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THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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Curated from The Hindu — UPSC Prelims & Mains Focus

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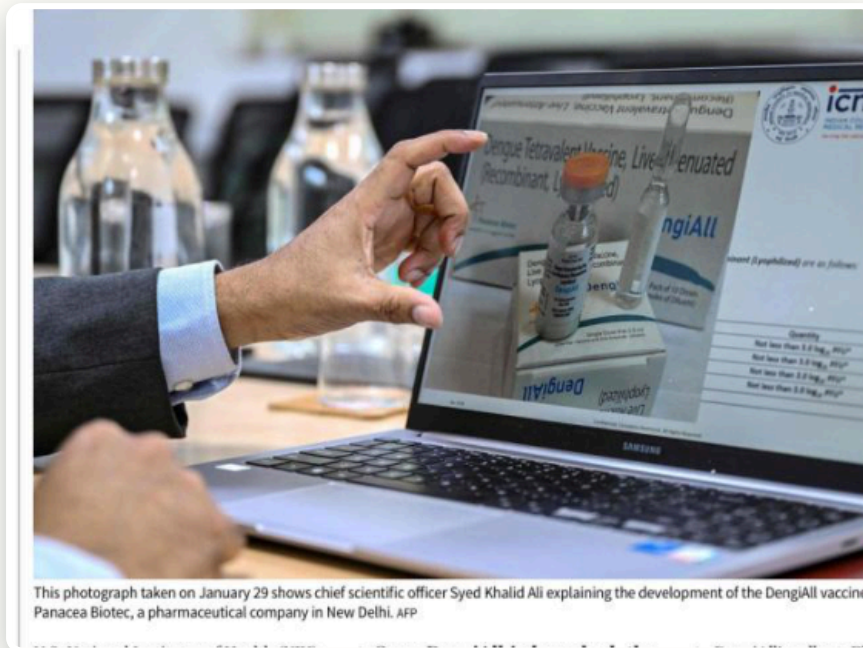
Deaths in Brazil Raise Concerns About India's Dengue Vaccine, DengiAll

PRELIMS

Health · S&T

WHY IN NEWS

The recent deaths of two people in Brazil during its dengue vaccination campaign — leading to the shot's suspension on **June 8** — is a crucial wake-up call for India, because Brazil's **Butantan-DV** vaccine is very similar, if not identical, to India's upcoming dengue vaccine, **DengiAll**.



This photograph taken on January 29 shows chief scientific officer Syed Khalid Ali explaining the development of the DengiAll vaccine at Panacea Biotec, a pharmaceutical company in New Delhi. AFP

Chief scientific officer explaining the development of the DengiAll vaccine's clinical sample at Panacea Biotec, New Delhi. (Source: The Hindu / AFP)

- Both vaccines were several years in the making and contain **live but weakened (attenuated)** versions of the dengue viruses (DENVs); both are **tetravalent** — a physical mixture of four serotypes (DENV-1, 2, 3, 4).
- A weakened DENV prompts **type-specific antibodies** (block one serotype well) and **cross-reactive antibodies** (recognise all four but block weakly). When cross-reactive levels drop, they can **enhance** a new infection — a dangerous phenomenon called **Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE)**.
- Both vaccines use a technology developed at the **U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH)**.
- In Brazil, of 42 recipients with serious side-effects (severe abdominal pain, vomiting, bleeding), **two died** and one needed intensive care — symptoms reminiscent of **severe dengue**, none flagged in phase-3 trials.

★ DengiAll & Dengue — Key Pointers

- ▶ India's indigenous candidate, developed by **Panacea Biotec** with the **ICMR**; phase-3 trial enrolled **10,335 volunteers** (two-year follow-up).
- ▶ Concern: efficacy against **DENV-3 and DENV-4** unclear, as these were not prevalent at the trial site. Way forward: robust **pharmacovigilance** and real-world monitoring.
- ▶ Dengue is a **Vector-Borne Disease** caused by the dengue virus (Genus *Flavivirus*), spread by the *Aedes* mosquito (which also carries chikungunya, yellow fever, Zika).
- ▶ **Treatment:** no specific antiviral; managed symptomatically.

2

The Hidden History of the Thai-Bharat Connection

GS 1

Pg 8 · Modern History

WHY IN NEWS

Today, **June 15**, marks the **84th anniversary** of a historic meeting at the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok — an overlooked chapter that led toward the formation of the **Indian National Army (INA)**.

