

● POLITY

● ECONOMICS

● TECHNOLOGY

● ECOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA'S POLL RESULTS VICTORY FOR DEMOCRATIC WORLD: PM

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interactions at the G-7 Outreach Summit in Italy highlighted India's election results, meetings with global leaders, and discussions on key international issues.



INTERACTION WITH GLOBAL LEADERS

- **Brief Meeting with U.S. President Biden:** Modi and Biden committed to working for the "global good"; no formal bilateral meeting took place.
- **Handshake with Canadian PM Trudeau:** No specific details of their conversation were provided.
- **Embrace with Pope Francis:** Modi and the Pope discussed using technology to reduce inequalities.

PRAISE FOR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

- **India's Election Results:** Described as a "victory for the democratic world" by Modi.
- **Electronic Voting Machines:** Praised for their "impartiality and transparency."

DISCUSSIONS AT THE G-7 OUTREACH SUMMIT

- **Focus Areas:** Artificial Intelligence (AI), African development, and the Mediterranean.
- **Pope Francis' Address:** First-time address at the G-7 session.

REFERENCE TO EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

- **Mention of European Parliament Polls:** Discussed alongside upcoming elections in France, the U.K., and the U.S.
- **Modi's Reflection:** Expressed gladness to be among G-7 leaders facing the "excitement of elections."

UKRAINE CONFLICT

- **Meeting with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy:** Modi promised support for a peaceful resolution but will not attend the Swiss Peace Summit.
- **Indian Representation at Swiss Peace Summit:** MEA Secretary (West) Pavan Kapoor to represent India.

INDIA'S STANCE ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

- **Neutral Position:** India abstained on resolutions critical of Russia and maintained ties with both Moscow and Kiev.

BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TRADE AGREEMENTS

- **Discussion with U.K. PM Rishi Sunak:** Talked about strategic ties and the "India-UK Roadmap 2030."
- **Free Trade Agreement Negotiations:** Progress noted, but further action expected post-U.K. elections on July 4.

MEETING WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON

- **Upcoming Parliamentary Polls:** Macron's party faces elections after a defeat in European Parliament elections.

SUMMARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's election results at the G-7 Outreach Summit in Italy, praising democratic processes and electronic voting machines. He engaged with global leaders, discussed AI and African development, addressed the Ukraine conflict, and explored bilateral relations and trade agreements, including with the U.K. and France.

POLITY

SC ASKS NTA, GOVT. TO REPLY TO PLEAS SEEKING PROBE INTO NEET-UG

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Centre to respond to pleas seeking a probe into alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, including question paper leaks and discrepancies in scoring, amid widespread protests and demands for transparency and a CBI investigation.



SUPREME COURT INVOLVEMENT

- **SC Directs Response:** Supreme Court asked National Testing Agency (NTA) and Centre to respond to pleas seeking a probe into NEET-UG 2024 question paper leak and discrepancies.
- **Call for CBI Investigation:** Petitioners, including advocate Charu Mathur, urged for a CBI investigation into NEET-UG scoring anomalies.

Petitioners' Allegations

- **Question Paper Leak:** Allegations of a leaked NEET-UG question paper.
- **Score Discrepancies:** Students reported different marks on scorecards compared to OMR sheets.
- **Inflated Cut-off Marks:** Concerns over unprecedented inflation of cut-off marks.
- **Statistical Anomalies:** Sixty-seven candidates scored perfect 720/720, with six from the same exam center in Haryana.
- **Transparency Issues:** Lack of disclosure on the criteria for compensatory marks.

Supreme Court Actions

- **Notice Issued:** Formal notice issued to NTA and the Centre; replies due in two weeks.
- **Scheduled Hearing:** Petitions scheduled for hearing on July 8.

Continued Protests and Demands

- **Protests for Investigation:** Aspirants and Indian Foreign Medical Students (IFMS) protested in Delhi, demanding a retest, CBI inquiry, and action against irregularities.
- **March to Education Ministry:** Protesters marched to the Education Ministry, seeking justice and transparency in the examination process.

