

Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs)

8th November 2024

- **Supreme Court Ruling on Public Service Recruitment**
- **Nutritional Insights on Millets**
- **Ozempic**
- **SC ON Private Property**
- **India's CSR and Agricultural Impact**
- **Namibia's Offshore Oil Development:**
- **Loaita Island (Kota Island) in the Philippines**
- **Mains**



By saurabh Pandey



THE HINDU

Target Mains -2025/26 -

Q

**Connect with sir
9057921649**

**send your answer - Saurabh pandey
upsc telegram channel**

**Download saurabh pandey cse app
visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com and click all courses**

**Comprehensive course on ADVANCE CURRENT
AFFAIRS BOTH FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS 2025**

Includes

- **The Hindu Newspaper
subjectwise coverage**
- **Yojana magazine**
- **Down to earth**
- **PIB**
- **Physics.org**
- **Mains qs**
- **Prelims Practice set**

**2 yrs
coverage**



**BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR**

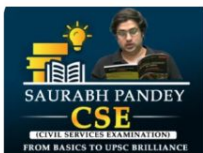
**FOR UPSC
2025/26**

**NEW BATCH
LAUNCHED**

**Connect with sir
9057921649**

LIVE

We're fine-tuning our website in beta mode for the best experience. We're working tirelessly to ensure it's top-notch... Also please join us on [Telegram](#)



Categories ▾

🔍 Search for anything...

Login

Visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com

Home Courses ▾ Pages ▾ More ▾ About UPSC Exam ▾ Current-Affairs Pointers ▾

YouTube Channel

All Courses

⚡ Impo All Courses Current Affairs 22nd & 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024 Current Affairs 21st SEPTEMBER 2024 Curren

Popular Courses

Connect with sir
9057921649 (ONLY MSG)

See More →

Mains Module and Integrity
FOR UPSC 2025/26
GS PAPER 4
250 Marks
Also include ARC report on ethics in Governance
By saurabh pandey sir
Notes with Maps
LIVE

Best Course On Ethics And Integrity For UPSC...

Admin

Mains Module Writing
ESSAY
Connect with sir 90579 21649
Starting 9th September 2024
• Total 50 ESSAY
• Model essay
• VIDEO lectures
• Evaluation of Essay
TARGET 140+
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Master The Art Of Essay Writing With This...

Admin

GS PAPER 1
Mains Module
Mains special
Connect with sir 90579 21649
starting 10th Sep 2024
Complete course on Society, globalisation, Regionalism, communalism (FOR UPSC 2025/26)
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Course On Society , Globalisation...

Admin

GS PAPER 3
Mains Module
Mains special
Connect with sir 90579 21649
starting 10th Sep 2024
Complete course on Cybersecurity, Disaster Management and Border management (FOR UPSC 2025/26)
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Complete Course On Cyber Security ,Disaste...

Admin



'Rules cannot change midway of public services recruitment'



Rules on recruitments to public services must be governed by fundamental rights of equality, says a Constitution Bench of top court; 'rules' mean eligibility criteria and selection procedure, it adds

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held on Thursday that the eligibility criteria, or the "rules of the game", for selection of candidates to public services could not be changed midway once the recruitment commenced.

"Eligibility criteria for being placed in the select list, notified at the commencement of the recruitment process, cannot be changed midway through the recruitment process unless the extant rules so permit, or the advertisement, which is not contrary to the extant rules, so permits," Justice Manoj Misra, who authored the judgment, concluded.

The Constitution Bench, in the unanimous 44-page judgment, held that the laws, rules and procedure governing recruitments to public services, both of the Union and the States, must



Criteria for being in select list cannot be changed midway unless extant rules or advertisement, which is not contrary to extant rules, so permits

JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA
Supreme Court Judge

be governed by the overarching principles of the fundamental rights of equality and non-discrimination.

Even if the criteria has to be altered, the change will have to meet the requirements of Articles 14 (right to equality) and 16 (equal opportunity in public employment and non-discrimination) of the Constitution and satisfy the test of non-arbitrariness, the court underscored.

However, the judgment said a spot on the select list would not guarantee a candidate the infeasible right to be appointed even if vacancies were available. However, on the other hand, the state or any of its

instrumentalities could not arbitrarily deny appointment to a selected candidate.

Therefore, Justice Misra said, it would be the state's burden to justify the denial of appointment to a selected candidate.

Justice Misra explained what "the rules of the game" meant.

"The 'game' is the process of selection and appointment. Courts have consistently frowned upon tinkering with the rules of the game once the recruitment process commences. This has crystallised into an oft-quoted legal phrase that 'the rules of the game must not be changed midway, or after the game has

been played,'" the judge said.


Two categories


The "rules" roughly fell into two categories – one which prescribes the eligibility criteria or the essential qualifications of the candidates seeking employment; and the other which stipulates the method and manner of making the selection from amongst the eligible candidates.


The court explained that a "recruitment process" began with the issuance of the advertisement calling for applications and ended with filling of the vacancies. The recruitment must follow the extant rules and adopt a procedure which was transparent, non-discriminatory, and non-arbitrary and had a rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved. The rules concerned were binding on the recruiting body both in terms of procedure and eligibility criteria.


Topic → Supreme Court Ruling on Public Service Recruitment





 **Judgment by Constitution Bench:** A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud ruled on the stability of eligibility criteria during public service recruitment.


 **Unchanged Rules:** The eligibility criteria for candidates cannot be altered once the recruitment process has begun, unless permitted by existing rules or the initial advertisement.

 **Fundamental Rights:** The court emphasized that recruitment laws must adhere to the principles of equality and non-discrimination as outlined in Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

 **No Guaranteed Appointment:** Being on the select list does not guarantee a candidate's appointment, even if vacancies exist; however, arbitrary denial of appointment by the state is not allowed.

 **State's Burden of Justification:** If a selected candidate is denied appointment, the state must justify its decision, reinforcing accountability in the recruitment process.

 **Definition of "Rules of the Game":** The term refers to the established process of selection and appointment, which should not be altered once recruitment has commenced.

 **Recruitment Process Defined:** The recruitment process starts with the advertisement for applications and ends with filling the vacancies, requiring transparency and adherence to established rules.

Summary: The Supreme Court ruled that eligibility criteria for public service recruitment cannot be changed mid-process, emphasizing adherence to constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Removing bran on millets reduces the benefits of eating them: study



Ramya Kannan

CHENNAI

Removing the bran from millets results in decreasing the protein, dietary fibre, fat, mineral and phytate content in them while increasing the carbohydrates and amylose content, a recent paper in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Springer* has shown. This could squander away the benefits of eating millets.

The article, *Impact of debranning on the nutritional, cooking, microstructural characteristics of five Indian small millets*, by Shanmugam Shobana et al makes a case for consuming millets as whole grain without de-branning. “De-husked millets are nutritious and should be promoted in Indian diets to improve diet quality, de-branned millets are nutritionally inferior, can increase the glycemic load of Indian diets,” the authors say.

