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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Cabinet Committees
2. Extension of Smart Cities Mission
3. Revised Guidelines & Standards of E
4. Lancet Study on Air Pollution Expos
5. Zika Virus
6. Rudram-1
7. UNESCO World Heritage Committee
8. Steel Flag
9. Right to Speedy Trial
10. Global India AI Summit 2024

CABINET COMMITTEES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Govt forms 8 Cabinet committees; security, appointments panels remain unchanged

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

THE UNION government Wednesday constituted eight Cabinet committees, with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) getting three new faces and the two most powerful panels — the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) — remaining unchanged.

Home Minister Amit Shah is the sole Cabinet member to feature on all these panels.

The three new faces in the CCEA are Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy, and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh.

The eight Cabinet Committees are the CCEA, ACC, CCS, Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, and Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment and Livelihood.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads six committees but is not part of two — Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

The composition of the Cabinet committees released by the Cabinet Secretariat shows that the CCEA will now have 11 members, three more than the existing figure.

Besides Kumaraswamy, Lalan Singh and Chouhan, the CCEA members are PM Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Shah, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Lalan Singh is also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

No change has been made in the powerful Appointments Committee, which is headed by Modi and where Shah is sole member.

Similarly, the composition of the CCS has been kept unchanged. Also headed by the Prime Minister, the CCS has the same four members — Rajnath, Shah, Sitharaman and Jaishankar.

Apart from Lalan Singh and Kumaraswamy, two other NDA partners — Food Processing Industries Minister Chirag Paswan and Jayant Chaudhary — have also been included in two committees. While Paswan has been made a member in the Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary has been included as a Special Invitee on the Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment, and Livelihood.

Context: The Union government of India has formed eight Cabinet committees to address various critical issues and streamline decision-making processes.

Cabinet Committees

- **About**: These are established to alleviate the burden on the Cabinet by delegating specific tasks.
  - Not mentioned in the constitution; their establishment is governed by the Rules of Business.
- **GoI Transaction of Business Rules, 1961**: The Indian executive functions under these rules, derived from Article 77(3) of the Constitution, which empowers the President to make rules for the transaction of government business.
- **Types:** Standing and Ad-hoc Committees
- **Formation**: Once ministerial portfolios are allocated, the Prime Minister forms high-profile Cabinet committees with selected Cabinet members.
- **Committee Composition**: Each committee typically consists of three to eight Cabinet ministers, with occasional inclusion of non-Cabinet ministers or special invitees.
- **Prime Minister's Role:** If the Prime Minister is a member of any committee, he assumes the role of its chairperson.
- **Flexibility in Structure**: The Prime Minister has the flexibility to adjust the number of committees and modify their assigned functions as needed.
- **The 8 Cabinet Committees:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, and Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment and Livelihood.
  - No change has been made in the powerful Appointments Committee.
  - Similarly, the composition of the CCS has been kept unchanged. Also headed by the Prime Minister, the CCS has the ministers for Finance, Defence, Home Affairs and External Affairs as its members.

THE HINDU

Page 12

EXTENSION OF SMART CITIES MISSION

(Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Infrastructure)

Smart Cities Mission period extended till March 2025

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under the Union Urban Development Ministry till March 31, 2025.

Under the SCM, launched in June 2015, 100 cities were chosen through a competition to be developed as smart cities. The mission envisions developing areas within selected cities in the country as model areas based on an area development plan, which is expected to have a rub-off effect on other parts of the city and nearby cities and towns.

More than 8,000 multi-sectoral projects are being developed by the 100 cities amounting to around ₹1.6 lakh crore under the SCM.

As on July 3, the 100 cities have completed 7,188 projects (90% of total projects).

Context: The Centre has extended the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under the Union Urban Development Ministry till March 31, 2025.

Mission Progress Report

- **Project Completion Status:** As of July 3, 100 cities have finished 7,188 projects, which account for 90% of the total projects under the mission, with an expenditure of ₹1,44,237 crore.
- **Projects in Progress**: Additionally, 830 projects amounting to ₹19,926 crore are in advanced stages of completion.
- **Budget Allocation**: The mission was allocated ₹48,000 crore for these cities, out of which ₹46,585 crore, or 97%, has already been disbursed.
- **Utilization of Funds**: Of the funds released, 93% have been effectively utilized by the cities.
- **Extension Requests:** Some state and city government representatives have requested an extension to complete the remaining 10% of projects, citing ongoing challenges and requirements.

