



NEXT IAS

DNA : DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

Context: Opposition MPs have submitted a notice for the removal of a Madras High Court judge after his order permitting lighting of a lamp at a religiously contested site triggered political and constitutional debate on judicial conduct.

● JUSTICE SWAMINATHAN OF MADRAS HC FACES OPP BACKLASH OVER AN ORDER ALLOWING LIGHTING OF A LAMP AT A CONTESTED SITE ATOP A MADURAI HILL

Over 100 Opp MPs sign notice to Speaker for HC judge removal

Manoj CG
New Delhi, December 9

EMPHASISING THAT the conduct of Madras High Court's Justice G R Swaminathan raises serious questions regarding "impartiality, transparency, and the secular functioning of the judiciary," 107 Opposition MPs on Tuesday submitted a notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for initiating a motion to remove him.

Justice G R Swaminathan's December 1 order over the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam lamp atop a stone pillar on the Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai, a site contested by Hindu temple authorities and an ad-

joining dargah, has triggered a political row in Tamil Nadu and landed the ruling DMK in a legal and political tussle.

In their petition, the Opposition MPs listed three grounds for seeking the judge's removal. "The House resolves to pass the motion for the impeachment of Justice G R Swaminathan of the Madras on the following grounds of misconduct: The conduct of Justice G R Swaminathan raises serious questions regarding impartiality, transparency, and the secular functioning of the judiciary, undue favoritism shown to one Mr M Sricharan Ranganathan, Senior Advocate, in deciding the cases, also favoring advocates from a

Among the signatories are Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Gaurav Gogoi, Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple Yadav, Dharmendra Yadav, Supriya Sule, Asaduddin Owaisi, T R Baalu, A Raja, and Kanimozhi

particular community, deciding cases on the basis of particular political ideology and against the secular principles of Indian

Constitution," it said.

Among the signatories of the petition, a move spearheaded by DMK, are Congress's Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Gaurav Gogoi; SP president Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple Yadav, and Dharmendra Yadav, NCP(SP) MP Supriya Sule, Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM, and DMK's T R Baalu, A Raja, and Kanimozhi.

While most of the Opposition MPs who have signed the notice are from the INDIA bloc parties, TMC and AAP were conspicuous by their absence. AAP has said that the understanding with the other Opposition parties was only electoral and came to an end after the LS elections. The TMC and Congress have also

had several run-ins and public disagreements.

As per the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, a complaint against a judge is taken up if it is signed by at least 100 members if moved in LS and 50 members if it is initiated in RS. Once the motion is submitted, the presiding officer of the House takes a call on whether to accept or reject it.

If the motion is admitted, the Speaker or the Chairman constitutes a three-member investigative committee. It shall consist of a Supreme Court judge, the Chief Justice of a HC, and a distinguished jurist.

The committee then frames charges based on which the investigation is conducted. After

concluding its investigation, the committee submits its report to the Speaker or Chairman, who then has to lay the report before the relevant House. If the report records a finding of misbehaviour or incapacity, the motion for removal is taken up for consideration and debated.

For the motion to go through, at least two-thirds of those "present and voting" in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha must vote to remove the judge, and the number of votes in favour must be more than 50% of the "total membership" of each House. Once both Houses adopt the motion by a special majority, it is sent to the President.

Syllabus Integration:

- **GS-1:** Communal harmony; social tensions arising from religious events; societal implications of judicial directives on cultural practices.
- **GS-2:** Constitutional mechanisms for impeachment of judges (Articles 124(4) & 217); separation of powers; Centre-State political dynamics; role of Parliament in judicial accountability.
- **GS-3:** Internal security implications of religious disputes; law-and-order management during festivals and protests.
- **GS-4:** Ethical conduct in public office; judicial responsibility; balancing religious freedom, neutrality, and public order.
- **Prelims:** Procedure of impeachment of judges; Articles 124 & 217; Karthigai Deepam festival; significance of the Deepathoon pillar; powers of single judge vs division bench.

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

PRELIMS PYQs

CSE - 2019

Consider the following statements:

1. The motion to impeach a judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
2. The Constitution of India defines and gives details of what constitutes incapacity and proved misbehavior of the judges of the Supreme Court of India.
3. The details of the process of the impeachment of the judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
4. If the motion of the impeachment of a judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each house of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that house and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2
- b. 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 3 and 4

Answer: c

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

OPPOSITION MPs SUBMIT NOTICE FOR REMOVAL OF MADRAS HIGH COURT JUDGE

after his order permitting
lighting of a lamp at a
religiously contested site
triggered political and
constitutional debate
on judicial conduct

**WTN
(WHAT'S THE
NEWS)**

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

B2B

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

CONTROVERSIAL ORDER



Justice G R Swaminathan of the Madras High Court allowed lighting of Karthigai Deepam lamp atop disputed stone pillar on Thirupamkundram hill, claimed by both Hindu temple authorities and nearby dargah (Muslim shrine).

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

POLITICAL FALLOUT

The order has led to a political and legal controversy in Tamil Nadu. 107 MPs from the Opposition INDIA bloc have signed a petition seeking the judge's removal



IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

REMOVAL PROCEDURE



The MPs invoked the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, which allows for a motion to remove a judge if supported by at least 100 LS MPs or 50 RS MPs.

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE



Formation of a three-member investigation committee



Submission of report to Speaker



Debate and special majority vote in both Houses of Parliament



If passed, final approval by President of India

**Next Steps
(if Speaker Admits
the Motion)**

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

JUDGES (INQUIRY) ACT, 1968

Enacted to regulate the procedure for the investigation and removal of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts

A removal motion can be introduced in

- Lok Sabha (with 100 MPs)
- Rajya Sabha (with 50 MPs)

If admitted, a three-member inquiry committee is constituted:



a sitting judge
of Supreme Court



a Chief Justice
of a High Court



Distinguished
jurist

The committee examines charges
and submits a report

Final step: President gives assent to removal

Parliament can remove the judge if
both Houses pass the motion by:

- ✓ A special majority; 2/3rd of members present and voting, and >50 % of total House strength

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

**ARTICLE 124((4)
AND 124(5)**

**PROCEDURE OF A
REMOVAL OF A
SUPREME COURT
JUDGE**

**Grounds: Proven
misbehaviour or
incapacity.**

IMPEACHMENT OF HC JUDGE

SECULARISM

A Basic Structure
doctrine element

Emphasizes equal
treatment of all
religions by the state

Relevant in assessing
judicial conduct
in religiously
sensitive matters



INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

Context: New data from India's latest Household Consumption Survey shows a dietary shift toward unhealthy, ultra-processed and nutrient-poor foods as affordability and access constraints make balanced nutrition harder for most Indians.

Syllabus Integration:

- **GS 1:** Changing food habits; socio-economic drivers of nutrition choices; rising processed-food dependence in rural and urban India.
- **GS 2:** Governance of nutrition policy (NNM, FSSAI, FOPL); public health regulation; institutional role in tackling NCD burden.
- **GS 3:** Food systems, agriculture–nutrition linkages; affordability vs. dietary diversity; rising non-communicable diseases (obesity, diabetes).
- **GS 4:** Ethics of food industry practices; responsible marketing; state duty in ensuring informed, healthy choices.
- **Prelims:** HCES basics; NOVA food classification; FOPL; Recommended Dietary Allowances; NCD trends in India.

What Indians eat, and how being unhealthy is easier and cheaper



SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN,
VARTIKA SINGH, SOWMYA
SUBRAMANIAM

FROM A famine-hit nation in the 1970s, India is one of the world's leading food exporters today. However, based on the findings of NSSO's latest quinquennial survey, its journey to nutrition security is incomplete. The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 presents information on the monthly per capita expenditure (MPC) on food, consumables and durable goods. Collected periodically over the past 23 years, it offers insights into food expenditure. Overall, food expenditures have risen in real terms. Expenditures on protein sources such as dairy, eggs and meat, fruits, vegetables and nuts have risen while expenditures on cereals have dropped, despite recent evidence that shows more than half the plate is composed of carbohydrates.

