

DIA, DEOGHAR IAS ACADEMY

Daily News Feed

D.N.F

06.10.2025

**Sabaijor Complex, Near Jamunajor Pul,
Castair Town**

Deoghar, Mob: -9162500508

British and Indian warships begin four-day maritime exercise Konkan in Indian Ocean

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by the aircraft carrier *HMS Prince of Wales*, on Sunday commenced Exercise Konkan with the Indian Navy in the Western Indian Ocean.

The four-day maritime drill aims to enhance combined maritime and air capabilities between the two navies. First held in 2004, Exercise Konkan has traditionally been a biennial engagement. This edition, however, marks the first-ever exercise involving the CSG of both nations – the U.K.'s *HMS Prince of Wales* and India's *INS Vikrant*.

The U.K. CSG, currently



Security drills: Indian Navy and Royal Navy personnel participate in the inaugural day of Exercise KONKAN-25 on Sunday. PTI

on an eight-month global deployment dubbed Operation Highmast, has linked up with the Indian Navy's carrier task force for complex multi-domain operations, including anti-submarine warfare, cross-deck flying opera-

tions, and air defence drills.

Following the exercise, the British warships will make port calls in Mumbai and Goa, highlighting deepening defence ties while showcasing British trade and industry and the

strong "living bridge" of people and culture between the U.K. and India.

British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron said, "The U.K. and India believe in an Indo-Pacific that is free and open. We share an ambition for a modern defence and security partnership, a fundamental pillar of U.K.-India Vision 2035, agreed by our Prime Ministers this year. The engagements between the CSG of our two navies demonstrate our commitment to maintaining the rules-based international order in the region and lay the groundwork for future cooperation."

Commodore James Blackmore, Commander of the U.K. CSG, added that

the partnership reinforces shared commitments to security and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Aerial defence exercise

Upon completion of the port visits, the U.K. CSG will conduct an aerial defence exercise with the Indian Air Force, allowing both forces to test tactics and strengthen interoperability.

Operation Highmast is a multinational deployment led by the U.K. CSG, providing an opportunity for the U.K.'s Armed Forces to conduct a major global deployment and exercise complex operations alongside allies in the region, with 12 other nations supporting the deployment with ships or personnel.

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - The UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) led by aircraft carrier *HMS Prince of Wales* and India's *INS Vikrant* have commenced Exercise Konkan-25 in the Western Indian Ocean.
 - This is the first-ever Konkan exercise involving carrier strike groups of both nations.
- **Objective:**
 - Enhance combined maritime and air capabilities.
 - Strengthen interoperability in anti-submarine warfare, cross-deck flying operations, and air defence drills.
 - Support a rules-based Indo-Pacific order.
- **Significance:**
 - Demonstrates UK-India defence cooperation under U.K.-India Vision 2035.
 - UK warships to make port calls in Mumbai and Goa, showcasing defence ties, trade, and industry cooperation.
 - Exercise includes an aerial defence drill with the Indian Air Force.
- **Strategic Angle:**
 - Deepens Indo-UK partnership in the Indo-Pacific.
 - Reinforces shared commitments to security, stability, and multilateral cooperation (12 other nations part of Operation Highmast).

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - ब्रिटेन का कैरीयर स्ट्राइक ग्रुप (CSG) (*HMS Prince of Wales*) और भारत का *INS विक्रान्त* ने पश्चिमी हिंद महासागर में अभ्यास 'कोंकण-25' शुरू किया।

- यह पहली बार है जब दोनों देशों के कैरीयर स्ट्राइक ग्रुप शामिल हुए हैं।
- उद्देश्य:
 - समुद्री और वायु क्षमताओं को बढ़ाना।
 - पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्धाभ्यास, क्रॉस-डेक उड़ानें और वायु रक्षा अभ्यास करना।
 - नियम-आधारित इंडो-पैसिफिक व्यवस्था का समर्थन।
- महत्व:
 - यह यूके-इंडिया विजन 2035 के तहत रक्षा सहयोग को मजबूत करता है।
 - ब्रिटिश युद्धपोत मुंबई और गोवा का दौरा करेंगे, जिससे रक्षा संबंध, व्यापार और उद्योग सहयोग गहरा होगा।
 - अभ्यास में भारतीय वायुसेना के साथ वायु रक्षा अभ्यास भी शामिल।
- रणनीतिक पहलू:
 - हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत-ब्रिटेन साझेदारी को गहरा करना।
 - सुरक्षा, स्थिरता और बहुपक्षीय सहयोग को मजबूत करना (ऑपरेशन हाईमास्ट में 12 अन्य राष्ट्र शामिल)।

GS Paper Relevance:

- GS Paper II (International Relations): India-UK defence cooperation, Indo-Pacific strategy.
- GS Paper III (Security): Maritime security, naval preparedness, interoperability in defence.
- Essay Paper: *"India's Maritime Diplomacy in Indo-Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges."*
- BPSC/JPSC: India's defence cooperation, regional maritime security, foreign policy in Indo-Pacific.

23 killed in torrential rain in Bengal

Road connectivity to Mirik and Darjeeling badly affected by landslides triggered by the heavy rain

Thousands of tourists are stranded; CM Mamata Banerjee asks them to stay put until rescue arrives

Part of the iron bridge across the Balasan river has collapsed; the IMD issues a red alert till October 6

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

At least 23 persons were killed as torrential rain lashed Darjeeling and other northern parts of West Bengal on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Landslides triggered by the rain at various places in Mirik and Darjeeling subdivisions led to the loss of lives.

Officials of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, the regional autonomous body that administers the Darjeeling hills, said that 11 people were killed in Mirik and 12 deaths were reported in Darjeeling.

Road connectivity to Mirik and Darjeeling was badly affected. On Saturday night, a part of the Dudia iron bridge across the Balasan river collapsed, cutting off communication between Siliguri and Mirik. Several roads connecting the Darjeeling hills and Siliguri in the plains were affected.

Arun Sigchi, executive member of the GTA, said that nine bodies were brought from Mirik to a hospital for post-mortem and two more were on the way. According to GTA members, the tragedy has



A portion of the road connecting Siliguri and Darjeeling, was torn from its moorings after heavy rain triggered landslides on Sunday. PTI

struck the hills during the Dasai festival and the casualties include relatives of the local people who had come from outside, including Nepal.

GTA advisory

The GTA has issued an advisory for suspension of all tourism activities in the Darjeeling hills. Thousands of tourists visiting Darjeeling for Pooja vacations have been left stranded as the rain has affected road

connectivity.

The India Meteorological Department has issued a red alert for extremely heavy rain in sub-Himalayan West Bengal, including Darjeeling and Kalimpong, till October 6, warning of more landslides and road blockages due to saturated soil conditions.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee advised tourists in north Bengal to stay put till they were evacuated safely. "Rescue costs are

ours and tourists need not be anxious," she said.

Ms. Banerjee said that Saturday night, there was sudden rainfall exceeding 300 mm in 12 hours in north Bengal, and there was simultaneously excessive flow of water in the Sankosh river from Bhutan and Sikkim, which caused this disaster.

The Chief Minister said that she, along with the Chief Secretary, will visit north Bengal on Monday to

take stock of the situation and provide relief to affected people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took note of the situation and said that the administration is closely monitoring the situation in Darjeeling and surrounding areas affected by the heavy rain and landslides.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed deep concern over the devastating landslides in

West Bengal and Sikkim, and urged the Centre to provide relief assistance to the affected States.

NDRF teams deployed

Three teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed in north Bengal, including one in the severely affected Mirik area.

State BJP president Samik Bhattacharya will also visit north Bengal on Monday. State Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, who claimed that the death toll was 21, lauded the Union government's commitment to relief efforts amid the heavy rain and landslides. "I urge the State government to co-ordinate effectively with the NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, and Indian Army for swift aid and relief to the affected families," he said.

Several rivers of north Bengal such as the Teesta, Torsha, Jaldhaka and Balasan are flowing above or near the danger level. Along with the landslides and damage in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, the Doorga in the foothills, particularly in Jalpaiguri, Maligaon and Alipurdhar, have been severely affected.

Tourists had to be res-

cued using elephants in areas that were submerged. Several national parks in north Bengal were inundated and wild animals were seen reaching higher grounds. Railway connectivity to the region was affected as tracks were submerged.

Bhutan issues alert

Meanwhile, Bhutan's National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology issued an alert to West Bengal government stating that it has received information from Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) that Tala Hydropower Dam Gates failed to open and river water is overflowing the dam. The dam is located on the Wangchu river in Chukha district of Bhutan.

"It is requested to be alert and inform the State government of West Bengal, India to prepare for eventualities. The Office of TMO, flood warning under the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology, will continue to update the situation in coordination with DGPC," an alert by NCHM Bhutan said.

On September 23, 12 persons died of electrocution in Kolkata and its adjoining areas when heavy rain lashed the city.

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - Heavy rainfall in Darjeeling and northern West Bengal caused landslides and floods, killing at least 23 people.
 - Mirik and Darjeeling subdivisions were worst affected.
- **Impact:**
 - Road connectivity between Siliguri, Mirik, and Darjeeling disrupted.
 - Part of Dudia iron bridge across Balasan river collapsed.
 - Railway connectivity hit; elephants used in rescue operations.
 - Thousands of tourists stranded; CM Mamata Banerjee appealed for calm and advised tourists to stay put until rescue.
- **Disaster Response:**
 - NDRF teams deployed in north Bengal.
 - Centre urged to provide relief assistance.
 - Bhutan's National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology issued an alert for rising water from Bhutan rivers.
- **Political Responses:**
 - PM Narendra Modi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and other leaders expressed concern.
 - Union government urged West Bengal to coordinate relief with NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, and Indian Army.
- **IMD Alert:**
 - Red alert issued till October 6 for heavy rain in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and other Himalayan districts.