- Roots sown in **1927**, when **Rabindranath Tagore** visited Siam and met **King Prajadhipok (Rama VII)**; their dialogue centred on India-Thailand ties rooted in the **Ramayana** and Thai **Ramakien**.
- **Prafulla Kumar Sen** (Swami Satyananda Puri) reached Bangkok in 1932, founded the **Dharam Ashram** (1939), transformed into the **TBCL** (Dec 1940).
- The **Bangkok Conference (June 15–23, 1942)** was a turning point, adopting a 34-point resolution and making the Indian Independence League (IIL) the central body for Indians abroad.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's** arrival in 1943 gave the movement the centralised leadership it needed.

GS 1

Today, June 15, marks the 84th anniversary of a historic meeting we have allowed ourselves to forget, which led to the birth of the Indian National Army (INA). I learned about it on a visit to the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok, discovering a remarkable, overlooked chapter of history that reveals Thailand's vital role as a neutral, strategic beacon for Indian revolutionaries seeking refuge from British colonial rule. From its humble beginnings as a hub for cultural and intellectual exchange, the organisation evolved into a cornerstone of the Indian independence movement, providing the essential infrastructure for the formation of the INA.

From culture to cause
The roots of this alliance were sown in 1927 during a historic visit to Siam, now Thailand, by Gurusdev Rabindranath Tagore, who met with King Prajadhipok (Rama VII). Their dialogue centred on the deep, enduring connections between India and Thailand – ancient ties rooted in religion, philosophy, and shared cultural narratives such as the Ramayana and the Thai Ramakien. Inspired by his vision, Prafulla Kumar Sen, a Bengali scholar who became known as Swami Satyananda Puri, arrived in Bangkok in 1932.

A brilliant intellectual who had taught at the University of Calcutta and Visva-Bharati University, the Swami immersed himself in the Thai language and culture, mastering it in six months and becoming an esteemed professor at Chulalongkorn University. In 1939, he established the Dharam Ashram, a sanctuary for spiritual and cultural exchange, which served as a focal point for the growing Indian diaspora in Bangkok.

In December 1940, this ashram was transformed into the TBCL. A defining moment in the organisation's history occurred shortly after, when the Indian Tricolour was hoisted at the Lodge – a bold, defiant gesture that signalled the arrival of the Indian independence movement in Thailand and drew strong protests from the British Ambassador. As the Second World War descended upon Southeast Asia, the TBCL shifted from a cultural institution to an active political base. By late 1941, as Japanese forces advanced, the Lodge became a nexus for Indian nationalists and independence activists.

One of the most instrumental figures in this era was Sardar Gian Pritam Singh, a Sikh missionary and Ghadar Party veteran who had been preaching revolutionary ideals among the Indian diaspora in Bangkok. Operating from gurdwaras and working closely with the TBCL, Pritam Singh established vital covert links with Major Iwachi Fujiwara, the chief of the Japanese intelligence



Shashi Tharoor
Fourth-term Member of Parliament, Congress party (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 29 books, including, most recently, 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hindutva: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru'

unit, F-Kikan. In December 1941, the Indian National Council (INC) was founded at the Silpakorn Theatre in Bangkok by a group of nationalists associated with the TBCL, with Swami Satyananda Puri as its president and Debnath Das as its secretary. This organisation played a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of the Indian independence movement, bridging the gap between civilian aspirations and the military mobilisation led by the Indian Independence League (IIL).

Toward organised resistance
The cooperation between these groups culminated in the historic Bangkok Conference, which took place between June 15 and June 23, 1942, at the Silpakorn Theatre. This gathering represented a turning point in the struggle, bringing together more than a hundred representatives of Indian communities and freedom fighters from across Southeast Asia, including Burma, Malaya, and Singapore.

The conference served three primary functions. It brought together diverse nationalist factions under a coherent political and military framework, effectively establishing the IIL as the central body for Indians residing outside of India. It adopted a comprehensive 34-point resolution, which provided the official blueprint for the INA, stipulating that it would be composed of volunteers and former prisoners of war and supervised by the IIL rather than the Japanese military. The delegates urged Japan to formally recognise India as an independent nation and acknowledge the IIL as its sole legitimate representative, reflecting a strategic effort to ensure that the independence movement maintained its own agency despite its reliance on Japanese support.

