



16 July, 2024

## Tirzepatide

**Context:** Last week, for the first time, an expert committee of India's drug regulator approved the drug tirzepatide.

### Diabetes Drug for Weight Loss

#### ➤ Ozempic and Semaglutide

- In 2017, the US FDA approved Novo Nordisk's Ozempic (semaglutide) for managing type 2 diabetes.
- Ozempic led to weight loss, prompting off-label prescriptions for obesity.
- Social media popularized Ozempic for weight loss, leading Novo Nordisk to explore semaglutide for non-diabetic weight loss.
- In 2021, Novo Nordisk released Wegovy, an FDA-approved obesity treatment with a higher maximum dose of semaglutide than Ozempic.
- Both drugs face global shortages due to high demand.

#### ➤ Tirzepatide and Zepbound

- Eli Lilly's tirzepatide, marketed as Zepbound, is nearing regulatory approval in India.
- In November 2023, the FDA approved Zepbound for obesity, following the success of Eli Lilly's type 2 diabetes medication, Mounjaro.
- Both Zepbound and Mounjaro contain tirzepatide and are used off-label for weight loss.
- Both drugs face global shortages due to high demand.

#### ➤ Semaglutide vs. Tirzepatide

- FDA approved Wegovy (semaglutide) and Zepbound (tirzepatide) for chronic weight management in adults.
- Suitable for obese individuals (BMI > 30) or overweight individuals (BMI 27-30) with related health conditions.
- Administered as under-the-skin injections with gradually increasing dosages (2.4 mg for semaglutide, 15 mg for tirzepatide).
- Both drugs help manage glucose levels and promote satiety through GLP-1.
- Tirzepatide also boosts GIP, enhancing weight regulation.

#### ➤ Global Trials for Zepbound

- Phase three trials involved 2,539 participants, randomized to receive placebo or tirzepatide (5 mg, 10 mg, or 15 mg).
- After 72 weeks, the 5 mg group lost 15% body weight, 10 mg group lost 19.5%, and 15 mg group lost 20.9%.
- 91% of the 15 mg group achieved at least 5% weight loss.
- The placebo group saw only a 3.1% weight reduction.
- Significant improvements in cardiometabolic measures were observed.

#### ➤ Regulatory Clearance and Phase IV Trial

- Zepbound received regulatory clearance in India based on global trial data, including Indian participants.
- An expert committee requires a phase IV, post-marketing surveillance trial to monitor side effects and efficacy in India's diverse population.

#### ➤ Side Effects of Zepbound

- Common side effects: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal pain, indigestion, injection-site reactions, fatigue, allergic reactions, belching, hair loss, heartburn.
- Risk of thyroid tumors, including thyroid cancer.
- Not suitable for individuals with a history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2).
- Zepbound is prescription-only and not for cosmetic weight loss.

#### ➤ Weight Regain After Stopping Medication

- Obesity drugs are not one-time solutions; continued use is necessary for lasting effects.
- Wegovy's STEP 1 extension trial showed significant weight regain after stopping the medication.
- Obesity is a complex, chronic disease requiring lifelong management.

## Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme

**Context:** The Education Ministry has halted Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan funds to Delhi, Punjab, and West Bengal due to their reluctance to join the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme.

#### ➤ PM-SHRI Scheme Overview

- **Goal:** Empower 14,500 schools across the country with 21st-century skills.
- **Objective:** Provide high-quality, inclusive education that caters to diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs, and varying academic abilities.
- **Function:** Serve as laboratories for the new education policy.
- **Funding:** Centrally sponsored, with a 60:40 cost split between the Union government and states/UTs.

#### ➤ Key Features

- **Infrastructure:** Improvement of school facilities.
- **Early Education:** Balvatika, foundational literacy, and numeracy.
- **Green Schools:** Development of environmentally friendly schools.
- **Modern Facilities:** Including ICT.
- **Counseling:** Focused on well-being and career guidance.

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- **Extracurricular:** Emphasis on sports and arts for every child.
- **Inclusivity:** Appropriate infrastructure for girls and those with special needs.
- **Language Support:** Encouragement of mother tongue and local languages.
- **Teaching Methods:** Holistic, integrated, and learner-centered approaches.
- **Assessment:** A 'School Quality Assessment Framework' to measure progress and performance.
- **Local Integration:** Connecting schools with local entrepreneurial ecosystems and higher education institutions.

### ➤ Selection Procedure for Schools

- **Eligibility:** All elementary, secondary, and senior secondary schools managed by the Centre, State, UT, or local bodies with a UDISE+ code can apply.
- **Step 1:** State government must agree to implement the NEP in its entirety.
- **Step 2:** Shortlisting of schools that meet minimum benchmarks.
- **Step 3:** Inspection and recommendation by teams from States, Kendriya Vidyalaya, or Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya.
- **Selection Limit:** A maximum of two schools from a block or urban local body.
- **Final Decision:** Made by an expert committee.
- **UDISE:** The Unified District Information System for Education, initiated in 2012-13, is a key management information system for school education.

