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PCS Special:

18 December 2025

1.

Dembele, Bonmati scoop FIFA Best awards
डेम्बेले, बोनमाती ने फीफा बेस्ट पुरस्कार जीते

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Dembele, Bonmati scoop FIFA Best awards

PCS

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

France and Paris Saint-Germain attacker Ousmane Dembele won the men's FIFA Best award at a ceremony in Qatar on Tuesday, while Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati collected the women's prize.

PSG's Spanish coach Luis Enrique was named best coach of a men's team.

In the goalkeeping category, Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma picked up the men's award.

The awardees:

Player: Women: Aitana Bonmati; **men:** Ousmane Dembele.

Goalkeeper: Women: Hannah Hampton; **men:** Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Coach: Women: Sarina Wiegman; **men:** Luis Enrique

Best goal: Women (Marta award): Lizbeth Ovalle; **men (Puskas award):** Santiago Montiel.

Fan award: Fans of Zakho SC
Fair Play: Dr Harlass-Neuking.



Dembele. FIFA



Bonmati. AFP

Dembele, Bonmati scoop FIFA Best awards डेम्बेले, बोनमाती ने फीफा बेस्ट पुरस्कार जीते

- **France and Paris Saint-Germain** attacker **Ousmane Dembele** won the men's **FIFA Best award** at a ceremony in **Qatar** on **Tuesday**, while **Barcelona** midfield maestro **Aitana Bonmati** collected the women's prize
फ़्रांस और पेरिस सेंट-जर्मेन के आक्रमणकारी उस्मान डेम्बेले ने मंगलवार को कतर में आयोजित समारोह में पुरुषों का फीफा बेस्ट पुरस्कार जीता, जबकि बार्सिलोना की मिडफील्ड महारथी ऐताना बोनमाती ने महिलाओं का पुरस्कार प्राप्त किया
- **PSG's Spanish coach Luis Enrique** was named **best coach of a men's team**
पीएसजी के स्पेनिश कोच लुइस एनरिके को पुरुष टीम का सर्वश्रेष्ठ कोच नामित किया गया
- In the **goalkeeping category**, **Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma** picked up the men's award
गोलकीपिंग श्रेणी में इटली के जियानलुइजी डोनारुम्मा ने पुरुषों का पुरस्कार जीता

The awardees: पुरस्कार विजेता:

- **Player: Women: Aitana Bonmati; men: Ousmane Dembele**
खिलाड़ी: महिलाएँ: ऐताना बोनमाती; पुरुष: उस्मान डेम्बेले
- **Goalkeeper: Women: Hannah Hampton; men: Gianluigi Donnarumma**
गोलकीपर: महिलाएँ: हैना हैम्पटन; पुरुष: जियानलुइजी डोनारुम्मा
- **Coach: Women: Sarina Wiegman; men: Luis Enrique**
कोच: महिलाएँ: सरिना विगमैन; पुरुष: लुइस एनरिके
- **Best goal: Women (Marta award): Lizbeth Ovalle; men (Puskas award): Santiago Montiel**
सर्वश्रेष्ठ गोल: महिलाएँ (मार्टा पुरस्कार): लिज़बेथ ओवाले; पुरुष (पुस्कास पुरस्कार): सैंटियागो मॉन्टिएल
- **Fan award: Fans of Zakho SC**
फैन पुरस्कार: जाखो एससी के प्रशंसक
- **Fair Play: Dr Harlass-Neuking**
फेयर प्ले: डॉ. हार्लास-न्यूकिंग



GS Paper 1: History,

TOPICS COVERED

18 December 2025

- Forgotten footprints: the story of Sikhs uprooted from Kashmir post Partition**
भूली हुई पदचिन्हें: विभाजन के बाद कश्मीर से विस्थापित सिखों की कहानी

Forgotten footprints: the story of Sikhs uprooted from Kashmir post Partition

In 1947, as India and Pakistan were torn apart by Partition, a little-known invasion unfolded in Jammu and Kashmir. A new documentation for the 1947 Partition Archives tells the story of Dalip Singh Deepak, revealing a chapter of history often erased from South Asia's collective memory

GS I: History

Kanwal Singh

The broader Partition discourse in South Asia has often overlooked the horrors endured by the people of Jammu & Kashmir during the tribal raids of 1947. Works like *Freedom at Midnight* and *Midnight's Furies* mention it only in passing. Only a handful of works by authors and survivors from J&K offer deeper context, eyewitness testimonies, and vital historical detail that illuminate the region's largely forgotten trauma.

One of the earliest and searing eyewitness accounts is Krishna Mehta's memoir, *Kashmir 47-48*, (also published as *Kashmir 1947: A Survivor's Story*). Mehta, the wife of a senior civil servant stationed in Muzaffarabad as the Wazir-i-Wazarat, records the sudden collapse of civil administration as tribal raiders entered the town in October 1947. Her memoir traces the attack on her home, her escape with her children, and the terror that gripped civilians as order disintegrated. What distinguishes her narrative is not only the violence she witnesses but her attention to the everyday textures of fear: children separated from parents, and women navigating survival in captivity. Mehta's account refuses the language of abstraction, and moral dilemmas during the invasion. It insists that the tribal raids and the first war over Kashmir was, before anything else, a humanitarian catastrophe.

If Mehta's memoir captures the shock of invasion, Amar Nath Saraf's *Rajouri Remembered* documents what followed in one of the worst-affected regions. Drawing on survivor testimonies, local records, and personal recollection, Saraf reconstructs the massacre and displacement at Rajouri in 1947-48. His work stands out for its insistence on naming the dead and recording the silences left behind. Rajouri, in Saraf's

telling, is not a strategic footnote but a landscape of trauma on which scars remain visible across generations.

Together, these books establish a crucial point: the violence in J&K during Partition was not peripheral to the subcontinent's history. It altered cultural geographies, redefined identities and the demographic landscape of J&K. Countless Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims from areas now in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir endured trauma, loss of family and homes, and decades of marginalisation.

Mapping an absence

Yet even these accounts leave gaps, especially regarding the Sikhs of J&K, who were deeply rooted across Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Budgam, Baramulla, Poonch, and even the frontier regions of Gilgit, Skardu and Baltistan.

That absence is addressed powerfully in *An Invisible Minority: The History, Society and Politics of Sikhs in Kashmir* by Komal J.B. Singh (Routledge, 2025). In Chapter 2, Singh traces the history of Sikhs in Kashmir and the abrupt rupture of 1947. She shows how the tribal invasion transformed Sikhs into an "invisible" minority – numerically small, politically peripheral, and largely excluded from dominant narratives of Kashmir's past. Singh's work provides the structural and historical framework within which individual testimonies must be read.

These books, the missing landscape, photographs in an old family album and a handwritten draft of my grandfather's memoir, 'Nangali Sahib and 1947', led me to talk to survivors for their 1947 recollections. In those fading images lived a story history forgot: how J&K, untouched by the Radcliffe Line, was forced into a war when armed tribal militias swept across its borders in October 1947. I then decided to train as an oral historian with The 1947 Partition Archive, to record the voices of people

from J&K that history had sidelined.

That work led me to 96-year-old Sardar Dalip Singh Deepak, a retired educator and author from Budgam, Kashmir and one of the last living witnesses.

The last survivor

On October 22, 1947, thousands of tribal fighters backed by Pakistan invaded J&K, swept through Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Baramulla and parts of Poonch and the Valley. Amid the collapse of order, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession acceding J&K to India on October 26, enabling India's military intervention. At dawn on October 27, the 1st Sikh Kumaon Regiment was airlifted to Srinagar, but by then thousands had already suffered irreversible losses, marking the start of the first Indo-Pak war. Born in 1931, Sardar Dalip Singh was just 16 when the 1947 tribal invasion ripped through Kashmir and made him an orphan overnight. In his village, Atina, and nearby Gohlar, 300 Sikhs lost their lives. His mother, Sardarni Mani Kour, was shot dead at their doorstep. His nine-year-old sister, Harbans Kaur disappeared, never to be found. One brother was killed; another died days later from bullet wounds as the family left Srinagar. When Dalip returned months later, his mother's decomposed body and blood stained clothes still lay where she had fallen. "The world can never understand this grief," he said quietly, "Villages in Muzaffarabad were among the first to be destroyed. Thousands were killed, and thousands displaced, as refugee caravans walked over Dhumel Bridge and fled toward Poonch and Srinagar."

