

Important Issues of the Day

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Govt. issues guidelines on childhood diabetes care

New framework provides for universal screening, district-level diagnosis and free lifelong care, including insulin, regular monitoring, and emergency response under public health system

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Integrating childhood diabetes care into the public health system, the Union Health Ministry has, for the first time, introduced a structured and standardised national framework for the screening, diagnosis, treatment and long-term management of diabetes in children.

Releasing the *Guidance Document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children* recently, the Ministry said this aims to ensure universal diabetes screening of all children in India from birth to 18 years of age.

“Suspected cases will undergo immediate blood glucose testing, followed by timely referral to district-level health facilities for confirmatory diagnosis and treatment,” a senior Health Ministry official said.

He added that a key feature of the framework is the provision of a comprehensive, free-of-cost care package at public health facilities. This includes screening, diagnostic services, lifelong insulin therapy, monitoring devices such as glucometers and test strips, and regular follow-up care. The approach is designed to reduce fi-

Early intervention

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■ Integration of childhood diabetes care in the public health system aims to ensure universal diabetes screening of all children from birth to 18 years of age



■ It provides for a comprehensive, free-of-cost care package at public health facilities

■ It aims to reduce financial burden and ensure uninterrupted treatment for children diagnosed with diabetes



■ The guidance document emphasises family and caregiver empowerment, providing structured training on insulin administration, blood glucose monitoring, emergency response, and daily disease management



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Integrated care

While the initiative positions India among a select group of countries that have integrated childhood diabetes care into the public health system, the document also introduces an integrated continuum of care, linking community-level screening with district hospital-based management and advanced care at medical colleges.

“This convergence ensures that no child is lost in

the system and that care continues seamlessly from detection to long-term follow-up,” the Health Ministry noted in a release issued on Sunday.

According to the World Health Organization, diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood sugar. Hyperglycaemia, or raised blood sugar, is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious dam-

age to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels.

“4Ts” framework

The initiative seeks to support early detection and promote the “4Ts” awareness framework – Toilet, Thirsty, Tired, and Thinner – enabling parents, teachers and caregivers to recognise early warning signs of Type 1 diabetes.

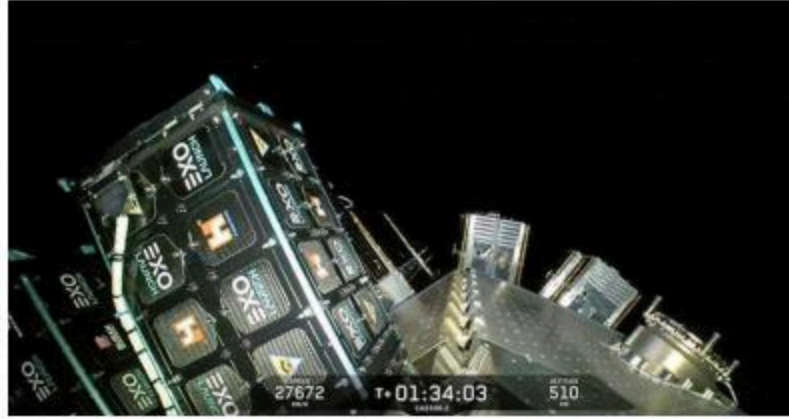
In addition to clinical protocols, the document emphasises family and caregiver empowerment, providing structured training on insulin administration, blood glucose monitoring, emergency response and daily disease management. It also outlines evidence-based treatment guidelines, regular monitoring schedules, and protocols for preventing complications.

The initiative is expected to deliver public health benefits, including reduced mortality due to early detection, prevention of complications, and improved quality of life for affected children. Over the long term, it will contribute to lowering health-care costs and strengthening health system capacity for managing non-communicable diseases among children.

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Mission Drishti, world's first OptoSAR satellite, launched

Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite developed by the Bengaluru-based space start-up GalaxEye has been successfully launched on Sunday aboard a Falcon 9 by SpaceX from Vandenberg, California. Weighing 190 kilograms, it is India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite. "It is the first satellite globally to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors into a single operational platform, enabling all-weather, day-and-night imaging capabilities. This approach addresses long-standing limitations of conventional systems and enables more reliable and consistent data acquisition across diverse environmental conditions," GalaxEye said.

