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By **Faiyaz Sir**



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मुश्किलें तो
रास्ते का हिस्सा हैं दोस्त,
इनसे डरकर रुकना नहीं,
बल्कि आगे बढ़ना है।
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आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

- BRICS – Carbon Credit Market
- World Bank – Poverty Report
- Anaemia in India – DFS
- Article 130
- INCOIS
- PAC Conference
- ECI-SIR-Form-6,7,8
- NFHS-6 – Fertility Rate Reduce
- Fast Track Court Scheme
- Science Gallery – Bengaluru
- Amazon Forest
- UN Report on Israel
- Volatility Index
- Midterm Election in USA
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- Nirmala Lakshman
- IPRD
- India-Canada defence Dialogue

What the BRICS carbon market partnership needs



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On September 12, at the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the New Delhi Declaration confirmed that BRICS members look forward to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership. The commitment remains modest: on capacity-building and experience-sharing, with no trading framework, targets or timeline. The Rio summit acknowledged the memorandum in 2025, and New Delhi has reiterated it. With India's BRICS presidency entering its final quarter, operationalising the partnership requires not so much a common trading platform as a common rulebook.

Eight BRICS members reportedly operate voluntary markets, and Brazil, China, India and Indonesia host over a third of the carbon credit projects registered worldwide. Compliance systems are maturing, too. China's emissions trading system (ETS) – added steel, cement and aluminium through its 2024-25 allocation plan. India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) has notified emission-intensity targets for 490 entities across nine sectors and opened an offset mechanism. Brazil's Law of 2024 establishes the Brazilian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System (SBCE), a cap-and-trade system. However, none of these markets is linked to another.

Divergence and a common framework

China and India allocate to output-based emissions-intensity benchmarks, while Brazil is establishing an absolute emissions cap. The offset-credit rules of these carbon markets look inward; China's compliance market admits only China Certified Emission Reduction credits; India admits only projects begun after January 1, 2025, and requires them to be exclusive; and Brazil will accept credits only under methodologies accredited by a yet-to-be-constituted body. The legal status of carbon units varies too. In Brazil, the securities regulator oversees the market, while in India, carbon credit certificates are traded on power exchanges under regulations issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). Thus, the same tonne of abatement is a different legal instrument in each jurisdiction.

BRICS can turn fragmented carbon markets into a coordinated trading framework

A common framework for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) should therefore be the partnership's first deliverable. BRICS's own 2025 Principles for Fair, Inclusive and Transparent Carbon Accounting already call for comparing producers with peers under similar conditions, using granular default values, and interoperable systems that yield comparable outcomes. The Delhi Declaration does not carry these forward, though it commits members to interoperable standards for low-emission hydrogen and welcomes progress on cooperation among national standards bodies.

The urgency comes from outside. The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase in January 2026; the United Kingdom follows in January 2027. Both charge for carbon embedded in imports of steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizer and hydrogen, crediting a carbon price paid at origin only when supported by verified evidence.

The U.K.'s recognition of India's CCTS in August 2026 shows how this works: London decided unilaterally, and relief depends on a form completed by an ISO 14065-accredited verifier. Each exporting country negotiates alone, and exporters without verified data face punitive default values.

Linking domestic carbon projects

A BRICS rulebook would do three things: set common monitoring rules, consistent with ISO 14064, for sectors exposed to border adjustment; mutually recognise verifiers accredited by members' national accreditation bodies, as BRICS customs authorities are pursuing for authorised economic operators; and harmonise registry data fields. Members would gain a collective reference point in dealings with foreign regulators, while exporters would benefit from a single compliance pathway.

The Declaration calls the CBAM unilateral, punitive and discriminatory, but opposition carries greater weight when backed by a credible, verifiable accounting standard.

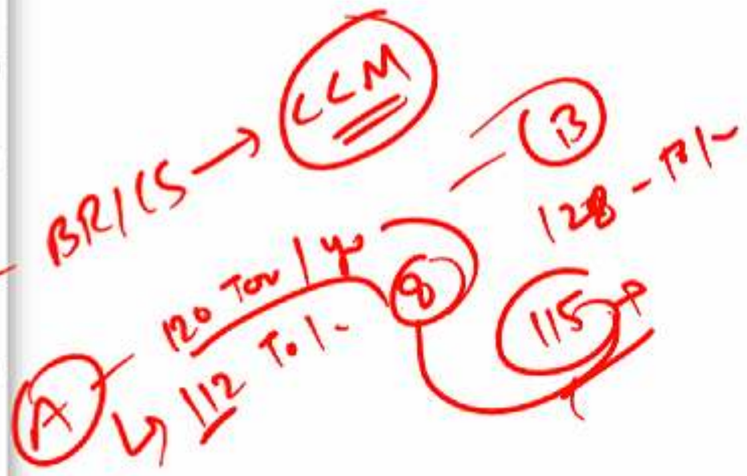
The second test is a small pilot exchange project that credits domestic markets. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement provides the legal basis for bilateral transfers of mitigation outcomes with corresponding adjustments. India has a Joint Crediting Mechanism with Japan Two or three members could mutually recognise methodologies where each already has approved methods, and count a capped volume of authorised units from a partner registry within the domestic offset limit.

Such a pilot would expose friction. Corresponding adjustments mean that the host country cannot count the mitigation towards its own nationally determined contribution. Cross-border settlement would involve capital account regulations and the legal classification of the carbon unit, issues for the BRICS Payment Task Force to address. Registries would need to exchange serial numbers and retirement data to prevent double issuance. The pilot's value would lie less in the volume of credits traded than in turning each friction into a defined drafting question with an institutional owner.

Using existing institutions

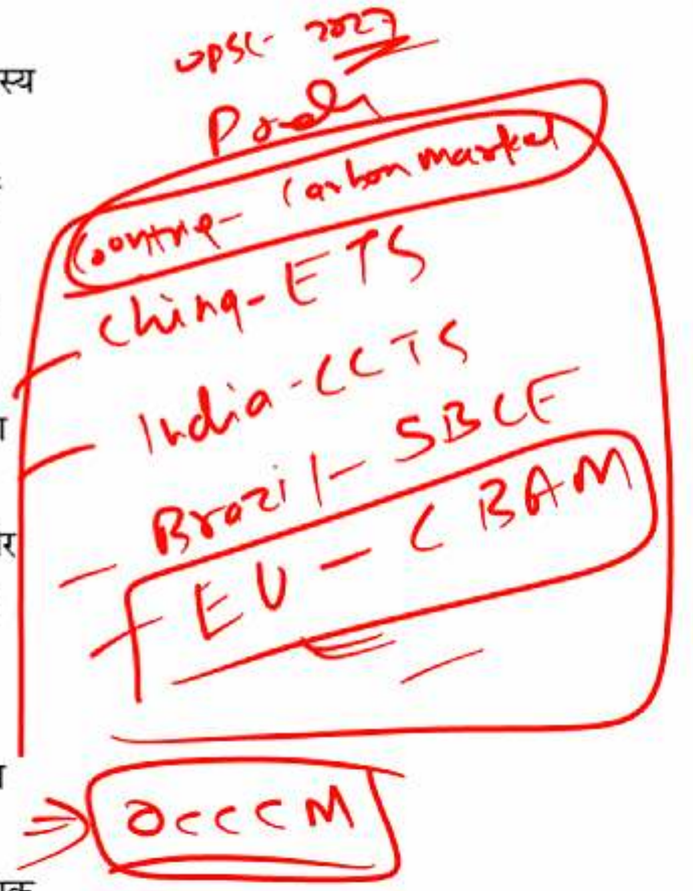
The New Development Bank could host a shared registry data facility or a purchasing facility for pilot units. The new dialogue on aligning carbon markets with adaptation could direct a share of intra-BRICS transfer proceeds to adaptation, as the Article 6.4 mechanism does, giving members with limited mitigation potential a stake.

Members' interests diverge where China's scale would make it the price-setter, sanctions complicate settlement, and several members compete in steel and aluminium exports. Full linkage of compliance markets is neither likely nor desirable for now. Common MRV rules and a methodology-level pilot differ: both are low-cost, preserve regulatory autonomy, and strengthen domestic compliance markets. A memorandum confined to capacity building is a reasonable beginning, but a common rulebook would turn the partnership into a functioning market.



BRICS कार्बन मार्केट पार्टनरशिप को किस चीज़ की आवश्यकता है

- 12 सितंबर को नई दिल्ली में हुए 18वें BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन में, नई दिल्ली घोषणापत्र ने पुष्टि की कि BRICS सदस्य BRICS कार्बन मार्केट्स पार्टनरशिप पर समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) को लागू करने के लिए उत्सुक हैं।
- यह प्रतिबद्धता अभी मामूली है: इसमें केवल क्षमता निर्माण और अनुभव साझा करना शामिल है, और इसके लिए कोई व्यापारिक ढांचा (trading framework), लक्ष्य या समयसीमा तय नहीं की गई है।
- रियो शिखर सम्मेलन ने 2025 में इस समझौता ज्ञापन को स्वीकार किया था, और नई दिल्ली ने इसे फिर से दोहराया है। अपनी BRICS अध्यक्षता के अंतिम तिमाही में प्रवेश करने के साथ, इस पार्टनरशिप को क्रियान्वित (operationalising) करने के लिए किसी साझा ट्रेडिंग प्लेटफॉर्म की उतनी आवश्यकता नहीं है, जितनी कि एक साझा नियम-पुस्तिका (common rulebook) की।
- रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, आठ BRICS सदस्य स्वैच्छिक कार्बन बाजारों का संचालन करते हैं, और ब्राजील, चीन, भारत और इंडोनेशिया मिलकर दुनिया भर में पंजीकृत कार्बन क्रेडिट परियोजनाओं का एक तिहाई से अधिक हिस्सा होस्ट करते हैं।
- अनुपालन प्रणालियाँ (Compliance systems) भी परिपक्व हो रही हैं। चीन की एमीशंस ट्रेडिंग सिस्टम (ETS) ने अपनी 2024-25 आवंटन योजना के माध्यम से स्टील, सीमेंट और एल्युमिनियम को शामिल किया है।
- भारत की कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग स्कीम (CCTS) ने नौ अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों के 490 उद्यमों के लिए उत्सर्जन-तीव्रता लक्ष्य (emission-intensity targets) अधिसूचित किए हैं और एक ऑफसेट तंत्र खोला है।
- ब्राजील का 2024 का कानून ब्राजीलियाई ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमीशंस ट्रेडिंग सिस्टम (SBCE) की स्थापना करता है, जो एक कैप-एंड-ट्रेड प्रणाली है; हालाँकि, इनमें से कोई भी बाजार एक-दूसरे से जुड़ा नहीं है।



Result Mitra

विभिन्नताएं और एक साझा ढांचा

- चीन और भारत उत्पादन-आधारित उत्सर्जन-तीव्रता बेंचमार्क आवंटित करते हैं, जबकि ब्राजील एक पूर्ण उत्सर्जन कैप स्थापित कर रहा है। इन कार्बन बाजारों के ऑफसेट-क्रेडिट नियम अंदर की ओर देखते हैं; चीन का अनुपालन बाजार केवल चीन सर्टिफाइड एमिशन रिडक्शन क्रेडिट स्वीकार करता है;
- भारत केवल 1 जनवरी, 2025 के बाद शुरू हुई परियोजनाओं को स्वीकार करता है, और उनके अनन्य (exclusive) होने की मांग करता है; और ब्राजील केवल ऐसे निकाय द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त पद्धतियों के तहत क्रेडिट स्वीकार करेगा जिसे अभी गठित किया जाना बाकी है। कार्बन यूनिट्स की कानूनी स्थिति भी अलग-अलग है।
- ब्राजील में, प्रतिभूति नियामक (securities regulator) बाजार की देखरेख करता है, जबकि भारत में, कार्बन क्रेडिट प्रमाण पत्र केंद्रीय विद्युत नियामक आयोग (CERC) द्वारा जारी नियमों के तहत पावर एक्सचेंजों पर कारोबार करते हैं। इस प्रकार, प्रत्येक क्षेत्राधिकार में कार्बन की एक ही मात्रा का शमन (abatement) एक अलग कानूनी साधन है।
- माप, रिपोर्टिंग और सत्यापन (MRV) के लिए एक सामान्य ढांचा इस पार्टनरशिप का पहला परिणाम होना चाहिए। BRICS के अपने 2025 के 'फेयर, इन्क्लूसिव एंड ट्रांसपैरेंट कार्बन अकाउंटिंग' के सिद्धांतों में पहले से ही समान स्थितियों में समकक्षों के साथ उत्पादकों की तुलना करने, दानेदार डिफ़ॉल्ट मानों (granular default values) का उपयोग करने, और तुलनीय परिणाम देने वाली इंटरऑपरेबल प्रणालियों की मांग की गई है।
- हालांकि दिल्ली घोषणापत्र इन बातों को आगे नहीं बढ़ाता है, लेकिन यह सदस्यों को निम्न-उत्सर्जन हाइड्रोजन के लिए इंटरऑपरेबल मानकों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध करता है और राष्ट्रीय मानक निकायों के बीच सहयोग पर हुई प्रगति का स्वागत करता है।
- तत्काल आवश्यकता बाहर से आती है। यूरोपीय संघ का कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म (CBAM) जनवरी 2026 में अपने निश्चित चरण में प्रवेश कर गया है; यूनाइटेड किंगडम जनवरी 2027 में इसका पालन करेगा। दोनों स्टील, एल्यूमीनियम, सीमेंट, उर्वरक और हाइड्रोजन के आयात में निहित कार्बन पर शुल्क लगाते हैं, और सत्यापित साक्ष्य द्वारा समर्थित होने पर ही मूल स्थान पर भुगतान किए गए कार्बन मूल्य का श्रेय देते हैं।
- अगस्त 2026 में यू.के. द्वारा भारत के CCTS को दी गई मान्यता दिखाती है कि यह कैसे काम करता है: लंदन ने एकतरफा फैसला किया, और राहत ISO 14065-मान्यता प्राप्त वेरिफायर द्वारा पूरी की गई फॉर्म पर निर्भर करती है। प्रत्येक निर्यातक देश अकेले बातचीत करता है, और सत्यापित डेटा के बिना निर्यातकों को दंडात्मक डिफ़ॉल्ट मानों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

