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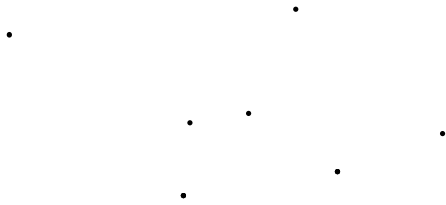
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MUSICAL INCIDENT
Two died after 'taking drugs' at a concert
NEWS PAGE 6



PEACE TALKS
Efforts on for second round of U.S.-Iran peace talks
WORLD PAGE 14



RALLY IN BISHOP
Tribinamol paved way for BJP, says Rahul
ASSEMBLY POLLS PAGE 8



HEAT CRISIS
The need to address 'thermal injustice'
Informal workers bear brunt of extreme heat
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SUPPER DISPLAY
Supper Kings register second straight win
SPORTS PAGE 16

INSIDE

Canada's Carney secures majority in Parliament
Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberals have won 174 of the 343 seats in the House of Commons and would not need support from opposition parties to pass legislation after winning three districts that became vacant after last year's election. PAGE 14

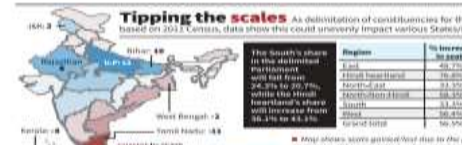
Siddaramaiah's aide sacked by Karnataka govt.
BENGALURU Following alleged anti-party activities in the run-up to Karnataka South Assembly state polls, the Karnataka government issued an order removing Haseeb Ahmad, member of the Karnataka Legislative Council, as a political secretary to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. PAGE 2

India may pause U.S trade talks over mid-terms
NEW DELHI India is likely to stall for time in its trade negotiations with the United States, as it wants the upcoming U.S. mid-term elections to provide clarity on the American legislative landscape, sources said. PAGE 11

Centre moots inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on 2011 Census

Govt. circulates drafts of Constitution Amendment Bill and Delimitation Bill | **If proposals are accepted, share of Lok Sabha seats of southern States will shrink** | **Bills propose increase in size of Lok Sabha to a maximum of 850 seats**

Varghese R. George
Siddharth K. Das
NEW DELHI



Tipping the scales As delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha is to be carried out on the basis of 2011 population, states that could unevenly impact various States/regions, especially the South. The number of seats for each state is shown in the table. West Bengal, Kerala, and Bihar show significant increases in seats, while others like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh show decreases.

States that have stabilised their population could see their share of representation in Parliament shrinking if proposals in the drafts of a Constitution Amendment Bill and a Delimitation Bill circulated by the Centre are accepted. The Budget Session is reconvening on Thursday to consider the Constitution (43rd) Amendment Bill and the Delimitation Bill, which the government says are aimed at expediting the implementation of 25% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies.

Stalin warns of massive protest
T.N. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin warned of a massive protest that would bring the state to a standstill if the Centre insisted on a delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and offering women's reservation power to northern States.

Dangerous shift: Siddaramaiah
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah opposed the proposal, saying it would result in a dangerous shift in the political balance of the country.

The proposals are aimed at expediting the implementation of 25% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies. The government says it is necessary to address the gender gap in political representation. The proposals are part of a broader effort to reform the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Build consensus, Revanth tells PM
Telangana Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build a national consensus on the proposed changes to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Attempt to divide India: Mamata
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday accused the Centre of attempting to divide India through the proposed changes to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

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Deportation policy seeks district-level task force
Mumbai, New Delhi
The Union government has formulated a new deportation policy under which all states have been asked to set up a special task force in each district to identify, identify and deport/back illegal migrants from the states.

14 workers killed in explosion at Chhattisgarh power plant
Raipur
At least 14 workers were killed and 20 injured after a boiler exploded at a power plant in Sakti district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

Nitish resigns: BJP's Samrat to become Bihar CM
PATNA
Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary is set to become the State's first BJP Chief Minister after he was elected as the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and NDA legislative party on Tuesday.

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Centre moots inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on 2011 Census

Govt. circulates drafts of Constitution Amendment Bill and Delimitation Bill

If proposals are accepted, share of Lok Sabha seats of southern States will shrink

Bills propose increase in size of Lok Sabha to a maximum of 850 seats

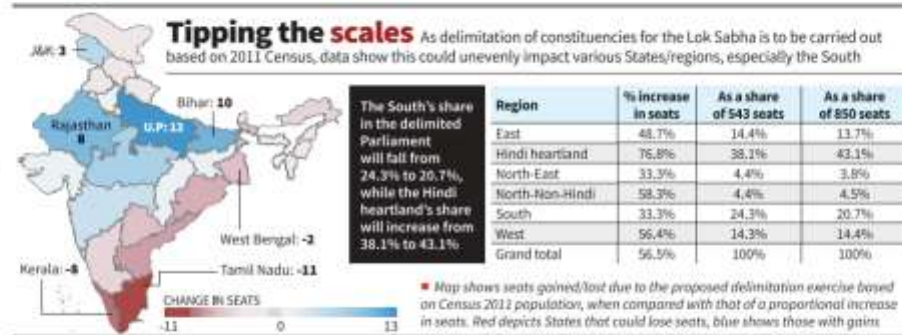
Varghese K. George
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

States that have stabilised their populations could see their share of representation in Parliament shrinking if proposals in the drafts of a Constitution Amendment Bill and a Delimitation Bill circulated by the Centre become law.

The Budget Session is reconvening on Thursday to consider the Constitution (131st) Amendment Bill and the Delimitation Bill, which the government says are aimed at expediting the implementation of 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies.

The Congress said the government was using women's reservation as a facade to railroad inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats without consultation, and ahead of the 2029 general election. "We will oppose this backdoor delimitation. We are 100% for women's reservation and demand its immediate implementation within the existing strength of the Lok Sabha and Assemblies," Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi said. "In the proposals there is not a whisper of the repeated assurance by the government that the inter-State seat distribution percentages will remain intact."

The proposals emphatically seek to change the seat distribution - indeed, that is stated in the objects and reasons of the Constitutional Amendment Bill itself. The statement notes



Stalin warns of massive protest

T.N. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin warned of a massive protest that would bring the State to a standstill if the Centre decided on delimitation affecting southern States and offering more political power to northern States.



Build consensus, Revanth tells PM

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling for a national consensus on the proposed rise in seats and urging immediate implementation of women's reservation without linking it to seat expansion.



Dangerous shift: Siddaramaiah

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah opposed the proposal, saying "If numerical strength begins to determine power, the need for broad-based support across the country will diminish. That is a dangerous shift."



Attempt to divide India: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that BJP-led Union govt. has tabled the Delimitation Bill to divide West Bengal and India at large. They are doing it to gain political mileage, she said.



that "while the freeze of seats on the basis of population figures of the 1971 Census served an important policy purpose, the country's demographic profile has since undergone substantial changes, as reflected in the population figures of the latest published census, including significant inter-State and intra-State population shifts." The draft Delimitation Bill mandates that "it shall be the duty of the Commission to readjust, on the basis of the latest census figures, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States."

If these proposals are enacted, the Hindi heartland States will see their share of Lok Sabha seats rise from 43.06% to 48.12%, while the southern States will see theirs shrink from 24.31% to 20.71%.

In combination, the Bills propose an inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on the latest Census figures and an increase in the size of the Lok Sabha to a maximum of 850 seats - 815 for States and 35 for Union Territories - against the current ceiling of 550, while carving out 33% for women.

Under the existing con-

stitutional scheme, Lok Sabha seats are distributed between States on the basis of the 1971 Census and within each State on the basis of the 2001 Census. Article 82 provides that this arrangement will continue "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published".

The proposed amendment removes this provision altogether.

Concerns on federalism

"The Bills being introduced in the name of women's reservation amount to a death warrant for fed-

langana, and Punjab had demanded an extension of the existing freeze for another 25 years beyond 2026. Not only has that demand been overlooked, the Centre is seeking parliamentary approval for an immediate redrawing of India's representative map.

"Barely 36 hours before Parliament reconvenes, without any multi-party meetings, and with no attempt to refer these Bills to a parliamentary committee, the government is trying to unilaterally enforce its wishes on the country. This has nothing to do with women's reservation and everything to do with delimitation for BJP's 2029 election plans," Mr. Singhvi said.

While all large States will receive some additional seats in the Lok Sabha, assuming all 815 permitted seats are allocated, some will see their strength rise dramatically. Uttar Pradesh will gain 58 seats over its current 80, while Kerala will gain only three, taking it from 20 to 23, if 815 seats are distributed according to the 2011 population distribution.

U.P.'s share of the Lok Sabha will rise from 14.73% to 16.24%, while Kerala's will shrink from 3.68% to 2.7%. Bihar will move from 40 seats (7.37%) to 72 seats (8.47%); Maharashtra from 48 to 78; and Tamil Nadu from 39 to 50 - a reduction in its current share from 7.18% to 5.88%.

PM'S OPEN LETTER

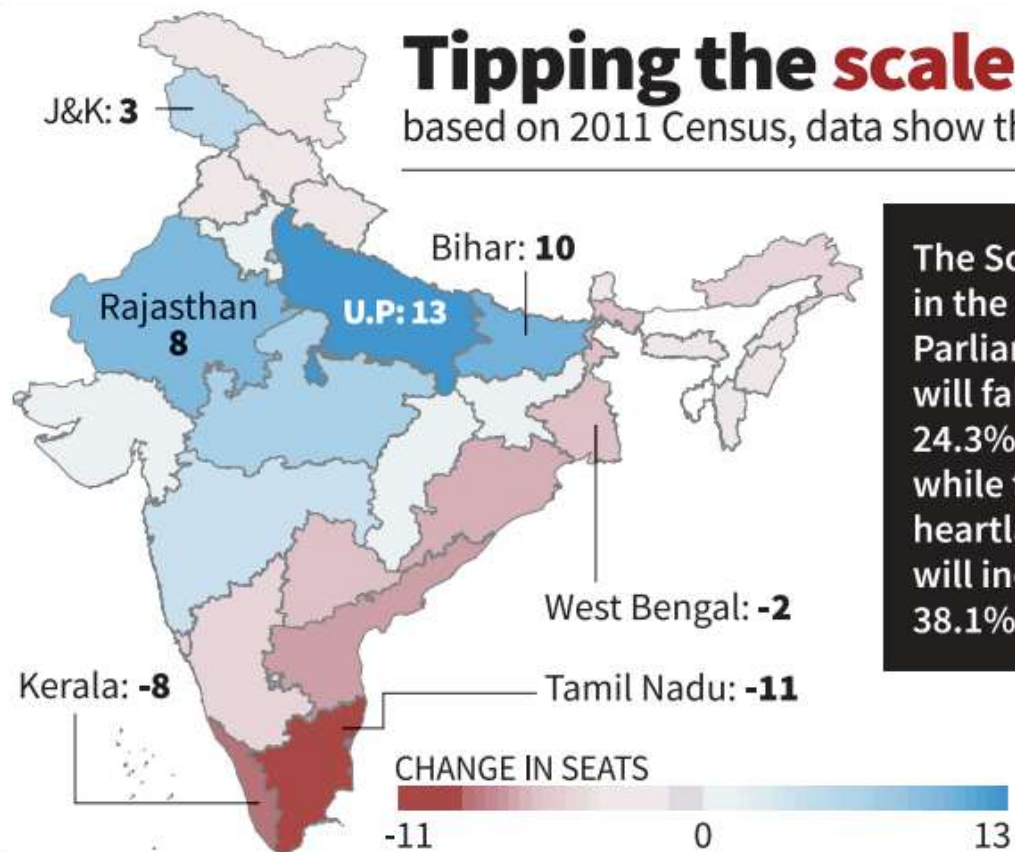
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EDITORIAL

» PAGE 8

Tipping the scales

As delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha is to be carried out based on 2011 Census, data show this could unevenly impact various States/regions, especially the South



The South's share in the delimited Parliament will fall from 24.3% to 20.7%, while the Hindi heartland's share will increase from 38.1% to 43.1%

Region	% increase in seats	As a share of 543 seats	As a share of 850 seats
East	48.7%	14.4%	13.7%
Hindi heartland	76.8%	38.1%	43.1%
North-East	33.3%	4.4%	3.8%
North-Non-Hindi	58.3%	4.4%	4.5%
South	33.3%	24.3%	20.7%
West	56.4%	14.3%	14.4%
Grand total	56.5%	100%	100%

Map shows seats gained/lost due to the proposed delimitation exercise based on Census 2011 population, when compared with that of a proportional increase in seats. Red depicts States that could lose seats, blue shows those with gains

