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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

26 NOVEMBER 2025

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UPPSC

26/11/2025

Army chief pays homage to Operation Pawan bravehearts

PCS
Saurabh Thivedi

NEW DELHI

The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, on Tuesday paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives during Operation Pawan, the 1987 Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) mission in Sri Lanka.

A senior official said that until now only the families of the fallen soldiers and veterans who served in the operation gathered at the National War Memorial to mark the anniversary.

“This time General Upendra Dwivedi paid homage to the braveheart soldiers of Operation Pawan that occurred in Sri Lanka in 1987,” the official stated. Along with General Dwivedi, Lieutenant-General Pushpendra Singh, Vice Chief of the Army, who himself had taken part in the operation as a young officer, participated in the ceremony.



Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi pays homage to honour the sacrifice of soldiers at National War Memorial in New Delhi. PTI

Operation Pawan was started in October 1987 and ended in 1990, resulted in hundreds of personnel killed and over a thousand injured.

The Army chief laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, honouring the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice.

Several serving personnel, veterans, and families were also present, paying heartfelt tributes in collective remembrance.

The IPKF received

numerous gallantry medals.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted a tribute on social media platform X, writing: “Remembering and paying tributes to Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran on his ‘Balidan Diwas’. He showed exceptional courage and leadership during ‘Operation Pawan’ in Jaffna. His supreme sacrifice and steadfast resolve remain a guiding light for our Armed Forces and our nation.”

Army chief pays homage to Operation Pawan bravehearts

सेना प्रमुख ने ऑपरेशन पवन के वीरों को श्रद्धांजलि दी

- Army chief pays homage to Operation Pawan bravehearts
सेना प्रमुख ने ऑपरेशन पवन के वीरों को श्रद्धांजलि दी
- The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General **Upendra Dwivedi**, on Tuesday paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives during **Operation Pawan, the 1987 Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) mission in Sri Lanka**.
सेना के प्रमुख (सीओएस) जनरल **उपेन्द्र द्विवेदी** ने मंगलवार को श्रीलंका में **1987 इंडियन पीसकीपिंग फोर्स (IPKF) मिशन ऑपरेशन पवन** के दौरान शहीद हुए सैनिकों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।
- A senior officer said that until now only the families of the fallen soldiers and veterans who served in the operation gathered at the **National War Memorial** to mark the anniversary.



एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि अब तक केवल शहीद सैनिकों के परिवार और ऑपरेशन में शामिल रहे दिग्गज ही इसकी वर्षगांठ पर **नेशनल वॉर मेमोरियल** में एकत्रित होते थे।

- “This time General Upendra Dwivedi paid homage to the braveheart soldiers of Operation Pawan that occurred in **Sri Lanka in 1987**,” the official stated.

“इस बार जनरल उपेन्द्र द्विवेदी ने **1987 में श्रीलंका में हुए ऑपरेशन पवन** के वीर सैनिकों को श्रद्धांजलि दी,” अधिकारी ने कहा।

- Along with General Dwivedi, **Lieutenant-General Pushpendra Singh**, Vice Chief of the Army, who himself had taken part in the operation as a young officer, participated in the ceremony.
जनरल द्विवेदी के साथ सेना के उप प्रमुख **लेफ्टिनेंट-जनरल पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह**, जिन्होंने एक युवा अधिकारी के रूप में इस अभियान में हिस्सा लिया था, ने भी समारोह में भाग लिया।
- **Operation Pawan was started in October 1987 and ended in 1990, resulted in hundreds of personnel killed and over a thousand injured.**
ऑपरेशन पवन अक्टूबर 1987 में शुरू हुआ और 1990 में समाप्त हुआ, जिसमें सैकड़ों सैनिक शहीद हुए और एक हजार से अधिक घायल हुए।
- The Army chief laid a **wreath** at the National War Memorial, honouring the bravehearts who made the **supreme sacrifice**.
सेना प्रमुख ने नेशनल वॉर मेमोरियल में **अर्पण** किया और **परम बलिदान** देने वाले वीरों को सम्मानित किया।
- Several serving personnel, veterans, and families were also present, paying heartfelt **tributes** in collective remembrance.
कई सेवारत सैनिक, दिग्गज और परिवारजन भी मौजूद रहे और सभी ने सामूहिक रूप से भावपूर्ण **श्रद्धांजलि** अर्पित की।
- The IPKF received numerous **gallantry medals**.
IPKF को कई **वीरता पदक** प्राप्त हुए।
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** posted a tribute on social media platform X, writing: “Remembering and paying tributes to **Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran** on his ‘**Balidan Diwas**’. He showed **exceptional courage and leadership** during ‘Operation Pawan’ in Jaffana. His **supreme sacrifice** and steadfast resolve remain a guiding light for our Armed Forces and our nation.”
रक्षा मंत्री **राजनाथ सिंह** ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X पर लिखा: “उनके **‘बलिदान दिवस’** पर **मेजर रामास्वामी परमेश्वरन** को याद करते हुए श्रद्धांजलि। उन्होंने **जाफ़ना** में ‘ऑपरेशन पवन’ के दौरान **असाधारण साहस और नेतृत्व** दिखाया। उनका **परम बलिदान** और अटूट संकल्प हमारी सशस्त्र सेनाओं और राष्ट्र के लिए प्रेरणा बना हुआ है।”





PCS

Drop shot in Sydney

Lakshya Sen's win also draws attention to the gaps in India's supply line of stars

For Indian badminton, 2025 has been a tough year. Successes have been fleeting, top players' form has undulated and serious questions have been asked of not just the established but also the young and upcoming. But for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's doubles bronze at the World Championships in Paris in August, there has been precious little. Against this backdrop, Lakshya Sen's triumph at the Australian Open on Sunday has come like a breath of fresh air. It was not the toughest of fields and the tournament – a BWF Super 500, third in the sport's hierarchy after Super 1000 and 750 – is not pedigreed. But it was no low-hanging fruit either, for Lakshya had to spend long hours on court, including in the come-from-behind semi-final victory over World No. 6 Chou Tien Chen. The title was the 24-year-old's first since the Syed Modi International Super 300 last December, and the first outside India since the Canada Open Super 500 in July 2023. Ever since the disappointment of losing the 2024 Paris Olympics bronze medal match from a dominant position, Lakshya has endured difficult times. Injuries and a spate of early exits – 11 in the first round this year alone – had sent him tumbling down. But a trophy in his last act of 2025 should give him the required fillip.

Whether this acts as a springboard for other Indians in 2026 remains to be seen. Apart from Satwiksairaj and Chirag, no other Indian is ranked in the top 10 of any badminton discipline. Since July 2022, P.V. Sindhu has just one Tour title to show – the Syed Modi International last December. H.S. Prannoy, who bagged a men's singles bronze at the 2023 Worlds and soared to No. 6, is now down to 35. Worryingly, the supply line of stars appears to have undergone a rupture. Ayush Shetty, 20, winning the U.S. Open Super 300, and Tanvi Sharma, 16, finishing with a silver medal in girls' singles at the World Junior Championships, are noteworthy achievements indeed. But no junior has stormed the scene and plugged the gap seamlessly like how Sindhu once did after Saina Nehwal. The Badminton Association of India appears to be mindful of this, as seen from the setting up of the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati to train the next generation. India is also betting big on hosting international competitions of repute to burnish its credentials as an elite badminton nation. After the 2025 World Juniors in Guwahati, the 2026 World Championships is scheduled to be held in Delhi. If India can assemble a battery of medal challengers, it would be akin to a resurrection.

round this year alone — had sent him tumbling down.

Drop shot in Sydney सिडनी में ड्रॉप शॉट

Lakshya Sen's win also draws attention to the gaps in India's supply line of stars
लक्ष्य सेन की जीत भारत की स्टार सप्लाई लाइन में मौजूद कमियों की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित करती है

Indian badminton in 2025 2025 में भारतीय बैडमिंटन

For Indian badminton, 2025 has been a tough year. Successes have been fleeting, top players' form has undulated and serious questions have been asked of not just the established but also the young and upcoming. भारतीय बैडमिंटन के लिए 2025 कठिन वर्ष रहा है। सफलताएँ क्षणिक रही हैं, शीर्ष खिलाड़ियों का फॉर्म उतार-चढ़ाव भरा रहा है, और न केवल अनुभवी बल्कि युवा खिलाड़ियों पर भी गंभीर सवाल उठे हैं।

But for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's doubles bronze at the World Championships in Paris in August, there has been precious little.

अगस्त में पेरिस में हुई विश्व चैंपियनशिप में सत्विकसैराज रैंकीरेड्डी और चिराग शेट्टी के डबल्स ब्रॉन्ज को छोड़कर उपलब्धियाँ बेहद कम रही हैं।

Against this backdrop, Lakshya Sen's triumph at the Australian Open on Sunday has come like a breath of fresh air.

इस पृष्ठभूमि में, रविवार को ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन में लक्ष्य सेन की जीत एक ताज़गी भरी हवा जैसी आई है।

It was not the toughest of fields and the tournament — a BWF Super 500 — is not pedigreed, but it was no low-hanging fruit either, for Lakshya had to spend long hours on court.

यह सबसे कठिन टूर्नामेंट नहीं था और यह BWF सुपर 500 स्तर का था, लेकिन यह आसान भी नहीं था, क्योंकि लक्ष्य को कोर्ट पर लंबे समय तक संघर्ष करना पड़ा।

His come-from-behind semi-final victory over World No. 6 Chou Tien Chen was noteworthy.

वर्ल्ड नंबर 6 चाउ तिएन चेन के खिलाफ उनकी वापसी करते हुए सेमीफाइनल जीत उल्लेखनीय रही।

The title was the 24-year-old's first since the Syed Modi International Super 300 last December, and the first outside India since the Canada Open Super 500 in July 2023.

यह खिताब 24 वर्षीय खिलाड़ी की पिछले दिसंबर हुई सर्द मोदी सुपर 300 के बाद पहली जीत थी, और जुलाई 2023 के कनाडा ओपन सुपर 500 के बाद भारत के बाहर पहला खिताब था।

Ever since the disappointment of losing the 2024 Paris Olympics bronze medal match from a dominant position, Lakshya has endured difficult times.

2024 पेरिस ओलंपिक में ब्रॉन्ज मैच हारने की निराशा के बाद से लक्ष्य ने कठिन समय झेला है।

Injuries and a spate of early exits — 11 in the first



चोटों और लगातार शुरुआती हारों — केवल इस वर्ष **पहले दौर में 11 हार** — ने उन्हें बहुत नीचे पहुंचा दिया था।

- But a trophy in his last act of **2025** should give him the required fillip.
लेकिन **2025** के अंतिम चरण में मिली यह ट्रॉफी उन्हें आवश्यक प्रोत्साहन देगी।
- Whether this acts as a springboard for other Indians in **2026** remains to be seen.
यह **2026** में अन्य भारतीयों के लिए प्रेरणा बनेगा या नहीं, यह देखना बाकी है।
- **Apart from Satwiksairaj and Chirag, no other Indian is ranked in the top 10 of any badminton discipline.**
सत्विक-चिराग को छोड़कर किसी भी भारतीय खिलाड़ी की किसी भी बैडमिंटन श्रेणी में **टॉप 10** में रैंकिंग नहीं है।
- **Since July 2022, P.V. Sindhu has just one Tour title — the Syed Modi International last December.**
जुलाई 2022 से **पी.वी. सिंधु** के पास केवल एक ही टूर खिताब है — पिछले दिसंबर का **सईद मोदी इंटरनेशनल**।
- **H.S. Prannoy, who once soared to World No. 6, is now ranked 35.**
कभी विश्व नंबर 6 रहे **एच.एस. प्रणय** अब **35**वीं रैंक पर आ गए हैं।
- The supply line of stars appears to have undergone a rupture.
सितारों की नई खेप में रुकावट दिखाई देती है।
- **Ayush Shetty, 20, winning the U.S. Open Super 300, and Tanvi Sharma, 16, winning silver at the World Junior Championships, are encouraging achievements.**
20 वर्षीय **आयुष शेट्टी** का यूएस ओपन सुपर 300 जीतना और **16** वर्षीय **तन्वी शर्मा** का वर्ल्ड जूनियर चैंपियनशिप में सिल्वर जीतना उत्साहजनक उपलब्धियाँ हैं।
- But no junior has stormed the scene like **Sindhu** did after **Saina Nehwal**.
लेकिन कोई भी जूनियर खिलाड़ी वैसा प्रभाव नहीं डाल पाया जैसा **सायना नेहवाल** के बाद **सिंधु** ने डाला था।
- The **Badminton Association of India has set up the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati to train the next generation.**
बैडमिंटन एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया ने अगली पीढ़ी को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए **गुवाहाटी में नेशनल सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस** स्थापित किया है।
- India is also betting big on hosting international competitions.
भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिताओं की मेजबानी पर भी जोर दे रहा है।
- **After the 2025 World Juniors in Guwahati, the 2026 World Championships will be held in Delhi.**
2025 वर्ल्ड जूनियर्स के बाद **2026 वर्ल्ड चैंपियनशिप** दिल्ली में आयोजित की जाएगी।
- If India can assemble a strong group of medal contenders, it would be akin to a **resurrection**.
यदि भारत पदक दावेदारों की मजबूत टीम तैयार कर सके, तो यह एक **पुनरुत्थान** जैसा होगा।



RECOGNITION

Rohit named Brand Ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup



PCS

FILE PHOTO

Rohit Sharma, part of both of India's Men's T20 World Cup wins (in 2007 and 2024) and the only player to feature in all nine editions, was unveiled as the Brand Ambassador for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, becoming the first active international cricketer to hold such an ICC role.

Rohit named Brand Ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup

2026 पुरुष T20 विश्व कप के लिए रोहित को ब्रांड एंबेसडर नामित किया गया

Rohit named Brand Ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup

2026 पुरुष T20 विश्व कप के लिए रोहित को ब्रांड एंबेसडर नामित किया गया

- Rohit Sharma, part of both of India's Men's T20 World Cup wins (in 2007 and 2024) and the only player to feature in all nine editions, was unveiled as the **Brand Ambassador** for the **2026 T20 World Cup** in India and Sri Lanka, becoming the **first active international cricketer** to hold such an **ICC role**.

रोहित शर्मा, जो भारत की दोनों पुरुष T20 विश्व कप जीतों (2007 और 2024) का हिस्सा रहे हैं और सभी नौ संस्करणों में खेलने वाले

एकमात्र खिलाड़ी हैं, को भारत और श्रीलंका में होने वाले 2026 T20 विश्व कप के ब्रांड एंबेसडर के रूप में घोषित किया गया, और वे ऐसे ICC पद को धारण करने वाले पहले सक्रिय अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेटर बन गए।

GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

TOPICS COVERED

26 November 2025

Society

1. **A landmark law in 2013, it needs a spine in 2025**

2013 का एक ऐतिहासिक कानून, इसे 2025 में एक रीढ़ की आवश्यकता है

Geography

2.

For Assam tea, erratic climate and stagnant prices present a crisis

असम की चाय के लिए, अनियमित जलवायु और स्थिर कीमतें एक संकट प्रस्तुत करती हैं

3.

Hayli Gubbi Volcano

हैली गुब्बी ज्वालामुखी

Society

26/11/2025



A landmark law in 2013, it needs a spine in 2025

ISS I: Society

A case in Chandigarh, where a college professor was sacked after a probe by the **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (or the POSH Act)** marks a rare but important precedent. The students' complaint, filed on September 12, 2024, was investigated, and the allegations of sexual harassment were proven.

While this outcome is being hailed as "justice served", it also exposes the **low conviction rate under the POSH Act** and the gaps that prevent it from delivering justice with consistency and empathy, especially in educational institutions where young women and men face unequal power dynamics. This writer has seen the recurring gaps and on-ground challenges that dilute the purpose of the law after having witnessed several cases of sexual harassment in universities and colleges.

The flawed idea of consent

The Act, though well-intentioned, suffers from conceptual and procedural flaws. It talks about "consent" but not "informed consent". That distinction is crucial. Consent loses its meaning when obtained through manipulation or incomplete knowledge. Within workplace and academic settings, relationships may initially appear consensual, but when emotional manipulation or power imbalance surfaces later, the earlier consent becomes invalid. What a woman experiences then is not only harassment but also betrayal.

Yet, the law does not account for such informed consent, ignoring how educated perpetrators exploit trust, authority and information asymmetry.

Emotional harassment that stems from deceitful or manipulative relationships also remains outside the Act's ambit. When consent is obtained through fraud or emotional coercion, it should be treated as harassment. Many educated accused understand what leaves evidence and



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The POSH Act needs to have clearer language, longer timelines, recognition of emotional and digital abuse, and stronger investigative tools

what does not, shaping their behaviour to remain in the grey zone of legality. The law, still bound to visible or explicit acts, fails to address this subtle, psychological form of exploitation.

One of the most pressing flaws is the limitation period of three months for filing complaints. For a woman who has survived manipulation or coercion, recognising what happened and gathering courage to report it often takes much longer. In universities, where students spend several years under the same institutional roof, realisation and evidence may emerge much later. Justice should not come with an expiry date. The three-month rule only strengthens the confidence of perpetrators that their acts will fade with time.

Equally troubling is the terminology. The accused is called a "respondent", and not an "accused." This small linguistic change dilutes the seriousness of the offence. Outside the workplace, the same conduct would constitute a crime. Why should the context of a college or office make it seem less grave? Language matters. By softening the label, the law normalises a violation that causes deep psychological trauma.

Vague definitions within the Act further shift the burden of proof onto the woman. She must prove harassment within an institutional structure that is often hesitant, ill-equipped, and risk-averse. In most genuine cases, harassment is not a single act but a behavioural pattern. Yet, committees tend to dismiss complaints for lack of direct evidence. There should be ways to assess behavioural conduct through anonymous feedback or corroborative testimony. Since the accused already enjoys protection through a multi-member committee to ensure impartiality, the same faith must extend to the committee's ability to recognise circumstantial evidence. Reading between the lines and acknowledging informal networks should be part of the process.

No clarity on inter-institutional complaints

The Act is also silent on inter-institutional complaints. In academia, visiting faculty, research collaborations and conferences create

multiple spaces for interaction across institutions. When an accused person's misconduct spans different campuses, there is no mechanism to connect or pursue those cases jointly. This absence allows repeat offenders to go unchecked.

For a woman, lodging a complaint is itself a battle fought after an intense internal struggle. What follows, however, often turns into another ordeal. Instead of relief, she faces procedural delays, institutional hesitation, and emotional fatigue.

The law also permits disciplinary action against complainants found to have filed "malicious" complaints, which, though meant as a safeguard, ends up intimidating genuine victims. The process, meant to deliver justice, often retraumatizes them.

The digital evidence dilemma

With technology reshaping communication, harassment too has evolved. Messages can vanish, photographs appear only once, and chats are encrypted. Expecting Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) members – often without legal or technical training – to interpret such evidence is unrealistic. The law has not adapted to this digital reality. It must include updated definitions, clear protocols for handling digital evidence, and mandatory training for committee members to ensure that technology does not become a shield for offenders.

Women have long relied on informal networks to warn each other about unsafe individuals. These whisper systems exist precisely because the formal mechanisms often failed them. The POSH Act was a milestone when enacted in 2013, but a decade later, needs strengthening. It must incorporate clearer language, longer timelines, recognition of emotional and digital abuse, and stronger investigative tools. Justice should not depend on the victim's endurance or on the committee's discretion. It must be built into the structure of the law itself. Until that happens, the protection promised by the POSH Act will remain more symbolic than real.

A landmark law in 2013, it needs a spine in 2025

2013 का एक ऐतिहासिक कानून, इसे 2025 में एक रीढ़ की आवश्यकता है

- A case in **Chandigarh**, where a college professor was sacked after a probe by the **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (or the POSH Act)** marks a rare but important precedent.
चंडीगढ़ में एक मामले में, जहाँ एक कॉलेज प्रोफेसर को **आंतरिक शिकायत समिति (ICC)** द्वारा **कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं के यौन उत्पीड़न (रोकथाम, निषेध और निवारण) अधिनियम, 2013 (या POSH अधिनियम)** के तहत जांच के बाद बर्खास्त किया गया, यह एक दुर्लभ लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण मिसाल है।
- The students' complaint, filed on **September 12, 2024**, was investigated, and the allegations of sexual harassment were proven.
छात्रों की शिकायत, जो **12 सितंबर 2024** को दर्ज की गई थी, की जांच की गई और यौन उत्पीड़न के आरोप सिद्ध हुए।
- While this outcome is being hailed as "justice served", it also exposes the **low conviction rate under the POSH Act** and the gaps that prevent it from delivering justice with consistency and empathy, especially in educational institutions where young women and men face unequal power dynamics.
जहाँ इस परिणाम को "न्याय मिला" कहा जा रहा है, वहीं यह **POSH अधिनियम** के तहत कम दोषसिद्धि दर और उन खामियों को भी उजागर करता है जो इसे लगातार और सहानुभूतिपूर्ण ढंग से न्याय देने से रोकती हैं, विशेषकर शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में जहाँ युवा महिलाएँ और पुरुष असमान शक्ति समीकरणों का सामना करते हैं।
- This writer has seen the recurring gaps and on-ground challenges that dilute the purpose of the law after having witnessed several cases of sexual harassment in universities and colleges.
लेखक ने विश्वविद्यालयों और कॉलेजों में यौन उत्पीड़न के कई मामलों को देखते हुए कानून के उद्देश्य को कमजोर करने वाली बार-बार उभरने वाली खामियों और ज़मीनी चुनौतियों को देखा है।



The flawed idea of consent

सहमति की त्रुटिपूर्ण अवधारणा

- The Act, though well-intentioned, suffers from conceptual and procedural flaws. यह अधिनियम, भले ही सद्भावनापूर्ण हो, लेकिन वैचारिक और प्रक्रियात्मक कमियों से ग्रस्त है।
- It talks about “consent” but not “informed consent”. यह “consent” (सहमति) की बात करता है लेकिन “informed consent” (सूचित सहमति) की नहीं।
- That distinction is crucial. यह अंतर अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Consent loses its meaning when obtained through manipulation or incomplete knowledge. सहमति, जब छल, दबाव या अधूरी जानकारी के माध्यम से प्राप्त की जाती है, तो अपना अर्थ खो देती है।
- Within workplace and academic settings, relationships may initially appear consensual, but when emotional manipulation or power imbalance surfaces later, the earlier consent becomes invalid. कार्यस्थल और शैक्षणिक वातावरण में रिश्ते शुरू में सहमति पर आधारित दिख सकते हैं, लेकिन जैसे ही भावनात्मक छल या शक्ति असंतुलन सामने आता है, पहले दी गई सहमति अमान्य हो जाती है।
- What a woman experiences then is not only harassment but also betrayal. उस समय महिला केवल उत्पीड़न ही नहीं बल्कि विश्वासघात भी झेलती है।
- Yet, the law does not account for such informed consent, ignoring how educated perpetrators exploit trust, authority and information asymmetry. फिर भी, क़ानून ऐसी सूचित सहमति की अवधारणा को नहीं मानता और न ही यह देखता है कि पढ़े-लिखे आरोपी विश्वास, अधिकार और सूचना असमानता का कैसे शोषण करते हैं।
- Emotional harassment that stems from deceitful or manipulative relationships also remains outside the Act’s ambit. धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण या चालाकी भरे रिश्तों से पैदा होने वाला भावनात्मक उत्पीड़न भी अधिनियम के दायरे से बाहर है।
- When consent is obtained through fraud or emotional coercion, it should be treated as harassment. जब सहमति धोखे या भावनात्मक दबाव से प्राप्त की जाती है, तो इसे उत्पीड़न माना जाना चाहिए।
- Many educated accused understand what leaves evidence and what does not, shaping their behaviour to remain in the grey zone of legality. कई शिक्षित आरोपी यह भलीभाँति समझते हैं कि क्या सबूत छोड़ता है और क्या नहीं, और वे अपने व्यवहार को इस तरह ढालते हैं कि वे क़ानून के grey zone में बने रहें।
- The law, still bound to visible or explicit acts, fails to address this subtle, psychological form of exploitation. क़ानून अभी भी केवल दृश्यमान या स्पष्ट कृत्यों पर केंद्रित है, और इस सूक्ष्म, मनोवैज्ञानिक शोषण को संबोधित करने में विफल रहता है।
- One of the most pressing flaws is the limitation period of three months for filing complaints. सबसे गंभीर कमियों में से एक शिकायत दर्ज करने की तीन महीने की समय-सीमा है।
- For a woman who has survived manipulation or coercion, recognising what happened and gathering courage to report it often takes much longer. जिस महिला ने छल या दबाव सहा हो, उसके लिए यह समझने और शिकायत करने का साहस जुटाने में अक्सर इससे कहीं अधिक समय लगता है।
- In universities, where students spend several years under the same institutional roof, realisation and evidence may emerge much later. विश्वविद्यालयों में, जहाँ छात्र एक ही संस्थान के वातावरण में कई वर्ष बिताते हैं, समझ और सबूत दोनों ही बहुत बाद में सामने आ सकते हैं।
- Justice should not come with an expiry date. न्याय पर समय-सीमा की मुहर नहीं होनी चाहिए।
- The three-month rule only strengthens the confidence of perpetrators that their acts will fade with time. तीन महीने का नियम केवल आरोपियों का यह विश्वास मजबूत करता है कि समय बीतने के साथ उनके कृत्य धुंधले पड़ जाएँगे।
- Equally troubling is the terminology. उतना ही चिंताजनक अधिनियम में प्रयुक्त शब्दावली है।



