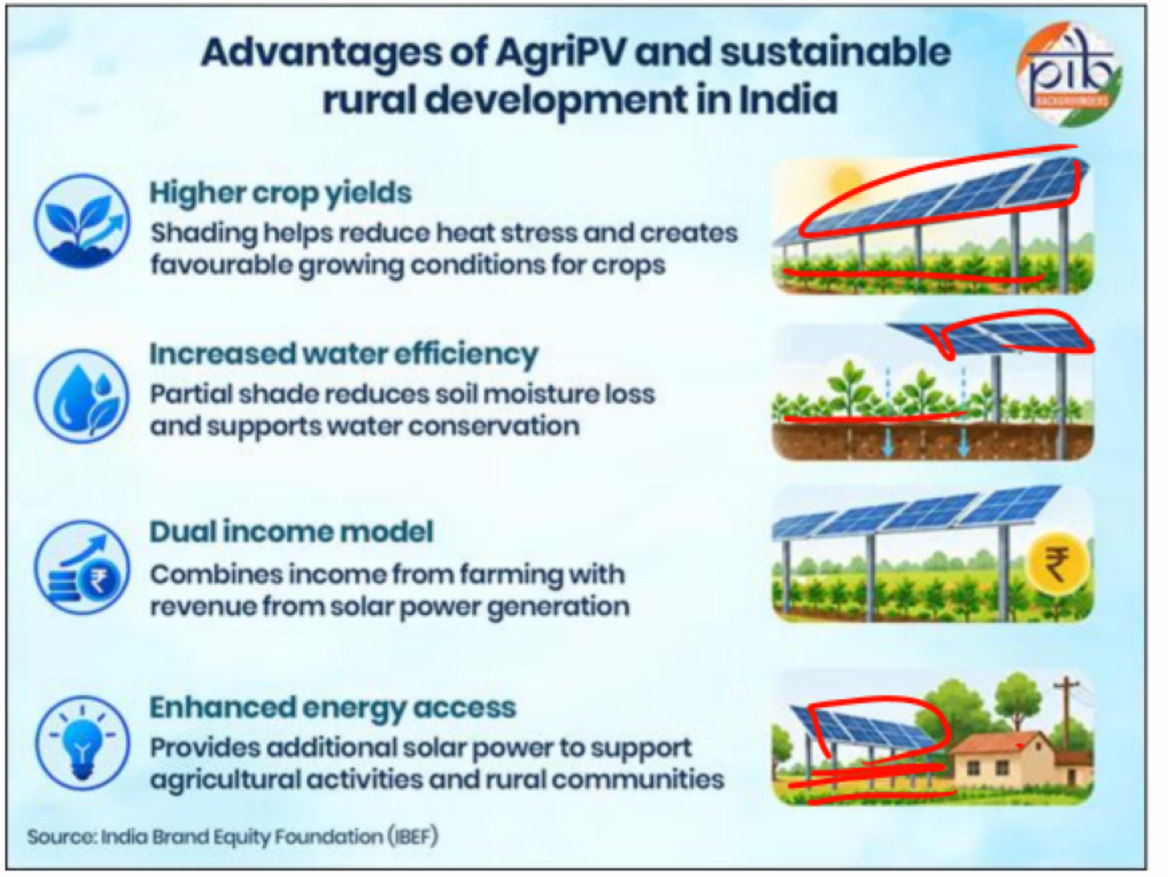
- **ऊंचाई पर लगे सोलर ढांचे:** सोलर पैनलों को सीधे ज़मीन पर रखने के बजाय, उन्हें ऊंचे ढांचे पर लगाया जाता है। इससे धूप और बारिश नीचे लगी फसलों तक आसानी से पहुँच पाती है। खेती के लिए इस्तेमाल होने वाले इन ऊंचे सोलर पैनलों की वजह से किसान बिना किसी परेशानी के अपने कृषि उपकरणों को इनके नीचे ले जा सकते हैं।
- **आंशिक छाया:** ये पैनल छाया प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे फसलें तेज़ गर्मी से बच जाती हैं और मिट्टी से पानी का वाष्पीकरण कम हो जाता है। इससे पौधों के विकास के लिए एक ठंडा और स्थिर वातावरण बनता है, जो विशेष रूप से गर्म या सूखे इलाकों में बहुत सहायक होता है।
- **ज़मीन की दोहरी उत्पादकता:** एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स में खेती या पशुपालन को सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन के साथ जोड़ा जाता है, जिससे ज़मीन का बेहतर उपयोग होता है। इससे खेती के कामों के लिए बिजली मिलती है, और बची हुई बिजली को ग्रिड में बेचकर अतिरिक्त कमाई भी की जा सकती है।

भारत में एग्रीवोल्टेइक्स का विकास

- अगस्त 2025 तक, भारत में 36 चालू एग्रीवोल्टाइक परियोजनाएं थीं, जिनकी स्थापित क्षमता 37.54 मेगावाट थी। इसके अलावा, 10 प्रायोगिक परियोजनाएं भी विकास के चरण में थीं। ये परियोजनाएं विभिन्न कृषि-जलवायु क्षेत्रों में फैली हुई हैं और इनमें ऊंचे ढांचे, फसलों के बीच जगह छोड़ने वाले लेआउट और ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम शामिल हैं। यह कृषि उत्पादन के साथ सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन को जोड़ने की दिशा में भारत के बदलते दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।

भारत की एग्रीवोल्टेइक क्षमता

- भारत में एग्रीवोल्टेक्स की काफी संभावनाएं हैं। अनुमानों के अनुसार, देश में एग्रीवोल्टेक्स की क्षमता 3,000 गीगावाट से लेकर लगभग 14,000 गीगावाट तक है, जो कृषि और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के मिलन बिंदु पर मौजूद बड़े अवसरों को दर्शाती है। एग्रीवोल्टेक्स प्रणाली किसानों के लिए आय के स्रोतों में विविधता लाकर मुनाफा बढ़ाने में भी सहायता कर सकते हैं। कुछ मामलों में, इससे सालाना कमाई लगभग 60,000 रुपये प्रति एकड़ से बढ़कर 1 लाख रुपये प्रति एकड़ से भी अधिक हो सकती है।



एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स के विकास की संभावनाएं

- **भूमि की उपयुक्तता:** जीआईएस-आधारित राष्ट्रीय स्क्रीनिंग में, पर्यावरणीय, कृषि-संबंधी और तकनीकी फिल्टर लगाने के बाद, एग्री-पीवी के लिए उपयुक्त 47.35 मिलियन हेक्टेयर "प्रतिबंधित कृषि भूमि" की पहचान की गई है। यह एक ऐसा भूमि आधार है जो जलवायु के अनुकूल है।
- **फसलों की अनुकूलता:** सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्रों के साथ-साथ फलों, सब्जियों, मसालों और औषधीय पौधों की खेती करना एक अच्छा विकल्प हो सकता है।
- महाराष्ट्र, राजस्थान, आंध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, कर्नाटक और उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों में इसकी **उच्च क्षमता** है। इन राज्यों में कृषि भूमि की उपलब्धता, सौर संसाधनों और कृषि-जलवायु परिस्थितियों का ऐसा अनुकूल मेल है कि भारत की कुल अनुमानित एग्री पीवी बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता का लगभग 50 प्रतिशत हिस्सा इन्हीं राज्यों से आ सकता है।
- उडीसा, तमिलनाडु, केरल, तेलंगाना, बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल में **मध्यम क्षमता** देखी गई है।
- बड़े पैमाने पर सौर परियोजनाओं को लगाने के लिए दक्षिणी, पश्चिमी और मध्य क्षेत्रों में सौर विकिरण, भूमि की उपलब्धता और बागवानी की सघनता का सबसे अनुकूल मेल देखने को मिलता है।

एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स के विकास में सरकारी पहल

- भारत सरकार ने देश भर में एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स को अपनाने और इसके विस्तार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कई तरह के नीतिगत, शोध, प्रौद्योगिकी विकास और कार्यान्वयन संबंधी कदम उठाए हैं।
- **प्रधानमंत्री किसान ऊर्जा सुरक्षा एवं उत्थान महाभियान (पीएम कुसुम):** फरवरी 2019 में शुरू की गई यह योजना कृषि में सौर ऊर्जा के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देती है, डीजल पर निर्भरता कम करती है और किसानों के लिए अपनी आय के स्रोत बढ़ाने के अवसर पैदा करती है। इसमें लगभग ₹34,422 करोड़ की केंद्रीय वित्तीय सहायता का प्रावधान है। यह विकेंद्रीकृत सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन और कृषि पंपों के सौरकरण को भी संभव बनाती है, जिससे खेती के साथ सौर ऊर्जा को जोड़ने के विकास के रास्ते खुलते हैं। PM KUSUM योजना
- **एग्रीवोल्टेइक्स उत्कृष्टता केंद्र:** राष्ट्रीय सौर ऊर्जा संस्थान ने, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (आईसीएआर) के भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान (आईएआरआई) के साथ मिलकर, एग्रीवोल्टेइक्स पर शोध, प्रदर्शन और क्षमता निर्माण के लिए एक 'उत्कृष्टता केंद्र' (सीओई) स्थापित किया है। इसने कई प्रायोगिक परियोजनाएं शुरू की हैं, जिनमें भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान में लगाया गया 100 किलोवाट का एग्रीवोल्टेइक सिस्टम भी शामिल है।

राज्य-विशिष्ट पहल

- कई राज्य क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट योजनाओं के माध्यम से कृषि में सौर ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं।
- **मुख्यमंत्री सौर कृषि वाहिनी योजना 2.0, महाराष्ट्र:** यह योजना कृषि उपभोक्ताओं को बिजली की आपूर्ति में सहायता करने के लिए, लगभग 35,000 एकड़ सरकारी और निजी ज़मीन पर 16,000 मेगावाट क्षमता की सौर परियोजनाएं लगाकर सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देती है।
- **किसान सूर्योदय योजना, गुजरात:** यह योजना किसानों की बिजली ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए सौर ऊर्जा के उपयोग का विस्तार करती है। इसके अंतर्गत कृषि कार्यों के लिए दिन के समय बिजली की आपूर्ति की जाती है। सौर और अन्य गैर-पारंपरिक ऊर्जा उत्पादन संयंत्रों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से चालू करके, रोज़ाना सुबह 5:00 बजे से रात 9:00 बजे तक, यानी 16 घंटे तक बिजली देने की योजना है।
- **सूर्य रैथा योजना, कर्नाटक:** यह योजना सौर ऊर्जा से चलने वाले सिंचाई पंपों को बढ़ावा देती है और किसानों को अतिरिक्त बिजली बेचकर कमाई करने का मौका देती है। सौर पंप किसानों को फसलों की सिंचाई के लिए ऊर्जा उपलब्ध कराने में सहायता करते हैं, जिससे डीज़ल से चलने वाले पंपों पर उनकी निर्भरता कम होती है।
- भारत सरकार, राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर, नीतिगत उपायों और लक्षित कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से कृषि में सौर ऊर्जा के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दे रही है। ये प्रयास सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन और कृषि उत्पादन को एक ही जगह पर साथ-साथ करने के अवसर पैदा करके, भारत में 'एग्रीवोल्टाइक्स' (कृषि-सौर ऊर्जा) के परिदृश्य को आकार दे रहे हैं।



भारत एग्रीवोल्टेइक्स गठबंधन

- भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सौर ऊर्जा संघ (एनएसईएफआई) द्वारा संचालित भारत एग्रीवोल्टिक्स गठबंधन (आईएए) एक बहु-हितधारक मंच है जो सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन और कृषि के लिए भूमि के दोहरे उपयोग को बढ़ावा देता है। वर्ष 2023 में शुरू हुए इस गठबंधन के सदस्यों की संख्या बढ़कर 40 से अधिक हो गई है और यह सरकारी मंत्रालयों और उद्योग जगत के हितधारकों के साथ मिलकर नीतिगत समर्थन, अनुसंधान और जमीनी स्तर पर कार्यान्वयन के माध्यम से एग्रीवोल्टिक्स को आगे बढ़ाने का काम करता है। यह ज्ञान संसाधनों का विकास करता है, प्रायोगिक परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा देता है और भूमि उत्पादकता में सुधार, किसानों की आय में विविधता लाने और ग्रामीण ऊर्जा तक पहुंच को मजबूत करने के लिए बडे पैमाने पर व्यावसायिक मॉडलों का समर्थन करता है।

प्रारंभिक परीक्षा प्रश्न (Prelims Question)

प्रश्न: 'एग्री-वोल्टेक्स' (Agrivoltaic System) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

