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03 DECEMBER2025

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PCS Special:	03 December 2025
UPPSC	
1.	**Value of U.P.'s newly approved drinking water projects** **यूपी की नई स्वीकृत पेयजल परियोजनाओं का मूल्य**

UPPSC	03/12/2025

Value of U.P.'s newly approved drinking water projects
यूपी की नई स्वीकृत पेयजल परियोजनाओं का मूल्य

- Value of U.P.'s newly approved drinking water projects
यूपी की नई स्वीकृत पेयजल परियोजनाओं का मूल्य
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** approved two drinking water projects worth **₹582.74 crore** under the **AMRUT 2.0 scheme**.
उत्तर प्रदेश कैबिनेट ने **AMRUT 2.0 योजना** के तहत **₹582.74 करोड़** की दो पेयजल परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी।
- The investments aim to upgrade **Bareilly's water supply system** and expand **Kanpur's pipeline network**.
यह निवेश **बरेली की जलापूर्ति प्रणाली** को उन्नत करने और **कानपुर के पाइपलाइन नेटवर्क** का विस्तार करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography	
TOPICS COVERED	**03 December 2025**
History	
1.	**QUIZ**
3.	**How the river Kosi's shifting course exposes the perils of embankments** **कैसे नदी कोसी का बदलता मार्ग तटबंधों के खतरों को उजागर करता है**

QUIZ

Bay of Pigs: Meaning, History, and Significance

Meaning of "Bay of Pigs"

• The term **Bay of Pigs** refers to a bay on the **southern coast of Cuba**, known in Spanish as **Bahía de Cochinos**.

• In Hispanic/Spanish usage, *"Cochinos"* refers to the **queen triggerfish**, a species common in the region.

• Hence, the name **does not refer to pigs**, but to this **local fish species**.

• The Bay of Pigs invasion was an **unsuccessful military operation** undertaken in **April 1961**.

• It was planned and executed by the **U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**.

• The primary objective was to **overthrow Fidel Castro's government**, which had come to power in **1959**.

• For the operation, the CIA trained Cuban exiles known as **Brigade 2506**, expecting them to land, spark an internal uprising, and topple Castro.

• Post-1959, Cuba aligned itself with the **Soviet Union**, raising U.S. concerns during the **Cold War**.

• The U.S. wanted to:

• Prevent Soviet influence from expanding in the Western Hemisphere

• Replace Castro with a U.S.-friendly regime

• Halt the spread of communism in Latin America

Impact and Significance

• The invasion became a **major embarrassment** for the U.S. and the **John F. Kennedy administration**.

• It strengthened **Fidel Castro's leadership** and pushed Cuba closer to the **Soviet Union**.

• This failure was a key event contributing to the **Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**, one of the most dangerous moments of the Cold War.

Operation Ajax (1953 Coup in Iran)

• **Operation Ajax** (also known as **TP-Ajax**) was a **CIA-led covert operation in 1953** to overthrow Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister **Mohammad Mossadegh**.

• Following the coup, **Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi**, the monarch of Iran, was **restored to power** with expanded authority.

Why the Coup Happened

• In **1951**, Prime Minister **Mohammad Mossadegh** nationalised Iran's oil industry.

• Before nationalisation, Iran's oil was controlled by the **Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC)**, which was majority-owned by the **British government**.

• Nationalisation threatened British economic and strategic interests.

• His rule eventually became one of the causes of the **Iranian Revolution in 1979**.

• The coup was jointly planned by the **CIA** and **British MI6**.
• The operation on the ground was directed by **Kermit Roosevelt Jr.**, a senior CIA officer.

CIA-Supported Coup in Chile (1973) and the Death of Salvador Allende

• The CIA-supported coup took place in **Chile** on **11 September 1973**.
• It overthrew the democratically elected socialist President **Salvador Allende**.
• The coup was led by **General Augusto Pinochet**, commander-in-chief of the Chilean Army.

Who Was Salvador Allende?

• Salvador Allende became the **world's first democratically elected Marxist President** in **1970**.
• His government introduced:
• Nationalisation of major industries, especially **copper mines**
• Land reforms
• Social welfare programs
• His economic and political agenda directly challenged U.S. corporate and strategic interests during the Cold War.

• Chile's copper nationalisation harmed U.S. companies financially.
• The U.S. feared that a successful socialist democracy in Latin America could inspire other nations.
• Declassified documents show that the CIA:
• Funded opposition parties and labour strikes
• Supported media propaganda against Allende
• Worked to destabilise the Chilean economy
• U.S. officials approved plans to "prevent Allende from consolidating power."

Events of the Coup (11 September 1973)

• The Chilean military surrounded the **La Moneda Presidential Palace**.
• Air Force jets bombed the palace while ground forces advanced.
• Allende refused to surrender.
• During the assault, **Salvador Allende died inside the palace**.
• The official account states that he **committed suicide** using a rifle given to him by Fidel Castro, though the circumstances remain historically debated.

Aftermath: Rise of Augusto Pinochet

• Following the coup, **General Augusto Pinochet** assumed control of Chile.
• His dictatorship lasted from **1973 to 1990** and was marked by:
• Suspension of the constitution
• Dissolution of political parties
• Mass arrests, torture, and disappearances
• Implementation of neoliberal economic reforms
• Thousands of Chileans were killed, exiled, or disappeared during this period.

Operation Gideon (2020): Failed Attempted Coup in Venezuela

• **Operation Gideon** was a failed **2020 armed infiltration** into Venezuela aimed at overthrowing **President Nicolás Maduro**.

• The operation involved a small group of **former U.S. Green Berets**, private contractors, and Venezuelan dissidents.

• The attackers attempted to enter Venezuela by **fishing boats** from the neighboring country **Colombia**.

• The mission collapsed within hours, and most participants were captured or killed.

GS Paper 1: Society	
TOPICS COVERED	**03 December 2025**
Society	
People should disclose details as per Census Act, says Home Ministry in LS गृह मंत्रालय ने लोकसभा में कहा कि लोगों को जनगणना अधिनियम के अनुसार विवरण प्रकट करना चाहिए	

People should disclose details as per Census Act, says Home Ministry in LS

GS I: Society

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On being asked if disclosing caste during the upcoming Census would be optional, the Union Government said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday that as per the Census Act, 1948, "the respondent is required to answer questions to the best of his knowledge or belief."

The statement came as a written reply by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in response to a question by Trinamool Congress member Shatrughan Prasad Sinha, who asked whether disclosing caste for the Census would be optional.

The Minister's reply mentioned Section 8(2) of the Census Act, 1948, which says, "Every person of whom any question is asked under sub-section (1) shall be legally bound to

The Census will be the first digital census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India. R.V. MOORTHY

answer such question to the best of his knowledge or belief."

The next Census will be the first digital census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

The reply added that the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner is in the process of finalising a questionnaire and it will be notified in the official gazette.

When asked if the timeline for the Census would clash with school board examinations as many enumerators are also schoolteachers, the reply said: "Primary school teachers are usually appointed as enumerators. The timeline for Census 2027 has been kept same like the past practices followed in previous censuses."

The reply said, "In Census, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (Sts) are enumerated strictly as per the notified list of SCs and STs, notified vide the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 (as amended time to time). In Census 2027, Caste enumeration will be done as decided by Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs vide its decision dated 30.04.2025. The census questions are notified after finalisation."

The Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases. – Phase I -House Listing and Housing Census from April to September, 2026 in a period of 30 days as per the convenience of the State/UT Governments, followed by Phase II - Population Enumeration (PE). Population Enumeration will be done in February 2027.

People should disclose details as per Census Act, says Home Ministry in LS
गृह मंत्रालय ने लोकसभा में कहा कि लोगों को जनगणना अधिनियम के अनुसार विवरण प्रकट करना चाहिए

- People should disclose details as per **Census Act**, says **Home Ministry** in **LS**
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- On being asked if disclosing caste during the upcoming Census would be optional, the Union Government said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday that as per the **Census Act, 1948**, "the respondent is required to answer questions to the best of his knowledge or belief."
  आगामी जनगणना के दौरान जाति का खुलासा करना वैकल्पिक होगा या नहीं पूछे जाने पर, केंद्र ने मंगलवार को **लोकसभा** में कहा कि **जनगणना अधिनियम, 1948** के अनुसार "उत्तरदाता को अपनी सर्वोत्तम जानकारी या विश्वास के अनुसार प्रश्नों का उत्तर देना आवश्यक है।"
- The statement came as a written reply by **Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai** in response to a question by **Trinamool Congress member Shatrughan Prasad Sinha**, who asked whether disclosing caste for the Census would be optional.
  यह बयान **गृह राज्य मंत्री नित्यानंद राय** द्वारा **तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद शत्रुघ्न प्रसाद सिन्हा** के प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर के रूप में आया, जिन्होंने पूछा था कि जनगणना में जाति का खुलासा वैकल्पिक होगा या नहीं।

- The Minister's reply mentioned **Section 8(2)** of the **Census Act, 1948**, which says, "Every person of whom any question is asked under sub-section (1) shall be legally bound to answer such question to the best of his knowledge or belief."

   मंत्री के उत्तर में **जनगणना अधिनियम, 1948** की **धारा 8(2)** का उल्लेख किया गया, जिसमें कहा गया है कि "जिस किसी व्यक्ति से उपधारा (1) के तहत प्रश्न पूछा जाए, वह अपनी सर्वोत्तम जानकारी या विश्वास के अनुसार उत्तर देने के लिए विधिसम्मत रूप से बाध्य होगा।"

- The next Census will be the **first digital census** and the first to enumerate **caste in Independent India**.

   अगली जनगणना **पहली डिजिटल जनगणना** होगी और **स्वतंत्र भारत में पहली बार जाति का गणना** करेगी।

- The reply added that the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner** is in the process of finalising a questionnaire and it will be notified in the official gazette.

   उत्तर में जोड़ा गया कि **महानिबंधक एवं जनगणना आयुक्त का कार्यालय** प्रश्नावली को अंतिम रूप देने की प्रक्रिया में है और इसे राजपत्र में अधिसूचित किया जाएगा।

- When asked if the timeline for the Census would clash with school board examinations as many enumerators are also schoolteachers, the reply said: "Primary school teachers are usually appointed as enumerators. The timeline for **Census 2027** has been kept same like the past practices followed in previous censuses."

   जब पूछा गया कि जनगणना की समयसीमा स्कूल बोर्ड परीक्षाओं से टकराएगी या नहीं, क्योंकि कई गणनाकर्ता स्कूल शिक्षक भी होते हैं, उत्तर में कहा गया: "प्राथमिक स्कूल शिक्षक आमतौर पर गणनाकर्ता नियुक्त किए जाते हैं। जनगणना 2027 की समयसीमा पहले की जनगणनाओं में अपनाई गई प्रथाओं जैसी ही रखी गई है।"

- The reply said, "In Census, **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** are enumerated strictly as per the notified list of SCs and STs, notified vide the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** and the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950** (as amended time to time).

   उत्तर में कहा गया: "जनगणना में **अनुसूचित जाति (SC)** और **अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST)** की गणना सख्ती से **संविधान (अनुसूचित जाति) आदेश, 1950** और **संविधान (अनुसूचित जनजाति) आदेश, 1950** (समय-समय पर संशोधित) की अधिसूचित सूची के अनुसार की जाती है।

- In **Census 2027**, caste enumeration will be done as decided by **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs** vide its decision dated **30.04.2025**. The census questions are notified after finalisation."

   जनगणना 2027 में जाति गणना **कैबिनेट समिति राजनीतिक मामलों** द्वारा **30.04.2025** को लिए गए निर्णय के अनुसार की जाएगी। जनगणना प्रश्न अंतिम रूप दिए जाने के बाद अधिसूचित किए जाते हैं।"

- The **Census 2027** will be conducted in **two phases**. — Phase I – House Listing and Housing Census from **April to September, 2026** in a period of 30 days as per the convenience of the State/UT Governments, followed by Phase II – **Population Enumeration (PE)**.

   जनगणना 2027 दो चरणों में की जाएगी। — चरण I – **गृह सूचीकरण और आवास जनगणना अप्रैल से सितंबर 2026** के बीच 30 दिनों की अवधि में, राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश सरकारों की सुविधा के अनुसार, जिसके बाद चरण II – **जनसंख्या गणना (PE)** होगी।

- Population Enumeration will be done in **February 2027**.

   जनसंख्या गणना **फरवरी 2027** में की जाएगी।

GS Paper 1: Geography	
TOPICS COVERED	**03 December 2025**

How the river Kosi's shifting course exposes the perils of embankments

Do concrete embankments protect against floods from rivers such as the Kosi, or are their very walls making the plains more vulnerable? Floods without embankments are milder; the alternative may be to learn to live with floods, as the U.S. has done, where embankments have been removed

GS I: Geography   MQB

M. Rupa Rasagna

In August 2008, Bihar experienced one of the worst floods in nearly five decades when the Kosi River breached its embankment at Kushaha in Sunsari district of Nepal, killing more than 400 people and displacing thousands. A staggering 33 lakh people were affected at the peak of the flood in Bihar.

Indeed, the Kosi river breaches the walls of its embankment every few years, imperilling lives and livelihoods, and earning it the name 'river of sorrow'.

In the eastern Gangetic plains and the adjoining floodplains, rivers have overflowed during the monsoons for centuries, causing catastrophic floods. The Kosi originates in Tibet and Nepal and later joins the Ganga in Bihar. Often called "*sapta* Kosi" because of its seven tributaries, it is a fragile and dynamic river that naturally carries large quantities of sediment. Over the years, the river has shifted its course by several kilometres, subsequently triggering floods.

Committee report

According to a report of the People's Commission on the Kosi Basin, an independent commission, the river has moved 120 km westwards in the last 250 years due to a heavy natural sedimentation process. Experts suggest the construction of a barrage in Nepal in the 1950s, followed by an embankment in Bihar, has significantly altered the river's natural flow.

Embankments are artificial structures made of earth, stone or concrete, designed to control water flow in flood-prone areas.

These structures are made to endure the effects of gravity, water pressure, and other external forces and are expected to remain stable over time. While they are often promoted as an ideal solution to protect settlements and enhance agriculture, experts have long warned of their limitations.

In 1951, the G.R. Garg Committee report of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission warned against such projects. It was appointed after Assam decided to build an embankment, hoping to prevent floods during the monsoon.

The report observed that the two main functions of a river – providing land (by eroding and depositing) and draining its basin – are disrupted by embankments. It further cautioned that these structures are useful only when the river carries less silt; otherwise they could do more harm than good.

Rather than pay heed to these warnings, however, the Assam government proceeded with building embankments along the Brahmaputra river. While the idea was simple – to prevent floods – its effects were counterproductive. In Assam, particularly, coarse silt and sand were deposited by rivers on the banks, affecting agriculture. Local communities lived in constant fear of a breach. Siltation reduced the river's depth and made navigation more difficult.

Flood control

"The northern rivers carry a lot of silt. So if you embank them, the river keeps getting higher because of the accumulation of silt," said E. Somanathan, head of the Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate Change, Food, Energy and Environment. "And because every monsoon the silt adds up, an embanked river after a few years turns dangerous, even though initially it provided some protection."

This is why such incidents related to the Kosi aren't isolated: the river breached its embankment in 1963, 1968, 1971, 1980, 1984, 1987, and in 1991, before it breached again in 2008 and 2024.

Almost exactly a year ago, when the Mahuli tributary of the Kosi river entered India and hit the Kosi barrage, the quantity of the silt in the river increased, causing devastating floods.

Every year, the amount of silt threatens locals and submerges vast tracts of agricultural land.

The repeated breaches raise an important question: should embankments be considered flood-control structures at all?

Influent and affluent rivers

"Whether embankments are necessary depends on the aim," Rahul Yaduka, a postdoctoral scholar working on the WATCON Project at The School of Oriental and African Studies, London, said.

"If development is the aim, then embankments will serve the purpose because you tame the river. But people have always been living with floods for centuries. When the British noticed that the Kosi river was shifting its course, they found it difficult to control it, and decided to build an embankment to control the flow. But the result of this exercise was water-logging outside the embankment, causing floods for those who live between the embankment," Dr. Yaduka added.

On the other hand, Bindhy W. Pandey, director of the Centre for Himalayan Studies at the University of Delhi, argued that embankments can play an important role in rivers in the western Himalayan region as they are less flood-prone and geologically more stable. He, however, cautioned against constructing embankments on the rivers in the eastern Himalayan region as they were vulnerable to breaches, geologically weaker and more prone to landslides.

"Rivers draining in the west are influent, meaning that as the river flows through different States, the precipitation

> If the river-linking project is completed, 5,247 cusecs of extra water will be diverted towards the Mechi river. But in the floods last year, Kosi river carried nearly 6 lakh cusecs of water. So, we are not reducing the flood water by building embankments or by linking the rivers
>
> **MAHENDRA YADAV**
> KOSI NAV NIRMAN MANCH MOVEMENT

decreases. Whereas the east-flowing rivers are affluent, that is, the amount of precipitation increases in the course of time," said Prof. Pandey.

He added that construction in such geologically weak regions must be paired with constant monitoring and a transparent rehabilitation process for the displaced people.

His argument circled back to Dr. Somanathan's warning: that embankments may offer short-term protection but often open the door for long-term vulnerability.

'Not a viable option'

"The U.S. has dismantled embankments and allowed the flood to happen. When we build more infrastructure that alters the river's course, the river bed keeps increasing silt, but floods without embankments are much milder. If an embankment is built, then we need to keep raising its height. But that requires finances," Dr. Somanathan said.

The alternative that he proposed is to 'learn to live with floods'. "When we do that, we are allowing the river to act as a natural drainage system," Dr. Somanathan said.

Mahendra Yadav, member of the Kosi Nav Nirman Manch Movement, also stands by the concept of 'living with floods' but believes this can happen only if people between the Kosi embankment are trained with early warning systems and provided rehabilitation outside.

"The solution that can be offered to people is to rehabilitate them outside the embankment because if the embankment is blocking them, they cannot get out, even with early warning systems."

"For India, an embankment is not a viable option because we don't have the infrastructure to maintain it," he said. But as the embankments are a reality for many rivers in northern India, Dr. Yaduka suggested that one has to "identify ways to make them better and stable. Along with that, paleochannels (abandoned ancient river or stream channels) should be revived so that water is distributed."

Mr. Yadav also suggests the improvement of palaeochannels, which contain the water well within their basins, preventing floods.

Tall promises

Ahead of the Bihar election this year, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) promised "flood to fortune" in their election manifesto for the people of Bihar. The coalition assured residents that if elected to power, the newly formed government will initiate the river-linking project – embankments and canals under the "flood to fortune" model – to promote agriculture and fisheries, according to the *Sankalp Patra* released jointly by the BJP and NDA.

Though this promise carries with it a tone of political optimism, the State's geography is complex and requires a deeper understanding of the long-standing ecological realities, including sedimentation and siltation. The river-linking project in question is the Kosi-Mechi project, which aims to extend the EKMC (Eastern Kosi Main Canal) up to the river Mechi, a tributary of the river Mahananda, mainly to provide irrigation to the water-scarce region along the Mahananda basin during the kharif season. However, in reality, if it rains near the Kosi catchment area, the monsoon reaches Mahananda in a day or two and there is barely any need for water during the monsoon.

"But if the issue [flooding] was to be solved by an embankment, then there should have been no floods at all, but that is not the case. If the river-linking project is completed, 5,247 cusecs of extra water will be diverted towards the Mechi river. But in the floods last year, Kosi river carried nearly 6 lakh cusecs of water. So, we are not reducing the flood water by building embankments or by linking the rivers," Mr. Yadav explained.

Every year, more money has to be spent on raising the embankment, but that is not a sustainable solution, he added. "In fact, it is a luxurious choice. Even though money is spent, does it actually sustain? And more importantly, who is benefiting from it? The locals stuck [with] the embankment face the wrath without any rehabilitation facilities."

"With the embankment, the flood has increased nearly four times," Mr. Yadav said. He added that desilting should be done according to scientific methods.

Dr. Somanathan contended that embankments disturb ecological integrity, groundwater, and biodiversity, and expressed the hope that the discourse would change from flood-control to flood-resistance.

For the families that lose their homes every year when a river swells, the embankment is both a threat and a promise, a line drawn against nature that never seems to hold for long. But as the Kosi's story illustrates, every time an embankment is raised, the river is quick to reclaim its domain.

How the river Kosi's shifting course exposes the perils of embankments
कैसे नदी कोसी का बदलता मार्ग तटबंधों के खतरों को उजागर करता है

- Do concrete embankments protect against **floods** from rivers such as the Kosi, or are their very walls making the plains more **vulnerable**?
  क्या कंक्रीट तटबंध कोसी जैसी नदियों से आने वाली **बाढ़** से बचाते हैं, या क्या उनकी दीवारें ही मैदानों को अधिक **असुरक्षित** बना रही हैं?

- Floods without embankments are **milder**; the alternative may be to **learn to live with floods**, as the **U.S.** has done, where embankments have been **removed**
  बिना तटबंधों की बाढ़ अधिक **हल्की** होती हैं; विकल्प यह हो सकता है कि **बाढ़ के साथ जीना सीखा जाए**, जैसा कि **अमेरिका (U.S.)** ने किया है, जहां तटबंधों को **हटा** दिया गया है

Kosi River and Floods
कोसी नदी और बाढ़

- In August **2008**, Bihar experienced one of the worst floods in nearly five decades when the Kosi River breached its embankment at Kusaha in Sunsari district of **Nepal**, killing more than **400 people** and displacing thousands. A staggering **33 lakh people** were a• ected at the peak of the • ood in Bihar.
  अगस्त **2008** में, बिहार ने लगभग पाँच दशकों में सबसे भीषण बाढ़ों में से एक का अनुभव किया जब कोसी नदी ने **नेपाल** के सुनसरी जिले के कुशाहा में अपने तटबंध को तोड़ दिया, जिससे **400 से अधिक लोग** मारे गए और हजारों विस्थापित हुए। बिहार में बाढ़ के चरम पर **33 लाख लोग** प्रभावित हुए।

- Indeed, the Kosi river breaches the walls of its embankment every few years, imperilling lives and livelihoods, and earning it the name **'river of sorrow.'**
  वास्तव में, कोसी नदी हर कुछ वर्षों में अपने तटबंध की दीवारों को तोड़ देती है, जिससे जीवन और आजीविका खतरे में पड़ जाती है, और इसे **'दुख की नदी'** कहा जाता है।

- In the eastern Gangetic plains and the adjoining floodplains, rivers have overflowed during the monsoons for centuries, causing catastrophic floods.
  पूर्वी गंगा के मैदानी क्षेत्रों और आस-पास के बाढ़ मैदानों में, नदियाँ सदियों से मानसून के दौरान उफनती रही हैं, जिससे विनाशकारी बाढ़ आई हैं।

- The Kosi originates in **Tibet** and **Nepal** and later joins the Ganga in Bihar. Often called **"sapta Kosi"** because of its **seven tributaries**, it is a fragile and dynamic river that naturally carries large quantities of sediment.
  कोसी का उद्गम **तिब्बत** और **नेपाल** में होता है और बाद में यह बिहार में गंगा से मिलती है। अपनी **सात सहायक नदियों** के कारण इसे अक्सर **"सप्त कोसी"** कहा जाता है। यह एक नाजुक और गतिशील नदी है जो स्वाभाविक रूप से बड़ी मात्रा में अवसाद लेकर चलती है।

- Over the years, the river has shifted its course by several kilometres, subsequently triggering floods.
  वर्षों में, नदी ने अपने मार्ग को कई किलोमीटर तक बदल दिया है, जिससे बाद में बाढ़ आई हैं।

Committee report
समिति रिपोर्ट

- According to a report of the **People's Commission on the Kosi Basin**, an independent commission, the river has moved **120 km westwards** in the last **250 years** due to a heavy natural sedimentation process.
  स्वतंत्र आयोग **पीपल्स कमीशन ऑन द कोसी बेसिन** की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारी प्राकृतिक अवसादन प्रक्रिया के कारण पिछले **250 वर्षों** में नदी **120 किलोमीटर पश्चिम** की ओर खिसक गई है।

- Experts suggest the construction of a **barrage in Nepal in the 1950s**, followed by an embankment in Bihar, has significantly altered the river's natural flow.

