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**Petrochemical goods' tax cut in view**

**COBALTITE**  
The Centre has provided full Customs Duty exemption for about 40 petrochemical items till June 30 in view of the war in West Asia. An April notification listed 46 products, including polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutene, styrene, butadiene and anhydrous ammonia. PAGE 13



**Rahul urges Modi to withdraw cases over 2018 protests**

**NEW DELHI**  
Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the Centre to withdraw criminal cases filed against him and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders following the nationwide protests on April 2, 2018 against the dilution of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. PAGE 4

**Kerala poll rivals offering pension, and health cover**

**KOCHI**  
The ruling Left Democratic Front in Kerala and the Opposition United Democratic Front separately offered to improve social welfare schemes for the weaker sections and introduce women-specific projects in their manifestos released on Thursday. The two opposing fronts released manifestos for the 2026 Kerala Assembly polls on the same day. PAGE 4

**Iran fires missiles at Israel, Gulf states as Trump talks of winding down war**

**Associated Press**  
Iran fired more missiles at Israel and Gulf Arab states on Thursday, demonstrating Tehran's continued ability to strike its neighbours even as U.S. President Donald Trump claimed the threat from the country was nearly eliminated and predicted the war would end soon. Iran's attacks on Gulf states and its choicelook on the Strait of Hormuz, "could have disrupted the world's energy supplies. That has proved to be Iran's greatest strategic advantage in the war. Mr. Trump has insisted the Strait can be taken by

**Gherao of judicial staff a challenge to SC: CJI**

He says the violence was a 'calculated move' to demoralise judiciary and sway the adjudication | The court says incident exposed 'complete failure of officials and police in the State of West Bengal' | 'Everyone speaks political language, I have never seen such a politically polarised State', CJI adds

**Krishnanadas Nairgopal**  
**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Thursday said a mob gherao of seven judicial officers, including those without food or water for more than nine hours at a government office in Malda district of West Bengal, reportedly after several voters were struck off the electoral rolls in the special inter-caste revision (SIR) was not only a "brazen attempt" to browbeat the officers but also amounted to a challenge to the authority of the top court. Hundreds of judicial officers have been deployed on the basis of a Supreme Court order to function as Election Registration Officers and adjudicate objections raised by voters excluded from the rolls during the SIR ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for April 23 and 29. "Noting that three of the judicial officers were women, the court said the in-



Rowdier mob. People try to enter the HCO office in Malda district of West Bengal, where seven judicial officers were gheraoed on Wednesday. (UPI/AN/AP Photo)

cident exposed the "complete failure of the civil and police administration in the State of West Bengal". Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, asked what the political leaders were doing during all those hours of captivity — could they not have gone to the spot and calmed down the situation. A shocked court pointed out that the judicial officers were pelted with stones as they were frantically rescued and led out by the police after being detained from 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday till well past midnight. "This was not a routine incident. It was *ex facie* calculated, well-planned and deliberate move to demoralise the judicial officers and impact the ongoing process of adjudication of objections. We will not allow anyone to interfere and take law into their hands by causing fear in the minds of judicial officers. This undoubtedly amounts to criminal con-

**PARLEY**  
This was not a routine incident. It was *ex facie* calculated, well-planned and deliberate move to demoralise the judicial officers and impact the ongoing process of adjudication of objections. We will not allow anyone to interfere and take law into their hands by causing fear in the minds of judicial officers. This undoubtedly amounts to criminal conspiracy under Article 161 of the Constitution in matters relating to remission and pre-natal release of convicts. The Bench, comprising Justices A.B. Jagdish Chandra, C.K. Bharathiraj and Sundar Mohan Bora, under no circumstance, could exercise any discretion whatsoever to take a different view from the one taken by the Council of Ministers. The Bench was answering a reference made to it by a Division Bench, headed by the Chief Justice, consisting of Justices M.S. Ramesh (since retired) and V. Lakshmanarayanan but referred the matter to the larger Bench, for an authoritative pronouncement, in September 2023 after consulting the lowest level decisions delivered in 2024 by two other Division Benches of the High Court on the issue.

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA**  
The Bench, comprising Justices A.B. Jagdish Chandra, C.K. Bharathiraj and Sundar Mohan Bora, under no circumstance, could exercise any discretion whatsoever to take a different view from the one taken by the Council of Ministers. The Bench was answering a reference made to it by a Division Bench, headed by the Chief Justice, consisting of Justices M.S. Ramesh (since retired) and V. Lakshmanarayanan but referred the matter to the larger Bench, for an authoritative pronouncement, in September 2023 after consulting the lowest level decisions delivered in 2024 by two other Division Benches of the High Court on the issue.

Commission to requisition Central forces to protect the life, liberty and families of judicial officers. The Bench directed the Registrar General of the High Court to inform the local police and civil administration for immediate backup on hearing about the gherao. The matter was met with conspicuous inertia until, approximately 10 p.m., it said. The official had then contacted the Home Secretary, the Director General of Police (DGP) and the Chief Justice of the High Court. Finally, the High Court Chief Justice had to intervene personally, following which the Home Secretary and the DGP had turned up at his residence at midnight. Chief Justice Kant said the High Court Chief Justice, in his letter to the apex court, had strongly deplored the delay on the part of the police and the civil administration. The apex court said the

**Historic mission**



Return to the moon: Four astronauts blasted off for a journey around the moon from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Tuesday, around 4.35 p.m. local on Wednesday. The Artemis II is the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years. (AP Photo by Sam La)

**NEW DELHI**  
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday announced that the Artemis II mission, the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years, is set to launch in late 2025. The mission will carry four astronauts on a 10-day journey around the moon. ISRO is collaborating with NASA for the mission. The Artemis II mission is a significant milestone for India's space program. The mission will be launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. The launch is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2025, at 4:35 p.m. local time. The mission is expected to last for 10 days. The Artemis II mission is the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years. The mission will be a historic one for India's space program. The mission will be a significant milestone for India's space program. The mission will be a historic one for India's space program. The mission will be a significant milestone for India's space program.

**Cabinet's advice on grant of remission to convicts is binding on Governor: HC**

**Mohamed Ibrahimullah S. GURNOOR**  
A Full Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday held that the Governor, under no circumstance, may take a different view from that of the Council of Ministers, the Bench ruled. (AP Photo)

**Full Bench of the Madras High Court**  
**WAR ANTIWORTHY R**  
**CONFLICTING DECISIONS**  
**IN 2024 BY TWO OTHER**  
**Division Benches**  
The Bench, comprising Justices A.B. Jagdish Chandra, C.K. Bharathiraj and Sundar Mohan Bora, under no circumstance, could exercise any discretion whatsoever to take a different view from the one taken by the Council of Ministers. The Bench was answering a reference made to it by a Division Bench, headed by the Chief Justice, consisting of Justices M.S. Ramesh (since retired) and V. Lakshmanarayanan but referred the matter to the larger Bench, for an authoritative pronouncement, in September 2023 after consulting the lowest level decisions delivered in 2024 by two other Division Benches of the High Court on the issue.