- The **accused** is called a **“respondent”**, and not an **“accused.”**
आरोपी को **“respondent”** कहा जाता है, **“accused”** नहीं।
- This small linguistic change dilutes the seriousness of the offence.
शब्दों का यह छोटा सा बदलाव अपराध की **गंभीरता** को कम कर देता है।
- Outside the workplace, the same conduct would constitute a **crime**.
कार्यस्थल से बाहर यही आचरण एक **अपराध** माना जाता।
- Why should the context of a college or office make it seem less grave?
तो कॉलेज या **ऑफिस** का संदर्भ इसे कम गंभीर क्यों दिखाए?
- Language matters.
भाषा मायने रखती है।
- **By softening the label, the law normalises a violation that causes deep psychological trauma.**
लेबल को हल्का बनाकर, कानून उस उल्लंघन को सामान्य बना देता है जो गहरा **मनोवैज्ञानिक आघात** पहुँचाता है।
- Vague definitions within the Act further shift the burden of proof onto the woman.
अधिनियम में **अस्पष्ट परिभाषाएँ** भी साक्ष्य का बोझ और अधिक महिला पर ही डाल देती हैं।
- She must prove harassment within an institutional structure that is often hesitant, ill-equipped, and risk-averse.
उसे उत्पीड़न को ऐसे संस्थागत ढाँचे में साबित करना होता है जो अक्सर **हिचकिचाने वाला, अपर्याप्त और जोखिम से बचने वाला** होता है।
- In most genuine cases, harassment is not a single act but a behavioural pattern.
ज्यादातर वास्तविक मामलों में उत्पीड़न एक **एकल घटना** नहीं बल्कि एक **व्यवहारिक पैटर्न** होता है।
- Yet, committees tend to dismiss complaints for lack of direct evidence.
फिर भी, समितियाँ **प्रत्यक्ष प्रमाण** की कमी के आधार पर शिकायतों को खारिज करने की प्रवृत्ति रखती हैं।
- There should be ways to assess behavioural conduct through anonymous feedback or corroborative testimony.
व्यवहार का आकलन **गुमनाम प्रतिक्रिया** या **समर्थक गवाही** के माध्यम से करने के तरीके होने चाहिए।
- Since the accused already enjoys protection through a **multi-member committee** to ensure impartiality, the same faith must extend to the committee’s ability to recognise circumstantial evidence.
क्योंकि आरोपी को निष्पक्षता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पहले से ही **बहुसदस्यीय समिति** की सुरक्षा प्राप्त है, इसलिए समिति की **परिस्थितिजन्य साक्ष्य** पहचानने की क्षमता पर भी उतना ही विश्वास होना चाहिए।
- Reading between the lines and acknowledging informal networks should be part of the process.
पंक्तियों के बीच पढ़ना और **अनौपचारिक नेट**

No clarity on inter-institutional complaints

अंतर-संस्थागत शिकायतों पर कोई स्पष्टता नहीं

- The Act is also silent on **inter-institutional complaints**.
अधिनियम **अंतर-संस्थागत शिकायतों** पर भी मौन है।
- **In academia, visiting faculty, research collaborations and conferences create multiple spaces for interaction across institutions.**
शैक्षणिक क्षेत्र में, विज़िटिंग फैकल्टी, **शोध सहयोग** और **सम्मेलन** संस्थानों के बीच कई प्रकार के संवाद स्थल बनाते हैं।
- **When an accused person’s misconduct spans different campuses, there is no mechanism to connect or pursue those cases jointly.**
जब आरोपी का दुराचार विभिन्न कैम्पसों में फैला होता है, तो उन्हें जोड़कर या संयुक्त रूप से आगे बढ़ाने की कोई **व्यवस्था** नहीं है।
- This absence allows **repeat offenders** to go unchecked.
यह कमी **बार-बार अपराध करने वालों** को बिना रोक-टोक जारी रहने देती है।
- For a woman, lodging a complaint is itself a battle fought after an intense internal struggle.
किसी महिला के लिए शिकायत दर्ज करना ही एक **भीतरी संघर्ष** के बाद लड़ी गई **लड़ाई** होती है।
- What follows, however, often turns into another ordeal.
लेकिन इसके बाद जो होता है, वह अक्सर एक और **कठिन परीक्षा** बन जाता है।



- Instead of relief, she faces **procedural delays**, institutional hesitation, and emotional fatigue. राहत मिलने के बजाय, वह **प्रक्रियात्मक देरी**, संस्थागत हिचकिचाहट और **भावनात्मक थकान** का सामना करती है।
- The law also permits disciplinary action against complainants found to have filed **“malicious” complaints**, which, though meant as a safeguard, ends up intimidating genuine victims. क़ानून **“दुर्भावनापूर्ण” शिकायत** दर्ज करने वाले शिकायतकर्ताओं के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की अनुमति देता है, जो सुरक्षा हेतु है, लेकिन असल पीड़ितों को **डराने** का काम करता है।
- The process, meant to deliver justice, often retraumatizes them. न्याय देने की प्रक्रिया ही उन्हें कई बार **पुनः आघात** पहुँचाती है।

The digital evidence dilemma

डिजिटल साक्ष्य की दुविधा

- With technology reshaping communication, harassment too has evolved. प्रौद्योगिकी ने संचार को बदल दिया है, और इसी तरह **उत्पीड़न** भी बदल गया है।
- Messages can vanish, photographs appear only once, and chats are encrypted. संदेश **गायब** हो सकते हैं, फ़ोटो सिर्फ एक बार दिखाई देते हैं, और चैट्स **एन्क्रिप्टेड** होती हैं।
- Expecting ICC members — often without legal or technical training — to interpret such evidence is unrealistic. ICC सदस्यों से, जिनमें से कई के पास कानूनी या तकनीकी प्रशिक्षण नहीं होता, ऐसे डिजिटल साक्ष्यों की व्याख्या की उम्मीद करना **अव्यावहारिक** है।
- The law has not adapted to this digital reality. क़ानून अभी तक इस **डिजिटल वास्तविकता** के अनुरूप नहीं हुआ है।
- It must include updated definitions, clear protocols for handling digital evidence, and **mandatory training** for committee members. इसमें अद्यतन परिभाषाएँ, डिजिटल साक्ष्यों को संभालने के लिए स्पष्ट **प्रोटोकॉल**, और समिति सदस्यों के लिए **अनिवार्य प्रशिक्षण** शामिल होना चाहिए।
- Women have long relied on informal networks to warn each other about unsafe individuals. महिलाएँ लंबे समय से एक-दूसरे को असुरक्षित व्यक्तियों के बारे में चेतावनी देने के लिए **अनौपचारिक नेटवर्कों** पर निर्भर रही हैं।
- These whisper systems exist precisely because the formal mechanisms often failed them. ये **फुसफुसाहट तंत्र** इसलिए मौजूद हैं क्योंकि औपचारिक तंत्र कई बार उन्हें विफल कर देते थे।
- The POSH Act was a milestone when enacted in **2013**, but a decade later, it needs strengthening. POSH अधिनियम **2013** में लागू होने पर एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम था, लेकिन एक दशक बाद इसे **मजबूत किए जाने** की आवश्यकता है।
- It must incorporate clearer language, longer timelines, recognition of emotional and digital abuse, and stronger investigative tools. इसमें अधिक स्पष्ट भाषा, लंबी समयसीमा, **भावनात्मक और डिजिटल उत्पीड़न** की मान्यता, और **मजबूत जांच उपकरण** शामिल होने चाहिए।
- Justice should not depend on the victim's endurance or on the committee's discretion. न्याय पीड़िता की **सहनशक्ति** या समिति के **विवेक** पर निर्भर नहीं होना चाहिए।
- It must be built into the structure of the law itself. यह क़ानून की संरचना में ही निहित होना चाहिए।
- Until that happens, the protection promised by the POSH Act will remain more **symbolic** than real. जब तक ऐसा नहीं होता, POSH अधिनियम द्वारा दिया गया संरक्षण वास्तविक से अधिक **प्रतीकात्मक** ही रहेगा।



For Assam tea, erratic climate and stagnant prices present a crisis

Tea thrives within narrow environmental parameters that were once abundant across the Brahmaputra valley; that is no longer true; rising mean and maximum temperatures, shifts in rainfall seasonality, and the declining soil moisture now challenge the very foundation of tea cultivation in the region

GS I: Geography
Annual Agriculture

By November, as the festival lights of Diwali fade and winter approaches, Guwahati usually enjoys cooler evenings, lower humidity, and a calm that signals the close of the tea-harvesting season. But in recent years, this rhythm has grown uncertain. Persistent heat, delayed rainfall, and muggy air now linger well past October, blurring the boundaries of Assam's once-distinct seasons.

For tea growers, these shifts from the traditional climatic cycle aren't just uncomfortable; they're existential.

The tea plant was introduced to Assam in the 19th century and has since become both a global commodity and the economic lifeline for over 12 lakh workers, many of them women. Yet its fragile harmony with the local environment is being tested.

Extended dry spells, abrupt downpours, rising night-time temperatures, and new pest patterns are making tea yields increasingly unpredictable. Farmers speak of blackened leaves, wilting bushes, and erratic flush cycles that defy long-trusted weather cues.

"We have not seen such weather-induced stress in 30 years," Tea Board advisor N.K. Bezbaruah said recently, underscoring how climate change is steadily eroding the ecological and economic stability of the State's tea heartland.

Despite such hardships, tea prices have barely kept pace with inflation. Auction prices in India have reportedly grown by only 4.8% annually in the last three decades, versus 10% for staples like wheat and rice. In real terms, returns to tea growers remain stagnant, squeezed between climate shocks and rising costs of wages, agrochemicals, energy, logistics, and irrigation. Tea prices have turned volatile and, despite short-lived corrections, the long-term trend shows no gainful improvement.

For Assam's planters, this is a cruel paradox: the weather grows harsher but the market offers no reward for resilience. Many estates now face shrinking margins and ageing bushes, unable to reinvest in climate-resilient varieties. The very regions that power India's \$10 billion tea economy now confront a future where climate unpredictability threatens both livelihoods and the legacy of one of the world's most popular beverages.

Growing tea

Tea thrives within narrow environmental parameters: an annual temperature range of about 13° to 28° C, with optimal growth occurring when mean temperatures



A group of workers harvest a flush of tea leaves in Jorhat, Assam. GETTY IMAGES

remain close to 23-25° C. Rainfall requirements are equally stringent, averaging 1,500-2,500 mm per year, distributed evenly to keep soils consistently moist but well-drained. Tea also prefers slightly acidic soils (pH 4.5-5.5) that are deep, friable, and rich in organic matter – conditions once abundant across the Brahmaputra valley.

Climate change is altering these thresholds. Rising mean and maximum temperatures, shifts in rainfall seasonality, and declining soil moisture now challenge the very foundation of tea cultivation in the region.

One study by the Tea Research Association and the Ethical Tea Partnership modelled the future of Assam's tea under future climate scenarios described by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Specifically, the projections for Assam's tea regions were developed using Global Circulation Models under the IPCC's RCP 2.6 and RCP 4.5 scenarios.

The researchers combined 50 years of historical climate data, including rainfall, temperature, and bioclimatic variables, with future climate grids generated by the WorldClim database at a resolution of 1 km. Using the MaxEnt species distribution model, they mapped the current suitability of tea-growing regions and predicted shifts by 2050.

They found that both minimum and maximum temperatures are set to climb across all regions, stressing plants and reducing nutrient absorption. Precipitation was projected to decline in winter and pre-monsoon months – critical for plant growth – while increasing erratically during the monsoon. Currently, South Bank, Upper

The tea tribes that are the backbone of the plantation workforce represent a powerful constituency. With elections due, their concerns are likely to feature prominently, turning the tea gardens into a crucial arena of livelihood and electoral debate

Assam, and Cachar enjoy "very good" suitability for tea, but by 2050 these areas could lose much of their advantage, forcing tea cultivation to shift towards higher altitudes like Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao. Flavour and aroma – the hallmarks of premium Assam teas – depend on precise climatic rhythms. Erratic weather will thus disrupt this delicate balance as well, threatening global competitiveness.

The study also found that the average minimum temperature in Assam had risen by 1° C in the last 90 years and that the region also lost around 200 mm of rainfall a year in this time.

Perhaps a more serious problem is the increased incidence of new pests and diseases attacking tea bushes. Extreme heat above 35° C hampers tea plants' ability to absorb nutrients, stunting leaf growth and making the tea bushes vulnerable to pests. Unlike the paddy farmers of Punjab, the tea growers of Assam receive little government aid when drought or heat strikes.

Adapting to a warmer future

Tea growers, researchers, and corporations have been encouraging climate-resilient practices, such as seed-grown varieties with deep taproots alongside high-yield clones to strengthen

resilience to drought. Soil conservation measures such as mulching, cover crops, and organic amendments can help retain moisture while agroforestry through shade trees and companion crops can moderate heat stress and reduce pest pressure.

Innovations in water management, including micro-irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and drainage that mitigate drought and flooding are equally important.

Multistakeholder programmes such as 'trustee', the India Sustainable Tea Code, are already contributing to a climate resilient supply chain by verifying 1.4 lakh small growers and reaching 6.5 lakh workers through sustainable practices, efficient water use, and integrated pest management, thus building climate resilience at scale.

Economic diversification into fruits and spices, organic teas, fisheries and livestock, tourism, and direct-to-consumer trade can further cushion the industry against climate risks. The industry also needs policy support that treats tea on par with other crops, sustained investment in research, and capacity building to secure the future.

The tea tribes that form the backbone of Assam's plantation workforce, also represent a powerful political constituency. With State elections due in early 2026, their concerns over rising costs, stagnant wages, and climate-driven hardship are likely to feature prominently, turning the State's tea gardens into a crucial arena of both livelihood and electoral debate.

(Anurag Priyadarshi is non-executive director, Rainforest Alliance, and former director, sustainability, at Tata Consumer Products. apriyadarshi2708@outlook.com)

THE GIST

Tea is an economic lifeline for over 12 lakh workers. But its fragile harmony with the local environment threatens their livelihoods. Unpredictable weather has left farmers with blackened leaves, wilting bushes, and erratic flush cycles that defy long-trusted weather cues

Tea prices are barely keeping pace with inflation. Prices have grown by only 4.8% over three decades. In real terms, returns remain stagnant, and the long-term trend shows no gainful improvement. For planters, this is a cruel paradox: the weather grows harsher, but the market offers no reward for resilience

Researchers used 50 years of climate data with future grids and found that by 2050, present locations would be unsuitable, forcing cultivation to shift towards higher altitudes. Flavour and aroma depend on precise climatic rhythms. Erratic weather threatens competitiveness

For Assam tea, erratic climate and stagnant prices present a crisis

असम की चाय के लिए, अनियमित जलवायु और स्थिर कीमतें एक संकट प्रस्तुत करती हैं

- Tea thrives within narrow environmental parameters that were once abundant across the **Brahmaputra valley**; that is no longer true; **rising mean and maximum temperatures, shifts in rainfall seasonality, and the declining soil moisture** now challenge the very foundation of tea cultivation in the region

चाय ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी में प्रचुर मात्रा में मिलने वाली संकरी पर्यावरणीय सीमाओं में फलती-फूलती थी; अब ऐसा



नहीं है; बढ़ते औसत और अधिकतम तापमान, वर्षा के पैटर्न में बदलाव, और घटती मिट्टी की नमी अब क्षेत्र में चाय की खेती की नींव को चुनौती दे रहे हैं

- By November, as the festival lights of Diwali fade and winter approaches, **Guwahati usually enjoys cooler evenings, lower humidity, and a calm that signals the close of the tea-harvesting season.** But in recent years, this rhythm has grown uncertain. **Persistent heat, delayed rainfall, and muggy air now linger well past October, blurring the boundaries of Assam's once-distinct seasons.**



नवंबर तक, जब दिवाली की रोशनी मंद पड़ती है और सर्दी आती है, **गुवाहाटी** में आम तौर पर ठंडी शामें, कम आर्द्रता और शांति होती है जो चाय तोड़ने के मौसम के अंत का संकेत देती है। पर हाल के वर्षों में यह लय अनिश्चित हो गई है। लगातार गर्मी, विलंबित वर्षा और उमस अब अक्टूबर के बाद भी बनी रहती है, जिससे असम के कभी स्पष्ट मौसम धुंधले पड़ गए हैं।

- For tea growers, these shifts from the traditional climatic cycle aren't just uncomfortable: they're **existential**.

चाय उत्पादकों के लिए, पारंपरिक जलवायु चक्र से ये बदलाव सिर्फ असुविधा नहीं हैं: ये **अस्तित्व का संकट** हैं।

- The tea plant was introduced to Assam in the 19th century** and has since become both a global commodity and the economic lifeline for over **12 lakh workers**, many of them women. Yet its fragile harmony with the local environment is being tested.

19वीं सदी में चाय के पौधे को असम में लाया गया था और तब से यह एक वैश्विक वस्तु और **12 लाख से अधिक श्रमिकों** (जिनमें से कई महिलाएँ हैं) की आर्थिक जीवनरेखा बन गई। फिर भी इसका स्थानीय पर्यावरण के साथ नाजुक संतुलन अब परीक्षित हो रहा है।

- Extended dry spells, abrupt downpours, rising night-time temperatures, and new pest patterns** are making tea yields increasingly unpredictable. Farmers speak of **blackened leaves, wilting bushes, and erratic flush cycles that defy long-trusted weather cues.**

लंबे शुष्क अवधि, अचानक भारी बारिश, बढ़ते रात के तापमान और नए **कीट** पैटर्न चाय की पैदावार को अनिश्चित बना रहे हैं। किसान काले पड़ते पत्ते, मुरझाते पौधे और अनियमित फलश चक्रों की बात करते हैं जो पुराने मौसम संकेतों को निरर्थक बना रहे हैं।

- "We have not seen such weather-induced stress in 30 years," Tea Board advisor **N.K. Bezbaruah** said recently, underscoring how climate change is steadily eroding the ecological and economic stability of the State's tea heartland.

"हमने पिछले 30 वर्षों में ऐसा मौसम जनित तनाव नहीं देखा," टी बोर्ड के सलाहकार **एन.के. बेजबरुआह** ने हाल ही में कहा, यह दर्शाते हुए कि जलवायु परिवर्तन कैसे राज्य के चाय क्षेत्र की पारिस्थितिक और आर्थिक स्थिरता को क्षीण कर रहा है।

- Despite such hardships, tea prices have barely kept pace with inflation. **Auction prices in India have reportedly grown by only 4.8% annually in the last three decades, versus 10% for staples like wheat and rice.** In real terms, returns to tea growers remain stagnant, squeezed between climate shocks and rising costs of wages, agrochemicals, energy, logistics, and irrigation.

इन कठिनाइयों के बावजूद, चाय की कीमतें महंगाई के साथ तालमेल नहीं रख पाई हैं। भारत में नीलामी मूल्य पिछले तीन दशकों में सिर्फ **4.8% वार्षिक** बढ़े हैं, जबकि गेहूँ और चावल जैसे अनाज **10%** बढ़े। वास्तविक रूप से, चाय उत्पादकों की कमाई स्थिर है, क्योंकि जलवायु आघात और मजदूरी, रसायन, ऊर्जा, लॉजिस्टिक्स और सिंचाई की बढ़ती लागत ने उन्हें दबा दिया है।

- Tea prices have turned volatile and, despite short-lived corrections, the long-term trend shows no gainful improvement.

चाय की कीमतें अस्थिर हो गई हैं और अल्पकालिक सुधारों के बावजूद, दीर्घकालिक रुझान में कोई लाभकारी सुधार नहीं दिखता।

- For Assam's planters, this is a cruel paradox: the weather grows harsher but the market offers no reward for resilience.

