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INDIAN POLITY

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“

*Health is the greatest gift,
contentment the greatest wealth.*

आरोग्य सबसे बड़ा उपहार है, संतोष सबसे बड़ा धन।

— Gautama Buddha



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Today's Current Affairs | 22 October 2026

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

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Core sector growth hits
7.9%
कोर क्षेत्र 7.9%

2

SBI customers' data on
Dark Web
SBI डेटा लीक

3

SC stays probe against
Vijayan
विजयन जाँच पर रोक

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Delhi air "poor" – GRAP
Stage I
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Zydus
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Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia,
Qatar defence pact
रक्षा समझौता

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Bihar: a new lethal high
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THE HINDU • 22 OCT 2026

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3 SBI data on Dark Web | SBI डेटा लीक



Core sector growth hits 7.9%

कोर क्षेत्र 7.9%

Core industrial growth hits historic high of 7.9%

Index of Core Industries in Sept. records highest growth since new data series began in April 2024; coal, refinery products, iron ore drive growth; cement and steel also see robust increase

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's core industrial growth accelerated to a historic high of 7.9% in September, driven by a turnaround in the coal sector and increased activity in the refinery products and iron ore sectors.

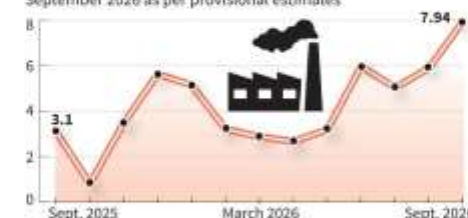
The latest data on the Index of Core Industries shows that last month's growth was the highest since at least April 2024, which is the earliest month for which the new series has data.

Even though a comparison with the old series is not strictly statistically sound, it does provide some context for the current rate of growth. The growth in September 2026 was the highest in nearly three years when compared with the old series.

Within the index, the coal sector grew 10.7% last month, albeit on a low base as it had contracted

Sharp uptick

The Index of Core Industries grew year-on-year by 7.9% in September 2026 as per provisional estimates



1.1% in September last year. This was still a 13-month high for the sector. Similarly, the refinery products sector saw growth unexpectedly accelerate to 10.3% in September, from 5.6% a month earlier. Even after including this month's unusual growth, however, the sector's average growth for the first half of this financial year stood at just 1%.

The iron ore sector, on the other hand, has seen strong double-digit growth

for nearly a year now, and last month carried forward this trend with growth coming in at 18.4%, though this was only a two-month high.

"Coal and iron ore output witnessed a meaningful pickup in their year-on-year growth rates in September 2026 compared to August 2026," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, said. "While this was aided by a low base, the sequential uptick in coal was quite strong, amid low stocks at

power plants."

The electricity sector also continued to do well, growing 11.4% last month, although this was slightly slower than the 13.1% recorded in August.

Cement, steel sectors

The two construction-related sectors – cement and steel – did well in September. While growth in the steel sector quickened to 4.9%, that in the cement sector came in at a relatively robust 9.8%, albeit slower than in August.

The domestic crude oil sector contracted 1.4% in September, somewhat better than the contraction of 3.6% in the previous month. The natural gas sector contracted 4.6% last month, a little better than the 4.9% contraction it saw in August.

The fertilizer sector contracted 11.7% in September, continuing the trend for a seventh consecutive month.

Core Industrial Growth Hits Historic High of 7.9%

सितंबर में आठ प्रमुख उद्योगों का सूचकांक 7.9% बढ़ा – अप्रैल 2024 से शुरू नई श्रृंखला में सबसे अधिक; कोयला, रिफ़ाइनरी उत्पाद और लौह अयस्क ने बढ़ाया



New series high
नई श्रृंखला उच्चतम

1 Headline | मुख्य



7.9%

Sept 2026
growth
वृद्धि

Apr 2024

New series
from
नई श्रृंखला

~3 yrs

High vs old
series
पुरानी श्रृंखला

1.1%

Sept 2025
(coal)
पिछला वर्ष

2 Drivers | प्रेरक



► Iron ore 18.4%
लौह अयस्क

► Coal 10.7%, refinery
10.3%

कोयला, रिफ़ाइनरी

► Electricity 11.4%
बिजली

3 Caveats | सावधानी



► Coal on a low base
निम्न आधार

► Refinery H1 average
only 1%
केवल 1%

► Old vs new series not
strictly comparable
तुलना सीमित

Core sector growth hits 7.9% — in depth (1/2)

कोर क्षेत्र 7.9% — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Construction sectors
निर्माण क्षेत्र



- ▶ Cement 9.8%
सीमेंट
- ▶ Steel 4.9%
इस्पात
- ▶ Signal of infra activity
बुनियादी ढाँचा

5

Energy sectors
ऊर्जा क्षेत्र



- ▶ Crude oil fell 3.6%
कच्चा तेल घटा
- ▶ Natural gas contracted
again
प्राकृतिक गैस
- ▶ Fertilizers 4.6%
उर्वरक

6

Expert view | विशेषज्ञ



- ▶ ICRA's Aditi Nayar:
coal & iron ore picked up
ICRA
- ▶ Coal uptick amid low
stocks at power plants
कम भंडार
- ▶ Base effect + real
demand
आधार प्रभाव

Core sector growth hits 7.9% — in depth (2/2)

कोर क्षेत्र 7.9% — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 From core data to GDP | कोर से GDP तक



Core index
कोर सूचकांक

End of month
महीने के अंत



IIP
IIP

~40% weight
40% भार



Industry GVA
उद्योग GVA

Quarterly
तिमाही



GDP
GDP

NSO
NSO

8

Did you know?
क्या आप जानते हैं?



► Core index is released **before IIP** – an early signal

अग्रिम संकेत

► **Refinery products** had the highest weight in the old series

रिफ़ाइनरी

Core sector growth hits 7.9% — background (1/2)

कोर क्षेत्र 7.9% — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

What are core industries?
कोर उद्योग क्या



Old 8 (base 2011-12) पुराने	Weight भार
Refinery products रिफ़ाइनरी	28.0%
Electricity बिजली	19.9%
Steel इस्पात	17.9%
Coal कोयला	10.3%
Crude, gas, cement, fertiliser अन्य	23.9%

10

New series (2022-23)
नई श्रृंखला



- ▶ Base year moved to **2022-23**
आधार वर्ष
- ▶ Data available from **April 2024**
अप्रैल 2024
- ▶ Adds **iron ore** to the basket
लौह अयस्क जुड़ा
- ▶ Aligns with new **IIP & WPI** bases
समरूपता

11

Who releases it
कौन जारी करता



- ▶ **Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT**
आर्थिक सलाहकार कार्यालय
- ▶ Ministry of **Commerce & Industry**
वाणिज्य मंत्रालय
- ▶ IIP is released by **NSO (MoSPI)**
IIP – NSO

Core sector growth hits 7.9% — background (2/2)

कोर क्षेत्र 7.9% — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Why core sectors matter | महत्व



Power & fuel
ऊर्जा

Run factories
कारखाने



Steel & cement
इस्पात

Build infra
ढाँचा



Fertilizer
उर्वरक

Feed farms
कृषि



Whole economy
अर्थव्यवस्था

Inputs for all
सबका आधार

13 Recent context हाल का संदर्भ



► Coal had **contracted** in 2025

2025 में गिरावट

► West Asia crisis lifted **fuel prices**

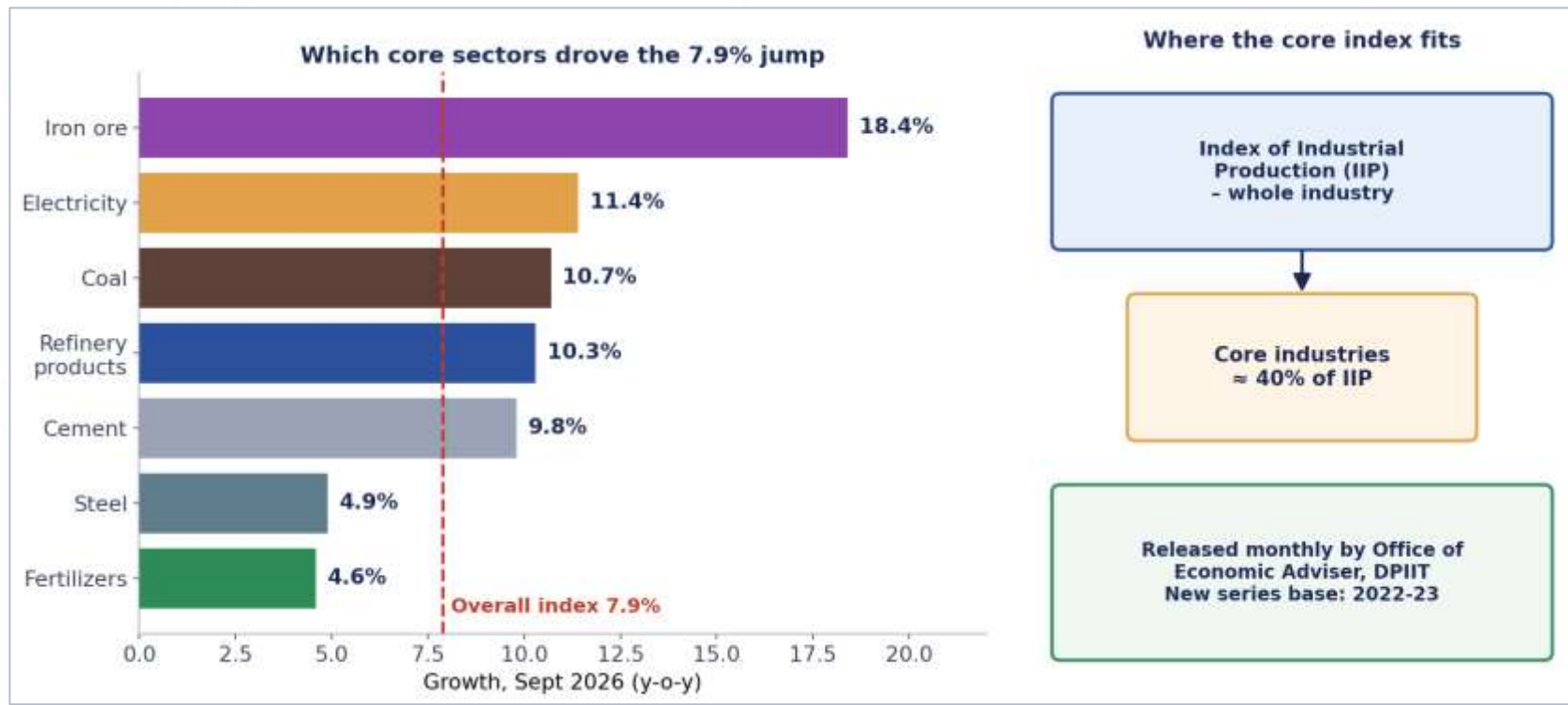
ईंधन कीमत

► Govt **capex push** supports steel & cement

पूँजीगत व्यय

Core sector growth hits 7.9% — Map & Diagram

कोर क्षेत्र 7.9% — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Iron ore 18.4% led; electricity 11.4%
लौह अयस्क
- Coal 10.7% – 13-month high (low base)
कोयला
- Refinery 10.3%, cement 9.8%
रिफ़ाइनरी
- Core = ~40% of IIP
IIP का 40%

SBI customers' data on Dark Web

SBI डेटा लीक

Data breach exposes 3,897 SBI customers' key data on Dark Web

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday informed stock exchanges about an incident involving breach of certain data, five days after it received communications from its Threat Intelligence Service Provider, the Defence Cyber Agency, and CERT-In concerning a suspected exposure of customer information on the Dark Web.

“During the preliminary analysis of approximately 3,75,000 records available on the Dark Web, 3,897 customer records containing Personally Identifiable Information were identi-

fied,” SBI told the exchanges as per SEBI norms, and noted that cyber incident response and containment protocols were promptly activated.

The exposed information included customers' registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses, residential addresses, branch and CIF identifiers, lead IDs, and metadata associated with loan/lead records and other related files, SBI, stated.

It said a detailed investigation was required to establish the authenticity and completeness of the exposed data, determine the potential source and



SBI said a detailed investigation would establish the authenticity of the data, the potential source, and extent of the exposure. REUTER

extent of the exposure, and assess the associated risks to customers and the bank.

Additionally, an independent CERT-In-empowered cybersecurity agen-

cy was engaged to conduct a comprehensive assessment and investigate the nature and extent of the alleged compromise, it said. Emphasising that the

SBI customers' data on Dark Web

SBI डेटा लीक

incident does not have any material impact on the bank's financial performance or business continuity, SBI said that its core business functions continue to operate normally without disruptions.

