

Daily Current Affairs





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Elite Indian campuses try to keep drugs away

ITs and IIMs to introduce voluntary consent forms for optional drug testing for students during admission

NEWS 9 PAGE 3



PM Modi unveils new airport in A.P. STATES 9 PAGE 2



What does the new Bill to prevent exam fraud say? FAQ 9 PAGE 5



Sachin leads India's gold rush at Glasgow SPORT 9 PAGE 13

INSIDE



Russian attack on Kyiv leaves nine people dead

KYIV MOSCOW Russia pounded Kyiv in a ballistic missile attack, killing nine people, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Ukraine had run out of interceptor missiles for its U.S. Patriot air defence systems. He said that Russia launched 35 missiles at Ukraine, including 27 ballistic missiles, and 100 drones. **» PAGE 12**



Rahul booked over skit on donation 'theft'

DELHI The Uttar Pradesh Police on Saturday registered an FIR in Varanasi against Lok Sabha Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and MP Pappu Yadav and Amardeep Prasad over a play that they staged on the Parliament grounds in New Delhi on the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. **» PAGE 4**



More than 3,000 officers move SC against CAPF Act

NEW DELHI More than 3,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) Group A officers have moved the Supreme Court to challenge the Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2006. The petitioners include gallantry award winners and meritorious officers. **» PAGE 5**

'Collegium's lack of transparency creates loophole'

NEW DELHI Supreme Court judge Justice Uday Lalit stated on Saturday that the lack of Collegium's lack of transparency in judicial appointments creates a loophole, allowing individuals who make unconstitutional or derogatory remarks to enter the judiciary. **» PAGE 2**

8 killed as extremely heavy rain lashes Kerala

Sudden intensity of rainfall triggers landslides in Idukki and Kottayam, causing widespread damage

Authorities open shutters of several dams as rivers swell; flash floods hit many parts of State

Govt. opens relief camps as IMD forecasts more heavy rainfall across the State

Disaster Management

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Eight people died in rain-related incidents in Kerala as a spell of intense rain battered the state from Friday night into Saturday, triggering landslides, flash floods, and widespread destruction, particularly in hilly regions. This comes barely a month after a deadly debris slip triggered by extreme rainfall claimed eight lives at a tunnel construction site in Wayanad.

As of 9 p.m. on Saturday, the death toll stood at eight people, including three children, and four people who died in landslides. Six fishermen, four from Thiruvananthapuram and two from Kollam, went missing in the Arabian Sea, while two residents of Kozhikode also went missing after they fell into a river. Search operations were ongoing. The State government opened 65 relief camps, sheltering 1,465 people. According to the Chief Minister's Office, 17 houses were destroyed and 127 partially damaged, and the State is ready to open more camps if required. The sudden intensity of the rainfall caught weather agencies, resident and disaster management authorities off guard, triggering



Washed away rescue efforts under way at the site of a landslide in Kottayam district. (Hindu Photo)

major landslides in Idukki and Kottayam districts. A red alert remained in force for nine districts on Saturday, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for 12 districts on Sunday, warning of more heavy rainfall. A rain gauge maintained by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) recorded 361 mm of rain at Varkasseri in Pathanamthitta by 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. The Anakkampoyil region in

Kozhikode received 340 mm of rain over the previous 24 hours, while Mepadi in Wayanad recorded 177 mm rainfall. The shutters of several dams were raised on Saturday, leading to a rise in water levels in rivers, especially in Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts. Chief Minister V.D. Sarathedhan urged the public to follow official advisories and assured them that the government was prepared to handle any emergency. Although Kerala had

been experiencing moderate to heavy rainfall over the past few days, the downpour intensified on Friday night, triggering flash floods in parts of Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, and northern Keralam. The situation was under control, with vulnerable residential areas and parts of the towns were submerged. Mr. Sarathedhan urged the public to follow official advisories and assured them that the government was prepared to handle any emergency. Although Kerala had

been experiencing moderate to heavy rainfall over the past few days, the downpour intensified on Friday night, triggering flash floods in parts of Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, and northern Keralam. The situation was under control, with vulnerable residential areas and parts of the towns were submerged. Mr. Sarathedhan urged the public to follow official advisories and assured them that the government was prepared to handle any emergency. Although Kerala had

operations and successfully rescued two people from the debris in Idukki. The rain subsided in many parts of the state on Saturday evening, aiding rescue efforts. Boats were deployed from other districts, while authorities continued to monitor water levels in major dams. Residents in hilly areas were advised to remain vigilant in view of the possibility of further rain.

Tourism Impact The Travancore Devaswom Board appealed to devotees planning to visit the Sabarimala hill shrine on August 2 and 3 for Nisa puja to reconsider their pilgrimage because of the heavy rain, flooding in the Pampa river, and the risk of landslides. The popular tourist destination of Ponnammudi in Thiruvananthapuram was closed after a landslide near the 12th hairpin bend sent debris down the steeply sloping hill. The Idukki district administration also suspended all tourist activities until conditions improve (With inputs from Kottayam and Idukki)

Commercial LPG cylinder price slashed by ₹200; aviation turbine fuel up by ₹5

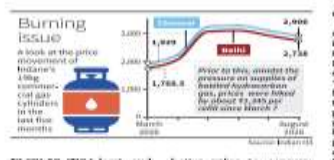
Subsidies

NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of commercial liquidated petroleum gas (LPG) by about ₹200 per cylinder, the second downward revision since the peak of the recent April claim that gas prices spiral upwards by about ₹1,345 per cylinder in four tranches.

However, the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel, was increased by ₹5 per litre to ₹115 per litre for domestic carriers. The price of domestic LPG remained unchanged, although the price of five-gallon free trade LPG cylinders, primarily catering to migrant workers, declined by ₹46 per cylinder.

A non-domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs ₹1,100, while a five-gallon PTL cylinder is priced at ₹792, down from ₹838. **Steepest fall in Kolkata** In Mumbai, a commercial LPG cylinder costs



₹2,001.80 (₹194 less), and in Chennai, it costs ₹2,366 (₹200 less). Among the major metros, Kolkata saw the steepest fall of ₹200. It is now priced at ₹2,872.50. **'Some relief'** Nagar Thyani, president, National Restaurant Association of India, welcomed the price cut. "It brings some relief to the industry, especially to small and independent restaurateurs that continue to operate at thin margins," he said, adding, "This will go a long way in helping restaurateurs manage costs better, focus on growth, and continue delivering

better value to consumers." Speaking from the perspective of the glass-making industry, Sandeep Mehta, Chief Strategy Officer at Hindustan National Glass & Industries, emphasized, "For glass makers running at a loss, this is a relief. The reliability of LPG supply matters as much as the roughly ₹200 saved per cylinder. With festive season packaging demand from alcohol, pharma and FMCG approaching, the timing could not be better," he stated. With the latest revision, the price of the 15-kg cylinder, the price of the 15-kg cylinder meant for commercial and industrial consumers has declined by about ₹380 per cylinder across two tranches. The price of the 5-kg commercial LPG cylinder was reduced by about ₹80 per cylinder. The price of PTL has also cumulatively been reduced by about ₹60 per cylinder across the two tranches. The ATF price, which had risen by the same ₹5 per litre on July 1,

GST collections grow 15.4% to more than ₹2.1 lakh crore in July on imports and sales

Price

NEW DELHI

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections grew 15.4% to more than ₹2.1 lakh crore in July on import and sales. The collections were ₹2,18,811 crore in July compared to ₹1,89,343 lakh crore recorded in the same period last year. Tax collection from domestic transactions grew 10.1% to more than ₹1.44 lakh crore, while gross revenues from imports were up 29% to ₹66,541 crore. GST collection reflects continued economic resilience despite challenges in the external environment. As per the GST data released by the Ministry of Finance, the total refund grew 13.8% to ₹25,388 crore in July. After adjusting refunds, net GST revenue stood at more than ₹1.91 lakh crore.



Strong gains "Strong gains across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh confirm broad-based momentum across India's largest manufacturing, services and consumption hubs," Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley, said. As per the GST data released on Saturday, gross tax collection grew 10.1% to about ₹2.43 lakh crore in April 2015. Net GST collections rose 9.2% to ₹2.21 lakh crore during the period.

Price of India The price of India's domestic transactions grew 10.1% to more than ₹1.44 lakh crore in July on import and sales. The collections were ₹2,18,811 crore in July compared to ₹1,89,343 lakh crore recorded in the same period last year. Tax collection from domestic transactions grew 10.1% to more than ₹1.44 lakh crore, while gross revenues from imports were up 29% to ₹66,541 crore. GST collection reflects continued economic resilience despite challenges in the external environment. As per the GST data released by the Ministry of Finance, the total refund grew 13.8% to ₹25,388 crore in July. After adjusting refunds, net GST revenue stood at more than ₹1.91 lakh crore.

Commercial LPG cylinder price slashed by ₹200; aviation turbine fuel up by ₹5

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

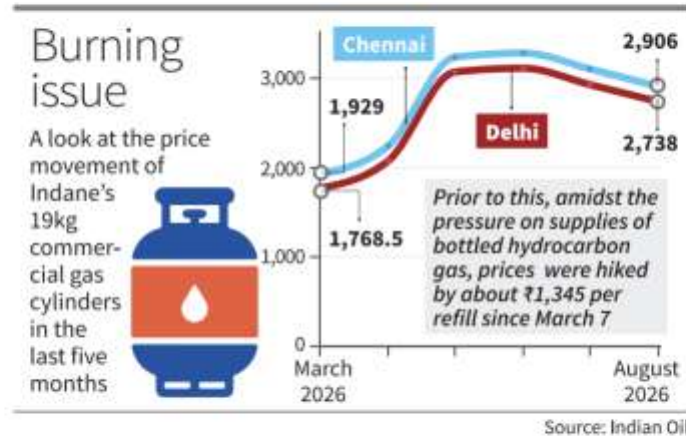
Oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by about ₹200 per cylinder. This is the second downward revision since the peak of the West Asia crisis that saw prices spiral upwards by about ₹1,345 per cylinder in four tranches.

However, the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, was increased by ₹5 per litre to ₹115 per litre for domestic carriers.

The price of domestic LPG remained unchanged, although the price of five-kg free trade LPG cylinders - primarily catering to migrant workers - declined by ₹46 per cylinder.

A non-domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs ₹192 less at ₹2,738 per cylinder, while a five-kg FTL cylinder is priced at ₹762 from the earlier ₹808.50.

Steepest fall in Kolkata
In Mumbai, a commercial LPG cylinder costs



₹2,691.50 (₹194 less), and in Chennai, it costs ₹2,906 (₹200 less). Among the major metros, Kolkata saw the steepest fall of ₹209. It is now priced at ₹2,872.50.

'Some relief'

Sagar Daryani, president, National Restaurant Association of India, welcomed the price cut.

"It brings some relief to the industry, especially to small and independent restaurants that continue to operate on thin margins," he said, adding, "This will go a long way in helping restaurants manage costs better, focus on growth, and continue delivering

better value to consumers."

Prashant Vashisht, senior vice-president at ratings agency ICRA, said under-recoveries on LPG continue to exist, although diversifying sources of procurement have helped ease some of the pressure.

"Before the war, we were getting a sizeable proportion of LPG supplies from one region [the Gulf]. Since then, we have figured out alternative sources," Mr. Vashisht told *The Hindu*. "Under-recoveries continue to exist although the pressure on supplies would not be the same as at the onset of the

crisis," he added.

Speaking from the perspective of the glass-making industry, Suraj Mehta, Chief Strategy Officer at Hindusthan National Glass & Industries, emphasised, "For glass makers running furnaces round the clock, the reliability [of LPG supply] matters as much as the roughly ₹200 saved per cylinder. With festive season packaging demand from alcobev, pharma and FMCG approaching, the timing could not be better," he stated.

With the latest revision, the price of the 19-kg cylinder meant for commercial and industrial consumers has declined by about ₹380 per cylinder across two tranches. On July 1, the price of the 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was reduced by about ₹183 per cylinder refill.

The price of FTL has also cumulatively been reduced by about ₹60 per cylinder across the two tranches. The ATF price hike comes a month after it fell by the same ₹5 per litre on July 1.

Particular	Details
Decision	Commercial LPG prices reduced by about ₹200 per 19 kg cylinder
Effective	1 August 2026
Domestic LPG	No change
ATF	Increased by ₹5/litre
Beneficiaries	Restaurants, Hotels, Caterers, Glass Industry, Small Businesses
Reason	Cooling global LPG prices after easing West Asia supply disruptions

Price Comparison

City	Earlier Price	New Price	Reduction
Delhi	₹2,930	₹2,738	₹192
Mumbai	₹2,885.50	₹2,691.50	₹194
Chennai	₹3,106	₹2,906	₹200
Kolkata	₹3,081.50	₹2,872.50	₹209

Among all metros, Kolkata received the biggest reduction.  Angel One +1

ATF (Jet Fuel)

Earlier	New
₹110/L	₹115/L

Impact

- Airlines' operating cost increases
- Airfare may rise if oil prices remain elevated
- Aviation sector faces margin pressure

Domestic LPG

Cylinder

Change

14.2 kg Household Cylinder

No Change

5 kg FTL Cylinder

Reduced by ₹46

Why Prices Fell

Earlier this year:

- West Asia conflict disrupted LPG supplies.
- India depends heavily on imported LPG.
- Commercial LPG prices had increased by around ₹1,345 in four hikes.
- Supply conditions have now improved, allowing price reductions.  Angel One +1

Who Benefits?

Sector

Benefit

Restaurants

Lower cooking cost

Hotels

Better profit margins

Catering

Reduced fuel expenses

Bakeries

Lower production costs

Glass Industry

Lower furnace operating cost

GST collections grow 15.4% to more than ₹2.11 lakh crore in July on imports and sales

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections grew 15.4% to more than ₹2.11 lakh crore in July on higher mop-up from sales and imports, reflecting sustained domestic consumption. Gross GST collections were ₹1.95 lakh crore in July compared to ₹1.83 lakh crore recorded in the same period last year.

Tax collection from domestic transactions grew 10.1% to more than ₹1.44 lakh crore, while gross revenues from imports were up 29% to ₹66,511 crore.

GST collection reflects continued economic resilience despite challenges in the external environment, according to M.S. Mani, Deloitte India Partner.

“Steady growth in GST collections each month on domestic consumption indicates that overall domestic consumption is becoming



GST collection shows economic resilience despite several challenges. GETTY IMAGES

largely insulated from seasonal variations and external headwinds,” Mr. Mani said.