विशेषज्ञ सुझाव देते हैं कि **1950 के दशक में नेपाल में बैराज के निर्माण** और उसके बाद बिहार में तटबंध ने नदी के प्राकृतिक प्रवाह को काफी बदल दिया है।

- Embankments are artificial structures made of **earth, stone or concrete**, designed to control water flow in flood-prone areas.
  तटबंध **मिट्टी, पत्थर या कंक्रीट** से बने कृत्रिम ढांचे होते हैं, जो बाढ़-प्रवण क्षेत्रों में जल प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने के लिए डिजाइन किए जाते हैं।

- These structures are made to endure the e•ects of gravity, water pressure, and other external forces and are expected to remain stable over time.
  ये संरचनाएँ गुरुत्वाकर्षण, जल दबाव और अन्य बाहरी बलों के प्रभाव को सहन करने के लिए बनाई जाती हैं और समय के साथ स्थिर रहने की उम्मीद की जाती हैं।

- While they are often promoted as an ideal solution to protect settlements and enhance agriculture, experts have long warned of their limitations.
  बस्तियों की रक्षा करने और कृषि को बढ़ाने के आदर्श समाधान के रूप में इन्हें अक्सर प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, लेकिन विशेषज्ञ लंबे समय से उनकी सीमाओं के बारे में चेतावनी देते आए हैं।

- In **1951**, the **G.R. Garg Committee** report of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission warned against such projects. It was appointed after Assam decided to build an embankment, hoping to prevent •oods during the monsoon.
  1951 में केंद्रीय जलमार्ग, सिंचाई और नौवहन आयोग की **जी.आर. गर्ग समिति** की रिपोर्ट ने ऐसे परियोजनाओं के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी। यह रिपोर्ट तब नियुक्त की गई जब असम ने मानसून के दौरान बाढ़ रोकने की आशा में तटबंध बनाने का निर्णय लिया था।

- The report observed that the two main functions of a river — providing land (by eroding and depositing) and draining its basin — are disrupted by embankments.
  रिपोर्ट ने पाया कि नदी के दो मुख्य कार्य — भूमि प्रदान करना (कटाव और निक्षेपण द्वारा) और अपने बेसिन की निकासी — तटबंधों द्वारा बाधित होते हैं।

- It further cautioned that these structures are useful only when the river carries **less silt**; otherwise they could do more harm than good.
  रिपोर्ट ने आगे चेतावनी दी कि ये संरचनाएँ तभी उपयोगी होती हैं जब नदी **कम गाद** लेकर चलती है; अन्यथा वे लाभ से अधिक हानि पहुँचा सकती हैं।

- Rather than pay heed to these warnings, however, the **Assam government** proceeded with building embankments along the **Brahmaputra river**.
  इन चेतावनियों पर ध्यान देने के बजाय, **असम सरकार** ने **ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी** के किनारे तटबंधों का निर्माण जारी रखा।

- While the idea was simple — to prevent •oods — its e•ects were counterproductive.
  यद्यपि विचार सरल था — बाढ़ रोकना — लेकिन इसके परिणाम प्रतिकूल थे।

- In Assam, particularly, coarse silt and sand were deposited by rivers on the banks, affecting agriculture.
  विशेष रूप से असम में, नदियों द्वारा किनारों पर मोटी गाद और रेत जमा की गई, जिससे कृषि प्रभावित हुई।

- Local communities lived in constant fear of a breach.
  स्थानीय समुदाय लगातार तटबंध टूटने के भय में जीते रहे।

- Siltation reduced the river's depth and made navigation more difficult.
  गाद जमने से नदी की गहराई कम हो गई और नौवहन अधिक कठिन हो गया।

Flood control
बाढ़ नियंत्रण

- "The northern rivers carry a lot of **silt**. So if you embank them, the river keeps getting higher because of the accumulation of **silt**," said **E. Somanathan**, head of the Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate Change, Food, Energy and Environment. "And because every monsoon the silt adds up, an embanked river after a few years turns dangerous, even though initially it provided some protection."
  "उत्तरी नदियाँ बहुत अधिक **गाद (silt)** लेकर चलती हैं। इसलिए यदि आप उन्हें तटबंधित करते हैं, तो गाद के जमा होने के कारण नदी ऊंची होती जाती है," **ई. सोमनाथन**, सेंटर फॉर रिसर्च ऑन द इकोनॉमिक्स ऑफ क्लाइमेट चेंज, फूड, एनर्जी एंड एनवायरनमेंट के प्रमुख ने कहा। "और क्योंकि हर मानसून में गाद बढ़ती रहती है, कुछ वर्षों बाद तटबंधित नदी खतरनाक हो जाती है, भले ही शुरुआत में उसने कुछ सुरक्षा प्रदान की हो।"

- This is why such incidents related to the Kosi aren't isolated: the river breached its embankment in **1963, 1968, 1971, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1991**, before it breached again in **2008** and **2024**.

  इसी कारण कोसी से संबंधित ऐसे घटनाक्रम अलग-थलग नहीं हैं: नदी ने **1963, 1968, 1971, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1991** में अपने तटबंध को तोड़ा, और फिर **2008** और **2024** में भी तटबंध टूट गया।

- Almost exactly a year ago, when the **Mahuli tributary** of the Kosi river entered India and hit the **Kosi barrage**, the quantity of the **silt** in the river increased, causing devastating floods.

  लगभग ठीक एक वर्ष पहले, जब कोसी की **महुली सहायक नदी** भारत में प्रवेश कर **कोसी बैराज** से टकराई, तो नदी में **गाद (silt)** की मात्रा बढ़ गई, जिससे विनाशकारी बाढ़ आई।

- Every year, the amount of **silt** threatens locals and submerges vast tracts of agricultural land.

  हर वर्ष, **गाद (silt)** की मात्रा स्थानीय लोगों को खतरे में डालती है और कृषि भूमि के विशाल हिस्से को डुबो देती है।

- The repeated breaches raise an important question: should embankments be considered flood-control structures at all?

  बार-बार तटबंध टूटने से एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठता है: क्या तटबंधों को वास्तव में बाढ़ नियंत्रण संरचनाएँ माना जाना चाहिए?

Influents and affluents rivers
प्रवाहित और उपनदीय नदियाँ

- "Whether embankments are necessary depends on the **aim**," **Rahul Yaduka**, a postdoctoral scholar working on the **WATCON Project** at The School of Oriental and African Studies, London, said.

  "तटबंध आवश्यक हैं या नहीं, यह **उद्देश्य (aim)** पर निर्भर करता है," **राहुल यदुका**, जो लंदन स्थित स्कूल ऑफ़ ओरिएंटल एंड अफ्रीकन स्टडीज़ में **WATCON प्रोजेक्ट** पर कार्यरत एक पोस्टडॉक्टरल शोधकर्ता हैं, ने कहा।

- "If development is the **aim**, then embankments will serve the purpose because you tame the river. But people have always been living with • foods for centuries. When the British noticed that the Kosi river was shifting its course, they found it di• cult to control it, and decided to build an embankment to control the • ow. But the result of this exercise was water-logging outside the embankment, causing • woods for those who live between the embankment," Dr. Yaduka added.

  "यदि **विकास (development)** उद्देश्य है, तो तटबंध इसका उद्देश्य पूरा करते हैं क्योंकि आप नदी को नियंत्रित कर लेते हैं। लेकिन लोग सदियों से बाढ़ के साथ रहते आए हैं। जब ब्रिटिशों ने देखा कि कोसी नदी अपना मार्ग बदल रही है, तो उन्हें इसे नियंत्रित करना कठिन लगा और उन्होंने प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने के लिए तटबंध बनाने का निर्णय लिया। लेकिन इस प्रयास का परिणाम तटबंध के बाहर जलभराव के रूप में निकला, जिससे उन लोगों को बाढ़ का सामना करना पड़ा जो तटबंध के बीच रहते हैं," डॉ. यदुका ने जोड़ा।

- On the other hand, **Bindhy W. Pandey**, director of the **Centre for Himalayan Studies**, University of Delhi, argued that embankments can play an important role in rivers in the **western Himalayan region** as they are less flood-prone and geologically more stable.

  दूसरी ओर, **बिंद्घ डब्ल्यू. पांडे**, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के **सेंटर फॉर हिमालयन स्टडीज़** के निदेशक, ने तर्क दिया कि तटबंध **पश्चिमी हिमालयी क्षेत्र** की नदियों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते हैं क्योंकि वे कम बाढ़-प्रवण और भूगर्भीय रूप से अधिक स्थिर हैं।

- He, however, cautioned against constructing embankments on the rivers in the **eastern Himalayan region** as they were vulnerable to breaches, geologically weaker and more prone to **landslides**.

  हालाँकि, उन्होंने **पूर्वी हिमालयी क्षेत्र** की नदियों में तटबंध बनाने के खिलाफ सावधानी बरतने को कहा क्योंकि वे तटबंध टूटने, भूगर्भीय कमजोरी और **भूस्खलन (landslides)** की अधिक संभावना रखती हैं।

- "Rivers draining in the west are **influent**, meaning that as the river flows through different States, the **precipitation decreases**.

- "पश्चिम की ओर बहने वाली नदियाँ **इन्फ्लुएंट (influent)** होती हैं, जिसका अर्थ है कि जैसे-जैसे नदी विभिन्न राज्यों से गुजरती है, **वर्षा (precipitation)** कम होती जाती है।

- Whereas the east-flowing rivers are **affluent**, that is, the amount of **precipitation increases** in the course of time," said Prof. Pandey.

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- जबकि पूर्व की ओर बहने वाली नदियाँ **अफलुएंट (affluent)** होती हैं, अर्थात समय के साथ **वर्षा बढ़ती** जाती है," प्रो. पांडे ने कहा।

- He added that construction in such geologically weak regions must be paired with **constant monitoring** and a **transparent rehabilitation process** for the displaced people.
  उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे भूगर्भीय रूप से कमजोर क्षेत्रों में निर्माण कार्य को **निरंतर निगरानी** और विस्थापित लोगों के लिए **पारदर्शी पुनर्वास प्रक्रिया** के साथ जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।

- His argument circled back to Dr. Somanathan's warning: that embankments may offer **short-term protection** but often open the door for **long-term vulnerability**.
  उनका तर्क डॉ. सोमनाथन की चेतावनी से जुड़ता है: कि तटबंध **अल्पकालिक सुरक्षा** प्रदान कर सकते हैं, लेकिन अक्सर **दीर्घकालिक जोखिम** को बढ़ा देते हैं।

'Not a viable option'
'व्यवहारिक विकल्प नहीं'

- "The U.S. has dismantled embankments and allowed the flood to happen. When we build more infrastructure that alters the river's course, the river bed keeps increasing **silt**, but floods without embankments are much milder. If an embankment is built, then we need to keep raising its height. But that requires finances," **Dr. Somanathan** said.
  "**अमेरिका (U.S.)** ने तटबंधों को हटाया है और बाढ़ को होने दिया है। जब हम अधिक बुनियादी ढाँचा बनाते हैं जो नदी के मार्ग को बदलता है, तो नदी का तल **गाद (silt)** बढ़ाता रहता है, लेकिन तटबंधों के बिना बाढ़ बहुत हल्की होती है। यदि तटबंध बनाया जाता है, तो हमें इसकी ऊँचाई बढ़ाते रहना पड़ता है। लेकिन इसके लिए **वित्त (finances)** चाहिए," **डॉ. सोमनाथन** ने कहा।

- The alternative that he proposed is to 'learn to live with floods'. "When we do that, we are allowing the river to act as a natural drainage system," **Dr. Somanathan** said.
  उन्होंने जो विकल्प प्रस्तावित किया वह है '**बाढ़ के साथ जीना सीखना**'। "जब हम ऐसा करते हैं, तो हम नदी को एक प्राकृतिक जल-निकासी प्रणाली की तरह काम करने देते हैं," **डॉ. सोमनाथन** ने कहा।

- **Mahendra Yadav**, member of the **Kosi Nav Nirman Manch Movement**, also stands by the concept of 'living with floods' but believes this can happen only if people between the Kosi embankment are trained with **early warning systems** and provided rehabilitation outside.
  महेंद्र यादव, **कोसी नव निर्माण मंच आंदोलन** के सदस्य, भी '**बाढ़ के साथ जीने**' की अवधारणा का समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन उनका मानना है कि यह तभी संभव है जब कोसी तटबंध के बीच के लोगों को **अर्ली वार्निंग सिस्टम** से प्रशिक्षित किया जाए और उन्हें बाहर पुनर्वास दिया जाए।

- "The solution that can be o• ered to people is to rehabilitate them outside the embankment because if the embankment is blocking them, they cannot get out, even with early warning systems."
  "लोगों को जो समाधान दिया जा सकता है वह यह है कि उन्हें तटबंध के बाहर पुनर्वास दिया जाए ताकि यदि तटबंध उन्हें रोक रहा है, तो वे **अर्ली वार्निंग सिस्टम** के बावजूद बाहर नहीं निकल पाते।"

- "For India, an embankment is not a **viable option** because we don't have the infrastructure to maintain it," he said. But as the embankments are a reality for many rivers in northern India, **Dr. Yaduka** suggested that one has to "identify ways to make them better and stable. Along with that, **paleochannels** (abandoned ancient river or stream channels) should be revived so that water is distributed."
  उन्होंने कहा, "भारत के लिए तटबंध एक **व्यवहारिक विकल्प (viable option)** नहीं है क्योंकि हमारे पास इसे बनाए रखने का बुनियादी ढाँचा नहीं है।" लेकिन चूँकि उत्तरी भारत की कई नदियों के लिए तटबंध एक वास्तविकता हैं, **डॉ. यदुका** ने सुझाव दिया कि "हमें उन्हें बेहतर और स्थिर बनाने के तरीके खोजने होंगे। इसके साथ ही **पैलियोचैनल (paleochannels)** को पुनर्जीवित किया जाना चाहिए ताकि पानी वितरित हो सके।"

- **Mr. Yadav** also suggests the improvement of **palaeochannels**, which contain the water well within their basins, preventing floods.
  यादव जी भी **पैलियोचैनल** में सुधार का सुझाव देते हैं, जो अपने बेसिन के भीतर पानी को रोककर रखते हैं और बाढ़ को रोकते हैं।

Tall promises
ऊँचे वादे

- Ahead of the **Bihar election** this year, the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** promised "flood to fortune" in their election manifesto for the people of Bihar.
  इस वर्ष के **बिहार चुनाव** से पहले, **राष्ट्रीय लोकतांत्रिक गठबंधन (NDA)** ने बिहार के लोगों के लिए अपने चुनाव घोषणापत्र में "**फ्लड टू फॉर्च्यून**" का वादा किया।

- The coalition assured residents that if elected to power, the newly formed government will initiate the **river-linking project** — embankments and canals under the "flood to fortune" model — to promote **agriculture** and **fisheries**, according to the **Sankalp Patra** released jointly by the BJP and NDA.
  गठबंधन ने निवासियों को आश्वासन दिया कि यदि सत्ता में चुने गए, तो नई सरकार **रिवर-लिंकिंग प्रोजेक्ट** शुरू करेगी — "**फ्लड टू फॉर्च्यून**" मॉडल के तहत तटबंध और नहरें — ताकि **कृषि** और **मत्स्य पालन** को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके, जैसा कि भाजपा और एनडीए द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से जारी **संकल्प पत्र** में कहा गया है।

- Though this promise carries with it a tone of political optimism, the State's **geography** is complex and requires a deeper understanding of the long-standing **ecological realities**, including **sedimentation** and **siltation**.
  हालाँकि यह वादा राजनीतिक आशावाद लिए हुए है, राज्य की **भूगोल (geography)** जटिल है और इसमें लंबे समय से चली आ रही **पारिस्थितिक वास्तविकताओं**, जैसे **अवसादन (sedimentation)** और **गाद जमाव (siltation)** की गहरी समझ की आवश्यकता है।

- The river-linking project in question is the **Kosi-Mechi project**, which aims to extend the **EKMC (Eastern Kosi Main Canal)** up to the **river Mechi**, a tributary of the river **Mahananda**, mainly to provide **irrigation** to the water-scarce region along the Mahananda basin during the **kharif season**.
  जिस रिवर-लिंकिंग परियोजना की बात हो रही है, वह **कोसी-मेची परियोजना** है, जिसका उद्देश्य **EKMC (ईस्टर्न कोसी मेन कैनाल)** को **मेची नदी** तक बढ़ाना है, जो **महानंदा नदी** की सहायक नदी है, मुख्यतः **खरीफ मौसम** में महानंदा बेसिन के जल-संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र को **सिंचाई** प्रदान करने के लिए।

- However, in reality, if it rains near the **Kosi catchment area**, the monsoon reaches **Mahananda** in a day or two and there is barely any need for water during the monsoon.
  हालाँकि वास्तविकता यह है कि यदि **कोसी कैचमेंट क्षेत्र** में बारिश होती है, तो मानसून एक-दो दिनों में **महानंदा** तक पहुँच जाता है और मानसून के दौरान पानी की लगभग कोई आवश्यकता नहीं होती।

- "But if the issue [flooding] was to be solved by an embankment, then there should have been no floods at all, but that is not the case.
- "लेकिन यदि समस्या [**बाढ़**] तटबंध से हल हो जाती, तो बिल्कुल भी बाढ़ नहीं होनी चाहिए थी, पर ऐसा नहीं है।

- If the river-linking project is completed, **5,247 cusecs** of extra water will be diverted towards the **Mechi river**. But in the floods last year, Kosi river carried nearly **6 lakh cusecs** of water.
- यदि रिवर-लिंकिंग प्रोजेक्ट पूरा हो जाता है, तो **5,247 क्यूसेक** अतिरिक्त पानी **मेची नदी** की ओर मोड़ दिया जाएगा। लेकिन पिछले वर्ष की बाढ़ में, कोसी नदी लगभग **6 लाख क्यूसेक** पानी लेकर चली।

- So, we are not reducing the flood water by building embankments or by linking the rivers," **Mr. Yadav** explained.
  इसलिए हम तटबंध बनाकर या नदियाँ जोड़कर बाढ़ के पानी को कम नहीं कर रहे हैं," **यादव जी** ने समझाया।

- Every year, more money has to be spent on raising the embankment, but that is not a **sustainable solution**, he added. "In fact, it is a **luxurious choice**. Even though money is spent, does it actually sustain? And more importantly, who is benefiting from it? The locals stuck [with] the embankment face the wrath without any rehabilitation facilities."
  हर वर्ष तटबंध की ऊँचाई बढ़ाने पर अधिक धन खर्च करना पड़ता है, लेकिन यह कोई **टिकाऊ समाधान** नहीं है, उन्होंने जोड़ा। "वास्तव में, यह एक **लक्ज़री विकल्प** है। भले ही पैसा खर्च होता है, क्या यह वास्तव में टिकता है? और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, इससे कौन लाभान्वित हो रहा है? तटबंध में फँसे स्थानीय लोग बिना किसी पुनर्वास सुविधा के इसका दंश झेलते हैं।"

- "With the embankment, the flood has increased nearly **four times**," **Mr. Yadav** said. He added that **desilting** should be done according to **scientific methods**.
  "तटबंध के साथ, बाढ़ लगभग **चार गुना** बढ़ गई है," **यादव जी** ने कहा। उन्होंने जोड़ा कि **डीसिल्टिंग** वैज्ञानिक तरीकों के अनुसार की जानी चाहिए।

- **Dr. Somanathan** contended that embankments disturb **ecological integrity**, **groundwater**, and **biodiversity**, and expressed the hope that the discourse would change from • flood-control to flood-resistance.
  डॉ. सोमनाथन ने कहा कि तटबंध **पारिस्थितिक अखंडता**, **भूजल**, और **जैव विविधता** को बाधित करते हैं, और आशा व्यक्त की कि चर्चा बाढ़-नियंत्रण से **बाढ़-प्रतिरोध** की ओर बदलेगी।

- For the families that lose their homes every year when a river swells, the embankment is both a **threat** and a **promise**, a line drawn against nature that never seems to hold for long. But as the Kosi's story illustrates, every time an embankment is raised, the river is quick to reclaim its domain.

  उन परिवारों के लिए जो हर वर्ष नदी के उफान पर अपने घर खो देते हैं, तटबंध एक **खतरा** भी है और एक **वादा** भी — प्रकृति के विरुद्ध खींची गई एक रेखा, जो लंबे समय तक टिक नहीं पाती। लेकिन जैसा कि कोसी की कहानी बताती है, हर बार जब तटबंध ऊँचा किया जाता है, नदी जल्दी ही अपने क्षेत्र को वापस ले लेती है।

Kosi River does not originate from a single point. Instead, it is formed by the **confluence of three major Himalayan rivers**:

1. Sun Kosi – Originates near **Tibet–Nepal border**, close to **Mount Shishapangma region (Tibet)**.
2. Arun River – Originates from the **northern slopes of Mount Everest region in Tibet (Börang Khola)**.
3. Tamur River – Originates near **Kanchenjunga in eastern Nepal**.

