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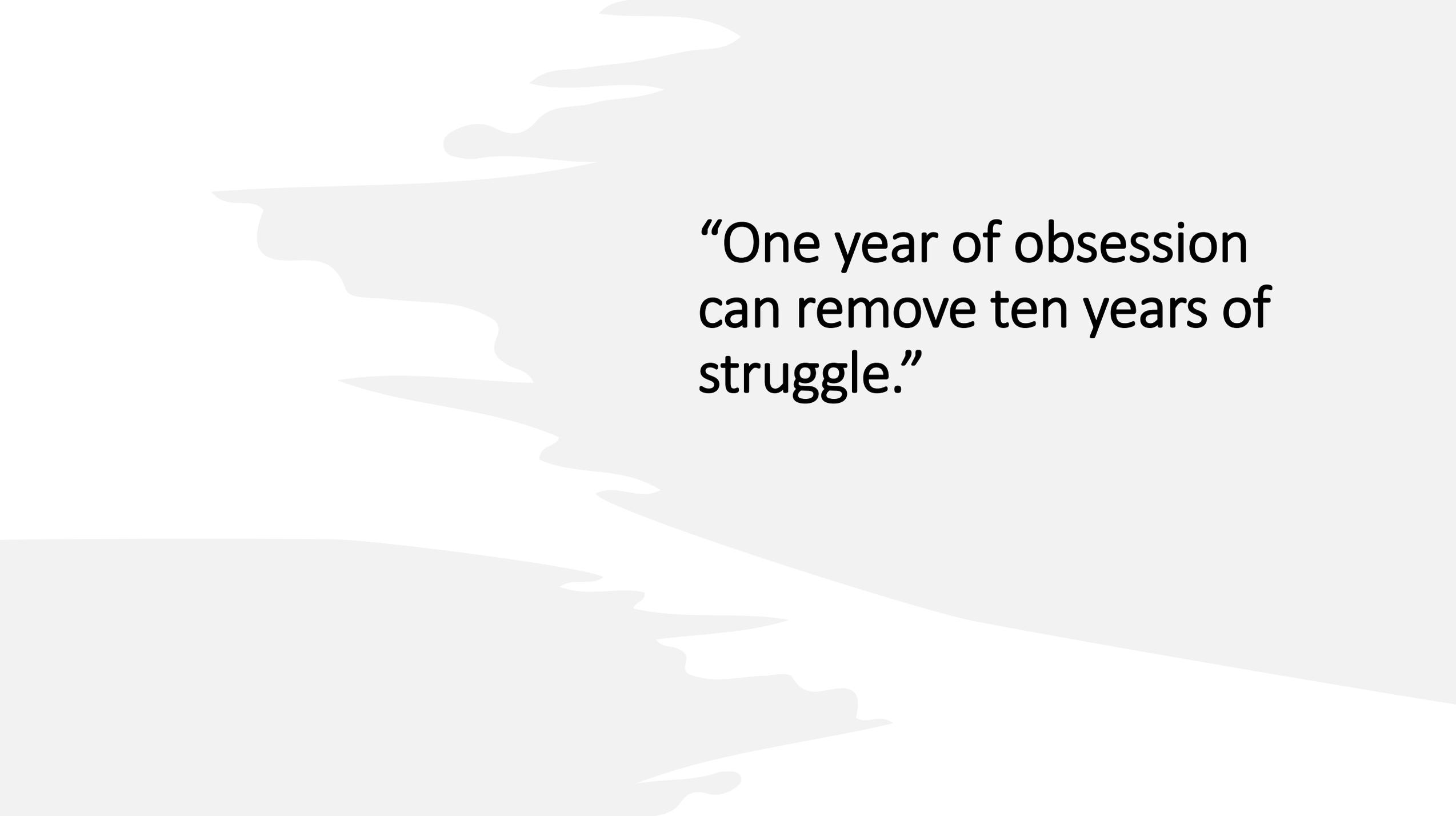
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Iran steps up attacks on Israel, Gulf energy sites

Iran insists it will deny enemies their security and will continue to build on its stockpile of missiles

Iran fires launches two waves of drone strikes on Kuwaiti refinery, one of the largest in West Asia

Bahrain warehouse set ablaze; Saudi Arabia intercepts drones targeting its oil-rich province

Associated Press

DUBAI

Iran defiantly insisted on Friday that it would deny its enemies their security and that it was still building missiles nearly three weeks into U.S.-Israeli strikes that have killed a slew of Tehran's top leaders and hammered its weapons and energy industries.

Iran fired on Israel and energy sites in neighbouring Gulf Arab states as many in the region marked one of the holiest days on the Muslim calendar. Two waves of Iranian drones attacked a Kuwaiti oil refinery early Friday, sparking a fire. The Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, which can process some 7,30,000 barrels

of oil a day, is one of the largest in West Asia.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said a fire broke out after shrapnel from an intercepted projectile landed on a warehouse, and Saudi Arabia reported shooting down drones targeting its oil-rich Eastern Province.

With little information coming out of Iran, it was not clear how much damage its arms, nuclear or energy facilities have sustained since the war began or even who was in charge of attacks that are choking off oil supplies and scrambling the global economy.

