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“Your competition is not
others—it’s your distraction.”

Iran closes Hormuz Strait again over U.S. blockade; attack on ships reported

Associated Press
CAIRO

The stand-off over the Strait of Hormuz escalated again on Saturday as Iran reversed its reopening of the crucial waterway and fired on ships attempting to pass, in retaliation after the United States pressed ahead with its blockade of Iranian ports.

New attacks on the strait, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil normally passes, threatened to deepen the global energy crisis and push the countries into renewed conflict eight weeks after the war began. Their fragile ceasefire is due to run out by Wednesday. Iran said it had received new proposals from the United States, and Pakistani mediators were working to arrange another round of direct negotiations.

Iran's joint military command said "control of the Strait of Hormuz has returned to its previous state ... under strict management and control of the armed forces". It warned it would continue to block transits while the U.S. blockade remained in effect.

Revolutionary Guard gunboats opened fire on a tanker transiting the strait and an unknown projectile hit a container vessel, damaging some containers, the British military's Unit-



Saeed Khatibzadeh

ed Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said, without identifying the vessels.

Most powerful weapon

For Iran, the strait's closure – imposed after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28 during talks over Tehran's nuclear programme – is perhaps its most powerful weapon, threatening the world economy and inflicting political pain on President Donald Trump. For the United States, the blockade keeps up pressure and could strangle Iran's already weakened economy.

Iran's new Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, issued defiant remarks on Saturday, saying the navy stands "ready to inflict bitter defeats on its enemies".

On Friday, Iran announced the strait's reopening to commercial vessels after a 10-day truce was announced between

Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. The reopening caused oil prices to fall.

Mr. Trump, however, said the U.S. blockade of Iran's ports "will remain in full force" until Tehran reaches a deal with the United States. Mr. Trump had imposed the blockade after a round of historic face-to-face talks in Pakistan between the countries ended without an agreement.

U.S. forces have sent 23 ships back to Iran since the blockade began on Monday, U.S. Central Command said on Saturday.

"Americans are risking the international community, risking the global economy through these, I can say, miscalculations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said, adding that the U.S. is "risking the whole ceasefire package".

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump warned Iran not to "blackmail" Washington with its flip-flopping on the fate of the Strait of Hormuz.

"We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again – you know, as they've been doing for years – and they can't blackmail us," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump said there would be "some information" about Iran later in the day, adding: "We're taking a tough stand."

- **IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps):**
 - Founded: 1979 (after Islamic Revolution)
 - Controls: Quds Force (external operations), navy (in Persian Gulf), aerospace force (missiles, drones)
 - Designated terrorist organisation by: USA (2019)
 - Reports to: Supreme Leader of Iran (not President)
 - IRGC: 1979 स्थापित; USA ने 2019 में आतंकी नामित; सर्वोच्च नेता को जवाबदेह
- **UKMTO:** United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations; HQ Dubai; part of UK Royal Navy; monitors merchant shipping in Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf; works with Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
- **UKMTO:** UK रॉयल नेवी; HQ दुबई; CMF के साथ।
- **Saeed Khatibzadeh:** Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister; key spokesperson in diplomacy.
- **सईद खातिबज़ादेह:** ईरानी उप-विदेश मंत्री।
- **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF):** U.S.-led multinational naval partnership of 38+ nations; ensures maritime security in Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea.
- **CMF:** अमेरिका के नेतृत्व में बहुराष्ट्रीय नौसैनिक साझेदारी; अरब सागर, फारस की खाड़ी, लाल सागर।
- **Five major global chokepoints (for oil):**
 1. **Strait of Hormuz** (~20% global oil)
 2. **Strait of Malacca** (~25% global trade)
 3. **Suez Canal** (~12% global trade)
 4. **Bab-el-Mandeb** (Red Sea gateway, Houthi threat)
 5. **Turkish Straits** (Bosphorus/Dardanelles — Russia's Black Sea oil)
 - पाँच प्रमुख वैश्विक चोकपॉइंट: होर्मुज, मलक्का, स्वेज, बाब-एल-मंदेब, तुर्की जलसंधि

- **India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR):**
 - Managed by: ISPRL (Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd)
 - Locations: **Mangalore, Padur** (Karnataka); **Visakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh)
 - Total capacity: ~5.33 million metric tonnes (~39 million barrels)
 - Covers: ~9-10 days of consumption (IEA recommends 90 days)
 - India is building additional reserves at Chandikhol (Odisha) and Padur Phase II
 - **भारत का SPR:** मंगलौर, पदुर (कर्नाटक); विशाखापट्टनम (आंध्र); ~39 मिलियन बैरल; ~9-10 दिन।
- **Global Chokepoints — Key Data:**

Chokepoint	Location	Oil/Trade Volume	Current Threat
Strait of Hormuz	Between Iran & UAE/Oman	~20% global oil	Iran IRGC
Strait of Malacca	Malaysia/Singapore/Indonesia	~25% global trade	Piracy historically
Suez Canal	Egypt	~12% global trade	Houthis disrupted
Bab-el-Mandeb	Yemen/Djibouti/Eritrea	~10% global oil	Houthis active
Turkish Straits	Turkey	Russia's Black Sea oil	Turkey controls

- **UNCLOS (UN Convention on Law of the Sea):**
 - Adopted: 1982; in force: 1994
 - India ratified: 1995
 - Iran has NOT ratified UNCLOS
 - Key provisions:
 - Territorial Sea: 12 nautical miles (state sovereignty)
 - Contiguous Zone: 24 NM
 - EEZ: 200 NM (exclusive economic rights)
 - High Seas: Beyond EEZ (free navigation)
 - **Innocent Passage:** Right of all ships to pass through territorial waters without stopping; must be continuous and expeditious
 - **Transit Passage:** Right through straits used for international navigation; cannot be suspended
- **Iran's Asymmetric Naval Strategy:**
 - Fast attack craft ("Boghammar" type)
 - Submarine mines
 - Shahab/Noor anti-ship missiles
 - Shahed drones (adapted for maritime strike)
 - Swarm tactics (multiple fast boats overwhelming large warship)
 - Based on: Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD)

Why has Punjab introduced a new law on sacrilege?

Why does the State government say stricter punishment is needed?

Utkarsh Khanna

The story so far:

In April 11, the Punjab Assembly unanimously passed the bill for the new sacrilege law (Amendment Bill, 2007), aimed at harsher punishment for sacrilege of the Gurus' Sahib, including the imprisonment. It proposes to amend the 2006 law enacted under the Bharat Ratna Shri Ch. Bhabha Jeeva Party government. A series of so-called sacrilege incidents in recent years prompted successive governments to pursue legislation. In 2006, the NDA-led government passed two amendment bills — The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2006, and The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006 — providing for the imprisonment of the sacrilege of the Gurus' Sahib, but the Centre returned them, saying that all offences must be treated equally under India's secular framework. In 2006, the Congress government again introduced two amendment bills, but they did not receive Presidential assent. Last year, the AAP-led government tabled the Punjab Protection of Offences against Holy Scriptures Bill, which was subsequently sent to a select committee for review.

What is the Bill all about?

The State government argues that recent sacrilege have attempted to disturb peace and communal harmony in Punjab. It says the amendments seek to deter such acts by ensuring stringent punishment for sacrilege. The amendments, for those found guilty,

What does it propose?

The proposed legislation states that anyone committing sacrilege of the Gurus' Sahib can face imprisonment of not less than seven years, which may extend to 20 years, along with a fine between ₹1 lakh and ₹10 lakh. It also provides criminal conspiracy with the intent to disturb peace or communal harmony, the punishment ranges from imprisonment for seven to life imprisonment, with fine between ₹1 lakh and ₹10 lakh.

All offences under the law will be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable. Those aiding sacrilege will be treated as culpable.

The proposed law also includes a clause that holds the guardians of an offender legally accountable for acts of sacrilege. The division of printing, publications, and distribution of "seditious" has been included, making such custodian fully responsible for the sale, circulation, purchase, and possession of copies of Gurus' Sahib. The offence shall be investigated by a police officer, not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, says the amendment Bill.

Punjab Chief Minister Amrinder Singh introduced the legislation as a "historic correction" against its "long-standing legislative lull" by previous governments. "I am sure the Amrinder Singh Bill marks the end of sacrilege in the State as it will ensure that no one is ever dare to hold up in such a heinous crime," he said.

How does the Bill define sacrilege?

The Bill defines sacrilege as any ritual and religious act intended to desecrate the Gurus' Sahib. This includes, but is not limited to, defacing, burning, tearing, or theft of the copies of Gurus' Sahib or part, or through words, either spoken or written, signs, public representations, or electronic means that are intended to hurt the religious sentiments of those persons possessing the Sahib Sahib.

Why are critics raising concerns?

Critics argue that the amendment departs from the original purpose of the 2006 Act, which was aimed at regulating the printing, publication, and distribution of the Gurus' Sahib to preserve its sanctity. Expecting it to be a law that entrenches certain penalties such as life imprisonment may make the law ineffectual.

Former Punjab Advocate General A.P. Daud points to a key legal issue: "While the State does have the authority to pass the Bill, the requirement, as set out in the Bill, under both the State law and the Central law governing the Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Gurji Indira Penal Code, is that government cannot impose a sentence exceeding what is already laid down in the IPC. Under Section 200A of the IPC or 201 of 1956, the punishment for sacrilege is capped at three years. By prescribing life imprisonment through this amendment, it is found to create a direct conflict between Central and State law, in which the Central law would prevail, making the current amendment difficult to defend on legal grounds."

Is India's Maoist insurgency finally over?

What remains of the CPI (Maoist) after recent setbacks? How did security operations weaken the Maoist movement so sharply? What internal divisions and ideological shifts weakened the organisation? Is there any chance of a Maoist revival in the future?

Rishi Mishra

The story so far:

In May 11, 2005, Nandini Sahu (the late Ranvijay, then general secretary of the banned CPI (Maoist), was killed in an encounter in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj area. The operation was led by the District Reserve Force and the CRPF's CDRB unit. His successor, Thaparji Thapar alias Neel, surrendered by February 2006 along with cabinet and weapons. With recent Central Committee leaders killed or arrested, the organisation is now largely leaderless. With these developments, can the five-decade-old Maoist movement be considered "finished" as Home Minister Anil Kumar has claimed, or has with its March 31 deadline to end the insurgency?

In the Maoist movement over the past developments suggest that the banned Left Wing Extremist (LWE) movement has been effectively wiped out. Since the launch of Operation Kargil (Black Force) in 2004, coordinated operations across CRPF affected States have led to approximately 3,640 encounters, 2,328 arrests, and 620 deaths. Among these were seven Central Committee or Politburo members who were arrested or surrendered, and 12 who were killed.

By Jan 22, 2007, Central Committee membership had already shrunk from around 40 to 2. Today, only two members remain. "The Maoist cannot be driven off entirely. They have shown remarkable resilience before. In 1991, when they were known as the People's Liberation Army, they were reduced to a single district. By 2000, they had been wiped out, establishing a "Red Army" operating in only 12 States — those areas in the Naxal border. When the Maoist Central Committee (MCC) joined



Fallen Gurgaon Security personnel at border encounter coordinated by Maoist Central Committee (MCC) in West Bengal, on March 11, 2007.

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Central Committee membership had already shrunk from around 40 to 2. Today, only two members remain.

What led to their downfall?

From Maoist's side, the Maoists have faced several shifts — one reason for their splintering into about six groups. The rift centred on ideological issues: one faction favoured violent individual assassinations, while another emphasised mass mobilisation. These tensions also led to leadership changes, with leaders such as Khandajji eventually being sidelined by stronger leaders.