The study was conducted by the Madras Diabetes



Harvest time: Foxtail millets ready to be harvested at a farm at Thoopanaickenpatti in Dindigul district. G. KARTHIKEYAN

Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, and the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad.

High in minerals

Millets are high in minerals such as calcium, iron, phosphorus, and potassium, and they are an excellent source of phytochemicals such as phenolic compounds when compared with other major cereals (rice, wheat, maize), conferring a range of health benefits such as anti-aging, anti-carcinogenic, anti-atherosclerogenic, an-

tibacterial, and antioxidant effects.

The Food and Agriculture Organization recognised 2023 as the International Year of Millets and the Indian government went all out to celebrate it.

Ms. Shobana says: “We did a small market survey in 2018, and found that millets, polished like white rice, were being sold in stores. There are differences between polished millets and whole grains, in terms of colour and texture, but if you are buying packaged products, it is


difficult to tell.” This particular study looked at the smaller millets – foxtail, little, kodo, barnyard, and proso.

But why are millets polished? Dr. Shobana explains that removing the bran and germ extends the shelf life of millets. Millet bran is rich in fats, and not removing it might reduce shelf life, as it could become rancid faster. De-branning will also reduce cooking time, make the grain softer and less chewy.

V. Mohan, president, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, adds: “While millets have their advantages in terms of phytonutrients and protein intake, the type of millets available in the market are highly polished and consuming this results in a high glycemic index, which is not desirable. We should take efforts to make millets available as they originally were available in the country, so that they are of benefit to people with diabetes too.”

Topic → Nutritional Insights on Millets




 **Nutritional Impact of Debranning:** Removing bran from millets decreases protein, dietary fiber, fat, minerals, and phytate content while increasing carbohydrates and amylose.


 **Nutritional Inferiority:** Debranned millets are considered nutritionally inferior and can increase the glycemic


(Glycemic index (GI) is a measure of how much a food raises blood sugar levels:

GI measures how quickly a food's carbohydrates are converted into glucose, a type of sugar

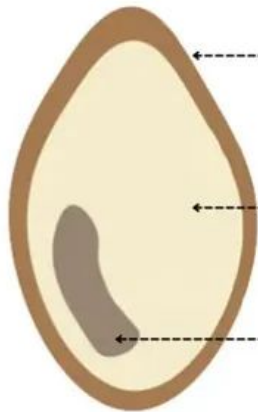
load of diets, potentially negating the health benefits of millets.

 **Whole Grain Promotion:** The study advocates for the consumption of whole grain millets to improve diet quality in India.

 **Mineral Richness:** Millets are high in essential minerals like calcium, iron, phosphorus, and potassium, and contain beneficial phyto-chemicals.

 **International Year of Millets:** The year 2023 has been recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization as the International Year of Millets, with significant promotion by the Indian government.

WHOLE GRAIN



BRAN LAYER

Fibre
Vitamins
Minerals
Phytonutrients

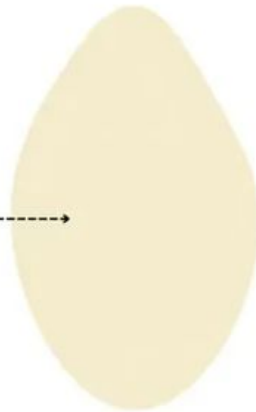
ENDOSPERM

Protein
Carbohydrates

GERM

Fatty Acids
Vitamins
Minerals
Phytonutrients

REFINED GRAIN

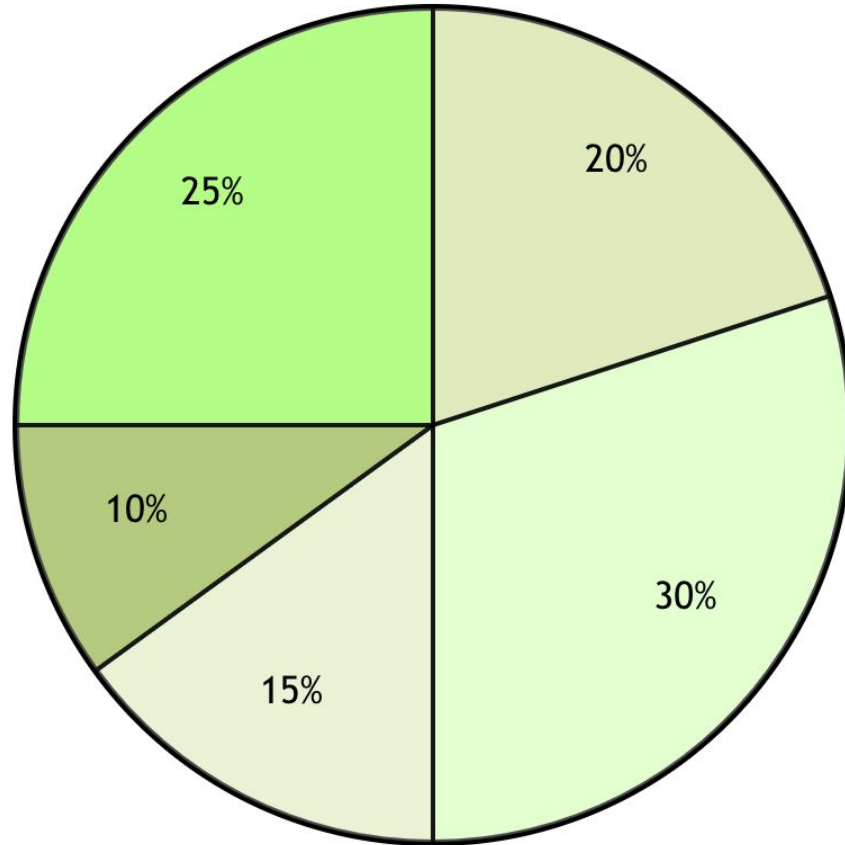




Shelf Life vs. Nutrition: Polishing millets extends shelf life but reduces nutritional value; the bran and germ are removed to prevent rancidity and reduce cooking time.

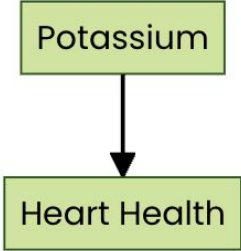
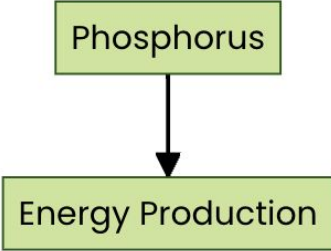
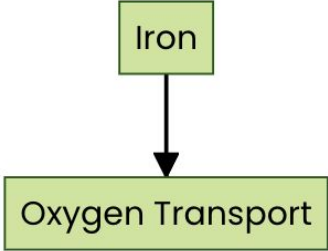
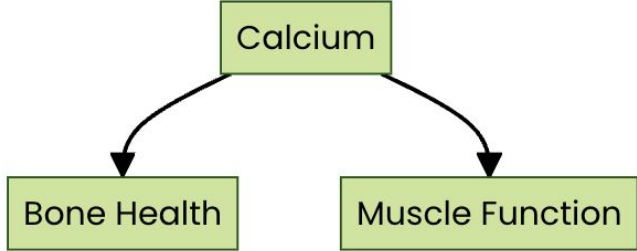
Summary: A recent study highlights the nutritional drawbacks of debranning millets, advocating for their consumption as whole grains to maximize health benefits.