While lower expenditure on cereals is consistent with the economic theory of consumption, the quantities consumed appear to be higher. The most recent ICMR-INDIAB Dietary study shows that 62 per cent of total energy in Indian diets comes from low-quality carbohydrates (refined cereals and sugar). This has been identified as the leading cause of the obesity (and other metabolic diseases) epidemic in India, while per capita incomes have shown an exponential increase over the last two decades, and real per capita GDP has more than doubled, spending on cereals has declined by almost half compared to 1999 in both urban and rural areas. On average, Indians now spend Rs 40 more than they did on animal-sourced foods, including dairy products. Similarly, for fruits and vegetables, people spend approximately twice as much, driving expenditures away from grains to diverse foods.

While the National Food Security Act is a key driver of cereal consumption, we find that the top 5 per cent of the rural population spends almost eight times more than the bot-

tom 5 per cent on food, while the top 5 per cent of the urban population spends almost 10 times more. Urban consumers seem to be prioritising quality and variety, reflecting changes in lifestyle and dietary habits and a move away from simple grains.

Notably, spending on processed or packaged foods shows a steep rise, increasing by 353 per cent in rural areas and 222 per cent in urban areas since 1999. The increase demonstrates shifting consumer preferences for ready-to-eat meals because of work-life balance and the reduced availability of home-cooked meals that depend on women's unpaid domestic labour. Our observation is supported by the reduction of price elasticity for processed foods by 90 per cent in the last two decades, indicating its shift from a luxury consumption item to a necessity.

We attribute many key poor-health outcomes in India, including obesity and malnutrition, to this changed dietary behaviour. As per the Global Burden of Disease 2023, India has witnessed an exponential rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the largest number of years of life lost (YLL) is attributed to poor diets. India faces alarming health risks if current dietary trends continue. The Indian Council of Medical Research has pointed out

that 57 per cent of the total disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets. A study supported by the Food Systems Economics Commission for India projects that diet-related health risks and weight issues will drive YLL from 50 million to 72 million between 2020 and 2050. This increase stems from the rising burden of NCDs, with projected surges in cancer cases (148 per cent), Type-2 diabetes (229 per cent), and respiratory diseases (40 per cent). India may be becoming wealthier, but not necessarily healthier. The World Obesity Atlas 2025 shows that currently, one in eight people globally lives with obesity.

Studies have shown direct linkages between obesity and malnourishment, with the consumption of high-fat, salty and sugary foods. Mapping the HCES consumption quantities to healthy diet recommendations by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) reveals that energy requirement from cereals in terms of grams per day is adequately met across all deciles and sectors, but there is a significant gap in the consumption of vegetables and pulses. While vegetable consumption does increase with income, there remains a gap against the target of 400 grams per day. On average, the protein intake falls short by around 20 per cent (14g/day) against the

recommended 70g/day, with the deficit ranging from -26g/day in the poorest decile to around 5g/day in the richest.

Global conversations on sustainable diets also revolve around shifting away from animal-sourced foods to plant-based ones to reduce the environmental impact of food production. Following NIN's dietary guidelines could reduce methane emissions by 36 per cent and nitrous oxide by 35 per cent by 2050, while simultaneously cutting food prices by up to 24 per cent and household food expenditures by 23 per cent.

Yet, bridging the gap between evidence and action requires confronting hard truths. The root of this crisis lies not merely in what Indians eat, but in the ecosystem that makes unhealthy choices easier and cheaper. Shifting consumption patterns demand bold, coordinated interventions across multiple fronts. Fiscal measures like strategic taxation on ultra-processed foods and sugary beverages must work in tandem with front-of-package labelling (FOPL) that empowers consumers to make informed choices. But regulation alone cannot succeed without transforming the supply side. Small-scale farmers need targeted support, training, resources, and market linkages to cultivate nutrient-dense foods at competitive prices. Subsidies for harmful fertilisers and pesticides must be repurposed to reward farmers for growing nutritionally dense crops, using regenerative agricultural techniques. Equally critical is investment in both R&D and scaling of low glycemic, high-protein rice, higher-yielding millet, pulse varieties and expansion of cold storage and processing facilities for fruits and vegetables in rural areas. Underutilised sources of protein (especially from aquatic and marine sources) must be explored and made available.

Food companies must invest in affordable, culturally appropriate, healthy products matching Indian tastes and lifestyles. It requires a whole-of-society engagement, including the government, industry, farmers, research agencies, and citizens working together to redesign a food system where the healthy choice becomes the easy choice.

Swaminathan is chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and former chief scientist, WHO. Singh is senior research analyst, IFPRI. Subramaniam is research scholar at Centre for Management in Agriculture at IIM, Ahmedabad

Food companies must invest in affordable, culturally appropriate, healthy products matching Indian tastes and lifestyles. It requires a whole-of-society engagement

DIETARY SHIFTS IN INDIA

New household survey shows a move
toward unhealthy, nutrient-poor foods



SHIFT



ULTRA-
PROCESSED
FOODS



HARDER TO
ACHIEVE
BALANCED
NUTRITION

Affordability and
access increasingly
limit healthier diets

**WTN
(WHAT'S THE
NEWS)**

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

B2B

KEY FINDINGS FROM HCES 2022–23



Real-term food expenditure
has increased



Spending on protein-rich
foods (eggs, dairy, meat),
fruits, and vegetables is up



Spending on cereals has
declined, but consumption
remains high

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

CONCERNS

Obesity and metabolic disorders are rising

Since 1999, processed food consumption has increased **352%** in rural and **222%** in urban areas.

The top 5% in rural India spend 8x more on food than the bottom 5%

62% of energy intake comes from low-quality carbohydrates (refined cereals & sugar)

Projected rise in YLL
(Years of Life Lost) from
50 million to 72 million by 2050



229%
Type-2
Diabetes



148%
Cancer



40%
Respiratory
diseases

Processed food has moved from a luxury to a daily necessity (as seen in reduced price elasticity)

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

KEY
FACTOR

Driving the rise of Obesity In India

High-Calorie, Low-Nutrient Diets

Increased consumption of refined carbohydrates and saturated fats.



Easy Access to Processed Foods

Widespread availability of packaged, ready-to-eat meals



Growing Culture of Eating Out

Frequent dining at restaurants where food is often cooked in unhealthy oils.

Use of Genetically Modified Crops

Altered food composition impacting metabolism and weight gain.



Physical Inactivity

Declining engagement in sports, exercise, and outdoor activities.

Sedentary Lifestyles

Long hours of sitting, excessive screen time, and minimal movement in daily routines.



INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OBESITY PREVENTION

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (MoHFW)

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR PREVENTION
& CONTROL OF NCDs (NP-NCD)

The NP-NCD under the National Health Mission (NHM) aims to reduce NCD burden through:



HEALTH PROMOTION
through behaviour change,
engaging communities,
civil society, and media

**SCREENING, EARLY DIAGNOSIS,
MANAGEMENT, REFERRAL, AND
FOLLOW-UP** across all levels of healthcare



CAPACITY BUILDING
of healthcare providers for
prevention, treatment,
rehabilitation, and IEC/BCC activities

STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN
for essential drugs, diagnostics,
equipment, and logistics



**UNIFORM ICT-BASED
MONITORING, SUPERVISION,
EVALUATION, AND RESEARCH**

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Ayurvedic treatment services at All India Institute of Ayurveda (Alla), offering Panchakarma, medicines, tailored diet plans, and yoga therapy
45,000+ patients with diabetes and metabolic disorders have benefitted.
- Research through CCRAS, demonstrating efficacy of Dincharya, Ritucharya, Ahara and Yoga in preventing obesity.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OBESITY PREVENTION

MINISTRY OF AYUSH

Traditional & Holistic
Interventions for Lifestyle
Disorders

Ayurswasthya Yojana (since 2021-22):

- Supports public-health projects addressing obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and osteoporosis
- 11 active projects on lifestyle disorders

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OBESITY PREVENTION

MINISTRY OF WOMEN &
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

POSHAN Abhiyaan
& Poshan 2.0

Launched in 2018. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to improve nutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers



Technology-driven monitoring, multi-ministerial convergence, and Jan Andolan community movement

Strengthening Anganwadi services and adolescent health through Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (2021)



Encouraging dietary diversity, millet consumption, food fortification, and integrating AYUSH-based wellness practices

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OBESITY PREVENTION

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

FIT INDIA MOVEMENT (2019)

A nationwide campaign to encourage daily physical activity



Fit India
School
Certification



Fit India Sundays
/ Cycle Days
to promote
walking and cycling
in cities



Community-based
fitness events
mass yoga, running clubs
and workplace fitness

KHELO INDIA PROGRAMME (2016-17)

Aims to build an active generation by:



Expanding access
to sports across
rural and urban
India



Providing world-
class training
and infrastructure
for young
athletes

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OBESITY PREVENTION

FSSAI: FOOD REGULATION & PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

EAT RIGHT INDIA MOVEMENT

A holistic food-systems initiative promoting
safe, healthy, and sustainable diets.