Some Sikh villages mounted a defence at Ichahama, Kashmir, using sticks, tools and small arms to delay the Kabaili advance – a resistance that helped buy time for Indian troops to be airlifted to Srinagar and provide a safe passage to

refugees. Historians agree that this resistance may well have altered the course of Kashmir's history.

Rebuilding from rubble

Despite receiving only ₹250 as government compensation, Dalip Singh rebuilt his life from an orphaned teenager to educator and author. From becoming an orphan to rebuilding his life, to discovering the photograph of his martyred brother, S. Joginder Singh, at Piyara Photographs in Lal Chowk, Srinagar – these experiences are not preserved in state archives or history books. They survive in memory and in Dalip Singh Deepak's writings. His books, *Hadsian Choun Phutte Akkhar* (Words Born out of Tragedies), Lokgeet Prakashan, 2008, *Anhad Naad* (The Eternal Sound), Deepak Prakashan, 2021, and *Sehaj Subhaye* (Divine Equanimity), Deepak Prakashan, 2021, are not conventional histories. They are works of reflection shaped by loss, faith, resilience and an effort to anchor trauma within spiritual and historical continuity.

What unites Mehta, Saraf, Singh, and Dalip Singh Deepak, is not genre but urgency. Each, in different ways, confronts a history that South Asia has been unwilling to fully face. Together, they remind us that the story of the tribal invasion in J&K is not complete without its witnesses and survivors.

As these witnesses age and pass on, the responsibility shifts. Listening, recording, and acknowledging these truths is necessary. Stories like Dalip Singh Deepak's are not historical footnotes; they are testaments to courage, and the human spirit's refusal to let memory fade. For as long as these stories remain marginal, the wounds of 1947 will continue to shape one of the world's most volatile and dangerous borders.

Kanwal Singh is a writer, columnist and scholar from J&K.

Forgotten footprints: the story of Sikhs uprooted from Kashmir post Partition भूली हुई पदचिन्हें: विभाजन के बाद कश्मीर से विस्थापित सिखों की कहानी

Partition, Tribal Raids of 1947 and the Forgotten Trauma of Jammu & Kashmir
विभाजन, 1947 के जनजातीय हमले और जम्मू-कश्मीर का भुलाया गया आघात



- The broader **Partition discourse in South Asia** has often overlooked the horrors endured by the people of **Jammu & Kashmir** during the **tribal raids of 1947**

दक्षिण एशिया में **विभाजन विमर्श** ने अक्सर **1947 के जनजातीय हमलों** के दौरान **जम्मू-कश्मीर** के लोगों द्वारा सहे गए अत्याचारों को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है

- Works like **Freedom at Midnight** and **Midnight's Furies** mention it only in passing **फ्रीडम एट मिडनाइट** और **मिडनाइट्स फ्यूरीज़** जैसी कृतियाँ इसका केवल संक्षिप्त उल्लेख करती हैं
- Only a handful of works by authors and survivors from **J&K** offer deeper context, **eyewitness testimonies**, and vital **historical detail** that illuminate the region's largely forgotten trauma **जम्मू-कश्मीर** के लेखकों और जीवित बचे लोगों की कुछ ही रचनाएँ गहन संदर्भ, **प्रत्यक्षदर्शी साक्ष्य**, और महत्वपूर्ण **ऐतिहासिक विवरण** प्रदान करती हैं, जो इस क्षेत्र के लगभग भूले हुए आघात को उजागर करती हैं
- One of the earliest and searing **eyewitness accounts** is **Krishna Mehta's memoir, Kashmir 47-48**, also published as **Kashmir 1947: A Survivor's Story** सबसे प्रारंभिक और मार्मिक **प्रत्यक्षदर्शी विवरणों** में **कृष्णा मेहता** का संस्मरण **कश्मीर 47-48**, जिसे **कश्मीर 1947: ए सर्वाइवर'स स्टोरी** के रूप में भी प्रकाशित किया गया, शामिल है
- Mehta, the wife of a senior civil servant stationed in **Muzaffarabad** as the **Wazir-i-Wazarat**, records the sudden collapse of **civil administration** as tribal raiders entered the town in **October 1947** **मुज़फ़राबाद** में **वज़ीर-ए-वज़ारत** के रूप में तैनात एक वरिष्ठ सिविल सेवक की पत्नी मेहता ने **अक्टूबर 1947** में जनजातीय हमलावरों के प्रवेश के साथ **नागरिक प्रशासन** के अचानक पतन को दर्ज किया
- Her memoir traces the **attack on her home**, her **escape with her children**, and the **terror** that gripped civilians as order disintegrated **उनका संस्मरण घर पर हमले, बच्चों के साथ पलायन**, और व्यवस्था के टूटने के साथ नागरिकों में व्याप्त **आतंक** का वर्णन करता है
- What distinguishes her narrative is not only the **violence** she witnesses but her attention to the **everyday textures of fear** **उनके वर्णन** को विशिष्ट बनाता है न केवल देखा गया **हिंसा**, बल्कि **भय के दैनिक अनुभवों** पर दिया गया ध्यान
- Children **separated from parents**, and **women navigating survival in captivity** **माता-पिता से बिछुड़े बच्चे**, और **कैद में जीवित रहने का संघर्ष** करती महिलाएँ
- Mehta's account refuses the language of abstraction, and **moral dilemmas during the invasion** **मेहता का विवरण** अमूर्त भाषा से इनकार करता है और **आक्रमण के दौरान के नैतिक द्वंद्व** को सामने लाता है
- It insists that the **tribal raids** and the **first war over Kashmir** was, before anything else, a **humanitarian catastrophe** **यह ज़ोर देता है कि जनजातीय हमले और कश्मीर पर पहला युद्ध**, सबसे पहले और प्रमुख रूप से, एक **मानवीय आपदा** थी
- If Mehta's memoir captures the **shock of invasion**, **Amar Nath Saraf's Rajouri Remembered** documents what followed in one of the **worst-affected regions** **यदि मेहता का संस्मरण आक्रमण के झटके** को पकड़ता है, तो **अमरनाथ सराफ** की **राजौरी रिमेम्बर्ड** सबसे **अधिक प्रभावित क्षेत्रों** में उसके बाद की घटनाओं को दर्ज करती है
- Drawing on **survivor testimonies**, **local records**, and **personal recollection**, Saraf reconstructs the **massacre and displacement at Rajouri in 1947-48** **जीवित बचे लोगों के साक्ष्य**, **स्थानीय अभिलेखों**, और **व्यक्तिगत स्मृतियों** के आधार पर सराफ **1947-48 में राजौरी में हुए नरसंहार और विस्थापन** का पुनर्निर्माण करते हैं
- His work stands out for its insistence on **naming the dead** and recording the **silences left behind** **उनकी कृति मृतकों के नाम दर्ज करने** और पीछे छूट गई **खामोशियों** को दर्ज करने पर ज़ोर देने के लिए विशिष्ट है
- Rajouri, in Saraf's telling, is not a **strategic footnote** but a **landscape of trauma** on which scars remain visible across generations





सराफ के वर्णन में राजौरी कोई रणनीतिक फुटनोट नहीं, बल्कि एक आघात का परिदृश्य है, जिसकी छाप पीढ़ियों तक दिखाई देती है