"A detailed assessment is currently under way and appropriate remedial and preventive measures are being implemented as required," the bank said.

Meanwhile, the Internet Freedom Foundation, in a statement issued on Wednesday, said that the SBI did not detect the breach itself and learned of it from outside agencies after the data had already been published.

"On the same day, a threat monitoring account on X flagged a claim by a group calling itself "Siriusim" that it had released 3.75 lakh rows of SBI data and 2,722 PDF documents, including loan applications and account opening forms," the Foundation said.

"The bank's disclosure does not mention these documents. It also does not say what the remaining records, beyond the 3,897 it has identified, contain," it stated.

'Inform customers'

At the time of this statement, the Foundation pointed out that SBI had

not said that it had informed any of the affected customers, and its disclosure was silent on the point.

"Five days passed between the alert and today's filing. The filing assures investors that the incident has no material impact on the bank's operations. However, it does not state anything to the 3,897 people whose phone numbers, dates of birth and home addresses are now with fraudsters," the Foundation highlighted.

The Internet Freedom Foundation called on SBI to inform every affected customer directly and without further delay.

A IN-X

Data Breach Exposes 3,897 SBI Customers' Key Data on Dark Web

SBI ने स्टॉक एक्सचेंजों को बताया – डार्क वेब पर 3.75 लाख रिकॉर्ड में से 3,897 ग्राहकों की निजी जानकारी उजागर; CERT-In पैनल की एजेंसी जाँच करेगी



Dark Web
डार्क वेब

1 The breach | उल्लंघन



3.75 lakh

Records on
Dark Web
रिकॉर्ड

3,897

With personal
data
निजी डेटा

2,722

PDFs claimed
PDF दावे

5 days

Alert →
disclosure
देरी

2 SBI's response SBI का जवाब



► Cyber incident response
activated

प्रतिक्रिया

► CERT-In-empanelled
agency hired

CERT-In एजेंसी

► “No material impact” on
business

कोई असर नहीं

3 Concerns | चिंताएँ



► SBI didn't detect it itself
स्वयं पता नहीं

► Loan/account forms **not**
mentioned
अधूरी जानकारी

► Customers **not** informed
yet
ग्राहक अनजान

SBI customers' data on Dark Web — in depth (1/2)

SBI डेटा लीक — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Who raised the alarm
किसने चेताया



- ▶ **Defence Cyber Agency** (threat intel)
रक्षा साइबर एजेंसी
- ▶ **CERT-In**
CERT-In
- ▶ Group “**Siriusim**”
claimed the leak on X
हैकर समूह

5

Risks to customers
ग्राहक जोखिम



- ▶ **Phishing** calls & SMS
फ़िशिंग
- ▶ **SIM-swap**, identity
fraud
पहचान धोखा
- ▶ **Fake loan offers**
फ़र्जी ऋण

6

Rules on disclosure
प्रकटीकरण



- ▶ **SEBI LODR** – tell stock
exchanges
SEBI
- ▶ **CERT-In**: report
incidents within **6 hours**
6 घंटे
- ▶ **RBI** cyber-security
framework for banks
RBI

SBI customers' data on Dark Web — in depth (2/2)

SBI डेटा लीक — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 If your data leaks – do this | डेटा लीक होने पर



Change PINs
PIN बदलें

Passwords too
पासवर्ड



Ignore calls
कॉल अनदेखा

No OTP sharing
OTP नहीं



Set limits
सीमा तय

Block unused
cards
कार्ड



Report
शिकायत

1930 /
cybercrime.gov.in
1930

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► SBI is India's **largest bank** (~50 crore customers)

सबसे बड़ा बैंक

► **CIF** = Customer Information File number
CIF

SBI customers' data on Dark Web — background (1/2)

SBI डेटा लीक — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

What is the Dark Web?
डार्क वेब



Layer परत	What क्या
Surface web सतह	Google-searchable sites खोजयोग्य
Deep web गहरा	Login-only: bank, email लॉगिन
Dark web डार्क	Hidden; Tor browser; illegal markets छिपा

10

India's cyber bodies
साइबर संस्थाएँ



- ▶ **CERT-In** (2004) – under MeitY
CERT-In
- ▶ **NCIIPC** – protects critical infra (NTRO)
NCIIPC
- ▶ **I4C** – cybercrime coordination (MHA)
I4C
- ▶ **Defence Cyber Agency** (2019)
DCyA

11

Big Indian breaches
बड़े लीक



- ▶ **AIIMS** ransomware (2022)
AIIMS
- ▶ **CoWIN** data leak claims (2023)
CoWIN
- ▶ **ICMR** data of ~81 crore (2023)
ICMR

SBI customers' data on Dark Web — background (2/2)

SBI डेटा लीक — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 DPDP Act, 2023 – breach rules | DPDP अधिनियम



Data fiduciary
डेटा फ़िड्यूसियरी

Bank holds data
बैंक



Breach found
उल्लंघन

Inform Board &
users
सूचना



Within 72 hrs
72 घंटे

Detailed report
रिपोर्ट



Penalty
जुर्माना

Up to ₹250 crore
₹250 करोड़

13 Right to privacy निजता का अधिकार



► **Puttaswamy (2017)** –
privacy is a fundamental
right

पुट्टस्वामी

► Led to **DPDP Act, 2023**
DPDP

► **Data Protection Board**
enforces it

डेटा संरक्षण बोर्ड

SBI customers' data on Dark Web — Map & Diagram

SBI डेटा लीक — मानचित्र व आरेख

SBI Dark Web breach: what leaked and how it surfaced



Timeline



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

► Leaked: mobile, DOB, address, CIF
लीक जानकारी

► Alert from Defence Cyber Agency & CERT-In

अलर्ट

► SBI disclosed 5 days later

5 दिन बाद

► IFF: inform every customer

ग्राहकों को सूचना

SC stays probe against Vijayan

विजयन जाँच पर रोक

SC stays corruption probe against former Keralam CM Vijayan for seven days

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed for seven days a State police investigation into a first information report (FIR) registered against former Chief Minister and current Leader of the Opposition in the Keralam Assembly Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter T. Veena, and son-in-law and former Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas in the ₹2.78-crore CMRL-Exalogic payoff case.

A Special Bench of the top court, comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, convened in the middle of Dasara vacations to hear 82-year-old Mr. Vijayan, who voiced fears of imminent arrest, and his two family members.

The top court set aside an October 15 order of the Kerala High Court Division



The SC directed the Kerala High Court to hear the appeals filed by former Keralam CM Pinarayi Vijayan against the FIR. FILE PHOTO

garlamudi, submitted in the top court that they were neither made parties nor heard by the Single Judge Bench before the registration of the FIR was ordered on October 9.

The petitioners were denied leave (permission) to appeal the Single Judge Bench order by a Division Bench on October 15, compelling them to approach

mandating everything everywhere. Every executive exercise of power [like the registration of an FIR] cannot be assumed by the PMLA," Justice Bagchi observed.

The judge addressed the ED to not "extend" their statutory powers under the PMLA. While the ED had "full powers" to investigate hawala operators to

Kerala High Court Division Bench and directed it to hear the appeals filed by Mr. Vijayan and the other two petitioners against the registration of the corruption FIR. Justice Bagchi reminded the State that no matter how low or high a person was, he was subject to the rule of law and principles of natural justice.

'Will not disturb FIR'

"We will not disturb the FIR, but we will stall the investigation... Further, we are sending this case back to the High Court for adjudication," Justice Bagchi observed.

A Single Judge Bench of the Kerala High Court had directed the State Police to register the FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against the three of them based on information given by a central agency, the Directorate of Enforcement, to the Kerala Police under Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

Mr. Vijayan and the other two co-petitioners, represented variously by senior advocates Siddharth Luthra, N. Hariharan, and advocate Krishna Dev Ja-

pellung them to approach the Supreme Court.

The Special Bench did not record any opinions on the validity of a subsequent Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered against the petitioners. However, the top court gave them liberty to challenge the ECIR before the appropriate forum in accordance with the law.

In the hearing, the State argued that the top court's own 2022 judgment in *Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary versus Union of India* had termed the ED's passing on of information or material regarding an alleged crime under Section 66(2) of the PMLA as a "direction" to the State to register an FIR.

Justice Bagchi said States cannot treat judgments as statutes. The Bench observed that Section 66(2) of the PMLA was not a "mandate", but only an "intimation" of information or material with the ED to another agency. It was solely for the latter agency – the Kerala Police in this case – to decide if "any other law" applied, requiring the lodging of an FIR.

"The PMLA cannot be a 'Super Administrator',

tigate hawala operators to former Chief Ministers under the PMLA, it would not "meddle in the statutory domains of other entities", Justice Bagchi said.

The judge asked whether the police had even sought prior approval under Section 17A of the 1988 Act from the government for investigating a former Chief Minister.

Justice Bagchi asked whether the State had gone through the new criminal procedure provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The judge said unlike Section 156(3) of the repealed Code of Criminal Procedure, Section 175(4) of the BNSS required the Magistrate to formally hear an accused public servant.

The Bench also "corrected" the State's version that the probe under the FIR was "court-ordered". "It is an investigation on the basis of information given by the ED," Justice Bagchi said.

The apex court said all these issues discussed in the courtroom on October 21 must be looked into by the High Court Division Bench while hearing the appeals of the petitioners.

SC Stays Corruption Probe against Former Keralam CM Vijayan for 7 Days

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने CMRL-एक्सालॉजिक मामले में पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री पिनराई विजयन, बेटी वीणा व दामाद मोहम्मद रियास के खिलाफ़ पुलिस जाँच 7 दिन के लिए रोक़ी; मामला हाई कोर्ट को वापस



CMRL–Exalogic case
CMRL मामला

1 The order | आदेश

- ▶ Probe stayed 7 days;
FIR not quashed
7 दिन रोक
- ▶ Case sent back to HC
Division Bench
HC को वापस
- ▶ “Rule of law applies to
high and low”
क्रानून का शासन

2 The accused | आरोपी

- ▶ Pinarayi Vijayan (82),
LoP
विजयन
- ▶ Daughter T. Veena
वीणा
- ▶ Son-in-law P.A.
Mohamed Riyas
रियास

3 Petitioners' plea | याचिका

- ▶ Not made parties, **not heard**
सुनवाई नहीं
- ▶ Feared imminent
arrest
गिरफ्तारी का डर
- ▶ HC refused **leave to appeal**
अपील की अनुमति नहीं

SC stays probe against Vijayan — in depth (1/2)

विजयन जाँच पर रोक — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

SC on PMLA Sec 66(2)
धारा 66(2)



- ▶ ED can **share information** with other agencies
सूचना साझा
- ▶ It is an **intimation**, not a **direction**
निर्देश नहीं
- ▶ “PMLA cannot be a **Super Administrator**”
सुपर प्रशासक नहीं

5

Key case cited
प्रमुख फैसला



- ▶ **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary (2022)**
विजय मदनलाल
- ▶ Upheld wide **ED powers** under PMLA
ED शक्तियाँ
- ▶ SC: States can't treat judgments **as statutes**
क़ानून नहीं

6

Liberty kept | स्वतंत्रता



- ▶ Can challenge **ECIR** before proper forum
ECIR
- ▶ Bench: **J. Bagchi & J. Mohana**
पीठ
- ▶ Lawyers: **Siddharth Luthra, N. Hariharan**
वकील

SC stays probe against Vijayan — background (1/2)

विजयन जाँच पर रोक — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

The CMRL–Exalogic case
मामला



- ▶ **CMRL** – Kochi mineral-sands firm
CMRL
- ▶ Paid **₹2.78 crore** to **Exalogic** (Veena's IT firm)
₹2.78 करोड़
- ▶ Alleged payment for **no services**
बिना सेवा भुगतान
- ▶ Probed by **SFIO**, then **ED**
SFIO, ED

10

Prevention of Corruption Act
भ्रष्टाचार निवारण



Feature विशेषता	Detail विवरण
Enacted अधिनियम	1988; amended 2018
Sec 17A धारा 17A	Prior sanction to probe public servant
Bribe-giver रिश्वत देने वाला	Also punishable (2018)

11

PMLA, 2002 | PMLA



- ▶ Targets **money laundering**
धन शोधन
- ▶ Enforced by **ED** (Finance Ministry)
ED
- ▶ Tough **bail** twin conditions (Sec 45)
ज़मानत शर्तें

SC stays probe against Vijayan — background (2/2)

विजयन जाँच पर रोक — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Stages of money laundering | धन शोधन के चरण



