

**The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE**

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—It's about quality—

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar asserted that only Parliament can remove a High Court judge.

# Only Parliament can constitutionally remove HC judge: Jagdeep Dhankhar

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday asserted that only Parliament has the jurisdiction to constitutionally remove a High Court judge, saying a notice for the removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court is pending with him.

His remarks come in the context of the Supreme Court's summons to Justice Yadav to appear before senior judges of the top court regarding his communally charged remarks. Earlier in January, the SC sought a report from the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court on the issue as well.

Speaking in the House, the Chairman made it clear that Justice Yadav's fate fell within his domain. He



The RS Chairman's made the statement over the Supreme Court summon for Justice Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad HC. ANI

asked the Rajya Sabha Secretary General to share with the Secretary General of the SC the information that 55 members of the Upper House had also given a notice to the Chairman, seeking the removal of Justice Yadav in December.

"I am seized of an undated notice for motion received on 13 December

2024, bearing 55 purported signatures of the members of the Rajya Sabha seeking removal from office of Justice Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad High Court under Article 124(4) of the Constitution. The jurisdiction for the stated subject matter constitutionally lies in exclusivity with the Chairman, Rajya

Sabha and in an eventuality with the Parliament and Hon'ble President," Mr. Dhankhar said.

"Taking note of public domain information and inputs available, it is expedient that the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha shares this information with the Secretary-General, Supreme Court of India," he said.

## Impeachment notice

Members of several Opposition parties had moved the notice in the Rajya Sabha on December 13, 2024, seeking the impeachment of Justice Yadav over his alleged controversial remarks, which they said were "hate speech and incitement to communal disharmony" at an event organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), sources said.

## Analysis of the news:

- Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar stated that only Parliament has the authority to constitutionally remove a High Court judge.
- A notice for the removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court is pending with him.

- ▶ The Supreme Court had summoned Justice Yadav over his alleged communal remarks and sought a report from the Allahabad High Court Chief Justice.
- ▶ Dhankhar emphasized that the matter falls exclusively under his jurisdiction and, ultimately, Parliament and the President.
- ▶ A notice signed by 55 Rajya Sabha members seeking Justice Yadav's removal was submitted on December 13, 2024.
- ▶ Opposition members accused Justice Yadav of making hate speech at a VHP event.
- ▶ Procedure for removal of Supreme Court / High Court Judge

### Constitutional Provision

- ▶ Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be removed under Article 124(4) and Article 217(1)(b) of the Constitution.
- ▶ The process is governed by the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

### Grounds for Removal

- ▶ A judge can be removed for proven misbehavior or incapacity.

### Initiation of Removal

- ▶ A motion must be signed by 100 Lok Sabha members or 50 Rajya Sabha members.
- ▶ It is submitted to the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha).

### Inquiry Committee

- ▶ A three-member committee consisting of a Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice, and a jurist examines the charges.

### Parliamentary Approval

- ▶ If found guilty, both Houses must pass the motion with a two-thirds majority in both presence and voting.

### Presidential Decision

- ▶ The motion is sent to the President, who issues an order for removal.

**UPSC Mains Practice Question**

**Ques :** : Explain the procedure for the removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges in India. How does this process uphold judicial accountability? (150 Words /10 marks)





The M23 militia, supported by Rwanda, has taken control of Goma, a mineral-rich city near the Rwandan border.

# What is happening in the DRC?

Why did the M23 militia capture the city of Goma which lies in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo? Does Rwanda have any stake in the rebel group's actions in the DRC? Did the conflict in the region start with the Rwandan genocide? Why is Goma coveted by rebel groups and governments?

**EXPLAINER**

Adithya Narayan

**The story so far:**  
The crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is back in the spotlight after the M23 militia, backed by eastern neighbour Rwanda, captured the mineral-rich city of Goma, which lies on the border between the two countries. UN estimates suggest that the fighting, which began in January, has taken the lives of more than 2,900 people, displaced close to 7,00,000 and injured many more. Since then, clashes have spread to the south-east border with the rebels eyeing Bukavu, the capital of the South Kivu province – another resource-rich region that is situated in the east of the DRC.

