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टुर्किये में, हाल ही में मिली उकेरी गई आकृतियाँ नवपाषाण समाज पर नया प्रकाश डालती हैं

How the Mahad satyagraha(s) shaped constitutional discourse

Mahad marks the birthplace of one of India's first human rights movements initiated by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in 1927, challenging caste discrimination and asserting Dalit rights. It also shaped the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution

GS I History

MOB

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule

The Mahad tehsil, in pre-Independent India, was a part of the Bombay Province and a significant economic centre, providing labour to the industrial sector of the Bombay Presidency. In Mahad, imitation of caste norms led to widespread acceptance of caste discrimination, with high-caste individuals treating Dalits with contempt. Untouchability, a result of casteism, represents systemic social exclusion that reinforces the hierarchical nature of the caste system. In Mahad, the exclusion of Dalits was evident in their denial of access to drinking water from public tanks, such as the Chavadar Tank.

Mahad was a key site for one of India's first rights movements, which paved the way for human rights discourse and its lessons absorbed in constitutional ethics.

Understanding the legacy

The movement for human rights and water democracy started with a resolution, passed in the Bombay Legislative Council in August 1923, initiated by S. K. Bole. It stated, "The council recommends that the untouchable classes be allowed to use all public watering places in dhamshalas, which are built and maintained out of public funds administered by parties appointed by the government or created by statute, as well as public schools, courts, offices, and dispensaries".

This resolution challenged Brahmanical dominance and prompted social change efforts at Goregaon and Dasgaon near Mahad. In 1926, Ramchandra Chandorkar, a leader from the Chambhar caste, jumped into a public reservoir in Goregaon, which sparked attacks on untouchables – Chambhars and Mahars – properties by villagers. In Dasgaon, the Mahar Samaj Seva Sangh,

which aimed to unite the depressed classes for equality, saw Chandorkar, R. B. More, Ramji Potdar, and others drink from a local lake and wells. Communist R. B. More's memoir highlights how the region was eager to support Ambedkar's struggle for equity and equality, seeking to restore the rights of untouchables. Additionally, this region was renowned for being the birthplace of activists like Gopalbaba Walangkar, N. M. Joshi, Sambhaji Gaikwad, and others. Thus, Mahad was selected by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as the site of one of India's first human rights movements.

Mahad 1.0 and 2.0

Dr. Ambedkar and his *anyayis* (followers) conducted a satyagraha on March 19-20, 1927, by asserting the rights of untouchables to drink water as per the Bole Resolution of 1923. The *anyayis* of Ambedkar thronged to the event with their meagre belongings, empty stomachs, and lathis (traditionally carried by Mahars, except those who came from the then Bombay presidency) to assert their rights. However, the satyagrahis were denied water by the locals; hence, water worth ₹40 had to be purchased specifically for this purpose.

After the Mahad 1.0 satyagraha, purification rituals were performed, because Dr. Ambedkar and his *anyayis* had touched and consumed the water, which aimed to reinforce the caste system over human rights. Consequently, Dr. Ambedkar planned the Second Mahad conference for December 25 and 26, 1927. Meanwhile, the courts issued a stay restricting water access for outcastes, claiming the Chavadar tank was privately owned.

During this period, Dr. Ambedkar launched his forthrightly publication, *Bahishkrut Bharat*, which discussed democratic truths and ideals while emphasising human rights. He also

participated in the Ambabai Temple satyagraha, initiated by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in November 1927, following violent attacks on Dalits after the Mahad incident, which led to the formation of the Ambedkar Seva Dal for their protection. Since the Chavadar Lake case was still pending, Dr. Ambedkar decided against launching a satyagraha after consulting his followers. However, on December 25, he burned the Manusmriti under a resolution from Gangadhar Sahasrabudhe, Rajbhaj, and Thorat. In Mahad 2.0, he specifically addressed women, asserting that human rights should include gender equality.

The Mahad revolution

Dr. Ambedkar stated that the Mahad 1.0 and Mahad 2.0 satyagrahas embodied the zeitgeist of the French Revolution.

In Dr. Ambedkar's speeches during the Mahad satyagraha, he promotes an enlightened ethos of dignity and self-respect. In Mahad 2.0, Dr. Ambedkar discusses the French National Assembly of 1789. These two historical events, which defined the two eras, Mahad 1.0 and 2.0, were instrumental in shaping the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution.

However, the French Revolution, didn't encompass women in its idea of rights. So, neither their National Assembly nor further developments base their substantive egalitarianism by including the living bodies and souls of women. It was Mary Wollstonecraft's intervention via her pamphlet "A Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Citizen" that questioned the exclusion and the place of women in the French Revolution.

Dr. Ambedkar, in his 1916 paper, had proposed a novel gendered understanding of caste(s), questioning the approach of Indian sociologists to understand the making-remaking-unmaking of women to

grasp the issue of caste, as well as the non-workability of the silos approach to annihilate it. The end can be achieved through gendered means only. The speeches and actions at Mahad 1.0 have the partnership of women and men, irrespective of their gender, geography, class, and caste(s). They gathered there as the National Assembly to break free from the imposed Brahmanical hegemony and chart their own course, just as the Third Estate did during their Tennis Court Oath after being denied permission by King Louis XVI. In Mahad 2.0, although preliminary, the resolution passed appears to be influenced primarily because it inflicts injustice on Shudras. However, even an initial understanding of dogmas, as well as the period of the Manusmriti, suggests that it treated women as Shudras. Contemporary literary and historical texts provide ample evidence to support this.

Dr. Ambedkar's actions in Mahad 2.0, especially the burning of the Manusmriti and addressing the gathering of women, try to foreground a new discourse on human rights whose liberty, equality, and fraternity principles are derived from non-violent Buddhism.

Dr. Ambedkar introduced a new concept of a gendered nation whose enlightened nationalism was based not on essentialism but on existentialism, rooted in the body of the people and their natural, legal human rights. Thus, December 25 is also celebrated in India as Indian Women's Liberation Day. The only essentialism it strives to seek is the Manuski, based on Maitri, which is a true democracy lived rather than a mere idea of governmentality. This reflects the foundations of constitutional morality derived from the ethics learned during the Mahad Satyagraha, institutionalised in the Constitution of India.

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How the Mahad satyagraha(s) shaped constitutional discourse

महाड़ सत्याग्रहों ने संवैधानिक विमर्श को कैसे आकार दिया

- The Mahad tehsil, in pre-Independent India, was a part of the **Bombay Province** and a significant economic centre, providing labour to the industrial sector of the **Bombay Presidency**.
प्राक्-स्वतंत्र भारत में महाड़ तहसील **बॉम्बे प्रांत** का हिस्सा थी और **बॉम्बे प्रेसीडेंसी** के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र को श्रम उपलब्ध कराने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक केंद्र थी।
- In Mahad, imitation of caste norms led to widespread acceptance of caste discrimination, with high-caste individuals treating **Dalits** with contempt.
महाड़ में जाति मान्यताओं की नकल ने जातिगत भेदभाव को व्यापक स्वीकृति दी, जहाँ ऊँची जाति के लोग **दलितों** के साथ तिरस्कारपूर्ण व्यवहार करते थे।
- Untouchability**, a result of casteism, represents systemic social exclusion that reinforces the hierarchical nature of the caste system.



अछूतपन, जो जातिवाद का परिणाम है, सामाजिक बहिष्करण की एक संरचनात्मक व्यवस्था है जो जाति व्यवस्था की पदानुक्रमात्मक प्रकृति को मजबूत करती है।

- In Mahad, the exclusion of Dalits was evident in their **denial of access to drinking water from public tanks, such as the Chavadar Tank.**
महाड़ में दलितों के बहिष्कार का प्रमाण यह था कि उन्हें **छावदार टैंक** जैसे सार्वजनिक टैंकों से पानी लेने से वंचित रखा जाता था।
- Mahad was a key site for one of India's **rst rights movements**, which paved the way for **human rights discourse** and its lessons absorbed in **constitutional ethics.**
महाड़ भारत के शुरुआती **अधिकार आंदोलनों** में से एक का केंद्र था, जिसने **मानवाधिकार विमर्श** और **संवैधानिक नैतिकता** के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।

Understanding the legacy विरासत को समझना

- The **movement for human rights and water democracy** started with a resolution, passed in the **Bombay Legislative Council in August 1923**, initiated by **S. K. Bole.**
मानवाधिकार और **जल लोकतंत्र** का आंदोलन **अगस्त 1923** में **एस. के. बोले** द्वारा शुरू किए गए एक प्रस्ताव से आरंभ हुआ, जो **बॉम्बे विधान परिषद** में पारित हुआ।
- It stated, "The council recommends that the **untouchable classes** be allowed to use all public watering places in dharamshalas, which are built and maintained out of public funds administered by parties appointed by the government or created by statute, as well as public schools, courts, o• ces, and dispensaries".
प्रस्ताव में कहा गया, "परिषद यह अनुशंसा करती है कि **अछूत वर्गों** को धर्मशालाओं में सभी सार्वजनिक जल-स्रोतों, जो सरकारी या वैधानिक निकायों द्वारा संचालित **सार्वजनिक निधि** से निर्मित और संचालित हैं, के साथ-साथ सार्वजनिक विद्यालयों, न्यायालयों, कार्यालयों और औषधालयों का उपयोग करने की अनुमति हो।"
- This resolution challenged **Brahmanical dominance** and prompted social change e• orts at **Goregaon** and **Dasgaon** near Mahad.
इस प्रस्ताव ने **ब्राह्मणवादी वर्चस्व** को चुनौती दी और महाड़ के पास **गोरेगांव** एवं **दासगांव** में सामाजिक परिवर्तन के प्रयासों को प्रेरित किया।
- In **1926**, **Ramchandra Chandorkar**, a leader from the **Chambhar caste**, jumped into a public reservoir in Goregaon, which sparked attacks on untouchables' — Chambhars and Mahars — properties by villagers.
1926 में **चांभार जाति** के नेता **रामचंद्र चंदोरकर** ने गोरेगांव के एक सार्वजनिक तालाब में कूदकर पानी लिया, जिससे गाँववालों द्वारा चांभारों और महारों की संपत्तियों पर हमले शुरू हो गए।
- In Dasgaon, the **Mahar Samaj Seva Sangh**, which aimed to unite the depressed classes for equality, saw Chandorkar, **R. B. More**, **Ramji Potdar**, and others drink from a local lake and wells.
दासगांव में **महार समाज सेवा संघ**, जिसका उद्देश्य उत्पीड़ित वर्गों को समानता के लिए संगठित करना था, ने चंदोरकर, **आर. बी. मोरे**, **रामजी पोटदार** और अन्य को स्थानीय झील और कुओं से पानी पीते देखा।
- Communist R. B. More's** memoir highlights how the region was eager to support **Ambedkar's** struggle for equity and equality, seeking to restore the rights of untouchables.
कम्युनिस्ट **आर. बी. मोरे** के संस्मरण बताते हैं कि यह क्षेत्र **अंबेडकर** के **समानता और न्याय** के संघर्ष में सक्रिय समर्थन देने के लिए उत्सुक था और अछूतों के अधिकार बहाल करना चाहता था।
- Additionally, this region was renowned for being the birthplace of activists like **Gopalbaba Walangkar**, **N. M. Joshi**, **Sambhaji Gaikwad**, and others.
साथ ही, यह क्षेत्र **गोपालबाबा वालंगकर**, **एन. एम. जोशी**, **संभाजी गायकवाड़** जैसे कार्यकर्ताओं की जन्मस्थली के रूप में प्रसिद्ध था।
- Thus, Mahad was selected by **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** as the site of one of India's first **human rights movements.**
इसीलिए **डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर** ने महाड़ को भारत के शुरुआती **मानवाधिकार आंदोलनों** में से एक का स्थल चुना।

Mahad 1.0 and 2.0
महाड़ 1.0 और 2.0



- Dr. Ambedkar and his **anuyayis (followers)** conducted a **satyagraha** on **March 19-20, 1927**, by asserting the rights of untouchables to drink water as per the **Bole Resolution of 1923**.
डॉ. अंबेडकर और उनके अनुयायियों ने 19-20 मार्च 1927 को 1923 के बोले प्रस्ताव के आधार पर अछूतों के पानी पीने के अधिकार के लिए सत्याग्रह किया।
- The anuyayis of Ambedkar thronged to the event with their meagre belongings, empty stomachs, and **lathis** (traditionally carried by **Mahars**, except those who came from the then Bombay presidency) to assert their rights.
अंबेडकर के अनुयायी अपने मामूली सामान, खाली पेट और **लाठियों** (जो परंपरागत रूप से **महारों** द्वारा उठाई जाती थीं, सिवाय उन लोगों के जो तत्कालीन बॉम्बे प्रेसीडेंसी से आए थे) के साथ अधिकार जताने वहाँ पहुँचे।
- However, the satyagrahis were denied water by the locals; hence, water worth **₹40** had to be purchased specifically for this purpose.
हालाँकि स्थानीय लोगों ने सत्याग्रहियों को पानी देने से मना कर दिया; इसलिए इस उद्देश्य के लिए **₹40** का पानी खरीदना पड़ा।
- After the **Mahad 1.0** satyagraha, purification rituals were performed, because Dr. Ambedkar and his anuyayis had touched and consumed the water, which aimed to reinforce the caste system over human rights.
महाड़ 1.0 सत्याग्रह के बाद शुद्धिकरण कर्मकांड किए गए क्योंकि डॉ. अंबेडकर और उनके अनुयायियों ने पानी को छुआ और पिया था, जिससे **मानवाधिकारों पर जाति व्यवस्था** को फिर से स्थापित करने का प्रयास हुआ।
- Consequently, Dr. Ambedkar planned the **Second Mahad conference** for **December 25 and 26, 1927**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप डॉ. अंबेडकर ने **द्वितीय महाड़ सम्मेलन** की योजना **25-26 दिसंबर 1927** के लिए बनाई।
- Meanwhile, the courts issued a **stay** restricting water access for outcastes, claiming the **Chavadar tank** was privately owned.
इस बीच अदालतों ने यह कहते हुए **स्टे आदेश** जारी किया कि **छावदार टैंक** निजी संपत्ति है और बहिष्कृत जातियों के पानी लेने पर रोक लगा दी।
- During this period, Dr. Ambedkar launched his fortnightly publication, **Bahishkrut Bharat**, which discussed democratic truths and ideals while emphasising **human rights**.
इसी अवधि में डॉ. अंबेडकर ने अपना पाक्षिक प्रकाशन '**बहिष्कृत भारत**' शुरू किया, जिसमें लोकतांत्रिक आदर्शों व सत्यों पर चर्चा के साथ **मानवाधिकारों** पर बल दिया गया।
- He also participated in the **Ambabai Temple satyagraha**, initiated by **Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh** in **November 1927**, following violent attacks on Dalits after the Mahad incident, which led to the formation of the **Ambedkar Seva Dal** for their protection.
उन्होंने **नवंबर 1927** में डॉ. **पंजाबराव देशमुख** द्वारा शुरू किए गए **अंबाबाई मंदिर सत्याग्रह** में भी भाग लिया; महाड़ घटना के बाद दलितों पर हिंसक हमलों ने उनकी रक्षा के लिए **अंबेडकर सेवा दल** की स्थापना को जन्म दिया।
- Since the **Chhavadar Lake case** was still pending, Dr. Ambedkar decided against launching a satyagraha after consulting his followers.
चूँकि **छावदार झील** का मामला अभी लंबित था, डॉ. अंबेडकर ने अपने अनुयायियों से परामर्श के बाद नया सत्याग्रह न शुरू करने का निर्णय लिया।
- However, on **December 25**, he burned the **Manusmriti** following a resolution from **Gangadhar Sahasrabuddhe, Rajbhoj, and Thorat**.
हालाँकि **25 दिसंबर** को उन्होंने **गंगाधर सहस्रबुद्धे, राजभोज और थोरात** के प्रस्ताव पर **मनुस्मृति** का दहन किया।
- In **Mahad 2.0**, he specifically addressed women, asserting that **human rights should include gender equality**.
महाड़ 2.0 में उन्होंने विशेष रूप से महिलाओं को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि **मानवाधिकारों में लैंगिक समानता** आवश्यक है।

The Mahad revolution

महाड़ क्रांति

- Dr. Ambedkar stated that the **Mahad 1.0** and **Mahad 2.0** satyagrahas embodied the **zeitgeist of the French Revolution**.



डॉ. अंबेडकर ने कहा कि महाड़ 1.0 और महाड़ 2.0 के सत्याग्रहों में फ्रांसीसी क्रांति की भावना (zeitgeist) प्रतिबिंबित होती है।

- In Dr. Ambedkar's speeches during the Mahad satyagraha, he promotes an enlightened ethos of **dignity** and **self-respect**.

महाड़ सत्याग्रह के दौरान डॉ. अंबेडकर के भाषणों में गरिमा और आत्मसम्मान की एक प्रबुद्ध भावना उभरती है।

- In **Mahad 2.0**, Dr. Ambedkar discusses the **French National Assembly of 1798**. **महाड़ 2.0** में डॉ. अंबेडकर ने **1798 की फ्रांसीसी नेशनल असेंबली** पर चर्चा की।

- These two historical events, which denied the two eras, Mahad 1.0 and 2.0, were instrumental in shaping the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution.**

ये दो ऐतिहासिक घटनाएँ, जिन्होंने महाड़ 1.0 और 2.0 के कालखंडों को परिभाषित किया, भारत की कल्पना और उसके संविधान की नैतिकता के निर्माण में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण रहीं।

- However, the French Revolution didn't encompass women in its idea of rights.**

हालाँकि फ्रांसीसी क्रांति ने अपने अधिकारों की अवधारणा में महिलाओं को शामिल नहीं किया।

- So, neither their National Assembly nor further developments base their substantive egalitarianism by including the living bodies and souls of women.

इसलिए न तो नेशनल असेंबली और न ही आगे के विकास ने अपने समानतावाद को महिलाओं के जीवन और अस्तित्व को शामिल करते हुए व्याख्यायित किया।

- It was Mary Wollstonecraft's intervention via her pamphlet "A Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Citizen" that questioned the exclusion and the place of women in the French Revolution.**

यह मेरी वोल्स्टनक्राफ्ट की पुस्तिका "ए डिक्लेरेशन ऑफ द राइट्स ऑफ वुमन एंड द सिटिजन" थी जिसने फ्रांसीसी क्रांति में महिलाओं के बहिष्कार और उनकी स्थिति पर प्रश्न उठाया।

- Dr. Ambedkar, in his 1916 paper, had proposed a novel gendered understanding of caste(s),** questioning the approach of Indian sociologists to understand the making-remaking-unmaking of women to grasp the issue of caste, as well as the non-workability of the silos approach to annihilate it.

डॉ. अंबेडकर ने अपने 1916 के शोधपत्र में जाति की लैंगिक समझ प्रस्तुत करते हुए भारतीय समाजशास्त्रियों के उस दृष्टिकोण पर प्रश्न उठाया जो स्त्रियों के निर्माण-पुनर्निर्माण-विघटन को समझे बिना जाति को नहीं समझता और 'साइलो' आधारित दृष्टिकोण की अव्यवहारिकता को रेखांकित करता है।

- The end can be achieved through **gendered means** only.

उनके अनुसार जाति-उन्मूलन का लक्ष्य केवल लैंगिक साधनों से ही हासिल हो सकता है।

- The speeches and actions at Mahad 1.0 have the partnership of women and men, irrespective of their gender, geography, class, and caste(s).

महाड़ 1.0 के भाषणों और कार्रवाइयों में महिला और पुरुष दोनों की भागीदारी थी, चाहे उनका लिंग, क्षेत्र, वर्ग या जाति कुछ भी हो।

- They gathered there as the **National Assembly** to break free from the imposed **Brahmanical hegemony** and chart their own course, just as the **Third Estate** did during their **Tennis Court Oath** after being denied permission by **King Louis XVI**.

वे वहाँ एक राष्ट्रीय सभा की तरह इकट्ठे हुए थे ताकि थोपी गई ब्राह्मणवादी वर्चस्व से मुक्त होकर अपना मार्ग स्वयं निर्धारित कर सकें, जैसे थर्ड एस्टेट ने किंग लुई XVI द्वारा अस्वीकृति के बाद टेनिस कोर्ट शपथ में किया था।

- In **Mahad 2.0**, although preliminary, the resolution passed appears to be influenced primarily because it **instructs injustice on Shudras**.

महाड़ 2.0 में पारित प्रस्ताव प्रारंभिक होते हुए भी मुख्यतः इसलिए महत्वपूर्ण दिखता है क्योंकि यह शूद्रों पर पड़ने वाले अन्याय को निशाना बनाता है।

- However, even an initial understanding of dogmas, as well as the period of the Manusmriti, suggests that it treated women as Shudras.**

हालाँकि, मनुस्मृति के सिद्धांतों और कालखंड की प्रारंभिक समझ भी बताती है कि उसने महिलाओं को शूद्र माना।

- Contemporary literary and historical texts provide ample evidence to support this.

समकालीन साहित्यिक और ऐतिहासिक स्रोत इस तथ्य के पर्याप्त प्रमाण देते हैं।

- Dr. Ambedkar's actions in Mahad 2.0, especially the burning of the Manusmriti and addressing the gathering of women, try to foreground a new discourse on human rights whose liberty, equality, and fraternity principles are derived from non-violent Buddhism.**



महाइ 2.0 में डॉ. अंबेडकर की कार्यवाइयाँ, विशेषकर मनुस्मृति-दहन और महिलाओं को संबोधित करना, अहिंसक बौद्ध दर्शन से निकले स्वतंत्रता, समानता और बंधुता के सिद्धांतों पर आधारित मानवाधिकार विमर्श की नई जमीन तैयार करती हैं।

- Dr. Ambedkar introduced a new concept of a **gendered nation** whose enlightened nationalism was based not on **essentialism** but on **existentialism**, rooted in the body of the people and their natural, legal human rights.

डॉ. अंबेडकर ने **लैंगिक राष्ट्र (gendered nation)** की अवधारणा दी, जिसका प्रबुद्ध राष्ट्रवाद **मूलतावाद (essentialism)** पर नहीं बल्कि **अस्तित्ववाद (existentialism)** पर आधारित था, जो लोगों के शरीर और उनके **प्राकृतिक व विधिक मानवाधिकारों** में निहित था।

- Thus, **December 25** is also celebrated in India as **Indian Women's Liberation Day**.

इसीलिए **25 दिसंबर** को भारत में **भारतीय महिला मुक्ति दिवस** के रूप में भी मनाया जाता है।

- The only essentialism it strives to seek is the **Manuski**, based on **Maitri**, which is a true **democracy lived** rather than a mere idea of governmentality.

यह जिस एकमात्र मूलतत्त्व की खोज करता है वह **मनुस्की**, अर्थात् **मैत्री** पर आधारित मानवीयता है, जो केवल शासकीय अवधारणा नहीं बल्कि **जीयी हुई सच्ची लोकतंत्र** है।

- This reflects the foundations of **constitutional morality** derived from the ethics learned during the **Mahad Satyagraha**, institutionalised in the **Constitution of India**.

यह **महाइ सत्याग्रह** से सीखी गई नैतिकताओं से निकली **संवैधानिक नैतिकता** की जड़ों को व्यक्त करता है, जिन्हें भारत के **संविधान** में संस्थागत रूप दिया गया।

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

This man submitted a report in 1946, in which he called to merge curative treatment with preventive care and build medical colleges to train human resources. **Ans: Joseph William Bhore**

2. This physician was a freedom fighter who went on to serve in government as well. **Ans: Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (B.C.Roy)**

3. Dr. Kadambini was the first practising female doctor in India, and held this historic role as well. **Ans: She was the first woman speaker at a meeting of the Indian National Congress. She addressed the gathering during the 1890 Congress session**

4. This Indian physician and scientist made a monumental contribution by discovering the effective treatment for kala-azar. **Ans: Dr. Upendra Nath Brahmachari**

5. In 1959, the Union government set up a Health Survey and Planning Committee headed by this person. **Ans: Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar**

Visual: This doctor set up a distinguished institution in Madras that puts service before profit while delivering specialised healthcare. **Ans: Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tito Shiladitya| M. Suresh Kumar| Gaurav Deshmukh| Vidyasagar Reddy Kethiri

poorly funded, and largely urban-centric.

- The Bhore Committee was created to design a **national health system** suitable for a soon-to-be independent nation.

Merging Curative and Preventive Care

- Bhore observed that colonial India maintained a strict divide between:
 - **Curative services** – treatment in hospitals and dispensaries
 - **Preventive services** – sanitation, vaccination, vector control
- The Committee argued that this separation weakened India's health outcomes.
- It recommended establishing a **unified, integrated health system** where preventive and curative health services work together.

QUIZ

Joseph William Bhore and the 1946 Bhore Committee Report

- Sir Joseph William Bhore (1878–1960) chaired the **Health Survey and Development Committee (1943–46)**, popularly known as the **Bhore Committee**.
- Its **1946 Report** laid the foundation of **India's modern public health system** and was a visionary document for Independent India.

Historical Background

- In the 1940s, India faced widespread **infectious diseases, high mortality**, and **extremely limited access** to trained medical professionals.
- Public health and medical services were **fragmented**,



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• This holistic vision anticipated the idea of **primary health care** decades before global frameworks adopted it.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (B. C. Roy): Physician, Freedom Fighter, Statesman

- Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (often known as **B. C. Roy**) was one of India's most distinguished **physicians**, an important **freedom fighter**, and later a senior **political leader** in independent India.
- He was born on **1 July 1882** in Bankipore (present-day Patna, Bihar) and died on **1 July 1962**, passing away on his 80th birthday.
- He is remembered as a medical pioneer, a public servant, and the principal architect of modern West Bengal's administrative and health infrastructure.
- He received the **Bharat Ratna** in **1961**, India's highest civilian honour.

Dr. B. C. Roy as a Physician

- Dr. Roy studied medicine at **Calcutta Medical College** and later qualified in both **MRCP** and **FRCS** in London, a rare dual achievement at that time.
- He returned to India to become one of the country's most respected clinicians and teachers of medicine.
- He was deeply involved in creating health institutions, such as women and child hospitals, medical training centres, and charitable health facilities.
- He played an instrumental role in shaping India's early medical regulatory framework and became **the first President of the Medical Council of India (MCI)**.
- His contributions influenced medical standards, ethics, and training systems across the country.

Dr. Kadambini Ganguly: India's First Practising Woman Doctor and First Woman Speaker at the Indian National Congress

Basic Introduction

- **Dr. Kadambini Bose Ganguly (1861–1923)** was a pioneering Indian woman who achieved two historic milestones:
- She became **the first practising female doctor of modern (Western) medicine in India**.
- She became **the first woman to speak at a session of the Indian National Congress, addressing delegates during the 1890 Congress session**.