Smart Cities Mission (SCM)

- **Launched by**: June, 2015.
- **Ministry**: Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- **Objective**: To promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment, and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'.
- **Focus Area**: Sustainable and inclusive development by the creation of replicable models that act as lighthouses to other aspiring cities.



DTE

July 3

REVISED GUIDELINES & STANDARDS of EVs
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2/3 – Governance/Environment)

What do India's evolving EV charging station guidelines mean for operators?

Context: The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) issued the revised Guidelines and Standards for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.

Revised Guidelines and Standards of EV Charging

- **Global Comparison**: India's ratio of electric vehicles to public charging points is comparatively lower than countries like New Zealand and Norway.
- **Flexibility in Charger Selection**: Recent amendments allow operators more freedom in choosing chargers, with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) acting as the facilitating agency.
- **Role of Discoms in Home and Office Charging**: Distribution companies (discoms) are tasked with facilitating the installation of home and office charging stations.
- **Urban and Highway Charging Station**: Guidelines mandate one charging station per 3km x 3km area in cities and every 25 km on highways, with additional fast chargers for heavy-duty vehicles every 100 km.
- **Heavy-Duty Vehicle Charging Needs**: Recent guidelines specifically address the need for charging infrastructure suitable for heavy-duty vehicles, a crucial aspect previously overlooked.
- **Community EV Charging:** Group housing societies and similar entities are required to allocate a portion of their parking capacity for community EV chargers, in consultation with discoms.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

- **Set up**: On March 1, 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- **Nodal Agency**: Ministry of Power
- **Mission**: To assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001
- **Objective**: Reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.

LANCET STUDY ON AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Air pollution exposure leading to deaths even when meeting Indian norms: Study

Jayashree Nandi
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NEW DELHI: Air pollution exposure can cause deaths even at levels much lower than what is considered the Indian national standard, according to a new study published in Lancet Planetary Health.

The report found that across 10 major cities in India — Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla, and Varanasi – around 33,000 deaths every year are attributable to PM 2.5 pollution levels that breach the WHO guideline of only 15 micrograms per cubic metres. The national standard for fine, particulate matter or PM 2.5 (24 hours) is 60 micrograms per cubic metres.

In terms of proportion, Delhi recorded the highest deaths attributable to air pollution across all cities studied – 11.5% of all deaths – amounting to 12,000 each year. Varanasi is estimated to have recorded 10.2% of all deaths (830 each year) during the study period, which were attributable to short-term PM2.5 exposure higher than the WHO guideline value of 15 micrograms per cubic metres.

While in these cases, the numbers may not be as surprising due to the generally high air pollution, the study also surprisingly revealed that cities such as Chennai, Bengaluru and Shimla, which largely meet the nation standard, are estimated to have recorded 4.8% of all deaths (2,100 each year); 4.9% of all deaths (2,900 each year) and 3.7% of all deaths (59 per year).

The deaths are higher in Delhi, Varanasi, Kolkata, etc because of higher average exposure, possibly the nature of sources and population according to authors who said the purpose of the study was not to compare the number of deaths but to stress that cities that are understood to have relatively low pollution are also seeing high impact on health.

"7·2% of all deaths were attributable to PM2·5 concentrations higher than the WHO recommended 15 µg/m³, corresponding to 33627 annual deaths across our ten cities (table). Delhi had the largest attributable fraction and highest attributable yearly deaths," the paper said.

