



BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

**19th JANUARY
2026**



**TRUMP'S 10% TARIFFS ON
NATO ALLIES**

**EU countries unite against Trump on
Greenland tariffs**

How should India tackle child trafficking

India invited to Gaza peace board

**PM launches Rs.6,957 crore Kaziranga
corridor work**

Guillain-Barré syndrome

EU countries unite against Trump on Greenland tariffs

TROOPS SENT TO GREENLAND FOR 'ARCTIC ENDURANCE' EXERCISE

EU countries unite against Trump on Greenland tariffs

Stefanie Dazio, John Leicester & Lorne Cook
Berlin, January 18

THE EIGHT European countries targeted by US President Donald Trump for a 10% tariff for opposing American control of Greenland blasted the move Sunday, warning that the American leader's threats "undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral."

In an unusual and very strong joint statement coming from major US allies, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Finland on Sunday said troops sent to Greenland for Danish military training exercise "Arctic Endurance" pose "no threat to anyone."

Trump's Saturday announcement sets up a potentially dangerous test of US partnerships in Europe. The Republican president appeared to indicate that he was using the tariffs as leverage to force talks over the status of Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark that he regards as critical to US national security.

"We stand in full solidarity with the Kingdom of Denmark and the people of Greenland," the groups said. "Building on the process begun last week, we stand ready to engage in a dialogue based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity that we stand firmly be-



People protest against Trump's policy towards Greenland in front of the US consulate in Nuuk, Greenland on Saturday. AP

hind. Tariff threats undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral."

There are immediate questions about how the White House could try to implement the tariffs because the EU is a single economic zone in terms of trading. It was unclear, too, how Trump could act under US law, though he could cite emergency economic powers that are currently subject to a US Supreme Court challenge.

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said China and Russia will benefit from the divisions between the US and Europe. She added in a post on social media: "If Greenland's security is at risk, we can address this inside NATO. Tariffs risk making Europe and the United

States poorer and undermine our shared prosperity."

Trump's move was also panned domestically.

US Senator Mark Kelly, a former US Navy pilot and Democrat who represents Arizona, posted that Trump's threatened tariffs on US allies would make Americans "pay more to try to get territory we don't need."

"Troops from European countries are arriving in Greenland to defend the territory from us. Let that sink in," he wrote on social media. "The damage this President is doing to our reputation and our relationships is growing, making us less safe. If something doesn't change we will be on our own with adversaries and enemies in every direction."

• COUNTRIES CRITICISE TRUMP'S TARIFFS

"We agree with the US that we need to do more since the Arctic is no longer a low tension area. That's exactly why we and NATO partners are stepping up in full transparency with our American allies."

LARS LØKKE RASMUSSEN,
DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

"We will not allow ourselves to be blackmailed. I will always stand up for my country, and for our allied neighbors. This is an EU issue that concerns many more countries than those now being singled out."

ULF KRISTERSSON
SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER

"Among allies, issues are best resolved through discussion, not through pressure. Tariffs would undermine the transatlantic relationship and risk a dangerous downward spiral."

ALEXANDER STUBB
FINNISH PRESIDENT

"No intimidation or threats will influence us, whether in Ukraine, Greenland or anywhere else in the world when we are faced with such situations. Tariff threats are unacceptable."

EMMANUEL MACRON
FRENCH PRESIDENT



GREENLAND (KALAALLIT NUNAAT) =

NOTES FOR UPSC & IR PREP

WHAT IS IT?

- World's Largest Island
- Self-Governing Territory (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Internal Autonomy (Not Sovereign)

GEOGRAPHY & ICE SHEET

- **Greenland ICE SHEET**
~80% of Island
→ 2nd Largest after Antarctica

- **ANCIENT ROCKS**
• Canadian Shield
• Precambrian Age

- **FJORDS & GLACIERS**
• Jakobshavn Glacier
• Fast-Moving Ice

- **RESOURCES**
• Rare Earth Elements
• Minerals & Hydrocarbons

UPSC THEMES

- ✓ Arctic Geopolitics
- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Critical Minerals
- ✓ Strategic Importance