असम के बागान मालिकों के लिए यह एक क्रूर विरोधाभास है: मौसम कठोर होता जा रहा है पर बाज़ार **लचीलापन** दिखाने पर कोई इनाम नहीं देता।

- Many estates now face shrinking margins and ageing bushes, unable to reinvest in **climate-resilient varieties.**

कई बागान अब घटते मुनाफ़े और बूढ़े पौधों का सामना कर रहे हैं, और **जलवायु-सहिष्णु किस्मों** में पुनर्निवेश नहीं कर पा रहे।



- The **very regions that power India's \$10 billion tea economy** now confront a future where climate unpredictability threatens both livelihoods and the legacy of one of the world's most popular beverages.
भारत की **10 अरब डॉलर** की चाय अर्थव्यवस्था को संचालित करने वाले क्षेत्र अब ऐसे भविष्य का सामना कर रहे हैं जहाँ जलवायु की अनिश्चितता आजीविका और दुनिया के सबसे लोकप्रिय पेयों में से एक की विरासत दोनों को खतरे में डालती है।

Growing tea चाय की वृद्धि

- Tea thrives within narrow environmental parameters: **an annual temperature range of about 13°C to 28°C, with optimal growth occurring when mean temperatures remain close to 23-25°C.**
चाय संकरे पर्यावरणीय मानकों में फलती है: वार्षिक तापमान लगभग **13°C से 28°C** और सर्वोत्तम वृद्धि **23-25°C** पर होती है।
- Rainfall requirements are equally stringent, averaging 1,500-2,500 mm per year, distributed evenly to keep soils consistently moist but well-drained.**
वर्षा की आवश्यकता भी कड़ी है, सालाना औसत **1,500-2,500 मिमी**, जो मिट्टी को नम लेकिन अच्छी जलनिकासी वाली बनाए रखे।
- Tea also prefers slightly acidic soils (pH 4.5-5.5) that are deep, friable, and rich in organic matter** — conditions once abundant across the Brahmaputra valley.
चाय को हल्की अम्लीय मिट्टी (pH **4.5-5.5**) पसंद है जो गहरी, भुरभुरी और कार्बनिक पदार्थों से भरपूर हो — ये स्थितियाँ कभी ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी में प्रचुर थीं।
- Climate change is altering these thresholds. **Rising mean and maximum temperatures, shifts in rainfall seasonality, and declining soil moisture** now challenge the very foundation of tea cultivation in the region.
जलवायु परिवर्तन इन मानकों को बदल रहा है। बढ़ते तापमान, बदलती वर्षा और घटती मिट्टी की नमी चाय उत्पादन को चुनौती दे रहे हैं।
- One study by the **Tea Research Association** and the **Ethical Tea Partnership** modelled the future of Assam's tea under climate scenarios described by the **UN IPCC**, specifically RCP 2.6 and RCP 4.5.
टी रिसर्च एसोसिएशन और एथिकल टी पार्टनरशिप के एक अध्ययन ने **यूएन IPCC** के RCP 2.6 और RCP 4.5 परिदृश्यों के आधार पर असम की चाय का भविष्य मॉडल किया।
- The researchers combined 50 years of historical climate data with future climate grids from the **WorldClim** database and used the **MaxEnt** species distribution model to map current suitability and predict shifts by 2050.
शोधकर्ताओं ने 50 वर्षों के जलवायु डेटा को **WorldClim** डेटाबेस के भविष्य के ग्रिड्स के साथ मिलाकर **MaxEnt** मॉडल द्वारा वर्तमान उपयुक्तता और 2050 तक के बदलाव का अनुमान लगाया।
- They found minimum and maximum temperatures will rise, precipitation will decline in winter and pre-monsoon, and monsoon rainfall will increase erratically.
उन्होंने पाया कि न्यूनतम और अधिकतम तापमान बढ़ेंगे, सर्दी और प्री-मानसून में वर्षा घटेगी, जबकि मानसून में वर्षा अनियमित रूप से बढ़ेगी।
- Current "very good" regions like South Bank, Upper Assam, and Cachar may lose suitability by 2050, forcing shifts to Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.**
वर्तमान "बहुत उपयुक्त" क्षेत्र जैसे **साउथ बैंक, अपर असम, और कछार** 2050 तक अपनी उपयुक्तता खो सकते हैं, जिससे खेती **कार्बी आंगलॉंग और दीमा हसाओ** की ऊँचाई वाले क्षेत्रों की ओर बढ़ सकती है।
- Flavour and aroma — the hallmarks of premium Assam teas — depend on precise climatic rhythms; erratic weather threatens this delicate balance.**
स्वाद और सुगंध — प्रीमियम असम चाय की पहचान — सटीक जलवायु लय पर निर्भर करते हैं; अनियमित मौसम इस संतुलन को खतरे में डालता है।
- The study also found the minimum temperature rose by **1°C** and rainfall reduced by **200 mm** in the last 90 years.
अध्ययन में पाया गया कि पिछले 90 वर्षों में न्यूनतम तापमान **1°C** बढ़ा और वर्षा **200 मिमी** घटी।
- Extreme heat above **35°C** reduces nutrient absorption and increases pest attacks; Assam tea growers receive little government aid unlike Punjab's paddy farmers.



35°C से अधिक की गर्मी पोषक तत्वों के अवशोषण को घटाती है और कीट हमले बढ़ाती है; असम के चाय किसानों को पंजाब के धान किसानों की तरह सरकारी सहायता नहीं मिलती।

Adapting to a warmer future गर्म होते भविष्य के लिए अनुकूलन

- Tea growers, researchers, and corporations encourage **climate-resilient practices**, such as **seed-grown deep-root varieties and high-yield clones**.
चाय उत्पादक, शोधकर्ता और कंपनियाँ **जलवायु-सहिष्णु प्रथाओं** को बढ़ावा देते हैं, जैसे गहरी जड़ वाली बीज-उगाई किस्में और उच्च उत्पादक क्लोन।
- **Soil conservation measures — mulching, cover crops, organic amendments** — help retain moisture; agroforestry moderates heat and reduces pests.
मिट्टी संरक्षण — मल्लिचिंग, कवर फसलें, जैविक संशोधन — नमी बनाए रखते हैं; एग्रोफोरेस्ट्री गर्मी घटाती और कीट दबाव कम करती है।
- **Innovations in water management like micro-irrigation and rainwater harvesting reduce drought and floods**.
माइक्रो-इरिगेशन और वर्षा जल संग्रह जैसी जल प्रबंधन नवाचार सूखे और बाढ़ दोनों को कम करते हैं।
- Multistakeholder programmes like **Trustea** and the **India Sustainable Tea Code** support climate resilience, covering **1.4 lakh growers** and **6.5 lakh workers**.
ट्रस्टिया और **इंडिया सस्टेनेबल टी कोड** जैसे कार्यक्रम **1.4 लाख उत्पादकों** और **6.5 लाख श्रमिकों** को शामिल कर जलवायु-संवेदनशीलता बढ़ा रहे हैं।
- **Economic diversification into fruits, spices, organic teas, fisheries, livestock, tourism, and direct-to-consumer trade helps cushion climate risks**.
फलों, मसालों, ऑर्गेनिक चाय, मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन, पर्यटन और उपभोक्ता-प्रत्यक्ष व्यापार में आर्थिक विविधता जलवायु जोखिम से सुरक्षा देती है।
- **The industry needs policy support, more research investment, and capacity building**.
उद्योग को नीतिगत समर्थन, अधिक शोध निवेश और क्षमता निर्माण की आवश्यकता है।
- Tea tribes, the backbone of Assam's plantation workforce, form a crucial electoral constituency; elections in **2026** may highlight issues of rising costs, stagnant wages, and climate hardship.
चाय जनजातियाँ, असम के बागानों की रीढ़, एक महत्वपूर्ण चुनावी वर्ग हैं; **2026** के चुनावों में बढ़ती लागत, स्थिर वेतन और जलवायु कठिनाइयाँ प्रमुख मुद्दे बन सकते हैं।



Why did Hayli Gubbi erupt now?

GS I: Geography:
V: Volcanoes



A: Hayli Gubbi is a shield volcano in Afar, Ethiopia, and a member of the Erta Ale Range. It's located at the edge of the East African Rift where the African and

Arabian plates are slowly pulling apart. A shield volcano is a broad, gently sloping volcano that consists of many thin, fluid lava flows. Its eruptions are typically less explosive so the lava spreads out wide like a warrior's shield — and so the name.

Geological studies have shown that Hayli Gubbi is built mainly from dark basaltic lavas but also contains more silica-rich rocks like trachytes and rhyolites. These lighter magmas can trap more dissolved gases, so when they rise, they're more likely to erupt explosively and throw ash high into the atmosphere. That's what happened on November 23.

But why did it erupt now after at least 12,000 years of quiet? While it's early days, scientists believe the answer lies deep under the rift. As the tectonic plates move apart, hot mantle rock rises and partially melts, feeding magma into shallow chambers beneath the volcano. Over millennia, this magma can slowly build up and pressurise the rocks above it.

At some point, faulting or cracking of the crust will open a path to the surface, allowing the pressurised, gas-rich magma to rise quickly and the dissolved gases to expand into bubbles.



This photo released by the Afar Government Communication Bureau shows ash billowing from the long-dormant Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia. AP

Because the volcano is remote and poorly monitored, scientists are still analysing satellite images and ash samples, so their explanations are provisional and may change as new data becomes available.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

Hayli Gubbi Volcano हैली गुब्बी ज्वालामुखी

- Hayli Gubbi is a **shield volcano** in **Afar, Ethiopia**, and a member of the **Erta Ale Range**. Hayli Gubbi **ढाल ज्वालामुखी** है जो **अफ़ार, इथियोपिया** में स्थित है और **एटा एले रेंज** का हिस्सा है।
- It's **located at the edge of the East African Rift** where the **African and Arabian plates** are **slowly pulling apart**. यह **ईस्ट अफ्रीकन रिफ्ट** के किनारे स्थित है जहाँ **अफ्रीकी और अरब प्लेटें** धीरे-धीरे अलग हो रही हैं।
- A **shield volcano** is a **broad, gently sloping volcano that consists of many thin, fluid lava flows**. ढाल ज्वालामुखी एक चौड़ा, हल्की ढलान वाला ज्वालामुखी होता है, जो पतली और बहने वाली लावा धाराओं से बनता है।
- Its eruptions are typically **less explosive**, so the lava spreads out wide like a **warrior's shield** — and so the name. इसके विस्फोट आमतौर पर **कम विस्फोटक** होते हैं, इसलिए लावा दूर तक फैलता है और योद्धा की **ढाल** जैसा दिखता है — इसी कारण इसका नाम पड़ा।



- Geological studies have shown that Hayli Gubbi is built mainly from **dark basaltic lavas** but also contains more **silica-rich rocks** like trachytes and rhyolites.

भूवैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि हैली गुब्बी मुख्यतः **गहरे बेसाल्टिक लावा** से बना है, लेकिन इसमें **सिलिका-समृद्ध चट्टानें** जैसे ट्रैकाइट और रियोलाइट भी मौजूद हैं।

- These lighter magmas can trap more dissolved gases, so when they rise, they're more likely to erupt explosively and throw ash high into the atmosphere.**

ये हल्के मैग्मा अधिक **घुले गैसों** को फँसा सकते हैं, इसलिए जब ये ऊपर उठते हैं तो इनके **विस्फोटक** तरीके से फटने और राख को वायुमंडल में ऊपर तक फेंकने की संभावना बढ़ जाती है।

- That's what happened on **November 23**.
23 नवंबर को यही हुआ।

- But why did it erupt now after at least **12,000 years** of quiet?
लेकिन **12,000 वर्षों** की शांति के बाद यह अब क्यों फटा?

- While it's early days, scientists believe the answer lies deep under the rift.

हालाँकि अभी शुरुआती अध्ययन हैं, वैज्ञानिक मानते हैं कि इसका उत्तर रिफ्ट के गहराई में छिपा है।

- As the tectonic plates move apart, hot mantle rock rises and partially melts, feeding magma into shallow chambers beneath the volcano.**

जैसे ही टेक्टोनिक प्लेटें अलग होती हैं, **गरम मैटल चट्टान** ऊपर उठती है और आंशिक रूप से पिघलकर ज्वालामुखी के नीचे स्थित मैग्मा कक्षों को भरती है।

- Over millennia, this magma can slowly build up and pressurise the rocks above it.**

हज़ारों वर्षों में यह मैग्मा जमा होकर ऊपर की चट्टानों पर **दबाव** डाल सकता है।

- At some point, faulting or cracking of the crust will open a path to the surface, allowing the pressurised, gas-rich magma to rise quickly and the dissolved gases to expand into bubbles.**

किसी समय पर, भूमि की परत में **दरारें या फॉल्ट** बनने से सतह तक रास्ता खुल जाता है, जिससे दाबयुक्त, गैस-समृद्ध मैग्मा तेजी से ऊपर उठता है और घुले गैसों बुलबुले बनकर फैलती हैं।

- Because the volcano is **remote and poorly monitored**, scientists are still analysing satellite images and ash samples, so their explanations are provisional and may change as new data becomes available.

क्योंकि यह ज्वालामुखी **दूरस्थ और कम निगरानी वाला** है, वैज्ञानिक अभी भी उपग्रह चित्र और राख के नमूनों का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं, इसलिए उनके स्पष्टीकरण प्रारंभिक हैं और नए डेटा के आने पर बदल सकते हैं।



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Polity

26/11/2025



Decoding personality rights in the age of AI

GS II: Polity

MOB

Recently, actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan filed a lawsuit against Google and YouTube in the Delhi High Court. They alleged that AI-generated videos portraying them in fictitious and often explicit scenarios infringe upon their personality rights, resulting in reputational and financial damage. They sought compensation, but also safeguards to prevent such content from being used to train future AI models.

This case highlights how AI blurs the lines between authenticity and deception, prompting us to reassess the legal and ethical frameworks governing personality rights. Personality rights, which include the right to control one's name, image, likeness, voice, and other identifiers of identity, have long been a bulwark against unauthorised exploitation. Rooted in concepts of privacy, dignity, and economic autonomy, these rights evolved from common law principles to address commercial exploitation. However, the emergence of AI, particularly in the form of generative technologies such as deepfakes, has amplified these vulnerabilities. Deepfakes, AI-generated content that swap faces or voices, propagate misinformation, enable extortion, and erode trust. While AI fosters innovation, its unchecked use risks commodifying human identity, demanding legal safeguards.

The legal mosaic

Globally, personality rights differ: Europe adopts a dignity-based model, the U.S. a property-based one, and India a hybrid approach. In India, these rights lack codification and stem from Article 21 of the Constitution, affirmed in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017). Courts have since classified AI infringements as privacy or intellectual property breaches. Landmark cases include *Amitabh Bachchan v. Rajat Nagi*



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India needs legislation that explicitly defines personality rights and enforces AI watermarking, platform liability, and global collaboration

(2022), which recognised personality rights; *Anil Kapoor v. Simply Life India* (2023), where AI reproductions of Mr. Kapoor's identity and his catchphrase "Jhakaas" were banned for diluting brand value; and *Arijit Singh v. Codible Ventures LLP* (2024), where the Bombay High Court protected Mr. Singh's voice from AI replication. These indicate a judicial shift towards a privacy-property hybrid. Yet, India's framework remains reactive. While the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the 2024 Intermediary Guidelines address impersonation and deepfakes, enforcement is hindered by anonymity and cross-border data sharing.

In the U.S., personality rights are often referred to as the 'right of publicity', a transferable property interest that varies by state. *Haelan Laboratories v. Topps Chewing Gum* (1953) recognised this right as distinct from privacy, allowing celebrities to monetise their identity. AI-related reforms include Tennessee's ELVIS Act, 2024, banning unauthorised AI use of voices or likenesses in response to deepfakes. Lawsuits against Character.AI alleged that its chat bots encouraged self-harm, leading to teen suicides. A 2024 Florida case claims the bot posed as a therapist, fostering detachment from reality. A federal judge dismissed Character.AI's First Amendment defence.

In the EU, personality rights follow a dignity-based model under the General Data Protection Regulation, 2016, which requires consent for processing personal and biometric data. The EU AI Act, 2024, designates deepfake technologies as high-risk, mandating transparency and labelling.

In China, a 2024 Beijing Internet Court ruling held that synthetic voices must not deceive consumers, indicating stricter regulation. In a related case, a voice actor won damages after an AI replica was sold without consent, affirming voice as part of

personality rights.

This fragmented global framework exposes how AI's transnational nature surpasses national laws. In 'AI Ethics and Creators' Feelings: Extended Personality Rights as (Property) Rights to Object', published in the *Social Science Research Network* (2025), Guido Westkamp et al advocate expanding rights to encompass style and persona appropriations to protect creators from AI's exploitative data use.

The human-AI nexus

Scholarly discussions on personality rights in AI centre on ethics, dignity, and autonomy. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, 2021, provides a rights-based framework. Its principles stress that AI must not exploit individuals. In 'Safeguarding identity: A comprehensive survey of anonymization strategies for behavioural data,' Aldrich, S.T., and Smith, K.R. (2024) critique India's fragmented laws, calling for statutory AI definitions and high-risk classifications for deepfakes used in disinformation. They raise ethical issues such as AI recreations of deceased artists, noting that Indian courts deem personality rights non-heritable. Broader scholarship, including 'The Ethics and Challenges of Legal Personhood for AI' by Forrest, K. B. (2023), in *The Yale Law Journal*, warns that granting AI legal status may erode human rights. AI's duality is clear: technologies like ChatGPT expand creativity but also enable harm. However, excessive regulation could stifle innovation.

These controversies expose systemic gaps. India needs legislation that explicitly defines personality rights and enforces AI watermarking, platform liability, and global collaboration. The government's 2024 deepfake advisory is a preliminary step, but stronger measures are essential. International harmonisation through UNESCO principles could avert ethical deterioration.

Decoding personality rights in the age of AI एआई के युग में व्यक्तित्व अधिकारों की परतें खोलना

AI, Celebrity Rights and the Legal Challenge एआई, सेलिब्रिटी अधिकार और कानूनी चुनौती

- Recently, actors **Abhishek Bachchan** and **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** filed a lawsuit against **Google and YouTube** in the Delhi High Court. हाल ही में अभिनेता **अभिषेक बच्चन** और **ऐश्वर्या राय बच्चन** ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में **गूगल और यूट्यूब** के खिलाफ मुकदमा दर्ज किया।



- They alleged that **AI-generated videos** portraying them in fictitious and often explicit scenarios infringe upon their **personality rights**, resulting in reputational and financial damage.
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि **एआई-निर्मित वीडियो**, जो उन्हें काल्पनिक और कई बार **अश्लील** स्थितियों में दिखाते हैं, उनके **पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स** का उल्लंघन करते हैं और उनकी प्रतिष्ठा व वित्तीय हानि होती है।
- They sought compensation, but also safeguards to prevent such content from being used to train future **AI models**.
उन्होंने क्षतिपूर्ति की मांग की, साथ ही भविष्य में ऐसे कंटेंट को **एआई मॉडल्स** के प्रशिक्षण में उपयोग होने से रोकने के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय भी मांगे।
- This case highlights how **AI blurs the lines between authenticity and deception**.
यह मामला दिखाता है कि **एआई वास्तविकता और धोखे** के बीच की रेखा को कैसे धुंधला कर देता है।
- **Personality rights include control over one's name, image, likeness, voice, and other identifiers of identity**.
पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स व्यक्ति के **नाम, छवि, समानता, आवाज** और पहचान के अन्य तत्वों पर नियंत्रण शामिल करते हैं।
- **These rights evolved to prevent unauthorised exploitation, rooted in privacy, dignity, and economic autonomy**.
ये अधिकार **अनधिकृत शोषण** को रोकने के लिए विकसित हुए, जो गोपनीयता, गरिमा और आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता से जुड़े हैं।
- AI, especially **deepfakes**, amplifies vulnerabilities by enabling impersonation, misinformation and extortion.
एआई, विशेषकर **डीपफेक्स**, प्रतिरूपण, भ्रामक सूचना और उगाही को संभव बनाकर इन कमजोरियों को बढ़ाता है।
- Unchecked AI use risks **commodifying human identity**, demanding urgent legal safeguards.
अनियंत्रित एआई मानव पहचान को **वस्तु** में बदलने का खतरा पैदा करता है, जिसके लिए कानूनी सुरक्षा आवश्यक है।

The legal mosaic कानूनी ढांचा

- **Globally, personality rights differ: Europe follows a dignity-based model, the U.S. a property-based model, and India a hybrid model**.
दुनिया में पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स अलग हैं: यूरोप **गरिमा आधारित मॉडल**, अमेरिका **संपत्ति आधारित मॉडल**, और भारत **हाइब्रिड मॉडल** अपनाता है।
- In India, these rights derive from **Article 21** and were affirmed in **Puttaswamy (2017)**.
भारत में ये अधिकार **अनुच्छेद 21** से उत्पन्न होते हैं और **पुट्टस्वामी (2017)** में पुष्टि की गई थी।
- **Courts classify AI violations as privacy breaches or intellectual property violations**.
अदालतें एआई उल्लंघनों को गोपनीयता या **बौद्धिक संपदा उल्लंघन** के रूप में देखती हैं।
- Important Indian cases include **Amitabh Bachchan (2022)** protecting his personality rights.
महत्वपूर्ण भारतीय मामलों में **अमिताभ बच्चन (2022)** शामिल है जिसने उनके पर्सनैलिटी अधिकारों की रक्षा की।
- In **Anil Kapoor (2023)**, AI reproductions of his face and voice, including “**Jhakaas**”, were banned.
अनिल कपूर (2023) में उनके चेहरे, आवाज और “**झकास**” जैसी अभिव्यक्तियों के एआई उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया।
- In **Arijit Singh (2024)**, the Bombay High Court protected his **voice** from AI replication.
अरिजीत सिंह (2024) में बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट ने उनकी **आवाज** को एआई नकल से सुरक्षित किया।
- Despite this, India's framework remains **reactive**, not preventive.
इसके बावजूद, भारत का ढांचा **प्रतिक्रियात्मक** है, न कि रोकथाम आधारित।
- The **IT Act 2000** and **2024 Intermediary Guidelines** address impersonation and deepfakes, but enforcement struggles due to anonymity and cross-border data.
आईटी एक्ट 2000 और **2024 इंटरमीडियरी गाइडलाइंस** प्रतिरूपण और डीपफेक्स को संबोधित करते हैं, लेकिन गुमनामी और सीमा-पार डेटा के कारण प्रवर्तन कठिन है।
- In the U.S., personality rights are known as the “**right of publicity**”, treated as transferable property.