"We are producing missiles even during war conditions, which is amazing, and there is no particular problem in stockpiling,"



War-hit: The Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery in Kuwait, which can process more than seven lakh barrels of oil a day, is one of the largest in West Asia. AP

IRGC spokesman Gen. Ali Mohammad Naeini was quoted as saying in the state-run *IRAN* newspaper.

Gen. Naeini added that Iran had no intention of seeking a quick end to the war. Underscoring the tremendous pressure Iran's

leadership is under, a short time after the statement was released, Iranian state television said Gen. Naeini was killed in an air strike.

The country's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei also released a rare statement,

saying Iran's enemies need to have their "security" taken away.

In Iran, meanwhile, many were marking Nowruz, the Persian new year – even as Israel said it had launched new strikes, and explosions were heard ov-

Indian killed in missile strike by Iran in Riyadh

NEW DELHI

An Indian citizen died in an Iranian missile strike that hit the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh on Wednesday, the Indian Embassy said on Friday. Diplomatic sources said that the Indian national is believed to have died after being hit by missile debris. » **PAGE 3**

er Tehran. Loud explosions could also be heard in Jerusalem after the Israeli army warned of incoming Iranian missiles. In addition to steadily striking Iran, Israel has regularly hit Lebanon as well, targeting Iran-backed Hezbollah

militants. On Friday, it broadened its attacks to Syria, saying it hit infrastructure there in response to what it described as attacks on the minority Druze population in the southern Sweida province.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in Iran during the war. Israeli strikes in Lebanon have displaced more than 1 million people, according to the Lebanese government, which says more than 1,000 people have been killed. Israel says it has killed more than 500 Hezbollah militants. In Israel, 15 people have been killed by Iranian missile fire. Four people were also killed in the occupied West Bank by a missile strike. At least 13 U.S. military members have been killed.

OIL RELIEF ON US, ISRAEL ASSURANCES

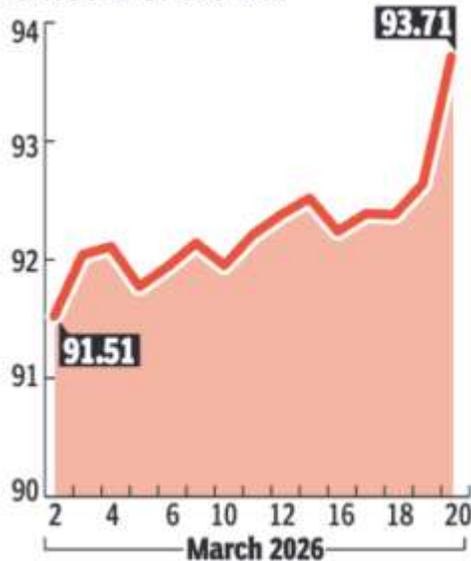
Photo: AP



A bride and her family take cover in a bomb shelter after an alert in Ramat Gan, Israel, on Thursday

Rupee vs Dollar

The US-Israel attacks on Iran began Feb 28, and ₹ has weakened by 266 paise in the 3 weeks of the war



➤ Oil prices drop as US president Trump says he's 'not putting troops anywhere' while PM Netanyahu says Israel will refrain from more attacks on Iranian energy facilities

➤ However, **US military deploying thousands of addl Marines and sailors to West Asia**, three US officials told Reuters. No decision yet on sending troops into Iran

➤ Iran continues to hit energy infrastructure in the Gulf. **Several units of Kuwait's Al Ahmadi refinery were shut** after a drone attack caused a fire

➤ **Sensex climbs 326 points or 0.4%** to settle at 74,533pts Friday

➤ **India's weekly LPG imports fall to 2.7 lakh metric tonnes in week ending March 19**, from 3.2 lakh mt on March 5. West Asia inflows decline to just 89,000 mt in week ending March 19, the **lowest share since Jan 2026**

➤ **Price of premium petrol has gone up by ₹2 per litre**, while **bulk diesel** sold to industrial users will cost **₹22 more** per litre. No change in prices of normal petrol & diesel

