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👉 “Stay consistent long enough, and your struggle will stop looking like pain—and start looking like power.”



PREMATURE RETURN
SC says Varde Mataram advisory not a 'threat'
NEWS ■ PAGE 4

AGAINST THE TREND
Drying of Cauvery to persist until 2050: study
SOUTH ■ PAGE 3

'CONSTITUTION ALLOWS IT'
FM defends Centre's right to levy cess
BUSINESS ■ PAGE 12

NARROW DEFINITIONS
The Transgender Bill, a flawed fix
It deepens conflation of gender identities and ignores core crises
EDITORIAL ■ PAGE 8

INDIAN OPEN GOLF
Bhatia and Molinari head a strong field
SPORTS ■ PAGE 17

INSIDE

Judge sceptical on Anthropics security risk tag

San Francisco
A federal judge on Tuesday expressed scepticism over the government's reclassification of Iran as a national security risk because of a dispute over military applications. The case filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the designation. ■ PAGE 14

Cong. gets notice to vacate its 24 Akbar Road office

New Delhi
The Centre has issued notices to the Congress to vacate its 24 Akbar Road office and 1 Rastogi Road premises, which the Youth Congress Wing functions, by March 26. The notice was sent by the Finance Department under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, informed sources said, adding they were served to end March. ■ PAGE 6

Centre asks RBI to target retail inflation at 4%

New Delhi
The Centre on Wednesday asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to target retail inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% in other sets for another five years ending March 2021. The government in 2016 gave a mandate to the RBI to keep the retail inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% in other sets for five years ending March 31, 2021. ■ PAGE 6

Cong. questions top court order denying SC status

New Delhi
The Congress on Wednesday questioned a two-judge Supreme Court Bench ruling that listed persons professing religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism from claiming the Scheduled Caste status. Congress general secretary Harddeep Gurjwal said the judgement had caused "deep consternation, deep and hurt". ■ PAGE 6

Papa Rao and 17 other Maoists lay down arms

Baifur
The Bastar Police on Wednesday laid the Maoist commander Papa Rao and 17 others — carrying a collective reward of ₹67 lakh — had shunned violence and joined the mainstream. At an event on their surrender, Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Shirsani said that 96% of the Bastar region was free from Maoists. ■ PAGE 4

Tehran dismisses U.S. attempt to end conflict, sets own terms

Halting aggression, reparations, and recognition of its 'sovereignty' over the Strait of Hormuz are part of Tehran's terms. U.S. is offering sanctions relief in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait

Shahin Jolani

Iran on Wednesday dismissed a U.S. proposal to end the war and set out its own terms for peace, even as it continued trading fire with Israel.

The U.S. proposal offered a ceasefire and sanctions relief in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran is seeking "a complete halt" to aggression and "sanctions"; "concrete mechanisms" to prevent future attacks; payment of war damages and reparations; "an end to fighting on 'all fronts'"; and recognition of its "sovereignty" over the Strait of Hormuz, which it calls a "natural and legal right".

"Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," a senior security official said, according to Press TV. The official, who is not named in the report, said Washington has put forward proposals through various diplomatic channels that are "excessive" and "disconnected from reality" on the battlefield.

'Very big present' U.S. President Donald Trump, who had backed off from his threat to attack Iran's power infrastructure claiming that Washington



First responders at a site struck by a projectile in Basrah, near Tel Aviv in Israel, as the missile war in West Asia continues. AP

and Tehran were in talks, said on Tuesday that Iran had given Iran "a very big present worth a tremendous amount of money", adding that "we are dealing with the right people". "I think we're going to end the war," Mr. Trump said without elaborating on the "present".

Iran's Khatami at Anbaya central Headquarters on Wednesday dismissed reports about talks, adding that the U.S. is calling its "offer" an agreement. The comments from Mr. Trump, who has put off his threatened strikes until Friday, came amid reports that the Pentagon is planning to deploy thousands of troops from the elite 82nd Airborne Division to West Asia.

The Associated Press earlier cited two Pakistani officials as saying that Isla-



Col. Ebrahim Zolghari, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesman, speaks at a news conference in Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday. AP

maah had delivered the U.S. plan to Tehran. The proposal addressed economic relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear programme, limits on its missile programme, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and restrictions on Iran's support for non-state militias in West Asia such as Hezbollah and Hamas, said the officials.

'Sarcasmic response' "We are closely monitoring all U.S. movements in the region, especially troop deployments," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday in a social media post. "What the general have booklet, the soldiers can't be, instead, they will fall victim to [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's delusions. Do not test our

resolve to defend our land," he added. He later warned about a possible invasion of an Iranian island with the support of an unnamed regional country. "If the self-proclaimed superpower of the world have meant this predicament, it would have done so by now. Do not call your defeat an agreement," Central Headquarters spokesperson Lt. Col. Ebrahim Zolghari said in a video statement. "Has the level of your fighting reached the point of negotiating with your selves?" he asked, sarcastically.

Fire exchanges on Wednesday in the Gulf region. While the U.S. and Iran is using contrasting claims about talks, Tehran and Tel Aviv continued to attack each other on Wednesday.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it targeted Iran's "safe facility" for the development of nuclear weapons, and other weapons manufacturing sites in Isfahan, Iran, fired at least six salvoes of missiles at Israel on Tuesday, in which more than 100 people were wounded.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement on Wednesday that it launched missiles at central and northern Israel as well as U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf region. "Strategic points and military centers located in the northern occupied territories were smashed under the heavy and sustained missile attacks of the IRGC's Aerospace Force," the IRGC said.

RELATED REPORTS ON ■ PAGE 12 & 14

Govt. defends stand as Opposition raises Pakistan role in Iran

Parrying the questions raised by the Opposition regarding the reported central role played by Pakistan in mediating between the U.S. and Iran, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday termed the neighbouring country a "deaf" and said that it had been playing this role since 1981.

He was addressing an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the recent developments in West Asia and their impact on India. Union Petroleum Minister Harddeep Puri also assured the gathering that India continued to maintain a strategic petroleum reserve of 90 days. While the country was not facing any imminent energy crisis, he noted that the supply cycle for LPG had extended from 20 days to 40 days. This, he said, should stabilise soon.

'Balanced position' Responding to criticism over India's "silence", Mr. Jaishankar asserted that with nearly one crore Indians being in West Asian countries, it was crucial for India's strategic and economic interests to maintain a balanced position. India, he said, remained in a unique position, able to communicate with all sides.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent talks with Iranian authorities, he said two Indian ships had been allowed to sail through the Strait of Hormuz, while in others where the government had taken a position on the unilateral attack by the United States, India continued to be India's biggest trading partner.

'Most unsatisfactory' Barring the Trinamool Congress, all Opposition parties attended the meeting. Their questions covered India's silence on the assassination of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the timing of PM Modi's visit to Tel Aviv — two days before the US and Israel launched strikes on Iran; Pakistan's role as a mediator; the rise in LPG prices due to the ongoing crisis; and India's commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement.

Speaking to presspersons later, senior Congress leader Tarik Atwar described the meeting as "unsatisfactory". Senior CPI(M) leader John Brittas also said Opposition leaders who spoke said that the government should have taken a position on the unilateral attack by the United States against a sovereign, independent country, Iran.

India aiming for 60% non-fossil fuel power sources by 2035

India aims to reach 60% non-fossil fuel power sources by 2035, according to the 10th edition of the National Energy Action Plan (NEAP) released by the Ministry of Power.

Updating its climate goals, India has pledged that by 2035, 60% of its installed electricity capacity will comprise non-fossil sources. It also aims to reduce 47% the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP from 2005 level and to increase its carbon sink to 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes.

These targets make up its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which are to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "We will easily achieve these goals... (with) the speed which we are expanding our non-fossil sources," Union International Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing on Wednesday following a Cabinet meeting. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was required to issue an updated NDC in 2020, which

spells out its voluntary actions towards transitioning away from fossil fuel and improving energy efficiency measures. At the 10th edition of the Conference of Parties in Belem, Brazil, in November last year, Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel said that India would announce the NDC by the "year-end".

Current commitments India's current NDC, officially conveyed to the United Nations in August 2022, commits to the following by 2035, having 50% of its capacity of installed electricity power from non-fossil sources; reducing the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP by 45%; and increasing its carbon sink to at least 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. The Conference of Parties, or COP, is a body of nations that convenes annually to discuss climate issues and proposals to transition their economies

away from fossil fuel. Currently, about 82% of India's installed electricity capacity comes from non-fossil fuel power sources — a target achieved well before the deadline — though only about 28% of the power generated is non-fossil. These sources include coal, wind, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear power. As of 2019, its official estimates, India had achieved an emissions intensity of 36% from 2004-2020.

'Strong resolve' In shaping India's NDC for 2030-2035, the government has considered the out-

comes of the first Global Stocktake (GST), principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), and equity with a view to harmonising national realities, development, and the need for greater ambition in climate action, in line with the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

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Stanly Johny

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The U.S. proposal offered a ceasefire and sanctions relief in return for the Islamic Republic abandoning its nuclear programme and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran, according to state-run Press TV, has laid down five conditions to end the war, which the U.S. and Israel launched on February 28 with the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several other leaders. Tehran is seeking: "a complete halt" to aggression and assassinations; "concrete mechanisms" to prevent future attacks; payment of war damages and reparations; an end to fighting on "all fronts"; and recognition of its "exercise of sovereignty" over the Strait of Hormuz, which it calls its "natural and legal right".

"Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," a senior security official said, according to Press TV. The official, who is not named in the report, said Washington has put forward proposals through various diplomatic channels that are "excessive" and "disconnected from reality" on the battlefield.

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Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters on Wednesday dismissed reports about talks, adding that the U.S. is calling its "defeat" an agreement.

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mabad had delivered the U.S. plan to Tehran. The proposal addresses sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear programme, limits on its missile programme, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and restrictions on Iran's support for non-state militias in West Asia such as Hezbollah and Hamas, said the officials.

Sarcastic response

"We are closely monitoring all U.S. movements in the region, especially troop deployments," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday in a social media post. "What the generals have broke[n], the soldiers can't fix; instead, they will fall victim to [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's delusions. Do not test our

resolve to defend our land," he added. He later warned about a possible invasion of an Iranian island with the support of an unnamed regional country.

"If the self-proclaimed superpower of the world could have escaped this predicament, it would have done so by now. Do not call your defeat an agreement," Central Headquarters spokesperson Lt. Col. Ebrahim Zolfaqari said in a video statement. "Has the level of your infighting reached the point of negotiating with yourselves?" he asked, sarcastically.

Fire exchanges on

While the U.S. and Iran issued contradicting claims about talks, Tehran and Tel Aviv continued to attack each other on Wednesday.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that it targeted Iran's "sole facility" for the development of submarines, and other weapons manufacturing sites in Isfahan. Iran fired at least 13 salvos of missiles at Israel on Tuesday, in which nine people were wounded.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement on Wednesday that it launched missiles at central and northern Israel as well as U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf region. "Strategic points and military centers located in the northern occupied territories were smashed under the heavy and sustained missile attacks of the IRGC's Aerospace Force," the Guards said.

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» PAGES 12 & 14

| Category | USA Wants (English) | १ खण्ड वरु वदुवणुवणु जगु हु | Iran Wants (English) | हघरु व वदुवणुवणु जगु हु |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ceasefire | Temporary ceasefire (~30 days) to negotiate | बातचीत के लिए अस्थायी युधुविराम | Complete halt to aggression | पूरी तरह युधु और हमले बंद हौ |
| 2. Nuclear Program | End nuclear weapons capability | परमाणु हथियार क्षमता खत्म करे | Retain nuclear rights (peaceful use) | शांतिपूर्ण परमाणु अधिकार बनाए रखना |
| 3. Uranium Enrichment | Stop uranium enrichment completely | युरेनियम संवर्धन बंद करे | No forced halt without guarantees | बिना गारंटी संवर्धन बंद नहीं |
| 4. Enriched Uranium | Transfer stockpile to IAEA | संवर्धित युरेनियम IAEA को सौंपे | Keep control over nuclear assets | परमाणु संसाधनों पर नियंत्रण रखे |
| 5. Nuclear Sites | Dismantle Natanz, Fordo, Isfahan | परमाणु संयंत्र हटाए | No dismantling without security guarantee | सुरक्षा के बिना हटाना स्वीकार नहीं |
| 6. IAEA Access | Full inspection access | पूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय निरीक्षण | Limited sovereignty interference | संप्रभुता में हस्तक्षेप कम हो |
| 13. Security Guarantee | Implicit stability assurance | स्थिरता की गारंटी | Guarantee no future attacks | भविष्य में हमला न हो इसकी गारंटी |
| 14. Regional Policy | Reduce Iran's regional influence | ईरान का प्रभाव कम हो | Maintain strategic autonomy | रणनीतिक स्वतंत्रता बनाए रखना |
| 15. Overall Goal | Limit Iran's military & nuclear power | ईरान की सैन्य शक्ति सीमित करना | Sovereignty + security + economy | संप्रभुता + सुरक्षा + आर्थिक राहत |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7. Missile Program | Limit missile range & number | मिसाइलों की संख्या और दूरी सीमित करे | No restrictions on missiles | मिसाइलों पर कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं |
| 8. Proxy Groups | Stop support to Hezbollah, Hamas etc. | प्रॉक्सी समूहों का समर्थन बंद करे | Continue regional influence | क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव बनाए रखना |
| 9. Military Activity | Stop attacks in region | क्षेत्रीय हमले बंद करे | End US/Israel attacks | अमेरिका/इजराइल हमले बंद करें |
| 10. Strait of Hormuz | Keep it open for global trade | जलडमरूमध्य खुला रहे | Recognize Iran's control | ईरान का नियंत्रण स्वीकार हो |
| 11. Sanctions | Offer lifting sanctions (if deal accepted) | बदले में प्रतिबंध हटाने का प्रस्ताव | Full removal of sanctions | सभी प्रतिबंध हटाए जाएं |
| 12. Economic Benefit | Civilian nuclear support (Bushehr plant) | सिविल परमाणु सहायता देगा | Compensation for war damage | युद्ध क्षति का मुआवजा |