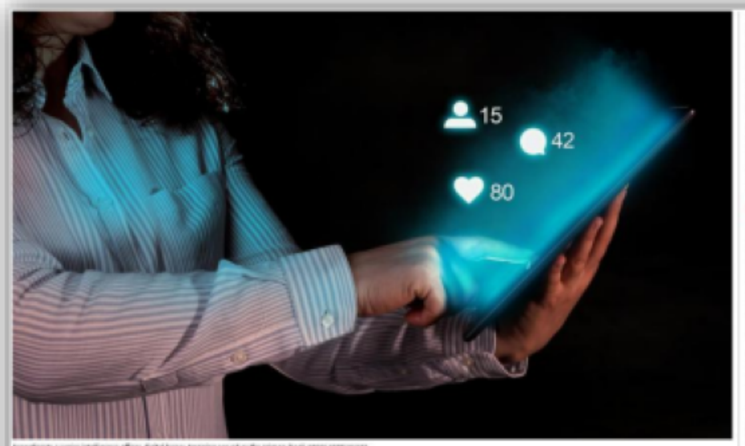
1. इसमें एक ही भूमि पर कृषि फसल उत्पादन और सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन का कार्य एक साथ किया जाता है।
2. यह प्रणाली किसानों की आय के स्रोतों में विविधता लाने और भूमि उपयोग दक्षता (Land Use Efficiency) में सुधार करने में सहायक है।
3. इस तकनीक से सौर पैनलों के नीचे की भूमि का वाष्पीकरण (Evaporation) बढ़ता है, जिससे फसलों को अधिक पानी की आवश्यकता होती 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 प्रश्न (Mains Question)

- **प्रश्न:** *"एग्री-वोल्टेक्स (Agrivoltaics) भारत में कृषि संकट और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों के दोहरे समाधान के रूप में उभर रहा है।"* इस कथन के आलोक में एग्री-वोल्टेक्स प्रणाली के लाभों, इसके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों तथा इसे बढ़ावा देने हेतु आवश्यक उपायों का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। *(150-250 शब्द)*



According to a senior intelligence officer, digital honey-trapping served as the primary hook. GETTY IMAGES

How India thwarted Pakistan's bid to steal crucial defence data

Officers of the Counter Intelligence Cell of Andhra Pradesh, intrigued by a slew of messaging patterns across various social media platforms, busted a major digital honey-trap racket, including the Indian conduits, whose motive was to leak sensitive defence details, specifically Naval intelligence, to the neighbouring country's Inter-Services Intelligence, writes Sumit Bhattacharjee

At least six months ago, a team of officers in Andhra Pradesh's Counter Intelligence Cell (CIC) noticed an unusual pattern of messaging across various social media platforms, including interactive messaging applications such as WhatsApp.

What intrigued the officers was an abnormal frequency of incoming and outgoing international communications. The communication pattern was immediately red-flagged. The CIC team alerted central intelligence agencies and leveraged the resources of NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid) and CMS (Central Monitoring System) core components of India's security infrastructure designed to combat terrorism, espionage, and cross-border threats - to trace Internet Protocol (IP) logs and WhatsApp One-Time Password (OTP) sharing patterns.

This initial anomaly marked the beginning of unearthing a far larger conspiracy and espionage racket involving the leaks of sensitive defence details - specifically Naval intelligence - by Indian conduits to their handlers in Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

After placing the subjects under close surveillance for several months, a dedicated team of officers and personnel from Andhra Pradesh's CIC, in close coordination with Naval Intelligence and Anti-Terrorist Squads (ATS) across 10 States, busted a major Pakistan-sponsored espionage network.

Code-naming the crackdown as 'Operation Firewall-2026', law enforcement agencies moved in to execute arrests. In the process, investigators identified 18 key suspects, including 12 Naval personnel spread across 10 States.

The operation has so far led to the arrest of two persons. Among them is Pradeep Mukherjee, a sailor in the Indian Navy posted at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), who was taken into custody from INS Agrani in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, where he was undergoing training. Another person took into custody, identified as Annam Sai Varaprasad, is a civilian contract driver engaged for Naval officers at the Visakhapatnam naval base.

Although the coordinated operation was formally launched on [redacted], the Andhra Pradesh CIC announced the arrests on October 5 and 6. The CIC stated that cases were registered under multiple provisions, including Section 61 (2) (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Sections 17 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), ISRC Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923, along with other relevant sections of the BNS.

> There are various sophisticated avenues of intelligence gathering today. Yet, field-level human intelligence remains one of the oldest and most reliable methods, and honey-trapping is the oldest trick in the operational handbook. It happened decades ago, and it will continue to occur
> A senior Naval officer

Mechanics of the espionage network

According to sources within Counter Intelligence, the operation followed a pattern typical of cross-border espionage. Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIOs) from the ISI identified vulnerabilities among potential targets, cultivating them to serve as assets within India.

The handlers deployed time-tested 'vulnerability Mapping and the classic MICE (Money, Ideology, Coercion, and Extortion) framework to initiate contact, cultivate trust, and extract actionable information through digital honey-trapping combined with financial inducements.

"That is precisely why they consistently target sailors or lower-ranking personnel in the Navy - individuals who may be facing financial distress and need money," noted a senior intelligence official.

In this instance, the operatives relied heavily on Social Engineering and open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques. Handlers systematically scanned social media platforms to identify vulnerable defence personnel, government contractors, or civil servants before setting their traps.

According to a senior intelligence officer, digital honey-trapping served as the primary hook.

In such operations, fake female personas are engineered to initiate casual contact. Over time, these interactions graduate into romantic conversations, eventually leading to the exchange of sexually explicit content. While the investigation remains ongoing, preliminary findings confirm that explicit material was exchanged. However, investigators are still verifying whether the materials were subsequently used as leverage to blackmail and extract classified operational information.

Thus far, the investigation revealed that two trained female PIOs operating under the pseudonyms Jyshita Full and Arti Mehta were in direct contact with the two arrested persons.

While "Jyshita" claimed to be an employee at a shipbuilding firm in Mumbai, "Arti" posed as a Delhi-based psychologist. The operatives initially established contact through Facebook before coaxing the targets to transition their conversations to WhatsApp.

Technical intelligence gathered by investigators indicates that the operatives approached defence personnel using fictitious social media profiles. Once rapport and trust were established, conversations rapidly shifted to text messaging, encrypted voice calls, and video calls. The broad strategy relied on fabricated professional identities, promises of romantic relationships, explicit adult content (including compromising video recordings), and monetary incentives paid via cryptocurrency channels.

According to a serving commander-rank officer, he had once received such unsolicited e-mail from a "very attractive-looking woman", who posed as an executive in a communication company. But after a very mundane conversation, I could understand that it was a honey trap, as she sounded very keen to know about my rank, my postings and other confidential details. I broke the contact immediately. Later, I realised that she had picked up my profile from a matrimonial site, as at that time my parents and I were browsing through such sites. They look for vulnerabilities and target their needs and aspirations, he said.

A CIC official explained that initial conversations are typically mundane and centre on trivial matters. However, trained operatives gradually steer discussions toward sensitive operational domains, extracting fragments of information. They then connect these disparate data points to reconstruct operational theories or draft comprehensive intelligence briefs. In the current case, investigators allege that the ultimate objective was to persuade personnel to share classified defence intelligence.

The operatives reportedly sought intelligence regarding: movements and schedules of Naval vessels and submarines. Photographs and video footage of naval assets and sensitive installations. The identities, routines, and movements of Commanding Officers. Live operational tours during video calls, where personnel were urged to show sensitive areas of naval bases, ships, and submarines.

It is now established that the names and profiles of these PIOs were completely fraudulent, with strong indicators suggesting they may have been generated using Artificial Intelligence (AI). It is a recognised reality in modern counter-espionage that foreign intelligence agencies, including Pakistan's ISI, rely heavily on generative AI and deepfake technologies to conduct digital honey-trap operations.

Handlers use generative AI models to construct hyper-realistic human faces, photo galleries, and video clips that do not exist anywhere else on the open web. Frequently leaving cyber-investigators without initial reference points.

> We have initiated deep digital forensic recovery procedures to retrieve deleted chat histories, transmitted image files, and underlying metadata
> A CIC official

Profile cloning, deepfakes, and real-time AI voice-swapping calls are used to match local accents are the latest weapons in the intelligence arena. Generative AI models can mimic regional dialects and cultural nuances, making conversations feel remarkably natural. Intelligence sources confirm that this specific technological dimension of the case remains under active investigation.

Why the focus remains on Vizag?

Pakistani intelligence has long maintained a focused interest in the ENC based in Visakhapatnam. Historically, during the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, Pakistan deployed its most advanced submarine, the PNS Ghazi, to the waters off Visakhapatnam with the specific objective of tracking and sinking India's aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.

Visakhapatnam is not merely home to one of India's largest Naval bases; it serves as the home port for the Arihant-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs). These assets operate under the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and represent a vital leg of India's nuclear triad. Furthermore, the highly classified Ship Building Centre (SBC), where these nuclear submarines are constructed and fitted out, is located within this naval enclave.

Ever since India commissioned its first indigenous SSBN INS Arihant, foreign intelligence agencies have intensified efforts to gather granular details regarding the facility and its assets.

This operation is far from the first cross-border espionage case targeting the ENC.

In December 2019, Operation Dolphin's Nose exposed an extensive spying network targeting the ENC. That investigation uncovered a network of Pakistani Intelligence Operatives who utilised digital honey-traps, hawala money channels, and local conduits to compromise junior naval personnel.

Initially detected and investigated by the Andhra Pradesh CIC, the 2019 case was subsequently handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Approximately 15 people, including seven Naval personnel, were arrested, establishing direct links to the ISI. The NIA has since secured formal convictions against several of the key accused.

The operational methodology and the nature of intelligence sought in the current case bear striking similarities to the 2019 enterprise: detailed data on ship and submarine deployments, dockyard layouts, and base logistics.

In both instances, suspects were charged under stringent legislation, including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act (OSA), and Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for criminal conspiracy.

"There are various sophisticated avenues of intelligence gathering today, including high-resolution satellite imagery. Yet, field-level human intelligence remains one of the oldest and most reliable methods, and honey-trapping is the oldest trick in the operational handbook. It happened decades ago, and it will continue to occur," observed a senior Naval officer.

The painstaking probe

Narrowing down the suspects in "Operation Firewall, 2026" required months of painstaking investigation. Once anomalous international messaging traffic was flagged, the AP CIC and central intelligence agencies deployed technical surveillance frameworks like NATGRID and CMS to intercept incoming and outgoing international communications, trace IP logs, monitor WhatsApp OTP sharing patterns, and isolate digital channels used to exfiltrate classified naval data. High-end decryption tools were used to decipher end-to-end encrypted messages.

Investigative sources confirmed that financial transactions and the real-world identities of the suspects were mapped using NATGRID databases. Money trails involving suspicious bank transfers, local hawala networks, and cryptocurrency micro-payments were traced across 10 Indian states.

A critical breakthrough occurred when investigators uncovered a local support architecture that utilised Indian SIM cards registered under fictitious or stolen local names. These local conduits shared One Time Passwords (OTPs) with foreign handlers overseas. Indian intermediaries were enticed with monetary incentives - paid either in cryptocurrency or through local cash transfers - to supply the OTPs required to activate fresh WhatsApp accounts. Once activated, these messaging accounts were operated remotely from Pakistan by ISI handlers.

However, capturing digital footprints was insufficient to secure convictions.

"After conducting extensive digital surveillance, we immediately moved to gather simultaneous human intelligence (Humint). It required months of synthesising both Techint and Humint before we possessed sufficient operational proof to execute the raids," explained a CIC official.

A senior IPS officer involved in the operation detailed the complexity of counter-espionage investigations:

"Because this is an active national security investigation, full operational details cannot be disclosed. However, in cases of this magnitude, putting targets under surveillance and compiling actionable counter-intelligence takes months or even years. We utilise specialised methodologies, including launching proxy sites to entrap rogue actors.

While our technical capabilities operate within specific framework constraints compared to agencies in the US, Israel, or Russia, we routinely collaborate with partner nations to verify cross-border intelligence. The most challenging aspect remains retrieving encrypted message logs from foreign application developers and service providers, as they operate under strict user privacy contracts. Recovering data from platforms using end-to-end encryption requires demonstrating explicit national security threats to obtain high-level judicial and administrative authorisation, a process that can take weeks or months."

Safeguards and operational security

In light of evolving cyber threats and cross-border espionage networks, the Ministry of Defence has instituted stringent operational security (OPSEC) frameworks across all service branches to safeguard classified assets.

Despite these protocols, the key question remains: How do foreign operatives continue to breach security perimeters, and how do compromised assets successfully transmit classified operational data?

The Armed Forces, including the Indian Navy, have banned a wide array of high-risk commercial applications and imposed strict regulations on Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). Personnel are explicitly prohibited from using social networking platforms, online gaming chat servers, or commercial VPN applications on both official and personal devices while stationed at sensitive bases or operational commands.

Despite these prohibitions, preliminary findings indicate that photographs and video recordings of sensitive military installations were successfully transmitted by the accused to their overseas handlers.

Military regulations mandate a strict "zero-tolerance" policy regarding unreported contact with unknown or suspicious foreign social media profiles. Service personnel undergo continuous training to identify and report suspected "honey-pot" solicitation attempts immediately.