Nutritional Composition



- Protein & Fiber
- Carbohydrates
- Minerals & Phytate
- Fats
- Amylose

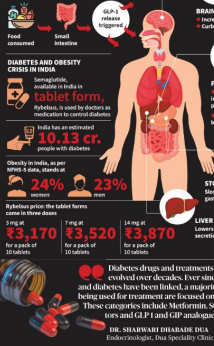
Mineral Content:





How does semaglutide work in your body?

Semaglutide belongs to a class of drugs known as GLP-1 receptor agonists. It mimics the hormone GLP-1 made by the small intestine, which is released after a meal.



ve Ozempic's 'weight quering' qualities unformed treatment diabetes and obesity?

pharm forms of semaglutide have taken the world by storm. oral form, available in India, is helping doctors see better control with the added benefit of weight loss. Some benefits to the heart and kidney have also been noted, since a deterrent for a treatment regimen that patients will have to continue throughout their lives

EXPLAINER

A few years ago, one word began to do the rounds amongst people with diabetes and those struggling to lose weight. That word was a wonder drug, it soon took the world by storm. Colloquies such as Ozempic revealed that they had used it. Reports of "Ozempic parties" followed, and as the drug's popularity surged, supply became a thing in various countries.

Ozempic, known generically as semaglutide, is an injectable prescription drug. It was approved in 2017 by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in adults with type 2 diabetes. In 2020, the FDA approved another injectable semaglutide, Wegovy, for chronic weight management in adults with obesity or overweight and with at least one weight-related condition such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or high cholesterol. Ozempic and Wegovy are manufactured by Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk.

What is semaglutide and who uses it in India? Semaglutide belongs to the class of drugs called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists. The drug mimics the action of the hormone GLP-1 made by the small intestine, which regulates gut releases after eating. What this does is slow down digestion and reduce the appetite, while triggering the pancreas to release more insulin.

The use of the drug, therefore, leads to weight loss, and some benefits to the heart and kidney have also been noted, says V. Mohan, chairman of The Indian Diabetes Specialist Centre, Chennai.

Semaglutide is available in oral (Ozempic) and injectable (Ozempic/Wegovy) forms. The injectable results in weight losses of about 10 to 15% in adults, says Mohan. The daily oral tablet (Ozempic), launched in India a few years ago, is a breakthrough, though it cannot be compared with the effectiveness of the injectable forms that are not available yet.

In a country with 80.6 crore diabetes patients, and with an additional 1.25 crore obesity prevalence estimated at 40% among women and 12% in men, semaglutide has attracted widespread interest, though costs remain a significant barrier to its use, and side-effects deter some patients.

Diabetes control
Diabetes across India have been increasing

oral semaglutide to patients for two years now, and so they have seen results in terms of diabetes control and weight management.

Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis CDOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences in Delhi, has seen an increase in the number of patients who start on oral Rybelsus. "An increasing number are asking for prescription. Most have heard about it from relatives or friends abroad where these drugs are popular," he says.

While the weight loss factor often overshadows diabetes management, and has led to a surge of interest from patients looking for a quick fix, doctors emphasise that this drug is not for simple weight management and is not a fix-line option.

"Diabetes is not a single disease and it comes with a host of complications, all of which need aggressive management. Semaglutide, with the added benefits it provides as far as renal, cardiovascular and hepatic issues are concerned, is primarily for type 2 diabetes. The weight loss benefits are just the cherry on top for diabetes patients for whom weight gain because of insulin use is a concern," says Diabetic John, a senior endocrinology consultant, in Thiruvananthapuram.

Also, not everyone who wants the drug is eligible, say doctors. "While I receive 1,500 enquiries a week, only 25 patients are eligible. We prescribe it to those with complications, such as a high risk of cardiovascular disease, since the drug reduces the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular deaths in such adults," says Mahesh D. S., consultant in endocrinology at Aster CMI Hospital in Bengaluru.

"We do not recommend the drug for people just looking to shed 10 kg. This is a drug for the obese, for whom weight loss is an uphill climb even with healthy diet and moderate physical activity. We generally use it along with a healthy diet and physical activity, semaglutide adds a significant weight loss to that. At the same time, I have also seen patients for whom the drug did not work," says Abhilash Kishanu, Associate Consultant in Endocrinology, KIMS Health in Thiruvananthapuram.

For those taking the drug, there are a few things to bear in mind. While many suffer from nausea, the side effects are an issue. Since the drug works on the stomach, the most common side effects are bloating, nausea and vomiting. In rare cases, Dr. Mohan says, it can cause stomach paralytic, called the gastroparesis, which is a stomach muscle spasm that prevents food from moving through the digestive system.

Between 5% and 10% of

patients cannot tolerate the side effects and discontinue the drug, says K.V. Hari Kumar, consultant endocrinologist at Fernandes Hospital, Hyderabad and honorary secretary of the Endocrine Society of India.

Patient experiences
For 47-year-old Arundhati, from Hyderabad, the weight loss on oral semaglutide for six months now, she has lost about 12 kg over the months. The weight loss has also allowed me to reduce my thyroid medications," she said.

Sumya, also from Hyderabad, began semaglutide after being unable to lose weight despite intermittent fasting. "After starting the drug, my hunger signals reduced, and I lost seven kilograms in the first month, and six in the second."

Additionally, her blood sugar levels stabilised. She did experience acidity as a side effect.

To help counter side effects, doctors say they start with a small dose and build it up. "We start at a low dosage of 1 mg, and escalate over time. The biggest advantage is not weight gain but that you can reduce insulin by almost 80%," says K. Jeeba, a diabetes specialist, who has around 1,500 patients registered in his four comprehensive diabetes centres in the southern districts.

Now, a patient from Bengaluru, who prescribed semaglutide because he was reluctant to start insulin. One, who is obese and has diabetes, says he started on a 1 mg dose. "After six weeks, my sugar levels and blood pressure were under control, and I had lost almost 10% of my baseline weight in three months.

"Although I had nausea and vomiting, the symptoms subsided after a while. The drug reduced my appetite and I ate with very little food. My doctor has now increased the dose, and I have been advised lifestyle changes," the 40-year-old says.