Strong dissent
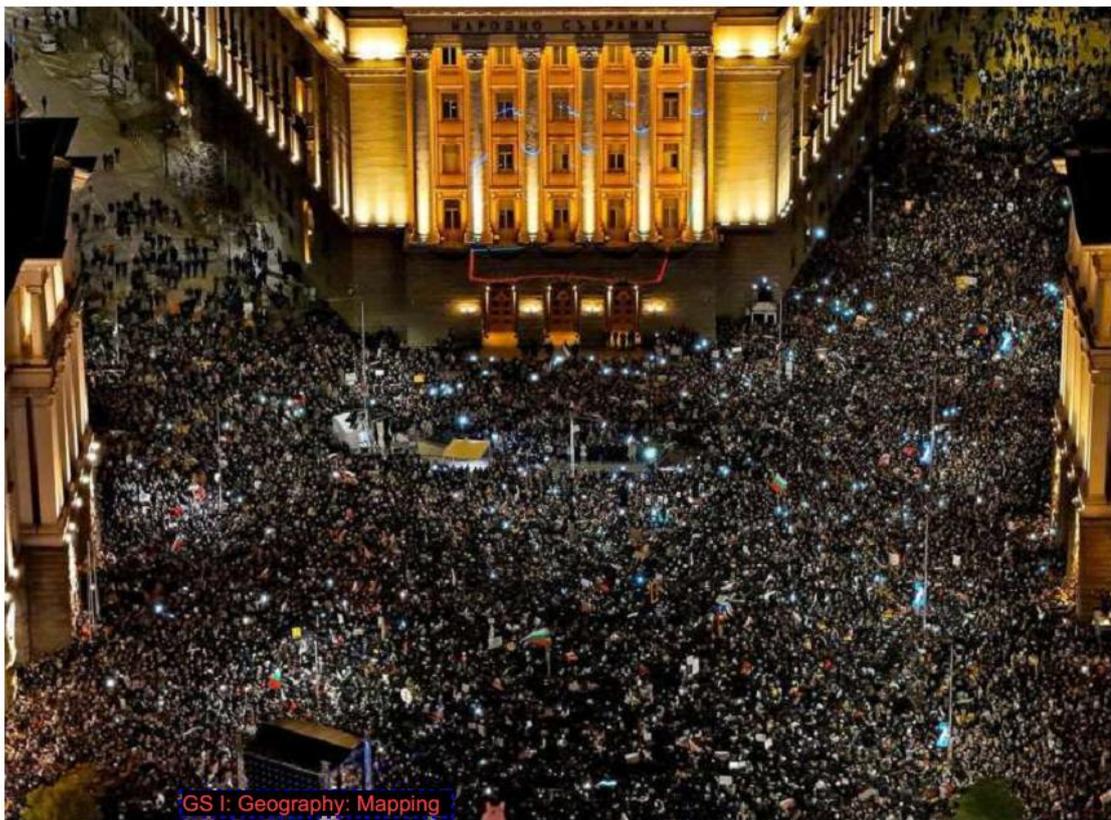
Protesters gather during a **demonstration organised by Bulgaria's Opposition PP-DB coalition** against the proposed financial framework of the country's Budget, outside Parliament, in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Monday. REUTERS

GS I: Geography: Mapping

Protesters gather during a demonstration organised by Bulgaria's Opposition PP-DB coalition against the proposed financial framework of the country's Budget, outside Parliament, in **Sofia, Bulgaria**, on Monday.

GS Paper II: Polity	
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1.	Govt. plan to 'pre-install' app triggers storm सरकार की 'प्री-इंस्टॉल' ऐप योजना से विवाद उत्पन्न
2.	HC asks U.P. govt. to act against converts retaining benefits meant for Scheduled Castes एचसी ने यूपी सरकार से अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए निर्धारित लाभ लेने वाले धर्मांतरितों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने को कहा
3.	Rajya Sabha proceedings disrupted as Opposition parties continue protest विपक्षी पार्टियों के विरोध जारी रहने से राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही बाधित
4.	Centre says U.P. reported maximum complaints over Jal Jeevan Mission projects केंद्र का कहना है कि जल जीवन मिशन परियोजनाओं पर यूपी ने अधिकतम शिकायतें दर्ज कीं
5.	Zero stars शून्य सितारे
7.	Why the SIR needs to be completely digitised SIR को पूरी तरह डिजिटल किए जाने की आवश्यकता क्यों है

Govt. plan to 'pre-install' app triggers storm

Opposition questions unilateral decision, says it is an attempt to 'strangulate the voice of people'

Sanchar Saathi app integrates tools launched by DoT to tackle fraud calls, check IMEI, block stolen phones

According to cyber experts, once the app 'takes root' it can be used to add spyware

GS II: Polity

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union government's mandate on Monday for smartphone makers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app sparked backlash from the Opposition and from digital rights activists. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge wrote on X that "unilateral directions to preload this app without taking into confidence various stakeholders and citizens is akin to dictatorship", and that the app was "yet another addition to the long list of attempts by the BJP to strangulate the voice of the people."

Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi from the Shiv Sena (UBT), reacting to Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's assurance on Tuesday that the app can be deleted if users wished, said, "When you say 'mandated' in your notification, when you are asking every mobile manufacturer to preload a government app, it then comes preloaded on every phone. So it is absolutely ridiculous [to say] that you can voluntarily download or delete the app."

Undermines consent
CPI(M) leader and Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas wrote in a letter to Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia that "compulsory pre-installation, even if deletion is later permitted, undermines the very principle of informed consent and transforms the mobile phone into a potential instrument of continuous digital supervision".

> There is no snooping or call monitoring... If you don't want the app, don't activate it. If you do want it on your phone, keep it. If you want to delete it, delete it
> **JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA**
> Union Communications Minister

> ...[this] is yet another attempt by the BJP to strangulate the voice of the people... Unilateral directions to preload this app without taking into confidence various stakeholders is akin to dictatorship
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress chief

> The app has so far helped detect and disconnect about 1.75 crore fraudulent mobile connections, trace close to 26 lakh stolen/missing phones, and recover 7.5 lakh phones
> **SAMBIT PATRA**, BJP spokesperson

Sanchar Saathi is an app that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched initially as a website in 2023 to allow users to flag fraudulent phone calls. The app also integrates other tools the DoT has launched in the past, such as a feature to check the "genuineness" of the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number assigned to a device, and to block a stolen phone by barring telecom operators from working on a blacklisted IMEI.

Mandating the Sanchar Saathi app to be installed, as the DoT did in an order to phone makers on Monday, would likely mean that users wouldn't be able to uninstall it, as is the case for private apps pre-installed on many smartphone brands' devices.

Root access
Some worried about the potential for a pre-installed app like this to be used as a carrier for malware and spyware.

Anand Venkatanarayanan, co-founder of Deep-Strat, a policy and cybersecurity consultancy, said on X that a "Regulator as a Malware operator is quite a thing in India," as "[o]nce you get root in OS layer by a govt app, an Over the air update is all it takes to "get more permissions".

Root access refers to privileged access in an operating system, which pre-installed apps usually have; such access allows apps to add to what they have access to without prompting users to accept additional permissions.

Last week, the DoT ordered WhatsApp and other platforms like it to restrict users to devices containing the SIM card they used to register. That order also ordered WhatsApp web and similar secondary access mechanisms to be logged out every six hours.

Both directions were issued under the Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024, which were amended in November to allow the DoT to target a wide range of firms which use mobile numbers to identify users, going beyond its usual remit of telecom operators.

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Govt. plan to 'pre-install' app triggers storm
सरकार की 'प्री-इंस्टॉल' ऐप योजना से विवाद उत्पन्न

- Opposition questions unilateral decision, says it is an attempt to **'strangulate the voice of people'**
  विपक्ष ने एकतरफा फैसले पर सवाल उठाया, कहा कि यह लोगों की **'आवाज़ दबाने का प्रयास'** है

- Sanchar Saathi app integrates tools launched by **DoT** to tackle fraud calls, check **IMEI**, block stolen phones
  संचार साथी ऐप में **डॉट (DoT)** द्वारा जारी उपकरण शामिल हैं जो धोखाधड़ी कॉल रोकने, **IMEI** जांचने और चोरी हुए फोन ब्लॉक करने के लिए हैं

- According to cyber experts, once the app **'takes root'** it can be used to add **spyware**
  साइबर विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, एक बार ऐप **'रूट एक्सेस'** ले ले, तो इसे **स्पायवेयर** जोड़ने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है

- The Union government's mandate on Monday for smartphone makers to pre-install the **Sanchar Saathi app** sparked backlash from the Opposition and from digital rights activists.
  सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार के स्मार्टफोन निर्माताओं को **संचार साथी ऐप** प्री-इंस्टॉल करने के आदेश ने विपक्ष और डिजिटल अधिकार कार्यकर्ताओं की नाराज़गी पैदा की।

- Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha **Mallikarjun Kharge** wrote on X that "unilateral directions to preload this app without taking into confidence various stakeholders and citizens is akin to **dictatorship**", and that the app was "yet another addition to the long list of attempts by the **BJP** to strangulate the voice of the people".
  राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता **मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे** ने X पर लिखा कि "बिना हितधारकों और नागरिकों को विश्वास में लिए ऐप को प्रीलोड करने का एकतरफा निर्देश **तानाशाही** जैसा है", और यह कि यह ऐप **बीजेपी** द्वारा लोगों की आवाज़ दबाने के प्रयासों की सूची में एक और जोड़ है।

- Rajya Sabha MP **Priyanka Chaturvedi** from the Shiv Sena (UBT), reacting to Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia's** assurance on Tuesday that the app can be deleted if users wished, said, "When you say 'mandated' in your notification... it is absolutely ridiculous to say that you can voluntarily download or delete the app."
  शिवसेना (यूबीटी) की राज्यसभा सांसद **प्रियंका चतुर्वेदी** ने संचार मंत्री **ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया** के इस बयान पर

प्रतिक्रिया दी कि ऐप चाहें तो हटाया जा सकता है, और कहा, "जब आप नोटिफिकेशन में 'अनिवार्य' कहते हैं... तब यह कहना हास्यास्पद है कि आप ऐप को स्वेच्छा से डाउनलोड या डिलीट कर सकते हैं।"

- **Undermines consent**
  सहमति को कमजोर करता है

- CPI(M) leader and Rajya Sabha MP **John Brittas** wrote in a letter to Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia that "compulsory pre-installation, even if deletion is later permitted, undermines the principle of **informed consent** and transforms the mobile phone into a potential instrument of continuous digital supervision".
  सीपीआई(एम) नेता और राज्यसभा सांसद **जॉन ब्रिटास** ने संचार मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया को पत्र लिखकर कहा कि "अनिवार्य प्री-इंस्टॉलेशन, भले ही बाद में हटाने की अनुमति हो, **सूचित सहमति** के सिद्धांत को कमजोर करता है और मोबाइल फोन को निरंतर डिजिटल निगरानी का उपकरण बना देता है।"

- **Sanchar Saathi is an app that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched initially as a website in 2023 to allow users to flag fraudulent phone calls**.
  संचार साथी एक ऐप है जिसे **दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT)** ने 2023 में पहले वेबसाइट के रूप में लॉन्च किया था ताकि उपयोगकर्ता धोखाधड़ी कॉल को फ़्लैग कर सकें।

- The **app also integrates tools such as a feature to check the "genuineness" of the IMEI number**, and **to block a stolen phone by barring telecom operators from working on a blacklisted IMEI.**
  यह ऐप **IMEI नंबर** की "प्रामाणिकता" जांचने और चोरी हुए फोन को ब्लॉक करने की सुविधा भी प्रदान करता है, जिससे दूरसंचार कंपनियों को ब्लैकलिस्टेड IMEI पर काम करने से रोका जाता है।

- Mandating the Sanchar Saathi app to be installed, as the DoT did in an order to phone makers on Monday, would likely mean that users wouldn't be able to **uninstall** it.
  डॉट द्वारा सोमवार को फोन निर्माताओं को दिए गए आदेश के तहत संचार साथी ऐप अनिवार्य रूप से इंस्टॉल कराने का अर्थ है कि उपयोगकर्ता इसे **अनइंस्टॉल** नहीं कर पाएंगे।

Root access
रूट एक्सेस

- Some worried about the potential for a pre-installed app like this to be used as a carrier for **malware and spyware**.
  कुछ लोगों ने चिंता जताई कि ऐसा प्री-इंस्टॉल ऐप **मैलवेयर और स्पायवेयर** का माध्यम बन सकता है।

- Anand Venkatanarayanan, co-founder of **DeepStrat**, said that a "Regulator as a Malware operator is quite a thing in India," and that once a govt app gets **root in OS layer**, an "over the air update is all it takes to get more permissions."
  दीपस्ट्रैट के सह-संस्थापक आनंद वेंकटनारायणन ने कहा कि "भारत में नियामक का मैलवेयर ऑपरेटर बन जाना बड़ी बात है," और एक बार सरकारी ऐप को **ओएस लेयर में रूट एक्सेस** मिल जाए, तो "अतिरिक्त अनुमति पाने के लिए केवल एक ओटीए अपडेट पर्याप्त है।"

- Root access refers to privileged access in an operating system, which pre-installed apps usually have; such access allows apps to add permissions without informing users.
  रूट एक्सेस का मतलब ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम में विशेष नियंत्रण होता है, जो प्री-इंस्टॉल ऐप्स के पास अक्सर होता है; इससे ऐप बिना उपयोगकर्ता को बताए अतिरिक्त परमिशन जोड़ सकता है।

- Last week, the DoT ordered **WhatsApp** and other platforms to restrict users to devices containing the **SIM card** used for registration, and also ordered that **WhatsApp Web** sessions be logged out every six hours.
  पिछले सप्ताह डॉट ने **व्हाट्सऐप** और अन्य प्लेटफॉर्म को आदेश दिया कि उपयोगकर्ता केवल उसी **सिम कार्ड** वाले डिवाइस तक सीमित रहें, जिससे उन्होंने रजिस्ट्रेशन किया था, और **व्हाट्सऐप वेब** को हर छह घंटे में लॉगआउट किया जाए।

- Both directions were issued under the **Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024**, which were amended in November to allow DoT to target a wider range of firms using mobile numbers for identification.
  दोनों निर्देश **टेलीकॉम साइबर सिक्योरिटी नियम, 2024** के तहत जारी किए गए, जिन्हें नवंबर में संशोधित किया गया था ताकि डॉट को अधिक प्रकार की कंपनियों को विनियमित करने की अनुमति मिल सके जो मोबाइल नंबर आधारित पहचान का उपयोग करती हैं।

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IMEI

- IMEI means **International Mobile Equipment Identity**.
- It is a **unique 15-digit number** given to **every mobile phone**, just like a **fingerprint** for devices.
- No two phones in the world have the same IMEI.
- It helps authorities and network operators:
  - identify a phone
  - block a stolen phone
  - track the device (only by authorised agencies like police)
  - stop illegal or cloned phones from working on networks
- You can check your phone's IMEI easily:
- Dial *#06# → IMEI appears on screen
- On the phone's box
- Under the battery (in older models)
- In Settings → About Phone → IMEI
- Example: If you dial *#06#, your screen may show:
  - **IMEI1: 356782091234567**
  - **IMEI2: 356782091234568**
  - (Dual SIM phones have two IMEIs.)

What does IMEI actually do?

- **If your phone gets stolen:** You can report the IMEI to police or use India's CEIR portal.
- The government can **block the IMEI** so the stolen phone becomes useless — even if the thief changes the SIM card.
- Example: A stolen phone cannot make calls, use data, or register on any network after IMEI blocking.

Mobile towers do two things when you insert a SIM:

read SIM number (identifies user)
read IMEI (identifies device)

Stops fake/illegal phones: Phones with duplicate or fake IMEI numbers can be **banned** from the mobile network.

Example
Some cheap imported counterfeit phones used to copy IMEIs.
Now they get automatically blocked when detected.

What IMEI does NOT do (common myths)?

- IMEI does **not** store personal data
  IMEI does **not** track your location by itself
  IMEI does **not** tell your name or contact details
  IMEI cannot be changed legally

- Only authorised government agencies can track a device using IMEI, and only under legal procedures.

HC asks U.P. govt. to act against converts retaining benefits meant for Scheduled Castes

GS II: Polity

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The HC was hearing a plea by a man facing charges of outraging the religious feelings of a particular community

The Allahabad High Court has asked the Uttar Pradesh government to crack down on people who have converted to Christianity but continue to avail benefits meant for the Scheduled Castes.

A Bench of Justice Praveen Kumar Giri, in its order passed on November 21, cited an order of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, which said that caste-based discrimination does not exist within the Christian faith and, therefore, the basis for Scheduled Caste classification stands nullified upon conversion, irrespective of the existence of any previously issued caste certificate.

Citing a Supreme Court order, which observed that claiming caste-based benefits to avail reservation after conversion amounts to a "fraud on the Constitution", the Bench directed the State to act in accordance with the law to identify and prevent such occurrences wherein people who have converted to other religions are availing benefits meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

The court passed the direction while dismissing a plea filed by a man named Jitendra Sahani, who has been accused of "promoting enmity between two religious groups" and "outraging the religious feelings of a community". In his plea, Mr. Sahani stated that he merely sought permission to hold a gathering to "preach the words of Jesus Christ", but the police falsely implicated him in the case. The police told the court that the applicant, who belonged to the Kewat community, mentioned his religion as Hinduism in his affidavit filed in support of his plea but had converted to Christianity. One of the witnesses, quoted by the police in the chargesheet, submitted that Mr. Sahani used to allure people to convert to Christianity.

Noting the relevant provisions of the Constitution (Scheduled Caste) Order, 1950, under which no person who belongs to a community other than Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist shall be deemed to be a Scheduled Caste member, the court asked the Maharajganj DM to take action against Mr. Sahani if found guilty of forgery by claiming to be Hindu in court documents while being a Christian.

HC asks U.P. govt. to act against converts retaining benefits meant for Scheduled Castes
एचसी ने यूपी सरकार से अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए निर्धारित लाभ लेने वाले धर्मांतरितों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने को कहा

- HC asks U.P. govt. to act against converts retaining bene•ts meant for Scheduled Castes
  एचसी ने उन लोगों के खिलाफ यूपी सरकार से कार्रवाई करने को कहा जो **अनुसूचित जातियों (Scheduled Castes)** के लिए निर्धारित लाभ धर्मांतरण के बाद भी लेते रहते हैं।

- The Allahabad High Court has asked the Uttar Pradesh government to crack down on people who have converted to Christianity but continue to avail benefits meant for the Scheduled Castes.
  इलाहाबाद हाईकोर्ट ने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से कहा है कि वे उन लोगों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करें जिन्होंने **ईसाई धर्म** अपना लिया है, लेकिन फिर भी **अनुसूचित जातियों** के लिए निर्धारित लाभ लेते रहते हैं।

- A Bench of Justice Praveen Kumar Giri, in its order passed on November 21, cited an order of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, which said that caste-based discrimination does not exist within the Christian faith and, therefore, the basis for Scheduled Caste classi•cation stands nulli•ed upon conversion, irrespective of the existence of any previously issued caste certi•cate.
  जस्टिस प्रवीण कुमार गिरी की पीठ ने **21 नवंबर** को पारित अपने आदेश में **आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट** के आदेश का हवाला दिया, जिसमें कहा गया कि **ईसाई धर्म** में जाति आधारित भेदभाव नहीं होता, इसलिए धर्मांतरण के बाद **अनुसूचित जाति** वर्गीकरण का आधार समाप्त हो जाता है, चाहे पहले जारी जाति प्रमाणपत्र मौजूद हो या नहीं।

- Citing a Supreme Court order, which observed that claiming caste-based benefits to avail reservation after conversion amounts to a "fraud on the Constitution", the Bench directed the State to act in accordance with the law to identify and prevent such occurrences wherein people who have converted to other religions are availing benefits meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट के उस आदेश का हवाला देते हुए, जिसमें कहा गया था कि धर्मांतरण के बाद जाति आधारित लाभ लेना **"संविधान के साथ धोखाधड़ी"** है, पीठ ने राज्य सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि वह कानून के अनुसार कार्रवाई करे और ऐसे मामलों को रोके जहाँ धर्मांतरण कर चुके लोग **एससी, एसटी और ओबीसी** के लिए निर्धारित लाभ ले रहे हैं।

- The court passed the direction while dismissing a plea •led by a man named Jitendra Sahani, who has been accused of "promoting enmity between two religious groups" and "outraging the religious feelings of a community".
  अदालत ने यह निर्देश **जितेंद्र साहनी** नामक व्यक्ति की याचिका खारिज करते हुए दिया, जिस पर "दो धार्मिक समूहों के बीच दुश्मनी बढ़ाने" और "किसी समुदाय की धार्मिक भावनाएँ आहत करने" का आरोप है।

- In his plea, Mr. Sahani stated that he merely sought permission to hold a gathering to "preach the words of Jesus Christ", but the police falsely implicated him in the case.
  अपनी याचिका में श्री साहनी ने कहा कि वह केवल **"यीशु मसीह के उपदेश"** देने के लिए सभा करने की अनुमति मांग रहे थे, लेकिन पुलिस ने उन्हें गलत तरीके से मामले में फँसा दिया।

- The police told the court that the applicant, who belonged to the Kewat community, mentioned his religion as Hinduism in a•davit •led in support of his plea but had converted to Christianity.
  पुलिस ने अदालत को बताया कि आवेदक, जो **केवट समुदाय** से है, ने अपनी याचिका के समर्थन में दायर हलफनामे में अपना धर्म **हिंदू** लिखा, लेकिन वह **ईसाई धर्म** में परिवर्तित हो चुका है।

- One of the witnesses, quoted by the police in the chargesheet, submitted that Mr. Sahani used to allure people to convert to Christianity.
  चार्जशीट में पुलिस द्वारा उद्धृत एक गवाह ने कहा कि श्री साहनी लोगों को **ईसाई धर्म** अपनाने के लिए प्रलोभन देते थे।

- Noting the relevant provisions of the Constitution (Scheduled Caste) Order, 1950, under which no person who belongs to a community other than Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist shall be deemed to be a Scheduled Caste member, the court asked the Maharajganj DM to take action against Mr. Sahani if found guilty of forgery by claiming to be Hindu in court documents while being a Christian.
  संविधान (अनुसूचित जाति) आदेश, 1950 के प्रावधानों का उल्लेख करते हुए, जिसके अनुसार **हिंदू, सिख या बौद्ध** के अलावा किसी अन्य समुदाय का व्यक्ति **अनुसूचित जाति** का सदस्य नहीं माना जा सकता, अदालत ने **महराजगंज डीएम** को निर्देश दिया कि यदि श्री साहनी ने ईसाई होने के बावजूद अदालत के दस्तावेजों में स्वयं को हिंदू बताया है, तो **जालसाजी** का दोषी पाए जाने पर उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई करें।

Rajya Sabha proceedings disrupted as Opposition parties continue protest

GS II: Polity: Legislature

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Opposition continued to disrupt the Rajya Sabha for a second straight day on Tuesday with demands for an immediate discussion on the special intensive revision of electoral rolls, the Union government insisted that a discussion on 150 years of *Vande Mataram* would come first.

The Centre said that it was not averse to a discussion on the SIR, but said the Opposition could not insist on a date.

After a morning adjournment, the Opposition members staged a walkout in the afternoon, raising slogans, saying "*SIR par charcha ho* (there should be a debate on SIR)."

Within an hour of convening on Tuesday morning, proceedings in the Upper House were adjourned till 2 p.m. following protests by the Opposition parties. The protests escalated after Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan rejected 20 notices under Rule 267 on

Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan leaving after adjourning the House proceedings during the Winter Session on Tuesday. ANI

five different subjects, stating they did not meet the procedural requirements. As the Zero Hour proceeded amid the commotion, the Chair adjourned the proceedings till 2 p.m.

As soon as the Rajya Sabha met at 2 p.m., Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien again raised the matter of an SIR debate.

In his response, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Business Advisory Committee had decided to discuss the 150 years of *Vande Mataram* and this should precede the debate on "electo-

ral reforms". Mr. O'Brien said more than 14 Opposition parties wanted an urgent discussion as people were dying because of the SIR exercise.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, said notices under Rule 267 were given as the matter deserved the immediate attention of Parliament.

CPI(M) member John Brittas said the SIR debate should be taken up on Wednesday, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's Tiruchi Siva too said the situation demanded urgent attention of the House.

