

Daily Current Affairs





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The Hindu



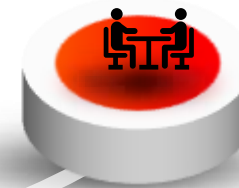
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**PIB, PRS & Other
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**The Indian
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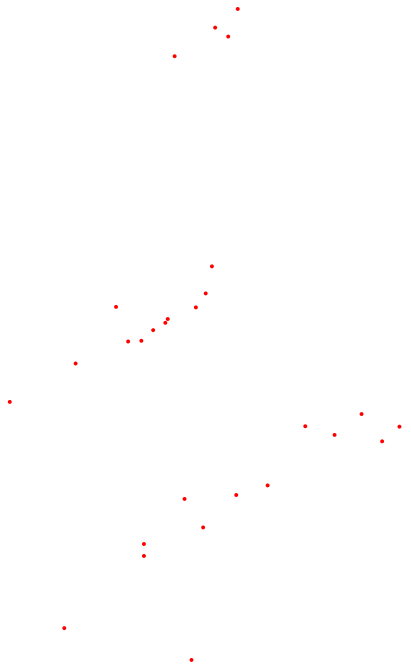


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waiting for the
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learning how to
dance in the rain."





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INDIAN PRIME DEATHS NOW
SC leaves it to Centre
to decide on talks
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PM IN MOST SERIOUS
Bengali identity
paramount
to BJP: Modi
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5. COMMERCE
Platform fees become
an 'industry standard'
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APATHY TO TRAGEDY
Falling through
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Residents say officials'
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collapse in Vadodra
GROUND ZERO • PAGE 7



ALL TO PLAY FOR
Women in Blue look
to seal series win
SPORT • PAGE 14



Modi launches
projects in Bihar
worth ₹7,200 cr.

BATNA
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bihar for the 6th time this election year on Friday. Mr. Modi while addressing a public meeting at the Gandhi Maidan in Motihari, listed several welfare steps taken by both the Union and State governments for the development of the State, particularly for the poor. » PAGE 8

Trump calls on
officials to meet
'Epstein report'

WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump attempted on Friday to control the storm triggered by a report on his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein, ordering the Justice Department to seek the release of testimony from the prosecution of the late, alleged sex trafficker. Mr. Trump also vowed to sue *The Wall Street Journal* over a 2004 letter to Epstein referencing their "secret". » PAGE 12

Syrian forces to
re-enter Sweida
as ceasefire fails

MARAKA
Renewed clashes broke out overnight between Syrian armed groups and members of Bashar al-Assad's army in Sweida, Syria, and government forces were preparing to deploy again to the area on Friday after putting out under a ceasefire agreement that lasted several days of violence earlier this week, officials said. Thousands of people remained displaced by the violence. » PAGE 15

U.S. adds TRF to terror list for Pahalgam strike

The Resistance Front declared a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' and 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation' | Jaishankar calls it an 'affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation' | This shows the Trump administration's commitment to enforcing President's call for justice, says Rubio

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

It is a move that is being viewed as an endorsement of India's international counter-terrorism campaign, the United States on Thursday designated the Resistance Front (RF) as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist Organisation" and "Specially Designated Global Terrorist". The RF, backed by the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, claimed to be behind the deadly April 22 terror attack that left 26 people dead in Pahalgam.

The Indian government welcomed the U.S. designation of the RF as a terrorist group. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the move was "a strong affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation". The External

Terror trail
Following Operation Sindoor, the Indian government has sent a technical team with a computer forensics expert to the Resistance Front in New York for investigation.



Jaishankar's Left group Founded in 2019 by Muhammad Akbar Shukri, the RF is a Pakistan-based terrorist group that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack.

takes against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," Mr. Rubin said.

He added that the decision on the RF "demonstrates the Trump administration's commitment to protecting our national security interests, counter-

ing terrorism, and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack.

In response, Mr. Jaishankar said: "A strong affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation. Appreciate Secretary Rubio and State Department for

designating TRF - a Left proxy - as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). It claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Zero tolerance for terrorism."