Doctors say the obesity crisis in India - national family health survey 5 data reveals that obesity stands at 24% among women and 22% among men - needs to be addressed. Obesity is known as the mother of all diseases, says S. Chandrasekar, professor and head, Department of Health, Government Stanley Medical College. "At least 40% of those with diabetes are either overweight or obese. When patients with diabetes lose 10% of their body weight from the baseline, it can result in remission of blood sugar levels. Many of my patients have lost 10 to 15 kg in nine months to 1.5 years. The drug not only helps bring down blood sugar levels but also blood pressure as a result of weight loss, and improves physical fitness over a period of time. But not everyone who has had an endocrinology appointment with an endocrinologist, who is also obese, has

diabetes, and sleep apnoea, found his weight loss journey on semaglutide. He has been able to follow his regular work schedule. He was prescribed Rybelsus prior to a health survey. However, he could not follow the drug regimen due to gastric issues. Despite his experience though, he plans to get back on the drug soon.

Chitra, a 38-year-old woman with a BMI of 32 and a history of diabetes, says semaglutide has helped her manage her diabetes better. "I was unable to control my diabetes with insulin, and I was put on semaglutide. After three weeks, I had severe dizziness, pain, which developed into pancreatitis. I required hospitalisation and medicines were discontinued. My doctor said it is unclear whether semaglutide or the gallstone infection caused the pancreatitis inflammation. My treatment has now been switched to insulin."

Cost remains a barrier
Ozempic, remains a struggle for access. Rybelsus comes in three doses: 10 mg, 7 mg and 5 mg. The cost of 10 mg is ₹5,200 and 14 mg is ₹8,700, says B. Thiruvananthapuram, president of Bengaluru Diabetic's Chemists and Druggists Association.

Even at the lower end dosage of 7 mg, 20 tablets amount cost to ₹3,520, for 100,000 months - a significant cost in a country where out-of-pocket expenditure on health, as a percentage of total household expenditure, continues to remain high, at about 40%.

Chemists across States say that Rybelsus is sold only as a prescription drug, and, as its cost is high, sales are modest.

A lack market, however, has emerged across States. Sharma, director of Diabetic and Consultant, Indian medicine & diabetology, SRIJAY Senuar International Hospitals. "There are dangers associated with self-medication. Users should know that each patient has a medically evaluated need for insulin."

Diabetes drugs and treatment evolved over decades. Insulin and diabetes have been linked a major benefit of that treatment came from the discovery of Metformin. SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP-1 and GIP analogues are the latest in this specialty class.

prevented this drug it a weight loss journey. However, he has been able to follow his regular work schedule. He was prescribed Rybelsus prior to a health survey. However, he could not follow the drug regimen due to gastric issues. Despite his experience though, he plans to get back on the drug soon.

This is also a drug that tableting. "For those who develop any complications and adjust the medication sugar levels, insulin, just diabetes drug," says Sabar the Department of Internal Medicine at Sakra World. The weight effects, reverse; patients may put gains, though they can get the weight off with any other medication regimen.

In many ways, semaglutide continues to remain a niche drug that can be used to treat those unable to lose weight through lifestyle changes, heart arthritis, Alzheimer's, and if possible benefits for nicotine dependence too. For those who can and access the injectable form, however, there may be a months, though Indian drug prices remain the rate for injectable drugs. Novo's Wegovy has so far not been launched, and while other drug was given the green light by Medicare (approved for intravenous) for import into India, possibly that approval requires to launch until now.

Some names have been given prior of (collated) by Divya R. by the India's Diabetic Association. SRIJAY Senuar International Hospitals. "There are dangers associated with self-medication. Users should know that each patient has a medically evaluated need for insulin."

Topic → Ozempic: The Wonder Drug



Overview

Ozempic: Injectable prescription drug.

Active Ingredient: Semaglutide.

FDA Approval:

2017 for type 2 diabetes.

2021 for weight management (Wegovy).

Manufacturer: Novo Nordisk.

Key Features

Drug Class:

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists.

Mechanism:

Mimics GLP-1 hormone.

Slows digestion, reduces appetite, increases insulin release.



Benefits:

Weight loss.

Heart and kidney health benefits noted.

Popularity & Cultural Impact

Celebrity Endorsements: Notable figures like Elon Musk.

Social Phenomenon: Emergence of "Ozempic parties."

Supply Issues: Increased demand leads to supply challenges.



User Demographics



Target Users:

Individuals with type 2 diabetes.

Adults with obesity/overweight conditions.

Current Discussions

Risks and Side Effects:

Compounded versions leading to health risks.

Research Focus:

Effectiveness in managing knee osteoarthritis pain.

Healthcare Coverage:

Medicaid considerations for GLP-1 drugs.



Can the state acquire all private property?



When can private properties be taken over by the government? Why was the right to property taken out from the list of Fundamental Rights? What does Article 39 (b) of the Directive Principles of State Policy articulate? Why was Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer's interpretation of the same struck down?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

Anine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a majority judgment (8:1), held that not every private resource can be considered a 'material resource of the community' to be used by the government to serve the 'common good.' This overturns the earlier interpretation formed in 1977 that has been followed by the Supreme Court till 1997.

What are constitutional provisions? Part IV of the Constitution contains the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). These are principles that the government should follow to achieve social and economic justice in our society. Article 39(b) in Part IV provides that 'ownership and control of material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subservise the common good.'

The Constitution originally guaranteed right to property and compensation for acquisition as a Fundamental Right under Articles 19(1)(f) and 31 respectively. Article 31C was added through the 25th amendment in 1971. It provided an exception that laws made to fulfil the principles under Articles 39(b) and (c) shall not be void on the ground that it violated Fundamental Rights including right to property. In the *Kesavananda Bharati* case (1973), a 13-judge Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Article 31C but made it subject to judicial review. In 1978, the right to property was omitted from Fundamental Rights and made a constitutional right under Article 300A. Any law to acquire private property by the government should only be for a public purpose with adequate compensation meted out.

What were earlier judgments?

In *State of Karnataka versus Ranganatha Reddy* (1977), a seven-judge Bench of the



ISTOCKPHOTO

Supreme Court upheld a Karnataka State law that nationalised private bus transport services. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer wrote a separate 'afterword' interpreting the phrase 'material resource of the community' contained in Article 39(b). He held that it embraces all national wealth, not merely natural resources, and all the private and public sources of meeting material needs. This minority judgment formed the basis of the *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company versus Bharat Coking Coal Limited* (1982) case, that upheld the nationalisation of coke oven plants. It was again relied on in *Mafatlal Industries Limited versus Union of India* (1996).

What is the current ruling?

In *Property owners' association versus State of Maharashtra*, a seven-judge Bench

referred the issue of interpretation of Article 39(b) to a nine-judge Bench. The current majority opinion (for seven judges including the CJI) held the interpretation of V.R. Krishna Iyer, that every privately-owned property could be used by the state as a 'material resource' to 'subserve the common good', as a rigid economic ideology that advocates greater governmental control over private resources. Therefore, it was rejected by the majority opinion which said that India has moved on from a socialistic model to a market-based liberalised economic model.