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A countdown to International Day of Yoga

Page No.7 , GS 2

At a time when the world is navigating conflict, uncertainty, and rising psychological strain, the idea of peace demands renewed attention. Traditionally approached through diplomacy and policy, peace is often framed as an external goal, negotiated across borders and institutions. Yet, despite these efforts, societies remain increasingly unsettled, suggesting that peace cannot be secured externally alone. It must also be cultivated within. Yoga facilitates this journey.

The global community recognised this potential when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution in 2014, leading to the declaration of June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The proposal itself was visionary, first articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to the 69th Session of the UNGA, where he described yoga as an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition – one that embodies the unity of mind and body, thought and action. The first observance in 2015, under the theme "Yoga for Harmony and Peace," reflected a shared aspiration to build more balanced and cohesive societies. This vision was further reinforced in 2018 with the theme "Yoga for Peace," underlining the role of Yoga as a unifying force in an increasingly fragmented world.

Importantly, this emphasis has not been confined to individual years. Across successive International Day of Yoga observances, the ideas of balance, interconnectedness, and collective well-being have remained central. These themes are not merely symbolic – they represent a sustained global effort to position yoga as a practice that connects individuals across cultures, geographies, and ideologies, reinforcing peace as a shared and participatory process.

This growing global recognition was further strengthened in 2016, when yoga was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of



Prataprao Jadhav
Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare

By encouraging mindfulness and emotional regulation, Yoga equips individuals with the ability to manage stress and respond thoughtfully

the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. While deeply rooted in India's civilisational ethos, Yoga today belongs to the world. Its universality lies in its simplicity – it requires no elaborate infrastructure, no exclusive access, and transcends cultural boundaries.

It is in this spirit that the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India organised the 'Yoga Mahotsav 2026' on May 2, at the Kanha Shanti Vanam.

Bridging the gap

Yoga offers a way to bridge the gap between inner imbalance and external discord by strengthening the individual's capacity for awareness, balance, and restraint. Rooted in India's traditional knowledge systems, Yoga is not merely a physical routine but a discipline that harmonises the body, mind, and breath.

Through this integration, it enables individuals to respond to situations with clarity rather than impulse.

This distinction is critical. Much of the conflict witnessed today, whether in personal interactions or public discourse, does not arise solely from deep divisions but from the inability to regulate response. Yoga, through practices such as breath control and meditation, develops precisely this capacity. It creates space between stimulus and reaction – where reflection replaces reaction, and understanding tempers instinct. It is through this shift in individual behaviour that Yoga begins to shape peace at a broader, societal level. In a world reacting faster than it reflects, Yoga restores the discipline of pause.

In this context, Yoga has also emerged as one of India's most significant instruments of soft power. Unlike conventional forms of influence that rely on assertion, yoga operates through participation and shared experience. It creates moments of collective stillness in an otherwise fragmented world, fostering trust,

mutual respect, and a sense of global unity – values that are essential for lasting peace.

The relevance of Yoga becomes even more pronounced in the present global landscape. Rapid urbanisation, digital overstimulation, and shifting social dynamics have contributed to rising stress levels, shrinking attention spans, and increasingly reactive forms of communication. In such conditions, the absence of inner equilibrium often translates into external friction. Yoga addresses this challenge at its root. By encouraging mindfulness and emotional regulation, it equips individuals with the ability to manage stress and respond thoughtfully. When adopted widely, this shift in behaviour has the potential to influence collective outcomes, strengthening social cohesion and fostering more resilient communities.

The Ministry of Ayush has been committed to advancing this vision by integrating Yoga into public health, education, and community initiatives. The objective is not periodic participation, but sustained behavioural transformation that supports both individual well-being and societal harmony. Events like the 'Yoga Mahotsav 2026' are not merely commemorative – they are catalytic, bringing people together in a shared experience of awareness, balance, and collective intent. Peace, ultimately, is not a singular milestone but a continuous process, shaped by how individuals think, act, and engage with one another. Yoga, in its depth and universality, offers a practical means to nurture this process.

