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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

17 SEPTEMBER 2025

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PCS Special: 17 September 2025

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Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



रॉबर्ट रेडफोर्ड, कैमरे के सामने और पीछे दोनों में महान सिनेमा हस्ती, का निधन

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Cyberattack on Leelavathy for Gaza remark draws flak

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

KOCHI

Social media attack on venerable Malayalam literary critic and writer M. Leelavathy over her remarks on “starving children of Gaza” during her 98th birthday last week has drawn widespread condemnation.

Dr. Leelavathy had reportedly told a visitor on her birthday that “she was finding it hard to have food thinking about starving children with empty stomachs in Gaza”.

A vitriolic social media onslaught began soon after her remark was published by an online outlet, which later took down the report



M. Leelavathy

following the backlash against Dr. Leelavathy.

Responding to the cyberattack, Dr. Leelavathy on Tuesday said, “Children are just children,” and that she saw them with “motherly affection, no matter which country they hail

from or what caste or religion they belong to.”

‘No politics behind it’

“There was no politics behind it. During Onam in 2019, I only had porridge after coming across news about the starvation faced by the children of Wayanad. Those who oppose me are free to do so, and I hold no grudge against them. This is not the first time I am facing such attacks,” Dr. Leelavathy said.

Education Minister V. Sivankutty expressed solidarity with her through a social media post, dubbing her remarks about the children in Gaza as “borne out of her humanity”.

Cyberattack on Leelavathy for Gaza remark draws flak
गाज़ा टिप्पणी पर लीलावती पर साइबर हमला, आलोचना हुई



- Social media attack on venerable **Malayalam literary critic and writer M. Leelavathy** over her remarks on “**starving children of Gaza**” during her **98th birthday** last week has drawn widespread condemnation.
पिछले हफ्ते अपने **98वें जन्मदिन** के दौरान “**गाज़ा के भूखे बच्चे**” पर की गई टिप्पणी को लेकर प्रसिद्ध **मलयालम साहित्यिक आलोचक और लेखिका एम. लीलावती** पर **सोशल मीडिया हमला** हुआ, जिसने व्यापक निंदा को जन्म दिया।
- **Dr. Leelavathy** had reportedly told a visitor on her birthday that “she was finding it hard to have food thinking about starving children with empty stomachs in Gaza”.
डॉ. लीलावती ने कथित तौर पर अपने जन्मदिन पर एक आगंतुक से कहा था कि “गाज़ा में खाली पेट भूखे बच्चों के बारे में सोचकर उनके लिए खाना खाना मुश्किल हो रहा था।”
- A vitriolic **social media onslaught** began soon after her remark was published by an **online outlet**, which later took down the report following the backlash against **Dr. Leelavathy**.
उनकी टिप्पणी को एक **ऑनलाइन पोर्टल** द्वारा प्रकाशित किए जाने के तुरंत बाद एक तीव्र **सोशल मीडिया हमला** शुरू हुआ, जिसे बाद में **डॉ. लीलावती** के खिलाफ विरोध के चलते हटा दिया गया।
- Responding to the **cyberattack**, **Dr. Leelavathy** on **Tuesday** said, “Children are just children,” and that she saw them with “**motherly affection**”, no matter which country they hail from or what caste or religion they belong to.
मंगलवार को **साइबर हमले** का जवाब देते हुए **डॉ. लीलावती** ने कहा, “बच्चे बस बच्चे होते हैं,” और वह उन्हें “**मातृसुलभ स्नेह**” से देखती हैं, चाहे वे किसी भी देश से हों या किसी भी जाति या धर्म से हों।

‘No politics behind it’

‘इसके पीछे कोई राजनीति नहीं’

- “There was no politics behind it. During **Onam in 2019**, I only had porridge after coming across news about the starvation faced by the children of **Wayanad**. Those who oppose me are free to do so, and I hold no grudge against them. This is not the first time I am facing such attacks,” **Dr. Leelavathy** said.
“इसके पीछे कोई राजनीति नहीं थी। **2019 के ओणम** के दौरान, मैंने केवल खिचड़ी खाई थी जब मैंने **वायनाड** के बच्चों की भूखमरी की खबर देखी थी। जो लोग मेरा विरोध करते हैं, वे ऐसा करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं और मैं उनके प्रति कोई द्वेष नहीं रखती। यह पहली बार नहीं है जब मैं ऐसे हमलों का सामना कर रही हूँ,” **डॉ. लीलावती** ने कहा।
- **Education Minister V. Sivankutty** expressed solidarity with her through a **social media post**, dubbing her remarks about the children in **Gaza** as “borne out of her humanity”.
शिक्षा मंत्री वी. सिवन्कुट्टी ने **सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट** के माध्यम से उनके प्रति एकजुटता व्यक्त की और **गाज़ा** के बच्चों के बारे में उनकी टिप्पणियों को “उनकी मानवता से उपजी” करार दिया।

Mundanat Leelavathy

- Born **16 September 1927** in **Kottappadi, Thrissur district** (then part of Malabar, Madras State).
- Malayalam writer, literary critic, and educationist.
- Taught in several colleges in Kerala; retired as **Principal of Government Brennen College, Thalassery**.



- Authored over **60 books** including literary criticism, essays, studies, and translations.

Literary Works / Notable Books

Some representative works:

Title	Genre / Description
<i>Varnaraji</i>	Collection of literary studies and critical essays analysing works of prominent Malayalam writers.
<i>Kavitadhwani</i>	Critical work (studies in Malayalam literary criticism) — earned wide recognition.
Other works	Include translations, essays, and studies on Malayalam poetry and criticism.

Major Awards & Honours

M. Leelavathy has received numerous prestigious awards:

Year	Award	For / Notes
1978	Odakkuzhal Award	For <i>Varnaraji</i>
1980	Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award	Literary Criticism – for <i>Varnaraji</i>
1986	Sahitya Akademi Award	For <i>Kavitadhwani</i> (critical study)
2008	Padma Shri	Civilian honour for contributions to literature and education
2010	Ezhuthachan Puraskaram	Highest literary honour given by the Kerala government for literary excellence



2021 Sahitya Akademi
Fellowship

Fellowship awarded to writers of outstanding merit

Sahitya Akademi Award साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार

- The Sahitya Akademi Award is a prestigious literary honour in India.
- साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार भारत में एक प्रतिष्ठित साहित्यिक सम्मान है।
- It is annually conferred by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.
- इसे साहित्य अकादमी, जो भारत की राष्ट्रीय साहित्यिक संस्था है, द्वारा हर वर्ष प्रदान किया जाता है।
- The award is given to writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit.
- यह पुरस्कार सर्वश्रेष्ठ साहित्यिक गुणवत्ता वाली पुस्तकों के लेखकों को दिया जाता है।
- Books published in any of the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule to the Indian Constitution, as well as in English and Rajasthani, are eligible.
- यह पुरस्कार भारतीय संविधान की 8वीं अनुसूची में सूचीबद्ध 22 भाषाओं, अंग्रेज़ी, और राजस्थानी में प्रकाशित पुस्तकों को दिया जाता है।

Establishment and Prize Details स्थापना और पुरस्कार विवरण

- The Sahitya Akademi Award was established in 1954.
- साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार की स्थापना 1954 में की गई थी।
- The award comprises a plaque and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000.
- इस पुरस्कार में एक प्रशस्ति पट्टिका और ₹ 1,00,000 नकद राशि प्रदान की जाती है।
- The primary objective of the award is to recognise and promote excellence in Indian writing and acknowledge new literary trends.
- इस पुरस्कार का मुख्य उद्देश्य भारतीय लेखन में उत्कृष्टता को मान्यता देना और नई साहित्यिक प्रवृत्तियों को बढ़ावा देना है।

Selection and Design चयन प्रक्रिया और डिज़ाइन

- The awardees are selected through an annual process covering books published in the preceding twelve months.
- यह पुरस्कार पिछले 12 महीनों में प्रकाशित पुस्तकों के लिए वार्षिक प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से प्रदान किया जाता है।
- The plaque awarded by the Sahitya Akademi was designed by Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray.
- साहित्य अकादमी द्वारा दी जाने वाली प्रशस्ति पट्टिका का डिज़ाइन भारतीय फिल्म निर्माता सत्यजीत रे ने तैयार किया था।
- Earlier, the plaque was sometimes made of marble, but this was discontinued due to its excessive weight.
- पहले यह पट्टिका संगमरमर की बनाई जाती थी, लेकिन अधिक भार के कारण इसे बंद कर दिया गया।
- During the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965, the plaque was substituted with national savings bonds.
- 1965 के भारत-पाकिस्तान युद्ध के दौरान, प्रशस्ति पट्टिका के स्थान पर राष्ट्रीय बचत बांड दिए गए थे।



LOS ANGELES

Robert Redford, a cinema great in front of and behind camera, dead



PCS

AP

Cinema legend Robert Redford, a screen great both in front of and behind the camera whose career spanned six decades, died early on Tuesday morning at his home in Utah. He was 89. Redford died in his sleep. He is also credited with co-founding the flagship Sundance festival for aspiring independent filmmakers. AFP

- He is also credited with **co-founding** the flagship **Sundance festival** for aspiring **independent filmmakers**.
वे महत्वाकांक्षी स्वतंत्र फिल्म निर्माताओं के लिए प्रमुख संडांस फेस्टिवल की सह-स्थापना का श्रेय भी प्राप्त करते हैं।

Robert Redford, a cinema great in front of and behind camera, dead

रॉबर्ट रेडफोर्ड, कैमरे के सामने और पीछे दोनों में महान सिनेमा हस्ती, का निधन

- Cinema legend **Robert Redford**, a screen great both **in front of and behind the camera** whose career spanned **six decades**, died early on **Tuesday morning** at his **home in Utah**. सिनेमा के दिग्गज **रॉबर्ट रेडफोर्ड**, जो **कैमरे के सामने और पीछे दोनों में महान** थे और जिनका करियर **छह दशकों** तक फैला था, का **मंगलवार सुबह** उनके **यूटा स्थित घर** में निधन हो गया।

- He was **89**.
वे **89 वर्ष** के थे।
- Redford died **in his sleep**.
रेडफोर्ड का निधन **नींद में** हुआ।



China asks U.S. and Japan to withdraw Typhon missile unveiled at military drill

PCS

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China urged Tokyo and Washington on Tuesday to withdraw the U.S.-developed Typhon missile system, after it was unveiled in Japan for the first time during joint military exercises.

Japan and the U.S. began the "Resolute Dragon" military drills on Thursday, and they will last until September 25, Tokyo's Defence Ministry said on X.

Japan's Self-Defence Forces confirmed that the missile system had been showcased for the first time in the country over the course of the exercises, though it said the weapon would not be fired.

Beijing's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday called on



The Typhon, a ground-launched missile system, on display as part of Exercise Resolute Dragon in Japan on Monday. REUTERS

the U.S. and Japan to "promptly withdraw" the missile system.

"The U.S. and Japan, disregarding China's solemn concerns, have insisted on deploying the Typhon mid-range missile system in Japan under the pretext of joint exercises," spokesman Lin Jian said at a regu-

lar briefing. "China expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to this," he added.

The U.S.' Typhon missile system is part of the Army's long-range precision strike "modernisation portfolio", according to an April report.

The system "leverages

existing Raytheon-produced SM-6 missiles and Raytheon-produced Tomahawk cruise missiles and modifies them for ground launch", it added.

It is "a truck-based, trailer-loaded system that is able to be employed throughout rugged and austere positions", U.S. Colonel Wade Germann told reporters Monday at an air station in the Japanese city of Iwakuni.

"The deterrent against armed attacks can be enhanced as the security environment surrounding Japan becomes increasingly severe," a spokesperson for Japan's Self-Defence Forces said.

Typhon was deployed in the northern Philippines in 2024 for annual joint exercises.

China asks U.S. and Japan to withdraw Typhon missile unveiled at military drill

चीन ने अमेरिका और जापान से सैन्य अभ्यास में प्रदर्शित टाइफन मिसाइल वापस लेने को कहा

- China urged Tokyo and Washington on Tuesday to withdraw the U.S. developed Typhon missile system, after it was unveiled in Japan for the first time during joint military exercises.

चीन ने मंगलवार को टोक्यो और वॉशिंगटन से अमेरिका द्वारा विकसित टाइफन मिसाइल प्रणाली को वापस लेने का आग्रह किया, जब इसे संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास के दौरान जापान में पहली बार प्रदर्शित किया गया।

- Japan and the U.S. began the "Resolute Dragon" military drills on Thursday, and they will last until September 25, Tokyo's Defence Ministry said on X.

जापान और अमेरिका ने "रेजोल्यूट ड्रैगन" सैन्य अभ्यास की शुरुआत गुरुवार को की और ये 25 सितंबर तक चलेंगे, ऐसा टोक्यो के रक्षा मंत्रालय ने एक्स पर कहा।

- Beijing's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday called on the U.S. and Japan to "promptly withdraw" the missile system.

बीजिंग के विदेश मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को अमेरिका और जापान से मिसाइल प्रणाली को "शीघ्र वापस लेने" का आह्वान किया।



- “The **U.S. and Japan**, disregarding **China’s solemn concerns**, have insisted on deploying the **Typhon mid-range missile system** in **Japan** under the pretext of joint exercises,” spokesman **Lin Jian** said at a regular briefing. “**China expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to this**,” he added.
प्रवक्ता **लिन जियान** ने नियमित ब्रीफिंग में कहा, “**अमेरिका और जापान, चीन की गंभीर चिंताओं की अनदेखी करते हुए, संयुक्त अभ्यास के बहाने टाइफन मिड-रेंज मिसाइल प्रणाली को जापान में तैनात करने पर जोर दे रहे हैं।**” उन्होंने जोड़ा, “**चीन इस पर गहरा असंतोष और कड़ा विरोध व्यक्त करता है।**”
- The **U.S.’ Typhon missile system is part of the Army’s long-range precision strike modernisation portfolio**, according to an **April report**.
अप्रैल की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **अमेरिका की टाइफन मिसाइल प्रणाली सेना के लंबी दूरी के सटीक हमले के आधुनिकीकरण पोर्टफोलियो का हिस्सा है।**
- The system “leverages existing **Raytheon-produced SM-6 missiles and Raytheon-produced Tomahawk cruise missiles** and modifies them for **ground launch**”, it added.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि यह प्रणाली मौजूदा **रेथियॉन द्वारा निर्मित एसएम-6 मिसाइलों और रेथियॉन द्वारा निर्मित टॉमहॉक क्रूज मिसाइलों** का उपयोग करती है और उन्हें **जमीनी लॉन्च** के लिए संशोधित करती है।
- It is “**a truck-based, trailer-loaded system that is able to be employed throughout rugged and austere positions**”, **U.S. Colonel Wade Germann** told reporters **Monday** at an **air station in the Japanese city of Iwakuni**.
अमेरिकी कर्नल वेड जर्मन ने सोमवार को जापान के इवाकुनी शहर के एक एयर स्टेशन पर पत्रकारों से कहा कि यह “**एक ट्रक-आधारित, ट्रेलर-लोडेड प्रणाली है जिसे कठिन और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों में तैनात किया जा सकता है।**”
- “The **deterrent against armed attacks** can be enhanced as the **security environment surrounding Japan** becomes increasingly severe,” a spokesperson for **Japan’s Self-Defence Forces** said.
जापान की सेल्फ-डिफेंस फोर्स के एक प्रवक्ता ने कहा, “**जैसे-जैसे जापान के आसपास का सुरक्षा वातावरण और गंभीर होता जा रहा है, सशस्त्र हमलों के खिलाफ प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को बढ़ाया जा सकता है।**”
- **Typhon was deployed in the northern Philippines in 2024 for annual joint exercises**.
टाइफन को 2024 में उत्तरी फिलीपींस में वार्षिक संयुक्त अभ्यास के लिए तैनात किया गया था।



Kipyegon claims a record fourth title in 1,500m

Kiwi Kerr wins high jump gold while Kushare finishes a creditable sixth; Tinch clinches the men's 110m hurdles; Katzberg bags the hammer throw event with a new championship mark

ATHLETICS

PCS

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon produced a trademark devastating last lap to win an unprecedented fourth World women's 1,500 metres title in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The Kenyan, also three-time Olympic champion over the distance, timed 3min 52.15sec for another gold to add to her incredible medal haul that guarantees her place in the pantheon of the very best middle distance runners.

Her fourth World title matched the record held by Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj, who won the men's event between 1997 and 2003. Kipyegon's teammate Dorcus Ewoi took silver in 3:54.92, while Australian Jessica Hull claimed bronze (3:55.16).

American Cordell Tinch lived up to a fine season of form to win the men's 110m hurdles. Tinch clocked 12.99sec for gold ahead of the Jamaican duo of Orlando Bennett and



Home alone: Kipyegon shot out to the front of the pack in what turned out to be a true gun-to-tape performance. AP

Tyler Mason, who each timed personal bests of 13.08sec and 13.12sec respectively.

Hamish Kerr claimed New Zealand's second gold medal in two days when he won the men's high jump. Olympic champion Kerr managed a best of 2.36m for gold to follow up on Geordie Beamish's shock victory in the men's 3,000m

steeplechase on Monday. South Korea's Sanghyeok Woo claimed silver with a best of 2.34. Czech Jan Stefela took bronze with 2.31 on countback from Ukraine's Oleh. India's Sarvesh Kushare finished a creditable sixth with a personal best of 2.28m, a mere centimeter short of the national record set by Tejaswini Shankar in 2018.

Canada's Ethan Katzberg claimed a third global hammer title in three years with a massive 84.70m throw for a championship record.

Germany's Merlin Hummel took the silver with a personal best of 82.77. Hungary's Bence Halasz added a third World bronze to his collection with an effort of 82.69m.

Kipyegon claims a record fourth title in 1,500m

किपयेगोन ने 1,500 मीटर में रिकॉर्ड चौथा खिताब जीता

Kiwi Kerr wins high jump gold while Kushare finishes a creditable sixth; Tinch clinches the men's 110m hurdles; Katzberg bags the hammer throw event with a new championship mark

कीवी केर ने हाई जंप का स्वर्ण जीता जबकि कुशारे ने सराहनीय छठा स्थान प्राप्त किया; टिच ने पुरुषों की 110 मीटर बाधा दौड़ जीती; कैटजबर्ग ने हैमर थ्रो में नया चैम्पियनशिप रिकॉर्ड बनाया



- **Kenya's Faith Kipyegon** produced a trademark devastating last lap to win an unprecedented **fourth World women's 1,500 metres title in Tokyo on Tuesday**.
केन्या की फेथ क्पियेगोन ने अपनी पहचान वाली शानदार आखिरी लैप लगाकर टोक्यो में मंगलवार को अभूतपूर्व चौथा विश्व महिला 1,500 मीटर खिताब जीता।
- The **Kenyan**, also **three-time Olympic champion** over the distance, timed **3min 52.15sec** for another **gold** to add to her incredible medal haul that guarantees her place in the pantheon of the very best **middle distance runners**.
यह केन्याई खिलाड़ी, जो इस दूरी पर तीन बार की ओलंपिक चैंपियन भी हैं, ने 3 मिनट 52.15 सेकंड का समय लेकर एक और स्वर्ण पदक जीता और अपने अद्भुत पदक संग्रह में जोड़ा, जिससे वह सर्वश्रेष्ठ मध्य दूरी धावकों में शामिल हो गईं।
- Her **fourth World title** matched the record held by **Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj**, who won the men's event between **1997 and 2003**.
उनका चौथा विश्व खिताब मोरक्को के हिचाम एल गेररूज के रिकॉर्ड के बराबर है, जिन्होंने 1997 और 2003 के बीच पुरुषों की स्पर्धा जीती थी।
- **Kipyegon's teammate Dorcus Ewoi** took **silver** in **3:54.92**, while **Australian Jessica Hull** claimed **bronze (3:55.16)**.
क्पियेगोन की टीममेट डॉर्कस इवोई ने 3:54.92 समय के साथ रजत पदक जीता, जबकि ऑस्ट्रेलिया की जेसिका हुल ने 3:55.16 में कांस्य पदक जीता।
- **American Cordell Tinch** lived up to a fine season of form to win the **men's 110m hurdles**.
अमेरिकी कॉर्डेल टिंच ने बेहतरीन सीजन प्रदर्शन के साथ पुरुषों की 110 मीटर बाधा दौड़ जीती।
- **Tinch** clocked **12.99sec** for **gold** ahead of the **Jamaican duo of Orlando Bennett and Tyler Mason**, who each timed personal bests of **13.08sec and 13.12sec respectively**.
टिंच ने 12.99 सेकंड में स्वर्ण पदक जीता, जबकि जमैका के ऑरलैंडो बेनेट और टायलर मेसन ने क्रमशः 13.08 सेकंड और 13.12 सेकंड का व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ समय लिया।
- **Hamish Kerr** claimed **New Zealand's second gold medal in two days** when he won the **men's high jump**.
हैमिश केर ने पुरुषों की हाई जंप जीतकर न्यूजीलैंड का दो दिनों में दूसरा स्वर्ण पदक जीता।
- **Olympic champion Kerr** managed a best of **2.36m** for **gold** to follow up on **Geordie Beamish's** shock victory in the **men's 3,000m steeplechase on Monday**.
ओलंपिक चैंपियन केर ने 2.36 मीटर की सर्वश्रेष्ठ छलांग लगाकर स्वर्ण पदक जीता, जो सोमवार को जॉर्डि बीमिश की पुरुषों की 3,000 मीटर स्टीपलचेज में अप्रत्याशित जीत के बाद आया।
- **South Korea's Sanghyeok Woo** claimed **silver** with a best of **2.34m**.
दक्षिण कोरिया के सांगह्योक वू ने 2.34 मीटर की सर्वश्रेष्ठ छलांग के साथ रजत पदक जीता।
- **Czech Jan Stefela** took **bronze with 2.31** on countback from **Ukraine's Oleh**.
चेक गणराज्य के जान स्टेफेला ने यूक्रेन के ओलेह को काउंटबैक में हराकर 2.31 मीटर के साथ कांस्य पदक जीता।
- **India's Sarvesh Kushare** finished a creditable **sixth** with a **personal best of 2.28m**, a mere centimeter short of the national record set by **Tejaswini Shankar in 2018**.
भारत के सर्वेश कुशारे ने 2.28 मीटर के व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के साथ सराहनीय छठा स्थान प्राप्त किया, जो 2018 में तेजस्विनी शंकर द्वारा बनाए गए राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड से मात्र एक सेंटीमीटर कम था।
- **Canada's Ethan Katzberg** claimed a **third global hammer title in three years** with a massive **84.70m** throw for a **championship record**.
कनाडा के ईथन कैटजबर्ग ने 84.70 मीटर की शानदार थ्रो के साथ तीन वर्षों में तीसरा वैश्विक हैमर खिताब और एक चैंपियनशिप रिकॉर्ड बनाया।
- **Germany's Merlin Hummel** took the **silver** with a **personal best of 82.77**.
जर्मनी के मर्लिन ह्यूमल ने 82.77 मीटर के व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के साथ रजत पदक जीता।
- **Hungary's Bence Halasz** added a **third World bronze** to his collection with an effort of **82.69m**.
हंगरी के बेंस हलास्ज़ ने 82.69 मीटर के प्रयास से अपने संग्रह में तीसरा विश्व कांस्य पदक जोड़ा।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

TOPICS COVERED 17 September 2025

- 1. Sabarimala again in spotlight as Sangamam stirs political pot**
सबरिमाला फिर से सुर्खियों में, संगमम ने राजनीतिक माहौल गरमाया
- 2. 18 stranded on river island rescued in A.P.**
आंध्र प्रदेश में नदी द्वीप पर फंसे 18 लोगों को बचाया गया
- 3. Stage set for raising height of Karnataka's Almatti dam**
कर्नाटक के आलमट्टी बांध की ऊंचाई बढ़ाने की तैयारी पूरी
- 4. 'Judicial experimentalism' versus the right to justice**
'न्यायिक प्रयोगवाद' बनाम न्याय का अधिकार
- 5. QUIZ**
- 6. Ancient Asians mummified dead before Egyptians**
प्राचीन एशियाई लोगों ने मिस्रवासियों से पहले मृतकों का ममीकरण किया

PATRIOTICIAS



Vibrant dancers



GS I: Society

In sync: Members of the Raj Gond tribe from Adilabad district of Telangana rehearsing Gussadi dance for the 78th Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations to be held on Wednesday. NAGARA GOPAL

Members of the **Raj Gond tribe from Adilabad district of Telangana rehearsing Gussadi dance for the 78th Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations** to be held on Wednesday.

Raj Gond Tribe

- The **Raj Gonds** are the largest tribal group among the **Gonds**, one of the most prominent Adivasi communities of **Central India**.
- The word "**Gond**" comes from the Telugu word *Konda* meaning **hill**, reflecting their settlement in forested hilly areas.
- They are classified as **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** under the Constitution of India.

Geographical Distribution

- **Mainly found in:**
 - **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** – largest population of Gonds.
 - **Chhattisgarh.**
 - **Maharashtra (Vidarbha region).**
 - **Odisha.**
 - Smaller presence in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar.
- The Raj Gonds are particularly concentrated in **Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.**



Social Structure

- Traditionally organized into **clans and lineages**, each with totems (animals, plants, natural elements).
- Practiced **endogamy within the tribe** but **exogamy within clans**.
- Historically had their own ruling chiefs; some Raj Gond rulers established **powerful kingdoms**.

Historical Importance

- The Raj Gonds established the **Gondwana Kingdoms** in Central India (14th–18th centuries).
- Important Gond rulers:
 - **Sangram Shah (r. 1480–1541)** – expanded the Gond kingdom in Garha-Mandla (Madhya Pradesh).
 - **Rani Durgavati (1524–1564)** – famous Raj Gond queen, fought against Mughal Emperor Akbar's general Asaf Khan. She is celebrated as a **symbol of resistance and valour**.
- Their kingdoms were later absorbed into the Mughal and Maratha empires.

Hyderabad Liberation Day

- **Princely State of Hyderabad:**
 - Before Independence, Hyderabad was the **largest princely state in India**, ruled by the **Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan**.
 - The Nizam wanted Hyderabad to remain **independent** after **15 August 1947**, instead of joining India or Pakistan.
 - Hyderabad had a **diverse population**: Hindus were the majority, but the ruling elite and administration were dominated by Muslims loyal to the Nizam.
- **Standstill Agreement (29 November 1947):**
 - Hyderabad signed this agreement with India to maintain the status quo for one year, while discussions about its final status continued.
- **Internal Situation:**
 - The Nizam's government supported the **Razakars**, a private militia led by Qasim Razvi.
 - Razakars committed violence, intimidation, and communal atrocities against the local population, especially Hindus.

Police Action (Operation Polo)

- **Date:** 13–17 September 1948.
- **Operation Polo:** The Indian Army carried out a military operation under Home Minister **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and Army Chief **General J.N. Chaudhuri**.
- **Result:** In **five days**, the Nizam's forces and Razakars surrendered.
- **17 September 1948:** Hyderabad was formally integrated into the **Indian Union**.
- The day is celebrated as **Hyderabad Liberation Day**.



Season starter



GS I: Mapping

An Indonesian farmer prays with offerings during the traditional “Labuh Sawah” ritual, a Javanese ceremony to start the rice planting season in Seyegan in Yogyakarta on Tuesday. AFP

An Indonesian farmer prays with offerings during the traditional “Labuh Sawah” ritual, a Javanese ceremony to start the rice planting season in Seyegan in Yogyakarta on Tuesday

PATRIOTIC



Sabarimala again in spotlight as Sangamam stirs political pot

NEWS ANALYSIS

GS I: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The Kerala High Court may have cleared the way, but uncertainty still looms over the Travancore Devaswom Board's (TDB) 'Global Ayyappa Sangamam' on the banks of the Pampa river on September 20.

With the Supreme Court set to urgently hear a fresh challenge, what was meant to be a grand devotional conclave is quickly turning into Kerala's hottest political flashpoint. Officially, the Sangamam marks the platinum jubilee to project Sabarimala as a 'Global Pilgrimage Centre', drawing over 3,000 devotees from across the world. Spread across three venues, it promises discussions on the

Sabarimala master plan, spiritual tourism, and crowd management. But beyond ceremony, the conclave has reignited the political wrangling over Sabarimala, one of Kerala's fiercest battlegrounds.

Timing fuels suspicion

With local body polls approaching and the Assembly election on the horizon, suspicions of a political agenda are inevitable. The Congress-led United Democratic Front has accused the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) or CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front of "hypocrisy", pointing out that cases filed against devotees during the 2018 women's entry protests remain unresolved.

The Sangh Parivar, meanwhile, has criticised the event as an attempt to



The Global Ayyappa Sangamam, which will be held on September 20, has drawn criticism from the Opposition parties. FILE PHOTO

politicise the temple, raising objections to corporate sponsorships and 'privilege cards' for donors. Unlike in 2018 when the Supreme Court's verdict on women's entry triggered a storm of protests, the Sangh Parivar has struggled to revive that wave of outrage. Instead, it has announced a parallel summit

in Pandalam, a township central to Ayyappa lore. Whether it can match the scale or visibility of the Sangamam remains to be seen.

The State government insists it is merely a facilitator. Yet, the decision to have Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurate the conclave has undermined

that claim. Critics see it as a strategic bid to encroach on Hindu voters, traditionally a BJP stronghold.

Development vs reality

While the Sangamam makes tall promises of development, the scope for fresh initiatives is limited. The Sabarimala master plan has already been vetoed by the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. What the event may ultimately deliver is less on development and more on recalibrating community equations.

A notable shift is the Nair Service Society's (NSS) softened stance. Once vocal against women's entry, the NSS has agreed to send a representative so long as the event avoids politicisation and customs of the shrine re-

main intact. The CPI(M) views this as a dividend of its years-long behind-the-scenes outreach to the community.

The real suspense lies in Pandalam. The royal family, custodians of Ayyappa lore, has stayed silent. Their stance is crucial as in 2018, their fierce opposition to women's entry bolstered the Sangh Parivar's clout. Their current hesitation leaves the Sangh anxious, and the Left quietly optimistic.

The Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yagam, by contrast, has been openly supportive. General secretary Vellappally Natesan has endorsed the Sangamam's vision of making Sabarimala an international hub. In Kerala, few platforms carry the symbolic and electoral heft of Ayyappa's shrine.

Sabarimala again in spotlight as Sangamam stirs political pot

सबरिमाला फिर से सुर्खियों में, संगमम ने राजनीतिक माहौल गरमाया

- The Kerala High Court may have cleared the way, but uncertainty still looms over the Travancore Devaswom Board's (TDB) 'Global Ayyappa Sangamam' on the banks of the Pampa river on September 20.

केरल हाई कोर्ट ने भले ही रास्ता साफ कर दिया हो, लेकिन 20 सितंबर को पंपा नदी के किनारे होने वाले त्रावणकोर देवस्वम बोर्ड (टीडीबी) के 'ग्लोबल अयप्पा संगमम' को लेकर अनिश्चितता अभी भी बनी हुई है।

- With the Supreme Court set to urgently hear a fresh challenge, what was meant to be a grand devotional conclave is quickly turning into Kerala's hottest political flashpoint. सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा एक नए चुनौती को तत्काल सुनने की तैयारी के साथ, जो एक भव्य धार्मिक सम्मेलन होना था वह तेजी से केरल का सबसे बड़ा राजनीतिक विवाद बनता जा रहा है।
- Officially, the Sangamam marks the platinum jubilee to project Sabarimala as a 'Global Pilgrimage Centre', drawing over 3,000 devotees from across the world. आधिकारिक रूप से, संगमम का उद्देश्य सबरिमाला को 'वैश्विक तीर्थस्थल' के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हुए इसका प्लैटिनम जुबली मनाना है, जिसमें दुनिया भर से 3,000 से अधिक भक्त शामिल होंगे।
- Spread across three venues, it promises discussions on the Sabarimala master plan, spiritual tourism, and crowd management. यह तीन स्थानों पर आयोजित होगा और इसमें सबरिमाला मास्टर प्लान, आध्यात्मिक पर्यटन, और भीड़ प्रबंधन पर चर्चा का वादा किया गया है।
- But beyond ceremony, the conclave has reignited the political wrangling over Sabarimala, one of Kerala's fiercest battlegrounds.