**What is the history of the region?**  
While the root cause of the crisis is generally attributed to the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the region has been beset with conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis since colonial times; so much so that some 1,50,000 Tutsis had migrated to neighbouring countries even before Rwanda's independence from Belgium in 1962. Imperialist powers such as Germany and Belgium ruled over Rwanda through a Tutsi monarchy in which local administrative roles were occupied by members of the Tutsis, who were a minority there, ensuring better prospects for the group. This did not sit well with the Hutus who eventually called for a 'revolution' in 1959, costing the lives of some 20,000 Tutsis. Consequently, King Kigeli V fled, and a Hutu regime came to power. Further solidifying the group's grip on power were the elections of 1960 conducted by Belgian officials, in which Hutus emerged victorious in local communes. Two years later, the country proclaimed independence and got its first President in Grégoire Kayibanda.

**What is the Rwandan genocide?**  
With Hutus at the helm, there was systematic repression of the Tutsis. This led to the formation of the Tutsi rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which launched a civil war in 1990.

The war reached its inflection point in April 1994, when an aircraft carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundi counterpart Cyprien Ntaryinira – two Hutus – was shot down. Blaming the RPF for the attack, the Rwandan military and the Hutu Interahamwe militia went on a rampage, murdering almost 8,000 people per day. By the time the campaign ended 100 days later, some 8,00,000 Tutsis and a moderate number of Hutus had been killed. The genocide ended only after an RPF reprisal emerged victorious in July 1994. Paul Kagame, one of the leaders of the uprising, was elected President of Rwanda in 2000 and has occupied the post ever since.

**What was the aftermath of the genocide?**  
As a result of the killings, some two million Hutus, including the perpetrators, crossed into the eastern region of the DRC, then called Zaire. Today, the region comprises more than 120 armed groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), claiming to fight for the Hutus, and the M23, which claims to represent the interests of the Tutsis.

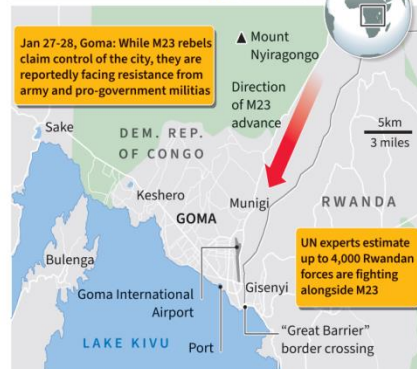
After the genocide, Rwandan troops invaded Congo, first in 1996 and then in

## A city under siege

The M23 militia, backed by eastern neighbour Rwanda, captured the mineral-rich city of Goma, which lies on the border between Rwanda and the DRC. The region has been beset with conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis since colonial times

**THE M23 MILITIA**

- One of about 100 armed factions vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern DRC
- Rwandan-backed group which consists primarily of Tutsis who failed to integrate into the Congolese army
- Led major insurgency against the DRC government in 2012, took up arms again in 2022. The group is estimated to have 6,500 fighters



Jan 27-28, Goma: While M23 rebels claim control of the city, they are reportedly facing resistance from army and pro-government militias

UN experts estimate up to 4,000 Rwandan forces are fighting alongside M23

Latest rebel advance has forced thousands to flee Goma. The city of two million people is a vital humanitarian aid hub for the region

The UN and other global powers fear that the conflict could spiral into a regional war similar to those of 1996-1997 and 1998-2003



Effects of war: A displaced woman walks back to her home village, in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, on February 12. GETTY IMAGES

**THE GIST**

DRC President Felix Tshisekedi called the capture of Goma "an act of war". Paul Kagame, while never admitting to complicity in the M23's actions, has issued remarks time and again, that hint at the M23's legitimacy.

Imperialist powers such as Germany and Belgium ruled over Rwanda through a Tutsi monarchy in which local administrative roles were occupied by members of the Tutsi minority, ensuring better prospects for the group. This did not sit well with the Hutus who eventually called for a 'revolution' in 1959.

In April 1994, when an aircraft carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundi counterpart Cyprien Ntaryinira – two Hutus – was shot down, the Rwandan military and the Hutu Interahamwe militia went on a rampage, murdering almost 8,000 people per day.

Sources: Associated Press, Institute for the Study of War, Reuters

© GRAPHIC NEWS

1998 – dubbed Africa's World Wars. The war of 1996, called the First Congo War, resulted in the country being renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo and witnessed the overthrow of longtime ruler Mobutu Sese Seko. The next battle, known as the Second Congo War, came about as President Laurent-Désiré Kabila turned against allies Rwanda and Uganda. The fighting eventually ballooned into one of the biggest battles on the continent after nine countries and 25 armed groups joined in. It ended only in 2003 after having killed five million from battle, disease and starvation.