अमेरिका में पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स को “राइट ऑफ पब्लिसिटी” कहा जाता है और वे संपत्ति की तरह स्थानांतरित किए जा सकते हैं।

- The landmark **Haelan Laboratories (1953) case** recognised commercialization of celebrity identity.
महत्वपूर्ण **हेलन लेबोरेट्रीज (1953)** मामले ने सेलिब्रिटी पहचान के व्यावसायीकरण को मान्यता दी।
- Tennessee’s **ELVIS Act, 2024** bans unauthorised AI use of voices and likenesses.
टेनेसी का **एल्विस एक्ट, 2024** आवाज़ और पहचान के अनधिकृत एआई उपयोग को प्रतिबंधित करता है।
- Lawsuits against **Character.AI** allege its bots caused self-harm or created therapy-like relationships.
कैरेक्टर.एआई के खिलाफ मुकदमों में आरोप लगाया गया कि उसके बॉट्स ने आत्म-हानि करवाई या उपचार जैसी निभरता पैदा की।
- A federal judge dismissed their **First Amendment** defence.
एक संघीय न्यायाधीश ने उनके **प्रथम संशोधन** बचाव को खारिज कर दिया।

Global Legal Approaches to AI and Personality Rights एआई और पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स के वैश्विक कानूनी दृष्टिकोण

- In the **EU**, personality rights follow a **dignity-based model** under the **General Data Protection Regulation, 2016**, which requires consent for processing personal and biometric data.
ईयू में पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स **गरिमा-आधारित मॉडल** का पालन करते हैं और **जनरल डेटा प्रोटेक्शन रेगुलेशन, 2016** के तहत व्यक्तिगत और बायोमेट्रिक डेटा के प्रसंस्करण के लिए सहमति आवश्यक होती है।
- The **EU AI Act, 2024**, designates **deepfake technologies** as high-risk, mandating **transparency and labelling**.
ईयू एआई एक्ट, 2024 **डीफेक तकनीकों** को उच्च-जोखिम श्रेणी में रखता है और पारदर्शिता व लेबलिंग अनिवार्य करता है।
- In **China**, a **2024 Beijing Internet Court** ruling held that synthetic voices must not deceive consumers, indicating stricter regulation.
चीन में **2024 बीजिंग इंटरनेट कोर्ट** के एक फैसले ने कहा कि सिंथेटिक आवाजें उपभोक्ताओं को गुमराह नहीं कर सकतीं, जो कड़े नियमन को दर्शाता है।
- In a related case, a voice actor won damages after an **AI replica** was sold without consent, affirming voice as part of personality rights.
एक संबंधित मामले में एक वॉयस एक्टर को क्षतिपूर्ति मिली जब उनकी **एआई प्रतिकृति** बिना सहमति बेची गई, जिससे आवाज़ को पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स का हिस्सा माना गया।
- This fragmented global framework exposes how **AI’s transnational nature** surpasses national laws.
यह बिखरा हुआ वैश्विक ढांचा दर्शाता है कि एआई का **सीमापार स्वभाव** राष्ट्रीय कानूनों से आगे निकल जाता है।
- In ‘**AI Ethics and Creators’ Feelings: Extended Personality Rights as (Property) Rights to Object**’ (2025), Guido Westkamp et al advocate expanding rights to encompass **style and persona appropriations** to protect creators from AI’s exploitative data use.
‘एआई एथिक्स एंड क्रिएटर्स’ फीलिंग्स: एक्सटेण्डेड पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स ऐज़ (प्रॉपर्टी) राइट्स टू ऑब्जेक्ट (2025) में Guido Westkamp आदि ने रचनाकारों को एआई के **शोषणकारी डेटा उपयोग** से बचाने के लिए अधिकारों को **स्टाइल और पर्सोना** तक बढ़ाने का सुझाव दिया है।

The human–AI nexus

मानव–एआई संबंध

- Scholarly discussions on personality rights in AI centre on **ethics, dignity, and autonomy**.
एआई में पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स पर विद्वत् चर्चाएं **नैतिकता, गरिमा और स्वायत्तता** पर केंद्रित हैं।
- **UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, 2021**, provides a **rights-based framework**.
यूनेस्को की एआई नैतिकता संबंधी सिफारिश, 2021, एक अधिकार-आधारित ढांचा प्रदान करती है।
- Its principles stress that AI must not **exploit individuals**.
इसके सिद्धांत इस बात पर जोर देते हैं कि एआई व्यक्तियों का **शोषण** नहीं कर सकता।



- In 'Safeguarding identity' (2024), Aldrich S.T. and Smith K.R. critique India's fragmented laws, calling for **statutory AI definitions** and **high-risk classifications** for deepfakes used in disinformation.
'सेफगार्डिंग आइडेंटिटी' (2024) में Aldrich S.T. और Smith K.R. ने भारत के बिखरे कानूनों की आलोचना की और **वैधानिक एआई परिभाषाओं** तथा दुष्प्रचार में उपयोग होने वाले डीपफेक्स के लिए **उच्च-जोखिम वर्गीकरण** की मांग की।
- They raise ethical concerns regarding **AI recreations of deceased artists**, noting Indian courts deem **personality rights non-heritable**.
वे **मृत कलाकारों की एआई पुनर्रचनाओं** पर नैतिक चिंताएँ उठाते हैं और बताते हैं कि भारतीय अदालतें **पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स** को **अविरासत योग्य** मानती हैं।
- Broader scholarship, including 'The Ethics and Challenges of Legal Personhood for AI' (2023), warns that granting AI legal status may erode **human rights**.
विस्तृत साहित्य, जैसे 'द एथिक्स एंड चैलेंजेज ऑफ लीगल पर्सनहुड फॉर एआई' (2023), चेतावनी देता है कि एआई को कानूनी दर्जा देना **मानव अधिकारों** को कमजोर कर सकता है।
- AI's duality is evident: technologies like **ChatGPT** expand creativity but also enable harm.
एआई की दोहरी प्रकृति स्पष्ट है: **ChatGPT** जैसी तकनीकें रचनात्मकता बढ़ाती हैं, लेकिन हानि भी सक्षम करती हैं।
- However, **excessive regulation could stifle innovation**.
हालाँकि अत्यधिक नियमन **नवाचार** को बाधित कर सकता है।
- These controversies expose systemic gaps.
ये विवाद प्रणालीगत खामियों को उजागर करते हैं।
- India needs legislation that explicitly defines **personality rights** and enforces **AI watermarking, platform liability, and global collaboration**.
भारत को ऐसे कानून की ज़रूरत है जो स्पष्ट रूप से **पर्सनैलिटी राइट्स** को परिभाषित करे और **एआई वॉटरमार्किंग, प्लेटफ़ॉर्म जिम्मेदारी और वैश्विक सहयोग** को लागू करे।
- The government's **2024 deepfake advisory** is a preliminary step, but stronger measures are essential.
सरकार की **2024 डीपफेक सलाह** प्रारंभिक कदम है, लेकिन मजबूत उपाय आवश्यक हैं।
- International harmonisation through **UNESCO principles** could avert ethical deterioration.
यूनेस्को सिद्धांतों के माध्यम से अंतरराष्ट्रीय सामंजस्य नैतिक गिरावट को रोक सकता है।

Governance

26/11/2025



What is the row over selecting Head of Police Force in T.N.?

What are the Supreme Court's guidelines on appointing a Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force?

GS II: Governance

MOB

S. Vijay Kumar

The story so far:

Tamil Nadu has found itself in the middle of a controversy over the appointment of a regular Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force (DGP/HoPF). For the first time in recent years, the State was unable to appoint a regular police chief in time to succeed the outgoing DGP. G. Venkatraman, a 1994-batch IPS officer ranked sixth in seniority, has been appointed as the in-charge DGP.

What has the government said?

Although the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had finalised a panel of three senior DGP-rank officers from the list forwarded by the State, the Tamil Nadu government rejected the panel, stating that the shortlisted officers were "not acceptable". Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy issued a statement

accusing the Centre and the UPSC of disregarding the State's views and selecting officers of their choice. Meanwhile, two contempt petitions have been filed against Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam for allegedly violating the Supreme Court's guidelines.

What are the SC guidelines?

In *Prakash Singh versus Union of India* (2006), the Supreme Court laid down detailed guidelines for the selection of State DGPs/HoPF. The Court mandated that, "The DGP of the State shall be selected by the State Government from amongst the three senior-most officers of the department who have been empanelled for promotion to that rank by the UPSC, on the basis of their length of service, very good record, and range of experience for heading the police force." It further ruled that the selected officer must be granted a minimum tenure of two years, irrespective of their date of

superannuation. State governments are required to send proposals to the UPSC at least three months before the anticipated vacancy of the DGP, outlining the eligible officers to be considered for the post. However, Tamil Nadu did not follow this timeline. The then incumbent DGP, Shankar Jwal, retired on August 30, 2025, which meant the State should have forwarded its list by June. Instead, the proposal was submitted to the UPSC only on August 29, 2025.

What is the contempt plea about?

After advocate Henri Tiphagne moved the top Court alleging that the State Government had committed contempt by appointing an in-charge DGP, the Chief Secretary informed the Court that a regular appointment was delayed because one of the eligible officers had approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) seeking inclusion of his name in the panel. The CAT dismissed his

application on April 30, 2025. While disposing of the contempt plea, a Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India requested the UPSC to consider the matter "expeditiously" and directed that, once the UPSC's recommendations were received, the State Government must take steps "forthwith" to appoint a DGP.

Following this direction, the UPSC convened an Empanelment Committee Meeting on September 26, 2025, with the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary. It emerged through reliable sources that the State had withdrawn the integrity certificate of one officer and expressed its unwillingness to empanel three other officers for undisclosed reasons. Despite this, the UPSC shortlisted the senior-most DGP-rank officers, and forwarded its recommendations to the State. However, Tamil Nadu raised objections by writing to the UPSC to express its concerns about the inclusion of officers it deemed "unacceptable" and indicating a preference for another meeting. The UPSC responded swiftly, stating that its earlier decision would stand.

What is the current status?

Petitioner Kishore Krishnaswamy filed a case against the State, alleging wilful contempt for appointing an in-charge DGP and withholding the appointment of a candidate from the panel of three IPS officers. The top Court has sought the State's response within three weeks.

THE GIST

▼ In *Prakash Singh versus Union of India* (2006), the Supreme Court laid down detailed guidelines for the selection of State DGPs/HoPF.

▼ State governments are required to send proposals to the UPSC at least three months before the anticipated vacancy of the DGP, outlining the eligible officers to be considered for the post.

▼ The UPSC convened an Empanelment Committee Meeting on September 26, 2025, with the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary.

What is the row over selecting the Head of Police Force in T.N.?

तमिलनाडु में पुलिस बल के प्रमुख के चयन को लेकर क्या विवाद है?

Tamil Nadu DGP Appointment Issue

तमिलनाडु DGP नियुक्ति विवाद

- Tamil Nadu has found itself in the middle of a controversy over the appointment of a regular **Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force (DGP/HoPF)**.
तमिलनाडु खुद को एक विवाद के बीच पाता है जिसमें नियमित **डायरेक्टर जनरल ऑफ पुलिस/हेड ऑफ पुलिस फोर्स (DGP/HoPF)** की नियुक्ति शामिल है।
- For the first time in recent years, the State was unable to appoint a regular police chief in time to succeed the outgoing DGP.
हाल के वर्षों में पहली बार, राज्य समय पर नियमित पुलिस प्रमुख नियुक्त करने में असफल रहा जो कार्यमुक्त होने वाले DGP का स्थान ले सके।
- G. Venkatraman**, a **1994-batch IPS officer** ranked sixth in seniority, has been appointed as the **in-charge DGP**.
जी. वेंकटरमण, जो **1994 बैच के IPS अधिकारी** हैं और वरिष्ठता में छठे स्थान पर हैं, को **इन-चार्ज DGP** नियुक्त किया गया है।

What has the government said?

सरकार ने क्या कहा है?

- Although the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** had finalised a panel of three senior DGP-rank officers, the Tamil Nadu government rejected the panel saying the shortlisted officers were "**not acceptable**".
हालांकि **UPSC** ने तीन वरिष्ठ DGP रैंक अधिकारियों की पैनल को अंतिम रूप दिया था, तमिलनाडु सरकार ने पैनल को अस्वीकार कर दिया और कहा कि चुने गए अधिकारी "**स्वीकार्य नहीं**" हैं।
- Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy** accused the Centre and UPSC of disregarding the State's views.
तमिलनाडु कानून मंत्री एस. रेगुपती ने केंद्र और UPSC पर राज्य की राय की अनदेखी करने का आरोप लगाया।
- Two **contempt petitions** have been filed against Chief Secretary **N. Muruganandam** for allegedly violating the Supreme Court's guidelines.



मुख्य सचिव एन. मुरुगनंदम के खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशा-निर्देशों के उल्लंघन के लिए दो अवमानना याचिकाएँ दायर की गई हैं।

What are the SC guidelines? सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशा-निर्देश क्या हैं?

- In **Prakash Singh vs. Union of India (2006)**, the Supreme Court laid down guidelines for the selection of **State DGPs/HoPF**.
प्रकाश सिंह बनाम भारत संघ (2006) में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राज्य DGP/HoPF की नियुक्ति के दिशा-निर्देश तय किए।
- The Court mandated selection from among the **three seniormost officers empanelled by UPSC, based on service length, record, and experience**.
कोर्ट ने UPSC द्वारा तैयार **तीन वरिष्ठतम अधिकारियों** में से सेवा अवधि, रिकॉर्ड और अनुभव के आधार पर चयन अनिवार्य किया।
- The **selected officer must get a minimum tenure of two years, even if retiring earlier**.
चयनित अधिकारी को **न्यूनतम दो वर्ष का कार्यकाल** मिलना चाहिए, भले ही वह पहले सेवानिवृत्त हो रहा हो।
- State governments must send proposals to UPSC **three months before** the anticipated vacancy.
राज्य सरकारों को संभावित रिक्ति से **तीन माह पहले** UPSC को प्रस्ताव भेजना चाहिए।
- Tamil Nadu did not follow the timeline and sent its proposal only on **August 29, 2025**, even though the DGP retired on **August 30, 2025**.
तमिलनाडु ने समय-सीमा का पालन नहीं किया और **29 अगस्त 2025** को प्रस्ताव भेजा, जबकि DGP **30 अगस्त 2025** को सेवानिवृत्त हुए।

What is the contempt plea about? अवमानना याचिका किस बारे में है?

- Advocate **Henri Tiphagne** alleged contempt as the State appointed an **in-charge DGP** instead of a regular one.
अधिवक्ता **हेनरी टिपहैग्ने** ने आरोप लगाया कि राज्य ने नियमित नियुक्ति करने के बजाय **इन-चार्ज DGP** नियुक्त करके अवमानना की है।
- The Chief Secretary told the Court that delay occurred because an eligible officer had approached the **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)**.
मुख्य सचिव ने कोर्ट को बताया कि देरी इसलिए हुई क्योंकि एक पात्र अधिकारी ने **CAT** में आवेदन किया था।
- The CAT dismissed his application on **April 30, 2025**.
CAT ने उसका आवेदन **30 अप्रैल 2025** को खारिज कर दिया।
- The Supreme Court asked UPSC to proceed **expeditiously** and told the State to appoint a DGP **forthwith** after receiving recommendations.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने UPSC से **शीघ्रता से** कार्रवाई करने और राज्य से सिफारिशें मिलते ही **तुरंत** नियुक्ति करने को कहा।
- UPSC held a meeting on **September 26, 2025** with the Chief Secretary.
UPSC ने **26 सितंबर 2025** को मुख्य सचिव के साथ बैठक की।
- The **State withdrew the integrity certificate of one officer and opposed three others**.
राज्य ने एक अधिकारी का **इंटेग्रिटी सर्टिफिकेट** वापस लिया और तीन अन्य अधिकारियों का विरोध किया।
- Despite this, UPSC shortlisted the **senior-most DGP-rank officers**.
इसके बावजूद UPSC ने **वरिष्ठतम DGP रैंक अधिकारियों** को शॉर्टलिस्ट किया।
- Tamil Nadu objected again and sought another meeting.
तमिलनाडु ने फिर आपत्ति जताई और एक और बैठक की मांग की।
- UPSC responded saying its earlier decision **would stand**.
UPSC ने जवाब दिया कि उसका पूर्व निर्णय **जारी रहेगा**।

What is the current status? वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?



- Petitioner **Kishore Krishnaswamy** filed a case alleging **wilful contempt** for appointing an in-charge DGP instead of selecting from the panel.
याचिकाकर्ता **किशोर कृष्णस्वामी** ने पैनल में से चयन न करके इन-चार्ज DGP नियुक्त करने पर **जानबूझकर अवमानना** का आरोप लगाते हुए मामला दायर किया।
- The Supreme Court has sought the State's response within **three weeks**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राज्य से **तीन सप्ताह** के भीतर जवाब मांगा है।

International Relations

26/11/2025

India took up detention of citizen with China: MEA

GS II: IR: India-China

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

A day after an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh was detained at the Shanghai international airport as Chinese officials refused to recognise her Indian passport, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said India had taken up the case with the Chinese authorities "strongly".

"Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. No amount of denial by the Chinese side is going to change this indisputable reality," he said after a Chinese official said the woman was treated as per Chinese laws.

उन्होंने **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** पर चीन के दावे को दोहराया, जिसे वह **जंगनान या दक्षिण तिब्बत** कहता है।

India took up detention of citizen with China: MEA भारत ने चीन के साथ नागरिक की हिरासत का मुद्दा उठाया: विदेश मंत्रालय

- India took up detention of citizen with China: MEA
भारत ने चीन के साथ नागरिक की **हिरासत** कामुद्दा उठाया: विदेश मंत्रालय
- A day after an Indian citizen from **Arunachal Pradesh** was detained at the Shanghai international airport as Chinese officials refused to recognise her **Indian passport**, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said India had taken up the case with the Chinese authorities "strongly".

अरुणाचल प्रदेश की एक भारतीय नागरिक को शंघाई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर हिरासत में लिए जाने के एक दिन बाद, क्योंकि चीनी अधिकारियों ने उसके **भारतीय पासपोर्ट** को मान्यता देने से इनकार कर दिया था, विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता **रंधीर जैसवाल** ने कहा कि

भारत ने यह मामला चीनी अधिकारियों के साथ **"कड़े तरीके से"** उठाया है। "Arunachal Pradesh is an **integral and inalienable** part of India. No amount of denial by the Chinese side is going to change this **indisputable reality**," he said after a Chinese official said The woman was treated as per Chinese laws.

"अरुणाचल प्रदेश भारत का **अटूट और अविभाज्य** हिस्सा है। चीनी पक्ष द्वारा कितना भी इनकार कर लिया जाए, यह **अखंड सत्य** बदलने वाला नहीं है," उन्होंने कहा, जब एक चीनी अधिकारी ने कहा कि महिला के साथ चीनी कानूनों के अनुसार व्यवहार किया गया।

- She also reiterated China's claims over **Arunachal Pradesh**, which it calls **Zangnan or South Tibet**.



Trump-MbS summit — \$1 trillion among friends

OS II, IR, West Asia

As adrenaline-high at the Saudi-American Summit last week demonstrated, the 80-year-old bilateral alliance remains perhaps the oldest transactional deal still going strong. It predates the establishment of post-Second World War global architectures such as the **United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Bretton Woods Institutions**. It was conceived as a secret “oil-for-security” strategic partnership signed on **Valentine’s Day 1945 between U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and King Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rehman al-Saud** on the *USS Quincy* in the Suez Canal Area. Originally intended to last 60 years, it was renewed in 2005.

Thanks to the exceptional amity between U.S. President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), this arrangement is currently being reset to the new domains of strategic cooperation, with the potential to anchor bilateral, regional and global developments in a more consequential manner.

The trajectory of ties

During the past 80 years, **U.S.-Saudi ties have not always had smooth sailing**. First, thanks to shale technology, the U.S. has become the world’s largest producer of crude and a significant exporter. While this has reduced the commercial content of the relationship, the U.S.’s exports have remained steady, leading to a decline in the bilateral merchandise trade and a balance swinging in America’s favour. As Saudi Arabia’s trading partner, the U.S. now ranks below China and India.

Historically, the ties came under strain during the Ramadan War of 1973, when Saudi Arabia joined an Arab oil embargo. In the mid-1980s, the Saudis surprised the Americans by buying intermediate-range ballistic missiles from China, a country they did not even recognise then. There have been tensions as the American military supplies were stanchied during the Yemen war, affecting Saudi offensive and defensive capabilities against the Houthis.

The assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi commentator working with *The Washington Post*, in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 jolted ties, and the Biden presidency initially decided to keep MBS at arm’s-length. The friction pushed the Saudis into diversifying their ties with China and Russia.

In December 2022, China’s President Xi Jinping visited Riyadh and held three separate summits with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Arab and Muslim countries, respectively. Later, Beijing also facilitated the resumption of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Since late 2023, the U.S. support for Israel’s brutal military campaign in Gaza has also made it difficult for Riyadh to turn a new page in bilateral ties.

The Saudis have resisted U.S. pressure to formally recognise Israel, pre-conditioning it on the creation of a pathway to Palestinian



Mahesh Sachdev

is a retired Indian Ambassador, specialising in the Arab world and oil issues

statehood, which Israel has ruled out.

New contours under the Trump presidency

There has been a positive sea change in bilateral ties since Mr. Trump took over the U.S. presidency this year. His first visit of his second term abroad was to Saudi Arabia in May 2025, where an agreement to supply \$142 billion worth of military equipment was secured. The new contours of this new relationship were in evidence at the no-holds-barred state visit. It included a moving guard of honour, a fly-past, a private lunch and a 300-guest banquet, both hosted by Mr. Trump, who also attended the investment forum at which deals worth \$270 billion were signed.

On his part, MBS readily agreed to raise the promised Saudi investments in the U.S. economy from \$600 billion to \$1 trillion without a fixed time frame. The amount is nearly as big as the country’s GDP and the entire corpus of the Kingdom’s Public Investment Fund (PIF), which already has 40% of its foreign investments in the U.S. economy. The groundbreaking Strategic Defence Agreement was signed, formally designating Saudi Arabia as a “major non-NATO ally” and committing the U.S. to actively assist Saudi Arabia if it came under an attack.

The two sides also made tangible progress towards collaboration in civil nuclear energy and the supply of state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips. Given the Trumpian propensity for “truthful hyperbole” and Saudi economic stringency, observers are sceptical about all key promises made during the visit being fully realised.

Moreover, the bilateral differences on basic issues such as the global oil glut, Riyadh-Tel Aviv reconciliation, Iran, and the Kingdom’s drive towards strategic autonomy were papered over during the Summit, which was conspicuous by the absence of any final communiqué. The visit can, nevertheless, be considered as a qualified bilateral success, particularly as it managed to bury the past ghost issues.

The robust revival of the U.S.-Saudi ties in Trump 2.0 is bound to have a regional impact. Under MBS, Saudi Arabia, the Arab world’s largest economy, has abandoned its low-key diplomatic profile, adopting a more assertive and visible pursuit of national interests. This process has accelerated after the two-year-long Israeli military campaign that has subdued Iran, the Kingdom’s long-standing rival in the region and the Islamic world.

MBS has already persuaded Mr. Trump to drop sanctions against Syria’s new regime and has asked for stronger American intervention to end the Sudanese civil war. Even the Iranian President has sought the MBS facilitation of the resumption of nuclear talks with Washington. The robust endorsement by the White House during the recent visit would further empower MBS, who at 40 years could be around for decades, making

him an indispensable, long-term U.S. interlocutor as the region’s geopolitical architecture gets reconfigured.

While the visit was silent on global issues, there are signs of subterranean bilateral coordination. Although oil has largely disappeared as the driver for bilateral economic synergy, the Saudi economy continues to be highly dependent on oil export revenues. Moreover, as recent U.S. sanctions against the two Russian oil majors demonstrated, Washington intends to continue its dominance of the global oil market. Both Saudis and Americans want the oil price to be at a moderate, sustainable level. The concerted American actions on sanctions against Iran, Venezuela and two Russian oil majors can only help stem the emerging supply-side oil glut, shore up the price and create market space for higher exports by both Saudi Arabia and the U.S. For the U.S., reinforced ties with Saudi Arabia would also stave off the recent encroachments by China and Russia on its turf, and complement its regional Pax Americana.

Impact on India

The Washington Summit does have several implications for India. First, it may provide advanced U.S. military equipment access to Pakistan, with which Riyadh concluded a strategic mutual defence agreement in September 2025, apparently with the U.S. nod-and-wink.

Second, although India, as the world’s third-largest oil importer, would prefer oil prices to be low, moderation and stability in the oil market may still be preferable as it navigates for alternative sources to Russian supplies.

Third, soaring Saudi ambitions for its post-oil Vision-2030, such as AI data centres, may create economic opportunities for India.

Fourth, curbing China’s foray into Saudi Arabia may open the door wider for India. India also needs to prioritise entering into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Saudi Arabia.

Lastly, the emerging *modus vivendi* with Israel may also facilitate the work on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which transits through Saudi Arabia. At a different level, White House’s differential treatment of MBS shows that its single-minded pursuit of economic transactions continues to trump all previous qualms, such as human rights and proliferation concerns, may light India’s pathway to an economic peace with the Americans.

The evident MBS-Trump bonhomie during the White House Summit signals the U.S. reclaiming primacy in Riyadh. The locus of the relationship has, nevertheless, shifted from the past “oil-for-security” paradigm. As the new, more nebulous drivers congeal and Saudi Arabia asserts its sovereign autonomy, the alliance enters an uncharted territory. While much may remain unaltered, it would, nevertheless, be fascinating to watch its progression.

The exceptional amity heralds new domains of strategic cooperation, with the potential to anchor bilateral, regional and global developments in a more consequential manner

Trump-MbS summit — \$1 trillion among friends ट्रंप-एमबीएस शिखर सम्मेलन — दोस्तों के बीच \$1 ट्रिलियन

U.S.–Saudi Bilateral Alliance अमेरिका–सऊदी द्विपक्षीय गठबंधन

- As adrenaline-high at the **Saudi-American Summit** last week demonstrated, the **80-year-old bilateral alliance** remains perhaps the oldest transactional deal still going strong. पिछले सप्ताह हुए **सऊदी-अमेरिकी शिखर सम्मेलन** में दिखी उत्साहपूर्ण स्थिति ने दर्शाया कि **80 वर्ष पुराना द्विपक्षीय गठबंधन** शायद सबसे पुराना लेन-देन आधारित समझौता है जो अभी भी मजबूत बना हुआ है।
- It predates the establishment of post-Second World War global architectures such as the **United Nations, NATO, and the Bretton Woods Institutions**.



यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र, नाटो, और ब्रेटन वुड्स संस्थानों जैसी द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद की वैशिक व्यवस्थाओं की स्थापना से पहले का है।

- It was conceived as a secret “oil-for-security” strategic partnership signed on **Valentine’s Day 1945** between U.S. President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and King **Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rehman al-Saud** on the **USS Quincy** in the Suez Canal Area.