Prompt reporting allows counter-intelligence units to initiate immediate "trap-and-trace" operations or feed coordinated disinformation back to foreign intelligence handlers.

While the CIC and collaborating intelligence agencies have conducted digital forensic audits on seized mobile phones, hard drives, and communication hardware confiscated from Naval bases and private residences, officials have not yet disclosed the full extent of the classified material that was exfiltrated.

"We have initiated deep digital forensic recovery procedures to retrieve deleted chat histories, transmitted image files, and underlying metadata," stated a CIC official. While 18 primary suspects have been formally identified and two individuals are currently in custody, additional arrests and detailed disclosures are anticipated in the coming days as forensic analysis proceeds.

- **"How India Thwarted Pakistan's bid to steal crucial defence data"** (भारत ने पाकिस्तान के महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा डेटा को चुराने के प्रयास को कैसे नाकाम किया)
- **खुफिया ऑपरेशन ("ऑपरेशन फ्रिंवॉल 2026"):** आंध्र प्रदेश की काउंटर इंटेलिजेंस सेल (CIC) ने राष्ट्रीय और राज्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के साथ मिलकर एक बड़े पाकिस्तानी जासूसी रैकेट का भंडाफोड़ किया, जो सोशल मीडिया के जरिए संवेदनशील नौसैनिक और रक्षा जानकारी चुरा रहा था।
- **हनी ट्रैप और सोशल इंजीनियरिंग का इस्तेमाल:** पाकिस्तानी खुफिया ऑपरेटर्स (ISI) ने फर्जी प्रोफाइल (महिला बनकर) का इस्तेमाल करके भारतीय नौसेना के कर्मियों और रक्षा से जुड़े लोगों को अपने जाल में फंसाया और पैसों का लालच देकर गुप्त सूचनाएं हासिल कीं।
- **फर्जी पहचान और AI का उपयोग:** जासूसों ने फेक प्रोफाइल, डीपफेक, और AI जनरेटेड तस्वीरों का इस्तेमाल किया और बातचीत को व्हाट्सएप जैसे एन्क्रिप्टेड प्लेटफॉर्म पर ट्रांसफर किया।
- **गिरफ्तारियाँ:** इस ऑपरेशन के तहत प्रदीप मुकुंद्रे (नौसेना कर्मी, कोयंबटूर) और अनुमोल वारप्रसाद (विशाखापत्तनम में नागरिक ठेकेदार) सहित कई संदिग्धों को गिरफ्तार किया गया।
- **डिजिटल फोरेंसिक और सुरक्षा:** एनआईए (NIA) और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने डिजिटल सबूत जुटाने, आईपी लॉग्स ट्रैक करने और ऐसे जासूसी नेटवर्क को रोकने के लिए ऑपरेशन तेज कर दिए हैं। साथ ही, संवेदनशील ठिकानों पर सुरक्षा और भी कड़ी कर दी गई है।

1. NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid - नेशनल इंटेलिजेंस ग्रिड)

- **यह क्या है?**
- यह भारत सरकार का एक बहुत बड़ा **डेटा-लिंकिंग सिस्टम (Data Integration System)** है। यह अलग-अलग सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी डेटाबेस को एक ही प्लेटफॉर्म पर जोड़ता है।
- **यह कैसे काम करता है?**
- पहले जब किसी संदिग्ध अपराधी या आतंकवादी की जांच होती थी, तो एजेंसियों (जैसे IB, CBI, RAW) को बैंक खातों, पासपोर्ट, रेलवे/हवाई यात्रा, टैक्स रिकॉर्ड और सिम कार्ड की जानकारी पाने के लिए अलग-अलग विभागों को पत्र लिखना पड़ता था, जिसमें हफ्तों लग जाते थे। NATGRID इन सभी डेटाबेस (जैसे बैंक, टेलीकॉम, इमिग्रेशन, क्रेडिट कार्ड, वाहन पंजीकरण) को आपस में जोड़ता है।
- **फायदा:**
- सुरक्षा एजेंसियां एक क्लिक में संदिग्ध व्यक्ति का पूरा इतिहास (ट्रैवल हिस्ट्री, बैंक ट्रांसफर, फोन रिकॉर्ड) रीयल-टाइम में देख सकती हैं।

2. CMS (Central Monitoring System - सेंट्रल मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम)

- **यह क्या है?**
- यह भारत सरकार का **डिजिटल निगरानी और इंटरसेप्शन (Digital Surveillance & Interception)** सिस्टम है।
- **यह कैसे काम करता है?**
- यह टेलीकॉम कंपनियों (BSNL, Airtel, Jio आदि) के सर्वर से सीधे जुड़ा होता है। जब कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों (Law Enforcement Agencies) को किसी संदिग्ध व्यक्ति की गतिविधियों पर नज़र रखनी होती है, तो वे CMS के ज़रिए उसकी **फ़ोन कॉल, एसएमएस (SMS), और इंटरनेट डेटा** को सीधे मॉनिटर (सुरक्षित रूप से ट्रैक/सुन) कर सकती हैं।
- **फायदा:**
- सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को टेलीकॉम कंपनियों से बार-बार डेटा मांगने की ज़रूरत नहीं पड़ती, जिससे जासूसी या अपराध से जुड़े मामलों में तुरंत कार्रवाई की जा सकती है।

3. OSINT (Open Source Intelligence - ओपन सोर्स इंटेलिजेंस)

- **यह क्या है?**
- यह **सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध (Publicly Available) जानकारियों** को एकत्र करके उससे खुफिया जानकारी निकालने की एक तकनीक है।
- **यह कैसे काम करता है?**
- इसमें किसी भी गोपनीय या हैक किए गए डेटा का उपयोग नहीं होता। इसके तहत इंटरनेट पर खुले तौर पर उपलब्ध डेटा—जैसे सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट्स (Facebook, X, Instagram), ब्लॉग्स, न्यूज़ रिपोर्ट्स, सार्वजनिक दस्तावेज़, और Google Maps आदि का विश्लेषण किया जाता है।
- **फायदा:**
- जासूस या अपराधी अक्सर सोशल मीडिया पर अपनी तस्वीरें, लोकेशन या गतिविधियों की जानकारी छोड़ देते हैं। OSINT के ज़रिए सुरक्षा एजेंसियां इन बिखरी हुई जानकारियों को जोड़कर संदिग्धों का प्रोफाइल और नेटवर्क तैयार कर लेती हैं।

प्रश्न: हाल ही में चर्चा में रहे 'ऑपरेशन फ़िंवॉल 2026' (Operation Firewall 2026) और भारत के आंतरिक सुरक्षा तंत्र के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. 'ऑपरेशन फ़िंवॉल 2026' भारतीय एजेंसियों द्वारा रक्षा प्रतिष्ठानों और नौसैनिक सूचनाओं से जुड़े एक सीमा पार जासूसी (Espionage) और हनी-ट्रैपिंग नेटवर्क का भंडाफोड़ करने से संबंधित है।
2. NATGRID (नेशनल इंटेलिजेंस ग्रिड) एक एकीकृत खुफिया ढांचा है, जो विभिन्न जांच और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को संदिग्ध गतिविधियों को ट्रैक करने के लिए रीयल-टाइम डेटाबेस एक्सेस प्रदान करता है।
3. UAPA (गैर-कानूनी गतिविधियां रोकथाम अधिनियम) और OSA (शासकीय गुप्त बात अधिनियम) के तहत केवल विदेशी नागरिकों पर ही मामला दर्ज किया जा सकता है, भारतीय नागरिकों पर नहीं।

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 प्रश्न (Mains Question)

- **प्रश्न:** *"आधुनिक युग में साइबर जासूसी (Cyber Espionage), हनी-ट्रैपिंग और जेनेरेटिव एआई (Generative AI) जैसी उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों का दुरुपयोग भारत की राष्ट्रीय और रक्षा सुरक्षा के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती बनकर उभरा है।"* इस कथन के आलोक में हालिया प्रवृत्तियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए तथा भारत के रक्षा व आंतरिक सुरक्षा तंत्र को मजबूत करने हेतु आवश्यक सुरक्षा उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। *(250 शब्द)*

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Govt. to revise labour survey to track gig, household work

Periodic Labour Force Survey to identify households with at least one digital platform worker; it will also have questions to capture engagement in caregiving activities and unpaid trainee work

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has decided to change the design and structure of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) to track digital platform workers and capture engagement in unpaid household, caregiving, volunteer, and trainee work. The PLFS will also include additional questions to measure labour underutilisation.

According to a press release and concept note issued here on Friday, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), has proposed modifications to the PLFS sampling design starting January 2027. The survey schedule will also change.

The Ministry has invited comments and suggestions from policymakers, researchers, academic institutions, and the public within 15 days from Friday.



Hidden labour: The revised labour survey aims to better capture the economic contribution of women's unpaid work. IMRAN NISSAR

A separate Second Stage Stratum (SSS) will be introduced in the PLFS to identify households with at least one digital platform worker. An additional entry will be added to the questionnaire to determine whether any member of the household has engaged in digital platform work during the specified reference period. "There will be four SSSs in rural areas and five in urban areas, with 14 households canvassed in each selected First Stage Unit (FSU). This revision in SSS formation is expected to improve the coverage of digital platform workers and facilitate more comprehensive data collection on this emerging segment of the labour market," the press release said.

Concept note

According to the concept note, a large proportion of women in India spend considerable time on unpaid household and caregiving activities, such as cooking, cleaning, childcare, and caring for elderly, sick, or disabled family members.

"While such activities contribute significantly to household well-being and facilitate the participation of other household members in paid employment, they have not been measured separately in PLFS until now," it noted, adding that specific questions will be incorporated to capture engagement in own-use production of goods, and unpaid household and caregiving activities.

Additionally, the criteria for sample allocation and stratification have been updated.

"These revisions are expected to improve the efficiency of sample allocation and ensure better representation of population variations, which in turn will minimise operational difficulties during sample selection," the release said.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

1. PLFS क्या है?

- PLFS भारत में **रोजगार (Employment)** और **बेरोजगारी (Unemployment)** की स्थिति को मापने वाला प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय सर्वेक्षण है। यह भारत के श्रम बाजार के मुख्य संकेतकों का डेटा एकत्र करता है, जैसे:
- **LFPR (श्रम बल भागीदारी दर):** कुल आबादी में काम करने या काम की तलाश करने वाले लोगों का प्रतिशत।
- **WPR (श्रमिक जनसंख्या अनुपात):** कुल आबादी में रोजगार प्राप्त लोगों का प्रतिशत।
- **UR (बेरोजगारी दर):** श्रम बल में शामिल उन लोगों का प्रतिशत जिन्हें काम नहीं मिल पा रहा है।

2. यह कब शुरू हुआ?

- इसे **अप्रैल 2017** में लॉन्च किया गया था।
- इससे पहले **NSSO** हर 5 साल में 'पंचवर्षीय रोजगार-बेरोजगारी सर्वेक्षण' (Quinquennial Survey) कराता था। पुरानी पद्धति में डेटा आने में काफी लंबा समय लगता था, इसलिए अधिक नियमित डेटा प्राप्त करने के लिए PLFS की शुरुआत की गई।

3. इसे कौन जारी करता है?

- इसे **राष्ट्रीय प्रतिदर्श सर्वेक्षण कार्यालय (NSSO)** द्वारा आयोजित और तैयार किया जाता है।
- यह **सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI)** के अंतर्गत आता है।

4. यह कब-कब जारी होता है?

- PLFS दो अलग-अलग समय सीमाओं पर रिपोर्ट जारी करता है:
- **त्रैमासिक रिपोर्ट (Quarterly Report):**
  - यह **केवल शहरी क्षेत्रों (Urban Areas)** के लिए हर 3 महीने में जारी की जाती है।
  - इसमें **वर्तमान साप्ताहिक स्थिति (CWS - Current Weekly Status)** के आधार पर डेटा मापा जाता है।
- **वार्षिक रिपोर्ट (Annual Report):**
  - यह **ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों क्षेत्रों (Rural + Urban)** के लिए साल में एक बार (जुलाई से जून के चक्र के लिए) जारी की जाती है।
  - इसमें **सामान्य स्थिति (Usual Principal Status - UPS)** और **वर्तमान साप्ताहिक स्थिति (CWS)** दोनों के आधार पर रिपोर्ट तैयार होती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

5. इसमें क्या बदलाव हो रहे हैं? (हालिया सुधार)

- **समयबद्धता और गति में सुधार:** पहले सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट आने में 1-2 साल लग जाते थे, लेकिन अब त्रैमासिक और वार्षिक रिपोर्ट अधिक तेज़ी और समय पर जारी की जा रही हैं।
- **डिजिटल डेटा संग्रह (CAPI तकनीक):** अब कागजी फॉर्म के बजाय **कंप्यूटर असिस्टेड पर्सनल इंटरव्यूइंग (CAPI)** तकनीक और टैबलेट्स के जरिए सीधे फील्ड से डेटा अपलोड किया जाता है, जिससे गलतियों की संभावना कम होती है।
- **महिला श्रम बल (Female LFPR) पर विशेष ध्यान:** महिलाओं की भागीदारी और अवैतनिक पारिवारिक सहायकों (unpaid family helpers) के डेटा संग्रह के मानदंडों को अधिक स्पष्ट और पारदर्शी बनाया गया है।
- **सैंपलिंग में सुधार:** देश की बदलती जनसांख्यिकी और नए उभरते क्षेत्रों (जैसे गिग इकोनॉमी / अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र) को बेहतर तरीके से कवर करने के लिए सैंपल साइज को लगातार सुधारा जा रहा है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Army needs flexibility with long-term vision, says Defence Minister

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI


Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday called on the Army's senior leadership to develop a long-term strategic vision for the next 20-30 years while remaining prepared to respond to immediate and emerging security challenges amid a changing geopolitical and regional environment.

Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Mr. Singh stressed the need for dynamic and flexible strategies that can be adjusted to evolving circumstances. He released the *Land Warfare Doctrine*, which provides an overarching framework for preparing the Army to address the evolving character of warfare and future conflicts.

Mr. Singh also called for an integrated approach to modern warfare, emphasising that land operations and ground forces would remain indispensable despite the growing significance of air, maritime, space, and cyber domains.

Commending the armed forces for adapting to changing operational requirements, the Defence Minister said innovative thinking, enhanced synergy, improved coordination, and advanced weaponry had contributed to the success of Operation Sindoor. The operation had sent a clear message that India would not hesitate to take necessary measures to safeguard its national interests, he said. He credited the armed forces' valour, discipline, preparedness, and restraint, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic efforts for strengthening India's global standing.

→ रक्षा मंत्री – राजनाथ सिंह

→ Army Commanders conference
NJD

→ Land warfare Doctrine

YouTube Homework

- **DRDO**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

1. सेना कमांडर सम्मेलन (Army Commanders' Conference)

- **यह क्या है?**
- यह भारतीय सेना का एक सर्वोच्च संस्थागत मंच (Apex Level Platform) है, जो **द्विवार्षिक (Biannual - साल में दो बार)** आयोजित किया जाता है।
- **अध्यक्षता:**
- इसकी अध्यक्षता **थल सेनाध्यक्ष (Chief of the Army Staff - COAS)** करते हैं। इसमें सभी थल सेना कमांडर (Army Commanders) और शीर्ष सैन्य अधिकारी शामिल होते हैं।
- **मुख्य उद्देश्य:**
  - भारत की सीमाओं (विशेष रूप से चीन और पाकिस्तान सीमाओं) की सुरक्षा और परिचालन तैयारियों (Operational Readiness) की समीक्षा करना।
  - सेना के आधुनिकीकरण, नीतिगत फैसलों और भावी सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर विचार-विमर्श करना।
  - रक्षा मंत्री और वरिष्ठ नेतृत्व के साथ रणनीतिक दिशा-निर्देश तय करना।

2. स्थल युद्ध सिद्धांत (Land Warfare Doctrine)

- **यह क्या है?**
- यह एक ऐसा मार्गदर्शक दस्तावेज़ (Strategic Framework) है, जो यह तय करता है कि भारतीय सेना भविष्य के युद्धों और बदलते युद्ध-क्षेत्र में किस तरह तैयारी करेगी और युद्ध लड़ेगी।

हालिया संदर्भ (अक्टूबर 2026):

- रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने नई दिल्ली में आयोजित 'सेना कमांडर सम्मेलन' के दौरान नवीनतम **'लैंड वॉरफेयर डॉक्ट्रिन 2026' (Land Warfare Doctrine 2026)** को जारी किया है।
- **इसके मुख्य बिंदु:**
  - **मल्टी-डोमेन ऑपरेशंस (Multi-Domain Operations):** केवल ज़मीन पर ही नहीं, बल्कि ज़मीन, हवा, समुद्र, अंतरिक्ष (Space), साइबर (Cyber) और इलेक्ट्रोमैग्नेटिक स्पेक्ट्रम को मिलाकर एकीकृत युद्ध लड़ने पर जोर।
  - **आधुनिक तकनीक का एकीकरण:** आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI), ड्रोन सिस्टम, डेटा एनालिटिक्स और सटीक हमला करने वाले हथियारों का युद्ध नीतियों में समावेश।
  - **मानव-रहित प्रणालियों का समन्वय (Man-Unmanned Teaming):** सैनिकों और रोबोटिक/ड्रोन प्रणालियों के संयुक्त उपयोग से परिचालन क्षमता बढ़ाना।
  - **आत्मनिर्भरता (Self-Reliance):** स्वदेशी रक्षा उत्पादन (Make in India) के ज़रिए लॉजिस्टिक्स और सैन्य आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को मजबूत करना।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

AI tools to be used to verify attendance in jobs scheme

The upgraded National Mobile Monitoring System used to capture attendance of workers will now have anti-tampering features, enhanced face verification to confirm on-site presence, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With an aim to plug the gaps that allegedly allowed misuse of the mobile-based application used to capture workers' attendance under the rural employment programme, Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G), Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday announced that an upgraded version with AI-based verification and other enhanced security features that safeguard against tampering and fraudulent attendance, will be used.

Mr. Chouhan, according to a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), said the government's priority while ensuring employment for rural workers was to "protect their wages and ensure that public funds were used transparently and for their intended purpose".

Face authentication was introduced in the National Mobile Monitoring System in March 2026 as the Ministry's response to concerns over fake attendance, under MGNREGA, that preceded the current rural programme.



The new features will help in identifying suspicious photographs or the repeated use of same images from worksites. ARUN KULKARNI

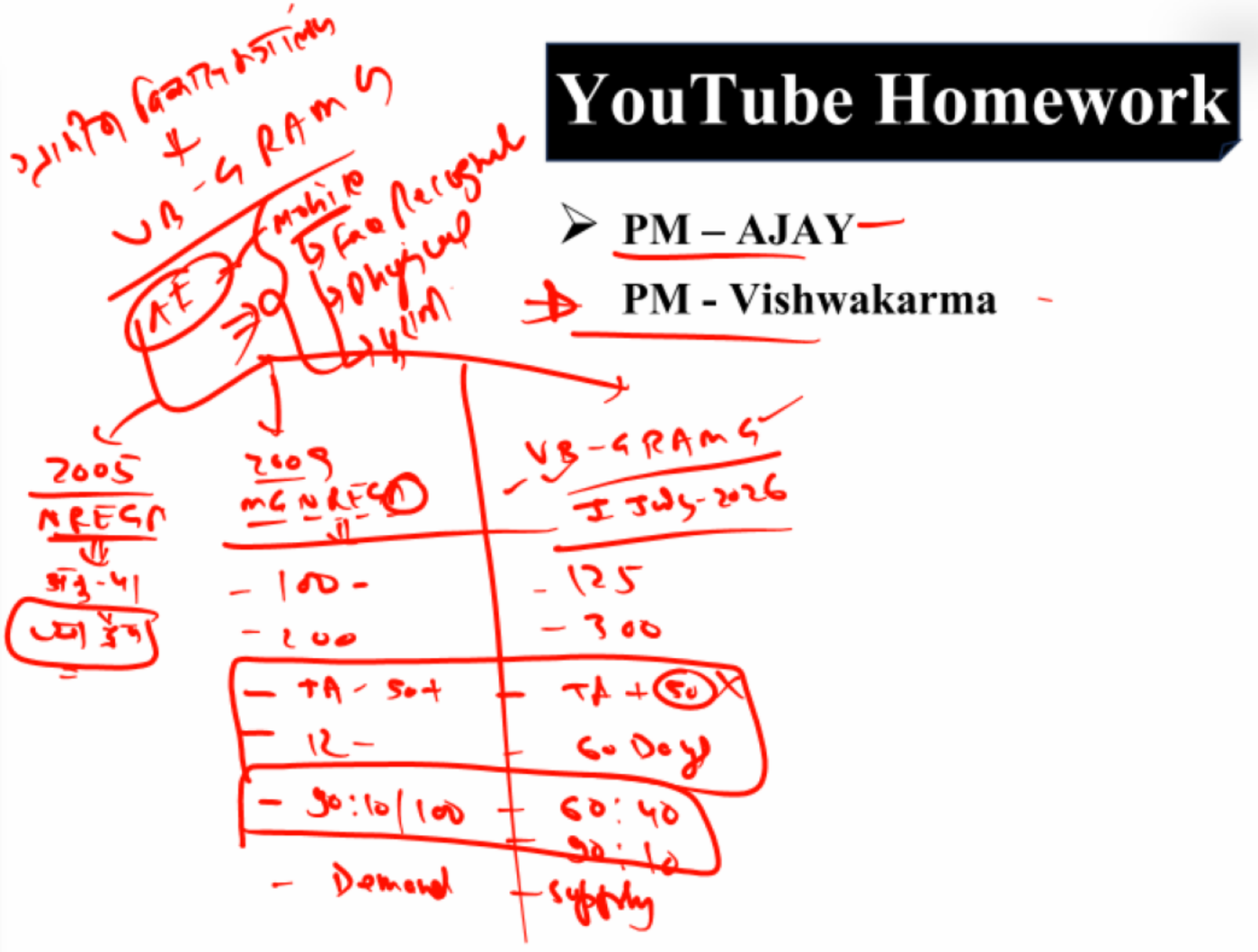
However, despite the face authentication provision, in many cases "photo-to-photo capturing instead of live work images" was being done. There were also mismatches between the actual and recorded worker count. Discrepancies in the gender composition of workers were found at several worksites. Cases of the same photograph of workers appearing in multiple muster rolls, as well as mismatches between workers in morning and afternoon photographs, were also detected.

The latest version, Mr. Chouhan said, includes safeguards against cloning and tampering, along with liveness detection. "These features are designed to verify that the person appearing before the camera is a real, live worker rather than a dummy image or an old photograph. AI-based face verification has also been refined to account for differences across States and geographical regions," he said.

Apart from this, the government has also put in place a "multi-layered verification system" to ensure that payments correspond to genuine work. The system includes an AI-based photo de-duplication module that identifies suspicious or repeated photographs. The Minister explained that where such entries are detected, the wage list and Fund Transfer Order are automatically withheld until the necessary checks are completed.

Offline attendance

Mr. Chouhan also clarified that in areas where network connectivity is unavailable at a worksite, attendance can be recorded offline. An authorised exception mechanism is also available when face authentication fails for elderly workers or persons with disabilities, or when a mobile device encounters technical problems.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

SC backs voters' right to prosecute candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held in a judgment that ordinary private citizens can file criminal complaints against candidates for giving false information or concealing information while filing their nomination papers for an election.

The judgment by a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu said the law does not insist that only public servants or competent authorities were eligible to lodge complaints against electoral candidates.

The court's judgment empowers the vigilant citizen-voter with the *locus standi* to directly act against dishonesty in electoral politics, and ensure transparency in polls right from the stage of filing nominations.

Personal affidavits

Candidates have to file personal affidavits along with their nominations. Senior advocate Sanjay Nuli, who appeared in the case, pointed out that these affidavits were part of legislative efforts to maintain the purity of elections and a healthy democracy.

Voters must be educated

Citizens can file criminal complaints against candidates for false information in nominations, it says

and well-informed about the contesting candidates, including the latter's assets, educational qualifications and criminal antecedents. Concealing personal information or filing false details to hoodwink the voters is a non-cognisable and bailable offence under Section 125-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The Section provides that a guilty party would be liable to face imprisonment for six months, fine or both.

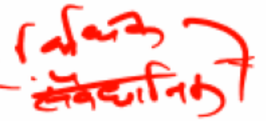
Justice Datta interpreted that the rigour of Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), that only a complaint lodged by a public servant must be taken cognisance of by a court of law, did not affect Section 125-A of the 1951 Act.