घरेलू कार्बन परियोजनाओं को आपस में जोड़ना

- BRICS नियम-पुस्तिका तीन काम करेगी:
- सीमा समायोजन के संपर्क में आने वाले क्षेत्रों के लिए ISO 14064 के अनुरूप सामान्य निगरानी नियम सेट करना।
- सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों द्वारा अधिकृत आर्थिक ऑपरेटरों (authorised economic operators) की खोज के रूप में सदस्यों के राष्ट्रीय मान्यता निकायों द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त वेरिफायर्स को परस्पर मान्यता देना।
- डेटा क्षेत्रों को सुसंगत बनाना।

- सदस्यों को विदेशी नियामकों के साथ व्यवहार में एक सामूहिक संदर्भ बिंदु मिलेगा, जबकि निर्यातकों को एक ही अनुपालन मार्ग से लाभ होगा।
- घोषणापत्र CBAM को एकतरफा, दंडात्मक और भेदभावपूर्ण बताता है, लेकिन एक विश्वसनीय, सत्यापन योग्य लेखा मानक द्वारा समर्थित होने पर विरोध अधिक वजन रखता है।
- दूसरा परीक्षण एक छोटा पायलट एक्सचेंज प्रोजेक्ट है जो घरेलू बाजारों को क्रेडिट देता है। पेरिस समझौते का अनुच्छेद 6 संबंधित समायोजन (corresponding adjustments) के साथ शमन परिणामों के द्विपक्षीय हस्तांतरण के लिए कानूनी आधार प्रदान करता है। जापान या दो-तीन अन्य सदस्यों के साथ भारत का एक संयुक्त क्रेडित तंत्र (Joint Crediting Mechanism) उन पद्धतियों को आपसी मान्यता दे सकता है जहाँ प्रत्येक के पास पहले से ही स्वीकृत पद्धतियाँ हैं, और घरेलू ऑफसेट सीमा के भीतर किसी भागीदार रजिस्ट्री से अधिकृत इकाइयों की एक सीमित मात्रा की गणना की जा सकती है।
- इस तरह का पायलट घर्षण को उजागर करेगा। संबंधित समायोजन का मतलब है कि मेज़बान देश अपने राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDC) के मुकाबले शमन की गणना नहीं कर सकता है। सीमा पार निपटान में पूंजी खाता नियमों और कार्बन यूनिट के कानूनी वर्गीकरण, BRICS भुगतान कार्य बल के सामने आने वाले मुद्दों से जुड़े होंगे। दोहरी जारी (double issuance) को रोकने के लिए रजिस्ट्रियों को सीरियल नंबर और सेवानिवृत्ति डेटा का आदान-प्रदान करना होगा। पायलट का मूल्य व्यापार की गई क्रेडिट की मात्रा में कम और प्रत्येक घर्षण को संस्थागत मालिक के साथ एक निश्चित मसौदा तैयार करने वाले प्रश्न में बदलने में अधिक होगा।

मौजूदा संस्थानों का उपयोग करना

- नवाचार बैंक (New Development Bank) पायलट यूनिट्स के लिए एक साझा रजिस्ट्री डेटा सुविधा या क्रय सुविधा (purchasing facility) की मेजबानी कर सकता है। अनुकूलन (adaptation) के साथ कार्बन बाजारों को संरेखित करने पर नया संवाद अनुकूलन के लिए इंट्रा-BRICS ट्रांसफर आय का एक हिस्सा निर्देशित कर सकता है, जैसा कि अनुच्छेद 6.4 तंत्र करता है, जिससे सीमित शमन क्षमता वाले सदस्यों को हिस्सेदारी मिलती है।
- सदस्यों के हित वहां भिन्न होते हैं जहां चीन का पैमाना इसे मूल्य-निर्धारक (price-setter) बना देगा, प्रतिबंध निपटान को जटिल बनाते हैं, और कई सदस्य स्टील और एल्यूमीनियम निर्यात में प्रतिस्पर्धा करते हैं। अनुपालन बाजारों का पूर्ण लिंकेज न तो संभावित है और न ही अभी वांछनीय है। सामान्य MRV नियम और एक पद्धति-स्तर का पायलट अलग हैं: दोनों कम लागत वाले हैं, नियामक स्वायत्तता को संरक्षित करते हैं, और घरेलू अनुपालन बाजारों को मजबूत करते हैं। क्षमता निर्माण तक सीमित रहना एक उचित शुरुआत है, लेकिन एक सामान्य नियम-पुस्तिका पार्टनरशिप को एक कामकाजी बाजार में बदल देगी।

Result Mitra

Result Mitra

प्रश्न 1: BRICS कार्बन मार्केट पार्टनरशिप और वैश्विक कार्बन व्यवस्था के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. नई दिल्ली घोषणापत्र (18वें BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन) ने BRICS सदस्यों के बीच एक बाध्यकारी (binding) कार्बन ट्रेडिंग प्लेटफॉर्म की स्थापना की है।
2. यूरोपीय संघ (EU) का कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म (CBAM) आयातित वस्तुओं पर कार्बन मूल्य (carbon price) आरोपित करता है, बशर्ते मूल देश में भुगतान किए गए कार्बन मूल्य का उचित सत्यापन उपलब्ध न हो।
3. पेरिस समझौते का अनुच्छेद 6 (Article 6) शमन परिणामों (mitigation outcomes) के द्विपक्षीय हस्तांतरण के लिए एक कानूनी आधार प्रदान करता 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 हेतु प्रश्न (Mains Practice Questions)

- **"यूरोपीय संघ के 'कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म' (CBAM) जैसे एकतरफा व्यापारिक उपायों का मुकाबला करने में विकसित होते BRICS कार्बन बाजार की क्या भूमिका हो सकती है? एक साझा BRICS कार्बन नियम-पुस्तिका (Common Rulebook) तैयार करने में आने वाली प्रमुख चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।"**
- *(15 अंक / 250 शब्द)*

From poverty alleviation to prosperity

India has reduced extreme poverty, but its high prosperity gap shows that millions remain far from a comfortable standard of living. Informal work, stagnant wages and limited employment opportunities continue to constrain upward mobility

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Somaiahi Garg



From the poverty income rule line provided by the recent World Bank estimates, India has recorded one of the fastest extreme income poverty declines in the world, as per its latest Poverty and Equity brief, which highlights that between 2011 and 2023, an estimated 400 million people moved out of poverty, with extreme income-based poverty ($3.1 per day) declining to 2.6%.

For the same period, the share of the population living below the lower middle-income country line ($4.20/day, 2021 PPP) fell from 57.7% to 41.8%. Non-monetary poverty indicators, as per OPHI's Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, also recorded a sharp reduction in overall poverty numbers, i.e., from 53.8% in 2005-06 to 16.4% in 2019-21.

The figures undoubtedly reflect that India has managed to reduce extreme poverty at a faster pace, even though one has to keep in mind the current (or aspirational) stage of development position with respect to its measurement calculus, as determined by the poverty-measure line used, i.e., as a least developed country ($3/per day) or low- and middle-income developing countries (LMIDC) ($4.2/per day).

If we take the upper middle income (UMIDC) poverty-measurement line, which is where India would like to be positioned by becoming more Viksit than now, this line would be defined as $8.30 per person per day as of current estimates. As per this measure, 80% of India's population would currently be below this poverty line of $8.30, applicable for an aspiring upper-middle income country.

The conversion for $8.30/day may come to roughly ₹800 a day per person, with a monthly pay working out to about ₹24,000, which, even by current living standards across cities in India, is not much to speak of. And so, in that context, 80% of Indians still earn less than ₹24,000 per month (as per the $8.30/per day measure).

Irrespective of which line or measurement space one examines India's income-poverty position, one has to intersectionally relate this to assessing whether Indians, despite moving out of extreme poverty ($3/per day), are actually becoming more prosperous or not. Lifting millions above the extreme poverty line represents basic progress; however, it does not, in isolation, establish that the population has acquired better occupational status, socio-economic opportunities, or a better standard of living over time. Understanding the distance between escaping poverty and attaining prosperity is therefore critical to holistically evaluate whether India's economic growth is inclusive.

Measuring the prosperity gap

The prosperity gap is an indicator adopted by the World Bank that measures how far a society is from the baseline standard of prosperity. Introduced to promote the goal of prosperity, the criteria aim to increase sensitivity to distributional issues, shifting the conventional understanding of economic development away from average per capita income, and emphasising that good growth should benefit the least advantaged in society.

As per the recent brief, India's prosperity gap is 4.5, measured against the global benchmark of $25 per person per day (in 2021 purchasing power parity terms). Hence, the average consumption levels across India's population will need to increase by a factor of 4.5 to reach the desired standard of prosperity.

Since improvements in the earnings of poorer persons contribute more significantly to reducing the prosperity gap, India's score of 4.5 leads to the implication that, despite substantial reduction in poverty, the nation must still strive for prosperity. A closer inquiry into the World Bank's poverty estimates reveals this marked unevenness in development.

In 2023, an estimated 2.6% of the population lived below $3.00 a day (the extreme poverty line), 38.3% below $4.20 (the lower-middle-income line) and 80.0% below $8.30 (the upper-middle-income line). Calculating the difference between successive thresholds, about 64% of the population lay between $4.20 and $8.30.

These percentages assist in inferring a segmentation of the prosperity gap, which is the average, across all people, of $25 divided by each person's daily income. The resulting gap is the factor by which that person's income must rise to reach the benchmark. For instance, a person earning $8.30 needs a factor of 3.4 to be considered prosperous.

Hence, it can be estimated that the 63.9% between $4.20 and $8.30 constitute the largest share of 4.5, leading to the inference that India's prosperity gap remains high because many Indians who have left poverty require their incomes to rise three to seven-fold to reach prosperity (Table 1).

This estimate indicates that this aspirational upward hike is difficult, and the factors that have helped escape poverty are not necessarily the same as those needed to achieve prosperity.

Mobility and human capital markets

While escaping poverty is a statistical phenomenon, building a secure socio-economic life is a labour-market-driven occurrence, and evidence suggests that India's labour market is still not seamlessly transforming the first event into the second. The World Bank brief itself flags this issue by stating that real earnings are broadly flat, employment growth is concentrated in low-productivity work, and youth unemployment rose from 16.6% to 45.8% (Q1 FY2018 to Q1 FY2025).

The data suggest that individuals exiting poverty are being met with weak jobs and uncertain routes to middle-income subgroups. Consequently, the underlying factors explaining the friction in a shift to a prosperous life imply that while employment is expanding, the quality of available jobs is concerning.

For instance, the ILO India Employment Report 2024 found that approximately 90% of India's workers were informally employed, with self-employment accounting for 55.8% of employment in 2022. The 2023 PLFS annual report provided only a modest relief, with regular wage work rotated to have risen from 22.4% in 2004 to only 23.6% in 2025.

Informality is reinforced by research that unveils that an increase in employment can be the result of distress, rather than opportunity. Using PLFS data, it has been recorded that the share of unpaid family helpers among all workers increased from 12.48% in 2017-18 to 17.10% in 2023-24. This leads to an unfortunate deduction that increased employment does not necessarily translate to an expansion of well-paying, tertiary sector jobs.

One of the strongest indicators that the market is not functioning at its best is the fact that poorer workers face the harshest undercurrents when entering the workforce. NCAER's analysis of the Time Use Survey 2024 found that only 46.7% of 20-29-year-olds were employed, with occupational opportunities varying across States.

The most startling figures pertain to the educated youth, as according to The India Employment Report 2024, educated young people accounted for approximately 65.7% of India's unemployed youth in 2022. This phenomenon highlights a mismatch between the qualifications young people are acquiring and the employment opportunities available to them.

Interestingly, households striving to enter the middle class through improved education and healthcare find themselves buying services they may not be able to easily evaluate when selecting.

Das and Dobbin describe 'human capital markets' as riddled with a plethora of fee-charging private providers of education and health, in which quality is difficult to determine, and services are a consumption and an investment. Paid schooling and care do not always guarantee the intended human capital formation, materialising in graduates being unable to convert their investments into employment opportunities.

A paradox that minimises the gains sought to follow increased employment is that even when people are employed, their earnings may not be sufficient to nudge them into a more comfortable economic position. This can occur because real wages have remained broadly flat, as observed by the World Bank brief, and substantiated by the ILO's India Employment Report 2024, which pegged real wages for regular, salaried workers as having remained stagnant or having declined between 2012 and 2022.

The report highlights that being able to consume has very little to do with one's job security, if earnings are not adjusted to the inflationary currents of the market. India has proven that it can combat poverty; however, it is yet to prove that it can foster prosperity. Even though many have breached the poverty line, the prosperity gap remains a caution that for an average Indian, a stable, comfortable life is still out of reach.

For Indians, the journey from escaping poverty to attaining prosperity will require tackling structural and institutional barriers that dictate who can progress and who only survive. The country has already achieved the first basic feat in extreme income poverty. Now, the focus for an aspiring country to become developed would require a transformational shift in supporting more prosperity-enhancing growth that secures and promises better livelihoods, effective human capital-building services, and genuine economic and social opportunities across the socio-economic pyramid. The road to doing that seems far ahead at this point.