यह एक गुप्त “oil-for-security” रणनीतिक साझेदारी के रूप में **14 फरवरी 1945** को राष्ट्रपति **फ्रैंकलिन डी. रूजवेल्ट** और राजा **अब्दुल अज़ीज़ बिन अब्दुल रहमान अल-सऊद** के बीच **यूएसएस किंसी** पर सुएज़ नहर क्षेत्र में हस्ताक्षरित हुआ था।

- Originally intended to last **60 years**, it was renewed in **2005**.
मूल रूप से **60 वर्ष** तक चलने के लिए बनाया गया यह समझौता **2005** में नवीनीकृत किया गया था।
- Thanks to the exceptional amity between U.S. President **Donald Trump** and Saudi Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman (MbS)**, this arrangement is currently being reset to new domains of strategic cooperation.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** और क्राउन प्रिंस **मोहम्मद बिन सलमान (MbS)** के बीच गहरी निकटता के कारण यह व्यवस्था अब रणनीतिक सहयोग के नए क्षेत्रों में पुनर्गठित हो रही है।

The trajectory of ties संबंधों की दिशा

- During the past **80 years**, U.S.-Saudi ties have not always had smooth sailing.
पिछले **80 वर्षों** में अमेरिका-सऊदी संबंध हमेशा सुचारू नहीं रहे हैं।
- First, thanks to **shale technology**, the U.S. has become the world’s largest producer of crude and a significant exporter.
पहले, **शेल तकनीक** के कारण अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा कच्चा तेल उत्पादक और एक प्रमुख निर्यातक बन गया है।
- While this has reduced the commercial content of the relationship, the U.S.’s exports have remained steady, leading to a decline in the bilateral merchandise trade and a balance swinging in America’s favour.
हालांकि इससे संबंधों का व्यावसायिक महत्व कम हुआ है, लेकिन अमेरिका का निर्यात स्थिर रहा, जिससे द्विपक्षीय व्यापार में गिरावट आई और संतुलन अमेरिका के पक्ष में चला गया।
- As Saudi Arabia’s trading partner, the U.S. now ranks below **China and India**.
सऊदी अरब के व्यापारिक साझेदारों में अब अमेरिका **चीन** और **भारत** से नीचे है।
- Historically, the ties came under strain during the **Ramadan War of 1973**, when Saudi Arabia joined an Arab oil embargo.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **1973 के रमज़ान युद्ध** के दौरान, जब सऊदी अरब ने अरब तेल प्रतिबंध का समर्थन किया, संबंध तनाव में आ गए।
- In the **mid-1980s**, the Saudis surprised the Americans by buying ballistic missiles from **China**, a country they did not even recognise then.
1980 के दशक के मध्य में, सऊदी ने **चीन** से बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलें खरीदकर अमेरिका को चौंका दिया, जबकि वे तब चीन को औपचारिक रूप से मान्यता भी नहीं देते थे।
- There have been tensions as the American military supplies were staunch during the **Yemen war**, affecting Saudi offensive and defensive capabilities.
यमन युद्ध के दौरान अमेरिकी सैन्य आपूर्ति में कमी ने सऊदी की आक्रामक और रक्षात्मक क्षमताओं को प्रभावित किया, जिससे तनाव पैदा हुआ।
- The **assassination of Jamal Khashoggi in October 2018 jolted ties**, and the Biden presidency initially decided to keep MbS at arm’s-length.
जमाल खशोगी की अक्टूबर 2018 में हत्या ने संबंधों को झटका दिया, और बाइडन प्रशासन ने शुरुआत में MbS से दूरी बनाए रखी।
- The friction pushed the Saudis into diversifying their ties with **China and Russia**.
इस तनाव ने सऊदी को **चीन** और **रूस** के साथ अपने संबंधों को विविधता देने के लिए प्रेरित किया।
- In **December 2022**, China’s President **Xi Jinping** visited Riyadh and held three separate summits.
दिसंबर 2022 में चीन के राष्ट्रपति **शी जिनपिंग** ने रियाद का दौरा किया और तीन अलग-अलग शिखर सम्मेलन आयोजित किए।



- Beijing facilitated the resumption of diplomatic ties between **Saudi Arabia and Iran**.
बीजिंग ने सऊदी अरब-ईरान के बीच राजनयिक संबंधों की बहाली में भी सहायता की।
- Since late **2023**, U.S. support for **Israel's Gaza campaign** has made it difficult for Riyadh to reset ties.
2023 के अंत से **इज़राइल के गाज़ा अभियान** के लिए अमेरिकी समर्थन ने संबंधों को रीसेट करना कठिन बना दिया है।
- The Saudis have resisted U.S. pressure to formally recognise **Israel**, pre-conditioning it on a pathway to **Palestinian statehood**.
सऊदी अमेरिका के **इज़राइल** को मान्यता देने के दबाव का विरोध कर रहा है और **फ़िलिस्तीनी राज्य** के मार्ग को पूर्व-शर्त बना रहा है।

Bilateral Differences and Summit Outcomes द्विपक्षीय मतभेद और शिखर सम्मेलन के परिणाम

- Moreover, the bilateral differences on basic issues such as the **global oil glut, Riyadh-Tel Aviv reconciliation, Iran**, and the Kingdom's drive towards **strategic autonomy** were papered over during the Summit, which was conspicuous by the absence of any final communiqué.
इसके अलावा, **वैश्विक तेल अधिशेष, रियाद-तेल अवीव मेल-मिलाप, ईरान**, और साम्राज्य की **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** की दिशा जैसे मूलभूत मुद्दों पर द्विपक्षीय मतभेदों को शिखर सम्मेलन में ढक दिया गया, जो किसी **अंतिम विज्ञप्ति** के अभाव से स्पष्ट था।
- The visit can, nevertheless, be considered a qualified bilateral success, particularly as it managed to bury the past ghost issues.
फिर भी, इस यात्रा को एक सीमित द्विपक्षीय सफलता माना जा सकता है, विशेष रूप से क्योंकि इसने अतीत के कई **विवादित मुद्दों** को समाप्त कर दिया।

Regional Impact of U.S.-Saudi Revival अमेरिका-सऊदी संबंधों के पुनर्जीवन का क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव

- The robust revival of U.S.-Saudi ties in **Trump 2.0** is bound to have a regional impact.
ट्रंप 2.0 में अमेरिका-सऊदी संबंधों के मजबूत पुनर्जीवन का क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव अवश्य पड़ेगा।
- Under MbS, Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's **largest economy**, has abandoned its low-key diplomatic profile, adopting a more assertive pursuit of national interests.
MbS के नेतृत्व में, सऊदी अरब—अरब दुनिया की **सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था**—ने अपने शांत कूटनीतिक प्रोफाइल को छोड़कर राष्ट्रीय हितों की अधिक आक्रामक तलाश शुरू कर दी है।
- This process has accelerated after the **two-year-long Israeli military campaign** that has subdued **Iran**, the Kingdom's long-standing rival.
यह प्रक्रिया **दो-वर्षीय इज़रायली सैन्य अभियान** के बाद तेज हुई, जिसने साम्राज्य के दीर्घकालिक प्रतिद्वंद्वी **ईरान** को कमजोर किया।
- MbS has already persuaded Mr. Trump to **drop sanctions against Syria's new regime and asked for stronger U.S. intervention in ending the Sudanese civil war**.
MbS ने ट्रंप को **सीरिया की नई सरकार पर से प्रतिबंध हटाने** और **सूदान के गृहयुद्ध को समाप्त करने** के लिए अधिक मजबूत अमेरिकी हस्तक्षेप की मांग की है।
- Even the **Iranian President** has sought MbS's facilitation to resume nuclear talks with Washington.
यहाँ तक कि **ईरानी राष्ट्रपति** ने भी वाशिंगटन के साथ परमाणु वार्ता फिर से शुरू करने के लिए MbS की मध्यस्थता की मांग की है।
- The strong White House endorsement would further empower MbS, who at **40 years** could shape the region for decades.
व्हाइट हाउस के मजबूत समर्थन से MbS और सशक्त होंगे, जो **40 वर्ष** की उम्र में आने वाले दशकों तक क्षेत्र को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

Subterranean Coordination and Oil Politics अंतर्निहित समन्वय और तेल राजनीति



- While the visit was silent on global issues, signs of deeper bilateral coordination are visible. यात्रा वैश्विक मुद्दों पर मौन रही, लेकिन गहरे द्विपक्षीय समन्वय के संकेत स्पष्ट हैं।
- Although oil has largely disappeared as the primary driver of economic synergy, the Saudi economy still depends heavily on **oil export revenues**. हालाँकि तेल अब आर्थिक तालमेल का मुख्य चालक नहीं रहा, सऊदी अर्थव्यवस्था अभी भी **तेल निर्यात राजस्व** पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है।
- The **U.S.'s recent sanctions on Russian oil majors** show America's intent to retain **dominance in the global oil market**. अमेरिका द्वारा हाल के **रूसी तेल कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध** वैश्विक तेल बाजार में अपनी प्रभुत्व बनाए रखने की उसकी मंशा दिखाते हैं।
- Both countries want oil prices at a **moderate and sustainable** level. दोनों देश तेल कीमतों को **मध्यम और टिकाऊ** स्तर पर रखना चाहते हैं।
- **Sanctions against Iran, Venezuela, and Russia help reduce the supply-side glut, supporting prices and creating space for higher exports by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.** **ईरान, वेनेजुएला** और **रूस** पर प्रतिबंध आपूर्ति अधिकता को कम करके कीमतों को सहारा देते हैं, जिससे अमेरिका और सऊदी अरब दोनों के लिए अधिक निर्यात की जगह बनती है।
- **Stronger U.S.–Saudi ties also help Washington counter the recent inroads made by China and Russia in the region.** सुदृढ़ अमेरिका–सऊदी संबंध वाशिंगटन को क्षेत्र में **चीन और रूस** के बढ़ते प्रभाव का मुकाबला करने में भी मदद करते हैं।

Impact on India भारत पर प्रभाव

- The Washington Summit carries several implications for India. वाशिंगटन शिखर सम्मेलन के भारत के लिए कई प्रभाव हैं।
- **It may enable Pakistan to access advanced U.S. military equipment, following its strategic defence agreement with Riyadh (September 2025).** यह पाकिस्तान को **उन्नत अमेरिकी सैन्य उपकरण** प्राप्त करने में सक्षम बना सकता है, खासकर **सितंबर 2025 में रियाद के साथ हुए रक्षा समझौते** के बाद।
- **India prefers low oil prices, but stable and moderate prices may still be beneficial as it diversifies away from Russian supplies.** भारत कम तेल कीमतें चाहता है, लेकिन **स्थिर और मध्यम** कीमतें भी फायदेमंद हो सकती हैं, क्योंकि वह रूसी आपूर्ति से विविधीकरण कर रहा है।
- **Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030 projects—such as AI data centres—may open new opportunities for India.** सऊदी के महत्वाकांक्षी **विजन 2030** प्रोजेक्ट—जैसे **AI डेटा सेंटर**—भारत के लिए अवसर खोल सकते हैं।
- **Curbing China's influence in Saudi Arabia may widen India's strategic space, including a stronger case for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the Kingdom.** सऊदी में चीन के प्रभाव को सीमित करना भारत के लिए रणनीतिक अवसर बढ़ा सकता है, और **व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते** की संभावनाएँ बढ़ा सकता है।
- **Closer U.S.–Saudi dynamics could also accelerate work on the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).** अमेरिका–सऊदी नज़दीकी **IMEEC** परियोजना को भी तेज कर सकती है।
- White House's acceptance of MbS despite earlier concerns signals a **transaction-first U.S. approach**, which may benefit India. व्हाइट हाउस द्वारा MbS की स्वीकार्यता अमेरिका के **लेन-देन आधारित दृष्टिकोण** को दर्शाती है, जिससे भारत को भी लाभ मिल सकता है।

Conclusion निष्कर्ष

- The evident MbS–Trump bonhomie signals Washington's renewed primacy in Riyadh. स्पष्ट MbS–ट्रंप सौहार्द वाशिंगटन की रियाद में पुनर्स्थापित प्रमुखता दर्शाता है।



- However, the locus of the relationship has shifted from the earlier **oil-for-security paradigm** to more **nebulous strategic drivers**, reflecting Saudi Arabia's push for **sovereign autonomy**.
हालाँकि संबंधों का केंद्र अब पुराने **तेल-के-बदले-सुरक्षा** मॉडल से हटकर अधिक **अस्पष्ट रणनीतिक कारकों** की ओर बढ़ गया है, जो सऊदी की **सार्वभौमिक स्वायत्तता** की ओर यात्रा दिखाता है।
- As the alliance enters uncharted territory, its evolution will be closely watched.
जैसे-जैसे गठबंधन अनजान क्षेत्रों में प्रवेश करता है, इसके विकास पर करीबी नज़र रखी जाएगी।

CAIRO

Amnesty International accuses RSF of committing war crimes



"State of the World's Human Rights" report

CGS II: IR

REUTERS

Amnesty International on Tuesday said that RSF atrocities in Sudan's El-Fasher, including executions, rape and hostage-taking, amount to war crimes in the ongoing war. The UAE is accused of facilitating RSF abuses, which it denies, as Sudan's devastating conflict continues to kill thousands and displace millions. AP

Amnesty International accuses RSF of committing war crimes

एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल ने RSF पर युद्ध अपराध करने का आरोप लगाया

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एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल ने मंगलवार को कहा कि सूडान के **एल-फाशोर** में **RSF की अत्याचार**, जिनमें **फांसी, बलात्कार और बंधक बनाना** शामिल है, चल रहे युद्ध में **युद्ध अपराध** माने जाते हैं।

The **UAE** is accused of **facilitating RSF abuses**, which it denies, as Sudan's **devastating conflict** continues to **kill**

thousands and displace millions.

UAE पर RSF के अत्याचारों को सहायता देने का आरोप है, जिसे वह नकारता है, जबकि सूडान का विनाशकारी संघर्ष लगातार हजारों को मार रहा है और लाखों को विस्थापित कर रहा है।



Jihadist attacks fuel record hunger in Nigeria's volatile north: UN agency

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
LAGOS

Resurgent jihadist attacks and instability in northern Nigeria are pushing hunger to unprecedented levels with thousands facing "famine-like conditions", the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday.

Nearly 35 million people in northern Nigeria are "projected to face severe food insecurity during the 2026 lean season", which stretches from May to September, the UN agency said in a statement.

In Borno state, the epicentre of the 16-year-long jihadist insurgency, around 15,000 people "are projected to reach catastrophic hunger" or "famine-like conditions", WFP said in a statement.

The conflict has killed



A file picture of people waiting to receive food donations from the World Food Programme in Damasak, northeastern Nigeria. AP

more than 40,000 people and displaced around two million others in the northeast and spilled into neighbouring countries. While Nigeria's insurgency has slowed since violence peaked around 2015, attacks have picked up since the beginning of the year.

May to September, the

time between planting and harvest see people, especially in the rural areas, with little food reserves.

Normally, farmers would buy food – but with double digit inflation from an economic crisis, many cannot.

The WFP's largest donor is the United States

which, under President Donald Trump, has cut foreign aid, including to UN agencies.

Other big donors, including some European nations, have also shrunk their humanitarian budgets.

Almost a million people depend on WFP's food aid in northeastern Nigeria, and the UN agency said funding shortfalls have forced it to start scaling down nutrition programmes in July.

Of the 500 nutrition centres that the WFP operates in northeast Nigeria, 150 shut at the end of July due to funding shortages, leaving more than 300,000 children at risk and driving malnutrition levels from "serious" to "critical" in the third quarter of the year.

Jihadist attacks fuel record hunger in Nigeria's volatile north: UN agency नाइजीरिया के अशांत उत्तर में जिहादी हमलों से रिकॉर्ड भूख: संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसी

- **Jihadist attacks fuel record hunger in Nigeria's volatile north: UN agency**
नाइजीरिया के अशांत उत्तर में जिहादी हमलों से रिकॉर्ड भूख: संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसी
- **Resurgent jihadist attacks and instability in northern Nigeria are pushing hunger to unprecedented levels with thousands facing "famine-like conditions", the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday.**
उत्तर नाइजीरिया में बढ़ते जिहादी हमले और अस्थिरता भूख को अभूतपूर्व स्तरों तक पहुँचा रहे हैं, जहाँ हजारों लोग "दुर्भिक्ष जैसी स्थितियों" का सामना कर रहे हैं, विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम (WFP) ने मंगलवार को कहा।
- **Nearly 35 million people in northern Nigeria are "projected to face severe food insecurity during the 2026 lean season",** which stretches from **May to September**, the UN agency said in a statement.
उत्तर नाइजीरिया में लगभग **3.5 करोड़ लोग "2026 के दुबले मौसम (May to September) में गंभीर खाद्य असुरक्षा** का सामना करेंगे," संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसी ने एक बयान में कहा।
- In **Borno state**, the epicentre of the **16-year-long jihadist insurgency**, around **15,000 people** "are projected to reach **catastrophic hunger**" or "famine-like conditions", WFP said in a statement.
बोर्नो राज्य, जो **16 वर्षीय जिहादी विद्रोह** का केंद्र है, में लगभग **15,000 लोग "विनाशकारी भूख"** या "दुर्भिक्ष जैसी स्थितियों" तक पहुँचने की आशंका है, WFP ने कहा।
- The conflict has **killed more than 40,000 people** and **displaced around two million others** in the northeast and spilled into neighbouring countries.



इस संघर्ष ने **40,000 से अधिक लोगों को मार डाला** है और लगभग **20 लाख लोगों को विस्थापित** कर दिया है, और यह पड़ोसी देशों में भी फैल गया है।

- While Nigeria's insurgency has slowed since violence peaked around **2015**, attacks have **picked up** since the beginning of the year.
हालांकि नाइजीरिया का विद्रोह **2015** के आसपास चरम हिंसा के बाद धीमा पड़ा, हमले वर्ष की शुरुआत से **फिर बढ़ गए** हैं।
- **May to September**, the time between planting and harvest see people, especially in the rural areas, with little food reserves.
May to September, जब बुवाई और कटाई के बीच का समय होता है, लोग विशेषकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में, बहुत कम खाद्य भंडार रखते हैं।
- Normally, farmers would buy food — but with **double digit inflation from an economic crisis**, many cannot.
सामान्यतः किसान भोजन खरीदते — लेकिन **आर्थिक संकट** से आई **दो अंकीय महंगाई** के कारण कई ऐसा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं।
- The WFP's largest donor is the **United States** which, under President **Donald Trump**, has **cut foreign aid**, including to UN agencies.
WFP का सबसे बड़ा दाता **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** है, जिसने राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** के तहत **विदेशी सहायता में कटौती** की है, जिसमें UN एजेंसियाँ भी शामिल हैं।
- Other big donors, including some **European nations**, have also **shrunk their humanitarian budgets**.
अन्य बड़े दाताओं, जिनमें कुछ **यूरोपीय राष्ट्र** शामिल हैं, ने भी अपने **मानवीय बजट में कटौती** की है।
- Almost **a million people** depend on WFP's food aid in northeastern Nigeria, and the UN agency said funding shortfalls have forced it to start **scaling down nutrition programmes** in July.
उत्तर-पूर्वी नाइजीरिया में लगभग **10 लाख लोग** WFP की खाद्य सहायता पर निर्भर हैं, और UN एजेंसी ने कहा कि फंड की कमी ने उसे जुलाई में **पोषण कार्यक्रमों को कम** करने के लिए मजबूर किया।
- Of the **500 nutrition centres** that the WFP operates in northeast Nigeria, **150 shut** at the end of July due to **funding shortages**, leaving **more than 300,000 children at risk** and driving malnutrition levels from "**serious**" to "**critical**" in the third quarter of the year.
उत्तर-पूर्वी नाइजीरिया में WFP द्वारा संचालित **500 पोषण केंद्रों** में से **150 जुलाई के अंत में बंद** हो गए, क्योंकि **फंड की कमी** थी, जिससे **3,00,000 से अधिक बच्चे जोखिम में** आ गए और कुपोषण स्तर वर्ष की तीसरी तिमाही में "**गंभीर**" से "**अत्यंत गंभीर**" हो गया।

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

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2. **'Rupee is Asia's worst performing currency'**
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3.	Net FDI negative for second straight month in September सितंबर में लगातार दूसरे महीने नेट FDI नकारात्मक
4.	As trade deficit with Japan tops \$12 bn, India to discuss non-tariff measures जापान के साथ व्यापार घाटा \$12 बिलियन पार, भारत गैर-शुल्क उपायों पर चर्चा करेगा
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5.	What does the draft Seeds Bill entail? ड्राफ्ट सीड्स बिल में क्या शामिल है?
6.	Publish or perish: making sense of India's research fraud epidemic पब्लिश या पेरिश: भारत की रिसर्च फ्रॉड महामारी को समझना
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7.	Toxic air is a year-round blight in 60% of Indian districts: study भारतीय जिलों के 60% में विषाक्त वायु साल भर की समस्या है: अध्ययन
8.	Six years on, mystery over illegal GM seeds' source stays unsolved छह साल बाद भी, अवैध GM बीजों के स्रोत का रहस्य अनसुलझा है

Economy

26/11/2025



A farm crisis lost in political cacophony

Farmers in Karnataka need a long-term solution to their woes

GS III: Economy: Agriculture

STATE OF PLAY

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It has been over 10 days since farmers of Gadag district in north Karnataka began an indefinite agitation demanding **Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹3,000 per quintal for maize**. Farmers in the neighbouring districts too are up in arms against the Central and State governments over the plummeting price of maize.

While the Centre has fixed an MSP at ₹2,400 per quintal for maize, the prevailing price in Karnataka is ₹1,600 to ₹1,800 per quintal. The prices, which began declining in September, have dropped suddenly over the last fortnight.

The plight of the farmers in Karnataka, which is among the top maize-producing States in the country, seems to have been buried under the cacophony over the “power-sharing formula” between the Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, and the Deputy Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar.

The protest by maize farmers comes at a time when the State government is yet to recover from the floods that destroyed crops. That was followed by series of protests by sugarcane farmers seeking a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of ₹3,500 per tonne for sugarcane. The State government recently managed to convince the farmers to agree to an FRP of ₹3,300 per tonne.

The Opposition BJP has been quick to grab this opportunity to portray the ruling disposition as “anti-farmer”, just ahead of the winter session of the State legislature. In response, the Congress has argued that the Union government’s intervention is crucial



in resolving both maize and sugarcane issues. It has mocked the opposition MPs of Karnataka for not having the gumption to raise the issue with their own party leaders at the Centre.

Last week, Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention in the procurement of maize and also green gram, which has seen a price drop as well. He said that Mr. Modi should direct the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), the Food Corporation of India, and the National Cooperative Consumers’ Federation of India (NCCF) to begin MSP procurement immediately under the Price Support Scheme or another suitable mechanism. Mr. Siddaramaiah contended that increased imports has also added to the crisis.

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi, responded by lobbing the ball back to the State’s court and insisting that the authority on implementing the MSP or FRP rests with the State government. He has also rubbished Mr. Siddaramaiah’s claims on imports, stating that it is only 0.5 lakh metric tonnes this fiscal.

Amid the political blame game, one of the basic issues that has gone unaddressed is the rapid expansion of maize cultivation in Karnataka.

Maize in Karnataka has replaced rain-fed crops such as potato, cotton, groundnut, ragi, and sorghum. In 2023, the cultivated area under maize in the State was 10.3 lakh hectares. For the current year, up to July 5, it was 13.98 lakh hectares, up from 12.20 lakh hectare last year in the same period.

