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Quote of the Day | आज का विचार

“Stress, anxiety and depression are caused when we are living to please others. Don’t burn your soul to keep others warm.”

— Bob Marley



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Today's Current Affairs | 13 October 2026

आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu • Indian Express • Financial Express — 8 articles + exam
PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

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Retail inflation at 2-yr high
खुदरा महँगाई

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Economics Nobel: Hall &
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SIR march; Jantar Mantar
denotified
SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर

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SIR 2002-04 vs 2025-26
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Cap prices of all drugs:
SC
सभी दवाओं पर मूल्य सीमा

6

INS Mangrol
commissioned
INS मंगरोल

7

WWF Living Planet Index
WWF लिविंग प्लैनेट

8

Lakshadweep 100%
literate
लक्षद्वीप पूर्ण साक्षर

Retail inflation at 2-yr high

खुदरा महँगाई

Retail inflation rises to two-year high of 5.5% as food, fuel become costlier

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation rose to a nearly two-year high of 5.5% in September, driven up by a continued acceleration in food and fuel inflation, official data released on Monday showed.

Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September was the highest since October 2024. The rate in September also marked a substantial increase over the 4.8% rate seen the preceding month. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s upper comfort limit for retail inflation is 6%.

According to economists, this acceleration of inflation shows the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee was correct in hiking rates in its most recent policy review last week.

"With the CPI inflation jumping to a slightly higher than forecast 5.5% in September 2026 and appearing set to cross 6% in the ongoing month, the MPC's recent rate hike appears

Prices climb

Retail inflation rose to a nearly two year high of 5.54% in September 2026, driven by higher food and fuel prices, after rising steadily since October 2025.



Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Sept. was the highest since October 2024

prescient," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, said. "While the monsoon has turned out to be fairly dismal, with inadequate replenishment of reservoirs clouding the outlook for rabi sowing, another rate hike in December seems quite certain," she added.

Inflation in the food and beverages category

jumped to 7.4% in September 2026 from 5.7% in the previous month. The new series of the CPI does not provide category-wise historical data before January 2026. The data shows September's food inflation rate is the highest during the period for which there is data.

Inflation in the transport segment came in at 5% in September 2026, having risen for the last five consecutive months. Taken together, the food and transport prices pushed inflation in the "restaurant and accommodation services" segment to 9.4%,

capping off a seven-month streak of consecutive acceleration.

The third segment that saw elevated inflation was that of "personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods & services", which saw inflation come in at 13.75% in September 2026, although this was the lowest it has been in the period for which there is data.

"Crude oil prices currently remain elevated, and their trajectory will keenly influence the likelihood and extent of further rate tightening in 2027," the ICRA chief economist said.

"In the case of personal care, where inflation was 13.8%, it is mainly due to silver and gold where prices are determined externally," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said. "Industries like durables, FMCG, automobile have announced an increase in prices and this should get reflected in the CPI over the next few months."

Retail Inflation Rises to Two-Year High of 5.5%

सितंबर में खुदरा (CPI) महँगाई 5.5% – अक्टूबर 2024 के बाद सबसे अधिक; खाद्य व ईंधन महँगे



Sept 2026 CPI
सितंबर CPI

1

Key numbers | प्रमुख
आँकड़े

**5.5%**

CPI, Sept (Aug:
4.8%)
CPI

7.4%

Food &
beverages
खाद्य

9.4%

Restaurants &
stay
रेस्तरां

13.75%

Personal care
(gold, silver)
व्यक्तिगत देखभाल

2

Why prices rose
क्यों बढ़ी



► Dismal monsoon →
food costlier

कमज़ोर मानसून

► Crude oil high –
transport inflation 5%

कच्चा तेल

► Gold, silver prices set
globally

सोना-चाँदी

3

What next | आगे क्या



► May cross 6% (RBI upper
limit) in October

6% पार

► Validates RBI's repo hike
to 5.5%

रेपो वृद्धि सही

► Another hike likely in
December

दिसंबर में फिर

Retail inflation at 2-yr high — in depth (1/2)

खुदरा महँगाई — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Inflation targeting
महँगाई लक्ष्य



- ▶ Target: **CPI 4% ± 2%**
(2–6%)
4% ± 2%
- ▶ Set by **Centre** in consultation with RBI – every **5 years**
5 वर्ष
- ▶ Under **Sec 45ZA, RBI Act (2016)**
धारा 45ZA

5

New CPI series
नई CPI श्रृंखला



- ▶ Released by **MoSPI (NSO)** on the **12th** of each month
MoSPI
- ▶ New **base year 2024** (from Jan 2026)
आधार वर्ष 2024
- ▶ Food weight cut; services weight raised
खाद्य भार कम

6

CPI vs WPI | CPI बनाम WPI



CPI CPI	WPI WPI
Retail prices खुदरा	Wholesale prices थोक
By MoSPI MoSPI	By DPIIT DPIIT
Includes services सेवाएँ शामिल	Goods only केवल वस्तुएँ

Retail inflation at 2-yr high — in depth (2/2)

खुदरा महँगाई — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How costs reach your plate | महँगाई थाली तक



Weak monsoon
कमज़ोर मानसून

Less crop
कम उपज



Costly crude
महँगा तेल

Transport up
भाड़ा



Food dearer
महँगा भोजन

7.4%
7.4%



RBI hikes
RBI

Cool demand
माँग घटे

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► **Headline** inflation includes food & fuel; **core** excludes them

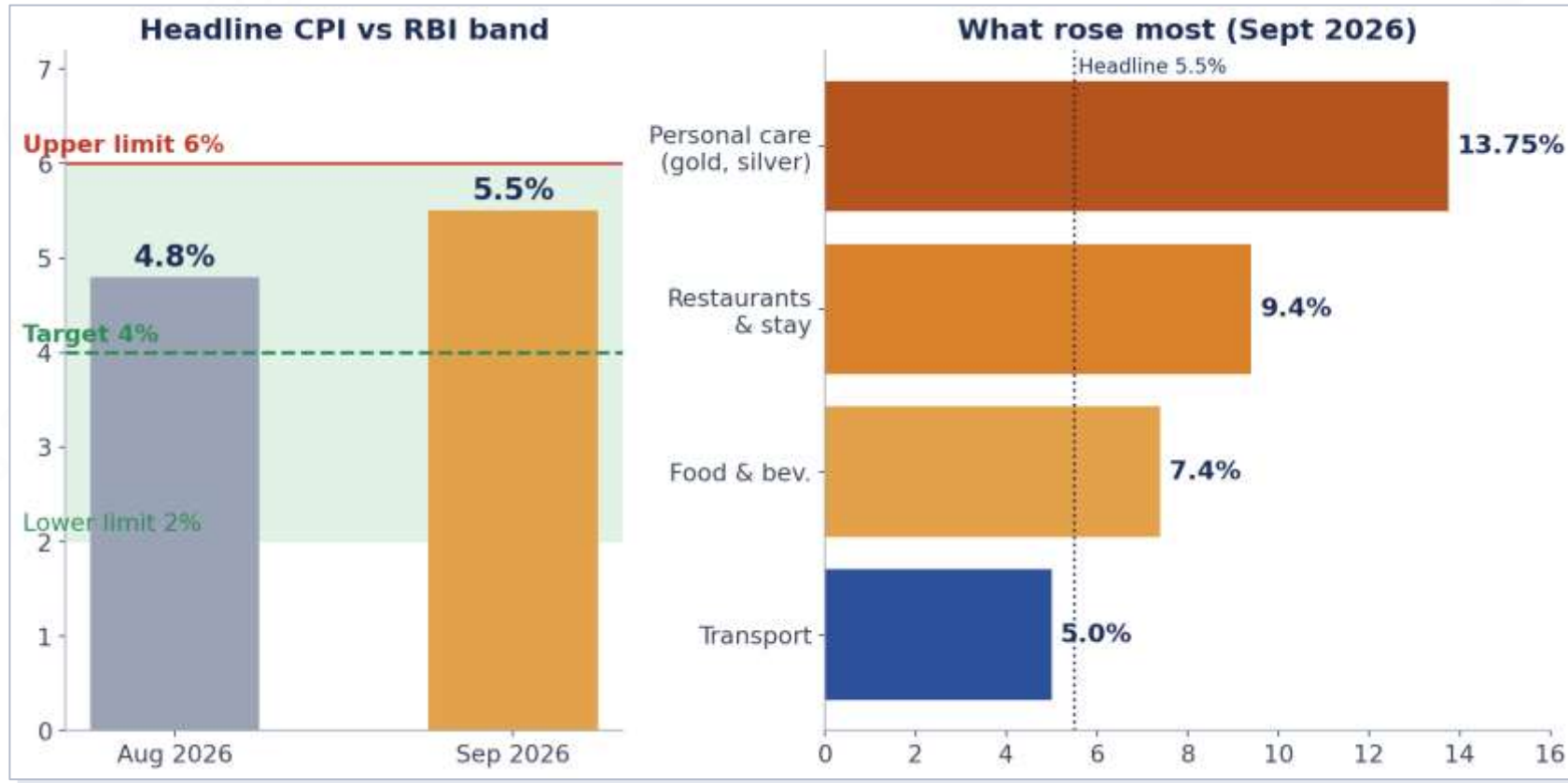
हेडलाइन बनाम कोर

► Inflation + unemployment rising together = **stagflation**

मुद्रास्फीतिजनित मंदी

Retail inflation at 2-yr high — Map & Diagram

खुदरा महँगाई — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- ▶ Green band = RBI's 2–6% tolerance
हरा पट्टा = 2–6% सीमा
- ▶ Sept 5.5% – close to the 6% ceiling
6% सीमा के पास
- ▶ **Personal care** (gold, silver) highest at 13.75%
सोना-चाँदी सबसे ऊपर
- ▶ **Food** 7.4% – weak monsoon effect
खाद्य 7.4%

Economics Nobel: Hall & Woodford

अर्थशास्त्र नोबेल

American economists win Nobel for linking household trends to policies

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford were on Monday announced recipients of the 2026 economics Nobel for providing an empirical formula to help government frame policies that are aimed at stabilising the economy while incorporating household demand behaviour and supply behaviour of companies.

Professor Hall, 83, is currently the Robert and Carole McNeil Joint Hoover Senior Fellow and Professor of Economics at Stanford University while Mr. Woodford, 71, is the John Bates Clark Professor of Political Economy at Columbia University.

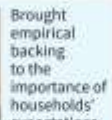
The official citation of the economics Nobel, formally the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, said the duo was awarded for establishing the "microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic

Beyond the big picture

American economists honoured for developing macroeconomic models that derive insights from microeconomic trends



Robert E. Hall
Stanford University, U.S.



Michael Woodford
Columbia University, U.S.

Brought empirical backing to the importance of households' expectations of future path of disposable income

Set up a composite framework to understand business cycles and their impact on government policies

stabilisation".

"This year's laureates in the economic sciences have developed new macroeconomic models that have significantly improved our ability to implement effective stabilisation policy," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

About their work

In a paper published in 1978, Professor Hall brought empirical backing to the idea that, while a household's current disposable income does impact its current spending, its expectations about the future path of disposable income matters almost just

as much.

Professor Woodford, on the other hand, focused on supply, particularly on firms and how they set prices, and combined both his work and Professor Hall's into a composite framework. This combination helped with understanding business cycles, what causes them, how they play out, and the impact of these on government policy.

"On the basis of these models, well-timed fiscal and monetary policy measures can reduce the economy's peaks and troughs," the statement by the Royal Swedish Academy

said. The research done by Professor Hall and Professor Woodford also provides an empirical basis, as Professor Woodford himself explained on Monday, for the idea that the effectiveness of economic policy is also determined by how well the government communicates the need for implementing those policies.