Rajya Sabha proceedings disrupted as Opposition parties continue protest
विपक्षी पार्टियों के विरोध जारी रहने से राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही बाधित

- Rajya Sabha proceedings disrupted as Opposition parties continue protest
  विपक्षी पार्टियों द्वारा विरोध जारी रखने से **राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही** बाधित हुई।

- As the Opposition continued to disrupt the Rajya Sabha for a second straight day on Tuesday with demands for an immediate discussion on the **special intensive revision of electoral rolls**, the Union government insisted that a discussion on **150 years of Vande Mataram** would come first.
  विपक्ष ने लगातार दूसरे दिन **मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण** पर तुरंत चर्चा की मांग करते हुए राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही बाधित की, जबकि केंद्र ने जोर देकर कहा कि पहले **वंदे मातरम के 150 वर्ष** पर चर्चा होगी।

- The Centre said that it was not averse to a discussion on the **SIR**, but said the Opposition could not insist on a date.
  केंद्र ने कहा कि वह **SIR** पर चर्चा के खिलाफ नहीं है, लेकिन विपक्ष तारीख पर ज़ोर नहीं दे सकता।

- After a morning adjournment, the Opposition members staged a walkout in the afternoon, raising slogans, saying "SIR par charcha ho (there should be a debate on SIR)."
  सुबह के स्थगन के बाद, दोपहर में विपक्षी सदस्यों ने नारे लगाते हुए वॉकआउट किया, कहते हुए कि "**SIR पर चर्चा हो**।"

- Within an hour of convening on Tuesday morning, proceedings in the Upper House were adjourned till 2 p.m. following protests by the Opposition parties.
  मंगलवार सुबह बैठक शुरू होने के एक घंटे के भीतर ही विपक्षी विरोध के कारण उच्च सदन की कार्यवाही **2 बजे** तक स्थगित कर दी गई।

- The protests escalated after Chairman **C.P. Radhakrishnan** rejected **20 notices under Rule 267** on five different subjects, stating they did not meet the procedural requirements.
  विरोध और बढ़ गया जब सभापति **सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन** ने **नियम 267** के तहत पाँच विषयों पर दिए गए **20 नोटिस** अस्वीकार कर दिए।

- As the Zero Hour proceeded amid the commotion, the Chair adjourned the proceedings till 2 p.m.
  हंगामे के बीच जैसे ही ज़ीरो ऑवर आगे बढ़ा, सभापति ने कार्यवाही **2 बजे** तक स्थगित कर दी।

- As soon as the Rajya Sabha met at 2 p.m., Trinamool Congress leader **Derek O'Brien** again raised the matter of an SIR debate.
  राज्यसभा के **2 बजे** बैठते ही तृणमूल कांग्रेस नेता **डेरेक ओ'ब्रायन** ने फिर SIR बहस का मुद्दा उठाया।

- In his response, Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** said the **Business Advisory Committee** had decided to discuss the **150 years of Vande Mataram** and this should precede the debate on "electoral reforms".
  संसदीय कार्य मंत्री **किरण रिजिजू** ने कहा कि **बिज़नेस एडवाइजरी कमिटी** ने वंदे मातरम के 150 वर्ष पर चर्चा तय की है और यह "चुनावी सुधारों" पर बहस से पहले होगी।

- Mr. O'Brien said more than **14 Opposition parties** wanted an urgent discussion as people were dying because of the SIR exercise.
  ओ'ब्रायन ने कहा कि **14 से अधिक विपक्षी पार्टियाँ** तत्काल चर्चा चाहती हैं क्योंकि SIR अभ्यास के कारण लोग मर रहे हैं।

- The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, **Mallikarjun Kharge**, said notices under Rule 267 were given as the matter deserved the immediate attention of Parliament.
  राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता **मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे** ने कहा कि नियम 267 के तहत नोटिस इसलिए दिए गए क्योंकि मामला संसद का तत्काल ध्यान चाहता है।

- CPI(M) member **John Brittas** said the SIR debate should be taken up on Wednesday, and the DMK's **Tiruchi Siva** too said the situation demanded urgent attention of the House.
  सीपीआई(एम) सदस्य **जॉन ब्रिटास** ने कहा कि SIR बहस बुधवार को होनी चाहिए, और DMK के **तिरुची सिवा** ने भी कहा कि स्थिति सदन के तत्काल ध्यान की मांग करती है।

MQB
GS II: Polity

Zero stars

Mandating the Sanchar Saathi app to tackle cybercrime is an overkill

The growing sophistication of cyber-crimes, from "digital arrests" to anonymous, large-scale cross-border scams, has made tackling them both urgent and difficult. Cybercriminals have exploited a security gap wherein user accounts on instant messaging apps remain functional even after the associated SIM card has been removed, using this anonymity to conduct government impersonation fraud. The rampant use of spoofed or tampered IMEI numbers has also made tracking perpetrators nearly impossible for law enforcement. It is perhaps inevitable that the government seeks sharper tools to address these software and hardware vulnerabilities, which explains the Department of Telecommunications' directives on November 28 and December 1. The first mandates "SIM binding" – ensuring that a user's account is disabled if the physical SIM is removed. In the second, smartphone manufacturers must pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app to verify device authenticity in all new devices by March 2026. While the first directive is a security patch which could inconvenience WhatsApp/Internet messaging users, the second is reminiscent of the saying, the road to hell is often paved with good intentions. The solution to the problem of counterfeit handsets and spoofed IMEI numbers is a cure that could potentially be more damaging than the disease.

The explicit instruction in the directive that the app is "readily visible and accessible to the end users at the time of first use or device setup and that its functionalities are not disabled or restricted" would mean that this app will be given a higher security clearance within the phone's operating system, allowing it more intrusive access to features such as camera, phone or SMS access. The potential for misuse of this app for state surveillance and being utilised by a malicious entity after compromise to target millions of users is very present and clear. This is no empty fear considering what the Union government has done with the use of Pegasus software to target the political opposition, journalists and activists. Notwithstanding Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's clarification that users could delete the app, the directive's text mandating that it cannot be disabled suggests that it will function more as a Panopticon and less as a simple verification tool. As the Supreme Court's K.S. Puttaswamy (2017) judgment established, any state intrusion into privacy must satisfy the tests of legality, necessity, and proportionality. The government already possesses less intrusive means to verify device genuineness. The Sanchar Saathi web portals, SMS-based checks, and USSD codes should suffice. By ignoring these less invasive alternatives, the directive on Sanchar Saathi fails the proportionality standard. It is little wonder that privacy-conscious manufacturers such as Apple have reportedly refused to comply with this order.

Zero stars
शून्य सितारे

- Mandating the **Sanchar Saathi app** to tackle **cybercrime** is an **overkill**
साइबर अपराध से निपटने के लिए **संचार साथी ऐप** को अनिवार्य करना एक **ओवरकिल** है

Cybercrime Vulnerabilities and Government Directives
साइबर अपराध कमजोरियाँ और सरकारी निर्देश

- The growing sophistication of cybercrimes, from "digital arrests" to anonymous, large-scale cross-border scams, has made tackling them both urgent and difficult.
"डिजिटल अरेस्ट" से लेकर गुमनाम, बड़े पैमाने पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय धोखाधड़ी तक, साइबर अपराधों की बढ़ती जटिलताओं ने उनसे निपटना अत्यंत आवश्यक और कठिन बना दिया है।

- Cybercriminals have exploited a security gap wherein user accounts on instant messaging apps remain functional even after the associated SIM card has been removed, using this anonymity to conduct government impersonation fraud.
साइबर अपराधियों ने एक सुरक्षा खामी का फायदा उठाया है, जिसमें त्वरित संदेश सेवा पर उपयोगकर्ता खाते संबंधित सिम हटाए जाने के बाद भी सक्रिय रहते हैं, और इस गुमनामी का उपयोग वे सरकारी प्रतिरूपण धोखाधड़ी के लिए करते हैं।

- The rampant use of **spoofed or tampered IMEI numbers** has also made tracking perpetrators nearly impossible for law enforcement.
छेड़छाड़ किए गए पहचान नंबरों के व्यापक उपयोग ने भी कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों के लिए अपराधियों का पता लगाना लगभग असंभव बना दिया है।

- It is perhaps inevitable that the government seeks sharper tools to address these software and hardware vulnerabilities, which explains the Department of Telecommunications' directives on November 28 and December 1.
संभवतः यह अपरिहार्य है कि सरकार इन सॉफ़्टवेयर और हार्डवेयर कमजोरियों से निपटने के लिए अधिक सख्त उपकरण खोज रही है, जो दूरसंचार विभाग के 28 नवंबर और 1 दिसंबर के निर्देशों को समझाता है।

- The first mandates "SIM binding" — ensuring that a user's account is disabled if the physical SIM is removed.
पहला निर्देश "सिम बाइंडिंग" अनिवार्य करता है — जिससे यह सुनिश्चित हो कि यदि भौतिक सिम हटाई जाती है, तो उपयोगकर्ता का खाता निष्क्रिय हो जाए।

- In the second, smartphone manufacturers must pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app to verify device authenticity in all new devices by March 2026.
दूसरे निर्देश में, स्मार्टफोन निर्माताओं को मार्च 2026 तक सभी नए उपकरणों में संचार साथी ऐप प्री-इंस्टॉल करना अनिवार्य किया गया है, ताकि उपकरण की प्रामाणिकता सत्यापित की जा सके।

- While the first directive is a security patch which could inconvenience WhatsApp/Internet messaging users, the second is reminiscent of the saying, the road to hell is often paved with good intentions.

जहाँ पहला निर्देश एक सुरक्षा पैच है जो संदेश सेवा उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए असुविधा पैदा कर सकता है, वहीं दूसरा इस कहावत की याद दिलाता है — अच्छे इरादों से नरक की राह पक्की होती है।

- The solution to the problem of counterfeit handsets and spoofed IMEI numbers is a cure that could potentially be more damaging than the disease.
  नकली उपकरणों और छेड़छाड़ किए गए पहचान नंबरों की समस्या का समाधान स्वयं बीमारी से अधिक हानिकारक साबित हो सकता है।

- The explicit instruction in the directive that the app is "readily visible and accessible" to the end users at the time of first use or device setup and that its functionalities are "not disabled or restricted" would mean that this app will be given a higher security clearance within the phone's OS.
  निर्देश में स्पष्ट कहा गया है कि ऐप "पहली बार उपयोग या उपकरण सेटअप के समय स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दे और सुलभ हो और इसकी कार्यक्षमताएँ अक्षम या प्रतिबंधित न हों", जिसका अर्थ है कि ऐप को फ़ोन की प्रणाली में उच्च सुरक्षा अनुमति दी जाएगी।

- Allowing it more intrusive access to features such as camera, phone or SMS access.
  जिससे इसे कैमरा, फ़ोन या संदेश जैसी सुविधाओं तक अधिक हस्तक्षेपकारी पहुँच मिल सकती है।

- The potential for misuse of this app for state surveillance and being utilised by a malicious entity after compromise to target millions of users is very present and clear.
  इस ऐप के राज्य निगरानी के लिए दुरुपयोग और इसके समझौता होने के बाद किसी दुर्भावनापूर्ण इकाई द्वारा लाखों उपयोगकर्ताओं को निशाना बनाने की संभावना बेहद वास्तविक और स्पष्ट है।

- This is no empty fear considering what the Union government has done with the use of Pegasus software to target the political opposition, journalists and activists.
  यह कोई बेबुनियाद डर नहीं है, खासकर यह देखते हुए कि केंद्र सरकार ने कैसे एक निगरानी सॉफ़्टवेयर का उपयोग राजनीतिक विपक्ष, पत्रकारों और कार्यकर्ताओं को निशाना बनाने के लिए किया था।

- Notwithstanding Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's clarification that users could delete the app, the directive's text mandating that it cannot be disabled suggests that it will function more as a Panopticon and less as a simple verification tool.
  हालाँकि केंद्रीय मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने स्पष्ट किया कि उपयोगकर्ता ऐप को हटा सकते हैं, लेकिन निर्देश के पाठ में कहा गया है कि इसे अक्षम नहीं किया जा सकता, जो दर्शाता है कि यह एक साधारण सत्यापन उपकरण की बजाय अधिक एक निगरानी संरचना की तरह काम करेगा।

- As the **Supreme Court's K.S. Puttaswamy (2017) judgment established, any state intrusion into privacy must satisfy the tests of legality, necessity, and proportionality**.
  जैसा कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 2017 के निर्णय ने स्थापित किया, गोपनीयता में किसी भी राज्य हस्तक्षेप को कानूनीता, आवश्यकता और आनुपातिकता के परीक्षणों को पूरा करना चाहिए।

- The government already possesses less intrusive means to verify device genuineness.
  सरकार के पास पहले से ही उपकरण की प्रामाणिकता की जाँच के लिए कम हस्तक्षेप करने वाले साधन उपलब्ध हैं।

- The Sanchar Saathi web portals, SMS-based checks, and USSD codes should suffice.
  संचार साथी वेब पोर्टल, संदेश आधारित जांच और कोड पर्याप्त होने चाहिए।

- By ignoring these less invasive alternatives, the directive on Sanchar Saathi fails the **proportionality standard**.
  इन कम हस्तक्षेप वाले विकल्पों को नज़रअंदाज़ करके, संचार साथी पर निर्देश आनुपातिकता मानक में विफल होता है।

- It is little wonder that privacy-conscious manufacturers such as Apple have reportedly refused to comply with this order.
  यह आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि गोपनीयता के प्रति सचेत निर्माता कथित तौर पर इस आदेश का पालन करने से इनकार कर चुके हैं।

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GS Paper II: International Relations	
TOPICS COVERED	**03 December**
	International Relations
1.	**A template for security cooperation in the Indian Ocean** हिंद महासागर में सुरक्षा सहयोग के लिए एक टेम्पलेट
2.	**Why is there no peace in Ukraine?** यूक्रेन में शांति क्यों नहीं है?
3.	**Sudan's RSF 'takes control' of strategic West Kordofan town** सूडान की RSF ने पश्चिम कोर्दोफ़ान के रणनीतिक कस्बे पर 'नियंत्रण किया'
4.	**From Honduras to Poland, Trump is meddling in elections as never before** होंडुरस से पोलैंड तक, ट्रम्प पहले कभी नहीं की तरह चुनावों में हस्तक्षेप कर रहे हैं

A template for security cooperation in the Indian Ocean

GS II: IR: Indian Ocean Region   MQB

On November 20, 2025, India hosted the 7th National Security Advisor-level summit of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC). India's National Security Adviser, Ajit Doval, hosted his counterparts from other member-countries, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Mauritius and Bangladesh, while counterparts from Seychelles and Malaysia were observer state and guest, respectively. The CSC has sought to position itself as a critical forum to promote and foster cooperation in the domain of security in the Indian Ocean region.

Initiated as a trilateral grouping between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives in 2011, the group lost steam in light of the political transition in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, and lack of convergence among the member-states to identify priorities in security cooperation in the Indian Ocean. The group reconvened its engagement under the aegis of the CSC in 2020, a proposed framework to further cooperation in maritime security, counter-terrorism, trafficking and organised crime and cybersecurity. Since then, the group has remained steady in not just maintaining momentum among its member-states but also inducting countries. In 2022, Mauritius joined as a full member, while in 2024, the group saw the admission of Bangladesh.

A region witnessing shifts
For India, the summit, in 2025, comes at a pivotal moment. Frameworks of cooperation in the maritime domain, in the broader Indo-Pacific, and indeed in the Indian Ocean appear to be undergoing a crucial shift. Given the focus of the CSC on non-traditional issues of maritime security, it is vital to bolster cooperation in mitigating the looming challenges. While the

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There are encouraging signs that member-country engagement is deepening in the Colombo Security Conclave, but challenges remain

Indian Ocean maritime security architecture remains fragmented due to the lack of any singular institutional framework, groups such as the CSC must remain committed to enhancing cooperation in this regard.

The issue of development
Importantly, for the wider Indian Ocean littoral world, and especially the members of the CSC, maritime security challenges are often coupled with their developmental priorities.

Given the extent of dependency these countries have on the oceans for their economic progress, securing challenges emanating from the maritime domain is crucial. In many ways, maritime security challenges are deeply intertwined with the lives and livelihoods of not just the littoral communities in these countries but also appear to unlock new opportunities for their national economies in today's era of sea-borne globalisation.

This year's summit has been crucial in many ways. First, the group saw further expansion by way of accession of Seychelles as a full-member into the forum. This signals a deep commitment among countries in the region to harness cooperation within the mandate of the CSC. Second, for India, the CSC also marks a new step in further deepening engagement with its maritime neighbours, amidst an increasingly volatile geopolitical and security shift that appears to be underway in the region in lieu of China's growing presence and influence.

Third, the summit further underscores the growing vitality of the security dimension in enhancing cooperation to boost regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

Fourth, the inclusion of Malaysia in this year's summit as a guest participant may pave the way for further expansion of the group.

Viewing the China factor
However, as the CSC envisages its expansion and broadening the contours of its agenda, some key challenges appear to be looming. First, for India, a key maritime security priority is anchored in the nature and extent of the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean. On the other hand, the other member countries of the CSC appear to not view the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean as a major security challenge given their dependence on Beijing as a key developmental partner. Therefore, a careful balance needs to be achieved by India to address the question of growing Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean.

Second, the CSC must direct efforts to strengthen an institutional framework. At present, the group operates at a National Security Adviser-level structure. With growing synergies among its member-countries, the group must seek to institutionalise cooperation such that it remains consistent in aligning policies with actionable pathways of cooperation.

Third, domestic uncertainties in countries such as Bangladesh, and the ensuing impact on how Dhaka continues to engage with India and the other member-countries may run the risk of uncertainty over the group's resilience.

Given this context, the CSC has made significant advances in heralding a new framework of cooperation in a region that suffers from a deep lack of cohesion and convergence among countries on issues of security. Efforts to imagine the way ahead must remain anchored in the need to foster institutional resilience and cohesion among its member-countries.

A template for security cooperation in the Indian Ocean
हिंद महासागर में सुरक्षा सहयोग के लिए एक टेम्पलेट

Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Summit 2025
कोलंबो सुरक्षा संवाद (CSC) शिखर सम्मेलन 2025

- On **November 20, 2025**, India hosted the **7th National Security Advisor-level summit** of the **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**.
  20 नवंबर 2025 को भारत ने **कोलंबो सुरक्षा संवाद (CSC)** के **7वें राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार-स्तरीय शिखर सम्मेलन** की मेज़बानी की।

- India's National Security Adviser, **Ajit Doval**, hosted his counterparts from other member-countries — **Sri Lanka**, **the Maldives**, **Mauritius** and **Bangladesh**, while counterparts from **Seychelles** and **Malaysia** were observer state and guest, respectively.
  भारत के राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार **अजीत डोभाल** ने अन्य सदस्य देशों — **श्रीलंका**, **मालदीव**, **मॉरीशस** और **बांग्लादेश** — के अपने समकक्षों की मेज़बानी की, जबकि **सेशेल्स** और **मलेशिया** क्रमशः पर्यवेक्षक राज्य और अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित थे।

- The CSC has sought to position itself as a **critical forum** to promote and foster cooperation in the domain of **security in the Indian Ocean region**.
  CSC ने स्वयं को **भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा** के क्षेत्र में सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने और प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु एक **महत्वपूर्ण मंच** के रूप में स्थापित करने का प्रयास किया है।

- Initiated as a **trilateral grouping** between **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives** in **2011**, the group lost steam due to political transitions in the Maldives and Sri Lanka and lack of convergence among member-states to identify priorities in Indian Ocean security cooperation.
  2011 में **भारत, श्रीलंका और मालदीव** के बीच एक **त्रिपक्षीय समूह** के रूप में शुरू हुआ यह समूह, मालदीव और श्रीलंका में राजनीतिक बदलावों तथा सदस्य देशों के बीच भारतीय महासागर सुरक्षा सहयोग की प्राथमिकताओं पर सहमति न बन पाने के कारण धीमा पड़ गया।

- The group reconvened its engagement under the aegis of the **CSC in 2020**, a proposed framework to further cooperation in **maritime security, counter-terrorism, trafficking,**

organised crime and cybersecurity.
यह समूह **2020 में CSC** के तहत पुनः सक्रिय हुआ, जो **समुद्री सुरक्षा, आतंकवाद-रोधी कार्रवाई, तस्करी, संगठित अपराध और साइबर सुरक्षा** में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए एक प्रस्तावित ढांचा था।

- Since then, the group has remained steady in not just maintaining momentum among its member-states but also inducting countries.
तब से यह समूह न केवल अपने सदस्य देशों के बीच गति बनाए रखने में स्थिर रहा है बल्कि नए देशों को भी शामिल कर रहा है।

- In **2022**, **Mauritius** joined as a full member, while in **2024**, the group saw the admission of **Bangladesh**.
2022 में **मॉरीशस** पूर्ण सदस्य के रूप में शामिल हुआ, जबकि **2024** में **बांग्लादेश** को समूह में शामिल किया गया।

A region witnessing shifts
परिवर्तनों से गुजरता क्षेत्र

- For India, the **2025 summit** comes at a **pivotal moment**.
भारत के लिए **2025 का शिखर सम्मेलन** एक **निर्णायक समय** पर आया है।

- Frameworks of cooperation in the **maritime domain**, in the broader **Indo-Pacific**, and indeed in the **Indian Ocean**, appear to be undergoing a crucial shift.
समुद्री क्षेत्र, व्यापक **इंडो-पैसिफिक**, और विशेष रूप से **भारतीय महासागर** में सहयोग के ढांचे एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव से गुजरते दिखाई देते हैं।

- Given the focus of the **CSC** on **non-traditional issues of maritime security**, it is vital to bolster cooperation in mitigating the looming challenges.
CSC का ध्यान **समुद्री सुरक्षा के गैर-पारंपरिक मुद्दों** पर केंद्रित होने के कारण, उभरती चुनौतियों को कम करने हेतु सहयोग को सुदृढ़ करना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

- While the **Indian Ocean maritime security architecture** remains **fragmented** due to lack of any singular institutional framework, groups such as the CSC must remain committed to enhancing cooperation in this regard.
किसी एकीकृत संस्थागत ढांचे के अभाव में **भारतीय महासागर की समुद्री सुरक्षा संरचना** अभी भी **खंडित** है, ऐसे में CSC जैसे समूहों को इस दिशा में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध रहना चाहिए।

The issue of development
विकास का मुद्दा

- Importantly, for the wider **Indian Ocean littoral world**, and especially the members of the **CSC**, maritime security challenges are often coupled with their **developmental priorities**.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, व्यापक **हिंद महासागर तटवर्ती विश्व** और विशेषकर **CSC** के सदस्यों के लिए समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ अक्सर उनकी **विकासात्मक प्राथमिकताओं** से जुड़ी होती हैं।

- Given the extent of **dependency** these countries have on the oceans for their **economic progress**, securing challenges emanating from the maritime domain is crucial.
इन देशों की **आर्थिक प्रगति** के लिए महासागरों पर **निर्भरता** को देखते हुए, समुद्री क्षेत्र से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का समाधान अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

- In many ways, maritime security challenges are deeply intertwined with the lives and livelihoods of not just the littoral communities in these countries but also appear to unlock **new opportunities** for their national economies in today's era of **sea-borne globalisation**.
कई तरीकों से, समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ न केवल इन देशों के तटीय समुदायों के जीवन और आजीविका से गहराई से जुड़ी हैं, बल्कि **समुद्री वैश्वीकरण** के इस युग में उनकी राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के लिए **नई संभावनाएँ** भी खोलती प्रतीत होती हैं।

- This year's summit has been crucial in many ways.
इस वर्ष का शिखर सम्मेलन कई मायनों में महत्वपूर्ण रहा है।

- First, the group saw further expansion by way of accession of **Seychelles** as a **full-member** into the forum.
पहला, समूह ने **सेशेल्स** के **पूर्ण सदस्य** के रूप में शामिल होने से और विस्तार देखा।

- This signals a deep commitment among countries in the region to **harness cooperation** within the mandate of the CSC.