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Beyond the **poverty line**

India's gains in poverty reduction have yet to translate into secure livelihoods and a better standard of living

Graph 1: Decline in poverty rates across three income thresholds between 2011 and 2023

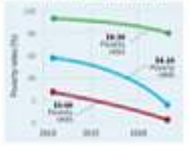


Table 1: The $4.20-$8.30 income group accounts for the largest share of India's prosperity gap

Band (2021)	Share of people	Factor needed	Contribution to P.G
Below $3.00	2.6%	at least 8.1	at least 0.29
$3.00 to $4.20	19.9%	6.7 to 8.1	1.05 to 1.25
$4.20 to $8.30	63.9%	3.4 to 6.7	about 2.1 to 4.1
Above $8.30	30.0%	below 3.4	at least 0.57

THE GIST

- The World Bank's prosperity gap measures how far incomes are from the global benchmark of $25 per person per day; India's score of 4.5 points to the scale of the income increase required
- Nearly 64% of Indians fall in the $4.20-$8.30 daily income band, highlighting the concentration of the population just above the lower-middle income poverty threshold
- Poor quality human capital services, the prevalence of informal work, and the mismatch between educational qualifications and available jobs impede socio-economic mobility

Result Mitra

Result Mitra

गरीबी उन्मूलन से लेकर संपन्नता तक

- भारत ने अत्यधिक गरीबी को कम कर लिया है, लेकिन इसका उच्च संपन्नता अंतर (prosperity gap) यह दर्शाता है कि लाखों लोग अभी भी जीवन के आरामदायक स्तर से बहुत दूर हैं; अनौपचारिक काम, स्थिर मजदूरी और सीमित रोजगार के अवसर ऊपर की ओर बढ़ने में बाधा बने हुए हैं।
- विश्व बैंक के हालिया अनुमानों द्वारा प्रदान की गई गरीबी आय रेखा से, भारत ने दुनिया में सबसे तेज अत्यधिक आय-गरीबी में गिरावट दर्ज की है। उनकी नवीनतम पॉवर्टी एंड इक्विटी ब्रीफ के अनुसार, जो यह उजागर करती है कि 2011 और 2023 के बीच, अनुमानित 49 करोड़ लोग गरीबी से बाहर निकल आए, जिसमें अत्यधिक आय-गरीबी (प्रति दिन 3 डॉलर) में 2.6% की गिरावट आई।
- उसी अवधि के लिए, निम्न-मध्यम-आय रेखा (प्रति दिन 4.20 डालर, 2021 PPP) से नीचे रहने वाली आबादी का हिस्सा 57.7% से घटकर 16.1% हो गया। OPHI के बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक के अनुसार गैर-मुद्रा गरीबी संकेतक ने भी समग्र गरीबी संख्या में भारी कमी दर्ज की, यानी 2005-06 में 53.8% से घटकर 2019-21 में 16.4% हो गई।
- आंकड़े निस्संदेह यह दर्शाते हैं कि भारत ने तेजी से गति से अत्यधिक गरीबी को कम करने में कामयाबी हासिल की है, भले ही किसी को माप गणना द्वारा निर्धारित वर्तमान (बल्कि आकांक्षी) विकास स्थिति को ध्यान में रखना पड़े, जैसा कि कम से कम विकसित देश (LDC) (प्रति दिन 3 डॉलर) या निम्न-और-मध्यम-आय विकासशील देशों (LMIC) (प्रति दिन 4.20 डॉलर) के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।
- यदि हम उच्च-मध्यम-आय रेखा (UMIC) गरीबी-माप रेखा को लें, जो कि वह है जहाँ भारत 'विकसित' (Viksit) बनने के लिए होना पसंद करेगा, तो इस रेखा को वर्तमान अनुमानों के अनुसार प्रति दिन प्रति व्यक्ति 8.30 डॉलर के रूप में परिभाषित किया जाएगा। इन अनुमानों के अनुसार, भारत की 80% आबादी वर्तमान में 8.30 डॉलर की इस गरीबी रेखा से नीचे होगी, जो कि एक आकांक्षी उच्च-मध्यम-आय देश के लिए लागू है।
- प्रति दिन 8.30 डॉलर का रूपांतरण प्रति दिन लगभग ₹800 हो जाता है, जिसमें अकेले भारत के शहरों में जीवन स्तर को देखते हुए, लगभग ₹24,000 प्रति माह कमाने वाला व्यक्ति, चर्चा करने के लिए भी कुछ नहीं है। और उस संदर्भ में, 100 में से 80 भारतीय प्रति माह ₹24,000 से कम कमाते हैं (प्रति दिन 8.30 डॉलर के हिसाब से)।
- चाहे कोई भी माप स्थान भारत की आय-गरीबी स्थिति की जांच करे, इस चौराहे से यह आकलन करना होता है कि क्या भारतीय, अत्यधिक गरीबी (प्रति दिन 3 डॉलर) से बाहर निकलने के बावजूद, वास्तव में अधिक समृद्ध या अमीर हो रहे हैं। अत्यधिक गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर उठने वाले लाखों लोग अभी भी बुनियादी गरीबी रेखा का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं; हालांकि, इसका मतलब यह स्थापित करना नहीं है कि आबादी ने बेहतर व्यावसायिक स्थिति, सामाजिक-आर्थिक अवसर, या समय के साथ जीवन के बेहतर मानक प्राप्त कर लिए हैं। गरीबी से बचने और संपन्नता प्राप्त करने के बीच की दूरी को समझना यह मूल्यांकन करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है कि क्या भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि समावेशी है।

Result Mitra

संपन्नता अंतर को मापना (Measuring the prosperity gap)

- संपन्नता अंतर विश्व बैंक द्वारा अपनाया गया एक संकेतक है जो यह मापता है कि एक समाज संपन्नता के बेसलाइन मानक से कितनी दूर है। संपन्नता के लक्ष्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, आय प्रति व्यक्ति से पारंपरिक समझ के पारंपरिक विकास से वितरण संबंधी संवेदनशीलता में सुधार करने और इस बात पर जोर देने के लिए कि अच्छी वृद्धि से समाज में सबसे कम लाभान्वित लोगों को लाभ होना चाहिए, इस मानक को पेश किया गया था।
- हाल के ब्रिफ के अनुसार, भारत का संपन्नता अंतर 4.9 है, जो प्रति व्यक्ति 28 डॉलर के वैश्विक बेंचमार्क के मुकाबले है।

प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा हेतु प्रश्न (Prelims Practice Questions)

प्रश्न 1: विश्व बैंक के 'संपन्नता अंतर' (Prosperity Gap) संकेतक और गरीबी मापन के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. संपन्नता अंतर (Prosperity Gap) यह मापता है कि कोई समाज संपन्नता के एक निश्चित मानक से कितनी दूर है और यह आय वितरण की संवेदनशीलता पर जोर देता है।
2. बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक (MPI) केवल आय-आधारित संकेतकों के आधार पर गरीबी का आकलन करता है।
3. विश्व बैंक के अनुसार उच्च-मध्यम-आय (UMIC) वाले देशों के लिए गरीबी रेखा $8.30 प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति दिन निर्धारित की गई है।

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

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

मुख्य परीक्षा हेतु प्रश्न (Mains Practice Questions)

- **"अत्यधिक गरीबी को कम करने में सफलता के बावजूद, भारत का उच्च 'संपन्नता अंतर' (Prosperity Gap) यह दर्शाता है कि अधिकांश आबादी के लिए आर्थिक गतिशीलता अभी भी सीमित है।" इस कथन के आलोक में अनौपचारिक रोजगार, स्थिर वास्तविक मजदूरी और मानव पूंजी में बेमेल (mismatch) जैसी संरचनात्मक बाधाओं का विश्लेषण कीजिए।**
- *(15 अंक / 250 शब्द)*

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Anaemia burden — iron alone is no solution



Chandrakant Lahariya

A practising physician and author of the recent book, 'Pill Free: You Don't Need Everything You Have Been Prescribed'

India's anaemia burden is not in doubt. The fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) found that more than half of women and about two-thirds of young children are anaemic. In this context, double-fortified salt (DFS) – fortified with iodine and iron – is often proposed as a potentially transformative solution. However, the case for DFS rests on convenience: everyone consumes salt, so why not add iron to it? But convenience is not efficacy, and a policy that asks the country to continue consuming salt to deliver iron deserves closer scrutiny.

Iron fortification of salt is a vehicle that cuts against public health. Indians consume, by most estimates, roughly twice the five grams of salt a day recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). About one in three adults has hypertension, and India's own non-communicable disease (NCD) action plan commits to a 30% relative reduction in salt intake.

DFS pulls in the opposite direction: its logic depends on steady, generous salt consumption. Households that reduce salt also reduce their iron intake, while the label 'double fortified' invites the belief that more is fine. Calling DFS compatible with sodium reduction is a gesture, not a design.

The claim that salt is consumed in predictable quantities regardless of income also needs qualification. Intake varies by age, sex and region. Adult men typically consume the most, while young children and women consume the least. The groups with the greatest need for iron may therefore receive the smallest doses, while those least likely to be anaemic get the most.

Iron is not a harmless nutrient

The body has no regulated way to excrete iron. Iron can accumulate, promote oxidative stress and has been linked to metabolic disease. In the landmark 2006 Pemba trial in Tanzania, Africa, iron and folic acid supplementation in children in a malaria-endemic setting was associated with increased hospitalisations and deaths. A Kenyan trial published in 2015 found that iron-fortified foods shifted infants' gut flora toward pathogenic bacteria and increased diarrhoea. India has large malaria-endemic and poorly sanitised areas.

Haemoglobinopathies are a further concern. Millions of Indians carry beta-thalassaemia, while sickle cell disease is concentrated in tribal belts. People with thalassaemia, especially those who receive blood transfusions, are prone to iron overload. In this population and settings such as India, screening is not a very good safeguard, nor is it practical. The Public Distribution System (PDS), for example, reaches about 800 million people; screening that many people before they consume salt is simply unrealistic.

There is also the problem of stacking. Fortified rice is already distributed through multiple platforms, including the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. Iron-folic acid tablets are also distributed to several groups. Adding DFS could mean that a child or adolescent receives iron through three or four government programmes at once. There does not seem to be any published analysis of cumulative iron intake across these programmes. Without one, a 'central flagship' rollout would be premature.

There is another dimension to consider: what happens when iron interacts with food. The iron in DFS is non-haem iron, whose absorption depends heavily on the rest of the meal. The typical Indian meal of cereals, millets and pulses is rich in phytates, which bind iron. Polyphenols in tea and coffee, as well as calcium in milk, further reduce absorption. Non-haem iron absorption from such meals is often low, compared with the much higher absorption of haem iron or iron consumed with vitamin C on an empty stomach.

Salt is added during cooking and at the table, so DFS is by definition taken with food. Much of the iron fortificant remains unabsorbed and reaches the colon, where it can feed the wrong microbes. Efficacy trials with supervised delivery and validated specifications do not show what happens with household cooking losses, uneven dosing and variable diets. Absorption is also blunted in people with infection or inflammation, because the hormone hepcidin blocks iron uptake. Fortification therefore works least well where infection burdens are highest.

Iron deficiency only in half of anaemia cases

Anaemia is not the same thing as iron deficiency. Globally, roughly half of anaemia cases are attributed to iron deficiency. India's Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-18) measured biomarkers and found that iron deficiency explained only part of the anaemia in children and adolescents.

The rest comes from many causes: folate and vitamin B12 deficiency, which are common in vegetarian populations; chronic inflammation and recurrent infections; hookworm; malaria; poor sanitation; haemoglobinopathies; and overall undernutrition, including low protein and vitamin A. Early marriage and pregnancy, adolescent undernutrition and menstrual losses add to the picture. Measurement matters too, since capillary haemoglobin readings and the cut-offs used affect the prevalence figures, and these are debated.

The Indian diet is certainly monotonous and low in haem iron, but diet is only one pathway. A single-nutrient fix applied to a multi-causal condition will under-deliver, and may distract from the diagnostics and sanitation investments that matter. While a single nutrient solution is unlikely to work, India's revised strategy for tackling anaemia – 7x7x7 approach – deserves credit for scaling up non-drug measures, to the ongoing strategies.

But gaps remain. The programme still leans on iron-folic acid tablets, despite well-documented compliance challenges and gastrointestinal side effects. Haemoglobin testing alone cannot establish the cause of anaemia, while routine testing for ferritin, vitamin B12 and inflammation markers remains largely absent. "Eating Right" risks becoming an awareness slogan unless it addresses the affordability of foods for households such as eggs, dairy, greens and millets. Digital tracking tends to count tests and tablets rather than health outcomes. Deworming, malaria control, and water, sanitation and hygiene remain at the margins. Making DFS a flagship scheme would reintroduce the one-solution thinking that the 7x7x7 framework is meant to move beyond.

A better pathway

Peru reduced child anaemia by double digits in the early 2010s. It made anaemia a political priority, tracked children by name through health contacts, combined iron supplements and micronutrient powders with cash transfers, and held regions accountable. Progress reversed when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted service delivery, a reminder that outcomes depend on sustained service delivery rather than a product.

Vietnam is often cited for sharp declines in anaemia among women through weekly iron-folic acid supplementation, deworming and fish sauce fortified with sodium iron ethylenediaminetetraacetate (NaFeEDTA), a form of iron that is better absorbed in phytate-rich diets. These measures were accompanied by rising incomes and greater dietary diversity. Even Vietnam's fortification strategy was carefully matched to local diets and paired with other measures. Neither case shows that a one fortified food can tackle anaemia on its own.

India should not scale up DFS nationally without more groundwork. It should first conduct monitored district-level pilots that measure ferritin, haemoglobin and inflammation, assess cumulative iron exposure across programmes, and monitor potential harm in malaria-endemic and haemoglobinopathy-prone areas.

Fortification should be targeted rather than universal and use better-absorbed iron forms. Meanwhile, greater investment should go towards diagnostics to identify the causes of anaemia, deworming, sanitation and affordable access to diverse foods. Anaemia has multiple causes and cannot be solved by an additive in the salt bottle.

India must tackle its anaemia burden through targeted nutrition, better diagnostics and comprehensive public health measures, not salt fortification alone

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

एनीमिया का बोझ - केवल आयरन ही इसका समाधान नहीं है

- **आयरन-फोर्टिफाइड नमक (DFS) की सीमाएं:** नमक में आयरन या डबल-फोर्टिफाइड सॉल्ट (DFS) को एक समाधान के रूप में पेश किया जाता है, लेकिन भारत में लगभग एक-तिहाई वयस्कों को उच्च रक्तचाप (hypertension) है, और नमक का अत्यधिक सेवन स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है। इसके अलावा, जिन्हें आयरन की सबसे अधिक आवश्यकता होती है (जैसे महिलाएं और बच्चे), वे सबसे कम नमक खाते हैं।
- **आयरन कोई हानिरहित पोषक तत्व नहीं है:** शरीर से अतिरिक्त आयरन बाहर निकालने का कोई प्राकृतिक तंत्र नहीं है। शरीर में अधिक आयरन जमा होने से ऑक्सीडेटिव तनाव और चयापचय संबंधी बीमारियां (metabolic diseases) हो सकती हैं।
- **एनीमिया के सभी कारण केवल आयरन की कमी नहीं:** भारत के राष्ट्रीय पोषण सर्वेक्षण (2016-18) के अनुसार, केवल आधे मामलों में ही एनीमिया का कारण आयरन की कमी है। बाकी मामलों के अन्य कारण फोलिक एसिड या विटामिन B12 की कमी, क्रोनिक इन्फ्लेमेशन, हुकवर्म, मलेरिया, खराब स्वच्छता और कुपोषण हैं।
- **भारतीय आहार और अवशोषण की समस्या:** सामान्य भारतीय भोजन में फाइटेट्स (phytates) अधिक होते हैं, जो आयरन के अवशोषण को रोकते हैं। इसके अलावा, संक्रमण या सूजन से पीड़ित लोगों में हेप्सिडिन (hepcidin) हॉर्मोन आयरन के अवशोषण को और कम कर देता है।
- **आगे की राह:** केवल नमक का फोर्टिफिकेशन करने के बजाय, भारत को लक्षित पोषण (targeted nutrition), बेहतर निदान (diagnostics), स्वच्छता, कीड़े मारने की दवा (deworming), और विविध एवं पौष्टिक आहार की उपलब्धता पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। पेरू और वियतनाम जैसे देशों ने बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण अपनाकर एनीमिया को सफलतापूर्वक कम किया है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Agniveers get option for extension; pathway to join army as regular soldiers

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved an additional two-year engagement period for a section of Agniveers, creating a pathway for all cadets under the Agnipath scheme to join the armed forces as regular soldiers, subject to their willingness and fulfilment of selection criteria.