हिंदी सारांश:

- प्रसंग:
 - पश्चिम बंगाल के दार्जिलिंग और उत्तरी भागों में भारी वर्षा के कारण भूस्खलन और बाढ़ हुई, जिसमें कम से कम 23 लोगों की मौत हो गई।
 - सबसे अधिक प्रभावित क्षेत्र: मिरिक और दार्जिलिंग।
- प्रभाव:
 - सिलीगुड़ी, मिरिक और दार्जिलिंग के बीच सड़क संपर्क बाधित।
 - बालासन नदी पर दुदिया लोहे का पुल ढह गया।
 - रेलवे संपर्क बाधित; बचाव के लिए हाथियों का इस्तेमाल किया गया।
 - हजारों पर्यटक फंसे; मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने पर्यटकों से सुरक्षित स्थान पर ठहरने की अपील की।
- आपदा प्रबंधन:
 - NDRF टीमों उत्तर बंगाल में तैनात।
 - केंद्र सरकार से राहत सहायता देने की अपील।
 - भूटान की राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान एवं मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र ने नदियों में जलस्तर बढ़ने की चेतावनी दी।
- राजनीतिक प्रतिक्रिया:
 - पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी, कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे सहित कई नेताओं ने चिंता जताई।
 - केंद्र सरकार ने पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार को NDRF, SDRF, ITBP और सेना के साथ समन्वय करने को कहा।
- मौसम विभाग अलर्ट:
 - 6 अक्टूबर तक रेड अलर्ट जारी - दार्जिलिंग, कालिम्पोंग और अन्य हिमालयी जिलों में भारी बारिश की चेतावनी।

GS Paper Relevance:

- GS Paper I (Geography): Indian monsoon, Himalayan ecology, landslides.
- GS Paper II (Governance): Centre-State coordination in disaster relief.
- GS Paper III (Disaster Management): NDRF role, flood management, early warning systems.
- Essay Paper: *"Climate Change and Increasing Extreme Weather Events in India."*
- BPSC/JPSC: Indian geography (Himalayan states), disaster relief mechanism, role of IMD and NDRF.

Bihar electoral rolls 'purified' by special intensive revision: EC

Gyanesh Kumar says a decision will be taken soon on the number of polling phases; EVMs will feature colour photographs of the candidates

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday expressed satisfaction over the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, saying the exercise "purified" the voters' list after a gap of 22 years.

The CEC was addressing a press conference in Patna after concluding the Election Commission's two-day visit to Bihar, where it held discussions with various stakeholders over preparations for the Bihar Assembly election.

Mr. Kumar, who was accompanied by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi and Bihar Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinod Singh Gunjiyal, asserted that the SIR in Bihar was a complete success.

On September 30, the EC released the final voter list, in which 21.53 lakh names had been added and 3.66 lakh deleted, after releasing a draft list on August 1 which had 7.24 crore voters. Prior to the revision, as on June 24, there were 7.89 crore voters in the State.

The CEC also said that if any political party finds that names have been left out, they can still apply for inclusion. "If any ineligible voters are still included or



Poll brief: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a press conference in Patna on Sunday. R.V. MOORTHY

eligible voters are left out, the process of removing and adding their names will continue. After the elections, this process will cease until further notice," he said.

Mr. Kumar thanked electoral registration officers (EROs) and booth-level officers (BLOs) for working hard and diligently to prepare the voters' list.

Election before Nov. 22

Noting that the term of the current Bihar Assembly ends on November 22, he said the election would be completed before that.

On the number of phases for conducting the election, the CEC said it would be in one or two or three phases and a decision would be taken soon.

Regarding using Aadhaar in the SIR, he said Aadhaar was not proof of

citizenship but of identity, and the commission was following the orders of the Supreme Court to accept the document in the SIR.

There are 243 Assembly constituencies in Bihar (203 general constituencies, 38 reserved for Scheduled Castes and two for Scheduled Tribes), he said.

"ID cards have been introduced for BLOs to better identify them when they visit voters," Mr. Kumar said.

The CEC appealed to the voters of Bihar to celebrate elections with full enthusiasm as they do during Chhath and other festivals. He stressed the need for all to exercise their right to vote in order to strengthen democracy. The CEC added that to make EVM ballot paper more readable, EVMs will have colour photographs of candidates for the first time.

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar announced the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar after 22 years.
 - Exercise aimed to “purify” voters’ list by removing duplicate and fake entries, while ensuring eligible voters are included.
 - **Key Details:**
 - Final voter list (Sept 30): 7.24 crore voters, including 21.53 lakh added and 3.66 lakh deleted.
 - Prior to revision (June 24): 7.89 crore voters.
 - Bihar has 243 Assembly constituencies (203 general, 38 SC, 2 ST).
 - **Elections:**
 - Current Bihar Assembly term ends Nov 22, 2025. Elections will be completed before that.
 - EC said elections may be held in one or two/three phases.
 - **Technological Reforms:**
 - EVMs will carry colour photographs of candidates for clarity.
 - ID cards for BLOs introduced to better identify them during voter verification.
 - Aadhaar used as supporting identity document (not proof of citizenship).
 - **Significance:**
 - Strengthens electoral credibility.
 - Aligns with Supreme Court orders on Aadhaar usage.
 - Ensures free, fair, and transparent elections.
-

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) ज्ञानेश कुमार ने 22 साल बाद बिहार में विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) पूरा होने की घोषणा की।
 - इस प्रक्रिया का उद्देश्य मतदाता सूची को "शुद्ध" करना था - फर्जी और डुप्लीकेट नाम हटाना व पात्र मतदाताओं को शामिल करना।
- **मुख्य बिंदु:**
 - अंतिम मतदाता सूची (30 सितंबर): 7.24 करोड़ मतदाता, जिनमें 21.53 लाख नए नाम जोड़े गए, और 3.66 लाख हटाए गए।
 - बिहार में कुल 243 विधानसभा सीटें (203 सामान्य, 38 अनुसूचित जाति, 2 अनुसूचित जनजाति)।
- **चुनाव:**
 - वर्तमान विधानसभा का कार्यकाल 22 नवम्बर 2025 को समाप्त होगा।
 - चुनाव इससे पहले पूरे कराए जाएंगे।
 - चुनाव 1, 2 या 3 चरणों में होंगे।
- **तकनीकी सुधार:**
 - EVM पर उम्मीदवारों की रंगीन तस्वीरें होंगी।
 - BLO को पहचान पत्र दिए गए।
 - आधार को पहचान दस्तावेज के रूप में स्वीकार किया गया (लेकिन नागरिकता का प्रमाण नहीं)।
- **महत्व:**
 - चुनावी पारदर्शिता और विश्वसनीयता को मजबूत करेगा।
 - सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेशों के अनुरूप आधार का उपयोग।

- स्वतंत्र, निष्पक्ष और पारदर्शी चुनाव सुनिश्चित करना।

GS Paper Relevance:

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Electoral reforms, role of Election Commission, use of Aadhaar in elections.
- **GS Paper II (Constitution):** Free and fair elections as part of democratic polity.
- **GS Paper IV (Ethics):** Transparency in governance.
- **BPSC/JPSC Special:** Bihar Assembly elections, role of EROs & BLOs.

Drug makers must comply with revised norms: govt.

Schedule M mandates enhanced quality systems; Centre warns licences of non-compliant units will be cancelled; move follows deaths of children in M.P., Rajasthan due to a 'toxic' cough syrup

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has sought strict compliance by drug manufacturers with the revised Schedule M norms for pharmaceutical products in India.

Licences of non-compliant units would be cancelled, it has warned.

The direction comes after an emergency meeting with officials of the States and Union Territories on Sunday evening, following a report by the Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Department, which found above permissible levels of diethylene glycol (DEG) in samples of Coldrif, a cough syrup brand.

The revised Schedule M is an updated set of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and regulations for pharmaceutical products in India, a part of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

It mandates enhanced quality systems, including the Pharmaceutical Quality System and Quality Risk Management, with a compliance deadline of December 31, 2025. The revisions



An elderly woman holds a bottle of the now-banned Coldrif cough syrup in Betul in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. PTI

align Indian standards with international GMP guidelines, emphasising product quality and safety, and require new infrastructure, including computerised storage systems and equipment validation.

Children's death

Testing of cough syrup brands was initiated following the death of more than 10 children in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Preliminary findings in the past week have ruled out common infectious dis-

eases, except for one positive case of leptospirosis. Nineteen medicine samples consumed by the children were collected from private medical practitioners and nearby retail stores. The chemical analysis so far indicates that out of the 10 samples analysed till date, nine met quality standards.

However, one of them, namely, the cough syrup Coldrif, contained DEG beyond the permissible limit.

Subsequently, regulato-

ry action has been taken by the Tamil Nadu Food and Drugs Administration against the unit, which is located in Kancheepuram. Cancellation of the manufacturing licence has been recommended by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation based on findings upon inspection. Criminal proceedings have also been initiated, the Ministry said on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu's Drugs Control Department issued an immediate stop production order to the manufacturer of the Coldrif cough syrup following an analysis by a government drug testing laboratory, which found a batch to be "not of standard quality" and "adulterated with diethylene glycol".

"The report from the Madhya Pradesh drug regulatory authority is still awaited," a senior Health Ministry official said.

Speaking on the outcomes of Sunday's emergency meeting called by the Union Health Ministry, sources in the Ministry said that maintaining quality and rational use of cough syrup had been reiterated.

Headline: Drug makers must comply with revised norms: govt.