Introduction / परिचय

- Iran has rejected the U.S. proposal to end the ongoing conflict and has instead placed its own conditions for peace. — ईरान ने जारी संघर्ष समाप्त करने के अमेरिकी प्रस्ताव को ठुकरा दिया है और शांति के लिए अपनी शर्तें रखी हैं।
 - The issue is important because it is linked to West Asian geopolitics, oil security, maritime trade, and India's strategic interests. — यह मुद्दा महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह पश्चिम एशियाई भू-राजनीति, तेल सुरक्षा, समुद्री व्यापार और भारत के सामरिक हितों से जुड़ा है।
-

What the news says / समाचार क्या कहता है

- Iran has refused to accept a U.S.-backed peace formula on American terms. — ईरान ने अमेरिकी शर्तों पर आधारित शांति प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर दिया है।
 - It wants aggression to stop first. — वह पहले आक्रामकता रुकने की मांग करता है।
 - It seeks reparations for damages caused by war. — वह युद्ध से हुए नुकसान की भरपाई चाहता है।
 - It also wants recognition of its sovereignty and strategic rights. — वह अपनी संप्रभुता और सामरिक अधिकारों की मान्यता भी चाहता है।
- The U.S. proposal reportedly involved sanctions relief in exchange for major strategic concessions from Iran. — अमेरिकी प्रस्ताव में कथित रूप से ईरान से बड़े सामरिक समझौते के बदले प्रतिबंधों में राहत की बात शामिल थी।
 - These included curbs related to its nuclear programme. — इनमें उसके परमाणु कार्यक्रम से संबंधित सीमाएँ शामिल थीं।
 - There were also expectations regarding missiles and maritime passage. — मिसाइलों और समुद्री मार्गों को लेकर भी अपेक्षाएँ थीं।
- Thus, the crisis is not merely about ceasefire; it is about power, dignity, deterrence, and regional influence. — इस प्रकार यह संकट केवल युद्धविराम का नहीं, बल्कि शक्ति, प्रतिष्ठा, प्रतिरोधक क्षमता और क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव का भी है।

Core background / मूल पृष्ठभूमि

1. Iran–U.S. hostility / ईरान–अमेरिका शत्रुता

- The roots of Iran–U.S. hostility go back to the 1979 Islamic Revolution. — ईरान-अमेरिका शत्रुता की जड़ें 1979 की इस्लामी क्रांति तक जाती हैं।
 - Before 1979, Iran under the Shah was a close U.S. partner. — 1979 से पहले शाह के शासन में ईरान अमेरिका का करीबी साझेदार था।
 - After the Revolution, Iran became an Islamic Republic with a strong anti-Western posture. — क्रांति के बाद ईरान एक इस्लामी गणराज्य बना जिसकी पश्चिम-विरोधी नीति मजबूत थी।
 - Since then, relations have been shaped by sanctions, distrust, and strategic rivalry. — तब से संबंध प्रतिबंधों, अविश्वास और सामरिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता से प्रभावित रहे हैं।

2. Iran–Israel rivalry / ईरान–इज़राइल प्रतिद्वंद्विता

- Iran and Israel are long-standing regional rivals. — ईरान और इज़राइल लंबे समय से क्षेत्रीय प्रतिद्वंद्वी हैं।
 - Israel sees Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities as a major threat. — इज़राइल ईरान की परमाणु और मिसाइल क्षमताओं को बड़ा खतरा मानता है।
 - Iran opposes Israel politically and strategically across the region. — ईरान राजनीतिक और सामरिक रूप से पूरे क्षेत्र में इज़राइल का विरोध करता है।
 - This rivalry also plays out through proxy groups and regional alignments. — यह प्रतिद्वंद्विता प्रॉक्सी समूहों और क्षेत्रीय गठबंधनों के माध्यम से भी चलती है।

Iran's conditions and their meaning / ईरान की शर्तें और उनका अर्थ

- **Iran's conditions are political as well as strategic. — ईरान की शर्तें राजनीतिक भी हैं और सामरिक भी।**
 - **Stopping aggression means Iran does not want to appear as if it yielded under pressure. — आक्रामकता रोकने की मांग का अर्थ है कि ईरान दबाव में झुकता हुआ नहीं दिखना चाहता।**
 - **Demand for reparations is meant to establish accountability and political legitimacy. — क्षतिपूर्ति की मांग जवाबदेही और राजनीतिक वैधता स्थापित करने का प्रयास है।**
 - **Recognition of sovereignty is linked to national pride and strategic space. — संप्रभुता की मान्यता राष्ट्रीय गौरव और सामरिक गुंजाइश से जुड़ी है।**
 - **This shows Iran wants peace on equal or favourable terms, not on terms that look like defeat. — यह दिखाता है कि ईरान ऐसी शांति चाहता है जो समान या उसके अनुकूल शर्तों पर हो, न कि पराजय जैसी लगे।**
-

Political implications / राजनीतिक प्रभाव

1. For Iran / ईरान के लिए

- Iran is trying to convert military resilience into diplomatic leverage. — ईरान सैन्य सहनशीलता को कूटनीतिक दबदबे में बदलने का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- It wants to show that it cannot be forced into surrender through pressure alone. — वह दिखाना चाहता है कि केवल दबाव से उसे झुकाया नहीं जा सकता।
- The leadership also uses such positions for domestic political legitimacy. — ईरानी नेतृत्व ऐसी स्थिति का उपयोग घरेलू राजनीतिक वैधता के लिए भी करता है।

2. For the U.S. / अमेरिका के लिए

- The U.S. wants de-escalation but without allowing Iran a strategic victory. — अमेरिका तनाव कम करना चाहता है, लेकिन ईरान को सामरिक जीत नहीं देना चाहता।
- Washington is concerned about regional war, shipping lanes, oil shocks, and allied security. — वॉशिंगटन को क्षेत्रीय युद्ध, समुद्री मार्गों, तेल झटकों और सहयोगी देशों की सुरक्षा की चिंता है।
- The U.S. also wants to contain Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities. — अमेरिका ईरान की परमाणु और मिसाइल क्षमताओं को सीमित रखना भी चाहता है।

3. For Israel / इज़राइल के लिए

- Israel views Iran's strategic capabilities as an existential threat. — इज़राइल ईरान की सामरिक क्षमताओं को अस्तित्वगत खतरा मानता है।
- It is therefore less willing to accept any arrangement that leaves Iran stronger. — इसी कारण वह ऐसे किसी भी समझौते के प्रति कम इच्छुक है जिससे ईरान अधिक मजबूत बना रहे।

Economic implications / आर्थिक प्रभाव

1. Global economy / वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था

- Conflict in West Asia can immediately affect global energy markets. — पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष तुरंत वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।
- Oil-importing countries suffer from rising import bills. — तेल आयात करने वाले देशों का आयात बिल बढ़ जाता है।
- Inflationary pressure rises because fuel affects transport, production, and food prices. — महंगाई का दबाव बढ़ता है क्योंकि ईंधन परिवहन, उत्पादन और खाद्य कीमतों को प्रभावित करता है।
- Financial markets also become volatile during such crises. — ऐसे संकटों के दौरान वित्तीय बाजार भी अस्थिर हो जाते हैं।

2. Impact on India / भारत पर प्रभाव

- India is highly sensitive to disruptions in West Asia because of energy dependence. — भारत पश्चिम एशिया में व्यवधान के प्रति अत्यधिक संवेदनशील है क्योंकि वह ऊर्जा आयात पर निर्भर है।
- Higher crude prices increase India's import bill and pressure the current account deficit. — कच्चे तेल की ऊँची कीमतें भारत का आयात बिल बढ़ाती हैं और चालू खाते के घाटे पर दबाव डालती हैं।
- Costlier fuel can raise inflation and reduce policy space. — महँगा ईंधन महंगाई बढ़ा सकता है और नीति-निर्माण की गुंजाइश घटा सकता है।
- Fertiliser and shipping costs can also rise, indirectly affecting agriculture and trade. — उर्वरक और शिपिंग लागत भी बढ़ सकती है, जो अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कृषि और व्यापार को प्रभावित करती है।

India aiming for 60% non-fossil fuel power sources by 2035

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Updating its climate goals, India has pledged that by 2035, 60% of its installed electricity capacity will comprise non-fossil sources. It also aims to reduce by 47% the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP from 2005 level and to increase its carbon sink to 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes.

These targets make up its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which are to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"We will easily achieve these goals... [with] the speed with which we are expanding our non-fossil sources," Union Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing on Wednesday following a Cabinet meeting.

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was required to issue an updated NDC in 2025, which

spells out its voluntary actions towards transitioning away from fossil fuel and improving energy-efficiency measures.

At the 30th edition of the Conference of Parties in Belem, Brazil, in November last year, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that India would announce the NDC by the "year-end".

Current commitments

India's current NDC, officially conveyed to the United Nations in August 2022, commits to the following by 2030: having 50% of its capacity of installed electric power from non-fossil sources; reducing the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP by 44%; and increasing its carbon sink to at least 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

The Conference of Parties, or CoP, is a body of nations that convenes annually to discuss climate issues and proposals to transition their economies

Green goals

The targets set for 2035 under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) are part of India's formal climate pledges under the Paris Agreement

| | |
|---|---|
| Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 47% from 2005 level | Achieve 60% installed electric power from non-fossil fuel energy resources |
|---|---|

Create carbon sink of **3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes** of CO₂ equivalent through forest and tree cover

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was required to update its NDC by 2025 with actions towards curbing fossil fuel and improving energy efficiency

away from fossil fuel.

Currently, about 52% of India's installed electricity capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources – a target achieved well before the deadline – though only about 25% of the power generated is non-fossil. These sources include solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear power. As of 2019, say official estimates, India had achieved an emissions intensity of 36% from 2005-2020.

A carbon sink of 1.97 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent had already been created from 2005 to 2019. However, forest and tree cover accounts for about 24.6% of India's geographical area as of 2021, which is higher than the 21% in 2005, but still less than the national policy goal of 33%.

'Strong resolve'

"In shaping India's NDC for 2031-2035, the government has considered the out-

comes of the first Global Stocktake (GST), principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), and equity with a view to harmonize national realities, developmental priorities, energy security and the need for greater ambition in climate action, in line with the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement," the Environment Ministry said in a statement.

Initiated in 2021, the GST assesses the world's collective progress towards limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, concluding that nations are not on track. Several independent analysts have suggested that while India may meet its 2030 NDC targets, it is not enough to keep the globe on a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway.

Independent analysts said India was picking up the slack for developed countries.

India's NDC target had

come amid a "rollback of climate policies" and "unilateral trade measures" by developed, rich countries, Vaibhav Chaturvedi, senior fellow, Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), told *The Hindu*.

"It demonstrates a strong resolve to address transmission and land availability constraints faced by the renewables sector. The 47% emissions intensity target shows that energy security and prices cannot be taken for granted."

"At a time when developed countries are backtracking on ambition, deepening their fossil fuel entrenchment, and dragging the world towards military conflict, the signal from India shows that Global South (developing country) leadership on climate ambition is concrete and real," Avantika Goswami, of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an influential think tank, said in a statement.