The move marks a significant revision of the original Agnipath framework, under which only up to 25% of each batch of Agniveers were eligible for retention in the regular cadre after four years, while the remaining personnel were to be released from service.

Under the revised arrangement, 25% of Agniveers will continue to be offered regular employment while the remaining 75% would be given an opportunity to serve for another two years, following which they would be eligible for consideration for enrolment as regular soldiers, Chief of Defence Staff, General N.S. Raja Subramani, told mediapersons on Wednesday.

Higher remuneration

The second engagement period will come with higher remuneration, an enhanced Seva Nidhi package, and seniority benefits.

The decision follows an assessment of the performance of Agniveers in terms of organisational requirements and operational efficiency. The evaluation found that they had demonstrated outstanding performance in skills, motivation, physical fitness, and technological prowess, according to the government, he added.

The additional engagement period was approved on the recommendations of the three services following an elaborate evaluation and feedback process. The objective is to align the aspirations of Agniveers with the operational requirements and organisational efficiency of the armed forces, the Defence Ministry said.

The government said a detailed assessment of the Agnipath scheme after four years of implementation had brought out several achievements, including a wider geographical footprint of recruitment across districts, a more standardised and transparent recruitment process, and high levels of physical fitness, morale, motivation, competitive spirit, and discipline among Agniveers.

The scheme has also contributed to enhancing the skills, technological adaptability, and educational qualifications of personnel during their service. It has further enabled the opening up of various branches of the defence forces to women.

Based on the assessment and feedback, the government has decided to continue with the Agnipath scheme while introducing the additional two-year engagement period for Agniveers and a subsequent pathway for their regular enrolment.

ADDRESSING DISCONTENT
» PAGE 4

Career trajectory

The revised arrangement creates a pathway for all Agniveers to eventually become regular soldiers

- 25% of Agniveers to be offered regular employment on the basis of merit, as envisaged under the Agnipath scheme
- Remaining 75% to get opportunity for a 2-year extension and then fresh enrolment
- Second engagement period to have higher remuneration and seniority benefits



रक्षा मंत्रालय

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

मंत्रिमंडल ने सभी अग्निवीरों को रक्षा बलों में समाहित किए जाने का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया

पिछले चार वर्षों के दौरान अग्निवीरों के प्रदर्शन पर रक्षा बलों द्वारा किए गए आकलन में उनके समग्र कार्य-निष्पादन पर सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त हुई

पूर्व में निर्धारित व्यवस्था के अनुसार, योग्यता के आधार पर 25 प्रतिशत अग्निवीरों को रक्षा बलों में नियमित सेवा का अवसर दिया जाएगा

शेष अग्निवीरों को स्वेच्छा के आधार पर दो वर्ष की एक और सेवा अवधि का विकल्प दिया जाएगा

दो वर्ष की इस सेवा अवधि के पूरा होने के बाद सभी अग्निवीरों को उनकी इच्छा तथा निर्धारित चयन मानदंडों को पूरा करने की शर्त पर नियमित सैनिकों के रूप में भर्ती किया जाएगा

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 04 NOV 2026 4:14PM by PIB Delhi

संगठनात्मक आवश्यकताओं और कार्यकारी/सामरिक दक्षता के उद्देश्य से किए गए एक वस्तुनिष्ठ मूल्यांकन से यह बात स्पष्ट हुई है कि अग्निवीरों ने अपने कौशल, प्रेरणा के स्तर, शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य/तंदुरुस्ती और तकनीकी दक्षता के मामले में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन किया है। पूर्व में निर्धारित व्यवस्था के अनुसार, योग्यता के आधार पर 25 प्रतिशत अग्निवीरों को रक्षा बलों में नियमित सेवा का अवसर दिया जाएगा।

इसके अतिरिक्त, शेष 75 प्रतिशत अग्निवीरों के लिए भारतीय रक्षा बलों की सिफारिशों के आधार पर मंत्रिमंडल ने दो वर्ष की एक और सेवा अवधि को स्वीकृति दी है। दो वर्ष की इस अतिरिक्त सेवा अवधि के पूरा होने के बाद सभी अग्निवीरों को उनकी इच्छा और निर्धारित चयन मानदंडों को पूरा करने की शर्त पर नियमित सैनिकों के रूप में भर्ती होने का अवसर दिया जाएगा।

इच्छुक 75 प्रतिशत अग्निवीरों के लिए दो वर्ष की अतिरिक्त सेवा अवधि शुरू करने का निर्णय अग्निवीरों की आकांक्षाओं और संगठनात्मक दक्षता के बीच बेहतर सामंजस्य स्थापित करने के मूल उद्देश्य से विस्तृत, सुविचारित और तर्कसंगत मूल्यांकन तथा प्राप्त फीडबैक के आधार पर लिया गया है।

YouTube Homework

- Army Act
- Navy Act
- Air Force Act

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- केंद्रीय कैबिनेट और भारत के चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ (CDS) जनरल एन.एस. राजा सुब्रमणि ने अग्निपथ योजना में एक ऐतिहासिक बदलाव की घोषणा की है। इस नए फैसले के तहत पहले बैच के अग्निवीरों के 4 साल का सेवाकाल पूरा होने से ठीक पहले उन्हें 2 साल का सेवा विस्तार (Extension) देने की मंजूरी दी गई है। इसके साथ ही, अब सभी अग्निवीरों के लिए नियमित (स्थायी) सेना में शामिल होने का रास्ता पूरी तरह साफ हो गया है।

अग्निपथ योजना और अग्निवीर क्या हैं?

- अग्निपथ योजना (Agnipath Scheme): यह भारत सरकार द्वारा जून 2022 में शुरू की गई एक सैन्य भर्ती योजना है, जिसके तहत भारतीय थल सेना, नौसेना और वायुसेना में युवाओं को शॉर्ट-टर्म (कम अवधि) के लिए अनुबंधित सैनिक के रूप में भर्ती किया जाता है।
- अग्निवीर (Agniveer): इस योजना (अग्निपथ) के माध्यम से भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों में शामिल होने वाले जवानों को 'अग्निवीर' कहा जाता है।

यह बदलाव क्यों किया गया और इसके फायदे क्या हैं?

- सीडीएस जनरल एन.एस. राजा सुब्रमणि के अनुसार, पिछले 4 वर्षों में अग्निवीरों के जमीनी प्रदर्शन का मूल्यांकन (Performance Evaluation) किया गया, जिसके बहुत ही सकारात्मक परिणाम और फीडबैक मिले हैं।
- सेना को फायदा: सेना को पहले से प्रशिक्षित, अनुभवी और तकनीकी रूप से कुशल जवान और अधिक समय के लिए मिलेंगे, जिससे सैन्य परिचालन क्षमता (Operational Efficiency) मजबूत होगी।
- अग्निवीरों को फायदा: युवाओं के मन से 4 साल बाद बेरोजगार होने की चिंता और भविष्य की अनिश्चितता पूरी तरह समाप्त होगी। उन्हें सेना में लंबे समय तक देश सेवा करने और स्थायी करियर बनाने का एक बेहतरीन दूसरा मौका मिलेगा।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Set up SC Bench in Chennai, Tamil Nadu CM urges Modi

Stating that it has been a long-pending demand of T.N., Vijay cites several factors, including the difficulties faced by litigants from southern States in travelling to Delhi to seek legal remedy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to take steps to establish a Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai.

Mr. Vijay said it was one of the long-pending demands of Tamil Nadu. It was first mooted by the State in 1980, citing several factors, including the difficulties faced by litigants from southern States in travelling to New Delhi to seek legal remedy.

Referring to Article 130 of the Constitution, he pointed out that the Supreme Court could sit in Delhi or any other place or places as decided by the Chief Justice of India, with the approval of the President, from time to time. He recalled that the issue was discussed at the conference of Chief Justices in 1979.



The demand was first mooted by Tamil Nadu in 1980.

The Chief Minister said locating the Bench in Chennai, an important city in south India, would benefit all southern States. He highlighted the professional competence and talent of the Madras High Court Bar, and the fact that the Madras High Court, established in 1862, was one of the oldest chartered High Courts in India.

Mr. Vijay said the Full Court of the Supreme Court had, on August 7, 2007, found no justification for deviating from its earlier resolutions on the issue, despite the State's assurance that it would provide the necessary infrastructure, including residential accommodation for Supreme Court judges befitting their status.

When the Constitution was enacted, its framers contemplated that all citizens of the country must have direct access to the court. It was the main reason for the enactment of Article 32, a privilege not available in many other countries, he said. However, over time, the remedy under Article 32 had become practically available only to citizens who were geographically close to the Supreme Court, and were financially privileged to meet the cost of litigation and travel, he said.

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YouTube Homework

- Article 124 - 147

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महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- भारतीय संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 130 (Article 130)** भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय (Supreme Court) की सीट (स्थान) से संबंधित है।

- **स्थान (Seat of Supreme Court):** अनुच्छेद 130 के अनुसार, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय दिल्ली में अपनी बैठक करेगा या ऐसे अन्य स्थान या स्थानों पर बैठक कर सकता है, जिन्हें **भारत का मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI)**, राष्ट्रपति की पूर्व स्वीकृति से, समय-समय पर नियत करे।
- **वैकल्पिक बैठकें:** यह प्रावधान सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को यह लचीलापन देता है कि वह देश के अन्य हिस्सों में भी अपनी बेंच (Bench) स्थापित कर सके ताकि दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों के लोगों को न्याय तक पहुँचने में आसानी हो, हालांकि मुख्य पीठ दिल्ली में ही स्थित है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

INCOIS warns of marine heat wave, issues swell surge alert for east and west coasts

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), a research organisation under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has issued a marine heat wave warning across the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Bay of Bengal.

The warming conditions could adversely affect coral reef ecosystems, marine productivity, and coastal biodiversity.

The intensity of the marine heat waves has largely been classified under the 'watch' and 'alert' categories, indicating sea surface temperature anomalies of up to 1 degree celsius above normal levels. The study area covered under this service is divided into six ocean basins, including the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Southern Indian Ocean and South China Sea, as well as 14 sectors along the Indian coastline for detailed regional analysis.



Waves of one metre or higher are likely to lash coasts of southern States as well as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. K.R. DEEPAK

Scientists are also assessing the intensity of marine heat waves and their potential impact on fisheries. These conditions could lead to biodiversity loss.

INCOIS on Wednesday also issued a swell surge warning for both the east and west coasts for the next two days, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A danger alert was issued for Car Nicobar Island. According to an official bulletin, waves of one metre or higher are expected to impact the coasts of Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

YouTube Homework

- MoES

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- INCOIS (भारतीय राष्ट्रीय महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र) भारत सरकार का एक प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक संगठन है, जो समुद्र और महासागरों से जुड़ी सटीक जानकारियां और चेतावनियां जारी करता है।

INCOIS क्या है और कब बना?

- स्थापना: इसकी स्थापना 3 फरवरी, 1999 को एक स्वायत्त (autonomous) निकाय के रूप में की गई थी।
- मंत्रालय: यह भारत सरकार के पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (Ministry of Earth Sciences - MoES) के अधीन काम करता है।
- मुख्यालय: इसका मुख्यालय हैदराबाद (तेलंगाना) में स्थित है।

यह कैसे काम करता है?

- INCOIS आधुनिक सैटेलाइट्स, समुद्री तैरते उपकरणों (buoys) और कंप्यूटर मॉडल्स का उपयोग करके समुद्र की हर गतिविधि पर लगातार नज़र रखता है। इसके काम करने के मुख्य तरीके और सेवाएं इस प्रकार हैं:
- सुनामी की शुरुआती चेतावनी: यह समुद्र में उठने वाले भूकंप और सुनामी की तुरंत जानकारी और चेतावनी देता है ताकि तटीय इलाकों को समय रहते सुरक्षित किया जा सके।
- मछली पकड़ने के संभावित क्षेत्र (PFZ): यह उपग्रहों के डेटा से समुद्र के उन हिस्सों की पहचान करता है जहां मछलियां ज्यादा मात्रा में मौजूद हो सकती हैं। यह जानकारी रोजाना मछुआरों को फ्री में दी जाती है, जिससे उनका समय और ईंधन बचता है।
- महासागरीय स्थिति का पूर्वानुमान: यह नाविकों, बंदरगाहों और तटीय उद्योगों के लिए समुद्र में उठने वाली लहरों, तेज हवाओं और समुद्री धाराओं का सटीक अनुमान लगाता है।

मरीन हीटवेव (Marine Heatwave) क्या है?