A matter of perspective

"One of the themes in my work is that government authorities shouldn't view stabilisation of the economy as an exercise that is simply conducted by people pulling levers to control the economy independently of what people in the economy understand about this," Professor Woodford said on Monday during the press conference announcing the Nobel results.

He explained that his work has stressed the need for consumers to understand the future course of policy, which is "crucial" to the effects of policy.

• NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS 2026

How to keep an economy stable using policy tools



UDIT MISRA

THE ROYAL Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2026 — commonly called the Economics Nobel — to two American economists Robert E. Hall of Stanford University and Michael Woodford of Columbia University. They will share the prize money of 12 million Swedish kronor (approximately Rs 12 crore).

What have they been awarded for?

The official citation states they have received the award "for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation". Macroeconomic stabilisation refers to policies that governments and central banks use to "stabilise" an economy.

For instance, the Reserve Bank of India last week raised interest rates with a view to contain inflation. Inflation in India has been going up owing to a rise in crude oil prices and prices of other commodities in the wake of the US-Iran war, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, etc. There are also worries that inflation will rise further because deficient rainfall and higher temperatures due to El Niño may hurt food production and push up food prices.

If the government and the central bank followed the dictum that the government should not intervene and that the markets will price things correctly on their own, inflation can potentially soar quite high. That would hurt most Indians, since they are not rich enough to handle such a situation. It could lead to people cutting down all other expenses to focus on the essentials, which would cause many businesses to fail and lots of job losses. The economy, as a whole, may take a much longer time to recover.

Just an RBI intervention could stabilise the path in such a manner that the situation never becomes as dire as it could become if nothing was done.

Similarly, over the past few years, the

• "For microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation"



Developed new macroeconomic models, leading to policies that reduced the economy's peaks and troughs.



ROBERT E. HALL, 83
Stanford University, U.S.



MICHAEL WOODFORD, 71
Columbia University, U.S.



both direct taxes (personal income tax and corporate tax) and indirect taxes (GST) — with a view to boost consumption by individuals and investments by companies. That's because in the years leading up to and during the Covid-19 pandemic (and resulting lockdowns), India's economy struggled.

Through tax cuts, the government tried to boost economic activity — the RBI also helped in those years by cutting interest rates. Without such interventions, a recovery might have taken much longer.

"These are the examples of macroeconomic 'stabilisation' policies that academics such as Hall and Woodford helped refine through their work.

To understand the "microeconomic foundations" of these macro policies, one has to understand the trigger for their work.

What is their contribution?

A crash in the stock markets in October 1929 marked the start of the Great Depression in the US. As the days and months rolled by, the US gross domestic product — the value of annual output — fell by 30% and the unemployment rate soared to 25%. Thousands of banks and businesses went under. The crisis reverberated through the

Demand and supply

Hall focused on the demand side of the economy: how do people decide how much they would consume, and when and how they choose to raise or cut consumption.

Woodford's work focused on the supply side: how firms behaved and took decisions such as changing prices.

The dominant policy paradigm leading up to the Great Depression was that governments should not intervene, letting markets resolve through forces of demand and supply instead. But the widespread devastation made everyone rethink.

British economist John Maynard Keynes provided a solution that seemed to work: Governments and central banks should "stabilise" the economy through policy interventions. When growth is slow (and unemployment high), policymakers should cut interest rates and taxes, and the governments should spend more even at the cost of borrowing money itself and having a budget deficit, thus incentivising economic activity.

When the economy starts overheating and the inflation rate starts rising fast, the policymakers should slow down the economy by policies like raising interest rates. Thus, government intervention could save economies from suffering from wild fluctuations.

This broad policy formula worked until the experience of the 1970s. As the charts show, this was a decade when economies faced high inflation and high unemployment both at the same time, thanks to repeated oil price shocks. Efforts to boost a slowing economy only spiked inflation. If

The Great Depression prompted policymakers to advocate government intervention in economic crises. Hall and Woodford's work refines that idea

unemployment. The situation became so bad (shaded areas in the charts show recessions) that the Keynesian recipe of government intervention was seen as the problem, not the solution.

Through their work from the late 1970s onwards, Hall and Woodford revitalised the Keynesian approach by making it grounded in research. Keynes had assumed a linear or straight relationship between variables such as inflation and unemployment, and consumption and production. Hall and Woodford started studying the ground-level data.

Hall focused on the demand side of the economy: questions such as, how do people decide how much they would consume, and when and how they choose to raise or cut consumption. A better understanding of these, based on household data, has informed policy choices.

For instance, in 1982, he used microdata for a number of individual households to arrive at the insight that not everyone in the economy increases consumption based on income and future expectations; households that are living hand-to-mouth do not follow that assumption.

Woodford's work focused on the supply side: how firms behaved and took decisions such as changing prices. The assumption is that markets find the ideal price based on supply and demand, but businesses don't change prices everyday. He found that businesses look to the future when fixing prices. This means that expectations about future interest rates are important for inflation. In turn, this had a tremendous policy implication: Central banks must clearly convey what they intend to do, which is important for firms when they fix prices.

What is its significance?

Over the past few years, the global economy has faced an exceptional number of risks and challenges from a global pandemic that brought all economic activity to a sudden halt, to a growing number of wars that have spiked prices of essential commodities, to policy missteps like tariffs.

And yet, far from a recession, the economic growth continues to surprise on the upside. A big reason why policymakers worldwide have been able to avoid worse outcomes is because their policies are informed by the work of academics such as

Economics Nobel 2026:

How Policy Can Keep Economies Stable

अर्थशास्त्र नोबेल 2026: रॉबर्ट हॉल व माइकल वुडफ़ोर्ड – “व्यापक आर्थिक स्थिरीकरण के सूक्ष्म आर्थिक आधार”



Hall & Woodford
(USA)
हॉल व वुडफ़ोर्ड

1 The winners | विजेता



- ▶ Robert E. Hall, 83 – Stanford
रॉबर्ट हॉल
- ▶ Michael Woodford, 71 – Columbia
माइकल वुडफ़ोर्ड
- ▶ Citation: “microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation”
प्रशस्ति

2 Who did what | किसने क्या



Hall हॉल	Woodford वुडफ़ोर्ड
Demand side माँग पक्ष	Supply side आपूर्ति पक्ष
Households spend on expected future income अपेक्षित आय	How firms set prices मूल्य निर्धारण
Paper in 1978 1978	Combined both into one framework संयुक्त ढाँचा

3 Key message | मुख्य संदेश



- ▶ Well-timed **fiscal + monetary** policy smooths booms & busts
राजकोषीय + मौद्रिक
- ▶ **Expectations** matter – people must understand policy
अपेक्षाएँ
- ▶ Central banks must **communicate clearly**
स्पष्ट संवाद

Economics Nobel: Hall & Woodford — in depth (1/2)

अर्थशास्त्र नोबेल — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Why it matters today
आज का महत्व



- ▶ Basis of **forward guidance** by RBI, US Fed
मार्गदर्शन
- ▶ Helps judge **when to hike or cut** rates
दर फ़ैसले
- ▶ Explains **inflation expectations** in MPC statements
महँगाई अपेक्षा

5

Big ideas before them
पृष्ठभूमि



- ▶ **Keynes** – govt should step in during slumps (Great Depression)
कीन्स
- ▶ **Friedman** – permanent income, money supply
फ्रीडमैन
- ▶ **Rational expectations** (Lucas, 1995 Nobel)
तर्कसंगत अपेक्षाएँ

6

Prize facts | पुरस्कार तथ्य



- ▶ Formally **Sveriges Riksbank Prize** – started **1968**, first given **1969**
- ▶ Prize money **12 million SEK**, shared
1.2 करोड़ क्रोना
- ▶ 2025: **Mokyr, Aghion, Howitt** (innovation-led growth)
2025 विजेता

Economics Nobel: Hall & Woodford — in depth (2/2)

अर्थशास्त्र नोबेल — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How stabilisation policy works | स्थिरीकरण नीति कैसे काम करती



Slump
मंदी

Cut rates, spend
दर कटौती



Overheating
अति-तेज़ी

Raise rates
दर वृद्धि



Clear signals
स्पष्ट संकेत

Shape
expectations
अपेक्षाएँ



**Stable
economy**
स्थिर अर्थव्यवस्था

Smaller swings
कम उतार-चढ़ाव

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► Indian-born Econ laureates: **Amartya Sen (1998)**, **Abhijit Banerjee (2019)**

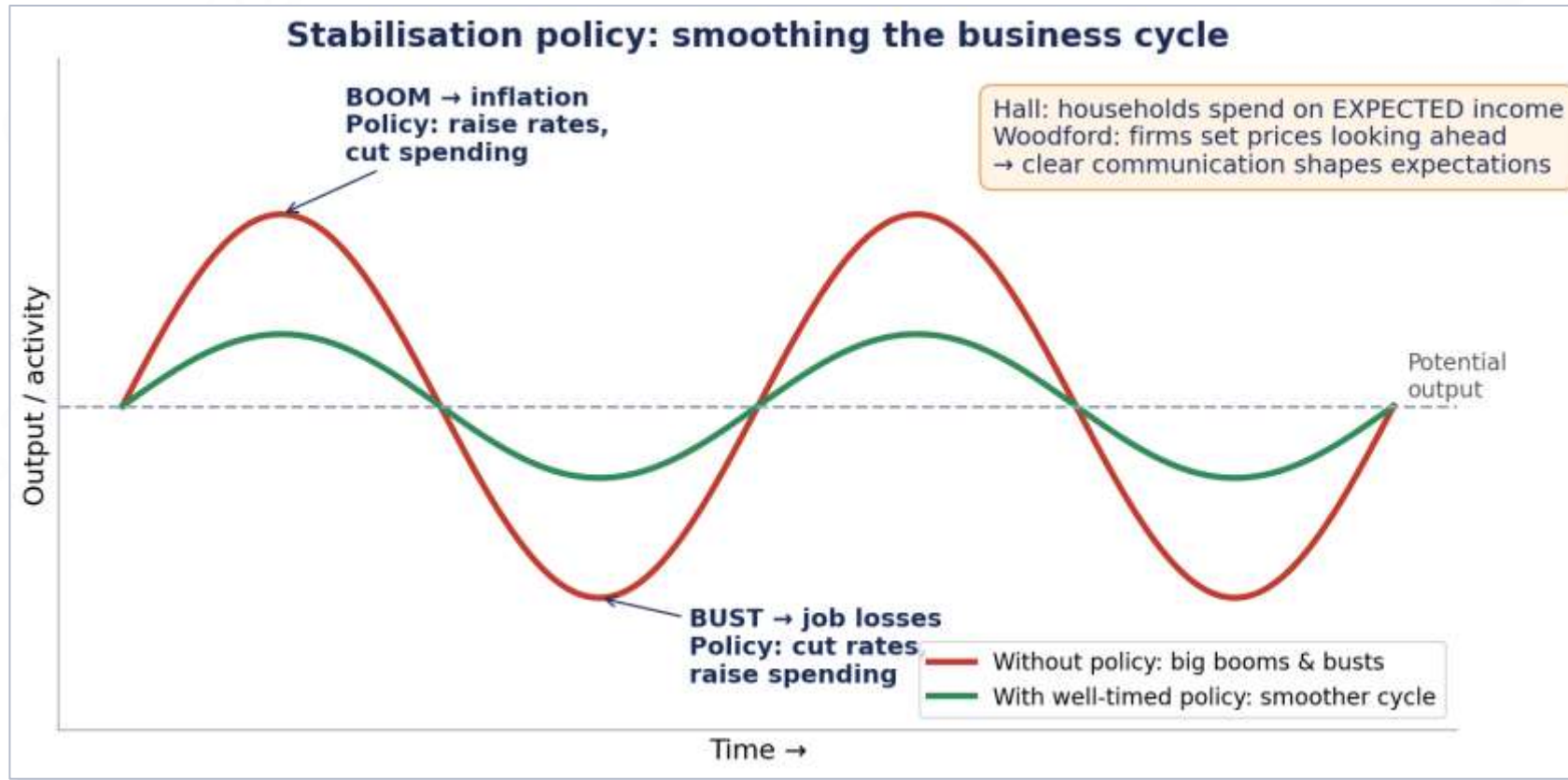
अमर्त्य सेन, अभिजीत बनर्जी

► Woodford's book: **"Interest and Prices" (2003)**

इंटरेस्ट एंड प्राइसेज़

Economics Nobel: Hall & Woodford — Map & Diagram

अर्थशास्त्र नोबेल — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- **Red** = economy left alone: big booms & busts
लाल = बिना नीति
- **Green** = timely policy smooths the cycle
हरा = समय पर नीति
- Boom → **raise rates**;
Bust → **cut rates, spend**
तेज़ी → दर ↑; मंदी → दर ↓
- Expectations decide how well policy works
अपेक्षाएँ निर्णायक