1. Main development — मुख्य घटनाक्रम	Iran has intensified attacks on Israel and energy-related sites in Gulf Arab states. — ईरान ने इज़राइल और खाड़ी अरब देशों के ऊर्जा-संबंधित ठिकानों पर हमले तेज कर दिए हैं।
2. Iran's stand — ईरान का रुख	Iran said it would deny security to its enemies and continue building its missile stockpile despite ongoing war. — ईरान ने कहा कि वह अपने दुश्मनों को सुरक्षा से वंचित करेगा और युद्ध के बीच भी अपने मिसाइल भंडार का विस्तार जारी रखेगा।
3. Background of escalation — तनाव बढ़ने की पृष्ठभूमि	The report says Iran's response came nearly three weeks into U.S.-Israel strikes that reportedly killed senior Iranian leaders and damaged weapons and energy infrastructure. — रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यह प्रतिक्रिया लगभग तीन सप्ताह से जारी अमेरिका-इज़राइल हमलों के बीच आई, जिनमें ईरान के वरिष्ठ नेताओं की मौत और हथियार व ऊर्जा ढाँचे को नुकसान बताया गया।
4. Attack on Kuwait refinery — कुवैत रिफाइनरी पर हमला	Two waves of Iranian drones reportedly struck the Mina Al-Ahmadi oil refinery in Kuwait, causing a fire. — ईरानी ड्रोन की दो लहरों ने कथित रूप से कुवैत की मीना अल-अहमदी तेल रिफाइनरी को निशाना बनाया, जिससे आग लग गई।
5. Why this refinery matters — यह रिफाइनरी क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है	Mina Al-Ahmadi is described as one of the largest refineries in West Asia, processing around 7,30,000 barrels of oil per day. — मीना अल-अहमदी को पश्चिम एशिया की सबसे बड़ी रिफाइनरियों में से एक बताया गया है, जो प्रतिदिन लगभग 7,30,000 बैरल तेल संसाधित कर सकती है।
6. Bahrain incident — बहरीन की घटना	Bahrain's Interior Ministry said a warehouse caught fire after shrapnel from an intercepted projectile fell on it. — बहरीन के आंतरिक मंत्रालय के अनुसार, रोके गए प्रोजेक्टाइल के छर्ने गिरने से एक गोदाम में आग लग गई।

7. Saudi Arabia incident — सऊदी अरब की घटना

Saudi Arabia reported intercepting drones targeting its oil-rich Eastern Province. — सऊदी अरब ने बताया कि उसने अपने तेल-समृद्ध पूर्वी प्रांत को निशाना बनाने वाले ड्रोन को मार गिराया।

8. Effect on oil security — तेल सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव

The article suggests these attacks show Iran can still disrupt oil supplies and unsettle the global economy. — लेख से संकेत मिलता है कि ईरान अब भी तेल आपूर्ति बाधित कर सकता है और वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था को अस्थिर कर सकता है।

9. Iran's missile production claim — मिसाइल उत्पादन पर ईरान का दावा

An IRGC spokesperson said Iran is producing missiles even during wartime and faces no major problem in stockpiling them. — IRGC प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि ईरान युद्धकाल में भी मिसाइल बना रहा है और उनके भंडारण में कोई विशेष समस्या नहीं है।

10. Leadership uncertainty — नेतृत्व संबंधी अनिश्चितता

The report notes that with limited information coming from Iran, the exact damage and command structure were unclear. — रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि ईरान से सीमित जानकारी आने के कारण वास्तविक नुकसान और कमान व्यवस्था स्पष्ट नहीं थी।

11. Mention of leadership change — नेतृत्व परिवर्तन का उल्लेख

The article mentions Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei issuing a statement, indicating leadership developments during the conflict. — लेख में ईरान के नए सर्वोच्च नेता आयतोल्ला मोजतबा खामेनेई के बयान का उल्लेख है, जो संघर्ष के बीच नेतृत्व संबंधी बदलाव की ओर संकेत करता है।

CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE DISCRIMINATORY AND UNJUST TRANSGENDER AMENDMENT BILL

बेदभावपूर्ण और अन्यायपूर्ण ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन (प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ राइट्स) अमेन्डमेंट बिल, 2020 को वापस लेने की मांग



Protests have erupted across the country, with tens of thousands of people coming out onto the streets, signing petitions online, and campaigning for the withdrawal of the proposed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2020. Ashritha Bhatnagar and Abhinav Lakshman report on the outrage of trans communities, who say that the Bill violates their fundamental right to gender self-identification

Kabir, 34, is seated at the centre of the panel in Delhi's Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC), where he speaks about his journey. He wants to become a teacher to sensitise children to gender identities and give them the support he wishes he had. Kabir, a trans man, speaks about the multitude of obstacles he's faced on his way to accepting and embracing his gender, from adolescence through adulthood. Now, there is another threat to his identity. On March 13, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2020 was tabled in the Lok Sabha by India's Social Justice Minister. Almost immediately, the Bill drew shock and condemnation. Trans communities across India raised the alarming threat of an existential crisis. Tens of thousands spontaneously mobilised, both online and offline, in cities and towns across the country. Posters at protests read: "Trans lives are not for the state to redefine", "Identity is not a certificate", and "Respect TransBills". The problem with the bill, they reiterate, lies in the proposal to shift from self-identification to state identification of gender.

At the IWPC, the panel Kabir is speaking on comprises transmen, transwomen, and non-binary people across professions, who have come together to call for the withdrawal of the Bill. "The day after my name appeared on a list for a teaching position in Uttarakhanda, I learnt about this Bill and I thought, if they see it, they will automatically strike my name off exams (trans men and community leaders). Kabir, who is Dalit, says that gender and caste-identity-related harassment has set him back at least 10 years. He says, "Now, when I look back, I realise that if I had a teacher in school who was sensitive and could guide me, maybe I would not have lost all those years." At the teacher eligibility test in Delhi, he says he was singled out and questioned invasively. "I cited the Act and the Rules to explain that it was my right to be there," he says, softly but sternly. While he was taking his test, his friends were celebrating their identity at the Pride Parade, a kilometre away. Inside, there was gender animation on the streets, there was celebration. "I realised the importance of that day," he says.