- The Central Government circulated drafts of **Constitution Amendment Bill (131st)** and **Delimitation Bill** — proposing **inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats** based on **2011 Census** data.
- केंद्र सरकार ने **संविधान संशोधन विधेयक (131वां)** और **परिसीमन विधेयक** के मसौदे परिचालित किए — **2011 जनगणना** डेटा के आधार पर **अंतर-राज्य लोकसभा सीटों के पुनर्वितरण** का प्रस्ताव।
- Bills propose: Lok Sabha size increased to maximum **850 seats** (815 for States + 35 for UTs); **33% women's reservation** carved out.
- विधेयकों का प्रस्ताव: लोकसभा का आकार अधिकतम **850 सीटों** तक बढ़ाया जाए (राज्यों के लिए 815 + UTs के लिए 35); **33% महिला आरक्षण** निर्धारित।
- **Southern states' share shrinks:** South's share will fall from **24.3% to 20.7%**; Hindi heartland's share rises from **38.1% to 43.1%**.
- **दक्षिणी राज्यों की हिस्सेदारी घटेगी:** दक्षिण की हिस्सेदारी **24.3% से 20.7%** तक घटेगी; हिंदी भाषी हृदयभूमि की **38.1% से 43.1%** तक बढ़ेगी।
- Strong opposition from southern Chief Ministers — **MK Stalin** (Tamil Nadu), **A. Revanth Reddy** (Telangana), **Siddaramaiah** (Karnataka), **Mamata Banerjee** (West Bengal).
- दक्षिणी मुख्यमंत्रियों का कड़ा विरोध — **MK स्टालिन** (तमिलनाडु), **A. रेवंत रेड्डी** (तेलंगाना), **सिद्धारमैया** (कर्नाटक), **ममता बनर्जी** (पश्चिम बंगाल)।
- Congress called it a "**backdoor delimitation**" using women's reservation as a "**facade**" to railroad seat redistribution.
- कांग्रेस ने इसे महिला आरक्षण को "**मुखौटे**" के रूप में उपयोग करते हुए "**बैकडोर परिसीमन**" कहा।
- Bills brought to Budget Session reconvening on Thursday — "**barely 36 hours before Parliament reconvenes**" — without multi-party meetings or committee referral.
- विधेयक बजट सत्र को गुरुवार को फिर से बुलाने पर लाए गए — "**संसद के पुनः सत्र से मात्र 36 घंटे पहले**" — बहु-दलीय बैठकों या समिति रेफरल के बिना।

- Currently, Lok Sabha has **543 seats** allocated based on population data from **1971 Census** — frozen by constitutional amendment until after 2026.
- वर्तमान में, लोकसभा में **543 सीटें** हैं जो **1971 जनगणना** के जनसंख्या डेटा के आधार पर आवंटित — 2026 के बाद तक संवैधानिक संशोधन द्वारा जमा।
- Now the Centre wants to redraw these seats using **2011 Census data** — giving more seats to states that grew in population (mainly Hindi belt — UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, MP) and reducing seats of states that controlled population (mainly South — Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana).
- अब केंद्र **2011 जनगणना डेटा** का उपयोग करके इन सीटों को फिर से बनाना चाहता है — जनसंख्या में बढ़ने वाले राज्यों को अधिक सीटें (मुख्यतः हिंदी पट्टी) और जनसंख्या नियंत्रित करने वाले राज्यों की सीटें कम करना।
- Southern states feel they are being "**punished for good governance**" — they implemented family planning successfully, reducing their population growth, but now stand to lose political representation as a result.
- दक्षिणी राज्यों को लगता है कि उन्हें "**अच्छे शासन के लिए दंडित**" किया जा रहा है — उन्होंने परिवार नियोजन सफलतापूर्वक लागू किया लेकिन अब राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व खोने का खतरा।
- The bills are being rushed through Parliament without adequate consultation — raising concerns about federal principles and democratic process.
- पर्याप्त परामर्श के बिना संसद से विधेयक जल्दी पारित किए जा रहे हैं — संघीय सिद्धांतों और लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया पर चिंताएं उठाई जा रही हैं।

- Central government circulated drafts of **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill** and **Delimitation Bill** for Budget Session reconvening Thursday.
- केंद्र सरकार ने संविधान (131वां संशोधन) विधेयक और परिसीमन विधेयक के मसौदे बजट सत्र की पुनः बैठक के लिए परिचालित किए।
- **Bills' key proposals:**
 1. Remove the freeze on Lok Sabha seat redistribution based on 1971 Census figures
 2. Mandate delimitation using **latest Census figures** (2011 as of now)
 3. Increase Lok Sabha size to maximum **850 seats** (815 States + 35 UTs)
 4. **33% seats carved out for women** from the increased total
 5. Inter-State redistribution of seats
- **विधेयकों के मुख्य प्रस्ताव:**
 1. 1971 जनगणना के आधार पर सीट पुनर्वितरण पर रोक हटाना
 2. **नवीनतम जनगणना** (अभी 2011) का उपयोग करके परिसीमन अनिवार्य
 3. लोकसभा आकार अधिकतम **850 सीटों** तक बढ़ाना
 4. बढ़े हुए कुल से **33% सीटें महिलाओं के लिए निर्धारित**
 5. सीटों का अंतर-राज्य पुनर्वितरण
- **Current constitutional provision:** Article 82 provides seats will be redistributed based on first Census after 2026 — proposed amendment **removes this safeguard entirely.**
- **वर्तमान संवैधानिक प्रावधान:** अनुच्छेद 82 — सीटें 2026 के बाद पहली जनगणना के आधार पर पुनर्वितरित होंगी — प्रस्तावित संशोधन **इस सुरक्षा उपाय को पूरी तरह हटाता है।**
- **Process concern:** Bills circulated "barely 36 hours before Parliament reconvenes" — no multi-party meetings, no committee referral attempt.
- **प्रक्रिया चिंता:** विधेयक "संसद के पुनः सत्र से मात्र 36 घंटे पहले" परिचालित — कोई बहु-दलीय बैठकें नहीं, कोई समिति रेफरल प्रयास नहीं।

- **UP:** +13 seats (current 80 → ~93; share rises from 14.73% to 16.24%)
- **Bihar:** +32 seats (40 → 72; 7.37% → 8.47%)
- **Maharashtra:** +30 seats (48 → 78)
- **Tamil Nadu:** -11 seats (39 → ~28; share shrinks from 7.18% to 5.88%)
- **Kerala:** -8 seats (20 → 12; share shrinks from 3.68% to 2.7%)
- **West Bengal:** -2 seats
- **J&K:** +3 seats
- **Rajasthan:** +8 seats

- **Constitutional freeze history:**
 - **42nd Amendment (1976):** Froze delimitation until 2000
 - **84th Amendment (2001):** Extended freeze until after 2026 Census
 - **Article 82:** Mandates readjustment after first Census post-2026
 - **Current proposal:** Remove this entirely; use 2011 Census now
- **Why 1971 Census was used:** Political consensus to not penalise states implementing family planning. The freeze preserved southern states' representation.
- **1971 जनगणना क्यों उपयोग:** परिवार नियोजन लागू करने वाले राज्यों को दंडित न करने की राजनीतिक सहमति।
- **Why 2021 Census not used:** COVID delayed the 2021 Census — government using 2011 data instead of waiting.
- **2021 जनगणना क्यों नहीं:** COVID ने 2021 जनगणना में देरी की — सरकार प्रतीक्षा के बजाय 2011 डेटा उपयोग कर रही।
- **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Amendment, 2023):** Already passed — requires Census + delimitation before implementation; current bill tries to use 2011 Census to fast-track this.
- **नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम (106वां संशोधन, 2023):** पहले से पारित — कार्यान्वयन के लिए जनगणना + परिसीमन आवश्यक; वर्तमान विधेयक इसे तेज करने के लिए 2011 जनगणना का उपयोग।

D5. Why Important for India? / भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

- **Federal balance:** India's federal structure depends on states having adequate representation — redistribution purely on population penalises demographically responsible states.
- **संघीय संतुलन:** भारत की संघीय संरचना राज्यों के पर्याप्त प्रतिनिधित्व पर निर्भर।
- **Principle of cooperative federalism:** Constitution mandates that Centre-State relations be cooperative — rushing through bills without consultation violates this spirit.
- **सहकारी संघवाद का सिद्धांत:** संविधान केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में सहयोग का आदेश देता है।
- **2029 election implications:** Redrawn seats → significantly altered electoral arithmetic → could entrench dominance of parties stronger in populous northern states.
- **2029 चुनाव निहितार्थ:** पुनर्गठित सीटें → महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बदला चुनावी अंकगणित।
- **Family planning paradox:** Southern states achieved demographic transition by following government family planning advice — now being penalised for it.
- **परिवार नियोजन विरोधाभास:** दक्षिणी राज्यों ने सरकारी परिवार नियोजन सलाह का पालन किया — अब इसके लिए दंडित।
- **Tax devolution link:** Finance Commission also uses population as a criterion — if delimitation goes through, southern states may demand similar protection in Finance Commission formula.
- **कर हस्तांतरण संबंध:** वित्त आयोग भी जनसंख्या को मानदंड के रूप में उपयोग करता है।

History / इतिहास

- **India's Delimitation Commission history:** 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002 — four commissions; each based on latest Census; 1976 freeze broke this pattern.
- **भारत का परिसीमन आयोग इतिहास:** 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002 — चार आयोग; 1976 की रोक ने इस पैटर्न को तोड़ा।
- **42nd Amendment (1976 — Indira Gandhi emergency era):** Froze delimitation — originally to incentivise family planning; states that reduced population would not lose seats.
- **42वां संशोधन (1976 — इंदिरा गांधी आपातकाल युग):** परिसीमन जमाया — मूल रूप से परिवार नियोजन प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए।
- **84th Amendment (2001 — Vajpayee era):** Extended freeze to post-2026 — political consensus maintained across party lines.
- **84वां संशोधन (2001 — वाजपेयी युग):** रोक को 2026 के बाद तक बढ़ाया — दलीय सीमाओं के पार राजनीतिक सहमति।

Geography / भूगोल

- **TFR (Total Fertility Rate) divide:**
 - Southern states: Kerala ~1.8, Tamil Nadu ~1.7, Karnataka ~1.9, Telangana ~1.8 — all below replacement (2.1)
 - Northern states: UP ~2.4, Bihar ~3.0, Rajasthan ~2.0, MP ~2.0 — higher
- **TFR (कुल प्रजनन दर) विभाजन:** दक्षिणी राज्य: 1.7-1.9 (प्रतिस्थापन 2.1 से कम); उत्तरी: 2.0-3.0
- **Hindi heartland states gaining most:** UP (+13), Bihar (+32), Rajasthan (+8) — all populous northern states.
- **सबसे अधिक लाभ पाने वाले:** UP, Bihar, Rajasthan — सभी जनसंख्या-घने उत्तरी राज्य।
- **Southern states losing most:** Tamil Nadu (-11), Kerala (-8) — despite economic contributions.
- **सबसे अधिक खोने वाले:** तमिलनाडु (-11), केरल (-8)।

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- **Article 81:** Composition of Lok Sabha — maximum 550 seats (530 States + 20 UTs); proposed to be increased to 850 (815 + 35).
- **अनुच्छेद 81:** लोकसभा की संरचना — अधिकतम 550 सीटें; 850 तक बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव।
- **Article 82:** Parliament shall by law provide for readjustment of seats in Lok Sabha after each Census; current freeze ends after 2026.
- **अनुच्छेद 82:** संसद प्रत्येक जनगणना के बाद लोकसभा सीटों के पुनर्समायोजन का प्रावधान करेगी।
- **Article 170:** State Assembly seat delimitation; same freeze mechanism.
- **अनुच्छेद 170:** राज्य विधानसभा सीट परिसीमन; समान रोक तंत्र।
- **Article 330A (inserted by 106th Amendment 2023):** Women's reservation in Lok Sabha.
- **अनुच्छेद 330A (106वें संशोधन 2023 द्वारा सम्मिलित):** लोकसभा में महिला आरक्षण।
- **Delimitation Commission Act, 2002:** Constitutes Delimitation Commission; chaired by retired SC judge; orders have force of law, cannot be challenged in courts.
- **परिसीमन आयोग अधिनियम, 2002:** परिसीमन आयोग का गठन; सेवानिवृत्त SC न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता; आदेश न्यायालयों में चुनौती योग्य नहीं।
- **Federalism principles:** Article 1 (India as Union of States); Seventh Schedule (State/Centre/Concurrent Lists); Finance Commission (Articles 280-281); cooperative federalism doctrine.
- **संघवाद सिद्धांत:** अनुच्छेद 1; सातवीं अनुसूची; वित्त आयोग (अनुच्छेद 280-281)।
- **Special majority requirement:** Constitution Amendment Bill requires 2/3 majority of members present AND voting + more than 50% of total membership (Article 368).
- **विशेष बहुमत आवश्यकता:** उपस्थित और मतदान करने वाले सदस्यों का 2/3 + कुल सदस्यता का 50% से अधिक (अनुच्छेद 368)।
- **Ratification by States:** Articles 81, 82, 170 changes may require ratification by at least half the State Legislatures — this makes southern state opposition politically significant.

Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

- **Economic contribution vs representation paradox:** Southern states (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana) contribute disproportionately to India's GDP (~35%+) but will have reduced parliamentary representation.
- **आर्थिक योगदान बनाम प्रतिनिधित्व विरोधाभास:** दक्षिणी राज्य GDP का ~35%+ योगदान लेकिन संसदीय प्रतिनिधित्व कम होगा।
- **Finance Commission formula:** Uses population as one criterion — 15th FC used 2011 population; southern states already getting less relative to their tax contributions.
- **वित्त आयोग सूत्र:** जनसंख्या एक मानदंड के रूप में; दक्षिणी राज्यों को पहले से उनके कर योगदान के सापेक्ष कम मिल रहा।
- **Political economy:** More seats in populous north → more political salience of northern issues → policies potentially more tilted toward north (agricultural subsidies, MGNREGS allocation, etc.).
- **राजनीतिक अर्थव्यवस्था:** अधिक सीटें → उत्तरी मुद्दों की अधिक राजनीतिक प्रासंगिकता → नीतियाँ संभवतः अधिक उत्तर-झुकी।

F3. Future Implications / भविष्य के प्रभाव

- **Best case:** Wide consultations; compromise formula found (perhaps 2031 Census-based delimitation after proper count); women's quota implemented on existing 543 seats first.
- **सर्वोत्तम परिदृश्य:** व्यापक परामर्श; समझौता फॉर्मूला (शायद 2031 जनगणना-आधारित); महिला कोटा पहले मौजूदा 543 सीटों पर।
- **Worst case:** Bills passed by brute majority; constitutional challenge in SC; southern states refuse to ratify; federal crisis; regional parties unite against Centre; 2029 elections fought on north-south divide.
- **सबसे खराब परिदृश्य:** बहुमत से पारित; SC में संवैधानिक चुनौती; दक्षिणी राज्यों का अनुसमर्थन से इनकार; संघीय संकट; 2029 चुनाव उत्तर-दक्षिण विभाजन पर।
- **Impact on BJP 2029:** If seats realigned — UP gains 13, Bihar gains 32 → BJP's northern strongholds gain more seats → potentially stronger majority even with similar vote share.
- **BJP 2029 पर प्रभाव:** UP +13, Bihar +32 → भाजपा के उत्तरी गढ़ों को अधिक सीटें → समान वोट शेयर से भी संभावित रूप से मजबूत बहुमत।

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2024	How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?	(a) Two (b) Four (c) Five (d) Three	(b) Four — 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2024	Consider statements on Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam: 1. Provisions from 18th Lok Sabha 2. In force for 15 years 3. Reservation for SC Women within SC quota. Which correct?	(a) 1&2 (b) 2 only (c) 2&3 (d) 1,2,3	(c) 2 & 3 only — Statement 1 wrong; needs Census + delimitation
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Which constitutional amendment extended the freeze on delimitation until after the 2026 Census?	(a) 42nd Amendment (b) 73rd Amendment (c) 84th Amendment (d) 87th Amendment	(c) 84th Amendment (2001)
4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	The 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976) froze delimitation primarily to:	(a) Reduce election costs (b) Wait for better census data (c) Prevent states that implemented family planning from losing seats (d) Simplify election administration	(c) Prevent demographic success penalisation

5	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	Under which Article does Parliament provide for readjustment of seats in Lok Sabha after each Census?	(a) Article 81 (b) Article 82 (c) Article 83 (d) Article 170	(b) Article 82
6	SSC CGL	2024	The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023) is which Constitutional Amendment?	(a) 103rd (b) 104th (c) 105th (d) 106th	(d) 106th Amendment
7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	Under Article 368 of the Constitution, which of the following cannot be amended by Parliament?	(a) Fundamental Rights (b) Directive Principles (c) Basic structure of Constitution (d) Electoral system	(c) Basic structure — Kesavananda Bharati doctrine
8	UPSC CSE Mains GS-2	2022	"The delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census could result in a fundamentally altered federal balance in India." Discuss the political, constitutional and sociological dimensions.	<i>(Mains descriptive)</i>	Key: Article 82, TFR divide, 42nd/84th Amendments, Finance Commission, cooperative federalism

9	UPPSC Prelims	2025	The proposed increase in Lok Sabha seat strength to 850 is primarily to:	(a) Accommodate new states (b) Increase representation of UTs (c) Implement 33% women's reservation on a larger base (d) Balance population-based representation	(c) Implement women's reservation
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	Orders of the Delimitation Commission in India:	(a) Can be challenged in High Courts (b) Can be challenged in Supreme Court (c) Require Presidential assent (d) Cannot be called in question in any court	(d) Cannot be challenged in courts

Consider the following statements about the proposed Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill and Delimitation Bill (2026): प्रस्तावित संविधान (131वें संशोधन) विधेयक और परिसीमन विधेयक (2026) के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The proposed Bills seek to conduct inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on 2011 Census data, removing the existing freeze. प्रस्तावित विधेयक 2011 जनगणना डेटा के आधार पर लोकसभा सीटों का अंतर-राज्य पुनर्वितरण करना चाहते हैं, मौजूदा रोक हटाकर।
2. Under the proposed redistribution, the South's share of Lok Sabha seats will increase from 24.3% to 20.7% while the Hindi Heartland's share will rise from 38.1% to 43.1%. प्रस्तावित पुनर्वितरण के तहत दक्षिण की हिस्सेदारी 24.3% से बढ़कर 20.7% होगी, जबकि हिंदी भाषी हृदयभूमि की 38.1% से 43.1% तक बढ़ेगी।
3. The draft Delimitation Bill mandates that it shall be the duty of the Commission to readjust, on the basis of the latest census figures, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States. मसौदा परिसीमन विधेयक आदेश देता है कि आयोग का कर्तव्य होगा कि नवीनतम जनगणना आँकड़ों के आधार पर राज्यों को लोकसभा सीटों के आवंटन को पुनर्समायोजित करे।
4. Orders of the Delimitation Commission can be challenged before the Supreme Court of India if they violate fundamental rights. परिसीमन आयोग के आदेशों को भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष चुनौती दी जा सकती है यदि वे मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करते हैं।

Food worth ₹1.55 lakh cr. wasted annually

Each year, on March 30, the world marks the International Day of Zero Waste. This year, the theme is food waste, which is not only timely but also an evergreen call for global attention to one of the most painful contradictions of our times: mountains of food going to waste even as millions go to bed hungry and malnutrition prevails across the globe.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food Waste Index Report 2024 finds that the world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food - inadequate post-harvest storage capacities and household accounting for 60% of it, food services 28%, and retail 12%. Beyond individual behaviour, the scale of food loss reflects systemic inefficiencies embedded in supply chains, policy failures, and consumption cultures that have normalised the ending food as an acceptable cost of abundance.

Yet, abundance far from universal, around 783 million people still face hunger, and more than 1 billion are unable to enjoy a healthy diet. The coexistence of a billion tonnes of wasted food and a billion hungry stomachs is not an irony; it is an indictment of inefficiency and apathy.

India's position in the global picture is both consequential and deeply incongruous. According to the UNRP report, India ranks second globally in food waste, with 79.90 million tonnes of post-harvest crop and food worth ₹1.55 lakh crore wasted annually, following China, which wastes an estimated 108 million tonnes of food per year. At the same time, the U.S. wastes 24.7 million tonnes annually, Japan, which is long celebrated for its culture of "mottainai" - a deep-rooted ethic of zero waste, wastes merely 1.2 million tonnes of food annually.

The per capita picture is equally revealing. Per capita household food waste in India stands at 83 kg annually, lower than 73 kg in the U.S. and 76 kg in Germany. The country ranks 11th



A.S. MITTAL
Vice Chairman, Economic Policy and Planning Board

out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index and around 104 million of its people do not get enough food. Food waste is not a statistic; it is stolen meals from millions of mouths.

Punjab is a State that produces enough to feed hundreds of millions but then wastes a significant portion of that in its waste before it reaches others. Food loss and waste in the State is a significant issue, driven by extreme weather events and alarming levels of inefficiencies in storage and logistics. With over 8,200 tonnes of foodgrain getting spoiled in Food Corporation of India storage facilities alone in the State between 2020 and 2024, it is the highest in India.

According to a NITI Aayog report, post-harvest handling inefficiencies - inadequate covered storage facilities, under-investment in cold-chain infrastructure and trench mechanisation support, and the lack of grading, sorting, cleaning, and scientific packaging - are major bottlenecks in Punjab.

Plastic waste is a problem as a major tragedy; it is an ecological one. Food loss and waste account for 8-10% of global annual greenhouse gas emissions. If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the U.S. Decomposing food in landfills releases methane, which has a warming potential many times more than that of CO₂.

Every morsel wasted means lost water, land, fuel, and hard work of farmers. Producing one kilogram of rice requires about 500 litres of water. When that rice is thrown away, the water is lost too, more so for a state like Punjab which faces groundwater depletion. In this context, integrating food loss and waste into national climate plans is urgent.

Food loss and waste demands a reconfiguration of systems, incentives, and values, with a focus on circularity and zero-waste. The following are few credible and sustainable ways in this direction:

Build the cold chain, break the loss chain: India processes only around 8% of its produce compared to 60% of the U.S. and 23% of China. A national cold-chain mission, particularly in States such as Punjab, Haryana, and U.P., must be treated as food security infrastructure, not an optional investment.

Legislate against waste, legislate for sharing: Inadequate European nations have made it illegal for supermarkets to throw unsold edible food, mandating its donation to food banks instead. India needs a law to redistribute surplus food, backed by tax incentives for businesses and institutions that donate.

Empower the farmer at the first mile: The late Packaging Materials Act, which requires grain storage in metal bags and sacks, needs to be rigorously revised to allow modern hermetic solutions.

Reduce waste in the kitchen: The Food Packaging Materials Act, which requires grain storage in metal bags and sacks, needs to be rigorously revised to allow modern hermetic solutions.

Save the ethic of eating: The "Anna Daan" scheme, which rewards food donors, should be scaled up and made a national database tracking food waste at the retail and hospitality levels. For restaurants, hotels, businesses, wedding caterers, and institutional kitchens.

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A promising hate speech Bill, with gaps

The Assembly select committee should redraft it to evolve into a balanced law

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy
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Over 100 days ago, a peer-Christian, caste-discriminatory Telugu Chief Minister A. Revathi Reddy announced plans to introduce legislation to punish those who insult other religions. Keeping his word, the Chief Minister ensured that the Telugu Anti-Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Assembly on March 30, 2026. While the intent of the government was to ensure respect for all faiths and strictly deal with attempts to disrupt communal harmony, the Bill's operative portions sparked intense debate.

Drainage from political parties as well as religious out-riary groups, the government accused the Bill to a select committee. In simple terms, the Bill defines hate speech broadly as any expression - spoken, written, or digital - intended to cause "disharmony" or "ill-will" based on religion, caste, gender, or sexual orientation. It includes stringent provisions, such as a curf on free speech, Chief Minister Revathi Reddy also rejected allegations of political vendetta. He argued that existing laws already covered such offences. CPM MLA Karanam Sambhava Rao said the Bill was an attack on democracy, reminiscent of colonial-era laws.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, who introduced the Bill in the Assembly, defended it, describing it as a safeguard for vulnerable groups rather than a curf on free speech. Chief Minister Revathi Reddy also rejected allegations of political vendetta. He argued that existing laws already covered such offences. CPM MLA Karanam Sambhava Rao said the Bill was an attack on democracy, reminiscent of colonial-era laws.

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Telangana

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Consumption growth uneven among largely rural States

Differences across States indicate that growth is becoming increasingly State-specific, shaped by local economic conditions and structural factors

DATA POINT

Chandrasekar K.