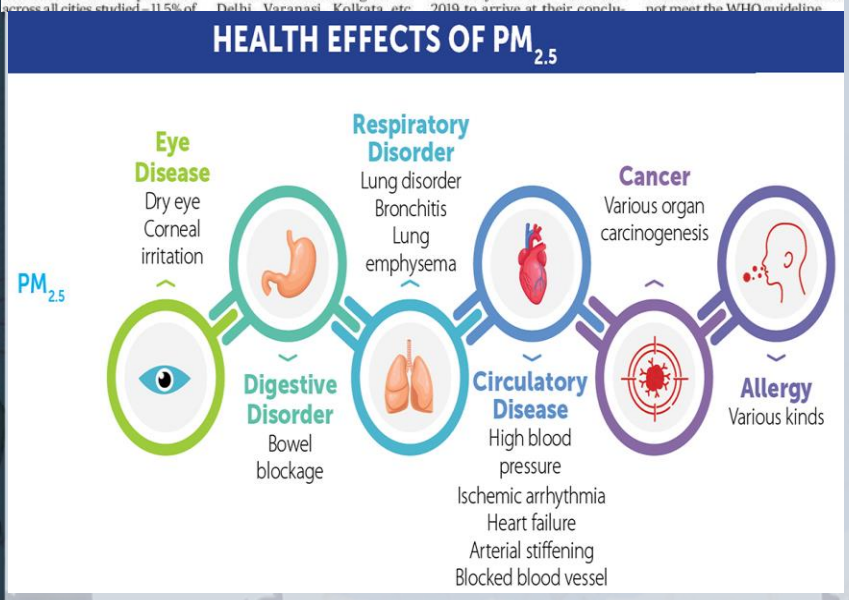
The authors used data on PM 2.5 exposure in the 10 cities and correlated it with daily counts of mortality between 2008 and 2019 to arrive at their conclusions.

It is the first multi-city study according to the authors, to assess the relationship between short-term air pollution exposure and death in India, with the cities recording a wide range of air pollution concentrations including those that largely meet the national standards.

During the study period, 7.2% of all deaths (33,000 each year) across all cities could be linked to short-term PM2.5 exposure higher than the WHO guideline value of 15 micrograms per cubic metres, it found.

Conclusions from the study have led the authors to recommend upgrading the national standard; a recalibration of the Graded Response Action Plan which largely focuses on pollution extremes to focus on year-round action; covering more cities for air pollution control because most cities in India do not meet the WHO guideline

AIR WE BREATHE



Context: A new study published in Lancet Planetary Health reveals that air pollution exposure can lead to deaths even at levels significantly below the Indian national standard. This finding underscores the severe health risks posed by current pollution levels.

Lancet Study on Air Exposure

- **High Mortality**: Across major Indian cities, approximately 33,000 deaths annually are linked to PM 2.5 pollution exceeding WHO guidelines of 15 µg/m³.
    - National standard for PM 2.5 (24 hours) is set at 60 µg/m³, significantly higher than WHO guidelines.
- **Regional Disparities in Mortality Rates**: Delhi tops the list with 11.5% of deaths attributed to air pollution, followed closely by Varanasi at 10.2%.
    - Cities like Chennai, Bengaluru, and Shimla, despite meeting national standards, still report significant mortality rates (4.8%, 4.9%, and 3.7% respectively).
- **Factors**: Cities with higher mortality rates typically exhibit greater average PM 2.5 exposure due to varied sources and dense population concentrations.
- **Risk Associated with Short-term PM2.5**: Even below India's current PM2.5 standards, short-term exposure remains linked to elevated mortality risks in India.
- **Broadening Intervention Focus**: Emphasis on extending air quality improvement efforts beyond non-attainment cities to regions with lower but still impactful pollution levels.
- **Targeting Local Combustion Sources**: Effective strategies must address local sources like vehicles, generators, and waste burning to mitigate health impacts effectively.

LIVEMINT

Page 9

ZIKA VIRUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Govt alerts states as Zika cases rise; focus on pregnant women

States asked to strengthen entomological surveillance, boost vector control activities

Somrita Ghosh
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NEW DELHI

The Union health and family welfare ministry (MoHFW) has asked state governments to monitor the rising cases of the Zika virus, especially among pregnant women who test positive.

On Wednesday, the ministry issued an advisory, emphasizing the need for constant vigilance over the situation, following reports of Zika virus cases in Maharashtra.

