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justice in a world  
where criminals  
make the laws.**

— Bob Marley



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## GRSE launches indigenous vessel for deep-sea research

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) on Wednesday launched *Sagar Manthan*, an indigenous ocean research vessel being built for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), in a major boost to India's capabilities in deep-sea exploration and scientific research. A top government official said the ₹840-crore research vessel is expected to be ready for use by early 2028. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh congratulated GRSE and the Ministry of Earth Sciences on the launch and naming of the vessel and conveyed his wishes on the occasion. PTI



**Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) launched the indigenous Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) "Sagar Manthan" at Kolkata on 9 September 2026.**

**Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) ने 9 सितंबर 2026 को Kolkata में स्वदेशी Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) "Sagar Manthan" लॉन्च किया।**

**The vessel is being built for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and forms part of India's Deep Ocean Mission.**

**यह जहाज Ministry of Earth Sciences के अंतर्गत National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) के लिए बनाया जा रहा है और भारत के Deep Ocean Mission का हिस्सा है**



**Sagar Manthan → ORV  
→ GRSE → NCPOR →  
Ministry of Earth  
Sciences → Deep Ocean  
Mission**

**Sagar Manthan →  
Ocean Research Vessel  
→ GRSE → NCPOR →  
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय →  
Deep Ocean Mission**

| Capability                      | Purpose                           | हिन्दी                                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Multibeam bathymetry</b>     | Mapping the seafloor              | समुद्र तल का नक्शा बनाना              |
| <b>Geophysical profiling</b>    | Study subsurface structure        | समुद्र तल के नीचे की संरचना का अध्ययन |
| <b>Water-column sampling</b>    | Study ocean water properties      | Ocean Water की Properties का अध्ययन   |
| <b>Atmospheric observations</b> | Ocean-atmosphere interaction      | Ocean–Atmosphere Interaction          |
| <b>Sub-bottom profiling</b>     | Examine sediments below seafloor  | Seafloor Sediments के नीचे की संरचना  |
| <b>ROV deployment</b>           | Remotely operated exploration     | Remote Underwater Exploration         |
| <b>AUV deployment</b>           | Autonomous underwater exploration | Autonomous Underwater Exploration     |



• What is Bathymetry? | Bathymetry क्या है? ★ ★ ★

• Bathymetry is the measurement and mapping of underwater depth and seafloor topography.

Bathymetry समुद्र या अन्य Water Bodies की Depth और Underwater Topography का Measurement एवं Mapping है।

• Easy Comparison

• Topography → Land surface mapping  
Topography → स्थलाकृति का Mapping

• Bathymetry → Seafloor/underwater mapping

Bathymetry → समुद्र तल का Mapping

| Feature                        | Details                         | हिन्दी                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vessel                         | ORV Sagar Manthan               | ORV सागर मंथन                   |
| Type                           | Ocean Research Vessel           | महासागर अनुसंधान पोत            |
| Builder                        | GRSE                            | GRSE                            |
| Built for                      | NCPOR                           | NCPOR के लिए                    |
| Ministry                       | Ministry of Earth Sciences      | पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय         |
| Launch date                    | 9 September 2026                | 9 सितंबर 2026                   |
| Launch site                    | Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata  | ऋषि बंकिम शिपयार्ड, कोलकाता     |
| Approx. cost                   | ₹840 crore                      | लगभग ₹840 करोड़                 |
| Expected operational readiness | Early 2028                      | 2028 की शुरुआत                  |
| Mission linkage                | Deep Ocean Mission — Vertical 4 | Deep Ocean Mission — Vertical 4 |
| Design life                    | 30 years                        | 30 वर्ष                         |





# DEEP OCEAN MISSION

India's Gateway to the Ocean Floor

Deep Ocean Mission, launched in 2021, focuses on sustainably harnessing ocean wealth and strengthening the Blue Economy

India is investing ₹4077 crore over five years through this national mission

India's first manned submersible vehicle 'MATSYA 6000' is being developed as part of the Samudrayaan Project

Aquanauts Cdr. Jatinder Pal Singh and Sh. Raju Ramesh conducted deep dive upto 5000 m in Deep Sea in August, 2025 marking the first time feat by India

**PIB**  
explainer

# MATSYA 6000

India's 1<sup>st</sup> Manned Deep Ocean Mission



Sending **3 humans** to **6-km ocean depth** in a **self-propelled submersible**



Exploring **deep sea resources & biodiversity assessment**



Endurance of **12 hours** under normal operation and **96 hours** in case of **emergency**





# Six Core Components of Deep Ocean Mission



## **Manned Submersible (MATSYA 6000)**

Depth: 6,000 meters  
Carries 3 aquanauts



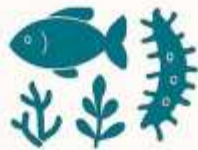
## **Deep Sea Mining System**

Targets cobalt, nickel, copper



## **Ocean Climate Advisory Services**

Seasonal to decadal  
forecasts



## **Biodiversity Exploration**

Marine microbes, flora,  
fauna for pharma & biotech



## **Ocean Energy & Desalination**

OTEC-powered  
freshwater systems



## **Survey of Hydrothermal Sulphides**

Mapping mid-ocean  
ridges

Consider the following statements regarding 'Sagar Manthan':  
'Sagar Manthan' के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- It is an indigenous Ocean Research Vessel being constructed by GRSE.  
यह GRSE द्वारा निर्मित स्वदेशी Ocean Research Vessel है।
- It is being built for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.  
इसे National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research के लिए बनाया जा रहा है।
- It is linked with the Deep Ocean Mission.  
यह Deep Ocean Mission से जुड़ा है।
- NCPOR functions under the Ministry of Defence.  
NCPOR Ministry of Defence के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।



## India has to act on its 'sugar' problem

**I**n his week, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), prodded by the Supreme Court, proposed a simple but overdue idea. Packaged foods high in fat, salt, or sugar should carry a label with a warning on the front of the pack, not buried in fine print on the back. Someone picking up instant noodles, a breakfast cereal, or a "health drink" will finally be told, at a glance, that it is not as wholesome as its advertising claims. This is a welcome step. It is also, on its own, nowhere near enough.

The number of children presenting with morbid obesity and diabetes has climbed sharply within just a few years. The World Obesity Atlas 2026 bears this out — 41 million Indian children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 are now overweight or obese.

This is not just because children are eating more; it is about what they are being sold. Breakfast cereals, sweetened yoghurts, and "health drinks" are marketed to parents as filling gaps in a child's diet, emphasising "energy" and vitamins while saying little about the sugar content inside. In effect, a leading multinational food giant is pouring adding sugar to infant food sold in India and other lower-income countries; sugar was left out of the same product in the U.S. When a health drink, marketed in India as a wellness tonic, turned out to be nothing more than flavoured sugar syrup, it took a decade, class-action suits, and not a regulator, to force the company to reveal the 18% cut in its added sugar.

The problem is worse around schools and colleges, where studies show that the cheapest, most easily

**Dr. Praveen George Paul**  
Assistant Professor, Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Christian Medical College, Vellore

**Dr. Vandana Jain**  
Professor, Pediatric Endocrinology, Division, Department of Pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

available snacks are also the least healthy. A popular "energy drink" among teenagers, priced at just ₹20, packs close to 17 grams of added sugar, caffeine, and artificial sweeteners into a single bottle. Its label says it is not meant for children, yet vending shops are cluttered with it. This is the market pricing.

The zero-sugar counterparty pay the same tax, leaving manufacturers with no reason to cut sugar. The U.K.'s key work is differentiating taxing drinks in terms of being healthy or not, so that companies could lower their bill by reformulating the product. India could tax products in the same way so that manufacturers have a reason to cut sugar.

The standard objection — that such a tax would hit the poor the hardest — is not wrong, but it is only half the argument. Unregulated, cheap sugar already extracts a heavy price from the poor, both at the edge of organised retail. Most of India's sugar, salt, and trans fat is eaten unadorned, from street stalls, dhabas, and sweet shops that market the unorganised sector, none of which is required to declare anything on a red label on a biscuit packet does nothing about the added sugar content inside. It is a leading multinational food giant that reaches only packaged food leaves the unorganised half of the plate untouched.

Then there is the conversation India keeps avoiding — a tax on sugar. When the U.K. introduced its soft drinks industry levy, sugar consumption fell.

Manufacturers reformulated their drinks to slip below the tax threshold rather than raise prices. A well-designed sugar tax does not discourage people from buying a product, it pushes the industry to make the

product itself less harmful. India already taxes "energy drinks" heavily, just not uniformly. Since September 2025, aerated and sweetened beverages, sugar-free versions included, were folded into one 40% GST slab — a "normal" rate and no zero-sugar counterparty pay the same tax, leaving manufacturers with no reason to cut sugar. The U.K.'s key work is differentiating taxing drinks in terms of being healthy or not, so that companies could lower their bill by reformulating the product. India could tax products in the same way so that manufacturers have a reason to cut sugar.

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## The many ways to destroy a book

**L**ast month, a group of citizens in Ahmedabad gathered to read books by Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai and Holocaust survivor Anne Frank. This was their way of protesting against the ban on these and Vishva Hindu Parishad for forcing a private school to drop books by Yousafzai and Frank from its compulsory reading list. Soon, members of the Bhupendra Dal arrived at the school, beat up the group, and tore up the books.

The targeting of books is as old as the book itself. Books have been censored, banned, torn, burnt, and pulverised to suppress opposing views, enforce state ideologies, silence uncomfortable truths, or for being deemed heretical.

Earlier this month, too, the first edition of books was in the news — but for a very different reason. Various reports in international media said that rare-book sellers were surprised to see a sudden increase in sales.

However, the books were not being bought by specialised dealers, collectors, or connoisseurs; they were being purchased by buyers with strange names. Red Square Project, Blue Finch Project, and Green Parrot Project — to name a few — Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT.

Who are these two different groups targeting books? The first group is disapproved of Yousafzai's perceived views on India and Kashmir. Here, the books

**Radhika Sankaranarayanan**

clear ideological opposition to Yousafzai's ideas. The to travel into different worlds of imagination. A book given as a gift by a friend can become a warm memory. A book borrowed from a library for research can be carried around as a vessel of knowledge. A book purchased from a rare-books shop can be as precious as silver, containing layers of history. Books, therefore, have always been more than paper and ink and a spine. They are, of course, textual instruments, but they are also cultural objects.

Repositories of our thoughts, wanderings, dealings, and feelings. If ideas are what makes us human, books, then, are a physical manifestation of those ideas, which we choose to preserve and pass on.

To burn the books is to destroy the ideas. Richard Dawkins writes about how, when the National and University Library of Bonn and the University of Bonn were under artillery fire from the German military in 1942, librarians formed a human chain to protect books. In Nazi Germany, a group of intellectuals, known as the "Paper Brigade", saved books by hiding them in their clothing. In the Soviet Union, librarians involved clandestinely copying and circulating censored texts, while the modern copycat movement allows us to choose to reproduce and share their work freely.

Today, in a world where books are seen either as dangerous or as useful raw material — rather than as things to be read — the ways in which we defend books may have to keep evolving.

When a book is given to a

Why books matter This practice unsurprisingly sparked widespread anger, which brings us to a more fundamental question: what does the physical book mean to us?

When a book is given to a

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## Trade between BRICS countries shows marked increase

The rise in intra-BRICS trade strengthens the case for a cross-border payments system

**DATA POINT**  
**Radhika Sankaranarayanan**

**R**educing global dependence on the U.S. dollar is expected to be a key part of the discussions in the 10th BRICS Summit, slated by India, happening in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, 2026. Finance minister and central bank governors from BRICS countries met in August to discuss the facilitation of cross-border payments and strengthening of national currencies.

The BRICS bloc with its 10 member countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE — has grown in strength in its objective of advancing trade and diplomatic relations within the Global South, which makes cross-border payments desirable.

Currently, making payments across countries requires a string of transactions via correspondent banks, which hold accounts with each other. When two countries do not have such correspondent banks, they route their payments through international banks, converting the currency of the sender country to a dominant currency such as dollars, and then routing the dollars to the currency of the receiving country. This process, besides being slow, comes with the cost of foreign exchange margins and the fees charged by the intermediaries. Seeing that the BRICS comprises many developing economies, this can be among the many impediments to trade opportunities.

Trade data shows that merchandise exports by BRICS countries made up about one-fifth of global exports in 2024 (Chart 1). The BRICS countries have all drastically increased their exports over the years, with China reaching \$500 billion in 2024. Other members such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Russia, and the UAE also re-

corded large figures between \$60 and \$800 billion. In addition to this, their trade amongst each other has also increased. Chart 2 shows that as of 2024, all members of BRICS, except China, received more than 10% of imports from other members.

Iran depends on BRICS for more than 65% of its imports, and Ethiopia nearly 45%. Intra-BRICS import dependency could be on the rise due to the heterogeneity of goods available among its members, as noted in a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Concurrently, export dependency within the bloc has also risen. In the last decade, five members (Russia, China, the UAE, Brazil, and Indonesia) have doubled and even quadrupled their exports to members of the bloc.

