

**NO MATTER
HOW YOU FEEL.
GET UP, DRESS
UP, SHOW UP
AND NEVER
GIVE UP.**

Important Issues of the Day

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Anaemia, blood disorders can distort diabetes test HbA1c results, says study

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), which is commonly used to diagnose and monitor Type 2 diabetes (T2D), may mislead diagnosis and monitoring in South Asia, particularly in India's population, due to the high prevalence of anaemia, haemoglobinopathies such as sickle cell disease and thalassaemia, and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency, says an article published online in *Lancet Regional Health: Southeast Asia*.

Led by Anoop Misra, corresponding author and chairman of Fortis C-DOC Centre of Excellence for Diabetes, the review questions reliance on HbA1c as the sole diagnostic or monitoring tool for type 2 diabetes in South Asia.

The article adds that



Reliance solely on HbA1c is constrained by several clinical and biological factors in India, say experts.

poorly standardised HbA1c assay methods complicate interpretation of HbA1c values. "Overall, reliance solely on HbA1c is constrained by several clinical and biological factors in India. A multiparametric, risk-stratified approach that integrates oral glucose tolerance test, self-monitoring of blood glucose, and whenever possible, continuous glucose moni-

toring, in addition to relevant haematologic assessments, are essential to enhance diagnostic and monitoring accuracy and inform appropriate treatment decisions, especially in primary care and resource-limited settings," Dr. Misra says.

Any condition that affects the quantity, structure, or lifespan of haemoglobin – such as anaemia,

haemoglobinopathies, or other red blood cell disorders – can distort HbA1c values and lead to misleading estimates of average blood glucose, the viewpoint article notes.

Co-author Shashank Joshi, from Joshi Clinic, Mumbai, explains that in some regions of India, people are nutritionally challenged and have iron-deficiency anaemia, which can distort HbA1c readings.

"This would affect both diagnosis and monitoring thus misleading clinicians. Reliance on HbA1c alone could delay diagnosis by up to four years in men with undetected G6PD deficiency, potentially increasing risk of complications," Dr. Joshi says.

The article explains that in patients with Type 1 diabetes, a non-linear relationship between mean blood glucose and HbA1c has been documented.

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- **Any condition that affects the quantity, structure, or lifespan of haemoglobin — such as anaemia, haemoglobinopathies, or other red blood cell disorders — can distort HbA1c values and lead to misleading estimates of average blood glucose, the viewpoint article notes.**
- **Diabetes, also called diabetes mellitus, is a chronic, progressive non-communicable disease (NCD) characterized by high levels of blood sugar (blood glucose) in the body.**
- **It occurs when:**
 - **The pancreas does not produce enough insulin hormone that regulates blood sugar.**
 - **The body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.**

- **Hyperglycaemia, also called raised blood glucose, is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious damage to the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels.**
- **About 422 million people worldwide have diabetes, the majority living in low-and middle-income countries, and 1.5 million deaths are directly attributed to diabetes each year.**

Type 1

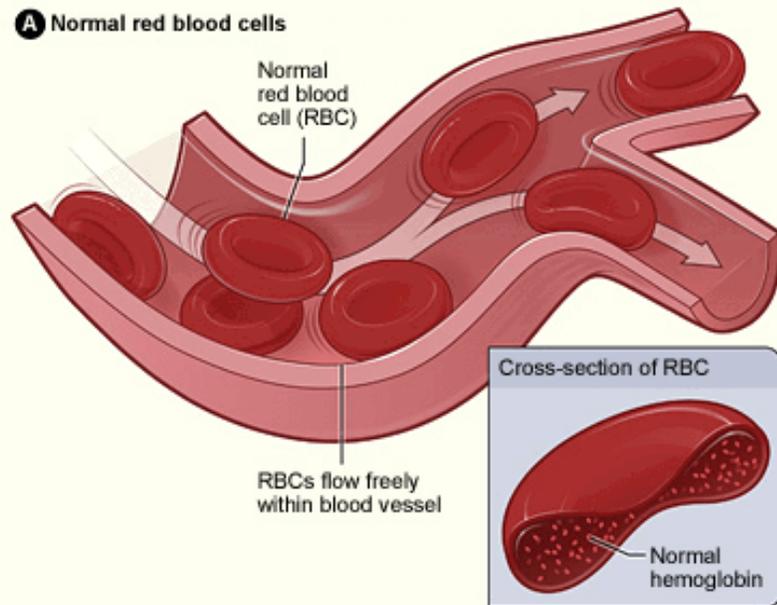
- **Previously known as insulin-dependent, juvenile or childhood-onset, it is caused by an autoimmune reaction (the body attacks itself by mistake). The immune system attacks and destroys cells in the pancreas, where insulin is made.**
- **It may be caused by a genetic predisposition. It could also be the result of faulty beta cells in the pancreas that normally produce insulin.**
- **People with Type 1 may need daily insulin shots.**
- **Approximately 5-10% of the people who have diabetes have type 1. It is usually diagnosed in children and young adults, but it can develop at any age.**

