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Daily News Feed

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Are elected State govts. at mercy of Governors' whims and fancies, SC asks Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre if elected State governments were at the mercy of the whims and fancies of Governors, who could fail Bills by merely withholding assent.

A Presidential Reference Bench headed by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai was examining a submission by the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and advocate Kanu Agarwal, that State Bills would lapse if Governors withheld assent to proposed laws presented to them for approval under Article 200 of the Constitution.

"So, are Governors being given total powers to sit in appeal over the elected representatives? This way, if Bills are failed by Governors, governments formed by majority will be at the mercy of their whims and fancies," Chief Justice Gavai quizzed Mr. Mehta's interpretation of Article 200.

'To be used sparingly'

Mr. Mehta said the power of a Governor to withhold assent was meant to be used sparingly, especially when a State Bill frustrated the very democratic will of the nation, or violated fundamental rights.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal interjected to point out that if a Governor had the power to lapse a Bill by withholding assent, the same logic would apply to the President of India under Article III.

"The President can also withhold and fail Bills passed in Parliament," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The Solicitor General argued that a Governor had



Are Governors being given total powers to sit in appeal over the elected representatives?

B.R. GAVAI
Chief Justice of India

"four" options under Article 200. Besides the options of granting assent to the Bill, withholding assent to the Bill due to which the proposed law lapses, and reserving the Bill for consideration to the President in the substantive part of the Constitutional provision, the proviso to the Article allowed the Governor to exercise a "fourth" option, that is, to return the Bill to the State Legislative Assembly. If the Assembly re-passed the Bill, the Governor would be bound to grant assent, the law officer contended. In such cases, the Governor could not withhold the Bill, though he could refer it to the President on the ground of repugnancy.

'Not a sanctum'

High Constitutional authorities, including the President and Governors, were presumed to act within the law and uphold the dignity of their offices, Mr. Mehta said. Governors were not "nobodies", he submitted. They were representatives of the President, who was bound by the aid and advice of the Union Cabinet, which represented the interests of the nation. "Go-

vernorship is not a sanctum for retired politicians," Mr. Mehta said.

But the Chief Justice asked the Solicitor General whether, over the years, the expectations of the Founding Fathers and Mothers regarding these Constitutional functionaries had actually been fulfilled.

Justice Narasimha reasoned that Constitutional interpretation by courts could not be idealistic. Judicial review had to take into account the present-day realities. Governors and Speakers were idealistically considered high offices, presumed to function within the law, but the flood of litigation said otherwise.

The judge referred to the cases filed in the top court under the anti-defection law (the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution).

The Tenth Schedule was introduced with the best intentions and with ideal expectations about the high office of the Speaker, Justice Narasimha said. But views had changed over the years.

"Constitutional interpretation cannot be static," Justice Narasimha observed.

Mr. Mehta enumerated instances when Governors were not bound by the aid and advice of the State Cabinet.

"We have seen how, in some cases, the Governors have exercised their discretion and end up in litigation in the top court," the CJI responded.

The Solicitor General dismissed them as "aberrations". It was "hazardous to interpret the Constitution based on aberrations", Mr. Mehta said.

GS Paper II – Polity, Constitution & Governance

SC on Governors withholding assent

- Supreme Court questioned Centre: Can Governors arbitrarily “fail” Bills by withholding assent under Article 200?
- SG Tushar Mehta argued Governors have four options: assent, withhold, reserve for President, return once.
- SC stressed constitutional interpretation must account for present-day misuse of office.
- Relevance: Articles 200, 111, 163, Governor’s discretionary powers, Centre-State tussle.

Manipur violence was not spontaneous, but planned, ethnically targeted: report

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Apart from historical factors such as ethnic divisions, socio-political marginalisation and land disputes, what led to escalation of feelings of mistrust and enmity between the warring Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities were the systematic hate campaign played out through digital media and statements made by the political leadership in the prelude to the conflict, said Independent People’s Tribunal’s report on the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur, which was released in Delhi on Wednesday.

The report highlighted that the violence was not spontaneous, but planned, ethnically targeted and facilitated by state failures.

The tribunal, constituted by the People’s Union of Civil Liberties (PUCI) in 2024, was chaired by Kurian Joseph, former judge, Supreme Court, also had members who were former High Court judges, ex-IAS officers, ex-IPS officers,



Tough times: More than 60,000 internally displaced people still remain in camps in Manipur. AP

advocates, authors, professors, journalists, human rights activists, among others.

In its 694-page report, the jury stressed that more than 60,000 internally displaced people still remain in camps in Manipur with no end in sight.

High Court directive

The tribunal said the Manipur High Court’s March 27, 2023 directive, recom-

mending Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for Meiteis served as a vital trigger, as it was perceived by the tribal groups, including the Kuki-Zo groups and the Nagas, as a threat to their constitutional protections. This in turn sparked protests across all tribal districts, leading to a major protest programme on May 3, 2023 in all the hill districts. While by and large the protests ended

peacefully, violence erupted in a few places, which engulfed the whole State.

Another contending narrative was the involvement of Kukis in poppy cultivation, in line with the then Chief Minister Biren Singh’s ‘war on drugs’, which translated into popular propaganda against Kukis, the report stated.