Clear they remained in India, they advanced their frontal assault. From 2005 to 2007, the Maoist targeted in Chhatrapati, with 700 to 1,000 cadres annually. However, the narrative gradually changed. By 2006, the Maoists had already been pushed out of Andhra Pradesh by the state Government force. Every LWE-affected State they formed smaller special teams. Operation Kargil delivered the final blow, decimating their stronghold.

The Maoists also faced a "rift in ideology" conflict. Though it falls from Chhatrapati completed the main fighting force, the leadership remained largely intact. This created a rift, leading to Maoist Helina's emergence as a rival representative. Another factor was their limited ideology. With government welfare schemes reaching rural households, the concept of "class enemy" lost relevance.

Another factor was their limited ideology. With government welfare schemes reaching rural households, the concept of "class enemy" lost relevance. These problems, together coupled with Maoist's ideological rigidity, were seen by leaders had even advocated dialogue with the government as early as 2000. Former leader Chandan Bhatnagar also spoke was reportedly seeking peace talks when he was killed in an encounter in 2005. Reports also suggest they approached then Chhatrapati Chief Minister Akhlesh Prasad to regulate entry into movement politics, however, declining overtures, sustained security pressure, and the relative success of democratic protests undermined the case for armed struggle.

Is a revival possible? A revival of armed insurgency seems difficult. However, a prominent Maoist daily in Chhatrapati reported that many are focused to focus on rebuilding their base organisations. Several former leaders such as Mahesh Venkatesh alias Naga and Naga remain under constant surveillance. Many deaths in the mobilisation process.

Legal challenges also persist. Many surrendered cadres face multiple serious charges, including murder. Forfeiture of state security personnel or other victims could the greatest performance against the withdrawal of government. The courts must be convinced before prosecution can be withdrawn — and agreed parties already have expressed their

With the formation of CPI (Maoist) under Akhlesh Prasad, the Maoist movement became what then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called "a single legalised internal security threat." The Maoist Central Wing including the UGA under Central Military Commission, trying to merge into a full-fledged guerrilla army trained with modern weapons. Trained by the LTTE, they became experts with IEDs and attacked buses in April 2008, killing

Variable Deance Alliance (VDA), but workers argued that those routine adjustments were insufficient and left them with lower pay than in Delhi and Haryana, which also have a BJP government at present. A long-standing wage gap that voluntary and compensated in the middle rise in CPI (Maoist) prices and essential food items, driven by the West Asian crisis.

Protesters demanded improved conditions of the eight-hour workday norms, arguing that long shifts have become standard in many Noida industrial units. Many workers reported being forced to work extended hours without corresponding pay increases, and some weekly off.

Another major grievance is the reorganisation of the workforce. Even in large industrial units, many workers have no contracts or job security. They blamed the government for the reorganisation of their wages, with some being made to sign for double shifts but paid only for single shifts.

Under the Code on Wages 2006, the Centre must set a minimum wage — a guideline for minimum benchmark. No state can go below it, though they set their own rates, often varying by more wage structure is considered based on norms established by the 15th Indian Labour Conference (ILC), which ensures a worker can support a family of three members, one self, spouse, and two children.

What are workers' demands? The primary demands include a minimum wage of ₹21,000 to ₹26,000 per month for state-owned workers to match the rising cost of living, and

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What led to the Noida workers' protest?

What are the key demands of Noida workers? Why are workers dissatisfied with current wages? How are minimum wages determined in Noida? How has the U.P. government responded? What steps has the government taken to address workers' concerns?

Aard Kishore

The story so far:

The Noida workers' protest, which escalated into widespread violence on April 11, has become a significant event for the Uttar Pradesh government. The protest, primarily driven by demands for higher wages and improved working conditions, paralysed parts of the city's industrial zones and triggered massive security responses. On April 11, thousands of workers at high-rise buildings such as the Cyber City also began protesting for higher pay. The administration took a dual approach of crackdowns and negotiations. In a direct response to the strikes, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a 30-25% increase in minimum wages effective from April 11. As Uttar Pradesh heads towards the election, the situation has given the Opposition an issue to contest the government on.

Why did workers take to the streets? The most direct trigger was the Haryana government's decision to raise its minimum monthly wage by 20%, from approximately ₹14,000 to ₹16,800. Workers in Noida, doing similar work just across the border, questioned why they were earning significantly less for the same job. The State typically revises wages twice a year based on the



Workers protest at factory workers of a paint manufacturing plant during a protest demanding higher wages in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on April 11, 2008.

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Anuj Kumar

The story so far:

The Noida workers' protest, which escalated into widespread violence on April 13, has become a significant crisis for the Uttar Pradesh government. The unrest, primarily driven by demands for higher wages and improved working conditions, paralysed parts of the city's industrial zones and triggered a massive security response. On April 14, domestic workers in high-rise buildings such as Cleo County also began protesting for higher pay. The administration took a dual approach of crackdowns and concessions. In a direct response to the unrest, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a 20-21% increase in minimum wages, effective retroactively from April 1. As Uttar Pradesh heads towards the election, the situation has given the Opposition an issue to corner the government on.

Why did workers take to the streets?

The most direct trigger was the Haryana government's decision to raise its minimum monthly wage by 35%, from approximately ₹14,000 to ₹19,000. Workers in Noida, doing similar work just across the border, questioned why they were earning significantly less (around ₹11,000-₹13,000) for the same labour. The State typically revises wages twice a year based on the

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Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), but workers argued that these routine adjustments were insufficient and left them with lower pay than in Delhi and Haryana, which also have a BJP government at present. A long-standing wage gap became an urgent survival issue due to the sudden rise in LPG cylinder prices and essential food items, driven by the West Asian crisis.

Protesters also highlighted systemic violations of the eight-hour workday norm, arguing that 12-hour shifts have become standard in many Noida industrial units. Many workers reported being forced to work extended hours without a corresponding pay increase or any weekly off.

Another major grievance is the informalisation of the workforce. Even in large registered factories, many workers lack written contracts or job security. They blamed middlemen/contractors for pocketing portions of their wages, with some being made to sign for double shifts but paid only for single shifts. Difficulties in accessing Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and insurance benefits, along with the absence of formal trade union representation, also came to the fore.

How are the wages decided?

Minimum wages in Uttar Pradesh are determined through a structured legal framework combining a fixed base wage with dynamic allowances. The process is governed by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and the Uttar Pradesh Minimum Wages Rules, 1952, though the transition to the new Code on Wages is influencing current decisions.

Under the Code on Wages 2019, the Centre must set a national floor wage – a binding minimum benchmark. No State can go below it, though they set their own rates, often varying.

The core wage structure is calculated based on norms established by the 15th Indian Labour Conference (ILC), which ensures a worker can support a family of three consumption units (self, spouse, and two children).

What are workers' demands?

The primary demands include a minimum wage of ₹20,000 to ₹26,000 per month for unskilled workers to match the rising cost of living, and

direct company hiring to prevent contractors from skimming wages.

Workers are also demanding strict implementation of double pay for every hour worked beyond the standard shift, immediate clearance of pending bonuses from the previous financial year, and retrospective payment of wage arrears. They have called for a significant increase in House Rent Allowance, citing the skyrocketing rents in Noida sectors and villages.

They also insist that any work beyond eight hours be voluntary and compensated as overtime, along with guaranteed paid weekly holidays. Additionally, they seek the establishment of functional Internal Complaints Committees to address workplace harassment and verbal abuse by managers, as well as the withdrawal of FIRs and unconditional release of those arrested during the April 13 protests.

How is the government responding?

While the protests have pushed the Centre to hasten the process of deciding the national floor wage, the Uttar Pradesh government is prioritising the resumption of production to protect Noida's image as a safe investment zone, while using wage hikes to pacify the core workforce. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath fast-tracked an interim wage increase of 20-21% specifically for the Noida and Ghaziabad regions. By making this retroactive, he aimed to put cash directly into workers' pockets to offset war-driven inflation in fuel and food.

To address concerns about temporary fixes, the State has announced plans to form a Wage Board tasked with developing a long-term salary structure that reflects regional cost-of-living differences, potentially narrowing the gap with Delhi and Haryana.

The Labour Department has begun audits of industrial units to identify contractors who skim wages or fail to deposit EPF/ESI contributions. Sources say the government is pushing for direct bank transfers to ensure workers receive their full pay without middleman interference.

The district administration has established sector-wise grievance committees where factory owners, worker representatives, and labour officials meet weekly to resolve local disputes.

Industry bodies have noted that while some worker grievances are genuine, micro, small and medium enterprises are also under pressure due to global tensions, urging the government to maintain balance while addressing labour concerns.



Flames billow as factory workers set a police motorcycle ablaze during a protest demanding higher wages in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on April 13. PTI

- **Noida workers' protest escalated into widespread violence on April 13** — paralysing industrial zones, triggering massive security response, becoming a significant political crisis for UP government.
- **नोएडा श्रमिक विरोध 13 अप्रैल को व्यापक हिंसा में बढ़ा** — औद्योगिक क्षेत्र ठप, बड़ी सुरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया, UP सरकार के लिए राजनीतिक संकट।
- **Direct trigger:** Haryana government raised minimum monthly wage by 35% (₹14,000 → ₹19,000); Noida workers earning only ₹11,000-₹13,000 for the same work questioned the disparity.
- **प्रत्यक्ष ट्रिगर:** हरियाणा सरकार ने न्यूनतम मासिक मजदूरी 35% बढ़ाई (₹14,000 → ₹19,000); नोएडा के श्रमिक समान काम के लिए ₹11,000-₹13,000 पर सवाल उठाते हैं।
- **UP government responded with 20-21% interim minimum wage increase** retroactive from April 1 — specifically for Noida and Ghaziabad regions.
- **UP सरकार ने जवाब दिया** — अप्रैल 1 से पूर्वव्यापी **20-21% अंतरिम न्यूनतम मजदूरी वृद्धि** — विशेष रूप से नोएडा और गाजियाबाद के लिए।
- Case highlights gaps in **Code on Wages 2019** (national floor wage), **Minimum Wages Act 1948**, **EPF/ESI non-compliance**, **contract labour** exploitation, and **8-hour workday** violations.
- मामला **मजदूरी संहिता 2019** (राष्ट्रीय न्यूनतम वेतन), **न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम 1948**, **EPF/ESI** गैर-अनुपालन, **ठेका श्रम शोषण**, और **8 घंटे कार्यदिवस** उल्लंघन में अंतराल को उजागर करता है।
- Government plans **Wage Board** for long-term salary structure; **direct bank transfers** to bypass contractors; **Labour Department audits** of industrial units.
- सरकार की योजना — दीर्घकालिक वेतन संरचना के लिए **वेतन बोर्ड**; ठेकेदारों को दरकिनार करने के लिए **प्रत्यक्ष बैंक हस्तांतरण**; औद्योगिक इकाइयों का **श्रम विभाग ऑडिट**।