According to market experts, this year, multiple factors including supply-demand disparity, reduced exports due to downward trend in global cereal prices, and related factors caused the price drop. Ethanol blending results in the production of large quantities of Distiller’s Dried Grains with Solubles, a substitute for conventional feed grains, which is cited as another factor reducing the demand for maize in the livestock sector. Also, while Karnataka has produced over 55 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of maize during kharif 2025, it has a marketable surplus of 32 lakh tonnes, which far exceeds the absorptive capacity of local industries. Added to the problem is the existing additional stock with the distilleries from the previous year’s procurement.

A positive development amid the crisis is Mr. Siddaramaiah’s promise about starting procurement under MSP by the State. However, this is yet to translate into a government order. He has also written to the distilleries in the State to sign up with NAFED and NCCF for the production of ethanol using maize.

Farmers who cultivate maize in Karnataka, mostly in the central and northern districts, have demanded action both by the State and the Centre to come up with a long-term solution. This demand currently seems lost on both ruling and Opposition party leaders.

A farm crisis lost in political cacophony
राजनीतिक कोलाहल में खो गया एक कृषि संकट



Crisis Over Maize Prices in Karnataka

कर्नाटक में मक्का कीमतों को लेकर संकट

- It has been over **10 days** since farmers of **Gadag district** in north Karnataka began an indefinite agitation demanding **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** of **₹3,000 per quintal** for maize.
उत्तरी कर्नाटक के गडग जिले के किसानों द्वारा मक्का के लिए **₹3,000 प्रति क्विंटल** के **MSP** की मांग को लेकर अनिश्चितकालीन आंदोलन शुरू किए **10 दिन** से अधिक हो चुके हैं।
- Farmers in the neighbouring districts too are up in arms against the Central and State governments over the **plummeting price of maize**.
पड़ोसी जिलों के किसान भी मक्का की **गिरती कीमतों** को लेकर केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के खिलाफ विरोध कर रहे हैं।
- While the Centre has fixed an MSP at **₹2,400 per quintal** for maize, the prevailing price in Karnataka is **₹1,600 to ₹1,800 per quintal**.
जहाँ केंद्र ने मक्का का **MSP ₹2,400 प्रति क्विंटल** तय किया है, वहीं कर्नाटक में वर्तमान कीमत **₹1,600 से ₹1,800 प्रति क्विंटल** है।
- That was followed by a series of protests by **sugarcane farmers seeking a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of ₹3,500 per tonne** for sugarcane.
इसके बाद **गन्ना किसानों** द्वारा **₹3,500 प्रति टन** के **FRP** की मांग को लेकर कई प्रदर्शन हुए।
- The State government recently managed to convince the farmers to agree to an FRP of **₹3,300 per tonne**.
राज्य सरकार हाल ही में किसानों को **₹3,300 प्रति टन** FRP पर सहमत कराने में सफल रही।
- He said that Mr. Modi should direct **NAFED, the Food Corporation of India, and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF)** to begin MSP procurement immediately under the **Price Support Scheme** or another suitable mechanism.
उन्होंने कहा कि श्री मोदी को **NAFED, भारतीय खाद्य निगम (FCI)** और **राष्ट्रीय सहकारी उपभोक्ता संघ (NCCF)** को **प्राइस सपोर्ट स्कीम** या किसी अन्य तंत्र के तहत तुरंत **MSP** खरीद शुरू करने का निर्देश देना चाहिए।
- Mr. Siddaramaiah contended that **increased imports** had also added to the crisis.
श्री सिद्धारमैया ने कहा कि **बढ़े हुए आयात** ने भी संकट को बढ़ाया है।

Maize Crisis: Centre-State Blame Game and Structural Issues

मक्का संकट: केंद्र-राज्य आरोप-प्रत्यारोप और संरचनात्मक समस्याएँ

- The Union Minister for **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi**, responded by **lobbing the ball back to the State's court and insisting that the authority on implementing the MSP or FRP rests with the State government**.
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण के केंद्रीय मंत्री **प्रल्हाद जोशी** ने गेंद वापस राज्य के पाले में डालते हुए कहा कि **MSP या FRP** लागू करने की ज़िम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार की है।
- He has also rubbished Mr. Siddaramaiah's claims on imports, stating that it is only **0.5 lakh metric tonnes** this fiscal.
उन्होंने श्री सिद्धारमैया के आयात संबंधी दावों को भी खारिज किया, यह कहते हुए कि इस वित्त वर्ष में यह केवल **0.5 लाख मीट्रिक टन** है।
- Amid the political blame game, one of the basic issues that has gone unaddressed is the **rapid expansion of maize cultivation** in Karnataka.
राजनीतिक आरोप-प्रत्यारोप के बीच, एक मूल समस्या जो अनदेखी रह गई है, वह है कर्नाटक में **मक्का खेती का तेज़ विस्तार**।
- Maize in Karnataka has replaced rain-fed crops such as potato, cotton, groundnut, ragi, and sorghum**.
कर्नाटक में मक्का ने **आलू, कपास, मूंगफली, रागी और ज्वार** जैसी वर्षा-आधारित फसलों की जगह ले ली है।
- In **2023**, the cultivated area under maize in the State was **10.3 lakh hectares**.
2023 में राज्य में मक्का की खेती का क्षेत्र **10.3 लाख हेक्टेयर** था।
- For the current year, up to **July 5**, it was **13.98 lakh hectares**, up from **12.20 lakh hectares** last year in the same period.



वर्तमान वर्ष में 5 जुलाई तक यह 13.98 लाख हेक्टेयर हो गया, जबकि पिछले वर्ष इसी अवधि में यह 12.20 लाख हेक्टेयर था।

- According to market experts, this year, multiple factors including **supply-demand disparity**, reduced exports due to downward trend in **global cereal prices**, and related factors caused the price drop.

बाज़ार विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, इस वर्ष **आपूर्ति-मांग असंतुलन**, **वैश्विक अनाज कीमतों** में गिरावट के कारण निर्यात में कमी और अन्य कारकों ने कीमतों में गिरावट लाई है।

- **Ethanol blending** results in the production of large quantities of **Distiller's Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS)**, a substitute for conventional feed grains, which is cited as another factor reducing the demand for maize in the livestock sector.

एथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग के कारण **डिस्टिलर्स ड्राइड ग्रेन्स विद सॉल्युबल्स (DDGS)** का बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन होता है, जो पारंपरिक पशु चारे का विकल्प है, और इसे मक्का की मांग घटाने वाला एक अन्य कारक बताया गया है।

- He has also written to the distilleries in the State to sign up with **NAFED** and **NCCF** for the production of **ethanol using maize**.

उन्होंने राज्य की डिस्टिलरी को **NAFED** और **NCCF** के साथ **मक्का आधारित एथेनॉल** उत्पादन हेतु पंजीकरण करने के लिए भी लिखा है।

- Farmers who cultivate maize in Karnataka, mostly in the central and northern districts, have demanded action both by the State and the

Centre to come up with a **long-term solution**.

कर्नाटक के मक्का किसान, मुख्यतः मध्य और उत्तरी जिलों के, राज्य और केंद्र दोनों से **दीर्घकालिक समाधान** की मांग कर रहे हैं।

'Rupee is Asia's worst performing currency'

The domestic currency may slide to 90 against the USD if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in the near future, caution analysts

GS III: Economy
Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI



Currency cauldron: The rupee's trajectory now hinges on global dollar strength more than domestic fundamentals. REUTERS

At a sharp depreciation of 4.3% against the U.S. Dollar (USD) in this calendar year (January-December 2025), the Indian Rupee (INR) has become the worst performing currency in Asia, forex analysts said. It may further slide to 90 against the USD if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in near future, they cautioned.

Stating that the INR's performance has been weaker compared with peers like the Chinese Yuan and the Indonesian Rupiah, Akshat Garg, AVP, Choice Wealth said, "It is still faring better than structurally weak currencies like the Japanese Yen and Korean Won, which continue to battle domestic policy challenges."

"Overall, the rupee's trajectory now hinges on global dollar strength more than domestic fundamentals," he added.

According to Tanay Dalal, Senior V-P, Business & Economic Research, Axis Bank, the INR has been facing depreciation pressure for many months, not so much because of the current account which has been benign, but because of capital outflows.

"INR has weakened against Asia FX [foreign Exchange], but mostly against current account surplus countries. The INR

has weakened 4% CYTD [Calendar Year-to-Date], as against 2.9% in IDR [Indonesian Rupiah] and 1.3% in PHP [Philippine Peso]," Mr. Dalal said.

Apart from this, the rest of the Asian currency complex has appreciated, largely driven by the CNY [Chinese Yuan] where the PBOC/SAFE [Currency Exchange policy of China's central bank] have been driving this through repeated intervention and signalling, he added.

The INR touched a new low vs the USD on November 21, 2025, as it went past the 88.8 levels (that the RBI had been defending in recent weeks) and touched 89.66 levels in the spot market. Since then, it has recouped some of its losses and was on Tuesday trading at 89.22 levels against the USD.

Sankar Chakraborti, MD & CEO, Acuité Ratings and Research said, "The 3.6% appreciation of the USD over the last two months has put pressure on most cur-

rencies, including the INR. India is facing twin external shocks: U.S. tariffs and high precious metal prices. The combination of adverse geo-economic and geopolitical environments is weighing upon India's merchandise trade deficit."

Trump tariff impact

"The sharp depreciation of the INR is the consequence of the cumulative impact of several factors. First and foremost, the Trump administration imposed 50% tariff on India hurting her exports. This led to a record \$41.7 billion trade deficit in October triggering a rupee slide," said V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd. "Secondly, the sharp spike in gold price this year has triggered huge investment in gold and Gold ETFs leading to 200% increase in demand for gold in October causing the gold import bill to spike to \$14.72 billion in October," Mr. Vijayakumar added.

'Rupee is Asia's worst performing currency'

'रुपया एशिया की सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन करने वाली मुद्रा है'

- The domestic currency may slide to **90 against the USD** if the **trade deal with the U.S.** does not happen in the near future, caution analysts

घरेलू मुद्रा **अमेरिकी डॉलर के मुकाबले 90** तक गिर सकती है यदि **अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार समझौता** निकट भविष्य में नहीं होता है, विश्लेषकों ने चेतावनी दी है

- At a sharp depreciation of **4.3%** against the **U.S. Dollar (USD)** in this calendar year (January-December 2025), the **Indian Rupee (INR)** has become the **worst performing currency in Asia**, forex analysts said

इस कैलेंडर वर्ष (जनवरी-दिसंबर 2025) में **अमेरिकी डॉलर (USD)** के मुकाबले **4.3%** की तेज गिरावट के साथ, **भारतीय रुपया (INR)** एशिया की सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन करने वाली मुद्रा बन गया है, फॉरेक्स विश्लेषकों ने कहा

- It may further slide to **90 against the USD** if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in near future, they cautioned

उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि यदि अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार समझौता निकट भविष्य में नहीं होता है, तो यह **अमेरिकी डॉलर के मुकाबले 90** तक और गिर सकता है

- Stating that the **INR's performance has been weaker compared with peers like the Chinese Yuan and the Indonesian Rupiah**, Akshat Garg, AVP, Choice Wealth said, "It is still faring better



than structurally weak currencies like the **Japanese Yen and Korean Won**, which continue to battle domestic policy challenges.”

यह बताते हुए कि रुपये का प्रदर्शन **चीनी युआन** और **इंडोनेशियाई रुपिया** जैसी मुद्राओं की तुलना में कमजोर रहा है, अक्षत गर्ग, एवीपी, चॉइस वेल्थ ने कहा, “यह अभी भी **जापानी येन** और **कोरियाई वॉन** जैसी संरचनात्मक रूप से कमजोर मुद्राओं से बेहतर प्रदर्शन कर रहा है, जो घरेलू नीतिगत चुनौतियों से जूझ रही हैं।”

- “Overall, the rupee’s trajectory now hinges on **global dollar strength** more than **domestic fundamentals**,” he added
- उन्होंने जोड़ा, “कुल मिलाकर, रुपये की दिशा अब घरेलू मूलभूत तथ्यों की तुलना में **वैश्विक डॉलर की मजबूती** पर अधिक निर्भर करती है।”
- According to Tanay Dalal, Senior V-P, Business & Economic Research, Axis Bank, the INR has been facing depreciation pressure for many months, **not so much because of the current account** which has been benign, but because of **capital outflows**
- तनय डालाल, सीनियर वी-पी, बिज़नेस एंड इकोनॉमिक रिसर्च, एक्सिस बैंक के अनुसार, रुपया कई महीनों से अवमूल्यन के दबाव का सामना कर रहा है, इसका कारण **चालू खाते** की स्थिति नहीं बल्कि **पूंजी बहिर्वाह** है
- “INR has weakened against **Asia FX**, but mostly against **current account surplus countries**. The INR has weakened **4% CYTD**, as against **2.9% in IDR** and **1.3% in PHP**,” Mr. Dalal said
- “रुपया **एशियाई मुद्राओं (Asia FX)** के मुकाबले कमजोर हुआ है, लेकिन मुख्यतः **चालू खाता अधिशेष वाले देशों** के मुकाबले। रुपया **4% CYTD** कमजोर हुआ है, जबकि **IDR 2.9%** और **PHP 1.3%** कमजोर हुए हैं,” श्री डालाल ने कहा
- Apart from this, the rest of the Asian currency complex has appreciated, largely driven by the **CNY (Chinese Yuan)** where the **PBOC/SAFE** have been driving this through repeated intervention and signalling, he added
- इसके अलावा, एशियाई मुद्रा समूह का बाकी हिस्सा मजबूत हुआ है, खासकर **CNY (चीनी युआन)** के कारण, जहां **PBOC/SAFE** लगातार हस्तक्षेप और संकेतों के माध्यम से इसे नियंत्रित कर रहे हैं, उन्होंने कहा
- The INR touched a **new low vs the USD on November 21, 2025**, as it went past the **88.8 levels** (that the **RBI** had been defending in recent weeks) and touched **89.66 levels** in the spot market
- रुपये ने **21 नवंबर 2025** को **अमेरिकी डॉलर के मुकाबले नया निचला स्तर** छुआ, जब यह **88.8 स्तर** (जिसे हाल के सप्ताहों में **RBI** बचाने की कोशिश कर रहा था) को पार कर **89.66 स्तर** तक पहुँच गया
- Since then, it has recouped some of its losses and was on Tuesday trading at **89.22 levels** against the USD
- तब से, इसने अपनी कुछ हानि वापस पाई और मंगलवार को **89.22 स्तर** पर अमेरिकी डॉलर के मुकाबले कारोबार कर रहा था
- Sankar Chakraborti, MD & CEO, Acuité Ratings and Research said, “The **3.6% appreciation of the USD** over the last two months has put pressure on most currencies, including the INR
- संकर चक्रवर्ती, एमडी एवं सीईओ, एक्यूटी रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च ने कहा, “पिछले दो महीनों में **अमेरिकी डॉलर की 3.6% मजबूती** ने अधिकांश मुद्राओं, जिसमें रुपया भी शामिल है, पर दबाव डाला है”
- **India is facing twin external shocks: U.S. tariffs and high precious metal prices.** The combination of adverse **geo-economic and geopolitical environments** is weighing upon India’s **merchandise trade deficit**
- भारत **दोहरी बाहरी झटकों** का सामना कर रहा है: **अमेरिकी टैरिफ** और **कीमती धातुओं की ऊँची कीमतें**। प्रतिकूल **भूराजनीतिक और भू-आर्थिक** परिस्थितियों का संयोजन भारत के **माल व्यापार घाटे** पर दबाव डाल रहा है

Trump tariff impact
ट्रंप टैरिफ का प्रभाव



Net FDI negative for second straight month in September

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

More investment left the country than entered it for the second month in a row in September, with latest data from the Reserve Bank of India showing net foreign direct investment (FDI) stood at **-\$2.4 billion**.

In other words, the sum of money repatriated out of the country by foreign companies here, and invested abroad by Indian companies, was **\$2.4 billion more** than the foreign investment entering India in September 2025, an analysis of the data by *The Hindu* showed.

The data show that gross FDI coming into India stood at **\$6.6 billion** in September 2025, about **4.3% higher** than in September last year. In fact, this amount was **9.1% higher** than it was in August.

However, these relatively strong inflows were outpaced by the outflows, particularly when it came to foreign investments done by Indian companies.

So, while the repatriation of profits by foreign

companies doing business in India shrank by **0.2%** in September 2025 to **\$5.2 billion**, the amount invested abroad by Indian companies grew **64.4%** to **\$3.8 billion** during the same period.

Taken together, this meant that a total of **\$9 billion** of direct investment left the country in September 2025, compared with the **\$6.6 billion** that entered it that month. The difference between these two figures, the net FDI amount, therefore stood at a **negative \$2.4 billion**. The net FDI figure was negative in August 2025 as well, at **-\$0.6 billion**. It is important to note that these figures refer to direct investment, which constitutes investment into assets, rather than portfolio investment, which has to do with shares in a company.

However, the analysis also shows that the FDI picture looks better when looked at over a longer period. For example, gross FDI was **15.4% higher** in the July-September 2025 quarter than in the same quarter of the previous year.

- **हालांकि, ये अपेक्षाकृत मजबूत प्रवाह आउटफ्लो से पीछे रह गए, विशेष रूप से जब भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशों में किए गए निवेश की बात आई।**
- **So, while the repatriation of profits by foreign companies doing business in India shrank by 0.2% in September 2025 to \$5.2 billion, the amount invested abroad by Indian companies grew 64.4% to \$3.8 billion during the same period.**
इसलिए, भारत में कारोबार करने वाली विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा मुनाफे की वापसी सितंबर 2025 में **0.2% घटकर \$5.2 बिलियन** हो गई, जबकि भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशों में निवेश की गई राशि **64.4% बढ़कर \$3.8 बिलियन** हो गई।
- **Taken together, this meant that a total of \$9 billion of direct investment left the country in September 2025, compared with the \$6.6 billion that entered it that month.**
समग्र रूप से, इसका अर्थ यह हुआ कि सितंबर 2025 में कुल **\$9 बिलियन प्रत्यक्ष निवेश देश से बाहर गया**, जबकि उसी महीने **\$6.6 बिलियन** देश में आया।
- The difference between these two figures, the **net FDI amount**, therefore stood at a **negative \$2.4 billion**.
इन दोनों आंकड़ों के बीच का अंतर, यानी **नेट FDI राशि**, इसलिए **-\$2.4 बिलियन** रही।
- The net FDI figure was negative in **August 2025** as well, at **-\$0.6 billion**.
अगस्त 2025 में भी नेट FDI नकारात्मक था, **-\$0.6 बिलियन** पर।
- It is important to note that these figures refer to **direct investment**, which constitutes investment into assets, rather than **portfolio investment**, which has to do with shares in a company.

Net FDI negative for second straight month in September

सितंबर में लगातार दूसरे महीने नेट FDI नकारात्मक

Net FDI negative for second straight month in September
सितंबर में लगातार दूसरे महीने नेट FDI नकारात्मक

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सितंबर में लगातार दूसरे महीने देश से बाहर जाने वाला निवेश आने वाले निवेश से अधिक रहा, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार **नेट विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश (FDI) -\$2.4 बिलियन** रहा।

- **In other words, the sum of money repatriated out of the country by foreign companies here, and invested abroad by Indian companies, was \$2.4 billion more than the foreign investment entering India in September 2025, an analysis of the data by The Hindu showed.**

दूसरे शब्दों में, विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा देश से लौटाई गई राशि और भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशों में निवेश की गई राशि सितंबर 2025 में भारत में आने वाले विदेशी निवेश से **\$2.4 बिलियन अधिक** थी, द हिंदू द्वारा डेटा के विश्लेषण से पता चला।

- The data show that gross FDI coming into India stood at **\$6.6 billion** in September 2025, about **4.3% higher** than in September last year.

आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि सितंबर 2025 में भारत आने वाला **ग्रॉस FDI \$6.6 बिलियन** था, जो पिछले वर्ष सितंबर की तुलना में **4.3% अधिक** था।

- In fact, this amount was **9.1% higher** than it was in August. वास्तव में, यह राशि अगस्त की तुलना में **9.1% अधिक** थी।
- However, **these relatively strong inflows were outpaced by the outflows**, particularly when it came to foreign investments done by Indian companies.

हालांकि, ये अपेक्षाकृत मजबूत प्रवाह आउटफ्लो से पीछे रह गए, विशेष रूप से जब भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशों में किए गए निवेश की बात आई।

- **So, while the repatriation of profits by foreign companies doing business in India shrank by 0.2% in September 2025 to \$5.2 billion, the amount invested abroad by Indian companies grew 64.4% to \$3.8 billion during the same period.**
इसलिए, भारत में कारोबार करने वाली विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा मुनाफे की वापसी सितंबर 2025 में **0.2% घटकर \$5.2 बिलियन** हो गई, जबकि भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशों में निवेश की गई राशि **64.4% बढ़कर \$3.8 बिलियन** हो गई।
- **Taken together, this meant that a total of \$9 billion of direct investment left the country in September 2025, compared with the \$6.6 billion that entered it that month.**
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- The net FDI figure was negative in **August 2025** as well, at **-\$0.6 billion**.
अगस्त 2025 में भी नेट FDI नकारात्मक था, **-\$0.6 बिलियन** पर।
- It is important to note that these figures refer to **direct investment**, which constitutes investment into assets, rather than **portfolio investment**, which has to do with shares in a company.



यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि ये आंकड़े **प्रत्यक्ष निवेश** से संबंधित हैं, जो परिसंपत्तियों में निवेश होता है, न कि **पोर्टफोलियो निवेश** से, जो कंपनी के शेयरों से संबंधित होता है।

- However, the analysis also shows that the FDI picture looks **better over a longer period.**

हालांकि, विश्लेषण यह भी दिखाता है कि लंबे समय में FDI की स्थिति **बेहतर** दिखती है।

For example, gross FDI was **15.4% higher** in the **July-September 2025 quarter** than in the same quarter of the previous year.

उदाहरण के लिए, **जुलाई-सितंबर 2025 तिमाही** में ग्राँस FDI पिछले वर्ष की समान तिमाही की तुलना में **15.4% अधिक** था।

As trade deficit with Japan tops \$12 bn, India to discuss non-tariff measures

GS III: Economy

Amiti Sen

NEW DELHI

India's ongoing effort to address its staggering \$12.6 billion trade deficit in FY25 with Japan underscores a larger problem with other FTA partner countries.

The issues that have been flagged in the case of Japan – non-tariff measures and quality controls – are the same that inhibit penetration of Indian goods in other markets as well. Sources said the Commerce Department is seeking industry inputs and

New Delhi has been insisting on a review of the CEPA as it had disproportionately benefited Japan

will discuss these issues at the next joint committee meeting of the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) soon. Experts said these issues need to be thrashed out in the case of Japan as well as ASEAN, South Korea, and the UAE. Post signing FTAs with all

these countries, India's trade deficit with them has widened. While with Japan, India's trade deficit in FY25 was \$12.68 billion, up from \$3.5 billion in FY11, with the 10-member ASEAN it was \$45.2 billion, with South Korea at \$15.25 billion and with the UAE at \$26.79 billion.

