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3
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0
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comfort, not success.”

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CBI arrests owner of coaching institute
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KUO-NAGA ISSUE
Church bodies may broker peace in Manipur
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BATTLE AGAINST NAKALIS
Shah hails sacrifice of security forces
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DATA POINT
Minimum temperatures are rising faster
April sees 0.5 degrees Celsius above normal
OPINION ■ PAGE 9

MARKING THE GRAB
Sunrisers and Titans enter the playoffs
SPORT ■ PAGE 16

INSIDE

Diesel 'shortage, curbs' affecting retail logistics
MUMBAI
Even as the Centre and all companies claim that there is no shortage of petroleum products, transporters and retail customers across India have reported short supply of diesel and petrol over the past few days. ■ PAGE 14

Israel intercepts flotilla carrying supplies to Gaza
JERUSALEM
Israeli forces intercepted a Gaza-bound aid flotilla — Obolat Sumud Flotilla — on Monday after it sailed from Turkey last week, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denouncing the mission as a "malicious scheme" intended to support Hamas. ■ PAGE 14

40 arrested over Kolkata violence, says Bengal CM
KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Surjit Kumar Ghosh on Monday said that at least 40 persons had been arrested over the Park Circus violence incident. Meanwhile, the number of persons apprehended in Friday's violence in Asaram had increased to 26. ■ PAGE 5

CJF's 'cockroach' remark spawns a satirical outfit
CHANDIGARH
Satirical political outfit 'Cockroach Janta Party', founded in a letter Chief Justice of India Surya Kant show criticism over his 'cockroach' remark, has drawn widespread attention online. Within hours of floating, it received over 5,000 registrations. ■ PAGE 6

SC has 'reservations' on its own bail decision

Judgment in a narco-terrorism case refers to Delhi riots case involving Umar Khalid, Shaarjeel Imam | **Court says an accused cannot be held indefinitely because prosecution faces a low bar under UAPA** | **If State shows accusations were 'prima facie' true, bail would be 'absolutely impermissible'**

Krishnadeva Kalagopali
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday voiced "serious reservations" about "various aspects" of its January judgment refusing bail to former PU student leader Umar Khalid and co-accused Shaarjeel Imam in the Delhi riots, larger conspiracy case, including the foreclosing of their right to seek bail for a year.

Justice Bhuyan, who authored the judgment, said the catchphrase "bail is the rule and jail is the exception" was not just an empty slogan, but a constitutional principle flowing from the Fundamental Rights to equality of law and freedom from arbitrary arrests and detentions. The apex court's observations on Monday came

booked Mr. Khalid and other activists under the anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or the UAPA, for their involvement in organising protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. "Not an empty slogan" On Monday, a bench of justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjah Bhuyan said bail was issued the rule in UAPA cases too.

Justice Bhuyan, who authored the judgment, said the catchphrase "bail is the rule and jail is the exception" was not just an empty slogan, but a constitutional principle flowing from the Fundamental Rights to equality of law and freedom from arbitrary arrests and detentions. The apex court's observations on Monday came

Once it is obvious that a timely trial would not be possible and the accused has suffered incarceration for a significant period of time, the courts would ordinarily be obligated to enlarge the accused on bail. The presence of statutory restrictions, per se, does not oust the ability of the courts to grant bail.

Justice Ujjah Bhuyan said in a judgment allowing bail to a Jammu and Kashmir man accused in a narco-terrorism case in which he had been incarcerated as an undertrial under the UAPA for five years. "It said an accused cannot be indefinitely incarcerated merely because the state was able to 'justify' the low bar to justice bail in UAPA cases, Justice Bhuyan said the right to

personal liberty and speech "subordinate" to the draconian bail provision, Section 43(D)(2), of the UAPA. He said that the UAPA had drawn the threshold for denying bail so low that the state had to only show that the accusations against an accused were "prima facie" true. "Once that was done, bail would be 'absolutely impermissible' for him.

Change of guard



The Bill Stage Congress leader V.K. Sabhawan with Governor Rajendra Maheshwari Anwar during his swearing-in at the Kerala Chief Minister at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. (Source: saasawarajournal.com)

secretariat. India and Norway have differences, but they must not be against each other. "Weapons" — diplomacy, trade, and technology, said Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre here on Monday after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the two countries upgraded ties to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership".

In statements to the media, both leaders emphasised their discussions on geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East and South Asia, with Mr. Modi contrasting the "mutability and uncertainty" brought by the conflicts while India and Europe are entering a "new golden era" in ties.

"Both India and Norway believe in a rules-based order, dialogue and diplomacy. We are unanimous that no issue can be resolved through military conflict. Whether it is Ukraine or elsewhere, we support, and will continue to support, an early end to conflict and every effort towards peace," he said.

He said that the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement signed last year with Norway and other EFTA countries — Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg — would continue India's trade and investment ties with the bloc.

The Department of Financial Services, in a circular, asked them to cut costs along two heads: reduction in fuel, and adoption of electric vehicles.

"The U.S., which along with Israel launched the war on February 28, announced a ceasefire on April 8, citing progress in negotiations. Israeli and American officials held one round of direct talks in Islamabad on April 8 but failed to reach any breakthrough. Immediately after the talks failed, Mr. Trump announced a blockade of Iran's ports. Iran, which took control of the Strait of Hormuz after the war broke out, demands the U.S. and the blockade as a confidence building measure to take talks forward.

On Sunday, Iran unveiled a new body, the Persian Gulf Crisis Authority, to control the strait.

RELATED REPORT ON
PAGE 14

Modi meets Norwegian PM as they upgrade their ties to Great Strategic Partnership



What meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Norwegian counterpart in Oslo on Monday. (AP)

would aim to create \$100 billion in investment and "one million jobs in India", Mr. Støre called India "a leading global force in technology, innovation, and renewable energy".

In a possible reference to the Russia-Ukraine war, Mr. Støre acknowledged there were differences between India and Norway, but that it was necessary to work through them. Norway, which has urged India to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the past and to reduce its intake of Russian oil, is also hoping to offer India alternative supplies of oil and gas that Norway is a major exporter of.

"Trade weaponisation" "We have to stand up against those who weaponise diplomacy, who weaponise trade, and who weaponise technology. At a time of rising protectionism and more tense geopolitical dynamics, it is more important than ever to stand together for a stable world," Mr. Støre said, possibly referring not only to Russia, but also to the U.S. and China on unilateralism and protectionism, as well as Iran for the Strait of Hormuz blockade that has held up energy trade.

Mr. Støre said that Norway and India "do not always see eye to eye on all issues", which was common. "We are both respectful democracies who handle these issues in ways that live up to democratic standards," he added.

As the two leaders completed their statements, the event got an unusual moment when a Norwegian journalist stood up to protest the fact that the Prime Ministers did not take questions from the media from both countries present. At Mr. Modi's earlier stop in the Netherlands too, local Dutch media had objected to the lack of a press conference as a customary event. While Mr. Modi did not respond to the question, PM Støre responded to the media query afterwards, and gave interviews to local media.

The two Prime Ministers will join leaders of Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland for the Nordic-India summit on Tuesday.

"The reporter is in Norway at the invitation of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover the Nordic Summit"

Iran submits a new peace proposal, says U.S. open to 'waiving' sanctions

Manly Tobey
Iran has submitted a new 14-point proposal to the U.S. through Pakistan aimed at ending the war and a diplomatic impasse and lines of renewed negotiations, even as President Donald Trump dismissed it "totally unacceptable".

According to Iranian officials, Tehran proposed negotiations to focus on ending the war, while deferring talks on the nuclear file to a later stage. The U.S. subsequently



once again submitted its last 14 points through the Pakistani mediator after making amendments," an Iranian official said, according to the Tasnim news agency.

Tasnim quoted another Iranian official as saying that the U.S. has agreed to waive sanctions on Iran during the negotiations. Iran has insisted that removal of all sanctions on the country should be part of a final agreement. "The U.S. has proposed to waive OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) sanctions until a final understanding is reached," it reported.

"In line with the recent practice of exchanging messages, Iran has also

PSU banks, insurers asked to cut travel costs, use EVs

E.G.A. Shaarjeel Imam
NEW DELHI
The Finance Ministry on Monday wrote to the heads of all public sector banks, regional rural banks, public sector insurers, and public sector small finance institutions, urging them to adopt several "austerity" measures in a bid to reduce expenses.

The Department of Financial Services, in a circular, asked them to cut costs along two heads: reduction in fuel, and adoption of electric vehicles.

"The U.S., which along with Israel launched the war on February 28, announced a ceasefire on April 8, citing progress in negotiations. Israeli and American officials held one round of direct talks in Islamabad on April 8 but failed to reach any breakthrough. Immediately after the talks failed, Mr. Trump announced a blockade of Iran's ports. Iran, which took control of the Strait of Hormuz after the war broke out, demands the U.S. and the blockade as a confidence building measure to take talks forward.

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SC has 'reservations' on its own bail decision

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Court says an accused cannot be held indefinitely because prosecution faces a low bar under UAPA

If State shows accusations were 'prima facie' true, bail would be 'absolutely impermissible'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday voiced "serious reservations" about "various aspects" of its January judgment refusing bail to former JNU student leader Umar Khalid and co-accused Sharjeel Imam in the Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case, including the foreclosing of their right to seek bail for a year.

The rare act of self-proprach came over a year after the court condemned Mr. Khalid and Mr. Imam as "alleged masterminds" who hatched the conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots. At the time of the rejection of his bail plea, Mr. Khalid had already spent over five years in prison as an undertrial.

