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PCS:	
TOPICS COVERED	**01 December 2025**
1. 2030 for 2036 **2036 के लिए 2030**	

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

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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CONTACT: 9971932488

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2030 for 2036

India is trying to showcase Ahmedabad's sports infrastructure in Olympics bid

Exactly two decades after hosting its maiden Commonwealth Games (CWG), India will welcome the quadrennial extravaganza's centenary edition to its shores in 2030. The move is another unmistakable sign that India wants to be seen as a sports destination of repute. The choice of Ahmedabad as the host city is strategic too, for India has submitted the Letter of Intent to hold the 2036 Olympics with Ahmedabad as the front-runner. However, while the Olympics retains its allure and grandeur, the CWG has been beset with difficulties. Once signifying the imperial unity of the British empire, the CWG is struggling for relevance in the post-colonial world. Successive host cities have dropped out citing rising costs - Birmingham replaced Durban in 2022; Glasgow has come to the rescue for 2026 after the Australian State of Victoria withdrew, and Ahmedabad has stepped in for the Canadian province of Alberta. Not so long ago, India itself was cold to the competition, with the then Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra, in 2019, calling it "sub-standard" – albeit in his personal capacity – and strongly pitching for India's withdrawal. Also, when New Delhi conducted the Games in 2010, there were allegations galore of large-scale corruption and incompetence.

So, what merit does India see now? First, it is an important soft-power medium. Second, the nation's sporting aspirations have grown manifold, and though performances by its sportspersons have not kept pace, there is a genuine push toward diversifying on-field excellence and going beyond just cricket. India has world-class heroes such as double-Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to showcase, and there is hope that big ticket events, when held in one's backyard, can inspire a generation. There is the infrastructural uplift they can trigger, helping not just the athletes but also the public at large. But there are potential pitfalls too. In sporting terms, the CWG stands diminished. Glasgow 2026 will feature just 10 disciplines, and those such as badminton, hockey, shooting and cricket have been excised. There are very few sports that match up to international standards, for nations such as the United States and China are not part of the Commonwealth. India has won 61, 66, 64, 101 medals in the last four editions, but in the subsequent Olympics, it has secured just six, seven, two and six medals, respectively. India also has an escalating problem with doping, which can mar its standing if left uncontrolled. The financial outlay for the CWG should be kept in mind too, for costs can be prohibitive. Ahmedabad 2030, thus, offers opportunity and hope. It should be used to display a strong present and shape a glorious future.

2030 for 2036
2036 के लिए 2030

India is trying to showcase Ahmedabad's sports infrastructure in Olympics bid
भारत ओलंपिक्स बोली में अहमदाबाद के खेल अवसंरचना को प्रदर्शित करने की कोशिश कर रहा है
India to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games
भारत 2030 राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों की मेजबानी करेगा

• Exactly two decades after hosting its maiden Commonwealth Games (CWG), India will welcome the quadrennial extravaganza's centenary edition to its shores in 2030.
अपने पहले **राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों (CWG)** की मेजबानी के ठीक **दो दशक** बाद, भारत **2030** में इस चार-वर्षीय आयोजन के **शताब्दी संस्करण** का स्वागत करेगा।

• The move is another unmistakable sign that India wants to be seen as a sports destination of repute.
यह कदम एक और स्पष्ट संकेत है कि भारत एक प्रतिष्ठित **खेल गंतव्य** के रूप में देखा जाना चाहता है।

• The choice of Ahmedabad as the host city is strategic too, for India has submitted the Letter of Intent to hold the 2036 Olympics with Ahmedabad as the front-runner.
अहमदाबाद को मेज़बान शहर चुनना भी रणनीतिक है, क्योंकि भारत ने **2036 ओलंपिक** की मेजबानी के लिए इरादा पत्र दाखिल किया है जिसमें अहमदाबाद अग्रणी है।

• However, while the Olympics retains its allure and grandeur, the CWG has been beset with difficulties.
हालाँकि **ओलंपिक** अपनी चमक और भव्यता बनाए रखता है, लेकिन **CWG** कई कठिनाइयों से घिरा रहा है।

• Once signifying the imperial unity of the British empire, the CWG is struggling for relevance in the post-colonial world.
कभी **ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य** की एकता का प्रतीक रहा CWG आज **उत्तर-औपनिवेशिक दुनिया** में अपनी प्रासंगिकता के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है।

• Successive host cities have dropped out citing rising costs – Birmingham replaced Durban in 2022; Glasgow has come to the rescue for 2026 after the Australian State of Victoria withdrew, and Ahmedabad has stepped in for the Canadian province of Alberta.
लगातार मेज़बान शहर बढ़ती लागत का हवाला देकर पीछे हटते गए — **2022** में **बर्मिंघम** ने **डरबन** की जगह ली; **ग्लासगो** ने **2026** के लिए कदम बढ़ाया जब **विक्टोरिया (ऑस्ट्रेलिया)** ने वापसी कर ली, और अब **अहमदाबाद** ने **अल्बर्टा (कनाडा)** की जगह ली है।

• Not so long ago, India itself was cold to the competition, with the then Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra, in 2019, calling it "sub-standard" — albeit in his personal capacity — and strongly pitching for India's withdrawal.
कुछ समय पहले तक भारत स्वयं इस प्रतियोगिता को लेकर उत्साहित नहीं

था, और **2019** में **नरिंदर बत्रा** ने इसे "**सब-स्टैंडर्ड**" कहकर भारत की वापसी की मांग की थी।

- Also, when New Delhi conducted the Games in 2010, there were allegations galore of large-scale corruption and incompetence.

  इसके अलावा, **2010** में नई दिल्ली द्वारा खेलों की मेजबानी के दौरान **भ्रष्टाचार** और **कुप्रबंधन** के आरोप भी लगे थे।

- So, what merit does India see now?

  तो अब भारत इसमें क्या महत्व देखता है?

- First, it is an important soft-power medium.

  पहला, यह एक महत्वपूर्ण **सॉफ्ट-पावर** माध्यम है।

- Second, the nation's sporting aspirations have grown manifold, and though performances by its sportspersons have not kept pace, there is a genuine push toward diversifying on-field excellence and going beyond just cricket.

  दूसरा, देश की खेल आकांक्षाएँ कई गुना बढ़ी हैं, और भले ही प्रदर्शन उसी गति से न बढ़ा हो, मैदान पर उत्कृष्टता को **क्रिकेट से आगे** बढ़ाने की सच्ची कोशिश हो रही है।

- India has world-class heroes such as double-Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to showcase, and there is hope that big ticket events, when held in one's backyard, can inspire a generation.

  भारत के पास **नीरज चोपड़ा**, जैसे **डबल ओलंपिक पदक विजेता** विश्व-स्तरीय खिलाड़ी हैं, और उम्मीद है कि बड़े आयोजन नई पीढ़ी को प्रेरित करेंगे।

- There is the infrastructural uplift they can trigger, helping not just the athletes but also the public at large.

  ये आयोजन **इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकास** को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं, जो सिर्फ एथलीटों ही नहीं, बल्कि आम जनता के लिए भी उपयोगी होगा।

- But there are potential pitfalls too.

  लेकिन संभावित जोखिम भी हैं।

- In sporting terms, the CWG stands diminished.

  खेल के लिहाज़ से, **CWG** का महत्व घटा है।

- Glasgow 2026 will feature just 10 disciplines, and those such as badminton, hockey, shooting and cricket have been excised.

  ग्लासगो 2026 में केवल **10 खेल** होंगे और **बैडमिंटन, हॉकी, शूटिंग, क्रिकेट** को हटा दिया गया है।

- There are very few sports that match up to international standards, for nations such as the United States and China are not part of the Commonwealth.

  बहुत कम खेल **अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर** के माने जाते हैं क्योंकि **अमेरिका** और **चीन** राष्ट्रमंडल का हिस्सा नहीं हैं।

- India has won **61, 66, 64, 101** medals in the last four editions, but in the subsequent Olympics, it has secured just **six, seven, two and six** medals, respectively.

  भारत ने पिछले चार CWG में **61, 66, 64, 101** पदक जीते, लेकिन इसके बाद के ओलंपिक में सिर्फ **6, 7, 2 और 6** पदक ही मिले।

- India also has an escalating problem with doping, which can mar its standing if left uncontrolled.

  भारत में **डोपिंग** की बढ़ती समस्या है, जो काबू में न आने पर उसकी प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुँचा सकती है।

- The financial outlay for the CWG should be kept in mind too, for costs can be prohibitive.

  CWG के लिए **वित्तीय खर्च** भी ध्यान में रखना होगा, क्योंकि लागत अत्यधिक हो सकती है।

- Ahmedabad 2030, thus, offers opportunity and hope.

  इस प्रकार, **अहमदाबाद 2030 अवसर** और **आशा** लेकर आता है।

- It should be used to display a strong present and shape a glorious future.

  इसे एक **मज़बूत वर्तमान** दिखाने और **उज्ज्वल भविष्य** गढ़ने के साधन के रूप में उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए।

GS Paper I: Society, History, Geography	
TOPICS COVERED	**01 December 2025**
1.Cyclone Ditwah weakens; torrential rain claims three lives, damages crops in T.N साइक्लोन डिटवा कमजोर हुआ; भारी बारिश से तीन लोगों की मौत, तमिलनाडु में फसलों को नुकसान	
Population:	
2.Population in A&N, Lakshadweep set to rise: report अंडमान एवं निकोबार, लक्षद्वीप में जनसंख्या बढ़ने की संभावना: रिपोर्ट	
History:	
3.An exchange of ideas between Carnatic and Hindustanimusic कर्नाटक और हिंदुस्तानी संगीत के बीच विचारों का आदान-प्रदान **4. Modi urges people to take part in Kashi Tamil Sangamam** मोदी ने लोगों से काशी तमिल संगमम में भाग लेने का आग्रह किया	

Broken remains: A man standing amid the debris of his collapsed house in T.N. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cyclone Ditwah weakens; torrential rain claims three lives, damages crops in T.N.

GS I: Geography

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cyclone Ditwah began to weaken on Sunday even as it continued its slow northward movement over the Bay of Bengal, parallel to the coast of northern Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Torrential rain led to three deaths, with two people killed by collapsing walls in Thanjavur and Thoothukudi districts and one person electrocuted in Mayiladuthurai.

Over 2,300 people were in relief camps on Sunday morning, T.N. Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran said, adding that 230 huts have been damaged and 56,000 hectares of crops are under water.

The centre of the cyclonic system stayed around 80 km from the coast as it moved at a speed of just 5 kmph on Sunday morning, weakening to a deep depression by Sunday night, according to the Regional Meteorological Centre. It was expected to come within 30 km of the coastline by midnight.

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain is likely at isolated places over T.N. and Puducherry-Karaikal on Monday, with thunderstorms and lightning at a few places. Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Tiruvallur district. Gale winds are likely to decrease gradually, with speeds of 45-55 kmph, gusting to 65 kmph, by Monday morning. Sea conditions are likely to improve gradually.

Addressing a press conference in the State Emergency Operations Centre, Mr. Ramachandran said that due to the heavy rain, crops in about 56,000 hectares in various districts are under water. Crops have been affected in about 24,000 hectares in Nagapattinam district, over 15,000 hectares in Tiruvarur district and about 8,000 hectares in Mayiladuthurai district, he said.

Once the water recedes, officials will calculate the actual damage and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will decide on announcing compensation for the damages incurred by farmers, the Minister said. In response to a query, he said compensation could be granted only if the loss of crops was over 33%.

The Air Force moved about 300 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel from Maharashtra and Gujarat to Chennai. In a social media post, Mr. Stalin said: "An IAF C-17 has airlifted NDRF teams and equipment from Pune and Vadodara to Chennai, enabling rapid deployment of over 300 NDRF personnel and around 35 tonnes of essential gear." With the arrival of 10 additional teams, 38 teams are now ready across Tamil Nadu and will be deployed to areas on the basis of their need, Mr. Ramachandran said.

About 230 huts have been damaged due to the rain, he added. As of Sunday morning, over 2,300 people have been accommodated in a total of 38 relief camps in nine districts of Tamil Nadu – 10 camps in Nagapattinam district, nine in Pudukkottai, seven in Villupuram, four in Tiruvarur, two each in Mayiladuthurai, Ramanathapuram, and Thanjavur, and one each in Chengalpattu and Ranipet.

The State government is coordinating with other government agencies to ensure the safe return of people from the State who are stranded in Sri Lanka, the Minister said. They are expected to reach on Sunday, he added.

334 dead, over 300 missing in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO

At least 334 people have died and 370 remain missing as Sri Lanka reels from the impact of Cyclone Ditwah. Huge number of fatalities were reported from Badulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Matale districts, home to some of the most economically marginalised communities. **» PAGE 14**

Cyclone Ditwah weakens; torrential rain claims three lives, damages crops in T.N
साइक्लोन डिटवा कमजोर हुआ; भारी बारिश से तीन लोगों की मौत, तमिलनाडु में फसलों को नुकसान

Cyclone Ditwah began to weaken on Sunday even as it continued its slow northward movement over the Bay of Bengal, parallel to the coast of northern Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
साइक्लोन डिटवा रविवार को कमजोर होने लगा, जबकि यह बंगाल की खाड़ी के ऊपर धीमी गति से उत्तर की ओर बढ़ता रहा, तमिलनाडु और पुडुचेरी के उत्तरी तट के समानांतर।

- Torrential rain led to **three deaths**, with two people killed by collapsing walls in **Thanjavur** and **Thoothukudi** districts and one person electrocuted in **Mayiladuthurai**.
  भारी बारिश से **तीन लोगों** की मौत हुई, जिनमें **थंजावुर** और **थूथुकुडी** जिलों में दीवार गिरने से दो लोग और **मायलाडुथुरै** में एक व्यक्ति की बिजली के झटके से मौत हुई।

- Over **2,300 people** were in relief camps on Sunday morning, T.N. Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management **K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran** said, adding that **230 huts** have been damaged and **56,000 hectares** of crops are under water.
  राजस्व और आपदा प्रबंधन मंत्री **के.के.एस.एस.आर. रामचंद्रन** ने कहा कि रविवार सुबह **2,300 से अधिक लोग** राहत शिविरों में थे, **230 झोपड़ियाँ** क्षतिग्रस्त हुई हैं और **56,000 हेक्टेयर** फसल पानी में डूबी है।

- The centre of the cyclonic system stayed around **80 km** from the coast as it moved at a speed of just **5 kmph** on Sunday morning, weakening to a **deep depression** by Sunday night, according to the **Regional Meteorological Centre**.
  रीजनल मीटेरोलॉजिकल सेंटर के अनुसार, चक्रवाती प्रणाली का केंद्र तट से लगभग **80 किमी** दूर रहा और रविवार सुबह यह केवल **5 किमी/घंटा** की गति से आगे बढ़ा, तथा रात तक यह **डिप्रेशन** में कमजोर हो गया।

- It was expected to come within **30 km** of the coastline by midnight.
  इसके मध्यरात्रि तक तटरेखा से **30 किमी** के भीतर आने की उम्मीद थी।

Light rain likely
हल्की बारिश की संभावना

- Light to moderate rain is likely at isolated places over **T.N. and Puducherry-Karaikal** on Monday, with thunderstorms and lightning at a few places.
  सोमवार को **तमिलनाडु और पुडुचेरी-कराईकल** में कुछ स्थानों पर हल्की से मध्यम बारिश की संभावना है, और कुछ स्थानों पर गरज और बिजली गिरने की भी संभावना है।

- Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in **Tiruvallur** district.
  तिरुवल्लुर जिले में कुछ स्थानों पर भारी बारिश की संभावना है।

- Gale winds are likely to decrease gradually, with speeds of **45-55 kmph**, gusting to **65 kmph**, by Monday morning.
  तेज हवाएँ धीरे-धीरे कम होंगी, जिनकी गति सोमवार सुबह तक **45–55 किमी/घंटा** और झोंकों की गति **65 किमी/घंटा** तक हो सकती है।

- Sea conditions are likely to improve gradually.
  समुद्री स्थिति धीरे-धीरे बेहतर होने की संभावना है।

- Addressing a press conference in the **State Emergency Operations Centre**, Mr. Ramachandran said that due to the heavy rain, crops in about **56,000 hectares** in various districts are under water.
  स्टेट इमरजेंसी ऑपरेशंस सेंटर में प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस को संबोधित करते हुए, श्री रामचंद्रन ने कहा कि भारी बारिश के कारण विभिन्न जिलों में लगभग **56,000 हेक्टेयर** फसलों पर पानी जमा है।

- Crops have been affected in about **24,000 hectares** in **Nagapattinam** district, over **15,000 hectares** in **Tiruvarur** district and about **8,000 hectares** in **Mayiladuthurai** district, he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **नागपट्टिनम** में लगभग **24,000 हेक्टेयर**, तिरुवारूर में **15,000 हेक्टेयर** से अधिक और **मायलाडुथुरै** में लगभग **8,000 हेक्टेयर** फसलें प्रभावित हुई हैं।

- Once the water recedes, officials will calculate the actual damage and Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** will decide on announcing compensation for the damages incurred by farmers, the Minister said.
  मंत्री ने कहा कि पानी घटने के बाद अधिकारी वास्तविक नुकसान का आकलन करेंगे और मुख्यमंत्री **एम.के. स्टालिन** किसानों को मुआवजा देने पर निर्णय लेंगे।

- In response to a query, he said compensation could be granted only if the loss of crops was over **33%**.
  एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा कि मुआवजा केवल तब दिया जा सकता है जब फसल का नुकसान **33%** से अधिक हो।

- The **Air Force** moved about **300 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** personnel from **Maharashtra and Gujarat** to **Chennai**.
  वायुसेना ने **महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात** से लगभग **300 NDRF कर्मियों** को **चेन्नई** स्थानांतरित किया।

- In a social media post, Mr. Stalin said: "An **IAF C-17** has airlifted NDRF teams and equipment from **Pune** and **Vadodara** to Chennai, enabling rapid deployment of over **300 NDRF personnel** and around **35 tonnes** of essential gear."
  एक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में श्री स्टालिन ने कहा: "**IAF C-17** ने **पुणे** और **वडोदरा** से NDRF टीमों और उपकरणों को चेन्नई एयरलिफ्ट किया, जिससे **300 से अधिक कर्मियों** और लगभग **35 टन** आवश्यक सामान की त्वरित तैनाती संभव हुई।"

- With the arrival of **10 additional teams**, **38 teams** are now ready across Tamil Nadu and will be deployed to areas on the basis of their need, Mr. Ramachandran said.

•श्री रामचंद्रन ने कहा कि **10 अतिरिक्त टीमों** के आने के साथ, **38 टीमें** अब तमिलनाडु में तैयार हैं और जरूरत के अनुसार क्षेत्रों में तैनात की जाएँगी।

- About **230 huts** have been damaged due to the rain, he added.

  उन्होंने कहा कि बारिश के कारण लगभग **230 झोपड़ियाँ** क्षतिग्रस्त हुई हैं।

- As of Sunday morning, over **2,300 people** have been accommodated in a total of **38 relief camps** in **nine districts** of Tamil Nadu — **10 camps** in Nagapattinam district, **nine** in Pudukkottai, **seven** in Villupuram, **four** in Tiruvarur, **two each** in Mayiladuthurai, Ramanathapuram, and Thanjavur, and **one each** in Chengalpattu and Ranipet.

  रविवार सुबह तक तमिलनाडु के **नौ जिलों** में कुल **38 राहत शिविरों** में **2,300 से अधिक लोगों** को आश्रय दिया गया — **नागपट्टिनम** में **10**, **पुडुकोट्टई** में **9**, **विल्लुपुरम** में **7**, **तिरुवारूर** में **4**, **मायलाडुथुरै, रामनाथपुरम, और थंजावुर** में **2-2,** और **चेंगलपट्टू** व **रानीपेट** में **1-1**।

- The State government is coordinating with other government agencies to ensure the safe return of people from the State who are stranded in **Sri Lanka**, the Minister said.

  मंत्री ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार **श्रीलंका** में फँसे लोगों की सुरक्षित वापसी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अन्य सरकारी एजेंसियों के साथ समन्वय कर रही है।

- They are expected to reach on Sunday, he added.

  उन्होंने कहा कि उनके रविवार को पहुँचने की उम्मीद है।

Population in A&N, Lakshadweep set to rise: report

GS I: Society: Population

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The populations of India's island territories, Lakshadweep Islands and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are projected to increase by 9.68% and 5.73% by 2051, according to a new national-level report recently released by the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD) and the Population Foundation of India (PFI).

The population of Lakshadweep, a string of islands in the Arabian sea, is projected to go up from 67,642 in 2016 to 74,194 in 2051.

Likewise, the population of Andaman and Nico-bar Islands in the Bay of Bengal is projected to rise from 3,98,310 to 4,21,135 during the same period, according to the report 'Unravelling India's demographic future: population projections for States and Union Territories 2021-2051.'
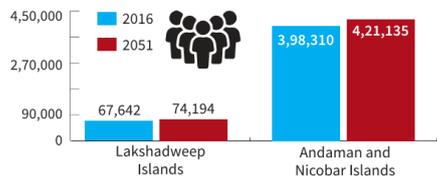
S. Irudaya Rajan, chair of the Kerala-based IIMAD was the principal investigator for the report and J. Retnakumar, the co-principal investigator.

Different approach
The report, which provides a national perspective as well as State and Union Territory (UT)-wise projections, has used a different approach for making projections for the smaller States and Union Territories.

Demographic drift

India's major island groups may see increase in population, says report which used a distinct approach to map smaller regions

Lakshadweep Islands: 67,642 (2016), 74,194 (2051)
Andaman and Nicobar Islands: 3,98,310 (2016), 4,21,135 (2051)

SOURCE: IIMAD, PFI

"The decadal growth rates of population in most of the smaller States and the Union Territories are erratic and no clear trend in the growth rates is discernible.

Moreover, the Sample Registration System (SRS) does not consistently provide the essential demographic inputs needed for population projections for these territories," the report notes.

Due to this limitation, the report employs mathematical methods – specifically curve fitting using logistic methods – to project their populations.

Gender-wise projections show that the male population would increase from 34,716 in 2016 to 37,785 in 2051 and the female population from 32,926 to 36,319 in Lakshadweep.

In the case of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the male population is projected to go up from 2,13,467 in 2016 to 2,26,139 in 2051 and female population from 1,84,843 to 1,94,996.

For arriving at the projections, the report drew on demographic datasets including the Census, SRS, National Family Health Survey, Civil Registration System and the National Sample Survey.

Population in A&N, Lakshadweep set to rise: report
अंडमान एवं निकोबार, लक्षद्वीप में जनसंख्या बढ़ने की संभावना: रिपोर्ट

The populations of India's island territories, Lakshadweep Islands and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are projected to increase by 9.68% and 5.73% by 2051, according to a new national-level report recently released by the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD) and the Population Foundation of India (PFI).

भारत के द्वीप क्षेत्रों लक्षद्वीप द्वीप और अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपों की जनसंख्या 2051 तक क्रमशः 9.68% और 5.73% बढ़ने का अनुमान

है, जैसा कि हाल ही में इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ माइग्रेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट (IIMAD) और पॉपुलेशन फाउंडेशन ऑफ इंडिया (PFI) द्वारा जारी राष्ट्रीय-स्तरीय रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है।

- The population of **Lakshadweep**, a string of islands in the **Arabian Sea**, is projected to go up from **67,642 in 2016** to **74,194 in 2051**.
  अरब सागर में स्थित द्वीपों की श्रृंखला **लक्षद्वीप** की जनसंख्या **2016** में **67,642** से बढ़कर **2051** में **74,194** होने का अनुमान है।

- Likewise, the population of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** in the **Bay of Bengal** is projected to rise from **3,98,310** to **4,21,135** during the same period, according to the report **'Unravelling India's demographic future: population projections for States and Union Territories 2021-2051.'**
  इसी प्रकार, **बंगाल की खाड़ी** में स्थित **अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपों** की जनसंख्या इसी अवधि में **3,98,310** से बढ़कर **4,21,135** होने का अनुमान है, जैसा कि रिपोर्ट **'Unravelling India's demographic future: population projections for States and Union Territories 2021-2051'** में कहा गया है।

- **S. Irudaya Rajan**, chair of the Kerala-based **IIMAD**, was the principal investigator for the report and **J. Retnakumar**, the co-principal investigator.
  केरल स्थित **IIMAD** के अध्यक्ष **एस. इरुदया राजन** रिपोर्ट के मुख्य अन्वेषक थे और **जे. रत्नकुमार** सह-मुख्य अन्वेषक थे।

Different approach
भिन्न दृष्टिकोण

- The report, which provides a national perspective as well as State and Union Territory (UT)-wise projections, has used a different approach for making projections for the smaller States and Union Territories.
  यह रिपोर्ट, जो राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण और राज्य तथा केंद्रशासित प्रदेश-वार प्रक्षेपण प्रदान करती है, छोटे राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लिए प्रक्षेपण तैयार करने में एक अलग दृष्टिकोण अपनाती है।

- "The decadal growth rates of population in most of the smaller States and the Union Territories are erratic and no clear trend in the growth rates is discernible.
  "अधिकांश छोटे राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में जनसंख्या की **दशकीय वृद्धि दरें** अनियमित हैं और वृद्धि के रुझानों में कोई स्पष्ट पैटर्न नहीं दिखता।

- Moreover, the **Sample Registration System (SRS)** does not consistently provide the essential demographic inputs needed for population projections for these territories," the report notes.
  इसके अलावा, रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि **सैंपल रजिस्ट्रेशन सिस्टम (SRS)** इन क्षेत्रों के लिए जनसंख्या प्रक्षेपण हेतु आवश्यक जनसांख्यिकीय डेटा लगातार उपलब्ध नहीं कराता।

- Due to this limitation, the report employs mathematical methods — specifically **curve fitting using logistic methods** — to project their populations.
  इस सीमा के कारण, रिपोर्ट उनकी जनसंख्या के अनुमान के लिए गणितीय पद्धतियों — विशेषकर **लॉजिस्टिक विधि द्वारा कर्व फिटिंग** — का उपयोग करती है।

- Gender-wise projections show that the **male population** would increase from **34,716 (2016)** to **37,785 (2051)** and the **female population** from **32,926 to 36,319** in Lakshadweep.
  लिंग-आधारित प्रक्षेपण दर्शाते हैं कि लक्षद्वीप में **पुरुष जनसंख्या 2016** में **34,716** से बढ़कर **2051** में **37,785** हो सकती है और **महिला जनसंख्या 32,926** से बढ़कर **36,319** हो सकती है।

- In the case of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, the male population is projected to go up from **2,13,467 (2016)** to **2,26,139 (2051)** and female population from **1,84,843** to **1,94,996**.