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - The Union Health Ministry has directed strict compliance with revised Schedule M norms for pharmaceutical products in India.
 - Non-compliant units will face cancellation of licenses.
 - Action follows deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan linked to contaminated cough syrup (*Coldfri*).
 - **Key Details:**
 - **Schedule M (Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940):**
 - Updated Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).
 - Mandates enhanced quality systems, computerised storage, validated equipment.
 - Aligns Indian standards with global GMP guidelines.
 - **Trigger Incident:**
 - Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Dept. reported cough syrup containing above permissible Diethylene Glycol (DEG).
 - Coldfri cough syrup found adulterated and toxic.
 - 19 samples collected, 9 failed standards, 1 exceeded permissible DEG.
 - Criminal proceedings initiated, production stopped.
 - **Government Measures:**
 - Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) inspecting and cancelling licenses of violators.
 - Warning to all manufacturers to ensure quality compliance.
 - **Significance:**
 - Strengthens India's pharma regulatory system.
 - Protects public health and prevents tragedies like recent child deaths.
 - Reinforces India's role as a major global drug supplier while addressing quality concerns.
-

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने दवा कंपनियों को संशोधित शेड्यूल M मानकों का सख्ती से पालन करने का निर्देश दिया।
 - गैर-अनुपालन करने वाली इकाइयों के लाइसेंस रद्द कर दिए जाएंगे।
 - यह कदम मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान में जहरीली खांसी की दवा (*Coldfri*) से बच्चों की मौत के बाद उठाया गया।
- **मुख्य बिंदु:**
 - **शेड्यूल M (Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940):**
 - अपडेटेड गुड मैनुफैक्चरिंग प्रैक्टिसेज (GMP)।
 - उच्च गुणवत्ता प्रणाली, कंप्यूटराइज्ड स्टोरेज, और उपकरण प्रमाणीकरण अनिवार्य।
 - वैश्विक GMP मानकों के अनुरूप।
 - **ट्रिगर घटना:**
 - तमिलनाडु ड्रग्स कंट्रोल विभाग ने रिपोर्ट दी कि कोल्डफ्री खांसी की दवा में डाइएथिलीन ग्लाइकोल (DEG) की मात्रा अनुमत सीमा से अधिक थी।
 - कुल 19 नमूने लिए गए, जिनमें से 9 मानक से नीचे पाए गए और एक में DEG

- खतरनाक स्तर पर पाया गया।
 - लाइसेंस रद्द, उत्पादन बंद, और आपराधिक कार्यवाही शुरू।
 - सरकारी कदम:
 - CDSCO द्वारा निरीक्षण और गैर-अनुपालक कंपनियों के लाइसेंस रद्द।
 - सभी दवा कंपनियों को कड़े मानकों का पालन करने की चेतावनी।
- महत्व:
 - भारत की फार्मा विनियामक प्रणाली को मजबूत करेगा।
 - जनस्वास्थ्य की रक्षा और भविष्य में ऐसी त्रासदियों को रोकने में मदद।
 - "फार्मेसी ऑफ द वर्ल्ड" के रूप में भारत की छवि को और विश्वसनीय बनाएगा।

GS Paper Relevance:

- GS Paper II (Polity & Governance): Government regulation of health sector, role of CDSCO.
- GS Paper III (Science & Technology): Pharmaceutical industry, drug safety, global standards.
- GS Paper IV (Ethics): Corporate responsibility, public health ethics.
- BPSC/JPSC Special: Health crisis in India, regulatory framework, state role (M.P., Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu).

India's 'red lines' have to be respected, says Jaishankar on trade deal with U.S.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Any trade deal between India and the U.S. has to respect New Delhi's "red lines" and efforts are under way to reach an understanding, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Sunday against the backdrop of a downturn in bilateral ties over Washington's policy on tariffs.

In an interactive session at an event, Mr. Jaishankar acknowledged that there were "issues" between India and the U.S. and many of them were linked to the inability to firm up the proposed trade deal, even as he noted that "there are things you can negotiate and there are things you can't."

The External Affairs Minister said both sides had not arrived at a "landing ground" on trade discus-



S. Jaishankar

sions and that an understanding was necessary as the U.S. was the world's largest market. But at the same time, he said, India's red lines should be respected.

The ties between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods in August to a whopping 50%, including a 25% additional duty for India's purchase of Rus-

sian crude oil. India had described the U.S. action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". However, a phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump last month resulted in efforts by the two sides to work on a proposed trade deal.

"We have today issues with the United States. A big part of it is the fact that we have not arrived at a landing ground for our trade discussions, and the inability so far to reach there has led to a certain tariff being levied on India," Mr. Jaishankar said at the discussion on the theme "Shaping foreign policy in turbulent times" at the Kautilya Economic Enclave.

Mr. Jaishankar made the remarks while responding to questions on the current state of India-U.S. relations.

Headline:

India's 'red lines' have to be respected, says Jaishankar on trade deal with U.S.

English Summary:

- Context:

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stressed that any trade deal with the U.S. must respect India's "red lines".
- Remarks made amid strained India-U.S. trade ties due to Washington's tariff policy.
- **Background:**
 - U.S. imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods in August, including 25% duty on Indian purchase of Russian crude oil.
 - India termed these measures "unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable."
 - Talks between PM Modi and U.S. President Trump in September aimed at reviving trade negotiations.
- **Key Points by Jaishankar:**
 - Acknowledged issues in bilateral trade, but said not everything is negotiable.
 - India's sovereignty and core interests ("red lines") must not be compromised.
 - Recognized importance of U.S. as the world's largest market, but stressed mutual respect in trade negotiations.
- **Significance:**
 - Highlights India's approach of strategic autonomy in foreign trade.
 - Balancing act between safeguarding national interest and expanding India-U.S. economic partnership.

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत और अमेरिका के बीच होने वाले किसी भी व्यापार समझौते में भारत की "रेड लाइन्स" का सम्मान होना चाहिए।
 - यह बयान भारत-अमेरिका के बीच व्यापार तनाव की पृष्ठभूमि में दिया गया।
- **पृष्ठभूमि:**
 - अमेरिका ने अगस्त में भारतीय वस्तुओं पर 50% टैरिफ लगाया था, जिसमें रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद पर 25% अतिरिक्त शुल्क शामिल था।
 - भारत ने इसे "अनुचित और अनुचित कदम" बताया।
 - सितंबर में मोदी और ट्रंप की बातचीत से व्यापार वार्ता फिर शुरू करने की कोशिश हुई।
- **जयशंकर के मुख्य बिंदु:**
 - भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार में कई "समस्याएँ" हैं लेकिन सब कुछ बातचीत से हल नहीं किया जा सकता।
 - भारत की संप्रभुता और राष्ट्रीय हित (रेड लाइन्स) से समझौता नहीं होगा।
 - अमेरिका का महत्व स्वीकार किया गया लेकिन परस्पर सम्मान जरूरी बताया गया।
- **महत्व:**
 - भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता (Strategic Autonomy) की नीति को रेखांकित करता है।
 - राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा और भारत-अमेरिका साझेदारी को संतुलित करने का प्रयास।

GS Paper Relevance:

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** India-U.S. relations, trade disputes, strategic autonomy.
- **GS Paper III (Economy):** International trade, tariff barriers, impact on Indian economy.
- **Essay / Ethics:** Balancing sovereignty with global economic integration.
- **BPSC/JPSC:** India's foreign trade policies, impact on Bihar's export sectors.

The course ahead for Trump's Gaza ceasefire plan

Shortly before the second anniversary of Hamas's attack on Israel (October 7, 2023), United States President Donald Trump unveiled his 20-point plan for a Gaza ceasefire. Hamas has reacted positively but has indicated that it will need to renegotiate parts of the plan. This has set the cat among the pigeons. Mr. Trump has hailed this as an opportunity to bring peace to West Asia while Israel is unhappy with the conditions attached to Hamas' acceptance. Scepticism over progress on the plan is understandable given what happened in January this year when the ceasefire that was negotiated by U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, which was detailed, sequenced and agreed to by both sides, was torn up unilaterally by Israel after the first step. But this time around, all the major players, including Mr. Trump, want this plan to succeed as a last chance for peace in Gaza – except perhaps the Israel government.

In a nutshell

The 20 points include everything that the U.S. would like to see happen in Gaza in the foreseeable future; and, no, the Palestinian state is not one of them. The plan is at best a statement of intentions on how to end the Gaza war and bring normalcy to Palestinians in their destroyed land – and at worst, an instrument of surrender.

Except for one solitary timeline, where Israeli hostages would be released by Hamas within 72 hours of the ceasefire, everything else needs fleshing out to become a road map. The details of what should be done by the Palestinian side are spelt out – hostages (release within 72 hours); Hamas (disarm and/or quit Gaza); Palestinian Authority (reform or perish); governance of Gaza (deradicalisation, demilitarisation and technocrats' rule under an International Board of Peace headed by Mr. Trump), and security (international destabilisation force in Gaza). However, there are a few details of Israeli obligations (when does fighting stop), territory (how much will remain with Israel and till what time), and the future role of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) (no timelines for withdrawal from Gaza). Of course, the plan is silent on the West Bank.

The plan is designed to capitalise on the war fatigue of the Palestinians and pressure Hamas. Whether one agrees with its content or not, it covers aspects relating to security, economic development, governance and international involvement. Ethnic cleansing of Gaza has been ruled out. An international stabilisation force could be a positive factor if the mandate is clear and regional and the other players involved play a committed role. Israel will get its security with a demilitarised Gaza and a disarmed and deradicalised Hamas.

Unfortunately, a lack of clarity on timelines



T.S. Tirumurti

was Ambassador/
Permanent
Representative of
India to the United
Nations, New York
(2020-22) and the first
Representative of
India to the
Palestinian Authority
in Gaza (1996-98)

and sequencing converts the framework into a mere statement of disjointed intentions rather than a credible pathway for withdrawal of Israel from Gaza and restoring normalcy. It is not even a full ceasefire deal since, under the plan, fighting can continue side by side with the implementation. This is what Hamas has serious reservations about. This infirmity could be fatal if the U.S. and major regional players do not do the heavy lifting vis-à-vis Israel. This is why Mr. Trump's call to Israel to stop the bombing of Gaza is important. Of course, it is not as if Israel has listened to the U.S. now or in the past.