- India has updated its climate ambition and announced that by 2035, 60% of its installed electricity capacity will come from non-fossil fuel sources. — भारत ने अपनी जलवायु महत्वाकांक्षा को अद्यतन करते हुए घोषणा की है कि 2035 तक उसकी स्थापित विद्युत क्षमता का 60% गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों से आएगा।
 - At the same time, India has also targeted a 47% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP from the 2005 level and an increase in carbon sink to 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent. — साथ ही भारत ने 2005 के स्तर की तुलना में GDP की उत्सर्जन तीव्रता में 47% कमी तथा कार्बन सिंक को 3.5–4.0 अरब टन CO2 समतुल्य तक बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य भी रखा है। [Press Information... +1](#)
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What the news says / समाचार क्या कहता है

- India is revising its climate goals for the 2031–2035 period under its Nationally Determined Contributions. — भारत अपनी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान के तहत 2031–2035 अवधि के लिए जलवायु लक्ष्यों को संशोधित कर रहा है।
- The new target focuses on installed electric power capacity, not actual electricity generation. — नया लक्ष्य वास्तविक विद्युत उत्पादन पर नहीं, बल्कि स्थापित विद्युत क्षमता पर केंद्रित है।
- This distinction is important because solar and wind capacity can be high even if their actual generation share is lower due to intermittency. — यह अंतर महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि सौर और पवन की स्थापित क्षमता अधिक हो सकती है, भले ही अनियमितता के कारण उनका वास्तविक उत्पादन हिस्सा कम हो।

Meaning of the key terms / प्रमुख शब्दों का अर्थ

1. Non-fossil fuel sources / गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोत

- Non-fossil fuel sources are those energy sources that do not depend on coal, crude oil, or natural gas. — गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोत वे ऊर्जा स्रोत हैं जो कोयला, कच्चा तेल या प्राकृतिक गैस पर निर्भर नहीं होते।
- In the Indian context, these include solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear power. — भारतीय संदर्भ में इनमें सौर, पवन, जलविद्युत, बायोमास और परमाणु ऊर्जा शामिल हैं।

2. Installed capacity / स्थापित क्षमता

- Installed capacity means the maximum electricity generation capacity that power plants can produce under ideal conditions. — स्थापित क्षमता का अर्थ है वह अधिकतम विद्युत उत्पादन क्षमता जो विद्युत संयंत्र आदर्श परिस्थितियों में उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।
- It does not mean the actual electricity generated throughout the year. — इसका अर्थ पूरे वर्ष में वास्तविक उत्पन्न की गई बिजली नहीं है।

3. Emissions intensity of GDP / GDP की उत्सर्जन तीव्रता

- Emissions intensity means the amount of greenhouse gas emitted per unit of economic output. — उत्सर्जन तीव्रता का अर्थ है आर्थिक उत्पादन की प्रति इकाई पर उत्सर्जित ग्रीनहाउस गैस की मात्रा।
- If emissions intensity falls, it means the economy is becoming cleaner per unit of GDP, even if total emissions may still rise. — यदि उत्सर्जन तीव्रता घटती है, तो इसका अर्थ है कि अर्थव्यवस्था प्रति इकाई GDP के हिसाब से अधिक स्वच्छ हो रही है, भले ही कुल उत्सर्जन अभी भी बढ़ सकता हो।

4. Carbon sink / कार्बन सिंक

- A carbon sink is any system that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits. — कार्बन सिंक वह तंत्र है जो जितना कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड छोड़ता है उससे अधिक अवशोषित करता है।
- Forests, tree cover, soils, wetlands, and mangroves act as major natural carbon sinks. — वन, वृक्ष आच्छादन, मृदा, आर्द्रभूमियाँ और मैंग्रोव प्रमुख प्राकृतिक कार्बन सिंक के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

Why this development is important / यह विकास क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

1. Climate policy importance / जलवायु नीति का महत्व

- This shows India is moving from fossil-fuel dependence towards a cleaner power structure. — यह दर्शाता है कि भारत जीवाश्म ईंधन निर्भरता से हटकर अधिक स्वच्छ विद्युत संरचना की ओर बढ़ रहा है।
- It also signals that India wants to be seen as a major climate actor among developing countries. — यह भी संकेत देता है कि भारत स्वयं को विकासशील देशों के बीच एक प्रमुख जलवायु-नेता के रूप में स्थापित करना चाहता है।

2. Energy transition importance / ऊर्जा संक्रमण का महत्व

- The target is linked to India's long-term energy transition. — यह लक्ष्य भारत के दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा संक्रमण से जुड़ा है।
- India needs more electricity for industrialisation, urbanisation, electric mobility, and digital growth. — भारत को औद्योगीकरण, शहरीकरण, विद्युत गतिशीलता और डिजिटल विकास के लिए अधिक बिजली की आवश्यकता है।
- Meeting future demand through cleaner sources reduces pollution and improves energy resilience. — भविष्य की मांग को स्वच्छ स्रोतों से पूरा करने से प्रदूषण कम होता है और ऊर्जा लचीलापन बढ़ता है।

3. International importance / अंतरराष्ट्रीय महत्व

- The target is part of India's commitment under the Paris Agreement framework. — यह लक्ष्य पेरिस समझौते के ढाँचे के अंतर्गत भारत की प्रतिबद्धता का हिस्सा है।
- It also strengthens the voice of the Global South by showing that developing countries can pursue climate action along with development. — यह वैश्विक दक्षिण की आवाज को भी मजबूत करता है, क्योंकि यह दिखाता है कि विकासशील देश विकास के साथ-साथ जलवायु कार्रवाई भी कर सकते हैं।

Nationally Determined Contributions / राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान

1. What is NDC / NDC क्या है

- NDC means the climate action target submitted by a country under the Paris Agreement. — NDC का अर्थ है पेरिस समझौते के तहत किसी देश द्वारा प्रस्तुत जलवायु कार्रवाई लक्ष्य।
- Each country decides its own pathway according to national conditions and capabilities. — प्रत्येक देश अपनी राष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों और क्षमताओं के अनुसार अपना मार्ग तय करता है।

2. India's earlier commitment / भारत की पूर्व प्रतिबद्धता

- India's earlier 2030 goal included 50% cumulative installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources. — भारत के पूर्व 2030 लक्ष्य में गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों से 50% संचयी स्थापित विद्युत क्षमता का लक्ष्य शामिल था।
- India had already crossed about 52.5% non-fossil installed capacity by February 2026, which means the previous capacity target was achieved ahead of schedule. — भारत फरवरी 2026 तक लगभग 52.5% गैर-जीवाश्म स्थापित क्षमता तक पहुँच चुका था, यानी पूर्व क्षमता लक्ष्य समय से पहले प्राप्त हो गया।

Press Information... +1

3. Updated commitment / अद्यतन प्रतिबद्धता

- The new targets for 2035 therefore represent a higher level of ambition. — इसलिए 2035 के लिए नए लक्ष्य महत्वाकांक्षा के उच्चतर स्तर को दर्शाते हैं।
- The new benchmark is not just about adding renewables, but also about lowering the carbon intensity of development. — नया मानदंड केवल नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा जोड़ने का नहीं, बल्कि विकास की कार्बन तीव्रता कम करने का भी है।

Consider the following statements:

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. Installed electricity capacity and actual electricity generation mean the same thing. — स्थापित विद्युत क्षमता और वास्तविक विद्युत उत्पादन एक ही बात है।
2. Nuclear power is counted among non-fossil fuel sources. — परमाणु ऊर्जा को गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों में गिना जाता है।
3. A reduction in emissions intensity of GDP necessarily means total emissions are falling in absolute terms. — GDP की उत्सर्जन तीव्रता में कमी का अर्थ आवश्यक रूप से यह है कि कुल उत्सर्जन निरपेक्ष रूप से घट रहा है।

Which of the statements given above are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

- A. 2 only — केवल 2
- 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



Papa Rao, second left, and his team members after their surrender in Bastar district on Wednesday.

Papa Rao, 17 other Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomay Sikdar

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma on Wednesday said that 16% of the Bastar region was free from Maoism and that only 30 to 40 cadres were surviving in the remote areas. Mr. Sharma made the remarks at a programme held in the wake of the surrender of Maoist commander Papa Rao. Mr. Sharma also said that approximately 400 security camps established in the interior regions of Bastar would be shut down and converted into development centres. "In the future, these camps will function as police stations, schools, hospitals, and centres for the collection and processing of minor forest produce, handloom operations providing local residents

'Vande Mataram advisory' not a threat to conform'

Ministry's advisory on National Song only prescribes protocol and those who do not sing it will not face any action, says SC; even then, there is burden on those who refuse to sing, argues petitioner

Krishnakanta Natanson
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the advisory issued by Union Home Ministry on playing National Song Vande Mataram in full at public and ceremonial occasions is not a "threat to conform" and do not fall foul of constitutional freedoms.

"...it is only an advisory. The Ministry feels the National Song is as much an expression of the national identity. You may have a different point of view. We as feel you have vague apprehensions or discrimination which do not have a clear text. It is as and when you feel you have been discriminated against or treated on the basis of this advisory. Justice Jyotsna Singh addressed petitioner Muhammad Sayeed Noori, represented by senior advocate Harjay Hegde. Mr. Hegde began his argument by noting the Ministry's circular made the singing of the National Song "mandatory" and compelled citizens to participate in a social demonstration of loyalty which



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Cong. gets notice to vacate its iconic 24 Akbar Road office

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued notice to the Congress to vacate its 24 Akbar Road office and 8 Raisina Road premises, where the Youth Congress functions, by March 26. The notice was sent by the Estate Department under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, informed sources said, adding they were served in mid-March and the party faces eviction, as it is the final notice sent by the department.

The party has been told that its new headquarters already functioning from Indira Bhawan on Kotla Marg and it is not entitled to hold on to the premises, the sources said. Congress sources said the party was still formulating its strategy to counter the notices and it may begin with court-muster strategy of the National Anthem. Two members of Congress delegation led by G.K. Sengupta, in-charge of Administration, met Urban Development Minister M.L. Khattar on the sidelines of the party, according to Congress sources, who were met for 10 to 20 Akbar Road office and there were attempts to get the bungalow allocated to a party MP so that it could hold on to it but it did not materialise. When it shift-



The 24 Akbar Road office has been the address of the Congress for the past 84 years.

ed to Indira Bhawan office on Kotla Marg, sources had indicated the party will not vacate 24 Akbar Road and it will continue to house some of its cells arguing that the BJP has not vacated its old headquarters at 24 Akbar Road, even after shifting to DDU Marg. Congress MP Karri Chidambaram said the Centre should apply its rule uniformly to all and not single it out while BJP spokesperson Shekhar Prasad said the Congress should shed the "unnecessary vicarious care", recalling the policy made under the UPA government that party would shift their offices from Laxman to PDU Marg or to Rajeev Avenue. The 24 Akbar Road address has been the Congress headquarters since January 1978 when Indira Gandhi made it the office after her election loss following the Emergency.

Cabinet approves revamped UDAN scheme with changes in subsidy

Jagrit Chandra
NEW DELHI

In a significant policy shift, the Centre has extended the subsidy period for airlines on select Tier-3 and Tier-3 routes from three to two years, after a large share of those routes fell into disuse. The shift comes under the modified UDAN scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday with a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore. The subsidy will also shift from a levy embedded in airfares to direct funding from the exchequer. Out of the total ₹28,840 crore outlay for the modified UDAN scheme, ₹10,041 crore is set aside for a subsidy to support airlines flying on regional routes over the next 10 years. A government official explained that airlines would receive subsidy support for specific routes for five years at a stretch. Under the earlier



The revised scheme will also support airport operations and maintenance at selected airports. (1)

subsidy scheme, these routes were not funded by the exchequer but through a Regional Connectivity scheme (RCS) levy built to airfares on non-UDAN routes. The revised scheme, however, goes beyond infrastructure development and also support airport operations and maintenance at low traffic airports, capped at ₹3.06 crore per airport and ₹50 lakh per helipad or water aerodrome, with a total estimated cost of ₹2,877 crore, covering around 41 aerodromes. In a push to improve last-mile connectivity, particularly in remote and difficult terrains, the scheme also proposes to develop 200 helipads, each costing ₹15 crore, amounting to an investment of ₹3,000 crore.

Under the modified UDAN scheme on Wednesday, 100 airports will be redeveloped from unused airstrips, with an outlay of ₹1,250 crore over eight years, aimed at expanding the regional aviation network. The revised scheme, however, goes beyond infrastructure development and also support airport operations and maintenance at low traffic airports, capped at ₹3.06 crore per airport and ₹50 lakh per helipad or water aerodrome, with a total estimated cost of ₹2,877 crore, covering around 41 aerodromes. In a push to improve last-mile connectivity, particularly in remote and difficult terrains, the scheme also proposes to develop 200 helipads, each costing ₹15 crore, amounting to an investment of ₹3,000 crore.

Rajya Sabha brushes aside objections by Opposition, starts debate on CAPF Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Brushing aside the Opposition's notices against the introduction of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Amendment (Administration) Bill, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday started discussions on the legislation, moved by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Noida Rai. Opposition members moved six notices against its introduction. The Bill aims to regulate recruitment, deployment, promotion, and other service conditions of CAPF constabulary officers. Titled Congress MP Derek O'Brien moved the Bill anti-federal and alleged that it would curtail the rights of the judiciary. He said the Bill seeks to override historical judgments of the Supreme Court. The deputation of IPS officers in CAPF will be done away with, he said. The Centre's stand was rejected by the opposition and the Bill is being used to override the Supreme Court's powers. Responding to charges, Union Minister Noida said the Bill is a necessary step to modernise the CAPF and to enhance its operational efficiency. He said the Bill is necessary to address the concerns raised by the

The Bill seeks to amend historical judgments of the Supreme Court, says BJP MP Dushyant Singh

Opposition are baseless, and the Bill does not interfere with judicial rights and it is on the service conditions of police officers in CAPF. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Purnima Kapur said the government is mandated to interpret the laws, to arbitrate and to issue judgments. "The nation is run with the spirit of the Constitution and the laws passed by Parliament of India and Assembly. Here, the competence of this House is not at stake," he said. Rejoicing, the ministers, stand was rejected by the opposition and the Bill is being used to override the Supreme Court's powers. Responding to charges, Union Minister Noida said the Bill is a necessary step to modernise the CAPF and to enhance its operational efficiency. He said the Bill is necessary to address the concerns raised by the

Parliament to function until April 2; Riju informs I.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that the second part of the Budget session would continue as per schedule, and the government would take up its business on Friday instead of the previous members. Mr. Rijju said though there was a proposal to hold sittings during the weekend, Parliament will not function on Saturday and Sunday, March 31 will be a holiday because of Mahavir Jayanti. "On the rest of the days, the House will function as proposed," he said, indicating Parliament will function until April 2. The announcement came amid reports that it may adjourn early in view of the Assembly polls in four States and one Union Territory.