Early Life and Background

- Born on **18 July 1861** in the Bengal Presidency, she grew up in a reform-oriented Brahmo Samaj family that emphasized women's education.
- Her father was an active supporter of women's schooling, which helped her pursue formal education at a time when girls rarely attended school.
- She married **Dwarkanath Ganguly**, a prominent Brahmo Samaj reformer who strongly supported women's rights and higher education.

Educational Breakthroughs

- She studied at **Bethune School** and later at **Bethune College**, becoming **one of the first women graduates of the University of Calcutta**.
- In **1884**, she gained admission to **Calcutta Medical College**, breaking a major gender barrier, as medical institutions rarely admitted women.
- She earned her **medical degree in 1886**, marking a turning point in women's access to



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professional careers in India.

- She later undertook additional clinical training in Britain, strengthening her medical expertise.

India's First Practising Woman Doctor

- Although **Anandibai Joshi earned a medical degree earlier (from the United States), she passed away before beginning medical practice.**
- Dr. Kadambini Ganguly became the **first woman in India to practise Western medicine professionally.**
- She served at the **Lady Dufferin Women's Hospital** and later established a successful **private medical practice**, treating women and children.
- **In 1890, Dr. Kadambini Ganguly achieved another milestone:**
- She became **the first woman to address a session of the Indian National Congress.**

Dr. Upendra Nath Brahmachari: The Indian Scientist Who Discovered the Cure for Kala-azar

- Dr. Upendra Nath Brahmachari (1873–1946) was one of India's most accomplished physicians and medical scientists.
- He is best known for discovering **Urea Stibamine** in **1920**, the first **effective and safe treatment for kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis).**
- His contribution is considered one of the most important achievements in the history of Indian medical science.
- Kala-azar was one of the deadliest diseases in colonial India, **caused by the parasite Leishmania donovani.**
- **It was transmitted through the sandfly**, and epidemics devastated regions such as **Bihar, Bengal, Assam, and Odisha.**

Scientific Breakthrough: Discovery of Urea Stibamine (1920)

- In 1920, Dr. Brahmachari synthesized **Urea Stibamine**, marking a revolutionary breakthrough in tropical medicine.
- **This drug was the first to:**
- **Cure kala-azar effectively**

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar and the 1959 Health Survey & Planning Committee

- In **1959**, the Government of India established the **Health Survey and Planning Committee**, chaired by **Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.**
- This committee—commonly known as the **Mudaliar Committee**—was tasked with reviewing the progress of India's health system since Independence and assessing the implementation of the earlier **Bhore Committee (1946)** recommendations.
- Dr. Mudaliar was a distinguished **physician, public health administrator, and long-serving Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras**, making him an ideal leader for national health policy evaluation.

Background: Why the Committee Was Established

- After Independence, India adopted the Bhore Committee model, which emphasized universal access to health services, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and integration of preventive and curative care.

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Key Recommendations of the Mudaliar Committee (1959)

- **Strengthening Primary Health Centres (PHCs)**
 - The committee observed that PHCs were overstretched and unable to deliver services effectively.
 - Recommended improving **staffing, equipment, and infrastructure** before opening new PHCs.
 - Emphasized reducing the population coverage per PHC to ensure more effective service delivery.

Improving the Referral System

- Highlighted the need for a **well-defined referral chain** between PHCs, secondary hospitals, and district hospitals.
- Recommended strengthening **district hospitals** to function as key referral centers.

In Turkiye, recently unearthed carved faces shed new light on Neolithic society

CS: History
Agence France Presse
KARAHANTEPE

On the windswept hills overlooking Turkiye's vast southeastern plains, new archaeological discoveries are revealing how life might have looked 11,000 years ago when the world's earliest communities began to emerge.

The latest finds – a stone figurine with stitched lips, carved stone faces and a black serpentinite bead with expressive faces on both sides – offer clues about Neolithic beliefs and rituals.

"The growing number of human sculptures can be read as a direct outcome of settled life," Necmi Karul, the archaeologist

leading the dig at Karahan Tepe, said.

"As communities became more sedentary, people gradually distanced themselves from nature and placed the human figure and the human experience at the centre of the universe," he said, pointing to a human face carved onto a T-shaped pillar.

The excavation is part of Turkiye's "Stone Hills" project, a government-backed initiative launched in 2020 across 12 sites in Sanliurfa province, which Culture Minister Nuri Ersoy has described as "the world's Neolithic capital".

The project includes the UNESCO heritage site Gobekli Tepe – "Potbelly Hill" in Turkish – which is home

to the oldest known megalithic structures in Upper Mesopotamia, where the late German archaeologist Klaus Schmidt began excavations in 1995.

Explaining some of the new finds on display at Karahan Tepe's visitor centre, Lee Clare of the German Archaeology Institute says they challenge long-held narratives about humanity's shift from nomadic hunter-gatherer life to early settlements.

"Every building we study gives us a small glimpse into someone's life. We're gaining insights into their belief systems," he said.

The past five years have yielded "a wonderful amount of data coming out of all these new sites," the



A pillar and a human statue stand at the archaeological site of Karahantepe in Sanliurfa, southeastern Turkiye. AFP

archaeologist said.

But it was impossible to know everything. "We don't have any written records, obviously, because it's prehistory," said Mr. Clare, who has worked at Gobekli Tepe since 2013.

Identifying who the statues or figurines represent

ed was probably impossible, given they dated back to "a period before writing, around 10,000 years ago", said Mr. Karul, who is also leading the dig at Gobekli Tepe and coordinator of the Stone Hills project.

"But as the number of such finds increases and as

we learn more about the contexts in which they appear, we gain the opportunity to conduct statistical analyses and make meaningful comparisons."

'Very organised society'
The settlements began to appear after the last Ice Age, he said.

"The changing environment created fertile conditions, allowing people to feed themselves without constantly going hunting." As communities started to settle, new social dynamics emerged, Mr. Clare said.

"What we see here is the beginning of that process. In many ways, we are on a slippery slope that leads toward the modern world."

As the excavations pro-

gress, they will transform understanding of the Neolithic, with each site earning its own place in scientific history, says Emre Guldogan of Istanbul University, lead archaeologist at the nearby Sefer Tepe site. "Karahan Tepe and the wider Stone Hills project show a highly organised society with its own symbolic world and belief structures" overturning earlier ideas of a "primitive" Neolithic world, he said. "These communities shared traits but also developed clear cultural differences."

At Karahan Tepe, human symbolism is widely seen whereas in Gobekli Tepe, animal imagery is more dominant.

Archaeologists say findings at both sites show each community depicting their living environments in different ways. "Each new discovery raises fresh questions aimed at understanding the people behind these creations," Mr. Guldogan said.

The recent archaeological discoveries have also broadened the appeal of a region known primarily as the place where Abraham once settled, a figure revered in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

"Before the excavations, the area mainly attracted religious tour groups, drawn largely by its association with the prophet Abraham," tourist guide Yakup Bedlek said.

In Turkiye, recently unearthed carved faces shed new light on Neolithic society

तुर्किये में, हाल ही में मिली उकेरी गई आकृतियाँ नवपाषाण समाज पर नया प्रकाश डालती हैं

- On the windswept hills overlooking Turkiye's vast southeastern plains, new archaeological discoveries are revealing how life might have looked **11,000 years ago** when the world's earliest communities began to emerge.
तुर्किये के विशाल दक्षिणपूर्वी मैदानों को निहारती हवाओं से बहती पहाड़ियों पर, नई पुरातात्विक खोजें दिखा रही हैं कि **11,000 वर्ष पहले** जीवन कैसा दिखता होगा जब दुनिया की प्रारंभिक समुदायों का उदय हुआ था।
- The latest finds — a stone figurine with stitched lips, carved stone faces and a black serpentinite bead with expressive faces on both sides — offer clues about Neolithic beliefs and rituals.
नवीनतम खोजें — सिले हुए होंठों वाली पत्थर की मूर्ति, उकेरे हुए पाषाण चेहरे और दोनों ओर अभिव्यक्तिपूर्ण चेहरों वाला काला सर्पेटिनाइट मनका — नवपाषाण विश्वासों और अनुष्ठानों के बारे में संकेत प्रदान करती हैं।
- "The growing number of human sculptures can be read as a direct outcome of settled life," Necmi Karul, the archaeologist leading the dig at Karahan Tepe, said.



“मानव मूर्तियों की बढ़ती संख्या को स्थायी जीवन का प्रत्यक्ष परिणाम माना जा सकता है,” नेचमी करुल, जो कराहन तेपे में खुदाई का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं, ने कहा।

- “As communities became more sedentary, people gradually distanced themselves from nature and placed the human figure and the human experience at the centre of the universe,” he said, pointing to a human face carved onto a **T-shaped pillar**.
“जब समुदाय अधिक स्थायी होते गए, लोग धीरे-धीरे प्रकृति से दूर होने लगे और मानव आकृति तथा मानव अनुभव को ब्रह्मांड के केंद्र में रखने लगे,” उन्होंने टी-आकार के स्तंभ पर उकेरे गए मानव चेहरे की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा।
- The excavation is part of Turkiye’s “**Stone Hills**” project, a government-backed initiative launched in **2020** across 12 sites in **Sanliurfa** province, which Culture Minister **Nuri Ersoy** has described as “the world’s **Neolithic capital**”.
यह उत्खनन तुर्किये की “**स्टोन हिल्स**” परियोजना का हिस्सा है, जो **2020** में **सानलिउरफ़ा** प्रांत में 12 स्थलों पर शुरू की गई सरकारी समर्थित पहल है, जिसे संस्कृति मंत्री **नूरी एरसोय** ने “दुनिया की **नवपाषाण राजधानी**” बताया है।
- The project includes the **UNESCO** heritage site **Gobekli Tepe** — “Potbelly Hill” in Turkish — **home to the oldest known megalithic structures in Upper Mesopotamia**, where German archaeologist **Klaus Schmidt** began excavations in **1995**.
यह परियोजना **यूनेस्को** धरोहर स्थल **गोबेकली तेपे** को भी शामिल करती है — तुर्की में “पोटबेली हिल” — जो ऊपरी **मेसोपोटामिया** की सबसे प्राचीन ज्ञात **मेगालिथिक** संरचनाओं का घर है, जहाँ जर्मन पुरातत्वविद् **क्लाउस शिमिट** ने **1995** में खुदाई शुरू की थी।
- Explaining some of the new finds on display at Karahan Tepe’s visitor centre, **Lee Clare** of the German Archaeology Institute says they challenge long-held narratives about humanity’s shift from **nomadic hunter-gatherer** life to early settlements.
कराहन तेपे के विज़िटर सेंटर में प्रदर्शित कुछ नई खोजों को समझाते हुए, जर्मन पुरातत्व संस्थान के **ली क्लेयर** कहते हैं कि वे मनुष्यों के **घुमंतू शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता** जीवन से प्रारंभिक बस्तियों की ओर परिवर्तन संबंधी लंबे समय से धारित धारणाओं को चुनौती देती हैं।
- “Every building we study gives us a small glimpse into someone’s life. We’re gaining insights into their belief systems,” he said.
“हम जिस भी इमारत का अध्ययन करते हैं, वह हमें किसी के जीवन की एक छोटी झलक देती है। हम उनके विश्वास प्रणालियों की समझ प्राप्त कर रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The past five years have yielded “a wonderful amount of data coming out of all these new sites,” the archaeologist said.
पिछले पाँच वर्षों में “इन सभी नए स्थलों से बड़ी मात्रा में अद्भुत डेटा प्राप्त हुआ है,” पुरातत्वविद् ने कहा।
- But it was impossible to know everything. “We don’t have any written records, obviously, because it’s **prehistory**,” said Mr. Clare, who has worked at Gobekli Tepe since **2013**.
लेकिन सब कुछ जान पाना असंभव था। “हमारे पास कोई लिखित अभिलेख नहीं हैं, क्योंकि यह **पूर्व-इतिहास** है,” श्री क्लेयर ने कहा, जो **2013** से गोबेकली तेपे में कार्यरत हैं।
- Identifying who the statues or figurines represented was probably impossible, given they dated back to “**a period before writing, around 10,000 years ago**”, said Mr. Karul, who is also leading the dig at Gobekli Tepe.
यह पहचान पाना कि मूर्तियाँ या आकृतियाँ किसका प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं, संभवतः असंभव है, क्योंकि वे “**लेखन से पूर्व की अवधि, लगभग 10,000 वर्ष पुरानी**” हैं, श्री करुल ने कहा, जो गोबेकली तेपे की खुदाई का भी नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं।
- “But as the number of such finds increases and as we learn more about the contexts in which they appear, we gain the opportunity to conduct **statistical analyses** and make meaningful comparisons.”
“लेकिन जैसे-जैसे ऐसी खोजों की संख्या बढ़ती है और जिन संदर्भों में वे मिलती हैं उनके बारे में अधिक जानकारी मिलती है, हमें **सांख्यिकीय विश्लेषण** करने और सार्थक तुलना करने का अवसर मिलता है।”

‘Very organised society’
‘बहुत संगठित समाज’

- The **settlements began to appear after the last Ice Age**, he said.
अंतिम **हिमयुग** के बाद बस्तियों का प्रकट होना शुरू हुआ, उन्होंने कहा।



- “The changing environment created fertile conditions, allowing people to feed themselves without constantly going hunting.”
“परिवर्तित होता पर्यावरण उपजाऊ परिस्थितियाँ तैयार कर रहा था, जिससे लोग बिना लगातार शिकार किए अपना जीवनयापन कर सकते थे।”
- As communities started to settle, new social dynamics emerged, Mr. Clare said.
जैसे-जैसे समुदाय बसने लगे, नए सामाजिक गतिशास्त्र उभरे, श्री क्लेयर ने कहा।
- “What we see here is the beginning of that process. In many ways, we are on a slippery slope that leads toward the **modern world.**”
“जो हम यहाँ देखते हैं, वह उसी प्रक्रिया की शुरुआत है। कई मायनों में, हम एक ऐसे मार्ग पर हैं जो **आधुनिक दुनिया** की ओर ले जाता है।”
- As the excavations progress, they will transform understanding of the **Neolithic**, with each site earning its own place in scientific history, says **Emre Guldogan** of Istanbul University.
जैसे-जैसे खुदाई आगे बढ़ेगी, वे **नवपाषाण काल** की हमारी समझ को बदल देंगी, और प्रत्येक स्थल वैज्ञानिक इतिहास में अपना स्थान बनाएगा, इस्तांबुल विश्वविद्यालय के **एमरे गुलदोगान** कहते हैं।
- “Karahan Tepe and the wider Stone Hills project show a highly organised society with its own symbolic world and belief structures” overturning earlier ideas of a “primitive” Neolithic world, he said.
“कराहन तेपे और व्यापक स्टोन हिल्स परियोजना एक अत्यंत संगठित समाज को दर्शाती है, जिसका अपना प्रतीकात्मक संसार और विश्वास संरचनाएँ हैं,” उन्होंने कहा, जो “आदिम” नवपाषाण विश्व की पुरानी धारणाओं को उलट देती हैं।
- “These communities shared traits but also developed clear cultural differences.”
“इन समुदायों में कुछ समानताएँ थीं, लेकिन उन्होंने स्पष्ट सांस्कृतिक भिन्नताएँ भी विकसित कीं।”
- At Karahan Tepe, human symbolism is widely seen whereas in **Gobekli Tepe**, animal imagery is more dominant.
कराहन तेपे में मानव प्रतीकवाद व्यापक रूप से दिखाई देता है, जबकि **गोबेकली तेपे** में पशु आकृतियाँ अधिक प्रभावी हैं।
- Archaeologists say findings at both sites show each community depicting their living environments in different ways.
पुरातत्वविदों का कहना है कि दोनों स्थलों की खोजें दिखाती हैं कि प्रत्येक समुदाय ने अपने रहने वाले वातावरण को अलग-अलग तरीकों से दर्शाया।
- “Each new discovery raises fresh questions aimed at understanding the people behind these creations,” Mr. Guldogan said.
“हर नई खोज नए प्रश्न उठाती है, जिनका उद्देश्य इन रचनाओं के पीछे के लोगों को समझना है,” श्री गुलदोगान ने कहा।
- The recent archaeological discoveries have also broadened the appeal of a region known primarily as the place where **Abraham** once settled, a figure revered in **Judaism, Christianity and Islam.**
हाल की पुरातात्विक खोजों ने उस क्षेत्र की आकर्षण क्षमता भी बढ़ाई है, जिसे मुख्यतः वह स्थान माना जाता है जहाँ **अब्राहम** ने कभी निवास किया था, जो **यहूदी धर्म, ईसाई धर्म और इस्लाम** में पूजनीय व्यक्ति हैं।
- “Before the excavations, the area mainly attracted religious tour groups, drawn largely by its association with the prophet Abraham,” tourist guide **Yakup Bedlek** said.
“खुदाई से पहले, यह क्षेत्र मुख्यतः धार्मिक पर्यटक समूहों को आकर्षित करता था, जो ज्यादातर पैगंबर अब्राहम से इसके संबंध के कारण आते थे,” पर्यटक गाइड **याकुप बेदलेक** ने कहा।



GS Paper 1: Society

TOPICS COVERED

05 December 2025

- Urbanisation, migration led to voter roll flaws: govt.**
शहरीकरण, प्रवासन से मतदाता सूची में खामियाँ उत्पन्न हुई: सरकार
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- China's story of rural revitalisation**
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Urbanisation, migration led to voter roll flaws: govt.

GS I: Society

Meghwal says some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral rolls

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Thursday that rapid urbanisation and frequent migration were the likely causes of irregularities on the voter rolls.

Mr. Meghwal was responding to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, who asked if the Centre had taken cognisance of allegations of large-scale voter roll irregularities, including duplicate, deleted and fake entries reported in States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Bihar. The MP also asked about steps being taken by the Election Commission to verify, update, and audit electoral rolls to ensure accuracy and prevent manipulation before the elections.

Details were also sought about the verification mechanism to enhance transparency in the voter list revision process and measures being implemented to ensure electoral integrity,



Revision process: A special intensive revision camp being conducted in Chennai on November 24. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

data security and accountability of officials involved in voter roll management and election preparedness.

Additions and deletions

In a written reply, Mr. Meghwal said that according to the EC, significant changes have occurred on the electoral roll over the past 20 years due to additions and deletions on a large scale.

"Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration to pursue education, liveli-

hood, and for other reasons, are now a given. Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence. This has led to an increased possibility of repeated entries in the electoral roll," he said.

He added that this warranted an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment

as an elector. Therefore, the commission had ordered a special summary revision starting from Bihar, which has now been extended to other States. Mr. Meghwal said parties were being involved in the process, and the electoral roll has been shared at the draft publication and final publication stage.

The EC is also inviting claims and objections from the public, and a system of supervision and checks to maintain the quality of the rolls was in place. The norms mandated the display of claims and objections on the Electoral Registration Officer's notice board and Chief Electoral Officer's website along with a detailed schedule of press notes and advertisements published during the revision process for public awareness.

"The First Appeal against any decision of the ERO is placed before the District Magistrate; and the second appeal before the Chief Electoral Officer," the Minister said.

Urbanisation, migration led to voter roll flaws: govt.

शहरीकरण, प्रवासन से मतदाता सूची में खामियाँ उत्पन्न हुई: सरकार

- Urbanisation, migration led to voter roll • laws: govt.
शहरीकरण, प्रवासन से मतदाता सूची में खामियाँ उत्पन्न हुई: सरकार।
- Meghwal says some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral rolls



मेघवाल कहते हैं कि कुछ मतदाता एक स्थान पर पंजीकरण प्राप्त करते हैं और फिर अपना निवास बदलकर दूसरी जगह स्वयं को पंजीकृत करा लेते हैं बिना अपने नाम को मतदाता सूची से हटावाए।

- Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Thursday **that rapid urbanisation and frequent migration were the likely causes of irregularities on the voter rolls.**
केंद्रीय कानून मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने गुरुवार को कहा कि तेज़ शहरीकरण और बार-बार होने वाला प्रवासन मतदाता सूची में अनियमितताओं के संभावित कारण थे।
- Mr. Meghwal was responding to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, who asked if the Centre had taken cognisance of allegations of **large-scale voter roll irregularities**, including **duplicate, deleted and fake entries** reported in States such as **Karnataka, Maharashtra and Bihar.**
मेघवाल शिवसेना (यूबीटी) के सांसद संजय राउत के प्रश्न का उत्तर दे रहे थे, जिन्होंने पूछा था कि क्या केंद्र ने बड़े पैमाने पर मतदाता सूची अनियमितताओं के आरोपों, जैसे डुप्लीकेट, हटाए गए और फर्जी प्रविष्टियाँ, जिनकी रिपोर्ट कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र और बिहार जैसे राज्यों में हुई है, का संज्ञान लिया है।
- The MP also asked about steps being taken by the **Election Commission** to verify, update, and audit electoral rolls to ensure accuracy and prevent manipulation before the elections.
सांसद ने यह भी पूछा कि चुनाव आयोग द्वारा चुनाव से पहले मतदाता सूचियों को सत्यापित, अपडेट और ऑडिट करने के लिए कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ताकि सटीकता सुनिश्चित की जा सके और छेड़छाड़ रोकी जा सके।
- Details were also sought about the verification mechanism to enhance transparency in the voter list revision process and measures being implemented to ensure **electoral integrity, data security** and **accountability** of officials involved in voter roll management and election preparedness.
मतदाता सूची संशोधन प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए सत्यापन तंत्र, तथा चुनावी अखंडता, डेटा सुरक्षा और मतदाता सूची प्रबंधन तथा चुनाव तैयारी में शामिल अधिकारियों की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उठाए जा रहे उपायों के बारे में भी विवरण मांगा गया।

Additions and deletions

जोड़ और हटाव

- In a written reply, Mr. Meghwal said that according to the **EC**, significant changes have occurred on the electoral roll over the past **20 years** due to additions and deletions on a large scale.
एक लिखित उत्तर में मेघवाल ने कहा कि चुनाव आयोग के अनुसार पिछले 20 वर्षों में बड़े पैमाने पर जोड़ और हटाव के कारण मतदाता सूची में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव हुए हैं।
- **“Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration** to pursue **education, livelihood**, and for other reasons, are now a given.
“तेज़ शहरीकरण और बार-बार प्रवासन, जो शिक्षा, रोज़गार, और अन्य कारणों से होते हैं, अब एक सामान्य बात है।
- Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence.
कुछ मतदाता एक स्थान पर पंजीकरण प्राप्त करते हैं और फिर अपना निवास बदलकर दूसरी जगह स्वयं को पंजीकृत करा लेते हैं, बिना पहले स्थान की मतदाता सूची से अपना नाम हटावाए।
- This has led to an increased possibility of **repeated entries** in the electoral roll,” he said.
इससे मतदाता सूची में दोहराई हुई प्रविष्टियों की संभावना बढ़ गई है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- He added that this warranted an **intensive verification drive** to verify each person before enrolment as an elector.
उन्होंने कहा कि इसने प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकृत करने से पहले गहन सत्यापन अभियान की आवश्यकता को बढ़ा दिया है।
- Therefore, the commission had ordered a **special summary revision** starting from **Bihar**, which has now been extended to other States.
इसलिए आयोग ने बिहार से शुरू होकर एक विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण का आदेश दिया, जिसे अब अन्य राज्यों तक बढ़ा दिया गया है।
- Mr. Meghwal said parties were being involved in the process, and the electoral roll has been shared at the **draft publication** and **final publication** stage.



मेघवाल ने कहा कि इस प्रक्रिया में राजनीतिक दलों को शामिल किया जा रहा है, और मतदाता सूची **मसौदा प्रकाशन और अंतिम प्रकाशन** चरण में साझा की गई है।

- The EC is also inviting claims and objections from the public, and a system of **supervision and checks** to maintain the quality of the rolls was in place.

चुनाव आयोग जनता से दावे और आपत्तियाँ भी आमंत्रित कर रहा है, और मतदाता सूचियों की गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के लिए **निगरानी और जाँच** की व्यवस्था मौजूद है।

- The norms mandated the display of claims and objections on the **Electoral Registration Officer's** notice board and **Chief Electoral Officer's** website along with a detailed schedule of **press notes** and advertisements published during the revision process for public awareness.

मानकों ने यह अनिवार्य किया कि दावे और आपत्तियाँ **मतदाता पंजीकरण अधिकारी** के नोटिस बोर्ड और **मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी** की वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित किए जाएँ, साथ ही संशोधन प्रक्रिया के दौरान प्रकाशित **प्रेस नोट्स** और विज्ञापनों का विस्तृत कार्यक्रम भी दिया जाए ताकि जन जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके।

- **"The First Appeal** against any decision of the ERO is placed before the **District Magistrate;** and the **second appeal** before the **Chief Electoral Officer,"** the Minister said.

"पहली अपील मतदाता पंजीकरण अधिकारी के किसी भी निर्णय के खिलाफ **जिलाधिकारी** के समक्ष की जाती है; और **दूसरी अपील** **मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी** के समक्ष की जाती है," मंत्री ने कहा।

Do we need to change how cities are governed in India?

GS 1: Urbanization

MOE

PARLEY



Anant Maringanti
Director of Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change at the University of Minnesota



T.R. Raghunandan
Former IAS officer and a consultant on decentralisation and planning

The rise of Zohran Mamdani as the Mayor of New York City in the United States has brought focus to the lack of visibility of similarly elected civic officials in Indian cities. Why do citizens in urban areas of India have no elected official to turn to in times of crisis or to help improve civic infrastructure and amenities? The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the governing civic body of Mumbai, is set to have elections in 2026 after several years. In Telangana, 27 municipalities are being merged into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been divided into five corporations. Will these measures help improve governance of cities? Do we need to change how cities are governed in India? T.R. Raghunandan and Anant Maringanti discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **Serish Naniseti**. Edited Excerpts:

Why is there no substantial role for Mayors in major cities in India? Why are they so invisible?

Anant Maringanti: There are structural issues and historical reasons. We have always been a largely rural economy, so the urban is not that visible (to policymakers). But structurally, if you just look at the governance question, who is the most powerful person controlling city affairs in India? It is the Chief Minister. This was not always the case until at least the 1960s. Mayors were a lot more visible during the Independence struggle. We have had a number of politicians who were first city Mayors and then became national-level politicians. The entire political system now is organised around State Assemblies, so decisions about cities are taken in the Chief Minister's *peethi* (office), not in the Mayor's office.

T.R. Raghunandan: Urban local government in India has a longer history than the U.S. itself. The oldest municipality in South Asia was the Madras Municipality, which was created in the 17th century. It was a nominated body. And at that time, the presidency towns had fairly empowered municipalities. However, paradoxically, after the 73rd and 74th Amendments (establishing a framework for local self-governance in rural and urban India, respectively), the situation deteriorated, even though municipalities and corporations were constitutionalised. This happened due to severe political competition, but also because of the apathy of citizens. Democratic decentralisation in India has been a supply-driven reform



The Chickpet market in Bengaluru. AFP

measure; it has not been demanded by the people. There have been no parliamentary elections or State elections that have been fought on the issue of whether municipal elections are held, or on empowering municipalities.