### ➤ Benefits for Schools and Students

- **Model Schools:** PM SHRI institutions will serve as model schools embodying the full spirit of the NEP.
- **Holistic Pedagogy:** Experiential, integrated, toy-based, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, and discussion-based teaching methods.
- **Mentorship:** PM SHRI Schools will mentor other schools to spread NEP policies.
- **Technology Integration:** Incorporation of environment-friendly and tech-driven tools.
- **Conceptual Understanding:** Competency-based assessment focused on real-life application.
- **Quality Assessment:** School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) will evaluate resource effectiveness.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Collaboration with Sector Skill Councils and local industries for internships and better job prospects.

## Passage of Bills in Parliament

**Context:** On July 15, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to schedule hearings for petitions challenging the Centre's use of the Money Bill route to pass controversial amendments in Parliament.

### ➤ What are Bills?

- Bills are proposals for new laws or amendments to existing laws presented for debate and approval in Parliament.
- If a bill passes all required stages in Parliament and receives final approval, it becomes an Act of Parliament.
- **There are four main types of bills:**
  - Ordinary Bills
  - Money Bills
  - Financial Bills
  - Constitutional Amendment Bills

### ➤ Legislative Procedure in Indian Parliament

- The Constitution of India specifies separate procedures for the enactment of Ordinary Bills, Money Bills, Financial Bills, and Constitutional Amendment Bills.

### ➤ Passing of Ordinary Bills

- An Ordinary Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament by any member.
- It must pass through five stages to become an Act.

### ➤ First Reading

- The member asks for the leave of the House to introduce the Bill.
- The Bill's title and objectives are read out, and it is published in the Gazette of India.
- No discussion occurs at this stage.

### ➤ Second Reading

- Involves general and detailed scrutiny of the Bill.
- It consists of three sub-stages: General Discussion, Committee Stage, and Consideration Stage.

### ➤ Stage of General Discussion

- Printed copies of the bill are distributed.
- Principles and provisions are discussed generally, without details.
- **The House can:**
  - Consider the bill immediately or on a fixed date.
  - Refer the bill to a Select Committee or a Joint Committee.
  - Circulate the bill to elicit public opinion.

### ➤ Committee Stage

- The Select or Joint Committee examines the bill clause by clause and can amend it.
- The committee reports back to the House.

### ➤ Consideration Stage

- The House considers the bill clause by clause.

## WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT IN PM SHRI SCHOOLS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduction of vocational education</li> <li>➤ Smart classrooms in all schools</li> <li>➤ CCTVs</li> <li>➤ Green schools with LED lights, activities promoting green schools</li> <li>➤ Digital libraries, ICT and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>digital initiatives, tablet for schools</li> <li>➤ Rainwater harvesting facility</li> <li>➤ Solar panels in schools</li> <li>➤ Science labs, language lab, social science lab</li> <li>➤ Gender equity initiative like sanitary pad vending machines, counselling for students</li> </ul>
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- Members can move amendments, which become part of the bill if accepted.
- **Third Reading**
  - Debate is confined to acceptance or rejection of the bill as a whole.
  - If passed, it is transmitted to the Second House for consideration.
- **Bill in Second House**
  - Passes through all three stages again.
  - The Second House can:
    - Pass the bill without amendments.
    - Pass with amendments and return it.
    - Reject the bill.
    - Keep the bill pending.
- **Deadlock and Joint Sitting**
  - If a deadlock arises, the President can summon a joint sitting of both Houses.
  - A bill passed by the majority in the joint sitting is deemed passed by both Houses.
- **Assent of President**
  - The President can give assent, withhold assent, or return the bill for reconsideration.
  - If returned and passed again, the President must give assent.
- **Passing of Money Bills**
  - Money Bills contain only provisions mentioned in Article 110 of the Indian Constitution.
  - Can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha by a minister on the President's recommendation.
  - The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations and must return the bill within 14 days.
- The Lok Sabha can accept or reject the recommendations.
- The President can give or withhold assent but cannot return the bill.
- **Passing of Financial Bills**
  - Financial Bills deal with fiscal matters (revenue or expenditure).
- **Financial Bills (I)**
  - Similar to Money Bills but follow the legislative procedure of an Ordinary Bill after introduction.
  - Can be rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha.
  - The President can summon a joint sitting if there is a deadlock.
- **Financial Bill (II)**
  - Treated as an Ordinary Bill in all respects.
  - Can be introduced in either House without the President's recommendation.
  - Requires the President's recommendation at the consideration stage.
  - The President can summon a joint sitting if there is a deadlock.
- **Passing of Constitutional Amendment Bills**
  - Article 368 defines the procedure for amending the Constitution.
  - Details are covered in a separate article on Constitutional Amendment Bills.
- **Deadlock in Legislative Procedure**
  - A deadlock occurs if:
    - The other House rejects the bill.
    - There is disagreement on amendments.
    - The bill is pending for more than six months.
    - The President can summon a joint sitting to resolve the deadlock.

## NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

### Indian Council of Agricultural Research



The two-day-long Foundation and Technology Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) began in New Delhi yesterday on 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### About Indian Council of Agricultural Research:


- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was established on **16 July 1929** as a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It was **formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is the **apex body** for **coordinating, guiding and managing research and education** in agriculture, including **horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences** across India.
- It has played a pioneering role in ushering the **Green Revolution in India**.
- Through its research and technology development, the country has increased **foodgrain** production by **5.6 times**, horticultural crop production by **10.5 times**, fish production by 16.8 times, milk production by 10.4 times, and egg production by 52.9 times from 1950-51 to 2017-18.
- Its headquarter is located in **New Delhi**

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 <p>UNRWA</p>	<p>Recently, India released the first instalment of 2.5 million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees for the year 2024-25.</p> <p><b>About UNRWA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a <b>United Nations agency</b> that <b>provides assistance</b> and <b>protection</b> to Palestinian refugees.</li> <li>The UN General Assembly <b>established UNRWA in 1949</b> to offer direct relief and works programs for refugees in <b>Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza</b>.</li> <li>It provides education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance.</li> <li>It is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States, and the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed its mandate, most recently extending it until <b>June 30, 2026</b>.</li> <li>Currently, <b>around 5.9 million Palestine refugees</b>, mostly descendants of original refugees, access the agency's services, with <b>over 1 million in Gaza</b> sheltering in UNRWA schools and other facilities.</li> </ul>
<p>Indian Newspaper Society</p> 	<p>Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Towers in Mumbai, Maharashtra.</p> <p><b>About Indian Newspaper Society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) traces its origins to <b>October 11, 1927</b>, when it was initially established as The <b>India, Burma &amp; Ceylon Newspapers' London Committee</b>.</li> <li>It is <b>an independent body</b> that authenticates circulation figures of newspapers and periodicals in India, while also protecting and promoting press freedom.</li> <li>The organization was <b>renamed the Indian &amp; Eastern Newspaper Society (IENS) on October 4, 1935</b>.</li> <li>The primary objective of the INS was to serve as a central body to <b>promote and protect the common interests of newspapers</b> in <b>India, Burma and Ceylon</b>.</li> <li>The Indian &amp; Eastern Newspaper Society was <b>officially formed on February 27, 1939</b>, at a meeting held in Statesman House, New Delhi.</li> <li>The inauguration was <b>chaired by Mr. Arthur Moore</b>, the Editor of The Statesman.</li> <li>The founding members of the Society included prominent publications like <b>Bombay Chronicle, The Times of India, The Rangoon Gazette, The Hindu</b> and The Statesman.</li> </ul>
<p>Gram Nyayalayas</p> 	<p>Recently, the Supreme Court has directed the States/UTs and their High Courts for detailed reports on gram nyayalayas, which aim to provide swift and affordable justice in rural areas and ease the burden on local courts.</p> <p><b>About the Gram Nyayalayas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gram Nyayalayas are <b>village courts established to provide speedy and easy access</b> to justice in rural areas of India.</li> <li>These courts were established under the <b>Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008</b>, passed by the Parliament of India.</li> <li>The Constitution of India, <b>under Article 39-A</b>, mandates free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society to ensure justice for all.</li> <li>Although the initial target was to establish <b>5000 Gram Nyayalayas</b>, only <b>about 200 are currently functional</b>.</li> <li>The <b>114th report of the Law Commission of India recommended</b> the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas to provide speedy, substantial, and inexpensive justice to the common man.</li> <li>Each Gram Nyayalaya functions as a <b>court of Judicial Magistrate of the first class</b>.</li> <li>The <b>presiding officer, known as Nyayadhikari</b>, is appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court.</li> <li>Gram Nyayalayas are established for every Panchayat at the intermediate level or for a group of contiguous Panchayats in a district.</li> <li>The <b>jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas is specified by the State Government</b> in consultation with the respective High Court.</li> </ul>

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## Place in News

### Marshall Islands

Recently, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Marshall Islands to implement 4 community development projects.

#### Marshall Islands (Capital: Majuro)

**Location:** Marshall Islands, a country of atolls and islands, is an island country west of the International Date Line and Located in the Pacific Ocean.

**Boundaries:** The country shares maritime boundaries with the **Federated States of Micronesia** (West), **Wake Island** (North), **Kiribati** (Southeast) and **Nauru** (South).

#### Physical Features:

- The highest point in the Marshall Islands is **Likiep Atoll**.
- The Marshall Islands have a **tropical climate**.

**Independence:** The Marshall Islands gained independence from the United States on October 21, 1986, through the Compact of Free Association.

**Membership:** The Marshall Islands is a member of various international organizations, including the **United Nations** (UN), the **Pacific Islands Forum** (PIF) and the **International Monetary Fund** (IMF).

**Language:** The official languages of the Marshall Islands are **Marshallese** and **English**.



## POINTS TO PONDER

- Which country recently won their second consecutive Copa America championship by defeating Colombia? – **Argentina**
- Who won the men's single title at the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships? – **Carlos Alcaraz**
- In which state will India host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from November 20-24, 2024? – **Goa**
- Project 2025, recently seen in the news, is associated with which country? – **USA**
- Which organization recently approved a \$1.5 billion loan to India to develop its low-carbon energy sector? – **World Bank**

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