However, China has consistently shown the lowest dependency on intra-BRICS exports due to its diversified export market (Chart 3). Russia saw a rapid increase in its export dependency towards 2020 and 2021, in the middle of its invasion of Ukraine, during which it cut ties with major Western countries such as India imported its fuel. The country saw a decline in export dependency in 2024.

It was under Russia's chairmanship in 2024 that the BRICS argued against the dominance of the U.S. dollar. Russia was hit directly by the dollar monopoly in 2022, due to sanctions from the U.S., Russian banks were cut off from the Swire by the Worldwide Financial and Technological (SWIFT) which enables institutions to settle international transactions proved difficult for the Russia.

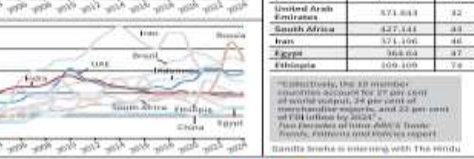
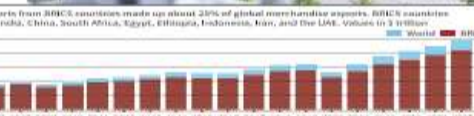
**Dollar detour**

The data for the charts were sourced from report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) titled "The Disappearing Dollar: Trade, Finance, Payments and Payments" and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**CHART 1:** In 2025, exports from BRICS countries made up about 20% of global merchandise exports. BRICS countries include Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE. Values in \$ billion.

**CHART 2:** All BRICS countries have increased their dependency on imports from other members of the bloc. Values in %.

**CHART 3:** The exports from BRICS countries made up about one-fifth of global exports in 2024 (Chart 1). The BRICS countries have all drastically increased their exports over the years, with China reaching \$500 billion in 2024. Other members such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Russia, and the UAE also re-



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The **Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 10, 1976

### Mao Tse-tung dead

Peking, September 9: Mao Tse-tung, the 82-year-old father of Communist China, died to-day at 10 minutes past midnight. Radio Peking broadcast the news to the 780 million Chinese saying: "Mao Tse-tung passed away at 10:00 hours on Sept. 9 because of the weakening of his illness and despite all treatment, although meticulous medical care was given to him in every way after he fell ill."

Funeral rites followed, and immediately thousands of people, wearing black armbands, began to gather in the vast Tian An Men Square. Signs of Heavenly Peace in the heart of Peking. In factories, shops and apartment blocks people gathered in great numbers, and in the streets. Their faces turned grim and sorrowful at the news of the death of the man who had commanded their reverence and awe. Chairman Mao would have been 83 on December 26. He had been suffering from Parkinson's disease.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 10, 1926

### The Nizam's protest

The following is from "The Daily Herald" — It is reported from Bombay, says the Indian News Service, that His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad has sent a very strongly worded protest to the Viceroy, urging that in future the relations of the Nizam should be with the Viceroy as representative of the King and not with the Government of India. The Nizam's contention is that he had never entered into treaty negotiations with the Indian Government, but only with the British Government.

The Government of India is becoming gradually responsible to the people of India and the Nizam is of the opinion that it would be an indignity to owe allegiance to a Government controlled by the people.

The Nizam is strongly supported in this protest by other Indian princes, who look with uneasiness and perturbation on the growing encroachment on their "fundamental rights guaranteed by treaties." The very idea of the Indian people taking to task the old-time rulers is galling to the Maharajas and Nawabs.

It is a problem which is pressing more and more closely on the Government of India. That Government, however, is anxious, if possible, to maintain the old-time struggle with the old-time rulers — its hands being too full with the problems of the existing situation.



# India has to act on its 'sugar' problem

**T**his week, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), prodded by the Supreme Court, proposed a simple but overdue idea. Packaged foods high in fat, salt, or sugar should carry a bold red warning on the front of the pack, not buried in fine print on the back. Someone picking up instant noodles, a breakfast cereal, or a "health drink" will finally be told, at a glance, that it is not as wholesome as its advertising claims. This is a welcome step. It is also, on its own, nowhere near enough.

The number of children presenting with morbid obesity and diabetes has climbed sharply within just a few years. The World Obesity Atlas 2026 bears this out – 41 million Indian children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 are now overweight or obese. This is not just because children are eating more; it is about what they are being sold. Breakfast cereals, sweetened yoghurts, and "health drinks" are marketed to parents as filling gaps in a child's diet, emphasising "energy" and vitamins while saying little about the sugar content inside. In 2024, a leading multinational was found adding sugar to infant food sold in India and other lower income countries; sugar was left out of the same product in Europe. When a health drink, popular in Indian homes, turned out to be nothing more than flavoured sugar syrup, it took a social media storm, and not a regulator, to force the company to prescribe a 15% cut in its added sugar.

The problem is worse around schools and colleges, where studies show that the cheapest, most easily



**Dr. Praveen George Paul**

Assistant Professor, Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Pediatrics, Christian Medical College, Vellore



**Dr. Vandana Jain**

Professor, Pediatric Endocrinology Division, Department of Pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

When the U.K. introduced its soft drinks industry levy, sugar consumption fell. Manufacturers reformulated their drinks to slip below the tax threshold rather than raise prices

available snacks are also the least healthy. A popular "energy drink" among teenagers, priced at just ₹20, packs close to 17 grams of sugar, caffeine, and artificial colour into a single bottle. Its label says it is not meant for children, yet nothing stops a child from buying it. This is the market pricing unhealthy calories to fit within the range of a child's pocket money.

## Need for enforcement

None of this is a secret. What has been missing is enforcement. The FSSAI and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have long recommended what schools should not sell, but optional rules get treated as optional, and canteens stock whatever sells cheapest. A red warning label only works if it is actually enforced.

Moreover, the new rule stops at the edge of organised retail. Most of India's sugar, salt, and trans fat is eaten unbranded, from street stalls, dhabas, and sweet shops that make up the unorganised sector, none of which is required to declare anything. A red label on a biscuit packet does nothing about the jalebi sold loose beside it. Regulation that reaches only packaged food leaves the unregulated half of the plate untouched.

Then there is the conversation India keeps avoiding – a tax on sugar. When the U.K. introduced its soft drinks industry levy, sugar consumption among both children and adults fell. Manufacturers reformulated their drinks to slip below the tax threshold rather than raise prices. A well-designed sugar tax does not just discourage people from buying a product, it pushes the industry to make the

product itself less harmful.

India already taxes sugary drinks heavily; just not usefully. Since September 2025, aerated and sweetened beverages, sugar free versions included, were folded into one 40% GST slab – so a "normal" cola and its zero-sugar counterpart pay the same tax, leaving manufacturers with no reason to cut sugar. The U.K.'s levy worked differently, taxing drinks in tiers by sugar content, so that companies could lower their bill by reformulating the product. India could tax products in the same way so that manufacturers have a reason to cut sugar.

The standard objection – that such a tax would hit the poor the hardest – is not wrong, but it is only half the argument. Unregulated, cheap sugar already extracts a heavy price from the poor, who bear the brunt of the diabetes, hypertension and childhood obesity epidemic that sugar heavy diets drive, with the least means to treat it. Doing nothing is not neutral; it is a slower, costlier tax, paid in ill health rather than rupees at the till. The answer is to design the tax calibrated to sugar content so that it nudges reformulation, with part of the revenue set aside to make healthy food cheaper.

The FSSAI's proposed red label is a genuine, if belated, first step. What India needs now is the resolve to finish what it has started – mandatory food standards; limits on how unhealthy food is marketed to children; rules that reach the unorganised sector; and an honest debate on taxing sugar in a way that protects families with the least room to absorb either cost, the tax, or the disease.









# 'FAST' TRACKING INTO TROUBLE?

## FAST FOOD

➤ Frequent (more than twice daily) consumption associated with **higher BMI** in children; results inconsistent in adolescents

- Unclear whether it causes childhood **hypertension**
- Limited data on adverse cardio-metabolic markers and insulin resistance



Of 200 kids surveyed in 9-14 age group,

**93%** said they ate **packaged food**

## SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES (SSBs)

- Associated with **obesity** in children
- SSBs, but not fruit juice, consumption may cause **tooth decay**

## CAFFEINATED DRINKS

- May lead to **cardiac arrhythmias**
- **Regular** (more than four per week) consumption associated with sleep disturbances and psychiatric disturbances in adolescents



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Traffic light coding of food** (in terms of health impact) in school canteens
- **Avoid JUNCs** (junk food, ultra-processed foods, caffeinated/colored/carbonated beverages and sugar-sweetened beverages)
- **Fruit juices/SSBs** no-no for kids below 2 years
- **Fruit juices/drinks**, if given, should be limited to 125 ml per day for children aged between 2 and 5 years, 250 ml per day for kids >5 years

### Say no to caffeinated energy drinks

- Keep kids below 5 years off carbonated drinks, tea and coffee
- In schoolgoing children and adolescents, **tea/coffee intake** should be limited to maximum of half cup/day (100 ml) in 5-9 years, and one cup/day in adolescents (10-18 years), provided no other caffeinated products are consumed





## Obesity among Indian kids on the rise

Indians aged between 5 and 19 years are increasingly getting obese, according to a report by a commission formed by the World Health Organization (WHO).



### STARTLING FACTS:

- Between 1990 and 2014, the number of overweight children in low and middle income countries has more than doubled from 7.5 million to 15.5 million.
- In 2014, almost half (48%) of all overweight and obese children under 5 years age lived in Asia and one-quarter (25%) in Africa.
- Almost 22% of Indian children are obese and face health risks.

### ALARMING CONSEQUENCES:



Obesity is directly linked to high blood pressure



Type 2 diabetes



Heart disease



Osteoporosis

## 1. 🇮🇳 The Scale of the Problem | समस्या कितनी बड़ी है? ★★

The article cites The World Obesity Atlas 2026 and states:

~41 million Indian children and adolescents aged 5–19 are now overweight or obese.

भारत में 5–19 वर्ष आयु के लगभग 4.1 करोड़ बच्चे और किशोर Overweight या Obese हैं।

The article's central argument is that the problem is not simply that children are "eating more"; the **food environment and marketing** matter.

लेख का मुख्य तर्क है कि समस्या केवल बच्चों के "ज्यादा खाने" की नहीं है; **Food Environment और Marketing** भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

### Major sources highlighted

Breakfast cereals → Breakfast Cereals

Sweetened yoghurts → मीठे Yoghurts

"Health/Energy" drinks → Health/Energy Drinks

Packaged snacks → Packaged Snacks

These may be marketed using claims around **energy, vitamins or health** while containing substantial sugar.

इन Products को **Energy, Vitamins या Health** के नाम पर Market किया जा सकता है, जबकि इनमें काफी Sugar हो सकती है।



- 🗑 Article's ₹20 “Energy Drink” Example

- The article gives a striking example of a popular teenage beverage:

- Price → ₹20

**Sugar → close to 17 g in one bottle**

- **17 g sugar ≈ a little over 4 teaspoons of sugar**, using the rough household conversion of ~4 g per teaspoon.

**17 g Sugar ≈ लगभग 4 से थोड़ा अधिक Teaspoons Sugar**, यदि लगभग 4 g = 1 teaspoon माना जाए।

- The article argues that cheap availability allows large quantities of unhealthy calories to enter a child's diet easily.

लेख का तर्क है कि कम कीमत के कारण Unhealthy Calories बड़ी मात्रा में बच्चे की Diet में आसानी से शामिल हो जाती हैं।



*fssai*

FOOD SAFETY AND  
STANDARDS AUTHORITY  
OF INDIA

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO  
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

**POTATO  
CHIPS**

**HIGH IN  
SALT, FAT**

EAT LESS  
FOR GOOD HEALTH

**HIGH IN  
SUGAR**

EAT LESS  
FOR GOOD HEALTH

**COOKIES**

**HIGH IN  
SUGAR, FAT**

EAT LESS  
FOR GOOD HEALTH

**INSTANT  
NOODLES**

**HIGH IN  
SALT, FAT**

EAT LESS  
FOR GOOD HEALTH

**CHOCOLATE**

**HIGH IN  
SUGAR**

EAT LESS  
FOR GOOD HEALTH

**HIGH IN  
SALT, SUGAR  
OR SATURATED FAT**

**EAT LESS  
FOR GOOD HEALTH**



**SALT**



**SUGAR**



**SATURATED FAT**

**FRONT OF PACK  
WARNING LABEL**



## How the sugar levy will work

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**18p per litre** tax on drinks with more than 5g of sugar per 100ml

**24p per litre** tax on drinks with more than 8g per 100ml

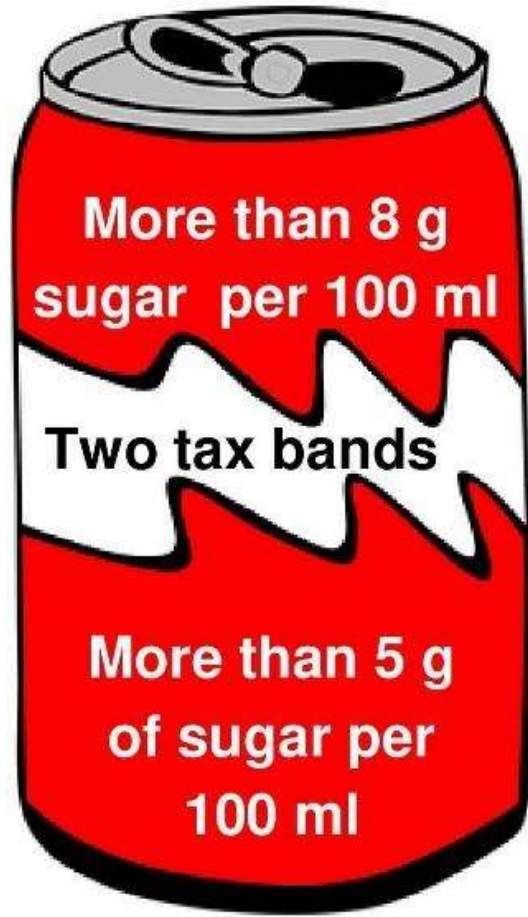
**£240m a year** is the figure the Treasury estimates it will raise

**50%** of all drinks had sugar content reduced ahead of the new levy





# What Is The UK Sugar Tax?



+ 18 to 24 p per litre of soft drink

Estimated to  
raise £520  
million  
annually



Exempt\*

'Small'  
producers  
also exempt  
from tax



\*Recommended these are limited to no more than 150 ml per day.