It held that to qualify as a 'material resource of the community,' a resource must be 'material' and 'of the community.' The 'public trust doctrine' and context-specific key factors that would determine these are the inherent

characteristics of the resource; its impact on community well-being; its scarcity; and the impact due to its concentration in private hands. Hence, certain resources like forests, ponds, spectrum, mines and minerals may fall within the scope of Article 39(b) even if they are privately held. However, not every private resource automatically qualifies just because it meets material needs. The term 'distribute' in Article 39(b) also carries a wide meaning that can include both government acquisition and redistribution to private players, as long as it serves the common good. Justice Nagarathna concurred partially with the seven-judge majority while opining that all private resources except 'personal effects' like apparel, jewellery etc., can be transformed into a 'material resource of the community' through nationalisation, acquisition etc. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia wrote the sole dissenting opinion where he upheld the interpretation of V.R. Krishna Iyer in the *Ranganatha Reddy* case and opined that it is for the legislature to decide on how the ownership and control of material resources is to be distributed.

What is the way forward?

Our economy has changed from a socialistic pattern to a liberalised, market-oriented model. The ensuing growth has uplifted vast majority of people from abject poverty. However, there is also a growing inequality that needs to be addressed. This judgment should protect the small farm and forest lands of marginalised sections from forceful acquisitions by the government. Equally important is the sustainable exploitation and distribution of material public resources within the domain of the government.

We must bear in mind that we have not inherited the earth and its resources from our ancestors but have borrowed it from our future generations.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST


▼ Article 39(b) provides that 'ownership and control of material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subservise the common good.'


▼ In *State of Karnataka versus Ranganatha Reddy* (1977), Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer wrote a separate 'afterword' interpreting the phrase 'material resource of the community' contained in Article 39(b). He held that it embraces all national wealth, not merely natural resources, and all the private and public sources of meeting material needs.


▼ The current majority opinion (for seven judges including the CJI) held the interpretation of V.R. Krishna Iyer, that every privately-owned property could be used by the state as a 'material resource' to 'subserve the common good', as a rigid economic ideology that advocates greater governmental control over private resources.


Topic -- SC ON Private Property





 **Supreme Court Ruling:** A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled (8:1) that not all private resources qualify as 'material resources of the community' for government use.


 **Historical Context:** This ruling overturns a previous interpretation established in 1977, which was followed until 1997.

 **Directive Principles:** Part IV of the Constitution outlines the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), aimed at achieving social and economic justice.

 **Article 39(b):** This article mandates that the ownership and control of community resources should be distributed to best serve the common good.


 **Right to Property:** Originally a Fundamental Right, the right to property was redefined in 1978 as a constitutional right under Article 300A, requiring public purpose and compensation for acquisition.

 **Kesavananda Bharati Case:** The 1973 ruling upheld Article 31C's validity but subjected it to judicial review, impacting property rights.

 **Public Purpose Requirement:** Any government acquisition of private property must be for a public purpose and include adequate compensation


Current Ruling




 **Seven-Judge Bench Decision:** A seven-judge Bench has referred the interpretation of Article 39(b) to a nine-judge Bench.

Majority Opinion: Rejected a rigid economic ideology that advocates for greater governmental control over private resources.

Article 39(b) Interpretation

 **Clarification:** Not all privately-owned resources are considered 'material resources of the community'; they must be both 'material' and 'of the community'.

Public Trust Doctrine

 **Resource Classification:** Resources such as forests, ponds, and minerals may fall under Article 39(b) even if privately held, but not all private resources qualify automatically.

Justice Opinions



Justice Nagarathna: Partially concurred with the majority, suggesting that all private resources, except personal effects, can be nationalized.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia: Dissented, advocating for legislative control over resource distribution.

Economic Shift



Transition: Reflects India's shift from a socialistic to a liberalized market economy.


Impact: This shift has reduced poverty but increased inequality.

Sustainable Resource Management

 Emphasis: The ruling stresses sustainable exploitation and distribution of public resources.

Protection: Aims to protect marginalized communities from forceful acquisitions.

Intergenerational Responsibility

 Future Considerations: Highlights the importance of considering future generations in resource management.

Stewardship: Emphasizes stewardship over ownership.

Summary: The ruling on Article 39(b) marks a shift from government control of private resources to sustainable management and community benefit, addressing economic inequality.

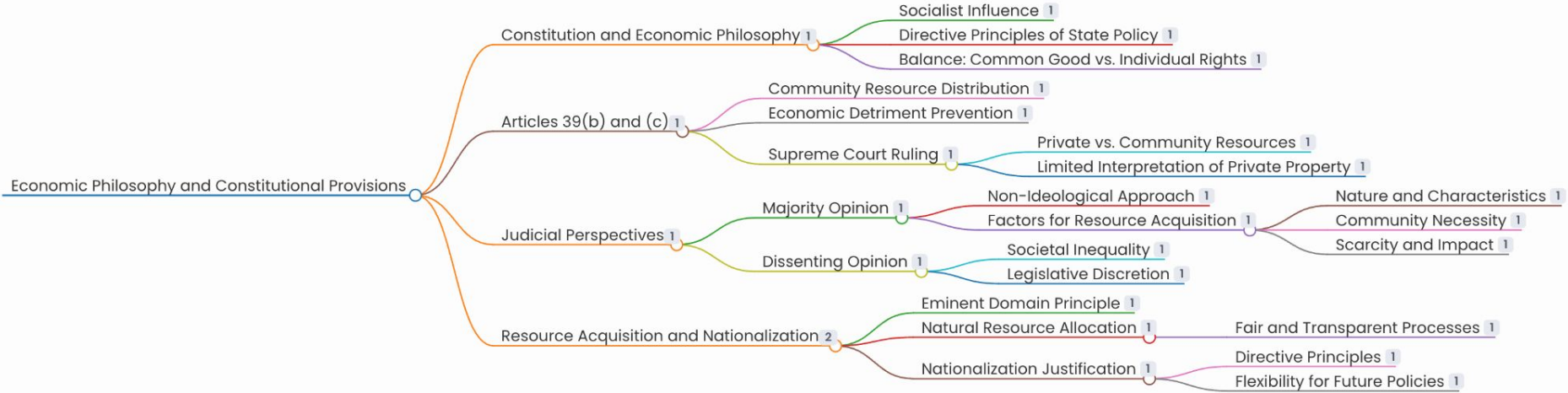
SC ON ARTICLE 31C

- The Supreme Court's nine-judge bench led by CJI D Y Chandrachud unanimously ruled that Article 31C of the Constitution, which presumed legality of legislation giving effect to Directive Principles of State Policy, and which was partly validated by the SC's 13-judge bench in Kesavananda Bharati case, continues to hold good.
- The bench said the SC's 1980 Minerva Mills judgment, which struck down Section 4 of the Emergency-era 42nd amendment changing the contours of Article 31C, would not altogether obliterate the provision, although the constitutionality of specific laws enacted to give effect to it could be subjected to judicial scrutiny.