"As Zika is associated with microcephaly and neurological consequences in the fetus of the affected pregnant lady, states have been advised to alert the clinicians for close monitoring," Dr. Atul Goel, director general health services (DGHS), MoHFW, said in a statement.

"States are urged to instruct the health facilities in affected areas or those catering cases from affected areas to screen pregnant women for Zika virus infection, monitor growth of the fetus for expecting mothers who have tested positive for Zika, and act as per central government guidelines," he added.

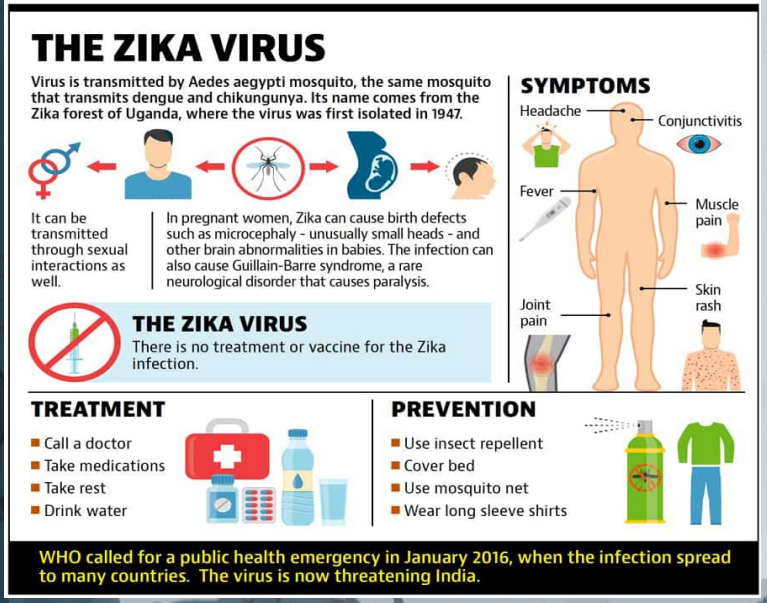
The ministry asked states to ask health facilities and hospitals to appoint a nodal officer to monitor and ensure premises remain Aedes mosquito-free. It also said that states must strengthen entomological surveillance and intensify vector control activities in residential areas, workplaces, schools, construction sites, institutions, and health facilities.

> According to the WHO, Zika virus during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations

States must promote awareness through precautionary IEC (information, education and communication) messages on social media, and other platforms, to alleviate concerns of citizens, as Zika is like any other viral infection, with most cases being asymptomatic and mild, it added.

The Zika virus is primarily transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, which mostly bite during the day. Symptoms include rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache, lasting 2-7 days.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations, and may also result in preterm birth and miscarriage. The infection is associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy, and myelitis in adults and children.



Context: The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry (MoHFW) has instructed state governments to monitor the increasing cases of the Zika virus, with a particular focus on pregnant women who test positive.

Zika Virus

- **About**: The Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus originally discovered in Uganda in 1947, initially in monkeys.
- it was **identified in humans in 1952**, both in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- **Transmission**: It is primarily transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, primarily the Aedes aegypti species.
- This mosquito is **also responsible for the** transmission of diseases like **dengue, chikungunya,** and yellow fever.
- It can also be transmitted **from mother to fetus during pregnancy**, through sexual contact, via the transfusion of blood and blood products, and through organ transplantation.
- **Symptoms**: Fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, or headache. It's important to note that many individuals infected with Zika virus remain asymptomatic and do not develop any symptoms.
    - Zika virus infection during pregnancy can have severe consequences, potentially causing infants to be born with microcephaly (abnormally small head size) and other congenital malformations, collectively known as congenital Zika syndrome.
- **Impact on Pregnancy**: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations, and may also result in preterm birth and miscarriage.
- **Associated Conditions**: The infection is associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy, and myelitis in adults and children.
- **Treatment**: Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral medication available for Zika virus.