Placement
प्लेसमेंट

Dirty cash in
नकद जमा



Layering
लेयरिंग

Hide the trail
छिपाना



Integration
एकीकरण

Looks legal
वैध दिखना



PMLA action
कार्रवाई

Attach assets
कुर्की

13 Anti-corruption bodies भ्रष्टाचार-रोधी संस्थाएँ

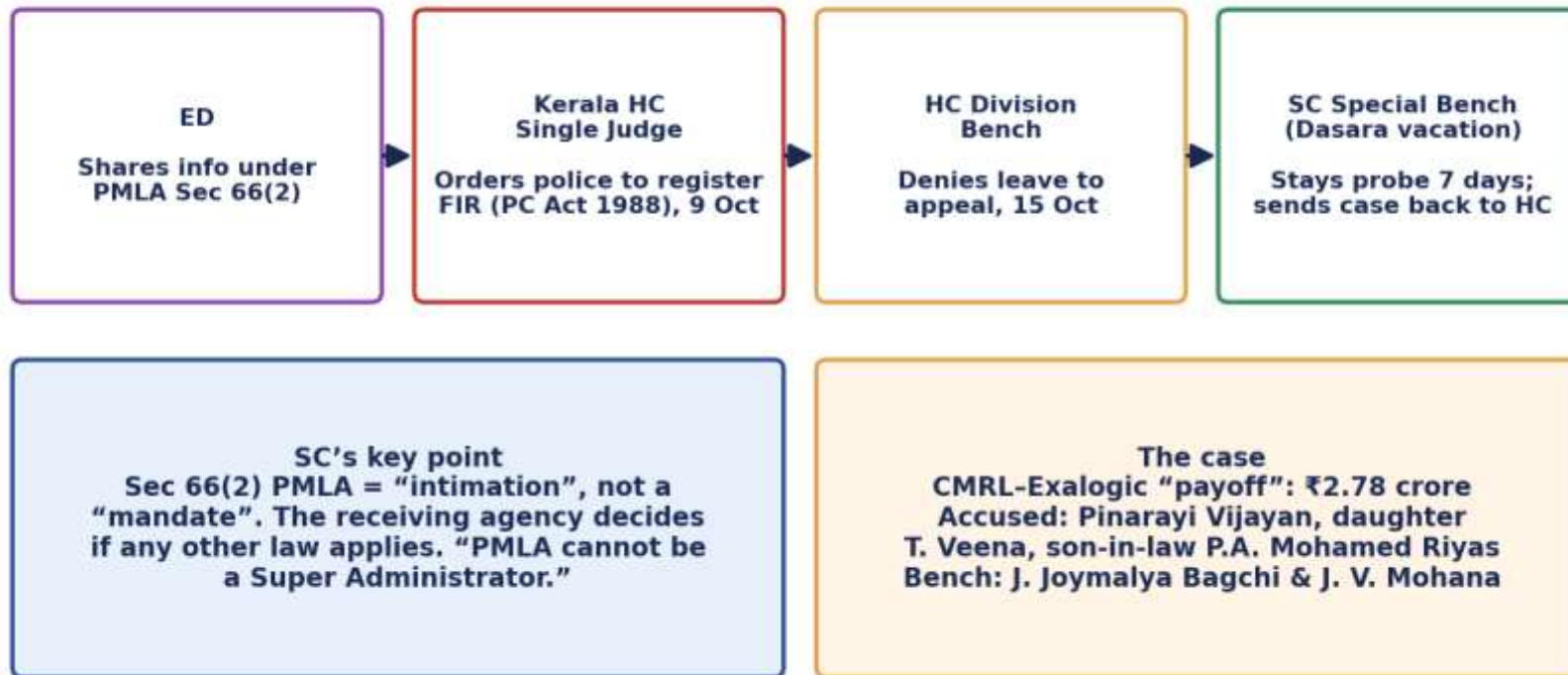


- **CBI (1963)** –
Santhanam Committee
CBI
- **CVC** – statutory since
2003
CVC
- **Lokpal (2013 Act) &
State Lokayuktas**
लोकपाल

SC stays probe against Vijayan — Map & Diagram

विजयन जाँच पर रोक — मानचित्र व आरेख

How the Vijayan case reached the Supreme Court



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

► ED → HC Single Judge → Division Bench → SC

क्रम

► HC ordered FIR on 9 Oct

9 अक्टूबर

► SC: Sec 66(2) PMLA = intimation, not mandate

सूचना मात्र

► Special Bench sat in Dasara vacation

दशहरा अवकाश

THE HINDU • 22 OCT 2026

Page 6

पृष्ठ 6 • समाचार

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

1 Delhi air turns "poor" | दिल्ली वायु

2 FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus | FSSAI नोटिस

1 Delhi's air quality turns 'poor', restrictions enforced

NCR was at 205 on Wednesday, the first time in the 'poor' category since July. CAPM will start to impose curbs on diesel generator sets, inter-state transport as part of a graded response action plan.

Army stop brass to release: Land Warfare doctrine

The Army Commander-in-Chief, the Indian Army's specified training, commitment to New Delhi on Wednesday, with senior military leadership set to influence on the working security environment, operational preparedness and logistical developments. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army Staff (CIS), is being held in the city till 23, according to the Indian military, a top leadership will be the release of the Land Warfare Doctrine by the Indian military. The doctrine is expected to provide an overarching framework to protect the nation for the changing character of warfare and future of the Indian Army.

Centre links 1770 crore pact with BIL for low-level railers

The Defence Ministry on Wednesday signed a contract worth nearly 1770 crore with Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) for the government of improved low-level railers (LLR) for the Indian Army. The contract is for the supply of 100 LLRs, which will be used to transport troops and equipment across the country. The contract is for the supply of 100 LLRs, which will be used to transport troops and equipment across the country.

Attacks on Left book stalls continue across West Bengal

West Bengal's Left book stalls have been targeted by right-wing groups in several parts of the state. The attacks are part of a broader campaign to undermine the influence of the Left in the state.

2 Leading claims: Nestle India, Zydus Wellness get FSSAI notice

The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSSAI) has issued notices to Nestle India and Zydus Wellness, alleging that they have violated food safety regulations. The notices are part of a broader campaign to ensure compliance with food safety standards.

Festivals or elections, CAPF personnel are always vigilant: Shah

Minister of State for Home Affairs, K. Anandavelu, said that CAPF personnel are always vigilant during festivals and elections. He said that the force is well-equipped to handle any security challenges that may arise.

Photos of protest removed from exhibition: Rathna Yadav

Curators of the exhibition 'Rathna Yadav: A Journey of Art and Activism' have removed several photographs of protests from the exhibition. The curators said that the photographs were not part of the exhibition's theme.

25,000 people to attend Ekta Dhas parade: Mohan

Approximately 25,000 people are expected to attend the Ekta Dhas parade in New Delhi. The parade is part of a series of events organized by the government to mark the anniversary of the formation of India.

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CROSSWORD 14929

Across: 1. The capital of India (4), 2. A type of fruit (5), 3. A type of bird (6), 4. A type of flower (7), 5. A type of tree (8), 6. A type of animal (9), 7. A type of plant (10), 8. A type of insect (11), 9. A type of fish (12), 10. A type of mammal (13), 11. A type of reptile (14), 12. A type of amphibian (15), 13. A type of bird (16), 14. A type of insect (17), 15. A type of fish (18), 16. A type of mammal (19), 17. A type of reptile (20), 18. A type of amphibian (21), 19. A type of bird (22), 20. A type of insect (23), 21. A type of fish (24), 22. A type of mammal (25), 23. A type of reptile (26), 24. A type of amphibian (27), 25. A type of bird (28), 26. A type of insect (29), 27. A type of fish (30), 28. A type of mammal (31), 29. A type of reptile (32), 30. A type of amphibian (33), 31. A type of bird (34), 32. A type of insect (35), 33. A type of fish (36), 34. A type of mammal (37), 35. A type of reptile (38), 36. A type of amphibian (39), 37. A type of bird (40), 38. 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Delhi air “poor” – GRAP Stage I

दिल्ली वायु

As Delhi's air quality turns 'poor', restrictions enforced

AQI was at 245 on Wednesday, the first time in the 'poor' category since July; CAQM tells States to impose curbs on diesel generator sets, inter-State transport as part of a graded response action plan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Residents of north Indian States around the national capital will not be permitted to use diesel generator sets as a regular source of power supply and only inter-State buses using clean fuel will be allowed to enter Delhi, according to a series of measures announced on Wednesday as part of an action plan to reduce pollution in the city.

With the air quality in the capital worsening to the 'poor' category, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas (CAQM) on Wednesday announced the implementation of Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), a set of short-term emergency measures taken to reduce air pollution. It is divided into four stages depending on the level of air pollution that exists at a particular time or is predicted for the near future.

Delhi's 24-hour overall average air quality index (AQI) was at 245 (poor) at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, up from 179 (moderate) a day



The last time the AQI was in the 'poor' category in Delhi was on July 13, when it stood at 246. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

earlier, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's daily official bulletin, which is considered the day's official AQI. The last time the AQI was in the 'poor' category was on July 13, when it stood at 246.

Under GRAP 1, the CAQM has directed States to ensure that diesel generator sets are not used as a regular source of power supply. "Do not permit inter-city/inter-state buses from any city/town of the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and also from the adjoining states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and J&K, other than EV/CNG/BS-VI Diesel, to ply in Delhi-NCR," reads one of the measures

under Stage 1 of the GRAP.

Most of the other measures under Stage 1 are directing authorities to strictly implement existing norms related to air pollution.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said that, with public participation and coordinated efforts by various departments, Delhi has recorded 214 clean-air days so far this year, the highest over the past decade, excluding the COVID-19 period.

Mr. Sirsa said that around 30 agencies are working under an 11-point pollution control plan in line with the guidelines of NITI Aayog and the CAQM. The government is also focussing on traffic manage-

ment, dust control, monitoring industrial emissions, and increasing green cover. He said that the government is also taking steps to reduce traffic congestion. Round-the-clock monitoring is being carried out through the Integrated Command and Control Centre to strengthen pollution control and ensure effective resolution of citizens' complaints, he said.

Tree planting spree

Mr. Sirsa added that extensive efforts are being made to increase Delhi's green cover. Against the target of 70 lakh saplings, a total of 78 lakh saplings have been planted this year. The Forest Department has carried out geo-tagging of the plantations, and the survival rate of saplings has been recorded at between 96% and 97%, he added.

Every winter, air pollution spikes in Delhi-NCR and many parts of the larger Indo-Gangetic Plains, mainly due to meteorological factors such as lower wind speed and a drop in temperature, exacerbated by pollution from stubble burning and the use of firecrackers.

As Delhi's Air Quality Turns 'Poor', Restrictions Enforced

दिल्ली का AQI 245 ("खराब") – CAQM ने GRAP चरण-I लागू किया: डीज़ल जनरेटर पर रोक, केवल EV/CNG/BS-VI अंतरराज्यीय बसें



GRAP Stage I
चरण I

1 The numbers | आँकड़े

245

AQI – poor
खराब

179

Day before –
moderate
एक दिन पहले

214

Clean-air days
in 2026
स्वच्छ दिन

78 lakh

Saplings
planted
पौधे

2 Stage I steps | चरण I

▶ No **diesel gensets** as
regular power

डीज़ल जनरेटर नहीं

▶ Only **EV/CNG/BS-VI**
inter-State buses

स्वच्छ बसें

▶ Strict **dust & waste**
norms

धूल नियंत्रण

3 Why winters worsen सर्दी में क्यों

▶ **Low wind & falling**
temperature

कम हवा

▶ **Stubble burning** in
Punjab, Haryana

पराली

▶ Firecrackers, vehicles,
dust

पटाखे, वाहन

Delhi air “poor” – GRAP Stage I — in depth (1/2)

दिल्ली वायु — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Who decides | कौन तय करता



- ▶ **CAQM** – Commission for Air Quality Mgmt
CAQM
- ▶ Set up by **2021 Act**
2021 अधिनियम
- ▶ Official AQI from **CPCB**
4 p.m. bulletin
CPCB

5

Delhi's plan
दिल्ली की योजना



- ▶ **11-point** pollution plan
11 बिंदु
- ▶ ~**30 agencies** involved
30 एजेंसियाँ
- ▶ **24×7 command centre**
monitoring
निगरानी

6

Health effects | स्वास्थ्य



- ▶ **PM2.5** enters deep into lungs
PM2.5
- ▶ Asthma, heart disease, stroke
रोग
- ▶ Children & elderly **most at risk**
बच्चे, बुजुर्ग

Delhi air “poor” – GRAP Stage I — in depth (2/2)

दिल्ली वायु — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Winter smog: how it forms | धुंध कैसे बनती