Is there a way where we can make the governance of Indian cities more responsive?

TRR: There is no way if the people do not demand it. Today, in Bengaluru, we haven't had (civic body) elections for almost 4-5 years. There is no recognition of the local government as a government. Sadly, I believe that the people of India, and particularly urban people, are fairly ignorant about the nitty-gritties of government. I was once aghast when a respected IT entrepreneur in Bengaluru said that the Prime Minister should take over the governance of the city. Even a 7th standard civics student ought to know that there are three levels of government, and that there are spheres of governance. Politics responds to the demands of the people. If there was a demand from the people that local governments and local corporations be strengthened, then they will be made strong.

AM: We need to keep two things in mind. One is that this is less about making the Mayor more powerful and more about cutting back the power of the Chief Minister's Office. Second, we need to acknowledge that in many States, MLAs and MPs are ex-officio members of the municipalities, and that essentially means that corporators and Mayors become subordinates to their bigger political party bosses. What do municipalities do in India? Their revenue base is very small and their actual functions are also very limited. Most of the work is done by somebody else (such as bureaucrats and state-run agencies). So it is less about fixing the role of the Mayor than about fixing the way in which the city is governed. I think we believed



The real issue is that whatever you do, if the Chief Minister's office is controlling what happens in the city and if your IAS officer is the more powerful person, then you will never have the Mayor or the municipal system becoming active at all.

ANANT MARINGANTI

that the 74th Constitution Amendment would have fixed this. It has failed to do so.

Is having a financially empowered, democratically elected autonomous Mayor a way of improving governance of cities?

AM: We need to figure out how to decentralise financial allocations. For example, even today, ward offices often struggle to secure the funds they need. In the 1980s, in Hyderabad or Bombay, power was devolved to the ward level by transferring monies. If they don't give money, even within the municipal budgets, and if you don't have local-level decision-making structures, it's just not going to happen. As I said, the idea that the 74th Constitution Amendment would fix this, failed. And the reason for that is that the 74th Amendment ignored and bypassed the political reality. It was introduced as if the political reality doesn't exist. So what we need to do to make this better is to start looking at the political reality of our cities and figure out how to redesign things in each city, in each State.

TRR: Political realities can change dramatically. You can see how politicians are able to whip up passions in both India and in the U.S. Certain things that we would never have thought thinkable, and which violate the Constitution, are being now demanded by the public. There are many hate messages, there is communalism, etc., and these are being pushed forward as political agendas. The same kind of passion is not there to push for a local government.

Bengaluru is now being split into five corporations. Hyderabad is merging many civic bodies under one umbrella. So one is trying to unify into a big bloc, another is trying to divide into five manageable blocs. What do you feel about this?

TRR: They are all malafide justifications only meant to create a fait accompli so that elections can be postponed. Every time Bengaluru has come up for an election, the government at that point develops a great idea of either dividing or

integrating the municipal corporation. The last municipal elections were postponed partly because of plans to expand the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike into the BBMP. Now, they are being postponed because politicians have discovered that the best way to neutralise courts, which would otherwise be outraged and enforce conduct of elections, is to play some game with delimitation. Delhi is another huge disaster, because you should have had a separate dispensation for Delhi, because there is no point in having a Delhi State-like structure with the Chief Minister, and then in that same space compress a municipal system. Because, essentially, the Delhi Chief Minister could be the Mayor of Delhi, right? So, the political space should have been decluttered, but what happened there was that the government did it with purely malafide intentions to harass the then Chief Minister. And look at what is happening now. It is still a disaster. The Supreme Court passed a confusing order with respect to the division of powers between the Union government and the Delhi government, and when a clarification to that was sought, the Court kept postponing the case. Then the government changed, and the new government has withdrawn the case.

AM: It doesn't matter whether you divide the city into five municipalities or three municipalities or you add 20 more municipalities. The real issue is that whatever you do, if the Chief Minister's office is controlling what happens in the city and if your IAS officer is the more powerful person, then you will never have the Mayor or the municipal system becoming active at all. This is basically territorial management by the Chief Minister's office or in a much broader way, by the Assembly. This is not so much about governance and ease of governance. The expansion and contraction and division and subdivision is happening because of other considerations.

You don't have a clear delineation of who is supposed to be doing what. Everything is controlled by larger, complicated mechanisms. That is the thing that we need to get right. Fixing the money problem is one part; fixing the people who are going to be in power for each institution is key. It is important that we do something about our parastatals. They should not become so big and powerful and become autonomous agencies. These are all things that need to be fixed for the Mayor to become visible.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com



Do we need to change how cities are governed in India?

क्या हमें भारत में शहरों के शासन करने के तरीके को बदलने की आवश्यकता है?

The rise of Zohran Mamdani and questions on Mayors in India

ज़ोहरान मामदानी का उदय और भारत में मेयरों पर प्रश्न

- The rise of **Zohran Mamdani** as the Mayor of **New York City** in the United States has brought focus to the lack of visibility of similarly elected civic officials in Indian cities.
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के **न्यूयॉर्क सिटी** के मेयर के रूप में **ज़ोहरान मामदानी** के उदय ने भारतीय शहरों में चुने हुए नागरिक अधिकारियों की कमी पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।
- Why do citizens in urban areas of India have no elected official to turn to in times of crisis or to help improve civic infrastructure and amenities?
भारत के शहरी नागरिकों के पास संकट के समय या नागरिक अवसंरचना सुधार के लिए किसी **निर्वाचित अधिकारी** की ओर रुख करने का विकल्प क्यों नहीं है?
- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)**, the governing civic body of Mumbai, is set to have elections in **2026** after several years.
मुंबई की **बीएमसी (BMC)** कई वर्षों बाद **2026** में चुनाव कराने जा रही है।
- In Telangana, **27 municipalities** are being merged into the **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)**.
तेलंगाना में **27 नगरपालिकाओं** को **जीएचएमसी (GHMC)** में विलय किया जा रहा है।
- The **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** has been divided into **five corporations**.
बीबीएमपी (BBMP) को **पाँच निगमों** में विभाजित किया गया है।
- Will these measures help improve governance of cities?
क्या ये कदम शहरों के शासन में सुधार करेंगे?
- Do we need to change how cities are governed in India?
क्या भारत में शहरों के शासन के तरीके को बदलने की आवश्यकता है?
- T.R. Raghunandan and Anant Maringanti discuss this question in a conversation moderated by Serish Nanisetti. Edited Excerpts:
टी.आर. रघुनंदन और अनंत मरिंगंती इस प्रश्न पर सेरिश नानीसेट्टी द्वारा संचालित चर्चा में बात करते हैं। संपादित अंश प्रस्तुत हैं।
- **Why is there no substantial role for Mayors in major cities in India? Why are they so invisible?**
भारत के बड़े शहरों में मेयर की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका क्यों नहीं है? वे इतने अदृश्य क्यों हैं?
- Anant Maringanti: There are structural issues and historical reasons.
अनंत मरिंगंती: यहाँ संरचनात्मक मुद्दे और ऐतिहासिक कारण हैं।
- We have always been a largely **rural economy**, so the urban is not that visible (to policymakers).
हम हमेशा एक प्रमुख **ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था** रहे हैं, इसलिए शहरी मुद्दे नीति-निर्माताओं के लिए उतने स्पष्ट नहीं रहे।
- But structurally, if you just look at the governance question, who is the most powerful person controlling city affairs in India?
लेकिन संरचनात्मक रूप से, यदि आप शासन के प्रश्न को देखें, तो भारत में शहरों का सबसे शक्तिशाली नियंत्रक कौन है?
- It is the **Chief Minister**.
वह **मुख्यमंत्री** हैं।
- This was not always the case until at least the **1960s**.
यह स्थिति कम से कम **1960 के दशक** तक ऐसी नहीं थी।
- Mayors were a lot more visible during the Independence struggle.
स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष के दौरान मेयर अधिक दृश्यमान थे।



- We have had a number of politicians who were first city Mayors and then became national-level politicians.
हमने कई ऐसे राजनेता देखे हैं जो पहले शहर के मेयर थे और बाद में राष्ट्रीय नेता बने।
- The entire political system now is organised around **State Assemblies**, so decisions about cities are taken in the Chief Minister's **peshi (office)**, not in the Mayor's office.
आज पूरा राजनीतिक तंत्र **विधानसभा** के इर्द-गिर्द संगठित है, इसलिए शहरों से सम्बंधित निर्णय **मुख्यमंत्री के कार्यालय** में लिए जाते हैं, न कि मेयर के कार्यालय में।
- T.R. Raghunandan: Urban local government in India has a longer history than the **U.S.** itself.
टी.आर. रघुनंदन: भारत में शहरी स्थानीय सरकार का इतिहास **अमेरिका** से भी पुराना है।
- The oldest municipality in South Asia was the **Madras Municipality**, which was created in the **17th century**.
दक्षिण एशिया की सबसे पुरानी नगरपालिका **मद्रास नगरपालिका** थी, जो **17वीं शताब्दी** में बनी।
- It was a nominated body.
यह नामांकित निकाय था।
- And at that time, the **presidency towns** had fairly empowered municipalities.
और उस समय **प्रेसीडेंसी टाउन** की नगरपालिका काफी सशक्त थी।
- However, paradoxically, after the **73rd and 74th Amendments** (establishing a framework for local self-governance in rural and urban India, respectively), the situation deteriorated, even though municipalities and corporations were constitutionalised.
हालांकि विडंबना यह है कि **73वें और 74वें संशोधन** (जो ग्रामीण और शहरी स्थानीय शासन का ढांचा बनाते हैं) के बाद स्थिति बिगड़ गई, जबकि नगरपालिकाएँ और निगम **संवैधानिक** बन गए थे।
- This happened due to severe **political competition**, but also because of the **apathy of citizens**.
यह स्थिति तीव्र **राजनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा** और **नागरिकों की उदासीनता** के कारण हुई।
- Democratic decentralisation in India has been a **supply-driven reform measure**; it has not been demanded by the people.
भारत में लोकतांत्रिक विकेंद्रीकरण एक **आपूर्ति-चालित सुधार** रहा है; इसे जनता ने मांग के रूप में नहीं उठाया है।
- There have been no parliamentary elections or State elections that have been fought on the issue of whether municipal elections are held, or on empowering municipalities.
कभी भी लोकसभा या विधानसभा चुनाव इस मुद्दे पर नहीं लड़े गए कि **नगरपालिका चुनाव** हों या नगरपालिकाओं को **सशक्त** किया जाए।

Making governance of Indian cities more responsive

भारतीय शहरों के शासन को अधिक उत्तरदायी बनाना

- Is there a way where we can make the governance of Indian cities more responsive?
क्या कोई तरीका है जिससे हम भारतीय शहरों के शासन को अधिक उत्तरदायी बना सकें?
- TRR: There is no way if the people do not demand it.
टीआरआर: यदि लोग मांग नहीं करेंगे, तो कोई रास्ता नहीं है।
- Today, in **Bengaluru**, we haven't had (civic body) elections for almost **4-5 years**.
आज **बेंगलुरु** में लगभग **4-5 वर्षों** से (निगम) चुनाव नहीं हुए हैं।
- There is no recognition of the local government as a government.
स्थानीय सरकार को सरकार के रूप में मान्यता नहीं है।
- Sadly, I believe that the people of India, and particularly urban people, are fairly ignorant about the nitty-gritties of government.
दुख की बात है कि भारत के लोग, विशेषकर शहरी लोग, शासन की बारीकियों से काफी अनजान हैं।
- I was once aghast when a respected IT entrepreneur in Bengaluru said that the **Prime Minister** should take over the governance of the city.
मैं आश्चर्यचकित हुआ जब एक प्रतिष्ठित आईटी उद्यमी ने कहा कि शहर का शासन **प्रधानमंत्री** को संभालना चाहिए।
- Even a **7th standard civics student** ought to know that there are **three levels of government**, and that there are spheres of governance.
एक **सातवीं कक्षा का छात्र** भी जानता है कि शासन के **तीन स्तर** होते हैं और उनके अलग-अलग क्षेत्र होते हैं।



- Politics responds to the demands of the people.
राजनीति लोगों की मांगों के अनुसार प्रतिक्रिया देती है।
- If there was a demand from the people that local governments and local corporations be strengthened, then they will be made strong.
यदि लोग स्थानीय सरकार को सशक्त बनाने की मांग करें, तो उसे सशक्त किया जाएगा।
- AM: We need to keep two things in mind.
एम: हमें दो बातों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए।
- One is that this is less about making the Mayor more powerful and more about cutting back the power of the **Chief Minister's Office**.
पहली बात कि यह मेयर को अधिक शक्तिशाली बनाने से ज्यादा **मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय** की शक्ति को कम करने से जुड़ा है।
- Second, we need to acknowledge that in many States, **MLAs and MPs** are ex-officio members of the municipalities, and that essentially means that corporators and Mayors become subordinates to their bigger political party bosses.
दूसरी बात कि कई राज्यों में **विधायक और सांसद** नगरपालिकाओं के पदेन सदस्य होते हैं, जिससे मेयर और पार्षद अपने राजनीतिक वरिष्ठों के अधीन हो जाते हैं।
- What do municipalities do in India?
भारत में नगरपालिकाएँ क्या करती हैं?
- Their revenue base is very **small** and their actual functions are also very **limited**.
उनका राजस्व आधार बहुत **छोटा** है और उनके वास्तविक कार्य भी **सीमित** हैं।
- Most of the work is done by somebody else (such as bureaucrats and state-run agencies).
अधिकतर काम किसी और द्वारा किया जाता है (जैसे **ब्यूरोक्रेट्स** और **राज्य एजेंसियाँ**).
- So it is less about fixing the role of the Mayor than about fixing the way in which the city is governed.
इसलिए मुद्दा मेयर की भूमिका तय करने से अधिक यह है कि शहर का शासन कैसे सुधारा जाए।
- I think we believed that the **74th Constitution Amendment** would have fixed this.
हमने सोचा था कि **74वाँ संविधान संशोधन** इसे ठीक कर देगा।
- It has failed to do so.
यह ऐसा करने में विफल रहा है।

Is having a financially empowered, democratically elected autonomous Mayor a way of improving governance of cities?

क्या वित्तीय रूप से सशक्त, लोकतांत्रिक रूप से चुना गया स्वायत्त मेयर शहर शासन में सुधार का मार्ग है?

- AM: We need to figure out how to decentralise financial allocations.
एम: हमें यह समझना होगा कि **वित्तीय आवंटन का विकेंद्रीकरण** कैसे किया जाए।
- For example, even today, **ward offices** often struggle to secure the funds they need.
उदाहरण के लिए, आज भी **वार्ड कार्यालय** आवश्यक धन प्राप्त करने के लिए संघर्ष करते हैं।
- In the **1980s**, in Hyderabad or Bombay, power was devolved to the ward level by transferring monies.
1980 के दशक में हैदराबाद और बॉम्बे में धन हस्तांतरण कर वार्ड स्तर को शक्तियाँ दी गई थीं।
- If they don't give money, even within the municipal budgets, and if you don't have local-level decision-making structures, it's just not going to happen.
यदि बजट में धन न दिया जाए और स्थानीय स्तर पर निर्णय संरचना न हो, तो शासन सुधार संभव नहीं है।
- As I said, the idea that the **74th Constitution Amendment** would fix this, failed.
जैसा मैंने कहा, **74वाँ संशोधन** यह सुधार नहीं कर सका।
- And the reason for that is that the 74th Amendment ignored and bypassed the **political reality**.
और इसका कारण यह है कि 74वें संशोधन ने **राजनीतिक वास्तविकता** को नजरअंदाज कर दिया।
- It was introduced as if political reality doesn't exist.
इसे ऐसे लाया गया मानो राजनीतिक वास्तविकता है ही नहीं।
- So what we need to do to make this better is to start looking at the **political reality** of our cities and figure out how to redesign things in each city, in each State.



इसलिए हमें शहरों की राजनीतिक वास्तविकता को समझकर हर शहर और हर राज्य में शासन को पुनः डिजाइन करने की आवश्यकता है।

- TRR: Political realities can change dramatically.
टीआरआर: राजनीतिक वास्तविकताएँ नाटकीय रूप से बदल सकती हैं।
- You can see how politicians are able to whip up passions in both India and in the U.S.
आप देख सकते हैं कि भारत और अमेरिका में राजनेता कैसे भावनाएँ भड़का सकते हैं।
- Certain things that we would never have thought thinkable, and which violate the Constitution, are being now demanded by the public.
कुछ ऐसी बातें जो कभी अकल्पनीय थीं और संविधान का उल्लंघन करती हैं, अब जनता द्वारा मांगी जा रही हैं।
- There are many hate messages, there is communalism, etc... and these are being pushed forward as political agendas.
कई घृणा संदेश, सांप्रदायिकता आदि राजनीतिक एजेंडा के रूप में आगे बढ़ाए जा रहे हैं।
- The same kind of passion is not there to push for a local government.
स्थानीय सरकार के लिए ऐसी भावनाएँ नहीं जगाई जा रही हैं।

Debate on splitting or merging city corporations

शहर निगमों के विभाजन या विलय पर बहस

- Bengaluru is now being split into five corporations.
बेंगलुरु को अब पाँच निगमों में विभाजित किया जा रहा है।
- Hyderabad is merging many civic bodies under one umbrella.
हैदराबाद कई नागरिक निकायों को एक छतरी के तहत विलय कर रहा है।
- So one is trying to unify into a big bloc, another is trying to divide into five manageable blocs.
तो एक शहर बड़े ब्लॉक में एकीकरण कर रहा है, दूसरा इसे पाँच प्रबंधनीय ब्लॉकों में विभाजित कर रहा है।
- What do you feel about this?
आप इस बारे में क्या सोचते हैं?
- TRR: They are all mala fide justifications only meant to create a fait accompli so that elections can be postponed.
टीआरआर: ये सभी दुर्भावनापूर्ण औचित्य हैं जिन्हें फैट अकॉम्प्ली की स्थिति बनाने के लिए किया जाता है ताकि चुनाव टाले जा सकें।
- Every time Bengaluru has come up for an election, the government at that point develops a great idea of either dividing or integrating the municipal corporation.
जब भी बेंगलुरु में चुनाव की बारी आती है, सरकार या तो निगम को विभाजित करने या एकीकृत करने का बड़ा विचार लेकर आती है।
- The last municipal elections were postponed partly because of plans to expand the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike into the BBMP.
पिछले नगर निगम चुनाव बेंगलोर महानगर पालिके को बीबीएमपी में विस्तारित करने की योजना के कारण आंशिक रूप से टाले गए थे।
- Now, they are being postponed because politicians have discovered that the best way to neutralise courts, which would otherwise be outraged and enforce conduct of elections, is to play some game with delimitation.
अब वे इसलिए टाले जा रहे हैं क्योंकि राजनेताओं ने पाया है कि अदालतों को निष्प्रभावी करने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका सीमांकन (delimitation) के साथ खेल करना है।
- Delhi is another huge disaster, because you should have had a separate dispensation for Delhi, because there is no point in having a Delhi State-like structure with the Chief Minister, and then in that same space compress a municipal system.
दिल्ली एक और बड़ी समस्या है क्योंकि दिल्ली के लिए अलग व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए थी; दिल्ली राज्य जैसी संरचना और उसी क्षेत्र में एक नगरपालिका प्रणाली को दबाना अनुचित है।
- Because, essentially, the Delhi Chief Minister could be the Mayor of Delhi, right?
क्योंकि मूल रूप से दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री ही दिल्ली के मेयर जैसे हो जाते हैं।
- So, the political space should have been decluttered, but what happened there was that the government did it with purely mala fide intentions to harass the then Chief Minister.
राजनीतिक स्थान को सरल किया जाना चाहिए था, लेकिन वहाँ यह केवल दुर्भावनापूर्ण इरादों से किया गया।
- And look at what is happening now. It is still a disaster.
और आज भी यह एक समस्या बनी हुई है।



- The **Supreme Court** passed a confusing order with respect to the division of powers between the Union government and the Delhi government, and when a clarification to that was sought, the Court kept postponing the case.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र और दिल्ली सरकार के बीच शक्तियों के विभाजन पर एक भ्रमित करने वाला आदेश दिया, और जब स्पष्टिकरण माँगा गया तो अदालत ने मामले को टालते रहना उचित समझा।
- Then the government changed, and the new government has withdrawn the case.
फिर सरकार बदल गई और नई सरकार ने मामला वापस ले लिया।
- AM: It doesn't matter whether you divide the city into five municipalities or three municipalities or you add 20 more municipalities.
एएम: शहर को पाँच नगरपालिकाओं में बाँटें या तीन में या 20 और जोड़ दें, इससे फर्क नहीं पड़ता।
- The real issue is that whatever you do, if the **Chief Minister's office** is controlling what happens in the city and if your **IAS officer** is the more powerful person, then you will never have the Mayor or the municipal system becoming active at all.
वास्तविक मुद्दा यह है कि यदि शहर में हो रही हर चीज़ **मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय** और **आईएस अधिकारी** नियंत्रित करेंगे, तो मेयर या नगरपालिका प्रणाली कभी सक्रिय नहीं हो पाएगी।
- This is basically **territory management** by the Chief Minister's office or, in a broader way, by the Assembly.
यह मूलतः **क्षेत्र प्रबंधन** है जो मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय या व्यापक रूप से विधानसभा द्वारा किया जाता है।
- This is not so much about governance and ease of governance.
यह शासन और सुशासन का मामला उतना नहीं है।
- The expansion and contraction and division and subdivision is happening because of other considerations.
विस्तार, संकुचन, विभाजन और उप-विभाजन अन्य कारणों से किए जा रहे हैं।
- You don't have a clear delineation of who is supposed to be doing what.
यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि कौन क्या करेगा।
- Everything is controlled by larger, complicated mechanisms.
सब कुछ बड़े और जटिल तंत्रों द्वारा नियंत्रित है।
- That is the thing that we need to get right.
यही वह बात है जिसे ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है।
- Fixing the **money problem** is one part; fixing the **people who are going to be in power** for each institution is key.
वित्तीय समस्या को ठीक करना एक पहलू है; प्रत्येक संस्था में **कौन शक्ति में होगा** इसे ठीक करना मुख्य है।
- It is important that we do something about our **parastatals**.
यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि हम अपने **पैरास्टेटल** संस्थानों पर कुछ करें।
- They should not become so big and powerful and become autonomous agencies.
वे इतने बड़े और शक्तिशाली होकर स्वायत्त एजेंसियाँ नहीं बननी चाहिए।
- These are all things that need to be fixed for the **Mayor to become visible**.
ये सभी बातें आवश्यक हैं ताकि **मेयर दृश्यमान** हो सकें।



China's story of rural revitalisation

As China prepares to enter into its 15th five-year plan, considered to be the 'consolidation and full implementation' period of the goal to realise 'socialist modernisation' by 2035, the efforts taken up by the administration for poverty alleviation and rural revitalisation are showing results

GS I: Society

MOB

WORLD INSIGHT

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

Chinese President Xi Jinping, while visiting Fuping County of Hebei Province in his first year as general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, had noted that eradication of poverty and improving people's livelihoods are essential requirements of socialism. He had called for close attention to people in 'straitened circumstances', noting that "with confidence, barren clay can be turned into gold". The people of the Xichou county in Yunnan province, which was earlier a deserted rocky area, calls this confidence to turn clay into gold the 'Xichou spirit', taking pride over their accomplishment in regional development, where they broke down rocks with their bare hands, over the years, to bring in greenery and improve living conditions.

A stark divide?

China is a land of dichotomy. The country run by the CPC under principles of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics' has embraced market economy and state-led capitalism, which can be seen in the urban landscape of the country with its sprawling skyscrapers and brands, both foreign and local, competing for consumers. While urban China, with its postmodern skyline of Shanghai and vintage eloquence of Beijing, sprints ahead in terms of development and modernisation to make up the core of the country's economy, its countryside is a quiet but strong testament to Chinese socialism. As China prepares to enter into its 15th five-year plan, considered to be the "consolidation and full implementation" period of the goal to realise 'socialist modernisation' by 2035, the efforts taken up by the administration for poverty alleviation and rural revitalisation are showing results.

In China, one can see a regional divide in terms of development and modernisation, with the eastern provinces and cities being on par with global business hubs and tourist attractions alike while central and western provinces lag behind. Provinces like Guangdong (with special economic zones in Shenzhen and Zhuhai which directly benefited from the reforms in the late 1970s), Guanxi, and provincial-level cities like Beijing and Shanghai are popular destinations for businesses and tourists; its facilities and attractions providing opportunities for both. But if one moves into the heart of the country, the landscape begins to change.

The progress of poverty programs

In Sichuan, home of the giant pandas located near the heart of China, and Yunnan bordering Vietnam and Myanmar, one can see long, winding roads leading to scattered towns and counties. These towns are on an entirely different plane of existence when compared to Shenzhen or Shanghai. Adorned with 'lush mountains and lucid waters', which, in the words of Mr. Xi, is the richest asset of a country, the calm and slow-paced life in these towns makes up the heart of China.

While the Chinese government stressed on modernisation and development during the decades following the opening up of its economy under former President Deng Xiaoping, poverty alleviation had also received its fair share of attention. Special poverty-relief institutions were set



Scenic view: A windmill on top of a hill in Panzhuhua in the Sichuan province, China.

up across the country in 1986 to determine poor counties, and draw up criteria for poverty alleviation measures. A total of 273 counties were initially listed as State-level impoverished counties, which later rose to 328 in 1988. A 'seven-year programme for lifting 80 million people out of poverty' was initiated in 1994. This was followed by the 'outline for development-oriented poverty alleviation for China's rural areas' in 2001. The outline noted that while the number of existing State-level impoverished counties in developed coastal areas in the east had reduced to zero, there was an increase in impoverished counties in the central and western areas. Between 2001 and 2010, poverty headcount ratio dropped to 3.8% from 10.2% while per capita net income of farmers in key counties rose by an average of 7.6%.

For rural towns and counties, like Malipo and Jinping in Yunnan and Panzhuhua in Sichuan, which are mountainous areas isolated from the provincial capitals, development has had to take the long road. However, they show results of heavy investments in both accessibility and sustainability. Windmills propped up on high hill-tops which appear to be churning the clouds are a common sight along the roads in these regions. Large investments were made by the central government in these distant, sparsely populated regions with the goal to reach common prosperity, says Miao Xin, vice-governor of Malipo county. While 99% of land in the county is mountainous and remote, the government has tapped into its abundant

natural resources. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided assistance to the county since 1992, undertakings projects in areas such as basic living needs, education, and healthcare. According to Mr. Xin, the central government has also set up enterprises to promote job opportunities. He stated that the county has been free from extreme poverty since 2020 with an annual disposable income of 9,000 RMB per person.