- INCOIS ने हाल ही में अरब सागर, बंगाल की खाड़ी और हिंद महासागर के कई हिस्सों में मरीन हीटवेव (समुद्री लू) की चेतावनी जारी की है।

जिस तरह जमीन पर गर्मियों में भीषण लू चलती है, ठीक उसी तरह जब समुद्र की सतह का तापमान सामान्य से बहुत अधिक बढ़ जाता है और यह स्थिति कम से कम 5 दिनों या उससे अधिक समय तक बनी रहती है, तो उसे 'मरीन हीटवेव' कहा जाता है। जलवायु परिवर्तन और वैश्विक तापमान (Global Warming) के कारण यह समस्या हाल के दिनों में तेजी से बढ़ रही है।

मरीन हीटवेव के मुख्य नुकसान:

- कोरल रीफ (मूंगा चट्टानों) का नष्ट होना: समुद्र का तापमान बढ़ने से मूंगा चट्टानों का रंग सफेद पड़ने लगता है (जिसे कोरल ब्लीचिंग कहते हैं)। इससे समुद्री जीवन का सबसे खूबसूरत और जरूरी हिस्सा नष्ट हो जाता है।
- समुद्री जैव विविधता को खतरा: अत्यधिक गर्मी के कारण कई मछलियां, समुद्री घास और अन्य जीव या तो मर जाते हैं या फिर जिंदा रहने के लिए दूसरे ठंडे इलाकों की तरफ पलायन कर जाते हैं। इससे समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र (Ecosystem) बिगड़ जाता है।
- मछली पालन और आजीविका पर असर: मछलियों के पलायन और समुद्री उत्पादकता में कमी आने के कारण तटीय इलाकों के मछुआरों और मछली उद्योग को भारी आर्थिक नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है।
- चक्रवातों (Cyclones) का मजबूत होना: समुद्र की ऊपरी सतह जितनी अधिक गर्म होगी, वहां कम दबाव का क्षेत्र उतनी ही तेजी से बनेगा। इससे समुद्र में उठने वाले तूफान और चक्रवात पहले से कहीं ज्यादा शक्तिशाली और विनाशकारी हो जाते हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

PAC meet calls for closer scrutiny of public spending, quicker action on audit findings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A conference of Public Accounts Committee Chairpersons from Parliament and 25 State legislatures has called for closer scrutiny of public spending, quicker action on audit findings, and the wider use of forensic tools to identify areas of governance requiring immediate legislative oversight, adopting a resolution to that effect at the end of a two-day meeting in Thiruvananthapuram.

"[Comptroller and Auditor General] CAG reports often reach us years after the money was spent, when officers have moved on and the trail has become untraceable. We were alarmed by the delays by a few governments in placing the reports before the House. There should be a robust mechanism to ensure that all this happens in a time-bound manner," said K.C. Venugopal, a senior Congress leader and chairman of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), speaking at the conference's valedictory session.

In a post on X, he added: "Audit only matters when someone answers for what it finds. Accountability cannot end with a CAG report sitting on a shelf; it has to go on until the last rupee is accounted for and the last lapse is fixed."

Hold debates on reports

The PACs are responsible for auditing government revenue and expenditure and examining CAG audit reports. The conference, which was built on the



K.C. Venugopal

theme, "Audit, accountability and good governance: the evolving role of PAC", concluded with the adoption of an eight-point resolution.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who listened to the deliberations, said that the recommendations from the conference would provide a clear pathway to improve the functioning of PACs and ensure that public money is used for the right purpose.

Mr. Venugopal, on behalf of the PAC Chairpersons, requested the Speaker to ensure that the PAC reports are debated in Parliament and the Assemblies so that accountability is fixed by the government and the public would come to know of the valuable work of the PACs. He noted that a widely shared frustration by the PAC Chairpersons was that the replies from Ministries and Departments to the PAC often come late, are incomplete, or do not come at all.

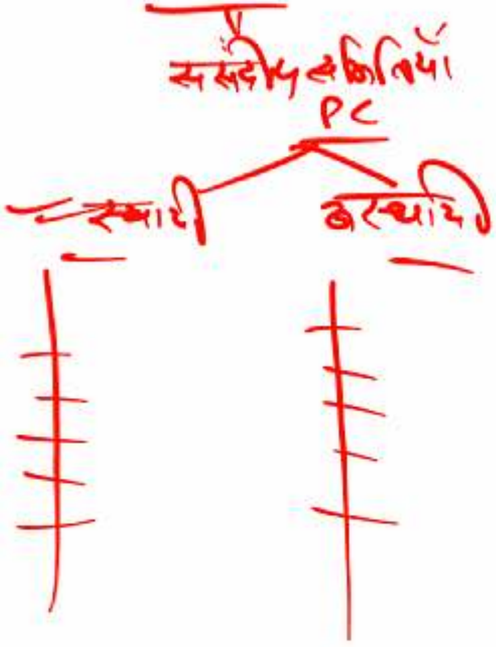
The eight-point resolution committed PACs to ensuring that public funds are spent only for the purposes for which they were sanctioned and to safeguarding the public exchequer through rigorous monitoring. Among the key decisions was the creation of a digital platform to facilitate continuous peer learning, sharing of best practices, and procedural innovations among PACs across the country. The conference also resolved to work towards standardised timelines for governments to submit Action Taken Notes on audit observations and PAC recommendations.

To improve monitoring of audit findings, the participants called for the adoption of digital oversight systems on the lines of Parliament's Audit Para Monitoring System (APMS) in all State and Union Territory legislatures.

The conference also urged closer collaboration with the CAG, including the use of advanced forensic tools to identify high-risk areas requiring legislative oversight.

YouTube Homework

- **Other Committees**



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

SC tells excluded voters not to fear prosecution; ECI insists on Form 6

Court had earlier said ECI was in 'error' to force pre-existing voters, deleted from the electoral rolls, to apply as new voters under Form 6; it had nudged the poll body to allow purged voters to use Form 8 or an enumeration form to get included

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The ECI too had clarified that no penal action would be taken against excluded voters applying to be included using Form 6. FILE

The Supreme Court on Wednesday assured petitioners that no voter will face criminal prosecution, even as advocate Prashant Bhushan said the Election Commission of India (ECI) is still insisting that voters excluded after the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Delhi, under the Absent, Shifted, Dead, or Duplicate (ASDD) categories, must fill up Form 6, which is meant exclusively for new voters.

On October 28, the Supreme Court had made it clear that the ECI was in "error" to force pre-existing voters, deleted from the electoral rolls, to apply as new voters under Form 6 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

The petitioners, activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri, represented by Mr. Bhushan and advocate Cheryl D'souza, had submitted on October 28 that the ECI was compelling voters to misrepresent themselves as new applicants, an offence which attracts imprisonment.

On October 28, the top court had orally nudged the ECI, saying that such purged voters should be allowed to use Form 8, which voters can use to apply for a change in residence, or an enumeration form for the SIR process.

On Wednesday, Mr. Bhushan said voters were still in the same quandary despite the SC's remarks. He referred to a press note issued by the ECI on Tuesday which had clarified that the submission of Form 6 for the purpose of inclusion in the electoral roll under SIR or afterwards was "not, by itself, false merely because the elector was previously enrolled".

The ECI note had promised that no penal action would be taken under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 by Electoral Registration Officers against electors "merely on the ground that they had been included in a previous electoral roll and had submitted Form 6 during the SIR process or afterwards".

He said the ECI note clearly showed that the court's oral observations to allow pre existing voters to apply through Form 8 or their enumeration forms were not put into practice, leaving the voters to still apply through Form 6 and risk prosecution.

"Now they are in the horns of a dilemma," he submitted. "We are dealing with the matter, how can they feel like that," the CJI said. The Bench asked the petitioners to file an application on this aspect, and said the matter would be heard on November 19.

ECI separates online form for registration of fresh voters and SIR declaration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Under the revised process, each must be submitted separately, requiring a separate OTP verification and e-sign, an official said

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has separated Form 6, used for fresh voter registration, and an accompanying declaration in its online version in States where the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise is under way.

Earlier in September, it had already withdrawn the declaration from its digital platforms in States where the SIR exercise had been completed.

Form 6 is used for fresh voters registrations and since the SIR in Bihar a separate declaration had been added to it in physical forms. However, in the digital mode, it was a single form and this included the declaration.

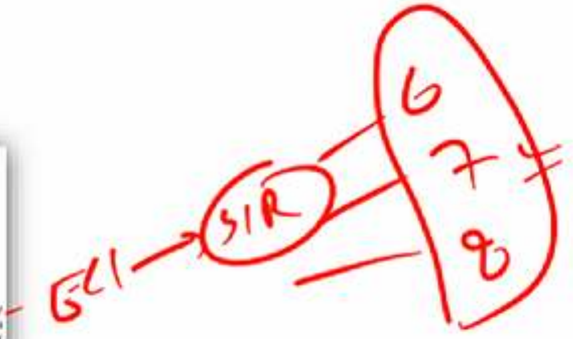
The ECI had justified it saying a single OTP for the two documents had led to suggestions that the form had been tweaked without the approval of the Union Law Ministry.

This change in the online version of Form 6 had been one of the issues flagged in dissent notes by the two Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

On Wednesday, a senior ECI official said: "Previously, Form 6 and the accompanying declaration were submitted together using a single OTP and e-sign for the operational convenience of applicants. Under the revised process, each must be submitted separately, requiring a separate OTP verification and e-Sign. Applicants must complete both steps for successful submission".

Affidavit in court

The poll body has in a counter affidavit submitted in the court last week had said that according to an October 21 decision of its electoral roll division, "similar to physical submissions, online applications in Form 6 shall also be divided into two distinct parts: Form 6 as prescribed in the Rules; and the SIR Declaration."



Several BJP BLAs named as 'objectors' deny filing Form 7s in Mustafabad constituency

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI



BJP-appointed BLAs were listed as "objectors" in at least 77% of the total 1,021 applications filed so far in Mustafabad. FILE PHOTO

Individuals named as BJP-appointed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and listed as 'objectors' in at least 77% of the total 1,021 deletion applications filed so far in Mustafabad constituency of Delhi have largely denied their association with the filing of Form 7s as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls.

The Hindu contacted all 20 BLAs registered with the BJP, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s records, who have filed the 787 Form 7s, citing reasons such as "absent/permanently shifted", "already enrolled" and "death" to seek deletion of electors' names.

All the applications are against Muslim electors. In all, 16 of the 20 denied having filed or signed any forms since the claims and objections phase began on August 26. Almost all of them claimed that they had no knowledge of forms being filled out using their names.

The 787 applications account for 94% of the 837 deletion applications filed by third parties, as per the publicly available list of Form 7s on Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) website. Form 7 is used to seek deletion of existing names from the electoral roll or to object to the inclusion of names.

One such BLA, Ankit Yadav, who has been named as an objector in 32 Form 7 applications, not only denied filing any of these but also said that he had submitted a complaint and his formal resignation as BLA to party representatives. "I got to know on Sunday that my details have been used to seek deletions of my neighbours belonging to the Muslim community. I know all of them, and we live like family and friends here in this neighbourhood, which has only a couple of Hindu households," he said.

With the help of the area BLO, *The Hindu* verified that all electors concerned live at their registered addresses. The BLO also said he had not received any physical copies of Form 7s.

"When I had taken the role of BLA six months ago, I was told that my work would be to help the BLOs and voters in the area. How can they use my details and pose me as 'fraud'?" Mr. Yadav asked.

The Hindu had reported on October 30 that BJP BLAs had been named as objectors in applications seeking the deletion of Muslim electors who were found living at their addresses in Mustafabad during *The Hindu*'s visit.

One of the objectors, Chandra Shekhar Nainwal, named in applications concerning 28 Muslim electors, had denied filing them and said he was not associated with BJP.

Apart from him, four others said they were no longer associated with BJP in that capacity. BJP BLA Robin Singh Dhama, who has been named as an objector in 57 cases, is an exception. He acknowledged filing Form 7 applications and claimed to have submitted "500 of those".

The district election officer, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer and ECI did not respond to questions by *The Hindu*.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- BNSS Section 163
- 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

Falling fertility rate has made two-child norm outdated: SC

Top court says its 2003 judgment, which upheld such penal laws, needs a revisit by a larger Bench; India's Total Fertility Rate has fallen from 3.02 to 1.9, going below the 2.1 replacement threshold

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that laws penalising having more than two children have lost their relevance due to the falling fertility rate in India.

"We are of the strong opinion that laws that penalise having more than two children have lost their relevance. The foundation of such laws, that is, the fear of overpopulation, has crumbled due to demographic changes in the past few decades," a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha observed.

The court said its 2003 judgment (in *Javed v. State of Haryana*) which upheld such penal laws, needed a revisit by a larger Bench.

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) had fallen from 3.02 to 1.9. A TFR of 2.1, known as the replacement rate, would allow one generation to completely replace itself.

"Even though India's population is not yet declining, the TFR falling below the replacement rate will soon result in a demographic transition towards an older population with a declining share of the working-age population. Therefore, laws aimed at limiting population growth have now lost their significance," Justice Narasimha observed.

> The foundation of such laws, that is, the fear of overpopulation, has crumbled due to demographic changes in the past few decades... the TFR falling below the replacement rate will soon result in a demographic transition towards an older population with a declining share of the working-age population
>
> SUPREME COURT



The 2003 judgment had referred to the situation that existed in China as of 2000 and drew inspiration from the measures that it had undertaken to control the population.

Healthy growth

"The earlier perception that population has a negative impact on development does not hold water any more. Rather than society and the courts being concerned about the negative consequences of high population, it should instead focus on the need to encourage a healthy growth of population," the judgment, by a Bench including Justice Alok Aradhe, said.

The judgment pointed out that the share of persons aged 60 and above had risen from about 8.3% in 2014 to 9.7% in 2024, and government projections place that share at nearly 15% by 2036.

India's falling fertility rate, the court said, would necessarily mean a smaller proportion of younger persons in the future, and, correspondingly, a larger ageing population. The court said the failure to take notice of demographic changes would lead to only serious consequences. Failure to adapt not only produced injustice, but was also an abuse of power.

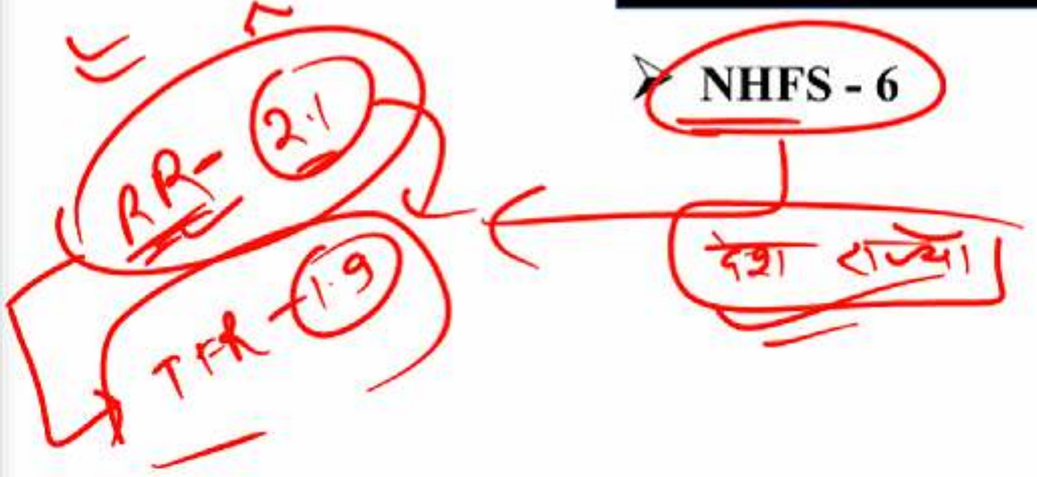
The judgment was based on a petition filed by Mangala Bhimrao Ingle, whose election as sarpanch of the Kakoda gram panchayat in Maharashtra was set aside on the ground that she had more than two children.