SUPPLY-SIDE INTERVENTIONS



FoSTaC training
for food safety
supervisors



Consumer awareness
through Eat Right
Campus & Eat Right
School



Hygiene rating for
restaurants,
caterers, sweet
shops, meat
vendors



DART Book for
simple household
adulteration detection



Magic Box for
school-level food
testing

DEMAND-SIDE INTERVENTIONS



Consumer awareness
through Eat Right
Campus & Eat
Right School



DART Book for
simple household
adulteration
detection



Food fortification
of staples to combat
micronutrient
deficiencies



Food fortification of
staples to combat
micronutrient
deficiencies

INDIANS DIET – UNHEALTHY AND CHEAPER



**RUCO
INITIATIVE**

(REPURPOSE USED COOKING OIL)



Stops unsafe reuse
of frying oil by:



Enforcing 25% TPC
(Total Polar Compounds)
limit

EEE

Using the EEE
(Education–Enforcement–
Ecosystem) model



Collecting used oil for
biodiesel/soap production
instead of reuse in food



This reduces risks of
hypertension,
atherosclerosis, liver
disease, and
environmental harm

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR
OBESITY PREVENTION**

**FSSAI: FOOD REGULATION &
PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION**

Context: Interpol has issued a Blue Corner Notice against the Luthra brothers, owners of the Goa nightclub gutted in a fatal fire, as authorities investigate negligence, illegal constructions, and attempts to evade arrest.

GOA FIRE: HUNT ON FOR ACCUSED NIGHTCLUB OWNERS SUSPECTED TO BE IN THAILAND

Interpol issues Blue Corner Notice against Luthra brothers

Beach shack demolished; their partner detained

Pavneet Singh Chadha & Alok Singh
Panaji, New Delhi, Dec 9

TWO DAYS after the fire at a nightclub in Goa killed 25 people, the Goa Police Tuesday said a Blue Corner Notice has been issued by Interpol against Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra, the owners of the club, who are believed to be in Thailand. Also Tuesday, Ajay Gupta, a partner in the club, was detained in New Delhi. The fire at Birch by Romeo Lane in North Goa's Arpora village started late Saturday night and left four tourists and 21 club staff dead.

The Goa Tourism Department Tuesday demolished a portion of Romeo Lane Goa (Vagator), a beach shack that was also run by the Luthra brothers, which had been sealed by revenue authorities Sunday. The brothers had taken a flight to Phuket at 5.30 am on December 7, hours after the fire at Birch, which took place close to midnight. Police said the Blue Corner Notice against the Luthras was issued within two days of the incident, even though the process usually takes a week or more. "This notice will help trace the accused and will also



An excavator demolishes wooden structures at Romeo Lane on Anjuna beach in Goa on Tuesday. PTI

prevent them from immigrating to any other country from their present destination," the Goa Police said in a statement.

Police Tuesday named two more accused, Ajay Gupta and Surinder Kumar Khosla, who is the owner of the property where Birch by Romeo Lane had been operating. Police sources said Gupta, a resident of Gurgaon, is a businessman and is involved in real estate projects in Goa. Khosla, a British national, had leased the property to Luthras.

In a press conference, DIG (Crime & Range) Varsha Sharma said, "While perusing the documents, we found his (Gupta's) name also. He is one

of the partners and an accused in the case." Police said arrest warrants were issued against Gaurav Luthra (44), Saurabh Luthra (40) and Ajay Gupta. Look Out Circulars (LOCs) for the Luthra brothers, Gupta and Khosla were also issued. Gupta was subsequently detained.

DIG Sharma said five persons were arrested in the case so far. "All are from the management of the nightclub. Regarding the owners and partners of the nightclub concerned, we have opened LOC, and Blue Corner Notices in coordination with CBI and Interpol are ongoing, so we apprehend them." Police said the five arrested

were earlier operational managers, who managed day-to-day affairs and looked after the basic operations of the club. The DIG said these managers were found to be "negligent" in their roles, especially regarding electrical fittings and the putting in place of fire extinguishers.

On Monday, the Goa Police had written to the Regional Passport Officer in Goa, requesting "urgent revocation of passports" of the Luthra brothers. In a communication to police, Goa Regional Passport Officer (RPO) Nijo Varghese replied, "The passports of the accused were issued by RPO Delhi. Considering the seriousness of the matter,

RPO Delhi has already issued impounding notices to both passport holders." The Tourism Department's action to demolish the Vagator beach that belonged to the Luthra brothers was undertaken in connection with encroachment on an area falling within the jurisdiction of the department, officials said.

"Upon verification, the encroached portion was found to be illegal and in violation of the applicable regulations, following which demolition action was carried out strictly as per law," an official said. "A portion of the shack, about 198 square metres, which had been encroached on the government beach property, abutting two survey numbers, has been demolished. These encroached structures were demolished in July too, but the structures were rebuilt. The encroachments have been removed today," said Rodlin Mascarenhas, Deputy Director, Tourism. Officials said this structure was subjected to demolition in 2024 for similar violations.

Police said statements of two officials who were placed under suspension for allowing the club to operate — former member secretary of Goa State Pollution Control Board, Dr Sharmila Monteiro, and former director of the Directorate of Panchayat, Siddhi Harlankar — have been recorded and some government officials are being summoned for questioning.

Syllabus Integration:

- **GS 1:** Urbanisation challenges; public safety in commercial spaces; social impacts of disasters and negligent urban practices.
- **GS 2:** Interpol notices (Blue Corner), extradition procedures; Centre–State coordination in criminal investigations; regulatory governance of tourism establishments.
- **GS 3:** Disaster management failures; fire safety norms; internal security aspects of absconding accused and cross-border movement; enforcement of environmental and municipal regulations.
- **GS 4:** Ethical responsibility in business operations; negligence leading to loss of life; accountability, rule of law, and public trust.
- **Prelims:** Types of Interpol notices; powers of Goa Police; Blue Corner vs Red Corner; fire safety norms; coastal regulation rules.

INTERPOL ISSUES BLUE NOTICE AGAINST NIGHTCLUB OWNERS

Interpol has issued a Blue Corner Notice against the Luthra brothers, owners of the Goa nightclub gutted in a fatal fire.



**WTN
(WHAT'S THE
NEWS)**

BLUE CORNER NOTICE



B2B

BLUE CORNER NOTICE

INTERPOL ACTION

Blue Corner Notice issued to trace the Luthra brothers in Thailand.



