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By **Bhunesh Sir**

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“

“If you forgive the fox for stealing your chickens, he will take your sheep.”

— Georgian proverb

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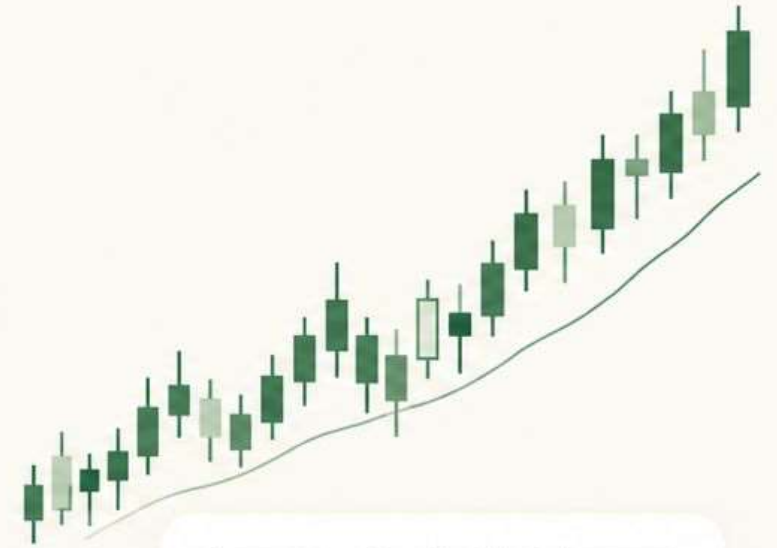
LUCK X | SKILL ✓

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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

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Zero events
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The Hindu ePaper - Important Alert



Dear Reader,

There will be no issue of The Hindu ePaper editions dated 20/10/26 on account of Ayudha Pooja.

Best regards,
ePaper Team
The Hindu Group

FSSAI proposes tighter rules for infant food

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

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AI's mathematical proofs unsettle researchers SC
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Children have fundamental right to access internet SC
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India and West Indies share the honours in T20 series
SPORT PAGE 12

INSIDE



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

RENEWAL
Chief Justice of India (CJI) has a lot to say on Saturday as the Supreme Court resumes its regular business. The CJI's remarks are expected to be significant, given the court's recent decision on the validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The CJI is expected to discuss the court's role in shaping the law and the importance of the judiciary in a democratic society.



'Census posts for private people an RSS job scheme'

NEW DELHI
A day after the Centre announced the appointment of private sector leaders and members of "private sector advisory committees" to the Census Commission, Congress leaders Jyoti Basu and Jayaprakash Narayan on Saturday alleged the move amounted to an employment scheme for the RSS. They said the move was a "job scheme" for the RSS, which has been a long-standing ally of the government.

CRPF may bring back Nalk ranks to boost morale

NEW DELHI
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the country's largest paramilitary force, is considering the re-introduction of Nalk ranks to boost morale. The move is being considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is currently reviewing the force's structure and composition. The Nalk ranks were previously used by the force but were later discontinued.

'Flight firm faced red flags before Ajit Pawar crash'

NEW DELHI
An investigation into a 2015 private jet crash involving the late Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar, has revealed that the flight firm faced several red flags before the crash. The investigation, conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), found that the flight firm had a history of safety issues and had not followed proper procedures for the flight. The crash resulted in the death of the Chief Minister and several other people on board.

17 killed, 25 injured in Kolkata puja stampede

Chief Minister's a misadventure 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

Kolkata, October 14
17.11.20

A 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 end gate of the pandal, a statement from the police said. According to reports, a large crowd had gathered at the Chatterjee Ghatbari area, near the Durgam Chatterjee Park area and tried

to take shelter inside the pandal after a loud blast of whistles. Firefighters, along with police officers, rushed to the spot for rescue operations, according to a police statement. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee 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. She 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.



Police trying to control the crowd outside the Durga Puja pandal after a stampede in Kolkata on Saturday night. (AP Photo, Anind Chakrabarti)

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 walls that have come up around it during the festival season. According to the witnesses, the organisers of the Durga Puja pandal had announced that the pandal was closed to the public and that the organisers were leaving the area. This led to a large crowd of people gathering outside the pandal, and a stampede broke out when the organisers tried to force their way through the crowd.

Kolkata is extremely sad. I am great big Bengali, but I am not a Bengali. I am a human. I pray for the souls of those who have been injured," she said in a post on X. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the incident as "a tragedy" and expressed his condolences to the families of those who were killed. He also announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh for the dead and ₹50,000 to the injured. He said the central government 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 it is a pity 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 Chatterjee Ghatbari Durga Puja Pandal. I pray for the souls of those who have been injured and the speedy recovery of all those who are injured and for strength and courage for their families during this difficult time," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on his social media. The Kolkata Police have started a probe into the incident and are looking for the people who were responsible for the stampede.



Large crowd gathered outside the Election Commission of India office in New Delhi, before the release of Dipke and Neha.

Dipke, Neha released as activists continue stir

Luxembourg, Oct 14

Condemned Indian Party (CPI) leader Dipke, who was placed under preventive arrest by the Delhi Police, was released on bail by a Delhi court on Saturday after signing a police bond, even as sporadic protests, led by women activists, continued for the eighth day against the Chief Election Commissioner and police action. ADA president Nisha Bhatia, detained at Manik Jyoti on Friday during a protest march, was also released after being kept in detention for around 12 hours.



CPI leader Dipke (left) and Nisha Bhatia (right) were released from Delhi Police custody after signing a police bond. (AP Photo, Anind Chakrabarti)

Activists also continued to protest against the alleged "sexualised" and "gender-biased" nature of the Delhi Police's search. A special search by Delhi Police personnel against protesters, including a search of the homes of Justice Mishra, led to a protest outside the Supreme Court. The protesters said that the search was a violation of their rights and that they were being targeted by the police.

"Huge detention" later in the day, around 30 protesters, including activists and students, were detained by the police. The protesters said that they were being targeted by the police and that they were being denied their right to protest. They also said that they were being denied access to their families and that they were being treated poorly by the police.

State with jurisdiction over the case. Dipke said that he was released because he was not involved in the case. He also said that he was not involved in the case and that he was not involved in the case. He also said that he was not involved in the case and that he was not involved in the case.

Trump eases tariff threat over Russian oil; India gets relief

Washington, Oct 14

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday eased his threat of a new tax on Russian oil, offering relief to India. The move came after a meeting between Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Trump said that he was "very happy" with the meeting and that he was "very happy" with the meeting. He also said that he was "very happy" with the meeting and that he was "very happy" with the meeting.



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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

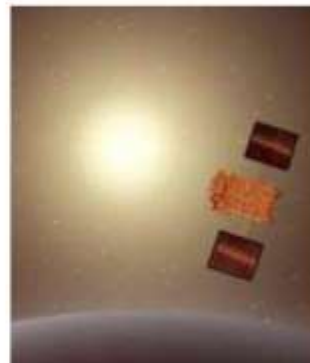
सौर विस्फोट

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



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

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.

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 den-

ty 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 2023. 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.

Bengaluru Scientists Study Solar Eruptions

with Data from Aditya-L1, Proba-3

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



First joint study
पहला संयुक्त अध्ययन

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

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

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?

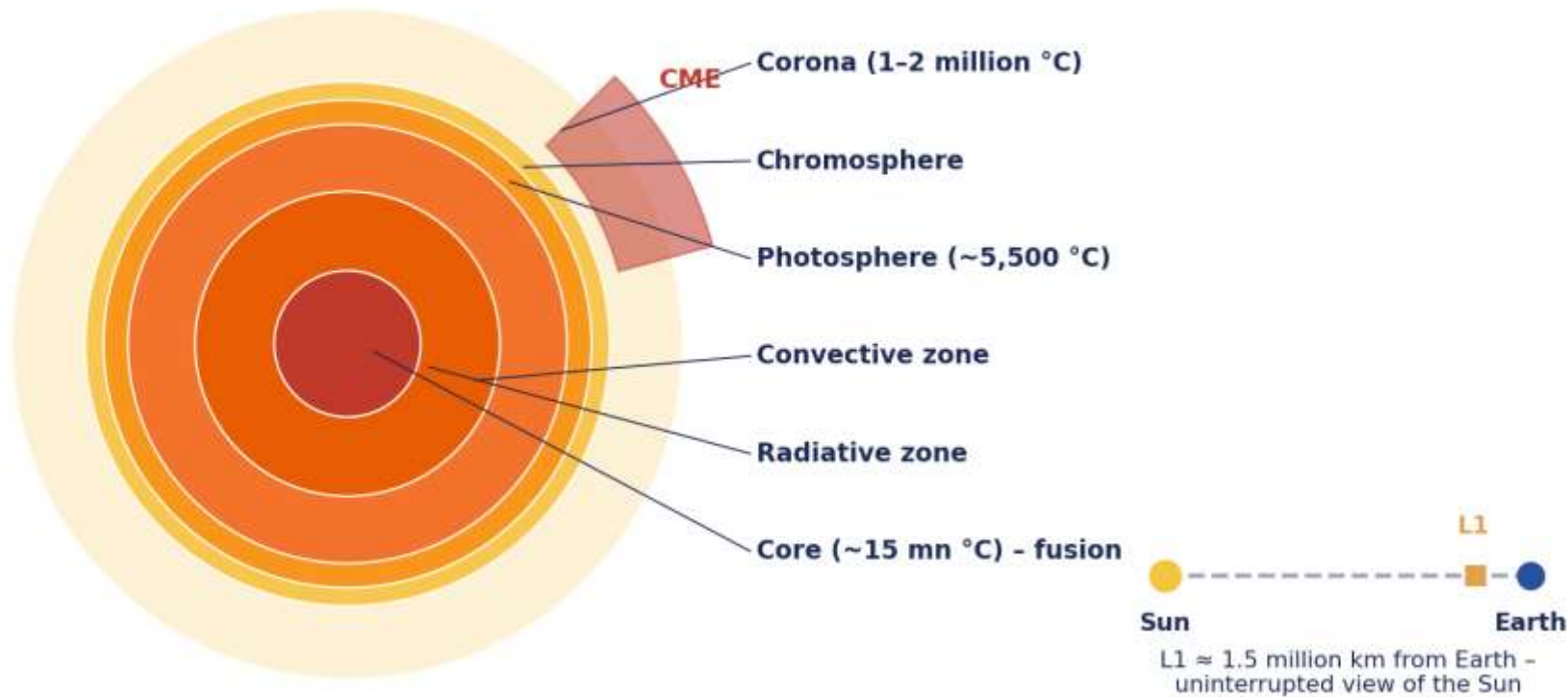


- ▶ The Sun follows an **~11-year** activity cycle
11 वर्ष चक्र
- ▶ NASA's **Parker Solar Probe** has flown closest to the Sun
पार्कर प्रोब

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

सौर विस्फोट — मानचित्र व आरेख

Layers of the Sun - and where Aditya-L1 watches from



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

IN BRIEF



Air India, AI Express cancel Saudi Arabia flights till Oct. 24

Air India and AI Express on Sunday announced the extension of flight cancellations on Saudi Arabia until October 24 due to escalating tensions in the region. The airline said it will resume flights to and from Saudi Arabia after the situation stabilizes. The airline also said it will resume flights to and from Saudi Arabia after the situation stabilizes.

Vigilance officials arrest Odisha engineer for graft

The Odisha Vigilance on Sunday arrested a government engineer after taking into custody a sum of Rs 10 lakh from him and alleged that he collected bribe from contractors. The engineer was arrested on charges of accepting bribes from contractors to secure work for his firm.

5 killed in blast at chemical unit in Gujarat's Bharuch

An explosion at a chemical unit in Gujarat's Bharuch on Sunday killed five people and injured several others. The blast occurred at a chemical unit belonging to a private firm. The cause of the blast is under investigation.

NCB busts two synthetic drug labs in Greater Noida, 2 killed

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday busted two synthetic drug laboratories in Greater Noida, killing two people in the process. The labs were found to be producing synthetic drugs in large quantities.

FSSAI proposes pesticide residue restrictions for tea

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Sunday proposed pesticide residue restrictions for tea. The restrictions are aimed at ensuring the safety of tea consumed in India.

FSSAI moves to ban added sugar in infant food items

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Sunday moved to ban added sugar in infant food items. The move is aimed at protecting the health of infants.