To state the obvious, the focus of the plan has been on the release of all Israeli hostages, dead or alive, since Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been under tremendous domestic pressure to get them released. Once that is done within 72 hours of the ceasefire, the only arbiters of Palestinian destiny become the U.S. and Israel, which is incidentally the reality now. Every progress, or the lack of, by the Palestinians towards fulfilling the conditionalities will be decided by these two. There is no monitoring mechanism.

Further, while the release of 250 Palestinian life prisoners and 1,700 Palestinian detainees in exchange for Israeli hostages is welcome, with the revolving door policy of Israel to arrest, imprison and release Palestinians at will, this stipulation in the plan may not have any practical value on the ground. To get a sense of this equation, at least 18,000 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel only in the West Bank since October 7, 2023.

Burden shifts to Hamas, the Palestinians

Given the above, this plan removes the international pressure on Israel on its daily killings in Gaza, by shifting the burden of stopping the war to the implementation of the plan by Hamas and the Palestinians. If they are seen not to implement it, then Israel's continued presence in Gaza is legitimised and its continued attacks will be justified. When Mr. Netanyahu has declared that the IDF will remain in Gaza, entrusting Israel to decide on its exit from Gaza is a non-starter.

Effectively, the plan puts governance and security under international control through its Board of Peace and International Stabilization Force. This can be a potential stop-gap arrangement provided the regional players remain committed and, where necessary, not hesitate to use their clout with the U.S. to stop Israeli violations. So far, the involvement of the Gulf countries in the Gaza war has been minimal since they have given priority to diminishing the threat of Iran and its proxies, which Israel helped them achieve. They are equally reluctant to compromise their larger interests in the region i.e., the Abraham Accords, their military ties with

the U.S. and a newfound Syrian bonhomie, on the altar of an elusive two-state solution.

Once Gaza comes under international control, the plan does not chart out any pathway to elections or to a representative governance structure except a possible reformed Palestinian Authority's role sometime in the future. Ironically, the last legislative elections in the occupied territories, in 2006, were won by Hamas, which secured 44.45% of the vote share and 74 out of 132 seats, while Fatah won 41.43% and 45 seats. This led to a division in the Palestinian leadership and the eventual disconnect between Gaza and the West Bank. Now, the plan envisages a technocratic committee with 'Palestinian and international experts', with municipal jurisdiction working under international governance and a security framework, directly under Mr. Trump. Hamas had agreed to step aside from the governance of Gaza and to a Palestinian technocratic committee. But under this plan, the Palestinians will not control their future. Hamas has called this unacceptable and said that a decision on governance should be taken by broader Palestinian consensus in which Hamas will also participate.

More a rehashed 'Riviera' plan

The self-styled 'Trump' economic plan is possibly a rehash of the idea to make a 'Riviera' out of the Gaza seafloor and build 'modern miracle cities' to pull 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza out of poverty, while thousands in the West Bank are being uprooted from their cities, land and livelihood and driven to poverty.

Earlier, one had argued that process usually trumped substance for negotiating a Palestinian state. This time there is not even a process except a solitary reference to self-determination in the plan which, both the U.S. and Israel know, is a point so distant that it may never be reached. Mr. Netanyahu has sworn never to concede a Palestinian state. His far-right partners have sworn to annex the West Bank this year. Therefore, it is no surprise that the plan does not base itself on international law or United Nations Security Council resolutions or even the recent International Court of Justice judgment on the 1967 borders to establish a Palestinian state. In fact, it goes in the opposite direction.

Consequently, how long will the ceasefire hold after the exchange of hostages? If it does not, how much capital will the U.S. and Gulf players spend to restrain Israel from further attacks? The larger question of the Palestine state has been set aside – as it has been time and again. The rapidly changing ground realities in the West Bank, with marauding Israeli settlement construction and eviction of Palestinians from their land, is now out of the syllabus.

The plan can be seen in two ways – as a statement of intentions on how to end the Gaza war, or an instrument of surrender

Headline:

The course ahead for Trump's Gaza ceasefire plan

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a 20-point Gaza ceasefire plan on October 7, 2025.
 - Hamas has responded positively but with conditions; Israel remains skeptical.
- **Key Features of the Plan:**
 - **Hostage release:** All Israeli hostages (dead/alive) to be released by Hamas within 72 hours.
 - **Hamas disarmament & Gaza governance:** Either disarm/demilitarise Gaza or face international monitoring.
 - **Palestinian Authority role:** Gaza to be governed by a "technocratic

- international board of peace.”
 - Prisoner exchange: 2,500 Palestinian prisoners and 1,700 detainees to be released in return.
 - Ceasefire sequencing: Phased withdrawal of Israel from Gaza; critics fear this could fail.
 - **Challenges:**
 - Israel doubts Hamas’s sincerity, recalling past ceasefire collapses.
 - Hamas fears plan is just an instrument of surrender without recognition of Palestinian statehood.
 - Plan lacks clarity on Palestinian elections, governance, or statehood roadmap.
 - **Geopolitical Angle:**
 - Plan places renewed international pressure on Israel.
 - Critics say it strengthens Israel’s security but weakens Palestinian sovereignty.
 - U.S. and Gulf partners may see it as a way to contain the conflict and protect regional oil stability.
 - **Implications:**
 - Could reshape West Asian geopolitics if implemented sincerely.
 - But risks collapsing like past initiatives due to deep mistrust.
 - Raises debate on self-determination, two-state solution, and international peace mediation.
-

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने 7 अक्टूबर 2025 को गाजा संघर्ष विराम योजना (20 बिंदु योजना) पेश की।
 - हमास ने सशर्त सहमति दी है, जबकि इज़राइल ने शंका जताई है।
- **मुख्य बिंदु:**
 - बंधकों की रिहाई: हमास को 72 घंटे में सभी इज़राइली बंधकों को छोड़ना होगा।
 - हमास का निरस्तीकरण: गाज़ा का निरस्तीकरण या अंतरराष्ट्रीय निगरानी।
 - गवर्नेंस: गाज़ा का प्रशासन “अंतरराष्ट्रीय शांति बोर्ड” को सौंपा जाएगा।
 - कैदी अदला-बदली: 2,500 फिलिस्तीनी कैदी और 1,700 बंदियों की रिहाई।
 - संक्रमण प्रक्रिया: चरणबद्ध युद्धविराम और इज़राइल की वापसी।
- **चुनौतियाँ:**
 - इज़राइल को हमास की नीयत पर संदेह है।
 - हमास को लगता है कि यह योजना गाज़ा के आत्मसमर्पण का साधन है।
 - इसमें फिलिस्तीन की राज्य-स्थापना या चुनावों का कोई खाका नहीं है।
- **भूराजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण:**
 - इस योजना से इज़राइल पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय दबाव बढ़ेगा।
 - आलोचकों का कहना है कि यह इज़राइल की सुरक्षा बढ़ाता है लेकिन फिलिस्तीन की संप्रभुता को कमजोर करता है।
 - अमेरिका और खाड़ी देश इसे क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता और तेल हितों की सुरक्षा के रूप में देखते हैं।
- **प्रभाव:**
 - अगर लागू हुआ तो पश्चिम एशिया की राजनीति बदल सकती है।
 - लेकिन गहरी अविश्वास की स्थिति इसे विफल भी कर सकती है।
 - यह आत्मनिर्णय, दो-राज्य समाधान और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मध्यस्थता की बहस को फिर उभारता

GS Paper Relevance:

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** West Asia peace process, India's stakes in Middle East stability.
- **GS Paper II (International Organisations):** Role of U.S., UN, and international mediation in conflict resolution.
- **Essay:** "Global peace efforts and challenges of conflict resolution in West Asia."
- **BPSC/JPSC:** Implications of West Asian conflicts on India's energy security and diaspora.

Marshland trap

India must address its concerns about
Pakistan's activities with care

Alluding to intelligence reports of Pakistan's heavy military activity in areas adjoining Sir Creek, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has warned Pakistan against any adventurism. Mr. Singh's statement that "a route to Karachi passes through Sir Creek" is both puzzling and disconcerting, considering the lingering tensions and the absence of diplomacy between India and Pakistan. His remarks drew a parallel with the 1965 India-Pakistan war, when the Indian Army advanced to the outskirts of Lahore. Sir Creek is an uninhabited, largely inaccessible marshland between Gujarat and Sindh in Pakistan, with a complex web of waterways and shifting tidal patterns. It remains a dispute between the two countries. Navigation is extremely challenging and requires expert knowledge of the terrain. On the Indian side, the estuarine region is already under layered security, with the Border Security Force, the Indian Army, the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Air Force maintaining a strong presence. India considers the area as vital for oil and gas exploration as well as fishing rights. India's major ports, Mundra and Kandla, located in the Gulf of Kutch, are also in close vicinity. Large-scale ground operations are nearly impossible in the region, which lacks roads, a civilian population and administrative infrastructure. However, during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan attempted to strike military infrastructure with close to 400 drones across 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek. Indian forces neutralised many of them, but it perhaps signalled the expansion of the front between the two countries.

Strategically, opening a front here is disadvantageous for both sides, but conflicts often do not follow reason or logic. Mr. Singh, who was in Kutch to celebrate Vijayadashami with soldiers, had been scheduled to visit Sir Creek but could not due to adverse weather. Addressing troops at the Bhuj military base, he reiterated India's consistent position to resolve the issue through dialogue. He said Pakistan's intentions remain unclear, and went on to say that "any aggression by Pakistan in the Sir Creek area will be met with a resounding response that will change both history and geography". Adding to India's security concerns are Chinese-backed mining and power projects in the Pakistani part of the Rann of Kutch, near Gujarat. These projects, India fears, could evolve into a strategic-military challenge, if leveraged jointly by Beijing and Islamabad. Considering the volatility in geopolitical situations in many corners of the world, India must tread with care and wisdom. Strategy should be disconnected from domestic politics. New Delhi must do everything under its command – but first, diplomacy – to address its security concerns.