LOCs (Look Out Circulars) issued against all accused



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE



Demolition of illegal portions of another club owned by Luthras (Romeo Lane)



Speedy Interpol cooperation:
The Blue Notice was issued within 48 hours (normally takes a week or more)

BLUE CORNER NOTICE

INTERPOL

Full Name

International Criminal
Police Organization
(INTERPOL)

Headquarters

Lyon, France

Established

1923 (as International
Criminal Police Commi-
ssion), renamed INTER-
POL in 1956

Member Countries

195 (as of 2024) –
India is a member

Motto

“Connecting Police for
a Safer World”

Official Languages

English, French,
Spanish, Arabic

BLUE CORNER NOTICE

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Supreme governing body; meets annually; one vote per member country

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elected by General Assembly; oversees implementation of decisions

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

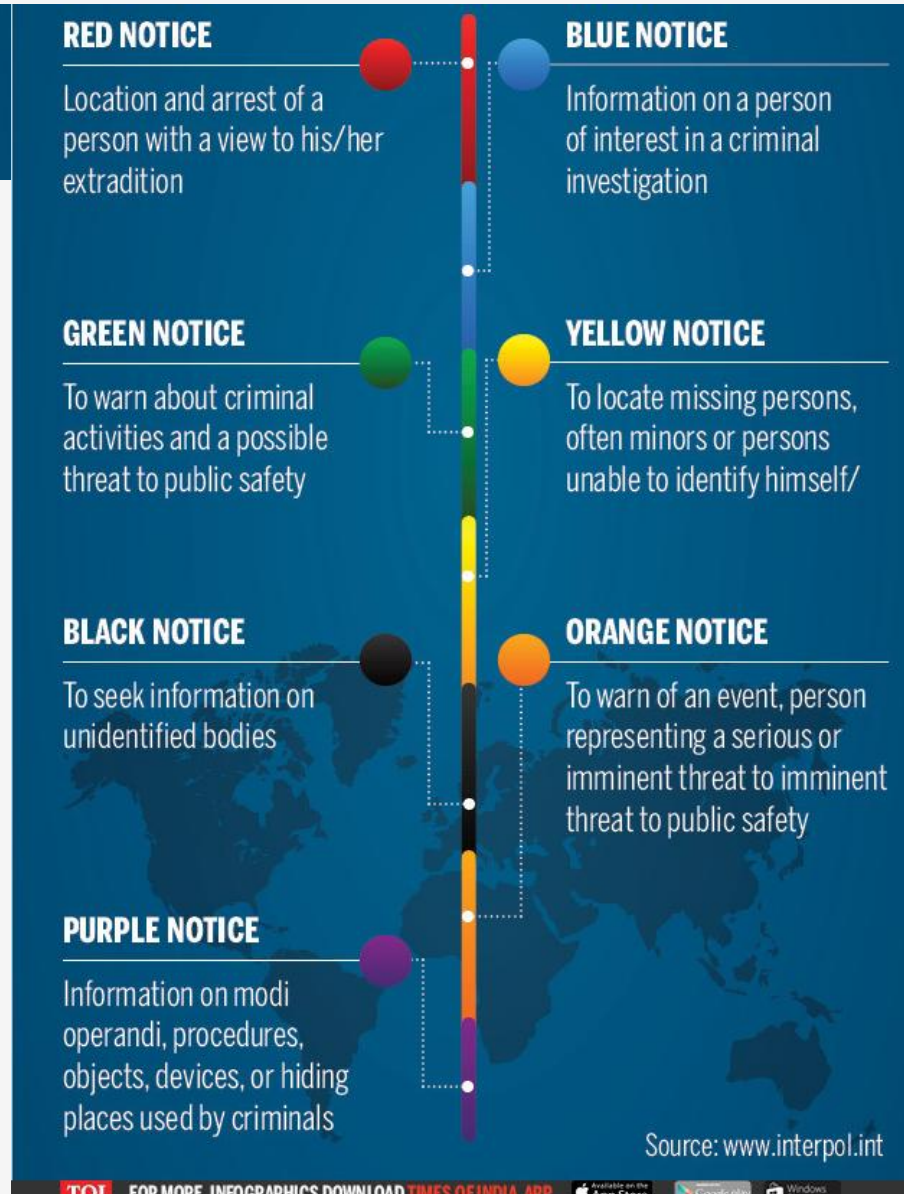
Handles day-to-day operations; based in Lyon

NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAUS (NCBs)

INTERPOL offices in each member country (India's NCB is under CBI, New Delhi)

BLUE CORNER NOTICE

INTERPOL'S CRIME PALETTE



ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

Context: Israel will reopen the Allenby border crossing with Jordan to allow humanitarian aid and goods into Gaza amid escalating civilian suffering and rising malnutrition among Palestinian children.

Syllabus Integration:

- **GS 1:** West Asian geopolitics and humanitarian crises; demographic vulnerability and civilian impact of conflicts.
- **GS 2:** India's foreign policy and stance on humanitarian access; international agreements governing border crossings and aid corridors; role of UN agencies.
- **GS 3:** Internal security and regional stability; logistics and supply-chain constraints in conflict zones; humanitarian relief operations.
- **GS 4:** Ethics of war and humanitarian obligations; protection of civilians; moral responsibility of states and non-state actors during conflict.
- **Prelims:** Allenby Bridge location; UN agencies (UNICEF, UNRWA); ceasefire agreements; basic facts on Gaza-Jordan-Israel borders.

Israel to reopen Jordan border crossing for passage of aid, goods

Reuters
Jerusalem, December 9

ISRAEL IS set to reopen the Allenby Crossing with Jordan to the passage of goods and aid on Wednesday, an Israeli security official said on Tuesday.

The border crossing has been closed, opens new tab to aid and goods since September, when a driver bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza opened fire and killed two Israeli military personnel before being killed by security forces.

The security official said the crossing would have tightened screening for Jordanian drivers and truck cargo, and that a dedicated security force had been assigned to the crossing.

The Allenby Bridge is a key route for trade between Jordan and Israel and the only gateway

for more than 3 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank to reach Jordan and the wider world.

A Hamas leader on Tuesday threatened to not move forward into the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement until more pressure is placed on Israel to open up a key border crossing, cease deadly strikes and allow more aid into the Palestinian territory.

Husam Badran, a member of Hamas' political wing, called for the "full implementation of all the terms of the first phase" before moving forward, including an end to what he called the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes in the part of the territory still controlled by Israel.

Israeli operations in Gaza have resulted in deaths of at least 376 Palestinians since the

ceasefire took hold according to Palestinian health officials.

'Shockingly high' number of children in Gaza malnourished

Thousands of children have been admitted for treatment for acute malnutrition in Gaza since an October ceasefire that was supposed to enable a major increase in humanitarian aid, the U.N. children's agency said.

UNICEF, the biggest provider of malnutrition treatment in Gaza, said that 9,300 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition in October.

UNICEF spokesperson Tess Ingram said, "The number of children admitted is five times higher than in February, so we need to see the numbers come down further."

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

ISRAEL TO REOPEN AL-JORDAN BORDER CROSSING FOR AID PASSAGE INTO GAZA

At least 376
Palestinian
children have
died since the
open conflict
began



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NEWS)**

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER



B2B

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

ISRAEL REOPENS

ALLENBY CROSSING

(King Hussein Bridge)

with Jordan to allow the passage of humanitarian aid and goods into the Palestinian territory, especially amid the ongoing Gaza crisis.



The crossing had been closed since September 2024, following a security incident in which two Israeli soldiers were killed.

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

BORDERS



North:

- Lebanon
- Syria
(via Golan Heights)



East:

- Jordan
Separated by
Jordan River
- Borders West-Bank

East:

- Jordan
- Separated by
Jordan River
- Borders the West Bank

Southwest:

- Egypt
Via Sinai Peninsula
& Gulf of Aqaba



ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

KEY BORDERS & FEATURES

KEY TERRITORIES



West Bank:

- Located east of Israel
- West of Jordan River

Golan Heights:

- Northeastern highlands bordering Syria

WATER BODIES



Mediterranean Sea

- Western maritime border

Dead Sea

- Lowest point on Earth

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER



- **Location:** Spans the Jordan River, connecting West Bank (Palestinian Territories) and Jordan.
- Lies near Jericho in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and connects to Jordan's capital, Amman.
- Also called the King Hussein Bridge on the Jordanian side.
- Controlled by Israel, with Jordanian and Palestinian coordination on logistics

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT



Only official border crossing for West Bank Palestinians to exit to the wider world (via Jordan)



Used heavily by Palestinian civilians, aid agencies, and for trade



Strategic for humanitarian access to Gaza and diplomatic pressure in ceasefire talks

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

UNICEF ROLE:



United Nations
Children's Fund
(UNICEF) is the
primary agency providing
malnutrition treatment



Reported 9,300
cases of severe
acute malnutrition
in Gaza in October
2024

5x

Noted that the figure
is 5 times higher
than in February

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

BACKGROUND AND ESTABLISHMENT

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Established: 1946
(originally as the
United Nations
International
Children's Emergency
Fund)



Headquarters: New York City, USA

Status: A subsidiary organ of the
United Nations General Assembly

Renamed: In 1953, retained the
acronym UNICEF, but became a
permanent part of the UN system

ISRAEL-JORDON BORDER

FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Child Protection

Works against child labor, child marriage, and violence against children

Monitors children's rights violations in conflict zones (as in Gaza)

Education

Rebuilding schools in post-conflict zones.