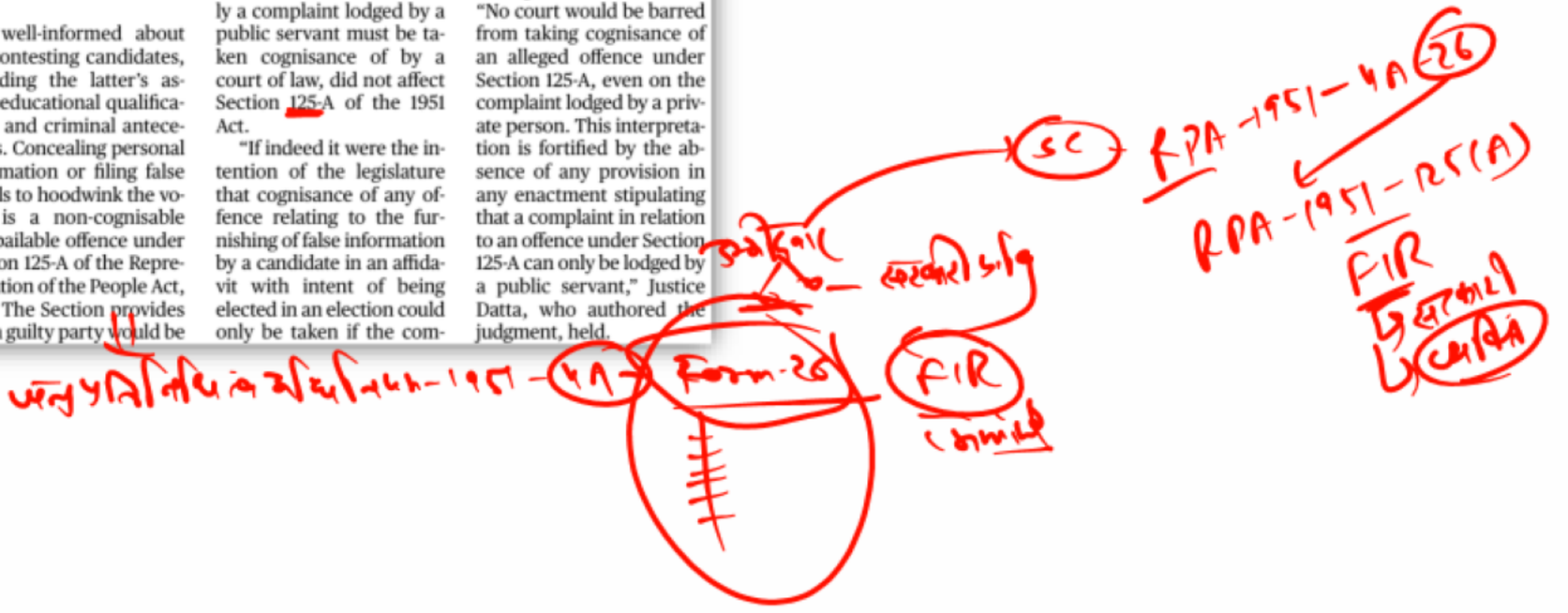
"If indeed it were the intention of the legislature that cognisance of any offence relating to the furnishing of false information by a candidate in an affidavit with intent of being elected in an election could only be taken if the complainant were a public servant, the same could have been provided by an amendment of Section 195 CrPC," the court noted.

Interpretation

"No court would be barred from taking cognisance of an alleged offence under Section 125-A, even on the complaint lodged by a private person. This interpretation is fortified by the absence of any provision in any enactment stipulating that a complaint in relation to an offence under Section 125-A can only be lodged by a public servant," Justice Datta, who authored the judgment, held.

YouTube Homework

- **Right to Vote** 



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Ladakh talks fail to resume amid rift over govt. proposal

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Original agenda adopted by civil society groups now stands hijacked, a new forum alleged

The proposed talks between the Union Home Ministry and representatives from Ladakh failed to take place on Thursday amid growing differences among civil society groups over the Centre's draft proposal for the Union Territory.

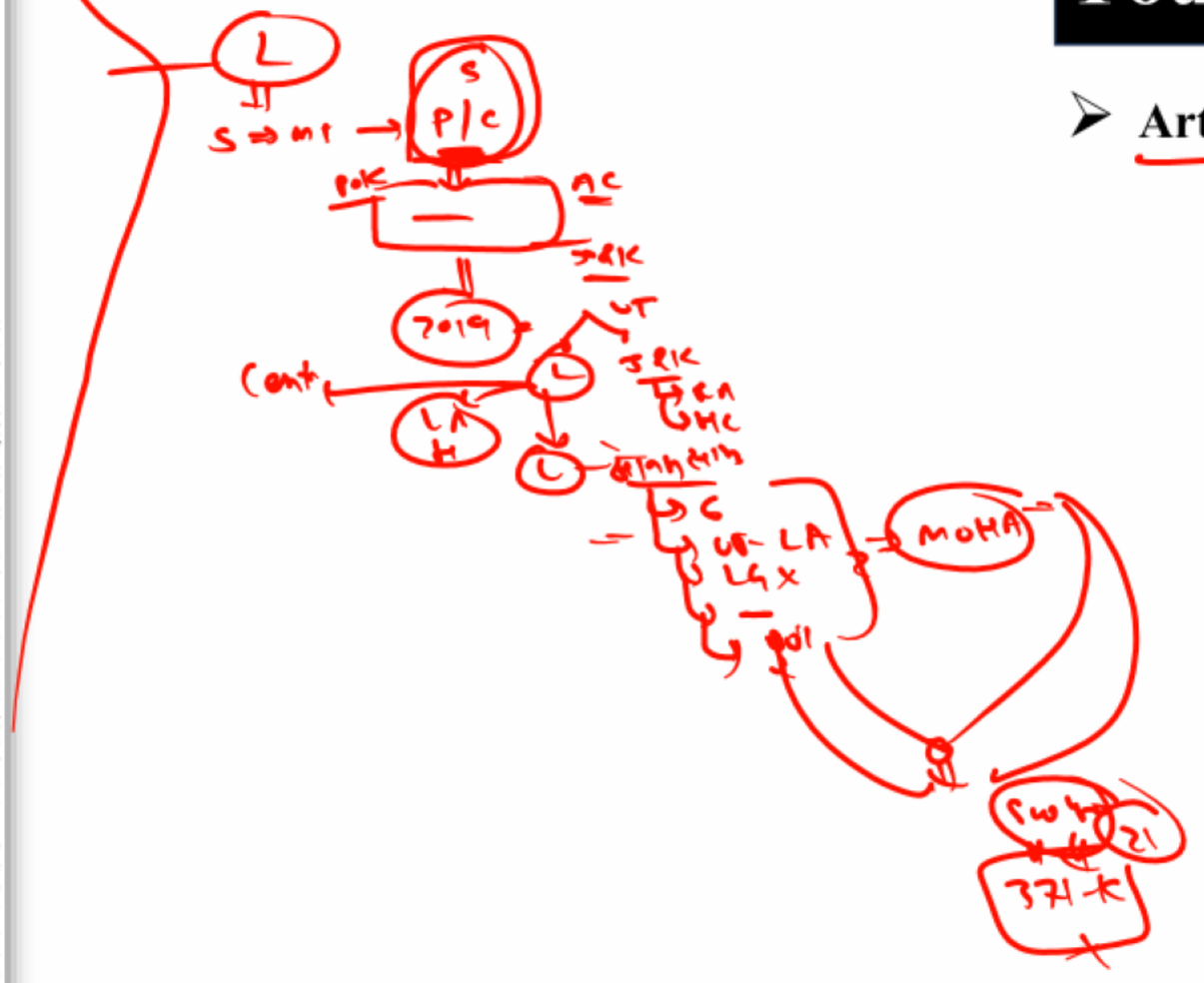
Leh's civil society groups, particularly the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), had termed the 32-page draft, which proposes a new governance structure for Ladakh, "a departure from the earlier promises".

A sub-committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), mandated to talk with Ladakh representatives, was scheduled to meet on Thursday in New Delhi to further discuss the 32-page draft shared with the LAB and KDA on October 15 in Leh. However, the talks did not take place.

The Civil Society Forum of Ladakh (CSFL), a Leh-based civil society group, is projecting itself as a new stakeholder in the issue. "This forum observes with deep concern that the original agenda adopted by LAB for constitutional safeguards for land, jobs, culture and environment stands hijacked. The dialogue is now dominated by one individual (climate activist) Sonam Wangchuk and KDA, compromising the genuine interests of districts and the Buddhist community," said the members of CSFL in a joint statement.

The group comprises BJP leader and ex-Member of Parliament Thupstan Chhewang, ex-chief executive councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh (LAHDC-Leh) Rigzen Spalbar; ex-legislator Tsering Samphel, representatives of Thiksey and Thuksey Rinpoche, and also members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA).

"The LAB and KDA no longer represent inclusive voice of all districts," the forum said, while appealing to the Centre to hold panchayat elections and "enhance powers of hill councils till Union Territory-level constitutional settlement is reached".



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- **Article - 371**

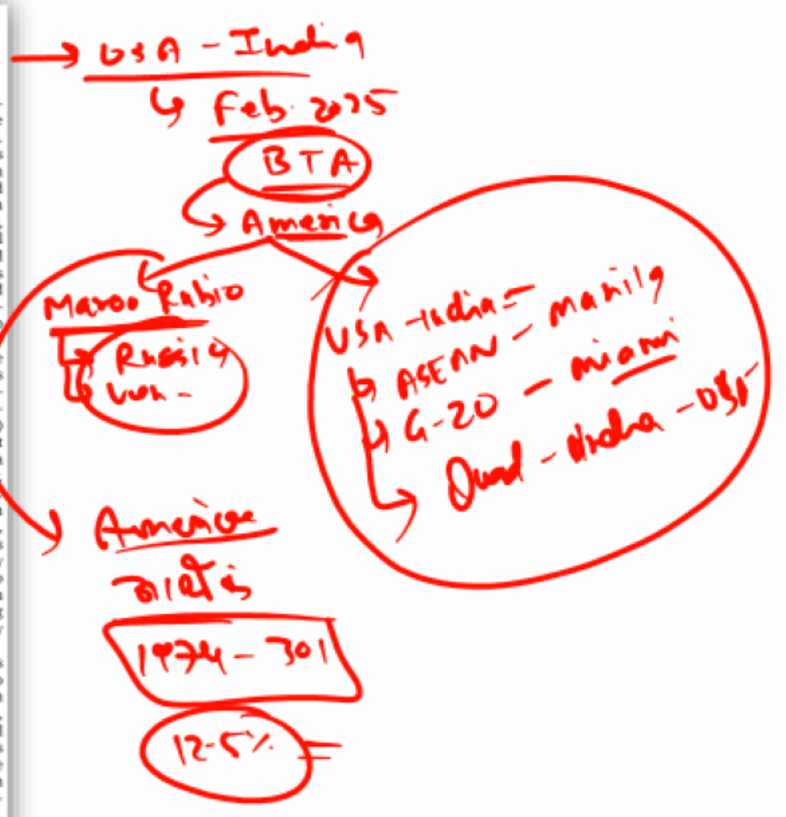
महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Falling short

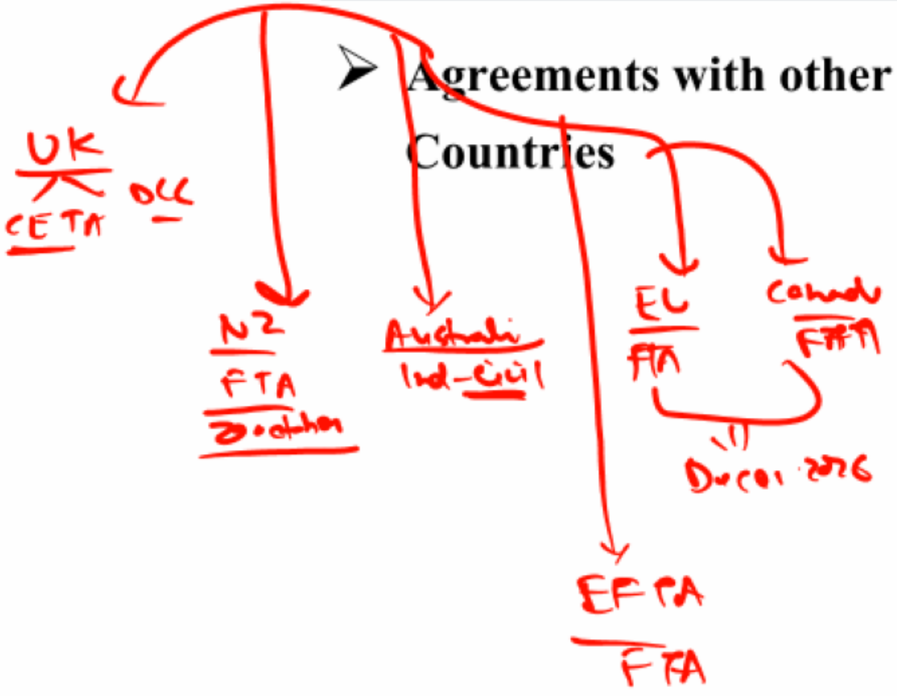
Marco Rubio's second visit to India this year yielded little in terms of results

The United States Secretary of State's three-day visit to India, his second in five months, came at a significant time in U.S. politics. Marco Rubio's Mumbai trip this week was just ahead of the U.S. midterm elections, which would mark the midpoint of President Donald Trump's second term in office – a point at which the incumbent normally begins to focus on legacy, and possible contenders for the next Presidential election (Mr. Rubio is expected to be one), and start to look for possible partners and friendships around the world. In addition, his visit also raised hopes in New Delhi of a reset in bilateral ties, battered by two years of uncertainty over the Trump administration's actions. This would include positive moves towards concluding the Bilateral Trade Agreement, reassuring India about U.S. sanctions on the import of Russian oil, preparations for upcoming Trump meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Manila (ASEAN) and Miami (G20) summits, discussing plans for the Quad Summit (on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit) that India has been trying to host, and setting a date for Mr. Trump's India visit. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's invitation also offered Mr. Rubio an opportunity to meet their UAE counterpart, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to discuss the Gulf situation and to restore energy security and connectivity. And finally, Mr. Rubio's visit to the Jamnagar Reliance refinery, led to speculation of some major deals on energy, possibly offering more discounts as he pitched for India to buy more American and U.S.-licensed Venezuelan oil.