Gross Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) revenue during the month stood at ₹39,835 crore, while State GST (SGST) and Integrated GST (IGST) mop-up were ₹47,881 crore and more than ₹1.23 lakh crore, respectively.

Total refunds grew 13.1% to ₹29,968 crore in July. After adjusting refunds, net GST revenue stood at more than ₹1.81 lakh crore.

KPMG, Indirect Tax Head & Partner, Abhishek Jain said much of the July GST revenue growth was driven by imports and it would be worth digging into whether that’s finished goods or raw materials, and how much of it simply reflects a weaker rupee rather than higher volumes.

Strong gains

“Strong gains across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh confirm broad-based momentum across India’s largest manufacturing, services and consumption hubs,” Manoj Mishra, Grant Thornton Bharat Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader added.

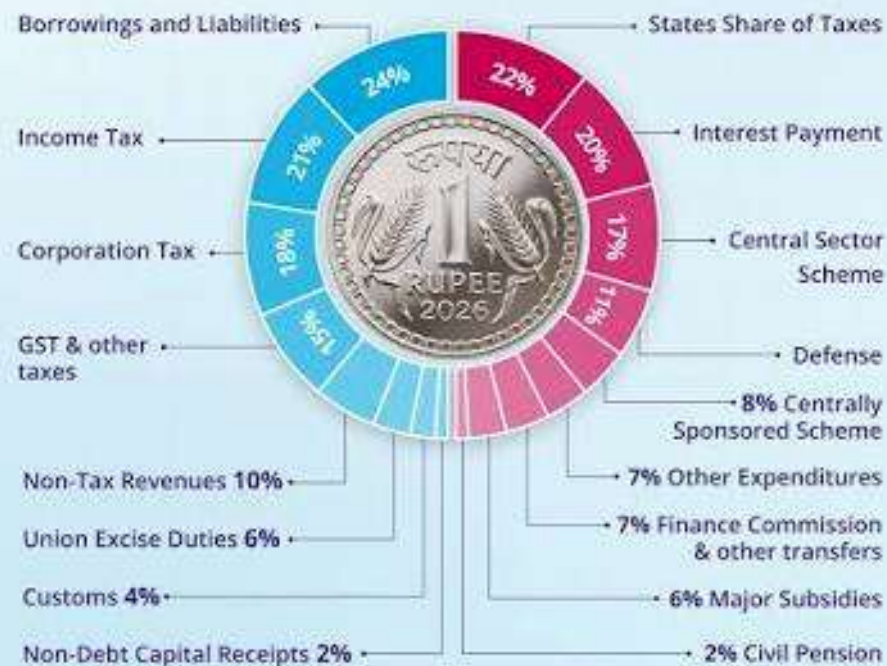
As per the GST data released on Saturday, gross tax collection grew 10.1% to about ₹8.43 lakh crore in April-July.

Net collections rose 9.2% to ₹7.21 lakh crore during the period.

Union Budget 2026-27 The Rupee Story

Where It Comes From

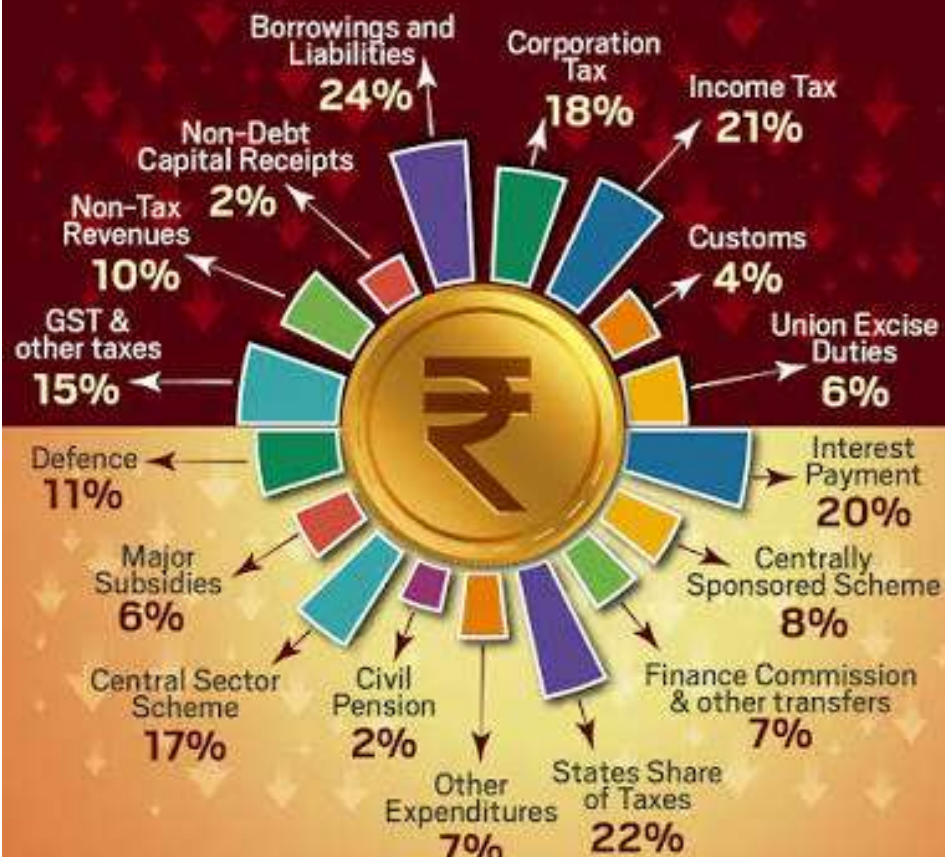
And Where It Goes



Source: Union Budget 2026-27

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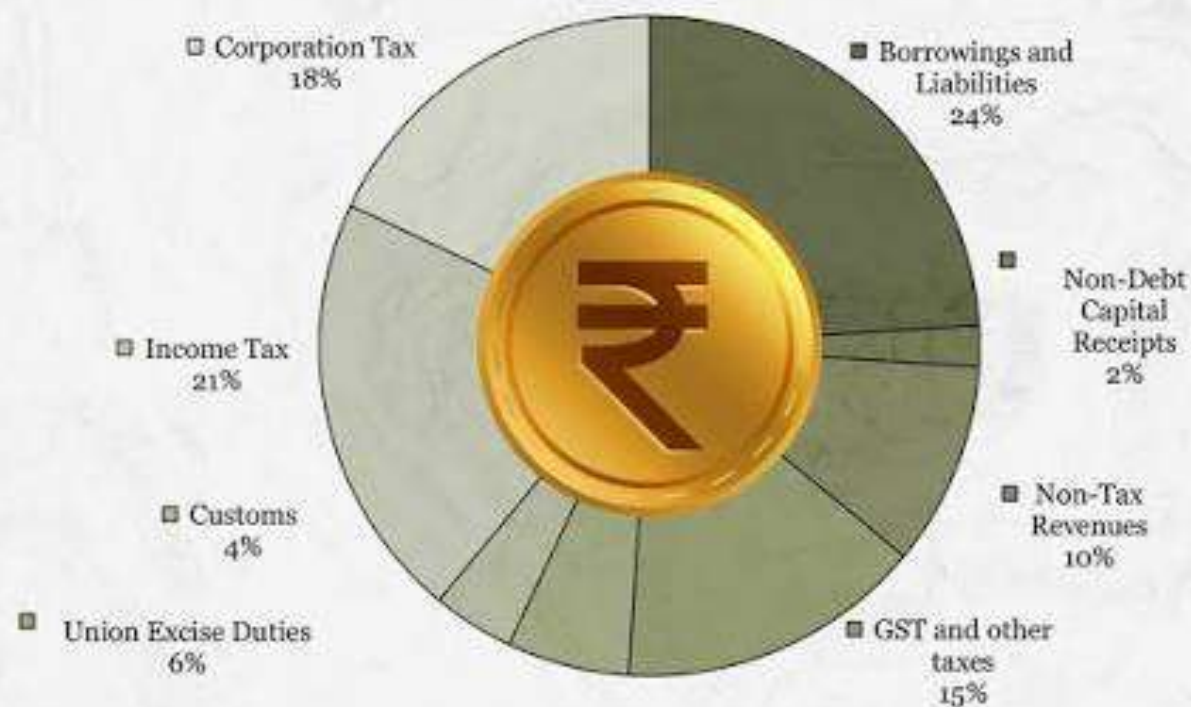
RUPEE COMES FROM



RUPEE GOES TO



RUPEE COMES FROM



#ViksitBharatBudget

Particular	Value
Total GST Collection	₹2.11 lakh crore
Growth	15.4% YoY
Domestic GST Growth	10.1%
Import GST Growth	29%
Net GST	₹1.81 lakh crore
Refund Growth	13.1%

Collection Break-up

Component	Collection
CGST	₹39,835 crore
SGST	₹47,881 crore
IGST	₹1.23 lakh crore
Import GST	₹66,511 crore
Refunds	₹29,968 crore

Why Collection Increased

1. Strong Domestic Consumption

Consumers spent more.



Higher GST

2. Imports Increased

More imports



Higher IGST



Higher GST Collection

3. Manufacturing Growth

States like

- Maharashtra
- Gujarat
- Karnataka
- Telangana
- Haryana
- Uttar Pradesh

recorded strong activity.

Indicator	Meaning
Consumption	Strong
Manufacturing	Strong
Business Activity	Healthy
Tax Compliance	Improving
Government Revenue	Rising

Challenges

Experts caution that part of the increase may be due to:

- Higher imports
- Rupee depreciation
- Imported inflation

rather than only stronger domestic demand.

Importance

Higher GST means:

Government receives more revenue for

- Infrastructure
 - Railways
 - Highways
 - Defence
 - Welfare Schemes
 - Capital Expenditure
-

IN BRIEF



Varsha Ashok Aglawe first woman GSI D-G in 176 years

The Geological survey of India on Friday said Varsha Ashok Aglawe has assumed charge as its 8th Director General, becoming the first woman to head the country's premier geoscientific organisation in its 176-year history. Ms. Aglawe, a palaeontologist with over three decades of experience, succeeds Ashi Saha. She joined GSI in 1993 after a stint with the Indian Bureau of Mines. On taking charge, she said GSI would align its programmes with the government's priorities on critical mineral exploration and mineral security. She also stressed the need to promote advanced geoscientific research, natural hazard studies, and capacity building for young geoscientists. **21**

Counterfeit military combat uniform racket busted

A joint operation by the Army's Intelligence units and the Rajasthan Police has uncovered a counterfeit military combat uniform racket in Rajasthan's Srijangar district, leading to the seizure of nearly 1,500 metres of unauthorised Army pattern combat cloth. According to the Army, the operation was launched after a consignment of counterfeit combat cloth was seized in Bareilly in June this year. The investigation identified a local firm in Srijangar as a key link in the supply chain, allegedly distributing counterfeit Army pattern combat cloth to local shops as well as Ladakh, Jammu, Nagaland, and other nearby markets.

Delhi HC restrains misuse of Yuvraj Singh's identity

The Delhi High Court has granted interim protection to former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh, restraining individuals and online entities from using his name, image, voice, likeness, and other personality attributes without his consent, particularly using Artificial Intelligence (AI), deepfakes, and other digital technologies. Justice Jodh Singh passed the order in a suit filed by Mr. Singh alleging widespread misuse of his personality rights through AI-generated images, fabricated videos, and unauthorised sale of merchandise bearing his name and likeness. The court noted that his personality attributes deserve legal protection from unauthorised use.

Ladakh Police registers zero FIR over video against Shah

Ladakh Police on Saturday registered a zero FIR against a social media influencer over the circulation of a Facebook video in which allegedly objectionable remarks have been made against Union Home Minister Amit Shah, officials said. The case has been registered against Yogesh Parmar under sections 187D(b) (acts against national integrity), 182 (desecration of graves, breach of peace) and 280A (public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) based on a written complaint received at the Leh police station, the officials said. The offences carry punishments ranging from two to three years of imprisonment, along with a fine, or both. **21**

SUDOKU

5	8	7		1				
			1	4		3		
	6	2		5				4
	9	4	8		6	5	1	
3		4			7	8		
	2		9	6			5	
	9		6		2		1	

DIFFICULTY RATINGS ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	6	2	9	3	1	5	8
3	9	8	6	5	1	4	7	2
1	5	7	3	4	8	2	6	9
4	6	1	3	8	9	7	2	5
2	3	5	7	6	1	4	9	8
8	2	5	9	1	6	3	4	7
6	3	4	7	2	8	5	9	1
1	7	9	4	3	5	2	8	6

Over 3,000 serving officers move SC against CAPF Act

Petitioners include gallantry awardees, women officers; they say the law makes it harder for CAPF cadre officers to be promoted to leadership positions as it allows more IPS officers on deputation

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

More than 3,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) Group A officers have moved the Supreme Court to challenge the Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026. The petitioners include gallantry award winners and women officers.

The Act, passed by the Parliament on April 2 and notified on April 15, will make it harder for CAPF cadre officers to be promoted through the ranks to leadership positions.

The legislation was enacted to effectively merge a May 2023 Supreme Court ruling that directed the exact opposite action—to reduce Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the CAPF leadership and make it easier for CAPF officers to reach top positions.

The law states that in all CAPFs, 90% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector General, at least 67% in the rank of Additional Director General, and all posts in the rank of Special Director General and Director General must be filled by IPS officers on deputation.

However, such postings were done based on executive orders. The practice of reserving 50% of Deputy Inspector General (DIG)



The CAPFs comprise the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashstra Seema Bal, and the Central Industrial Security Force. (A.2. NIRM)

posts for Group A CAPF officers also finds no place in the Act, paving the way for a higher percentage of IPS officers to be promoted to leadership positions.

The petitioners in the top court seek to declare Sections 3 and 4 of the CAPF Act as "ultra vires" as beyond the power of the Constitution of India.

Section 3 pertains to "regulation of recruitment and conditions of service," notwithstanding any judgment, decree or order of any court, and specifies the percentage of posts reserved for IPS officers on deputation. Section 4 gives the Union government the power to amend the First and Second Schedules of reserving 50% of Deputy Inspector General (DIG)

action necessary or expedient in the public interest.

Previous ruling The petitioners have sought directions for the implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment dated May 23, 2023, in *Sanjay Prakash v. Union of India*, and a declaration that the highest Administrative Grade posts in all CAPFs be filled from among eligible executive cadre officers of the respective forces, ranks or both exclusively through deputation.