- Together, these books establish a crucial point that the **violence in J&K during Partition** was not **peripheral** to the subcontinent's history
ये पुस्तकें मिलकर यह महत्वपूर्ण बात स्थापित करती हैं कि **विभाजन के दौरान जम्मू-कश्मीर में हुई हिंसा** उपमहाद्वीप के इतिहास के लिए **हाशिए की घटना** नहीं थी
- It altered **cultural geographies, redefined identities, and the demographic landscape of J&K**
इसने **सांस्कृतिक भूगोल** को बदला, **पहचानें पुनर्परिभाषित** कीं, और **जम्मू-कश्मीर के जनसांख्यिकीय परिदृश्य** को रूपांतरित किया
- Countless **Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims** from areas now in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir** endured **trauma, loss of family and homes, and decades of marginalisation**
अब **पाकिस्तान-अधिकृत कश्मीर** में स्थित क्षेत्रों के असंख्य **सिख, हिंदू और मुसलमानों** ने **आघात, परिवार और घरों की क्षति, तथा दशकों के हाशियाकरण** को सहा

Mapping an absence

एक अनुपस्थिति का मानचित्रण

- Yet even these accounts leave **gaps**, especially regarding the **Sikhs of J&K**, who were deeply rooted across **Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Budgam, Baramulla, Poonch, and even the frontier regions of Gilgit, Skardu and Baltistan**
फिर भी ये विवरण **खामियाँ** छोड़ते हैं, विशेषकर **जम्मू-कश्मीर के सिखों** के संदर्भ में, जो **मुज़फ़्फ़राबाद, मीरपुर, बडगाम, बारामूला, पुंछ, और यहाँ तक कि गिलगित, स्कार्दू और बाल्टिस्तान** जैसे सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में गहराई से बसे थे
- That absence is addressed powerfully in **An Invisible Minority: The History, Society and Politics of Sikhs in Kashmir** by **Komal J.B. Singh (Routledge, 2025)**
उस अनुपस्थिति को **कोमल जे.बी. सिंह** की पुस्तक **एन इनविज़िबल माइनोरिटी: द हिस्ट्री, सोसाइटी एंड पॉलिटिक्स ऑफ सिख्स इन कश्मीर (रूटलेज, 2025)** सशक्त रूप से संबोधित करती है
- In **Chapter 2**, Singh traces the **history of Sikhs in Kashmir** and the **abrupt rupture of 1947**
अध्याय 2 में सिंह **कश्मीर में सिखों के इतिहास** और **1947 के अचानक हुए विच्छेद** का विवरण देती हैं
- She shows how the **tribal invasion** transformed Sikhs into an **"invisible" minority, numerically small, politically peripheral, and largely excluded from dominant narratives of Kashmir's past**
वह दिखाती है कि **जनजातीय आक्रमण** ने सिखों को एक **"अदृश्य" अल्पसंख्यक** में बदल दिया, जो **संख्यात्मक रूप से छोटे, राजनीतिक रूप से हाशिए पर, और कश्मीर के अतीत की प्रमुख कथाओं से बाहर** थे
- Singh's work provides the **structural and historical framework** within which individual testimonies must be read
सिंह का कार्य वह **संरचनात्मक और ऐतिहासिक ढाँचा** प्रदान करता है, जिसके भीतर व्यक्तिगत साक्ष्यों को समझा जाना चाहिए
- These books, the **missing landscape, photographs in an old family album, and a handwritten draft of my grandfather's memoir, 'Nangali Sahib and 1947'**, led me to talk to **survivors** for their **1947 recollections**
इन पुस्तकों, **गायब परिदृश्य, पुराने पारिवारिक एल्बम की तस्वीरों, और मेरे दादा की हस्तलिखित स्मृति 'नंगली साहिब एंड 1947'** ने मुझे **जीवित बचे लोगों** से उनकी **1947 की स्मृतियों** पर बातचीत करने के लिए प्रेरित किया
- In those **fading images** lived a story **history forgot**
उन **धुंधली होती तस्वीरों** में एक ऐसी कहानी थी जिसे **इतिहास ने भुला दिया**
- How **J&K, untouched by the Radcliffe Line, was forced into a war** when **armed tribal militias** swept across its borders in **October 1947**
कैसे **रेडक्लिफ रेखा** से अछूता **जम्मू-कश्मीर, अक्टूबर 1947** में **सशस्त्र जनजातीय मिलिशियाओं** के सीमा पार करने पर **युद्ध** में धकेल दिया गया
- I then decided to train as an **oral historian** with **The 1947 Partition Archive**, to record the **voices of people from J&K** that history had **sidelined**



इसके बाद मैंने द 1947 पार्टिशन आर्काइव के साथ मौखिक इतिहासकार के रूप में प्रशिक्षण लेने का निर्णय किया, ताकि इतिहास द्वारा हाशिए पर डाली गई जम्मू-कश्मीर के लोगों की आवाज़ें दर्ज की जा सकें

- That work led me to 96-year-old Sardar Dalip Singh Deepak, a retired educator and author from Budgam, Kashmir, and one of the last living witnesses
वह कार्य मुझे 96 वर्षीय सरदार दलिप सिंह दीपक, बडगाम, कश्मीर के सेवानिवृत्त शिक्षाविद और लेखक, तथा अंतिम जीवित गवाहों में से एक तक ले गया

The last survivor अंतिम जीवित गवाह

- On October 22, 1947, thousands of tribal fighters backed by Pakistan invaded J&K, swept through Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Baramulla and parts of Poonch and the Valley
22 अक्टूबर 1947 को, पाकिस्तान समर्थित हज़ारों जनजातीय लड़ाकों ने जम्मू-कश्मीर पर आक्रमण किया और मुज़फ़्फ़राबाद, मीरपुर, कोटली, बारामूला तथा पुंछ और घाटी के कुछ हिस्सों से होकर आगे बढ़े
- Amid the collapse of order, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession acceding J&K to India on October 26, enabling India's military intervention
व्यवस्था के पतन के बीच, महाराजा हरि सिंह ने 26 अक्टूबर को विलय पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर कर जम्मू-कश्मीर का भारत में विलय किया, जिससे भारत का सैन्य हस्तक्षेप संभव हुआ
- At dawn on October 27, the 1st Sikh Kumaon Regiment was airlifted to Srinagar, but by then thousands had already suffered irreversible losses, marking the start of the first Indo-Pak war
27 अक्टूबर की भोर में 1st सिख कुमाऊँ रेजिमेंट को श्रीनगर एयरलिफ्ट किया गया, लेकिन तब तक हज़ारों लोग अपरिवर्तनीय क्षति झेल चुके थे, जिससे पहले भारत-पाक युद्ध की शुरुआत हुई
- Born in 1931, Sardar Dalip Singh was just 16 when the 1947 tribal invasion ripped through Kashmir and made him an orphan overnight
1931 में जन्मे सरदार दलिप सिंह केवल 16 वर्ष के थे जब 1947 के जनजातीय आक्रमण ने कश्मीर को तहस-नहस कर दिया और उन्हें रातों-रात अनाथ बना दिया
- In his village, Atina, and nearby Gohlar, 300 Sikhs lost their lives
उनके गाँव अतीना और पास के गोहर में 300 सिखों की जान गई
- His mother, Sardarni Mani Kour, was shot dead at their doorstep
उनकी माँ सरदारनी मणि कौर को उनके दरवाज़े पर गोली मार दी गई
- His nine-year-old sister, Harbans Kaur, disappeared, never to be found
उनकी नौ वर्षीय बहन, हरबंस कौर, लापता हो गई, और फिर कभी नहीं मिली
- One brother was killed; another died days later from bullet wounds as the family left Srinagar
एक भाई मारा गया, और दूसरा गोलियों के घावों के कारण श्रीनगर छोड़ते समय कुछ दिनों बाद मर गया
- When Dalip returned months later, his mother's decomposed body and blood-stained clothes still lay where she had fallen
जब दलिप कुछ महीनों बाद लौटे, तो उनकी माँ का सड़ा हुआ शव और खून से सने कपड़े वहीं पड़े थे जहाँ वह गिरी थीं
- "The world can never understand this grief," he said quietly
उन्होंने शांत स्वर में कहा, "दुनिया इस दुख को कभी समझ नहीं सकती"
- "Villages in Muzaffarabad were among the first to be destroyed
उन्होंने कहा, "मुज़फ़्फ़राबाद के गाँव सबसे पहले नष्ट किए गए
- Thousands were killed, and thousands displaced, as refugee caravans walked over Dhumel Bridge and fled toward Poonch and Srinagar"
हज़ारों मारे गए, और हज़ारों विस्थापित हुए, जब शरणार्थियों के काफ़िले धुमेल पुल पार कर पुंछ और श्रीनगर की ओर भागे"
- Some Sikh villages mounted a defence at Ichahama, Kashmir, using sticks, tools and small arms to delay the Kabaili advance
कुछ सिख गाँवों ने कश्मीर के इचहामा में लाठियों, औज़ारों और छोटे हथियारों से कबायली बढ़त को रोकने का प्रयास किया
- This resistance helped buy time for Indian troops to be airlifted to Srinagar and provide a safe passage to refugees