Consider the following statements regarding FSSAI:  
FSSAI के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- It is a statutory body.  
यह एक Statutory Body है।
- It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.  
इसकी स्थापना Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 के तहत हुई।
- It functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.  
यह Ministry of Health & Family Welfare के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।
- It is a constitutional authority established under Article 47.  
यह Article 47 के तहत स्थापित Constitutional Authority है।

KUTV

**Russian drones kill two people at Ukraine-Moldova border crossing**

Russian drones hit a border crossing between Ukraine and Moldova in the southern region of Gozma, killing two people, Ukrainian and Moldovan officials said on Wednesday. Russia has struck five border crossings in recent weeks — four on the border with Moldova and one on its border with Romania, a NATO member. REUTERS

LAHORE

**Pakistan orders medical colleges to expel students from Afghanistan**

Pakistan has ordered medical institutions across the country to expel Afghan students and halt fresh admissions amid deteriorating ties between Islamabad and Kabul, a senior government official said on Wednesday. Afghan students already enrolled in medical programmes have also been directed to return to Afghanistan. PTI

SEOUL

**North Korea builds new Yongbyon uranium enrichment facility: IAEA**

North Korea has built a new uranium enrichment facility at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex, and started operating an expanded site at its Kangsan enrichment site, the nuclear watchdog IAEA said. The IAEA said the developments in North Korea's nuclear programme have also been directed to return to Afghanistan. REUTERS

OSLO

**Norway bids final farewell to King Harald V at his funeral**

Norway made its final farewell to King Harald V in Oslo on Wednesday, with thousands lining the streets and global royal and leaders attending. A 21-gun salute opened the procession from the royal palace to Oslo Cathedral. Harald, who died aged 89 after 38 years on the throne, was remembered for his humility. AP

## India, Sri Lanka sign three defence sector MoUs during Rajnath's visit

The agreements cover upgrading L70 guns for Sri Lankan Air Force and cooperation between the two countries' National Cadet Corps, National Defence Colleges; this is the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Sri Lanka in nearly 40 years

Meera Srinivasan  
CHENNAI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday pledged India's continued support to Sri Lanka during a meeting with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo, as the two countries inked three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on defence equipment and training. Mr. Singh's visit, the first by an Indian Defence Minister to Sri Lanka in nearly 40 years, and the agreements come over a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Wednesday. AP

During President Dissanayake's meeting with Mr. Singh, the two sides held "extensive discussions on further strengthening the existing defence, economic, maritime and regional partnerships between India and Sri Lanka", the Presidential Media Unit said in a statement.

Further, Mr. Dissanayake briefed Mr. Singh on Sri Lanka's recently launched islandwide programme to combat drug trafficking.

An official release from the Indian government said the President recalled his interactions with Mr.

Modi and reiterated that "Sri Lanka would never allow its territory to be used for any activities inimical to India's security interests".

President Dissanayake's office said he emphasised that Sri Lanka makes decisions "taking into consideration both national and regional interests", and that, as a sovereign state, Sri Lanka enters into various agreements with countries around the world while remaining mindful of regional security.

The statement from his office added that the leaders paid "special attention" to the fisheries issue in the Palk Strait.

## 'Rahman wants to visit India, but agenda has to be set first'

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is keen to visit India at the earliest but is concerned about take-away points and achievements that he will have to produce before his audience back home after a visit of this nature, said a diplomatic source of Bangladesh on Wednesday.

The official said Mr. Rahman might have skipped the multilateral BRICS summit for which he was invited by India, but that does not mean that he is trying to avoid an immediate and important neighbour like India, which has contributed and sacrificed immensely during Bangladesh's liberation War of 1971. Mr. Rahman is aware that he may have to visit Delhi in a bilateral framework.



Tarique Rahman

work by November or early December, as the Ganga Water Treaty needs to be renewed at the earliest as it will otherwise lapse by the end of December, 2026, and the official.

**Intensive meetings**  
The official said Mr. Rahman's visit requires setting of the agenda through intensive meetings between the officials of the two sides that are yet to begin. But Dhaka believes that apart from the Ganga Wa-

ter Treaty, which is a "rolling achievement", there is a need to look at other areas where the bilateral relationship is stuck.

"For example, in case of restarting full-scale visa facilities, lifting of trade restrictions that were imposed during the interim government in Dhaka, and usage of land ports, and restarting of full-scale commercial relationship are some of the areas where there is possibility of setting up some solid goals for achievement," said the official.

He also pointed out that one area where India could send a positive message to the field of energy as Bangladesh is suffering from an acute crunch in energy supply. "It will be a confidence-building measure if India can assist Bangladesh in dealing with this challenge."

## Shattered homes



Flery aftermath: Smoke and flames rise from a house during an Israeli air strike, carried out after the Israeli military warned residents to evacuate the area, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on Wednesday. (reuters)

## PM Burnham defends trade ban as Israel retaliates

Agence France-Presse  
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham defended on Wednesday his government's ban on trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank after Israel retaliated against London and Western sanctions over settler violence.

Israel ordered the closure of Britain's consulate in Jerusalem among other measures in response to the sanctions move on Tuesday by 12 countries, which condemned violence against Palestinians in the territory.

"Where people are being bullied out of their homes, intimidated, we will always stand with the underdog and take whatever action we can to support them," Mr. Burnham said.

## AI researcher quits industry, warning that AI race is 'gambling with our lives'

Agence France-Presse  
SAN FRANCISCO

An artificial intelligence researcher who left OpenAI to join Anthropic has decided to leave the industry, accusing both U.S. companies of "playing with our lives" in the race to develop AI models capable of self-improvement.

Jacob Coxson, 27, spent the past three years training AI models, first at OpenAI and then, this year, at its rival Anthropic, which he considered more cautious in its approach. Pretraining is the stage where AI models absorb

vast quantities of data. "Neither company is acting responsibly. They are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives," Mr. Coxson said on Tuesday.

"The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade," he said in a post on X.

"This is not a marketing stunt," he added.

Superintelligence is the theoretical point when AI's capabilities exceed human intelligence.

Anthropic safety executive Evan Hubinger backed



Jacob Coxson

up Mr. Coxson on X. "We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humanity," he said, adding that he estimated that risk at more than 10% over the next decade.

Mr. Hubinger said An-

thropos is "trying its best", but does not yet have a plan to ensure an AI system that surpasses human capabilities would obey its creators. He said there was a "low" risk of that happening with current models.

Mr. Coxson's resignation comes as Anthropic prepares for its market debut following a summer marked by unauthorised leaks carried out by AI tools during testing.

"AI Anthropic, the stakes are well-understood, but there are indeed in a race to get there first, despite the risk," he said.

## IAEA's board reports Iran to UN Security Council for 'failure to cooperate in probe'

Associated Press  
VIENNA

The UN atomic watchdog's board on Wednesday reported Iran to the UN Security Council for the first time in 20 years, citing its failure to cooperate in a long-running investigation into uranium traces detected by inspectors at undeclared sites.

"This is not a peaceful programme, it is entirely peaceful," the report said. Reporting Iran to the Security Council opens the door to possible sanctions and asset freezes, though such punitive measures are unlikely because Iran's allies Russia and China hold veto power on the council.

Western officials suspect that the traces could provide evidence that Iran had a secret nuclear weapons programme until 2003, then says the IAEA is pursuing nuclear weapons, and that its pro-

gramme is entirely peaceful. Reporting Iran to the Security Council opens the door to possible sanctions and asset freezes, though such punitive measures are unlikely because Iran's allies Russia and China hold veto power on the council.

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**Meera Srinivasan**

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Mr. Singh's visit, the first by an Indian Defence Minister to Sri Lanka in nearly 40 years, and the agreements come over a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lan-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Wednesday. ANI

ka in 2025, when seven MoUs, including an overarching defence sector agreement, were signed.

The MoUs signed on Wednesday pertain to the

upgradation of L70 Guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force, and cooperation between the National Cadet Corps and the National Defence Colleges of the

two countries.

During President Dissanayake's meeting with Mr. Singh, the two sides held "extensive discussions on further strengthening the existing defence, economic, maritime and regional partnerships between India and Sri Lanka", the Presidential Media Unit said in a statement.

## Mutual interests

Further, Mr. Dissanayake briefed Mr. Singh on Sri Lanka's recently-launched islandwide programme to combat drug trafficking.

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Modi and reiterated that "Sri Lanka would never allow its territory to be used for any activities inimical to India's security interests".

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The statement from his office added that the leaders paid "special attention" to the fisheries issue in the Palk Strait.







| MoU | English                                                           | हिन्दी                                                      |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Upgradation of L70 guns of Sri Lankan Air Force                   | Sri Lankan Air Force की L70 Guns का Upgradation             |
| 2   | Cooperation between the two countries' National Cadet Corps (NCC) | दोनों देशों के National Cadet Corps के बीच Cooperation      |
| 3   | Cooperation between their National Defence Colleges               | दोनों देशों के National Defence Colleges के बीच Cooperation |

## L-70 Electro Optical Gun Upgrade





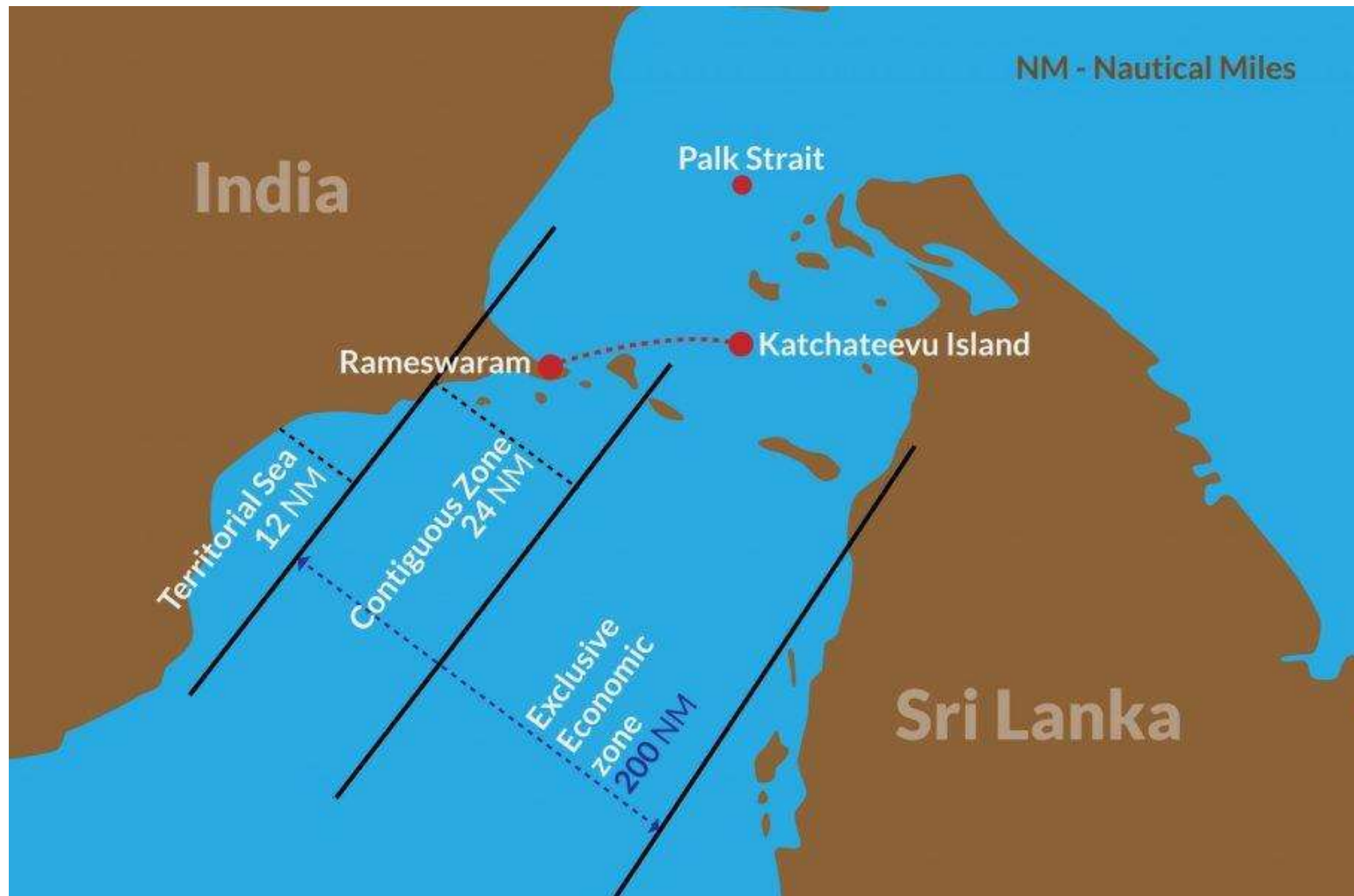








|                     |                                         |                                      |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feature             | Palk Strait                             | Gulf of Mannar                       |
| Position            | Between Tamil Nadu & northern Sri Lanka | Between SE India & western Sri Lanka |
| Nature              | Strait                                  | Gulf                                 |
| Nearby Indian State | Tamil Nadu                              | Tamil Nadu                           |
| Fisheries issue     | ★ ★ ★ Highly relevant                   | Relevant                             |
| Marine biodiversity | Important                               | Very important                       |





• THE NEW GDP SERIES SAW MOSPI OVERHAUL ITS METHODS, INCLUDING HOW IT REMOVES THE EFFECT OF INFLATION FROM NOMINAL GDP TO GET REAL GDP

# Producer prices and double-deflation — key changes in new GDP series

Siddharth Upasani  
New Delhi, September 9

ECONOMIC DATA in India is never without its share of debates. And GDP numbers attract the most questions. The short answer to the upward and downward revisions to past GDP growth rates under the new 2022-23 series is the use of producer prices for double deflation.

