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Daily News Feed

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India will buy U.K. missiles for £350 mn

The U.K. govt. says as many as 64 Indian firms have committed to invest £1.3 billion in Britain

Modi and Keir Starmer agree on a £250-million deal on electric-powered engines for Naval ships

The Universities of Lancaster and Surrey receive approval to open campuses in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has signed a £350-million defence deal with the U.K. to buy missiles for the Indian army, the British government said on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his U.K. counterpart, Keir Starmer, also agreed to take forward their collaboration on electric-powered engines for Naval ships, worth an initial £250 million.

In a separate release, the U.K. government said 64 Indian companies had so far committed to invest £1.3 billion (or ₹15,430 crore) in the U.K., a sign of the growing business confidence boosted by the India-U.K. trade deal.

U.K. varsities in India

The Indian government has not shared similar data on investment commit-

ments by U.K. companies in India.

However, the U.K. government also said that the University of Lancaster and the University of Surrey had been given approval to open campuses in India to help meet booming demand from Indian students.

The missile deal paves the way for a "broader complex weapons partnership" between the U.K. and India, which is currently under negotiation between the two governments, the U.K. government said in its statement.

"The contract is set to deliver U.K.-manufactured Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM) built in Belfast for the Indian Army, delivering on the Government's Plan for Change in another significant boost for the U.K. defence industry," it said.

"A new milestone has al-



Building cooperation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on Thursday. (PTI)

so been reached in the U.K. and India's cooperation on electric-powered engines for naval ships as both countries signed the Implementing Arrangement to advance collaboration to the next stage, worth an initial £250 million," it added.

"Nearly 7,000 brand new jobs will be created in the United Kingdom thanks to a raft of major new deals secured by the Prime Minister during his visit to India this week," the U.K. government said. "As a result, Indian investment will flow into a range

of U.K. sectors including engineering, technology and the creative industries, driving growth and creating jobs across every region of the country - from Basingstoke to Birmingham," it added.

Among the major investment announcements are

'India-U.K. ties an important pillar of global stability'

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who welcomed his U.K. counterpart Keir Starmer on Thursday, said the India-U.K. partnership was an "important pillar of global stability" in the current turbulent global scenario. Both the Prime Ministers also gave a joint call for a "two-state solution" to end the Israel-Palestine conflict. > PAGE 4

TVS Motor's plan to invest £250 million in Solihull to expand its Norton Motorcycle operations and develop next-generation electric vehicles.

"Engineering company Cyient is investing £100 million to boost innovation in semiconductors, geos-

patial tech, mobility, clean energy, and digital domains - creating 300 U.K. jobs and strengthening its long-standing presence in the country," the release said.

Muthoot Finance UK Limited, a part of the Muthoot Group, plans to invest £100 million to expand its branch network to 20 locations in the U.K. Hero Motors plans to invest £100 million in the U.K. over the next five years in its e-mobility, e-bicycles and aerospace divisions.

The Hindu has reached out to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for details on investment announcements by U.K. companies in India.

On the first day of Mr. Starmer's visit to India, Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilig said that his company has "deep ambitions to develop India as a home for Rolls-Royce".

Summary (English):

India signed a £350 million defence deal with the U.K. to acquire Lightweight Multirole Missiles for the Indian Army. Both sides also agreed on a £250 million naval electric engines project.

Additionally, U.K. universities (Lancaster & Surrey) received approval to open campuses in India.

Over 64 Indian companies committed £1.3 billion investment in the U.K., while U.K. firms plan new investments in India.

Summary (Hindi):

भारत ने ब्रिटेन के साथ 350 मिलियन पाउंड का रक्षा समझौता किया है जिसके तहत भारतीय सेना के लिए मल्टीरोल मिसाइलें खरीदी जाएंगी। इसके अलावा, 250 मिलियन पाउंड के नौसैनिक इलेक्ट्रिक इंजन प्रोजेक्ट पर भी सहमति बनी। लैंकेस्टर और सरे विश्वविद्यालयों को भारत में कैंपस खोलने की अनुमति मिली। 64 भारतीय कंपनियाँ ब्रिटेन में 1.3 बिलियन पाउंड का निवेश करेंगी।

GS Paper: GS-II (IR: Bilateral Relations, Defence Cooperation), GS-III (Economy: Investment & Technology).

Modi, Starmer call for a 'two-state solution' to Israel-Palestine conflict

The two PMs support 'an immediate, lasting ceasefire'; relationship with the U.K. is an 'important pillar of global stability, economic progress' in turbulent times, says Modi; he speaks to Trump over phone, congratulates him on Gaza peace plan

Snehal Mutha
Kallol Bhattacharjee
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Phile Minister Narendra Modi and his U.K. counterpart, Keir Starmer, on Thursday gave a joint call for a "two-state solution" to end the Israel-Palestine conflict and expressed support for U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza.

Mr. Modi also spoke with Mr. Trump over the phone on Thursday evening and congratulated him on the Gaza peace initiative. "Spoke to my friend, President Trump and congratulated him on the success of the historic Gaza peace plan. Also reviewed the good progress achieved in trade negotiations. Agreed to stay in close touch over the coming weeks," the Prime Minister posted on X.



Diplomatic ways: Narendra Modi with Keir Starmer during the 'Global Fintech Fest 2025' at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai. PTI

Mr. Modi, who welcomed Mr. Starmer to India, said the partnership between India and the U.K. serves as an "important pillar of global stability" in the current turbulent international scenario. The two leaders also called for "a just and lasting peace" in war-ravaged Ukraine.

"India and the U.K. are natural partners. In the

current era of global instability, this partnership remains a vital pillar of global stability and economic progress," said Mr. Modi, adding that the government is working to combine the U.K.'s industrial expertise and R&D with India's talent and scale.

Mr. Modi highlighted the importance of "dialogue and diplomacy" in

resolving the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, and said India and U.K. are "committed" to enhancing "maritime security cooperation" in the Indo-Pacific region.

Resolution of the enduring conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine featured in a joint statement issued at the end of official-level talks held in Mumbai. The two Prime Ministers supported "an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the release of the hostages and the delivery of humanitarian aid, and their shared commitment to a lasting and just peace as a step towards a two-state solution, with a safe and secure Israel, alongside a viable Palestinian state."