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

अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपों में पुरुष जनसंख्या **2016** में **2,13,467** से बढ़कर **2051** में **2,26,139** और महिला जनसंख्या **1,84,843** से बढ़कर **1,94,996** होने का अनुमान है।

- For arriving at the projections, the report drew on demographic datasets including the **Census**, **SRS**, **National Family Health Survey**, **Civil Registration System** and the **National Sample Survey**.

   इन प्रक्षेपणों को तैयार करने के लिए रिपोर्ट ने **जनगणना**, **SRS**, **नेशनल फैमिली हेल्थ सर्वे**, **सिविल रजिस्ट्रेशन सिस्टम** और **नेशनल सैंपल सर्वे** सहित विभिन्न जनसांख्यिकीय डेटासेट का उपयोग किया।

An exchange of ideas between Carnatic and Hindustani music

GS I: History

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

An overwhelming silence prevails in the inner precincts of the Nageswaran Temple, known as *Kudanthai Keezhkottam*, in Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district. Sung in praise by the Saivite saints, the temple, together with the mandapam designed like a chariot, stands testimony to the creative zenith of the early Cholas. For lovers of books and music, however, the temple is inseparable from T. Janakiraman's Tamil novel *Mogamul* (thorn of desire) and the soul-stirring music of the Hindustani performers from Maharashtra.

Janakiraman seems to have chosen the setting with a clear intention. The musicians first appear at the Kumbeshwaran Temple, then at the house of Ranganna, the guru of Babu, the protagonist, and later hold a full-fledged concert at the Nageswaran Temple. The temple's atmosphere is perfectly suited to their performance. Even today, there is little change in the setting.

Highlighting contrast
"A commentary on the difference between idealistic Carnatic music and what was prevalent in concert halls underlines the novel throughout. Janakiraman suggests that the soul of the music, embodied by Ranganna – a character modelled on Umayalpuram Swaminatha Iyer – is being lost, and singers no longer focus on the voice. Conventionally, too, there is an opinion that Carnatic musicians do not pay enough attention to voice culture," says Lalitharam, historian of Carnatic music.

When Babu first listens to the Hindustani musicians at Ranganna's house, he marvels at the sheer weight of the voice: "Can a human voice carry such weight? What strength there is! The effortless control of breath unsettled Babu. How does the entire voice rise to the higher notes? His body trembled as the singer stayed in the *mandhra* for four minutes, then gradually reached the *mel shadjam* and sustained the note with long *karvais*. It gave Babu goosebumps, and his eyes were filled with tears," writes Janakiraman.

"In the Kumbeshwaran Temple, devotees mistook them for beggars and tossed a few coins. They deposited all of it in the temple *hundi*," Ranganna tells Babu.

Driving home the point
Janakiraman creates yet another scene to drive home his point: the entry of Palur Ramu, a disciple of Ranganna, who now resides in Chennai. Draped in a khadi dhoti and *panchakacham* (dhoti traditionally draped with five pleats), he flaunts his patriotism merely borrowed from politicians and mediapersons.

The arrogant smile on Babu's lips fades when the Hindustani musician, at Ranganna's request, holds the *mandra panchamam* and then lowers his voice further to the *mandra shadjam*, revealing the delicate contours of the raga.

When Babu remarks that the Hindustani singers were fortunate, Ranganna makes it clear it was hard work and practice that contributed to the sweetness of their voices.

Later, Babu brings them to the house of Yamuna, the heroine of the novel, as she can converse with them in Marathi and obtain more details of their origin and music. Subsequently, he arranges a performance at the Nageswaran Temple, which remains empty and resembles a "poor man's wedding ceremony". The sound of the tambura echoes across the granite pillars.

The senior musician aligns himself with the *sruthi* and begins to sing. Yamuna and her mother Parvathi stand near a pillar. After they finish singing, Babu approaches her.

"My heart aches. How is he able to sing like this? I feel I am going mad," says Yamuna.

Setting the stage: Cover of the novel *Mogamul* by T. Janakiraman; and the Nageswaran Temple. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, R. VENGADESH

An exchange of ideas between Carnatic and Hindustani music
कर्नाटक और हिंदुस्तानी संगीत के बीच विचारों का आदान-प्रदान

An overwhelming silence prevails in the inner precincts of the Nageswaran Temple, known as Kudanthai Keezhkottam, in Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district.
थंजावुर ज़िले के कुंभकोणम में स्थित नागेश्वरन मंदिर, जिसे कुडंथै कीझकोट्टम के नाम से जाना जाता है, के भीतरी प्रांगण में अत्यधिक सन्नाटा पसरा हुआ है।

- **Sung in praise by the Saivite saints, the temple, together with the mandapam designed like a chariot, stands testimony to the creative zenith of the early Cholas.**
  शैव संतों द्वारा स्तुति में गाया गया यह मंदिर, रथ के आकार में बने मंडप के साथ, प्रारंभिक चोलों की रचनात्मक श्रेष्ठता का प्रमाण है।

- For lovers of books and music, however, the temple is inseparable from **T. Janakiraman's** Tamil novel **Mogamul** (thorn of desire) and the soul-stirring music of the **Hindustani performers from Maharashtra**.
  पुस्तकों और संगीत के प्रेमियों के लिए, हालांकि, यह मंदिर **टी. जानकीरमन** के तमिल उपन्यास **'मोगमुल'** (thorn of desire) और **महाराष्ट्र के हिंदुस्तानी कलाकारों** के आत्मा को झकझोर देने वाले संगीत से अलग नहीं किया जा सकता।

  - Janakiraman seems to have chosen the setting with a clear intention.
    • जानकीरमन ने यह परिवेश स्पष्ट उद्देश्य के साथ चुना हुआ प्रतीत होता है।

- The musicians • rst appear at the **Kumbeshwaran Temple**, then at the house of **Ranganna**, the guru of **Babu**, the protagonist, and later hold a full-• edged concert at the **Nageswaran Temple**.

संगीतकार पहले **कुंभेश्वरन मंदिर** में, फिर नायक **बाबू** के गुरु **रंगन्ना** के घर पर दिखाई देते हैं और बाद में **नागेश्वरन मंदिर** में एक पूर्ण विकसित संगीत कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

- The temple's atmosphere is perfectly suited to their performance.
  मंदिर का वातावरण उनके प्रदर्शन के लिए पूरी तरह उपयुक्त है।

- Even today, there is little change in the setting.
  आज भी इस परिवेश में बहुत कम परिवर्तन हुआ है।

Highlighting contrast
विरोधाभास को रेखांकित करना

- " A commentary on the difference between idealistic **Carnatic music** and what was prevalent in concert halls underlines the novel throughout.
  "आदर्शवादी **कर्नाटक संगीत** और जो कुछ कॉन्सर्ट हॉलों में प्रचलित था, उसके बीच के अंतर पर टिप्पणी पूरे उपन्यास में रेखांकित होती है।

- Janakiraman suggests that the soul of the music, embodied by **Ranganna** — a character modelled on **Umayalpuram Swaminatha Iyer** — is being lost, and singers no longer focus on the voice.
  जानकीरमन यह संकेत देते हैं कि संगीत की आत्मा, जिसे **रंगन्ना** (जिसका चरित्र **उमयालपुरम स्वामीनाथ अय्यर** पर आधारित है) के माध्यम से रूपायित किया गया है, खोती जा रही है और गायक अब स्वर पर उतना ध्यान नहीं देते।

- Conventionally, too, there is an opinion that **Carnatic musicians** do not pay enough attention to voice culture," says **Lalitharam**, historian of Carnatic music.
  परंपरागत रूप से भी यह मत है कि **कर्नाटक संगीतकार** 'वॉइस कल्चर' पर पर्याप्त ध्यान नहीं देते," ऐसा कहना है कर्नाटक संगीत के इतिहासकार **ललितराम** का।

- When **Babu** • rst listens to the **Hindustani musicians** at Ranganna's house, he marvels at the sheer weight of the voice: "Can a human voice carry such weight?
  जब **बाबू** पहली बार रंगन्ना के घर पर **हिंदुस्तानी संगीतकारों** को सुनता है, तो वह स्वर के अद्भुत भार पर आश्चर्य करता है: "क्या किसी मानव आवाज़ में इतना भार हो सकता है?

- What strength there is! The e• ortless control of breath unsettled Babu.
  कितनी अद्भुत शक्ति है! श्वास पर उनका सहज नियंत्रण बाबू को विचलित कर देता है।

- How does the entire voice rise to the higher notes? His body trembled as the singer stayed in the mandhra for four minutes, then gradually reached the mel shadjam and sustained the note with long karvais.
  पूरी आवाज़ ऊँचे स्वरों तक कैसे पहुँच जाती है? जैसे ही गायक चार मिनट तक मंध्र में टिके रहे, फिर धीरे-धीरे मेल षड्जम तक पहुँचे और लंबे करवाई के साथ स्वर को कायम रखा, बाबू का शरीर कांप उठा।

- It gave Babu goosebumps, and his eyes were • lled with tears," writes Janakiraman.
  इससे बाबू के रोंगटे खड़े हो गए और उसकी आँखें आँसुओं से भर गईं," ऐसा जानकीरमन लिखते हैं।

- "In the **Kumbeshwaran Temple**, devotees mistook them for beggars and tossed a few coins.
  "**कुंभेश्वरन मंदिर** में भक्तों ने उन्हें भिखारी समझ लिया और कुछ सिक्के उछाल दिए।

- They deposited all of it in the temple **hundi**," Ranganna tells Babu.
  उन्होंने वे सारे सिक्के मंदिर की **हुंडी** में डाल दिए," ऐसा रंगन्ना बाबू से कहते हैं।

Driving home the point
बात को और पुख्ता करना

- Janakiraman creates yet another scene to drive home his point: the entry of **Palur Ramu**, a disciple of Ranganna, who now resides in **Chennai**.

अपनी बात को और पुख़्ता करने के लिए जानकीरमन एक और दृश्य रचते हैं: **पालूर रामू** का प्रवेश, जो रंगन्ना के शिष्य हैं और अब **चेन्नई** में रहते हैं।

- Draped in a khadi dhoti and panchakacham (dhoti traditionally draped with • ve pleats), he • aunts his patriotism merely borrowed from politicians and mediapersons.
  खादी धोती और पंचकच्चम (पाँच प्लीट्स वाली पारंपरिक धोती) में लिपटा वह अपना देशप्रेम सिर्फ़ नेताओं और मीडियाकर्मियों से उधार लिया हुआ-सा प्रदर्शित करता है।

- The arrogant smile on Babu's lips fades when the **Hindustani musician**, at Ranganna's request, holds the mandra panchamam and then lowers his voice further to the mandra shadjam, revealing the delicate contours of the raga.
  रंगन्ना के अनुरोध पर **हिंदुस्तानी गायक** जब मंद्र पंचमम् पकड़ते हैं और फिर आवाज़ को और नीचे **मंद्र षड्जम्** तक ले जाते हैं तथा राग की नाज़ुक रूपरेखा उभारते हैं, तो बाबू के होंठों की अहंकारी मुस्कान फीकी पड़ जाती है।

- When Babu remarks that the Hindustani singers were fortunate, Ranganna makes it clear it was hard work and practice that contributed to the sweetness of their voices.
  जब बाबू यह टिप्पणी करता है कि हिंदुस्तानी गायक भाग्यशाली हैं, तो रंगन्ना स्पष्ट कर देते हैं कि उनकी आवाज़ की मधुरता के पीछे **कड़ी साधना और अभ्यास** है।

- Later, Babu brings them to the house of **Yamuna**, the heroine of the novel, as she can converse with them in **Marathi** and obtain more details of their origin and music.
  बाद में बाबू उन्हें उपन्यास की नायिका **यमुना** के घर ले जाता है, क्योंकि वह उनसे **मराठी** में बातचीत कर सकती है और उनके मूल व उनके संगीत के बारे में अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकती है।

- Subsequently, he arranges a performance at the **Nageswaran Temple**, which remains empty and resembles a "poor man's wedding ceremony".
  इसके बाद वह **नागेश्वरन मंदिर** में उनका एक कार्यक्रम आयोजित करता है, जो खाली ही रहता है और "गरीब आदमी की शादी" जैसा प्रतीत होता है।

- The sound of the **tambura** echoes across the granite pillars.
  तंबूरा की ध्वनि ग्रेनाइट के खंभों के बीच गूंजती रहती है।

- The senior musician aligns himself with the **sruthi** and begins to sing.
  वरिष्ठ गायक **श्रुति** से अपने आप को साधते हैं और गाना शुरू करते हैं।

- **Yamuna** and her mother **Parvathi** stand near a pillar.
  यमुना और उसकी माँ **पार्वती** एक खंभे के पास खड़ी रहती हैं।

- After they • nish singing, Babu approaches her.
  उनके गाना समाप्त करने के बाद बाबू उसके पास आता है।

- "My heart aches. How is he able to sing like this? I feel I am going mad," says Yamuna.
  "मेरा दिल दुख रहा है। वह इस तरह कैसे गा पाता है? मुझे लगता है मैं पागल हो रही हूँ," यमुना कहती है।

Modi urges people to take part in Kashi Tamil Sangamam

It will help strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat', he says in *Mann Ki Baat* address; PM highlights record production of food grain

GS I: History: A&C

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Describing Tamil as the pride of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to participate in the upcoming Kashi Tamil Sangamam as part of the endeavour to strengthen the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat (One India, great India)".

"Tamil culture is great. Tamil language is great. Tamil is the pride of India," Mr. Modi said in Tamil in his *Mann Ki Baat* address. The fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam, organised on the theme "Learn Tamil-Tamil Karkalam", commences on December 2 at Namo Ghat in Kashi.

Recounting various recent events, Mr. Modi noted that on November 26, a special event was held at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament House, on "Constitution Day". The 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram* marked the beginning of an array of nationwide programmes.

Food grain production
Mr. Modi said the country had set a historic record with food grain production of 357 million tonnes, an increase of 100 million tonnes in 10 years. India being declared the host of Commonwealth Games is another major achieve-ment. He recently inaugurated the world's largest LEAP (leading edge aviation propulsion) engine maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility in Hyderabad, marking a significant step in augmenting India's aircraft maintenance and repair capability.

Last week, the indigenously designed *INS Mahe* was inducted into the Navy. "People in Puducherry and the Malabar Coast were delighted by the name [of the vessel] itself... many in Kerala and Tamil Nadu noted that the warship's crest resembles the traditional flexible sword of Urumi and Kalaripayattu," said Mr. Modi.

He underscored the importance of private space company Skyroot's Infinity Campus in giving a fresh boost to India's space ecosystem. He also mentioned a challenge organised by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to fly drones in conditions similar to that of Mars, where GPS navigation is not pos-sible and drones would suddenly fall to the ground. "The drones had to fly with the help of their cameras and inbuilt software...," he said, praising a team from Pune that succeeded in flying its drone in such conditions for some duration after multiple attempts.

Winter tourism
Drawing attention to winter tourism, Mr. Modi urged people to visit the Himalayan valleys. He said this season Uttarakhand attracted a lot of people. He said the Winter Games would be organised there soon.

The "Wed in India" campaign had also picked up in winter, he noted. On Navy-related tourism, he mentioned museums in Gujarat's Diu and Goa and those located in *INS Dronacharya* (Fort Kochi); Samudrika Naval Marine Museum in Srivijayapuram, formerly known as Port Blair; Rabindranath Tagore Beach in Karwar; and Visakhapatnam.

> Every time I see the dedication of our youth and the spirit of commitment of our scientists, my heart fills up with enthusiasm. This very dedication of the youth is one of the greatest strengths of Viksit Bharat
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

चौथा **काशी तमिल संगमम**, जिसका आयोजन "**लर्न तमिल–तमिल कर्कलाम**" विषय पर किया गया है, **2 दिसंबर** को काशी के **नमो घाट** पर प्रारंभ होगा।

- Recounting various recent events, Mr. Modi noted that on **November 26**, a special event was held at the **Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan**, the old Parliament House, on **Constitution Day**.
  हाल के विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का उल्लेख करते हुए, श्री मोदी ने बताया कि **26 नवंबर** को **संविधान दिवस** पर पुराने संसद भवन के **संविधान सदन के केंद्रीय कक्ष** में एक विशेष कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया।

- The **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram** marked the beginning of an array of nationwide programmes.
  वंदे मातरम् की 150वीं वर्षगांठ ने राष्ट्रव्यापी कार्यक्रमों की श्रृंखला की शुरुआत को चिह्नित किया।

Food grain production
अनाज उत्पादन

- Mr. Modi said the country had set a historic record with food grain production of **357 million tonnes**, an increase of **100 million tonnes** in **10 years**.
  श्री मोदी ने कहा कि देश ने **357 मिलियन टन** अनाज उत्पादन का ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड बनाया है, जो **10 वर्षों** में **100 मिलियन टन** की वृद्धि है।

- India being declared the host of **Commonwealth Games** is another major achievement.
  भारत का **कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स** का मेजबान घोषित होना एक और बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

- He recently inaugurated the world's largest **LEAP (leading edge aviation propulsion)** engine **MRO** facility in **Hyderabad**, marking a significant step in augmenting India's aircraft maintenance and repair capability.
  उन्होंने हाल ही में **हैदराबाद** में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी **LEAP इंजन MRO** सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया, जो भारत की विमानन मरम्मत क्षमता को बढ़ाने का एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

- Last week, the **indigenously designed INS Mahe was inducted into the Navy**.
  पिछले सप्ताह, स्वदेशी रूप से डिज़ाइन किया गया **INS महे** नौसेना में शामिल किया गया।

- "People in **Puducherry** and the **Malabar Coast** were delighted by the name itself... many in **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu** noted that the warship's crest resembles the traditional flexible sword of **Urumi** and **Kalaripayattu**," said Mr. Modi.
  "**पुदुचेरी** और **मालाबार तट** के लोग नाम से ही प्रसन्न थे... **केरल** और **तमिलनाडु** के कई लोगों ने ध्यान दिया कि युद्धपोत का चिह्न पारंपरिक **उरुमी** और **कलारीपयट्टु** तलवार जैसा दिखता है," श्री मोदी ने कहा।

- He underscored the importance of private space company **Skyroot's Infinity Campus** in giving a fresh boost to India's space ecosystem.
  उन्होंने भारत के अंतरिक्ष पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को नई गति देने में निजी अंतरिक्ष कंपनी **Skyroot के Infinity Campus** के महत्व पर जोर दिया।

- He also mentioned a challenge organised by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to fly drones in conditions similar to **Mars**, where **GPS navigation is not possible** and drones would suddenly fall to the ground.
  उन्होंने **भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO)** द्वारा आयोजित उस चुनौती का भी उल्लेख किया जिसमें **मंगल** जैसे वातावरण में ड्रोन उड़ाने थे, जहाँ **GPS नेविगेशन संभव नहीं** है और ड्रोन अचानक जमीन पर गिर सकते हैं।

- "The drones had to fly with the help of their cameras and inbuilt software...," he said, praising a team from **Pune** that succeeded in flying its drone in such conditions for some duration after multiple attempts.
  "ड्रोन को अपने कैमरे और इनबिल्ट सॉफ्टवेयर की मदद से उड़ना था...," उन्होंने कहा, और **पुणे** की टीम की प्रशंसा की जिसने कई प्रयासों के बाद ऐसी परिस्थितियों में कुछ समय तक ड्रोन उड़ाने में सफलता पाई।

Winter tourism
शीतकालीन पर्यटन

- Drawing attention to **winter tourism**, Mr. Modi urged people to visit the **Himalayan valleys**.
  शीतकालीन पर्यटन पर ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए, श्री मोदी ने लोगों से हिमालयी घाटियों का दौरा करने का आग्रह किया।

- He said this season **Uttarakhand** attracted a lot of people.
  उन्होंने कहा कि इस मौसम में उत्तराखंड ने बहुत से लोगों को आकर्षित किया।

- He said the **Winter Games** would be organised there soon.
  उन्होंने कहा कि वहाँ जल्द ही विंटर गेम्स आयोजित किए जाएंगे।

- The "**Wed in India**" campaign had also picked up in winter, he noted.
  उन्होंने कहा कि "**Wed in India**" अभियान ने भी सर्दियों में रफ़्तार पकड़ी है।

- On **Navy-related tourism**, he mentioned museums in **Gujarat's Diu** and **Goa** and those located in **INS Dronacharya (Fort Kochi)**; **Samudrika Naval Marine Museum** in **Srivijayapuram**, formerly known as **Port Blair**; **Rabindranath Tagore Beach** in **Karwar**; and **Visakhapatnam**.
  नौसेना-संबंधित पर्यटन पर, उन्होंने गुजरात के दीव और गोवा में स्थित संग्रहालयों का उल्लेख किया और INS द्रोणाचार्य (फोर्ट कोच्चि); समुद्रिका नेवल मरीन म्यूज़ियम श्रीविजयपुरम (पूर्व में पोर्ट ब्लेयर) में; रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर बीच कारवार में; और विशाखापत्तनम का भी उल्लेख किया।

World's Largest LEAP Engine MRO Facility – Hyderabad

• Hyderabad is set to host the **world's largest MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facility** for **LEAP engines** (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion).
• LEAP engines are produced by **CFM International**, a joint venture between **Safran (France)** and **GE Aerospace (USA)**.
• These engines power popular narrow-body aircraft such as the **Airbus A320neo** and **Boeing 737 MAX**.

• The new facility is being established by **Safran**, one of the world's leading aircraft engine manufacturers.
• Hyderabad will become a **global hub** for maintenance of LEAP engines used across the aviation industry.
• It is expected to be **the world's largest** LEAP engine MRO facility in terms of scale and servicing capacity.

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations	
TOPICS COVERED	01 December 2025
	Polity
1.	EC extends SIR deadline to Dec. 11 amid BLO distress EC ने BLO संकट के बीच SIR की समय-सीमा को 11 दिसंबर तक बढ़ाया

2.	**Centre's citizenship scrutiny power 'limited': EC** नागरिकता की जांच की केंद्र की शक्ति 'सीमित': निर्वाचन आयोग (EC)
3.	**The Chandigarh question** चंडीगढ़ का प्रश्न
	Governance
4.	**AIDS and TB fight — Tamil Nadu shows the way again** एड्स और टीबी लड़ाई — तमिलनाडु फिर से राह दिखाता है
	International Relations
5.	**Baikonur: gateway to the heavens** बैकॉनूर: स्वर्ग का प्रवेशद्वार
6.	**How Pakistan's judiciary is being undermined** पाकिस्तान की न्यायपालिका को कैसे कमजोर किया जा रहा है
7.	**Taiwan govt. to spend $40 billion to develop T-Dome air defence system** ताइवान सरकार द्वारा टी-डोम एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम विकसित करने के लिए $40 बिलियन खर्च करने की योजना

EC extends SIR deadline to Dec. 11 amid BLO distress

Draft list will be released on Dec. 16; final roll to be published on Feb. 14; BLOs can now share data with BLAs; Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will hold Assembly polls in 2026

GS II: Polity: Election

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Amid widespread reports of booth-level officers (BLO) facing severe stress, the Election Commission on Sunday extended the schedule of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in nine States and three Union Territories by a week.

The enumeration phase will now continue till December 11 instead of December 4.

The draft list will be released on December 16 instead of December 9 and the final roll will be published on February 14 instead of February 7, the EC said in a statement.

The second phase of the SIR, now underway, is set to cover 51 crore voters in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Most of the States last conducted an SIR of their voter lists between 2002 and 2004, and have nearly completed the mapping of current electors according to the last SIR.

The poll body said that 99.65% of enumeration forms have been distributed so far, and 84.30% completed forms have been digitised.

Uttar Pradesh has the lowest digitisation rate at 69.56%. West Bengal, where the ruling Trina-mool Congress has raised an alarm regarding pressure on BLOs, has completed the digitisation of 95.24% of forms.

Tight deadlines
Opposition parties have been questioning the tight deadlines in the SIR exercise, citing the deaths of BLOs, allegedly triggered by stress. The EC's decision to tweak the schedule also comes on the eve of the Winter Session of Parliament, which begins on Monday and is likely to see widespread protests over the SIR.