From then on, the DRC has been marked by disarray while Rwanda, under Mr. Kagame, has been identified as a force of stability in Africa. With ample help from Western nations, the President lifted the country out of poverty. Yet, Mr. Kagame's government has been accused of helping the M23 rebels.

**Who are the M23 rebels?**  
Formed in 2012, the M23 stands for Mouvement du 23 Mars – an abortive agreement signed on March 23, 2009, between the DRC government and the Tutsi-led National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP). According to the pact, the CNDP, which fought the government forces between 2006 and 2009, was to take the form of a political party and its fighters were to be absorbed

into the DRC Army. These soldiers broke off from the Congolese Army and came together to form the M23. It is led by Sultani Makenga and is based in the North Kivu province. Claiming to protect Tutsis, the group managed to capture Goma for the first time in 2012. Following a series of setbacks at the hands of the Congolese Army and UN forces, the group retreated after it was assured the protection of the Tutsis. A decade later, it resurfaced in 2022 citing failure to meet the promises. The group stands accused of war crimes by the UN.

**Is the conflict only about ethnic tensions?**  
Ethnic strife forms only one part of the story. The mineral-rich regions in the DRC's east, coveted by nations and armed groups alike, form the other part. The DRC is home to Coltan, the ore from which Tantalum is produced.

This blue-grey metal is used in smartphones and other electronic devices for it can hold a high charge over a range of temperatures, making it conducive for the manufacturing of capacitors that store energy.

While Coltan is also mined in Brazil, Nigeria, and Rwanda, almost 40% of the global supply comes from the DRC.

And the capture of Goma, a key trading and transport hub, will help M23 to a

great degree.

**How have regional players responded to the crisis?**

DRC President Felix Tshisekedi called the capture of Goma "an act of war". The winner of the 2023 election, which has been decry by activists, the loss of Goma leaves him on shaky ground.

Mr. Kagame, while never admitting to complicity in the M23's actions, has issued remarks time and again, that hint at the M23's legitimacy. The Rwandan leader wants the militant group to be made part of discussions.

The Tutsi-led country's actions are in the interest of the group living across the border and to prevent the spillover of a civil war, he says.

Neighbouring Burundi, a Hutu-majority country that shares hostile relations with Rwanda, has warned the Kagame administration about the M23's advance further south. "If Rwanda continues to make conquests," he wrote, "I know that war will even arrive in Burundi... One day he [Kagame] wants to come to Burundi – we're not going to accept that. The war will spread."

President Evariste Ndayishimiye said, Uganda is toying a middle line by helping the Congolese troops hunt down militants with Ugandan origins tied to the Islamic State. It also allows the M23 to use its territory as a base, reports the UN.

➡ The conict has now spread towards Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province.

## **Historical Background of the Conict**

- The region has faced ethnic conicts between Hutus and Tutsis since colonial times.
- During colonial rule, administrative roles were given to the Tutsis, leading to resentment among Hutus.
- After independence in 1962, the Hutus came to power, leading to the migration of Tutsis to neighboring countries.

## **Rwandan Genocide and Its Impact**

- A civil war began in 1990 between the Tutsi-led rebel group and the Hutu-led government.
- In 1994, the assassination of two Hutu leaders triggered mass killings, leading to the deaths of around 800,000 Tutsis and some Hutus.
- After the genocide, millions of Hutus fled to eastern DRC, including those responsible for the killings.

## **Wars and Instability in DRC**

- Rwandan forces invaded DRC twice, in 1996 and 1998.
- These conicts, called the First and Second Congo Wars, led to massive casualties and political instability.
- The Second Congo War involved multiple African nations and resulted in about ve million deaths.

## **Economic Factors Behind the Conict**

- The conict is not just about ethnic tensions but also about mineral resources.
- DRC has large reserves of Coltan, a crucial metal used in electronic devices.
- Goma's capture gives M23 control over trade and transport in this mineral-rich region.

## **Regional Reactions**

- The DRC government has called the M23's actions an act of war.
- Rwanda supports including M23 in peace discussions while denying direct involvement.
- Burundi has warned that the conict may spread further if not controlled.
- Uganda is maintaining a neutral stance but is involved in military operations targeting militants linked to extremist groups.