Type 2

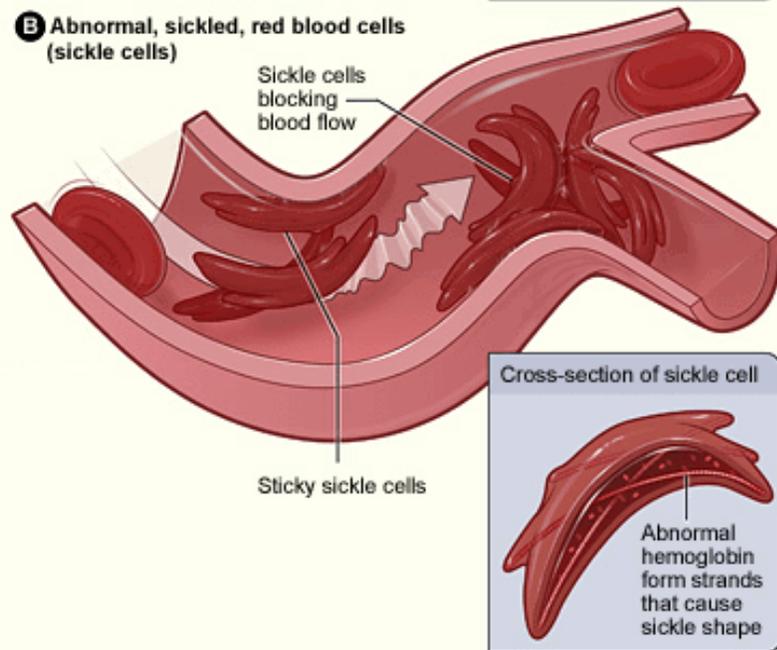
- **It affects how your body uses sugar (glucose) for energy. It stops the body from using insulin properly, which can lead to high levels of blood sugar if not treated.**
- **It used to be called adult-onset diabetes. About 90-95% of people with diabetes have type 2.**
- **Anaemia is a common blood disorder characterised by a reduction in the number of red blood cells (RBCs) or a decrease in the amount of haemoglobin (the protein that carries oxygen) in the blood.**
- **It leads to reduced Physical Performance, Poor concentration, memory issues, and irritability.**
- **Severe Anaemia can lead to heart problems, organ damage, and even death.**

- **SCD is a group of inherited red blood cell (RBC) disorders that affect haemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body.**
- **Normally, RBCs are flexible disc-shaped cells that move easily through blood vessels.**
- **In SCD, RBCs become crescent or sickle-shaped due to a genetic mutation of haemoglobin.**
- **These sickled RBCs do not bend or move easily and can block blood flow to the rest of the body.**
- **Symptoms/complications of SCD: Pain, anaemia, jaundice, stroke, organ failure etc.**
- **Treatment: A blood and bone marrow transplant was the only cure for SCD, but it was not for everyone because of the dearth of donors and the associated risk.**

A Normal red blood cells



B Abnormal, sickled, red blood cells (sickle cells)



‘Wolbachia method’ is sometimes talked about with reference to which one of the following?

- (a) Controlling the viral diseases spread by mosquitoes**
- (b) Converting crop residues into packing material**
- (c) Producing biodegradable plastics**
- (d) Producing biochar from thermo-chemical conversion of biomass**

Mains Question

Diabetes is emerging as a major public health challenge in India.

Examine the socio-economic factors responsible for the rising burden of diabetes and evaluate the effectiveness of government initiatives in addressing it.