After meeting people from all walks of life, including the survivors and victims in different districts of Manipur, including Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Kangpokpi, Senapati followed by sittings in Delhi, the tribunal recorded the testimonies of the survivors, which, it says present a stark picture of the failure of the state authorities and institutions to protect them, leaving them to fend for themselves.

The tribunal also notes the failure of the Centre to fulfil its constitutional responsibility to ensure that Manipur remained under the regime of both rule of law and the Constitution.

GS Paper II – Polity, Constitution & Governance

Manipur ethnic violence report

- Independent People's Tribunal report: Violence between Meiteis & Kuki-Zos was *planned, ethnically targeted, aided by hate campaigns, and state failures*.
- Trigger: Manipur HC directive on ST status for Meiteis (March 2023).
- Relevance: Communal harmony, role of judiciary, Centre's constitutional duty in law & order

'U.S. curbs on India aimed at ending the Ukraine war'

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK

U.S. President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on India to bring an end to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt has said.

Mr. Trump has imposed tariffs totalling 50% on India, including 25% for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil that will come into effect from August 27.

Replying to a question at a press briefing on Tuesday, Ms. Leavitt said that Mr. Trump has put "tremendous public pressure" to bring the nearly four-year war "to a close".

"He has taken actions, as you have seen, sanctions on India and other actions as well. He has made himself very clear that he wants to see this war end," she said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Leavitt on Tuesday once again claimed that Mr. Trump had ended the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

GS Paper II – International Relations

U.S. tariffs on India

- President Trump imposed 50% tariffs, including 25% on Russian oil imports by India.
- Aim: pressurize Russia to end Ukraine war.
- Relevance: India-U.S. trade tensions, sanctions, impact on energy security

In Moscow, Jaishankar flags challenges that tariffs pose to India-Russia trade

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of penalty tariffs on India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday in Moscow raised the challenge posed by "tariff and non-tariff trade barriers" against Russia-India trade and called for the "early conclusion" of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the countries of the Eurasian region.

Mr. Jaishankar made the remarks during the 26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Government Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) where the Russian side was being led by First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov.

Delivering his opening remarks, Mr. Jaishankar said some of the main issues before the IRIGC-TEC



Timely ties: S. Jaishankar with Denis Manturov during a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday. PTI

were "tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, removing bottlenecks in logistics, promoting connectivity, and effecting payment mechanisms smoothly".

Free trade pact

He said Wednesday's meeting in Moscow also finalised the terms of reference of the India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement of which Russia has been a leading proponent as it aims at removing obstacles for overland trade among Russia, Chi-

na, India and the Central Asian countries.

"...We are all acutely aware that we are meeting in the backdrop of a complex geopolitical situation. Our leaders remain closely and regularly engaged," Mr. Jaishankar said indirectly referring to the trade-related anxieties in India-U.S. relations.

India's trade with Russia grew from \$13 billion in 2021 to \$68 billion in 2024-25. The bulk of this trade is in hydrocarbon that Russia supplies to India.

GS Paper II – International Relations

Jaishankar in Moscow

- Flagged challenges of tariff & non-tariff barriers, stressed India–Eurasian Economic Union FTA.
- India-Russia trade rose from \$13B (2021) → \$68B (2024–25), mainly hydrocarbons.
- Relevance: Trade diplomacy, strategic autonomy, energy security

Israel approves plan to seize Gaza City, calls up its reservists for campaign of conquest

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister approved a plan on Wednesday for the conquest of Gaza City and authorised the call-up of around 60,000 reservists, piling pressure on Hamas as mediators push for a ceasefire.

Defence Minister Israel Katz's move came as mediators awaited an official Israeli response on their latest proposal.

While mediator Qatar had expressed guarded optimism over the latest proposal, a senior Israeli official said the government stood firm on its call for the release of all hostages in any agreement.

The framework that Ha-



Dire straits: Palestinians rush to collect humanitarian aid airdropped into Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday. AP

mas had approved proposes an initial 60-day truce, a staggered hostage release, the freeing of some Palestinian prisoners and provisions allowing for the entry of aid into Gaza.

On the ground in Gaza City on Wednesday, Mustafa Qazzaat, head of the

emergency committee in the Gaza municipality, described the situation as "catastrophic". He said "large numbers" of people were fleeing their neighbourhoods, with the majority of those displaced "on the roads and streets without shelter".

Israel's security cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the plan to conquer Gaza City in early August, sparking fears it will worsen the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

According to Israeli media reports, Mr. Netanyahu has not yet called a security cabinet meeting to discuss any response to the latest truce proposal.

'Rejects escalation'

Mr. Netanyahu has come under growing pressure at home and abroad to end the war, with the German government saying on Wednesday that it "rejects the escalation" of Israel's campaign.

Mr. Katz's approval of plans to conquer Gaza City

came days after Hamas said it had accepted the latest proposal from mediators for a ceasefire to halt almost two years of devastating war.

An official of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) told journalists on Wednesday that the new phase of combat would involve "a gradual precise and targeted operation in and around Gaza City", including some areas where forces had not previously operated.

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes and fire killed at least 25 people across the territory on Wednesday.

Israel's offensive has killed at least 62,122 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to Health Ministry.