The U.S. government is considering canceling NASA's \$24 billion SLS moon rocket program, facing political resistance, while SpaceX's cheaper alternatives gain support.

# Aborting moon rocket to test Musk's power

**Reuters**

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump is being urged to axe an over-budget, multi-billion dollar moon rocket, sources familiar with the matter said, setting up a titanic struggle with Republican lawmakers whose districts depend on the program's jobs.

Six space industry representatives advising Elon Musk, the billionaire SpaceX CEO with a tight grip on U.S. space policy, and Mr. Trump have told Reuters they want NASA's \$24 billion Space Launch System (SLS) program canceled or at least phased out over several years, eyeing what has long been a major cost burden on the agency—but a crucial pillar of its moon program.

Scaling back the SLS,



**Losing fans:** The moon rocket project has been criticised as an overpriced vestige of outdated rocket technology. REUTERS

which is being developed by Boeing and Northrop Grumman, could offer a boost to Musk's SpaceX, which is developing its own cheaper, albeit less powerful rocket called Falcon Heavy.

Employing 28,000 workers across roughly 44 U.S. states, SLS, which

launched for the first time in 2022 after years of development delays, is one of a few space programs Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump's pick to head NASA, Jared Isaacman, have criticized as an overpriced vestige of outdated rocket technology. Mr. Musk has said SLS "makes me feel sad."

Cancelling SLS could be a major litmus test for Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk's effort to streamline government, an effort being spearheaded by the Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency. DOGE representatives have entered NASA headquarters in Washington and are examining its contracts, two sources said.

## Political hurdle

If SLS ends up on the chopping block, Mr. Musk will struggle to overcome political hurdles, since cancelling large projects has ripple effects across other areas of the federal bureaucracy including widespread job cuts.

SLS, whose workforce is most concentrated in the Republican strongholds of Alabama and Texas, is a

prime example.

Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville from Alabama, whose state is home to 14,000 SLS jobs, defended the program and played down cancellation threats.

"The SLS will be fine," Tuberville said. "I know that there's a lot—because of Elon Musk involved in the DOGE situation—there's a lot of rumours out there on that, but I got full confidence on the SLS and the future for them."

Republican Representative Dale Strong, whose Alabama district includes NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the epicenter of the SLS workforce, told Reuters that it was not the time to reassess SLS, saying: "You look what it's doing for national security, I don't think now is the

time to check up" on it.

Boeing and Northrop Grumman are NASA's top two contractors building SLS. Delays and roughly \$24 billion in development costs since 2012 have fueled various arguments for its retirement.

Each launch could cost between \$2 billion to \$4 billion, while less powerful but newer alternatives, such as SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, have a price tag of around \$250 million for each launch.

Mr. Strong said he wants the program to be cost effective and believes competition from a private company like SpaceX would be healthy.

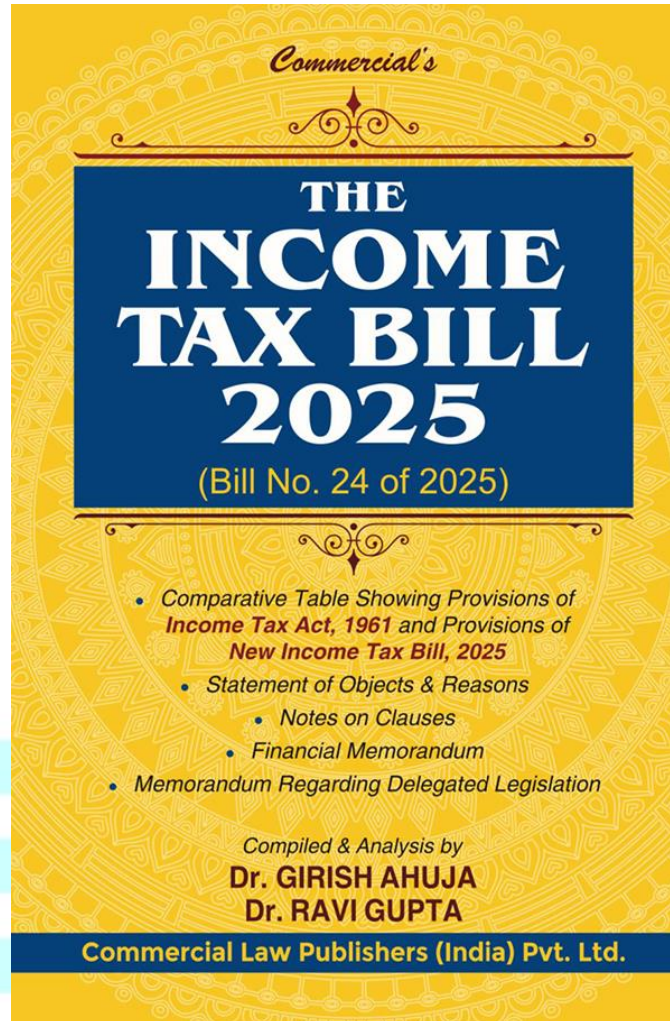
NASA has struggled to cut costs with SLS and create a plan to make it more competitive with commercial rockets.