Justice Narasimha found such laws linking motherhood to political representation a violation of Article 21 (right to life) under the Constitution.

"Allowing such laws to stand excludes an entire class of citizens from political representation on grounds bearing little rational connection to their capacity to hold public office. It compels an unconscionable choice between bearing children and democratic participation, impinging on the right to reproductive autonomy under Article 21," Justice Narasimha observed.

Seeking an immediate re-visitation of the 2003 judgment, the court permitted the appellant to continue in her elected position while staying any proceedings against her.

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महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Fast-track special courts scheme extended till 2031

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Centre plans to operationalise 850 fast track courts to deal with child abuse and rape cases

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a five-year extension of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for fast-track special courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO courts, from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031.

The scheme, operational since October 10, 2019, has undergone extensions to ensure expeditious disposal of cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. It was initially launched for one year and was extended up to March 31, 2026.

The scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹3,788.04 crore, comprising a Central share of ₹2,353.15 crore and a State/Union Territory share of ₹1,434.89 crore.

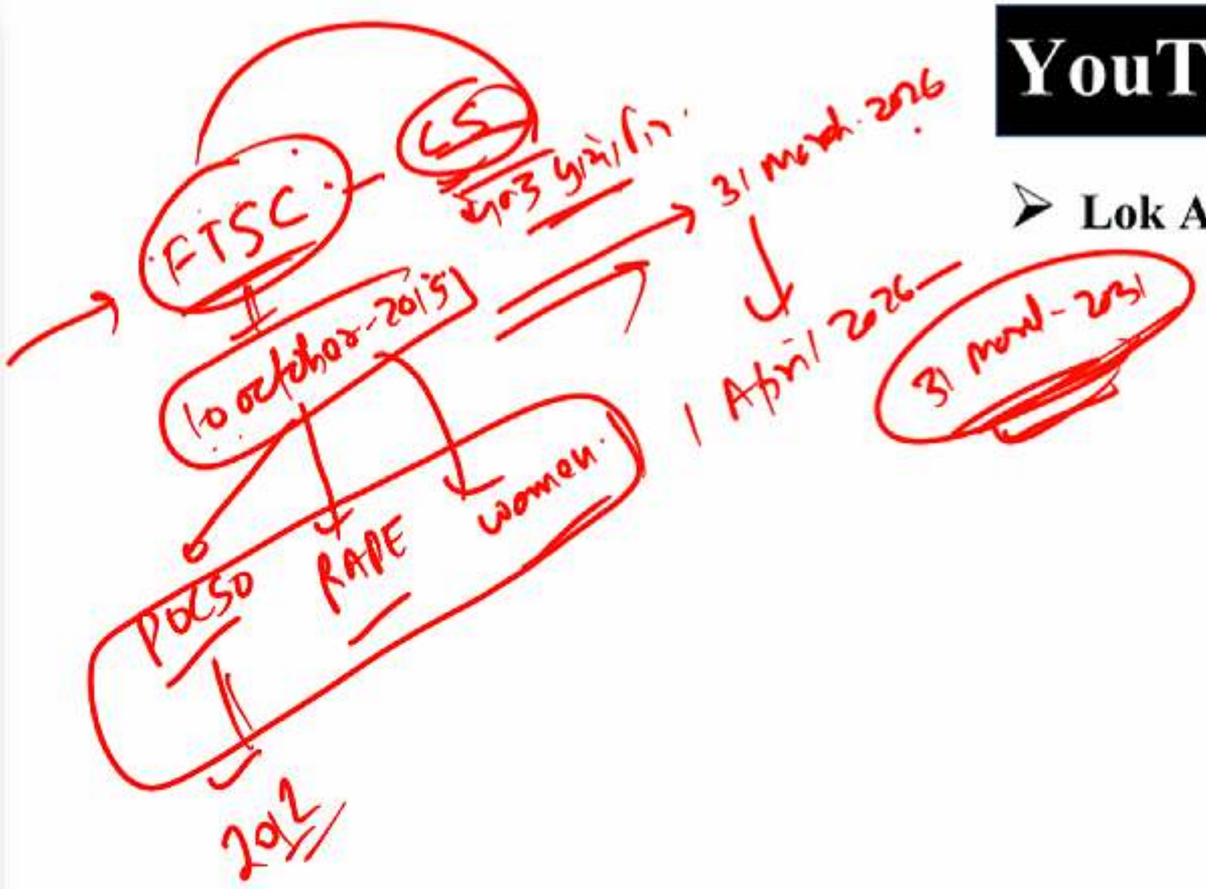
The Centre's allocation will be met from the Nirbhaya Fund. There are 779 functional FTSCs across the country, including 399 exclusive POCSO courts. They have disposed of 4,02,457 cases since the scheme's inception.

Under the extended scheme, the government plans to operationalise 850 FTSCs, including exclusive POCSO courts, across participating States and Union Territories.

This expansion shall be based on case pendency data across all States and Union Territories.

There is also a provision for a dedicated Judicial Officer, a Special Public Prosecutor and six support staff to facilitate expeditious disposal of pending cases relating to rape and offences under the POCSO Act, 2012.

The continuation of the scheme is expected to expedite trials, reduce the backlog of rape and POCSO cases, and encourage the establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres and child-friendly court spaces to facilitate victim testimonies without causing further distress, while prioritising cases involving vulnerable groups like women and children, an official statement said.



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- Lok Adalat

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Bengaluru exhibition attempts to make the quantum seem human







UPSC
- QC
- CC
- AI
- GAI
- IoT
- 5 → New Tech
- Silicon

- Quantum

YouTube Homework

- Quantum Computer

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



In 2024, as much as 38% of deforestation was caused by fire. Here, the Brazilian Amazon burns. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Amazon is no longer a carbon sink, it is an emitter

Divya Gandhi

The world's largest tropical forest, referred to as the 'lungs of the planet,' the Amazon rainforest once acted as a vast carbon sink that helped absorb human-induced CO_2 emissions. But now, a study has found that the Amazon *releases* more CO_2 than it absorbs from the atmosphere, as it is decimated by deforestation and forest fires.

Scientists measured CO_2 levels at different atmospheric altitudes, using research airplanes, between the years 2010 and 2024 at four Amazonian sites. Their findings indicated that "Amazonia is a net carbon source rather than a sink and cannot offset regional anthropogenic emissions."

Wildfires caused the Amazon to emit 1.17 billion more metric tonnes of carbon than it absorbed, found the study, published in the journal *Nature*.

"Forest loss reduces precipitation, raises temperatures and lengthens the dry season, delaying the onset of the wet season," said the authors. There was a reduction in precipitation by 17% during the dry-season peak period (August-October), from 1979 to 2018 and an increase in annual temperature of 0.9°C during the same period.

Flammable forests

"Climate stress is stronger in more deforested regions, rendering forests progressively more flammable," said the study. This phenomenon is amplified by climate events such as El Niño and a greater frequency of droughts.

In the peak of a strong El Niño in 2024 the highest carbon emissions were recorded. This period was the hottest, driest and most strongly degraded by fire: as much as 38% of deforestation was caused by fire that year. "Most Amazonian wildfires are intentionally set, and severe droughts exacerbate their extent and intensity," said the study.

"The main message of the study is shocking: the problem in the Amazon is human activity," said lead author and climate scientist Luciana Vanni Gatti, in a release. "We're losing the forest because the region's development model has been based on destruction. We need public policies that value the standing forest."

Deforestation accelerated sharply particularly between 2019 and 2022 when the Amazon witnessed a loss of 7,91,835 sq.km. of forests. Between 2010-24, there was a 272% rise in mining area, a 19% increase in pasture area, and a 193% expansion of soybean plantations.

"These results highlight the urgent need to implement a zero-deforestation policy, strengthen controls on biomass burning and prioritize forest restoration programmes," said the authors.

The Amazon, which spans five million sq.km. across nine countries, also happens to be a habitat to no less than 10% of all plant and animal species, and home to 30 million people.

The Amazon forest stores approximately 100 billion tonnes of carbon in vegetation and soils. Meanwhile, a study from India published in *Environmental Research: Climate*, said that the country's forests could nearly double carbon storage by 2100.

Vegetation carbon biomass could increase by 97% under a high-emissions, fossil-fuel-intensive scenario by the end of the century, owing to rising precipitation and elevated atmospheric CO_2. Climate change is indeed morphing India's landscape: the largest increases in vegetation carbon are projected in the arid and semi-arid zones in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the study said.

अमेज़न अब कार्बन सिंक नहीं, बल्कि एक उत्सर्जक बन गया है

- दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा उष्णकटिबंधीय वन, जिसे 'पृथ्वी के फेफड़े' कहा जाता है, अब वायुमंडल से जितना कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड (CO_2) सोखता है, उससे कहीं अधिक छोड़ रहा है।
- **शोध के मुख्य बिंदु:** 2010 से 2024 के बीच वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा किए गए माप से पता चला है कि अमेज़िया अब एक शुद्ध कार्बन स्रोत (net carbon source) बन गया है।
- **जंगल की आग और उत्सर्जन:** 2024 में भीषण सूखे और एल नीनो के कारण अमेज़न में बड़े पैमाने पर आग लगी, जिसमें वनों की कटाई का 38% हिस्सा केवल आग की वजह से हुआ। इसके कारण अमेज़न ने अवशोषित करने से 1.17 अरब अधिक मीट्रिक टन कार्बन उत्सर्जित किया।
- **मानवीय गतिविधियां मुख्य कारण:** इस तबाही का मुख्य कारण वनों की कटाई, खनन (2010-24 में 272% की वृद्धि), चरागाह और सोयाबीन बागानों का विस्तार है।
- **भविष्य की चेतावनी:** विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अमेज़न में विनाशकारी विकास मॉडल को छोड़कर "खड़े हुए जंगल" को बचाने वाली नीतियों और शून्य-वनों की कटाई (zero-deforestation) के नियमों को लागू करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Damning report

The world must act on Justice Muralidhar's report on Israeli atrocities

Briefing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last week on the International Commission of Inquiry's latest report on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories, its chairperson, retired Indian judge Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar, did not couch his words in ambiguity. He said that the unequivocal conclusion was that Israeli security forces continued to commit "war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of genocide" a year after the October 2025 ceasefire agreement brokered by the U.S. The Commission's third such submission since October 7, 2023, the report focuses on the "killings and bodily and mental harm by state actors", predominantly Israeli security forces. It draws on medical records, satellite imagery, forensic analysis, witness testimony and videos posted by Israeli soldiers. Despite Israeli denials, the report finds that soldiers targeted Palestinian civilians, including infants, by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify and execute their targets with impunity; the report quotes top Israel officials claiming the killings. Justice Muralidhar said that more than 75,000 Palestinians including 21,500 children and 11,000 women have been killed across Palestinian territories since 2023, and yet "little or no action" is being taken by member-states, including Israel itself. The report calls on UN members to "employ all means" to prevent the genocide, investigate and prosecute suspects for it, and establish clear rules for AI use in conflicts. The Committee had previously called on UN members to halt military transfers to Israel, and pass sanctions against those linked to child abuses, as well as to cooperate with the International Criminal Court to enforce arrest warrants against Israeli officials and soldiers.

The committee's findings have shocked many around the world but have not thus far effected much action. The UNGA lacks the power to implement any resolution aimed at preventing Israel's actions, and the UN Security Council lacks the consensus to do so, given the U.S.'s support of Israel. So, it should come as no surprise that Justice Muralidhar could not even present the report to the UNGA in person, as the U.S. withheld grant of a visa. New Delhi, while upholding Palestinian rights and providing humanitarian aid, has avoided any recommendation that could harm relations with Israel. India has abstained from UN resolutions calling for a ceasefire or action against Israel, while continuing to supply it with arms, ammunition, ordnance and drone parts. The Ministry of External Affairs has neither directly criticised Israel's actions nor commented on the disturbing findings of reports by the UN commission chaired by Justice Muralidhar and his predecessor, 2026 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Navanethem Pillay. The government's silence is in conflict with its stated principles and could place it on the wrong side of history.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

"UN-appointed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestine"

1. यह आयोग क्या है?

- यह एक स्वतंत्र अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जांच आयोग (Independent International Commission of Inquiry) है, जिसे **संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद (UNHRC)** द्वारा मई 2021 में गठित किया गया था।
- **न्यायमूर्ति श्रीनिवासन मुरलीधर (Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar)** भारत के एक प्रमुख पूर्व वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीश और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानूनी विशेषज्ञ हैं।

2. इसके मुख्य कार्य और उद्देश्य:

- **मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों की जांच:** अधिकृत फ़िलिस्तीनी क्षेत्रों (पूर्वी यरूशलम सहित) और इज़राइल में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार कानून और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानवीय कानून के सभी कथित उल्लंघनों की जांच करना।
- **तनाव के मूल कारणों की पहचान:** इस क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से चले आ रहे व्यवस्थित भेदभाव, कब्जे और हिंसा के मूल कारणों (Root Causes) का विश्लेषण करना।
- **जवाबदेही (Accountability) तय करना:** युद्ध अपराधों या मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों के लिए जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों और संस्थाओं की पहचान करना ताकि उन्हें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्याय तंत्र के दायरे में लाया जा सके।

3. प्रमुख विशेषताएं:

- **स्थायी जनादेश (Ongoing Mandate):** संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अन्य अस्थायी जांच आयोगों के विपरीत, इसका जनादेश स्थायी (बिना किसी समाप्ति तिथि के) है। यह अपनी रिपोर्ट नियमित रूप से UNHRC और संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा को सौंपता है।
- **स्वतंत्र विशेषज्ञ:** इस आयोग की अध्यक्षता अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून और मानवाधिकार विशेषज्ञों (जैसे नवी पिल्लै - पूर्व UN मानवाधिकार उच्चायुक्त) द्वारा की जाती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Helping hand

States need help to rebuild public infrastructure after damage in cyclones

Long-term preparedness and a swift response by authorities minimised casualties when the back-to-back cyclones Arnab and Murasu hit two places of the Andhra Pradesh coast. In Andhra Pradesh, damage from Cyclone Arnab, which made landfall on October 28 was estimated at roughly ₹4,526 crore. Initial estimates of the damage by Cyclone Murasu, which crossed the coast on November 3, indicate that about 52,500 hectares of standing crops were affected. The State reported seven deaths from the two cyclones. The first cyclone damaged nearly 90,000 hectares of standing crops in southern parts of Odisha. After preliminary on-the-spot assessment of flood-hit areas, the Union government is expected to soon release the first instalment of funds to the affected States. Personnel from Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have also gone to the rescue of Andhra Pradesh.