Stubble & emissions
उत्सर्जन

Oct–Nov
अक्टूबर–नवंबर



Cold air
ठंडी हवा

Temperature inversion
तापीय व्युत्क्रमण



Calm winds
शांत हवा

No dispersal
फैलाव नहीं



Smog traps
धुंध

AQI spikes
AQI बढ़ा

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► National AQI launched in **2014**

► AQI uses **8 pollutants** incl. PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO₂, SO₂, O₃
8 प्रदूषक

Delhi air “poor” – GRAP Stage I — background (1/2)

दिल्ली वायु — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 GRAP explained GRAP क्या है

Stage चरण	AQI AQI
I – Poor खराब	201–300
II – Very Poor बहुत खराब	301–400
III – Severe गंभीर	401–450
IV – Severe+ अति गंभीर	>450

10 History of GRAP | इतिहास

- ▶ Notified in **2017** after SC order (M.C. Mehta case)
2017
- ▶ Implemented first by **EPCA**
EPCA
- ▶ **CAQM** took over in **2021**
CAQM 2021
- ▶ Now **forecast-based** – acts in advance
पूर्वानुमान आधारित

11 Sources of Delhi pollution स्रोत

- ▶ **Vehicles** – largest local source
वाहन
- ▶ **Road & construction dust**
धूल
- ▶ **Industry**, waste burning
उद्योग
- ▶ **Stubble** – seasonal peak
पराली

Delhi air “poor” – GRAP Stage I — background (2/2)

दिल्ली वायु — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 National Clean Air Programme | NCAP



**Launched
2019
2019**

MoEFCC
पर्यावरण मंत्रालय



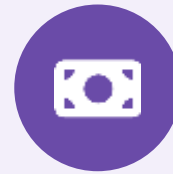
**131 cities
131 शहर**

Non-attainment
लक्ष्य से बाहर



**Cut PM by
40%
40% कमी**

By 2026
2026 तक



**Funds by
results
परिणाम आधारित**

Performance-
linked
प्रदर्शन

13 Fixes for stubble पराली समाधान

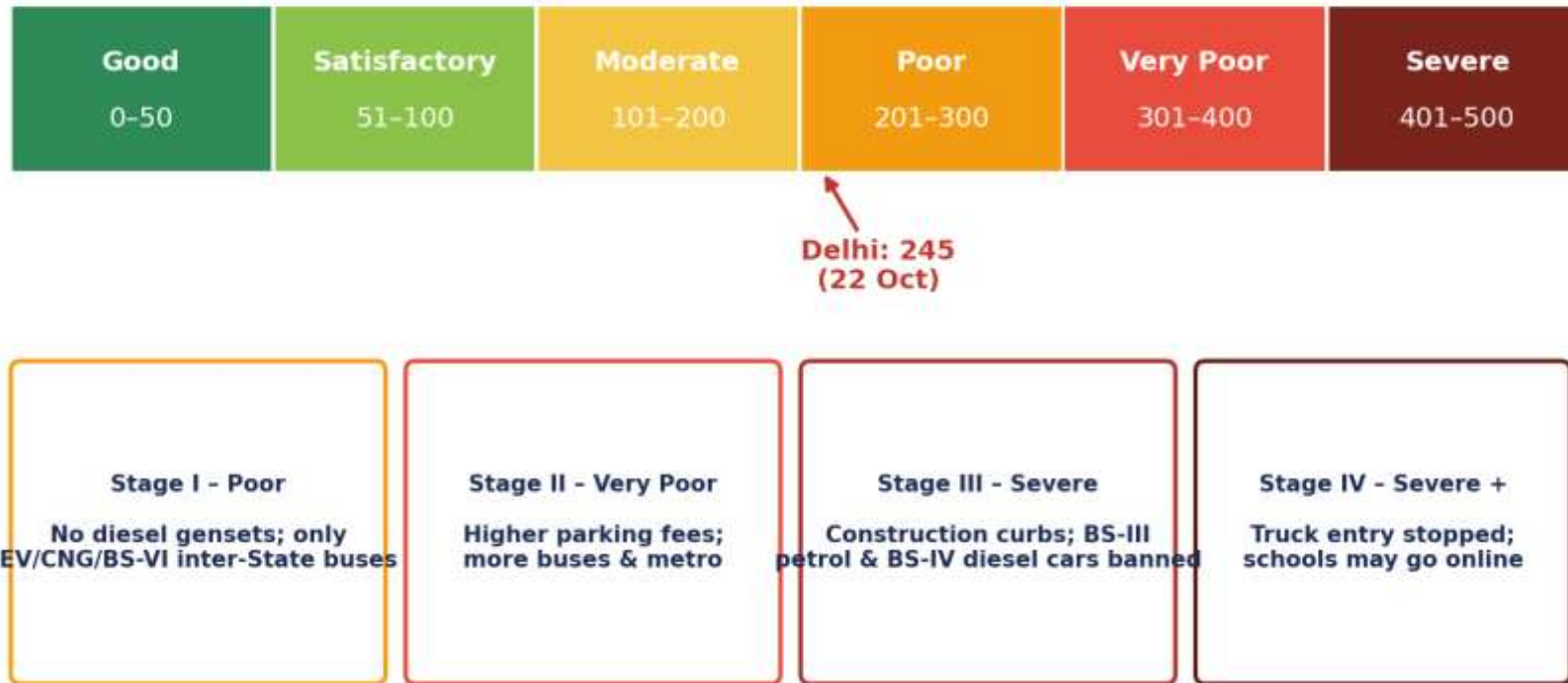


- ▶ **Happy Seeder**, crop-residue machines
हैप्पी सीडर
- ▶ **Pusa bio-decomposer**
पूसा डीकंपोजर
- ▶ Use straw for **biofuel/CBG**
जैव ईंधन

Delhi air “poor” – GRAP Stage I — Map & Diagram

दिल्ली वायु — मानचित्र व आरेख

Air Quality Index bands & GRAP stages (Delhi-NCR)



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

► AQI 245 = “Poor” band

245 – खराब

► GRAP has 4 stages by AQI

4 चरण

► Stage I: no diesel gensets; clean buses only

चरण I

► Stage IV: truck entry stopped

चरण IV

FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus

FSSAI नोटिस

‘Misleading’ claims: Nestle India, Zydus Wellness get FSSAI notice

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued notices to Nestle India and Zydus Wellness over “misleading claims” in certain products and has asked the companies to provide scientific proof to support their advertisements.

In a social media post, the FSSAI said notices were sent to Nestle India for misleading claims and non-compliant promotions involving two food products ‘Lactogen Pro 1 Powder’ and ‘Nan Excella Pro Stage 1’.

The regulator also issued notice to Zydus Wellness Product Ltd. citing misleading claims and advertisement on its food product Complian.

In the notice issued for Lactogen Pro 1 powder, the FSSAI said the company has claimed, in its labelling

The companies have been asked to provide scientific proof to support their advertisements

and advertisement material, that the product “contains whey protein, which is a part of milk protein that is easy to digest”.

On whey protein

The food safety regulator has asked Nestle to furnish scientific substantiation for the claim regarding whey protein being easy to digest.

In the product Nan Excella Pro Stage 1, the FSSAI said that the claim “5 HMOs [human milk oligosaccharides] helps support normal immune system” was considered to imply that the product was suitable for supporting the immune system.

“The claim was consi-

dered non-compliant with provisions prohibiting claims relating to the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of any disease, disorder or particular physiological condition, unless specifically permitted under applicable regulations,” the regulator said.

In the case of Complian, the FSSAI said the product label displays images of two children and claims include “2X Faster Growth”, “Supports Concentration and Memory” and “Pro Immunity+ 34 Vital Nutrients”.

The claims were found to be in violation of the FSS (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. The regulator has asked Zydus to provide scientific justification for such claims.

The advertisement claim “Growth Comes in 4 Flavours” was found to violate regulations of the FSS (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018.

‘Misleading’ Claims: Nestle India, Zydus Wellness Get FSSAI Notice

FSSAI ने नेस्ले इंडिया (लैक्टोजेन, नैन एक्सेला) और ज़ाइडस वेलनेस (कॉम्प्लान) को भ्रामक दावों पर नोटिस भेजा – वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण माँगे



Infant & health drinks
शिशु आहार

1 Products | उत्पाद



- ▶ **Lactogen Pro 1** (Nestle)
लैक्टोजेन
- ▶ **Nan Excella Pro Stage 1** (Nestle)
नैन एक्सेला
- ▶ **Complan** (Zydus Wellness)
कॉम्प्लान

2 What FSSAI wants FSSAI की माँग



- ▶ **Scientific proof** for claims
वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण
- ▶ Remove **disease-prevention** claims
रोग दावे हटाएँ
- ▶ Comply with **2018 Regulations**
विनियम

3 Why it matters | महत्व



- ▶ Parents trust **infant-food** labels
माता-पिता का भरोसा
- ▶ Images of **children** on pack
बच्चों की तस्वीरें
- ▶ Follows 18 Oct move on **added sugar** in infant food
चीनी पर रोक

FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus — in depth (1/2)

FSSAI नोटिस — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Key terms | शब्दावली

Term शब्द	Meaning अर्थ
Whey protein व्हे	Milk protein in liquid part दूध प्रोटीन
HMOs HMO	Sugars in human milk माँ के दूध की शर्करा
Health claim स्वास्थ्य दावा	Food–health link भोजन–स्वास्थ्य

5 Claims banned प्रतिबंधित दावे

- ▶ **Prevent/cure disease claims**
रोग इलाज
- ▶ Vague “natural”, “pure” without basis
अस्पष्ट शब्द
- ▶ Misleading comparisons
भ्रामक तुलना

6 Breastfeeding law स्तनपान क़ानून

- ▶ **IMS Act, 1992** – curbs infant-formula promotion
IMS अधिनियम
- ▶ WHO: exclusive breastfeeding **6 months**
6 माह
- ▶ No ads showing formula as **equal to breast milk**
बराबर नहीं

FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus — in depth (2/2)

FSSAI नोटिस — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a claim gets approved | दावे की स्वीकृति



Science
विज्ञान

Studies, data
अध्ययन



Apply to
FSSAI
आवेदन

Dossier
दस्तावेज़



Expert panel
विशेषज्ञ

Review
समीक्षा



Approved
स्वीकृत

Then label
लेबल

8

Did you know?
क्या आप जानते हैं?



► In 2024, “**health drink**” tag was dropped for Bournvita-type products

हेल्थ ड्रिंक

► FSSAI’s “**Label Padhega India**” push for reading labels

लेबल पढ़ें

FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus — background (1/2)

FSSAI नोटिस — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Food-safety law in India खाद्य क़ानून



Law क़ानून	Year वर्ष
PFA Act (old) PFA	1954
FSS Act FSS	2006
FSSAI set up FSSAI	2008
Advertising & Claims Regs विनियम	2018

10 Types of claims दावों के प्रकार



- ▶ **Nutrition claim** – “high protein”
पोषण दावा
- ▶ **Health claim** – nutrient helps body
स्वास्थ्य दावा
- ▶ **Disease-risk reduction** – needs approval
रोग-जोखिम
- ▶ **Disease cure** – never allowed
इलाज नहीं

11 Who else regulates ads अन्य नियामक



- ▶ **CCPA** – misleading ads (CPA 2019)
CCPA
- ▶ **ASCI** – self-regulation by industry
ASCI
- ▶ **Drugs & Magic Remedies Act, 1954**
1954 अधिनियम

FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus — background (2/2)

FSSAI नोटिस — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Recent FSSAI crackdowns | हाल की कार्रवाई