Revisions to past GDP numbers happen all the time. This is because quarterly numbers are compiled using what is called a 'benchmark-indicator approach'. Annual estimates, meanwhile, are based on actual output and numbers, say companies' financial results and the statistics minis-

try's surveys.

While this explains the large upward revision from 7.8% to 8.6% for real GDP growth in January-March 2026, changes to older data happened because the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has started using the Producer Price Index (PPI) to adjust nominal GDP to real GDP.

## Deflating for 'real'

The new GDP series, released on February 27, saw MoSPI overhaul its methods, including how it removes the effect of inflation from nominal GDP to get real GDP.

GDP is the sum of value created — or Gross Value Added (GVA) — by each sector, the indirect taxes collected and sub-

tracting subsidies given by the government. GVA is the difference between the value of what a sector produces (output) and the raw materials (inputs) it uses. When done without adjusting for prices, the result is nominal GVA, or in current prices. The trouble begins while calculating real GVA.

Until now, MoSPI used the same number — picked from the various Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index sub-indices — to adjust, or 'deflate', the value of inputs as well as outputs. This process is called 'single deflation' and was done for all sectors except agriculture and mining and quarrying. But this method works well only when prices of inputs and outputs are chang-

## • As oil prices rise, manufacturing deflator falls



Source: MoSPI, Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, The Indian Express calculations

ing at the same rate; when they don't, there's a problem.

When the nominal value of inputs is adjusted by the actual

change in prices of inputs and the same is done for outputs, the process is called double deflation. This results in accurate measurement of real GVA.

## Negative deflators

A sector's implied deflator is negative when nominal GVA growth is less than real growth. For manufacturing, the implied deflator has been below zero in six of the 13 quarters for which new GDP series data is available. This has left some people puzzled. When input prices rise faster than output prices, the use of double deflation leads to real GVA growth exceeding nominal growth. The chart juxtaposes the manufacturing GVA deflator with the year-on-year percentage change in the price of

India's crude oil basket, a crucial input for Indian manufacturers. The inverse movement is striking.

## Correct deflators

When the new GDP series was released in February, double-deflation was done using CPI and WPI sub-indices. Last week's data saw double-deflation being done using the PPI, which measures prices received by producers at the factory gate, making it exclusive of taxes and trade and transport margins. This shift to the PPI is crucial as previously some sectors were not being adjusted by the appropriate deflator, services, for instance. The deflator implied by the real and nominal GVA growth rates of the services sec-

tor under the old series were sometimes lower than expected because it was mostly the WPI that was used to deflate the sector's nominal values. But the WPI contains only goods. So, when wholesale inflation was low due to soft commodity prices, the services sector's nominal input value was deflated by a number smaller than the cost rise the sector may have been actually facing.

As a result, real GVA of services was larger than it should have been, leading to overestimation of real growth. The opposite would have happened when commodity prices were rising faster than the actual service sector's costs.

FULL REPORT ON  
[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

## GDP Growth Logic

### Nominal GDP

Output + Price  
Current Prices

### Real GDP

Actual Output  
Constant Prices

**GDP Deflator removes inflation**

महंगाई का प्रभाव हटाया जाता है

### Real Economic Growth

Quantity of goods & services  
वस्तुओं व सेवाओं का वास्तविक उत्पादन



## Same Production, Higher Price

### Year 1

100 Bicycles

₹1,000 each

**₹1,00,000**

Nominal GDP

Price only  
---

### Year 2

100 Bicycles

₹1,100 each

**₹1,10,000**

Nominal GDP

**Real GDP Growth = 0%**

# Calculating Inflation Rate: GDP Deflator Method

1



## Get Nominal GDP

Find the total value of goods and services produced at current market prices for a given period.

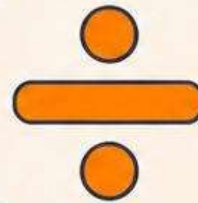
2



## Get Real GDP

Find the total value of goods and services produced using constant base year prices for the same period.

3



## Calculate GDP Deflator

Use the formula:  
(Nominal GDP / Real GDP)  
x 100 to get the deflator value for each period.

4



## Calculate Inflation Rate

Determine the percentage change in the GDP Deflator between two consecutive periods using the inflation rate formula.



$$\text{Inflation Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{GDP Deflator (Current Period)} - \text{GDP Deflator (Previous Period)}}{\text{GDP Deflator (Previous Period)}} \times 100$$



## Using GDP Deflator to estimate price changes and deflate Nominal GDP

$$\text{Nominal GDP}_{2023} = (80 \times \$20) + (70 \times \$30) = \$3700$$

$$\text{Real GDP}_{2023} = (80 \times \$10) + (70 \times \$20) = \$2200$$

Assuming base year is 2022, we can calculate the use the GDP Deflator to calculate price changes between current year and base year.

$$\text{GDP Deflator} = \frac{\text{Nominal GDP}}{\text{Real GDP}} \times 100$$

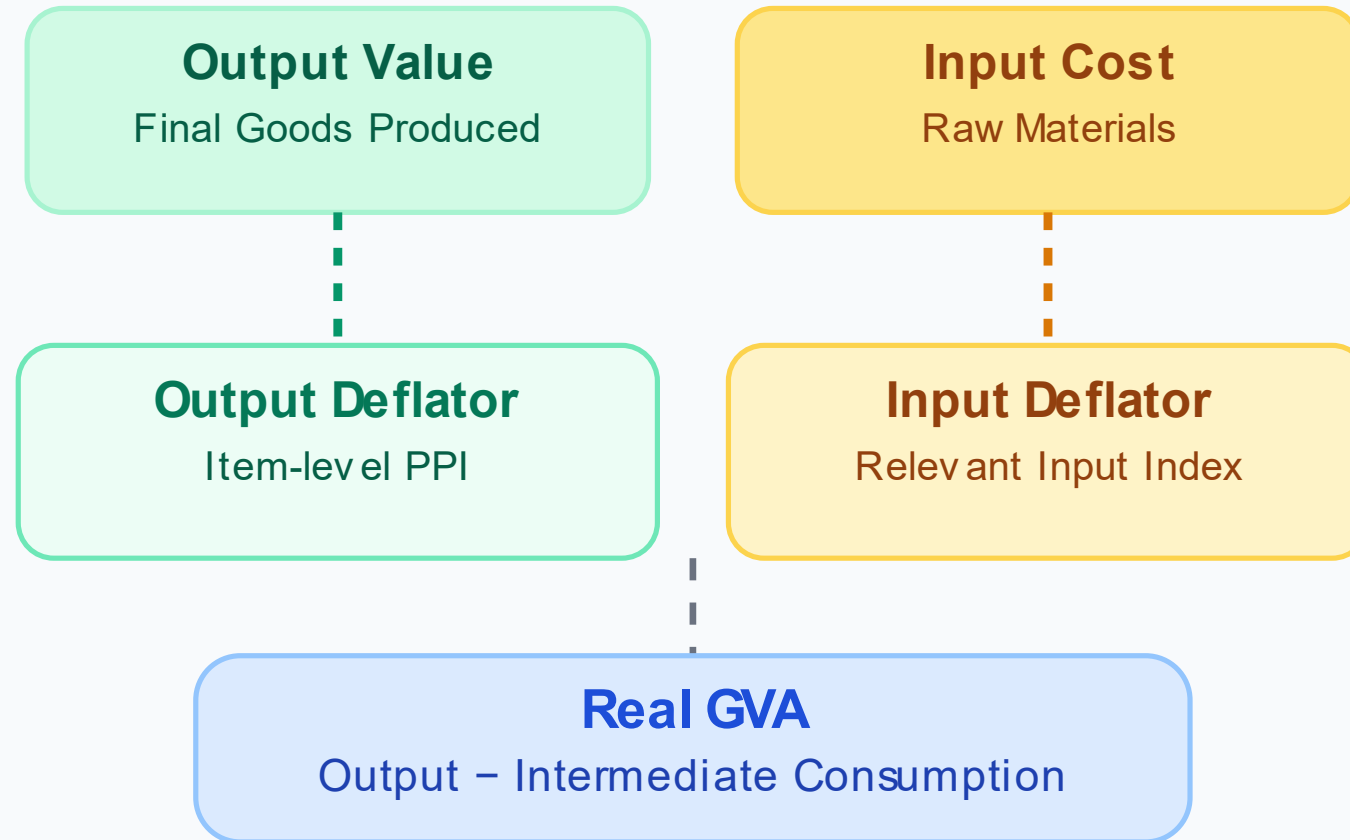
$$\text{GDP Deflator} = \frac{\$3700}{\$2200} \times 100 = 168.18$$

$$\text{Real GDP}_{\text{current year}} = \frac{\text{Nominal GDP}_{\text{current year}}}{\text{GDP Deflator}_{\text{current year}}} = \frac{3700}{1.6818} = \$2200$$





# Double Deflation



Separate price adjustment on both sides  
दोनों पक्षों का अलग-अलग Deflation

Manufacturing methodology in new GDP series



- Double Deflation means Output and Intermediate Consumption are deflated separately before calculating Real Gross Value Added (GVA).
- Double Deflation का अर्थ है कि Output और Intermediate Consumption दोनों को अलग-अलग Price Indices से Deflate करके Real GVA निकाला जाता है।
- Officially, MoSPI describes this as a more conceptually robust method for manufacturing because output prices and input prices do not always move together.
- Press Information Bureau+2
- MoSPI के अनुसार Manufacturing में यह Method अधिक Conceptually Robust है क्योंकि Output और Input Prices हमेशा एक जैसी गति से नहीं बदलते।



# Comparison

## Single Deflation

One price index  
Broad adjustment

-----

Output  
& Inputs

Less precise when  
prices diverge

## Double Deflation

Separate indices  
Output & Inputs

-----

Better Real GVA  
measurement

More granular &  
accurate approach

### Single Deflation

One deflator used broadly

Less granular

Earlier approach

May distort GVA when input/output prices differ

### Double Deflation

Separate deflators for output & inputs

More granular

New manufacturing methodology

Better reflects actual value added

The new national accounts framework explicitly shifts manufacturing toward double deflation while using sector-appropriate extrapolation or volume indicators elsewhere.  Press Information Bureau +1

नई National Accounts Methodology में Manufacturing के लिए Double Deflation अपनाया गया है जबकि अन्य Sectors में Sector-specific Extrapolation या Volume Indicators का उपयोग किया जाता है।  Press Information Bureau +1



MoSPI के आधिकारिक दस्तावेज़ों के अनुसार **2022–23 Base Year Series** में तीन प्रमुख सुधार किए गए।

 Press Information Bureau +2

### ✓ **Base Year Revision**

2011–12 → 2022–23

2011–12 से बदलकर 2022–23 Base Year किया गया।

### ✓ **Double Deflation in Manufacturing**

Output and intermediate inputs are separately deflated.

Manufacturing में Output तथा Inputs का अलग-अलग Deflation किया जाता है।

### ✓ **Granular Price Indicators**

More detailed CPI, PPI/WPI, Unit Value and sector-specific indicators are used.