Running non-formal education programs for children in refugee camps and disaster-affected areas.

Health & Nutrition

Provides vaccines, micronutrients, and treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

In Gaza (as in the news), UNICEF is the primary agency treating malnourished children in conflict settings

Partners with WHO, WFP, and local NGOs.

Emergency Response

Provides humanitarian aid during wars, natural disasters, and pandemics

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

Context: India rejects allegations of "rice dumping" in the US, clarifying that its exports mainly consist of high-value basmati varieties and small quantities of non-basmati rice that do not distort US markets.

• ECONOMY

Why India is not 'dumping' rice in the US as Trump says

HARESH DAMODARAN

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has claimed India can't be allowed to "dump" rice in the US and undercut domestic producers, and that he would take care of the problem using tariffs.

"We'll take care of it... Tariffs, again, solve the problem in two minutes," he said at a White House roundtable event with US farmers, also attended by the Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

The truth is that the US isn't a very large rice producer and exports more than what it imports. In 2024-25, the US was ranked 13th with an estimated output of 715 million tonnes (mt), which was way below the 150 mt of India, the world's number one producer. Even with its relatively low production, the US exported 5 mt and imported 6 mt of rice.

In value terms, US exports of rice stood at \$2,466 million in 2024 and \$1,303.8 million in January-August 2025. Imports were valued at \$1,497.8 million in 2024 and \$1,078.9 million in January-August 2025. The imports were mostly from Thailand (\$812.5 million in 2024 and \$626.8 m from January-August 2025) and India (\$396.2 million in 2024 and \$263.9 million in January-August 2025).

What are US rice imports like?
Neither Thailand nor India export low-value rice to the US. The bulk of what the latter imports from these two comprises aromatic varieties, fetching high prices. Fragrant Thai Hom Mali and basmati rice are now queuing at around \$1.25 and \$1,600-700 per tonne respectively, while the price is \$480-900 for Indian basmati with 25 broken grains content.

These are higher than the export prices of \$560-570 per tonne for 4% broken and white rice and \$670-675 for 4% broken parboiled rice from the US.

A country that exports more than imports cannot really complain of "dumping". The argument holds even more so when the imports are mainly of premium aromatic rice varieties.

Will the potential new tariffs hurt Indian exporters?
Probably not much.

India is the world's largest producer as well as exporter of rice. According to the US Department of Agriculture, India's total rice exports in 2024-25 were at 22.5 mt. For the 2025-26 marketing year (October-September), the agency has projected rice exports at 25 mt.

The share of the US in India's rice exports, however, quite small. During 2024-25/April-March, India exported 6,045 lakh tonnes (L) of basmati rice valued at \$5,944.49 million. The US accounted for only 2.5 L (\$337.10 million) out of that, as per data from India's department of commerce.

The share of the US was even less in non-basmati rice — a mere 0.6 L (\$54.64 million) out of the total exports of 141.30 L (\$6,527.9 million).

During the current fiscal (April-October), too, India has shipped out 26,901 L of basmati and 82,771 L of non-basmati rice valued at \$3,136.01 million and \$3,572.55 million respectively.

The US share in these was just 1.75 L (\$277.41 million) for basmati and 0.16 L (\$29.05 million) for non-basmati rice. A country's rice trade reveals a clear trend. A major chunk of basmati rice goes to West Asia, with the likes of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates being bigger markets than the US. The US



Small share of a large pie
The US is a small market for Indian rice, both basmati and non-basmati

BASMATI EXPORTS (\$ MILLION)	2024-25	2025-26 (APR-OCT)
Saudi Arabia	1203.67	533.56
Iraq	650.06	382.7
Iran	753.2	436.51
UAE	364.55	180.07
Norway	354.34	168.13
UK	333.1	172.46
Qatar	322.09	34.72
Other	5,944.49	3,338.05

NON-BASMATI EXPORTS (\$ MILLION)

		(APR-OCT)
Benin	1,025.38	336.77
Guinea	536	225.53
Côte d'Ivoire	520.3	198.4
Togo	421.5	248.72
Bangladesh	354.82	330.41
Senegal	275.36	140.55
Vietnam	210.07	113.94
Liberia	206.28	96.09
Sierra Leone	165.75	38.07
Senegal	134.15	117.15
Nigeria	181.73	96.93
Cameroon	164.85	108.68
UAE	141.91	95.88
Mozambique	131.79	60.27
Angola	129.38	38.72
Malaysia	121.79	76.16
Saudi Arabia	119.45	61.65
Kenya	105.3	155

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

basmati rice market is dominated by a few big Indian players such as LT Foods. The New Delhi-based company claims its 'royal' brand holds a 30% market share in North America.

In the case of non-basmati rice, the biggest market for Indian grain in Africa — especially countries in the western part of the continent, like Senegal, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal. The US is a practically non-existent as a market for non-basmati.

On the whole, an additional Trump tariff on Indian rice isn't going to hurt the way it has in shrimps, gems and jewellery and readymade garments.

US trade talks begin today, India has reason to expect breakthrough



RAVI DUTTA MISHRA

US TRADE negotiations, led by newly appointed Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer and the chief negotiator for the India deal, Brendan Lynch, with India for two-day talks starting today. This has renewed hopes for the conclusion of the long-pending trade deal, the absence of which has resulted in steep tariffs on India and criticism of the US for alienating a strategic partner and counterweight to China.

The uncertainty was resulting the trade deal has been hurting investments in India and exports, with competing countries facing lower rates. This has also affected capital flows, putting pressure on the rupee.

But after months of back and forth, there is a high likelihood of a trade pact — at least from New Delhi's perspective — as the trade dynamics have changed since both countries first began negotiations in February. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal has said "it's only a matter of time" before a decision is made.

Trade surplus shrinks

A high goods trade deficit between India and the US was one of the biggest concerns raised by US President Donald Trump even before he assumed office earlier this year. The latest trade data, however, suggests that imports from the US have increased, narrowing the trade gap (see line chart). Data shared by the Commerce Ministry shows India's goods trade surplus with the US has nearly halved to \$1.45 billion in October from \$3.17 billion in April.

Exports to the US, meanwhile, have plunged, particularly after August 27 when Trump's 50% tariffs — including a 25% penalty for importing Russian oil — came into effect. Exports to the US slipped from \$6.96 billion in August to \$6.30 billion in October, and imports surged from \$5.51 billion to \$4.44 billion in the same period. The decline has been most pronounced in labour-intensive items such as garments, footwear and sports goods.

US crude imports surge

The US's additional 25% tariff over India's Russian oil imports has been among the most contentious issues between the two countries. The penalty has made India the country hit hardest by the tariffs, even more than China (see table), and held up the US trade deal.

India, however, has steadily increased crude imports from the US, and Washington's sanctions on oil giant Lukoil and Russia have led to a decline in Russian oil exports to India. The US share in India's oil imports increased to 74% between April and October this year, compared to 64% in the same period last year. And while Russia still has a large share, it fell from 27.8% to 22.4% between April and October.

LPG deal, nuclear reforms

In what could also likely result in the rollback of at least the additional tariffs, Indian public sector reform, last month signed one-year deal for American liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports. The deal was for imports of around 2.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LPG, close to



US tariffs on countries	RATES (%)	COUNTRY	RATES (%)
India	50	Malaysia	10
Brazil	50	Cameroon	10
Myanmar	40	Thailand	10
Lebanon	40	Japan	15
China	37	South Korea	15
South Africa	30	Switzerland	15
Vietnam	20	EU	15
Bangladesh	20	UK	10

SOURCE: NEWS HOUSE

10% of India's annual imports. For the past few years, the US has been the fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India. It has also been the second largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India.