In India, consumption is primarily being driven by States where higher incomes, better job opportunities and faster economic activity lead to stronger spending growth (Chart 2). However, this narrative does not fully capture the reality in States such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, where more than 70% of the population resides in rural areas, except North East States and Union Territories. In these States, rural households play a crucial role in the economy, making it more meaningful to compare these States with each other rather than with more urbanised States.

A State with low initial consumption may show higher growth simply because it is catching up phase. A simple example above why such comparisons need care. A student improving from 25 marks to 30 marks shows a higher percentage increase than one moving from 95 to 97, yet the latter clearly performs better. By focusing exclusively on States with predominantly rural populations, this analysis allows for a more equitable comparison and offers a clearer picture of their relative performance in consumption growth.

This analysis uses Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPC) data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) reports for 2011-12 and 2023-24 to examine how consumption patterns have evolved in rural-dominated States. The growth rates discussed are presented in terms, meaning they have been adjusted for inflation. This adjustment is achieved using Consumer Price Index data, which removes the effects of rising prices over time. Without this adjustment, increases in consumption could reflect higher prices rather

than actual improvements in spending power. By converting nominal expenditure into real terms, this analysis provides a clearer understanding of how consumption levels have genuinely changed between 2011-12 and 2023-24.

The differences across States become clearer when we look at individual performance (Chart 2). Bihar emerges as the leading performer among rural-dominated States, rural consumption rose from ₹1,137 in 2011-12 to ₹1,670 in 2023-24, demonstrating significant nominal growth. After adjusting for inflation, it has expanded at a real rate of 4.7% annually, consistently higher than the all-India rural average of 3.4%. Uttar Pradesh has also gone up swiftly at 4.2%, well above the national average of 2.9%. This shows that Bihar is not merely catching up from a low starting point but is also experiencing widespread growth in both rural and urban sectors.

In Odisha, rural MPC has grown at 4.3% while urban consumption has grown at 4.0%, both comfortably above the national averages. This suggests that Odisha is expected to have a balanced and robust consumption growth, with urban areas showing a slight edge. In Himachal Pradesh, rural consumption has grown at 4.0%, and urban consumption at 3.7%, both above the national average in real terms. This reflects a stable and well-distributed growth pattern without sharp divergence between rural and urban areas.

In Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, rural consumption has grown at 2.9%, same as the all-India average. This suggests moderate and stable growth, with rural areas performing slightly better than urban areas. Uttar Pradesh shows a mixed pattern. In real terms, the rural consumption has grown at 2.8%, above the national average. However, urban consumption growth is 2.8%, slightly below the all-India

average. This suggests that while rural areas are contributing to the growth, urban areas are lagging the overall momentum.

Kashmir's rural consumption growth stands at 3.4%, equal to the national average, while urban growth is 3.2%, above it. This suggests that urban areas are pulling ahead while rural consumption lags.

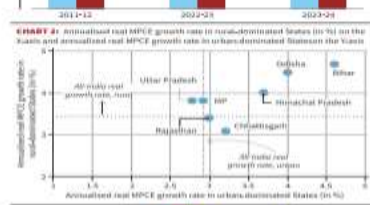
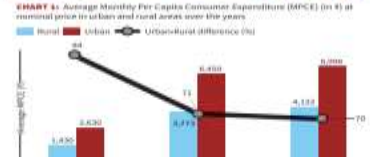
A useful way to interpret these trends is through a quadrant framework based on the all-India averages. States such as Bihar and Odisha fall in the high-growth quadrant, indicating strong and balanced performance across both rural and urban areas. Himachal Pradesh also shows strong growth above national averages. In contrast, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh show stronger rural growth than urban areas, suggesting that rural demand is driving overall consumption. Chhattisgarh shows the opposite pattern, where urban growth exceeds rural growth. Meanwhile, Rajasthan lies close to national averages, reflecting steady but not leading performance.

A notable aspect of the data is that rural consumption growth now matches or even exceeds urban growth in several States, reversing the traditional pattern in which cities led demand. This suggests that the consistent overall consumption growth may be more in urban moderation than in rural weakness. Still, differences across States indicate that growth is becoming increasingly State-specific, shaped by local economic conditions and structural factors. These trends collectively indicate a changing consumption landscape in which rural India is not only catching up but also playing a central role in driving demand.

The writer is an Indian Statistical Service Officer. Views are personal.

Uneven gains

The data for this chart was sourced from the HCES Reports for 2011-12 & 2023-24 from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation



From THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 15, 1976

Krishna water for Madras: Accord signed in Delhi

New Delhi, April 14: A formal agreement to supply 15 tmc. ft. of water from the Krishna river to Madras was today formally signed at an inter-ministerial meeting held under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Jagjivan Ram.

The Prime Minister had, during his visit to Madras in February, announced the willingness of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka to supply 5 tmc. ft. each from their share of the Krishna waters to meet the chronic drinking-water shortage in Madras. The agreement signed today is in pursuance of this announcement.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers in charge of irrigation of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Mr. J. Vengal Rao, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister could not attend but had informed the Union Minister that he stood by the commitment already made. The agreement will be forwarded to him for formal ratification.

A significant feature of the agreement is that the respective States would supply the specified quantity notwithstanding the nature of the verdict of the Krishna River Waters Dispute Tribunal. The verdict is expected in the next few weeks. The dispute relating to the sharing of the Krishna water by Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had been referred to a tribunal which gave its verdict, but the matter has not been finalised since the States have asked for further talks.

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A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 15, 1926

Food value of rice

Finest grades grown at Atma
A "Times" Special Report made in "The Statesman" under date London, April 15th, states:

The British public buys rice by outward appearance only, ignoring the fact that all the rice is of the same food value, writes Douglas Glennie in an illuminating article in "The Times" on Indian rice crops.

He asserts that it is a curious psychological fact that nine out of ten housewives, if asked where rice is produced, reply "India," yet they demand Japanese rice from their grocers. He points out Bangkok rice for cheap grade rice. Reasons for some of this "betwixt and between" of the finest product.

Food worth ₹1.55 lakh cr. wasted annually

Each year, on March 30, the world marks the International Day of Zero Waste. This year, the theme is food waste, which is not only timely but also an emergency call for global attention to one of the most painful contradictions of our time: mountains of food going waste even as millions go to bed hungry and malnutrition prevails across the globe.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food Waste Index Report 2024 finds that the world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food – inadequate post-harvest storage capacities and households accounting for 60% of it, food services 28%, and retail 12%. Beyond individual behaviour, the scale of food loss reflects systemic inefficiencies embedded in supply chains, policy failures, and consumption cultures that have normalised discarding food as an acceptable cost of abundance.

Yet, abundance is far from universal; around 783 million people still face hunger, and more than 3.1 billion are unable to afford a healthy diet. The coexistence of a billion tonnes of wasted food and a billion hungry stomachs is not an irony; it is an indictment of inefficiency and apathy.

India's position in the global picture is both consequential and deeply uncomfortable. According to the UNEP report, India ranks second globally in food waste, with 78-80 million tonnes of post-harvest crop and food worth ₹1.55 lakh crore wasted annually, following China, which wastes an estimated 108 million tonnes of food per year. At the same time, the U.S. wastes 24.7 million tonnes annually. Japan, which is long celebrated for its culture of 'mottainai' – a deep-rooted ethic of zero waste, wastes merely 5.2 million tonnes of food annually.

The per capita picture is equally revealing. Per capita household food waste in India stands at 55 kg annually, lower than 73 kg in the U.S. and 75 kg in Germany. The country ranks 11th



A.S. Mittal

Vice-Chairman,
Punjab Economic
Policy and Planning
Board

The coexistence of a billion tonnes of wasted food and a billion hungry stomachs is not an irony; it is an indictment for inefficiency and apathy

out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index and around 194 million of its people do not get enough food. Food waste is not a statistic; it is stolen meals from millions of mouths.

Punjab is a State that produces enough to feed hundreds of millions but then watches a significant portion of that go to waste before it reaches plates. Food loss and waste in the State is a significant issue, driven by extreme weather events and alarming levels of inefficiencies in storage and logistics. With over 8,200 tonnes of foodgrains getting spoiled in Food Corporation of India storage facilities alone in the State between 2019 and 2024, it is the highest in India.

According to a NITI Aayog report, post-harvest handling inefficiencies – inadequate covered storage facilities, under-investment in cold-chain infrastructure and timely mechanisation support, and the lack of grading, standardisation, and scientific packaging – are major bottlenecks in Punjab.

Food waste is not merely a human tragedy; it is an ecological one. Food loss and waste account for 8-10% of global annual greenhouse gas emissions. If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the U.S. Decomposing food in landfills releases methane, which has a warming potential many times more than that of CO₂.

Every morsel wasted means lost water, land, fuel, and hard work of farmers. Producing one kilogram of rice requires about 5,000 litres of water. When that rice is thrown away, the water is lost too, more so for a State like Punjab which faces groundwater depletion. In this context, integrating food loss and waste into national climate plans is urgent.

Ending food waste demands a reconfiguration of systems, incentives, and values, with human dignity at their centre. The following are five credible and sustainable ways in that direction:

Build the cold chain, break the loss chain: India processes only around 8% of its produce compared to 65% of the U.S. and 23% of China. A national cold-chain mission, particularly in States such as Punjab, Haryana, and U.P., must be treated as food security infrastructure, not an optional investment.

Legislate against waste, legislate for sharing: Several European nations have made it illegal for supermarkets to destroy unsold edible food, mandating its donation to food banks instead. India needs a law to redistribute surplus food, backed by tax incentives for businesses and institutions that donate.

Empower the farmer at the first mile: Post-harvest loss begins at the farm gate. Farmer-producer organisations must be equipped with mechanised drying, hermetic storage bags, and mobile cold units. The Jute Packaging Materials Act, which requires grain storage in porous jute sacks, needs to be urgently reviewed to allow modern hermetic solutions.

Make waste visible, make saving rewarding: India currently has no consolidated national database tracking food waste at the retail and hospitality level. Mandatory food waste measurement and public reporting, modelled on the UNEP's Food Waste Index methodology, should be introduced for large food businesses, wedding caterers, and institutional kitchens.

Revive the ethic of treating 'Anna (food)' as sacred: Every culture on this subcontinent has, in its own way, treated food as something to be revered – *Anna Brahma*, food is god. It is the most sustainable food philosophy ever devised. Schools, communities, and public institutions must rekindle this ethic, not as religious instruction but as civic responsibility.

Let's move from awareness to collective action and make food waste reduction a shared national priority.

- **International Day of Zero Waste (March 30)** theme this year: **food waste** — a global emergency.
- **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जीरो वेस्ट दिवस (30 मार्च)** का इस वर्ष का विषय: **खाद्य अपशिष्ट** — एक वैश्विक आपात स्थिति।
- **UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024:** World wasted **1.05 billion tonnes** of food globally — households 60%, food services 28%, retail 12%.
- **UNEP खाद्य अपशिष्ट सूचकांक रिपोर्ट 2024:** विश्व ने **1.05 बिलियन टन** भोजन बर्बाद किया — घर 60%, खाद्य सेवाएं 28%, खुदरा 12%।
- **India ranks 2nd globally in food waste** — wastes **78-80 million tonnes** of post-harvest crop and food worth **₹1.55 lakh crore annually**.
- **भारत खाद्य अपशिष्ट में वैश्विक स्तर पर दूसरे स्थान पर** — सालाना **₹1.55 लाख करोड़** मूल्य का **78-80 मिलियन टन** फसल-पश्चात अनाज और भोजन बर्बाद।
- **India ranks 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index** — profound contradiction.
- **भारत ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स में 125 में से 111वें स्थान पर** — गहरा विरोधाभास।
- **Food loss and waste account for 8-10% of global annual greenhouse gas emissions** — if food waste were a country, it would be the **third-largest emitter after China and the USA**.
- **खाद्य हानि और अपशिष्ट वैश्विक वार्षिक ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन का 8-10%** — यदि खाद्य अपशिष्ट एक देश होता, तो यह **चीन और अमेरिका के बाद तीसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्सर्जक** होता।

