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GS 2: INDIAN POLITY
THE HINDU PAGE : 1

South's share of seats will not be cut, PM and Shah tell Lok Sabha

Home Minister slams those 'spreading misconceptions'; he says LS seats of South will rise from 129 to 195, and reassures T.N. that its 'power is increasing'; Priyanka says if the Constitution Amendment Bill is passed, 'democracy will be finished'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday told the Lok Sabha that the Bills to amend the women's reservation law and carry out a fresh delimitation exercise will keep current proportional representation of southern States intact while increasing the absolute number of seats for each State approximately by 50%.

While the Prime Minister gave an assurance that the proportional distribution of seats among States will be maintained, it was the Home Minister who gave a detailed scenario for each southern State after the three Bills become law.

The debate followed the introduction of three Bills: the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, to enable implementation of the women's reservation by the 2029 Lok Sabha polls; the Delimitation Bill, 2026, to readjust parliamentary and Assembly constituencies through a Delimitation Commission;



Proposed figures

The table shows the estimated number of seats for southern States as announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah

State	Current seats	As a share of current 543 seats	50% increase (approx.)	New status (as a share of 816 seats)
Karnataka	28	5.15%	42	5.14%
Andhra Pradesh	25	4.60%	38	4.65%
Telangana	17	3.13%	26	3.18%
Tamil Nadu	39	7.18%	59	7.23%
Kerala	20	3.68%	30	3.67%
Total	129	23.76%	195	23.87%

and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to extend the reservation to the legislatures of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Mr. Shah said that as the Minister piloting the Bill, he was placing this interpretation before the House officially. "I understand my responsibility. Those who are spreading misconceptions perhaps do not understand," he said.

Shah's illustration

The Minister showed how the representation of the southern States would not go down. The Lok Sabha will have 816 seats after de-

limitation. He said that in a House of existing 543 members, Karnataka has 28 seats, or 5.15% of MPs. After the Bill is passed, Karnataka's share will become 42, and its percentage of seats in a Lok Sabha of 816 members will be 5.14%. Andhra Pradesh, with its 25 seats (4.60%), will have 38 MPs (4.65%). Likewise, Telangana's 17 seats (3.13%) will become 26 (3.18%), Kerala's 20 seats (3.68%) will touch 30 (3.67%), and Tamil Nadu's 39 seats (7.18%) will become 59 (7.23%). Mr. Shah said many MPs from Tamil Nadu have come wearing black clothes, but he reassured

the people of the State that "your power is not decreasing, it is increasing."

He said the number of Lok Sabha seats in the five southern States will go up from the existing 129 to 195, with the percentage share increasing from 23.76% to 23.87%.

Participating in the debate, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the delimitation and said that "if the Constitution Amendment Bill is passed in Parliament, democracy will be finished in India."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, while expressing support for wo-

men's reservation law, said it should be implemented only after the ongoing Census is complete.

The Home Minister said he would give his detailed reply in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

"I will explain, provided they sit to listen and do not walk out. I will explain it with such simplicity that even a child in KG (kindergarten) would understand," Mr. Shah said. The government will need the support from parties outside the National Democratic Alliance to pass the Constitution Amendment Bill since it requires two-thirds majority. In the current Lok Sabha strength of 540 members, the government needs the support of 360 members but is falling short by over 60 MPs.

Responding to Ms. Vadra's accusation that the government will put its own people in the Delimitation Commission, he said: "We have not made any changes to the Delimitation Commission Act. We have repeated your Delimitation Commission Act down to the full stops and commas."

GS 3: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE HINDU PAGE : 7

Understanding Parkinson's disease and its symptoms

Serena Josephine M.

April marks Parkinson's disease Awareness Month, highlighting the need for early recognition of this progressive neurodegenerative disorder and the importance of support groups for patients and caregivers. Though awareness has improved, healthcare providers still find delayed diagnosis a major challenge as symptoms are often overlooked or misunderstood. Identifying the condition early and starting appropriate treatment can help manage symptoms effectively and improve quality of life, they say.