Headline:

Marshland trap: India must address its concerns about Pakistan's activities with care

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - Intelligence reports indicate Pakistan's heavy military activity near Sir Creek, a disputed estuarine region between Gujarat (India) and Sindh (Pakistan).
 - Defence Minister Rajnath Singh warned Pakistan against "any adventurism," recalling parallels with the 1965 Indo-Pak war.
 - **Geopolitical & Strategic Significance of Sir Creek:**
 - Uninhabited marshland with complex waterways, shifting tides → extremely difficult navigation.
 - Important for oil and gas exploration, fishing rights, and proximity to India's major ports (Mundra, Kandla, Gulf of Kutch).
 - Region already under layered security: BSF, Indian Army, Coast Guard, Air Force.
 - Nearly impossible for large-scale ground operations due to terrain.
 - **Pakistan's Activities & Indian Concerns:**
 - Past attempt: Operation Sindoor – Pakistani drones tried to strike Indian military infrastructure.
 - Current fear: Chinese-backed mining & power projects in Pakistan's Rann of Kutch → potential strategic-military challenge if leveraged jointly by Beijing and Islamabad.
 - Concerns about escalation despite the area being strategically disadvantageous for both sides.
 - **India's Response:**
 - Rajnath Singh: "Any aggression by Pakistan in Sir Creek will be met with a resounding response changing history and geography."
 - India emphasizes dialogue but maintains strong security presence.
 - Policy advice: Strategy must remain disconnected from domestic politics, focusing purely on national security and diplomacy.
-

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - खुफिया रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, पाकिस्तान ने सर क्रीक क्षेत्र (गुजरात और सिंध के बीच विवादित क्षेत्र) में भारी सैन्य गतिविधियाँ शुरू की हैं।
 - रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने पाकिस्तान को चेतावनी दी कि किसी भी सैन्य दुस्साहस का जवाब बदल देने वाला होगा।
- **सर क्रीक का महत्व:**
 - यह निर्जन ज्वारीय दलदली इलाका है, जहाँ नेविगेशन कठिन है।
 - क्षेत्र तेल-गैस अन्वेषण, मछली पकड़ने के अधिकार और भारत के प्रमुख बंदरगाहों (मुंद्रा, कांडला, कच्छ की खाड़ी) की निकटता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
 - भारतीय सुरक्षा बलों की कड़ी चौकसी: बीएसएफ, थल सेना, तटरक्षक बल, वायुसेना।
 - बड़े पैमाने पर सैन्य अभियान यहाँ लगभग असंभव।
- **पाकिस्तान की गतिविधियाँ:**
 - ऑपरेशन सिंदूर: पाकिस्तान ने ड्रोन से भारतीय सैन्य ढांचे पर हमले की कोशिश की।
 - चिंता: चीन-पाकिस्तान समर्थित खनन और ऊर्जा परियोजनाएँ इस क्षेत्र को रणनीतिक-सैन्य चुनौती बना सकती हैं।

- **भारत की प्रतिक्रिया:**
 - राजनाथ सिंह: “पाकिस्तान की किसी भी आक्रामकता का जवाब ऐसा होगा जो इतिहास और भूगोल दोनों बदल देगा।”
 - भारत का रुख: संवाद + सुरक्षा सतर्कता।
 - रणनीति को घरेलू राजनीति से अलग रखते हुए सिर्फ सुरक्षा और कूटनीति पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए।
-

GS Paper Relevance:

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** India-Pakistan border disputes, diplomacy, and security.
- **GS Paper III (Internal & External Security):** Strategic significance of border regions (Sir Creek, Rann of Kutch), role of BSF/Army.
- **Essay:** "Managing India's neighborhood challenges: balancing diplomacy and deterrence."
- **BPSC/JPSC:** Border disputes (Sir Creek, Siachen, LOC) and India's security challenges.

India's direction for disaster resilience

In India, a vast, multi-hazard country, a multi-faceted approach is essential to deal with heat-related issues and extreme rainfall events. The Home Ministry (MHA) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) oversee not only the post-disaster, but also the pre-disaster phases, using the Prime Minister's Ten Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction of 2016 as guiding principles.

Disaster risk reduction

In 2021, the 15th Finance Commission adopted a nuanced approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR), aligning public finances with technological and practical advances, and allocated ₹2.28 lakh crore (\$30 billion) over its five-year term. It broadened the focus from just post-disaster relief to include prevention, mitigation, preparedness, capacity building, and post-disaster reconstruction. Previously, the financial gap for reconstruction was filled through multilateral debt instruments.

The Commission allocated 30% for the first segment, divided between preparedness and capacity building (10%) and mitigation (20%). The rest was assigned to the post-disaster phase, split into response (40%) and reconstruction (30%).

In establishing the process chain from budget-to-project for nature-based DRR, five priority areas were identified: evaluating the scale of and prioritising India's multi-hazard challenges; integrating scientific concepts of mitigation and reconstruction into public finance; avoiding duplication with existing programmes; synergising inter-ministerial, institutional, and Centre-State relationships in developing such programmes; and establishing processes for light-touch regulation.

In the last year of the award of the Commission, the procedures and standards for design and the manner of expense for such programmes have been established. Inter-ministerial,



Safi Ahsan Rizvi

Advisor,
National Disaster
Management
Authority

India is leveraging scientific advancements to prioritise nature-based solutions through public finance

cross-institutional and Centre-State appraisal committees are in place for all hazard- or region-specific projects. Over the past two years, the MHA has approved the first five reconstruction project packages worth about ₹5,000 crore for Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam and Kerala. Work is underway to conduct scientific assessments of damage and loss caused by extreme precipitation in the current monsoon.

For the pre-disaster phase, much of the preparedness and capacity-building funds were allocated to modernising fire safety (₹5,000 crore). Additionally, two specialised groups of 2.5 lakh volunteers, Apda Mitra and Yuva Apda Mitra, were created. Some capacity-building funds will now be directed towards establishing geo-spatial training labs and expanding faculty-led, action-based research at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). Strengthening NIDM's three core objectives of training, research, and documentation, a standard course covering 36 streams of disaster management has been initiated. The aim of capacity building is to mainstream the subject and its practical application to each panchayat.

For the 20% window allocated for mitigation, the best scientists, academicians, and numerous public servants were consulted to develop innovative projects. In the past year, projects worth ₹10,000 crore (\$1.2 billion) have been approved and are being implemented across States. They aim to prioritise neglected nature-based solutions as long-term responses to climate change and extreme weather events. As precursor to these forward-looking mitigation programmes, the National Cyclone Mitigation Programme (2011-22) worth ₹5,000 crore had already succeeded in reducing vulnerability of coastal communities to cyclones across eight States. Key infrastructure

built included seven-day early warning systems, cyclone shelters, and embankments.

Under these mitigation programmes, the NDMA urges States and urban authorities to revitalise water bodies and green spaces to mitigate urban floods; use remote sensing and site-specific automated weather stations to assess the size of at-risk glacial lakes continually; stress bio-engineering solutions for slope-stabilisation in landslide prevention in high-risk zones; rejuvenate water bodies called beels along the Brahmaputra; and focus on break lines, water body rejuvenation and fuel evacuation to prevent forest fires.

Over the years, the government has also developed advanced early warning systems for various hazards, which have significantly reduced casualties. The multi-media Common Alerting Protocol ensures timely alerts in regional languages. To enhance community capacities, initiatives such as a 327-member network of universities and institutional support from the NIDM are crucial. The NDRF Academy, the National Fire Service College, and NIDM train hundreds of public servants annually, in the science of hazards and policy. Mock exercises are carried out to promote hazard- and region-specific awareness, while school safety programmes educate children and distribute resources.

International coordination

International coordination is crucial in shaping how much India will learn from and teach the world. In the face of unrelenting climate change, India created the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and leads DRR-related initiatives at the G-20, SCO, BIMSTEC, and IORA. On advice from public and private entities, and academic and scientific institutions, India is successfully preparing to de-risk its complex hazard profile through innovative and sustainable nature-based solutions.

Headline:

India's direction for disaster resilience

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - India, being a multi-hazard prone country, faces disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, glacial lake outbursts, and heatwaves.
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) oversee disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies.
 - Guided by the PM's Ten Point Agenda (2016) on DRR.
- **15th Finance Commission (2021-26):**
 - Allocated ₹2.28 lakh crore (\$30 bn) for disaster risk reduction.
 - Fund distribution: Preparedness & capacity (10%), Mitigation (20%), Post-disaster response (40%), Reconstruction (30%).
 - Focus on technology, prevention, mitigation, capacity building.
- **Preparedness & Mitigation Measures:**
 - Creation of Apda Mitra & Yuva Apda Mitra (trained volunteers).
 - Investment in modern firefighting, geo-spatial labs, faculty-led research, slope-stabilisation, bio-engineering.
 - Water body rejuvenation, forest fire prevention, cyclone shelters, embankments, glacial risk monitoring.
 - Common Alerting Protocol → multilingual early warning system.
- **Institutional Measures:**
 - National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM): Capacity building, training, documentation.
 - Partnerships with universities, schools (safety programmes), and NDRF Academy.
 - Mock drills and public awareness campaigns.
- **International Cooperation:**
 - India chairs the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
 - Leads DRR at G20, SCO, BIMSTEC, IORA.
 - Focus: climate resilience + de-risking development projects.