- Every year, India wastes food worth ₹1.55 lakh crore — this is food that could have fed millions of hungry people. At the same time, India has 194 million people who don't get enough food.
- हर साल, भारत ₹1.55 लाख करोड़ मूल्य का भोजन बर्बाद करता है — यह वह भोजन है जो लाखों भूखे लोगों को खिला सकता था। साथ ही, भारत में 194 मिलियन लोग पर्याप्त भोजन नहीं पाते।
- Food waste happens at multiple stages: at the farm (post-harvest losses due to poor storage), during transport (poor cold chain), in markets, restaurants, and homes.
- खाद्य अपशिष्ट कई चरणों में होता है: खेत पर (खराब भंडारण के कारण फसल-पश्चात हानियाँ), परिवहन के दौरान (खराब कोल्ड चेन), बाजारों, रेस्तरां और घरों में।
- Food waste is not just a social tragedy — it's an environmental crisis. When food rots in landfills, it releases methane — a greenhouse gas far more potent than CO₂.
- खाद्य अपशिष्ट केवल एक सामाजिक त्रासदी नहीं है — यह एक पर्यावरणीय संकट है। जब भोजन लैंडफिल में सड़ता है, तो मीथेन निकलती है — CO₂ से कहीं अधिक शक्तिशाली ग्रीनहाउस गैस।
- Solutions include: building cold chain infrastructure, legislating against food waste, helping farmers with better storage, tracking food waste through national databases, and reviving cultural respect for food ("Anna Brahma").
- समाधान में शामिल हैं: कोल्ड चेन बुनियादी ढाँचा, खाद्य अपशिष्ट के विरुद्ध कानून, किसानों को बेहतर भंडारण, राष्ट्रीय डेटाबेस के माध्यम से खाद्य अपशिष्ट ट्रैकिंग, और भोजन के प्रति सांस्कृतिक सम्मान ("अन्न ब्रह्म") का पुनरुद्धार।

- **India's food waste profile:**
 - **2nd globally** in food waste (after China at ~108 million tonnes)
 - **78-80 million tonnes** of post-harvest crop and food wasted annually
 - Worth **₹1.55 lakh crore** annually
 - Per capita household food waste: **55 kg/year** (lower than USA's 73 kg or Germany's 75 kg)
 - But ranks **111th of 125** in Global Hunger Index
 - **194 million** people do not get enough food
- **भारत का खाद्य अपशिष्ट प्रोफाइल:**
 - **वैश्विक स्तर पर दूसरा** (चीन ~108 मिलियन टन के बाद)
 - **78-80 मिलियन टन** सालाना
 - **₹1.55 लाख करोड़** मूल्य
- **Global comparison:**
 - China: **108 million tonnes**
 - USA: **24.7 million tonnes**
 - Japan: **5.2 million tonnes** ("mottainai" culture of zero waste)
 - India: **78-80 million tonnes**
- **Punjab case study:**
 - Punjab produces enough to feed hundreds of millions
 - **8,200 tonnes** of foodgrains spoiled in FCI storage (2019-2024) — highest in India
 - Major bottlenecks: inadequate covered storage, poor cold chain, lack of grading/standardisation/scientific packaging

D2. Five Policy Solutions Proposed / पाँच नीतिगत समाधान

1. Build the cold chain, break the loss chain:

- India processes only ~8% of its produce (vs USA 65%, China 23%)
- National cold-chain mission needed — especially Punjab, Haryana, UP
- Treat cold chain as food security infrastructure, not optional investment
- भारत अपने उत्पाद का केवल ~8% प्रोसेस करता है; राष्ट्रीय कोल्ड-चेन मिशन आवश्यक।

2. Legislate against waste, legislate for sharing:

- Several European nations made it **illegal for supermarkets to destroy unsold edible food** — mandating donation to food banks
- India needs: law to redistribute surplus food + tax incentives for donating businesses
- कई यूरोपीय देशों ने सुपरमार्केट के लिए बिना बिके खाद्य भोजन नष्ट करना **अवैध** बनाया।

3. Empower the farmer at the first mile:

- Post-harvest loss begins at farm gate
- Need: mechanised drying, hermetic storage bags, mobile cold units
- **Jute Packaging Materials Act** (requires grain storage in porous jute sacks) must be reviewed — allow modern hermetic solutions
- जूट पैकेजिंग सामग्री अधिनियम की समीक्षा आवश्यक।

4. **Make waste visible, make saving rewarding:**

- India has **no consolidated national database** tracking food waste at retail and hospitality level
- Mandatory food waste measurement and public reporting needed
- Modelled on UNEP's Food Waste Index methodology — for large food businesses, wedding caterers, institutional kitchens
- भारत के पास खुदरा और आतिथ्य स्तर पर खाद्य अपशिष्ट ट्रैक करने वाला **कोई एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय डेटाबेस नहीं**।

5. **Revive the ethic of treating 'Anna (food)' as sacred:**

- Every Indian culture treats food as something to be revered — **Anna Brahma** (food is god)
- Schools, communities, public institutions must rekindle this ethic as **civic responsibility** not religious instruction
- **अन्न ब्रह्म** — भोजन ईश्वर है; नागरिक जिम्मेदारी के रूप में।

D6. Why Important for the World? / विश्व के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

- **Climate:** 8-10% of global GHG from food waste — addressing this is crucial for meeting Paris Agreement targets.
- **जलवायु:** वैश्विक GHG का 8-10% खाद्य अपशिष्ट से — Paris Agreement लक्ष्यों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण।
- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption):** Food waste reduction central to both.
- **SDG 2 (भूख मुक्ति) और SDG 12 (जिम्मेदार उपभोग):** खाद्य अपशिष्ट कमी दोनों के लिए केंद्रीय।
- **Global food systems:** India as world's largest rice exporter — food waste reduction has implications for global food prices and security.
- **वैश्विक खाद्य प्रणालियाँ:** भारत सबसे बड़ा चावल निर्यातक — खाद्य अपशिष्ट कमी के वैश्विक खाद्य मूल्यों पर निहितार्थ।

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Provides 5 kg grain/month to 67% of population at subsidised rates; but wastage in PDS supply chain significant.
- **राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA), 2013:** 67% आबादी को 5 किलो/माह सब्सिडी वाला अनाज।
- **Right to Food:** Supreme Court orders in PUCL vs UOI — right to food as part of Article 21; but food waste undermines this right by reducing available supply.
- **भोजन का अधिकार:** PUCL बनाम UOI — अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत खाद्य का अधिकार।
- **Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act / Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) reforms:** Linked to reducing post-harvest losses by enabling direct farmer-to-buyer sales.
- **APMC सुधार:** फसल-पश्चात हानियों को कम करने के लिए किसान-से-खरीदार सीधी बिक्री।
- **Essential Commodities Act (ECA):** Governs storage limits — sometimes creates perverse incentives for wastage.
- **आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम (ECA):** भंडारण सीमाओं को नियंत्रित करता है।
- **Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987:** Mandates jute packaging for food grains — article calls for review to allow hermetic storage.
- **जूट पैकेजिंग सामग्री अधिनियम, 1987:** खाद्यान्न के लिए जूट पैकेजिंग अनिवार्य — समीक्षा की माँग।

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	The "Global Hunger Index" is published by:	(a) FAO and WFP (b) UNDP and WHO (c) Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide (d) World Bank and UNICEF	(c) Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	With reference to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which of the following is correct?	(a) HQ in Geneva (b) HQ in New York (c) HQ in Nairobi, Kenya (d) HQ in Vienna	(c) Nairobi, Kenya — founded 1972, UNEP HQ
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	The SDG target 12.3 relates to which of the following?	(a) Reduce marine pollution by 50% (b) Achieve sustainable forest management (c) Halve per capita food waste by 2030 (d) Ensure universal access to clean water	(c) Halve per capita food waste by 2030
4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established in which year?	(a) 1947 (b) 1951 (c) 1960 (d) 1965	(d) 1965

5	UPSC CSE Mains GS-3	2019	"What are the reasons for poor success of foodgrain storage in India? What steps need to be taken to address this issue?"	(Mains descriptive)	Key: FCI limitations, cold chain deficit, Jute Act, APMC, hermetic storage, private investment
6	SSC CGL Tier 1	2024	Which of the following greenhouse gases has the highest global warming potential over a 20-year period?	(a) CO ₂ (b) CH ₄ (Methane) (c) N ₂ O (d) CFCs	(b) CH ₄ (Methane) — ~80× more potent than CO ₂ over 20 years
7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2024	The National Food Security Act (2013) provides subsidised food to what percentage of India's population?	(a) 50% (b) 57% (c) 67% (d) 75%	(c) 67%
8	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	With reference to India's food processing sector, which of the following statements is correct?	(a) India processes 65% of its agricultural produce (b) India is the world's largest food processor (c) India processes only a small fraction (~8%) of its agricultural produce compared to developed nations (d) India has surplus cold storage infrastructure	(c) India processes only ~8% compared to USA 65%

9	BPSC 2025	2025	The International Day of Zero Waste is observed on:	(a) June 5 (b) March 22 (c) March 30 (d) November 19	(c) March 30
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	"Mottainai" is a concept associated with:	(a) Chinese economic model (b) European Green Deal philosophy (c) Japanese culture of zero waste (d) Indian Gandhian philosophy	(c) Japanese culture of zero waste

Consider the following statements about global and India food waste: वैश्विक और भारत के खाद्य अपशिष्ट के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024 found that the world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food, with households accounting for 60% of the waste. UNEP खाद्य अपशिष्ट सूचकांक रिपोर्ट 2024 ने पाया कि विश्व ने 1.05 बिलियन टन भोजन बर्बाद किया, जिसमें घरेलू खपत 60% के लिए जिम्मेदार।
2. India ranks 1st globally in food waste, wasting approximately 108 million tonnes of food annually. भारत खाद्य अपशिष्ट में वैश्विक स्तर पर पहले स्थान पर है, सालाना लगभग 108 मिलियन टन भोजन बर्बाद करता है।
3. Food loss and waste account for 8-10% of global annual greenhouse gas emissions, and if food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest GHG emitter. खाद्य हानि और अपशिष्ट वैश्विक वार्षिक ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन का 8-10% है, और यदि खाद्य अपशिष्ट एक देश होता तो तीसरा सबसे बड़ा GHG उत्सर्जक होता।
4. Japan, celebrated for its "mottainai" culture of zero waste, wastes merely 5.2 million tonnes of food annually, far less than India. अपनी "मोतैनाई" शून्य अपशिष्ट संस्कृति के लिए प्रसिद्ध जापान, सालाना केवल 5.2 मिलियन टन भोजन बर्बाद करता है, भारत से बहुत कम।

Which of the statements given above are correct?

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Railways to install automatic systems at level crossings

1,228 The Railway Board has directed work to expedite installation of automatic closure systems at 1,228 level crossings to ensure trains get a green signal even when gates are shut for road traffic. The move follows safety concerns after a fatal 2026 accident and targets high traffic crossings across 18 zones. ■

India's crude oil imports from Russia surge in March

5.3 In euro billion, India's crude oil imports from Russia more than tripled to 5.3 billion euros in March 2026, driven by higher volumes and rising global prices, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Russian crude accounted for 81 per cent of India's total fuel imports from Russia during the month. ■

Number of U.S., Filipino troops to join Balikatan exercises

17,000 More than 17,000 American and Filipino personnel will take part in the annual Balikatan summit exercises in the Philippines from April 26 to May 6, according to the South China Sea. The military drills will also involve forces from countries like Japan, France and Canada. ■

Free dialysis provided for CKD patients in Haryana hospitals

1.89 In lakh, government hospitals in Haryana has provided around 1.89 lakh free dialysis sessions to patients with chronic kidney disease in 2025-26, officials said. The State has also expanded its renal transplant programme, offering procedures and related care to patients free of cost to improve access to treatment. ■

India's automobile wholesales hit record high in FY26

2.83 In crore, Automobile wholesales in India reached a record 2.83 crore units in FY26, marking a 10.4% year-on-year growth, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. All segments, including passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and commercial vehicles, recorded their highest-ever annual sales. ■

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What are the legal consequences of piracy?

The leak of Tamil movie *Ainu Nayagan* before it could get a theatrical release could attract harsh penalties for the leakers if they are caught and charged, especially due to new amendments to the Cinematograph Act, 1952

EXPLAINER

Ainu Deen

The story so far: A film to the movie's producers. Vijay-starrer *Ainu Nayagan*, directed by H. Vinoh, was recently leaked online to its entirety in high quality while its theatrical release has been stuck in a limbo following issues with censor certificate.

The leak indicates that someone with legitimate access to the movie (unauthorised or intentionally spread) it further. Six people have been held by authorities in connection with the leak. Film piracy through illegal downloads is rampant, but it is less common for content to become available in the first place in such high quality.

What are the laws on piracy? How well are they enforced? The Copyright Act, 1957, deals extensively with infringement of intellectual property such as movies, TV shows, books, articles, and other creative work. Section 63 and Section 63A of the Copyright Act provide for fines of up to ₹2 lakh and three years of imprisonment. Repeat offenders can receive these same penalties again for each subsequent violation.