(150 words)

मधुमेह भारत में एक प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य चुनौती के रूप में उभर रहा है।

मधुमेह के बढ़ते बोझ के लिए उत्तरदायी सामाजिक-आर्थिक कारकों की चर्चा कीजिए तथा इससे निपटने हेतु सरकारी पहलों की प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्द)

Stifling ideas

Sentiments cannot be allowed to trigger a criminal process against art

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's direction to file a first information report (FIR) against the makers of a film over its title, *Ghooskhor Pandat*, is a sign of how sections of the ruling establishment have come to treat speech that they dislike. Mr. Adityanath alleged that the title attempts to disrupt social harmony and hurts religious or caste sentiments. The producer agreed to remove promotional materials for the film. A dispute over expression quickly became a policing matter and the threat of criminal process swiftly compelled capitulation, even before any court had examined the facts. Article 19(1)(a) protects speech precisely because it can sometimes be unwelcome to powerful groups. The restrictions that the state can impose are enumerated in Article 19(2), and have to be proportionate. Courts have also separated speech that offends from speech related to violence or disorder. In the present case, the FIR is a threat, issued by a Chief Minister no less, to mobilise the coercive machinery of criminal law, a sign that the state fears public debate and wants to flatten the issue to a matter of discipline. Of late, the visual arts have often been met with restrictions. In 2023, West Bengal ordered that *The Kerala Story* not be screened in the State to maintain "law and order"; a few months earlier, the Centre had directed platforms to remove links to

tain "law and order"; a few months earlier, the Centre had directed platforms to remove links to the BBC documentary, *India: The Modi Question*, sans a judicial finding on illegality. Other examples include *Kaum De Heere* (2014), *India's Daughter* (2015), *Padmaavat* (2018), and the documentaries, *Infiltrating Australia - India's Secret War* and *Contract to Kill* (both 2024).

In a diverse society, people can plausibly say they are hurt by many things, which is why sentiments are not useful thresholds to trigger a criminal process. Equally, when film-makers and distributors believe that the safest way out is to erase contested material rather than defend it in law, the public loses access to the work, courts lose the chance to clarify legal standards, society loses a chance to exercise the democratic response to controversial art – e.g., boycott or satire in return – and, over time, the marketplace of ideas wilts. Speech is not always free of consequences but the state bears the burden to examine it with specificity. A more sensible response, when there is a credible claim of unlawfulness, is for the aggrieved party to seek judicial relief, record the reasons, and adopt the least restrictive measure. Taking executive action flies in the face of this constitutional process. It is Mr. Adityanath's responsibility to ensure public order while allowing people to express themselves, not to maintain it by curtailing expression altogether.

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- **Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, and is typically invoked against the state.**
- **Article 19(1) in The Constitution Of India 1949, All citizens shall have the right**
- **(a) to freedom of speech and expression;**
- **(b) to assemble peaceably and without arms;**
- **(c) to form associations or unions;**
- **(d) to move freely throughout the territory of India;**
- **(e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and**
- **(f) omitted**
- **(g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.**

- **Article 19(2) in The Constitution Of India 1949,**
- **Nothing in sub clause (a) of clause (1) shall affect the operation of any existing law, or prevent the State from making any law, in so far as such law imposes reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub clause in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.**

Which one of the following categories of Fundamental Rights incorporates protection against untouchability as a form of discrimination?

(a) Right against Exploitation

(b) Right to Freedom

(c) Right to Constitutional Remedies

(d) Right to Equality

"To uphold and protect the Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity of India" is a provision made in the

(a) Preamble of the Constitution

(b) Directive Principles of State Policy

(c) Fundamental Rights

(d) Fundamental Duties

Mains Question

Freedom of speech and expression is not absolute in India.

Critically examine the constitutional provisions and judicial interpretations governing reasonable restrictions on this freedom.

(150 words)

भारत में वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पूर्णतः निरंकुश नहीं है।

इस स्वतंत्रता पर लगाए गए युक्तियुक्त प्रतिबंधों से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधानों एवं न्यायिक व्याख्याओं की आलोचनात्मक समीक्षा कीजिए।

(150 शब्द)

A chance for India to polish the Kimberley Process

Page No. 6, GS 3

India has assumed the chair of the Kimberley Process (KP) for the year 2026. The KP is a multinational mechanism or structure for governing the trade of 'conflict diamonds' – the rough (or pre-polished) diamonds which are used illegally by rebel or insurgent groups across the world to undermine or threaten legitimate governments. The KP was initiated in May 2000 when the countries of southern Africa initiated dialogues to prevent the trade in conflict diamonds. Negotiations with 37 signatory parties, in 2003, led to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). Today, the KP has 60 participants, representing 86 countries, and accounts for approximately 99.8% of the global rough diamond production.