And the Trump administration's push for expansion of existing oil and gas power plants and the development of small-scale reactors, India has also signalled openness to cooperation with the US under the trade deal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said last month that the government is preparing to open up India's tightly regulated nuclear power sector to private participation.

Push for diversification

The uncertainty around the trade deal, that has triggered an outflow of investments, has forced a re-examination of India's industrial policy. In the past few months alone, the government has rolled back numerous quality control orders that had a bearing on the competitiveness of the MSME. The government also removed the 15% duty on cotton to ease pressure on the textile value chain due to US tariffs.

After the GST rate rationalisation earlier this year that eased the price of numerous products of everyday consumption, the government also notified long-pending labour codes. A government panel on regional development is also working on a fresh set of reforms to push for deregulation to boost manufacturing.

Meanwhile, India has increased its push for trade deals with large markets such as the EU. A large trade delegation is already in India, aiming to sign a deal by the end of the year. New Delhi has also opened negotiations with New Zealand, Israel, Chile and Peru. Earlier this year, India began the way it was for imports of around 2.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LPG, close to

Syllabus Integration:

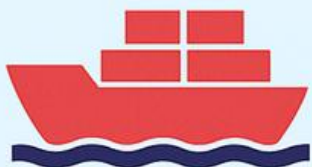
- GS 1:** Globalisation and its effects on agricultural communities; socio-economic impact of export-oriented farming.
- GS 2:** India-US trade relations; WTO rules on anti-dumping; tariff negotiations; role of bilateral and multilateral trade mechanisms.
- GS 3:** Agricultural exports; value-chain dynamics; MSP vs export pricing; trade surpluses/deficits; diversification of export markets.
- GS 4:** Ethical trade practices; fairness and transparency in global commerce; responsibility of major economies in avoiding protectionism.
- Prelims:** Basmati vs non-basmati rice distinctions; anti-dumping definition; key export destinations; US tariff structure; WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement basics.

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

Donald Trump that India is “dumping” rice in the US market.

explains why this claim is incorrect by showing that India exports only small quantities of high-value premium rice (mainly basmati) to the US, which does not distort the American rice market.

FACTS:



**SMALL
QUANTITIES**



**PREMIUM
BASMATI**



**NO MARKET
DISTORTION**

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INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

B2B

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

TRUMP'S CLAIM ON INDIA 'DUMPING RICE' INTO U.S. MARKET

Former US President Donald Trump alleged that India is 'dumping rice' into the US market, harming American farmers, and proposed using tariffs to counter the issue. However, trade data contradicts this claim:



- The U.S. is not a major rice producer or importer — it exports more rice than it imports
- Its rice imports are mainly high-value aromatic varieties like Thai Jasmine and Indian Basmati, not low-cost rice
- India, the world's largest rice producer and exporter, exported 22.5 million tonnes of rice in 2024-25
- The U.S. accounts for a very small share of India's rice exports

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE



PRODUCTION

U.S. rice output:
7.05 million tonnes (mt)

India's output: ~150 mt

U.S. ranks 13th globally, far
below major Asian producers

U.S. RICE PRODUCTION & EXPORT-IMPORT BALANCE

2024-25

TRADE BALANCE

U.S. exports:
3 mt

U.S. imports:
1.6 mt



The U.S. is a net exporter of rice

WATER BALANCE

Rice market overview highlights the U.S. as
a modest global producer but a strong
net exporter.

COMPOSITION OF INDIA'S RICE EXPORTS

(2024–26)



TOTAL BASMATI EXPORTS:

60.65 lakh tonnes (lt)

VALUE: \$5,944.49 million

India is the world's largest producer
as well as exporter of rice.

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

According to the US Department of Agriculture, India's total rice exports in 2024-25 were at 22.5 mt.

For the 2025-26 marketing year (October-September), the agency has projected its exports at 25 mt



The US accounted for only 2.74 lt (\$337.10 million) out of that, as per data from India's department of commerce.

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

BASMATI EXPORTS (\$ MILLION)

	2024-25	2025-26 (APR-OCT)
Saudi Arabia	1203.67	533.56
Iraq	850.08	382.7
Iran	753.2	436.51
UAE	364.55	180.17
Yemen	358.34	168.13
US	337.1	177.41
UK	190.93	132.37
Kuwait	180.39	112.44
Oman	144.73	67.07
Qatar	122.93	34.72
TOTAL*	5,944.49	3,138.01

A major chunk of **basmati exports go to West Asia**, with the likes of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates being bigger markets than the US.

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE

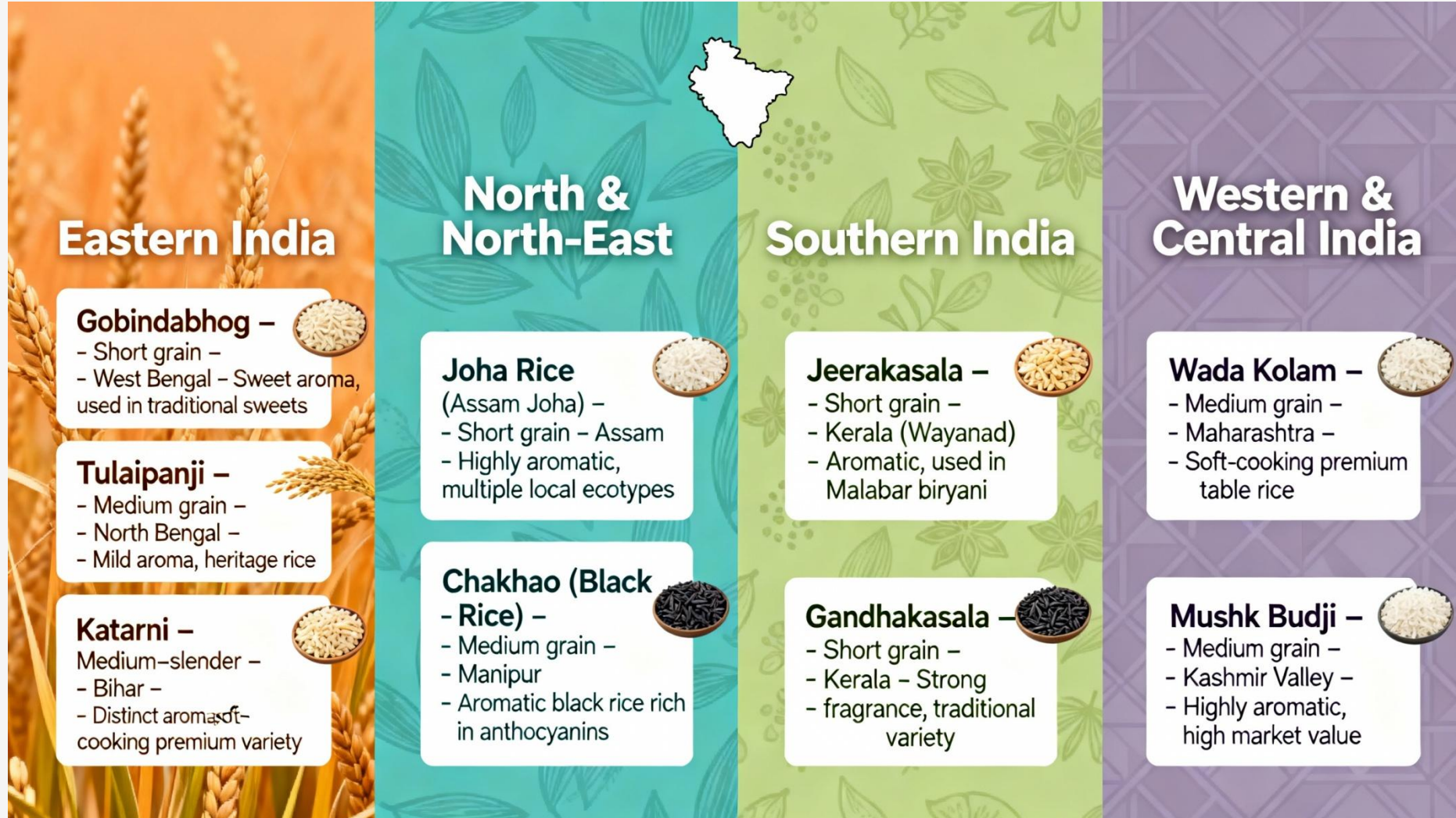
In the case of **non-basmati rice**, the biggest market for Indian grain is **Africa** — especially countries in the western part of the continent, like **Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal**.