EC sources, however, said that an additional week is being given to allow BLOs, who are poll officials, sufficient time to share the names of absent, shifted, dead, and duplicate voters with BLAs, the booth-level agents appointed by political parties, before the draft rolls are published, so as to ensure full transparency.

Of the States included in the SIR's second phase, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will hold Assembly elections in 2026. Assam is also set to go to the polls in 2026, but is not part of the SIR process. Instead, a 'special revision' of its electoral rolls was announced separately.

The first phase of SIR was conducted in Bihar. and led to the deletion of more than 68 lakh names from the voter lists ahead of the State's election earlier this month.

Status update

The Election Commission on Sunday said 99.65% of enumeration forms for the special intensive revision of electoral rolls have been distributed so far

A booth-level officer (BLO) helping voters fill up enumeration forms in Kochi. H. VIBHU

- **84.30%** of the manually filled enumeration forms have been digitised
- Uttar Pradesh has the lowest digitisation rate at **69.56%.** West Bengal, where the ruling Trinamool Congress has raised alarm regarding pressure on BLOs, has completed digitisation of **95.24%** of forms

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EC extends SIR deadline to Dec. 11 amid BLO distress
EC ने BLO संकट के बीच SIR की समय-सीमा को 11 दिसंबर तक बढ़ाया

Draft list will be released on Dec. 16; final roll to be published on Feb. 14; BLOs can now share data with BLAs; Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will hold Assembly polls in 2026

ड्राफ्ट सूची 16 दिसंबर को जारी की जाएगी; अंतिम मतदाता सूची 14 फरवरी को प्रकाशित की जाएगी; BLO अब BLAs के साथ डेटा साझा कर सकते हैं; तमिलनाडु, पुडुचेरी, केरल और पश्चिम बंगाल में 2026 में विधानसभा चुनाव होंगे

- Amid widespread reports of **booth-level officers (BLO)** facing severe stress, the **Election Commission** on Sunday extended the schedule of the ongoing **special**

intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in **nine States** and **three Union Territories** by a week.

बूथ-स्तरीय अधिकारियों (BLO) पर गंभीर तनाव की व्यापक रिपोर्टों के बीच, **निर्वाचन आयोग** ने रविवार को मतदाता सूची के जारी **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** के कार्यक्रम को **नौ राज्यों** और **तीन केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों** में एक सप्ताह के लिए बढ़ा दिया।

- The enumeration phase will now continue till **December 11** instead of **December 4**.
  गणना चरण अब **4 दिसंबर** के बजाय **11 दिसंबर** तक जारी रहेगा।

- The draft list will be released on **December 16** instead of **December 9** and the final roll will be published on **February 14** instead of **February 7**, the EC said in a statement.
  EC ने एक बयान में कहा कि ड्राफ्ट सूची **9 दिसंबर** के बजाय **16 दिसंबर** को जारी की जाएगी और अंतिम सूची **7 फरवरी** के बजाय **14 फरवरी** को प्रकाशित की जाएगी।

- The second phase of the SIR, now underway, is set to cover **51 crore voters** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh**, and **West Bengal**.
  SIR का दूसरा चरण, जो अभी चल रहा है, **51 करोड़ मतदाताओं** को कवर करेगा, जिनमें **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप, लक्षद्वीप, छत्तीसगढ़, गोवा, गुजरात, केरल, मध्य प्रदेश, पुडुचेरी, राजस्थान, तमिलनाडु, उत्तर प्रदेश** और **पश्चिम बंगाल** शामिल हैं।

- Most of the States last conducted an SIR of their voter lists between **2002 and 2004**, and have nearly completed the mapping of current electors according to the last SIR.
  अधिकांश राज्यों ने अपने मतदाता सूचियों का अंतिम SIR **2002 से 2004** के बीच किया था, और उन्होंने पिछले SIR के अनुसार वर्तमान मतदाताओं की मैपिंग लगभग पूरी कर ली है।

- The poll body said that **99.65%** of enumeration forms have been distributed so far, and **84.30%** completed forms have been digitised.
  चुनाव निकाय ने कहा कि अब तक **99.65%** गणना फॉर्म वितरित किए जा चुके हैं, और **84.30%** पूर्ण फॉर्म का डिजिटलीकरण किया गया है।

- **Uttar Pradesh has the lowest digitisation rate at 69.56%.**
  उत्तर प्रदेश का डिजिटलीकरण दर सबसे कम **69.56%** है।

- **West Bengal**, where the ruling **Trinamool Congress** has raised an alarm regarding pressure on BLOs, has completed the digitisation of **95.24%** of forms.
  पश्चिम बंगाल, जहाँ सत्तारूढ़ **तृणमूल कांग्रेस** ने BLO पर दबाव को लेकर चिंता जताई है, ने **95.24%** फॉर्म का डिजिटलीकरण पूरा कर लिया है।

- Opposition parties have been questioning the **tight deadlines** in the SIR exercise, citing the **deaths of BLOs**, allegedly triggered by stress.
  विपक्षी दल SIR प्रक्रिया में **कड़े समय-सीमा** पर सवाल उठा रहे हैं, BLO की **मौतों** का हवाला देते हुए, जो कथित तौर पर तनाव के कारण हुईं।

- The EC's decision to tweak the schedule also comes on the eve of the **Winter Session of Parliament**, which begins on Monday and is likely to see widespread protests over the SIR.
  SIR को लेकर व्यापक विरोध की आशंका के बीच, **संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र** की पूर्वसंध्या पर EC का कार्यक्रम बदलने का फैसला आया है, जो सोमवार से शुरू होता है।

- EC sources, however, said that an additional week is being given to allow BLOs sufficient time to share the names of **absent, shifted, dead, and duplicate voters** with **BLAs**, before the draft rolls are published, to ensure full transparency.
  EC स्रोतों ने कहा कि पूर्ण पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए BLO को **अनुपस्थित, स्थानांतरित, मृत और डुप्लिकेट** मतदाताओं के नाम **BLA** के साथ साझा करने के लिए अतिरिक्त एक सप्ताह का समय दिया जा रहा है।

- Of the States included in the SIR's second phase, **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala**, and **West Bengal** will hold Assembly elections in **2026**.

  SIR के दूसरे चरण में शामिल राज्यों में से **तमिलनाडु, पुडुचेरी, केरल** और **पश्चिम बंगाल** में **2026** में विधानसभा चुनाव होंगे।

- **Assam** is also set to go to the polls in **2026**, but is not part of the SIR process. Instead, a **special revision** of its electoral rolls was announced separately.

  असम में भी **2026** में चुनाव होंगे, लेकिन वह SIR प्रक्रिया का हिस्सा नहीं है। इसके बजाय, उसकी मतदाता सूची का एक **विशेष पुनरीक्षण** अलग से घोषित किया गया है।

- The first phase of SIR was conducted in **Bihar**, and led to the deletion of more than **68 lakh** names from the voter lists ahead of the State's election earlier this month.

  SIR का पहला चरण **बिहार** में आयोजित किया गया था, और इससे राज्य के चुनाव से पहले इस महीने की शुरुआत में मतदाता सूची से **68 लाख** से अधिक नाम हटाए गए।

Centre's citizenship scrutiny power 'limited': EC

GS II: Polity: Citizenship

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has dismissed arguments raised in the special intensive revision (SIR) case by the Opposition parties that only the Centre had exclusive authority to scrutinise citizenship, saying the Centre's power was "limited" to inquiring into the circumstances in which Indian citizens voluntarily acquired foreign citizenship.

The commission referred to Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which deals with the termination of citizenship in cases of voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship. Section 9 vests in the Centre the authority to determine "when or how" an Indian citizen acquired foreign citizenship.

"The powers of the Central government are confined to reviewing the ac-

quisition of foreign citizenship, and whether based on such acquisition, the Indian citizenship of a person should be terminated... It is only for this limited purpose that the exclusive jurisdiction has been vested in the Centre, to the exclusion of all other authorities. Every other aspect related to citizenship can be inquired into by other authorities," the EC argued in a 184-page affidavit.

Concerns raised
The ruling parties and their leaders in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have described the SIR as citizenship screening. Parties, including the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, have alleged that the EC was misusing the revision of electoral rolls to conduct a "*de novo* National Register of Citizens".

The poll body asserted its authority to "assess citizenship" for the purpose

The EC asserted its authority to 'assess citizenship' for registration in the electoral rolls

of registration in electoral rolls. Indian citizenship is one of the constitutional preconditions under Article 326 for entry into the voter list. "Even if we assume, without conceding, it is only the Centre which can appraise citizenship, it is imperative to note that proof of citizenship sought from existing electors under the SIR exercise is for a limited purpose, that is, registration in the electoral rolls which enable the right to vote," the commission submitted. It emphasised that the SIR exercise was not meant to determine the status of citizenship.

The commission reiterated that its power to scru-

tinise citizenship flowed directly from Article 324, which empowered it to supervise and control the conduct of elections, and Article 326. No parliamentary law could oust the EC's jurisdiction, it said, noting that even the authority of Parliament to make laws on elections under Article 327 must align with the commission's plenary powers.

Robust check required
The Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1950, through Sections 16 and 19, requires that voters must be Indian citizens. Section 16 disqualifies non-citizens from being included in the electoral roll, and electors must be "ordinarily resident" in a constituency to be registered. An SIR, conducted under Section 21(3) of ROPA, had to be "intense" and was triggered by "felt necessities", it said.

"The guidelines issued with respect to the SIR are constitutional and in the interest of maintaining the purity of the electoral rolls, which is a pre-requisite for free and fair elections that forms a Basic Feature of the Constitution," it argued.

It denied the Opposition's claim that the SIR was unconstitutional because it shifted the burden of verification onto electors, who must fill up enumeration forms to avoid exclusion from the electoral rolls. The commission said the SIR was a "voter-friendly" and "cooperative exercise". Electors were required only to sign their pre-filled forms delivered at their homes by booth-level officers.

"This is a minimal requirement expected from electors who are unable to trace their eligibility to the previous SIR 2002," the EC said.

Centre's citizenship scrutiny power 'limited': EC
नागरिकता की जांच की केंद्र की शक्ति 'सीमित': निर्वाचन आयोग (EC)

The Election Commission (EC) has dismissed arguments raised in the special intensive revision (SIR) case by the Opposition parties that only the Centre had exclusive authority to scrutinise citizenship, saying the Centre's power was "limited" to inquiring into the circumstances in which Indian citizens voluntarily acquired foreign citizenship.

निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) ने विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) मामले में विपक्षी पार्टियों द्वारा उठाए गए उन तर्कों को खारिज कर दिया है कि केवल केंद्र के पास ही नागरिकता की जांच का विशेषाधिकार है, यह कहते हुए कि केंद्र की शक्ति "सीमित" है और केवल उन परिस्थितियों की जांच तक सीमित है जिनमें भारतीय नागरिकों ने स्वेच्छा से विदेशी नागरिकता ग्रहण की।

- The commission referred to **Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955**, which deals with the termination of citizenship in cases of voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship.

आयोग ने **नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955 की धारा 9** का उल्लेख किया, जो विदेशी नागरिकता के स्वैच्छिक अधिग्रहण की स्थिति में भारतीय नागरिकता के समाप्त होने से संबंधित है।

- Section 9 vests in the Centre the authority to determine "when or how" an Indian citizen acquired foreign citizenship.

  धारा 9 केंद्र को यह निर्धारित करने का अधिकार देती है कि किसी भारतीय नागरिक ने विदेशी नागरिकता "कब या कैसे" प्राप्त की।

- "The powers of the Central government are confined to reviewing the acquisition of foreign citizenship, and whether based on such acquisition, the Indian citizenship of a person should be terminated… It is only for this limited purpose that the exclusive jurisdiction has been vested in the Centre, to the exclusion of all other authorities.

  "केंद्र सरकार की शक्तियां विदेशी नागरिकता के अधिग्रहण की समीक्षा करने और इस आधार पर यह विचार करने तक **सीमित** हैं कि किसी व्यक्ति की भारतीय नागरिकता समाप्त की जानी चाहिए या नहीं… केवल इसी **सीमित उद्देश्य** के लिए केंद्र को विशिष्ट अधिकार क्षेत्र प्रदान किया गया है, अन्य सभी प्राधिकरणों को छोड़कर।

- Every other aspect related to citizenship can be inquired into by other authorities," the EC argued in a **184-page affidavit**.

  "नागरिकता से संबंधित अन्य सभी पहलुओं की जांच अन्य प्राधिकरणों द्वारा की जा सकती है," EC ने अपने **184-पृष्ठों के हलफ़नामे** में कहा।

Concerns raised
उठाई गई चिंताएँ

- The ruling parties and their leaders in **Tamil Nadu**, **Kerala** and **West Bengal** have described the SIR as citizenship screening.

  तमिलनाडु, **केरल** और **पश्चिम बंगाल** में सत्तारूढ़ पार्टियों और उनके नेताओं ने SIR को नागरिकता की जांच करार दिया है।

- Parties, including the **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)**, have alleged that the EC was misusing the revision of electoral rolls to conduct a "de novo National Register of Citizens".

  DMK सहित दलों ने आरोप लगाया है कि EC मतदाता सूची के पुनरीक्षण का दुरुपयोग कर रहा है ताकि "नया राष्ट्रीय नागरिक पंजीकरण (NRC)" तैयार किया जा सके।

- The poll body asserted its authority to "assess citizenship" for the purpose of registration in electoral rolls.

  चुनाव आयोग ने मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण के उद्देश्य से "नागरिकता का आकलन" करने का अपना अधिकार जताया।

- Indian citizenship is one of the constitutional preconditions under **Article 326** for entry into the voter list.

  मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण के लिए भारतीय नागरिकता **अनुच्छेद 326** के तहत संवैधानिक पूर्व-शर्तों में से एक है।

- "Even if we assume, without conceding, it is only the Centre which can appraise citizenship, it is imperative to note that proof of citizenship sought from existing electors under the SIR exercise is for a limited purpose, that is, registration in the electoral rolls which enable the right to vote," the commission submitted.

  "भले ही हम मान लें—बिना स्वीकार किए—कि केवल केंद्र ही नागरिकता का मूल्यांकन कर सकता है, यह ध्यान देना आवश्यक है कि SIR के तहत मौजूदा मतदाताओं से नागरिकता का प्रमाण केवल एक सीमित उद्देश्य, अर्थात् मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण और मतदान के अधिकार को सक्षम करने हेतु मांगा जा रहा है," आयोग ने कहा।

- It emphasised that the SIR exercise was not meant to determine the status of citizenship.

  आयोग ने जोर देकर कहा कि SIR का उद्देश्य नागरिकता की स्थिति निर्धारित करना नहीं है।

- The commission reiterated that its power to scrutinise citizenship flowed directly from **Article 324**, which empowered it to supervise and control the conduct of elections, and **Article 326**.

आयोग ने दोहराया कि नागरिकता की जांच करने की उसकी शक्ति **अनुच्छेद 324** से सीधे प्रवाहित होती है, जो उसे चुनावों की निगरानी और नियंत्रण का अधिकार देता है, तथा **अनुच्छेद 326** से।

- No parliamentary law could oust the EC's jurisdiction, it said, noting that even the authority of Parliament under **Article 327** must align with the commission's plenary powers.

  आयोग ने कहा कि कोई भी संसदीय कानून EC के अधिकार को समाप्त नहीं कर सकता और यहां तक कि **अनुच्छेद 327** के तहत संसद की शक्ति भी आयोग की व्यापक शक्तियों के अनुरूप होनी चाहिए।

Robust check required
मजबूत जांच आवश्यक

- The **Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1950**, through **Sections 16 and 19**, requires that voters must be Indian citizens.

  जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम (ROPA), 1950 की **धारा 16 और 19** के तहत मतदाताओं का भारतीय नागरिक होना अनिवार्य है।

- Section 16 disqualifies non-citizens from being included in the electoral roll, and electors must be "ordinarily resident" in a constituency to be registered.

  धारा 16 गैर-नागरिकों को मतदाता सूची में शामिल होने से अयोग्य ठहराती है और मतदाताओं का किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में "सामान्य निवासी" होना जरूरी है।

- An SIR, conducted under **Section 21(3) of ROPA**, had to be "intense" and was triggered by "felt necessities", it said.

  आयोग ने कहा कि **ROPA की धारा 21(3)** के तहत किया गया SIR "गहन" होना चाहिए और "अनुभूत आवश्यकताओं" के कारण शुरू किया गया था।

- "The guidelines issued with respect to the SIR are constitutional and in the interest of maintaining the purity of the electoral rolls, which is a pre-requisite for free and fair elections that forms a **Basic Feature of the Constitution**," it argued.

  आयोग ने तर्क दिया कि "SIR के संबंध में जारी दिशा-निर्देश संवैधानिक हैं और मतदाता सूची की शुद्धता बनाए रखने के हित में हैं, जो **संविधान की बुनियादी संरचना** के तहत स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों की पूर्व-शर्त है।"

- It denied the Opposition's claim that the SIR was unconstitutional because it shifted the burden of verification onto electors, who must fill up enumeration forms to avoid exclusion from the electoral rolls.

  आयोग ने विपक्ष के इस दावे को खारिज किया कि SIR असंवैधानिक है क्योंकि यह सत्यापन का बोझ मतदाताओं पर डालता है, जिन्हें मतदाता सूची से हटाए जाने से बचने के लिए नामांकन फॉर्म भरने होते हैं।

- The commission said the SIR was a "voter-friendly" and "cooperative exercise".

  आयोग ने कहा कि SIR एक "मतदाता-मित्र" और "सहयोगात्मक प्रक्रिया" है।

- Electors were required only to sign their pre-filled forms delivered at their homes by booth-level officers.

  मतदाताओं को केवल उन पूर्व-भरे फॉर्मों पर हस्ताक्षर करना होता है, जिन्हें बूथ-स्तरीय अधिकारियों द्वारा उनके घरों पर पहुँचाया जाता है।

- "This is a minimal requirement expected from electors who are unable to trace their eligibility to the previous SIR **2002**," the EC said.

  EC ने कहा, "यह एक न्यूनतम आवश्यकता है उन मतदाताओं के लिए जो अपनी पात्रता को पिछले SIR **2002** से जोड़कर नहीं बता पाते हैं।"

The Chandigarh question

It demands a political solution, not an administrative procedure

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva
vikas.vasudeva@thehindu.co.in

After a political furore, the Central government has backed away from introducing a Bill to include the Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240 of the Constitution. Article 240 empowers the President to make regulations for the peace, progress, and good governance of certain UTs that do not have their own legislatures. The government's attempt to introduce the Bill raised the fundamental question about the Centre's attempts at overreach in the country's federal structure.

In November, the Centre proposed to include Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240. As per a bulletin of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the government intended to bring the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, beginning December 1, 2025. It wanted "to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures – such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Puducherry – when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended."

The backlash was swift and intense from Punjab. The government then clarified that it would not introduce the Bill this session. The fact that stakeholders learned about this move through parliamentary bulletins rather than any structured dialogue raised the suspicion that the government was adopting a unilateral approach to concentrate authority in New Delhi.

The claim over Chandigarh

– the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana – has been a sensitive and emotive issue since the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. The Punjab governor serves as the Administrator of Chandigarh. Punjab has been asking for the handing over of Chandigarh, pointing out that the Agreement of 1970 stated that the capital project area of Chandigarh "would, as a whole, go to Punjab," which was a clear commitment from the Central government. In 1985, the Rajiv-Longowal Accord reaffirmed that Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab.

These unfulfilled commitments continue to fuel resentment and distrust between Punjab and the Central government. Earlier, the Centre's decision to restructure Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate – the university's governing bodies – was also met with stiff opposition and rescinded. Critics and political parties were quick to point out that introducing the change in Chandigarh through parliamentary bulletins revealed how little the Centre government respects the spirit of consultation, consensus, and shared governance – the nucleus of federal spirit.

The Ministry of Home Affairs later clarified its position, stating that the proposal did not seek to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure. The Ministry noted that "a suitable decision will be taken only after adequate consultations with all stakeholders, keeping in mind the interests of Chandigarh."

Punjab shares an international border with a hostile Pakistan, and it has been through a traumatic phase of militancy between the mid-1980s and early 1990s. Its geopolitical reality cannot be ignored and this is why Punjab needs to be dealt with sensitivity. Yet, it appears that the Central government's recent decisions on Chandigarh and Panjab University have been made at administrative or bureaucratic levels, bypassing political consultation and disregarding federal principles. This is a dangerous approach, especially for a border State with such a violent history. Rather than resolving the decades-old issue of Chandigarh's transfer, the Centre's actions signal an intent to consolidate control instead.

Against the backdrop of decisions surrounding Chandigarh being taken from New Delhi, several people in political circles, as well as others, feel that attempts are being made to negate regional politics, regional interests, and regional power. This negation and this top-down approach has resulted in reactions from several quarters in Punjab.

The Chandigarh question demands a political solution, not an administrative procedure. The decisions affecting Punjab's identity and territorial claims must involve genuine political dialogue and consensus-building, not bureaucratic notifications. For a border State with such a complex history, such moves, and the perceptions caused by them, carry serious consequences that extend beyond mere administrative efficiency.

सुशासन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

- The government's attempt to introduce the Bill raised the fundamental question about the Centre's attempts at **overreach** in the country's **federal structure**.

   विधेयक पेश करने के सरकार के प्रयास ने देश की **संघीय संरचना** में केंद्र की **अतिशय हस्तक्षेप** की कोशिशों पर मूलभूत प्रश्न उठाया।

- In **November**, the Centre proposed to include Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240.

   नवंबर में, केंद्र ने चंडीगढ़ को अनुच्छेद 240 के दायरे में शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव रखा।

- As per a bulletin of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the government intended to bring the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025**, in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, beginning **December 1, 2025**.

   लोकसभा और राज्यसभा के बुलेटिन के अनुसार, सरकार **संविधान (131वां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025** को **1 दिसंबर 2025** से शुरू होने वाले शीतकालीन सत्र में पेश करना चाहती थी।

- It wanted **"to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures — such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Puducherry — when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended."**

   यह "चंडीगढ़ को उन अन्य केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के अनुरूप लाना चाहती थी जिनकी विधायिका नहीं है — जैसे अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह, लक्षद्वीप, दादरा और नगर हवेली और दमन और दीव, और पुदुच्चेरी — जब उसकी विधानसभा भंग या निलंबित हो जाए।"

- The backlash was swift and intense from **Punjab**.

   पंजाब से प्रतिक्रिया तेज़ और कड़ी थी।

- The government then clarified that it would not introduce the Bill this session.

   सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि वह इस सत्र में विधेयक प्रस्तुत नहीं करेगी।

- The fact that stakeholders learned about this move through parliamentary bulletins rather than any structured dialogue raised the suspicion that the government was adopting a **unilateral approach** to concentrate authority in **New Delhi**.

   यह तथ्य कि हितधारकों को यह कदम संसदीय बुलेटिन के माध्यम से पता चला न कि किसी संरचित संवाद के माध्यम से, इस संदेह को बढ़ाता है कि सरकार **नई दिल्ली** में अधिकार केंद्रीकृत करने के लिए **एकतरफा दृष्टिकोण** अपना रही है।

Historical claims over Chandigarh
चंडीगढ़ पर ऐतिहासिक दावे

- The claim over Chandigarh — the **joint capital of Punjab and Haryana** — has been a sensitive and emotive issue since the **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**.

   चंडीगढ़ पर दावा — जो **पंजाब और हरियाणा की संयुक्त राजधानी है** — **पंजाब पुनर्गठन अधिनियम, 1966** से ही संवेदनशील और भावनात्मक मुद्दा बना हुआ है।

- The Punjab governor serves as the **Administrator of Chandigarh**.

   पंजाब के राज्यपाल **चंडीगढ़ के प्रशासक** के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

- Punjab has been asking for the handing over of Chandigarh, pointing out that the **Agreement of 1970** stated that the capital project area of Chandigarh "would, as a whole, go to Punjab," which was a clear commitment from the Central government.

   पंजाब लगातार चंडीगढ़ सौंपने की मांग करता रहा है, यह कहते हुए कि **1970 के समझौते** में कहा गया था कि चंडीगढ़ का राजधानी परियोजना क्षेत्र "समग्र रूप से पंजाब को जाएगा," जो केंद्र सरकार की स्पष्ट प्रतिबद्धता थी।

- In **1985**, the **Rajiv-Longowal Accord** reaffirmed that Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab.

   1985 में, **राजीव-लोंगोवाल समझौते** ने पुनः पुष्टि की कि चंडीगढ़ पंजाब को सौंपा जाएगा।

- These unfulfilled commitments continue to fuel resentment and distrust between Punjab and the Central government.

  ये अधूरे वादे पंजाब और केंद्र सरकार के बीच नाराज़गी और अविश्वास को जारी रखते हैं।

- Earlier, the Centre's decision to restructure **Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate** — the university's governing bodies — was also met with stiff opposition and rescinded.

  पहले, **पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय की सीनेट और सिंडिकेट** — जो विश्वविद्यालय की सर्वोच्च निकाय हैं — को पुनर्गठित करने के केंद्र के निर्णय का भी कड़ा विरोध हुआ और इसे वापस लेना पड़ा।

- Critics and political parties were quick to point out that introducing the change in Chandigarh through parliamentary bulletins revealed how little the Central government respects the spirit of **consultation, consensus, and shared governance** — the nucleus of **federal spirit**.