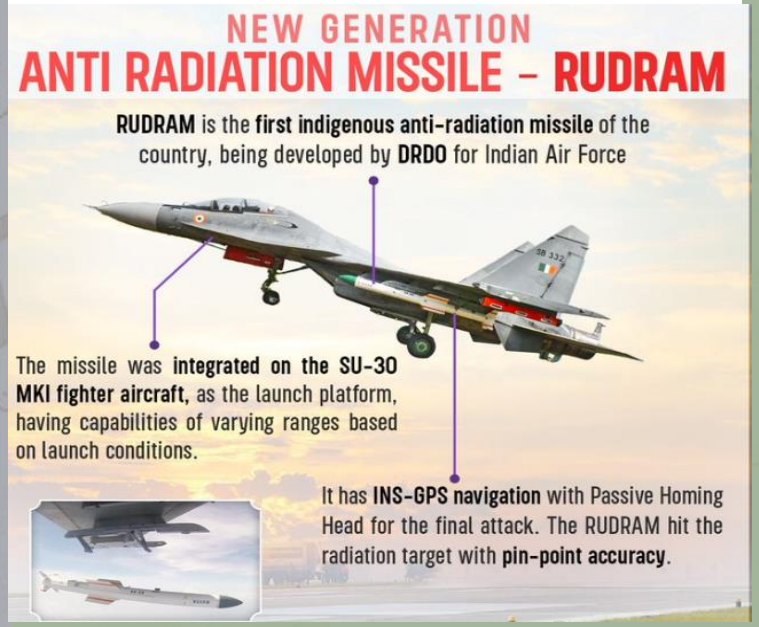
FINANCIAL EXPRESS

July 3

RUDRAM-1

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

India successfully test-fires new generation anti-radiation missile 'Rudram-1'



Context: India successfully test-fires new generation anti-radiation missile 'Rudram-1'

Rudram-1

- **About**: It is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile designed by DRDO specifically for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **Key Features**
  - **Launch Platform**: It is designed to be launched from Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, a mainstay of the IAF.
  - **Guidance System**: Utilizes Inertial Navigation Systems (INS)-GPS navigation coupled with a Passive Homing Head for precision targeting during the final attack phase.
  - **Range and Speed:** Capable of striking targets at distances ranging from 100 to 250 km with a speed reaching up to Mach 2, twice the speed of sound.

Significance of Rudram-1

- **Enhanced SEAD Capability**: Rudram-1 significantly boosts the IAF's Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) operations, allowing for the neutralization of critical air defense installations deep within enemy territory.
- **Force Multiplier:** Acts as a force multiplier by improving the survivability and operational effectiveness of IAF aircraft conducting missions in hostile environments.
- **Indigenous Development Milestone**: Represents a crucial milestone in India's defense capabilities, marking a stride towards self-reliance and indigenous development in advanced defense technologies.

Global Counterparts

- United States: AGM-88 HARM
- Russia: Kh-58
- United Kingdom: ALARM
- China: FT-2000
- Iran: Hormoz-2
- Brazil: MAR-1

THE HINDU Page 14

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Internatonal Org.)

India to host 46th UNESCO heritage panel session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, being hosted by India from July 21-31, will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The event will be attended by over 2,500 delegates from State Parties, advisory bodies, senior diplomats, heritage experts, scholars, and researchers from 195 countries, a senior official said. State Parties are countries which have adhered to the World Heritage Convention.

Sources said the event, being organised by the Archaeological Survey of India, is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. UNESCO has already released a provisional agenda and timetable for the meeting.

The World Heritage Committee has representatives from 21 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972) elected by the General Assembly.

Context: India is set to host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- **About**: The committee was founded under the UNESCO Convention on World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972 to oversee its implementation globally.
- **Composition**: comprises representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972) elected by the General Assembly of UNESCO.
- **45th UNESCO World Heritage Committee**: Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.
- **Current Members**: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Türkiye, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zambia.
- **Role in World Heritage Protection**: It manages the World Heritage Fund, providing financial aid, and decides which sites are included on the prestigious World Heritage List.
- **The "Five Cs**: Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication and Communities.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India**: India boasts 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with Santiniketan being the latest addition in September 2023, recognized for its association with Rabindranath Tagore.