  यह क्षेत्र के देशों के बीच CSC के जनादेश के तहत **सहयोग को बढ़ाने** की गहरी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।

- Second, for India, the CSC also marks a new step in further **deepening engagement** with its maritime neighbours amidst an increasingly volatile **geopolitical and security shift** that appears to be underway in the region in lieu of **China's growing presence and influence**.

  दूसरा, भारत के लिए CSC अपने समुद्री पड़ोसियों के साथ **सगाई को गहरा करने** की दिशा में एक नया कदम है, विशेषकर क्षेत्र में **चीन की बढ़ती उपस्थिति और प्रभाव** के बीच उभरते **भूराजनीतिक और सुरक्षा परिवर्तनों** की पृष्ठभूमि में।

- Third, the summit further underscores the growing vitality of the **security dimension** in enhancing cooperation to boost **regional cooperation** in the Indian Ocean.

  तीसरा, शिखर सम्मेलन ने हिंद महासागर में **क्षेत्रीय सहयोग** को बढ़ावा देने हेतु **सुरक्षा आयाम** के बढ़ते महत्व को और रेखांकित किया।

- Fourth, the inclusion of **Malaysia** in this year's summit as a **guest participant** may pave the way for further expansion of the group.

  चौथा, इस वर्ष के शिखर सम्मेलन में **मलेशिया** को **अतिथि प्रतिभागी** के रूप में शामिल किए जाने से समूह के और विस्तार का मार्ग प्रशस्त हो सकता है।

Viewing the China factor
चीन कारक को देखते हुए

- However, as the CSC envisages its **expansion** and broadening the contours of its agenda, some key challenges appear to be looming.

  हालांकि, CSC जब अपने एजेंडा के दायरे और **विस्तार** की कल्पना करता है, तो कुछ प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ उभरती दिखाई देती हैं।

- First, for India, a key **maritime security priority** is anchored in the nature and extent of the **Chinese presence** in the Indian Ocean.

  पहला, भारत के लिए एक प्रमुख **समुद्री सुरक्षा प्राथमिकता** हिंद महासागर में **चीनी उपस्थिति** की प्रकृति और विस्तार पर आधारित है।

- On the other hand, the other member countries of the CSC appear to not view the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean as a major security challenge given their **dependence on Beijing** as a **developmental partner**.

  दूसरी ओर, CSC के अन्य सदस्य देश अपने **विकासात्मक साझेदार** के रूप में बीजिंग पर **निर्भरता** के कारण हिंद महासागर में चीनी उपस्थिति को प्रमुख सुरक्षा चुनौती नहीं मानते।

- Therefore, a careful **balance** needs to be achieved by India to address the question of **growing Chinese presence** in the Indian Ocean.

  इसलिए, हिंद महासागर में **चीनी उपस्थिति के बढ़ते प्रभाव** से निपटने के लिए भारत को एक सावधानीपूर्ण **संतुलन** बनाना होगा।

- Second, the CSC must direct efforts to strengthen an **institutional framework**.

  दूसरा, CSC को एक **संस्थागत ढांचे** को मजबूत करने के लिए प्रयास करने चाहिए।

- At present, the group operates at a **National Security Adviser-level structure**.

  वर्तमान में समूह **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार-स्तर** पर संचालित होता है।

- With growing synergies among its member-countries, the group must seek to **institutionalise cooperation** such that it remains consistent in aligning policies with **actionable pathways of cooperation**.

  सदस्य देशों के बीच बढ़ती सामंजस्यता के साथ, समूह को **सहयोग को संस्थागत रूप देने** का प्रयास करना चाहिए ताकि नीतियाँ **कार्यान्वयन योग्य सहयोग** के मार्गों के अनुरूप बनी रहें।

- Third, domestic uncertainties in countries such as **Bangladesh**, and the ensuing impact on how Dhaka continues to engage with India and the other member-countries may run the risk of uncertainty over the group's **resilience**.

  तीसरा, **बांग्लादेश** जैसे देशों में घरेलू अस्थिरताएँ और भारत व अन्य सदस्य देशों के साथ ढाका की सगाई पर उनका प्रभाव समूह की **स्थायित्व क्षमता** पर अनिश्चितता का जोखिम उत्पन्न कर सकता है।

- Given this context, the CSC has made **significant advances** in heralding a **new framework of cooperation** in a region that suffers from a deep **lack of cohesion and convergence** among countries on issues of security.

इस संदर्भ में, CSC ने सुरक्षा मामलों पर देशों के बीच **सामंजस्य और अभिसरण की कमी** वाले क्षेत्र में **सहयोग के नए ढांचे** की दिशा में **महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति** की है।

- Efforts to imagine the way ahead must remain anchored in the need to foster **institutional resilience and cohesion** among its member-countries.

आगे की दिशा को निर्धारित करने के प्रयासों को सदस्य देशों में **संस्थागत स्थिरता और सामंजस्य** को बढ़ावा दे

Sudan's RSF 'takes control' of strategic West Kordofan town

Sudan's RSF 'takes control' of strategic West Kordofan town

GS II: IR: Africa

Reuters
CAIRO

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said that it seized full control of Babanusa, a transport junction in the country's south, though its rival, the Sudanese army, disputed the claim.

In a statement on Monday, the RSF said its "liberation" of Babanusa in West Kordofan state – the latest frontline in the war in Sudan – came as it repelled "a surprise attack" by the Sudanese army in what it called "a clear violation of the humanitarian truce".

On Tuesday, the army denied that the RSF had taken the entire town, and accused its rivals of continuing attacks on Babanusa despite RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire.

The army dismissed the ceasefire declaration as a political tactic aimed at masking RSF movements and alleged foreign support.

सूडान की RSF ने पश्चिम कोर्दोफ़ान के रणनीतिक कस्बे पर 'नियंत्रण किया'

- Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (**RSF**) said that it seized full control of **Babanusa**, a transport junction in the country's south, though its rival, the Sudanese army, disputed the claim.

सूडान की अर्द्धसैनिक रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्सेज (**RSF**) ने कहा कि उसने देश के दक्षिण में स्थित परिवहन जंक्शन **बबानुसा** पर पूरा नियंत्रण कर लिया है, हालांकि उसके प्रतिद्वंद्वी सूडानी सेना ने इस दावे को विवादित बताया।

- In a statement on Monday, the **RSF** said its "liberation" of **Babanusa** in **West Kordofan** state — the latest frontline in the **war in Sudan** — came as it repelled "a surprise attack" by the Sudanese army in what it called "a clear violation of the **humanitarian truce**".

सोमवार को दिए गए एक बयान में, **RSF** ने कहा कि **पश्चिम कोर्दोफ़ान** राज्य में **बबानुसा** की उसकी "मुक्ति" — जो **सूडान के युद्ध** की नवीनतम फ्रंटलाइन है — तब हुई जब उसने सूडानी सेना के "अचानक हमले" को खदेड़ दिया, जिसे उसने "**मानवीय युद्धविराम** का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन" कहा।

- On Tuesday, the army denied that the **RSF** had taken the entire town, and accused its rivals of continuing attacks on **Babanusa** despite RSF commander **Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo's** announcement of a **unilateral ceasefire**.

मंगलवार को, सेना ने इनकार किया कि **RSF** ने पूरे कस्बे पर कब्जा कर लिया है, और अपने प्रतिद्वंद्वियों पर **बबानुसा** पर हमले जारी रखने का आरोप लगाया, जबकि RSF कमांडर **मोहम्मद हमदान दागालो** ने **एकतरफ़ा युद्धविराम** की घोषणा की थी।

- The army dismissed the **ceasefire** declaration as a political tactic aimed at masking **RSF** movements and alleged **foreign support**.

सेना ने **युद्धविराम** घोषणा को एक राजनीतिक रणनीति बताते हुए खारिज कर दिया, जिसका उद्देश्य **RSF** की हलचल और कथित **विदेशी समर्थन** को छिपाना था।

From Honduras to Poland, Trump is meddling in elections as never before

The Republican leader has taken U.S. political interventionism, or foreign interference, as critics call it, to its next level by openly calling on voters in other countries to elect his 'right-wing friends'; only Russia came close in employing such tactics in former Soviet bloc countries, political analyst says

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States has meddled for decades in elections around the world. But no modern president has done so as brazenly as Donald Trump.

Forget shady CIA-hatched plots or surreptitious media campaigns. Mr. Trump has openly called on other countries' electorates to vote for his right-wing friends, often deploying his favorite tool of social media.

Most recently, Mr. Trump on his Truth Social platform endorsed Honduran right-wing candidate Nasry Asfura as "the only real friend of Freedom" and vowed to work with him.

Mr. Asfura held a narrow lead after voting on Sunday.

"I cannot think of a time when a U.S. President was willing to just openly state his preferences in foreign elections in this way, at least in modern history," said Thomas Carothers, director of the democracy, conflict and governance program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Mr. Trump has felt especially emboldened in Latin America, where the United States has long intervened.

No country was left untouched by what many view as a return to U.S. interventionism in what the Trump administration has taken to calling "our hemisphere."

"Every Latin American country has a position of asymmetry with the United States. That is a baseline position," said Alejandro Frenkel, international relations professor at Argentina's San Martin University.

Mr. Trump's Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, has belittled Colombia's elected left-wing President, Gustavo Petro, as a "lunatic," and imposed sanctions on a Brazilian judge who prosecuted former far-right President Jair Bolsonaro for trying to overturn election results.

Shift to the right
"It's a consistent attempt to influence the politics, to reinforce what I think they see as already a shift towards the right that's gaining force across the region," said Will Freeman, a fellow on Latin America at the Council on Foreign Relations.

In Venezuela, where there is no election to influence, Mr. Trump has suggested the use of U.S. military might to remove leftist leader Nicolas Maduro.

Mr. Trump has also sought to tip the scales in Europe.

His homeland security chief, Kristi Noem, on a visit to Poland openly endorsed Karol Nawrocki, the conservative candidate for President who went on to win.

Mr. Trump had less success in Romania, where a far-right ally lost the Presidential election, but only after a previous vote was controversially annulled.

Vice-President J.D. Vance on a trip to Germany publicly attacked restrictions on the far-right AfD party.

Mr. Trump or his aides have heaped praise on British anti-migrant lawmaker Nigel Farage and criticised a court ruling in France against far-right leader Marine le Pen.

'Tilting democracy'
The Trump administration has also stripped back decades of efforts to promote democracy overseas, with Mr. Rubio issuing a cable instructing embassies to avoid most commentary on the legitimacy of elections abroad.

The stance mirrors Mr. Trump's approach to elections at home. He refused to accept his 2020 loss and was charged with trying to overturn results in the state of Georgia–a case dropped last week in light of his 2024 election victory.

Mr. Trump, perhaps mindful of his own experience, has publicly urged Israel's President to pardon scandal-tainted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Ironically, Mr. Trump in a speech in Riyadh in May denounced interventionism, at least in the West Asia [Middle Eastern] context, saying that past U.S. efforts had turned into disasters.

Political scientist Dov Levin in a 2021 book found that the United States had intervened in foreign elections more than 80 times since the end of Second World War–more than any other country.

Still, Mr. Carothers said that Mr. Trump was unique not only in his public methods but in his apparent motivations. "It's different than during the Cold War when the United States often favoured a particular person, but they did so for geostrategic reasons," he said.

"What we have here is more that Donald Trump feels he has a group of friends out there in the world whom he wants to help," he said.

Mr. Carothers said that only Russia came close in tactics, with the Kremlin weighing in heavily to make known its preferences in former Soviet bloc countries, such as recently in Moldova where its candidate lost.

"A very high percentage of European leaders would like to see Viktor Orban lose the next election, but they're not going to say so out loud," he said, referring to Hungary's right-wing populist Prime Minister.

Mr. Trump welcomed Mr. Orban to the White House last month. Speaking together to reporters, Mr. Trump said that European leaders needed to appreciate Mr. Orban more.

Turning kingmaker: Trump's $20 billion bailout boosted Javier Milei (L) in Argentina's midterms; Poland's Karol Nawrocki (R), who was endorsed by a key U.S. official, clinched the Presidency. AFP

> U.S. has intervened in foreign elections more than 80 times since the end of Second World War

In Argentina, Mr. Trump promised $20 billion to prop up the struggling economy but warned it would vanish if voters rejected President Javier Milei in legislative elections. The firebrand libertarian's party ultimately triumphed.

From Honduras to Poland, Trump is meddling in elections as never before
होंडुरस से पोलैंड तक, ट्रम्प पहले कभी नहीं की तरह चुनावों में हस्तक्षेप कर रहे हैं

- The Republican leader has taken U.S. political interventionism, or foreign interference, as critics call it, to its next level by openly calling on voters in other countries to elect his 'right-wing friends'; only **Russia** came close in employing such tactics in former **Soviet** bloc countries, political analyst says
  रिपब्लिकन नेता ने अमेरिकी राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेपवाद, या जैसा कि आलोचक इसे विदेशी हस्तक्षेप कहते हैं, को अगले स्तर तक पहुंचा दिया है, अन्य देशों के मतदाताओं से खुलेआम अपने 'दक्षिणपंथी दोस्तों' को चुनने का आह्वान करके; केवल **रूस** पूर्व **सोवियत** ब्लॉक देशों में ऐसी रणनीति अपनाने में करीब पहुंचा, राजनीतिक विश्लेषक कहते हैं

- The United States has meddled for decades in elections around the world.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका दशकों से दुनिया भर में चुनावों में हस्तक्षेप करता रहा है।

- But no modern president has done so as brazenly as **Donald Trump**.
  लेकिन कोई आधुनिक राष्ट्रपति ऐसा उतनी बेशर्मी से नहीं कर पाया जितना **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प** ने किया है।

- Forget shady CIA-hatched plots or surreptitious media campaigns.
  CIA द्वारा रचे गए संदिग्ध षड्यंत्रों या गुप्त मीडिया अभियानों को भूल जाइए।

- Mr. Trump has openly called on other countries' electorates to vote for his right-wing friends, often deploying his favorite tool of **social media**.

श्री ट्रम्प ने अन्य देशों के मतदाताओं से अपने दक्षिणपंथी दोस्तों को वोट देने का खुलेआम आग्रह किया है, अक्सर अपने पसंदीदा हथियार **सोशल मीडिया** का उपयोग करते हुए।

- Most recently, Mr. Trump on his **Truth Social** platform endorsed Honduran right-wing candidate **Nasry Asfura** as "the only real friend of Freedom" and vowed to work with him.
 हाल ही में, श्री ट्रम्प ने अपने **ट्रुथ सोशल** प्लेटफॉर्म पर होंडुरन दक्षिणपंथी उम्मीदवार **नस्री असफुरा** को "फ्रीडम का एकमात्र सच्चा दोस्त" बताते हुए समर्थन दिया और उनके साथ काम करने का संकल्प लिया।

- Mr. Asfura held a narrow lead after voting on Sunday.
 रविवार को मतदान के बाद श्री असफुरा मामूली बढ़त पर थे।

- "I cannot think of a time when a U.S. President was willing to just openly state his preferences in foreign elections in this way, at least in modern history," said **Thomas Carothers**, director of the democracy, conflict and governance program at the **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**.
 "मुझे ऐसा कोई समय याद नहीं जब एक अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति विदेशी चुनावों में इतनी खुले तौर पर अपनी पसंद जाहिर करने को तैयार रहा हो, कम से कम आधुनिक इतिहास में," **थॉमस कैरदर्स**, लोकतंत्र, संघर्ष और शासन कार्यक्रम के निदेशक, **कार्नेगी एंडोवमेंट फॉर इंटरनेशनल पीस** ने कहा।

- Mr. Trump has felt especially emboldened in Latin America, where the United States has long intervened.
 लैटिन अमेरिका में श्री ट्रम्प ने विशेष रूप से साहस महसूस किया है, जहां संयुक्त राज्य लंबे समय से हस्तक्षेप करता रहा है।

- No country was left untouched by what many view as a return to U.S. interventionism in what the Trump administration has taken to calling "our hemisphere."
 कोई भी देश अमेरिकी हस्तक्षेपवाद की वापसी, जिसे ट्रम्प प्रशासन "हमारा गोलार्ध" कहता है, से अछूता नहीं रहा।

- "Every Latin American country has a position of asymmetry with the United States. That is a baseline position," said **Alejandro Frenkel**, international relations professor at Argentina's **San Martin University**.
 "हर लैटिन अमेरिकी देश की संयुक्त राज्य के साथ असमानता की स्थिति होती है। यह एक आधारभूत स्थिति है," अर्जेंटीना की **सैन मार्टिन यूनिवर्सिटी** के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों के प्रोफेसर **अलेजांद्रो फ्रेंकेल** ने कहा।

- Mr. Trump's Secretary of State, **Marco Rubio**, has belittled Colombia's elected left-wing President, **Gustavo Petro**, as a "lunatic," and imposed sanctions on a Brazilian judge who prosecuted former far-right President **Jair Bolsonaro** for trying to overturn election results.
 श्री ट्रम्प के विदेश मंत्री **मार्को रुबियो** ने कोलंबिया के निर्वाचित वामपंथी राष्ट्रपति **गुस्तावो पेट्रो** को "पागल" कहकर अपमानित किया है, और उस ब्राज़ीलियाई जज पर प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं जिसने पूर्व अतिदक्षिणपंथी राष्ट्रपति **जायर बोल्सोनारो** पर चुनाव नतीजे पलटने की कोशिश के लिए मुकदमा चलाया था।

- In Argentina, Mr. Trump promised **$20 billion** to prop up the struggling economy but warned it would vanish if voters rejected President **Javier Milei** in legislative elections. The firebrand libertarian's party ultimately triumphed.
 अर्जेंटीना में, श्री ट्रम्प ने संघर्षरत अर्थव्यवस्था को समर्थन देने के लिए **20 अरब डॉलर** का वादा किया लेकिन चेतावनी दी कि यदि मतदाताओं ने विधायी चुनावों में राष्ट्रपति **जेवियर मिली** को खारिज कर दिया तो यह राशि गायब हो जाएगी। अंततः इस आग़brand लिबर्टेरियन की पार्टी विजयी रही।

- "It's a consistent attempt to influence the politics, to reinforce what I think they see as already a shift towards the right that's gaining force across the region," said **Will Freeman**, a fellow on Latin America at the **Council on Foreign Relations**.
 "यह राजनीति को प्रभावित करने का लगातार प्रयास है, ताकि उस बदलाव को मजबूत किया जा सके जिसे वे पहले से ही दक्षिणपंथ की ओर बढ़ता हुआ देख रहे हैं," **विल फ्रीमैन**, **काउंसिल ऑन फॉरेन रिलेशंस** में लैटिन अमेरिका विशेषज्ञ ने कहा।

- In Venezuela, where there is no election to influence, Mr. Trump has suggested the use of U.S. **military might** to remove leftist leader **Nicolas Maduro**.
 वेनेजुएला में, जहां प्रभावित करने के लिए कोई चुनाव नहीं है, श्री ट्रम्प ने वामपंथी नेता **निकोला मादुरो** को हटाने के लिए अमेरिकी **सैन्य शक्ति** का उपयोग सुझाया है।

- Mr. Trump has also sought to tip the scales in Europe.
 श्री ट्रम्प ने यूरोप में भी संतुलन झुकाने की कोशिश की है।

- His homeland security chief, **Kristi Noem**, on a visit to **Poland** openly endorsed **Karol Nawrocki**, the conservative candidate for President who went on to win.

उनकी होमलैंड सिक्योरिटी प्रमुख **क्रिस्टी नोएम** ने **पोलैंड** की यात्रा के दौरान राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए रूढ़िवादी उम्मीदवार **करोल नावरॉकी** का खुलेआम समर्थन किया, जो बाद में जीत गए।

- Mr. Trump had less success in **Romania**, where a far-right ally lost the Presidential election, but only after a previous vote was controversially annulled.
  रोमानिया में श्री ट्रम्प को कम सफलता मिली, जहां एक अतिदक्षिणपंथी सहयोगी राष्ट्रपति चुनाव हार गया, लेकिन केवल तभी जब पिछला मतदान विवादास्पद रूप से रद्द किया गया था।

- Vice-President **J.D. Vance** on a trip to **Germany** publicly attacked restrictions on the far-right **AfD** party.
  उप-राष्ट्रपति **जे.डी. वांस** ने **जर्मनी** की यात्रा के दौरान अतिदक्षिणपंथी **AfD** पार्टी पर लगे प्रतिबंधों की सार्वजनिक आलोचना की।

- Mr. Trump or his aides have heaped praise on British anti-migrant lawmaker **Nigel Farage** and criticised a court ruling in **France** against far-right leader **Marine le Pen**.
  श्री ट्रम्प या उनके सहयोगियों ने ब्रिटिश एंटी-माइग्रेंट सांसद **नाइजेल फराज** की प्रशंसा की है और **फ्रांस** में अतिदक्षिणपंथी नेता **मरीन ले पेन** के खिलाफ अदालत के फैसले की आलोचना की है।

- The Trump administration has also stripped back decades of efforts to promote **democracy** overseas, with Mr. Rubio issuing a cable instructing embassies to avoid most commentary on the legitimacy of elections abroad.
  ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने विदेशों में **लोकतंत्र** को बढ़ावा देने के दशकों के प्रयासों को भी कम कर दिया है, और श्री रुबियो ने एक केबल जारी करके दूतावासों को विदेशों में चुनावों की वैधता पर अधिकांश टिप्पणी से बचने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

- The stance mirrors Mr. Trump's approach to elections at home.
  यह रुख देश में चुनावों के प्रति श्री ट्रम्प के दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।

- He refused to accept his **2020** loss and was charged with trying to overturn results in the state of **Georgia**—a case dropped last week in light of his **2024** election victory.
  उन्होंने अपनी **2020** की हार स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर दिया और **जॉर्जिया** राज्य में परिणाम पलटने की कोशिश के आरोप लगाए गए—यह मामला पिछले सप्ताह उनकी **2024** की चुनावी जीत के मद्देनज़र हटा दिया गया।

- Mr. Trump, perhaps mindful of his own experience, has publicly urged **Israel's President** to pardon scandal-tainted **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**.
  श्री ट्रम्प ने, शायद अपने अनुभव को ध्यान में रखते हुए, **इज़राइल के राष्ट्रपति** से सार्वजनिक रूप से **प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** को माफी देने का आग्रह किया है।

- Ironically, Mr. Trump in a speech in **Riyadh** in May denounced interventionism, at least in the **West Asia** context, saying that past U.S. efforts had turned into disasters.
  विडंबना यह है कि मई में **रियाद** में अपने भाषण में श्री ट्रम्प ने हस्तक्षेपवाद की निंदा की, कम से कम **पश्चिम एशिया** के संदर्भ में, यह कहते हुए कि अमेरिका के पिछले प्रयास आपदा में बदल गए थे।

- Political scientist **Dov Levin** in a 2021 book found that the United States had intervened in foreign elections more than **80** times since the end of **Second World War**—more than any other country.
  राजनीतिक वैज्ञानिक **डोव लेविन** ने 2021 की एक पुस्तक में पाया कि **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के अंत के बाद से संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने विदेशी चुनावों में **80** से अधिक बार हस्तक्षेप किया है—किसी भी अन्य देश से अधिक।

- Still, Mr. Carothers said that Mr. Trump was unique not only in his public methods but in his apparent motivations.
  फिर भी, श्री कैरदर्स ने कहा कि श्री ट्रम्प न केवल अपनी सार्वजनिक विधियों में बल्कि अपनी स्पष्ट प्रेरणाओं में भी अनोखे थे।

- "It's different than during the **Cold War** when the United States often favoured a particular person, but they did so for geostrategic reasons," he said.
  "यह **शीत युद्ध** के समय से अलग है जब संयुक्त राज्य अक्सर किसी विशेष व्यक्ति का पक्ष लेता था, लेकिन वे ऐसा भू-रणनीतिक कारणों से करते थे," उन्होंने कहा।

- "What we have here is more that Donald Trump feels he has a group of friends out there in the world whom he wants to help," he said.
  "यहाँ बात यह है कि डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प को लगता है कि दुनिया में उनके कुछ दोस्त हैं जिन्हें वे मदद करना चाहते हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

- Mr. Carothers said that only **Russia** came close in tactics, with the Kremlin weighing in heavily to make known its preferences in former **Soviet** bloc countries, such as recently in **Moldova** where its candidate lost.