Natesan Damodaran, clinical lead, epilepsy and functional neurosurgery, Rela Hospital, Chennai, said compared to 10 years ago, the awareness of Parkinson's disease is definitely getting better. "One of the main challenges that we face is people missing a diagnosis. Some patients may have tremors in the hand, but may think that this is due to generalised tiredness or nerve weakness. So, by the time they reach a neurologist for a proper evaluation, diagnosis is delayed."

There are three cardinal symptoms of Parkinson's disease, Dr. Damodaran said: "Tremors or shaking



Tremors or shaking of hands is one of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. ISTOCKPHOTO

of hands is one of them. Slowness is the other main symptom. They may walk slowly or drink coffee slowly. Tightness (rigidity) is the third symptom of this disease."

Vivek Iyer, joint director and senior consultant, neurology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, pointed out that patients with Parkinson's are usually in the fifth or sixth decade of their life.

Constipation and rapid eye movement, sleep behaviour disorders such as acting out of dreams or violent movements during sleep are the cardinal non-motor symptoms that can predate onset of motor symptoms by one or two decades. Most patients

do not present to a neurologist if non-motor symptoms are predominant, resulting in delays in diagnosis, he explained.

Dr. Damodaran said that appropriate diagnosis is crucial. The ultimate goal of treatment, he added, is providing a good quality of life. "Enabling patients to be independent is the aim," he said.

Though, currently there is no cure for Parkinson's disease, early detection is vital in order to slow down the progress of the disease and control symptoms. Medicines can be prescribed according to the symptoms – tremor, rigidity and emotional disturbances, he said.

Surgical treatment

Dr. Iyer said that Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) was a surgical treatment offered for Parkinson's disease. However, it may not be suitable for all patients. There is also adaptive DBS, a technology which can be programmed as per the patient's needs. This adapts to specific symptoms in patients such as tremors or stiffness. It can automatically adjust electrical stimulation in real time, based on the brain's activity. "MR-guided focused ultrasound treatment is for tremor dominant

Parkinson's disease and other varieties of tremors, available in select centres in India," he added.

For a condition like Parkinson's disease, support groups play an important role not only for patients but also their caregivers. "A support system is essential for patients and their caregivers. For patients, it is a common forum where they can discuss their problems and get a chance to undergo physiotherapy, psychotherapy, psychological counselling and occupational therapy. For caregivers, it helps understand the disease and help avoid burn out," said Shubha Subramanian, senior consultant, neurology, Kauvery Hospital, Vadapalani, Chennai.

Though there are a number of support groups, not many are aware of them. This gap needs to be addressed, she said.

In Chennai, a number of hospitals have patient support groups. These groups get together every month and discuss support and care including speech therapy, physical exercises, physiotherapy, and measures essential to maintain functional independence. Such groups can help address day to day challenges faced by patients and their caregivers. (serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

GS 3: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE HINDU PAGE : 9

Should the Mythos AI model raise cybersecurity alarms?

PARLEY

In April 7, AI firm Anthropic said its new model, Mythos, is so powerful at finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities that it will not be released publicly. Instead, the company said it will be shared with firms that build critical software used across the economy. The initiative, known as Project Glasswing, has raised cybersecurity concerns among most firms, which must now contend with AI-enabled attackers using so-called "zero-day" exploits, which are unknown even to a given piece of software's developers, and therefore are not patched through software updates. *The Hindu* reported last week that the Union government and the Indian IT sector's main cybersecurity body are both studying the implications of Mythos. Should the Mythos AI model raise cybersecurity alarms? Aseem Jakhar and Sharda Tickoo discuss this in a conversation moderated by Aroon Deep. Edited excerpts:

Mythos is being billed as a powerful model for cybersecurity. To what extent will this have ripple effects? How seriously should the government and industry take it?

Aseem Jakhar: As per Anthropic, based on what their research and blog posts say – we do not know exactly what is going on behind the scenes – Mythos is quite a leap from previous models, because they say it could do a lot of steps autonomously, whereas current researchers typically need to define and do it in an agentic fashion. We are going to see a lot of bugs being identified. It is not just Anthropic; other companies will also develop their models. I think delaying its release is good, but eventually, they will have to release it.