Following the Pahalgam

terror attack India had started a campaign to bring a global ban on TRF. The UN Security Council passed a resolution on the Pahalgam attack on 28 April that condemned the attack but stopped short of naming the TRF. After Operation Sindoor that targeted terror facilities and military bases in Pakistan, India launched a global campaign by sending multi-party delegations abroad and also sent a technical team to New York to present evidence regarding the Pahalgam terror attack to the 1267 Sanctions Committee that decides on the global listing of terrorist groups. Concerns on terrorism featured also in the 1 to 100 Quad Foreign Ministers meeting held in Washington where a joint statement "strongly"

condemned the Pahalgam attack.

'Timely step'
The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted India's international campaign against terrorism and described the designation of TRF as a "timely and important step" that reflects "deep cooperation between India and the United States on counter-terrorism." "India remains committed to a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and will continue to work closely with its international partners to ensure that terrorist organizations and their proxies are held accountable," said the MEA, appreciating the support from Mr. Rubio.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 1

Shower in capital



People walk on Kartavya Path experiencing poor visibility during the downpour in New Delhi on Friday. Rain lashed several parts of the national capital, with the weather department issuing a 'yellow alert'.

ED arrests Bhupesh Baghel's son Chaitanya

Shubhamov Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday arrested Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, in a money laundering case linked to the alleged liquor scam in the state, officials said. The ED's counsel said Mr. Chaitanya had allegedly dealt with proceeds of crime amounting to ₹1,000 crore and was "beneficiary" of ₹13 crore. His remand application said Mr. Chaitanya had earned ₹16.70 crore from scam.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 3

Judge challenges SC probe, former CJI's actions in cash case

Krishnadas Ramesh
NEW DELHI

Allahabad High Court judge Justice Vishwam Varma said on Friday that the Supreme Court's in-house inquiry process, which recommended his removal from office, is a "parallel, extra-constitutional mechanism" designed for the judiciary to usurp Parliament's exclusive authority. An in-house inquiry committee of three judges constituted by the then-Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna had confirmed that unaccounted cash was found in the gutted storeroom at Justice Varma's official residence after a blaze on March 14 and 15 this year. Chief Justice Khanna (now retired) had sent the report to the Prime Minister and President in May after Justice Varma refused to resign.

Unconventional move
Now, just days before the Parliament's Monsoon Session is set to open, Justice Varma has resorted to challenging both the report and Chief Justice Khanna's action in the Supreme Court, in a rather unconventional move by a sitting High Court judge.

Justice Varma said the in-house inquiry was a direct attack on Chief Justice of India's authority, saying the latter did not give him a personal hearing after the committee's report came out. He had also asked him a chance to properly review the document. The petition pointed out that the inquiry resulted in conclusions merely on the basis of presumption. There was not even a formal complaint about the 'discovery' of the cash. Further, the alleged cash seized or parcha nama prepared.



Justice Vishwam Varma

Motion to remove judge not related to govt: Minister

NEW DELHI
Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Friday said that the motion of removal against Allahabad High Court Judge Vishwam Varma was not related to the government but Parliament. » PAGE 3

EU sanctions Gujarat refinery for buying Russian crude

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Union (EU) has sanctioned a Gujarat-based refinery owned by Nayara Energy Ltd. as part of a fresh sanctions package announced on Friday targeting Russia's energy sector. The announcement comes just as the U.S. Congress debates tightening sanctions on purchasers of Russian crude oil, with India, China and Brazil being named by U.S. lawmakers as countries that could face penalties. The new EU sanctions also include a lowering of the oil price cap, i.e., the maximum price countries can pay for Russian oil while using shipping insurance from the advanced economies of the G7 group of countries from \$60 per barrel to \$47.6 per barrel.

The announcement came after Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico said he would stop blocking the sanctions package over fears for his country's energy security because of a possible total EU ban on Russian gas by 2026. "For the first time, we're designating a flag refinery and the biggest Russian refinery in India," the EU's high-ranking diplomat, Kaja Kallas, said on X.



