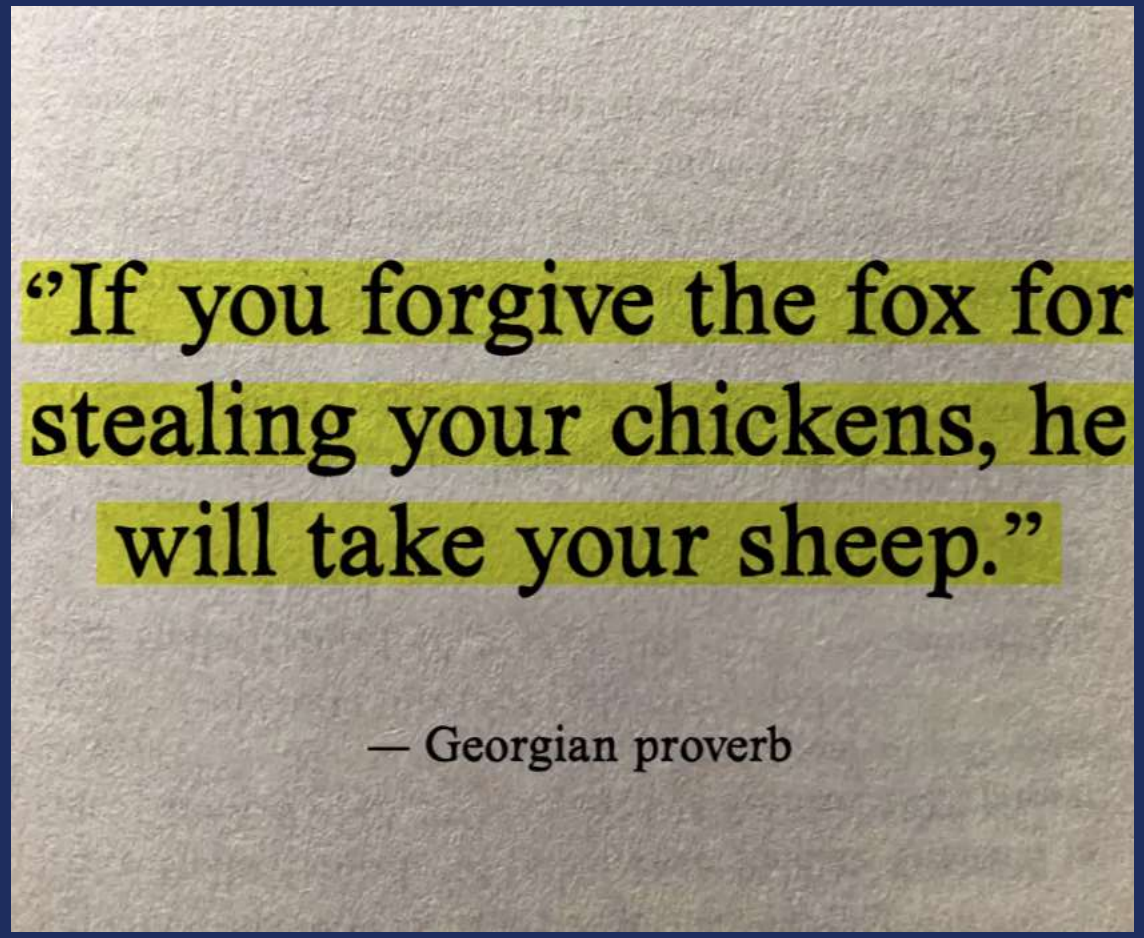
Read Analyse Understand Excel
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS
We cover The Hindu, The Indian Express, Financial Express, PIB, PRS & other important sources every day.
12+ Years of Continuity
TRUST • DISCIPLINE • RESULTS
Current Affairs Stronger Citizens Brighter India
THE HINDU
The Hindu
In-depth Coverage & Editorial Analysis
PIB
Government Updates & Official Releases
Stay Informed Build a Better Tomorrow
The Indian EXPRESS
The Indian Express
Balanced Perspectives & Ground Reports
PRS
PRS
Policy Research & In-depth Analysis
FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Financial Express
Markets, Economy, Policy & Growth
Other Important Newspapers & Sources
National & International
Same News Deeper Insights For A Brighter Tomorrow
POLITY
ECONOMY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
SOCIAL ISSUES
AND MORE...
The Hindu
The Indian Express
Financial Express
Great Questions Build Great Futures
Read
Analyse
Revise
Apply
Stay Ahead
By Bhunesh Sir
Daily analysis for serious exam preparation
CLASS24
INDIAN POLITY
ECONOMY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Knowledge for a Better India
Exam Focused
Fact-Based Analysis
Relevant for All Major Exams
UPSC | State PCS | SSC | Banking | Defence | CUET | Others
Build Informed Citizens

Quote of the Day | आज का विचार



BATCH B3
100%
MONEY BACK
STOCK
MARKET
COURSE
START DATE - 19 OCT
+2.45%
+5.76%
+1.32%
+4.18%
SCAN AND
FILL FORM NOW

BATCH B3

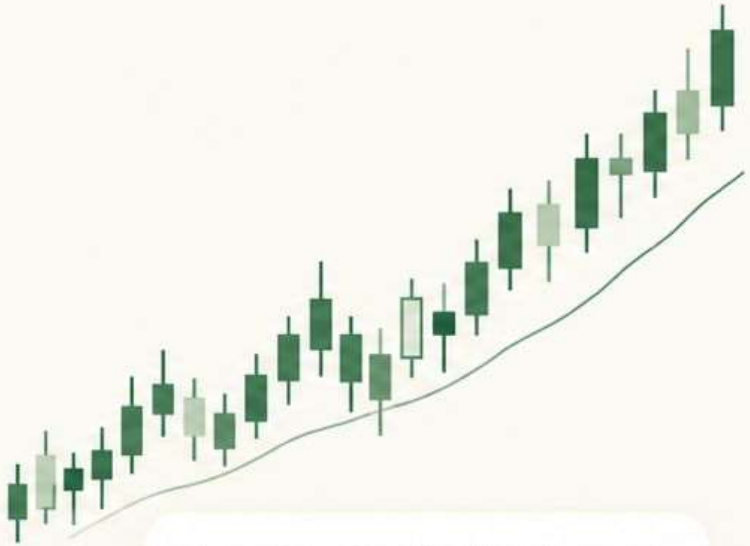
LUCK ✗ | SKILL ✓

STOCK MARKET IS A SKILL

STOCK MARKET COURSE

100% MONEY BACK

START DATE - 19 OCT



SCAN AND FILL FORM NOW

Today’s Current Affairs | 18 October 2026

आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu • Indian Express • Financial Express — 7 articles + exam PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

1. **Aditya-L1 & Proba-3 study solar eruptions**
   सौर विस्फोट

2. **Children’s fundamental right to Internet**
   इंटरनेट का अधिकार

3. **Trade-margin cap on 137 cancer drugs**
   कैंसर दवाओं पर सीमा

4. **Tree bridges for hoolock gibbons**
   गिबन के लिए वृक्ष पुल

5. **Militarisation in Sri Lanka’s Tamil areas**
   श्रीलंका के तमिल क्षेत्र

6. **The price you pay for getting well**
   अस्पताल बिल

7. **Realistic roadmap to Net Zero events**
   नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन

SUNDAY
October 26, 2025
INTERNATIONAL EDITION
24 Pages

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

www.thehindu.com
Vol. 4 • No. 43

NUTRITION NORMS

FSSAI proposes tighter rules for infant food

Draft amendment seeks to prohibit added sucrose and fructose in products for babies up to six months

NEWS • PAGE 6

AI's mathematical proofs unsettle researchers

SCIENCE • PAGE 10

Children have fundamental right to access Internet: SC

NEWS • PAGE 8

India and West Indies share the honours in T20I series

SPORT • PAGE 12

INSIDE

Law is shaped by voices that do not always align: CJI

BENGALURU
Chief Justice of India (C.J.I) Surya Kant on Saturday said the purpose of legal education "rests in the invigorating experience of encountering those who see the world differently than we do". Chief Justice Kant, also the Chancellor of the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, was speaking at its 26th convocation. • PAGE 2

'Census posts for private people an RSS job scheme'

NEW DELHI
A day after the Centre authorised the appointment of private schoolteachers and members of "institutions, societies and trusts" as Census enumerators, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday alleged the move appeared to be an employment scheme for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and BJP members. • PAGE 5

CRPF may bring back Naik ranks to boost morale

NEW DELHI
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the country's largest paramilitary force, is mulling reinstituting the military ranks of Lance Naik and Naik, 50 years after they were abolished, to address delayed promotions and accommodate Agniveers retiring from the Army, officials said on Saturday. • PAGE 5

'Flight firm faced red flags before Ajit Pawar crash'

NEW DELHI
An investigation into a 2023 private jet crash involving the same charter company whose aircraft later crashed, killing Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, has found systemic lapses in maintenance, pilot training and oversight by aviation regulator DGCA. The Learjet 45XR, operated by VSR Ventures, crashed while approaching Mumbai from Vidyanagarhi on September 14, 2023, in heavy rain and poor visibility. • PAGE 5

17 killed, 25 injured in Kolkata puja stampede

Chief Minister says a misleading announcement by organisers of the Durga Puja pandal, along with blowing of some whistles, triggered the stampede; organisers have been detained; the pandal is closed to the public, and an investigation is under way; there was not much police presence at the venue when the tragedy happened, say witnesses

Shrabona Chatterjee
Abir Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

At least 17 people, most of them women and children, died and 25 others were injured after a stampede broke out at a Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata on Saturday night. The incident took place around 7.45 p.m. at the exit gate of the pandal, a statement from the police said.

According to reports, a large crowd had gathered at the Chowbagan Sarbojonin Durgotsob in Kolkata's Girish Park area and tried to take shelter inside the pandal after a brief spell of rainfall. Firefighters, disaster management teams, and senior police officials rushed to the spot for rescue operations, according to a police statement.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said that the stampede broke out after a misleading announcement was made by the organisers of the Durga Puja pandal along with the blowing of some whistles. He said that the organisers of the Durga Puja pandal have been detained and an investigation will be held to ascertain the reasons behind the stampede. "This is a painful incident. 17 persons have died. We stand by the family of the dead", Mr. Adhikari said. "The injured have been admitted to a State-run health facility. Our priority is to give medical aid to the injured. Of the 25 injured, one is critical, and others are on life". The Durga Puja pandal has been closed to the public after the stampede.

Police trying to control the crowd outside the Durga Puja pandal after a stampede in Kolkata on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After the incident, local people gave a hand to rescue the injured. Eyewitnesses said that there was not much police presence at the pandal when the stampede broke out. The pandal is located in a narrow area, and access to it was blocked by stalls that have come up around it during the festival season.

Reacting to the incident, President Droupadi Murmu expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and extended her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. "The news of the deaths of people in a Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata is extremely sad. I express my deepest condolences to all the bereaved families. I pray for the swift recovery of those who have been injured," she said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the incident as "extremely distressing" and announced compensation of ₹2 lakh for the dead and ₹50,000 to the injured. He said the local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Kolkata on Saturday evening. He was scheduled to visit several Durga Puja pandals on Sunday, but said in a post that he has cancelled all his scheduled engagements in the wake of the stampede.

"Deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the stampede at the Chowbagan Puja Pandal. I pray to Maa Durga for the speedy recovery of all those injured and for strength and courage for their families during this difficult time," former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee shared on her social media. The Kolkata Police have started help lines at 8000455676 and 03322841181 for the incident.

Total cover: Security personnel keep vigil outside the Election Commission of India office in New Delhi. ILLUS. SUMAN SINHA

Dipke, Neha released as activists continue stir

Lavanya Rao
NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke, who was placed under preventive arrest by the Delhi Police, was released on bail by a Delhi court on Saturday after signing a peace bond, even as sporadic protests, led by women activists, continued for the eighth day against the Chief Election Commissioner and police action. AISA president Neha Hora, detained at Mandi House on Friday during a protest march, was also released after being kept in detention for around 12 hours.

Mr. Dipke was detained on Friday evening (October 24) ahead of the 'Lekha Do Tirunga' march. A Special Executive Magistrate ordered his release after he signed a ₹50,000 bond stating that he would not participate in any activity that would breach peace or create a law-and-order situation at Connaught Place.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke leaves Mandir Marg Police Station after securing bail, and, right, AISA president Neha Hora is released from R.K. Puram Police Station in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Around 150 people took part in two protest marches in the capital. Women representatives from the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), the National Federation of Indian Women, the All India Progressive Women's Association, the All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan, the All India Feminist Alliance, and other women's and students' groups took out a march along Ashoka Road to the Delhi Police headquarters against the alleged "sexual and gender-based violence" by Delhi Police personnel against protesters.

Following a brief stand-off and slogan-raising, a delegation of 10-20 representatives submitted a memorandum to the police chief demanding accountability and legal action against erring officers.

The memorandum flagged allegations of assault and sexual harassment of women, transgender people, and other gender-diverse protesters during demonstrations starting on October 2.

It cited videos, photographs, and personal accounts of alleged assaults, both in public and inside police detention boxes and detention centres.

"Instead of taking action against such officers, Delhi Police is prosecuting them. You cannot give signals that misbehaviour and sexual harassment can be committed," she added.

'Illegal detention'

Later in the day, around 30 protesters, including students and activists under the banner of Justice Mercha, staged a protest outside the Press Club of India. They were detained on their way to Jantar Mantar and taken away by the police before being released in the evening.

A CJP counsel questioned why the police repeatedly took Mr. Dipke before the Special Executive Magistrate instead of taking him to the magistrate with jurisdiction over the case.

Police said they released Mr. Dipke because his case involved a violation of preliminary orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, unlike that against other CJP members Saurav Das and Ashutosh Sanka, who face more serious charges, including trespass.

AISA activists said they searched police stations and found that Neha was being held at the R.K. Puram Police Station. They alleged that the student leader was denied access to medicines.

Abhik Chatterjee, a lawyer who was part of the legal team, said, "The criminal system doesn't allow you to use powers of preventive custody as casualty. Nor does it allow the imposition of Section 163 of BNSS 2023 this arbitrarily." *(With inputs from Ishita Mishra, Ashna Rahman)*

PERMANENCE OF AUTHOR • PAGE 8

Trump eases tariff threat over Russian oil; India gets relief

Suryasaradhi Ghosh
Industrial Mission
NEW DELHI

Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday waived key provisions of a new law that authorised punitive tariffs on countries purchasing Russian oil, offering relief to India.

The 'Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2025' (IRIA Act), ratified on September 30, authorised increasing tariffs on countries continuing to buy Russian oil by as much as 100% as Washington sought to tighten Moscow's oil revenues.

The waiver announced on Saturday assures Indian refiners of greater flexibility to continue to purchase oil from Moscow, with supplies from West Asia affected because of the resurgence of conflict.

Ahead of trade talks

The decision by Mr. Trump that comes just ahead of the October 29 deadline set by the Congress for a determination on sanctions is also expected to ease the discussion during U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Mumbai and Jamnagar from October 30 to 22, when he will meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Asked whether Mr. Jaishankar would discuss the sanctions or the diesel deal with Mr. Rubio, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday that energy would be on the agenda. India had "always advocated for stability in global energy markets", he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs had not responded to a request for comment on the Trump administration's decision at the time of the filing, though an official termed the development "helpful" for India.

The official said that after the IRIA Act was ratified in September, the Indian government had taken a tougher stance that it did in the past. It conveyed to Washington the "implications" of imposing sanctions on India's purchases of Russian oil.

Days after the legislation was signed into law, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had also said that India could not stop buying Russian oil, as doing so could raise global oil prices and alternative sources were limited amid the conflict in the Gulf.

Russian crude accounted for more than 35% of India's oil imports in July, though it fell to 44% in August, with more volumes coming in from the UAE and the U.S. Moscow's share declined further to about 25% in September, according to data from real-time analytics provider Kpler.

The availability of Russian oil — now without any threat of curbs — could ease the supply situation in the global market, which has been facing a crunch because of the resurgence in conflict in West Asia.

'SUPPRESSING PUTIN'
• PAGE 12
U.S.-RUSSIA DEAL
• PAGE 8

THE HINDU • 18 OCT 2026

Page 2 · States

पृष्ठ 2 · राज्य

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

1. **Aditya-L1 & Proba-3 study solar eruptions | सौर विस्फोट**

Aditya-L1 & Proba-3 study solar eruptions

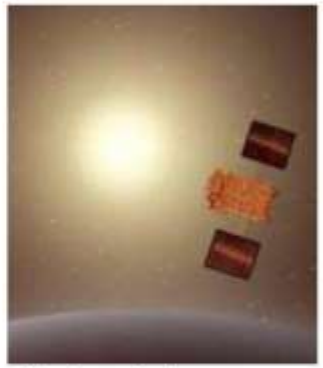
सौर विस्फोट

Bengaluru scientists study solar eruptions with data from Aditya-L1, Proba-3 satellites

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a first, scientists from Bengaluru and their international collaborators have analysed scientific observations of solar eruptions and studied the coronal mass ejections (CMEs) by using data derived from India's Aditya-L1 mission and Europe's Proba-3.

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) combined observations from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload onboard the Aditya-L1, and the Association of Spacecraft for Polarimetric and Imaging Investigation of the Corona of the Sun (ASPIICS) payload onboard the Proba-3 to study the mass, density, and energetics of these CMEs in the region very close to the Sun.



A file photo of Aditya-L1 entering the Halo Orbit. ISRO

The coronagraph onboard Aditya-L1 (VELC) and Proba-3 (ASPIICS) conducted joint observations of almost the same part of the solar corona in two different types of observations.

The ISRO stated that the joint observations provide deeper insights into the CME evolution than observations from a single spacecraft.

"The ASPIICS observations provide sharp images that enable accurate estimates of a CME's shape, dynamics, and mass. The VELC spectroscopic observations provide information on the CME gas at about two million degrees. This gives independent estimates of the CME's density and thermal energy. The two instruments share a common field of view in the low corona. The team found that only two CMEs, on September 14 and 16, were recorded simultaneously by the VELC and the ASPIICS from July to December 2025. In both cases, the VELC caught the eruptions at an early stage, demonstrating how the two instruments complement each other," the ISRO stated.

The Aditya-L1 was launched on September 2, 2023. The Proba-3, a mission of the European Space Agency (ESA), was launched from Sriharikota on December 5, 2024.

lection of news under the PRP Act).