**State legislature.** One of the Division Benches of the High Court had rightly followed the law, while the other Bench had wrongly relied upon the Supreme Court's judgment in the 2023 M.P. Special Police Establishment case which was related to the Governor's statutory function of granting sanction to prosecute Ministers in corruption cases. The Full Bench further pointed out the Supreme Court had delivered its verdict in A.G. Perarivalan case only after considering the M.P. Special Police Establishment case. "Therefore, it is clear that the ruling by one of the Division Benches of the High Court in Sarangan case is *per incuriam* as judgment passed without taking the correct position of law into consideration to the limited extent that it holds that the ruling in M.P. Special Police Establishment permits the Governor to act in his own discretion in exercise of powers under Article 161 of the Constitution." The Court said the Bench led by Justice Chandrachud, J.N. Bhargava, Jyoti Bansiya, K.J. Somaya and A.K. Kishore. Mr. Bhat also said, the 1993 judgment delivered in Maro Ramu's case was followed by the Supreme Court in 2022 too while ordering the release of Bansiya. The Full Bench also cited the Supreme Court's 1974 verdict in Shamsher Singh versus State of Punjab. "Consistent stance" After concurring with his submission, the Full Bench of the High Court had consistently held the Governor could not exercise any discretion while exercising powers under Article 161 of the Constitution. This had been reflected even in its recent decision on the Governor's power to withhold Bills passed by the

**Manufacturing activity slows to 45-month low in March**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
**NEW DELHI**  
Manufacturing sector activity slowed to its lowest level in nearly four years (45 months) in March 2025, dragged down by the impact of the war in West Asia on costs, demand and new order levels, according to a survey of private sector companies. IHS: India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell sharply from 50.9 in February to 45.9 in March, marking the lowest reading since June 2022. Just before Mr. Trump began his address in which he said U.S. "core strategic objectives are nearing completion", explosions were heard in Dubai as air defences worked in intercept Iranian missiles. Less than a half-hour after the President was done, Israel said its military was also working to intercept missiles. One scrambled in Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, immediately after the speech. Attacks continued across Iran on Thursday. More than 1,500 people have been killed in Iran, while 18 have been reported to dead in Israel. More than two dozen people have died in Gulf states and the occupied West Bank. Just before Mr. Trump while 13 U.S. service members have been killed.

# Cabinet's advice on grant of remission to convicts is binding on Governor: HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.  
CHENNAI

A Full Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday held that the Governor, whether he/she likes it or not, is bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising powers under Article 161 of the Constitution in matters relating to remission and premature release of convicts.

The Bench comprising Justices A.D. Jagadish Chandira, G.K. Ilanthirayan and Sunder Mohan ruled that the Governor, under no circumstance, could exercise any discretion whatsoever to take a different view from the one taken by the Council of Ministers.

The Bench was answering a reference made to it by a Division Bench.

The Division Bench consisting of Justices M.S. Ramesh (since retired) and V. Lakshminarayanan had referred the matter to the larger Bench, for an authoritative pronouncement, in September 2025 after coming across two conflicting decisions delivered in 2024 by two other Division Benches of the High Court on the issue.

While answering the reference, the Full Bench agreed with State Public Prosecutor Hasan Mohamed Jinnah and advocate M. Radhakrishnan that the issue had been settled by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in as early as 1980.

The Constitution Bench in 1980 decision comprised Justices V.R. Krish-



The Governor, under no circumstance, may take a different view from that of the Council of Ministers, the Bench ruled. FILE PHOTO

## **Full Bench of the Madras High Court was answering a reference over two conflicting decisions in 2024 by two other Division Benches**

na Iyer, Y.V. Chandrachud, P.N. Bhagwati, Syed Murtaza Fazalali and A.D. Koshal.

Mr. Jinnah also said, the 1980 judgment delivered in Maru Ramu's case was followed by the Supreme Court in 2022 too while ordering the release of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan. He also relied upon Supreme Court's 1974 verdict in Shamsheer Singh versus State of Punjab.

### **'Consistent stance'**

After concurring with his submission, the Full Bench said, the top court had consistently held the Governor could not exercise any discretion while exercising powers under Article 161 of the Constitution and it had been reflected even in its recent decision on the Governor's power to withhold Bills passed by the

State legislature. One of the Division Benches of the High Court had rightly followed the law, while the other Bench had wrongly relied upon the Supreme Court's judgment in the 2003 M.P. Special Police Establishment case which was related to the Governor's statutory function of granting sanction to prosecute Ministers in corruption cases.

The Full Bench further pointed out the Supreme Court had delivered its verdict in A.G. Perarivalan's case only after considering the M.P. Special Police Establishment case.

"Therefore, it is clear that the ruling [by one of the Division Benches of the High Court] in Murugan alias Thirumalai Murugan is *per incuriam* (a judgement passed without taking the correct position of law into consideration) to the limited extent that it holds that the ruling in M.P. Special Police Establishment permits the Governor to act in his own discretion in exercise of powers under Article 161 of the Constitution," the Bench led by Justice Chandira concluded.

- A **Full Bench of the Madras High Court** ruled in **September 2025** that the **Governor is bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers** while exercising powers under **Article 161** of the Constitution regarding remission and premature release of convicts
- मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय की पूर्ण पीठ ने सितंबर 2025 में निर्णय दिया कि राज्यपाल दोषियों की क्षमा और समय से पूर्व रिहाई के संदर्भ में **अनुच्छेद 161** के तहत शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते समय **मंत्रिमंडल की सलाह से बाध्य** है
- The ruling settles a **constitutional conflict** between two conflicting 2024 Division Bench decisions of the same High Court
- यह निर्णय उसी उच्च न्यायालय की दो विरोधाभासी 2024 खंडपीठ निर्णयों के बीच **संवैधानिक विवाद** को सुलझाता है
- The judgment reaffirms the **1980 Supreme Court Constitution Bench ruling** (Maru Ram case) — Governor cannot exercise independent discretion under Article 161
- यह निर्णय **1980 के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय संविधान पीठ निर्णय** (मारु राम मामला) की पुष्टि करता है
- Highly relevant given ongoing **Centre-State tensions over Governor's role** in several states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Telangana)
- कई राज्यों (तमिलनाडु, केरल, पश्चिम बंगाल, तेलंगाना) में **राज्यपाल की भूमिका पर केंद्र-राज्य तनाव** के बीच अत्यधिक प्रासंगिक
- The case involved reference to **A.G. Perarivalan** (Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict) whose release was ordered by Supreme Court in 2022
- मामले में **A.G. पेरारीवलन** (राजीव गांधी हत्याकांड दोषी) का संदर्भ था जिसकी रिहाई 2022 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने आदेशित की थी

- **Article 161** of the Indian Constitution gives the **Governor of a state** the power to **pardon, suspend, remit, or commute sentences** of persons convicted of offences against state laws — similar to the **President's power under Article 72**
- भारतीय संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 161** राज्य के **राज्यपाल** को राज्य कानूनों के तहत दोषियों की **सजा को माफ, निलंबित, कम या बदलने** की शक्ति देता है — **अनुच्छेद 72** के तहत राष्ट्रपति की शक्ति के समान
- The question before the court was: **Can the Governor use personal judgment** while deciding whether to grant remission (early release) to a convict — or must the Governor **follow the Council of Ministers' advice?**
- अदालत के सामने प्रश्न था: क्या राज्यपाल किसी दोषी को क्षमा देने का निर्णय करते समय **व्यक्तिगत निर्णय** का उपयोग कर सकता है — या राज्यपाल को **मंत्रिमंडल की सलाह का पालन** करना होगा?
- The **Full Bench clearly ruled**: Governor has **NO independent discretion** — must act on Cabinet advice; the Governor "whether he/she likes it or not" is bound
- **पूर्ण पीठ ने स्पष्ट रूप से निर्णय दिया**: राज्यपाल के पास **कोई स्वतंत्र विवेकाधिकार नहीं** — मंत्रिमंडल की सलाह पर कार्य करना होगा
- This is significant because **several Governors in India have been accused of sitting on remission files** or acting contrary to Cabinet recommendations
- यह महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि **भारत में कई राज्यपालों पर क्षमा फाइलों को दबाए रखने** या मंत्रिमंडल की सिफारिशों के विरुद्ध कार्य करने का आरोप रहा है