GS Paper II – International Relations

Israel approves plan to seize Gaza City

- Israeli Defence Minister authorized conquest, 60,000 reservists called up.
- Hamas had accepted ceasefire proposal; situation catastrophic.
- Relevance: West Asia conflict, humanitarian crisis, international diplomacy

GS Paper III – Economy, Environment & Disaster Management

Core sector growth slows to 2% in July as fossil fuels contract

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity in India's eight core industries slowed to 2% in July 2025, dragged down by contractions in the fossil fuel categories, according to data released on Wednesday. Steel and cement sectors, however, witnessed double-digit growth.

The Index of Eight Core Industries, released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, shows that activity in July 2025 is relatively significantly slower than the 6.3% growth seen in July last year. The Index grew by 2.2% in June 2025.

Within the Index, the coal sector saw the largest contraction, of 12.3%, in July 2025. This is the second



The coal sector saw the largest contraction, of 12.3%, in July 2025. GETTY IMAGES

consecutive month of contraction for the sector, and its worst performance in at least five years.

The natural gas sector contracted 3.2% in July 2025, its thirteenth consecutive month of contraction. Similarly, the crude oil sector also contracted, by 1.3%, for the fourteenth month out of the last 15.

Core sector growth slows to 2% (July 2025)

- Fossil fuel drag, concerns over energy transition.
- Relevance: Infrastructure, energy mix, economic slowdown

Flood warning issued for Bhadrachalam Agency in Telangana as Godavari swells

The Hindu Bureau

BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM/
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

A flood alert has been sounded for people living in the riverside villages in Telangana's Bhadrachalam Agency as the swollen Godavari river rose to 47 feet, just one foot below the second flood warning level at the temple town of Bhadrachalam late on Wednesday evening.

The first flood warning was issued by Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V. Patil at 8.15 a.m. on Wednesday after the river touched 43 feet mark.

The water level in the Godavari river hovered around 47 feet and the flood discharge in the river crossed 10.98 lakh cusecs at 7 p.m.

Several streams were in spate in Dummugudem and Charla mandals in



Massive flow: A flood alert has been sounded for people living in the riverside villages in Bhadrachalam Agency as the swollen Godavari river flows above the first warning level. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bhadrachalam division following heavy rainfall over the past few days.

Swollen streams flooded causeways and low-lying stretches of various roads in Bhadrachalam Agency snapping road link to a couple of remote villages

along the Bhadradri Kothagudem-Mulugu inter-district border.

A flood control room has been set up at the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) headquarters in Bhadrachalam to constantly monitor the sit-

uation in the riverside villages and flood prone areas in Bhadrachalam Agency.

According to official sources, flood duty officers have been positioned in Bhadrachalam division as per the flood contingency plan.

Flood warning in Telangana (Godavari)

- River swelled to 47 ft (near 2nd warning). Flood duty officers deployed, low-lying areas cut off.
- Relevance: Disaster management, river basin management, climate resilience

Over 4,000 trees translocated from parts of Amaravati

Sambasiva Rao M.

AMARAVATI

In a major green initiative, Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL) has translocated over 4,000 trees from different parts of the Amaravati Capital Region, saving them from infrastructure development works. The project, being implemented along with an instant tree nursery at Ananthavaram village, aims at preserving decades-old trees and replanting them in the buffer zone.

According to ADCL data, the highest number of trees moved are from the Ficus species (2,200).

ADC chairperson and MD Devarakonda Lakshmi Parthasarathy said the translocation involves pruning tree branches to



Trees readied for translocation in Amaravati.

reduce weight, applying chemical treatment to the cut surfaces, and digging trenches around the root systems. Following this, the tap roots are cut, and the entire root ball is protected with cloth or sheets before being shifted to the nursery. There, the trees are placed in large bags filled with potting mixtures for protection.

Over 4,000 trees translocated in Amaravati

- Amaravati Development Corporation moved trees to nursery to save from infrastructure work.
- Relevance: Environment conservation, urban planning, sustainable development

More questions than answers over higher deletions among women

Far more women than men migrants have been excluded from the rolls in the Bihar SIR process

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Aarena Arora

A granular look at deletions in the special intensive revision (SIR) carried out by the Election Commission (EC) in Bihar shows women electors significantly outnumbered men in the “permanently shifted” category. This trend was more pronounced among younger voters below the age of 40.

Following the Supreme Court’s directive, the EC released the full list of close to 65 lakh deleted voters with reasons. In a previous Datapoint in *The Hindu*, we found the SIR resulted in deletions of around 7 lakh more female electors compared to the rolls prepared as on January 1, 2025.

We repeated this exercise to identify constituencies with the most deletions by comparing August SIR rolls with pending enrolments released by the Bihar Chief Electoral Officer in mid-July 2025. **Table 1** shows the top nine Assembly constituencies with the most deletions. It also mentions the number of electors deleted and exclusion reasons as a share, according to data shared on August 17.

We had conjectured that higher deletions among women were due to higher illiteracy rates in Bihar and the inability to fill enumeration forms. But we found no correlation between illiteracy and exclusion rates in Bihar’s districts.

We went on to extract the Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) IDs and the reasons for the deletions of all electors for these top nine ACs. Only the top nine ACs were considered, as the EC has maintained the whole set of data in image PDFs, making it onerous to extract full information.