Immigration, visa issuance scheme gets 5-year extension

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) scheme for a period of five years from April 1, 2026 till March 31, 2031 with a budget outlay of ₹1,200 crore, the government stated on Wednesday. The IVFRT platform seeks to interlink and optimise processes related to immigration, visa issuance and registration of foreigners in India. The core objective of the scheme started in 2020 is to streamline and upgrade immigration and visa services within a

foreigner management, including illegal migrants, the government stated. The scheme has covered 17 Immigration Posts, 15 Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) and 854 Foreigners Registration Officers (FRSOs)/Sub-Registrars of Police (SRPs)/Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) across the country. The IVFRT system has established a robust, cost-effective visa process with online appointment scheduling and payment facilities, leading to faster visa processing times with 92.38% of e-visa applications cleared within 72 hours during the past five years, it further stated.

Ensure supply of fertilizer, Agriculture Minister tells officials

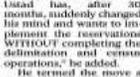
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reviewing the impact of the war in West Asia on India's farm sector, Union Agriculture Minister Shri Singh Chauhan asked officials here on Wednesday to ensure an unbroken and uninterrupted supply of fertilizers. He directed the officials to expedite the work on the fertilizer distribution system transparent. The government is targeting to provide digital fertilizers to 72 houses during the past five years, for 2025-27, more than 7.03

Congress criticises Modi gov't's 'U-turn' on women's quota law

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday accused the Narendra Modi government of making a U-turn on the men's reservation law by seeking to implement it for carrying out the demarcation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies for the 20th Census. Congress general secretary and communications chairman Ramesh alleged that the government's earlier stand that the provisions in the Constitution could only be overridden if necessary by completed of



Aman Ramesh

post on X. "Now the U-turn has been made, after 82 months, suddenly changed his mind and wants to implement the reservations WITHOUT completing the demarcation and census operations," he added. He termed the move a "watershed of mass deception", and said, "Desperate to change the narrative from his foreign policy failure and setbacks from the IPEC crisis, he has come up with this new initiative. Wanting to take full political advantage of it, he has let it be known that a special two-day session will be convened to pass the amendments necessary to let the Parliament adjourn, 2026."

Cabinet approves revamped UDAN scheme with changes in subsidy

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In a significant policy shift, the Centre has extended the subsidy period for airlines on select Tier-2 and Tier-3 routes from three to five years, after a large share of those routes fell into disuse. The shift comes under the modified UDAN scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday with a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore.

The subsidy will also shift from a levy embedded in airfares to direct funding from the exchequer.

Out of the total ₹28,840 crore outlay for the modified UDAN scheme, ₹10,043 crore is set aside for a subsidy to support airlines flying on regional routes over the next 10 years. A government official explained that airlines would receive subsidy support for specific routes for five years at a stretch.

Under the earlier



The revised scheme will also support airport operations and maintenance at selected airports. FILE PHOTO

scheme design, these subsidies were not funded by the exchequer but through a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) levy built into airfares on non-UDAN routes.

Viability concerns

Subsidies were also capped at three years to push airlines towards self-sustaining routes. However, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report found that only 7% to 10%

of these routes had remained viable beyond the subsidy period. As of February 2026, of the 663 routes launched under the UDAN scheme since 2017, 327 routes had been discontinued, according to data recently presented in Parliament by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol.

The ₹28,840 crore outlay marks a nearly six-fold jump in funding for UDAN. At its launch in 2017, the

government had earmarked ₹4,500 crore over 10 years, primarily to revive unused airports.

Under the modified UDAN announced on Wednesday, 100 airports will be redeveloped from unused airstrips, with an outlay of ₹12,159 crore over eight years, aimed at expanding the regional aviation network.

The revised scheme, however, goes beyond infrastructure development to also support airport operations and maintenance at low traffic airports, capped at ₹3.06 crore per airport and ₹90 lakh per heliport or water aerodrome, with a total estimated cost of ₹2,577 crore covering around 441 aerodromes.

In a push to improve last-mile connectivity, particularly in remote and difficult terrains, the scheme also proposes to develop 200 helipads, each costing ₹15 crore, amounting to an investment of ₹3,661 crore.

- **The Union Cabinet has approved a modified UDAN scheme with a much larger financial outlay and important changes in the subsidy structure. — केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने संशोधित UDAN योजना को मंजूरी दी है, जिसमें बड़ा वित्तीय प्रावधान और सब्सिडी ढांचे में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव किए गए हैं।** [Press Information... +1](#)
 - **The main objective remains the same: to improve regional air connectivity, revive underserved airports, and make air travel more accessible for common citizens. — मुख्य उद्देश्य वही है: क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क को मजबूत करना, कम-उपयोग वाले हवाई अड्डों को पुनर्जीवित करना और आम नागरिकों के लिए हवाई यात्रा को अधिक सुलभ बनाना।** [Press Information... +1](#)
-

What the news says / समाचार क्या कहता है

- The modified UDAN scheme has a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore. — संशोधित UDAN योजना का कुल परिव्यय ₹28,840 करोड़ है। [Press Information... +1](#)
 - Out of this, about ₹10,043 crore has been kept for airline subsidy support on regional routes. — इसमें से लगभग ₹10,043 करोड़ क्षेत्रीय मार्गों पर एयरलाइनों को सब्सिडी सहायता हेतु रखे गए हैं। [Press Information... +1](#)
 - About ₹12,159 crore is meant for redevelopment of 100 airports. — लगभग ₹12,159 करोड़ 100 हवाई अड्डों के पुनर्विकास के लिए निर्धारित हैं। [Press Information...](#)
 - The scheme also provides support for airport operations and maintenance at low-traffic airports and for helipads and water aerodromes. — यह योजना कम-यातायात वाले हवाई अड्डों, हेलीपैड और वाटर एरोड्रोम के संचालन एवं रखरखाव के लिए भी सहायता प्रदान करती है। [Press Information...](#)
- A major policy shift is that subsidy support on select Tier-2 and Tier-3 routes will now extend up to five years instead of the earlier three years. — एक बड़ा नीतिगत बदलाव यह है कि चुनिंदा टियर-2 और टियर-3 मार्गों पर सब्सिडी सहायता अब पहले के तीन वर्षों के बजाय पाँच वर्षों तक दी जाएगी। [Press Information... +1](#)
- Another major change is that funding will now come through direct budgetary support rather than through the earlier levy-based mechanism built into airfares on non-UDAN routes. — एक अन्य बड़ा बदलाव यह है कि अब वित्तपोषण पहले की तरह गैर-UDAN मार्गों के हवाई किराए में अंतर्निहित लेवी से नहीं, बल्कि प्रत्यक्ष बजटीय सहायता से होगा। [Press Information... +1](#)

What is UDAN / UDAN क्या है

- UDAN stands for "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik." — UDAN का पूर्ण रूप "उड़े देश का आम नागरिक" है।
Press Information... +1
- It is the Regional Connectivity Scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016. — यह राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन नीति, 2016 के अंतर्गत नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय की क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना है। Press Information... +1
- It was launched on 21 October 2016, and the first UDAN flight operated on 27 April 2017 between Shimla and Delhi. — इसे 21 अक्टूबर 2016 को शुरू किया गया था, और पहली UDAN उड़ान 27 अप्रैल 2017 को शिमला और दिल्ली के बीच चली थी। Press Information... +1

Why the scheme was needed / योजना की आवश्यकता क्यों थी

1. Uneven aviation geography / असमान उड्डयन भूगोल

- India's air traffic and airport infrastructure were heavily concentrated in a few major cities. — भारत में हवाई यातायात और हवाई अड्डा अवसंरचना कुछ बड़े शहरों में अत्यधिक केंद्रित थी। Press Information...
- Large parts of Tier-2, Tier-3, hilly, tribal, island, and remote regions remained underserved or unserved. — टियर-2, टियर-3, पहाड़ी, जनजातीय, द्वीपीय और दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों के बड़े हिस्से कम-सेवित या बिना सेवा के रहे।

Press Information... +1

2. Affordable flying / सस्ती हवाई यात्रा

- The scheme was designed to make air travel affordable for the common citizen. — यह योजना आम नागरिक के लिए हवाई यात्रा को सुलभ और सस्ती बनाने के लिए बनाई गई थी। Press Information... +1

3. Regional development / क्षेत्रीय विकास

- Better air connectivity can improve tourism, trade, investment, emergency movement, and access to services in backward regions. — बेहतर हवाई संपर्क से पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में पर्यटन, व्यापार, निवेश, आपातकालीन आवागमन और सेवाओं तक पहुँच बेहतर हो सकती है। UPSC IAS Prep R... +1

Main changes in the modified scheme / संशोधित योजना के मुख्य बदलाव

1. Longer subsidy period / लंबी सब्सिडी अवधि

- Earlier, viability support was generally capped at three years to push airlines towards self-sustaining routes. — पहले, एयरलाइनों को आत्मनिर्भर मार्गों की ओर बढ़ाने के लिए व्यवहार्यता सहायता सामान्यतः तीन वर्षों तक सीमित थी। [Press Information... +1](#)
- Now, select routes can receive support for five years. — अब चुनिंदा मार्गों को पाँच वर्षों तक सहायता मिल सकती है। [Press Information... +1](#)
- This change recognises that many regional routes need a longer gestation period before they become commercially viable. — यह बदलाव इस तथ्य को स्वीकार करता है कि अनेक क्षेत्रीय मार्गों को व्यावसायिक रूप से टिकाऊ बनने में अधिक समय लगता है। [Press Information... +1](#)

2. Shift in funding pattern / वित्तपोषण पद्धति में बदलाव

- Earlier, subsidies were financed through a Regional Connectivity Fund supported by levy on certain flights. — पहले, सब्सिडी का वित्तपोषण कुछ उड़ानों पर लगाए गए लेवी से समर्थित क्षेत्रीय संपर्क कोष के माध्यम से होता था। [Press Information... +1](#)
- Now the support will be funded from the exchequer through budgetary allocation. — अब यह सहायता प्रत्यक्ष बजटीय आवंटन के माध्यम से सरकारी कोष से दी जाएगी। [Press Information... +1](#)
- This makes the subsidy more transparent and fiscally visible. — इससे सब्सिडी व्यवस्था अधिक पारदर्शी और राजकोषीय रूप से स्पष्ट बनती है। (inference based on the shift from levy-funded to budget-funded structure) [Press Information... +1](#)

3. Wider focus beyond routes / केवल मार्गों से आगे का विस्तार

- The revised scheme goes beyond route subsidies and includes redevelopment of airports, support to low-traffic airports, helipads, and water aerodromes. — संशोधित योजना केवल मार्ग सब्सिडी तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि हवाई अड्डों के पुनर्विकास, कम-यातायात वाले हवाई अड्डों, हेलीपैड और वाटर एयरोड्रोम को भी शामिल करती है। [Press Information...](#)
- This means the policy has shifted from only airline support to a broader regional aviation ecosystem approach. — इसका अर्थ है कि नीति अब केवल एयरलाइन सहायता से आगे बढ़कर व्यापक क्षेत्रीय उड्डयन पारितंत्र दृष्टिकोण अपना रही है। (inference from official scheme elements) [Press information...](#)

Why was revamping needed / संशोधन की आवश्यकता क्यों पड़ी

1. Viability concerns / व्यवहार्यता संबंधी चिंताएँ

- A major problem with UDAN has been that many routes did not remain viable after subsidy withdrawal. — UDAN की एक बड़ी समस्या यह रही कि कई मार्ग सब्सिडी समाप्त होने के बाद टिकाऊ नहीं रह पाए।
- As of February 2026, 663 routes had been launched under UDAN since 2017, but 327 had been discontinued. — फरवरी 2026 तक 2017 से UDAN के तहत 663 मार्ग शुरू किए गए थे, लेकिन उनमें से 327 बंद हो चुके थे। [Press Information... +1](#)

2. Infrastructure gaps / अवसंरचना की कमी

- Unused and underused airports needed physical redevelopment and operational support. — अप्रयुक्त और कम-उपयोग वाले हवाई अड्डों को भौतिक पुनर्विकास और परिचालन सहायता की आवश्यकता थी। [Press Information...](#)
- Without airports, helipads, and maintenance support, route subsidy alone cannot sustain connectivity. — हवाई अड्डों, हेलीपैड और रखरखाव सहायता के बिना केवल मार्ग सब्सिडी से कनेक्टिविटी टिकाऊ नहीं बन सकती। (*reasoned conclusion from scheme design*) [Press Information...](#)

3. Remote-area connectivity / दूरस्थ क्षेत्रीय संपर्क

- Remote, hilly, island, and difficult-terrain areas often need helicopters and small aircraft rather than only regular regional flights. — दूरस्थ, पहाड़ी, द्वीपीय और कठिन भूभाग वाले क्षेत्रों को अक्सर केवल नियमित क्षेत्रीय उड़ानों के बजाय हेलीकॉप्टर और छोटे विमान की आवश्यकता होती है। [Press Information... +1](#)
-

Social significance / सामाजिक महत्व

- The scheme is aimed at democratising air travel. — यह योजना हवाई यात्रा के लोकतंत्रीकरण की दिशा में है। Press Information... +1
- It helps connect common citizens, patients, students, officials, and businesses from remote regions to larger urban centres. — यह दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों के आम नागरिकों, मरीजों, विद्यार्थियों, अधिकारियों और व्यवसायों को बड़े शहरी केंद्रों से जोड़ने में मदद करती है। (*policy inference consistent with regional connectivity objective*) Press Information... +1
- For hilly and remote areas, aviation is not only a convenience issue but often a strategic and developmental necessity. — पहाड़ी और दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों के लिए उड्डयन केवल सुविधा का प्रश्न नहीं, बल्कि कई बार सामरिक और विकासात्मक आवश्यकता भी है। Press Information... +1

Geographical relevance / भौगोलिक प्रासंगिकता

1. Regions that benefit most / सबसे अधिक लाभान्वित क्षेत्र

- Hill States, North-East India, island territories, border regions, and interior tribal belts are major potential beneficiaries. — पहाड़ी राज्य, पूर्वोत्तर भारत, द्वीपीय क्षेत्र, सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र और आंतरिक जनजातीय पट्टियाँ प्रमुख संभावित लाभार्थी हैं। Ministry of Civil A... +1

2. Last-mile connectivity / अंतिम छोर की कनेक्टिविटी

- The inclusion of 200 helipads shows special attention to last-mile access in difficult terrain. — 200 हेलीपैड को शामिल करना कठिन भूभागों में अंतिम छोर तक पहुँच पर विशेष ध्यान को दर्शाता है। Press information...