The Delhi Police had

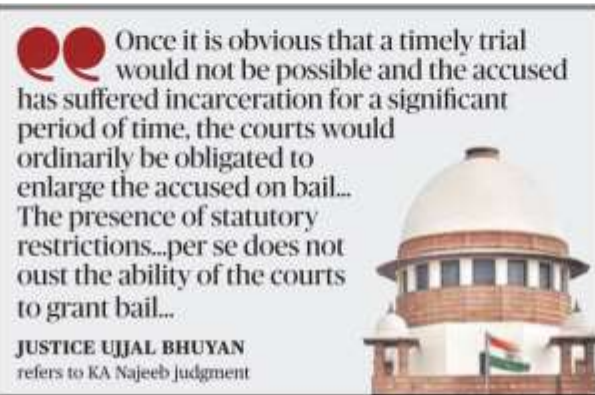
booked Mr. Khalid and other activists under the anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or the UAPA, for their involvement in organising protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

'Not an empty slogan'

On Monday, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said bail was indeed the rule in UAPA cases too.

Justice Bhuyan, who authored the judgment, said the catchphrase 'bail is the rule and jail is the exception' was not just an empty slogan, but a constitutional principle flowing from the fundamental rights to life, speedy trial and freedom from arbitrary arrests and detentions.

The apex court's observations on Monday came



in a judgment allowing bail to a Jammu and Kashmir man accused in a narco-terrorism case in which he had been incarcerated as an undertrial under the UAPA for five years.

It said an accused cannot be indefinitely incarcerated merely because the state was able to "satisfy" the low bar to refuse bail in UAPA cases. Justice Bhuyan said the right to

personal liberty and speedy trial cannot become "subordinate" to the draconian bail provision, Section 43-D(5), of the UAPA.

He said that the UAPA had drawn the threshold for denying bail so low that the state had to only show that the accusations against an accused were "prima facie" true.

Once that was done, bail would be "absolutely im-

permissible" for him.

"The state need only satisfy a low *prima facie* threshold while the trial may continue for years with the result that pre-trial incarceration begins to acquire a post-trial punitive character, and even then, no court could ever grant bail no matter the length of period of such incarceration because the case stood *prima facie* made out against the accused," Justice Bhuyan noted.

He said the potency of Section 43-D(5) should be "melted" down by constitutional courts intervening and granting bail in UAPA cases in which the accused had already suffered prolonged incarceration due to delayed trial. A point in case was that of Mr. Khalid.

"Constitutional courts can always intervene to

grant bail despite satisfaction of the 'prima facie' threshold under Section 43-D(5). The Section need not control the grant of bail if the accused person's liberty is infringed for a prolonged period of time," Justice Bhuyan observed.

Section 43-D(5)

The power of a constitutional court to protect the right to life of a UAPA accused against arbitrary detentions cannot be diminished merely by a provision like Section 43-D(5) in a statute, the Bench highlighted.

"Section 43-D(5) remains subordinate to Article 21 [fundamental right to life] at all times. A constitutional court need not hold back bail to the accused in the garb of Section 43-D(5)," the Supreme Court underscored.

Justice Bhuyan said the basic principle that a person was presumed innocent until proven guilty was the "cornerstone of any civilised society governed by the rule of law". Section 43-D(5) converted delay in trial itself into punishment.

The court said statutes like the UAPA may calibrate the manner in which the presumption of innocence was applied, particularly in cases involving national security or terrorist offences, but they cannot altogether invert the constitutional relationship between liberty and detention. The court expressed deep concern about certain of its verdicts "hollowing out" larger Bench verdicts like in the K.A. Najeeb case, which championed personal liberty against state abuse.

Point	Explanation	Hindi
Full form	Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967	विधिविरुद्ध क्रिया-कलाप निवारण अधिनियम, 1967
Nature	India's main anti-terror and anti-unlawful activities law	भारत का मुख्य आतंकवाद-विरोधी और विधिविरुद्ध गतिविधि-विरोधी कानून
Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs	गृह मंत्रालय
Main purpose	To prevent unlawful activities of individuals and associations and deal with terrorist activities	व्यक्तियों और संगठनों की विधिविरुद्ध गतिविधियों को रोकना और आतंकवादी गतिविधियों से निपटना
Applies to	Individuals, associations, organisations, and terrorist activities	व्यक्ति, संगठन, संघ और आतंकवादी गतिविधियां
Important power	Government can declare an organisation as unlawful or terrorist organisation	सरकार किसी संगठन को विधिविरुद्ध या आतंकवादी संगठन घोषित कर सकती है
2019 amendment	Government can also designate an individual as a terrorist	सरकार किसी व्यक्ति को भी आतंकवादी घोषित कर सकती है
Investigation	NIA and police can investigate UAPA cases	NIA और पुलिस UAPA मामलों की जांच कर सकती हैं
Bail issue	Bail is difficult due to Section 43D(5)	धारा 43D(5) के कारण जमानत कठिन होती है
Exam relevance	Important for Article 21, national security, civil liberties, terrorism, and criminal justice	अनुच्छेद 21, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, नागरिक स्वतंत्रता, आतंकवाद और आपराधिक न्याय के लिए महत्वपूर्ण

Reason

Terror-related offences

Extended investigation time

Strict bail test

Property seizure

Organisation ban

Explanation

It deals with serious offences linked to terrorism and national security

Investigation period can be extended compared to ordinary criminal cases

Bail can be denied if accusation appears prima facie true

Law allows seizure/attachment of terrorism-linked property

Government can ban organisations linked to unlawful or terrorist acts

Hindi

गण ७ लह अरु उ घ घांका दमलर दू
दरुहणरुह १ हघरुदरुह दुराश ल पुरा

दुराश ७ हघरुश ड रकरुकरुह दमलर रु
नरुह १ अशरु १ प्ररुह नरु दू ड लह पुरा

गण ७ घरुह इकरु «Hगुरुदणरु चणुदुर
नरुकरुल इकरु नरु दू ड लह पुरा

डुरुकरु ७ लह अरु दू दरुह दुरुशु डू ह
न इरु/इरु १ इरुकरु दुरुल पुरा

दुरुघडुरुघ शरुशरुशरुश गण ७ लह अरुह
णरुलरुश गुरुदरुह दरुह दुराश इरुह घ इरुलरु
चणरु दू ड लह पुरा

Point	Explanation	Hindi Explanation
Meaning of bail	Temporary release from custody during investigation or trial	जांच या मुकदमे के दौरान हिरासत से अस्थायी रिहाई
Purpose	To protect liberty while ensuring the accused appears before court	स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा करना और कोर्ट में उपस्थिति सुनिश्चित करना
Not acquittal	Bail does not mean the accused is innocent	जमानत का मतलब बरी होना नहीं है
Bailable offence	Bail is generally a right	जमानती अपराध में जमानत सामान्यतः अधिकार होती है
Non-bailable offence	Bail depends on court's discretion	गैर-जमानती अपराध में जमानत कोर्ट के विवेक पर निर्भर करती है
Regular bail	Given after arrest	गिरफ्तारी के बाद दी जाने वाली जमानत
Anticipatory bail	Protection before arrest in non-bailable cases	गैर-जमानती मामलों में गिरफ्तारी से पहले सुरक्षा
Default bail	Given when investigation/chargesheet is not completed within legal time	जब जांच/चार्जशीट कानूनी समय में पूरी न हो तो दी जाने वाली जमानत
Interim bail	Temporary bail for a short period	सीमित समय के लिए अस्थायी जमानत
Bail conditions	Passport surrender, no witness influence, no evidence tampering, regular appearance	पासपोर्ट जमा, गवाहों को प्रभावित न करना, सबूतों से छेड़छाड़ न करना, कोर्ट में पेशी

Important Difference: Bailable vs Non-Bailable Offence

महत्वपूर्ण अंतर: जमानती और गैर-जमानती अपराध

Basis	Bailable Offence	Non-Bailable Offence	
Nature	Less serious offences	Serious offences	
Nature	कम गंभीर अपराध	गंभीर अपराध	
Right to bail	Accused has a legal right to bail	Bail is not a right; court decides	
जमानत का अधिकार	आरोपी को जमानत का कानूनी अधिकार होता है	जमानत अधिकार नहीं; कोर्ट फैसला करता है	
Police power	Police may grant bail	Court usually decides bail	
पुलिस की भूमिका	पुलिस जमानत दे सकती है	सामान्यतः कोर्ट जमानत तय करता है	
Example	Minor offences	Murder, terrorism, serious conspiracy	
उदाहरण	छोटे अपराध	हत्या, आतंकवाद, गंभीर साजिश	
Court test	Mostly procedural	Gravity, evidence, flight risk, witness influence	
कोर्ट की कसौटी	अधिकतर प्रक्रिया आधारित	अपराध की गंभीरता, सबूत, भागने का खतरा, गवाहों पर प्रभाव	

Issue	Delhi Riots Case Context	Exam Understanding
Case background	2020 North-East Delhi riots and alleged "larger conspiracy" case	2020 उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली दंगे और कथित "बड़ी साजिश" का मामला
Main law involved	IPC/CrPC provisions plus UAPA in conspiracy cases	IPC/CrPC प्रावधानों के साथ UAPA भी लगाया गया
Why bail became difficult	UAPA Section 43D(5) makes bail stricter	UAPA धारा 43D(5) जमानत को कठिन बनाती है
Key accused discussed	Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima and others	उमर खालिद, शरजील इमाम, गुलफिशा फातिमा आदि
Main legal debate	Liberty vs national security/public order	व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता बनाम राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा/लोक व्यवस्था
Prosecution argument	Alleged larger conspiracy and serious role in violence	कथित बड़ी साजिश और हिंसा में गंभीर भूमिका
Defence argument	Long incarceration, delayed trial, many witnesses yet to be examined	लंबी कैद, मुकदमे में देरी, कई गवाहों की जांच बाकी
Court challenge	Whether UAPA restriction can override normal bail principles	क्या UAPA की रोक सामान्य जमानत सिद्धांतों से ऊपर हो सकती है
Recent significance	SC observations revived debate that bail should remain the rule even in UAPA cases	SC टिप्पणियों ने बहस को फिर बढ़ाया कि UAPA में भी जमानत नियम होनी चाहिए