Government and NTA's Response

- **Retest Announcement:** NTA to reconduct NEET-UG for 1,563 candidates who received grace marks.
- **Transparency Measures:** Suggestions included verifying the total number of questions attempted by each student on OMR sheets.

Education Minister's Statements

- **Accountability Promised:** Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan assured accountability if lapses were found.
- **Counselling Process:** Despite protests, the counselling process is to commence soon, as per Supreme Court directions.
- **Response to Allegations:** Pradhan refuted Congress's claims of rigging, corruption, and paper leak in NEET-UG 2024, citing lack of concrete evidence.

Background and Impact

- **Historic Scores:** Over 23 lakh students appeared for NEET-UG 2024; 67 scored full marks for the first time.
- **Allegations of Malpractice:** Following these results, allegations of irregularities and inflated marks surfaced, leading to widespread protests and demands for justice.

SUMMARY: The Supreme Court has directed the NTA and the Centre to respond to pleas seeking a probe into alleged NEET-UG 2024 irregularities, including question paper leaks and score discrepancies. Amid protests and demands for transparency and a CBI investigation, the government assured accountability, while the

NTA announced a retest for affected candidates.

POLITY

REIMAGINING INDIAN FEDERALISM

CONTEXT: On June 4, 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell short of a majority in the Lok Sabha, relying on regional partners in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to form a government. This shift offers a potential revival of India's federal structure, which has faced numerous challenges over the past decade.



BJP's Coalition Government:

- BJP fell short of majority in Lok Sabha, June 4, 2024.
- Relies heavily on regional partners in the NDA.
- Potential for revitalizing India's federal structure.

Federalism Concerns:

- Modi's rhetoric of cooperative federalism contradicted by actions.
- Centralization of power at the expense of States.
- Examples of centralization:
 - Imposing Hindi on southern States.
 - Using regulatory and investigative agencies against political opponents.
 - Imposing a nationwide lockdown without consulting State Chief Ministers.
 - Misusing PM CARES Fund, limiting flow of funds to State relief funds.
 - Abrogation of Article 370 and robbing Jammu and Kashmir of Statehood.
 - Undermining fiscal federalism through levying cesses.

91st Amendment and Delimitation Concerns:

- Impending lapse of 91st Amendment in 2026.
- Potential fresh Census and new delimitation exercise.
- Risks of Hindi-speaking States gaining disproportionate representation.
- Possible disenfranchisement of southern States.

Impacts on Southern States:

- Disproportionate tax devolution favoring northern States.
- High-performing southern States receive less financial support.

- Example: Uttar Pradesh received ₹25,069 crore in tax devolution, more than all southern States combined.

Regional Parties in NDA:

- Regional parties secure cabinet positions and benefits for their States.
- Limited impact on strengthening cooperative federalism.
- Examples: Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas).

Narendra Modi's Shift in Federalism Approach:

- As Gujarat Chief Minister, Modi championed decentralized policy-making.
- Advocated for States to innovate and tailor solutions.
- Shifted to centralization as Prime Minister.

Proposed Solutions:

- Revive the Inter-State Council for consultation, decision-making, dispute resolution, and coordination.
- Ensure all States feel included and benefit from common nationhood.
- Prevent centralization of power and money to maintain national unity.

CONCLUSION:

- Strengthening cooperative federalism is essential to maintaining India's diversity and unity.
- States must work together to devise equitable solutions and ensure balanced representation and resource distribution.

POLITY

MORTAL REMAINS OF 45 INDIAN WORKERS KILLED IN KUWAIT BLAZE BROUGHT BACK

CONTEXT: The mortal remains of 45 Indian migrant workers who perished in a fire in Kuwait were brought back to India. An additional injured worker passed away, raising the death toll to 46.



Repatriation of Mortal Remains:

- 45 Indian migrant workers' mortal remains returned to India on an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft.
- An additional injured worker passed away, bringing the total fatalities to 46.
- News confirmed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

Arrival and Homage:

- Bodies first arrived at Kochi airport at 10:30 a.m.
 - Kerala government delegation led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan paid homage.
 - 31 victims hailed from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.
- IAF aircraft then flew to New Delhi.
 - Bodies of 14 victims received by Ministry of External Affairs officials and medical teams.