The struggle began with a tragedy that shook the movement to its core. In March 1942, a plane carrying the Swami and the Sardar, who were en route to a high-level meeting in Tokyo to secure further commitments for the movement, crashed, resulting in their deaths. Their loss was a devastating blow, yet their sacrifice served to deepen the resolve of those who remained and who conferred in June with the Japanese to set up the INA. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's arrival in 1943 provided the centralised, charismatic, and revolutionary military leadership needed. He took command of the IIL and the INA, shifting the focus from decentralised regional council discussions toward a unified, disciplined military and political front designed to launch an armed struggle for Indian independence.

While the TBCL's roots were in intellectual and cultural exchange, Netaji's arrival accelerated the transition to a mass-mobilisation effort, drawing in thousands of civilian volunteers and former

prisoners of war who were inspired by his call for "Total Mobilization". Under Bose, the collaboration with the Japanese military was elevated to a high-stakes diplomatic partnership aimed at securing full recognition for the Provisional Government of Free India.

Despite the shift toward a more militarised and centralised command under Netaji, the TBCL continued to serve as a vital institutional bridge. It provided the necessary civilian and cultural cover for many activities that supported the broader independence movement. As the war progressed, the TBCL remained a steadfast centre for the Indian diaspora, even as the focus of the struggle moved to the front lines of the INA's march toward the Indian border. The Lodge maintained its role as a sanctuary for those committed to the ideals of independence, preserving the vision that had been articulated during the early days of Swami Satyananda Puri's tenure – that India's freedom was inextricably linked to the broader cause of Asian liberation from colonial rule.

Keeping history alive
Following the conclusion of the war in 1945, the TBCL was banned by Allied forces and its leaders imprisoned. Even after the conclusion of the war and the dissolution of the INA, the legacy of this era persisted. Thanks to the tireless efforts of figures such as Pandit Raghunath Sharma, the Lodge was successfully re-established in 1946. The Lodge's survival serves as a testament to the fact that the political and military efforts of the Bose era were supported by the deep-rooted cultural and social networks fostered in the years prior. These networks allowed the movement to survive the vacuum of leadership following the war and continue to inform the historic relationship between India and Thailand.

Today, the TBCL remains the only surviving institution from this era, functioning as a living archive, housing a precious collection of rare texts, historical photographs, and documents that provide an intimate window into the lives of the Indian families who contributed to the fight for freedom. During my visit I was treated to a passionate tour of the premises by Pandeyji, a descendant of Indian rajpurohitis who had migrated to Thailand three centuries ago. As he evoked the stories behind each grainy photograph and historic document, it became clear that the TBCL stands not just as a library or a museum, but as a monument to the enduring friendship between the people of Thailand and the Indian diaspora – a symbol of the shared courage and determination that defined one of the most critical, yet often forgotten, chapters of the global anti-colonial movement.

"The hidden history of the Thai-Bharat connection" — The Hindu, Pg 8 (Shashi Tharoor).

★ **Indian National Army (INA) — For Prelims & Mains**

- ▶ **Mohan Singh:** proposed an army from Indian POWs, gained Japanese support, led the INA (~40,000); removed after disputes with Japan.
- ▶ **Rashbehari Bose:** formed the **Indian Independence League** in Tokyo (1942).
- ▶ **Subhas Chandra Bose:** Supreme Commander (**25 Aug 1943**); set up the **Provisional Government of Free India**, Singapore (**21 Oct 1943**), recognised by 9 countries.
- ▶ **Chalo Delhi:** INA hoisted its flag at **Moirang, Manipur**; advance ended at Imphal after Japan's defeat.
- ▶ **INA Trials (Red Fort, Nov 1945):** **P.K. Sehgal, Shah Nawaz Khan, Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon** tried together — symbolising INA unity; defended by **Bhulabhai Desai, Sapru, Nehru, Asaf Ali**.

3

Fuller Expression — A Rapid Decline in Inflation Appears Unlikely

GS 3

Pg 8 · Economy · Editorial

WHY IN NEWS

India's **May retail inflation at 3.93%** — the highest in the current CPI series and roughly a 15-month high versus the previous series — has begun to reflect the pass-through of surging food and fuel costs. A rapid decline appears unlikely even if the war ends.