Mr. Starmer and Mr. Modi highlighted cooperation between the two sides within the context of the Commonwealth and agreed to work closely on

"climate change, sustainable development, and youth engagement" for the 2.5 billion population of the Commonwealth member countries. The statement reiterated shared commitment to "global peace, prosperity and rules-based international order". They also expressed support to continue the dialogue on Migration and Mobility Partnership.

In his remarks following the delegation-level talks, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri reiterated India's commitment to talks on streamlining migration and said, "We don't support illegal immigration." Mr. Starmer expressed U.K.'s condemnation of the Pahalgam attack and Mr. Modi condemned the attack outside a synagogue that left two persons dead in Manchester during Yom Kippur last week.

Summary (English):

PM Modi and UK PM Starmer jointly called for a "two-state solution" to the Israel-Palestine conflict and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Modi also congratulated U.S. President Donald Trump on his Gaza peace plan. Both leaders highlighted cooperation on climate change, Commonwealth, and Indo-Pacific security.

Summary (Hindi):

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और ब्रिटेन के प्रधानमंत्री स्टार्मर ने इजरायल-फिलिस्तीन विवाद के लिए दो-राष्ट्र समाधान की मांग की और गाज़ा में तत्काल युद्धविराम पर बल दिया। मोदी ने अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप को गाज़ा शांति योजना के लिए बधाई दी। दोनों नेताओं ने जलवायु परिवर्तन, कॉमनवेल्थ और इंडो-पैसिफिक सुरक्षा सहयोग पर भी जोर दिया।

GS Paper: GS-II (IR: India-UK, West Asia policy, Global Governance).

Taliban Minister Muttuqi gets 'warm welcome'; to meet Jaishankar today

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will meet Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttuqi for a formal meeting on Friday, the first time New Delhi has officially hosted a leader of the Taliban regime that took power in Kabul in 2021.

Mr. Muttuqi, who is on a week-long official visit to India, arrived in Delhi on Thursday morning accompanied by a delegation of five Taliban officials to a "warm welcome" from the Modi government. The delegation will also travel to Deoband to visit the Dar ul Uloom seminary, the home of the ideological roots of the Taliban group, on Saturday. On Sunday, Mr. Muttuqi will travel to Agra to see the Taj Mahal, which sources said he had requested.

"A warm welcome to Afghan Foreign Minister, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttuqi on his arrival in New Delhi," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on its



Emerging ties: Amir Khan Muttuqi being welcomed upon his arrival in New Delhi on Thursday. @MEAINDIA X

channel on Thursday. "We look forward to engaging discussions with him on bilateral relations and regional issues," it added.

Mr. Muttuqi, who was a Minister in the previous Taliban regime from 1996-2001, is also on the United Nations Security Council's List of sanctioned terrorists. He is in Delhi after two attempts by India to request permission for the visit. During the visit allowed from October 9 to 16, Mr. Muttuqi will address the media, speak at the Vivekananda International Foundation think-tank, and interact with business-

men and Afghan traders at an event hosted by business chamber FICCI.

He is also expected to meet with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

If that meeting is confirmed, it will be particularly significant as Mr. Doval was the seniormost official who travelled to Kandahar in December 1999 to negotiate the release of hostages on board IC-814, where the Taliban government facilitated the handover of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar and other terrorists freed from Indian prisons, to Pakistani officials.

- **Summary (English):**
Afghan Taliban's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi arrived in Delhi for a week-long official visit. He will meet EAM S. Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, and visit Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband & Taj Mahal. This is the first official hosting of a Taliban leader since 2021. Muttaqi is a UN-sanctioned terrorist, making the visit geopolitically sensitive.
- **Summary (Hindi):**
अफगानिस्तान के तालिबान विदेश मंत्री अमीर खान मुत्ताकी दिल्ली पहुंचे। वे विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल से मुलाकात करेंगे तथा दारुल उलूम देवबंद और ताजमहल का दौरा करेंगे। यह भारत द्वारा 2021 के बाद पहली बार तालिबान नेता की आधिकारिक मेजबानी है। मुत्ताकी संयुक्त राष्ट्र सूचीबद्ध आतंकवादी हैं, जिससे यह यात्रा संवेदनशील बनती है।
- **GS Paper: GS-II (IR: India-Afghanistan, Security, Terrorism).**

India to launch 'Red List' survey to assess extinction risks to plants and animals

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

India is set to conduct a first-of-its-kind assessment of nearly 11,000 species of plants and animals and assess how vulnerable they are to extinction.

While India already lists endangered animals in various "schedules", this proposed exercise, called the National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna, will, according to officials, give the most accurate assessment of the threats faced and thereby, inform conservation measures. The exercise is expected to go on till 2030.

The methodology adopted for the exercise will be as per that followed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, cur-

The goal of the project is to publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna by 2030

rently the global standard which lists species worldwide on the basis of the extinction threats.

"The vision of the initiative is to establish a coordinated, science-based red listing system that accurately reflects the conservation status of Indian species. The project's goal is to publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna by 2030, forming a central resource for conservation planning and threat mitigation. With this, a pool of 300 certified assessors will be created within the country enhancing the ca-

capacity and expertise," according to a statement from the Environment Ministry.

"To fulfil our commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), India has launched the National Red List Assessment initiative, aligned with IUCN global standards," said Kirtivardhan Singh, Minister of State for Environment.

Mr. Singh was leading an Indian delegation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

The project will be entirely funded using public funds, Pratyush Mahapatra, Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, told *The Hindu*. The estimated budget is ₹95 crore.

Summary (English):

- India will conduct its first-ever National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna to assess the extinction risk of nearly 11,000 species of plants and animals.
- This will be aligned with the IUCN Red List methodology, which is the global standard for listing species based on extinction threats.
- Goal: To publish National Red Data Books on flora and fauna by 2030, serving as a central resource for conservation planning and threat mitigation.