The US is practically non-existent as a market for non-basmati.

NON-BASMATI EXPORTS (\$ MILLION)

	2024-25	2025-26 (APR-OCT)
Benin	1,025.38	338.77
Guinea	536	221.53
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Somalia	194.15	117.15
Nepal	181.73	96.93
Cameroon	164.85	108.68
UAE	141.91	95.88
Mozambique	131.79	80.27
Angola	129.38	38.72
Malaysia	127.19	76.16
Saudi Arabia	119.45	61.65
Kenya	105.3	155
US	54.64	29.05
TOTAL*	6,527.98	3,372.55

INDIA-USA RICE DUMPING ISSUE



RIGHT TO HEALTH

Context: A national convention on health rights in New Delhi is framing an agenda to strengthen the right to health, address privatisation, ensure equitable healthcare financing, and improve justice for patients and health workers.

Charting an agenda on the right to health

Timed between Human Rights Day (December 10) and Universal Health Coverage Day (December 12), a significant national gathering on public health is being convened in New Delhi. The National Convention on Health Rights (December 11-12, 2025), will offer a unique platform for around 400 health professionals, community leaders and health activists to address India's major health challenges, while charting an agenda on the right to health. Organised by Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (People's Health Movement - India) which comprises diverse networks and civil society organisations from over 20 States, the convention will draw lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, while strengthening right to health initiatives and presenting alternatives to the commercialisation of health care.

Challenging privatisation

A major issue is the push for privatisation of public health services. Expansion of public-private partnerships is leading to medical colleges and health facilities being handed over to private players across India. This threatens to dismantle already weakened public services, while making health care unaffordable for crores of Indians who rely on public health-care provisioning. Leaders from movements against privatisation in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh and tribal districts of Gujarat will share insights and strategies, while critiquing the impacts of privatisation on health systems.

Commercial private health care in India has rapidly expanded, fuelled by domestic and foreign investments and pro-corporate policies. But this boom has not been matched by necessary regulation. Much after the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act was enacted in 2010, its implementation remains nominal. The consequences for patients include frequent overcharging and unnecessary medical procedures such as caesarean sections, opaque



Dr. Abhay Shukla
is a public health physician and national co-convenor of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan

The National Convention on Health Rights will offer a platform to address India's major health challenges

pricing and violations of patient rights. The convention will advocate for effective implementation of regulatory frameworks including rate standardisation, transparent pricing, mandatory observance of the Charter of Patient's Rights, and accessible grievance redress systems.

India has among the lowest financial allocations for public health globally, with just 2% of the Union Budget allocated for health services, and annual per capita public spending at only \$25. Out-of-pocket expenses remain high, despite disproportionate attention to government-supported health insurance schemes. At the convention, participants will examine the gap between claims and ground realities of these schemes and explore alternative financing frameworks centred on enhanced government spending, reduced out-of-pocket costs, and equitable access.

Justice for health workers

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the indispensable roles of frontline doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff. Yet, many still face low wages, insecure employment, and inadequate social security and working conditions. During this convention, health worker associations will highlight the need for justice to health workers and resilient health systems.

Medicines constitute up to half of a household's medical spending, yet more than 80% of medicines in India remain outside price control. Irrational drug combinations, unethical marketing and high retail markups persist. The convention's session on access to medicines will examine regulatory gaps, pricing barriers, proposed removal of GST on medicines, and expanding public sector production of essential medicines.

The convention is to advocate for public health systems that are capable of delivering universal, quality services. With over 80 crore people in

India dependent on public provisioning, strong public health services remain essential. Participants will highlight community-led models and successful state-level initiatives for revitalising public systems, with decentralised planning and community engagement. The vision is to affirm health care as a fundamental right anchored in robust, responsive public systems.

Eliminating discrimination

Entrenched social hierarchies continue to influence access to health care. A special session on gender and social justice will foreground the experiences of Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities and others towards embedding inclusion and non-discrimination in health systems. The convention also links health to broader determinants, with a session covering food security, environmental pollution and climate change, which would explore intersectoral strategies for health.

The convention has been timed during the winter session of Parliament, and dialogue will be held between delegates and Members of Parliament to highlight pressing health policy issues.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA). During this time, the JSA has worked across over 20 States with women's organisations, science groups, rural movements, patient groups and civil society networks to advance diverse health rights and pro-people policies. The convention will celebrate this legacy, renewing long-standing alliances, and strategising for the future. The National Convention on Health Rights is a call to action for everyone in India who believes that health must be a basic human right. Lessons from past campaigns will meet the energies of the present, shaping a popular narrative and demands for policies to ensure the right to health for all in the decade ahead. The overarching message remains clear: health care for people, not for profits.

Syllabus Integration:

- **GS 1:** Social justice; inequalities in access to health; vulnerable groups—Dalits, Adivasis, women, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities.
- **GS 2:** Right to health debates; public health governance; regulatory gaps in clinical establishments; government financing and health insurance schemes.
- **GS 3:** Health infrastructure; essential medicines policy; pandemic lessons; impact of privatisation and market failures on service delivery.
- **GS 4:** Ethical healthcare—patient rights, transparency, fair pricing; justice for frontline health workers; equity in public health systems.
- **Prelims:** Clinical Establishments Act; Charter of Patient Rights; public vs private health expenditure; GST on medicines; Jan Swasthya Abhiyan.

RIGHT TO HEALTH

NATIONAL CONVENTION ON HEALTH RIGHTS



NEW DELHI FRAMING AN AGENDA



STRENGTHEN THE
RIGHT TO HEALTH

ADDRESS
PRIVATISATION



ENSURE EQUITABLE
HEALTHCARE FINANCING

IMPROVE JUSTICE FOR
PATIENTS AND
HEALTH WORKERS



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RIGHT TO HEALTH

India allocates just 2% of the Union Budget to health; \$25 per capita public spending.

**LOW PUBLIC
SPENDING ON HEALTH**

High Out-of-Pocket (OOP) expenditures persist despite insurance schemes.

Convention will examine gaps between insurance claims and actual ground realities.

Demand for increased government funding and reduced OOP burden.

ACCESS TO MEDICINES AND PRICING ISSUES

**Medicines form up to 50%
of household medical
spending.**

**80%+ medicines outside
price control; irrational
drug combinations
prevalent.**

RIGHT TO HEALTH: Constitutional Position

Fundamental Rights (Part III)– Implicit Recognition

Although the Constitution does not explicitly enumerate the “Right to Health” as a Fundamental Right, the Supreme Court has expansively interpreted Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) to include:

RIGHT TO HEALTH: Constitutional Position



Right to timely and
adequate medical care



Right to emergency
treatment



Right to a pollution-free
environment



Right to human dignity
in health service delivery

RIGHT TO HEALTH



Parmanand Katara v. Union of India (1989):

Every doctor, public or private, is obligated to provide emergency medical care



Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity (1996)

Failure of the state to provide timely treatment violates Article 21

RIGHT TO HEALTH: Constitutional Position

KEY JUDGMENTS



M.K. Ranjitsinh & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.