As the world moves toward the International Day of Yoga 2026, the message is both simple and profound: lasting peace will not be negotiated only across tables, but also cultivated within individuals. Yoga, in this sense, is not merely a practice – it is a quiet, enduring architecture of peace.

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AI and a gathering storm of unchecked power

Page No.6 , GS 3

On April 19, the American tech-giant Palantir tweeted a 22-point summary of its CEO Alexander C. Karp's book, *The Technological Republic* (co-authored with Nicholas Zamiska). In it, the company decries corporate inclusivity, the equality of cultures, and, more worryingly, the limits of soft power. "The ability of free and democratic societies to prevail requires something more than moral appeal," it says. "It requires hard power, and hard power in this century will be built on software." Palantir then proceeds to point out that the question is no longer whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be used to build weapons, but who it will build them for and for what purpose.

It is difficult to read Palantir's programme and not feel a foreboding sense of anxiety about where AI is taking us. It has after all crept into every stream of life, often with devastating consequences. With every passing day, it is evident that these companies will shape how people interact with each other, how the economies of the world develop, and even how nations wage wars.

Indeed, Palantir's tweet is no corporate dogma. Among the more striking influences of AI in recent times is the news of its use in the United States' attacks in Iran. Reports have shown us that the company's AI-powered defence platform, the Maven Smart System, had a substantial role to play in selecting the targets, including the primary school in Minab, Iran, where American forces killed between 175 and 180 people, most of them girls between the ages of seven and 12.

What is eerily disquieting

The speculative dystopias from a few years ago are now with us in the present. No doubt, we have reached this moment due to an accretion of choices that we have made over many years. But so eerily disquieting is the lack of regulation over its use and growth that AI's potential appears to concern even the savants of today's technological world, Sam Altman of OpenAI among them, more than it does the state.

In a 13-page document released on its website, titled "Industrial Policy for the Intelligence Age: Ideas to Keep People First", OpenAI claims that the technology it is building is coming at a pace far faster than society is prepared to handle. The paper argues that in normal times, markets can work on their own and competition can lead to better living standards and expanded opportunity.

"But the magnitude of the changes we expect and the potential risks we foresee demand even more," it says. "We are entering a new phase of economic and social organization that will fundamentally reshape work, knowledge, and production. It requires not just incremental policy responses but ambitious policy ideas for tomorrow."



Subrith Parthasarathy

Advocate practising in the Madras High Court

Corporate control of AI raises urgent questions about power, accountability and a weakening of democratic safeguards

To that end, governments, according to Open AI, should implement common sense regulation, which, far from entrenching incumbents, would "help protect children, mitigate national security risks, and encourage innovation".

But the absence of regulation could not be more glaring. Open AI's rival, Anthropic, which operates Claude, has a resident philosopher and ethicist, Amanda Askell, supposedly doing the job for it. Ms. Askell has written up what is now described as "Claude's Constitution" – known to the corporation's employees as the "soul doc". It purports to provide the large language model (LLM) a set of moral precepts.

In this case, it seeks to ensure that Claude is "broadly safe", "broadly ethical", "compliant with Anthropic's guidelines", and "genuinely helpful".

For example, the safety standards it prescribes demands that Claude should never, among other things, provide uplift to those seeking to create biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological weapons with the potential for mass casualties; provide uplift to attacks on critical infrastructure; engage in an attempt to kill the vast majority of humanity as a whole; and generate child sexual abuse material.

But, ultimately, these efforts must be viewed with the greatest scepticism. They are the LLMs' way of telling us to thank them for keeping the world a safe place. Even if we treat them at face value, consider what happens when Claude chooses to override its constitution? Or if one of Anthropic's competitors, say, Palantir, feels no urge to control how its LLMs grow?.