SIR march; Jantar Mantar denotified

SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर

INDIA bloc rally takes SIR protest to SC's

Opposition alliance comes together amid heavy police deployment to march to Supreme Court

Cong. says on social media 2.5 lakh people took part in the four-hour-long 'March for Democracy'

Petition filed in the SC over deletions in poll rolls, elections

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

A massive crowd on Monday walked down arterial roads in the national capital, tailing a procession of buses carrying leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) from Constitution Club to the Supreme Court, where Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other top leaders of the bloc filed a petition over the alleged large-scale voter deletions and irregularities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Congress, on its social media handles, said 2.5 lakh people participated in the protest. The "March for Democracy", which began at 1:30 p.m. at the Constitution Club, went on for more than four hours, mostly unhindered by police barricades and intervention, and also allowing for an occasional break for the protesters from waving flags and sloganeering at ice cream and juice carts.

The march had several such light moments, including when Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge donned a Batman mask. There was heavy deployment of police, who stood on the sidelines watching.

Stopped near SC

After winding through central Delhi and doubling back via Mandi House, the procession was finally stopped by the police near the Supreme Court. Several leaders, including Mr.



Major momentum: INDIA bloc supporters and activists during the march to the Supreme Court in New Delhi on Monday. (AP Photo/Ankur K. Sharma)

Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Tejashwi Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav, climbed atop a vehicle for the last leg of the march, which rang with slogans against the government and the Chief Election Commissioner, G. V. Ramakrishna.

Several top Congress leaders, including Sachin Pilot, were seen marching along with the protesters.

Despite a proposal from INDIA bloc leaders that only the National Flag should be flown, Congress flags dominated the scene. Flags of Left student bodies, CPI (M)'s SFI, CPI's AISF and CPI(M)'s AISA, could also be seen.

A majority of the protesters were Congress supporters who had travelled

from different parts of the country – from Salma Begum, who came from Koraput in Odisha on her maiden trip to Delhi, to Mayank Chaudhary, a former Youth Congress leader leading a cavalcade of SUVs from Raichal, Haryana, slipping by police barricades on the way.

The lead bus in the procession had a carefully selected mix of INDIA bloc leaders to present a united front, with Congress's K.C. Venugopal standing at the landing waving at the crowd, and the front row occupied by Mr. Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

The bus also had Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra

Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, Shiv Sena (U)'s Sanjay Raut, Trinamool's Sougata Ray, CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baidya, CPI (ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, and CPI leader P. Sandosh Kumar. AISA president Neha Bora and former president Sai Balaji were also there. SFI leader Alish Ghosh was also on the bus.

The protesters who walked alongside the buses waved at the leaders. Every time Mr. Gandhi stood up, a loud cheer ensued. Several ran with their cameras held aloft at the sight of Ms. Bora, a recognisable face of the student movement. Mr. Kharge had requested all parties to inform their

parliamentarians to reach the Constitution Club at 1 p.m. Despite the coordination difficulties, there was a wide assembly of leaders.

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was among the leaders who gathered there. She did not join the procession, having to return to Kolkata. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who reached Delhi only after 2 p.m., joined the protest around 4 p.m., for the last stretch of the march.

Thirty-six-year-old Ms. Salma, who left her two children behind in Koraput to fly down to Delhi, said, "I have come to meet Rahul Gandhi." She had been waiting since morning to catch a glimpse of her leader.

Davinder Singh came from Jalandhar, Punjab, dressed as the mythical god of death, Yamraj, and explained his sartorial choice, saying: "I am here to remind the government, which is stealing our votes, that they too have to face their makers."

Amid all this rhetoric, Narayan Saha made a brisk sale of papads, ₹20 a pop. His basket emptied rapidly. He was not as bothered about the SIR as the crowd around him appeared to be. Instead, he was worried that his brother's name had been cut from the ration card book home in Sitamarhi, Bihar.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 4 & 5

SIR march; Jantar Mantar denotified

SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर

Jantar Mantar no more designated protest venue

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated venue for protests and demonstrations, replacing one of the capital's longest-established sites of public dissent with three alternative grounds farther from the seat of power. The move drew criticism from activists, who said relocating demonstrations would make it harder for citizens to draw the attention to their demands. Under a standing order by Delhi Police Commissioner, Ramila Maidan, around 4 km from Jantar Mantar, Barani Ground, around 15 km away, and CBD Ground, about 13 km away, have been designated as protest venues. » PAGE 4

Form 6 changes made after ruling on Bihar SIR: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that it had neither approved nor disapproved the controversial alterations made to Form 6 in its May 27 judgment, which was entirely about the legality of the pilot special intensive revision (SIR) process in Bihar. The court said the May 27 ruling pre-dated the changes made to Form 6. The changes and modified declarations, which required applicants to provide ancestry details or linkage to previous SIR rolls on the ECNet portal, were introduced subsequently in July. » PAGE 4

SIR march; Jantar Mantar denotified

SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर

• LAW

Jantar Mantar de-notified: What courts have said about designating protest sites

Amaal Sheikh

New Delhi, October 12

THE DELHI Police on Monday de-notified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site, naming Ramila Maidan and Burari Ground in north Delhi and CBD Ground in east Delhi as alternatives.

According to the official notification, the decision follows a recommendation by a committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The move comes amid the Delhi police's heavy barricading and crackdown on protesters in central Delhi since October 10. Protesters have gathered at several locations, including outside areas where prohibitory orders have been imposed under Section 163 of the BNSS.

The designation of protest sites is intended to regulate demonstrations while addressing concerns over traffic, public safety, and residents' rights.

Who decides Delhi's protest sites?

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights to freedom of speech and expression, and to assemble peaceably, subject to reasonable restrictions — including in the interests of "public order".

Unlike other states, Delhi's police and public order fall outside the powers of the Delhi Assembly. Under Article 239AA(3)(a), the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws for NCT Delhi except on three issues: public order, police, and land.

The Delhi Police thus function under the MHA. The police regulate demonstrations, including applications for permission and compliance with conditions governing designated sites. Organisers had to apply 10 days in advance to protest at Jantar Mantar, which had a cap of 1,000 people. Ramila Maidan was another designated site, with a capacity of around 50,000 people.

Law and order vs 'public order'

While the police often cite law and order when regulating protests, Article 19 permits restrictions on fundamental rights on specified grounds, including "public order". The Supreme Court has treated them differently.

In the 1966 SC ruling of *Ram Manohar Lohia v. State of Bihar*, the court observed that an act may affect law and order without affecting public order. It described law and order, public order, and security of the state as three concentric circles, with public order occupying a narrower category.

"Law and order represent the largest circle within which is the next circle representing public order and the smallest circle represents security of State. It is then easy to see that an act may affect law and order but not public order, just as an act may affect public order but not security of the State," it said.

In *Re: Ramila Maidan Incident* (2012),

the court said a restriction imposed to maintain law and order "would be least intruding into the guaranteed freedom", while public order "may qualify for a greater degree of restriction" since it was of greater social concern. The court clarified that "every breach of peace may not always lead to public disorder."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan explained that law and order issues can involve localised disturbances, such as two people fighting on a street. Public order, he said, concerns disturbances that affect the wider community, such as large-scale disruption of transport.

"Law and order is not a valid basis to limit the right to speech and expression," he said, adding that the police cannot invoke public order on their own to justify restricting fundamental rights. "The first step is a law needs to be made which gives police that

power. Then the police exercise the power under that law," he said, adding that the police must identify the law under which they are exercising their powers.

Professor G Mohan Gopal told *The Indian Express* that dissent is the "lifeblood of a peaceful and law-abiding society" and democracy exists to accommodate different opinions. He added that shutting down designated protest sites and suppressing peaceful dissent under "law and order" grounds risks driving citizens to desperation, "because all the legitimate channels, democratic channels for defending the public order based on democracy have been closed".

How can protest sites be designated?

The bench in *Himat Lal K. Shah v. Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad* (1972), held that the police could require prior permission for public meetings on streets. But it added that the State "cannot by law

abridge or take away the right of assembly by prohibiting assembly on every public street or public place".

In *Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan v. Union of India* (2018), the case pertained to restrictions on demonstrations at Jantar Mantar and moving them to Ramila Maidan. The petitioners argued that the ground would be too far from the "concentration of 'power'" in New Delhi, and would impact the protests' goals, concerning the very authorities the slogans are raised against.

While the court accepted that contention, it underlined the need to balance the rights of protesters with those of residents and held that "while regulating such demonstrations in public interest, particular areas can be earmarked". It thus allowed a limited portion of Jantar Mantar Road to remain open for regulated demonstrations, noting that the site had been used for protests for a considerable period.

INDIA Bloc Takes SIR Protest to SC; Jantar Mantar No Longer a Protest Site

विपक्ष का “लोकतंत्र के लिए मार्च” सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक; दिल्ली पुलिस ने जंतर-मंतर को विरोध स्थल की सूची से हटाया



“March for
Democracy”
लोकतंत्र मार्च

1 The march | मार्च



- ▶ From **Constitution Club** to **Supreme Court**
संविधान क्लब से SC
- ▶ Congress claims **2.5 lakh** took part
2.5 लाख
- ▶ Petition on **voter deletions in SIR** filed in SC
SIR याचिका

2 Jantar Mantar denotified जंतर-मंतर



New venue नया स्थल	Distance दूरी
Ramlila Maidan रामलीला मैदान	~4 km 4 किमी
CBD Ground CBD ग्राउंड	~13 km 13 किमी
Burari Ground बुराड़ी	~15 km 15 किमी

3 SC on Form 6 | फॉर्म 6



- ▶ SC: it **neither approved nor disapproved** Form 6 changes
न अनुमोदन, न अस्वीकार
- ▶ Changes (ancestry details) came **after** its May 27 ruling
बाद में बदलाव
- ▶ Form 6 = application by **new voters**
नए मतदाता

SIR march; Jantar Mantar denotified — in depth (1/2)

SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Why critics object
आपत्ति क्यों



- Moves dissent **away from seat of power**
सत्ता केंद्र से दूर
- Harder to **draw attention**
ध्यान खींचना कठिन
- Activists: “**assault on fundamental rights**”
“अधिकारों पर हमला”

5

What courts have said
अदालतें क्या कहती हैं



- **Himat Lal Shah (1972):**
State can regulate, not ban, meetings
हिम्मत लाल
- **MKSS (2018):** no blanket ban at Jantar Mantar
MKSS
- **Ram Manohar Lohia (1966):** law & order $\subset$ public order $\subset$ security of State