- **Food inflation** rose to **4.78%** (from 4.20% in April); transport services for goods surged **7.63%** on four tranches of petrol/diesel hikes from mid-May.
- Commercial **LPG** rose ~₹1,300 per 19-kg cylinder (over 75% since Feb); personal care & miscellaneous goods reached **18.46%** on soaring precious-metal prices.
- Last month's **wholesale inflation** — the first under the new **WPI series** — is due alongside India's first **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.
- Though below the RBI's **4% target** and within the **2%–6% band**, the RBI kept its **neutral stance**, signalling concern over further price pressures.
- **Core inflation** stayed contained at ~3.8–3.9%; the rupee recovered toward ₹95–96/\$ aided by RBI dollar sales. Uncertainty over the **Strait of Hormuz** could keep fuel prices elevated for India.

A rapid decline in inflation appears unlikely even if the war ends

India's May retail inflation at 3.93%, the highest in the current CPI series and roughly a 15-month high if compared with the previous series, has begun to reflect the pass-through effects of surging food and fuel costs more clearly than in previous months. However, last month's wholesale inflation numbers, the first under the new WPI series and due later this month alongside India's first Producer Price Index (PPI), should reveal how much of the price shock producers and wholesalers continue to absorb. May's food inflation rose at a faster clip to 4.78% from 4.20% in April. While transport inflation rose by 1.75% after a marginal contraction in April, a subdivision within the sector – transport services for goods – surged by 7.63%, signalling growing price pass-through. This was largely driven by the four tranches of petrol and diesel price increases beginning in mid-May. Significantly, the sharp rise in commercial LPG prices – by about ₹1,300 per 19-kg cylinder, representing an increase of over 75% since February – appears to be reflected in inflation in the restaurants and accommodation services category, which stood at 5.75%, the second-highest division after personal care and miscellaneous goods and services. Inflation in the latter category reached 18.46%, reflecting soaring precious metals prices. Domestic LPG's second price revision by ₹29 earlier this month will likely find a fuller expression in June's

RBI's 4% target and within its 2%-6% target band, the RBI retained its neutral stance and monetary policy review, signalling over the possibility of further price pressure intervention in the foreign exchange through dollar sales has meanwhile helped up the rupee, Asia's worst-performing currency since the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran ended. The currency, which briefly approached parity with the dollar in May, is now trading close to ₹96. The Centre may nevertheless draw some comfort from the fact that core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, remained relatively stable at around 3.8%-3.9% in May, largely unchanged from recent months. This comes with signs of a U.S.-Iran rapprochement and interrupted shipping through the Horn of Africa as uncertainty persists over whether Iran will impose fees or restrictions on transit through the waterway, which could keep fuel prices high for energy-importing nations such as India. Even if crude prices soften, oil marketing companies are unlikely to immediately reverse retail price increases as they seek to recover losses. Inflation, too, may remain sticky. Thus, while prospects for a durable peace may have improved, a rapid decline in inflation appears unlikely.

"Fuller expression" editorial — The Hindu, Pg 8.

★ Key Concepts

- ▶ **CPI:** retail-level price change; basis for RBI inflation targeting. **WPI:** wholesale/producer-level change.
- ▶ **PPI:** average change in selling prices received by domestic producers — being introduced in India for the first time.

▶ **Inflation targeting:** RBI's target is **4% (±2%)** under the flexible framework.

4

Series of Gaps — Distrust of Police Drives Under-reporting of Child Sexual Abuse

GS 2

Pg 8 · Social Justice

WHY IN NEWS

Child sexual abuse in India remains persistently **under-reported**, and the state's response reveals trenchant systemic inefficiencies, with distrust of the police deepening the reporting gap.

- In over **90% of cases** (including the recent **Sulur case**, Coimbatore), the threat comes from within the family's trusted circle — yet public imagination fixates on strangers, hampering timely risk identification.
- **Migrant and working-class communities** are especially at risk, being less integrated into local protective networks; abandoned industrial sites become crime scenes despite the '**Safe City**' project.
- While **POCSO** trials must conclude within a year, courts face an **89% pendency rate**, and conviction rates range historically between **3% and 30%**.
- In **2024**, the NCRB recorded **69,191 POCSO cases** involving more than **70,000 child victims**.
- Public distrust discourages reporting; families fearing police apathy search for children themselves, allowing perpetrators to hide evidence. Repeatedly raising penalties merely suppresses reporting where the offender is familiar.