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - भारत एक बहु-आपदाग्रस्त देश है, जहाँ बाढ़, चक्रवात, भूस्खलन, ग्लेशियल झील फटने, और हीटवेव जैसी आपदाएँ आती रहती हैं।
 - गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) और राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (NDMA) आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण (DRR) को देखता है।
 - यह पहल प्रधानमंत्री का 2016 का दस सूत्रीय एजेंडा मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत है।
- **15वें वित्त आयोग (2021-26):**
 - ₹2.28 लाख करोड़ (\$30 अरब) आवंटित।
 - विभाजन: तैयारी (10%), न्यूनीकरण (20%), प्रतिक्रिया (40%), पुनर्निर्माण (30%)।
 - जोर: तकनीक, रोकथाम, क्षमता निर्माण।
- **तैयारी और न्यूनीकरण:**
 - आपदा मित्र और युवा आपदा मित्र स्वयंसेवक बनाए गए।
 - फायरफाइटिंग उपकरण, भू-स्थानिक प्रयोगशालाएँ, ढलान स्थिरीकरण, जैव-इंजीनियरिंग में निवेश।
 - जलाशयों का पुनर्जीवन, वनाग्नि रोकथाम, चक्रवात शेल्टर, हिमनद निगरानी।
 - कॉमन अलर्टिंग प्रोटोकॉल - बहुभाषी चेतावनी प्रणाली।

- **संस्थागत उपाय:**
 - राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन संस्थान (NIDM): प्रशिक्षण और शोध।
 - विश्वविद्यालयों, स्कूलों और NDRF अकादमी से साझेदारी।
 - जन-जागरूकता अभियान और मॉक ड्रिल।
- **अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग:**
 - भारत CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) का नेतृत्व करता है।
 - G20, SCO, BIMSTEC, IORA में सक्रिय भूमिका।
 - लक्ष्य: जलवायु सहनशीलता और विकास परियोजनाओं का जोखिम कम करना।

GS Paper Relevance:

- **GS Paper II (Governance):** Disaster management institutions, policies, international cooperation.
- **GS Paper III (Disaster Management):** Risk reduction, preparedness, mitigation, NDMA, NDRF, climate resilience.
- **Essay:** "Disaster resilience as a foundation of sustainable development."
- **BPSC/JPSC:** NDMA structure, Finance Commission allocations, State-level disaster policies.

Telangana tops States in UPI transaction intensity: RBI paper

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra also recorded high UPI usage intensity

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The usage intensity of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions – measured in per capita volume terms – is highest in Telangana among all the States, according to a recent paper published in the Reserve Bank of India's bulletin. The study used PhonePe transaction data as a proxy to assess UPI intensity. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra also recorded high UPI usage intensity.

The rise of UPI is likely a major factor driving the decline in cash demand in the economy, the paper notes. This shift is evident in the steady fall in ATM cash withdrawals as a percentage of GDP (Chart 1). The growing use of UPI for low-value, everyday transactions is reflected in the rising share of peer-to-merchant (P2M) payments, while the average value of a single UPI transaction – or the 'ticket size' – has been declining over time (Chart 2). The bulk of peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions by volume fall within the sub-₹500 value range (Chart 3).

The RBI paper used data from PhonePe – a payment service that accounts for 58% of total UPI transaction volume (Chart 4) and 53% of the total transaction value (Chart 5). As noted earlier, UPI usage intensity is highest in several southern and western States, and in Delhi. The paper attributes this to the presence of urban centres, economic hubs, and high levels of employment-driven migration in these regions.

Cash withdrawal intensity remains higher in many northeastern States, as well as in Kerala and Goa. Delhi features on this list too. According to the paper, this could be due to factors such as tourism and service-led cash usage, remittance inflows, the continued cash dependence of rural areas, and limited digital infrastructure.

Digital dominance

The charts were sourced from an article published in the Reserve Bank of India's September 2025 bulletin titled, 'Impact of UPI on Cash Demand – Evidence from National and Subnational Levels,' authored by Sakshi Awasthy and Subrat Kumar Seet. Data were taken from the RBI, the National Payments Corporation of India, and the National Statistics Office



Chart 1: The number of cash withdrawals in India as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (in %)

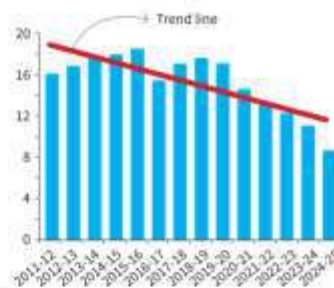


Chart 2: The number of P2P and P2M transactions (in billion, left axis). The average value of a single UPI transaction or the 'ticket size' (in ₹, right axis)

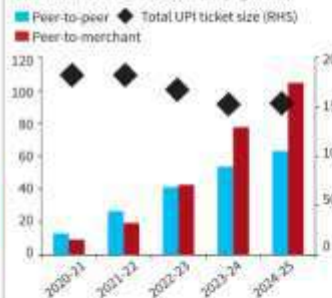


Chart 3: The chart shows the ticket-wise UPI value bands. Inner and outer circles pertain to P2M and P2P transactions, respectively

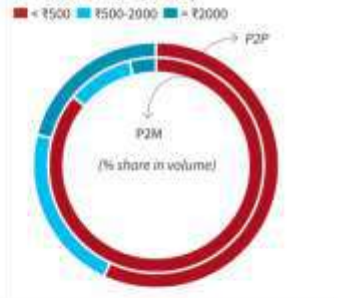


Chart 3: The share (in %, right axis) of PhonePe transactions in the total UPI transaction volume over time (in crore, left axis)

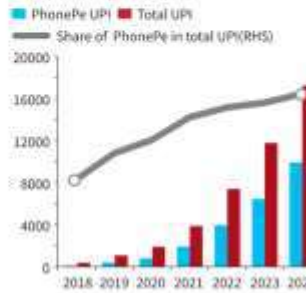
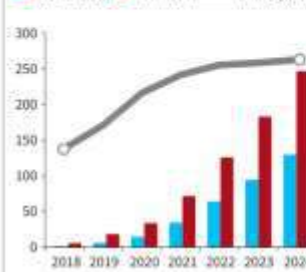


Chart 4: The share (in %, right axis) of PhonePe transaction amounts in total UPI transactions amounts over time (in ₹ lakh crore, left axis)



Map 6: State-wise UPI volume intensity per capita in FY 2024-25 (proxied by PhonePe transactions)



Headline:

Telangana tops States in UPI transaction intensity: RBI paper

English Summary:

Context:

- An RBI bulletin (Sept 2025) highlights that Telangana has the highest UPI transaction intensity per capita among all States.
- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra also recorded high UPI usage.

Key Findings:

- Shift from Cash to Digital: Cash withdrawals as % of GDP have fallen sharply, while UPI share in low-value daily transactions (P2M) has surged.
- Chart 1: Cash withdrawals (% of GDP) are declining steadily.
- Chart 2: Growth in P2P (peer-to-peer) and P2M (peer-to-merchant) transactions; average ticket size remains around ₹500.

- Chart 3 & 4: PhonePe dominates UPI market share (over 45-50% of volume); Google Pay, Paytm trail behind.
- Chart 5: Majority of UPI transactions are in the ₹500–₹2000 range, showing affordability-driven adoption.
- Chart 6: State-wise intensity → Telangana leads (205.6 per capita UPI transactions), Kerala and Delhi also high; but Bihar and NE states show low intensity due to weaker infrastructure.
- Drivers of Growth:
 - Smartphone penetration, cheap internet, Aadhaar-enabled payments.
 - Decline in ATM usage, demonetisation's digital push effect.
 - E-commerce, gig economy, and service sector dependency.
- Policy Implications:
 - UPI is reducing dependence on cash, enhancing financial inclusion.
 - Highlights the need for digital infrastructure investment in rural and underdeveloped States.
 - Ensures transparent, accountable transactions – boosts tax compliance and reduces black money.

हिंदी सारांश:

- प्रसंग:
 - RBI के सितंबर 2025 बुलेटिन में बताया गया कि तेलंगाना UPI लेन-देन की तीव्रता में देश में प्रथम स्थान पर है।
 - कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश, दिल्ली और महाराष्ट्र भी UPI उपयोग में उच्च स्थान पर हैं।
- मुख्य निष्कर्ष:
 - कैश से डिजिटल की ओर शिफ्ट: GDP में नकद निकासी का प्रतिशत घटा है, जबकि P2M (Peer-to-Merchant) लेन-देन बढ़े हैं।
 - चार्ट 1: GDP में नकद निकासी का अनुपात घटा।
 - चार्ट 2: P2P और P2M लेन-देन तेजी से बढ़े; औसत टिकट साइज लगभग ₹500।
 - चार्ट 3 और 4: PhonePe का वर्चस्व – 45-50% से अधिक हिस्सेदारी।
 - चार्ट 5: अधिकांश UPI लेन-देन ₹500-₹2000 श्रेणी में।
 - चार्ट 6: राज्यवार तीव्रता → तेलंगाना (205.6 प्रति व्यक्ति लेन-देन) सबसे ऊपर, जबकि बिहार और पूर्वोत्तर राज्य पीछे।
- विकास के कारण:
 - सस्ता इंटरनेट, स्मार्टफोन उपयोग, आधार-सक्षम भुगतान।
 - ATM निकासी में कमी और डिजिटल लेन-देन की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति।
 - ई-कॉमर्स, गिग इकॉनमी और सर्विस सेक्टर पर निर्भरता।
- नीतिगत प्रभाव:
 - UPI से वित्तीय समावेशन बढ़ा है।
 - ग्रामीण और पिछड़े राज्यों में डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर निवेश की आवश्यकता।
 - पारदर्शी लेन-देन से टैक्स अनुपालन और काले धन में कमी।

GS Paper Relevance:

- GS Paper II (Governance): Digital India, financial inclusion, role of RBI.
- GS Paper III (Economy): Growth of fintech, digital payments, cashless economy.
- Essay: "Digital transactions as a tool of inclusive growth."
- BPSC/JPSC Prelims/Mains: UPI growth trends, RBI reports, State comparison in digital economy.



GETTY IMAGES

How is AI transforming teaching and learning practices in Indian classrooms?