अधिक Granular CPI, PPI/WPI, Unit Value तथा Sector-specific Price Indicators का उपयोग किया जाता है।

These changes aim to improve the accuracy and consistency of real GDP estimation rather than merely changing one growth number.  Press Information Bureau +2

इन सुधारों का उद्देश्य केवल Growth Number बदलना नहीं बल्कि Real GDP Estimation को अधिक Accurate और Consistent बनाना है।  Press Information Bureau +2

## Revision Capsule

- New GDP Base Year = 2022–23
- Nominal GDP = Output + Price Effect
- Real GDP = Inflation removed
- GDP Deflator converts Nominal  $\rightarrow$  Real GDP
- GVA = Output – Intermediate Consumption
- GDP = GVA + Product Taxes – Product Subsidies
- Manufacturing now uses Double Deflation
- Output and Inputs are deflated separately
- PPI measures Producer Prices
- Negative Deflator  $\neq$  Negative Economic Growth
- Crude oil shock explains why input and output prices may diverge

ALPHA WAVE, TEMASEK, PREMJI INVEST, BLACKROCK BACK AAHL

# Adani Airports inks pacts to raise \$1 bn for 5.54% stake

NITIN KUMAR  
New Delhi, September 9

**ADANI AIRPORT HOLDINGS** (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises (AEL) and one of the country's largest private airport operators, has entered into binding agreements to raise ₹9,825 crore (\$1 billion) in primary equity from a consortium comprising Alpha Wave Global, Premji Invest, Temasek and BlackRock-managed funds.

The transaction values AAHL at a pre-money equity valuation of \$18 billion and is among the largest primary equity investments by financial institutions in India's airport infrastructure sector.

"The participation of a consortium of long-term domestic and global investors represents a significant institutional endorsement of AAHL's scale, operating capabilities and long-term growth potential," AEL said in a statement.

The investment brings long-term institutional capital into the business as India's aviation sector enters a sustained phase of passenger growth, capacity expansion and infrastructure investment, AEL said.

AAHL and the investors have entered into a share subscription agreement and a shareholders' agreement, under

## EQUITY INFUSION

■ AAHL valued at  
**\$18 bn**  
on pre-money equity basis

■ Investors to subscribe to equity shares in 3 tranches; final tranche may be completed by July '27

■ Proceeds to be used to expand, modernise airport infrastructure across AAHL's portfolio

■ AAHL plans 22-mn sq ft mixed-use development in 1st phase of Adani Airport City ecosystems



■ Investment will also support non-aeronautical businesses

■ Investments to increase AAHL's capacity to serve 200 million passengers annually

■ Deal follows AEL's ₹15,000-crore QIP in July 2026

which the investors will subscribe to new equity shares in three tranches, with the final tranche expected to be completed by July 2027. Upon completion of all three tranches, the investors will collectively hold approximately 5.54% in AAHL.

The proceeds will be used to expand and modernise airport infrastructure across AAHL's portfolio; accelerate the development of integrated Adani Airport City ecosystems around its airports, and scale up passenger

facing and other non-aeronautical businesses, including ground handling. The first phase of the airport-city development plans envisages 22 million sq ft of mixed-use development, the company said.

The investments are expected to increase AAHL's capacity to serve 200 million passengers annually, deepen commercial monetisation, enhance passenger experience and strengthen its integrated airport ecosystem, AEL said.

## Adani Group plans to raise \$2.5 bn in offshore debt

**ADANI GROUP IS** planning to raise \$2.5 billion from global lenders to refinance debt used to buy two cement firms, according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be India's largest offshore loan this year.

Endeavour Trade and Investment, a Mauritius-based special purpose vehicle owned by the Adani family, aims to raise \$1.5 billion through a bridge loan with a tenor ranging from 18 months to 24 months, the people said, asking not to be identified.

The offshore facility may be priced at about 150 basis points over the US benchmark Secured Overnight Financing Rate, or SOFR, the people said. The bridge facility will later be refinanced with a rupee-denominated loan from domestic lenders including State Bank of India and HDFC Bank, the people said. Separately, Adani Infra (India) seeks to raise about \$1 billion through a five-year loan.

**BLOOMBERG**





**DULEEP TROPHY**  
**East Zone wins title**  
**after a 14-year gap**  
**SPORTS PAGE 10**

practical cooperation, an expanding coordination through BRICS and the Global South without precluding that strategic competition no longer exists."

During talks in Beijing last month, both Nations Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Wang highlighted the positive impact the meetings between the leaders had on the relationship in setting the trajectory.

**LEARNERS CONCLUDE**  
**» PAGE 4**

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**LEARNERS CONCLUDE**  
**» PAGE 4**



# SC asks Centre to review NEET-SS cut-off decision

Super-specialty medical seats remaining vacant makes a 'rather compelling' case for reduction of qualifying percentile, top court says; willing to hold a 'stray round' for unfilled seats, says Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court asked the Union government on Thursday to reconsider its decision not to reduce the cut-off percentile for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Super-specialty (NEET-SS) seats in the current year, while expressing concern about a large number of seats going unfilled annually.

The order from a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe came after Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Centre, said the government was willing to conduct a "stray round" for the vacant NEET-SS seats, but had decided not to lower the qualifying percentile. She said the vacant seats would revert to States such as Tamil Nadu.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Medical Officers Association, represented by senior advocate P. Wilson,

## Staking claim

The petition has challenged the 'premature diversion' of 152 vacant Super-specialty seats earmarked for in-service government doctors in Tamil Nadu to the all-India quota

### What the petition says

- At least **40 seats** remain vacant from those diverted, and they should be returned to Tamil Nadu
- Many eligible candidates, mostly in-service government doctors serving in rural parts of the State, are **awaiting a reduction** in the qualifying percentile
- NEET-SS seats are **'precious'** and cannot remain vacant



who said Tamil Nadu had 40 vacant seats left, and they should be returned to the State. The petitioner-association had challenged the "premature diversion" of 152 vacant super-specialty seats earmarked for in-service government doctors in Tamil Nadu to the all-India quota. It had also sought protection of the State's in-service reservation policy, pending a final decision on reduction of the NEET-SS qualifying percentile.

Mr. Wilson stressed that

many eligible candidates, mostly in-service government doctors serving in rural parts of the State, were awaiting a reduction in the qualifying percentile. He said the NEET-SS seats were "precious", and cannot remain vacant.

Senior advocate Abhish-ek Manu Singhvi, for Tamil Nadu, said the State wanted the vacant seats to completely revert to it. He further urged the top court to lower the cut-off percentile.

The court said the fact

that many seats remain unfilled makes the case for reduction of the qualifying percentile "rather compelling".

Justice Narasimha advised the Additional Solicitor-General to "reflect a little more" about bringing down the percentile, and even consult with other members of the Bar on the issue.

Ms. Bhati urged the court then to "add a line" in its order "directing us to reconsider this... to consider reduction to the extent possible".

The law officer revealed that even some of the experts had "varying views" on the question of lowering the qualifying percentile.

"Some amount of reduction can be made. For last years, we had even reduced it [qualifying percentile] to 0%," Ms. Bhati submitted.

The court scheduled the case for further hearing and directions on September 17.

## 1. What is NEET-SS? | NEET-SS क्या है? ★★★

NEET-SS = National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Super Speciality.

NEET-SS = National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Super Speciality I

It is the national entrance examination used for admission to super-speciality medical programmes.

यह Super-speciality Medical Programmes में Admission के लिए National Entrance Examination है।

Examples include programmes leading to qualifications such as:

DM → super-speciality medical disciplines

DM → Super-speciality Medical Disciplines

MCh → super-speciality surgical disciplines

MCh → Super-speciality Surgical Disciplines

### Easy hierarchy

MBBS → PG medical training → Super-speciality

MBBS → Postgraduate Training → Super-speciality



## 2. Why did the Supreme Court intervene? | SC ने हस्तक्षेप क्यों किया?

The Court observed that the continuing vacancy of a substantial number of highly specialised medical seats made a **“compelling” case for reconsidering the percentile.**

Court ने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में Highly Specialised Medical Seats का खाली रहना Percentile पर पुनर्विचार का **“compelling” case** बनाता है।

Recent reporting said roughly **1,800 of more than 4,000 super-speciality seats** remained vacant after two counselling rounds.

Recent reporting के अनुसार दो Counselling Rounds के बाद **4,000 से अधिक Seats में लगभग 1,800 Seats** खाली थीं।  The Times of India

### Policy problem

Too high cut-off → seats may remain vacant

बहुत ऊँचा Cut-off → Seats खाली रह सकती हैं

But:

Too low cut-off → concerns over minimum academic standards

बहुत कम Cut-off → Minimum Academic Standards पर प्रश्न

This is therefore a **quality-access balancing problem.**

## 4. What is a Cut-off Percentile?

A qualifying percentile is the minimum relative performance threshold required to become eligible for counselling/admission.

Qualifying Percentile वह Minimum Relative Performance Threshold है जिसे Counselling/Admission के लिए Qualify करना आवश्यक होता है।

Lowering it means:

**More candidates become eligible.**

अधिक Candidates Eligible हो जाते हैं।

But it does **not automatically mean that every candidate gets a seat.**

लेकिन इसका अर्थ यह नहीं कि हर Candidate को Automatically Seat मिल जाएगी।

Seat allocation still depends on:

**Rank → Rank**

**Counselling → Counselling**

**Category/Quota → Category/Quota**

**Seat availability → Seat Availability**

**Choice filling → Choice Filling**

---

## 5. What is a "Stray Round"? | Stray Round क्या है? ★★ ★

A stray-vacancy round is an additional counselling round conducted to fill seats still vacant after the main counselling rounds.

Stray Vacancy Round एक अतिरिक्त Counselling Round है जो Main Rounds के बाद बची खाली Seats को भरने के लिए किया जाता है।

### Sequence concept

Round 1 → Round 2 → further/mop-up process → Stray Vacancy Round

The exact counselling sequence can vary by the relevant admission cycle/rules.

Exact Counselling Sequence उस Admission Cycle के Rules पर निर्भर कर सकती है।

### Exam point

Stray Round ≠ reduction in qualifying percentile.

Stray Round और Qualifying Percentile Reduction अलग बातें हैं।

A stray round fills remaining seats from the eligible pool; reducing the percentile expands the eligible pool.

Stray Round Existing Eligible Candidates से Seats भरता है; Percentile कम करने से Eligible Candidates की संख्या बढ़ती है।





- a petition challenging the diversion of **152 vacant super-speciality seats earmarked for in-service government doctors in Tamil Nadu to the All India Quota (AIQ).**

दिए गए समाचार में Petition ने Tamil Nadu में In-service Government Doctors के लिए निर्धारित **152 Vacant Super-speciality Seats को All India Quota (AIQ) में भेजे जाने को चुनौती दी है।**

- The petitioners argued that eligible in-service doctors, particularly those serving in rural areas, were waiting for a reduction in the qualifying percentile.

Petitioners का कहना था कि कई Eligible In-service Doctors, विशेषकर Rural Areas में सेवा दे रहे Doctors, Qualifying Percentile में Reduction की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे थे।

- An earlier Supreme Court stage in the same dispute had also dealt with these 152 seats.

- **Why Not Simply Reduce Cut-off to Zero?**

- The Centre's hesitation is linked to criticism over previous occasions when qualifying thresholds were drastically lowered. Recent reporting notes that the government referred to the controversy over an earlier reduction to **0 percentile** while explaining its reluctance this year.

- **The policy dilemma is therefore not “fill seats at any cost”.**

Policy Dilemma केवल “किसी भी कीमत पर Seats भरना” नहीं है।

- It is:

- **How to minimise vacant seats without undermining minimum competence standards?**

- **Minimum Competence Standards को कमजोर किए बिना Vacant Seats कैसे कम हों?**



| Institution   | Role                                                                                          |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NBEMS/NBE     | Conducts major postgraduate/super-speciality medical examinations including NEET-SS framework |
| NMC           | Medical education and professional regulation                                                 |
| MCC           | Centralised counselling for relevant medical seats                                            |
| DGHS          | Directorate General of Health Services                                                        |
| Supreme Court | Judicial review of disputes involving admission and policy legality                           |



- 
- Consider the following statements regarding NEET-SS:

**NEET-SS के संबंध में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:**

- It relates to admission to super-speciality medical education.  
यह Super-speciality Medical Education से संबंधित है।
  - A qualifying percentile is the same as percentage marks.  
Qualifying Percentile और Percentage Marks समान हैं।
  - A stray vacancy round may be conducted to fill seats remaining after regular counselling.  
Regular Counselling के बाद बची Seats भरने के लिए Stray Vacancy Round कराया जा सकता है।
  - Reduction in qualifying percentile can enlarge the pool of eligible candidates.  
Qualifying Percentile कम करने से Eligible Candidates की संख्या बढ़ सकती है।
-

## IN BRIEF



## Street vendors protest against bulldozer action in Gurugram

A large number of street vendors and workers staged a protest outside the office of Gurugram Municipal Commissioner on Thursday against alleged arbitrary eviction drives and bulldozer action that they said was destroying their livelihoods. The protesters, led by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and Bahi-Patri Mahabodh Union, took out a procession through the city before reaching the Municipal Commissioner's office, where they submitted a memorandum of demands to the Joint Commissioner.

## Bandh in Punjab cities over Ambedkar statue desecration

Markets and shops remained shut in Punjab's Jalandhar and Jalandhar areas on Thursday following a bandh call by various Vahmi and Bahi organisations to protest the alleged desecration of B.K. Ambedkar's statue at Jalandhar bypass Chowk in Ludhiana. The bandh call was from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All shops and business establishments in Jalandhar and Jalandhar cities remained closed. However, essential and emergency services, including hospitals and chemist shops, continued to function. A seven-hour bandh was observed in Ludhiana on Wednesday. Police personnel were deployed at various places in Jalandhar and Jalandhar to avert any untoward incident.