The deployment of the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) and other technologies has significantly reduced human casualties and property damage. During Cyclone Hudhud in October 2014, Andhra Pradesh reported 63 deaths and damage estimated at nearly ₹22,000 crore. As natural disasters become more frequent in India, greater collaboration is needed between higher learning institutions, especially in science and technology, and central and State government agencies. Authorities must develop an effective compensation framework for saving crops/crop losses. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a crop insurance scheme that was launched by the Union government a decade ago, has not provided farmers with comprehensive safety cover, as they suffer due to the vagaries of nature. The Union government should improve the scheme so that all farmers are encouraged to bring their crops under the scheme, while State governments should raise awareness about the insurance scheme and support agriculturists by topping up benefits that are under the insurance cover. The Centre should also focus on financial assistance for permanent restoration projects. The initial stand of the Union government was that the National and State Disaster Response Funds were meant for response and relief, not recovery and reconstruction, but following the 15th Finance Commission's nudge, it added recovery and reconstruction as a component of the two funds two years ago. However, when public infrastructure suffers extensive damage, the Centre should provide additional assistance to ease the burden on affected States. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his team at the Centre must act in the spirit of "cooperative federalism".



YouTube Homework

- Cyclone

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Volatility index stays elevated despite five-day market rally

VIX surges 65.4% YTD, reflecting heightened investor anxiety despite recent recovery in equities; crude crisis, flaring up of West Asia conflict, U.S. results and Trump's response add to tension

Gowri Lakshmi
MUMBAI

India's stock markets may have extended their winning streak to five consecutive sessions, but the persistence of the volatility index (VIX) around 15 points suggests that investors remain far from reassured.

The so-called 'fear gauge', which measures the market's expected volatility over the next 30 days, has eased from its late-October high of 17 but remains elevated amid mounting global uncertainties. While the Nifty 50 has declined nearly 8% since the beginning of 2026, the VIX has surged 65.4% year-to-date, reflecting heightened investor anxiety despite the recent recovery in equities.

"VIX basically suggests potential for volatility in markets. The market has been on a rally but investors fear a decline for several reasons. The crude crisis, flaring up of West Asia conflict, U.S. results and Trump's response, all add to anxieties for global investors," V. K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.



On Wednesday, Sensex gained 383 points, or 0.5%, to close at 77,301, while Nifty advanced 149 points to settle at 23,960. PTI

On Wednesday, the 30-share Sensex gained 383 points, or 0.5%, to close at 77,301, while the Nifty 50 advanced 149 points, or 0.6%, to settle at 23,960, extending the market's recovery for a fifth straight session.

However, the gains were partly restrained by weakness in information technology stocks. The Nifty IT index declined 1.5% to 32,061 after falling as much as 3% during the session, weighing on broader market sentiment.

"Post the U.S. midterm elections, investor focus will shift to the U.S. administration's next course of action on West Asia, as any further escalation or diplomatic progress could significantly influence crude oil prices and global market sentiment in the near term," Siddhartha Khemka, head of research, wealth management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said in a note.

Strong corporate earnings for the September quarter have provided domestic equities with some support.

Analysts also point to a possible shift in global capital flows towards India as concerns over stretched valuations in artificial intelligence-linked stocks trigger a reassessment of investment allocations.

The AI-led rally over the past two years had attracted substantial foreign capital to markets such as South Korea, Taiwan and the U.S., diverting flows away from India.

Crude oil remains another critical variable.

"Crude has to sustain the current levels or below $100 a barrel for markets to recover completely," Ajit Mishra, senior vice-president, Research, Religare Broking, said, adding, "A reversal in AI deceleration could also potentially risk reverse the gains we have seen so far."



YouTube Homework

- SEBI

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- वोलाटिलिटी इंडेक्स (VIX), जिसे आमतौर पर "फियर गेज" (डर का पैमाना) भी कहा जाता है, एक ऐसा इंडेक्स है जो शेयर मार्केट में आने वाले 30 दिनों के उतार-चढ़ाव (volatility) के अनुमान को दिखाता है।
- यह बताता है कि ट्रेडर्स को क्या लगता है—आगे मार्केट शांत रहेगा या उसमें बड़ी तेजी या गिरावट आने वाली है।

वोलाटिलिटी इंडेक्स काम कैसे करता है?

- मार्केट का डर: जब VIX ऊपर जाता है, तो मार्केट में डर और घबराहट बढ़ती है।
- मार्केट की शांति: जब VIX नीचे जाता है, तो मार्केट में भरोसा और शांति रहती है।
- निफ्टी/सेंसेक्स से रिश्ता: आमतौर पर, जब शेयर बाजार (निफ्टी या सेंसेक्स) गिरता है, तो VIX बढ़ता है। जब शेयर बाजार ऊपर जाता है, तो VIX गिरता है।

इंडिया VIX बनाम यूएस VIX

इंडेक्स का नाम	किस मार्केट को ट्रैक करता है?	कहां से डेटा लेता है?
इंडिया VIX (India VIX)	भारतीय शेयर बाजार	NSE के निफ्टी ऑप्शंस की कीमतों से
सीबीओई VIX (CBOE VIX)	अमेरिकी शेयर बाजार	S&P 500 इंडेक्स ऑप्शंस की कीमतों से

इन्वेस्टर्स और ट्रेडर्स के लिए यह क्यों जरूरी है?

- रिस्क का अंदाजा: हाई VIX का मतलब है कि बाजार में बड़ी हलचल होने वाली है, इसलिए ट्रेडर्स को संभलकर काम करना चाहिए।
- ऑप्शंस प्राइसिंग: VIX बढ़ने पर ऑप्शंस (Call/Put) के प्रीमियम महंगे हो जाते हैं।
- सही मौका: लॉन्ग-टर्म इन्वेस्टर्स VIX के बड़े उछाल (डर के माहौल) को सस्ते में अच्छे शेयर्स खरीदने का मौका मानते हैं।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Blow for Trump as Democrats seize Congress

- Opposition flips seats long held by GoP, securing majorities in both House and Senate in midterms
- The U.S. President strikes a conciliatory note, says disappointing results are 'not a hit on him'
- The landslide will give Opposition power to block legislation, investigate Trump's administration

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Democrats seized control of the U.S. Congress after the midterm election on Tuesday, capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of President Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his term.

With most of the electoral races called by Wednesday, the Opposition party won at least 227 seats in the 435-member House and increased its strength in the 100-member Senate to at least 50.

Democrats flipped seats that had long been held by Republicans, scoring breakthroughs in South Carolina, North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Texas, and Maine as public anger at rising living costs compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular President.

In Texas, Democrat James Talarico, a former schoolteacher who campaigned on a "politics of love", won the Senate defeating the State's attorney-general Ken Paxton, a close ally of Mr. Trump. He becomes the first Democrat to win statewide office since 2004 while Gina Hiraksa unseated the State's Republican Governor, Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule.

The scale of the victory grew further when Abdul El-Sayed defeated former Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers in Michigan to become the first Muslim elected to the upper chamber of Congress.

Not a hit on me: Trump

Mr. Trump struck a conciliatory tone despite his history of questioning elections, telling The New York Times he was "absolutely willing" to accept the results. However, he later told Fox News, "I do not view it as a hit on me." He also warned the Democrats against launching any effort to impeach him, saying that it would "destroy" their party. The landslide will give the Opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Mr. Trump's administration, and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.

"Michigan, we did it!" Mr. El-Sayed said in a speech at his election headquarters after his historic win in Michigan.

Mr. El-Sayed won despite a last-minute curveball in his campaign when congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to Mr. El-Sayed, came out in support of the Republican candidate at the 11th hour.

In Kansas, Methodist minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative State since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic Senator since 2008.

In Maine, former logger Troy Jackson defeated long-time Republican Senator Susan Collins, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans. Democrats also prevented key Senate seats of their own, including Jon Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.

The party's House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina, Wisconsin and New Jersey, including districts Mr. Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.

Historic firsts

In a closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Mr. Trump won by 17 points two years back. Democrats won Georgia's governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in U.S. history.

Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat – but only after seeing off unusually strong Democratic challenges.

Democratic control of Congress will allow the party to pursue investigations into the Iran war, immigration enforcement and allegations of corruption, while blocking Mr. Trump's agenda and senior appointments.

Democratic Representative Robert Garcia, now expected to lead the powerful House Oversight Committee, warned Republicans on social media: "LAWYER UP."

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Mr. Trump's MAGA movement "on the run from sea to shining sea". Mr. Jeffries could become the first Black Speaker of the House when the new Congress meets in January.

Despite his core Epstein remarks, Mr. Trump also insisted on social media that Republicans would have won "IN A LANDSLIDE" if he had been running.

MORE REPORTS ON ➤ PAGE 4, 11, 13, 14 & 15



Jubilant crowd: Democratic supporters in Texas react on Tuesday as the party secured major victories in the midterm polls. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

How U.S. midterm poll results could shape geopolitical options for India

Republicans have faced losses but it is unclear whether Trump will seek an early exit from the Iran war; the victory of candidates from immigrant families could temper anti-immigrant rhetoric; tariffs and trade deal other areas of interest

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The dramatic results of the U.S. midterm elections will probably have less impact on India-U.S. bilateral relations than on geopolitics and, as a result, India's "operating environment" in the world. The election gave the Democrats a majority in the House of Representatives and a consolidated edge in the Senate, which means U.S. President Donald Trump will face restraints on both domestic and foreign policy.

In interviews given after the results began to come in, Mr. Trump said he stood by his decision to attack Iran in February 2026, but acknowledged that Iran was "part" of the reason for Republican losses.

It isn't clear whether this means he will give talks with Iran a greater chance and look for an early exit from the war, but Senate will watch closely.

Since the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran began at least 24 Indians have been killed, including 15 seafarers, who died in attacks by the U.S. and Iran on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

The Hormuz blockade has had a choking effect on India's energy and fertiliser imports and goods trade, and any cessation of hostilities would come not a day too soon for India.

"Both an escalatory, costly and unnecessary war as well as inflationary tariffs have been negatively assessed by voters," said Neeraj Sarna, a former Indian Ambassador to the U.S. and Israel, who said it was still early to see what "specific aspects" of foreign policy would be affected by the results.

The results could have a ripple, or even brigalier, effect on India's ties with Russia and its import of Russian oil.

Mr. Trump's decision on October 16, 2025, to waive all tariffs on countries importing Russian oil under the Lindsey Graham sanctions Act (MSA) has given India a temporary reprieve.

However, the MSA had widespread bipartisan support, and New Delhi will need to work both sides of the aisle if it wants the Act calling for tariffs of up to 500% on Russian oil imports to remain waived.

Ministry of External Affairs officials have said India will not bow to unilateral U.S. sanctions in this case. However, compared with July 2025, when India imported about 38% of its oil needs from Russia, the figure dropped to 44% in August and 33% in September.

FTA negotiations

Another area where India would benefit from continuity on Mr. Trump's "adventurism" is tariffs and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the U.S.

Despite positive comments from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who travelled to Mumbai last month and met top Indian industry leaders, there is some doubt about whether the FTA can be ready in time for Mr. Modi's visit to South America and Europe in mid-December 2026, when he will attend the G-20 summit in Florida.

"The general climate after the midterms is marginally favourable for the conclusion of the deal, which is already close to a great extent," former diplomat Vishnu Kumar told *The Hindu*.

"Mr. Sullivan: I see a strong chance of the deal being done by the time or when the PM is in Miami for the G-20 meeting," he predicted, citing rising inflation and mishandling of the economy as election issues.

The rise of democratic governors, senators and Congress members from immigrant families in these elections could mean a reduction in the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has worried Indians and persons of Indian origin (PIOs) in the U.S. over the past few years.

However, it is unlikely to change the administration's stance on curbing visas, restricting the outsourcing of professionals and deporting undocumented migrants, as these have widespread support.

Finally, India will watch closely whether the Bayou Bitcoin loss will affect Mr. Trump's Indo-Pacific policy, U.S. ties with China, and his interest in the Quad grouping.



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, had made positive comments on the FTA when he visited Mumbai last month. AFP

U.S. midterm impact on India: faster trade deal talks, higher tariffs likely

NEWS ANALYSIS

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The results of the U.S. midterm polls, which show that the Democrats having gained control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, will likely hasten talks between India and the U.S. on a trade deal that could also see higher tariffs on India until the deal is closed, experts said.

On one hand, a desire to quickly close the trade pact to show strength domestically may induce Mr. Trump to raise tariff pressure on India, while on the other, Indian negotiators will likely see this election result as an opportunity to push through a favourable deal for India.

U.S. pressure to rise

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of trade think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative, this loss will push U.S. President Donald Trump to increase his exercise of his executive powers to pressure India into accepting a deal.

"With foreign policy leverage fading against Russia, China and Iran, Trump needs a quick win," Mr. Srivastava said. "Expect heightened pressure on India for a trade deal to prove American clout."

Leaders in the U.S. and India have repeatedly said over the last few months that the deal between the two countries is almost ready and is awaiting final approvals.

India, in particular, has been holding out until it receives an assurance that it will win a clear advantage over its competitors.

"Trump will now use his executive powers to pressure India for a quick deal that secures market access for U.S. farm, industrial goods, alongside other steps," Mr. Srivastava said.

While the U.S. Supreme Court in February declared Mr. Trump's reciprocal tariff policy that had seen tariffs of up to 50% being levied on India, the President has other tools through which he can levy tariffs.

According to Deep Pal, director of geopolitics and policy at the Kroll Advisory Group, the implications of these election results might lead to some difficulty for Mr. Trump in gaining support for his policies.