- A pool of 300 certified assessors will be created to carry out the survey.
 - The initiative fulfills commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).
 - Entirely funded by public funds; estimated budget: ₹95 crore.
 - Led by the Environment Ministry, with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) playing a key role.
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सारांश (Hindi):

- भारत पहली बार राष्ट्रीय रेड लिस्ट आकलन (National Red List Assessment) शुरू करने जा रहा है, जिसके अंतर्गत लगभग 11,000 प्रजातियों के पौधों और जानवरों के विलुप्ति जोखिम का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा।
 - यह सर्वेक्षण आईयूसीएन रेड लिस्ट (IUCN Red List) की कार्यप्रणाली के अनुसार होगा, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रजातियों के विलुप्ति खतरे का आकलन करने का मानक है।
 - लक्ष्य: वर्ष 2030 तक राष्ट्रीय रेड डेटा बुक्स (वनस्पति और जीव-जंतु) प्रकाशित करना, जो संरक्षण योजना और खतरों के प्रबंधन का मुख्य आधार बनेगा।
 - इसके लिए 300 प्रशिक्षित आकलनकर्ताओं की एक टीम तैयार की जाएगी।
 - यह पहल भारत की जैव विविधता संधि (CBD) और कुनमिंग-मोंट्रियल वैश्विक जैव विविधता फ्रेमवर्क (KM-GBF) के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को पूरा करती है।
 - परियोजना की लागत लगभग ₹95 करोड़ होगी और इसे सार्वजनिक निधि से पूरा किया जाएगा।
 - इस योजना का संचालन पर्यावरण मंत्रालय करेगा और इसमें जूलॉजिकल सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया (ZSI) की प्रमुख भूमिका होगी।
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GS Paper Mapping:

- GS Paper III (Environment & Ecology):
 - Biodiversity Conservation
 - International Conventions (CBD, KM-GBF)
 - Environmental Policies & Governance
 - Threatened Species and Red Data Books

Tusks and tensions

Kerala's changes to Wildlife Act will devolve national safeguards

Kerala's decision to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 marks a turning point in the federal discourse on environmental governance. The Wild Life Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill 2025 seeks to arm the State with powers thus far reserved for the Union government. While the ambition is rooted in a painful lived crisis, the attempt to sidestep Centre-State dissonance exposes tensions between ecological prudence and federal autonomy. The Bill asserts that the State may decide when a Schedule II animal has become 'vermin', and thus liable to lose protections under that Schedule for specific areas and periods. It also vests the Chief Wildlife Warden with the power to order any animal that has severely injured a person to be killed, tranquillised, captured or translocated. There have been violent confrontations with wild boars in the State's dense mosaic of farms, settlements and forests. Assembly resolutions and ministerial trips to New Delhi to have the wild boar declared as 'vermin' under the Central Act have proved fruitless. Read against the ongoing expansion of human settlements into erstwhile buffer zones, the change risks normalising lethal outcomes produced by human advance rather than by animal behaviour. This said, the Centre's power to declare vermin has too often been exercised as a veto without transparent criteria or timely engagement with States that face distinct ecologies and pressures. Kerala's frustration is thus a federal critique.

Shifting the same blunt power to the State does not by itself cure the vice of opacity, however. A jurisprudence that ties need to circumstance must interrogate how the circumstance was produced and whether non-lethal options were credibly exhausted. Section 62 of the Central Act exists to keep indiscriminate culling from eroding conservation baselines. Wildlife lies in the Concurrent List and any State law repugnant to the Central Act requires Presidential assent. If that test can be framed as Centre versus State, it is also about whether Kerala's recourse recreates the national safeguards in devolved form. A defensible settlement would preserve the floors, i.e., no dilution of baseline protections and international commitments; building State-level ceilings in the form of clearer, faster procedures; devolving non-lethal toolkits and accountable, data-driven thresholds; and tuning incentives to reward coexistence. Until then, declaring the wild boar to be 'vermin' or downgrading the bonnet macaque from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Central Act, while buying political time, may risk deepening a cycle in which governance failure begets lethal shortcuts. If the urgency is real, so too is the obligation to ensure that speed does not substitute reason and federal devolution does not become federal abdication.

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Summary (English):

- Kerala has proposed the Wild Life Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill 2025, amending the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
- The Bill seeks to empower the State government with powers earlier reserved for the Union government under the Central Act.
- Key provisions:
 - The State may decide when a Schedule II animal becomes “vermin”, thus losing its legal protection.
 - The Chief Wildlife Warden may order killing, tranquilising, capturing, or translocating animals that injure people.
- Context: Violent confrontations with wild boars damaging farms and settlements. Previous pleas to the Centre for declaring wild boars as vermin were unsuccessful.
- Concerns:
 - Risk of over-normalising lethal culling, influenced by human settlement expansion into buffer zones.
 - Potential erosion of conservation safeguards, which are national and international commitments.
 - Wildlife governance lies in the Concurrent List → State law repugnant to Central law needs Presidential assent.
- Larger Issues:
 - Debate over federal autonomy vs. ecological prudence.
 - Need for non-lethal measures, transparent criteria, accountability, and data-driven conservation thresholds.
 - Governance must ensure speed without diluting safeguards or bypassing due process.

सारांश (Hindi):

- केरल ने वन्यजीव संरक्षण (केरल संशोधन) विधेयक 2025 पेश किया है, जिसमें वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972 में बदलाव का प्रस्ताव है।
- इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य राज्य सरकार को वे अधिकार देना है जो अब तक केंद्र सरकार के पास थे।
- मुख्य प्रावधान:
 - राज्य यह तय कर सकेगा कि अनुसूची-II का कोई जानवर "हानिकारक (vermin)" घोषित किया जाए और इस प्रकार उसकी कानूनी सुरक्षा समाप्त हो जाए।
 - मुख्य वन्यजीव वार्डन को ऐसे जानवरों को मारने, बेहोश करने, पकड़ने या स्थानांतरित करने का अधिकार मिलेगा जो इंसानों को गंभीर रूप से घायल करें।
- पृष्ठभूमि: जंगली सूअरों द्वारा फसलों और बस्तियों को नुकसान पहुँचाने की घटनाएँ। केंद्र सरकार से सूअरों को "हानिकारक" घोषित करने की मांग पहले असफल रही।
- चिंताएँ:
 - अत्यधिक शिकार को सामान्य बनाना, खासकर जब मानव बस्तियाँ बफर जोनों में बढ़ रही हैं।
 - संरक्षण सुरक्षा (राष्ट्रीय व अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताएँ) कमजोर होने का खतरा।
 - वन्यजीव विषय समवर्ती सूची में आता है, अतः किसी भी राज्य कानून को राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति आवश्यक होगी।
- बड़े मुद्दे:
 - संघीय स्वायत्तता बनाम पारिस्थितिक विवेक का विवाद।
 - गैर-घातक उपायों, पारदर्शी मानदंड, जवाबदेही और डेटा-आधारित नीतियों की आवश्यकता।
 - शासन में तेजी जरूरी है लेकिन सुरक्षा व प्रक्रियात्मक निष्पक्षता से समझौता नहीं होना चाहिए।

GS Paper Mapping:

- GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):
 - Centre-State relations, Federalism, Concurrent List powers.
- GS Paper III (Environment & Ecology):
 - Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Conservation, Human-Wildlife Conflict.