In Delhi's Titarpur, Ravana mirrors politics of the day

By Anshu Singh

Along the highway that connects the city to the suburbs, a small, unassuming building stands out. It is the Ravana, a local eatery that has become a hub for the city's political and social elite. The building is a simple, one-story structure with a red roof. It is surrounded by a low wall. The entrance is a small, arched doorway. The building is located in a quiet, residential area. The Ravana is a popular spot for the city's political and social elite. It is a place where they can relax and enjoy a meal. The building is a simple, one-story structure with a red roof. It is surrounded by a low wall. The entrance is a small, arched doorway. The building is located in a quiet, residential area.



Ravana mask, a traditional Indian mask used in performances.

For the city, the Ravana is a place where the political and social elite can relax and enjoy a meal. It is a place where they can discuss the latest news and events. The building is a simple, one-story structure with a red roof. It is surrounded by a low wall. The entrance is a small, arched doorway. The building is located in a quiet, residential area.

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1 Children have fundamental right to access Internet: SC

Chief Justice Dhananjaya Yashwantrao Indulkar said that the right to access the Internet is a fundamental right of every citizen.

The Supreme Court on Sunday ruled that the right to access the Internet is a fundamental right of every citizen. The court said that the right to access the Internet is a part of the right to freedom of expression.

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CRPF may bring back Naik ranks to boost morale

By Anshu Singh

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is considering bringing back the Naik rank to boost the morale of its personnel. The rank of Naik was abolished in 1999.

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THE HINDU • 18 OCT 2026

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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

SUDOKU

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

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

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 me-



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

chanisms, 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 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 on-

line, 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 POC-SO 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 not-

ing 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.

Children Have Fundamental Right to Access Internet: SC

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



Art 21 + 19(1)(a)
अनु. 21

1 The ruling | फैसला



- ▶ 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**

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

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

Parental consent
<18
अभिभावक सहमति



IT Rules 2021
IT नियम

Platform duties
प्लेटफॉर्म



Report abuse
शिकायत

1930 /
cybercrime.gov.in
1930



POCSO 2012
पॉक्सो

Punish offenders
दंड

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► **Safer Internet Day** –
second Tuesday of
February

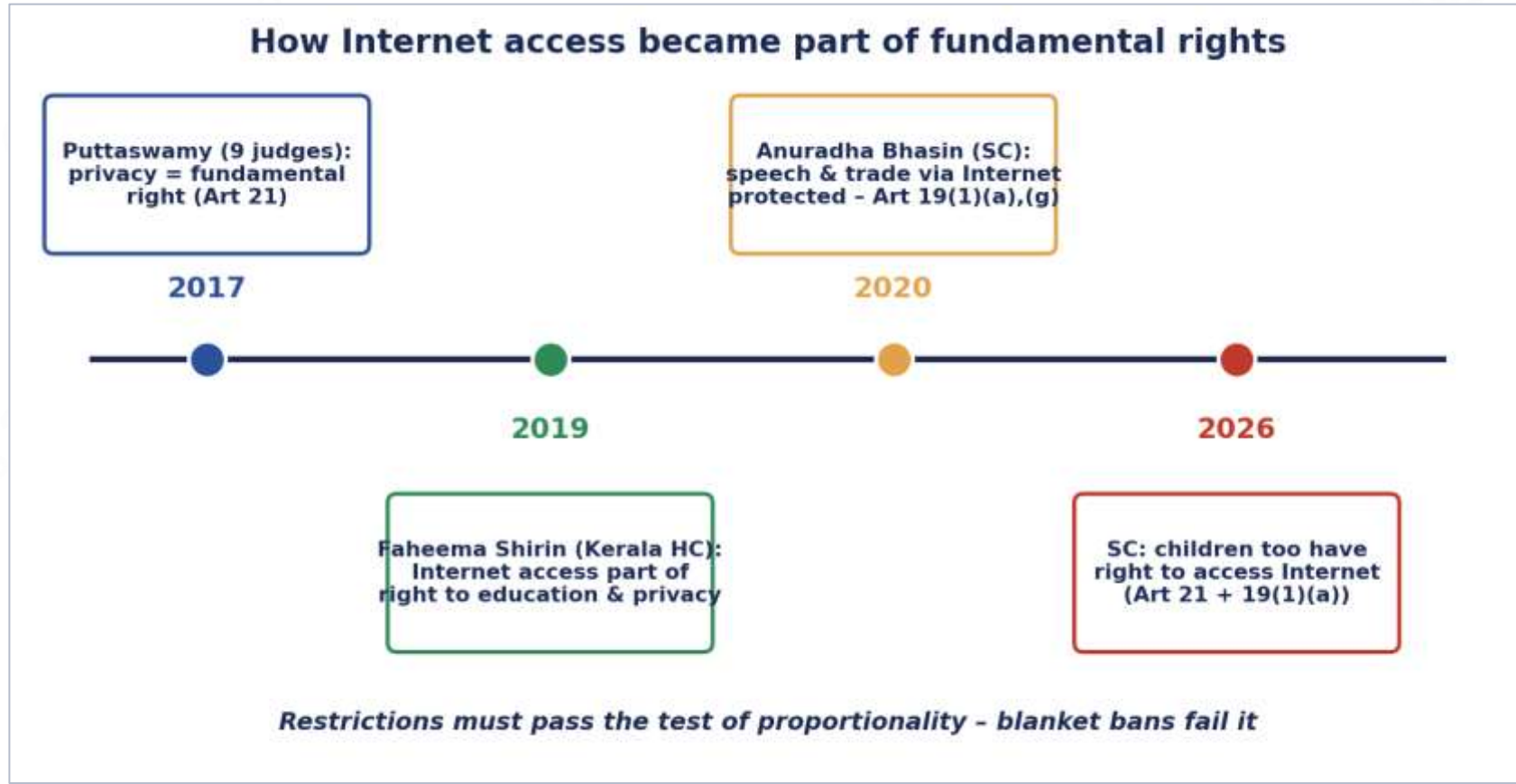
सुरक्षित इंटरनेट दिवस

► 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

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 hangs from the lower branches of a 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 sanctuary. 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 railway, 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

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 खतरा

3

The threat | खतरा



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

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

Plant trees
पेड़ लगाएँ



Rope bridge
रस्सी पुल

Squirrels
गिलहरी



Overpass
ओवरपास

Netherlands ~1
km
नीदरलैंड



Underpass
अंडरपास

NH-44, Pench
पेंच

8

Did you know?
क्या आप जानते हैं?



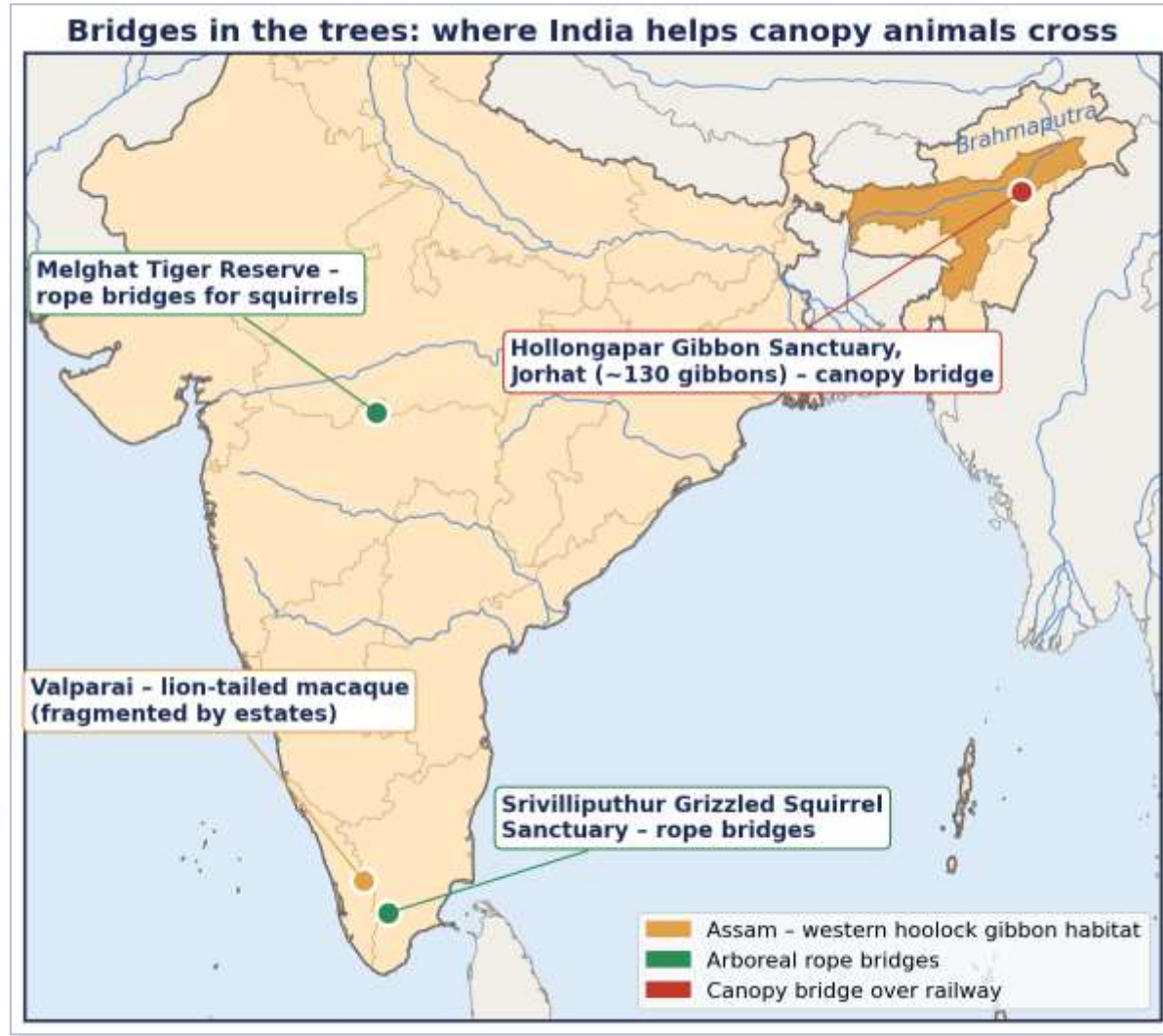
► Gibbons are **apes**, not monkeys – they have **no tail**

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



पृष्ठ 12 • विश्व

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

1 Militarisation in Sri Lanka's Tamil areas | श्रीलंका

biohybrid combined for 50 days it is producing at least 200 mg of *E. coli* bioactive protein at 1 mg/day. It is within the same different magnitude as the values reported for other technologies. According to the study, biohybrid can produce a protein of value around 100 mg per day, depending on the culture medium. The authors also

one of the others remains
by his slave's location.

Well Being

5/26/2017, OCT 12:00:16 PM

1 of more
with
medical billing
inconsistencies,
know how
consumers suffer
from markups on
medicines and
consumables

A RECENTLY RELEASED book by Smithsonian Institution biologist Richard Leakey, *The Hominin Revolution* (Yale University Press, \$22.95), has been hailed as the best explanation yet of the evolution of modern man. The book is a tour de force, combining popular science with a gripping narrative. Leakey, an expert in the field, presents a compelling case for the role of the hominid brain in the evolution of modern man. He traces the evolution of the hominid brain from its earliest origins to the present day, showing how the brain has evolved to become the most complex and powerful of any known animal. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the evolution of man.

Behavioral science helped us to be light on the human side and more sensitive to the needs of our customers. The Center for Consumer Research (formerly the Center for Consumer Understanding) has a long history working closely with industry and academia to develop innovative marketing research methods. In addition, our marketing research team has been pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the field of marketing. Many of our marketing leaders have been working on the forefront of emerging marketing applications like Data Driven Marketing, and we're excited to continue our work with you on your vision of the future.

Major comments:

These authors analyze writing skills in the context of the broader social and cultural context of the students' lives. They use structural equation modeling. This is a pretty technical way to test a hypothesis, but the authors provide a good explanation of what they are doing. They also have a lot of data, which is good. The authors also have a lot of data, which is good. The authors also have a lot of data, which is good.

Editorial comments:

The authors have a lot of data, which is good. The authors also have a lot of data, which is good. The authors also have a lot of data, which is good.