Judging numbers In the 2011 Census, over 4.9 lakh people marked the "other" option in the gender column. Yet, so far in India, only 35,000 applications have been filed for transgender certificates. Of these, about 30,000 have received their certificates and about 5,000 applications have been rejected, as per government data until March 2020. People from trans communities say that applications are few because either government officials are unaware of the law or are insensitive to trans people. Bahad (name changed to protect privacy), a trans man from Uttar Pradesh, left his hometown after coming out to his family. He applied for his transgender card three years ago, but still hasn't got it. "I was told that I was the only person in the district applying for it. They had never heard of something like this." However, on March 11, the government told the Lok Sabha that there had been issues with document mismatches, duplicate applications, or incorrect

The day after my name appeared on a list for a teaching position (in Uttarakhanda), I learnt about this Bill and I thought, if they see it, they will automatically strike my name off exams (trans men and community leaders)

addresses. Yet, two days later, in the bill the government argued that the existing definition was "impossible" for the administration to identify transgender people in need of protection. The text of the Bill says, "The purpose was and is not to protect each and every class of persons with various gender identities, self-perceived sex/gender identities or gender fluidities. It goes on to say it was an "attempt to protect 'some' people who face severe social exclusion due to biological reasons". Now, trans people are asking: What happens to the transgender certificates issued?

Now and then Twelve years ago, a month before the Bharatiya Janata Party's Narendra Modi was about to be sworn in as Prime Minister of India for the first time, Kabir, then a college student in Delhi, caught glimpses on TV of the transgender community celebrating on the streets, when the landmark NALSA judgment was delivered. Even as trans communities were their identities without fear, holding up placards such as "acceptance saves lives", Kabir was at home, afraid of seeking out information about the judgment, feeling like he was under "constant surveillance". It took years for the vocabulary in the judgment to seep into his life as he acknowledged, accepted, and came out as a transman.

In the historic judgment, the Supreme Court had recognised a gender beyond the binary of male and female. It laid down that the right to a self-perceived gender identity was an essential aspect of human dignity, protected under Article 21 of the Constitution, protecting personal liberty as a fundamental right. This judgment would lead to the enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, codifying the right to self-determination of gender.

Just as he was finishing his second term as PM, Modi told Parliament in February 2024, "We gave transgender people an identity, referring to the 2019 law. Almost two years later, his government's Cabinet approved amendments to the same law. This identity will be erased if the Bill becomes a law, say lawyers, human rights activists, and people from trans communities.



Members of IPI and the transgender community stage a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on March 26. (The Hindu)

The bill limits the definition of a "transgender person" to those with biological markers or people associated with "socio-cultural identities" like that of hijras, kinnars, eunuchs, or eunuchs.

This definition excludes people whose gender does not match the sex assigned to them at birth, and may want to undergo gender-affirming health care. This, lawyers say, means the exclusion of transmen and transwomen who do not fit into traditional "socio-cultural identities" and genderless people, who may perceive their gender outside the binary of male-female.

The other problem with the bill, say doctors, is the setting up of a medical board that is supposed to make a recommendation to the district magistrate (DM) on whether a transgender certificate should be issued. This then gives DMs the discretion to decide if a transgender certificate is "necessary or desirable". In addition, medical institutes will be mandated to report details of gender-affirming care, potentially affecting doctor-patient confidentiality. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has not made any public statement about the reason for radically changing its stated position on gender identification.

Currently, the procedure to get a transgender certificate leans on the principle of self-identification. The law allows for an applicant (ie, anyone whose perception of their gender is different from the sex assigned to them at birth) to fill out a form, submit identification documents, and submit a self-attested affidavit declaring themselves transgender. The rules prescribe that the DM shall issue a transgender certificate based on the affidavit of self-declaration alone, without any physical or medical examination.

The only proof of medical certification is required when a person wishes to change genders within the binary of "male" and "female". For this certificate, the rules mandate that a person must have proof of ongoing or past medical interventions, not limited to gender reassignment surgery.

In Apna Shaikh, a transwoman who teaches community medicine at the Hindustan Institute of Medical Science and Research in New Delhi, speaks about how the Bill is now a topic of conversation in medical circles. "Besides reiterating that gender is not in the body, but is identity, she says the proposed amendment "confuses gender and sex". She adds, "How do you prove that you are part of a socio-cultural group? There is no official membership. Is a medical board equipped to make this decision?"

At the IWPC press conference, transgender people drew attention to the language of the amendments, saying it criminalises anyone helping a trans person express their gender identity. It will impact doctors, nurses, and those who perform gender-affirming surgery. Rights organisations that may be helping trans people and safety from their natal families may also be affected.

The prover of a law Around 550 kilometres away from Kabir, Sarvagya Soni, in Chhatisra, Rajasthan, was starting to come to terms with his perception of his gender. By the time he was able to come out to his family, the government had enacted the 2019 law and notified rules under it a year later.