The spirit of the people

While government investments and projects have played a huge role in the upliftment of the regions, the role of the people is equally important. The Jiwozhai village in Ma'andi township of Jinping county in Yunnan tells one such tale of people's cooperation. Located nearly 150 km away from the county centre at an altitude of nearly 1,300 m from sea level, the village is home to ancient tea trees. Local people believe that these trees, which are the oldest ones being around for nearly 800 years, bring prosperity to those who touch it and are the main income source for the village.

Here the Yizhuolan ancient tea production and marketing professional cooperative, established in 2014, runs business. Local people work part-time in the collection and processing of the tea leaves. According to Su Yuan Hui, head of the cooperative, the tea leaves are sold in domestic markets and are exported to countries like France, Japan, and Vietnam. The cooperative has five private shareholders along with 2.8 million RMB investments from the provincial government and Shanghai municipality in

an example of inter-provincial cooperation model where developed regions from eastern China send investments and human resources to aid the western provinces. The annual revenue of the cooperative stands at 1,60,000 to 1,80,000 RMB and the profits are split between the shareholders, with the village committee getting a share which is distributed to the villagers where the average household income is nearly 30,000 RMB per year, says Mr. Su. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also assisted in the setting up of the tea-processing factory with interest-free loans, he says.

With poverty alleviation measures having shown results in improving basic living conditions, China is slowly shifting its focus to accelerating rural revitalisation. In January this year, the central committee of the CPC released the 'Rural comprehensive revitalisation plan' which aims at tackling existing major rural issues by 2027. It focuses on enhancing agricultural output to secure food security while boosting the prosperity of rural communities, closing the urban-rural income gap, and developing infrastructure.

Other than the serene nature and exciting landscape, what makes rural China stand out is the spirit of people. Travelling along the slopes through long stilt passes at a height of more than 200 metres make the villages look tiny – until the realisation strikes that the will of the same people in these tiny villages has played its part in holding up the stilts.

The writer is in China at the invitation of the China Public Diplomacy association.

THE GIST

While urban China, with its postmodern skyline of Shanghai and vintage eloquence of Beijing, sprints ahead in terms of development and modernisation to make up the core of the country's economy, its countryside is a quiet but strong testament to Chinese socialism.

While the Chinese government stressed on modernisation and development during the decades following the opening up of its economy under former President Deng Xiaoping, poverty alleviation had also received its fair share of attention.

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China's story of rural revitalisation चीन की ग्रामीण पुनर्जीवन की कहानी

Xi Jinping, poverty eradication, and China's regional development divide शी जिनपिंग, गरीबी उन्मूलन, और चीन का क्षेत्रीय विकास विभाजन

- Chinese President **Xi Jinping**, while visiting **Fuping County of Hebei Province** in his first year as general secretary of the **Communist Party of China (CPC)** in **2012**, had noted that eradication of poverty and improving people's livelihoods are essential requirements of socialism.
चीनी राष्ट्रपति **शी जिनपिंग** ने **2012** में **सीपीसी** के महासचिव के रूप में अपने पहले वर्ष में **हेबेई प्रांत** के **फुपिंग काउंटी** की यात्रा के दौरान कहा था कि गरीबी उन्मूलन और लोगों के जीवन-स्तर में सुधार **समाजवाद की मूल आवश्यकताएँ** हैं।
- He had called for close attention to people in '**strained circumstances**', noting that "**with confidence, barren clay can be turned into gold**".
उन्होंने '**कठिन परिस्थितियों**' में रहने वाले लोगों पर ध्यान देने का आह्वान किया था और कहा था कि "**विश्वास के साथ बंजर मिट्टी को भी सोने में बदला जा सकता है।**"
- The **people of the Xichou county in Yunnan province**, which was earlier a deserted rocky area, call this confidence to turn clay into gold the '**Xichou spirit**', taking pride over their accomplishment in regional development, where they broke down rocks with their bare hands, over the years, to bring in greenery and improve living conditions.
युन्नान प्रांत के **शीचौ काउंटी** के लोग इस विश्वास को '**शीचौ स्पिरिट**' कहते हैं, जहाँ पहले पथरीला बंजर क्षेत्र था और उन्होंने वर्षों तक नंगे हाथों से चट्टानें तोड़कर **हरियाली** और **बेहतर जीवन-स्थितियाँ** विकसित कीं।

A stark divide? क्या एक तीखा विभाजन है?

- China is a land of **dichotomy**.
चीन **विरोधाभासों** की भूमि है।
- The **country run by the CPC under principles of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics' has embraced market economy and state-led capitalism**, which can be seen in the urban landscape of the country with its sprawling skyscrapers and brands, both foreign and local, competing for consumers.
चीनी विशेषताओं वाले समाजवाद के सिद्धांतों पर चलने वाला **सीपीसी** संचालित देश **बाजार अर्थव्यवस्था** और **राज्य-नियंत्रित पूँजीवाद** को अपना चुका है, जिसे इसके शहरी क्षेत्रों के **गगनचुंबी इमारतों** और विदेशी-स्थानीय **ब्रांडों** की प्रतिस्पर्धा में देखा जा सकता है।
- While **urban China**, with its postmodern skyline of **Shanghai** and vintage eloquence of **Beijing**, sprints ahead in terms of development and modernisation to make up the core of the country's economy, its **countryside** is a quiet but strong testament to Chinese socialism.
जहाँ **शंघाई** की आधुनिक स्काईलाइन और **बीजिंग** की ऐतिहासिक सुंदरता वाला **शहरी चीन** विकास और आधुनिकीकरण में आगे बढ़ता है, वहीं **ग्रामीण चीन** समाजवाद का शांत किन्तु मजबूत उदाहरण है।
- As China prepares to enter into its **15th five-year plan**, considered to be the "consolidation and full implementation" period of the goal to realise '**socialist modernisation**' by **2035**, the efforts taken up by the administration for **poverty alleviation** and **rural revitalisation** are showing results.
चीन अब अपने **15वें पंचवर्षीय योजना** चरण में प्रवेश कर रहा है, जिसे **2035 तक 'समाजवादी आधुनिकीकरण'** प्राप्त करने का "**समेकन और पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन**" काल माना जाता है, और प्रशासन की **गरीबी उन्मूलन** और **ग्रामीण पुनर्जीवन** की पहलों के परिणाम सामने आ रहे हैं।
- In China, one can see a **regional divide** in terms of development and modernisation, with the **eastern provinces and cities** being on par with global business hubs and tourist attractions alike while **central and western provinces** lag behind.
चीन में विकास और आधुनिकीकरण के संदर्भ में एक **क्षेत्रीय असमानता** दिखती है — **पूर्वी प्रांत और शहर** वैश्विक व्यवसायिक केंद्रों और पर्यटन स्थलों की बराबरी करते हैं, जबकि **मध्य और पश्चिमी प्रांत** पीछे रह जाते हैं।



- Provinces like **Guangdong** (with special economic zones in **Shenzhen** and **Zhuhai** which directly benefitted from the reforms in the **late 1970s**), **Guanxi**, and provincial-level cities like **Beijing** and **Shanghai** are popular destinations for businesses and tourists; its facilities and attractions provide opportunities for both.
ग्वांगडोंग जैसे प्रांत (जहाँ **शेन्ज़ेन** और **झुहाई** के **विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र** थे जिन्होंने **1970 के दशक के अंत** में सुधारों का लाभ उठाया), **गुआंगशी**, और **बीजिंग** तथा **शंघाई** जैसे प्रांतीय-स्तरीय शहर व्यवसाय और पर्यटन के प्रमुख केंद्र हैं।
- But if one moves into the heart of the country, the landscape begins to change.
लेकिन जैसे ही कोई देश के **भीतरी क्षेत्रों** में जाता है, दृश्य बदलने लगता है।

The progress of poverty programs in China चीन में गरीबी कार्यक्रमों की प्रगति

- In **Sichuan**, home of the giant pandas located near the heart of China, and **Yunnan** bordering Vietnam and Myanmar, one can see long, winding roads leading to scattered towns and counties.
चीन के हृदय के पास विशाल **पांडा** वाले क्षेत्र **सिचुआन** और वियतनाम व म्यांमार से लगते **युन्नान** में लंबी, घुमावदार सड़कें बिखरे कस्बों और काउंटियों तक जाती हैं।
- These towns are on an entirely different plane of existence when compared to **Shenzhen** or **Shanghai**.
ये कस्बे **शेन्ज़ेन** और **शंघाई** से बिल्कुल भिन्न संसार जैसे प्रतीत होते हैं।
- Adorned with '**lush mountains and lucid waters**', which, in the words of Mr. Xi, is the richest asset of a country, the calm and slow-paced life in these towns makes up the heart of China.
'**हरी-भरी पहाड़ियाँ और स्वच्छ जल**', जिसे **शी जिनपिंग** देश की सबसे बड़ी संपत्ति कहते हैं, इन कस्बों का शांत और धीमा जीवन चीन की आत्मा बनाता है।
- While the Chinese government stressed on modernisation and development during the decades following the opening up of its economy under former President **Deng Xiaoping**, poverty alleviation had also received its fair share of attention.
पूर्व राष्ट्रपति **देग शियाओपिंग** के आर्थिक उदारीकरण के बाद चीन सरकार ने आधुनिकीकरण और विकास पर जोर दिया, लेकिन **गरीबी उन्मूलन** को भी उतना ही महत्व दिया।
- Special poverty-relief institutions were set up across the country in **1986** to determine poor counties, and draw up criteria for poverty alleviation measures.
1986 में देशभर में विशेष गरीबी-उन्मूलन संस्थाएँ स्थापित की गईं, जो गरीब काउंटियों की पहचान और उपायों के मानक निर्धारित करती थीं।
- A total of **273 counties** were initially listed as State-level impoverished counties, which later rose to **328 in 1988**.
शुरुआत में **273 काउंटियाँ** राज्य-स्तरीय गरीब घोषित की गईं, जो **1988 में बढ़कर 328** हो गईं।
- A '**seven-year programme for lifting 80 million people out of poverty**' was initiated in **1994**.
1994 में '**8 करोड़ लोगों को गरीबी से बाहर निकालने का सात-वर्षीय कार्यक्रम**' शुरू किया गया।
- This was followed by the '**outline for development-oriented poverty alleviation for China's rural areas**' in **2001**.
इसके बाद **2001** में '**चीन के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विकासोन्मुख गरीबी उन्मूलन की रूपरेखा**' लागू की गई।
- The outline noted that while the number of existing State-level impoverished counties in developed coastal areas in the east had reduced to **zero**, there was an increase in impoverished counties in the **central and western areas**.
इस रूपरेखा में कहा गया कि पूर्वी विकसित तटीय क्षेत्रों में राज्य-स्तरीय गरीब काउंटियों की संख्या **शून्य** हो गई थी, लेकिन **मध्य और पश्चिमी क्षेत्रों** में वृद्धि देखी गई।
- Between **2001 and 2010**, poverty headcount ratio dropped to **3.8%** from **10.2%** while per capita net income of farmers in key counties rose by an average of **7.6%**.
2001 से 2010 के बीच गरीबी प्रतिशत **10.2% से घटकर 3.8%** हो गया और प्रमुख काउंटियों के किसानों की प्रति व्यक्ति आय में औसतन **7.6%** की वृद्धि हुई।
- For rural towns and counties, like **Malipo** and **Jinping** in Yunnan and **Panzhuhua** in Sichuan, which are mountainous areas isolated from the provincial capitals, development has had to take the long road.



युन्नान के मालिपो और जिनपिंग, तथा सिचुआन के पान्झिहुआ जैसे पर्वतीय और दूरस्थ कस्बों में विकास लंबा और कठिन रहा है।

- However, they show results of heavy investments in both **accessibility and sustainability**. हालाँकि इन क्षेत्रों में **पहुँच और सतत विकास** में भारी निवेश के परिणाम दिखाई देते हैं।
- Windmills propped up on high hill-tops which appear to be churning the clouds are a common sight along the roads in these regions.
ऊँची पहाड़ियों पर लगे **विंडमिल**, जो बादलों को churn करते से प्रतीत होते हैं, इन क्षेत्रों में आम दृश्य हैं।
- Large investments were made by the **central government** in these distant, sparsely populated regions with the goal to reach **common prosperity**, says **Miao Xin**, vice-governor of Malipo county.
मालिपो के उप-गवर्नर **मिआओ शिन** के अनुसार इन दूरस्थ और कम जनसंख्या वाले क्षेत्रों में **केंद्रीय सरकार** ने **साझा समृद्धि (common prosperity)** के लक्ष्य से बड़े निवेश किए।
- While **99%** of land in the county is mountainous and remote, the government has tapped into its abundant **natural resources**.
जहाँ जिले की **99% भूमि** पर्वतीय और दूरस्थ है, सरकार ने उसके **प्राकृतिक संसाधनों** का उपयोग किया है।
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** has provided assistance to the county since **1992**, undertaking projects in areas such as basic living needs, education, and healthcare.
1992 से **विदेश मंत्रालय** इस काउंटी की सहायता कर रहा है, जिसमें **मूलभूत आवश्यकताएँ, शिक्षा, और स्वास्थ्य** जैसे क्षेत्रों में परियोजनाएँ शामिल हैं।
- According to Mr. Xin, the central government has also set up enterprises to promote **job opportunities**.
श्री शिन के अनुसार, केंद्र सरकार ने **रोज़गार अवसर** बढ़ाने के लिए उद्यम स्थापित किए हैं।
- He stated that the county has been **free from extreme poverty since 2020** with an annual disposable income of **9,000 RMB per person**.
उन्होंने बताया कि यह काउंटी **2020 से अत्यंत गरीबी से मुक्त** है और प्रति व्यक्ति उपलब्ध वार्षिक आय **9,000 आरएमबी** है।

The spirit of the people लोगों की भावना

- While government investments and projects have played a huge role in the upliftment of the regions, the role of the people is equally important.
जहाँ सरकारी निवेश और परियोजनाओं ने क्षेत्रों के उत्थान में बड़ी भूमिका निभाई है, वहीं **लोगों की भूमिका भी उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण** है।
- The **Jiwozhai village** in **Ma'andi township** of **Jinping county** in **Yunnan** tells one such tale of people's cooperation.
युन्नान के **जिनपिंग काउंटी** के **मा'आंडी टाउनशिप** का **जिवोज़ाई गाँव** लोगों के **सहयोग** की ऐसी ही एक कहानी बताता है।
- Located nearly **150 km** away from the county centre at an altitude of nearly **1,300 m** from sea level, the village is home to ancient tea trees.
काउंटी केंद्र से लगभग **150 किमी** दूर और समुद्र तल से लगभग **1,300 मीटर** की ऊँचाई पर स्थित यह गाँव **प्राचीन चाय वृक्षों** का घर है।
- Local people believe that these trees, with the oldest ones being around for nearly **800 years**, bring prosperity to those who touch it and are the main income source for the village.
स्थानीय लोग मानते हैं कि ये वृक्ष, जिनमें सबसे पुराने लगभग **800 वर्ष** पुराने हैं, **समृद्धि** लाते हैं और गाँव की **मुख्य आय का स्रोत** हैं।
- Here the **Yizhuolan ancient tea production and marketing professional cooperative**, established in **2014**, runs business.
यहाँ **2014** में स्थापित **यिज़ुओलान प्राचीन चाय उत्पादन और विपणन सहकारी** संचालित होती है।
- Local people work part-time in the collection and processing of the tea leaves.
स्थानीय लोग चाय पत्तियों के **संग्रह और प्रसंस्करण** में पार्ट-टाइम कार्य करते हैं।
- According to **Su Yuan Hui**, head of the cooperative, the tea leaves are sold in **domestic markets** and are exported to countries like **France, Japan, and Vietnam**.
सहकारी प्रमुख **सू युआन हुई** के अनुसार, चाय पत्तियाँ **घरेलू बाजारों** में बिकती हैं और **फ्रांस, जापान और वियतनाम** जैसे देशों को निर्यात होती हैं।



- The cooperative has **five private shareholders** along with **2.8 million RMB** investments from the provincial government and **Shanghai municipality** in an example of **inter-provincial cooperation** model where developed regions from eastern China send investments and human resources to aid the western provinces.
सहकारी में पाँच निजी शेयरधारक हैं और प्रांतीय सरकार व शंघाई नगरपालिका से 2.8 मिलियन RMB निवेश प्राप्त है, जो अंतर-प्रांतीय सहयोग मॉडल का उदाहरण है।
- The annual revenue of the cooperative stands at **1,60,000 to 1,80,000 RMB** and the profits are split between the shareholders, with the **village committee** getting a share which is distributed to the villagers where the average household income is nearly **30,000 RMB per year**, says Mr. Su.
सहकारी की वार्षिक आय 1,60,000–1,80,000 RMB है और मुनाफा शेयरधारकों में बाँटा जाता है, जबकि ग्राम समिति को मिलने वाला हिस्सा गाँववासियों में वितरित किया जाता है और औसत वार्षिक घरेलू आय लगभग 30,000 RMB है।
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** has also assisted in the setting up of the tea-processing factory with **interest-free loans**, he says.
वे कहते हैं कि विदेश मंत्रालय ने चाय प्रसंस्करण फैक्ट्री स्थापित करने में ब्याज मुक्त ऋण देकर मदद की है।
- With poverty alleviation measures having shown results in improving basic living conditions, China is slowly shifting its focus to **accelerating rural revitalisation**.
गरीबी उन्मूलन उपायों से मूलभूत जीवन स्थितियों में सुधार दिखने के बाद चीन अब ग्रामीण पुनर्जीवन को तेज करने पर ध्यान दे रहा है।
- In **January this year**, the central committee of the CPC released the '**Rural comprehensive revitalisation plan**' which aims at tackling existing major rural issues by **2027**.
इस वर्ष जनवरी में सीपीसी की केंद्रीय समिति ने 'ग्रामीण समग्र पुनर्जीवन योजना' जारी की, जिसका लक्ष्य 2027 तक ग्रामीण समस्याओं का समाधान करना है।
- It focuses on enhancing agricultural output to secure **food security** while boosting the prosperity of rural communities, closing the **urban-rural income gap**, and developing infrastructure.
यह योजना कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाकर खाद्य सुरक्षा, ग्रामीण समुदायों की समृद्धि बढ़ाने, शहरी-ग्रामीण आय अंतर कम करने और इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकास पर केंद्रित है।
- Other than the serene nature and exciting landscape, what makes rural China stand out is **the spirit of people**.
शांत प्रकृति और सुंदर भू-दृश्य के अलावा ग्रामीण चीन को विशिष्ट बनाती है वहाँ के लोगों की आत्मा और दृढ़ता।
- Travelling along the slopes through long stilt passes at a height of more than **200 metres** make the villages look tiny — until the realisation strikes that the will of the same people in these tiny villages has played its part in holding up the stilts.
200 मीटर से अधिक ऊँचाई पर लम्बे स्टिल्ट मार्गों से गुजरते हुए गाँव छोटे लगते हैं — लेकिन फिर एहसास होता है कि इन्हीं छोटे गाँवों के लोगों की इच्छाशक्ति ने इन ऊँचे स्टिल्टों को सम्भाल रखा है।

GS Paper II: Polity

TOPICS COVERED

05 December

1.	Assam Minister and tribal body meet amid row over ST tag for 6 communities 6 समुदायों को ST टैग देने पर विवाद के बीच असम मंत्री और जनजातीय निकाय की बैठक
2.	Powers to EC to conduct simultaneous polls not excessive एक साथ चुनाव कराने के लिए ईसी को दी गई शक्तियाँ अत्यधिक नहीं



3.	Minister says 4.8 crore cases are pending in lower courts मंत्री ने कहा कि निचली अदालतों में 4.8 करोड़ मामले लंबित हैं
4.	Supreme Court to review clause in 2025 Order that contradicts Assam Accord सुप्रीम कोर्ट 2025 आदेश में असम समझौते का विरोध करने वाले प्रावधान की समीक्षा करेगा
5.	SC declines to halt demolitions in Bareilly, asks residents to move HC सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बरेली में ढहाने की कार्रवाई रोकने से इनकार किया, निवासियों से हाई कोर्ट जाने को कहा
6.	Freeze and thaw फ्रीज़ और पिघलन

Assam Minister and tribal body meet amid row over ST tag for 6 communities

State's existing Scheduled Tribes are opposed to the addition of more communities on the Assam ST list unless the government guarantees that their rights and privileges are not encroached upon

GS II: Polity: Reservation

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam's Tribal Affairs Minister Ranoj Pegu met the leaders of the Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations, Assam (CCTOA), on Thursday amid a row over the granting of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities.

On November 29, the State government tabled an interim report of a Group of Ministers (GoM) in the Assembly with recommendations to grant ST status to the Adivasi or "Tea Tribes", Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, and Tai Ahom communities. The report sparked anger among the 14 tribes currently in the State ST list, primarily the Bodos, the largest plains tribal group in the Northeast.

Mr. Pegu, who heads the three-member GoM, said the focus of his meeting with the CCTOA leaders at the State Secretariat was on the recommendations



Tribals protesting against Assam govt.'s decision to grant ST status to six more communities, at Sonapur in Kamrup district. FILE PHOTO

on granting ST status to the six communities.

"I explained the recommendations given by the GoM and the measures proposed to safeguard the rights of existing Scheduled Tribes," he said in a post on X.

Expert panel

The Minister said that he requested the CCTOA leaders to read chapters 5 and 6 of the report together. "The CCTOA informed (me) that, based on our clarifications, they will

form an expert committee and submit their report within a month," Mr. Pegu said.

The GoM's interim report recommends a three-tier classification of STs - ST (Plains), ST (Hills), and ST (Valley).

While the ST (Plains) and the ST (Hills) continue to cover the existing tribal communities residing in the plains and the hills, the ST (Valley) will cover the six communities eyeing the tribal tag.

The State's tribes are op-

posed to adding more communities to Assam's ST list, unless the government guarantees that their rights and privileges are not encroached upon.

All Bodo Students' Union president Dipen Boro said Assam's existing 45 lakh tribals would be swamped out if "2 crore advanced people are imposed" on the existing tribals. "We reject the GoM report," he said.

"You cannot differentiate the tribals. The government decision will affect the existing tribals," CCTOA leader Aditya Khaklari said.

The GoM report said, "This arrangement will be in tune with the resolution of the Assam Assembly that the six communities be recognised as STs without affecting the rights and privileges of the present tribal communities. ST (Valley) will be the Scheduled Tribe for all purposes except that it will not affect the rights and privileges enjoyed by the present tribal communities."



Assam Minister and tribal body meet amid row over ST tag for 6 communities 6 समुदायों को ST टैग देने पर विवाद के बीच असम मंत्री और जनजातीय निकाय की बैठक

- State's existing **Scheduled Tribes** are opposed to the addition of more communities on the **Assam ST list** unless the government guarantees that their **rights and privileges** are not encroached upon.
राज्य की मौजूदा **अनुसूचित जनजातियाँ (Scheduled Tribes)** असम ST सूची में और अधिक समुदाय जोड़ने का विरोध कर रही हैं, जब तक कि सरकार यह गारंटी नहीं देती कि उनके **अधिकार और विशेषाधिकार (rights and privileges)** का अतिक्रमण नहीं होगा।
- Assam's **Tribal Affairs Minister Ranaj Pegu** met the leaders of the **Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations, Assam (CCTOA)**, on Thursday amid a row over the granting of **Scheduled Tribe (ST) status** to six communities.
असम के **जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्री रानोज पेगू** ने गुरुवार को **कोऑर्डिनेशन कमेटी ऑफ ट्राइबल ऑर्गनाइजेशन, असम (CCTOA)** के नेताओं से मुलाकात की, छह समुदायों को **अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) का दर्जा** देने को लेकर जारी विवाद के बीच।
- On **November 29**, the State government tabled an **interim report** of a **Group of Ministers (GoM)** in the Assembly with recommendations to grant ST status to the **Adivasi or "Tea Tribes", Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, and Tai Ahom** communities.
29 नवंबर को, राज्य सरकार ने विधानसभा में **मंत्रियों के समूह (GoM)** की एक **अंतरिम रिपोर्ट** पेश की, जिसमें **आदिवासी या "चाय जनजाति", चुटिया, कोच-राजबोंगशी, मातक, मोरण और ताई अहोम** समुदायों को ST दर्जा देने की सिफारिशें थीं।
- The report sparked anger among the 14 tribes** currently in the State ST list, primarily the **Bodos**, the largest plains tribal group in the **Northeast**.
रिपोर्ट ने राज्य की ST सूची में शामिल **14 जनजातियों**, विशेषकर **बोडो**—जो **पूर्वोत्तर** का सबसे बड़ा मैदानी जनजातीय समूह है—के बीच गुस्सा पैदा कर दिया।
- Mr. Pegu, who heads the **three-member GoM**, said the focus of his meeting with the CCTOA leaders at the State Secretariat was on the recommendations on granting ST status to the six communities.
श्री पेगू जो **तीन-सदस्यीय GoM** के प्रमुख हैं, ने कहा कि राज्य सचिवालय में CCTOA नेताओं के साथ उनकी बैठक का केंद्र छह समुदायों को ST दर्जा देने की सिफारिशों पर था।
- "I explained the recommendations given by the GoM and the measures proposed to safeguard the rights of existing **Scheduled Tribes**," he said in a post on X.
उन्होंने X पर पोस्ट में कहा, "मैंने GoM द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों और मौजूदा **अनुसूचित जनजातियों** के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए प्रस्तावित उपायों को समझाया।"

Expert panel विशेषज्ञ पैनल

- The Minister said that he requested the CCTOA leaders to read chapters **5 and 6** of the report together.
मंत्री ने कहा कि उन्होंने CCTOA नेताओं से रिपोर्ट के **अध्याय 5 और 6** को साथ में पढ़ने का अनुरोध किया।
- "The CCTOA informed (me) that, based on our clarifications, they will form an **expert committee** and submit their report within a **month**," Mr. Pegu said.
श्री पेगू ने कहा, "CCTOA ने (मुझे) बताया कि हमारी स्पष्टीकरणों के आधार पर वे एक **विशेषज्ञ समिति** बनाएंगे और **एक महीने** के भीतर अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करेंगे।"
- The GoM's interim report recommends a **three-tier classification** of STs – **ST (Plains), ST (Hills), and ST (Valley)**.
GoM की अंतरिम रिपोर्ट STs का **तीन-स्तरीय वर्गीकरण** सुझाती है – **ST (मैदानी), ST (पहाड़ी), और ST (घाटी)**।
- While the **ST (Plains)** and the **ST (Hills)** continue to cover the existing tribal communities residing in the plains and the hills, the **ST (Valley)** will cover the six communities eyeing the



tribal tag.