Dr. Gopal Prasad

PERFORMANCE

RESEARCHER *Dr. David G. Hirsch, University of California, San Diego*

SETTING *Two public middle schools in the San Diego area*

DESIGN *Quasi-experimental, with one school as a comparison group. Data were taken in a series of three pre-testing cycles, followed by a post-testing cycle.*

INTERVENTIONS *Two different, but related, social and emotional learning (SEL) programs were implemented. The first was a social skills curriculum, and the second was a self-management curriculum. Both programs were designed to help students develop the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in school and in life.*

MEASUREMENTS AND MAIN RESULTS *The study found that students in the intervention schools showed significant improvements in social and emotional skills compared to students in the comparison school. These improvements were measured using a variety of self-report and teacher-report measures. The study also found that the intervention programs had a positive impact on students' academic achievement, as measured by standardized test scores.*

CONCLUSIONS *The study suggests that SEL programs can be effective in helping students develop the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in school and in life. These programs can also have a positive impact on students' academic achievement.*

KEYWORDS *Social and emotional learning, SEL, social skills, self-management, academic achievement.*

A photograph showing a medical bill, a calculator, and a stethoscope. The medical bill is the central focus, with the words "MEDICAL BILL" printed in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, there is a table with columns for "Service, Consultation", "Admission charge", "Medicine charge", "Check X-Ray", and "Pharmacy". To the left of the bill is a portion of a calculator with a numeric keypad and function buttons like "M+", "M-", "x", and "+". A purple stethoscope is placed over the bill, with its chest piece resting on the "Pharmacy" column and its tubing extending towards the top left. The background is a light blue surface.

The price you pay for
GETTING WELL

[illegible][illegible]

Reproductive health is a cross-cutting issue that affects all people, and the new national consensus is highlighting the problem areas in Brazil and Portugal. In particular, a new approach is being taken, with the new management system based on a multidisciplinary approach, with a focus on the patient, and not just on the reproductive health and fertility issues. The new approach is based on the integration of all the services provided by the health system, and not just on the reproductive health services. This approach is based on the integration of all the services provided by the health system, and not just on the reproductive health services. This approach is based on the integration of all the services provided by the health system, and not just on the reproductive health services.

[illegible]

Sleep studies predict cardiovascular risk

Researchers have shown that a sleep study can predict cardiovascular risk. The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that people who sleep less than 6 hours a night have a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. The study also found that people who sleep more than 8 hours a night have a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan and the University of California, Los Angeles.

to assist together—and other good constituents!

You must find the individuals, or a few strong, well-chosen members of community-wide leadership, to do the tough business that will ensure together's continued success and success in our region, as well as that of each and every part of a shared

typical of the other species involved. Fasting blood glucose levels were normal, and blood sugar rose only slightly after the meal. Although the patient had a long history of diabetes, the long-standing hyperglycemia was not a clinical problem.

Two months later, she presented with severe hypoglycemia. When she awoke in the morning, she felt shaky, and her blood sugar was 40 mg/dL. She had been given insulin the night before, but she had not eaten. She had been told to eat a small meal before bed, but she had not done so. She had been told to eat a small meal before bed, but she had not done so.

She was admitted to the hospital and given glucose. She was discharged on the following day. She was told to eat a small meal before bed, but she had not done so.

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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

Daily Current Affairs - 18 October 2020 - The Hindu | Indian Express | Financial Express

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

■ 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

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 Fer-

tilisers, 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

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.

The Price You Pay for Getting Well

अस्पताल बिलों में दवाओं व उपभोग्य वस्तुओं पर भारी मुनाफ़ाखोरी – 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

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 Establishment s Act 2010 2010	Rate display दर प्रदर्शन

6 Bigger picture बड़ी तस्वीर



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

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

Registration,
room
कमरा



Doctor & nursing
डॉक्टर

Daily charges
दैनिक शुल्क



Tests & drugs
जाँच व दवा

Consumables
उपभोग्य



Final bill
अंतिम बिल

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

Overcharged in hospital? Your rights and where to complain

Ask the hospital for

Written estimate before treatment

Complete itemised bill

List of medicines & consumables
with original MRP

Charges of every test & scan

Escalate

Hospital grievance desk

Insurer → IRDAI
(if insured)

State health dept / NPPA
(drug overpricing)

Consumer Commission

Basis: Charter of Patients' Rights (Health Ministry) – right to information on rates & an itemised bill

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

[illegible][illegible]

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



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 thousands of participants may pass

emissions such as fuel burned in generators, event-owned vehicles. Scope 2 covers

reported a 35% reduction in its carbon footprint against its 2018 baseline in its

What does the roadmap look like at a smaller scale?

transport. This is where residual emissions and carbon credits can enter the

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 CO₂e, 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

What's a Realistic Roadmap to Net Zero Events?

आयोजनों के “नेट जीरो” 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 $\frac{1}{2}$

- ▶ **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

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
पुनः 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

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

Non-fossil by
2030
2030



45%
45%

Emission intensity
cut (vs 2005)
तीव्रता



50%
50%

Power capacity
non-fossil
गैर-जीवाश्म



Net zero 2070
2070

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

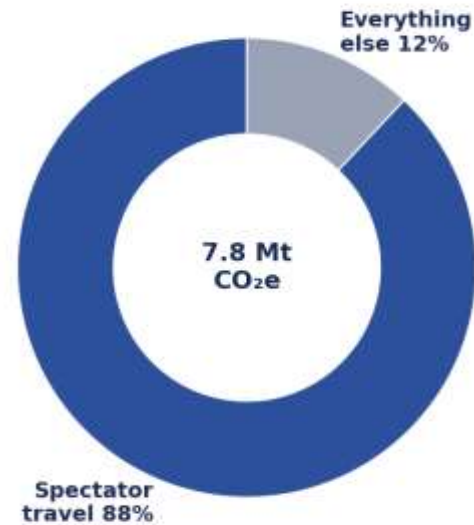
Where an event's emissions come from

Scope 1 - DIRECT
Fuel burnt in generators, event-owned vehicles

Scope 2 - PURCHASED ENERGY
Electricity bought from the grid

Scope 3 - INDIRECT (usually the biggest)
Attendee & artist travel, hotels, catering, freight, production, supply chains

FIFA World Cup 2026 footprint
(Greenly estimate)



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
फ्रांस 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

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पृष्ठ 1 • मुख पृष्ठ

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

1 France: 1,800 arrested in protests | फ्रांस विरोध



France: 1,800 arrested in protests

फ्रांस 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 fire-fighters 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

फ्रांस 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.”

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

फ्रांस में महँगाई व स्कूलों की खराब स्थिति के खिलाफ़ 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/firefighter
s 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

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

फ्रांस 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–फ्रांस



► **Strategic partners**
since **1998**

रणनीतिक साझेदार

► Defence: **Rafale** jets,
Scorpene submarines

राफ़ेल

► Co-founded
International Solar
Alliance (2015)

ISA

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

फ्रांस 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
महंगाई

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

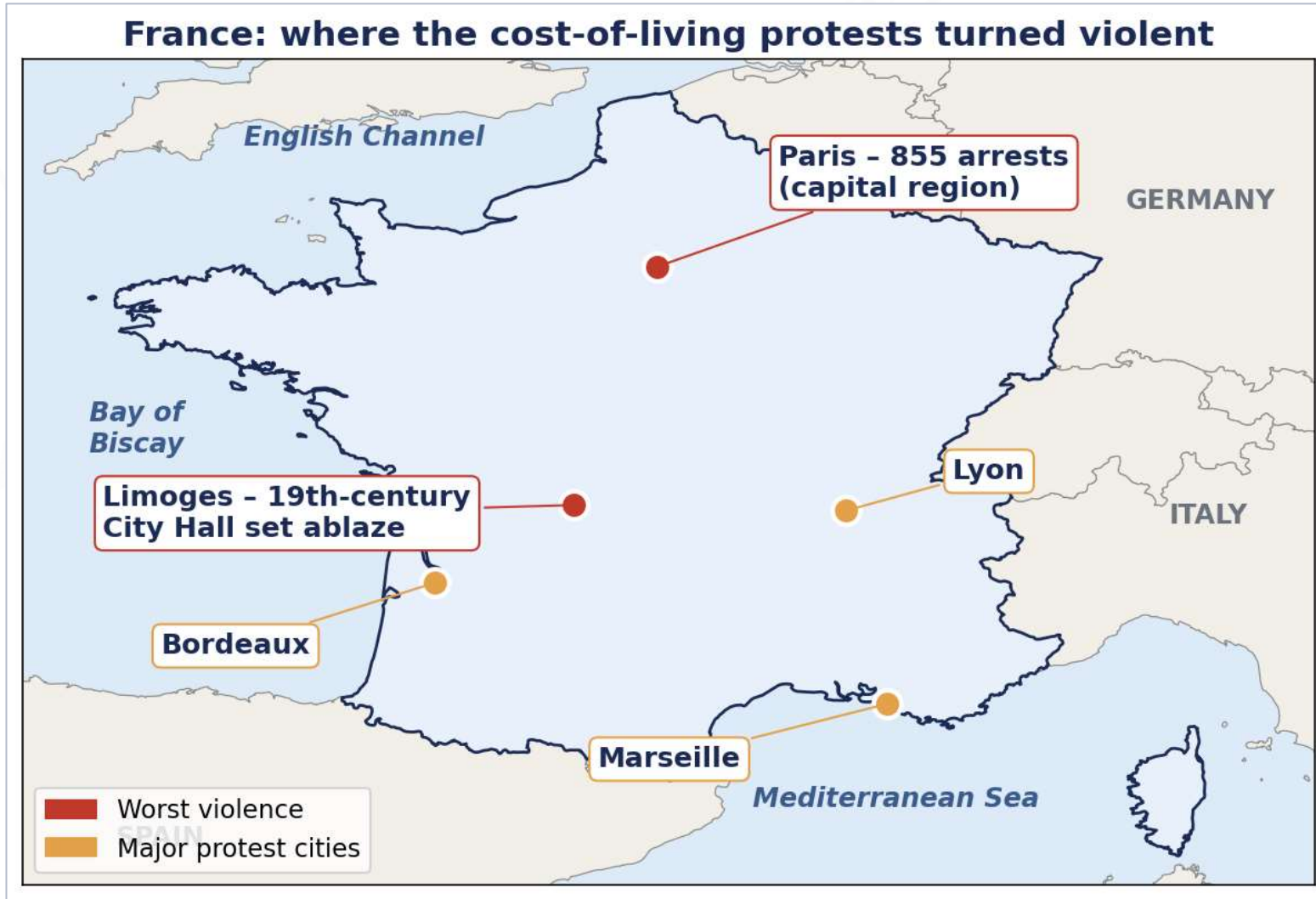


► India's **Preamble** ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity echo the **French Revolution**
प्रस्तावना

► **Bastille Day** (14 July) – France's national day
14 जुलाई

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

फ्रांस 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

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.



tutions 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 71% higher than those for gen-

eral 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.