From warfare to surveillance

Consider Anthropic's latest model, Claude Myths, which has already raised a raft of ethical concerns over its hacking skills, outperforming humans. Thus far, the company has not released the new version to the public, because of the serious threats it poses to cybersecurity. In Palantir's case, not only has its manifesto and its use in recent warfare been alarming, but so too has its role in America's surveillance efforts. The corporation has reportedly built software that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses to profile and track individuals. While some may argue that the software's surveillance efforts have been used to enhance public good in the past – notably in contact tracing efforts in some countries during the COVID-19 pandemic – it has increasingly become a tool for brazen surveillance in breach of civil liberties.

Palantir's software is also in use across States in the U.S. where predictive policing has become the norm. Multiple investigations have shown the problems inherent in the technology's use – its profiling is racially charged and biased and based on information that is collated with unabashed disregard for privacy.

Beyond issues of surveillance, privacy and

warfare, there are other concerns too. These include the impact that AI has had and will continue to have on jobs, on our climate, and on our creativity, will, and endeavour, ultimately, impinging on what it means to be a human being. There are also worries over how LLMs are trained on man-made writing, by using novels, poems and essays as data points. Whether this constitutes fair use of copyright remains a point of contention.

But the idea that these corporations are to be trusted to do the right thing shifts the burden of public accountability otherwise fundamental to constitutional democracies onto private entities. By any account, this portends dangerous consequences.

Across the world there appears to be a sense not too distinct from how we have reacted to the various arrangements of affairs in the neo-liberal world order, that "there is no alternative", a maxim once made famous by Margaret Thatcher. This allowed Thatcher, as the writer Cory Doctorow has argued, to "paint her ideological choices as historical inevitabilities".

The rest of the world must react

But there are alternatives. That the U.S. and the West are unwilling to regulate AI must not mean that the rest of the world should stay silent. Thus far, India has adopted a relatively soft regulatory regime. Its Governance Guidelines, released in November 2025, recognises many of the problems characteristic to the technology, but stops short of recommending legislative intervention.

The cue is in what Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said at the AI Impact Summit held in February 2026 in New Delhi. Big tech needs regulation, with the "imperative of safeguarding human rights in the digital sphere, promoting information integrity, and protecting our countries' creative industries".

As he correctly recognised, the companies' business model depends on exploitation of personal data and the erosion of privacy. To that end, allowing technological expansion to go unchecked would only deepen inequalities and concentrate power in a few nations and corporations.

At a time like this, when international law is flailing, to be cheery about global cooperation may seem desperate. But frameworks exist, the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, Brazil's proposals, and even India's own guidelines, among them. What we must do is compel our leaders to show the political will to make these binding and multilateral.

The problem is that most of us have not so much as started asking ourselves what a just future with AI would look like. Instead, we seem to have accepted that there is no alternative. In the process, we have all fallen into the Thatcherite trap.

- **Palantir then proceeds to point out that the question is no longer whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be used to build weapons, but who it will build them for and for what purpose.**
- **Among the more striking influences of AI in recent times is the news of its use in the United States' attacks in Iran.**
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the primary school in Minab, Iran, where American forces killed between 175 and 180 people, most of them girls between the ages of seven and 12.

- **From warfare to surveillance**
- **Beyond issues of surveillance, privacy and warfare, there are other concerns too. These include the impact that AI has had and will continue to have on jobs, on our climate, and on our creativity, will, and endeavour, ultimately, impinging on what it means to be a human being.**

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Mains Question

“Artificial Intelligence is poised to redefine economic growth, but it also raises concerns regarding employment and inequality.” Critically examine. (250 words)

“कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधुनिक विकास को पुनर्परिभाषित करने की क्षमता रखती है, लेकिन यह रोजगार और असमानता से जुड़े रूढ़िवादी तंत्रों को भी उत्पन्न करती है।”

समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्द)

Keeping India's carbon money at home

On January 1, 2026, the European Union (EU)'s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) came into effect, and is fully in force. Europe calls it fairness: European producers pay a carbon price, so imports should too. On paper, it sounds equitable; in practice, the door to fair competition is only half-open for India.