- Workers in Noida's industrial zones (factories making garments, electronics, etc.) earn much less than workers in Haryana doing the same job. This inequality sparked a major protest which turned violent.
- नोएडा के औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में कार्यरत श्रमिक (कपड़े, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, आदि बनाने वाले कारखाने) हरियाणा में समान काम करने वाले श्रमिकों से बहुत कम कमाते हैं। इस असमानता ने एक बड़े विरोध को जन्म दिया जो हिंसक हो गया।
- There are three main problems: (1) Minimum wages in UP are too low; (2) Many workers are hired through contractors who steal portions of their wages; (3) Labour laws (8-hour day, EPF, ESI) are routinely violated.
- तीन मुख्य समस्याएं: (1) UP में न्यूनतम मजदूरी बहुत कम; (2) कई श्रमिक ठेकेदारों के माध्यम से नियुक्त जो मजदूरी का हिस्सा हड़प लेते हैं; (3) श्रम कानूनों (8 घंटे कार्य, EPF, ESI) का नियमित उल्लंघन।
- India's Constitution and laws guarantee minimum wages, 8-hour workdays, PF, ESI — but enforcement is weak, especially in states competing to attract investment by keeping labour costs low.
- भारत का संविधान और कानून न्यूनतम मजदूरी, 8 घंटे कार्यदिवस, PF, ESI की गारंटी देते हैं — लेकिन श्रम लागत कम रखकर निवेश आकर्षित करने की प्रतिस्पर्धा में प्रवर्तन कमजोर।

D2. Key Worker Demands / प्रमुख श्रमिक माँगें

1. **Minimum wage:** ₹20,000 to ₹26,000/month for unskilled workers (currently ₹11,000-₹13,000)
2. **Direct company hiring:** Prevent contractors from "skimming" wages
3. **Double pay** for overtime (beyond standard shift)
4. **Immediate clearance** of pending bonuses from previous financial year
5. **Retrospective payment** of wage arrears
6. **House Rent Allowance (HRA) increase** — citing skyrocketing rents in Noida sectors and villages
7. **Voluntary overtime** — any work beyond 8 hours must be voluntary and compensated
8. **Paid weekly holidays**
9. **Internal Complaints Committees (ICC)** for workplace harassment and verbal abuse
10. **Withdrawal of FIRs** and release of workers arrested during April 13 protests

D3. Root Causes of the Protest / विरोध के मूल कारण

- **Haryana wage hike trigger:** Haryana (same BJP government!) raised minimum wage 35% (₹14,000 → ₹19,000); workers in Noida doing identical work earn ₹11,000-₹13,000 — **wage gap became urgent survival issue.**
- **हरियाणा मजदूरी वृद्धि ट्रिगर:** हरियाणा (उसी BJP सरकार!) ने 35% वृद्धि; नोएडा में समान काम पर ₹11,000-₹13,000 — मजदूरी अंतर अस्तित्व का मुद्दा।
- **West Asian crisis inflation:** Sudden rise in LPG cylinder prices and essential food items — war-driven inflation reduced real wages further.
- **पश्चिम एशियाई संकट मुद्रास्फीति:** LPG और आवश्यक खाद्य मदों में अचानक वृद्धि।
- **8-hour workday violations:** 12-hour shifts have become **standard** in many Noida industrial units; workers forced to work extended hours without pay increase or weekly off.
- **8 घंटे कार्यदिवस उल्लंघन:** 12 घंटे शिफ्ट **मानक** बन गई; अतिरिक्त घंटों के लिए कोई वेतन वृद्धि या साप्ताहिक अवकाश नहीं।
- **Informalisation of workforce:** Even in large registered factories, workers lack written contracts or job security; contractors skim wages; workers signed for double shifts but paid only for single.
- **कार्यबल का अनौपचारिकरण:** पंजीकृत कारखानों में भी लिखित अनुबंध/नौकरी सुरक्षा नहीं; ठेकेदार मजदूरी हड़पते हैं।
- **EPF and ESI non-access:** Difficulties in accessing Employee Provident Fund and insurance benefits; absence of formal trade union representation.
- **EPF और ESI पहुँच:** कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि और बीमा लाभ तक कठिनाई; औपचारिक ट्रेड यूनियन प्रतिनिधित्व का अभाव।

History / इतिहास

- **History of labour movement in India:** Bombay Mill strike (1919); formation of AITUC (1920); Ahmedabad Mill strike where Gandhi used satyagraha; Bombay industrial disputes; post-Independence labour legislation.
- **भारत में श्रम आंदोलन का इतिहास:** 1919 बॉम्बे मिल हड़ताल; AITUC (1920); गांधी का अहमदाबाद मिल हड़ताल।
- **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947:** First comprehensive post-Independence labour law; defined strikes, lockouts, retrenchment procedures.
- **औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम, 1947:** पहला व्यापक श्रम कानून; हड़ताल, तालाबंदी, छंटनी प्रक्रियाएं।
- **Labour reforms tradition:** Nehru era — pro-labour; liberalisation era (1991+) — gradual move toward flexibility; BJP era — labour codes consolidation (2019-20); states compete on "ease of doing business" by diluting enforcement.
- **श्रम सुधार परंपरा:** नेहरू युग — श्रमिक समर्थक; उदारीकरण — लचीलेपन की ओर; BJP — श्रम संहिता एकीकरण।

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- **Constitutional provisions on labour:**
 - **Article 41 (DPSP):** Right to work, to education, and to public assistance in certain cases
 - **Article 42 (DPSP):** Just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief
 - **Article 43 (DPSP):** Living wage for workers — state shall endeavour to secure living wage
 - **Article 43A:** Participation of workers in management
 - **Article 23:** Prohibition of forced labour (includes bonded labour)
 - **Article 24:** Prohibition of child labour in factories
 - अनुच्छेद 41, 42, 43, 43A, 23, 24: श्रम से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान
- **Seventh Schedule — Labour:** Labour is in the **Concurrent List (Entry 22)** — both Centre and States can legislate; currently 4 Labour Codes consolidate Central laws.
- सातवीं अनुसूची — श्रम: समवर्ती सूची (प्रविष्टि 22) — केंद्र और राज्य दोनों कानून बना सकते हैं।
- **Four Labour Codes (2019-20):**
 1. **Code on Wages, 2019** — merges 4 wage laws
 2. **Industrial Relations Code, 2020** — merges 3 laws (Trade Unions Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, Industrial Disputes Act)
 3. **Social Security Code, 2020** — merges 9 laws (EPF, ESI, Gratuity, etc.)
 4. **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** — merges 13 laws
 - **चार श्रम संहिताएं:** मजदूरी (2019), औद्योगिक संबंध (2020), सामाजिक सुरक्षा (2020), व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा (2020)

Reading into contracts

The data were sourced from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the Labour Department and the Labour Bureau

CHART 1: Top 10 States with highest share of workers lacking paid leave, written contracts, and social security benefits (in %)

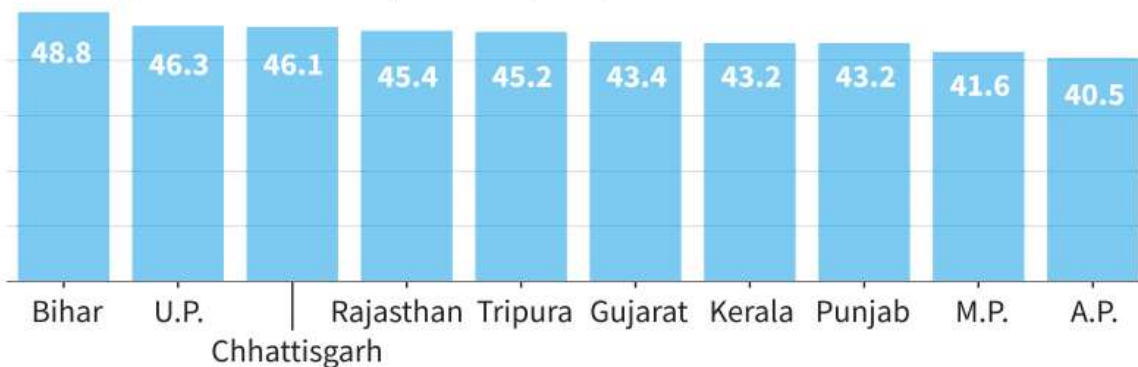


CHART 2: The share of contract workers in total industrial employment (in %)

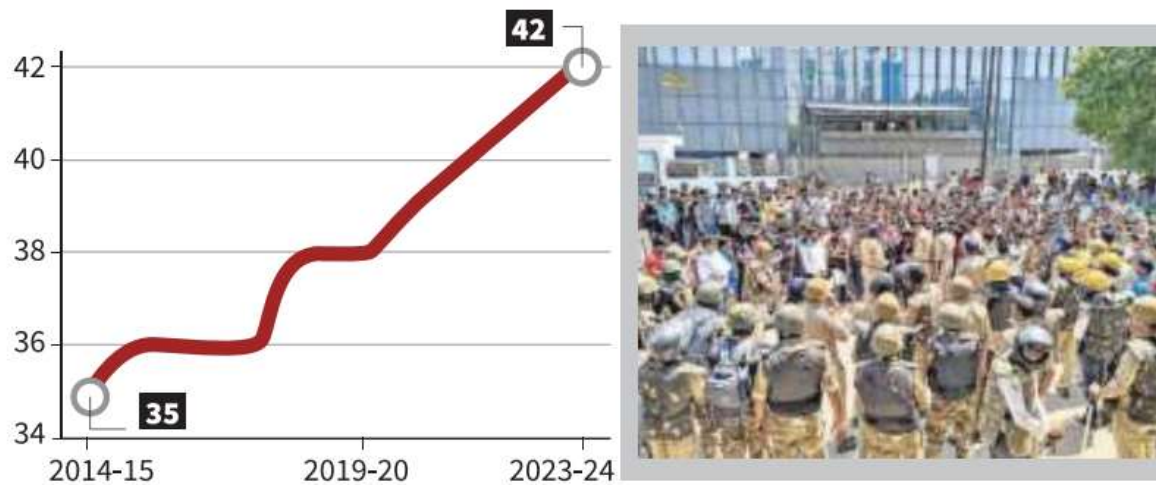


CHART 3: The change in minimum wages for unskilled workers across Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh

State	Past minimum wage for unskilled workers (in ₹)	Revised minimum wage for unskilled workers (in ₹)	Estimated wage increase (in %)
Delhi	9,568	18,456	92.9
Haryana	8,070.44	15,220.71	88.6
Uttar Pradesh	7,107.64	12,356-13,690 (Varies by district/municipal corporation)	73.8% - 92.6%

Note: Past minimum wage figures correspond to April 1, 2016 (Delhi); July 1, 2016 (Haryana); and April 1, 2016 (Uttar Pradesh). Revised minimum wage figures correspond to April 1, 2025 (Delhi); April 9, 2026 (Haryana); and April 14, 2026 (Uttar Pradesh)

CHART 4: The industrial centre-wise increase in consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW)

State	Industrial centre	Increase (in %)
Delhi	Delhi	43.7%
Haryana	Yamunanagar	52.6%
Haryana	Faridabad	48.1%
Haryana	Gurugram	52.7%
Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad/Noida	51.3%
Uttar Pradesh	Agra	51.5%
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	49.8%
Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	50.6%
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	50.7%

- **Four Labour Codes — Comprehensive Table:**

Code	Year	Laws Merged	Key Provision
Code on Wages	2019	4 (Payment of Wages, Min Wages, Bonus, Equal Remuneration)	National floor wage; wage definition
Industrial Relations Code	2020	3 (Trade Unions Act, Industrial Employment, Industrial Disputes)	Reskilling fund; fixed-term employment
Social Security Code	2020	9 (EPF, ESI, Gratuity, Maternity Benefit, etc.)	Gig/platform worker coverage
OHS & WC Code	2020	13 (Factories Act, Mines Act, etc.)	Safety, health, working conditions

- **15th Indian Labour Conference (ILC) Formula for Minimum Wage:**

- A worker should be able to support family of **3 consumption units** (self + spouse + 2 children = 3 units since children = 0.6 each)
- Norms include: 2,700 calories/day, clothing, housing, fuel, education
- This formula dates to 1957; critics say it's outdated