इस प्रतिरोध ने भारतीय सैनिकों को श्रीनगर एयरलिफ्ट करने का समय दिलाया और शरणार्थियों को सुरक्षित मार्ग उपलब्ध कराया

- **Historians agree** that this resistance may well have altered the course of Kashmir's history

इतिहासकारों की सहमति है कि इस प्रतिरोध ने कश्मीर के इतिहास की दिशा बदल दी

Rebuilding from rubble

खंडहरों से पुनर्निर्माण

- Despite receiving only ₹250 as government compensation, Dalip Singh rebuilt his life from an orphaned teenager to educator and author
केवल ₹250 की सरकारी मुआवज़ा राशि मिलने के बावजूद, दलिप सिंह ने एक अनाथ किशोर से शिक्षाविद और लेखक तक अपना जीवन पुनर्निर्मित किया
- From becoming an orphan to rebuilding his life, to discovering the photograph of his martyred brother, S. Joginder Singh, at Piyara Photographs in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, these experiences are not preserved in state archives or history books
अनाथ बनने से लेकर जीवन पुनर्निर्माण तक, और लाल चौक, श्रीनगर की पियारा फोटोग्राफ़्स दुकान पर अपने शहीद भाई एस. जोगिंदर सिंह की तस्वीर खोजने तक, ये अनुभव राज्य अभिलेखागार या इतिहास पुस्तकों में सुरक्षित नहीं हैं
- They survive in memory and in Dalip Singh Deepak's writings
ये स्मृति में और दलिप सिंह दीपक के लेखन में जीवित हैं
- His books, Hadsian Choun Phutte Akkhar (2008), Anhad Naad (2021), and Sehaj Subhaye (2021) are not conventional histories
उनकी पुस्तकें हदसियां चौ फुट्टे अक्खर (2008), अनहद नाद (2021) और सहज सुभाये (2021) परंपरागत इतिहास नहीं हैं
- They are works of reflection shaped by loss, faith, resilience, and an effort to anchor trauma within spiritual and historical continuity
ये चिंतनात्मक रचनाएँ हैं, जो क्षति, आस्था, जिजीविषा और आघात को आध्यात्मिक व ऐतिहासिक निरंतरता में स्थापित करने के प्रयास से गढ़ी गई हैं
- What unites Mehta, Saraf, Singh, and Dalip Singh Deepak is not genre but urgency
मेहता, सराफ़, सिंह और दलिप सिंह दीपक को जोड़ने वाली चीज़ शैली नहीं बल्कि तात्कालिकता है
- Each, in different ways, confronts a history that South Asia has been unwilling to fully face
प्रत्येक, अपने-अपने तरीके से, उस इतिहास का सामना करता है जिसे दक्षिण एशिया पूरी तरह देखने से कतराता रहा है
- Together, they remind us that the story of the tribal invasion in J&K is not complete without its witnesses and survivors
साथ मिलकर वे याद दिलाते हैं कि जम्मू-कश्मीर में जनजातीय आक्रमण की कहानी गवाहों और जीवित बचे लोगों के बिना अधूरी है
- As these witnesses age and pass on, the responsibility shifts
जैसे-जैसे ये गवाह वृद्ध होते हैं और दुनिया से विदा होते हैं, ज़िम्मेदारी स्थानांतरित होती है
- Listening, recording, and acknowledging these truths is necessary
इन सत्यों को सुनना, दर्ज करना और स्वीकार करना आवश्यक है
- Stories like Dalip Singh Deepak's are not historical footnotes
दलिप सिंह दीपक जैसी कहानियाँ इतिहास की हाशिये की टिप्पणियाँ नहीं हैं
- They are testaments to courage, and to the human spirit's refusal to let memory fade
वे साहस की साक्षी हैं और मानवीय आत्मा के स्मृति को मिटने न देने के संकल्प का प्रमाण हैं
- For as long as these stories remain marginal, the wounds of 1947 will continue to shape one of the world's most volatile and dangerous borders
जब तक ये कहानियाँ हाशिये पर रहेंगी, 1947 के घाव दुनिया की सबसे अस्थिर और खतरनाक सीमाओं में से एक को आकार देते रहेंगे



GS Paper 1: Society

18 December 2025

TOPICS COVERED

1. **The story of 'We, the moving people'**
‘हम, गतिशील लोग’ की कहानी
2. **The changing patterns of India's student migration**
भारत के छात्र प्रवासन के बदलते स्वरूप
3. **Overseas Bill betrays migrant workers**
ओवरसीज़ विधेयक प्रवासी श्रमिकों के साथ विश्वासघात करता है

The story of 'We, the moving people'

GS I: Society, Migration

MOB

Citizenship is tied to a person's residency in a delimited territory. A citizen is ordinarily expected to be residing in a particular location. The migration of people across borders – international or within a country – dislocates this presumed overlap between citizenship and territory, causing a conceptual drift. Neither governments nor political parties are fully equipped to deal with this, and what we see around the world is public angst that is being harnessed for mobilisation against recent immigrants, mass deportations and efforts to clean up voter lists.

In India, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is undertaking a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Pushing back against challenges to the move, the ECI told the Supreme Court of India: "Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of education, livelihood and other reasons have become a regular trend. 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. Thus, the ECI came to the conclusion that the situation warrants the conduct of a pan-India SIR beginning with the State of Bihar."

Under President Donald Trump, the United States Department of Justice asked all 50 States to hand over their full voter registration databases, arguing that access to complete electoral rolls was necessary to enforce federal election laws. The move triggered resistance from several States. This push coincided with a sweeping executive order signed by Mr. Trump to reshape federal election procedures, including a requirement for documentary proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate – measures supporters say strengthen election integrity, but which critics warn could undermine State autonomy and restrict voter access. Around 22 million-24 million non-citizens are in the U.S. legally; estimates of undocumented residents vary but run into the millions. In India and the U.S., the notion of alien voters influencing politics is strong.

A rise in those moving out

Though the proportion of international migrants in the world's population has remained broadly stable over the decades, the absolute number of migrants has grown rapidly. Migrants as a proportion of the global population may have increased by only about one percentage point since 1960 according to most estimates. But the number of people living outside their country of birth has expanded dramatically – from about 154 million in 1990 to over 300 million by mid-2024 – nearly doubling in just three decades and rising faster than the overall global population growth.