On May 23, 2023, the Supreme Court had ruled that Group A Executive Cadre officers of CAPFs are Organised Group A Service for all purposes. Besides progressively reducing the IPS deputation in CAPFs

upto the level of 14% in the next two years, the court asked for a time bound review of cadre and service rules within six months.

The Ministry of Home Affairs challenged the judgment, but on October 28, 2025, the court dismissed the review petition, upholding the ruling final.

After several retired CAPF officers filed a contempt petition in the court, the MHA introduced a Bill in Parliament in March, which effectively negated that judgement.

The CAPFs comprise the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB), and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Terror suspect had plans for violence at Delhi protest: STF

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) on Saturday said a terror suspect arrested on Friday, identified as Hamim Mondal, had plans for subversive action during protests by the support group of the Tana Party in Delhi. The police have also picked up his associate, Arpit Sarkar, from Sahabganj in Burdwan and transferred her to Kolkata.

"Pakistani outfits were asking him to arrange a police uniform and infiltrate the recent student protest in Delhi's Jantar Mantar and engage in violent activities," STF Inspector General Gaurav Sharma said.

According to STF officials, he was also targeting Chief Minister Suhasn Chatterjee, as well as other politicians and multiple police officers. Mr. Sharma said the suspect was caught while studying the Chief Minister's movements to find vulnerabilities in his security.

Case of brainwashing "Having had relationships with multiple Pakistani outfits, there are many more on our radar who are yet to arrest," Mr. Sharma added. He said that this case of brainwashing and radical propaganda, which brought them under investigation, is expected to have links with the Pakistan-based "Shahid" group and other terrorist organisations. Mr.



STF government arrest suspect terror Hamim Mondal in Burdwan on Friday. (1)

Sharma said. The police have recovered gadgets and other documents from the suspects and are analysing them. They are also analysing bank account transactions and encrypted messages to understand their targets and plans.

Mr. Mondal was arrested on Friday, by a six-member team of the STF. He was produced in court and has been sent to 14 days' police custody.

Mr. Mondal was alleged by using Mr. Sarkar to abduct, and abduct a State Minister's son from Howrah, when the police received information about their activities, which brought them under the scanner. "West Bengal has become the haven of terrorists, and our police force and our Chief Minister have already stated that we will crack down on all kinds of terrorism, terrorism, and criminals," Minister Shrabana Ghosh told the media on Saturday.

Govt. releasing its share of disaster funds to seven States

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union government has approved the advance release of its share of the State Disaster Response Fund of ₹2,117.88 crore to support seven flood affected States during the ongoing monsoon season, an official statement said on Saturday.

Of the affected States, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Nagaland have already received the first instalment of the Central share for the financial year 2026-27.

"To ensure timely availability of funds for relief operations, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved the advance release of the second instalment of the Central share of ₹869 to Himachal Pradesh and Odisha," the statement said.

Himachal Pradesh has been sanctioned ₹193.95 crore and Odisha is to get ₹500 crore as their second instalments.

The advance release of first instalments has been approved for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, and Maharashtra by releasing documentary requirements under applicable guidelines, considering the statement said.

The assistance approved for Arunachal Pradesh amounts to ₹44.95 crore, for Assam ₹279.35 crore, for Gujarat ₹500 crore, and for Maharashtra ₹100 crore.

With this approval, a total of ₹2,117.88 crore has been made available to the flood-affected States to strengthen their ongoing relief and response measures, the official statement added.

IITs, IIMs to begin voluntary drug testing as part of admission; results to be confidential

Ashwini Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Under directions from the Union government, higher educational institutions across India, starting with IITs and IIMs this year, have begun suggesting incoming students submit a voluntary urine test for drugs such as amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, benzodiazepines, and phencyclidine (PCP) with their admission paperwork.

According to government officials, as part of the government's broader efforts to tackle narcotics in the country, as outlined in the Narcotics Control Bureau's "Vision Document 2026-29" — a key strategy of which is to screen students to halt students across 170 centrally-funded higher education



Fight against drugs: The initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to tackle narcotics addiction in the country. (A.2. NIRM)

institutions for drugs in the next two years. The initiative, in a phased manner, the vision document has characterised the misuse of psychoactive substances among students in colleges and universities as "a growing health concern". This comes just as the government is finalising the questions for its next

and most expensive yet survey of substance users across India, the results for which will be expected over the next few years. Further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to launch the "Nasha Mukh Yatra" for Vikash Bharati Raskap Alkhyar on Sunday, which is meant to "inspire youth to stay away from substance abuse".

For counselling only Government officials told *The Hindu* that the basic guidelines for drug testing will be strictly voluntary and confidential in nature, and that it is not for disciplinary measures, suspension, or any form of expulsion.

"This drug screening programme is being implemented in three phases, with IITs, IIMs, and one central university starting this year under the first phase."

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CBI files ₹1,816.22-crore EPFO fraud case against Reliance

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Reliance Capital Limited (RCL) for alleged EPFO investment fraud involving ₹1,816.22 crore, the agency said on Saturday.

The First Information Report (FIR) is based on a complaint received by the CBI from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Ministry of Labour & Employment, against the company, its former chairman Anil D. Ambani, and other public servants and others, it said.

The funds involve ₹1,027.88 crore, along with an interest liability of ₹208.67 crore. The agency has invoked provisions against legalised crimes, cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal misappropriation. "It is alleged in the complaint that in 2014 and 2014, Reliance Capital Limited (RCL) issued a secured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), in which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had a share of ₹2,117.88 crore through four portfolio managers including Reliance Capital Asset Management Limited," said the CBI.

The NCDs were due to mature during 2023 and

2024. The accused persons included in fraudulent transactions and diversion of funds, resulting in the default in redemption of the NCDs by RCL. A Spokesperson for Mr. Ambani said, "The FIR registered by the CBI pertains to Reliance Capital Limited. Mr. Ambani served as a Non-Executive Director/Chairman of its Board from 2020 until November 2021, when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had a share of ₹2,117.88 crore through four portfolio managers including Reliance Capital Asset Management Limited," said the CBI.

The NCDs were due to mature during 2023 and

More choices for test centres among key changes in NEET-PG

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In a series of changes for the NEET-PG to be held on August 30, the Centre will expand the choice of test locations, give candidates more choice in their examination cities, and give them more time to prepare for the test. The reforms are aimed at making the exam more convenient for NEET-PG candidates, according to the Union Health Ministry. The Ministry said that a bold overhaul of the exam has been introduced during both the applica-

tion process and on the examination day.

Under the new system, candidates will indicate three state preferences for their examination centres, with their correspondence state being the mandatory first choice. Candidates will also be able to select their examination cities, and give them more time to prepare for the test. The reforms are aimed at making the exam more convenient for NEET-PG candidates, according to the Union Health Ministry. The Ministry said that a bold overhaul of the exam has been introduced during both the applica-

Over 3,000 serving officers move SC against CAPF Act

Petitioners include gallantry awardees, women officers; they say the law makes it harder for CAPF cadre officers to be promoted to leadership positions as it allows more IPS officers on deputation

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

More than 3,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) Group A officers have moved the Supreme Court to challenge the Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026. The petitioners include gallantry award winners and women officers.

The Act, passed by the Parliament on April 2 and notified on April 9, will make it harder for CAPF cadre officers to be promoted through the ranks to leadership positions. The legislation was enacted to effectively negate a May 2025 Supreme Court ruling that directed the exact opposite action: to reduce Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the CAPF leadership and make it easier for CAPF officers to reach top positions.

The law states that in all CAPFs, 50% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector General, at least 67% posts in the rank of Additional Director General, and all posts in the rank of Special Director General and Director General must be filled by IPS officers on deputation.

Until now, such postings were done based on executive orders. The practice of reserving 50% of Deputy Inspector General (DIG)



The CAPFs comprise the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal, and the Central Industrial Security Force. FILE PHOTO

posts for Group A CAPF officers also finds no place in the Act, paving the way for a higher percentage of IPS deputed officers filling those posts.

The petitions in the top court seek to declare Sections 3 and 4 of the CAPF Act as "ultra vires [or beyond the powers] of the Constitution of India."

Section 3 pertains to "regulation of recruitment and conditions of service," notwithstanding any judgment, decree or order of any court, and specifies the percentage of posts reserved for IPS officers on deputation. Section 4 gives the Union government the power to amend the First and Second Schedules of the Act through a notification when it considers such

action necessary or expedient in the public interest.

Previous ruling

The petitioners have sought directions for the implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment dated May 23, 2025, in *Sanjay Prakash v. Union of India*, and a declaration that Higher Administrative Grade posts in all CAPFs be filled from among eligible executive cadre officers of the respective forces, rather than exclusively through deputation.

On May 23, 2025, the Supreme Court had ruled that Group A Executive Cadre officers of CAPFs are Organised Group A Services for all purposes. Besides progressively reducing the IPS deputation in CAPFs

upto the level of I-Gs in the next two years, the court asked for a time bound review of cadre and service rules within six months.

The Ministry of Home Affairs challenged the judgment, but on October 28, 2025, the court dismissed the review petition, making the ruling final.

After several retired CAPF officials filed a contempt petition in the court, the MHA introduced a Bill in Parliament in March, which effectively negated that judgement.

The CAPFs comprise the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

More than **3,000 Group-A CAPF officers** have challenged the **Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026** in the Supreme Court.

What are CAPFs?

Force	Full Form
CRPF	Central Reserve Police Force
BSF	Border Security Force
ITBP	Indo-Tibetan Border Police
CISF	Central Industrial Security Force
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal

Why Are Officers Challenging the Law?

They argue that the Act:

- Gives greater preference to IPS officers on deputation.
- Reduces promotion opportunities for CAPF cadre officers.
- Overrides an earlier Supreme Court judgment in their favour.

Main Objections

Issue	Officers' Argument
IPS Deputation	Too many senior posts reserved
Promotion	Career progression blocked
Equality	Violates equal service opportunities
SC Judgment	Parliament effectively nullified previous verdict

Important Provisions Challenged

Section 3

Provides reservation of senior posts for IPS officers.

Section 4

Allows Government to amend schedules through notification.

Petitioners argue these provisions are **ultra vires** (beyond constitutional powers).

Previous Supreme Court Judgment (May 2025)

The Court held:

- CAPF Group-A officers are organized Group-A services.
- Senior posts should increasingly be filled by eligible CAPF cadre officers.
- IPS deputation should reduce progressively.

The new Act is viewed by petitioners as reversing this position.

Government's Likely Position

Government argues:

- National security requires experienced IPS leadership.
- Uniform command structure.
- Administrative flexibility.

Constitutional Issues

Article	Relevance
Article 14	Equality
Article 16	Equal opportunity in public employment
Separation of Powers	Legislature vs Judiciary
Judicial Review	Validity of legislation

DOMINANT DISPLAY

Soman, Shubham shine as para athletes end up with record haul



GETTY IMAGES

Indian para athletes made history as the Glasgow Commonwealth Games as they ended the long wait for a medal in the men's 100m T11 final, winning silver. Soman Rana clinched gold in the men's 100m T11 final with 18.52m while Shubham Jyoti (19.28) and Cameron's Cedric Adams (20.47) won the silver and bronze.

STAYING STRONG

Gulveer completes a historic double with 5000m bronze



F.A. PHOTO

Gulveer Singh became the first Indian to win a 5000m medal in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, completing a historic double in Glasgow on Saturday. Gulveer, who had won a silver in the 10000m on July 28, finished third in 5000m with a time of 15 minutes and 24.38 seconds.

UPS AND DOWNS

Judoka Unnati wins bronze medal, Harsh loses the playoff bout



GETTY IMAGES

Indian judoka Unnati Sharma won bronze in the women's 55kg category at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, beating South Africa's Shye Kwaqwa by ippon in the playoff. India's Harsh Tokas lost the men's 55kg bronze medal contest to Australia's Nathan Dole.

STELLAR SHOW

India climbs to fourth in the table after penultimate day's medal rush



PTI

India's haul of 38 medals (11 gold, 17 silver, nine bronze) vaulted it to fourth place in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games medal table at the end of going to the press. Only Australia (144 medals), England (99), and Canada (57) were ahead. The Indian board, led by Jaimine Lambhor, contributed significantly to the tally.



Growing strength: Neeraj, right, and Yash Vir's 2-3 finish underlines India's depth in javelin. PTI

Pathirage wins gold as Neeraj, Yash Vir complete the podium

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

An iconic sports personality that he has become, Neeraj Chopra drew large crowds at Scotland's stadium here on Friday, with Glasgow residents — including a sizeable number of Indians — turning out to witness the Olympic and World champion compete in the men's javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games. However, in chilly conditions hovering around 5 degree Celsius, it was not Neeraj but Sri Lanka's Ruwan Tharanga Pathirage who adjusted quickly to the tough setting. The 23-year-old produced a stunning second-round throw of 60.75m to seize the gold medal, pushing Neeraj (55.83m, his season's best) to second place.

India's Yash Vir Singh secured his maiden Games medal with a superb performance in his sixth and final attempt. His throw of 58.41m not only earned him a bronze medal but was also his personal best. Grenada's Anderson Peters finished fourth with a throw of 53.89m, even as India's Rohit Yadav came seventh (49.56m).



Setting 49 ft 10 in (15.10m) a modest second throw proved to be the golden one. GETTY IMAGES

Pathirage's celebrations after his second throw suggested that he knew he had produced a medal that would be extremely difficult to surpass — and it remained so for the rest of the final.

After the Sri Lanka's gold-winning throw, it was some time for the officials to confirm the distance, with initial announcements suggesting that the throw could have been beyond 60m. Defending Commonwealth champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan had a disappointing outing. Pathirage made the top eight after throwing only 57.41m and finishing sixth.

Neeraj said he was happy with silver and more so because there were two Indians on the podium. "It was similar at the Asian Games in 2023 where I won gold and Kishore Bengtsson won silver. Yash Vir has done his personal best here, which was very important for him. I am very happy that we are on the podium. I am always happy whenever the national anthem is played. But it's ok to win silver as I did my season best and my comeback is getting better".

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The magnificent seven

Preeti, Jaimine, Sakshi, Priya, Arundhati, Sachin and Ankush take home the yellow metal as the Indian pugilists put on a show; Jaduman, Lovlina and Narendra fall at the final hurdle

C. WEALTH GAMES
GLASGOW

To have 10 boxes — all women and four men — reach the final across 14 weight categories is no mean feat and a testament to India's commanding performance at the Commonwealth Games at the Scottish Event Campus here on Saturday.