लेकिन इस आयोजन के परे, यह सम्मेलन सबरिमाला को लेकर राजनीतिक संघर्ष को फिर से भड़का रहा है, जो केरल के सबसे बड़े संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में से एक है।



Timing fuels suspicion

समय पर संदेह बढ़ा

- With local body polls approaching and the **Assembly election** on the horizon, suspicions of a **political agenda** are inevitable.
स्थानीय निकाय चुनाव नजदीक आने और विधानसभा चुनाव के क्षितिज पर होने के कारण, राजनीतिक एजेंडा के संदेह अपरिहार्य हैं।
- The **Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)** has accused the ruling **Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M)**-led **Left Democratic Front (LDF)** of "hypocrisy", pointing out that cases filed against devotees during the **2018 women's entry protests** remain unresolved.
कांग्रेस नेतृत्व वाले यूनाइटेड डेमोक्रेटिक फ्रंट (यूडीएफ) ने सत्तारूढ़ भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (मार्क्सवादी) - सीपीआई(एम) नेतृत्व वाले वाम लोकतांत्रिक मोर्चा (एलडीएफ) पर "पाखंड" का आरोप लगाया, यह इंगित करते हुए कि **2018 महिला प्रवेश विरोध** के दौरान भक्तों के खिलाफ दर्ज मामले अभी भी अनसुलझे हैं।
- The **Sangh Parivar**, meanwhile, has criticised the event as an attempt to **politicise the temple**, raising objections to **corporate sponsorships** and '**privilege cards**' for donors.
इसी बीच, **संघ परिवार** ने इस आयोजन की आलोचना करते हुए इसे **मंदिर का राजनीतिकरण** करने का प्रयास बताया और **कॉर्पोरेट प्रायोजन** तथा दानदाताओं के लिए '**प्रिविलेज कार्ड**' पर आपत्ति जताई।
- Unlike in 2018 when the **Supreme Court's verdict on women's entry** triggered a storm of protests, the **Sangh Parivar** has struggled to revive that wave of outrage.
2018 में जब सुप्रीम कोर्ट का महिलाओं के प्रवेश पर फैसला विरोध की लहर ले आया था, उसके विपरीत, **संघ परिवार** उस आक्रोश की लहर को फिर से जगाने में संघर्ष कर रहा है।
- Instead, it has announced a **parallel summit in Pandalam**, a township central to **Ayyappa lore**.
इसके बजाय, इसने **पंडालम में एक समानांतर सम्मेलन** की घोषणा की है, जो **अयप्पा परंपरा** का केंद्र है।
- Whether it can match the scale or visibility of the Sangamam remains to be seen.
क्या यह **संगमम** के पैमाने या दृश्यता की बराबरी कर सकता है, यह देखना बाकी है।
- The **State government** insists it is merely a facilitator.
राज्य सरकार का कहना है कि वह सिर्फ एक सुविधा प्रदाता है।
- Yet, the decision to have **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurate the conclave has undermined that claim.
फिर भी, सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन **मुख्यमंत्री पिनराई विजयन** द्वारा करवाने के निर्णय ने उस दावे को कमजोर कर दिया है।
- **Critics see it as a strategic bid to encroach on Hindu voters, traditionally a BJP stronghold.**
आलोचक इसे **हिंदू मतदाताओं पर कब्जा करने की रणनीतिक चाल** मानते हैं, जो पारंपरिक रूप से **भाजपा का गढ़** है।
- The **CPI(M)** views this as a dividend of its years-long behind-the-scenes outreach to the community.
सीपीआई(एम) इसे समुदाय के साथ वर्षों से पर्दे के पीछे किए गए प्रयासों का लाभ मानती है।
- The real suspense lies in **Pandalam**.
वास्तविक सस्पेंस **पंडालम** में है।
- The **royal family**, custodians of **Ayyappa lore**, has stayed silent.
अयप्पा परंपरा के संरक्षक **शाही परिवार** ने चुप्पी साध रखी है।
- Their stance is crucial as in **2018**, their fierce opposition to **women's entry** bolstered the **Sangh Parivar's clout**.
उनका रुख महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि **2018 में, महिलाओं के प्रवेश** के प्रति उनके प्रबल विरोध ने **संघ परिवार के प्रभाव** को मजबूत किया था।
- Their current hesitation leaves the **Sangh** anxious, and the **Left** quietly optimistic.
उनकी वर्तमान हिचकिचाहट **संघ** को चिंतित और **वामपंथियों** को गुपचुप आशावादी बनाए हुए है।
- The **Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)**, by contrast, has been openly supportive.
इसके विपरीत, **श्री नारायण धर्म परिपालना योगम (एसएनडीपी)** खुलकर समर्थन कर रहा है।



- General secretary **Vellappally Natesan** has endorsed the Sangamam's vision of making **Sabarimala** an international hub.
महासचिव **वेलप्पल्ली नटेशन** ने संगमम के सबरिमाला को एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय केंद्र बनाने के दृष्टिकोण का समर्थन किया है।
- In **Kerala**, few platforms carry the symbolic and electoral heft of **Ayyappa's shrine**.
केरल में, कुछ ही मंच हैं जिनमें **अयप्पा के मंदिर** का प्रतीकात्मक और चुनावी महत्व है।

Development vs reality विकास बनाम वास्तविकता

- While the Sangamam makes tall promises of development, the scope for fresh initiatives is limited.
जहां संगमम विकास के बड़े-बड़े वादे कर रहा है, वहीं नए प्रयासों की गुंजाइश सीमित है।
- The **Sabarimala master plan** has already been vetted by the **Supreme Court** and the **Ministry of Environment and Forests**.
सबरिमाला मास्टर प्लान को पहले ही **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** और **पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय** द्वारा अनुमोदित किया जा चुका है।
- What the event may ultimately deliver is less on development and more on recalibrating **community equations**.
यह आयोजन अंततः विकास से ज्यादा **सामुदायिक समीकरणों को पुनर्संतुलित** करने पर केंद्रित हो सकता है।
- A notable shift is the **Nair Service Society's (NSS)** softened stance.
एक उल्लेखनीय बदलाव **नायर सर्विस सोसाइटी (एनएसएस)** के नरम रुख में देखा गया है।
- Once vocal against **women's entry**, the NSS has agreed to send a representative so long as the event avoids **politicisation** and customs of the shrine remain intact.
एक समय **महिलाओं के प्रवेश** के खिलाफ मुखर रही **एनएसएस** ने इस शर्त पर प्रतिनिधि भेजने पर सहमति जताई है कि आयोजन में **राजनीतिकरण** न हो और मंदिर की परंपराएं जस की तस बनी रहें।



Pampa River

- The **Pampa River** (also spelled *Pamba*) is the **third longest river in Kerala** (after Periyar and Bharathapuzha).
- Originates in the **Pulachimalai Hills (1,650 m)** of the **Western Ghats**, in Idukki district, Kerala.
- Length: **176 km**.
- Basin area: ~ **2,235 sq. km**.

Course

- Flows through **Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, and Kottayam** districts.
- Major towns on its banks: **Ranni, Kozhencherry, Chengannur, Kuttanad**.
- Empties into **Vembanad Lake**, the longest lake in India.

Cultural Significance

- Associated with **Lord Ayyappa pilgrimage** → Sabarimala devotees take ritual bath in Pampa before climbing to the shrine.

Sabarimala Temple

- Located in **Pathanamthitta district, Kerala**, in the **Periyar Tiger Reserve** at ~ **1,260 m** above sea level.
- Dedicated to **Lord Ayyappa (Hariharaputra)**, son of Lord Shiva and Mohini (Vishnu's incarnation).

Pilgrimage

- One of the **largest annual pilgrimages in the world**.
- Season: **Mandala-Makaravilakku (Nov–Jan)** → ~ **40–50 million devotees** visit yearly.
- Pilgrims observe **41 days of 'Vratham'** (austerity, celibacy, vegetarianism) before visiting.
- Ritual bath in **Pampa River** before trekking the sacred **18 steps (Pathinettampadi)** to reach the shrine.

Customs and Traditions

- The temple was traditionally closed to **women of menstruating age (10–50 years)** → based on celibacy of deity.
- **2018 Supreme Court verdict (Indian Young Lawyers Association vs State of Kerala)**: Declared this practice unconstitutional under **Articles 14 & 25** (equality and religious freedom).



18 stranded on river island rescued in A.P.

GS I: Drainage System

The Hindu Bureau

NELLORE

Eighteen youngsters stranded in the floodwaters of Penna river in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday, were rescued after a seven-hour operation.

According to the police, they went to an island-like place in the middle of the river around 5.30 p.m. Floodwaters surrounded them suddenly by 7.30 p.m. and they got trapped.

Personnel from the police, fire and Revenue departments launched a joint operation half an hour later. Seeing the police teams, the youths got initially scared and started running towards the river. However, the police officials asked them not to panic.

The Irrigation department staff closed the flood gates to reduce the water flow.

By 3 a.m. on Tuesday, all of them were rescued.

18 stranded on river island rescued in A.P. आंध्र प्रदेश में नदी द्वीप पर फंसे 18 लोगों को बचाया गया

• Eighteen youngsters stranded in the floodwaters of **Penna river in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh** on Monday, were rescued after a **seven-hour operation**.

सोमवार को आंध्र प्रदेश के नेल्लोर जिले में पेन्ना नदी की बाढ़ के पानी में फंसे अठारह युवाओं को सात घंटे के अभियान के बाद बचाया गया।

• According to the **police**, they went to an island-like place in the middle of the river around **5.30 p.m.**

पुलिस के अनुसार, वे शाम **5.30 बजे** नदी के बीच स्थित एक द्वीप जैसे स्थान पर गए थे।

• Floodwaters surrounded them suddenly by **7.30 p.m.** and they got trapped.

7.30 बजे तक अचानक बाढ़ का पानी उन्हें चारों ओर से घेर लिया और वे फंस गए।

• Personnel from the **police, fire and Revenue departments** launched a joint operation half an hour later.

पुलिस, अग्निशमन और राजस्व विभागों के

कर्मियों ने आधे घंटे बाद एक संयुक्त अभियान शुरू किया।

- Seeing the police teams, the youths got initially scared and started running towards the river. **पुलिस टीमों** को देखकर युवक शुरू में डर गए और नदी की ओर भागने लगे।
- However, the **police officials** asked them not to panic. हालांकि, **पुलिस अधिकारियों** ने उन्हें घबराने के लिए मना किया।
- The **Irrigation department staff** closed the **flood gates** to reduce the water flow. **सिंचाई विभाग के कर्मचारियों** ने पानी के बहाव को कम करने के लिए **बाढ़ गेट्स** बंद कर दिए।
- By **3 a.m. on Tuesday**, all of them were rescued. **मंगलवार सुबह 3 बजे तक**, उन सभी को बचा लिया गया।

Penna (Pennar) River

- **Penna River** (also spelled *Pennar*) is a **seasonal east-flowing river** of southern India.
- Total length: **597 km**.
- Basin area: ~ **55,213 sq. km**.
- States covered: **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.

Source and Course

- **Origin:** Nandi Hills, Chikkaballapur district, **Karnataka** (elevation ~1,219 m).



- Flows eastward through Karnataka into Andhra Pradesh.
- Districts touched: Chikkaballapur (Karnataka), Anantapur, Kadapa, Nellore (Andhra Pradesh).
- **Mouth:** Empties into the **Bay of Bengal** near **Uppalapadu, Nellore district (Andhra Pradesh)**.

Stage set for raising height of Karnataka's Almatti dam

GS I: Dams
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To set the stage for the implementation of the languishing Upper Krishna Project (UKP) phase III, the Karnataka Cabinet, in its special meeting on Tuesday, gave clearance for the acquisition of 1,33,867 lakh acres of land in one go through "consent award or direct purchase" from farmers to facilitate the increase of Almatti dam's height from the present 519.16 metres to 524.256 metres.

The special Cabinet meeting also announced compensation rates for land-losing farmers, while making it clear that the compensation amount, totalling approximately ₹70,000 crore, would be paid over three financial years starting from the current year.

Briefing media persons after the meeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that farmers whose lands would be submerged due to the increase in dam height would receive ₹40 lakh and ₹30 lakh per acre of wet and dry land, respectively. Farmers whose lands would have to be acquired for building canals would receive ₹30 lakh and ₹25 lakh per acre of wet and dry land, respectively.

The UKP phase-III would irrigate 5.94 lakh hectares of land in North Karnataka districts, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Taking exception to the delay by the Centre in notifying the Krishna Water Disputes' Tribunal's award the Chief Minister urged the Centre to come out with a gazette notification at the earliest.

Stage set for raising height of Karnataka's Almatti dam

कर्नाटक के आलमट्टी बांध की ऊंचाई बढ़ाने की तैयारी पूरी

- To set the stage for the implementation of the languishing **Upper Krishna Project (UKP) phase III**, the **Karnataka Cabinet**, in its special meeting on **Tuesday**, gave clearance for the acquisition of **1,33,867 lakh acres of land** in one go through "**consent award or direct purchase**" from farmers to facilitate the increase of **Almatti dam's height** from the present **519.16 metres** to **524.256 metres**.

लंबे समय से लंबित **ऊपरी कृष्णा परियोजना (यूकेपी) चरण-III** के क्रियान्वयन के लिए तैयारी करने हेतु, **कर्नाटक कैबिनेट** ने **मंगलवार** को अपनी विशेष बैठक में किसानों से "**सहमति पुरस्कार या प्रत्यक्ष खरीद**" के माध्यम से एक बार में **1,33,867 लाख एकड़ भूमि** के अधिग्रहण को मंजूरी दी, ताकि **आलमट्टी बांध की ऊंचाई** को वर्तमान **519.16 मीटर** से **524.256 मीटर** तक बढ़ाया जा सके।

- The special **Cabinet meeting** also announced **compensation rates** for land-losing farmers, while making it clear that the compensation amount, totalling approximately **₹70,000 crore**, would be paid over **three financial years** starting from the current year. विशेष **कैबिनेट बैठक** में भूमि गंवाने वाले किसानों के लिए **मुआवजा दरों** की घोषणा की गई और यह स्पष्ट किया गया कि लगभग **₹70,000 करोड़** की कुल मुआवजा राशि का भुगतान **तीन वित्तीय वर्षों** में किया जाएगा, जिसकी शुरुआत वर्तमान वर्ष से होगी।

- Briefing media persons after the meeting **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** announced that farmers whose lands would be submerged due to the increase in dam height would receive **₹40 lakh** and **₹30 lakh per acre** of wet and dry land, respectively.

बैठक के बाद मीडिया को जानकारी देते हुए **मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धारमैया** ने घोषणा की कि जिन किसानों की जमीन बांध की ऊंचाई बढ़ने से डूब जाएगी, उन्हें क्रमशः प्रति एकड़ गीली जमीन के लिए **₹40 लाख** और सूखी जमीन के लिए **₹30 लाख** मुआवजा मिलेगा।

- Farmers whose lands would have to be acquired for building **canals** would receive **₹30 lakh** and **₹25 lakh per acre** of wet and dry land, respectively.

जिन किसानों की जमीन **नहरों के निर्माण** के लिए अधिग्रहित की जाएगी, उन्हें क्रमशः प्रति एकड़ गीली जमीन के लिए **₹30 लाख** और सूखी जमीन के लिए **₹25 लाख** मुआवजा मिलेगा।

- The **UKP phase-III** would irrigate **5.94 lakh hectares** of land in **North Karnataka districts**, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

श्री सिद्धारमैया ने कहा कि **यूकेपी चरण-III** से उत्तर कर्नाटक जिलों में **5.94 लाख हेक्टेयर** भूमि की सिंचाई की जाएगी।

- Taking exception to the delay by the **Centre** in notifying the **Krishna Water Disputes' Tribunal's award**, the **Chief Minister** urged the Centre to come out with a **gazette notification** at the earliest.

मुख्यमंत्री ने **केंद्र सरकार** द्वारा **कृष्णा जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण के पुरस्कार** की अधिसूचना में देरी पर आपत्ति जताई और केंद्र से जल्द से जल्द **गजट अधिसूचना** जारी करने का आग्रह किया।

Judicial experimentalism' versus the right to justice

GS I: Society

The Supreme Court of India, in *Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal* (July 22, 2025), endorsed the guidelines by the Allahabad High Court, in *Mukesh Bansal vs State of U.P.* (2022), to prevent the misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (now Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita). The High Court had introduced a two-month 'cooling period' for any coercive action after the registration of a first information report (FIR) or complaint to the magistrate. During the 'cooling period', the matter will be referred to a Family Welfare Committee (FWC). However, both the introduction of the 'cooling period' and the referral of the matter to the FWC undermine a victim's right to prompt access to justice and affects the functional autonomy of the criminal justice agencies.

The basis of the checks

The enactment of Section 498A was with the objective of punishing various forms of cruelty against women in a matrimonial setting. Be that as it may, the courts, in a series of cases, have lamented the increasing tendency by women to misuse the law when it concerns FIR registrations and subsequent arrests. Courts have accordingly established procedural safeguards to protect the 'innocent' husband and his family. The Supreme Court of India, in *Lalita Kumari*, has put cases arising out of matrimonial disputes in the category of 'preliminary inquiry' before the registration of the FIR. The recent criminal law reforms also place cases of cruelty by husband in the domain of 'preliminary inquiry' before registration of the FIR.

In addition to these checks to prevent the registration of an FIR in false or frivolous complaints, the courts have also addressed another area for potential abuse in case of Section 498A – rampant arrests of husbands and



Neeraj Tiwari

is Associate Professor
National Law
University Delhi



Priyanshi Singh

is Academic Fellow,
K.L. Arora Chair on
Criminal Law,
National Law
University Delhi

The top court's endorsement of the Allahabad High Court's steps to prevent the misuse of Section 498A IPC affects a victim's pursuit of justice

their family members. The power of arrest was rationalised at two levels. First, by bringing a statutory change to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2008, and the second, by judicial dictum in *Arnesh Kumar* (2014). The 2008 amendment introduced the 'principle of necessity' in the matter of arrest. In *Arnesh Kumar*, the Supreme Court effectively plugged the unbridled exercise of arrest powers by the police in cases that saw the use of Section 498A cases, by introducing a checklist and enforcing 'notice for appearance'.

In *Satender Kumar Antil* (2022), the Court further strengthened these institutional checks by directing the release of a person on bail if arrested in non-compliance of the directions in *Arnesh Kumar*.

As an 'arrest offence'

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) report, 'Crimes in India', suggests that Section 498A has remained among top five 'highest arrest' offences till 2016. Thereafter, it was within the top 10, which suggests that the steps taken at statutory and institutional levels have had an impact. Although the registered offences under this provision rose from 1,13,403 in 2015 to 1,40,019 in 2022, arrests declined from 1,87,067 to 1,45,095, as in NCRB data during the same period. This was suggestive of safeguarding the liberty of the accused without making compromises with a victim's right to her access to justice.

The proposal to introduce a quasi-judicial committee, alongside a restriction on arrests during a designated cooling period, might prove to be an ambitious step on paper. It may be attributable to the absence of a statutory authority to implement these directives as well as the undefined scope of their jurisdictional applicability. The recent ruling undermines a

victim's pursuit of justice by denying her the opportunity to have her complaint addressed in a timely manner.

Despite filing an FIR/complaint, no action can be taken until the "cooling period" concludes, thereby exacerbating the victim's plight even after lodging the complaint. The idea of introducing a 'cooling period' and referring the complaint to the FWC falls outside the ambit of the statutory and institutional framework.

This reminds us of another instance of judicial experimentalism. In 2017, the Supreme Court, in *Rajesh Sharma*, gave similar directions for constituting FWCs and the forwarding of complaints to such FWCs. The one-month period provided to FWCs, in *Rajesh Sharma*, is akin to the 'cooling period' devised by the Allahabad High Court. We should not forget that the directions in *Rajesh Sharma* were not welcomed by the society at large. These were termed 'regressive' and beyond 'judicial competence'. This resulted in the rollback of the directions by the Supreme Court within a year.

A three-judge Bench, in *Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar* (2018), overturned the directions in *Rajesh Sharma* and restored the victim's right to prompt access to justice and the supremacy of the criminal justice functionaries in the reporting of crimes and the dispensation of justice.

Revisit the ruling

It becomes crucial for the Supreme Court to revisit its ruling as the apprehension surrounding the misuse of the law by the victim and the abuse of power by the police has been addressed through legislative and judicial measures. The act of forwarding complaints to FWCs is beyond legislative intent, against the functional autonomy of the criminal justice agencies and, most importantly, dents the victim's pursuit of justice.

'Judicial experimentalism' versus the right to justice 'न्यायिक प्रयोगवाद' बनाम न्याय का अधिकार

Supreme Court Guidelines on Section 498A सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशानिर्देश सेक्शन 498A पर

- The Supreme Court of India, in **Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal (July 22, 2025)**, endorsed the **guidelines** by the Allahabad High Court, in **Mukesh Bansal vs State of U.P. (2022)**, to prevent the misuse of **Section 498A** of the Indian Penal Code (now **Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**).
- भारत का सुप्रीम कोर्ट, **Shivangi Bansal बनाम Sahib Bansal (22 जुलाई, 2025)** में, अलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा जारी दिशानिर्देशों को मान्यता दी, जो भारतीय दंड संहिता के सेक्शन 498A (अब भारतीय न्याय संहिता का सेक्शन 85) के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए हैं।
- The High Court had introduced a **two-month 'cooling period'** for any **coercive action** after the registration of a **first information report (FIR)** or complaint to the **magistrate**.
- उच्च न्यायालय ने पहली सूचना रिपोर्ट (FIR) दर्ज करने के बाद किसी भी जबरदस्ती कार्रवाई के लिए दो महीने की 'कूलिंग अवधि' लागू की थी।
- During the **'cooling period'**, the matter will be referred to a **Family Welfare Committee (FWC)**.
- 'कूलिंग अवधि' के दौरान, मामले को परिवार कल्याण समिति (FWC) को भेजा जाएगा।
- However, both the introduction of the **'cooling period'** and the referral to the **FWC** undermine a **victim's right to prompt access to justice** and affects the **functional autonomy** of the **criminal justice agencies**.
- हालांकि, 'कूलिंग अवधि' की शुरुआत और FWC को संदर्भित करना पीड़िता के त्वरित न्याय तक पहुँच के



अधिकार को कमजोर करता है और आपराधिक न्याय एजेंसियों की कार्यात्मक स्वायत्तता पर प्रभाव डालता है।

Basis of the Checks

जाँच का आधार

- The enactment of **Section 498A** was with the objective of punishing various forms of **cruelty against women in a matrimonial setting**.
सेक्शन 498A का निर्माण वैवाहिक संदर्भ में महिलाओं के खिलाफ विभिन्न प्रकार की क्रूरता को दंडित करने के उद्देश्य से किया गया था।
- Courts, in a series of cases, have **lamented the increasing tendency by women to misuse the law** concerning FIR registrations and subsequent arrests.
अदालतों ने कई मामलों में महिलाओं द्वारा कानून के दुरुपयोग की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति पर चिंता व्यक्त की है, जो FIR दर्ज करने और अगली गिरफ्तारी से संबंधित है।
- Courts have established **procedural safeguards** to protect the **'innocent' husband and his family**.
अदालतों ने 'निर्दोष' पति और उसके परिवार की सुरक्षा के लिए प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपाय स्थापित किए हैं।
- In **Lalita Kumari**, the **Supreme Court** put cases arising out of **matrimonial disputes** in the category of **'preliminary inquiry'** before the registration of the **FIR**.
ललिता कुमारी में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने वैवाहिक विवादों से उत्पन्न मामलों को FIR दर्ज होने से पहले 'प्रारंभिक जांच' की श्रेणी में रखा।
- **Recent criminal law reforms** also place cases of **cruelty by husband** in the domain of **'preliminary enquiry'** before registration of the **FIR**.
हाल के आपराधिक कानून सुधारों ने भी पति द्वारा क्रूरता के मामलों को FIR दर्ज होने से पहले 'प्रारंभिक जांच' में रखा है।
- Courts have also addressed another potential abuse in **Section 498A** — **rampant arrests of husbands and their family members**.
अदालतों ने सेक्शन 498A में एक और संभावित दुरुपयोग को भी संबोधित किया है — पति और उनके परिवार के सदस्यों की व्यापक गिरफ्तारी।
- The **power of arrest** was rationalised at **two levels**:
गिरफ्तारी की शक्ति को दो स्तरों पर तार्किक बनाया गया:
 - First, by bringing a **statutory change** to the **Code of Criminal Procedure** in 2008.
पहले, 2008 में आपराधिक प्रक्रिया संहिता में कानूनी परिवर्तन लाकर।
 - Second, by **judicial dictum** in **Arnesh Kumar (2014)**.
दूसरा, **Arnesh Kumar (2014)** में न्यायिक निर्णय के द्वारा।
- The **2008 amendment** introduced the **'principle of necessity' in the matter of arrest**.
2008 के संशोधन ने गिरफ्तारी के मामले में 'आवश्यकता का सिद्धांत' प्रस्तुत किया।
- In **Arnesh Kumar**, the **Supreme Court** effectively plugged the **unbridled exercise of arrest powers** by the police in **Section 498A cases**, by introducing a **checklist** and enforcing **'notice for appearance'**.
Arnesh Kumar में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सेक्शन 498A मामलों में पुलिस द्वारा गिरफ्तारी के अधिकारों के अनियंत्रित प्रयोग को चेकलिस्ट और 'उपस्थिति का नोटिस' लागू करके प्रभावी रूप से रोका।
- In **Satender Kumar Antil (2022)**, the Court further strengthened these **institutional checks** by directing the **release of a person on bail** if arrested in **non-compliance** of the directions in **Arnesh Kumar**.
Satender Kumar Antil (2022) में, अदालत ने इन संस्थागत जाँचों को और मजबूत किया, निर्देश दिया कि अगर किसी को Arnesh Kumar के निर्देशों का पालन न करने पर गिरफ्तार किया गया, तो उसे जमानत पर रिहा किया जाए।

As an 'arrest offence'

'गिरफ्तारी अपराध' के रूप में



- The **National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)** report, 'Crimes in India', suggests that **Section 498A** has remained among top five 'highest arrest' offences till 2016.
नेशनल क्राइम रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (NCRB) की रिपोर्ट, 'Crimes in India', बताती है कि सेक्शन 498A 2016 तक शीर्ष पाँच 'सर्वाधिक गिरफ्तारी वाले अपराधों' में रहा।
- Thereafter, it was within the **top 10**, which suggests that the steps taken at **statutory and institutional levels** have had an **impact**.
इसके बाद, यह शीर्ष 10 में रहा, जो दर्शाता है कि कानूनी और संस्थागत स्तर पर उठाए गए कदमों का प्रभाव पड़ा है।
- Although the registered **offences** under this provision rose from **1,13,403 in 2015 to 1,40,019 in 2022**, **arrests declined from 1,87,067 to 1,45,095**, as in **NCRB data** during the same period.
हालांकि इस प्रावधान के तहत दर्ज अपराध 2015 में 1,13,403 से बढ़कर 2022 में 1,40,019 हो गए, गिरफ्तारियाँ घटकर 1,87,067 से 1,45,095 हो गईं, जैसा कि NCRB डेटा में उसी अवधि में दिखा।
- This was suggestive of **safeguarding the liberty of the accused without compromising a victim's right to her access to justice**.
यह दर्शाता है कि आरोपी की स्वतंत्रता की सुरक्षा करते हुए पीड़िता के न्याय तक पहुँच के अधिकार से समझौता नहीं किया गया।
- The proposal to introduce a **quasi-judicial committee**, alongside a **restriction on arrests** during a designated **cooling period**, might prove to be an **ambitious step on paper**.
निर्दिष्ट कूलिंग अवधि के दौरान गिरफ्तारी पर प्रतिबंध के साथ अर्ध-न्यायिक समिति की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव सैद्धांतिक रूप से महत्वाकांक्षी कदम साबित हो सकता है।
- It may be attributable to the **absence of a statutory authority** to implement these directives as well as the **undefined scope** of their **jurisdictional applicability**.
यह उन निर्देशों को लागू करने के लिए कानूनी प्राधिकरण की कमी और उनके क्षेत्राधिकार की अस्पष्ट सीमा के कारण हो सकता है।
- The **recent ruling undermines a victim's pursuit of justice** by denying her the opportunity to have her **complaint addressed in a timely manner**.
हालिया निर्णय पीड़िता के न्याय की खोज को कमजोर करता है क्योंकि यह उसे समय पर शिकायत निपटाने का अवसर नहीं देता।
- **Despite filing an FIR/complaint, no action can be taken until the "cooling period" concludes, thereby exacerbating the victim's plight even after lodging the complaint.**
FIR/शिकायत दर्ज करने के बावजूद, जब तक 'कूलिंग अवधि' समाप्त नहीं होती, कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की जा सकती, जिससे शिकायत दर्ज करने के बाद भी पीड़िता की स्थिति और खराब हो जाती है।
- The idea of introducing a '**cooling period**' and referring the complaint to the **FWC** falls **outside the ambit of the statutory and institutional framework**.
'कूलिंग अवधि' शुरू करने और शिकायत को **FWC** को भेजने का विचार कानूनी और संस्थागत ढांचे के दायरे के बाहर है।
- This reminds us of another instance of **judicial experimentalism**.
यह हमें न्यायिक प्रयोगवाद का एक और उदाहरण याद दिलाता है।
- In **2017**, the **Supreme Court**, in **Rajesh Sharma**, gave similar directions for constituting **FWCs** and the forwarding of complaints to such **FWCs**.
2017 में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट**, **Rajesh Sharma** में, **FWCs** की स्थापना और शिकायतों को ऐसे **FWCs** को भेजने के लिए समान निर्देश दिए।
- The **one-month period** provided to **FWCs** in **Rajesh Sharma** is akin to the '**cooling period**' devised by the **Allahabad High Court**.
Rajesh Sharma में **FWCs** को दिया गया एक महीने का समय अलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा बनाए गए '**कूलिंग अवधि**' के समान है।
- The directions in **Rajesh Sharma** were not welcomed by society at large; they were termed '**regressive**' and beyond '**judicial competence**'.
Rajesh Sharma के निर्देशों को समाज में व्यापक रूप से स्वीकार नहीं किया गया; इन्हें '**पिछड़े**' और '**न्यायिक क्षमता**' से बाहर माना गया।
- This resulted in the **rollback of the directions** by the **Supreme Court** within a **year**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने एक वर्ष के भीतर निर्देशों को वापस ले लिया।
- **A three-judge Bench, in the Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar (2018), overturned the directions in Rajesh Sharma and restored the victim's right to prompt access to**



justice and the supremacy of criminal justice functionaries.

तीन-न्यायाधीशों की बेंच, Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar (2018) में, Rajesh Sharma के निर्देशों को उलट दिया और पीड़िता के त्वरित न्याय तक पहुँच के अधिकार और आपराधिक न्याय अधिकारियों की श्रेष्ठता को पुनर्स्थापित किया।

Revisit the Ruling निर्णय की पुनः समीक्षा

- It becomes crucial for the **Supreme Court** to **revisit its ruling** as the **apprehension** surrounding the **misuse of the law by the victim** and the **abuse of power by the police** has been addressed through **legislative and judicial measures**.
यह आवश्यक हो जाता है कि **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** अपने **निर्णय की पुनः समीक्षा** करे क्योंकि **पीड़िता** द्वारा **कानून के दुरुपयोग** और **पुलिस द्वारा शक्ति के दुरुपयोग** की चिंता को **विधायी और न्यायिक उपायों** के माध्यम से संबोधित किया गया है।
- The act of **forwarding complaints** to **FWCs** is beyond **legislative intent**, against the **functional autonomy** of the **criminal justice agencies**, and dents the **victim's pursuit of justice**.
शिकायतों को **FWCs** को भेजना **विधायी इरादे** से बाहर है, **आपराधिक न्याय एजेंसियों की कार्यात्मक स्वायत्तता** के खिलाफ है और **पीड़िता के न्याय की खोज** को कमजोर करता है।

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. What action

sparked the 1979 International Women's Day protests in Tehran, just a month into the Iranian Revolution? **Ans: Ayatollah Khomeini ordered state-employed women to wear hijab in government offices**

2. Under whose presidency was the Guidance Patrol (Gasht-e Ershad) formally created to enforce hijab and morality codes? **Ans: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**

3. Under Article 638 of the 1983 Islamic Penal Code, what punishments were prescribed for women appearing in public without hijab? **Ans: 74 lashes and/or imprisonment of 10 days to two months**

4. Approximately how many protesters had been killed by security forces by December 2022, according to Iran Human Rights? **Ans: At least 476 people**

5. What is the slogan or movement name that arose from the protests ignited by her death? **Ans: 'Zan, Zandegī, Āzādī' which translates as 'Woman, Life, Freedom'**

Visual: Identify the protest in this photograph taken by Iranian photographer Mohammad Sayyad. **Ans: The International Women's Day protests in Tehran, on March 8, 1979, taken out in opposition against the introduction of mandatory hijab.**

- **Location:** Tehran, Iran.
- **Participants:** Over **100,000 women** from diverse backgrounds, including **students, professionals, and homemakers**, gathered to protest the mandatory hijab law.
- **Key Message:** Women demanded the **right to choose their attire**, emphasizing that the revolution should not lead to a rollback of **women's rights**.