Given all the high expectations, the visit was bound to come up short. The optics of his visit to Mumbai and Jamnagar, but not New Delhi, which was announced by the U.S. Ambassador to India, gave the Opposition fodder to question the real purpose of the visit. Despite Mr. Rubio's two visits to India and more than six by Mr. Jaishankar to the U.S. since Mr. Trump took office, relations remain on edge, with issues on trade, tariffs, H-1B restrictions and anti-immigrant measures unaddressed. Also, the U.S.'s narrative on Operation Sindoor (2025), growing ties with Pakistan, and the Trump administration's rhetoric on India's economy, diaspora and Russian oil trade have added to India's unhappiness. The two sides did not announce any agreements and Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Rubio did not hold a joint press address. However, as they did at the U.S. Independence Day's 250th anniversary celebrations in Delhi in May, they attended the "Freedom 250" event in Mumbai. Mr. Rubio acknowledged that while no two countries would agree on all issues, he said the U.S.-India alignment on core issues of national interest was "extraordinary". From this point on, Mr. Rubio must walk that talk, with a view to ensuring that India-U.S. ties are able to move on from the difficulties of the last few years.



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महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- ***मार्को रुबियो (Marco Rubio)*** *की इस वर्ष भारत की दूसरी यात्रा से बहुत कम ठोस परिणाम हासिल हुए हैं।*
- **प्रमुख बिंदु (Key Highlights):**
- **यात्रा का समय और पृष्ठभूमि:**
- अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री (Secretary of State) मार्को रुबियो की तीन दिवसीय भारत यात्रा (पांच महीनों में उनकी दूसरी यात्रा) अमेरिकी राजनीति के एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ पर हुई। यह यात्रा अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनावों (Midterm Elections) से ठीक पहले हुई, जो राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के दूसरे कार्यकाल का मध्य बिंदु है।
- **भारत की अपेक्षाएँ:**
- नई दिल्ली को उम्मीद थी कि इस यात्रा से पिछले दो वर्षों से ट्रम्प प्रशासन के फैसलों से प्रभावित द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को फिर से पटरी पर लाया जा सकेगा। भारत को निम्नलिखित मुद्दों पर सकारात्मक प्रगति की आशा थी:
    - द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते (Bilateral Trade Agreement) को अंतिम रूप देना।
    - रूसी तेल के आयात पर अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों को लेकर भारत को आश्वस्त करना।
    - मनीला (ASEAN) और मियामी (G-20) सम्मेलनों में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प की आगामी मुलाकातों की तैयारी।
    - भारत में क्वाड शिखर सम्मेलन (Quad Summit) की तिथियाँ तय करना और ट्रम्प की भारत यात्रा की तारीख तय करना।
- **ऊर्जा सम्बंधी चर्चा:**
- विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर के निमंत्रण पर रुबियो ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE) के अपने समकक्ष से भी मुलाकात की। इसके अलावा, जामनगर में रिलायंस रिफाइनरी की उनकी यात्रा से ऊर्जा सौदों पर अटकलें तेज़ हुईं, जहाँ उन्होंने भारत को अमेरिकी और वेनेजुएला का तेल खरीदने का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- **सीमित परिणाम और अनसुलझे मुद्दे:**
- उच्च अपेक्षाओं के बावजूद, यह यात्रा बहुत अधिक परिणाम देने में विफल रही:
    - दोनों पक्षों की ओर से **किसी भी औपचारिक समझौते की घोषणा नहीं की गई** और न ही कोई संयुक्त प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस आयोजित की गई।
    - व्यापार, टैरिफ, H-1B वीजा प्रतिबंध, आव्रजन-विरोधी उपाय, ऑपरेशन सिंदूर (2025) पर अमेरिका का रुख, पाकिस्तान के साथ अमेरिका के बढ़ते संबंध और भारत-रूस तेल व्यापार पर अमेरिकी बयानबाजी जैसे संवेदनशील मुद्दे अनसुलझे ही रहे।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

U.S. midterms — Republicans face growing Blue wave



Anil Raman

A retired Brigadier and a research fellow in the Geopolitics Program of Takshashila Institution

Multiple Republican vulnerabilities are strengthening Democratic hopes

With about 10 days left for the U.S. midterm elections on November 3, talk of a Democratic wave has shifted from opinion polls to voting reality. Every major forecast now predicts the Democrats will win the House of Representatives. Statistician Nate Silver gives them a 75% chance of winning the Senate, which Republicans held strongly just a month ago. The Grand Old Party faces five main problems: a President who is a liability, weak candidates, money not swaying voters, fissures in their heartland, and a party base turning against its own.

A President on the defensive

Let us begin with the President. Midterms are often a verdict on the White House. Donald Trump has made this election about himself, telling crowds to "pretend I'm on the ballot". His approval rating is below 40%. In September, he told Republicans in tight races that he would visit "every one of those 35 places". But he has campaigned in fewer than a third. Most stops have been in States he won easily, such as Oklahoma, Alabama, Tennessee, and Montana, which he said was his way "to thank them". When a President rallies supporters in States that he won by huge margins two years earlier instead of margin seats, it conveys a hint of desperation.

The next issue is candidate quality. Texas has not elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1988. This year, the Republican nominee is Ken Paxton, who was impeached by the Texas House in 2023 and later acquitted by the State Senate. He was also observed partying in 2025 in Dubai with two Pakistani-American federal fugitives who were also his donors. His Democratic opponent, James Talarico, a former teacher and State legislator, was leading by two points in a Fox News poll (but the latest Fox News poll listed for October 15-19 showed a 49%-49% tie); and by three points in a University of Texas poll (September 25-October 5).

The third problem is in the heartland. Kansas has sent only Republicans to this Senate seat since 1919, the longest streak for any party in U.S. history. Republican incumbent Roger Marshall is tied in the polls with Adam Hamilton, a Methodist pastor who started one of the country's largest churches. In Nebraska – a State Mr. Trump won by over 20 points – Democrats have stepped aside for Dan Osborn, a former union leader running as an independent. He is about three points behind Senator Pete Ricketts. When a party spends the last two weeks defending strongholds of Kansas and Nebraska, it is on the back foot.

The fourth issue is money. Elon Musk, who split from Mr. Trump last year, is now the biggest known donor in this election, having given over $276 million to Republican groups since July. Recent filings show that Mr. Musk gave $158 million to the Senate Leadership Fund and a separate $10 million to Lone Star Liberty PAC, which supports Mr. Paxton's Senate campaign. Even so, Mr. Talarico, the Democratic candidate, is still ahead. Money can buy TV advertisements, but it cannot easily overcome a national mood shaped by high prices, an unpopular war with Iran, and immigration raids.

The lesson from Ohio

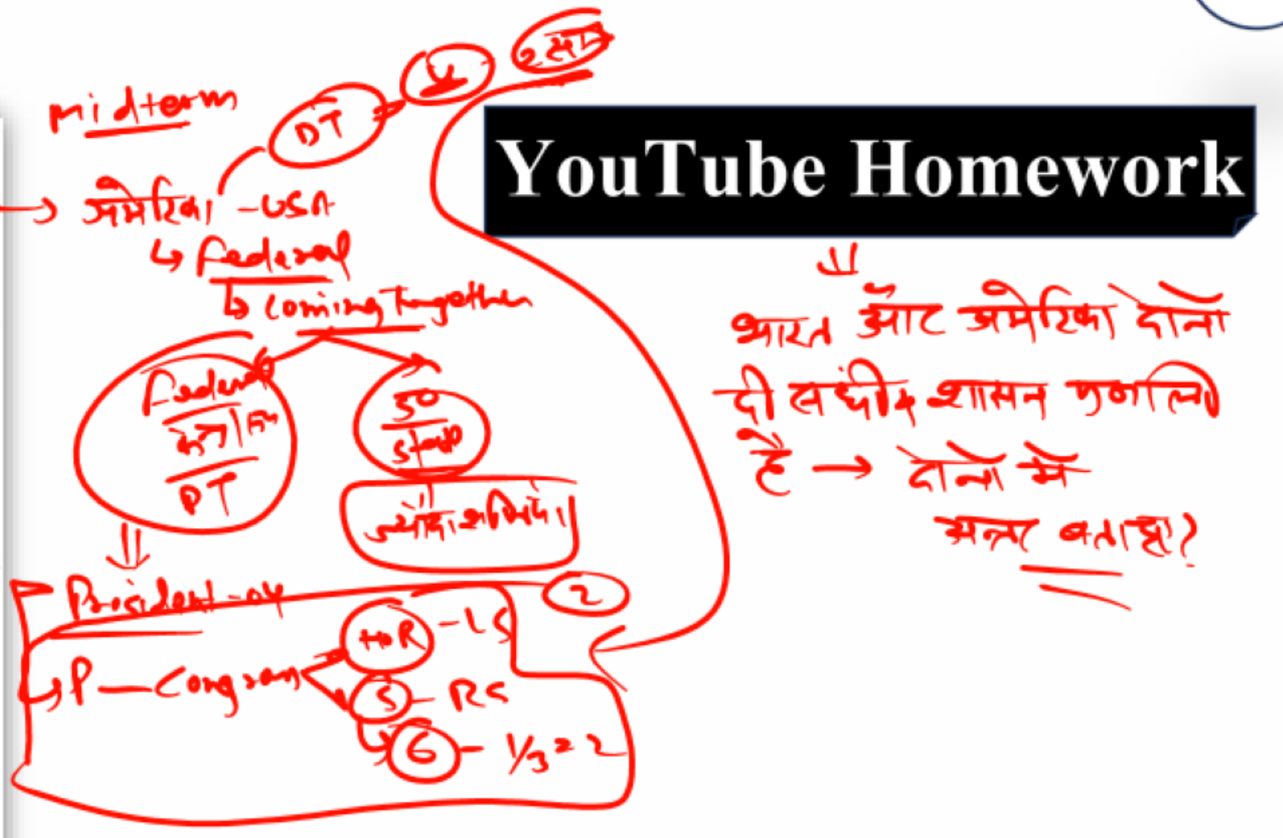
Ohio combines these issues, making it the most revealing race. Vivek Ramaswamy, a former presidential candidate backed by Mr. Trump, seemed confirmed for Governor in a State that the President has won three times. His opponent, Amy Acton, looked like an easy target. As Ohio's highly unpopular health director during the COVID-19 pandemic, she ordered lockdowns, faced armed protesters at her home, and had Republicans try to strip her powers before she resigned in 2020. Mr. Ramaswamy and his supporters have spent about $101 million on advertisements, including $36 million of his own money, about three times what Ms. Acton has spent. Still, he was trailing her recently by about three points on average. Among independent voters, his net rating is minus 25, the lowest for a Republican candidate for Governor in Ohio this century.

This week, his campaign announced plans to spend $4 million promoting an advertisement featuring Ms. Acton's estranged mother calling her a liar, drawing criticism from Republicans, including Governor Mike DeWine and Senator Jon Husted.

Much of this can be explained by the national mood, since the party's Senate candidate in Ohio is also behind by a similar amount. But some of Mr. Ramaswamy's problems come from within his own party. His rival in the Republican primary, Casey Putsch, posted a video of himself with a rifle inviting him to play "cowboys versus Indians". He called Mr. Ramaswamy an "anchor baby" and said that there was "nothing remotely American" about him. Still, nearly one in five Republican primary voters picked Mr. Putsch. Far-right commentator Nick Fuentes told his followers to oppose Mr. Ramaswamy, while students at a conservative youth event questioned whether a Hindu could represent a Christian State. The anger goes back to the H-1B controversy in December 2024, when Mr. Ramaswamy said American culture undervalued excellence, which angered 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) voters. Now, the same party that once questioned who belongs in America is asking the same question about its own candidate.

Self-inflicted wounds

Ohio is an apt lesson for the Republicans. A party can get through having an unpopular President, a weak candidate, or a tough electoral map in any given year. But it is much harder when all these problems happen at once and the party's base starts judging its own candidates by their race, background and religion. If Democrats win Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, or Ohio on November 3, it will be a wave, and the Republicans will have helped make it. Perhaps they deserve that loss.



YouTube Homework

भारत और अमेरिका दोनों की संघीय शासन प्रणाली है → दोनों में अन्तर बताइए?

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Oil prices extend rally to a near six-month high

Brent crude futures touched intra-day high of $117 a barrel on Friday, a day after Houthi attacks on Saudi's civilian and energy infra; India's crude basket has averaged $120.08 so far this month

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Oil prices extended their rally from Thursday, inching closer to a six-month high and the $120 per barrel-mark, a day after the Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia's civilian and energy infrastructure.

