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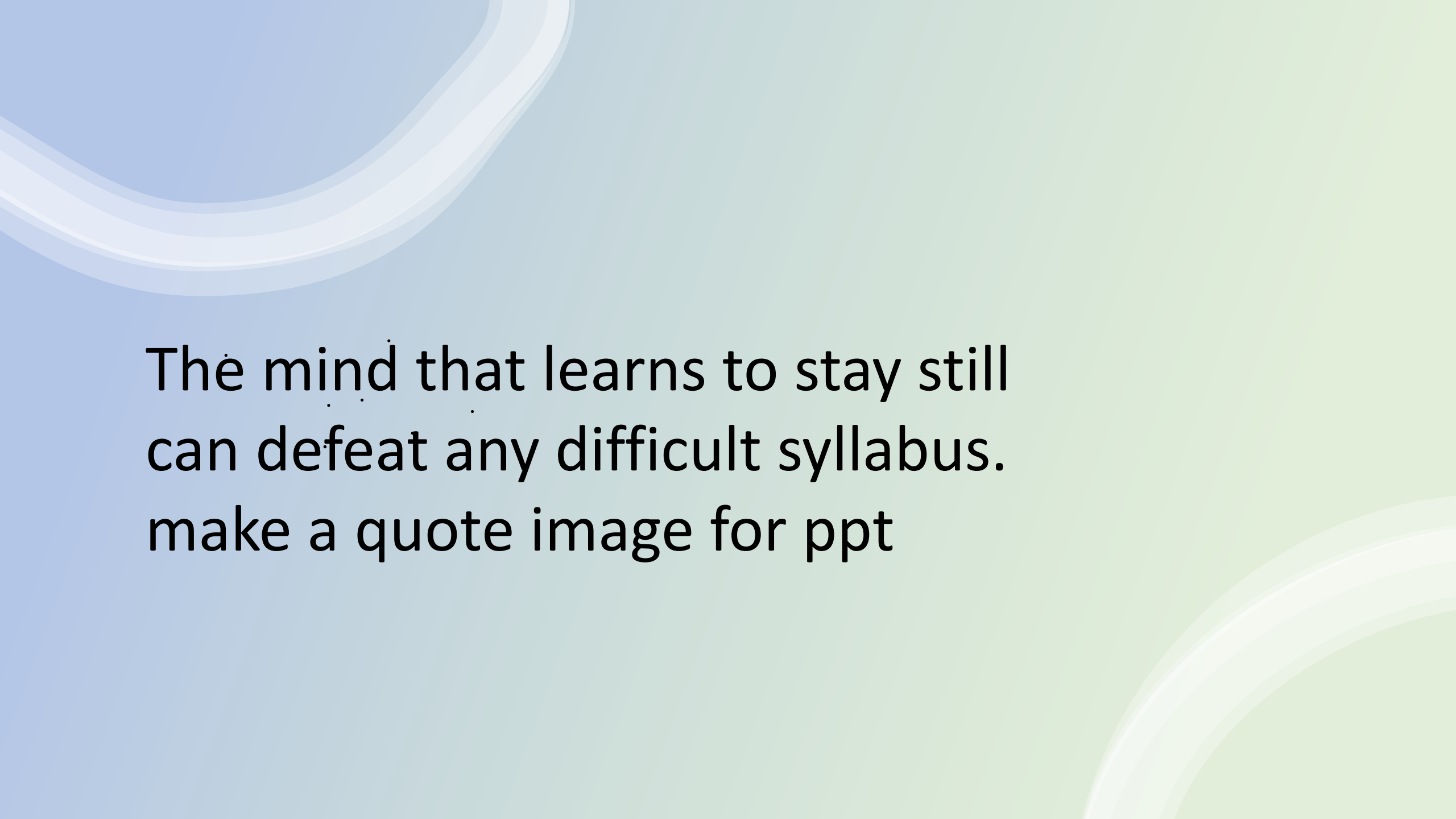


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Jansatta



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Financial Express





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can defeat any difficult syllabus.
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INSIDE

Step up Ebola vigil, Centre tells States and UTs
Following the WHO declaration of the Ebola outbreak in Africa as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the Centre has directed States and Union Territories to strengthen surveillance. ■ PAGE 8

India to host Quad Ministers' meet on May 26
NEW DELHI Days after the U.S. President's visit to China, India will chair a meeting of the Quad's Foreign Ministers on Tuesday, with talks about a 'free and open Indo-Pacific' on the top of the agenda. ■ PAGE 2

SC refers UAPA bail curbs issue to larger Bench

'Reference must to ensure parity, consistency and institutional fidelity to apply binding precedents' | SC grants six months interim bail to two Delhi riots accused - Abdul Khalid Saifi and Taseem Ahmad | Courts must strike balance between interests of society and rights of accused, says Delhi Police

ANURAG BHASKAR
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday granted six months of interim bail to two accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case while referring to a larger bench the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the stringent bail curbs under anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).
The court said the reference was necessary to ensure "parity, consistency and institutional fidelity" in the application of binding precedents by coordinate benches. The reference was made by Bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and J. E. L. Narayana during the hearing of bail plea filed by riot accused Abdul Khalid Saifi and Taseem Ahmad, challenging a September 2, 2020, order

of the Delhi High Court denying them bail.
"Where a coordinate Bench entertains reservations about the reasoning of an earlier coordinate Bench, particularly on the application of a binding three-judge Bench decision, the proper course is well settled. The matter must ordinarily be placed before the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of an appropriate Bench. A coordinate Bench cannot, by strong observations, effectively usurp the ratio of an earlier coordinate Bench while continuing to sit in equal strength," the Bench observed.
The reference came in response to the Delhi Police's contention that it may be proceeded on a "blanket generalisation" of Supreme Court precedents.



Supreme Court

'Facts of each case'
Additional Solicitor General B.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, told the Bench that the question of bail must turn on the facts and circumstances of each case. "Latest (May 18) judgment says you don't

have to see the role, you don't have to see the nature of the crime. So there is no categorisation. This can't be done. This can't be how it has to be applied. It has to be applied to the facts of each case. That's what your Lordships have precisely done," Mr. Raju submitted.
He contended that courts must strike a balance between the "interests of society and victims" and the "rights of the accused" while considering bail under terror statutes.
The May 18 judgment, delivered by Justice R.V. Raveendran and Justice Bhushan, had underlined that the stringent bail curbs under UAPA, which held that prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can "override" the strictness of the "discipline of precedents" does not permit a coordinate bench to disregard "reservations of a higher or larger Bench ruling without the matter first being placed before a Bench of equal or superior strength to resolve the 'perceived conflict'."

The court further observed that the reliance placed by the accused on its January ruling granting unconditional bail to student activists Gulabsha Fatima and four other co-accused, while denying relief to Mr. Khalid and Mr. Ahmad after distinguishing their alleged roles, was "not without significance".
"Perceived conflict" if the ruling had proceeded on the basis that Section 43D (5) overrides Article 21, or that prolonged incarceration has no constitutional bearing in UAPA prosecutions, it could hardly have been invoked by accused persons seeking enlargement on bail.
The court's reliance upon it demonstrates that the said decision cannot be placed in a "parallel or one-sided frame," the Bench observed.
The Bench cautioned that an "unqualified reading" of the proposition that mere passage of time may compel bail in every UAPA case could have "serious consequences". Such an approach, it said, would leave courts with little room to examine factors such as the nature of the allegations, the centrality of the accused's role, protection of witnesses, the risk of intimidation, possible reactivation of networks, whether delays were attributable to the accused, and broader concerns of public order and national security.

At the same time, the Bench acknowledged that an "equally unqualified insistence" on Section 43D (5), without regard to prolonged incarceration, would imperil the guarantee of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. This "perceived conflict," it said, warranted consideration by a larger Bench.

Maharashtra is India's growth engine: Shinde

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI
Maharashtra is the country's growth engine, and Mumbai MMR is on track to be a \$1.8 trillion economy, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, speaking at *The Hindu's* flagship Infrastructure Conference in Mumbai on Friday. He said that the government was committed to deliver a smart-free metropolis.
The conference had a power-packed line-up including BMC Commissioner Ashwin Bhale, Maharashtra Ministers Ashish Shelar and Nishad Kane, Australia's Consul General Paul Murphy, Finland's CG Erik Hallstrom, Malaysia's DG LtD CMD Capt. (ret) Jagmohan, and several senior bureaucrats.



Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in conversation with Vinay Deshpande, Chief of the Bureau. *The Hindu's*, during the Maharashtra Infrastructure Conference 2020 in Mumbai on Friday. ANURAG BHASKAR

'Birth rate, infant deaths fall in India'

KANYA KASHYAP
MUMBAI
The bulletin from the recent Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2024 provides the sharpest picture yet of India in the throes of demographic transition.
As per the latest estimate, while the country's birth rate has fallen below 20 and 2024 saw the death rate is down marginally, good gains have been registered with the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), most substantial progress made over the last decade.

Changing trends
India's birth rate and infant mortality rate have fallen over the last decade, though some rural-urban gaps and uneven progress persist.
The country's birth rate - five births per 1,000 population - fell from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024, while the death rate (deaths per 1,000 people) is down from 10.5 to 9.4. The overall performance is creditable, especially in areas where progress being launched by the Centre and States to improve healthcare outcomes, the disappointing news is that relatively more progress in rural areas. In fact, they drag the country's average down substantially.

For instance, while the rural birth rate fell from 22.7 to 20.2 in the given decade, the simultaneous decadal performance in the urban areas was better - the birth rate fell from 17.4 to 14.7. In the rural areas, the death rate fell from 12.3 to 8.6 between 2014 and 2024, and in the urban segment, it was at 8.8 in 2014 and went up marginally to 5.6 - still a better performance than in rural areas.
The gaps of urban areas in this bulletin are probably the most appreciable ones being launched by the Centre and States to improve healthcare outcomes, the disappointing news is that relatively more progress in rural areas. In fact, they drag the country's average down substantially.

SC recalls 'harsh' remarks made over textbook row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday recalled observations made in an order blacklisting three textbooks for proposing a Class 8 NCERT textbook with references to judicial activism even as the government orally conveyed a determination not to associate with them.

The conclusive opinion attributing motive to your clients has been deleted. The observations that was a deliberate misrepresentation to tarnish the judiciary have been removed. We have also set aside the direction that nobody should engage your clients. Now, it is left to the independent decision of the government. Justice Jyoti Basu, part of a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, addressed the lawyers representing the three academics.
Author and scholar Rajendra Prasad, educationist Saptarshi Dikshit and legal researcher Ashwini Kumar had approached the top court for deletion of portions in a March 11 order which blacklisted three textbooks for proposing a Class 8 NCERT textbook with references to judicial activism even as the government orally conveyed a determination not to associate with them.

The Supreme Court on Friday asked a former apex court judge-led panel to review cartoons in textbooks in National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pointed out that "textbook is not a space where you use cartoons".
Mr. Mehta, appearing for the Centre, objected to "some" NCERT textbooks.
The academics said they were not just "by-product" of textbooks but "some" NCERT textbooks.
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SC refers UAPA bail curbs issue to larger Bench

Reference must to ensure parity, consistency and institutional fidelity to apply binding precedents'

SC grants six months interim bail to two Delhi riots accused – Abdul Khalid Saifi and Tasleem Ahmad

Courts must strike balance between interests of society and rights of accused, says Delhi Police

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted six months of interim bail to two accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case while referring to a larger Bench the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the stringent bail curbs under anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

The court said the reference was necessary to ensure “parity, consistency and institutional fidelity” in the application of binding precedents by coordinate Benches. The reference was made by a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P. B. Varale during the hearing of bail pleas filed by riots accused Abdul Khalid Saifi and Tasleem Ahmad, challenging a September 2, 2025, order

of the Delhi High Court denying them bail.

“Where a coordinate Bench entertains reservations about the reasoning of an earlier coordinate Bench, particularly on the application of a binding three-judge Bench decision, the proper course is well settled. The matter must ordinarily be placed before the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of an appropriate Bench. A coordinate Bench cannot, by strong observations, effectively unsettle the ratio of an earlier coordinate Bench while continuing to sit in equal strength,” the Bench observed.

The reference came in response to the Delhi Police’s contention that a May 18 judgment delivered by a coordinate Bench – which had expressed “serious reservations” about the Justice Kumar-headed Bench’s January ruling refusing bail to activists



The matter must ordinarily be placed before the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of an appropriate Bench. A coordinate Bench cannot, by strong observations, effectively unsettle the ratio of an earlier coordinate Bench while continuing to sit in equal strength

SUPREME COURT

Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the Delhi riots “larger conspiracy” case – had proceeded on a “blanket generalisation” of Supreme Court precedents.

‘Facts of each case’

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, told the Bench that the question of bail must turn on the facts and circumstances of each case. “Latest [May 18] judgement says you don’t

have to see the role, you don’t have to see the nature of the crime. So there is no categorisation... This can’t be done. This can’t be how it has to be applied. It has to be applied to the facts of each case. That’s what your Lordships have precisely done,” Mr. Raju submitted.

He contended that courts must strike a balance between the “interests of society and victims” and the “rights of the ac-

cused” while considering bail under terror statutes.

The May 18 judgment, delivered by Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, had underlined that the January 5 verdict failed to correctly apply the binding principles laid down by a larger three-judge Bench in *Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb* (2021) case, which held that prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can “melt down” the stringent bail embargo under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA.

The Justice Kumar-led Bench on Friday said that the “discipline of precedent” does not permit a coordinate Bench to express “reservations of a fundamental character” on the alleged misapplication of a larger Bench ruling without the matter first being placed before a Bench of appropriate strength to resolve the “perceived conflict”.

The court further observed that the reliance placed by the accused on its January ruling granting conditional bail to student activist Gulfisha Fatima and four other co-accused, while denying relief to Mr. Khalid and Mr. Imam after distinguishing their alleged roles, was “not without significance”.

‘Perceived conflict’

“If [the ruling] had proceeded on the basis that Section 43D (5) eclipses Article 21, or that prolonged incarceration has no constitutional bearing in UAPA prosecutions, it could hardly have been invoked by accused persons seeking enlargement on bail. The very reliance placed upon it demonstrates that the said decision cannot be placed in a rigid or one-sided frame,” the Bench observed.

The Bench cautioned that an “unqualified read-

ing” of the proposition that mere passage of time may compel bail in every UAPA case could have “serious consequences”. Such an approach, it said, would leave courts with little room to examine factors such as the nature of the allegations, the centrality of the accused’s role, protection of witnesses, the risk of intimidation, possible reactivation of networks, whether delays were attributable to the accused, and broader concerns of public order and national security.

At the same time, the Bench acknowledged that an “equally unqualified insistence” on Section 43D (5), without regard to prolonged incarceration, would imperil the guarantee of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. This “perceived conflict”, it said, warranted consideration by a larger Bench.

— UAPA Bail Curbs Referred to Larger Bench

अनुच्छेद 21 बनाम UAPA धारा 43D(5) — बड़ी पीठ को मामला

WHY IN NEWS / चर्चा में क्यों

- **SC granted 6-month interim bail to Abdul Khalid Saifi & Tasleem Ahmad (Delhi riots 2020).**
SC ने सैफी व अहमद को 6 माह अंतरिम जमानत दी (दिल्ली दंगा 2020)।
- **Bench (Justices Aravind Kumar, P.B. Varale) referred core issue to CJI for larger Bench.**
पीठ (जस्टिस अरविंद कुमार, पी.बी. वराले) ने मुख्य प्रश्न को CJI के पास भेजा।
- **Issue: Can prolonged jail + trial delay override stringent UAPA bail bar (Sec 43D(5))?**
मुद्दा: क्या लंबी कैद + सुनवाई देरी UAPA जमानत बाधा को रद्द कर सकती है?
- **Two SC coordinate Benches gave conflicting views (Jan 5 vs May 18, 2026 rulings).**
दो SC समान-स्तरीय पीठों के परस्पर विरोधी निर्णय (5 जन v 18 मई 2026)।
- **Related to Umar Khalid–Sharjeel Imam 'larger conspiracy' case — still in jail.**
उमर खालिद–शरजील इमाम 'बड़ी साजिश' केस से संबंधित — अभी भी जेल में।

UAPA — Key Facts, Legal Framework & Players

KEY DATA / मुख्य आँकड़े

1967

UAPA Enacted / लागू वर्ष

2019

Last Major Amendment / अंतिम संशोधन

43D(5)

Bail-Bar Section / जमानत धारा

6 mo

Interim Bail to Saifi/Ahmad

CONSTITUTIONAL ANGLE / संवैधानिक पक्ष

- **Article 21:** Right to Life & Personal Liberty / जीवन व स्वतंत्रता
- **Article 141:** Doctrine of Precedent / पूर्व-निर्णय सिद्धांत
- **Section 43D(5) UAPA:** Bail bar if accusation prima facie true / प्रथम दृष्टया सत्य
- **K.A. Najeeb (2021):** 3-judge Bench: delay can 'melt' bail bar / जमानत बाधा पिघले
- **Coordinate Bench Rule:** Equal-strength bench cannot overrule another
- **NIA Act, 2008:** Investigates UAPA offences / जांच एजेंसी

Core Tension: National Security (Sec 43D(5)) vs Personal Liberty (Article 21)

मुख्य तनाव: राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा बनाम व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता

'Birth rate, infant deaths fall in India'

Ramya Kannan

CHENNAI

The bulletin from the recent Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2024 provides the sharpest picture yet of India in the throes of demographic transition.