- The original text of Article 31C, which was inserted in the Constitution in 1971 through the 25th constitutional amendment, said no law giving effect to Directive Principles of State Policy, as specified in clauses (b) and (c) of Article 39, "shall be deemed to be void on the ground that it breached Articles 14 (equality) and 19 (free speech)". Kesavananda Bharati judgment upheld this part of Art 31C.
- However, it had struck down the second part of Article 31C, which said no law containing a declaration that it is for giving effect to such policy shall be called in question in any court on the ground that it does not give effect to such policy

..

"The text of the unamended Article 31C was challenged, and the first part of the Article was upheld by 13-judge decision in Kesavananda Bharati while the latter half of the Article was invalidated. Therefore, the first half of unamended Article 31C, which is the subject matter of the present controversy, was undoubtedly constitutional... We conclude that unamended Article 31C continues in force," it said.



Are CSR contributions to agriculture properly tracked?

How much of an impact does agriculture have on India's GDP? What are the key requirements to improve agricultural sustainability? What hinders CSR's potential with respect to agriculture?

**Dasari Giridhar
Manan Bhan**

The story so far:

A decade ago, India became the first country to legally mandate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 outlines the rules and regulations governing CSR. According to the National CSR Portal, from 2014 to 2023, ₹1.84 lakh crore of CSR funds were disbursed. With the extent of contributions increasing, a question arises: how can CSR help agriculture?

CSR's contribution to agriculture

Nearly 47% of the population depends on agriculture for employment, and the fraction of India's labour force in agriculture is significantly higher than the global average of 25%. Economically, agriculture accounts for 16.73% of India's

GDP. Now that India's food production is on a relatively stable footing, concerns focus on the degradation of the natural resource base, stagnant farmer incomes, and threats caused by climate change.

Lately, there have been clear signs from corporate entities that they wish to contribute to climate action and sustainability in the agricultural sector in India through their CSR budgets. According to an outlook report prepared by a CSR platform last year, 23% of companies surveyed had "environment and sustainability" as their CSR priority area. Capital requirements and infrastructural development are the most important needs of Indian agriculture today – and this is also where CSR activities have previously contributed and are expected to continue doing so. Some examples of such activities include establishing grain banks, farmer schools, livelihood projects based on agriculture

and allied activities, water conservation projects, and energy-efficient irrigation. The recent paradigm shift in agriculture towards sustainability and modern agriculture makes a good case for CSR funds from the private sector.

The main obstacle

There is an important problem that hinders CSR's potential in agriculture: there is currently no way to fully determine the extent of funding going into these projects consistently and distinctively, and to categorise them based on targeted sectors of CSR activities. In other words, current reporting mechanisms have little to no emphasis on agriculture-related CSR initiatives. Under activities mentioned in Schedule VII of the Companies Act, activities targeting agricultural sustainability could fall under 11 of the 29 development sectors of CSR allocations.

These are gender equality; agroforestry; poverty, eradicating hunger and malnutrition; technology incubators; animal welfare; environmental sustainability; livelihood enhancement projects; conservation of natural resources; rural development projects; socio-economic inequalities; and women's empowerment. But there's little chance of tracking the funds spent for agriculture-related initiatives alone because these 11 sectors encompass a great variety of activities, many of which are unrelated to agricultural sustainability, thus affecting reporting and limiting sectoral impact assessments.

Given the importance of agriculture for the Indian economy and its place in the country's plans and strategies to engender more sustainable growth and effect a just transition, specifying agriculture as a distinct sector in CSR activities is crucial. Transitioning the reporting framework based on sectors receiving funds would also help streamline and better target the available funds, add more meaning to the contributions, and ensure transparency. Likewise, identifying the prevailing sustainability issues vis-à-vis agroecosystems and directing funds according to requirements will help drive tractable changes.

Dasari Giridhar is a research associate and Manan Bhan is a Fellow in Residence – both at ATREE, Bengaluru.

THE GIST


▼ Nearly 47% of the population depends on agriculture for employment, and the fraction of India's labour force in agriculture is significantly higher than the global average of 25%.

▼ According to an outlook report prepared by a CSR platform last year, 23% of companies surveyed had "environment and sustainability" as their CSR priority area.


▼ There is an important problem that hinders CSR's potential in agriculture: there is currently no way to fully determine the extent of funding going into these projects consistently and distinctively, and to categorise them based on targeted sectors of CSR activities.

Topic -India's CSR and Agricultural Impact


Overview of India's CSR Mandate

 India's CSR Legislation: India pioneered the legal mandate for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013.


CSR Funding and Contributions

 Funding Growth: Between 2014 and 2023, ₹1.84 lakh crore was allocated to CSR, showcasing a notable rise in contributions.


Agricultural Employment in India

 Employment Statistics: Around 47% of India's workforce is engaged in agriculture, surpassing the global average of 25%.


CSR Focus on Sustainability

 Environmental Priorities: 23% of surveyed companies emphasize "environment and sustainability" in their CSR efforts, indicating a trend towards sustainable agricultural practices.


Key Needs in Indian Agriculture

 Critical Requirements: Capital and infrastructure are vital for Indian agriculture, with CSR initiatives targeting grain banks, farmer education, and water conservation.

Challenges in CSR Reporting

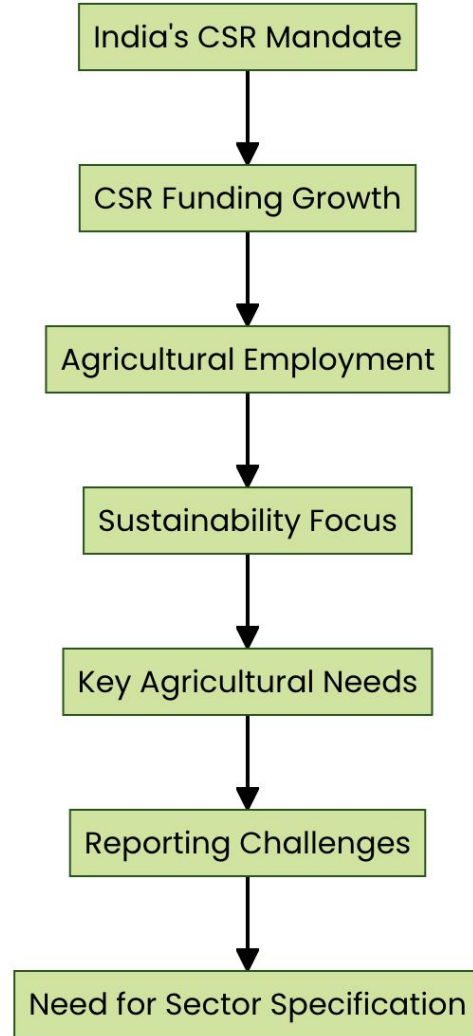
 Reporting Issues: Current CSR reporting lacks clarity on agriculture-specific funding, complicating impact assessment.