In western countries, nativist populism is linked to the rise in the proportion of foreign-born residents. In the U.S., about 14%-15%



Varghese K. George

of the population is foreign born, up from roughly 13% in 2010. The United Kingdom has seen a sharper transformation: the share of those foreign-born rose from about 8% in 2001 to roughly 16% by 2021. Canada has one of the highest proportions among large economies, with about 22% of the population foreign-born. Australia stands out, with around 31%-32% of its population born overseas. Immigration is among the top three issues for voters in most developed countries in 2025, though its intensity as a concern has reduced a bit.

Governments want to regulate and manage the flow of people. India wants to 'export human resources', a euphemism for sending more people abroad for jobs. Rich countries that need young workers are increasingly not wanting them to stay on and claim citizenship, but to leave after a certain number of years. Returning migrants will bring back new social and political attitudes. In their host countries, they will form a labour class without political rights – as with H-1B workers in the U.S., though they have a distant pathway to citizenship. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Singapore have created a category of workers without any political identity, and developed countries are now looking at temporary workers on similar lines.

There are about 35.4 million Overseas Indians (people of Indian origin); 15.8 million of them are Indian citizens, and 19.6 million are persons of Indian origin. Under the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010, Indian citizens living abroad can enrol and exercise their franchise in their place of residence in India as mentioned in their passport. A petition before the Supreme Court argues that they should be able to vote remotely. The petitioner contends that the 2010 amendment shortchanges non-resident Indians by granting them the right to vote on the one hand, while requiring them to be physically present in India to actually exercise that right.

Policies and migration

Indian government policies have also encouraged migration from rural to urban areas and to specific regions such as Kashmir. In 2020, the rules for domicile in Jammu and Kashmir were relaxed, allowing non-locals – such as government officials posted for 10 years, residents for 15 years, and students for seven years – to obtain domicile status, with access to jobs and property. While critics argue that these changes are intended to alter the region's demographic composition, the government maintains that they are meant to facilitate development and integration.

Within national boundaries, there are other borders, and migrations across them have political and governance consequences. Domicile laws restrict access to many streams of education and jobs to natives of a particular State or region. The most significant implication of movement within the country's borders concerns voting

rights. The right to vote is tied to a particular polling booth where a citizen is ordinarily resident. The SIR exercise is a determination of whether one can vote, but also, perhaps more importantly, where one can vote. The same person voting in Maharashtra or Kerala – net migrant-receiving States – as opposed to Bihar, which is a net migrant-sending State, has different political implications for national politics.

Changes in population composition affect politics, and an example is Mumbai, where Marathi speakers now constitute less than 40%, while Hindi speakers are around 30%. The nativist politics of the Shiv Sena has been decimated; parties now routinely field Hindi-speaking candidates in elections. In 2001, 31% of India's population were migrants and by 2011, this proportion had increased to 38%. Two-thirds of these migrants are women, due to marriage. Men, who make up the remaining third, tend to move farther and largely for economic reasons. Census 2027 will capture the enormity of this movement of people after nearly two decades.

Migrating people carry attitudes, values, stories and belief systems. The White House now celebrates Deepavali – a practice that began in 2003. It was through migration that Vedic practices spread from the Aryavarta region of the epics to its eastern and peninsular frontiers, mixing with pre-existing lore and expanding the cultural universe that would later be called Hinduism. Languages move with migrating people. Historically, it has been a case of more men than

women who migrated, and migrating men met native women; the languages we speak today reflect this, Peggy Mohan argues in *Father Tongue, Motherland*

Birthright citizenship

Moving people is now challenging even the idea of birthright citizenship in countries where it once existed unquestioned. The Trump administration is trying to overturn a long-held interpretation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that all those born in the U.S. are eligible for citizenship. Until recently, an estimated 30,000 people were travelling to the U.S. annually to give birth, and there were tour companies that made this a business model. A 2015 law made it legal for people to seek visas for giving birth in the U.S., but in 2020, with the rise of Trump-era nativism, this was withdrawn. India, through a change in its citizenship law, has barred children born to an illegal immigrant from acquiring citizenship by birth.

Moving people moves the history of humankind. Moving people is remaking the politics of India. These changes will become visible through the Census, the SIR, and then delimitation, which will redistribute Lok Sabha representation across State borders for the first time in half a century.

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The Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls, Census 2027 and delimitation will sharpen the migrant imprint on Indian politics





The story of 'We, the moving people' 'हम, गतिशील लोग' की कहानी

Citizenship and migration नागरिकता और प्रवासन

- **Citizenship is tied to a person's residency in a delimited territory.**
नागरिकता किसी व्यक्ति के निवास को एक निर्धारित क्षेत्र से जोड़ती है।
- A citizen is ordinarily expected to be residing in a particular location.
सामान्यतः यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि कोई नागरिक किसी विशेष स्थान पर निवास कर रहा हो।
- The migration of people across borders — **international** or **within a country** — dislocates this presumed overlap between citizenship and territory, causing a **conceptual drift**.
लोगों का अंतरराष्ट्रीय या देश के भीतर सीमाओं के पार प्रवासन, नागरिकता और क्षेत्र के बीच माने गए इस ओवरलैप को बाधित करता है, जिससे एक वैचारिक विचलन उत्पन्न होता है।
- Neither governments nor political parties are fully equipped to deal with this, and what we see around the world is **public angst** that is being harnessed for **mobilisation against recent immigrants, mass deportations and efforts to clean up voter lists**.
न तो सरकारें और न ही राजनीतिक दल इससे निपटने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार हैं, और दुनिया भर में जो देखा जा रहा है वह सार्वजनिक असंतोष है, जिसे नए प्रवासियों, सामूहिक निर्वासन और मतदाता सूचियों की सफाई के खिलाफ लामबंदी के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।
- In India, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is undertaking a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of the electoral rolls.
भारत में, भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) मतदाता सूचियों का विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) कर रहा है।
- Pushing back against challenges to the move, the **ECI** told the **Supreme Court of India**:
"Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of education, livelihood and other reasons have become a regular trend."
इस कदम को चुनौती दिए जाने पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, ECI ने भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय से कहा: "तेज़ शहरीकरण और शिक्षा, आजीविका तथा अन्य कारणों से आबादी का एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर बार-बार प्रवासन एक नियमित प्रवृत्ति बन गया 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 कराते हैं और फिर अपना निवास बदलकर दूसरे स्थान पर स्वयं को पंजीकृत करा लेते हैं, बिना अपने पहले निवास स्थान की मतदाता सूची से नाम हटवाए।
- This has led to an increased possibility of **repeated entries** in the electoral roll.
इससे मतदाता सूची में दोहराव वाली प्रविष्टियों की संभावना बढ़ गई है।
- Thus, the ECI came to the conclusion that the situation warrants the conduct of a **pan-India SIR** beginning with the **State of Bihar**.
इस प्रकार, ECI इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचा कि स्थिति बिहार राज्य से शुरू करते हुए अखिल भारतीय SIR की मांग करती है।"
- Under **President Donald Trump**, the **United States Department of Justice** asked all **50 States** to hand over their full voter registration databases, arguing that access to complete electoral rolls was necessary to enforce **federal election laws**.
राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के अधीन, अमेरिकी न्याय विभाग ने सभी 50 राज्यों से उनके पूर्ण मतदाता पंजीकरण डेटाबेस सौंपने को कहा, यह तर्क देते हुए कि संघीय चुनाव कानूनों को लागू करने के लिए पूर्ण मतदाता सूचियों तक पहुँच आवश्यक है।
- The move triggered **resistance** from several States.
इस कदम ने कई राज्यों की ओर से विरोध को जन्म दिया।
- This push coincided with a sweeping **executive order** signed by Mr. Trump to reshape federal election procedures, including a **requirement for documentary proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate**.
यह पहल श्री ट्रम्प द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एक व्यापक कार्यकारी आदेश के साथ आई, जिसका उद्देश्य संघीय चुनाव प्रक्रियाओं को पुनर्गठित करना था, जिसमें अमेरिकी नागरिकता के दस्तावेज़ी प्रमाण जैसे पासपोर्ट या जन्म प्रमाणपत्र की अनिवार्यता शामिल थी।