जहाँ **ST (मैदानी)** और **ST (पहाड़ी)** मैदानी और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में रहने वाली मौजूदा जनजातीय समुदायों को शामिल करते रहेंगे, वहीं **ST (घाटी)** उन छह समुदायों को कवर करेगा जो जनजातीय टैग की मांग कर रहे हैं।

- The State's tribes are opposed to adding more communities to Assam's ST list unless the government guarantees that their **rights and privileges** are not encroached upon.
राज्य की जनजातियाँ असम की ST सूची में और समुदाय जोड़ने का विरोध कर रही हैं, जब तक कि सरकार उनके **अधिकारों और विशेषाधिकारों** की सुरक्षा की गारंटी नहीं देती।
- All Bodo Students' Union president **Dipen Boro** said Assam's existing **45 lakh tribals** would be swamped out if "**2 crore advanced people** are imposed" on the existing tribes. "We reject the GoM report," he said.
ऑल बोडो स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन के अध्यक्ष **दिपेन बरो** ने कहा कि असम के मौजूदा **45 लाख जनजातियों** को खत्म कर दिया जाएगा यदि मौजूदा जनजातियों पर "**2 करोड़ उन्नत लोग** थोप दिए गए।" उन्होंने कहा, "हम GoM रिपोर्ट को अस्वीकार करते हैं।"
- "You cannot differentiate the tribals. The government decision will affect the existing tribals," CCTOA leader **Aditya Khaklari** said.
CCTOA नेता **आदित्य खाकलारी** ने कहा, "आप जनजातियों में भेदभाव नहीं कर सकते। सरकार का निर्णय मौजूदा जनजातियों को प्रभावित करेगा।"
- The GoM report said, "This arrangement will be in tune with the **resolution of the Assam Assembly** that the six communities be recognised as STs without affecting the **rights and privileges** of the present tribal communities.
GoM रिपोर्ट ने कहा, "यह व्यवस्था **असम विधानसभा के प्रस्ताव** के अनुरूप होगी, जिसमें कहा गया है कि छह समुदायों को ST के रूप में मान्यता दी जाए, बिना मौजूदा जनजातीय समुदायों के **अधिकारों और विशेषाधिकारों** को प्रभावित किए।"
- **ST (Valley)** will be the **Scheduled Tribe** for all purposes except that it will not affect the **rights and privileges** enjoyed by the present tribal communities."
ST (घाटी) सभी उद्देश्यों के लिए **अनुसूचित जनजाति** होगा, सिवाय इसके कि यह मौजूदा जनजातीय समुदायों द्वारा प्राप्त **अधिकारों और विशेषाधिकारों** को प्रभावित नहीं करेगा।"



Powers to EC to conduct simultaneous polls not excessive, says law panel

GS II: Polity

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The proposed power to the Election Commission in a Bill that seeks to lay a legal framework to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is not excessive, the Law Commission is learnt to have told a parliamentary committee on Thursday.

The law panel top brass briefed the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills on simultaneous elections. During the briefing, members said the law panel also noted that the Constitution amendment Bill does not require ratification by at least 50% of the State Assemblies to come into force.

Opposition MPs questioned the Law Commission officials on the consti-



Opposition MPs questioned Law Commission officials on the constitutionality of the simultaneous polls Bill. FILE PHOTO

tutionality and adherence to the federal spirit in the Bill. The Law Commission officials were not able to give a satisfactory answer, an MP claimed. Another MP said voters are the basis of democracy and elections at regular intervals strengthen it.

According to an opinion of the Commission, it has "not even an iota of doubt"

that the proposed Article 82A(5) does not suffer from excessive delegation. The power conferred upon the EC to recommend postponement of elections is neither arbitrary nor unbounded, rather it flows naturally from the plenary constitutional authority vested in the EC under Article 324, the law panel said.

Powers to EC to conduct simultaneous polls not excessive एक साथ चुनाव कराने के लिए ईसी को दी गई शक्तियाँ अत्यधिक नहीं

- Powers to EC to conduct simultaneous polls not excessive, says law panel एक साथ चुनाव कराने के लिए ईसी की शक्तियाँ अत्यधिक नहीं हैं, कानून पैनल ने कहा
- The proposed power to the Election Commission in a Bill that seeks to lay a legal framework to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is not excessive, the Law Commission is learnt to have told a parliamentary committee on Thursday. लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं के लिए एक साथ चुनाव कराने का कानूनी ढांचा तैयार करने वाले विधेयक में निर्वाचन आयोग को प्रस्तावित शक्तियाँ अत्यधिक नहीं हैं, यह बात कानून आयोग ने गुरुवार को एक संसदीय समिति को बताई है।
- The law panel top brass briefed the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills on simultaneous elections. कानून पैनल के शीर्ष अधिकारियों ने संसद की संयुक्त समिति को, जो एक साथ चुनावों पर विधेयकों की जांच कर रही है, जानकारी दी।
- During the briefing, members said the law panel also noted that the Constitution amendment Bill does not require ratification by at least **50% of the State Assemblies** to come into force. ब्रीफिंग के दौरान, सदस्यों ने कहा कि कानून पैनल ने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि संविधान संशोधन विधेयक को प्रभावी होने के लिए कम से कम **50% राज्य विधानसभाओं** द्वारा अनुमोदन की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Opposition MPs questioned the Law Commission officials on the constitutionality and adherence to the federal spirit in the Bill. विपक्ष के सांसदों ने विधेयक में संवैधानिकता और संघीय भावना के पालन को लेकर कानून आयोग के अधिकारियों से सवाल किए।



- The Law Commission officials were not able to give a satisfactory answer, an MP claimed.
एक सांसद ने दावा किया कि **कानून आयोग** के अधिकारी संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं दे सके।
- Another MP said voters are the basis of democracy and elections at regular intervals strengthen it.
एक अन्य सांसद ने कहा कि **मतदाता** लोकतंत्र का आधार हैं और नियमित अंतराल पर चुनाव इसे मजबूत करते हैं।
- According to an opinion of the Commission, it has “not even an iota of doubt” that the proposed **Article 82A(5)** does not suffer from excessive delegation.
आयोग की राय के अनुसार, इसमें “ज़रा भी संदेह नहीं” कि प्रस्तावित **अनुच्छेद 82A(5)** में अत्यधिक शक्तियों के हस्तांतरण की समस्या नहीं है।
- The power conferred upon the EC to recommend postponement of elections is neither arbitrary nor unbounded, rather it flows naturally from the **plenary constitutional authority vested in the EC under Article 324**, the law panel said.
कानून पैनल ने कहा कि चुनाव स्थगित करने की सिफारिश करने का अधिकार जो **ईसी** को दिया गया है, वह न मनमाना है और न ही असीमित, बल्कि यह **अनुच्छेद 324** के तहत **ईसी** को प्रदत्त **पूर्ण संवैधानिक अधिकार** से स्वाभाविक रूप से उत्पन्न होता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Supreme Court to review clause in 2025 Order that contradicts Assam Accord

GS II: Polity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response to a plea challenging the constitutionality of a provision that allows persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh who entered India without a passport or valid documents before December 31, 2024, to stay on in Assam.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant issued formal notice to the Centre on the plea filed by the **Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)**, represented by senior advocate Jayant Bhushan and advocate Rahul Pratap, **challenging Clause 3(l)(e) of the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order 2025 as violative of the Assam Accord.**

AGP says it has indirectly legalised illegal immigration into Assam after March 1971 cut-off

The Accord, meant to halt the influx of people from Bangladesh, required foreigners who had entered Assam on or after March 25, 1971 to be identified and deported. The intent of the Assam Accord was made explicit through the insertion of **Section 6A into the Citizenship Act, 1955. Section 6A barred citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam after March 25, 1971.**

"The rationale behind the Assam Accord was to preserve the demography and to promote the cultural, social and linguistic identities and heritage of Assamese people by con-

stitutional and legislative safeguard. Any attempt to extend the cut-off date from March 24, 1971 to December 31, 2024 would be violative of the constitutional, legislative and statutory protection accorded to the people of Assam under the Assam Accord," the AGP submitted.

The AGP argued that **Clause 3(l)(e) of the 2025 Order** has rendered the cut-off date in the Assam Accord otiose. It has indirectly legalised illegal immigration into Assam after March 1971. The clause has also violated Section 6A, which was upheld by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in October last year.

The petition submitted that the clause ignored the point that Section 6A would override "all other provisions of law for the time being in force".

Supreme Court to review clause in 2025 Order that contradicts Assam Accord सुप्रीम कोर्ट 2025 आदेश में असम समझौते का विरोध करने वाले प्रावधान की समीक्षा करेगा

- Supreme Court to review clause in 2025 Order that contradicts Assam Accord
असम समझौते का विरोध करने वाले 2025 आदेश के प्रावधान की समीक्षा सुप्रीम कोर्ट करेगा
- The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response to a plea challenging the constitutionality of a provision that allows persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh who entered India without a passport or valid documents before **December 31, 2024**, to stay on in Assam.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को केंद्र से उस याचिका पर जवाब मांगा जिसमें एक प्रावधान की संवैधानिकता को चुनौती दी गई है, जो **अफगानिस्तान, पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश** से उत्पीड़ित धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों को, जो **31 दिसंबर 2024** से पहले बिना पासपोर्ट या वैध दस्तावेजों के भारत में प्रवेश कर गए थे, असम में रहने की अनुमति देता है।
- A Bench headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** issued formal notice to the Centre on the plea filed by the **Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)**, represented by senior advocate **Jayant Bhushan** and advocate **Rahul Pratap**, challenging **Clause 3(l)(e) of the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order 2025 as violative of the Assam Accord.**
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने **असम गण परिषद (AGP)** द्वारा दायर याचिका पर केंद्र को नोटिस जारी किया। यह याचिका वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **जयंत भूषण** और अधिवक्ता **राहुल**



प्रताप द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व की गई, जिसमें इमिग्रेशन एंड फॉरेनर्स (एक्जेम्प्शन) ऑर्डर 2025 की धारा 3(I)(e) को असम समझौते का उल्लंघन बताते हुए चुनौती दी गई है।

- The Accord, meant to halt the influx of people from Bangladesh, required foreigners who had entered Assam on or after **March 25, 1971** to be identified and deported.
यह समझौता, जिसका उद्देश्य बांग्लादेश से लोगों के प्रवेश को रोकना था, के तहत **25 मार्च 1971** या उसके बाद असम में प्रवेश करने वाले विदेशियों की पहचान कर उन्हें निर्वासित करना आवश्यक था।
- The intent of the Assam Accord was made explicit through the insertion of **Section 6A** into the **Citizenship Act, 1955**. Section 6A barred citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam after **March 25, 1971**.
असम समझौते के उद्देश्य को स्पष्ट करते हुए **नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955** में धारा 6A जोड़ी गई, जिसने **25 मार्च 1971** के बाद असम में प्रवेश करने वाले प्रवासियों को नागरिकता देने पर रोक लगा दी।
- “The rationale behind the Assam Accord was to preserve the **demography** and to promote the **cultural, social and linguistic identities and heritage** of Assamese people by constitutional and legislative safeguard. Any attempt to extend the **cut-off date** from **March 24, 1971** to **December 31, 2024** would be violative of the constitutional, legislative and statutory protection accorded to the people of Assam under the Assam Accord,” the AGP submitted.
AGP ने प्रस्तुत किया कि “असम समझौते का तर्क असम के लोगों की **जनसांख्यिकी, सांस्कृतिक, सामाजिक और भाषाई पहचान** तथा **विरासत** को संवैधानिक और विधायी संरक्षण प्रदान करके सुरक्षित रखना था। **कट-ऑफ तिथि** को **24 मार्च 1971** से बढ़ाकर **31 दिसंबर 2024** करना असम समझौते के तहत असम के लोगों को दिए गए संवैधानिक, विधायी और सांवैधानिक संरक्षण का उल्लंघन होगा।”
- The AGP argued that Clause 3(I)(e) of the 2025 Order has rendered the **cut-off date** in the Assam Accord otiose. It has indirectly legalised **illegal immigration** into Assam after **March 1971**.
AGP ने तर्क दिया कि **2025 आदेश** की धारा **3(I)(e)** ने असम समझौते में निर्धारित **कट-ऑफ तिथि** को अप्रभावी बना दिया है। इससे **मार्च 1971** के बाद असम में **अवैध प्रव्रजन** को अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से वैध कर दिया गया है।
- The clause has also violated **Section 6A**, which was upheld by a **Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court** in **October last year**.
इस प्रावधान ने धारा 6A का भी उल्लंघन किया है, जिसे **पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर** में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की **संविधान पीठ** ने बरकरार रखा था।
- The petition submitted that the clause ignored the point that **Section 6A** would override “all other provisions of law for the time being in force”.
याचिका में कहा गया कि इस प्रावधान ने इस तथ्य को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है कि **धारा 6A** “उस समय लागू सभी अन्य कानूनों के प्रावधानों” पर वरीयता रखती है।



SC declines to halt demolitions in Bareilly, asks residents to move HC

GS II: Polity

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to stay the demolition of the houses of two Bareilly residents, who alleged that State authorities had embarked on a “targeted” demolition drive in the aftermath of the violent clashes that erupted on September 26 after Islamic cleric and Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief Tauqeer Raza Khan called for a sit-in protest over alleged derogatory remarks against the Prophet in relation to the “I Love Muhammad” posters.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a writ petition filed under **Article 32** by the two residents, who contended that their homes and an adjoining banquet hall were being razed without any notice and in complete disregard of due process.



Residents react as authorities demolish a building linked to arrested cleric Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan's associate on Tuesday. PTI

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate Rauf Rahim submitted that the conduct of the authorities was in the teeth of the apex court's November 13, 2024 ruling, which laid down pan-India guidelines mandating a prior show-cause notice and a minimum 15-day response period before any demolition.

“This is contempt in the face of the court's order.

One of the petitioners is a 70-year-old man who recently underwent cardiac surgery... the authorities have already demolished a part of his house,” he said.

The judges, however, questioned why the petitioners had not approached the Allahabad High Court in the first instance. “The court has already given a detailed judgment. Approach the High Court and take the benefit

of that judgment. Why should you come under Article 32 every time?” the Bench said.

Mr. Rahim submitted that securing an urgent listing before the High Court would take at least 10 days, during which the demolition could cause irreversible harm. “The powers of this court are enormous... please protect me in the meantime,” he urged the Bench.

Justice Nath reiterated the court's reluctance to stay the demolition, observing that doing so would effectively sidestep the jurisdiction of the High Courts under **Article 226**.

When Mr. Rahim insisted that the authorities were “standing with bulldozers” and that further demolition was imminent, the Bench agreed to grant limited interim protection.

Accordingly, the court directed that the *status quo* be maintained for a week.

SC declines to halt demolitions in Bareilly, asks residents to move HC सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बरेली में ढहाने की कार्रवाई रोकने से इनकार किया, निवासियों से हाई कोर्ट जाने को कहा

- SC declines to halt demolitions in Bareilly, asks residents to move HC
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बरेली में **demolitions** रोकने से इनकार किया और निवासियों से **हाई कोर्ट** जाने को कहा
- The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to stay the demolition of the houses of two Bareilly residents, who alleged that State authorities had embarked on a “targeted” demolition drive in the aftermath of the violent clashes that erupted on **September 26** after Islamic cleric and Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief **Tauqeer Raza Khan** called for a sit-in protest over alleged derogatory remarks against the Prophet in relation to the “I Love Muhammad” posters.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को बरेली के दो निवासियों के घरों के **demolition** पर रोक लगाने से इनकार कर दिया, जिन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि **26 सितंबर** को हुए हिंसक झड़पों के बाद राज्य प्राधिकरणों ने “targeted” ढहाने की कार्रवाई शुरू की थी, जब इस्लामी मौलाना और इत्तेहाद-ए-मिल्लत काउंसिल के प्रमुख **तौक़ीर रज़ा ख़ान** ने “I Love Muhammad” पोस्टरों को लेकर पैगंबर के खिलाफ कथित अपमानजनक टिप्पणी पर धरना देने का आह्वान किया था।
- A Bench of Justices **Vikram Nath** and **Sandeep Mehta** was hearing a writ petition filed under **Article 32** by the two residents, who contended that their homes and an adjoining banquet hall were being razed without any notice and in complete disregard of due process.
न्यायमूर्ति **विक्रम नाथ** और **संदीप मेहता** की पीठ **अनुच्छेद 32** के तहत दायर दो निवासियों की रिट याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिन्होंने कहा कि उनके घर और बगल के बैकेट हॉल को बिना किसी नोटिस और विधिक प्रक्रिया की पूर्ण अवहेलना करते हुए गिराया जा रहा है।
- Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate **Rauf Rahim** submitted that the conduct of the authorities was in the teeth of the apex court's **November 13, 2024** ruling, which laid down pan-India guidelines mandating a prior show-cause notice and a minimum **15-day** response period before any demolition.



याचिकाकर्ताओं की ओर से पेश वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **रऊफ रहीम** ने कहा कि प्राधिकरणों की कार्रवाई सुप्रीम कोर्ट के **13 नवंबर 2024** के निर्णय के खिलाफ है, जिसने पूरे भारत में किसी भी demolition से पहले showcause नोटिस और कम से कम **15 दिन** की जवाब अवधि अनिवार्य की थी।

- “This is contempt in the face of the court’s order. One of the petitioners is a **70-year-old** man who recently underwent cardiac surgery... the authorities have already demolished a part of his house,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “यह अदालत के आदेश की अवमानना है। याचिकाकर्ताओं में से एक **70 वर्षीय** व्यक्ति ने हाल ही में हृदय सर्जरी करवाई है... प्राधिकरण उसके घर का एक हिस्सा पहले ही गिरा चुके हैं।”

- The judges, however, questioned why the petitioners had not approached the **Allahabad High Court** in the first instance. “The court has already given a detailed judgment. Approach the High Court and take the benefit of that judgment. **Why should you come under Article 32 every time?**” the Bench said.

हालांकि, न्यायाधीशों ने पूछा कि याचिकाकर्ताओं ने पहले **इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट** का रुख क्यों नहीं किया। पीठ ने कहा, “अदालत पहले ही विस्तृत निर्णय दे चुकी है। हाई कोर्ट जाइए और उस निर्णय का लाभ उठाइए। हर बार **अनुच्छेद 32** के तहत क्यों आते हैं?”

- Mr. Rahim submitted that securing an urgent listing before the High Court would take at least **10 days**, during which the demolition could cause irreversible harm. “The powers of this court are enormous... please protect me in the meantime,” he urged the Bench.

रहीम ने कहा कि हाई कोर्ट में त्वरित सुनवाई के लिए सूचीबद्ध करवाने में कम से कम **10 दिन** लगेंगे, जिनमें demolition से अपूरणीय क्षति हो सकती है। उन्होंने आग्रह किया, “इस अदालत के अधिकार अत्यंत व्यापक हैं... कृपया इस बीच मेरी रक्षा करें।”

- **Justice Nath reiterated the court’s reluctance to stay the demolition, observing that doing so would effectively sidestep the jurisdiction of the High Courts under Article 226.**

न्यायमूर्ति नाथ ने demolition पर रोक लगाने में अदालत की अनिच्छा दोहराई, यह टिप्पणी करते हुए कि ऐसा करना **अनुच्छेद 226** के तहत हाई कोर्ट के क्षेत्राधिकार को दरकिनार कर देगा।

- When Mr. Rahim insisted that the authorities were “standing with bulldozers” and that further demolition was imminent, the Bench agreed to grant limited interim protection.

जब रहीम ने जोर देकर कहा कि प्राधिकरण “bulldozers के साथ खड़े हैं” और आगे का demolition आसन्न है, तो पीठ ने सीमित अंतरिम संरक्षण देने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

- Accordingly, the court directed that the **status quo** be maintained for a **week**.

इसके अनुसार, अदालत ने निर्देश दिया कि **एक सप्ताह** तक **status quo** बनाए रखा जाए।

PATRIOTIC



GS II: Polity

MQB

Freeze and thaw

Parliament should not be reduced to a political stage

The winter session of Parliament, that began on December 1, will have 15 sittings over a period of 19 days, and will conclude on December 19. The government maintains that it is willing to discuss any issue, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warned that Parliament should not be used for theatrics. The Opposition has pointed out that this is one of the shortest ever winter sessions, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has said that the government excludes him from the country's diplomatic engagements with foreign dignitaries, which is a deviation from the convention. Though there is no notable improvement in the hostile relationship between the government and the Opposition, the Vice-President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, is expected to ease some tension, in his role as Rajya Sabha Chairman. The government has lined up an ambitious legislative agenda, which has considerable political ramifications, with a number of 14 Bills in total. The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025**, is one major piece of legislation that, as its Hindi title suggests, seeks to simplify the criminal justice system. The Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2025, seeks to change the structure of higher education regulators such as the UGC. The Centre's unilateralism in the sector remains a bone of contention with States, and those issues are likely to be raised by the Opposition. The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, the Atomic Energy Bill, and the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill are some of the items on the legislative agenda. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill in the session, which repackages an ongoing cess on tobacco products.

Both Houses are also scheduled to discuss a motion on electoral reforms, in the background of the SIR of electoral rolls and debate the national song Vande Mataram to mark the 150th year of its composition. The SIR debate is expected to see the divergent views of the BJP and the Opposition with regard to electoral reforms. For the ruling party, enforcing a countrywide synchronised election schedule is a priority, while the Opposition is agitated over suspected malpractices in the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of the polls. The Opposition has also sought debates on the national security situation after the Delhi blasts, farmers' problems in the background of concluded and ongoing trade negotiations, price rise, air pollution and use of federal agencies against political opponents. Both sides should use the session as an opportunity to reduce disagreements and clarify issues of governance.

लगाए गए मौजूदा सेस को पुनः पैकेज करता है।

- Both Houses are also scheduled to discuss a motion on **electoral reforms**, in the background of the **SIR** of electoral rolls and debate the national song **Vande Mataram** to mark the **150th year** of its composition.

दोनों सदनों में **चुनाव सुधारों** पर एक प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा निर्धारित है, चुनावी सूचियों के **SIR** की पृष्ठभूमि में, और राष्ट्रगीत **वन्दे मातरम्** की रचना के **150 वर्ष** पूरे होने पर बहस भी होगी।

Freeze and thaw फ्रीज़ और पिघलन

- Parliament should not be reduced to a political stage
संसद को केवल एक राजनीतिक मंच तक सीमित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए

Winter session of Parliament संसद का शीतकालीन सत्र

- The winter session of Parliament, that began on **December 1**, will have **15 sittings** over a period of **19 days**, and will conclude on **December 19**.

संसद का शीतकालीन सत्र **1 दिसंबर** को शुरू हुआ, इसमें **19 दिनों** की अवधि में **15 बैठकें** होंगी, और यह **19 दिसंबर** को समाप्त होगा।

- The government has lined up an ambitious legislative agenda, which has considerable political ramifications, with a number of **14 Bills** in total. सरकार ने एक महत्वाकांक्षी विधायी एजेंडा सूचीबद्ध किया है, जिसका राजनीतिक रूप से बड़ा प्रभाव है, और इसमें कुल **14 विधेयक** शामिल हैं।

- The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025**, is one major piece of legislation that, as its Hindi title suggests, seeks to simplify the criminal justice system.

जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों में संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 एक प्रमुख कानून है, जो अपने हिंदी शीर्षक के अनुसार, **आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली** को सरल बनाना चाहता है।

- The **Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2025**, seeks to change the structure of higher education regulators such as the **UGC**.

हायर एजुकेशन कमीशन ऑफ इंडिया विधेयक, 2025 उच्च शिक्षा नियामक संस्थाओं जैसे **यूजीसी** की संरचना बदलने का प्रयास करता है।

- The **National Highways (Amendment) Bill**, the **Atomic Energy Bill**, and the **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill** are some of the items on the legislative agenda.

नेशनल हाईवेज (संशोधन) विधेयक, एटॉमिक एनर्जी बिल, और आर्बिट्रेशन एंड कंसिलिएशन (संशोधन) बिल विधायी एजेंडा का हिस्सा हैं।

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has introduced the **Health Security se National Security Cess Bill** in the session, which repackages an ongoing cess on tobacco products.

वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने सत्र में **हेल्थ सेक्योरिटी से नेशनल सिक््योरिटी सेस बिल** पेश किया है, जो तंबाकू उत्पादों पर



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

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

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- The Opposition has also sought debates on the **national security situation** after the **Delhi blasts**, farmers' problems in the background of concluded and ongoing **trade negotiations**, **price rise**, **air pollution**, and use of **federal agencies** against political opponents.
विपक्ष ने दिल्ली धमाकों के बाद राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा स्थिति, व्यापार वार्ताओं की पृष्ठभूमि में किसानों की समस्याएँ, महँगाई, वायु प्रदूषण, और राजनीतिक विरोधियों के खिलाफ केंद्रीय एजेंसियों के उपयोग पर भी बहस की माँग की है।
- Both sides should use the session as an opportunity to reduce disagreements and clarify issues of governance.
दोनों पक्षों को इस सत्र का उपयोग मतभेद कम करने और प्रशासनिक मुद्दों को स्पष्ट करने के अवसर के रूप में करना चाहिए।

GS Paper II: Governance	
TOPICS COVERED	05 December
1.	Postal department considers UPI-like 'labels' for addresses डाक विभाग पते के लिए UPI जैसे 'लेबल' पर विचार कर रहा है

PATRIOTIC IAS



Postal department considers UPI-like 'labels' for addresses

The system, called **DHRUVA**, will provide users a convenient way to share their addresses across platforms; users can grant firms limited address access, after which the label needs re-authorisation

GS II: Governance

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Department of Posts this week released a draft amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023, aimed at introducing an interoperable, standardised, and user-centric addressing system called the Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address, or DHRUVA. The framework has been under consultation for a few months, with one key element, DIGIPIN, rolled out in March.

A senior official involved in DHRUVA's implementation said it would be able to replace textual addresses with email or UPI address-like labels such as "name@entity", which would act as a proxy for a physical address.

The government hopes to build this system as part of its digital public infrastructure initiatives and will allow private companies to participate.

The department is hoping to draw interest from e-commerce and gig platforms, where users need to provide addresses across

Smart addresses

A draft amendment seeks to enable an interoperable system replacing physical addresses with smart labels like "name@entity" powered by DIGIPIN for precise geolocation

- Labels will be provided by address service providers, while consent architecture will be managed by address information agents

- It will be based on the DIGIPIN system, which is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude coordinates



- The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not

offer adequate information

- The draft amendment is under consultation; Section 8 entity proposed (like NPCI for UPI)

- The system will be built as part of government's digital public infrastructure initiatives, and will allow private firms to participate

multiple services. On these platforms, individuals would be able to provide a label instead of an address and authorise firms to receive the geographic coordinates and full text of their address instantly, instead of filling out address forms repeatedly.

The draft amendment would allow the postal department to set up a Section 8 not-for-profit entity under government supervision. The body would

play a role similar to the National Payments Corporation of India, which is an association of banks administering the UPI payments system.

Consent-based

Users would be able to authorise companies to view their address for a specified period if they wish, after which a given label will require re-authorisation.

There is no compulsion

in the draft amendment for private players to join, the official said, and the department hopes the system will be compelling enough for firms and users to sign up.