## My jaws were indeed broken in jail during Emergency, says Stalin after CM's House gesture

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

DMK president and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Thursday that the alleged body-shaking gesture made by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay in the Assembly recently was indeed reflective of what had happened to him, as he was brutally attacked by the police in prison (OPINION) and had his jawbone broken during the Emergency.

Explaining what had befallen him in prison in a video released on social media, Mr. Stalin said he and others had been lodged in a super ward.

Responding to the demands for grants for the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Departments in the Assembly on September 7, Mr. Vijay recalled Mr. Stalin's arrest during the



M.K. Stalin

Emergency and made a gesture referring to his broken jaw. Following condemnation from the CPI(M), he said his gesture was misunderstood.

"Thambi (brother) Vijay, the gesture you made was indeed true. My jawbone was broken in the police attack. I still bear the scars of the attack," Mr. Stalin said in the video.

The DMK chief recalled his conversation with Mr. Vijay when the latter paid him a visit after becoming the Chief Minister. "I greet-

ed you by holding your hands. You expressed regret for your harsh remarks against me during the election campaign. I told you I did not keep anything in mind. I also urged you to maintain dignity, while commenting on others. But you seem to have forgotten that," he said.

Mr. Stalin advised Mr. Vijay to adopt the body language and speech befitting a Chief Minister and embrace a role model. "You must realise your position and duties... You can the administration as if it were a film shoot," he said.

He said Tamil Nadu was witnessing murders and sexual assaults every day, and the law and order situation was in shambles.

By cancelling the airport project at Paravur, you have turned the clock of development back by 15 years," Mr. Stalin said.

## Rajasthan mountaineer sets goal of climbing 'seven summits' after scaling 5 highest peaks

Mohammed Ismail  
JAIPUR

Mountaineer Mansoor Agrawal from Rajasthan's Udaipur city, who hoisted the Tricolour on Everest in May this year and scaled the highest peaks of five continents in record time months, has set the target of climbing 'seven summits', which are the highest peaks across all seven continents.

Mr. Agrawal, 29, is the first female civilian mountaineer from Rajasthan to conquer Everest, which is the world's highest peak, and hoist the national flag there. Three women from the State had earlier scaled Everest, but they were affiliated with the army, paramilitary forces or govern-



Mansoor Agrawal has scaled the highest peaks of five continents in a record time months. (Ismail, left; Agrawal, right)

ment institutions. Prior to Everest, Mr. Agrawal had hoisted the Indian flag on the highest peaks of five continents, which include Antarctica's highest peak, Mount Ellsworth (George), Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa), and Mount Aconcagua (South Ameri-

ca). She achieved the distinction of scaling the highest peaks of five continents in just nine months. State recognition Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Laishram conferred a State-level award on Mr. Agrawal

## Will follow the law on Vande Mataram, says Omar on National Song

Day after NC and Congress trade barbs over playing of all stanzas at event on September 7, J&K CM asks ally to bring law and change national song in Parliament. PDP terms stand 'unfortunate'

Premendra Ashia  
BIRLAJAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday defended the move to stand for all the stanzas of the national song, *Vande Mataram*, and said "his party will follow the law."

"The Congress should have stopped it (controversial stanzas of *Vande Mataram*) in Parliament. Even in the Constituent Assembly, the national song is played at official functions. All stanzas of the national song are mandatory now. Those who do not stand will face legal action. What does the Congress want, that people go to jail in Kashmir over this?" said Mr. Abdullah.

The Chief Minister's remarks came against the backdrop of senior Congress leaders, including General secretary S.C. Vengalop, questioning him and other National Conference (NC) leaders who stood for all the stanzas during a ceremony of



CM Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and others during the closing ceremony of International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFIJ) on September 7 in Srinagar. The two sides exchanged barbs over the matter on Wednesday.

Mr. Abdullah said he wished the Congress to come to power in the Centre and "change the national song in Parliament." "Let the Congress bring the change in Parliament. As a party, we never adopt *Vande Mataram*. However, we will abide by legal and statutory obligation," he said.

The Chief Minister also

defended the remarks of party legislator Yashvir Singh, who suggested that the economic situation in the NC stand on *Vande Mataram* pyjamas "is unfortunate." "There is no harm for the NC stand on *Vande Mataram* pyjamas. It is a matter of their political parties, including the BJP."

"He has referred to a well-documented historical reality. [The accounts of British Civil Service member and author] Walter Lawrence and other ac-

counts record the widespread poverty faced by Kashmiris under the Jammu, Chakral and landlord system. This is history, not Jammu's personal opinion. His point was to underline how far our people have come since then. There is no harm for an apology, the issue has simply been blown out of proportion," said the Chief Minister.

**'Communal agenda'**  
The Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) reacted sharply to Mr. Abdullah's remarks. PDP leader and ex-Minister Saem Akhtar termed the NC stand on *Vande Mataram* pyjamas "a communal agenda in its worst form. It is a party, we never adopt *Vande Mataram* or Multane facing demolition of minorities in the country," he said.

## Mayawati 'frees' her nephew Akash Anand from BSP after his father-in-law quits politics

Mayank Kumar  
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Monday said her nephew Akash Anand has been "completely freed" from the party, shortly after his father-in-law, BSP state president Ashok Siddharth, announced his retirement from politics.

"The people in the party feel that just as he has relieved of all the important responsibilities of the post of national coordinator on September 3, 2020, he should now also be completely freed from the party from today," Mr. Mayawati posted on X.

He claimed that such a portrait painting to the respect towards Mahatma Gandhi and the history and cultural heritage associated with him.

## Workers' stir: 'hold officials accountable for illegal detention'

Shrimanant Kaulish  
NEW DELHI

Officials should be held accountable for the continued "illegal detention" of activists and workers in connection with a strike seeking wage hike in Tenda in April, several lawyers, activists and professors demanded at the Press Club of India on Thursday.

The call came following the Allahabad High Court's ruling on September 2 that quashed the detention of 25-year-old Delhi University law student Akshat Chaudhary under the National Security Act (NSA) in connection with the strike.

At least 18 workers and eight activists, including former journalist Satyam Verma against whom provisions of the NSA have already been invoked, continue to be in jail in cases filed by the Union Pradesh Police. The court had come down heavily on Gautam Buddha Nagar District Magistrate Media Roopam, who had issued the order to detain Mr. Chaudhary. It observed that Mr. Roopam "has failed to establish a 'plea' out of the petitioner."

Demanding accountability from officials involved in the case, senior journalist John Dayal said



Activists at the court held at the Press Club of India, Delhi, on Thursday (media, left; worker, right)

"Even if it is the daughters of the CBI (Chief Election Commissioner) or the CJI (Chief Justice of India), they must be held accountable for their actions."

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan said the quashing of Mr. Chaudhary's NSA detention is "symptomatic of the winds of change blowing through the country. The students, youth, and working people of the country are on the streets demanding accountability from the government and the administration. It has put more pressure on the Judiciary to give judgments in favour of the people," he said.

Rodham, an activist, said the High Court flagged discrepancies in Mr. Chaudhary's detention order and revised the State's version a "connected story."

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## Nandankanan Zoo playing soulful Indian ragas to comfort rescued baby orangutans



One of the baby orangutans, recently rescued from Bhatnagar, playing with soft toys at the Nandankanan Zoo's quarantine cell.

From the soothing rhythm of the tabla to the soulful strumming of sitar - Nandankanan Zoological Park has upgraded its playlist for the five rescued baby orangutans to help them calm their nerves.

According to officials, the DNA sampling, essential to ascertain the origin of the five orangutans rescued from Bhatnagar, has been postponed by at least two weeks due to the deep COVID-19 wave in their native surroundings.

"Orangutans are not native to India. These young animals, separated from the mother, are experienc-

ing psychological distress. Experts have advised music therapy for them," said Preeti Devi, Nandankanan Zoo's director.

The five rescued baby orangutans have been brought from their natural habitats in Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Snuggled via sea route" While the investigation is at a preliminary stage, senior Odisha Forest Department officials said the traffickers may have used a sea route to smuggle the orangutans into India through human children, a senior forest official said. "Sometimes they appear to be relaxed,



# Nandankanan Zoo playing soulful Indian ragas to comfort rescued baby orangutans

**Satyasundar Barik**

BHUBANESWAR

From the rousing rhythm of the tabla to the soulful strumming of sitar - Nandankanan Zoological Park has upgraded its playlist for the five rescued baby orangutans to help them calm their frazzled nerves.

According to officials, the DNA sampling, essential to ascertain the origin of the five orangutans rescued from a forest in Odisha's Balasore district, has been postponed by at least 10 days as the animals are yet to "fully stabilise emotionally in their new surroundings".

"Orangutans are not native to India. These young animals, separated from the mother, are experienc-



One of the baby orangutans, recently rescued from Balasore, playing with soft toys at the Nandankanan Zoo's quarantine cell. PTI

ing psychological distress. Experts have advised music therapy for them," said Pra-deep Devidas Mirase, Deputy Director of Nandankanan Zoo. While music is a universal language and connects everyone across different cultures, languages, and physical locations, zoo

officials are hoping the soulful ragas will help keep the primates comfortable in their new surroundings.

The orangutans, aged about one year, have been expressing emotions like human children, a senior official said. "Sometimes they appear to be relaxed,

and in the next moment, they cling to each other, likely due to anxiety for being separated from their mothers," the officer said.

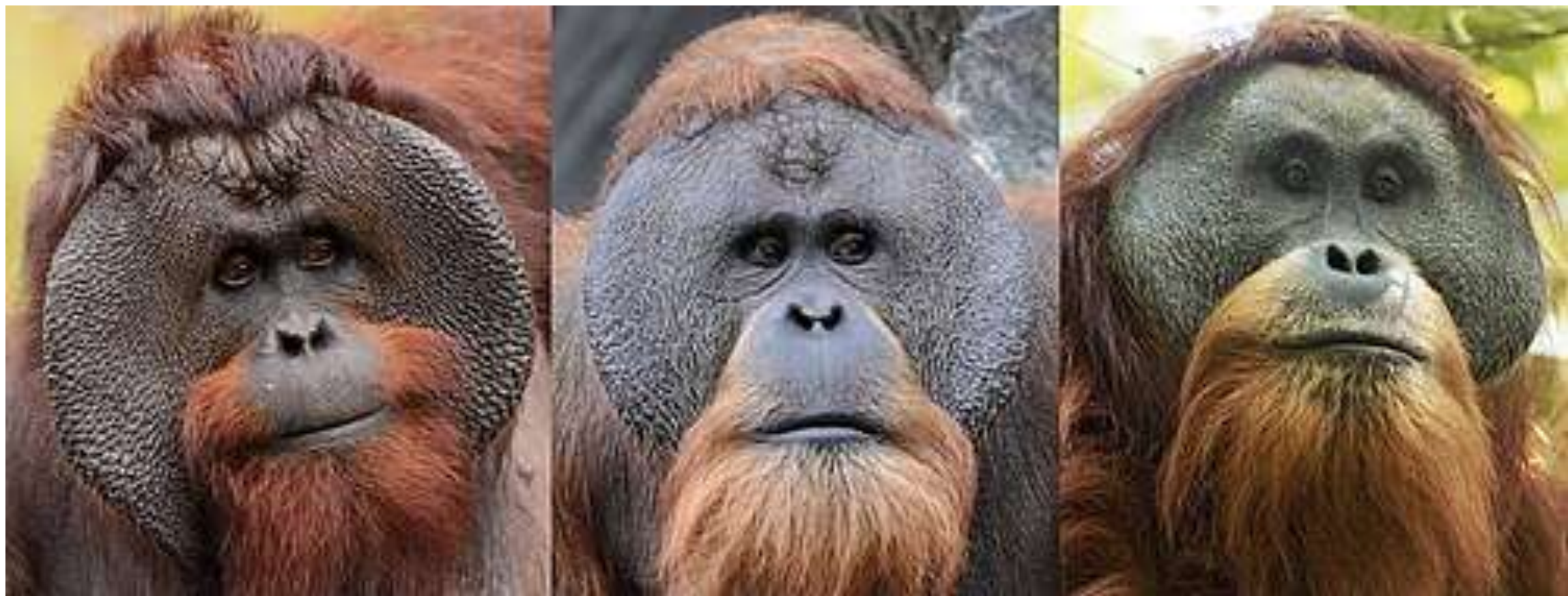
The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, meanwhile, has launched a probe into the mysterious presence of the orangutans, thousands of kilometres away from their natural habitats in Indonesia and Malaysia.

## **'Smuggled via sea route'**

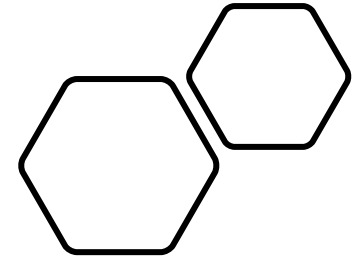
While the investigation is at a preliminary stage, senior Odisha Forest Department officials said the traffickers may have used a sea route to smuggle the orangutans before bringing them into India through one of the north-eastern States, possibly via Myanmar or Bangladesh.