UPSC THEMES

- ✓ Arctic Geopolitics
- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Critical Minerals
- ✓ Strategic Importance

GOVERNANCE

- **DENMARK**
• Defence
• Foreign Affairs
• Currency

GREENLAND

- Education
• Health
• Resources
• Environment

Self-Rule Act, 2009

"Right to Self-Determination"

INTERNATIONAL LAW

- UN Charter: No Forceful Annexation
- Free Consent of Denmark & People
- Annexation = **ILLEGAL**

GREENLAND FACTS

- Area: 2.16 M sq km
- Pop: ~56,000 (Inuit)
- Capital: Nuuk

North Atlantic Ocean

Greenland

Baffin Bay

Jakobshavn Glacier

Atlantic Ocean

RED FLAG OVER GREENLAND

Trump has had a tense call with Denmark's PM



Donald Trump



Mette Frederiksen

- Critical Raw Material (CRM) deposit
- Non-Critical Raw Material (CRM) deposit
- Important Occurrence



How should India tackle child trafficking

How should India tackle child trafficking?

What is the Palermo Protocol? How does the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 define trafficking? How does the Constitution of India protect children from exploitation? How has the Supreme Court reacted? Why is a strong Centre-State relationship important for countering exploitation?

EXPLAINER

C. B. P. Srivastava

The story so far:

Child trafficking remains a deeply disturbing reality in India. The Supreme Court in its recent decision in *K. P. Kiran Kumar versus State* has given strict guidelines to prevent such offences, and held that trafficking grossly violates children's fundamental right to life as guaranteed by the Constitution. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2022, about 3,098 children below 18 years were rescued. Between April 2024 and March 2025, over 53,000 children were rescued from child labour, trafficking and kidnapping across India. However, the conviction rate for such offences between 2018 and 2022 was only 4.8%.

What is child trafficking?

Internationally, the Palermo Protocol (UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children), 2000 defines child trafficking as 'the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.' Presently, Section 143 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 provides that "whoever, for the purpose of exploitation, recruits, transports, harbours, transfers, or receives, a person or persons by, using threats; or using force, or any other form of coercion; or by abduction; or by practising fraud, or deception; or by abuse of power; or by inducement, including the giving or receiving of payments or benefits, in order to achieve the consent of any person having control over the person recruited, transported, harboured, transferred or received, commits the offence of trafficking." The word 'exploitation' is wide enough in its scope and includes physical and sexual exploitation as well. It also includes any form of slavery, servitude, or forced



ISTOCKPHOTO

removal of organs.

What are the rights of children?

The Constitution extensively provides for the protection of children. Articles 23 and 24 give protection from human trafficking, begging, forced labour and employment in hazardous industries. Apart from these provisions, the state is also obliged to ensure that children are not abused, and that they are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. They are protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment under Clauses (e) and (f) of Article 39 respectively.

The BNS under Sections 98 and 99 specifically addresses the 'selling and buying' of minors. On the other hand, prevention of trafficking for sexual exploitation is provided in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

Furthermore, care, protection and rehabilitation for victims of child trafficking is provided under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 also intends to check such activities by providing a more comprehensive definition of trafficking by including sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude, forced labour, and organ removal. It will cover trafficking irrespective of consent.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 assumes greater significance in this regard. Apart from defining offences covering sexual assault, harassment and child pornography, the Act includes stringent punishments which inter alia include life imprisonment and even death penalty in extreme cases. One of the most important aspects of the Act is that it is gender-neutral. In order to provide rapid

trials, about 400 fast track courts set up exclusively for implementing the POCSO Act are in operation across India. These courts have set a target to dispose of around 165 cases per year per court.

What has been the judicial approach?

In *Yishal Jeet versus Union of India*, 1990 it was held that trafficking and child prostitution are serious socio-economic problems and hence a preventive and humanitarian approach is essential to deal with them. In *M. C. Mehta versus State of Tamil Nadu*, 1996, the Court issued guidelines with a view to prohibiting employment of children in hazardous industries. Moreover, in the *Bachpan Bachao Andolan versus Union of India*, 2011 case, the top court issued directions to address widespread exploitation and trafficking of children.