Government Response

- **Initial Reaction:** Islamic leaders attempted to calm the protests by stating that the **hijab** was merely a **recommendation, not a mandate**.

QUIZ

The 1979 International Women's Day Protests in Tehran: A Defining Moment in Iran's History

• **Date of Protest:** March 8, 1979, coinciding with International Women's Day.

• **Triggering Event:** On March 7, 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini announced that all women must wear the **hijab**, marking the beginning of a policy enforcing **Islamic dress codes** in public spaces.

The Protests



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



- **Subsequent Actions:** Despite initial assurances, the government later enforced the **hijab law** more strictly. In **1983**, the Iranian parliament passed a law punishing women who refused to comply with **state-enforced veiling**.

Article 638 of the 1983 Islamic Penal Code of Iran: Punishments for Women Appearing in Public Without Hijab

Overview of Article 638

- **Provision:** Article 638 of the Islamic Penal Code of Iran mandates that women appearing in public without a proper Islamic hijab face legal consequences.
- **Penalties:** The prescribed punishments include:
 - **Imprisonment:** A sentence ranging from **10 days to two months**.
 - **Flogging:** Up to **74 lashes**.
 - **Fines:** Monetary penalties ranging from **50,000 to 500,000 Iranian Rials** (approximately **\$1.50 to \$15 USD**).

Iran Human Rights Report: At Least 476 Protesters Killed by Security Forces (December 2022)

- **Trigger Event:** The nationwide protests in Iran were ignited by the death of **Mahsa Amini**, a 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman, on **September 16, 2022**. She died in police custody after being detained by Iran's **morality police** for allegedly violating the country's strict hijab laws.
- **Protest Movement:** The protests, known as the "**Women, Life, Freedom**" **movement**, quickly spread across Iran, with demonstrators demanding greater personal freedoms, women's rights, and an end to authoritarian rule.

Zan, Zendeḡī, Āzādī: The Slogan of Iran's Feminist Uprising

- The slogan "**Zan, Zendeḡī, Āzādī**", translating to "**Woman, Life, Freedom**" in English, emerged as a powerful rallying cry during the 2022–2023 protests in Iran.



Prehistoric remains: A 9,000-year-old mummy found in Guangxi, China, in a squatting position. AP

Ancient Asians mummified dead before Egyptians

GS I: Ancient History

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Some ancient societies in China and southeast Asia appear to have smoke-dried their dead, effectively mummifying them thousands of years earlier than their Egyptian counterparts, new research has found.

While the bandage-bound bodies of ancient Egypt date back perhaps as far as 4,500 years ago, the oldest previously known examples of mummification are from ancient Chilean societies. There, the dry air of the Atacama coastline allowed for natural mummification by drying. But the bodies retrieved by researchers from China and southeast Asia came largely from humid regions.

The scientists were initially intrigued by the contorted positions of skeletons found in burial sites in China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

They theorised that the contorted burials might have been possible because no soft tissue remained on the bodies – the result of mummification by drying.

The samples include some dating back more than 10,000 years, suggesting societies were practising forms of mummification thousands of years earlier than previously known.

Several societies in Indonesia and Australia are known to have smoke-dried bodies by binding them tightly and placing them above a continuously burning fire, often for several months.

The process allowed relatives to maintain contact with the deceased, and in some cases was believed to allow the spirit to roam freely during the day and return to a body at night.

“This tradition may have been known among hunter-gatherer societies across a vast region,” they wrote in the study.

fire, often for several months.

Ancient Asians mummified dead before Egyptians प्राचीन एशियाई लोगों ने मिस्रवासियों से पहले मृतकों का ममीकरण किया

• Some ancient societies in China and southeast Asia appear to have smoke-dried their dead, effectively mummifying them thousands of years earlier than their Egyptian counterparts, new research has found.

नई शोध से पता चला है कि कुछ प्राचीन समाजों ने चीन और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में अपने मृतकों को धुएं से सुखाकर, ममीकरण किया था, जो मिस्रवासियों से हजारों साल पहले का है।

• While the bandage-bound bodies of ancient Egypt date back perhaps as far as 4,500 years ago, the oldest previously known examples of mummification are from ancient Chilean societies.

जहां प्राचीन मिस्र के पट्टियों में लिपटे शरीर लगभग 4,500 साल पुराने हैं, वहीं ममीकरण के पहले से ज्ञात सबसे पुराने उदाहरण प्राचीन चिली समाजों से हैं।

• There, the dry air of the Atacama coastline allowed for natural mummification by drying.

वहां अटाकामा तटरेखा की शुष्क हवा ने सुखाकर प्राकृतिक ममीकरण संभव बनाया।

• But the bodies retrieved by researchers from China and southeast Asia came largely from humid regions.

लेकिन चीन और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया से शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा निकाले गए शरीर ज्यादातर आर्द्र क्षेत्रों से आए थे।

• The scientists were initially intrigued by the contorted positions of skeletons found in burial sites in China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

वैज्ञानिक शुरू में चीन, वियतनाम, फिलीपींस, लाओस, थाईलैंड, मलेशिया और इंडोनेशिया में दफन स्थलों पर पाए गए कंकालों की मुड़ी-तुड़ी अवस्थाओं से उत्सुक थे।

• They theorised that the contorted burials might have been possible because no soft tissue remained on the bodies — the result of mummification by drying.

उन्होंने यह सिद्धांत दिया कि मुड़ी-तुड़ी दफन अवस्थाएं इसलिए संभव हो सकती हैं क्योंकि शरीरों पर कोई मुलायम ऊतक नहीं बचा था — यह सुखाकर ममीकरण का परिणाम था।

• The samples include some dating back more than 10,000 years, suggesting societies were practising forms of mummification thousands of years earlier than previously known.

इन नमूनों में कुछ 10,000 साल से अधिक पुराने हैं, जो दर्शाता है कि समाज ममीकरण के विभिन्न रूपों का अभ्यास पहले से ज्ञात समय से हजारों साल पहले कर रहे थे।

• Several societies in Indonesia and Australia are known to have smoke-dried bodies by binding them tightly and placing them above a continuously burning



इंडोनेशिया और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में कई समाजों के बारे में ज्ञात है कि वे शरीरों को कसकर बांधकर धुएँ से सुखाते थे और उन्हें लगातार जलती आग के ऊपर रखते थे, अक्सर कई महीनों तक।

- The process allowed relatives to maintain contact with the deceased, and in some cases was believed to allow the spirit to roam freely during the day and return to a body at night.

इस प्रक्रिया ने रिश्तेदारों को मृतकों के साथ संपर्क बनाए रखने की अनुमति दी, और कुछ मामलों में यह माना जाता था कि आत्मा दिन में स्वतंत्र रूप से घूम सकती है और रात में शरीर में लौट सकती है।

- "This tradition may have been known among hunter-gatherer societies across a vast region," they wrote in the study. उन्होंने अध्ययन में लिखा, "यह परंपरा विशाल क्षेत्र में शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता समाजों में जानी जाती रही हो सकती है।"



Smoke-dried mummification has persisted in some communities in Indonesia's Papua © ADEK BERRY / AFP/File

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

17 September 2025

1. Gujarat trains 1.81 lakh artisans under PM scheme in two years

गुजरात ने दो वर्षों में पीएम योजना के तहत 1.81 लाख कारीगरों को प्रशिक्षित किया

2. India-Pak. border sees a sharp rise in drone-driven drug smuggling cases

भारत-पाक सीमा पर ड्रोन द्वारा संचालित नशीली दवाओं की तस्करी के मामलों में तेज़ वृद्धि

3. SC finds amended Waqf law paved with good intentions but pockmarked with arbitrariness

SC ने संशोधित वक्फ क़ानून को अच्छे इरादों से भरा लेकिन मनमानी से ग्रस्त पाया

4. Top court asks who will decide that a religious conversion is 'deceitful'

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने पूछा कि कौन तय करेगा कि धार्मिक परिवर्तन 'छलपूर्ण' है

5. Constitutional clarity

संवैधानिक स्पष्टता



6. Making health care safe for every Indian हर भारतीय के लिए स्वास्थ्य देखभाल को सुरक्षित बनाना

8. Indians blame the political system, not their politicians

भारतीय राजनीतिक प्रणाली को दोष देते हैं, अपने राजनीतिज्ञों को नहीं

9. American politics as a power keg अमेरिकी राजनीति एक पावर केग की तरह

Gujarat trains 1.81 lakh artisans under PM scheme in two years

Abhinay Deshpande

AHMEDABAD

GS II: Govt. Scheme

The PM Vishwakarma scheme has disbursed loans exceeding ₹290 crore to more than 32,000 artisans in Gujarat since its launch in September 2023, according to State officials.

Loan sanctions under the scheme have crossed ₹390 crore for over 43,000 beneficiaries. Three-tier verification has been completed for 2.14 lakh artisans, while 1.81 lakh have received skill training, the State government reported.

The State has established a helpdesk that has addressed more than 17,500 queries and grie-

vances, according to officials. Artisans are enrolled through the Common Service Centres, with a three-tier verification system involving local gram panchayats, district committees, and a State-level committee chaired by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Facilitation Office.

The scheme covers 18 traditional trades, including carpentry, blacksmithing, pottery, tailoring, masonry, toy making, and basket weaving. It seeks to preserve heritage crafts while enabling artisans to access modern tools, credit, and market linkages, the officials said.

Gujarat trains 1.81 lakh artisans under PM scheme in two years

गुजरात ने दो वर्षों में पीएम योजना के तहत 1.81 लाख कारीगरों को प्रशिक्षित किया

• The PM Vishwakarma scheme has disbursed loans exceeding ₹290 crore to more than 32,000 artisans in Gujarat since its launch in September 2023, according to State officials.

राज्य अधिकारियों के अनुसार, पीएम विश्वकर्मा योजना के तहत सितंबर 2023 में शुरुआत के बाद से गुजरात में 32,000 से अधिक कारीगरों को ₹290 करोड़ से अधिक के ऋण वितरित किए गए हैं।

• Loan sanctions under the scheme have crossed ₹390 crore for over 43,000 beneficiaries.

योजना के तहत 43,000 से अधिक लाभार्थियों के लिए ₹390 करोड़ से अधिक के ऋण स्वीकृत किए गए हैं।

• Three-tier verification has been completed for 2.14 lakh artisans, while 1.81 lakh have received skill training, the State government reported.

राज्य सरकार ने रिपोर्ट दी कि 2.14 लाख कारीगरों के लिए तीन-स्तरीय सत्यापन पूरा कर लिया गया है, जबकि 1.81 लाख को कौशल प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त हुआ है।

- The State has established a helpdesk that has addressed more than 17,500 queries and grievances, according to officials.



अधिकारियों के अनुसार, राज्य ने एक हेल्पडेस्क स्थापित किया है जिसने 17,500 से अधिक प्रश्नों और शिकायतों का समाधान किया है।

- Artisans are enrolled through the **Common Service Centres**, with a **three-tier verification system** involving local **gram panchayats**, **district committees**, and a **State-level committee** chaired by the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Facilitation Office**.

कारीगरों का पंजीकरण कॉमन सर्विस सेंटरों के माध्यम से किया जाता है, जिसमें स्थानीय ग्राम पंचायतों, जिला समितियों, और सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम विकास एवं सुविधा कार्यालय द्वारा अध्यक्षता की गई राज्य स्तरीय समिति शामिल होती है, जो तीन-स्तरीय सत्यापन प्रणाली का हिस्सा है।

- The scheme covers **18 traditional trades**, including **carpentry, blacksmithing, pottery, tailoring, masonry, toy making, and basket weaving**.

यह योजना 18 पारंपरिक व्यवसायों को कवर करती है, जिनमें बढईगीरी, लुहारगीरी, मिट्टी के बर्तन बनाना, सिलाई, राजमिस्त्री कार्य, खिलौने बनाना और टोकरी बुनाई शामिल हैं।

- It seeks to preserve **heritage crafts** while enabling artisans to access **modern tools, credit, and market linkages**, the officials said.

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह योजना पारंपरिक विरासत शिल्प को संरक्षित करने के साथ-साथ कारीगरों को आधुनिक उपकरणों, ऋण और बाजार से जुड़ाव तक पहुंच प्रदान करने का लक्ष्य रखती है।

PATRIOTIC IAS



India-Pak. border sees a sharp rise in drone-driven drug smuggling cases

GS II: India-Pakistan

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

There has been a dramatic increase in the drone-driven drugs drops along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, with the number of seizures skyrocketing from just three cases in 2021 to 179 in 2024, according to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) annual report released on Tuesday.

"The use of drones for cross-border smuggling of narcotics has emerged as a significant threat to India's internal security, particularly along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab...there has been a sharp increase in drone sightings and recoveries of narcotics in border districts such as Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozpur, and Gurdaspur. In 2024, the number of such seizures rose manifolds reaching 179 cases as compared to 3 cases in 2021. The recovered consignments often include heroin, opium, etc.," the report said.

The drug law enforcement agencies, it said, had instituted 96,930 cases across India and arrested more than 1.22 lakh people, including 660 foreign nationals from more than 36 countries, last year.

The agencies confiscated about 13,306 quintals of narcotic substances. Cannabis, in various forms, accounted for about 41% of total seizures (5,40,810 kg) and opiates, including heroin, about 39%. In 2023, they had registered over 1.09 lakh cases and arrested 1,32,954 individuals.

Last year, the NCB registered 417 cases and arrested 588 accused compared with 375 cases and 574 arrests in 2023. It made seizure of various narcotics including 17,420 kg of ganja, 3,391 kg of hashish, 170 kg of heroin, 11,376 kg of acetic anhydride (precursor



A drone with a pistol and two magazines were recovered during a search operation in Tarn Taran district of Punjab.

chemical for heroin processing), and 88 kg of cocaine besides other drugs/narcotics. While the agency filed 288 complaints, the number of NCB cases pending trial was 2,509 as on December 31. In 110 cases, it secured favourable judgments amounting to a 60.77% conviction rate.

The NCB has registered 96 cases between 2020 and 2024 involving the darknet and cryptocurrencies.

The report said coastal routes are now being exploited for smuggling of synthetic drugs and precursors. "India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean region positions it as a key transit hub for Afghan heroin trafficked via the southern route. The 'Death Crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran)' remains the primary source of heroin, ATS (Amphetamine-Type Stimulants) and hashish entering the country through western coast, while the 'Death Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos)' serves as the main supplier of synthetic drugs, particularly methamphetamine smuggled through India's eastern coast." In 2024, 1,483 kg of cocaine was seized, a staggering increase of about 78 times more than the quantity seized in 2020 and about five times higher than in 2023.

1,32,954 individuals.

एजेंसियों ने लगभग 13,306 क्विंटल नशीली दवाओं को जब्त किया। कैनाबिस (गांजा) विभिन्न रूपों में कुल जब्त की गई मात्रा का लगभग 41% (5,40,810 किलोग्राम) था और ओपिएट्स, जिनमें हेरोइन शामिल है, लगभग 39% था। 2023 में, उन्होंने 1.09 लाख से अधिक मामले दर्ज किए और 1,32,954 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया।

- Last year, the NCB registered 417 cases and arrested 588 accused compared with 375 cases and 574 arrests in 2023. It seized various narcotics including 17,420 kg of ganja, 3,391 kg of hashish, 170 kg of heroin, 11,376 kg of acetic anhydride (precursor chemical for heroin processing), and 88 kg of cocaine besides other drugs/narcotics. पिछले साल, NCB ने 417 मामले दर्ज किए और 588 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया, जबकि 2023 में यह संख्या 375 मामले और 574 गिरफ्तारियां थी। इस दौरान एजेंसी ने विभिन्न नशीली दवाओं को जब्त किया

India-Pak. border sees a sharp rise in drone-driven drug smuggling cases भारत-पाक सीमा पर ड्रोन द्वारा संचालित नशीली दवाओं की तस्करी के मामलों में तेज़ वृद्धि

- There has been a dramatic increase in the drone-driven drug drops along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, with the number of seizures skyrocketing from just three cases in 2021 to 179 in 2024, according to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) annual report released on Tuesday.

मंगलवार को जारी नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो (NCB) की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, पंजाब में भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर ड्रोन द्वारा नशीली दवाओं की तस्करी में नाटकीय वृद्धि हुई है, जहां जब्त किए गए मामलों की संख्या 2021 में केवल तीन मामलों से बढ़कर 2024 में 179 मामलों तक पहुंच गई है।

- "The use of drones for cross-border smuggling of narcotics has emerged as a significant threat to India's internal security, particularly along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab... There has been a sharp increase in drone sightings and recoveries of narcotics in border districts such as Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozpur, and Gurdaspur. In 2024, the number of such seizures rose manifolds reaching 179 cases as compared to 3 cases in 2021. The recovered consignments often include heroin, opium, etc.," the report said.

"ड्रोन का उपयोग सीमा पार नशीली दवाओं की तस्करी के लिए भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए एक गंभीर खतरे के रूप में उभरा है, विशेष रूप से पंजाब में भारत-पाक सीमा पर... सीमा जिलों जैसे अमृतसर, तरनतारन, फिरोजपुर और गुरदासपुर में ड्रोन की गतिविधियों और नशीली दवाओं की बरामदगी में तेज़ वृद्धि हुई है। 2024 में ऐसे जब्त किए गए मामलों की संख्या 2021 के 3 मामलों की तुलना में बढ़कर 179 मामलों तक पहुंच गई। बरामद खेप में अक्सर हेरोइन, अफीम आदि शामिल होती हैं," रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।

- The drug law enforcement agencies, it said, had instituted 96,930 cases across India and arrested more than 1.22 lakh people, including 660 foreign nationals from more than 36 countries, last year.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि नशीली दवाओं के कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों ने पिछले साल भारत भर में 96,930 मामले दर्ज किए और 36 से अधिक देशों के 660 विदेशी नागरिकों सहित 1.22 लाख से अधिक लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया।

- The agencies confiscated about 13,306 quintals of narcotic substances. Cannabis, in various forms, accounted for about 41% of total seizures (5,40,810 kg) and opiates, including heroin, about 39%. In 2023, they had registered over 1.09 lakh cases and arrested



जिनमें 17,420 किलोग्राम गांजा, 3,391 किलोग्राम चरस, 170 किलोग्राम हेरोइन, 11,376 किलोग्राम एसेटिक एनहाइड्राइड (हेरोइन प्रोसेसिंग के लिए रसायन) और 88 किलोग्राम कोकीन शामिल थे।

- While the agency filed **288 complaints**, the number of **NCB cases pending trial** was **2,509** as on **December 31**.

एजेंसी ने **288 शिकायतें** दर्ज कीं, जबकि **31 दिसंबर** तक **लंबित NCB मामलों** की संख्या **2,509** थी।

- In **110 cases**, it secured favourable judgments amounting to a **60.77% conviction rate**. **110 मामलों** में, एजेंसी को अनुकूल निर्णय प्राप्त हुए जिससे **60.77% सजा दर** हासिल हुई।
- The **NCB** has registered **96 cases** between **2020 and 2024** involving the **darknet** and **cryptocurrencies**.

NCB ने **2020 से 2024** के बीच **डार्कनेट** और **क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी** से जुड़े **96 मामले** दर्ज किए।

- The report said **coastal routes** are now being exploited for smuggling of **synthetic drugs** and **precursors**.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि अब **तटीय मार्गों** का उपयोग **सिंथेटिक नशीली दवाओं** और **प्रिकर्सर्स** की तस्करी के लिए किया जा रहा है।

- "India's strategic location in the **Indian Ocean region** positions it as a **key transit hub** for **Afghan heroin** trafficked via the **southern route**. The '**Death Crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran)**' remains the primary source of **heroin, ATS (Amphetamine-Type Stimulants)** and **hashish** entering the country through **western coast**, while the '**Death Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos)**' serves as the main supplier of **synthetic drugs**, particularly **methamphetamine** smuggled through **India's eastern coast**."

"भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र में भारत का रणनीतिक स्थान इसे दक्षिणी मार्ग के माध्यम से तस्करी की गई अफगान हेरोइन के लिए एक प्रमुख ट्रांजिट हब बनाता है। 'डेथ क्रेसेंट (अफगानिस्तान, पाकिस्तान, ईरान)' पश्चिमी तट के माध्यम से देश में प्रवेश करने वाली हेरोइन, एटीएस (एम्फैटामाइन-टाइप स्टिमुलेंट्स) और चरस का मुख्य स्रोत बना हुआ है, जबकि 'डेथ ट्रायंगल (म्यांमार, थाईलैंड, लाओस)' सिंथेटिक नशीली दवाओं, विशेष रूप से मेथाम्फेटामाइन, की मुख्य आपूर्ति करता है जो भारत के पूर्वी तट के माध्यम से तस्करी की जाती है।"

- In **2024**, **1,483 kg of cocaine** was seized, a staggering increase of about **78 times** more than the quantity seized in **2020** and about **five times higher** than in **2023**.

2024 में, **1,483 किलोग्राम कोकीन** ज़ब्त की गई, जो **2020** में ज़ब्त की गई मात्रा से लगभग **78 गुना अधिक** और **2023** की तुलना में लगभग **5 गुना अधिक** है।



PATRIOTIC



SC finds amended Waqf law paved with good intentions but pockmarked with arbitrariness

GS II: FR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court judgment in the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 makes a point that a statute, however well-intentioned but couched in “prima facie arbitrary” provisions, cannot be used to deprive citizens of their constitutional right to property without due process of law.

The court’s zero tolerance to legislative arbitrariness is apparent in its decision to stay the proviso to sub-section (2) of Section 3C of the 2025 Act. The proviso embodied arbitrariness by denuding a Waqf property of its status the moment someone alleges it to be an encroachment on a government property. The proviso is silent on whether prior notice or an opportunity for hearing will be granted to the man-

ager of the Waqf or *mutawalli* before the freeze is imposed on the property.

Second, once the Waqf is frozen, a designated officer of the government will be assigned to conduct an inquiry into whether the property is government-owned or not – “provided that such property shall not be treated as Waqf property till the designated officer submits his report”.

No timelines

The amended statute does not contain any timelines or fix a reasonable period for the probe. The officer could drag it on endlessly, leaving the Waqf, which may consist of schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions, “high and dry”, maybe for years together.

Again, Section 3C(3) of the amended Waqf Act empowers the designated government officer, ranked above District Collector, to



determine the title of the property, which is strictly a function of a competent court or tribunal with room for appeal to the higher courts.

The statute is again mum on whether the aggrieved Waqf management or its representative will be given a fair opportunity to be heard during the inquiry.

To make matters worse, the proviso allows the officer to change the revenue records, thus altering the status of a Waqf property into a government asset, paving the way for *fait accompli* if the waqf manage-

ment takes the litigation route in future. Moreover, Section 3C(4) armed the State government with power to instruct the State Waqf Board to delete the property from their records.

The court found the proviso “totally unconstitutional” and *prima facie* arbitrary. Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai, who wrote the judgment, termed the entire process of depriving Waqfs of their status and valuable properties “unilateral”.

The judgment said the process, with no means for a judicial application of mind, amounted to an encroachment on the courts’ domain and a violation of the doctrine of separation of powers, which is part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

Staying the implementation of the proviso of Section 3C(2) and its sub-sections (3) and (4), the judgment held that the sta-

tus of the Waqf property would remain intact till the dispute is finally decided by a Waqf Tribunal in proceedings, subject to further orders of the State High Court. The management would neither be dispossessed of the waqf property nor any changes made in the revenue of Waqf Board records.

On the other hand, the *mutawalli* was also barred by the Court from alienating the property any time between the commencement of the inquiry and the final decision by the Tribunal. This balances the right. The public, after all, cannot fall prey or suffer loss if the Waqf property was indeed proved to be an encroachment on public land.

Similarly, the Court has reinforced the Minority community’s right to religious observances in a Waqf property even if it is declared a ‘protected monument’.

SC finds amended Waqf law paved with good intentions but pockmarked with arbitrariness

SC ने संशोधित वक्फ क़ानून को अच्छे इरादों से भरा लेकिन मनमानी से ग्रस्त पाया

- The **Supreme Court judgment** in the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025** makes a point that a statute, however well-intentioned but couched in “**prima facie arbitrary**” provisions, cannot be used to deprive citizens of their **constitutional right to property** without **due process of law**.

वक्फ (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2025 पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले ने कहा कि कोई भी क़ानून, चाहे वह अच्छे इरादों से क्यों न बनाया गया हो, अगर उसमें “**प्रथम दृष्टया मनमाने**” प्रावधान हों, तो उसका उपयोग नागरिकों को उनके संपत्ति के संवैधानिक अधिकार से क़ानूनी प्रक्रिया के बिना वंचित करने के लिए नहीं किया जा सकता।

- The court’s zero tolerance to **legislative arbitrariness** is apparent in its decision to **stay the provision to sub-section (2) of Section 3C** of the 2025 Act.
विधानिक मनमानी के प्रति अदालत की शून्य सहिष्णुता उसके इस निर्णय में स्पष्ट है जिसमें उसने 2025 अधिनियम की धारा 3C की उपधारा (2) के प्रावधान पर रोक लगा दी।
- The proviso embodied arbitrariness by **denuding a Waqf property of its status** the moment someone alleges it to be an **encroachment on a government property**.
यह प्रावधान वक्फ संपत्ति की स्थिति छीन लेता है जैसे ही कोई यह आरोप लगाता है कि वह सरकारी भूमि पर अतिक्रमण है।
- The proviso is silent on whether **prior notice** or an **opportunity for hearing** will be granted to the **manager of the Waqf or mutawalli** before the freeze is imposed on the property.



यह प्रावधान इस बात पर चुप है कि वक्फ प्रबंधक या मुतवल्ली को संपत्ति पर रोक लगाने से पहले पूर्व सूचना या सुनवाई का अवसर दिया जाएगा या नहीं।

- Second, once the Waqf is frozen, a **designated officer of the government** will be assigned to conduct an **inquiry** into whether the property is government-owned or not — “provided that such property shall not be treated as Waqf property till the designated officer submits his report”.

दूसरे, एक बार वक्फ पर रोक लगने के बाद, यह जांचने के लिए कि संपत्ति सरकारी है या नहीं, एक सरकार द्वारा नामित अधिकारी को जांच के लिए नियुक्त किया जाएगा — “बशर्ते कि वह संपत्ति नामित अधिकारी की रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने तक वक्फ संपत्ति नहीं मानी जाएगी।”

No timelines

कोई समय सीमा नहीं

- The **amended statute** does not contain any **timelines** or fix a **reasonable period** for the probe.
संशोधित क़ानून में जांच के लिए कोई समय सीमा या उचित अवधि निर्धारित नहीं की गई है।
- The officer could drag it on endlessly, leaving the **Waqf, which may consist of schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions, “high and dry”**, maybe for years together.
अधिकारी इस जांच को अनंत काल तक खींच सकता है, जिससे वक्फ, जिसमें स्कूल, अस्पताल और चैरिटेबल संस्थान शामिल हो सकते हैं, “बिल्कुल असहाय” स्थिति में, शायद वर्षों तक रह सकते हैं।
- Again, **Section 3C(3)** of the amended Waqf Act **empowers the designated government officer**, ranked above **District Collector**, to **determine the title of the property**, which is strictly a **function of a competent court or tribunal with room for appeal to higher courts**.
फिर से, संशोधित वक्फ अधिनियम की धारा 3C(3) जिला कलेक्टर से ऊपर रैंक वाले नामित सरकारी अधिकारी को संपत्ति के स्वामित्व का निर्धारण करने का अधिकार देती है, जो सख्ती से किसी सक्षम न्यायालय या अधिकरण का कार्य है और जिसमें उच्च न्यायालयों में अपील की गुंजाइश होती है।
- The statute is again mum on whether the **aggrieved Waqf management** or its representative will be given a **fair opportunity to be heard** during the inquiry.
क़ानून इस पर भी चुप है कि क्या पीड़ित वक्फ प्रबंधन या उसके प्रतिनिधि को जांच के दौरान न्यायपूर्ण सुनवाई का अवसर दिया जाएगा।
- To make matters worse, the **proviso allows the officer to change the revenue records, thus altering the status of a Waqf property into a government asset**, paving the way for **fait accompli** if the waqf management takes the **litigation route** in future.
मामलों को और खराब करते हुए, प्रावधान अधिकारी को राजस्व अभिलेख बदलने की अनुमति देता है, जिससे वक्फ संपत्ति की स्थिति को सरकारी संपत्ति में बदल दिया जाता है, और अगर वक्फ प्रबंधन भविष्य में विधिक मार्ग अपनाता है, तो यह एक फैट एकांप्ली (अवश्यभावी स्थिति) पैदा कर देता है।
- Moreover, **Section 3C(4)** armed the **State government with power to instruct the State Waqf Board to delete the property from their records**.
इसके अलावा, धारा 3C(4) ने राज्य सरकार को यह शक्ति दी कि वह राज्य वक्फ बोर्ड को निर्देश दे कि वे अपनी अभिलेखों से संपत्ति को हटा दें।
- The court found the proviso “**totally unconstitutional**” and **prima facie arbitrary**.
अदालत ने इस प्रावधान को “पूरी तरह असंवैधानिक” और प्रथम दृष्टया मनमाना पाया।
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai**, who wrote the judgment, termed the entire process of depriving **Waqfs** of their status and valuable properties “**unilateral**”.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) बी.आर. गवई, जिन्होंने यह फैसला लिखा, ने वक्फों को उनकी स्थिति और मूल्यवान संपत्ति से वंचित करने की पूरी प्रक्रिया को “एकतरफा” करार दिया।
- The judgment said the process, with no means for a **judicial application of mind**, amounted to an **encroachment on the courts’ domain and a violation of the doctrine of separation of powers, which is part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution**.
फैसले में कहा गया कि यह प्रक्रिया, जिसमें न्यायिक विचार का कोई साधन नहीं है, अदालतों के अधिकार क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण और शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन है, जो संविधान की मूल संरचना का हिस्सा है।
- Staying the **implementation of the proviso of Section 3C(2)** and its **sub-sections (3) and (4)**, the judgment held that the **status of the Waqf property would remain intact** till the dispute is finally decided by a **Waqf Tribunal**, subject to **further orders of the State High**



Court.

धारा 3C(2) और उसकी उपधाराओं (3) और (4) के प्रावधानों के कार्यान्वयन पर रोक लगाते हुए, फैसले में कहा गया कि वक्फ संपत्ति की स्थिति तब तक यथावत रहेगी जब तक कि विवाद का अंतिम निपटारा वक्फ ट्रिब्यूनल द्वारा नहीं किया जाता, और यह राज्य उच्च न्यायालय के आगे के आदेशों पर निर्भर करेगा।

- The management would **neither be dispossessed** of the waqf property nor any **changes made in the revenue of Waqf Board records**.

प्रबंधन को न तो वक्फ संपत्ति से वंचित किया जाएगा और न ही वक्फ बोर्ड अभिलेखों के राजस्व में कोई परिवर्तन किया जाएगा।

- On the other hand, the **mutawalli** was also **barred by the Court** from **alienating the property** any time between the **commencement of the inquiry** and the **final decision by the Tribunal**.

दूसरी ओर, **मुतवल्ली** को भी **अदालत** द्वारा **प्रतिबंधित** किया गया कि वह **जांच शुरू होने से लेकर ट्रिब्यूनल के अंतिम निर्णय तक** संपत्ति को **बेच या हस्तांतरित नहीं कर सकता**।

- This balances the right. The public, after all, cannot **fall prey or suffer loss** if the **Waqf property** was indeed proved to be an **encroachment on public land**.

इससे अधिकारों में संतुलन आता है। आखिरकार, अगर **वक्फ संपत्ति वास्तव में सार्वजनिक भूमि पर अतिक्रमण साबित होती है तो जनता शिकार नहीं बन सकती या नुकसान नहीं झेल सकती**।

- Similarly, the Court has **reinforced the Minority community's right to religious observances in a Waqf property** even if it is declared a **'protected monument'**.

इसी प्रकार, अदालत ने **अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के अधिकार को सुदृढ़ किया** कि वे **वक्फ संपत्ति पर धार्मिक अनुष्ठान** कर सकते हैं, भले ही उसे **'संरक्षित स्मारक'** घोषित कर दिया गया हो।

PATRIOTIC



Top court asks who will decide that a religious conversion is 'deceitful'

Petitioner-advocate seeks a ban on such conversion; NGO's counsel seeks a stay of 'Freedom of Religion' Acts, which, he says, are getting more and more strident as courts grant bail and bring relief to persons accused and arrested under them

GS II: FR

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked a petitioner seeking a complete ban on "deceitful" religious conversions who exactly will decide whether an inter-faith marriage is fraudulent or not.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai agreed with senior advocate C.U. Singh, appearing for an NGO questioning the validity of the increasingly stringent anti-religious conversion laws across 10 States, that the court sits to examine the constitutionality of laws, and not to make laws.

Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay said his petition was against religious conversion through allurement and duplicity. Mr. Upadhyay argued that one had the right to propagate religion under Article 25 of the Constitution, but not to convert through fraud or force.

Highlighting the risk his plea posed to the freedom of conscience enshrined in the Constitution, Chief Justice Gavai pointedly asked, "But who would find out

Faith and freedom

The Supreme Court is hearing pleas that have raised questions on the right to faith, marriage and personal liberty in a democracy as State governments bring in strict legislation against unlawful religious conversion

Some petitioners have opposed the validity of the anti-religious conversion laws across 10 States while others said that the laws work to prevent conversion through allurement, fraud and force

Senior advocate C.U. Singh, representing an NGO, said that the States had enacted increasingly stringent laws that even make it possible for third parties to file criminal complaints against interfaith couples

Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj, on behalf of some States, opposed the pleas for stay on the laws

The court scheduled the case after six weeks to consider the question of stay after hearing from the States



that a religious conversion was deceitful or not?"

Mr. Singh, appearing in the case along with senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Vrinda Grover, said that States such as Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhnad, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Karnataka had enacted copycat "Freedom of Religion" Acts one after the other, with Rajasthan recently coming up with one.

"The batch of laws are characterised as Freedom of Religion Acts, but they contain everything but freedom. They are virtual-

ly anti-conversion laws," Mr. Singh submitted.

He sought a stay of these laws, which were getting more and more strident as courts grant bail and bring relief to persons accused and arrested under them.

The court scheduled the case after six weeks to consider the question of stay of the implementation of the Acts.

Frivolous complaint

Mr. Singh said recent amendments made in these Acts empowered third parties to file criminal complaints against couples in inter-faith marriage. The punishment under

these laws included a "minimum 20-year sentence or a maximum of life imprisonment". The bail conditions were on a par with the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The burden of proof was on the convert to prove that he or she was not forced or "allured" to change faith, senior counsel argued.

"For anybody who marries inter-faith, bail becomes impossible. These are Constitutional challenges... It is not just marriages but any normal church observances or festivals, mobs may come..." Mr. Singh submitted.

Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj said the case was coming up for hearing after three years, "and suddenly they [the petitioners] are asking for stay".

In 2023, while hearing the case, the court had refused to refer to the Law Commission the question whether "forcible conversion" should be made a separate offence relating to religion under the Indian Penal Code.

The government had even opposed the *locus standi* of the NGO, Citizens for Justice and Peace, represented by Mr. Singh, to move the court against these laws.

Mr. Singh had, however, argued that these State laws amounted to undue interference in a person's right of choice of faith and life partner. He said each State's law was used by the other as a "building block" to make a more "virulent" law for itself.

The petitions have argued that these State laws have a "chilling effect" on the right to profess and propagate one's religion, enshrined in Article 25.

Top court asks who will decide that a religious conversion is 'deceitful'

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने पूछा कि कौन तय करेगा कि धार्मिक परिवर्तन 'छलपूर्ण' है

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked a petitioner seeking a complete ban on "deceitful" religious conversions who exactly will decide whether an inter-faith marriage is fraudulent or not.
मंगलवार को उच्चतम न्यायालय ने एक याचिकाकर्ता से, जो 'छलपूर्ण' धार्मिक परिवर्तन पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध चाहता था, यह पूछा कि अंतर-धार्मिक विवाह धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण है या नहीं, इसका निर्णय वास्तव में कौन करेगा।
- Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai** agreed with senior advocate **C.U. Singh**, appearing for an **NGO** questioning the validity of the increasingly stringent **anti-religious conversion laws across 10 States**, that the court sits to examine the **constitutionality of laws**, and not to make laws.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) बी.आर. गवई ने वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता सी.यू. सिंह से सहमति जताई, जो एक



गैर सरकारी संगठन (NGO) की ओर से पेश हुए थे और 10 राज्यों में तेजी से कड़े होते जा रहे धार्मिक परिवर्तन विरोधी कानूनों की वैधता पर सवाल उठा रहे थे, कि अदालत का काम कानूनों की संवैधानिकता की जांच करना है, न कि कानून बनाना।

- **Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay** said his petition was against religious conversion through **allurement and duplicity**.
याचिकाकर्ता-अधिवक्ता अश्विनी उपाध्याय ने कहा कि उनकी याचिका प्रलोभन और छल के माध्यम से होने वाले धार्मिक परिवर्तन के खिलाफ है।
- Mr. Upadhyay argued that one had the right to **propagate religion** under **Article 25 of the Constitution**, but not to **convert through fraud or force**.
श्री उपाध्याय ने तर्क दिया कि किसी को संविधान के अनुच्छेद 25 के तहत धर्म प्रचार करने का अधिकार है, लेकिन धोखाधड़ी या बलपूर्वक धर्म परिवर्तन करने का अधिकार नहीं है।
- **Highlighting the risk his plea posed to the freedom of conscience enshrined in the Constitution, Chief Justice Gavai pointedly asked, "But who would find out that a religious conversion was deceitful or not?"**
अपनी याचिका से संविधान में निहित विवेक की स्वतंत्रता के लिए उत्पन्न खतरे को उजागर करते हुए, मुख्य न्यायाधीश गवई ने सीधे तौर पर पूछा, "लेकिन यह कौन पता लगाएगा कि धार्मिक परिवर्तन छलपूर्ण था या नहीं?"
- Mr. Singh, appearing in the case along with **senior advocate Indira Jaising** and **advocate Vrinda Grover**, said that States such as **Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Karnataka** had enacted copycat "**Freedom of Religion**" Acts one after the other, with **Rajasthan** recently coming up with one.
श्री सिंह, जो इस मामले में वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता इंदिरा जयसिंग और अधिवक्ता वृन्दा ग्रोवर के साथ पेश हुए, ने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, गुजरात, छत्तीसगढ़, हरियाणा, झारखंड और कर्नाटक जैसे राज्यों ने एक के बाद एक 'धर्म की स्वतंत्रता' अधिनियम बनाए हैं, और हाल ही में राजस्थान ने भी ऐसा एक कानून पेश किया है।
- "The batch of laws are characterised as **Freedom of Religion Acts**, but they contain everything but freedom. They are virtually **anti-conversion laws**," Mr. Singh submitted.
श्री सिंह ने कहा, "इन कानूनों को धर्म की स्वतंत्रता अधिनियम कहा गया है, लेकिन इनमें स्वतंत्रता के अलावा सब कुछ है। ये वास्तव में धर्म परिवर्तन विरोधी कानून हैं।"
- He sought a **stay of these laws**, which were getting more and more **strident** as courts grant **bail** and bring **relief** to persons accused and arrested under them.
उन्होंने इन कानूनों पर स्थगन (stay) की मांग की, जो और अधिक कड़े होते जा रहे हैं क्योंकि अदालतें इनके तहत गिरफ्तार और आरोपित व्यक्तियों को जमानत और राहत प्रदान कर रही हैं।
- The court scheduled the case after **six weeks** to consider the question of **stay of the implementation of the Acts**.
अदालत ने छह सप्ताह बाद इस मामले की सुनवाई तय की ताकि अधिनियमों के कार्यान्वयन पर स्थगन के प्रश्न पर विचार किया जा सके।

Fivolous complaint

तुच्छ शिकायत

- Mr. Singh said recent amendments made in these Acts empowered **third parties** to file **criminal complaints** against **couples in inter-faith marriage**.
श्री सिंह ने कहा कि इन अधिनियमों में हाल ही में किए गए संशोधनों ने तीसरे पक्षों को अंतर-धार्मिक विवाह करने वाले युगल के खिलाफ आपराधिक शिकायतें दर्ज करने का अधिकार दे दिया है।
- The punishment under these laws included a "**minimum 20-year sentence or a maximum of life imprisonment**".
इन कानूनों के तहत सजा में "न्यूनतम 20 वर्ष का कारावास या अधिकतम आजीवन कारावास" शामिल है।
- The **bail conditions** were on a par with the **draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**.
जमानत की शर्तें कड़े गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां (निवारण) अधिनियम (UAPA) के बराबर थीं।
- The **burden of proof** was on the **convert** to prove that he or she was not **forced** or "**allured**" to change faith, senior counsel argued.



वरिष्ठ वकील ने तर्क दिया कि धर्म परिवर्तन करने वाले व्यक्ति पर यह सबूत का बोझ है कि वह बलपूर्वक या "प्रलोभन" से धर्म परिवर्तन नहीं कर रहा है।

- "For anybody who marries inter-faith, bail becomes impossible. These are Constitutional challenges... It is not just marriages but any normal church observances or festivals, mobs may come..." Mr. Singh submitted.
"जो भी व्यक्ति अंतर-धार्मिक विवाह करता है, उसके लिए जमानत असंभव हो जाती है। ये संवैधानिक चुनौतियां हैं... यह केवल विवाह तक सीमित नहीं है बल्कि किसी भी सामान्य चर्च पूजा या त्योहारों तक भी, भीड़ वहां पहुंच सकती है..." श्री सिंह ने कहा।
- **Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj** said the case was coming up for hearing after **three years**, "and suddenly they [the petitioners] are asking for stay".
अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल के.एम. नटराज ने कहा कि यह मामला तीन साल बाद सुनवाई के लिए आ रहा है, "और अचानक ये [याचिकाकर्ता] स्थगन (stay) की मांग कर रहे हैं।"
- In **2023**, while hearing the case, the court had refused to refer to the **Law Commission** the question whether "**forcible conversion**" should be made a separate offence relating to **religion** under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.
2023 में इस मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत ने कानून आयोग को यह प्रश्न भेजने से इनकार कर दिया था कि क्या "बलपूर्वक धर्म परिवर्तन" को भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) के तहत धर्म से संबंधित अलग अपराध बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- The government had even opposed the **locus standi** of the **NGO, Citizens for Justice and Peace**, represented by Mr. Singh, to move the court against these laws.
सरकार ने इन कानूनों के खिलाफ अदालत में जाने के लिए श्री सिंह द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व किए गए **NGO, सिटीजन्स फॉर जस्टिस एंड पीस** के अधिकार (**locus standi**) का भी विरोध किया था।
- Mr. Singh had, however, argued that these **State laws** amounted to **undue interference** in a person's **right of choice of faith and life partner**.
हालांकि, श्री सिंह ने तर्क दिया था कि ये राज्य कानून किसी व्यक्ति के धर्म और जीवनसाथी चुनने के अधिकार में अनुचित हस्तक्षेप करते हैं।
- He said each **State's law** was used by the other as a "**building block**" to make a more "**virulent**" law for itself.
उन्होंने कहा कि प्रत्येक राज्य का कानून अन्य राज्यों द्वारा एक "**निर्माण खंड (building block)**" के रूप में उपयोग किया गया ताकि वह अपने लिए एक और अधिक "**कठोर (virulent)**" कानून बना सके।
- The petitions have argued that these **State laws** have a "**chilling effect**" on the **right to profess and propagate one's religion**, enshrined in **Article 25**.
याचिकाओं में तर्क दिया गया है कि ये राज्य कानून अनुच्छेद 25 में निहित अपने धर्म का प्रचार-प्रसार करने के अधिकार पर "भयावह प्रभाव (chilling effect)" डालते हैं।



GS II: Governor, Legislature

Constitutional clarity

Presidential Reference proceedings
boost case against delays by Governors

The hearings on the Presidential Reference that followed the Supreme Court judgment on April 8, 2025, clarifying the constitutional position on the powers of the Governor and the President in providing assent to Bills passed by State Assemblies, have largely confirmed that Governors should not indefinitely withhold assent to such Bills. Addressing the 14 questions posed in the Presidential Reference, the observations of the five-judge Bench largely converged on the constitutional principles elucidated in April. The question by the Chief Justice of India, B.R. Gavai, on whether the Court should “sit powerless” while Governors make “competent State legislatures defunct” echoed the core concern in the April judgment – that constitutional offices cannot paralyse democratic governance through inaction. While States’ counsel largely argued along political lines based on which parties governed them, this did not detract from the thorough examination of Articles 200 and 201 during the proceedings. The argument that the Constitution’s silence on specific timelines in these Articles does not grant unlimited discretion to Governors remains compelling. When the Solicitor-General argued that Governors serve as a “check on hasty legislation”, the Bench’s response also indicated the tension between this position and democratic principles. Justice Vikram Nath’s observation, that Governors “cannot sit over the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely”, was succinct.

That only Opposition-ruled States have faced prolonged delays, as pointed out by Kerala’s counsel, suggests the constitutional framework itself is not ambiguous but that its application has become selective. The Bench’s examination of why judicial review applies to Governors’ recommendations under Article 356 (President’s Rule) but supposedly not to actions under Article 200 (assent to Bills) highlighted potential inconsistencies in arguments defending unlimited discretion for Governors. The proceedings related to the questions posed in the Presidential Reference demonstrate why the April judgment’s framework remains constitutionally sound and necessary to maintain the balance between federal cooperation and State autonomy. The question from these hearings is on why the Centre chose this unusual route. As scholars have established, an advisory opinion by the Court under Article 143 does not override a binding judgment under Article 141. If the Centre genuinely sought clarity on the April judgment, well-established judicial procedures such as review petitions or curative petitions were available. When the Court’s final reply to the Reference is received, the Centre should accept the constitutional boundaries that the April judgment and these proceedings have reinforced, rather than continuing to pursue powers that would alter the delicate federal balance that the Constitution has established.

Constitutional clarity संवैधानिक स्पष्टता

Hearings on the Presidential Reference
राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ पर सुनवाई

The hearings on the **Presidential Reference** that followed the **Supreme Court judgment on April 8, 2025**, clarifying the constitutional position on the powers of the **Governor and the President** in providing assent to Bills passed by State Assemblies, have largely confirmed that Governors should not indefinitely withhold assent to such Bills.

8 अप्रैल 2025 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के बाद हुए **राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ पर हुई सुनवाई**, जिसमें राज्य विधानसभाओं द्वारा पारित विधेयकों पर **राज्यपाल और राष्ट्रपति** की सहमति की संवैधानिक स्थिति स्पष्ट की गई थी, ने बड़े पैमाने पर यह पुष्टि की कि राज्यपाल ऐसे विधेयकों पर अनिश्चितकाल तक सहमति नहीं रोक सकते।

Addressing the **14 questions** posed in the **Presidential Reference**, the observations of the **five-judge Bench** largely converged on the constitutional principles elucidated in April. **राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ में उठाए गए 14 प्रश्नों पर विचार करते हुए, पाँच-न्यायाधीशीय पीठ** की टिप्पणियाँ बड़े पैमाने पर अप्रैल में स्पष्ट किए गए संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों से मेल खाती रहीं।

The question by the **Chief Justice of India, B.R. Gavai**, on whether the Court should “sit powerless” while Governors make “competent State legislatures defunct” echoed the core concern in the April judgment — that **constitutional offices** cannot paralyse **democratic governance** through inaction.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई का यह प्रश्न कि क्या अदालत को “निर्बल होकर बैठना चाहिए” जबकि राज्यपाल “सक्षम राज्य विधानसभाओं को निष्क्रिय” कर देते हैं, अप्रैल के निर्णय की मूल चिंता को दोहराता है — कि **संवैधानिक पद** निष्क्रियता के माध्यम से **लोकतांत्रिक शासन** को पंगु नहीं बना सकते।

While States’ counsel largely argued along **political lines** based on which parties governed them, this did not detract from the thorough examination of **Articles 200 and 201** during the proceedings.

जबकि राज्यों के वकीलों ने मुख्यतः **राजनीतिक आधारों** पर तर्क दिए कि कौन सी पार्टियाँ शासन कर रही हैं, इससे कार्यवाही के दौरान **अनुच्छेद 200 और 201** की गहन समीक्षा पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ा।

The argument that the Constitution’s silence on specific timelines in these Articles does not grant **unlimited discretion** to Governors remains compelling.

यह तर्क प्रभावी रहा कि संविधान का इन अनुच्छेदों में समयसीमा पर मौन रहना राज्यपालों को **असीमित विवेकाधिकार** नहीं देता।

When the **Solicitor-General** argued that Governors serve as a “check on hasty legislation”, the Bench’s response also indicated the **tension** between this position and **democratic principles**.

जब **सॉलिसिटर-जनरल** ने यह तर्क दिया कि राज्यपाल “जल्दबाजी में बने कानूनों पर नियंत्रण” के रूप में काम करते हैं, तो पीठ की प्रतिक्रिया ने इस स्थिति और **लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांतों** के बीच **तनाव** को भी इंगित किया।

Justice **Vikram Nath’s** observation, that Governors “cannot sit over the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely”, was succinct.



न्यायमूर्ति **विक्रम नाथ** की यह टिप्पणी कि राज्यपाल “विधानमंडल की बुद्धिमत्ता पर अनिश्चितकाल तक नहीं बैठ सकते”, संक्षिप्त और स्पष्ट थी।

- That only **Opposition-ruled States** have faced prolonged delays, as pointed out by **Kerala's counsel**, suggests the constitutional framework itself is not ambiguous but its application has become **selective**.

जैसा कि **केरल के वकील** ने इंगित किया, केवल **विपक्ष-शासित राज्यों** को लंबे विलंब का सामना करना पड़ा है, यह दर्शाता है कि संवैधानिक ढांचा स्वयं अस्पष्ट नहीं है बल्कि इसका उपयोग **चयनात्मक** हो गया है।

- The Bench's examination of why **judicial review** applies to Governors' recommendations under **Article 356 (President's Rule)** but supposedly not to actions under **Article 200 (assent to Bills)** highlighted potential **inconsistencies** in arguments defending unlimited discretion for Governors.

पीठ की यह समीक्षा कि क्यों **न्यायिक समीक्षा** राज्यपालों की सिफारिशों पर **अनुच्छेद 356 (राष्ट्रपति शासन)** के अंतर्गत लागू होती है लेकिन कथित रूप से **अनुच्छेद 200 (विधेयकों की सहमति)** के अंतर्गत क्रियाओं पर नहीं, राज्यपालों के असीमित विवेकाधिकार का बचाव करने वाले तर्कों में संभावित **असंगतियों** को उजागर करती है।

- The proceedings related to the questions posed in the Presidential Reference demonstrate why the **April judgment's framework** remains **constitutionally sound** and necessary to maintain the balance between **federal cooperation** and **State autonomy**.

राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ में उठाए गए प्रश्नों से संबंधित कार्यवाही यह दर्शाती है कि क्यों **अप्रैल के निर्णय का ढांचा संवैधानिक रूप से सुदृढ़** है और **संघीय सहयोग** और **राज्य स्वायत्तता** के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक है।

- The question from these hearings is on why the **Centre** chose this unusual route.

इन सुनवाईयों से उठने वाला प्रश्न यह है कि **केंद्र** ने यह असामान्य रास्ता क्यों चुना। As scholars have established, an **advisory opinion** by the Court under **Article 143** does not override a **binding judgment** under **Article 141**.

जैसा कि विद्वानों ने स्थापित किया है, **अनुच्छेद 143** के अंतर्गत अदालत की **परामर्शात्मक राय**, **अनुच्छेद 141** के अंतर्गत दिए गए **बाध्यकारी निर्णय** को निरस्त नहीं करती।

- If the Centre genuinely sought clarity on the April judgment, well-established judicial procedures such as **review petitions** or **curative petitions** were available.

यदि केंद्र वास्तव में अप्रैल के निर्णय पर स्पष्टता चाहता था, तो **पुनर्विचार याचिकाएँ** या **क्युरेटिव याचिकाएँ** जैसी स्थापित न्यायिक प्रक्रियाएँ उपलब्ध थीं।

- When the Court's final reply to the Reference is received, the Centre should accept the **constitutional boundaries** that the April judgment and these proceedings have reinforced, rather than continuing to pursue powers that would alter the **delicate federal balance** that the Constitution has established.

जब संदर्भ पर अदालत की अंतिम प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त होगी, तो केंद्र को उन **संवैधानिक सीमाओं** को स्वीकार करना चाहिए जिन्हें अप्रैल के निर्णय और इन कार्यवाहियों ने मजबूत किया है, बजाय इसके कि वह उन शक्तियों का पीछा जारी रखे जो संविधान द्वारा स्थापित **नाजुक संघीय संतुलन** को बदल देंगी।

Review Petitions and Curative Petitions

- **Review Petition**
 - Provided under **Article 137 of the Constitution of India**.
 - Governed by **Supreme Court Rules, 2013** and **Order XLVII of CPC (Civil Procedure Code)**.
- **Curative Petition**
 - Not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
 - Created by the **Supreme Court in Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra (2002)** as an **extraordinary judicial remedy**.



Purpose

- **Review Petition**
 - To correct **apparent errors on the face of the record** (clerical, factual, or legal mistakes) in a judgment.
 - Example: Wrong calculation of compensation in a judgment.
- **Curative Petition**
 - To prevent **gross miscarriage of justice** even after a review petition has been dismissed.
 - It acts as the **last judicial resort**.

Filing Authority

- **Review Petition**
 - Can be filed by the **party aggrieved** by the judgment.
- **Curative Petition**
 - Can be filed by the **party aggrieved**, but only after exhausting both **appeal** and **review** options.

Time Limit

- **Review Petition**
 - Must be filed within **30 days** from the date of judgment/order.
- **Curative Petition**
 - No fixed time limit in law, but must be filed **within a reasonable time** after dismissal of review petition.

Bench Composition

- **Review Petition**
 - Usually heard by the **same Bench** of judges that delivered the original judgment (wherever possible).
- **Curative Petition**
 - Heard by the **senior-most judges of the Supreme Court**, including those who delivered the original judgment.
 - Decided **in chambers** (not open court) unless the court orders otherwise.

Grounds

- **Review Petition**
 - **Error apparent on the face of record.**
 - Discovery of **new and important evidence** not available earlier.
- **Curative Petition**
 - Violation of principles of **natural justice** (e.g., party not given fair hearing).
 - Judge was **biased** or had a conflict of interest.
 - Preventing **abuse of process** of the court.



Making health care safe for every Indian

GS II: Health

On September 17, the world observes World Patient Safety Day. This is a reminder that the basic promise of health care continues to elude us. Globally, estimates show that one in ten patients experience harm while receiving care during hospitalisation, and this number rises to four in ten in outpatient care.

For India, where the burden of disease is rapidly shifting to chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and mental health disorders, the challenge is especially urgent. These conditions demand long-term frequent treatment, creating more points where safety lapses can occur. In acute care, where the complexity of treatment requires multiple specialities to come together, medical harm happens when there is insufficient coordination.

Many faces of patient harm

Patients are usually vulnerable in more complex situations, such as hospital-acquired infections, blood clots, or even unsafe injection or transfusion practices. However, patient harm can also show up in everyday situations, such as unintentional prescription of inappropriate medicine combinations, delayed diagnoses, or preventable falls.

Hospitals across India are placing higher standards on delivery, by instituting quality audits, developing protocols, running staff trainings, and strengthening infection control alongside patient safety. In practice though, systems designed to protect patients are still vulnerable to breakdowns. From the health-care provider's side, doctors, nurses, and staff often operate under extreme pressure. Staff attrition, heavy patient loads, long shifts, and inadequate staffing mean that even when they want to engage fully with every patient, time and fatigue become serious constraints. In India, unsafe care persists because of a two-way gap



Sathya Sriram

is a health-care strategist and transformation leader

In India, unsafe care persists because of overburdened providers and passive uninformed patients hesitant to ask questions

– overburdened providers and passive uninformed patients hesitant to ask questions. Closing this gap requires shifting mindsets, where patients must be empowered to become active partners in care, and health-care systems must welcome and enable their participation.

A shared responsibility

Patient safety cannot rest on the shoulders of doctors and nurses alone. Families and patients themselves play a vital role, by asking questions, maintaining personal health records, reporting adverse drug reactions, and following safe practices at home, including not self-medicating.

In recent years, India has taken important steps to build this ecosystem. The National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018-25) lays out a roadmap, from adverse event reporting to embedding safety into clinical programs. Professional networks like the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India monitor and report adverse drug reactions nationwide. The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) has raised benchmarks for patient safety by auditing and embedding practices for infection control, patient rights, and medication management. Yet, far less than 5% of hospitals in India have earned full accreditation.

Civil society has also stepped up. The Patient Safety & Access Initiative of India Foundation works on strengthening regulatory clarity of medical devices. Another non-profit, the Patients for Patient Safety Foundation reaches 14 lakh households weekly on safe health practices. It also equips over 1,100 hospitals and 52,000 professionals.

This responsibility can extend further to the media to shape public understanding by highlighting both failures and successful safety models. Higher education institutions can build safety awareness early; corporates can extend workplace programs

and fund safety campaigns through CSR. Even technology innovators have a role by designing workflows that flag harmful drug interactions or aid communication during care.

Building a culture of safety

The WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan provides a blueprint for integrating safety into all levels of health-care systems. One proven mechanism is the establishment of Patient Advisory Councils (PACs) to bring patient voices into hospital decision-making. Case studies from high-income countries show PACs improving safety, communication and trust. India can pilot and scale this model, adapting them to local realities.

As India approaches the final stretch of the National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018-25), governments must renew focus, mobilise resources, incorporate patient safety into medical and nursing education, and close the gap between policy and practice. Hospitals, too, must rise to the challenge, by meeting accreditation standards, embracing PACs, and co-developing technology solutions for catching errors early.

This year's focus on safe care for every newborn and every child reminds us that we need to safeguard care from the very first breath of life.

True patient safety requires integrated action across the entire ecosystem. We need to move beyond isolated efforts and build a national patient safety movement. On this World Patient Safety Day, let us make this a shared mission, with governments, hospitals, patients, and civil society working together to make safe care an everyday reality of health care in India.

With inputs from Som Mittal, Chairperson, Patients for Patient Safety Foundation (PPPSF), former Chairperson Nasscom and Nadira Chaturvedi, Co-Chairperson, PPPSF

Making health care safe for every Indian



हर भारतीय के लिए स्वास्थ्य देखभाल को सुरक्षित बनाना

World Patient Safety Day

विश्व रोगी सुरक्षा दिवस

- On **September 17**, the world observes **World Patient Safety Day**.
17 सितंबर को पूरी दुनिया **विश्व रोगी सुरक्षा दिवस** के रूप में मनाती है।
- This is a reminder that the **basic promise of health care** continues to elude us.
यह याद दिलाता है कि **स्वास्थ्य देखभाल का मूल वादा** अभी भी हमसे दूर है।
- Globally, estimates show that **one in ten patients** experience **harm** while receiving care during **hospitalisation**, and this number rises to **four in ten** in **outpatient care**.
वैश्विक स्तर पर अनुमान बताते हैं कि **हर दस में से एक मरीज** अस्पताल में **देखभाल के दौरान नुकसान** का सामना करता है, और यह संख्या **आउटपैशेंट देखभाल में चार में से एक** तक बढ़ जाती है।
- For **India**, where the **burden of disease** is rapidly shifting to **chronic conditions** such as **cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and mental health disorders**, the challenge is **especially urgent**.
भारत के लिए, जहां **रोग का बोझ** तेजी से **दीर्घकालिक स्थितियों** जैसे **कैंसर, मधुमेह, हृदय रोग, और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य विकारों** की ओर बढ़ रहा है, चुनौती **विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण** है।
- These conditions demand **long-term frequent treatment**, creating more points where **safety lapses** can occur.
इन स्थितियों में **दीर्घकालिक और बार-बार इलाज** की आवश्यकता होती है, जिससे **सुरक्षा में चूक** होने के अधिक मौके बनते हैं।
- In **acute care**, where the **complexity of treatment** requires **multiple specialties** to come together, **medical harm** happens when there is **insufficient coordination**.
तीव्र देखभाल में, जहां **इलाज की जटिलता** के लिए **कई विशेषज्ञताओं** का समन्वय आवश्यक है, **चिकित्सीय हानि** तब होती है जब **पर्याप्त समन्वय नहीं** होता।

Many Faces of Patient Harm

रोगी हानि के कई रूप

- Patients are usually **vulnerable** in more complex situations, such as **hospital-acquired infections, blood clots, or even unsafe injection or transfusion practices**.
मरीज अक्सर **जटिल परिस्थितियों में सुरक्षा के लिए कमजोर** होते हैं, जैसे **अस्पताल से प्राप्त संक्रमण, रक्त क्लॉट, या असुरक्षित इंजेक्शन या ट्रांसफ्यूजन अभ्यास**।
- Patient harm can also occur in **everyday situations**, such as **unintentional prescription of inappropriate medicine combinations, delayed diagnoses, or preventable falls**.
रोगी हानि **सामान्य परिस्थितियों में भी** हो सकती है, जैसे **अनजाने में गलत दवाओं का संयोजन लिखना, देर से निदान, या रोकने योग्य गिरावटें**।
- Hospitals across India are placing **higher standards** on delivery by **instituting quality audits, developing protocols, running staff trainings, and strengthening infection control alongside patient safety**.
भारत के अस्पताल **उच्च मानक** लागू कर रहे हैं, जैसे **गुणवत्ता ऑडिट करना, प्रोटोकॉल विकसित करना, स्टाफ प्रशिक्षण चलाना, और संक्रमण नियंत्रण को मजबूत करना** साथ ही **रोगी सुरक्षा**।
- In practice though, systems designed to **protect patients** are still **vulnerable to breakdowns**.
हालांकि, व्यावहारिक रूप में, **रोगियों की सुरक्षा के लिए बनाए गए सिस्टम** अभी भी **सिस्टम विफलताओं के प्रति संवेदनशील** हैं।
- From the **health-care provider's side**, doctors, nurses, and staff often operate under **extreme pressure**.
स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाता की ओर से, डॉक्टर, नर्स और स्टाफ अक्सर **अत्यधिक दबाव** में काम करते हैं।
- **Staff attrition, heavy patient loads, long shifts, and inadequate staffing** mean that even when they want to **engage fully** with every patient, **time and fatigue** become **serious constraints**.



स्टाफ की छंटनी, भारी मरीज लोड, लंबे शिफ्ट, और अपर्याप्त स्टाफिंग का मतलब है कि भले ही वे हर मरीज के साथ पूरा जुड़ना चाहें, समय और थकान गंभीर सीमाएं बन जाती हैं।

- In India, **unsafe care** persists because of a **two-way gap** — **overburdened providers** and **passive uninformed patients hesitant to ask questions**.

भारत में असुरक्षित देखभाल इसलिए बनी रहती है क्योंकि एक दो तरफा अंतर है — अत्यधिक बोझ वाले प्रदाता और निष्क्रिय, अनजान मरीज जो प्रश्न पूछने में हिचकिचाते हैं।

- Closing this gap requires **shifting mindsets**, where **patients must be empowered** to become **active partners** in care, and **health-care systems** must **welcome and enable** their participation.