3. Water aerodromes / जल एयरोड्रोम

- Support for water aerodromes indicates the scheme's relevance for coastal and island geographies as well. — वाटर एयरोड्रोम के लिए सहायता यह दर्शाती है कि यह योजना तटीय और द्वीपीय भूगोल के लिए भी प्रासंगिक है। Press Information...

Consider the following statements regarding UDAN:

UDAN के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1. UDAN is a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. — UDAN नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत एक क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना है।**
- 2. Under the modified scheme, subsidy support on select regional routes can extend up to five years. — संशोधित योजना के तहत चुनिंदा क्षेत्रीय मार्गों पर सब्सिडी सहायता पाँच वर्षों तक बढ़ सकती है।**
- 3. The revised scheme is limited only to fare subsidy for airlines and does not support airport infrastructure. — संशोधित योजना केवल एयरलाइनों को किराया सब्सिडी तक सीमित है और हवाई अड्डा अवसंरचना को समर्थन नहीं देती।**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

- 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**

BUILDING BLOCKS

What is mineral water and how does it naturally contain dissolved minerals?

Mineral water comes from a protected underground reservoir and retains the natural minerals it has acquired from geological processes over years, decades or even centuries. In India, tap water is drawn from rivers and borewells and disinfected with residual chlorine

Yashveer Mahant

Millions of people around the world drink mineral water every day because their tap water is unsafe or because they prefer the taste. It's packed with naturally occurring minerals that support bone and muscle health and governments and health organisations promote it as a clean, reliable source of hydration.

What is mineral water?
Mineral water is water that naturally contains dissolved minerals and trace elements. It comes from a protected underground reservoir, like a spring or aquifer, and has a specific composition of minerals. Unlike ordinary tap water, which treatment plants produce by filtering and purifying water drawn from rivers or groundwater, mineral water retains the natural minerals it has acquired from geological processes it has been a part of over years, decades or even centuries.

An rainwater and snowmelt slowly percolate through layers of limestone, granite, sandstone or volcanic basalt, the minerals from the surrounding rocks dissolve in the water, and the difference in pressure underground push this enriched water back towards the surface, where it emerges as a spring or collects in a subterranean reservoir. Producers then drill wells or tap natural springs and flow the water into containers, using pumps if required.

How is mineral water regulated?
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Parliament and the Council both have regulations that stipulate that mineral water must come from a geologically stable source, which producers must undertake to protect; that separate batches of the same water must have the same profile of minerals; and that producers must not chemically treat it to alter its mineral composition.

In India, the Ministry and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) stipulate that natural mineral water must come from underground sources such as natural springs and borewells, must be protected by various formations that ensure the water is free from pollution, and should ideally be collected in containers that guarantee the original bacteriological and chemical composition.

As in the U.S. and the EU, the BIS standard IS 15429 requires the water's TDS and the relative proportions of various minerals to be stable over time and across producers' batches. Producers are also prohibited from treating the water to change its mineral composition, and instead are only allowed to filter or decant it, aerate it, and sterilise it.

Chemical decontamination, such as by adding chlorine, is also disallowed. Finally, unlike many food products in India, mineral water requires mandatory certifications to sell mineral water, producers must have both an FSSAI licence and a BIS certificate and every bottle must carry the ISI mark (according to IS 15429). The FSSAI also requires the bottle to be labelled with the location and name of the source and the levels of various minerals, and disallows the packages from claiming the water has any medicinal or healing properties.



SHETI/SHARMA

How is mineral water packaged?
To meet these strict criteria, producers usually bottle the water directly at or near the source. Once they extract the water, they filter it to remove particulate matter and elements such as iron to ensure the liquid is clear. Producers may also pass it through ultraviolet light for disinfection and adjust the level of dissolved carbon dioxide to produce still or sparkling variants.

Finally, the producers store the water in tanks and package it in glass bottles, PET bottles or aluminium cans at or near the source to avoid contamination or changes in composition. That said, the storage materials come with tradeoffs of their own. For instance, glass is chemically inert and doesn't react with the water but it must be handled with care; PET is light but can leach small amounts of plastic over time, especially when it's hot; and aluminium cans are most recyclable but require an internal plastic lining to prevent the metal from reacting with the water, which reintroduces concerns about chemical leaching and trace metal costs.

Packaged drinking water is not always the same as natural mineral water. Producers may start with tap or groundwater, purify it through reverse osmosis, then add back small amounts of minerals to improve taste. Similarly, spring water comes from a natural underground source but doesn't need to meet the same strict standards for mineral consistency.

That said, under 'bottled water', the term also encompasses Artesian water, mineral water, sparkling bottled water, spring water, and purified water (including distilled, deionised, and/or deionised water or water that has undergone reverse osmosis). Artesian

water is groundwater being pushed to the surface due to pressure created underground by impermeable rocks.

What effects do minerals have?
The minerals present in mineral water depend on its natural source. The most common minerals include calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonates, sulphates, chlorides, silica, and sometimes fluoride or iron in trace amounts.

Calcium and magnesium make water 'hard' and give mineral water the mineralised people are familiar with and have come to expect, including a slight weight and heft. Higher calcium levels render a smooth or slightly chalky sensation, while magnesium introduces a subtle bitterness. Similarly, bicarbonates neutralise acidity and give the water an almost sweet finish, sulphates—associated with magnesium-rich springs—add a slightly crisp taste, and sodium imparts a faint saline note.

Dissolved minerals also raise the water's content of total dissolved solids (TDS) and change how it interacts with food, soap, pipes, and tissues, with different chemical and thermal environments (e.g. cooking), and with tissues in the human body. You may know from common experience that harder water deposits 'scale' in kettles and washing machines and doesn't lather well with soap. Its inherent chemical properties also mean hard water supports bone density and aids muscle function, although the contribution of drinking hard water to these outcomes is generally much smaller compared to nutrition. Bicarbonates may improve digestion.

What are other forms of water?
When water is distilled, it means it is

boiled into steam and condensed back to liquid, in the process leaving all dissolved solids, including minerals as well as contaminants, behind in the vessel. As a result the condensed water is nearly pure H₂O, and tastes very different, almost hollow. It does not form scales on metal surfaces and behaves in the most of predictable way that research laboratories and diagnostic labs prize.

However, while it is safe to drink, distilled water is not advised for regular human consumption because, aside from being devoid of minerals, it can also draw minerals out of surfaces it comes in contact with, including food and, potentially to a small degree, biological tissues.

Industries also treat water according to the same. They add acids to remove calcium and magnesium, chlorine it to strip it of almost all dissolved ions or alter its chemistry to use in boilers or cooling systems. They could also demineralise it to prevent scaling and/or add compounds like sodium phosphate to lower its corrosion potential. Industrial water is neither safe nor suitable for human consumption.

To prepare municipal tap water, finally, treatment plants draw water from natural sources like rivers and groundwater, remove pathogens and chemical pollutants by filtering and chlorinating it, and add disinfectants such as chlorine. Because a local authority specifically softens it, tap water retains its dissolved minerals. Its mineral content varies (and unevenly by region). London's tap water is noticeably hard because it comes from chalk aquifers while most Scandinavian cities supply naturally soft water low in minerals.

How is tap water 'made' in India?
The main source of water that eventually becomes tap water in India is rivers and deep borewells.

Because the pathogen loads are highest in tropical areas, municipalities aggressively treat in temperate or cold regions like North America or Scandinavia. Among other steps, they add alum to make dirt clump together so that it can be removed. Higher calcium levels, meaning more chlorine than what is required to disinfect the water, so that water doesn't infect people or animals reflected later in, say, a leaky pipe even if it is sewage.

In fact, such 'making' is so common that most Indian municipalities don't guarantee potable tap water. Among the few exceptions are Puri in Odisha and parts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. Tap water is a State responsibility while the Union government sets the standards. The IS 10500:2012 standard prescribes limits for the quantity of minerals in potable water but also has room for variation. For instance, while the TDS limit is 500 mg/L, it can go up to 2,000 mg/L if no objection is raised.

Rajasthan, Gujarat, and parts of Delhi/NCR have very high mineral content, including calcium and magnesium, because their groundwater flows to the surface in general because cities and States drawing water from Himalayan rivers or areas with high rainfall, such as Mumbai and parts of Kerala, have much softer water with lower mineral levels.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Umeshankar

"What was the name of the movie you saw yesterday?"
"I think it was called 'White Men Can't Jump'. I really enjoyed it. It was a real entertainer. It ..."

"White Men Can't Jump", eh? After seeing some of the decisions made by the umpires in Australia, I have decided to make a movie called 'White Men Can't Ump'."

"That's an excellent idea! I am positive that the Indian team will finance your project. The umpiring was terrible, wasn't it? Some of the decisions made by Hair and Co. had me tearing my hair out."

"Does 'tear one's hair out' mean to become angry?"
"Yes. 'To tear one's hair out' means to be anxious, frustrated or angry. It's an informal expression."

"When Sachin was given out LWB in the second innings of the first test, I was ready to tear my hair out. How does that sound?"

"Sounds great. It's getting late. Your parents will be tearing their hair out."

"No, they won't. They will ..."

"...that was just an example!"

"I see. I don't think my parents would tear their hair out on my account."

"Your mother told me the other day that you had the habit of getting in her hair."

"I certainly do not get in my mother's hair. How could I?"

"...do you know what the expression 'to get in someone's hair' means?"

"Doesn't it mean to irritate someone?"

"Excellent! When you get in someone's hair, you bother or irritate him/her."

"I am sure Hair and Co. got in to Sachin's hair."

"The umpires must have given the batsmen sleepless nights. As my friend put it, the umpires' policy seemed to be, 'When in doubt, give Tendulkar out.'"

"Yes, the umpires in Australia were very particular. How about this example? 'There are times when you get in my hair.'"

"Sorry to begin with, I meant like my boss. He complains that I am in his hair all the time."

"That's understandable. By the way, does the expression 'to curl someone's hair' mean the same thing as 'to get in someone's hair'?"

"No. When you make someone's hair curl, you frighten, alarm, or shock them. I thought that the movie 'The Untouchables' would make my hair curl. It did nothing of the kind."

"My friend, Lavanya, said that some of the special officers curled her hair."

"Rishi Behera, when he came to Chennai last year, said that the speed at which people in India drove made his hair curl."

"Perhaps that's why he lost in the second round? He didn't want to take any more drives from the hotel to the club!"

"You may have a point there!"

"Some of the decisions given by the Australian umpires were enough to make my hair curl."

"You've been harping on about them ..."

"...what does 'harp on about' mean?"

"It means you keep talking about it again and again, although your listener may be sick and tired of it."

"Some of my cousins who are in IITs class keep harping on about how difficult it is to get through the IIT entrance exam."

"My friend in Bombay keeps harping on about what a great all-rounder Ajit Agarkar is."

Published in *The Hindu* on January 18, 2020

Word of the day

Clandestine: conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods.

Synonyms: secret, covert, private

Usage: They held a clandestine meeting late at night.

Pronunciation: /ˌklændɪˈstɪn/

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌklændɪˈstɪn/

Every year, John takes a party with the reason he does it: **Ann: Aids**

Visual: John's songwriting partnership with another successful in history. **Ann: Bernie Taupin**

Early in his career, he met a woman named Ashvini Thakur (Ashy Krishna) (Anvi Pashani)

THE DAILY QUIZ

With the media 'conclusively' uncovering the identity of the world-famous street artist yet again, here's a quiz on Banksy and his works

Mohammed Hidayat

QUESTION 1
The elusive artist worked under which pseudonym before revealing it to Banksy (as per media reports)?

QUESTION 2
The recent Reuters expose hinged on hints left behind in a war-torn country where the anti-establishment spray painter drew seven murals in 2022. Name the country.

QUESTION 3
Banksy has cited this graffiti artist as one of his many inspirations. Name the personality who is also a musician and a founding member of the British hip hop group Massive Attack.