Rice bran oil
तेल

Flipkart,
BigBasket
17 अक्टूबर



Added sugar
चीनी

Infant food
18 अक्टूबर



Pesticide
limits
कीटनाशक

Tea
चाय



Nestle, Zydus
नेस्ले

22 Oct
22 अक्टूबर

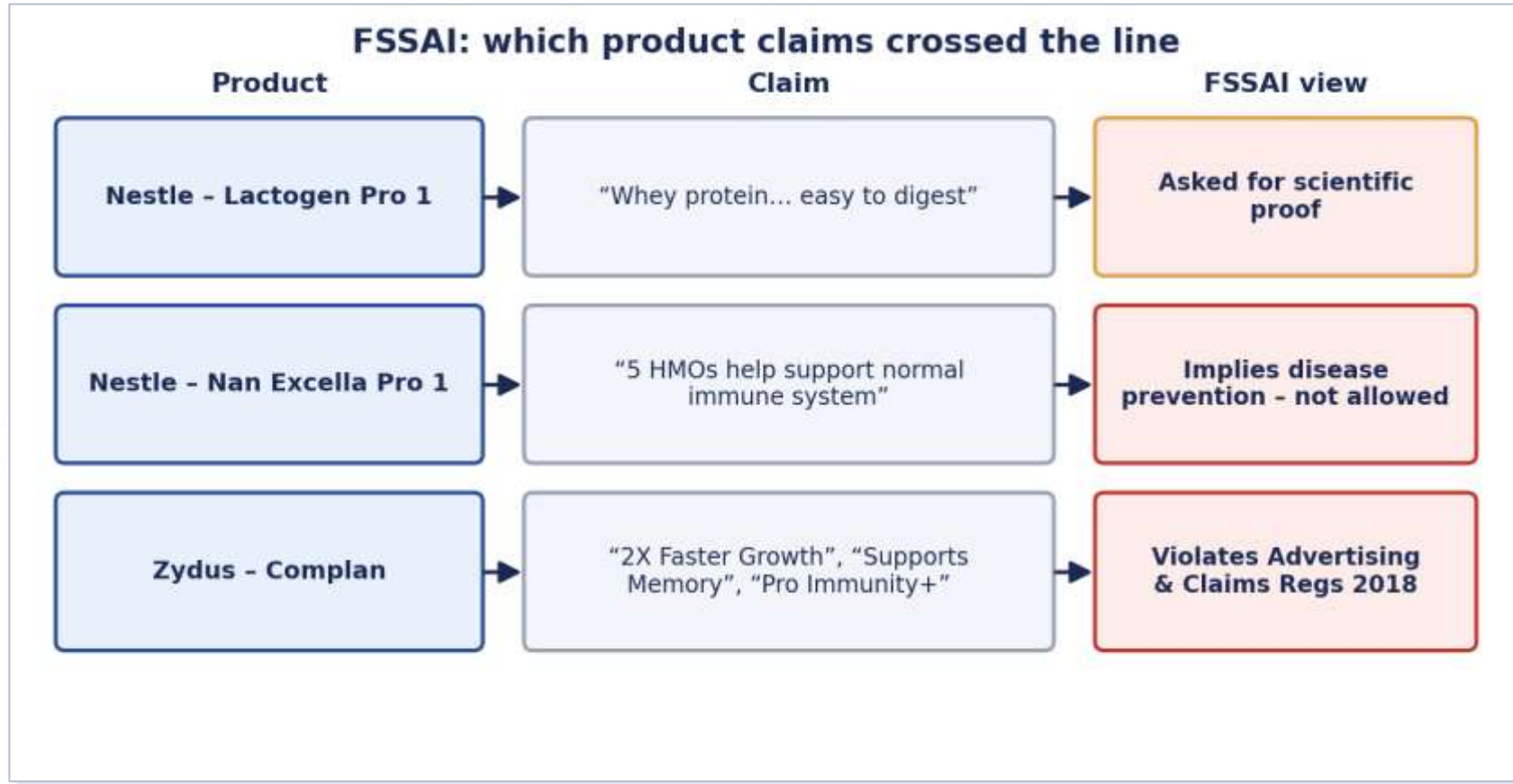
13 Child nutrition schemes बाल पोषण



- ▶ POSHAN Abhiyaan
(2018)
पोषण अभियान
- ▶ Mission Poshan 2.0
पोषण 2.0
- ▶ MAA programme –
promotes breastfeeding
MAA

FSSAI notice to Nestle, Zydus — Map & Diagram

FSSAI नोटिस — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- **Lactogen:** "easy to digest" – prove it
लैक्टोजेन
- **Nan Excella:** immune claim not allowed
प्रतिरक्षा दावा
- **Complan:** "2X Faster Growth"
कॉम्प्लान
- **Rules: Advertising & Claims Regs, 2018**
2018 विनियम

THE HINDU • 22 OCT 2026

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1 4-nation defence accord | रक्षा समझौता



Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia, Qatar defence pact

रक्षा समझौता

Türkiye, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Qatar sign defence accord

Reuters

ANKARA

Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan, and Indonesia signed an agreement on Wednesday to boost defence cooperation and strengthen defensive capabilities, the Turkish Defence Ministry said.

In a statement, the Ministry said the countries signed the “Badr Memorandum of Understanding” in Doha as a sign of their desire to further deepen cooperation and develop partnerships.

“The agreement holds

substantial economic importance,” it said. “By leveraging the unique military production capabilities of each country, the initiative will facilitate cooperation and integration, enhance defence industrial capacities, and enable the fulfilment of the needs of allied nations,” it added.

Turkey, which has NATO’s second-largest army and a robust defence industry, has been helping Gulf nations, including Qatar, where it has a military base, bolster their defences amid the Iran war.

A IN-X

Türkiye, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Qatar Sign Defence Accord

तुर्किये, पाकिस्तान, इंडोनेशिया और क़तर ने दोहा में “बद्र समझौता ज्ञापन” पर हस्ताक्षर किए – रक्षा उद्योग सहयोग और साझा उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए



“Badr” MoU
बद्र

1 The accord | समझौता



- ▶ “Badr Memorandum of Understanding”
बद्र MoU
- ▶ Signed in **Doha**, Qatar
दोहा
- ▶ Announced by **Turkish Defence Ministry**
तुर्की मंत्रालय

2 Aims | उद्देश्य



- ▶ Boost defence cooperation
रक्षा सहयोग
- ▶ Pool military production capacity
साझा उत्पादन
- ▶ Meet needs of “allied nations”
सहयोगी देश

3 Context | संदर्भ



- ▶ Amid the **Iran war**
ईरान युद्ध
- ▶ Türkiye helping **Gulf states** arm up
खाड़ी देश
- ▶ Rising **Türkiye–Pakistan** defence ties
तुर्की–पाक

Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia, Qatar defence pact — in depth (1/2)

रक्षा समझौता — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Members at a glance | सदस्य



Country देश	Note विशेषता
Türkiye तुर्किये	NATO's 2nd-largest army
Pakistan पाकिस्तान	Nuclear power
Indonesia इंडोनेशिया	Largest Muslim population
Qatar क़तर	Gas-rich; hosts Turkish base

5 Why India watches भारत की नज़र



- ▶ Turkish **drones** used by Pakistan
ड्रोन
- ▶ Türkiye's past remarks on **Kashmir**
कश्मीर
- ▶ India has **good ties** with Indonesia, Qatar
अच्छे संबंध

6 Defence industry रक्षा उद्योग



- ▶ Türkiye: **Bayraktar** drones, warships
बायरक्तार
- ▶ Pakistan: **JF-17** (with China)
JF-17
- ▶ Indonesia: **PT PAL** shipyard
PT PAL

Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia, Qatar defence pact — in depth (2/2)

रक्षा समझौता — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 India's balancing strategy | भारत की नीति



Indonesia
इंडोनेशिया

BrahMos interest
ब्रह्मोस



Qatar
कतर

Top LNG supplier
LNG



Greece, Cyprus
ग्रीस

Counter-balance
संतुलन



Watch Türkiye–Pak
निगरानी

Arms flows
हथियार

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► **Badr** – first major battle of early Islam (624 CE)

बद्र का युद्ध

► Indonesia's President **Prabowo** was India's **R-Day chief guest (2025)**

गणतंत्र दिवस

Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia, Qatar defence pact — background (1/2)

रक्षा समझौता — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

Military alliances – key ones
प्रमुख गठबंधन



Alliance गठबंधन	Year वर्ष
NATO नाटो	1949
CSTO (Russia-led) CSTO	1992
Saudi-Pak defence pact सऊदी-पाक	2025
Badr MoU बद्र	2026

10

Türkiye–Pakistan ties
तुर्की-पाक संबंध



- ▶ Corvettes (**MILGEM**)
built for Pak Navy
मिलगेम
- ▶ **Drones** & training
ड्रोन
- ▶ Both in **OIC**; once in **CENTO** (1955)
OIC, CENTO

11

OIC basics | OIC



- ▶ **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**
(1969)
इस्लामी सहयोग संगठन
- ▶ **57** members; HQ **Jeddah**
57 सदस्य
- ▶ India is **not** a member
भारत सदस्य नहीं

Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia, Qatar defence pact — background (2/2)

रक्षा समझौता — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 India–Gulf & SE Asia links | भारत के संबंध



Diaspora
प्रवासी

~8 lakh in Qatar
क़तर



Energy
ऊर्जा

LNG deal to 2048
LNG



Act East
एक्ट ईस्ट

Indonesia,
ASEAN
आसियान



Defence exports
रक्षा निर्यात

BrahMos
ब्रह्मोस

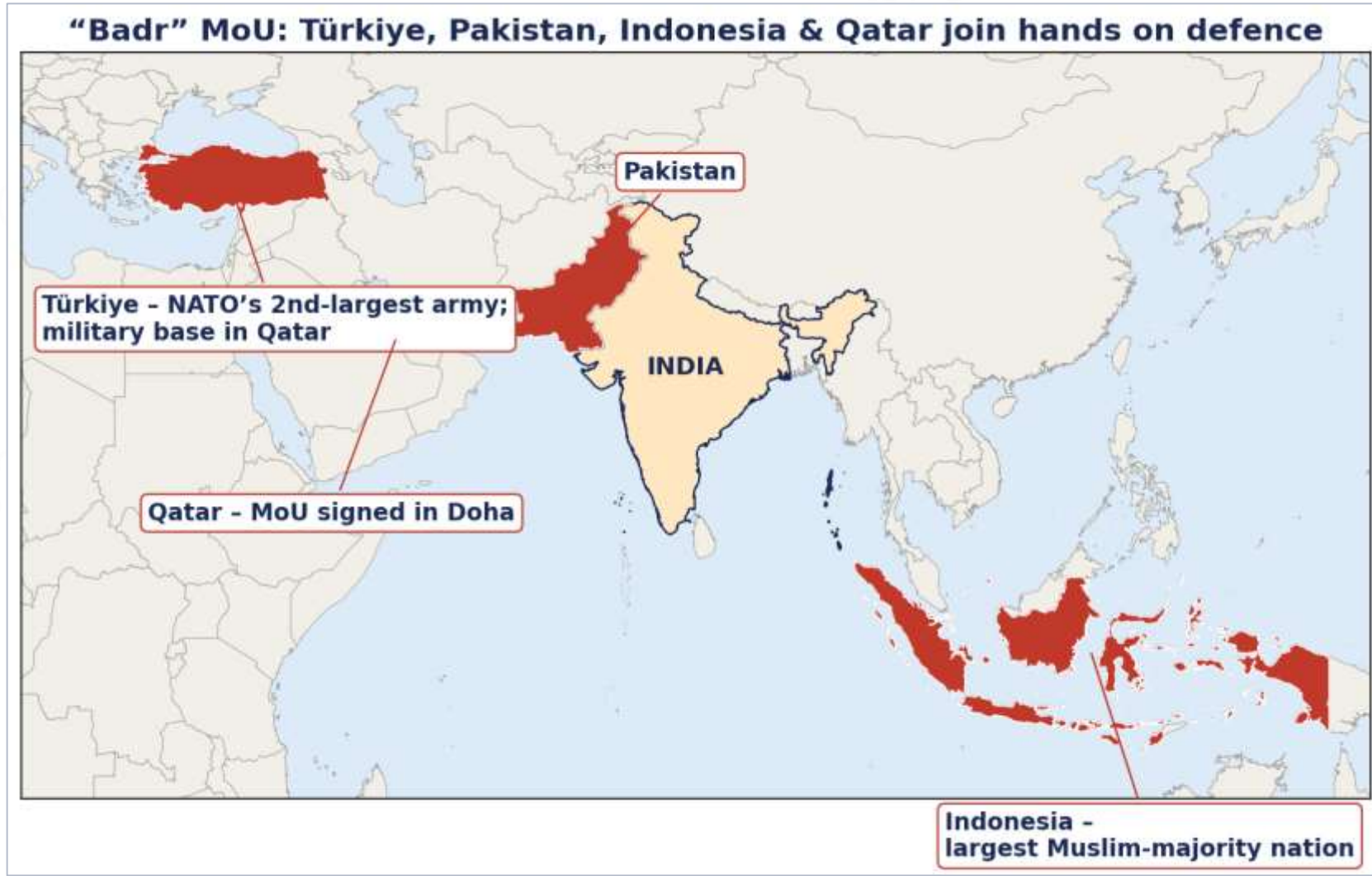
13 India–Türkiye friction भारत–तुर्की



- ▶ Türkiye backed Pak in Op Sindoor (2025)
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर
- ▶ India strengthened ties with Greece, Armenia
ग्रीस, आर्मेनिया
- ▶ Trade continues;
“boycott Türkiye” calls
बहिष्कार

Türkiye, Pak, Indonesia, Qatar defence pact — Map & Diagram

रक्षा समझौता — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- 4 nations: **Türkiye, Pakistan, Indonesia, Qatar**
4 देश
- “Badr” MoU signed in **Doha**
दोहा
- Türkiye has a **base in Qatar**
क़तर में अड्डा
- Pakistan on India's **western border**
पश्चिमी सीमा

THE INDIAN EXPRESS • 22 OCT 2026

DAY AFTER RUBIO SAYS '50% OF WORK DONE' ON A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT

Pretty close, a much different kind of deal: Trump on India trade pact

Signals deal will be unlike the ones the US has with others

Washington Post, October 22

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Thursday that the United States is "pretty close" to a bilateral trade agreement with India, which he said would be "a much different kind of deal" than the ones the US has with other countries.