लोहिया

6

Who decides Delhi's protest sites?
कौन तय करता



- Delhi Police reports to **Union Home Ministry**
गृह मंत्रालय
- **Art 239AA:** police & public order with Centre
अनु. 239AA
- Done by **Police Commissioner's standing order**
स्थायी आदेश

SIR march; Jantar Mantar denotified — in depth (2/2)

SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Three concentric circles (Lohia, 1966) | तीन वृत्त



Law & order
क़ानून व्यवस्था

Widest, local
स्थानीय



Public order
लोक व्यवस्था

Community-wide
समुदाय



Security of State
राज्य सुरक्षा

Smallest, gravest
गंभीरतम



Art 19 curbs
अनु. 19

Only on valid grounds
वैध आधार

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► Jantar Mantar has been a protest site since **1993** (moved from Boat Club)

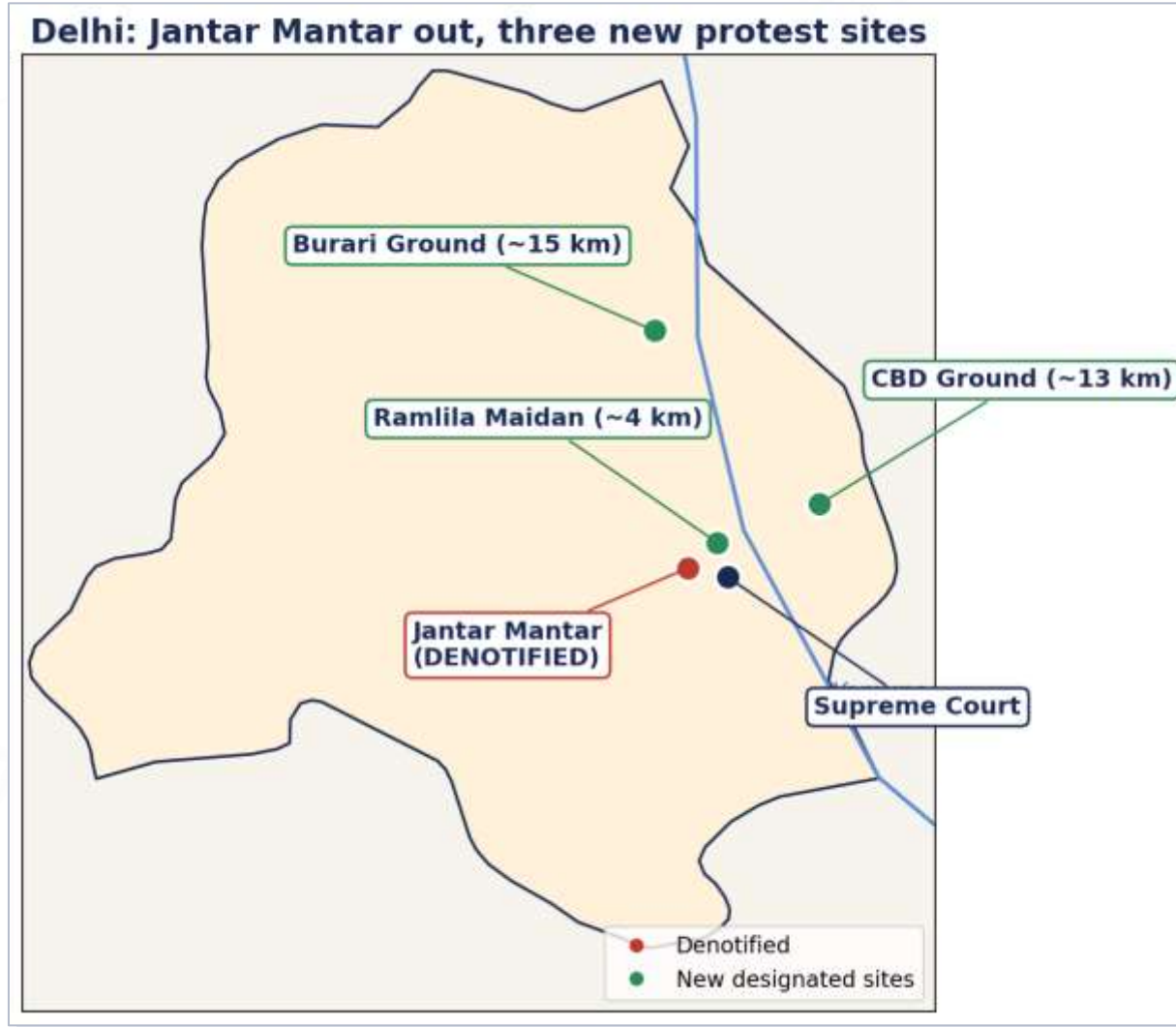
1993

► Electoral rolls are governed by the **RP Act, 1950**

RP अधिनियम 1950

SIR march; Jantar Mantar denotified — Map & Diagram

SIR मार्च; जंतर-मंतर — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- **Red** = Jantar Mantar, now denotified
लाल = जंतर-मंतर हटाया
- **Green** = 3 new protest sites
हरा = 3 नए स्थल
- All farther from **Parliament & SC**
संसद व SC से दूर
- Burari ~15 km, CBD ~13 km away
बुराड़ी, CBD दूर

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Decline in Bangalore's office workspace leasing in Jan-Sept

26 per cent, Bangalore, India's largest office market, witnessed a 26 per cent decline in workspace leasing in Jan-Sept, according to Knight Frank, New York.

Fine imposed by Norway on Nanda over gender data sharing

9.6 million, Norway's data protection authority has imposed a fine of 9.6 million kroner (€1.45 million) on Nanda over gender data sharing.

Share of 2026 funding received by UN refugee agency

35 per cent, UNHCR received 35 per cent of the 2026 funding from the UN General Assembly.

Surge in Equity MFIs in September despite stock market volatility

31 per cent, Equity MFIs saw a 31 per cent surge in September despite stock market volatility.

Social media posts taken down by Delhi Police

300 posts, Delhi Police has taken down 300 social media posts related to the Delhi Police.

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1 Comparing SIR 2002-04 and 2025-26

The SIR 2002-04, which had elaborate processes for preparing fresh milk to ensure that no viable bacteria would be taken off the milk, the current SIR 2025-26, which has led to the elimination of viable bacteria, is a game-changer in the industry.

Importance of SIR
The SIR 2002-04 was a landmark in the history of the dairy industry. It was the first time that the dairy industry had a standard for the quality of fresh milk. The SIR 2002-04 was a landmark in the history of the dairy industry. It was the first time that the dairy industry had a standard for the quality of fresh milk.

What is SIR?
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How was the previous SIR done?
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What are the key issues with the current SIR?
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THE GIST

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Page 10 • Text & Context

पृष्ठ 10 • विश्लेषण

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 SIR 2002-04 vs 2025-26 | SIR तुलना

SIR 2002-04 vs 2025-26

SIR तुलना

Comparing SIR 2002-04 and 2025-26

Unlike previous SIRs, which had elaborate processes for preparing fresh rolls to ensure that no eligible elector would be taken off the rolls, the current SIR exercise adopts a flawed process that has led to the exclusion of lakhs of eligible voters; a point-by-point comparison is provided

EXPLAINER

Hangarajan R.

The story so far:

There have been renewed protests against the special intensive revision (SIR) process. Former Election Commissioners and Supreme Court judges have also questioned the exercise in its current form. As a counter, there have also been former judges and bureaucrats who have supported the current SIR process.

What is SIR?

Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act) authorises the Election Commission of India (ECI) to carry out a special revision of the electoral roll for 'any' constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit.

The ECI had decided in June 2025 to carry out an SIR exercise across the country, starting with Bihar in Phase I, Phase II, held between October 2025 and February 2026, covered nine States and three Union Territories. Phase III, which commenced in May 2026, covered 16 States and three Union Territories. In May 2026, the Supreme Court held that the ECI was well within its constitutional mandate to conduct an SIR for 'many' or 'all' constituencies in a State.

How was the previous SIR done?

The Special Intensive Revision has been conducted on eight different occasions in



THE GIST

The current SIR exercise has resulted in deletion of around 13.3 crore voters across the three phases. Around 2.7 crore (20%) were deleted due to death and 1.01 crore (7.6%) were flagged as duplicate entries. A significant portion of the 9.5 crore voters (71%) fall under the 'absent, shifted and others' category

In the previous SIR in 2002-04, stringent guidance was provided to enumerators for door-to-door verification, maintenance of rolls and deletions

Considering the issues raised around the current exercise, there is a need to expedite eligible claims for re-enrolment through home visits and door-to-door enumerations. The pre-SIR rolls can continue to remain in force pending the completion of the current SIR

SIR 2002-04 vs 2025-26

SIR तुलना

conducted on eight different occasions in the past, with the last one taking place between 2002 and 2004. They key guidelines issued in May 2002 for the last SIR, which have a bearing on the issues raised with respect to the current exercise, are summarised here.

First, the SIR required enumerators to conduct door-to-door verification using a preliminary list generated from the then existing roll. Elected Panchayat members could be voluntarily involved for assistance during the process.

Second, detailed guidelines were provided for supervision. Supervisors were required to randomly check at least 25% of the households covered by enumerators. Where an enumerator reported to the supervisor that a particular house had been locked during repeated visits, the supervisor was required to visit the house to verify this. Senior officers – Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), EROs and District Election Officers – were required to check a minimum of 12%, 5% and 2% of the households, respectively.

Third, with regard to citizenship, the guidelines specified that the onus of proof of citizenship lay with the applicant who applied for inclusion of his/her name in the electoral roll for the first time. However, they also referred to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in *Lal Babu Hussein and Others* (1995) which require the ERO to attach adequate 'probative value' to an applicant's presence in the existing roll.

Fourth, electors who had shifted residence were treated like a "transfer" rather than a deletion. Their entries in the preliminary list were not erased but struck through and marked "S" and enumerators had to record who reported the shift, besides the constituency or address to which the elector had moved. If an entire family had shifted, supervisors had to personally verify such cases. Since all areas were enumerated at the same time, the shifted electors were enrolled at their new address during the same



On the ground: BLOs verify voter details during the SIR exercise in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh in July 2026. G.J. RAO

exercise. The Chief Electoral Officer then acted as a clearing house to ensure that the old entry was deleted from the final roll. Only those missed at their new address had to apply during the claims and objections period.

Finally, the guidelines categorically mentioned that claims and objections presented in bulk by any individual/organisation or political party should be refused and rejected summarily. The final roll was to be prepared only after all claims and objections had been duly disposed of.

What are the key issues with the current SIR?

The key issues in the current SIR process are summarised here. First, the electors who could not be found, or who did not return or fill in the form, were excluded from the draft electoral roll, even if they had voted in previous elections. Unlike in 2002, those recorded as "shifted" were not enrolled at their new address through the same exercise. Under normal course, they would be required to file Form 8 (for shifting residence) at their new place of ordinary residence. Otherwise, if they are missed out, they would be required to apply afresh through Form 6, which is meant for new electors. This goes against the ECI's own Manual on Electoral Rolls (2023) which requires that a shifted elector who can be traced should be served a notice, and in cases where they cannot be traced, a notice must be pasted at their last known address in the presence of adult witnesses and the name should be deleted only after the notice

period expires.

Second, the requirements of supervision of the current SIR are not as elaborate as the last SIR. The notification before Bihar's SIR mandates 10% random verification by supervisors and only requires regular monitoring meetings by ERO with AEROs, Supervisors and booth-level officers (BLOs) to ensure that work done is not superficial.