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 | फैसला



- ▶ Students must know **exact expenses** at the start
पूरा खर्च
- ▶ **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

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 ढांचा



- ▶ **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

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)

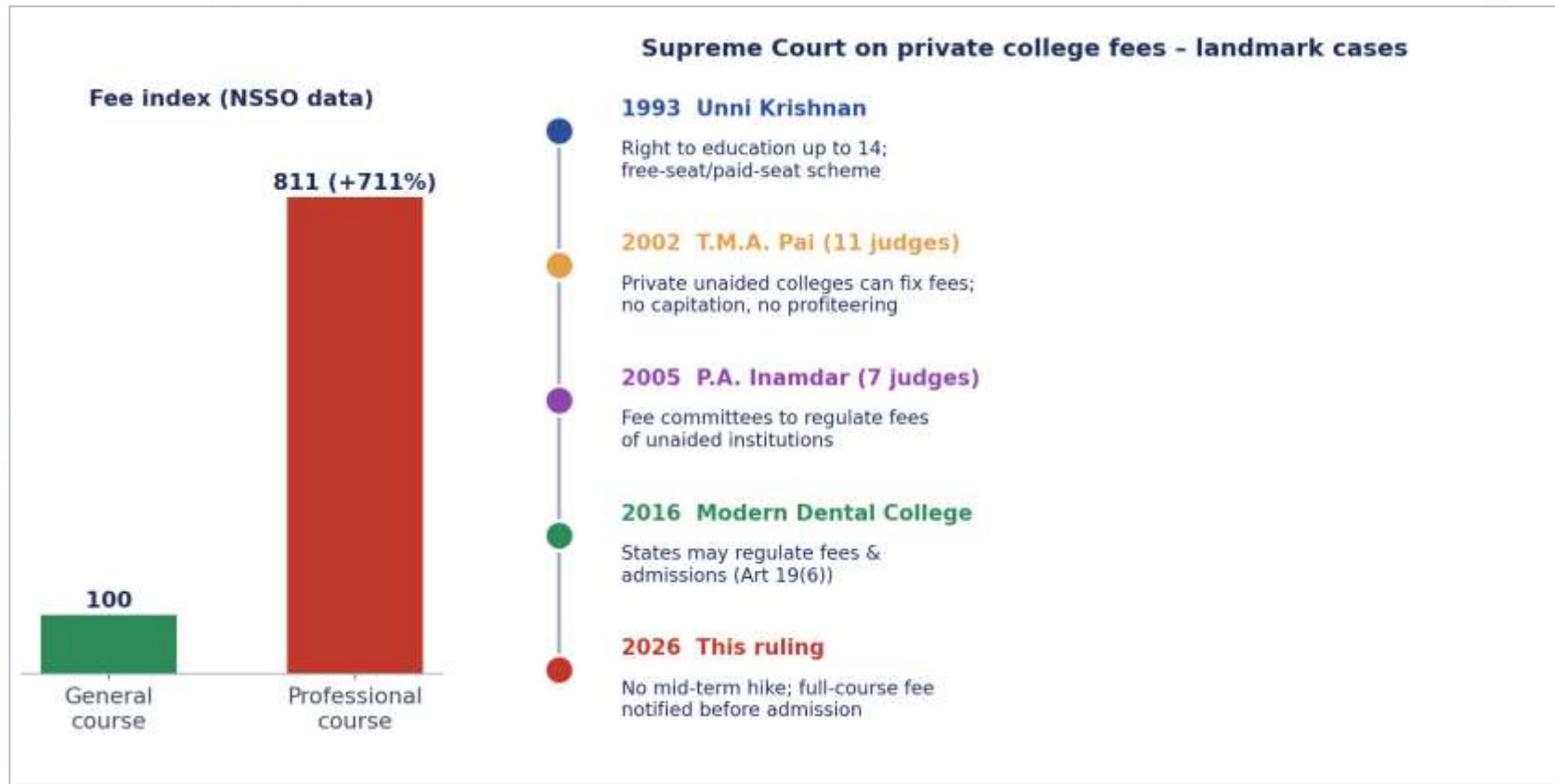
मोहिनी जैन

► 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. पर ई
- P.A. Inamdar (2005) – fee committees
इनामदार
- 2026: no mid-term hikes
2026 फ़ैसला

Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions

फॉर्म 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



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

Byatarayanapura Assembly constituencies, with forms filed between September 17 and 26.

'Software glitch'

In Byatarayanapura, Sudha K.N., 25, was listed as both

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

death as the reason; the person declared dead then filed a similar form, declaring the first person dead as well.

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

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.

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 Kamari
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 256 households over seven days found.



Okhla constituency saw the second highest rate of deletions in the draft not published after SIR enumeration phase. SCRS, KARNATAKA

These voters, who said their names were wrongly missing from Delhi's draft electoral roll, turned up for a Jan Samiti, or public hearing, held in the Bala House area of the national capital on Sunday.

The event was organised by civil society organisations such as Jan Samiti, Musdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MSKS), 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 Nageswara Rao and Sumita Hossain and transparency activists Anjali Rihardberg and Anurita Jothi.

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 voter list and nearly 1.6 lakh appeared in the ASDD list.

Their son, Babu Sandar Khan, said he had submitted affidavits confirming his status for both his parents to the area's booth-level officer (BLO). However, only his own name appeared in the draft roll.

Nageswara, 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.

Further, he showed his driving licence from the

1900s and an army form which he said had required extensive documentation and verification. "How could it be that now I register as a new voter and swipe off my voting record? If why is no one from the Election Commission taking me this, but social workers?" said Mr. Nageswara, a former government adviser.

Among those who turned up were Palyat 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/deceased", while his wife, Arjun Ara, 62, was listed as "permanently shifted" in the ASDD list published on August 31.

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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 फॉर्म 7 भरे; 334 जोड़ों ने एक-दूसरे को मृत घोषित किया –
दिल्ली ऑडिट में 100+ मतदाता गलत ढंग से ASDD सूची में



Form 7 anomalies
फॉर्म 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**
सॉफ्टवेयर 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+ गलत

▶

Public hearing (**Jan Sunwai**) by MKSS, NFIW etc.
जन सुनवाई

▶

Okhla: **2nd-highest** deletion rate
दूसरा सबसे अधिक

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

फॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Key terms | शब्दावली

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

5 Safeguards in law कानूनी 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 कदम

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

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

फॉर्म 7 दुरुपयोग — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a deletion should work | नाम हटाने की प्रक्रिया



Form 7 filed
फॉर्म 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?

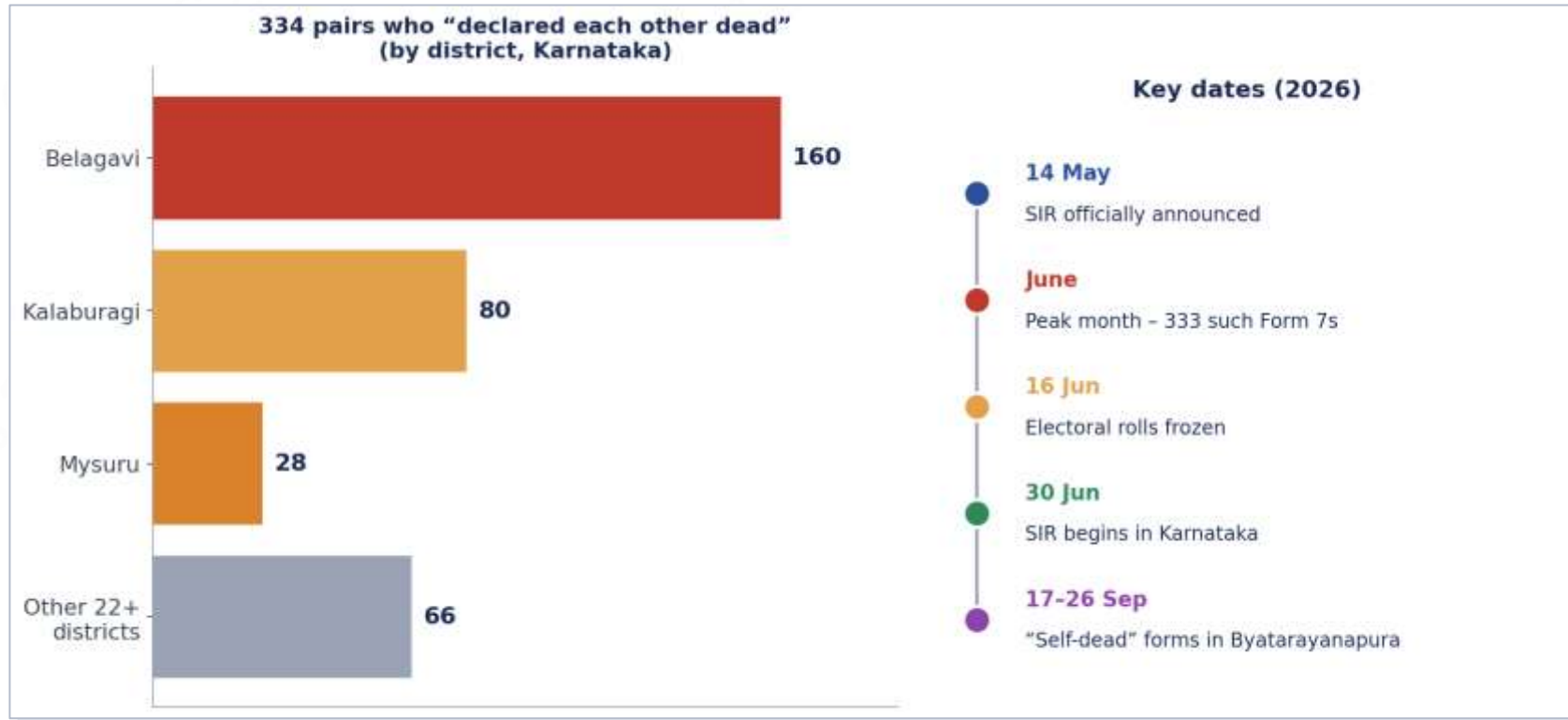


► A voter can check her name on the **Voters' Service Portal / Voter Helpline App**
हेल्पलाइन ऐप

► Voter helpline number:
1950
1950

Form 7 misuse & wrong deletions — Map & Diagram

फॉर्म 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

Revamp functioning of Parliament

India's impending elections demand a re-examination of the role of Parliament. The many changes being implemented by the Government of India (GoI), while the country waits for the results of the 2024 elections, are a welcome move. However, in a democratic country, the role of Parliament cannot be sidelined to the extent of the current situation. The GoI must ensure that the elected representatives of the people are not sidelined.



Arun Jaitley
Minister of Law and Justice



Anandiben Deo
Minister of Health and Family Welfare

The Ministry of Law and Justice has announced a series of changes to the functioning of Parliament. These changes include the introduction of a new system of electing members to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The changes are aimed at making the process more transparent and efficient. However, it is important to ensure that the elected representatives of the people are not sidelined in the process.

The changes to the functioning of Parliament are a welcome move. However, it is important to ensure that the elected representatives of the people are not sidelined. The GoI must ensure that the elected representatives of the people are not sidelined in the process of implementing the changes.

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On Abdullah's promise of Statehood

After over a year, the promise of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) remains unfulfilled. The Government of India (GoI) has repeatedly promised to grant statehood to J&K, but the promise has not been implemented. The GoI must ensure that the promise is implemented as soon as possible.



Sheikh Abdullah
Former Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

The promise of statehood for J&K is a long-standing demand of the people of the region. The GoI must ensure that the promise is implemented as soon as possible. The GoI must ensure that the promise is implemented as soon as possible.

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Analysing female labour of the North East States and UTs

While the proportion of female labour force participation is changing, it is not at a sufficient pace

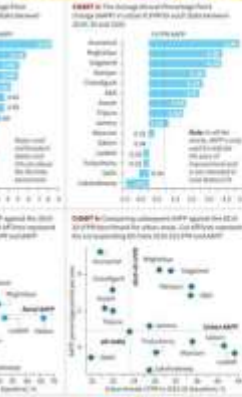
DATA POINT

Gender Gap: The Gender Gap Index (GGI) is a measure of the gender inequality in a country. It is calculated as the difference between the male and female labour force participation rates. The GGI is a measure of the gender inequality in a country. It is calculated as the difference between the male and female labour force participation rates.

Chart 1: This chart shows the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation is generally higher in the North East States and UTs compared to the rest of India. The percentage of female labour force participation is generally higher in the North East States and UTs compared to the rest of India.

Measuring the change

Chart 2: This chart shows the change in the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs over time. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

1 Storm likely to cross to-day

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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

1 Storm likely to cross to-day

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CHART 3: This chart shows the change in the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs over time. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs.



CHART 4: This chart shows the change in the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs over time. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs.



CHART 5: This chart shows the change in the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs over time. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs.



CHART 6: This chart shows the change in the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs over time. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs.



CHART 7: This chart shows the change in the percentage of female labour force participation in the North East States and UTs over time. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs. The percentage of female labour force participation has generally increased over time in the North East States and UTs.



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

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

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



Fifty years ago
50 वर्ष पहले

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

Nungambakka
m (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

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 $> 26.5^{\circ}\text{C}$
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

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?