As per the latest estimate, while the country's birth rate has fallen between 2014 and 2024 and the death rate is down marginally, good gains have been reported with the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), amid substantial progress made over the last decade. However, vast gaps persist between rural and urban areas and progress across the country is uneven, making the call for equitable growth and appropriate deployment of resources particularly sound.

Changing trends

India's birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate have fallen over the last decade, though vast rural-urban gaps and uneven progress persist



Indicator	2014	2024	Difference
Birth rate	21	18.3*	Down by 2.7 points
Death rate	6.7	6.4**	Down by 0.3 points
Infant mortality rate	39	24 [#]	Down by 15 points

■ Kerala has a single-digit IMR of 8, the lowest in the country

*Births per population of 1,000

**Deaths per population of 1,000

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births

Source: SRS Bulletin 2024

The country's birth rate – live births per 1,000 population – fell from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024, while the death rate (deaths per 1,000 people) is down from 6.7 to 6.4. The IMR, recorded as the number of deaths per thousand live births, has dropped from 39 to 24. While the overall

performance is creditable, indicating several measures being launched by the Centre and States to improve healthcare outcomes, the disappointment is in the relatively worse performance in rural areas. In fact, they drag the country's averages down substantially.

For instance, while the rural birth rate fell from 22.7 to 20.2 in the given decade, the simultaneous decadal performance in the urban areas was better – the birth rate fell from 17.4 to 14.7. In the rural areas, the death rate fell from 7.3 to 6.8 between 2014 and 2024, and in the urban segment, it was at 5.5 in 2014 and went up marginally to 5.6 -- still a better performance than in rural areas.

The gains of urban areas in this bulletin are probably the most appreciable result in the field of IMR, dropping from 26 to 17 by nine points. While it has dropped 16 points from 43 to 27 in the rural areas during the same period, it is still further away from the national target to reduce the IMR to single digits.

— SRS 2024 Bulletin: India's Demographic Transition

WHY IN NEWS / चर्चा में क्यों

- SRS 2024 Bulletin released — sharpest picture of demographic transition.

SRS 2024 बुलेटिन जारी — जनसांख्यिकीय संक्रमण की स्पष्ट तस्वीर।

- Birth Rate: 21 → 18.3 (drop of 2.7) over 2014–24.

जन्म दर: 21 → 18.3 (2.7 अंक गिरावट)।

- IMR: 39 → 24 (15-point drop) — biggest gain.

शिशु मृत्यु दर 39 → 24 — सबसे बड़ी सफलता।

- Kerala IMR = 8 (single digit, best in India).

केरल IMR = 8 (देश में सर्वश्रेष्ठ)।

- Vast rural-urban gap persists; urban death rate rose slightly.

ग्रामीण-शहरी अंतर बना; शहरी मृत्यु दर हल्की बढ़ी।

AT A GLANCE / एक नज़र

18.3

Birth Rate / जन्म दर (per 1,000)

6.4

Death Rate / मृत्यु दर

24

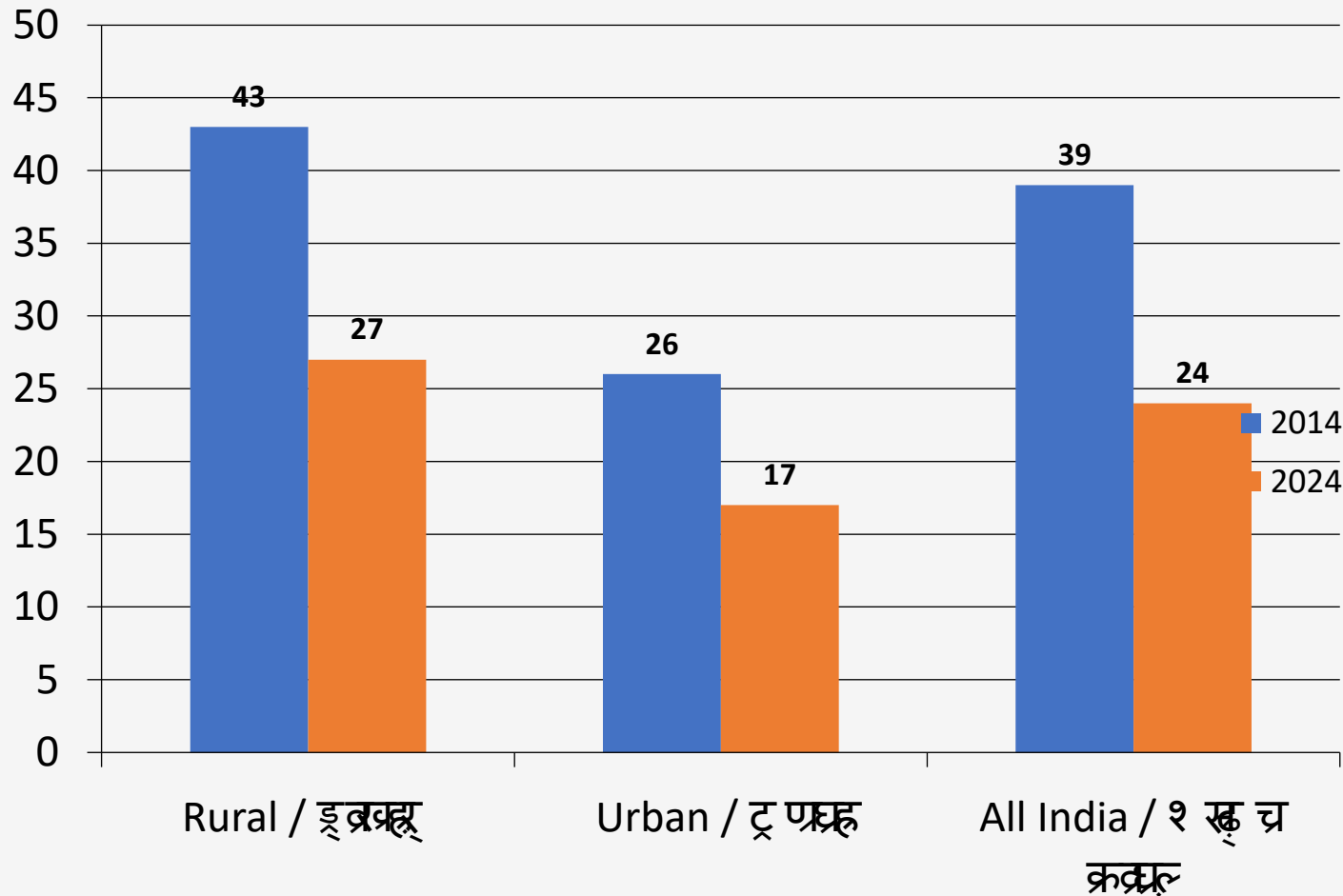
IMR / शिशु मृत्यु दर (per 1,000 live births)

8

Kerala IMR (Lowest / न्यूनतम)


Rural-Urban Divide in IMR (2014 vs 2024)

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)



KEY INSIGHTS / मुख्य निष्कर्ष

- Rural IMR (27) is 1.6× urban IMR (17).
ग्रामीण IMR शहरी से 1.6 गुना।
- Rural birth rate 20.2 vs Urban 14.7.
ग्रामीण जन्म दर 20.2; शहरी 14.7।
- Urban death rate UP from 5.5 → 5.6 (lifestyle/ageing).
शहरी मृत्यु दर बढ़ी (जीवनशैली/वृद्धावस्था)।
- SDG-3 target IMR ≤25 by 2030 — achieved at national level.
SDG-3 लक्ष्य IMR ≤25 — राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्राप्त।
- TFR (NFHS-5) = 2.0, below replacement 2.1.
TFR = 2.0, प्रतिस्थापन से नीचे।