His home had become a place of conflict because his family could not understand that while he was assigned female at birth, he identified as male. "I literally read from the Act to explain to them that even if they didn't recognise me, our government did," recalls Sarvagya, now 26, and working in Delhi. "What happens now? If this bill becomes law, what does that make me, if not a transgender person?" It is a question that Sarvagya and others are

Transgender community leaders, human rights advocates, and representatives of civil society organisations (from left) Krishana, Raghav, Kalav, and Ritu addressing a press conference to oppose the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2020, at the IWPC in Delhi. (The Hindu)

asking, "How will you undo everything that I and people like me have gone through to assert our identity and have it recognised?"

The recognition in the current law gave Sarvagya, a trans man, who leads his company's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, the confidence to approach his employer with a policy proposal. This was to include gender-affirming care in the company's health insurance policy for staffers. It was a policy that Sarvagya became the first to avail himself of. If the new Bill is passed, his fear is that many such company policies will be pushed back.

Ritika, 25, a trans woman, wears a crisp blue shirt and formal pants, with metallic floral earrings. She has moved on from the gharana system that has been intrinsic to the functioning of several communities that identify with socio-cultural identities like hijras, kinnars, or aravans.

She is now pursuing a distance-learning Masters in Psychology programme, while working at a one-stop clinic for transgender people at a counselling hub.

Uttaraas function around an informal family structure with a guru heading it. Ritika spent 4-6 years in the system, and while she says her guru was supportive, she has decided to move into a more "professional" space, seated on a chair. Inside a shelter home for transgender people, she speaks to Beethika, 23, another transwoman, about how the amendments will push their communities backwards. "Now, more people will have to go back to the gharanas. The begging and poverty will increase," Beethika says.

Ritika explains that society is often disapproving to the kinnar community. "When we go to the hospital, the guards do not know what gender-affirming surgery is, so they do not let us in. They say 'Matamun sha deke chole jao' (Give us blessings and leave)."

Nisha, 30-year-old trans woman, says that being part of the gharana system precludes transwomen from moving ahead in their careers or even wearing what they want to given the "rigid rules". She acknowledges that when religion is tied to their work, it becomes more socially acceptable. For a living, she takes on the avatar of gods, and performs at birthdays and anniversaries.

Even though the proposed definition has included cultures of hijras, kinnars, or aravan community leaders from these communities in north India, often associated with Hinduism, have also come out in opposition to the amendments. Laxminarayan Tripathi, one of the original petitioners in the NALSA case and a Member of the government's first-ever National Council of Transgender Persons, has appealed on social media to reject the Bill, so have other transgender leaders associated with the kinnar bhairav (religious order) like Kadikaramani Girl in Mumbai.

The global context The landmark judgment in the NALSA vs Union of India case in 2014 marked an important node in the Indian state's relationship with gender identity. Even as the judgment called for codifying these principles into law, the first few attempts used "biological markers" as an identifier. A 2016 draft of the Trans Rights Bill, for instance, required a District Screening Committee to determine if an applicant was transgender for certificate.

By 2019, India's law resembled that of self-determination of gender in western societies like the State of California in America. In the following years, the west saw the conversation around trans rights move back into questioning the validity of self-determination of gender. Health care access, the use of public restrooms, employment, and welfare measures re-emerged the discourse. During this time, however, India leaned into the understanding of gender identity as being self-determined. The Union Government's Equal Opportunity Policy for Transgender Persons, 2024, was informed by this understanding. It cautions against mis-gendering and encourages building an inclusive workplace.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) started recognising transgender certificates and ID cards issued under the 2019 law; so did the UHAF for Aadhaar updates. State school boards started including this understanding of gender identity in school curricula and the National Council for Educational Research and Training did the same for teacher training handbooks.

However, Dr. Shaikh says the communities did not see it coming. "It happened in the U.S., the U.K., where trans rights were being curtailed. Rajasthan also had a trans rights Act, in fact before India, but recently conservative forces imposed their view that this understanding was not correct and went back to medical verification of biological characteristics, much like what India is proposing now," Dr. Shaikh says.

Within 24 hours of the proposed amendment being made public, the communities formed WhatsApp groups, where trans people from across the country volunteered to help the movement. They began drafting statements in different languages, starting social media campaigns, planning press conferences, public gatherings, and protests in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Varanasi, Indore, and Chennai, among others. They point out that this is not the first time they have been through a struggle.

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Aspect	Before (existing law/rules, as described in article)	After proposed Amendment Bill, 2026 (as described in article)	Good / possible positive side	Bad / criticism raised in article
Basic principle of recognition	The article says the current law and 2020 Rules largely follow self-identification . A person whose gender identity differs from sex assigned at birth can apply through a form and affidavit.	The proposed Bill is described as moving away from pure self-identification and making recognition more state-controlled.	Supporters may argue it creates a more “formal” legal process.	Activists say this weakens the right to self-identification and goes against dignity and autonomy.
How a transgender certificate is obtained	Under current rules, the District Magistrate issues a certificate based on self-declaration/affidavit alone . No medical examination is required for recognition as transgender.	The article says the proposed Bill would require the person to submit materials before the District Magistrate, who would then decide whether a certificate should be issued.	Could be presented by government as a standardized administrative process.	The article says this gives the state excessive power and may make recognition dependent on official approval rather than identity.
Role of District Magistrate / administration	DM’s role under current rules is more procedural after affidavit-based self-declaration.	DM gets greater discretion under the proposed Bill; article says this could make the State a gatekeeper of identity.	Government may see this as tighter scrutiny and documentation.	Community says identity becomes subject to bureaucratic judgment, delay, humiliation, and exclusion.