India capped its finest-ever boxing campaign at the Games, with seven gold medals and a silver. Sachin Bhowmik rallied to down Trinidad's Morning Adeboye of Namibia in a thrilling men's 50kg gold medal bout. Sachin made a sensational comeback after trailing in the first two rounds. With time running out, the 26-year-old forced a standing count against Adeboye and went on to win the tie 3-2 in a split verdict.

Earlier, Preeti Pawar opened the floodgates for India. Facing a rebellious Scarlet Delgado, Preeti absorbed the pressure with calm defense and struck effectively when opportunities came her way, earning a 5-0 win over the Canadian in the women's 54kg title clash.

It was then Jaimine Lambhor's turn to show case her technical brilliance against Northern Ireland's Shaheera Walsh in the women's 57kg final, and the reigning World champion did so in emphatic fashion, cruising to a 5-0 victory.

Jaduman Singh, meanwhile, produced an entertaining display in the men's 56kg final against Australia's Joe Hackett. But Hackett's accuracy and control ultimately proved decisive as Lambhor won shoes fighting 0-5.

Chaudhary earned India's third gold with a 5-0 win over Ruby White of England in the women's 51kg final. Priya Chhangchhuan's hard-fought 4-1 victory over Canada's Marie Barbood Al-Ahmadieh in the women's 60kg main event clash sparked celebrations in the Indian corner as the country claimed its fourth boxing gold of the Games, equalling the three it had secured at Birmingham in 2022.



Emerging stars: Sachin, Sakshi, Preeti, Arundhati, Priya, Jaimine and Ankush made it a memorable day for India in the boxing ring. GETTY IMAGES, PTI, AP, AFP

preared to be the aggressor only on it was Arundhati who declared the tempo with her sharp, direct combinations.

Ermae Gue Gue of Australia dashed Lovlina Borgohain's hopes of a maiden gold in the mega event. The Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist lost 1-4 in a split decision in the women's 75kg final.

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Force competitor: Tejaswin more came both physical and mental challenges to finish on the podium. AP

Tejaswin digs deep, earns a historic bronze in decathlon

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

In the back-breaking, unforgiving world of decathlon, where each discipline tests a different facet of an athlete's body and mind, Tejaswin Shankar battled pain from a knee injury, self-doubt and Glasgow's biting weather, with temperatures hovering between 4 and 10 degree Celsius over two grueling days, to script history in the Commonwealth Games at the Scotland Stadium here on Friday.

The 27-year-old dug deep to produce personal-best performance in three disciplines — long jump, discus throw and javelin throw — overcoming both physical and mental challenges to clinch a historic bronze medal.

Tejaswin amassed 7,978 points to become the first Indian to win a medal in decathlon at the Games. Grenada's Lyndon Victor clinched his third straight title with 8,096 while Canada's Damian Warner took the silver (8,036).

Winning medals in successive editions of the Games made the latest achievement even more special for Tejaswin. "I'm really happy that after two days, I was able to do all the things that I had to do and everything I could. It's even more special because I won a bronze in the previous edition (2022) in high

Jump. Now, it's a bronze in decathlon, which is completely different," he said.

What made it even more memorable, Tejaswin insisted, was sharing the podium with athletes he had idolised ever since he took up the sport.

These are the people whose videos I've watched almost every single day since I started competing in the decathlon. To be able to share the podium with them is pretty special," he said.

Tejaswin also credited long jumper M. Krishna Kumar for helping him navigate the mental challenges of returning from a serious knee injury.

"The one person whose advice I valued the most was Krishna Kumar because he had suffered a similar injury after rupturing his tendon. He told me, 'Just take it one day at a time. All you should do is show up.' Those words kept echoing in my mind throughout the competition," he said.

Going into the final event, the 1500m, the battle for the bronze was still alive, with England's Sam Weller leading close behind to overall standstill. Tejaswin knew exactly what was required.

"My goal was to run as fast as I could and not let anyone get too far ahead. I knew he had to beat me by about eight seconds, so I just had to stay close to him," he added.

Triple jumper Praveen erases pain of the past with silver, Selva takes bronze

K. Keerthivasan
GLASGOW

A painful memory stayed with Praveen Chaudhary long after the Commonwealth Games triple jump competition had ended in Birmingham in 2022.

The Indian missed out on a medal by mere three centimetres despite throwing a hop of 16.80m.

The fact that an Indian podium every medal not be achieved must have hurt him more — his com-

patrons Elbhose Paul and Abhishek Abhishek had secured a historic gold and silver.

At the Scotland Stadium here on Saturday, the 25-year-old erased that disappointment with a silver show. With a performance of 16.82m, he secured his first Games triple jump medal, turning a hop of 16.80m into a moment of redemption.

For the 31-year-old Selva Pradeep, it was a debut to cherish. The NCAA cham-



Selva. GETTY IMAGES

prison produced a 16.82m effort in his fifth and penultimate attempt to clinch

bronze. He revealed that a bout of diarrhea a week or so before the Games disrupted his preparation.

"It feels great to win my first major international medal. I could have done better, but it is fine. I have won a medal for the country. I thank all my coaches and support staff. I am proud of myself as this was my parents' dream," the youngster said.

That 16.72m was enough to win gold — Jamaica's Jordan Scott was the winner —

showed how difficult the conditions were.

The temperature hovering around 14 degree Celsius made it challenging for the jumpers to reach their season or personal bests.

National record holder Praveen arrived as one of the favorites, having been ranked No. 2 in the field on season's best — behind Scott's 17.61m. The Indian had come up with a 17.08m leap at the Inter-State meet in Ranchi in May, earning his medal credentials.



Redemption: Praveen tagged his maiden Commonwealth Games medal. GETTY IMAGES

Redemption: Praveen tagged his maiden Commonwealth Games medal. GETTY IMAGES

STELLAR SHOW

India climbs to fourth in the table after penultimate day's medal rush



PTI

India's haul of 39 medals (13 gold, 17 silver, nine bronze) vaulted it to fourth in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games table at the time of going to the press. Only Australia (148 overall), England (99), and Canada (57) were ahead. The Indian boxers, led by Jaismine Lamboria, contributed significantly to the tally.

• India finish fourth with 39 medals at CWG

Sport	 G	 S	 B	Total
Athletics and Para Athletics	3	7	6	16
Boxing	7	3	0	10
Judo	2	1	1	4
Para Powerlifting	0	0	1	1
Weightlifting	1	6	1	8

 2010 New Delhi	38	27	36	101	2nd
 2014 Glasgow	15	30	19	64	5th
 2018 Gold Coast	26	20	20	66	3rd
 2022 Birmingham	21	16	23	60	4th
 2026 Glasgow	13	17	9	39	4th
 2030 Ahmedabad	<i>TBD</i>				<i>TBD</i>

INDIA CLIMBS TO FOURTH IN THE TABLE AFTER PENULTIMATE DAY'S MEDAL RUSH

India's strong performance in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games has taken the nation to the 4th position in the medal tally with a total of 39 medals.



Jasmine Lamboria – Star Performer in Boxing

TOTAL MEDALS 39 (AS ON PENULTIMATE DAY)	GOLD 13	SILVER 17	BRONZE 9	RANK ACHIEVED 4TH IN MEDAL TALLY
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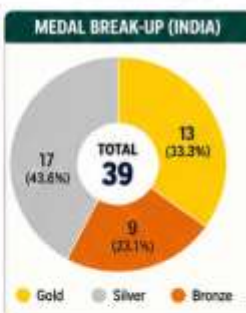
COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022 – MEDAL TALLY					
RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	AUSTRALIA	60	59	29	148
2	ENGLAND	36	33	30	99
3	CANADA	18	18	21	57
4	INDIA	13	17	9	39
5	NEW ZEALAND	12	11	13	36

*Tally at the time of going to press

KEY HIGHLIGHTS	
	India registered a haul of 39 medals on the penultimate day of the Games.
	This performance lifted India to 4th position in the medal table.
	The Indian boxers, led by Jasmine Lamboria, contributed significantly to the tally.
	Strong show across multiple sports including boxing, weightlifting, wrestling, shooting, badminton, athletics and more.

TOP SPORTS CONTRIBUTION (INDIA)	
Boxing	7 Gold (Leading contributor)
Weightlifting	5 Gold
Wrestling	4 Gold
Shooting	2 Gold
Badminton	1 Gold
Athletics & Others	Multiple Medals

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES	
	Held from 28 July – 8 August 2022
	Venue: Birmingham, England
	Participating Nations & Territories: 72
	A multi-sport event held every 4 years among Commonwealth nations.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR INDIA	
	Reflects India's growing strength in global multi-sport events.
	Boosts athletes' confidence ahead of future international competitions like Asian Games & Olympics.
	Highlights the success of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and sports development initiatives.
	Brings pride to the nation and inspires millions of young athletes.

STAR PERFORMER	
	JAISMINE LAMBORIA Sport: Boxing
	Key Contributor to India's success
	Won Gold Medal in Women's 60kg category
	A rising star and role model for future champions

KEY TAKEAWAY
India's 39 medals on the penultimate day highlight the country's rapid rise in international sports and its journey towards becoming a top sporting nation.

UPSC / RAS RELEVANCE
Topics: Sports, International Events, India's Achievements, Government Schemes (TOPS), National Pride GS Paper II – Important International Institutions & Events GS Paper III – Sports Development

EXAM PRACTICE (PRELIMS / MAINS)
Q. Consider the following statements about Commonwealth Games 2022: 1. It was held in Birmingham, England. 2. India finished 4th in the medal tally. 3. India won 39 medals in total. Which of the above statements are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Full Story on
PAGE 4

Cauvery situation better, says Karnataka CM

Releasing a limited quantity of water to Tamil Nadu for drinking purposes, says Shivakumar

CM reiterates that the Mekedatu project is vital to finding a long-term solution to water dispute

CM appeals for withdrawal of August 13 strike; Kannada leader Nagaraj says it will go ahead

Sharath S. Srivatsa

Laigh A. Khan

BENGALURU/MYSURU

Stating that the water situation in the Cauvery was “slightly better” in view of the rain, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday reiterated his appeal to the Kannada organisations to withdraw their State-wide bandh plan for August 13.

However, Kannada Chaluvali leader Vatal Nagaraj, who is leading the protest, said the bandh would be held as planned.

At an all-party meeting, the Chief Minister said Karnataka was assessing the Cauvery situation, including a petition filed in the Supreme Court by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Opposition party in Tamil Nadu. A limited quantity of water was being released from the reservoirs following rain, he said.



Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar with ex-CMs B.S. Yeddiurappa and Siddaramaiah. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The meeting had been convened to address the concerns over the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)'s directive to the State to abide by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's order to release 3,500 cusecs daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days. The order set off protests in parts of Karnataka.

The data shared by the Water Resources Department show that Karnataka was releasing water at the rate of 25,000 cusecs from the Kabini reservoir and 1,819 cusecs from the Krishnaraja Sagar on Sunday to Tamil Nadu. “We are releasing a limited quantity of water through canals only to fill lakes and tanks

meant for drinking water purposes, and not for irrigation,” he said.

Reiterating that the proposed Mekedatu project on the Cauvery was the long-term solution to the problems faced by both States, he said: “Karnataka will respect the law and orders of the Supreme Court while protecting the State's

Cauvery water will reach Tamil Nadu today: officials

The Hindu Bureau

SALEM

Water released from the Kabini Dam in Karnataka is expected to reach Tamil Nadu on Monday and flow into the Mettur Dam by Monday night or Tuesday, according to Water Resources Department officials. The Karnataka

government, following rain over the past few days, began releasing Cauvery water from the Kabini Dam on Saturday. However, its entry into Tamil Nadu has been delayed as the dry Cauvery bed is absorbing part of the released water.

FULL STORY ON

» PAGE 3

interest”. He said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay had agreed to postpone his visit to Bengaluru to discuss the issue.

“(Four) reservoirs in the Cauvery basin are cumulatively receiving about 68,000 cusecs of water. Our dams were not full since there was no rain. There has been some rain

(now) and the situation has become slightly better. Kabini (reservoir) is full,” Mr. Shivakumar said.

Asked if he would be able to convince Mr. Vijay of the situation, he said: “We will make him understand (the situation) and he will understand. Though he is new to politics, he is courageous”.

He said he will speak to the protesting farmers, Kannada organisations, and Opposition leaders. “Our Ministers will also speak. When the government is standing with you and nature is also with you, bandh is of no use. It will affect our schools and business,” the Chief Minister said.

However, in Mysuru, former MLA Vatal Nagaraj said the bandh had not been called on one issue. “More than 2,000 Kannada organisations have extended support to the bandh. Bandh is for various issues, including the Mahadayi river water dispute, employment for Kannadigas, and the development of Mysuru, Hyderabad-Karnataka region, North Karnataka, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad and border areas.”

EDITORIAL

» PAGE 8

CAUVERY DISPUTE

A LONG-STANDING WATER CONFLICT BETWEEN KARNATAKA & TAMIL NADU

The Cauvery river dispute is one of India's most complex and sensitive inter-state water sharing conflicts, involving Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.



WHAT IS THE DISPUTE?

The dispute is over sharing of Cauvery river water between the downstream state of Tamil Nadu and the upstream state of Karnataka.

- Karnataka argues it needs more water for drinking water and irrigation for its growing population and crops.
- Tamil Nadu argues it is a lower riparian state and has historic rights to ensure irrigation for its delta region.

STATES INVOLVED

- **Karnataka** — Upstream State
- **Tamil Nadu** — Downstream State
- **Kerala** — Co-basin State
- **Puducherry** — Co-basin State

ABOUT THE CAUVERY RIVER



KEY FACTS



Cauvery rises in Talakaveri, Kodagu district of Karnataka.



It supports irrigation for over 40 lakh hectares of land and provides drinking water to millions.



Over 2.5 crore people in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry depend on it.



Mettur Dam (Tamil Nadu) is crucial for irrigation in the Cauvery delta.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1892 Agreement

Agreement between Mysore (Karnataka) and Madras (Tamil Nadu) on water use.

1924 Agreement

50-year agreement allowed Mysore to build irrigation works with limits.

1974

Agreements expired. Disputes intensified as Karnataka planned new projects.

1990

Tamil Nadu moved the Supreme Court seeking constitution of a Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT).

1991

CWDT constituted by Government of India.

2007

Tribunal gave final award:

- Karnataka – 270 TMC
- Tamil Nadu – 419 TMC
- Kerala – 30 TMC
- Puducherry – 7 TMC

2018

Supreme Court upheld the tribunal award with some directions.

2023–2024

Disputes continue regarding water release during low rainfall years.