Third, the requirement for electors to trace themselves or a parent to the electoral rolls prepared during the last intensive revision, nearly two decades ago, or to produce documents to establish citizenship, is perceived as shifting the onus of proving their eligibility for inclusion in the rolls onto the common electors.

Fourth, software generated 'logical discrepancies', including spelling differences, more than six voters linked to one ancestor and parent-child age gaps outside the range of 15 to 45 years, among other factors, resulted in the arbitrary exclusion of lakhs of eligible voters.

Finally, there have been reports of filing of Form 7 (objection forms) in bulk by individuals for removing the names of electors from rolls at various places. In order to avoid the filing of such objection forms in bulk on unsubstantiated grounds, the ECI, only on October 9th, had issued instructions setting a cap on the number of objection forms that can be filed by an individual.

Apart from these procedural issues, legal concerns have also been raised regarding the validity of the declaration attached to Form 6 (used for enrolment of

new electors), the use of Form 6 for re-enrolment of electors deleted from the draft rolls, and the cumbersome procedure for the disposal of a large number of appeals.

What can be the way forward?

The right to vote is a crucial edifice on which our democracy rests. The SIR process has resulted in the deletion of around 13.3 crore voters across the three phases. Around 2.7 crore (20%) were deleted due to death and 1.01 crore (8%) were flagged as duplicate entries. A significant portion of the 9.5 crore voters (71%) fall under the 'absent, shifted and others' category. Many of these 9.5 crore voters could be eligible for re-enrolment on completion of the SIR process.

Considering the renewed issues that have been raised surrounding the process, there should be a detailed audit of the rolls that have been finalised so far.

Eligible claims for re-enrolment should be expedited, including through home visits, and roll updations. Door-to-door enumeration should be the prescribed procedure for States where SIR is ongoing, and electoral rolls should be finalised only after the disposal of all claims and objections. As per the proviso to Section 21(3) of the RP Act, the existing pre-SIR rolls can continue to remain in force and be used for upcoming State elections, pending the completion of SIR rolls after due process.

(Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.)

Comparing SIR 2002-04 and SIR 2025-26

2002-04 और 2025-26 के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) की तुलना – पुरानी प्रक्रिया अधिक सावधान, नई में लाखों पात्र मतदाता बाहर



Sec 21(3), RP Act 1950
धारा 21(3)

1 What is SIR? | SIR क्या?

- ▶ Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls
विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण
- ▶ Power: **Sec 21(3), RP Act 1950**
धारा 21(3)
- ▶ Done **8 times** before; last in **2002-04**
8 बार
- ▶ SC (May 2026): ECI may do SIR for **all** constituencies
सभी क्षेत्र

2 2026 numbers | आँकड़े

13.3 cr

Deleted across
3 phases
हटाए

20%

Due to death
मृत्यु

71%

“Absent,
shifted”
अनुपस्थित/स्थानांत
रित

3

Phases since
2025
चरण

3 Key concerns | चिंताएँ

- ▶ Onus on voters to **prove eligibility**
प्रमाण का भार
- ▶ Software “**logical discrepancies**” cut names
सॉफ्टवेयर
- ▶ **Bulk Form 7** objections
थोक आपत्तियाँ

SIR 2002-04 vs 2025-26 — in depth (1/2)

SIR तुलना — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 2002 vs 2026 | तुलना



2002-04 2002-04	2025-26 2025-26
25% supervisor checks 25% जाँच	10% random checks 10% जाँच
Shifted = transfer, re-enrolled स्थानांतरण	Shifted dropped; refile Form 8/6 हटाए
Bulk objections rejected अस्वीकार	Bulk Form 7 filed; cap only on Oct 9 सीमा बाद में

5 Forms to know | फॉर्म



- ▶ **Form 6** – new voter
नया मतदाता
- ▶ **Form 7** – objection / deletion
आपत्ति / हटाना
- ▶ **Form 8** – shift / correction
स्थानांतरण / सुधार

6 Way forward | आगे की राह



- ▶ **Door-to-door** re-enrolment of the deleted
घर-घर
- ▶ Use **pre-SIR** rolls till process ends
पुरानी सूची
- ▶ **Lal Babu Hussein (1995)**: weigh presence in existing roll
लाल बाबू हुसैन

SIR 2002-04 vs 2025-26 — in depth (2/2)

SIR तुलना — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How SIR works | SIR प्रक्रिया



Door-to-door
घर-घर

BLO enumeration
BLO



Draft roll
प्रारूप सूची

Published
प्रकाशित



Claims & objections
दावे-आपत्ति

Forms 6, 7, 8
फॉर्म



Final roll
अंतिम सूची

Used in polls
चुनाव

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► **Art 326:** universal adult franchise – **18 years**

अनु. 326

► Voting age cut from 21 to 18 by **61st Amendment (1988)**

61वाँ संशोधन

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Page 6 • News

पृष्ठ 6 • समाचार

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 Cap prices of all drugs: SC | दवा मूल्य

2 Hospitals to display rates | अस्पताल दरें

3 INS Mangrol commissioned | INS मंगरोल



Cap prices of all drugs: SC

सभी दवाओं पर मूल्य सीमा

Work out a plan for capping prices of all drugs: SC to govt.

Government proposes a 30% trade-margin cap on patented and non-patented cancer medicines, but the top court asks why the cap cannot be extended to all medicines and medical products

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Even as the Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday that it had decided to cap trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled cancer drugs, the court questioned why the benefit of such a price regulation should be confined to cancer drugs and not extended to other essential medicines and medical products.

The development comes after a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta expressed concern over stark disparities between the price to retailer (PTR) and the maximum retail price (MRP) of certain medicines, particularly cancer drugs, with mark-ups in some instances soaring to 1,000%. The Bench had flagged that such exorbitant mark-ups constituted "broad daylight dacoity".

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for



Availability of price-controlled medicine is government's responsibility. GETTY IMAGES

Bench that the proposed 30% trade-margin cap would cover both patented and non-patented cancer medicines.

The Bench, however, said that while the intervention was commendable, it was inadequate, and questioned why other medicines and medical devices could not also be brought within the 16% retailer margin prescribed under the Drugs (Prices

Control) Order, 1930. "This is just the tip of the iceberg... What about other drugs," the Bench asked.

The top court was hearing petitions filed by advocate Kishan Chand Jain and paediatric surgeon Sanjay Kulshrestha seeking stricter enforcement of price controls under the DPCO to curb disproportionate margins across the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Justice Mehta drew at

on medical devices and consumables, pointing out that an India-made cardiac stent costing around ₹5,000 was being sold by hospitals for more than ₹25,000.

"We understand that there are transportation costs, raw material costs, R&D costs and other ancillary costs, but all these are included in the MRP. What is the logic behind allowing them to sell at 400 times the actual cost? How can you allow this? What is the benefit for the patients?" the Bench observed.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhatl, also appearing for the Centre, cautioned against a uniform cap across medicines. The Bench, however, was not persuaded, observing that ensuring the availability of price-controlled medicines was the government's responsibility. The Bench gave the Centre until October 27 to work out the modalities for capping medicine prices, when the matter will be

Healthcare centres must display costs of services: Centre

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has asked all States and Union Territories to ensure the prominent display of rates charged for services and facilities offered by clinical establishments.

In a move aimed at strengthening transparency, accountability and patient-centric healthcare delivery, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, in a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, called for compliance with regulatory provisions, and ensuring information on service charges was clearly visible to patients and their attendants.

Two rules

The letter refers to the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 and the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012. Under the Rules, clinical establishments in States and Union Territories where the Act is applicable



The move aims to strengthen transparency. GETTY IMAGES

rates charged for each type of service provided, along with facilities available, at a conspicuous place, in the local language as well as in English.

"Display of rates would help patients and their families understand the likely cost of treatment, make informed healthcare decisions, and plan their medical expenditure," Ms. Srivastava said.

The letter emphasises transparency in healthcare pricing for international patients. The States and Union Territories have been requested to prominently display package rates offered to foreign patients travelling to India on

SC: Plan Price Caps for All Drugs; Hospitals Must Display Rates

सुप्रीम कोर्ट: केवल कैंसर नहीं, सभी दवाओं पर मूल्य सीमा की योजना बनाएँ; स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय: अस्पताल सेवाओं की दरें प्रदर्शित करें



“Broad daylight dacoity”
“दिनदहाड़े डकैती”

1

In the Supreme Court सुप्रीम कोर्ट



- ▶ Centre: **30% trade-margin cap** on cancer drugs
30% सीमा
- ▶ SC: “**tip of the iceberg**” – why not all medicines?
“**हिमखंड का सिरा**”
- ▶ Centre to report by **27 Oct**
27 अक्टूबर
- ▶ Bench: Justices **Vikram Nath & Sandeep Mehta**
पीठ

2

Shocking mark-ups भारी मार्जिन



1,000%

Highest mark-ups
अधिकतम

₹5,000

Cost of Indian stent
स्टेंट लागत

₹25,000+

Charged by hospitals
अस्पताल दर

16%

DPCO retailer margin
खुदरा मार्जिन

3

Hospitals: show rates दरें दिखाएँ



- ▶ Letter by **Health Secretary** to all States/UTs
स्वास्थ्य सचिव
- ▶ Display rates in **local language + English**
स्थानीय भाषा
- ▶ Under **Clinical Establishments Act, 2010**
& Rules 2012
2010 अधिनियम

Cap prices of all drugs: SC — in depth (1/2)

सभी दवाओं पर मूल्य सीमा — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Drug price control
दवा मूल्य नियंत्रण



- ▶ **NPPA** (1997) fixes prices under **DPCO 2013**
NPPA
- ▶ Price control for drugs in **NLEM** (National List of Essential Medicines)
NLEM
- ▶ Drug prices regulated via **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**
आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम

5

Why costs are high
खर्च क्यों अधिक



- ▶ Huge gap between **PTR** (price to retailer) and **MRP**
PTR बनाम MRP
- ▶ Hospitals sell devices & consumables at **MRP**
MRP पर बिक्री
- ▶ High **out-of-pocket** spending pushes families into poverty
जेब खर्च

6

Help for patients
मरीजों के लिए



- ▶ **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** – cheap generics
जन औषधि
- ▶ **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** – ₹5 lakh cover
आयुष्मान
- ▶ Stent & knee implant prices **capped** (2017)
स्टेंट सीमा

Cap prices of all drugs: SC — in depth (2/2)

सभी दवाओं पर मूल्य सीमा — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 From factory to patient | कारखाने से मरीज़ तक