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श्री कैरदर्स ने कहा कि केवल **रूस** रणनीतियों में करीब आता है, क्योंकि क्रेमलिन ने पूर्व **सोवियत** ब्लॉक देशों में अपनी पसंद स्पष्ट करने के लिए भारी हस्तक्षेप किया, जैसे हाल ही में **मोल्दोवा** में जहां उसका उम्मीदवार हार गया।

- "A very high percentage of **European leaders** would like to see **Viktor Orban** lose the next election, but they're not going to say so out loud," he said, referring to Hungary's right-wing populist Prime Minister.
  उन्होंने कहा, "**यूरोपीय नेताओं** का एक बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा चाहता है कि **विक्टर ओर्बान** अगला चुनाव हार जाए, लेकिन वे इसे खुलकर नहीं कहने वाले," यह कहते हुए कि वे हंगरी के दक्षिणपंथी लोकलुभावन प्रधानमंत्री की बात कर रहे थे।

- Mr. Trump welcomed Mr. Orban to the **White House** last month. Speaking together to reporters, Mr. Trump said that **European leaders** needed to appreciate Mr. Orban more.
  पिछले महीने श्री ट्रम्प ने श्री ओर्बान का **व्हाइट हाउस** में स्वागत किया। रिपोर्टरों से बात करते हुए, श्री ट्रम्प ने कहा कि **यूरोपीय नेताओं** को श्री ओर्बान की अधिक सराहना करनी चाहिए।

GS Paper III: Economy	
TOPICS COVERED	**03_12_2025**
	Economy
1.	**Finland to hold road shows on circular economy in India** **भारत में सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी पर रोड शो आयोजित करेगा फ़िनलैंड**

Finland to hold road shows on circular economy in India

GS III: Economy

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

At a time when India is slated to host the World Circular Economy Forum next year (2026), Finland plans to hold road shows across major cities in India to highlight circular economy and the opportunities it will generate.

"India will host the next edition of World Circular Economy Forum next October. We want to spread awareness about circular economy not just as a waste management issue, but very much to move the discussion upstream to product design and production, to turn it into such a way that the product lifespan is better," Kimmo Lahdevirta, Finland's Ambassador to India, told *The Hindu*.

'Create 10 million jobs'
"With a roadshow, we want to spread awareness about it in different parts of India," he said.

India's circular economy is expected to have a market value of $2 trillion and create 10 million jobs by the year 2050, as per the Government of India. Currently, the Centre's focus is on waste management and recycling. Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA said the opportunities lie beyond waste management in several sectors.

"It is hard to calculate circular economy, and put numbers to it but switching to a circular model could bring $4.5 trillion in economic benefits by 2030, cut emissions, create stable jobs and open new green markets, as per UNDP," said Mika Sulkinoja, senior lead at International Programmes for Circular Economy at SITRA, Finnish Innovation Fund.

"The way we look at it is, there is business potential everywhere. At present, over 70% of CEOs are interested in circular economy. They want to look at opportunities to add to value chain, to close the loop and to make sure supply chains are secure in today's international scenario."

Finland to hold road shows on circular economy in India
भारत में सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी पर रोड शो आयोजित करेगा फ़िनलैंड

- Finland to hold road shows on **circular economy** in India
  भारत में **सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी** पर रोड शो आयोजित करेगा फ़िनलैंड

- At a time when India is slated to host the **World Circular Economy Forum** next year **(2026)**, Finland plans to hold road shows across major cities in India to highlight circular economy and the opportunities it will generate.
  जब भारत अगले वर्ष **(2026)** **वर्ल्ड सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी फ़ोरम** की मेज़बानी करने वाला है, उस समय फ़िनलैंड भारत के प्रमुख शहरों में रोड शो आयोजित करने की योजना बना रहा है, ताकि सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी और इससे उत्पन्न होने वाले अवसरों को उजागर किया जा सके।

- "India will host the next edition of **World Circular Economy Forum** next October. We want to spread awareness about circular economy not just as a **waste management** issue, but very much to move the discussion upstream to **product design** and **production**, to turn it into such a way that the product lifespan is better,"
  Kimmo Lahdevirta, Finland's Ambassador to India, told The Hindu.
  "भारत अगले अक्टूबर में **वर्ल्ड सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी फ़ोरम** का अगला संस्करण आयोजित करेगा। हम सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी को केवल **वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट** मुद्दे के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि **प्रोडक्ट डिज़ाइन** और **प्रोडक्शन** की दिशा में चर्चा को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए जागरूकता फैलाना चाहते हैं, ताकि उत्पाद का जीवनकाल बेहतर हो,"
  फ़िनलैंड के राजदूत किम्मो लाहदेविरता ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।

'Create 10 million jobs'
'1 करोड़ नौकरियां सृजित होंगी'

- "With a roadshow, we want to spread awareness about it in different parts of India," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "रोड शो के माध्यम से हम भारत के विभिन्न हिस्सों में इसके बारे में जागरूकता फैलाना चाहते हैं।"

- India's circular economy is expected to have a market value of **$2 trillion** and create **10 million jobs** by the year **2050**, as per the Government of India.
  भारत सरकार के अनुसार, भारत की सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी का बाज़ार मूल्य **$2 ट्रिलियन** होने की उम्मीद है और वर्ष **2050** तक **1 करोड़ नौकरियां** सृजित हो सकती हैं।

- Currently, the Centre's focus is on **waste management** and **recycling**. Finnish Innovation Fund
  SITRA said the opportunities lie beyond waste management in several sectors.
  वर्तमान में केंद्र का ध्यान **वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट** और **रीसाइक्लिंग** पर है। फ़िनलैंड इनोवेशन फ़ंड
  SITRA ने कहा कि अवसर वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट से आगे कई क्षेत्रों में मौजूद हैं।

- "It is hard to calculate circular economy, and put numbers to it but switching to a circular model could bring **$4.5 trillion** ineconomic benefits by
  2030, cut emissions, create stable jobs and open newgreen markets, as per
  UNDP," said Mika Sulkinoja, senior lead at International Programmes for Circular Economyat SITRA,Finnish Innovation Fund.
  उन्होंने कहा, "सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी की गणना करना और इसे संख्याओं में बदलना कठिन है,
  लेकिन सर्कुलर मॉडल में बदलाव करने से 2030 तक **$4.5 ट्रिलियन** के
  आर्थिक लाभ, उत्सर्जन में कमी, स्थिर नौकरियां और नए ग्रीन मार्केट मिल
  सकते हैं, जैसा कि **UNDP** ने कहा है," — मिका सुलकिनोया, वरिष्ठ लीड,
  इंटरनेशनल प्रोग्राम्स फॉर सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी, **SITRA**।

- "The way we look at it
  There is business potential everywhere. At present, over **70% of CEOs** are
  interested in the circular economy. They want to look at
  opportunities to add to value chain, to **close the loop**
  and to make sure supply
  chains are secure in today's
  international scenario."
  "हम इसे इस तरह देखते हैं कि हर जगह व्यवसायिक संभावनाएं हैं। वर्तमान में
  70% से अधिक CEO सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी में रुचि रखते हैं। वे वैल्यू चेन में
  अवसर जोड़ने, **लूप को बंद** करने और आज की अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थिति में
  सप्लाई चेन को सुरक्षित बनाने की संभावनाएं तलाशना चाहते हैं।"

GS Paper III: S&T		
TOPICS COVERED		**03_12_2025**
	S&T	
2.	**WHO backs use of GLP-1 drugs for weight loss** वजन घटाने के लिए GLP-1 दवाओं के उपयोग का WHO समर्थन करता है	
3.	**SC gives go-ahead to Kerala to allot prison land to BrahMos unit** केरल को ब्रह्मोस यूनिट को जेल की भूमि आवंटित करने की अनुमति सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दी	

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WHO backs use of GLP-1 drugs for weight loss

GS III: S&T

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

In a much-anticipated development, the World Health Organization (WHO) has finally issued global guidelines on the use of popular weight loss drugs. These glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) therapies are being used for the treatment of obesity in adults.

The WHO guidelines released on December 1 posit equitable access as the key element of using such therapies, and read them as one element of a full complement of actions against obesity.

"While medication alone won't solve this global health crisis, GLP-1 therapies can help millions overcome obesity and reduce its associated harms," WHO director general Tedros Adhonom Ghebrey-sus said, while launching these guidelines.

With the guidelines, the WHO recognises that the GLP-1 class of drugs are indeed effective, and that they are likely to have an impact on the global costs of obesity. Beyond its health impacts, the global economic cost of obesity is predicted to reach $3 trillion annually by 2030.

There are two primary components to the WHO's recommendations: That GLP-1 therapies may be used by adults, excluding pregnant women, conditionally, for the long-term treatment of obesity; and that intensive behavioural interventions in diet and physical activity must be continued alongside the drugs.

The WHO also specified that while the efficacy of these therapies in treating obesity and improving metabolic and other outcomes was evident, it was making a conditional recommendation partly because of the limited data available on long-term efficacy, safety and probable outcomes when the drugs are discontinued, but also because of their costs which put them out of the reach of many people.

Obesity is a complex chronic disease and a major driver of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancer.

It also contributes to poorer outcomes for patients who have infectious diseases.

It is only in recent years that the treatment for obesity has been revolutionised by the emergence of a class of drugs that not only effect significant weight loss, but also confer a whole range of metabolic benefits to individuals.

Equitable access

A special communication in the recent issue of *JAMA* notes that "medication alone cannot solve the global obesity burden. Countries must ensure equitable access not only to comprehensive disease management, but also to health promotion and prevention policies and interventions targeting the general population and those at high risk."

Anoop Mishra, director of the National Diabetes, Obesity, and Cholesterol Foundation, said: "I believe this statement by the WHO is a progressive step towards obesity management worldwide. For India, the costs of these drugs is a roadblock that needs more efforts, insurance coverage and development of generics."

V. Mohan, chairman of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, added: "It is good that the WHO's guidelines specify that the drugs alone will not suffice." "Your diet and exercise are paramount, and only when those fail, and when you really need the help of a drug or if morbidly obese, then you go for these drugs," he said.

WHO guidelines posit equitable access as the key element of using such therapies.

WHO backs use of GLP-1 drugs for weight loss
वजन घटाने के लिए GLP-1 दवाओं के उपयोग का WHO समर्थन करता है

- In a much-anticipated development, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** has • nally issued global guidelines on the use of popular weight loss drugs. These **glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1)** therapies are being used for the treatment of obesity in adults.
  बहुत प्रतीक्षित विकास में, **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO)** ने अंततः लोकप्रिय वजन कम करने वाली दवाओं के उपयोग पर वैश्विक दिशानिर्देश जारी किए हैं। ये **ग्लूकागॉन-लाइक पेप्टाइड-1 (GLP-1)** थेरेपी वयस्कों में मोटापे के उपचार के लिए उपयोग की जा रही हैं।

- The WHO guidelines released on **December 1** posit equitable access as the key element of using such therapies, and read them as one element of a full complement of actions against obesity.
  1 दिसंबर को जारी किए गए WHO दिशानिर्देश इन थेरेपी के उपयोग में समान पहुंच को मुख्य तत्व मानते हैं, और उन्हें मोटापे के खिलाफ पूर्ण कार्रवाई के एक घटक के रूप में देखते हैं।

- "While medication alone won't solve this global health crisis, **GLP-1 therapies** can help millions overcome obesity and reduce its associated harms," WHO director general **Tedros Adhonom Ghebreysus** said, while launching these guidelines.
  "हालांकि केवल दवाएं इस वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य संकट को हल नहीं कर सकतीं, **GLP-1 थेरेपी** लाखों लोगों को मोटापे से उबरने और इससे जुड़े नुकसान को कम करने में मदद कर सकती हैं," WHO महानिदेशक **टेड्रोस अधनोम घेब्रेयेसस** ने इन दिशानिर्देशों को जारी करते हुए कहा।

- With the guidelines, the WHO recognises that the GLP-1 class of drugs are indeed **e• ective**, and that they are likely to have an impact on the global costs of obesity. Beyond its health impacts, the global economic cost of obesity is predicted to reach **$3 trillion annually by 2030**.
  इन दिशानिर्देशों के साथ, WHO मानता है कि GLP-1 दवाओं का वर्ग वास्तव में **प्रभावी** है, और वे वैश्विक मोटापा लागत को प्रभावित करने की संभावना रखते हैं। स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों से परे, मोटापे की वैश्विक आर्थिक लागत **2030 तक प्रति वर्ष $3 ट्रिलियन** होने का अनुमान है।

- There are two primary components to the WHO's recommendations: That GLP-1 therapies may be used by adults, excluding pregnant women, conditionally, for the **long-term treatment of obesity**; and that **intensive behavioural interventions** in diet and physical activity must be continued alongside the drugs.

WHO की सिफारिशों के दो मुख्य घटक हैं: कि GLP-1 थेरेपी वयस्कों (गर्भवती महिलाओं को छोड़कर) द्वारा **मोटापे के दीर्घकालिक उपचार** के लिए शर्तों के आधार पर उपयोग की जा सकती हैं; और कि आहार एवं शारीरिक गतिविधि में **गहन व्यवहारिक हस्तक्षेप** दवाओं के साथ जारी रहने चाहिए।

- The WHO also speci•ed that while the e•cacy of these therapies in treating obesity and improving metabolic and other outcomes was evident, it was making a **conditional recommendation** partly because of the limited data available on long-term e•cacy, safety and probable outcomes when the drugs are discontinued, but also because of their **costs** which put them out of the reach of many people.

  WHO ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि मोटापे के उपचार और चयापचय तथा अन्य परिणामों में सुधार में इन थेरेपी की प्रभावशीलता स्पष्ट होने के बावजूद, यह एक **शर्त आधारित सिफारिश** है क्योंकि दीर्घकालिक प्रभावशीलता, सुरक्षा और दवाएं बंद करने पर संभावित परिणामों पर सीमित डेटा उपलब्ध है, और साथ ही उनकी **लागत** भी उन्हें कई लोगों की पहुंच से बाहर करती है।

- Obesity is a **complex chronic disease** and a major driver of non-communicable diseases, such as **cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes**, and some types of **cancer**.

  मोटापा एक **जटिल दीर्घकालिक रोग** है और गैर-संचारी रोगों का मुख्य कारण है, जैसे **हृदय रोग, टाइप 2 मधुमेह**, और कुछ प्रकार के **कैंसर**।

- It also contributes to poorer outcomes for patients who have infectious diseases.

  यह संक्रामक रोगों वाले रोगियों के लिए भी खराब परिणामों में योगदान देता है।

- It is only in recent years that the treatment for obesity has been revolutionised by the emergence of a class of drugs that not only e•ect signi•cant weight loss, but also confer a whole range of **metabolic benefits** to individuals.

  हाल के वर्षों में ही मोटापे के उपचार में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव आया है, क्योंकि दवाओं के एक वर्ग ने न केवल महत्वपूर्ण वजन घटाने में मदद की है बल्कि अनेक **चयापचय लाभ** भी प्रदान किए हैं।

Equitable access
समान पहुंच

- A special communication in the recent issue of **JAMA** notes that "medication alone cannot solve the global obesity burden. Countries must ensure **equitable access** not only to comprehensive disease management, but also to health promotion and prevention policies and interventions targeting the general population and those at high risk."

  जामा (JAMA) के हालिया अंक में एक विशेष टिप्पणी में कहा गया है कि "केवल दवाएं वैश्विक मोटापा बोझ को हल नहीं कर सकतीं। देशों को **समान पहुंच** सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए — न केवल व्यापक रोग प्रबंधन में, बल्कि स्वास्थ्य संवर्धन, रोकथाम नीतियों और आम जनता एवं उच्च जोखिम वाले समूहों के लिए हस्तक्षेपों में भी।"

- Anoop Mishra, director of the **National Diabetes, Obesity, and Cholesterol Foundation**, said: "I believe this statement by the WHO is a progressive step towards obesity management worldwide. For India, the **cost of these drugs** is a roadblock that needs more efforts, insurance coverage and development of **generics**."

  नेशनल डायबिटीज़, ओबेसिटी एंड कोलेस्ट्रॉल फाउंडेशन के निदेशक अनूप मिश्रा ने कहा: "मेरा मानना है कि WHO का यह बयान वैश्विक स्तर पर मोटापा प्रबंधन की दिशा में प्रगतिशील कदम है। भारत के लिए, इन दवाओं की **लागत** एक बड़ी बाधा है, जिसके लिए अधिक प्रयास, बीमा कवरेज और **जेनेरिक** दवाओं का विकास आवश्यक है।"

- V. Mohan, chairman of the **Madras Diabetes Research Foundation**, added: "It is good that the WHO's guidelines specify that the drugs alone will not suf-•ce." "Your **diet and exercise** are paramount, and only when those fail, and when you really need the help of a drug or if **morbidly obese**, then you go for these drugs," he said.

  मद्रास डायबिटीज़ रिसर्च फ़ाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष वी. मोहन ने कहा: "यह अच्छा है कि WHO के दिशानिर्देश स्पष्ट करते हैं कि केवल दवाएं पर्याप्त नहीं होंगी।" "आपका **आहार और व्यायाम** सर्वोपरि हैं, और केवल जब ये विफल हो जाएं तथा जब आपको वास्तव में दवा की आवश्यकता हो या आप **गंभीर मोटापे** से ग्रस्त हों, तभी इन दवाओं का उपयोग करना चाहिए।"

SC gives go-ahead to Kerala to allot prison land to BrahMos unit

GS III: S&T

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the green light for the Kerala government to allot land occupied for an open prison complex to BrahMos Aerospace Trivandrum Limited (BATL), an arrangement which will see inmates share the neighbourhood with supersonic cruise missiles.

"The allotment of land for BATL, which comes under the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) is intended for the expansion of BATL's existing operations, specifically for the establishment of a second manufacturing unit dedicated to advanced missiles and strategic hardware," the State submitted, winning the Supreme Court's permission.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, based on a positive report submitted by amicus curiae, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, agreed to the State's proposal to divide 257 acres of the sprawling 457-acre campus of the Nettukaltheri open prison among the BATL, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and a National Forensic Science University.

BATL would be apportioned 180 acres, SSB 45 acres to set up a battalion headquarters and 32 acres for the forensic varsity.

Lease expired
The Nettukaltheri open prison was established in 1964 on leased land. The lease expired in May 2014. Out of the original 487 acres, 12 acres were allocated to the Kerala Institute of Co-operative Management (KICMA) College in 2001 and 16 acres to the Dairy Development Department in 2022. There is also a proposal to allot one acre to the Thiruvananthapuram District Panchayat for settling a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant.

Kerala had submitted that the open prison utilised less than 100 acres for its core purposes. The remaining land was used for generating additional income through plantations, etc. The establishment of the SSB battalion headquarters in Kerala would meet a long-pending request of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"This will give Kerala the permanent presence of a Central Armed Police Force, strengthen national security preparedness and provide employment and local development Opportunities," the State government acknowledged.

BATL is expected to develop a second manufacturing plant for BrahMos missile at the site.

SC gives go-ahead to Kerala to allot prison land to BrahMos unit
केरल को ब्रह्मोस यूनिट को जेल की भूमि आवंटित करने की अनुमति सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दी

• SC gives go-ahead to Kerala to allot prison land to BrahMos unit
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केरल को **BrahMos** यूनिट को **जेल की भूमि** आवंटित करने की मंजूरी दी।

• The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the green light for the Kerala government to allot land occupied for an open prison complex to BrahMos Aerospace Trivandrum Limited (BATL), an arrangement which will see inmates share the neighbourhood with supersonic cruise missiles.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को केरल सरकार को **ओपन प्रिजन कॉम्प्लेक्स** की भूमि **BrahMos Aerospace Trivandrum Limited (BATL)** को आवंटित करने की हरी झंडी दे दी, जिसके तहत कैदियों को **सुपरसोनिक क्रूज़ मिसाइलों** के पड़ोस में रहना होगा।

• "The allotment of land for BATL, which comes under the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) is intended for the expansion of BATL's existing operations, speci• cally for the establishment of a second manufacturing unit dedicated to advanced missiles and strategic hardware," the State submitted, winning the Supreme Court's permission.
राज्य सरकार ने बताया कि **BATL**, जो **DRDO** के अधीन है, को भूमि आवंटन इसका मौजूदा संचालन बढ़ाने और **एडवांस्ड मिसाइलों** व **स्ट्रैटेजिक हार्डवेयर** के लिए दूसरा मैन्युफैक्चरिंग यूनिट स्थापित करने के उद्देश्य से है, और इस आधार पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट की अनुमति मिली।

• A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, based on a positive report submitted by amicus curiae, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, agreed to the State's proposal to divide 257 acres of the sprawling 457-acre campus of the Nettukaltheri open prison among the BATL, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and a National Forensic Science University.
जस्टिस **विक्रम नाथ** और **संदीप मेहता** की पीठ ने अमीकस क्यूरी, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **के. परमेश्वर** की सकारात्मक रिपोर्ट के आधार पर राज्य के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी, जिसके अनुसार **Nettukaltheri ओपन प्रिजन** के 457 एकड़ में से **257 एकड़** BATL, **SSB**, और **नेशनल फोरेंसिक साइंस यूनिवर्सिटी** में बांटे जाएंगे।

• BATL would be apportioned 180 acres, SSB 45 acres to set up a battalion headquarters and 32 acres for the forensic varsity.
BATL को **180 एकड़**, SSB को **45 एकड़** (बटालियन मुख्यालय के लिए) और फोरेंसिक विश्वविद्यालय को **32 एकड़** दिए जाएंगे।

• Lease expired
लीज़ समाप्त

• The Nettukaltheri open prison was established in 1964 on leased land. The lease expired in May 2014.
Nettukaltheri ओपन प्रिजन वर्ष **1964** में लीज पर ली गई भूमि पर स्थापित हुआ था। लीज **मई 2014** में समाप्त हो गई।

• Out of the original 487 acres, 12 acres were allocated to the Kerala Institute of Co-operative Management (KICMA) College in 2001 and 16 acres to the Dairy Development Department in 2022.