The Cinematograph Act, 1952, since its amendment in 2023, provides for a much larger fine: 8% of the audited gross budget of a film. While the minimum fine is decidedly smaller, judges may not look too kindly on the *Ainu Nayagan* case in particular.

This is because unlike practically every other film, the Vijay starrer was leaked before it had a chance to release in theatres, denting both its theatrical value



India is seen as a 'notorious market' owing to its erratic response to piracy cases. (R. Prithi)

and home video rights valuation. It is uncommon for film piracy cases to be investigated and pursued with vigour. India is consistently listed as a "notorious market" by U.S. authorities, for instance, for amateur responses to piracy. However, considering the vast spectrum of voices within the film industry and political circles that are in support of KVN Productions, which bankrolled *Ainu Nayagan*, this case may be the subject of a more serious investigation.

Judges have tended to focus more on distributors in piracy and intellectual rights cases than on individual infringers. But depending on an individual infringer's behaviour, punishments can end up hitting not just the original leaker of the film, but anyone who abuses a link forward.

To test, Tamil Nadu Police's state Cyber Crime Wing said in a press release

is made from a legitimate theatrical print. That makes leaking an incredibly unattractive prospect to people with access to a movie.

It is common for full videos in a film's supply chain to be visibly watermarked for the intended recipient, or to indicate a watermark. There is such a watermark for *Ainu Nayagan*, but it is not yet clear if the watermark is being removed by forensic clues for investigators to zero in on a specific individual. If enforcement was involved, the harshest punishments may go to the first few people who received and distributed the film.

What happens if a movie has already been leaked? It is incredibly challenging for a leaked film to be completely wiped from the Internet. For one, there are several sites, constantly changing their domain names to evade judicial website blocking orders.

For another, private groups on messaging apps like Telegram and protocols like torrents, make the distribution of pirated content harder to stem.

However, there still remains an industry of so-called "anti-piracy" firms like Afilix who work with filmmakers, sports broadcasters, and so on, to quickly send copyright takedown notices to social media platforms. These firms generally act quickly on such alerts, and takedown sites (some of whom accept and act on it).

It is also common for filmmakers to approach courts for so-called "dynamic injunctions" that allow them to constantly provide High Courts with links to non-compliant sites. UDR+, after which they are blocked online. Some "John Doe" orders can be passed even before a film is leaked. In anticipation of a film becoming available on such platforms were a leak to happen.

THE GIST

It is incredibly challenging for a leaked movie to be completely wiped from the Internet.

Section 63 and Section 63A of the Copyright Act, 1957, provide for fines of up to ₹2 lakh and three years of imprisonment for infringement of intellectual property.

The Cinematograph Act, 1952, since its amendment in 2023, provides for a much larger fine: 8% of the audited gross budget of a film.

In the *Ainu Nayagan* case, the leak coming before its theatrical release has dented both its theatrical value and home video rights valuation.

Balancing faith and ecology: are rivers taking the brunt?

It is observed by experts that ritual offerings accelerate microbial activity in rivers, adding to pollution loads

Saeed Fande

Story so far

A 21-day religious ceremony at the Pattadakal Mahadev Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Shivnagar district, organised by Sant Shivnand Maharaj, culminated in a controversial ritual where 11,000 litres of milk were poured into the Narada River in what devotees described as a "sacred offering" on April 8.

Organisers aimed at purifying the river and helix Narmada Parikrama pilgrims. The incident, where a tanker was seen pouring milk, sparked a debate between religious faith and environmental concerns regarding pollution.

No official action has been taken yet by the Madhya Pradesh pollution control board or National Green Tribunal. Maharashtra in Madhya Pradesh has prompted the CPWD to supply milk Supply Scheme (2026-27), targeting 1.3 crore children through schools and Anganwadis.

Experts and activists argue that the 11,000 litres poured into Narada could provide 44,000 glasses (250ml each), leading 2,500 kids daily for 20 days or supplementing 10,000+ for a week at school programmes.

What are the impacts of ritual offerings on aquatic ecosystems? Though culturally viewed as pure, environmental studies show dairy effluents can have biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels far exceeding domestic sewage, leading to rapid depletion of dissolved oxygen and ecological stress in aquatic environments.

It is observed by experts that ritual offerings further accelerate microbial activity, adding to cumulative pollution loads. This reduces dissolved oxygen, affecting aquatic life, while nutrient enrichment can trigger algal blooms, further degrading water quality and disrupting biodiversity.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 2026 assessment identified 296 polluted river stretches across 271 rivers, with water quality at over 800 locations exceeding safe limits for bathing (BOD > 3 mg/l). The CPCB also observed that the Yamuna in Delhi records BOD levels as high as 83 mg/l, nearly 27 times the safe limit, effectively rendering stretches ecologically "dead".

A monitoring committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2018 observed an "unacceptable rise" in pollution levels in the Yamuna after 100

monitors, noting sharp increases in heavy metals from paints and synthetic materials.

Empirical evidence from CPCB monitoring and peer-reviewed studies shows that events like Kumbh Mela, Chhath Puja, Dwarka Puja, and Ganesh Visarva cause BOD and solid waste levels. Rapid population growth has pushed river degradation to the forefront of public concern, intensifying pressures on already fragile ecosystems.

Traditions that evolved in an era of sparse populations are now practiced at a vastly larger scale, amplifying their ecological impact. In the context, it is worth asking if age-old practices need to be revisited and reimagined to ensure that devotion does not come at the cost of the very rivers it seeks to honour?

What does India's environmental laws entail?

At the apex level, the Supreme Court of India has reviewed cases involving the weakening of environmental safeguards for religious practices. Positions rely on three legal foundations: The precautionary principle, the Water Act (Prevention and Control of Pollution) 1974, and Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees a clean environment.

Together, these establish that environmental protection is a binding legal obligation, even when balanced against religious freedoms. The NGT has enforced the CPCB's 2020 solid immersion guidelines, mandating ritual tanks or regulated zones for immersion. However, experts observe that no single law explicitly regulates offerings such as milk, flowers, oil, or mass bathing as a distinct category. Indian constitutional jurisprudence is clear that religious freedom under Article 28 is not absolute and can be restricted on grounds of public health. Yet, enforcement remains uneven due to political sensitivities and lack of uniform guidelines on everyday ritual practices.

The 767 lakh litres of offerings such as "polluter pays" and precaution, reinforcing that faith cannot override ecological limits.

Is a per capita limit on offerings plausible and effective? Even minimal practices create a significant, continuous pollution load, say experts.

An analysis of offerings at Varanasi ghats with an average daily footprint of 2.5 lakh, shows minimal offerings of 5 ml of milk, 1 ml of oil, and one flower per person, translating into 1,250 litres each of milk and oil, and 5 tonnes of flowers, adding ashed, unburnt, and other waste. On peak days, this rises to 1,500 litres and tonnes of waste. It is argued that per capita limits alone are insufficient. Effective regulation must combine site-specific caps, waste collection, and diversion to ensure sustainable river management.

The debate is not about curbing faith, but about recognising ecological limits.

THE GIST

Empirical evidence from CPCB monitoring and peer-reviewed studies shows that events like Kumbh Mela, Chhath Puja, Dwarka Puja, and Ganesh Visarva cause BOD and solid waste levels.

Even minimal practices create a significant, continuous pollution load, say experts.

Rapid population growth has pushed river degradation to the forefront of public concern, intensifying pressures on already fragile ecosystems.

What are the legal consequences of piracy?

The leak of Tamil movie *Jana Nayagan* before it could get a theatrical release could attract harsh penalties for the leakers if they are caught and chargesheeted, especially due to new amendments to the Cinematograph Act, 1952

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

In a blow to the movie's producers, Vijay-starrer *Jana Nayagan*, directed by H. Vinoth, was recently leaked online in its entirety in high quality while its theatrical release has been stuck in a limbo following issues with censor certificate.

The leak indicates that someone with legitimate access to the movie mishandled or intentionally spread it further. Six people have been held by authorities in connection with the leak. Film piracy through illegal downloads is rampant, but it is less common for content to become available in the first place in such high quality.

What are the laws on piracy? How well are they enforced?

The Copyright Act, 1957, deals extensively with infringement of intellectual property such as movies, TV shows, books, articles, and other creative work. Section 63 and Section 63A of the Copyright Act provide for fines of up to ₹2 lakh and three years of imprisonment. Repeat offenders can receive those same penalties again for each subsequent violation.

The Cinematograph Act, 1952, since its amendment in 2023, provides for a much larger fine: 5% of the audited gross budget of a film. While the minimum fine is decidedly smaller, judges may not look too kindly on the *Jana Nayagan* case in particular.

This is because unlike practically every other film, the Vijay starrer was leaked before it had a chance to release in theatres, denting both its theatrical value



India is seen as a 'notorious market' owing to its anemic response to piracy cases. FILE PHOTO

and home video rights valuation.

It is uncommon for film piracy cases to be investigated and pursued with vigour. India is consistently listed as a "notorious market" by U.S. authorities, for instance, for anemic responses to piracy.

However, considering the vast spectrum of voices within the film industry and political circles that has come out in support of KVN Productions, which bankrolled *Jana Nayagan*, this case may be the subject of a more serious investigation.

Judges have tended to focus more on distributors in piracy and intellectual rights cases than on individual infringers. But depending on an individual infringer's behaviour, punishments can end up hitting not just the original leaker of the film, but anyone who shares a link forward.

To boot, Tamil Nadu Police's State Cyber Crime Wing said in a press release

that those among the six arrested were sharing cloud storage links to the film.

How did this movie get leaked? How do studios protect against leaks?

Ordinarily, movies are only leaked to pirates in high quality when they appear on OTT streaming platforms. This is because once this happens, in spite of copy-resistant technologies employed by these platforms, pirates have found ways to defeat Digital Rights Management (DRM) protections on such content, and extract a video file that is close to the original stream in quality and fidelity.

As such, withholding content access from audiences at large altogether is the current gold standard. If only theatre projectionists have the movie – and that too only in an encrypted hard drive – it is much harder to copy. Invisible and barely visible watermarking enables studios to instantly identify the perpetrator if a copy

is made from a legitimate theatrical print. That makes leaking an incredibly unattractive prospect to people with access to a movie.

It is common for full videos in a film's supply chain to be visibly watermarked for the intended recipient, or to indicate a versioning. There is such a watermark for *Jana Nayagan*, but it is not yet clear if the version circulating online has enough forensic clues for investigators to zero in on a specific individual. If carelessness was involved, the harshest punishments may go to the first few people who received and distributed the film.

What happens if a movie has already been leaked?

It is incredibly challenging for a leaked film to be completely wiped from the Internet. For one, there are several sites, constantly changing their domain names to evade judicial website blocking orders. For another, private groups on messaging apps like Telegram and protocols like torrents, make the distribution of pirated content harder to stem.

However, there still remains an industry of so-called "anti-piracy" firms like AiPlex who work with filmmakers, sports broadcasters, and so on, to quickly send copyright takedown notices to social media platforms (who generally act quickly on such alerts), and torrent sites (some of whom accept and act on it).

It is also common for filmmakers to approach courts for so-called "dynamic injunctions" that allow them to constantly provide High Courts with links to non-compliant sites' URLs, after which they are blocked online. Some "John Doe" orders can be passed even before a film is leaked, in anticipation of a film becoming available on such platforms were a leak to happen.