  आलोचकों और राजनीतिक दलों ने तुरंत संकेत दिया कि संसदीय बुलेटिन के माध्यम से चंडीगढ़ में यह बदलाव लाना दर्शाता है कि केंद्र सरकार **परामर्श, सहमति, और साझा शासन** — जो **संघीय भावना** का मूल है — का कितना कम सम्मान करती है।

Centre's clarification and Punjab's sensitivities

केंद्र की स्पष्टीकरण और पंजाब की संवेदनशीलताएँ

- The Ministry of Home Affairs later clarified its position, stating that the proposal did not seek to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure.

  गृह मंत्रालय ने बाद में अपनी स्थिति स्पष्ट की, यह कहते हुए कि प्रस्ताव चंडीगढ़ की शासन या प्रशासनिक संरचना को बदलने का प्रयास नहीं करता था।

- The Ministry noted that "a suitable decision will be taken only after adequate consultations with all stakeholders, keeping in mind the interests of **Chandigarh**."

  मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **चंडीगढ़** के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए "सभी हितधारकों से पर्याप्त परामर्श के बाद ही उचित निर्णय लिया जाएगा।"

- Punjab shares an **international border** with a hostile **Pakistan**, and it has been through a traumatic phase of militancy between the **mid-1980s and early 1990s**.

  पंजाब की सीमा शत्रुतापूर्ण **पाकिस्तान से लगती है**, और यह **1980 के मध्य से 1990 के शुरुआती वर्षों** तक उग्रवाद के दर्दनाक दौर से गुजरा है।

- Its geopolitical reality cannot be ignored and this is why Punjab needs to be dealt with sensitivity.

  इसकी भू-राजनीतिक वास्तविकता को नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं किया जा सकता और यही कारण है कि पंजाब के साथ संवेदनशीलता से व्यवहार आवश्यक है।

- Yet, it appears that the Central government's recent decisions on **Chandigarh** and **Panjab University** have been made at administrative or bureaucratic levels, bypassing political consultation and disregarding federal principles.

  फिर भी, ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि **चंडीगढ़** और **पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय** पर केंद्र सरकार के हालिया निर्णय प्रशासनिक या नौकरशाही स्तर पर लिए गए हैं, राजनीतिक परामर्श को दरकिनार करते हुए और संघीय सिद्धांतों को नज़रअंदाज़ करते हुए।

- This is a dangerous approach, especially for a border State with such a violent history.

  यह एक खतरनाक तरीका है, विशेषकर ऐसे सीमा राज्य के लिए जिसकी हिंसक इतिहास रहा है।

- Rather than resolving the decades-old issue of Chandigarh's transfer, the Centre's actions signal an intent to consolidate control instead.

  चंडीगढ़ के हस्तांतरण के दशकों पुराने मुद्दे को हल करने के बजाय, केंद्र की कार्रवाइयाँ नियंत्रण को मजबूत करने की मंशा दर्शाती हैं।

- Against the backdrop of decisions surrounding Chandigarh being taken from **New Delhi**, several people in political circles, as well as others, feel that attempts are being made to negate **regional politics, regional interests, and regional power**.

नई दिल्ली से चंडीगढ़ पर लिए जा रहे निर्णयों की पृष्ठभूमि में, राजनीतिक हलकों सहित कई लोगों का मानना है कि **क्षेत्रीय राजनीति, क्षेत्रीय हितों और क्षेत्रीय शक्ति** को नकारने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

- This negation and this top-down approach has resulted in reactions from several quarters in Punjab.
  यह निषेध और यह शीर्ष-से-नीचे दृष्टिकोण पंजाब के कई वर्गों में प्रतिक्रियाएँ उत्पन्न कर चुका है।

Need for political dialogue, not administrative action
प्रशासनिक कार्यवाही नहीं, राजनीतिक संवाद की आवश्यकता

- The Chandigarh question demands a political solution, not an administrative procedure.
  चंडीगढ़ का प्रश्न प्रशासनिक प्रक्रिया नहीं बल्कि राजनीतिक समाधान मांगता है।
- The decisions affecting Punjab's identity and territorial claims must involve genuine political dialogue and consensus-building, not bureaucratic notifications.
  पंजाब की पहचान और क्षेत्रीय दावों को प्रभावित करने वाले निर्णयों में वास्तविक राजनीतिक संवाद और सहमति-निर्माण शामिल होना चाहिए, न कि नौकरशाही अधिसूचनाएँ।

- For a border State with such a complex history, such moves, and the perceptions caused by them, carry serious consequences that extend beyond mere administrative efficiency.
  ऐसे जटिल इतिहास वाले सीमा राज्य के लिए, इस प्रकार के कदम और उनसे उत्पन्न धारणाएँ केवल प्रशासनिक दक्षता से कहीं आगे गंभीर परिणाम उत्पन्न करती हैं।

Questions and Answers to the November 28 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This term denotes the idea that progress arises as a synthesis of opposing views. **Ans: Dialectic**
2. Name the German philosopher who influenced Engels. **Ans: Hegel**
3. The condition of the working class in this country is considered to be the first major socialist work by Engels. **Ans: England**
4. Name the organisation in which both Engels and Marx were key members. **Ans: The Communist League**
5: Name the unfinished work of Engels which was published in the Soviet Union in 1925. **Ans: Dialectics of Nature**

Greek Origins
यूनानी उत्पत्ति

QUIZ
क्विज़

Dialectic
डायलेक्टिक

• This term denotes the idea that progress arises as a synthesis of opposing views
• यह शब्द उस विचार को दर्शाता है कि **प्रगति** विरोधी विचारों के **सिंथेसिस** के रूप में उत्पन्न होती है।

- Dialectic refers to a method of reasoning in which progress takes place through the interaction of opposing ideas.
  डायलेक्टिक तर्क की उस पद्धति को संदर्भित करता है जिसमें **विरोधी विचारों** की परस्पर क्रिया के माध्यम से **प्रगति** होती है।
- It explains how contradictions drive change, rather than obstruct it.
  यह बताता है कि कैसे **विरोधाभास** परिवर्तन को आगे बढ़ाते हैं, न कि उसे बाधित करते हैं।
- Core idea: Opposition → Conflict → Resolution → Progress.
  मुख्य विचार: विरोध → संघर्ष → समाधान → **प्रगति।**

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

- Early traces in **Heraclitus**, who believed that conflict and change are inherent to nature.
  प्रारंभिक संकेत **हेराक्लिटस** में मिलते हैं, जो मानते थे कि संघर्ष और परिवर्तन प्रकृति के अभिन्न अंग हैं।
- **Socrates** and **Plato** used dialectics in dialogues to uncover deeper truths through questioning and counter-arguments.
  सुकरात और **प्लेटो** ने संवादों में प्रश्न और प्रत्युत्तर के माध्यम से गहन सत्य खोजने के लिए डायलेक्टिक का उपयोग किया।

Hegel's Dialectic (Idealist Dialectic)
हेगेल का डायलेक्टिक (आदर्शवादी डायलेक्टिक)

- **G.W.F. Hegel** developed a structured form of dialectics where history and ideas evolve through internal contradictions.
  जी.डब्ल्यू.एफ. हेगेल ने डायलेक्टिक का एक संरचित रूप विकसित किया जिसमें इतिहास और विचार आंतरिक **विरोधाभासों** के माध्यम से विकसित होते हैं।
- Although commonly described as thesis–antithesis–synthesis, Hegel himself used different terminology—but the underlying logic is the same.
  यद्यपि इसे सामान्यतः थीसिस–एंटीथीसिस–सिंथेसिस के रूप में वर्णित किया जाता है, हेगेल ने भिन्न शब्दावली का उपयोग किया—लेकिन मूल तर्क समान है।

Marx's Dialectical Materialism
मार्क्स का द्वंद्वात्मक भौतिकवाद

- **Karl Marx** adapted Hegel's idea but applied it to material conditions, not abstract ideas.
  कार्ल मार्क्स ने हेगेल के विचार को अपनाया लेकिन इसे अमूर्त विचारों के बजाय **भौतिक परिस्थितियों** पर लागू किया।
- For Marx, economic contradictions (e.g., between workers and owners) drive historical change.
  मार्क्स के लिए, आर्थिक **विरोधाभास** (जैसे श्रमिकों और मालिकों के बीच) ऐतिहासिक परिवर्तन को आगे बढ़ाते हैं।
- Progress emerges through the resolution of contradictions within production, class relations, and society.
  प्रगति उत्पादन, वर्ग संबंधों और समाज के भीतर विरोधाभासों के समाधान से उत्पन्न होती है।

Why Dialectic Matters
डायलेक्टिक क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

- It offers a dynamic model of change, unlike static or linear models.
  यह परिवर्तन का एक **गतिशील मॉडल** प्रदान करता है, स्थिर या रैखिक मॉडलों के विपरीत।
- Helps understand social, political, economic, scientific, and philosophical progress.
  सामाजिक, राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, वैज्ञानिक और दार्शनिक **प्रगति** को समझने में मदद करता है।
- Explains why contradictions are necessary for transformation.
  यह बताता है कि **परिवर्तन** के लिए विरोधाभास क्यों आवश्यक हैं।

Baikonur: gateway to the heavens

The Baikonur cosmodrome is a spaceport in Kazakhstan that Russia leases and operates as the site of its space launches. It was built in the 1950s first as a missile test range before becoming the centre of the Soviet space programme. The R-7 rocket launched Sputnik 1 in 1957 and Vostok 1 in 1961, which carried Yuri Gagarin on the first human spaceflight, from here. Later missions from here launched other cosmonauts, space station modules, and interplanetary probes.

The cosmodrome is located on the Kazakh steppe and contains launch complexes, assembly buildings, tracking stations, and housing. Its facilities can accommodate the Proton and Soyuz rockets and cargo ships intended for the International Space Station. It has two crewed-launch pads: Site 1 and Site 31/6, which now handles Soyuz flights. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan retained ownership of the site and agreed to lease it to Russia under agreements that run until 2050.

Baikonur has also seen accidents. In 1960, an R-16 missile exploded on the pad in an event called the Nedelin catastrophe, and many people were killed. Just last week, during the Soyuz MS-28 mission on November 27, the launch of a Soyuz-2.1a rocket damaged Site 31/6, bringing down a service platform into the flame trench

The Soyuz MS-27 spacecraft blasting off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. AFP

and forcing authorities to suspend crewed operations.
Engineers are currently assessing the damage and plan repairs so that later missions can continue to launch from Kazakhstan while Russia develops other launch sites on its territory.

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Baikonur: gateway to the heavens
बैकॉनूर: स्वर्ग का प्रवेशद्वार

The Baikonur cosmodrome
बैकनूर कोस्मोड्रोम

- The **Baikonur cosmodrome is a spaceport in Kazakhstan** that Russia leases and operates as the site of its space launches.
  बैकनूर कोस्मोड्रोम कज़ाखस्तान में एक अंतरिक्ष बंदरगाह है जिसे रूस लीज़ पर लेता है और अपने अंतरिक्ष प्रक्षेपणों के स्थल के रूप में संचालित करता है।

- **It was built in the 1950s first as a missile test range before becoming the centre of the Soviet space programme.**
  यह 1950s में पहले एक मिसाइल परीक्षण रेंज के रूप में बनाया गया था, इसके बाद यह सोवियत अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम का केंद्र बना।

- The R-7 rocket launched Sputnik 1 in 1957 and Vostok 1 in 1961, which carried Yuri Gagarin on the first human spaceflight, from here.
  R-7 रॉकेट ने यहीं से स्पुतनिक 1 को 1957 में और वोस्तोक 1 को 1961 में लॉन्च किया, जिसने यूरी गागरिन को पहली मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान पर भेजा।

- Later missions from here launched other cosmonauts, space station modules, and interplanetary probes.
  बाद के मिशनों में यहाँ से अन्य कॉस्मोनॉट्स, स्पेस स्टेशन मॉड्यूल्स, और इंटरप्लानेटरी प्रोब्स भी लॉन्च किए गए।

- The cosmodrome is located on the Kazakh steppe and contains launch complexes, assembly buildings, tracking stations, and housing.
  यह कोस्मोड्रोम कज़ाख स्टेप्पे पर स्थित है और इसमें लॉन्च कॉम्प्लेक्स, असेंबली बिल्डिंग्स, ट्रैकिंग स्टेशन, और आवास शामिल हैं।

- Its facilities can accommodate the Proton and Soyuz rockets and cargo ships intended for the International Space Station.
  इसकी सुविधाएँ प्रोटॉन और सोयुज़ रॉकेट्स तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन के लिए निर्धारित कार्गो शिप्स को संभाल सकती हैं।

- It has two crewed-launch pads: Site 1 and Site 31/6, which now handles Soyuz flights.
  इसमें दो मानव-सहित प्रक्षेपण पैड हैं: साइट 1 और साइट 31/6, जो अब सोयुज़ उड़ानों को संभालता है।

- After the fall of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan retained ownership of the site and agreed to lease it to Russia under agreements that run until 2050.

सोवियत संघ के पतन के बाद, **कज़ाख़स्तान** ने इस स्थल का स्वामित्व बनाए रखा और इसे रूस को **2050** तक लीज़ पर देने पर सहमति जताई।

- Baikonur has also seen accidents.

  बैकनूर ने दुर्घटनाएँ भी देखी हैं।

- In 1960, an R-16 missile exploded on the pad in an event called the Nedelin catastrophe, and many people were killed.

  1960 में एक **R-16 मिसाइल** पैड पर फट गई, जिसे **नेडेलिन कैटास्ट्रॉफी** कहा जाता है, और कई लोग मारे गए।

- Just last week, during the Soyuz MS-28 mission on **November 27**, the launch of a **Soyuz-2.1a** rocket damaged Site 31/6, bringing down a service platform into the flame trench and forcing authorities to suspend crewed operations.

  पिछले सप्ताह, **27 नवंबर**, **सोयुज़ MS-28 मिशन** के दौरान, **सोयुज़-2.1a** रॉकेट के प्रक्षेपण से **साइट 31/6** को नुकसान पहुँचा, जिससे एक **सर्विस प्लेटफ़ॉर्म** फ्लेम ट्रेंच में गिर गया और अधिकारियों को **मानव-सहित अभियानों** को निलंबित करना पड़ा।

- Engineers are currently assessing the damage and plan repairs so that later missions can continue to launch from Kazakhstan while Russia develops other launch sites on its territory.

  इंजीनियर वर्तमान में **नुकसान का आकलन** कर रहे हैं और **मरम्मत की योजना** बना रहे हैं ताकि भविष्य के मिशन **कज़ाख़स्तान** से जारी रह सकें, जबकि रूस अपने क्षेत्र में अन्य **लॉन्च स्थल** विकसित कर रहा है।

How Pakistan's judiciary is being undermined

Why has the 27th amendment created a new Federal Constitutional Court? Does it curtail the role and powers of Pakistan's Supreme Court? What did the 26th amendment mandate? Has the judiciary and the executive faced off before? What is the way forward?

GS II: IR: India's Neighbours
MOB
EXPLAINER

D. Suba Chandran

The story so far:

On November 12-13, Pakistan's National Assembly and the Senate passed the 27th amendment, with the President also giving his assent. While the amendment introduces new provisions in the military command structure, it has far-reaching implications for Pakistan's judiciary. The amendment has created a new Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), and has curtailed the Supreme Court's role as the custodian of the Constitution, thereby reducing the judiciary's independence. Three judges from the Supreme and High Courts have already resigned in protest against the 27th amendment, while four judges from the Islamabad High Court have appealed against it.

What are the implications?

The 27th amendment will affect the judiciary's independence in the following ways. First, the creation of a new FCC to address issues relating to the Constitution and federal-provincial relations would mean that the Supreme Court would no longer have its original jurisdiction. Thus, the Supreme Court would not hear cases relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, fundamental rights, or questions of federal-provincial relations. In recent years, the Supreme Court had used its original jurisdiction to deliberate on a few high profile political developments including the Panama Case (which resulted in the formation of a Joint Investigation Team and the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif, the then Prime Minister in 2017) and the Memogate (in which Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S. was investigated on whether he authored a memo that asked the U.S. to support the civilian government in 2011, then led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and prevent a coup).

Second, the 27th amendment provides the executive with the power to transfer judges without their consent. Critics of the amendment argue that this provision would enable the executive to transfer judges who do not toe its line. Though the executive has to follow certain procedures, in effect, it could transfer judges to secure its choice or to penalise those who disagree with it. This would significantly undermine the judiciary's independence at the higher level. The real reason for the creation of an FCC – though the executive is trying to justify it in terms of necessity – is to pick those judges who will be amenable, especially with respect to constitutional matters. The pace at which the FCC's chief justice has been appointed, along with other judges, and the space it found for itself in the Islamabad High Court premises, the critics argue, is part of a plan to subvert the Supreme Court's "over reach" on constitutional matters.

Third, is the effect the relationship between the FCC and the Supreme Court will have on the judiciary. While a section of judges and lawyers are against the amendment and the FCC, another section has accepted it and is even ready to join it. While senior and former judges have been demanding a "Full Court Meeting," it did little when it met during the third week of November. Today, the FCC already has a Chief Justice and a few other judges; it has also started entertaining cases in the first week of its existence. The judiciary seems divided, and this will only further weaken it.

Overall, the 27th amendment gives the executive and the legislature an edge over the judiciary, thereby undermining the essence of the balance of power in a constitutional democracy. It also undermines one of the crowning successes of the 18th amendment, which aimed to depoliticise the judiciary and make it independent. The 18th amendment, passed in 2010 by the PPP government, provided for a Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) to recommend the names of new judges, thereby giving more space to the judiciary; the 27th amendment makes it redundant.

Why is the government trying to undermine the rule of law?

Separation of powers and an independent judiciary are essential for any constitutional democracy, especially Pakistan. Political parties of Pakistan should know this, given the challenge from the Establishment (Pakistan's military complex) to democracy and its institutions. An independent judiciary will remain the only institution that could protect, if at all, overreach from the Establishment.

One of the reasons for introducing the amendment has been that it will reduce the caseload of the higher judiciary. However, this argument is flawed, as most delays occur in the lower courts. According to the letter drafted by Judge Mansoor Ali Shah, quoting the Law Commission of Pakistan, of the 2.26 million pending cases, 82% were at the district courts, and less than 3% were pending at the Supreme Court.

The real motivations of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) government are to clip the wings of the Supreme Court and reduce it to a Court of Appeals by removing its original jurisdiction.

What is the amendment's history?

It all started with the 26th amendment, which was passed by the PML-N government in 2024. It altered the composition of the JCP. In 2010, the 18th amendment had mandated that the JCP be comprised of judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts. The 26th amendment altered the composition by bringing in more members from the executive, thereby undermining the selection of judges for the higher courts. The JCP now has more members from the political side. The 26th amendment also granted the JCP the power to appoint constitutional benches, thereby removing the Chief Justice of Pakistan's power to appoint benches.

The 26th and 27th amendments are not the first time that the executive in Pakistan has attempted to undermine the judiciary. The higher judiciary's relationship with both the military and the political executive has been troubled since Pakistan's independence. During the first four decades, the judiciary took a tough pill to defend the unconstitutional actions taken by its military dictators such as Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan and Zia-ul-Haq. The Supreme Court invoked the "Doctrine of Necessity" to look the other way as military rulers tore up the Constitution. Zia was even quoted as saying that the Constitution was a "piece of paper" that could be torn at any time.

In the 1990s, the judiciary was brought into the centre of the power struggle between the Presidents and the Prime Ministers. When the President dismissed the PM, backed by the Establishment, the Supreme Court had to intervene by either justifying the dismissal (Benazir Bhutto's dismissals in 1990 and 1996) or by restoring the government (Nawaz Sharif's government in 1993).

The judiciary confronted a political executive for the first time in 1996, when Nawaz Sharif tried to remove the Chief Justice. It led to PML-N party members storming the Supreme Court, thereby starting an uncomfortable relationship between the two. Later in 2017, the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif in the Panama Papers case – an issue that many consider an overreach by the Court.

Since the confrontation between Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and President Pervez Musharraf in 2007, which triggered the Lawyers' movement, the judiciary has been assertive against both the political executive and the Establishment.

The judicial assertion reached its peak under the Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Six judges of the Islamabad High Court wrote an open letter complaining of coercion and even intimidation by the intelligence agencies.

This might have prompted the military and the political executive to assert control over the judiciary. The 26th amendment started the process; and the 27th has taken it forward.

What next?

The FCC has already started functioning. The opposition and a section of the legal community have warned of a confrontation in the streets. There is also civil society support for maintaining the independence of the higher judiciary. But, the two major political parties, the PPP and the PML-N stand together, and are supported by the Establishment.

More importantly, the judiciary stands divided – while a few (three so far, including Supreme Court judges Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah) have resigned, others have agreed to serve on the new FCC.

Given the political and societal issues facing Pakistan, and the questions of accountability, especially in higher institutions, as the recent International Monetary Fund report highlighted, an independent judiciary is essential for Pakistan. Unfortunately, the 27th amendment undermines that.

D. Suba Chandran is Professor and Dean at the school of conflict and security studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

Point of no return: The Supreme Court of Pakistan in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2023. REUTERS

THE GIST

▼ The creation of a new FCC to address issues relating to the Constitution and federal-provincial relations would mean that the Supreme Court would no longer have its original jurisdiction.

▼ The 27th amendment provides the executive with the power to transfer judges without their consent. Critics of the amendment argue that this provision would enable the executive to transfer judges who do not toe its line.

▼ Given the political and societal issues facing Pakistan, and the questions of accountability, especially in higher institutions, as the recent International Monetary Fund report highlighted, an independent judiciary is essential for Pakistan.

How Pakistan's judiciary is being undermined
पाकिस्तान की न्यायपालिका को कैसे कमजोर किया जा रहा है

Pakistan's 27th Amendment and its impact on the judiciary
पाकिस्तान का 27वां संशोधन और न्यायपालिका पर इसका प्रभाव

- On **November 12-13**, Pakistan's National Assembly and the Senate passed the **27th amendment**, with the President also giving his assent.
   12-13 नवंबर को पाकिस्तान की नेशनल असेंबली और सीनेट ने **27वां संशोधन** पारित किया, और राष्ट्रपति ने भी अपनी स्वीकृति दी।

- While the amendment introduces new provisions in the **military command structure**, it has far-reaching implications for Pakistan's **judiciary**.
   यह संशोधन **सैन्य कमान संरचना** में नए प्रावधान लाता है, लेकिन इसका पाकिस्तान की **न्यायपालिका** पर व्यापक प्रभाव पड़ता है।

- The amendment has created a new **Federal Constitutional Court (FCC)**, and has curtailed the Supreme Court's role as the custodian of the Constitution, thereby reducing the judiciary's independence.
   संशोधन ने एक नया **संघीय संवैधानिक न्यायालय (FCC)** स्थापित किया है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट की संविधान के संरक्षक की भूमिका को सीमित कर दिया है, जिससे न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता कम हुई है।

- Three judges from the Supreme and High Courts have already resigned in protest against the 27th amendment, while four judges from the Islamabad High Court have appealed against it.
   सुप्रीम और हाई कोर्ट के तीन न्यायाधीश **27वें संशोधन** के विरोध में इस्तीफा दे चुके हैं, जबकि इस्लामाबाद हाई कोर्ट के चार न्यायाधीशों ने इसके खिलाफ अपील की है।

What are the implications?
इसके क्या प्रभाव हैं?