Rank	Country / Territory	Birth / fertility situation	Main reason	
1	South Korea दक्षिण कोरिया	World's lowest fertility level; TFR around 0.80 in 2025, after 0.75 in 2024. दुनिया की सबसे कम fertility; 2025 में TFR लगभग 0.80, 2024 में 0.75।	Late marriage, high housing cost, work pressure, childcare cost. देर से विवाह, महंगा आवास, work pressure, childcare cost।	
2	Taiwan ताइवान	Extremely low fertility; often among the lowest in Asia. fertility अत्यंत कम; एशिया में सबसे कम में शामिल।	Urbanisation, high living cost, career pressure. urbanisation, high living cost, career pressure।	
3	Hong Kong हांगकांग	Very low birth rate and very low fertility. जन्म दर और fertility बहुत कम।	High housing cost, delayed marriage, small family preference. महंगा आवास, देर से विवाह, small family preference।	
4	Singapore सिंगापुर	Very low fertility despite strong government support. सरकारी support के बावजूद fertility बहुत कम।	Education-career priority, high cost of raising children. education-career priority, बच्चों को पालने की अधिक लागत।	
5	Japan जापान	Very low births; Japan recorded historically low births recently and deaths far exceeded births. जन्म बहुत कम; हाल के वर्षों में जापान में जन्म ऐतिहासिक रूप से कम और मृत्यु जन्म से बहुत अधिक रही।	Ageing, delayed marriage, job insecurity, high living cost. ageing, delayed marriage, job insecurity, high living cost।	
6	China चीन	Birth rate has fallen sharply; population decline has begun. जन्म दर तेजी से घटी; जनसंख्या घटनी शुरू हुई।	One-child policy legacy, high education cost, urban lifestyle. one-child policy legacy, महंगी शिक्षा, urban lifestyle।	

3. Countries with very low infant mortality rate

3. बहुत कम शिशु मृत्यु दर वाले देश

Rank	Country	Infant death situation	Reason for low infant mortality
1	Japan जापान	Among the lowest infant mortality countries. सबसे कम शिशु मृत्यु दर वाले देशों में शामिल।	Strong healthcare, safe delivery, vaccination, nutrition. मजबूत healthcare, सुरक्षित delivery, vaccination, nutrition।
2	Singapore सिंगापुर	Very low infant mortality. शिशु मृत्यु दर बहुत कम।	High-quality hospitals and maternal care. उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले hospital और maternal care।
3	Iceland आइसलैंड	Very low infant mortality. शिशु मृत्यु दर बहुत कम।	Universal healthcare and strong child-care services. universal healthcare और strong child-care services।
4	Finland फिनलैंड	Very low infant mortality. शिशु मृत्यु दर बहुत कम।	Public health system, maternal support, early screening. public health system, maternal support, early screening।
5	Norway नॉर्वे	Very low infant mortality. शिशु मृत्यु दर बहुत कम।	Welfare state, healthcare access, high nutrition. welfare state, healthcare access, high nutrition।
6	Sweden स्वीडन	Very low infant mortality. शिशु मृत्यु दर बहुत कम।	Strong public health and maternity benefits. strong public health और maternity benefits।
7	Slovenia स्लोवेनिया	Very low infant mortality in Europe. यूरोप में बहुत कम शिशु मृत्यु दर।	Good healthcare and newborn care. अच्छी healthcare और newborn care।
8	Estonia एस्टोनिया	Low infant mortality. कम शिशु मृत्यु दर।	Digital health and maternal-child care. digital health और maternal-child care।

SC grants bail to man held under UAPA after 5 years

Brijeshwar Balamurali
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed bail to a young man, from Jammu and Kashmir accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being part of a cross-border conspiracy to "ignite, excite,煽动 and incite" to commit terrorist acts in the Valley being held under UAPA for five years.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Jayaprakash Narayan said that the man, Subal Akhla, had remained in custody as an incidental since his arrest in October 2018.

The Supreme Court said that the trial would take place. Meanwhile, bail was granted to the man in the trial already made. The court said that the man should be charged on bail considering the period of time he had already

spent behind bars as an arrested.

The court did not make any comment on the review of the case against Mr. Akhla, and suggested that to stringent conditions to be imposed by the NIA court in Delhi.

Mr. Akhla's counsel said there were 100-odd witnesses in the case. The only allegation against his client was that he took two permits to a house. The National Investigative Agency (NIA) had alleged to build a case against him through "wiretaps" allegedly heard on his phone.

"The only evidence against him is what I get from... nothing against him. The prosecution witness have not said anything to implicate him," the counsel submitted.

The release on bail has come only a few days after the court had decreased the role of non-Indian citizens in terrorism. The court said that the man should be charged on bail considering the period of time he had already

Supreme Court asks panel to review cartoons in textbooks

Order comes after Solicitor-General says cartoons published in NCERT textbooks would be viewed by children of an impressionable age; Justice Indu Malhotra committee to look into the matter

Brijeshwar Balamurali
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked a former apex court judge-led committee to review cartoons published in NCERT textbooks after the Solicitor-General Indu Malhotra said that "school books is not a space where you see cartoons".

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Jayaprakash Narayan, Mr. Malhotra, representing the Union Government, raised an objection about cartoons he happened to come across in NCERT textbooks during a case on "sex" NCERT textbooks.

Mr. Malhotra objected to the question whether cartoons in Class 6 Social Science textbook about the "sex" NCERT textbooks.

The Solicitor-General said "sex" NCERT textbooks are not meant for children of an impressionable age".



The objective is to review cartoons in NCERT textbooks published in Class 6 Social Science textbook about the "sex" NCERT textbooks.

The top law officer brought up the issue of cartoons in NCERT textbooks during a case on "sex" NCERT textbooks. Mr. Malhotra objected to the question whether cartoons in Class 6 Social Science textbook about the "sex" NCERT textbooks.

The Solicitor-General said "sex" NCERT textbooks are not meant for children of an impressionable age".

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The Solicitor-General said "sex" NCERT textbooks are not meant for children of an impressionable age".

Subsequent to the order, the Solicitor-General Indu Malhotra said that "school books is not a space where you see cartoons".

At the time, the NCERT had also represented the National Textbook Commission.

In the past, the court had expressed that the "art of cartoons" should not be evolved by a "naughty and irresponsible individual", but a responsible person who could see the lighter side.

Mr. Justice Indu Malhotra said on Friday, the Bench agreed with Mr. Malhotra that cartoons in NCERT textbooks should be reviewed by the government through the National Textbook Commission.

The committee, which included senior advocates K.K. Venugopal and Prof. Prakash Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Indian Council, New Delhi.

Union govt. extends NCB chief Anurag Garg's tenure

Pran Prasad
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the tenure of Narcotics Control Bureau chief Anurag Garg till July 31, 2023, the date of his resignation, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

Mr. Garg, a 1983 batch Indian Police Service officer of Haryana cadre, was appointed Director General of the NCB in September 2018. His tenure was to end on May 25.

The NCB recently arrested several drug trafficking syndicates and made the country first-ever seizure of Cannabis, the so-called "Black Dog". The NCB has recently also secured the seizure of methamphetamine drug trafficking syndicates and made the country first-ever seizure of methamphetamine.

Cong. alleges cover-up of NEEET leak, demands accountability from govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday accused the Narendra Modi-led Union government of attempting to "cover up" alleged irregularities in the NEEET 2022 examination, with party general secretary Kamal Nath saying both the Prime Minister and the Union Education Minister must be held accountable for the "cover-up" and "leakage cover-up".

Mr. Nath, a 1983 batch Indian Police Service officer of Haryana cadre, was appointed Director General of the NCB in September 2018. His tenure was to end on May 25.

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Since the NTA was formed, the Modi government and its associates have been colluding with the NTA to suppress the truth.

Mr. Nath said, "It is not a leak, what is? Why is the Modi government trying to suppress the truth?"

In a post on X, Mr. Nath alleged that a "leak paper" containing questions that later appeared in the actual examination had been circulating among students well before the test.

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CBI arrests woman, who was appointed as expert by NTA, for leaking physics questions

Deekha S. Das
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Pune-based woman in connection with the alleged leaking of physics questions in the NTA-conducted exam.

The accused has been identified as Anurag Garg, a 1983 batch Indian Police Service officer of Haryana cadre, who was appointed Director General of the NCB in September 2018.

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Parents, students challenge CBSE three-language rule

Brijeshwar Balamurali
NEW DELHI

Parents and students have approached the Supreme Court on Friday for an urgent hearing against a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) policy which has made the study of three languages compulsory for Class 10 students from July 1.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Jayaprakash Narayan, on Friday, asked the Solicitor-General to file a response to the petitioners, who sought to challenge the CBSE's decision to make the study of three languages compulsory for Class 10 students from July 1.

The Solicitor-General said that the CBSE's decision to make the study of three languages compulsory for Class 10 students from July 1 was a "policy matter" and not a "legal matter".

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Smart border concept is set to make frontiers 'impregnable': Amit Shah

Vijaya Lakshmi
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the government has decided to not only stop infiltration but also make the borders "impregnable".