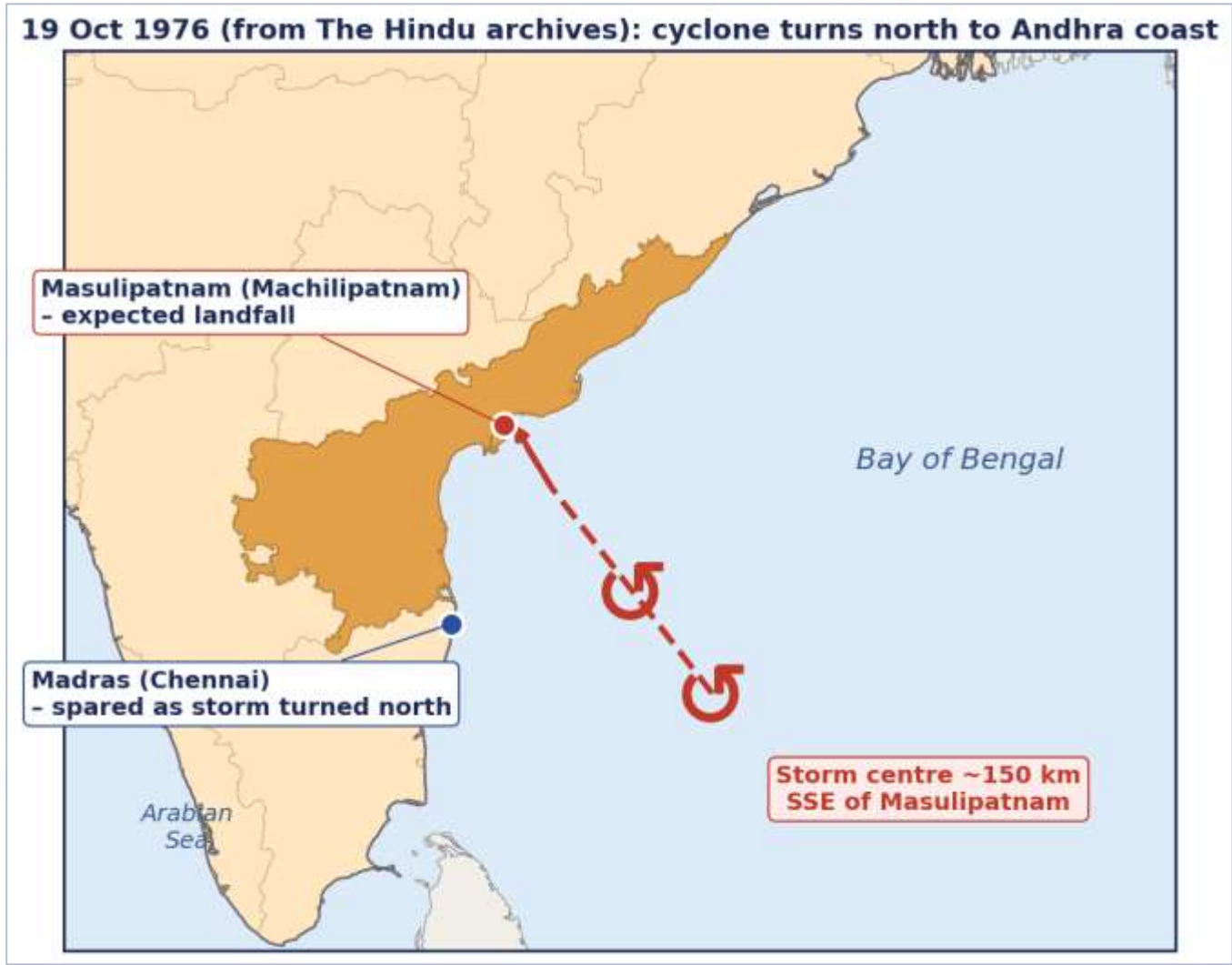


► Cyclones spin **anticlockwise** in the Northern Hemisphere
वामावर्त

► 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

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 puja during Ganesh Chaturthi drew public criticism over perceptions of the executive and judiciary cosyng 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.

Separation of Powers and CJI's Refusal

मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत ने CEC के खिलाफ 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

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

शक्तियों का पृथक्करण — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Opposition's demands मांगें



- ▶ 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

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)

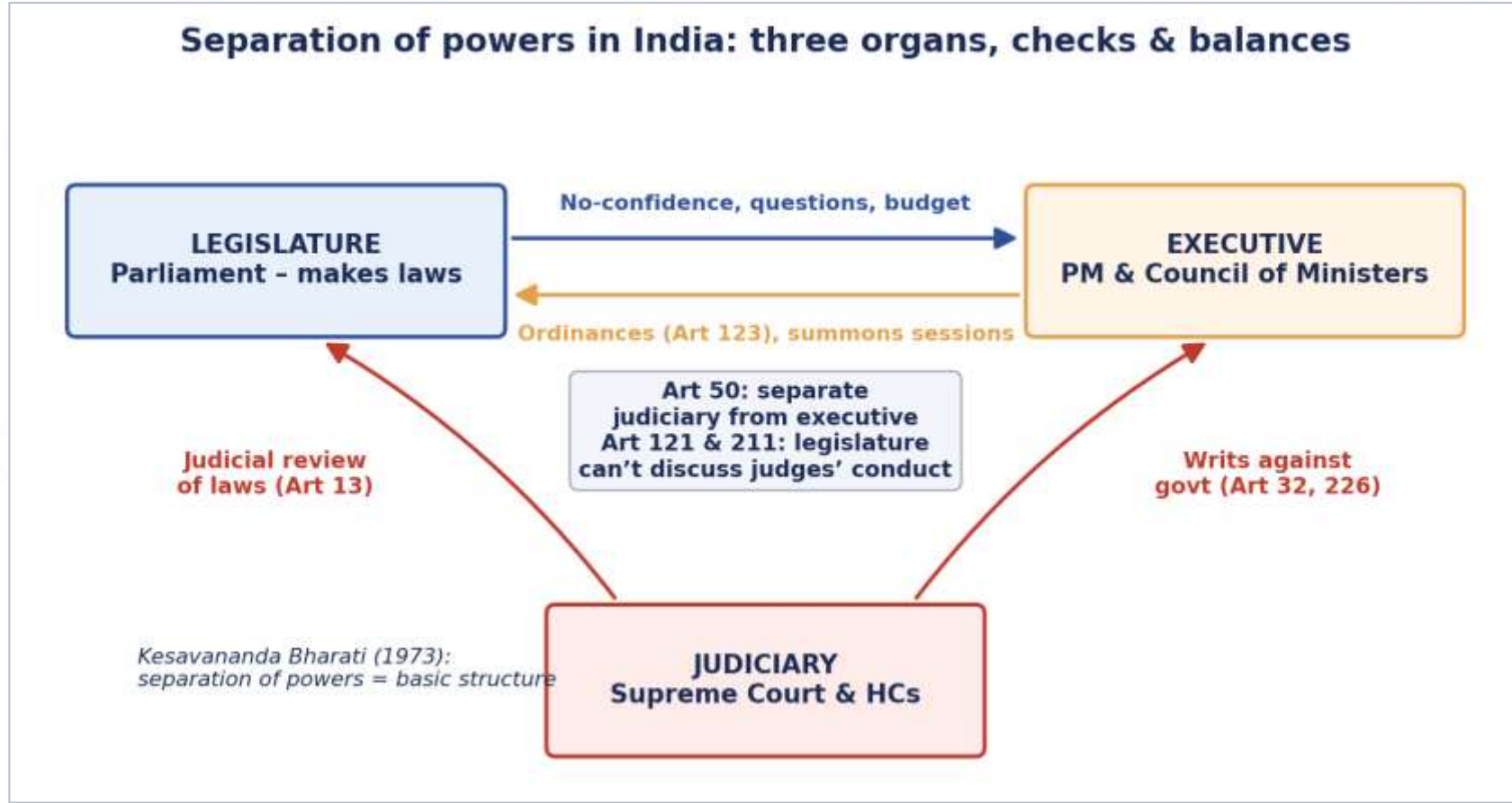
मॉन्टेस्क्यू

► 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

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

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



On 23 January 2000, the "ABC" (American Business Council) released a report on the public sector. It said that the cost of unemployment in the United States will be between \$100 billion and \$200 billion, putting almost 10% of the nation into unemployment permanently.

This, it added, was similar to the Depression (Gordon, 1996). The conclusion was that the federal government should act to "eliminate every public program that is a net drain on the economy and instead be

and leaders of the business community put together a comprehensive plan to deal with the unemployment problem. (Gordon, 1996) The business community has been largely not interested in such a plan, although it has agreed to help the government with Gordon's plan.

The conclusion of the ABC will be put into the 2001 Tax and Budget bill in a revenue and spending package to require across the board a 10% cut. The ABC said it was necessary not to go across the board but to cut selectively and

What Have I Learned so far?

The paper was especially documented making the students aware of the fact that the teacher is not the only one who can teach. The students were encouraged to share their own experiences and knowledge. The students were encouraged to share their own experiences and knowledge. The students were encouraged to share their own experiences and knowledge.

Thyroid disease is the most common endocrine disorder, and according to a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology*, it is the most common cause of weight loss in women. "Earlier studies have shown that thyroid disease is the most common cause of weight gain in women," says Dr. Robert J. Goss, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Division of Endocrinology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Thyroid disease involves **hypothyroidism** (underactive thyroid) and **hyperthyroidism** (overactive thyroid). In hypothyroidism, the thyroid gland does not produce enough thyroid hormone, which slows down the body's metabolism. In hyperthyroidism, the thyroid gland produces too much thyroid hormone, which speeds up the body's metabolism.

Common symptoms of hypothyroidism include fatigue, weight gain, and cold intolerance. Common symptoms of hyperthyroidism include weight loss, anxiety, and heat intolerance. If you suspect you have a thyroid problem, see your doctor for a blood test to check your thyroid hormone levels.

1. **Identify the problem.** The first step in the problem-solving process is to identify the problem. This involves recognizing the symptoms of the problem and determining the underlying cause.

'Like a conversation over coffee': The ways AI is changing maths research

Spinosaurus *Spinosaurus* is a genus of prehistoric theropod dinosaur. It is known from the Late Cretaceous of North America. It is one of the largest theropods ever known, with a length of about 15 meters (50 feet). It is known from the Late Cretaceous of North America. It is one of the largest theropods ever known, with a length of about 15 meters (50 feet). It is known from the Late Cretaceous of North America. It is one of the largest theropods ever known, with a length of about 15 meters (50 feet).

[illegible]

Daily Current Affairs - 19 October 2020 - The Hindu | Indian Express | Financial Express

37

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 Gandhiji 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 Char-



acter 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 Khara 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.

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**
फ़र्जी 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

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 खारिज
2025	SIR challenge – privacy concerns निजता
May 2026	SC upheld SIR SIR वैध

5

Legal basis | कानूनी
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

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

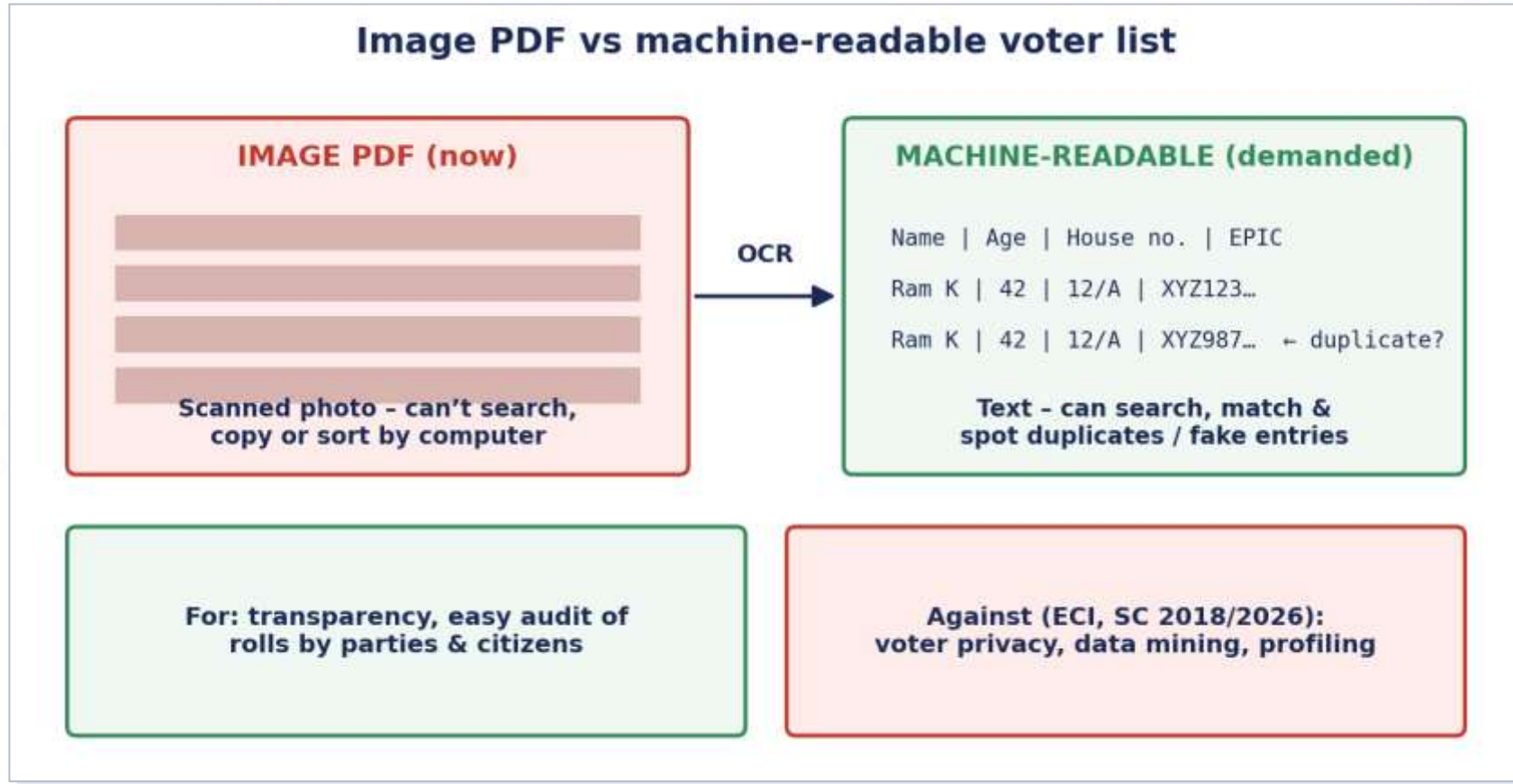
OCR

► 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

ECONOMY 3

1

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

GROWING OIL BURDEN

Oil import volumes in million tonnes (MT) for various countries. The chart shows a significant increase in imports from the US and Saudi Arabia, while imports from Russia and Iran have decreased.