- **Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA):**

- Linked to **Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial Workers**
- Revised twice a year — April and October
- Added to basic minimum wage
- Current challenge: CPI not fully reflecting West Asian war-driven inflation on specific goods (LPG, food)

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	The Code on Wages, 2019 merges how many existing labour laws?	(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6	(b) 4 — Payment of Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act, Bonus Act, Equal Remuneration Act
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	Under the Factories Act, 1948, the maximum working hours per week for an adult worker are:	(a) 40 hours (b) 44 hours (c) 48 hours (d) 60 hours	(c) 48 hours — with maximum 9 hours/day
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) comes under which Ministry?	(a) Finance (b) Commerce (c) Labour and Employment (d) Social Justice	(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	Under Article 43 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP), the State shall endeavour to secure for workers:	(a) Right to strike (b) Right to education (c) Living wage and decent standard of life (d) Right to form cooperatives	(c) Living wage and decent standard of life
5	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	The "Variable Dearness Allowance" (VDA) in minimum wages is linked to:	(a) Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (b) GDP deflator (c) Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (d) Sensex	(c) CPI-IW

6	UPSC CSE Mains GS-3	2023	"Labour reforms in India are necessary for economic growth, but they must not come at the cost of workers' rights." Critically evaluate India's Four Labour Codes in this context.	(Mains descriptive)	Key: Consolidation of 29 laws → ease of compliance; gig workers coverage; national floor wage; flexibility vs security debate; informalisation risk; state implementation
7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 makes which of the following responsible for statutory benefits even when workers are hired through contractors?	(a) The contractor alone (b) The principal employer (c) The Labour Ministry (d) Trade Unions	(b) The principal employer
8	SSC CGL	2024	The minimum contribution by an employee under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) scheme is what percentage of basic salary?	(a) 6% (b) 8% (c) 10% (d) 12%	(d) 12% of basic salary
9	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Labour is placed in which list of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution?	(a) Union List (b) State List (c) Concurrent List (d) Residuary	(c) Concurrent List — Entry 22

Consider the following statements about India's minimum wage framework and the Noida workers' protest: भारत के न्यूनतम मजदूरी ढाँचे और नोएडा श्रमिक विरोध के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The immediate trigger for the Noida workers' protest was the Haryana government's decision to raise its minimum monthly wage by 35%, creating a significant disparity with Uttar Pradesh's wages. नोएडा श्रमिक विरोध का प्रत्यक्ष ट्रिगर हरियाणा सरकार का अपनी न्यूनतम मासिक मजदूरी 35% बढ़ाने का निर्णय था, जिसने उत्तर प्रदेश की मजदूरी के साथ महत्वपूर्ण असमानता पैदा की।
2. Under the Code on Wages 2019, the Central Government must set a national floor wage below which no State can set its minimum wages. मजदूरी संहिता 2019 के तहत, केंद्र सरकार को एक राष्ट्रीय न्यूनतम वेतन निर्धारित करना होगा जिससे कोई भी राज्य अपनी न्यूनतम मजदूरी कम नहीं रख सकता।
3. The minimum wage structure in India is calculated based on norms established by the 15th Indian Labour Conference (ILC), ensuring a worker can support a family of five consumption units. भारत में न्यूनतम मजदूरी संरचना 15वें भारतीय श्रम सम्मेलन (ILC) द्वारा स्थापित मानदंडों पर आधारित है, जो पाँच उपभोग इकाइयों के परिवार का समर्थन सुनिश्चित करती है।
4. Labour is in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule, meaning both the Centre and States can legislate on labour matters. श्रम सातवीं अनुसूची की समवर्ती सूची में है, यानी केंद्र और राज्य दोनों श्रम मामलों पर कानून बना सकते हैं।



Different tracks: A robot runs along humans at the half marathon in Beijing, China, on Sunday. AFP

Robot runner breaks human record at China half marathon

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING

A humanoid robot competing against flesh-and-blood runners broke a world record at the Beijing half marathon on Sunday, showcasing the rapid technological advancement achieved by Chinese makers.

Spectators lined the roads in Yizhuang in the capital's south to watch the machines and their human rivals race, each group in a separate lane to avoid accidents or collisions.

Some of the robots were highly agile, moving like famous runners such as Usain Bolt, while others had more basic capabilities.

The winning humanoid, equipped with an autonomous navigation system and running for Chinese smartphone maker Honor, completed the roughly 21-kilometre course in 50 minutes and 26 seconds, at an average speed of about 25 kilometres per hour, according to state broadcaster CCTV. That was far faster than the top human in Sunday's race, while also surpassing the current men's world record of 57:20 held by Ugandan runner Jacob Kiplimo.

The result represented spectacular progress from last year, when robot-runners fell repeatedly and the best took more than two hours and 40 minutes to finish.

The humanoid half marathon aims at encouraging innovation and popularising the technologies used in creating and operating such machines.

In a sign of the industry's strength, investment in robotics and so-called embodied AI amounted to 73.5 billion yuan in China in 2025, according to a study by a government agency.

Schools grapple with change: French, German make way for Sanskrit & regional languages

Abhinaya Harigovind,
Soham Shah & Pallavi Smart
New Delhi, Pune, Mumbai,
April 19

"PLEASE NOTE that French will no longer be offered as a language option in Class VI," reads a notice issued by The Indian School in South Delhi to parents of Class 6 students. The notice says the three-language formula will be implemented for Class 6 students from this academic year, and the languages offered will be Hindi, Sanskrit and English. "We believe this change will promote multilingualism and cultural understanding among our students," it adds.

The school is among several CBSE-affiliated schools that are discontinuing foreign languages as a third language option, beginning with Class 6 this year. CBSE's new curriculum released earlier this month states that a third language (R3) will be made compulsory in Class 6 from the 2026-27 academic session, "ensuring that every learner studies at least two Indian languages." The new scheme of studies has implications for the choice of languages.

"Two of these three languages must be languages native to India," as per the recommendations of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023, says the curriculum. For CBSE schools that have English as the medium of instruction, English becomes the one language that is not

native to India that they can teach, leaving no room for another foreign language like French or German. The NCFSE 2023, which has been developed in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, recommends that students study a third language in Classes 6-10.

Students who are in Class 6 in this academic session will be the first cohort to have a third language in Class 10 in 2030-31, with a school-based internal assessment for the subject. School principals note that foreign language options will effectively be "phased out" for all classes by 2030, which is when the current set of Class 6 students will be in Class 10. In a circular issued on April 9, CBSE directed heads of affiliated schools to ensure that the implementation of the third language in Class 6, as per the scheme of studies released earlier this month, is initiated within seven days. Schools were asked to begin teaching R3 from Class 6 immediately, using locally available books and material, while textbooks "will be made available shortly."

Schools have been asked to finalise their chosen R3, and notify the Board's regional offices, which will maintain a record of implementation, and the details of R3 options being offered in Class 6.

The circular informs schools that only the R3 options introduced in Class 6 by a school will be available as options in Classes 9-10 for that school.



Two of the three languages must be native to India, as per the recommendations of the NCFSE 2023, the curriculum says. FILE

Foreign language teachers face uncertainty

With the implementation of the new rules, schools that *The Indian Express* spoke to in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune say they have been grappling with the changes. On April 10, IITL Public School in Delhi's Dwarka circulated options: English as 'language 1', Hindi as 'language 2', and Sanskrit, Punjabi, Tamil, Bengali or Marathi as 'language 3'. The school will not offer French and German as third language options in Class 6 this year, said Sudha Acharya, the school principal.

Acharya said the school did not want to offer only Sanskrit, and hence decided to offer the four regional languages based on the findings of a language-mapping exercise at the school last year. French was a popular third language option. Of the 200 Class 7 students this year, 97

nounced only on April 2, Class 6 students have already purchased books for French and German, Acharya said. "We'll do these foreign languages as a 'club period', and utilise the books."

Tania Joshi, principal at The Indian School, also said the school may consider a club for foreign languages in Class 6. "We had lots of takers for French. In Class 7 now, around 70-80 students out of a batch of around 180-200 students have taken French," she said.

Tagore International School in East of Kailash, Delhi, is considering online classes for French and German which are being discontinued in Class 6 this year. The school is offering only Sanskrit as the third language in Class 6. Schools are also dealing with the question of how foreign language teachers can be retained.

"Foreign language teachers will continue for four years. But to retain them after that, they will have to upskill. Doing a B.Ed, and taking the CTET (Central Teacher Eligibility Test) so they can teach other subjects is an option," Acharya said. The school has two French and two German teachers.

In states like Maharashtra, where Marathi is compulsory under local laws, one of the two Indian language slots also comes pre-decided. The second remains a choice, with most schools offering Hindi or Sanskrit. Dr Aparna Morris, principal of SPM Public English

Medium School in Pune, said that CBSE's thrust on Indian languages was a matter of pride. The school will discontinue German as the third language from this year onwards, but may offer it as an activity class. "For schools like us, wherein a sizable population was learning German, we are in a fix now. Should we offer it as an activity class or hobby class? The students want to appear for exams by the Goethe-Institut, they are trying for B1 or B2 level German. Because later on they probably want to pursue their studies in Germany. We also have highly qualified German teachers, we don't know what to do with them. I hope CBSE also comes up with an advisory because there are many, many schools offering German," she said.

In Mumbai, the transition has been relatively smoother for some schools, largely because they say they saw this coming.

Rajhans Vidyalaya in Mumbai's Andheri is planning to offer German or Spanish as an additional skill class. "But that is not for another academic year or so. At this moment, the focus will be on effective implementation of the CBSE's new three-language policy. This will include English and Hindi as compulsory languages and, considering state government's rule, Marathi will be the third language. We will have to discontinue Sanskrit...," said its principal, Ritu Dubey.

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

E. EXPLAINED Language Choice

CBSE's new curriculum states that a third language is compulsory in Class 6 from the 2026-27 session. As per the recommendations of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, two of the three languages must be native to India, leaving no room for foreign languages in English-medium schools.

are learning French, 68 Sanskrit, and 35 German. The third language mandate does not affect students in Classes 7-10 this year, who can continue to study foreign languages as the second or third language. Since the new scheme of studies was an-

📖 Schools Grapple with Language Change (NCFSE 2023 / NEP 2020)

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Core Issue	French & German being replaced by Sanskrit & regional languages in schools	फ्रेंच और जर्मन की जगह संस्कृत व क्षेत्रीय भाषाएँ लाई जा रही हैं
Policy Basis	Based on NEP 2020 and NCFSE 2023 recommendations	यह नई शिक्षा नीति 2020 और NCFSE 2023 पर आधारित है
Three-Language Formula	Students must study 3 languages in Classes 6–10	कक्षा 6–10 में छात्रों को 3 भाषाएँ पढ़नी होंगी
Key Rule	2 out of 3 languages must be Indian (native)	3 में से 2 भाषाएँ भारतीय (स्थानीय) होना अनिवार्य
Foreign Languages Status	French, German phased out as main subjects	फ्रेंच, जर्मन को मुख्य विषय से हटाया जा रहा है
Implementation Year	Mandatory from 2026–27 academic session	2026–27 सत्र से अनिवार्य लागू
Current Transition	Started from Class 6 (2025–26 batch)	वर्तमान में कक्षा 6 से लागू (2025–26)
Language Options	Hindi, Sanskrit, English + regional languages	हिंदी, संस्कृत, अंग्रेजी + क्षेत्रीय भाषाएँ
Foreign Languages Option	May continue as club/activity classes	विदेशी भाषाएँ गतिविधि/क्लब के रूप में जारी रह सकती हैं

Foreign Languages Option	May continue as club/activity classes	विदेशी भाषाएँ गतिविधि/क्लब के रूप में जारी रह सकती हैं
Impact on Students	Students will study at least 2 Indian languages	छात्र कम से कम 2 भारतीय भाषाएँ पढ़ेंगे
Impact on Teachers	Foreign language teachers need upskilling (B.Ed, CTET)	विदेशी भाषा शिक्षकों को अपस्किल (B.Ed, CTET) करना होगा
School Challenges	Curriculum change, book purchase already done, student preference issues	पाठ्यक्रम बदलाव, किताबें खरीदी जा चुकी हैं, छात्रों की पसंद की समस्या
Urban School Trend	Students earlier preferred French/German (70–80 out of 200)	पहले छात्रों में फ्रेंच/जर्मन की अधिक मांग (200 में 70–80 छात्र)
State Variation	Example: Maharashtra → Marathi compulsory	राज्य अनुसार बदलाव, जैसे महाराष्ट्र में मराठी अनिवार्य
Assessment Change	Third language will have school-based internal assessment	तीसरी भाषा का स्कूल आधारित मूल्यांकन होगा
Long-Term Effect	Foreign languages likely removed by 2030	2030 तक विदेशी भाषाएँ लगभग समाप्त हो सकती हैं
Objective	Promote multilingualism & cultural understanding	बहुभाषावाद और सांस्कृतिक समझ को बढ़ावा देना

Punjab anti-sacrilege Bill to become law as Gov gives his assent

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, April 19

PUNJAB GOVERNOR Gulab Chand Katariya has given assent to the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill 2026, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday confirming that the legislation has now cleared the final constitutional hurdle.