Medical proof requirement	For being recognized as transgender , the article says no medical proof is needed under present rules. Medical proof is required only when a person wants to change legal gender to male or female after medical intervention.	Article suggests the amendment increases medical/official scrutiny and may require stronger documentation and monitoring of transition-related processes.	Some may argue it prevents fraudulent claims or creates records.	Criticism: it medicalises identity and makes legal recognition harder, especially for poor and vulnerable trans persons.
Definition of “transgender person”	Current framework, as discussed in the article, is broader and more aligned with gender identity differing from sex assigned at birth.	The proposed Bill is said to narrow the definition , linking it more to biological markers and certain socio-cultural identities like hijra, kinner, aravani, jogta/jogti, eunuch.	Government may argue it clarifies categories.	Activists say this excludes many people, especially gender-diverse persons who do not fit traditional labels.
Inclusion of gender-diverse identities	Existing framework is relatively broader in recognizing people whose gender identity differs from assigned sex.	Proposed Bill may exclude or weaken recognition for genderqueer people, transmasculine persons not fitting socio-cultural labels, and others outside narrow definitions.	No clear positive stated in article.	Major criticism: exclusion of many real identities within the trans spectrum.

Self-identification as a right	Stronger under present rules; article links this to the spirit of the NALSA 2014 judgment .	Weaker under proposed amendment, according to activists quoted in the article.	None clearly highlighted in article.	Seen as contrary to NALSA and to the principle that identity should come from the individual, not the state.
Ease of access to legal identity documents	Comparatively easier under current rules because affidavit/self-declaration is enough for a transgender certificate.	Likely harder under proposed Bill due to more scrutiny, discretion, and documentation.	Government could argue for more verification.	Article says vulnerable people may be pushed out of the system due to complexity and fear.
Risk of exclusion	Present rules still have issues, but access exists through self-declaration.	Proposed Bill may increase exclusion for people lacking documents, money, social support, or ability to navigate bureaucracy.	No clear positive stated in article.	Strong criticism: many may lose access to legal recognition, welfare, and dignity.
State monitoring of gender-affirming care	The article does not suggest such reporting as a major feature of the current rules.	Proposed Bill reportedly says medical institutions must report gender-affirming care to prevent “doctor shopping.”	Government may defend this as oversight or regulation.	Activists say this invades privacy and increases surveillance over transgender lives.
Privacy and dignity	Existing framework is closer to privacy because self-declaration is central.	Proposed changes are portrayed as more intrusive.	Administrative clarity may be claimed.	Article says privacy, dignity, and bodily autonomy are threatened.

Consistency with NALSA judgment (2014)

More consistent, because NALSA recognized self-identification.

Protesters say the proposed Bill is inconsistent with or against the spirit of NALSA.

None clearly stated in article.

Major constitutional and rights-based objection.

Relationship with 2019 Act

Even the 2019 law had been criticized by the community, but article says it still resembled self-identification more than the new proposal.

The 2026 proposal is seen as making things worse than the already-criticized 2019 framework.

None clearly stated in article.

Article frames the amendment as a rollback rather than improvement.

Impact on everyday life

Current rules at least provide a route to recognition, which helps in IDs, education, employment, and access to schemes.

If recognition becomes harder, access to certificates and related rights may also become harder.

Government may say better records improve delivery.

Activists fear more harassment, denial, stigma, and loss of access to rights/services.

Overall character of law

Imperfect, but more self-ID based.

More restrictive, more bureaucratic, more state-controlled.

Possible argument: more formal structure and verification.

Article overwhelmingly presents it as discriminatory, unjust, and regressive.



Karuna Book by Kailash Satyarthi

Fact (English + Hindi)