Govt bars OMCs from diverting sugar for ethanol production

Recruitment Notice: Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices (EPCMD)

Reports of sale false, misleading: Bhilai Steel Plant

Careers

Govt bars OMCs from diverting sugar for ethanol production

The government has barred oil marketing companies (OMCs) from diverting sugar for ethanol production. The move is aimed at ensuring that sugar is used for food and industrial purposes, and not for ethanol production, which is a major source of revenue for the government.

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The EPCMD is seeking applications for the post of Executive Director. The candidate should have a degree in Engineering or Technology, and a minimum of 10 years of experience in the field of medical devices.

Reports of sale false, misleading: Bhilai Steel Plant

The Bhilai Steel Plant has been accused of selling false and misleading reports. The reports claimed that the plant was producing more steel than it actually was, which led to a significant increase in the price of steel.

Careers

Find out more about the various career opportunities available in the financial sector. Visit our website for more information.

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Class24

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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

Saraswat Bank

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Crompton

Crompton Consumer Electronics Limited

Annual Report 2025-26

Registered & Corporate Office:

Plot No. 1, Sector 10, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001, India

Website: www.crompton.com

For Financial Results:

Quarterly Financial Results for the Quarter ended September 2026

IN Lakhs of Indian Rupees (₹)

Particulars

September 2026

August 2026

July 2026

June 2026

May 2026

April 2026

March 2026

February 2026

January 2026

December 2025

November 2025

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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

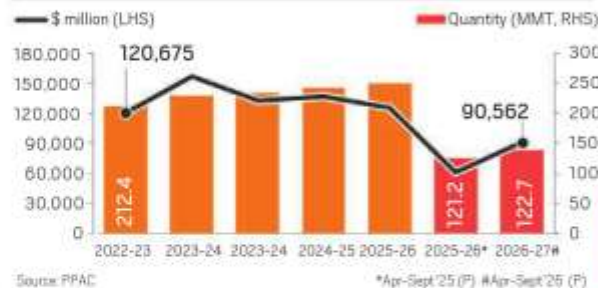
INDIA PAID NEARLY \$29 billion more for crude oil imports in the first half of FY27 despite importing almost the same quantity as a year ago, underscoring how the sharp rise in global oil prices — rather than higher volumes — drove up the country's energy bill.

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-Sep-

GROWING OIL BURDEN



tember 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.

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

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

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

Goods
वस्तुएँ



+ Invisibles
अदृश्य

Services,
remittances
सेवाएँ



**= Current
account**
चालू खाता

Deficit / surplus
घाटा



**Capital
account**
पूँजी खाता

FDI, FPI, loans
निवेश

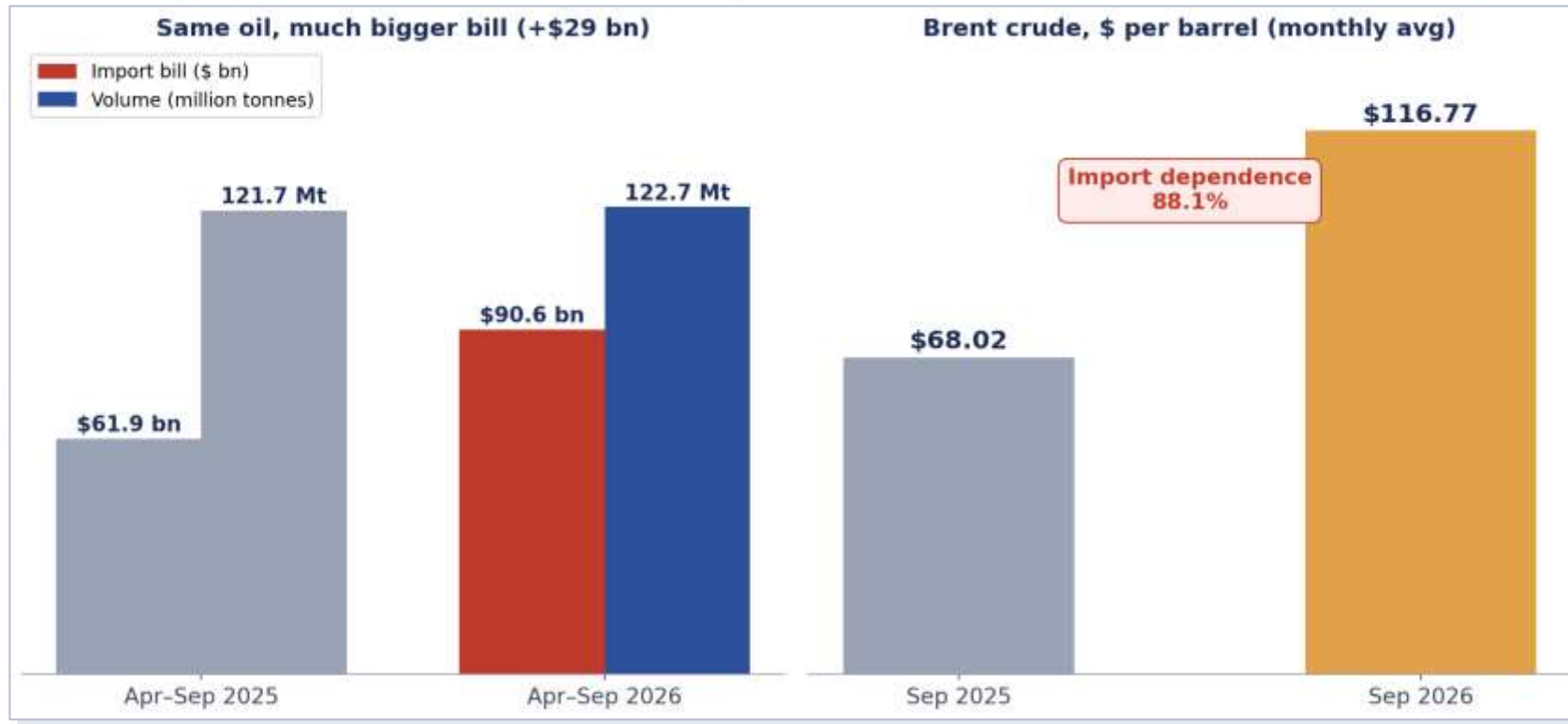
8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



- ▶ 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

1 India-New Zealand FTA kicks in, gives exports zero-duty access

NEW ZEALAND has committed to invest \$20 billion in India over the next 15 years, giving Indian exporters zero-duty access to the New Zealand market. The deal, which is part of a broader trade agreement, is expected to boost bilateral trade and create thousands of jobs in both countries. The agreement covers a wide range of goods, including agricultural products, textiles, and services. It also includes provisions for intellectual property protection and dispute resolution. The deal is seen as a significant step towards deepening economic ties between the two nations.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a podium.

Data, security, skills key challenges in Indian enterprise AI adoption

As Indian enterprises rush to adopt artificial intelligence (AI), they face three major hurdles: data availability, security concerns, and a shortage of skilled professionals. Industry experts warn that without addressing these challenges, the potential of AI in the Indian market will remain untapped. Companies are investing in data infrastructure and security measures to build trust and ensure compliance. Simultaneously, educational institutions and private sector organizations are working to bridge the skills gap through targeted training programs.



Expert speaking at a podium.

FM says deep market liquidity allowing easy investor exits

The Finance Minister has assured investors that the Indian market's deep liquidity will facilitate easy exits. He emphasized the government's commitment to maintaining a robust financial system and ensuring that investors' interests are protected. The statement was made in the context of recent market fluctuations and investor concerns.

DORABJI TRUST COUNTERS TRUSTEES' CLAIMS BEFORE CHARITY COMMISSIONER

The Dorabji Trust has successfully countered the claims of its trustees before the Charity Commissioner. The trust's legal team presented compelling evidence to refute the allegations, which related to the management of the trust's assets. The Charity Commissioner has accepted the trust's defense, clearing the trustees of any wrongdoing.



Headquarters of the Dorabji Trust.

Government considers incentives for elevated solar panels above farms

The government is considering incentives to encourage the installation of elevated solar panels above agricultural fields. This initiative aims to promote sustainable farming practices while increasing renewable energy production. Farmers would benefit from reduced land use and potential tax breaks on the solar equipment.

Jio IPO draws Rs 2.5 lakh cr in anchor book; BlackRock among investors

The Jio IPO has been a massive success, drawing over Rs 2.5 lakh crore in anchor book orders. BlackRock is among the prominent investors participating in the offering. The IPO is expected to raise significant funds for the company, which will be used for various strategic initiatives.

China's central bank may make overnight rate its main policy rate

China's central bank is considering making the overnight rate its primary policy rate, a move that could signal a shift in its monetary strategy. Analysts believe this change is aimed at improving the efficiency of the financial system and better managing inflation.

4 rounds of bids in 5 years: 35 km holds up Delhi-Mumbai E-way

The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway has faced significant delays due to multiple rounds of bidding over a five-year period. The 35 km stretch in question has been a major bottleneck in the project. Officials are working to expedite the bidding process and complete the section as soon as possible to ensure the full length of the expressway is operational.



Construction site of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

NPS subscribers not unified digital platform

Despite having a large number of subscribers, the National Pension System (NPS) lacks a unified digital platform. This fragmentation hinders the user experience and makes it difficult for investors to manage their portfolios effectively. Regulators are pushing for a more integrated digital interface.

Top hyperscalers may have more AI debt: \$6P

Top hyperscale cloud providers are expected to incur significant AI-related debt, estimated at \$6 billion. This is due to the high costs of developing and deploying AI models. The industry is closely monitoring these developments as they could impact market dynamics.

MARKETS

Index	Value	Change
S&P 500	4,500.12	+15.23
Nifty 50	21,500.45	+50.10
Bank Nifty	45,000.78	+100.20
Gold	2,300.50	-10.00
Oil	80.00	+0.50

THE INDIAN EXPRESS • 20 OCT 2026

Page 15 • Economy

पृष्ठ 15 • अर्थव्यवस्था

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

1 India-New Zealand FTA kicks in | भारत-न्यूज़ीलैंड FTA

India–New Zealand FTA comes into force

भारत–न्यूज़ीलैंड FTA

UNDER THE PACT, NEW ZEALAND HAS COMMITTED TO INVEST \$20 BILLION IN INDIA OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS

India-New Zealand FTA kicks in, gives exports zero-duty access

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, October 19

INDIA-NEW Zealand trade deal, which has secured full tariff elimination for all Indian exports to New Zealand while reducing tariffs on 95% of New Zealand's imports into the country, came into effect on Tuesday. Under the pact, New Zealand has also committed to invest \$20 billion in the country over the next 15 years.