After parsing this data, we found starker patterns in deletions among men and women across

certain “reason” and “age cohort” categories. **Table 2** looks at gender-wise and reason-wise patterns among the exclusions in the top nine ACs. While there was barely any gender-difference among exclusions pertaining to “not found”, “enrolled elsewhere as well” and “deceased” voters, there was a stark difference in the “permanently shifted” category. About 62.6% of those who were excluded for this reason were women compared to 37.4% who were men.

When age cohorts were included in the analysis, we found an even more distinct pattern. Among the 18-29 and 30-49 age cohorts, women outnumbered men three to one and two to one, respectively, in the list of exclusions under the “permanently shifted” category, with no such noticeable differences among other categories (**Table 3**). Which leads us to the question, is the higher deletion among women due to the exclusion of younger, married women who have shifted to other States?

Data from the 2011 Census offers us pointers (**Table 4**). Nearly 17.7 lakh women had shifted out of Bihar due to marriage, in comparison to just around 43,000 men who had done so. In contrast, 21.2 lakh men had shifted out of Bihar due to work. In comparison, just around 1.5 lakh women had done so. This led to migrant men (38.5 lakh) outnumbering women (36.02 lakh) by around 2.5 lakh overall from the State. This gap would have clearly increased in the last 14 years, as we know that male migration for work has only increased further.

That leaves the question – why have more migrant women been excluded from the SIR electoral rolls? Is this because male electors who migrated over the years were already excluded in the summary revisions in the previous years? Also, what are the implications of excluding these migrants without making sure that they are enrolled as voters in other States? Will this lead to their disenfranchisement?

Married and migrated?

The data for the tables were sourced from the Election Commission, ceolelection.bihar.gov.in and the 2011 Census. Data for gender and reasons were scraped and converted from image PDF to spreadsheets using OCR software

Table 1: The top nine ACs with the most deletions. Number of electors deleted and exclusion reasons as a share, according to August 17 data

Top 9 ACs	Total deletions (absolute number)	Not found (%)	Enrolled elsewhere as well (%)	Deceased (%)	Permanently shifted (%)
AC101	66,040	30.7	6.6	15.2	47.6
AC102	59,781	25.1	10.1	23.5	41.3
AC19	54,618	23.1	5.0	23.9	50.1
AC181	53,470	40.5	2.6	14.0	36.9
AC62	49,859	41.9	4.9	22.2	31.8
AC54	49,217	23.1	6.0	25.2	45.7
AC100	47,537	24.7	10.7	21.2	43.4
AC56	46,947	29.4	5.7	30.7	34.2
AC104	45,947	19.1	9.8	25.1	45.8
Total	4,73,216	29.2	6.8	22.2	43.8

Table 2: Gender-wise and reason-wise patterns among the exclusions in the top nine ACs

Reason	F	M	F%	M%	F-M
Not found	73,815	64,546	53.3	46.7	+6.6
Enrolled elsewhere	16,609	15,499	51.7	48.3	+3.5
Deceased	54,780	50,295	52.3	47.9	+4.3
Permanently shifted	1,23,825	74,025	62.6	37.4	+25.2
Total	2,69,029	2,04,365	56.8	43.2	+13.6

Table 4: Gender-wise number of people who migrated out of Bihar according to 2011 census

Reason	F	M	F%	M%	F-M
Total	36,02,243	38,51,560	48.3	51.7	-3.3
Work	2,46,008	21,17,013	6.5	93.5	-86.9
Business	17,403	1,28,737	11.9	88.1	-76.2
Education	22,696	95,543	19.2	80.8	-62.6
Marriage	17,75,188	42,993	97.6	2.4	+95.3
Moved after birth	70,911	1,02,892	40.8	59.2	-18.4
Moved with household	11,99,779	7,82,465	60.5	39.5	+21.1
Others	3,68,258	5,62,969	39.8	60.2	-20.3

In the tables:
F = Female, M = Male, F% = Female %, M% = Male %
F-M is in % points
Shifted = Permanently shifted

Table 3: Gender-wise, reason-wise, and age-wise patterns among the exclusions in the top nine ACs

Age	Reason	F	M	F%	M%	F-M
18-29	Deceased	7,903	6,008	56.8	43.2	+13.6
18-29	Enrolled elsewhere	6,147	5,608	52.3	47.7	+4.6
18-29	Not found	18,536	15,107	55.1	44.9	+10.2
18-29	Shifted	42,994	16,521	72.2	27.8	+44.3
30-39	Deceased	3,342	3,504	48.8	51.2	-2.4
30-39	Enrolled elsewhere	5,013	5,014	50.0	50.0	0.0
30-39	Not found	22,616	19,088	54.2	45.8	+8.5
30-39	Shifted	38,685	19,741	66.2	33.8	+32.4
40-49	Deceased	12,895	12,668	50.4	49.6	+0.9
40-49	Enrolled elsewhere	4,378	3,891	52.9	47.0	+5.9
40-49	Not found	23,383	21,567	51.6	48.4	+3.1
40-49	Shifted	32,406	28,074	53.6	46.4	+7.2
60-89	Deceased	29,776	27,369	52.1	47.9	+4.2
60-89	Enrolled elsewhere	1,046	966	52.0	48.0	+4.0
60-89	Not found	8,854	8,215	51.8	48.1	+3.7
60-89	Shifted	9,557	9,555	50.0	50.0	0.0
90+	Deceased	864	746	53.7	46.3	+7.3
90+	Enrolled elsewhere	25	16	61.0	39.0	+22.0
90+	Not found	226	169	57.2	42.8	+14.4
90+	Shifted	183	134	57.7	42.3	+15.5



Core Issue

- The Election Commission (EC) of India carried out a **special intensive revision (SIR)** of voter lists in Bihar.
- Findings: **Far more women than men were deleted** from the rolls, especially in the “**permanently shifted**” category.
- This trend was stronger among **younger voters (below 40 years)**.