“New Delhi has been insisting on a review of the CEPA with Japan as the trade pact, implemented in 2011, has disproportionately benefited Japan.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

As trade deficit with Japan tops \$12 bn, India to discuss non-tariff measures
जापान के साथ व्यापार घाटा \$12 बिलियन पार, भारत गैर-शुल्क उपायों पर चर्चा करेगा

- **As trade deficit with Japan tops \$12 bn, India to discuss non-tariff measures**
जापान के साथ व्यापार घाटा \$12 बिलियन पार, भारत गैर-शुल्क उपायों पर चर्चा करेगा
India's ongoing effort to address its staggering **\$12.6 billion trade deficit** in FY25 with Japan underscores a larger problem with other **FTA partner countries**.
जापान के साथ FY25 में भारत का **\$12.6 बिलियन व्यापार घाटा** दूर करने का चल रहा प्रयास अन्य **FTA साझेदार देशों** के साथ एक बड़ी समस्या को भी रेखांकित करता है।
- **The issues that have been flagged in the case of Japan — non-tariff measures and quality controls — are the same that inhibit penetration of Indian goods in other markets as well.**
जापान के मामले में जिन मुद्दों को उठाया गया है — **गैर-शुल्क उपाय** और **गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण** — वही अन्य बाजारों में भारतीय वस्तुओं की पहुँच को बाधित करते हैं।
- Sources said the Commerce Department is seeking industry inputs and will discuss these issues at the next **joint committee meeting** of the **India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** soon.
सूत्रों ने कहा कि वाणिज्य विभाग उद्योग से सुझाव मांग रहा है और जल्द ही **भारत-जापान CEPA** की अगली **संयुक्त समिति बैठक** में इन मुद्दों पर चर्चा करेगा।



- Experts said these issues need to be **thrashed out** in the case of Japan as well as **ASEAN, South Korea, and the UAE**. विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि इन मुद्दों को जापान के साथ-साथ आसियान, दक्षिण कोरिया और UAE के साथ भी सुलझाने की जरूरत है।
- Post signing FTAs with all these countries, India's **trade deficit** with them has **widened**. इन सभी देशों के साथ FTA पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद भारत का व्यापार घाटा इनके साथ बढ़ गया है।
- While with Japan, India's trade deficit in FY25 was **\$12.68 billion**, up from **\$3.5 billion in FY11**, with the **10-member ASEAN** it was **\$45.2 billion**, with **South Korea at \$15.25 billion** and with the **UAE at \$26.79 billion**. जापान के साथ भारत का व्यापार घाटा FY25 में \$12.68 बिलियन था, जो FY11 के \$3.5 बिलियन से बढ़ा; 10-सदस्यीय आसियान के साथ यह \$45.2 बिलियन, दक्षिण कोरिया के साथ \$15.25 बिलियन, और UAE के साथ \$26.79 बिलियन था।
- **"New Delhi has been insisting on a review of the CEPA with Japan as the trade pact, implemented in 2011, has disproportionately benefited Japan.** "नई दिल्ली जापान के साथ CEPA की समीक्षा पर जोर दे रहा है क्योंकि 2011 में लागू यह व्यापार समझौता जापान को असंगत रूप से लाभ पहुँचा रहा है।"

S&T

26/11/2025

What does the draft Seeds Bill entail?

Why has the seed industry been demanding a reform of the Seeds Act of 1966? What are the punishments prescribed for flouting provisions under the Bill? Why are farmers' groups worried about the new draft Bill? What will be the roles of the Central and State Seed Committees?

GS III: S&T

MOG

EXPLAINER

A. M. Jigeesh

The story so far:

The Union Agriculture Ministry released the draft Seeds Bill on November 12, and has invited public comments on it till December 11. The Seeds Bill, seen as a regulatory step to ensure quality of seeds sold and distributed to farmers, promotes "ease of doing business" and reduces compliance burden, while maintaining strong provisions to penalise serious violations, as per the government. The government has been open about its intention to amend the Seeds Act of 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order of 1983.

What has been the history?

According to the Union Agriculture Ministry, in 2023-24, the country had an overall requirement of 462.31 lakh quintals of seeds for various crops with availability being 508.60 lakh quintals, which then led to a surplus of 46.29 lakh quintals of seeds.

The seed industry has been demanding that the 1966 Act should be amended to accommodate technological and scientific advancements in the sphere of seeds and to address the changes in trade and commerce over the last six decades. In their initial response, the Federation of Seed Industry of India Chairman Ajai Rana said the release of the draft is a timely and much-needed step toward modernising India's seed regulatory framework. However, the Samyukt Kisan Morchha, an umbrella body of farmers, said they will continue to oppose moves to bring amendments in the Bill that are "anti-farmer".

What are the new provisions?

The Bill provides a regulatory mechanism in the area of import, production and supply of quality seeds. The Bill does not restrict the right of the farmer to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or



New reforms: Women farmers sow maize seeds in a field, in Morigaon on November 10. PTI

sell his farm seeds, except when he sells such seed or planting material under a brand name. The Bill defines farmer, dealer, distributor and producer as separate entities that deal with the production, distribution, trade and use of seeds. It also provides for the establishment of 27-member Central and 15-member State seed committees. The Central seed committee can recommend the minimum limits of germination, genetic and physical purity, traits, seed health and additional standards of seeds to the Union Government. The State Seed Committee can advise the State Government on registration of seed producers, seed processing units, seed dealers, distributors and plant nurseries.

Under the Bill, it is mandatory that all seed processing units must be registered with the State governments based on the

provisions in the proposed legislation. The Bill, however, adds that to promote ease of doing business, the Union government may establish a merit based and transparent Central Accreditation System for companies operating in multiple States.

The Bill suggests the creation of the office of Registrar to keep a National Register on seed varieties under the Central seed committee. The procedure for conducting field trials to assess the Value for Cultivation and Use of any kind or variety is also detailed in the draft Bill.

The Bill also has provisions for the establishment of Central and State seed testing laboratories, where analysis of seed of any kind or variety shall be carried out in the prescribed manner. The Bill also explains the role and powers of seed inspectors, an officer with powers

under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita to search or seize. The Bill details the punishment for trivial, minor and major offences for flouting provisions under the Bill. The punishment ranges from a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹30 lakh and up to three years of imprisonment.

What are changes from 2019 draft?

One of the major changes is in the section of offences and punishments. In the previous draft, the offences were covered under consumer protection laws and the penalty ranged between ₹25,000 and ₹5 lakh and an imprisonment up to one year. There are substantial changes with respect to this section in the new draft.

On farmers' rights, the new draft links the matter with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act. On quality norms, the standards have been tightened. The new Bill looks at the import of seeds in a more liberal way.

What are the concerns of farmers?

The All India Kisan Sabha, a constituent of the Samyukt Kisan Morchha, said the Bill is poised to increase cost of cultivation by allowing corporates to indulge in the predatory pricing of seeds. They doubt the Bill is part of a larger political project of the RSS-BJP to dispossess small farmers and surrender the country's seed sovereignty to a handful of multinational and domestic monopolies.

They demanded that the new draft must complement, not conflict with, the progressive legal safeguards already established under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act of 2001, and India's international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Kisan Sabha pointed out that the draft Seeds Bill introduces a heavily centralised and corporatised regulatory system that risks weakening farmer-centered protection and diluting India's legal architecture for biodiversity conservation and farmers' rights.

THE GIST

The seed industry has been demanding that the 1966 Act should be amended to accommodate technological and scientific advancements in the sphere of seeds and to address the changes in trade and commerce over the last six decades.

The Bill also has provisions for the establishment of Central and State seed testing laboratories, where analysis of seed of any kind or variety shall be carried out in the prescribed manner.

The All India Kisan Sabha, a constituent of the Samyukt Kisan Morchha, said the Bill is poised to increase cost of cultivation by allowing corporates to indulge in the predatory pricing of seeds.

What does the draft Seeds Bill entail?



ड्राफ्ट सीड्स बिल में क्या शामिल है?

Draft Seeds Bill and Initial Provisions

ड्राफ्ट सीड्स बिल और प्रारंभिक प्रावधान

- The Union Agriculture Ministry released the draft **Seeds Bill** on **November 12**, and has invited public comments on it till **December 11**.
टीटी हे केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्रालय ने **ड्राफ्ट सीड्स बिल 12 नवंबर** को जारी किया और इस पर सार्वजनिक टिप्पणियाँ **11 दिसंबर** तक आमंत्रित की हैं।
- The **Seeds Bill**, seen as a regulatory step to ensure quality of seeds sold and distributed to farmers, promotes **"ease of doing business"** and reduces compliance burden, while maintaining strong provisions to penalise serious violations, as per the government.
सरकार के अनुसार **सीड्स बिल** किसानों को बेचे और वितरित किए जाने वाले बीजों की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक नियामक कदम है, जो **"ईज़ ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस"** को बढ़ावा देता है और अनुपालन का बोझ घटाता है, साथ ही गंभीर उल्लंघनों को दंडित करने के लिए कड़े प्रावधान बनाए रखता है।
- The government has been open about its intention to amend the **Seeds Act of 1966** and the **Seeds (Control) Order of 1983**.
सरकार ने **1966 के सीड्स एक्ट** और **1983 के सीड्स (कंट्रोल) ऑर्डर** में संशोधन करने की अपनी मंशा को लेकर स्पष्ट रुख अपनाया है।

What has been the history?

इतिहास क्या रहा है?

- According to the **Union Agriculture Ministry**, in **2023-24**, the country had an **overall requirement of 462.31 lakh quintals** of seeds for various crops with availability being **508.60 lakh quintals**, which then led to a surplus of **46.29 lakh quintals** of seeds.
केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्रालय के अनुसार **2023-24** में देश में विभिन्न फसलों के लिए बीजों की कुल आवश्यकता **462.31 लाख क्विंटल** थी, जबकि उपलब्धता **508.60 लाख क्विंटल** रही, जिससे **46.29 लाख क्विंटल** बीजों का अधिशेष बना।
- The seed industry has been demanding that the **1966 Act** should be amended to accommodate **technological and scientific advancements** in the sphere of seeds and to address the changes in trade and commerce over the last **six decades**.
सीड उद्योग की मांग रही है कि **1966 के अधिनियम** में तकनीकी और वैज्ञानिक प्रगति तथा पिछले **छह दशकों** में व्यापार और वाणिज्य में आए बदलावों को समायोजित करने के लिए संशोधन किया जाए।
- In their initial response, the **Federation of Seed Industry of India** Chairman **Ajai Rana** said the release of the draft is a timely and much-needed step toward **modernising India's seed regulatory framework**.
अपनी प्रारंभिक प्रतिक्रिया में **फेडरेशन ऑफ़ सीड इंडस्ट्री ऑफ़ इंडिया** के चेयरमैन **अजय राणा** ने कहा कि यह ड्राफ्ट जारी होना **भारत के बीज विनियामक ढांचे के आधुनिकीकरण** की दिशा में समयानुकूल और अत्यंत आवश्यक कदम है।
- However, the **Samyukt Kisan Morcha**, an umbrella body of farmers, said they will continue to oppose moves to bring amendments in the Bill that are **"anti-farmer"**.
हालांकि किसानों के संगठन **संयुक्त किसान मोर्चा** ने कहा कि वे बिल में ऐसे संशोधनों का विरोध जारी रखेंगे जो **"किसान-विरोधी"** हैं।



What are the new provisions?

नए प्रावधान क्या हैं?



- The Bill provides a **regulatory mechanism** in the **area of import, production and supply of quality seeds**.
यह बिल **गुणवत्ता-युक्त बीजों के आयात, उत्पादन और आपूर्ति** के क्षेत्र में एक **नियामक तंत्र** प्रदान करता है।
- The Bill does not restrict the right of the **farmer** to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds, except when he sells such seed or planting material under a **brand name**.
बिल **किसान** के अपने खेत के बीजों को उगाने, बोने, पुनः बोने, सुरक्षित रखने, उपयोग करने, विनिमय करने, साझा करने या बेचने के अधिकार को सीमित नहीं करता, सिवाय उस स्थिति के जब वह ऐसे बीज या पौध सामग्री को किसी **ब्रांड नाम** के तहत बेचता है।
- The Bill defines **farmer, dealer, distributor and producer** as separate entities that deal with the production, distribution, trade and use of seeds.
बिल **किसान, डीलर, वितरक और उत्पादक** को अलग-अलग इकाइयों के रूप में परिभाषित करता है, जो बीजों के उत्पादन, वितरण, व्यापार और उपयोग से संबंधित हैं।
- It also provides for the establishment of **27-member Central** and **15-member State seed committees**.
यह **27 सदस्यीय केंद्रीय बीज समिति** और **15 सदस्यीय राज्य बीज समिति** की स्थापना का भी प्रावधान करता है।
- The **Central seed committee** can recommend the minimum limits of **germination, genetic and physical purity, traits, seed health** and additional standards of seeds to the Union Government.
केंद्रीय बीज समिति अंकुरण, आनुवंशिक और भौतिक शुद्धता, गुण, बीज स्वास्थ्य और बीजों के अन्य मानकों की न्यूनतम सीमाएँ केंद्र सरकार को सुझा सकती है।
- The **State Seed Committee** can advise the State Government on registration of **seed producers, seed processing units, seed dealers, distributors and plant nurseries**.
राज्य बीज समिति राज्य सरकार को **बीज उत्पादकों, बीज प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों, बीज डीलरों, वितरकों और पौध नर्सरियों** के पंजीकरण के संबंध में सलाह दे सकती है।
- Under the Bill, it is mandatory that all **seed processing units** must be registered with the State governments based on the provisions in the proposed legislation.
बिल के तहत सभी **बीज प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों** का, प्रस्तावित कानून के प्रावधानों के अनुसार, राज्य सरकारों के साथ पंजीकृत होना अनिवार्य है।
- The Bill, however, adds that to promote **ease of doing business**, the Union government may establish a **merit based and transparent Central Accreditation System** for companies operating in multiple States.
हालांकि बिल यह भी जोड़ता है कि **ईज़ ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस** को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, केंद्र सरकार कई राज्यों में काम कर रही कंपनियों के लिए **मेधा-आधारित और पारदर्शी केंद्रीय मान्यता प्रणाली** स्थापित कर सकती है।
- The Bill suggests the creation of the office of **Registrar** to keep a **National Register** on seed varieties under the Central seed committee.
बिल केंद्रीय बीज समिति के अधीन बीज किस्मों का **राष्ट्रीय रजिस्टर** बनाए रखने के लिए **रजिस्ट्रार** के कार्यालय के सृजन का सुझाव देता है।
- The procedure for conducting **field trials** to assess the **Value for Cultivation and Use** of any kind or variety is also detailed in the draft Bill.
किसी भी प्रकार या किस्म के **संवर्धन और उपयोग मूल्य (Value for Cultivation and Use)** का आकलन करने के लिए **फील्ड ट्रायल** की प्रक्रिया भी ड्राफ्ट बिल में विस्तार से दी गई है।
- The Bill also has provisions for the establishment of **Central and State seed testing laboratories**, where analysis of seed of any kind or variety shall be carried out in the prescribed manner.
बिल **केंद्रीय और राज्य स्तरीय बीज परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाओं** की स्थापना का भी प्रावधान करता है, जहाँ किसी भी प्रकार या किस्म के बीजों का परीक्षण निर्धारित तरीके से किया जाएगा।
- The Bill also explains the role and powers of **seed inspectors**, an officer with powers under the provisions of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** to **search or seize**.
बिल **बीज निरीक्षकों** की भूमिका और शक्तियों की भी व्याख्या करता है, जिन्हें **भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita)** के प्रावधानों के तहत **तलाशी और ज़ब्ती (search or seize)** की शक्ति प्राप्त होगी।



- The Bill details the punishment for trivial, minor and major offences for flouting provisions under the Bill.
बिल इसके प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करने पर साधारण, मामूली और बड़े अपराधों के लिए दंड का विवरण देता है।
- The punishment ranges from a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹30 lakh and up to three years of imprisonment
दंड ₹50,000 से ₹30 लाख के जुर्माने और तीन वर्ष तक के कारावास तक हो सकता है।

What are changes from the 2019 draft?

2019 ड्राफ्ट से क्या बदलाव किए गए हैं?

- One of the major changes is in the section of **offences and punishments**.
प्रमुख बदलावों में से एक **अपराधों और दंड** के सेक्शन में है।
- In the previous draft, the offences were covered under **consumer protection laws** and the penalty ranged between **₹25,000 and ₹5 lakh** and an imprisonment up to **one year**.
पिछले ड्राफ्ट में अपराध **उपभोक्ता संरक्षण कानूनों** के तहत आते थे और दंड **₹25,000 से ₹5 लाख** तथा **एक वर्ष** तक के कारावास का प्रावधान था।
- There are **substantial changes** with respect to this section in the new draft.
नए ड्राफ्ट में इस सेक्शन में **काफी बदलाव** किए गए हैं।
- On **farmers' rights**, the new draft links the matter with the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act**.
किसानों के अधिकारों के मामले में नया ड्राफ्ट इसे **प्लांट वैरायटीज़ एंड फार्मर्स राइट्स एक्ट** से जोड़ता है।
- On **quality norms**, the standards have been **tightened**.
गुणवत्ता मानकों के संदर्भ में मानकों को **कड़ा** किया गया है।
- The new Bill looks at the **import of seeds** in a more **liberal way**.
नया बिल **बीज आयात** को अधिक **उदार दृष्टिकोण** से देखता है।

What are the concerns of farmers?

किसानों की चिंताएँ क्या हैं?

- The **All India Kisan Sabha**, a constituent of the **Samyukt Kisan Morcha**, said the **Bill is poised to increase cost of cultivation by allowing corporates to indulge in predatory pricing of seeds**.
अखिल भारतीय किसान सभा, जो **संयुक्त किसान मोर्चा** का हिस्सा है, का कहना है कि बिल कॉर्पोरेट्स को **बीजों की शोषणकारी कीमतें (predatory pricing)** तय करने की अनुमति देकर **खेती की लागत बढ़ाएगा**।
- They doubt the Bill is part of a larger **political project** of the **RSS-BJP** to **dispossess small farmers and surrender the country's seed sovereignty to multinational and domestic monopolies**.
उनका संदेह है कि यह बिल **आरएसएस-बीजेपी** की एक बड़ी **राजनीतिक परियोजना** का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य **छोटे किसानों** को बेदखल करना और देश की **बीज संप्रभुता** को बहुराष्ट्रीय व घरेलू कंपनियों को सौंपना है।
- They demanded that the new draft must **complement, not conflict** with the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act, 2001**, and India's commitments under the **Convention on Biological Diversity** and the **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**.
किसानों की मांग है कि नया ड्राफ्ट **संघर्ष नहीं, बल्कि पूरक** होना चाहिए **प्लांट वैरायटीज़ एंड फार्मर्स राइट्स एक्ट, 2001** तथा भारत की **जैव विविधता संधि** और **प्लांट जेनेटिक रिसोर्सेज संधि** के तहत अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं के साथ।
- The Kisan Sabha pointed out that the **draft Seeds Bill introduces a heavily centralised and corporatised regulatory system** that risks **weakening farmer-centered protection and diluting India's legal architecture for biodiversity conservation and farmers' rights**.
किसान सभा ने बताया कि ड्राफ्ट सीड्स बिल एक **अत्यधिक केंद्रीकृत और कॉर्पोरेट-प्रधान नियामक प्रणाली** लाता है, जो **किसान-केंद्रित सुरक्षा** को कमजोर करने और भारत की **जैव विविधता संरक्षण व किसानों के अधिकारों से जुड़ी कानूनी संरचना** को कमजोर करने का जोखिम पैदा करता है।



Publish or perish: making sense of India's research fraud epidemic

India's higher education sector faces a research fraud crisis due to a 'publish or perish' culture. Faculties prioritise publications over teaching, undermining academic integrity and neglecting the needs of the student population

GS III: S&T

Pushkar

Research fraud is a global problem and has become worse due to the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The problem is even more acute in India's higher education sector where both the number of journal publications and retractions are growing rapidly. However, journal retractions do not capture the scope of research fraud since it is impossible to know the exact number of fraudulent publications that escape notice.

Publishing over teaching

Most observers blame the 'publish or perish' culture for India's research fraud epidemic. However, a prior issue is the preference that the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) give to publishing – which is different from research – at the expense of teaching for faculty members to advance their careers. This institutional bias drives a preference among faculty members to publish papers and is rewarded by promotions and other benefits at the workplace, whereas there are no significant incentives for better teaching.

The rationale to privilege publishing over teaching comes from two main considerations. The first stems from national and global university rankings,

which have become ubiquitous and are considered to be of great value by the government, the HEIs themselves, and by students. These rankings reward publications but not teaching. HEIs are therefore incentivised to insist that their faculty publish. For private universities, the number of students they admit every year matters a great deal, and achieving higher rankings than their competitors is seen as necessary to attract more and better students. Public institutions do not want to be left behind either.

The second consideration is the widespread belief that faculty members conducting research improves teaching and hence student learning outcomes. However, the evidence does not quite support this belief.

The voluminous research on the research-teaching link has examined a diverse set of issues including the specific mechanisms at work, the fuzziness and diversity of the multiple variables used to understand the relationship, and both quantitative and qualitative research. However, there is no broad consensus that the relationship between them is significant or even that there is one. If there is some sort of soft consensus, it is that the context often matters.

Both these considerations likely contributed to the UGC's decision to introduce the Academic Performance Indicator (API) in 2010 as part of the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for

faculty members' promotions. The API established a clear bias for publications in assessing faculty members. Despite several amendments over the years, there has been no fundamental change to the API in terms of the emphasis on publications. The 2025 UGC draft regulations for the appointment and promotion of teachers in order to maintain academic standards, it claims, will reduce focus on quantifiable metrics such as publications. But for now, the publishing madness remains ascendant.

A return to teaching

If we turn to context, there are at least two reasons that render the emphasis on research questionable, on ethical and practical grounds.

First, the faculty members at all types of HEIs are expected to publish – whether at colleges devoted to undergraduate teaching, universities that are teaching-cum-research institutions, and specialised research centres which typically run only PhD programmes.

There is no thought given to context: whether the university or college has the necessary physical infrastructure (libraries and laboratories for example), human capital (research-capable faculty members), academic environment (a sufficient population of postgraduate students and academics in specific disciplines), sufficient research funding, and a fair or even reasonable balance

between the teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities of faculty members. Most HEIs fall short on many of these parameters. Without considering these issues, the emphasis on research and publishing is meaningless.

The outcome is eventually predictable. Given the limitations of most HEIs, the idea of 'publish or perish' is taken quite literally. Rather than carry out actual research, faculty members and even students churn out fraudulent papers for their HEIs to secure university rankings and for them to secure individual benefits. And publishers monetarily benefit from these publications and also participate in the scam.

Second, 80% of students at India's HEIs are undergraduates who need better teachers rather than competent researchers. Given that the research-teaching link is dubious and that most HEIs do not have the necessary research capabilities, it should follow that those teaching at undergraduate institutions should focus on teaching.

In the end, it appears that the only logic to prefer research over teaching is to help HEIs attain university rankings and to help faculty members secure individual gains, both of which are the main drivers of research fraud, and neither of which contributes in any way to India's knowledge sector.

Pushkar is director at The International Centre Goa. Views are personal.