Side

Argument

Hindi

State/Prosecution

Serious offences and alleged conspiracy justify strict bail approach

एक गंभीर अपराध और अज्ञात साजिश का आरोप होने के कारण कड़े बंधन वाले बालि आदेश का अर्थ है।

Accused/Defence

Long pre-trial jail without conviction violates liberty

अज्ञात दोषीता के बिना लंबे समय तक जेल में बंद रहना व्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन करता है।

Court's concern

Balance between national security and constitutional liberty

राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा और संवैधानिक स्वतंत्रता के बीच एक संतुलित दृष्टिकोण आवश्यक है।

Constitutional issue

Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty

अनुच्छेद 21: जीवन और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार।

Practical problem

Trials in UAPA cases may take many years

UAPA के तहत प्रकरणों का निपटारा कई वर्षों तक ले सकता है।

Exam keyword

Speedy trial, presumption of innocence, rule of law

तेजी से प्रकरणों का निपटारा, अज्ञात दोषीता का अर्थ है, और कानून का शासन।

: SC & UAPA Bail Jurisprudence

UAPA और जमानत — सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का आत्म-चिंतन | GS II: Polity | Art. 21 | UAPA Sec 43-D(5)

KEY FACTS / रकम लभ

- SC Bench: Justice Nagarathna + Justice Ujjal Bhuyan
- Case: 2020 Delhi Riots Larger Conspiracy (UAPA)
- Accused: Umar Khalid + Sharjeel Imam (JNU)
- Sec 43-D(5): Low bar — prima facie charges → deny bail
- K.A. Najeeb (2021): Bail possible if prolonged detention
- Bail = Rule; Jail = Exception → Article 21 principle

Section 43-D(5) UAPA

Bail refused if court finds prima facie accusations true.

नरवरणल षणरुणश षघ बरुवर «Hगनर षरुणर दूडु चणरुणरु

SC: This does NOT create absolute bar on bail.

SC: गणरुणरु षणरुणरु षणरुणरु — Art.21 दूडु षणरुणरु षणरुणरु

ARTICLE 21 — Personal Liberty | षरुणरु षणरुणरु षणरुणरु

- Right to speedy trial = part of Art. 21
- Pre-trial incarceration → becomes punishment
- Presumption of innocence — cornerstone of rule of law
- Maneka Gandhi (1978): Art.21 expanded broadly
- SC: UAPA cannot invert liberty-detention balance

Art.1 — Multi-Subject Grid + Timeline | **भारतीय संविधान** + **इतिहास**

History / **इतिहास**

2020 Delhi Riots → CAA protests → UAPA invoked

Geography / **भूगोल**

N/A direct | Prison locations: Tihar (Delhi)

Polity / **राज्यशास्त्र**

Art.21, Art.22 | UAPA 1967 | Maneka Gandhi 1978 | NIA Act 2008

Economy / **वित्त**

Undertrial costs to state | Lost livelihoods of accused

Environment / **पर्यावरण**

Not directly relevant

Sci & Tech / **विज्ञान**

Digital evidence in UAPA cases | Forensic labs

TIMELINE: UAPA & Bail Jurisprudence

1967

UAPA enacted

2004-19

Multiple amendments

Jan 2020

Delhi Riots (CAA protests)

2021

K.A. Najeer — bail in UAPA possible

2024-25

Umar Khalid bail denied (Jan 2025)

May 2025

SC self-reproach

Modi meets Norwegian PM as they upgrade their ties to Green Strategic Partnership

Suhasini Haldar
OSLO

India and Norway have differences, but they must unite against countries that “weaponise” diplomacy, trade, and technology, said Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre here on Monday after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the two countries upgraded ties to a “Green Strategic Partnership”.

In statements to the media, both leaders emphasised their discussions on geopolitical conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, with Mr. Modi contrasting the “instability and uncertainty” brought by the conflicts while India and Europe are entering a “new golden era” in ties.

“Both India and Norway believe in a rules-based order, dialogue, and diplomacy. We are unanimous that no issue can be resolved through military conflict. Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we support, and will continue to support, an early end to conflict and every effort toward peace,” he said.

He said that the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement signed last year with Norway and three EFTA countries – Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein – as well as the Green Strategic Partnership announced on Monday, would combine India’s scale, speed, and talent with Norway’s technology and capital.

“From the Arctic to outer space, from green shipping to the blue economy, and from energy security to food security, our cooperation is touching new frontiers,” Mr. Modi added, saying that the EFTA deal



Vital meeting: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Norwegian counterpart in Oslo on Monday. ANI

would aim to create \$100 billion in investment and “one million jobs in India”.

Mr. Støre called India “a leading global force in technology, innovation, and renewable energy”.

In a possible reference to the Russia-Ukraine war, Mr. Støre acknowledged there were differences between India and Norway, but that it was necessary to work through them. Norway, which has urged India to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the past and to reduce its intake of Russian oil, is also hoping to offer India alternative supplies of oil and gas that Norway is a major exporter of.

‘Trade weaponisation’

“We have to stand up against those who weaponise diplomacy, who weaponise trade, and who weaponise technology. At a time of rising protectionism and more tense geopolitical dynamics, it is more important than ever to stand together for a rule-based order,” Mr. Støre said, possibly referring not only to Russia, but also the U.S. and China on unilateralism and protectionism, as well as Iran for the Strait

of Hormuz blockade that has held up energy trade.

Mr. Støre said that Norway and India “do not always see eye to eye on all issues”, which was common. “We are both respectful democracies who handle those issues in ways that live up to democratic standards,” he added.

As the two leaders completed their statements, the event saw an unusual moment when a Norwegian journalist stood up to protest the fact that the Prime Ministers did not take questions from the media from both countries present. At Mr. Modi’s earlier stop in the Netherlands too, local Dutch media had objected to the lack of a press conference as is customary there. While Mr. Modi did not respond to the question, PM Støre returned to the media room afterwards, and gave interviews to local media.

The two Prime Ministers will join leaders of Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland for the Nordic-India summit on Tuesday.

(The reporter is in Norway at the invitation of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover the Nordic Summit)

Area	India–Norway Trade Details	भारत–नॉर्वे व्यापार विवरण
Bilateral trade status	India and Norway have growing trade relations, especially in shipping, renewable energy, seafood, chemicals, metals, and technology.	भारत और नॉर्वे के व्यापारिक संबंध बढ़ रहे हैं, विशेषकर शिपिंग, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, समुद्री खाद्य, रसायन, धातु और तकनीक में।
Trade value	During April–January 2024–25, India’s exports to Norway were about USD 403.08 million, while imports from Norway were about USD 793.85 million.	अप्रैल–जनवरी 2024–25 में भारत का नॉर्वे को निर्यात लगभग USD 403.08 मिलियन और नॉर्वे से आयात लगभग USD 793.85 मिलियन रहा।
Trade balance	India had a trade deficit of about USD 390.77 million with Norway during April–January 2024–25.	अप्रैल–जनवरी 2024–25 में भारत का नॉर्वे के साथ लगभग USD 390.77 मिलियन का व्यापार घाटा था।
India’s exports to Norway	Major exports include organic chemicals, machinery, electrical equipment, textiles, garments, marine products, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods.	भारत के प्रमुख निर्यात में ऑर्गेनिक केमिकल्स, मशीनरी, इलेक्ट्रिकल उपकरण, वस्त्र, गारमेंट्स, समुद्री उत्पाद, फार्मास्यूटिकल्स और इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुएं शामिल हैं।
Norway’s exports to India	Major exports include non-ferrous metals, natural gas-related products, plastic in primary form, crude minerals, chemicals, seafood, and technology goods.	नॉर्वे के प्रमुख निर्यात में अलौह धातुएं, प्राकृतिक गैस संबंधित उत्पाद, प्राथमिक रूप में प्लास्टिक, कच्चे खनिज, रसायन, समुद्री खाद्य और तकनीकी वस्तुएं शामिल हैं।
Key Norwegian strength	Norway is globally strong in shipping, maritime technology, offshore energy, renewable energy, fisheries, and clean technology.	नॉर्वे शिपिंग, समुद्री तकनीक, ऑफशोर ऊर्जा, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, मत्स्यपालन और स्वच्छ तकनीक में वैश्विक रूप से मजबूत है।



Key Indian strength	India is strong in pharmaceuticals, IT services, textiles, engineering goods, chemicals, and skilled manpower.	भारत फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, IT सेवाओं, वस्त्र, इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुओं, रसायनों और कुशल मानव संसाधन में मजबूत है।
Investment link	Norwegian companies are active in India in maritime, clean energy, technology, and industrial sectors.	नॉर्वे की कंपनियां भारत में समुद्री, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, तकनीक और औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में सक्रिय हैं।
EFTA connection	Norway is part of EFTA along with Switzerland, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. India–EFTA TEPA entered into force on 1 October 2025.	नॉर्वे, स्विट्जरलैंड, आइसलैंड और लिक्टेनस्टीन के साथ EFTA का सदस्य है। भारत–EFTA TEPA 1 अक्टूबर 2025 से लागू हुआ।
TEPA importance	The India–EFTA agreement is expected to improve market access, investment, services trade, and supply-chain cooperation.	भारत–EFTA समझौते से बाजार पहुंच, निवेश, सेवा व्यापार और सप्लाई चेन सहयोग मजबूत होने की उम्मीद है।
Strategic sectors	Green hydrogen, offshore wind, maritime shipping, blue economy, Arctic research, fisheries, and clean technology are important future areas.	ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, ऑफशोर विंड, समुद्री शिपिंग, ब्लू इकॉनमी, आर्कटिक रिसर्च, मत्स्यपालन और स्वच्छ तकनीक भविष्य के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र हैं।