- Biodiversity and international commitments.

What are the various electoral forms?

What is Form 6 used for in the context of electoral rolls? How can Overseas Electors register to vote? Which forms are used to raise objections or request corrections? What should citizens do to ensure their names are correctly included in the electoral rolls?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Election Commission (EC) has just concluded the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. It proposes to roll it out in other States in a phased manner.

What is the current significance?

Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act), deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. A summary revision is carried out before each general election or by-election in any constituency. The RP Act also authorises the EC to carry out a special revision of the electoral roll at any time.

The EC, through its order dated June 24, had decided to conduct SIR for the entire country. Since the Bihar Assembly elections are due in November, the Commission issued guidelines for the SIR of the Bihar electoral roll, with July 1 as the qualifying date.

The SIR process in Bihar involved submission of enumeration forms by all registered voters, submission of any eligible documents to prove citizenship (for electors registered after 2003), publication of draft electoral rolls based on forms submitted, a period for filing claims and objections, verification and disposal of claims and objections by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and publication of final roll.

The SIR process was challenged in the Supreme Court. In its interim orders, the court had directed the EC to accept Aadhaar as one of the eligible documents to be submitted along with the enumeration forms as proof of identity. The final roll for Bihar was released by the EC on September 30. The Commission proposes to complete the SIR process for the entire country in a phased manner based on the Assembly election schedules

Various forms with respect to electoral rolls as per RER

Form Number	Description
Form 6	Application to be submitted by new voters to be registered as an elector. As per section 10 of the RP Act, the qualifying dates for completion of 18 years of age, are 1st day of January, April, July and October of the year in which the electoral roll is prepared or revised.
Form 6A	Form for inclusion by an Overseas Elector. Non-Resident Indians who have shifted out of India, on account of education, employment or otherwise, can register as an elector in the constituency in which their address as per passport is located.
Form 7	Objection for proposed inclusion/deletion of name from existing roll. This form can be filed by a registered elector in a constituency in respect of any other registered elector or proposed inclusion in the roll or for deletion of applicant's own name.
Form 8	Form for shifting residence/correction of entries. This form can be filed by a registered elector for shifting of residence or correction of entries.
Form 9	Notice of publication of draft electoral roll by the ERO.
Form 9	List of applications for inclusion of names received in Form 6.
Form 10	List of applications for objection to inclusion of names received in Form 7.
Form 11	List of objections/applications for correction of entries received in Form 8.
Form 11A	List of applications for shifting of address within the constituency received in Form 8.
Form 11B	List of applications for shifting of address outside the constituency received in Form 8.

*Forms 9 to 11B are prepared and published by the ERO



Field work: A Booth-Level Officer checks documents during the special intensive revision of the electoral roll, Araria district, Bihar, on July 8. Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

for various States.

What are the various forms?

In the present context, it is important for citizens to be aware of the various forms that deal with electoral rolls. These forms are provided in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER). A brief summary of all the important forms as per RER is provided in the Table given above. It also contains detailed guidelines for filling out the application with respect to each of these forms.

What should citizens do?

There are political arguments both for and against the SIR exercise as carried out in Bihar. However, clean electoral rolls are paramount for the conduct of free and

Citizens should ensure that they verify the published draft rolls. They should fill out the enumeration forms as required. New voters and electors who have migrated to different constituencies should fill out the relevant forms

fair elections, which is essential for our functioning democracy. The EC would hopefully devise a more spread-out schedule in future SIRs that provides adequate time for hassle-free participation by voters. The list of eligible documents is also likely to include Aadhaar as proof of identity, in

subsequent SIRs as per the Supreme Court directive.

Meanwhile, citizens should ensure that they verify the published draft rolls. They should fill out the enumeration forms as required.

New voters and electors who have migrated to different constituencies should fill out the relevant forms. Political parties and civil society groups should assist citizens, especially the most marginalised sections, throughout the process. This would ensure a clean electoral roll without compromising on the right to vote of every eligible citizen.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS academy. Views expressed are personal

THE GIST

The Election Commission conducted a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, starting with Bihar, requiring voters to submit enumeration forms and proof of identity.

Citizens should verify draft rolls, submit the relevant forms if they are new voters or have migrated, and seek assistance from political parties and civil society to ensure clean electoral rolls without compromising the right to vote.

What are the various electoral forms?

Summary (English):

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently conducted a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, with July 1 as the qualifying date, ahead of the State Assembly elections in November.
- Legal Basis: Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act) → deals with preparation & revision of electoral rolls. A summary revision is carried out before every general/by-election.
- Purpose of SIR:
 - Verify names of all registered voters.
 - Submission of eligible documents (like Aadhaar) for proof of identity.
 - Allowing objections, corrections, additions & deletions.
- Supreme Court directives: Aadhaar accepted as proof of identity; citizens must ensure they verify rolls & submit forms.

Electoral Forms & Their Purpose (as per RER 1960):

- Form 6: For new voter registration (18+), or for shifting constituency.
- Form 6A: For Overseas Electors (NRI voters).
- Form 6B: Linking Aadhaar with voter ID.
- Form 7: To raise objections against an entry in the roll or to delete names.

- Form 8: For correction of personal details.
- Form 8A: For shifting residence within the same constituency.
- Form 9-11B: For objections, claims, and list publications by ERO.