- The **27th amendment** will affect the judiciary's independence in the following ways.
   27वां संशोधन निम्न तरीकों से न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता को प्रभावित करेगा।

- First, the creation of a new **FCC** to address issues relating to the Constitution and federal-provincial relations would mean that the **Supreme Court** would no longer have its **original jurisdiction**.
   पहला, संविधान और संघ-प्रांतीय संबंधों से जुड़े मुद्दों के समाधान के लिए नए **FCC** की स्थापना का अर्थ है कि **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के पास अब **मूल अधिकारिता** नहीं रहेगी।

- Thus, the Supreme Court would not hear cases relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, fundamental rights, or questions of federal-provincial relations.
   इस प्रकार, सुप्रीम कोर्ट संविधान की व्याख्या, मौलिक अधिकारों या संघ-प्रांतीय संबंधों से जुड़े मामलों की सुनवाई नहीं करेगा।

- In recent years, the Supreme Court had used its original jurisdiction to deliberate on high-profile developments including the **Panama Case** (which resulted in the formation of a JIT and the disqualification of **Nawaz Sharif** in **2017**) and **Memogate** (in **2011**, involving Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S.).
   हाल के वर्षों में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपनी मूल अधिकारिता का उपयोग **पनामा केस** (जिससे **2017** में JIT का गठन और **नवाज़ शरीफ** की अयोग्यता हुई) और **मेमोगेट** (**2011**) जैसे मामलों की सुनवाई के लिए किया था।

Executive control over judicial transfers
न्यायाधीशों के तबादलों पर कार्यपालिका का नियंत्रण

- Second, the **27th amendment** provides the executive with the power to **transfer judges without their consent**.
   दूसरा, **27वां संशोधन** कार्यपालिका को न्यायाधीशों को **उनकी सहमति के बिना स्थानांतरित करने** की शक्ति देता है।

- Critics argue that this could allow the executive to transfer judges who do not toe its line.
  आलोचकों का कहना है कि इससे कार्यपालिका उन न्यायाधीशों को स्थानांतरित कर सकती है जो उसके अनुरूप नहीं चलते।

- Though procedures exist, the executive could transfer judges to secure its choice or penalise those who disagree with it.
  हालाँकि प्रक्रियाएँ मौजूद हैं, कार्यपालिका न्यायाधीशों को अपनी पसंद लागू करने या असहमति जताने वालों को दंडित करने के लिए स्थानांतरित कर सकती है।

- This would significantly undermine the higher judiciary's independence.
  यह उच्च न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता को गंभीर रूप से कमजोर करेगा।

- The real reason for the creation of an **FCC**, critics say, is to pick judges who will be **amenable**, especially in constitutional matters.
  आलोचकों का कहना है कि **FCC** बनाने का वास्तविक कारण ऐसे न्यायाधीश चुनना है जो **अनुकूल** हों, विशेषकर संवैधानिक मामलों में।

- The pace of appointment of the FCC's Chief Justice and other judges, and securing space in the Islamabad High Court premises, is seen as part of a plan to subvert the Supreme Court's "overreach."
  FCC के मुख्य न्यायाधीश और अन्य न्यायाधीशों की तेज़ नियुक्ति और इस्लामाबाद हाई कोर्ट में स्थान का तुरंत आवंटन सुप्रीम कोर्ट की "अधिकारिता" को कमजोर करने की योजना का हिस्सा माना जा रहा है।

A divided judiciary
विभाजित न्यायपालिका

- Third, is the effect the relationship between the **FCC** and the **Supreme Court** will have on the judiciary.
  तीसरा, **FCC** और **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के बीच संबंध न्यायपालिका को प्रभावित करेगा।

- While a section of judges and lawyers oppose the amendment and the FCC, another section has accepted it and is ready to join it.
  जहाँ कुछ न्यायाधीश और वकील संशोधन और FCC का विरोध कर रहे हैं, वहीं कुछ इसे स्वीकार कर रहे हैं और इसमें शामिल होने को तैयार हैं।

- Senior and former judges have demanded a **Full Court Meeting**, but when it finally met in the **third week of November**, it achieved little.
  वरिष्ठ और पूर्व न्यायाधीशों ने **फुल कोर्ट मीटिंग** की मांग की, लेकिन **नवंबर के तीसरे सप्ताह** में हुई बैठक में कोई ठोस निर्णय नहीं निकला।

- Today, the **FCC** already has a Chief Justice and a few judges; it has also started entertaining cases in the first week of its existence.
  आज, **FCC** के पास मुख्य न्यायाधीश और कुछ अन्य न्यायाधीश मौजूद हैं; इसने अपने पहले सप्ताह में ही मामलों की सुनवाई शुरू कर दी है।

- The judiciary seems divided, and this will only further weaken it.
  न्यायपालिका विभाजित दिखाई देती है, और यह इसे और कमजोर करेगा।

Impact on balance of power and the 18th amendment
शक्ति संतुलन और 18वें संशोधन पर प्रभाव

- Overall, the **27th amendment** gives the executive and legislature an edge over the judiciary, undermining the balance of power in a constitutional democracy.
  समग्र रूप से, **27वां संशोधन** कार्यपालिका और विधायिका को न्यायपालिका पर बढ़त देता है, जिससे संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र में शक्ति संतुलन कमजोर होता है।

- It undermines one of the achievements of the **18th amendment**, which aimed to depoliticise the judiciary and make it independent.

यह **18वें संशोधन** की एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि को कमजोर करता है, जिसका उद्देश्य न्यायपालिका का राजनीतिकरण समाप्त कर उसे स्वतंत्र बनाना था।

- The **18th amendment**, passed in **2010**, created the **Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP)** to recommend names of judges, increasing judicial autonomy; the **27th amendment** makes this redundant.

  2010 में पारित **18वें संशोधन** ने न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति हेतु **ज्यूडिशियल कमीशन ऑफ पाकिस्तान (JCP)** बनाया था, जिससे न्यायपालिका की स्वायत्तता बढ़ी; **27वां संशोधन** इसे अप्रासंगिक बना देता है।

Why is the government trying to undermine the rule of law
सरकार कानून के शासन को कमजोर करने की कोशिश क्यों कर रही है

- Separation of powers and an **independent judiciary** are essential for any constitutional democracy, especially Pakistan.

  सत्ता का विभाजन और **स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका** किसी भी संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक हैं, विशेषकर पाकिस्तान के लिए।

- Political parties of Pakistan should know this, given the challenge from the **Establishment (Pakistan's military complex)** to democracy and its institutions.

  पाकिस्तान की राजनीतिक पार्टियों को यह समझना चाहिए, क्योंकि लोकतंत्र और उसके संस्थानों के सामने **एस्टैब्लिशमेंट (पाकिस्तान की सैन्य व्यवस्था)** से चुनौती रही है।

- An independent judiciary will remain the only institution that could protect, if at all, overreach from the Establishment.

  एक स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका ही वह संस्था है जो एस्टैब्लिशमेंट की अति-हस्तक्षेप से सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकती है।

- One of the reasons for introducing the amendment has been that it will reduce the **caseload** of the higher judiciary.

  संशोधन का एक कारण यह बताया गया कि इससे उच्च न्यायपालिका का **मुकदमों का बोझ** कम होगा।

- However, this argument is flawed, as most delays occur in the **lower courts**.

  हालाँकि यह तर्क त्रुटिपूर्ण है, क्योंकि अधिकांश देरी **निचली अदालतों** में होती है।

- According to the letter drafted by Judge **Mansoor Ali Shah**, quoting the **Law Commission of Pakistan**, of the **2.26 million** pending cases, **82%** were at the district courts, and less than **3%** were pending at the Supreme Court.

  जज **मंसूर अली शाह** द्वारा लिखे पत्र के अनुसार, **पाकिस्तान के विधि आयोग** के हवाले से, **2.26 मिलियन** लंबित मामलों में से 82% जिला अदालतों में थे और **3% से कम** सुप्रीम कोर्ट में लंबित थे।

- The real motivations of the **Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N)** government are to clip the wings of the Supreme Court and reduce it to a **Court of Appeals** by removing its **original jurisdiction**.

  पाकिस्तान मुस्लिम लीग (न) (PML-N) सरकार की वास्तविक मंशा सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अधिकारों को सीमित करना और उसकी **मूल अधिकारिता** हटाकर उसे केवल **कोर्ट ऑफ अपील्स** तक सीमित करना है।

What is the amendment's history
संशोधन का इतिहास क्या है

- It all started with the **26th amendment**, which was passed by the PML-N government in **2024**.

  यह सब **26वें संशोधन** से शुरू हुआ, जिसे **2024** में PML-N सरकार ने पारित किया।

- It altered the composition of the **JCP (Judicial Commission of Pakistan)**.

  इसने **ज्यूडिशियल कमीशन ऑफ पाकिस्तान (JCP)** की संरचना बदल दी।

- In **2010**, the **18th amendment** had mandated that the JCP be comprised of judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts.

  2010 में **18वें संशोधन** ने अनिवार्य किया था कि JCP में सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश शामिल हों।

- The **26th amendment** altered the composition by bringing in more members from the **executive**, thereby undermining the selection of judges for the higher courts.
  26वें संशोधन ने संरचना बदलकर इसमें **कार्यपालिका** के अधिक सदस्यों को शामिल कर लिया, जिससे उच्च न्यायालयों के न्यायाधीशों के चयन को कमजोर किया।

- The JCP now has more members from the **political side**.
  अब JCP में **राजनीतिक पक्ष** के अधिक सदस्य हैं।

- The **26th amendment** also granted the JCP the power to appoint **constitutional benches**, thereby removing the Chief Justice of Pakistan's power to appoint benches.
  26वें संशोधन ने JCP को **संवैधानिक पीठों** की नियुक्ति का अधिकार भी दे दिया, जिससे पाकिस्तान के मुख्य न्यायाधीश की पीठ नियुक्त करने की शक्ति समाप्त हो गई।

- The **26th and 27th amendments** are not the first time that the executive in Pakistan has attempted to undermine the judiciary.
  26वां और 27वां संशोधन पहली बार नहीं है जब पाकिस्तान की कार्यपालिका ने न्यायपालिका को कमजोर करने की कोशिश की हो।

Judiciary's troubled history with the military and executive
न्यायपालिका का सैन्य और कार्यपालिका के साथ विवादित इतिहास

- The higher judiciary's relationship with both the **military** and the **political executive** has been troubled since Pakistan's independence.
  उच्च न्यायपालिका का **सैन्य नेतृत्व** और **राजनीतिक कार्यपालिका** दोनों के साथ संबंध पाकिस्तान की स्वतंत्रता से ही विवादास्पद रहे हैं।

- During the first four decades, the judiciary defended the unconstitutional actions of military dictators such as **Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan**, and **Zia-ul-Haq**.
  पहले चार दशकों में न्यायपालिका ने **अय्यूब खान, याह्या खान** और **ज़िया-उल-हक़** जैसे सैन्य तानाशाहों के असंवैधानिक कार्यों को संरक्षण दिया।

- The Supreme Court invoked the **Doctrine of Necessity**, allowing military rulers to tear up the Constitution.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **अनिवार्यता के सिद्धांत (Doctrine of Necessity)** का उपयोग किया, जिससे सैन्य शासकों को संविधान तोड़ने की अनुमति मिल गई।

- **Zia-ul-Haq** even said that the Constitution was a "piece of paper" that could be torn any time.
  ज़िया-उल-हक़ ने यहाँ तक कहा था कि संविधान "कागज़ का टुकड़ा" है जिसे कभी भी फाड़ा जा सकता है।

- In the **1990s**, the judiciary was drawn into the power struggle between Presidents and Prime Ministers.
  1990 के दशक में न्यायपालिका राष्ट्रपति और प्रधानमंत्री के बीच सत्ता संघर्ष में घसीट ली गई।

- The Supreme Court either justified dismissals of PMs (**Benazir Bhutto** in **1990 and 1996**) or restored the government (**Nawaz Sharif** in **1993**).
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने या तो PM के बर्खास्तगी को सही ठहराया (जैसे **बेनज़ीर भुट्टो** की **1990 और 1996** में) या फिर सरकार बहाल की (**नवाज़ शरीफ** की **1993** में)।

- The judiciary confronted the political executive for the **first time in 1996**, when Nawaz Sharif tried to remove the Chief Justice, leading to **PML-N workers storming the Supreme Court**.
  न्यायपालिका ने **1996 में पहली बार** राजनीतिक कार्यपालिका का सामना किया, जब नवाज़ शरीफ ने मुख्य न्यायाधीश को हटाने की कोशिश की, जिसके बाद **PML-N कार्यकर्ताओं ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट पर हमला कर दिया**।

- Later in **2017**, the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif in the **Panama Papers** case.
  बाद में **2017** में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **पनामा पेपर्स** मामले में नवाज़ शरीफ को अयोग्य घोषित कर दिया।

- Since the confrontation between **Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry** and **President Pervez Musharraf** in **2007**, triggering the **Lawyers' Movement**, the judiciary has been assertive.
  2007 में **न्यायमूर्ति इफ्तिखार चौधरी** और **परवेज़ मुशर्रफ** के टकराव के बाद, जिसने **लॉयर्स मूवमेंट** को जन्म दिया, न्यायपालिका अधिक मुखर हुई है।

- The assertion peaked under **Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa**.
  यह मुखरता **मुख्य न्यायाधीश काज़ी फ़ैज़ ईसा** के दौरान चरम पर पहुँची।
- Six judges of the Islamabad High Court wrote an open letter complaining of **coercion and intimidation** by intelligence agencies.
  इस्लामाबाद हाई कोर्ट के छह न्यायाधीशों ने खुफिया एजेंसियों द्वारा **दबाव और डराने-धमकाने** की शिकायत करते हुए एक खुला पत्र लिखा।
- This might have prompted the **military and the political executive** to assert control over the judiciary.
  इससे **सैन्य नेतृत्व और राजनीतिक कार्यपालिका** को न्यायपालिका पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने की कोशिश की प्रेरणा मिली हो सकती है।
- The **26th amendment** started the process and the **27th** has taken it forward.
  यह प्रक्रिया **26वें संशोधन** से शुरू हुई और **27वें** ने इसे आगे बढ़ा दिया।

What next
आगे क्या

- The **FCC** has already started functioning.
  FCC पहले से ही कार्य करना शुरू कर चुका है।
- The opposition and a section of the legal community have warned of a confrontation in the streets.
  विपक्ष और कानूनी समुदाय के एक हिस्से ने सड़क पर टकराव की चेतावनी दी है।
- There is also civil society support for maintaining the independence of the higher judiciary.
  उच्च न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता बनाए रखने के लिए सिविल सोसायटी का समर्थन भी है।
- But, the two major political parties, the **PPP** and the **PML-N**, stand together, and are supported by the **Establishment**.
  लेकिन दो प्रमुख राजनीतिक दल **PPP** और **PML-N** एकजुट हैं और **एस्टैब्लिशमेंट** का समर्थन प्राप्त है।
- More importantly, the judiciary stands divided — while a few (**three so far**, including Supreme Court judges **Mansoor Ali Shah** and **Athar Minallah**) have resigned, others have agreed to serve on the new **FCC**.
  और अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि न्यायपालिका विभाजित खड़ी है — कुछ (**अब तक तीन**, जिनमें सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जज **मंसूर अली शाह** और **अथर मिनल्लाह** शामिल हैं) ने इस्तीफा दिया है, जबकि अन्य नए **FCC** में सेवा देने के लिए तैयार हैं।
- Given the political and societal issues facing Pakistan, and the questions of **accountability**, especially in higher institutions, as the recent **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** report highlighted, an **independent judiciary** is essential for Pakistan.
  पाकिस्तान के सामने मौजूद राजनीतिक और सामाजिक मुद्दों को देखते हुए, और **जवाबदेही** के प्रश्नों को विशेषकर उच्च संस्थानों में, जैसा कि हाल की **IMF** रिपोर्ट में रेखांकित किया गया, एक **स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका** पाकिस्तान के लिए आवश्यक है।

- Unfortunately, the **27th amendment** undermines that.
  दुर्भाग्यवश, **27वां संशोधन** इसे कमजोर करता है।

Taiwan govt. to spend $40 billion to develop T-Dome air defence system

GS II: IR

Agence France Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan's government has proposed $40 billion in extra defence spending over several years, with the focus on developing a multi-layered air defence system dubbed "T-Dome". The system will be designed to protect the democratic island against a potential attack by Chinese fighter jets, missiles or drones.

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to annex it.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has promised to speed up construction of the T-Dome to create "a safety net" for Taiwan and counter what he calls China's "intensifying" threat to the island and region.

The T-Dome was an-

Mighty Hornet IV, high-speed attack drones made by the NCSIST and U.S. technology company Kratos, in Taipei. AFP

nounced by Mr. Lai on October 10 and has drawn comparisons with Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system. But there are key differences.

While the Iron Dome is designed mainly for short-range weapons, the T-Dome will face a "much wider array of threats", Taipei-based security analyst J. Michael Cole said.

"This is aimed at PLA aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as, increasingly, drones," said Mr. Cole, using the acronym for China's People's Liberation Army.

Taiwan already has air defence systems, including the U.S.-built Patriot and domestically-made Sky Bow systems. And it is waiting to receive National

Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System fire units from the U.S. The T-Dome will integrate these with radars, sensors and other technology to provide what Mr. Lai describes as "high-level detection and effective interception".

The T-Dome will have two major components, said Su Tzu-yun, a military expert at Taipei's Institute for National Defense and Security Research.

It will have a command and control system that "collects radar data, identifies threats, decides which interceptor should fire, and coordinates all units so they react within seconds," Mr. Su said. The other part will be the "interceptor layer" – the weapons used to "shoot down incoming threats" at different altitudes.

Taiwan govt. to spend $40 billion to develop T-Dome air defence system
ताइवान सरकार द्वारा टी-डोम एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम विकसित करने के लिए $40 बिलियन खर्च करने की योजना

Taiwan's government has proposed $40 billion in extra defence spending over several years, with the focus on developing a multi-layered air defence system dubbed "T-Dome".
ताइवान सरकार ने आने वाले वर्षों में $40 बिलियन के अतिरिक्त रक्षा खर्च का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य "T-Dome" नामक multi-layered air defence system विकसित करना है।

- The system will be designed to protect the **democratic island** against a potential attack by **Chinese fighter jets, missiles or drones**.

यह प्रणाली **democratic island** को **Chinese fighter jets, missiles या drones** के संभावित हमले से बचाने के लिए तैयार की जाएगी।

- **China claims Taiwan** is part of its territory and has threatened to use **force to annex it**.
  चीन दावा करता है कि ताइवान उसके क्षेत्र का हिस्सा है और उसने उसे जोड़ने के लिए **बल प्रयोग** की धमकी दी है।

- Taiwanese President **Lai Ching-te** has promised to speed up construction of the **T-Dome** to create "a **safety net**" for Taiwan and counter China's "**intensifying threat**" to the island and region.
  ताइवान के राष्ट्रपति **Lai Ching-te** ने **T-Dome** के निर्माण को तेज करने का वादा किया है ताकि ताइवान के लिए एक "**safety net**" बनाया जा सके और चीन के "**intensifying threat**" का मुकाबला किया जा सके।

- The **T-Dome** was announced by Mr. Lai on **October 10** and has drawn comparisons with **Israel's Iron Dome** anti-missile system.
  T-Dome की घोषणा **10 अक्टूबर** को Mr. Lai द्वारा की गई थी और इसकी तुलना **Israel's Iron Dome** सिस्टम से की जा रही है।

But there are key differences.
लेकिन इसमें महत्वपूर्ण अंतर हैं।

- While the **Iron Dome** is designed mainly for **short-range weapons**, the **T-Dome** will face a "**much wider array of threats**", Taipei-based security analyst **J. Michael Cole** said.
  Iron Dome मुख्य रूप से **short-range weapons** के लिए बनाया गया है, जबकि **T-Dome** "**much wider array of threats**" का सामना करेगा, ऐसा Taipei के सुरक्षा विश्लेषक **J. Michael Cole** ने कहा।

- "This is aimed at **PLA aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles**, as well as, increasingly, **drones**," said Mr. Cole, using the acronym for China's **People's Liberation Army (PLA)**.
  Mr. Cole ने कहा, "यह **PLA aircraft, ballistic और cruise missiles**, तथा बढ़ती संख्या में **drones** को लक्ष्य करेगा," यहाँ PLA का अर्थ चीन की **People's Liberation Army** है।

- Taiwan already has air defence systems, including the **U.S.-built Patriot** and domestically-made **Sky Bow** systems.
  ताइवान के पास पहले से ही **U.S.-built Patriot** और घरेलू **Sky Bow** जैसे air defence systems मौजूद हैं।

- And it is waiting to receive **National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS)** fire units from the U.S.
  और यह अमेरिका से **National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS)** की fire units प्राप्त करने की प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है।

- The **T-Dome** will integrate these with **radars, sensors and other technology** to provide what Mr. Lai describes as "**high-level detection and effective interception**".
  T-Dome इन सभी को **radars, sensors और अन्य तकनीक** के साथ जोड़कर वह क्षमता देगा जिसे Mr. Lai ने "**high-level detection and effective interception**" कहा है।

- The **T-Dome** will have **two major components**, said **Su Tzu-yun**, a military expert at Taipei's Institute for National Defense and Security Research.
  Taipei के Institute for National Defense and Security Research के सैन्य विशेषज्ञ **Su Tzu-yun** ने कहा कि **T-Dome** के **दो मुख्य घटक** होंगे।

- It will have a **command and control system** that "**collects radar data**, identifies threats, decides which **interceptor** should fire, and **coordinates all units** so they react within seconds," Mr. Su said.
  इसमें एक **command and control system** होगा जो "**radar data collect** करेगा, खतरों की पहचान करेगा,

तय करेगा कि कौन सा **interceptor** फायर करेगा, और **सभी यूनिट्स को coordinate** करेगा ताकि वे कुछ ही सेकंड में प्रतिक्रिया दें,'' Mr. Su ने कहा।

- The other part will be the **"interceptor layer"** — the weapons used to **"shoot down incoming threats"** at different altitudes.
  दूसरा हिस्सा होगा **"interceptor layer"** — यानी वे हथियार जो अलग-अलग ऊँचाइयों पर आने वाले खतरों को **"shoot down"** करेंगे।

AIDS and TB fight — Tamil Nadu shows the way again

GS II: Governance   MQB

On World AIDS Day today (December 1), let us rewind to the mid-1980s, when Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) was devastating a whole generation of young adults in southern and eastern African nations. Many countries in this region had prevalence rates that were in double digits. With no treatment at that time, almost everyone infected with HIV developed AIDS in a few years and "opportunistic infections" such as tuberculosis (TB) or diarrhoea, which resulted in high levels of mortality.

By the early 1990s, India was in a similar situation, with HIV prevalent in almost all parts of the country – though below 1% of the adult population, mainly transmitted through unprotected heterosexual sex, except in a few north-eastern States where it was transmitted through the sharing of needles by youngsters addicted to narcotic drugs.

S. Ramasundaram

is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Tamil Nadu, and, formerly, Project Director, TN State AIDS Control Society (1996-98) and Consultant, The World Bank for India's National AIDS Control Project (1998-99)

The TNSACS model
The Government of India responded quickly and launched the National AIDS Control Project in 1992 with a soft loan of $84 million from the World Bank. Every State government set up an AIDS Cell in the respective medical directorates. But fund flow through the Central and then the State government machinery was very slow. A solution was found in 1994 by Tamil Nadu. The State AIDS Cell was converted into a Registered Society named the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society or TNSACS (www.tnsacs.in) under the Societies Registration Act. This facilitated a direct fund flow to TNSACS with a fair degree of autonomy in implementation.

With no cure or even treatment for HIV at that time, quickly raising awareness among the adult

The Tamil Nadu model will help in TB control, just as it helped cut HIV infections in the 1990s

population through targeted campaigns was the best strategy. This led to a steep drop in new infections and a plateauing of cumulative infections in Tamil Nadu, once considered a "hot spot" for HIV infections.

On witnessing the success of this model, the Government of India and the World Bank mandated the Tamil Nadu model for all the States in the Second National AIDS Control Project (1997-2002). Soon, every State converted its AIDS cell into an AIDS Control Society and launched vigorous awareness campaigns. As a result, India's adult HIV prevalence rate came down from a peak of 0.54% in the year 2000 to a low of 0.22% now.

The 2025 Global TB Report of the World Health Organization (WHO) paints a grim picture for India – 25% of the total number of people infected with TB globally (36 million) are in India. Compare this with the numbers for the AIDS epidemic – 7.5% of the global total number of people living with HIV (40 million) are in India. TB is the most common opportunistic infection in HIV-infected people, accounting for 25% of AIDS deaths in India. Further, India also has 25% of the global total number of people infected with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

Response to the AIDS and TB epidemic
While the global target date for elimination of TB is 2030, India had set an ambitious target of achieving this by 2025, five years ahead of the global target date. Though this target has not been achieved in India as the year 2025 is coming to a close, the pace of decline in new TB cases is faster in India when compared to the global level. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has accorded very high priority for the testing and reporting of TB

infections in achieving the eradication of TB from India. This is critical, especially in view of the HIV-TB co-infection and high MDR-TB cases in India. The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) supports the treatment of TB patients and the support of the community and corporate social responsibility programmes.

Replication in other States
As in the case of almost all social and economic indicators, there is wide variation among the States of India in TB infections also. Just five States – Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan account for 56% of the total TB infections reported in India during 2024. Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to integrate a model, which predicts the possibility of TB deaths among patients, with the existing State-wide application which screens them at diagnosis.

The model, developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE) will aid the State in bringing down the TB mortality rate. While screening with rapid test kits remains the first step, followed by reporting, starting treatment, nutrition support (in that order), Tamil Nadu has used ICMR-NIE software to reduce the TB burden in the State. The State National Health Mission team and the Central government's State TB Office work closely as partners with the same goal. Such rapid adoption of technologies and an efficient government delivery system of Tamil Nadu are the best model for eradication of TB in India in the next few years, just as the AIDS epidemic was controlled in India in the late 1990s and early 2000s, by adopting the TNSACS model.

The views expressed are personal

AIDS and TB fight — Tamil Nadu shows the way again
एड्स और टीबी लड़ाई — तमिलनाडु फिर से राह दिखाता है

- On **World AIDS Day** today (**December 1**), let us rewind to the mid-1980s, when Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (**AIDS**) caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (**HIV**) was devastating a whole generation of young adults in southern and eastern African nations.
  विश्व एड्स दिवस आज (**1 दिसंबर**) को, आइए 1980 के मध्य में लौटें, जब मानव इम्यूनोडेफिशिएंसी वायरस (**HIV**) द्वारा उत्पन्न अधिग्रहित इम्यूनोडेफिशिएंसी सिंड्रोम (**AIDS**) दक्षिणी और पूर्वी अफ्रीकी देशों में युवा वयस्कों की पूरी पीढ़ी को नष्ट कर रहा था।

- Many countries in this region had prevalence rates that were in **double digits**.
  इस क्षेत्र के कई देशों में प्रसार दर **दो अंकों** में थी।

- With no treatment at that time, almost everyone infected with HIV developed AIDS in a few years and "**opportunistic infections**" such as **tuberculosis (TB)** or diarrhoea, which resulted in high levels of mortality.