- Supporters say these measures **strengthen election integrity**, but critics warn they could undermine **State autonomy** and restrict **voter access**.
समर्थकों का कहना है कि ये उपाय **चुनावी निष्पक्षता** को मज़बूत करते हैं, लेकिन आलोचकों का कहना है कि इससे **राज्य स्वायत्तता** कमजोर हो सकती है और **मतदाता पहुँच** सीमित हो सकती है।
- Around **22 million–24 million non-citizens** are in the U.S. legally; estimates of **undocumented residents** vary but run into the **millions**.
अमेरिका में क़ानूनी रूप से लगभग **2.2–2.4 करोड़ गैर-नागरिक** रहते हैं; जबकि **अवैध निवासियों** का अनुमान अलग-अलग है लेकिन उनकी संख्या **लाखों** में है।
- In **India and the U.S.**, the notion of **alien voters influencing politics** is strong.
भारत और अमेरिका दोनों में **विदेशी मतदाताओं द्वारा राजनीति को प्रभावित करने** की धारणा प्रबल है।

A rise in those moving out

स्थान बदलने वालों की बढ़ती संख्या

- Though the proportion of **international migrants** in the world's population has remained broadly stable over the decades, the **absolute number** of migrants has grown rapidly.
हालाँकि दशकों में वैश्विक आबादी में **अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रवासियों** का अनुपात लगभग स्थिर रहा है, लेकिन प्रवासियों की **कुल संख्या** तेज़ी से बढ़ी है।
- Migrants as a proportion of the global population may have increased by only about **one percentage point since 1960** according to most estimates.
अधिकांश अनुमानों के अनुसार, वैश्विक आबादी में प्रवासियों का अनुपात **1960** से केवल लगभग **एक प्रतिशत अंक** ही बढ़ा है।
- But the number of people living outside their country of birth has expanded dramatically — from about **154 million in 1990** to over **300 million by mid-2024** — nearly doubling in just **three decades**.
लेकिन अपने जन्म देश के बाहर रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या में भारी वृद्धि हुई है — **1990** में लगभग **15.4 करोड़** से बढ़कर **मध्य-2024** तक **30 करोड़ से अधिक**, यानी केवल **तीन दशकों** में लगभग दोगुनी।
- In **western countries**, **nativist populism** is linked to the rise in the proportion of **foreign-born residents**.
पश्चिमी देशों में **स्थानीयतावादी जनवाद** का संबंध **विदेश-जन्मे निवासियों** के बढ़ते अनुपात से है।
- In the **U.S.**, about **14%–15%** of the population is foreign born, up from roughly **13% in 2010**.
अमेरिका में आबादी का लगभग **14%–15%** हिस्सा विदेश में जन्मा है, जो **2010** में लगभग **13%** था।
- The **United Kingdom** has seen a sharper transformation: the share of those foreign-born rose from about **8% in 2001** to roughly **16% by 2021**.
यूनाइटेड किंगडम में यह परिवर्तन और भी तेज़ रहा है, जहाँ विदेश-जन्मे लोगों का अनुपात **2001** में लगभग **8%** से बढ़कर **2021** तक लगभग **16%** हो गया।
- **Canada** has one of the highest proportions among large economies, with about **22%** of the population foreign-born.
कनाडा बड़े आर्थिक देशों में सबसे अधिक अनुपात वाला देश है, जहाँ लगभग **22%** आबादी विदेश में जन्मी है।
- **Australia** stands out, with around **31%–32%** of its population born overseas.
ऑस्ट्रेलिया विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय है, जहाँ आबादी का लगभग **31%–32%** हिस्सा विदेश में जन्मा है।
- Immigration is among the **top three issues** for voters in most developed countries in **2025**, though its intensity as a concern has reduced a bit.
2025 में अधिकांश विकसित देशों में मतदाताओं के लिए **आव्रजन शीर्ष तीन मुद्दों** में शामिल है, हालाँकि चिंता की तीव्रता कुछ कम हुई है।
- Governments want to regulate and manage the **flow of people**.
सरकारें लोगों के **आवागमन** को नियंत्रित और प्रबंधित करना चाहती हैं।
- India wants to 'export human resources', a euphemism for sending more people abroad for jobs.
भारत 'मानव संसाधनों का निर्यात' करना चाहता है, जो अधिक लोगों को रोज़गार के लिए विदेश भेजने का एक शिष्ट शब्द है।
- Rich countries that need **young workers** are increasingly not wanting them to stay on and claim **citizenship**, but to leave after a certain number of years.
धनी देश, जिन्हें **युवा श्रमिकों** की आवश्यकता है, अब उन्हें स्थायी रूप से रहने और **नागरिकता** का दावा करने के बजाय कुछ वर्षों बाद लौट जाने को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं।



- Returning migrants will bring back new **social and political attitudes**.
वापस लौटने वाले प्रवासी नए **सामाजिक और राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण** लेकर आएँगे।
- In their host countries, they will form a **labour class without political rights** — as with **H-1B workers in the U.S.**, though they have a distant pathway to citizenship.
मेज़बान देशों में वे **राजनीतिक अधिकारों के बिना श्रमिक वर्ग** बनाएँगे — जैसे अमेरिका में **H-1B कर्मचारी**, हालाँकि उनके पास नागरिकता का एक दूरस्थ मार्ग होता है।
- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Singapore** have created a category of **workers without any political identity**.
खाड़ी सहयोग परिषद (GCC) देशों और **सिंगापुर** ने ऐसे श्रमिकों की एक श्रेणी बनाई है जिनकी कोई **राजनीतिक पहचान नहीं है**।
- Developed countries are now looking at **temporary workers** on similar lines.
विकसित देश अब इसी तर्ज़ पर **अस्थायी श्रमिकों** की ओर देख रहे हैं।
- There are about **35.4 million Overseas Indians** (people of Indian origin).
दुनिया भर में लगभग **3.54 करोड़ प्रवासी भारतीय** (भारतीय मूल के लोग) हैं।
- **15.8 million of them are Indian citizens, and 19.6 million are persons of Indian origin.**
इनमें से **1.58 करोड़ भारतीय नागरिक** हैं और **1.96 करोड़ भारतीय मूल के व्यक्ति** हैं।
- **Under the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010**, Indian citizens living abroad can enrol and exercise their **franchise** in their place of residence in India as mentioned in their **passport**.
जन प्रतिनिधित्व (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2010 के तहत, विदेश में रहने वाले भारतीय नागरिक अपने **पासपोर्ट** में दर्ज भारत स्थित निवास स्थान पर पंजीकरण कर अपने **मताधिकार** का प्रयोग कर सकते हैं।
- A petition before the **Supreme Court** argues that they should be able to **vote remotely**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दायर एक याचिका में तर्क दिया गया है कि उन्हें **दूरस्थ मतदान** की अनुमति मिलनी चाहिए।
- The petitioner contends that the **2010 amendment** shortchanges **non-resident Indians** by granting them the right to vote on the one hand, while requiring them to be **physically present in India** to actually exercise that right.
याचिकाकर्ता का कहना है कि **2010 का संशोधन** एक ओर **अनिवासी भारतीयों** को मतदान का अधिकार देता है, लेकिन दूसरी ओर उस अधिकार का प्रयोग करने के लिए उन्हें **शारीरिक रूप से भारत में उपस्थित** होने की शर्त लगाकर उनके साथ अन्याय करता है।