## D2. Key Legal References / मुख्य कानूनी संदर्भ

- **Maru Ram case (1980):** Supreme Court Constitution Bench — settled that Governor cannot act independently under Article 161; must follow Cabinet advice
- **मारू राम मामला (1980):** सर्वोच्च न्यायालय संविधान पीठ — निर्धारित किया कि राज्यपाल अनुच्छेद 161 के तहत स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य नहीं कर सकता
- **Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab (1974):** Supreme Court ruled Governor/President must act on aid and advice of Council of Ministers in all matters except explicitly stated discretionary functions
- **शमशेर सिंह बनाम पंजाब राज्य (1974):** सर्वोच्च न्यायालय — राज्यपाल/राष्ट्रपति स्पष्ट विवेकाधीन कार्यों को छोड़कर सभी मामलों में मंत्रिमंडल की सहायता और सलाह पर कार्य करे
- **A.G. Perarivalan case (2022):** Supreme Court ordered release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict after Tamil Nadu Cabinet recommended remission — Governor had withheld decision
- **A.G. पेरारीवलन मामला (2022):** सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने राजीव गांधी हत्याकांड दोषी की रिहाई का आदेश दिया — तमिलनाडु मंत्रिमंडल ने क्षमा की सिफारिश की थी, राज्यपाल ने निर्णय रोका था
- **M.P. Special Police Establishment case (2003):** Related to Governor's statutory function of granting sanction to prosecute Ministers in corruption cases — the Full Bench distinguished this case from Article 161 powers
- **M.P. विशेष पुलिस स्थापना मामला (2003):** भ्रष्टाचार मामलों में मंत्रियों पर मुकदमा चलाने की स्वीकृति देने की राज्यपाल की वैधानिक शक्ति से संबंधित
- **Governor's power to withhold Bills (recent SC ruling):** Supreme Court recently ruled Governor cannot indefinitely withhold Bills passed by State Legislature — same principle of Cabinet supremacy
- **विधेयकों को रोकने की राज्यपाल की शक्ति (हालिया SC निर्णय):** सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में निर्णय दिया कि राज्यपाल अनिश्चितकाल तक विधेयक नहीं रोक सकता

### D3. Immediate Issue / तात्कालिक मुद्दा

- **Two conflicting Division Bench decisions (2024):** One Bench correctly followed the Maru Ram precedent; the other incorrectly relied on the M.P. Special Police Establishment case (2003) which was about a different statutory power
- **दो विरोधाभासी खंडपीठ निर्णय (2024):** एक पीठ ने मारु राम पूर्वनिर्णय का सही पालन किया; दूसरे ने गलती से M.P. विशेष पुलिस स्थापना मामले (2003) पर भरोसा किया
- The confusion arose because some argued the Governor has personal discretion like in **M.P. SPE case** — Full Bench clarified that case is about a **different statutory function**, not Article 161
- भ्रम इसलिए उत्पन्न हुआ क्योंकि कुछ ने तर्क दिया कि राज्यपाल के पास **M.P. SPE मामले** जैसा व्यक्तिगत विवेक है — पूर्ण पीठ ने स्पष्ट किया कि वह मामला **अलग वैधानिक कार्य** के बारे में है

## Difference Between Pardon Powers / क्षमा शक्तियों में अंतर

Feature / विशेषता	Article 72 (President) / राष्ट्रपति	Article 161 (Governor) / राज्यपाल
Scope	Both Central and State laws	State laws only
Death sentence	Can pardon	Cannot pardon death sentence ( <i>Needs verification</i> )
Court Martial	Can pardon	Cannot pardon
Judicial review	Yes	Yes
Cabinet advice	Bound by Union Cabinet	Bound by State Cabinet

## Types of Pardoning Power / क्षमादान की प्रकार

- **Pardon (क्षमा):** Complete forgiveness; removes conviction and sentence entirely
- **Commutation (परिवर्तन):** Substitutes one form of punishment with a lesser one
- **Remission (लघुकरण):** Reduces the period of sentence without changing its character
- **Respite (विराम):** Awarding lesser punishment due to special circumstances
- **Reprieve (प्रविलंब):** Temporary suspension of sentence

**Consider the following statements regarding the Governor's pardoning power under Article 161 of the Indian Constitution: भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 161 के तहत राज्यपाल की क्षमादान शक्ति के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. Article 161 empowers the Governor to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, remissions, and commutations for offences against state laws.
2. The Governor can exercise discretion independent of the Council of Ministers' advice while deciding on remission under Article 161.
3. The Supreme Court in the Maru Ram case (1980) held that the Governor's Article 161 power must be exercised on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
4. Article 161 gives the Governor broader pardoning powers than those given to the President under Article 72.



**Chhattisgarh HC convicts Amit Jogi in murder case**

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Thursday convicted Amit Jogi — the son of former Chief Minister, the late Aftab Jogi — in a 2003 murder case, giving him three weeks to surrender. The case pertains to the killing of businessman-politician Ramvaran Jaggi in Raipur at a time when Aftab Jogi was the acting Chief Minister of the State. In 2007, 26 people were convicted in the case by a special CBI court, but Mr. Amit Jogi was acquitted as he was given the benefit of the doubt. In 2011, the CBI approached the High Court challenging the acquittal, but the appeal was rejected by the HC on grounds of delay. This moved to the Supreme Court, which referred the case back to the High Court.

**GE delivers sixth engine for Tejas LCA-MkII fighter jets**

Engine manufacturer General Electric (GE) Aerospace on April 2 announced delivery of the sixth of the F404-IN20 engine to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) MkIIA. GE Aerospace is to deliver 39 F404-IN20 engines to HAL. "GE Aerospace has handed over the sixth F404-IN20 engine against the order from 2021," said a GE Aerospace spokesperson. A HAL spokesperson told *The Hindu*, "The sixth F404-IN20 engine was handed over in the U.S., and it will be brought here through air freight." The spokesperson did not specify when the engine would arrive in India considering the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

**India can help in bringing peace, says Anand Sharma**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Anand Sharma on Thursday appreciated India's diplomatic and skilful handling of the West Asia crisis and urged it to be the leader of the Global South in de-escalating the hostilities in the region. In a statement, Mr. Sharma said the international community could not remain a "mute spectator" to the collapse of the cuban based unilateral order and global crisis-management mechanisms. "Indian diplomatic handling of the crisis has been mature and skilful, avoiding potential minefields," he said.

India, he said, had historically commanded respect for its moral authority and commitment to peace and must see that standing to bring countries together.

"India must endeavour to mobilise the Global South and strategic partner countries to collectively work for restoration of peace and order," he said.

Describing the situation in West Asia as a major global upheaval, Mr. Sharma said the conflict had triggered severe economic disruption and heightened global uncertainty.

**Education Ministry notifies NCERT as deemed university**

**The Ministry's notification enables the NCERT to offer courses and grant degrees; it directs the education body to begin doctoral programmes**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry has issued a notification declaring the National Council for Educational Research and Training, or NCERT, an institution deemed to be a university, enabling it to offer courses or programmes and grant degrees.

In the notification dated March 30, the Ministry said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had approved the expert panel's recommendations to deem the university status to the NCERT. The notification also stated that starting in January, following which the Ministry notified the grant of status to the council.

The notification confers the status on the NCERT along with its six regional institutes, provided that a list of conditions is met.

These conditions prevent the NCERT from indulging in any activities that are "commercial" and "profit-making" in nature, and mandate that all ac-

**NCERT upgrade**

The new status empowers the council to design academic programmes and expand its role from a curriculum body to a higher education and research institution.



ademic courses or programmes must conform to the norms and standards prescribed by the UGC and the "concerned bodies or councils". The notification also notified NCERT to start programmes and off-campus or on-offshore campuses.

The Ministry has said the NCERT shall take appropriate steps to begin research and doctoral programmes, and "innovative

It must comply with UGC norms, avoid commercial practices, activities, and follow strict guidelines for fee or offshore campuses.