Citizen Responsibilities:

- Verify published draft rolls.
- Fill relevant forms (6/6A/7/8/8A) depending on the situation.
- Political parties & civil society should guide voters.
- Ensures clean electoral rolls and protects the right to vote.

सारांश (Hindi):

- भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) ने हाल ही में बिहार में विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) किया, जिसमें 1 जुलाई को आधार तिथि मानकर मतदाता सूची को अपडेट किया गया।
- कानूनी आधार: जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 की धारा 21 के अंतर्गत निर्वाचन सूची की तैयारी और पुनरीक्षण होता है।
- SIR का उद्देश्य:
 - सभी पंजीकृत मतदाताओं के नाम की पुष्टि करना।
 - पहचान प्रमाण के रूप में आधार व अन्य दस्तावेज जमा करना।
 - नए नाम जोड़ना, सुधार करना, आपत्तियाँ दर्ज करना व नाम हटाना।
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट निर्देश: आधार को पहचान प्रमाण के रूप में मान्यता, नागरिकों को अनिवार्य रूप से अपनी प्रविष्टियों की जाँच और प्रपत्र भरने का निर्देश।

निर्वाचन प्रपत्र और उनका उपयोग:

- फॉर्म 6: नए मतदाता पंजीकरण/स्थानांतरण हेतु।
- फॉर्म 6A: प्रवासी भारतीय मतदाताओं (NRI) हेतु।
- फॉर्म 6B: आधार से मतदाता पहचान पत्र जोड़ने हेतु।
- फॉर्म 7: नाम हटाने या आपत्ति हेतु।
- फॉर्म 8: विवरण संशोधन हेतु।
- फॉर्म 8A: उसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरण हेतु।
- फॉर्म 9-11B: आपत्तियों/दावों की सूची व प्रकाशन हेतु।

नागरिकों की जिम्मेदारी:

- प्रकाशित मतदाता सूची की जाँच करें।
- आवश्यकतानुसार प्रासंगिक प्रपत्र भरें।
- राजनीतिक दल व सामाजिक संगठन मतदाताओं की सहायता करें।
- इससे स्वच्छ मतदाता सूची बनेगी और मताधिकार की रक्षा होगी।

GS Paper Mapping:

- GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):
 - Representation of the People Act, 1950.
 - Electoral reforms, voter registration process.
 - Role of Election Commission.
- Prelims Relevance: Forms 6, 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 8A → their purposes.

PM pitches India's fintech start-ups to Global South

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched India as a fintech hub for the Global South to “enhance digital cooperation and partnership across the world,” at an event where he shared the stage with Prime Minister of U.K. Keir Starmer, at Mumbai on Thursday.

Speaking at the last day of Global Fintech Fest 2025, Mr. Modi said, “India’s success in technology is not just for its own benefit – it is a beacon of hope for the Global South. India wishes to enhance digital cooperation and partnership across the world, sharing its experience and open-source frameworks as global public goods,” adding India’s AI journey also is to make it resilient, sustainable and inclusive.



Starmer (left) with Modi.

Echoing this, Mr. Starmer named four fintech companies – Razorpay, Cred, Paytm and Perfios – which plan to invest in the U.K. During his speech, he said he had come to India with a 126-member delegation of British businesses comprising who’s who of the Indian finance and technology sector. He further cited instances of such collaborations like the COVID vaccination programme in

India, which was an outcome of Oxford, AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute of India collaboration.

“I’m here to extend an invitation to all of you. To do business with Britain. To see the U.K. as your gateway to going global,” Mr. Starmer said expressing his interest to host Indian businesses.

Investment office

The U.K. premier also said the country is set to open a dedicated investment office for fintech firms intending to enter the U.K. Mr. Starmer lauded the U.K.-India FTA as the largest post-Brexit deal for the U.K. India-U.K. bilateral trade is currently worth \$56 billion and in five years, it needs to be doubled but the target can be reached earlier than that, said Mr. Modi.

Summary (English):

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently conducted a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, with July 1 as the qualifying date, ahead of the State Assembly elections in November.
- Legal Basis: Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act) → deals with preparation & revision of electoral rolls. A summary revision is carried out before every general/bye-election.
- Purpose of SIR:
 - Verify names of all registered voters.
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 - Allowing objections, corrections, additions & deletions.

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- Form 9-11B: For objections, claims, and list publications by ERO.

Citizen Responsibilities:

- Verify published draft rolls.
- Fill relevant forms (6/6A/7/8/8A) depending on the situation.
- Political parties & civil society should guide voters.
- Ensures clean electoral rolls and protects the right to vote.

सारांश (Hindi):

- भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) ने हाल ही में बिहार में विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) किया, जिसमें 1 जुलाई को आधार तिथि मानकर मतदाता सूची को अपडेट किया गया।
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- SIR का उद्देश्य:
 - सभी पंजीकृत मतदाताओं के नाम की पुष्टि करना।
 - पहचान प्रमाण के रूप में आधार व अन्य दस्तावेज जमा करना।
 - नए नाम जोड़ना, सुधार करना, आपत्तियाँ दर्ज करना व नाम हटाना।
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट निर्देश: आधार को पहचान प्रमाण के रूप में मान्यता, नागरिकों को अनिवार्य रूप से अपनी प्रविष्टियों की जाँच और प्रपत्र भरने का निर्देश।

निर्वाचन प्रपत्र और उनका उपयोग:

- फॉर्म 6: नए मतदाता पंजीकरण/स्थानांतरण हेतु।
- फॉर्म 6A: प्रवासी भारतीय मतदाताओं (NRI) हेतु।
- फॉर्म 6B: आधार से मतदाता पहचान पत्र जोड़ने हेतु।
- फॉर्म 7: नाम हटाने या आपत्ति हेतु।
- फॉर्म 8: विवरण संशोधन हेतु।
- फॉर्म 8A: उसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरण हेतु।
- फॉर्म 9-11B: आपत्तियों/दावों की सूची व प्रकाशन हेतु।

नागरिकों की जिम्मेदारी:

- प्रकाशित मतदाता सूची की जाँच करें।
- आवश्यकतानुसार प्रासंगिक प्रपत्र भरें।
- राजनीतिक दल व सामाजिक संगठन मतदाताओं की सहायता करें।
- इससे स्वच्छ मतदाता सूची बनेगी और मताधिकार की रक्षा होगी।

GS Paper Mapping:

- GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):
 - Representation of the People Act, 1950.
 - Electoral reforms, voter registration process.
 - Role of Election Commission.
- Prelims Relevance: Forms 6, 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 8A → their purposes.