Mr. Shah said that a smart border concept will be introduced soon, which will make the entire Indian and Bangladesh borders "impregnable".

The project, equipped with drones, radars, cameras, and other technical resources, will play the part in border security. He said that a technology mission will be announced soon, which will identify the technology to be used in the border security force (BSF).

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HC slams WFI for denying Phogat a chance to participate in Asian Games selection trials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday questioned the role of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) in denying Phogat a chance to participate in the Asian Games selection trials.

Mr. Phogat said that the WFI's decision to deny her a chance to participate in the Asian Games selection trials was "unfair and discriminatory".

The court said that the WFI's decision to deny her a chance to participate in the Asian Games selection trials was "unfair and discriminatory".

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HC grants interim bail to Khaid in 2020 case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday granted interim bail to a woman, who was arrested in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being part of a cross-border conspiracy to "ignite, excite,煽动 and incite" to commit terrorist acts in the Valley being held under UAPA for five years.

The court said that the woman should be granted interim bail on the condition that she will not contact any person who is involved in the case.

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Supreme Court asks panel to review cartoons in textbooks

Order comes after Solicitor-General says cartoons published in NCERT textbooks would be viewed by children of an 'impressionable age'; Justice Indu Malhotra committee to look into the matter

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked a former apex court judge-led committee to review cartoons published in NCERT textbooks after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta pointed out that "textbook is not a space where you use cartoons".

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Mr. Mehta, representing the Union Government, raised an objection about cartoons he happened to come across in "some" NCERT textbooks.

Mr. Mehta's objection raised the question whether children should be exposed to satire or lampoon through their study books.

The Solicitor-General said "per se" there were no objections to cartoons, but the ones printed in the school textbooks "were in a context" and would be seen by children of an "impressionable age".



The objection raised the point whether children should be exposed to satire or lampoon through their study books. FILE PHOTO

The top law officer brought up the issue of cartoons displayed in NCERT textbooks during a *suo motu* hearing concerning a recent controversy about the contents in a Class 8 Social Science textbook about the judiciary.

Ban on textbook

In February, the court had *prima facie* concluded that the content was intended towards "maligning the Indian judiciary". It had initiated contempt proceed-

ings and ordered a "blanket and complete" ban on the textbook.

On Friday, the Bench agreed with Mr. Mehta that the propriety of the cartoons published in the textbook should go to the government-appointed committee headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice Indu Malhotra. The committee, which included senior advocate K.K. Venugopal and Prof. Prakash Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan

Bahuguna Garhwal University, is collaborating with the National Judicial Academy at Bhopal to shape the Legal Studies curricula for Class 8 and other grades.

At the time, the NCERT had also reconstituted the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee.

In the past, the court had emphasised that the "art of satire" should not be left to be evaluated by a "touchy and hyper-sensitive individual", but a reasonable person who could see the lighter side.

The court's 2020 judgment in *Indibily Creative (P) Ltd. v. State of West Bengal* had flagged satire's "unique ability to quickly and clearly make a point and facilitate understanding in ways that other forms of communication and expression often do not". The court had argued that choking freedom of expression stifled debate and endangered the stability of the community.

Parents, students challenge CBSE three-language rule

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Parents and students have approached the Supreme Court on Friday for an urgent hearing against a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) policy which has made the study of three languages compulsory for Class 9 students from July 1.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the petitioners, asked how Class 9 students were to "suddenly start learning a new language" with the Class 10 Board exam looming next year.

Mr. Rohatgi said there was clear distress among students who were already saddled with academic load and peer pressure.

The senior advocate sought a hearing on Monday. The CJ said the petition would be listed next week before the appropriate Bench.

The three-language rule was declared in a circular issued by the Board on May 15. The circular said that at

The Board said that at least 2 of the 3 languages for Class 9 students must be Indian languages

least two of the three languages must be Indian languages. The circular said the rule was part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

The CBSE had clarified that there would be no Board examination for the third language in Class 10.

Internal assessment

"All assessments for R3 (third language) shall be entirely school-based and internal. The performance of students in R3 will be duly reflected in the CBSE certificate," the Board said in the circular.

CBSE said schools could offer any language, but at least two of them must be Indian languages. Foreign languages could be taken only as the third or an optional fourth language.

Education Policy Twin Issues (NCERT Cartoons + CBSE 3-Language)

Issue A: NCERT Cartoons / NCERT कार्टून

- SC asked Justice Indu Malhotra panel to review cartoons in NCERT textbooks.

SC ने पूर्व जज इंदु मल्होत्रा समिति को कार्टून समीक्षा हेतु कहा।

- SG Tushar Mehta: 'Textbook not a space for cartoons' — children impressionable.

SG तुषार मेहता: 'पाठ्यपुस्तक कार्टून का स्थान नहीं'।

- Feb 2026: SC prima facie said content was 'maligning Indian judiciary'.

फरवरी 2026: सामग्री न्यायपालिका को बदनाम कर रही — प्रथम दृष्टया।

- Panel includes K.K. Venugopal, Prof. Prakash Singh (V-C, HNBSU).

समिति: के.के. वेणुगोपाल, प्रो. प्रकाश सिंह (कुलपति)।

- 2020 Indibily ruling: Satire has 'unique ability' to make a point.

2020 इंडिबिली निर्णय: व्यंग्य की 'अद्वितीय क्षमता'।

Issue B: CBSE 3-Language Rule / त्रिभाषा नियम

- CBSE circular 15 May 2026: 3 languages compulsory for Class 9 from 1 July.

CBSE परिपत्र 15 मई 2026: कक्षा 9 हेतु 3 भाषाएँ अनिवार्य।

- At least 2 of the 3 must be Indian languages (per NEP 2020 + NCF-SE 2023).

तीन में दो भारतीय भाषाएँ अनिवार्य।

- No Board exam for 3rd language in Class 10 — internal assessment.

तीसरी भाषा हेतु कोई बोर्ड परीक्षा नहीं — आंतरिक मूल्यांकन।

- Mukul Rohatgi (for petitioners) cited distress, Board exam looming 2027.

मुकुल रोहतगी: छात्र दबाव में, अगले वर्ष बोर्ड परीक्षा।

- Three-language formula = Kothari Commission 1968.

त्रिभाषा फार्मूला = कोठारी आयोग 1968।

Rs 2.86 lakh cr: RBI clears record surplus transfer to Centre

Contingency risk buffer hiked by over Rs 64,000 cr to Rs 109,379 cr

George Mathew
Mumbai, May 22

AT A time when the West Asia conflict and the surge in crude oil prices are weighing heavy on the fisc, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board Friday approved a record surplus transfer of Rs 2,86,588 crore to the Central Government for the accounting year 2025-26, offering a significant boost to the Centre's finances.

The higher dividend could help improve the government's overall fiscal position and provide greater flexibility in policy spending during an increasingly tough year ahead.

The dividend payout is approximately 6.7 per cent, or Rs 17,998 crore, higher than the Rs 2,68,590 crore transferred by the RBI in 2024-25, marking the highest-ever surplus transfer by the central bank. The RBI had paid Rs 2,10,874



Dividend payout 6.7 per cent higher than what RBI transferred to the government in 2024-25. REUTERS FILE

E. EXPLAINED

Sparing some for market intervention

The amount transferred to the government could have crossed Rs 3.5 lakh crore had the RBI limited the contingency risk buffer to last year's level. But transfers to the buffer will help the central bank intervene in the financial market as per evolving macro conditions.

crore in FY2023-24 and Rs 87,416 crore in FY2022-23.

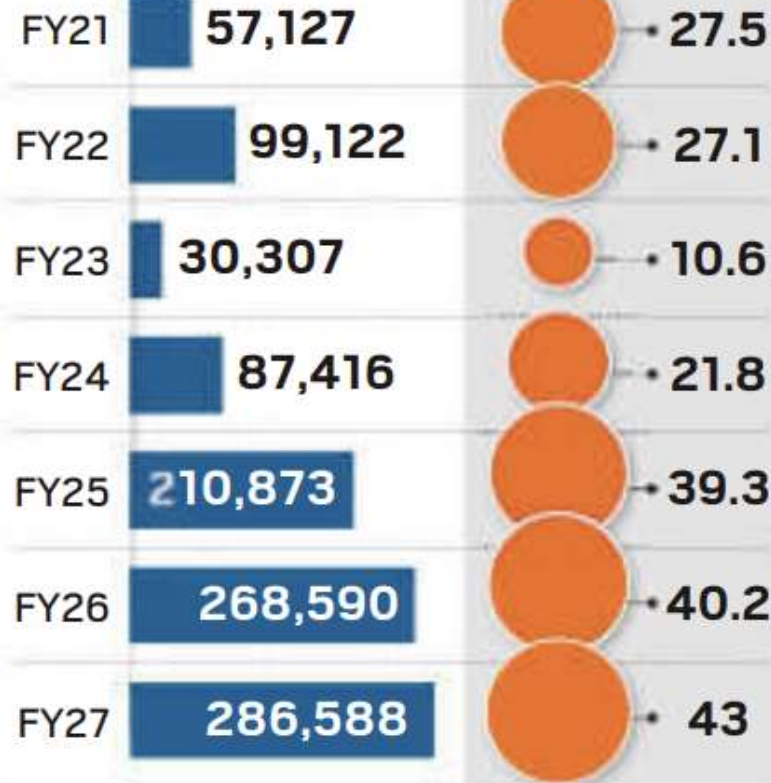
The sharp increase in dividend payouts was supported by the RBI's strong earnings during the year. At the same time, the RBI raised the contingency risk buffer (CRB) to Rs 109,379 crore to create a safeguard in case geopolitical tensions escalate or crude oil prices worsen. A significant contributor to higher surplus was the central bank's large-scale sale of US dollars in the foreign exchange market to support the rupee amid persistent depreciation pressures, leading to substantial trading gains for the RBI.