QUESTION 4
What is the name of Banksy's dystopian theme park-style art exhibition?

QUESTION 5
What is the artist's most widely reported theory on how he suggested by media investigations since 2008?

QUESTION 6
The Reuters report released last week suggests Banksy may have changed his legal name to David Jones. It is also the given name of which famous English rock star?

QUESTION 7
The enigmatic creator ferociously overthrew his partial self-destruction of his artwork via a hidden shredder at Sotheby's London auction in 2018. Name the painting, which is an adaptation of his 2002 mural.



Visual Question: At a 2023 exhibition, Banksy acknowledged this scene from an iconic 1975 film, featuring a decorated tourism billboard which inspired him to get into graffiti. Name the movie and its director. **Ann: Aids**

Please send in your answers to enquiries@thehindu.co.in

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In tribute single "Candle in the Wind 1997", a rewritten version of his 1974 single, sold over 23 million copies worldwide. Who was the tribute to? **Ann: Princess Diana**

2. What is **Ann: Bambi** is an acronym for the Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards.

3. Which was John's debut album? **Ann: Empty Sky in 1989**

4. What is the name of the film in which his life and career were dramatised? **Ann: Raskolnikov**

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

What is mineral water and how does it naturally contain dissolved minerals?

Mineral water comes from a protected underground reservoir and retains the natural minerals it has acquired from geological processes over years, decades or even centuries; in India, tap water is drawn from rivers and borewells and disinfected with residual chlorine.

Yashdevi Mahankh

Millions of people around the world drink mineral water every day because their tap water is unalike or because they prefer the taste. It's packed with naturally occurring minerals that support bone and muscle health and governments and health organisations promote it as a clean, reliable source of hydration.

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As rainwater and snowmelt slowly percolate through layers of limestone, granite, sandstone or volcanic basalt, the minerals from the surrounding rocks dissolve in the water, and the differences in pressure underground push this enriched water back towards the surface, where it emerges as a spring or collects in a subterranean reservoir. Producers then drill wells or tap natural springs and flow the water into containers, using pumps if required.

How is mineral water regulated?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Parliament and the Council both have regulations that stipulate that mineral water must come from a geologically stable source, which producers must undertake to protect; that separate batches of the same water must have the same profile of minerals; and that producers must not chemically treat it to alter its mineral composition.

In India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) stipulate that natural mineral water must come from underground sources such as natural springs and borewells, must be protected by various formations that ensure the water is free from pollution, and should ideally be collected in conditions that guarantee the original bacteriological and chemical composition.

As in the U.S. and the EU, the BIS standard IS 13428 requires the water's TDS and the relative proportions of various minerals to be stable over time and across producers' batches. Producers are also prohibited from treating the water to change its mineral composition, and instead are only allowed to filter or decant it, aerate it, and sterilise it. Chemical decontamination, such as by adding chlorine, is also disallowed.

Finally, unlike many food products in India, mineral water requires mandatory certification: to sell mineral water, producers must have both an FSSAI license and a BIS certificate and every bottle must carry the BIS mark (according to IS 13428). The FSSAI also requires the bottle to be labelled with the location and name of the source and the levels of various minerals, and disallows the packager from claiming the water has any medicinal or healing properties.



GETTY IMAGES

How is mineral water packaged?

To meet these strict criteria, producers usually bottle the water directly at or near the source. Once they extract the water, they filter it to remove particulate matter and elements such as iron to ensure the liquid is clear. Producers may also pass it through ultraviolet light for disinfection and adjust the level of dissolved carbon dioxide to produce still or sparkling variants.

Finally, the producers store the water in tanks and package it in glass bottles, PET bottles or aluminium cans at or near the source to avoid contamination or changes in composition. That said, the storage materials come with tradeoffs of their own. For instance, glass is chemically inert and doesn't react with the water but it must be handled with care; PET is light but can leach small amounts of plastic over time, especially when it's hot; and aluminium cans are most recyclable but require an internal plastic lining to prevent the metal from reacting with the water, which reintroduces concerns about chemical leaching and increases costs.

Packaged drinking water is not always the same as natural mineral water. Producers may start with tap or groundwater, purify it through reverse osmosis, then add back small amounts of minerals to improve taste. Similarly, spring water comes from a natural underground source but doesn't need to meet the same strict standards for mineral consistency.

That said, under 'bottled water', the U.S. FDA encompasses Artesian water, mineral water, sparkling bottled water, spring water, and purified water (including distilled, deionised, and/or demineralised water or water that has undergone reverse osmosis). Artesian

water is groundwater being pushed to the surface due to pressure created underground by impermeable rocks.

What effects do minerals have?

The minerals present in mineral water depend on its natural source. The most common minerals include calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonates, sulphates, chlorides, silica, and sometimes fluorides or iron in trace amounts.

Calcium and magnesium make water 'hard' and give mineral water the mouthfeel people are familiar with and have come to expect, including a slight weight and body. Higher calcium levels render a smooth or slightly chalky sensation, while magnesium introduces a subtle bitterness. Similarly, bicarbonates neutralise acidity and give the water an almost sweet finish, sulphates – associated with magnesium-rich springs – add a slightly crisp taste, and sodium imparts a faint saline note.

Dissolved minerals also raise the water's content of total dissolved solids (TDS) and change how it interacts with food, soap, pipes, and tissues, with different chemical and thermal environments (e.g. cooking), and with tissues in the human body. You may learn from common experience that harder water deposits 'scale' in kettles and washing machines and doesn't lather well with soap. Its inherent chemical properties also mean hard water supports bone density and aids muscle function, although the contribution of drinking water to these outcomes is generally much smaller compared to nutrition. Bicarbonates may improve digestion.

What are other forms of water?

When water is distilled, it means it is

boiled into steam and condensed back to liquid, in the process leaving all dissolved solids, including minerals as well as contaminants, behind in the vessel. As a result the condensed water is nearly pure H₂O, and tastes very different, almost 'flat'. It does not form scales on metal surfaces and behaves in the sort of predictable way that research laboratories and diagnostic labs prize.

However, while it is safe to drink, distilled water is not advised for regular human consumption because, aside from being devoid of minerals, it can also draw minerals out of surfaces it comes in contact with, including food and, potentially to a small degree, biological tissue.

Industries also treat water according to their needs. They may soften it to remove calcium and magnesium, deionise it to strip it of almost all dissolved ions or alter its chemistry to use in boilers or cooling systems. They could also demineralise it to prevent scaling and/or add components like sodium phosphate to lower its corrosion potential. Industrial water is neither safe nor suitable for human consumption.

To prepare municipal tap water, finally, treatment plants draw water from natural sources like rivers and groundwater, remove pathogens and chemical pollutants by filtering and chlorinating it, and add disinfectants such as chlorine. Unless a local authority specifically softens it, tap water retains its dissolved minerals. Its mineral content varies enormously by region. London's tap water is noticeably hard because it comes from chalk aquifers while many Scandinavian cities supply naturally soft water low in minerals.

How is tap water 'made' in India?

The main source of water that eventually becomes tap water in India is rivers and deep borewells.

Because the pathogen loads are higher in tropical areas, municipalities subsequently disinfect it more aggressively than in temperate or cold regions like North America or Scandinavia. Among other steps, they add alum to make dirt clump together so that it filters out more easily, and add residual chlorine, meaning more chlorine than what is required to disinfect the water, so that water disinfected at first becomes reinfected later if, say, a leaky pipe exposes it to sewage.

In fact, such 'mixing' is so common that most Indian municipalities don't guarantee potable tap water. Among the few exceptions are Pune in Odisha and parts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

Tap water is a State responsibility while the Union government sets the standards. The IS 10500:2012 standard prescribes limits for the quantity of minerals in potable water but also has room for variations. For instance, while the TDS limit is 500 mg/l, it can go up to 2,000 mg/l if no alternative source is available.

Rajasthan, Gujarat, and parts of Delhi/NCR have very high mineral content, including calcium and magnesium, because their groundwater lies in aquifers rich in minerals, whereas cities and States drawing water from Himalayan rivers or areas with high rainfall, such as Mumbai and parts of Kerala, have much softer water with lower mineral levels.

| Type of Water | What it is (English) | ए व पण्डित पण्डित | Source | Treatment | Minerals | Typical Price (India) |
|-------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Tap Water | Regular drinking water supplied by municipality | नगर निगम द्वारा दिया गया सामान्य पानी | Rivers, reservoirs, groundwater | Chlorination, filtration | Variable | ₹0 – ₹1/litre |
| Packaged Drinking Water | Purified water sold in bottles (like Bisleri basic) | शुद्ध किया गया बोतलबंद पानी | Any source (river/borewell) | RO, UV, ozone | Low (often removed) | ₹10 – ₹20/litre |
| Mineral Water (Natural) | Water from protected underground source with natural minerals | प्राकृतिक खनिजों वाला भूमिगत स्रोत का पानी | Springs, aquifers | Minimal treatment | Naturally present | ₹20 – ₹100/litre |
| Black Water | Wastewater from toilets (sewage) | शौचालय से निकलने वाला गंदा पानी | Human waste | Needs heavy treatment | Not usable | ✗ Not for drinking |
| Grey Water | Used water from kitchen, bath (not toilet) | रसोई/बाथरूम का उपयोग किया गया पानी | Household use | Can be recycled | Not for drinking | ✗ Not for drinking |
| Distilled Water | Pure H ₂ O with no minerals (boiled & condensed) | पूरी तरह शुद्ध पानी (कोई खनिज नहीं) | Any water | Distillation | Zero minerals | ₹20 – ₹50/litre |
| RO Water | Reverse Osmosis purified water | RO से शुद्ध किया गया पानी | Tap/borewell | RO filtration | Very low minerals | ₹10 – ₹30/litre |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Alkaline Water | Water with higher pH (basic nature) | उच्च pH वाला पानी | Modified or natural | Ionization/added minerals | Artificially adjusted | ₹50 – ₹200/litre |
| Sparkling Water | Carbonated water with CO ₂ gas | गैस मिला हुआ पानी | Natural or artificial | CO ₂ added | May have minerals | ₹50 – ₹300/litre |
| Spring Water | Naturally flowing underground water | प्राकृतिक झरने का पानी | Springs | Minimal | Natural minerals | ₹30 – ₹150/litre |
| Glacial Water | Water from melted glaciers | हिमनद (ग्लेशियर) से पिघला पानी | Glaciers | Minimal | Low minerals | ₹100 – ₹500/litre |
| Artesian Water | Water from confined aquifer under pressure | दबाव वाले भूमिगत स्रोत का पानी | Artesian wells | Minimal | Natural minerals | ₹100 – ₹400/litre |
| Vitamin Water | Water with added vitamins & flavors | विटामिन मिला हुआ पानी | Processed | Artificial addition | Added nutrients | ₹50 – ₹150/litre |
| Luxury Bottled Water (e.g., Evian, Fiji) | Premium branded natural water | महंगा ब्रांडेड प्राकृतिक पानी | Exotic sources | Minimal | Natural minerals | ₹200 – ₹2000+/litre |

Introduction / परिचय

- **Mineral water is water drawn from a protected underground source that naturally contains dissolved minerals and trace elements acquired through long geological contact with rocks. —** मिनरल वाटर वह जल है जो किसी संरक्षित भूमिगत स्रोत से प्राप्त होता है और जिसमें चट्टानों के साथ लंबे भूवैज्ञानिक संपर्क के कारण घुले हुए खनिज तथा सूक्ष्म तत्त्व प्राकृतिक रूप से मौजूद रहते हैं। Press Information... +1
- **This is different from ordinary packaged drinking water, which may be treated and purified before bottling. —** यह सामान्य पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर से अलग है, जिसे बोतलबंद करने से पहले शुद्ध और उपचारित किया जा सकता है। Bureau of Indian ... +1

What is mineral water? / मिनरल वाटर क्या है?

- **Mineral water is naturally pure water from underground aquifers, springs, or protected geological reservoirs. —** मिनरल वाटर भूमिगत एक्वीफर, झरनों या संरक्षित भूगर्भीय भंडारों से प्राप्त प्राकृतिक रूप से शुद्ध जल होता है।
- **Its main identity is that its mineral composition comes from nature, not from artificial addition during processing. —** इसकी मुख्य विशेषता यह है कि इसका खनिज-संयोजन प्राकृतिक होता है, न कि प्रसंस्करण के दौरान कृत्रिम रूप से मिलाया गया। Press Information... +1
- **Typical dissolved minerals may include calcium, magnesium, bicarbonates, sodium, potassium and sometimes sulphates or chlorides, depending on the rocks through which the water has travelled. —** सामान्यतः इसमें कैल्शियम, मैग्नीशियम, बाइकार्बोनेट, सोडियम, पोटैशियम तथा कभी-कभी सल्फेट या क्लोराइड जैसे खनिज घुले हो सकते हैं, जो इस बात पर निर्भर करते हैं कि जल किन चट्टानों से होकर गुजरा है। WHO CDN +1

How does it naturally contain dissolved minerals? / इसमें घुले हुए खनिज प्राकृतिक रूप से कैसे आते हैं?