It must operate into research and education activities only among its constituent units. It must also comply with the National Board of Accreditation.

academic programmes" and the institute must not confine itself to the new emerging areas, but also "endeavour" to expand to other domains that are considered with UGC regulations and the National Education Policy of 2020. The Ministry said the NCERT must take all the measures required to get its academic programmes and courses rated for accreditation by the National Board of Accreditation, and for the institute itself by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

**SC calls sand mining mafia the 'modern dacoits of Chambal'**

**Krishnakumar Halgondkar**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the sand mining mafia, who carry "better weapons than the police" and kill those who come in their way with impunity, were the "modern dacoits" of Chambal.

The oral observation from a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjeev Mehta was in response to an off-record submission from the Madhya Pradesh government that said officers plumb the depths of the Chambal river and devastate the fragile, toxic ecosystem of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary. Officers were no lightweights and had superior resources.

**Officers killed by mafia** Also, the state government has thrown in the towel. It is an extremely sad state of affairs if the state government says we cannot defend our natural resources. Dacoity, as we know it traditionally, is of the past. Now these are the modern dacoits, these mining mafias. The notification was issued without following the parameters of law. Mr. Gaud said that some of the villages in the area are dependent on sand mining.



From the region, The trucks pass by police stations, and sand miners carry better arms.

"Look at the number of Sub-Divisional Magistrates, police and forest officers killed by the mining mafia... but the State has forgotten that there is a law called preventive detention," Justice Mehta said. The Bench stayed a Rajasthan notification of March 9 issued under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 which altered the boundaries of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, freeing from restrictions 752 hectares of land on both sides of the Chambal river. Justice Mehta said the notification was issued without following the parameters of law. Mr. Gaud said that some of the villages in the area are dependent on sand mining.

**From files to algorithms, experts discuss digital governance issues**

**Siddhi Narain**  
CHENNAI

What does the future look like when government technology and careers collide? At *The Hindu* and SRM Institute of Science and Technology Future Career Conventions Series held on Thursday, the answers were both exciting and intriguing.

Moderated by Rishal Shankar, Deputy Managing Editor at *The Hindu*, the session brought together voices from governance, law and technology to unpack a rapidly shifting landscape. "We've come to a stage where all our land records are digitised," said Atulya Mura, State Information Commissioner, Tamil Nadu, pointing to the scale of digitalisation. Artificial intelligence, he noted, may assist in del-



Sarathesh Babu, Atulya Mura, Rishal Shankar, P. Vivek Sankar, and Rishal Shankar at the event on Thursday. (S. Narain/Hindustan Times)

ivering preliminary judgments, with human intervention stepping in where it matters most. "It is possible for you to imagine a situation where no one visits a government office," asked Sarathesh Babu, Principal Secretary and MD, KETPRA, Kerala government. For him, the promise of generative AI is simple. "The idea is to free

time for people." In an age defined by immediacy, he argued, governance must evolve to match the expectations of a generation that lives "by the minute, by the second." Seamless services, like something as routine as getting a marriage certificate, are no longer just aspirational, but they are expected instantaneously.

Highlighting the legal aspects, P. Vivek Sankar, Dean SRM School of Law, said that in India, data localisation norms and cybersecurity regulations are beginning to take shape. The implication for students, he noted, is clear: the future will demand not just domain knowledge but also adaptability.

For Murali Sundaram, senior technology consultant, head, Special Interest Group for AI, IIT Madras Research Park, the takeaway for the young was direct. "You and you alone can do it for yourself," he said. With technology entering a phase of abundant disruption, the real differentiator will be the ability to solve problems, he said.

**Siddhi Narain**  
CHENNAI

As global fault lines deepen and old alliances fray, policymakers are being forced to rethink strategy in real time. At a panel discussion on "Policy Frameworks in Times of Geopolitical Uncertainty," held as part of the Future Career Conventions Series, experts unpacked how energy, geopolitics and foreign

policy were increasingly intertwined in shaping the global order. Moderated by Stany Johny, International Affairs Editor at *The Hindu*, the session brought together Air Marshal M. Mathewwaran (retd.), Commodore R.S. Visvan (retd.), and veter-



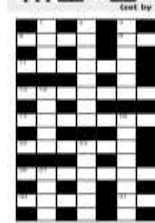
Air Marshal M. Mathewwaran (retd.), Commodore R.S. Visvan (retd.), Nayanna Basu and Stany Johny at a discussion. (S. Narain/Hindustan Times)

eran journalist Nayanna Basu. A key trend running through the discussion was energy security. With India importing nearly 85% of its oil, panelists noted that vulnerability has only intensified since the Ukraine war, which disrupted the traditional supply chains and altered global energy flows. The conversation

pointed to a larger strategic shift, where control over energy resources is closely tied to global influence. **Oil supremacy** Air Marshal Mathewwaran, former Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, and founder-chairman, The Hindustan Foundation, placed the concept of oil supremacy in a broader context, arguing that no superpower remains dominant indefinitely. Commodore Visvan, director-general of the Chennai Centre for China Studies and regional director of National Maritime Foundation, Tamil Nadu, pointed out the lack of continuity in policy approaches, especially under leadership that rely on rapid shifts and tactical decisions.

Author and journalist Nayanna Basu brought the focus closer to home, arguing that India's immediate neighbourhood has undergone significant changes that are often under-acknowledged. Across the discussion, one idea remained consistent: energy remains the lifeline of modern economies, and disruptions in supply chains will continue to shape geopolitical tensions in the years ahead.

**TI CROSSWORD 14758**



- Across
- 1. Travel with graduate (4)
- 2. Man in disheveled wig, procure 1000 croissants, snail (10)
- 3. None with 6 (10)
- 4. Realistic thoughtless mistake leads to panic (8)
- 5. Silver, head adult at New York hotels an end (8)
- 6. Thus in Parmesan (8)
- 7. American singer's loss on ogre, say (8)
- 8. Courtship, very short, head edge chasing odd ball (7)
- 9. Enforcement microwave sales currency at engineer's business (7)
- 10. Offer by them, after one in the same place (4)
- 11. Record by new style right away (8)
- 12. Heavy then talk a line (8)
- 13. Young working class Scot invites trouble, gets approval (6)
- 14. Ray, equipment at hospital gets current provided in opposite direction (2)
- 15. Piece of furniture in ruse, odd to sustain (6)
- 16. Use type will note this (4)
- Down
- 1. Nominative verb from exemplars (4)
- 2. Not consent and separate (8)
- 3. Answer verbally, not entirely with tools (6)
- 4. Building revamped spending millions as charge (7)
- 5. CSR pulls fatter to provide safety gear (8)
- 6. Sap, behavior Wade eliminates racism eventually for a hovering screen (8)
- 7. With no fun, network concerning time ultimately (4)
- 8. Cook evaluate in thriller, Bologna (8)
- 9. Heads off to Etoile to participate in a contest (8)
- 10. Sing, the Zouk (10)
- 11. In parentheses, morning is spent preparing for carefully planned military operation (3,5)
- 12. Female leaves party to get a bloom (7)
- 13. Its sorcerer used in fake institute teaching laboratory for getting effect (8)
- 14. Can heartless get sympathy in the beginning give good faith (8)
- 15. Head ball hit and ventilate (4)
- 16. Sap, Mahabharata is a conman in Eastern villages (8)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

**FAITH**

**Jesus' aim: reconciliation**

There was a time when people questioned betrayal. Realised at the foot of a cross, many have asked, "How could priests of a temple betray Jesus? How could they who tempt people money to pay for a betrayal?" In today's world are people giving less importance to sin, which is the single most cause of modern-day spiritual malaise? This illness is what separates us from God and all the good that He has in store for us, not only in this world, but for eternity.