What next?

The guidelines point out that the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the victims must be considered, especially those from marginalised communities. Society is still unable to protect children and adolescents from being criminals or being victims of crimes. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, migration, disasters and breakdown of the family system push children into vulnerability which strengthens the trafficking chain. In recent years, the spread of social media and online platforms has contributed to such offences, especially in terms of recruitment in the name of jobs or opportunities for "modelling". The government must first ensure that the social, economic and political rights of children are well protected with the help of institutions built for the purpose. Second, it must come down heavily on traffickers and ensure that the conviction rate improves considerably so that a deterrent may be created. Moreover, a strong Union-State relationship is also required because law and order and police are State subjects.

C. B. P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi.

THE GIST

▼ The Supreme Court in its recent decision in *K. P. Kiran Kumar versus State* has given strict guidelines to prevent such offences, and held that trafficking grossly violates children's fundamental right to life as guaranteed by the Constitution.

▼ The guidelines point out that the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the victims must be considered, especially those from marginalised communities.

▼ The Constitution extensively provides for the protection of children. Articles 23 and 24 give protection from human trafficking, begging, forced labour and employment in hazardous industries.



DEFINITION

Child trafficking refers to "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for labour, begging, and sexual and other exploitation.

Key Factors:

- Poverty
- Child marriages
- Disasters induced displacement



CURRENT STATUS

According to the NCRB 2022 report, **eight children** were trafficked **every day** in India in 2021. children trafficked EVERY DAY

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

Article 23 prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour

GLOBAL CONVENTIONS

India is a member of:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989
- Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Inter-country Adoption, 1993



Child Trafficking In India

8 children were trafficked **every day** in India in **2021** for labour, begging and sexual exploitation - **NCRB**

Forms of Child Trafficking

Domestic labour

Forced child labour

Illegal activities

Such as **begging**, **organ** trade and commercial **sex** purposes.

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, **1956**

Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, **1976**

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, **1994**

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, **2012**

Abolishes **bonded labour system**

Commercial dealing in human organs is a **punishable offence**.

Protects children from offences of sexual harassment, and **pornography**.



Important To Know

• **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** approved a ten-point **Call to Action** for the implementation of **comprehensive measures** to **prevent child trafficking**.



India invited to Gaza peace board

India invited to join Gaza peace board

New Delhi has not yet responded to the invitation, officials say; the Board of Peace, to be headed by Trump and to include 'other members and heads of state', is expected to oversee funding for the 'redevelopment of Gaza' until the Palestinian Authority completes a 'reform programme'

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

United States President Donald Trump has invited India to be a part of the Board of Peace for Gaza, sources in New Delhi said on Sunday.

U.S. Ambassador Sergio Goro also shared a letter on social media from Mr. Trump to Prime Minister Narendra Modi inviting India.

The Board of Peace for Gaza comprises a group of countries that are being invited by the U.S. to provide a governance structure for the Gaza Strip, as Hamas is being pressured to give up its governance role in the territory as part of Mr. Trump's peace plan.

Officials unwilling to be named said that India has the "invite in hand",

though New Delhi has not responded as yet. This comes three days after Mr. Trump announced on social media that the Board of Peace had been formed and that its members would be announced "shortly".

The Trump peace plan for Gaza was first floated on September 29, 2025, when the U.S. President hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House. Following the announcement, Hamas agreed to return all 48 remaining hostages who were being held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and Gaza detainees.

As per the plan, Gaza will be administered by the "temporary transitional governance" of a technocratic apolitical Palestinian committee, which will



U.S. President Donald Trump with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Oval Office of the White House on February 13, 2025. AFP

consist of Palestinian and international experts. This transitional outfit will be supervised by the Board of Peace, to be headed by Mr. Trump and include "other members and heads of state", as well as the United Kingdom's former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Board of Peace is expected to handle fund-

ing for the "redevelopment of Gaza" till the Palestinian Authority has completed a "reform programme".

The U.S. is expected to work with international partners to develop a "temporary" International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to be deployed in Gaza soon. The U.S. has been in talks with multiple countries

UAE President arrives today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India will host UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on Monday.