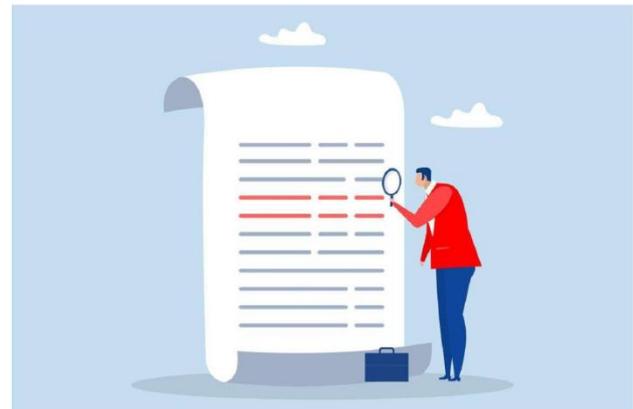
Publish or perish: making sense of India's research fraud epidemic

पब्लिश या पेरिश: भारत की रिसर्च फ्रॉड महामारी को समझना

Research Fraud and India's Higher Education Crisis

रिसर्च फ्रॉड और भारत के उच्च शिक्षा संकट

- **Research fraud is a global problem and has become worse due to the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).**
रिसर्च फ्रॉड एक वैश्विक समस्या है और **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** के बढ़ते उपयोग के कारण और भी खराब हो गई है।
- **The problem is even more acute in India's higher education sector where both the number of journal publications and retractions are growing rapidly.**
भारत के उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र में यह समस्या और भी गंभीर है, जहाँ जर्नल प्रकाशनों और रिट्रैक्शन्स दोनों की संख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है।
- **However, journal retractions do not capture the scope of research fraud since it is impossible to know the exact number of fraudulent publications that escape notice.**
हालांकि, जर्नल रिट्रैक्शन रिसर्च फ्रॉड के पूरे दायरे को नहीं दिखाते क्योंकि यह जानना असंभव है कि कितने धोखाधड़ी वाले प्रकाशन पकड़ में नहीं आते।





Publishing over teaching टीचिंग के ऊपर पब्लिशिंग को प्राथमिकता

- Most observers blame the ‘publish or perish’ culture for India’s research fraud epidemic. अधिकांश पर्यवेक्षक भारत में रिसर्च फ्रॉड महामारी के लिए ‘publish or perish’ संस्कृति को दोष देते हैं।
- However, a prior issue is the preference that the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** and **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** give to publishing — which is different from research — at the expense of teaching for faculty members to advance their careers. हालांकि, एक पूर्व समस्या यह है कि **UGC** और **HEIs** प्रकाशन — जो रिसर्च से अलग है — को टीचिंग की कीमत पर प्राथमिकता देते हैं ताकि फैकल्टी अपने करियर को आगे बढ़ा सकें।
- This institutional bias drives a preference among faculty members to publish papers and is rewarded by promotions and other benefits at the workplace, whereas there are no significant incentives for better teaching. यह संस्थागत पूर्वाग्रह फैकल्टी सदस्यों को पेपर प्रकाशित करने की ओर धकेलता है, जिसे प्रमोशन और अन्य लाभों द्वारा पुरस्कृत किया जाता है, जबकि बेहतर टीचिंग के लिए कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रोत्साहन नहीं है।
- The rationale to privilege publishing over teaching comes from two main considerations. टीचिंग पर पब्लिशिंग को प्राथमिकता देने का तर्क दो मुख्य कारणों से आता है।
- The first stems from **national and global university rankings**, which reward publications but not teaching. पहला कारण **राष्ट्रीय और वैश्विक विश्वविद्यालय रैंकिंग** हैं, जो प्रकाशन को पुरस्कृत करती हैं लेकिन टीचिंग को नहीं।
- HEIs are therefore incentivised to insist that their faculty publish. इसलिए HEIs अपनी फैकल्टी पर पब्लिश करने का दबाव बनाती हैं।
- For private universities, student admissions and higher rankings matter greatly, pushing them to prioritise more publications. निजी विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए प्रवेश और उच्च रैंकिंग बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं, जिससे वे अधिक प्रकाशनों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- Public institutions also do not want to be left behind. सार्वजनिक संस्थान भी पीछे नहीं रहना चाहते।
- The second consideration is the belief that faculty conducting research improves teaching and hence student learning outcomes. दूसरा कारण यह विश्वास है कि रिसर्च करने से टीचिंग में सुधार होता है और इससे छात्रों के सीखने के परिणाम बेहतर होते हैं।
- However, the evidence does not quite support this belief. हालांकि, प्रमाण इस विश्वास का पूरी तरह समर्थन नहीं करते।
- The voluminous research on the research-teaching link has examined diverse factors and methods, but there is **no broad consensus** that the relationship is significant or even exists. रिसर्च-टीचिंग संबंध पर भारी मात्रा में शोध किया गया है, लेकिन इस बात पर **कोई व्यापक सहमति नहीं** है कि यह संबंध महत्वपूर्ण है या मौजूद भी है।
- If there is some soft consensus, it is that **context** often matters. यदि कोई हल्की सहमति है, तो वह यह है कि **परिस्थितियाँ** अक्सर मायने रखती हैं।
- Both these considerations likely contributed to the **UGC’s decision to introduce the Academic Performance Indicator (API) in 2010 as part of the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)**. दोनों कारणों ने संभवतः 2010 में **UGC** द्वारा **Academic Performance Indicator (API)** को **Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)** के तहत शुरू करने में योगदान दिया।
- The **API established a clear bias for publications in assessing faculty members**. API ने फैकल्टी के मूल्यांकन में प्रकाशनों के पक्ष में स्पष्ट पूर्वाग्रह स्थापित किया।
- Despite several amendments, there has been **no fundamental change** in the API’s emphasis on publications. कई संशोधनों के बावजूद, प्रकाशनों पर API का जोर **मूल रूप से नहीं बदला** है।
- The **2025 UGC draft regulations** claim to reduce focus on quantifiable metrics such as publications. **2025 के UGC ड्राफ्ट विनियम** दावा करते हैं कि वे प्रकाशन जैसे मापने योग्य मानदंडों पर ध्यान कम करेंगे।
- But for now, the publishing madness remains ascendant. लेकिन फिलहाल, पब्लिशिंग की यह उन्मादपूर्ण प्रवृत्ति कायम है।



A return to teaching टीचिंग की ओर वापसी

- If we turn to context, there are at least two reasons that render the emphasis on research questionable, on **ethical** and **practical** grounds.
यदि हम संदर्भ की ओर देखें, तो कम से कम दो कारण हैं जो **ethical** और **practical** आधारों पर रिसर्च पर जोर को संदिग्ध बनाते हैं।
- First, the faculty members at all types of HEIs are expected to publish — whether at colleges devoted to undergraduate teaching, universities that are teaching-cum-research institutions, and specialised research centres which typically run only PhD programmes.
पहला, सभी प्रकार के HEIs के फैकल्टी सदस्यों से पब्लिश करने की अपेक्षा की जाती है — चाहे वे अंडरग्रेजुएट टीचिंग वाले कॉलेज हों, टीचिंग-कम-रिसर्च विश्वविद्यालय हों, या केवल PhD कार्यक्रम चलाने वाले विशेषीकृत रिसर्च केंद्र।
- There is no thought given to context: whether the university or college has the **necessary physical infrastructure** (libraries and laboratories for example), **human capital** (research-capable faculty members), **academic environment** (a sufficient population of postgraduate students and academics in specific disciplines), sufficient **research funding**, and a fair or even reasonable balance between the teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities of faculty members.
संदर्भ पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता: क्या विश्वविद्यालय या कॉलेज के पास आवश्यक **physical infrastructure** (जैसे लाइब्रेरी और लैब), **human capital** (रिसर्च-सक्षम फैकल्टी), **academic environment** (विशिष्ट विषयों में पर्याप्त PG छात्रों और विद्वानों की उपस्थिति), पर्याप्त **research funding**, और टीचिंग-रिसर्च-एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव जिम्मेदारियों के बीच संतुलन है।
- Most HEIs fall short on many of these parameters.
अधिकांश HEIs इन मापदंडों में से कई पर कमज़ोर पड़ते हैं।
- Without considering these issues, the emphasis on research and publishing is meaningless.
इन मुद्दों पर विचार किए बिना रिसर्च और पब्लिशिंग पर जोर देना निरर्थक है।
- The outcome is eventually predictable.
परिणाम अंततः पूर्वानुमेय है।
- Given the limitations of most HEIs, the idea of '**publish or perish**' is taken quite literally.
अधिकांश HEIs की सीमाओं को देखते हुए, '**publish or perish**' की अवधारणा बिल्कुल शाब्दिक रूप से लागू की जाती है।
- **Rather than carry out actual research, faculty members and even students churn out fraudulent papers for their HEIs to secure university rankings and for them to secure individual benefits.**
वास्तविक रिसर्च करने के बजाय, फैकल्टी और यहाँ तक कि छात्र भी **fraudulent papers** churn करते हैं ताकि HEIs को रैंकिंग मिले और उन्हें व्यक्तिगत लाभ मिल सकें।
- And publishers monetarily benefit from these publications and also participate in the scam.
और पब्लिशर्स इन प्रकाशनों से आर्थिक लाभ कमाते हैं और इस घोटाले में भाग लेते हैं।
- **Second, 80% of students at India's HEIs are undergraduates who need better teachers rather than competent researchers.**
दूसरा, भारत के HEIs में **80% छात्र अंडरग्रेजुएट** हैं, जिन्हें सक्षम शोधकर्ताओं की बजाय बेहतर शिक्षकों की आवश्यकता है।
- Given that the research-teaching link is **dubious** and that most HEIs do not have the necessary research capabilities, it should follow that those teaching at undergraduate institutions should focus on teaching.
चूँकि रिसर्च-टीचिंग लिंक **संदिग्ध** है और अधिकांश HEIs के पास आवश्यक शोध क्षमताएँ नहीं हैं, इसलिए अंडरग्रेजुएट संस्थानों में पढ़ाने वालों को टीचिंग पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- In the end, it appears that the only logic to prefer research over teaching is to help HEIs attain **university rankings** and to help faculty members secure **individual gains**, both of which are the main drivers of **research fraud**, and neither of which contributes in any way to India's **knowledge sector**.
अंततः, ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि टीचिंग के ऊपर रिसर्च को प्राथमिकता देने का एकमात्र तर्क HEIs को **university rankings** दिलाना और फैकल्टी को **individual gains** दिलाना है — और यही दोनों



research fraud के मुख्य कारण हैं, जबकि इनमें से कोई भी भारत के knowledge sector में कोई योगदान नहीं देता।

Environment

26/11/2025

Toxic air is a year-round blight in 60% of Indian districts: study

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

People in 60% of India's districts are exposed to polluted air all through the year, not just in winter, according to an analysis by a research body published on Tuesday. This means that 447 of 749 districts recorded concentrations of particulate matter (PM2.5) – toxic chemical and organic particles – that exceed the annual safe values prescribed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

Not a single district in the country reported concentrations within the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline of 5 µg/m³ (microgram per cubic metre), which is about eight times more stringent than India's standards (40 µg/m³), according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air analysis. The study underlines the fact that exposure to significant air pollution is not restricted to winter alone as is commonly believed.

The maximum number



Left breathless: Delhi and Assam with 11 districts each accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts. FILE PHOTO

of polluted districts are concentrated in a few States. Delhi (11 districts) and Assam (11 districts)

alone accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts, followed by Bihar (7) and Haryana (7).

Other States with significant numbers include Uttar Pradesh (4), Tripura (3), Rajasthan (2), West Bengal (2).

Cleaner States

On the other hand, the majority of districts in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Sikkim, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have population-exposure numbers within the NAAQS-prescribed limits. "These patterns highlight the continued dominance of northern and eastern States in India's PM2.5 pol-

lution hotspots, while southern and coastal regions remain relatively cleaner," the authors Manojkumar N. and Monish Raj say in their analysis, which is not a peer-reviewed paper. Population-exposure numbers can differ from ambient concentration numbers.

The winter months of December, January, and February are still the most polluted. About 82% (616 of 749 districts) of districts recorded values breaching the national standard during this season.

Toxic air is a year-round blight in 60% of Indian districts: study

भारतीय जिलों के 60% में विषाक्त वायु साल भर की समस्या है: अध्ययन

- People in **60% of India's districts** are exposed to polluted air all through the year, not just in winter, according to an analysis by a research body published on Tuesday. भारत के **60% जिलों** में लोग पूरे वर्ष प्रदूषित हवा के संपर्क में रहते हैं, न कि केवल सर्दियों में, मंगलवार को प्रकाशित एक शोध संस्था के विश्लेषण के अनुसार।
- This means that **447 of 749 districts** recorded concentrations of particulate matter (PM2.5) — toxic chemical and organic particles — that exceed the annual safe values prescribed by the **National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)**. इसका मतलब है कि **749 में से 447 जिले** कण पदार्थ (PM2.5) — विषाक्त रासायनिक और कार्बनिक कण — की सांद्रता दर्ज करते हैं, जो **राष्ट्रीय परिवेशी वायु गुणवत्ता मानक (NAAQS)** द्वारा निर्धारित वार्षिक सुरक्षित मूल्यों से अधिक है।
- **Not a single district in the country** reported concentrations within the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** guideline of **5 µg/m³**, which is about eight times more stringent than India's standards (**40 µg/m³**), according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air analysis. देश में एक भी जिला **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO)** के **5 µg/m³** के दिशानिर्देश के भीतर सांद्रता की रिपोर्ट नहीं करता, जो भारत के मानक (**40 µg/m³**) से लगभग आठ गुना कठोर है, ऊर्जा और स्वच्छ वायु पर अनुसंधान केंद्र के विश्लेषण के अनुसार।
The study underlines the fact that exposure to significant air pollution is not restricted to winter alone as is commonly believed. अध्ययन इस तथ्य पर जोर देता है कि महत्वपूर्ण वायु प्रदूषण का संपर्क केवल सर्दियों तक सीमित नहीं है जैसा कि आम तौर पर माना जाता है।
- The maximum number of polluted districts are concentrated in a few States. **Delhi (11 districts)** and **Assam (11 districts)** alone accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts, followed by **Bihar (7)** and **Haryana (7)**. सर्वाधिक प्रदूषित जिले कुछ राज्यों में केंद्रित हैं। **दिल्ली (11 जिले)** और **असम (11 जिले)** अकेले शीर्ष 50 सबसे प्रदूषित जिलों में लगभग आधे के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं, इसके बाद **बिहार (7)** और **हरियाणा (7)** आते हैं।



- Other States with significant numbers include **Uttar Pradesh (4), Tripura (3), Rajasthan (2), West Bengal (2)**.
अन्य राज्यों में महत्वपूर्ण संख्या वाले उत्तर प्रदेश (4), त्रिपुरा (3), राजस्थान (2), पश्चिम बंगाल (2) शामिल हैं।

Cleaner States

स्वच्छ राज्य

- On the other hand, the majority of districts in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Sikkim, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu** have population-exposure numbers within the **NAAQS-prescribed limits**.
दूसरी ओर, आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, केरल, सिक्किम, गोवा, कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के अधिकांश जिलों में जनसंख्या-एक्सपोजर संख्याएँ **NAAQS** द्वारा निर्धारित सीमाओं के भीतर हैं।
- “These patterns highlight the continued dominance of northern and eastern States in India’s PM2.5 pollution hotspots**, while southern and coastal regions remain relatively cleaner,” the authors Manojkumar N. and Monish Raj say in their analysis, which is not a peer-reviewed paper.
“ये पैटर्न भारत के **PM2.5 प्रदूषण हॉटस्पॉट्स** में उत्तरी और पूर्वी राज्यों के निरंतर प्रभुत्व को उजागर करते हैं, जबकि दक्षिणी और तटीय क्षेत्र अपेक्षाकृत स्वच्छ रहते हैं,” लेखक मनोजकुमार एन. और मोनीश राज अपने विश्लेषण में कहते हैं, जो कि सहकर्मी-समीक्षित शोधपत्र नहीं है।
- Population-exposure numbers can differ from ambient concentration numbers.
जनसंख्या-एक्सपोजर संख्याएँ परिवेशी सांद्रता संख्याओं से भिन्न हो सकती हैं।
- The winter months of **December, January, and February** are still the most polluted.
दिसंबर, जनवरी और फरवरी के सर्दी महीनों में अब भी सबसे अधिक प्रदूषण होता है।
- About **82% (616 of 749 districts)** of districts recorded values breaching the national standard during this season.
इस मौसम के दौरान लगभग **82% (749 में से 616 जिले)** राष्ट्रीय मानक को पार करने वाले मूल्य दर्ज करते हैं।

Six years on, mystery over illegal GM seeds’ source stays unsolved

GS III: Environment

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

More than six years after the Haryana government destroyed a banned, genetically modified (GM) Bt brinjal crop in Fatehabad district’s Nathwan village following an outcry by environmental activists, the source of the seeds remains a mystery.

Responses to multiple RTIs filed by *The Hindu* show the government is yet to determine how the prohibited variety entered the open market.

A Horticulture Department official said they had undertaken the “necessary steps under our ambit and power”, referring to the destruction of the crop on half an acre of land cultivated by farmer Jeevan on May 17, 2019. However, activists who were instrumental in calling attention to the issue accused the government of “adopting a



Expressing dissent: Teachers and students of Panjab University staging a protest against genetically modified foods. FILE PHOTO

casual approach towards a serious problem”.

“The government’s claim that the farmer whose field was identified as growing the illegal crop was the only one to do so is absurd. Neither can the farmer develop such seed in his backyard nor can he have a privileged relationship with seed developers to be bestowed exclusive access of growing their proprietary seed,” said Rajinder Chaudhary, a former

Professor in the Department of Economics with M.D. University, Rohtak. The commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal is banned in India.

The background

In May 2019, when activists flagged the issue, Haryana’s Biotechnology Coordination Committee, which monitors activities related to GM organisms, proposed destroying the crop. Following this, the crop

was uprooted and buried. Horticulture Department, plings remains unknown.



ed. On both occasions, it added, the Horticulture Department denied information regarding the source of the seed and did not reveal the name of any farmer.

“No further communication in this regard has been received from the

Horticulture Department Director General Ranbir Singh said they had shared details of the farmer who cultivated the crop with the Environment Department in November 2019.

“However, the source from whom the farmer purchased the brinjal sa-

cerns regarding transgenic food must be the primary concern of the government. However, the issue does not seem to be on its priority list,” said Umedra Dutt of Kheti Virasat Mission, another organisation working to promote organic farming.

Six years on, mystery over illegal GM seeds’ source stays unsolved

छह साल बाद भी, अवैध GM बीजों के स्रोत का रहस्य अनसुलझा है



- Six years on, mystery over illegal GM seeds' source stays unsolved
छह साल बाद भी, अवैध GM बीजों के स्रोत का रहस्य अनसुलझा है
- More than six years after the Haryana government destroyed a banned, genetically modified (GM) Bt brinjal crop in Fatehabad district's Nathwan village following an outcry by **environmental activists**, the source of the seeds remains a mystery.
छह साल से अधिक समय बाद जब हरियाणा सरकार ने पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ताओं के विरोध के बाद फतेहाबाद जिले के नाथवां गांव में प्रतिबंधित, आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित (GM) Bt बैंगन की फसल को नष्ट किया, तब भी बीजों का स्रोत रहस्य बना हुआ है।
- Responses to multiple RTIs led by The Hindu show the government is yet to determine how the prohibited variety entered the open market.
द हिंदू द्वारा दायर कई RTI के जवाब बताते हैं कि सरकार अभी तक यह निर्धारित नहीं कर पाई है कि यह प्रतिबंधित किस्म खुले बाजार में कैसे पहुंची।
- A Horticulture Department official said they had undertaken the "necessary steps under our ambit and power", referring to the destruction of the crop on half an acre of land cultivated by farmer Jeevan on May 17, 2019.
एक बागवानी विभाग अधिकारी ने कहा कि उन्होंने "हमारे अधिकार क्षेत्र और शक्ति के तहत आवश्यक कदम उठाए", 17 मई 2019 को किसान जीवन द्वारा आधे एकड़ में उगाई गई फसल के विनाश का हवाला देते हुए।
- However, activists who were instrumental in calling attention to the issue accused the government of "adopting a casual approach towards a serious problem".
हालांकि, इस मुद्दे की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित कराने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाले कार्यकर्ताओं ने सरकार पर "गंभीर समस्या के प्रति लापरवाह रवैया अपनाने" का आरोप लगाया।
- "The government's claim that the farmer whose field was identified as growing the illegal crop was the only one to do so is absurd.
"सरकार का यह दावा कि जिस किसान के खेत में अवैध फसल उगाई गई थी वह अकेला था, बेतुका है।
- Neither can the farmer develop such seed in his backyard nor can he have a privileged relationship with seed developers to be bestowed exclusive access to growing their proprietary seed," said **Rajinder Chaudhary**, a former Professor in the Department of Economics with M.D. University, Rohtak.
न तो किसान अपने घर में ऐसा बीज विकसित कर सकता है और न ही उसके पास बीज डेवलपर्स के साथ कोई विशेष संबंध हो सकता है कि उसे उनके निजी बीज उगाने का विशेष अधिकार मिल जाए," **राजिंदर चौधरी**, पूर्व प्रोफेसर, अर्थशास्त्र विभाग, एम.डी. यूनिवर्सिटी, रोहतक ने कहा।
- The **commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal is banned in India**.
भारत में **Bt बैंगन** की वाणिज्यिक खेती प्रतिबंधित है।

The background

पृष्ठभूमि

- In May 2019, when activists flagged the issue, Haryana's **Biotechnology Coordination Committee, which monitors activities related to GM organisms**, proposed destroying the crop.
मई 2019 में जब कार्यकर्ताओं ने मुद्दा उठाया, हरियाणा की **बायोटेक्नोलॉजी कोऑर्डिनेशन कमेटी**, जो GM जीवों से संबंधित गतिविधियों की निगरानी करती है, ने फसल नष्ट करने का प्रस्ताव रखा।
- Following this, the crop was uprooted and buried to avoid **contamination**.
इसके बाद, फसल को उखाड़कर दफन कर दिया गया ताकि **संक्रमण (contamination)** से बचा जा सके।
- When questioned, Mr. Jeevan, who bought the saplings of brinjal in December 2017, told the authorities that he was not aware that the saplings were of GM variety.
पूछताछ करने पर श्री जीवन, जिन्होंने दिसंबर 2017 में बैंगन के पौधे खरीदे थे, ने अधिकारियों को बताया कि उन्हें यह जानकारी नहीं थी कि पौधे GM किस्म के थे।
- He said the seeds were procured from a **roadside vendor**.
उन्होंने कहा कि बीज **सड़क किनारे के विक्रेता** से लिए गए थे।
- In response to an RTI query on whether any probe had been conducted in the case, the Environment and Climate Change Department said it wrote to the Horticulture Department twice in 2019 — in July and August — seeking details of those against whom action needed to be initiated.
RTI के सवाल के जवाब में कि क्या कोई जांच हुई, **पर्यावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग** ने कहा कि



उसने 2019 में दो बार — जुलाई और अगस्त में — बागवानी विभाग को लिखा कि किसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जानी है।

- On both occasions, it added, the Horticulture Department denied information regarding the source of the seed and did not reveal the name of any farmer.
दोनों अवसरों पर, बागवानी विभाग ने बीज के स्रोत की जानकारी देने से इनकार किया और किसी किसान का नाम नहीं बताया।
- “No further communication in this regard has been received from the Horticulture Department, Haryana, till now,” read the reply shared with The Hindu on October 31, 2025.
31 अक्टूबर 2025 को द हिंदू को साझा किए गए जवाब में लिखा था, “इस संबंध में अब तक हरियाणा बागवानी विभाग से कोई और संचार प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।”
- However, in a separate RTI response, the **District Horticulture Officer**, Fatehabad, on October 17, identified the farmer, but said there were no details about the source of the GM seed.
हालांकि, एक अलग RTI जवाब में, **जिला बागवानी अधिकारी**, फतेहाबाद, ने 17 अक्टूबर को किसान की पहचान की, लेकिन कहा कि GM बीज के स्रोत के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

Fear of contamination संक्रमण का भय

- Farm and food activists believe that introducing **transgenic variety** [whose genes have been altered] foods could contaminate the food chain.
कृषि और खाद्य कार्यकर्ताओं का मानना है कि **ट्रांसजेनिक किस्म** [जिनके जीन बदले गए हैं] के खाद्य पदार्थ भोजन श्रृंखला को दूषित कर सकते हैं।