ISSN 0971 - 751X

Class24

Bengaluru Scientists Study Solar Eruptions with Data from Aditya-L1, Proba-3

First joint study
पहला संयुक्त अध्ययन

भारतीय खगोल भौतिकी संस्थान (IIA) के वैज्ञानिकों ने पहली बार आदित्य-L1 और यूरोप के प्रोबा-3 के संयुक्त आँकड़ों से सूर्य के कोरोनल मास इजेक्शन (CME) का अध्ययन किया

1 The study | अध्ययन

- By **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, Bengaluru
  IIA
- Studied **mass, density, energy** of CMEs
  CME अध्ययन
- Region **very close to the Sun** (low corona)
  निचला कोरोना

2 Two instruments | दो उपकरण

Payload उपकरण	Gives जानकारी
VELC (Aditya-L1) **VELC**	Spectroscopy – gas at ~2 mn °C स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी
ASPIICS (Proba-3) **ASPIICS**	Sharp images – shape, mass चित्र

3 Key result | परिणाम

- Only **2 CMEs** caught by both (**14 & 16 Sept 2025**)
  2 CME
- VELC saw eruptions at an **early stage**
  प्रारंभिक चरण
- Two craft **complement** each other
  पूरक

Class24

Aditya-L1 & Proba-3 study solar eruptions — in depth (1/2)

सौर विस्फोट — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 The missions | मिशन

Mission मिशन	Launch प्रक्षेपण
Aditya-L1 (ISRO) आदित्य	2 Sept 2023
Proba-3 (ESA) प्रोबा-3	5 Dec 2024, Sriharikota
Proba-3 trick विशेषता	2 craft fly in formation → artificial eclipse

5 Key terms | शब्दावली

- **CME** – huge cloud of plasma blasted from the Sun
  CME
- **Coronagraph** – blocks Sun's disc to see the corona
  कोरोनाग्राफ़
- **Solar flare** – sudden burst of radiation
  सौर ज्वाला

6 Aditya-L1 payloads | पेलोड

- **7** payloads: **4** look at the Sun, **3** measure in-situ
  7 पेलोड
- **VELC** built by **IIA**; **SUIT** by **IUCAA**
  VELC, SUIT
- India's **first** space-based solar mission
  पहला सौर मिशन

Class24

Aditya-L1 & Proba-3 study solar eruptions — in depth (2/2)

सौर विस्फोट — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 When a CME hits Earth | CME का पृथ्वी पर असर

CME erupts
विस्फोट
Plasma cloud
प्लाज़्मा

→

Reaches Earth
पृथ्वी तक
~1–3 days
1–3 दिन

→

Geomagnetic storm
भू-चुंबकीय तूफ़ान
Hits magnetosphere
चुंबकमंडल

→

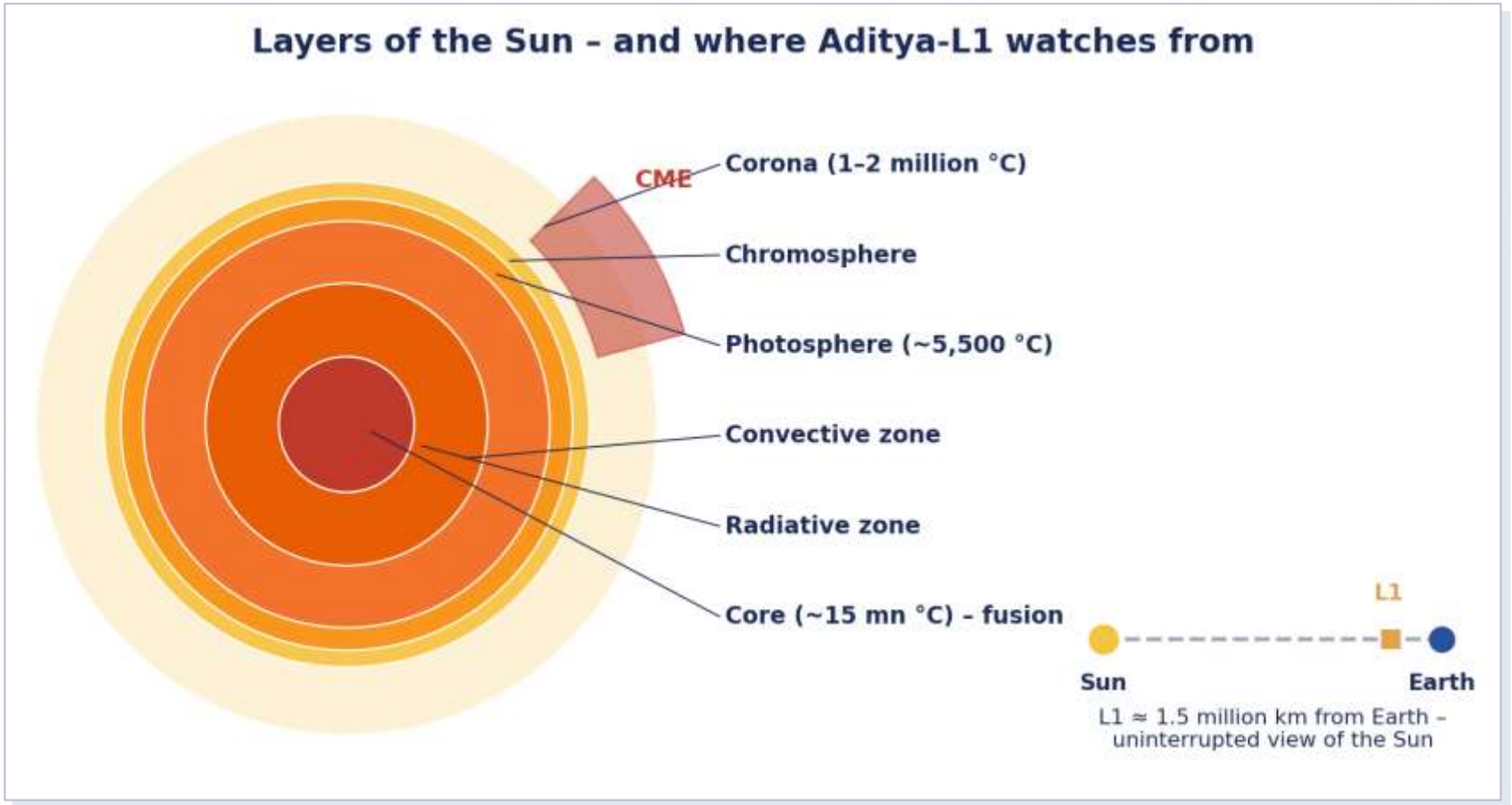
Satellites, GPS, grids
उपग्रह
Auroras too
ध्रुवीय ज्योति

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- The Sun follows an **~11-year** activity cycle
  11 वर्ष चक्र
- NASA's **Parker Solar Probe** has flown closest to the Sun
  पार्कर प्रोब

Aditya-L1 & Proba-3 study solar eruptions — Map & Diagram

सौर विस्फोट — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Core **~15 million °C** – nuclear fusion
  कोर
- Visible surface = **photosphere**
  प्रकाशमंडल
- **Corona** hotter (1–2 mn °C) – “coronal heating” puzzle
  कोरोना
- Aditya-L1 sits at **L1**, ~1.5 mn km away
  L1 बिंदु

THE HINDU • 18 OCT 2026

Page 5 · News

पृष्ठ 5 · समाचार

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

1. Children's right to Internet | इंटरनेट अधिकार
2. Trade-margin cap on cancer drugs | कैंसर दवाएँ

Children's fundamental right to Internet

इंटरनेट का अधिकार

Children have fundamental right to access Internet: SC

Court says blanket bans are unproven measures of proven disproportionality; favours parental oversight, age-appropriate safeguards, dedicated 'child mode' and better efforts from stakeholders

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that children, like any other individual, have a fundamental right to access and use the Internet.

"We have no hesitation in saying that the right to access and use the Internet is a fundamental right of every individual under Article 21 read with Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution. Our children, irrespective of their age, enjoy the same rights, and to deny the same altogether would be absurd," a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Vinod K. Chandran held in an order.

The court said denying children this right would be akin to saying that individuals below a certain age did not have a conscience worth protecting or freedom of speech worth expressing.

The safety of children and their freedom were not at odds with each other, it said. "Our children are entitled to both," the Bench observed.

Issuing a slew of directions for protective mechanisms, restrictions drawn from other jurisdictions and grievance outlets, the court emphasised that intelligent restraints, rather than blanket bans, were the need of the day.

The court said keeping children away from social media would not reduce incidents of online abuse reported in the media. FILE PHOTO

The court took a practical view that children did not cease to use the Internet merely because the law prohibited them from doing so. "They continue to use the same, albeit without the knowledge of their parents or the authorities. They move to other platforms and websites that are unregulated and even more unsafe," it said.

An atmosphere of hostility and stringent restrictions could stop children, enticed or threatened online, from reporting such incidents to parents, guardians and trusted adults for fear of reprisal for using the Internet. "This would significantly undermine the safety of our children, who are already apprehensive about confiding such incidents, even without such restrictions, and defeat the object of the POCSO Act," the court said.

Even otherwise, it said keeping children away from social media platforms would, by no stretch of imagination, reduce incidents of online abuse reported in the media.

"All that we are trying to say is that any blanket restriction on access to the Internet by children is nothing more than unproven measures of proven disproportionality. No jurisdiction has so far been able to demonstrate that children are any safer on account of such measures. Its efficacy is at best contested, and without question, not a substitute for the initiative and efforts required from all the stakeholders, be it the intermediaries, the law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology or the courts," the Bench observed.

The Bench, however, said that their observations were not against age-based restrictions on online access. "We acknowledge that some form of safeguards are necessary for the safety of our children online and the moderation of the content accessible at their fingertips," it said.

The court suggested a system that placed greater emphasis on parental consent, guidance and supervision of children's access to social media platforms, along with a dedicated "child mode" for such accounts, with measures proportionate to the objective of ensuring their safety.

Class24

Children Have Fundamental Right to Access Internet: SC

Art 21 + 19(1)(a)
अनु. 21

सुप्रीम कोर्ट: बच्चों को भी अनुच्छेद 21 व 19(1)(a) के तहत इंटरनेट तक पहुँच का मौलिक अधिकार – पूर्ण प्रतिबंध "अप्रमाणित और अनुपातहीन"; अभिभावक निगरानी व "चाइल्ड मोड" सुझाया

1 The ruling | फ़ैसला

- Internet access = **fundamental right** of every person
  मौलिक अधिकार
- Basis: **Art 21** read with **Art 19(1)(a)**
  अनु. 21, 19(1)(a)
- Bench: **J. J.B. Pardiwala & J. K.V. Chandran**
  पीठ

2 Court's reasoning | तर्क

- "Our children are entitled to **both**" – safety & freedom
  दोनों
- Bans push kids to **unsafe platforms**
  असुरक्षित
- Fear stops children **reporting abuse**
  रिपोर्ट नहीं

3 What it favours | सुझाव

- **Parental consent** & supervision
  अभिभावक सहमति
- A dedicated **"child mode"**
  चाइल्ड मोड
- **Age-based** limits are fine; **blanket bans** are not
  पूर्ण प्रतिबंध नहीं

Class24

Children's fundamental right to Internet — in depth (1/2)

इंटरनेट का अधिकार — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Articles involved अनुच्छेद

Article अनु.	Right अधिकार
19(1)(a)	Speech & expression अभिव्यक्ति
19(2)	Reasonable restrictions युक्तियुक्त प्रतिबंध
21	Life & personal liberty जीवन
21A	Education (6–14 yrs) शिक्षा

5 Proportionality test आनुपातिकता

- **Legitimate aim** वैध उद्देश्य
- **Suitable & necessary** means उपयुक्त साधन
- **Least restrictive** option chosen न्यूनतम प्रतिबंध

6 Stakeholders named हितधारक

- Platforms (**intermediaries**) मध्यस्थ
- **MeitY**, law enforcement **MeitY**
- **Parents**, schools, courts अभिभावक

Class24

Children's fundamental right to Internet — in depth (2/2)

इंटरनेट का अधिकार — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Child online-safety framework | बाल ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा

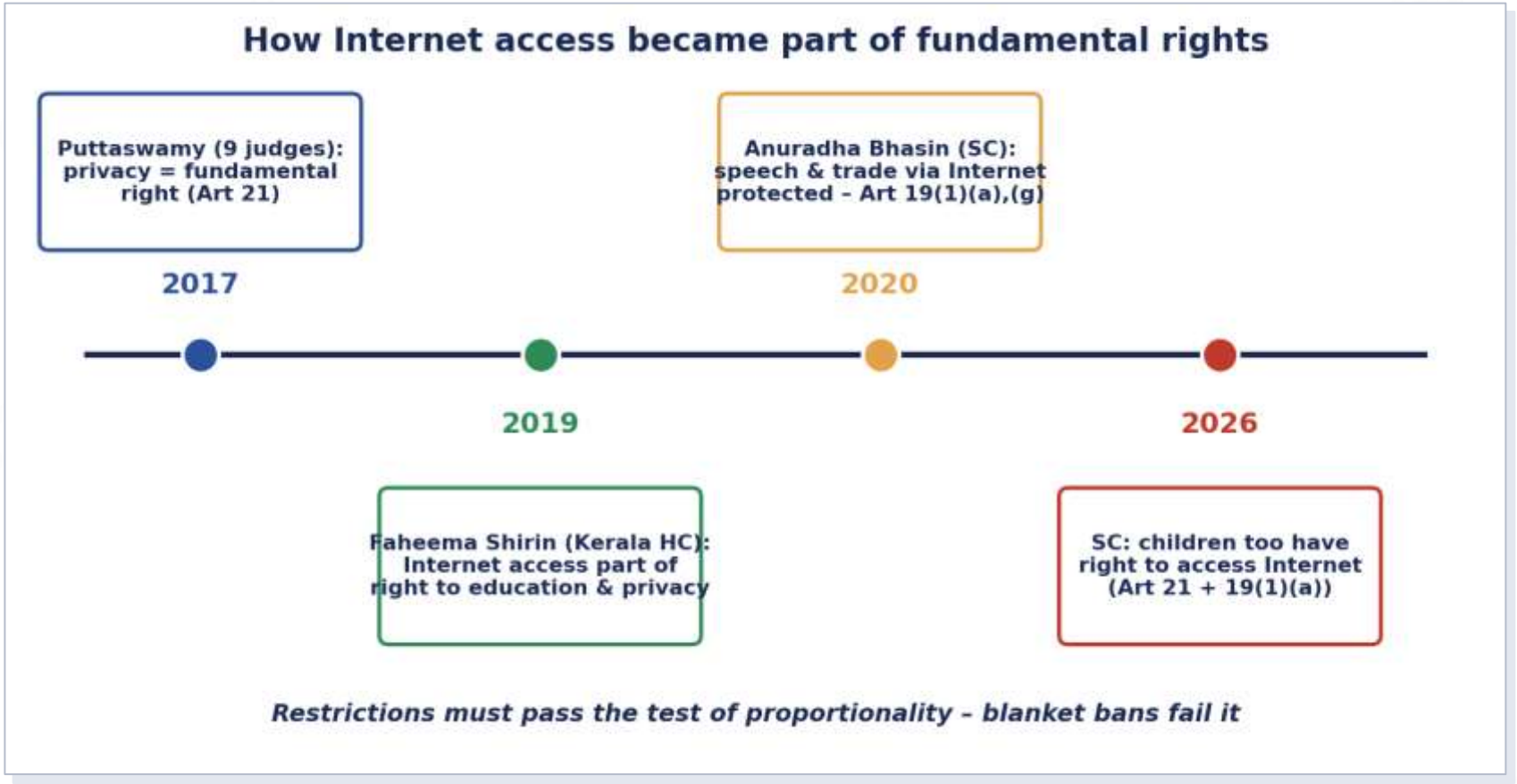
DPDP Act 2023 DPDP	IT Rules 2021 IT नियम	Report abuse शिकायत	POCSO 2012 पॉक्सो
Parental consent <18 अभिभावक सहमति	Platform duties प्लेटफ़ॉर्म	1930 / cybercrime.gov.in 1930	Punish offenders दंड

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **Safer Internet Day** – second Tuesday of February
  सुरक्षित इंटरनेट दिवस
- India has the world's **2nd-largest** Internet user base
  दूसरा सबसे बड़ा

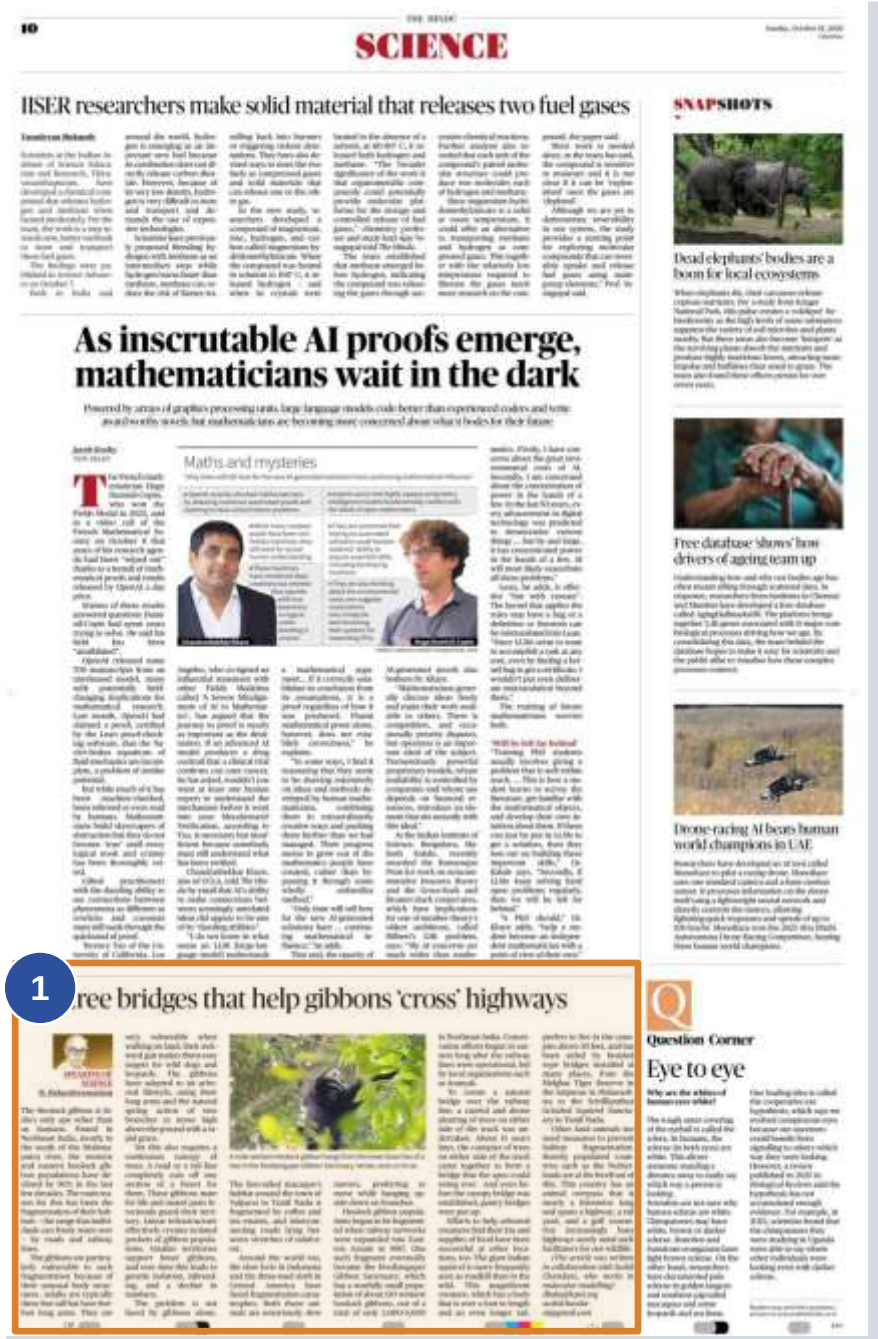
Children's fundamental right to Internet — Map & Diagram

इंटरनेट का अधिकार — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Puttaswamy (2017)** – privacy under Art 21
  पुट्टस्वामी
- **Faheema Shirin (2019)** – Kerala HC
  फ़हीमा शिरीन
- **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** – Art 19 via Internet
  अनुराधा भसीन
- **2026**: right extends to **children**
  बच्चे भी



THE HINDU • 18 OCT 2026

Page 10 · Science

पृष्ठ 10 · विज्ञान

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

1 **Tree bridges for gibbons | गिबन के लिए वृक्ष पुल**

Tree bridges for hoolock gibbons

गिबन के लिए वृक्ष पुल

The tree bridges that help gibbons 'cross' highways

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The Hoolock gibbon is India's only ape other than us humans. Found in Northeast India, mostly to the south of the Brahmaputra river, the western and eastern hoolock gibbon populations have declined by 90% in the last few decades. The main reason for this has been the fragmentation of their habitats – the range that individuals can freely roam over – by roads and railway lines.

The gibbons are particularly vulnerable to such fragmentation because of their unusual body structures. Adults are typically three feet tall but have five-foot long arms. They are very vulnerable when walking on land: their awkward gait makes them easy targets for wild dogs and leopards. The gibbons have adapted to an arboreal lifestyle, using their long arms and the natural spring action of tree branches to move high above the ground with a rapid grace.

Yet this also requires a continuous canopy of trees. A road or a rail line completely cuts off one section of a forest for them. These gibbons mate for life and mated pairs ferociously guard their territory. Linear infrastructure effectively creates isolated pockets of gibbon populations. Smaller territories support fewer gibbons, and over time this leads to genetic isolation, inbreeding, and a decline in numbers.

The problem is not faced by gibbons alone.