"The transfer would have been Rs 64,518 crore higher had the RBI limited contingency

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WINDFALL GAINS

RBI surplus transfer to the government (₹ crore)



■ RBI's balance sheet expanded 20.61% on year to ₹91,97,121 cr as of March 31

■ Contingency risk buffer for 2025-26 is 6.5% of the balance sheet

■ The dividend is a key source of non-tax revenue for the Centre in recent years

— RBI Approves Record ₹2.86 Lakh Cr Surplus to Centre

₹2,86,588 Cr

Record Dividend FY 2025–26 / रिकॉर्ड लाभांश

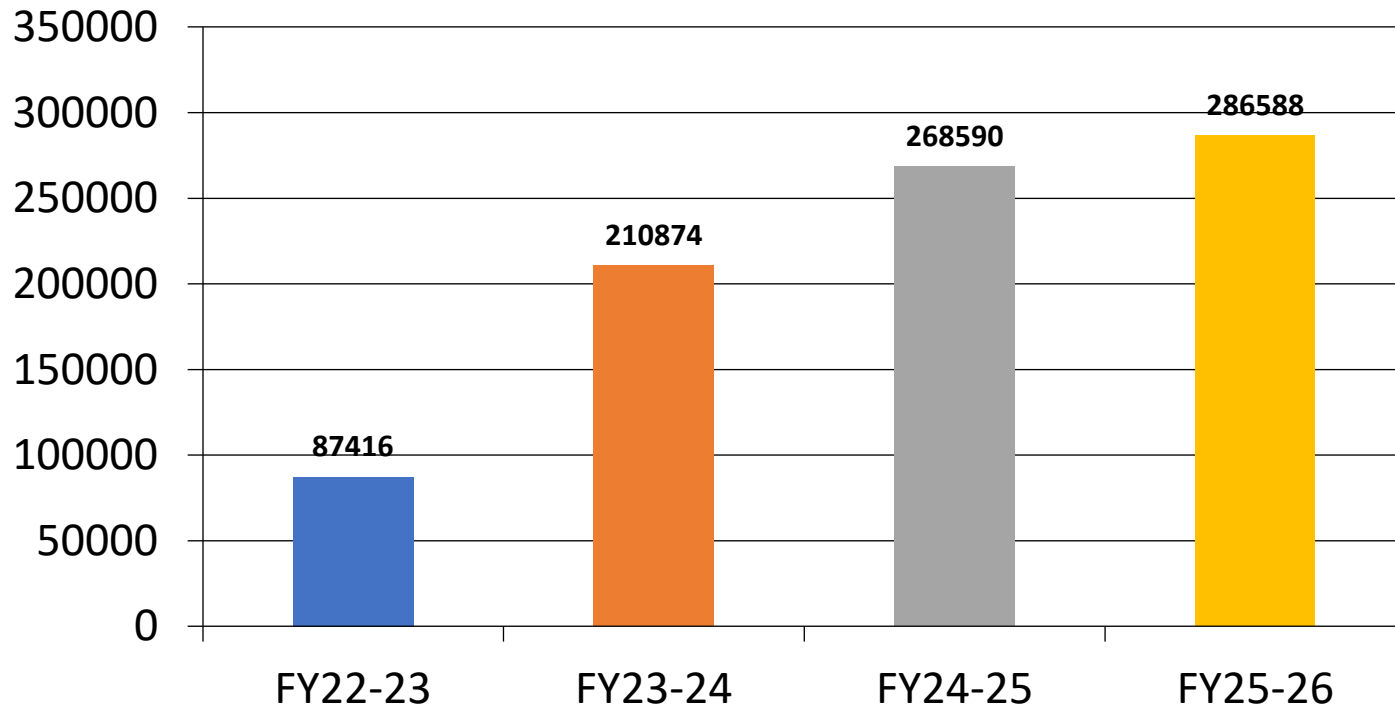
+6.7%

vs ₹2,68,590 Cr in FY25 / पिछले वर्ष से अधिक

₹1,09,379 Cr

Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) / जोखिम बफर

RBI Surplus Transfer Trend / RBI श्रेश ट्रेंड इजाजत



KEY FACTS / रकम लक्ष

- Section 47 of RBI Act, 1934 governs surplus transfer.
RBI अधिनियम धारा 47 शासित करती है।
- Bimal Jalan Committee (2019) → Economic Capital Framework.
बिमल जालान समिति (2019) — ECF।
- Income sources: USD sales (forex gains), G-Sec interest.
आय स्रोत: डॉलर बिक्री, G-Sec ब्याज।
- Helps Centre meet fiscal deficit target ~4.4% GDP.
केंद्र को राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य पूरा करने में सहायक।
- Governor: Sanjay Malhotra (26th, since Dec 2024).
गवर्नर: संजय मल्होत्रा (26वें)।

Q1. UAPA Section 43D(5)

Consider the following statements:

1. It applies only to foreign nationals.
2. Bars bail if accusations are prima facie true.
3. SC in K.A. Najeeb (2021): prolonged trial delay can override the bar.
4. UAPA was first enacted in 1985.

Options:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only**
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

(1) Wrong — applies to all (4) Wrong — UAPA = 1967, not 1985

गलत कथन: (1) सभी पर लागू; (4) UAPA = 1967

Q2. RBI Surplus Transfer

Consider the following statements:

1. Surplus transfer is decided by Finance Ministry alone.
2. Section 47 of RBI Act 1934 mandates the transfer.
3. Economic Capital Framework was by Bimal Jalan Committee (2019).
4. CRB is intended for routine operational expenses.

Options:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only**
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

(1) Wrong — RBI Board decides (4) Wrong — CRB for shocks, not routine

गलत कथन: (1) RBI बोर्ड; (4) आकस्मिक झटकों हेतु

Why rising govt bond yields are bad news for people and businesses



**GRAPHS,
DATA,
PERSPECTIVES**
BY UDIT MISRA

WEEKLY ECONOMIC AND POLICY INSIGHTS USING DATA

IT IS becoming increasingly costly for governments across the world to borrow money. In many cases, the interest rates that lenders are charging are reaching their highest levels since the global financial crisis of 2008.

What's more, this upward shift has been quite sharp, which is a problem all by itself, regardless of the level of interest rates. Sharply rising borrowing costs for governments imply that borrowing costs for average consumers will also rise, possibly by a greater degree.

Why governments borrow money

In most countries, governments struggle to meet their expenditures just from taxation and other revenue sources. As such, governments have to borrow money to meet the gap.

This demand is typically higher in developing countries and lower in developed countries, simply because developed countries' governments are more capable and efficient at raising tax revenues. Poorer countries don't have enough people in the well-off bracket to tax.

Repeated crises have meant that even developed countries have struggled to grow fast enough to meet their expenses, thus resorting to higher levels of borrowing — not just in absolute amounts but also as a percentage of their GDP (or size of the economy).

How governments borrow money

In any economy, the government is the least risky borrower because it is least likely to fail in paying back. It is, after all, the government. In a crisis, it can even resort to printing money — a facility not available to businesses or households.

However, governments borrow in a different way. They float a bond — referred to as Treasuries in the US, Gilts in the UK, Bunds in Germany, G-Secs or government securities in India, and JGBs in Japan — essentially like an "I owe you" statement.