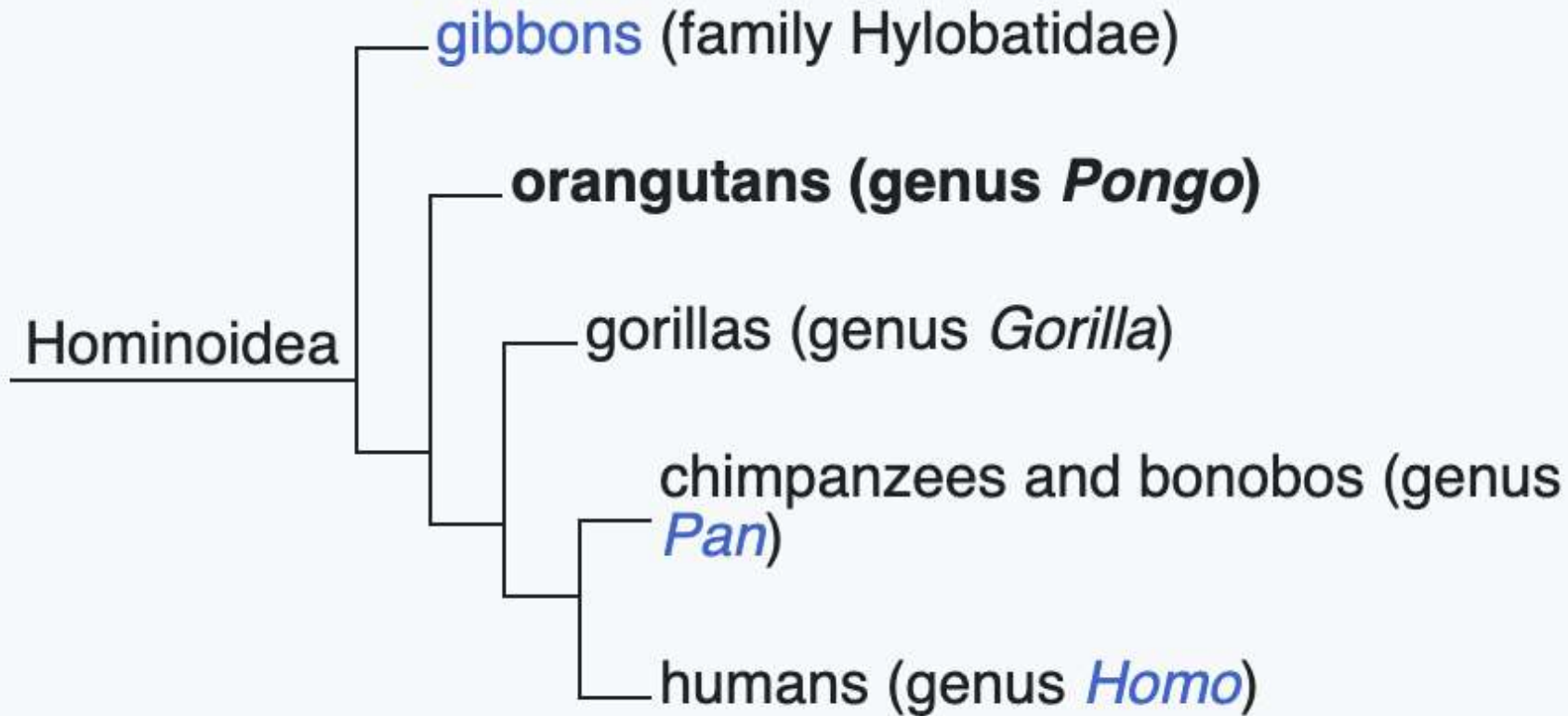








## Phylogeny of superfamily Hominoidea<sup>[26]</sup>: Fig. 4



Five infant orangutans rescued from Odisha's Balasore district have been shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park, where officials are using soothing Indian classical and instrumental music during rehabilitation to reduce stress.

Odisha के Balasore District से बचाए गए पाँच Baby Orangutans को Nandankanan Zoological Park में रखा गया है, जहाँ Rehabilitation के दौरान Stress कम करने के लिए Indian Classical और Instrumental Music बजाया जा रहा है।  The Indian Express +1

Their presence in Odisha is highly unusual because orangutans are not native to India, prompting an investigation into possible international wildlife trafficking.

Odisha में इनका मिलना अत्यंत असामान्य है क्योंकि Orangutans भारत के Native Animals नहीं हैं; इसलिए Possible International Wildlife Trafficking की जाँच शुरू की गई है।  The Indian Express +1

☆☆☆ Core Chain:

5 baby orangutans → Balasore, Odisha → rescued → Nandankanan Zoo → quarantine + rehabilitation → WCCB/STF probe → suspected wildlife trafficking

| Species                                           | Main natural range           |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bornean orangutan ( <i>Pongo pygmaeus</i> )       | Borneo                       |
| Sumatran orangutan ( <i>Pongo abelii</i> )        | Sumatra                      |
| Tapanuli orangutan ( <i>Pongo tapanuliensis</i> ) | Northern Sumatra/Batang Toru |



## 10. Conservation Threats to Orangutans ★★

Orangutan populations face multiple threats:

**Deforestation → वनों की कटाई**

**Palm-oil expansion → Palm Oil Plantation Expansion**

**Mining → Mining**

**Habitat fragmentation → Habitat Fragmentation**

**Forest fires → Forest Fires**

**Poaching → Poaching**

**Illegal pet/wildlife trade → Illegal Wildlife Trade**

### **Ecology chain**

**Habitat loss → fragmented populations → reduced gene flow → greater extinction risk**

**Habitat Loss → Population Fragmentation → Gene Flow कम → Extinction Risk बढ़ता है**

Animal

Natural region

Orangutan

Borneo & Sumatra

Gorilla

Equatorial Africa

Chimpanzee

Tropical Africa

Gibbon

South & Southeast Asia

Hoolock gibbon

Northeast India

- 
- Consider the following statements:

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- Orangutans occur naturally in Borneo and Sumatra.  
Orangutans प्राकृतिक रूप से Borneo और Sumatra में पाए जाते हैं।
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau works under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.  
Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।
- CITES deals with international trade in endangered wild species.  
CITES Endangered Wild Species के International Trade से संबंधित है।
- Orangutans are native to northeastern India.  
Orangutans Northeast India के Native Species हैं।



# Text & Content

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Emergency World Bank funds to be received by Kenya

**400** In \$ million, Kenya is expected to receive about \$400 million in emergency financing from the World Bank within six weeks to help districts including an Ebola outbreak in the region and El Niño-related disruptions, a source familiar with the matter said. **Source:**

### Percentage increase in Equity MF inflows in August

**19** In per cent, Equity mutual fund schemes attracted ₹29,329 crore in August, registering a highest net inflow in four months, as investors continued to favour mid- and small-cap funds. This inflow was nearly 20% higher than the ₹24,897 crore recorded in July. **Source:**

### Persons killed after cargo ship catches fire in China's port

**20** A cargo ship docked for repairs in a Chinese port caught fire, killing at least 20 people and leaving five others missing, Chinese state media reported Thursday. The ship was being repaired in the Beihai Shipbuilding Co. at the port of Qingdao, a major shipping hub. **Source:**

### Amount transferred to beneficiaries under 26 schemes in Haryana

**1,890** In \$ crore, Haryana Chief Minister Bhupendra Singh laid on Tuesday transferred ₹1,890.18 crore directly into the bank accounts of more than 50 lakh eligible beneficiaries under 26 different schemes through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). **Source:**

### People affected in 14 districts as floods wreak havoc in Bihar

**43** In lakh, More than 43 lakh people have been affected by floods in 14 districts of Bihar with several rivers flowing above the danger mark, officials said. incessant rain in several parts has caused rivers and streams to overflow, they said. **Source:**

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## How should RUPPs be regulated?

Why do some RUPPs remain active despite poor compliance? How can their misuse be curbed? What can be done to improve transparency? Should RUPPs face a vote threshold for tax breaks? How can the EC act against non-serious parties?

### EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

**A** BBC News Hindi investigation has revealed that six Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs), all based in Gujarat, had received donations of around ₹1,700 crores for the year 2023-24. This is higher than the total received by five nationally recognised political parties, except the BJP, for the same period, which stood at ₹1,480 crores.

### What are registered parties?

Political parties are an association or body of individuals that can be formed by citizens. Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA) lays down the requirements for registration of a political party with the Election Commission (EC). After satisfactory scrutiny of the documents submitted, the EC registers a political party as a RUPP. The RUPPs enjoy the following benefits: (a) tax exemption for donations received under Section 12 of the Income Tax Act, 2001; (b) common symbol for contesting general elections to the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies; and (c) 20 'star campaigners' during election campaign. The RUPPs are required to maintain the details of individual donors above twenty thousand rupees in a financial year and submit them to the poll body every year. As per Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, failure to furnish these details will result in losing income tax exemption.

The RUPPs, under the Income Tax Act, 2001, are required to accept donations in excess of two thousand rupees only through cheque or bank transfer.

### What are the issues?

As per the EC notification, India had more than 2,600 RUPPs as of July, but only around 780 contested the 2024 general elections. This has resulted in a muddle – 'letter pad parties' – for the rest of the RUPPs. The RPA Act does not



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confer explicit powers on the EC to the status of unrecognised political party if it fails to contest elections, conduct inner-party elections, or lodge requisite returns. In the *Indian National Congress vs Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2020), the Supreme Court held that the EC does not have the power to de-register any political party under the RPA Act. It may de-register only under exceptional circumstances, such as registration obtained by fraud, the political party ceasing to have allegiance to the Constitution, or being declared unlawful by the government. The EC periodically publishes the list of de-listed RUPPs. The October 2025 notification contains over 800 such parties. However, the six RUPPs – Aam Jansam Party, Bharatiya National Janata Dal, Garh Kalyan Party, New India United Party, Rayawadi Rakshak Party and the Swatantra Abhiyakti Party – remain on the list of active RUPPs as per the EC notification in October 2025. This is because they manage to field a few candidates during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Association for Democratic

Reforms periodically publishes reports on the status of submission of annual reports of RUPPs. In its July 2025 report, in which the annual reports of 2022-23 are analysed, it is stated that reports of only 26% of RUPPs are available in the public domain. Poor compliance with statutory requirements, coupled with a lack of transparency, results in these 'letter pad' parties being used as an opaque channel for tax evasion and money laundering.

### What needs to be done?

The Law Commission, in its 2024 report, had recommended amendments for de-registration of a political party if it fails to contest elections for ten consecutive years. The EC, in its recommendations for electoral reforms (2020), also suggested an amendment to the RPA Act that would empower it to de-register a party. These are long pending reforms that need to be carried out to empower the EC to act against non-serious parties, some of which are merely a facade for illegal financial transactions. However, if parties contest elections

merely to fulfil a statutory requirement, they could continue to misuse their tax exemptions and be used for money laundering and other nefarious activities. In the present digital world, it is not difficult for the Income Tax Department and other enforcement agencies to monitor the transactions of such parties and take strict action against any wrongdoing. This would act as a deterrent against the misuse of the benefits and exemptions available to political parties. The EC had also suggested that tax exemptions be provided only for political parties that win seats in Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly elections. This can be viewed as an undemocratic and extreme measure, as there are parties that consistently contest elections without electoral success. Instead, similar to the 1% vote threshold for allotting common symbols to RUPPs, a suitable vote-percentage threshold may be stipulated by law for RUPPs to avail of tax exemptions on donations received. (Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer. Views expressed are personal)

### THE GIST

• Six Gujarat-based RUPPs received about ₹1,700 crore in donations in 2023-24, raising concerns over opaque political funding.

• Weak statutory provisions and poor compliance allow many non-serious RUPPs to remain active and potentially misuse tax exemptions.

• The EC needs stronger powers to de-register such parties, while a suitable vote threshold could determine eligibility for tax exemptions.

## Why are Volkswagen and JLR trimming their workforce?

European carmakers are falling behind their Chinese counterparts in the race to corner the EV market

G. B. Rajeev

The story so far:

**T**he German carmaker Volkswagen and the British marquee brand Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) are shedding jobs – the former deciding to axe 50,000 positions and the Tata-owned brand 4,000. The latest cut at Volkswagen's employee count by a lakh by the end of the decade, as the company had already reached agreement with employees since the end of 2024 to cut 50,000 jobs.

European carmakers have fallen behind Chinese manufacturers in the race to transition to electric vehicles and want to be shipshape in navigating the challenging terrain.

In July, BMW revealed its decision to cut its workforce by 8,000. Nifty-hundredweight brands are bleeding jobs. Volkswagen's traffic in the lucrative Chinese market, and the company, under

its chief executive, Oliver Blume, is taking a hard look at its worldwide operations, especially in the German market.

### How have the two carmakers reached a settlement to cut jobs?

By no means has it been a smooth drive for the two giants who thrived in the heyday of internal combustion engines. Volkswagen had to contend with a powerful union to get approval for what many say is the most eventful chapter in its 89-year history.

Workers held 10 seats in the decision-making supervisory board of the company and shareholders, including the State of Lower Saxony, another 10. The job cuts were announced after a tense meeting of the Board.