PIB July 3

STEEL FLAG
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

International Conference on Steel Slag Road: Member (Science) Niti Aayog, Dr.V.K.Saraswat releases the Guidelines for Utilization of Steel Slag in Road Construction

Context: Recently Member of Niti Aayog unveiled guidelines for the utilization and processing of steel slag as processed steel slag aggregates in road construction, aiming to promote sustainable infrastructure development in India.

Steel Slag

- **About**: It is an industrial by-product obtained from the steel manufacturing industry.
- **Generation Process:** It is generated from a steel furnace burning at around 1,500-1,600 degrees Celsius in the form of molten flux material as an impurity.
- **Composition**: Steel slag primarily consists of calcium, magnesium, manganese, aluminum silicates, and oxides.
- **Benefits**: Steel slag road is 30% cheaper than roads built from natural aggregates. The thickness of the road is also 30% lesser than normal ones, while the durability is much longer due to the utilization of steel slag.
- **Sustainable Road Construction**: Utilization of processed steel slag in road construction paves the way for sustainable use of waste and reduces the reliance on perishable natural aggregates, reducing GHG emissions and carbon footprint in road construction activity.
- **Alignment with SDGs**: This process is in line with India's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 9 for building resilient infrastructure through inclusive and sustainable industrialization & green technologies.
- **Other Uses**: Steel slag can be used as aggregates in concrete to replace natural aggregates, owing to its favorable mechanical properties and high resistance to abrasion and impact.
    - It is also used to treat acidic water. In the agricultural sector, due to its ability to correct soil acidity, it is used as silicate fertilizer that is capable of providing silicon to the plants.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Page 7

RIGHT TO SPEEDY TRIAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Speedy trial is a constitutional right: SC pulls up NIA for delay

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Holding that the constitutional right to a speedy trial cannot depend on the severity of the alleged crime, the Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a stern reprimand to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for its delay in prosecuting a counterfeit currency case that resulted in the accused being imprisoned for four years without trial.

A bench comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan underscored the constitutional right to a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution, irrespective of the severity of the crime, as it granted bail to the accused in the case. "You are NIA. Please do not make a mockery of justice. It is four years, and the trial has not commenced. This is not done. Whatever offence the accused has committed, he has the right to a speedy trial," the bench remarked.

It stated in the order: "Howsoever a serious crime may be, accused has a right to speedy trial, as enshrined under the Constitution of India. We are convinced the manner in which the court and the prosecuting agency have proceeded in this case, the right to speedy trial has been frustrated, thereby violating Article 21."

The court was hearing an appeal against a February 2024 Bombay high court order that denied bail to Javed Gulam Nabi Shaikh. He was apprehended by the Mumbai police in 2020, leading to the recovery of counterfeit currency notes allegedly originating from Pakistan. NIA later assumed control of the probe, claiming Shaikh had visited Dubai in February 2020 and received the counterfeit currency there.

At the outset of the proceedings on Wednesday, the bench criticised the delay in the trial and urged NIA to uphold the right to a speedy trial, rather than "make a mockery of justice" by seeking time after time to submit its counter affidavit in the matter.

Furthermore, the bench observed that two co-accused had already been granted bail, with one bail order currently under challenge before the top court but there being no stay on the bail.

The bench pointed out that Shaikh had been detained as an undertrial for four years, the trial court had not yet framed charges and the prosecution was expected to examine 80 witnesses. "We wonder when the trial will commence and when it can get concluded," it commented.

Based on these considerations, the bench set aside the HC order and granted bail to Shaikh, subject to conditions set by the trial court. The top court also directed Shaikh not to leave Mumbai during the bail and report to the NIA's Mumbai office every 15 days.

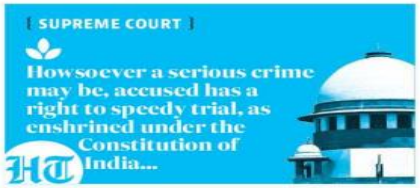
Article 21 of the Constitution gives all individuals the fundamental right to life and personal liberty. Through a catena of top court judgments, the right to speedy trial has been acknowledged as an extension of Article 21.