Key Findings

1. Magnitude of Deletions

- Close to **65 lakh deletions** recorded.
- Women outnumbered men significantly in “permanently shifted” cases.
- Example: In ACs (Assembly Constituencies) like AC101, AC120, AC54 – share of “shifted” women voters was **>45%**.

2. Reason-wise Patterns (Table 2)

- **Not found:** Gender difference small.
- **Enrolled elsewhere:** Balanced.
- **Deceased:** Slight male dominance.
- **Permanently shifted:** **62.6% women vs 37.4% men** → major gap (+25.2%).

3. Age Cohort Trends (Table 3)

- 18–29 and 30–49 years: Women outnumbered men in deletions under “permanently shifted.”
- Difference largest in **18–29 cohort (+44.5%)**.
- Older cohorts (60–89 years): Male-female differences were smaller.

4. Migration Link (Table 4)

- 2011 Census: Among migrants in Bihar, women were far higher in “marriage-related” migration.
- **Marriage reason:** 82 lakh women vs 17.7 lakh men (+96.3%).
- Suggests voter list deletions among women tied to **marriage migration**.

Analytical Concerns

- **Transparency issue:** Why disproportionately higher deletions of women, especially younger ones?
- **Marriage-related migration** likely factor but still raises questions on **procedural fairness & data accuracy**.
- **EC’s responsibility:** Ensure that deletions don’t disenfranchise women voters unfairly.

Exam Relevance

GS Paper II – Governance & Polity

- Voter roll management, Election Commission reforms, women’s political participation, Article 326 (universal adult franchise).

GS Paper I – Society

- Gender dimension in migration (marriage vs work-related), demographic impact on political participation.

BPSC/JPSC Relevance

- Bihar-specific electoral patterns, gender gaps in voter participation, linkage with migration trends in Bihar.

In short: The article highlights how the EC’s voter roll revision in Bihar disproportionately deleted women voters (esp. young and “permanently shifted”), possibly linked to marriage-related migration, raising questions of fairness, gender equity, and transparency in electoral processes.

Global solar alliance plans to establish research hub in India

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

By the end of the year, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will set up 17 centres of excellence in as many countries, and going ahead, establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India, akin to a “Silicon Valley for solar”, Ashish Khanna, director general, ISA, said at lecture here on Wednesday.

These 17 centres, which Mr. Khanna did not disclose, will provide testing, lab training, and a “start-up ecosystem” in “Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-like” universities, and the GCC would act as a “hub” connecting all these centres, Mr. Khanna said at an event organised by think tank The Energy and Resources Institute, adding, “Those 17 could soon

rise to 50 as several countries are looking to India to improve their human capability.”

The ISA is a collaborative body set up by India and France, conceptualised on the sidelines of the climate Conference of Parties in 2015 in Paris. It is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, and has a membership of around 100 countries.

“Several countries are looking to engineers from India to supply the vital human capital necessary to implement solar projects. This includes digital tenders, operation and maintenance and all the reskilling that is needed in the world,” he added.

India has cumulatively installed about 119 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity as of July 2025, according to official estimates.

Core News

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** will set up **17 Centres of Excellence** worldwide by year-end.
- Additionally, ISA will establish a **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** in India, envisioned as a “**Silicon Valley for solar.**”

Key Points

1. Centres of Excellence

- Will provide:
 - Testing facilities
 - Lab training
 - A “start-up ecosystem” similar to IIT-like institutions.
- Aimed at boosting solar R&D and human capital.

2. Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India

- Will serve as a “hub” connecting all centres of excellence.
- Focus on innovation, collaboration, and linking global solar expertise.

3. ISA Background

- Joint initiative by **India & France**, conceptualised during the **2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21)**.
- Headquarters: **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- Membership: ~100 countries.

4. India's Solar Progress

- Installed capacity: **119 GW as of July 2025**.
- Several countries seeking **Indian engineers** for skills in digital tenders, operation, and maintenance of solar projects.

Exam Relevance

GS Paper II – International Relations

- ISA as a multilateral institution; India's leadership in climate diplomacy.

GS Paper III – Environment & Economy

- Renewable energy expansion, Paris Climate Agreement commitments, sustainable development.

Prelims Focus Points

- ISA: India–France initiative, HQ in Gurugram.
- ISA membership ~100 countries.
- India's solar capacity: 119 GW (July 2025).
- New GCC to act like a “Silicon Valley for Solar” in India.