KAJA KALLAS
The President of European Commission

by SPV Essent Enterprises Co. Ltd., and individual investors. The refinery is India's second largest, producing 4,00,000 barrels per day and operating 6,300 plus petrol pumps across India, as per its website. The company has reportedly been in talks with the Indian government regarding a sale of its stake.

Each sanction weakens Russia's ability to wage war. The message is clear: Europe will not back down in its support for Ukraine.

The new package sanctions 14 individuals and 41 entities, bringing the total number of EU-listed entities to over 2,000. It also contains enhanced sanctions on Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" - ships that are sanctioned or transacting in sanctioned goods.

Each sanction weakens Russia's ability to wage war. The message is clear: Europe will not back down in its support for Ukraine," Kallas said in a statement.

The *Hindu* reached out to the European Council for further details of new entities on the sanctions list. The new oil price cap - set at \$45 below the average market price of Russian crude - while not a new sanction, was also adopted by the U.K., as the U.K.'s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) announced.

The U.K. announced the names of and sanctions against three units of Russia's military intelligence and two units of the Russian intelligence officers on Friday for "a sustained pattern of malicious cyber activity over many years, including in the U.K." the FCDO said.

The sanctioned units, the U.K. said, had been involved in the 2022 Russian strikes against Mariupol, including the strike on the Mariupol Thermal Power Plant, which killed hundreds, including children, were killed.

U.S. adds TRF to terror list for Pahalgam strike

The Resistance Front declared a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist and 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation'

Jaishankar calls it an 'affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation'

This shows the Trump administration's commitment to enforcing President's call for justice, says Rubio

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

In a move that is being viewed as an endorsement of India's international counter-terror campaign, the United States on Thursday designated The Resistance Front (TRF) as a 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation' and 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist'. The TRF, backed by the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, claimed to be behind the deadly April 22 terror attack that left 26 people dead in Pahalgam.

The Indian government welcomed the U.S. designation of the TRF as a terror group, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar describing the move as "a strong affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation". The Exter-

nal Affairs Ministry added that India's cooperation with international partners will continue to ensure "that terrorist organisations and their proxies are held accountable".

"Today, the Department of State is adding The Resistance Front (TRF) as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). TRF, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) front and proxy, claimed responsibility for the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack which killed 26 civilians," said U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Deadliest attack

"This was the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks conducted by LeT. TRF has also claimed responsibility for several at-

Terror trail

The U.S. designation follows India's global campaign against cross-border terrorism launched after the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack

■ Following Operation Sindoor, the Indian government sent a technical team with a comprehensive dossier on The Resistance Front to New York for presentation



■ The evidence was presented to the 1267 Sanctions Committee that decides on global listing of terrorist groups

■ India had designated the TRF as a terror outfit under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in January 2023

Under scrutiny:

Security personnel at the Pahalgam terror attack site in J&K.
IMRAN NISSAR

Pakistan's LeT proxy: Founded in 2019 by Muhammad Abbas Sheikh, the TRF is a Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack

tacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," Mr. Rubio said.

He added that the decision on the TRF "demonstrates" the Trump administration's "commitment to protecting our national security interests, counter-

ing terrorism, and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack."

In response, Mr. Jaishankar said: "A strong affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation. Appreciate Secretary Rubio and State Department for

designating TRF – a LeT proxy – as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). It claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Zero tolerance for terrorism."

Following the Pahalgam

terror attack India had started a campaign to bring a global ban on TRF. The UN Security Council passed a resolution on the Pahalgam attack on 25 April that condemned the attack but stopped short of naming the TRF. After Operation Sindoor that targeted terror facilities and military bases in Pakistan, India launched a global campaign by sending multi-party delegations abroad and also sent a technical team to New York to present evidence regarding the Pahalgam terror attack to the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Sanctions Committee that decides on the global listing of terrorist groups. Concerns on terrorism featured also in the 1 July Quad Foreign Ministers meeting held in Washington where a joint statement "strongly"

condemned the Pahalgam attack.

'Timely step'

The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted India's international campaign against terrorism and described the designation of TRF as a "timely and important step" that reflects "deep cooperation between India and the United States on counter-terrorism."