THE GIST

It is incredibly challenging for a leaked movie to be completely wiped from the Internet

Section 63 and Section 63A of the Copyright Act, 1957, provide for fines of up to ₹2 lakh and three years of imprisonment for infringement of intellectual property

The Cinematograph Act, 1952, since its amendment in 2023, provides for a much larger fine: 5% of the audited gross budget of a film

In the *Jana Nayagan* case, the leak coming before its theatrical release has dented both its theatrical value and home video rights valuation

- Tamil movie **Jana Nayagan** (starring Vijay, directed by H. Vinoth) was **leaked online in high quality** before its theatrical release — stuck in limbo due to censor certificate issues.
- तमिल फिल्म **Jana Nayagan** (विजय अभिनीत, H. विनोथ निर्देशित) थिएट्रिकल रिलीज से पहले **ऑनलाइन उच्च गुणवत्ता में लीक** — सेंसर सर्टिफिकेट मुद्दों के कारण अटकी।
- **Six people arrested** in connection with the leak by Tamil Nadu Police's State Cyber Crime Wing — for sharing cloud storage links to the film.
- **छह लोग गिरफ्तार** — क्लाउड स्टोरेज लिंक साझा करने के लिए तमिलनाडु पुलिस के राज्य साइबर क्राइम विंग द्वारा।
- Case highlights the **Cinematograph Act 1952 (amended 2023)** — provides for fine of **5% of audited gross budget** of a film for piracy.
- मामला **सिनेमैटोग्राफ अधिनियम 1952 (2023 में संशोधित)** को उजागर करता है — पायरेसी के लिए फिल्म के **ऑडिटेड सकल बजट का 5%** जुर्माना।
- India is consistently listed as a "**notorious market**" by U.S. authorities for anemic response to piracy.
- भारत को लगातार अमेरिकी अधिकारियों द्वारा पायरेसी पर कमजोर प्रतिक्रिया के लिए "**कुख्यात बाजार**" के रूप में सूचीबद्ध।
- Case raises questions about **Digital Rights Management (DRM)**, watermarking technology, and India's cyber law framework.
- मामला **डिजिटल राइट्स मैनेजमेंट (DRM)**, वॉटरमार्किंग तकनीक और भारत के साइबर कानून ढाँचे के बारे में सवाल उठाता है।

- **Film piracy** means making a copy of a movie or distributing it without permission from the copyright holder. It's a crime in India under multiple laws.
- **फिल्म पायरेसी** का अर्थ है कॉपीराइट धारक की अनुमति के बिना फिल्म की प्रति बनाना या वितरित करना। यह भारत में कई कानूनों के तहत अपराध है।
- The Jana Nayagan leak is unusual because: (1) it leaked before theatrical release (most leaks happen after OTT release); (2) it was in very high quality; (3) it has damaged the film's commercial prospects significantly.
- Jana Nayagan लीक असामान्य है क्योंकि: (1) थिएटरिकल रिलीज से पहले लीक; (2) बहुत उच्च गुणवत्ता में; (3) फिल्म की व्यावसायिक संभावनाओं को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से नुकसान।
- India has two main laws dealing with piracy: (1) **Copyright Act 1957** (fines up to ₹2 lakh + 3 years imprisonment); (2) **Cinematograph Act 1952 (amended 2023)** (fine = 5% of film's audited gross budget — much larger).
- भारत में पायरेसी से निपटने वाले दो मुख्य कानून: (1) **कॉपीराइट अधिनियम 1957** (₹2 लाख + 3 साल); (2) **सिनेमैटोग्राफ अधिनियम 1952 (2023 संशोधित)** (फिल्म बजट का 5%)।
- Despite laws, piracy persists because: pirated sites constantly change domain names to evade blocking; Telegram and torrents make distribution very easy; once a movie is online, it cannot be fully removed.
- कानूनों के बावजूद पायरेसी जारी रहती है क्योंकि: पायरेटेड साइटें ब्लॉकिंग से बचने के लिए डोमेन नाम बदलती हैं; Telegram और टोरेंट वितरण आसान बनाते हैं।

D4. Why India is a "Notorious Market" / भारत "कुख्यात बाजार" क्यों है

- **U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)** annually publishes "Notorious Markets" list — India consistently features for:
 - Weak enforcement of piracy laws
 - Inadequate investigation and prosecution
 - India seen as having "**anemic response**" to piracy
- **USTR** सालाना "Notorious Markets" सूची प्रकाशित — भारत लगातार शामिल:
 - पायरेसी कानूनों का कमजोर प्रवर्तन
 - अपर्याप्त जाँच और अभियोजन
- **Distributors vs individual infringers:** Judges tend to focus on **distributors** in piracy and intellectual rights cases rather than individual infringers — making individual cases harder to pursue.
- **वितरक बनाम व्यक्तिगत उल्लंघनकर्ता:** न्यायाधीश पायरेसी में व्यक्तिगत उल्लंघनकर्ताओं के बजाय **वितरकों** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं।

D5. Why Important for India? / भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

- **Indian film industry economic size:** Hindi film industry (Bollywood) alone was ~₹19,500 crore market; South Indian films (especially Tamil, Telugu) increasingly global; piracy causes billions in annual losses.
- **भारतीय फिल्म उद्योग:** हिंदी फिल्म उद्योग ~₹19,500 करोड़; पायरेसी से अरबों की वार्षिक हानि।
- **Employment:** Film industry employs millions directly and indirectly — piracy reduces revenue → fewer films → less employment.
- **रोजगार:** फिल्म उद्योग लाखों को प्रत्यक्ष और परोक्ष रूप से रोजगार; पायरेसी राजस्व कम करती है।
- **IP protection:** India's Intellectual Property (IP) framework — TRIPS compliance, India-USA trade relations — piracy affects India's standing.
- **IP संरक्षण:** भारत का बौद्धिक संपदा ढाँचा — TRIPS अनुपालन, भारत-USA व्यापार संबंध।
- **Cyber law:** Jana Nayagan case tests India's IT Act + Copyright Act + Cinematograph Act framework — important precedent.
- **साइबर कानून:** Jana Nayagan मामला भारत के IT अधिनियम + कॉपीराइट अधिनियम + सिनेमैटोग्राफ अधिनियम ढाँचे का परीक्षण।

- **CBFC:** Statutory body; under Ministry of I&B; Chairman appointed by Central Government; certifies all films for public exhibition.
- **CBFC:** वैधानिक निकाय; I&B मंत्रालय के तहत; अध्यक्ष केंद्र सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त।
- **WTO TRIPS Agreement:** 1994 (Uruguay Round); came into force 1995; Part of WTO package; sets minimum IP standards globally.
- **WTO TRIPS समझौता:** 1994 (उरुग्वे राउंड); 1995 से प्रभावी; वैश्विक स्तर पर न्यूनतम IP मानक।
- **Berne Convention:** 1886; administered by WIPO; automatic copyright protection without registration in member countries.
- **बर्न अभिसमय:** 1886; WIPO द्वारा प्रशासित; पंजीकरण के बिना स्वचालित कॉपीराइट संरक्षण।
- **WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization):** UN agency; HQ Geneva; administers global IP treaties.
- **WIPO:** UN एजेंसी; HQ जिनेवा; वैश्विक IP संधियाँ प्रशासित।
- **USTR Notorious Markets List:** Annual report by U.S. Trade Representative listing markets where IP enforcement is inadequate.
- **USTR Notorious Markets सूची:** अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधि की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट।

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	The WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) is headquartered in:	(a) New York (b) Vienna (c) Geneva (d) Brussels	(c) Geneva
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	The "TRIPS Agreement" is associated with:	(a) FAO (b) WHO (c) WTO (d) IMF	(c) WTO — Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, 1994
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	Under the Copyright Act, 1957, the copyright in a cinematograph film lasts for how many years from the date of publication?	(a) 50 years (b) 60 years (c) 70 years (d) Life of director + 60 years	(b) 60 years
4	SSC CGL Tier 1	2024	The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) functions under which Ministry?	(a) Culture (b) Tourism (c) Information and Broadcasting (d) Home Affairs	(c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
5	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	Under Section 69A of the IT Act 2000, the Central Government can order:	(a) Imprisonment of cybercriminals (b) Blocking of websites/online content (c) Levy of fines on ISPs (d) Prosecution of foreign entities	(b) Blocking of websites/online content

6	UPSC CSE Mains GS-3	2018	"Intellectual property rights are considered as a trade barrier in international trade. Discuss with reference to India's pharmaceutical industry and TRIPS."	(Mains descriptive)	Key: Berne, TRIPS, compulsory licensing (Section 84 Patents Act), generic drugs, India-USA IP tensions
7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	The Berne Convention (1886) relates to:	(a) Patents (b) Trademarks (c) Copyright (d) Trade secrets	(c) Copyright
8	SSC CHSL	2025	The Cinematograph Act was amended in India to include anti-piracy provisions with fine amounting to what percentage of the film's audited gross budget?	(a) 1% (b) 2% (c) 3% (d) 5%	(d) 5% — 2023 Cinematograph Amendment
9	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Which of the following correctly describes "John Doe" orders in the context of Indian intellectual property law?	(a) Orders against named copyright infringers (b) Orders against foreign piracy websites (c) Orders against unnamed/unidentified infringers, often passed before a film releases (d) Orders requiring criminal arrest of pirates	(c) Against unnamed infringers, often pre-release

Consider the following statements about India's anti-piracy legal framework: भारत के पायरेसी-विरोधी कानूनी ढाँचे के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Section 63 of the Copyright Act, 1957 provides for fines of up to ₹2 lakh and three years of imprisonment for infringement of intellectual property. कॉपीराइट अधिनियम, 1957 की धारा 63 बौद्धिक संपदा उल्लंघन के लिए ₹2 लाख तक जुर्माना और तीन साल कारावास का प्रावधान करती है।
2. The Cinematograph Act, 1952, since its amendment in 2023, provides for a fine of 5% of the audited gross budget of a film for piracy. सिनेमैटोग्राफ अधिनियम, 1952, 2023 में संशोधन के बाद, पायरेसी के लिए फिल्म के ऑडिटेड सकल बजट का 5% जुर्माना प्रदान करता है।
3. "John Doe" orders can be passed by courts only after a film has been pirated, not before. "जॉन डो" आदेश न्यायालयों द्वारा केवल फिल्म पायरेट होने के बाद, पहले नहीं, पारित किए जा सकते हैं।
4. India is consistently listed as a "notorious market" by U.S. authorities for its inadequate response to piracy cases. भारत को लगातार अमेरिकी अधिकारियों द्वारा पायरेसी मामलों पर अपर्याप्त प्रतिक्रिया के लिए "कुख्यात बाजार" के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किया जाता है।

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A large hall filled with rows of empty, multi-colored plastic chairs. The chairs are arranged in neat rows, receding into the distance. The colors of the chairs include shades of blue, green, orange, and grey. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the plastic seats.

Lok Sabha Expansion to 850
Seats Proposed

Core proposal	A proposal has been discussed to expand the strength of the Lok Sabha to around 850 seats . This is linked to the upcoming delimitation exercise and changing population distribution.
Present strength of Lok Sabha	At present, the elected strength is 543 seats . The Constitution allows a maximum framework under Article 81 , but actual seat allocation is decided by law and delimitation.
Why expansion is being considered	The main reasons are: 1. Population growth since the last major readjustment, 2. Need for fairer representation , 3. Implementation of women's reservation , and 4. Adjustment of seats among states and Union Territories.
Link with women's reservation	The increase in seats is seen as a way to implement 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies without sharply reducing opportunities for existing political actors. This makes the policy politically easier to implement.
Role of delimitation	Delimitation means redrawing constituency boundaries and reallocating seats according to population changes. It ensures the principle of equal representation .
Census base in proposal	The article indicates that the proposal is tied to a fresh delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census .
Controversy / Opposition concern	Several opposition parties argue that delimitation should be based on the 2021 Census data , not the 2011 Census, since the 2021 Census has not yet been officially released.

Related constitutional bodies / laws	Delimitation Commission plays a key role. It is usually set up by an Act of Parliament. Its orders generally have the force of law and cannot easily be challenged in court.
Historical background	India has carried out delimitation exercises in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002 . The last major delimitation was done on the basis of the 2001 Census , with the order implemented in 2008.
Why delimitation is politically sensitive	States with higher population growth may gain more seats, while states that controlled population growth may fear losing relative influence. This creates a North-South political debate in India.
Federal concern	Southern and some western states often argue that they should not be “penalized” in parliamentary representation for successful population control, while high-population states argue that democracy requires seat share to reflect population reality.
Geographical dimension	Delimitation can significantly affect representation in large states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan , etc., while smaller states may see limited change.
Political significance	Expansion of Lok Sabha can reshape party strategy, coalition politics, regional power balance, reservation politics, and parliamentary functioning .
Administrative significance	More MPs may improve representational spread, but it may also raise issues of parliamentary efficiency, infrastructure, seating, coordination, and debate management .