इस अंतर को कम करने के लिए **सोच में बदलाव** आवश्यक है, जहां **मरीजों को सशक्त बनाना** होगा ताकि वे **देखभाल में सक्रिय साझेदार** बन सकें, और **स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली** को उनकी **भागीदारी का स्वागत** और **सक्षम करना** चाहिए।

A Shared Responsibility

साझा जिम्मेदारी

- **Patient safety** cannot rest on the shoulders of **doctors and nurses** alone.
रोगी सुरक्षा केवल **डॉक्टरों और नर्सों** के कंधों पर नहीं छोड़ी जा सकती।
- **Families and patients themselves** play a vital role, by **asking questions, maintaining personal health records, reporting adverse drug reactions, and following safe practices at home**, including **not self-medicating**.
परिवार और मरीज स्वयं महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, जैसे **प्रश्न पूछना, व्यक्तिगत स्वास्थ्य रिकॉर्ड बनाए रखना, प्रतिकूल दवा प्रतिक्रियाओं की रिपोर्ट करना, और घर पर सुरक्षित प्रथाओं का पालन करना**, जिसमें **स्वयं दवा लेने से बचना** शामिल है।
- In recent years, **India** has taken important steps to **build this ecosystem**.
हाल के वर्षों में, **भारत** ने इस **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बनाने** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं।
- The **National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018–25)** lays out a roadmap, from **adverse event reporting** to embedding **safety into clinical programs**.
राष्ट्रीय रोगी सुरक्षा कार्यान्वयन ढांचा (2018–25) एक रोडमैप प्रस्तुत करता है, जिसमें **प्रतिकूल घटनाओं की रिपोर्टिंग** से लेकर **सुरक्षा को नैदानिक कार्यक्रमों में सम्मिलित करना** शामिल है।
- Professional networks like the **Society of Pharmacovigilance, India** monitor and report **adverse drug reactions nationwide**.
सॉसाइटी ऑफ फार्माकोविजिलेंस, इंडिया जैसे पेशेवर नेटवर्क पूरे देश में **प्रतिकूल दवा प्रतिक्रियाओं** की निगरानी और रिपोर्टिंग करते हैं।
- The **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH)** has raised **benchmarks for patient safety** by auditing and embedding practices for **infection control, patient rights, and medication management**.
राष्ट्रीय अस्पताल और स्वास्थ्य प्रदाता मान्यता बोर्ड (NABH) ने **रोगी सुरक्षा के मानक बढ़ाए** हैं, **संक्रमण नियंत्रण, रोगी अधिकार, और दवा प्रबंधन** के अभ्यास का ऑडिट और समावेश करके।
- Yet, far less than **5% of hospitals in India** have earned **full accreditation**.
फिर भी, **भारत के 5% से भी कम अस्पतालों** ने **पूर्ण मान्यता** प्राप्त की है।
- **Civil society** has also stepped up.
सिविल सोसाइटी ने भी कदम बढ़ाया है।
- The **Patient Safety & Access Initiative of India Foundation** works on **strengthening regulatory clarity of medical devices**.
पेशेंट सेफ्टी एंड एक्सेस इनिशिएटिव ऑफ इंडिया फाउंडेशन चिकित्सा उपकरणों के **नियामक स्पष्टता को मजबूत करने** पर काम करता है।
- Another non-profit, the **Patients for Patient Safety Foundation** reaches **14 lakh households weekly** on **safe health practices**.
एक और गैर-लाभकारी संस्था, **पेशेंट्स फॉर पेशेंट सेफ्टी फाउंडेशन**, हर हफ्ते **14 लाख घरों तक सुरक्षित स्वास्थ्य प्रथाओं** की जानकारी पहुंचाती है।
- It also equips over **1,100 hospitals** and **52,000 professionals**.
यह **1,100 से अधिक अस्पतालों** और **52,000 पेशेवरों** को भी सुसज्जित करता है।
- This responsibility can extend further to the **media** to **shape public understanding** by highlighting both **failures** and **successful safety models**.



यह जिम्मेदारी मीडिया तक भी फैल सकती है ताकि सार्वजनिक समझ को असफलताओं और सफल सुरक्षा मॉडलों को उजागर करके आकार दिया जा सके।

- Higher education institutions can build safety awareness early; corporates can extend workplace programs and fund safety campaigns through CSR.
उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान सुरक्षा जागरूकता जल्दी पैदा कर सकते हैं; कॉर्पोरेट्स कार्यस्थल कार्यक्रम बढ़ा सकते हैं और CSR के माध्यम से सुरक्षा अभियानों को वित्तपोषित कर सकते हैं।
- Even technology innovators have a role by designing workflows that flag harmful drug interactions or aid communication during care.
यहां तक कि प्रौद्योगिकी नवप्रवर्तनकर्ता भी भूमिका निभाते हैं, वर्कफ्लो डिजाइन करके जो हानिकारक दवा अंतःक्रियाओं को चिह्नित करें या देखभाल के दौरान संचार में मदद करें।

Building a Culture of Safety सुरक्षा की संस्कृति का निर्माण

- The WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan provides a blueprint for integrating safety into all levels of health-care systems.
WHO ग्लोबल पेशेंट सेफ्टी एक्शन प्लान स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के सभी स्तरों में सुरक्षा समाहित करने के लिए एक ब्लूप्रिंट प्रदान करता है।
- One proven mechanism is the establishment of Patient Advisory Councils (PACs) to bring patient voices into hospital decision-making.
एक प्रमाणित उपाय है पेशेंट एडवाइजरी काउंसिल्स (PACs) की स्थापना, ताकि मरीजों की आवाज अस्पताल निर्णय-निर्माण में शामिल हो सके।
- Case studies from high-income countries show PACs improving safety, communication, and trust.
उच्च आय वाले देशों के केस स्टडीज़ दिखाते हैं कि PACs सुरक्षा, संचार, और विश्वास को बढ़ाते हैं।
- India can pilot and scale this model, adapting them to local realities.
भारत इस मॉडल को पायलट और विस्तार कर सकता है, इसे स्थानीय वास्तविकताओं के अनुसार अनुकूलित करके।
- As India approaches the final stretch of the National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018–25), governments must renew focus, mobilise resources, incorporate patient safety into medical and nursing education, and close the gap between policy and practice.
जैसे-जैसे भारत राष्ट्रीय रोगी सुरक्षा कार्यान्वयन ढांचा (2018–25) के अंतिम चरण की ओर बढ़ता है, सरकारों को फोकस को नया करना, संसाधनों को जुटाना, मेडिकल और नर्सिंग शिक्षा में रोगी सुरक्षा शामिल करना, और नीति और अभ्यास के बीच का अंतर बंद करना चाहिए।
- Hospitals must rise to the challenge, by meeting accreditation standards, embracing PACs, and co-developing technology solutions for catching errors early.
अस्पतालों को चुनौती का सामना करना चाहिए, मान्यता मानकों को पूरा करना, PACs को अपनाना, और त्रुटियों को जल्दी पकड़ने के लिए तकनीकी समाधान विकसित करना।
- This year's focus on safe care for every newborn and every child reminds us that we need to safeguard care from the very first breath of life.
इस साल का ध्यान हर नवजात और हर बच्चे के लिए सुरक्षित देखभाल पर है, जो हमें याद दिलाता है कि हमें जीवन की पहली सांस से ही देखभाल की सुरक्षा करनी चाहिए।
- True patient safety requires integrated action across the entire ecosystem.
सच्ची रोगी सुरक्षा के लिए पूरे पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में समेकित कार्रवाई आवश्यक है।
- We need to move beyond isolated efforts and build a national patient safety movement.
हमें अलग-अलग प्रयासों से आगे बढ़ना चाहिए और राष्ट्रीय रोगी सुरक्षा आंदोलन का निर्माण करना चाहिए।
- On this World Patient Safety Day, let us make this a shared mission, with governments, hospitals, patients, and civil society working together to make safe care an everyday reality of health care in India.
इस विश्व रोगी सुरक्षा दिवस पर, आइए इसे एक साझा मिशन बनाएं, जिसमें सरकारें, अस्पताल, मरीज, और सिविल सोसाइटी मिलकर काम करें ताकि भारत में सुरक्षित देखभाल हर दिन की वास्तविकता बन सके।



Indians blame the political system, not their politicians

GS II: Polity

Indians make up one of the highest shares of respondents who want complete systemic change

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center shows that a majority of Indians feel the need for major changes in their political systems. On the other hand, more than two-thirds of the Indians surveyed believe that their elected officials are honest, ethical, and well-qualified.

More than 50% of respondents in most of the 25 surveyed countries said their political system needs major changes or complete reform. More than 70% of the surveyed Indians said their political system needs major changes or complete reform, with 34% of people vouching for complete reform. (Chart 1)

Respondents differed when asked about their confidence in such changes taking place. For instance, while a large majority of respondents from South Korea (87%) expressed a need for political reform, more than half of the people surveyed were not confident that those changes could be made. However, of those respondents who want political change, Indians make the largest share of those who are confident that these changes can be made. The share of respondents who were not confident that their systems could change was the lowest in India. (Chart 2)

While expressing a need for systemic change, a majority of Indians held positive views about their elected officials. The survey asked adults in 25 countries to rate select characteristics among the elected officials in their country (Chart 3).

Only one in three respondents from India, Japan, and the Netherlands negatively rated their elected officials. It should be noted that smaller shares of respondents from Japan and the Netherlands believed that political reform was necessary, contrary to India.

Consensus on change

The data for the charts were sourced from PEW Research Center's survey titled, "People Around the World Want Political Change, but Many Doubt It Can Happen"



Chart 1: The share (%) of respondents who say the political system in their country needs varying amounts of changes. Those who did not answer are not shown

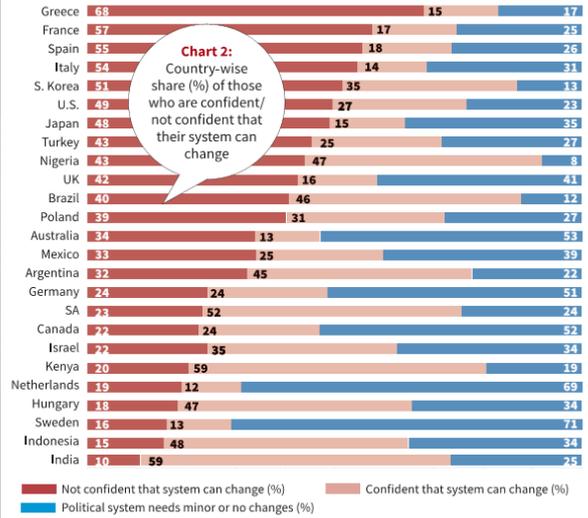
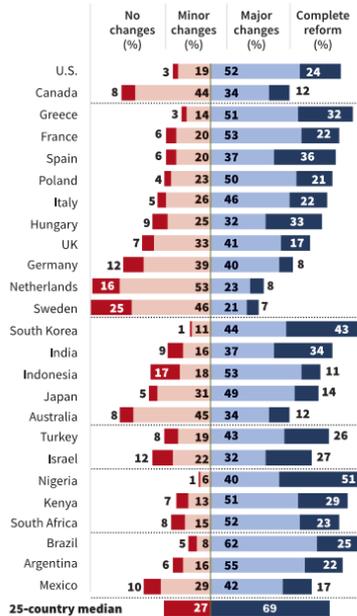
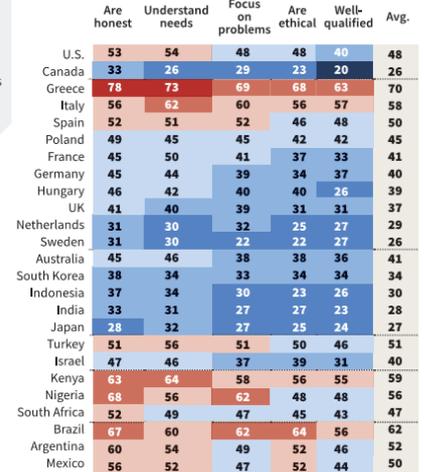


Chart 3: Country-wise share (%) of respondents who say few or none of the elected officials in their country show the given characteristics

1 This analysis focuses on views in 25 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and sub-Saharan Africa

2 For non-U.S. data, this analysis draws on nationally representative surveys of 28,333 adults conducted from Jan. 8 to April 26, 2025



Source: Spring 2025 Global Attitudes Survey Report by Richard Wike, Janell Feterolf, Jonathan Schulman and Sofia Hernandez Ramones.

Indians blame the political system, not their politicians भारतीय राजनीतिक प्रणाली को दोष देते हैं, अपने राजनीतिज्ञों को नहीं

Indians make up one of the highest shares of respondents who want complete systemic change
पूर्ण प्रणालीगत बदलाव चाहते हुए, भारतीय सर्वेक्षण में उच्चतम हिस्सेदारों में से हैं

Pew Research on Political Reform in India
भारत में राजनीतिक सुधार पर Pew Research



- A recent survey by the **Pew Research Center** shows that a **majority of Indians** feel the need for **major changes** in their **political systems**.
Pew Research Center द्वारा किए गए हालिया सर्वेक्षण से पता चलता है कि **भारतीयों की अधिकांश जनता** अपने **राजनीतिक तंत्रों** में **महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव** की आवश्यकता महसूस करती है।
- On the other hand, more than **two-thirds of the Indians surveyed** believe that their **elected officials** are **honest, ethical, and well-qualified**.
दूसरी ओर, सर्वेक्षण में शामिल **भारतीयों के दो-तिहाई से अधिक** का मानना है कि उनके **चुने हुए अधिकारी ईमानदार, नैतिक और योग्य** हैं।
- More than **50% of respondents** in most of the **25 surveyed countries** said their **political system** needs **major changes** or **complete reform**.
अधिकांश **25 सर्वेक्षण किए गए देशों** में से **50% से अधिक उत्तरदाताओं** ने कहा कि उनके **राजनीतिक तंत्र** को **महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव** या **पूर्ण सुधार** की आवश्यकता है।
- More than **70% of the surveyed Indians** said their **political system** needs **major changes** or **complete reform**, with **34% of people vouching for complete reform**.
सर्वेक्षण किए गए **भारतीयों में से 70% से अधिक** ने कहा कि उनके **राजनीतिक तंत्र** को **महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव** या **पूर्ण सुधार** की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें **34% लोग पूर्ण सुधार** की वकालत करते हैं।
- Respondents differed when asked about their **confidence** in such **changes taking place**.
जब उत्तरदाताओं से ऐसे **परिवर्तनों के होने में विश्वास** के बारे में पूछा गया तो उनके उत्तर भिन्न थे।
- For instance, while a large majority of respondents from **South Korea (87%)** expressed a need for **political reform**, more than half of the people surveyed were **not confident** that those changes could be made.
उदाहरण के लिए, जबकि **दक्षिण कोरिया के 87% उत्तरदाताओं** ने **राजनीतिक सुधार** की आवश्यकता व्यक्त की, सर्वेक्षण किए गए आधे से अधिक लोग यह नहीं मानते थे कि ये बदलाव संभव हैं।
- However, of those respondents who want **political change**, **Indians make the largest share** of those who are **confident** that these changes can be made.
हालांकि, जिन उत्तरदाताओं ने **राजनीतिक बदलाव** की इच्छा जताई, उनमें **भारतीयों की संख्या सबसे अधिक** है जो इस बात में **आश्चर्य** हैं कि ये बदलाव किए जा सकते हैं।
- The share of respondents who were **not confident** that their systems could change was the **lowest in India**.
जिन उत्तरदाताओं को यह **विश्वास नहीं था** कि उनके तंत्र में बदलाव हो सकता है, उनकी संख्या **भारत में सबसे कम** थी।
- While expressing a need for **systemic change**, a **majority of Indians** held **positive views** about their **elected officials**.
सिस्टम में बदलाव की आवश्यकता व्यक्त करते हुए, **भारतीयों की अधिकांश संख्या** ने अपने चुने हुए **अधिकारियों** के प्रति **सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण** रखा।
- The survey asked adults in **25 countries** to rate select **characteristics** among the **elected officials** in their country.
सर्वेक्षण में **25 देशों** के वयस्कों से उनके देश के चुने हुए **अधिकारियों** की कुछ **विशेषताओं** का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए कहा गया।
- Only **one in three respondents** from **India, Japan, and the Netherlands** negatively rated their **elected officials**.
भारत, जापान और नीदरलैंड्स में केवल **तीन में से एक उत्तरदाता** ने अपने चुने हुए **अधिकारियों** को नकारात्मक रूप से मूल्यांकित किया।
- It should be noted that smaller shares of respondents from **Japan** and the **Netherlands** believed that **political reform** was necessary, contrary to **India**.
यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि **जापान** और **नीदरलैंड्स** के उत्तरदाताओं का छोटा हिस्सा मानता था कि **राजनीतिक सुधार** आवश्यक है, जो कि **भारत** के विपरीत है।



American politics as a power keg

Observers note that the potential for political violence has now reached very dangerous levels. Deepening ideological divides, demographic shifts, social media outrage, and Donald Trump's polarising politics have accelerated an already volatile history of racial, cultural, and institutional conflict

GS II: US
WORLD INSIGHT

Nissim Mannathukkaren

The story so far:

The killing of Charlie Kirk, a right-wing youth activist and an ally of MAGA nationalism and U.S. President Donald Trump, has terribly roiled American politics. Many observers note that the potential for political violence has now reached very dangerous levels. In the recent past, among Democrats, a state leader was killed and another shot at; a state governor was subject to arson attack (2025); the Speaker of the House of Representatives was attacked in which her husband suffered serious injuries (2022); and another state governor was the subject of a failed kidnapping plot (2020); among Republicans, Mr. Trump was the victim of two assassination attempts (2024) and the House majority whip was shot at (2017).

Is there ideological and political polarisation?

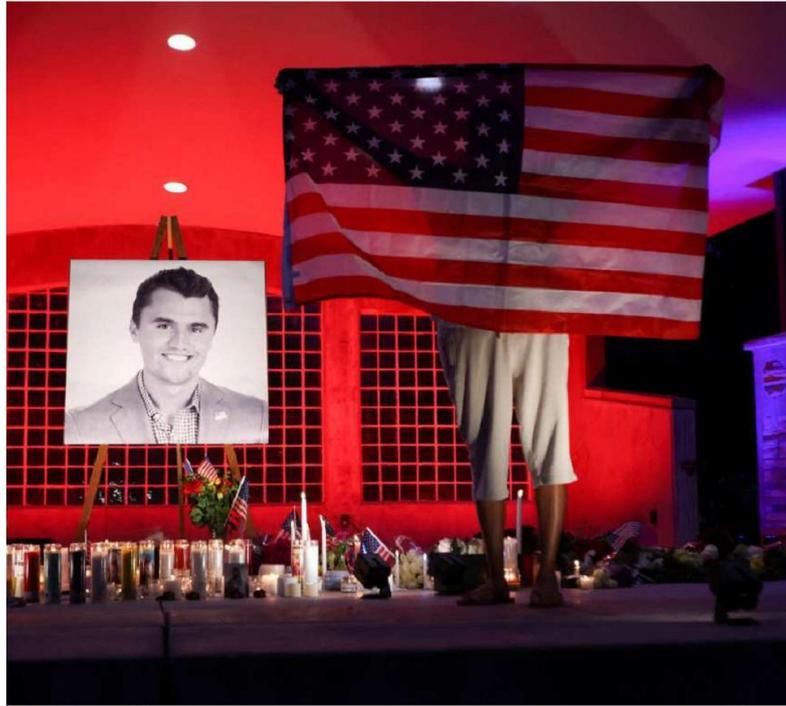
America has one of the highest income inequalities amongst high-income countries, which has only grown under both Democrats and Republicans in recent decades. Its racial composition has changed significantly in recent decades. In 1980, those who identified as white alone were 80% of the population. This had reduced to 58% in the 2020 census, while those who identify as Hispanic and Asian have increased from 8% to 25% (note: people do change how they identify their race, and there are also methodological changes in the census). The 2010s are the first decade in which the white population declined. There is also an increase in multi-racial families and babies.

There is a substantial change in political identification as well. Even before Mr. Trump, the political centre, with mixed liberal and conservative positions, had shrunk from 49% in 1994 to 39% in 2014, while Republicans shifted to the right, and Democrats shifted to the left, according to the Pew Survey 2014. If 16% Democrats and 17% Republicans had unfavourable views of each other in 1994, this increased to 38% and 43% respectively in 2014. There are serious ideological differences between the two partisans on issues such as immigration, gun rights, abortion and gay and transgender rights. While 76% of liberals think that it is important to have racial and ethnic diversity, only 20% conservatives think so.

At least 57% of conservatives want to live in a place with many co-religionists, whereas it is only 17% for liberals. The right-wing shows more ideological partisanship as well: 63% of strong conservatives have most of their close friends sharing political beliefs, while it is 49% for strong liberals; 50% on the right want to live where most people share their political beliefs, while it is 35% on the left. Republicans and Democrats differ vastly on gun control: 85% Democrats want a ban on assault-style weapons, 57% of Republicans oppose this.

While 74% of Republicans support teachers carrying guns, it is only 27% for the Democrats, according to the Pew Survey 2024.

Social media technologies have played a huge role in the rise of right-wing populist movements across the world, including America, generating outrage on contentious issues such as immigration, race, nationalism, etc. As scholars Berry and Sobieraj note, "outrage is virtually



Grim pattern: A person holds a U.S. flag during a vigil at Orem City Center Park, after U.S. right-wing activist and commentator, Charlie Kirk, an ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, was fatally shot during an event at Utah Valley University, in the U.S., on September 11. REUTERS

absent" from American newspapers in 1955 compared to the late 2000s. Powerful figures, such as Elon Musk, have weaponised polarisation through platforms like X. Addressing the recent right-wing "Unite the Kingdom" rally in Britain, he said, "Whether you choose violence or not, violence is coming to you. You either fight back, or you die." Christopher Bail, a political scientist studying polarisation, argues that there is an increasing gap between social media and reality, with the former amplifying extreme views. His research shows that 73% of tweets about politics are generated by just 6% of X users.

What is the role of Donald Trump in polarisation?

American politics took a radically new turn with the rise of Mr. Trump, an anti-establishment figure, who became a vehicle to channel white Christian nationalism and further polarise an already polarised society. He has taken the Republican Party to the extreme right. During the first term, the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Index recorded American democracy as falling back to 1976 levels. In the short period of the second term itself, experts see the regime acquiring authoritarian characteristics with executive power strengthening at the expense of the Congress, abnegation of institutional autonomy, targeting of political opponents, universities, critical media and free speech, and the deployment of the army to quell protests. Mr. Trump, as President of the nation, instead of lowering the volatile emotional atmosphere following Kirk's assassination, blamed the "radical left" even before a suspect was identified and

listed only the attacks against himself and the Republican leaders. He ignored the violence suffered by Democratic politicians, or that of his supporters violently storming the Capitol after the 2020 elections (Mr. Trump had pardoned 1,500 of them).

Also, critically, the accused targeting Mr. Trump had mixed/confused political leanings, which included either being a registered Republican or actually voting for Mr. Trump. While Mr. Trump constantly demonises the radical left and anti-fascist groups as solely responsible for violence, his claims are unfounded. From 1994 to 2020, there was one fatality from anti-fascist attacks, and 21 killed in left-wing violence (2010 to 2020), while there were 329 victims from right-wing violence (Center for Strategic and International Studies). Democracy requires the abjuration of violence, whether it is by the left or the right. But by refusing to acknowledge racist anti-Black mass shootings like that in Buffalo and Charleston, and that white right-wing extremism is the biggest source of domestic terrorism, Mr. Trump dangerously whitewashes violence.

Is there an historical context to the present crisis?

It would be myopic to see the present moment solely as a result of the rise of Mr. Trump and MAGA. America, as a society built on the foundations of the genocide of the native population, as well as slavery, has a long history of white supremacy, racism, gender discrimination and vigilante violence. As the historian Steven Hahn has argued, illiberalism is not an aberration but as powerful a current as liberalism, and is sometimes

mixed with it. Such illiberalism was the hallmark of even Democratic politicians like George C. Wallace, an influential governor (who failed to win the Presidential nomination) in the 1960s, who espoused racial hostility and segregation of races. And illiberal currents can be seen in aspects like racial inequalities in incarceration. America has an incarceration rate which is five to eight times higher than that of France, Canada and Germany in 2021 (The Sentencing Project 2023).

If racial justice and prison reform movements have led to the reduction of the prison population by 25% since 2009, it comes after a massive 700% increase since 1972, disproportionately affecting marginalised races. Even after a reduction of the Black prison population by 39% since 2002, Blacks were imprisoned at a rate five times that of whites in 2021. Worryingly, there has also been bipartisan Democratic and Republican consensus in rolling back some of the prison reforms. Beneath the liberal exceptionalist claims of the American polity lurks its violent face, exemplified by the right to keep and bear arms sanctified by the Constitution in 1791.

The staggering nature of gun violence in America is evident in the fact that the rate of gun deaths was 340 times that of the United Kingdom and 862 times that of Japan. In 2023, there were over 700 mass shooting victims alone, double that of 2018. Ironically, Kirk defended gun rights, and termed gun deaths as an unfortunate cost for protecting other "God-given rights." (Nissim Mannathukkaren is a professor with Dalhousie University, Canada, and he is on X @mannathukkaren)

THE GIST

▼ The political centre, with mixed liberal and conservative positions, had shrunk from 49% in 1994 to 39% in 2014. Republicans shifted to the right, and Democrats shifted to the left, according to the Pew Survey 2014

▼ In 1994, 16% of Democrats and 17% of Republicans held unfavourable views of each other; by 2014, this had risen to 38% and 43%, respectively

▼ On gun control, 85% of Democrats back a ban on assault-style weapons, opposed by 57% of Republicans. Meanwhile, 74% of Republicans support teachers carrying guns, versus 27% of Democrats, according to the Pew Survey 2024

American politics as a power keg



अमेरिकी राजनीति एक पावर केग की तरह

Killing of Charlie Kirk and Political Violence in the U.S. चार्ली कर्क की हत्या और अमेरिका में राजनीतिक हिंसा

- The killing of **Charlie Kirk**, a **right-wing youth activist** and an ally of **MAGA nationalism** and **U.S. President Donald Trump**, has terribly **roiled American politics**.
चार्ली कर्क की हत्या, जो एक राईट-विंग युवा कार्यकर्ता और MAGA राष्ट्रवाद तथा अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के सहयोगी थे, ने अमेरिकी राजनीति में गंभीर हलचल मचा दी है।
- Many observers note that the potential for **political violence** has now reached very **dangerous levels**.
कई विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अब राजनीतिक हिंसा की संभावना बहुत खतरनाक स्तर तक पहुंच गई है।
- In the recent past, among **Democrats**:
हाल के समय में, डेमोक्रेट्स के बीच:
 - A **state leader** was killed and another **shot at**.
एक राज्य नेता की हत्या हुई और एक पर गोली चली।
 - A **state governor** was subject to **arson attack (2025)**.
एक राज्य गवर्नर पर आगजनी का हमला (2025) हुआ।
 - The **Speaker of the House of Representatives** was attacked, in which her **husband suffered serious injuries (2022)**.
प्रतिनिधि सभा की अध्यक्ष पर हमला हुआ, जिसमें उनके पति गंभीर रूप से घायल (2022) हुए।
 - Another **state governor** was the subject of a **failed kidnapping plot (2020)**.
एक अन्य राज्य गवर्नर को असफल अपहरण योजना (2020) का शिकार होना पड़ा।
- Among **Republicans**:
रिपब्लिकन के बीच:
 - **Mr. Trump** was the victim of **two assassination attempts (2024)**.
श्री ट्रम्प पर दो हत्या प्रयास (2024) हुए।
 - The **House majority whip** was **shot at (2017)**.
हाउस मेजोरिटी व्हिप पर गोली चली (2017)।

Ideological and Political Polarisation वैचारिक और राजनीतिक ध्रुवीकरण

- **America** has one of the highest **income inequalities** among **high-income countries**, which has only grown under both **Democrats** and **Republicans** in recent decades.
अमेरिका में उच्च-आय वाले देशों में सबसे अधिक आय असमानता है, जो हाल के दशकों में डेमोक्रेट्स और रिपब्लिकन दोनों के शासन में और बढ़ी है।
- Its **racial composition** has changed significantly in recent decades.
हाल के दशकों में इसकी जातीय संरचना में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव आया है।
- In **1980**, those who identified as **white alone** were **80% of the population**.
1980 में, जो लोग केवल सफेद के रूप में पहचानते थे, वे जनसंख्या का 80% थे।
- This had reduced to **58% in the 2020 census**, while those who identify as **Hispanic and Asian** have increased from **8% to 25%**.
यह संख्या 2020 की जनगणना में 58% रह गई, जबकि जो लोग हिस्पैनिक और एशियाई के रूप में पहचानते हैं, उनकी संख्या 8% से बढ़कर 25% हो गई।
- The **2010s** are the **first decade** in which the **white population declined**.
2010 का दशक पहला ऐसा दशक है जिसमें सफेद आबादी में गिरावट आई।
- There is also an increase in **multi-racial families and babies**.
बहु-जातीय परिवारों और बच्चों में भी वृद्धि हुई है।

Political Identification and Polarisation राजनीतिक पहचान और ध्रुवीकरण



- There is a substantial change in **political identification** as well.
राजनीतिक पहचान में भी महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव आया है।
- Even before **Mr. Trump**, the **political centre**, with mixed **liberal** and **conservative** positions, had shrunk from **49% in 1994** to **39% in 2014**.
श्री ट्रम्प से पहले भी, राजनीतिक केंद्र, जिसमें मिश्रित उदार और संरक्षणवादी दृष्टिकोण थे, 1994 में 49% से घटकर 2014 में 39% रह गया था।
- **Republicans shifted to the right**, and **Democrats shifted to the left**, according to the **Pew Survey 2014**.
रिपब्लिकन दाहिनी ओर और डेमोक्रेट्स बाईं ओर चले गए, **Pew सर्वेक्षण 2014** के अनुसार।
- If **16% Democrats** and **17% Republicans** had **unfavourable views** of each other in **1994**, this increased to **38% and 43% respectively in 2014**.
यदि 1994 में 16% डेमोक्रेट्स और 17% रिपब्लिकन की एक-दूसरे के प्रति अवांछनीय दृष्टिकोण था, तो यह 2014 में क्रमशः 38% और 43% तक बढ़ गया।
- There are serious **ideological differences** between the two parties on issues such as **immigration, gun rights, abortion, and gay and transgender rights**.
दोनों पार्टियों के बीच आइडियोलॉजिकल अंतर गंभीर हैं, जैसे आप्रवासन, हथियार अधिकार, गर्भपात, और समलैंगिक और ट्रांसजेंडर अधिकार।
- While **76% of liberals** think it is important to have **racial and ethnic diversity**, only **20% conservatives** think so.
जबकि 76% उदारवादी मानते हैं कि जातीय और नस्लीय विविधता महत्वपूर्ण है, केवल 20% संरक्षणवादी ऐसा मानते हैं।
- At least **57% of conservatives** want to live in a place with many **co-religionists**, whereas it is only **17% for liberals**.
कम से कम 57% संरक्षणवादी ऐसे स्थान पर रहना चाहते हैं जहां कई समान धर्म के लोग हों, जबकि उदारवादियों के लिए केवल 17%।

Right-Wing Ideological Partisanship

राइट-विंग वैचारिक पक्षपात

- **63% of strong conservatives** have most of their close friends sharing **political beliefs**, while it is **49% for strong liberals**.
63% मजबूत संरक्षणवादी के करीबी दोस्त उनकी राजनीतिक मान्यताओं को साझा करते हैं, जबकि मजबूत उदारवादियों के लिए 49%।
- **50% on the right** want to live where most people share their **political beliefs**, while it is **35% on the left**.
दाहिनी ओर 50% ऐसे स्थान पर रहना चाहते हैं जहां अधिकांश लोग उनकी राजनीतिक मान्यताओं को साझा करें, जबकि बाईं ओर 35%।
- **Republicans and Democrats** differ vastly on **gun control**:
रिपब्लिकन और डेमोक्रेट्स हथियार नियंत्रण पर बहुत भिन्न हैं:
 - **85% Democrats** want a **ban on assault-style weapons**, **57% of Republicans** oppose this.
85% डेमोक्रेट्स असॉल्ट-स्टाइल हथियारों पर प्रतिबंध चाहते हैं, जबकि 57% रिपब्लिकन इसका विरोध करते हैं।
 - While **74% of Republicans** support **teachers carrying guns**, it is only **27% for Democrats**, according to **Pew Survey 2024**.
Pew Survey 2024 के अनुसार, जबकि 74% रिपब्लिकन शिक्षकों को हथियार ले जाने का समर्थन करते हैं, यह डेमोक्रेट्स के लिए केवल 27% है।

Role of Social Media in Right-Wing Populism

राइट-विंग लोकलुभावनवाद में सोशल मीडिया की भूमिका

- **Social media technologies** have played a huge role in the rise of **right-wing populist movements** across the world, including **America**, generating **outrage** on contentious issues such as **immigration, race, nationalism**, etc.