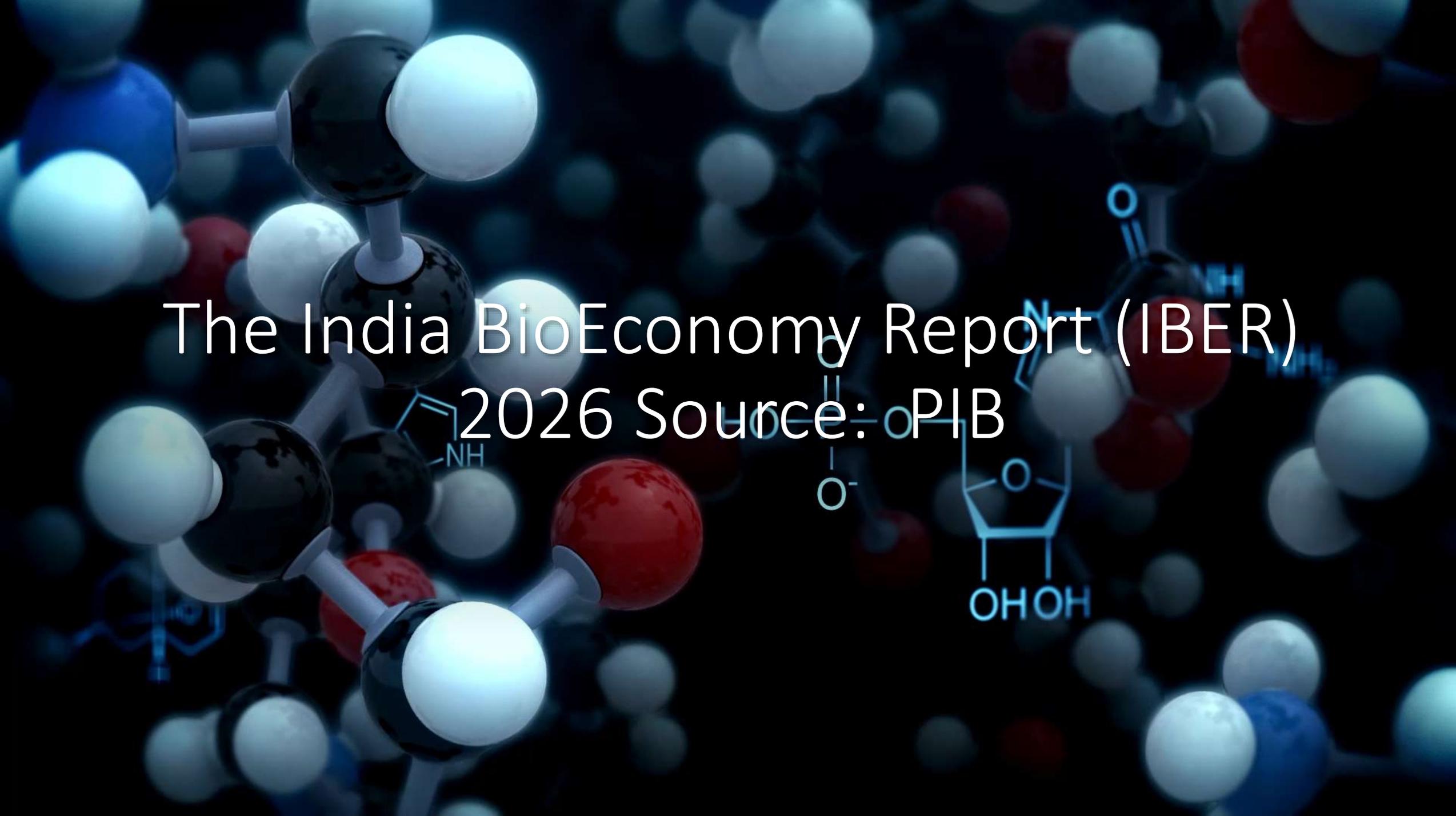
Kailash Satyarthi founded **Bachpan Bachao Andolan (1980)** / इंचयवतु ठुडुवळु षु षुदुहषु
षुदुवुडु षुतुडुवुडु इह वुदुषुतु इह

He shared Nobel Prize with Malala Yousafzai / कुडुवुडु सवचववतु वुडुषु न ह इडु ठुवळु षुतुडुवुडु
वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु

Focus on **child labour eradication & child rights** / षुवच वुव कुडुवुडु षुघ षुवच सुषुतुडुवुडु

Concept of compassion linked with **SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)** / इ इरुव इव
वुडुषुतु ठुलु षुतुडुवुडु चडुवुडुजSDGs) वुडु

Book connects morality with **policy-making & governance** / वुडुषुतु षुतुडु वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु
षुववुडु षुघ वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु वुडुषुतु



The India BioEconomy Report (IBER)
2026 Source: PIB

-
- Union Minister unveiled the India BioEconomy Report (IBER) 2026 during the 14th Foundation Day of BIRAC in New Delhi.
 - The report highlights that India's bioeconomy reached a record \$195.3 billion in 2025, now contributing nearly 5% to the national GDP.

What it is?

- The IBER 2026 is a comprehensive annual document developed by the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE). It serves as the **primary benchmark** for measuring the growth, sectoral contributions, and startup ecosystem of India's biotechnology sector, tracking the country's progress toward its long-term economic goals.

Key Summary Points of the Report:

- **Record Market Size:** India's BioEconomy grew by \$29.6 billion in 2025 to reach a total of \$195.3 billion.
- **Highest Growth Rate:** The sector witnessed an 18% growth in 2025, the highest rate recorded in recent years.
- **GDP Contribution:** The BioEconomy's share of the national GDP rose to 4.8%, up from 4.2–4.3% in previous years.
- **Sectoral Leader:** The BioIndustrial segment was the largest contributor, valued at \$90.2 billion.
- **BioPharma Strength:** This segment reached \$64.5 billion, with significant growth expected in biosimilars and peptide manufacturing as global patents expire.

- BioServices and Agri: BioServices contributed \$26 billion, while BioAgri accounted for \$14.6 billion of the total economy.
- GCC Expansion: India now hosts over 150 healthcare and life sciences Global Capability Centres (GCCs), employing 300,000+ professionals.
- Startup Surge: The number of registered biotech startups rose to 11,855, with 1,780 new startups established in 2025 alone.