CAUVERY WATER DISPUTES TRIBUNAL (2007 AWARD)

STATE	WATER ALLOCATION (TMC*)
Tamil Nadu	419
Karnataka	270
Kerala	30
Puducherry	7
TOTAL	726

*TMC – Thousand Million Cubic Feet

WHY THE DISPUTE PERSISTS?



Uneven rainfall and drought years reduce water availability.



Upstream projects by Karnataka allegedly reduce flow to Tamil Nadu.



Different interpretation of historical rights and tribunal awards.



Strong political sentiments and public agitations in both states.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Karnataka Chief Minister says Cauvery situation is better.
- Assured release of water to Tamil Nadu for drinking purposes.
- Karnataka CM reiterates Mekedatu project is vital to find long-term solution.
- CM appeals for withdrawal of August 13 strike.
- Kannada leader Nagaraj says the issue will go ahead through dialogue.

IMPACT OF DISPUTE



Affects farmers in both states, especially in Cauvery delta.



Drinking water supply impacted in many districts.



Leads to political tensions and bandhs, affecting normal life.

WAY FORWARD



Cooperative federalism and dialogue.



Implement long-term projects like Mekedatu after credible environment clearance and consensus.



Efficient water management, rainwater harvesting and micro-irrigation.



Strengthen Cauvery Water Management Authority for real-time monitoring.

SIGNIFICANCE



Test case for India's federal structure and inter-state cooperation.



Balances the needs of agriculture, drinking water and environment.



Sustainable management is key to lasting peace and development.

“ Water disputes are not just about rivers, they are about people, livelihoods and the future. ”

CONCLUSION: The Cauvery dispute requires a balanced, scientific and humane approach that ensures justice for all states while protecting the rights and needs of farmers and citizens who depend on this life-giving river.



**SAVE WATER
SHARE FAIRLY
SECURE TOMORROW**

India produces smart scientists but is struggling to retain them

Research flourishes when ideas compete but suffers when people compete for proximity to power; many of India's laboratories continue to operate within rigid hierarchies that would appear strange in leading scientific institutions elsewhere in the world

Ritu Dharwadkar

Recent reports of nearly 120 scientists resigning from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have rightly raised concerns. The ISRO has been a symbol of India's scientific aspirations and such an exodus cannot be dismissed as an ordinary episode of employee turnover.

Resignations have occurred over the years but the scale of recent departures confronts us with the question of why some of India's brightest scientific minds are electing to leave institutions millions dream of joining.

The phenomenon is not unique to ISRO. Similar stories have emerged from laboratories under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), premier autonomous institute, and several government-funded research organisations. Often these departures are hard to notice as part of a larger pattern because they occur one scientist at a time — yet together they point to a deeper issue deserving of national attention.

Real main reasons

The most obvious explanation is salary but it is not sufficient. Scientists who have spent decades building their expertise and reputation rarely leave only because another organisation is offering a bigger paycheck. Many of those that are resigning are also in the latter half of their careers, and generally unwilling to risk financial and professional stability. Nor what they want is something even greater: professional dignity, freedom of thought, and the freedom to work on their topics of choice.

Several researchers — many of whom are unwilling to go on record for fear of repercussions — in private characterise these institutions as places where bureaucratic power is increasing at the expense of that of science, and where it is becoming more risky to question authority. The tragedy is that while Indian science inherits world-class institutions, it also retained a colonial administrative mindset.

Research flourishes when ideas compete but suffers when people compete for proximity to power. Many of India's laboratories continue to operate within rigid hierarchies that would appear strange in leading scientific institutions elsewhere in the world. Young scientists often learn quickly that survival depends less on asking bold scientific questions than on understanding invisible administrative boundaries. In some institutions, even simple acts of professional equality are viewed as breaches of etiquette. Respect, instead of being earned through scholarship and mentorship, is demanded through designation.

A class system. In order to be creative, for example, a doctoral student should be able to



Representative image of the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) in Hyderabad. India is spending a historically unprecedented, but otherwise still insufficient, amount of money on scientific research. (R. S. MISHRA)

challenge a senior scientist's hypothesis without fearing that his or her long-term career will be adversely affected. A young investigator should feel confident enough to question established ideas. The world's best research environments are the best because they allow just such interactions.

Attend an international scientific conference in Europe or the Americas and you will often witness something remarkably ordinary: Nobel laureates standing in the same cafeteria queue as graduate students, and young scholars openly questioning senior scientists during presentations. They are respectful and the seniors know that — but that respect flows from intellectual contributions rather than via ceremonial protocols.

However, many Indian scientific gatherings continue to have a bureaucratic rather than academic culture. Distinguished speakers receive VIP badges, exclusive dining arrangements, and special hospitality while students and junior participants are treated as an entirely different class. Such a hierarchy that has little place in science. Science has never progressed because someone occupied a larger office or enjoyed a separate lunch. Let us foster the many little interactions; they could make a big difference.

Speaking up

Equally worrying, scientists rarely speak openly about unhealthy workplace cultures because the ecosystem is remarkably small. Today's reviewer may become tomorrow's selection committee member. Today's director may influence tomorrow's funding decision.

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Occasionally, some disturbing information emerges, including allegations of harassment, vindictive administrative actions, and attempts to publicly discredit accomplished scientists. Whether every allegation warrants scrutiny is far due process to determine — but the recurring perception is immediately damaging.

As a result, many talented researchers are now moving to private research organisations, emerging deep-tech companies, universities abroad, and/or international collaborations where scientific autonomy has more room than administrative structures. India's growing innovation ecosystem benefits from this movement to some extent but it is not a zero-sum: our national laboratories lose institutional memory and experienced mentors.

India is spending a historically unprecedented, but otherwise still insufficient, amount of money on scientific research. Excellent skills are now needed for new research missions, including those involving semiconductors, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and spaceflight. But whereas buildings can be built in a few months and, with adequate funds, sophisticated instruments can be bought, building an environment that

holds great scientists is a very long process, often taking decades.

Conclusion effort

Today, India must increase administrative transparency in scientific institutions, and install robust systems to redress grievances concerning workplace harassment and mentoring-based leadership training to ensure a leadership free from corruption.

In parallel, we need a conscious effort to break free of the colonial bureaucracy that remains in the daily life of institutions. Respect should not disappear from scientific workplaces but it differs fundamentally from unquestioning deference.

India has repeatedly demonstrated that its scientists possess extraordinary capability. Our achievements in space exploration, vaccines, supercomputing, mathematics, biotechnology, and engineering stand as testimony to that talent. The challenge today is not producing brilliant scientists — our universities and institutions have figured that out. The challenge is to ensure those scientists can still flourish after they enter India's laboratories.

If we fail to reform workplace culture, the next generation may simply leave our public institutions. That will be an immeasurable loss. Science has always advanced through ideas that challenged power — not by power that silenced people or ideas.

Dr. Ritu Dharwadkar is Dean, Academic Affairs, Golden Gate University, Bengaluru, and an adjunct faculty member at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. (ritudharwadkar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

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BIG SHOT



Greek firefighters try to extinguish a wildfire in the area of Porto Gennemo, some 70 kilometres northwest of Athens in the region of Viotia, on Sunday, since faced multiple fronts and a growing damage toll after a week of wildfires that devastated over 13,000 hectares of forest and agricultural land, experts said. AP

WHAT IS IT?

Extreme-event materials

Nandeevan Mukundan

Researchers have found a previously unknown metal alloy created by the blast of the Hiroshima atomic bomb in 1945. The material was found inside small, glass-like beads called hiroshimites, which were recovered from the beach sands of Hiroshima Bay. These beads formed when the intense heat of the blast vaporised building materials, soil, and metals, which solidified as they fell back to the earth.

When the researchers examined the beads, they identified a microscopically sized metallic grain embedded in the glass. It turned out to be a complex mix of iron, chromium, nickel, manganese, molybdenum, silicon, and aluminium — and it had a unique crystal structure.

The findings were published in *Science Advances* on July 29. The team has expressed belief that the alloy formed by ultrafast quenching: the explosion's fireball reached temperatures over 7,000 degrees Celsius, turning urban materials such as construction steel into a mixed metallic vapour. As the fireball expanded and rapidly cooled, the elements mixed in a way that is impossible under normal conditions. According to the researchers, their work shows that high-energy



Back-scattered electron image of the spherical hiroshimite sample in which the alloy was found. (MUKUNDAN ET AL., 2020, APR 15, 14000000, 2020)

plasma events like nuclear detonations can be natural laboratories where scientists can discover new materials that are difficult to synthesise in a scientific lab. The alloy already shares characteristics with other unusual high-entropy alloys and quasicrystals. The researchers also wrote that their work shows how debris can preserve a "high-resolution record" of the chemical and physical environment during a nuclear event.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'.

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Riju Dharmapalan

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However, many Indian scientific gatherings continue to have a bureaucratic rather than academic culture. Distinguished speakers receive VIP badges, exclusive dining arrangements, and special hospitality while students and junior participants are treated as an entirely different class. Such symbolism is not harmless: it reinforces a hierarchy that has little place in science. Science has never progressed because someone occupied a larger office or enjoyed a separate lunch. Let us foster the many little interactions; they could make a big difference.

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As a result, many talented researchers are now moving to private research organisations, emerging deep tech companies, universities abroad, and/or international collaborations where scientific autonomy has more room than administrative strictures. India's growing innovation ecosystem benefits from this movement to some extent but it is not a zero-sum: our national laboratories lose institutional memory and experienced mentors.

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(Dr. Riju Dharmapalan is Dean, Academic Affairs, Garden City University, Bengaluru, and an adjunct faculty member at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. rijudharmapalan@gmail.com)

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Many talented researchers are now moving to private research organisations, emerging deep tech companies, universities abroad, and/or international collaborations where scientific autonomy has more room than administrative strictures.

India must increase administrative transparency in scientific institutions, and install robust systems to redress grievances concerning workplace harassment and mentoring-based leadership training.

- The article argues that **India has no shortage of scientific talent**, but it struggles to **retain researchers** in public scientific institutions.
- The immediate trigger is the **recent resignation of nearly 120 scientists from ISRO**, but the author emphasizes that this is only a symptom of a much deeper structural problem affecting many research organizations, including:
 - ISRO
 - CSIR
 - ICMR
 - DRDO
 - ICAR
 - Government universities
 - National laboratories
- The problem is **not simply about salaries**, but about **institutional culture, bureaucracy, leadership, and scientific freedom**.

- **Why is the Issue Important?**

- India has become a global scientific power in:

- Space technology
- Vaccine development
- Biotechnology
- AI
- Supercomputing
- Mathematics
- Semiconductor research

- However,

- Producing talent is not enough.

- The challenge is retaining, motivating, and empowering scientists.

Reason

Better salaries

Administrative burden

Bureaucracy

Limited autonomy

Slow promotions

Poor leadership

Workplace politics

Better global opportunities

Private R&D growth

Explanation

Private sector pays significantly more

Excessive paperwork and approvals

Scientific work slowed by rigid administration

Scientists have less freedom to pursue ideas

Merit often takes a back seat to seniority

Command-and-control culture rather than mentorship

Internal hierarchy discourages creativity

Foreign universities offer superior research environments

Deep-tech startups now attract researchers

ISRO Resignations

According to the article:

- Nearly **120 scientists resigned** recently.
- This raised public concern because ISRO is India's most respected scientific organization.
- Scientists have always resigned occasionally, but the recent number is unusually high.

The article warns:

This should not be viewed as an isolated ISRO issue.

Instead,

it reflects larger weaknesses across India's research ecosystem.

Is Salary the Only Problem?

No.

The author says salary matters but is **not the primary reason**.

Scientists seek:

- Professional dignity
- Intellectual freedom
- Research independence
- Opportunity to challenge ideas
- Recognition
- Respect

Many scientists accept lower salaries if these conditions exist.

Bureaucratic Culture

The article strongly criticizes India's research administration.

It says many institutions still operate with:

- Colonial administrative systems
- Excessive hierarchy
- File-based decision making
- Administrative dominance over science

Instead of science guiding administration,
administration often controls science.

Culture of Fear

Many young scientists hesitate to:

- Question senior researchers
- Challenge established theories
- Present alternative ideas
- Criticize research methodology

because they fear:

- Poor appraisals
- Career damage
- Loss of promotions
- Loss of research grants

This discourages innovation.

Comparison with Leading Scientific Institutions

The article compares India with universities in Europe and North America.

There,

Feature	Leading Institutions
Students challenge professors	Yes
Junior scientists question seniors	Encouraged
Open debates	Normal
Hierarchy	Low
Respect based on ideas	Yes
Collaboration	High

A Nobel laureate and a PhD student may eat together in the same cafeteria.

Scientific disagreement is considered healthy.

Situation in Many Indian Institutions

According to the author,

many institutions have:

- VIP culture
- Reserved seating
- Special hospitality
- Excessive protocol
- Administrative hierarchy

This creates psychological barriers.

Young scientists become hesitant to interact with senior researchers.

Competition vs Ideas

One of the strongest points in the article is:

Research flourishes when ideas compete.

But,

Research suffers when people compete for proximity to power.

Meaning:

Scientists begin focusing on pleasing superiors rather than producing excellent science.

What Reforms are Needed?