★ POCSO Act, 2012 — Quick Recall

- ▶ The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act** protects children (below 18) from sexual assault, harassment and pornography.
- ▶ Provides **Special Courts**, child-friendly procedures and time-bound trials.
- ▶ Administered by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**; works with **NCRB** (data) and **NCPCR** (monitoring).

MAINS QUESTION · GS 2 · GOVERNANCE / SOCIAL JUSTICE

Distrust in the police and criminal justice system has contributed to the under-reporting of child sexual abuse cases in India. Examine the factors responsible for this trust deficit and suggest measures to ensure effective reporting, investigation, and protection of child victims.

पुलिस एवं आपराधिक न्याय व्यवस्था के प्रति अविश्वास ने भारत में बाल यौन शोषण के मामलों की रिपोर्टिंग को प्रभावित किया है। इस विश्वास की कमी के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण करते हुए बाल पीड़ितों की प्रभावी रिपोर्टिंग, जाँच एवं सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने हेतु उपाय सुझाइए।

(15 Marks · 250 Words)

5

The 'Seven-Point IQ Opportunity' for Indian Children

GS 2

Pg 8 · Health · Education

WHY IN NEWS

What if India could raise the IQ of future generations by **seven points** through a pivot in early childhood development under the **Anganwadi system**? Evidence shows nutrition and stimulation together transform outcomes.

- India's early childhood agenda long focused on survival — under-five mortality fell from **43 (2012) to 32 (2020)** (UNICEF/World Bank).
- The Anganwadi system reaches ~**eight crore children (0–6 years)** with nutrition, growth monitoring and parental counselling — but body and brain development do not proceed on separate tracks.
- The developing brain consumes nearly **one-fifth of the body's energy** at rest; in year one, grey matter rises **149%** and the cerebellum **240%**.
- **Jamaica research (1980s):** nutrition plus **psychosocial stimulation** (love-talk-play) produced far stronger cognitive gains.
- **Vellore cohort:** preschool at 18–24 months gave a **seven IQ-unit** gain; a Brazilian cohort showed an **eight-unit** gain at five.
- Frameworks like **Aadharshila, Navchetana** and **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi** redefine Anganwadis; **Poshan Pakhwada (April 2026, MoWCD)** promotes stimulation and play-based learning.



"The 'seven-point IQ opportunity' for Indian children" — The Hindu, Pg 8.

★ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

- ▶ Centrally-sponsored flagship programme launched on **2 October 1975**, under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- ▶ Targets nutrition, health and early learning for children **0–6 years** plus pregnant and lactating mothers.
- ▶ Now revised and subsumed under '**Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0**'.

PRELIMS PRACTICE

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS · FROM TODAY'S TOPICS

1 In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as: (UPSC 2021)

- (a) leaders of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- (b) members of the Interim Government in 1946
- (c) members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly
- (d) officers of the Indian National Army

Answer: (d) — The three were INA officers tried together at the **Red Fort (Nov 1945)**; the trial of a Hindu, a Muslim and a Sikh together symbolised INA unity and fuelled mass protest.

2 What is "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)", sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

Answer: (c) — THAAD is a U.S. anti-ballistic missile defence system that intercepts short-, medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase using hit-to-kill technology.

3 With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events?

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859–60
- (d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899–1900

Answer: (d) — "Ulgulan" (Great Tumult) refers to the **Munda Rebellion** led by **Birsa Munda** (1899–1900) in the Chhotanagpur region against British land and forest policies.

4 Consider the following statements about the dengue virus:

1. It belongs to the genus *Flavivirus*.
2. It is transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito, which also spreads chikungunya and Zika.
3. A specific antiviral medicine exists for its treatment.

Which of the above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: there is **no specific antiviral** for dengue; it is managed symptomatically.

"The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children."

— Thought for the Day

★ **Mains Answer Framework — Quick Pointers (Topic 4)**

- ▶ **Factors for trust deficit:** high POCSO pendency (89%), low conviction (3–30%), 90%+ intra-family abuse, police apathy, social stigma, weak networks for migrant communities.
- ▶ **Reporting:** child-friendly helplines, awareness on intra-family risk, community vigilance, whistle-blower protection.
- ▶ **Investigation:** trained child-protection police units, time-bound forensics, fast-track POCSO courts, victim & witness protection.
- ▶ **Protection:** 'Safe City' redesign beyond metros, NCPCR/CWC integration, rehabilitation and counselling, monitoring under POCSO & JJ Act.