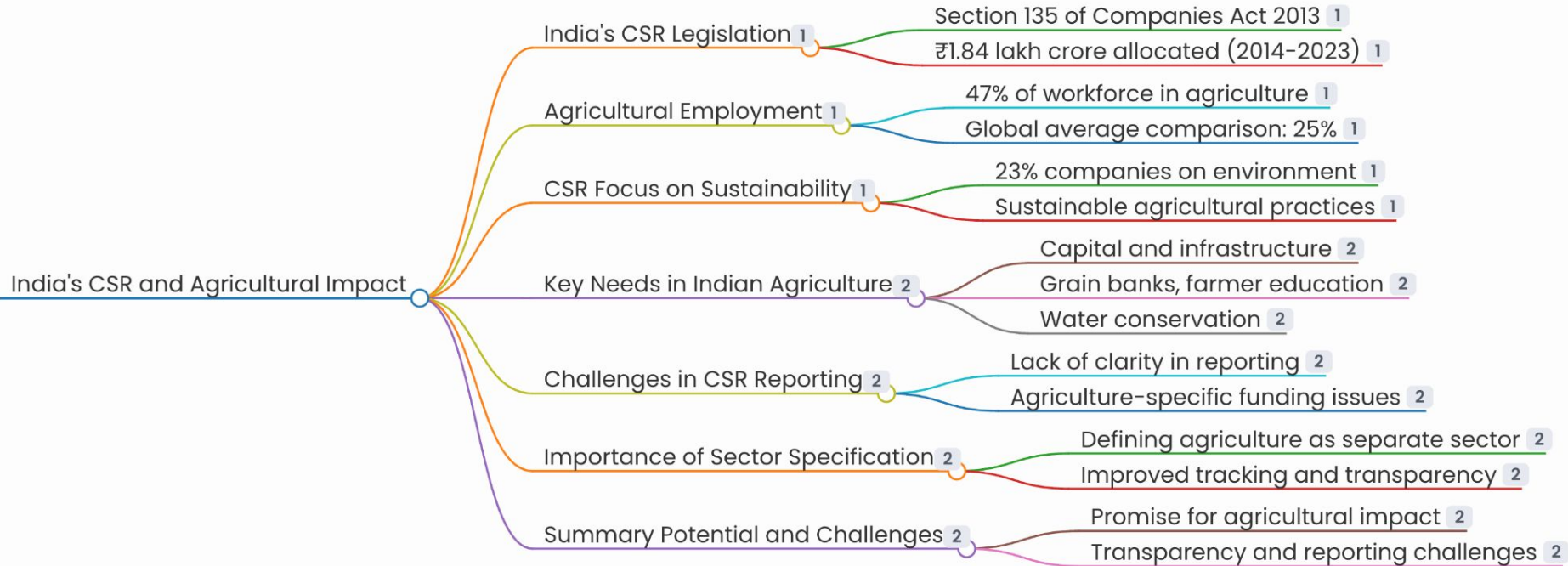
Importance of Sector Specification

 Sector Distinction: Defining agriculture as a separate sector in CSR activities is crucial for improved tracking, targeting, and transparency of funds for agricultural sustainability.

Summary

Potential and Challenges: While India's CSR framework holds promise for agricultural impact, transparency and reporting challenges limit its effectiveness.





Gas may dash Big Oil's dreams of cashing in on Namibia's oil



Reuters

PARIS/CAPE TOWN

International companies and the government of Namibia had high hopes only months ago they could quickly cash in on offshore discoveries and turn the country they saw as the world's last frontier of untapped oil into a prolific producer.

They have since hit a major complication: an unexpectedly high percentage of gas in the fields, meaning they need to install additional infrastructure. That will slow development and may make projects unprofitable, according to sources.

"What we are seeing is that all our discoveries



Not allowed: Namibian law bans companies from releasing CO₂ derived from burning gas into the atmosphere. REUTERS

have a very high gas-to-oil ratio," Namibia's Petroleum Commissioner Maggy Shino told an industry conference last month.

Namibian law bans flaring—or burning gas off, releasing CO₂ into the at-

mosphere—meaning companies will have to inject the gas back into the reservoir or process it for consumption, which Ms. Shino said was in any case the right thing to do.


Although the industry


says oil will be needed for decades to come, the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates global use will peak before 2030 as the world weans itself off carbon-emitting fossil fuels and as electric vehicle use increases, led by the world's biggest commodities consumer China.


For the major companies that have acquired or are seeking to invest in stakes in development blocks, that is a setback, industry sources said.


"We are working on it ... It's a matter of being able to re-inject all this gas in the reservoir at a cost that is acceptable," TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanne told investors in New York last month.


Key Challenges and Developments

 **High Expectations:** Both international companies and the Namibian government had high hopes for rapid development of offshore oil discoveries, seeing Namibia as a potential last frontier for untapped oil reserves.


 **Gas Complications:** A significant challenge has arisen due to a high gas-to-oil ratio in the fields. This situation requires additional infrastructure, which could delay development and affect profitability.

 **Legal Restrictions:** Namibian law prohibits the flaring of gas. Companies are required to either reinject it into the reservoir or process it for consumption, as highlighted by Petroleum Commissioner Maggy Shino.

 **Future of Oil:** Despite the ongoing demand for oil, the International Energy Agency forecasts that global oil use will peak before 2030. This is due to a shift towards renewable energy and electric vehicles, especially in China.

 **Investment Setbacks:** Major companies interested in investing in Namibian oil development face setbacks due to the unexpected gas issues, complicating their plans.

 **Cost Management:** TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanne stressed the importance of managing costs associated with reinjecting gas into the reservoir.

 **Sustainable Practices:** The industry recognizes the need for sustainable practices in gas handling, aligning with global trends towards reducing carbon emissions.

Summary: Namibia's offshore oil development is encountering significant challenges due to high gas ratios, legal restrictions on gas flaring, and shifting global energy trends, which are impacting investment and profitability.

Philippines ‘retakes’ an island in disputed sea in mock combat

Associated Press

THITU ISLAND

Philippine forces practised retaking an island in the South China Sea on Wednesday in the first such combat exercise in the disputed waters as Chinese Navy ships kept watch from a distance, the Philippine military chief said.

Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., who witnessed the drills from a navy frigate, said the exercise underscored the readiness of Filipino forces to defend the country’s sovereignty at all costs.

“We are warning our neighbours or whoever or any external forces that we are capable of defending our islands,” Mr. Brawner told a small group of presspersons invited to the com-

bat exercises.

There were no immediate comments from Chinese officials, but they have opposed past war drills in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

Delicate fault line

The long-seething territorial disputes that also involve other claimants are a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in Asia and likely will remain a major foreign policy concern for the next American President.

In the drills, a Philippine navy frigate approached Loaita Island, which the Philippines calls Kota Island, while four speedboats with marines and navy sailors landed on its beach.

Overview of Loaita Island

Location: Part of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea

Significance: Strategic military and economic interest

Key Topics

Historical Context

- Claims by various nations

- Past military engagements

Geopolitical Importance

- Proximity to shipping lanes

- Influence of surrounding nations (China, U.S., etc.)