The current structure

The KPCS is the mechanism to prevent the trade of conflict diamonds, which is enforced individually by KP participant countries to ensure that rough diamonds in the legitimate supply chain are KP-compliant. Each consignment is accompanied by a KP certificate corroborated by a participant country. The rough diamonds trade is permitted only between certified KP members who comply fully with these international standards. Additionally, participant countries are obliged to share timely and accurate statistical data for diamond production and trade.

Angola, Botswana, Canada, Congo, Namibia and Russia alone account for more than 85% of the production of rough diamonds, in quantity and value terms. Though India is not a producer, it is a major importer of rough diamonds, importing roughly 40% of the total global imports, both in quantity and value. As the world's leading cutting and polishing hub, centered in Surat and Mumbai, India re-exports polished diamonds to major markets which include China, Hong Kong, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. India's strategic position, at the heart of the global diamond value chain, gives it unique leverage



Himanshu Jaiswal

is Research Fellow at Infisum Modeling



Badri Narayanan

is the Founder and Director of Infisum Modeling

As chair of the Kimberley Process for 2026, India can steer meaningful reforms in global diamond governance

within the KP to steer meaningful reforms in global diamond governance.

The core issues for India

The KP, a tripartite setup of governments, industry organisations and civil society, faces much criticism and challenges. First, a long-standing criticism is about the definition of 'conflict diamonds'. Its scope is very narrow, capturing only the financial mechanism between rebel groups and governments, while ignoring the illicit use of rough diamonds in state-linked abuses, human rights violations and human trafficking, environmental harm, abuses in artisanal mining, and illicit trade channels.

There are also fundamental questions about the decision-making process. Civil society asks how the KP can ever identify 'conflict diamonds' if any such decision is subject to political veto. Under the current system, any determination can be blocked. What happens when the KP identifies conflict diamonds?

The case of the Central African Republic, which was banned from exporting rough diamonds in 2013 and rejoined in 2024, shows that embargoes without strong support measures tend to increase smuggling and worsen violence rather than stop it. Additionally, while many governments highlighted the need to protect the mining communities, there was less agreement on whether the KP should also address state-related violence. A more inclusive approach would better reflect the full range of challenges communities experience.

Going forward, India may broaden the agenda, without reopening political fights, by forming a technical working group on violence and human rights risks beyond rebel insurgencies. The findings/recommendations from this group may build a consensus before any re-definition of conflict diamonds.

India can leverage its technological strengths to promote digital, tamper-proof KP certificates and harmonised customs data exchange. A

blockchain-based certification system, where each shipment carries a unique, immutable and time-stamped digital record linked to key shipment details, would significantly reduce fraud, enhance transparency, and modernise KP operations.

At the same time, India can support producer countries by establishing regional KP technical hubs in key producing areas, particularly in central and eastern Africa, offering training, IT support, certification assistance and forensic capacity. Such capacity-building would make reforms more feasible and collaborative rather than punitive.

Additionally, India can advance institutional reforms by adopting independent or third-party audits in a subset of participants and push for full public release of granular KP statistics from participant countries. This is a step towards greater transparency. Since the KP's strength is its tripartite structure, India can ensure that civil society engagement remains robust by facilitating open communication channels.

Focus on Africa

To address the community challenges, India can highlight how diamonds contribute to livelihoods in Africa. It can push the KP to explicitly acknowledge this reality by aligning its work with relevant Sustainable Development Goals, such as decent work, poverty reduction and responsible consumption. India can help ensure that the KP framework channels diamond revenues toward community development, supporting health, education, and local infrastructure, rather than allowing mining regions to be bypassed. This would help shift the KP's narrative from blocking bad diamonds to enabling a responsible and inclusive diamond trade.

India, as the KP chair and the leader of the Global South, should start pursuing the reform agenda more aggressively to make it a more inclusive, progressive, sustainable, and rule-based multilateral body.

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- **Kimberley Process (KP):** An international multilateral initiative aimed at preventing the trade in conflict diamonds.
- **Conflict Diamonds:** These are rough diamonds used by rebel groups to finance armed conflicts against legitimate governments.
- **Tripartite Structure:** The KP is a joint initiative of governments, the international diamond industry, and civil society organisations.
- **Headquarters:** Not a formal organisation; operates through member states and rotating chairs
- **Certification Scheme:** The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) came into effect on 1 January 2003 under a UN Security Council mandate.
- **Global Coverage:** The KP has 60 participants, including the European Union and its Member States.
- **India's Role:** This will be the third time (2008, 2019, and 2026) India has been entrusted with this leadership responsibility.