: India–Norway Green Strategic Partnership

भारत-नॉर्वे हरित रणनीतिक साझेदारी | GS II: IR | GS III: Economy, Energy | Oslo, May 2025

\$100B

EFTA FDI target
अच्छा चंद्र

10L

Jobs promised
अज्ञप्रघरु

~20%

World oil via Hormuz
पुकरु दुहल्य





4

EFTA members
EFTA लुट्ट

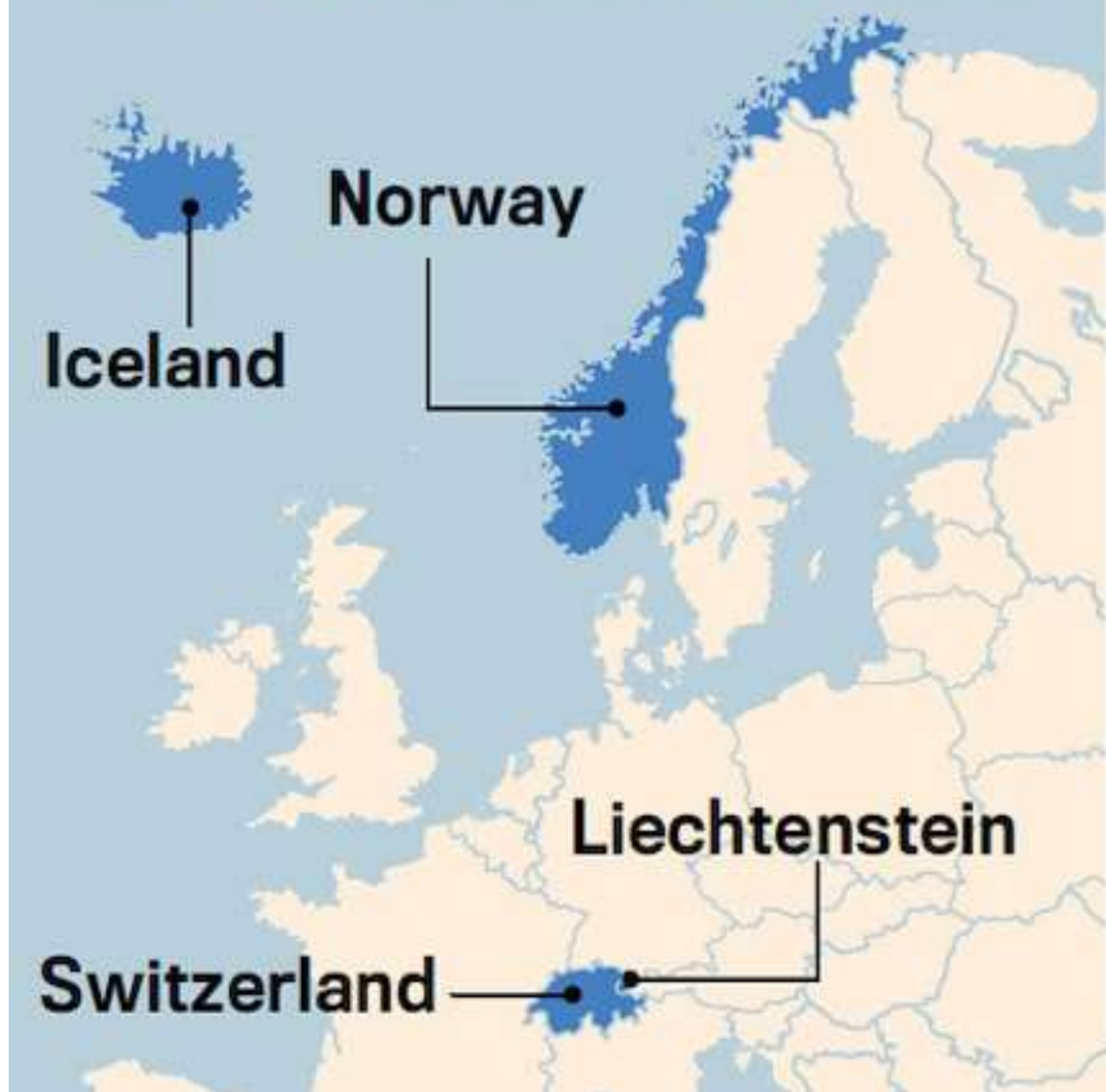
KEY DEVELOPMENTS / सखु तं प्रदुख

- Bilateral ties → Green Strategic Partnership
- India-EFTA TEPA 2024: First major EU-region FTA
- Norway: NATO member; urged India re: Russia-Ukraine
- India: Strategic autonomy maintained
- Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund = ~\$1.7 trillion
- Nordic-India Summit (Sweden+Denmark+Finland+Iceland+Norway)

GEOGRAPHY / वरुदुय

-  Norway: Scandinavian Peninsula, North Sea
-  Strait of Hormuz: Iran ↔ Oman (critical chokepoint)
-  Norway: World leader in offshore wind energy
-  Arctic territory: Svalbard (Norway)
-  EFTA HQ: Geneva, Switzerland (est. 1960)
-  ~20% of world's daily oil supply via Hormuz
-  Nordic countries: Northern Europe cluster

EFTA COUNTRIES



THE BARGAIN

↘ **\$100 bn (over Rs 8 lakh crore): Investment commitment to India in 15 years**

.....

↘ **1 mn: Jobs to be generated**

.....

↘ **\$18.6 bn: India's total trade with EFTA countries in 2022-23, of which imports were \$16.7 bn**

.....

↘ **\$15.8 bn: India's imports from Switzerland in 2022-23, of which gold was worth \$14 bn**

NEET paper leak: CBI arrests Latur coaching centre owner

The agency says it recovered a chemistry question bank containing questions identical to those that appeared in the exam. The accused is said to be close to the chemistry lecturer who was earlier arrested; the coaching centre has nine branches

Devesh R. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday (CBI) arrested the owner of a coaching centre in Latur of Maharashtra for his alleged involvement in the NEET-UG 2023 paper leak. The agency has so far arrested 10 people in the case.

Shivraj Motegankar is the owner of Renakal Chemistry Classes Coaching Institute, which does coaching for the undergraduate medical examination, said officials. It has nine branches with its main office in Latur. He is said to be close to chemistry lecturer P.V. Kulkarni, who is associated with the National Testing Agency (NTA) and was earlier arrested by the CBI for his alleged role in leaking chemistry questions that appeared in the examination on May 3.

Searches conducted on the premises of the institute and Mr. Motegankar's residence resulted in the recovery of a chemistry question bank, which con-



NEET case accused Shivraj Motegankar being led out of a court in New Delhi on Monday. AP

tained questions identical to those that appeared in the examination, the agency said.

In the last 24 hours, the CBI has also conducted searches at five locations at various places and seized several incriminating documents, laptops, and mobile phones. Detailed analysis of the seized items is going on, it said.

The CBI registered the case on May 12 following a written complaint from the

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. Subsequently, special teams were formed to pursue the leads.

Among those arrested earlier is senior history teacher Manisha Gurunath Mandhara from Pune, who allegedly leaked history questions. "She had complete access to the history and ecology question papers. During April 2023, she had notified prospective NEET examination candi-

dates through Manisha Wagmore of Pune (education) arrested on May 18) and conducted special coaching classes for the candidates," the agency previously said.

According to the CBI, during these classes she explained and disclosed various questions from history and ecology question papers and made the students note down the same and also mark it in their text-

books. A majority of those questions tallied with the actual question paper. Ms. Wagmore, a beneficiary owner, had also allegedly helped Ms. Gurunath in mobilising students. The officers arrested in the case are Dharmaraj Lokhande from Ahilyanagar and Shubham Khairnar from Nashik in Maharashtra, Mangal Bhal, Vikas Bhal, and Dinesh Bhal from Jalpur, and Vaish Vaish from Chaurangan.

"Investigation is continuing with the special teams and the investigation conducted so far has brought out the actual source of the leakage of chemistry and biology papers which were circulated before the examina-

tion," said the CBI, adding that the "molesters" who helped in getting prospective candidates to attend the special coaching classes where the papers were disclosed, have also been arrested.

Nearly 25 lakh candidates had registered for the test, which was administered across the country.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports will on May 21 ask the views of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts centralised admission tests for various higher education courses, a Rajya Sabha notice said.

The agenda includes a review of the implementation of the E. Radhakrishnan Committee report on NTA reforms, as well as an update on the investigation into the alleged paper leak.

The committee, headed by senior Congress leader Dayanidhi Mishra, has nominated the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Vinod Joshi, and NTA Chairperson Prashant Kumar Joshi for deliberations.

The NTA cancelled the NEET-UG test on May 3 amid allegations of irregularities. Nearly 25 lakh candidates had registered for the test, which was administered across the country.

Panel to review reforms of National Testing Agency



300 angry protest against the cancellation of NEET UG 2023 in Noida, Thursday. AP

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RTI Act does not apply to Cricket Board, says CIC order

Aaratiika Bhambhani
NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission (CIC) on Monday held that the BCCI does not fall within the ambit of a "public authority" under the RTI Act, observing that the cricket board functions as an autonomous body neither "directly nor indirectly" financed by the government.

Commissioner P.R. Ramiah held that the BCCI, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1977, was "neither established by the Constitution, nor created by any legislation or government order". "Since the Board of Control for Cricket in India is neither materially dependent upon nor sustained by government funds, it does not satisfy the requirement of being substantially financed, directly or indirectly, by funds provided by the appropriate government" under section 20(1)(d) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and therefore cannot be regarded as a "Public Authority" thereunder, he held. The plea, filed by Centre for

Information Access, was dismissed. The order was issued on May 8.

The order was issued on May 8.