"Volkswagen is simply not a corporation that operates under according to capitalist rules. Because of its history, Volkswagen also has to take the employees," Daniela Cavallo, top union representative, said, as quoted by

the *Wall Street Journal*.

Much of the money spent on building a plant at its Wolfsburg headquarters in the 1930s came from the earnings of the company's workers, ended during Adolf Hitler's reign, and that gives a sense of ownership even to the present-day workforce.

The agreement stopped short of an announcement on closing down four factories at Emden, Hanover, Zwickau and Neckarsulm in Germany, deemed to have no future after 2030, when electrification is expected to slash out production of cars powered by internal combustion engines in Europe. The company has reset its targeted production to nine million vehicles a year, from 12 million before the COVID-19 pandemic and 10 million recently.

On the other hand, JLR, the cash cow of Tata Motors, is targeting ₹7 billion cost savings by 2030, achieved through the job cuts, reports said. The cuts will largely target the white-collar

workforce, while direct manufacturing jobs will be protected.

The company will scale down its breakeven point to 8 lakh vehicles from 3.5 lakh, reducing annual sales by 14% to cover its cost base. This will make it fitter in a rapidly evolving global market due to rapid technological change, intense competition, and geopolitical uncertainty. JLR chief executive P.B. Rajaji said.

### Why are the two carmakers on the slide?

Volkswagen ruled Chinese roads for four decades till its growth engines started stuttering. The world's largest carmaker after Toyota was late to the EV race with fleet-kicker Chinese carmakers, after dominating the market through a string of joint ventures. Even in Latin America and Africa, its giant had to share the limelight with Chinese carmakers are giving Volkswagen nightmares. In China, its sales slid by over half of the 2023 figures, reports said.

There is no model line in taking on Chinese rivals prompted up by cheaper state-backed loans. The company lost out to manufacturers such as BYD and Geely owing to a perceived reluctance to take the wheel in the EV race.

For JLR, with the U.S. as its largest market but with no American production base, Donald Trump's tariffs have created potholes on the road to profits. The tariffs on exports to the U.S. from the U.K. range

from 10% to 10% for its models. It was China where its sales plummeted the most despite its electric-only reformation.

### How are the companies changing gears in India?

Volkswagen, which underwent a renaissance in India in recent years as Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Ltd., with models made for India, is looking for an active partner for its business.

Volkswagen expects to sign a deal with a local partner in India this year, the chief executive officer of its Skoda brand, Klaus Zellmer, said in India, as the German group struggles to build scale in the world's third-largest car market, *Reuters* reported in August.

Skoda is in charge of the group's strategy in India, where Volkswagen is in talks on a joint venture with the JLR group, which has indicated it wants a majority stake. Mr. Zellmer said VW was in discussions with an unnamed partner and was confident of completing a deal this year.

JLR is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors, which acquired the iconic British luxury automobile in 2008. It clocked its best first-quarter retail sales for 2024-27 at 1.6th vehicles, an 1% year-on-year increase, in India. The India U.K. free trade agreement is benefiting Tata's exports. JLR and Tata Motors opened a plant in Ramapuram in Tamil Nadu in February 2026.

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The RUPPs, under the Income Tax Act, 2025, are required to accept donations in excess of two thousand rupees only through cheque or bank transfers.

### What are the issues?

As per the EC notification, India had more than 2,800 RUPPs as of July, but only around 750 contested the 2024 general elections. This has resulted in the moniker – 'letter pad parties' – for the rest of the RUPPs. The RP Act does not

confer explicit powers on the EC to de-register a political party if it fails to contest elections, conduct inner-party elections, or lodge requisite returns. In the *Indian National Congress vs Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2002), the Supreme Court held that the EC does not have the power to de-register any political party under the RP Act. It may de-register only under exceptional circumstances, such as registration obtained by fraud, the political party ceasing to have allegiance to the Constitution, or being declared unlawful by the government. The EC periodically publishes the list of de-listed RUPPs. The October 2025 notification contains over 800 such parties.

However, the six RUPPs – Aam Janmat Party, Bharatiya National Janata Dal, Garib Kalyan Party, New India United Party, Satyawadi Rakshak Party and the Swatantrata Abhiyakti Party – remain on the list of active RUPPs as per the EC notification in October 2025. This is because they managed to field a total of 15 candidates during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Association for Democratic

Reforms periodically publishes reports on the status of submission of annual reports of RUPPs. In its July 2025 report, in which the annual reports of 2022-23 are analysed, it is stated that reports of only 26% of RUPPs are available in the public domain. Poor compliance with statutory requirements, coupled with a lack of transparency, results in these 'letter pad' parties being used as an opaque channel for tax evasion and money laundering.

### What needs to be done?

The Law Commission, in its 255th report, had recommended amendments for de-registration of a political party if it fails to contest elections for ten consecutive years. The EC, in its memorandum for electoral reforms (2016), also suggested an amendment to the RP Act that would empower it to de-register a party. These are long-pending reforms that need to be carried out to empower the EC to act against non-serious parties, some of which are merely a façade for illegal financial transactions.

However, if parties contest elections

merely to fulfil a statutory requirement, they could continue to misuse their tax exemptions and be used for money laundering and other nefarious activities. In the present digital world, it is not difficult for the Income Tax Department and other enforcement agencies to monitor the transactions of such parties and take strict action against any wrongdoing. This would act as a deterrent against the misuse of the benefits and exemptions available to political parties. The EC had also suggested that tax exemptions be provided only for political parties that win seats in Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly elections. This can be viewed as an undemocratic and extreme measure, as there are parties that consistently contest elections without electoral success. Instead, similar to the 1% vote threshold for allotting common symbols to RUPPs, a suitable vote percentage threshold may be stipulated by law for RUPPs to avail of tax exemptions on donations received. (Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer. Views expressed are personal)

## THE GIST

▼ Six Gujarat-based RUPPs received about ₹1,700 crore in donations in 2023-24, raising concerns over opaque political funding

▼ Weak statutory provisions and poor compliance allow many non-serious RUPPs to remain active and potentially misuse tax exemptions

▼ The EC needs stronger powers to de-register such parties, while a suitable vote threshold could determine eligibility for tax exemptions



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- concerns over Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs), especially where parties receive substantial donations despite weak electoral participation and poor financial disclosure.

दिए गए explainer में Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) को लेकर चिंता जताई गई है, विशेषकर तब जब कुछ Parties बहुत कम Electoral Participation के बावजूद बड़ी Donations प्राप्त करती हैं और Financial Disclosure भी कमजोर रहता है।

- The six Gujarat-based RUPPs received around ₹1,700 crore in donations in 2023–24, triggering questions over transparency, tax exemptions and possible misuse of the political-party framework.

Gujarat की छह RUPPs को 2023–24 में लगभग ₹1,700 करोड़ Donations मिलीं, जिससे Transparency, Tax Exemptions और Political-party Framework के संभावित Misuse पर सवाल उठे हैं।



---

- What is a RUPP? | RUPP क्या है? ★ ★ ★

- RUPP = Registered Unrecognised Political Party.

RUPP = Registered Unrecognised Political Party |

- It is a political party registered with the Election Commission of India but not recognised as a State Party or National Party.

यह ऐसी Political Party है जो Election Commission of India के साथ Registered है, लेकिन State Party या National Party के रूप में Recognised नहीं है।

- Simple hierarchy

- Political Party → Registered → Recognised / Unrecognised

- Registered but not recognised = RUPP

- **2. Registration Under Section 29A ★ ★ ★**

- Political parties are registered with the Election Commission under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Political Parties का Registration Representation of the People Act, 1951 की Section 29A के तहत Election Commission के पास होता है।

- **Important conditions**

- A party's constitution must broadly affirm faith in:

- **Constitution of India → भारतीय संविधान**

**Socialism → समाजवाद**

**Secularism → धर्मनिरपेक्षता**

**Democracy → लोकतंत्र**

**Sovereignty, unity and integrity of India → भारत की संप्रभुता, एकता और अखंडता**

| Feature                     | Recognised Party                    | RUPP                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Registered with ECI         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      |
| Meets recognition criteria  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ✗                                        |
| Can be State/National Party | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ✗                                        |
| Reserved election symbol    | Generally yes, subject to rules     | Generally no permanently reserved symbol |
| Electoral performance       | Meets prescribed threshold          | Has not met recognition threshold        |



## 4. Why Are RUPPs a Concern? | समस्या क्या है?

The article highlights several concerns:

Very low electoral activity → बहुत कम चुनावी गतिविधि

Poor filing of annual reports → Annual Reports की खराब Compliance

Large donations in some cases → कुछ मामलों में बड़ी Donations

Tax-exemption benefits → Tax Exemption Benefits

Limited power of ECI to de-register → ECI की सीमित De-registration Power

### Core governance problem

Registration provides benefits, but non-compliance does not always lead to cancellation.

Registration से Benefits मिलते हैं, लेकिन Non-compliance पर हमेशा Registration Cancel नहीं किया जा सकता।

## 5. How Many RUPPs? | कितनी RUPPs हैं?

The supplied article says that India had more than 2,800 RUPPs as of July 2025, while only around 750 contested the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

लेख के अनुसार July 2025 तक India में 2,800 से अधिक RUPPs थीं, लेकिन लगभग 750 ने ही 2024 Lok Sabha Election लड़ा।

This has created what the article calls a large group of effectively inactive or “letter-pad parties.”

इससे बड़ी संख्या में ऐसी Parties बनी हुई हैं जो practically inactive हैं और जिन्हें लेख “letter-pad parties” कहता है।

- **Financial Transparency — Big Problem ★ ★ ★**

- ADR found that for FY 2022–23, out of **2,764 RUPPs**, reports for only **739 (26.74%)** were available on State CEO websites, while **73.26%** had neither statement available there.

- **ADR के अनुसार FY 2022–23 में 2,764 RUPPs में केवल 739 यानी 26.74% की Reports State CEO Websites पर उपलब्ध थीं; 73.26% के दोनों प्रमुख Financial Statements उपलब्ध नहीं थे।**

- **Why this matters**

- Poor disclosure can create risks relating to:

- **Opacity in political funding → Political Funding में अस्पष्टता**

- Tax evasion concerns → Tax Evasion की आशंका**

- Money laundering risks → Money Laundering Risk**

- Shell-like political entities → केवल नाम मात्र की Political Entities**

---

- **Tax Exemption for Political Parties ★ ★ ★**

- **Political parties can claim income-tax exemption under Section 13A of the Income-tax Act, subject to prescribed conditions.**

**Political Parties निर्धारित Conditions के अधीन Income-tax Act की Section 13A के तहत Income-tax Exemption ले सकती हैं।**

- Section 13A requires, among other things, maintenance of proper accounts and donor details for contributions above the prescribed threshold.

- **Section 13A के तहत Proper Accounts रखना और निर्धारित सीमा से ऊपर Donations के लिए Donor Details Maintain करना आवश्यक है।**

- **Article's concern**

- If a party hardly contests elections but continues to enjoy tax benefits, the framework may be open to abuse.

**यदि कोई Party लगभग Election नहीं लड़ती लेकिन Tax Benefits लेती रहती है, तो Framework के Misuse की संभावना बढ़ती है।**



- Can ECI De-register a Political Party? | सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न ★ ★ ★
- Short answer:
- Generally, NO — ECI has no broad express statutory power to de-register a party merely for poor compliance or inactivity.
- सामान्यतः नहीं — केवल Poor Compliance या Inactivity के आधार पर ECI के पास व्यापक De-registration Power नहीं है।
- The Supreme Court in **Indian National Congress (I) v. Institute of Social Welfare (2002)** held that Section 29A does not give the ECI a general power to de-register political parties.
- Supreme Court ने 2002 में कहा कि Section 29A ECI को सामान्य De-registration Power नहीं देती।

- 
- **Recognised Party Status Comes From Where?**
  - **Recognition of National and State parties is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.**  
**National और State Party Recognition, Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 के तहत होती है।**
  - **Key distinction**
  - **Registration → Section 29A, RPA 1951**  
**Recognition → Symbols Order, 1968**
-

**Consider the following statements regarding Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs):**

**Registered Unrecognised Political Parties के संदर्भ में निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:**

- They are registered with the Election Commission under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.  
वे RPA, 1951 की Section 29A के तहत Election Commission में Registered होती हैं।
- The Election Commission currently has an unrestricted statutory power to de-register any RUPP for not contesting elections.  
ECI के पास Election न लड़ने पर किसी भी RUPP को De-register करने की Unlimited Statutory Power है।
- The Law Commission's 255th Report recommended de-registration where a party does not contest Parliamentary or State Assembly elections for ten consecutive years.  
Law Commission की 255th Report ने लगातार 10 वर्ष तक Parliamentary/Assembly Election न लड़ने पर De-registration की Recommendation की।
- The Election Commission is a constitutional body under Article 324.  
Election Commission Article 324 के तहत Constitutional Body है।



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# Word of the day

## **Punctilious:**

marked by precise accordance with details

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**Synonyms:** careful, meticulous,  
scrupulous

---

**Usage:** *She is punctilious about following  
the rules.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/punctilious](http://newsth.live/punctilious)

---

**International Phonetic  
Alphabet:** /pʌŋktɪliəs/

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Thank you ☺