Back on track

India and Malaysia have set about repairing ties during the Modi visit

Making amends was at the top of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 24-hour visit to Kuala Lumpur over the weekend after he had cancelled a planned trip to Malaysia last year, at short notice, to attend the ASEAN summit in October 2025. As a result, Mr. Modi said that he made Malaysia his first destination abroad in the new year. His talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who had visited India in 2024, resulted in MoUs, with plans to strengthen ties. There was some strain in India-Malaysia ties in 2025 too – although Malaysia condemned the Pahalgam terror attacks, Mr. Ibrahim had called for a “full and thorough enquiry” into the perpetrators and also for “de-escalation and meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan”, which ruffled feathers in New Delhi. He had even offered his services to mediate if required, and in October 2025, had hosted Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for an official visit. It is, therefore, significant that Mr. Modi set aside these concerns, and that the joint statement said India and Malaysia condemned terrorism unequivocally “... including cross-border terrorism”. India and Malaysia also discussed counter-terrorism cooperation, intelligence and information sharing and coordinating positions at the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force on the issue. Other important decisions were an MoU on semiconductors, building on cooperation between IIT Madras Global and the Advanced Semiconductor Academy of Malaysia.

cooperation between IIT Madras Global and the Advanced Semiconductor Academy of Malaysia. Building ties in trade, defence, energy and digital technologies were highlighted by the two sides, that took care not to discuss contentious issues publicly, such as the continued stay of preacher Zakir Naik, wanted in India on UAPA charges.

The two sides also side-stepped their differences over multilateral issues. Mr. Modi's decision to skip the ASEAN summit despite accepting the invitation had also dealt a blow to negotiations on reviewing the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). Critical comments by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal about the FTA, as “badly negotiated” and “silly”, and his reference to ASEAN countries as “B-teams” to China still rankled. Mr. Modi's visit was an important reminder of India's commitment even as New Delhi moves ahead with FTAs with Europe and the U.S. India will chair the BRICS Summit later this year – in the joint statement, India merely “noted” Malaysia's aspirations to become a member. Mr. Ibrahim will be invited as Malaysia is a BRICS partner country, while Indonesia has become a member. Mr. Modi's visit, which was welcomed warmly by Mr. Ibrahim, may thus lead to closer coordination but also lay the ground for closer ties between India and the ASEAN region, in terms of their shared geographies, and in dealing with the larger changes in the world.

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ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA):

What is AITIGA?

- **A free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the 10 ASEAN member states.**
- **Covers trade in physical goods, eliminating tariffs and reducing non-tariff barriers.**
- **Aims to enhance economic integration and bilateral trade.**

- **Origin:**
- **Signed in 2009 at the 7th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok.**
- **Implemented in 2010, often termed the ASEAN-India FTA.**
- **2014: ASEAN and India signed a separate Trade in Services Agreement.**

Q. The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as (2016)

(a) G20

(b) ASEAN

(c) SCO

(d) SAARC

Q. Consider the following countries: (2018)

- 1. Australia**
- 2. Canada**
- 3. China**
- 4. India**
- 5. Japan**
- 6. USA**

Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN?

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5**
- (b) 3, 4, 5 and 6**
- (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5**
- (d) 2, 3, 4 and 6**

The next big commodity is the mineable self

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A global market in a new commodity is growing exponentially in front of our eyes. It is not artificial intelligence (AI). It is not rare earths. It is not some new source of energy. It is not even in pharmaceuticals, media, or finance. It is integral to each of them and might determine the future of all of them. It is an infinitely renewable resource, which will last at least for as long as human beings and our planet continue to exist. This commodity is the self, in which a global market has gradually emerged. It cuts across all domains of human life, from entertainment to journalism, from streaming to gender transitions, from banking to branding, from identity politics to soft power, and from crowdfunding to the tariff wars.

Mining the self

Industrial capitalism has a marked predilection for the creation and exploitation of what Marx called surplus value, value beyond the value of the labour required to produce commodities, and floats into the mysterious form of profit for the owners and managers of capital.