The move comes days after the Assembly unanimously passed the Bill in a special session on Baisakhi, marking what the state government described as the toughest-ever legal framework to protect the sanctity of the Guru Granth Sahib. The governor's assent has paved the way for the Bill to become law. Mann wrote on X, "Governor Gulab Chand Katariya has signed the bill passed in the Legislative Assembly against the desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Now this bill has become a law. From a humble person like me, a billion-fold thanks to Waheguru Ji for taking this service... Gratitude."

The Bill, tabled on April 13 and passed with support from both the treasury benches and the Opposition (members of the Congress, SAD, BJP, BSP and an Independent MLA), proposes stringent punishments exclusively for acts of sacrilege invol-

ving the Guru Granth Sahib, which Sikhs revere as their eternal Guru. With the BJP supporting the Bill in the Vidhan Sabha, it was expected that Katariya would sign it. Notably, this is the third such attempt by successive governments in Punjab to enact a stringent law on sacrilege.

Earlier Bills brought in by previous governments had passed the Assembly but remained stuck at the Centre, preventing them from becoming law. In contrast, the present Bill moved by the AAP government has cleared all stages in the state.

Under the amended provisions, any act of sacrilege will attract a minimum imprisonment of seven years, extendable up to 20 years, along with a fine ranging from Rs 2 lakh-Rs 10 lakh. If the offence is committed as part of a conspiracy to disturb communal harmony, the punishment escalates to a minimum of 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment, with fines between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 25 lakh.

The offences are classified as non-bailable and cognisable, triable by a sessions court, with probes mandated to be held by officers not below the rank of deputy superintendent of police or assistant commissioner of police. The legislation builds upon the 2008 Act, but introduces sweeping structural changes.

Punjab Anti-Sacrilege Law (2026)

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Bill Name	Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026	जगत ज्योत श्री गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब सत्कार (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026
State	Punjab	पंजाब
Governor Assent	Given by Governor Gulab Chand Kataria	राज्यपाल गुलाब चंद कटारिया द्वारा स्वीकृति
Status	Now becomes a law after clearing constitutional hurdle	अब संवैधानिक बाधा पार कर कानून बन गया
Passed By Assembly	Unanimously passed in special session on Baisakhi	बैसाखी पर विशेष सत्र में सर्वसम्मति से पारित
Government	AAP Government (CM Bhagwant Mann)	आम आदमी पार्टी सरकार (मुख्यमंत्री भगवंत मान)
Objective	Protect sanctity of Guru Granth Sahib	गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब की पवित्रता की रक्षा
Nature of Law	Described as toughest anti-sacrilege law	सबसे सख्त अपमान विरोधी कानून बताया गया
Punishment (General)	Minimum 7 years, extendable to 20 years + fine ₹2-10 lakh	न्यूनतम 7 वर्ष, अधिकतम 20 वर्ष + ₹2-10 लाख जुर्माना

Punishment (Conspiracy/Communal Disturbance)	Minimum 10 years , extendable to life imprisonment + fine ₹5–25 lakh	न्यूनतम 10 वर्ष , आजीवन कारावास तक + ₹5–25 लाख जुर्माना
Nature of Offence	Non-bailable & cognisable	गैर-जमानती और संज्ञेय अपराध
Trial Court	Tried by Sessions Court	सत्र न्यायालय द्वारा सुनवाई
Investigation Authority	Probe by officers \geq DSP/ACP rank	जांच अधिकारी DSP/ACP स्तर या उससे ऊपर
Previous Attempts	Third attempt; earlier Bills stuck at Centre	तीसरा प्रयास; पहले के बिल केंद्र में अटके
Political Support	Supported by BJP & Opposition parties	भाजपा व विपक्ष का समर्थन
Legal Base	Builds on 2008 Act with major changes	2008 अधिनियम पर आधारित, बड़े संशोधन
Key Focus	Strict punishment only for sacrilege acts	केवल अपमान (सैक्रिलेज) मामलों पर सख्त दंड

Women participation in economy rising, but presence at top dismal

Siddharth Upasani & Aanchal Magazine
New Delhi, April 19

THE INDIAN government has failed in its bid to get Parliamentary approval to bring forward the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, with its linkage to the delimitation bill proving to be a stumbling block.

Greater participation of women in the economy, though — and not just at the legislative level — is necessary for India to become a developed economy.

In 2023, the World Bank said that for India to become a developed economy by 2047, it had to grow nearly 8% every year, which was not possible with the low level of female participation in the workforce. In fact, a 2018 paper found that Indian constituencies with women legislators saw higher economic performance of about 1.8 percentage points per year compared to those with male lawmakers.

With the economy posting impressive growth rates in recent years, the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has risen from 33.9% in 2022 to 40% in 2025.

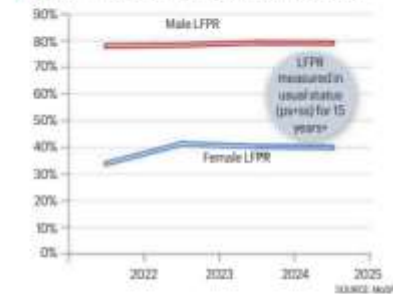
Yet, it remains well below the global average (49%) and emerging market peers like Brazil (53%) and Vietnam (69%). According to a new paper by Shishir Gupta and Aditya Sahasrwal of Centre for Social and Economic Progress, the promotion of labour-intensive industries is key to raising the female LFPR.

“...in labour-abundant countries like India, where the bulk of the labour force is in the informal sector with low wages, an increase in female labour supply only in response to relaxation of norms would imply an increase only in female employment at the expense of a further reduction in wages. An increase in demand, on the other hand, increases employment and wages,” they said.

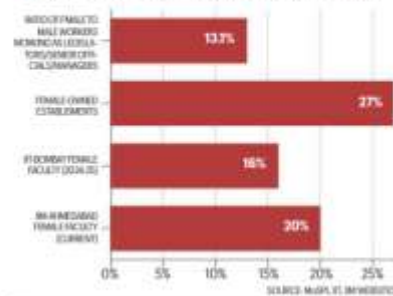
Few women at the top

While the female LFPR is rising, their presence in senior positions in various spheres, such as the country's top educational institutions, is much lower. In Indian Institutes of Technology, the proportion of female faculty is stagnant at around 14% of total strength. IIT-Iodhpur, at 22%, had the highest proportion of female faculty in academic year 2024-25: 57 out of 299. While this was

Female LFPR has risen to half that of men...



But in positions of power, women lag behind



a notable improvement from 14% (7 out of 49 in 2014-15, some IITs have even seen a decline).

The story is only slightly better at India's other world-class higher education institutes, the Indian Institutes of Management, with IIM-Ahmedabad having 20% female faculty, Bangalore 26%, Calcutta 31%, Lucknow 24%, Indore 19%, and Kozhikode 30%.

At an all-India level, the percentage of females in professor and equivalent positions rose to 29.5% in 2021-22 from 25.9% in 2011-12.

Disparity in business

As in academia, female representation is low in business decision making. As per the statistics ministry's Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, the share of female-owned proprietary establishments stood at 27% in 2025. Look a step below ownership and the situation is worse: for every 100

males working as legislators, senior officials, and managers in 2025, there were only 13 females in similarly high positions, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey. While nearly all of India's leading firms have a woman as a director on their boards, 77% had only 1-2 women as directors.

“The mandate for ‘one-woman director’ is often interpreted as the maximum number of women needed on the board, regardless of the board's size,” law firm Khaitan & Co noted in October, adding that only 7% of BSE 300 and 5% of NSE 500 board chairpersons were women. “These positions are crucial for guiding strategic decisions and driving board culture... Without achieving a critical mass (30% as per research), their presence risks being symbolic rather than substantive in India's corporate governance landscape,” Khaitan added.

FULL REPORT ON
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Women Participation in Economy (India)

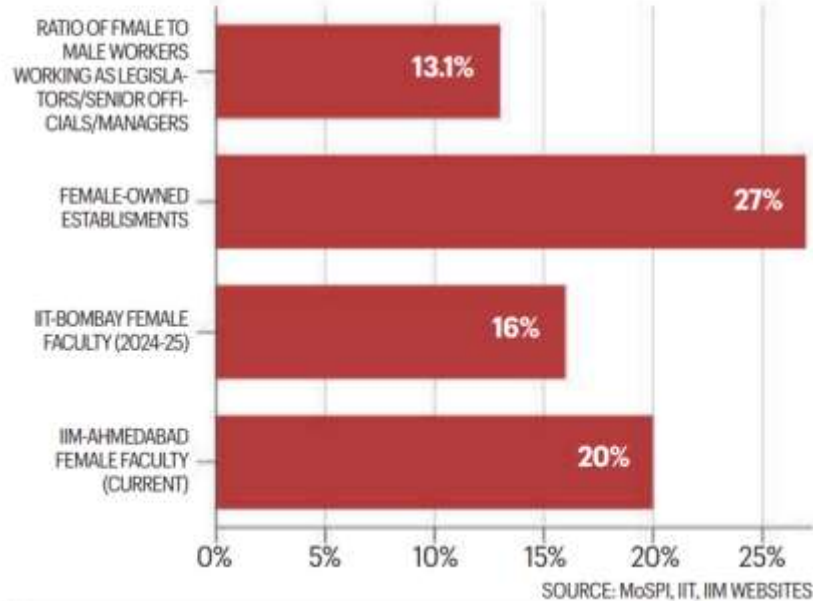
Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Core Theme	Women participation rising, but leadership representation low	महिलाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ रही है, पर शीर्ष पदों पर कम
Female LFPR Trend	Increased from 33.9% (2022) to 40% (2025)	महिला श्रम भागीदारी दर 33.9% से बढ़कर 40%
Male LFPR	Around 75–80% , much higher than women	पुरुष LFPR लगभग 75–80%, काफी अधिक
Global Comparison	India ~49% vs Brazil (53%), Vietnam (69%)	भारत ~49%, ब्राज़ील 53%, वियतनाम 69%
Growth Requirement	Needs 8% growth to become developed by 2047	2047 तक विकसित बनने हेतु 8% विकास जरूरी
Economic Insight	+1% women legislators → +1.8% economic growth	1% महिला विधायक वृद्धि → 1.8% आर्थिक वृद्धि
Informal Sector Role	Majority women in informal labour	अधिकांश महिलाएं असंगठित क्षेत्र में
Employment Link	Wage rise & labour demand increase female participation	वेतन व मांग बढ़ने से महिला भागीदारी बढ़ती है
Women in Legislature/Managers	Only 13.1% women in leadership roles	नेतृत्व पदों पर केवल 13.1% महिलाएं