It states that the government borrows a particular sum (say \$100) for a particular

● It is getting costlier for governments to borrow

YIELDS FOR 10-YEAR GOVT BOND	DEC 2024	DEC 2025	MAY 2026
United States	4.581%	4.179%	4.560%
Japan	1.070%	2.079%	2.764%
United Kingdom	4.573%	4.474%	4.922%
Germany	2.362%	2.862%	3.060%
China	1.688%	1.850%	1.750%
India	6.870%	6.588%	7.085%

SOURCE: WORLDGOVERNMENTBONDS.COM

Government's guarantee

● The government is the least risky borrower because it is least likely to fail in paying back.

● Governments borrow by floating a bond, which is essentially like an "I owe you" statement.

period (say 10 years) and promises to pay a given return or coupon at the end of each year (say \$5) apart from paying back the principal at the end of 10 years. Unlike the annual interest rate (expressed in percentage) for home, car or factory loans, government bonds provide a predetermined exact amount. If all goes well, the annual interest rate (or yield) for this example will be 5%.

But imagine that the government decides to launch a war and, as a result, inflation starts rising and the government's demand for money also rises, while the economic prospects of the country decline. The government may be forced to borrow more money, but investors and lenders would now demand a higher rate of return

because they are wary of the increased risks. The government would have to promise a higher coupon, say of \$10, on the new bonds.

This will, in turn, make the old bonds (with an annual coupon return of \$5) appear sub-optimal. Holders will try to sell them, often at prices lower than \$100. How much lower? Anyone buying the old bond must have a yield or expected return of 10% from them, and as such, the old bond prices will have to fall to \$50 so that they can be sold in the markets.

Essentially, this is what is happening globally: government bond yields are rising sharply. It must be noted that countries borrow and refinance in trillions of dollars, as such, yield movements are tracked upto three decimal places (*see table*).

Broader impact

Higher yields for government bonds basically translate into even higher interest rates for people and businesses.

They also mean that governments will have to spend even more of their annual budgets towards paying back annual interest on bonds. That, in turn, can only happen either by spending cuts in other areas such as welfare schemes or defence or by higher taxation. In sum, a bond sell-off and rising yields are not good news.

Government bond	<p>A government bond is an "I owe you" document issued by the government to borrow money for a fixed period.</p> <p>सरकारी बॉन्ड सरकार द्वारा पैसा उधार लेने के लिए जारी किया गया "I owe you" दस्तावेज होता है।</p>
Bond yield	<p>Bond yield means the return an investor expects from a bond.</p> <p>बॉन्ड यील्ड का अर्थ है बॉन्ड से निवेशक को मिलने वाला अपेक्षित रिटर्न।</p>
Coupon rate	<p>Coupon is the fixed interest promised by the bond issuer.</p> <p>कूपन रेट बॉन्ड जारी करने वाली संस्था द्वारा दिया जाने वाला निश्चित ब्याज होता है।</p>
Bond price vs yield	<p>Bond price and bond yield move in opposite directions. If bond prices fall, yields rise.</p> <p>बॉन्ड की कीमत और यील्ड विपरीत दिशा में चलते हैं। बॉन्ड की कीमत घटती है तो यील्ड बढ़ती है।</p>
Why yield rises	<p>Yields rise when investors demand higher returns due to inflation, fiscal deficit, high borrowing, global interest rates, or risk perception.</p> <p>महंगाई, राजकोषीय घाटा, अधिक सरकारी उधारी, वैश्विक ब्याज दरों और जोखिम की धारणा बढ़ने पर यील्ड बढ़ती है।</p>
Indian term	<p>In India, long-term government bonds are called dated Government Securities or G-Secs; Treasury Bills are short-term securities. RBI explains that G-Secs are tradable instruments issued by Central or State governments. Reserve Bank of I...</p> <p>भारत में दीर्घकालीन सरकारी बॉन्ड को dated Government Securities या G-Secs कहा जाता है; Treasury Bills अल्पकालीन प्रतिभूतियां होती हैं। RBI के अनुसार G-Secs केंद्र या राज्य सरकार द्वारा जारी किए जाने वाले व्यापार योग्य साधन हैं। Reserve Bank of I...</p>

2. Why rising government bond yields are bad news

2. सरकारी बॉन्ड यील्ड बढ़ना क्यों चिंता की बात है

Area	Impact
Government borrowing	Government has to pay higher interest on new borrowings. सरकार को नई उधारी पर अधिक ब्याज देना पड़ता है।
Budget pressure	More money goes into interest payment, leaving less for welfare, defence, education, health and infrastructure. अधिक पैसा ब्याज भुगतान में जाता है, जिससे कल्याण, रक्षा, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए कम पैसा बचता है।
People	Home loans, car loans, education loans and personal loans may become costlier. होम लोन, कार लोन, एजुकेशन लोन और पर्सनल लोन महंगे हो सकते हैं।
Businesses	Companies may borrow at higher rates, reducing investment and expansion. कंपनियों की उधारी महंगी हो सकती है, जिससे निवेश और विस्तार घट सकता है।
Stock market	Higher bond yields make bonds more attractive than equities, so stock markets may face pressure. अधिक बॉन्ड यील्ड बॉन्ड को शेयरों की तुलना में आकर्षक बनाती है, इसलिए शेयर बाजार पर दबाव आ सकता है।
Currency and FPI	High yields may attract foreign investors, but if yields rise due to risk, foreign investors may exit. अधिक यील्ड विदेशी निवेशकों को आकर्षित कर सकती है, लेकिन यदि यील्ड जोखिम के कारण बढ़ रही है तो विदेशी निवेशक बाहर भी जा सकते हैं।

3. लेख से महत्वपूर्ण आंकड़े

Country	10-year govt bond yield: Dec 2024	Dec 2025	May 2026	Exam observation
United States संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका	4.581%	4.179%	4.560%	Yield again moved close to 2024 level. यील्ड फिर 2024 के स्तर के पास पहुंची।
Japan जापान	1.070%	2.079%	2.764%	Sharp rise; important because Japan historically had very low yields. तेज वृद्धि; जापान लंबे समय तक कम यील्ड वाला देश रहा है।
United Kingdom यूनाइटेड किंगडम	4.573%	4.474%	4.922%	High borrowing cost pressure. उधारी लागत पर अधिक दबाव।
Germany जर्मनी	2.362%	2.862%	3.060%	Eurozone borrowing cost rising. यूरोजोन की उधारी लागत बढ़ रही है।
China चीन	1.688%	1.850%	1.750%	Relatively stable and lower than others. अन्य देशों की तुलना में अपेक्षाकृत स्थिर और कम।
India भारत	6.870%	6.588%	7.085%	Higher than developed economies; reflects inflation, fiscal and market-risk expectations. विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं से अधिक; यह महंगाई, राजकोषीय स्थिति और बाजार जोखिम की अपेक्षाओं को दिखाता है।

Term	Meaning	Importance
G-Sec	Government Security issued by Central or State Government. केंद्र या राज्य सरकार द्वारा जारी सरकारी प्रतिभूति।	Considered low default-risk/gilt-edged. कम default-risk/gilt-edged मानी जाती है।
Treasury Bill	Short-term instrument issued by Government of India. भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अल्पकालीन साधन।	Issued at discount and redeemed at face value; no regular coupon. डिस्काउंट पर जारी, face value पर redeem; नियमित कूपन नहीं।
Dated Security	Long-term government bond with fixed maturity. निश्चित परिपक्वता वाली दीर्घकालीन सरकारी प्रतिभूति।	Used for long-term government borrowing. दीर्घकालीन सरकारी उधारी के लिए उपयोग।
Yield Curve	Graph showing yields of bonds of different maturities. अलग-अलग maturity वाले बॉन्ड की यील्ड दिखाने वाला ग्राफ।	Inverted yield curve may signal future slowdown. inverted yield curve भविष्य की मंदी का संकेत दे सकता है।
Crowding out	High government borrowing pushes up interest rates and reduces private investment. अधिक सरकारी उधारी ब्याज दर बढ़ाकर निजी निवेश को कम कर सकती है।	Important for UPSC economy mains. UPSC economy mains के लिए महत्वपूर्ण।
Debt servicing	Interest and principal repayment on debt. ऋण पर ब्याज और मूलधन का भुगतान।	High debt servicing reduces fiscal space. अधिक debt servicing राजकोषीय जगह कम करती है।

Question

Consider the following statements about government bond yields:

सरकारी बॉन्ड यील्ड के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. Bond prices and bond yields generally move in opposite directions.