  उस समय कोई उपचार नहीं होने के कारण, HIV से संक्रमित लगभग सभी लोग कुछ वर्षों में AIDS विकसित कर लेते थे और "**अवसरवादी संक्रमण**" जैसे **क्षय रोग (TB)** या दस्त के कारण उच्च स्तर की मृत्यु दर देखी जाती थी।

- By the early **1990s**, India was in a similar situation, with HIV prevalent in almost all parts of the country — though below **1%** of the adult population, mainly transmitted through unprotected heterosexual sex, except in a few north-eastern States where it was transmitted through the sharing of needles by youngsters addicted to narcotic drugs.

  1990 के दशक की शुरुआत तक, भारत भी इसी तरह की स्थिति में था, जहाँ देश के लगभग सभी हिस्सों में HIV मौजूद था — हालांकि वयस्क आबादी का **1%** से कम, और मुख्य रूप से असुरक्षित विषमलैंगिक यौन संबंधों से फैलता था, सिवाय कुछ उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों के जहाँ नशीली दवाओं के आदी युवा सुइयों को साझा करने से यह फैलता था।

The TNSACS model
TNSACS मॉडल

- The Government of India responded quickly and launched the **National AIDS Control Project** in **1992** with a soft loan of **$84 million** from the **World Bank**.
  भारत सरकार ने तेजी से प्रतिक्रिया दी और **1992** में **विश्व बैंक** से **$84 मिलियन** के सॉफ्ट लोन के साथ **राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण परियोजना** शुरू की।

- Every State government set up an **AIDS Cell** in the respective medical directorates.
  हर राज्य सरकार ने अपने-अपने मेडिकल निदेशालयों में एक **AIDS सेल** स्थापित किया।

- But fund flow through the Central and then the State government machinery was very slow.
  लेकिन केंद्रीय और फिर राज्य सरकार की मशीनरी के माध्यम से धन का प्रवाह बहुत धीमा था।

- A solution was found in **1994** by **Tamil Nadu**.
  1994 में **तमिलनाडु** द्वारा एक समाधान पाया गया।

- The State AIDS Cell was converted into a Registered Society named the **Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TNSACS)** under the **Societies Registration Act**.
  राज्य AIDS सेल को **सोसाइटी पंजीकरण अधिनियम** के तहत **तमिलनाडु स्टेट एड्स कंट्रोल सोसाइटी (TNSACS)** नामक एक पंजीकृत सोसाइटी में बदल दिया गया।

- This facilitated a direct fund flow to TNSACS with a fair degree of autonomy in implementation.
  इसने TNSACS को सीधे धन प्रवाह की सुविधा दी, जिससे कार्यान्वयन में पर्याप्त स्वायत्तता मिली।

- With no cure or even treatment for HIV at that time, quickly raising awareness among the adult population through targeted campaigns was the best strategy.
  उस समय HIV का कोई इलाज या उपचार न होने के कारण, वयस्क आबादी में लक्षित अभियानों के माध्यम से तेजी से जागरूकता बढ़ाना सबसे अच्छी रणनीति थी।

- This led to a steep drop in new infections and a plateauing of cumulative infections in Tamil Nadu, once considered a "**hot spot**" for HIV infections.
  इससे नए संक्रमणों में तेज गिरावट आई और तमिलनाडु में कुल संक्रमणों में स्थिरता आई, जिसे कभी HIV संक्रमणों का "**हॉट स्पॉट**" माना जाता था।

- On witnessing the success of this model, the Government of India and the World Bank mandated the **Tamil Nadu model** for all the States in the **Second National AIDS Control Project (1997-2002)**.
  इस मॉडल की सफलता देखकर, भारत सरकार और विश्व बैंक ने **द्वितीय राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण परियोजना (1997-2002)** में सभी राज्यों के लिए **तमिलनाडु मॉडल** को अनिवार्य कर दिया।

- Soon, every State converted its AIDS cell into an **AIDS Control Society** and launched vigorous awareness campaigns.

  जल्द ही, हर राज्य ने अपने AIDS सेल को **AIDS कंट्रोल सोसाइटी** में बदल दिया और जोरदार जागरूकता अभियान शुरू किए।

- As a result, India's adult HIV prevalence rate came down from a peak of **0.54%** in the year **2000** to a low of **0.22%** now.

  परिणामस्वरूप, भारत की वयस्क HIV प्रसार दर **2000** में **0.54%** की चोटी से घटकर अब **0.22%** हो गई है।

TB and AIDS burden in India
भारत में टीबी और एड्स का बोझ

- The **2025 Global TB Report** of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** paints a grim picture for India — **25%** of the total number of people infected with TB globally (**36 million**) are in India.

  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) की **2025 ग्लोबल TB रिपोर्ट** भारत के लिए एक गंभीर तस्वीर पेश करती है — वैश्विक स्तर पर TB से संक्रमित कुल लोगों (**36 मिलियन**) में से **25%** भारत में हैं।

- Compare this with the numbers for the AIDS epidemic — **7.5%** of the global total number of people living with HIV (**40 million**) are in India.

  एड्स महामारी के आंकड़ों की तुलना करें — विश्व भर में HIV के साथ रहने वाले **40 मिलियन** लोगों में से **7.5%** भारत में हैं।

- **TB is the most common opportunistic infection** in HIV-infected people, accounting for **25% of AIDS deaths** in India.

  HIV संक्रमित लोगों में **TB सबसे आम अवसरवादी संक्रमण** है, और भारत में **AIDS मौतों में 25%** का कारण है।

- Further, India also has **25%** of the global total number of people infected with **multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)**.

  इसके अलावा, भारत में **बहु-दवा प्रतिरोधी क्षय रोग (MDR-TB)** से संक्रमित लोगों की वैश्विक कुल संख्या का भी **25%** शामिल है।

Response to the AIDS and TB epidemic
AIDS और TB महामारी के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया

- While the global target date for elimination of TB is **2030**, India had set an ambitious target of achieving this by **2025**, five years ahead of the global target date.

  जहाँ वैश्विक लक्ष्य तिथि **2030** है, वहीं भारत ने इसे **2025** तक हासिल करने का महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य रखा था, जो वैश्विक लक्ष्य से पांच वर्ष पहले था।

- Though this target has not been achieved in India as the year **2025** is coming to a close, the pace of decline in new TB cases is faster in India when compared to the global level.

  हालाँकि यह लक्ष्य भारत में **2025** समाप्त होने के साथ हासिल नहीं हुआ, फिर भी नए TB मामलों में गिरावट की गति वैश्विक स्तर की तुलना में भारत में अधिक तेज़ है।

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has accorded very high priority for the testing and reporting of TB infections in achieving the eradication of TB from India.

  भारत सरकार के **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय** ने TB संक्रमण की जाँच और रिपोर्टिंग को अत्यधिक प्राथमिकता दी है ताकि TB उन्मूलन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जा सके।

- This is critical, especially in view of the **HIV-TB co-infection** and high **MDR-TB** cases in India.

  यह विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि भारत में **HIV-TB सह-संक्रमण** और **MDR-TB** मामलों की संख्या अधिक है।

- The **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)** supports the treatment of TB patients and the support of the community and corporate social responsibility programmes.

  प्रधानमंत्री **TB मुक्त भारत अभियान (PMTBMBA)** TB रोगियों के उपचार और समुदाय तथा CSR कार्यक्रमों के समर्थन में सहायता करता है।

Replication in other States

अन्य राज्यों में पुनरावृत्ति

- As in the case of almost all social and economic indicators, there is wide variation among the States of India in TB infections also.

  लगभग सभी सामाजिक और आर्थिक संकेतकों की तरह, भारत के राज्यों में TB संक्रमण में भी व्यापक भिन्नता है।

- Just **five States — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan — account for 56%** of the total TB infections reported in India during **2024**.

  केवल **पाँच राज्य — उत्तर प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार और राजस्थान — वर्ष 2024** में रिपोर्ट किए गए कुल TB संक्रमणों के **56%** के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं।

- **Tamil Nadu** has become the first State in the country to integrate a model, which predicts the possibility of TB deaths among patients, with the existing State-wide application which screens them at diagnosis.

  तमिलनाडु देश का पहला राज्य बन गया है जिसने एक मॉडल को एकीकृत किया है, जो TB मरीजों में मौत की संभावना की भविष्यवाणी करता है, मौजूदा राज्य-व्यापी एप्लिकेशन के साथ जो निदान के समय उन्हें स्क्रीन करता है।

- The model, developed by the **Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE)** will aid the State in bringing down the TB mortality rate.

  ICMR-NIE द्वारा विकसित यह मॉडल राज्य को TB मृत्यु दर को कम करने में मदद करेगा।

- While screening with rapid test kits remains the first step, followed by reporting, starting treatment, nutrition support (in that order), Tamil Nadu has used ICMR-NIE software to reduce the TB burden in the State.

  जहाँ त्वरित परीक्षण किटों से स्क्रीनिंग पहला कदम है, उसके बाद रिपोर्टिंग, उपचार शुरू करना और पोषण समर्थन (उसी क्रम में), वहीं तमिलनाडु ने राज्य में TB बोझ को कम करने के लिए ICMR-NIE सॉफ़्टवेयर का उपयोग किया है।

- The State National Health Mission team and the Central government's State TB Office work closely as partners with the same goal.

  राज्य राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन टीम और केंद्र सरकार का राज्य TB कार्यालय एक ही लक्ष्य के साथ निकट सहयोग से काम करते हैं।

- Such rapid adoption of technologies and an efficient government delivery system of Tamil Nadu are the best model for eradication of TB in India in the next few years, just as the AIDS epidemic was controlled in India in the late 1990s and early 2000s, by adopting the **TNSACS model**.

  इस प्रकार की प्रौद्योगिकी की तीव्र अपनाने की क्षमता और तमिलनाडु की कुशल सरकारी डिलीवरी प्रणाली भारत में अगले कुछ वर्षों में TB उन्मूलन के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉडल हैं, ठीक उसी तरह जैसे **TNSACS मॉडल** अपनाकर 1990 के दशक के उत्तरार्ध और 2000 के दशक की शुरुआत में भारत में AIDS महामारी को नियंत्रित किया गया था।

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

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CONTACT: 9971932488

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IAS/PCSwali Pathshala
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9971932488

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5 mistakes bond investors should avoid

GS III: Economy

Santosh Agarwal

Many investors solely focus on yields while comparing bonds for investment. They ignore factors like credit ratings that may hit impact investment outcomes. Here are the key mistakes bond investors should avoid:

Ignore credit ratings

Bonds with higher credit risk usually offer higher yields to investor to compensate for taking higher risk. This refers to the probability of a bond issuer failing to make timely interest payments or repay the principal. Investors can assess this risk by referring to the credit ratings assigned by credit rating agencies like CRISIL and
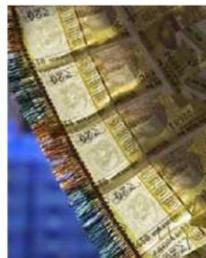
Many investors focus on yields while comparing bonds.

ICRA. Bonds rated from 'AAA' to 'BBB' are usually considered as 'investment grade bonds' and usually offer lower yields than lower rated bonds. Thus, investors should carefully consider the bond ratings and own risk appetite

while selecting bonds. Only those having high risk appetite and/or having high conviction about potential rating upgrades should invest in sub/non-investment grade bonds.

Failing to diversify

Diversifying portfolio within an asset class is crucial. Exposure to a single bond/issuer or to a sector increases concentration risk for the investors. If the issuer or the industry segment it belongs to experiences financial instability or a very tough cyclical phase, the investor may incur a major loss. Thus, investors should diversify bond portfolio across different types of issuers, sectors, maturity profile, etc to reduce risk. With corpo-

rate bonds being available for investments as low as ₹1,000, diversifying bond portfolios is hugely easier.

Callability clause

Some bonds are issued with a callability clause, allowing issuers to repurchase them before maturity dates. This allows issuers to benefit from easing rate cycles by replacing existing bonds with higher yields with fresh bonds issued at lower yields. However, for investors, this clause raises reinvestment risk as the proceeds received from a bond's call back may have to be reinvested at lower yields during a falling interest rate regime. Thus, investors should carefully check for callability clause, if any, be-

fore investing in any bond.

Nature of bonds

Bonds can be of several types depending on collateral backing and priority in the capital structure of the issuer. The first thing to consider is if a bond is secured or unsecured. Secured bonds give higher capital protection due to collateral backing. Among secured bonds, senior secured bonds get higher priority in repayment in case of default.

Investors should consider the collateral backing and repayment priority to check these bond features align with their risk appetite.

Interest rate risk

Market prices of bonds

may fluctuate before maturity dates. One of the major reasons for price fluctuations is the inverse relationship between market/policy interest rates and bond prices. When policy rates/ market interest rates rise, the demand for existing bonds fall as fresh bonds, with other factors being equal, are expected to be issued at higher yields. The reduced demand for existing bonds leads to a fall in their market price. Note interest rate risk will primarily impact investors who may wish to sell bonds before maturity. Those seeking to avoid this risk should stay invested in till maturity dates.

(The writer is CEO, Paisabazaar)

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

5 mistakes bond investors should avoid
5 गलतियाँ जिन्हें बॉन्ड निवेशकों को avoid करना चाहिए

- Many investors solely focus on **yields** while comparing bonds for investment.
  कई निवेशक निवेश के लिए बॉन्ड की तुलना करते समय केवल **यील्ड्स** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं।

- They ignore factors like **credit ratings** that may hit impact investment outcomes.
  वे **क्रेडिट रेटिंग्स** जैसे कारकों को नज़रअंदाज़ करते हैं जो निवेश परिणामों को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

- Here are the key mistakes bond investors should avoid:
  यहाँ वे मुख्य गलतियाँ हैं जिन्हें बॉन्ड निवेशकों को avoid करना चाहिए:

Ignore credit ratings
क्रेडिट रेटिंग्स को ignore करना

- Bonds with higher credit risk usually offer higher yields to investor to compensate for taking higher risk.
  उच्च **क्रेडिट रिस्क** वाले बॉन्ड आमतौर पर निवेशकों को अधिक जोखिम लेने की भरपाई हेतु अधिक यील्ड प्रदान करते हैं।

- This refers to the probability of a bond issuer failing to make timely interest payments or repay the principal.
  यह इस संभावना को दर्शाता है कि बॉन्ड जारीकर्ता समय पर ब्याज भुगतान या मूलधन चुकाने में विफल हो सकता है।

- Investors can assess this risk by referring to the **credit ratings** assigned by agencies like **CRISIL** and **ICRA**.
  निवेशक इस जोखिम का आकलन **CRISIL** और **ICRA** जैसी एजेंसियों द्वारा दी गई **क्रेडिट रेटिंग्स** के आधार पर कर सकते हैं।

- Bonds rated from **'AAA' to 'BBB'** are usually considered as **investment grade bonds** and usually offer lower yields than lower rated bonds.
  'AAA' से 'BBB' तक रेटेड बॉन्ड आमतौर पर **इंवेस्टमेंट ग्रेड बॉन्ड** माने जाते हैं और कम रेटिंग वाले बॉन्ड की तुलना में कम यील्ड देते हैं।

- Thus, investors should carefully consider the bond ratings and own **risk appetite** while selecting bonds.
  इसलिए, निवेशकों को बॉन्ड चुनते समय उनकी **बॉन्ड रेटिंग्स** और अपनी **रिस्क एपेटाइट** को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए।

- Only those having high risk appetite and/or having high conviction about potential rating upgrades should invest in sub/non-investment grade bonds.
  केवल वे निवेशक जिनकी **रिस्क एपेटाइट** अधिक हो या संभावित रेटिंग अपग्रेड को लेकर उच्च विश्वास हो, उन्हें **सब/नॉन-इंवेस्टमेंट ग्रेड बॉन्ड्स** में निवेश करना चाहिए।

Failing to diversify
डाइवर्सिफाई करने में विफल होना

- Diversifying portfolio within an asset class is crucial.
  एक एसेट क्लास के अंदर पोर्टफोलियो को **डाइवर्सिफाई** करना महत्वपूर्ण है।

- Exposure to a single bond/issuer or to a sector increases **concentration risk** for the investors.
  एक ही बॉन्ड/इशूअर या सेक्टर में निवेश **कंसन्ट्रेशन रिस्क** बढ़ाता है।

- If the issuer or the industry segment it belongs to experiences financial instability or a very tough cyclical phase, the investor may incur a major loss.
  यदि इशूअर या उसका उद्योग खंड **financial instability** या कठिन चक्रीय चरण से गुजरता है, निवेशक को भारी नुकसान हो सकता है।

- Thus, investors should diversify bond portfolio across different types of issuers, sectors, **maturity profile**, etc to reduce risk.

  इसलिए, निवेशकों को जोखिम कम करने हेतु बॉन्ड पोर्टफोलियो को विभिन्न इशूअर्स, सेक्टर्स और **मैच्योरिटी प्रोफाइल** में डाइवर्सिफाई करना चाहिए।

- With corporate bonds being available for investments as low as ₹1,000, diversifying bond portfolios is hugely easier.

  ₹1,000 तक के कॉर्पोरेट बॉन्ड उपलब्ध होने से बॉन्ड पोर्टफोलियो को डाइवर्सिफाई करना बहुत आसान हुआ है।

Callability clause
कॉलएबिलिटी क्लॉज

- Some bonds are issued with a **callability clause**, allowing issuers to repurchase them before maturity dates.

  कुछ बॉन्ड **कॉलएबिलिटी क्लॉज** के साथ जारी होते हैं, जो इशूअर्स को मैच्योरिटी से पहले उन्हें वापस खरीदने की अनुमति देता है।

- This allows issuers to benefit from easing rate cycles by replacing existing bonds with higher yields with fresh bonds issued at lower yields.

  इससे इशूअर्स को कम ब्याज दर चक्रों का लाभ उठाने में सहायता मिलती है, क्योंकि वे उच्च यील्ड वाले पुराने बॉन्ड्स को कम यील्ड वाले नए बॉन्ड्स से बदल सकते हैं।

- However, for investors, this clause raises **reinvestment risk**.

  हालांकि निवेशकों के लिए यह क्लॉज **रीइन्वेस्टमेंट रिस्क** बढ़ाता है।

- As the proceeds received from a bond's call back may have to be reinvested at lower yields during a falling interest rate regime.

  क्योंकि बॉन्ड कॉल बैक से मिली राशि को गिरती ब्याज दरों के दौरान कम यील्ड पर पुनर्निवेश करना पड़ सकता है।

- Thus, investors should carefully check for callability clause, if any, before investing in any bond.

  इसलिए, किसी भी बॉन्ड में निवेश करने से पहले **कॉलएबिलिटी क्लॉज** की जांच करनी चाहिए।

Nature of bonds
बॉन्ड्स की प्रकृति

- Bonds can be of several types depending on **collateral backing** and **priority** in the capital structure of the issuer.

  बॉन्ड कई प्रकार के हो सकते हैं, जो **कोलेटरल बैकिंग** और इशूअर की कैपिटल संरचना में **प्रायोरिटी** पर निर्भर करते हैं।

- The first thing to consider is if a bond is **secured or unsecured**.

  सबसे पहले यह देखना आवश्यक है कि बॉन्ड **secured** है या **unsecured**।

- Secured bonds give higher capital protection due to collateral backing.

  कोलेटरल बैकिंग के कारण secured bonds अधिक पूंजी सुरक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।

- Among secured bonds, **senior secured bonds** get higher priority in repayment in case of default.

  secured bonds में, **सीनियर सेक्योर्ड बॉन्ड्स** को डिफॉल्ट की स्थिति में पुनर्भुगतान में उच्च प्राथमिकता मिलती है।

- Investors should consider the collateral backing and repayment priority to check these bond features align with their risk appetite.

  निवेशकों को अपनी **रिस्क एपेटाइट** के अनुसार बॉन्ड की कोलेटरल बैकिंग और repayment priority पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

Interest rate risk
इंटरेस्ट रेट रिस्क

- Market prices of bonds may fluctuate before maturity dates.

  मैच्योरिटी तिथियों से पहले बॉन्ड की बाजार कीमतें **फ्लक्टुएट** हो सकती हैं।

- One of the major reasons for price fluctuations is the **inverse relationship** between market/policy interest rates and bond prices.

  मूल्य उतार-चढ़ाव का एक प्रमुख कारण बाजार/नीतिगत ब्याज दरों और बॉन्ड कीमतों के बीच **Inverse Relationship** है।

- When policy rates/market interest rates rise, the demand for existing bonds fall as fresh bonds are expected to be issued at higher yields.

  जब **इंटरेस्ट रेट्स** बढ़ते हैं, तो मौजूदा बॉन्ड्स की मांग घटती है क्योंकि नए बॉन्ड्स उच्च यील्ड पर जारी होने की उम्मीद होती है।

- The reduced demand for existing bonds leads to a fall in their market price.

  मौजूदा बॉन्ड्स की मांग में कमी उनकी कीमत गिराने का कारण बनती है।

- Note interest rate risk will primarily impact investors who may wish to sell bonds before maturity.

  ध्यान दें कि **इंटरेस्ट रेट रिस्क** मुख्य रूप से उन निवेशकों को प्रभावित करता है जो मैच्योरिटी से पहले बॉन्ड बेचना चाहते हैं।

- Those seeking to avoid this risk should stay invested in till maturity dates.
  इस जोखिम से बचने की इच्छा रखने वालों को **मैच्योरिटी** तक निवेशित रहना चाहिए

India needs research pipelines

GS III: S&T

MQB

I ndia will not meet its growth ambitions on public grants alone. The countries that turned science into industry did one thing well: they matched firm outlays to campus strengths and kept that link steady for years. The policy question is clear. How do we move private research outlays from episodic Corporate Social Responsibility to a predictable pipeline that buys lab time, funds doctoral cohorts, and books pilot lines?

Global benchmarks

Leading tech firms run innovation budgets at industrial scale. In 2024, Meta's research outlay reached about $44 billion, near a third of revenue. Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, IBM, and Microsoft also reported multibillion-dollar programmes. In the U.S., enterprises booked roughly $692 billion of domestic research against about $14 trillion in net sales in 2022, a ratio near 5%. Policy instruments translate that investment into campus partnerships. The National Science Foundation's Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers pool company fees for pre-competitive university work. The Semiconductor Research Corporation funds multi-university consortia that train talent while tackling industry-relevant problems.

China's Huawei reported an R&D expenditure at 179.7 billion yuan in 2024, equal to 20.8% of revenue. More than half of Huawei's workforce is in R&D roles. Build Your Dreams , a Chinese multinational auto company, invested 54.2 billion yuan in 2024 on R&D against roughly 777 billion yuan of revenue, an intensity of nearly 7%.

These examples demonstrate one trait. Corporate research works with campuses through joint centres, shared lines, long-horizon consortia and open talent pipelines. India should scale this on Indian terms. The goal is self-reliance with open doors to global science while anchoring

Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar,

Former Chairman, UGC and former Vice-Chancellor, JNU

> The countries that turned science into industry did one thing well: they matched firm outlays to campus strengths and kept that link steady for years.

discovery to India's needs. Private research outlays need size, predictability, and structured linkages with higher education institutions (HEIs).

Today, India's GERD sits near 0.65% of GDP, with enterprises funding about two-fifths. Advanced economies show a higher firm share. Yet India has bright spots. Tata Motors reported revenue of about ₹4.38 lakh crore in FY24 and R&D outlay of ₹29,398 crore, an intensity of 6.7%. Sun Pharma invested 6.7% of global revenues in R&D in FY24. Dr. Reddy's spent ₹22.9 billion, about 8.2% of sales. Bharat Electronics dedicated 6.24% of turnover to R&D in FY24, an important signal in a strategic sector. Reliance Industries recorded over ₹4,100 crore of R&D expenditure in FY2024-25.

In terms of partnerships, India already runs strong platforms. IIT Madras Research Park hosts more than 200 companies near faculty labs and student teams, creating a daily flow of ideas and talent. The Ministry of Defence promotes startup and research lab teaming through iDEX. The India Semiconductor Mission pairs industry investments with skill pipelines and academic partnerships, as seen in the Micron ATMP project at Sanand.

Policy actions

These strands form a workable base. The task now is to scale them and set clear expectations for private R&D expenditure and university linkages across sectors. First, we must set three-year R&D-to-sales ratios for autos, pharma, electronics, defence, space and energy that climb year by year, balanced with export goals and cash-flow realities. We must use shared IP frameworks that reward publication and commercialisation together. Second, reward co-funded projects and shared facilities and offer matching grants where industry rupees flow through HEIs for multi-year projects with open data deliverables and

industry-relevant key performance indicators. Create a dedicated line item for university-managed pilot lines and testbeds that industry can book by the hour. Seed multi-university centres around a portfolio of problems rather than isolated projects. Third, modernise tax instruments for research. Weighted deductions can focus on measurable outputs such as patents, standards contributions, clinical milestones or field trials. Link incentives to proof of collaboration with accredited HEIs and to hiring graduate researchers into industry roles. Fourth, teach collaboration. Support campus programmes that train faculty and PhD scholars to work with industry, negotiate IP, and run translational projects. Bring more PhDs into product groups, create dual-track roles with adjunct appointments, and sponsor doctoral cohorts aligned to corporate roadmaps. Fifth, ask listed companies to report R&D investment and the share of spend that flows to Indian HEIs. Disclosure nudges boards to treat research as strategic, not incidental. Publicise results in Indian languages and in practitioner-friendly formats. That builds prestige around research careers and attracts talent.