A male western Hoolock gibbon ha
tree in the Hoollangapar Gibbon Sa

The lion-tailed macaque's habitat around the town of Valparai in Tamil Nadu is fragmented by coffee and tea estates, and interconnecting roads lying between stretches of rainforest.

Around the world too, the slow loris in Indonesia and the three-toed sloth in Central America have faced fragmentation catastrophes. Both these animals are notoriously slow

angs from the lower branches of a
anctuary. KRUNAL DESAI (CC BY-SA)

movers, preferring to move while hanging upside down on branches.

Hoolock gibbon populations began to be fragmented when railway networks were expanded into Eastern Assam in 1887. One such fragment eventually became the Hoollangapar Gibbon Sanctuary, which has a woefully small population of about 130 western hoolock gibbons, out of a total of only 3,000-5,000 in Northeast India. Conservation efforts began in earnest long after the railway lines were operational, led by local organisations such as Aranyak.

To create a natural bridge over the railway line, a careful and dense planting of trees on either side of the track was undertaken. About 15 years later, the canopies of trees on either side of the track came together to form a bridge that the apes could swing over. And even before the canopy bridge was established, gantry bridges were put up.

Efforts to help arboreal creatures find their kin and supplies of food have been successful at other locations, too. The giant Indian squirrel is more frequently seen as roadkill than in the wild. This magnificent creature, which has a body that is over a foot in length and an even longer tail, prefers to live in the canopies above 30 feet, and has been aided by braided rope bridges installed at many places, from the Melghat Tiger Reserve in the Satpuras in Maharashtra to the Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.

Other land animals too need measures to prevent habitat fragmentation. Heavily populated countries such as the Netherlands are at the forefront of this. This country has an animal overpass that is nearly a kilometre long and spans a highway, a rail yard, and a golf course. Our increasingly busy highways surely need such facilitators for our wildlife.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)

dbala@lvpei.org
sushilchandani@gmail.com

Class24

The Tree Bridges That Help Gibbons 'Cross' Highways

भारत का एकमात्र वानर (एप) – हूलॉक गिबन – सड़कों व रेल लाइनों से आवास विखंडन के कारण 90% घटा; पेड़ों के "कैनोपी पुल" और रस्सी पुल समाधान

India's only ape
एकमात्र वानर

1 The hoolock gibbon हूलॉक गिबन

- India's **only ape** (apart from humans)
  एकमात्र एप
- Found in **Northeast**, mostly south of **Brahmaputra**
  पूर्वोत्तर
- Populations down **~90%** in recent decades
  90% गिरावट

2 Built for trees | वृक्षवासी

- **3 ft** tall, **5 ft** arms
  लंबी भुजाएँ
- Swings branch to branch (**brachiation**)
  ब्रैकिएशन
- Clumsy on land → prey for **dogs, leopards**
  ज़मीन पर ख़तरा

3 The threat | ख़तरा

- **Roads & railways** break the canopy
  सड़क व रेल
- Isolated groups → **inbreeding**
  अंतःप्रजनन
- Mate for life; **territorial**
  क्षेत्रीय

Class24

Tree bridges for hoolock gibbons — in depth (1/2)

गिबन के लिए वृक्ष पुल — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Hollongapar story होल्लोंगापार

Year / fact वर्ष	Detail विवरण
1887	Railway into Eastern Assam रेल लाइन
Today आज	~130 western hoolocks 130
NE total कुल	Only 3,000–5,000 3–5 हज़ार
Fix समाधान	Trees planted → canopy met in ~15 yrs 15 वर्ष

5 Other canopy animals अन्य जीव

- **Giant Indian squirrel** – often roadkill
  विशाल गिलहरी
- **Lion-tailed macaque** – Valparai, TN
  सिंह-पूँछ मकाक
- Abroad: **slow loris**, three-toed **sloth**
  स्लो लोरिस

6 Conservation status संरक्षण

- Western hoolock: **Endangered** (IUCN)
  संकटग्रस्त
- Listed in **Schedule I**, Wild Life (Protection) Act
  अनुसूची I
- NGO **Aranyak** led local efforts
  आरण्यक

Tree bridges for hoolock gibbons — in depth (2/2)

गिबन के लिए वृक्ष पुल — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Ways to reconnect habitats | आवास जोड़ने के उपाय

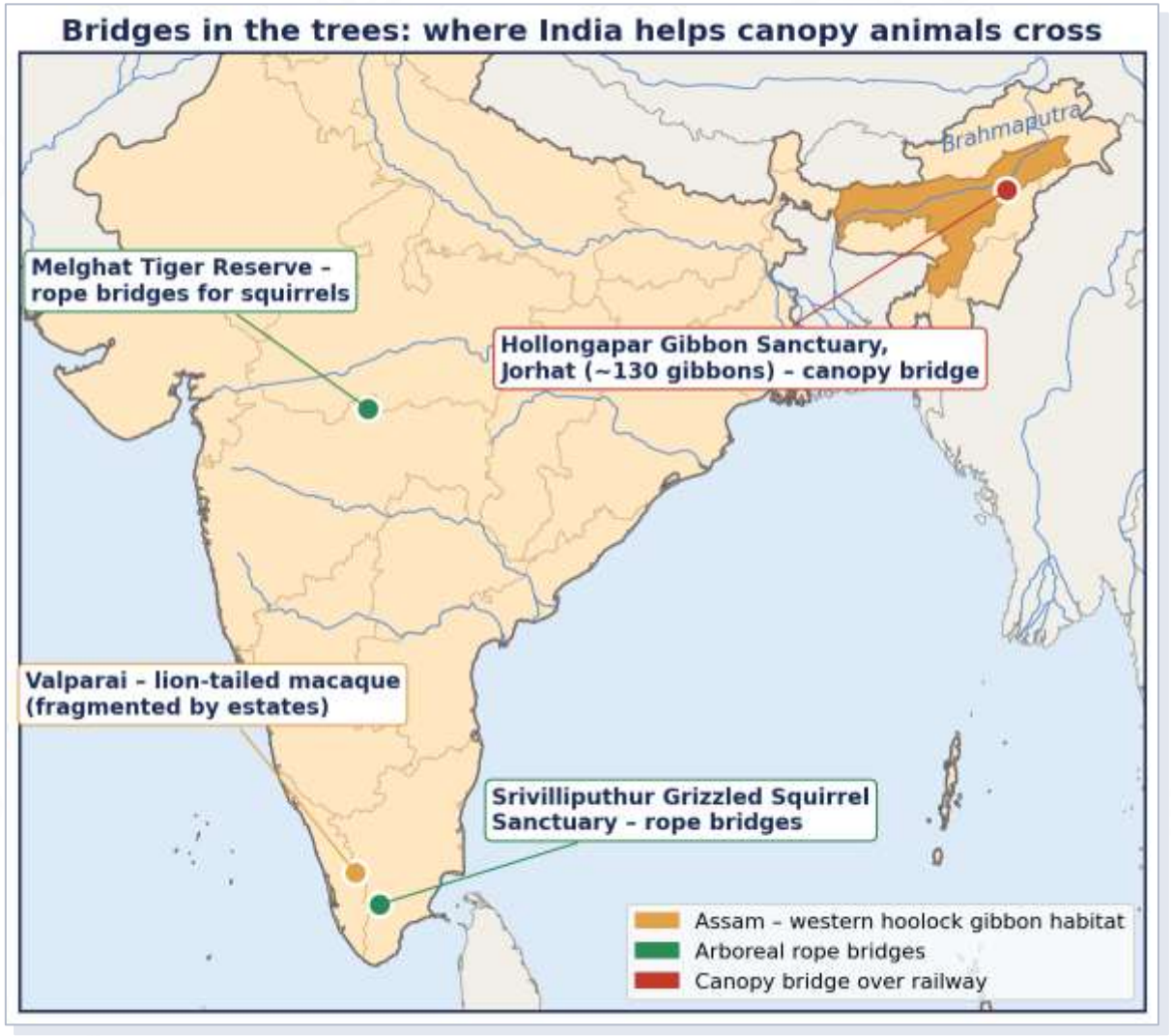
Canopy bridge कैनोपी पुल	Rope bridge रस्सी पुल	Overpass ओवरपास	Underpass अंडरपास
Plant trees पेड़ लगाएँ	Squirrels गिलहरी	Netherlands ~1 km नीदरलैंड	NH-44, Pench पेंच

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- Gibbons are **apes**, not monkeys – they have **no tail**
  पूँछ नहीं
- Hollongapar was renamed in **1997**; area **~21 sq km**
  1997

Tree bridges for hoolock gibbons — Map & Diagram

गिबन के लिए वृक्ष पुल — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Hollongapar**, Jorhat (Assam) – ~130 gibbons
  होल्लोंगापार
- Canopy bridge over a **railway line**
  रेलवे
- Rope bridges: **Melghat, Srivilliputhur**
  रस्सी पुल
- **Valparai** – lion-tailed macaque habitat broken
  वालपराई

THE HINDU • 18 OCT 2026

Page 12 · World

पृष्ठ 12 · विश्व

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

1 **Militarisation in Sri Lanka's Tamil areas | श्रीलंका**

FINANCIAL EXPRESS • 18 OCT 2026

Page 9 · Well Being

पृष्ठ 9 · स्वास्थ्य

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

1 **The price you pay for getting well | अस्पताल बिल**

The price you pay for getting well

अस्पताल बिल

As the govt moves to rein in medical billing inconsistencies, know how consumers suffer from markups on medicines and consumables

SREYA DEB

A RECENT SOCIAL media post by Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has brought renewed attention to a longstanding concern in India – inflated medical bills and the need for greater accountability in healthcare pricing. As per an audit conducted by the department, certain consumables were found to be upcharged by even 29 times their original MRP in patients' bills.

Incidentally, the medical bill problem is not confined to the price of a single medicine or consultation. It is the cumulative cost of treatment, such as registration charges, doctors' fees, room rent, nursing charges, diagnostic tests, medicines, consumables, surgical expenses and additional fees for specialised services, that can often make healthcare unaffordable. Even when each component appears relatively modest, the final bill can become substantial.

However, some relief seems to be in sight as the issue has now come under the Supreme Court's scrutiny. The Centre has also demanded transparency from all the states, asking them to clarify pricing obligations, strengthen monitoring and establish accessible complaint mechanisms, so as to help patients understand exactly what they are paying for and how much. State chief secretaries have been directed to ensure that hospitals display comprehensive, updated rate lists and provide written estimates wherever prac-

The price you pay for GETTING WELL

EASY-TO-MISS LOOPHOLES

WHAT CAN A

Karnataka FDA in an investigation into hospital billings. Among the other recent instances highlighting this problem were from Kerala and Punjab. In Kerala, a patient reportedly took the matter to the state consumer commission over allegedly inflated medical bills and a disputed signature. The Kerala consumer court found the allegations valid, and later ordered the hospital in question to pay about ₹1.14 lakh to the patient.

In Punjab, a patient had to be compensated after their hospital issued three different bills for the same admission - in this patient's case, the initial estimate for their treatment was vastly different from the final payable amount, almost double – the estimate was made for up to ₹4.10 lakh, whereas the bill had reflected around ₹8.47 lakh to be paid.

The price you pay for getting well

अस्पताल बिल

provide written estimates wherever practical, with clear explanations of additional charges and circumstances in which costs may change. Regulating bodies have also been mandated to examine whether existing medicine-price controls adequately cover commonly used treatments and whether stronger safeguards are justified under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

Major concerns

One major concern ailing Indian healthcare is the lack of transparency even before treatment begins. Patients and their families may not receive a comprehensive estimate covering the expected expenses of a procedure or hospital stay. In emergencies, they have little time to compare providers or negotiate prices. Insurance coverage depends on eligibility, policy conditions, exclusions, hospital networks and the nature of treatment. Outpatient consultations, long-term medicines and some diagnostic expenses may still leave patients paying substantial amounts themselves.

The country does not currently have a consolidated database or system to keep an annual record of billing debts and complaints on medical prices.

India already has a framework for regulating medicine prices. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), operating under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), implements price-control provisions under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. Essential medicines included in the 'National List of Essential Medicines' are subject to ceiling prices under the applicable rules, while prices of non-scheduled formulations are subject to limits on annual increases. However, these prices do not tend to be final. At the billing stage in hospitals, hidden charges, excessive services, and upcharge consumables appear in the paperwork, raising the payable amounts significantly for the patients. Some surveys say that hospital bills can be inflated by 15-40% with such hidden charges.

The NPPA is maintaining that cases under legal process currently cannot be discussed with the media, as per Manisha Khuntia, deputy director with NPPA, overseeing enforcement. Statements on the matter are being deferred to the DoP under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, as of now. "I cannot speak on policy enforcement while cases are still ongoing," she told *FE*.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta has admitted before the Supreme Court that there are loopholes in pricing management, and that measures will be taken to correct the same. The Centre's directive asking states to ensure that hospitals display their rates must translate into consistent enforcement, accessible price lists and clear explanations of what individual charges include. The SC's intervention and the Centre's directions have now brought the issue into sharper focus.

Glaring gaps

For a patient, the price of a simple IV infusion set can also arrive inflated. It's a consumable a patient might not be aware enough to even check for. In Maharashtra, for instance, some patients were reportedly paying ₹325 for an IV infusion set that was bought at ₹11.05 when procured. That's over 29 times the procurement price that the patient is being charged. The state FDA noted this discrepancy in their audit in September this year. Their report showed very large gaps between procurement prices and prices charged and printed for certain hospital consumables. Similarly, a patient from Karnataka reported being charged ₹4,528 for an antibiotic that was actually priced at ₹80. Further, another patient was charged ₹7,110 for an injection that was originally priced at ₹160. These complaints and gaps were unearthed by the

- Hospital admission may involve registration charges, doctors' fees, room rent, nursing charges, diagnostic tests, medicines, consumables, etc; each component may appear relatively modest but final bill can become substantial
- Patients, families may not receive comprehensive estimate covering expected expenses of a procedure or hospital stay
- In emergencies, patients & families have little time to compare providers or negotiate prices. Once treatment has started, switching hospitals may be medically difficult, financially costly or practically impossible
- Insurance coverage depends on eligibility, policy conditions, exclusions, hospital networks and nature of treatment

WHAT CAN A PATIENT ASK FOR?

- Complete itemised bill
- Original estimates for treatments & procedures, with breakup of OT and staff charges
- Full list of consumables and medicines with original prices
- Room requirements, bed charges
- Dates, reports & charges of all tests and scans done while admitted

around ₹8.47 lakh to be paid.

Grievance redressal

The Union Health Ministry's Charter of Patients' Rights says patients and caregivers have a right to information about hospital rates and a right to receive an itemised, detailed bill at the time of payment. It also says hospitals should display key rates prominently and make their detailed schedule of rates available to patients. A disputed bill can become a civil or consumer dispute, and the hospital may pursue recovery of genuinely outstanding dues. For patients covered by health insurance, the insurer or third-party administrator should also be brought into the dispute.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) advises policyholders to first raise grievances with their insurer; and then with the IRDAI's grievance mechanism. Other consumer forums, state health ministries, and the NPPA also have grievance cells that can be approached in these cases.

Meanwhile, the IRDAI plans to issue a fresh consultation paper to address healthcare billing practices and improve health insurance claims settlement. "On the claims side, we need to understand treatment costs, utilisation, fraud and provider practices. We aim to come out with another consultation paper on that," said Ajay Seth, chairman, IRDAI, while delivering a special address at the *FE* Modern BFSI Summit 2026 in Mumbai recently.

Class24

The Price You Pay for Getting Well

अस्पताल बिलों में दवाओं व उपभोग्य वस्तुओं पर भारी मुनाफ़ाख़ोरी – कुछ वस्तुएँ MRP से 29 गुना तक महँगी; सुप्रीम कोर्ट की निगरानी के बाद केंद्र ने राज्यों से पारदर्शिता माँगी

Up to 29× markups
29 गुना

1 The problem | समस्या

- Consumables billed up to **29×** original price
  29 गुना
- IV set: **₹325** charged vs **₹11.05** cost
  IV सेट
- Hidden charges inflate bills by **15–40%**
  15–40%

2 Real cases | मामले

₹4,528
Antibiotic priced ₹80
एंटीबायोटिक

₹7,110
Injection priced ₹160
इंजेक्शन

₹1.14 lakh
Kerala refund order
केरल

₹4.1→8.47 lakh
Punjab: estimate vs bill
पंजाब

3 Govt action | सरकारी क़दम

- Issue under **Supreme Court** scrutiny
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट
- States told to display **rate lists**
  दर सूची
- **IRDAI** plans paper on billing practices
  IRDAI

Class24

The price you pay for getting well — in depth (1/2)

अस्पताल बिल — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Why bills balloon
बिल क्यों बढ़ता

- No **full estimate** before treatment
  अनुमान नहीं
- **Emergencies** – no time to compare
  आपातकाल
- Insurance **exclusions** & conditions
  बीमा शर्तें

5 Regulators | नियामक

Body संस्था	Role भूमिका
NPPA **NPPA**	Drug prices (DPCO 2013) दवा मूल्य
IRDAI **IRDAI**	Health insurance बीमा
State FDA **राज्य FDA**	Audits, enforcement जाँच
Clinical Establishments Act 2010 **2010**	Rate display दर प्रदर्शन

6 Bigger picture
बड़ी तस्वीर

- Out-of-pocket spend still a big share of health costs
  जेब ख़र्च
- **PM-JAY**: ₹5 lakh cover per family
  PM-JAY
- No national database of **billing complaints**
  डेटाबेस नहीं

Class24

The price you pay for getting well — in depth (2/2)

अस्पताल बिल — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a hospital bill builds up | बिल कैसे बनता है

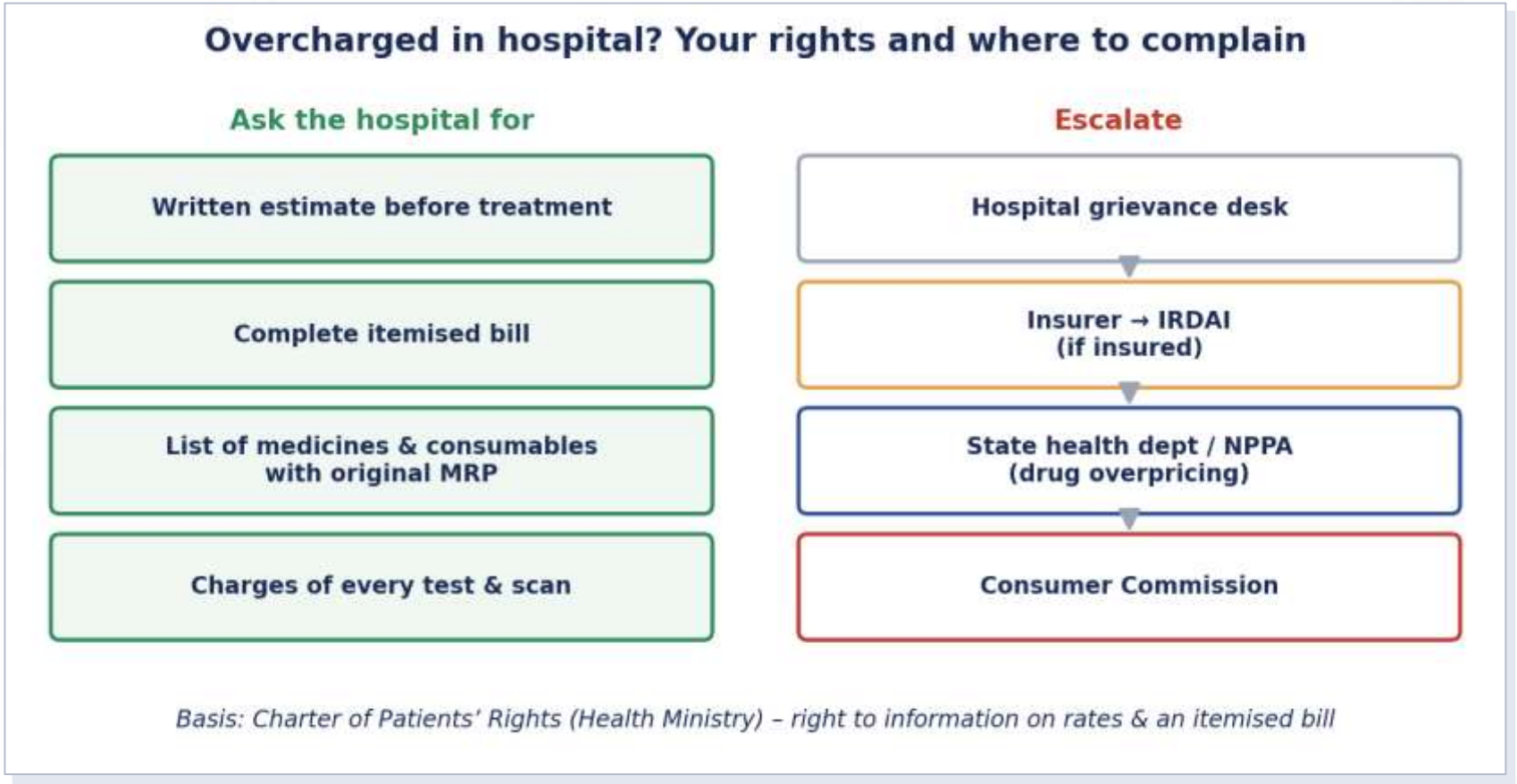
Admission भर्ती	Doctor & nursing डॉक्टर	Tests & drugs जाँच व दवा	Final bill अंतिम बिल
Registration, room कमरा	Daily charges दैनिक शुल्क	Consumables उपभोग्य	Often 2× estimate दोगुना

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- Health is a **State subject** (List II, Entry 6) राज्य सूची
- Charter of Patients' Rights was drafted by **NHRC** (2018) **NHRC**

The price you pay for getting well — Map & Diagram

अस्पताल बिल — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Ask for a **written estimate** first
  लिखित अनुमान
- Demand an **itemised bill**
  विस्तृत बिल
- Escalate: hospital → **IRDAI** → **NPPA** → commission
  शिकायत
- Basis: **Charter of Patients' Rights**
  रोगी अधिकार चार्टर

FINANCIAL EXPRESS • 18 OCT 2026

Page 11 · Mind & Games

पृष्ठ 11 · विचार

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

1 **Roadmap to Net Zero events | नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन**

Realistic roadmap to Net Zero events

नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन

What's a realistic roadmap TO NET ZERO EVENTS?