1. Percolation through rocks / चट्टानों के बीच रिसाव

- Rainwater and surface water slowly seep underground through soil and rock layers. — वर्षा जल और सतही जल धीरे-धीरे मिट्टी और चट्टानों की परतों से रिसकर भूमिगत पहुंचते हैं।
- During this journey, the water dissolves small amounts of mineral matter from surrounding rocks. — इस यात्रा के दौरान जल आसपास की चट्टानों से थोड़ी-थोड़ी मात्रा में खनिज पदार्थ घोल लेता है।

2. Water-rock interaction / जल-चट्टान परस्पर क्रिया

- When water passes through limestone, it can dissolve calcium and bicarbonate. — जब जल चूना पत्थर से होकर गुजरता है, तो वह कैल्शियम और बाइकार्बोनेट घोल सकता है।
- When it moves through dolomite-rich rocks, magnesium content may rise. — जब यह डोलोमाइट युक्त चट्टानों से गुजरता है, तो मैग्नीशियम की मात्रा बढ़ सकती है।
- Granite, basalt and other rocks can also contribute different trace elements depending on local geology. — ग्रेनाइट, बेसाल्ट और अन्य चट्टानें भी स्थानीय भूगोल के अनुसार अलग-अलग सूक्ष्म तत्व प्रदान कर सकती हैं।

WHO CDN +1

3. Long underground residence time / भूमिगत लंबे समय तक ठहराव

- Mineral water usually remains underground for long periods, sometimes years or even much longer. — मिनरल वाटर सामान्यतः लंबे समय तक भूमिगत रहता है, कभी-कभी वर्षों या उससे भी अधिक समय तक।
- This long contact time allows more stable and characteristic mineral composition to develop. — यह लंबा संपर्क समय एक अधिक स्थिर और विशिष्ट खनिज-संरचना विकसित होने में मदद करता है।

4. Natural pressure and protected source / प्राकृतिक दाब और संरक्षित स्रोत

- Because the source is protected and underground, the water preserves its natural mineral profile better than treated surface water. — क्योंकि स्रोत संरक्षित और भूमिगत होता है, इसलिए यह जल उपचारित सतही जल की तुलना में अपनी प्राकृतिक खनिज-प्रकृति को बेहतर बनाए रखता है।
- That is why mineral water is often described as geologically conditioned water. — इसी कारण मिनरल वाटर को भूवैज्ञानिक रूप से प्रभावित जल कहा जाता है।

Difference between mineral water and packaged drinking water / मिनरल वाटर और पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर में अंतर

1. Source / स्रोत

- Mineral water comes from a protected underground natural source. — मिनरल वाटर किसी संरक्षित प्राकृतिक भूमिगत स्रोत से आता है।
- Packaged drinking water may come from various sources and is then treated for safety. — पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर विभिन्न स्रोतों से आ सकता है और फिर सुरक्षा हेतु उपचारित किया जाता है। Bureau of Indian ... +1

2. Mineral content / खनिज सामग्री

- Mineral water naturally retains dissolved minerals. — मिनरल वाटर में घुले हुए खनिज प्राकृतिक रूप से बने रहते हैं।
- Packaged drinking water may lose much of its mineral content during purification and may not have a stable natural mineral profile. — पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर शुद्धिकरण के दौरान अपने कई खनिज खो सकता है और उसमें स्थिर प्राकृतिक खनिज-प्रोफाइल नहीं होता। Bureau of Indian ... +1

3. Treatment / उपचार

- Natural mineral water is not meant to undergo heavy treatment that changes its essential composition. — नेचुरल मिनरल वाटर पर ऐसा भारी उपचार नहीं किया जाना चाहिए जो उसकी मूल संरचना बदल दे।
- Packaged drinking water is typically purified through methods such as filtration, reverse osmosis, UV or ozonation. — पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर को सामान्यतः निस्संयंदन, रिवर्स ऑस्मोसिस, यूवी या ओजोनाइजेशन जैसी विधियों से शुद्ध किया जाता है। Bureau of Indian ... +1

4. Indian standards / भारतीय मानक

- In India, packaged natural mineral water and packaged drinking water are covered under separate BIS standards. — भारत में पैकेज्ड नेचुरल मिनरल वाटर और पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर के लिए अलग-अलग BIS मानक हैं।
- IS 13428 applies to packaged natural mineral water, while IS 14543 applies to packaged drinking water. — IS 13428 पैकेज्ड नेचुरल मिनरल वाटर पर लागू होता है, जबकि IS 14543 पैकेज्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर पर लागू होता है। Press Information... +1

Are dissolved minerals useful? / क्या घुले हुए खनिज उपयोगी होते हैं?

- Yes, some dissolved minerals can contribute to taste and may add small nutritional value. — हाँ, कुछ घुले हुए खनिज स्वाद में योगदान दे सकते हैं और थोड़ा पोषणात्मक महत्व भी जोड़ सकते हैं।
- Calcium and magnesium are the most discussed minerals in drinking water from a health perspective. — स्वास्थ्य की दृष्टि से पीने के जल में कैल्शियम और मैग्नीशियम सबसे अधिक चर्चा में रहने वाले खनिज हैं।
- WHO documents note that drinking-water can contribute to intake of calcium and magnesium, though food remains the major source. — WHO के अनुसार, पीने का पानी कैल्शियम और मैग्नीशियम के सेवन में योगदान दे सकता है, हालांकि भोजन ही इनका प्रमुख स्रोत बना रहता है। World Health Org... +1

Does hard water mean mineral water? / क्या कठोर जल ही मिनरल वाटर होता है?

- No, every hard water is not mineral water. — नहीं, हर कठोर जल मिनरल वाटर नहीं होता।
- Hardness mainly refers to the presence of calcium and magnesium salts in water. — कठोरता का अर्थ मुख्यतः जल में कैल्शियम और मैग्नीशियम लवणों की उपस्थिति है।
- Mineral water is defined not just by hardness but by its protected natural source and stable natural mineral composition. — मिनरल वाटर की पहचान केवल कठोरता से नहीं, बल्कि उसके संरक्षित प्राकृतिक स्रोत और स्थिर प्राकृतिक खनिज-संरचना से होती है। WHO CDN +1

Why mineral water often tastes different / मिनरल वाटर का स्वाद अलग क्यों लगता है

- Different minerals give water different tastes. — विभिन्न खनिज जल को अलग-अलग स्वाद देते हैं।
- Calcium and magnesium may make water taste harder, bicarbonates may affect smoothness, and sodium may subtly change flavour. — कैल्शियम और मैग्नीशियम जल को अधिक कठोर स्वाद दे सकते हैं, बाइकार्बोनेट मुलायमपन को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं, और सोडियम स्वाद में हल्का बदलाव ला सकता है।
- That is why waters from different springs do not taste exactly the same. — इसीलिए अलग-अलग स्रोतों के पानी का स्वाद एक जैसा नहीं होता। WHO CDN

Indian context / भारतीय संदर्भ

- In India, tap water is usually sourced from rivers, reservoirs, borewells or groundwater systems and is disinfected before supply. — भारत में नल का पानी सामान्यतः नदियों, जलाशयों, बोरवेल या भूजल स्रोतों से लिया जाता है और आपूर्ति से पहले उसे कीटाणुरहित किया जाता है।
- Packaged mineral water is marketed as water from a protected natural source with natural mineral characteristics. — पैकेज्ड मिनरल वाटर को संरक्षित प्राकृतिक स्रोत से प्राप्त और प्राकृतिक खनिज-विशेषताओं वाला जल बताकर बेचा जाता है।
- For exam purposes, the key distinction is source plus natural mineral profile versus treated potable water. — परीक्षा की दृष्टि से मुख्य अंतर यह है: संरक्षित प्राकृतिक स्रोत और प्राकृतिक खनिज-प्रोफाइल बनाम उपचारित पेयजल। Press Information... +1

Extra facts for exam / परीक्षा हेतु अतिरिक्त तथ्य

- Aquifer means an underground layer of rock or sediment that stores and transmits groundwater. — Aquifer का अर्थ है चट्टान या अवसाद की भूमिगत परत जो भूजल को संचित और प्रवाहित करती है।
- Spring is a natural point where groundwater emerges at the surface. — Spring वह प्राकृतिक बिंदु है जहाँ भूजल सतह पर निकलता है।
- Dissolved solids in water are often referred to as TDS, that is, Total Dissolved Solids. — जल में घुले ठोस पदार्थों को प्रायः TDS अर्थात् Total Dissolved Solids कहा जाता है।
- Not all TDS is harmful; the meaning depends on what is dissolved and in what amount. — हर TDS हानिकारक नहीं होता; इसका अर्थ इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि क्या घुला है और कितनी मात्रा में घुला है। WHO CDN +1

Flat 12% surcharge to apply on buyback tax

● Move to raise tax outgo for those with income up to ₹1 cr

KULDEEP SINGH
New Delhi, March 25

THE GOVERNMENT HAS introduced a flat 12% surcharge on buyback-related capital gains for all shareholders.

According to experts, the new flat surcharge, introduced as an amendment to the Finance Bill 2026, could increase the overall tax outgo for smaller corporate shareholders and middle-income individual taxpayers, while giving relief to the super-rich.

Another amendment to Section 140 of the Income-Tax Act, 2025 carried through the Bill will raise the turnover limit for start-up tax holiday from ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore.

This aligns with the new start-up policy notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in February. The move will ensure that fast-growing innovation-driven startups won't lose the tax benefits as they scale up.

Sandeep Jhunjunwala, M&A Tax Partner at Nangia Global Advisors, said: "Moving to a flat 12% surcharge means a higher tax outgo across many

MONEY MATTERS

■ Section 140 of the Income-Tax Act, 2025 will raise turnover limit for startup tax holiday from **₹100 crore to ₹300 crore**

■ The move will ensure that fast-growing innovation-driven startups won't lose the tax benefits as they scale up



■ Currently, a graded surcharge structure applies to buybacks by individuals

■ For corporate shareholders, the flat 12% surcharge could raise costs in some income slabs

brackets, making buybacks a costlier route for cash extraction compared to alternatives such as dividends.

"This could likely discourage individual shareholders from initiating buybacks and distort capital allocation decisions."

Currently, a graded surcharge structure applies to buybacks by individuals: no surcharge on gains up to ₹50 lakh, 10% levy on gains between ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore, and 15% for gains exceeding ₹1 crore. For corporate shareholders, no surcharge is currently levied on buyback capital gains up to ₹1 crore, and a 7% levy applies to such gains between ₹1 crore and ₹10

crore. Corporate shareholders with higher buyback gains must pay a 12% surcharge.

The surcharges apply as a percentage of the capital gains tax. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Amit Maheshwari, managing partner at AKM Global, said the Finance Bill 2026 shifts buyback taxation to the shareholder level, but the applicable surcharge was initially unclear, especially for promoters and high-income taxpayers.

Jhunjunwala noted that the change would have a mixed impact depending on the size of the buyback and shareholder category. "The impact of this amendment, however,

would largely be limited to small and mid-sized buybacks, as large buybacks where gains exceed ₹1 crore are already subject to a higher surcharge rate of 15% and hence the amendment actually implies a 3% reduction in surcharge for such category," he said.

For corporate shareholders, the flat 12% surcharge could raise costs in certain income slabs. "For corporate shareholders, the flat 12% surcharge on buyback may have an impact in situations where gains are up to ₹1 crore, where no surcharge currently applied and where taxable income falls between ₹1 crore and ₹10 crore, where a 7% surcharge is applied.

In both scenarios, the shift to a uniform 12% surcharge increases the overall tax burden, thereby making buybacks relatively more expensive," Jhunjunwala added.

The DPIIT revised the tax holiday eligibility thresholds for the country's innovation-driven ecosystem by raising the turnover levels to ₹200 crore from ₹100 crore for regular startups and to ₹300 crore for deep tech ventures. The Finance Bill implements the tax proposals announced in the Union Budget for FY27. It will now move to the Rajya Sabha for consideration before receiving presidential assent.