In short: ISA will establish **17 Centres of Excellence** globally and a **Global Capability Centre in India** to drive solar innovation, training, and start-up support. India, already at **119 GW solar capacity**, is positioning itself as the **global hub of solar R&D and manpower**.

Lok Sabha clears Bill that bans real money gaming

The Bill targets companies offering fantasy sports and card games in which, according to the IT Minister, 'lifetime savings evaporate'; Speaker Om Birla says the 'good Bill' is in 'national interest'

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, by a voice vote on Wednesday.

The Bill seeks "to prohibit the offering, operation, facilitation, advertisement, promotion and participation in online money games", targeting firms that offer fantasy sports and card games where users can deposit and risk money.

Speaker Om Birla urged MPs to unite around the Bill and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw referred to cross-party support for the goal of the proposed law. "This is a good Bill. We are seeing suicides and families getting destroyed every day [due to these platforms] ... Bringing such a Bill is in the national interest," Mr. Birla said.

"[T]he lack of a coherent and enabling legal framework has hindered the sector's structured development and the promotion of responsible gaming practices, requiring urgent policy intervention and support mechanisms," the Bill's introduction said.

Sweeping measures

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 prohibits offering, operation, facilitation, advertisement, promotion and participation in online money games

- 'Real money gaming' refers to platforms such as **Dream11** and **PokerBaazi** where players risk their money for winnings
- The industry has argued that fantasy games are those of 'skill' and cannot be regulated by States as gambling

- The Bill makes the distinction between games of chance and skill irrelevant, as it seeks to ban all "online money gaming"
- The industry says it has annual revenues exceeding ₹31,000 crores and that it employs over two lakh people

PUNISHMENTS

- The Bill proposes imprisonment up to three years and/or fine of up to ₹1 crore for entities offering or facilitating online money gaming
- The Bill also seeks to prohibit advertisement related to online money games and bars banks and financial institutions from transferring funds for any of such games
- Advertising can attract imprisonment up to two years and/or fine up to ₹50 lakh. Facilitating financial transactions can lead to imprisonment up to three years and/or fine up to ₹1 crore

The Bill provides for the creation of an authority that will promote e-sports, which the government is keen to develop as a creative and recreational industry. "[T]he parallel proliferation of online money games ... offering monetary returns against user deposits has led to serious social, financial, psychological and public health harms..." it added.

"Online money games have become a matter of great concern in our society," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "Many people get addict-

ed, lifetime savings evaporate in games, and with the algorithms in use, there may be untold levels of fraud and cheating," he added.

The Bill was not released in draft form for consultation. Mr. Vaishnaw said it did not make sense to open a prohibition law up for consultation and pointed out that the government had been engaging with the real money gaming industry for years. "There is political unanimity on the problem of online money gaming," he

said. "A political call had to be taken on what had to be done," Union IT Secretary S. Krishnan told *The Hindu*. "The industry has been saying that they wanted clarity on how they should be regulated... So that clarity has been provided."

The Bill may face pushback from the industry. "If passed in its current form, the Bill is likely to face a constitutional challenge on grounds of trade restriction and legislative competence," Vidushpat Singhania, managing partner at Krida Legal, said.

Core News

- Lok Sabha has passed the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025**, by voice vote.
- The Bill **bans real money gaming**, including fantasy sports and card games where users deposit and risk money.

- Punishment: Up to **3 years imprisonment** and/or **₹1 crore fine** for violators.
-

Key Provisions

1. Prohibition Scope

- Bans **offering, operating, advertising, facilitating, promoting, or participating** in online money games.
- Targets companies like **Dream11, PokerBaazi** etc.

2. Distinction Made

- Games of chance vs. games of skill distinction considered irrelevant → all online money games banned.
- Industry's argument: fantasy sports are skill-based and should not be treated as gambling.

3. Authority Creation

- A regulatory authority to promote **e-sports** and support gaming as a creative and recreational industry.

4. Penalties

- **Imprisonment up to 3 years** and/or **₹1 crore fine** for companies.
- **Advertising ban**: up to 2 years in jail and/or ₹50 lakh fine.
- **Financial institutions** barred from processing funds for online money gaming.

5. Rationale

- Industry growth led to **serious social, financial, psychological harms** (suicides, addiction, financial losses).
 - IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw: urgent need to curb exploitation where *"lifetime savings evaporate."*
-

Issues & Criticism

- Bill was not released in draft form → **no industry consultation**.
 - Concerns of **constitutional challenge**: may violate **trade freedom & legislative competence**.
 - Industry cites **₹131,000 crore revenue** and **2 lakh jobs**, warns of economic impact.
-

Exam Relevance

GS Paper II – Polity & Governance

- Regulation of online gaming, legislative competence, trade restrictions vs. public interest.
- Role of Parliament in balancing freedom of trade (Art. 19(1)(g)) with restrictions under Art. 19(6).

GS Paper III – Economy & Social Issues

- Digital economy regulation, social harm of online gambling, fintech oversight.
- Addiction & public health concerns.

Prelims Key Points

- **Bill name**: Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025.
 - **Punishment**: Up to 3 years jail, ₹1 crore fine.
 - **Ban includes**: fantasy sports, card games, money deposit-based games.
 - **Authority**: To promote e-sports (separate from money gaming).
-

In short: Parliament has passed a Bill banning **real money online gaming** to address suicides, fraud, and financial harm, with heavy penalties for companies and advertisers. While pitched as being in "national interest," the move faces likely **constitutional and industry pushback** due to its economic impact and trade restriction concerns.