Officials Involved:

- Minister of State for External Affairs Kirtivardhan Singh.
- Ministry's Joint Secretary of the Gulf Division Aseem R. Mahajan.
- Other officials coordinated the humanitarian airlift operation and returned on the same aircraft.

Distribution of Mortal Remains:

- 23 workers from Kerala, seven from Tamil Nadu, and one from Karnataka.
- Kerala: 23 Malayali victims.
- Tamil Nadu: Seven victims.
- Karnataka: One victim.

Condolences and Tributes:

- Kirtivardhan Singh expressed heartfelt condolences.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Mr. Singh laid wreaths and paid tribute at the airport.
- Victims given a guard of honour.

Statements and Future Measures:

- Chief Minister Vijayan called the incident the biggest tragedy involving expatriates.
- Emphasised the need for measures to prevent similar tragedies in the future.
- Highlighted the importance of expatriates to Kerala and the unbearable loss for families.
- Urged the Kuwait government to provide compensation and take preventive measures.
- Called for effective intervention by the Indian government.

Support and Arrangements:

- Norka Roots, Kerala government's outreach agency for non-resident Keralites, arranged ambulances for the 23 Malayali victims.
- Kerala Police provided end-to-end pilot vehicle support for the 23 Malayali victims and up to the border for the seven Tamil Nadu victims.

CONCLUSION: The repatriation of the 45 Indian workers' remains from Kuwait, along with the condolences and tributes paid by officials and dignitaries, underscores the tragic loss and the need for preventive measures. The coordinated efforts of government agencies and support organisations reflect a solemn commitment to honouring the victims and supporting their families during this difficult time.



"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

—Benjamin Franklin

ECONOMY

MAY WPI INFLATION SPIKES TO 15-MONTH HIGH ON FOOD PRICES

CONTEXT: Food inflation surges to 10-month peak of 7.4% driven by steeper fruit, vegetable, cereal prices; manufactured products see return of price rise.

Wholesale worries

WPI inflation accelerated to a 15-month high of 2.61% in May, more than double April's pace

■ Manufactured products see a resurgence of inflation after 14 months of deflation

■ May was the seventh month in a row that the WPI rose on a year-on-year basis

■ Sequentially, the WPI rose 0.2%, easing from April's upwardly revised 9-month high of 1.06%



- Wholesale inflation in India surged to a 15-month high of 2.61% in May, driven by food inflation reaching a 10-month peak at 7.4%.
- This acceleration in wholesale inflation signals potential for further consumer price surges despite retail inflation easing to 4.75%.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) rose 0.2% in May, with food prices up 1.14% and manufactured products' prices rising 0.64%.
- Vegetable prices spiked due to supply shortages and heatwaves, with tomato prices rising by 64.5%.
- Cereal prices rose by 9%, pulses hit a six-month high of 22% inflation, and fruits' inflation reached 5.8%.
- Analysts are concerned about sustained food inflation impacting retail prices, with expectations of wholesale inflation rising to 3.5% in June.

CONCLUSION: India's wholesale inflation rose to a 15-month high of 2.61% in May, driven by surging food prices. Economists warn of further price hikes despite easing retail inflation. Vegetable and fruit prices spiked, and concerns about supply shortages impacting inflation persist.



"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." - Robert Frost



VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

**START YOUR
JOURNEY WITH THE
BEST**



COME JOIN WITH US



VEDHIK

IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra

START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

**INDIA'S
TOP MOST
CIVIL SERVANTS
FOR COACHING**

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

Head Office:
Vedhik IAS Academy
Mercy Estate,
MG Road, Ravipuram,
Ernakulam-682 015,

Corporate office:
Vedhik IAS Academy
Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15,
Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

Regional office
Vedhik IAS Academy
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,
Museum Road. Bangalore -
560001. Karnataka, India.

GCC Office:
Bobscoedu,
Bobsco Trading & Contracting Co. W. L . L
Office 22, Dream Tower 1,
Road: 2701, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain
www.bobscoedu.com