Here's what event organisers can actually do, beyond the spin: measure the footprint, reduce emissions where you can, deal responsibly with what remains, and report what you have actually done

AASHI AGARWAL

emissions such as fuel burned in genera-

reported a 35% reduction in its carbon

What does the roadmap look like at a smaller scale?

tance travel. This is where residual emis-

persuade people that systems need to change. Their own operations should therefore be treated as part of the story, not as an awkward footnote. The wider pattern is well documented. Major international gatherings can generate substantial emissions through air travel, accommodation, freight and temporary infrastructure. This doesn't mean climate convenings should not happen. Convening people can itself have enormous value. It does mean that organisers should be asking whether every journey is necessary, whether the event location is accessible by lower-carbon transport, whether virtual participation can replace some travel and whether the emissions that remain are being transparently reported. India's events industry spans an enormous range, from international concerts and sporting events to corporate conferences and community gatherings. This makes it difficult to prescribe one universal sustainability checklist. It also makes the case for a roadmap. The intervention should follow the footprint. This sounds obvious, but it is remarkably easy for events to do the reverse: choose a highly visible sustainability intervention first and then try to make the carbon accounting fit around it. A pedal-powered installation can be fun and memorable. Solar-powered charging stations can be useful. Reusable cups can reduce waste. But none of these should be presented as evidence that an event is net zero unless the underlying footprint has actually been measured and reduced accordingly.

On the ground

Some of the most useful sustainability interventions are not particularly glamorous. Consider a marathon. Tens of

Realistic roadmap to Net Zero events

नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन

NET ZERO HAS become one of those terms that gets attached to an event the way "artisanal" gets attached to a snack: often, and with very little consistency about what it actually requires. A conference with a tree-planting partnership calls itself net zero. A festival that buys offsets for its stage power calls itself net zero. A concert that has genuinely redesigned its energy, waste and mobility systems also calls itself net zero. But they're clearly not the same thing. So what would a credible pathway to net zero actually look like for an event? And is it really something only organisers with multimillion-dollar budgets can attempt? The answer is no. The principles are surprisingly straightforward: measure the footprint, reduce emissions where you can, deal responsibly with what remains, and report what you have actually done. The tools and budgets will vary enormously. But transparency, and honesty, should not.

What does net zero require?

There is an important distinction between measuring an event's carbon footprint and claiming that it is net zero. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol provides the accounting framework used by many organisations to measure emissions. For

tors or event-owned vehicles. Scope 2 covers purchased electricity. Scope 3 includes other indirect emissions, which for events can include attendee and artist travel, accommodation, catering, freight, production and supply chains.

The exact boundary will depend on the methodology used. A credible net-zero approach therefore starts with measuring the emissions that matter, setting reduction targets and reducing them as far as reasonably possible before addressing residual emissions.

The Net Zero Carbon Events initiative, launched in 2021, committed the events industry to a pathway aligned with the Paris Agreement, with an industry roadmap released in 2022. Its work identifies travel and accommodation, venue energy, food and food waste, logistics, smart production and waste management as key areas for decarbonisation. These have to be accompanied by measurement, reporting and carbon offsetting. Buying carbon credits is not illegitimate, but credits should not become a substitute for reducing emissions that an organiser could reasonably have avoided.

Does this only work at F1 and Olympics budgets?

It is easiest to see a structured roadmap at that scale because the report-

footprint against its 2018 baseline in its 2026 sustainability update. It attributes reductions to measures including renewable energy at facilities, changes to travel and freight and more efficient logistics. The sport is targeting net zero by 2030. What works for it is that it has a baseline, a target, a documented reduction pathway and publicly reported progress.

The Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games has similarly emphasised the use of existing infrastructure, minimising temporary power systems and managing energy and other resources as part of its sustainability strategy.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is a useful counterexample. FIFA has corporate commitments to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2040. Yet independent estimates of the tournament's footprint vary substantially. Carbon accounting platform Greenly estimated about 7.8 million tonnes of CO_2e, with spectator travel accounting for nearly 88% of the total. A stadium can be highly energy efficient and still host an extremely carbon-intensive event if tens of thousands of people have to fly to get there.

Wimbledon offers another useful example. Its sustainability reporting includes staff, player and official flights as part of its Scope 3 emissions and reports renewable electricity procure-

at a smaller scale?

The same logic applies whether you are running a 60,000-person festival or a 300-person conference. The tools change, not the sequence.

Measure before claim

For an event, the obvious starting points are usually venue energy, travel, accommodation, catering, freight, production and waste. The precise hotspots vary by event. This step can require time and data, but it does not necessarily require a large budget. And it is the step small organisers are most tempted to skip.

Reduce what you can control

Waste is the most visible sustainability issue at many events. But it is not necessarily the largest source of emissions. Energy and mobility can matter much more. For a smaller event, this might mean choosing a venue with existing grid access rather than bringing in diesel generators. It could mean designing transport information around public transport rather than simply telling attendees to "travel sustainably". It could mean reducing unnecessary freight, digitising registration and ticketing or negotiating catering contracts around realistic attendance and portion requirements.

Deal with what remains

Some emissions are genuinely diffi-

sions and carbon credits can enter the conversation. But the order matters. An organiser should first understand what remains after reduction rather than simply calculating a large footprint and buying an equivalent quantity of credits. The quality of credits also matters. Claims about carbon neutrality or net zero should not rest on credits whose underlying climate benefit is uncertain.

Verify and report that is credible

Not every event needs the same level of assurance. A global sporting event and a 300-person conference will not have the same reporting infrastructure. But both can document what they measured, what they changed, what they could not change and what assumptions they made.

ISO 20121:2024 provides a framework for event sustainability management that applies across event types and sizes. Importantly, the standard allows different ways of demonstrating conformity, including self-declaration, supplier validation and third-party certification. This makes the basic discipline accessible even when full certification is not.

Events about climate change

They should be held to the same standard. In fact, there is a good argument for holding them to a higher one. Climate conferences, sustainability summits and

thousands of participants may pass through hydration points over a few hours. Replacing single-use systems with reusable or lower-impact alternatives, designing collection systems properly and making those systems part of the event's standard operating procedure can produce improvements year after year. Over time, the intervention becomes part of how the event operates rather than a one-off sustainability activation. That is the compounding logic a credible roadmap needs. Not one expensive gesture, but a series of decisions that become standard practice.

So, can events actually go net zero?

Not overnight. And certainly not through a report release or a carbon-credit purchase alone. But the roadmap is not mysterious, and it is not reserved for organisers with multimillion-dollar budgets. Measure honestly. Reduce what you can. Deal responsibly with what remains. Verify and report what you have actually done. The events industry does not need every organiser to claim net zero tomorrow. It needs more organisers to get on a documented, measurable pathway towards it.

The piece is published in arrangement with Climate Action Live

Class24

What's a Realistic Roadmap to Net Zero Events?

आयोजनों के "नेट ज़ीरो" दावे अक्सर दिखावा – असली रास्ता: उत्सर्जन मापें, जितना हो सके घटाएँ, बचे उत्सर्जन की ज़िम्मेदारी लें और ईमानदारी से रिपोर्ट करें

Measure–Reduce–Report
मापें–घटाएँ

1 The problem | समस्या

- "Net zero" used loosely – like "**artisanal**"
  दिखावा
- Tree planting or offsets ≠ **net zero**
  ऑफ़सेट
- Flashy green gimmicks before **measuring**
  माप नहीं

2 4-step roadmap | 4 चरण

- **Measure** before you claim
  मापें
- **Reduce** what you can control
  घटाएँ
- **Deal** with what remains; **verify & report**
  रिपोर्ट करें

3 Examples | उदाहरण

Event आयोजन	Approach तरीका
Formula 1 F1	–35% vs 2018; net zero by 2030
FIFA फ़ीफ़ा	Net zero by 2040; WC ~7.8 Mt
Wimbledon विंबलडन	Reports flights in Scope 3

Class24

Realistic roadmap to Net Zero events — in depth (1/2)

नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Tools & standards | मानक

- **GHG Protocol** – accounting framework
  GHG प्रोटोकॉल
- **ISO 20121:2024** – event sustainability
  ISO 20121
- **Net Zero Carbon Events** initiative (2021)
  2021 पहल

5 Low-cost steps | सस्ते उपाय

- Venue with **grid power**, not diesel
  ग्रिड बिजली
- Plan around **public transport**
  सार्वजनिक परिवहन
- **Reusable** cups; digital tickets
  पुन: प्रयोग

6 Carbon credits कार्बन क्रेडिट

- Not illegitimate – but **not a substitute**
  विकल्प नहीं
- Use only for **residual** emissions
  शेष उत्सर्जन
- Credit **quality** matters
  गुणवत्ता

Class24

Realistic roadmap to Net Zero events — in depth (2/2)

नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 India's climate road to 2070 | भारत का लक्ष्य

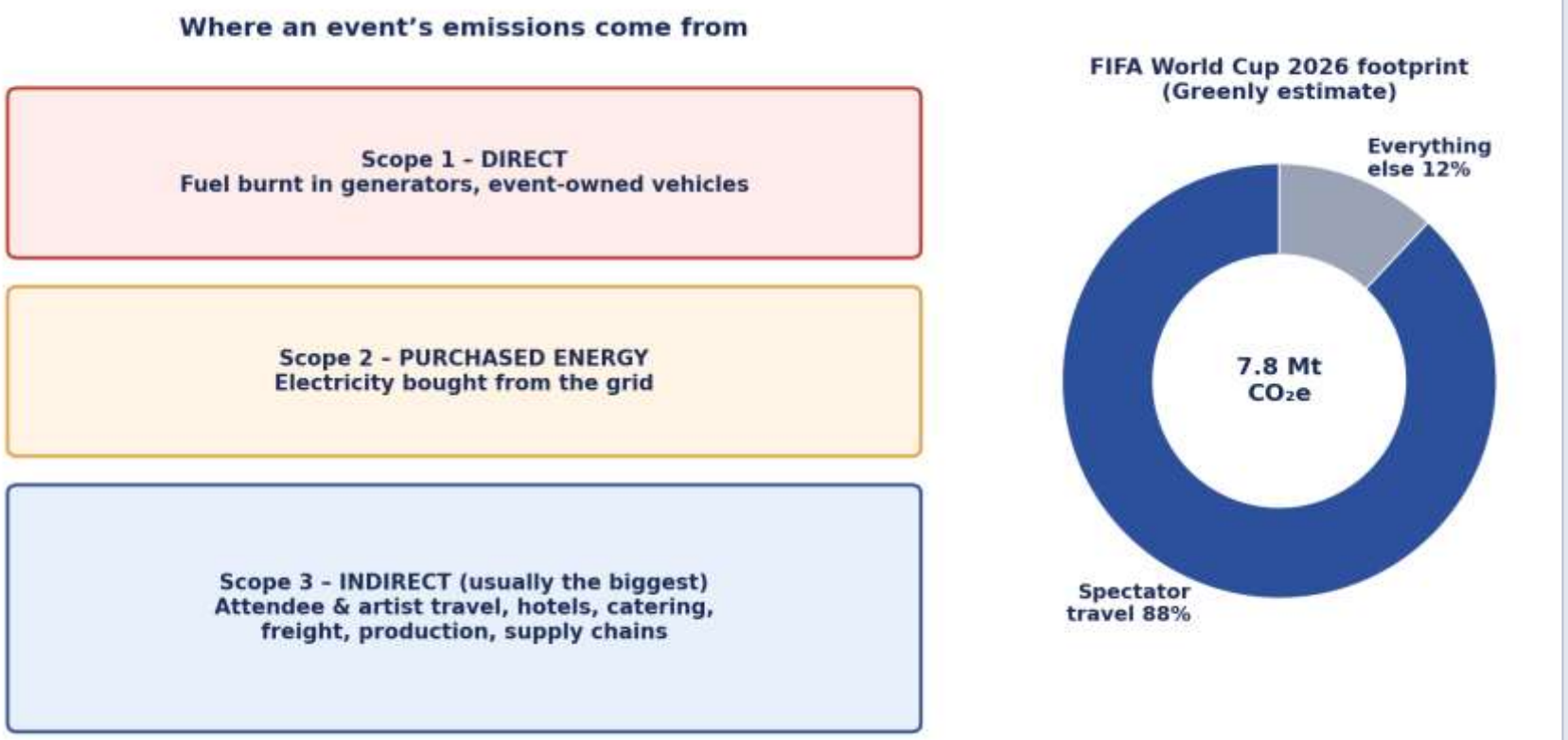
500 GW 500 GW	45% 45%	50% 50%	Net zero 2070 2070
Non-fossil by 2030 2030	Emission intensity cut (vs 2005) तीव्रता	Power capacity non-fossil गैर-जीवाश्म	Panchamrit (COP26) पंचामृत

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) launched **2022**
  मिशन LiFE
- India's **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme** notified in **2023**
  CCTS 2023

Realistic roadmap to Net Zero events — Map & Diagram

नेट ज़ीरो आयोजन — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Scope 1** – direct (generators)
  स्कोप 1
- **Scope 2** – bought electricity
  स्कोप 2
- **Scope 3** – travel, hotels, food (biggest)
  स्कोप 3
- FIFA 2026: **88%** from spectator travel
  88% यात्रा

| 19 October 2026

आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu • Indian Express • Financial Express — 7 articles + exam PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

1. France: 1,800 arrested in protests
फ़्रांस में विरोध प्रदर्शन

2. SC bars mid-term fee hike
फ़ीस वृद्धि पर रोक

3. Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions
फ़ॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग

4. Cyclone to cross A.P. coast (1976 archive)
चक्रवात

5. Separation of powers & CJI's refusal
शक्तियों का पृथक्करण

6. Why a machine-readable voter list?
मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची

7. Extra $29 bn for the same crude
कच्चे तेल का बढ़ा बिल

THE HINDU • 19 OCT 2026

Page 1 · Front Page

पृष्ठ 1 · मुख पृष्ठ

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

1 **France: 1,800 arrested in protests | फ़्रांस विरोध**

France: 1,800 arrested in protests

फ़्रांस में विरोध प्रदर्शन

French police arrest 1,800 as clashes, looting, arson mar 'student' protests

Associated Press
PARIS

The police arrested at least 1,800 people across France after violent groups clashed with officers and looted shops during nationwide demonstrations that drew hundreds of thousands who denounced rising living costs and poor conditions in schools.

Authorities said masked

'Nothing justifies' the 'unbridled' violence seen in nationwide cost of living protests this weekend: Macron

top government officials on Sunday afternoon, said "nothing justifies" the "unbridled" violence seen in nationwide cost of living protests this weekend

Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux.

About 5,50,000 people took part in protests across France, according to authorities, while organisers counted about 8,00,000. More than 500 police officers, gendarmes, and firefighters were injured, Mr. Nunez said.

One person died of a heart attack, the Paris police said, without providing

protection of purchasing power," she wrote on X.

U.S. President Donald Trump posted "France is burning!" on his Truth Social platform, apparently linking the unrest to "the immigration of people from an entirely different world".

French authorities have not linked immigrants to the rioting and have repeatedly attributed some

France: 1,800 arrested in protests

फ़्रांस में विरोध प्रदर्शन

Authorities said masked groups on Saturday set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities.

In Limoges, a city in central France, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall, causing its roof to collapse. Haute-Vienne prefect Maurice Barate told *LCI* television that the fire was deliberately set and the blaze nearly destroyed the building. The fire was under control on Sunday.

French President Emmanuel Macron, after an emergency meeting with protests this weekend.

"Tonight, we all feel anger and shame," Mr. Macron said in an address to the nation, adding that there must be a distinction between protesters with "legitimate demands" with "those who destroyed, smashed, and looted".

"The right to protest is a fundamental right. Deliberately and collectively sowing disorder through violence is not," Interior Minister Laurent Nunez wrote on X, pointing to the looting of hundreds of businesses in cities such as

ice said, without providing details. Paris prosecutors' office said it was investigating. Paris police said Sunday 855 people were arrested in the French capital region alone.

Mixed reactions

Far-right leader and presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen lashed out at far-left rival Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who joined the march.

"Looting, ransacking, destroying and attacking law enforcement: Rioters have again spoiled the Oct. 17 demonstrations for the

peatedly attributed some of the violence to "radical far-left groups" and other people who joined to loot.

Paris Mayor Emmanuel Grégoire announced the creation of an emergency unit to support businesses assess the damage. "The scale of the damage is considerable and unprecedented," Mr. Grégoire wrote in an open letter. "Paris is a city of freedoms, debate and demonstrations. It must remain so. But it must also be a city where everyone can work and run a business safely."