India successfully test-fires Agni-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said the launch validated all operational and technical parameters and was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. "The intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from Chandipur on August 20. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters," the Ministry said.

The missile tested on Wednesday was a variant of Agni-5, India's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of 5,000 km. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the system has been developed keeping in view the country's security requirements.

Previous trial

The previous trial of Agni-5 was conducted on March 11, 2024, when the DRDO successfully tested the missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle technology, allowing it to strike multiple targets with a single launch.



The intermediate-range Agni-5 missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. FILE PHOTO

Core News

- **India** successfully test-fired its **Agni-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile** from the **Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha** on August 20.
- The test was conducted under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command**.

Key Details

1. **About Agni-5**
 - Designed by **DRDO** (Defence Research and Development Organisation).
 - Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a **range of 5,000 km**.
 - Developed for India's long-term **security requirements**.
2. **Technology Features**
 - Equipped with **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle)** technology.
 - Allows a single missile to **strike multiple targets** simultaneously.
3. **Purpose of the Test**
 - To validate **operational and technical parameters**.
 - Confirms readiness of missile systems under real-world conditions.
4. **Previous Trial**
 - Conducted on **March 11, 2024**.
 - Successfully tested Agni-5's MIRV capability.

Exam Relevance

GS Paper III – Security & Defence

- Strategic Forces Command role.
- India's missile development under **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.
- MIRV technology and its implications for **deterrence capability**.

Prelims Key Points

- **Agni-5 range:** ~5,000 km.
- **Test location:** Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Developed by:** DRDO.
- **Technology:** MIRV-enabled ICBM.

In short: India has once again validated its **Agni-5 missile system**, confirming MIRV capability and strengthening its **strategic deterrence posture** with a successful test from Odisha.

HINDI SUMMARY

GS Paper II – राजनीति, संविधान और शासन

राज्यपालों द्वारा विधेयकों पर हस्ताक्षर रोकने का मामला (SC)

- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र से पूछा: क्या राज्यपाल अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत विधेयकों पर हस्ताक्षर रोककर उन्हें मनमाने ढंग से “असफल” कर सकते हैं?
- सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने तर्क दिया: राज्यपाल के पास चार विकल्प हैं — स्वीकृति, रोकना, राष्ट्रपति को भेजना, या एक बार लौटाना।
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा: संवैधानिक व्याख्या में वर्तमान समय में पद के दुरुपयोग को ध्यान में रखना ज़रूरी है।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** अनुच्छेद 200, 111, 163; राज्यपाल की विवेकाधिकार शक्तियाँ; केंद्र-राज्य टकराव।

मणिपुर जातीय हिंसा रिपोर्ट

- इंडिपेंडेंट पीपुल्स ट्रिब्यूनल रिपोर्ट: मणिपुरी मैतेई और कुकी-ज़ो समुदायों के बीच हिंसा **पूर्व-नियोजित, जातीय रूप से लक्षित**, नफ़रत भरे प्रचार और राज्य की विफलताओं से प्रेरित थी।
- ट्रिगर: मणिपुर HC का मार्च 2023 का निर्देश — मैतेई को अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) का दर्जा।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** सांप्रदायिक सौहार्द, न्यायपालिका की भूमिका, कानून-व्यवस्था में केंद्र की संवैधानिक ज़िम्मेदारी।

GS Paper II – अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध

US भारत पर अमेरिकी शुल्क

- राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने भारत पर 50% शुल्क लगाया, जिसमें रूसी तेल आयात पर 25% शामिल।
- उद्देश्य: रूस पर दबाव डालकर यूक्रेन युद्ध समाप्त करना।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार तनाव, प्रतिबंध, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर असर।

IN जयशंकर की मॉस्को यात्रा

- शुल्क और गैर-शुल्क अवरोधों की चुनौतियाँ उठाई, भारत-यूरोशियन आर्थिक संघ FTA पर ज़ोर दिया।
- भारत-रूस व्यापार \$13 अरब (2021) → \$68 अरब (2024-25), मुख्यतः हाइड्रोकार्बन।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** व्यापार कूटनीति, रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा।

IL गाज़ा शहर पर कब्जे की इज़राइल की योजना

- इज़राइली रक्षा मंत्री ने गाज़ा शहर पर कब्जे की अनुमति दी, 60,000 रिज़र्व सैनिक बुलाए।

- हमारा ने युद्धविराम प्रस्ताव स्वीकार किया था; स्थिति मानवीय आपदा जैसी।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष, मानवीय संकट, अंतरराष्ट्रीय कूटनीति।

GS Paper III - अर्थव्यवस्था, पर्यावरण और आपदा प्रबंधन

मुख्य क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर जुलाई 2025 में 2%

- जीवाश्म ईंधनों के कारण खिंचाव; ऊर्जा संक्रमण पर चिंता।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** बुनियादी ढाँचा, ऊर्जा मिश्रण, आर्थिक मंदी।