European steel, aluminium and cement producers enjoy large decarbonisation subsidies and subsidised public finance. They also continue receiving free allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System, which will be phased out gradually from 2026 to 2034, lowering their effective carbon costs even as CBAM phases in. Indian exporters, by contrast, face the full weight of CBAM charges without equivalent state support.

This tilt sits uneasily with the spirit of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article III, which bars deploying internal charges to shield domestic producers from fair competition.

What the deeper issue is about

The new India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), whose negotiations concluded on January 27, 2026, provides no exemption from CBAM for India. The EU held firm: no country gets country-specific flexibility. The FTA's Annex on Carbon Border Measures (Annex 14-A) does, however, establish a formal technical dialogue on CBAM implementation – including how any effective carbon price paid in India can be taken into account at the EU border, and a most-favoured-nation commitment that any flexibility extended to other countries will automatically extend to India. That narrow opening matters enormously.

The deeper issue is climate justice and sovereignty. CBAM shifts part of Europe's



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When Europe sets carbon rules, India must not remain the price taker

decarbonisation burden onto developing-country exporters while keeping the resulting revenue in European hands. A country that cannot shape the carbon price on its exports, or direct the associated revenues, risks becoming a rule-taker rather than a rule-maker in the green transition.

India is not starting from zero. The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), notified in 2023, establishes a domestic carbon price through tradable certificates, and will, over time, cover key industrial sectors including steel. Under CBAM Regulation Article 9, European importers may deduct embedded emissions that have already borne a carbon price in the country of origin. That is the legal hook for recognising India's carbon price as an offset to CBAM. The principle, and the legal mechanism, are sound.

Crediting CCTS under Article 9 is both legally defensible and environmentally coherent. CCTS is a compliance-grade market: installations must hold carbon credits against measured emissions, carrying a rupee-denominated value per tonne. Crediting that effective price against CBAM obligations – subject to robust monitoring, transparent exchange-rate conversion, and guarantees that no export rebates neutralise the burden – would prevent double-pricing while preserving CBAM's stated aim of levelling the playing field.

As a counter adjustment

India's next move should be a counter adjustment: an India Border Adjustment Mechanism (IBAM). Rather than accepting CBAM as an inescapable external levy, India could impose its own carbon-based charge on CBAM-covered exports, collected at the point of export. But IBAM must not be rushed or announced unilaterally. It should be developed only through Annex 14-A, so that its design is clearly recognised in advance as a "carbon price

paid in the country of origin" for purposes of CBAM Article 9. If India sequences this carefully – using Annex 14-A to lock in how CCTS payments and any IBAM charges will be credited – Indian exporters need not face any higher overall carbon cost than CBAM alone would impose. What they would otherwise pay implicitly as a levy retained in Europe, they would instead pay explicitly through domestic obligations, fully offset at the EU border. The net carbon burden on exporters would be capped at the CBAM level in any event.

Make IBAM a constructive offer

The crucial difference is where the money goes. IBAM revenues would stay in India. Every rupee raised should be ring-fenced in a dedicated, transparently governed fund restricted to verifiable green projects: modernising blast furnaces, expanding low-carbon electricity, scaling hydrogen and scrap-based steelmaking, supporting affected workers – all subject to strict measurable, reportable and verifiable standards, independently audited and publicly disclosed.

Seen this way, IBAM is not a spoiler but a constructive offer. If the EU is serious that CBAM is about preventing carbon leakage rather than protecting revenue, it should recognise credible Indian carbon pricing under Article 9 and treat those payments as genuine offsets. European consumers would still see a carbon-priced product. Indian producers would face no higher net carbon cost.

Most importantly, India would keep its carbon revenues and use them to finance a green transition designed, at least in part, on its own terms.

India should "IBAM the CBAM" – treating FTA Annex 14-A and CBAM's Article 9 not as footnotes, but as levers to keep carbon money at home while engaging seriously with a carbon-priced world.