Class24

French Police Arrest 1,800 as Clashes, Looting, Arson Mar 'Student' Protests

फ़्रांस में महँगाई व स्कूलों की ख़राब स्थिति के ख़िलाफ़ देशव्यापी प्रदर्शनों में हिंसा, लूटपाट व आगज़नी – 1,800 गिरफ़्तार; मैक्रों: "हिंसा का कोई औचित्य नहीं"

Cost-of-living protests
महँगाई विरोध

1 In numbers | आँकड़े

1,800+ Arrested गिरफ़्तार	**5.5–8 lakh** Protesters प्रदर्शनकारी
500+ Police/firefighters hurt घायल	**855** Arrests in Paris पेरिस

2 Why people protested | कारण

- Rising **cost of living** **महँगाई**
- Poor **conditions in schools** **स्कूलों की स्थिति**
- Protests on **17 Oct**, led by students **छात्र**

3 Reactions | प्रतिक्रियाएँ

- **Macron**: "anger and shame"; violence unjustified **मैक्रों**
- **Trump**: "France is burning!" – blamed immigration **ट्रंप**
- **Le Pen** blamed far-left **Mélenchon** **ले पेन**

Class24

France: 1,800 arrested in protests — in depth (1/2)

फ़्रांस में विरोध प्रदर्शन — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 France's political system राजनीतिक व्यवस्था

Feature विशेषता	Detail विवरण
Constitution संविधान	Fifth Republic (1958)
System प्रणाली	Semi-presidential अर्ध-अध्यक्षीय
President राष्ट्रपति	Directly elected, 5 yrs
Parliament संसद	National Assembly + Senate

5 Right to protest विरोध का अधिकार

- "A **fundamental right** – violence is not" (Interior Min.)
  मौलिक अधिकार
- India: **Art 19(1)(b)** – assemble peaceably, **without arms**
  अनु. 19(1)(b)
- Limits under **Art 19(3)** – public order
  अनु. 19(3)

6 India–France ties भारत–फ़्रांस

- **Strategic partners** since **1998**
  रणनीतिक साझेदार
- Defence: **Rafale** jets, **Scorpene** submarines
  राफ़ेल
- Co-founded **International Solar Alliance** (2015)
  ISA

Class24

France: 1,800 arrested in protests — in depth (2/2)

फ़्रांस में विरोध प्रदर्शन — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 France's history of protest | विरोध का इतिहास

1789 Revolution
क्रांति
Liberty, Equality
स्वतंत्रता

→

May 1968
मई 1968
Student revolt
छात्र आंदोलन

→

2018 Yellow Vests
येलो वेस्ट
Fuel tax
ईंधन कर

→

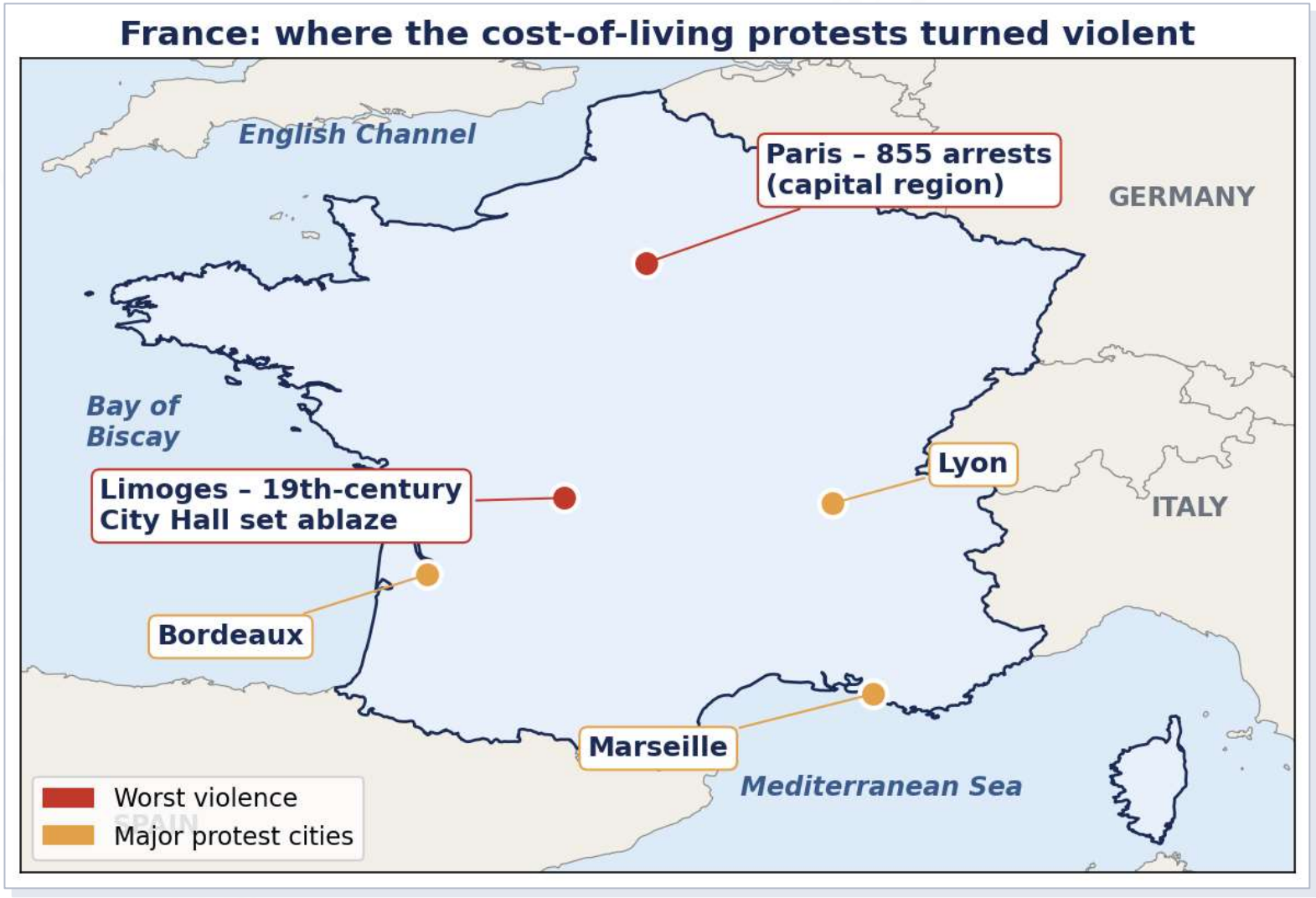
2026 protests
2026
Cost of living
महँगाई

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- India's **Preamble** ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity echo the **French Revolution**
  प्रस्तावना
- **Bastille Day** (14 July) – France's national day
  14 जुलाई

France: 1,800 arrested in protests — Map & Diagram

फ़्रांस में विरोध प्रदर्शन — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Paris** – 855 arrests in capital region
  पेरिस
- **Limoges** – historic City Hall set on fire
  लिमोज़
- Also **Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux**
  अन्य शहर
- France borders **Spain, Italy, Germany**
  पड़ोसी देश

4 THE HINDU News

Heavy rain hits Chennai; Vijay reviews preparedness

Families mourn young lives lost in Durga Puja stampede

Families of victims queue up outside the mortuary; majority of victims are women and children, while a 7-year-old boy is among the youngest victims. State Ministers pay respects to the deceased

Shots fired at Tiger Shroff's car; 2 hurt, suspect detained

Opposition takes on Punjab AAP govt. over collapse of law and order, drug menace

CISF to overhaul its administrative structure

1 rs mid-term fee hike in professional courses

Kuki organisation announces 'total shutdown' of highway in Manipur after attacks

THE HINDU • 19 OCT 2026

Page 4 · News

पृष्ठ 4 · समाचार

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

1 **SC bars mid-term fee hike | फ़ीस वृद्धि पर रोक**

SC bars mid-term fee hike

फ़ीस वृद्धि पर रोक

SC bars mid-term fee hike in professional courses

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Much to the relief of families sacrificing their life savings for professional education, the Supreme Court has ruled that students enrolling in professional courses must know their exact expenses from the outset.

"A student entering a four-year or five-year professional programme like medicine or engineering should ordinarily know, at the very threshold, the financial liability that they or their family is undertaking," a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe held.

The court said mid-stream fee hikes were impermissible except under unforeseeable or extraordinary economic conditions or statutory changes. Fee-fixation committees must function as continuing institutions, capable of anticipating costs, undertaking periodic assessments, and making timely decisions.

'Justified, not arbitrary'

Both the All India Council for Technical Education Regulations, 1994, and the National Education Policy, 2020, offer regulatory frameworks that pre-empt arbitrary fee increases by self-financing higher educational institutions while preserving legitimate fiscal space for them, the court added.

The verdict said the legitimate interest of students and parents to have certainty about the reasonable fee payable for the course must be balanced with the interest of self-financing educational institutions to secure adequate resources for providing quality education and improving standards. The court clarified that it was not against periodic fee revision.

"If such cost is not recovered from the students at the relevant time and is deferred to future batches, an inevitable revenue deficit would certainly arise and will either have a cascading effect on future batches or adversely affect the economic viability of the institution. It will have its own fallout on the infrastructure, quality of lecturers and professors, and also adversely affect student welfare," the judgment explained.

Fee certainty through efficient regulation is the paramount principle. There should be a sense of predictability about the financial liability of higher education. The authorities must notify the fee payable for the entire course before a student takes admission, the court said.

Fee disparity

The judgment, authored by Justice Narasimha, noted that National Sample Survey Office data showed that professional course fees were a staggering 711% higher than those for general academic programmes.

"For the overwhelming majority of households, the fee payable for a professional course constitutes a substantial part of the family's income and savings; it is not a matter of incidental expenditure," the court observed.

The court spoke for millions of parents who struggle to pay for their children's professional courses. Many families also rely on student loans to pay for higher education.

"Adverse variations in financial commitment, and the insecurities that it may create, will impact the student and the family, and, in the long run, have an adverse effect on the quality and character of the professionals that are in the making," the top court cautioned.

Class24

SC Bars Mid-term Fee Hike in Professional Courses

सुप्रीम कोर्ट: व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रमों (मेडिकल, इंजीनियरिंग) में बीच में फ़ीस वृद्धि नहीं – पूरे पाठ्यक्रम की फ़ीस प्रवेश से पहले अधिसूचित हो

Fee certainty
फ़ीस निश्चितता

1 The ruling | फ़ैसला

- Students must know **exact expenses** at the start
  पूरा ख़र्च
- **Mid-stream hikes** not allowed
  बीच में वृद्धि नहीं
- Bench: **J. P.S. Narasimha & J. Alok Aradhe**
  पीठ

2 Exceptions | अपवाद

- **Unforeseeable** economic conditions
  अप्रत्याशित स्थिति
- **Statutory** changes
  क़ानूनी बदलाव
- **Periodic** revision still allowed
  आवधिक संशोधन

3 Why it matters | महत्व

- Fees **711%** higher than general courses
  711%
- Families use **savings & loans**
  बचत व ऋण
- Uncertainty hurts **quality of professionals**
  गुणवत्ता

Class24

SC bars mid-term fee hike — in depth (1/2)

फ़ीस वृद्धि पर रोक — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Balancing two interests संतुलन

Students छात्र	Institutions संस्थान
Fee certainty निश्चितता	Adequate resources संसाधन
Affordable सस्ती	Quality teaching गुणवत्ता
No surprise hikes अचानक नहीं	Viable finances वित्तीय स्थिरता

5 Regulatory frameworks नियामक ढाँचा

- **AICTE Regulations, 1994**
  AICTE
- **NEP 2020** – no commercialisation
  NEP 2020
- State **Fee Regulatory Committees**
  फ़ीस समिति

6 Constitution | संविधान

- **Art 19(1)(g)** – right to run institutions
  अनु. 19(1)(g)
- **Art 21A** – education 6–14 (RTE 2009)
  अनु. 21A
- Education in **Concurrent List** (42nd Amdt, 1976)
  समवर्ती सूची

Class24

SC bars mid-term fee hike — in depth (2/2)

फ़ीस वृद्धि पर रोक — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How fees should be fixed now | फ़ीस निर्धारण

Cost study
लागत
Committee assesses
समिति

→

Full-course fee
पूरी फ़ीस
Notified in advance
पहले

→

Admission
प्रवेश
Student knows cost
जानकारी

→

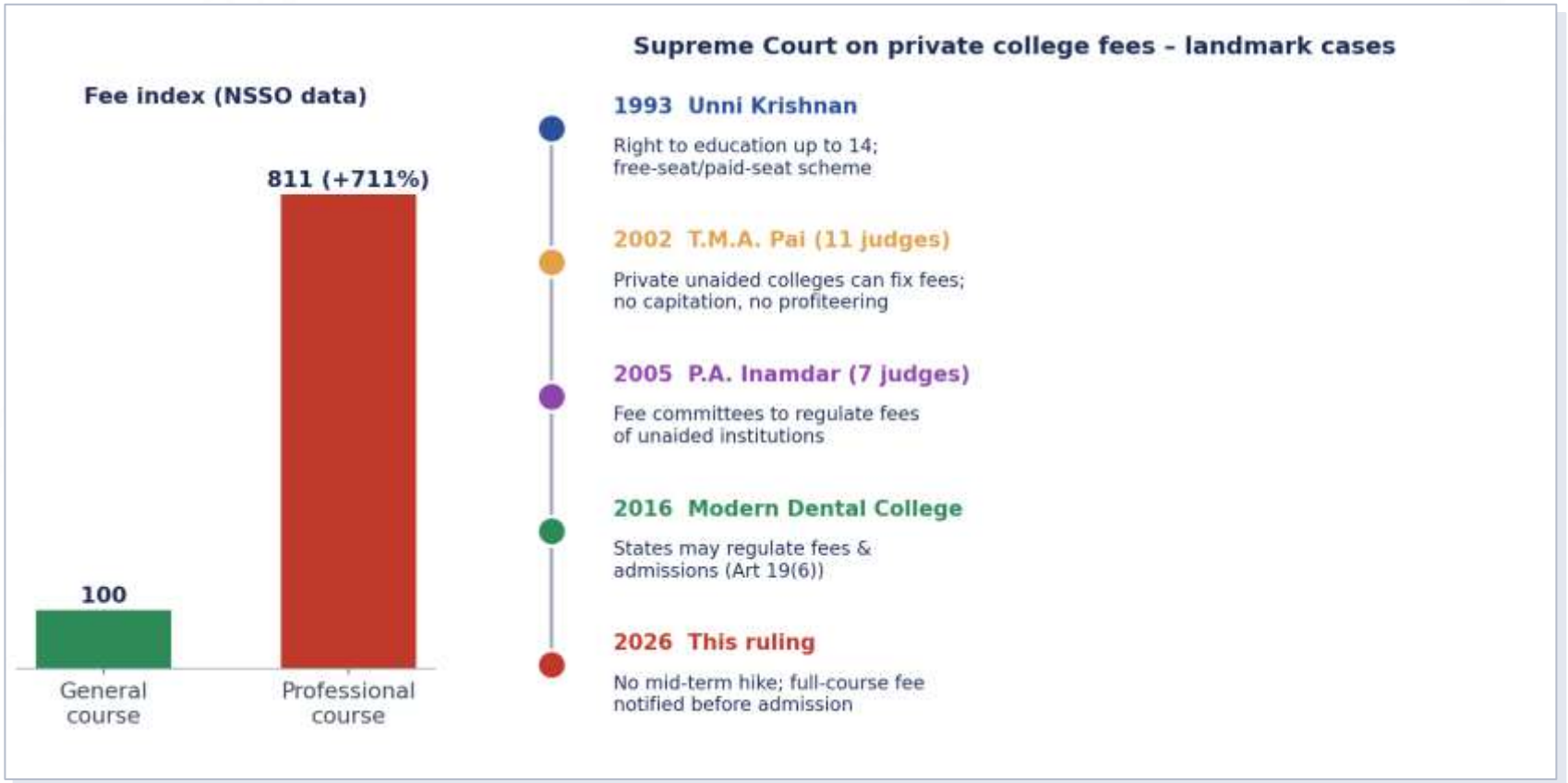
Locked
स्थिर
No mid-term hike
वृद्धि नहीं

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **Capitation fee** was held illegal in **Mohini Jain (1992)**
  मोहिनी जैन
- NEP 2020 target: **50% GER** in higher education by 2035
  50% GER

SC bars mid-term fee hike — Map & Diagram

फ़ीस वृद्धि पर रोक — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Professional fees **711%** higher (NSSO)
  711% अधिक
- **T.M.A. Pai (2002)** – no profiteering
  टी.एम.ए. पई
- **P.A. Inamdar (2005)** – fee committees
  इनामदार
- **2026**: no mid-term hikes
  2026 फ़ैसला

THE HINDU • 19 OCT 2026

Page 5 · News

पृष्ठ 5 · समाचार

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

1. Form 7 misuse in Karnataka | फ़ॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग
2. Delhi booth audit | दिल्ली बूथ ऑडिट

Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions

फ़ॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग

37 voters file Form 7 saying they are dead; 334 pairs declare each other dead

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

At least 37 people have reportedly filed forms seeking the deletion of their own names from Karnataka's electoral rolls on the ground that they were "dead". The name of the person filing the objection and the name to be deleted were the same, even including their initials, according to an analysis by *The Hindu*.

In another bizarre pattern, 334 pairs of people have declared each other dead. One person filed Form 7 seeking deletion of another's name, citing death as the reason; the person declared dead then filed a similar form, declaring the first person dead as well.

Most of the forms which cited death as the reason were filed before the SIR exercise began.

In all cases, both people in each pair were listed at the same polling station, according to an analysis of Election Commission of India (ECI) data processed by Mandate Analytics and Consulting (MAC Insights).

Most of the forms in which people sought deletion of their own names, citing death as the reason, were filed before the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls began across Karnataka on June 30. However, at least three such forms were filed even after the draft electoral rolls were published, meaning these names were also part of the draft rolls.

The Hindu checked these three cases with booth-level officers (BLOs) and assistant electoral registration officers (AEROs). The cases were reported in the Magadi, Sandur, and Byatarayanapura Assembly constituencies, with forms filed between September 17 and 26.

'Software glitch'

In Byatarayanapura, Sudha K.N., 25, was listed as both the person filing Form-7 and the person whose name was sought to be deleted, with "dead" cited as the reason. However, the BLO told *The Hindu* that the form sought the deletion of an elector named Srikanth and had been filed by his wife, Sudha. But Srikanth's name on the electoral rolls was listed as Sudha K.N., a discrepancy the BLO could not explain. The BLO said she was unaware whether this was a software glitch during the enumeration phase or whether the discrepancy existed in earlier electoral rolls.

In Sandur, Hanumantha, 30, filed a Form 7 seeking deletion of his own name, again citing death as the reason. Senior poll officials attributed the entry to a software glitch, while the BLO said she was unaware that a Form 7 had been filed.

In Magadi, Manish Gowda R. had filed the form. His serial number was listed as 416, but the draft electoral roll for the polling station concerned (Part No. 268) had only 415 electors.

Meanwhile, the 334 pairs of electors who declared each other dead were spread across more than 25 districts. Belagavi accounted for the highest number of such cases, at 160, followed by Kalaburagi with 80, data processed by MAC Insights showed. While the cases were spread across multiple Assembly constituencies in these districts, all 28 such cases in Mysuru district were concentrated in the Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency. All were filed after the SIR was officially announced on May 14.

Highest in June

June saw the highest number of such cases, at 333. The electoral rolls were frozen on June 16, while the SIR exercise began across Karnataka on June 30. Most of these forms were filed before the SIR began in the State.

The Hindu also cross-checked the Form-7 entries against Form-10s – which are the daily consolidation reports of Form 7s – to verify the details.

For instance, on May 17, in Raybag in Belagavi district, an elector named Gangubayi Vaddar sought the deletion of Rukmini Vaddar's name, declaring her dead. On the same day, Rukmini Vaddar filed a form declaring Gangubayi Vaddar dead.

(With inputs from Pon Vasanth B.A., Chennai)

Audit in 2 Delhi booths finds over 100 voters wrongly marked absent, shifted, dead

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

At least 100 voters from two polling booths in Delhi's Okhla constituency were found to have been wrongly classified as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate (ASDD) during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, a public audit covering 258 households over seven days found.

These voters, who said their names were wrongly missing from Delhi's draft electoral roll, turned up for a *Jan Sunwai*, or public hearing, held in the Batla House area of the national capital on Sunday. The event was organised by civil society organisations such as Jan Sarokar, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), Voter Adhikar Manch, and the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW).

The hearing was intended for residents of G and K blocks, covering polling booths 61 and 65, but repeated announcements drew voters from other booths as well. More than 150 voters registered to present their cases before a panel comprising Supreme Court advocates Nayantara Roy and Sumita Hazarika and transparency activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita John.

Okhla had more than 1.85 lakh voters in the draft roll published after the SIR enumeration phase, of which over 67,000 names were placed on the notice list and nearly 1.6 lakh appeared in the ASDD list. This constituency saw the second highest rate of deletions.

Okhla constituency saw the second highest rate of deletions in the draft roll published after SIR enumeration phase. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Among those who turned up were Faiyaz Ahmed, 74, a retired professor of mechanical engineering at Jamia Millia Islamia University. Despite living at the same address for more than five decades, Mr. Ahmed was marked "untraceable/absent", while his wife, Anjum Ara, 62, was listed as "permanently shifted" in the ASDD list published on August 31.