मूल **487 एकड़** में से **12 एकड़** वर्ष **2001** में **KICMA कॉलेज** को और **16 एकड़** वर्ष **2022** में **डेयरी डेवलपमेंट विभाग** को दिया गया।

- There is also a proposal to allot one acre to the Thiruvananthapuram District Panchayat for settling a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant.
  फीकल स्लज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट स्थापित करने हेतु तिरुवनंतपुरम जिला पंचायत को **1 एकड़** भूमि देने का प्रस्ताव भी है।

- Kerala had submitted that the open prison utilised less than 100 acres for its core purposes. The remaining land was used for generating additional income through plantations, etc.
  केरल ने बताया था कि ओपन प्रिजन अपने मूल उद्देश्यों के लिए **100 एकड़** से कम भूमि का उपयोग करता है। शेष भूमि **प्लांटेशन** आदि के माध्यम से अतिरिक्त आय उत्पन्न करने में उपयोग की जाती है।

- The establishment of the SSB battalion headquarters in Kerala would meet a long-pending request of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  केरल में **SSB बटालियन मुख्यालय** की स्थापना **गृह मंत्रालय** के लंबे समय से लंबित अनुरोध को पूरा करेगी।

- "This will give Kerala the permanent presence of a Central Armed Police Force, strengthen national security preparedness and provide employment and local development Opportunities," the State government acknowledged.
  राज्य सरकार ने माना कि इससे केरल को **केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल** की स्थायी उपस्थिति मिलेगी, **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** तैयारियां मजबूत होंगी और **रोज़गार** व **स्थानीय विकास** के अवसर पैदा होंगे।

DoT's WhatsApp SIM-binding mandate faces BIF pushback

DoT's order is "well-intentioned," but it raises "significant questions of jurisdiction, proportionality, and consumer impact," says the Forum

GS III: S&T

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Broadband India Forum (BIF) spoke out against the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s mandate last week for WhatsApp and similar apps to perform "SIM binding" and log out web-based instances every six hours.

BIF is an industry group which has WhatsApp and its parent firm Meta as members. Neither company has issued any statement on the mandate.

According to a BIF, the DoT's order, aimed at curbing fraudulent use of Indian numbers by people abroad who don't physically possess the Indian SIM with which their What-sApp account is registered, was "well-intentioned," but it raised "significant questions of jurisdiction, proportionality, and consumer impact."

Arattai, the indigenous WhatsApp challenger developed by Zoho Corp., will comply with the directive, the application's global product head Jeri John said in a statement to *The Hindu*.

What's happening?: The Meta-owned communication platform is under government scrutiny for curbing fraudulent use. PTI

DoT's WhatsApp SIM-binding mandate faces BIF pushback
DoT के WhatsApp SIM-बाइंडिंग आदेश को BIF का विरोध

- DoT's WhatsApp
  DoT का WhatsApp
- SIM-binding mandate
  SIM-बाइंडिंग आदेश
- faces **BIF pushback**
  BIF के विरोध का सामना
- DoT's order is "well-intentioned," but it raises "signi• cant questions of jurisdiction, proportionality, and consumer impact," says the Forum
  DoT का आदेश "सद्भावनापूर्ण" है, लेकिन यह "अधिकार-क्षेत्र, आनुपातिकता और उपभोक्ता प्रभाव के महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न" उठाता है, फ़ोरम ने कहा
- The Broadband India Forum (BIF)
  ब्रॉडबैंड इंडिया फ़ोरम (BIF)
- spoke out against
  के विरुद्ध बोला
- the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s mandate last week for WhatsApp and similar apps to perform "SIM binding" and log out web-based instances every six hours.
  दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT) के पिछले सप्ताह दिए गए उस आदेश के विरुद्ध, जिसमें WhatsApp और समान ऐप्स को "SIM बाइंडिंग" करने और वेब-आधारित इंस्टेंस को हर छह घंटे में लॉगआउट करने को कहा गया है।
- BIF is an industry group which has **WhatsApp** and its parent • rm **Meta** as members.
  BIF एक उद्योग समूह है जिसके सदस्य **WhatsApp** और इसकी मूल कंपनी **Meta** हैं।

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- Neither company has issued any statement on the mandate.
  इनमें से किसी भी कंपनी ने इस आदेश पर कोई बयान जारी नहीं किया है।

- According to a BIF, the DoT's order, aimed at curbing fraudulent use of Indian numbers by people abroad who don't physically possess the Indian SIM with which their WhatsApp account is registered, was "well-intentioned,"
  BIF के अनुसार, DoT का आदेश उन लोगों द्वारा भारतीय नंबरों के धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण उपयोग को रोकने के उद्देश्य से था जो विदेश में रहते हैं और जिनके पास वह भारतीय SIM भौतिक रूप से नहीं है जिससे उनका WhatsApp खाता पंजीकृत है, और यह "सद्भावनापूर्ण" था,

- but it raised "significant questions of jurisdiction, proportionality, and consumer impact."
  लेकिन इसने "अधिकार-क्षेत्र, आनुपातिकता और उपभोक्ता प्रभाव के महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न" उठाए।

- Arattai, the indigenous WhatsApp challenger developed by Zoho Corp., will comply with the directive, the application's global product head Jeri John said in a statement to The Hindu.
  Zoho Corp. द्वारा विकसित स्वदेशी WhatsApp चुनौतीकर्ता Arattai इस निर्देश का पालन करेगा, यह आवेदन के वैश्विक उत्पाद प्रमुख जेरि जॉन ने The Hindu को दिए बयान में कहा।

GS Paper III: Environment	
TOPICS COVERED	**03_12_2025**
4. **Only 20% of candidates accepted PM Internship Scheme offers: data** **केवल 20% उम्मीदवारों ने PM Internship Scheme के ऑफ़र स्वीकार किए: डेटा**	
5. **Experts work on UN climate report amid U.S. pushback** **अमेरिकी आपत्तियों के बीच विशेषज्ञ UN जलवायु रिपोर्ट पर काम कर रहे हैं**	
6. **The dismal state of India's environment** **भारत के पर्यावरण की दयनीय स्थिति**	

Only 20% of candidates accepted PM Internship Scheme offers: data

GS III: Employment

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

While the PM Internship Scheme's pilot project has exceeded its target of providing 1.25 lakh internship opportunities in a year, it has found few takers among India's youth, data presented to Parliament show.

Over two phases, 1.65 lakh internship offers were made by companies to applicants, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra informed the Lok Sabha in a reply to a question. Of these offers, only 20% were accepted. Candidates cited locations, roles, and duration as reasons for declining offers. Of those who accepted offers, one-fifth of participants left their internships before completing them.

The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) was announced in the Union Budget 2024 with the aim of providing internship opportunities to one crore youth in India's top

Few takers: The Centre says 1.65 lakh internship offers were made by companies to applicants. V. RAJU

500 companies in five years. In October 2024, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched a pilot project for the scheme, targeting 1.25 lakh internship opportunities in a year.

Low acceptance rates

Under the first round of the pilot project, companies posted more than 1.27 lakh internship opportunities on the scheme portal, for which 6.21 lakh applications were received. The

companies made 82,000 internship offers, of which 8,700 or 10.6% of the offers were accepted.

The Minister's reply noted that, as of November 26, 4,565 candidates from the first round had left their internships without completing them. That is, more than half the candidates that started their internships in the first round left before finishing their term.

In the second round of the pilot scheme from Ja-

nuary onwards, companies posted over 1.18 lakh internship opportunities for which they received over 4.55 lakh applications. As of November 26, companies have made over 83,000 offers, of which 24,600 offers or 30% were accepted.

So far, 2,053 candidates – or 8.3% of the ones who accepted internships in the second round – have left without completing their internships, the government said.

Taken together, this means that over the two rounds, 1.65 lakh internship offers were made, of which 33,300 (20.2%) offers were accepted. Of those that were accepted, 6,618 (19.9%) candidates quit their internships prematurely.

The government had initially budgeted ₹840 crore for the pilot project, which was revised down to ₹380 crore in the financial year 2024-25. Of this, the pilot project has so far utilised ₹73.72 crore, the reply said.

Only 20% of candidates accepted PM Internship Scheme offers: data
केवल 20% उम्मीदवारों ने PM Internship Scheme के ऑफ़र स्वीकार किए: डेटा

- Only 20% of candidates accepted PM Internship Scheme o•ers: data
  केवल **20%** उम्मीदवारों ने PM Internship Scheme के ऑफ़र स्वीकार किए: डेटा
- While the **PM Internship Scheme's** pilot project has exceeded its target of providing **1.25 lakh** internship opportunities in a year, it has found few takers among India's youth, data presented to Parliament show.
  जब **PM Internship Scheme** के पायलट प्रोजेक्ट ने एक वर्ष में **1.25 लाख** इंटर्नशिप अवसर प्रदान करने के अपने लक्ष्य को पार कर लिया, तब भी संसद में प्रस्तुत आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि भारत के युवाओं में इसके बहुत कम इच्छुक उम्मीदवार मिले।
- Over two phases, **1.65 lakh** internship o•ers were made by companies to applicants, Minister of State for Corporate A•airs **Harsh Malhotra** informed the **Lok Sabha** in a reply to a question.
  दो चरणों में कंपनियों द्वारा आवेदकों को **1.65 लाख** इंटर्नशिप ऑफ़र किए गए, यह जानकारी कॉर्पोरेट अफेयर्स के राज्य मंत्री **हर्ष मल्होत्रा** ने **लोक सभा** में एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में दी।
- Of these o•ers, only **20%** were accepted. Candidates cited locations, roles, and duration as reasons for declining o•ers.
  इन ऑफ़र्स में से केवल **20%** स्वीकार किए गए। उम्मीदवारों ने स्थान, भूमिकाएं और अवधि को ऑफ़र ठुकराने का कारण बताया।
- Of those who accepted o•ers, one-•fth of participants left their internships before completing them.
  जिन्होंने ऑफ़र स्वीकार किए, उनमें से पाँच में से एक प्रतिभागी ने इंटर्नशिप पूरी करने से पहले ही छोड़ दी।

- The **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)** was announced in the **Union Budget 2024** with the aim of providing internship opportunities to **one crore youth** in India's top **500 companies** in five years.
  प्रधानमंत्री इंटर्नशिप योजना (PMIS) की घोषणा **केंद्रीय बजट 2024** में की गई थी, जिसका लक्ष्य पाँच वर्षों में भारत की शीर्ष **500 कंपनियों** में **एक करोड़ युवाओं** को इंटर्नशिप के अवसर प्रदान करना था।

- In **October 2024**, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched a pilot project for the scheme, targeting **1.25 lakh** internship opportunities in a year.
  अक्टूबर 2024 में कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के मंत्रालय ने योजना के लिए एक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया, जिसमें एक वर्ष में **1.25 लाख** इंटर्नशिप अवसरों का लक्ष्य रखा गया।

Low acceptance rates
कम स्वीकृति दरें

- Under the first round of the pilot project, companies posted more than **1.27 lakh** internship opportunities on the scheme portal, for which **6.21 lakh** applications were received.
  पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के पहले दौर में कंपनियों ने पोर्टल पर **1.27 लाख** से अधिक इंटर्नशिप अवसर पोस्ट किए, जिसके लिए **6.21 लाख** आवेदन प्राप्त हुए।

- The companies made **82,000** internship o•ers, of which **8,700** or **10.6%** of the o•ers were accepted.
  कंपनियों ने **82,000** इंटर्नशिप ऑफ़र किए, जिनमें से **8,700** या **10.6%** ऑफ़र स्वीकार किए गए।

- The Minister's reply noted that, as of **November 26**, **4,565** candidates from the first round had left their internships without completing them.
  मंत्री के उत्तर में उल्लेख किया गया कि **26 नवंबर** तक पहले दौर के **4,565** उम्मीदवार अपनी इंटर्नशिप पूरी किए बिना छोड़ चुके थे।

- That is, more than half the candidates that started their internships in the first round left before finishing their term.
  अर्थात, पहले दौर में इंटर्नशिप शुरू करने वाले आधे से अधिक उम्मीदवार अपने कार्यकाल पूरा करने से पहले ही छोड़कर चले गए।

- In the second round of the pilot scheme from **January** onwards, companies posted over **1.18 lakh** internship opportunities for which they received over **4.55 lakh** applications.
  पायलट योजना के दूसरे दौर में, जो **जनवरी** से शुरू हुआ, कंपनियों ने **1.18 लाख** से अधिक इंटर्नशिप अवसर पोस्ट किए, जिसके लिए **4.55 लाख** से अधिक आवेदन प्राप्त हुए।

- As of **November 26**, companies have made over **83,000** o•ers, of which **24,600** o•ers or **30%** were accepted.
  26 नवंबर तक कंपनियां **83,000** से अधिक ऑफ़र कर चुकी थीं, जिनमें से **24,600** ऑफ़र या **30%** स्वीकार किए गए।

- So far, **2,053** candidates — or **8.3%** of the ones who accepted internships in the second round — have left without completing their internships, the government said.
  अब तक, दूसरे दौर में इंटर्नशिप स्वीकार करने वालों में से **2,053** उम्मीदवार — या **8.3%** — बिना पूरी किए ही इंटर्नशिप छोड़ चुके हैं, सरकार ने कहा।

- Taken together, this means that over the two rounds, **1.65 lakh** internship o•ers were made, of which **33,300 (20.2%)** o•ers were accepted.
  साथ मिलाकर देखा जाए तो दोनों दौरों में **1.65 लाख** इंटर्नशिप ऑफ़र किए गए, जिनमें से **33,300 (20.2%)** स्वीकार किए गए।

- Of those that were accepted, **6,618 (19.9%)** candidates quit their internships prematurely.
  जिन ऑफ़र्स को स्वीकार किया गया, उनमें से **6,618 (19.9%)** उम्मीदवारों ने अपनी इंटर्नशिप समय से पहले ही छोड़ दी।

- The government had initially budgeted **₹840 crore** for the pilot project, which was revised down to **₹380 crore** in the financial year **2024-25**.
  सरकार ने शुरू में पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के लिए **₹840 करोड़** का बजट रखा था, जिसे वित्त वर्ष **2024-25** में घटाकर **₹380 करोड़** कर दिया गया।

- Of this, the pilot project has so far utilised **₹73.72 crore**, the reply said.
  इसमें से पायलट प्रोजेक्ट ने अब तक **₹73.72 करोड़** खर्च किए हैं, उत्तर में कहा गया।

Experts work on UN climate report amid U.S. pushback

Agence France Presse
GS III: Environment

Some 600 experts began work on December 1 on the next major United Nations climate report even as U.S. President Donald Trump has continued to call the science of global warming a "hoax."

French Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut, whose country is hosting the five-day meeting in a Paris suburb, told the scientists their "extremely precious" work is crucial as multilateralism has weakened.

"Too many people deny the results of your work," she told the experts from more than 100 countries gathered in a skyscraper in Saint-Denis for the opening of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting.

Their work faces hurdles in the face of a U.S. administration whose president called climate change the "greatest con job ever" during a speech at the UN in September.

One of the co-chairs of an IPCC working group is U.S. climate expert Katherine Calvin, who was fired from her job as chief scientist at NASA following cuts ordered by the Trump administration.

"The statements, for example, from the American administration on the origin of climate change, the fact that it's a hoax, if you will, we still find that quite surprising," said an official at the French ecological transition ministry who requested anonymity.

Their work has run afoul of President Trump, who called climate change the greatest con job ever, while addressing the UN

The previous IPCC report, released in 2023, had warned that the world was on track to exceed the 1.5 C warming threshold by 2030.

The UN now says that safer limit will be breached earlier than feared.

The meeting in France launches a process that will culminate with the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report (AR7), due to be published in 2028 or 2029.

It brings together lead authors of the report in a single venue for the first time, in an effort to tackle interdisciplinary climate questions.

The IPCC operates by consensus.

"If any country opposes the text, the report cannot be approved. Every country has a sort of veto," climate scientist Robert Vautard told reporters last week.

While the U.S. government stays out of the climate fray, dozens of American scientists are among the experts working on the IPCC report.

"IPCC reports are going to continue to underpin climate policies and climate action at every level, including international negotiations," IPCC chairman Jim Skea told the gathering.

There already appear to be disagreements over the timing of the next report's publication.

A group called the High Ambition Coalition, which includes European Union countries and developing nations vulnerable to climate change, wants the assessment to come out in 2028.

That would coincide with the global stocktake, a review, required under the Paris Agreement, of the progress countries have made in limiting climate change and its impacts.

But a group of emerging economies and major fossil fuel-producing countries say more time is needed and are advocating for 2029.

The divide echoes the disagreements seen at the recent COP30 climate summit in Brazil, which concluded with a deal that left out an explicit call to phase out fossil fuels.

Despite the disagreements over when to publish the next report, Mr. Skea had said in March: "I don't think the IPCC is in crisis. We will resolve this issue about the timeline."

Experts work on UN climate report amid U.S. pushback
अमेरिकी आपत्तियों के बीच विशेषज्ञ UN जलवायु रिपोर्ट पर काम कर रहे हैं

- Some **600 experts** began work on **December 1** on the next major **United Nations climate report** even as **U.S. President Donald Trump** has continued to call the science of **global warming** a "**hoax.**"
 लगभग **600 विशेषज्ञों** ने **1 दिसंबर** को अगले बड़े **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु रिपोर्ट (United Nations climate report)** पर काम शुरू किया, जबकि **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप (U.S. President Donald Trump)** लगातार **ग्लोबल वार्मिंग (global warming)** के विज्ञान को "**धोखा (hoax)**" कहते रहे हैं।

- **French Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut**, whose country is hosting the • ve-day meeting in a **Paris** suburb, told the scientists their "extremely precious" work is crucial as **multilateralism** has weakened.
 फ्रांस की इकोलॉजिकल ट्रांजिशन मंत्री मोनिक बारब्यू (French Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut), जिनका देश पेरिस (Paris) के उपनगर में पाँच-दिवसीय बैठक की मेज़बानी कर रहा है, ने वैज्ञानिकों से कहा कि उनका "बेहद बहुमूल्य (extremely precious)" काम अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि **बहुपक्षवाद (multilateralism)** कमजोर हुआ है।

- "Too many people deny the results of your work," she told the experts from more than **100 countries** gathered in a skyscraper in **Saint-Denis** for the opening of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** meeting.
 "बहुत से लोग आपके काम के परिणामों को नकारते हैं," उन्होंने **100 से अधिक देशों** के उन विशेषज्ञों से कहा, जो सेंट-डेनिस (Saint-Denis) की एक गगनचुंबी इमारत में इंटरगवर्नमेंटल पैनल ऑन क्लाइमेट चेंज (IPCC) की बैठक के उद्घाटन के लिए एकत्र हुए थे।

- Their work faces hurdles in the face of a **U.S. administration** whose president called **climate change** the "greatest con job ever" during a speech at the **UN** in **September**.
 उनका काम एक ऐसी **अमेरिकी प्रशासन (U.S. administration)** के कारण बाधाओं का सामना कर रहा है, जिसके राष्ट्रपति ने **सितंबर (September)** में **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** में दिए एक भाषण के दौरान **जलवायु परिवर्तन (climate change)** को "अब तक की सबसे बड़ी धोखाधड़ी (greatest con job ever)" कहा था।

- One of the co-chairs of an **IPCC working group** is **U.S. climate expert Katherine Calvin**, who was • red from her job as **chief scientist at NASA** following cuts ordered by the **Trump administration**.

  IPCC वर्किंग ग्रुप (IPCC working group) के सह-अध्यक्षों में से एक **अमेरिकी जलवायु विशेषज्ञ कैथरीन कैल्विन (U.S. climate expert Katherine Calvin)** हैं, जिन्हें **ट्रंप प्रशासन (Trump administration)** द्वारा किए गए कटौती आदेशों के बाद **NASA की मुख्य वैज्ञानिक (chief scientist at NASA)** की नौकरी से हटा दिया गया था।

- "The statements, for example, from the **American administration** on the origin of **climate change**, the fact that it's a hoax, if you will, we still • nd that quite surprising," said an o• cial at the **French ecological transition ministry** who requested anonymity.

  "उदाहरण के लिए, **अमेरिकी प्रशासन (American administration)** द्वारा **जलवायु परिवर्तन (climate change)** की उत्पत्ति पर दिए गए बयान, और यह दावा कि यह एक धोखा है, अगर आप चाहें तो, हमें अब भी काफ़ी चौंकाने वाला लगता है," ऐसा **फ्रांसीसी इकोलॉजिकल ट्रांजिशन मंत्रालय (French ecological transition ministry)** के एक अधिकारी ने कहा, जिन्होंने गुमनाम रहने का अनुरोध किया।

- The previous **IPCC report**, released in **2023**, had warned that the world was on track to exceed the **1.5 C** warming threshold by **2030**.

  पिछली **IPCC रिपोर्ट (IPCC report)**, जो **2023** में जारी हुई थी, ने चेतावनी दी थी कि दुनिया **2030** तक **1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस (1.5 C)** ऊष्मीकरण सीमा को पार करने की राह पर है।

- The **UN** now says that safer limit will be breached earlier than feared.

  अब **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** कहता है कि यह अपेक्षाकृत सुरक्षित सीमा आशंका से भी पहले पार हो जाएगी।

- The meeting in **France** launches a process that will culminate with the **IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)**, due to be published in **2028 or 2029**.

  फ्रांस (France) में हो रही यह बैठक एक ऐसी प्रक्रिया शुरू करती है, जो **IPCC की सातवीं मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट (Seventh Assessment Report – AR7)** पर जाकर समाप्त होगी, जिसे **2028 या 2029** में प्रकाशित किया जाना है।

- It brings together lead authors of the report in a single venue for the • rst time, in an e• ort to tackle **interdisciplinary climate questions**.

  यह पहली बार रिपोर्ट के प्रमुख लेखकों को एक ही स्थान पर एकत्र करता है, ताकि **अंतर्विषयक जलवायु प्रश्नों (interdisciplinary climate questions)** से निपटने का प्रयास किया जा सके।

- The **IPCC** operates by **consensus**.

  IPCC सर्वसम्मति (consensus) के आधार पर काम करता है।

- "If any country opposes the text, the report cannot be approved. Every country has a sort of **veto**," climate scientist **Robert Vautard** told reporters last week.