GUIDE TO IRAN'S SEA MINES THAT HAVE PARALYSED STRAIT OF HORMUZ

A sea (naval) mine is a self-contained, explosive device placed in water to damage or sink ships and submarines. Unlike torpedoes, mines are hidden, inactive until triggered by contact or proximity (magnetic, acoustic, or pressure sensors), and used for both offensive & defensive purposes



DIFFERENT KINDS OF MINES



Drifting Mines: Float on or just below surface, moving with currents

Bottom/Influence Mines: Rest on seafloor, triggered by a ship's acoustic, magnetic or pressure signature, making them harder to detect



Remote-Controlled Mines: Detonated on demand from a control station, often used for coastal defence



Contact Mines: Moored to seabed, these explode when physically struck by a vessel



Limpet Mines: Specialised mines attached directly to a ship's hull by divers or small boats, often with magnetic fixings

Smart/Rocket Mines: Advanced, anchored systems that can fire a torpedo or rocket when a target is detected



Text by Surendra Singh; Graphic: Anil Dinod

Threat of Iran's sea mines is closing the Strait of Hormuz. Main types are as follows:

Maham-3: This moored mine can be deployed in waters up to 100m deep. The mine rises along its mooring cable and stabilises just below the keel depth of passing vessels. It is triggered by acoustic sensors. It has explosive charge of 120kg, detonating a few metres from target

Maham-1: A traditional moored mine. Maham-1 series is much less sophisticated than Maham-3. It is, however, a

serious threat to transiting ships due to its large warhead

Maham-2: A bottom (sea floor) mine, this type is much harder to detect than moored mines. Its warhead is of 320kg. It needs to be in shallower waters to have serious impact

Maham-6: This is a close copy of classic Italian Manta bottom mines that were used by Iraq during the Iran war

Self-Propelled Mine: This appears to be similar to Maham-2

but with a torpedo propulsion unit. It is possibly intended for submarine launch, but can easily be launched from the shore. Their range is 10-20 km. Iran possibly has Chinese EM-56 self-propelled mine

Other Mines: Reports of Iran importing EM-52 rocket mines from China. A rocket-armed mine is moored to the seabed. When it detects a ship sailing overhead, rocket is released, impacting the bottom of the ship

'India's lines of destiny': Modi opens e-way, Delhi to Doon in 3 hours now

Kautilya.Singh
@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: PM Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the Rs 11,963-crore Delhi-Dehradun expressway, a 213km high-speed corridor, which govt says will cut travel time between the two cities from around six hours to 2.5-3 hours.

Before the opening, Modi offered prayers at Daat Kali temple on the outskirts of Dehradun, and later took part in a 12-km roadshow in the city. Addressing a rally at Dehradun's Mahendra Ground, he described transport infrastructure as central to national progress. "The lines of destiny for a nation are its

ASIA'S LONGEST WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Photo: PTI

- 6-lane expressway goes via **Baghat, Shamli and Saharanpur**
- 12km elevated wildlife corridor is Asia's longest. Eway has **6 animal & 2 elephant underpasses, sound & light barriers**
- 51km greenfield road built to **connect e-way with Haridwar**



Video grab of PM reviewing the wildlife corridor on the expressway's elevated section in Saharanpur

roads, highways, railways, waterways and expressways," the PM said, adding that India was rapidly building such "lines of destiny" to accelerate development.

The project, stretching

from Asharodi in Dehradun to Akshardham in Delhi, features a 12km elevated wildlife corridor between Asharodi and Ganeshpur.

▶ **Continued on P 11**

213 KILOMETRES, 10 BRIDGES AND 16 ENTRY POINTS

2020
₹11,963
core project
approved

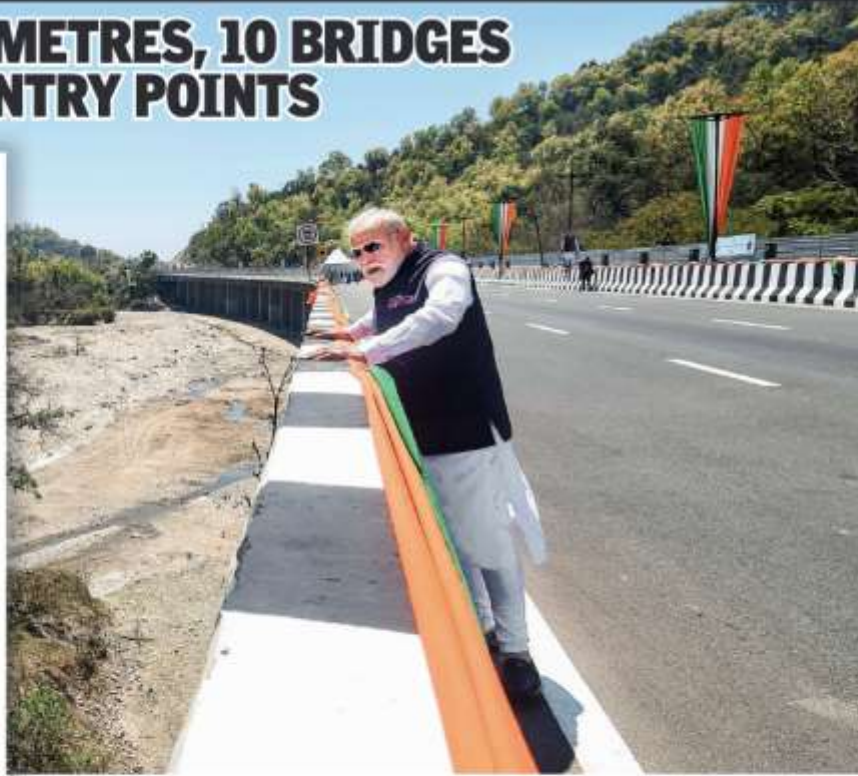
2021
Tender
approved,
land acquired,
foundation
stone laid

2022
Elevated
corridor work
started from
Asharodi to
Ganeshpur

2024
Structure and
connectivity
work gains
pace

2025
Elevated
corridor
work almost
completed,
other works
on 90% route
completed

2026
Project
complete,
inaugurated
by PM
Narendra Modi



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECT

Project cost	Length	Service road	Elephant underpass	Animal underpass	Wayside amenities	Bridges
₹11,963 crore	213-km	76-km	2	6	12	10

Vehicular underpass
113

Bus Shelters
62

Entry points
16

ROB
2



Photo: Rajesh Mehta

Asia's longest elevated wildlife corridor
12-km

Toll Tax
₹675 one way,
₹1,000 for same day
return

51-km
greenfield road
worth **₹2,095 crore** to
connect route with
Haridwar

A quiz on International Day of Human Space Flight, observed

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION #1

On that date, 65 years ago, Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. What was the name of his spacecraft and what Russian word meaning 'Let's go!' or 'We're off!' did he utter that has become a tradition among Russian spacepersons.

QUESTION #2

What space first was achieved by cosmonaut Alexei Leonov on March 18, 1965?

QUESTION #3

Name the cosmonaut who holds the record for the longest single,

uninterrupted human spaceflight at 437 days and 18 hours.

QUESTION #4

What is the 'Karman Line' (named after Hungarian-American engineer and physicist Theodore von Karman) in the context of space exploration?

QUESTION #5

Going to space once is a big achievement. Jerry Ross and Franklin Chang-Diaz hold the record for most spaceflights. How many?

QUESTION #6

Name the Chinese-built space station that is the only live space station apart from the ISS.



Visual question: Name the Indian Air Force officer seen with Rakesh Sharma who served as the backup cosmonaut in 1984? FILE PHOTO

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Name of Gagarin's spacecraft and the word meaning he uttered: **Vostok 1 and Poyekhali**
 2. Alexei Leonov's achievement: **First human spacewalk**
 3. Record for the longest uninterrupted spaceflight: **Valeri Polyakov**
 4. What is the 'Karman Line': **Boundary separating the earth's atmosphere from outer space**
 5. Record for most spaceflights: **Seven**
 6. The Chinese-built spacestation: **Tiangong-1**
- Visual: The IAF officer who was backup for Rakesh Sharma: **Ravish Malhotra**

THE DAILY QUIZ

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452. Here is a quiz on the artist.

Sindhu Nagaraj

▶ **QUESTION 1**

Leonardo epitomised which worldview?

▶ **QUESTION 2**

Which is his famous work which is regarded as the world's most famous individual painting?

▶ **QUESTION 3**

This painting depicts a nude man in two overlapping standing positions, inscribed within a circle and a square. Name the painting.

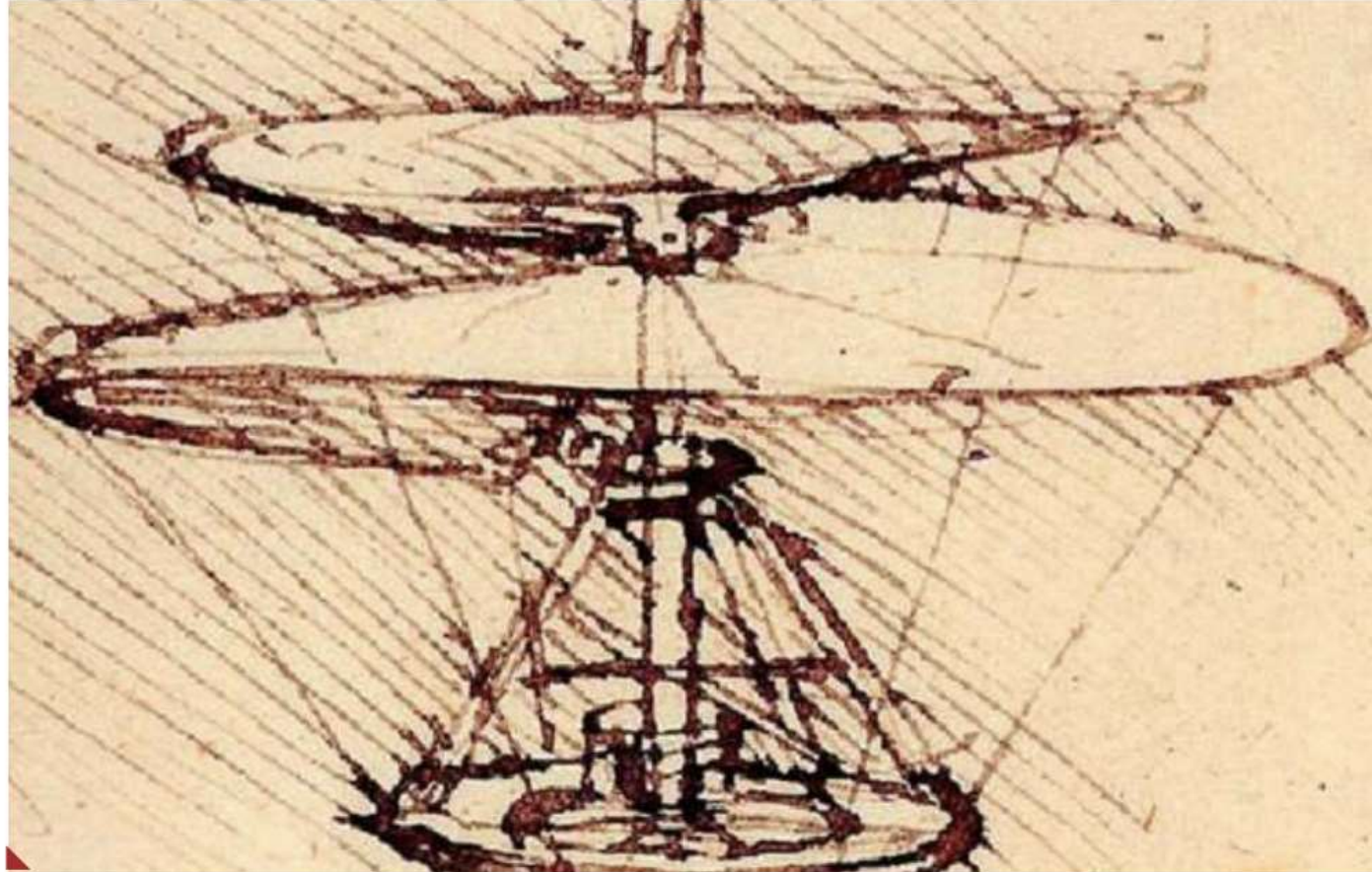
▶ **QUESTION 4**

Leonardo collaborated with which artist on his The Baptism of Christ?

▶ **QUESTION 5**

The Museo Ideale Leonardo da Vinci is located in which city in Italy?

CM



Identify this drawing. What is it called, and in which year it was done? FILE PHOTO



तैयारी सब karte hai पर **Select** कुछ ही होते है !

What is the Right Strategy ?

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19th April
11:00 AM


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Medium Aspirants



RASonly Near Riddhi-Siddhi, Jaipur



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- ✓ Consistency Champions
- ✓ Dedicated Performers



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 bhunesh@class24.study

Word of the day

Nadir:

an extreme state of adversity; the lowest point of anything

Synonyms: hardship, rock bottom

Usage: *The relationship between the two countries reached a nadir in the 1920s*

Pronunciation: /ˈneɪdɪər/

International Phonetic Alphabet: newsth.live/nadir

Word of the day

Gambit: A clever action intended to achieve an advantage and usually involves taking a risk

Synonyms: ploy, stratagem

Pronunciation: newsth.live/gambit

Usage: The agreement to hold a referendum was a political gambit

International phonetic alphabet: /gæmbɪt/



Thank you 😊