Policies and migration नीतियाँ और प्रवासन

- Indian government policies have also encouraged migration from **rural to urban areas** and to specific regions such as **Kashmir**.
भारतीय सरकार की नीतियों ने **ग्रामीण से शहरी क्षेत्रों** और **कश्मीर** जैसे विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों की ओर प्रवासन को भी प्रोत्साहित किया है।
- **In 2020**, the rules for **domicile in Jammu and Kashmir** were relaxed, allowing **non-locals** — such as government officials posted for **10 years**, residents for **15 years**, and students for **seven years** — to obtain domicile status, with access to **jobs and property**.
2020 में जम्मू और कश्मीर में डोमिसाइल के नियमों में ढील दी गई, जिससे **गैर-स्थानीय** — जैसे **10 वर्ष** से तैनात सरकारी अधिकारी, **15 वर्ष** से निवासी और **सात वर्ष** से छात्र — डोमिसाइल दर्जा प्राप्त कर सके, जिससे उन्हें **नौकरियों और संपत्ति** तक पहुँच मिली।
- While critics argue that these changes are intended to alter the region's **demographic composition**, the government maintains that they are meant to facilitate **development and integration**.
जहाँ आलोचकों का तर्क है कि ये बदलाव क्षेत्र की **जनसांख्यिकीय संरचना** बदलने के लिए हैं, वहीं सरकार का कहना है कि इनका उद्देश्य **विकास और एकीकरण** को बढ़ावा देना है।
- Within national boundaries, there are other **borders**, and migrations across them have **political and governance consequences**.
राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं के भीतर भी अन्य **सीमाएँ** हैं, और उनके पार प्रवासन के **राजनीतिक और शासन संबंधी परिणाम** होते हैं।
- **Domicile laws** restrict access to many streams of **education and jobs** to natives of a particular **State or region**.



डोमिसाइल कानून किसी विशेष राज्य या क्षेत्र के मूल निवासियों तक कई प्रकार की शिक्षा और नौकरियों की पहुँच सीमित करते हैं।

- The most significant implication of movement within the country's borders concerns **voting rights**.
देश की सीमाओं के भीतर आवागमन का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव **मताधिकार** से संबंधित है।
- The **right to vote is tied to a particular polling booth where a citizen is ordinarily resident**.
मतदान का अधिकार उस विशेष **मतदान केंद्र** से जुड़ा होता है जहाँ नागरिक सामान्यतः निवास करता है।
- The **SIR exercise is a determination of whether one can vote, but also, perhaps more importantly, where one can vote**.
SIR अभ्यास यह निर्धारित करता है कि कोई व्यक्ति वोट कर सकता है या नहीं, और शायद इससे भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह कि वह **कहाँ वोट कर सकता है**।
- The same person voting in **Maharashtra or Kerala — net migrant-receiving States — as opposed to Bihar, which is a net migrant-sending State, has different political implications for national politics**.
महाराष्ट्र या केरल — जो शुद्ध प्रवासी-स्वीकारक राज्य हैं — में मतदान करना, बिहार जैसे शुद्ध प्रवासी-प्रेषक राज्य की तुलना में राष्ट्रीय राजनीति के लिए अलग राजनीतिक निहितार्थ रखता है।
- **Changes in population composition affect politics, and an example is Mumbai, where Marathi speakers now constitute less than 40%, while Hindi speakers are around 30%**.
जनसंख्या संरचना में परिवर्तन राजनीति को प्रभावित करते हैं, और इसका उदाहरण मुंबई है, जहाँ मराठी भाषी अब 40% से कम हैं, जबकि हिंदी भाषी लगभग 30% हैं।
- The nativist politics of the **Shiv Sena** has been decimated; parties now routinely field **Hindi-speaking candidates** in elections.
शिवसेना की स्थानीयतावादी राजनीति कमजोर पड़ गई है; अब पार्टियाँ चुनावों में नियमित रूप से हिंदी-भाषी उम्मीदवार उतारती हैं।
- **In 2001, 31% of India's population were migrants and by 2011, this proportion had increased to 38%**.
2001 में भारत की 31% आबादी प्रवासी थी और 2011 तक यह अनुपात बढ़कर 38% हो गया।
- **Two-thirds of these migrants are women, due to marriage**.
इन प्रवासियों में से दो-तिहाई **महिलाएँ** हैं, मुख्यतः **विवाह** के कारण।
- Men, who make up the remaining **one-third**, tend to move farther and largely for **economic reasons**.
शेष **एक-तिहाई** पुरुष होते हैं, जो आम तौर पर अधिक दूरी तक और मुख्यतः **आर्थिक कारणों** से प्रवास करते हैं।
- **Census 2027** will capture the enormity of this movement of people after nearly **two decades**.
लगभग **दो दशकों** बाद **जनगणना 2027** इस जन-आवागमन की विशालता को दर्ज करेगी।
- Migrating people carry **attitudes, values, stories and belief systems**.
प्रवासी लोग **दृष्टिकोण, मूल्य, कथाएँ और विश्वास प्रणालियाँ** साथ लेकर चलते हैं।
- The **White House** now celebrates **Deepavali — a practice that began in 2003**.
व्हाइट हाउस अब दीपावली मनाता है — यह परंपरा 2003 में शुरू हुई।
- It was through migration that **Vedic practices** spread from the **Aryavarta** region of the epics to its **eastern and peninsular frontiers**, mixing with pre-existing lore and expanding the **cultural universe** that would later be called **Hinduism**.
प्रवासन के माध्यम से ही **वैदिक परंपराएँ** महाकाव्यों के **आर्यावर्त** क्षेत्र से **पूर्वी और प्रायद्वीपीय सीमाओं** तक फैलीं, जहाँ वे पूर्ववर्ती लोककथाओं से मिलीं और उस **सांस्कृतिक ब्रह्मांड** का विस्तार हुआ जिसे बाद में **हिंदू धर्म** कहा गया।
- **Languages move with migrating people**.
भाषाएँ भी प्रवासी लोगों के साथ चलती हैं।
- Historically, it has been a case of more **men than women** who migrated, and migrating men met **native women**; the languages we speak today reflect this, **Peggy Mohan** argues in *Father Tongue, Motherland*.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **महिलाओं की तुलना में अधिक पुरुष** प्रवास करते रहे हैं, और प्रवासी पुरुष **स्थानीय महिलाओं** से मिले; आज हम जो भाषाएँ बोलते हैं, वे इसी को दर्शाती हैं, ऐसा **Peggy Mohan** *Father Tongue, Motherland* में **पेगी मोहन** तर्क देती हैं।



Birthright citizenship

जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता

- Moving people is now challenging even the idea of **birthright citizenship** in countries where it once existed unquestioned.
लोगों का आवागमन अब उन देशों में भी **जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता** की अवधारणा को चुनौती दे रहा है, जहाँ यह कभी निर्विवाद थी।
- The **Trump administration** is trying to overturn a long-held interpretation of the **14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** that all those born in the **U.S.** are eligible for citizenship.
ट्रम्प प्रशासन अमेरिकी संविधान के 14वें संशोधन की उस लंबे समय से चली आ रही व्याख्या को पलटने की कोशिश कर रहा है, जिसके अनुसार **अमेरिका** में जन्मे सभी लोग नागरिकता के पात्र होते हैं।
- Until recently, an estimated **30,000 people** were travelling to the **U.S.** annually to give birth, and there were **tour companies** that made this a business model.
हाल तक अनुमानित **30,000 लोग** प्रतिवर्ष अमेरिका में प्रसव के लिए यात्रा करते थे, और **टूर कंपनियाँ** इसे एक व्यवसाय मॉडल के रूप में अपनाती थीं।
- A **2015 law** made it legal for people to seek visas for giving birth in the **U.S.**, but in **2020**, with the rise of **Trump-era nativism**, this was withdrawn.
2015 के कानून ने अमेरिका में प्रसव के लिए वीजा माँगना वैध बनाया, लेकिन **2020** में **ट्रम्प-कालीन स्थानीयतावाद** के उभार के साथ इसे वापस ले लिया गया।
- **India**, through a change in its **citizenship law**, has barred children born to an **illegal immigrant** from acquiring **citizenship by birth**.
भारत ने अपने **नागरिकता कानून** में बदलाव के माध्यम से **अवैध प्रवासी** के यहाँ जन्मे बच्चों को **जन्म से नागरिकता** प्राप्त करने से वंचित किया है।
- Moving people moves the **history of humankind**.
लोगों का आवागमन **मानव इतिहास** को आगे बढ़ाता है।
- Moving people is remaking the **politics of India**.
लोगों का आवागमन **भारत की राजनीति** को पुनर्गठित कर रहा है।
- These changes will become visible through the **Census**, the **SIR**, and then **delimitation**, which will redistribute **Lok Sabha representation** across **State borders** for the first time in **half a century**.
ये परिवर्तन **जनगणना**, **SIR**, और उसके बाद **परिसीमन** के माध्यम से स्पष्ट होंगे, जो **आधे शतक** में पहली बार **राज्य सीमाओं** के पार **लोकसभा प्रतिनिधित्व** का पुनर्वितरण करेगा।