## SLS Moon Rocket Program

- ➔ **Overview:** The Space Launch System (SLS) is NASA's most powerful rocket, designed for deep space missions, including Artemis missions to the Moon and future Mars explorations.
- ➔ **Power & Capability:** It can produce 8.8 million pounds of thrust, surpassing the Saturn V rocket.
- ➔ **Launch Cost:** Each launch costs \$2 billion to \$4 billion, making it significantly more expensive than commercial alternatives.
  - The first SLS mission, Artemis I, successfully launched an uncrewed Orion spacecraft around the Moon in November 2022.
- ➔ **Future Plans:** NASA plans to use SLS for sustained lunar exploration and eventual Mars missions under the Artemis program.
- ➔ **Future Uncertainty:** There are discussions about canceling or phasing out SLS due to high costs and delays.
- ➔ **Alternatives:** SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, a cheaper but less powerful rocket, costs around \$250 million per launch.

**In News : Income-tax Bill, 2025**

The Income-tax Bill, 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha to replace the Income-tax Act, 1961, aiming to simplify India's direct tax system.



**Analysis of the news:**

**A Move Towards Simplicity**

- ▶ The Income-tax Bill, 2025, introduced in Lok Sabha, aims to replace the six-decade-old Income-tax Act, 1961, by streamlining tax provisions, eliminating redundant sections, and introducing a more structured and comprehensible legal framework.
- ▶ The bill focuses on clarity and ease of compliance for taxpayers, ensuring continuity without major structural changes in direct taxation.



### **Key Structural Changes: Shorter and More Organised**

- The new bill is 24% shorter than the current Act, with fewer chapters (23 vs. 47) and sections (536 vs. 819).
- The complex numbering system used in the past has been eliminated, making navigation easier.
- All tax-related deductions, exemptions, and TDS/TCS rates have been presented in tabular formats for better accessibility.

### **Shifting to 'Tax Year' from 'Assessment Year'**

- A significant change is the replacement of the Assessment Year (AY) with the Tax Year, simplifying the process by aligning tax assessment with economic activity in the same financial year.
- This eliminates confusion caused by tracking different periods for taxation.

### **Social Media and Crypto Regulation**

- The bill expands tax authorities' access to digital assets and online spaces, including social media accounts, cloud servers, and online investments, enhancing scrutiny in surveys and searches.
- Furthermore, cryptocurrencies have been formally classified as capital assets, reinforcing their taxability under capital gains.

### **Reforming Dispute Resolution**

- The bill introduces greater clarity in Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) decisions by explicitly stating points of determination and reasoning, addressing past ambiguities that led to litigation.

### **Capital Gains and Deductions: Streamlining Exemptions**

- Outdated provisions such as Section 54E, which covered exemptions for capital gains before April 1992, have been removed.
- The standard deduction, gratuity, and leave encashment provisions have been reorganized into a structured format for better comprehension.

### **Taxation Framework and Income Scope**

- While the income tax structure remains largely unchanged, the bill expands the definition of income to incorporate emerging sources.
- Tax slabs for the new tax regime are clearly listed, but old tax regime slabs are not explicitly detailed, indicating a possible shift in focus towards the new structure.

## **The Road Ahead: Legislative Process and Implementation**

- The bill, following its Interim Budget 2024 announcement, is expected to undergo Parliamentary review before final approval.
- Once passed, it will come into effect on April 1, 2026.



### In News : Fame Phase-II Scheme

The Indian government is implementing multiple schemes to accelerate EV adoption, strengthen domestic manufacturing, and enhance charging infrastructure.



MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

my GOV  
मेरी सरकार

## A Big Push Towards PM's Vision of Sustainable Transportation under FAME Scheme (2/2)

### FAME Phase II

- Being implemented for 3 years w.e.f. 1st April'19, with a budgetary support of ₹10,000 crore
- To support approx. 7000 e-Buses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars, 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers & creation of charging infrastructure
- 670 new Electric buses sanctioned for Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat & Chandigarh
- 241 new Charging Stations sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat & Port Blair

#### FAME Phase-II Scheme:

- The FAME India Scheme Phase-II was launched on April 1, 2019, with a budget of ₹11,500 crore to promote electric vehicles (EVs).
- As of December 31, 2024, it has supported 16,14,737 EVs, including 14,28,009 two-wheelers, 1,64,180 three-wheelers, and 22,548 four-wheelers.
- The PLI-Auto Scheme (₹25,938 crore) encourages domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products with 50% Domestic Value Addition (DVA).
- The PLI-ACC Scheme (₹18,100 crore) promotes the production of 50 GWh of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) batteries.



## Daily News Analysis

- ▶ The PM E-DRIVE Scheme (₹10,900 crore) supports various EVs and charging infrastructure for two years.
- ▶ The PM e-Bus Sewa-PSM Scheme (₹3,435.33 crore) aims to deploy 38,000 electric buses with payment security for operators.
- ▶ The SPMEPCI Scheme (March 2024) promotes electric car manufacturing, requiring a minimum ₹4,150 crore investment with phased DVA targets.



# The problematic globalisation of medical education

Strange things are going on worldwide in the area of medical education. On the one hand, there appears to be a shortage of medical doctors, while at the same time governments, and in many cases also medical doctors themselves, oppose increased access to the study of medicine. As a result, there has been an increase in international mobility of medical students from high-, mid- and low-income countries. While once medical education was international, now it is nationally regulated, but at the same time becoming internationalised. Because of national and global health needs, it is worth examining this particular global medical environment.

No one knows how many international students are studying in medical schools outside their home countries, but a conservative estimate might put the number to be more than 2,00,000 – many of them in institutions and countries with questionable quality of medical preparation. To give an indication, Ukraine, before the Russian invasion, had 24,000 medical students from abroad, mainly, but not exclusively, from India.

## The India crisis

India is an interesting example. The country has a severe shortage of doctors. The demand for places in medical colleges is considerable and, as a result, competition for places is intense. Annually, approximately 2.3 million students sit for the national medical school entry examination, but only one in around 22 successful candidates is able to enter the country's 700-plus medical colleges.

The fierce competition for medical seats in India has compelled many students to explore opportunities abroad. It is estimated that more than 20,000 Indian medical students go abroad to study. With limited government medical seats and high tuition fees in private institutions, studying medicine abroad has emerged as an "affordable" and practical alternative for Indian aspirants. Countries such as Russia, pre-war Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, China, Mauritius, and Nepal have become attractive destinations.

Interestingly, some of the institutions in foreign

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The phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated

countries are controlled by Indians. One such institution is the Manipal College of Medical Sciences in neighbouring Nepal, the country's first private medical college which was established in 1994. It is operated by the Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG), Bengaluru. The American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine, a Caribbean medical school, is also a division of Manipal. This reflects a broader strategy of Indian education groups expanding their footprint overseas to meet the growing demand from Indian students.

However, studying medicine abroad comes with its own challenges, particularly for those who wish to practise in India. Indian students who complete their programmes from foreign institutions must clear the national licensing examination to qualify for medical practice in India. They are also required to complete a medical internship upon their return. Similarly, Indians wishing to practise medicine in other countries must satisfy licensing and other requirements of those countries – and one can find Indian doctors throughout the world. This illustrates that governments are aware of the varying standards of medical education around the world.

In a significant announcement during the Union Budget speech in February 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government's achievements in medical education. She stated that the government had successfully added nearly 1.1 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats over the past decade, an increase of 130%. She also revealed plans for further expansion in the medical education sector by announcing that an additional 10,000 seats would be introduced in medical colleges and hospitals in 2026. This initiative is part of a broader five-year goal to add 75,000 new seats, aimed at addressing the growing demand for qualified medical professionals.

## Not just a Global South phenomenon

The case of medical education in India illustrates the problematic phenomenon of students leaving the Global South, in particular South Asia and

Africa, to study medicine in other mid-income countries – and often to remain abroad. But the trend is broader.