Police and protesters clash in Madagascar Gen Z rally

Agence France-Presse
ANTANANARIVO

Several thousand anti-government demonstrators marched on Thursday through Madagascar's capital, several of them injured when police cracked down on the protest.

The fresh rally came after the Gen Z movement called for a general strike and rejected President Andry Rajoelina's attempts to defuse the tensions rocking the Indian Ocean island.

The President has appointed a new Prime Minister and called for dialogue in a bid to quell the near-daily protests that erupted on September 25. The unrest was sparked by anger over regular and lengthy power and water shortages and evolved into a broader anti-government movement.



Members of the Malagasy Gendarmerie hold a protester arrested during clashes in Antananarivo on Thursday. AFP

Security forces charged at protesters with armoured vehicles, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the initial crowds of about 1,000 that gathered on Thursday near Lake Anosy and started marching towards the Ambohitatovo Gardens.

Street battles later broke out between the police and demonstrators, who responded by throwing

stones.

At least four people were injured by rubber bullets and two by projectiles from stun grenades, according to AFP reporters on the ground and two local medical organisations.

A man was left unconscious on the ground after being chased and severely beaten by security forces in the neighbouring district of Anosibe.

Police and protesters clash in Madagascar Gen Z rally

Summary (English):

- **Event:** Several thousand anti-government protesters marched in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. Police used tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades to disperse the crowd.
- **Cause of unrest:**
 - Sparked by water and power shortages.
 - Anger over governance issues turned into a broader anti-government movement.

- The Gen Z movement called for a general strike and rejected President Andry Rajoelina's attempts at dialogue.
 - **Timeline:** Protests began on September 25 and have continued.
 - **Government response:**
 - President appointed a new Prime Minister.
 - Called for dialogue to defuse tensions.
 - **Casualties:**
 - At least 4 injured by rubber bullets, 2 by stun grenades, and several others injured in clashes.
 - One protester was left unconscious after being beaten by security forces.
 - **Significance:** Shows youth-led movements challenging entrenched regimes, part of the broader political instability in Africa.
-

सारांश (Hindi):

- **घटना:** मेडागास्कर की राजधानी अंतानानारिवो में हज़ारों लोग सरकार विरोधी प्रदर्शन में उतरे। पुलिस ने भीड़ को तितर-बितर करने के लिए आंसू गैस, रबर बुलेट और स्टन ग्रेनेड का इस्तेमाल किया।
 - **विरोध के कारण:**
 - पानी और बिजली की कमी से नाराज़गी।
 - शासन संबंधी समस्याओं ने आंदोलन को सरकार विरोधी आंदोलन का रूप दिया।
 - Gen Z आंदोलन ने आम हड़ताल का आह्वान किया और राष्ट्रपति एंड्री रजोएलिना के संवाद प्रयासों को खारिज किया।
 - **समयरेखा:** विरोध प्रदर्शन 25 सितंबर से शुरू हुए और लगातार जारी हैं।
 - **सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया:**
 - राष्ट्रपति ने नए प्रधानमंत्री की नियुक्ति की।
 - तनाव कम करने के लिए संवाद की अपील की।
 - **हानि:**
 - कम से कम 4 लोग रबर बुलेट से घायल, 2 लोग स्टन ग्रेनेड से घायल।
 - एक प्रदर्शनकारी को बुरी तरह पीटा गया और वह बेहोश हो गया।
 - **महत्त्व:** यह घटना दर्शाती है कि युवा-आधारित आंदोलन (Gen Z) अफ्रीकी देशों में राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और शासन संकट को चुनौती दे रहे हैं।
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GS Paper Mapping:

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance / IR):**
 - Political instability in foreign countries and its implications.
 - Youth-led democratic movements.
 - India-Madagascar relations (Indian Ocean Region significance).
- **GS Paper III (Security):**
 - Internal security and civil unrest (comparative perspective).
- **Essay relevance:** Role of youth in democracy, governance failures & public movements.

Israel, Hamas agree to Trump-led ceasefire deal and hostage release

Israel says all parties have signed the first phase of the deal in Egypt; it follows a 20-point peace plan announced by Trump; Israel's Smotrich says he opposes the ceasefire; Hamas's disarmament to be addressed in second phase, says U.S. President

Agence France-Presse
SHARM EL SHEIKH

Israel and Hamas on Thursday agreed a Gaza ceasefire deal to free the remaining living hostages, in a major step towards ending a war that has killed tens of thousands of people and unleashed a humanitarian catastrophe. Israel said that all parties have signed the first phase of the deal, adding that the release of the captives would "bring the end to this war".

The agreement in Egypt follows a 20-point peace plan for Gaza announced last month by U.S. President Donald Trump, after more than two years of war sparked by Hamas's



Breath of relief Palestinians celebrate following the peace deal announcement in Khan Younis on Thursday. AP

October 2023 attack on Israel.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said the American leader would travel to Egypt next week for an event celebrating the conclusion of the agreement, with Mr.

Trump himself saying: "I'm going to try and make a trip over... We're working on the timing, the exact timing."

Despite celebrations in Israel and Gaza and a flood of messages from world

leaders hailing the deal, numerous issues remain unsettled in the negotiations, including the plan's call for Hamas to disarm and a proposed interim "Board of Peace" led by Mr. Trump himself to oversee Gaza's administration.

Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan said the Palestinian Islamist movement rejected the planned transitional authority. "No Palestinian would accept this. All the factions, including the Palestinian Authority, reject this," Mr. Hamdan told Qatar-based broadcaster *Al Araby*.

Mr. Trump said the issue of Hamas surrendering its weapons would be addressed in the second phase of the peace plan.

A ceasefire was to take hold in Gaza within 24 hours of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convening his security Cabinet for a meeting.

However, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said he opposed the Gaza ceasefire deal.

"The final draft of phase one was signed this morning in Egypt by all parties to release all the hostages," government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian told presspersons.