The UAE President will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The visit will provide an opportunity for the two

leaders to chart new frontiers for the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. It will also enable exchange of views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, where India and the UAE share a high degree of convergence," the External Affairs Ministry said.

across the world for troops to participate in the ISF.

Officials here have maintained that India would not be part of the ISF as it is not a peacekeeping force under the aegis of the United Nations.

On October 9, 2025, however, Mr. Modi had welcomed the Trump peace plan in a post on X.

"We welcome the agreement on the first phase of President Trump's peace plan. This is also a reflection of the strong leadership of PM Netanyahu," he said.

Jordan, Greece, Cyprus, and Pakistan also said on Sunday they had received invitations. (With PTI inputs)

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



What Is the 'Board of Peace'?

US President **Donald Trump** has invited India to join a proposed **"Board of Peace"** to oversee governance and reconstruction in post-war Gaza. Trump is expected to chair the main board himself.

1949 Armistice Lines

■ Jordanian occupied ■ Egyptian occupied [] Armistice lines



A New Global Forum or UN Rival? The 'Board of Peace'

Context: Proposed by Donald Trump as part of a 20-point Gaza peace plan, with broader ambitions for global conflict management.

PURPOSE & ORIGIN



- **Initial Focus:** Implement US-brokered Gaza peace plan, oversee reconstruction, governance transition.
- **Broader Ambition:** Address global conflicts outside traditional forums.
- **Key Goal:** Provide strategic oversight, mobilize resources, ensure accountability.
- **Origin:** US initiative, partly endorsed by UNSC Resolution 2803 (with ambiguities on authority).



STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP



- **Chairman:** Donald Trump (Significant powers: agenda setting, invitations, veto).
- **Executive Board:** Core decision-making body.
- **Membership Model:** "Invitation-only". Reports of \$1bn for permanent seat (disputed by White House).



KEY MEMBERS (EXECUTIVE BOARD)



Donald Trump
(Chair, US President)



Marco Rubio
(US Sec. of State)



Jared Kushner
(US Senior Negotiator)



Steve Witkoff
(US Special Envoy)



Tony Blair
(Former UK PM)



Ajay Banga
(World Bank President - Indian Origin)



Marc Rowan
(Apollo Global CEO)



Robert Gabriel
(US Deputy NSA)



Regional Invitees (Gaza context):
Hakan Fidan (Turkey), Ali Al Thawadi (Qatar), etc.

ANALYSIS: ALTERNATE TO UN?



ARGUMENTS FOR RIVALRY

- Trump's known criticism of UN efficiency & funding.
- Exclusive, US-led vs. UN's universal, collective nature.
- Potential to bypass UNSC on war/peace issues.
- Concerns about "parallel structure" sidelining UN agencies (e.g., UNRWA).
- Perceived as "neo-imperialist" or "colonial" by critics.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST/NUANCES

- US claims it's not to replace, but "galvanize" UN.
- Sought some UNSC backing (Res. 2803) for Gaza plan.
- Includes some former/current UN figures (e.g., Mladenov, Kaag).
- Initially focused on Gaza, wider mandate is "aspirational".

PM launches Rs.6,957 crore Kaziranga corridor work

PM launches ₹6,957-crore Kaziranga corridor work

Modi lays the foundation stone for the 86-km project, flags off two Amrit Bharat trains from poll-bound Assam; he accuses Congress of aiding infiltrators, neglecting Kaziranga National Park

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cited the outcome of the Bihar Assembly election and the Mumbai civic polls to claim that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become the first choice of the people in the country.

After laying the foundation stone for the ₹6,957-crore Kaziranga elevated corridor and virtually flagging off two Amrit Bharat trains from poll-bound Assam's Kaliabor, Mr. Modi also said that the Congress had lost the trust of the nation.

The 86-km Kaziranga elevated corridor is a four-lane National Highway project, which includes 35 km of an elevated road passing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects the model of the proposed Kaziranga elevated corridor in Kaliabor, Assam, on Sunday. ANI

through the Kaziranga National Park. "The elevated wildlife corridor will ensure uninterrupted movement of animals and reduce human-wildlife conflict. It will also enhance road safety, reduce travel time and accident rates," an official statement said.