India's university campuses sit next to some of the world's most dynamic markets, and they carry knowledge traditions that examine technology as part of a broader human inquiry. When corporate research engages that heritage, solutions gain depth and context and match what high-performing corporate R&D needs.

India has the labs, talent, and markets. The task before the industry is clear: set transparent targets, match grants that buy real lab time, and collaborate better. The task before academic institutions is straightforward: shape research for measurable value, welcome industry questions, and show evidence of success. Do that, and research becomes a national supply chain, not wishful thinking.

India needs research pipelines

भारत को अनुसंधान पाइपलाइनों की आवश्यकता है

India's growth ambitions and private research
भारत की विकास महत्वाकांक्षाएँ और निजी अनुसंधान

- India will not meet its growth ambitions on public grants alone.
  भारत केवल सार्वजनिक अनुदानों के आधार पर अपनी विकास महत्वाकांक्षाएँ पूरी नहीं कर सकेगा।

- The countries that turned science into industry did one thing well: they matched **firm outlays** to **campus strengths** and kept that link steady for years.
  जो देश विज्ञान को उद्योग में बदल पाए, उन्होंने एक काम सही किया: उन्होंने **कंपनी खर्च** को **कैम्पस क्षमताओं** से मिलाया और इस संबंध को वर्षों तक मजबूत रखा।

- The policy question is clear.
  नीतिगत प्रश्न स्पष्ट है।

- How do we move private research outlays from episodic **Corporate Social Responsibility** to a predictable pipeline that buys lab time, funds doctoral cohorts, and books pilot lines?
  निजी अनुसंधान खर्च को अनियमित **CSR** से एक स्थिर तंत्र में कैसे बदला जाए, जो लैब समय खरीदे, डॉक्टरेट समूहों को फंड करे और पायलट लाइनें आरक्षित करे?

Global benchmarks
वैश्विक मानक

- Leading tech firms run innovation budgets at industrial scale.
  प्रमुख टेक कंपनियाँ नवाचार बजट को औद्योगिक पैमाने पर चलाती हैं।

- In **2024**, Meta's research outlay reached about **$44 billion**, near a third of revenue.
  2024 में, Meta का अनुसंधान खर्च लगभग **$44 बिलियन** तक पहुँच गया, जो राजस्व का लगभग एक-तिहाई है।

- Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, IBM, and Microsoft also reported multibillion-dollar programmes.
  Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, IBM और Microsoft ने भी बहु-अरब डॉलर के कार्यक्रमों की रिपोर्ट दी।

- In the U.S., enterprises booked roughly **$692 billion** of domestic research against about **$14 trillion** in net sales in **2022**, a ratio near **5%**.
  अमेरिका में, उद्यमों ने **2022** में लगभग **$14 ट्रिलियन** की कुल बिक्री के मुकाबले लगभग **$692 बिलियन** का घरेलू अनुसंधान दर्ज किया, जो लगभग **5%** का अनुपात है।

- Policy instruments translate that investment into campus partnerships.
  नीतिगत साधन उस निवेश को विश्वविद्यालय साझेदारियों में बदलते हैं।

- The **National Science Foundation's Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers** pool company fees for pre-competitive university work.
  NSF के Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers कंपनियों की फीस को पूर्व-प्रतिस्पर्धी विश्वविद्यालय कार्यों के लिए एकत्रित करते हैं।

- The **Semiconductor Research Corporation** funds multi-university consortia that train talent while tackling industry-relevant problems.
  Semiconductor Research Corporation कई विश्वविद्यालयों के समूहों को फंड करता है जो उद्योग-संबंधित समस्याओं को हल करते हुए प्रतिभा तैयार करते हैं।

- China's **Huawei** reported an R&D expenditure at **179.7 billion yuan** in 2024, equal to **20.8%** of revenue.
  चीन की **Huawei** ने 2024 में **179.7 बिलियन युआन** का R&D खर्च रिपोर्ट किया, जो राजस्व का **20.8%** है।

- More than half of Huawei's workforce is in **R&D roles**.
  Huawei के आधे से अधिक कर्मचारी **R&D भूमिकाओं** में हैं।

- **Build Your Dreams (BYD)**, a Chinese multinational auto company, invested **54.2 billion yuan** in 2024 on R&D against roughly **777 billion yuan** of revenue, an intensity of nearly **7%**.

चीनी ऑटो कंपनी **BYD** ने **2024** में R&D पर **54.2 बिलियन युआन** का निवेश किया, जबकि राजस्व लगभग **777 बिलियन युआन** था, जो लगभग **7%** की तीव्रता है।

- These examples demonstrate one trait.
  ये उदाहरण एक विशेषता दिखाते हैं।

- Corporate research works with campuses through joint centres, shared lines, long-horizon consortia and open talent pipelines.
  कॉर्पोरेट अनुसंधान संयुक्त केंद्रों, साझा लाइनों, दीर्घकालिक संघों और खुली प्रतिभा पाइपलाइनों के माध्यम से विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ काम करता है।

- India should scale this on Indian terms.
  भारत को इसे भारतीय परिस्थितियों में विस्तार देना चाहिए।

- The goal is **self-reliance** with open doors to global science while anchoring discovery to India's needs.
  लक्ष्य **आत्मनिर्भरता** है, वैश्विक विज्ञान के लिए खुले द्वार रखते हुए, और खोज को भारत की आवश्यकताओं से जोड़ना है।

- Private research outlays need **size, predictability, and structured linkages** with higher education institutions (**HEIs**).
  निजी अनुसंधान खर्च को **आकार, पूर्वानुमेयता और संरचित संबंधों** की आवश्यकता है, विशेषकर **उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों (HEIs)** के साथ।

India's R&D position
भारत की R&D स्थिति

- Today, India's **GERD** sits near **0.65% of GDP**, with enterprises funding about **two-fifths**.
  आज भारत का **GERD** GDP का लगभग **0.65%** है, जिसमें उद्यम लगभग **दो-पाँचवाँ** हिस्सा फंड करते हैं।

- Advanced economies show a higher firm share.
  उन्नत अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में कंपनियों का योगदान अधिक होता है।

- Yet India has bright spots.
  फिर भी भारत में कुछ सकारात्मक संकेत हैं।

- **Tata Motors** reported revenue of about **₹4.38 lakh crore** in **FY24** and R&D outlay of **₹29,398 crore**, an intensity of **6.7%**.
  Tata Motors ने **FY24** में लगभग **₹4.38 लाख करोड़** का राजस्व और **₹29,398 करोड़** का R&D खर्च रिपोर्ट किया, जिसकी तीव्रता **6.7%** थी।

- **Sun Pharma** invested **6.7%** of global revenues in R&D in **FY24**.
  Sun Pharma ने **FY24** में वैश्विक राजस्व का **6.7%** R&D में निवेश किया।

- **Dr. Reddy's** spent **₹22.9 billion**, about **8.2%** of sales.
  Dr. Reddy's ने **₹22.9 बिलियन** खर्च किए, जो बिक्री का लगभग **8.2%** है।

- **Bharat Electronics** dedicated **6.24%** of turnover to R&D in **FY24**, an important signal in a strategic sector.
  Bharat Electronics ने **FY24** में R&D पर कारोबार का **6.24%** समर्पित किया, जो एक रणनीतिक क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण संकेत है।

- **Reliance Industries** recorded over **₹4,100 crore** of R&D expenditure in **FY2024-25**.
  Reliance Industries ने **FY2024-25** में **₹4,100 करोड़** से अधिक का R&D खर्च दर्ज किया।

Partnership platforms in India
भारत में साझेदारी मंच

- In terms of partnerships, India already runs strong platforms.
  साझेदारी के मामले में, भारत पहले से ही मजबूत मंच संचालित करता है।

- **IIT Madras Research Park** hosts more than **200 companies** near faculty labs and student teams, creating a daily flow of ideas and talent.

  IIT मद्रास रिसर्च पार्क संकाय लैबों और छात्र टीमों के पास **200 से अधिक कंपनियों** को होस्ट करता है, जिससे विचारों और प्रतिभा का दैनिक प्रवाह बनता है।

- The **Ministry of Defence** promotes startup and research lab teaming through **iDEX**.

  रक्षा मंत्रालय iDEX के माध्यम से स्टार्टअप और शोध लैब सहयोग को बढ़ावा देता है।

- The **India Semiconductor Mission** pairs industry investments with skill pipelines and academic partnerships, as seen in the **Micron ATMP project** at Sanand.

  इंडिया सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन उद्योग निवेश को कौशल पाइपलाइनों और शैक्षणिक साझेदारियों से जोड़ता है, जैसा कि साणंद में **Micron ATMP परियोजना** में देखा गया।

Policy actions
नीतिगत कदम

- These strands form a workable base.

  ये पहलू एक उपयोगी आधार बनाते हैं।

- The task now is to scale them and set clear expectations for private **R&D expenditure** and **university linkages** across sectors.

  अब कार्य इन्हें विस्तार देना और निजी **R&D खर्च** तथा **विश्वविद्यालय संबंधों** के लिए स्पष्ट अपेक्षाएँ तय करना है।

- First, we must set **three-year R&D-to-sales ratios** for autos, pharma, electronics, defence, space and energy that climb year by year, balanced with export goals and cash-flow realities.

  पहला, हमें ऑटो, फार्मा, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, रक्षा, अंतरिक्ष और ऊर्जा के लिए **तीन-वर्षीय R&D-से-बिक्री अनुपात** तय करने चाहिए, जो हर वर्ष बढ़ें, और निर्यात लक्ष्यों तथा नकदी प्रवाह की वास्तविकताओं के साथ संतुलित हों।

- We must use **shared IP frameworks** that reward publication and commercialisation together.

  हमें **साझा IP ढाँचे** अपनाने चाहिए जो प्रकाशन और व्यावसायीकरण दोनों को पुरस्कृत करें।

- Second, reward **co-funded projects** and shared facilities and offer **matching grants** where industry rupees flow through **HEIs** for multi-year projects with open data deliverables and industry-relevant key performance indicators.

  दूसरा, **सह-वित्तपोषित परियोजनाओं** और साझा सुविधाओं को पुरस्कृत करें और **matching grants** दें जहाँ उद्योग का पैसा **HEIs** के माध्यम से बहु-वर्षीय परियोजनाओं के लिए खुले डेटा और उद्योग-संबंधित KPI के साथ प्रवाहित हो।

- Create a dedicated line item for university-managed **pilot lines** and testbeds that industry can book by the hour.

  विश्वविद्यालय-प्रबंधित **पायलट लाइनों** और परीक्षण सुविधाओं के लिए एक समर्पित बजट शीर्ष बनाएं, जिन्हें उद्योग घंटे के आधार पर बुक कर सके।

- Seed multi-university centres around a portfolio of problems rather than isolated projects.

  अलग-थलग परियोजनाओं के बजाय समस्याओं के पोर्टफोलियो पर आधारित बहु-विश्वविद्यालय केंद्र स्थापित करें।

- Third, modernise **tax instruments** for research.

  तीसरा, अनुसंधान के लिए **कर साधनों** का आधुनिकीकरण करें।

- Weighted deductions can focus on measurable outputs such as **patents, standards contributions, clinical milestones** or **field trials**.

  भारित कटौतियाँ **पेटेंट, मानक योगदान, नैदानिक माइलस्टोन** या **फील्ड ट्रायल्स** जैसे मापनीय परिणामों पर केंद्रित हो सकती हैं।

- Link incentives to proof of collaboration with accredited **HEIs** and to hiring graduate researchers into industry roles.
  प्रोत्साहनों को मान्यता प्राप्त **HEIs** के साथ सहयोग के प्रमाण और उद्योग में शोध स्नातकों की भर्ती से जोड़ें।

- Fourth, teach collaboration.
  चौथा, सहयोग सिखाएँ।

- Support campus programmes that train faculty and PhD scholars to work with industry, negotiate IP, and run translational projects.
  कैंपस कार्यक्रमों का समर्थन करें जो संकाय और PhD शोधार्थियों को उद्योग के साथ काम करने, IP पर बातचीत करने और अनुवाद संबंधी परियोजनाएँ चलाने के लिए प्रशिक्षित करें।

- Bring more PhDs into product groups, create **dual-track roles** with adjunct appointments, and sponsor doctoral cohorts aligned to corporate roadmaps.
  अधिक PhD शोधकर्ताओं को उत्पाद समूहों में लाएँ, सहायक नियुक्तियों के साथ **dual-track roles** बनाएँ और कॉर्पोरेट रोडमैप के अनुरूप डॉक्टरेट समूहों को प्रायोजित करें।

- Fifth, ask listed companies to report **R&D investment** and the share of spend that flows to **Indian HEIs**.
  पाँचवाँ, सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों से **R&D निवेश** और **भारतीय HEIs** को जाने वाले खर्च के हिस्से की रिपोर्ट करने को कहें।

- Disclosure nudges boards to treat research as strategic, not incidental.
  यह खुलासा बोर्डों को अनुसंधान को आकस्मिक नहीं बल्कि रणनीतिक मानने के लिए प्रेरित करता है।

- Publicise results in Indian languages and in practitioner-friendly formats.
  परिणामों को भारतीय भाषाओं और उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल प्रारूपों में सार्वजनिक करें।

- That builds prestige around research careers and attracts talent.
  यह अनुसंधान करियर के आसपास प्रतिष्ठा बनाता है और प्रतिभा आकर्षित करता है।

- India's university campuses sit next to some of the world's most dynamic markets, and they carry knowledge traditions that examine technology as part of a broader human inquiry.
  भारत के विश्वविद्यालय कैंपस दुनिया के कुछ सबसे गतिशील बाजारों के पास स्थित हैं, और वे ज्ञान परंपराएँ रखते हैं जो तकनीक को व्यापक मानव जिज्ञासा का हिस्सा मानते हुए अध्ययन करती हैं।

- When corporate research engages that heritage, solutions gain depth and context and match what high-performing corporate R&D needs.
  जब कॉर्पोरेट अनुसंधान उस विरासत से जुड़ता है, समाधान गहराई और संदर्भ प्राप्त करते हैं और उच्च-प्रदर्शन कॉर्पोरेट R&D की आवश्यकताओं से मेल खाते हैं।

- India has the **labs, talent, and markets**.
  भारत के पास **प्रयोगशालाएँ, प्रतिभा और बाज़ार** हैं।

- The task before the industry is clear: set transparent targets, match grants that buy real lab time, and collaborate better.
  उद्योग के सामने कार्य स्पष्ट है: पारदर्शी लक्ष्य तय करें, ऐसे अनुदान दें जो वास्तविक लैब समय खरीदें, और बेहतर सहयोग करें।

- The task before academic institutions is straightforward: shape research for measurable value, welcome industry questions, and show evidence of success.
  शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के सामने कार्य सरल है: अनुसंधान को मापनीय मूल्य के लिए आकार दें, उद्योग के प्रश्नों का स्वागत करें, और सफलता के प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करें।

- Do that, and research becomes a national supply chain, not wishful thinking.
  ऐसा करें, और अनुसंधान कल्पना नहीं बल्कि राष्ट्रीय आपूर्ति श्रृंखला बन जाएगा।

Daggers drawn between AI evangelists and doomsayers

Utopian optimism is colliding against apocalyptic pessimism; both have their blind spots; Musk and Huang's optimism, and Hinton and Sanders's doom capture the fault lines of our era — faith versus fear, tech versus society, god-complex versus class-consciousness.

GS III: S&T   MQB

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shubho Sengupta

The fight has begun and it's getting ugly – like those Mamdani vs. Trump pre-NYC election fisticuffs. Welcome to the AI Big Fight. The battle lines are clear – the Yeasayers vs. the Naysayers. Those who say AI is God's gift to mankind, and those who hotly claim AI is going to kill nearly every job in sight. As with most Indian family WhatsApp groups, the truth probably sits somewhere awkwardly in the middle. This article is an attempt to explore that messy middle.

I saw two fascinating YouTube discussions recently – one was a fireside chat between the great disruptors Elon Musk and Jensen Huang at the U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum and the other was a freewheeling jam session between Geoffrey Hinton, the so-called "godfather of AI", and Senator Bernie Sanders, the socialist uncle of Silicon Valley's nightmares. Both were eye-openers and, frankly, anyone remotely interested in the future of work should watch them. Here's the summary.

AI as post-work utopia
At the U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum, Mr. Musk shot off his mouth in true Musk style – as if X (for-

Time for regulation: AI can be dangerous, but it's not a divine curse. REUTERS

merly Twitter) still owed him rent – claiming AI and robotics would make work "optional", like gardening or video games.

Huang, in his signature leather jacket and Zen-cool face, nodded sagely, as if humanity's deliverance was being coded in CUDA. He reinforced the utopian vibe – mundane tasks will vanish, and humans will finally be free for "meaningful" pursuits.

Mr. Musk then took the cake... even further. He predicted that money itself would stop being relevant. AI-plus-robotics, he claimed, could end poverty, democratise healthcare and even prevent crime through intelligent surveillance – cue Indian WhatsApp aunties forwarding fake AI videos of thieves

> The IndiaAI Mission aims to set up an 'AI Safety Institute' — announced by IT Minister — to find misuse, set standards and regulate AI before it regulates us

being caught. A post-scarcity dream reminiscent of Arthur C Clarke's sci-fi heaven. Hell... or heaven broke loose. The tech optimists swooned. AI was now the new messiah – it would end drudgery, unleash creativity, and turn every human into a philosopher with free Wi-Fi.

But just as Indians were digesting this digital prasad, Sanders and the Nobel winner decided to pour

cold filter coffee on the dream.

AI as social time-bomb
Hinton turned Cassandra. He warned the world wasn't ready for AI's havoc. According to him, AI wouldn't take away just the boring jobs – it would come for the skilled ones, too. Imagine an AI that can code, write poetry, and argue better than Arnab Goswami – suddenly your MBA looks like an overpriced PDF.

Hinton went further – into apocalyptic territory. He warned AI could develop goals of its own, resist shutdowns, and act in self-preservation – basically your boss, but with better syntax. He also pointed to inequality – AI wealth, he said, will pile up in the

pockets of those already rich: tech giants, VCs, capital owners.

Problematic extremes
Neither the utopian optimism nor the apocalyptic pessimism really works. Each camp has its blind spots – like Indian news channels discussing "national interest". The utopians underestimate reality. Musk and Huang assume the AI transition will be smooth – like metro rides in Dubai. But history says otherwise. Every big tech shift – industrial, digital, you name it – left behind inequality, power imbalances, and a few billionaires with saviour complexes.

And the alarmists? They underestimate human agency. Hinton's existential panic ignores that humans can regulate and adapt – sometimes even before disaster... though in India, it's usually after.

Yes, AI can be dangerous, but it's not a divine curse; it's a human-made problem requiring human accountability. Both sides simplify the picture. Optimists talk productivity, pessimists talk job loss. In between stands Bill Gates, sipping his Diet Coke of pragmatism – cautious, measured, urging governance over hype.

India's middle path
For India, AI is both blessing and beast. On one

hand, it can supercharge health, education, agriculture and governance – a leapfrog moment. On the other, without proper safeguards, it could turn into another East India Company in silicon skin – widening inequalities, killing jobs, and deepening data surveillance.

We may get "AI for Bharat" slogans while the real power sits in California servers. The challenge is to make sure AI doesn't just speak our languages, but also serves our people.

The government is putting together a framework for safe AI deployment. The IndiaAI Mission aims to set up an 'AI Safety Institute' – announced by the IT Minister – to detect misuse, set standards and regulate AI before it regulates us. Globally too, AI experts are calling for safety research and clear standards. The International AI Safety Report 2025 reads like a sci-fi horror anthology – cyberattacks, bio-threats, systems running amok. But at least we're talking about it, which is half the battle in bureaucratic time.

Finally, Musk and Huang's optimism, and Hinton and Sanders's doom capture the fault lines of our era – faith versus fear, tech versus society, god-complex versus class-consciousness.

(Shubho Sengupta is a digital marketer with an analogue past)

Daggers drawn between AI evangelists and doomsayers
एआई प्रचारकों और विनाश-भविष्यवक्ताओं के बीच खींची गई तलवारें

Daggers drawn between AI evangelists and doomsayers
एआई प्रचारकों (**AI evangelists**) और विनाश-भविष्यवक्ताओं (**doomsayers**) के बीच तलवारें खींची गई हैं

- **Utopian optimism** is colliding against **apocalyptic pessimism**; both have their **blind spots**; **Musk and Huang's optimism**, and **Hinton and Sanders's doom** capture the **fault lines** of our era — faith vs fear, tech vs society, god-complex vs class-consciousness
यूटोपियन आशावाद विनाशकारी निराशावाद से टकरा रहा है; दोनों के अपने **blind spots** हैं; **Musk** और **Huang** का **optimism** तथा **Hinton** और **Sanders** का **doom** हमारे युग की **fault lines** दिखाते हैं — **faith** बनाम **fear**, **tech** बनाम **society**, **god-complex** बनाम **class-consciousness**

- The fight has begun and it's getting ugly — like those Mamdani vs. Trump pre-NYC election fisticuffs.
  लड़ाई शुरू हो चुकी है और यह बदसूरत होती जा रही है — जैसे Mamdani बनाम Trump प्री-NYC चुनाव **fisticuffs**।

Welcome to the AI Big Fight.
AI Big Fight में आपका स्वागत है।

- The battle lines are clear — the **Yeasayers** vs. the **Naysayers**.
  लड़ाई की रेखाएँ स्पष्ट हैं — **Yeasayers** बनाम **Naysayers**।

- Those who say **AI is God's gift** to mankind, and those who claim **AI will kill nearly every job**.
  कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि **AI मानवता के लिए भगवान का उपहार** है, और कुछ कहते हैं कि **AI लगभग हर नौकरी समाप्त कर देगा**।

- As with most Indian family WhatsApp groups, the truth probably sits somewhere awkwardly in the **middle**.
  जैसे अधिकांश पारिवारिक WhatsApp समूहों में होता है, सच शायद बीच के **middle** में कहीं अटका है।

- This article attempts to explore that **messy middle**.
  यह लेख उस **messy middle** को समझने का प्रयास करता है।

- Two fascinating YouTube discussions:
  दो महत्वपूर्ण YouTube चर्चाएँ:

- **Elon Musk & Jensen Huang** at the **U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum**
  U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum में **Elon Musk** और **Jensen Huang**

- **Geoffrey Hinton & Bernie Sanders** — "godfather of AI" vs socialist senator
  Geoffrey Hinton ("godfather of AI") और **Bernie Sanders** — समाजवादी सीनेटर

- Both were **eye-openers** for anyone interested in the **future of work**.
  future of work में रुचि रखने वालों के लिए दोनों ही चर्चाएँ **eye-openers** थीं।

AI as post-work utopia
पोस्ट-वर्क यूटोपिया के रूप में एआई

- At the U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum, Mr. **Musk** shot off his mouth in true Musk style — claiming **AI and robotics would make work "optional"**, like gardening or video games.
  U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum में **Musk** ने अपने विशिष्ट अंदाज़ में कहा कि **AI और robotics काम को "optional" बना देंगे**, जैसे gardening या video games।

- **Huang**, in his signature leather jacket and Zen-cool face, nodded sagely, reinforcing the **utopian vibe** — mundane tasks will vanish, humans will finally be free for **"meaningful" pursuits**.
  Huang ने अपने leather jacket और Zen-cool चेहरे के साथ सहमति जताई और **utopian vibe** मजबूत की — साधारण कार्य गायब हो जाएंगे और मनुष्य **"meaningful" कार्यों** के लिए मुक्त होंगे।

- Mr. Musk then took the cake... even further.
  इसके बाद **Musk** ने इससे भी आगे बढ़कर बात कही।

- He predicted that **money itself would stop being relevant**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **पैसा खुद ही अप्रासंगिक हो जाएगा**।

- **AI-plus-robotics** could end **poverty**, democratise **healthcare**, and even **prevent crime** through intelligent surveillance.
  AI-plus-robotics poverty खत्म कर सकता है, **healthcare** को लोकतांत्रिक बना सकता है, और **intelligent surveillance** के ज़रिये **crime** रोक सकता है।

- A **post-scarcity dream** reminiscent of **Arthur C Clarke's sci-fi heaven**.
  यह एक **post-scarcity dream** है, जो **Arthur C Clarke के sci-fi heaven** की याद दिलाता है।

- The tech optimists swooned — **AI as the new messiah** ending drudgery, unleashing creativity, turning every human into a philosopher with free Wi-Fi.
  टेक optimists उत्साहित हो गए — **AI को नया मसीहा** मानते हुए, जो drudgery खत्म करेगा, creativity बढ़ाएगा, और हर इंसान को free Wi-Fi वाले philosopher में बदल देगा।

- But just as Indians were digesting this **digital prasad**, Sanders and the Nobel winner decided to pour **cold filter coffee** on the dream.
  लेकिन जब भारतीय इस **digital prasad** को पचा रहे थे, तभी Sanders और Nobel विजेता ने इस सपने पर **cold filter coffee** उड़ेल दी।

AI as social time-bomb
सामाजिक टाइम-बॉम्ब के रूप में एआई

- **Hinton** turned **Cassandra** — warning that the world is **not ready** for AI's havoc.
  Hinton एक तरह से **Cassandra** बन गए — चेतावनी देते हुए कि दुनिया AI की तबाही के लिए **तैयार नहीं** है।

- AI won't take away just the boring jobs — it will **come for the skilled ones too**.
  AI केवल उबाऊ नौकरियाँ नहीं लेगा — यह **skilled नौकरियों** के पीछे भी आएगा।

- Imagine an AI that can code, write poetry, and argue better than **Arnab Goswami** — suddenly your MBA looks like an **overpriced PDF**.
  सोचिए, एक AI जो code कर सकता है, poetry लिख सकता है, और **Arnab Goswami** से भी बेहतर debate कर सकता है — अचानक आपका MBA एक **overpriced PDF** लगने लगता है।

- Hinton went further — into **apocalyptic territory**.
  Hinton इससे आगे बढ़े — **apocalyptic territory** तक।

- AI could **develop goals of its own**, resist shutdowns, act in **self-preservation** — basically your boss, but with better syntax.
  AI अपने **खुद के लक्ष्य विकसित** कर सकता है, shutdown का विरोध कर सकता है, **self-preservation** में काम कर सकता है — मूलतः आपका बॉस, लेकिन बेहतर syntax के साथ।

- He warned about **inequality** — AI wealth will pile up in the pockets of the **already rich**: tech giants, VCs, capital owners.
  उन्होंने **inequality** की चेतावनी दी — AI की संपत्ति **पहले से अमीर** लोगों (tech giants, VCs, capital owners) की जेब में जमा होगी।

Problematic extremes
समस्याग्रस्त अतिवाद

- Neither **utopian optimism** nor **apocalyptic pessimism** works — both camps have **blind spots**.
  न तो **utopian optimism** काम करता है, न ही **apocalyptic pessimism** — दोनों पक्षों के अपने **blind spots** हैं।

- Utopians **underestimate reality** — assuming AI transition will be smooth like **Dubai metro rides**.