In Kartar Singh Vs State of Punjab (1994), a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court unequivocally construed the right of speedy trial as a fundamental right. "The concept of speedy trial is read into Article 21 as an essential part of the fundamental right to life and liberty guaranteed and preserved under our Constitution. The right to speedy trial begins with the actual restraint imposed by arrest and consequent incarceration and continues at all stages...," it held.

Another Constitution bench in Abdul Rehman Antulay vs RS Nayak, (1992) underscored that this right to speedy trial is implicit in Article 21 and is also reflected in Section 309 of the CrPC, 1973; that it encompasses all stages — investigation, inquiry, trial, appeal, revision and retrial; that the burden lies on the prosecution to justify and explain the delay; that the court must engage in a balancing test to determine whether this right had been denied in the particular case before it.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), the new code that has replaced CrPC with effect from July 1, has sought to address delayed justice through some new provisions. BNSS requires sessions courts to frame charges within 60 days from the first hearing and deliver judgments within 30 days (extendable to 60 days) after completing arguments. Plea bargaining applications must be filed within 30 days of framing charges.

The BNSS mandates that medical practitioners examining rape victims submit reports within seven days to investigating officers. Victims must be informed of probe progress within 90 days. To avoid trial delays, BNSS allows evidence collected by retired or transferred officers to be presented by their successors.



Context: The Supreme Court criticized the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for delays in prosecuting a counterfeit currency case, stating that the right to a speedy trial is fundamental regardless of the severity of the alleged crime.

Speedy Trial

- **Inherent in Article 21**: It guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which inherently includes the right to a speedy trial.
- **Interpretation of "Life and Liberty"**: The phrase encompasses various rights essential for a free and dignified life, among which is the right to a timely judicial process.
- **Legal Protection**: Any denial of the right to speedy trial can be challenged in the Supreme Court under Article 32 or in High Courts under Article 226.
- **The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):** The BNSS aims to expedite justice by mandating sessions courts to frame charges within 60 days of the first hearing and deliver judgments within 30 days after completing arguments (extendable to 60 days).
- Plea bargaining applications must be submitted within 30 days of charges being framed.

Landmark Cases Related to Speedy Trial

- **Hussainara Khatoon & Ors. vs Home Secretary, State of Bihar 1979:** No procedure which does not ensure a reasonably quick trial can be regarded as 'reasonable, fair or just' and it would fall foul of Article 21.
- **Katar Singh vs State of Punjab**: A constitution bench of the Supreme Court unequivocally construed the right of speedy trial as a fundamental right. "The concept of speedy trial is read into Article 21 as an essential part of the fundamental right to life and libert guaranteed and preserved under our Constitution.
- **Abdul Rehman Antulay Vs RS Nayak, (1992)**: Right to speedy trial is implicit in Article 21 of the Constitution and is also reflected in Section 309 of the CrPC, 1973; that it encompasses all stages.

LIVEMINT Page 7

GLOBAL INDIA AI SUMMIT 2024

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

India AI summit calls for fast action on AI development

Industry leaders stress need for increasing AI compute expansion at Global India AI summit

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NEW DELHI

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) hosted its Global India AI Summit—conducting an executive council meeting to take the agenda on global collaboration of artificial intelligence (AI) forward, as well as a ministerial council meeting on the same. While the Union government and private industry officials reiterated India's approach to building sovereign AI capacity, industry stakeholders underlined the need for urgency in ramping up efforts and use cases.

Speaking at a roundtable session at the summit, Gaurav Aggarwal, vice-president of AI at telecom and technology group Reliance Jio, said, "While the Centre's decision to assign ₹4,000 crore to building AI compute capacity of 10,000 GPUs through a state-run platform is positive, it's important to ramp up urgency in building this capacity. There is available GPU capacity with vendors and data centres alike—it's important to move fast to procure and deploy the capacity if we are to build AI use cases that enable industries imminently."

On Monday, the sixth ministerial council meet under the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) reached a consensus on the way forward on a collaborative development model for AI globally. The council nominated Serbia as the lead chair nation for GPAI for FY25, where the summit's next edition will be held later this year.