Their son, Babu Sardar Khan, said he had submitted duly filled enumeration forms for both his parents to the area's booth-level officer (BLO). However, only his own name appeared in the draft roll.

Naeemuddin, 48, who said he had lived at the same address for 30 years, was similarly marked as "permanently shifted". He said he had visited the BLO, who had taken his photographs and obtained his signature on a form.

Parveen, he showed his driving licence from the 1990s and an arms licence which he said had required extensive documentation and verification. "How c it be that now I register a new voter and swipe off my voting records? A why is no one from t Election Commission ing me this, but soc workers?" said Mr. Naeemuddin, a former gover ment adviser.

Special camps

The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's office has be holding special camps every weekend since Septe ber 20 at all polling s tions, with a stat objective of ensuring th "no eligible voter shou be left out". Earlier th week, it also directed fie officers to re-verify ASD entries through door-t door visits and restore t names of eligible voters.

However, around 20 p ople who spoke to The Hi du said they were unawa of the special camps. So attended the hearing b cause they did not kn who their BLO was, wh others said their BLOs h not contacted them.

Class24

37 Voters File Form 7 Saying They Are Dead; 334 Pairs Declare Each Other Dead

कर्नाटक में 37 लोगों ने स्वयं को "मृत" बताकर अपना नाम हटाने के फ़ॉर्म 7 भरे; 334 जोड़ों ने एक-दूसरे को मृत घोषित किया – दिल्ली ऑडिट में 100+ मतदाता ग़लत ढंग से ASDD सूची में

Form 7 anomalies
फ़ॉर्म 7 विसंगति

1 Karnataka findings
कर्नाटक

37 Filed Form 7 on self स्वयं पर	**334** Pairs "dead" each other जोड़े
160 Belagavi cases बेलगावी	**333** June cases जून

2 Officials' answer | अधिकारी

- Blamed a **software glitch**
  सॉफ़्टवेयर गड़बड़ी
- BLOs **unaware** forms were filed
  BLO अनजान
- Data analysed by **MAC Insights**
  विश्लेषण

3 Delhi audit (Okhla)
दिल्ली ऑडिट

- **100+** voters wrongly marked **ASDD**
  100+ ग़लत
- Public hearing (**Jan Sunwai**) by MKSS, NFIW etc.
  जन सुनवाई
- Okhla: **2nd-highest** deletion rate
  दूसरा सबसे अधिक

Class24

Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions — in depth (1/2)

फ़ॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Key terms | शब्दावली

Term शब्द	Meaning अर्थ
Form 7 **फ़ॉर्म 7**	Objection / deletion आपत्ति
Form 10 **फ़ॉर्म 10**	Daily summary of claims दैनिक सार
ASDD **ASDD**	Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate
AERO **AERO**	Assistant ERO सहायक अधिकारी

5 Safeguards in law
क़ानूनी सुरक्षा

- **Notice & hearing** before deletion (Rule 18–21)
  सुनवाई
- False declaration: **Sec 31, RP Act 1950**
  धारा 31
- Appeal to **DEO/CEO** under **Sec 24**
  अपील

6 ECI response | ECI क़दम

- **Cap** on Form 7s per person
  सीमा
- **Special camps** every weekend (Delhi)
  विशेष शिविर
- **Door-to-door** re-verification
  घर-घर सत्यापन

Class24

Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions — in depth (2/2)

फ़ॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a deletion should work | नाम हटाने की प्रक्रिया

Form 7 filed
फ़ॉर्म 7
With reason
कारण सहित

→

Notice to voter
नोटिस
Right to reply
उत्तर का अधिकार

→

BLO field check
BLO जाँच
Physical verification
सत्यापन

→

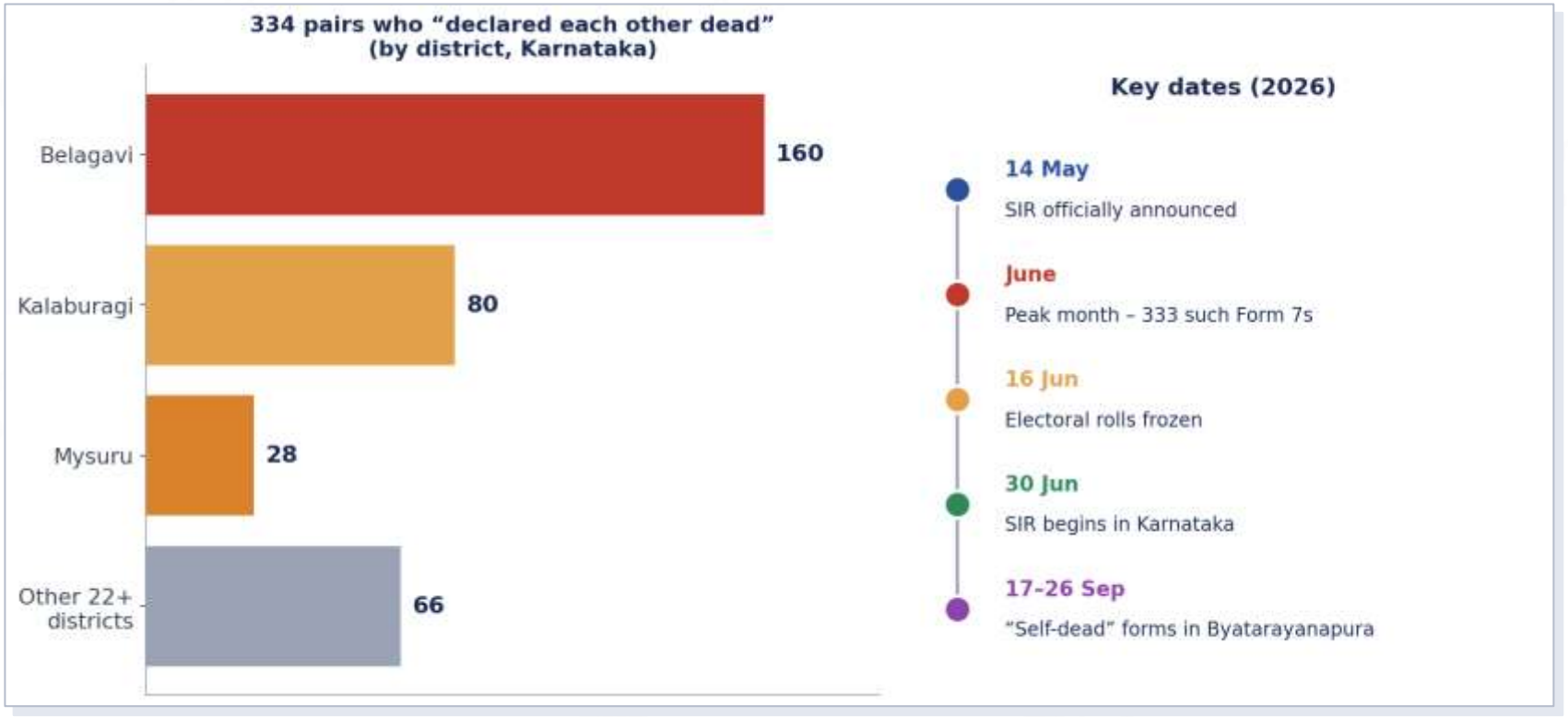
ERO decides
ERO निर्णय
Appeal possible
अपील

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- A voter can check her name on the **Voters' Service Portal / Voter Helpline App**
  हेल्पलाइन ऐप
- Voter helpline number: **1950**
  1950

Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions — Map & Diagram

फ़ॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Belagavi 160**, Kalaburagi 80 pairs
  बेलगावी
- All **28** Mysuru cases in one seat
  मैसूरु
- **June** peak – 333 cases
  जून
- Most filed **before SIR** began (30 Jun)
  SIR से पहले

THE HINDU • 19 OCT 2026

Page 9 · Archives

पृष्ठ 9 · अभिलेखागार

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

1. **Cyclone to cross A.P. coast (1976) | चक्रवात**

Cyclone to cross A.P. coast (1976 archive)

चक्रवात

Cyclonic storm likely to cross A.P. coast to-day

Madras, October 18: After four days of incessant rain, the weather in Madras and its suburbs improved to-day, as the cyclonic storm in the Bay which was earlier expected to hit the City changed its course and moved further northwards. It is likely to cross the South Andhra Coast near Masulipatnam to-morrow afternoon.

The North East monsoon which set in over Tamil Nadu on October 15 has in the past four days accounted for 344 mm of rainfall (14 inches) at Nungambakkam and 312 mm (13 inches) at Meenambakkam – about 75 per cent above normal rain at this period of the year. In fact, for the whole of October last year, the City had recorded only 365 mm at Nungambakkam and 422 mm at Meenambakkam.

The storm lay centred at 3:30 p.m. to-day at about 150 kms south south-east of Masulipatnam. It is likely to move in a northerly direction and cross the south Andhra coast near Masulipatnam by to-morrow afternoon, according to a special bulletin to-night.

Widespread rain with scattered heavy to very heavy falls is likely in south coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 36 hours. Scattered heavy rain is also likely in north coastal Andhra.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 19, 1926

Opium smoking under

Class24

Cyclonic Storm Likely to Cross A.P. Coast To-day (19 Oct 1976)

Fifty years ago
50 वर्ष पहले

द हिंदू अभिलेखागार (50 वर्ष पहले): बंगाल की खाड़ी का चक्रवात मद्रास से हटकर उत्तर की ओर मुड़ा – मछलीपट्टनम के पास आंध्र तट पार करने की संभावना

1 The 1976 report | रिपोर्ट

- Storm expected to hit Madras **changed course**
  दिशा बदली
- To cross south **Andhra coast** near Masulipatnam
  आंध्र तट
- Heavy rain warned for **next 36 hours**
  भारी वर्षा

2 NE monsoon rain उत्तर-पूर्व मानसून

15 Oct NE monsoon set in आगमन	**344mm** Nungambakkam (14 days) वर्षा
~75% Above normal सामान्य से अधिक	**365mm** Whole Oct 1975 पिछला वर्ष

3 Why it matters today आज का महत्व

- **Oct–Dec** = peak cyclone season in the Bay
  अक्टूबर–दिसंबर
- AP–Odisha–TN coasts most **vulnerable**
  संवेदनशील
- Forecasting now far better – **IMD** satellites
  IMD

Class24

Cyclone to cross A.P. coast (1976 archive) — in depth (1/2)

चक्रवात — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Conditions for a cyclone चक्रवात की शर्तें

- Sea surface **> 26.5 °C**
  26.5 °C से अधिक
- **Coriolis force** – forms 5° away from equator
  कोरिओलिस बल
- Low **vertical wind shear**, moist air
  कम पवन अपरूपण

5 Bay vs Arabian Sea | तुलना

Bay of Bengal बंगाल की खाड़ी	Arabian Sea अरब सागर
More cyclones (~4×) **अधिक**	Fewer, but rising कम पर बढ़ रहे
Warmer, less saline top **गर्म**	Cooler ठंडा
Flat coast → surges **समतल तट**	Steeper coast ढलवाँ तट

6 Cyclone management प्रबंधन

- **IMD** – RSMC New Delhi names N. Indian Ocean cyclones
  नामकरण
- **NDMA** & **NDRF** for response
  NDMA, NDRF
- **Cyclone shelters**, early warning (Odisha model)
  ओडिशा मॉडल

Class24

Cyclone to cross A.P. coast (1976 archive) — in depth (2/2)

चक्रवात — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Life cycle of a cyclone | चक्रवात का जीवन चक्र

Warm sea
गर्म समुद्र
Evaporation
वाष्पीकरण

→

Low pressure
निम्न दाब
Spinning winds
घूमती हवा

→

Eye forms
आँख बनती
Mature storm
परिपक्व

→

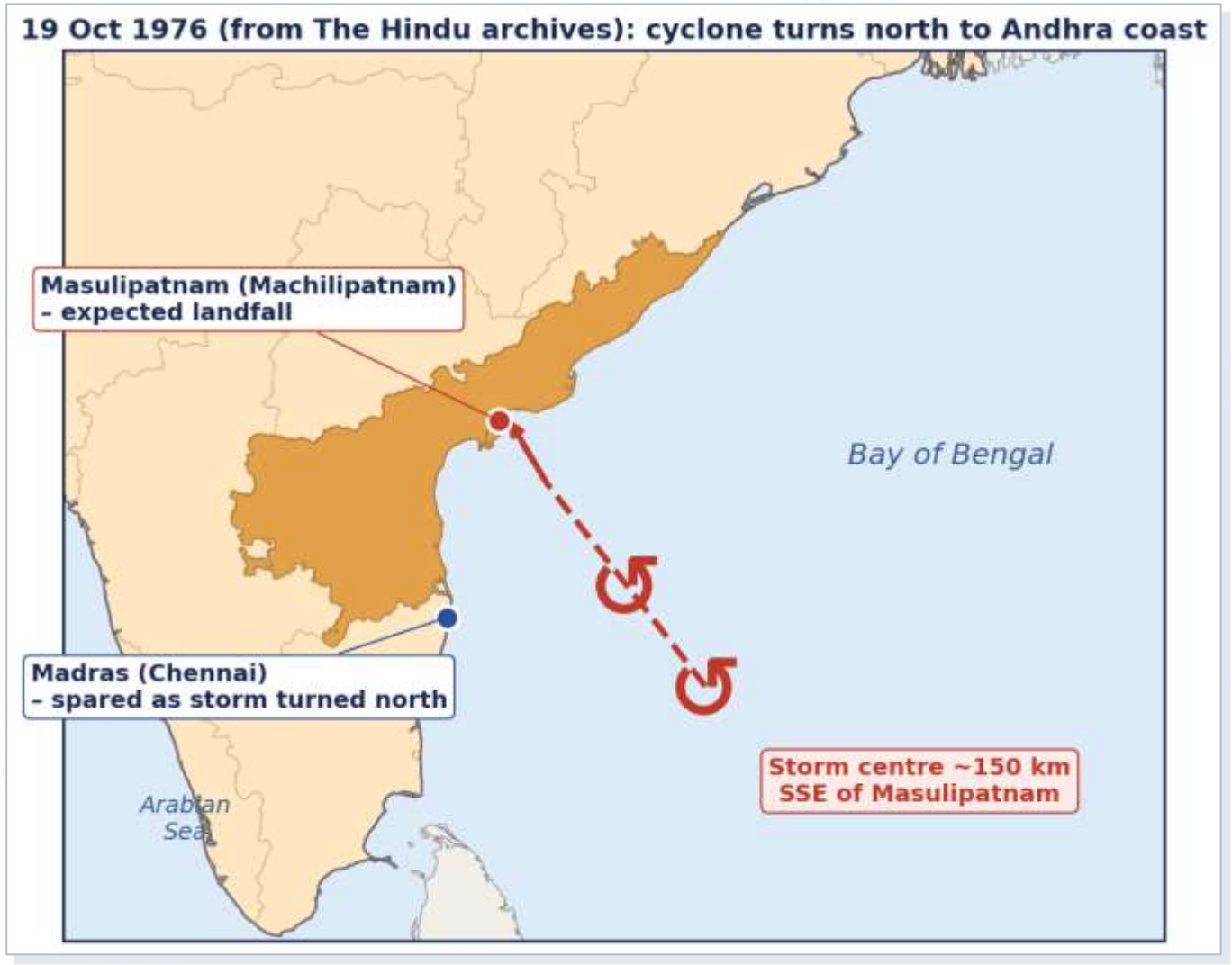
Landfall
तट से टकराना
Weakens on land
कमज़ोर

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- Cyclones spin **anticlockwise** in the **Northern** Hemisphere
  वामावर्त
- The **1977 Andhra cyclone** (Diviseema) killed ~10,000 people
  दिविसीमा 1977

Cyclone to cross A.P. coast (1976 archive) — Map & Diagram

चक्रवात — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Storm **turned north**, sparing Madras
  उत्तर मुड़ा
- Landfall near **Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam)**
  मछलीपट्टनम
- Centre ~**150 km** SSE of the town
  150 किमी
- Andhra coast – very **cyclone-prone**
  संवेदनशील तट

Class24

THE HINDU • 19 OCT 2026

Page 10 · Text & Context

पृष्ठ 10 · विश्लेषण

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

1 **Separation of powers & CJI's refusal | शक्तियों का पृथक्करण**

Separation of powers & CJI's refusal

शक्तियों का पृथक्करण

Separation of powers and CJI's refusal

Why did the Opposition seek a meeting with the CJI? What allegations did it raise against the CEC? Why did the CJI refuse the request? What remedies did Rahul Gandhi seek from the Supreme Court? How does separation of powers apply to the case? What does judicial propriety require of judges?

EXPLAINER

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant declined a request made by Opposition leaders for an audience to discuss allegations against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar's conduct during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, alongside detentions of peaceful protestors and the lockdown of arterial Delhi.

The refusal was anchored in the ethos of maintaining a neutral distance from the political thicket. The CJI's letter emphasised that the judiciary cannot blur constitutional lines.

"A short while ago, the One-Nation-One-Election Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) had proposed to meet the judges of the Supreme Court. The leaders of the Bar had questioned how parliamentarians could meet judges when the Bill on simultaneous elections was itself under consideration. The law, which may emanate from the Bill, could one day, down the line, come up before the court in challenge. So, in principle, I don't see how the Chief Justice was wrong in applying the same standard about

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The CJI refused to meet Opposition leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge over allegations against the CEC during the SIR, citing separation of powers and judicial propriety
- He advised them to seek judicial remedies, noting that the issues were already before the court and that the Supreme Court could hear petitions to enforce citizens' fundamental rights
- Past controversies involving judges and political leaders show concerns over judicial neutrality and the need to insulate the judiciary from executive influence

Separation of powers & CJI's refusal

शक्तियों का पृथक्करण

applying the same standard about meeting Mr. Rahul Gandhi as was applied in the instance of the JPC. It is a matter of propriety," senior advocate C.U. Singh said.

Why did the Opposition approach the CJI?

On October 10, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, respectively, wrote to CJI Kant. It marked a rare and historic instance of the Opposition directly engaging the highest judicial office of the country to complain against another constitutional authority, the CEC.

The brief request, submitted on a joint letterhead, stated that the two leaders wished to submit a memorandum to the Chief Justice concerning the CEC and the Election Commission of India. Sent hours after the brutal police crackdown on citizens demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, the representation said the arbitrary arrest of students, closure of Metro stations, cancellation of trains, and barricading of arterial roads created an "atmosphere of siege in the city of Delhi".

Mr. Gandhi followed up with a second, detailed representation to CJI Kant on October 11. He underscored the Supreme Court's role as the guardian of the Constitution and the fundamental right of every citizen to vote. Writing in his capacity as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha on behalf of crores of voters anxious about the integrity of the electoral rolls, Mr. Gandhi pointed out that he was also a member of the Selection Committee constituted under Section 7 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. He underscored that he had recorded a formal note of dissent on the procedure followed for selecting CEC Kumar during a committee meeting on February 17, 2025.

The representation accused the CEC of an arbitrary and unilateral exercise of power during the SIR. He asked the CJI to treat the representation as a letter petition in the public interest.

He urged the CJI to direct a complete disclosure of SIR records with the Election Commission and the setting of an independent committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to review decisions and audit voter deletions made during SIR to safeguard free and fair elections. He sought an interim suspension of the SIR process itself.

How did the CJI respond?

On October 12, the Chief Justice responded to the October 10 request for a meeting, while omitting any direct reference to Mr. Gandhi's subsequent October 11 representation.

Addressing both Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi and declining their request for an appointment on October 12 between 4 pm and 5 pm to submit a memorandum, the CJI noted that the issues regarding the CEC, the arbitrary arrests, Metro closure and train cancellations, etc., were already sub judice before the court.

The CJI said that, "therefore, convening a meeting to discuss pending cases would wholly contravene the principle of Separation of Powers, an intrinsic facet of the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution of India, and would be incompatible with the established ethics and judicial propriety".

The two-page response also reminded the leaders that the constitutional framework did not vest the Supreme Court with administrative powers to "deal with the issues highlighted in your letter". But the CJI said the Supreme Court was duty-bound on the judicial side to consider the gravamen of issues affecting the citizens of India.