From the government side, I think the urgency is real. What Mythos and other research demonstrate is the ability to autonomously identify bugs, triage them, and even create exploits. This is going to give a lot of power to zero-day sellers, both in underground markets and companies that are selling it. I think things are going to change once these models are available to the general public.

Sharda Tickoo: Governments and industry should take it seriously, but not in a sensational way. It is not like AI is entering cyber for the first time; what has changed is the level of autonomy, scale, and sophistication. It is not just about AI finding vulnerabilities faster; it is also about compressing the entire lifecycle.



GETTY IMAGES

Because when we talk about vulnerabilities, there are multiple phases. You discover it, work on the exploit, develop, and maybe then try to weaponise it. The shift is there. That is where I think the urgency is more than before, because it is definitely going to be a very threatening move for governments and the public sector. But here is the practitioner's reality: whenever we have been dealing with enterprises for a very long time, the discovery of the vulnerability has never been the biggest bottleneck.

The biggest bottleneck has always been execution. The reality is that while there is a focus on discovering new vulnerabilities, most enterprises are still struggling to patch even known (N-day) vulnerabilities.

If AI starts finding vulnerabilities at scale, it might cause a problem. But vulnerability management is not a scanning exercise; it is a full-fledged programme. Discovery is just one part of it. I think the real challenge is still prioritisation, validation, and managing it at scale.

So yes, this is a wake-up call. But the real response is not "find faster," but rather to protect faster and smarter. And that is where I think multiple other controls have to work together from a defensive mechanism standpoint.

What does the growing integration of LLMs into cybersecurity mean for cybersecurity professionals? Many Indians have made handsome sums in "bug bounties" by alerting companies to vulnerabilities in their code...

AJ: It depends on the time horizon. Over the next five years, I think it will help bug bounty hunters find vulnerabilities faster. It will enable faster identification and reporting, and on the



What Mythos and other research demonstrate is the ability to autonomously identify bugs, triage them, and even create exploits. This is going to give a lot of power to zero-day sellers

ASEEMJAKHAR

customer side, it will help with triaging.

Specifically for cybersecurity professionals, it will be good for those focusing on core learning, and in the future, they will need less expertise on specific subjects.

For example, in vulnerability identification today, you need deep expertise in reverse engineering across different architectures, such as ARM and Intel. That requirement will go down over the years. Those who focus on core learning and learn to use AI efficiently in their workflow will benefit the most. Over the long term, let us say 10 years, we may not need that much expertise, as AI will handle most of the heavy lifting.

ST: I think this will reshape how we view cybersecurity as a profession. It will also raise the bar for many professionals. Of course, some part of vulnerability hunting may become more efficient and automated. If a model can autonomously identify and exploit sophisticated flaws, then lower-level, repetitive work will get commoditised. Anthropic has said that even non-experts were able to use Mythos to find serious vulnerabilities, and in several cases, the model could also autonomously develop exploits.

However, I believe this does not mean the research will become less relevant – in fact, the opposite may happen. The bottleneck will shift from merely finding vulnerabilities or bugs to contextualising, prioritising, validating them, and defending at scale.

Human research will still matter. While AI will give much-needed assistance and improve accuracy, human research will remain essential in deciding what is truly exploitable in real-world environments and in understanding, for example, factors such as business impact and attack paths.

On bug bounties specifically, I would not expect elimination. Definitely there will be some disruption. Trend AI runs zero-day initiatives; it is one of the largest bug bounty programmes that we run and we are already seeing that it is

getting more and more efficient through the use of AI. So if AI can find vulnerabilities faster, then yes, some of the discovery work may get automated. But that is not where the real value lies anyway. It is good that it gets automated. I think the real value lies in the reality that we currently have more vulnerabilities than we can handle.

What happens to state-sponsored attackers, like governments that use Pegasus to hack into phones using zero-day exploits? Does that ecosystem of firms get a new weapon or is it under threat?