SEBI chief says Indian market is resilient despite volatility

Satyanshu Dhar
BIRMINGHAM

Indian markets have shown resilience despite rising volatility due to global uncertainties, with fluctuations remaining well within manageable limits, said Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Uday Kumar Sinha on Monday.

"The advantage of resilient markets is that they are able to absorb different types of shocks. And when these shocks get over, markets again pursue their normal trajectory," Mr. Sinha said, responding to queries on the impact of the West Asia crisis on the Indian economy.

"The current crisis is quite difficult in terms of the reach it has on the world, particularly on energy and supply shocks. All economies have been affected. Obviously, there are inflationary risks, along with oil price and second-order effects on the economy," he said.

"Now, the government is taking different steps to address the situation. I think the sooner this crisis is resolved, the better it is for the world. But ups and downs are quite natural because these markets are interconnected globally. So, one part of the world is also impacting the others as well," he explained.

38 million full-time jobs may fall if West Asia war continues, warns ILO

A.M. Jaseem
NEW DELHI

The crisis in West Asia is increasingly affecting jobs, according to a new report released in Geneva on Monday, the report titled "Employment and Social Trends: May 2023 Update" warned that if fuel or fertilizer prices rise, or shortages persist, the effects could extend beyond farm households to food prices, rural



The unemployment rate could rise by 0.4% in 2023 equivalent to an additional five million unemployed people, it says.

livelihoods and food security. In countries that depend on imported fertilizers, including India,

The report pointed out that though the impact of the crisis on global labour market will take time to

materialise, the risks are already significant and could remain high if the oil prices climb by about 50% above their January 2023 average, the ILO estimates that the losses worked could fall by 0.5%

in 2026 and 1.8% in 2027, equivalent to 14 million and 36 million full-time jobs, "real labour income could decline by 1.1% and 3%, equivalent to 1.5 million and 158.3 million," it said.

The unemployment rate could rise by 0.1% in 2023 and by 0.3% in 2027, equivalent to an additional five million unemployed people in 2023 and 20 million in 2027. "The shock is highest in the economy, sectors and workers are most likely to be affected by energy flows and energy-intensive supply chains. The Arab States and Asia and the Pacific stand out as the most exposed regions," the report added.

Delhi HC refuses urgent relief to Vinesh Phogat over Asian Games selection trials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant immediate relief to wrestler Vinesh Phogat over her plea seeking a direction permitting her to compete in the selection trials for Asian Games. The IWFI policy was issued on May 30-31 for this year's Asian Games.

The 31-year-old, who retired following her disqualification from the 2024 Paris Olympics and gave birth to a boy in July last, reversed her retirement decision in December 2022.

"WFI policy - You [Ms. Phogat] have already been declared ineligible. How can we grant you that relief without hurting the other side... The [WFI] policy will have to be looked into. There are competing interests. Yes, we appreciate [that you were] on maternity leave, but at the same time, national interest is there," Justice Kaur re-



marked that the court permitted her to give a "comprehensive reply" to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on the above-mentioned issue to her over-accusations of indiscipline and anti-doping rule violations.

It directed the WFI to take the matter to the legal conclusion "by July 6 and place its decision before us. There are competing interests. Yes, we appreciate [that you were] on maternity leave, but at the same time, national interest is there," Justice Kaur re-

U.S. prosecutors drop fraud charges against Adani in solar case

Associated Press
NEW YORK

U.S. prosecutors asked a judge on Monday to dismiss criminal fraud and conspiracy charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, who had been accused of duping Wall Street investors who poured billions of dollars into a massive solar project in India.

Mr. Adani, one of the world's richest people, was accused in 2022 of paying massive bribes to ensure the project's success. He was indicted in federal court in Brooklyn on charges of conspiracy, securities fraud and wire fraud charges in connection with a lucrative arrangement for Adani Green Energy Ltd. and another firm to sell 12 gigawatt of solar power to the Indian government. The Adani Group had participated in the project by way of "warrantors" in 2023 that while internationally, the ranking and status of women athletes on maternity leave are protected,



Mr. Adani's lawyer, Robert Gifford, declined to comment. Lawyers Timothy Sisk and Sean Beck, who represent Mr. Adani's nephew and another investor, Sagar Adani, also declined to comment.

Police file FIR against 10 govt. staffers for not doing Census work

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

The Gurugram police in Haryana has registered a first information report against 10 government employees, including school teachers, for allegedly not performing Census-related work.

On May 17, the Census Office of Municipal Corporation Gurugram filed a complaint at the Police Station, Gurugram, regarding 10 employees who failed to perform their assigned Census duties. Based on the complaint, two separate FIRs were registered under Section II of the Census Act, 1956, at the Gurugram police station,

the police said. The offence is punishable by fine and maximum imprisonment of three years.

The Census official alleged that the government employees, who were assigned the duty of Census enumerators, defied government orders by not collecting data and not making a single entry in the designated house listing operation mobile app, despite repeated warnings. Their non-compliance has caused obstruction in the census process. The police team is currently investigating the matter, and further action will be taken as per rules and regulations. The Gurugram Police said in a statement.

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

Applicants seeking citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 will have to submit affidavits declaring whether they hold a valid or an expired passport from Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh according to the amendment to the Citizenship Rules notified by the Home Ministry on Monday.

The move comes days after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in the state of Assam. Bengal where a large number of the India community, including and citizens of CAA, reside. Most of the Indians, who migrated from neighbouring Bangladesh during different periods, do not have sufficient documents to apply for citizenship under the CAA. The amendment, headed by legislation, which became effective from May 11, 2020, through the notification of

the Government of Pakistan (Afghanistan/Bangladesh). The firm requires the applicant to provide the date and month of their entry to India and their country of origin. The deprived of citizenship if the information is found to be incorrect.

The inserted paragraph added that if the applicant is "in possession" of a valid or expired passport, then details such as the passport number, date and place of issue, date of expiry are to be provided and the passport is to be surrendered before the Senior Superintendent of Post and Superintendant of Post within 15 days of approval of citizenship application, the notification said on December 31, 2014.

On Monday, the Ministry inserted a paragraph in Schedule IC of the CAA application form where the applicant must declare if he/she is "not in possession" of a valid and expired passport(s) issued by

RTI Act does not apply to Cricket Board, says CIC order

Aaratrika Bhaumik

NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission (CIC) on Monday held that the BCCI does not fall within the ambit of a "public authority" under the RTI Act, observing that the cricket board functions as an autonomous body neither "directly nor indirectly" financed by the government.

Information Commissioner P.R. Ramesh held that the BCCI, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, was "neither established by the Constitution, nor created by any legislation or government order". "Since the Board of Control for Cricket in India is neither materially dependent upon nor sustained by government funds, it does not satisfy the requirement of being "substantially financed, directly or indirectly, by funds provided by the appropriate government" under Section 2(h)(d) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and therefore cannot be regarded as a 'Public Authority' thereunder", held the CIC while dismissing the plea, filed by Geeta Rani.

Point	Explanation	Hindi
Full form	Right to Information	सूचना का अधिकार
Main law	Right to Information Act, 2005	सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005
Objective	To provide citizens access to information held by public authorities	नागरिकों को सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों के पास उपलब्ध सूचना तक पहुंच देना
Constitutional base	Linked with Article 19(1)(a): freedom of speech and expression	अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a): अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता से जुड़ा
Who can file RTI	Any citizen of India	भारत का कोई भी नागरिक
Against whom	Public authorities: ministries, departments, PSUs, government-funded bodies	सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरण: मंत्रालय, विभाग, PSU, सरकारी वित्तपोषित संस्थाएं
Application fee	Usually ₹10 for Central Government RTI applications	केंद्र सरकार के RTI आवेदन के लिए सामान्यतः ₹10
Reply time	Usually within 30 days	सामान्यतः 30 दिनों में उत्तर
Life and liberty cases	Information must be given within 48 hours	जीवन और स्वतंत्रता से जुड़े मामलों में 48 घंटे में सूचना
First appeal	If no reply/unsatisfactory reply, first appeal can be filed	उत्तर न मिले या असंतोषजनक हो तो प्रथम अपील
Second appeal	Filed before Information Commission	सूचना आयोग के समक्ष द्वितीय अपील

Exemptions	National security, privacy, cabinet papers, trade secrets, investigation-related information etc.	राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, निजता, कैबिनेट पेपर, व्यापारिक रहस्य, जांच संबंधी सूचना आदि
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Why RTI is Important

RTI क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

Importance	Explanation	Hindi
Transparency	Makes government functioning open to public scrutiny	सरकारी कामकाज को जनता की निगरानी के लिए खुला बनाता है
Accountability	Officials can be questioned for delay, misuse, or corruption	अधिकारी देरी, दुरुपयोग या भ्रष्टाचार के लिए जवाबदेह बनते हैं
Anti-corruption tool	Helps expose scams, irregularities and misuse of funds	घोटाले, अनियमितता और धन के दुरुपयोग को उजागर करने में मदद करता है
Citizen empowerment	Converts citizen from passive subject to active participant	नागरिक को निष्क्रिय व्यक्ति से सक्रिय सहभागी बनाता है
Good governance	Supports openness, rule of law and democratic participation	खुलापन, विधि का शासन और लोकतांत्रिक भागीदारी को मजबूत करता है
Service delivery	Helps people track pensions, ration cards, scholarships, schemes etc.	पेंशन, राशन कार्ड, छात्रवृत्ति और योजनाओं की स्थिति जानने में मदद करता है

Can be asked

Records

Example

File notes, official documents, orders

Hindi

कार्ड फाइल, आदेश ड्रॉइंग्स
दस्तावेज, आदेश

Certified copies

Copies of government records

द्रष्टव्य प्रतिलिपि/प्रमाणित प्रतिलिपि

Inspection

Inspection of government works or documents

द्रष्टव्य ड्रॉइंग्स/दस्तावेज
अवलोकन

Samples

Samples of materials used in public works

द्रष्टव्य नमूने/ड्रॉइंग्स/दस्तावेज
नमूने/प्रतिलिपि

Status

Status of application, complaint, pension, scholarship etc.