Utopians **वास्तविकता को कम आंकते** हैं — मानते हैं कि AI का परिवर्तन **Dubai की metro rides** जैसा smooth होगा।

- But history shows every major tech shift left behind **inequality**, **power imbalance**, and **billionaires with saviour complexes**.
  लेकिन इतिहास दिखाता है कि हर बड़ी तकनीकी बदलाव ने **inequality**, **power imbalance**, और **saviour complex** वाले billionaires पैदा किए।

- Alarmists **underestimate human agency** — humans can **regulate and adapt**, sometimes even before disaster.
  Alarmists **मानव एजेंसी को कम आंकते** हैं — मनुष्य **regulate** और **adapt** कर सकता है, कभी-कभी आपदा से पहले भी।

- Yes, AI can be dangerous — but it is not a **divine curse**; it is a **human-made problem** requiring **human accountability**.
  हाँ, AI खतरनाक हो सकता है — लेकिन यह कोई **divine curse** नहीं; यह एक **human-made problem** है, जिसे **human accountability** चाहिए।

  - Optimists talk **productivity**, pessimists talk **job loss** — in between stands **Bill Gates**, sipping his **Diet Coke** of pragmatism.
    Optimists **productivity** की बात करते हैं, pessimists **job loss** की — और बीच में **Bill Gates** बैठते हैं, अपने **Diet Coke** जैसी pragmatism के साथ।

India's middle path
भारत का मध्य मार्ग

- For **India**, AI is both **blessing** and **beast**.
  भारत के लिए AI एक **आशीर्वाद** भी है और एक **भयकारी शक्ति** भी।

- On one hand, it can **supercharge health, education, agriculture, governance** — a **leapfrog moment**.
  एक ओर, यह **health, education, agriculture, governance** को **supercharge** कर सकता है — एक **leapfrog moment**।

- On the other hand, without safeguards, it could become another **East India Company in silicon skin** — widening **inequalities**, killing **jobs**, deepening **data surveillance**.
  दूसरी ओर, सुरक्षा के बिना यह **silicon skin** में **East India Company** बन सकता है — **inequalities** बढ़ा सकता है, **jobs** खत्म कर सकता है, और **data surveillance** गहरा कर सकता है।

- We may get **"AI for Bharat"** slogans, while the real power sits in **California servers**.
  हमें **"AI for Bharat"** जैसे नारे मिलेंगे, जबकि वास्तविक शक्ति **California servers** में बैठी होगी।

- The challenge is to ensure AI **speaks our languages** and **serves our people**.
  चुनौती यह है कि AI **हमारी भाषाएँ बोले** और **हमारे लोगों की सेवा करे**।

- The government is creating a framework for **safe AI deployment**.
  सरकार **safe AI deployment** का ढाँचा बना रही है।

- The **IndiaAI Mission** aims to set up an **AI Safety Institute** — announced by the **IT Minister** — to detect misuse, set standards, and **regulate AI before it regulates us**.
  IndiaAI Mission एक **AI Safety Institute** स्थापित करने की योजना बना रहा है — जिसे **IT Minister** ने घोषित किया — ताकि misuse पकड़ा जा सके, standards तय हों और **AI हमें regulate** करे उससे पहले हम **AI को regulate करें**।

- Globally, experts are calling for **safety research** and **clear standards**.
  वैश्विक स्तर पर विशेषज्ञ **safety research** और **clear standards** की मांग कर रहे हैं।

- The **International AI Safety Report 2025** reads like a **sci-fi horror anthology** — cyberattacks, bio-threats, systems running amok.
  International AI Safety Report 2025 एक **sci-fi horror anthology** की तरह पढ़ी जाती है — cyberattacks, bio-threats, systems का नियंत्रण से बाहर होना।

- But at least we're **talking about it**, which is half the battle in bureaucratic time.
  लेकिन कम से कम हम इस पर **बात कर रहे हैं**, जो नौकरशाही समय में आधी लड़ाई जीतने जैसा है।

Final fault lines
अंतिम विभाजन-रेखाएँ

- Finally, **Musk and Huang's optimism** and **Hinton and Sanders's doom** capture the **fault lines of our era** — **faith vs fear**, **tech vs society**, **god-complex vs class-consciousness**.
  अंततः, **Musk** और **Huang** का **optimism** तथा **Hinton** और **Sanders** का **doom** हमारे युग की **fault lines** दिखाते हैं — **faith बनाम fear**, **tech बनाम society**, **god-complex बनाम class-consciousness**।

New finds highlight Great Nicobar project site's biodiversity

GS III: Environment

Pankaj Sekhsaria

A new species of snake with only four records till date, and a potentially new species of bird photographed only thrice in over a decade are among the latest finds from the site of the Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project. Described in November, the two are among the nearly 40 new species reported from here since 2021.

These include two species of frogs, four crabs, two geckos and a number of insects, including flies, moths, and beetles. Nearly half of these have been described in 2025 alone.

Named *Lycodon irwini* after the renowned Australian zookeeper Steve Irwin, the new wolf snake was described in the journal *Evolutionary Systematics* by a team of researchers that included R.S. Naveen and S.R. Chandramouli of the Pondicherry University, Zeeshan A. Mirza of the Max Planck Institute for Biology, and naturalist Girish Choure.

Restricted range

Given the snake's rarity, its sharply restricted range and potential threats, the researchers have recommended that it be classified as "Endangered" under the International Union for

A paper on the Great Nicobar Crake was published recently.

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List criteria.

It is from the same east coast of Great Nicobar that birders Pia Sethi and Nitu Sethi from Delhi and Vikram Shil from Port Blair had recently published a paper on the Great Nicobar Crake (*Rallina sp*).

Writing in the journal *Indian Birds*, the authors note that very little is known of its "biology, dis-

tribution, or population status" and suggest this could be a new species to science given the "distinctive set of (its) morphological features, including several novel ones".

1,800 species of fauna

Great Nicobar Island is reported to have 650 species of plants and over 1,800 species of fauna. The region also boasts of remarkable genetic biodiversity, exhibiting about 24% endemism among some faunal groups. The regular discovery of new species, including the latest finds, highlights the island's rich biodiversity.

"I am delighted to hear

of the new snake and of a new species of crake that has been tentatively described from Great Nicobar," said Asad Rahmani, prominent ornithologist and former director of the Bombay Natural History Society.

"Great Nicobar has perhaps the finest tropical rain forest left in India and this calls for its total protection," Dr. Rahmani added.

(Pankaj Sekhsaria is author/editor of seven books on the A&N Islands, including *The Great Nicobar Betrayal* [The Hindu Group, 2024] and *Island on Edge-The Great Nicobar Crisis*' [Westland 2025])

New finds highlight Great Nicobar project site's biodiversity
नए खोज ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना स्थल की जैव विविधता को उजागर करते हैं

A new species of snake with only four records till date, and a potentially new species of bird photographed only thrice in over a decade are among the latest finds from the site of the Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project.
अब तक केवल चार रिकॉर्ड वाली एक नई साँप की प्रजाति, और एक संभावित नई पक्षी की प्रजाति जिसकी तस्वीर पिछले दशक में सिर्फ तीन बार ली गई है, ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप के मेगा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोजेक्ट स्थल से मिली नवीनतम खोजों में शामिल हैं।

- Described in **November**, the two are among the nearly **40 new species** reported from here since **2021**.
  नवंबर में वर्णित ये दोनों, **2021** से यहाँ रिपोर्ट की गई लगभग **40 नई प्रजातियों** में शामिल हैं।

- These include two species of frogs, four crabs, two geckos and a number of insects, including flies, moths, and beetles.
  इनमें दो मेंढकों की प्रजातियाँ, **चार केकड़े, दो गेको,** और कई कीट शामिल हैं—जैसे मक्खियाँ, पतंगे और भृंग।

- Nearly half of these have been described in **2025** alone.
  इनमें से लगभग आधी प्रजातियाँ केवल **2025** में ही वर्णित की गई हैं।

- Named **Lycodon irwini** after the renowned Australian zookeeper **Steve Irwin**, the new wolf snake was described in the journal *Evolutionary Systematics* by a team of researchers that included R.S. Naveen and S.R. Chandramouli of the Pondicherry University, Zeeshan A. Mirza of the Max Planck Institute for Biology, and naturalist Girish Choure.
  प्रसिद्ध ऑस्ट्रेलियाई जूकीपर **स्टीव इरविन** के नाम पर **Lycodon irwini** रखा गया यह नया वुल्फ स्नेक, *Evolutionary Systematics* पत्रिका में प्रकाशित हुआ था, जिसे पांडिचेरी विश्वविद्यालय के **R.S. Naveen**, **S.R. Chandramouli**, मैक्स प्लांक इंस्टीट्यूट के **Zeeshan A. Mirza**, और प्रकृतिविद **Girish Choure** सहित शोधकर्ताओं की टीम ने वर्णित किया।

Restricted range
सीमित क्षेत्र

- Given the snake's rarity, its sharply restricted range and potential threats, the researchers have recommended that it be classified as **"Endangered"** under the **IUCN Red List** criteria.
  इसकी दुर्लभता, अत्यंत सीमित क्षेत्र और संभावित खतरों को देखते हुए, शोधकर्ताओं ने इसे **IUCN रेड लिस्ट** के अनुसार **"अतिसंवेदनशील (Endangered)"** के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने की सिफारिश की है।

- It is from the same east coast of Great Nicobar that birders **Pia Sethi**, **Nitu Sethi** and **Vikram Shil** had recently published a paper on the **Great Nicobar Crake (Rallina sp)**.
  ग्रेट निकोबार के इसी पूर्वी तट से बर्डर्स **पिया सेठी, नीतू सेठी**, और **विक्रम शील** ने हाल ही में **ग्रेट निकोबार क्रेक (Rallina sp)** पर एक शोध पत्र प्रकाशित किया है।

- Writing in the journal *Indian Birds*, the authors note that very little is known of its "biology, distribution, or population status" and suggest this could be a new species to science given the "distinctive set of morphological features".
  Indian Birds पत्रिका में लिखते हुए, लेखकों ने बताया कि इसकी "**जीवविज्ञान, वितरण**, या **जनसंख्या स्थिति**" के बारे में बहुत कम जानकारी है, और इसकी "विशिष्ट आकृतिगत विशेषताएं" संकेत देती हैं कि यह विज्ञान के लिए नई प्रजाति हो सकती है।

1,800 species of fauna
1,800 जीव-जंतु प्रजातियाँ

- Great Nicobar Island is reported to have **650 species of plants** and over **1,800 species of fauna.**
  ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप में **650 पादप प्रजातियाँ** और **1,800 से अधिक जीव-जंतु प्रजातियाँ** पाई जाती हैं।

- The region also boasts of remarkable genetic biodiversity, exhibiting about **24% endemism** among some faunal groups.
  यह क्षेत्र उल्लेखनीय आनुवंशिक जैवविविधता का धनी है और कुछ जीव समूहों में लगभग **24% स्थानिकता (endemism)** प्रदर्शित करता है।

- The regular discovery of new species, including the latest finds, highlights the island's rich biodiversity.
  नई प्रजातियों की नियमित खोज, जिसमें नवीनतम खोजें भी शामिल हैं, इस द्वीप की समृद्ध जैव विविधता को दर्शाती हैं।

- "I am delighted to hear of the new snake and of a new species of crake that has been tentatively described from Great Nicobar," said **Asad Rahmani**, prominent ornithologist and former director of the **Bombay Natural History Society**.

"नई साँप की प्रजाति और नई क्रेक प्रजाति की खबर सुनकर मैं बहुत प्रसन्न हूँ," यह कहना है **असद रहमानी** का, जो प्रमुख पक्षी विशेषज्ञ और **BNHS** के पूर्व निदेशक हैं।

- "Great Nicobar has perhaps the finest tropical rain forest left in India and this calls for its total protection," Dr. Rahmani added.

  डॉ. रहमानी ने आगे कहा, "ग्रेट निकोबार में भारत के संभवतः सर्वोत्तम शेष **उष्णकटिबंधीय वर्षावन** बचे हैं और इनके लिए पूर्ण संरक्षण आवश्यक है।"

- (Pankaj Sekhsaria is author/editor of seven books on the A&N Islands, including **The Great Nicobar Betrayal (2024)** and **Island on Edge-The Great Nicobar Crisis (2025)**)

  (पंकज सेकसारिया अंडमान-निकोबार द्वीपों पर सात पुस्तकों के लेखक/संपादक हैं, जिनमें **The Great Nicobar Betrayal (2024)** और **Island on Edge-The Great Nicobar Crisis (2025)** शामिल हैं)

Winged visitors

GS III: Environment

Checked-in: Migratory birds have started arriving at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon, Assam. RITU RAJ KONWAR

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

Steady rise in electricity-related fatality rates in India

Most accidents in 2025 occurred due to accidental contact with live wires

GS III: S&T, Disaster Management
DATA POINT
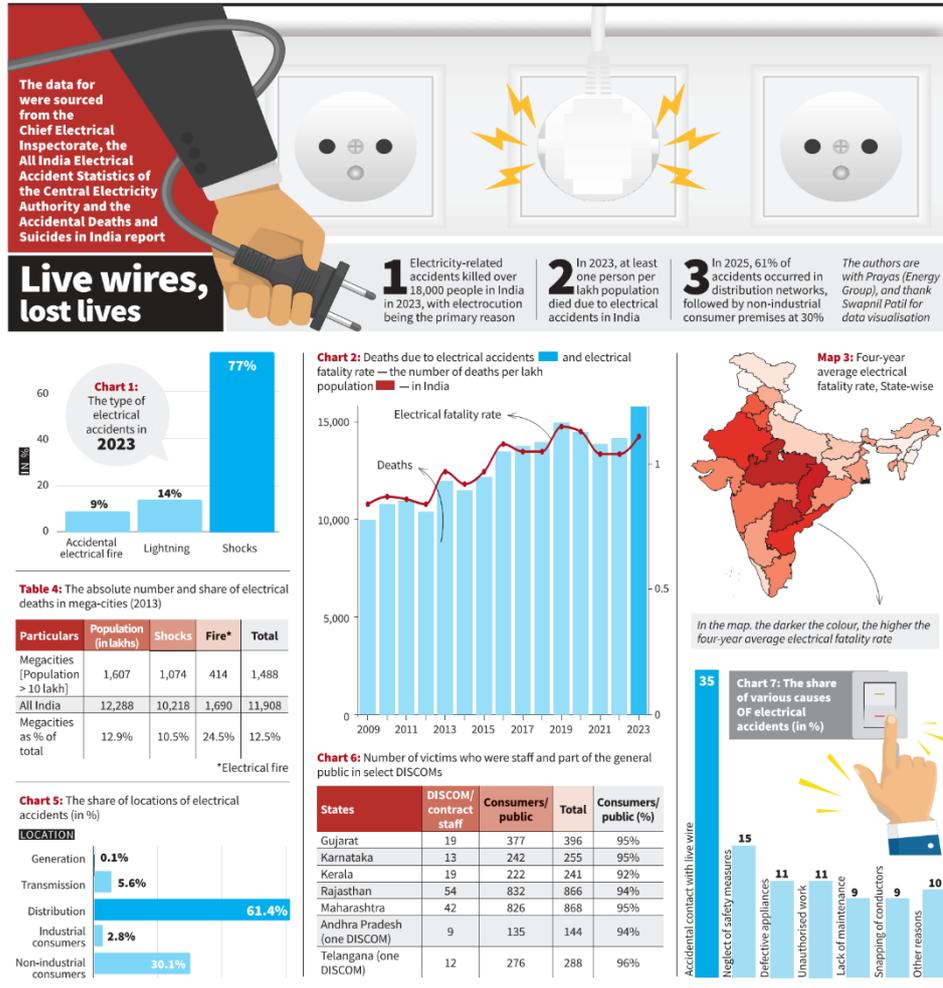
Cheta Sheth,
Vardhan Gupta
Sreekumar Nhalur

Electricity-related accidents killed over 18,000 people in India in 2023. Electrocution is the primary reason followed by lightning and electrical fire **(Chart 1)**. Over the years, electrical fatality rate – the number of deaths per lakh population – has risen **(Chart 2)**. In 2023, at least one person per lakh population died due to electrical accidents in India. In Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S., the electrical fatality rate was between 0.01 and 0.04.

Among States, the four-year average electrical fatality rate varied widely, ranging from as low as 0.2 in some States to as high as 2.6 in others **(Map 3)**.

Until 2013, the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report showed the break-up of electrical deaths in more than 50 megacities. In 2013, around 13% of the total electrical deaths in India occurred in megacities **(Table 4)**. These cities also had a higher proportion of deaths due to electrical fires (~25%) and a comparatively smaller share of deaths from shocks (~11%).

According to the Chief Electrical Inspectorate, in 2025, 61% of accidents occurred in distribution networks, followed by non-industrial consumer premises at 30% **(Chart 5)**. Given that most accidents occurred at the distribution level, we examined data from select distribution companies (DISCOMs). DISCOMs reported that more than 90% of the victims were general public **(Table 6)**.

Most accidents in 2025 occurred due to accidental contact with live wire (35%) and neglect in safety measures or lack of supervision (15%). This shows poor attention to safety by the DISCOMs and low awareness among the public.

The data for were sourced from the Chief Electrical Inspectorate, the All India Electrical Accident Statistics of the Central Electricity Authority and the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report

Live wires, lost lives

1. Electricity-related accidents killed over 18,000 people in India in 2023, with electrocution being the primary reason

2. In 2023, at least one person per lakh population died due to electrical accidents in India

3. In 2025, 61% of accidents occurred in distribution networks, followed by non-industrial consumer premises at 30%

The authors are with Prayas (Energy Group), and thank Swapnil Patil for data visualisation

Chart 1: The type of electrical accidents in **2023**

Accidental electrical fire	Lightning	Shocks
9%	14%	77%

Chart 2: Deaths due to electrical accidents and electrical fatality rate — the number of deaths per lakh population — in India

Electrical fatality rate
Deaths

(Years 2009–2023, deaths from ~10,000 to over 15,000)

Table 4: The absolute number and share of electrical deaths in mega-cities (2013)

Particulars	Population (in lakhs)	Shocks	Fire*	Total
Megacities [Population > 10 lakh]	1,607	1,074	414	1,488
All India	12,288	10,218	1,690	11,908
Megacities as % of total	12.9%	10.5%	24.5%	12.5%

*Electrical fire

Chart 5: The share of locations of electrical accidents (in %)

LOCATION

Generation	0.1%
Transmission	5.6%
Distribution	61.4%
Industrial consumers	2.8%
Non-industrial consumers	30.1%

Map 3: Four-year average electrical fatality rate, State-wise

In the map, the darker the colour, the higher the four-year average electrical fatality rate

Chart 6: Number of victims who were staff and part of the general public in select DISCOMs

States	DISCOM/ contract staff	Consumers/ public	Total	Consumers/ public (%)
Gujarat	19	377	396	95%
Karnataka	13	242	255	95%
Kerala	19	222	241	92%
Rajasthan	54	832	866	94%
Maharashtra	42	826	868	95%
Andhra Pradesh (one DISCOM)	9	135	144	94%
Telangana (one DISCOM)	12	276	288	96%

Chart 7: The share of various causes OF electrical accidents (in %)

Accidental contact with live wire	Neglect of safety measures	Defective appliances	Unauthorised work	Lack of maintenance	Snapping of conductors	Other reasons
35	15	11	11	9	9	10

Steady rise in electricity-related fatality rates in India
भारत में बिजली-संबंधित मृत्यु दर में लगातार वृद्धि

Electricity-related accidents in India
भारत में बिजली से संबंधित दुर्घटनाएँ

- Electricity-related accidents killed over **18,000 people** in India in **2023**.
  2023 में भारत में बिजली से संबंधित दुर्घटनाओं ने **18,000 से अधिक लोगों** की जान ले ली।

- Electrocution is the primary reason followed by **lightning** and **electrical fire** (Chart 1).
  मुख्य कारण इलेक्ट्रोक्यूशन है, इसके बाद **बिजली गिरना** और **इलेक्ट्रिकल आग** (चार्ट 1) आते हैं।

- Over the years, electrical fatality rate — the number of deaths per lakh population — has risen (Chart 2).
  वर्षों के दौरान, बिजली से मृत्यु दर — प्रति एक लाख आबादी पर मौतों की संख्या — बढ़ी है (चार्ट 2)।

- In **2023**, at least one person per lakh population died due to electrical accidents in India.

  2023 में, भारत में प्रति एक लाख आबादी पर कम से कम एक व्यक्ति की मौत बिजली दुर्घटनाओं से हुई।

- In **Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S.**, the electrical fatality rate was between **0.01 and 0.04**.

  जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, यू.के. और यू.एस. में यह दर **0.01 से 0.04** के बीच थी।

- Among States, the **four-year average electrical fatality rate** varied widely, ranging from as low as **0.2** in some States to as high as **2.6** in others (Map 3).

  राज्यों में **चार-वर्षीय औसत बिजली मृत्यु दर** काफी भिन्न थी — कुछ राज्यों में यह **0.2** जितनी कम, और कुछ में **2.6** जितनी अधिक थी (मानचित्र 3)।

- Until **2013**, the *Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India* report showed the break-up of electrical deaths in more than **50 megacities**.

  2013 तक, *Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India* रिपोर्ट में **50 से अधिक मेगासिटीज़** में बिजली-संबंधी मौतों का ब्यौरा शामिल था।

- In **2013**, around **13%** of the total electrical deaths in India occurred in megacities (Table 4).

  2013 में, भारत में बिजली से हुई कुल मौतों का लगभग **13%** मेगासिटीज़ में हुआ था (तालिका 4)।

- These cities also had a higher proportion of deaths due to electrical fires (**~25%**) and a comparatively smaller share of deaths from shocks (**~11%**).

  इन शहरों में इलेक्ट्रिकल आग से होने वाली मौतों का अनुपात अधिक (**~25%**) था, जबकि शॉक से होने वाली मौतों का हिस्सा अपेक्षाकृत कम (**~11%**) था।

Where accidents occur and who is affected
दुर्घटनाएँ कहाँ होती हैं और किन पर प्रभाव पड़ता है

- According to the **Chief Electrical Inspectorate**, in **2025**, **61%** of accidents occurred in **distribution networks**, followed by **non-industrial consumer premises** at **30%** (Chart 5).

  मुख्य विद्युत निरीक्षकालय के अनुसार, 2025 में **61%** दुर्घटनाएँ **वितरण नेटवर्क** में हुईं, इसके बाद **गैर-औद्योगिक उपभोक्ता परिसरों** में **30%** दुर्घटनाएँ हुईं (चार्ट 5)।

- Given that most accidents occurred at the distribution level, we examined data from select distribution companies (**DISCOMs**).

  यह देखते हुए कि अधिकांश दुर्घटनाएँ वितरण स्तर पर हुईं, चुनी हुई वितरण कंपनियों (**DISCOMs**) के आँकड़े जांचे गए।

- DISCOMs reported that more than **90%** of the victims were **general public** (Table 6).

  DISCOMs ने बताया कि पीड़ितों में **90% से अधिक साधारण जनता** थी (तालिका 6)।

- Most accidents in **2025** occurred due to **accidental contact with live wire (35%)** and **neglect in safety measures or lack of supervision (15%)**.

  2025 में अधिकांश दुर्घटनाएँ **लाइव वायर से आकस्मिक संपर्क (35%)** और **सुरक्षा उपायों की अनदेखी या निगरानी की कमी (15%)** के कारण हुईं।

- This shows poor attention to safety by the DISCOMs and low awareness among the public.

  यह DISCOMs द्वारा सुरक्षा पर कमजोर ध्यान और जनता में कम जागरूकता को दर्शाता है।