Labels will be provided by address service providers, and the consent architecture will be managed by address information agents, or AIAs.

DIGIPIN system

The DIGIPIN system is the foundational layer for this service, the official said. DIGIPIN is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude. The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not offer adequate information.

DIGIPIN was open-sourced by the department, and each DIGIPIN corresponds to a roughly 14 square metre patch of land, with a mathematical function deterministically generating a unique code. This translates to around 228 billion DIGIPINs for Indian territory.

Postal department considers UPI-like 'labels' for addresses

डाक विभाग पते के लिए UPI जैसे 'लेबल' पर विचार कर रहा है

- Postal department considers UPI-like 'labels' for addresses डाक विभाग पते के लिए **UPI-like 'labels'** पर विचार कर रहा है
- The system, called **DHRUVA**, will provide users a convenient way to share their addresses across platforms; users can grant firms limited address access, after which the label needs re-authorisation

DHRUVA नामक यह प्रणाली उपयोगकर्ताओं को विभिन्न प्लेटफॉर्म पर अपना पता साझा करने का सुविधाजनक तरीका प्रदान करेगी; उपयोगकर्ता कंपनियों को सीमित अवधि के लिए पता एक्सेस दे सकते हैं, जिसके बाद लेबल को पुनः-अधिकृत करना होगा

- The Department of Posts this week released a draft amendment to the **Post Office Act, 2023**, aimed at introducing an interoperable, standardised, and user-centric addressing system called the **Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address, or DHRUVA**. The framework has been under consultation for a few months, with one key element, **DIGIPIN**, rolled out in **March**.

डाक विभाग ने इस सप्ताह **डाकघर अधिनियम, 2023** में एक मसौदा संशोधन जारी किया, जिसका उद्देश्य **Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address** या **DHRUVA** नामक एक इंटरऑपरेबल,



मानकीकृत और उपयोगकर्ता-केंद्रित addressing प्रणाली पेश करना है। यह ढांचा कुछ महीनों से परामर्श में है, जिसमें एक प्रमुख तत्व **DIGIPIN**, मार्च में जारी किया गया था।

- A senior official involved in DHRUVA's implementation said it would be able to replace textual addresses with email or **UPI address-like labels** such as "name@entity", which would act as a proxy for a physical address.

DHRUVA के कार्यान्वयन में शामिल एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि यह प्रणाली पाठ्य पतों को ईमेल या **UPI address-like labels** जैसे "name@entity" से बदल सकेगी, जो भौतिक पते के प्रॉक्सी के रूप में कार्य करेंगे।

- The government hopes to build this system as part of its digital public infrastructure initiatives and will allow private companies to participate.
सरकार इस प्रणाली को अपनी डिजिटल सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना पहलों का हिस्सा बनाना चाहती है और निजी कंपनियों को इसमें भाग लेने की अनुमति देगी।
- The department is hoping to draw interest from ecommerce and gig platforms, where users need to provide addresses across multiple services. On these platforms, individuals would be able to provide a label instead of an address and authorise firms to receive the geographic coordinates and full text of their address instantly, instead of filling out address forms repeatedly.

विभाग ई-कॉमर्स और गिग प्लेटफॉर्म की रुचि आकर्षित करने की उम्मीद कर रहा है, जहां उपयोगकर्ताओं को कई सेवाओं पर पते प्रदान करने पड़ते हैं। इन प्लेटफॉर्म पर, व्यक्ति पते की जगह एक लेबल दे सकेंगे और कंपनियों को भौगोलिक निर्देशांक तथा पूर्ण पता तुरंत प्राप्त करने के लिए अधिकृत कर सकेंगे, जिससे बार-बार पता फॉर्म भरने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।

- The draft amendment would allow the postal department to set up a **Section 8 not-for-profit entity** under government supervision. The body would play a role similar to the **National Payments Corporation of India**, which is an association of banks administering the **UPI payments system**.

मसौदा संशोधन डाक विभाग को सरकारी निगरानी में धारा 8 गैर-लाभकारी संस्था स्थापित करने की अनुमति देगा। यह संस्था **नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया** जैसी भूमिका निभाएगी, जो बैंकों का एक संघ है और **UPI** भुगतान प्रणाली का संचालन करता है।

Consent-based सहमति-आधारित

- Users would be able to authorise companies to view their address for a specified period if they wish, after which a given label will require re-authorisation.
उपयोगकर्ता कंपनियों को निर्दिष्ट अवधि के लिए अपना पता देखने की अनुमति दे सकेंगे, जिसके बाद उस लेबल को पुनः-अधिकृत करना होगा।
- There is no compulsion in the draft amendment for private players to join, the official said, and the department hopes the system will be compelling enough for firms and users to sign up.
अधिकारी ने कहा कि मसौदा संशोधन में निजी कंपनियों के लिए शामिल होने का कोई बाध्यकारी प्रावधान नहीं है, और विभाग को उम्मीद है कि यह प्रणाली कंपनियों और उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से आकर्षक होगी।
- **Labels will be provided by address service providers, and the consent architecture will be managed by address information agents, or AIAs.**
लेबल address service providers द्वारा प्रदान किए जाएंगे, और सहमति संरचना **address information agents (AIAs)** द्वारा प्रबंधित की जाएगी।

DIGIPIN system DIGIPIN प्रणाली

- The **DIGIPIN system is the foundational layer for this service, the official said. DIGIPIN is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude.**
अधिकारी ने कहा कि DIGIPIN प्रणाली इस सेवा की आधारभूत परत है। DIGIPIN अक्षांश और देशांतर का **10-character alphanumeric** अभिव्यक्ति है।
- The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not offer adequate information.



यह तकनीक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अधिक सटीक स्थान प्रदान करने के लिए विकसित की गई थी, या उन मामलों में जहां भौतिक पता का पाठ्य रूप पर्याप्त जानकारी नहीं देता।

- DIGIPIN was **open-sourced** by the department, and each DIGIPIN corresponds to a roughly **14 square metre** patch of land, with a mathematical function deterministically generating a unique code.

DIGIPIN को विभाग द्वारा **open-sourced** किया गया था, और प्रत्येक DIGIPIN लगभग **14 वर्ग मीटर** भूमि के हिस्से के अनुरूप होता है, जिसमें एक गणितीय फ़ंक्शन एक विशिष्ट कोड उत्पन्न करता है।

- This translates to around **228 billion DIGIPINs** for Indian territory.
यह भारतीय क्षेत्र के लिए लगभग **228 billion DIGIPINs** में परिवर्तित होता है।

GS Paper II: International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

05 December

1.	PM welcomes Putin at airport in warm gesture, hails India-Russia partnership प्रधानमंत्री ने गर्मजोशी से हवाई अड्डे पर पुतिन का स्वागत किया, भारत-रूस साझेदारी की प्रशंसा की
2.	Putin's visit a tense tightrope walk for Modi government amid Western sanction threats पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों की धमकियों के बीच मोदी सरकार के लिए पुतिन की यात्रा एक तनावपूर्ण संतुलन साधने जैसा
3.	New Delhi's relative isolation, India's tryst with terror नई दिल्ली का सापेक्ष अलगाव, भारत का आतंक से सामना
4.	India cuts Russian oil imports by a sharp 38% in October भारत ने अक्टूबर में रूसी तेल आयात में तेज़ी से 38% की कटौती की
5.	U.K., Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables यू.के., नॉर्वे समुद्र के नीचे की केबलों की रक्षा के लिए संयुक्त नौसैनिक गश्त लगाएंगे



PM welcomes Putin at airport in warm gesture, hails India-Russia partnership

GS II: IR: India-Russia

Kallol Bhattacharjee

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

In a special gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin upon his arrival at the Air Force Station, Palam on Thursday evening, ahead of the India-Russia annual summit scheduled for Friday. This is Mr. Putin's first state visit to India since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, which is currently drawing global attention because of renewed peace efforts involving U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a time-tested one that has greatly benefited our people," said Prime Minister Modi after greeting Mr. Putin on the tarmac of AFS Palam.

Mr. Putin's first engagement started with a private dinner with Mr. Modi at the latter's official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. The Russian leader will receive a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 11 a.m. on Friday, which will be followed by a visit to Rajghat, where he will lay a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

On agenda

The 23rd India-Russia annual summit will commence at 11.50 a.m. at Hyderabad House, to be followed by press statements by Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin. The Russian leader had visited India last on December 6, 2021 for the annual summit when he had not addressed the media as it was a brief visit. On Friday afternoon, Mr. Putin will attend a business event at the Bharat Mandapam in the capital. His last official engagement on Fri-

day will be at the Rashtrapati Bhavan where President Droupadi Murmu will host him at a banquet dinner.

Several members of Mr. Putin's official delegation reached New Delhi hours before his arrival. Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday evening. In a post on 'X', Mr. Singh said after the meeting "India is determined for expanding capacity of indigenous defence industry for both local production and exports" and discussed "new opportunities" in "niche technologies".

Around the same time, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and discussed interbank, credit cooperation, expanding payment infrastructure and the India-Russia investment protection agreement.

Timed with these discussions, Herman Gref, CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board of Russia's largest bank Sberbank met the media and announced that Russia and India have been carrying out large-scale transactions without the use of 'third party' technology.

Mr. Gref also said that Sberbank have launched First-India, a closed-end mutual fund focused on Nifty50 index that will facilitate greater Russian investments into the Indian stock market.

Both Ministers reiterated that the bilateral partnership is rooted in deep mutual trust, shared principles, and long-standing respect, the Ministry of Defence said. Mr. Singh further underscored India's commitment to strengthening its indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, the Ministry said.

PM welcomes Putin at airport in warm gesture, hails India-Russia partnership प्रधानमंत्री ने गर्मजोशी से हवाई अड्डे पर पुतिन का स्वागत किया, भारत-रूस साझेदारी की प्रशंसा की

- In a special gesture, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** welcomed Russian President **Vladimir Putin** upon his arrival at the **Air Force Station, Palam** on Thursday evening, ahead of the India-Russia annual summit scheduled for **Friday**.
एक विशेष gesture में, प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने रूसी राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** का **एयर फ़ोर्स स्टेशन, पालम** पर गुरुवार शाम आगमन पर स्वागत किया, जो **शुक्रवार** को निर्धारित भारत-रूस वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन से पहले था।
- This is Mr. Putin's first state visit to India since the beginning of the war in Ukraine**, which is currently drawing global attention because of renewed peace efforts involving U.S. President **Donald Trump**.
यह श्री पुतिन की **यूक्रेन** युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद भारत की पहली राजकीय यात्रा है, जो वर्तमान में **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प** की भागीदारी वाले नए शांति प्रयासों के कारण वैश्विक ध्यान आकर्षित कर रही है।
- "Delighted to welcome my friend, President **Putin** to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a **time-tested** one that has greatly benefited our people," said Prime Minister **Modi** after greeting Mr. Putin on the tarmac of AFS Palam.



“मेरे मित्र राष्ट्रपति पुतिन का भारत में स्वागत करते हुए प्रसन्न हूँ। आज शाम और कल हमारी बातचीत का इंतजार है। भारत-रूस मित्रता समय-परीक्षित है जिसने हमारे लोगों को बहुत लाभ पहुंचाया है,” प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने AFS पालम के टैरमाक पर श्री पुतिन का स्वागत करने के बाद कहा।

On agenda कार्यसूची में

- The **23rd India-Russia annual summit** will commence at **11.50 a.m.** at **Hyderabad House**, to be followed by press statements by Mr. **Modi** and Mr. **Putin**.
23वां भारत-रूस वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन 11.50 बजे हैदराबाद हाउस में शुरू होगा, जिसके बाद श्री **मोदी** और श्री **पुतिन** प्रेस बयान देंगे।
- The Russian leader had visited India last on **December 6, 2021** for the annual summit when he had not addressed the media as it was a brief visit.
रूसी नेता ने अंतिम बार **6 दिसंबर 2021** को वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए भारत का दौरा किया था, जब उन्होंने मीडिया को संबोधित नहीं किया था क्योंकि वह यात्रा संक्षिप्त थी।
- On Friday afternoon, Mr. **Putin will attend a business event at the Bharat Mandapam in the capital**.
शुक्रवार दोपहर, श्री **पुतिन** राजधानी के **भारत मंडपम** में एक **व्यावसायिक कार्यक्रम** में भाग लेंगे।
- His last official engagement on Friday will be at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** where President **Droupadi Murmu** will host him at a **banquet dinner**.
शुक्रवार को उनका अंतिम आधिकारिक कार्यक्रम **राष्ट्रपति भवन** में होगा जहाँ राष्ट्रपति **द्रौपदी मुर्मू** उनके सम्मान में **भोज** देंगी।
- Several members of Mr. **Putin's official delegation** reached New Delhi hours before his arrival.
श्री **पुतिन के आधिकारिक प्रतिनिधिमंडल** के कई सदस्य उनके आगमन से कुछ घंटे पहले नई दिल्ली पहुँच गए।
- Russian Defence Minister **Andrei Belousov** met Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on Thursday evening.
रूसी रक्षा मंत्री **अंद्री बेलोउसॉव** ने गुरुवार शाम रक्षा मंत्री **राजनाथ सिंह** से मुलाकात की।
- In a post on 'X', Mr. Singh said after the meeting “India is determined for expanding capacity of **indigenous defence industry** for both local production and exports” and discussed “new opportunities” in “**niche technologies**”.
‘X’ पर एक पोस्ट में श्री सिंह ने बैठक के बाद कहा, “भारत **स्वदेशी रक्षा उद्योग** की क्षमता को स्थानीय उत्पादन और निर्यात दोनों के लिए बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है” और “**niche technologies**” में “नए अवसरों” पर चर्चा की।
- Around the same time, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister **Denis Manturov** met Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and discussed **interbank, credit cooperation**, expanding **payment infrastructure** and the **India-Russia investment protection agreement**.
उसी समय, रूस के प्रथम उप प्रधानमंत्री **डेनिस मंतुरोव** ने वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** से मुलाकात की और **इंटरबैंक, क्रेडिट सहयोग, भुगतान अवसंरचना** का विस्तार और **भारत-रूस निवेश संरक्षण समझौते** पर चर्चा की।
- Timed with these discussions, **Herman Gref**, CEO and Chairman of **Sberbank**, Russia's largest bank, met the media and announced that Russia and India have been carrying out **large-scale transactions** without the use of ‘**third party**’ technology.
इन्हीं चर्चाओं के दौरान, **हर्मन ग्रेफ**, रूस के सबसे बड़े बैंक **स्बरबैंक** के CEO और चेयरमैन, मीडिया से मिले और घोषणा की कि रूस और भारत ‘**थर्ड पार्टी**’ तकनीक का उपयोग किए बिना **बड़े पैमाने पर लेनदेन** कर रहे हैं।
- Mr. Gref also said that Sberbank has launched **First-India**, a closed-end mutual fund focused on **Nifty50 index** that will facilitate greater Russian investments into the Indian stock market.
श्री ग्रेफ ने यह भी कहा कि स्बरबैंक ने **फर्स्ट-इंडिया** लॉन्च किया है, जो **निफ्टी50 इंडेक्स** पर केंद्रित एक क्लोज़-एंड म्यूचुअल फंड है, जो भारतीय शेयर बाजार में रूसी निवेश को बढ़ाएगा।

Putin's visit a tense tightrope walk for Modi government amid Western sanction threats



पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों की धमकियों के बीच मोदी सरकार के लिए पुतिन की यात्रा एक तनावपूर्ण संतुलन साधने जैसा

- Putin's visit a tense tightrope walk for Modi government amid Western sanction threats
पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों की धमकियों के बीच मोदी सरकार के लिए पुतिन की यात्रा एक तनावपूर्ण संतुलन साधने जैसी होगी
- **As Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked down the red carpet at Palam airport** on Thursday to give Russian President Vladimir Putin his trademark hug as part of a grand welcome, **the government signalled that India's ties with Russia are untouched by Western concerns, the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant, and U.S. and European sanctions.**
गुरुवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जब पालम हवाई अड्डे पर रेड कार्पेट पर चलते हुए रूस के राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन को अपने प्रसिद्ध आलिंगन से भव्य स्वागत देने पहुंचे, तो सरकार ने संकेत दिया कि **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध न्यायालय के गिरफ्तारी वारंट, और अमेरिकी व यूरोपीय प्रतिबंधों** सहित पश्चिमी चिंताओं से भारत-रूस संबंध अप्रभावित हैं।
- Even so, as the two leaders sit down for bilateral talks on Friday, the government will need to manage a tense tightrope walk, particularly between Russia and Europe, on a number of issues including the optics of the visit, **oil imports and trade**, defence, nuclear cooperation, and a mobility agreement.
फिर भी, जब दोनों नेता शुक्रवार को द्विपक्षीय वार्ता के लिए बैठेंगे, तो सरकार को कई मुद्दों पर — जैसे यात्रा की छवि, **तेल आयात और व्यापार**, रक्षा, परमाणु सहयोग, और एक गतिशीलता समझौता — विशेष रूप से रूस और यूरोप के बीच तनावपूर्ण संतुलन साधना होगा।
- The optics of the visit are particularly significant, given the other visitors expected shortly — a **U.S. trade delegation**, German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz**, and the **EU's top leadership Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa**, who will be guests for Republic Day and the EU-India summit.
यात्रा की छवि विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि जल्द ही अन्य आगंतुक आने वाले हैं — **अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमंडल**, जर्मन चांसलर **फ्रेडरिक मर्ज**, और **ईयू शीर्ष नेतृत्व उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन और एंटोनियो कोस्टा**, जो गणतंत्र दिवस और ईयू-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन के अतिथि होंगे।
- The **government hopes to finalise the EU-India FTA as well as the U.S.-India FTA in the next few weeks**, and will not want the announcements made in meetings on Friday to delay or derail any of those outcomes.
सरकार को उम्मीद है कि वह अगले कुछ हफ्तों में **ईयू-भारत एफटीए** और **अमेरिका-भारत एफटीए** को अंतिम रूप दे देगी, और शुक्रवार की बैठकों में किए जाने वाले किसी भी घोषणा से इन परिणामों में देरी या रुकावट नहीं चाहती।

Oil and trade तेल और व्यापार

- Russian oil is by far the most contentious piece of the diplomatic puzzle, after a rapid expansion in India's oil purchases from less than **2% to 40%** last year, driving India-Russia trade from \$10 billion to **\$68.7 billion** in 2024-25.
रूसी तेल कूटनीतिक पहली का सबसे विवादास्पद हिस्सा है, क्योंकि भारत के तेल आयात **2%** से बढ़कर **40%** हो गए, जिससे भारत-रूस व्यापार 10 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर **68.7 अरब डॉलर** (2024-25) हो गया।
- With India now expected to cut its oil imports drastically in the wake of U.S. sanctions, India and Russia will on Friday discuss replacing at least some of those oil purchases with other commodities from Russia, as well as boosting Indian exports.
अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के चलते भारत के तेल आयात में भारी कटौती की उम्मीद के बीच, भारत और रूस शुक्रवार को तेल खरीद के कुछ हिस्से को अन्य रूसी वस्तुओं से बदलने और भारतीय निर्यात बढ़ाने पर चर्चा करेंगे।
- Both sides will also push for more progress on the **FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)**, even as Indian exporters hit by the U.S.'s **50% tariffs** seek new markets.
दोनों पक्ष **भारत और यूरोशियन आर्थिक संघ (EAEU)** के बीच एफटीए पर प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाएंगे, जबकि **50% अमेरिकी शुल्क** से प्रभावित भारतीय निर्यातक नए बाजार तलाश रहे हैं।



Labour mobility श्रम गतिशीलता

- The **India-Russia labour mobility agreement** to be announced as the “centrepiece” of Mr. Putin’s visit could be a crucial boost for Indian skilled and semi-skilled workers.
श्री पुतिन की यात्रा का “मुख्य आकर्षण” बनने वाला **भारत-रूस श्रम गतिशीलता समझौता** भारतीय कुशल और अर्ध-कुशल श्रमिकों के लिए बेहद महत्वपूर्ण बढ़ोतरी साबित हो सकता है।
- Russia is facing a labour shortfall of around **3.1 million jobs** by the end of the decade and seeks Indian workers for construction, technology, and manufacturing sectors.
रूस दशक के अंत तक **3.1 मिलियन नौकरियों** की कमी का सामना कर रहा है और निर्माण, प्रौद्योगिकी और विनिर्माण क्षेत्रों के लिए भारतीय श्रमिकों की तलाश कर रहा है।
- The visit will be watched most closely for any **defence deals**, given past **U.S. threats under CAATSA over India’s purchase of S-400 systems**.
यह यात्रा किसी भी **रक्षा सौदे** के लिए सबसे अधिक ध्यान से देखी जाएगी, खासकर क्योंकि अमेरिका ने पहले **CAATSA** के तहत भारत के **S-400 सिस्टम** खरीदने पर प्रतिबंध की धमकी दी थी।
- With the Russian Duma now clearing the **RELOS military logistics pact**, more joint military exercises — earlier protested by the EU — may be expected.
रूसी डूमा द्वारा **रेलोस सैन्य रसद समझौता** मंजूर किए जाने के साथ, भारत-रूस के बीच और संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास — जिनका ईयू ने विरोध किया था — की उम्मीद की जा सकती है।

Nuclear pact परमाणु समझौता

- The same is true for nuclear power cooperation.
परमाणु ऊर्जा सहयोग के लिए भी यही बात लागू होती है।
- The **Department of Atomic Energy held talks with Russia’s state-owned Rosatom on India’s plans for five indigenous small modular reactors**.
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग ने रूस की सरकारी कंपनी **रोसाटॉम** के साथ भारत के पाँच स्वदेशी छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टरों की योजना पर बातचीत की।
- France and other EU member states are also bidding for these projects.
फ्रांस और अन्य ईयू सदस्य देश भी इन परियोजनाओं के लिए बोली लगा रहे हैं।



India cuts Russian oil imports by a sharp 38% in October

India imported \$3.55 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in Oct. 2025, down from \$5.8 billion in October 2024; Russia still accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume

GS II: IR

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India cut its oil imports from Russia by 38% in value terms and 31% in volume terms in October 2025 as compared with last year, with the cuts driven by a high base effect as well as an overall reduction in India's oil imports.

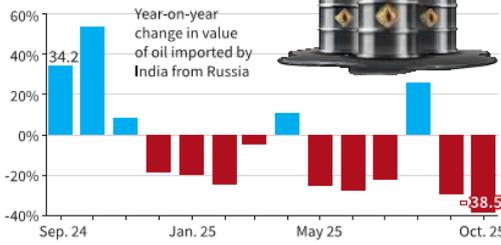
The latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows India imported \$3.55 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in October 2025, down from a historically high \$5.8 billion in October 2024. This is the sharpest single-month drop in the value of oil imports from Russia.

In volume terms, India imported 71.6 lakh tonnes of Russian oil, down from 103.8 lakh tonnes in October 2024, which too was among the highest oil imports India had made from Russia.

This follows up on a 29% reduction in value terms and 17% reduction in volume terms in September 2025. That said, Russia still

Continued cuts

India's cuts in Russian oil imports have been part of a longer trend, but have intensified recently.



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume.

The data shows that this cut in oil imports from Russia comes at a time when India's total oil import bill was also down 15.4% in October 2025. However, it also shows that, during this month, oil imports from the U.S. jumped nearly 40% in volume terms, and 18.3% in value terms as compared with October last year. A previous analysis by *The Hindu* had shown that India's strategy

to pull back on its Russian oil imports had been playing out for a longer period, beginning well before the U.S. imposed a 25% tariff penalty on India in August for importing Russian oil.

Over the last 12 months up to the end of October 2025, India had seen a year-on-year fall in Russian oil imports in nine months. Most of these cuts were in double digits, and six were by more than 20% each.

Notably, on a month-on-month basis, India's imports from Russia have ac-

tually grown. That is, oil imports from Russia in October 2025 were 7.3% and 7.8% higher than in September 2025, by value and volume, respectively.

A report from Rubix Data Sciences, a data analytics firm, predicts that India's imports of Russian oil would have peaked in November, before falling in December.

"India's crude oil imports from Russia are projected to reach their highest level in five months in November 2025, according to preliminary figures from Kpler, as domestic refiners rushed to lock in cargoes before the U.S. deadline of restricting transactions with sanctioned Russian producers took effect on 21st November," it said.

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative and former Director General of Foreign Trade, India's increased dependence on Russian oil over the last few years has resulted in a "lopsided" bilateral relationship.

India cuts Russian oil imports by a sharp 38% in October भारत ने अक्टूबर में रूसी तेल आयात में तेज़ी से 38% की कटौती की

- India cuts Russian oil imports by a sharp 38% in October
भारत ने अक्टूबर में रूसी तेल आयात में 38% की तेज़ कटौती की
- India imported \$3.55 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in Oct. 2025, down from \$5.8 billion in October 2024; Russia still accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume
भारत ने अक्टूबर 2025 में रूस से \$3.55 billion मूल्य का कच्चा तेल आयात किया, जो अक्टूबर 2024 के \$5.8 billion से कम है; मूल्य और मात्रा के आधार पर रूस अभी भी भारत के कुल तेल आयात का लगभग 32% हिस्सा रखता है
- India cut its oil imports from Russia by 38% in value terms and 31% in volume terms in October 2025 as compared with last year, with the cuts driven by a high base effect as well as an overall reduction in India's oil imports.
भारत ने अक्टूबर 2025 में मूल्य के आधार पर 38% और मात्रा के आधार पर 31% की कटौती की, जिसका कारण उच्च आधार प्रभाव और भारत के कुल तेल आयात में कमी है।



- Over the last 12 months up to the end of October 2025, India had seen a year-on-year fall in Russian oil imports in **nine months**. Most of these cuts were in double digits, and **six** were by more than **20%** each.

अक्टूबर 2025 तक पिछले 12 महीनों में, भारत ने **नौ महीनों** में रूसी तेल आयात में वर्ष-दर-वर्ष गिरावट देखी। इनमें से अधिकांश कटौतियाँ दो अंकों में थीं, और **छह** कटौतियाँ **20%** से अधिक थीं।

U.K., Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables



REUTERS

GS II: IR
Britain and Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables from Russia, the U.K. said on Thursday, as Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Støre held talks on defence. The U.K. government says a combined fleet of at least 13 warships will protect **critical infrastructure**. AP

U.K., Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables

यू.के., नॉर्वे समुद्र के नीचे की केबलों की रक्षा के लिए संयुक्त नौसैनिक गश्त लगाएंगे

- U.K., Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables from **Russia**, the **U.K.** said on **Thursday**, as Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** and Norwegian counterpart **Jonas Gahr Støre** held talks on **defence**.