Development Plans

- Infrastructure improvements

- Environmental conservation efforts



Chinese Fishing Vessels Around Loaita Island

MARCH 29, 2019

Loaita Cay
(Panata)

4 boats

2 boats

3 boats

South China Sea

Loaita Island
(Kota)

- Chinese fishing vessels
- Philippine Navy ship

Not pictured: eight small Chinese reef-fishing boats

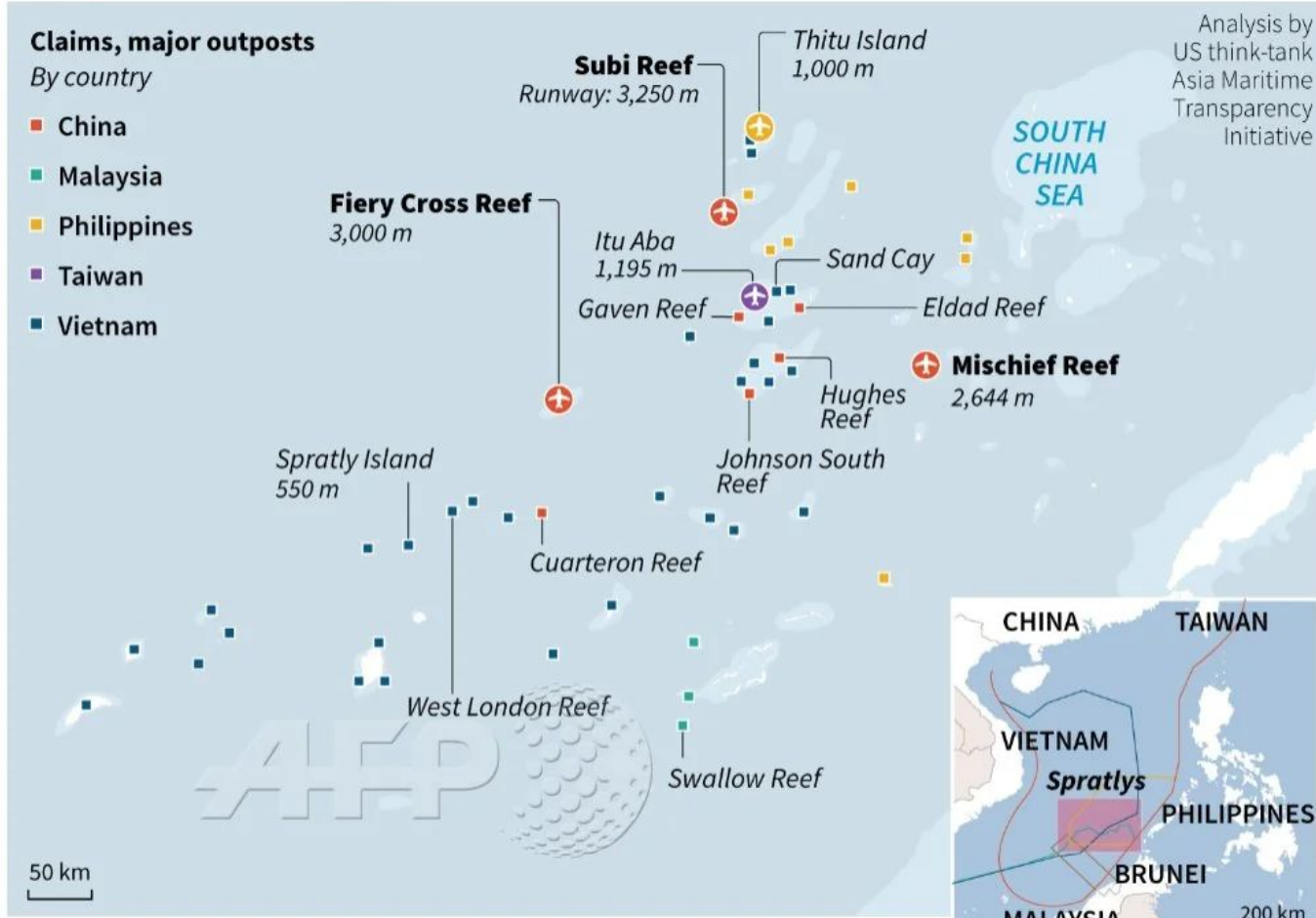


Disputed Spratly Islands

Claims, major outposts

By country

- China
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Taiwan
- Vietnam



Australia mulls mandating age limit of 16 for children to use social media

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

The Australian government announced on Thursday what it described as world-leading legislation that would institute an age limit of 16 years for children to start using social media, and hold platforms responsible for ensuring compliance.

“Social media is doing harm to our kids and I am calling time on it,” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

The legislation will be introduced in Parliament during its final two weeks in session this year, scheduled to begin on November 18. The age limit would take effect 12 months after

the law is passed, Mr. Albanese told presspersons.

The platforms including X, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook would need to use that year to work out how to exclude Australian children younger than 16.

“I have spoken to thousands of parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. They, like me, are worried sick about the safety of our kids online,” Mr. Albanese said.

The proposal comes as governments around the world are wrestling with how to supervise youth’s use of technologies like smartphones and social media.

Social media platforms would be penalised for breaching the age limit,



Age barrier: The proposal comes as governments around the world wrestle with how to supervise youth’s use of technologies. AFP

but under-age children and their parents would not.

Onus on platforms

“The onus will be on social media platforms to demonstrate they are taking reasonable steps to prevent

access. The onus will not be on parents or youth,” Mr. Albanese said.

Antigone Davis, head of safety at Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said the company would respect any age limitations

the government wants to introduce.

“However, what is missing is a deeper discussion on how we implement protections, otherwise we risk making ourselves feel better, like we have taken action, but teens and parents will not find themselves in a better place,” Ms. Davis said in a statement.

She added that stronger tools in app stores and operating systems for parents to control what apps their children can use would be a “simple and effective solution.”

The main Opposition party has also given in-principle support for an age limit at 16.

X did not immediately respond to a request for

comment on Thursday. TikTok declined to comment.

The Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia, described the age limit as a “20th Century response to 21st Century challenges.” “Rather than blocking access through bans, we need to take a balanced approach to create age-appropriate spaces, build digital literacy, and protect young people from online harm,” its managing director Sunita Bose said in a statement.

More than 140 Australian and international academics with expertise in fields related to technology and child welfare signed an open letter to Mr. Albanese

last month opposing a social media age limit as “too blunt an instrument to address risks effectively.”

Jackie Hallan, a director at the youth mental health service ReachOut, opposed the ban. She said 73% of youth across Australia accessing mental health support did so through social media.

“We are uncomfortable with the ban. We think young people are likely to circumvent a ban and our concern is that it really drives the behaviour underground and then if things go wrong, youth are less likely to get support from parents and carers because they are worried about getting in trouble,” Ms. Hallan said.

IR IN NEWS

- **The Australian government announced what it described as world-leading legislation that would institute an age limit of 16 years for children to start using social media, and hold platforms responsible for ensuring compliance**