Trump said the deal would be "a much different kind of deal" than the ones the US has with other countries.

STANWICK FACILITY, RUBIO CONCLUDES EMERGENCY AND TEST

Washington Post, October 22

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Thursday that the United States is "pretty close" to a bilateral trade agreement with India, which he said would be "a much different kind of deal" than the ones the US has with other countries.

Backdoor deal to deal to 100,000

Washington Post, October 22

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Thursday that the United States is "pretty close" to a bilateral trade agreement with India, which he said would be "a much different kind of deal" than the ones the US has with other countries.

Crackdown on liquor marks alarming surge in narcotics that has stretched security and health apparatus: NDPS cases rise four-fold in 6 years, pills seizure 30-fold in 4 years

Washington Post, October 22

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NUMBERS RISING, ALARMING RISING

Washington Post, October 22

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पृष्ठ 1 • मुख पृष्ठ

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1 Bihar: drugs after prohibition | बिहार में नशा

Bihar: a new lethal high after prohibition

बिहार में नशा

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION PART 1

Dry for a decade, Bihar hit by a new lethal high: Drugs & addicts

Crackdown on liquor masks alarming surge in narcotics that has stretched security and health apparatus: NDPS cases rise four-fold in 6 years, pills seizure 30-fold in 4 years

Himanshu Harsh
Patna, October 21

IN THE 10 years since Bihar imposed prohibition, its police have seized around 3.16 crore litres of liquor and made around 7.15 lakh related arrests across the state — around 8,650 litres and 196 arrests on an average, every day. This is known. What is under the radar, however, is that beyond the smuggled bottle, a parallel world of intoxicants is taking shape — one that involves pocket-sized packets, tablet strips, heroin to a distinctive variant "kota", vials, soap boxes or even a petticoat fold.

For a police force that spent a decade learning to find contraband liquor in trains, tankers and horse-borne consignments, the fast-emerging market in drugs has set off a series of alarm bells they have begun tuning into, an investigation by *The Indian Express* shows.

Over the past three months, this newspaper reviewed case records and official data, and spoke to police officers, social workers and doctors to find how Bihar's drugs map has steadily

NUMBERS RINGING
Details of cases registered in Bihar under NDPS Act

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025 ● 2026 (upto May)

Source: Compiled from Bihar Police data

20-FOLD RISE IN 3 YRS
Beneficiaries of de-addiction centres in Bihar supported under Nisha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan

Source: Reply in Parliament dated March 10, 2026, by Modi Social Justice and Empowerment

— and very sharply — expanded, shifting to newer districts, how police fear this market is fuelling juvenile crime; and how treatment has hardly kept pace, with Centrally supported facilities operating in less than one-third of the state's districts.

The numbers from the state and Centre capture the crisis — key indicators have jumped:

● Data compiled by the Bihar Police HQ shows that the number of cases registered under the National Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the first five months of 2026 alone (1,905) was 83 cases more than those registered in the whole of 2022 (see chart). This number was only 697 in 2019.

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Dry for a decade, Bihar hit by a new lethal high: Drugs and addicts

[FROM PAGE 1]

● The data also shows, right till April of 2025, that in 2025, rising to 3,945.24 kg in 2026 — nearly double in three years (see chart). In fact, the number of "bottles" seized under the NDPS Act in Bihar (the dramatic spike: 29,762 pieces in 2025 to 6,299 in 2024) in the first five months of 2026 alone — from seizures, opium, painkillers and anti-anxiety drugs procured illegally to counterfeit pills made using chemical powders and industrial machinery.

● The state police chief of Bihar, P. S. S. Singh, said in a recent meeting of the Bihar Police Special Task Force (STF), which was formed last April to deal with drug trafficking, seized 32.32 crore worth of drugs and arrested 365 people until October 10, 2025. The 32.32 crore worth of drugs were seized this year.

● State police chief said that in the last five months of 2025, the NDPS Act in seven years, from 2019 to 2023 — but in 2024 alone, according to most recent data.

● "That means that one figure that captures the human cost. A reply in Parliament, dated March 10, 2026, by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment said that beneficiaries of de-addiction centres supported by it in Bihar rose from 1,822 in 2022 to 29,429 in 2024-25 — a nearly 20-fold rise.

● "Seizure of drugs is a challenge that the response also needs to be given by the police. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Himanshu Harsh, Director General of Bihar Police's Special Task Force, said that the state police is not only a coordinated effort to tackle the problem.

● "In Bihar, constantly participating in social resistance against narcotics, police action will not suffice in the present situation. This is the lesson learnt from the Punjab experience. Only a community effort backed by the state government can contain the growing menace of narcotics and psychotropic substance addiction."

● The future: Young lured by cheap drugs

● But more than all of the above, the police are most worried about cheap drugs reaching the economically marginalised, which is a social signature for drug use, and the danger of it is that it is not only a social signature, but it is also a social signature for drug use, and the danger of it is that it is not only a social signature, but it is also a social signature for drug use.

SPREAD ACROSS STATE
Cases under NDPS Act across 10 police regions in Bihar ● 2021 ● 2025

Source: Compiled from Bihar Police data

The range: 'Kota' & the 'Meath triangle'

With the trend, officers and social workers say, a "new substance" has emerged in Bihar, known as "kota". The name appears to have originated from the word "kota", which means "a small, narrow, and deep hole" in Hindi. It is a term used to describe a type of drug that is often found in small, narrow, and deep holes in the ground. The range of "kota" is often found in the "Meath triangle" region, which is a triangular area in the north-east of Bihar, bounded by the Nepal border, the Ganges river, and the Patna-Muzaffarpur road. The range of "kota" is often found in the "Meath triangle" region, which is a triangular area in the north-east of Bihar, bounded by the Nepal border, the Ganges river, and the Patna-Muzaffarpur road.

IN THE POLICE NET — FROM GANJA TO COCAINE

	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026 (upto May)
GANJA	18,881.81 kg	8,755.89 kg	12,647.99 kg	3,045.799 kg	21,430.84 kg
CHARRAS	179,037 kg	100,154 kg	277,689 kg	378,82 kg	34,448 kg
HEROIN	61,048 kg	34,434 kg	36,781 kg	66,086 kg	91,089 kg
COCAINE	—	—	1,049 kg	9,021 kg	0.4837 kg
MORPHINE	—	—	5,628 kg	2,475 kg	—
DETA	6,776.32 kg	16,887.01 kg	1,370.17 kg	3,777.007 kg	1,768.54 kg
UPHAR	161.03 kg	27,222 kg	83,707 kg	77,265 kg	98,391 kg
CHEMICAL DRUGS	63,098 kg	2,64,038 kg	1,17,406 kg	3,41,377 kg	2,39,787 kg
STYOP	3,677 kg	2,96,966 kg	90,123 kg	64,338 kg	9,20,127 kg

Source: Compiled from Bihar Police data

Without community participation to build societal resistance against narcotics, more police action will not suffice in the present situation. This is the lesson learnt from the Punjab experience. Only a community effort backed by the state government can contain the growing menace of narcotics and psychotropic substance addiction.

KUNDAN KUNDAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPECIAL BRANCH AND OPERATIONS, BIHAR POLICE

the Northeast, with Assam being the main, and some consignments move through East Champaran, Kishanganj, Vaishali and Munger. Parts of the network have been reported to be in Bihar, an official said.

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Dry for a Decade, Bihar Hit by a New Lethal High: Drugs & Addicts

शराबबंदी के 10 वर्ष बाद बिहार में नशीले पदार्थों का खतरनाक उभार – NDPS मामले 6 वर्षों में चार गुना, गोलियों की ज़ब्ती 4 वर्षों में 30 गुना



Express investigation
जाँच

1 Numbers | आँकड़े



4×

NDPS cases in
6 yrs
मामले

30×

Pill seizures in
4 yrs
गोलियाँ

1,905

Cases Jan–May
2026
मामले

~2×

Ganja seized
2022→25
गांजा

2 How it grew | कैसे बढ़ा



► Prohibition since 5 Apr 2016

शराबबंदी

► Liquor costly in black market (₹1,500 a bottle)

महँगी शराब

► Drugs give longer high for less

सस्ता नशा

3 Human cost | मानवीय कीमत



► Juveniles detained: 1 (2016–23) → 50 (2024)

किशोर

► Shift to heroin & synthetic drugs

हेरोइन

► Treatment centres in < 1/3 districts

कम केंद्र

Bihar: a new lethal high after prohibition — in depth (1/2)

बिहार में नशा — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

“Kota” explained |
“कोटा”



- ▶ Raw **heroin**, inhaled with cigarettes
कच्ची हेरोइन
- ▶ Name from “**quota**” = a dose
खुराक
- ▶ Box ₹50,000 → **400–500 vials** of ₹300–400
शीशी

5

Police response
पुलिस कार्रवाई



- ▶ **STF narcotics cell**
(Apr 2025)
STF
- ▶ **Prohibition & State Narcotics Control Bureau** (Sep 2025)
ब्यूरो
- ▶ **₹52.32 cr** drugs seized; 315 arrested
जब्ती

6

Smuggling tricks |
तस्करी



- ▶ Couriers by **train** from NE
ट्रेन
- ▶ **Women** carriers; hidden in clothes
महिलाएँ
- ▶ Small quantities slip past **scanners & dogs**
छोटी मात्रा

Bihar: a new lethal high after prohibition — in depth (2/2)

बिहार में नशा — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 DG's message: whole-of-society fight | समग्र लड़ाई



Police action
पुलिस

Not enough
पर्याप्त नहीं



Community
समुदाय

Resistance
प्रतिरोध



Treatment
इलाज

De-addiction
नशामुक्ति



Punjab lesson
पंजाब सबक

State-backed
सरकार समर्थित

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



- ▶ **26 June** – International Day against Drug Abuse
26 जून
- ▶ **MANAS** helpline **1933** – report drug trafficking
1933

Bihar: a new lethal high after prohibition — background (1/2)

बिहार में नशा — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

NDPS Act, 1985
NDPS अधिनियम



Quantity मात्रा	Punishment सज़ा
Small अल्प	Up to 1 yr / fine
Intermediate मध्यम	Up to 10 yrs
Commercial व्यावसायिक	10–20 yrs + ₹1–2 lakh
Repeat (some) दोहराव	Death penalty possible

10

Bihar prohibition
बिहार शराबबंदी



- ▶ Bihar Prohibition & Excise Act, **2016**
- ▶ **3.16 crore litres** seized in 10 yrs
ज़ब्ती
- ▶ **7.15 lakh** arrests
गिरफ़्तारियाँ
- ▶ **Art 47 (DPSP):** prohibit intoxicants
अनु. 47

11

Dry states
शराबमुक्त राज्य



- ▶ **Gujarat** (since 1960)
गुजरात
- ▶ **Bihar** (2016),
Nagaland, Mizoram
बिहार, नागालैंड
- ▶ Lakshadweep (UT)
लक्षद्वीप

Bihar: a new lethal high after prohibition — background (2/2)

बिहार में नशा — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 India's two drug belts | दो नशा क्षेत्र