"India remains committed to a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and will continue to work closely with its international partners to ensure that terrorist organizations and their proxies are held accountable," said the MEA appreciating the support from Mr. Rubio.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 3

- The U.S. has designated **The Resistance Front (TRF)** as a:
 - **Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO)**
 - **Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)**
-

1. About TRF:

- A proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).
- Founded in 2019 by Muhammad Abbas Sheikh.
- Backed by Pakistan-based elements.
- Claimed responsibility for April 22, 2025 Pahalgam attack (26 killed).

2. Designation by U.S.:

- Announced by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.
- Seen as an endorsement of India-U.S. counter-terror cooperation.
- Also fulfills President Trump's stated commitment to justice.

3. India's Reaction:

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar termed it a "**strong affirmation**" of bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.
- MEA called it a "**timely and important step**" in global counter-terrorism efforts.

4. UN & Global Campaign:

- India had already designated TRF under **UAPA in January 2023**.
- Sent dossier to UN's **1267 Sanctions Committee** and launched a campaign for TRF's global proscription post-Pahalgam attack.
- Operation Sindoor involved targeting of terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

5. Broader Significance:

- India continues global pressure against terrorism via:
 - UN, QUAD, bilateral discussions
 - Highlighting **zero tolerance policy**

Impact Area

What Happens



Financial Isolation

- Assets within US jurisdiction are frozen.
- Global banks and financial institutions cut ties to avoid US penalties.
- Funding streams significantly disrupted.

Travel & Movement Restrictions

- Members face international travel bans, especially to allied countries.
- Visa applications to US and partner nations immediately denied.

Arms and Equipment Restrictions

- Blocked access to weapons, ammunition, and technology.
- Black-market activities closely monitored and curtailed internationally.

Diplomatic and Political Pressure

- Allies and partner nations urged to apply similar sanctions, multiplying impact globally.
- Global legitimacy and diplomatic engagement sharply decline.

Legal Consequences & Enforcement Actions

- Members subject to international arrest warrants and prosecution.
- Leaders often targeted by special operations or drone strikes.

Q. With reference to The Resistance Front (TRF) and its international designation, consider the following statements:

- 1.** TRF has been declared both a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the United Nations.
- 2.** India had designated the TRF as a terror organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) before the United States.
- 3.** The TRF is a proxy group of Lashkar-e-Taiba and was involved in the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.
- 4.** The U.S. designation was based on inputs from India's technical dossier and UN sanctions committee recommendations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 2, 3, and 4 only

EU sanctions Gujarat refinery for buying Russian crude

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

The European Union (EU) has sanctioned a Gujarat-based refinery owned by Nayara Energy Ltd. as part of a fresh sanctions package announced on Friday targeting Russia's energy sector. The announcement comes just as the U.S. Congress debates tightening sanctions on purchasers of Russian crude oil, with India, China and Brazil being named by U.S. lawmakers as countries that could face penalties.

The new EU sanctions also include a lowering of the oil price cap, i.e., the maximum price countries can pay for Russian oil while using shipping and insurance from the advanced economies of the G7 group of countries, from \$60 per barrel to \$47.6 per barrel. The sanctions also include an EU-wide import ban on re-

fined petroleum products made from Russian crude oil and a full transaction ban on Nord Stream 1 and 2, natural gas pipelines that connect Russia and Germany.

The announcement came after Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico said he would stop blocking the sanctions package over fears for his country's energy security because of a possible total EU ban on Russian gas by 2028. "For the first time, we're designating a flag registry and the biggest Rosneft refinery in India," the EU's highest-ranking diplomat, Kaja Kallas, said on X.

Ms. Kallas listed the highlights of the 18th sanctions package.

Second largest refinery Rosneft has a 49.13% stake in Nayara Energy's refinery (formerly Essar Oil Ltd.), based in Vadinar, Gujarat. The remainder is owned



Each sanction weakens

Russia's ability to wage war. The message is clear: Europe will not back down in its support for Ukraine

KAJA KALLAS
Vice-President of European Commission

by SPV Kesani Enterprises Co. Ltd., and individual investors. The refinery is India's second largest, producing 4,00,000 barrels per day and operating 6,300 plus petrol pumps across India, as per its website. The company has reportedly been in talks with Reliance Industries Ltd. regarding a sale of its stake.