Mr. Modi also praised the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Assam government for stopping rhinoceros poaching in Kaziranga, the "soul of Assam" and a "priceless jewel of the country" that he accused the Congress of neglecting.

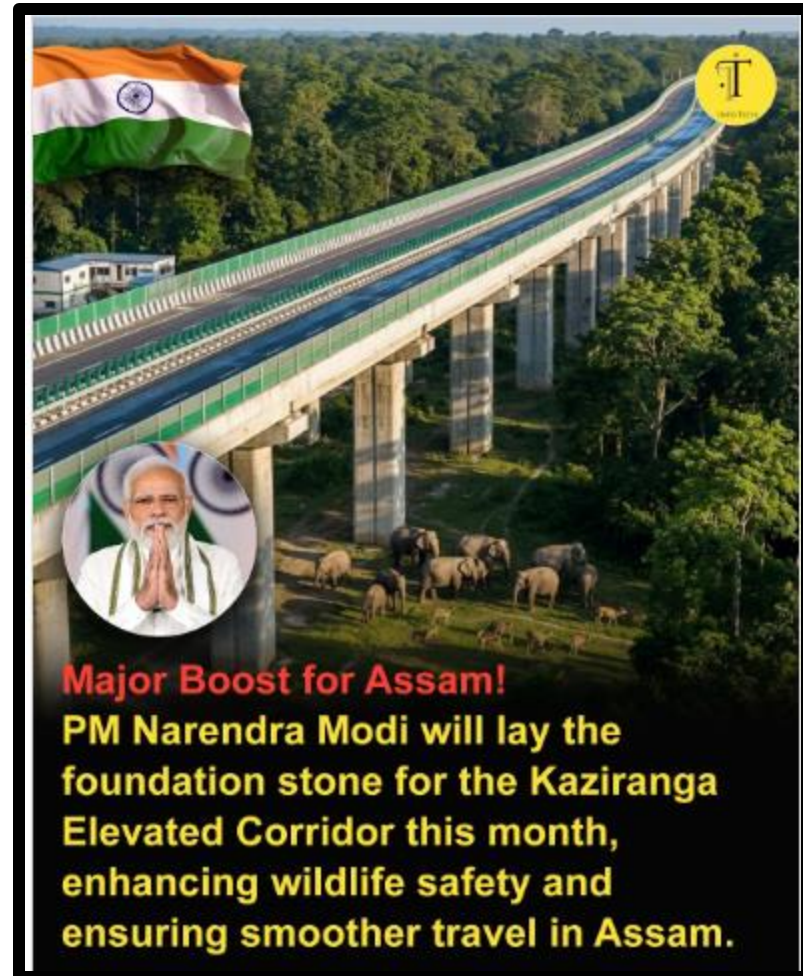
Mr. Modi also accused the Congress of handing

'Syndicate tax' hurting Bengal's development: PM

KOLKATA
Accusing the Trinamool Congress government of imposing a 'syndicate tax' on development in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said investments would not come to the State as long as the party remained in power. » PAGE 10

over Assam's land to infiltrators and helping them encroach on large swathes of land and lauded the government for tackling infiltration and freeing forests and historical and cultural sites from encroachment.


CONTINUED ON
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Assam's Kaziranga National Park


About Kaziranga National Park

- ◆ **Location:** It is situated between the Brahmaputra River and the Karbi (Mikir) Hills, in Assam.
- ◆ In 1985, the park was declared a **World Heritage Site** by UNESCO.



Terrain:


- ◆ It is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes, and shallow pools.




Rivers: The River Diphalu, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows through the National Park while another tributary, Moradifalu, flows along its southern boundary.

Flora:

- ◆ It is primarily famous for its dense and tall elephant grasses intermixed with small swamplands.




Fauna: It is home to species like: Rhino, Tiger, Eastern Swamp Deer, Elephant, Buffalo, Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur,




The Gangetic River dolphin is commonly found in the habitat.

Kaziranga National Park


WHY IN NEWS?