सोशल मीडिया तकनीक ने दुनिया भर में, विशेषकर अमेरिका में, राईट-विंग लोकलुभावन आंदोलनों के उदय में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, जिससे आक्रोश पैदा हुआ है, जैसे आप्रवासन, जाति, राष्ट्रवाद आदि।

- As scholars **Berry and Sobieraj** note, "outrage is virtually absent" from American newspapers in **1955** compared to the **late 2000s**.
जैसे विद्वान **बेरी और सोबियरेज** ने कहा, **1955** में अमेरिकी समाचारपत्रों में "आक्रोश लगभग अनुपस्थित" था, जबकि **2000 के अंत** तक यह बढ़ गया।
- Powerful figures, such as **Elon Musk**, have weaponised **polarisation** through platforms like **X**.
शक्तिशाली हस्तियों, जैसे **एलोन मस्क**, ने **X** जैसे प्लेटफार्मों के माध्यम से **ध्रुवीकरण** को हथियार बना दिया है।
- Addressing the recent right-wing "**Unite the Kingdom**" rally in Britain, he said, "**Whether you choose violence or not, violence is coming to you. You either fight back, or you die.**"
ब्रिटेन में हालिया राईट-विंग "**Unite the Kingdom**" रैली को संबोधित करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा, "**चाहे आप हिंसा चुनें या नहीं, हिंसा आपके पास आ रही है। आप या तो लड़ेंगे, या मर जाएंगे।**"
- **Christopher Bail**, a political scientist studying **polarisation**, argues that there is an increasing gap between **social media** and **reality**, with the former amplifying **extreme views**.
क्रिस्टोफर बैल, जो **ध्रुवीकरण** का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं, का तर्क है कि **सोशल मीडिया** और **वास्तविकता** के बीच अंतर बढ़ रहा है, जिसमें पूर्व **अत्यधिक दृष्टिकोण** को बढ़ा रहा है।
- His research shows that **73% of tweets about politics** are generated by just **6% of X users**.
उनके अनुसंधान से पता चलता है कि **राजनीति पर 73% ट्वीट्स** केवल **6% X उपयोगकर्ताओं** द्वारा उत्पन्न किए जाते हैं।

Role of Donald Trump in Polarisation ध्रुवीकरण में डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की भूमिका

- American politics took a radically new turn with the rise of **Mr. Trump**, an **anti-establishment figure**, who became a vehicle to channel **white Christian nationalism** and further polarise an already **polarised society**.
अमेरिकी राजनीति में **श्री ट्रम्प** के उदय के साथ एक क्रांतिकारी बदलाव आया, जो एक **एंटी-एस्टैब्लिशमेंट शक्तिशाली** थे, और जिन्होंने **सफेद ईसाई राष्ट्रवाद** को मार्गदर्शन दिया और पहले से ही **ध्रुवीकृत समाज** को और विभाजित किया।
- He has taken the **Republican Party** to the **extreme right**.
उन्होंने **रिपब्लिकन पार्टी** को **अत्यंत दक्षिणपंथी** बना दिया है।
- During the first term, the **Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Index** recorded **American democracy** as falling back to **1976 levels**.
पहले कार्यकाल के दौरान, **Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Index** ने **अमेरिकी लोकतंत्र** को **1976 के स्तर** पर गिरते हुए दर्ज किया।
- In the short period of the **second term**, experts see the regime acquiring **authoritarian characteristics** with:
दूसरे कार्यकाल की छोटी अवधि में, विशेषज्ञों ने शासन में **तानाशाही लक्षण** देखे, जैसे:
 - **Executive power strengthening** at the expense of **Congress**
कार्यकारी शक्ति का कांग्रेस की कीमत पर मजबूत होना
 - **Abnegation of institutional autonomy**
संस्थागत स्वायत्तता का त्याग
 - Targeting of **political opponents, universities, critical media, and free speech**
राजनीतिक विरोधियों, विश्वविद्यालयों, आलोचनात्मक मीडिया और स्वतंत्रता भाषण पर निशाना
 - Deployment of the **army** to quell **protests**
विरोध प्रदर्शन को दबाने के लिए **सेना** का इस्तेमाल
- Mr. Trump, as **President**, instead of lowering the **volatile emotional atmosphere** following Kirk's assassination, blamed the "**radical left**" even before a suspect was identified and listed only the attacks against **himself** and **Republican leaders**.
राष्ट्रपति के रूप में श्री ट्रम्प ने, कर्क की हत्या के बाद **अस्थिर भावनात्मक माहौल** को कम करने के बजाय, संदिग्ध की पहचान होने से पहले ही "**रेडिकल लेफ्ट**" को दोषी ठहराया और केवल **अपने और रिपब्लिकन नेताओं** पर हुए हमलों को सूचीबद्ध किया।
- He ignored the violence suffered by **Democratic politicians**, or that of his supporters violently storming the **Capitol** after the **2020 elections** (**Mr. Trump had pardoned 1,500 of**



them).

उन्होंने **डेमोक्रेटिक राजनेताओं** द्वारा झेली गई हिंसा या उनके समर्थकों द्वारा **2020 के चुनाव** के बाद **कैपिटल** पर हिंसक हमला को नजरअंदाज किया (**श्री ट्रम्प ने उनमें से 1,500 को माफ कर दिया था**)।

- Critically, the accused targeting Mr. Trump had **mixed/confused political leanings**, which included either being a **registered Republican** or actually voting for Mr. Trump.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, श्री ट्रम्प को निशाना बनाने वाले आरोपी की **मिश्रित/भ्रमित राजनीतिक झुकाव** थी, जिसमें वे या तो **पंजीकृत रिपब्लिकन** थे या वास्तव में श्री ट्रम्प को वोट दिया था।
- While Mr. Trump constantly **demonises the radical left and anti-fascist groups** as solely responsible for **violence**, his claims are **unfounded**.
जबकि श्री ट्रम्प लगातार **रेडिकल लेफ्ट** और **एंटी-फासीस्ट समूहों** को हिंसा के लिए अकेले जिम्मेदार बताते हैं, उनके दावे **असत्यापित** हैं।
- From **1994 to 2020**, there was **one fatality from anti-fascist attacks**, and **21 killed in left-wing violence (2010 to 2020)**, while there were **329 victims from right-wing violence**.
1994 से 2020 तक, **एंटी-फासीस्ट हमलों** में एक मौत, और **लेफ्ट-विंग हिंसा (2010 से 2020)** में **21 की मौत**, जबकि **राइट-विंग हिंसा** के **329 पीड़ित** थे।
- Democracy requires the **abjuration of violence**, whether by the **left** or the **right**.
लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक है कि **हिंसा का परित्याग** किया जाए, चाहे वह **बाएं** हो या **दाएं**।
- By refusing to acknowledge **racist anti-Black mass shootings** like in **Buffalo** and **Charleston**, and that **white right-wing extremism** is the biggest source of **domestic terrorism**, Mr. Trump dangerously **whitewashes violence**.
बफेलो और **चार्ल्सटन** जैसी **जातिवादी एंटी-ब्लैक मास शूटिंग्स** को स्वीकार करने से इनकार करके, और यह कि **सफेद दक्षिणपंथी अतिवाद** घरेलू आतंकवाद का सबसे बड़ा स्रोत है, श्री ट्रम्प ने **हिंसा को खतरनाक रूप से सफेद धो दिया**।

Historical Context to the Present Crisis वर्तमान संकट का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- It would be myopic to see the present moment solely as a result of the rise of **Mr. Trump** and **MAGA**.
केवल **श्री ट्रम्प** और **MAGA** के उदय को वर्तमान क्षण का कारण मानना संकीर्ण दृष्टिकोण होगा।
- America, as a society built on the foundations of the **genocide of the native population** and **slavery**, has a long history of **white supremacy, racism, gender discrimination, and vigilante violence**.
अमेरिका, जो **देशी आबादी के नरसंहार** और **गुलामी** की नींव पर बना समाज है, उसमें **सफेद वर्चस्व, जातिवाद, लिंग भेदभाव** और **सर्वसाधारण हिंसा** का लंबा इतिहास है।
- Historian **Steven Hahn** argues, **illiberalism** is not an aberration but as powerful a current as **liberalism**, and is sometimes mixed with it.
इतिहासकार **स्टीवन हान** का कहना है कि **अलोकतांत्रिकता** एक अपवाद नहीं बल्कि **उदारवाद** के बराबर एक शक्तिशाली प्रवाह है, और कभी-कभी इसके साथ मिश्रित होती है।
- Illiberalism was the hallmark of even **Democratic politicians** like **George C. Wallace**, an influential **governor** in the **1960s**, who espoused **racial hostility** and **segregation of races**.
अलोकतांत्रिक प्रवृत्ति 1960 के दशक में प्रभावशाली **गवर्नर जॉर्ज सी. वालस** जैसे **डेमोक्रेटिक राजनेताओं** की विशेषता थी, जिन्होंने **जातीय शत्रुता** और **जातियों का अलगाव** अपनाया।
- Illiberal currents can be seen in aspects like **racial inequalities in incarceration**.
अलोकतांत्रिक प्रवृत्तियाँ कारावास में जातीय असमानताओं जैसे पहलुओं में देखी जा सकती हैं।
- America has an **incarceration rate 5 to 8 times higher than France, Canada, and Germany in 2021**.
अमेरिका की **कारावास दर 2021 में फ्रांस, कनाडा और जर्मनी की तुलना में 5 से 8 गुना अधिक** है।
- **Racial justice** and **prison reform movements** reduced the prison population by **25% since 2009**, after a **700% increase since 1972**, disproportionately affecting **marginalised races**.
जातीय न्याय और **जेल सुधार आंदोलनों** ने **2009 से जेल जनसंख्या में 25% की कमी** की, जबकि **1972 से 700% वृद्धि** हुई थी, जिसका असमान प्रभाव **हाशिए पर रहने वाली जातियों** पर पड़ा।
- Even after a reduction of the **Black prison population by 39% since 2002**, **Blacks** were imprisoned at a rate **5 times that of whites** in 2021.



2002 से ब्लैक जेल जनसंख्या में 39% की कमी के बावजूद, 2021 में ब्लैक की जेल दर सफेद की तुलना में 5 गुना थी।

- There has also been **bipartisan Democratic and Republican consensus** in rolling back some **prison reforms**.
कुछ जेल सुधारों को वापस लेने में **डेमोक्रेटिक और रिपब्लिकन दोनों पार्टियों** का सहमति भी रही है।

Gun Rights and Violence in America अमेरिका में हथियार अधिकार और हिंसा

- Beneath the **liberal exceptionalist claims** of the American polity lurks its **violent face**, exemplified by the **right to keep and bear arms** sanctified by the **Constitution in 1791**.
अमेरिकी राजनीति के उदार विशिष्टता दावों के पीछे इसका **हिंसक चेहरा** छिपा है, जिसका उदाहरण 1791 में संविधान द्वारा हथियार रखने और धारण करने का अधिकार है।
- The rate of **gun deaths** in America was **340 times that of the United Kingdom** and **862 times that of Japan**.
अमेरिका में हथियार मृत्यु दर यूनाइटेड किंगडम की तुलना में 340 गुना और जापान की तुलना में 862 गुना थी।
- In **2023**, there were **over 700 mass shooting victims**, double that of **2018**.
2023 में, 700 से अधिक मास शूटिंग पीड़ित थे, जो 2018 की तुलना में दोगुने थे।
- Ironically, **Kirk defended gun rights**, and termed **gun deaths** as an unfortunate cost for protecting other "**God-given rights**".
विडंबना यह है कि **कर्क ने हथियार अधिकारों का बचाव किया**, और हथियार मौतों को अन्य "**ईश्वर प्रदत्त अधिकारों**" की रक्षा के लिए एक दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण कीमत बताया।

GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, &IS

TOPICS COVERED 17_09_2025

1. **Foodgrain, fruit, and vegetable yield rose this year: Agriculture Minister**
इस वर्ष खाद्यान्न, फल और सब्जियों की पैदावार में वृद्धि: कृषि मंत्री
2. **Rajnath Singh urges armed forces to be ready for unconventional threats**
राजनाथ सिंह ने सशस्त्र बलों से असामान्य खतरों के लिए तैयार रहने का आग्रह किया
3. **Indian Army troops undertake route march at 17,000 feet in Sikkim**
भारतीय सेना के जवानों ने सिक्किम में 17,000 फीट की ऊंचाई पर मार्ग मार्च किया
4. **India seeks UNESCO recognition for 'Chhath'**
भारत ने 'छठ' के लिए यूनेस्को मान्यता मांगी
5. **On WHO essential medicines list, GLP-1 drugs for diabetes, weight loss may become cheaper**
डब्ल्यूएचओ की आवश्यक दवाओं की सूची में, मधुमेह और वजन घटाने के लिए जीएलपी-1 दवाएं सस्ती हो सकती हैं
6. **Portable ion chromatograph brings real-world practice to classrooms**
पोर्टेबल आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ कक्षाओं में वास्तविक दुनिया का अभ्यास लाता है
7. **QUIZ**
8. **GST 2.0 — short-term pain, possible long-term gain**
जीएसटी 2.0 — अल्पकालिक कठिनाई, संभावित दीर्घकालिक लाभ



9. Unseen labour, exploitation: the hidden human cost of Artificial Intelligence

अदृश्य श्रम, शोषण: कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की छिपी हुई मानवीय लागत

10. To cut imports, govt. to pick 100 items for local manufacture

आयात कम करने के लिए, सरकार स्थानीय निर्माण हेतु 100 वस्तुओं का चयन करेगी

BIG SHOT



In a new study in Scientific Reports, scientists have reported that octopodes have dominant arms with which they explore their surroundings and use the other arms to move — a discovery that shows octopus intelligence includes subtle bodily strategies that divide work between different parts.



Octopus and Its Parts

- The octopus belongs to **Phylum Mollusca, Class Cephalopoda**.
- It is a **marine animal** with a **soft, bilaterally symmetrical body** and **highly developed nervous system**.
- Known for: **eight arms, three hearts, blue blood, camouflage ability, and high intelligence**.

External Anatomy

- **Arms (Tentacles)**
 - **Eight muscular arms** lined with **suction cups**.
 - Used for **grasping prey, locomotion, sensation, and defense**.
 - No skeletal structure; movement controlled by **complex muscle arrangements**.
- **Mantle**
 - The **bulb-like structure** behind the head.
 - Contains most of the **vital organs**: heart, stomach, gills, reproductive organs.
 - Also houses **chromatophores** (pigment cells) for **camouflage and communication**.
- **Head**
 - Large head with **two prominent eyes** (camera-type, highly advanced).
 - Houses the **brain** (largest among invertebrates).
- **Siphon (Funnel)**
 - Tube-like structure below the head.
 - Used for **jet propulsion** by expelling water.
 - Also used for **respiration, excretion, and ink release**.
- **Mouth & Beak**
 - Located at the center of the arms (not easily visible externally).
 - Contains a **chitinous beak** (parrot-like) for breaking prey.
 - Inside the mouth is a **radula** (toothed tongue-like organ) for scraping food.



Foodgrain, fruit, and vegetable yield rose this year: Agriculture Minister

Agriculture

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Tuesday that foodgrain output as well as fruit and vegetable production had seen a significant rise this year from those of the previous year.

He was speaking to presspersons after a two-day National Conference on Agriculture - Rabi Campaign, a joint meeting between the Union and State Agriculture Departments to prepare the road map for the upcoming winter seasonal crops.

“The Central govern-



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

ment has set a production target of 362.5 million tonnes for 2025-26, up from 341.55 million tonnes last year. The country's total foodgrain production reached 353.96 million tonnes in 2024-25, an increase of 21.66 million

tonnes (6.5%) over the previous year. The country achieved a record harvest in key crops such as rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, and soybean. This output was 12.41 million tonnes higher than the set target of 341.55 million tonnes,” Mr. Chouhan said.

The conference discussed topics such as climate resilience; quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides; horticulture, and natural farming. It also decided to boost pulses and oilseeds productivity and focus on integrated farming systems.

He said the Centre and States will continue their

coordinated efforts to ensure agricultural growth and farmers' welfare.

On the flood situation, he said the government is making every possible effort to assist those affected in States such as Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Assam, and parts of Haryana. “The Centre will leave no stone unturned in supporting the States/Union Territories,” the Minister said, adding that efforts are being made to ensure timely and adequate disbursement of insurance benefits to farmers covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Foodgrain, fruit, and vegetable yield rose this year: Agriculture Minister

इस वर्ष खाद्यान्न, फल और सब्जियों की पैदावार में वृद्धि: कृषि मंत्री

- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** said on **Tuesday** that **foodgrain output** as well as **fruit and vegetable production** had seen a **significant rise** this year from those of the previous year.
केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने मंगलवार को कहा कि इस वर्ष खाद्यान्न उत्पादन के साथ-साथ फल और सब्जियों का उत्पादन पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है।
- He was speaking to presspersons after a **two-day National Conference – Rabi Campaign**, a joint meeting between the **Union and State Agriculture Departments** to prepare the **road map** for the upcoming **winter seasonal crops**.
वे दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय कृषि सम्मेलन – रबी अभियान के बाद पत्रकारों से बात कर रहे थे, जो केंद्र और राज्य कृषि विभागों की आगामी शीतकालीन मौसमी फसलों के लिए रोडमैप तैयार करने की संयुक्त बैठक थी।
- “The **Central government** has set a **production target of 362.5 million tonnes** for **2025-26**, up from **341.55 million tonnes** last year.
“केंद्र सरकार ने 2025-26 के लिए 362.5 मिलियन टन उत्पादन लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है, जो पिछले वर्ष के 341.55 मिलियन टन से अधिक है।
- The country's **total foodgrain production** reached **353.96 million tonnes** in **2024-25**, an **increase of 21.66 million tonnes (6.5%)** over the previous year.
देश का कुल खाद्यान्न उत्पादन 2024-25 में 353.96 मिलियन टन तक पहुंच गया, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में 21.66 मिलियन टन (6.5%) की वृद्धि है।
- The country achieved a **record harvest** in key crops such as **rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, and soybean**.



देश ने चावल, गेहूं, मक्का, मूंगफली और सोयाबीन जैसी प्रमुख फसलों में रिकॉर्ड फसल उत्पादन हासिल किया।

- This output was **12.41 million tonnes higher** than the set target of **341.55 million tonnes**,” Mr. Chouhan said.
यह उत्पादन **341.55 मिलियन टन** के निर्धारित लक्ष्य से **12.41 मिलियन टन अधिक** था,” श्री चौहान ने कहा।
- The conference discussed topics such as **climate resilience; quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides; horticulture, and natural farming**.
सम्मेलन में **जलवायु लचीलापन; गुणवत्तापूर्ण बीज, उर्वरक, कीटनाशक; बागवानी और प्राकृतिक खेती** जैसे विषयों पर चर्चा की गई।
- It also decided to **boost pulses and oilseeds productivity and focus on integrated farming systems**.
इसके साथ ही **दालों और तिलहन की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने और एकीकृत कृषि प्रणालियों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने** का निर्णय लिया गया।
- He said the **Centre and States will continue their coordinated efforts to ensure agricultural growth and farmers' welfare**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **केंद्र और राज्य कृषि विकास और किसानों के कल्याण को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अपने समन्वित प्रयास जारी रखेंगे**।
- On the **flood situation**, he said the government is making every possible effort to assist those affected in States such as **Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Assam, and parts of Haryana**.

बाढ़ की स्थिति पर उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू, उत्तराखंड, महाराष्ट्र, असम और हरियाणा के कुछ हिस्सों जैसे राज्यों में प्रभावित लोगों की सहायता के लिए हर संभव प्रयास कर रही है।

- “The **Centre will leave no stone unturned in supporting the States/Union Territories**,” the Minister said, adding that efforts are being made to ensure **timely and adequate disbursement of insurance benefits** to farmers covered under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**.

“केंद्र राज्यों/केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों का समर्थन करने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ेगा,” मंत्री ने कहा, साथ ही यह भी जोड़ा कि **प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना** के तहत कवर किए गए किसानों को **समय पर और पर्याप्त बीमा लाभ** प्रदान करने के लिए प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

India seeks UNESCO recognition for 'Chhath'

GS III: A&C

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Culture Ministry on Tuesday held a meeting with senior diplomatic representatives of the UAE, Suriname, and the Netherlands to seek their cooperation for the multinational nomination of the 'Chhath' festival for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The meeting was chaired by Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, and attended by officials from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of External Affairs, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, and the IGNCA. The diplomatic representatives welcomed the initiative.

India seeks UNESCO recognition for 'Chhath'

भारत ने 'छठ' के लिए यूनेस्को मान्यता मांगी

- The **Culture Ministry** on **Tuesday** held a meeting with senior diplomatic representatives of the **UAE, Suriname, and the Netherlands** to seek their cooperation for the **multinational nomination** of the **'Chhath' festival** for inscription on **UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

संस्कृति मंत्रालय ने **मंगलवार** को **यूएई, सूरीनाम और नीदरलैंड्स** के वरिष्ठ कूटनीतिक प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठक की ताकि **यूनेस्को की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक विरासत की प्रतिनिधि सूची** में शामिल करने के लिए **'छठ' महापर्व** के **बहुराष्ट्रीय नामांकन** हेतु उनका सहयोग मांगा जा सके।

- The meeting was chaired by **Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture**, and attended by officials from the **Ministry of Culture, Ministry of External Affairs, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, and the IGNCA**.

इस बैठक की अध्यक्षता **संस्कृति मंत्रालय के सचिव विवेक अग्रवाल** ने की और इसमें **संस्कृति मंत्रालय, विदेश मंत्रालय, संगीत नाटक अकादमी और आईजीएनसीए** के अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया।

- The diplomatic representatives **welcomed the initiative**.
कूटनीतिक प्रतिनिधियों ने इस **पहल का स्वागत किया**।



On WHO essential medicines list, GLP-1 drugs for diabetes, weight loss may become cheaper

GS III: S&T

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

With the World Health Organization (WHO) updating its Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) to add the GLP-1 class of drugs for diabetes with associated comorbidities such as obesity, access to these drugs might just become easier. Listing a medicine on the EML is one step in a series of actions that can lead to lower costs, better affordability, and greater access.

The 25th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines was held from May 5 to 9. It reviewed scientific evidence showing that a group of medicines called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists can help people with type 2 diabetes – especially those who also have heart or kidney disease – and concluded that semaglutide, dula-



Affordable medicine: The WHO move is one step in a series of actions that can lead to lower costs and greater access. GETTY IMAGES

glutide, liraglutide, and tirzepatide would be added to the EML. These drugs are used as glucose-lowering therapy for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease or chronic kidney disease and obesity.

High price

According to the WHO, the rationale for including these drugs is very clear: diabetes and obesity are two of the most urgent

health challenges facing the world today. According to statistics from 2022, over 800 million people live with diabetes, with half going untreated. At the same time, more than one billion people worldwide are affected by obesity, and rates are rising fast especially in low- and middle-income countries.

The prices of these drugs are so high that access is limited. "A large share of out-of-pocket

spending on noncommunicable diseases goes toward medicines, including those classified as essential and that, in principle, should be financially accessible to everyone," Deusedit Mubangizi, WHO Director of Policy and Standards for Medicines and Health Products, says.

Good step forward

While appreciating the move, Anoop Mishra, head, Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, New Delhi, lends a reality check: "It is a good move; however, in India these types of drugs will benefit only a small number of people, while other life-saving, low-cost essential medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, applicable to a large number of people, remain largely unavailable."

On the other hand, V. Mohan, chairman, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre (DMDSC), provides

an energetic response: "I'm very happy that WHO has included the GLP-1 class of drugs. The fact that even a conservative organisation like the WHO has included these rather expensive drugs in their EML, shows how compelling the evidence is. Apart from the glucose lowering effect, they have tremendous effect on weight reduction and obesity management." He points out that recently, injectible semaglutide has been approved for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, associated with weight, and for improving cardiovascular health.

R.M. Anjana, managing director, DMDSC, says: "It will surely help improve access and affordability. But will it be useful as a first line drug? This maybe not for everyone...as there are various subtypes of diabetes. But for those in whom it is indicated, it's a good step forward."

On WHO essential medicines list, GLP-1 drugs for diabetes, weight loss may become cheaper

डब्ल्यूएचओ की आवश्यक दवाओं की सूची में, मधुमेह और वजन घटाने के लिए जीएलपी-1 दवाएं सस्ती हो सकती हैं

- With the **World Health Organization (WHO)** updating its **Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML)** to add the **GLP-1 class of drugs** for **diabetes** with associated comorbidities such as **obesity**, access to these drugs might just become easier. **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO)** द्वारा अपनी **आवश्यक दवाओं की मॉडल सूची (EML)** को अपडेट कर **मधुमेह और उससे जुड़ी सह-रुग्णताओं (जैसे मोटापा)** के लिए **GLP-1 वर्ग की दवाओं** को जोड़ने के साथ, इन दवाओं तक पहुंच आसान हो सकती है।
- Listing a medicine on the **EML** is one step in a series of actions that can lead to **lower costs**, **better affordability**, and **greater access**. किसी दवा को **EML** में सूचीबद्ध करना **कम लागत**, **बेहतर वहनीयता** और **बेहतर पहुंच** की दिशा में कार्यों की एक श्रृंखला का पहला कदम है।
- The **25th meeting** of the **WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines** was held from **May 5 to 9**. **आवश्यक दवाओं के चयन और उपयोग पर WHO विशेषज्ञ समिति की 25वीं बैठक 5 मई से 9 मई तक आयोजित की गई।**
- It reviewed **scientific evidence** showing that a group of medicines called **glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists** can help people with **type 2 diabetes** — especially



those who also have **heart or kidney disease** — and concluded that **semaglutide, dulaglutide, liraglutide, and tirzepatide** would be added to the **EML**.

इसमें वैज्ञानिक प्रमाणों की समीक्षा की गई, जिसमें दिखाया गया कि **ग्लूकागन-लाइक पेप्टाइड-1 (GLP-1) रिसेप्टर एगोनिस्ट** नामक दवाओं का एक समूह **टाइप 2 मधुमेह** से पीड़ित लोगों — विशेष रूप से जिनको **हृदय या गुर्दे की बीमारी** भी है — की मदद कर सकता है और निष्कर्ष निकाला गया कि **सेमाग्लूटाइड, डुलाग्लूटाइड, लिराग्लूटाइड और टिर्जेपाटाइड** को **EML** में जोड़ा जाएगा।

- These drugs are used as **glucose-lowering therapy** for adults with **type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease or chronic kidney disease and obesity**.

ये दवाएं **टाइप 2 मधुमेह, हृदय रोग, क्रॉनिक किडनी रोग और मोटापे** वाले व्यक्तियों के लिए **ग्लूकोज कम करने वाली थेरेपी** के रूप में उपयोग की जाती हैं।

High price उच्च कीमत

- According to the **WHO**, the rationale for including these drugs is very clear: **diabetes and obesity** are two of the most urgent **health challenges** facing the world today.
WHO के अनुसार, इन दवाओं को शामिल करने का तर्क बहुत स्पष्ट है: **मधुमेह और मोटापा** आज दुनिया के सामने दो सबसे गंभीर **स्वास्थ्य चुनौतियां** हैं।
- According to **statistics from 2022**, over **800 million people** live with **diabetes**, with half going untreated.
2022 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **800 मिलियन से अधिक लोग मधुमेह** के साथ रह रहे हैं, जिनमें से आधे का इलाज नहीं हो रहा है।
- At the same time, more than **one billion people worldwide** are affected by **obesity**, and rates are rising fast especially in **low- and middle-income countries**.
इसी समय, **दुनियाभर में एक बिलियन से अधिक लोग मोटापे** से प्रभावित हैं, और दरें तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं, खासकर **निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों** में।
- The **prices** of these drugs are so **high** that **access** is limited.
इन दवाओं की **कीमतें** इतनी **उच्च** हैं कि **पहुँच** सीमित है।
- “A large share of **out-of-pocket spending** on **noncommunicable diseases** goes toward medicines, including those classified as essential and that, in principle, should be financially accessible to everyone,” **Deusdedit Mubangizi**, **WHO Director of Policy and Standards for Medicines and Health Products**, says.
“**गैर-संचारी रोगों पर जेब से किए गए खर्च** का एक बड़ा हिस्सा दवाओं पर जाता है, जिनमें वे भी शामिल हैं जिन्हें आवश्यक के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया है और जो सिद्धांत रूप में सभी के लिए आर्थिक रूप से सुलभ होनी चाहिए,” ऐसा कहना है **WHO** के **नीति और मानक निदेशक, डियुडेडिट मुबांगीजी** का।

Good step forward अच्छा कदम आगे की ओर

- While appreciating the move, **Anoop Mishra**, head, **Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, New Delhi**, lends a reality check:
इस कदम की सराहना करते हुए, **अनूप मिश्रा**, प्रमुख, **फोर्टिस सी-डॉक अस्पताल फॉर डायबिटीज एंड एलाइड साइंसेज, नई दिल्ली**, एक वास्तविकता प्रस्तुत करते हैं:
- “It is a good move; however, in **India** these types of drugs will benefit only a **small number of people**, while other **life-saving, low-cost essential medicines** for **diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease**, applicable to a **large number of people**, remain largely unavailable.”
“यह एक अच्छा कदम है; हालांकि, **भारत** में इस प्रकार की दवाएं केवल **थोड़े लोगों** को ही लाभ पहुंचाएंगी, जबकि **मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप और हृदय रोग** के लिए अन्य **जीवन रक्षक, कम लागत वाली आवश्यक दवाएं**, जो **अधिक लोगों** के लिए लागू हैं, बड़े पैमाने पर उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।”
- On the other hand, **V. Mohan**, chairman, **Dr. Mohan’s Diabetes Specialties Centre (DMDSC)**, provides an energetic response:
दूसरी ओर, **वी. मोहन**, अध्यक्ष, **डॉ. मोहन डायबिटीज स्पेशलिटीज सेंटर (DMDSC)**, एक उत्साही प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं:
- “I’m very happy that **WHO** has included the **GLP-1 class of drugs**.
“मैं बहुत खुश हूँ कि **WHO** ने **GLP-1 वर्ग की दवाओं** को शामिल किया है।



- The fact that even a **conservative organisation like the WHO** has included these rather **expensive drugs** in their **EML**, shows how **compelling the evidence** is.
यह तथ्य कि **WHO** जैसी रूढ़िवादी संस्था ने भी इन महंगी दवाओं को अपनी **EML** में शामिल किया है, यह दर्शाता है कि सबूत कितने मजबूत हैं।
- Apart from the **glucose lowering effect**, they have a tremendous **effect on weight reduction and obesity management.**
ग्लूकोज कम करने वाले प्रभाव के अलावा, इनका वजन घटाने और मोटापा प्रबंधन पर अत्यधिक प्रभाव है।”
- He points out that recently, **injectable semaglutide** has been approved for **metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease**, associated with **weight**, and for improving **cardiometabolic health**.
उन्होंने बताया कि हाल ही में इंजेक्टेबल सेमाग्लूटाइड को वजन से जुड़ी मेटाबॉलिक डिसफंक्शन-संबंधित स्टियाटोटिक लिवर डिजीज और कार्डियोमेटाबॉलिक स्वास्थ्य में सुधार के लिए मंजूरी दी गई है।
- **R.M. Anjana**, managing director, **DMDSC**, says:
आर.एम. अंजना, प्रबंध निदेशक, **DMDSC**, कहती हैं:
- “It will surely help improve **access and affordability**.
“यह निश्चित रूप से पहुँच और वहनीयता में सुधार करने में मदद करेगा।
- But will it be useful as a **first line drug**? This may not be for everyone...as there are various **subtypes of diabetes**.
लेकिन क्या यह एक प्रथम पंक्ति की दवा के रूप में उपयोगी होगी? यह शायद सभी के लिए नहीं... क्योंकि मधुमेह के विभिन्न उपप्रकार हैं।
- But for those in whom it is indicated, it's a **good step forward.**
लेकिन जिन लोगों के लिए यह संकेतित है, उनके लिए यह अच्छा कदम आगे की ओर है।”



Portable ion chromatograph brings real-world practice to classrooms

Aquamonitrix works as a simple, low-pressure ion chromatograph that can separate anions along a relatively short column; the solution used to carry the sample into the chromatograph and facilitate the exchange of anions with the column contains only sodium chloride, so the process is also environmentally friendly

Rohini Subrahmanyam

Ion chromatography, or the process of separating ions from a sample by passing it through a long column, is usually carried out in a laboratory using expensive, sophisticated equipment. Now, scientists at the University of Tasmania in Australia have devised a simpler way to perform the technique out in the field – one that could benefit science classrooms, too.

Working with second-year undergraduate students, the scientists helped them analyse soil pore water, or water in between soil particles, immediately after collecting it using a portable ion chromatograph called Aquamonitrix. The students used it to separate and analyse concentrations of nitrate and nitrite ions in the sample as both these ions are known to be harmful for the environment in high concentrations. Then they took the samples back to the lab and analysed them using a conventional chromatograph.

Based on their findings, published in *Journal of Chemical Education*, the portable chromatograph produced results comparable to that of a conventional device in the lab.

Chemistry out of the lab

“One of the things we’re always interested in is taking our chemistry out of the laboratory [and] into the field,” said Brett Paull, a professor of chemistry at the University of Tasmania and the senior author of the study. “So that the students don’t only learn that analytical chemistry is something you do in the lab, but it’s something that you can do anywhere.”

The 2023 ACS Guidelines for Undergraduate Chemistry Programmes says “hands-on” experience in separations and chromatography should be incorporated into the undergraduate chemistry lab coursework. While performing ion chromatography using lab equipment does help students get experience with handling experiments, it still doesn’t equip them to apply their analytical skills in a real-world scenario.

Dr. Paull and his team collaborated with Aquamonitrix, the company that manufactures the portable ion chromatograph of the same name, to help young undergraduate students analyse samples in the field.

“Portable instruments give us the opportunity to go out into the field and do actual measurements there,” said Dr. Paull.