Women in Legislature/Managers	Only 13.1% women in leadership roles	नेतृत्व पदों पर केवल 13.1% महिलाएं
Female-Owned Businesses	Around 27% enterprises owned by women	27% व्यवसाय महिलाओं के स्वामित्व में
Academic Representation	IIT-Bombay: 16% , IIM-A: 20% , IIT-Jodhpur: 22%	उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में कम भागीदारी
Professor-Level Share	Increased from 14% (2014-15) to 19% (2019-20)	प्रोफेसर स्तर पर 14% से 19% तक वृद्धि
Corporate Leadership	Only 12 women directors per 100 men	कॉर्पोरेट में 100 पुरुष पर 12 महिला निदेशक
Board Representation Issue	Often just 1 mandatory woman director	कई कंपनियों में केवल 1 महिला निदेशक
Critical Mass Concept	Need 30% representation for real impact	प्रभावी भागीदारी के लिए 30% आवश्यक
Policy Issue	Women Reservation Act delayed due to delimitation link	महिला आरक्षण कानून लागू होने में देरी
Key Challenge	Gap between participation & leadership roles	भागीदारी और नेतृत्व के बीच अंतर
Solution Focus	Promote labour-intensive industries & inclusion policies	श्रम-प्रधान उद्योग व समावेशन नीतियां जरूरी

• Female LFPR has risen to half that of men...



• But in positions of power, women lag behind



Odisha kicks off India's 1st 3D chip packaging plant

Soumyarendra Barik

Bhubaneswar, April 19

ODISHA CM Mohan Charan Majhi and Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw laid the foundation stone for India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit in Bhubaneswar, in a big boost to India's growing semiconductor ambitions.

The project is being implemented by the US-based 3D Glass Solutions Inc through its wholly owned Indian subsidiary Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd. It is

funded by Intel, among others. Intel's CEO Lip-Bu Tan joined the ceremony virtually.

Majhi said the unit, whose Rs 1,934 crore proposal had received approval under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) last year, is expected to produce 70,000 glass panels annually, along with 50 million assembled units. It is among the two plants in the state that had received approval under the ISM and around 13,000 advanced 3DHI modules, Majhi said. The project will generate around 2,500 direct and indirect jobs.

3D glass semiconductor technology is an advanced chip process that utilises specialised glass substrates to enable high-performance, three-dimensional integration of electrical components. Unlike traditional silicon, glass offers superior radio frequency performance, lower electrical loss, and enhanced thermal stability for passive component integration. The plant will assemble and package these chips.

Vaishnaw called the plant's groundbreaking a "historic" day for Odisha, adding that it

marked a shift away from the usual industries that it has been associated with. "It's very important for Odisha to have a world-class, latest technology industry here. Odisha is now becoming an IT hub (and) an electronics manufacturing hub. For years, industries like mining, metal and power have existed in the state, but now it is taking steps towards the high-tech industry."

(The reporter was in Bhubaneswar at the invite of the Ministry of Electronics and IT)

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

India's 1st 3D Chip Packaging Plant (Odisha)

Aspect	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Project Name	India's first 3D Chip Packaging Plant	भारत का पहला 3D चिप पैकेजिंग प्लांट
Location	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा
Launched By	CM Mohan Charan Majhi & IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw	मुख्यमंत्री मोहन चरण माझी व IT मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव
Implementing Company	US-based 3D Glass Solutions via Indian subsidiary	अमेरिकी कंपनी 3D ग्लास सॉल्यूशन्स
Subsidiary Name	Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	हेटेरोजीनियस इंटीग्रेशन पैकेजिंग सॉल्यूशन्स प्रा. लि.
Investment	₹1,934 crore	₹1,934 करोड़
Approval Scheme	Approved under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)	भारत सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन के तहत स्वीकृति
Funding Support	Supported by Intel & others	इंटेल सहित अन्य का सहयोग
Production Capacity	• 70,000 glass panels annually • 50 million assembled units	• 70,000 ग्लास पैनल/वर्ष • 5 करोड़ यूनिट
Advanced Modules	~13,000 advanced 3DHI modules	~13,000 उन्नत 3DHI मॉड्यूल

Technology Used	3D Glass Semiconductor Technology	3D ग्लास सेमीकंडक्टर तकनीक
Key Feature	Uses glass substrate instead of silicon	सिलिकॉन की जगह ग्लास सब्सट्रेट
Advantages	• Better RF performance • Lower electrical loss • High thermal stability	• बेहतर रेडियो फ्रीक्वेंसी • कम लॉस • बेहतर तापीय स्थिरता
Function of Plant	Assembly & packaging of semiconductor chips	सेमीकंडक्टर चिप्स का असेंबली व पैकेजिंग
Employment Generation	~2,500 direct & indirect jobs	~2,500 रोजगार
Strategic Importance	Boost to India's semiconductor ecosystem	भारत के सेमीकंडक्टर क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा
State Impact	Odisha moving towards IT & electronics hub	ओडिशा IT व इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स हब बन रहा है
Economic Shift	From mining-based to high-tech industry	खनन से हाई-टेक उद्योग की ओर बदलाव
Global Relevance	Aligns with global chip supply chain diversification	वैश्विक चिप आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में भारत की भूमिका

Yellow Line: How Israel is pushing boundaries, from Gaza to Lebanon

Moinuddin Ahmad
New Delhi, April 19

WHEN THE 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon began last week, there were hopes that the next round of talks would discuss the return of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers from southern Lebanon. But Israel announced Saturday that it has created a buffer zone, named the “Yellow Line”, in the region.

The line in Gaza

First introduced in October 2025, the Yellow Line is a military demarcation and deployment boundary that effectively bifurcated the Gaza Strip between the territory under direct Israeli military control and Palestinian-controlled areas.

It was included within the draft frameworks of the October 2025 Gaza peace plan proposed by US President Donald Trump. In a bid to draw such a boundary on the ground, IDF deployed yellow-painted concrete bollards equipped with 3.5-metre-high poles spaced at 200-metre intervals deep inside the enclave.

For Israel, the Line represents a forward defensive posture. IDF doctrine holds a buffer zone necessary to prevent militant groups like Hamas and Hezbollah from regaining operational capabilities close to the Israeli border.

While initially used as an interim deployment, the Line seems to have become part of Israel’s strategy.

Militarily, it represents IDF’s commitment to re-engineer the operational theatre. In an analysis, the research group *T-Politography* revealed that the Line places approximately 58% of the Gaza Strip under direct, open-ended Israeli military control. IDF treats the area east of the Line as a closed military and free-fire zone.

Deployment along this Line involves transitioning from mobile manoeuvre warfare to a solid static defence line. IDF has established fortified permanent sites along the perimeter, complete with elevated earth mounds, radio towers, and heavy troop concentrations. Maintaining this boundary currently requires deployment of two full IDF divisions — a significant logistical drain.

Red line

● Global watchdogs view the Gaza Yellow Line as a violation of humanitarian law and the ceasefire agreement’s original tenets

● The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded the “killing of at least 224 Palestinians east of or in the vicinity of the so-called yellow line” between October 2025 and February 2026

‘Gaza Model’

Hardliners in Israel have adopted the phrase “Gaza Model” to describe the replication of this strategy in other theatres of conflict, such as southern Lebanon.

When IDF stretched its operations northward in early 2026, defence minister Israel Katz referenced the “Gaza Model” to justify establishing a new “yellow line” up to the Litani river.

Advocates of this strategy demand systematic levelling of civilian infrastructure, mass displacement of the local population, and transforming a temporary security buffer into a permanent, militarised *de facto* border, barring civilians from returning to their homes. This ensures complete IDF control in the newly captured areas.

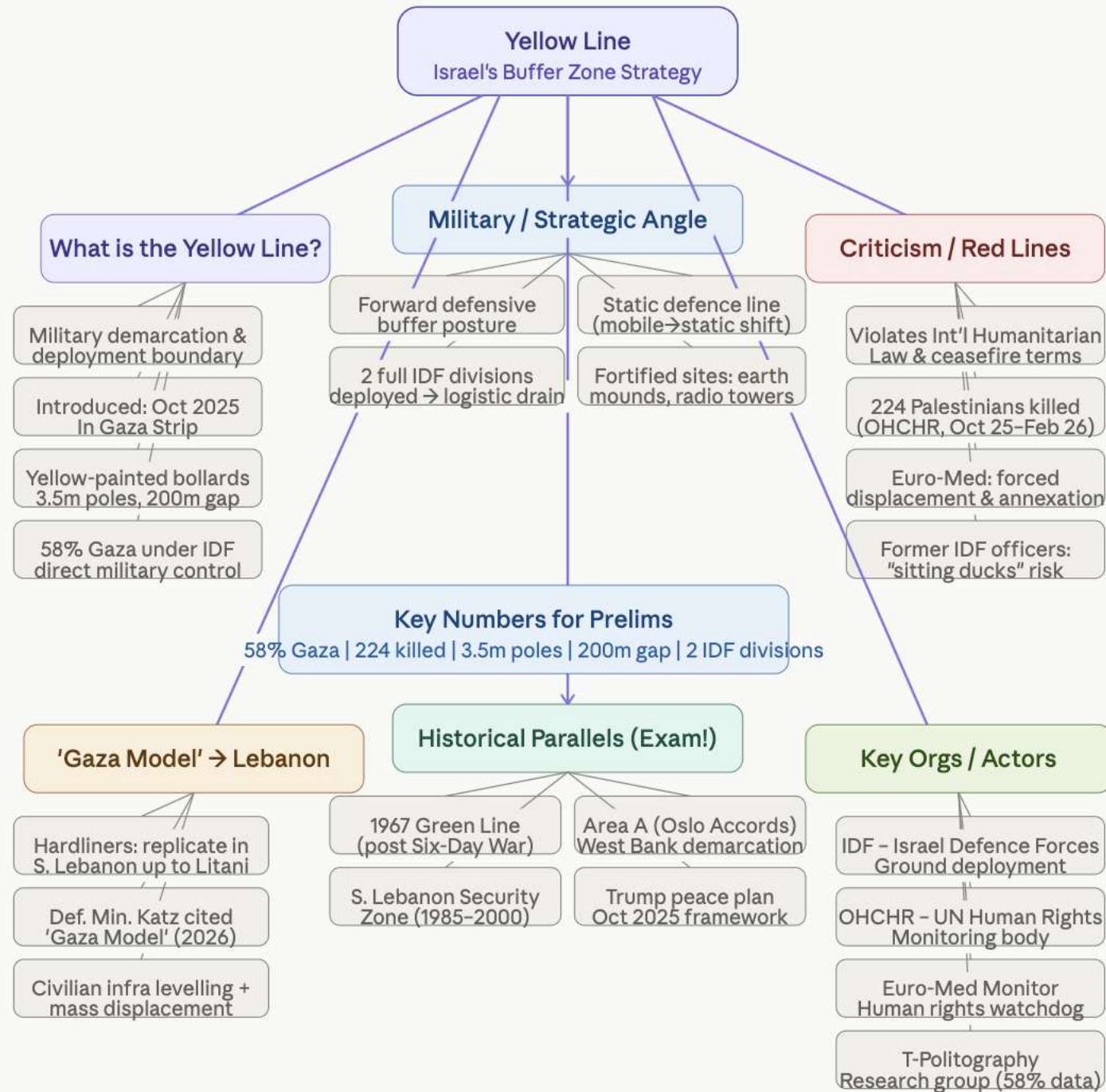
Although Israel has used this strategy only twice, the overarching philosophy draws on historical precedents, such as the 1967 Green Line or the Area A demarcations in the West Bank. Unlike those boundaries marking political or administrative divisions, the Yellow Line represents an active, fortified deployment boundary placed deep within hostile territory.