आवेदन/शिकायत/पेंशन/शिक्षा
वैयक्तिक आदेश आदि का स्थिति

Expenditure details

Use of public funds in schemes/projects

सार्वजनिक/राज्य/प्रदेश सरकार
द्रष्टव्य नमूने/ड्रॉइंग्स/दस्तावेज

Step	Process	Hindi
Step 1	Identify the public authority	द्वारा ल द्वाशाडु ब्वा इघर हणद्वळ
Step 2	Write specific questions seeking information	द्वप्त्र रका ड अचंH इ श्रदळ
Step 3	Submit application with fee	द्वद् इडु द्वळ ष अड ष नरत्र इळ
Step 4	PIO must reply within prescribed time	PIO श्र श्राल द्वाग रळ उघ द्व
Step 5	File first appeal if reply is not received or unsatisfactory	कुघ ष श्रचंग्र द्वाइह न ष इ ष प्कालुडळव १ हहच इळ
Step 6	File second appeal/complaint before Information Commission	द्वप्त्र ष ग्गण इडु द्वल श्रलहग १ हहचश्र इवगल इळ

Situation	Time Limit	Hindi
Normal RTI reply	30 days	द्वारा RTI के लिए: 30 दिन
RTI through APIO	35 days	APIO के माध्यम से RTI: 35 दिन
Life and liberty matter	48 hours	जीवन और स्वतंत्रता के मामले में: 48 घंटे
Third party information	40 days	तीसरे पक्ष की जानकारी: 40 दिन
First appeal	Usually within 30 days of decision/expiry of time	आमतौर पर 30 दिनों के भीतर निर्णय/समय के समाप्त होने के बाद
Second appeal	Usually within 90 days	आमतौर पर 90 दिनों के भीतर

Major Challenges of RTI in India

भारत में RTI की प्रमुख चुनौतियां

Challenge	Explanation	Hindi
Delay in replies	Many applicants do not receive information on time	कई आवेदकों को समय पर सूचना नहीं मिलती
Pendency	Large number of appeals pending before Information Commissions	सूचना आयोगों में बड़ी संख्या में अपील लंबित
Vacancies	Vacant posts of Information Commissioners weaken the system	सूचना आयुक्तों के खाली पद व्यवस्था को कमजोर करते हैं
Poor record management	Government records are not always properly digitised or maintained	सरकारी रिकॉर्ड हमेशा ठीक से डिजिटल या व्यवस्थित नहीं होते
Misuse concern	Some people file repetitive or harassment-based RTIs	कुछ लोग बार-बार या परेशान करने वाली RTI दाखिल करते हैं
Threat to activists	RTI activists may face intimidation in sensitive cases	संवेदनशील मामलों में RTI कार्यकर्ताओं को धमकी मिल सकती है
Exemption misuse	Authorities may overuse exemption clauses to deny information	अधिकारी सूचना न देने के लिए छूट प्रावधानों का अधिक उपयोग कर सकते हैं

: RTI Act Does Not Apply to BCCI — CIC Order

RTI और BCCI | CIC: Central Information Commission | GS II: Polity, Governance | RTI Act 2005

RTI Act 2005 — Section 2(h)

Public Authority = body established by:

- Constitution of India (१ प्राक्)
- Any law made by Parliament / Legislature
- Government notification/order
- OR substantially financed by Govt funds

BCCI fails ALL these tests → NOT public authority

BCCI FACTS / BCCI तथ्य

- Founded: 1928 | World's richest cricket board
- HQ: Cricket Centre, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- Registered: Tamil Nadu Societies Act, 1975
- Affiliated: ICC (HQ Dubai) + ACC
- IPL media rights ~\$6 billion (2023-27 cycle)
- Lodha Committee (2016) — SC-mandated reforms

CIC Ruling — IC P.R. Ramesh

BCCI: Registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Act, 1975
Neither established by Constitution, nor any law
Not materially dependent on government funds
Not 'substantially financed' under Sec 2(h)(d)
→ DISMISSED petition by Geeta Rani

RTI HISTORY / RTI स्मरण

- RTI Act 2005 — replaced FOI Act 2002
- Inspired by: MKSS + Aruna Roy (Rajasthan 2000)
- CIC = statutory, NOT constitutional body
- Chief Info Commissioner + up to 10 ICs
- RTI Amendment 2019 — tenure/salary changed
- ~6 crore RTI applications filed since 2005

⚡ 10+10+10 Quick Revision Points — All 3 Articles | दुप्रघर लखघरअप्रु

📄 UAPA & Bail

1. SC 'reservations' on Jan 2025 bail denial
2. Bench: Nagarathna + Ujjal Bhuyan
3. Bail = Rule; Jail = Exception (Art.21)
4. Sec 43-D(5): prima facie test only
5. K.A. Najeed 2021: bail possible in UAPA
6. Umar Khalid: 5+ yrs undertrial
7. Presumption of innocence = rule of law
8. UAPA: 1967; amended 2004/08/12/19
9. NIA investigates UAPA cases
10. 77% India prison = undertrials (NCRB)

🌐 India–Norway

1. 'Green Strategic Partnership' in Oslo
2. EFTA = Norway+Swiss+Iceland+Liechtenstein
3. TEPA 2024: \$100B FDI, 10L jobs
4. Norway: NATO; urged India on Russia
5. India: Strategic Autonomy maintained
6. Nordic Summit: 5 countries together
7. Hormuz: Iran-Oman; ~20% world oil
8. Norway's SWF = ~\$1.7 trillion
9. 'Trade weaponisation' — PM Støre's term
10. Blue economy + offshore wind focus

📄 RTI & BCCI

1. CIC: BCCI NOT public authority under RTI
2. RTI Sec 2(h): body by Constitution/law/govt
3. BCCI: TN Societies Act 1975; founded 1928
4. IC P.R. Ramesh dismissed Geeta Rani plea
5. CIC = statutory (NOT constitutional)
6. RTI 2005 replaced FOI Act 2002
7. Lodha Committee 2016 — SC reforms
8. BCCI: world's richest cricket board; ICC/ACC
9. RTI Amendment 2019 — controversial
10. Aruna Roy + MKSS → RTI movement origin

UAPA — Mains Questions

- Mains: "Statutory restrictions under UAPA cannot permanently oust courts' power to grant bail." Critically examine.
- Mains: Examine tension between national security and Art.21. How has SC balanced these interests?
- Interview: As a civil servant, how would you respond if a person is detained under UAPA 5+ years without trial?

India-Norway — Mains Questions

- Mains: Analyse India's position on Russia-Ukraine conflict in context of European partnerships.
- Mains: Examine the significance of India-Norway Green Partnership & EFTA TEPA for India's energy security.
- Interview: Norway is oil producer AND renewable leader. What lessons for India's energy transition?

RTI/BCCI — Mains Questions

- Mains: "RTI Act's definition of public authority fails to capture accountability needs of powerful private bodies like BCCI." Critically examine.
- Mains: Examine CIC's role in promoting transparency. What reforms would strengthen RTI regime?
- Interview: Should BCCI be brought under RTI? Arguments for and against.

Improving efficiency of fertilizer use in India

The ongoing war in West Asia and the rising costs of fuel and fertilizers give India an opportunity to rethink fertilizer use efficiency and modes of demand. India produces 62% of its urea requirement domestically and imports the rest while also becoming domestic production capacities to become fully self-reliant. But India's urea industry relies too heavily on imported fuel. While green ammonia produced from the electrolysis of water using solar energy is an option, it is not sustainable in water-stressed areas. The situation is worse for phosphatic fertilizers, as India lacks mineral rock phosphate and therefore has to import such fertilizers almost entirely.

Together, both the nitrogen (mainly urea) and phosphorus components of fertilizers define India's food security. While the government has been providing subsidies to maintain fertilizer prices for farmers, over two-thirds of the ₹2 lakh crore spent on annual subsidies is not harvested as food, and is lost to pollution.

The fertilizer trap inefficient, excessive or unbalanced use of fertilizers nurtures not only waste money but also damages the soil, water, air, human health, biodiversity, and causes climate change and global warming. The more fertilizers we use, the more they deplete the soil's organic matter and its holding capacity for water and nutrients, leading to lower yields and pushing farmers to add more fertilizers. This fertilizer trap explains why India's national demand for fertilizers never saturates, even as supply has increased over the days.

Therefore, it is high time to move beyond supply-side management and boost fertilizer use efficiency to moderate demand. Efficiency means producing more crop per kg of fertilizer used, or maintaining yields while reducing fertilizer

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and Emeritus Chair, International Nitrogen Initiative, Vienna, Austria

input. The government's "nutrient-based subsidy" did not improve efficiencies or reduce demand as urea was not included in the scheme. While nutrient-coated urea was meant to improve nitrogen use efficiency, it could not stop the loss of most of the urea as ammonia to air pollution. Similarly, most of the phosphatic fertilizers are also lost in water pollution.

Lack of coordination
While policies of minimum urea cover, minimum, composite and biochar could reduce fertilizers to a large extent, they are no longer the mainstay of our farming systems. Last month, the Union government directed the State governments to promote green manure but did not emphasize on fertilizer savings.