Golden Crescent
स्वर्ण अर्धचंद्र

Af–Pak–Iran
पश्चिम



→ **Punjab**
पंजाब

Western route
पश्चिमी मार्ग



Golden Triangle
स्वर्ण त्रिभुज

Myanmar–Laos–
Thai
पूर्व



→ **NE** → **Bihar**
बिहार

Eastern route
पूर्वी मार्ग

13 National efforts राष्ट्रीय प्रयास



► **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (2020) – target 2029**

नशा मुक्त भारत

► **NCB – Narcotics Control Bureau (1986)**

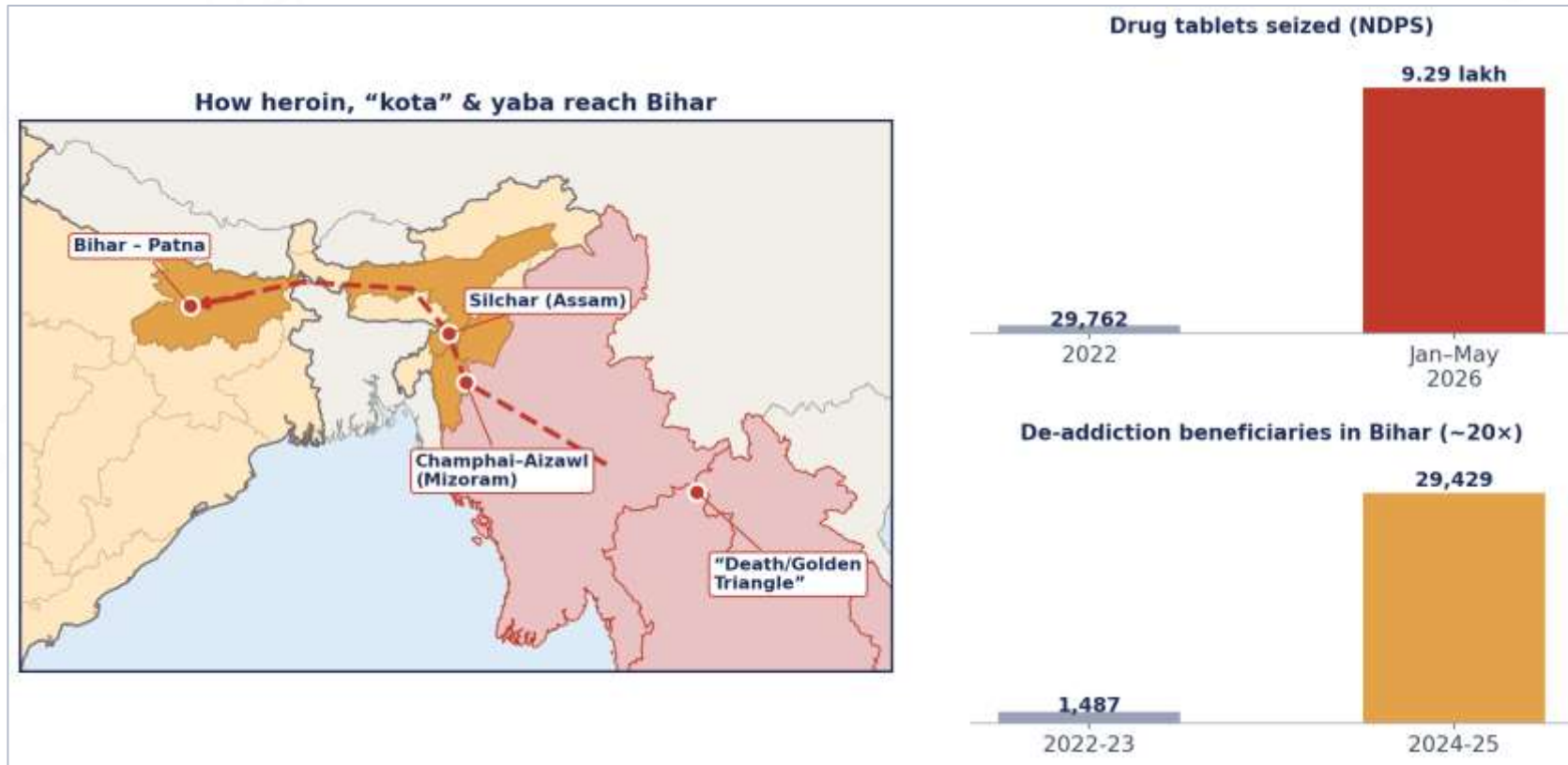
NCB

► **NCORD – coordination mechanism**

NCORD

Bihar: a new lethal high after prohibition — Map & Diagram

बिहार में नशा — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Route: Myanmar → Mizoram → Silchar → Bihar
मार्ग
- Tablets seized: 29,762 → 9.29 lakh
गोलियाँ
- De-addiction beneficiaries ~20x
20 गुना
- Source region: "Death/Golden Triangle"
स्वर्ण त्रिभुज

Keeping agents in check

INDUSTRY IS TIGHTENING CONTROLS WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS & MONITORING

BY RASHI CHANDRAN
As the insurance industry continues to grow, agents are becoming more powerful. This has led to a number of cases where agents have been found to have misused their position. The industry is now taking steps to tighten controls and monitor agents more closely. This includes restricting access to certain information and implementing more rigorous monitoring and reporting requirements. The goal is to ensure that agents are acting in the best interests of their clients and not just for their own gain.

SETTING LIMITS
• **Restrict access to sensitive information** – Agents should not have access to all company data. Only information necessary for their role should be available.
• **Implement rigorous monitoring** – Companies should monitor agent activity for unusual patterns or behavior.
• **Require regular reporting** – Agents should provide regular updates on their sales and activities.

AGENTS MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE
The industry must ensure that agents are held accountable for their actions. This includes implementing a system of checks and balances to prevent abuse of power. Companies should also provide training and support to agents to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the consequences of misconduct.

Size gives way to ownership

FOR SMALLER BUSINESSES, OWNERSHIP IS THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE

BY RASHI CHANDRAN
For smaller businesses, ownership is the only way to survive. As the industry consolidates, smaller businesses are being squeezed out. Owners must take control of their businesses and implement strategies to compete with larger players. This includes focusing on customer service, innovation, and efficient operations.

OWNERSHIP IS THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE
Small businesses must embrace ownership to thrive. This means making decisions quickly and being willing to take risks. Owners should also build strong relationships with customers and suppliers to create a competitive advantage.

TECH ENTER
Technology is a double-edged sword for small businesses. While it can help streamline operations and reach new markets, it can also be a significant cost. Owners must carefully evaluate the benefits and costs of adopting new technologies and make informed decisions.

Explainer

WPI vs CPI: The inflation divergence in the two indices

Wholesale inflation at 11.39% in September 2026, more than double the rate of 5.54% for consumer prices. Why the two indices diverge so much?

MEASURING PRICE PRESSURES

WPI vs CPI: The inflation divergence in the two indices

Wholesale inflation at 11.39% in September 2026, more than double the rate of 5.54% for consumer prices. Why the two indices diverge so much?

Why do the two indices diverge?

The two indices measure different types of inflation. WPI measures inflation for goods sold in bulk, while CPI measures inflation for goods sold in retail. WPI is more volatile than CPI because it includes more raw materials and intermediate goods, which are more sensitive to supply and demand changes.

Global prices & their influence

Global prices can influence domestic inflation. For example, a rise in global oil prices can lead to higher costs for transportation and production, which can then be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

So, is there a role of imported inflation in the divergence story?

Imported inflation can play a role in the divergence between WPI and CPI. If the price of imported goods rises, it will increase WPI more than CPI, as CPI includes a smaller proportion of imported goods.

What do the two price indices – WPI & CPI – measure?

WPI (Wholesale Price Index) measures the average change in prices paid by wholesalers for the goods and services they sell. It is a measure of inflation for goods sold in bulk.

CPI (Consumer Price Index) measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for the goods and services they buy. It is a measure of inflation for goods sold in retail.

How do the weights of items differ?

The CPI index gives more weight to services and housing, while the WPI index gives more weight to goods. This is because services and housing are more important to consumers, while goods are more important to wholesalers.

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पृष्ठ 9 • व्याख्या

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1 WPI vs CPI | थोक बनाम खुदरा

1

WPI vs CPI: the inflation gap

थोक बनाम खुदरा

Explainer



MEASURING PRICE PRESSURES

What do the two price indices – WPI & CPI – measure?

THE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX (WPI) measures the average change in prices transacted in the wholesale market for bulk sale of goods.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in the general level of retail prices for select goods and services purchased by households for consumption.

The WPI is compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), whereas the National Statistics Office, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), compiles the CPI.

Both the price indices use a base year as a reference point, with the index set to 100 to track prices over time. The latest revised base year for the WPI is 2012-13, and for the CPI, it is 2015.

The year-on-year WPI inflation hit 11.39% in September 2026, more than double the year-on-year CPI inflation of 5.54%. The WPI inflation was 9.92% in August 2026, whereas the CPI inflation was 4.83%.

Why do the two indices diverge?

FIRST, THE TWO indices differ by design. The items in the WPI and CPI baskets of goods and services differ and are weighted differently. The total weighted items in the current All India CPI are 358, reflecting an increase in goods items by 49 and that in services items by 10. The WPI new series contains 957 items, compared to 697 in the series with the base year 2011-12. Secondly, WPI uses average prices at the first stage of the transaction, for instance, at the factory level for manufactured goods and at the mandi level for agricultural goods. But CPI compilation uses prices that consumers pay at the retail level, which are collected from various markets.

Wholesale inflation hit 11.39% in September 2026, more than double the retail inflation of 5.54%. Explaining the reasons behind the gap, *Debashis Acharya* says a wholesale price shock need not translate into CPI in the short run since the rise or fall in wholesale prices is expected to reach retail prices only with a lag.

11.39%
WPI INFLATION AGAINST 5.54% CPI INFLATION IN SEP 2026

MANUFACTURING INPUTS & INTERMEDIATE GOODS, INCLUDING MINERALS AND BASIC METALS, ACCOUNT FOR A LARGE SHARE OF THE WPI BASKET AND ARE SUBJECT TO GLOBAL PRICE INFLUENCES

epaper.financialexpress.com

How do the weights of items differ?

THE CPI 2024 series' updated item basket and weights are based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24. To make India's CPI globally comparable, the 2024 series has adopted the classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (ICOP), as per the UN Statistics Division. Thus, the new series has 12 divisions, 43 groups, 92 classes, and 162 sub-classes as per COICOPs 2018. In the combined CPI, the food and beverage weight declined from 42.61% in 2012 to 36.75 in 2024. The weight of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels increased to 17.66% from 16.88%. Similarly, the

other divisions with increased weights include health, transport, information and communication, paan, tobacco, and intoxicants, and personal care.

Now, the WPI weights are based on the gross value of output (GVO), emphasising domestic production, rather than the Net Traded Value used in the 2011-12 series. The Net Traded Value equals GVO plus Imports minus exports. The two indices also diverge due to differences in the weights of food groups and major petroleum products in the two baskets. Further, services such as housing, education, recreation, and medical care form part of CPI but not of WPI.

Global prices & their influence

ITEMS SUCH AS manufacturing inputs and intermediate goods, including minerals and basic metals, account for a large share of the WPI basket and are subject to global price influences. These are not consumed by households and

do not form part of the CPI basket.

Therefore, a wholesale price shock "need not necessarily translate into CPI in the short run" since the rise or fall in wholesale prices is expected to reach retail prices only with a lag.

So, is there a role of imported inflation in the divergence story?

THE RBI'S MONETARY Policy report, October 2026, analyses how, following the West Asia Conflict, imported inflation, i.e., the contribution of imported components to domestic inflation, increased as per the WPI 2021-23 series. Imported inflation increased until May 2026, with some respite thereafter. The CPI imported inflation also stayed high, but the sequential increase in CPI's imported inflation was lower than

that in WPI, "due to delayed and partial price increases in petroleum products at the retail level", says the report. For example, the RBI estimates show the CPI 2024-based retail imported inflation to be 11.7% (y-o-y) and the WPI 2021-23-based imported inflation to be 20.3% as of August 2026.