Maker
निर्माता

Low cost
कम लागत



Stockist/retailer
विक्रेता

PTR
PTR



MRP
MRP

Up to 1,000%
1,000% तक



Cap margins
सीमा

Fair price
उचित दाम

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

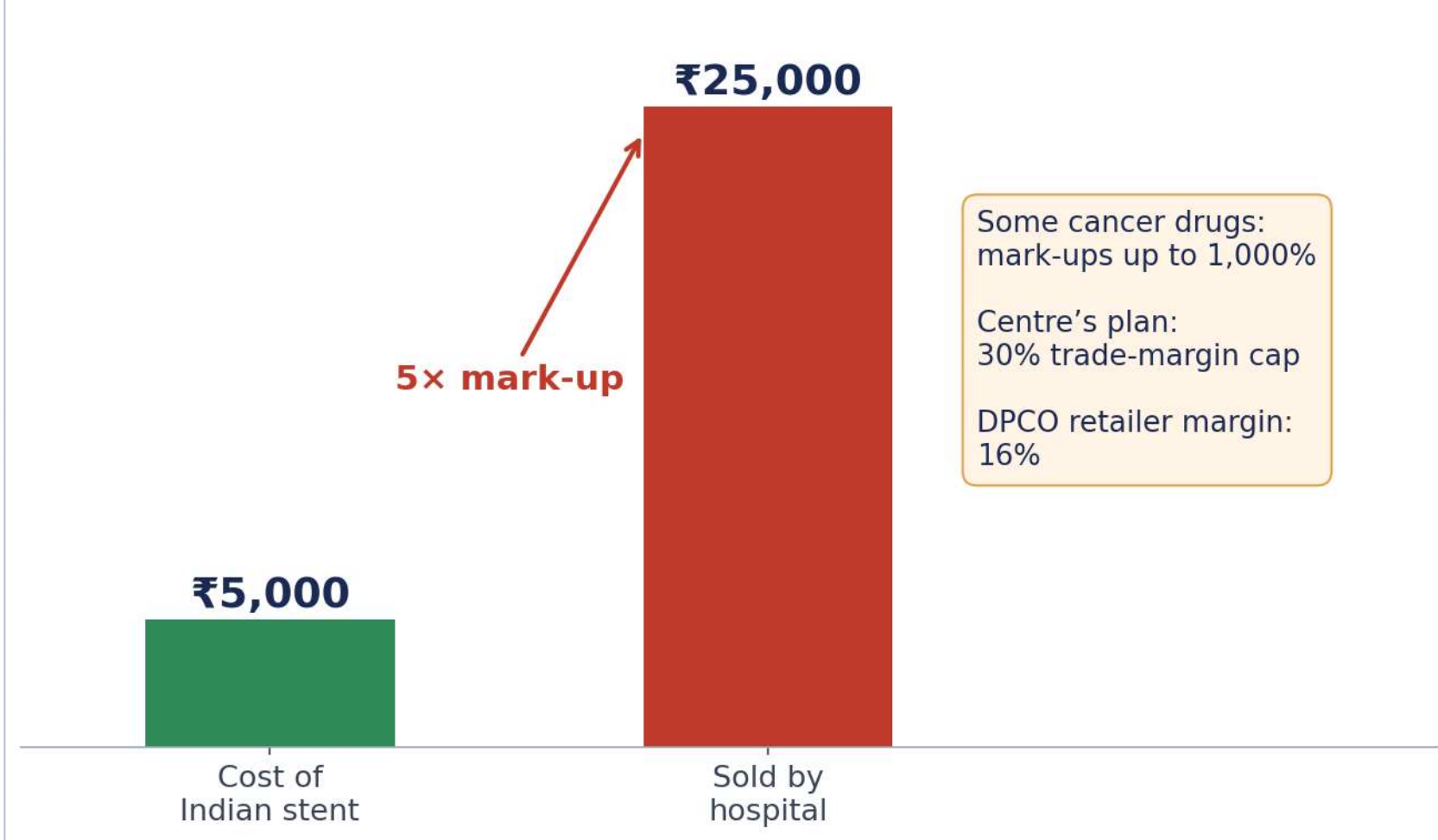


- ▶ Health is a **State subject** (Entry 6, List II)
राज्य सूची
- ▶ **Art 47 (DPSP):** duty to improve public health
अनु. 47

Cap prices of all drugs: SC — Map & Diagram

सभी दवाओं पर मूल्य सीमा — मानचित्र व आरेख

Why the SC called it “broad daylight dacoity”



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

► India-made stent costs
~₹5,000

लागत ₹5,000

► Hospitals charged
₹25,000+ – 5x

अस्पताल ₹25,000+

► Some cancer drugs:
mark-ups up to 1,000%
1,000% तक

► SC wants caps for all
medicines

सभी दवाओं पर सीमा

INS Mangrol commissioned

INS मंगरोल

Navy commissions its third Mahe-class anti-submarine ship

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy on Monday commissioned *INS Mangrol* (P82), the third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, strengthening its capabilities to detect and counter underwater threats.

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, presided over the commissioning ceremony. Senior defence officials, representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), and industry partners attended the function.

INS Mangrol – designed and constructed by CSL in Kochi – has over 80% indigenous content. The ship also embodies the growing contribution of domestic defence industries and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to In-



INS Mangrol, the Navy's new anti-submarine watercraft. AFP

dia's naval capabilities. Designed for operations in coastal and shallow waters, the vessel is equipped to undertake anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance and low-intensity maritime operations.

INS Mangrol takes its name from the coastal town and fishing harbour of Mangrol in Gujarat's Junagadh district. It also carries forward the legacy of the earlier *INS Mangrol* (M85), a minesweeper that served the Navy until April 2004.

Navy Commissions INS Mangrol, Third Mahe-Class Anti-Submarine Craft



ASW-SWC (P82)
पनडुब्बी-रोधी

नौसेना ने मुंबई में तीसरा माहे-श्रेणी पनडुब्बी-रोधी उथले जल पोत “INS मंगरोल” कमीशन किया – 80%+ स्वदेशी

1 The ship | जहाज़



- ▶ **INS Mangrol (P82)** – 3rd Mahe-class ASW-SWC
तीसरा
- ▶ Built by **Cochin Shipyard**, Kochi
कोचीन शिपयार्ड
- ▶ **80%+ indigenous** content; MSME parts
80% स्वदेशी

2 Role | भूमिका



- ▶ Hunt **submarines** in coastal, shallow waters
उथला जल
- ▶ **Underwater surveillance**
जल-अंतर्गत निगरानी
- ▶ Low-intensity maritime ops, **mine-laying**
बारूदी सुरंग

3 The name | नाम



- ▶ After **Mangrol**, fishing town in **Junagadh, Gujarat**
मंगरोल, गुजरात
- ▶ Earlier **INS Mangrol (M85)** – minesweeper till 2004
2004
- ▶ Commissioned at **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**
मुंबई

INS Mangrol commissioned — in depth (1/2)

INS मंगरोल — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

ASW-SWC programme
कार्यक्रम

1
2

Class श्रेणी	Builder निर्माता
Mahe-class (8 ships) माहे	Cochin Shipyard कोचीन
Arnala-class (8 ships) अरनाला	GRSE, Kolkata GRSE

5

Why shallow-water ASW?
क्यों ज़रूरी



- ▶ Replace old **Abhay-class** corvettes
अभय श्रेणी
- ▶ Guard **ports, coasts** from enemy subs
बंदरगाह
- ▶ Rising **Chinese submarine** presence in IOR
चीनी पनडुब्बी

6

Aatmanirbhar Navy
आत्मनिर्भर नौसेना



- ▶ **INS Vikrant** – first indigenous carrier (2022)
विक्रान्त
- ▶ Goal: fully **self-reliant** by **2047**
2047
- ▶ Shipyards: **MDL, GRSE, CSL, GSL, HSL**
शिपयार्ड

INS Mangrol commissioned — in depth (2/2)

INS मंगरोल — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Layered anti-submarine defence | परतदार रक्षा



P-8I aircraft
P-8I

Deep ocean
गहरा समुद्र



Frigates
फ्रिगेट

Open sea
खुला समुद्र



ASW-SWC
उथला जल पोत

Coastal waters
तटीय



Safe coasts
सुरक्षित तट

Ports guarded
बंदरगाह

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► **Navy Day: 4 December**
(Op Trident, 1971)

4 दिसंबर

► Lead ship **INS Mahe**
named after Mahe,
Puducherry

माहे

INS Mangrol commissioned — Map & Diagram

INS मंगरोल — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual

चित्र को समझें

► Named after **Mangrol, Gujarat**

मंगरोल, गुजरात

► Built at **Cochin Shipyard, Kochi**

कोचीन शिपयार्ड

► Commissioned at **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**

मुंबई

► Lead ship **INS Mahe** ← **Mahe, Puducherry**

माहे

WWF Living Planet Index

WWF लिविंग प्लैनेट

Contextualising WWF's report on wildlife population decline

The Living Planet Index report shows that exactly 50% of populations were in decline, 43% were increasing, and the remaining 7% were stable

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie

There has been a 73% decline in wildlife populations since 1970, according to the 2026 Living Planet Index report. As with previous editions, it makes for a concerning read, despite this year's title being about the "Science of Hope".

While these trends are worrying, the numbers presented in the Living Planet Index (LPI) report, released by the Worldwide Wildlife Fund (WWF), are often misunderstood or misreported. The headline figure from the 2026 update of the LPI shows that studied wildlife populations declined by an average of 73% from 1970 through 2022, as shown in Chart 1. The data covers mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. It doesn't yet include invertebrates or plants.

To clarify what this doesn't mean – it doesn't tell us anything about the number of species lost; the number of populations or individuals that have been lost; the number or percentage of species or populations that are declining; or the number of extinctions.

The authors of the LPI go to great lengths to explain this. Yet, there is inevitably a long list of headlines claiming that we've "lost 73% of wildlife", "73% of species have gone extinct", or "73% of species are declining". All of these are incorrect. But then, what does this metric actually tell us?

Across the 35,803 wildlife populations studied, the average decline was 73%. This doesn't mean that 73% of populations are in decline; in fact, around half of the studied populations were in decline, while half were either increasing or stable.

To calculate the LPI, researchers collect data on the change in wildlife numbers across tens of thousands of populations. While the data is measured relative to

1970, very few populations have data stretching back this far. Many populations only have data for much shorter and sparser time-lanes. For every population, the change in numbers over time is calculated, giving a rate of change. It can be positive, negative, or zero. To obtain the final LPI number, researchers take the geometric mean of the rates of change across all these populations. They also provide different weights to different populations, which affects the final result.

The 2022 Living Planet Index reported an average decline of 69% since 1970. In 2024, it reported a 73% decline. And this latest report finds the same figure. From this, you might assume that wildlife populations dropped by four percentage points between the 2022 and 2024 editions, and nothing has changed since then.

But that's not the case. Almost none of this change has happened in the last few years, and the new LPIs should not be seen as simple extensions of the previous ones.

Instead, the entire trend line for the LPI has shifted as the project has gained access to data from more populations and species, and the types of populations included have changed. Since the last report, the number of populations in the LPI increased by around 1,000 (a 3% increase), and the number of species by about 300 (a 5% increase). An important change from the 2022 to the 2024 report was that both native and non-native species were included in the former, but since then, only native species have been included.

In this particular release, the number of populations and species from Africa increased substantially. The number of populations increased by 14%, and the number of species by 38%. Data coverage of this region, which had been under-represented in previous reports, has increased.

Chart 2 compares the LPI for 2022, 2024, and 2026 across different regions. Here, one can see

that whole lines have shifted, rather than things changing dramatically in just the last four years. Almost as many populations are increasing as decreasing.

Across the entire dataset, exactly 50% of populations were in decline, 43% were increasing, and the remaining 7% were stable.

Chart 3 shows the share of populations in the LPI that have trended in a given direction for different taxonomic groups. Around half of wildlife populations have declined in numbers. The rest were either increasing or stable. So, not all populations are struggling. This is not to dismiss the steep decline many populations are seeing. Instead, it's useful to know this so we can direct resources more efficiently to the areas and populations that need them most. It's more effective to target restorative and protective efforts to populations in serious trouble than to assume that all populations are struggling.

The index also varies from region to region. Latin America and the Caribbean have seen the most severe decline of any region. It experienced an average decline of 95% across its studied populations. In recent decades, it has experienced intense deforestation and expansion of agricultural land: the primary driver of habitat loss. It is also a biodiversity hotspot, being home to many endemic (unique) tropical species. These species are often highly specialised, and don't adapt well to changes in local conditions.

Africa is still rich in biodiversity. It's the only continent with a significant number of large mammals left. Unfortunately, it has dramatically declined in recent decades, with an average decline of 80% since 1970. Asia has also seen a decline of 49%. Europe has seen the smallest decline of all the continents, with an average of 23% since 1970.

Hannah Ritchie is Deputy Editor and Science Outreach Lead at Our World in Data

Is wildlife vanishing?