Destructive impact

Global watchdogs view the Yellow Line in Gaza as a violation of international humanitarian law and the ceasefire agreement’s tenets. Human rights monitor Euro-Med called it a tool for systematic land seizure and forced displacement.

Because the Line cuts off Palestinian access to most of Gaza’s agricultural lands and urban infrastructure, humanitarian agencies call it a mechanism for creeping annexation. While the Line was presented as a security necessity, a section of Israelis — including military strategists, civil society organisations, and economic experts — has opposed it, arguing that the buffer zone is a strategic liability.

Former IDF officers have warned that such deployment makes soldiers vulnerable to guerrilla tactics, sniper fire, and anti-tank guided missiles. Also, military historians are drawing parallels between the current situation and IDF’s costly occupation of the South Lebanon Security Zone (1985-2000), arguing that the Yellow Line turns Israeli troops into “sitting ducks” in a war of attrition.



I'VE BEEN taking a few injections to look muscular; my gym trainer suggested them. Everyone's doing this regime, so I thought it would make me look attractive, toned and fit to get the roles I desire to play on screen," says a 35-year-old film actor, who recently walked into a Mumbai clinic with Type 2 diabetes. Yet he lives on a tight discipline of diet, exercise and sleep and has had no family history of chronic illnesses.

During consultations, he admitted to using a cocktail of body-building drugs and supplements for over two years: tamoxifen, which is a breast cancer drug, growth hormone products and a mitochondrial peptide (a building block of protein in a cell's powerhouse or energy reserve) called MOTS-c. None was prescribed by a doctor. All were sourced through gym networks. His goal was simple, build a better physique. "So many people look up to me when it comes to fitness, so I have to look the part," he adds. Yet the chemical cocktail had already wreaked havoc in his body.

Tamoxifen is used to block estrogen's effects, especially in hormone-sensitive conditions like certain breast cancers. In some cases, it is used to combat side effects of muscle-building steroids and prevent breast tissue growth in men by blocking estrogen receptors. Gym instructors often assume that using tamoxifen will "control estrogen" while combining it with peptides would help with recovery, muscle maintenance or fat loss. However, this is largely extrapolated logic rather than something proven in clinical studies.

In the process, peptides elevate levels of growth hormones, which interfere with the way insulin functions. They make your body less sensitive to insulin, meaning glucose stays in the bloodstream instead of entering cells. Insulin resistance leads to Type 2 diabetes. Just like it did in the actor.

Doctors say this is not an isolated case. Men and women, often in their 20s and 30s, are increasingly turning to unregulated peptides, hormone modulators and steroids in pursuit of faster, more dramatic physical transformations. While motivations vary with some wanting to gain muscle, some looking to lose fat and others chasing anti-ageing, the underlying driver remains constant: pressure to conform to body standards amplified by social media.

What's driving the peptide boom at gyms?

Peptides, essentially short chains of amino acids, act as powerful biological signals in the body, influencing hormones, metabolism and cellular function. But Dr Rajiv Kovil, head of diabetology and weight loss at Zandra Healthcare in Mumbai, who treated the actor, warns that their misuse can disrupt these systems in unpredictable and potentially dangerous ways.

"What we are witnessing is a dangerous underbelly of the fitness ecosystem, that is misuse of peptides and hormonal agents

'I got peptide shots for muscles at a gym. I got diabetes instead'

Here's the dark side of weight loss hacks

Doctors worry as gym trainers and influencers push unregulated peptides as quick fixes for muscle gain and fat loss



without medical supervision or scientific understanding. For example, MOTS-c is an experimental mitochondrial peptide with early research suggesting metabolic benefits. Although it is not approved for clinical use anywhere in the world, it is being casually injected by people seeking shortcuts. Similarly, tamoxifen is being misused in body-building circles despite not being designed for muscle gain," he says.

The use of growth hormone compounds is even more concerning. "These are complex hormonal therapies often sourced from unreliable channels, with unknown purity and dosing. What is marketed as 'optimisation' can lead to serious endocrine disruption," explains Dr Kovil.

Peptide supplements have rapidly gained popularity in recent years within fitness, anti-ageing and "bio-hacking" communities despite the mismatch between hype and proof. Compounds such as BPC-157 and Thymosin Beta-4 are widely promoted for benefits ranging from rapid injury healing to muscle growth and

anti-ageing. However, robust human clinical data for these effects remain limited. Tesamorelin and Ipamorelin are in use for fat loss and increased lean muscle mass. CJC-1295 is being used to increase growth hormone levels for anti-ageing and body composition. SS-31 is being used off-label for longevity.

Another contributing factor is self-directed use. Unlike regulated medications, peptide supplements are frequently purchased online from sources that may lack quality control. Users often rely on anecdotal advice from forums or social media to determine dosing, timing and combinations — sometimes stacking multiple peptides together. This practice increases the risk of contamination, incorrect dosing and unforeseen interactions, especially since long-term safety data is unavailable for many of these compounds.

Social media triggers

Doctors point to social media as a major driver of this trend. Fitness influencers and so-called "biohackers" are increasingly promoting peptides like CJC-1295 and

MOTS-c as shortcuts to fat loss, muscle gain and even longevity without any scientific backing. "These are essentially experimental substances being marketed as lifestyle products. There is no credible human data for many of them. There is an informal supply chain operating outside regulatory oversight and pharmacies. They are being distributed through gym networks and underground channels. It is almost like drug-peddling," explains Dr Kovil.

The cost can be steep. In one case, a patient was spending nearly Rs 35,000-Rs 40,000 a month on such injections without fully understanding the health risks. "For many of these peptides, there is no long-term human data. We don't know their impact on the heart, brain or metabolism. But known risks from related substances include hormonal imbalances, liver dysfunction and deep vein thrombosis. In one case, a patient developed a serious clot after secretly using body-building injections in high doses," he says.

Testosterone misuse, another common trend, can increase the risk of prostate complications if taken without medical indication. "People assume these are harmless because they are marketed as 'advanced' or 'scientific'. But they are anything but safe when used blindly," Dr Kovil says.

The cascading effect of GLP-1 drugs

Adding to the confusion is the growing popularity of clinically approved peptide-based drugs like semaglutide, tirzepatide and liraglutide, used for diabetes and obesity management.

Unlike unregulated peptides, these drugs have undergone extensive clinical trials and are prescribed under strict medical supervision. "Their success has led to the assumption that other peptides will offer similar benefits, even when they have not undergone comparable testing. This generalisation contributes to inappropriate or premature use. The dramatic, visible weight-loss results from semaglutide and tirzepatide convinced consumers that lab-designed peptides are highly effective," says Dr Kovil.

India today has robust, evidence-based weight loss therapies. "But people are extrapolating that success to unapproved, underground peptides, which is both scientifically flawed and dangerous," says Dr Kovil.

Dr Aparna Govil Bhasker, consultant bariatric, hernia and laparoscopic surgeon at MetaHeal Clinic, Saifee, Apollo, and Namaha Hospitals in Mumbai, says that the gross misuse reflects a larger societal problem, where there is immense pressure, especially around weddings, social media and public image, to look a certain way. "This leads to unrealistic expectations and unhealthy shortcuts," she says.

With increasing exposure to global beauty standards, many individuals feel compelled to chase body types that may not align with their natural physiology. "Unfortunately, most people connect weight loss with appearance, not health. Till that switch flips, misuse of drugs will continue to be a problem," she adds.

Dark side of weight-loss hacks

Unregulated peptides & hormone misuse

What are peptides?

Short chains of amino acids
= biological signal molecules

Influence: hormones,
metabolism, cell function

Examples: MOTS-c, BPC-157,
CJC-1295, SS-31, TB-500

Tamoxifen: breast cancer drug
misused in gyms

GLP-1 drugs (approved)

Semaglutide, Tirzepatide,
Liraglutide

For: diabetes & obesity
Under strict supervision

Success misapplied to
unregulated peptides

Health risks (exam-critical)

Type 2 diabetes (insulin
resistance from peptides)

Hormonal imbalance,
liver dysfunction

Deep vein thrombosis
(blood clots)

Prostate complications
(testosterone misuse)

Regulatory & policy gap

No FDA/CDSCO approval
for most peptides

Sold via gym networks &
underground channels

Cost: Rs 35,000-40,000/mo
without medical oversight

Media & biohackers
self-medication

Key facts for prelims

Rs 35k-40k/mo cost | Type 2 DM risk | DVT | No long-term human data

Social / body-image driver


Social media pressure
to conform to body standards

Gym trainer influence
without medical knowledge

Weddings, public image
as triggers (Dr Bhaskar)

Unrealistic expectations
= unhealthy shortcuts

Exam relevance tags



AICTE VAANI
Scheme (3rd Edition,
2026)

Topic (English)	विषय (Hindi)	Key Points for Exam (English)	परीक्षा हेतु मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Scheme Name	योजना का नाम	AICTE VAANI Scheme (3rd Edition)	एआईसीटीई वाणी योजना (तृतीय संस्करण)
Launched By	किसके द्वारा शुरू	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)	अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (AICTE)
Year / Edition	वर्ष / संस्करण	Third Edition launched in 2026	तीसरा संस्करण 2026 में शुरू
Full Form (VAANI)	पूरा नाम	Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages	भारतीय भाषाओं के उन्नयन एवं पोषण हेतु सशक्त पहल
Objective	उद्देश्य	Promote Indian languages in technical education & reduce language barrier	तकनीकी शिक्षा में भारतीय भाषाओं को बढ़ावा व भाषा बाधा कम करना
Core Aim	मुख्य लक्ष्य	Enable students to access technical knowledge in native language	छात्रों को मातृभाषा में तकनीकी ज्ञान उपलब्ध कराना
Problem Addressed	समस्या	Difficulty in transition from mother tongue → English medium	मातृभाषा से अंग्रेजी माध्यम में बदलाव की कठिनाई
Financial Support	वित्तीय सहायता	₹4 crore annually by AICTE	AICTE द्वारा ₹4 करोड़ प्रति वर्ष

Support per Institute	प्रति संस्थान सहायता	Up to ₹2 lakh per event	प्रति आयोजन अधिकतम ₹2 लाख
Activities Covered	गतिविधियाँ	200 conferences, seminars, workshops	लगभग 200 सम्मेलन, सेमिनार, कार्यशालाएँ
Duration of Events	अवधि	2–3 days per event	प्रत्येक आयोजन 2–3 दिन
Languages Covered	भाषाएँ	22 Indian languages (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Marathi etc.)	22 भारतीय भाषाएँ
Focus Areas	मुख्य क्षेत्र	16 emerging sectors – AI, Quantum Tech, Cybersecurity, Hydrogen Energy, Space, Defence, Agrotech	16 उभरते क्षेत्र – एआई, क्वांटम, साइबर सुरक्षा, हाइड्रोजन ऊर्जा, अंतरिक्ष, रक्षा
Application Mode	आवेदन प्रक्रिया	Through ATAL portal	ATAL पोर्टल के माध्यम से
Application Dates	आवेदन तिथि	April 18 – May 17, 2026	18 अप्रैल – 17 मई 2026
Implementation	कार्यान्वयन	Through AICTE-approved institutions	AICTE मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान
Collaboration	सहयोग	Promotes academia–industry collaboration	शिक्षा–उद्योग सहयोग को बढ़ावा
Outcome	परिणाम	Inclusive ecosystem + improved knowledge dissemination	समावेशी शिक्षा प्रणाली व बेहतर ज्ञान प्रसार
Related Policy Link	नीति संबंध	Supports NEP 2020 – mother tongue based education	नई शिक्षा नीति 2020 के अनुरूप



The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One is a light blue line that curves from the top right towards the center. The other is a light green line that curves from the bottom left towards the center. Both lines have a soft, blurred gradient effect.