Right Against Adverse Effects of Climate Change as Fundamental Right under Art 21



Mohd. Ahmed (Minor) v. NCT Delhi (2014)

State must provide expensive life-saving drugs

RIGHT TO HEALTH

Article	Description	DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY (PART IV) EXPLICIT RECOGNITION
Article 38	Social justice and minimising inequalities, including health inequalities	
Article 39 (e)(f)	Health of workers, children and youth must be protected	
Article 41	Public assistance in sickness and disability	
Article 42 (Most explicit)	Human conditions of work and maternity relief	
Article 47 Most explicit)	Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living and to improve public health	

DEEP CLEANING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

Context: The Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) seeks to clean electoral rolls by removing duplicates and outdated entries while ensuring eligible citizens are included, sparking debate over legality, scope, and safeguards.

Syllabus Integration:

- **GS 1:** Urbanisation and migration affecting electoral participation; demographic mobility and voter registration challenges.
- **GS 2:** Constitutional provisions for elections (Art. 324 & 326); powers and autonomy of the Election Commission; Representation of the People Act; legal scrutiny of electoral roll revisions.
- **GS 3:** Use of technology in governance—digitised documents, online objection processes; improving accuracy and efficiency in public data systems.
- **GS 4:** Ethical electoral practices; fairness, transparency, inclusion vs exclusion risks; accountability in democratic institutions.
- **Prelims:** Types of electoral roll revisions—intensive vs summary vs special revision; constitutional mandate of ECI; key provisions of the RPA 1950 & 1951; criteria for voter eligibility.

A deep cleaning of India's electoral rolls

On April 12, 1950, while introducing the Representation of the People Bill in Parliament, the Minister of Law, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, emphasised that the preparation of an electoral roll is "a condition precedent for election". The statutory framework in India, therefore, provides for periodic and special revisions to ensure accuracy of the electoral roll.

Nevertheless, there have been concerns about the decision of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to revise the electoral rolls in some States by carrying out a Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The question that arises is whether the ECI's endeavour is ultimately directed at reinforcing or undermining public trust in the democratic process.

Restoring the foundation

There are two modes of updating rolls: intensive revisions, which rebuild the list from scratch, and summary revisions, which make incremental corrections. The last major intensive revision took place between 2002 to 2003. In recent decades, the ECI has relied on special summary revisions, under which claims and objections are invited on a draft roll. In the meantime, rapid migration, expanding urban centres, and high residential mobility have left electoral rolls riddled with duplicates, outdated entries and inaccuracies. Therefore, SIR 2025 was the need of the hour.

The implementation of SIR in Bihar in June 2025 resulted in the filing of several petitions before the Supreme Court labelling the revision exercise unconstitutional and illegal. The challenge proceeds on the basis that insistence on fresh enumeration and documents from existing registered electors is contrary to the constitutional right of universal adult franchise and will result in mass deletion of voters from the rolls. Notably, however, the authority to undertake such an exercise flows directly from the



Naira Jejeebhoy

Advocate whose area of practice includes election law and has represented the Election Commission of India in proceedings



Kumar Utsav

Advocate whose area of practice includes election law and has represented the Election Commission of India in proceedings

constitutional scheme itself, which vests the superintendence, direction, and control over the preparation of electoral rolls in the ECI. At the heart of this exercise lies the ECI's endeavour to ensure that only eligible citizens vote, as envisaged under Article 326 of the Constitution. The revision and verification of electoral rolls is a routine and necessary process. Such corrections do not, by themselves, imply disenfranchisement or targeting. Countries such as Germany and Canada rely on civil registries or information sharing between different government agencies to update voter rolls; India does not have such a mechanism. The ECI must therefore independently verify eligibility.

The criticism levelled at SIR 2025 ignores the inherent difficulties in screening citizenship, which is the fundamental basis for eligibility to vote. These difficulties in ascertaining eligibility were, however, anticipated by the Indian legislature, which conferred power on the ECI to carry out a special revision in such manner as it may think fit. SIR 2025 is being carried out pursuant to the constitutional mandate and to ensure that no eligible citizen is excluded from the roll, while simultaneously excluding ineligible persons.

The detailed guidelines for SIR 2025 issued by the ECI contain administrative innovations, technological improvements, and efforts at transparency and participation. Under the present framework of SIR, the ECI has undertaken door-to-door physical verification of each elector. The onus of proving citizenship continues to lie on the applicant. However, the list of acceptable documentary proof is expanded to 11 items, from merely four in 2003, resulting in a more liberal and elector-friendly framework. At the suggestion of the Supreme Court, the ECI also agreed to accept Aadhaar cards as proof of identity. Further, booth-level officers

actively assisted electors in tracing their eligibility and obtaining prescribed eligibility documents.

The SIR process marks a notable shift towards technological accessibility. For the first time, all supporting documents are digitised. Further, enumeration forms are being made available through online platforms. After the publication of the draft roll, any person who has any claim or objections has the option to file the same using the online platform.

The ECI did not restrict capacity-building to its own machinery but also trained booth-level agents of recognised political parties. The SIR guidelines also contain provisions for engagement with parties and sharing of electoral rolls.

What the numbers show

Over 7.5 crore entries were subjected to verification during SIR in Bihar. The total number of electors removed from the draft list was 65 lakh. In addition to the 1,60,813 BLAs of political parties, the Supreme Court also deputed volunteers from the State Legal Services Authority to assist in the submission of claims/objections/corrections online. Nevertheless, only 2,53,524 claims and objections were received in total after publication of the draft roll. Of these, only 36,500 were claims for inclusion (0.56% when compared to the total number of deletions during the revision). Not a single appeal was filed against any deletion. These figures indicate that the SIR exercise was, more or less, grounded in careful and accountable scrutiny.

By embracing SIR, the ECI has demonstrated that its constitutional duties will not be subordinated to convenience or political pressures. Instead, they are being pursued with clarity, courage, and accountability. A democracy strengthens itself not by avoiding difficult tasks, but by undertaking them when it matters most. SIR 2025 is one such effort.

The revision and verification of electoral rolls is a routine and necessary process. Such corrections do not, by themselves, imply disenfranchisement or targeting

CLEANING INDIA'S ELECTORAL ROLLS



The Election Commission of India has begun revising electoral rolls in several States employing periodic and special intensive revisions.

**WTN
(WHAT'S THE
NEWS)**

DEEP CLEANING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

B2B

DEEP CLEANING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

BACKGROUND AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT



The electoral roll is foundational to conducting elections.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, while introducing the Representation of the People Bill (1950), emphasized that electoral roll preparation is a “condition precedent” for elections.



Under the Constitution, superintendence, direction, and control of electoral rolls rests exclusively with the Election Commission of India (ECI)



Periodic revisions—intensive or summary—are necessary to maintain accuracy, completeness, and credibility.

DEEP CLEANING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

WHAT IS SIR?

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION

A one-time, full-scale verification of the electoral

WHY SIR IS DONE



To verify voter identity

To clean and update electoral rolls

To remove duplicates or invalid entries

To ensure only eligible citizens remain on list

CORE PROCESS



Door-to-door verification of every elector

Field teams physically check voter details

Digital workflows used for data recording and approval

Mandatory submission of prescribed identity documents

DEEP CLEANING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

SIR VS ROUTINE SUMMARY REVISION



SIR = exhaustive, ground-up, intensive

Summary revision = routine, yearly, limited corrections

SIR targets accuracy at the household level

WHAT IS SIR?

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION

A one-time, full-scale verification of the electoral

RESULT



More accurate electoral rolls

Stronger voter authentication

Higher public trust in elections

ECI's Mandate for SIR



Article 324 (Constitution of India):

Vests the ECI with the plenary power of “superintendence, direction and control” of elections. This includes overseeing the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.



Article 326 (Constitution of India):

Enshrines the principle of universal adult franchise, mandating that elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies Article 326 establishes who can vote, while Article 324 empowers ECI to ensure this right is realized through fair electoral roll management.

ECI's Mandate for SIR

Key Provisions of Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA 1950) - Electoral Rolls

Section 15)



- Roll for each constituency; Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) in charge.

Sections 11) 21(2)



- Annual revision of rolls;
- 1 January as qualifying date; if no revision, existing roll continues with updates.

Section 21(3)



- Special revision anytime;
- ordered by ECI;
- reasons must be recorded.

Sections 23 & 24)



- Claims and objections;
- name inclusion or deletion; appeals to DM, then CEO.