Simplicity to its benefit

The students first obtained the soil pore water by extracting it from the soil using a portable vacuum pump. Then they



Examples of on-site real-time analysis of nitrite and nitrate. (a) Remote analysis of trace levels of nutrients at Derwent River, Tasmania. (b) On-ship mapping of nitrate levels at different river locations and depths. (c) Long-time monitoring of nitrogen nutrients species conversion in tankwater from the underlying soil (greenhouse). *J. CHEM. EDUC.* 2023, 102, 2928–2938

filtered the water on-site and directly injected it into the chromatograph.

Aquamonitrix works as a simple, low-pressure ion chromatograph that can separate anions along a relatively short column. The solution used to carry the sample into the chromatograph and facilitate the exchange of anions with the column contains only sodium chloride, thus keeping the process environmentally friendly.

To specifically detect nitrate and nitrite ions among all the anions, the device contains a low-cost absorbance detector that uses UV light. Because both these anions absorb UV light, the students were able to see two peaks in the chromatogram corresponding to the presence of the two anions.

“Nitrite and nitrate absorb quite reasonably in that low UV region, and we don’t get any interference from any other anions,” Dr. Paull explained. “So [its] simplicity is to its benefit, because we don’t get a big messy chromatogram with all the other material.”

A simpler specialist

When the students brought the sample back to the lab and measured nitrate and nitrite levels using a conventional, commercial ion chromatograph, they found the numbers produced by the



Portable instruments give us the opportunity to go out into the field and do actual measurements there

BRETT PAULL
UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

portable device were similar. This suggested the portable method provided accurate results – and for less money and time. The lab-based ion chromatograph is “much more complicated, much more expensive and advanced,” Dr. Paull said, and works using longer columns and high-pressure pumps. It may also detect many other anions and produce a more complex chromatogram.

“We don’t want to do everything,” he added. “It’s not possible to take a \$100,000 laboratory instrument and just take it out to the greenhouse and use it. What we do is develop a \$10,000 instrument which actually can do one or two things very well, can be run by a student who’s not highly trained or highly skilled. We’re not trying to replicate the lab in the field; we’re trying to develop low cost, versatile instruments that can be taken into the field.” The scientists have also worked on another similar instrument

that they say can measure ammonia levels in the field. “So, nitrite, nitrate, and ammonia and then, [eventually] you can look at the complete nitrogen cycle in, say, water treatment plants or in soil chemistry,” Dr. Paull said.

The team is also working on a similar instrument to detect arsenic. This toxic element in the soil is a major concern in countries like India and Bangladesh, where groundwater extraction is high.

‘They learn more’

But the main reason the scientists worked on this instrument is to use it as an effective teaching tool. “By allowing students to perform both field and laboratory analyses, [the portable device] provides a comprehensive learning experience that combines theoretical concepts with practical applications,” Vipul Gupta, a lecturer in chemistry at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia, said. “The hands-on nature of the experiment, coupled with the opportunity to address real-world environmental challenges, fosters curiosity and interest in analytical chemistry.” Dr. Gupta expressed belief the exercise can be extended to a more long-term continuous monitoring on the field as well.

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist in Bengaluru. roh.subb@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Scientists at the University of Tasmania in Australia have devised a way to perform ion chromatography in the field. Undergraduate students used the portable Aquamonitrix to analyse concentrations of nitrate and nitrite ions in soil pore water. The results were comparable to those of a conventional lab device

The device incorporates a low-cost absorbance detector that utilises ultraviolet light to identify nitrate and nitrite ions. Since both anions absorb ultraviolet light, the resulting chromatogram displayed two distinct peaks corresponding to their presence

Researchers emphasise that expensive laboratory instruments do not travel well. A cheap instrument that can do one or two things well is ideal. Scientists are working on an instrument that can measure ammonia. So, with the ability to sense nitrite, nitrate, and ammonia, the complete nitrogen cycle can be analysed

Portable ion chromatograph brings real-world practice to classrooms

पोर्टेबल आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ कक्षाओं में वास्तविक दुनिया का अभ्यास लाता है

- Portable ion chromatograph brings **real-world practice** to classrooms. पोर्टेबल आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ कक्षाओं में वास्तविक दुनिया का अभ्यास लाता है।
- **Aquamonitrix** works as a simple, **low-pressure ion chromatograph** that can separate **anions** along a relatively short column. **Aquamonitrix** एक सरल, **लो-प्रेसर आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ** के रूप में कार्य करता है जो अपेक्षाकृत छोटी कॉलम के साथ **ऋणायनों (anions)** को अलग कर सकता है।
- The solution used to carry the **sample** into the chromatograph and facilitate the **exchange of anions** with the column contains only **sodium chloride**, so the process is also



environmentally friendly.

क्रोमैटोग्राफ में नमूना (sample) ले जाने और कॉलम के साथ ऋणायनों (anions) के आदान-प्रदान को आसान बनाने के लिए जिस घोल का उपयोग किया जाता है, उसमें केवल सोडियम क्लोराइड होता है, इसलिए यह प्रक्रिया भी पर्यावरण के अनुकूल (environmentally friendly) है।

Chromatography out of the lab

प्रयोगशाला से बाहर क्रोमैटोग्राफी

- Ion chromatography, or the process of **separating ions** from a sample by passing it through a long column, is usually carried out in a laboratory using **expensive, sophisticated equipment**.

आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफी, या किसी नमूने से आयनों को अलग करने की प्रक्रिया जिसमें उसे एक लंबे कॉलम से गुजारा जाता है, आमतौर पर महंगे, परिष्कृत उपकरणों का उपयोग करके प्रयोगशाला में की जाती है।

- Now, scientists at the **University of Tasmania in Australia** have devised a simpler way to perform the technique out in the **field** — one that could benefit **science classrooms, too**. अब, **ऑस्ट्रेलिया की यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ तस्मानिया** के वैज्ञानिकों ने इस तकनीक को **मैदान** में करने का एक सरल तरीका विकसित किया है — जो **विज्ञान कक्षाओं** के लिए भी लाभदायक हो सकता है।
- Working with **second-year undergraduate students**, the scientists helped them analyse **soil pore water**, or water in between soil particles, immediately after collecting it using a **portable ion chromatograph called Aquamonitrix**.

वैज्ञानिकों ने **द्वितीय वर्ष के स्नातक छात्रों** के साथ काम करते हुए उन्हें **मृदा रंध्र जल** (मिट्टी के कणों के बीच का पानी) का विश्लेषण करने में मदद की, जिसे उन्होंने एक **पोर्टेबल आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ Aquamonitrix** से इकट्ठा करने के तुरंत बाद किया।

- The students used it to separate and analyse concentrations of **nitrate and nitrite ions** in the sample as both these ions are known to be **harmful for the environment** in high concentrations.

छात्रों ने इसका उपयोग नमूने में **नाइट्रेट और नाइट्राइट आयनों** को अलग करने और उनकी सांद्रता का विश्लेषण करने के लिए किया, क्योंकि ये दोनों आयन उच्च सांद्रता में **पर्यावरण के लिए हानिकारक** माने जाते हैं।

- Then they took the samples back to the **lab** and analysed them using a **conventional chromatograph**.

फिर वे नमूनों को वापस **प्रयोगशाला** में ले गए और एक **पारंपरिक क्रोमैटोग्राफ** का उपयोग करके उनका विश्लेषण किया।

- Based on their findings, published in **Journal of Chemical Education**, the portable chromatograph produced results **comparable** to that of a conventional device in the lab. उनके निष्कर्षों के अनुसार, जो **जर्नल ऑफ केमिकल एजुकेशन** में प्रकाशित हुए, पोर्टेबल क्रोमैटोग्राफ ने परिणाम दिए जो प्रयोगशाला में पारंपरिक उपकरण से **तुलनीय** थे।

Chemistry out of the lab

प्रयोगशाला से बाहर रसायन शास्त्र

- “One of the things we’re always interested in is taking our chemistry out of the laboratory [and] into the **field**,” said **Brett Paull**, a professor of chemistry at the University of Tasmania and the senior author of the study. “हम हमेशा जिस बात में रुचि रखते हैं, उनमें से एक है हमारी रसायन शास्त्र को प्रयोगशाला से बाहर लेकर **मैदान** में ले जाना,” ऐसा कहा **ब्रेट पॉल**, तस्मानिया विश्वविद्यालय के रसायन शास्त्र के प्रोफेसर और इस अध्ययन के वरिष्ठ लेखक ने।
- “So that the students don’t only learn that **analytical chemistry** is something you do in the lab, but it’s something that you can do **anywhere**.” “ताकि छात्र केवल यह न सीखें कि **विश्लेषणात्मक रसायन शास्त्र** वह है जो प्रयोगशाला में किया जाता है, बल्कि यह भी सीखें कि इसे **कहीं भी** किया जा सकता है।”
- The **2023 ACS Guidelines** for Undergraduate Chemistry Programmes says “**hands-on**” **experience in separations and chromatography** should be incorporated into the undergraduate chemistry lab coursework.



2023 ACS दिशानिर्देश स्नातक रसायन शास्त्र कार्यक्रमों के लिए कहते हैं कि **विभाजन और क्रोमैटोग्राफी** में “हैंड्स-ऑन” अनुभव को स्नातक प्रयोगशाला पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।

- While performing ion chromatography using **lab equipment** does help students get experience with handling experiments, it still doesn't equip them to apply their **analytical skills in a real-world scenario**.
प्रयोगशाला उपकरण का उपयोग करके आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफी करना छात्रों को प्रयोगों को संभालने का अनुभव देता है, लेकिन यह उन्हें अपनी **विश्लेषणात्मक कौशल को वास्तविक दुनिया की परिस्थिति में लागू करने** के लिए सक्षम नहीं बनाता।
- Dr. Paull and his team collaborated with **Aquamonitrix**, the company that manufactures the portable ion chromatograph of the same name, to help young undergraduate students analyse samples in the field.
डॉ. पॉल और उनकी टीम ने **Aquamonitrix** (जो इसी नाम के पोर्टेबल आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ का निर्माण करती है) के साथ सहयोग किया ताकि युवा स्नातक छात्र मैदान में नमूनों का विश्लेषण कर सकें।
- “**Portable instruments** give us the opportunity to go out into the field and do actual measurements there,” said Dr. Paull.
“**पोर्टेबल उपकरण** हमें मैदान में जाकर वास्तविक मापन करने का अवसर देते हैं,” डॉ. पॉल ने कहा।

Simplicity to its benefit सादगी इसके लाभ में

- The students first obtained the **soil pore water** by extracting it from the soil using a **portable vacuum pump**.
छात्रों ने सबसे पहले मिट्टी से एक **पोर्टेबल वैक्यूम पंप** का उपयोग करके **मृदा रंध्र जल** निकाला।
- Then they **filtered the water on-site** and directly injected it into the chromatograph.
फिर उन्होंने पानी को **साइट पर फिल्टर किया** और सीधे उसे क्रोमैटोग्राफ में इंजेक्ट किया।
- **Aquamonitrix** works as a simple, **low-pressure ion chromatograph** that can separate anions along a relatively short column.
Aquamonitrix एक सरल, **लो-प्रेसर आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ** के रूप में कार्य करता है जो एक अपेक्षाकृत छोटे कॉलम के साथ एनीऑन को अलग कर सकता है।
- The solution used to carry the sample into the chromatograph and facilitate the exchange of anions with the column contains only **sodium chloride**, thus keeping the process **environmentally friendly**.
नमूने को क्रोमैटोग्राफ में ले जाने और कॉलम के साथ एनीऑन के आदान-प्रदान को सुगम बनाने के लिए उपयोग किया जाने वाला घोल केवल **सोडियम क्लोराइड** होता है, जिससे प्रक्रिया **पर्यावरण अनुकूल** रहती है।
- To specifically detect **nitrate and nitrite ions** among all the anions, the device contains a **low-cost absorbance detector** that uses **UV light**.
सभी एनीऑनों में से विशेष रूप से **नाइट्रेट और नाइट्राइट आयनों** का पता लगाने के लिए, उपकरण में एक **कम लागत वाला एब्जॉर्बेंस डिटेक्टर** होता है जो **यूवी प्रकाश** का उपयोग करता है।
- Because both these anions **absorb UV light**, the students were able to see **two peaks** in the chromatogram corresponding to the presence of the two anions.
क्योंकि ये दोनों एनीऑन **यूवी प्रकाश को अवशोषित** करते हैं, छात्रों को क्रोमैटोग्राम में **दो शिखर (पीक्स)** दिखाई दिए।
- “**Nitrite and nitrate** absorb quite reasonably in that **low UV region**, and we don't get any interference from other anions,” Dr. Paull explained.
“**नाइट्राइट और नाइट्रेट** उस **लो यूवी क्षेत्र** में अवशोषित करते हैं, और हमें अन्य एनीऑनों से कोई बाधा नहीं मिलती,” डॉ. पॉल ने समझाया।
- “So [its] **simplicity is to its benefit**, because we don't get a big messy chromatogram with all the other material.”
“इसलिए इसकी **सादगी इसका लाभ** है, क्योंकि हमें अन्य सभी पदार्थों के साथ एक बड़ा अव्यवस्थित क्रोमैटोग्राम नहीं मिलता।”

A simpler specialist एक सरल विशेषज्ञ



- When the students brought the sample back to the lab and measured **nitrate and nitrite** levels using a conventional, commercial ion chromatograph, they found the numbers produced by the portable device were similar.
जब छात्रों ने नमूना वापस प्रयोगशाला में लाया और **नाइट्रेट और नाइट्राइट** स्तर को एक पारंपरिक, वाणिज्यिक आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ का उपयोग करके मापा, तो उन्होंने पाया कि पोर्टेबल डिवाइस द्वारा उत्पन्न संख्याएँ समान थीं।
- This suggested the **portable method** provided accurate results — and for **less money and time**.
इससे संकेत मिला कि **पोर्टेबल विधि** ने सटीक परिणाम प्रदान किए — और वह भी **कम पैसे और समय** में।
- The lab-based ion chromatograph is “much more complicated, much more expensive and advanced,” Dr. Paull said, and works using **longer columns** and **high-pressure pumps**.
डॉ. पॉल ने कहा कि प्रयोगशाला आधारित आयन क्रोमैटोग्राफ “काफी अधिक जटिल, अधिक महंगा और उन्नत” है, और यह **लंबे कॉलम** और **हाई-प्रेसर पंप्स** का उपयोग करके काम करता है।
- It may also detect many other **anions** and produce a more complex **chromatogram**.
यह कई अन्य **ऋणायन (anions)** का भी पता लगा सकता है और एक अधिक जटिल **क्रोमैटोग्राम** उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
- “We don’t want to do everything,” he added. “It’s not possible to take a **\$100,000 laboratory instrument** and just take it out to the greenhouse and use it.
उन्होंने जोड़ा, “हम सब कुछ नहीं करना चाहते। यह संभव नहीं है कि **\$100,000 की प्रयोगशाला उपकरण** को ग्रीनहाउस में ले जाकर उपयोग किया जा सके।”
- What we do is develop a **\$10,000 instrument** which actually can do one or two things very well, can be run by a **battery**, and can be used by a **student who’s not highly trained or highly skilled**.
हम जो करते हैं वह यह है कि हम एक **\$10,000 का उपकरण** विकसित करते हैं जो वास्तव में एक या दो चीजें बहुत अच्छे से कर सकता है, जिसे **बैटरी** द्वारा चलाया जा सकता है, और जिसे एक **ऐसा छात्र उपयोग कर सकता है जो बहुत अधिक प्रशिक्षित या कुशल न हो**।
- “We’re not trying to replicate the lab in the field; we’re trying to develop **low cost, versatile instruments** that can be taken into the field.”
“हम मैदान में प्रयोगशाला की नकल करने की कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं; हम **कम लागत, बहुमुखी उपकरण** विकसित करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं जिन्हें मैदान में ले जाया जा सके।”
- The scientists have also worked on another similar instrument that they say can measure **ammonia levels** in the field.
वैज्ञानिकों ने एक अन्य समान उपकरण पर भी काम किया है जिसके बारे में उनका कहना है कि वह क्षेत्र में **अमोनिया स्तर** माप सकता है।
- “So, **nitrite, nitrate, and ammonia** and then, [eventually] you can look at the complete **nitrogen cycle** in, say, **water treatment plants** or in **soil chemistry**,” Dr. Paull said.
“तो, **नाइट्राइट, नाइट्रेट, और अमोनिया** और फिर, [आखिरकार] आप **नाइट्रोजन चक्र** को देख सकते हैं, जैसे कि **जल शोधन संयंत्रों** में या **मृदा रसायन** में,” डॉ. पॉल ने कहा।
- The team is also working on a similar instrument to detect **arsenic**.
टीम एक समान उपकरण पर भी काम कर रही है जो **आर्सेनिक** का पता लगा सके।
- This **toxic element** in the soil is a major concern in countries like **India and Bangladesh**, where **groundwater extraction** is high.
मिट्टी में यह **विषैला तत्व** भारत और बांग्लादेश जैसे देशों में एक प्रमुख चिंता है, जहाँ **भूजल निष्कर्षण** अधिक है।

‘They learn more’

‘वे अधिक सीखते हैं’

- But the main reason the scientists worked on this instrument is to use it as an effective **teaching tool**.
लेकिन वैज्ञानिकों ने इस उपकरण पर काम करने का मुख्य कारण इसे एक प्रभावी **शिक्षण उपकरण** के रूप में उपयोग करना है।
- “By allowing students to perform both **field and laboratory analyses**, [the portable device] provides a comprehensive learning experience that combines **theoretical concepts** with **practical applications**,” Vipul Gupta, a lecturer in chemistry at **Deakin University** in



Victoria, Australia, said.

“छात्रों को फील्ड और प्रयोगशाला विश्लेषण दोनों करने की अनुमति देकर, [पोर्टेबल डिवाइस] एक व्यापक शिक्षण अनुभव प्रदान करता है जो सैद्धांतिक अवधारणाओं को व्यावहारिक अनुप्रयोगों के साथ जोड़ता है,”
विक्टोरिया, ऑस्ट्रेलिया में डीकन यूनिवर्सिटी के रसायन विज्ञान के व्याख्याता विपुल गुप्ता ने कहा।

- “The hands-on nature of the experiment, coupled with the opportunity to address **real-world environmental challenges**, fosters **curiosity** and **interest in analytical chemistry**.”
“प्रयोग की व्यावहारिक प्रकृति, वास्तविक दुनिया की पर्यावरणीय चुनौतियों से निपटने के अवसर के साथ मिलकर, जिज्ञासा और विश्लेषणात्मक रसायन विज्ञान में रुचि को बढ़ावा देती है।”
- Dr. Gupta expressed belief the exercise can be extended to a more long-term **continuous monitoring** on the field as well.
डॉ. गुप्ता ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि इस अभ्यास को क्षेत्र में अधिक दीर्घकालिक निरंतर निगरानी तक भी बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS



A question of perception

Vasudevan Mukunth

GS III: S&T



Q. Why do our brains fall for optical illusions?

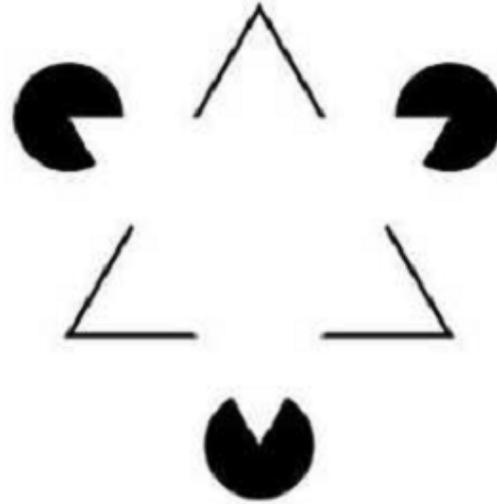
A: Our brains fall for optical illusions because of the ways in

which they perceive the world, including using contextual information, shortcuts, and predictions. Among other patterns, the brain assumes light comes from above, fills missing edges, and exaggerates contrasts.

While these tricks help us navigate the world, sometimes they also produce rational mistakes, where the brain interprets ambiguous information in ways that depart from physical reality. For example, identical colours may look different against different backgrounds and lines of equal length may appear unequal when framed differently.

A new study in *Nature Neuroscience* has deepened this picture. Researchers studied how the brain handles illusory contours, including shapes such as the Kanizsa triangle, where we see edges that are not there. Using advanced imaging and optogenetics in mice, the researchers found that special neurons called IC-encoders in the

QUIZ



A Kanizsa triangle. FIBONACCI (CC BY-SA)

primary visual cortex respond to these illusory shapes as if they were real edges. The IC-encoders do this by integrating predictions from higher brain areas and broadcasting them in a process where the brain fills in missing parts to create a coherent whole. When scientists stimulated these neurons, the brain produced the illusion even without a visual stimulus, showing that illusions simply “hack” how perception normally works: by combining partial evidence with prior expectations to infer the most likely picture.

“Sensory systems are constantly faced with incomplete or ambiguous sensory information,” the researchers wrote in their paper. “In these situations, successful perception depends on sensory inference.”

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Introduction to Optical Illusions



- An **optical illusion** happens when there is a mismatch between **sensory input** (what our eyes see) and **what our brain perceives**.
- Our brain uses **context**, **shortcuts**, and **predictions** to interpret ambiguous or incomplete visual information. This helps most of the time but sometimes leads to perceptual errors.

Key Mechanisms Behind Illusions

Predictive Processing & Contextual Assumptions

- The brain often **assumes that light comes from above**, fills in edges that are missing, and exaggerates contrasts to interpret scenes. These are shortcuts or priors (expectations) built over evolution and experience.
- Because of these assumptions:
 - Identical colours may appear different depending on backgrounds.
 - Lines of equal length appear unequal when “framed” differently.

Illusory Contours (IC) and Neural Basis

- **Illusory contours (ICs)** are shapes where we perceive edges or boundaries that are not physically there (for example, the **Kanizsa triangle**).
- A recent study published in *Nature Neuroscience* (September 2025) uncovered new details about how the brain does this.

Recent Research Findings

Discovery of IC-Encoder Neurons

- Researchers found a **special subset of neurons** in the primary visual cortex (area **V1**) of mice, called **IC-encoder neurons**, that **respond to illusory bars** but *not* to the individual segments that suggest those bars.
- These neurons are different from simple “segment responder” neurons. Segment responders react to the visible parts of an image; IC-encoders instead respond when the brain “fills in” missing edges.

Feedback and Recurrent Pattern Completion

- **Higher visual brain areas** detect the possible contour first and send **top-down feedback** to V1. The IC-encoders in V1 then fill in or complete the missing information—this is called **recurrent pattern completion**.
- Using optogenetics (light stimulation of neurons) and holographic imaging, researchers were able to **activate IC-encoder neurons** directly, and this caused the illusion to be “seen” in the brain *even without visual input*.
- This shows the brain doesn’t just passively receive images; it actively constructs what we see using both bottom-up signals (from the eyes) and top-down expectations.

Why Illusions Are Sometimes “Mistakes”



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CONTACT: 9971932488



- Many visual inputs are **ambiguous or incomplete**, so the brain must infer what is likely there rather than what is certain.
- The use of predictions and prior experience means errors can occur.
- Example: the same colour patch may look lighter or darker depending on surrounding shades, or identical line lengths may appear different due to framing.

Examples to Illustrate

- **Kanizsa Triangle:** Three circles with missing wedges arranged such that a triangle seems to appear (edges not painted but perceived). The illusion relies on the brain filling in missing information.
- **Illusory Bar vs Real Bar Tests in Mice:** In experiments, mice shown images with real lines vs images that only *suggest* a line (via inducers) still cause similar neuronal responses in IC-encoders.

PATRIOTIC IAS



GST 2.0 — short-term pain, possible long-term gain

GS III: Taxation

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in India with a view to promoting consumption and production efficiencies with a tax system that was destination-based. The objective was to ensure that the tax incidence fell on final consumers and taxes paid on inputs were rebated. The way GST evolved in the presence of a complex compensation cess mechanism continued to suffer from multiple tax rates, inverted duty structure and considerable compliance cost.

The new rate structure, which takes effect from September 22, 2025, implies significant rate reductions for some categories of goods. In the revised GST rate structure, 12% and 28% rates have been discontinued. The rates of 0%, 5% and 18% have been continued with changes in the goods and services covered under these rates. There is also a demerit rate of 40% for sin goods and luxury items. Some other lower special rates below 5% have also been continued. Major beneficiary sectors include textiles, consumer electronics, automobiles, health and most food items. These are employment-intensive sectors where the benefits of lower prices would be quite broad based. On the production side, sectors that would benefit include fertilizers, agricultural machinery and renewable energy, where farmers would gain benefits through lower input costs.

Out of a total number of 546 goods where rate changes have been brought in, more than 80% have been subjected to rate reductions and 20% to rate increases. Rate reductions along with corresponding reduction in post-tax prices, in percentage terms, are given in the *Table*.

GST revenues (R) are determined as the tax rate (r) multiplied by the tax base (E), which is final consumption expenditure. Tax base is the product of pre-tax price (p) and quantity (q). Thus, $R=r \cdot E=r \cdot (p \cdot q)$. Rate changes will have two



C. Rangarajan

is Chairman, Madras School of Economics and, formerly, the Governor, Reserve Bank of India



D.K. Srivastava

is Honorary Professor, Madras School of Economics and Member, Advisory Council to the Sixteenth Finance Commission

While revenue loss would be immediate, revenue gains would emerge over time

effects on revenues: one, through the tax rate change, and the other through the impact on tax base. As the tax rates are lowered, post-tax prices are expected to fall, leading to an increase in the quantity demanded. The percentage fall in post-tax price would be much less than the percentage fall in the tax rate. Calibrations indicate that for all feasible ranges of demand elasticity, revenues would fall. Where the tax rates have been brought down to nil, irrespective of the level of expenditure, revenues will be zero.

There are only limited instances of increase in the tax rate. In cases where the tax rate has been increased from 28% to 40%, pertaining to demerit or luxury goods, most of this change implies only the merger of the compensation cess into the tax rate. This does not constitute a genuine increase in the tax rate. There are some instances where goods may have been moved from 12% to 18%. Overall, our assessment is that substantial revenue reduction is involved due to the multiplicative effect of the fall in the tax rate.

Various estimates of net revenue loss are available which include the one given by the Ministry of Finance – at ₹48,000 crore for a full year. Other estimates provide higher figures.

Income augmenting effect

To the extent that the government has to bear a substantive amount of foregone revenues on account of these GST reforms, this benefit would accrue to the tax-payer and his disposable incomes would go up. Much of the benefit would accrue to consumers of goods in the 5% rate category, that are necessities. Elasticity of demand for this group of goods is low. As a result of an increase in disposable income, consumers would increase, relatively more, their demand for goods in the higher rate categories of 18% and 40% that are in the nature of comforts and luxuries. These effects would be revenue augmenting. However, the revenue loss would be immediate and revenue gains would emerge over time.

The GST impact on growth arises from avoiding cascading and promoting better resource allocation. The new rate categories do not fully avoid cascading. For all goods and services which are being placed under the exempt category, no input tax credit would be available and the taxes paid on inputs would be loaded onto the price. Where goods are zero rated or even in the 5% category, many inputs

may be taxed at 18%; although input tax credit may be admissible, there may be considerable bottlenecks in claiming input tax credit (ITC). In this context, it is also important to note that the classification of goods under the various rate slabs should be determined by the nature of commodities and not by demand weakness at a certain point in time.

Macro implications

There may be some pressure on the Government of India's budgeted fiscal deficit for 2025-26. In Q1, the nominal GDP growth, at 8.8%, was well below the budgeted GDP growth assumption of 10.1%. With the Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index both remaining low, the expectation is that unless liquidity is increased in the system, nominal GDP growth may turn out to be well below the budgeted level of 10.1%. In the first four months of 2025-26, the direct taxes have contracted by (-)4.3% as compared to 33.6% growth in the corresponding period of the previous year. At the time the Budget was presented, a revenue foregone figure of ₹1 lakh crore was estimated, arising mainly from personal income-tax reforms. With substantial revenue reduction also anticipated in the GST revenues, the realised gross tax revenues may fall well short of Budget projections. To some extent, the Reserve Bank of India's higher dividends may help.

It is important to see how the government responds to the expected revenue shortfall in 2025-26. The option is to either reduce expenditure or to increase fiscal deficit. States may have to resort to higher borrowing or cut expenditures in view of the revenue losses that they may suffer. Both these options will have an adverse impact on real growth. Monetary initiatives through repo rate reductions or liquidity expansions may result in higher inflation, opening up the possibility of monetising some fiscal deficit. Clearly, there are limits to which this option can be exercised.

Any strategy to support growth through demand stimulation spurred by tax rate reductions can be done only on a few occasions. More generally, growth will be driven by saving and investment rates. In fact, the potential growth rate would depend on the investment rate and the incremental capital output ratio.

The views expressed are personal

Table: Main rate and price changes

Change	Percentage fall in rate	Percentage fall in post-tax price
18% to 5%	13/18 = 72.2%	11%
12% to 5%	7/12 = 58.3%	6.3%
28% to 18%	10/28 = 35.7%	7.8%
18%, 12%, and 5% to nil	100%	15.3%, 10.7% and 4.8%

GST 2.0 — short-term pain, possible long-term gain

जीएसटी 2.0 — अल्पकालिक कठिनाई, संभावित दीर्घकालिक लाभ

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST)

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** was introduced in India with a view to promoting **consumption and production efficiencies** with a **tax system** that was **destination-based**. भारत में **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST)** को लागू किया गया ताकि **खपत और उत्पादन की दक्षताओं** को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके, एक **गंतव्य-आधारित कर प्रणाली** के माध्यम से।
- The objective was to ensure that the **tax incidence** fell on **final consumers** and **taxes paid on inputs were rebated**. इसका उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना था कि **कर का बोझ अंतिम उपभोक्ताओं** पर पड़े और **इनपुट पर दिए गए करों की छूट** मिल सके।
- The way GST evolved in the presence of a **complex compensation cess mechanism** continued to suffer from **multiple tax rates**, **inverted duty structure** and considerable **compliance cost**.