| Topic | Details (English) | विवरण (हिंदी) |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| What is the News? | Government proposes a flat 12% surcharge on buyback-related capital gains under Finance Bill 2026. | सरकार ने वित्त विधेयक 2026 के तहत बायबैक से जुड़े पूंजीगत लाभ पर 12% की समान सरचार्ज दर प्रस्तावित की है। |
| Main Objective | To increase tax outgo and reduce tax arbitrage through buybacks. | कर-भार बढ़ाना और बायबैक के माध्यम से कर-अर्बिट्रिज को कम करना। |
| Earlier System | Graded surcharge system based on income slabs (0%, 10%, 15%). | आय-स्तर के अनुसार चरणबद्ध सरचार्ज (0%, 10%, 15%) लागू था। |
| New System | Uniform 12% surcharge replaces slab-based structure in relevant cases. | संबंधित मामलों में 12% की समान सरचार्ज दर लागू होगी। |
| Impact on Individuals | Middle-income taxpayers (especially below ₹1 crore gains) may face higher tax burden. | मध्यम-आय करदाताओं (विशेषकर ₹1 करोड़ तक लाभ वाले) पर कर-भार बढ़ सकता है। |
| Impact on High-income Group | High-income individuals (>₹1 crore) may see reduced surcharge compared to earlier 15%. | उच्च आय वर्ग (>₹1 करोड़) पर पहले की 15% दर की तुलना में सरचार्ज कम हो सकता है। |
| Impact on Corporate Shareholders | May increase tax liability in certain income brackets where earlier surcharge was lower or absent. | कुछ आय-श्रेणियों में कॉर्पोरेट शेयरधारकों पर कर-भार बढ़ सकता है जहाँ पहले कम या शून्य सरचार्ज था। |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Shareholders | income brackets where earlier surcharge was lower or absent. | जहाँ पहले कम या शून्य सरचार्ज था। |
| Buyback Meaning | Company repurchases its own shares from shareholders. | कंपनी अपने ही शेयर शेयरधारकों से वापस खरीदती है। |
| Why Companies Do Buyback | Return surplus cash, improve EPS, signal confidence, optimize capital structure. | अतिरिक्त नकदी लौटाना, EPS बढ़ाना, विश्वास दिखाना, पूंजी संरचना सुधारना। |
| Tax Shift | Buyback taxation shifted to shareholder level as capital gains. | बायबैक कराधान को शेयरधारक स्तर पर पूंजीगत लाभ के रूप में स्थानांतरित किया गया। |
| Surcharge Meaning | Additional tax on income tax amount, not on total income. | सरचार्ज आयकर पर लगाया जाने वाला अतिरिक्त कर है, न कि कुल आय पर। |
| Example (Concept) | If tax = ₹100, surcharge @12% = ₹12 extra. | यदि आयकर ₹100 है, तो 12% सरचार्ज = ₹12 अतिरिक्त। |
| Policy Aim | Ensure neutrality between dividends and buybacks. | लाभांश और बायबैक के बीच कर-तटस्थता सुनिश्चित करना। |
| Economic Impact | May reduce attractiveness of buybacks and shift companies toward dividends. | बायबैक की आकर्षण कम हो सकती है और कंपनियाँ लाभांश की ओर जा सकती हैं। |
| Revenue Impact | Likely to increase tax collection from middle-income segments. | मध्यम-आय वर्ग से कर-संग्रह बढ़ सकता है। |
| Equity Concern | Could increase burden on smaller investors while reducing it for some high-income groups. | छोटे निवेशकों पर भार बढ़ सकता है जबकि कुछ उच्च आय वर्ग को राहत मिल सकती है। |

Situation / स्थिति

- You bought shares for ₹1,00,000
 - Company buys back at ₹1,50,000
 - Profit (Capital Gain) = ₹50,000
 - आपने ₹1,00,000 में शेयर खरीदे
 - कंपनी ₹1,50,000 में वापस खरीदती है
 - लाभ = ₹50,000
-

Step 1: Calculate Tax / टैक्स निकालें

- Suppose tax rate = 20%
 - Tax = ₹50,000 × 20% = ₹10,000
-

Step 2: Add Surcharge (NEW RULE)

सरचार्ज जोड़ें (नई व्यवस्था)

- Surcharge = 12% of ₹10,000 = ₹1,200
-

Final Tax / कुल टैक्स

- Total Tax = ₹10,000 + ₹1,200 = ₹11,200

👉 Earlier (Old system) → maybe **NO surcharge** (if income < ₹50 lakh)

👉 Now (New system) → **₹1,200 extra tax**

✓ **Conclusion:** Tax burden increased

✓ निष्कर्ष: टैक्स बढ़ गया

Example 2: High Income Investor

उदाहरण 2: उच्च आय निवेशक

Situation / स्थिति

- Profit = ₹10,00,000
 - Tax @20% = ₹2,00,000
-

Old System / पुरानी व्यवस्था

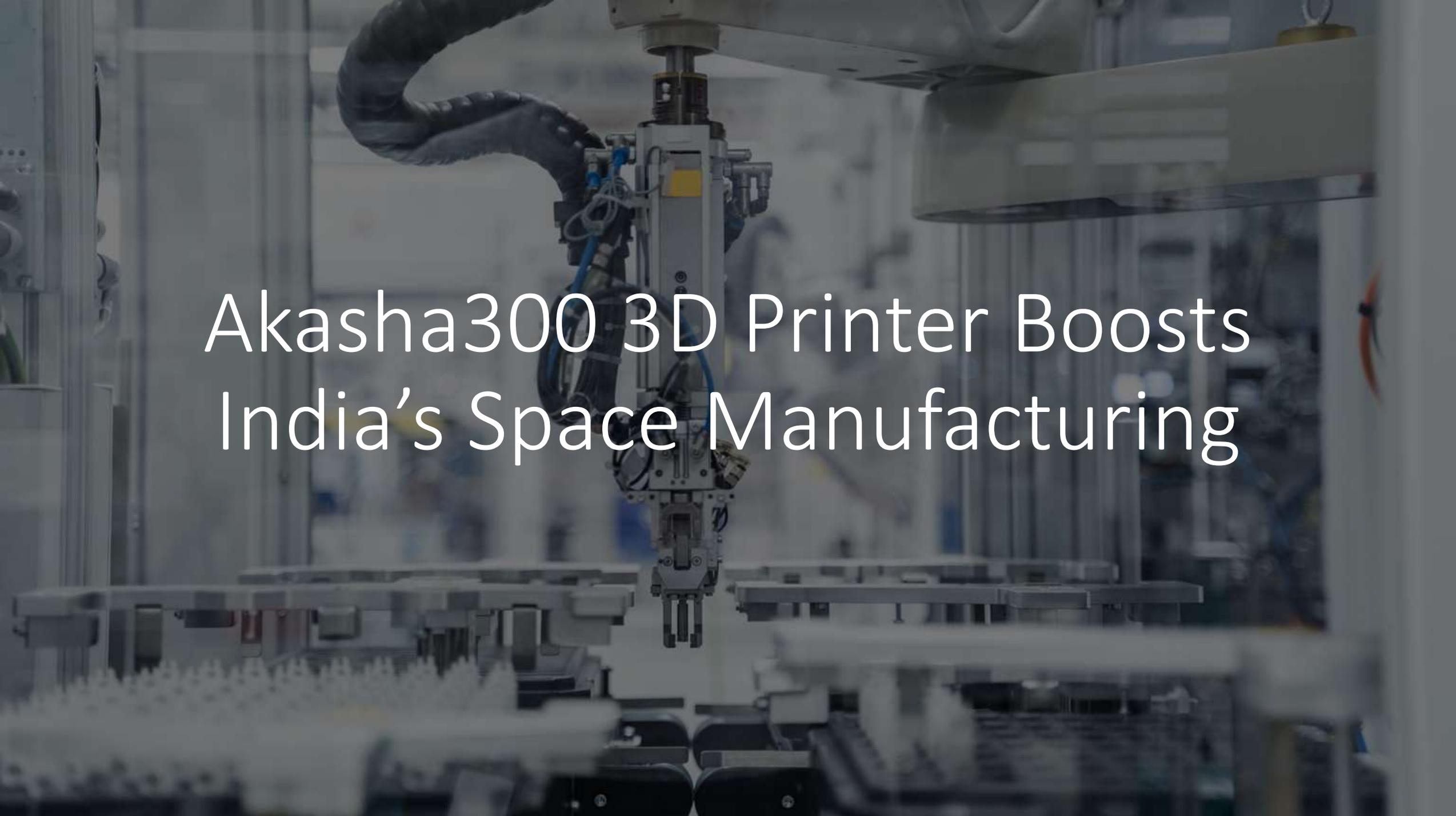
- Surcharge = 15%
 - Extra = ₹30,000
 - Total Tax = ₹2,30,000
-

New System / नई व्यवस्था

- Surcharge = 12%
 - Extra = ₹24,000
 - Total Tax = ₹2,24,000
-

👉 **Conclusion:** Tax decreased

👉 निष्कर्ष: टैक्स कम हुआ

A robotic arm is shown in a factory setting, positioned over a workbench. The arm is white and has several joints and cables. The background is a blurred industrial environment with various machinery and structures. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Akasha300 3D Printer Boosts India's Space Manufacturing

| Topic | Details (English) | अवगणना जगज्जल |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| What is Akasha300? | Akasha300 is an advanced industrial-grade 3D printer designed for high-temperature additive manufacturing, especially for aerospace and space applications. | आकाशा300 एक उन्नत औद्योगिक-स्तरीय 3D प्रिंटर है, जिसे उच्च तापमान पर एडिटिव मैनुफैक्चरिंग के लिए, विशेषकर एयरोस्पेस और अंतरिक्ष उपयोग हेतु डिजाइन किया गया है। |
| Developed by / Developed for | Developed under India's innovation ecosystem and deployed at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC). | इसे भारत के नवाचार तंत्र के अंतर्गत विकसित किया गया है और ISRO के लिक्विड प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स सेंटर (LPSC) में स्थापित किया गया है। |
| Key Technology | Based on additive manufacturing (3D printing), where objects are built layer by layer from digital models. | यह एडिटिव मैनुफैक्चरिंग (3D प्रिंटिंग) पर आधारित है, जिसमें वस्तुएं डिजिटल मॉडल से परत-दर-परत बनाई जाती हैं। |
| Temperature Capability | Can operate at high temperatures required for advanced materials used in aerospace engineering. | यह उच्च तापमान पर कार्य कर सकता है, जो एयरोस्पेस इंजीनियरिंग में प्रयुक्त उन्नत सामग्री के लिए आवश्यक है। |
| Important Components | Includes heated bed, precision motion system, and air filtration system for stable printing. | इसमें हीटेड बेड, सटीक मोशन सिस्टम और एयर फिल्ट्रेशन सिस्टम शामिल हैं, जो स्थिर प्रिंटिंग सुनिश्चित करते हैं। |
| Material Capability | Can print high-performance materials like polymers and composites used in space components. | यह उच्च-प्रदर्शन सामग्री जैसे पॉलिमर और कंपोजिट्स को प्रिंट कर सकता है, जो अंतरिक्ष घटकों में उपयोग होते हैं। |
| Role in Space Sector | Helps manufacture complex, lightweight, and high-precision components used in rockets and satellites. | यह रॉकेट और उपग्रहों में उपयोग होने वाले जटिल, हल्के और उच्च-सटीकता वाले घटकों के निर्माण में मदद करता है। |
| Why Important for ISRO | Enables rapid prototyping, reduces manufacturing time, and lowers cost of space hardware. | यह तेज़ प्रोटोटाइप निर्माण, निर्माण समय में कमी और अंतरिक्ष हार्डवेयर की लागत घटाने में सहायक है। |
| Exam Fact 4 | 3D printing reduces supply chain dependency. | 3D प्रिंटिंग आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पर निर्भरता कम करती है। |

LPSC Role

LPSC is a key ISRO centre responsible for liquid propulsion systems in launch vehicles and spacecraft.

LPSC ISRO का प्रमुख केंद्र है, जो प्रक्षेपण यानों और अंतरिक्ष यानों के लिए लिक्विड प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम विकसित करता है।

Industrial Significance

Bridges gap between research and industrial manufacturing; supports Make in India in high-tech sector.

यह अनुसंधान और औद्योगिक निर्माण के बीच की दूरी को कम करता है और उच्च-प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र में मेक इन इंडिया को समर्थन देता है।

Strategic Importance

Reduces dependence on foreign manufacturing and strengthens indigenous capability in critical space tech.

यह विदेशी निर्माण पर निर्भरता कम करता है और महत्वपूर्ण अंतरिक्ष तकनीक में स्वदेशी क्षमता को मजबूत करता है।

Global Context

Countries like USA, China, and EU are already using 3D printing in aerospace; India joining this league.

अमेरिका, चीन और यूरोपीय देश पहले से ही एयरोस्पेस में 3D प्रिंटिंग का उपयोग कर रहे हैं; भारत भी अब इस श्रेणी में शामिल हो रहा है।

Additive Manufacturing Meaning

Process of creating objects by adding material layer by layer, unlike subtractive manufacturing.

यह प्रक्रिया सामग्री को परत-दर-परत जोड़कर वस्तु बनाती है, जबकि पारंपरिक निर्माण में सामग्री हटाई जाती है।

Advantages

Complex design, less material waste, lightweight structures, faster innovation cycles.

जटिल डिजाइन, कम सामग्री बर्बादी, हल्की संरचनाएँ और तेज़ नवाचार चक्र इसके प्रमुख लाभ हैं।

Challenges

High cost, need for skilled workforce, material limitations, certification issues in aerospace.

उच्च लागत, कुशल कार्यबल की आवश्यकता, सामग्री सीमाएँ और एयरोस्पेस में प्रमाणन से जुड़ी चुनौतियाँ हैं।

Exam Fact 1

Additive manufacturing = 3D printing.

एडिटिव मैन्युफैक्चरिंग = 3D प्रिंटिंग।

Exam Fact 2

ISRO uses advanced manufacturing for propulsion and satellite components.

ISRO प्रोपल्शन और उपग्रह घटकों के लिए उन्नत निर्माण तकनीकों का उपयोग करता है।

Exam Fact 3

High-temperature 3D printing is critical for aerospace and defence sectors.

उच्च तापमान 3D प्रिंटिंग एयरोस्पेस और रक्षा क्षेत्रों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

Word of the day

Clandestine:

conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

Synonyms: secret, covert, private

Usage: *They held a clandestine meeting late at night.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/clandestine

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /klændestɪn/



Word of the day

Boisterous:

noisy and lacking in restraint or discipline

Synonyms: rambunctious, unruly

Usage: *The crowd grew boisterous as the match reached its final moments.*

Pronunciation:

<https://newsth.live/ZQEJN5>

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈbɔɪstəɪəs/

Word of the day

Wily:

marked by skill in deception

Synonyms: crafty, cunning

Usage: *She proved to be a wily negotiator, securing a better deal than expected.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/IJnn6E

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈwaɪ.li/



Thank you 😊