  "यदि कोई भी देश पाठ का विरोध करता है, तो रिपोर्ट को अनुमोदित नहीं किया जा सकता। हर देश के पास एक तरह का **वीटो (veto)** होता है," जलवायु वैज्ञानिक **रॉबर्ट वौतार्द (Robert Vautard)** ने पिछले सप्ताह पत्रकारों से कहा।

- While the **U.S. government** stays out of the climate fray, dozens of **American scientists** are among the experts working on the **IPCC report**.

  जबकि **अमेरिकी सरकार (U.S. government)** जलवायु विवाद से दूर रहती है, **अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिकों (American scientists)** की दर्जनों संख्या **IPCC रिपोर्ट (IPCC report)** पर काम करने वाले विशेषज्ञों में शामिल है।

- "**IPCC reports** are going to continue to underpin **climate policies** and **climate action** at every level, including international negotiations," **IPCC chairman Jim Skea** told the gathering.

  "**IPCC रिपोर्टें (IPCC reports)** हर स्तर पर **जलवायु नीतियों (climate policies)** और **जलवायु कार्रवाई (climate action)** की बुनियाद बनी रहेंगी, जिसमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय वार्ताएँ भी शामिल हैं," **IPCC के अध्यक्ष जिम स्की (Jim Skea)** ने सभा से कहा।

- There already appear to be disagreements over the **timing** of the next report's publication.

  अगली रिपोर्ट के प्रकाशन के **समय (timing)** को लेकर पहले से ही मतभेद नज़र आ रहे हैं।

- A group called the **High Ambition Coalition**, which includes **European Union countries** and **developing nations** vulnerable to **climate change**, wants the assessment to come out in **2028**.

  हाई एम्बिशन कोएलिशन (High Ambition Coalition) नामक एक समूह, जिसमें **यूरोपीय संघ के देश (European Union countries)** और **जलवायु परिवर्तन (climate change)** के प्रति संवेदनशील **विकासशील देश (developing nations)** शामिल हैं, चाहता है कि यह आकलन **2028** में सामने आए।

- That would coincide with the **global stocktake**, a review, required under the **Paris Agreement**, of the progress countries have made in limiting climate change and its impacts.
  यह **ग्लोबल स्टॉकटेक (global stocktake)** के साथ मेल खाएगा, जो **पेरिस समझौते (Paris Agreement)** के तहत आवश्यक एक समीक्षा है, जिसमें देशों द्वारा जलवायु परिवर्तन और उसके प्रभावों को सीमित करने में की गई प्रगति का आकलन किया जाता है।

- But a group of **emerging economies** and major **fossil fuel-producing countries** say more time is needed and are advocating for **2029**.
  लेकिन **उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं (emerging economies)** और प्रमुख **जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्पादक देशों (fossil fuel-producing countries)** का एक समूह कहता है कि अधिक समय की आवश्यकता है और वे **2029** के पक्ष में हैं।

- The divide echoes the disagreements seen at the recent **COP30 climate summit in Brazil**, which concluded with a deal that left out an explicit call to **phase out fossil fuels**.
  यह विभाजन हाल ही में **ब्राज़ील में COP30 जलवायु सम्मेलन (COP30 climate summit in Brazil)** में देखे गए मतभेदों की गूँज है, जो ऐसे समझौते के साथ समाप्त हुआ जिसमें **जीवाश्म ईंधन को चरणबद्ध रूप से समाप्त (phase out fossil fuels)** करने के स्पष्ट आह्वान को शामिल नहीं किया गया।

- Despite the disagreements over when to publish the next report, **Mr. Skea** had said in **March**: "I don't think the **IPCC** is in crisis. We will resolve this issue about the timeline."
  अगली रिपोर्ट कब प्रकाशित की जाए, इस पर मतभेदों के बावजूद, **जिम स्की (Mr. Skea)** ने **मार्च (March)** में कहा था: "मुझे नहीं लगता कि **IPCC** किसी संकट में है। हम समय-सीमा (timeline) से जुड़े इस मुद्दे को सुलझा लेंगे।"

The dismal state of India's environment

GS III: Environment

The Aravalli range, which runs from Gujarat through Rajasthan and till Haryana, has long played a significant role in Indian geography and history. It has served as a barrier to the spread of desertification from the Thar Desert to the Gangetic Plains, guarded Rajasthan's proudest forts such as Chittorgarh and Ranthambore, and served as the cradle of spirituality for communities across northwest India. The Modi Government has now nearly signed a death warrant for these hills, already denuded by illegal mining. It has declared that any hills in the range with an elevation of less than 100 metres are not subject to the strictures against mining. It is an open invitation for illegal miners and mafias to finish off 90% of the range which falls below the height limit set by the Government.

On the northernmost end of the Aravalli range, the national capital has embarked on its annual smog season this month. A hazy mist of dust, smoke and particulate matter has been settling down on millions of citizens as they go about their daily lives breathing in toxic air. Even as the smog becomes a part of our yearly routine, research increasingly shows that it is a full-scale, slow-motion public health tragedy. Estimates of the human toll of this pollution go as high as 34,000 deaths in just 10 cities annually.

These are not disparate events
Last week the news headlines reflected yet another evolving tragedy. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has reported that 13%-15% of tested groundwater samples in Delhi contain uranium beyond the permissible limit for human consumption. Shamefully, water samples from Punjab and Haryana reflect even higher levels of uranium contamination. One does not need to dwell on the frightening health implications that regular consumption of such water for daily activities can have on impacted populations.

These news items cannot be seen disparately. They are each causes and consequences of a crisis that has engulfed India in the last decade: a deep-seated and continuing disregard for the environment in government policymaking.

Ever since coming to power, the Modi Government has displayed a particularly venal streak of cynicism in relation to environmental protection, combining its proclivity to encourage

Sonia Gandhi

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There is a deep-seated and continuing disregard for the environment in government policymaking

the reckless exploitation of natural resources with a callous disregard for consequences on the environment. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 exempted large categories of land and projects from forest clearance rules, easing diversion for other purposes.

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020 sought to dilute public hearings, expand exemptions and reduce compliance reporting. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2018 eased construction rules along India's shorelines, opening ecologically sensitive coastal areas and fishing communities' habitats to commercial real estate and industrial activity. The Environment Ministry has more often been in the news for circumventing due process and weakening regulations rather than implementing them or taking proactive measures to halt the slide.

High-publicity initiatives such as the National Clean Air Programme have largely been underfunded, and even the funds allocated have not been utilised. The disclosure of the electoral bonds data, as a result of the Supreme Court of India's verdict last year, then proved that many of these environmental clearances and policy shifts were made in the light of donations by large corporate groups to the ruling party. Can policymaking be so blatantly up for sale, to benefit the profit lines of a very few at the cost of the well-being of future generations, and of the planet?

Acting against local communities
Another emerging trend has been an insidious tendency to pit the environment against the local communities that protect it, when politically convenient for the Government. The Forest Survey of India has been mischievously attributing the loss of forest cover over the last decade to the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Shockingly, even the Minister concerned has echoed the same claims. In June 2024, the National Tiger Conservation Authority called for the eviction of almost 65,000 families from tiger reserves across the country. It was not just a breach of the spirit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which mandates that all relocations must be voluntary; it was also unnecessarily inimical, ranging the environment against local communities.

India needs a new deal for the environment.
First, we must resolve to do no further harm. We must halt the large-scale deforestation that is planned or currently underway across the country: in Great Nicobar, in north Chhattisgarh's Hasdeo Aranya, and in Madhya Pradesh's Dhirauli. We need to crackdown on the rampant illegal mining in the Aravalli range and other eco-sensitive regions such as the Western Ghats. We need to put an end to the indiscriminate destruction of mountains in the Himalayan belt, which has exacted a heavy toll in human lives these past few years.

Review laws and policies
On a policy level, we need to urgently review the laws and policy changes of the last decade which have led us down this disastrous path. The Modi Government must withdraw the amendments it bulldozed through Parliament in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as well as the Forest Conservation Rules (2022) – which are anti-Adivasi and allow the clearing of forests without consulting those who live there. The blatantly illogical and dangerous practice of providing post-facto environmental clearances to big corporations that violate environmental laws – one of the Modi Government's few home-grown policy innovations – cannot continue. The National Green Tribunal, which has been systematically weakened by vacancies, must be restored to its pride of place and be allowed to function independently of government policy and pressure. As a polity, we need to operate with greater inter-governmental coordination on environmental matters. The air pollution crisis in the NCR requires a whole-of-government approach as well as a regional airshed approach, just like the groundwater uranium contamination issue. On environmental matters, if nowhere else, the Modi Government must demonstrate a spirit of cooperative federalism.

Finally, as a philosophy, India's environmental policies must be guided by a deference to the rule of law, a commitment to work with rather than against local communities, and an understanding of the inextricable relationship between environment and human development. It is only with such a worldview that we can build a safer, healthier, and more resilient India for the 21st century.

The dismal state of India's environment
भारत के पर्यावरण की दयनीय स्थिति

- The **Aravalli range, which runs from Gujarat through Rajasthan and till Haryana**, has long played a significant role in Indian geography and history.
  गुजरात से होते हुए राजस्थान और हरियाणा तक फैली अरावली पर्वतमाला ने भारतीय भूगोल और इतिहास में लंबे समय से महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।

- It has served as a barrier to the spread of desertification from the Thar Desert to the Gangetic Plains, guarded Rajasthan's proudest forts such as Chittorgarh and Ranthambore, and served as the cradle of spirituality for communities across northwest India.
  यह थार मरुस्थल से गंगा के मैदानों तक मरुस्थलीकरण के प्रसार को रोकने वाली दीवार रही है, चित्तौड़गढ़ और रणथंभौर जैसे राजस्थान के महान किलों की रक्षा की है, और उत्तर-पश्चिम भारत की अनेक समुदायों के लिए आध्यात्मिकता का केंद्र रही है।

- The मोदी सरकार has now nearly signed a death warrant for these hills, already denuded by illegal mining.
  मोदी सरकार ने इन पहाड़ियों के लिए लगभग मृत्यु वारंट पर हस्ताक्षर कर दिए हैं, जो अवैध खनन से पहले ही उजाड़ हो चुकी हैं।

- It has declared that any hills in the range with an elevation of less than **100 metres** are not subject to the strictures against mining.
  सरकार ने घोषित किया है कि **100 मीटर** से कम ऊँचाई वाली अरावली की कोई भी पहाड़ी खनन प्रतिबंधों के दायरे में नहीं आती।

- It is an open invitation for illegal miners and mafias to finish off **90%** of the range which falls below the height limit set by the Government.
  यह अवैध खननकर्ताओं और माफियाओं के लिए खुला निमंत्रण है कि वे इस पर्वतमाला के **90 प्रतिशत** हिस्से को समाप्त कर दें जो सरकार द्वारा तय ऊँचाई सीमा से नीचे आता है।

- On the northernmost end of the Aravalli range, the national capital has embarked on its annual smog season this month.
  अरावली पर्वतमाला के उत्तरी छोर पर राष्ट्रीय राजधानी ने इस माह अपने वार्षिक धुंध मौसम की शुरुआत कर दी है।

- A hazy mist of dust, smoke and particulate matter has been settling down on millions of citizens as they go about their daily lives breathing in toxic air.
  धूल, धुएँ और सूक्ष्म कणों की धुंध करोड़ों लोगों पर छा रही है, जो अपने दैनिक जीवन में विषैला वायु श्वास में ले रहे हैं।

- Even as the smog becomes a part of our yearly routine, research increasingly shows that it is a full-scale, slow-motion public health tragedy.
  धुंध भले ही हर वर्ष की दिनचर्या का हिस्सा बन गई हो, पर अनुसंधान लगातार दिखा रहा है कि यह एक व्यापक और धीमी गति से आगे बढ़ने वाली सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य त्रासदी है।

- Estimates of the human toll of this pollution go as high as **34,000 deaths** in just 10 cities annually.
  इस प्रदूषण से होने वाली मानव मृत्यु की अनुमानित संख्या केवल 10 शहरों में प्रतिवर्ष **34,000** तक जाती है।

These are not disparate events
ये अलग-अलग घटनाएँ नहीं हैं

- Last week the news headlines reflected yet another evolving tragedy.
  पिछले सप्ताह समाचारों ने एक और उभरती त्रासदी को दर्शाया।

- The केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड has reported that **13%-15%** of tested groundwater samples in Delhi contain uranium beyond the permissible limit for human consumption.
  केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड ने बताया है कि दिल्ली में जाँच किए गए भूजल नमूनों में से **13 से 15 प्रतिशत** में मानव सेवन की सीमा से अधिक यूरेनियम पाया गया है।

- Shamefully, water samples from Punjab and Haryana reflect even higher levels of uranium contamination.
  दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण रूप से, पंजाब और हरियाणा के जल नमूनों में यूरेनियम प्रदूषण का स्तर इससे भी अधिक पाया गया है।

- One does not need to dwell on the frightening health implications that regular consumption of such water for daily activities can have on impacted populations.

  ऐसे पानी के नियमित उपयोग से जनसंख्या पर पड़ने वाले भयावह स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों पर अधिक सोचने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

- These news items cannot be seen disparately.

  इन समाचारों को अलग-अलग नहीं देखा जा सकता।

- They are each causes and consequences of a crisis that has engulfed India in the last decade: a deep-seated and continuing disregard for the environment in government policymaking.

  ये सभी पिछले दशक में भारत को घेरने वाले संकट के कारण और परिणाम दोनों हैं: सरकारी नीतिनिर्माण में पर्यावरण के प्रति गहरी और निरंतर उपेक्षा।

- Ever since coming to power, the मोदी सरकार has displayed a particularly venal streak of cynicism in relation to environmental protection, combining its proclivity to encourage the reckless exploitation of natural resources with a callous disregard for consequences on the environment.

  सत्ता में आने के बाद से, मोदी सरकार ने पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति एक विशेष प्रकार का निंदाजनक दृष्टिकोण दिखाया है, जिसमें प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के लापरवाह दोहन को प्रोत्साहित करने की प्रवृत्ति और पर्यावरणीय परिणामों की उपेक्षा शामिल है।

- The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 exempted large categories of land and projects from forest clearance rules, easing diversion for other purposes.

  वन संरक्षण संशोधन अधिनियम 2023 ने भूमि और परियोजनाओं की बड़ी श्रेणियों को वन स्वीकृति नियमों से मुक्त कर दिया, जिससे अन्य उद्देश्यों के लिए भूमि हस्तांतरण आसान हो गया।

- The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment notification 2020 sought to dilute public hearings, expand exemptions and reduce compliance reporting.

  पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव आकलन मसौदा अधिसूचना 2020 ने जनसुनवाई को कमजोर करने, छूट बढ़ाने और अनुपालन रिपोर्टिंग को घटाने का प्रयास किया।

- The **Coastal Regulation Zone notification 2018** eased construction rules along India's shorelines, opening ecologically sensitive coastal areas and fishing communities' habitats to commercial real estate and industrial activity.

  तटीय विनियमन क्षेत्र अधिसूचना 2018 ने भारत के समुद्रतटों पर निर्माण नियम आसान कर दिए, जिससे पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील तटीय क्षेत्रों और मत्स्य समुदायों के निवासों को वाणिज्यिक निर्माण और औद्योगिक गतिविधियों के लिए खोल दिया गया।

- The environment ministry has more often been in the news for circumventing due process and weakening regulations rather than implementing them or taking proactive measures to halt the slide.

  पर्यावरण मंत्रालय प्रक्रियाओं को दरकिनार करने और नियमों को कमजोर करने के लिए अधिक चर्चा में रहा है, बजाय इनके कार्यान्वयन या गिरावट को रोकने के लिए सक्रिय प्रयास करने के।

- High-publicity initiatives such as the राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम have largely been underfunded, and even the funds allocated have not been utilised.

  राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम जैसे अत्यधिक प्रचारित कार्यक्रमों को पर्याप्त धन नहीं मिला है, और जो धन आवंटित किया गया है वह भी उपयोग नहीं हुआ।

- The disclosure of the चुनावी ओबैंगेशन data, as a result of the सर्वोच्च न्यायालय verdict last year, then proved that many of these environmental clearances and policy shifts were made in the light of donations by large corporate groups to the ruling party.

  पिछले वर्ष सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय के परिणामस्वरूप चुनावी बांडों के आँकड़ों का खुलासा यह सिद्ध करता है कि पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृतियाँ और नीतिगत बदलाव बड़े औद्योगिक समूहों द्वारा सत्तारूढ़ दल को दिए गए चंदों से प्रभावित थे।

- Can policymaking be so blatantly up for sale, to benefit the profit lines of a very few at the cost of the well-being of future generations, and of the planet?

  क्या नीतिनिर्माण भविष्य की पीढ़ियों और ग्रह के कल्याण की कीमत पर कुछ ही लोगों के लाभ के लिए इतनी खुली नीलामी पर हो सकता है?

Acting against local communities
स्थानीय समुदायों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई

- Another emerging trend has been an **insidious tendency** to pit the environment against the local communities that protect it, when politically convenient for the Government.
 एक और उभरता हुआ रुझान यह रहा है कि सरकार की **राजनीतिक सुविधा** के समय पर्यावरण को उन स्थानीय समुदायों के खिलाफ खड़ा करने की **छलपूर्ण प्रवृत्ति** बढ़ी है जो इसकी रक्षा करते हैं।

- The Forest Survey of India has been **mischievously attributing** the loss of forest cover over the last decade to the implementation of the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**.
 फॉरेस्ट सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया पिछले दशक में वन आवरण में हुई कमी को **वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006** के कार्यान्वयन से **कपटपूर्ण रूप से जोड़ रहा है**।

- Shockingly, even the **Minister concerned** has echoed the same claims.
 चौंकाने वाली बात यह है कि **संबंधित मंत्री** ने भी यही दावा दोहराया है।

- In **June 2024**, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority** called for the eviction of almost **65,000 families** from tiger reserves across the country.
 जून 2024 में, **राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण** ने देशभर के बाघ अभयारण्यों से लगभग **65,000 परिवारों** को हटाने की मांग की।

- It was not just a breach of the spirit of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, which mandates that all relocations must be voluntary; it was also unnecessarily inimical, ranging the environment against local communities.
 यह **वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972** की भावना का उल्लंघन था, जो पुनर्वास को स्वैच्छिक होना अनिवार्य करता है; साथ ही यह अनावश्यक रूप से पर्यावरण को स्थानीय समुदायों के खिलाफ खड़ा करने वाला निर्णय था।

India needs a new deal for the environment
 भारत को पर्यावरण के लिए एक नए सौदे की आवश्यकता है

- First, we must resolve to **do no further harm**.
 पहला, हमें यह संकल्प लेना चाहिए कि **अब और नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाया जाएगा**।

- We must halt the **large-scale deforestation** that is planned or currently underway across the country: in **Great Nicobar**, in north Chhattisgarh's **Hasdeo Aranya**, and in Madhya Pradesh's **Dhirauli**.
 देश में नियोजित या चालू **बड़े पैमाने पर वनों की कटाई** को रोकना होगा: **ग्रेट निकोबार**, उत्तर छत्तीसगढ़ के **हसदेव अरंड**, और मध्य प्रदेश के **धिरौली** में।

- We need to crackdown on the **rampant illegal mining** in the **Aravalli range** and other **eco-sensitive regions** such as the **Western Ghats**.
 हमें **अरावली पर्वतमाला** और **पश्चिमी घाट** जैसे अन्य **पर्यावरण-संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों** में **व्यापक अवैध खनन** पर कड़ी कार्रवाई करनी होगी।

- We need to put an end to the **indiscriminate destruction of mountains** in the **Himalayan belt**, which has exacted a **heavy toll in human lives** these past few years.
 हिमालयी क्षेत्र में पर्वतों के **अंधाधुंध विनाश** को समाप्त करना होगा, जिसने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में **मानव जीवन की भारी हानि** कराई है।

Review laws and policies
 कानूनों और नीतियों की समीक्षा करें

- On a policy level, we need to urgently review the laws and policy changes of the last decade which have led us down this disastrous path.
 नीति स्तर पर, हमें पिछले दशक के उन कानूनों और नीतिगत परिवर्तनों की तुरंत समीक्षा करनी चाहिए जिन्होंने हमें इस विनाशकारी दिशा में धकेला है।

- The Modi Government must withdraw the amendments it bulldozed through Parliament in the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** as well as the **Forest Conservation Rules (2022)** — which are **anti-Adivasi** and allow the clearing of forests without consulting those who live there.
 मोदी सरकार को **वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980** और **वन संरक्षण नियम (2022)** में किए गए उन संशोधनों को वापस लेना चाहिए जिन्हें उसने संसद में जबरन पारित कराया था — जो **असंवैधानिक रूप से आदिवासी-विरोधी** हैं और वहां रहने वाले लोगों से परामर्श किए बिना वनों की कटाई की अनुमति देते हैं।

- The blatantly illogical and dangerous practice of providing **post-facto environmental clearances** to big corporations that violate environmental laws cannot continue.
 पर्यावरणीय कानूनों का उल्लंघन करने वाली बड़ी कंपनियों को **पश्च-तथ्य पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी** देने की यह **अतार्किक और खतरनाक** प्रथा जारी नहीं रह सकती।

- The **National Green Tribunal**, which has been systematically weakened by vacancies, must be restored to its pride of place and be allowed to function independently of government policy and pressure.
 राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (NGT), जिसे रिक्तियों के कारण प्रणालीगत रूप से कमजोर किया गया है, को उसकी गरिमा के स्थान पर पुनर्स्थापित किया जाना चाहिए और उसे सरकारी नीतियों और दबावों से स्वतंत्र होकर कार्य करने दिया जाना चाहिए।

- As a polity, we need to operate with greater **inter-governmental coordination** on environmental matters.
 एक राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के रूप में, हमें पर्यावरणीय मामलों पर **अंतर-सरकारी समन्वय** को बढ़ाना चाहिए।

- The **air pollution crisis in the NCR** requires a **whole-of-government approach** as well as a **regional airshed approach**, just like the **groundwater uranium contamination** issue.
 एनसीआर में वायु प्रदूषण संकट को **पूरी सरकार के दृष्टिकोण** और क्षेत्रीय एयरशेड दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है, जैसे **भूजल में यूरेनियम प्रदूषण** का मुद्दा।

- On environmental matters, if nowhere else, the Modi Government must demonstrate a spirit of **cooperative federalism**.
 पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों पर, यदि कहीं भी नहीं, तो मोदी सरकार को **सहकारी संघवाद** की भावना प्रदर्शित करनी चाहिए।

Finally, as a philosophy
अंततः, एक दर्शन के रूप में

- India's environmental policies must be guided by a **deference to the rule of law**, a commitment to work **with rather than against local communities**, and an understanding of the **inextricable relationship** between environment and human development.
 भारत की पर्यावरणीय नीतियों को **कानून के शासन के सम्मान**, स्थानीय समुदायों के **विरोध में नहीं बल्कि साथ मिलकर काम करने** की प्रतिबद्धता, और पर्यावरण तथा मानव विकास के बीच **अटूट संबंध** की समझ से संचालित होना चाहिए।

- It is only with such a worldview that we can build a **safer, healthier, and more resilient India** for the **21st century**.
 इसी प्रकार की सोच के साथ हम **21वीं सदी** के लिए एक **अधिक सुरक्षित, स्वस्थ और सक्षम भारत** का निर्माण कर सकते हैं।