"Each sanction weakens Russia's ability to wage war. The message is clear: Europe will not back down in its support for Ukraine," Ms. Kallas said in a statement.

'Full-fledged sanctions'

(travel bans, asset freezes, ban on providing resources) will apply to the refinery as per a statement from the EU.

The new package sanctions 14 individuals and 41 entities, bringing the total number of EU-listed entities to over 2,500.

It also contains enhanced sanctions on Russia's so-called 'shadow fleet' – ships that are sanctioned or transacting in sanctioned goods.

An additional 105 vessels will now be subject to a ban from accessing EU ports and banned from a

wide range of maritime services, bringing the total number of listed vessels to 444. A captain of a shadow fleet vessel and operator of an unnamed international flag registry have also been "listed" (i.e., subject to sanctions).

As part of enhanced banking sanctions, the number of banks sanctioned and the breadth of the sanctions is set to increase and will include a total transaction ban for 45 Russian banks.

26 entities sanctioned

Twenty-six new entities have been added to the sanctions list for supplying dual-use goods to Russia and more companies have been sanctioned for supplying to Russia and Belarus's military-industrial complex, as per a statement from the European Council.

The Hindu reached out to the European Council

for further details of new entries on the sanctions.

The new oil price cap – set at 15% below the average market price of Russian crude – while not adopted by the entire G7 – was also adopted by the U.K., as the U.K.'s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) announced.

The U.K. announced the names of and sanctions against three units of Russia's military intelligence unit, the GRU, and 18 of the units' intelligence officers on Friday for "a sustained campaign of malicious cyber activity over many years, including in the U.K.," the FCDO said.

The sanctioned units, the U.K. government said, had provided support for the 2022 Russian strikes against Mariupol, including the strike on the Mariupol Theatre, where hundreds, including children, were killed.

Refinery Sanctioned	Nayara Energy Ltd., Gujarat
Sanctioning Body	European Union (EU)
Reason	Purchase of Russian crude oil
Ownership	49.13% stake held by Russia's Rosneft
Output	4,00,000 barrels/day; 6,300+ fuel pumps
Location	Vadinar, Gujarat
Sanction Type	Travel bans, asset freeze, ban on providing resources
Stake Sale	Talks with Reliance for sale of stake

Larger Context	Part of 18th sanctions package by EU targeting Russia's energy sector
Oil Price Cap	\$47.6/barrel (15% below average price) by advanced economies
EU Import Ban	On refined Russian petroleum products and Nord Stream pipelines
Wider Impact	Shadow fleet, 105 vessels banned, 45 Russian banks under transaction ban
Quote	"Each sanction weakens Russia's ability to wage war" – Kaja Kallas

Other Key International Elements

- **G7 Oil Price Cap:** From \$60 to \$47.6/barrel
- **UK Role:**
 - Adopted EU's oil price cap
 - Sanctioned GRU units for cyberattacks and Mariupol strikes
- **New EU Sanctions Summary:**
 - 14 individuals + 41 entities → Total EU-listed = 2,500+
 - Enhanced sanctions on Russia's shadow fleet, banks, ports, dual-use goods

Q. With reference to the recent European Union (EU) sanctions targeting a refinery in India, consider the following statements:

1. The sanctioned refinery is majority-owned by Indian public sector companies.
2. The EU's sanctions include a price cap mechanism that limits the amount countries can pay for Russian oil.
3. The EU banned refined petroleum product imports from Russia and sanctioned pipelines like Nord Stream.
4. The sanctioned refinery is India's largest and located in Maharashtra.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Yamuna's pollution worsens, bacteria levels 4,000 times the safe limit: Report

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

DESPITE THE Capital enjoying nearly a month of clean air, its pollution troubles are far from over. A new status report from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) paints a grim picture of the Yamuna. The river's quality has deteriorated compared to June, with several indicators far exceeding permissible limits.