The latest attacks have renewed tensions over disruptions to global oil supplies. At the time of writing this report on Friday evening, benchmark Brent crude futures for December delivery had accelerated about 3.8% from its previous close to an intra-day high of $117.42 per barrel.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was also up 3.64% at $103.09 per barrel. India's crude oil basket averaged $119.99 per barrel on Friday, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). The Indian basket has averaged $120.08 per barrel till date in the ongoing month.

The latest benchmark prices are much higher than the Reserve Bank of India's projections of crude oil prices being at $95 per barrel in the second half of the fiscal year.

An increase in crude oil prices elevates concerns of persisting inflation.

According to estimates by Vipul Jindal and Tanay Dalal, economists at private sector lender Axis Bank, public sector support of approximately 1.7% of GDP would cushion shocks when average oil prices stay at $100 per barrel this year.

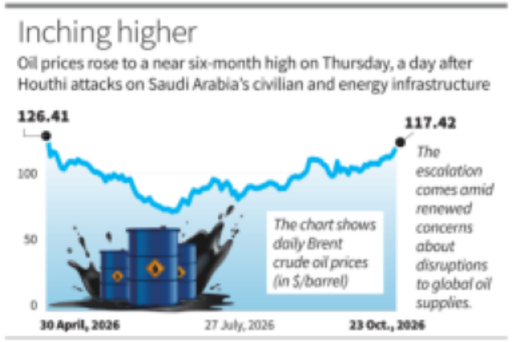
"Every $10 per barrel increase in crude [but pump prices steady], will raise support by 20 bps," the economists estimate.

Adani raises CNG prices

Amid higher input gas pressures, Adani Total Gas on Friday increased the prices of compressed natural gas (CNG) at its retail stations by ₹4.45 per kg.

CNG at its outlets in Gujarat's Ahmedabad is now priced at ₹98.47 per kg, ₹102.6 per kg in Haryana's Faridabad and ₹106.4 per kg in Rajasthan's Udaipur.

On a standalone basis, the company operates 723 refuelling outlets across the country.



per barrel ~ $120

YouTube Homework

- भारत सबसे अधिक कच्चा तेल किस देश से आयात करता है।
- भारत किस देश से गैस (LPG) आयात करता है।

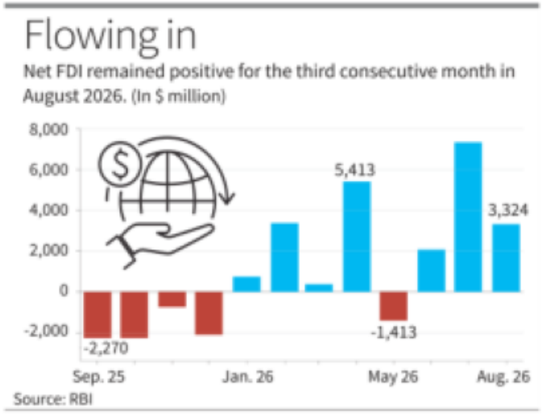
महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Net FDI at $3.3 bn in August, stayed positive for third consecutive month: RBI bulletin

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) was positive for the third consecutive month in August with inflows exceeding outflows by $3.3 billion, as per latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This was driven by robust inflows even as outward investments by Indian companies slid.

"FDI flows continued to remain robust in August supported by strong gross inflows and moderation in outward FDI," the RBI said in its monthly Bulletin. "Communication, miscellaneous services and manufacturing received more than two-thirds of the FDI inflows."



Net FDI, which is the difference between the total direct investment coming in and the total going out, was positive in seven out of the last eight months. This is a significant turnaround from the five consecutive months of negative net FDI India saw during August-December 2025.

Money flowing in

The data shows that gross FDI into India, or the total that entered the country as direct investment stood at $11.1 billion in August, which was 24% lower than in the previous month but almost 68% higher than in August last year. "The U.S., Singapore and Mauritius were the major source countries, accounting for about 72% of FDI inflows."

Total outflows rose a tad to $7.7 billion in August vis a vis $7.2 billion in July and $6.7 billion in August 2025. However, in this, the driver was the repatriation by foreign firms operating in India than outward investment by Indian firms.

Less investment outflow

"Outward FDI flows moderated in August with more than half being directed towards Singapore, the Netherlands, and the U.S," the RBI said. "The major sectors of outward FDI were agriculture & mining, financial, insurance & business services, and manufacturing accounting for more than two-thirds of the outward flows."

Remittances rose to $5.8 billion in August or almost 52% higher than in July, and 28% higher than in August 2025. This was largely balanced out by a fall in outward FDI to $1.9 billion. This was over 43% lower than in July and 11% lower than in August 2025.

In the longer time-period of April-August, gross and net FDI flows were higher. A slowdown in the pace of outward FDI with sustained higher gross FDI inflow supported net FDI flows," the RBI said.

YouTube Homework

- **FDI vs FII**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Jaishankar visits Azerbaijan to ease strain in ties over Operation Sindoor

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday met Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku and said the visit charted a "pathway" for the future of bilateral ties. The meeting comes more than a year after relations between India and Azerbaijan deteriorated over the latter's opposition to India's Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

Mr. Jaishankar also met his counterpart Jayhun Bayramov, who said the two countries had "different view points on different issues" earlier, but highlighted new areas of cooperation such as energy, and tourism after what he described as a "fruitful discussion".

"We have common interest in really promoting peace and progress and prosperity. And threats like terrorism, conflict, and instability are our common enemies," Mr. Jaishankar said in his remarks to the media after the meeting with Mr. Bayramov.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on Friday. AFP

"Delighted to welcome the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, to exchange views on the current state and prospects of Azerbaijan-India relations, including political dialogue, trade and investment, energy, tourism and cultural ties," said Mr. Bayramov, emphasising "continued dialogue and exploration of opportunities for cooperation in areas of mutual interest".

Way forward

"Our talks charted a pathway forward for our relationship. Agreed to deepen political consultations, exchange visits, enhance economic activities, build connectivity and foster people-to-people ties," Mr. Jaishankar said. He also extended India's support to the peace process between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The statement is the first major conciliatory step from the Indian side since Azerbaijan had expressed concern over the India-initiated Operation Sindoor of May 2025.

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry had, on May 7, 2025, condemned the Indian strikes against Pakistan-based terror targets. "We condemn military attacks against the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that killed and injured several civilians," the Azerbaijani Ministry had said.

Kashmir issue

Azerbaijan has also been vocal on the Kashmir issue at the international level, often calling for its "resolution". Mr. Bayramov in his remarks on Friday downplayed the differences between the two sides. "We have touched upon a number of issues. I believe Azerbaijan-India relations are on their way to developing to a higher level," said Mr. Bayramov.

Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Baku is the first bilateral visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister in eight years. The late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had visited Azerbaijan in April 2018 for a Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial meeting.

Official sources here described the remarks from both sides on Friday as a sign of "diplomatic reset" as India expects to exert pressure on Turkiye and Pakistan by drawing Azerbaijan close.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य


Azerbaijan
Capital: Baku
RUSSIA
KAZAKHSTAN
MONGOLIA
NORTH KOREA
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
SOUTH KOREA
AFGHANISTAN
IRAN
IRAQ
TURKEY
ARMENIA
SPAIN
ALGERIA
LIBYA
EGYPT
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
NEPAL
BHUTAN
INDIA
MYANMAR (BURMA)
LAOS
MALI
NIGER
SUDAN
CHAD
ERITREA
YEMEN
BURKINA FASO
GUINEA
BENIN
NIGERIA
GHANA
ETHIOPIA
SOMALIA
Mogadishu
UGANDA
KENYA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
TANZANIA
SEYCHELLES
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
INDIAN OCEAN
BOTSWANA
SOUTH AFRICA
Antarctica

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

UN Security Council faces a 'legitimacy deficit', says India

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS


Harish Parvathaneni

India has highlighted the United Nations Security Council's struggles to deliver peace in some of the "gravest" global conflicts, emphasising that authority derived from victory in the Second World War cannot compensate for a "deficit in legitimacy" of an unrepresentative UNSC today.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, while addressing the 'Question of Equitable representation on and increase in the membership of Security Council' in the UN General Assembly, said on Thursday that an organisation that cannot renew its principal organ will find it ever harder to command authority in a world that has moved far beyond 1945.

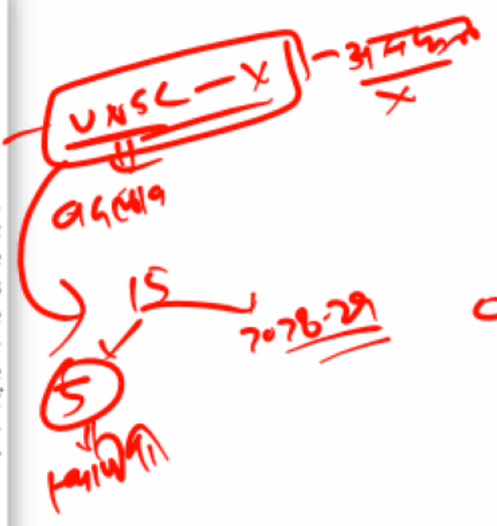
"History can be a guide for what not to do. It cannot determine today's choices," he said. He added that the credibility of the UN is "called into question" as conflicts multiply and the council struggles to respond.

India also called out the deliberate suppression of sacrifices made by nations in the world wars while an organisation "crafted of the victors, for the victors and by the victors" did not include concerns of the victims.

India, which is vying for a non-permanent UNSC seat for the 2028-29 term, said that the Asia-Pacific Group accounting for more than 60% of the world's population has no choice but to be limited in its representation. "Nowhere else would the injustice of this gross under-representation have continued for so long," he said.

'Central imbalance'

The 15-nation council has five permanent veto-wielding members – China, France, Russia, the UK and the U.S. while 10 members are elected to sit at the horseshoe high-table for two-year terms. India has been calling for an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of UNSC membership, as Parvathaneni emphasised that a reform that expands only the non-permanent category leaves the central imbalance untouched and further entrenches the status quo.



YouTube Homework



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

In the crossfire

India must adopt a pro-active position in the Saudi-Houthi conflict

The killing of an Indian national in a Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia's Dammam airport is a grim reminder of the dangers the kingdom's Indian community faces as the conflict between Riyadh and Yemen's Shia militants escalates. Since the fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis resumed in July, at least two Indians have been killed and 14 others wounded. On Thursday, the Houthis claimed that a yacht with 14 Indians was targeted by Saudi forces near Yemen's Zuqar island in the Red Sea and that rescue operations were under way. As the Houthis, who control parts of Northern Yemen and its entire Red Sea coast, step up attacks on Saudi infrastructure, including oil facilities and airports, Indians, who are the kingdom's largest expat community, risk getting caught in the crossfire. With flights disrupted, thousands of Indian pilgrims are stranded. India has condemned Houthi attacks, saying that it "stands in solidarity" with Saudi Arabia. With no end in sight to the fighting and a high possibility of Israel and the U.S. resuming their Iran strikes, further violence and instability in West Asia could make India's choices increasingly difficult.

The Saudi-Houthi conflict dates back to the Houthi takeover of Sana'a, Yemen's capital, in 2014. A year later, Saudi Arabia began bombing Yemen to drive the Houthis out. But years of Saudi bombing of one of the poorest Arab countries have proved counterproductive; the Houthis consolidated support among the tribes of northern Yemen and built a powerful territorial army and naval force. The Saudi-Houthi ceasefire of 2022 collapsed in July 2026 after Saudi Arabia recklessly bombed Sana'a airport, to prevent an Iranian plane with a Houthi delegation from landing. The Houthis subsequently began attacking Saudi Arabia's critical infrastructure, and launched a ground offensive against the Saudi-backed forces in Yemen. The Houthi attacks pose the biggest security challenge to Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and the main architect of the war on Yemen, in decades. Massive Saudi air strikes have neither defeated the Houthis nor restored the kingdom's deterrence. With its wealth, natural resources, infrastructure and tenuous palace politics, the kingdom remains exposed to Houthi missile and drone attacks, with few good options for a way out. India must prepare a contingency plan for worst-case scenarios. Its immediate priority should be to evacuate stranded Indian pilgrims. It should also articulate a stronger position for stability and work with Arab countries and Tehran to push for a diplomatic settlement to the Iran crisis. For peace to prevail in the Persian Gulf, the guns directed at Iran must first fall silent.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Israel launches major West Bank operation after two soldiers killed

Netanyahu orders lockdown in occupied West Bank, says Army preparing for an operation on a scale unseen in decades; Ministers announce demolition of buildings, seek dismantling of Palestinian Authority; attack comes ahead of Tuesday vote

Agence France-Presse
HEBRON

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a major military operation in the occupied West Bank on Friday after Palestinian gunmen killed two soldiers in an attack near Hebron, days ahead of Israeli elections in which security has been a central focus.