Data were sourced from the 2026 Living Planet Index (LPI) report by the Worldwide Wildlife Fund (WWF). This analysis was published by OurWorldinData, a non-profit website from the University of Oxford and the Global Change Data Lab



CHART 1:

The LPI measures the average decline in monitored wildlife populations. The index value measures the change in abundance relative to the year 1970 (i.e. 1970=1).

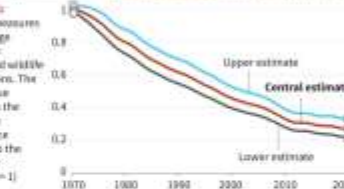


CHART 2:

The 2022 Living Planet Index reported an average decline of 69% since 1970. In 2024, it reported a 73% decline. The latest report finds the same.

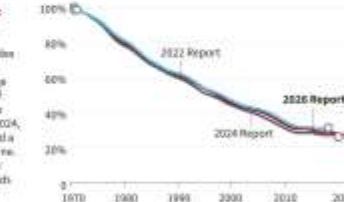
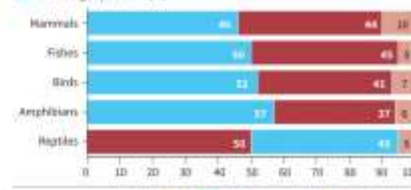


CHART 3:

The share of globally studied populations in each taxonomic group with increasing, stable or declining numbers



Reading WWF's Living Planet Report:

73% Average Decline Since 1970

WWF लिविंग प्लैनेट इंडेक्स 2026: 1970 से वन्यजीव आबादी में औसतन 73% गिरावट – पर इसका अर्थ “73% वन्यजीव खत्म” नहीं



Living Planet Index
LPI

1

Key numbers | प्रमुख
आँकड़े



73%

Avg decline
1970–2022
औसत गिरावट

35,803

Populations
studied
आबादी

50%

Populations
declining
घटती

43%

Increasing (7%
stable)
बढ़ती

2

What 73% is NOT
क्या नहीं है



- ▶ NOT “73% of wildlife lost”
73% वन्यजीव खत्म नहीं
- ▶ NOT “73% of species
extinct”
प्रजातियाँ विलुप्त नहीं
- ▶ It is the **average rate of
change** across populations
औसत परिवर्तन दर

3

How it is calculated |
गणना



- ▶ Change for each
population tracked
प्रत्येक आबादी
- ▶ **Geometric mean** of all
rates
ज्यामितीय माध्य
- ▶ Covers **mammals, birds,
fish, reptiles, amphibians**
कशेरुकी

WWF Living Planet Index — in depth (1/2)

WWF लिविंग प्लैनेट — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Why the trend line shifts
रेखा क्यों बदली



- ▶ 2022 report: **69%**; 2024 & 2026: **73%**
69% → 73%
- ▶ More data added
(Africa: **+38% species**)
अधिक डेटा
- ▶ Only **native species**
counted since 2024
स्थानीय प्रजातियाँ

5

Main drivers | मुख्य
कारण



- ▶ **Habitat loss** – farming, cities
आवास हानि
- ▶ **Overexploitation**,
invasive species
अति-दोहन
- ▶ **Climate change**,
pollution, disease
जलवायु परिवर्तन

6

Report basics
रिपोर्ट तथ्य



Item बिंदु	Fact तथ्य
Publisher प्रकाशक	WWF + ZSL WWF
Frequency आवृत्ति	Every 2 years 2 वर्ष
Worst region सबसे बुरा	Latin America & Caribbean लैटिन अमेरिका

WWF Living Planet Index — in depth (2/2)

WWF लिविंग प्लैनेट — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Reading data wisely | आँकड़े समझदारी से



Collect data
डेटा

35,803
populations
आबादी



**Average
change**
औसत

Geometric mean
माध्य



Read carefully
सावधानी

Not % lost
हानि % नहीं



Target action
लक्षित प्रयास

Where needed
जहाँ ज़रूरत

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► WWF founded **1961**,
HQ **Gland, Switzerland**;
logo: **giant panda**

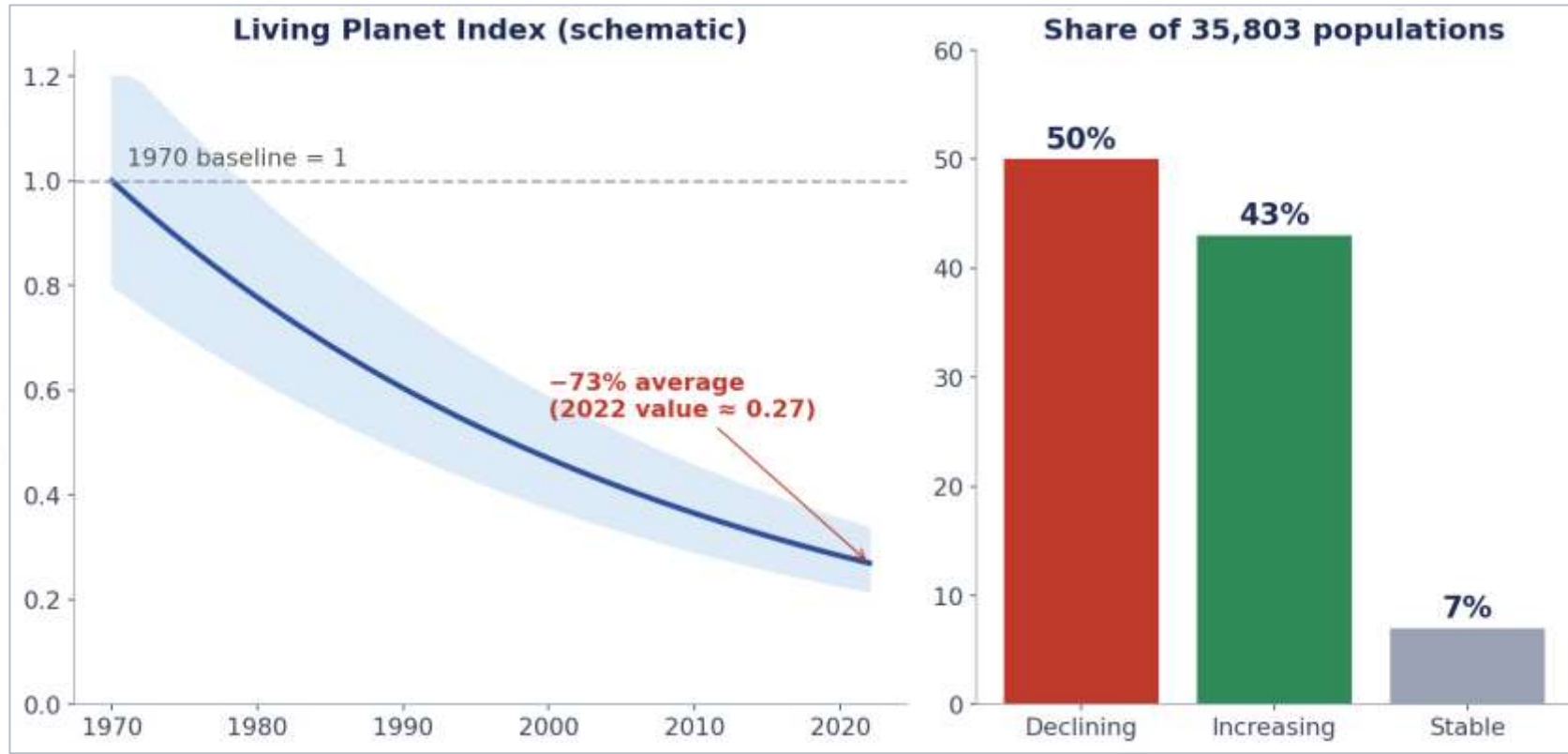
WWF

► Kunming-Montreal
GBF: protect **30% land &
sea by 2030**

30×30

WWF Living Planet Index — Map & Diagram

WWF लिविंग प्लैनेट — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual

चित्र को समझें

- ▶ Line falls from **1** → **0.27** = average **-73%**
औसत **-73%**
- ▶ Only **50%** of populations are declining
केवल **50%** घट रही
- ▶ **43%** increasing, **7%** stable
43% बढ़ रही
- ▶ Data: **35,803** vertebrate populations
35,803 आबादी

Lakshadweep 100% literate

लक्षद्वीप पूर्ण साक्षर

Lakshadweep turns 100% literate under govt.'s ULLAS scheme

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Lakshadweep was declared a 100% literate Union Territory on Sunday. The declaration was made by Administrator Praful Patel, marking the achievement of full literacy status under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, according to a communication.

According to the Department of Education, an initial survey identified 1,113 adult non-literates across the islands. Intensive teaching and assessment drives were subsequently undertaken to equip the identified learners with foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

The department claimed that all eligible learners had successfully cleared the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT), enabling Lakshadweep to attain full literacy status under ULLAS, a Centrally sponsored scheme.

Doorstep assessments

Teachers and supervisors volunteered to conduct doorstep and home-based assessments for learners who were unable or hesitant to attend designated examination centres. Follow-up assessments and re-testing were also organised to ensure that eligible learners completed the evaluation process, according to the communication.

A IN-X

Lakshadweep Declared 100% Literate Under ULLAS

उल्लास – नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के तहत लक्षद्वीप पूर्ण साक्षर केंद्र शासित प्रदेश घोषित



ULLAS scheme
उल्लास

1 The news | समाचार



- ▶ Declared by Administrator **Praful Patel**
प्रफुल पटेल
- ▶ **1,113** adult non-literates identified
1,113 निरक्षर
- ▶ All passed **FLNAT** (literacy & numeracy test)
FLNAT उत्तीर्ण

2 How it was done | कैसे हुआ



- ▶ Volunteer teachers, **doorstep assessments**
घर पर परीक्षा
- ▶ Re-tests for those who missed
पुनः परीक्षा
- ▶ “**Kartavya bodh**” – volunteerism
स्वयंसेवा

3 What is ULLAS? उल्लास क्या?



- ▶ **Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**
पूरा नाम
- ▶ = **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (2022–27)
नव भारत साक्षरता
- ▶ Target: adults **15+** who missed school
15+ वयस्क

Lakshadweep 100% literate — in depth (1/2)

लक्षद्वीप पूर्ण साक्षर — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Full-literacy club
पूर्ण साक्षर



State/UT राज्य	When कब
Ladakh लद्दाख	2024
Mizoram मिज़ोरम	May 2025
Goa गोवा	2025
Tripura, Himachal त्रिपुरा, हिमाचल	2025
Lakshadweep लक्षद्वीप	Oct 2026

5

“Fully literate” means
अर्थ



- ▶ **95%+** literacy = treated as fully literate
95%+
- ▶ Literacy = read, write, **basic numeracy**
पढ़ना, लिखना, गणना
- ▶ Kerala long the top State (Census 2011: 94%)
केरल

6

Linked policies
जुड़ी नीतियाँ



- ▶ **NEP 2020** – adult education focus
NEP 2020
- ▶ **NIPUN Bharat** – foundational literacy for children
निपुण भारत
- ▶ **Art 21A** – free education 6–14 yrs
अनु. 21A

Lakshadweep 100% literate — in depth (2/2)

लक्षद्वीप पूर्ण साक्षर — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Path to full literacy | पूर्ण साक्षरता की राह