Prime Minister to Flag Off a **34.5-kilometre Elevated Corridor** in Assam's Kaziranga National Park



Prime Minister to Flag Off a **34.5-kilometre Elevated Corridor** in Assam's Kaziranga National Park



Improve connectivity on the busy National Highway stretch.

Reduce traffic congestion through the park.

Minimise disturbance to wildlife by allowing safe animal movement beneath the roadway.

Model for Infrastructure
Balanced with Environmental Protection

Especially in sensitive areas like Kaziranga,

Guillain-Barré syndrome

Now, GBS outbreak claims 2 lives in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Authorities swung into action on Sunday following the death of two children due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district. Eighteen cases have been detected over the past few days, officials said.

According to officials, Sonu Soni, 15, and Keshav Detwal, 6, residents of Neemuch's Manasa area, died due to the immunological nerve disorder while nine confirmed cases and nine suspected cases are receiving treatment at hospitals.

Manasa Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kiran Anjana told *The Hindu* that a special ward has been established at the Civil Hospital for new patients while existing patients have been referred to bigger hospitals in nearby areas. "Some patients have also been given aid through the Red Cross Society," she said.

Deputy Chief Minister

Nine confirmed cases detected in Neemuch district; special ward set up for patients at Civil Hospital: SDM

Rajendra Shukla, who holds the Health portfolio, visited Manasa and held meetings with district and Health Department officials. The Minister said the State government was bearing the expense of treatment for all patients.

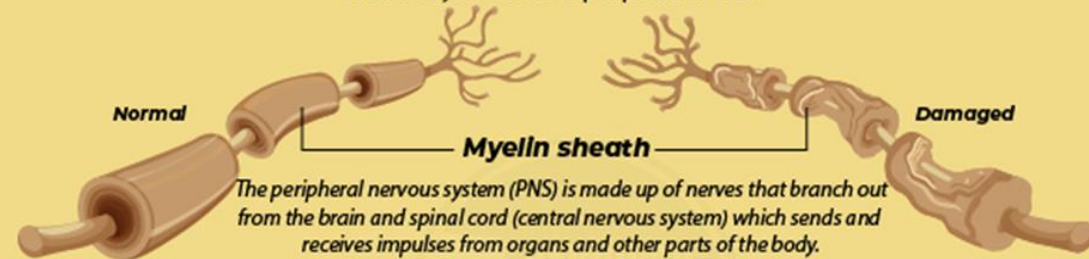
"Samples from a water purification plant and other places have not been found contaminated at first glance. Samples of blood serum of patients, food items, and other materials have been sent to institutes in Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Pune for testing," he said.

"A National Joint Outbreak Response Team is also scheduled to visit from Delhi to trace the contamination," a district administration official said.

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 19

GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME

Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) is a rare neurological disorder that happens when the immune system attacks peripheral nerves



SYMPTOMS

Weakness

As a consequence of damage to the myelin sheath, the brain is unable to transmit electrical signals to the muscles properly, causing weakness

Changes in sensation

A pins and needles sensation, as well as pain in the back of the legs

CAUSE :



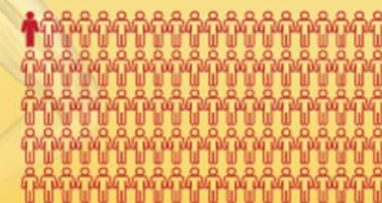
Unknown



Not infectious



Not inherited



Estimated to affect **1 PERSON**
IN 100,000 each year

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER SEEN MORE IN MEN



What is Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

- It is a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nerves
- This leads to muscle weakness, numbness and, in some cases, paralysis
- It usually follows a benign course and spontaneous recovery begins within 2-3 weeks
- Most patients recover fully, although some are left with residual weakness

WEAKNESS and TINGLING
in Your Extremities are
Usually the First
Symptoms

GUILLAIN BARRE SYNDROME

Guillain Barre Syndrome is
a Rare Disorder in which
your Body's Immune
System attacks your
Nerves



Limb
Weakness



Difficulty
Swallowing



Shortness
of Breath



Flaccid
Paralysis





Thank you

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