Sin is real and very much alive and of supreme relevance to God. Jesus suffered humiliation and pain on the cross, in order to redeem and reconcile a sinful people to God, said W.J. Sammel. Only after the removal of sin from our lives can we have a relationship with God. This was Jesus' mission in life: to reconcile the created with the Creator. When Jesus looked down from upon the cross, it was a tableau of indifferent people: soldiers were busy chatting to decide who will take His robe. And then there were people who had humiliated Him and those who had humiliated Him in love. Many of them there thought He accounted for nothing. Jesus did not get angry but was filled with love. He could not love, could not feel His hands. He had no power. He opened His mouth and prayed for such people. He prayed to God to forgive them, for if the Lord did not forgive them, they would die in their sins and be lost for all eternity. Jesus came in love to prevent that loss; it was to reconcile, not condemn those people who did not know any better. He brought forgiveness to them, saying, "They know not what they do."

# Education Ministry notifies NCERT as deemed university

The Ministry's notification enables the NCERT to offer courses and grant degrees; it directs the education body to begin doctoral programmes

## **The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

**T**he Education Ministry has issued a notification declaring the National Council for Educational Research and Training, or NCERT, an institution deemed to be a university, enabling it to offer courses or programmes and grant degrees.

In the notification dated March 30, the Ministry said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had approved the expert panel's recommendations to grant deemed university status to the NCERT – a nodal school curriculum body – in January, following which the Ministry notified the grant of status to the council.

The notification confers the status on the NCERT, along with its six regional institutes, provided that a list of conditions is met.

These conditions prevent the NCERT from indulging in any activities that are "commercial" and "profit-making" in nature, and mandate that all aca-

## NCERT upgrade

The new status empowers the council to design academic programmes and expand its role from a curriculum body to a higher education and research institution



- It must comply with UGC norms, avoid commercial/profit-driven activities, and follow strict guidelines for new or offshore campuses
- It must expand into research and innovative academic areas while securing accreditation from NAAC and programme ratings from the National Board of Accreditation

demical courses or programmes must conform to the norms and standards prescribed by the UGC and the concerned statutory bodies or councils. The notification mandates the NCERT to start programmes and off-campus or on offshore campuses "only in accordance with the norms and guidelines issued by the UGC, from time to time, on the subject."

The Ministry has said the NCERT "shall take appropriate steps" to begin research and doctoral programmes, and "innovative

academic programmes" and the institute must not confine itself to the new emerging areas, but also "endeavour" to expand into other domains that are in accordance with UGC regulations and the National Education Policy of 2020. The Ministry said the NCERT must take all the measures required to get its academic programmes and courses rated for accreditation by the National Board of Accreditation, and for the institute itself by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

- The **Education Ministry issued a notification (March 30)** declaring **NCERT as an institution deemed to be a university** — enabling it to offer courses, programmes, and **grant degrees**
- शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने अधिसूचना (30 मार्च) जारी कर **NCERT को डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालय घोषित किया** — इसे पाठ्यक्रम, कार्यक्रम प्रदान करने और डिग्री देने में सक्षम बनाया
- The status was approved by **UGC (University Grants Commission)** in January following an expert panel's recommendation
- **UGC (विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग)** ने जनवरी में एक विशेषज्ञ समिति की सिफारिश के बाद यह दर्जा स्वीकृत किया
- **NCERT — previously only a school curriculum body — now transforms into a higher education and research institution**
- **NCERT — पहले केवल एक स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम निकाय — अब एक उच्च शिक्षा और अनुसंधान संस्था में परिवर्तित होगा**
- Notification mandates NCERT to begin **doctoral (PhD) programmes and innovative academic programmes** aligned with **NEP 2020**
- अधिसूचना NCERT को **NEP 2020** के अनुरूप **डॉक्टरल (PhD) कार्यक्रम और अभिनव शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रम** शुरू करने का निर्देश देती है
- Status covers NCERT and its **six regional institutes** — subject to a list of conditions including UGC compliance, NAAC accreditation, and no profit-making activities
- दर्जा NCERT और उसके **छह क्षेत्रीय संस्थानों** को कवर करता है — UGC अनुपालन, NAAC मान्यता, और लाभ-कमाई गतिविधियों पर प्रतिबंध सहित शर्तों के अधीन

- **NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training)** is the government body that designs the **school curriculum and textbooks** for classes 1-12 across India — it is famous for the "NCERT books" used by crores of students
- **NCERT (राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद)** भारत में कक्षा 1-12 के लिए **स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम और पाठ्यपुस्तकें** बनाने वाली सरकारी संस्था है
- A **Deemed University** is an institution that is NOT a regular university by law but has been **granted university-like powers** by the government (on UGC recommendation) — allowing it to offer degree programmes
- **डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालय** एक ऐसी संस्था है जो कानूनन विश्वविद्यालय नहीं है लेकिन सरकार ने (UGC की सिफारिश पर) इसे **विश्वविद्यालय जैसी शक्तियां** दी हैं — जिससे यह डिग्री कार्यक्रम दे सकती है
- Now, NCERT can also **offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD degrees** in education and research — not just print textbooks
- अब NCERT शिक्षा और अनुसंधान में **स्नातक, स्नातकोत्तर और PhD डिग्री** भी दे सकती है — सिर्फ पाठ्यपुस्तकें नहीं
- This is a key step under **NEP 2020** which envisions transforming India's education ecosystem through research-driven institutions
- यह **NEP 2020** के तहत एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है जो अनुसंधान-संचालित संस्थानों के माध्यम से भारत के शिक्षा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बदलने की परिकल्पना करता है

## D1. What Happened? / क्या हुआ?

- **Notification date:** March 30 (2025) by the **Ministry of Education**
- **अधिसूचना तिथि:** 30 मार्च (2025) — शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा
- **UGC approved expert panel's recommendation in January 2025;** Ministry formally notified in March
- **UGC ने जनवरी 2025 में विशेषज्ञ समिति की सिफारिश स्वीकृत की;** मंत्रालय ने मार्च में औपचारिक अधिसूचना जारी की
- Status conferred on **NCERT + its 6 regional institutes**
- दर्जा **NCERT + उसके 6 क्षेत्रीय संस्थानों** को प्रदान किया गया
- NCERT must now:
  - Offer courses and grant **degrees** / डिग्री प्रदान करना
  - Start **doctoral (PhD) and research programmes** / डॉक्टरल और अनुसंधान कार्यक्रम शुरू करना
  - Develop **innovative academic programmes** / अभिनव शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रम विकसित करना
  - Expand into domains aligned with **UGC regulations and NEP 2020** / UGC नियमों और NEP 2020 के अनुरूप क्षेत्रों में विस्तार
  - Get programmes rated by **National Board of Accreditation (NBA)** / NBA द्वारा कार्यक्रम रेटिंग
  - Get institutional accreditation from **NAAC** / NAAC से संस्थागत मान्यता

## D2. Key Conditions / मुख्य शर्तें

- NCERT **must NOT** indulge in any **commercial or profit-making** activities
- NCERT को किसी भी **व्यावसायिक या लाभ-कमाई** गतिविधियों में संलग्न नहीं होना चाहिए
- All academic courses/programmes must conform to **UGC norms and standards**
- सभी शैक्षणिक पाठ्यक्रम/कार्यक्रम **UGC मानदंडों और मानकों** के अनुरूप होने चाहिए
- Off-campus or offshore campus programmes only in accordance with **UGC guidelines**
- ऑफ-कैंपस या ऑफशोर कैंपस कार्यक्रम केवल **UGC दिशानिर्देशों** के अनुसार
- Must secure accreditation from **NAAC** (National Assessment and Accreditation Council)
- **NAAC** (राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन और प्रत्यायन परिषद) से मान्यता प्राप्त करनी होगी
- Must secure **programme ratings** from **NBA** (National Board of Accreditation)
- **NBA** (राष्ट्रीय प्रत्यायन बोर्ड) से **कार्यक्रम रेटिंग** प्राप्त करनी होगी