Survey
सर्वे

Find non-literates
पहचान



Teach
पढ़ाना

Volunteers
स्वयंसेवक



Test (FLNAT)
परीक्षा

Doorstep
घर पर



Declare
घोषणा

100% literate
पूर्ण साक्षर

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

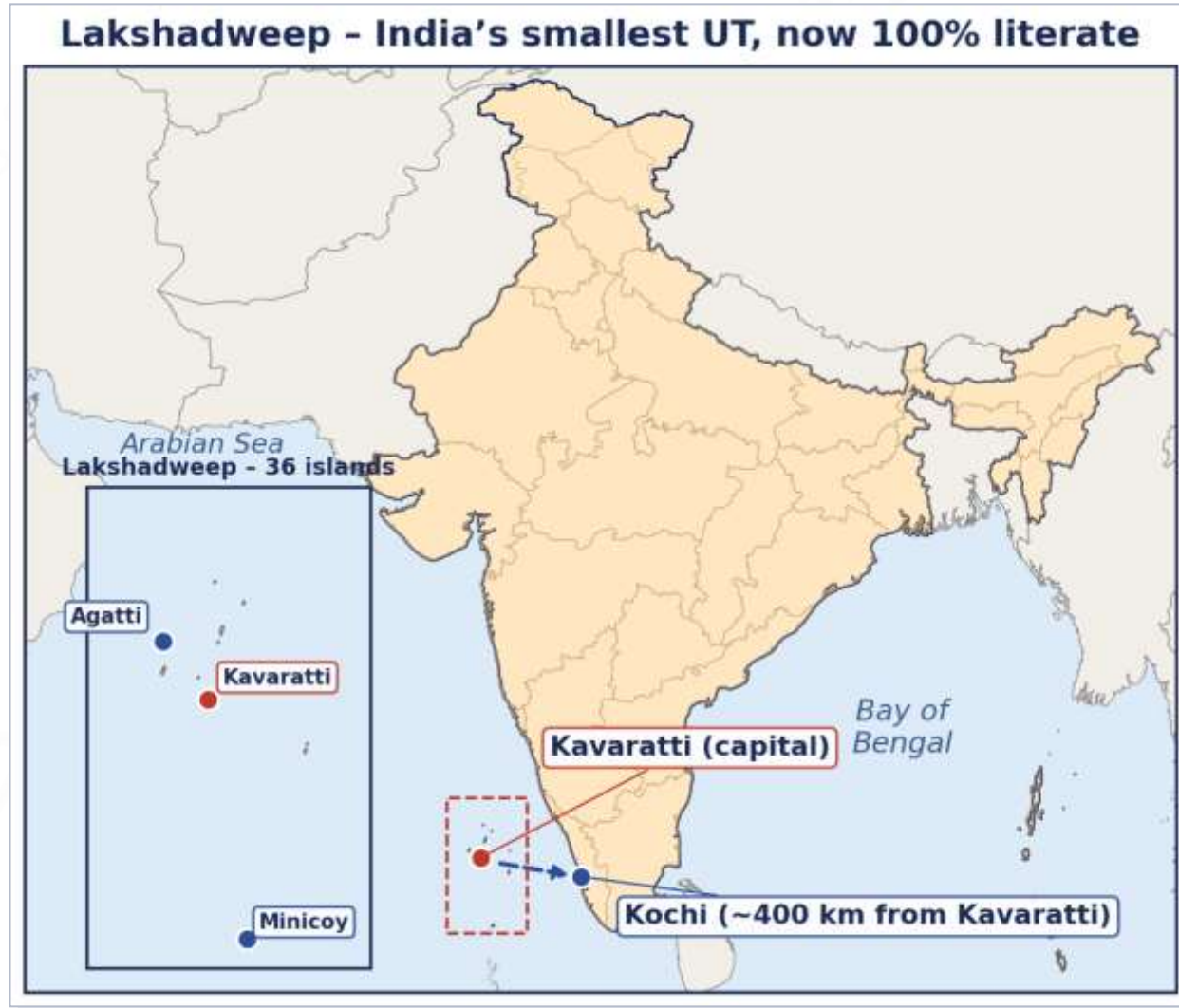


► **International Literacy Day: 8 September**
8 सितंबर

► Lakshadweep = India's **smallest UT**; capital **Kavaratti**
कवरत्ती

Lakshadweep 100% literate — Map & Diagram

लक्षद्वीप पूर्ण साक्षर — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- ▶ 36 islands in the Arabian Sea
अरब सागर में 36 द्वीप
- ▶ Capital Kavaratti; ~400 km from Kochi
राजधानी कवरत्ती
- ▶ Southernmost island: Minicoy – near 9° Channel
मिनिकॉय
- ▶ Under Kerala High Court jurisdiction
केरल HC

Asked in Exams — guess the answer! | पहले स्वयं उत्तर सोचें

RRB NTPC Graduate CBT-1

Exam date: 23 Jun 2025 (Shift 2) • Topic: CPI inflation

As per the Monetary Policy Statement, 2025-26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for the financial year 2025-26 is projected at what percentage?

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 4.0%
- (d) 5.4%

SSC JE (Civil) 2025

Exam date: 4 Dec 2025 (Shift 1) • Topic: Electoral rolls / SIR

Which body is responsible for preparing the electoral rolls for the general elections in India?

- (a) The President of India
- (b) The Election Commission
- (c) The Ministry of Law
- (d) The Cabinet Secretariat

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

RRB NTPC Graduate CBT-1

Exam date: 23 Jun 2025 (Shift 2) • Topic: CPI inflation

As per the Monetary Policy Statement, 2025-26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for the financial year 2025-26 is projected at what percentage?

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 4.0%**
- (d) 5.4%

Answer: (c) 4.0% (April 2025 MPS), within the $4\% \pm 2\%$ target.
4.0%।

SSC JE (Civil) 2025

Exam date: 4 Dec 2025 (Shift 1) • Topic: Electoral rolls / SIR

Which body is responsible for preparing the electoral rolls for the general elections in India?

- (a) The President of India
- (b) The Election Commission**
- (c) The Ministry of Law
- (d) The Cabinet Secretariat

Answer: (b) ECI – Art 324; RP Act 1950.
चुनाव आयोग।

Asked in Exams — guess the answer! | पहले स्वयं उत्तर सोचें

RRB JE CBT-2 2025

Exam date: 2 Jul 2026 • Topic: Mahe-class ASW craft

Which new warship was commissioned by the Indian Navy in November, 2025, to strengthen anti-submarine and coastal defence capabilities?

- (a) INS Vikrant
- (b) INS Mahe
- (c) INS Ikshak
- (d) INS Arnala

DSSSB Jail Warder 2025

Exam date: 24 Nov 2025 • Topic: Full literacy (ULLAS)

Which state in India achieved a literacy rate of 99.30%, becoming fully literate as declared on International Literacy Day 2025?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Goa
- (d) Ladakh

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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- (d) INS Arnala

Answer: (b) INS Mahe – lead ship; INS Mangrol is the 3rd.
INS माहे।

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- (a) Himachal Pradesh**
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Goa
- (d) Ladakh

Answer: (a) Himachal Pradesh, 8 Sept 2025.
हिमाचल प्रदेश।

Test Yourself — Q1–4 | स्वयं को परखें

Q1

Consider: 1. CPI data is released by MoSPI. 2. RBI's inflation target is $4\% \pm 2\%$. 3. The target is set by the RBI alone. Correct?

1. CPI आँकड़े MoSPI जारी करता है। 2. RBI का लक्ष्य $4\% \pm 2\%$ है। 3. लक्ष्य केवल RBI तय करता है। सही?

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

Q2

Which index excludes services and is released by DPIIT?

कौन-सा सूचकांक सेवाओं को छोड़ता है और DPIIT जारी करता है?

- (a) CPI (b) WPI
(c) IIP (d) GDP deflator

Q3

The 2026 Economics Nobel was awarded for: 2026 अर्थशास्त्र नोबेल किसके लिए?

- (a) Innovation-led growth (b) Microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation
(c) Behavioural nudges (d) Poverty experiments

Q4

In Ram Manohar Lohia (1966), the SC compared law & order, public order and security of State to:

लोहिया मामले में तुलना की गई:

- (a) Three parallel lines (b) Three concentric circles
(c) A pyramid (d) A triangle

Test Yourself — Q5–8 | स्वयं को परखें

Q5 Under the RP Act 1950, which form is used by a NEW voter for inclusion in the roll?
नए मतदाता के लिए कौन-सा फ़ॉर्म?

- (a) Form 6
- (b) Form 7
- (c) Form 8
- (d) Form 17

Q6 Drug prices in India are fixed by NPPA under the:
NPPA किस आदेश के तहत दवा मूल्य तय करता है?

- (a) Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
- (b) Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013
- (c) Clinical Establishments Act, 2010
- (d) Patents Act, 1970

Q7 INS Mangrol, commissioned recently, is a:
INS मंगरोल क्या है?

- (a) Aircraft carrier
- (b) Nuclear submarine
- (c) Anti-submarine shallow water craft
- (d) Survey vessel

Q8 The Living Planet Index's "73% decline" means:
LPI की "73% गिरावट" का अर्थ:

- (a) 73% of species are extinct
- (b) 73% of all animals are lost
- (c) Average decline across monitored populations
- (d) 73% of populations are declining

Test Yourself — Q9–10 | स्वयं को परखें

Q9

ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram targets:

उल्लास कार्यक्रम किसके लिए है?

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Children aged 6–14 | (b) Adults aged 15 and above |
| (c) Only women | (d) College students |

Q10

Which became the latest to be declared 100% literate in Oct 2026?

अक्टूबर 2026 में पूर्ण साक्षर घोषित:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Andaman & Nicobar | (b) Lakshadweep |
| (c) Puducherry | (d) Sikkim |

Answer Key — Q1–5 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

1-b **1 and 2 only** — Centre sets target in consultation with RBI.
लक्ष्य केंद्र तय करता है।

2-b **WPI** — Wholesale Price Index.
WPI।

3-b **Microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation** — Hall & Woodford.
स्थिरीकरण के सूक्ष्म आधार।

4-b **Three concentric circles** — Concentric circles – law & order widest.
संकेंद्रित वृत्त।

5-a **Form 6** — Form 6 (7 = objection, 8 = shift/correction).
फॉर्म 6।

Answer Key — Q6–10 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

6-b **Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013** — DPCO 2013 (under Essential Commodities Act).
DPCO 2013।

7-c **Anti-submarine shallow water craft** — 3rd Mahe-class ASW-SWC, Cochin Shipyard.
पनडुब्बी-रोधी उथला जल पोत।

8-c **Average decline across monitored populations** — Average rate; ~50% populations are declining.
औसत गिरावट।

9-b **Adults aged 15 and above** — Adults 15+ who missed schooling.
15+ वयस्क।

10-b **Lakshadweep** — Lakshadweep, under ULLAS.
लक्षद्वीप।

Myth Buster of the Day — Economy | आज का मिथक



MYTH | मिथक

“Inflation is bad – zero inflation would be best for the economy.”

महँगाई हमेशा बुरी है – शून्य महँगाई सबसे अच्छी।



FACT | तथ्य

False. A little, steady inflation (around 2–4%) is healthy: it encourages spending and investment and gives central banks room to cut rates. Zero or falling prices (deflation) can make people delay purchases, hurt jobs and push an economy into slump – as Japan saw for decades. That is why RBI targets 4%, not 0%.

ग़लत। थोड़ी, स्थिर महँगाई (2–4%) स्वस्थ है: इससे खर्च और निवेश बढ़ता है और केंद्रीय बैंक दरें घटा सकते हैं। शून्य या गिरती कीमतें (अपस्फीति) लोगों को खरीद टालने पर मजबूर करती हैं, रोज़गार घटते हैं – जैसे जापान में दशकों तक हुआ। इसलिए RBI का लक्ष्य 4% है, 0% नहीं।



Too much or too little – balance is the key. न अधिक, न कम – संतुलन ही कुंजी है।



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