In November 2022, the Prime Minister had, in the *Atmanirbhar* address to the nation, called for halving fertilizer usage within five years. However, fertilizer consumption has only increased due to the lack of inter-ministerial and interdepartmental coordination to address farming systems in an integrated manner. For example, though the government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for over 20 crops, actual government procurement is limited to rice, wheat and sugarcane, which is why farmers prefer to grow only these three crops. These crops consume over two-thirds of all the urea in India. This destroys traditional crop rotations involving millets, pulses and oilseeds, pushing farmers into the fertilizer trap. Pulse-cereal rotations sustained the soil fertility for them and, before fertilizers were invented, as most pulses leave behind some of the best nitrogen in the soil for the next crop. India must incentivize more nitrogen-based crop rotations or mulching, as legumes fix atmospheric nitrogen, and need no urea or only 10% of the urea used for cereals. They are also ideal for rain-fed areas with deficit

irrigation (as predicted this year). The National Agricultural Mission launched in October 2023 promised 100% procurement of P, U, and M for MSP for four years. Under it, ₹1,440 crore was allocated to subsidize production to 350 lakh tonnes per year in five years by expanding the area under cultivation. But according to the April 2026 data released by the government, the area for sowing pulses grew only 1.26% over last year. This is negligible compared to the 10% fall in area between 2023-24 to 2024-25. This calls for better implementation, as recommended by the Supreme Court in March.

Enhancing efficiency
India must also triple the recycling of organic, compost and biochar (waste from biogas plants) to healthy fertilizers and boost soil health. Fertilizer recommendations need to be revised in order to ensure that organics form the basal dose and fertilizers are used only as a top-up to meet any shortfall, after exhausting all locally available organic nutrient. Coordinated crop trials across India showed that 100% of the recommended doses of fertilizers can be replaced with manure, biochar or compost with the loss of crop yield.

These should also be investment when it comes to why farmers prefer to grow only nitrogen/phosphorus sources for crop improvement. The adoption of an improved but existing variety is what the farmer needs — not fancy capital-intensive technologies or drones. India's own research shows that the rice genotypes alone has the potential to double nitrogen use efficiency, in terms of grain yield per unit area supplied. To ensure the inter-sectoral coordination required to implement the above, the Union government should revive the Inter-ministerial National Nitrogen Steering Committee. Its tenure expired before any of its recommendations were acted upon.

A new political trajectory in Bihar

All is not well among the NDA allies in the State

STATE OF PLAY

AMBARISH KUMAR

A month into the new regime in Bihar, Bharat Jodo Party leader and new Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has emerged as the unquestionable leader of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the State, effectively sidelining its coalition partner, the Janta Dal (United) or JD(U). From its role as the *Bade Bhai* (elder brother) in the alliance, after over two decades of rule in Bihar, the JD(U), led by party leader Nitish Kumar, gave the mantle over to its coalition partner, the BJP, on April 18.

Mr. Choudhary, BJP's M-LA from the Tarapur constituency, has been taking government's reins forward in the State, in his new avatar, in line with Mr. Kumar's policies. At least, that's what he aims to convey by announcing the same every now and then, and by consistently meeting Mr. Kumar before taking any major decision otherwise for efficient

governance. This is again similar to Uttar Pradesh, where Mr. Choudhary has just made statements to the effect that crime would not be tolerated in the State "at any cost".

Political analysts say that what would not be tolerated in Bihar is very much to be seen with what the BJP does in other States. "The BJP is known to quietly pursue its own agenda wherever it comes to power and in Bihar too they would do the same," Nitish Kumar or so political analyst Nawal Kishore Singh says. Some economists though,

do not feel very enthusiastic about the "projected growth" of the State, stating that as far as the State's economy was concerned, Bihar even today, stands where it was in 2004-05.

Communist Party of India (Marist-Leninist) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya, at the party's 12th meeting at Ara (Bhagalpur), appealed to the people to protest against the government's "bulldozer politics and anti-people policies".

Emerging cracks
On May 17, senior JD(U) leader and Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandary and Dairying Raju Ranjan Singh, asserted that the current Chief Minister had stated again and again that he would follow the path of development of Bihar. Nitish Kumar had paved.

Ever since the new regime came to power in the State, Mr. Singh, a close confidante of Nitish Kumar is said to have gone soft towards the BJP along with the JD(U) working president Kashi Kumar Bhatnagar.

On the same day, however, a former close aide of Nitish Kumar and strongman of the Kosi area of the State, Anand Mohan Singh, stated that he was not well with the alliance, and alleged that the JD(U) has become a party of "money baggers".

While the JD(U) leaders have condemned such comments, party insiders say that after a month of governance under Mr. Choudhary, cracks between the ruling NDA allies in Bihar are visibly widening. "Let's see for how long things will be smooth, as we all know that the BJP eventually jettisons up it's allies, wherever it comes to power," said one leader, preferring anonymity.

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Minimum temperatures are rising faster than maximum

The IMD's data for April found that maximum temperatures were near normal while minimum temperatures averaged 0.5 degrees Celsius above normal

DATA POINT

ACCRA AREA

Several parts of the country experienced milder days of maximum heat, breaking 40 degrees Celsius last month. While this in itself is enough to make one sweat, literally and figuratively, a deeper look at last month's weather pattern tells an interesting story while maximum temperatures are getting warmer across the country, minimum temperatures are heating up relatively faster in many places. Across large parts of central and western India, the daily maximum temperatures were close to or even below the normal long-period temperatures of those areas.

The "normal" here refers to IMD's long-term baseline, which is the average April temperatures recorded at each station between 1951 and 2020. This 30-year reference period is the standard currently used by both the IMD and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). So, when a station shows below-normal temperatures, it means April 2026 was cooler than the April average, even if absolute temperatures were still high.

The IMD's Monthly Climate Summary for April 2026 found that across the country, maximum temperatures were near normal — just 0.1 degrees Celsius above the long-period average — while minimum temperature averaged 0.5 degrees Celsius above normal. In other words, maximum barely deviated from what April typically experiences, while minimums were warmer than expected.

The minimum temperatures at Delhi's Bahadurgarh station averaged 2.2 degrees Celsius above its normal while maximum temperatures averaged 0.2 degree Celsius under the average. While the beginning of the month was relatively cooler, in the second half, Delhi's minimum temperature was

more than 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than expected, leaving the city little time to recover from the heat. Punjab told the same story as Delhi but even more starkly. April maximums averaged a degree below the expected value of 34.4 degrees Celsius, while minimums were 2.8 degrees Celsius hotter than the State's average of 18 degrees Celsius.

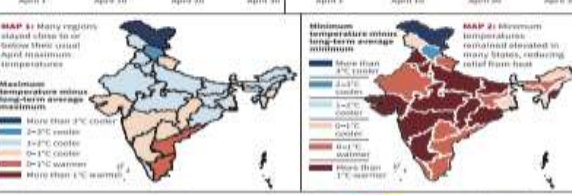
Several Maharashtra stations also recorded higher minimum temperatures throughout April. Nagpur's minimum temperatures were 3.6 degrees Celsius above the average of 23.9 degrees Celsius while its maximum at an average of 40.1, were just slightly above the normal of 40.6 degrees Celsius.

MAP 1 and 2 show how the variation in maximum temperature was lower than the variation in minimum temperatures in April. Of the 84 stations for which data was available, Chapparamukh in Assam and Pithulim in Odisha were the most from their normal maximum temperatures, running 5.5 degrees Celsius and 5.1 degrees Celsius above their April baseline of 14.9 degrees Celsius and 19.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

Chart 1 shows four stations that had among the highest deviation in maximum and minimum temperatures from their normal values. A cooler night gives the body time to recover from the day's heat. When that window closes, heat areas compound across the day. The same logic applies to crops too. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization and WHO warned in an April report that high night-time temperatures force plants to keep burning the energy they built through photosynthesis in the day. This could cause stunted growth in plants.

No relief?

The data for the charts were sourced from the India Meteorological Department, when a station shows below-normal temperatures, it means April 2026 was cooler than that. In other's top-term April average, even if absolute temperatures were still high.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 19, 1976

Plans to make Mughal Inns tourist haven

Chandigarh, May 18: Mughal period sarais (wayside inns) on the Jalandhar Road linking Delhi with Lahore and Peshawar are to be restored to their old glory. These sarais, now derelict, need to provide royal comfort to their guests — Mughal Emperors and aristocrats.

Miss Ganesan Kaur, Director of the Punjab Government's Department of Tourism and Archaeology, told Sanskaar that the Government planned to turn these sarais into tourist havens. The first such inn to be taken up for development is Aam-khas Bagh at Sirhind, where old channels, fountains and tanks are being restored. The renovation of Aam-khas Bagh is expected to be completed in about five years. The "Sardar Khana" and the "Mansan" (both inns) are at present being prepared.

Two reservoirs for hot and cold water have been discovered at the "Banovala" which has attached dressing chambers. The structures will be restored to their original forms after a detailed study of similar structures at Agra and Fatehpur Sikri.