यू.के. ने **गुरुवार** को कहा कि यू.के., नॉर्वे **रूस** से समुद्र के नीचे की केबलों की रक्षा के लिए संयुक्त नौसैनिक गश्त लगाएंगे, क्योंकि प्रधानमंत्री **कीर स्टार्मर** और नॉर्वे के समकक्ष **जोनास गहर स्टोरे** ने रक्षा पर बातचीत की।

- The U.K. government says a combined fleet of at least **13 warships** will protect **critical infrastructure**.

यू.के. सरकार का कहना है कि कम से कम **13 युद्धपोतों** का संयुक्त बेड़ा **महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना** की रक्षा करेगा।

GS Paper III: Economy

05_12_2025

TOPICS COVERED

1.

Parliament approves Bill to levy excise duty on tobacco
संसद ने तंबाकू पर उत्पाद शुल्क लगाने वाला विधेयक मंजूर किया



Parliament approves Bill to levy excise duty on tobacco

GS III: Economy
Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday approved a Bill to levy a higher excise duty on tobacco and related products once the Goods and Services Tax compensation cess ends, with the Rajya Sabha returning the legislation to the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 on Wednesday.

Replying to a discussion on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said this was not an additional tax, and the tax burden, as currently applicable under the GST regime, will continue.

She said that in the last GST Council, it was discussed in detail, and as was agreed earlier, that the compensation cess collection will probably come to a stop at the end of December.

“Let me assure here itself straight away that the tobacco products will still



Nirmala Sitharaman

be taxed under the demerit category at 40% in the GST frame of things. They will still be taxed at 40%, but there will not be any compensation,” Ms. Sitharaman said.

The provisions of the Bill will come into effect once the GST compensation cess, which is currently levied on tobacco, comes to an end.

Loan repaid

The cess will cease to exist after the ₹2.69 lakh crore loan taken to compensate States for revenue loss during the COVID-19 pandemic is repaid, which is likely

to happen in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Sitharaman said the items cannot be taxed beyond 40 per cent under the new GST changes, even if they are demerit goods.

“The incidence of tax on tobacco and tobacco-related products has therefore come down. You have no compensation. The highest rate that you have in GST is 40 per cent, and as a result, it gives the impression that the government has allowed a lesser tax on tobacco, and therefore, it’s going to become affordable. The intent is not that,” she said.

The Finance Minister said that within the GST scheme of things, it continues to be at the highest rate, but now the compensation cess cannot be collected. She said, “We have to come back to the excise. The central excise act will now be back again.”

Ms. Sitharaman also told the House that farmers are being encouraged to give up tobacco and grow other cash crops.

Parliament approves Bill to levy excise duty on tobacco संसद ने तंबाकू पर उत्पाद शुल्क लगाने वाला विधेयक मंजूर किया

- Parliament approves Bill to levy excise duty on tobacco
संसद ने तंबाकू पर उत्पाद शुल्क लगाने वाला विधेयक मंजूर किया।
- Parliament on Thursday approved a Bill to levy a higher excise duty on tobacco and related products once the **Goods and Services Tax compensation cess** ends, with the **Rajya Sabha** returning the legislation to the **Lok Sabha**.
संसद ने गुरुवार को तंबाकू और संबंधित उत्पादों पर अधिक उत्पाद शुल्क लगाने के लिए एक विधेयक को मंजूरी दी, जो **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST)** मुआवजा उपकर समाप्त होने के बाद लागू होगा, तथा **राज्यसभा** ने विधेयक को **लोकसभा** को वापस भेज दिया।
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025** on Wednesday.
लोकसभा ने बुधवार को **केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025** पारित किया।
- Replying to a discussion on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said this was not an additional tax, and the tax burden, as currently applicable under the **GST regime**, will continue.



राज्यसभा में विधेयक पर चर्चा का जवाब देते हुए केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने कहा कि यह कोई अतिरिक्त कर नहीं है, और **GST व्यवस्था** के तहत वर्तमान में लागू कर बोज़ जारी रहेगा।

- She said that in the last **GST Council**, it was discussed in detail, and as was agreed earlier, that the compensation cess collection will probably come to a stop at the end of **December**. उन्होंने कहा कि पिछली **GST परिषद** में इस पर विस्तार से चर्चा हुई थी, और पहले ही यह सहमति बनी थी कि मुआवजा उपकर संग्रह संभवतः **दिसंबर** के अंत में बंद हो जाएगा।
- "Let me assure here itself straight away that the tobacco products will still be taxed under the **demerit category** at **40%** in the GST frame of things. "मैं यहाँ पर स्पष्ट रूप से आश्वस्त करना चाहती हूँ कि तंबाकू उत्पादों पर GST ढांचे के तहत **डिमेरिट श्रेणी** में **40%** कर लगाया जाता रहेगा।
- They will still be taxed at **40%**, but there will not be any **compensation**," Ms. Sitharaman said. इन पर **40%** कर लगता रहेगा, लेकिन कोई **मुआवजा** नहीं होगा," सीतारमण ने कहा।
- The provisions of the Bill will come into effect once the **GST compensation cess**, which is currently levied on tobacco, comes to an end. विधेयक के प्रावधान तब प्रभाव में आएंगे जब तंबाकू पर लगने वाला **GST मुआवजा उपकर** समाप्त हो जाएगा।

Loan repaid

ऋण चुकाया गया

- The cess will cease to exist after the **₹2.69 lakh crore loan** taken to compensate States for revenue loss during the **COVID-19 pandemic** is repaid, which is likely to happen in the next couple of weeks. **₹2.69 लाख करोड़ ऋण**, जो **COVID-19 महामारी** के दौरान राज्यों के राजस्व नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए लिया गया था, उसके चुकता होते ही यह उपकर समाप्त हो जाएगा, जो अगले कुछ हफ्तों में होने की संभावना है।
- Ms. Sitharaman said the items cannot be taxed beyond **40 per cent** under the new **GST changes**, even if they are demerit goods. सीतारमण ने कहा कि नए **GST बदलावों** के तहत वस्तुओं पर **40 प्रतिशत** से अधिक कर नहीं लगाया जा सकता, भले ही वे डिमेरिट वस्तुएँ हों।
- "The incidence of tax on tobacco and tobacco-related products has therefore come down. "तंबाकू और तंबाकू-संबंधित उत्पादों पर कर का बोज़ इसलिए कम हो गया है।
- You have no compensation. The **highest rate that you have in GST is 40 per cent**, and as a result, it gives the impression that the government has allowed a lesser tax on tobacco, and therefore, it's going to become affordable. आपके पास अब कोई मुआवजा नहीं है। GST में सबसे अधिक दर **40 प्रतिशत** है, और परिणामस्वरूप यह आभास होता है कि सरकार ने तंबाकू पर कम कर की अनुमति दी है, जिससे यह सस्ता होने वाला है।
- The intent is not that," she said. मंशा यह नहीं है," उन्होंने कहा।
- The Finance Minister said that within the **GST scheme**, it continues to be at the highest rate, but now the compensation cess cannot be collected. वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि **GST व्यवस्था** के तहत यह अब भी उच्चतम दर पर है, लेकिन अब मुआवजा उपकर नहीं वसूला जा सकता।
- She said, "We have to come back to the **excise**. The **central excise act** will now be back again." उन्होंने कहा, "हमें फिर से **उत्पाद शुल्क** पर लौटना होगा। **केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम** अब फिर से वापस आएगा।"
- Ms. Sitharaman also told the House that farmers are being encouraged to give up tobacco and grow other **cash crops**. सीतारमण ने सदन को यह भी बताया कि किसानों को तंबाकू छोड़कर अन्य **नकदी फसलों** की खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।



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

TOPICS COVERED

05_12_2025

S&T

1. **What is causing a surge in cases of kidney failure in Telangana?**
तेलंगाना में किडनी फेलियर के मामलों में वृद्धि का कारण क्या है?

2. QUIZ

What is causing a surge in cases of kidney failure in Telangana?

While a scientific link is yet to be established, doctors are raising concerns about the increasing number of patients who are consuming alternative medicines with no prescriptions, alongside the widespread problem of quackery; they call for clamp down on all illegal and unsafe practices

GS III: S&T
Siddharth Kumar Singh

Across Telangana, doctors are battling a problem that is becoming increasingly common: kidney failure. These patients are young, many are the breadwinners of their families, and most do not have the usual risk factors of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which are diabetes and hypertension. Then why are their kidneys failing?

Even as researchers continue to examine the drivers of this pattern and nephrologists struggle to save patients, a paper published last year, may perhaps point to one of possible answer: the growing number of patients consuming self-prescribed alternative medicines. While the link has not yet been scientifically established, this is a line of inquiry researchers now want to pursue. It may be noted that certain alternative medicines have been implicated in liver injuries in India.

The study, led by nephrologists from Osmania General Hospital and Apollo Hospitals, examined 75 patients and was published in the *Indian Journal of Nephrology* in August 2024. Conducted between March 2021 and November 2022 at Osmania General Hospital, it was a single-centre, prospective observational study documenting the clinical and epidemiological profile of patients with chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology in Telangana and assessing their kidney histology.

Among the 75 patients, the mean age was 41.7 years and 68% were men. A majority, amounting to 77.3%, relied on groundwater as their primary drinking



Patients must consult only licensed experts and follow prescriptions that clearly mention the name of the medicine along with the credentials of the practitioner

G. SRINIVAS
Vice-Chairman, Telangana Medical Council

water source. 40% reported having used alternative medicine in the past and 46.6% underwent kidney biopsies as part of the evaluation.

What the study found

Manisha Sahay, professor and head of the nephrology department at Osmania General Hospital and one of the authors of the study, said many patients who report using alternative medicine had taken these substances without medical guidance.

"Patients often rely on suggestions from friends or quacks who do not hold any degree in any recognised system of medicine. In most instances, they do not have a prescription and consume these products in the form of powders, liquids, leaves or tablets, often supplied in unnamed bottles."

Dr. Sahay further added that even when patients mention alternative medicine use, they rarely bring samples for analysis, making it difficult to establish a clear link between the substances consumed and the kidney damage observed. Although 40% of those studied reported past use, the absence of

traceable samples meant the cause and effect relationship cannot yet be established, but the team is pursuing this line of research.

The histological analysis in the study revealed that 44% of the patients had global glomerulosclerosis, which indicates that more than half of the kidney's filtering units were scarred and non-functional.

No traditional risk factors

Dr. Sahay said the main finding was that patients with chronic kidney disease who fit the phenotype for chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology, as defined in known hotspots elsewhere, are not uncommon in Telangana. She said the cases are not confined to people with traditional risk factors such as agricultural work and that this is the first report documenting the presence of such cases in the State.

Most participants were from Hyderabad, accounting for 42.7%, followed by 10% from Rangareddy district. About one-third, or 33%, had hyperuricemia, which refers to elevated uric acid levels in the blood. Of the patients, 40% had already reached stage five chronic kidney disease at the time of diagnosis, and seven patients, representing 9.3%, required renal replacement therapy such as dialysis when they were evaluated.

While more research is needed across the State to establish definitive links, this combined with the deep-rooted menace of quackery in the State has now led to calls by medical professionals to both clamp down on all illegal and unsafe medical practices.

G. Srinivas, Vice-Chairman of the Telangana Medical Council (TGMC), said that unqualified practitioners prescribing unregulated herbal or alternative medicines pose a serious risk to patients' kidney health. "Many of these substances are given without any knowledge of dosage, strength or side effects. We do not know how much of these medicines people are consuming, what the mechanism of action is, how they are metabolised in the liver or kidneys, or what enzymes are involved. We also do not know how these substances interact with the medicines that patients may already be taking for conditions like hypertension or diabetes," he said.

According to him, such interactions can lead either to excessively rapid metabolism, which causes the drug to be cleared too quickly, or to slow metabolism, which results in the accumulation of the substance in the blood. "Slow metabolism causes the drug to build up in the body and this can damage internal organs, including the liver, kidneys and even the brain.

He added that irrational prescribing by quacks is a known contributor to kidney failure in peripheral and rural areas. "In many places, unqualified practitioners give combinations like dexamethasone and diclofenac sodium as injections for quick pain relief. These drugs directly damage the nephrons and can lead to kidney failure," he said.

"Patients must consult only licensed experts and follow prescriptions that clearly mention the name of the medicine along with the credentials of the practitioner," said Dr. Sahay. (siddharth.kumar@thehindu.co.in)

What is causing a surge in cases of kidney failure in Telangana? तेलंगाना में किडनी फेलियर के मामलों में वृद्धि का कारण क्या है?

Surge in Kidney Failure Cases in Telangana
तेलंगाना में किडनी फेल होने के मामलों में बढ़ोतरी



- Across **Telangana**, doctors are battling a problem that is becoming increasingly common: **kidney failure**.
पूरे तेलंगाना में डॉक्टर एक ऐसी समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं जो तेजी से आम होती जा रही है: **किडनी फेल्योर**।
- These patients are young, many are the breadwinners of their families, and most do not have the usual risk factors of **chronic kidney disease (CKD)**, which are **diabetes and hypertension**.
ये मरीज युवा हैं, कई अपने परिवारों के कमाने वाले हैं, और अधिकांश में **क्रॉनिक किडनी डिजीज (CKD)** के सामान्य जोखिम कारक जैसे **डायबिटीज और हाइपरटेंशन** नहीं हैं।
- Then why are their kidneys failing?
तो फिर उनकी किडनियाँ क्यों फेल हो रही हैं?
- Even as researchers continue to examine the drivers of this pattern and nephrologists struggle to save patients, a paper published last year may perhaps point to one possible answer: the growing number of patients consuming **self-prescribed alternative medicines**.
जब शोधकर्ता इस पैटर्न के कारणों की जांच कर रहे हैं और नेफ्रोलॉजिस्ट मरीजों को बचाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, पिछले वर्ष प्रकाशित एक पेपर एक संभावित कारण की ओर संकेत कर सकता है: बढ़ती संख्या में मरीजों द्वारा **स्व-निर्धारित वैकल्पिक दवाओं** का सेवन।
- While the link has not yet been **scientifically established**, this is a line of inquiry researchers now want to pursue.
हालांकि यह लिंक अभी **वैज्ञानिक रूप से स्थापित** नहीं हुआ है, शोधकर्ता अब इस दिशा में जांच करना चाहते हैं।
- It may be noted that certain **alternative medicines** have been implicated in **liver injuries** in India.
यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि कुछ **वैकल्पिक दवाओं** को भारत में **लीवर इंजरी** से जोड़ा गया है।

What the Study Found अध्ययन में क्या पाया गया

- **Manisha Sahay**, professor and head of the nephrology department at **Osmania General Hospital**, and one of the authors of the study, said many patients who report using alternative medicine had taken these substances **without medical guidance**.
मनीषा सहाय, जो **उस्मानिया जनरल अस्पताल** में नेफ्रोलॉजी विभाग की प्रमुख और अध्ययन की लेखकों में से एक हैं, ने कहा कि कई मरीज जिन्होंने वैकल्पिक दवाओं के उपयोग की रिपोर्ट दी, उन्होंने ये पदार्थ **बिना किसी चिकित्सीय मार्गदर्शन** के लिए।
- "Patients often rely on suggestions from **friends or quacks** who do not hold any degree in any recognised system of medicine. In most instances, they do not have a **prescription** and consume these products in the form of **powders, liquids, leaves or tablets**, often supplied in **unnamed bottles**."
"मरीज अक्सर **दोस्तों या झोलाछापों** की सलाह पर निर्भर करते हैं जिनके पास किसी मान्यता प्राप्त चिकित्सा प्रणाली की कोई डिग्री नहीं होती। अधिकांश मामलों में, उनके पास कोई **प्रिस्क्रिप्शन** नहीं होता और वे इन उत्पादों को **पाउडर, तरल, पत्तियों या टैबलेट** के रूप में उपभोग करते हैं, जो अक्सर **बिना नाम वाली बोतलों** में दिए जाते हैं।"
- Dr. Sahay further added that even when patients mention alternative medicine use, they rarely bring **samples for analysis**, making it difficult to establish a clear link.
डॉ. सहाय ने आगे कहा कि जब मरीज वैकल्पिक दवाओं के उपयोग का उल्लेख भी करते हैं, तब भी वे शायद ही कभी **विश्लेषण के लिए नमूने** लाते हैं, जिससे स्पष्ट लिंक स्थापित करना मुश्किल हो जाता है।
- Although **40%** of those studied reported past use, the absence of traceable samples meant the **cause and effect relationship** cannot yet be established, but the team is pursuing this line of research.
हालांकि **40%** मरीजों ने अतीत में उपयोग की रिपोर्ट दी, ट्रेस करने योग्य नमूनों की अनुपस्थिति के कारण **कारण और प्रभाव संबंध** अभी स्थापित नहीं किया जा सकता, लेकिन टीम इस दिशा में शोध जारी रखे हुए है।
- The histological analysis in the study revealed that **44% of the patients had global glomerulosclerosis**, which indicates that **more than half of the kidney's filtering units were scarred and non-functional**.
अध्ययन में हिस्टोलॉजिकल विश्लेषण से पता चला कि **44%** मरीजों में **ग्लोबल ग्लोमेरुलोस्क्लेरोसिस** था, जो दर्शाता है कि **किडनी की आधे से अधिक फिल्टरिंग यूनिट्स क्षतिग्रस्त और गैर-कार्यात्मक** थीं।



No traditional risk factors

कोई पारंपरिक जोखिम कारक नहीं

- Dr. Sahay said the main finding was that patients with chronic kidney disease who fit the phenotype for chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology, as defined in known hotspots elsewhere, are not uncommon in Telangana.
डॉ. सहाय ने कहा कि मुख्य निष्कर्ष यह था कि क्रॉनिक किडनी डिजीज वाले वे मरीज, जो अज्ञात कारणों वाली क्रॉनिक किडनी डिजीज के **phenotype** में फिट होते हैं, जैसा कि अन्य ज्ञात **hotspots** में परिभाषित है, तेलंगाना में असामान्य नहीं हैं।
- “Slow metabolism causes the drug to build up in the body and this can damage internal organs, including the liver, kidneys and even the brain.
“धीमा metabolism दवा को शरीर में जमा कर देता है और इससे **liver, kidneys**, और यहाँ तक कि **brain** भी क्षतिग्रस्त हो सकता है।”
- He added that **irrational prescribing by quacks is a known contributor to kidney failure in peripheral and rural areas.**
उन्होंने कहा कि झोलाछापों द्वारा **irrational prescribing** बाहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में किडनी फेल होने का एक ज्ञात कारण है।
- “In many places, unqualified practitioners give combinations like **dexamethasone and diclofenac sodium** as injections for quick pain relief. **These drugs directly damage the nephrons and can lead to kidney failure,**” he said.
“कई जगहों पर अप्रशिक्षित चिकित्सक **dexamethasone** और **diclofenac sodium** जैसी दवाओं के इंजेक्शन **quick pain relief** के लिए देते हैं। ये दवाएँ सीधे **nephrons** को नुकसान पहुँचाती हैं और किडनी फेल का कारण बन सकती हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “Patients must consult only licensed experts and follow prescriptions that clearly mention the name of the medicine along with the credentials of the practitioner,” said Dr. Sahay
“मरीजों को केवल **licensed experts** से परामर्श करना चाहिए और उन प्रिस्क्रिप्शन्स का पालन करना चाहिए जिनमें दवा का नाम और चिकित्सक की **credentials** स्पष्ट रूप से लिखी हों,” डॉ. सहाय ने कहा।

Answers to previous edition's quiz:

1. What does mm HG stand for? **Ans: Millimeters of mercury**
 2. Systolic is the pressure when the heart _____ and diastolic is the pressure when the heart is _____. **Ans: beats or contracts and at rest, between beats**
 3. True or False: Your heart beats about 1,00,000 times a day. **Ans: True**
 4. What happens to the arteries when you have uncontrolled hypertension? **Ans: They narrow and harden**
 5. Approximately how many liters of blood does your heart pump? **Ans: About five litres**
 6. What is the condition low bp known as? **Ans: Hypotension**
 7. True or False: Veins carry oxygenated blood from the heart to various parts of the body. **Ans: False**
 8. Easiest way to help lower bp is to remove or reduce this ingredient from foods? **Ans: Salt**
- visual: What is its medical name of the device? **Ans: Sphygmomanometer**

QUIZ

Meaning of mm Hg (Millimeters of Mercury)

- **mm Hg stands for millimeters of mercury.**
- It is a standard **unit of pressure.**

Mercury was historically preferred because it is:

- **Very dense**, allowing shorter columns to measure large pressures.
- **Stable and non-reactive**, giving accurate and consistent readings.
- **Easily visible**, making measurement simple and reliable.
- When pressure increases, the mercury column **rises**; when pressure decreases, it **falls**.
- Thus, pressure could be described directly by the **height of the mercury column.**

- The unit originates from the experiments of **Evangelista Torricelli in 1643**, who invented the mercury barometer.



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Understanding Systolic and Diastolic Pressure

- **Systolic pressure** is the pressure in the arteries **when the heart beats or contracts**.
- **Diastolic pressure** is the pressure in the arteries **when the heart is at rest, between beats**.
- Example: A blood pressure reading of **120/80 mm Hg** means:
 - **120 mm Hg = systolic pressure (heart contracting)**
 - **80 mm Hg = diastolic pressure (heart resting)**

1. Systole (Heart Contracts)

- During systole, the **left ventricle contracts**, pushing blood forcefully into the aorta.
- This creates the **highest pressure** in the arteries.
- Because of this strong force, **systolic pressure is always higher number**.

Simple explanation:

- Systole is like pressing a pump—maximum pressure is generated.

2. Diastole (Heart at Rest)

- During diastole, the heart **relaxes and refills with blood**.
- Arterial pressure drops but does not reach zero because arteries stay partially stretched.
- Hence, **diastolic pressure is always lower**.

Simple analogy:

- Diastole is the moment when the pump relaxes and prepares for the next push.

Why Both Numbers Matter

- **Systolic pressure** tells how hard the heart is working during contraction.
- **Diastolic pressure** tells how well the arteries relax and how the heart recovers between beats.

- A normal healthy adult has a resting heart rate of about **60–100 beats per minute (bpm)**.
- Using a typical adult rate of **70 bpm**, the daily calculation is:
 - Beats per hour = $70 \times 60 = 4,200$
 - Beats per day = $4,200 \times 24 = 1,00,800$
 - Therefore, “about **1 lakh beats per day**” is a scientifically accurate approximation.

Normal Heart Rate Ranges

- **Adults:** 60–100 bpm at rest.
- **Athletes:** 40–60 bpm at rest (more efficient hearts).
- **Children:** Higher heart rates than adults; infants may have 100–160 bpm.

These variations influence the **total number of beats per day**, but the adult average still comes close to **1 lakh**.

Factors That Change the Number of Heartbeats per Day

- **Activity level:** Exercise increases heart rate.
- **Sleep:** Heart rate falls at night.
- **Fitness level:** Fitter individuals have lower resting heart rates.

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- **Emotions & stress:** Can temporarily raise heart rate.
- **Illness & fever:** Increase heart rate.
- **Age:** Children have higher overall daily beats.

Why the “1,00,000 Beats per Day” Concept Matters

- It highlights the tremendous, continuous workload of the human heart.
- Over an average lifespan of 70 years, the heart can **beat 2.5–3 billion times**.

What Happens to the Arteries in Uncontrolled Hypertension?

- **Hypertension** means persistently high pressure inside the blood vessels (arteries).
- When this high pressure remains **uncontrolled**, it causes continuous stress on the artery walls.
- Over time, the arteries undergo two major changes:
- They **narrow**
- They **harden**

Arterial Narrowing (Lumen Becomes Smaller)

- In healthy arteries, the inner passage (lumen) is **wide and smooth**, allowing easy blood flow.
- With uncontrolled hypertension:
- The **high pressure damages the endothelium** (inner lining).
- Fat, cholesterol, and inflammatory cells begin to **accumulate**.
- **Atherosclerotic plaques** develop and **protrude into the lumen**.

Arterial Hardening (Loss of Elasticity)

- Normally, arteries are **elastic**: they expand during systole and recoil in diastole.
- Persistent high pressure leads to:
- Thickening of the arterial wall
- Increased deposition of **collagen**
- Reduction of **elastic fibers**
- The artery becomes:
- **Stiff / hardened**
- Less able to expand
- Less able to absorb pressure waves
- This condition is known as **arteriosclerosis**.

Why Narrowing and Hardening are Dangerous

- Narrowing increases resistance → **blood pressure rises further**.
- Hardening increases systolic pressure → **heart is strained**.
- Together, they create a **vicious cycle**, **worsening hypertension**.

Approximately How Many Litres of Blood Does the Heart Pump?

- The human body contains **about five litres of blood** on average.
- This is the **total blood volume** that the heart continuously circulates through arteries, veins, and capillaries.

Physiological Importance

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- The heart must continuously pump these **five litres** to:
- Supply oxygen to tissues
- Remove carbon dioxide
- Transport hormones
- Maintain pH and temperature
- Support immunity

Even slight changes in this circulation can affect organ function, showing why **blood volume and cardiac output are critical for survival.**

What Is the Condition of Low Blood Pressure Called?

- **Hypotension is the medical term for low blood pressure.**
- Blood pressure is measured as **systolic / diastolic** (e.g., 120/80 mmHg).
- Hypotension is generally considered when **BP is below 90/60 mmHg**, especially if symptoms appear.

Why Low Blood Pressure Occurs

- In hypotension, **blood pressure inside arteries becomes abnormally low.**
- **This causes reduced blood flow to vital organs, especially the brain and heart.**
- As a result, the body may not receive enough **oxygen and nutrients.**

Symptoms of Hypotension

- Dizziness or light-headedness
- Blurred vision
- Weakness or fatigue
- Fainting (syncope)
- Cold, clammy skin (in severe cases)
- Confusion (in cases of extremely low BP)

These happen because **organ perfusion is reduced.**

Hypotension vs. Hypertension (One-Line Difference)

- **Hypotension = Low BP**, immediate risk of reduced blood flow to organs.
- **Hypertension = High BP**, long-term risk of artery damage and organ complications.

True or False: Veins carry oxygenated blood from the heart to various parts of the body.

- Veins do **not** carry blood **from the heart to the body.**
- In the human circulatory system:
 - **Arteries carry blood away from the heart.**
 - **Veins carry blood toward the heart.**
- In **systemic circulation**, arteries carry **oxygenated blood** from the **left ventricle** to all body parts.
- Veins return **deoxygenated blood** from the body back to the **right atrium.**

Thus, the statement is **False** because **veins do not carry oxygenated blood to body tissues.**

- Usually carry **oxygen-rich blood** in the systemic circuit.
- Have **thick, elastic walls** to withstand high pressure.
- Main example: **Aorta.**



Veins

- Usually carry **oxygen-poor blood** in the systemic circuit.
- Have **thin walls**, a **larger lumen**, and **valves** to prevent backflow.
- Main examples: **Superior vena cava, inferior vena cava.**

Even though arteries generally carry oxygenated blood and veins carry deoxygenated blood, **the direction of flow** is the real defining characteristic.