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Tackling takedowns

Online censorship is a threat to the fundamental right to free expression

The Union government's enthusiastic misuse of its spurious powers to censor lawful speech online is an alarming and exponentially growing threat to India's democracy. With amendments to the IT Rules, 2021 – which are themselves on shaky constitutional ground – the government has successfully pressured Meta and X to take down content within three-hour timelines that leave little time to push back, lest they lose “safe harbour” protections and be dragged into court or, worse, have their employees face personal criminal liability. Under the cover of fighting AI-generated content, all speech is being subjected to a despotic regime where the state can silence speech at will, destroying the promise of the Internet, which has emerged as an important alternative voice to express everyday concerns. Visceral, hard-hitting expressions of independent voices are an integral part of a society led by free ideals and representative democracy. Weaponising Sections 69A and 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000 to take down such content, and accounts wholesale, distorts the public conversation in a way that benefits the ruling party, with scant regard for the freedoms of audiences and the livelihoods of creators. Often, entire accounts of the Opposition are deleted. Since this infrastructure of censorship has been built brick by brick without any moral compunctions on the path down which they lead, takedowns of

brick by brick without any moral compunctions on the path down which they lead, takedowns of independent media outlets and critical commentators have grown. Some have been reversed, at the cost of revealing their identity. The government continues to enjoy these powers under a veil of secrecy, publishing no meaningful data on how its hold on online discourse has tightened.

By opening up the so-called Sahyog portal to police officials around the country, requests under Section 79(3)(b) have been supercharged as a censorial rubber stamp that the IT Act simply does not give them. The clear Supreme Court precedent outlining what “actual knowledge” of illegality online constitutes for takedown orders has been reduced to a mockery. The Karnataka High Court has even brushed aside binding Court precedent under *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India*, even as the government has not dared to formalise the powers that it is exercising by passing a law in Parliament. Social media platforms have failed miserably in acting as a check in this ongoing rampage for power over online speech and have instead chosen the peace of mind that comes with automatically processing takedown notices. X continues to resist the Sahyog portal, but faces pressure from proceedings in the Karnataka and Delhi High Courts. The political elite must ponder the consequences of its campaign against online speech. Opposition-ruled States have quickly leapt to leverage the Sahyog portal's powers. A future government run by today's Opposition will likely play by the same sordid rules.

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Doctors decide

Decisions to go for abortion must be guided by sound medical advice

With freedom comes great responsibility; decisions made as a consequence of any freedom must be informed by reasonable awareness of the fall out. In seemingly vesting reproductive autonomy with the woman, the Supreme Court might have edged out the essential role of a clinical review of the situation. The Court asked the Union government to amend the abortion law to remove the time limit on medical termination of unwanted pregnancies in the case of minor rape victims. The Bench of the Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the observation while refusing to entertain a petition against an earlier Court decision allowing a 15-year-old survivor of rape to terminate the pregnancy during the 30th week. In the original judgment on the case, which was on curative appeal, the judges remarked that the right of the minor child to continue a pregnancy that is illegitimate must be considered, to safeguard a woman's right to reproductive autonomy. The Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan had noted that the minor had shown a clear and consistent unwillingness to continue the pregnancy. The Court cannot compel any woman, much less a minor, to complete her pregnancy if she otherwise did not intend to do so, they said. They also indicated that if the legal routes were closed, women might

not intend to do so, they said. They also indicated that if the legal routes were closed, women might take the dangerous path to quacks, risking life. However, counsel for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences stoutly opposed the termination, and the curative petition; leveraging the same safety consideration. Terminating the pregnancy at an advanced stage – 30 weeks – would be inimical to the health of the teenage mother. Currently, Indian law allows for the termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks of gestation.

The entire argument hinges on gestational age, which, as an indicator of how far along the pregnancy is, is crucial to deciding whether an abortion would be safe. Most countries that have legalised abortion restrict the period of safe abortion to 24 weeks of gestation, primarily because of the negative implications for the life and health of the mother, after that. But, central to legal abortion is a medical assessment of risks. Will a child or her parents alone, with lay knowledge, be able to make a studied assessment of such risk? While the minor expresses her desire to be rid of a forced pregnancy, it is the role of her parents and the system to provide her with safe options, within the permissible period. Making an uninformed decision at this stage could be counterproductive, if it compromises on her health or life, while allowing the right to bodily autonomy.

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