Miss Kaur said that restoration would also be undertaken shortly at the Stambh, Dorahan and Amanat Khan Inns on the same road. She said the Tourist Department would shortly take over the Fort (Dhala Anandpur) at Patiala, which is embellished with wall paintings done in the miniature technique.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 19, 1926

Rubber stealing in Singapore

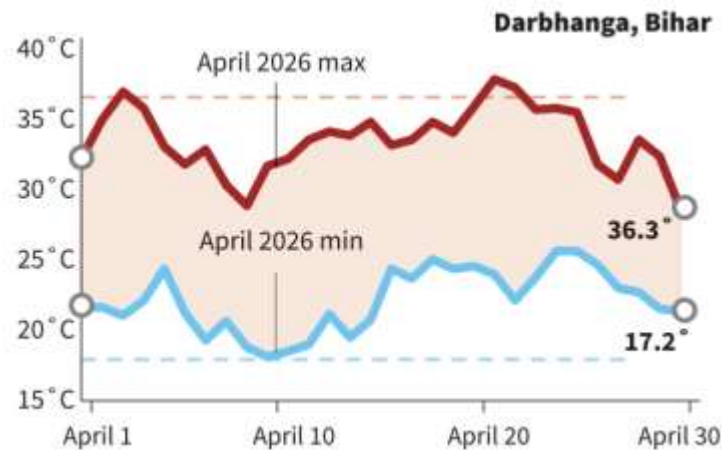
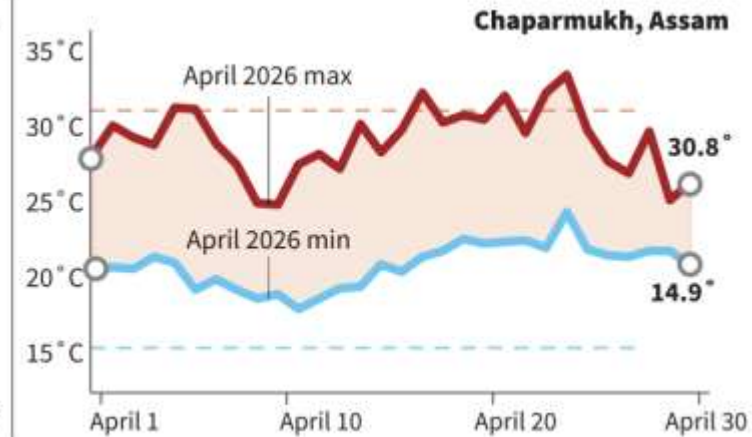
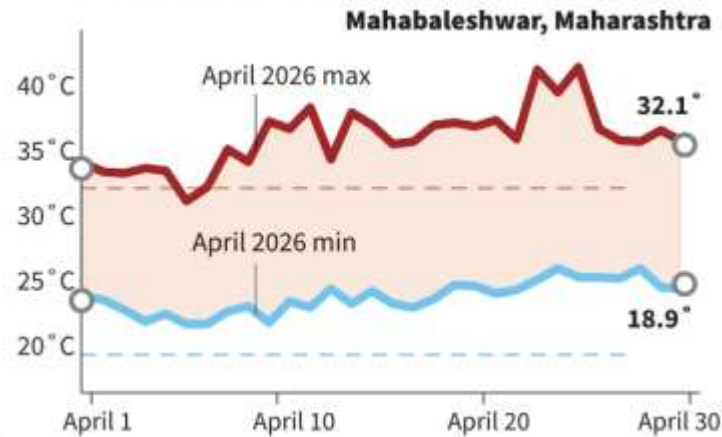
Singapore, May 17. In the Legislative Council, Mr. Picozzi, unofficial member, drew the attention of the Government to the alarming prevalence of rubber stealing on the Singapore Island. Two of the largest estates losing 2,500 pounds in the month, altogether 5,000 pounds were stolen in the month representing a value of nearly a million dollars a year. Thieves started lifting trunks of trees in night time and also obtained rubber from coolies on the fields by bribing watchmen and even resorting to violence when interrupted. Government stated that they were prepared to appoint a commission.

No relief?

The data for the charts were sourced from the India Meteorological Department. When a station shows below-normal temperatures, it means April 2026 was cooler than that location's long-term April average, even if absolute temperatures were still high



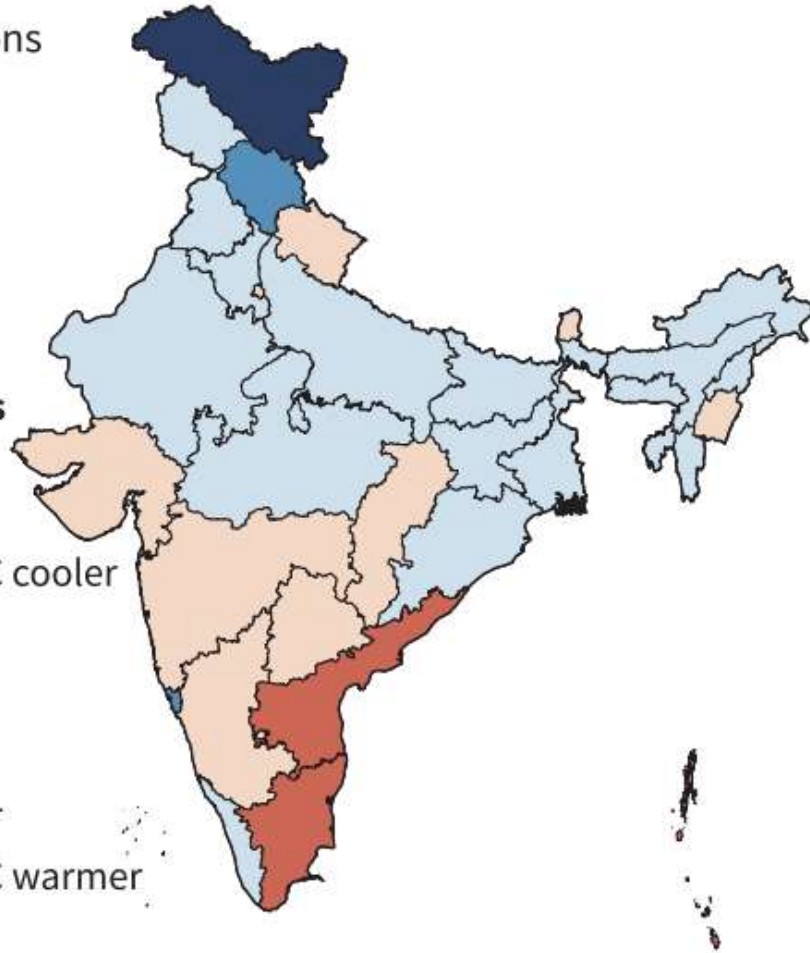
CHART 1: Four stations which had among the highest deviation in maximum and minimum temperatures (in degrees Celsius) from their normal values (shown in dotted lines)



MAP 1: Many regions stayed close to or below their usual April maximum temperatures

Maximum temperature minus long-term average maximum

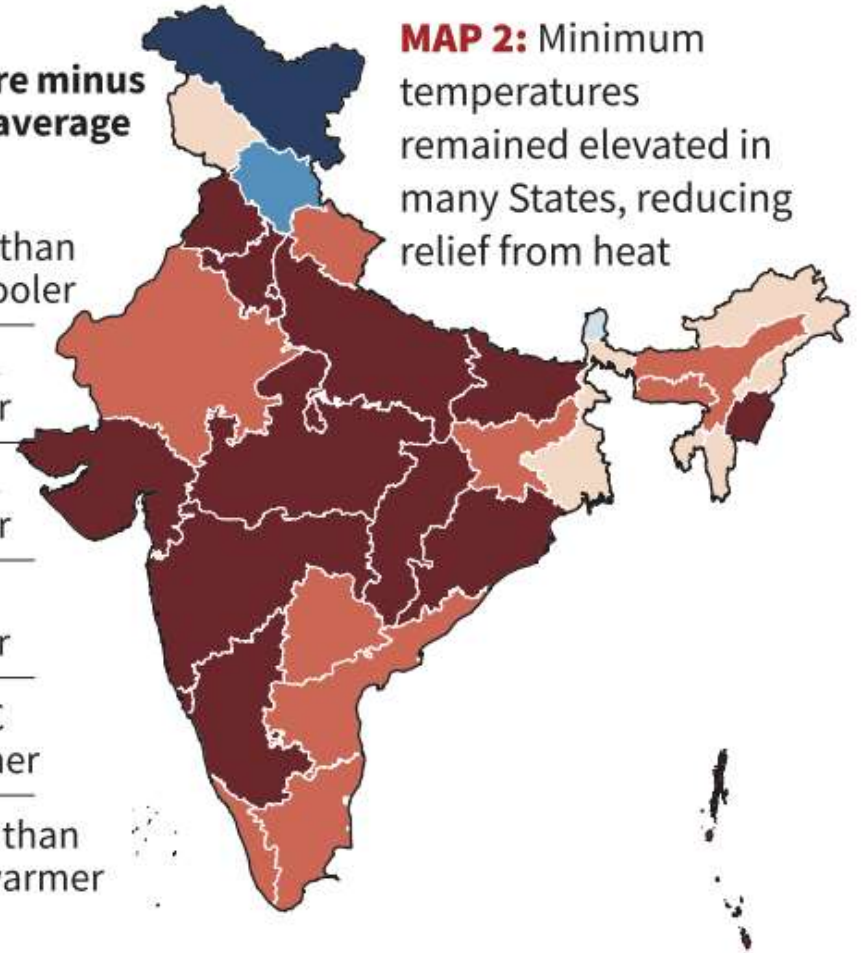
- More than 3°C cooler
- 2-3°C cooler
- 1-2°C cooler
- 0-1°C cooler
- 0-1°C warmer
- More than 1°C warmer



Minimum temperature minus long-term average minimum

- More than 3°C cooler
- 2-3°C cooler
- 1-2°C cooler
- 0-1°C cooler
- 0-1°C warmer
- More than 1°C warmer

MAP 2: Minimum temperatures remained elevated in many States, reducing relief from heat



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UNITED KINGDOM

23-year-old becomes UK town's youngest Indian-origin mayor



Tushar Kumar, a former King's College London Political Science student

A 23-YEAR-OLD politician representing a local council in eastern England has created history by becoming the youngest Indian-origin Mayor in the UK. Tushar Kumar, a former student of Political Science from King's College London, took charge as the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood at a ceremony last week. "An incredible honour to officially become the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood last night and, at 23 years old, the youngest ever Indian-origin Mayor in the history of the UK," said Kumar. PTI

Word of the day

Kibitzer:

a meddler who offers unwanted advice to others

Synonyms: intruder, gossip, informer

Usage: *The kibitzer kept giving opinions in the meeting.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/kibitzer

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kɪbɪtsə/

Word of the day

Bombast:

pompous or pretentious talk or writing

Synonyms: rhetoric, exaggeration, rant

Usage: *The speech was full of bombast but said very little.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/bombast

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɒmbæst/



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Thank you 😊