The top judge reiterated in his reply to the Opposition leaders the court's commitment to preserve and protect the fundamental rights of every citizen of India.

Chief Justice Kant said citizens were "entitled to seek enforcement of such rights at all hours through the procedure known in law".

Chief Justice Kant advised the two leaders in his response that it would be "more appropriate on your part to invoke the judicial powers of the Supreme Court of India, instead of submitting a memorandum on the administrative side".

The CJI said that petitions raising parallel issues were listed for hearing on October 13. He said the leader, acting on legal advice, could file their petition on October 12. The CJI observed that the leaders could file their petition on October 12 based on legal advice, assuring that "any such petition shall be heard at the earliest possible opportunity, in accordance with law". A writ petition was subsequently filed by Mr. Gandhi alongside 12 other Opposition leaders, which was successfully registered, numbered, and is primed for a judicial hearing.

What does the law say?

At the heart of the CJI's response lie three factors – the doctrine of separation of powers, sub judice rules and judicial propriety, and the Bangalore Principles.

As Chief Justice Kant's response said, the separation of powers, which divides governance among the three distinct organs of the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary, was an unalterable part of the basic structure of the Constitution. The court functions as an impartial arbiter with a clear mandate to adjudicate disputes impartially, apply laws, and review executive or legislative actions only through established judicial proceedings. The judiciary did not hold executive or administrative oversight to unilaterally intervene in government policy or governance demands.

A parallel out-of-court meeting between the Chief Justice, who also happens to lead the Bench hearing the CEC-related cases and Opposition leaders, belies fair play and bypasses procedural fairness. Entertaining political factions on a one-to-one basis outside the courtroom compromises judicial impartiality and creates an impression of bias. Disputes must be settled in the open court, transparently, in proceedings in which opposing parties get an equal say in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct puts in place ethical benchmarks for judges, which include that they must avoid any act of impropriety which would compromise the public's perception of judicial neutrality.

When has judicial propriety come under scrutiny?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2024 visit to the residence of then Chief Justice of India, Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud, to perform pooja during Ganesh Chaturthi drew public criticism over perceptions of the executive and judiciary cosying up. Historical precedents of serving judges expressing admiration for political figures include Justice P.N. Bhagwati sending a congratulatory letter to Indira Gandhi upon her return to power, and Justice M.R. Shah reportedly describing Prime Minister Modi as a "model and a hero". Similarly, former Supreme Court judge Arun Mishra had sparked controversy by publicly describing Prime Minister Modi as a "versatile genius" and an "internationally acclaimed visionary who can think global and act locally".

On a separate occasion, Prime Minister Modi visited the Supreme Court premises at the invitation of then-CJI Ranjan Gogoi on the sidelines of a BIMSTEC conference. Justice Gogoi was nominated to the Rajya Sabha following his retirement. Incidentally, Justice Gogoi was one of the four senior Supreme Court judges who held the unprecedented January 2018 press conference, spotlighting concerns over executive influence in case allocations under then Chief Justice Dipak Misra.

History shows that political friction with the judiciary carries 'unsettling' consequences. Following the landmark *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment, which established the basic structure doctrine limiting Parliament's amending powers, Indira Gandhi's government superseded Justices J.M. Shelat, K.S. Hegde and A.N. Grover to appoint Justice A.N. Ray as Chief Justice of India. The move triggered the immediate resignation of the three superseded judges.

Decades later, the imperative to insulate judicial appointments from executive overreach had culminated in the Collegium system and the adoption of the Bangalore Principles.

Class24

Separation of Powers and CJI's Refusal

मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत ने CEC के ख़िलाफ़ आरोपों पर विपक्षी नेताओं (राहुल गांधी, खड़गे) से मिलने से इनकार किया – "शक्तियों के पृथक्करण" और न्यायिक औचित्य का हवाला; न्यायिक उपाय अपनाने की सलाह

Judicial propriety
न्यायिक औचित्य

1 What happened | क्या हुआ

- **10 Oct**: Kharge & Rahul Gandhi sought meeting
  10 अक्टूबर
- Complaint against **CEC Gyanesh Kumar** over SIR
  CEC
- **12 Oct**: CJI **Surya Kant** declined
  इनकार

2 CJI's reasons | CJI के तर्क

- Issues already **sub judice**
  विचाराधीन
- Meeting would breach **separation of powers**
  पृथक्करण
- No **administrative** power over these issues
  प्रशासनिक शक्ति नहीं

3 What CJI advised | सलाह

- File a **petition** on the judicial side
  याचिका
- Writ by Rahul + **12** Opposition leaders filed
  रिट याचिका
- Rights enforceable "**at all hours**"
  हर समय

Class24

Separation of powers & CJI's refusal — in depth (1/2)

शक्तियों का पृथक्करण — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Opposition's demands माँगें

- Full disclosure of **SIR records**
  SIR रिकॉर्ड
- Committee led by **retired SC judge** to audit deletions
  समिति
- **Interim suspension** of SIR
  अंतरिम रोक

5 Three legal pillars तीन आधार

Principle सिद्धांत	Meaning अर्थ
Separation of powers पृथक्करण	Basic structure मूल ढाँचा
Sub judice विचाराधीन	No talk on pending cases चर्चा नहीं
Bangalore Principles बैंगलोर	Judicial conduct (2002) आचरण

6 Past controversies पूर्व विवाद

- PM's visit to CJI Chandrachud's home (**2024**)
  2024
- Ex-CJI **Gogoi** nominated to **Rajya Sabha**
  गोगोई
- **1973** supersession of judges after Kesavananda
  1973

Class24

Separation of powers & CJI's refusal — in depth (2/2)

शक्तियों का पृथक्करण — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a citizen reaches the SC | सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक कैसे

Rights violated
अधिकार हनन
Fundamental rights
मौलिक अधिकार

→

Writ under Art 32
अनु. 32
Or letter PIL
पत्र याचिका

→

Registered & listed
सूचीबद्ध
Bench assigned
पीठ

→

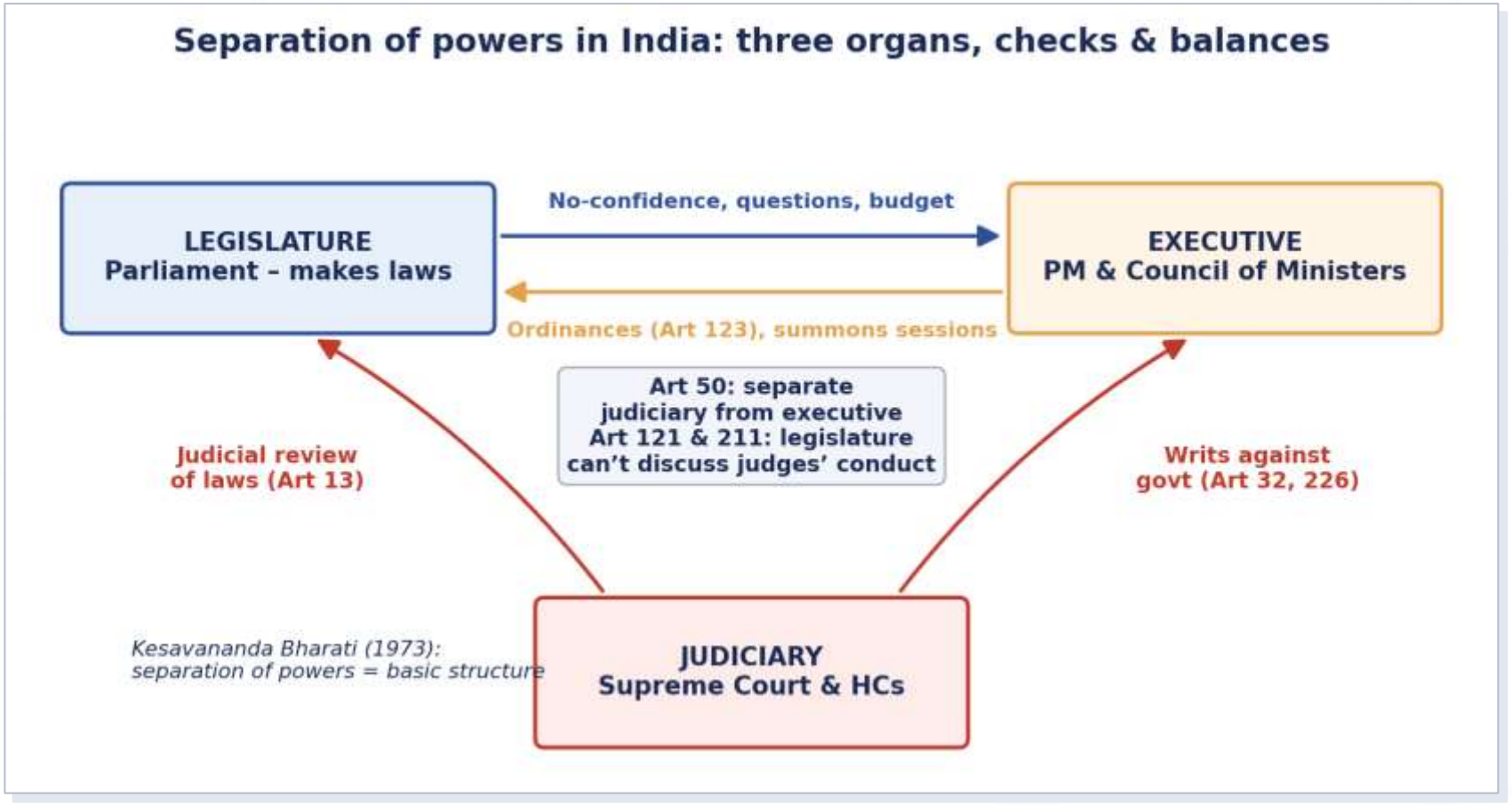
Hearing & order
सुनवाई
Five writs
पाँच रिट

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **Montesquieu** gave the theory of separation of powers (**1748**)
  मॉन्टेस्क्यू
- Dr. Ambedkar called **Art 32** the "**heart and soul**" of the Constitution
  अनु. 32

Separation of powers & CJI's refusal — Map & Diagram

शक्तियों का पृथक्करण — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Legislature, Executive, Judiciary** – three organs
  तीन अंग
- Checks: **judicial review**, writs, no-confidence
  नियंत्रण
- **Art 50** – separate judiciary from executive
  अनु. 50
- **Kesavananda (1973)** – basic structure
  केशवानंद

Class24

THE INDIAN EXPRESS • 19 OCT 2026

Page 13 · Explained

पृष्ठ 13 · व्याख्या

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

1 **Machine-readable voter list | मशीन-पठनीय सूची**

Why a machine-readable voter list?

मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची

Why Congress is again highlighting 'machine-readable voter list'

Rishika Singh
New Delhi, October 18

THE ELECTION Commission of India (ECI) issued a directive last week for another revision of electoral rolls under a Special Summary Revision. The process involves adding newly eligible electors and deleting those who have died or shifted. It differs from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in that the names of existing electors automatically enter the new rolls.

The Congress party highlighted a portion of the directive on supplying political parties with copies of draft and final rolls in a readable PDF format. "Rahul Gandhi ji had been consistently demanding a Machine readable digital voter list, so that the tampering happening in the voter list could be caught," it said, adding that the ECI has now had to "concede defeat".

What does machine-readable mean?

Converting written text into a digital format would earlier involve manual data entry. This painstaking process was supplanted by a technology called Optical Character Recognition (OCR). It allows machines to detect letters by training them on vast amounts of data.

Here, making voter lists machine-readable makes it easier to search for voters' names and details. Currently, the rolls are available as "image PDFs", where photos of the rolls are scanned and uploaded. It is unclear whether the new ECI directive marks a change.

Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference in New Delhi. ANI

The ECI directive said that the "ERO (Electoral Registration Officer), immediately after draft and final publication... shall supply free of cost two copies (one hard copy & one soft copy in readable PDF format) of each separate polling station of the roll to every recognised political party."

This, it added, was under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. They mandate that the ERO shall supply copies of each part of the roll to "every political party [for which a symbol has been exclusively reserved in the State] by the Election Commission."

What has Congress argued?

The party has repeatedly demanded making lists machine-readable of late.

In 2025, Rahul Gandhi alleged fake voter names were added to the voter list in a segment of Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera wrote in *The Indian Express*, "The only way to audit the electoral rolls of the entire country is to automate the process... We would need digital/machine-readable electoral rolls of all the constituencies."

In 2018, Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Sachin Pilot took these and other procedural issues concerning elections to the Supreme Court. The bench rejected the petitions, saying it was the format in which the draft electoral roll is supplied fulfils the requirement in the Election Manual, 2016.

The manual says the draft roll shall be put on the Chief Electoral Officer's website "in a text mode and no photographs would appear against the elector's details." The ECI said it consciously did not provide copies of voter lists in scannable text mode, "keeping in view the issue of privacy of voters". The court concluded, "The clause nowhere says that the draft electoral roll has to be put up on the Chief Electoral Officer's website in a 'searchable PDF.'"

In 2025, the SC again considered the issue when petitioners challenged the validity of the SIR process. The petitioners said that the EC was refusing to provide the 2003 voters' list in machine-readable form (the last SIR exercise was held from 2002 to 2004). Again, the court raised concerns about citizens' privacy and data mining. In its May 2026 verdict, the court upheld the SIR exercise.

Class24

Why Congress Is Again Highlighting ‘Machine-readable Voter List’

ECI के सारांश पुनरीक्षण निर्देश में दलों को “पठनीय PDF” देने की बात पर कांग्रेस का दावा – “मशीन-पठनीय सूची की माँग मानी”; ECI और सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहले निजता का हवाला दे चुके

Readable PDF
पठनीय PDF

1 The trigger | कारण

- ECI’s **Special Summary Revision** directive
  SSR निर्देश
- ERO to give parties **hard + soft copy**
  दो प्रतियाँ
- Soft copy in “**readable PDF**” format
  पठनीय PDF

2 Congress’s claim कांग्रेस का दावा

- Long demanded **machine-readable** rolls
  माँग
- To catch **tampering & fake voters**
  फ़र्ज़ी मतदाता
- Says ECI had to “**concede defeat**”
  ECI झुका

3 Still unclear | अस्पष्ट

- Is “readable PDF” = **searchable**?
  खोजयोग्य?
- Rolls now uploaded as **image PDFs**
  छवि PDF
- No clarity from ECI yet
  स्पष्टता नहीं

Class24

Why a machine-readable voter list? — in depth (1/2)

मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Court history न्यायालय इतिहास

Year वर्ष	Outcome परिणाम
2018	SC rejected Kamal Nath plea याचिका ख़ारिज
2025	SIR challenge – privacy concerns निजता
May 2026	SC upheld SIR SIR वैध

5 Legal basis | क़ानूनी आधार

- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**
  1960 नियम
- Copies to parties with **reserved symbols**
  आरक्षित चिह्न
- **Election Manual 2016**: text mode, **no photos** online
  मैनुअल 2016

6 The debate | बहस

- **For**: transparency, public audit
  पारदर्शिता
- **Against**: voter **privacy**, profiling
  निजता
- Middle path: search tool **without bulk download**
  मध्य मार्ग

Class24

Why a machine-readable voter list? — in depth (2/2)

मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How ECI uses technology | ECI और तकनीक

Voter Helpline App
ऐप
Search name
नाम खोजें

→

e-EPIC
ई-EPIC
Digital voter ID
डिजिटल पहचान

→

cVIGIL
सी-विजिल
Report violations
शिकायत

→

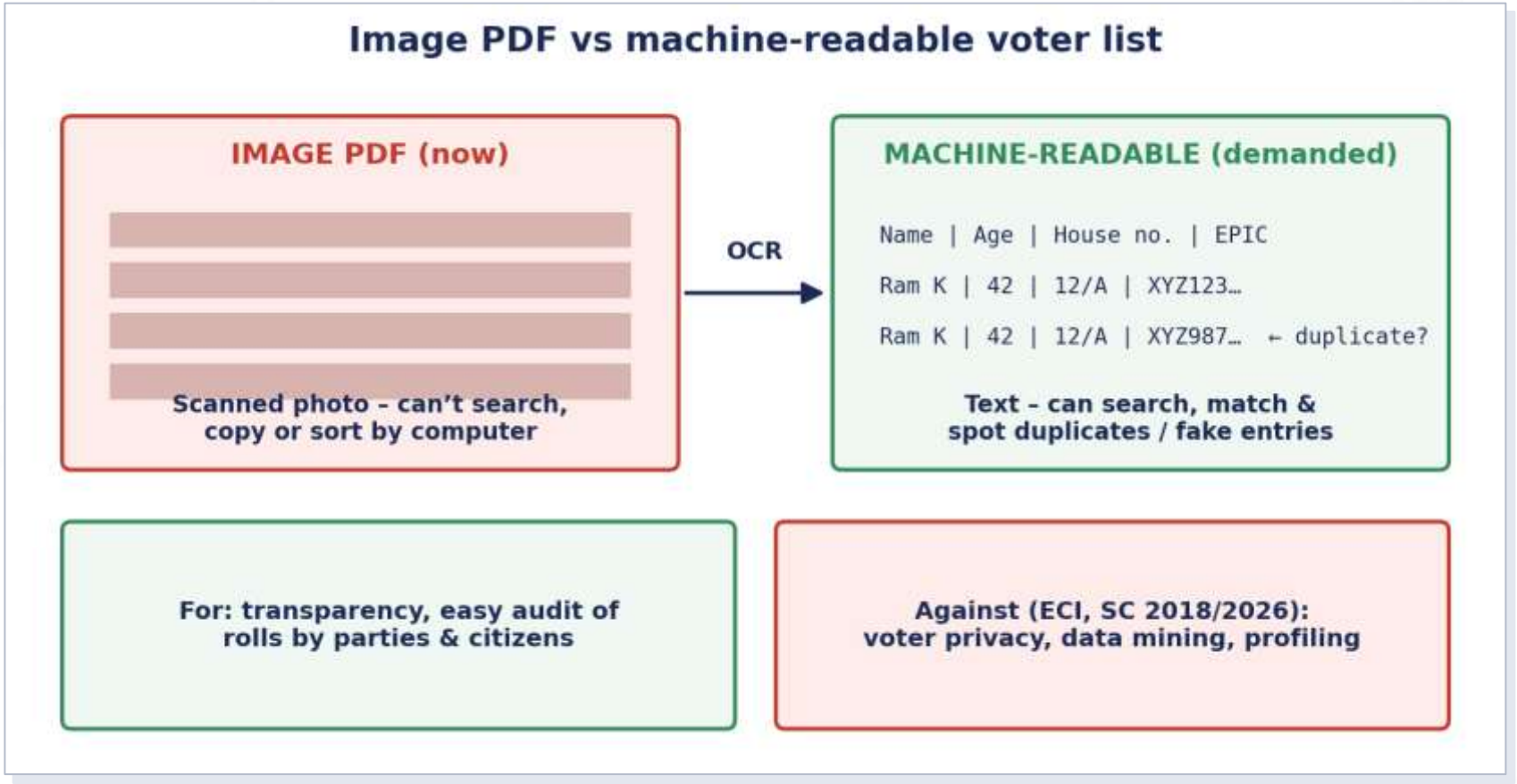
ERONET
ERONET
Roll management
सूची प्रबंधन

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **OCR** = Optical Character Recognition – turns images into text
  OCR
- India has **~99 crore** registered voters
  99 करोड़

Why a machine-readable voter list? — Map & Diagram

मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Now: **image PDF** – can't be searched
  छवि PDF
- Demand: **text** format via **OCR**
  टेक्स्ट प्रारूप
- For: easy **audit**, spot fake entries
  ऑडिट
- Against: **privacy**, data mining
  निजता

FINANCIAL EXPRESS • 19 OCT 2026

Page 3 · Economy

पृष्ठ 3 · अर्थव्यवस्था

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

1 **Extra $29 bn for same crude | कच्चा तेल बिल**

Extra $29 bn for the same crude

कच्चे तेल का बढ़ा बिल

India pays additional $29 bn in H1 for almost same crude volumes

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, October 18

INDIA PAID NEARLY $29 billion more for crude oil imports in the first half of FY27 despite importing almost the same quantity as a year ago, underscoring how the sharp rise in global oil prices — rather than higher volumes — drove up the country's energy bill.