- **Best case:** NCERT launches high-quality PhDs in education, curriculum theory, pedagogy → produces world-class education researchers → improves India's school and higher education quality
- **सर्वोत्तम स्थिति:** NCERT शिक्षा, पाठ्यक्रम सिद्धांत, शिक्षाशास्त्र में उच्च-गुणवत्ता PhD शुरू करता है → विश्व-स्तरीय शिक्षा शोधकर्ता तैयार होते हैं
- **Worst case:** Bureaucratic overload, lack of faculty, infrastructure gaps → NCERT unable to effectively transition from curriculum body to university → degree programmes remain superficial
- **सबसे खराब स्थिति:** नौकरशाही अधिभार, संकाय की कमी, बुनियादी ढांचे की कमियां → NCERT प्रभावी ढंग से विश्वविद्यालय में परिवर्तित नहीं हो पाता
- **Impact:** If successful, NCERT model could inspire other curriculum bodies (**NCTE, AICTE, NCI**) to similarly upgrade their academic roles
- **प्रभाव:** सफल होने पर, NCERT मॉडल अन्य पाठ्यक्रम निकायों (**NCTE, AICTE, NCI**) को इसी तरह अपनी शैक्षणिक भूमिकाएं बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकता है

## NEP 2020 Key Targets / NEP 2020 के प्रमुख लक्ष्य

- **GER in Higher Education:** Increase from ~27% (2020) to **50% by 2035**
- उच्च शिक्षा में GER: ~27% (2020) से **2035 तक 50%**
- **School GER:** Universal by 2030 for all levels up to secondary
- **Multidisciplinary Universities:** By 2040, all HE institutions to be multidisciplinary
- **Research:** Establish **National Research Foundation (NRF)** to fund research — now enacted as **ANRF (Anusandhan National Research Foundation)** in 2023
- **Teacher Education:** 4-year integrated B.Ed. by 2030; no 2-year B.Ed. for non-teachers

## Constitutional Position of Education / शिक्षा की संवैधानिक स्थिति

- **Education is in the Concurrent List** (List III, Entry 25) — both Centre and States can legislate
- शिक्षा समवर्ती सूची (सूची III, प्रविष्टि 25) में है — केंद्र और राज्य दोनों कानून बना सकते हैं
- Added to Concurrent List by **42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976** (originally in State List)
- **42वें संवैधानिक संशोधन, 1976** द्वारा समवर्ती सूची में जोड़ा गया (मूल रूप से राज्य सूची में)

## Deemed University — Key Facts / डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालय — प्रमुख तथ्य

- Granted under **Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956** on recommendation of UGC
- **UGC अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 3** के तहत UGC की सिफारिश पर प्रदान किया जाता है
- Must have been functioning for **at least 20 years with distinction** (*general rule — Needs verification*)
- India has approximately **~125+ deemed universities** (*Needs verification on exact number*)
- Examples: **IISc Bengaluru, BITS Pilani, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Jamia Hamdard**

Type of University	Definition	Established By	Degree Granting Power	Key Features	Examples
<b>Central University</b>	Universities funded and controlled by Central Government	Act of Parliament	Yes	Funded by Union Govt, nationwide importance	University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University
<b>State University</b>	Universities funded and controlled by State Government	State Legislature Act	Yes	Operates within state jurisdiction	Rajasthan University, Mumbai University
<b>Deemed to be University</b>	Institutions given autonomy by UGC due to excellence	Declared by Central Govt on UGC recommendation	Yes	High autonomy, flexible courses	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, BITS Pilani
<b>Private University</b>	Universities set up by private bodies/trusts	State Act	Yes	Self-financed, regulated by UGC	Amity University, Manipal University
<b>Open University</b>	Distance learning universities	Act of Parliament/State Act	Yes	Flexible learning, no age limit	Indira Gandhi National Open University, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University
<b>Institute of National Importance (INI)</b>	Premier institutions with special status	Act of Parliament	Yes	Focus on excellence in specific fields	Indian Institutes of Technology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences
<b>State Private (Autonomous Colleges with Univ Status)</b>	Colleges upgraded to university level autonomy	State Act/UGC approval	Yes	Limited jurisdiction, specialized programs	Various emerging institutions

**Consider the following statements regarding NCERT's notification as a deemed university: NCERT को डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालय के रूप में अधिसूचित करने के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. The Ministry of Education issued the notification declaring NCERT a deemed university in March 2025, following UGC's approval of an expert panel's recommendation in January 2025.
2. The deemed university status empowers NCERT to engage in commercial and profit-making activities to fund its research programmes.
3. NCERT must secure accreditation from NAAC and programme ratings from the National Board of Accreditation as a condition for its deemed university status.
4. The notification covers only NCERT's main headquarters in New Delhi and does not extend to its regional institutes.

# India's defence exports rose by 62.66% in '25-26 to reach all-time high of Rs 38,424 cr

**Amrita Nayak Dutta**  
*New Delhi, April 2*

DEFENCE EXPORTS have reached an all-time high of Rs 38,424 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking an increase of Rs 14,802 crore (62.66%) over the previous fiscal year's figure of Rs 23,622 crore, in which the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and the private sector have contributed 54.84% and 45.16% respectively, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

In a statement, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that the DPSUs' exports surged by 151% compared to the previous year while private firms recorded an increase of 14%.

"In terms of value of con-

tribution, the private sector accounted for Rs 17,353 crore worth of defence exports, while DPSUs contributed Rs 21,071 crore. Their respective figures in the previous financial year stood at Rs 15,233 crore and Rs 8,389 crore (respectively)," it said, adding that this figure indicates an increase by around three times in the last five years.

The ministry said the sharp rise highlights the increasing global acceptance of Indian made defence products and the sector's growing integration with the international supply chains.

It stated that aside from being a successful global partner for systems/sub-systems, India is exporting defence equipment to more than 80 countries as of FY 2025-26,

adding that the number of exporters went up to 145 from 128 — a 13.3% rise from the previous fiscal.

It also highlighted the Department of Defence Production has streamlined defence export regulatory processes with a revamped online portal and simplified Standard Operation Procedure for authorisations.

Commending the efforts of all stakeholders in this achievement, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in a post on X, said that with DPSUs contributing 54.84% and private industry 45.16%, this milestone showcases the power of a collaborative and self-reliant defence ecosystem.

He also noted that this significant jump of Rs 14,802 crore

in defence exports reflects the growing global trust in India's indigenous capabilities and advanced manufacturing strength.

On Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said that it has fully utilised its capital outlay of Rs 1.86 lakh crore for defence services provided for the FY 2025-26 at the Revised Estimates stage.

In the FY 2025-26, AoN (Acceptance of Necessity) for 109 proposals amounting Rs 6.81 lakh crore has been accorded by MoD, compared to 56 proposals worth Rs 1.76 lakh crore approved in FY 2024-25. Also, capital procurement contracts for a total 503 proposals amounting Rs 2.28 lakh crore were signed by MoD in FY 2025-26, it said.