A host of Indian goods from labour-intensive sectors such as leather, footwear, apparel and textiles will attract zero import duty in New Zealand from October 20, when the India-New Zealand FTA (free trade agreement) comes into force, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

He added that sensitive sectors such as dairy, onions, chickpeas, peas, corn, almonds, artificial honey, and sugar have been kept out of the trade deal. The commerce ministry has

also notified the procedure for allocation of Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) under the trade agreement. Goods under TRQ include apples, kiwi fruit, albumin, and Manuka honey. Goyal said Centres of Excellence would be set up under the agricultural partnership in areas like apples, kiwifruit, and honey. He said sensitive agricultural sectors, including dairy, would remain protected under the agreement.

Sensitive sectors, duty free access

He said the Commerce and Industry departments would work with state governments to inform farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses about opportunities arising from the FTA. The agreement was signed on April 27 and ratified on September 21. Bilateral trade in goods and services stands at \$2.4 billion.

"Starting tomorrow, 100% of the goods from every sector in India going to New Zealand will go there with zero duty," he



Several products from New Zealand will see lower tariffs. EXPRESS PHOTO

said. The duty-free access is expected to improve the competitiveness of Indian exports, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather and footwear, while creating opportunities for engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural products.

India and New Zealand have little bilateral trade, at just \$1.3 billion in 2024-25. New Delhi's goods exports during the last financial year stood at

\$711.1 million, and imports were at \$587.13 million.

Even as New Zealand is one of the largest producers of dairy products, India has maintained its red lines on the product category. Commerce Ministry said the products kept in exclusion are mainly dairy, including milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, cheese, and animal products, other than sheep meat, vegetable products, including onions, chana, peas, corn and

almonds, among others.

However, a number of products from New Zealand will see lower tariffs. These products include wine, pharmaceutical drugs, polymers, aluminium, iron and steel articles, etc. India has also allowed honey, apples, kiwi fruit, and albumins, including milk albumin, under a TRQ.

Student mobility, work visas

Under the trade pact, New Zealand has created a dedicated pathway for student mobility and post-study work visas with India. The agreement removes numerical caps on Indian students, guarantees a minimum of 20 hours per week of work during study, and provides extended post-study work opportunities-up to three years for STEM Bachelor's and Master's graduates, and up to four years for Doctorate holders-creating clear pathways for skills development and global careers, the ministry said.

India–New Zealand FTA Kicks In, Gives Exports Zero-duty Access

भारत-न्यूज़ीलैंड मुक्त व्यापार समझौता 20 अक्टूबर से लागू – सभी भारतीय निर्यात पर शून्य शुल्क; न्यूज़ीलैंड 15 वर्षों में भारत में \$20 अरब निवेश करेगा; डेयरी संरक्षित



\$20 bn investment
pledge
\$20 अरब निवेश

1 The deal | समझौता



100%

Indian exports
duty-free
शून्य शुल्क

95%

NZ imports –
tariffs cut
शुल्क कटौती

\$20 bn

NZ investment,
15 yrs
निवेश

\$1.3 bn

Goods trade
2024-25
व्यापार

2 Who gains | लाभ



► Leather, footwear,
apparel, textiles
श्रम-प्रधान क्षेत्र

► Engineering goods,
pharma, farm products
इंजीनियरिंग, फ़ार्मा

► Students: **no cap**, 20
hrs/week work
छात्र

3 Protected | संरक्षित



► **Dairy** – milk, cream,
whey, cheese
डेयरी

► Onions, chana, peas,
corn, almonds
कृषि उत्पाद

► Artificial honey, **sugar**
चीनी

India–New Zealand FTA comes into force — in depth (1/2)

भारत-न्यूज़ीलैंड FTA — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Timeline | समय-रेखा



Date तिथि	Step चरण
27 Apr 2026	Signed हस्ताक्षर
21 Sep 2026	Ratified अनुसमर्थन
20 Oct 2026	In force लागू

5 Tariff Rate Quota | TRQ



- ▶ Low duty only up to a fixed quantity
निश्चित मात्रा
- ▶ Covers apples, kiwi fruit, Manuka honey, albumin
सेब, कीवी
- ▶ Centres of Excellence for apple, kiwi, honey
उत्कृष्टता केंद्र

6 Mobility gains | आवागमन



- ▶ Post-study work: 3 yrs (STEM UG/PG)
3 वर्ष
- ▶ 4 yrs for doctorate holders
4 वर्ष
- ▶ Dedicated student pathway
छात्र मार्ग

India–New Zealand FTA comes into force — in depth (2/2)

भारत–न्यूज़ीलैंड FTA — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a Tariff Rate Quota works | TRQ कैसे



8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



- ▶ India **walked out of RCEP** (2019) over dairy & China concerns
RCEP
- ▶ New Zealand is a top **dairy exporter** (Fonterra)
डेयरी निर्यातक

India–New Zealand FTA comes into force — Map & Diagram

भारत-न्यूज़ीलैंड FTA — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual

चित्र को समझें

► **New Zealand** – newest FTA (20 Oct 2026)

नवीनतम

► **UAE, Australia** CEPA/ECTA – 2022

2022

► **EFTA TEPA** (Switzerland, Norway...) – 2025

EFTA

► **UK CETA; Mauritius** CECPA (2021)

ब्रिटेन, मॉरीशस

India's strategic oil reserves

सामरिक तेल भंडार

Explainer

● What is the total capacity of India's strategic oil reserves?

INDIA'S STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES (SPRs) are underground rock caverns managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPR). Phase I comprises Visakhapatnam with 1.33 million tonnes (MMT), Mangaluru with 1.5 MMT and Padur with 2.5 MMT — a combined capacity of 5.33 MMT. These were commissioned between 2015 and 2018.

In a reply to Rajya Sabha on March 23, 2026, the government gave the then official stock position: ISPR held 3.372 MMT of crude, around 64% of total capacity. The amount available at any point can vary as crude is sold, replenished or retained for strategic purposes.

The often-cited 9.5-day cover also needs context. It is based on the full 5.33-MMT capacity and the 2019-20 consumption pattern. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), using March 2024 import levels, calculated that the full Phase-I capacity represented 7.88 days of import cover, while the 2.91 MMT of government/ISPR crude actually held at that time provided 4.56 days.

● Why does the government also talk about 74 days of cover?

THE 74-DAY FIGURE refers to overall national oil-storage capacity, not 74 days of government-owned crude stored in strategic caverns. It combines dedicated strategic petroleum reserves with commercial crude and petroleum-product storage available with oil companies. The government has said oil companies have storage capacity equivalent to around 64.5 days of consumption, which, along with the dedicated SPR capacity, takes the overall storage capacity to about 74 days. During the 2026 West Asia crisis, the Centre said actual stocks across crude, petroleum products and strategic reserves provided around 60 days of cover. It also said Indian oil companies had tied up crude supplies for the following 60 days. The distinction is important. Strategic reserves are the emergency core of a wider oil-security system.

OIL-SECURITY SYSTEM



India's strategic oil reserves: The urgent need to add capacity

India's strategic petroleum reserve programme is under scrutiny after the West Asia crisis exposed vulnerabilities with imports meeting nearly 88% of its crude requirement. **Saurav Anand** explains how India is expanding storage capacity through public funding, PSUs, private participation, and overseas arrangements

5.33 mn tonne
CAVERN CAPACITY UNDER PHASE I BUT IT WAS ONLY 64% FULL IN MARCH 2026

THE APPROVED PHASE II PROGRAMME WILL ADD 6.5 MMT OF STORAGE — 4 MMT AT CHANDIKHOL IN ODISHA AND ANOTHER 2.5 MMT AT PADUR IN KARNATAKA

epaper.financialexpress.com

● Who owns the oil in the caverns?

UNDER A 2017 agreement, the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) agreed to store 5.86 million barrels of crude at Mangaluru at its own cost. Part of the crude can be used commercially, while a major portion is maintained for strategic purposes. A March 2026 reply in Parliament said ADNOC is permitted to use Cavern-A at Mangaluru, which has a nominal capacity of 750,000 tonne. In 2021, India allowed up to 30% of Phase I capacity to be leased or rented, while up to 20% can be used by ISPR for the sale and purchase of crude. The remaining 50% is to be maintained as strategic capacity. Emergency-access provisions allow the government to draw on crude in leased capacity during a supply disruption. In May 2026, ISPR and ADNOC agreed to explore storing up to 30 million barrels of ADNOC crude in India, including at Visakhapatnam and the proposed Chandikhol facility. The two sides are also exploring the possibility of storing strategic crude at Fujairah in the UAE.

● What are the new facilities being built?

THE APPROVED PHASE II programme will add 6.5 MMT of storage — 4 MMT at Chandikhol in Odisha and another 2.5 MMT at Padur in Karnataka — as commercial-cum-strategic facilities under the public-private partnership model. The concession agreement was signed on October 1, 2025. August 2030 is the target completion date for Padur II. At Chandikhol, around 400 acres have been acquired, while the request for proposal is under review. A separate 1.75-MMT Mangaluru expansion is also progressing. ONGC gave in-principle approval to the project in July 2026 and, on October 7, invited expressions of interest for engineering and project-management consultancy. While 50% of the proposed capacity will be reserved for strategic use, the balance is for commercial operations. Sites at Bikaner in Rajasthan and Bina in Madhya Pradesh are also being considered. The feasibility study for Bikaner has been completed, while pre-feasibility work for Bina has been completed.

● How much money has been spent on this?

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I was originally estimated to cost ₹2,396.83 crore, later revised to ₹4,098.35 crore, while the eventual construction cost was ₹4,026.86 crore, as per the CAG 2025 report. Separately, the original estimate for buying crude to fill the caverns was ₹8,870 crore. The government approved ₹4,948 crore in 2015 and another ₹3,184 crore in 2020 for crude purchases. Construction of the three Phase-I facilities took around nine to 12 years, against the six years envisaged. India did, however, use the 2020 collapse in oil prices to strengthen its reserves. It bought 16.71 million barrels of crude at an average price of about \$19 a barrel, with the government estimating savings of ₹5,069 crore. In 2021, India also agreed to release 5 million barrels from its strategic reserves in coordination with other major oil-consuming countries.

For FY27, ₹200 crore has been allocated under the strategic-oil-reserve head. According to reports, 90% is earmarked for filling caverns and operations and maintenance, while 10% is for construction of new caverns.

New Delhi

India's Strategic Oil Reserves:

The Urgent Need to Add Capacity

पश्चिम एशिया संकट ने भारत के सामरिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार की कमज़ोरी उजागर की – 5.33 MMT क्षमता केवल 64% भरी; चरण II में 6.5 MMT जोड़ने की योजना



Oil-security system
तेल सुरक्षा

1 Phase I caverns | चरण I

Site स्थल	Capacity क्षमता
Visakhapatnam (AP) विशाखापत्तनम	1.33 MMT
Mangaluru (KA) मंगलुरु	1.5 MMT
Padur (KA) पादुर	2.5 MMT
Total कुल	5.33 MMT

2 How full? | कितना भरा

3.37 MMT

Held, Mar 2026
भंडार

64%

Of capacity
क्षमता का

9.5 days

Cover (full,
2019-20 basis)
दिन

74 days

Total national
storage
कुल भंडारण

3 Why urgent | क्यों ज़रूरी

► Imports meet ~88% of
crude needs

88% आयात

► **West Asia crisis**
exposed the gap

पश्चिम एशिया संकट

► Phase I built in **9–12 yrs**
vs 6 planned
देरी

India's strategic oil reserves — in depth (1/2)

सामरिक तेल भंडार — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Phase II & beyond |
चरण II



► Chandikhol (Odisha) 4 MMT + Padur II 2.5 MMT
6.5 MMT

► PPP model; Padur II target **Aug 2030**
PPP

► Mangaluru +1.75 MMT with **ONGC**
ONGC

5

Who owns the oil
स्वामित्व



► **ADNOC** (UAE) stores crude at Mangaluru (2017)

ADNOC

► Rule (2021): **30%** leasable, **20%** trading, **50%** strategic

30-20-50

► Talks to store crude at **Fujairah, UAE**
फुजैरा

6

Money | खर्च



► Phase I build: **₹4,027 cr** (CAG 2025)