The worst parameter is the faecal coliform level, an indicator of the presence of bacteria that's directly linked to untreated sewage — it is around 4,000 times the safe limit of 2,500 MPN/100ml set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The river, which flows about 22 km through Delhi, enters the Capital at Palla.

A comparison of the report dated July 17 and sampled on July 1 with the previous month's report reveals that pollution levels in the river have worsened.

At Palla, the river's Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) is 8 mg/l, already much higher than the CPCB's safe limit of 3 mg/l or less. BOD is a significant water quality parameter which indicates the amount of oxygen required to break down organic material in the water.

July data suggests a sharp spike in organic pollution, particularly between Palla and ITO (70 mg/l). Asgarpur, where the river exits Delhi, shows a slight improvement (24 mg/l), though it remains well above safe limits. (see box)

ALONG THE RIVER

Sampling Location	BOD (mg/l)	DO (mg/l)	Faecal Coliform (MPN/100ml)
Palla	8	4.4	27×10^2
Wazirabad	11	3.4	39×10^2
ISBT Bridge	47	Nil	28×10^5
ITO Bridge	70	Nil	92×10^5
Nizamuddin Bridge	32	Nil	11×10^5
Okhla Barrage	46	Nil	22×10^5
Agra Canal at Okhla Barrage	40	Nil	21×10^5
Asgarpur *	24	0.9	79×10^4

*(After confluence of Shahdara & Tuglakabad drains)

Source: Delhi Pollution Control Committee

SAFE LIMITS

- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD): 3 mg/L or less
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO): 5 mg/L or more
- Faecal coliform (FC): 500 MPN/100 ml ideal, 2500 MPN/L maximum limit



This escalating BOD along the Yamuna's course through the city signals a substantial and worsening discharge of untreated or poorly treated wastewater into the river. Twenty-two

The river's quality has deteriorated compared to June. Archive

drains open directly into the river, out of which a few remain partially tapped, according to official records.

In June, BOD levels at the same sites were significantly lower: 5 mg/l at Palla, 8 mg/l at Wazirabad, 31 mg/l at ISBT, 46 mg/l at ITO, 40 mg/l at Nizamuddin, 30 mg/l at Okhla Barrage, 38 mg/l at Agra Canal, and 44 mg/l at Asgarpur.

Equally concerning are the

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels, essential for aquatic life, which have witnessed a significant drop over the past month.

It has dipped even at Palla and Wazirabad, where DO levels usually remain above the safe limit.

At Wazirabad, DO levels have plummeted from 6.3 mg/l in June to just 3.4 mg/l in July, below the minimum safe threshold. Further downstream, oxygen levels fall to zero, and only slightly recover to 0.9 mg/l at Asgarpur. The near-total depletion of oxygen renders large stretches of the Yamuna uninhabitable for aquatic organisms.

The most alarming figures, however, are the faecal coliform levels. At ITO Bridge, it was recorded at 92,00,000 MPN/100 ml — over 4,000 times the permissible limit.

Across most locations, the faecal coliform count has worsened since June. Palla recorded 2,700 MPN/100 ml in July (up from 2,100), and Wazirabad 3,900 (up from 2,600). Downstream, the levels were more than 1,000 times the maximum permissible limit. (see box)

The July report also reveals a steep year-on-year rise in contamination. For instance, while Asgarpur recorded the worst contamination levels in July 2024, ITO records the highest pollution levels this year.

The DPCC has been submitting these monthly reports, after analysing water samples at eight locations on Delhi's stretch of the Yamuna, in compliance with National Green Tribunal directives.

1. Pollution Levels in the Yamuna

- **High faecal coliform levels:** At ITO Bridge, recorded **92,000 MPN/100ml**, **>4,000 times** the maximum permissible limit (2,500 MPN/100ml).
 - **Deterioration in July** compared to June in terms of:
 - Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)
 - Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
 - Bacterial load
-

2. Key Indicators of Water Quality

Parameter	Safe Limit	Observations (July)
BOD	≤3 mg/L	Up to 70 mg/L at ITO
DO	≥5 mg/L	0.9 mg/L at Asgarpur (low)
Faecal Coliform	Ideal: 500 MPN/100ml Max: 2,500	92,000 MPN/100ml at ITO