1. Administrative Transparency

- Clear rules
 - Faster approvals
 - Less bureaucracy
-

2. Independent Grievance System

Scientists should have safe mechanisms to report:

- Harassment
 - Bias
 - Administrative misconduct
-

3. Mentorship-Based Leadership

Instead of command,

leaders should:

- Mentor
 - Inspire
 - Collaborate
-

4. Encourage Scientific Debate

Young researchers should feel free to:

- Challenge ideas
 - Ask questions
 - Publish independent work
-

5. Reduce Administrative Control

Scientists should spend more time:

Research

Less time:

Paperwork

6. Merit-Based Promotions

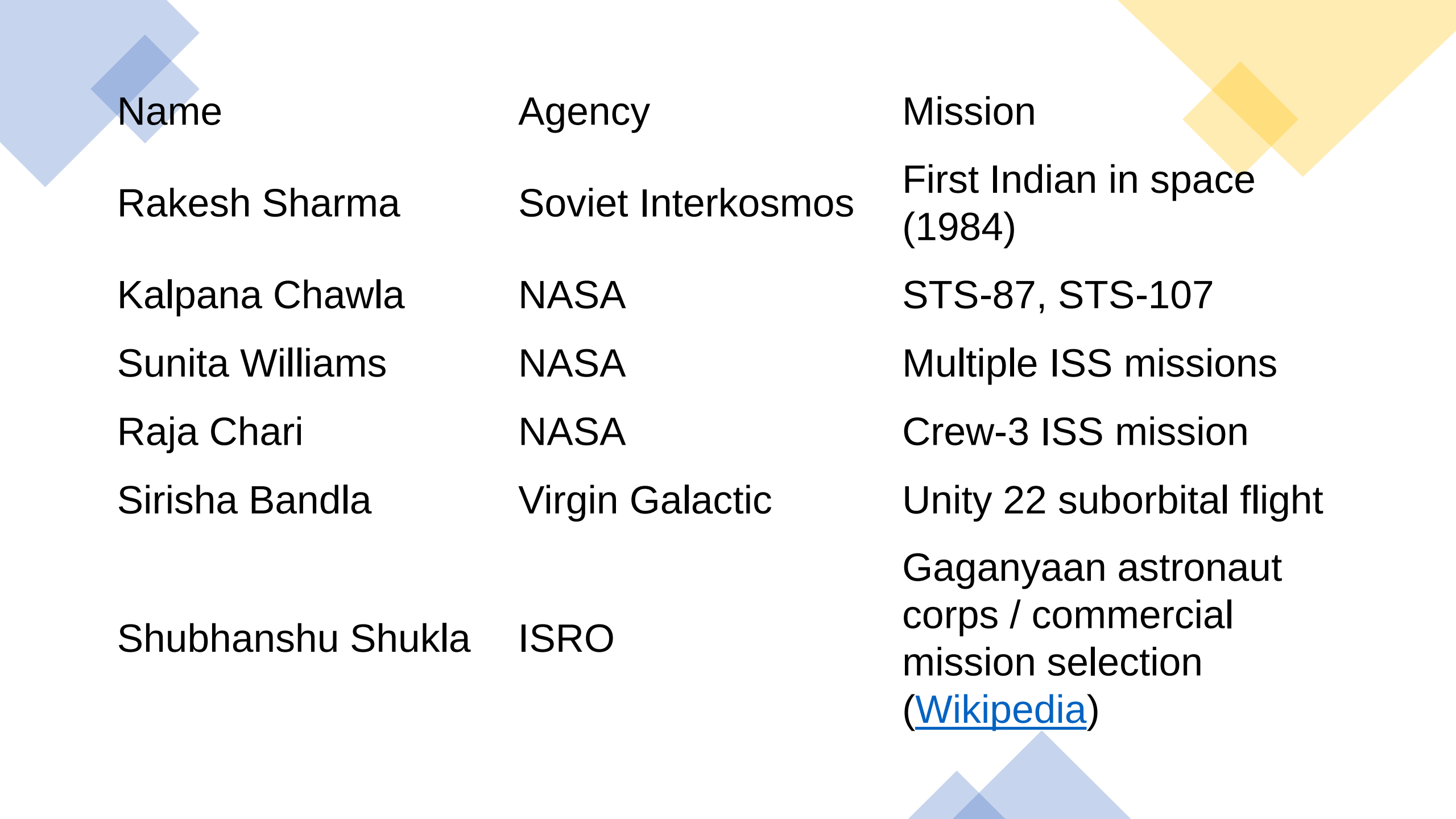
Promotions should depend on:

- Research quality
- Publications
- Innovation
- Patents
- Impact

rather than seniority alone.

Some of the Most Famous Indian-Origin Scientists at NASA

Name	Position	Major Achievement
Kalpna Chawla	Astronaut	First woman of Indian origin in space
Sunita Williams	Astronaut	Among the world's most experienced spacewalkers
Swati Mohan	Guidance & Controls Lead	Led Mars Perseverance landing operations
Amit Kshatriya	Moon-to-Mars Program	Senior Artemis programme leadership  NASA
Madhulika Guhathakurta	Solar Scientist	NASA's "Living With a Star" programme
Meya Meyappan	Chief Scientist	Nanotechnology for space exploration
Murthy Gudipati	Senior Research Scientist	Planetary chemistry and astrobiology  NASA Science
Naseem Rangwala	Project Scientist	SOFIA airborne observatory  NASA Science
Anita Sengupta	Former JPL Engineer	Mars Curiosity landing system
Ravi Prakash	Systems Engineer	Mars rover systems



Name	Agency	Mission
Rakesh Sharma	Soviet Interkosmos	First Indian in space (1984)
Kalpana Chawla	NASA	STS-87, STS-107
Sunita Williams	NASA	Multiple ISS missions
Raja Chari	NASA	Crew-3 ISS mission
Sirisha Bandla	Virgin Galactic	Unity 22 suborbital flight
Shubhanshu Shukla	ISRO	Gaganyaan astronaut corps / commercial mission selection (Wikipedia)

Space Agency

Estimated Indian/Indian-Origin Presence

NASA

Hundreds of scientists and engineers (no official count)

ESA

Dozens

JAXA

Several researchers and collaborators

CSA

Several researchers

CNES

Several researchers

DLR

Several researchers

ISRO

~18,000+ employees (scientists, engineers, technical and administrative staff combined)



Rank	Space Agency	Country/Region	Annual Budget (Approx.)	In Indian ₹ (Approx.)	Notes
1	NASA	USA	US\$24–25 billion	₹2.0–2.1 lakh crore	World's largest civilian space budget; proposed cuts for FY2026 are under discussion. (arXiv)
2	ESA (European Space Agency)	Europe (23 member states)	~€7.4 billion/year (based on €22.1 billion for 2026–2028)	₹73,000–75,000 crore/year	Budget funded by member countries; record increase approved. (Reuters)
3	CNSA	China	US\$14–16 billion (estimated)	₹1.2–1.35 lakh crore	China does not officially publish a consolidated CNSA budget; estimates vary across independent analyses. (arXiv)
4	JAXA	Japan	¥220–240 billion	₹12,500–14,000 crore	Includes major spending on H3 rockets, lunar exploration and Earth observation. (Reuters)
5	ISRO (Department of Space)	India	₹13,705.63 crore (FY 2026–27 Budget Estimate)	₹13,705.63 crore	Increased allocation to support Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4 and other missions. (The Times of India)

Agency

Budget vs ISRO

NASA

~15× larger

CNSA (China)

~9× larger

ESA

~5.4× larger

JAXA

Roughly similar (slightly higher)

ISRO

1×

Analysing the SC's judgment on sex work

For more than three decades, sex workers have told governments and courts how and trafficking interventions cause profound harm including forced rescues, indefinite detention in "corrective homes", separation from children and even threat to life. And for decades, these accounts were only acknowledged in fragments, and never in a comprehensive rights-based framework. That is what makes the Supreme Court's judgment of May 25, 2026, so significant.

Across nearly 300 pages, the court departs from many assumptions that have long shaped anti-trafficking discourse globally. It recognises that consent and vulnerability can coexist, rejects the conflation of migration with trafficking, affirms that contractual rights do not disappear because society disapproves of sex work, holds that consenting adults who are not trafficked cannot forcibly be rescued, and that any intervention must begin with an inquiry into consent. Invoking Article 142, the court gives these directives legal force, but the judgment also exposes a paradox: it adopts arguments that have been previously developed by sex workers but does not acknowledge the workers or their collective (such as the National Network of Sex Workers among others). This is not only a question of credit; it reveals how even progressive jurisprudence can reproduce a hierarchy of knowledge in which those most affected by law remain less recognised authors.

What the judgment assumes The judgment falls faith in institutions that have repeatedly failed the very people it seeks to protect. The court assumes that clearer legal standards will produce different institutional behaviour — that police officers will assess consent without prejudice, magistrates will suspect moral judgment, shelter homes will become rights-based



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Modern Slavery and
Bureaucracy in India* (Wrightsgate University Press)

Sex workers and their unions have to move from the margins to the centre of implementation. They should draft guidelines, monitor compliance, shape police training, and establish standards for shelters.

support services, and sex workers will have access to legal aid. For many women, especially those from the Dalit and Adivasi communities, bureaucracy has never been a neutral system. Caste discrimination and economic marginalisation continue to shape everyday encounters with the state. One woman, wrongly labelled a trafficker after a raid, has spent seven years reporting and coming out free from a shelter for an unknown time. This account is not an exception. It exposes an uncomfortable reality that anti-trafficking discourse obscures rescue can become another mechanism of control.

The top court rightly recognises state as one of the structural conditions that can push women into sex work, but it stops there. Caste does not simply explain entry into the profession. It also marginalises those who are not responsible for implementing this judgment. As one worker put it: "The state says that *no one* do (good) deeds will come. When will we *no one* do come? Everything is about money these days. Take any actor. They can kill but do not get arrested. Those who do not have money have to keep going to the court like me."

Finally, the judgment's central assumption that the law is applied equally once rights are recognised and legal immunity should no longer be taken for granted. Practically, the structural conditions identified by the court do not require new institutions to fix. India already possesses an extensive welfare architecture. The challenge is ensuring that sex workers can access it as rights-bearing citizens.

The road ahead The top court rightly recognises state as one of the structural conditions that can push women into sex work, but it stops there. Caste does not simply explain entry into the profession. It also marginalises those who are not responsible for implementing this judgment. As one worker put it: "The state says that *no one* do (good) deeds will come. When will we *no one* do come? Everything is about money these days. Take any actor. They can kill but do not get arrested. Those who do not have money have to keep going to the court like me."

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The Supreme Court has opened an important constitutional door. Whether it leads to meaningful change will depend on whether state's institutions can absorb decades of potentialities and begin treating sex workers as citizens whose choices deserve the same legal respect as anyone else's.

Bengaluru's civic woes

It remains to be seen whether clearance drives will lead to long-term solutions



K.G. Deshpande

Over the last month, residents of Bengaluru have witnessed a government waking up to some age-old problems such as encroached footpaths, garbage blackspots, footpath riding and the like.

Spearheaded by the new Greater Bengaluru Development Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda, back-to-back drives since July 1 saw civic authorities attempt to reclaim the city's notoriously bad pedestrian infrastructure from encroachments by commercial establishments, street vendors, abandoned vehicles, and garbage dumps — problems that most regard as simply resigned to only a little over 30,000 street vendors, while the actual number exceeds 80,000. He also instructed them to identify vending zones.

In the case of abandoned vehicles, the Minister clarified that the campaign is not aimed at vehicles in regular use, admitting that parking regulations requiring houses to have dedicated parking spaces had not been enforced for decades, resulting in residents having to park their vehicles on public roads.

Lack of planning Urban planning experts and residents have repeatedly pointed to one lacuna when it comes to Bengaluru: the lack of a long-term vision that can keep pace with the level of growth the city experiences. This, they have argued, is why the city's infrastructure planning the Mamma Metro network, that is yet to reach the Kempegowda International Airport, to ensuring con-

nectivity to Bengaluru's rapidly expanding boundaries. To address what is easily the city's best claim to infamy, its traffic, the Congress Government has pushed for new tunnel roads and flyovers. However, urban experts and civil society groups have continuously argued against them, reasoning that the city's public transport should be strengthened instead of intensifying short-term solutions for the growing number of private vehicles.

Another case in point is the city's way of addressing its water needs. As Bengaluru's once famed network of lakes has been undermined by infrastructure projects, the government is focused on bringing solutions from afar. Every drought-hit year threatens the Gaury-dependent city's water security.

The state government, under the leadership of the new Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, is pushing aggressively for the positioning of Bengaluru as a prime investment destination. As Bengaluru continues to function without an elected civic council since 2020, with the state government facing pressure from the Supreme Court to conduct elections this year, the emphasis on mega projects such as tunnel roads is being seen as an attempt to tilt the odds towards the Congress.

But since there is no assurance on when these big-ticket projects would be realised, the show of new drives to fix basic pedestrian problems are the ones that could provide instant relief to citizens. There is a growing call for the government to improve the quality of life of the citizens by first fixing the basics before moving on to big-ticket projects.

Krishna Deshpande is a writer.

Europe's relentless summer leads to unprecedented wildfires

France and Spain have been the most affected so far, with the area affected in the former this year already surpassing record levels since 1980

DATA POINT
Nithya Francis,
Ducapandil Bhatta

With at least a month left for summer to end in most of Europe, some of the countries, which were adversely affected by heat wave conditions this year, are now facing wildfires at a pace unseen in the recent past.

France and Spain are the most affected. As of last week, 91,200 hectares have been destroyed by wildfires in France, which already surpasses the total area burned due to forest fires in the country in a year at least since 1982.

As per the Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2024 report brought out by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, 75,366 hectares of land which got burnt in 1980 was the previous record.

The extent of the impact of the wildfires is likely to go up significantly in France in the coming days. Chart 1 shows the area burnt due to forest fires in France in the past decade, as per the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS).

The area burnt due to wildfires in the European Union from the beginning of June till June 29, 2024 has already exceeded the total area affected by wildfires over the last 10 years (Chart 2). Spain is already surpassed the extreme seasons recorded in 2022 and 2003, according to the World Weather Association (WWA).

The total cumulative annual carbon emissions of the 2026 fire — 300 kilotonnes of carbon — has already surpassed the extreme seasons recorded in 2022 and 2003, according to the World Weather Association (WWA).

According to the WWA, the most severe fires are in southwestern France and central and east Spain. The map shows the regions affected by forest fires in France this year compared to the previous year. The report of the WWA states that the affected area in France and Spain received above-average rainfall in the winter, which led to the promotion of vegetation growth. These conditions were followed by record-high temperatures, which depleted soil moisture and increased water stress in shrubs and pine trees. These conditions increased the likelihood of the rapid spread of wildfires.

Europe has become the world's fastest-warming continent outside the Arctic. Average temperatures over successive decades show Europe mostly warm from 1.68 degree Celsius below the 1981-2020 average in the 1980s to 0.67 degree Celsius above it in the decade ending 2025. During the same period, Europe warmed faster than every other continent except the Arctic, outpacing Asia, North America, Africa and the global average.

Burning crisis

The data for the charts were sourced from the European Forest Fire Information System and the National Disaster Monitoring Centre.



TABLE 1: Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to wildfires in France. The 2024 figures only represent the part area displaced in the Bordeaux region.

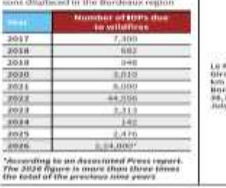


CHART 1: This shows the area burnt in wildfires incidents in France since 2014. The data in the Bordeaux region alone accounted for more than 30% of the area burnt in 2024.