Mr. Netanyahu is locked in a tight race to keep his job in Tuesday's vote, having campaigned on promises to keep Israelis safe, and he and his right-wing allies visited the scene of the attack to pledge an even harder line on West Bank militancy.

The first steps would see Hebron residents displaced, homes searched and "terrorist infrastructure" destroyed, the Premier said, threatening operations on a scale unseen since Israel first occupied the Palestinian territory in 1967.



Mounting tensions: Israeli settlers gather as Israeli forces guard the site of the attack in Hebron on Friday. REUTERS

He said the military would apply a model previously used in refugee camps in the northern West Bank, scene of a large-scale operation launched in 2025 that the UN said forcibly displaced thousands.

Militant group Hamas, without claiming responsibility, praised the attack as a "heroic operation".

The gun battle broke out at the Farsh al-Hawa checkpoint between soldiers and two armed Palestinian men, with Israeli forces eventually shooting the attackers dead.

The Army later said that two of its soldiers "fell in combat in the Judea Junction" area, with three others wounded.

Mr. Netanyahu in a statement lauded the soldiers' response, crediting them with having "prevented what could have been a major attack" and ordering a lockdown in the West Bank.

Far-right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced that building demolitions were under way. Earlier in the day, he had called for a large-scale military offensive in the West Bank "exactly like in Gaza".

Far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said the "Palestinian Authority must be dismantled".

No evidence suggests that the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in parts of the West Bank, was connected to Friday's attack.

Hamas hails attack

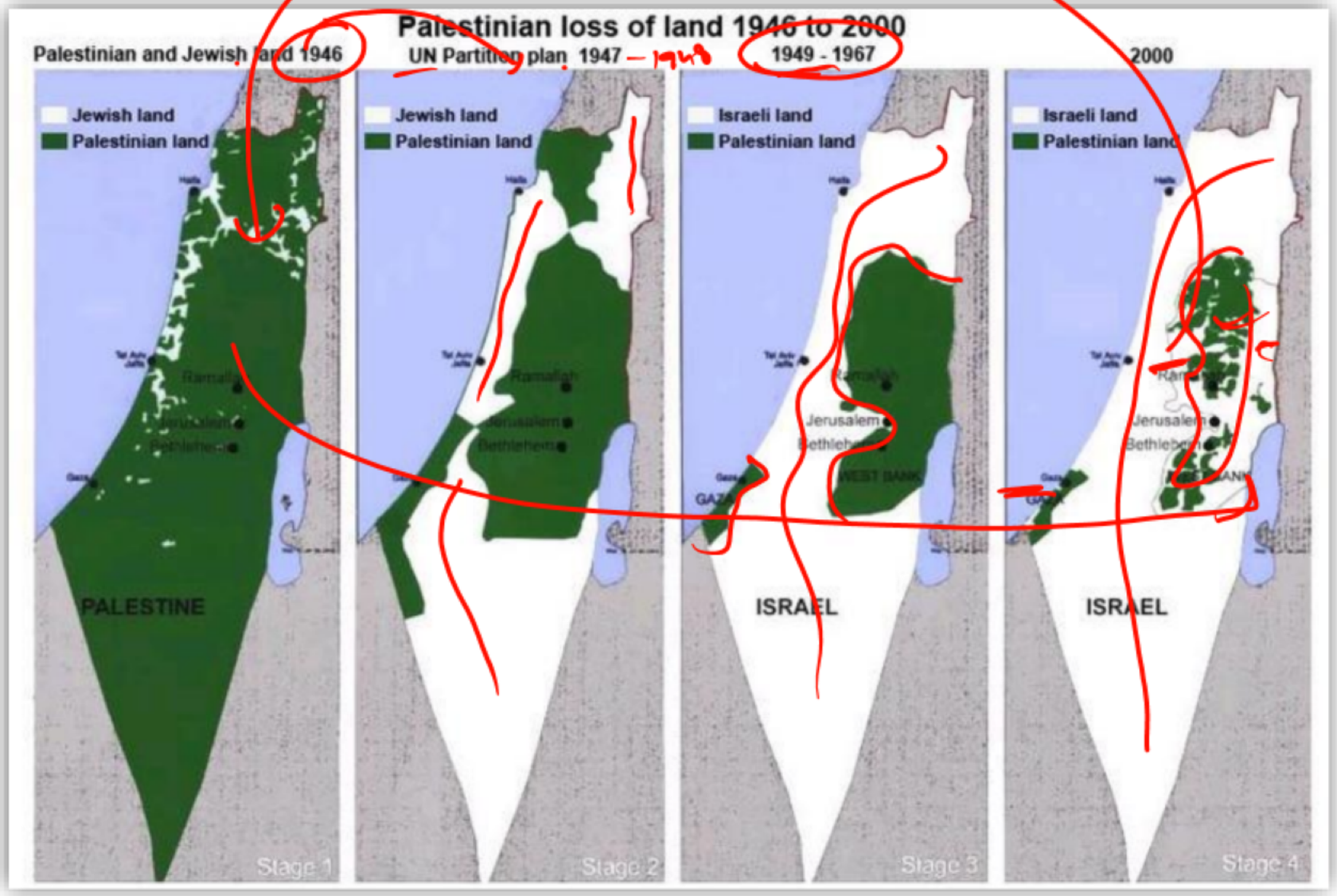
Hamas hailed Friday's shooting as a "natural and legitimate response to the ongoing crimes and brutal attacks against our people".

In a statement, the group denounced Israeli "military checkpoints fragmenting the cities and villages of the occupied West Bank".

YouTube Homework

फ्3 जरापल की सीमाएं
किस देशों से लगती है

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य


Palestinian loss of land 1946 to 2000
Palestinian and Jewish land 1946
UN Partition plan 1947 – 1948
1949 - 1967
2000
Jewish land
Palestinian land
Israeli land
Palestinian land
PALESTINE
ISRAEL
ISRAEL
Jerusalem
Ramallah
Bethlehem
GAZA
WEST BANK
Stage 1
Stage 2
Stage 3
Stage 4

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

France, U.K. stage first joint nuclear air strike simulation

Agence France-Presse
PARIS



Winged allies: The exercise involved RAF Typhoon fighter jets alongside French Rafale aircraft over the Mediterranean Sea. AP

French and British air forces have for the first time staged a joint exercise simulating a nuclear strike, the countries' Defence Ministries said in a statement on Friday.

The exercise, codenamed 'Rummy', took place on Tuesday and involved RAF Typhoon fighter jets alongside French Rafale aircraft over the Mediterranean Sea, it said.

The exercise did not involve any actual nuclear weapons and was aimed at enhancing coordination between western Europe's two nuclear powers, the statement added.

After taking off from a base in northeastern France, "the French Rafales, escorted by RAF Typhoons, conducted a simulated nuclear strike", it said.

French President Emmanuel Macron has offered to extend the protection of France's nuclear deterrent to other European allies, as the European Union's only nuclear power since Brexit.

French Defence Minister Catherine Vautrin noted that "possessing independent nuclear forces does not preclude coordination".

The joint exercise showed "our nuclear forces demonstrate that they can contribute even more significantly to the overall security" of NATO, she said.

U.K. Defence Minister Wes Streeting said the exercise marked a "new chapter" in the relationship between Britain and France on nuclear defence.

Writing on X, he said: "It's a landmark step in U.K.-France defence cooperation, and a clear signal that we stand shoulder to shoulder with our allies on European security and credible deterrence."

Rummy

વાપરેલ

YouTube Homework

- MECCA Pact
- BADR Pact

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

'रम्मी' (Code-named 'Rummy')

1. यह क्या है?

- **अभ्यास का कोड नाम: 'Rummy'** फ्रांस और ब्रिटेन (U.K.) की वायु सेनाओं द्वारा आयोजित पहले **संयुक्त परमाणु हवाई हमले के सिमुलेशन अभ्यास (First Joint Nuclear Air Strike Simulation)** का आधिकारिक कोड-नेम (Code-name) है।

2. इस अभ्यास ('Rummy') की मुख्य बातें:

- **कौन-से देश शामिल थे:** फ्रांस और ब्रिटेन (पश्चिम यूरोप की दो परमाणु शक्तियां)।
- **कहाँ आयोजित हुआ:** यह अभ्यास **भूमध्य सागर (Mediterranean Sea)** के ऊपर आयोजित किया गया।
- **कौन-से लड़ाकू विमान प्रयुक्त हुए:**
  - फ्रांस के **राफेल (Rafale)** लड़ाकू विमान।
  - ब्रिटेन की रॉयल एयर फोर्स (RAF) के **टाइफून (Typhoon)** लड़ाकू विमान।
- **अभ्यास का तरीका:** उत्तर-पूर्वी फ्रांस के एक सैन्य अड्डे से उड़ान भरकर फ्रांसीसी राफेल विमानों ने RAF टाइफून विमानों के संरक्षण/सुरक्षा (escort) में एक सिमुलेटेड (काल्पनिक/प्रशिक्षण) परमाणु हमला किया।

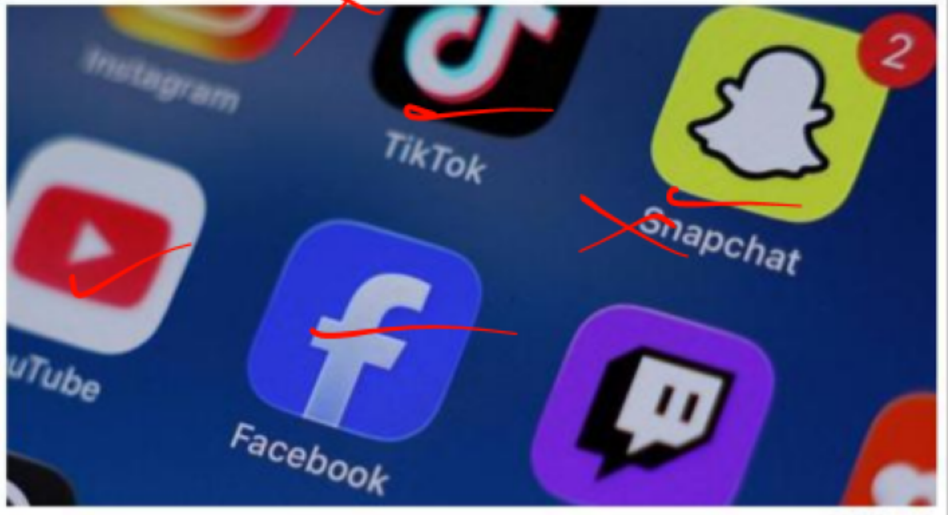
3. इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या था?

- **वास्तविक हथियारों का प्रयोग नहीं:** इस अभ्यास में किसी भी **वास्तविक परमाणु हथियार (Actual Nuclear Weapons)** का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया गया था।
- **समन्वय बढ़ाना (Enhancing Coordination):** इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य पश्चिमी यूरोप की इन दोनों परमाणु शक्तियों के बीच रणनीतिक और परिचालन समन्वय (coordination) को बढ़ाना था।
- **यूरोपीय सुरक्षा और निवारक क्षमता (Deterrence):** यह NATO और यूरोपीय सहयोगियों की सुरक्षा के प्रति ब्रिटेन और फ्रांस की प्रतिबद्धता और परमाणु निवारक क्षमता को प्रदर्शित करता है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

ATHENS

Greece passes legislation banning social media for children under 15



REUTERS

Greece's Parliament passed a law on Friday banning children under 15 from social media, joining a growing number of countries imposing curbs on young people's use of the apps. The Bill, set to take effect on January 1, will require age verification on social networks and impose penalties if companies fail to comply. AFP

YouTube Homework

- Other Countries Banned Social Media
- Indian States Banned Social Media

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

BELOVED'S DISTINCTION

Biza becomes second youngest to make a half-century against India



X@ZIMBABWECRICKET

Zimbabwe's Beloved Biza, at 17y 9m 19d, became the second youngest after England's Sarah Taylor (17y 3m 5d) to make a 50-plus score against India in women's ODIs. Her 92-ball 62 kept the Indian bowlers at bay and took the visitors to 197. "I was looking to play straight and bat as many overs as I could," said Biza.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

AT THE HELM

Awana to head the BCCI junior selection committee



BCCI

Former India pacer Parvinder Awana, who played two T20Is, was on Friday appointed chairman of the newly formed BCCI junior selection committee. The other members of the panel are Krishna Das, Rakesh Patel and N. Arjun Yadav. "The fifth member will be appointed shortly," said the BCCI.

Home Assignment

- ❑ National Start-up Day
- ❑ SEHAT Mission

प्रश्न:

- **हाल ही में चर्चा में रहा "ZUQAR Island" निम्नलिखित में से किस देश में स्थित है?**

A. सऊदी अरब
B. यमन
C. संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE)
D. ओमान

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Better Students Brighter Tomorrow

DISCIPLINE
CONSISTENCY
SUCCESS

Small Steps Big Results