The writer is a professor at the School of Economics, University of Hyderabad

New Delhi

WPI vs CPI: The Inflation Divergence in the Two Indices

सितंबर में थोक महँगाई 11.39% – खुदरा (5.54%) से दोगुनी से अधिक; कारण: अलग टोकरी, भार, मूल्य स्तर और वैश्विक कीमतों का असर



Explainer
व्याख्या

1 The gap | अंतर



11.39%

WPI, Sept
थोक

5.54%

CPI, Sept
खुदरा

9.92%

WPI, Aug
थोक

4.83%

CPI, Aug
खुदरा

2 Why they differ | क्यों अलग



► Different **baskets & weights**

टोकरी व भार

► WPI: **first-stage** prices;
CPI: **retail**

मूल्य स्तर

► Services only in **CPI**
सेवाएँ

3 Global link | वैश्विक संबंध



► WPI heavy in **metals, minerals**

धातु, खनिज

► West Asia war →
imported inflation

आयातित महँगाई

► Retail feels it **with a lag**
देरी से असर

WPI vs CPI: the inflation gap — in depth (1/2)

थोक बनाम खुदरा — विस्तार से (1/2)

4
Imported inflation
आयातित महँगाई

20.3%
WPI imported
(Aug)
थोक

11.7%
CPI imported
(Aug)
खुदरा

May 2026
Peak of rise
चरम

RBI MPR
Source, Oct
2026
स्रोत

5
New CPI 2024 series
नई CPI

- Based on **HCES 2023-24**
उपभोग सर्वेक्षण
- Uses UN **COICOP 2018**
COICOP
- Food weight **42.6% → 36.75%**
खाद्य भार घटा

6
New WPI series | नई WPI

- Base **2022-23**
2022-23
- 957** items (from 697)
957 वस्तुएँ
- Weights on **gross value of output**
उत्पादन मूल्य

WPI vs CPI: the inflation gap — in depth (2/2)

थोक बनाम खुदरा — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a price shock travels | झटका कैसे पहुँचता



Global
oil/metals ↑
वैश्विक

Import costs
आयात लागत



WPI ↑
थोक ↑

Factory prices
फैक्ट्री



CPI ↑ later
खुदरा बाद में

With a lag
देरी से



RBI acts
RBI

Repo rate
रेपो

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► India used **WPI** as the main inflation gauge until **2014** (Urjit Patel panel)

उर्जित पटेल

► **GDP deflator** is a third inflation measure

GDP डिफ्लेटर

WPI vs CPI: the inflation gap — background (1/2)

थोक बनाम खुदरा — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Types of inflation महंगाई के प्रकार

Type प्रकार	Cause कारण
Demand-pull माँग-जन्य	Too much demand अधिक माँग
Cost-push लागत-जन्य	Input costs rise लागत वृद्धि
Imported आयातित	Global prices, rupee वैश्विक
Core कोर	Excl. food & fuel खाद्य-ईंधन बाहर

10 Inflation targeting लक्ष्य

- ▶ RBI Act amended **2016**
- ▶ Target **CPI** $4\% \pm 2\%$
- ▶ Set by govt every **5 years**
- ▶ **MPC** – 6 members decide repo

11 Other price indices अन्य सूचकांक

- ▶ **CPI-IW** (industrial workers) – Labour Bureau
- ▶ **CPI-AL/RL** – farm & rural labourers
- ▶ **PPI** – planned producer price index

WPI vs CPI: the inflation gap — background (2/2)

थोक बनाम खुदरा — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Who uses which index | उपयोग



RBI
RBI

CPI – policy
नीति



Govt staff DA
महँगाई भत्ता

CPI-IW
CPI-IW



Industry
उद्योग

WPI – contracts
अनुबंध



GDP deflator
डिफ्लेटर

Real GDP
वास्तविक GDP

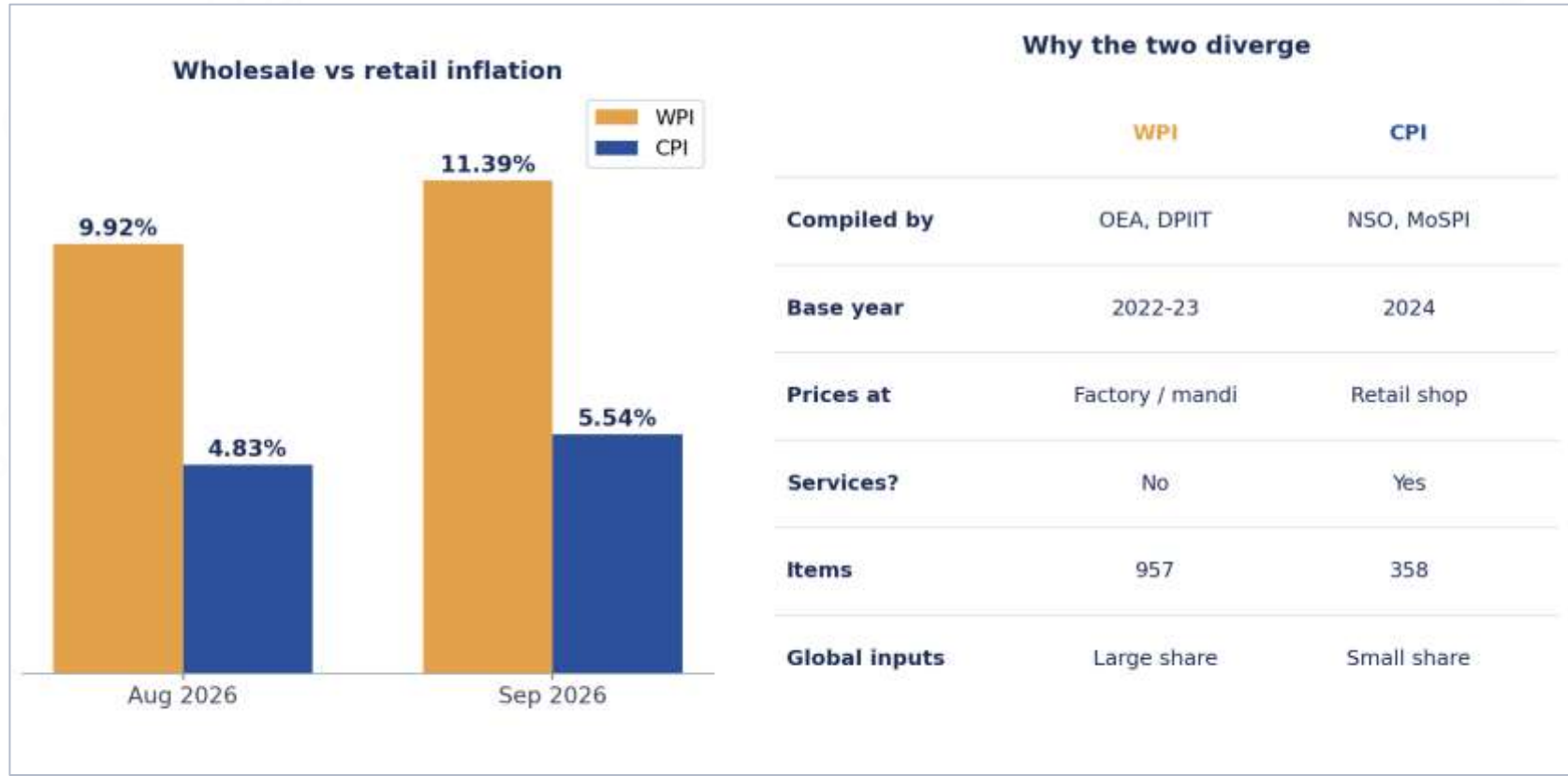
13 Recent RBI view RBI का रुख



- ▶ MPC minutes flag **widening** price pressure
बढ़ता दबाव
- ▶ Watch **pass-through** of WPI to CPI
असर
- ▶ Oil above **\$100/bbl** a key risk
तेल जोखिम

WPI vs CPI: the inflation gap — Map & Diagram

थोक बनाम खुदरा — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- ▶ Sept: **WPI 11.39%** vs **CPI 5.54%**
अंतर
- ▶ WPI: **goods only**, factory/mandi prices
केवल वस्तुएँ
- ▶ CPI: **goods + services**, retail prices
सेवाएँ भी
- ▶ WPI has more **global inputs**
वैश्विक इनपुट

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

RRB NTPC 2024 (CBT-1)

Exam date: 28 Aug 2025 (Shift 3) • Topic: Eight core industries

The government tracks the performance of eight core industries to monitor industrial activity. What is the approximate weight of the core industries in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 20%
- (d) 45%

RRB Group D 2025

Exam date: 18 Aug 2026 (Shift 1) • Topic: Drug abuse

Which national campaign is being strengthened in 2026 to address the problem of drug abuse among the youth in India?

- (a) Startup India Scheme
- (b) Digital India Programme
- (c) Fit India Movement
- (d) Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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- (a) 30%
- (b) 40%**
- (c) 20%
- (d) 45%

Answer: (b) Core industries $\approx$ 40% of IIP.
लगभग 40%।

RRB Group D 2025

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Which national campaign is being strengthened in 2026 to address the problem of drug abuse among the youth in India?

- (a) Startup India Scheme
- (b) Digital India Programme
- (c) Fit India Movement
- (d) Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan**

Answer: (d) Launched 2020 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
नशा मुक्त भारत अभियान।

Test Yourself — Q1–4 | स्वयं को परखें

Q1 The Index of Eight Core Industries is released by:

आठ प्रमुख उद्योग सूचकांक कौन जारी करता है?

- (a) NSO, MoSPI
- (b) Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT
- (c) RBI
- (d) NITI Aayog

Q2 Which had the highest weight in the old (2011-12) core index?

पुराने कोर सूचकांक में सबसे अधिक भार:

- (a) Electricity
- (b) Steel
- (c) Refinery products
- (d) Coal

Q3 CERT-In functions under which ministry?
CERT-In किस मंत्रालय के अधीन?

- (a) Home Affairs
- (b) Defence
- (c) Electronics & IT
- (d) Communications

Q4 The maximum penalty under the DPDP Act, 2023 can go up to:

DPDP अधिनियम 2023 में अधिकतम जुर्माना:

- (a) ₹50 crore
- (b) ₹100 crore
- (c) ₹250 crore
- (d) ₹500 crore

Test Yourself — Q5–8 | स्वयं को परखें

Q5

Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act requires:

भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम की धारा 17A:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| (a) Death penalty for bribery | (b) Prior approval before probing a public servant's official decisions |
| (c) Asset declaration | (d) Lokpal approval for arrests |

Q6

GRAP Stage I is triggered when Delhi's AQI is in the range:

GRAP चरण I किस AQI पर?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 101–200 | (b) 201–300 |
| (c) 301–400 | (d) 401–450 |

Q7

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) was set up under an Act of:

CAQM किस वर्ष के अधिनियम से बना?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) 2017 | (b) 2019 |
| (c) 2021 | (d) 2023 |

Q8

The Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act regulating formula promotion was passed in:

IMS अधिनियम कब बना?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) 1986 | (b) 1992 |
| (c) 2006 | (d) 2013 |

Test Yourself — Q9–10 | स्वयं को परखें

Q9

The “Golden Triangle” of drug production includes:

“स्वर्ण त्रिभुज” में शामिल:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran | (b) Myanmar, Laos, Thailand |
| (c) Colombia, Peru, Bolivia | (d) Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh |

Q10

Which index does RBI use for its inflation target?

RBI का महँगाई लक्ष्य किस सूचकांक पर?

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| (a) WPI | (b) CPI (Combined) |
| (c) CPI-IW | (d) GDP deflator |

Answer Key — Q1–5 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

1-b **Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT** — IIP is by NSO.
आर्थिक सलाहकार कार्यालय, DPIIT।

2-c **Refinery products** — ~28%.
रिफ़ाइनरी उत्पाद।

3-c **Electronics & IT** — MeitY; set up 2004.
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स व IT।

4-c **₹250 crore** — Per instance, for failing to protect data.
₹250 करोड़।

5-b **Prior approval before probing a public servant's official decisions** — Added in 2018.
पूर्व अनुमति।

Answer Key — Q6–10 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

6-b **201–300** — “Poor” category.
201–300।

7-c **2021** — Replaced EPCA.
2021।

8-b **1992** — Amended 2003.
1992।

9-b **Myanmar, Laos, Thailand** — Golden Crescent = Af–Pak–Iran.
म्यांमार, लाओस, थाईलैंड।

10-b **CPI (Combined)** — $4\% \pm 2\%$.
CPI (संयुक्त)।

Myth Buster of the Day — Society | आज का मिथक



MYTH | मिथक

“Banning alcohol makes a state free of addiction.”

शराबबंदी से राज्य नशामुक्त हो जाता है।



FACT | तथ्य

Not necessarily. Bihar has been “dry” since 2016, yet NDPS (drug) cases rose four-fold in six years and pill seizures 30-fold in four years. When liquor became costly in the black market, many users shifted to cheaper, longer-lasting drugs like ganja, heroin, “kota” and synthetic pills. Experts say supply bans must be matched by treatment, awareness and community action – the lesson from Punjab.

ज़रूरी नहीं। बिहार 2016 से “ड्राई” है, फिर भी छह वर्षों में NDPS (नशीले पदार्थ) मामले चार गुना और चार वर्षों में गोलियों की ज़ब्ती 30 गुना बढ़ी। काले बाज़ार में शराब महँगी होने पर कई लोग सस्ते और लंबे नशे वाले गांजा, हेरोइन, “कोटा” और सिंथेटिक गोलियों की ओर मुड़ गए। विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि आपूर्ति पर रोक के साथ इलाज, जागरूकता और सामुदायिक प्रयास भी ज़रूरी हैं – पंजाब का सबक।



Bans alone don’t end addiction – treatment and awareness do.

केवल प्रतिबंध से नशा नहीं रुकता।



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28 OCTOBER 2026



8:00 AM



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Contact Us: 9057143416 / 9057143417

Thank you ?