3. Major Polluted Points Along the River

- **Worst Zones:** ITO, Okhla Barrage, Agra Canal, Asgarpur
 - **Moderate Zones:** Palla (entry point), Wazirabad
 - **Causes:**
 - Discharge of untreated/semi-treated sewage
 - Drains (22 total) pouring pollutants into the river
-

4. Year-on-Year Trends

- **Compared to June:**
 - Faecal coliform levels increased sharply (e.g., Palla: 2,700 to 2,100; Wazirabad: 3,900 to 2,600)
 - **DO levels fell** below threshold at several locations
 - **2024 vs 2025:** July 2025 reports **worst contamination levels in a year**
-


5. Geographic Relevance

- **Palla:** Yamuna enters Delhi from Haryana
 - **ITO, Nizamuddin, Okhla:** Pollution hotspots
 - **Asgarpur:** Post-drain confluence zone after Shahdara and Tughlakabad
-

6. Political & Legal Context

- Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) reports
- Submitted to **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**
- Legal mandates for Yamuna river rejuvenation

Here are the **top 5 honest reasons** why the Yamuna River has remained dirty, despite repeated government promises and efforts:

Reason	Details	
Massive Untreated Sewage	Over 3,500 million litres/day of untreated sewage enters Yamuna due to inadequate sewage infrastructure in Delhi and NCR.	
Industrial Pollution & Corruption	Powerful industries discharge toxic waste directly; regulatory corruption allows industries to bypass environmental norms.	
Poor Governance & Coordination	Lack of coordination between Delhi, Haryana, UP, and Central Government. Funds and responsibilities often overlap, causing delays and confusion.	
Inefficient STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants)	Existing treatment plants are outdated, poorly maintained, or not running at full capacity due to mismanagement and corruption.	
Encroachment & Illegal Settlements	Large-scale encroachments and unauthorized colonies dump waste directly into Yamuna, making it nearly impossible to control pollution sources.	

Q. With reference to the recent report by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on Yamuna river pollution, consider the following statements:

1. The permissible limit for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in rivers is 5 mg/L or less.
2. The faecal coliform levels recorded at the ITO Bridge exceeded the maximum permissible limit by over 4,000 times.
3. The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels in the Yamuna improved at all locations in July compared to June.
4. Asgarpur is one of the locations where DO was recorded below the safe limit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Feeding strays: question of compassion & public order, the position in law

AMAAL SHEIKH

NEW DELHI, JULY 18

THE SUPREME COURT observed this week that citizens who wished to feed stray dogs should consider doing so inside their own homes.

The Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta were hearing an appeal filed by a Noida resident who had been allegedly harassed for feeding stray dogs in the common areas of her housing society.

The strongly polarising issue of feeding community dogs has frequently led to litigation over the years. Courts have weighed in on questions of constitutional protections, local governance, and claims over shared civic spaces.

Background of case

The president of the Residents' Welfare Association of the petitioner's society had allegedly broken some pots in which she had kept water for stray animals, harassed her, and killed 10 sterilised stray dogs. Local authorities had taken no action on her complaints, and had instead asked her to not place the pots again.

The woman had then approached Allahabad High Court, which had dismissed her petition in the interest of the "common man".

The court had said that the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 (ABC Rules) did warrant the protection of street dogs, but "the authorities will have to bear in mind the concern of common man, such that their movement on streets are not hampered by

attacks by these street dogs".

The ABC Rules, 2023, notified under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, seek to control stray dog populations through sterilisation, and to curb the spread of rabies by vaccinating them. The Rules lay down protocols to ensure that the feeding of dogs respects both animal welfare and public safety.

'Stray' to 'community'

The ABC Rules, which replaced the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001, use the expression "community animals" instead of "stray dogs" — recognising that these dogs are not ownerless intruders but territorial beings that inhabit and belong to their local environments.

EXPLAINED LAW

The Supreme Court has interpreted the constitutionally guaranteed right to life and liberty as extending to animals as well. In its verdict in the 2014 Jallikattu case, the top court held that animal life falls within

the meaning of Article 21 of the Constitution (*Animal Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja*).