A source within Hamas said the group would exchange 20 living hostages all at the same time for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners as part of the deal's first phase.

Summary (English):

- **Event:** Israel and Hamas agreed to a Gaza ceasefire deal in Egypt, aimed at freeing remaining hostages and ending the war that has killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis.
- **Background:**
 - Agreement follows a 20-point peace plan for Gaza announced by former U.S. President Donald Trump last month.
 - The conflict began after Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel.
- **Provisions of the Agreement:**
 - All parties signed the first phase, focusing on release of hostages.
 - A second phase will address Hamas's disarmament and creation of a transitional "Board of Peace" to oversee Gaza's administration.
 - Hamas agreed to release living hostages in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.
- **Reactions:**
 - Israel said the deal "will bring an end to this war."
 - Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan rejected the transitional authority plan.
 - Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich opposed the ceasefire.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Ceasefire expected within 24 hours.
 - U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff announced Trump may visit Egypt for celebrations.

सारांश (Hindi):

- **घटना:** इजरायल और हमास ने मिस्र में गाज़ा युद्धविराम समझौते पर सहमति जताई, जिसका उद्देश्य बचे हुए बंधकों को छुड़ाना और युद्ध समाप्त करना है, जिसने लाखों लोगों की जान ली और मानवीय संकट पैदा किया।

- पृष्ठभूमि:
 - यह समझौता पूर्व अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा पिछले महीने घोषित 20-सूत्रीय शांति योजना पर आधारित है।
 - संघर्ष की शुरुआत अक्टूबर 2023 में हमास के इजरायल पर हमले से हुई थी।
- समझौते की प्रमुख बातें:
 - पहले चरण में बंधकों की रिहाई।
 - दूसरे चरण में हमास का निरस्त्रीकरण और गाज़ा प्रशासन हेतु “शांति बोर्ड” का गठन।
 - हमास जीवित बंधकों की रिहाई करेगा और इसके बदले लगभग 2,000 फिलिस्तीनी कैदियों को छोड़ा जाएगा।
- प्रतिक्रिया:
 - इजरायल ने कहा कि यह समझौता “युद्ध को समाप्त करेगा।”
 - हमास नेता ओसामा हमदान ने संक्रमणकालीन प्रशासन योजना को खारिज किया।
 - इजरायली वित्त मंत्री बेज़लेल स्मोट्रिच ने युद्धविराम का विरोध किया।
- अगले कदम:
 - युद्धविराम अगले 24 घंटों में लागू होने की संभावना।
 - अमेरिकी दूत स्टीव विटकॉफ़ ने घोषणा की कि ट्रंप मिस्र यात्रा कर सकते हैं।

GS Paper Mapping:

- GS Paper II (IR – International Relations):
 - West Asia crisis, Israel–Palestine conflict.
 - Role of U.S. in peace mediation.
 - India’s stakes in West Asia peace (diaspora, energy security).
- GS Paper III (Security & Humanitarian Issues):
 - Terrorism, hostage situations, international security.
- Essay relevance: Conflict resolution, peace negotiations, role of great powers.

A month since the Gen Z protests, Nepal faces a tough road to democratic reform

With less than 150 days to the elections, Nepal's interim administration is struggling to find its feet after a Gen Z-led uprising shook the establishment; analysts call it hastily stitched together and lacking firm political ground; meanwhile, traditional parties sidelined by the protests are now resurfacing

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sanjeev Satgajanya
KATHMANDU

Thursday marked a month since Nepal, especially the capital Kathmandu, witnessed anarchy. On September 9, a day after the youth-led protests, then Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned and fled to an army barracks following the deaths of 19 young people.

The Nepali capital saw events of an unprecedented degree – the Parliament, government complex, and the Supreme Court burned till late into the night.

Since September 12, an interim Cabinet led by former Chief Justice Sushila Karki has been in place, with the mandate of holding elections on March 5. The official death toll of the two-day protests stands at 75.

The month since the protests has been uneasy, punctuated by festival holidays and rain-induced disasters. A proposed protest plan by a youth group for October 9 stirred fresh anxiety, though it was ultimately withdrawn a day before after some groups dissociated themselves.

One youth group also demanded the resignation of the chief and members of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority – Nepal's top constitutional anti-graft agency.

These youth groups, broadly dubbed under the umbrella of Gen Z, led last month's demonstrations,



Mourning their loss: Family members of protesters who died hold a candlelight vigil in front of the damaged parliament building in Kathmandu on Thursday. *AFP*

which were triggered by a social media ban and driven by anger at corruption and misrule. Now, they appear scattered and fragmented, which analysts say was inevitable given their structureless and leaderless nature.

However, campaigners argue that lacking formal leadership is not a flaw.

Raskhya Bam, who organised and participated in the protests, said the youth took to the streets with specific demands – ending corruption and rolling back the social media ban. "But as the situation unfolded, we are where we are today," Ms. Bam said.

Government in a bind

As anarchy descended on Kathmandu on September 9 – with overwhelmed security agencies unable to maintain law and order – the Nepal Army stepped in not only to secure the capital but also to facilitate dialogue with President Ram Chandra Poudel.

It was at Army Headquarters that youth campaigners finalised Ms. Karki's name after she won a vote on the digital platform Discord, a virtual public square for Gen Z, where they planned their protests.

Analysts describe this interim administration as hastily stitched together, backed by Gen Z but lacking solid political ground. Within hours of her oath, PM Karki dissolved the House of Representatives.

"A lack of political nature is the biggest challenge of this government," said Keshav Dahal, a writer and political commentator. "The government and political parties appear to hold each other in deep contempt, which is likely to spoil the environment for elections."

Nepal's traditional parties, consigned to the back foot after the protests, are now resurfacing.

Deposed PM Oli addressed his party members

on Thursday, dismissing the current government.

"Many say we have to wait till March 5 and should demand the restoration of the House if elections do not take place," he told them, hinting at moving the Supreme Court for reinstatement of the House. "The House dissolution is unconstitutional, illegal, and undemocratic."

His remarks come amid political parties' refusal to commit to the March 5 elections. Concerns mount over whether the elections will take place as scheduled – and if they do, whether they will carry legitimacy if major parties boycott.