- India's defence exports reached an all-time high of **₹38,424 crore** in FY 2025-26 — a **62.66% increase** (₹14,802 crore) over the previous year's ₹23,622 crore
- भारत का रक्षा निर्यात FY 2025-26 में **₹38,424 करोड़** के सर्वकालिक उच्च स्तर पर — पिछले वर्ष के ₹23,622 करोड़ से **62.66% वृद्धि** (₹14,802 करोड़)
- **DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings)** exports surged by **151%** while **private sector** recorded **14% growth**
- **DPSUs (रक्षा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रम)** निर्यात **151%** बढ़ा जबकि **निजी क्षेत्र** ने **14%** वृद्धि दर्ज की
- India now exports defence equipment to **more than 80 countries** as of FY 2025-26; number of exporters rose from **128 to 145** (13.3% rise)
- भारत अब FY 2025-26 तक **80 से अधिक देशों** को रक्षा उपकरण निर्यात करता है; निर्यातकों की संख्या **128 से 145** हुई (13.3% वृद्धि)
- Defence Ministry fully utilised its **capital outlay of ₹1.86 lakh crore** for defence services in FY 2025-26
- रक्षा मंत्रालय ने FY 2025-26 में रक्षा सेवाओं के लिए **₹1.86 लाख करोड़** के पूंजी परिव्यय का पूरी तरह उपयोग किया
- **AoN (Acceptance of Necessity)** for **109 proposals worth ₹6.81 lakh crore** accorded in FY 2025-26 — up from 56 proposals worth ₹1.76 lakh crore in FY 2024-25
- FY 2025-26 में **109 प्रस्तावों** (**₹6.81 लाख करोड़**) के लिए **AoN** — FY 2024-25 के 56 प्रस्तावों (**₹1.76 लाख करोड़**) से अधिक

## D1. Key Data / मुख्य आंकड़े

Parameter / पैरामीटर

FY 2024-25 / FY 2025-26

Total Defence Exports

₹23,622 cr → ₹38,424 cr

Growth

— → +62.66% (₹14,802 cr)

DPSU Contribution

₹8,389 cr → ₹21,071 cr (+151%)

Private Sector Contribution

₹15,233 cr → ₹17,353 cr (+14%)

DPSU share

— → 54.84%

Private sector share

— → 45.16%

Countries exported to

— → 80+

Number of exporters

128 → 145 (+13.3%)

5-year growth

~3x increase in last 5 years

## D5. Why Important for India? / भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

- India was **world's largest arms importer** for decades — this shift to exporter status is a **strategic transformation**
- भारत दशकों तक **विश्व का सबसे बड़ा हथियार आयातक** था — निर्यातक दर्जे में यह बदलाव एक **सामरिक परिवर्तन** है
- Reduces **foreign exchange outflow** on defence imports → improves **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** and trade balance
- रक्षा आयात पर **विदेशी मुद्रा बहिर्वाह** कम होता है → **चालू खाता घाटा (CAD)** और व्यापार संतुलन में सुधार
- Creates **high-skilled jobs** in defence manufacturing — aerospace, electronics, shipbuilding, missile technology
- रक्षा विनिर्माण में **उच्च-कुशल रोजगार** सृजन — एयरोस्पेस, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, जहाज निर्माण, मिसाइल तकनीक
- Strengthens India's **strategic autonomy** — less dependent on foreign suppliers who may impose conditions or delays
- भारत की **सामरिक स्वायत्तता** मजबूत होती है — शर्तें या देरी थोपने वाले विदेशी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं पर कम निर्भर
- Enhances India's **diplomatic leverage** — countries buying Indian defence equipment develop deeper strategic ties with India
- भारत का **कूटनीतिक प्रभाव** बढ़ता है — भारतीय रक्षा उपकरण खरीदने वाले देश भारत के साथ गहरे सामरिक संबंध विकसित करते हैं
- Boosts **Make in India** manufacturing capabilities across the value chain
- मूल्य श्रृंखला में **मेक इन इंडिया** विनिर्माण क्षमताओं को बढ़ावा

### F3. Future / भविष्य

- **Best case:** India achieves \$5 billion (₹42,000+ crore) defence exports target and moves to \$10 billion by 2030; becomes top-10 global defence exporter
- **सर्वोत्तम स्थिति:** भारत \$5 बिलियन रक्षा निर्यात लक्ष्य हासिल करता है और 2030 तक \$10 बिलियन; शीर्ष-10 वैश्विक रक्षा निर्यातक बनता है
- **Worst case:** Geopolitical complications (sanctions, diplomatic pressure), quality control issues, or supply chain failures limit further growth
- **सबसे खराब स्थिति:** भू-राजनीतिक जटिलताएं (प्रतिबंध, कूटनीतिक दबाव), गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण मुद्दे या आपूर्ति श्रृंखला विफलताएं आगे की वृद्धि सीमित करती हैं
- **Impact on India:**
  - **Economic:** More FDI in defence; more jobs; better CAD; technology upgrades
  - **Strategic:** Reduced import dependence; stronger bilateral ties with buying nations
  - **Diplomatic:** India as key player in global defence — enhances QUAD, I2U2, SCO relevance

## Major Indian Defence Products Being Exported / निर्यात किए जा रहे प्रमुख भारतीय रक्षा उत्पाद

- **Brahmos Missile:** Supersonic cruise missile (India-Russia joint venture); exported to **Philippines** (2022) — India's biggest defence export deal
- **ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल:** सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल; **फिलीपींस** को निर्यात (2022)
- **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Dhruv):** Exported to Ecuador, Nepal, Mauritius, Maldives
- **उन्नत हल्का हेलिकॉप्टर (ALH ध्रुव):** इक्वाडोर, नेपाल, मॉरीशस, मालदीव को निर्यात
- **Dornier-228 aircraft:** HAL-made; exported to several countries
- **डोर्नियर-228 विमान:** HAL निर्मित; कई देशों को निर्यात
- **Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher:** Exported to Armenia; interest from several others
- **पिनाका मल्टी-बैरल रॉकेट लॉन्चर:** आर्मेनिया को निर्यात
- **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs):** Defence shipyards (MDL, GSL, GRSE) exporting
- **अपतटीय गश्ती पोत:** MDL, GSL, GRSE द्वारा निर्यात
- **Electronic warfare systems, radars, communication equipment:** BEL
- **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध प्रणाली, रडार:** BEL

**Consider the following statements about India's defence exports in FY 2025-26: FY 2025-26 में भारत के रक्षा निर्यात के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. India's defence exports in FY 2025-26 reached ₹38,424 crore, marking a growth of 62.66% over the previous year.
2. The private sector contributed more than 50% of India's total defence exports in FY 2025-26.
3. India exported defence equipment to more than 80 countries as of FY 2025-26 and the number of defence exporters rose from 128 to 145.
4. The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) recorded a 151% surge in exports compared to the previous financial year.

CHILDREN IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES ACCOUNT FOR 85% OF NEW CASES

# Cancer 10th leading cause of death among kids in India: Study

Anuradha Mascarenhas  
Pune, April 2

CANCER IS the 10th leading cause of death among children in India, as per the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2023 study published in The Lancet.

Globally, it is the eighth leading cause for childhood deaths, ahead of measles, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, with outcomes largely determined by resource availability, as per the study led by researchers from the Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation at the University of Washington School of Medicine and St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

In 2023 alone, as per the study, there were 3.77 lakh new cases of childhood cancer and 1.44 lakh deaths worldwide.

While the study also shows that since 1990, new cases have been relatively stable globally, and deaths have decreased by 27%, children in low- and middle-income countries fare the worst. They accounted for 85% of the new cases, 94% of the deaths and 94% of disability-adjusted life years in 2023.

South Asia alone accounts for 20.5% of the global deaths, the study shows. Compared to the drop globally, it saw a 16.9% decline in childhood cancer

## ALARMING NUMBERS

**3.77 lakh**

New cases of childhood cancer reported in 2023

**1.44 lakh**

Number of deaths worldwide

**20.5%**

South Asia's share in number of global deaths

**17,000**

Number of children in India who died of cancer \*

## CANCER TYPES WITH THE GREATEST BURDEN GLOBALLY:

- Leukemias
- Brain/central nervous system cancers
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (cancer of the lymph system)



**27%** Drop in cancer deaths among children globally since 1990

\*All figures of 2023

SOURCE: GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE LANCET

deaths from 1990 to 2023. In India, approximately 17,000 children died of cancer in 2023.

The cancer types with the greatest burden globally in 2023 were leukemias, brain/central nervous system cancers and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (cancer of the lymph system).

Commenting on the India findings, Dr Venkatraman Radhakrishnan, Professor of Medical Oncology at the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai, said it was a matter of concern that "despite this, childhood cancer is not included in India's national cancer control planning".