Pulmonary Circulation

- **Pulmonary artery**
- Carries **deoxygenated blood** from right ventricle to lungs.
- **Pulmonary veins**
- Carry **oxygenated blood** from lungs to left atrium.

Easiest Way to Help Lower Blood Pressure: Reduce Salt (Sodium)

- The simplest and most effective dietary step to lower blood pressure is reducing **salt (sodium)** intake.
- Salt contains **sodium**, a mineral that significantly affects fluid balance and blood pressure regulation.
- Excess sodium causes the body to **retain more water**, increasing the **volume of blood** flowing through arteries.
- Greater blood volume inside the same vessels results in **higher blood pressure.**

GS Paper III: Environment	
TOPICS COVERED	05_12_2025
1.	Wildlife body BNHS to release 6 critically endangered vultures in Assam in 2026 वन्यजीव संस्था BNHS 2026 में असम में 6 अति संकटग्रस्त गिद्धों को छोड़ेगी
2.	M.P. CM releases 3 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री ने 3 चीता कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में छोड़े
3.	A day to pause and come down to earth रुककर ज़मीन पर लौट आने का एक दिन



Wildlife body BNHS to release 6 critically endangered vultures in Assam in 2026

GS III: Environment

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), which has successfully bred more than 800 vultures in its conservation breeding centres across India, is now preparing to release six vultures in Assam in January 2026.

BNHS scientists on Thursday said they are finalising the dates to release three male and as many female slender-billed and white-rumped vultures, aged between two and three years, in Assam's Kamrup and Biswanath districts. They were bred at BNHS Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Rani, Kamrup district.

About the selection of Kamrup and Biswanath districts as the location to release the vultures, BNHS Senior Scientist and Assistant Director Dr. Sachin Ranade explained, "These locations fall within the natural range of vultures where there are already a



White-rumped vulture at BNHS Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Kamrup district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

small flock of them and Biswanath is closer to Kaziranga National Park."

"The vultures will be kept there for a minimum of three months to experience the surrounding nature and adapt. During this time, they will observe other scavengers and become familiar with the environment. Since they have been bred in captivity – even though the enclosures are large – this will be their first experience of

true wilderness."

"Vultures live in flocks, attain maturity after the age of five, and can live up to 50 to 60 years. They have high immunity and do not easily catch infections or diseases," the BNHS scientists said. The founder stock (parents of these vultures) was collected from different parts of Assam. Dr. Ranade said the slender-billed vulture is mainly found in Assam, whereas white-

rumped vultures are found across India.

Currently, India is home to about 20,000 vultures across nine species, including bearded vulture, griffon vulture, and cinereous vulture.

The endangered species are the Egyptian vulture and the Himalayan griffon vulture, while the critically endangered species include the red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture, long-billed vulture, and slender-billed vulture.

The scientists are working with local communities to save vultures in their natural habitats. The BNHS team, supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Assam Forest Department, has been working for over 15 years to prepare the ground for the release.

They are conducting village-level meetings and educating villagers about vultures and their importance.

Wildlife body BNHS to release 6 critically endangered vultures in Assam in 2026

वन्यजीव संस्था BNHS 2026 में असम में 6 अति संकटग्रस्त गिद्धों को छोड़ेगी

- Wildlife body BNHS to release 6 critically endangered vultures in Assam in 2026
वन्यजीव संस्था BNHS 2026 में असम में 6 अति संकटग्रस्त गिद्धों को छोड़ेगी
- The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**, which has successfully bred more than **800 vultures** in its conservation breeding centres across India, is now preparing to release six vultures in Assam in **January 2026**.
बॉम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी (BNHS), जिसने पूरे भारत में अपने संरक्षण प्रजनन केंद्रों में **800 से अधिक गिद्धों** का सफलतापूर्वक प्रजनन किया है, अब **जनवरी 2026** में असम में छह गिद्धों को छोड़ने की तैयारी कर रही है।
- BNHS scientists on Thursday said they are finalising the dates to release three male and as many female slender-billed and white-rumped vultures, aged between two and three years, in Assam's **Kamrup and Biswanath districts**.
BNHS वैज्ञानिकों ने गुरुवार को कहा कि वे असम के **कामरूप और बिस्वनाथ जिलों** में दो से तीन वर्ष आयु



के तीन नर और तीन मादा पतली-चोंच वाले और सफेद-पीठ वाले गिद्धों को छोड़ने की तारीखें अंतिम रूप दे रहे हैं।

- They were bred at **BNHS Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Rani, Kamrup district**. इनका प्रजनन **BNHS वल्चर कंजर्वेशन ब्रीडिंग सेंटर, रानी, कामरूप जिला** में हुआ था।
- About the selection of Kamrup and Biswanath districts as the location to release the vultures, BNHS Senior Scientist and Assistant Director **Dr. Sachin Ranade** explained, "These locations fall within the natural range of vultures where there are already a small flock of them and **Biswanath is closer to Kaziranga National Park.**"
कामरूप और बिस्वनाथ जिलों को गिद्ध छोड़ने के स्थान के रूप में चुनने पर BNHS के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक और सहायक निदेशक **डॉ. सचिन रानाडे** ने कहा, "ये स्थान गिद्धों के प्राकृतिक क्षेत्र में आते हैं, जहां पहले से एक छोटा समूह मौजूद है और बिस्वनाथ **काज़ीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान** के अधिक निकट है।"
- "The vultures will be kept there for a minimum of three months to experience the surrounding nature and adapt. During this time, they will observe other scavengers and become familiar with the environment. Since they have been bred in captivity — even though the enclosures are large — this will be their first experience of true wilderness."
"गिद्धों को कम से कम तीन महीनों तक वहां रखा जाएगा ताकि वे आसपास की प्रकृति का अनुभव कर सकें और अनुकूलित हो सकें। इस दौरान वे अन्य मृतभक्षियों को देखेंगे और वातावरण से परिचित होंगे। चूंकि उन्हें बंदी अवस्था में पाला गया है — भले ही बाड़े बड़े हों — यह उनके लिए वास्तविक जंगल का पहला अनुभव होगा।"
- "Vultures live in flocks, attain maturity after the age of five, and can live up to **50 to 60 years**. They have high immunity and do not easily catch infections or diseases," the BNHS scientists said.
BNHS वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा, "गिद्ध झुंड में रहते हैं, पांच वर्ष की आयु के बाद परिपक्वता प्राप्त करते हैं और **50 से 60 वर्ष** तक जीवित रह सकते हैं। उनकी प्रतिरक्षा क्षमता बहुत अधिक होती है और वे आसानी से संक्रमण या बीमारियाँ नहीं पकड़ते।"
- The founder stock (parents of these vultures) was collected from different parts of Assam. इन गिद्धों के संस्थापक समूह (अभिभावक) असम के विभिन्न हिस्सों से एकत्र किए गए थे।
- Dr. Ranade said the slender-billed vulture is mainly found in Assam, whereas white-rumped vultures are found across India.
डॉ. रानाडे ने कहा कि पतली-चोंच वाला गिद्ध मुख्य रूप से असम में पाया जाता है, जबकि सफेद-पीठ वाला गिद्ध पूरे भारत में पाया जाता है।
- Currently, India is home to about **20,000 vultures** across nine species, including bearded vulture, griffon vulture, and cinereous vulture.
वर्तमान में भारत नौ प्रजातियों के लगभग **20,000 गिद्धों** का घर है, जिनमें दाढ़ी वाला गिद्ध, ग्रिफॉन गिद्ध और सिनेरियस गिद्ध शामिल हैं।
- **The endangered species are the Egyptian vulture and the Himalayan griffon vulture, while the critically endangered species include the red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture, long-billed vulture, and slender-billed vulture.**
संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों में **मिस्री गिद्ध** और **हिमालयी ग्रिफॉन गिद्ध** शामिल हैं, जबकि अति संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों में **लाल-सर वाला गिद्ध, सफेद-पीठ वाला गिद्ध, लंबी-चोंच वाला गिद्ध, और पतली-चोंच वाला गिद्ध** शामिल हैं।
- The scientists are working with local communities to save vultures in their natural habitats. वैज्ञानिक गिद्धों को उनके प्राकृतिक आवासों में बचाने के लिए स्थानीय समुदायों के साथ काम कर रहे हैं।
- The BNHS team, supported by the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** and the **Assam Forest Department**, has been working for over **15 years** to prepare the ground for the release.
रॉयल सोसाइटी फॉर द प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ बर्ड्स (RSPB) और **असम वन विभाग** के सहयोग से BNHS टीम पिछले **15 वर्षों** से गिद्धों की रिहाई की तैयारी कर रही है।
- They are conducting village-level meetings and educating villagers about vultures and their importance.
वे गांव-स्तर की बैठकें कर रहे हैं और ग्रामीणों को गिद्धों और उनके महत्व के बारे में जागरूक कर रहे हैं।



GS III: Environment

M.P. CM releases 3 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday released three cheetahs into the wild from their enclosures at the **Kuno National Park (KNP)** in Sheopur district, on **International Cheetah Day**. According to officials, Mr. Yadav released Veera and her two 10-month-old cubs in the Parond forest region. He said that the pledge of bringing the big cats back to Asia had picked up pace. "Sheopur Kuno region has now become an international-level centre. The tourism here has gone up five times and the way their [cheetahs] family is growing, the displaced people of the region will get new work opportunities in the coming time," he said.

new work opportunities in the coming time," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "श्योपुर-कुनो क्षेत्र अब एक **अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर का केंद्र** बन गया है। यहाँ पर्यटन **पाँच गुना** बढ़ गया है और जिस तरह उनका [चीतों का] परिवार बढ़ रहा है, आने वाले समय में क्षेत्र के विस्थापित लोगों को **नए रोजगार के अवसर** मिलेंगे।"

M.P. CM releases 3 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park

मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री ने 3 चीता कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में छोड़े

• M.P. CM releases 3 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park

मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री ने 3 चीता कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में छोड़े।

• Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** on Thursday released **three cheetahs** into the wild from their enclosures at the **Kuno National Park (KNP)** in **Sheopur district**, on **International Cheetah Day**.

मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री **मोहन यादव** ने गुरुवार को **इंटरनेशनल चीता डे** पर **श्योपुर जिले के कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (KNP)** में बने बाड़ों से **तीन चीतों** को जंगल में छोड़ा।

• According to officials, Mr. Yadav released **Veera** and her **two 10-month-old cubs** in the **Parond forest region**.

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, श्री यादव ने **वीरा** और उसके **दो 10 महीने के शावकों** को **परोड़ वन क्षेत्र** में छोड़ा।

• He said that the pledge of bringing the **big cats** back to **Asia** had picked up pace.

उन्होंने कहा कि **एशिया** में **बड़े बिल्लियों** को वापस लाने का संकल्प अब तेजी पकड़ रहा है।

• "Sheopur Kuno region has now become an **international-level centre**. The tourism here has gone up **five times** and the way their [cheetahs] family is growing, the displaced people of the region will get



A day to pause and come down to earth

GS III: Environment

MCQ

Every year on December 5, the world pauses to acknowledge one of the most overlooked foundations of human civilisation: soil. **World Soil Day**, established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the **United Nations**, is more than an environmental observance. It is a reminder of the silent and living resource that sustains life. For 2025, the theme, “**Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities**”, shifts the focus from the rural farmland to the concrete jungle, highlighting a critical truth – the ground beneath our cities is not mere dirt, but a dynamic ally in building a resilient urban future.

With over 56% of the global population now living in cities, urban environments are confronting unprecedented challenges, from food insecurity and pollution to devastating flooding and extreme heat. At the heart of the solution to these issues lies an often-forgotten ally: urban soil.

An unsung hero

When we think of soil, we picture farms. But our urban soils are silent, unsung heroes. They are living filters, natural sponges and carbon sinks that exist right beneath our parks, street trees and community gardens. Their health is directly linked to the resilience and well-being of our urban populations. A teaspoon of healthy soil contains more organisms than there are people on earth, and this vibrant ecosystem performs extraordinary services. These include: first, combating climate change and extreme heat – urban areas often become “heat islands”, several degrees warmer than their surroundings. Healthy soils, especially when covered with vegetation, absorb heat, sequester atmospheric carbon, and act as natural air conditioners in parks, community gardens, and green medians.



A.N. Ganeshamurthy

is Emeritus Scientist, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, former Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, and former Head, Department of Soil Science, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru

World Soil Day is a reminder of the need to look after a life-sustaining and silent resource – soil

Second, preventing floods and managing water – as climate change intensifies rainfall, cities paved with concrete surfacing face frequent flooding. Healthy soil is a city’s first line of defence, acting like a sponge to absorb rainfall, filter it, and replenish groundwater supplies, unlike impermeable surfaces.

Third, supporting urban food systems and biodiversity – the rise of urban agriculture, from rooftop farms to backyard plots, relies entirely on fertile soil, shortening food chains and enhancing local resilience. These soil-based habitats also support a web of life, from earthworms and microbes to pollinators, which are essential for decomposition and plant growth.

Fourth, enhancing mental and physical well-being – contact with nature, or “Vitamin N,” in urban green spaces has been proven to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. Gardening and time spent in green, soil-rich environments encourage physical activity and improve mental health. Despite its immense value, urban soil is among the most degraded natural resources. The FAO notes that nearly a third of the world’s soils are degraded, a problem magnified in cities. Urban soils face contamination from industrial waste, severe compaction from construction, loss of organic matter, and “sealing” by concrete and asphalt, which suffocates soil life. These pressures weaken plant growth, threaten food safety, and cripple the very ecosystems that make cities livable, making the theme of 2025 an urgent call to action.

A blueprint for action

The “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities” campaign is a blueprint for transforming our urban landscapes. It calls on municipal governments, planners, community groups, and every resident to become stewards of the ground beneath them.

Key actions include first, urban soil restoration and protection. Cities must prioritise rehabilitating degraded land through compost addition, soil testing and organic amendments. Limiting further soil sealing from new construction is equally critical to protect this non-renewable resource.

Second, promoting green infrastructure. We must replace concrete with soil-based solutions wherever possible. Soils under parks, rain gardens, and tree belts are not just aesthetic; they are vital infrastructure that reduces flooding and heat stress.

Third, championing urban agriculture. Community and backyard gardens are powerful tools for improving soil health while providing fresh food, recreation and social bonding. The theme encourages everyone to plant, even in containers on a balcony.

Fourth, embracing responsible soil management. This involves adopting eco-friendly practices such as reducing chemical fertilizers, minimising pesticide use, planting native species, and protecting topsoil with mulching.

Fifth, boosting soil literacy and composting. Schools are encouraged to host hands-on soil tests and workshops. Meanwhile, every household can contribute to this by composting kitchen waste, and turning organic residues into nutrient-rich food for urban soil.

The basis of healthy cities

On December 5 this year, the message is clear. The foundation of a resilient city is not just steel and concrete. It is living, breathing soil. By caring for the ground beneath our feet, we directly safeguard our cities, our health, and our shared future. Healthy cities depend on healthy soils, and healthy soils depend on informed, engaged communities.

A day to pause and come down to earth रुककर ज़मीन पर लौट आने का एक दिन

World Soil Day विश्व मृदा दिवस

- Every year on **December 5**, the world pauses to acknowledge one of the most overlooked foundations of human civilization: soil.
हर वर्ष **5 दिसंबर** को विश्व मानव सभ्यता की सबसे उपेक्षित नींवों में से एक: मृदा को स्वीकार करने के लिए रुकता है।
- **World Soil Day**, established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the **United Nations**, is more than an environmental observance.
विश्व मृदा दिवस, **संयुक्त राष्ट्र के FAO** द्वारा स्थापित, केवल एक पर्यावरणीय दिवस नहीं है।
- It is a reminder of the silent and living resource that sustains life.
यह जीवन को बनाए रखने वाले मौन और जीवित संसाधन की याद दिलाता है।
- For **2025**, the theme, “**Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities**”, shifts the focus from the rural farmland to the concrete jungle, highlighting a critical truth — the ground beneath our cities is not mere dirt, but a dynamic ally in building a resilient urban future.
2025 की थीम “**सशक्त शहरों के लिए स्वस्थ मृदा**” ग्रामीण खेतों से ध्यान हटाकर शहरी क्षेत्रों पर लाती है और यह दर्शाती है कि शहरों के नीचे की मिट्टी केवल गंदगी नहीं बल्कि एक **महत्वपूर्ण सहयोगी** है।
- With over **56% of the global population now living in cities**, urban environments are confronting unprecedented challenges, from food insecurity and pollution to devastating flooding and extreme heat.
दुनिया की **56% जनसंख्या** शहरों में रहने के कारण खाद्य असुरक्षा, प्रदूषण, बाढ़ और अत्यधिक गर्मी जैसी चुनौतियाँ बढ़ रही हैं।
- At the heart of the solution to these issues lies an often-forgotten ally: **urban soil**.
इन समस्याओं का समाधान एक भूला हुआ सहयोगी है: **शहरी मृदा**।



An unsung hero एक अनदेखा नायक

- When we think of soil, we picture farms.
जब हम मिट्टी सोचते हैं तो हम खेतों की कल्पना करते हैं।
- But our urban soils are silent, unsung heroes.
लेकिन शहरी मिट्टी एक मौन, अनदेखा नायक है।
- **They are living filters, natural sponges and carbon sinks** that exist right beneath our parks, street trees and community gardens.
यह जीवंत फिल्टर, प्राकृतिक स्पंज और **कार्बन सिंक** हैं जो पार्कों, सड़क किनारे पेड़ों और सामुदायिक बागों के नीचे मौजूद हैं।
- Their health is directly linked to the resilience and well-being of our urban populations.
इनकी सेहत शहरी आबादी की **सहनशीलता और कल्याण** से जुड़ी है।
- A teaspoon of healthy soil contains **more organisms than the number of people on earth**, and this vibrant ecosystem performs extraordinary services.
स्वस्थ मिट्टी के एक चम्मच में **धरती की जनसंख्या से अधिक जीव** होते हैं, और यह पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र अद्भुत सेवाएँ करता है।
- These include: first, combating **climate change** and **extreme heat** — urban areas often become **“heat islands”**, several degrees warmer than their surroundings.
इसमें शामिल है: पहला, **जलवायु परिवर्तन** और **अत्यधिक गर्मी** से लड़ना — शहरी क्षेत्र अक्सर **हीट आइलैंड** बन जाते हैं।
- Healthy soils, especially when covered with vegetation, absorb heat, sequester atmospheric carbon, and act as natural air conditioners in parks, community gardens, and green medians.
स्वस्थ मिट्टी, विशेषकर वनस्पति से ढकी, गर्मी अवशोषित करती है, **कार्बन** को रोकती है और प्राकृतिक एयर कंडीशनर की तरह काम करती है।
- Second, preventing **floods** and managing water — as climate change intensifies rainfall, cities paved with concrete surfacing face frequent flooding.
दूसरा, **बाढ़ रोकना** और पानी प्रबंधन — जलवायु परिवर्तन से वर्षा बढ़ने पर कंक्रीट से ढके शहर बार-बार बाढ़ झेलते हैं।
- Healthy soil is a city's first line of defence, acting like a sponge to absorb rainfall, filter it, and replenish groundwater supplies, unlike impermeable surfaces.
स्वस्थ मिट्टी स्पंज की तरह पानी सोखकर, फिल्टर करके भूजल भरती है, जबकि कंक्रीट ऐसा नहीं कर पाता।
- Third, supporting urban food systems and biodiversity — the **rise of urban agriculture, from rooftop farms to backyard plots, relies entirely on fertile soil, shortening food chains and enhancing resilience**.
तीसरा, शहरी खाद्य प्रणाली और जैव विविधता — **शहरी कृषि** पूरी तरह उपजाऊ मिट्टी पर निर्भर है जो खाद्य श्रृंखला को छोटा करती है।
- These soil-based habitats also support a web of life, from earthworms and microbes to pollinators, essential for decomposition and plant growth.
ये मिट्टी आधारित आवास केंचुए, सूक्ष्मजीव और **परागणकर्ताओं** सहित जीवन जाल को समर्थन देते हैं।
- Fourth, enhancing mental and physical well-being — contact with nature, or **“Vitamin N”**, in urban green spaces has been proven to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.
चौथा, मानसिक और शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य बढ़ाना — प्रकृति का संपर्क या **“विटामिन N”** तनाव और अवसाद को कम करता है।
- Gardening and time spent in green, soil-rich environments encourage physical activity and improve mental health.
हरी, मिट्टी-समृद्ध जगहों में समय बिताना शारीरिक गतिविधि बढ़ाता है और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सुधारता है।
- Despite its immense value, urban soil is among the most **degraded natural resources**.
अपार मूल्य के बावजूद, शहरी मिट्टी सबसे **अधिक क्षतिग्रस्त प्राकृतिक संसाधनों** में से है।
- The **FAO notes that nearly a third of the world's soils are degraded**, a problem magnified in cities.
FAO के अनुसार दुनिया की लगभग **एक-तिहाई मिट्टी क्षतिग्रस्त** है, और शहरों में यह समस्या और बढ़ जाती है।
- **Urban soils face contamination from industrial waste, severe compaction from construction, loss of organic matter, and “sealing” by concrete and asphalt, which suffocates soil life.**



शहरी मिट्टी **औद्योगिक कचरे**, निर्माण के कारण सघन दबाव, जैविक पदार्थ की कमी और कंक्रीट द्वारा **सील** होने से क्षतिग्रस्त होती है।

- These pressures weaken plant growth, threaten food safety, and cripple the very ecosystems that make cities livable, making the theme of **2025** an urgent call to action.
ये दबाव पौधों की वृद्धि कमजोर करते हैं, खाद्य सुरक्षा घटाते हैं और शहरी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को क्षति पहुँचाते हैं, जिससे **2025** की थीम एक त्वरित कार्रवाई की पुकार बन जाती है।

A blueprint for action

कार्यवाही के लिए एक खाका

- The “**Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities**” campaign is a blueprint for transforming our urban landscapes.
“**सशक्त शहरों के लिए स्वस्थ मृदा**” अभियान हमारे शहरी परिदृश्य को बदलने के लिए एक खाका है।
- It calls on municipal governments, planners, community groups, and every resident to become stewards of the ground beneath them.
यह नगरपालिका सरकारों, योजनाकारों, समुदाय समूहों और प्रत्येक निवासी से अपने नीचे की जमीन के **संरक्षक** बनने का आह्वान करता है।
- Key actions include first, **urban soil restoration and protection**.
मुख्य कार्रवाइयों में पहला है **शहरी मिट्टी का पुनर्स्थापन और संरक्षण**।
- Cities must prioritise rehabilitating degraded land through **compost addition, soil testing and organic amendments**.
शहरों को **कंपोस्ट**, **मृदा परीक्षण**, और **जैविक संशोधन** के माध्यम से क्षतिग्रस्त भूमि के पुनर्वास को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।
- **Limiting further soil sealing from new construction is equally critical to protect this non-renewable resource**.
नए निर्माण से मिट्टी के **सीलिंग** को रोकना इस **अ-नवीकरणीय संसाधन** की रक्षा के लिए उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Second, promoting **green infrastructure**.
दूसरा, **हरित अवसंरचना** को बढ़ावा देना।
- We must replace concrete with **soil-based solutions** wherever possible.
जहाँ भी संभव हो, हमें कंक्रीट की जगह **मिट्टी-आधारित समाधान** अपनाने चाहिए।
- Soils under parks, rain gardens, and tree belts are not just aesthetic; they are vital infrastructure that reduces **flooding and heat stress**.
पार्कों, रेन गार्डनों और पेड़ पट्टियों की मिट्टी सिर्फ सौंदर्य नहीं, बल्कि **बाढ़ और गर्मी तनाव** को कम करने वाला महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना घटक है।
- Third, championing **urban agriculture**.
तीसरा, **शहरी कृषि** को बढ़ावा देना।
- Community and backyard gardens are powerful tools for improving soil health while providing fresh food, recreation and social bonding.
सामुदायिक और पिछवाड़े के बाग मिट्टी स्वास्थ्य सुधारने के साथ **ताज़ा भोजन**, मनोरंजन और सामाजिक सामंजस्य का साधन हैं।
- The theme encourages everyone to plant, even in containers on a balcony.
थीम सभी को पौधे लगाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है, चाहे **बालकनी में कंटेनर** में ही क्यों न हो।
- Fourth, embracing **responsible soil management**.
चौथा, **जिम्मेदार मृदा प्रबंधन** को अपनाना।
- This involves adopting eco-friendly practices such as **reducing chemical fertilizers, minimising pesticide use, planting native species, and protecting topsoil with mulching**.
इसमें **रासायनिक उर्वरकों** को कम करना, **कीटनाशकों** का न्यूनतम उपयोग, **स्थानीय प्रजातियों** का रोपण और **मल्लिचिंग** द्वारा शीर्ष मिट्टी की सुरक्षा शामिल है।
- Fifth, boosting **soil literacy and composting**.
पाँचवाँ, **मृदा साक्षरता** और **कम्पोस्टिंग** को बढ़ावा देना।
- Schools are encouraged to host hands-on **soil tests** and workshops.
स्कूलों को **मृदा परीक्षण** और कार्यशालाएँ आयोजित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।
- Meanwhile, every household can contribute to this by **composting kitchen waste**, and turning organic residues into nutrient-rich food for urban soil.



हर घर **रसोई अपशिष्ट की कम्पोस्टिंग** कर सकता है और जैविक अपशिष्ट को पोषक तत्वों से भरपूर मिट्टी खाद में बदल सकता है।

The basis of healthy cities

स्वस्थ शहरों की नींव

- On **December 5** this year, the message is clear.
इस वर्ष **5 दिसंबर** को संदेश स्पष्ट है।
- The foundation of a resilient city is not just steel and concrete.
एक सशक्त शहर की नींव केवल स्टील और कंक्रीट नहीं है।
- It is living, breathing **soil**.
यह जीवित, सांस लेती **मिट्टी** है।
- By caring for the ground beneath our feet, we directly safeguard our cities, our health, and our shared future.
हम अपने पैरों के नीचे की मिट्टी की देखभाल करके अपने शहरों, अपने स्वास्थ्य और अपने साझा भविष्य की रक्षा करते हैं।
- Healthy cities depend on **healthy soils**, and healthy soils depend on informed, engaged communities.
स्वस्थ शहर **स्वस्थ मिट्टी** पर निर्भर करते हैं, और स्वस्थ मिट्टी **जागरूक एवं सक्रिय समुदायों** पर निर्भर करती है।

DM

05/12/2025

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Taking to the skies



GS III: IS: Defence

The Indian Navy's MiG-29 multirole fighter aircraft takes off from the INS Vikrant aircraft carrier during a Navy Day operational demonstration off the coast of Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The Indian Navy's MiG-29 multirole fighter aircraft takes off from the INS Vikrant aircraft carrier during a Navy Day operational demonstration off the coast of Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram. NIRMAL HARINDRAN