The crude import bill rose to $90.6 billion during April-September from $61.9 billion a year earlier, while import volumes increased by less than 1% to 122.7 million tonne, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

In effect, India imported almost the same amount of crude but paid substantially more for every barrel. In rupee terms, the country spent ₹8.53 lakh crore on crude imports in just six months. The first-half bill is already about 72% of the $125.8-billion crude import bill for the entire FY26, highlighting the scale of the price shock.

The higher import bill came despite softer domestic fuel demand. Consumption of petroleum products during April-September fell 3.3% year-on-year to 114.8 million tonne, indicating that prices, rather than a sharp increase in underlying demand, were the primary driver of the surge in import costs. The six-month numbers also capture two sharply different quarters.

The biggest blow came in April-June, when the West Asia conflict pushed international crude prices sharply higher. India's Q1 crude import bill jumped 61% year-on-year to $49.8 billion even as import volumes declined to 59.8 million tonnes, according to PPAC data.

The pressure eased during July-September. Based on the first-half and Q1 numbers, India spent about $40.8 billion on crude in Q2, around $9 billion less than in the previous quarter, even as imports increased to roughly 62.9 million tonne.

This meant India imported more crude in Q2 than in Q1 but paid less for it as the extreme price shock seen earlier in the fiscal moderated. The relief, however, began to reverse again in September.

India imported 21.7 million tonne of crude during the month, up 6.6% year-on-year, but the import bill surged to $15.4 billion from $10.5 billion a year earlier.

The rise was driven by a renewed jump in global oil prices. The Indian crude basket averaged $116.09 a barrel in September, against $69.61 a barrel a year earlier. Brent averaged $116.77 a barrel, compared with $68.02 in September 2025.

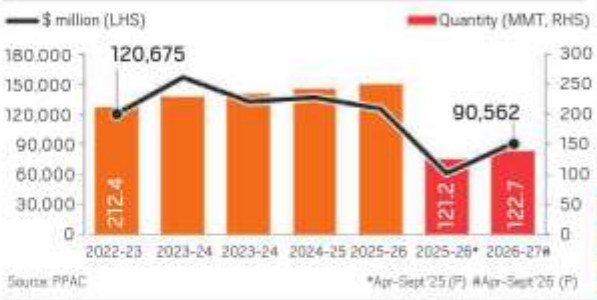
India remains particularly exposed to such price swings as it imports close to nine out of every 10 barrels of crude it consumes. Crude import dependence stood at 88.1% during April-September. At the same time, domestic crude production declined to 13.7 million tonne from 14.2 million tonne in the corresponding period last year.

The higher crude cost is also spilling over into the broader external account. India's net oil and gas import bill rose to $81.1 billion during April-September from $60.2 billion a year earlier. Petroleum imports accounted for 22.7% of the country's merchandise imports by value, compared with 19.5% in the year-ago period.

India's current account deficit widened to $4.2 billion, or 0.5% of GDP, in Q1 FY27 from $3.4 billion a year earlier, as higher energy costs added to the import burden.

"The key risk for India is therefore straightforward: the country does not need to import substantially more oil for its crude bill to rise sharply. With domestic production declining and import dependence stuck above 88%, prolonged high international crude prices can quickly translate into a larger trade bill, pressure on the current account and higher costs across the economy," said an analyst tracking the sector.

GROWING OIL BURDEN



Source: PPAC
*Apr-Sept'25 (P) #Apr-Sept'26 (P)

Class24

India Pays Additional $29 bn in H1 for Almost Same Crude Volumes

FY27 की पहली छमाही में भारत ने लगभग उतने ही कच्चे तेल के लिए $29 अरब अधिक चुकाए – पश्चिम एशिया संकट से कीमतें बढ़ीं; चालू खाता घाटा भी बढ़ा

Price shock
मूल्य झटका

1 H1 FY27 numbers | आँकड़े

$90.6 bn
Crude bill (Apr–Sep)
बिल

122.7 Mt
Volume (+<1%)
मात्रा

₹8.53 lakh cr
In rupees
रुपये में

72%
Of FY26 full-year bill
पूरे वर्ष का

2 Quarter by quarter | तिमाही

- **Q1**: bill **+61%** to $49.8 bn – West Asia shock
  Q1
- **Q2**: $40.8 bn – prices eased
  Q2
- **Sept**: bill $15.4 bn vs $10.5 bn
  सितंबर

3 Spillover | प्रभाव

- Net oil & gas bill **$81.1 bn**
  $81.1 अरब
- Petroleum = **22.7%** of imports
  22.7%
- CAD **$4.2 bn (0.5% of GDP)** in Q1
  चालू खाता घाटा

Class24

Extra $29 bn for the same crude — in depth (1/2)

कच्चे तेल का बढ़ा बिल — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Supply side | आपूर्ति

- Domestic output **14.2 → 13.7 Mt**
  घरेलू उत्पादन घटा
- Fuel demand **–3.3%** (114.8 Mt)
  माँग घटी
- Import dependence **88.1%**
  आयात निर्भरता

5 Key terms | शब्दावली

Term शब्द	Meaning अर्थ
Indian basket **भारतीय बास्केट**	Mix of crudes India buys मिश्रण
Brent **ब्रेंट**	Global benchmark crude मानक
PPAC **PPAC**	Oil data cell, MoPNG डेटा
CAD **CAD**	Current account deficit चालू खाता घाटा

6 Cushions | बचाव

- **Strategic Petroleum Reserves**
  SPR
- **Ethanol blending** (E20)
  इथेनॉल
- Diversified suppliers; **EVs**
  विविधीकरण

Class24

Extra $29 bn for the same crude — in depth (2/2)

कच्चे तेल का बढ़ा बिल — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Balance of Payments structure | भुगतान संतुलन

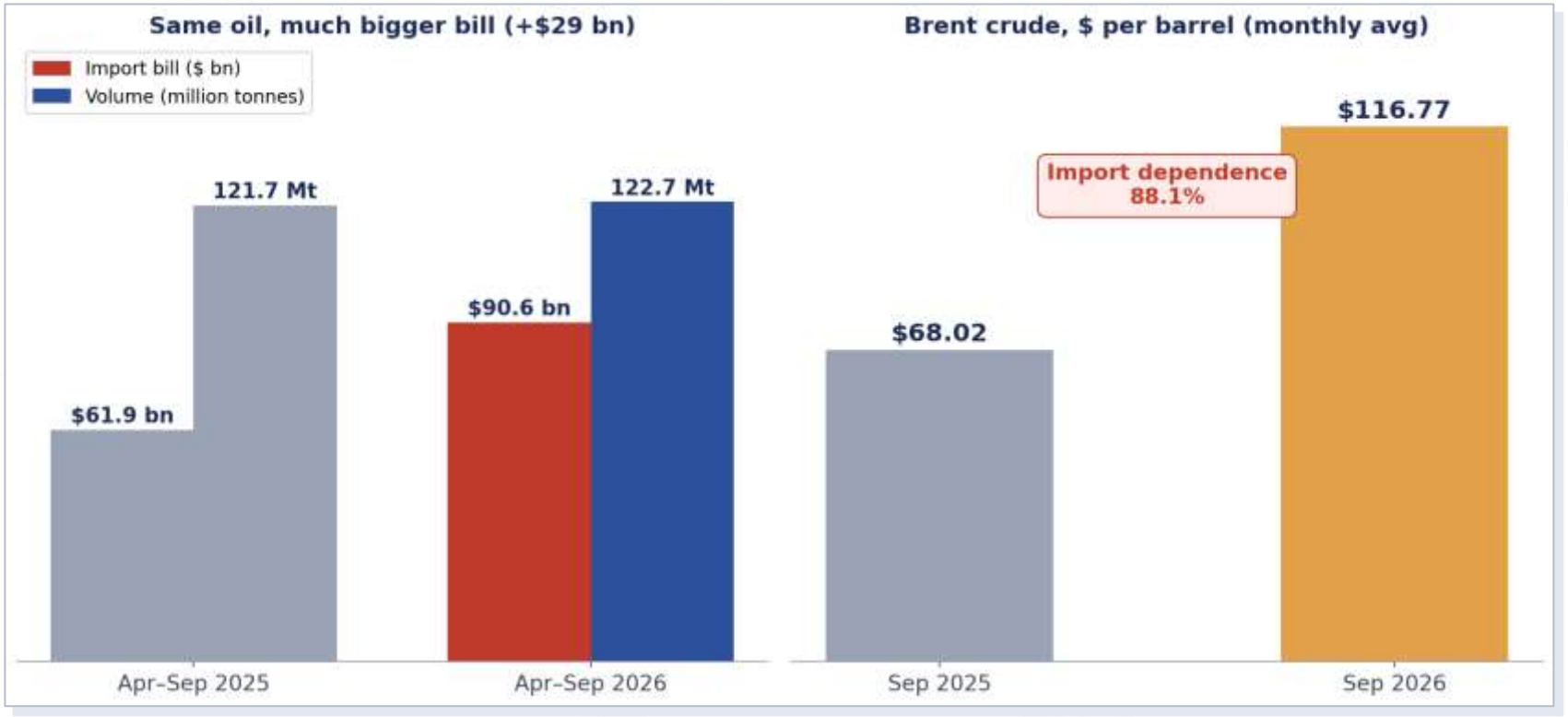
Trade balance व्यापार संतुलन	+ Invisibles अदृश्य	= Current account चालू खाता	Capital account पूँजी खाता
Goods वस्तुएँ	Services, remittances सेवाएँ	Deficit / surplus घाटा	FDI, FPI, loans निवेश

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- India is the world's **3rd-largest** crude oil importer
  तीसरा सबसे बड़ा
- 1 barrel = **159 litres**
  159 लीटर

Extra $29 bn for the same crude — Map & Diagram

कच्चे तेल का बढ़ा बिल — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Bill **$61.9 → $90.6 bn**; volume almost flat
  बिल बढ़ा
- Brent **$68 → $116.77** (Sept)
  ब्रेंट
- Import dependence **88.1%**
  88.1%
- **Price**, not demand, drove the bill
  कीमत का असर

Class24

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

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 (GS Paper I)

Exam date: 24 May 2026 • Topic: Hoolock gibbon

Consider the following statements about the Western Hoolock Gibbon: 1. A sanctuary in North-East India is home to this ape, which is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. 2. It has specialised brachiation and swings easily between trees. 3. It has a gorilla-like heavy build but is an agile tree climber. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 (GS Paper I)

Exam date: 24 May 2026 • Topic: Net zero

Statement I: LT-LEDS is a key tool for India's goal of net zero by 2070. Statement II: India's BUR-4 (Dec 2024) shows about 8% lower GHG emissions in 2020 than in 2019. Statement III: Climate-resilient development depends on quick short-term emission cuts. Which is correct? 1. I is empirically supported by II. 2. III conflicts with the long-term approach of I. 3. I and III together establish long-term sustainability.

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

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 (GS Paper I)

Exam date: 24 May 2026 • Topic: Hoolock gibbon

Consider the following statements about the Western Hoolock Gibbon: 1. A sanctuary in North-East India is home to this ape, which is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. 2. It has specialised brachiation and swings easily between trees. 3. It has a gorilla-like heavy build but is an agile tree climber. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2

(c) 2 and 3

(d) 3 only

Answer: (b) Gibbons are small, light apes – not gorilla-like.
1 और 2।

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 (GS Paper I)

Exam date: 24 May 2026 • Topic: Net zero

Statement I: LT-LEDS is a key tool for India's goal of net zero by 2070. Statement II: India's BUR-4 (Dec 2024) shows about 8% lower GHG emissions in 2020 than in 2019. Statement III: Climate-resilient development depends on quick short-term emission cuts. Which is correct? 1. I is empirically supported by II. 2. III conflicts with the long-term approach of I. 3. I and III together establish long-term sustainability.

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2

(c) 2 and 3

(d) 3 only

Answer: (b) LT-LEDS = long-term low-emission strategy.
1 और 2।

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

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 (GS Paper I)
Exam date: 24 May 2026 • Topic: India–Sri Lanka

Match the India-supported projects (List I) with countries (List II). A. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project B. Restoration of Stor Palace C. District Hospital at Dickoya D. Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies. 1. Maldives 2. Afghanistan 3. Bhutan 4. Sri Lanka

(a) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3
(b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
(c) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
(d) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 (GS Paper I)

Exam date: 24 May 2026 • Topic: India–Sri Lanka

Match the India-supported projects (List I) with countries (List II). A. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project B. Restoration of Stor Palace C. District Hospital at Dickoya D. Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies. 1. Maldives 2. Afghanistan 3. Bhutan 4. Sri Lanka

(a) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3

(b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

(c) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1

(d) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

Answer: (b) Dickoya hospital – Sri Lanka.
A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1।

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

UPSC CAPF 2026 (General Ability & Intelligence)

Exam date: 19 Jul 2026 • Topic: Cyclones

Consider the following statements regarding cyclones in India: 1. More cyclones occur in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea. 2. On an average, 12 to 15 tropical cyclones form every year. 3. Tropical cyclones occur continuously throughout the year. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

UPSC CAPF 2026 (General Ability & Intelligence)

Exam date: 19 Jul 2026 • Topic: Cyclones

Consider the following statements regarding cyclones in India: 1. More cyclones occur in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea. 2. On an average, 12 to 15 tropical cyclones form every year. 3. Tropical cyclones occur continuously throughout the year. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 3

(c) 2 and 3

(d) 2 only

Answer: (a) ~5–6 cyclones a year; seasonal (pre- & post-monsoon).
केवल 1।

Class24

Test Yourself — Q1–4 | स्वयं को परखें

Q1 **Aditya-L1 observes the Sun from which location?**
आदित्य-L1 सूर्य का अवलोकन कहाँ से करता है?

(a) Low Earth orbit
(b) Geostationary orbit
(c) Sun–Earth Lagrange point L1
(d) Lunar orbit

Q2 **Proba-3, which created an "artificial eclipse" to study the corona, is a mission of:**
प्रोबा-3 किसका मिशन है?

(a) NASA
(b) ESA
(c) JAXA
(d) ISRO

Q3 **Which layer of the Sun is its visible surface?**
सूर्य की दृश्य सतह कौन-सी परत है?

(a) Corona
(b) Chromosphere
(c) Photosphere
(d) Core

Q4 **In Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020), the SC held that freedom of speech and trade through the Internet is protected under:**
अनुराधा भसीन मामले में इंटरनेट के माध्यम से अभिव्यक्ति व व्यापार किसके तहत संरक्षित?

(a) Art 14 and 15
(b) Art 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g)
(c) Art 21A
(d) Art 32

Class24

Test Yourself — Q5–8 | स्वयं को परखें

Q5 **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) works under:**
NPPA किसके अधीन है?

(a) Ministry of Health
(b) Dept of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) Ministry of Commerce

Q6 **Ceiling prices under DPCO 2013 apply to medicines listed in:**
DPCO 2013 के तहत सीमा मूल्य किस सूची की दवाओं पर?

(a) NLEM
(b) Schedule H
(c) Schedule X
(d) WHO list

Q7 **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary is located in:**
होल्लोंगापार गिबन अभयारण्य कहाँ है?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Assam
(c) Meghalaya
(d) Tripura

Q8 **The 13th Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution, backed by India, deals with:**
श्रीलंका का 13वाँ संशोधन किससे संबंधित है?

(a) Presidential term
(b) Devolution to provincial councils
(c) Official language Sinhala only
(d) Emergency powers

Test Yourself — Q9–10 | स्वयं को परखें

Q9 **Emissions from attendees' travel to an event fall under:**
आयोजन में दर्शकों की यात्रा का उत्सर्जन किस श्रेणी में?

(a) Scope 1
(b) Scope 2
(c) Scope 3
(d) Not counted

Q10 **India announced its net-zero target year of 2070 at:**
भारत ने 2070 नेट ज़ीरो लक्ष्य कहाँ घोषित किया?

(a) COP21, Paris
(b) COP26, Glasgow
(c) COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh
(d) COP28, Dubai

Answer Key — Q1–5 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

1-c **Sun–Earth Lagrange point L1** — ~1.5 million km from Earth.
L1 बिंदु।

2-b **ESA** — European Space Agency; launched from Sriharikota, 2024.
ESA।

3-c **Photosphere** — Photosphere ~5,500 °C.
प्रकाशमंडल।

4-b **Art 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g)** — Restrictions must be proportionate.
19(1)(a) व (g)।

5-b **Dept of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** — Set up 1997.
फ़ार्मास्युटिकल्स विभाग।

Answer Key — Q6–10 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

6-a **NLEM** — National List of Essential Medicines.
NLEM।

7-b **Assam** — Jorhat district, Assam.
असम।

8-b **Devolution to provincial councils** — From the 1987 Indo-Lanka Accord.
प्रांतीय परिषदें।

9-c **Scope 3** — Indirect value-chain emissions.
स्कोप 3।

10-b **COP26, Glasgow** — “Panchamrit”, 2021.
COP26, ग्लासगो।

Myth Buster of the Day — Geography | आज का मिथक

MYTH | मिथक

“Most of India’s cyclones form in the Arabian Sea.”

भारत के अधिकांश चक्रवात अरब सागर में बनते हैं।

FACT | तथ्य

False. The Bay of Bengal gets roughly four times as many cyclones as the Arabian Sea. Its surface water is warmer and less salty (thanks to rivers like the Ganga and Brahmaputra), and remnants of Pacific typhoons often drift in. Its flat, funnel-shaped coast also makes storm surges deadlier – which is why Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal face the biggest risk. The Arabian Sea is warming fast, though, and its cyclones are increasing.

ग़लत। बंगाल की खाड़ी में अरब सागर की तुलना में लगभग चार गुना अधिक चक्रवात आते हैं। इसका सतही पानी गर्म और कम खारा है (गंगा-ब्रह्मपुत्र जैसी नदियों के कारण), और प्रशांत महासागर के तूफ़ानों के अवशेष भी यहाँ पहुँचते हैं। इसका समतल, कीप-आकार का तट तूफ़ानी लहरों को और घातक बनाता है। हालाँकि अरब सागर तेज़ी से गर्म हो रहा है और वहाँ चक्रवात बढ़ रहे हैं।

Bay of Bengal = India’s cyclone factory. **बंगाल की खाड़ी = चक्रवातों का कारख़ाना।**

BATCH B3
100%
MONEY BACK
STOCK
MARKET
COURSE
START DATE - 19 OCT
+2.45%
+5.76%
+1.32%
+4.18%
SCAN AND
FILL FORM NOW

BATCH B3

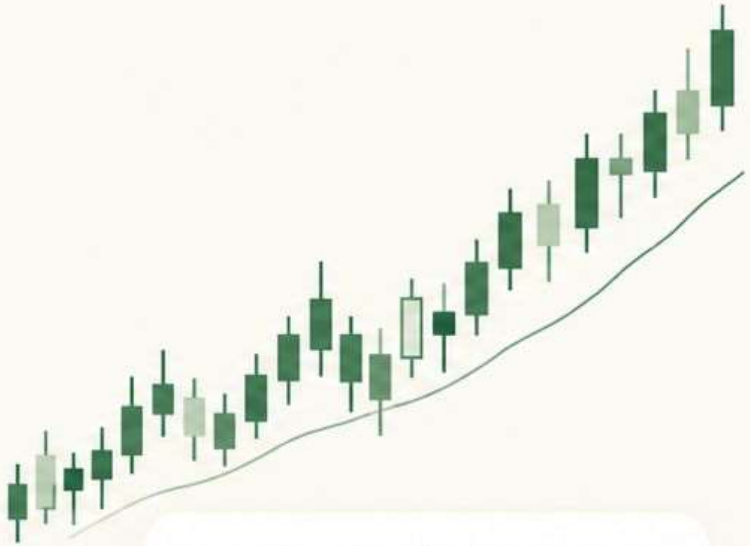
LUCK ✗ | SKILL ✓

STOCK MARKET IS A SKILL

STOCK MARKET COURSE

100% MONEY BACK

START DATE - 19 OCT



SCAN AND FILL FORM NOW

Thank you ?