Today, human beings are the new object and horizon of capitalist extraction. The new object is sociality itself. It is our friendships, our love lives, our family connections, our classmates, our children, our fellow workers, our neighbours, as well as our digital lives, our political allies, our food and drug suppliers, and more. This is profiting on steroids. It mines our deepest affinities and our most ephemeral social ties. It is a new feat of creative destruction, which renders ideas such as privacy, intimacy and trust obsolete. It makes all our sociality a resource that can be mined without permission or limit. And in this unbounded mining of sociality, our stories are the access code. There are three recent changes in the market for selves, which together drive the mineable self.

This first change is that the seduction of the global has captured the market in characters. This is evident in the global hunt for stories from Mexico to Nepal and Spain to Indonesia. Every form of local mythology, folklore and backwater is trolled by publishers, film festivals, art biennales, and literary prize committees in the ceaseless hunt for portability, local flavour, vaguely universal themes and new character types (aliens, cyber-monsters, souped up heroes, zombies, post-blobs).

The most sought-after stories of our times are about obviously mobile phenomena such as drugs, migrants or mercenaries. More precisely, they are about the local addresses of transborder volatility. And this is as true of the stories that



Arjun Appadurai

is Emeritus Professor of Media Studies at New York University

Stories, technology platforms and digital markets are transforming humans into commodities

make up the news, as it is of more obviously literary fiction. It has been a few decades since any person with a camera or a video-recorder who happens to be in a scheme of war, crime or terror becomes a photojournalist, a kind of narrative First Responder, who puts the global narrative system on alert. Syndicated news services, stringers, overseas correspondents and their metropolitan handlers become parts of a vast system of triage for these “local” incidents and images, stoking the furnace of global media. Of course, there is a vast pyramid of news organisations, media, audiences and platforms, which form an uneven hierarchy of priorities and tastes. These include media that are resolutely local in their reach. But even they imagine the larger world through their own lenses.

So, “local” news is often a prismatic refraction of global issues, in a manner that changes the texture of locality, which is no longer bound by the parochial, the proximate and the familiar. Thus, locality regarding the news is no longer what it used to be. Nor is the global its simple antonym. The market for stories, whether of the real or of the less real, occupies a new geography which cannot be captured by opposing the global and the local. This development drives the transformation of the self into the newest form of raw material, a new horizon for extraction, exploitation and commodification.

In this new market, everyone has a story, including ordinary humans (who still are the reference point of what used to be called human interest), but also banks, nations, sports teams, genders (old and new), corporations, and franchises and cities among other social forms. This multiplication of the “I” and the “Me” is discernible even in the twilight zone of AI, where Siri, ChatGPT and numerous bots are in the race to display the same emotions, intuitions and vulnerabilities as any garden variety human can do. The strange symbiosis between the mineable self, the rebooted idea of locality and the story market can be better understood by looking at the single biggest force in the story market today, which is OTT (Over the Top) streaming, the entertainment technology of choice for such giants as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney and other companies in this market.

The character of streaming

It is widely known that streaming, driven by OTT technologies, which rely only on the Internet, and not on prior media infrastructures, is colonising much of the market previously dominated by big studios, their business models, their modes of distribution and their approaches to branding, promotion and audience-building.

Perhaps the biggest element of this booming story economy is the rise of “unknowns”, mid-market actors and characters who appear to be woven into modest parts of professional life and seem extraordinarily ordinary. In India, a streaming market that Netflix CEO Reed Hastings claimed in 2018 would bring his company a 100 million subscribers. This trend highlights a more general global trend toward the democratisation of the self, a not entirely positive phenomenon.

The rise of the self is sometimes as seen as an expression of the best of enlightenment values, another face of the rise of the individual, of personal liberty, of freedom from assigned collective identities, and of freedom to craft one’s own path from the raw materials of birth, context and social stereotypes. But that potential has now become a big part of the mineable self of our digital era. The intelligence of the artificial competes with previously human monopolies over affect, judgement and intuition. The classical individual is now an unstable composite of credit scores, actuarial charts, algorithmic storehouses, and consumer profiles, with virtually no need for a unified or continuous anchor in a singular person.

Thus, what the philosopher Charles Taylor studied as “The Sources of the Self” might today be retold as the story of the “sources of the selfie”. The selfie taken with a celebrity, even by photobombing, is a quintessential expression of the democratisation of the self, equal to anyone else before the lens.