For many years, students from western countries such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, have been going to neighbouring countries for their medical studies, due to a lack of access at home. Romania, where medical study is provided in French, Hungary, and Poland are common host countries. Hungary and Poland also receive medical students from the United States. Thousands of U.S. students study medicine in these two countries, as well as in Ireland, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

Medical programmes in central and eastern Europe, as well as in Central Asia, cater to diaspora students and teach in English. The Medical University of Warsaw, for instance, has medical study programmes in both Polish and English. Currently, due to a lack of national funding for places at their home universities, about 3,000 Norwegian medical students receive scholarships to study abroad, mainly in central and eastern Europe.

In other words, the phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated. Where entire medical schools are devoted to international enrolments, they are almost exclusively for-profit institutions. Medical schools established in non-English speaking environments, such as Poland and Ukraine, offer English-medium medical curricula to attract high-fee-paying international students.

## Balancing demand and quality concerns

As the recent Budget speech shows, the government is starting to see the problem, but solutions are expensive and meet opposition from inside the medical establishment, which fears a deterioration of their privileges and elite status. Yet, with an aging population, the need for quality medical doctors will only increase. The growing number of students looking for medical education abroad illustrates a potential, but there is an overall lack of quality control. More attention is needed on this key challenge.

**GS Paper 02 : Social Justice-Education**

**UPSC Mains Practice Question:** Discuss the challenges and implications of Indian students pursuing medical education abroad. Suggest policy measures to enhance domestic medical education capacity and quality. (150 Words /10 marks)

## **Context :**

- There is a global shortage of doctors, yet access to medical education remains restricted, leading to increased international mobility of students.
- This raises concerns about quality control and regulatory challenges in foreign medical education.

## **Global Medical Education Trends**

- There is a growing shortage of medical doctors worldwide.
- At the same time, governments and medical professionals often oppose increasing access to medical education.
- This has led to a rise in international mobility of medical students across countries.
- Medical education, once international, is now nationally regulated but is again becoming international due to health demands.

## **International Medical Students and Quality Concerns**

- The exact number of students studying medicine abroad is unknown, but estimates suggest over 200,000.
- Many students are enrolled in medical schools with questionable education quality.
- Before the conict, one country alone had around 24,000 foreign medical students, mainly from South Asia.

## **Medical Education Challenges in One Country**

- A country in South Asia faces a shortage of doctors, leading to intense competition for medical seats.
- About 2.3 million students take the national medical entrance exam each year, but only one in 22 gets admission.
- Due to high demand, over 20,000 students go abroad to study medicine.
- The main reasons include limited government medical seats and high private tuition fees.
- Countries like Russia, Ukraine (before conict), Kazakhstan, the Philippines, China, Mauritius, and Nepal are preferred destinations.

## **Indian-Controlled Foreign Medical Institutions**

- Some medical institutions abroad are controlled by Indian education groups.
- These institutions cater mainly to Indian students and expand Indian educational inuence abroad.



### Challenges of Studying Abroad

- ▶ Students studying medicine abroad must clear a national licensing exam to practice at home.
- ▶ They must also complete a medical internship upon returning.
- ▶ Those wishing to practice abroad must meet licensing requirements of other countries.
- ▶ The variation in medical education quality worldwide has led to strict regulations by governments.

### Recent Policy Developments

- ▶ A recent government budget speech highlighted achievements in medical education.
- ▶ The government has added 1.1 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats over the last decade, a 130% increase.
- ▶ Plans include adding 10,000 more seats in 2026 and 75,000 seats over five years to meet growing demand.

### Medical Education Beyond the Global South

- ▶ The trend of students going abroad for medical education is seen worldwide. Western countries like France, Germany, and Norway face medical seat shortages, pushing students to study in neighboring nations.
- ▶ Many students from the United States study in Hungary, Poland, Ireland, the Caribbean, and the UK.
- ▶ Medical universities in central and eastern Europe offer English-medium programs to attract international students.

### Conclusion

- ▶ Governments recognize the issue, but solutions are costly and face resistance from medical professionals.
  - ▶ The growing aging population requires more qualified doctors.
  - ▶ A large number of students going abroad highlights the demand, but many foreign institutions lack quality control.
  - ▶ More attention is needed to ensure medical education meets high standards globally.
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