ChatGPT, NVIDIA, and other global business giants are investing heavily in AI in India, with the India AI Mission aiming to build an ecosystem for trusted and inclusive AI; teachers and students use AI tools but ethical dilemmas and the digital divide challenge meaningful classroom interaction

Dev Nath Pathak
Avantika Dharmani
Vibha S. Bharadwaj

The story so far:

The U.S.-based ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, announced the opening of its first office in India this year. Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw remarked that India is uniquely positioned to drive the next wave of AI-led transformation. With OpenAI, the India AI Mission aims to build an ecosystem for trusted and inclusive AI. Besides, another U.S.-based company, NVIDIA, a world leader in artificial intelligence computing, had announced a partnership with India's Reliance company in 2023. The global business giants such as Google and Microsoft have invested heavily in AI manufacturing and marketing in India.

Tech-savvy pedagogy

In contemporary India, teaching and learning are tangled in ethical twists and turns as teachers and students are increasingly inclined to AI. Integration of advanced technology and pedagogy is arguably a new age mantra for the technocratic management of education. A report of the Central Square Foundation that works with the Indian government said that about 70% of school teachers in India are tech-savvy. Teachers use AI solutions to design pedagogy and curricular content. This shall solicit a qualitative evaluation of AI literacy and

the digital divide in India.

The National Sample Survey report this year provided information about the digital divide at the level of quality and skills. Although a large percentage of the population in India uses the Internet, the logic of inclusion requires participation in the digital world. Inclusion is evaluated through meaningful and relevant use of technology rather than merely usage.

How meaningful is the intervention of AI in the educational world? Does ChatGPT enhance the quality of teaching and learning? These are the questions that ought to be asked while classrooms incorporate ever-evolving AI solutions.

Unbridled AI in educational practices

Contrary to the euphoria, the uncritical embrace of AI threatens the philosophical foundations of teaching and learning. Philosophically, pedagogy entails a humanistic dialogue between the teacher and the student that fosters empathy and trust. The ideal pedagogues in the history of education emphasised the evolution of emancipatory understanding in the classroom. Whether it be the feminist pedagogue Bell Hooks in the contemporary world or Rabindranath Tagore in early modern India, they envisaged a pedagogic alchemy that inspired hermeneutic understanding. The ideal teachers ensured that education was not reduced to the accumulation of information. The educational philosophy solicits a natural and organic rather than singular AI smartness of the teacher and the taught.

There are also ethical dilemmas of using AI for pedagogy. According to a survey by the Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA), a high percentage of teachers employ AI tools in the classroom, more for the fulfilment of technical requirements than for dialogic engagement with students. The use of AI by students has become a concern for the Central Board of Secondary Education in India. The CBSE issued an advisory against using ChatGPT in board exams. Unfair use of the technology by both teachers and students has handicapped the pedagogical essence of classroom interaction between teachers and students. Although AI is enabling, the ethical complexity is seldom a consideration for the technocratic management of educational institutes.

The current educational practices with AI are reduced to superficial use of technology. A teacher using audio-visuals through smartphones and computers in the classroom is mistaken for pedagogic smartness. The transformative capacity of teachers, instead, shall be the yardstick for the evaluation of pedagogy. Only then can AI in the classroom bring about a sense of equality along with improved teaching quality.

India AI mission

India AI's mission envisages the opening of the AI Centres for Excellence (CoE) in education. The mission's pillars are India AI Compute Capacity, geared to establish the infrastructure to support AI innovation, and India AI Future Skills is

towards facilitating the talents to utilise the established infrastructure. These pillars can help create accessible cloud-based tools that promote basic digital literacy and equip all teachers with skills to be tech-savvy. However, teachers also require in-service professional training for capacity enhancement to develop an ethical understanding and meaningful integration of AI into pedagogy. Such a training shall enable pedagogues to critically evaluate and employ technology, with a nuanced capacity to transform the educational practices for a just society. The training modules need to prioritise independence and freedom, creativity and imagination, of both teachers and students.

The mission's Application Development Initiative promises impactful AI solutions aimed at large-scale socio-economic transformation. Such promising aspects ought to be emboldened in a context-sensitive manner when it comes to the integration of AI with educational practices. Only then would AI not reproduce the social and digital inequalities through seemingly unquestionable smart pedagogy. Without adequate social, ethical, cultural, and political anchorage, AI may become an anathema defended in rhetoric and abused in practice.

Dev Nath Pathak, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University; Avantika Dharmani & Vibha S. Bharadwaj, Young Scholars, Christ University, Bangalore

Headline:

How is AI transforming teaching and learning practices in Indian classrooms?

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - Companies like OpenAI (ChatGPT), NVIDIA, Google, Microsoft are investing heavily in AI in India.
 - The India AI Mission aims to build an inclusive and trusted AI ecosystem.
 - **Key Points:**
 - **Digital Divide in India:**
 - Though internet penetration is high, meaningful and relevant use of digital tools is limited.
 - The National Sample Survey shows inequality in access and skills.
 - **AI in Classrooms:**
 - AI tools are being used more for technical support rather than dialogic engagement.
 - Ethical dilemmas: plagiarism, unfair use, loss of personal interaction.
 - AI must be integrated in a pedagogically critical manner (not just automation).
 - **Unbridled AI Practices:**
 - Risk of superficial AI use, replacing classroom interaction.
 - Growing concerns over replacing teachers' empathy with automation.
 - **Policy Support:**
 - India AI Mission, Centres of Excellence, and corporate partnerships promote AI for inclusive learning.
 - Focus on capacity building, digital literacy, and teacher training.
 - **Concerns:**
 - Risk of deepening inequalities in education.
 - Need for balance between AI adoption and human-centric teaching.
 - Ethical challenges: data privacy, fairness, digital divide.
-

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - OpenAI (ChatGPT), NVIDIA, Google, Microsoft जैसी कंपनियाँ भारत में AI पर भारी निवेश कर रही हैं।
 - India AI Mission का उद्देश्य समावेशी और विश्वसनीय AI इकोसिस्टम बनाना है।
- **मुख्य बिंदु:**
 - **भारत में डिजिटल विभाजन:**
 - इंटरनेट उपयोग बढ़ा है, लेकिन शिक्षा में डिजिटल टूल्स का सार्थक उपयोग अभी सीमित है।
 - राष्ट्रीय सैंपल सर्वेक्षण ने कौशल और पहुँच में असमानता दिखाई।
 - **कक्षा में AI का उपयोग:**
 - AI का उपयोग तकनीकी सहायता तक सीमित, संवादात्मक शिक्षा में कमी।
 - नैतिक दुविधाएँ: नकल, अनुचित प्रयोग, मानवीय संपर्क में कमी।
 - **अनियंत्रित AI प्रयोग:**
 - सतही शिक्षा, केवल तकनीकी निर्भरता का खतरा।
 - शिक्षक की सहानुभूति और मानवीय जुड़ाव की जगह मशीन-निर्भर शिक्षा।

- नीतिगत समर्थन:
 - India AI Mission, उत्कृष्टता केंद्र और कंपनियों की साझेदारी से समावेशी शिक्षा में AI का विस्तार।
 - शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण, डिजिटल साक्षरता और क्षमता निर्माण पर जोर।
- चिंताएँ:
 - शिक्षा में असमानता बढ़ने का खतरा।
 - AI अपनाने और मानवीय शिक्षा के बीच संतुलन आवश्यक।
 - नैतिक मुद्दे: डेटा गोपनीयता, निष्पक्षता, डिजिटल अंतर।

GS Paper Relevance:

- GS Paper II (Governance): Digital literacy, inclusive education, role of AI in governance.
- GS Paper III (Science & Tech): Emerging technologies, AI in education, ethical challenges.
- Essay: "AI and Education: Opportunities and Challenges."
- BPSC/JPSC Mains: Digital India, AI policy, bridging digital divide.

Why is ADR crucial for India's courts?

What is Alternative Dispute Resolution and how does it work in India? How long does it take to resolve disputes? What legal provisions support ADR and its processes? How can they reduce delays and court pendency effectively? Which States have the highest backlog of cases?

LETTERS&SPIRIT
C.B.P. Srivastava

The story so far:
The Minister of Law and Justice recently reaffirmed the government's commitment to legal reforms rooted in India's civilisational ethos. Citing the doctrine of *Panch Parmeshwar*, which embodies the principle of collective consensus in dispute resolution, Arjun Ram Meghwal emphasised the need for global cooperation to strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The India Justice Report 2025 highlights significant challenges in India's justice system, particularly including access, delays, and accountability. According to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the total number of pending cases in India is 4,57,96,239. In the Supreme Court, the number of pending cases is 81,768, and in the High Courts, it is approximately 62.9 lakh. These delays often result in injustice, increasing the focus on ADR as a faster, cost-effective, and socially inclusive way to deliver justice.

What is the constitutional basis of ADR?
The constitutional basis of ADR in India is enshrined in Article 39A, which mandates the state to provide equal justice and free legal aid. Various ADR processes, such as arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and judicial settlement (Lok Adalat), are recognised under Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

To regulate processes, there have been incorporated into law. For example, under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 (amended in 2020), civil and



GETTY IMAGES

compoundable offences like theft, criminal trespass, and adultery are resolved through a binding award or resolution, respectively. The Arbitration Act, 2021, also mentions the establishment of an Indian Arbitration Council, giving legal backing to arbitration agreements.

The law fixes a maximum period of 180 days for dispute resolution, ensuring faster justice.

On many occasions, even after such a solution, if a party is dissatisfied, they can exit the process after two sessions of mediation. Pre-litigation mediation for resolving civil and commercial disputes will not increase the number of pending cases; it will also strengthen interpersonal relationships by increasing interaction at the social level.

How do Lok Adalats function?
Lok Adalats are governed by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, inspired by Article 39A. Apart from Permanent Lok Adalat (Section 22-B of the Act), provisions of the National Lok Adalat and e-Lok Adalat are directly helpful in strengthening the justice system, provided awareness about such a system is made effective and widespread.