Rosalind Franklin Rover (Mars Mission 2028


moneycontrol

A wide-angle photograph of the Mars surface during a golden hour. In the foreground, the top of a Mars rover is visible, featuring a prominent mast with various sensors and cameras. The rover's solar panels are partially visible. In the mid-ground, the lander is parked on a sandy slope, with the word "ROCKET" and a red star visible on its side. The background shows a vast, flat, reddish-brown landscape with low hills under a hazy, orange sky. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect.

NASA begins implementation for ESA's Rosalind Franklin Mission to Mars: Launch, rover goals, and more

ExoMars Mission Overview			
Mission Name	मिशन का नाम	Rosalind Franklin Rover (ExoMars Programme)	रोसलिनड फ्रैंकलिन रोवर (एक्सोमार्स कार्यक्रम)
Launch Agency	लॉन्च एजेंसी	SpaceX (USA) in collaboration with ESA & NASA	स्पेसएक्स (अमेरिका) के साथ ESA व NASA
Launch Year	प्रक्षेपण वर्ष	Planned for 2028	प्रस्तावित 2028
Rocket Used	रॉकेट	Falcon Heavy	फाल्कन हेवी
Mission Type	मिशन प्रकार	Mars Rover Mission	मंगल रोवर मिशन
Programme Name	कार्यक्रम	ExoMars Programme (European-led)	एक्सोमार्स कार्यक्रम (यूरोप के नेतृत्व में)
Primary Objective	मुख्य उद्देश्य	Search for signs of past or present life on Mars	मंगल पर जीवन के संकेतों की खोज
Scientific Field	वैज्ञानिक क्षेत्र	Astrobiology (study of life beyond Earth)	खगोलजीवविज्ञान (Astrobiology)
Key Feature	मुख्य विशेषता	Drill up to 2 meters below surface	सतह के नीचे 2 मीटर तक ड्रिलिंग
Why Drilling Important?	ड्रिलिंग क्यों?	Access protected layers where organic material may exist	संरक्षित परतों तक पहुंच जहाँ जैविक पदार्थ हो सकते हैं
Major Instrument	मुख्य उपकरण	MOMA (Mars Organic Molecule Analyzer)	MOMA उपकरण

Study Focus	अध्ययन क्षेत्र	Analyze soil samples for organic compounds	मिट्टी के नमूनों में जैविक यौगिकों की जांच
Surface vs Subsurface	सतह बनाम उपसतह	Subsurface exploration → better chance of preserved life	उपसतह खोज → जीवन के सुरक्षित संकेत मिलने की अधिक संभावना
International Collaboration	अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग	ESA + NASA + SpaceX partnership	ESA + NASA + SpaceX सहयोग
Role of Private Sector	निजी क्षेत्र की भूमिका	Increasing role of commercial companies in space missions	अंतरिक्ष में निजी कंपनियों की बढ़ती भूमिका
Significance	महत्व	Boosts Mars exploration & global cooperation	मंगल अन्वेषण व वैश्विक सहयोग को बढ़ावा
Delay Background	विलंब कारण	Mission delayed earlier, now revived collaboration	पहले विलंब हुआ, अब पुनः सहयोग शुरू
Exam Keywords	परीक्षा कीवर्ड्स	ExoMars, Falcon Heavy, Astrobiology, MOMA	एक्सोमार्स, फाल्कन हेवी, खगोलजीवविज्ञान, MOMA



India Nuclear Power
Target (100 GW by
2047)

TARGETS & AMBITIONS

100 GW NUCLEAR CAPACITY BY 2047

(UP FROM 8.18 GW CURRENTLY) –
ANNOUNCED IN UNION BUDGET 2025–

5 OPERATIONAL SMRs BY 2033

– SUPPORTED BY ₹20,000 CRORE
ALLOCATION UNDER THE NUCLEAR
ENERGY MISSION

INDIA'S COP26 CLIMATE COMMITMENTS:

- NET ZERO BY 2070
- 500 GW NON-FOSSIL CAPACITY BY 2030
- 50% ENERGY DEMAND FROM RENEWABLES
- 45% REDUCTION IN CARBON INTENSITY OVER 2005 LEVELS

Topic (English)	विषय (Hindi)	Key Points for Exam (English)	परीक्षा हेतु मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Announcement	घोषणा	India plans to expand nuclear capacity from 8.8 GW → 100 GW by 2047	भारत की योजना: 8.8 गीगावाट से 100 गीगावाट (2047 तक)
Announced By	किसके द्वारा	Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Chairman Ghanshyam Prasad	केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण (CEA) अध्यक्ष
Target Year	लक्ष्य वर्ष	2047 (Amrit Kaal Vision)	2047 (अमृत काल लक्ष्य)
Growth Scale	वृद्धि स्तर	More than 10 times increase	10 गुना से अधिक वृद्धि
Objective	उद्देश्य	Ensure clean, stable & reliable energy	स्वच्छ, स्थिर व विश्वसनीय ऊर्जा
Strategy	रणनीति	Build new nuclear power plants + maintain existing plants	नए परमाणु संयंत्र + पुराने संयंत्र संचालन
Key Authority	मुख्य संस्था	CEA + Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)	CEA + परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग (DAE)
Policy Reforms	नीतिगत सुधार	Need for legislative & regulatory changes	कानूनी व नियामक सुधार आवश्यक
Important Act	महत्वपूर्ण अधिनियम	Reference to Shanti Act (nuclear reforms context)	शांति अधिनियम (संदर्भ)

Investment Need	निवेश आवश्यकता	Requires large infrastructure investment	बड़े स्तर पर निवेश आवश्यक
Challenges	चुनौतियाँ	Fuel security, site selection, cost, skilled manpower	ईंधन सुरक्षा, स्थान चयन, लागत, कुशल जनशक्ति
Emerging Tech	नई तकनीक	Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)	छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMR)
Why Nuclear?	परमाणु ऊर्जा क्यों?	Low carbon emissions, base-load power	कम कार्बन उत्सर्जन, निरंतर बिजली
Global Context	वैश्विक संदर्भ	Aligns with climate goals & energy transition	जलवायु लक्ष्यों व ऊर्जा परिवर्तन से जुड़ा
Current Status	वर्तमान स्थिति	India has ~8–9 GW installed nuclear capacity	वर्तमान क्षमता ~8–9 गीगावाट
Future Focus	भविष्य फोकस	Faster approvals, cost reduction, private participation (possible)	त्वरित मंजूरी, लागत कमी, निजी भागीदारी
Exam Keywords	परीक्षा कीवर्ड्स	100 GW, CEA, SMR, Nuclear Expansion	100 गीगावाट, CEA, SMR, परमाणु विस्तार



US Space Nuclear Reactor Plan (2026)





Topic (English)	विषय (Hindi)	Key Points for Exam (English)	परीक्षा हेतु मुख्य बिंदु (Hindi)
Announcement	घोषणा	USA plans space nuclear reactors → Earth orbit by 2028 and Moon by 2030	अमेरिका की योजना: अंतरिक्ष परमाणु रिएक्टर → 2028 तक कक्षा में, 2030 तक चंद्रमा पर
Policy Name	नीति का नाम	" National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power " (April 14, 2026)	"अमेरिकन स्पेस न्यूक्लियर पावर पहल" (14 अप्रैल 2026)
Objective	उद्देश्य	Global leadership in space exploration, commerce & defense	अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण, व्यापार व रक्षा में वैश्विक नेतृत्व
Key Agency	मुख्य एजेंसी	NASA + US Department of Energy (DOE) collaboration	नासा + अमेरिकी ऊर्जा विभाग का सहयोग
Programme	कार्यक्रम	NASA to develop mid-power space reactors within 30 days	नासा 30 दिनों में मध्यम क्षमता रिएक्टर कार्यक्रम शुरू करेगा
Type of Technology	प्रौद्योगिकी प्रकार	Fission Surface Power (FSP) & Nuclear Electric Propulsion	फिशन सतह ऊर्जा व परमाणु विद्युत प्रणोदन
Power Capacity	ऊर्जा क्षमता	~ 20 kW electricity generation	लगभग 20 किलोवाट बिजली उत्पादन
Operational Duration	संचालन अवधि	3 years (orbit) & 5 years (Moon)	3 वर्ष (कक्षा) व 5 वर्ष (चंद्रमा)

Purpose on Moon	चंद्रमा पर उद्देश्य	Support lunar bases & long-duration missions	चंद्र आधार व दीर्घकालिक मिशन समर्थन
Why Nuclear?	परमाणु ऊर्जा क्यों?	Works where solar power is insufficient (dark craters, long nights)	जहाँ सौर ऊर्जा सीमित है (अंधे क्षेत्र, लंबी रातें)
Mars Mission Link	मंगल मिशन संबंध	Enables nuclear thermal propulsion → faster Mars travel	न्यूक्लियर थर्मल प्रणोदन → तेज मंगल यात्रा
Private Sector Role	निजी क्षेत्र की भूमिका	Partnerships to reduce cost & accelerate development	लागत घटाने व विकास तेज करने हेतु साझेदारी
Strategic Importance	रणनीतिक महत्व	Enhances space dominance, defense readiness	अंतरिक्ष प्रभुत्व व रक्षा क्षमता में वृद्धि
Related Mission	संबंधित मिशन	Artemis Programme – return humans to Moon	आर्टेमिस कार्यक्रम – मानव को चंद्रमा पर वापस भेजना
Energy Source	ऊर्जा स्रोत	Nuclear fission (splitting atoms)	नाभिकीय विखंडन (परमाणु विभाजन)
Challenges	चुनौतियाँ	Safety, radiation shielding, launch risks	सुरक्षा, विकिरण नियंत्रण, लॉन्च जोखिम
Comparison (China)	तुलना (चीन)	China also developing space nuclear & lunar base tech	चीन भी स्पेस न्यूक्लियर व चंद्र बेस तकनीक विकसित कर रहा है
Exam Keywords	परीक्षा कीवर्ड्स	Fission Surface Power, Nuclear Propulsion, Artemis, DOE	फिशन ऊर्जा, परमाणु प्रणोदन, आर्टेमिस, DOE

Word of the day

Askance: with suspicion or disapproval

Synonyms: warily, skeptically, doubtfully

Usage: *The teacher looked askance at his excuse.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/askance

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əskɑːns/



Word of the day

Grandiloquent:

using long or complicated words in order to impress people

Synonyms: pretentious, flowery, pompous

Usage: *His grandiloquent style made the article hard to read.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/grandiloquent

International Phonetic Alphabet: /grændɪləkwənt/



Thank you 😊