बॉन्ड कीमतें और बॉन्ड यील्ड सामान्यतः विपरीत दिशा में चलती हैं।

2. A rise in government bond yields can increase borrowing costs for businesses and households.

सरकारी बॉन्ड यील्ड बढ़ने से व्यवसायों और परिवारों की उधारी लागत बढ़ सकती है।

3. Treasury Bills in India are long-term securities issued by State Governments.

भारत में Treasury Bills राज्य सरकारों द्वारा जारी दीर्घकालीन प्रतिभूतियां हैं।

Options

(a) 1 only

केवल 1

(b) 1 and 2 only

केवल 1 और 2

(c) 2 and 3 only

केवल 2 और 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3

1, 2 और 3

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a spherical object covered in colorful beads. The beads are arranged in a pattern that resembles a world map, with different colors representing different continents or regions. The person is wearing a vibrant, patterned garment with geometric designs in yellow, red, and black. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

India Records 97 of World's 100 Hottest Cities

Point

Explanation

News

On 22 May 2026, during a severe heatwave, 97 of the world's 100 hottest cities were recorded in India. 22 मई 2026 को दुनिया के 100 सबसे गर्म शहरों में 97 का रिकॉर्ड भारत में दर्ज हुआ।

Highest reported Indian city

Balangir in Odisha touched around 45.4°C. ओडिशा के बालंगिर में तापमान 45.4°C तक पहुंच गया।

Other hot cities mentioned

Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh was also among the hottest places. उत्तर प्रदेश के वाराणसी भी सबसे गर्म स्थानों में शामिल था।

Main affected belt

Northern, central and eastern India were badly affected. उत्तर, मध्य और पूर्वी भारत को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हुआ।

Forecast agency

India Meteorological Department, IMD. भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग, IMD।

Forecast period

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions were forecast till 27 May 2026. 27 मई 2026 तक गर्म से गंभीर गर्मियों का पूर्वानुमान जारी रखा गया।

4. Why India is facing extreme heat?

4. भारत में अत्यधिक गर्मी क्यों बढ़ रही है?

Reason	Explanation
Climate change	Global warming increases the frequency, intensity and duration of heatwaves. ग्लोबल वार्मिंग हीटवेव की आवृत्ति, तीव्रता और अवधि बढ़ाती है।
Urban Heat Island effect	Cities become hotter because of concrete, asphalt, vehicles and reduced green cover. कंक्रीट, डामर, वाहन और कम हरियाली के कारण शहर अधिक गर्म हो जाते हैं।
Dry winds	Hot and dry winds from western and north-western India intensify heat. पश्चिमी और उत्तर-पश्चिमी भारत से आने वाली गर्म व शुष्क हवाएं गर्मी बढ़ाती हैं।
Low humidity	Low humidity with high temperature increases dehydration risk. कम आर्द्रता और अधिक तापमान मिलकर dehydration का खतरा बढ़ाते हैं।
Delayed rainfall	Delay in pre-monsoon showers increases surface heating. प्री-मानसून बारिश में देरी सतह की गर्मी बढ़ाती है।
Deforestation	Loss of vegetation reduces natural cooling. वनस्पति घटने से प्राकृतिक ठंडक कम होती है।

9. PYQs related to Heatwave / Climate / Disaster Management

9. हीटवेव / जलवायु / आपदा प्रबंधन से जुड़े PYQ

Year	Exam	Question theme	Answer / Key idea
2023	UPSC CSE Mains GS Paper 3	Disaster management and preparedness related to climate-induced disasters. जलवायु से जुड़ी आपदाओं की तैयारी और प्रबंधन।	Need early warning, local planning, resilient infrastructure and community awareness. early warning, local planning, resilient infrastructure और community awareness जरूरी।
2022	UPSC CSE Mains GS Paper 3	Climate change and its impact on Indian agriculture. जलवायु परिवर्तन और भारतीय कृषि पर प्रभाव।	Heat stress, rainfall variability, crop loss and adaptation measures are important. heat stress, rainfall variability, crop loss और adaptation measures महत्वपूर्ण।
2021	UPSC CSE Mains GS Paper 3	Disaster risk reduction and Sendai Framework. आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण और Sendai Framework।	Risk reduction, preparedness and resilience are central themes. risk reduction, preparedness और resilience मुख्य विषय हैं।
2020	UPSC CSE Mains GS Paper 3	Urban floods, climate risks and urban planning. शहरी आपदा, जलवायु जोखिम और urban planning।	Urban planning must include climate adaptation. urban planning में climate adaptation शामिल होना चाहिए।
2019	UPSC CSE Mains GS Paper 3	Climate change and extreme weather events. जलवायु परिवर्तन और extreme weather events।	Frequency and intensity of extreme events are increasing. extreme events की आवृत्ति और तीव्रता बढ़ रही है।

Question

Consider the following statements about heatwaves in India:

1. IMD considers both actual maximum temperature and departure from normal temperature for declaring heatwave conditions.

IMD हीटवेव घोषित करने के लिए वास्तविक अधिकतम तापमान और सामान्य तापमान से विचलन दोनों को देखता है।

2. Urban Heat Island effect can intensify heat stress in cities.

Urban Heat Island effect शहरों में heat stress बढ़ा सकता है।

3. Heatwaves affect only human health and have no impact on the economy.

हीटवेव केवल मानव स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित करती है और अर्थव्यवस्था पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं डालती।

Options

(a) 1 only

केवल 1

(b) 1 and 2 only

केवल 1 और 2

(c) 2 and 3 only

केवल 2 और 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3

1, 2 और 3



International Day for Biological Diversity 2026

Point

Exam-relevant content

Day

International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on 22 May. १ जून २०२२ रविवार २२ मई २०२२

2026 Theme

“Acting locally for global impact.” “अभियंता स्थानीय रूप से कार्य करके वैश्विक प्रभाव डालें”

Associated convention

Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD. नैचुरल वनस्पति संरक्षण संधि, CBD

Origin

CBD was opened for signature at the Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992. CBD १९९२ में Rio de Janeiro पर आयोजित Earth Summit के दौरान शुरू हुई।

Focus areas

Ecosystems, species and genetic resources. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र, प्रजातियाँ और आनुवंशिक संसाधन।

Main message

Local conservation practices can create global biodiversity impact. f कृषि, वन्यजीव संरक्षण आदि स्थानीय संरक्षण प्रथाएँ वैश्विक जैव विविधता को बढ़ावा दे सकती हैं।

2. Meaning of Biological Diversity

2. जैव विविधता का अर्थ

Type	Meaning	Example
Genetic diversity	Variation of genes within a species. एक ही प्रजाति के भीतर जीनों की विविधता।	Different millet or rice varieties. बाजरा या धान की अलग-अलग किस्में।
Species diversity	Variety of plant, animal and microbial species. पौधों, जानवरों और सूक्ष्मजीवों की विविधता।	Tiger, elephant, mango, neem, microbes. बाघ, हाथी, आम, नीम, सूक्ष्मजीव।
Ecosystem diversity	Variety of habitats and ecosystems. आवासों और पारिस्थितिकी तंत्रों की विविधता।	Forest, wetland, grassland, desert, coastal ecosystem. वन, आर्द्रभूमि, घासभूमि, मरुस्थल, तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र।

9. CBD and Related Protocols

9. CBD और संबंधित प्रोटोकॉल

Instrument	Purpose	Exam point
Convention on Biological Diversity	Conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and fair benefit sharing. जैव विविधता संरक्षण, सतत उपयोग और लाभों का न्यायपूर्ण बंटवारा।	One of the key outcomes of the 1992 Earth Summit. 1992 Earth Summit का प्रमुख परिणाम।
Cartagena Protocol	Deals with biosafety and Living Modified Organisms. biosafety और Living Modified Organisms से संबंधित।	Important for GM crops and biotechnology. GM crops और biotechnology के लिए महत्वपूर्ण।
Nagoya Protocol	Access and Benefit Sharing of genetic resources. आनुवंशिक संसाधनों तक पहुंच और लाभ-साझेदारी।	Important for traditional knowledge and biopiracy issues. traditional knowledge और biopiracy मुद्दों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण।
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Global framework to halt biodiversity loss. जैव विविधता हानि रोकने के लिए वैश्विक ढांचा।	Includes 30x30 conservation target. इसमें 30x30 conservation target शामिल है।

Question

Consider the following statements:

1. International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on 22 May every year.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता दिवस हर वर्ष 22 मई को मनाया जाता है।

2. The Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

जैव विविधता पर अभिसमय 1992 के Rio Earth Summit में हस्ताक्षर के लिए खोला गया था।

3. Community seed banks help conserve genetic diversity of crops.

सामुदायिक बीज बैंक फसलों की genetic diversity को संरक्षित करने में मदद करते हैं।

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

Options

(a) 1 and 2 only

केवल 1 और 2

(b) 2 and 3 only

केवल 2 और 3

(c) 1 and 3 only

केवल 1 और 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3

1, 2 और 3

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Thank you 😊