The first Lok Adalat in India was organised in Gujarat in 1999. The biggest feature of Lok Adalats is that their decisions shall be final and there is no possibility of appeal. This does not mean that the powers of these courts are absolute.

The reason for no appeal is that these courts resolve disputes before litigation. In order to prevent any possible

absoluteness, it is provided that the dissatisfied party can file a suit in a court.

Why is strengthening ADR crucial?
According to former Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, mediation is a tool for social change, where social norms are brought in line with constitutional values through the exchange of views and flow of information. Solutions arrived at through invaluable discussions during mediation ensure true justice for individuals and groups on their terms, in a language they understand, and provide a platform that protects their sentiments.

The India Justice Report also highlights inter-State disparities in terms of the backlog of cases. The report says that pending cases have exceeded five crore, and High Courts and district courts are facing vacancy rates of 33% and 28% respectively. Judges in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have workloads exceeding 4,000 cases.

A substantial number of cases in High Courts and subordinate courts have been pending for over 10 years. The NJDG provides real-time data on case pendency and disposal, offering a comprehensive view of the judicial system's performance across States and courts.

The India Justice Report ranks States based on their performance on various aspects of the justice system, including case pendency, with other factors like court infrastructure and judge availability.

States like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar have a considerable number of pending cases. This urgently demands rapid disposal and necessitates the strengthening of the ADR for effective per capita justice delivery.

C.B.P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi

THE GIST

India's justice system faces significant challenges, including access, delays, and accountability, with over 4.57 crore pending cases, and High Courts and district courts experiencing heavy vacancy rates and workloads.

Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution is crucial to address inter-State disparities, reduce court pendency, and ensure true justice through pre-litigation resolution, mediation, and finality of Lok Adalat decisions.

Headline:

Why is ADR crucial for India's courts?

English Summary:

- Context:
 - India faces a huge backlog of cases — over 4.57 crore pending cases (National

- Judicial Data Grid).
 - Supreme Court: ~81,768 pending cases.
 - High Courts: ~62.9 lakh pending cases.
 - Justice delivery is delayed, costly, and inaccessible. Hence, ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) is gaining importance.
 - Constitutional Basis of ADR:
 - Article 39A: State to provide equal justice and free legal aid.
 - ADR includes arbitration, conciliation, mediation, Lok Adalat, judicial settlement (Sec 89 CPC, 1908).
 - Arbitration Act, 2021: Mandates max. 180 days for dispute resolution.
 - Indian Arbitration Council: Provides legal backing.
 - Lok Adalats:
 - Established under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
 - Provide final, binding decisions (though not absolute; dissatisfied party can move court).
 - First Lok Adalat: Gujarat, 1999.
 - Effective in resolving compoundable offences (theft, trespass, adultery) and civil disputes.
 - Importance of Strengthening ADR:
 - Provides faster, cost-effective, socially inclusive justice.
 - Mediation promotes social harmony through dialogue.
 - Helps reduce inter-state disparities in pendency.
 - Vacancy issues: High Courts (33% vacancy), District Courts (21%).
 - States with high pendency: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh.
 - Key Challenges:
 - Shortage of judges, lack of infrastructure.
 - Awareness gap in rural areas about ADR mechanisms.
-

हिंदी सारांश:

- प्रसंग:
 - भारत में मुकदमों का भारी बोझ - कुल 4.57 करोड़ मामले लंबित।
 - सुप्रीम कोर्ट: ~81,768 मामले लंबित।
 - हाई कोर्ट: ~62.9 लाख मामले लंबित।
 - न्याय वितरण धीमा, महंगा और कठिन पहुँच वाला है। इसलिए वैकल्पिक विवाद निवारण (ADR) पर ज़ोर।
- संवैधानिक आधार:
 - अनुच्छेद 39A: समान न्याय और निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता।
 - ADR में शामिल: मध्यस्थता, सुलह, पंचाट, लोक अदालत, न्यायिक समझौता।
 - पंचाट अधिनियम 2021: 180 दिन की समय सीमा।
 - भारतीय पंचाट परिषद कानूनी समर्थन प्रदान करता है।
- लोक अदालतें:
 - कानूनी सेवा प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, 1987 के तहत स्थापित।
 - निर्णय अंतिम और बाध्यकारी (परन्तु असंतुष्ट पक्ष अदालत जा सकता है)।
 - पहली लोक अदालत: गुजरात, 1999।
 - चोरी, अतिक्रमण, व्यभिचार जैसे समझौतायोग्य अपराधों और सिविल विवादों का समाधान।
- ADR को मजबूत करने का महत्व:
 - तेज़, सस्ता और समावेशी न्याय।

- मध्यस्थता से सामाजिक सद्भाव और संवाद को बढ़ावा।
- राज्यों में लंबित मामलों की असमानता कम।
- रिक्तियाँ: हाई कोर्ट (33%), जिला अदालतें (21%)।
- सबसे अधिक लंबित मामले वाले राज्य: बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, आंध्र प्रदेश।
- चुनौतियाँ:
 - न्यायाधीशों की कमी, ढाँचे की कमी।
 - ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ADR की जानकारी का अभाव।

GS Paper Relevance:

- GS Paper II (Polity & Governance): Judiciary reforms, ADR, Article 39A, Legal Services Authorities Act.
- GS Paper IV (Ethics): Justice, fairness, inclusivity in legal systems.
- Essay: "Judicial delays and the role of ADR in ensuring justice in India."
- BPSC/JPSC Mains: Judicial pendency, Lok Adalats, Bihar-specific backlog.

Ties with UN nuclear body no longer relevant: Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's top diplomat said on Sunday that cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog was no longer relevant following the reimposition of international sanctions on the Islamic republic.

"The Cairo agreement is no longer relevant for our cooperation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

said, referring to a September deal with the UN agency.

The deal had set up a framework to resume cooperation and allow the watchdog to inspect Iranian sites, after Tehran suspended cooperation following Israeli and US strikes on its key nuclear sites in June.

But the agreement lost its significance to Iran as Britain, France, and Germany – signatories to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal –



Abbas Araghchi

triggered the return of the UN sanctions over Tehran's non-compliance.

Tehran had threatened

to halt cooperation with the agency if they sought to reimpose the sanctions.

Diminished role

"The three European countries thought they had a leverage in their hands, threatening to implement a snapback," Mr. Araghchi said during a meeting with foreign diplomats in Tehran. "Now they have used this lever and seen the results... the three European countries have definitely diminished their role and

almost eliminated the justification for negotiations with them."

He added that the European trio "will have a much smaller role than in the past" in any upcoming diplomacy over Iran's nuclear dossier.

Iran accused the IAEA of failing to condemn attacks conducted by its arch-enemies on its nuclear installations, despite it being a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Headline:

Ties with UN nuclear body no longer relevant: Iran

English Summary:

- **Context:**
 - Iran announced that cooperation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is no longer relevant after UN sanctions were reimposed.
 - Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi declared the Cairo Agreement meaningless in light of renewed sanctions.
- **Background:**
 - In September, Iran agreed to allow IAEA inspections of nuclear sites after temporarily suspending cooperation due to Israeli and U.S. strikes.
 - However, after Britain, France, and Germany (part of the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal – JCPOA) triggered sanctions over Iran's non-compliance, Tehran withdrew cooperation.
- **Iran's Position:**
 - Iran accused the IAEA of bias and failure to condemn Israeli and U.S. attacks on its nuclear sites.
 - Tehran argued that the European trio had "diminished their role" in

- negotiations and diplomacy.
- Iran maintains that it is still a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but feels the sanctions undermine its rights.
- **Global Implications:**
 - This escalates tensions in the West Asia region.
 - Weakens the credibility of the IAEA and multilateral nuclear frameworks.
 - Raises concerns for nuclear proliferation, energy security, and regional stability.

हिंदी सारांश:

- **प्रसंग:**
 - ईरान ने कहा कि IAEA (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी) के साथ सहयोग अब प्रासंगिक नहीं है क्योंकि संयुक्त राष्ट्र के प्रतिबंध फिर से लगाए गए हैं।
 - विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अराघची ने कहा कि काहिरा समझौता अब अर्थहीन हो चुका है।
- **पृष्ठभूमि:**
 - सितंबर में ईरान ने IAEA को परमाणु स्थलों का निरीक्षण करने की अनुमति दी थी, लेकिन अमेरिका-इज़राइल के हमलों और यूरोपीय देशों द्वारा प्रतिबंध लागू करने के बाद सहयोग निलंबित कर दिया गया।
 - ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस और जर्मनी (2015 JCPOA परमाणु समझौते के हस्ताक्षरकर्ता) ने प्रतिबंधों को फिर से लागू किया, जिसके बाद ईरान ने सहयोग समाप्त कर दिया।
- **ईरान का रुख:**
 - ईरान ने IAEA पर पक्षपात का आरोप लगाया और कहा कि उसने अमेरिका और इज़राइल के हमलों की निंदा नहीं की।
 - ईरान का कहना है कि यूरोपीय देशों की भूमिका अब बहुत सीमित हो गई है।
 - ईरान अभी भी परमाणु अप्रसार संधि (NPT) का सदस्य है लेकिन मानता है कि प्रतिबंध उसके अधिकारों को कमजोर करते हैं।
- **वैश्विक प्रभाव:**
 - पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव बढ़ेगा।
 - IAEA और बहुपक्षीय परमाणु ढांचे की विश्वसनीयता कमजोर होगी।
 - परमाणु प्रसार, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता पर खतरा।

GS Paper Relevance:

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** India's West Asia policy, global nuclear governance, JCPOA relevance.
- **GS Paper III (Internal Security & Energy Security):** Nuclear proliferation, strategic stability in West Asia.
- **Essay:** "Nuclear non-proliferation and global power politics in the 21st century."
- **BPSC/JPSC:** Middle East geopolitics, India's stance on JCPOA and IAEA.