AJ: I think it will work both ways. Every new technology goes through Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt (FUD) cycles, where people say, "If you don't do this, you will be compromised." The bad guys are eventually going to get access to these (Mythos-class) tools and use them. A lot of research shows that small open source models with a few billion parameters were also able to identify what Mythos was able to find.

Both the attackers and defenders will catch up. One change that will happen for the attackers is that the price of zero-day vulnerabilities will drop, because you can identify them cheaply. The economics of zero-day attacks will change.

ST: This will definitely make life harder for cyber-offensive outfits, because they typically rely on exclusivity, like an exploit that is not available to anyone else, and a time lag. If there are Mythos-class or similar AI capabilities that can find and patch vulnerabilities faster, the shelf life of zero-days shrinks.

Some brokers might find their business models under pressure. But sophisticated offensive attackers will respond by moving faster. Maybe they will chain vulnerabilities and target environments where patching and visibility remain weak. So while opportunist actors may struggle, sophisticated groups will evolve. There will be focus on issues such as misconfigurations as a source of vulnerability.

The practitioner's reality is that even today, many successful attacks do not rely on zero-days, but on known vulnerabilities that were not patched in time.



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GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE HINDU PAGE : 12

‘India better placed than others to brave West Asia war impact’

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

As the war in West Asia enters an uncertain phase, casting long shadows over global energy markets and growth forecasts, former World Bank top official, Keiko Honda, professor at Waseda Business School and former Chief Executive Officer of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) [of the World Bank Group], in an interview with *The Hindu* said that India is at a significantly better position than most nations to absorb the cascading shocks of the ongoing conflict.

“The West Asia war is having a cascading effect on everything because they are all dependent on energy,” Prof. Honda said ahead of an event organised by the India Exim Bank in Mumbai.

“But I think India will be better than many others [countries] even if this war continues,” she said.

She said this is due to the confluence of structural advantages that are often underappreciated even within India itself.

At the heart of Prof.



India has sunlight coming in most part of the year. You could generate a lot of solar power. That is very different from building oil infra

KEIKO HONDA,
Former World Bank official

Honda’s assessment is India’s demographic profile. With a population of 1.4 billion, which is predominantly young, India commands a scale and resilience that few economies can match, she emphasised.

“It is amazing to keep 1.4 billion people as one nation. India has been very successful, and this internal cohesion doesn’t get the recognition it deserves,” she observed.

Diversified economy

Unlike many West Asian economies whose prosperity rests on hydrocarbon wealth and whose social compacts are now under strain, India has been building a more diversified economic foundation, she stated.

Acknowledging that India’s state-owned oil com-

panies are absorbing significant losses daily as global energy prices remain elevated, an arithmetic that disrupts even conservative growth projections, she said India has a natural advantage that no Gulf state can claim.

“India has sunlight coming in most part of the year. You could generate a lot of solar power. That is very different from building oil infrastructure,” she pointed out.

This solar potential, combined with India’s stated push toward electric vehicles and improvements in urban public transportation, positions India to gradually reduce its dependence on imported hydrocarbons in a way that energy-exporting nations structurally cannot, she stated.

Stating that the conflict

does create genuine vulnerabilities she said a significant volume of India’s remittances come from workers in the West Asia’s hydrocarbons sector.

“Should the war persist, disruptions to that corridor could dent household incomes and consumption but a structural shift is already underway. The ratio of high-skilled workers, data scientists, cyber security professionals, is increasing. These are global professionals who earn more,” she stated.

She expressed enthusiasm for India’s potential in cyber security, calling it “probably the biggest area” of future high-skilled employment.

Prof. Honda said India is not merely a passive beneficiary of favourable geography, but an active cornerstone of any stable global order.

“The geopolitical location of India is much better than that of Japan which is in Pacific Ocean and is facing Russia, China and Korea from one side. India has a large role to play,” she said. “You are a cornerstone. You really are,” she emphasised.

GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE :1

'TEHRAN HAS AGREED TO GIVE UP ENRICHED URANIUM'

Iran has pledged not to have nukes; may visit Pak if deal ready: Trump

Says if deal with Iran happens, 'oil goes way down... you won't have a nuclear holocaust'

Reuters

Washington, April 16

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Thursday that if a deal with Iran to conclude the war is reached and signed in Islamabad, he might go, and that Iran has agreed to almost everything. "If a deal is signed in Is-



US President Donald Trump at the White House, Thursday. AP
ISRAEL, LEBANON AGREE TO TRUCE: TRUMP, PAGE 16

lamabad I may go," Trump said. "They want me."

Trump struck an optimistic tone about Iran as he spoke with reporters on the White House

Happening today

● FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron and British PM Keir Starmer will co-host a meeting to discuss a plan to secure the Strait of Hormuz.

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lawn on his way to a trip to Nevada and Arizona. He said he could extend a US-Iran ceasefire set to expire next week, but may not need to do so.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 2

Trump on Iran deal

“We’re going to see what happens. But I think we’re very close to making a deal with Iran,” he said, adding: “I think we have a chance. And if that happens, oil goes way down, prices go way down, inflation goes way down, and... much more importantly than even that, you won’t have a nuclear holocaust.”

“We have a very good relationship with Iran right now, as hard as it is to believe,” Trump said. “And I think it’s a combination of about four weeks of bombing, and a very powerful blockade.”

He also said, without providing evidence, that Iran has agreed to give up the enriched uranium believed buried from US-Israeli airstrikes last year.

The US President claimed that Tehran has offered to not have nuclear weapons for more

than 20 years. “We have a statement, a very powerful statement, that they will not have, beyond 20 years, that they will not have nuclear weapons,” he said.

Iran’s nuclear ambitions were a sticking point at last weekend’s talks. The US proposed a 20-year suspension of all nuclear activity by Iran, while Tehran suggested a halt of three to five years.

Washington has pressed for any highly enriched uranium (HEU) to be removed from Iran. Tehran has demanded that international sanctions against it be lifted.

Two Iranian sources said there were signs of a compromise emerging on the HEU stockpile, with Tehran considering shipping part, but not all, of it out of the country — something it had previously ruled out.

GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE: 8

AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR ON MAIDEN VISIT TO INDIA

Modi, Stocker say rules-based order must for lasting peace

Divya A & Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, April 16

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday advocated for a “lasting peace” in West Asia, adding that military conflict could not solve problems. The PM made these remarks after a bilateral meeting with visiting Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker, who is on his maiden visit to India as well as Asia.

PM Modi said, “Today, the entire world is passing through a very grave and tense situation, and its impact is being felt by us all. In such a tense global environment, India and Austria share the conviction that military conflict cannot provide a solution to problems. Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we advocate for a stable, sustainable, and lasting peace.”

This has been New Delhi’s lasting stand on the conflicts in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Austria’s Chancellor Christian Stocker in New Delhi on Thursday. ANIL SHARMA

Gaza and Ukraine, and the PM has now taken a similar stand on the US-Israel war on Iran.

Echoing PM Modi’s remarks, the Austrian Chancellor said, “We are living in an age of geopolitical upheaval and disruption. Power centres are shift-

ing and new alliances are being created... conflicts are becoming more complex. In these circumstances, India is a reliable partner, and valued by Austria. Together, we represent an international order in which we can live in freedom and security. We

are in favour of a rules-based world order and not a world in which might is right.”

This is the second high-level political visit by a European leader since the war in Tehran began on February 28 — the first being in early March when Finland’s President Alexander Stubb visited for the Raisina dialogue. The Austrian Chancellor is visiting India from April 14 to 18, and met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday.

Pressing that the first visit of an Austrian Chancellor to India in over four decades was of “immense significance”, Modi said, “Following the historic India-European Union Free Trade Agreement of 2026, a new golden chapter has begun in the relations between India and the EU. Through Chancellor Stocker’s visit, we are now ushering India-Austria relations into a new era as well.”