निर्माण लागत

► 2020: bought crude at ~\$19/bbl – saved **₹5,069 cr**

बचत

► FY27 allocation: **₹200 cr**

आवंटन

India's strategic oil reserves — in depth (2/2)

सामरिक तेल भंडार — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 When the SPR is used | भंडार कब उपयोग



Supply shock
आपूर्ति संकट

War, blockade
युद्ध



Govt decides
सरकार निर्णय

Release order
आदेश



Crude to
refineries
रिफ़ाइनरी

From caverns
गुफाओं से



Fuel keeps
flowing
ईंधन

Prices calmer
कीमत स्थिर

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► The **IEA** asks members to hold **90 days** of net imports

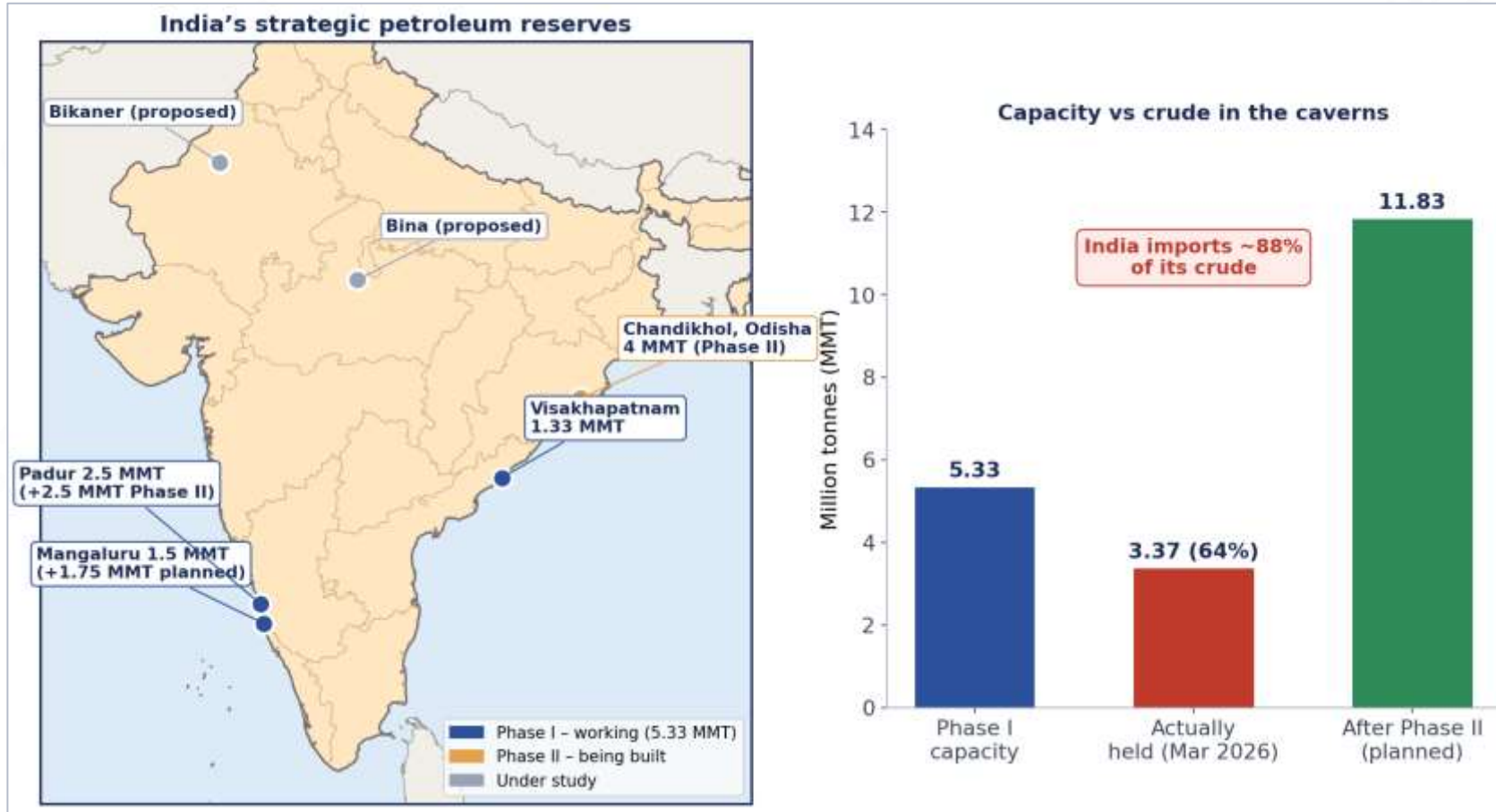
IEA 90 दिन

► India's SPRs are **underground rock caverns** – safer & cheaper than tanks

भूमिगत गुफाएँ

India's strategic oil reserves — Map & Diagram

सामरिक तेल भंडार — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual

चित्र को समझें

► Phase I: **Vizag, Mangaluru, Padur** – 5.33 MMT

चरण I

► Phase II: **Chandikhol 4 + Padur 2.5 MMT**

चरण II

► Only **64%** full in March 2026

64% भरा

► Under study: **Bikaner, Bina**

प्रस्तावित

China's economy grows 4.5%

चीन की 4.5% वृद्धि

TECH EXPORTS BUOY GROWTH AS PROPERTY WOES DEEPEN

China's economy picks up pace with solid 4.5% growth

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Hong Kong, October 19

CHINA SAID ON Monday its economy grew 4.5% in the July-September quarter from a year ago fueled by robust exports, moving closer to meeting its official annual growth target for the year as trading partners seek to balance their trade deficits with the country.

Economic growth accelerated from the 4.3% year-on-year rate recorded in the April-June quarter, the slowest expansion in more than three years.

Its economy expanded 4.6% in the first three quarters. For the whole year, Chinese leaders have set a growth target of 4.5% to 5%, down from last year's 5% expansion. Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund trimmed its forecast for China's 2026 economic growth to 4.5%, the lower end of Beijing's goal. "Domestic demand was weak, while trade grew strongly," said Dave Chia, an economist at Moody's Analytics.

Exports will likely stay

EXPORT-LED GROWTH

■ Beijing's 2026 growth target is **4.5-5%**, against 5% growth in 2025

■ IMF cut China's 2026 growth forecast to **4.5%**

■ Exports rose 36% in Sept, keeping China on track to surpass its record **\$1.2 trn** trade surplus in 2025



■ China posted a **\$938 bn** trade surplus in Jan-Sept

strong but global trade barriers remain a risk, he said.

Exports are strong, but domestic sluggishness remains. China's domestic demand has been weighed down by a yearslong downturn in its property market.

The headline official growth figure is becoming "an increasingly poor indicator of how the broader economy is performing," said Max Zenglein, Asia Pacific senior economist at The Conference Board. That's because it masks "widening disparities across industries, regions, and house-

holds," Zenglein said.

Beijing faces difficult trade-offs and managing domestic imbalances may prove more challenging than dealing with external pressures, he added. On Monday, Mao Shengyong, deputy head of China's National Bureau of Statistics, cautioned of the economic challenges ahead. "The international environment is complex and volatile, the problem of insufficient domestic demand remains relatively prominent and the foundation for a stable, improving economy still needs consolidation,"

he told a news conference. With exports being one of the few bright spots, China is on track to surpass last year's record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus globally, after logging a 36% growth in exports last month and already a \$938 billion surplus between January and September.

Elevated US tariffs have hit some US-China bilateral trade and forced China to look elsewhere, including Southeast Asia, Latin America and Europe. High-tech exports such as semiconductors and autos, including hybrid and electric vehicles, are among areas driving its export growth this year.

As China pursues self-sufficiency to help shield itself from Western export controls and trade uncertainties, it has built up massive domestic manufacturing capacities across industries such as solar and EVs, which are heavily subsidized by the government.

But output was scaled up rapidly at a time of weakened domestic consumption, so many of these goods are shipped to overseas markets at competitive prices.

China's Economy Picks Up Pace with Solid 4.5% Growth

चीन की अर्थव्यवस्था जुलाई-सितंबर तिमाही में 4.5% बढ़ी – मज़बूत निर्यात सहारा, पर संपत्ति क्षेत्र की मंदी से घरेलू माँग कमज़ोर



Export-led growth
निर्यात आधारित

1 The numbers | आँकड़े



4.5%

Q3 growth
तीसरी तिमाही

4.3%

Q2 – slowest in
3 yrs
दूसरी तिमाही

+36%

Exports in Sept
निर्यात

\$938 bn

Surplus Jan–
Sep
व्यापार अधिशेष

2 Strengths | ताकत



► High-tech exports: **chips, autos, EVs**

उच्च तकनीक

► Shift to **SE Asia, Latin America, Europe**

नए बाज़ार

► On track to beat **\$1.2 trn** surplus record

रिकॉर्ड

3 Weaknesses | कमज़ोरी



► Yearslong **property downturn**

संपत्ति मंदी

► Weak **domestic consumption**

घरेलू माँग

► Headline GDP “masks **disparities**”

असमानता

China's economy grows 4.5% — in depth (1/2)

चीन की 4.5% वृद्धि — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Key terms | शब्दावली

Term शब्द	Meaning अर्थ
Trade surplus अधिशेष	Exports > imports
Overcapacity अति-क्षमता	Output > demand
Dumping डंपिंग	Export below cost
y-o-y वार्षिक	vs same period last year

5 India link | भारत संबंध

- ▶ China – a top source of India's **imports**
आयात स्रोत
- ▶ India runs a large **trade deficit** with China
व्यापार घाटा
- ▶ India uses **anti-dumping duties**, PLI to compete
एंटी-डंपिंग

6 Global context वैश्विक संदर्भ

- ▶ **US tariffs** cut US–China trade
अमेरिकी टैरिफ़
- ▶ China pursues **self-sufficiency**
आत्मनिर्भरता
- ▶ Curbs on **solar, AI tech exports** (Oct 2026)
तकनीक निर्यात प्रतिबंध

China's economy grows 4.5% — in depth (2/2)

चीन की 4.5% वृद्धि — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 GDP: how it is measured | GDP की गणना



C
उपभोग

Consumption
खपत



+ I
निवेश

Investment
निवेश



+ G
सरकार

Govt spending
सरकारी व्यय



+ (X - M)
शुद्ध निर्यात

Net exports
निर्यात-आयात

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► China is the world's
2nd-largest economy
(nominal GDP)

दूसरी सबसे बड़ी

► China joined the **WTO** in
2001

WTO 2001

China's economy grows 4.5% — Map & Diagram

चीन की 4.5% वृद्धि — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual

चित्र को समझें

► Q3 4.5%, up from 4.3% in Q2

वृद्धि

► Target 4.5–5%; IMF forecast 4.5%

लक्ष्य

► Exports strong, home demand weak

निर्यात मज़बूत

► Overcapacity → cheap exports → friction

अति-क्षमता

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)

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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

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- (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।

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- (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

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(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)

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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।

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

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.

गलत। 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 तूफानों के अवशेष भी यहाँ पहुँचते हैं। इसका समतल, कीप-आकार का तट तूफानी 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 कारखाना।

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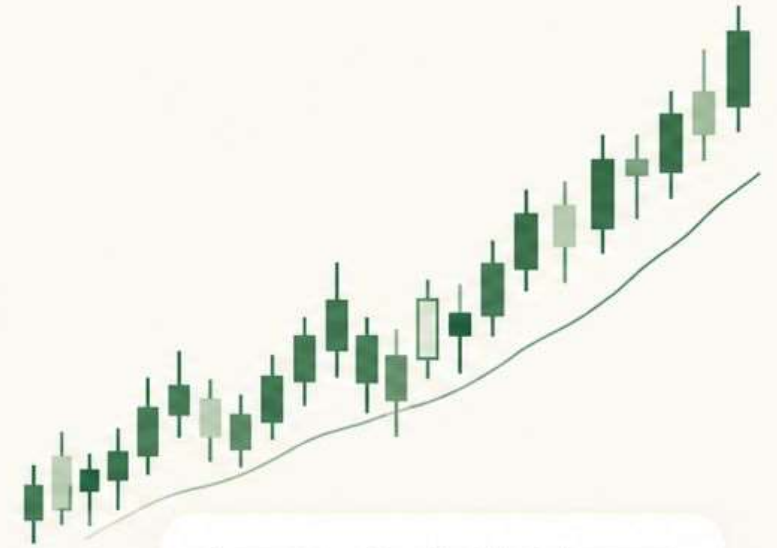
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Thank you ?