जटिल मुआवजा शुल्क तंत्र की उपस्थिति में GST का विकास कई कर दरों, उल्टे शुल्क संरचना और पर्याप्त अनुपालन लागत से प्रभावित रहा।

- The **new rate structure**, which takes effect from **September 22, 2025**, implies significant **rate reductions** for some categories of goods.
नई कर संरचना, जो 22 सितंबर, 2025 से लागू होगी, कुछ वस्तुओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण दर में कमी दर्शाती है।
- In the revised GST rate structure, **12% and 28% rates have been discontinued**.
संशोधित GST दर संरचना में, **12% और 28% दरें समाप्त** कर दी गई हैं।
- The rates of **0%, 5% and 18%** have been continued with changes in the goods and services covered under these rates.
0%, 5% और 18% दरें जारी रखी गई हैं, लेकिन इन दरों के तहत वस्तुओं और सेवाओं में परिवर्तन किया गया है।
- There is also a **demerit rate of 40%** for **sin goods and luxury items**.
पाप एवं विलासिता वाली वस्तुओं के लिए **40% की विशेष दर** भी लागू है।
- Some other **lower special rates below 5%** have also been continued.
कुछ अन्य **5% से कम विशेष दरें** भी जारी रखी गई हैं।
- Major beneficiary sectors include **textiles, consumer electronics, automobiles, health and most food items**.
प्रमुख लाभार्थी क्षेत्र में वस्त्र, उपभोक्ता इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, ऑटोमोबाइल, स्वास्थ्य और अधिकांश खाद्य वस्तुएँ शामिल हैं।
- These are **employment-intensive sectors** where the benefits of **lower prices** would be quite broad-based.
ये रोजगार-केंद्रित क्षेत्र हैं, जहां कम कीमतों के लाभ व्यापक होंगे।
- On the **production side**, sectors that would benefit include **fertilizers, agricultural machinery and renewable energy**, where **farmers would gain benefits through lower input costs**.
उत्पादन पक्ष पर, लाभार्थी क्षेत्र में उर्वरक, कृषि मशीनरी और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा शामिल हैं, जहां किसान कम इनपुट लागत के माध्यम से लाभ प्राप्त करेंगे।
- Out of a total number of **546 goods** where rate changes have been brought in, **more than 80%** have been subjected to **rate reductions** and **20% to rate increases**.
कुल **546 वस्तुओं** में से, जहां दरों में परिवर्तन किया गया है, **80% से अधिक** में दर में कमी और **20% में दर में वृद्धि** हुई है।
- Rate reductions** along with corresponding reduction in **post-tax prices**, in percentage terms, are given in the Table.
दर में कमी और कर पश्चात कीमतों में समान प्रतिशत कमी तालिका में दी गई है।
- GST revenues (R)** are determined as the **tax rate (r) multiplied by the tax base (E)**, which is **final consumption expenditure**.
GST राजस्व (R) को इस प्रकार निर्धारित किया जाता है कि **कर दर (r) को कर आधार (E) से गुणा** किया जाए, जो कि **अंतिम खपत व्यय** है।
- Tax base** is the product of **pre-tax price (p) and quantity (q)**.
कर आधार = कर पूर्व मूल्य (p) × मात्रा (q)।
- Thus, **$R = r \times E = r \times (p \times q)$** .
अतः **$R = r \times E = r \times (p \times q)$** ।
- Rate changes** will have two effects on **revenues**: one, through the **tax rate change**, and the other through the **impact on the tax base**.
दर परिवर्तन के राजस्व पर दो प्रभाव होंगे: एक, कर दर परिवर्तन के माध्यम से, और दूसरा कर आधार पर प्रभाव के माध्यम से।
- As the **tax rates are lowered**, **post-tax prices** are expected to fall, leading to an increase in the **quantity demanded**.
जब कर दरें कम होंगी, तो कर पश्चात कीमतें गिरने की संभावना है, जिससे मांग में वृद्धि होगी।
- The percentage fall in **post-tax price** would be much less than the **percentage fall in the tax rate**.
कर पश्चात कीमत में प्रतिशत गिरावट, कर दर में प्रतिशत गिरावट से बहुत कम होगी।
- Calibrations indicate that for all feasible ranges of **demand elasticity**, **revenues would fall**.
कैलिब्रेशन दर्शाते हैं कि सभी संभावित मांग लोच के लिए, राजस्व गिरेंगे।



- Where the **tax rates have been brought down to nil**, irrespective of the level of **expenditure, revenues will be zero**.
जहां कर दरें शून्य कर दी गई हैं, खर्च के स्तर की परवाह किए बिना, राजस्व शून्य होंगे।
- There are only limited instances of **increase in the tax rate**.
केवल सीमित मामलों में ही कर दर में वृद्धि हुई है।
- In cases where the **tax rate has been increased from 28% to 40%**, pertaining to **demerit or luxury goods**, most of this change implies only the **merger of the compensation cess** into the tax rate.
जिन मामलों में कर दर 28% से 40% बढ़ाई गई है, जो पाप या विलासिता वाली वस्तुओं से संबंधित है, इसमें अधिकांश परिवर्तन केवल मुआवजा शुल्क को कर दर में मिलाने का है।
- This does not constitute a **genuine increase in the tax rate**.
यह कर दर में वास्तविक वृद्धि नहीं है।
- There are some instances where goods may have been moved from **12% to 18%**.
कुछ मामलों में वस्तुओं को 12% से 18% पर स्थानांतरित किया गया हो सकता है।
- Overall, our assessment is that **substantial revenue reduction** is involved due to the **multiplicative effect** of the fall in the **tax rate**.
कुल मिलाकर, हमारा मूल्यांकन है कि कर दर में गिरावट के गुणात्मक प्रभाव के कारण महत्वपूर्ण राजस्व कमी शामिल है।
- Various estimates of **net revenue loss** are available which include the one given by the **Ministry of Finance — at ₹48,000 crore for a full year**.
विभिन्न शुद्ध राजस्व हानि के अनुमान उपलब्ध हैं, जिनमें वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा दिया गया ₹48,000 करोड़ का वार्षिक अनुमान शामिल है।
- Other estimates provide **higher figures**.
अन्य अनुमानों में उच्च आंकड़े दिए गए हैं।

Income Augmenting Effect आय बढ़ाने वाला प्रभाव

- To the extent that the **government has to bear a substantive amount of foregone revenues** on account of these **GST reforms**, this benefit would accrue to the **tax-payer** and his **disposable incomes** would go up.
जहां तक बात है कि सरकार को इन **GST सुधारों** के कारण एक महत्वपूर्ण राजस्व हानि सहनी पड़ेगी, यह लाभ करदाता को मिलेगा और उसकी उपलब्ध आय बढ़ जाएगी।
- Much of the benefit would accrue to consumers of goods in the **5% rate category**, that are **necessities**.
इस लाभ का अधिकांश हिस्सा 5% दर श्रेणी की वस्तुओं के उपभोक्ताओं को मिलेगा, जो आवश्यकताएँ हैं।
- **The elasticity of demand** for this group of goods is **low**.
इस वस्तु समूह की मांग लोच बहुत कम है।
- As a result of an increase in **disposable income**, consumers would increase, relatively more, their demand for goods in the **higher rate categories of 18% and 40%**, that are in the nature of **comforts and luxuries**.
उपलब्ध आय में वृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप, उपभोक्ता तुलनात्मक रूप से अधिक अपनी मांग बढ़ाएंगे उन वस्तुओं के लिए जो उच्च दर श्रेणियों 18% और 40% में आती हैं और जो सुविधाओं और विलासिता के रूप में हैं।
- These effects would be **revenue augmenting**.
ये प्रभाव राजस्व बढ़ाने वाले होंगे।
- However, the **revenue loss** would be **immediate** and **revenue gains** would emerge over **time**.
हालांकि, राजस्व हानि तुरंत होगी और राजस्व लाभ समय के साथ दिखाई देंगे।

GST Impact on Growth GST का विकास पर प्रभाव



- The GST impact on **growth** arises from **avoiding cascading** and promoting **better resource allocation**.
GST का **विकास** पर प्रभाव **कासकेडिंग** से **बचने** और **बेहतर संसाधन आवंटन** को बढ़ावा देने से होता है।
- The new rate categories do not fully avoid **cascading**.
नई दर श्रेणियाँ पूरी तरह से **कासकेडिंग** से नहीं बचाती हैं।
- For all goods and services placed under the **exempt category**, no **input tax credit** would be available and the **taxes paid on inputs** would be **loaded onto the price**.
सभी वस्तुओं और सेवाओं के लिए जो **मुक्त श्रेणी** में हैं, कोई **इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट** उपलब्ध नहीं होगा और **इनपुट पर दिया गया कर** मूल्य में शामिल कर दिया जाएगा।
- Where goods are **zero rated** or even in the **5% category**, many **inputs may be taxed at 18%**; although **input tax credit** may be admissible, there may be **considerable bottlenecks** in claiming **ITC**.
जहाँ वस्तुएँ **शून्य दर** की हैं या **5% श्रेणी** में हैं, कई **इनपुट पर 18% कर** लगाया जा सकता है; हालांकि **इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट** लिया जा सकता है, लेकिन **ITC** प्राप्त करने में काफी **बॉटलनेक** हो सकते हैं।
- It is important to note that the **classification of goods** under the various rate slabs should be determined by the **nature of commodities** and not by **demand weakness** at a certain point in time.
यह ध्यान रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि विभिन्न **कर दर स्लैबों** में **वस्तुओं का वर्गीकरण** वस्तुओं की **प्रकृति** के आधार पर होना चाहिए, न कि किसी विशेष समय पर **मांग की कमजोरी** के आधार पर।

Macro Implications मैक्रो प्रभाव

- There may be some **pressure on the Government of India's budgeted fiscal deficit for 2025-26**.
2025-26 के लिए भारत सरकार के **अनुमानित वित्तीय घाटे** पर कुछ **दबाव** हो सकता है।
- In **Q1**, the **nominal GDP growth**, at **8.8%**, was well below the **budgeted GDP growth assumption of 10.1%**.
Q1 में, **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP) वृद्धि**, **8.8%** पर, **अनुमानित GDP वृद्धि 10.1%** से काफी कम थी।
- With the **Consumer Price Index** and the **Wholesale Price Index** both remaining **low**, the expectation is that unless **liquidity** is increased in the system, **nominal GDP growth** may turn out to be well below the **budgeted level of 10.1%**.
जब **उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक** और **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक** दोनों **कम** बने रहते हैं, तो यह उम्मीद है कि जब तक प्रणाली में **तरलता** बढ़ाई नहीं जाती, **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद वृद्धि अनुमानित स्तर 10.1%** से काफी कम होगी।
- In the first **four months of 2025-26**, the **direct taxes** have contracted by **(-)4.3%** as compared to **33.6% growth** in the corresponding period of the previous year.
2025-26 के पहले चार महीनों में, **प्रत्यक्ष कर (-)4.3%** घट गए हैं, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि में **33.6% वृद्धि** हुई थी।
- At the time the **Budget** was presented, a **revenue foregone figure of ₹1 lakh crore** was estimated, arising mainly from **personal income-tax reforms**.
जब **बजट** पेश किया गया, तब मुख्य रूप से **व्यक्तिगत आय कर सुधारों** से उत्पन्न होने वाले **₹1 लाख करोड़ राजस्व हानि** का अनुमान लगाया गया था।
- With substantial **revenue reduction** also anticipated in the **GST revenues**, the **realised gross tax revenues** may fall well short of **Budget projections**.
GST राजस्व में भी महत्वपूर्ण **राजस्व कमी** की उम्मीद के साथ, **वास्तविक सकल कर राजस्व बजट अनुमानों** से काफी कम हो सकता है।
- To some extent, the **Reserve Bank of India's higher dividends** may help.
कुछ हद तक, **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के उच्च लाभांश** मदद कर सकते हैं।
- It is important to see how the **government responds to the expected revenue shortfall in 2025-26**.
यह देखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि **सरकार 2025-26 में अपेक्षित राजस्व हानि** पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देती है।
- The option is to either **reduce expenditure** or to **increase fiscal deficit**.
विकल्प यह है कि या तो **खर्च कम करें** या **वित्तीय घाटा बढ़ाएँ**।



- **States** may have to resort to **higher borrowing** or **cut expenditures** in view of the **revenue losses** that they may suffer.
राज्यों को अपने राजस्व हानि के मद्देनजर उधारी बढ़ाने या खर्च कम करने पर मजबूर होना पड़ सकता है।
- Both these options will have an **adverse impact on real growth**.
ये दोनों विकल्प वास्तविक विकास पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालेंगे।
- **Monetary initiatives** through **repo rate reductions** or **liquidity expansions** may result in **higher inflation**, opening up the possibility of **monetising some fiscal deficit**.
मौद्रिक पहल जैसे रेपो दर में कटौती या तरलता विस्तार से उच्च मुद्रास्फीति हो सकती है, जिससे कुछ वित्तीय घाटा मुद्रीकरण की संभावना खुलती है।
- Clearly, there are **limits** to which this option can be exercised.
स्पष्ट रूप से, इस विकल्प का उपयोग करने में सीमाएँ हैं।
- Any strategy to support **growth through demand stimulation** spurred by **tax rate reductions** can be done only on a few occasions.
कर दर में कमी से प्रेरित मांग उत्तेजना के माध्यम से विकास का समर्थन केवल कुछ अवसरों पर ही किया जा सकता है।
- More generally, **growth will be driven by saving and investment rates**.
अधिक सामान्य रूप से, विकास को बचत और निवेश दर द्वारा संचालित किया जाएगा।
- In fact, the **potential growth rate** would depend on the **investment rate** and the **incremental capital output ratio**.
वास्तव में, संभावित विकास दर निवेश दर और अतिरिक्त पूंजी उत्पादन अनुपात पर निर्भर करेगी।



Automated world: A machine cannot process the meaning behind raw data. Data annotators label raw images, audio, video, and text with information that trains AI and Machine Learning (ML) models. This, then, becomes the training set for AI and ML models. ISTOCKPHOTO



Unseen labour, exploitation: the hidden human cost of Artificial Intelligence

AI's efficiency and accuracy are built on the invisible labour of low-paid workers in developing countries. From data labelling to content moderation, 'ghost workers' face exploitation, insecurity, and mental health risks. Data annotators play a major role in training LLMs like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.

GS III: S&T, Economy,
Employment

Nivedita S.

The world is gearing towards an 'automated economy' where machines relying on artificial intelligence (AI) systems produce quick, efficient and nearly error-free outputs. However, AI is not getting smarter on its own; it has been built on and continues to rely on human labour and energy resources. These systems are fed information and trained by workers who are invisibilised by large tech companies, and mainly located in developing countries.

Areas of human involvement

A machine cannot process the meaning behind raw data. Data annotators label raw images, audio, video, and text with information that trains AI and Machine Learning (ML) models. This, then, becomes the training set for AI and Machine Learning (ML) models. For example, a large-language models (LLM) cannot recognise the colour 'yellow' unless the data has been labelled as such. Similarly, self-driving cars rely on information from video footage that has been labelled to distinguish between a traffic sign and humans on the road. The higher the quality of the dataset, the better the output and the more human labour is involved in creating it.

Data annotators play a major role in training LLMs like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.

An LLM is trained in three steps: self-supervised learning, supervised learning and reinforcement learning. In the first step, the machine picks up information from large datasets on the Internet. The data labellers or annotators enter in the second and third steps, where this information is fine-tuned for the LLM to give the most accurate response. Humans give feedback on the output the AI produces for better responses to be generated over time, as well as remove errors and jailbreaks.

This meticulous annotating work is outsourced by tech companies in Silicon Valley to mainly workers in countries like Kenya, India, Pakistan, China and the Philippines for low wages and long working hours.

Data labelling can be of two types: those which do not require subject expertise and those which are more niche and require subject expertise. Several tech companies have been accused of employing non-experts for technical subjects that require prior knowledge. This is a contributing factor in the errors found in the output produced by AI. A data labeller from Kenya revealed that they were tasked with labelling medical scans for an AI system intended for use in healthcare services elsewhere, despite lacking relevant expertise.

However, due to errors resulting from this, companies are starting to ensure experts for such information being fed

into the system.

Automated features requiring humans

Even features marketed as 'fully automated' are often underpinned by invisible human work. For example, our social media feeds are 'automatically' filtered to censor sensitive and graphic content. This is only possible because human moderators labelled such content as harmful by going through thousands of uncensored images, texts and audio. The exposure to such content daily has also been reported to cause severe mental health issues like **post-traumatic stress disorder**, anxiety and depression in the workers.

Similarly, there are voice actors and actors behind AI-generated audios and videos. Actors may be required to film themselves dancing or singing for these machines to recognise human movements and sounds. Children have also been reportedly engaged to perform such tasks.

In 2024, AI tech workers from Kenya sent a letter to former U.S. President Joe Biden talking about the poor working conditions they are subjected to. "In Kenya, these US companies are undermining the local labor laws, the country's justice system and violating international labor standards. Our working conditions amount to modern-day slavery," the letter read. They

said the content they have to annotate can range from pornography and beheadings to bestiality for more than eight hours a day, and for less than \$2 an hour, which is very low in comparison to industry standards. There are also strict deadlines to complete a task within a few seconds or minutes.

When workers raised their concerns to the companies, they were sacked and their unions dismantled.

Most AI tech workers are unaware of the large tech company they are working for and are engaged in online gig work. This is because, to minimise costs, AI companies outsource the work through intermediary digital platforms. There are subcontract workers in these digital platforms who are paid per "microtask" they perform. They are constantly surveilled, and if they fall short of the targeted output, they are fired. Hence, the labour network becomes fragmented and lacking transparency.

The advancement of AI is powered by such "ghost workers." The lack of recognition and informalisation of their work helps tech companies to perpetuate this system of labour exploitation. There is a need to bring in stricter laws and regulations on AI companies and digital platforms, not just on their content in the digital space, but also on their labour supply chains powering AI, ensuring transparency, fair pay, and dignity at work.

Unseen labour, exploitation: the hidden human cost of Artificial Intelligence

अदृश्य श्रम, शोषण: कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की छिपी हुई मानवीय लागत

- AI's efficiency and accuracy are built on the invisible labour of low-paid workers in developing countries.
AI की दक्षता और सटीकता विकासशील देशों में कम वेतन पाने वाले कर्मचारियों के अदृश्य श्रम पर आधारित है।
- From data labelling to content moderation, 'ghost workers' face exploitation, insecurity, and mental health risks.
डेटा लेबलिंग से लेकर कंटेंट मॉडरेशन तक, 'घोस्ट वर्कर्स' को शोषण, असुरक्षा और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य जोखिम का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- Data annotators play a major role in training LLMs like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.
डेटा एनोटेटर जैसे ChatGPT, Gemini आदि जैसी LLM को प्रशिक्षित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

Automated Economy and Human Labour स्वचालित अर्थव्यवस्था और मानव श्रम



- The world is gearing towards an **'automated economy'** where **machines** relying on **artificial intelligence (AI) systems** produce quick, efficient and nearly **error-free outputs**.
दुनिया एक **'स्वचालित अर्थव्यवस्था'** की ओर बढ़ रही है, जहाँ **मशीनें**, जो **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) प्रणालियों** पर निर्भर हैं, तेज, कुशल और लगभग **त्रुटिरहित परिणाम** उत्पन्न करती हैं।
- However, **AI is not getting smarter on its own**; it has been built on and continues to rely on **human labour** and **energy resources**.
हालांकि, **AI अपने आप अधिक बुद्धिमान नहीं हो रहा है**; इसे **मानव श्रम** और **ऊर्जा संसाधनों** पर बनाया गया है और अब भी यह उन पर निर्भर है।
- These systems are fed information and trained by **workers** who are invisibilised by large **tech companies**, and mainly located in **developing countries**.
इन प्रणालियों को जानकारी **कर्मचारियों** द्वारा दी जाती है और प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है, जिन्हें **बड़े टेक कंपनियों** द्वारा अदृश्य बना दिया जाता है, और ये मुख्य रूप से **विकासशील देशों** में स्थित हैं।

Areas of Human Involvement

मानव सहभागिता के क्षेत्र

- A **machine cannot process the meaning** behind raw data.
एक **मशीन कच्चे डेटा** के पीछे का अर्थ नहीं समझ सकती।
- **Data annotators** label raw **images, audio, video, and text** with information that trains **AI and Machine Learning (ML) models**.
डेटा एनोटेटर कच्चे **इमेज, ऑडियो, वीडियो, और टेक्स्ट** को लेबल करते हैं ताकि यह जानकारी **AI और मशीन लर्निंग (ML) मॉडल** को प्रशिक्षित कर सके।
- This becomes the **training set** for **AI and ML models**.
यह **AI और ML मॉडल्स** के लिए **प्रशिक्षण सेट** बन जाता है।
- Example: a **large-language model (LLM)** cannot recognise the colour **'yellow'** unless the data has been **labelled** as such.
उदाहरण: एक **लार्ज-लैंग्वेज मॉडल (LLM)** 'पीला' रंग को तब तक पहचान नहीं सकता जब तक डेटा को ऐसा **लेबल** नहीं किया गया हो।
- Similarly, **self-driving cars** rely on information from **video footage** labelled to distinguish between a **traffic sign** and **humans on the road**.
इसी तरह, **स्व-चालित कारें वीडियो फुटेज** पर निर्भर करती हैं, जो **ट्रैफिक साइन और सड़क पर इंसानों** में भेद करने के लिए लेबल की गई होती हैं।
- The higher the **quality of the dataset**, the better the **output**, and the more **human labour** is involved in creating it.
जितनी अधिक **डेटासेट की गुणवत्ता**, उतना बेहतर **आउटपुट**, और इसे बनाने में उतना अधिक **मानव श्रम** शामिल होता है।
- **Data annotators** play a major role in training **LLMs** like **ChatGPT, Gemini, etc**.
डेटा एनोटेटर ChatGPT, Gemini जैसी **LLM** को प्रशिक्षित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- An **LLM** is trained in three steps: **self-supervised learning, supervised learning, and reinforcement learning**.
एक **LLM** को तीन चरणों में प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है: **स्व-निगरानी सीखना, पर्यवेक्षित सीखना, और सुदृढीकरण सीखना**।
- In the first step, the machine picks up information from **large datasets on the Internet**.
पहले चरण में, मशीन **इंटरनेट पर बड़े डेटासेट** से जानकारी प्राप्त करती है।
- The **data labellers or annotators** enter in the **second and third steps**, where this information is **fine-tuned** for the **LLM** to give the most **accurate response**.
डेटा लेबलर या एनोटेटर दूसरे और तीसरे चरण में प्रवेश करते हैं, जहाँ इस जानकारी को **LLM** के लिए सबसे **सटीक उत्तर** देने के लिए **फाइन-ट्यून** किया जाता है।
- Humans give **feedback** on the output the **AI produces** for better responses over time, as well as **remove errors and jailbreaks**.
मानव **AI** द्वारा उत्पन्न **आउटपुट** पर **फीडबैक** देते हैं ताकि समय के साथ बेहतर उत्तर उत्पन्न हो, और **त्रुटियों और जेलब्रेक्स** को हटाया जा सके।
- This meticulous annotating work is **outsourced** by **tech companies in Silicon Valley** to mainly workers in **Kenya, India, Pakistan, China, and the Philippines** for **low wages** and **long working hours**.



यह सूक्ष्म एनोटेटिंग कार्य सिलिकॉन वैली की टेक कंपनियों द्वारा मुख्य रूप से केन्या, भारत, पाकिस्तान, चीन और फिलिपींस के कर्मचारियों को कम वेतन और लंबे कार्य घंटों के लिए आउटसोर्स किया जाता है।

- **Data labelling** can be of two types: those which do not require **subject expertise** and those which are more **niche** and require **subject expertise**.
डेटा लेबलिंग दो प्रकार की हो सकती है: वे जिनके लिए **विषय विशेषज्ञता** की आवश्यकता नहीं होती और वे जो अधिक **विशेषज्ञ** और **विषय विशेषज्ञता** की मांग करते हैं।
- Several tech companies have been accused of employing **non-experts** for **technical subjects** that require prior knowledge.
कई टेक कंपनियों पर आरोप है कि वे **तकनीकी विषयों** के लिए **गैर-विशेषज्ञों** को नियुक्त करती हैं, जिन्हें पूर्व ज्ञान की आवश्यकता होती है।
- This contributes to **errors** in the output produced by **AI**.
यह **AI** द्वारा उत्पन्न आउटपुट में **त्रुटियों** का योगदान देता है।
- Example: a **data labeller from Kenya** revealed they were tasked with labelling **medical scans** for an **AI system intended for healthcare**, despite lacking relevant **expertise**.
उदाहरण: **केन्या का एक डेटा लेबलर** ने बताया कि उन्हें **स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के लिए AI सिस्टम** के लिए **मेडिकल स्कैन** लेबल करने का कार्य सौंपा गया, जबकि उनके पास संबंधित **विशेषज्ञता** नहीं थी।
- Due to errors resulting from this, companies are starting to ensure **experts** are used for such information fed into the system.
इससे उत्पन्न **त्रुटियों** के कारण, कंपनियां यह सुनिश्चित करना शुरू कर रही हैं कि इस प्रकार की जानकारी सिस्टम में **विशेषज्ञों** द्वारा डाली जाए।

Automated Features Requiring Humans मानव-सहायता वाली स्वचालित विशेषताएँ

- Even features marketed as '**fully automated**' are often underpinned by **invisible human work**.
यहां तक कि जो विशेषताएँ '**पूर्ण रूप से स्वचालित**' के रूप में बेची जाती हैं, वे अक्सर **अदृश्य मानव श्रम** पर आधारित होती हैं।
- Example: Our **social media feeds** are '**automatically**' filtered to censor **sensitive and graphic content**.
उदाहरण: हमारे **सोशल मीडिया फीड** को '**स्वचालित रूप से**' फिल्टर किया जाता है ताकि **संवेदनशील और ग्राफिक सामग्री** को सेंसर किया जा सके।
- This is only possible because **human moderators** labelled such content as **harmful** by going through thousands of **uncensored images, texts, and audio**.
यह केवल इसलिए संभव है क्योंकि **मानव मॉडरेटर** ने हजारों **असेंसर की गई इमेज, टेक्स्ट और ऑडियो** देखकर ऐसी सामग्री को **हानिकारक** के रूप में लेबल किया।
- The exposure to such content daily has been reported to cause **severe mental health issues** like **post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression** in the workers.
इस प्रकार की सामग्री के रोजाना संपर्क से कर्मचारियों में **गंभीर मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याएं** जैसे **पोस्ट-ट्रॉमेटिक स्ट्रेस डिसऑर्डर, चिंता और अवसाद** होने की रिपोर्ट की गई है।
- Similarly, there are **voice actors** and **actors behind AI-generated audios and videos**.
इसी तरह, **वॉइस एक्टर्स** और **AI-जनित ऑडियो और वीडियो के पीछे के अभिनेता** भी होते हैं।
- Actors may be required to **film themselves dancing or singing** for these machines to recognise **human movements and sounds**.
इन मशीनों द्वारा **मानव आंदोलनों और आवाजों** को पहचानने के लिए, अभिनेताओं को **खुद को नाचते या गाते हुए फिल्माना** पड़ सकता है।
- Children have also been reportedly engaged to perform such tasks.
रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, बच्चों को भी ऐसे कार्य करने के लिए लगाया गया है।
- In **2024**, AI tech workers from **Kenya** sent a letter to former **U.S. President Joe Biden** about **poor working conditions**.
2024 में, **केन्या** के AI तकनीकी कर्मचारी पूर्व **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडेन** को **खराब कार्य परिस्थितियों** के बारे में पत्र भेजा।
- The letter stated: "In Kenya, these **US companies** are undermining **local labor laws**, the **country's justice system**, and violating **international labor standards**. Our working conditions amount to **modern-day slavery**."



पत्र में कहा गया: “केन्या में, ये अमेरिकी कंपनियों स्थानीय श्रम कानूनों, देश की न्याय प्रणाली को कमजोर कर रही हैं और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम मानकों का उल्लंघन कर रही हैं। हमारी कार्य परिस्थितियाँ आधुनिक दासता के समान हैं।”

- Workers said the content they annotate ranges from **pornography and beheadings to bestiality** for more than **eight hours a day**, for **less than \$2 an hour**, which is **very low compared to industry standards**.
कर्मचारियों ने कहा कि जिस सामग्री को वे एनोटेट करते हैं वह **पोर्नोग्राफी और सिर काटने** से लेकर **पशु उत्तेजना** तक हो सकती है, और यह कार्य **दिन में आठ घंटे से अधिक** चलता है, **\$2 प्रति घंटा से कम** के वेतन पर, जो **उद्योग मानकों की तुलना में बहुत कम** है।
- There are also strict **deadlines** to complete a task within a few **seconds or minutes**.
कुछ कार्यों को **कुछ सेकंड या मिनटों** में पूरा करने के लिए **कड़े समय-सीमाएं** भी होती हैं।
- When workers raised concerns, they were **sacked** and their **unions dismantled**.
जब कर्मचारियों ने चिंताएँ उठाई, तो उन्हें **बर्खास्त** कर दिया गया और उनके **संघों को समाप्त** कर दिया गया।
- Most AI tech workers are unaware of the **large tech company** they are working for and are engaged in **online gig work**.
अधिकांश AI तकनीकी कर्मचारी इस बारे में अनजान हैं कि वे किस **बड़ी टेक कंपनी** के लिए काम कर रहे हैं और वे **ऑनलाइन गिग कार्य** में लगे हैं।
- This is because, to minimise **costs**, AI companies **outsource work** through **intermediary digital platforms**.
ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि, **लागत कम करने** के लिए, AI कंपनियाँ **मध्यस्थ डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों** के माध्यम से **कार्य आउटसोर्स** करती हैं।
- There are **subcontract workers** in these platforms who are paid per “**microtask**” they perform.
इन प्लेटफार्मों में **सब-कॉन्ट्रैक्ट कर्मचारी** होते हैं, जिन्हें वे जो “**माइक्रोटैस्क**” करते हैं उसके अनुसार भुगतान किया जाता है।
- They are constantly **surveilled**, and if they fall short of **targeted output**, they are **fired**.
उन्हें लगातार **निगरानी** में रखा जाता है, और यदि वे **लक्षित आउटपुट** से कम होते हैं, तो उन्हें **नौकरी से निकाल** दिया जाता है।
- Hence, the **labour network** becomes **fragmented** and lacks **transparency**.
इसलिए, **श्रम नेटवर्क खंडित** हो जाता है और इसमें **पारदर्शिता** नहीं होती।
- The advancement of AI is powered by such “**ghost workers**.”
AI की प्रगति ऐसे “**भूत कर्मचारियों**” द्वारा समर्थित है।
- The **lack of recognition** and **informalisation** of their work helps **tech companies** perpetuate this system of **labour exploitation**.
उनके काम की **मान्यता की कमी** और **असंगठित प्रकृति** तकनीकी कंपनियों को इस **श्रम शोषण प्रणाली** को बनाए रखने में मदद करती है।
- There is a need to bring in stricter **laws and regulations** on **AI companies** and **digital platforms**, not just on their **content**, but also on their **labour supply chains**, ensuring **transparency, fair pay, and dignity at work**.
AI कंपनियों और डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों पर सिर्फ उनके **सामग्री** ही नहीं, बल्कि उनके **श्रम आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** पर भी सख्त **कानून और नियम** लाने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि **पारदर्शिता, उचित वेतन, और कार्य में गरिमा** सुनिश्चित हो सके।



To cut imports, govt. to pick 100 items for local manufacture

The Centre's move is aimed at encouraging private sector to expand its capacity so as to substitute imports with domestic production

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The government is in the process of finalising a list of **100 products** that India imports in large amounts but has domestic capacity to manufacture, a Commerce Ministry official said.

The aim is to support these sectors – which include **engineering goods, plastics, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals**, among others – and encourage the private sector to expand its capacity so as to substitute imports with domestic production.

“We are focussing on reducing the dependency on certain geographies so that supply-chain disruptions would not happen,” the official said, on the condition



Homeward looking: The idea is to focus on the concepts of ‘Swadeshi’ and ‘Atmanirbharta’. THE HINDU

of anonymity as this exercise has not yet been completed.

“We are trying to see that our dependency regarding critical items should not be adversely impacted,” the official said.

“We have identified about 100 products where we have huge imports and at the same time we have

some domestic capacity,” he added. “We feel that those imports could be replaced by the domestic capacity by improving the capacity utilisation of those manufacturing facilities within the country.”

The idea, he added, was to focus on the concepts of ‘Swadeshi’ and ‘Atmanirbharta’.

To cut imports, govt. to pick 100 items for local manufacture

आयात कम करने के लिए, सरकार स्थानीय निर्माण हेतु 100 वस्तुओं का चयन करेगी



- The Centre's move is aimed at encouraging the private sector to expand its capacity so as to substitute imports with domestic production.
केंद्र का कदम निजी क्षेत्र को अपनी क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने पर केंद्रित है ताकि आयात को घरेलू उत्पादन से प्रतिस्थापित किया जा सके।
- The government is in the process of finalising a list of 100 products that India imports in large amounts but has domestic capacity to manufacture, a Commerce Ministry official said.
सरकार 100 उत्पादों की सूची को अंतिम रूप देने की प्रक्रिया में है, जिन्हें भारत बड़ी मात्रा में आयात करता है, लेकिन जिनके उत्पादन के लिए घरेलू क्षमता मौजूद है, ऐसा एक वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने कहा।
- The aim is to support these sectors — which include engineering goods, plastics, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, among others — and encourage the private sector to expand its capacity so as to substitute imports with domestic production.
इसका उद्देश्य इन क्षेत्रों का समर्थन करना है — जिनमें इंजीनियरिंग उत्पाद, प्लास्टिक, रसायन और औषधियां आदि शामिल हैं — और निजी क्षेत्र को प्रोत्साहित करना है ताकि वह अपनी क्षमता बढ़ाए और आयात को घरेलू उत्पादन से प्रतिस्थापित कर सके।
- "We are focussing on reducing the dependency on certain geographies so that supply-chain disruptions would not happen," the official said, on the condition of anonymity as this exercise has not yet been completed.
"हम कुछ भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों पर निर्भरता कम करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं ताकि सप्लाय-चेन में बाधाएं न आएँ," अधिकारी ने गुमनामी की शर्त पर कहा क्योंकि यह प्रक्रिया अभी पूरी नहीं हुई है।
- "We are trying to see that our dependency regarding critical items should not be adversely impacted," the official said.
"हम यह सुनिश्चित करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि महत्वपूर्ण वस्तुओं के संबंध में हमारी निर्भरता नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित न हो," अधिकारी ने कहा।
- "We have identified about 100 products where we have huge imports and at the same time we have some domestic capacity," he added.
"हमने लगभग 100 उत्पादों की पहचान की है जहां हमारा आयात बहुत अधिक है और साथ ही हमारे पास कुछ घरेलू क्षमता भी है," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- "We feel that those imports could be replaced by the domestic capacity by improving the capacity utilisation of those manufacturing facilities within the country."
"हमारा मानना है कि उन आयातों को घरेलू क्षमता से प्रतिस्थापित किया जा सकता है, यदि देश के भीतर मौजूद उत्पादन सुविधाओं की क्षमता का बेहतर उपयोग किया जाए।"
- The idea, he added, was to focus on the concepts of 'Swadeshi' and 'Atmanirbharta'.
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि विचार का उद्देश्य 'स्वदेशी' और 'आत्मनिर्भरता' की अवधारणाओं पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना है।