"For this administration, especially after re-sight, any decision has to look like a win domestically, to core Republican voters," Mr. Pal said.

"With Congress out of his hands, a lot will depend on how much control Mr. Trump has over the Republican party and if there will be any pushback to his ideas."

However, Mr. Pal pointed out that the Indian government might view this new reality in the U.S. with greater optimism.

"Indian negotiators, on the other hand, may think that the new realities will make the Trump administration amenable to a better trade deal for India, breaking the current deadlock, and leading to a flurry of new conversations," Mr. Pal said.

He added, though, that the White House has so far shown it does not believe in stepping back, but rather in doubling down.

Tariffs may surge

The U.S. has already implemented several tariffs on India and other nations and has put into place tools that empower it to levy more.

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which envisages tariffs of up to 500% on countries such as India that import large quantities of Russian oil and gas, was first co-proposed by a Republican and Democrat senator and received significant bipartisan support during its passage in both the Senate and the House.

Act in abeyance

Mr. Trump has kept the provisions of the Act in abeyance for now to national interest, but even if he were to decide to implement the tariffs, he will not receive resistance from the Democrat-controlled Congress due to the bipartisan support the Act received.

The U.S. is also currently investigating India and other countries under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 into whether they are using strategic excess manufacturing capacity to hurt the U.S. economy. Mr. Trump can authorise additional tariffs on the basis of the findings of this investigation without the need for Congress approval.

10% tariff

He has already imposed a tariff of 10% on India on the basis of a Section 301 investigation into whether U.S. trade partners were doing enough to prevent the import of goods made using forced labour.

These Section 301 tariffs will come on top of the 50% tariffs Mr. Trump imposed last year under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 on the import of all steel and aluminium, including from India. The U.S. Supreme Court, while striking down the legal basis for the reciprocal tariff system, allowed the Section 232 tariffs to remain. Even a Democrat-led Congress will not be able to revoke these tariffs.



Difficult choices: U.S. President Donald Trump may exert pressure on India to reach a trade deal. AFP

Indian-American Democratic lawmakers make strong showing in U.S. midterm polls

Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Suhas Subramanyam and Pramila Jayapal retain their seats in the House of Representatives; Pia Dandhya enters Congress for the first time; Trump-backed Republican Vivek Ramaswamy loses Ohio Governor's race; Indian-American community is estimated to be over 5 mn

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Indian-American Democratic lawmakers Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Suhas Subramanyam and Pramila Jayapal have been re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, while Pia Dandhya has made her debut in the U.S. Congress, marking a strong showing by the community in the midterm elections.

Several other Indian American candidates contested elections for offices ranging from governor to state legislatures and local bodies.

The elections, held on Tuesday, covered all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, 35 Senate seats, 36 gubernatorial posts and several local public offices.

Mr. Bera, 61, has won re-election to the U.S. House from California's 3rd Congressional District, defeating Republican Bobb Tucker. He has secured an eighth term, and is the longest-serving Indian American in the U.S. Congress.

He was first elected to Congress in 2002 and took office in January 2013. He currently serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Khanna, 50, has won re-election from California's 17th Congressional District, located in the heart of Silicon Valley. He is completing his fifth term and will begin his sixth in January.

Mr. Subramanyam, 40, has been re-elected from Virginia's 10th Congressional District, defeating Republican Dave Beckwith. He secured over 61% of the vote against Mr. Beckwith. Mr. Subramanyam previously served as an adviser to former U.S. President Barack Obama.

Ms. Jayapal, who represents Washington's 7th Congressional District, has secured a sixth term in the House of Representatives.

Ms. Dandhya, 39, won Florida's 22nd Congressional District, defeating Republican Casey Askar. She secured 51.9% of the vote.

In Maryland, Indian-American Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, a Democrat, secured another term.

Meanwhile, Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump, lost Ohio's gubernatorial race to Democrat Amy Acton. Mr. Ramaswamy, the son of immigrants from Kerala, had won the Republican primary in May. Several other Indian-American candidates were also awaiting the outcome of their contests.

The Indian-American community is estimated to number over 5 million, making it the second-largest Asian-origin population in the United States.



Bagging wins: From top left, Aruna Miller, Pia Dandhya, Pramila Jayapal, Suhas Subramanyam, Ami Bera, and Ro Khanna. PTI

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

अमेरिका में मध्यावधि चुनावों

- मध्यावधि चुनाव (Midterm Election) का मतलब
- अमेरिका में राष्ट्रपति का कार्यकाल 4 साल का होता है। इस कार्यकाल के ठीक बीच में (यानी राष्ट्रपति के 2 साल पूरे होने पर) जो चुनाव कराए जाते हैं, उन्हें मध्यावधि चुनाव या मिडटर्म इलेक्शन कहा जाता है। इन चुनावों में जनता राष्ट्रपति को नहीं चुनती, बल्कि अमेरिकी संसद (कांग्रेस) के दोनों सदनों के सदस्यों को चुनती है।

हाउस ऑफ रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स (House of Representatives)

- यह अमेरिकी संसद का निचला सदन है।
- कुल सीटें: इसमें कुल 435 सीटें होती हैं।
- कार्यकाल: इसके सदस्यों का कार्यकाल केवल 2 वर्ष का होता है। इसलिए हर दो साल में इसकी सभी 435 सीटों पर चुनाव होते हैं।

सीनेट (Senate)

- यह अमेरिकी संसद का उच्च सदन है।
- कुल सीटें: इसमें कुल 100 सीटें होती हैं (प्रत्येक राज्य से 2 सदस्य)।
- कार्यकाल: सीनेटरों का कार्यकाल 6 वर्ष का होता है। हर 2 साल में इसके लगभग एक-तिहाई (34 या 35 सीटों) सदस्यों के लिए चुनाव कराए जाते हैं।

नवंबर 2026 के चुनावों के नतीजे

- हाल ही में हुए 2026 के मध्यावधि चुनावों में विपक्षी डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी ने संसद के दोनों सदनों में बहुमत हासिल कर लिया है:

1. हाउस ऑफ रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स (निचला सदन) - बहुमत के लिए 218 सीटें जरूरी हैं।

- डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी: 238 से अधिक सीटें जीतकर स्पष्ट बहुमत हासिल किया है (अंतिम गिनती के अनुसार यह आंकड़ा 258 तक जा सकता है)।
- रिपब्लिकन पार्टी: लगभग 147 सीटें जीती हैं (कुछ सीटों पर अंतिम घोषणाएं बाकी हैं)।

2. सीनेट (उच्च सदन) - बहुमत के लिए 51 सीटें जरूरी हैं।

- डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी: 54 सीटें हासिल करके सदन पर नियंत्रण प्राप्त कर लिया है।
- रिपब्लिकन पार्टी: 44 सीटों पर सिमट गई है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Bhutan sets Guinness World Record for erecting 108 stupas in nine hours

Rahul Karmakar
GELEPHU

Bhutan has set a Guinness World Record by erecting 108 Buddhist stupas in nine hours, Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) Governor Lotay Tshering said.

A Guinness World Records representative handed Dr. Tshering the certificate on Tuesday evening acknowledging the feat at Gelephu.

About 40,000 trained volunteers raised the 108 stupas, also called Jangchub Chortens, between 3 a.m. and 11.55 a.m. on November 1, marking the 18th coronation anniversary of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Officials who oversaw the feat said the volunteers were divided into teams of 20-23 members, who worked simultaneously across designated sites to raise the stupas, each 14 metres tall and 108 metres apart along the banks of the Mau Chhu River.



Collective effort: Lotay Tshering, Governor of Gelephu Mindfulness City, holds a certificate acknowledging the feat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bhutanese King's vision to build a country for the future, but rooted in tradition, drove Project 108 (stupas). He also envisaged the project as a foundation of GMC, a spirituality-based ethical global economic hub.

Each chorten cost an estimated $200,000, and individuals, families, communities and institutions worldwide have contributed to the project. One of these, Chorten No. 76, was dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "enduring symbol" of the King's "profound admiration" of India's "steadfast commitment for the realisation" of GMC.

"To raise 108 Stupas in a matter of hours is a remarkable accomplishment. But the true fruit of those blessings, those prayers, and that labour is seen in us, the Bhutanese people. In our values and virtues, in our loyalty, and in the joy we take in service," King Wangchuck said.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Nirmala Lakshman wins Sharjah award for book *The Tamils*

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



Nirmala Lakshman

Nirmala Lakshman, author, journalist and Director of The Hindu Group, has won the Sharjah Award for the Best International Book in the Best International Non-Fiction Book category for *The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community*. The award was presented by Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Book Authority.

According to a press release, the book, which was published by Aleph Book Company in January 2025, has sold several thousand copies since its release. Drawing on historical research and personal observations, it explores the history, society and culture of the Tamil people.

"I am deeply honoured by this recognition," said Dr. Nirmala Lakshman. "Writing *The Tamils* was both a personal journey and an exploration of a rich and complex history. I wanted to convey the diversity of Tamil life, the many influences that have shaped it, and its continuing vitality. It is especially meaningful to see this story resonate with readers and receive international recognition. I hope it encourages more people to rediscover the histories and ideas that connect us."

NL → UAE → Sharjah Award → The Tamils → Non-fiction

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

रक्षा मंत्रालय

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

रक्षा मंत्री श्री राजनाथ सिंह ने 'हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्रीय संवाद-2026' में कहा- सुरक्षा के तनावपूर्ण वातावरण के बीच, समुद्री क्षेत्र में आपसी निर्भरता मजबूत करने के लिए आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में विविधता लाना और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग बढ़ाना महत्वपूर्ण है

रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा- कुछ देश और पक्ष अपने संकीर्ण और एकतरफा लाभ के लिए महासागरों के महत्व का गलत लाभ उठाना चाहते हैं; आज की आपस में जुड़ी दुनिया में मौजूद कमजोरियों का समाधान 'अनुकूलन' विकसित करने में ही है

श्री राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा- उभरते खतरों के साथ समुद्री सुरक्षा को भी विकसित होना चाहिए; आज के समय की मांग है कि नई तकनीकों का भरपूर इस्तेमाल किया जाए

रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा- तकनीक देशों के बीच असमानता का एक और कारण नहीं बननी चाहिए; अगर इसका लाभ केवल कुछ ही लोगों को मिले, तो इससे सामूहिक मजबूती का लक्ष्य हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता

श्री राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा- आर्थिक विकास और पर्यावरण के प्रति जिम्मेदारी, दोनों को साथ-साथ आगे बढ़ना चाहिए; महासागरों को संसाधनों का असीमित स्रोत नहीं माना जा सकता

रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा- भारत की 'विकसित भारत' यात्रा में समुद्री क्षेत्र एक मुख्य चालक होगा; सरकार एक व्यापक समुद्री इकोसिस्टम विकसित करने के लिए लगातार प्रयास कर रही है

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 04 NOV 2026 5:53PM by PIB Delhi

'हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्रीय संवाद 2026' (IPRD-2026) का आयोजन नई दिल्ली के मानेकशॉ सेंटर में भारतीय नौसेना द्वारा 3 से 5 नवंबर 2026 तक किया जा रहा है।

IPRD- 2026

इस महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय रणनीतिक संवाद से जुड़े मुख्य विवरण नीचे दिए गए हैं:

- **कहाँ हो रहा है:** इसका आयोजन **नई दिल्ली के मानेकशॉ सेंटर** (Manekshaw Centre) में किया जा रहा है।
- **कौन करा रहा है:** यह **भारतीय नौसेना (Indian Navy)** का एक प्रमुख वार्षिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन है। इस साल इसका आयोजन नौसेना के नॉलेज पार्टनर **नेशनल मैरीटाइम फाउंडेशन (NMF)** के सहयोग से किया जा रहा है।
- **कब से कब तक:** यह तीन दिवसीय संवाद **3 नवंबर से 5 नवंबर 2026** तक आयोजित हो रहा है।
- **इस वर्ष का विषय (Theme):** इस बार की थीम **"हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी और अकादमिक सहयोग"** (Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific) रखी गई है।
- **मुख्य आकर्षण:** इस संवाद में दुनिया भर के 18 देशों के समुद्री विशेषज्ञ, वैज्ञानिक और नीति निर्माता हिस्सा ले रहे हैं। इसके विशेष सत्रों को भारत के रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और नौसेना प्रमुख एडमिरल कृष्ण स्वामीनाथन ने भी संबोधित किया है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

रक्षा मंत्रालय

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

भारत और कनाडा ने अपना पहला रक्षा संवाद आयोजित किया

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 04 NOV 2026 10:30PM by PIB Delhi

भारत-कनाडा रक्षा संवाद का पहला संस्करण 3 नवंबर, 2026 को वर्चुअल माध्यम से आयोजित किया गया। इस बैठक की सह-अध्यक्षता रक्षा मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव (अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग) डॉ. अमित तेलंग और कनाडा के राष्ट्रीय रक्षा विभाग में सहायक उप मंत्री (नीति) श्री स्कॉट मिलर ने की।

इस संवाद में दोनों पक्षों ने अपनी-अपनी रक्षा नीतियों एवं रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोणों पर विचार साझा किए। इस दौरान द्विपक्षीय रक्षा सहयोग को और मजबूत करने की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा की गई। इसके साथ ही रक्षा औद्योगिक सहयोग, सैन्य एवं तकनीकी सहभागिता तथा रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास का आपसी जुड़ाव के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र के रूप में उल्लेख किया गया। इन सभी मुद्दों को भविष्य हेतु भारत-कनाडा रक्षा सहयोग की प्राथमिकताओं में शामिल किया गया है।

इस संवाद के माध्यम से दोनों देशों ने रक्षा एवं रणनीतिक सहयोग को और विस्तार देने की दिशा में नेतृत्व स्तर पर अपनी साझा प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई। इसे 2 मार्च, 2026 को प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री श्री मार्क कार्नी द्वारा जारी संयुक्त बयान में भी व्यक्त किया गया था।

दोनों पक्षों ने रक्षा साझेदारी को व्यापक और सशक्त बनाने के लिए ठोस परिणाम हासिल करने के विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा की। इस दौरान क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर भी आपसी विचार साझा किए गए। दोनों देश द्विपक्षीय रक्षा सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए विचार-विमर्श और प्रस्तावों पर आगे की कार्य योजना हेतु लगातार संपर्क बनाए रखने पर सहमत हुए।

Home Assignment

- World Wilf Life Day
- PM – Surya Ghar Bijli Yojna

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