Further, the availability of GPU capacity is key to opening up the ability for companies to build and develop AI applications for users. At present, accessing processors to train AI models, while collating databases of Indic languages, is the biggest challenge. One such challenge was underlined by Pratyush Kumar, cofounder of Lightspeed, Peak XV-backed startup Sarvam AI.

Talking to *Mint*, Kumar said, "If we want an indigenous AI model to be used in offering support and assistance in neonatal care, our available models are not good enough at the moment. Ramping up cross-referencing of domestic datasets and extensively training the models will be key to achieving that, and this will be the biggest benefit of AI to users."

While Sarvam accesses publicly available Indic language data built and maintained as open-source resources by Meity's Bhashini initiative, training models on a more diverse set of datasets will be key.

The urgency to build AI capabilities stem from current geopolitical concerns, too. Tanuj Bhowani, head of Nandan Nilekani-backed AI development platform People+AI, underlined limited development of India's indigenous capacities in compute and software as a hurdle in building services for people.

"Export control regulations from a certain nation can leave India without leverage to access compute. There is also the need to ramp up our capacity in software development—right now, even in all of the software that we use, none of the kernels, platforms and app marketplaces that we use are Indian. The eventual idea is to use AI to build services for people—be it in education or healthcare. What we need right now is to address these challenges, where AI can play a significant role," he added.

To address these challenges, India stands at a crucial juncture of ramping up development capacity and urgency—one that industry stakeholders said will require concerted effort from both public and private sectors. Earlier at the opening address, Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reiterated India's push to play a key role in global AI development, and also stated that a state-run platform that will offer GPU capacities, AI frameworks and incubation support is in the works—and is likely to be promoted soon.

Srinivas Narayanan, vice-president of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, reiterated Big Tech's interest in the India market. "AI has added speed and dynamism to the already-dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in India. Entrepreneurs understand market gaps, and build innovative products to fill them. By reducing the cost of intelligence...AI can make engineers far more productive, open up opportunities for higher-level problem solving and open up computing for the masses," he said.

Narayanan, who helps AI development at one of the world's most-watched startups, said that OpenAI "is committed to supporting the IndiaAI Mission's Application Development Initiative," and will continue conversations with Meity to "gauge where we may be able to add the most value."

Mohit Sewak, head of AI research and developer relations at chipmaker Nvidia, told *Mint* at the sidelines of the Summit that to support use-case development, the world's most valuable company has "opened up developer relations in India" this year—and is ramping up this support.



(L-R) Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw; Hiroshi Yoshida, Japan's vice minister for internal affairs and communications; Debjani Ghosh, president, Nasscom; and Srinivas Narayanan, vice president, OpenAI, at the Global INDIAai Summit 2024. PTI

PUSH FOR AI

GAURAV Aggarwal, vice-president of AI, Reliance Jio, said it's important to ramp up urgency

THE availability of GPU capacity is key to build and develop AI applications for users

THE urgency to build AI capabilities stems from current geopolitical concerns, too

SRINIVAS Narayanan, VP of OpenAI, reiterated Big Tech's interest in India market

Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organizing the 'Global India AI Summit,' reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to the responsible development, deployment, and adoption of artificial intelligence.

Global IndiaAI Summit 2024

- **About:** The summit will provide a platform for leading international AI experts from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organizations, and academia to share insights on key AI issues and challenges.
- **Aim:** The summit aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, underscoring India's dedication to the ethical and inclusive growth of AI technologies.
- **Held:** New Delhi
- **Theme 2024:** International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology (AISUMMIT-2024).
- **Establishing Global Leadership**: Through the Global IndiaAI Summit 2024, India aspires to establish itself as a global leader in AI innovation, ensuring that AI benefits are accessible to all and contribute to the nation's socio-economic development.

India AI Mission

- **About:** It represents a strategic endeavor aimed at spurring AI innovation, broadening access to computing resources, offering startup funding, promoting ethical AI practices, and fostering inclusive growth within India's AI ecosystem.
- **Implemented by:** IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- **Purpose**: To catalyze India's AI ecosystem, positioning it as a significant force shaping the future of AI both domestically and globally.

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