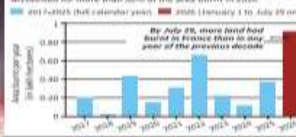
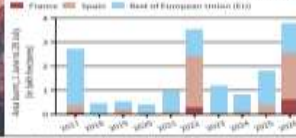


CHART 2: This shows the area burnt since the EU due to wildfires from June till end of July every year. The destruction in Spain is similar to 2022, where that in France is its worst ever.



MAP 1: Each square represents a wildfire incident in the June to July period. The size of the square is indicative of the area burnt in the incident.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 3, 1976

5 mct. of water released to help Tamil Nadu

Bangalore, August 2: Karnataka is giving five mct. of water to Tamil Nadu as a gesture of goodwill to save the kharif crop in Thanjavur delta.

The decision was taken this morning by the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, in response to a request from Tamil Nadu.

The Karnataka authorities started releasing water in the afternoon. The water is expected to reach Mettur Dam in the next two days.

A spokesman of the Karnataka Government said that water was being released purely as a gesture of goodwill in spite of Karnataka's own difficulties. He pointed out that the situation in South Karnataka was bad and the standing crop, particularly sugarcane crop in the Krishnareddy basin, had suffered badly because of lack of water. The State Government was experiencing difficulty in providing adequate water to save the standing crop. The rainfall so far had been the lowest Karnataka had recorded in recent years.

Madras, August 2: The decision of the Karnataka Government to release five mct. of water from Krishnareddy basin has been welcomed by Tamil Nadu officials who were worried over the fast-depleting storage at Mettur where the inflow has reached a mere 10 cusecs this morning.

They are happy that Karnataka has come to Tamil Nadu's rescue at this moment when water is urgently required for kharif cultivation in Thanjavur district.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 3, 1926

Anglo-Indian association

Quetta, August 3: The Quetta branch of the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European Association has been reconstituted by Mr. Lawrence P. Atkinson, travelling Secretary, who addressed a meeting at the Babcock Club on July 30, Rev J. Cunningham presiding. Mr. Atkinson said that it was his intention that the Anglo-Indian community should take their stand with the other communities in India as a confederated minority. He appealed for support to Col. Gidney's fund for the higher education of the community. A meeting was also held to meet the Travelling Secretary at the Railway Institute on the night of August 2.

Burning crisis

The data for the charts were sourced from the European Forest Fire Information System and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre



CHART 1: This shows the area burnt in wildfire incidents in France since 2017. The blaze in the Bordeaux region alone accounted for more than 50% of the area burnt in 2026

■ 2017-2025 (full calendar year) ■ 2026 (January 1 to July 29 only)

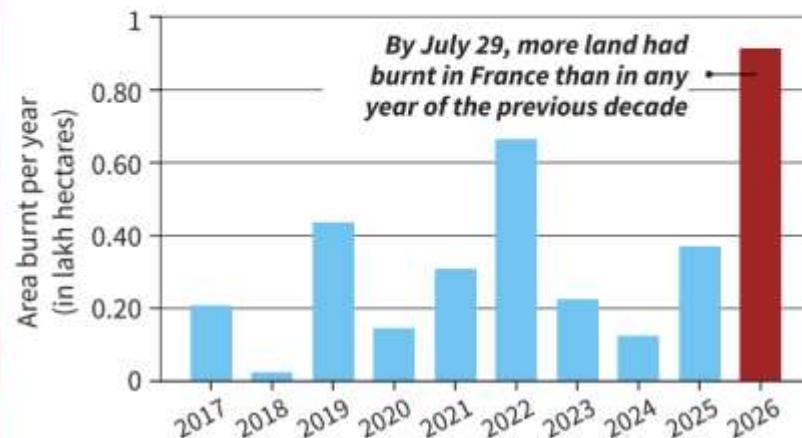


CHART 2: This shows the area burnt across the EU due to wildfires from June till end of July every year. The destruction in Spain is similar to 2022, while that in France is its worst ever

■ France ■ Spain ■ Rest of European Union (EU)

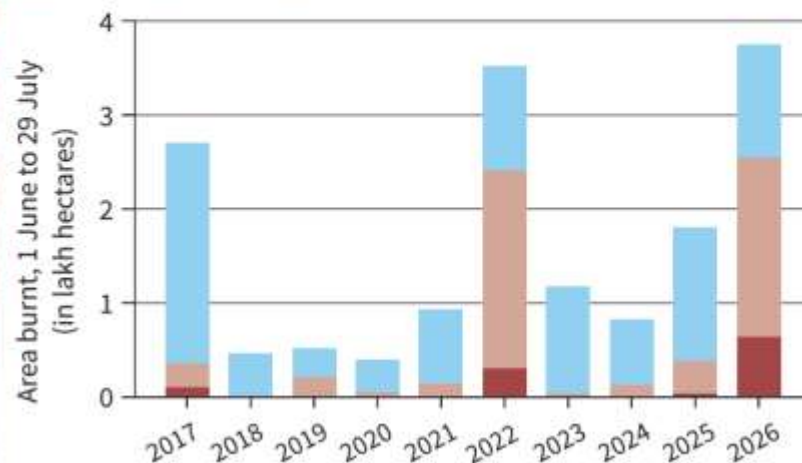
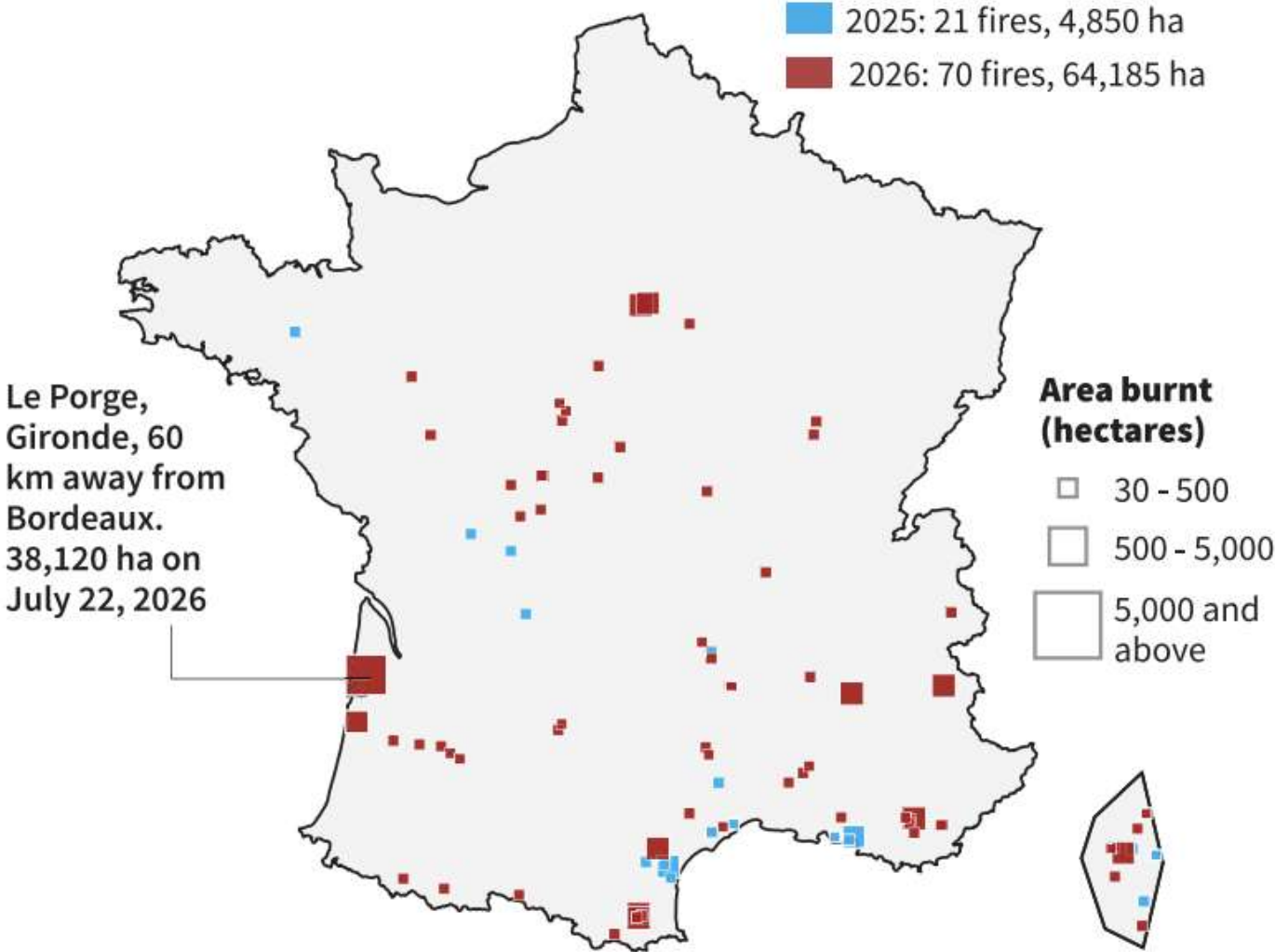


TABLE 1: Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to wildfires in France. The 2026 figures only represent the persons displaced in the Bordeaux region

Year	Number of IDPs due to wildfires
2017	7,300
2018	682
2019	548
2020	3,010
2021	8,000
2022	44,556
2023	3,313
2024	142
2025	2,476
2026	2,24,000*

**According to an Associated Press report. The 2026 figure is more than three times the total of the previous nine years*

MAP 1: Each square represents a wildfire incident in the June to July period. The size of the square is indicative of the area burnt in the incident



Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Years after which disaster management personnel got hike

16 Delhi government has taken the remuneration of disaster management personnel by up to 300%. Their previous salary hike was in 2005. The move will benefit staff working under the Delhi State Disaster Management Authority. (1)

Persons shifted to camps set up across Kerala following rains

5,792 Kerala CM V. D. Sarathesan said that eight people have died, an equal number were missing and 13 injured in the previous day's rains which caused landslides, waterlogging and property damage in many parts. (1)

CBI cases related to exam irregularities awaiting trial

158 Around 158 cases linked to alleged recruitment exam irregularities are awaiting the start of trial in various courts despite the completion of CBI investigations, with some of them registered more than two decades ago, sources said. (1)

Amount earned as fines for ticketless travel in July

78 in ₹ lakh. The Jammu Division of Northern Railway generated about ₹78 lakh in revenues by penalising more than 10,000 ticketless and irregular travellers in July, reflecting intensified enforcement against fare evasion, an official spokesperson said. (1)

Number of persons killed in Spain's Ceuta migrant rush

72 At least 72 people died during the mass influx in recent days of migrants into Spain's Ceuta enclave, when tens of thousands of people mostly seamen around the border post from Morocco, local officials said on Sunday. (1)

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Why are govt. schools shutting down?

Which States have witnessed the highest number of closures? How has school rationalisation affected children's access to education? Who bears the biggest burden of government school closures? Can the Centre step in to reverse the trend? Why has the Right to Education Act fallen short?

EXPLAINER

G. Ramakrishnan

A RECENT NTPI Aayog report said some 94,000 government schools were closed over the past decade, an average of 25 a day, contributing to a 2.26 crore decline in government school enrolment. The government schools' share of total enrolment has fallen from 71% in 2008 to 49.24% in 2024-25.

Why are government schools shutting down?

School closures are happening across States on the grounds of rationalisation. The National Education Policy 2020 advocates such rationalisation without endangering the concept of neighbourhood schools.

School closure numbers cannot be explained away as gradual demographic shift, urban migration and so on. It is a coordinated administrative decision taken in states where the poorest and most rural children have the least capacity to compensate for a school that has vanished.

Which states are among the worst affected?

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir lead in this. In December 2025, Madhya Pradesh's school Education Department found that 7.37 lakh children in the state have no school records. They are not enrolled in any school – private or government.

In Haryana and West Bengal, for instance, 29,000 children fall into the "Drop box" category – the department's term for those at imminent risk of dropping out. Across the State's 85 districts, more than 5,500 government schools recorded zero new admissions this academic session. Another 6,000 schools saw fewer than 10 admissions.

The department's response was to



School closures are happening across States on the grounds of rationalisation. (11/11/25) KANAK

Instruct every district education officer to paste lists of unenrolled children on school noticeboards, contact them directly, and upload their details to the State portal.

Statewide, 0.28 lakh children fall under the "Drop Box" category. Another 1.23 lakh are already recorded as dropouts. A further 1.55 lakh have left school because their families were displaced or migrated for work.

The department's flagship outreach programmes, School Cluster Hubs and the Home Contact Campaigns, were built to prevent exactly this. The State's own audit of its own scheme found three-quarters of a million children whose neither programme had reached.

Government data tabled in the Lok Sabha in February confirm the scale. UDISE+ figures show the national count of government schools falling from 11.07 lakh in 2014-15 to 10.37 lakh in 2023-24, a decline of roughly 89,000 that lines up almost exactly with NTPI Aayog's own count. Private schools nationally grew from 2.48 lakh to 3.31 lakh over the same decade.

Madhya Pradesh's government schools fell from 1.22 lakh to 2016 to 96,414 the very next year – a drop of roughly 22,000

in twelve months. Uttar Pradesh's government schools fell from 1.83 lakh to 1.38 lakh in that identical year, a drop of over 25,000.

Reports on JMC's rationalisation programme document children now travelling 4 to 6 km daily to reach a functioning school, violating neighbourhood school mandates of Right to Education Act (RTE).

More than 4,300 schools were closed or merged under a rationalisation scheme, with the Lok Sabha's own UDISE+ figures showing the state's school count falling from 23,467 in 2020-21 to 18,785 by 2022-23, alongside nearly 15,000 vacant teaching posts reported separately in the state assembly.

What is the impact of the shutdown of government schools?

Government schools in India are not a neutral public utility used evenly across classes. They are, disproportionately, the schools of the poor – of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the poorer strata of backward class communities. India is home to roughly 60% of the world's below poverty-line population, and it is their children who fill government classrooms.

A 2019 National Sample Survey analysis found access to free education declining unevenly, with Muslim and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households disproportionately marginalised from the schools nearest them.

The burden falls disproportionately on girls who are the first to be withdrawn when the nearest school stops being nearby. What consolidation looks like on the ground is often a single teacher covering five classes at once – unable to know an individual child's background or tailor instruction, technically in breach of the Right to Education Act's staffing and quality norms.

Who is responsible for this trend?

In Lok Sabha, the concerned minister said education is on the concurrent list, and the responsibility for this trend lies entirely with States. But the RTE is a Central Act and the mandates on neighbourhood schools are the Centre's responsibility.