Also, Article 51A(g) places a fundamental duty on citizens "to have compassion for living creatures". All this means that the presence of dogs in residential areas cannot automatically be considered unlawful. Nor can those who feed them be considered offenders unless their actions violate specific behavioural and spatial guidelines set by the law.

Rules for feeding dogs

Rule 20 of the ABC Rules, 2023 ("Feeding of Community Animals") states that "it shall be responsibility of the Resident Welfare Association or Apartment Owner Association or Local Body's representative... to make necessary arrangement for feeding of community animals" if someone living in that area "feeds or provides care to street animals as a compassionate gesture".

The Rule states that the feeding locations must be away from high-footfall areas like staircases, building entrances, and children's play areas. The designated spaces must be kept clean and litter-free, and community dogs should be fed at an appointed time.

The Rule also lays down a dispute resolution mechanism involving the chief veterinary officer, representatives of the po-

lice, the district Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, organisations conducting animal birth control, and the RWA.

The big picture is that dogs have a right to be fed, but this must be done in ways that minimise disruption to shared social spaces. The Rules try to strike a balance between compassion and public order.

Previous court order

In March 2023, the Bombay High Court in *Sharmila Sankar & Ors v. Union of India* ruled in favour of residents who had faced opposition from their housing societies for feeding dogs. The court said that RWAs and societies cannot restrict the feeding of community animals or threaten or penalise individuals who do so. The court affirmed that the ABC Rules have "the force of law".

1. Context of the Case

- The case arose from a Noida resident allegedly harassed for feeding stray dogs in housing society common areas.
 - The Supreme Court observed that feeding can be done inside one's home to avoid civic disruption.
-

2. Constitutional Provisions & Court Observations

- **Article 21:** Right to life and liberty extends to animals (as per *Animal Welfare Board of India vs. A. Nagaraja*, 2014).
 - **Article 51A(g):** Fundamental duty on citizens to "have compassion for living creatures".
 - Feeding dogs in public is not illegal unless it violates behavioural/spatial guidelines.
-

3. Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023

- Replaces Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001.
 - Dogs termed "**community animals**", not "strays".
 - Notified under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
-

4. Feeding Rules under ABC Rules, 2023

- **Rule 20**: Feeding must be done in designated areas by RWAs or housing bodies.
- Must avoid **high-traffic areas** (like stairs, children's play zones).
- Dispute redressal: Chief Veterinary Officer, SPCA, and RWAs involved.
- Feeding must be a "**compassionate gesture**", not disrupt public order.

5. Significance of 2023 Bombay HC Order

- In *Sharmila Sankar & Ors v. Union of India*:
 - RWAs **cannot restrict feeding** of community dogs.
 - Cannot penalise or threaten individuals feeding dogs.
 - Affirmed ABC Rules, 2023, have **"the force of law"**.
-

Dogs:

- **Milk Digestion:**

Dogs often become lactose intolerant after puppyhood.

- **Potential Problems:**

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Upset stomach

- **Safe Alternatives:**

- Lactose-free milk or specially formulated dog milk.
- Plain water is best for hydration.

✅ **Verdict: Avoid regular cow's milk.** Occasional small amounts may be fine for some dogs, but lactose intolerance risk remains.

Q. With reference to the legal position on feeding community animals in India, consider the following statements:

1. The ABC Rules, 2023 mandate that stray dogs must be referred to as “community animals”.
2. Rule 20 of the ABC Rules allows RWAs to completely ban feeding of stray animals in housing societies.
3. Article 51A(g) of the Constitution places a duty on citizens to have compassion for living creatures.
4. The Bombay High Court has ruled that the feeding of community animals is illegal in common areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

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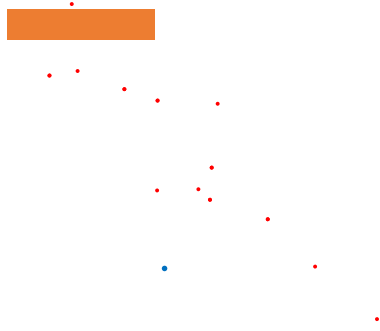


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