Noting that "most of the

deaths in low- and middle-income countries are preventable", he added: "Addressing this requires urgent inclusion of childhood cancer in national cancer control plans, alongside investment in early diagnosis, access to essential treatment, strong supportive care and robust cancer registries to guide planning and improve outcomes." The study's authors say that information on childhood cancer burden is crucial for effective cancer policy planning.

"Unfortunately, observed paediatric cancer data are not available in every country, and previous global burden estimates

have not discretely reported several common cancers of childhood... GBD 2023 data sources for cancer estimation included population-based cancer registries, vital registration systems, and verbal autopsies."

Lisa Force, lead author from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, said, "The vast majority of children with cancer live in low- and middle-income countries, where delays in diagnosis, lack of access to essential cancer treatment, and other health system limitations and barriers to care can contribute to disparities in childhood cancer burden."

- The **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2023 study**, published in **The Lancet**, found that **cancer is the 10th leading cause of death among children in India and the 8th globally**
- द लैंसेट में प्रकाशित वैश्विक रोग बोझ (GBD) 2023 अध्ययन ने पाया कि कैंसर भारत में बच्चों की मृत्यु का 10वां प्रमुख कारण है और विश्व स्तर पर 8वां
- In **2023 alone**, there were **3.77 lakh new cases** of childhood cancer and **1.44 lakh deaths** worldwide
- केवल 2023 में, विश्व भर में बचपन के कैंसर के 3.77 लाख नए मामले और 1.44 लाख मौतें हुईं
- Children in **Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)** account for **85% of new cases, 94% of deaths, and 94% of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)** in 2023
- निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों (LMICs) के बच्चे 2023 में 85% नए मामलों, 94% मौतों और 94% विकलांगता-समायोजित जीवन वर्षों (DALYs) के लिए जिम्मेदार
- **~17,000 children died of cancer in India in 2023** — yet childhood cancer is **NOT included** in India's national cancer control planning
- 2023 में भारत में ~17,000 बच्चों की कैंसर से मृत्यु — फिर भी बाल कैंसर भारत की राष्ट्रीय कैंसर नियंत्रण योजना में शामिल नहीं है
- **South Asia** accounts for **20.5% of global childhood cancer deaths** — a disproportionately high burden
- दक्षिण एशिया वैश्विक बाल कैंसर मौतों का 20.5% हिस्सा है — असमान रूप से उच्च बोझ

- **Childhood cancer** refers to cancers that occur in children typically from birth to age 14 (sometimes up to 19) — the most common types are blood cancers (leukemia) and brain tumours
- **बाल कैंसर** उन कैंसरों को कहते हैं जो बच्चों में जन्म से 14 वर्ष (कभी-कभी 19 तक) आयु में होते हैं — सबसे सामान्य प्रकार रक्त कैंसर (ल्यूकेमिया) और मस्तिष्क ट्यूमर हैं
- **Global Burden of Disease (GBD)** is a comprehensive worldwide study that measures deaths, illness, and disability from hundreds of diseases and risk factors — published regularly by **IHME (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation)**
- **वैश्विक रोग बोझ (GBD)** एक व्यापक विश्वव्यापी अध्ययन है जो सैकड़ों बीमारियों से मौतों, बीमारियों और विकलांगता को मापता है — **IHME** द्वारा नियमित रूप से प्रकाशित
- **DALY (Disability-Adjusted Life Year):** One DALY = one year of healthy life lost — it combines years lost due to premature death AND years lived with disability; used to compare disease burden globally
- **DALY (विकलांगता-समायोजित जीवन वर्ष):** एक DALY = स्वस्थ जीवन का एक वर्ष खोया — समय से पूर्व मृत्यु से खोए वर्ष + विकलांगता के साथ जीए वर्ष; वैश्विक रोग बोझ की तुलना के लिए उपयोग
- The key finding is that while cancer deaths in children have **decreased by 27% globally since 1990** (due to better treatment in rich countries), children in **poor and developing countries** like India are being left behind — they have **worse outcomes** due to late diagnosis and poor access to treatment
- मुख्य निष्कर्ष: जबकि 1990 से बच्चों में कैंसर मृत्यु **विश्व स्तर पर 27% कम हुई** (अमीर देशों में बेहतर उपचार से), **भारत जैसे गरीब देशों** में बच्चे पीछे छूट रहे हैं — देर से निदान और उपचार तक खराब पहुंच के कारण

## D1. Key Data from GBD 2023 Study / GBD 2023 अध्ययन के मुख्य आंकड़े

Indicator / संकेतक	Figure / आंकड़ा
New childhood cancer cases (2023)	3.77 lakh globally
Deaths globally (2023)	1.44 lakh
Rank globally	8th leading cause of child death
Rank in India	10th leading cause
Children died in India (2023)	~17,000
LMIC share of new cases	85%
LMIC share of deaths	94%
LMIC share of DALYs	94%
South Asia share of global deaths	20.5%
Global decline since 1990	27% drop in cancer deaths
India/South Asia decline	Only 16.9% decline (less than global avg)
New cases trend since 1990	Relatively <b>stable</b> globally

## D5. Why Important for India? / भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

- India has ~17,000 child cancer deaths/year — comparable to deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases
- भारत में ~17,000 बाल कैंसर मौतें/वर्ष — टीका-निवारणीय बीमारियों से होने वाली मौतों के बराबर
- India's **decline in childhood cancer deaths (16.9%)** is significantly below the global average (27%) — indicating worse progress
- भारत में बाल कैंसर मौतों में गिरावट (16.9%) वैश्विक औसत (27%) से काफी कम — खराब प्रगति का संकेत
- **India's child health programs** (RBSK, NHM, ICDS) focus primarily on malnutrition, infectious diseases — **cancer is neglected**
- भारत के बाल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम (RBSK, NHM, ICDS) मुख्यतः कुपोषण, संक्रामक रोगों पर केंद्रित — **कैंसर उपेक्षित**
- **National Cancer Grid (NCG)** and **NPCDCS** need to explicitly include paediatric oncology protocols
- **राष्ट्रीय कैंसर ग्रिड (NCG)** और **NPCDCS** को बाल चिकित्सा ऑन्कोलॉजी प्रोटोकॉल स्पष्ट रूप से शामिल करने चाहिए
- Many Indian children lack access to **paediatric oncologists** — most cancer specialists are adult oncologists
- कई भारतीय बच्चों की **बाल चिकित्सा ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट** तक पहुंच नहीं — अधिकांश कैंसर विशेषज्ञ वयस्क ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट हैं

## THE DAILY QUIZ

# As NASA's Artemis II mission launches the first crewed lunar fly is a quiz on humanity's tryst with the moon

### Mohammed Hidayat

#### QUESTION 1

What was the informal name for the Cold War competition between the USA and USSR for spaceflight supremacy?

#### QUESTION 2

Name the first spacecraft to orbit the moon, which was achieved on this day (April 3) in 1966.

#### QUESTION 3

What was the name of the lander in India's Chandrayaan-2 lunar mission, and who was it named after?

#### QUESTION 4

Project A119 was a secret U.S. Air Force plan from the late 1950s. What did it propose? a). develop a space elevator to transport materials; b).

detonate a nuclear bomb on the moon; c). terraform the moon for human habitation.

#### QUESTION 5

Which animal became the first to orbit earth?

#### QUESTION 6

Which country made the first-ever soft landing on the moon's far side? Name the mission as well.

#### QUESTION 7

Which term originates from the moon's perceived influence on human behaviour?

#### QUESTION 8

Famed singer David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' was released in 1969, the same year as which NASA expedition? What was historic about the mission?



#### Visual question:

This iconic frame from an early science fiction film shows a capsule landing on the moon. Name the silent film released in 1902. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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# Word of the day

## **Extol:**

praise, glorify, or honour

---

**Synonyms:** laud, worship, commend

---

**Usage:** *People often extol their favourite leaders.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/extol](http://newsth.live/extol)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ɪkstəʊl/

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