तेलंगाना (गोदावरी) में बाढ़ चेतावनी

- नदी 47 फीट तक पहुँची (दूसरे चेतावनी स्तर के करीब)।
- निचले इलाके कटे; बाढ़ नियंत्रण अधिकारी तैनात।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** आपदा प्रबंधन, नदी बेसिन प्रबंधन, जलवायु सहनशीलता।

अमरावती में 4,000 से अधिक पेड़ों का स्थानांतरण

- अमरावती विकास निगम ने विकास कार्यों से बचाने के लिए पेड़ों को नर्सरी में स्थानांतरित किया।
- **प्रासंगिकता:** पर्यावरण संरक्षण, शहरी नियोजन, सतत विकास।

मुख्य मुद्दा (बिहार - मतदाता सूची)

- निर्वाचन आयोग ने बिहार में विशेष संशोधन (SIR) किया।
- निष्कर्ष: पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाओं के नाम बहुत अधिक काटे गए, विशेषकर “स्थायी रूप से स्थानांतरित” श्रेणी में।
- प्रवृत्ति: 40 वर्ष से कम उम्र की महिलाओं में अधिक।

मुख्य निष्कर्ष

1. **मात्रा:** लगभग 65 लाख नाम हटाए गए।
2. **कारणवार पैटर्न:**
 - न मिले: अंतर कम।
 - अन्यत्र नामांकित: संतुलित।
 - मृतक: पुरुष अधिक।
 - स्थायी रूप से स्थानांतरित: महिलाएँ 62.6% बनाम पुरुष 37.4% (+25.2%)।
3. **आयु समूह:**
 - 18-29 और 30-49 वर्ष: महिलाओं के नाम अधिक कटे।
 - सबसे बड़ा अंतर: 18-29 समूह (+44.5%)।
4. **प्रवास लिंक:**
 - 2011 जनगणना: विवाह-आधारित प्रवास में महिलाएँ पुरुषों से कहीं अधिक।
 - विवाह कारण: महिलाएँ 82 लाख बनाम पुरुष 17.7 लाख (+96.3%)।

विश्लेषणात्मक चिंता:

- महिलाओं के नाम अधिक क्यों कटे, विशेषकर युवतियों के?
- विवाह-आधारित प्रवास एक कारण, लेकिन निष्पक्षता और पारदर्शिता पर सवाल।
- EC की ज़िम्मेदारी: महिलाओं को अनुचित तरीके से मताधिकार से वंचित न करना।

ISA - अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन

- 17 **उत्कृष्टता केंद्र** स्थापित करेगा।
- भारत में एक **वैश्विक क्षमता केंद्र (GCC)** स्थापित होगा — “सौर का सिलिकॉन वैली।”

ISA पृष्ठभूमि:

- 2015, पेरिस जलवायु सम्मेलन में भारत-फ्रांस पहल।
- मुख्यालय: गुरुग्राम, हरियाणा।
- सदस्य: ~100 देश।
- भारत की प्रगति: 119 GW (जुलाई 2025)।

ऑनलाइन गेमिंग बिल, 2025

- लोकसभा ने पारित किया।
- वास्तविक धन आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग (फैंटेसी स्पोर्ट्स, कार्ड गेम्स) पर प्रतिबंध।
- दंड: 3 साल जेल और/या ₹1 करोड़ जुर्माना।

प्रावधान:

- सभी ऑनलाइन धन आधारित खेलों पर रोक।
- ई-स्पोर्ट्स को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नियामक प्राधिकरण।
- वित्तीय संस्थाओं को ऐसे लेन-देन रोकने का आदेश।

विवाद:

- ड्राफ्ट के बिना पारित, उद्योग परामर्श नहीं।
- संवैधानिक चुनौती की आशंका (व्यापार की स्वतंत्रता बनाम सार्वजनिक हित)।
- उद्योग: ₹1.31 लाख करोड़ राजस्व, 2 लाख नौकरियाँ प्रभावित होंगी।

भारत ने अग्नि-5 का सफल परीक्षण किया

- स्थान: इंटीग्रेटेड टेस्ट रेंज, चांदीपुर, ओडिशा (20 अगस्त 2025)।
- निगरानी: स्ट्रेटेजिक फोर्सिस कमांड।

मुख्य विवरण:

- DRDO द्वारा विकसित।
- रेंज: ~5,000 किमी।
- तकनीक: **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle)** — एक ही मिसाइल से कई लक्ष्यों पर हमला।
- उद्देश्य: तकनीकी और परिचालन मानकों की पुष्टि।
- पिछला परीक्षण: 11 मार्च 2024।

संक्षेप में:

- राजनीति/संविधान: राज्यपाल की शक्तियाँ, मणिपुर हिंसा।
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध: भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार तनाव, रूस-भारत ऊर्जा सहयोग, पश्चिम एशिया संकट।
- अर्थव्यवस्था/पर्यावरण: मुख्य क्षेत्र की मंदी, गोदावरी बाढ़, पेड़ों का स्थानांतरण।
- बिहार: मतदाता सूची में महिलाओं के नाम हटाने का मुद्दा।
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन: ISA और भारत की नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका।
- शासन और अर्थव्यवस्था: ऑनलाइन गेमिंग बिल।
- सुरक्षा/रक्षा: अग्नि-5 परीक्षण।