The chain of storytelling

This trend is now at the cutting edge of mining the self. Everyone has the right to have a self-centered story, whether of heroism, victimhood, martyrdom, or redemption, and anyone can get help to tell their story better with the paid help of influencers, coaches, writing apps, publishing platforms or, sometimes, through selling the right to mine their stories to entertainers, journalists, publicists or scriptwriters. The great chain of storytelling always strives for more ears and eyeballs. The careers of many YouTube stars have been powered by nothing more than the lucky virality of often trivial self-narrations.

Thus, two slogans meet one another in the global market for selves. One is that every self has a story, and the other one is that every such story deserves an audience. These two pieces of recent common sense fuel the rush to drill into every living mineshaft, looking for a chunk of ourselves with the tools that we have so recently invented. What we have now is a new super-commodity, bound only by our appetite for mining ourselves.

- **A global market in a new commodity is growing exponentially in front of our eyes. It is not artificial intelligence (AI). It is not rare earths. It is not some new source of energy. It is not even in pharmaceuticals, media, or finance.**
- **It is integral to each of them and might determine the future of all of them. It is an infinitely renewable resource, which will last at least for as long as human beings and our planet continue to exist.**
- **This commodity is the self, in which a global market has gradually emerged.**
- **It cuts across all domains of human life, from entertainment to journalism, from streaming to gender transitions, from banking to branding, from identity politics to soft power, and from crowdfunding to the tariff wars.**

- **Today, human beings are the new object and horizon of capitalist extraction. The new object is sociality itself. It is our friendships, our love lives, our family connections, our classmates, our children, our fellow workers, our neighbours, as well as our digital lives, our political allies, our food and drug suppliers, and more. This is profiling on steroids. It mines our deepest affinities and our most ephemeral social ties.**
- **Everyone has the right to have a self-centered story, whether of heroism, victimhood, martyrdom, or redemption, and anyone can get help to tell their story better with the paid help of influencers, coaches, writing apps, publishing platforms or, sometimes, through selling the right to mine their stories to entertainers, journalists, publicists or scriptwriters.**
- **The great chain of storytelling always strives for more ears and eyeballs. The careers of many YouTube stars have been powered by nothing more than the lucky virality of often trivial self-narrations.**