Further, the Centre seeks to intervene in state school systems through the Central fund allocation for schools conditional on NEP implementation and also imposes a language policy. There are avenues for the Centre to step in against this trend.

The RTE Act, in force since 2009, guarantees free and compulsory education from ages to 14. RTE says nothing binding about the quality of what is delivered once a child is inside the classroom. It creates entitlements that children, by definition, cannot assert on their own – and parents, particularly poor and rural parents, often lack the legal and institutional capacity to enforce either. RTE assumes a symmetry of power between the state, the school, and the family that often is not on the ground. RTE is not justiciable, in practice. School Management Committees, the one mechanism written into the RTE to give parents and communities a formal voice, largely go unimplemented. (The author is Chairman, Central Control Commission, CPIM)

THE GIST

Nearly 94,000 government schools have closed over the past decade under State-led rationalisation drives, with Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir among the worst affected, leading to falling enrolment and rising dropout rates.

The closures have disproportionately affected poor, rural, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and girl students, whose questions remain over the Centre's role in enforcing neighbourhood school norms under the Right to Education Act.

Why does Kerala report a high leptospirosis burden?

Which groups are most vulnerable to contracting leptospirosis in the State?

G. Manu

The story so far:

LEPTOSPIROSIS is a tropical zoonotic disease – a bacterial systemic infection caused by pathogenic leptospires, highly integrated with an environment in which both humans and animals thrive. The disease, which began to be reported in Kerala since 1989, has been endemic in the State for the past three decades or more and has now become the communicable disease with the highest mortality profile. Leptospirosis is yet again in focus now, as the disease has claimed 80 lives just in the month of July this year.

What makes Kerala a hotspot for the disease?

Kerala's unique environment, with heavy monsoons, frequent floods and year-round moisture and humidity, creates ideal survival conditions for Leptospira bacteria in soil and water bodies such as lakes and canals. An

abundance of rodent and animal reservoir hosts live in proximity to human residential areas and farms. Paddy cultivation, pineapple plantations and canal cleaning activities expose large numbers of agricultural and manual labourers to produce areas and contaminated water, leading leptospirosis to enter the body through mucosal surfaces, abrasions or broken skin.

The Health Department maintains that according to the data of the National Centre for Disease Control, leptospirosis is endemic in at least 12 other States, with high burden of disease. It is better disease surveillance, extensive diagnostic facilities and aggressive logging of both confirmed and probable cases that make Kerala seem like the State with the highest leptospirosis burden, it is claimed.

Which is the population most affected by leptospirosis?

Traditionally, leptospirosis has remained an occupational hazard, with people engaged in farming, dairy farming, and cleaning work – essentially, people are at

high risk of coming into contact with soil and contaminated water – contracting the disease. The disease typically affects those in the low socio-economic strata, but there have also been cases in urban areas, where women have contracted the disease following household (mostly bare-handed). Health Department has also identified that construction workers – especially the migrant workers who are employed in the road works on the State's highways – are at heightened risk of contracting leptospirosis. The proliferation of waste disposal centres has increased the chances of soil contamination by rodents.

What is making the case fatality rate go up?

Late diagnosis and rapid progression of the disease, leading to a cascade of lethal complications such as pulmonary haemorrhage and multi-organ failure between 4.5 and 5 days, leaving a narrow therapeutic window for clinicians to intervene, has been making leptospirosis a very unpredictable disease with a

difficult prognosis in recent times. Previously, patients showed signs of complications only by the second week of the disease. Clinicians note that in the post-COVID era, dysregulatory immune response triggered a rapid cycle of sepsis, with patients requiring mechanical ventilation, has been a feature of most infectious diseases.

Leptospirosis is associated with a broad spectrum of severity, ranging from subclinical or mild illness to severe disease, manifesting as fever, myalgia, conjunctival suffusion and gastro-intestinal issues. It is only in 5-10% that the disease worsens and the prognosis becomes unpredictable.

In the initial days, the symptoms overlap with those of any tropical fever and hence people self-treat with analgesics and remain at home, all the symptoms suddenly worsen.

The laboratory diagnosis of leptospirosis also remains to be a challenge, because current serological tests for antibodies, such as ELISA, do not give contradictory results in the acute phase of the disease.

Molecular diagnosis (PCR) has been introduced by the State for the early detection of leptospirosis; however, these tests are not widely available at most districts. Intensive management and multidisciplinary support are crucial for a patient developing complications, but secondary care hospitals often lack the specialist expertise, management facilities and human resources, all of which adds to the mortality.

What has been Kerala's strategy?

Chemoprophylaxis with Doxycycline – 200 mg twice a week – targeting the high-risk groups has been a strategy the State has always relied on to prevent leptospirosis. Clinicians point out that one cannot go wrong in starting doxycycline early on, even when the patient's symptoms might be hard to distinguish. The strategy is very effective even after one has contracted the infectious organism because, when taken as per the protocol, doxycycline prevents the replication of leptospires in the body. However, compliance has been poor and people seldom listen to the advisories issued by the Health Department.

The State's treatment protocol advanced primary care physicians to maintain a high index of suspicion if a patient presents with fever and myalgia and without any respiratory symptoms and to start antibiotics as early as possible if the patient belongs to a high-risk category.

What are the modifications suggested in the strategy?

An experts' group has suggested that disease prevention strategies focussing on the vulnerable categories at high risk of occupational exposure to leptospirosis be devised and that risk communication be taken up as a campaign amongst these groups. Preventive gear, such as gum boots and heavy-duty gloves are to be provided to manual labourers and farm workers at high risk or those who have contact with contaminated soil and water is minimised.

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EXPLAINER

G. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

A recent NITI Aayog report said some 94,000 government schools were closed over the past decade, an average of 25 a day, contributing to a 2.26 crore decline in government school enrolment. The government schools' share of total enrolment has fallen from 71% in 2005 to 49.24% in 2024-25.

Why are government schools shutting down?

School closures are happening across States on the grounds of rationalisation. The National Education Policy 2020 advocates such rationalisation but without endangering the concept of neighbourhood schools.

School closure numbers cannot be explained away as gradual demographic drift, urban migration and so on. Rather, it is a coordinated administrative decision taken in states where the poorest and most rural children have the least capacity to compensate for a school that has vanished.

Which States are among the worst affected?

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir lead in this.

In December 2025, Madhya Pradesh's School Education Department found that 7.37 lakh children in the state have no school records. They are not enrolled in any school – private or government.

In Jhabua and Shivpuri, for instance, 29,000 children fall into the "Drop Box" category – the department's term for those at imminent risk of dropping out. Across the State's 55 districts, more than 3,500 government schools recorded zero new admissions this academic session. Another 6,500 schools saw fewer than 10 admissions.

The department's response was to



School closures are happening across States on the grounds of rationalisation. THULASI KAKKAT

instruct every district education officer to paste lists of unmapped children on school noticeboards, contact them directly, and upload their details to the State portal.

Statewide, 11.38 lakh children fall under the "Drop Box" category. Another 1.23 lakh are already recorded as dropouts. A further 1.55 lakh have left school because their families were displaced or migrated for work.

The department's flagship outreach programmes, School Chalen Hum and the Home Contact Campaign, were built to prevent exactly this. The State's own audit of its own scheme found three-quarters of a million children whom neither programme had reached.

Government data tabled in the Lok Sabha in February confirms the scale. UDISE+ figures show the national count of government schools falling from 11.07 lakh in 2014-15 to 10.17 lakh in 2023-24, a decline of roughly 89,000 that lines up almost exactly with NITI Aayog's own count. Private schools nationally grew from 2.88 lakh to 3.31 lakh over the same decade.

Madhya Pradesh's government schools fell from 1.22 lakh in 2018-19 to 99,411 the very next year – a drop of roughly 22,600

in twelve months. Uttar Pradesh's government schools fell from 1.63 lakh to 1.38 lakh in that identical year, a drop of over 25,000.

Reports on J&K's rationalisation programme documented children now travelling 4 to 6 km daily to reach a functioning school, violating neighbourhood school mandates of Right to Education Act (RTE).

More than 4,300 schools were closed or merged under a rationalisation scheme, with the Lok Sabha's own UDISE+ figures showing the state's school count falling from 23,167 in 2020-21 to 18,785 by 2022-23, alongside nearly 13,000 vacant teaching posts reported separately in the state assembly.

What is the impact of the shutdown of government schools?

Government schools in India are not a neutral public utility used evenly across classes. They are, disproportionately, the schools of the poor – of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the poorer strata of backward-class communities. India is home to roughly 60% of the world's below-poverty-line population, and it is their children who fill government classrooms.

A 2019 National Sample Survey analysis found access to free education declining unevenly, with Muslim and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households disproportionately marginalised from the schools nearest to them.

The burden falls disproportionately on girls who are the first to be withdrawn when the nearest school stops being nearby. What consolidation looks like on the ground is often a single teacher covering five classes at once – unable to know an individual child's background or tailor instruction, technically in breach of the Right to Education Act's staffing and quality norms.

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(The author is Chairman, Central Control Commission, CPI(M))

THE GIST

▼ Nearly 94,000 government schools have closed over the past decade under State-led rationalisation drives, with Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir among the worst affected, leading to falling enrolment and rising dropout risks.

▼ The closures have disproportionately affected poor, rural, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and girl students, while questions remain over the Centre's role in enforcing neighbourhood school norms under the Right to Education Act.

The article discusses the **closure (or rationalisation) of government schools across India**, highlighting concerns over children's access to education, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

According to a **NITI Aayog report**, around **94,000 government schools** have been closed over the past decade—an average of **25 schools per day**. This has coincided with a decline in government school enrolment by **2.26 crore students**, while the share of students enrolled in government schools fell from **71% in 2005** to **49.24% in 2024–25**.

Key Highlights (The Gist)

Indicator	Details
Government schools closed	Nearly 94,000 (last decade)
Average closures	25 schools/day
Decline in government school enrolment	2.26 crore students
Worst affected States	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
Most affected groups	Rural children, girls, SCs, STs, poor households
Main concern	Rising dropouts and reduced access to neighbourhood schools

Why Are Government Schools Closing?

The primary reason cited is **school rationalisation**, where governments merge or close schools with low enrolment and shift students to nearby institutions.

Policy Basis

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** encourages rationalisation **without compromising access to neighbourhood schools**.

However, the article argues that implementation has often gone beyond this objective.

Other Factors

Factor	Explanation
Low enrolment	Fewer students in some schools
Migration	Rural-to-urban movement reduces local enrolment
Administrative efficiency	States seek to optimise teacher deployment
Budget constraints	Maintaining very small schools is costly
Teacher shortages	Schools with few students and teachers are merged

States Most Affected

State	Situation
Uttar Pradesh	Large decline in government schools and enrolment
Madhya Pradesh	Significant closures; many children in "Drop Box" category
Jammu & Kashmir	School mergers increased travel distance for children

Madhya Pradesh Example

- 7.37 lakh children had no school records.
- Many districts reported **zero new admissions** in numerous schools.
- Thousands of schools had fewer than 10 admissions.

National Trend

Year	Government Schools
2014–15	11.07 lakh
2023–24	10.17 lakh

Decline: Approximately **89,000–90,000 schools**, consistent with the NITI Aayog estimate.

Meanwhile:

School Type	Growth
Private schools	Increased from 2.88 lakh to 3.31 lakh

Case Study: Uttar Pradesh

Indicator	Data
Government schools (before)	1.63 lakh
Government schools (after)	1.38 lakh
Schools reduced	Over 25,000

Impact on Children

Government schools primarily serve:

- Scheduled Castes (SC)
- Scheduled Tribes (ST)
- Other Backward Classes (OBC)
- Economically weaker sections
- Rural communities

Therefore, closures disproportionately affect vulnerable children.

Who Bears the Biggest Burden?

1. Girls

Girls are often the first to stop attending school if the nearest school is farther away due to:

- Safety concerns
- Household responsibilities
- Transport issues

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-

2. Rural Students

Children in villages may now travel several kilometres daily, increasing absenteeism and dropout risk.

3. SC/ST Communities

A National Sample Survey (2019) indicated that school access declined more sharply for SC and ST households when nearby schools closed.

4. Poor Families

Additional transport costs and longer travel times discourage continued schooling.

What is School Rationalisation?

School rationalisation aims to:

- Merge schools with very low enrolment.
- Improve teacher utilisation.
- Consolidate resources.
- Enhance infrastructure.

Potential Benefits

Benefit	Explanation
Better infrastructure	Larger schools may have improved facilities
Efficient teacher deployment	Reduces single-teacher schools
Cost savings	Better use of public funds

Risks

Risk	Impact
Increased travel distance	Higher dropout rates
Loss of neighbourhood schools	Reduced accessibility
Overcrowding	Lower teaching quality
Social exclusion	Greater impact on disadvantaged groups

India School Education Snapshot (UDISE+ 2023–24)

Indicator	Government Schools	Private Unaided Schools	Government-Aided Schools
Number of Schools	10,17,660	3,31,108	80,313
Share of Total Schools	69.1%	22.5%	5.5%

Student Enrolment by Management

Indicator	Students (Approx.)	Share
Government Schools	≈12.2 crore	49.2%
Private Unaided Schools	≈9.6 crore	38.8%
Government-Aided Schools	≈2.2 crore	9.0%
Others (Madrasas, etc.)	≈0.5 crore	~3%
Total Students	24.80 crore	100%

Teachers

Indicator	Number
Total Teachers (2023–24)	98.08 lakh
Total Teachers (2025–26)	1.03 crore

Pupil–Teacher Ratio (PTR)

Level	PTR (Students per Teacher)	RTE/NEP Benchmark
Foundational	10 : 1	30 : 1
Preparatory	12 : 1	30 : 1
Middle	17 : 1	35 : 1 (upper primary norm)
Secondary	21 : 1	Varies by stage

Key Comparisons

Parameter	Government Schools	Private Schools
Number of schools	10.18 lakh	3.31 lakh
Student enrolment	≈12.2 crore	≈9.6 crore
Primary beneficiaries	Rural, SC/ST, OBC, EWS	Middle-income & urban families
Fee	Free/Highly subsidized	Fee-paying
Mid-Day Meal	Yes (PM POSHAN)	Generally No
Teacher recruitment	Government service	School management

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Company Analysis, Financial Statements



RISK MANAGEMENT

Capital Protection, Position Sizing



TRADING PSYCHOLOGY

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Word of the day

Chary:

characterised by great caution and wariness

Synonyms: careful, alert, circumspect, considerate

Usage: *The manager was chary about hiring too quickly.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/chary

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tʃeəri/



Thank you 😊