Key Opportunities in India's Bioeconomy:

- Biosimilar and Peptide Manufacturing: Expiry of major drug patents (e.g., GLP-1 therapies) gives India a chance to produce affordable biosimilars and dominate global pharma markets.
- Global Capability Centres (GCCs) Expansion: India can move from backend roles to advanced R&D, bioinformatics, and digital health innovation, enhancing value addition and global leadership.
- BioIndustrial and BioServices Growth: Emerging sectors like bio-manufacturing and contract research are entering a scale-up phase, enabling large industrial applications and exports.
- Start-up Ecosystem Scaling: With ~12,000 biotech startups and steady growth, India can convert scientific research into market-ready products and deep-tech innovations.
- Domestic Market Contribution: Rising GDP share (~4.8%) offers scope to integrate biotechnology across agriculture, healthcare, and industry for holistic economic growth.

- **Initiatives Taken So Far:**

- **BIRAC Support:** The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) provides the necessary interface to nurture and scale biotech startups.

- **SIGHT Program:** Financial incentives for green hydrogen and electrolyzer manufacturing to bolster the BioIndustrial segment.

- **National Bio-Pharma Mission:** An industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development.

- **Bio-E3 Policy:** (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Focusing on high-performance biomanufacturing to achieve a \$1 trillion target by 2047.

-

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{d^2}$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = \hat{H} \psi$$

$$F = E + V$$



Project Insight (PI) Initiative

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}$$

Data Sources Used — मूळ स्रोत

Uses PAN, Aadhaar, bank transactions, GST data, TDS, and other financial databases. — PAN, ए शिवघ, एड च्यावळ, GST मूळ, TDS ङ घ १ श्रुतुह्य मूळवळ इव क्षहगह्य इघलत्र णळ

Importance for Governance — बट्टवट्ट ष रळवणुडु

Improves transparency, accountability, and efficiency in tax administration. — इघ बट्टवट्ट ष रळवघवट्टवळ, नत्रवळणुहङ घ वल लत्र इङ्ग ण प्रलत्र णळ

Economic Significance — षश्रळह रवणुडु

Helps increase tax-GDP ratio and curb black money/tax evasion. — इघघ GDP १ षहवळ ण प्रवळङ घ इवचुश णइघ वळहइङ्गश गळल इघङ रळववट्ट इघलत्र णळ

Challenges — वळवणुगळ

Data privacy concerns, misuse of personal data, algorithmic bias, digital divide. — मूळ षह षहगलत्र इह श्रुतु, एल ण ल मूळ इव क्षहगह्य, इङ्गववट्ट हल हवल, श्रुतु ब च श्रुतुवङ ष ड

Way Forward — ष षडुव घवव

Need for strong data protection laws, transparency in algorithms, and citizen trust. — वण ण मूळ वळलर् इवळ, इङ्गववट्ट रळवघवट्टवळ ङ घ वणवडुवडुव श्रुतुव ष ङ इ णळ

• Consider the following statements regarding Project Insight: — **इस परियोजना का उद्देश्य कर evasion को पहचानना है।**

• It uses artificial intelligence and big data analytics to detect tax evasion. — **यह परियोजना AI और बड़े डेटा विश्लेषण का उपयोग कर evasion को पहचानने के लिए है।**

• It is implemented by NITI Aayog. — **यह परियोजना NITI Aayog द्वारा लागू की गई है।**

• It uses a “nudge strategy” to improve voluntary compliance. — **यह परियोजना “nudge strategy” का उपयोग कर compliance को बढ़ावा देने के लिए है।**

• **Which of the statements given above are correct? — निम्नलिखित में से सही कथन चुनें।**

• A. 1 and 2 only — **केवल 1 और 2 सही हैं।**

• B. 1 and 3 only — **केवल 1 और 3 सही हैं।**

• C. 2 and 3 only — **केवल 2 और 3 सही हैं।**

• D. 1, 2 and 3 — **1, 2 और 3 सही हैं।**



Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

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• Consider the following statements regarding Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC): — JPC
इंद्राणी रक्षा अचमरु ल इ कण्णहघशत्रुघ इहफ इ:

• It is a permanent committee of Parliament. — ग्रण द्रुदु इह विगहदशरुणु पणु

• It includes members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. — स्टुरकुवुह द्रुवु र घ घवुवुवु
दुदुदुदु द्रु प पणुदुणु

• It can summon individuals and call for documents during investigation. — ग्रणनुवु इदु
वुवुवु वुवुवुवु वुवुवु लहणु घ वुवुवु रवुवु द्रु लहणु

• Which of the statements given above are correct? — इहवु रकुवुदुवुवु-दुदु कणु द्रुणु
णु

• A. 1 and 2 only — इदुवु 1 र घ 2

B. 2 and 3 only — इदुवु 2 र घ 3

C. 1 and 3 only — इदुवु 1 र घ 3

D. 1, 2 and 3 — 1, 2 र घ 3



Thank you 😊