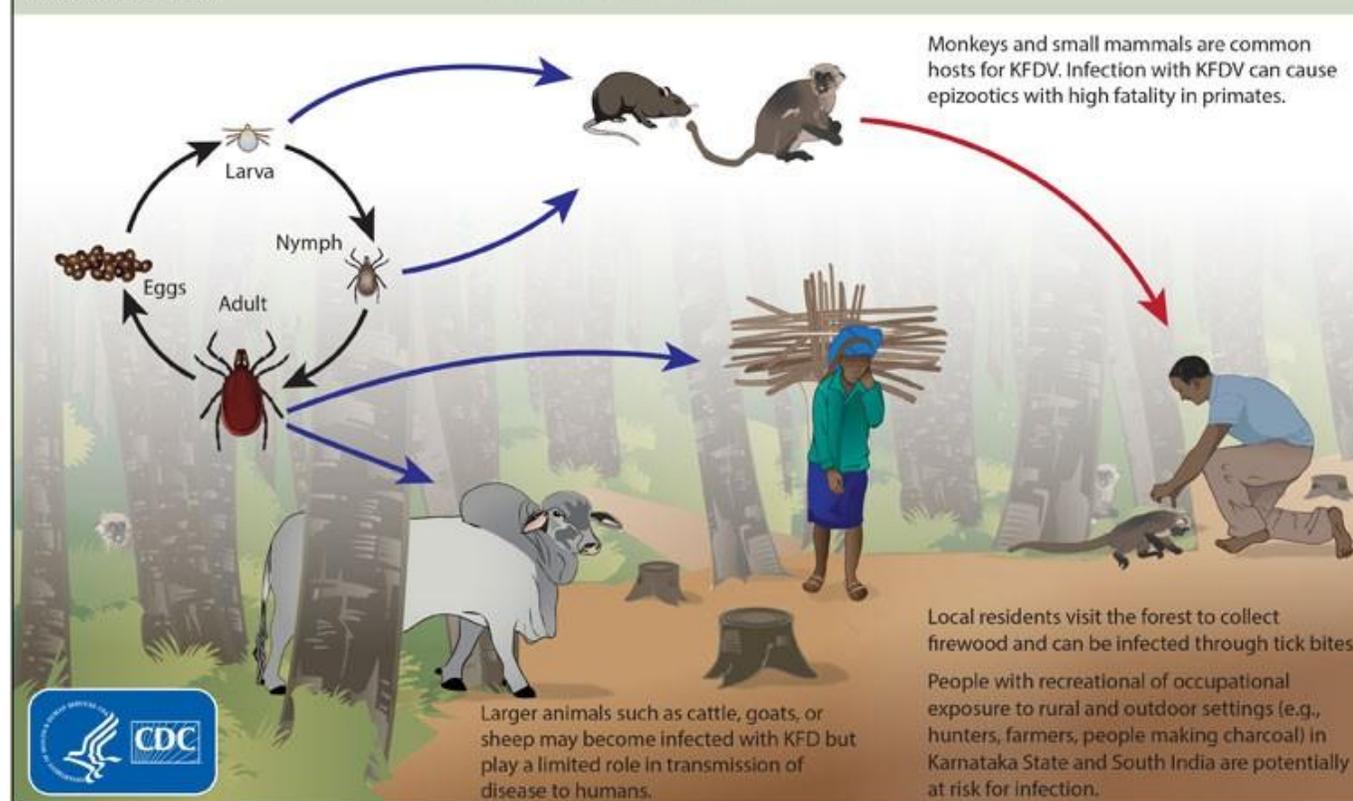
Kyasanur Forest Disease

Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) Virus Ecology

The hard tick *Haemaphysalis spinagera* is the reservoir and vector of Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV). Once infected, ticks remain so for life and are able to pass KFDV to offspring via the egg.

Transmission of KFDV to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most commonly a sick or recently dead monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described.

Human cases occur more frequently in drier months (Nov-June) and in Southwest and South India.



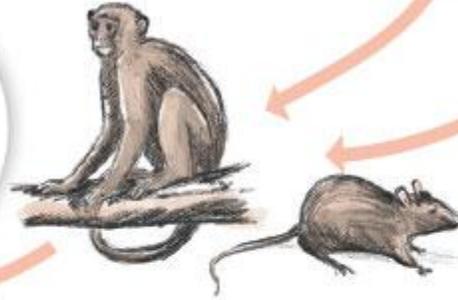
How humans contract Kyasanur forest disease

The virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of a tick or when humans come in contact with an infected animal

No person-to-person transmission has been reported so far



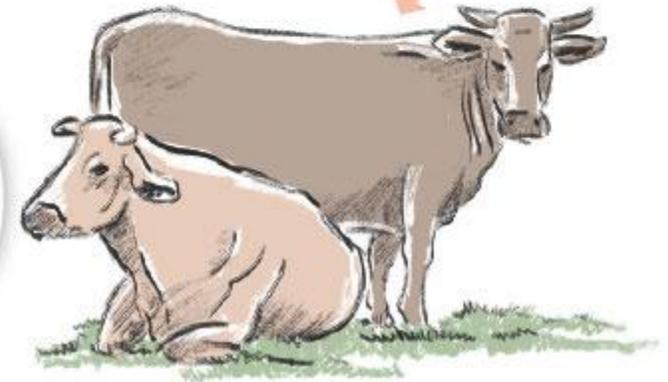
Monkeys and small mammals are common hosts of the virus



Those who live in forests in disease-prone areas and those who visit forests frequently for their livelihood, such as forest guards and health workers, are at risk



Larger animals such as cattle can get infected with the virus but play a limited role in transmission of the disease



Nymph



Life cycle of a tick



Adult

Larva



Eggs

- **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever, first identified in Kyasanur Forest of Karnataka, and is associated with high fever, weakness and sometimes fatal complications.**

Region found in:

- **Endemic to the Western Ghats region of India.**
- **Reported mainly from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra.**
- **Transmitted primarily through the bite of hard ticks (*Hemaphysalis spinigera*).**
- **Humans can also get infected through contact with infected animals, especially monkeys.**
- **No human-to-human transmission.**

- **Symptoms:**
- **Incubation period: 3–8 days.**
- **Sudden onset of high fever, chills, headache.**
- **Severe muscle pain, vomiting, gastrointestinal symptoms.**
- **In some cases, bleeding manifestations.**
- **10–20% patients experience a second phase with neurological symptoms such as tremors and mental disturbances.**
- **Treatment:**
- **No specific antiviral cure available.**
- **Management is supportive, including fluid therapy, oxygen support, blood pressure control and treatment of secondary infections.**

Thank You!