Gen Z campaigners say it's incumbent on everyone to work towards protecting democracy.

"The interim government needs support from all sides – citizens, civil society, intellectuals, and political parties – to conduct timely elections," said Ms. Bam. "After all, our

protests did not mean – and we do not wish – to prohibit parties. They are key constituents in a multi-party democratic set-up."

As the country eyes elections, accusations and counter-accusations are flying. Last week, social media buzzed with calls to arrest Mr. Oli and Ramesh Lekhak, who was Home Minister when 19 protesters were killed.

After an initial refusal, police agreed to accept complaints filed by those injured during the protests against Mr. Oli and Mr. Lekhak, with the caveat that the case would be forwarded to a judicial commission investigating the September 8-9 incidents. But the commission, led by a former judge, on Thursday sent the case back to police, saying investigation authority lies with the state apparatus.

Meanwhile, a student wing affiliated with Mr. Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) seeks to file a treason complaint against Balendra Shah, Kathmandu Mayor, and Sudan Gurung, a self-styled Gen Z leader.

Economic costs

For a country already struggling economically, last month's protests dealt a heavy blow. The World Bank revised Nepal's growth forecast to 2.1% for fiscal year 2025-26, down from the earlier 5.4%.

In its South Asia Development Update, the multilateral agency said the September 8-9 unrest deepened political and economic uncertainty in Nepal. It warned that inter-

national tourist arrivals are likely to see a sharp drop, and weakened investor confidence could slow private investment.

Yug Pathak, writer and analyst, says the government can prove its legitimacy only by holding elections on time; otherwise, the risk of plunging Nepal into deep uncertainty and instability persists.

"It's difficult to pinpoint who was involved or how peaceful protests went away, but the events have left Nepal at a critical juncture."

Delayed dialogue

The Election Commission (EC) has called on any group intending to contest the March 5 elections to register as a political party by November 16. Earlier this week, Ms. Karki asked the EC to launch talks with political parties.

Analysts say the government, not the EC needs to lead dialogue with political parties.

Government sources say modalities are being worked out for dialogue. "Talks will begin soon to bring parties into confidence," said a government source, declining to elaborate or give a timeline.

But time is of the essence, and analysts say the government has yet to grasp the urgency. With less than 150 days to go for polls, youth campaigners agree that the government must rise to the occasion.

"Parties must reform, the system must function, and institutions must be strengthened to lay the ground for democracy to thrive," said Ms. Bam.

A month since the Gen Z protests, Nepal faces a tough road to democratic reform

Summary (English):

- **Background:**
 - On September 9, Nepal witnessed youth-led Gen Z protests triggered by anger over corruption, misrule, and lack of opportunities.
 - Events escalated when PM K.P. Sharma Oli resigned and fled to army barracks after 19 youth deaths.
 - Major government institutions in Kathmandu—Parliament, Supreme Court, and govt. complex—were set on fire.
- **Political Developments:**
 - On September 12, an interim cabinet led by Justice Subhash L. Karki was formed,

- mandated to hold elections on March 5.
- Analysts describe the administration as fragile, lacking solid ground support.
- Traditional political parties sidelined by protests are trying to regain relevance.
- **Protesters' Demands:**
 - Restoration of the House of Representatives, dissolved by PM Oli.
 - Transparent governance, accountability, anti-corruption measures.
 - Digital platforms like Discord being used for mobilisation.
- **Current Challenges:**
 - Death toll so far: 75 protesters killed.
 - Ongoing violence and suppression of dissent risk instability.
 - Election Commission of Nepal urged to conduct elections on time and ensure credibility.
 - Tourism and investor confidence falling; risk of economic downturn.
- **Regional / International Implications:**
 - Nepal at a critical juncture—youth-led democracy demands vs. weak state structures.
 - India, as Nepal's neighbour, has a stake in regional stability.

सारांश (Hindi):

- **पृष्ठभूमि:**
 - 9 सितंबर को नेपाल में Gen Z युवा-नेतृत्व वाले विरोध शुरू हुए, जो भ्रष्टाचार, कुप्रशासन और अवसरों की कमी से उपजे थे।
 - झड़पों के दौरान 19 युवाओं की मौत के बाद प्रधानमंत्री के.पी. शर्मा ओली ने इस्तीफा दिया और सेना बैरक चले गए।
 - राजधानी काठमांडू में संसद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट और सरकारी परिसरों को आग के हवाले किया गया।
- **राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम:**
 - 12 सितंबर को पूर्व न्यायाधीश सुभाष एल. कार्की के नेतृत्व में अंतरिम कैबिनेट बना, जिसे 5 मार्च को चुनाव कराने का जनादेश मिला है।
 - यह प्रशासन कमजोर और अस्थिर बताया जा रहा है।
 - पारंपरिक राजनीतिक दल, जिन्हें Gen Z आंदोलन ने किनारे कर दिया था, अब दोबारा सक्रिय होने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- **विरोध प्रदर्शनों की मांगें:**
 - प्रतिनिधि सभा की बहाली (जिसे ओली ने भंग किया था)।
 - पारदर्शी शासन, जवाबदेही और भ्रष्टाचार-विरोधी कदम।
 - डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म Discord के ज़रिए लामबंदी।
- **वर्तमान चुनौतियाँ:**
 - अब तक 75 प्रदर्शनकारी मारे गए।
 - असहमति के दमन से लोकतंत्र और स्थिरता पर खतरा।
 - नेपाल निर्वाचन आयोग को समय पर चुनाव कराने और उनकी वैधता सुनिश्चित करने की चुनौती।
 - पर्यटन और निवेशक विश्वास में गिरावट से आर्थिक संकट की आशंका।
- **क्षेत्रीय / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय असर:**
 - नेपाल एक नाजुक मोड़ पर है—युवा लोकतांत्रिक मांगें बनाम कमजोर राज्य व्यवस्था।
 - भारत की चिंता: क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता और सीमा-पार प्रभाव।

GS Paper Mapping:

- **GS Paper II (Polity & IR):**
 - Democracy & political instability in neighbourhood.
 - India-Nepal relations.
- **GS Paper III (Economy & Security):**
 - Impact of political unrest on economy, tourism, investment.
- **Essay relevance: Role of youth movements in reshaping democracies.**