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**, officially known as the **Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**, is a regional, intergovernmental **political and economic union** of **six Middle Eastern countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- It was **established on 25 May 1981** in **Abu Dhabi** to achieve **unity among its members** based on shared political and cultural identities rooted in **Arab and Islamic cultures**.
- **Headquarters:** Located in **Riyadh**, the capital of **Saudi Arabia**.
- **Member States:** All six members are **monarchies**.



- **Constitutional Monarchies:** Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain.
- **Absolute Monarchies:** Saudi Arabia and Oman.
- **Federal Monarchy:** UAE, consisting of **seven emirates**, each ruled by its own monarch.

Objectives of the GCC

- To achieve **coordination, integration, and inter-connection** among member states in all fields.
- To **strengthen ties** among their peoples.
- To formulate **similar regulations** in areas such as **economy, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation, and administration.**
- To foster **scientific and technical progress** in **industry, mining, agriculture, water, and animal resources.**
- To establish **scientific research centers.**
- To encourage **private sector cooperation.**
- To deepen existing ties in **various fields.**

PATRIOTIC IAS



The changing patterns of India's student migration

GS I: Society

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India's latest wave of student migration marks a decisive shift that is no longer confined to elite universities or programmes that are fully funded. Today's migration is characterised by self-financed education where middle-class households invest heavily in the promise of a global degree and upward social mobility. In Ministry of External Affairs data, more than 13.2 lakh Indian students were enrolled in over 70 countries by 2023, which rose to 13.35 lakh in 2024, and projected to reach 13.8 lakh in 2025.

India is one of the top senders of international students, with the United States and Canada as the top destinations (40%), followed by the United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. This significant development is reflected in the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Indian Diaspora (2022) which engages with students as one of India's major diaspora categories.

The true picture

While all this is seen by some as a democratisation of foreign education, with doors opening to students from different socio-economic classes, the reality is more complex. Many of these students are channelled into lower-tier institutions and vocational colleges, into courses often unrelated to their expertise and without much job prospects, due to recruitment agencies that operate in a grey legal zone. The partnership between recruitment networks and less credible private colleges abroad is driven primarily by commissions and profit, reflecting the largely unregulated expansion of the foreign education industry.

The outcome is widespread deskilling and underemployment, with many graduates unable to transition into skilled work. In the U.K., what were once polytechnics have become universities post 1992 that cater primarily to international students, sometimes waiving entry requirements and triggering controversy due to declining academic standards. Reports suggest that



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The rapid expansion of Indian student migration points to contradictions between aspiration and outcome, and opportunity and exploitation

approximately only one in four Indian postgraduates in the U.K. secures a sponsored skilled visa.

Student migration from India represents a middle-class aspiration with significant risks. Kerala, historically defined by Gulf labour migration, illustrates this transformation as the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2023 reports that student migration doubled in five years, from 1.29 lakh in 2018 to 2.5 lakh in 2023, which is 11.3% of total emigrants. Outward student remittances from Kerala are estimated at ₹43,378 crore, equivalent to about 20% of total inward remittances from labour migrants.

Reverse remittance

Most students migrate through self-financing or education loans, often mortgaging family property, with the hope of better employment and higher wages that would repay debts and enable higher living standards. However, for many, this journey ends in debt, underemployment or forced return, a phenomenon that economists describe as reverse remittances, where Indian households subsidise foreign economies.

Foreign students contribute significantly to host economies. In Canada, international students contributed about \$30.9 billion to GDP in 2022, supporting over 3,61,000 jobs. In 2023, Canada hosted over 4,27,000 Indian students, which is roughly 45% of international enrolments. In the U.S., roughly 4,00,000 Indian students, in 2024, spent an estimated \$7 billion-\$8 billion annually on tuition, housing and living costs, sustaining universities and local economies.

Across destinations, students shoulder substantial financial burdens, sometimes to the tune of ₹40 lakh-₹50 lakh, to finance studies abroad. Rising rents, restricted working hours, and visa caps exacerbate financial and mental strains. Unable to find skilled work, many take up

low-wage unskilled jobs, often juggling multiple part-time jobs, sometimes undocumented, to work longer hours, and facing exploitation. Restrictive visa rules, limited post-study employment options and a lack of placement support from low-ranked colleges exacerbate this downward mobility. For instance, until 2024, the U.K. allowed students to convert student visas into care visas, offering a survival route in a tight job market, but this pathway has since become impossible due to new restrictions.

The local context

This outflow of students needs to be understood within the domestic context that is driving it. Is it the perceived lack of quality in domestic institutions or an inability to find well-paid domestic employment? With foreign universities establishing offshore campuses in Dubai, Singapore, and other destinations offering western degrees at lower costs, it is telling that Indian students rarely choose them. The reason is more structural. For many, studying in OECD countries is not only about

education but about permanent residency, social mobility and an escape from a third world identity.

Ironically, this wave of student migration has also created a new form of cheap labour for OECD countries, akin to Gulf labour migration except that it is now accompanied by reverse remittances often financed through savings and debt.

This rapid expansion of Indian student migration exposes deep systemic contradictions between aspiration and outcome, and between opportunity and exploitation, resulting in a phenomenon that can be described as brain waste. It calls for stronger regulation of education agents, pre-departure counselling, and bilateral frameworks to ensure institutional accountability abroad.



The changing patterns of India's student migration

भारत के छात्र प्रवासन के बदलते स्वरूप

- India's latest wave of **student migration** marks a decisive shift that is no longer confined to **elite universities** or programmes that are **fully funded**.
भारत में छात्र प्रवासन की नवीनतम लहर एक निर्णायक बदलाव को दर्शाती है, जो अब **विशिष्ट विश्वविद्यालयों** या **पूरी तरह वित्तपोषित** कार्यक्रमों तक सीमित नहीं है।
- Today's migration is characterised by **self-financed education** where **middle-class households** invest heavily in the promise of a **global degree** and **upward social mobility**.
आज का प्रवासन **स्व-वित्तपोषित शिक्षा** से चिह्नित है, जहाँ **मध्यम वर्गीय परिवार वैश्विक डिग्री** और **ऊर्ध्व सामाजिक गतिशीलता** के वादे में भारी निवेश कर रहे हैं।
- In **Ministry of External Affairs** data, more than **13.2 lakh Indian students** were enrolled in over **70 countries** by **2023**, which rose to **13.35 lakh** in **2024**, and projected to reach **13.8 lakh** in **2025**.
विदेश मंत्रालय के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, **2023** तक **70 से अधिक देशों** में **13.2 लाख से अधिक भारतीय छात्र** नामांकित थे, जो **2024** में **13.35 लाख** हो गए, और **2025** में **13.8 लाख** तक पहुँचने का अनुमान है।
- India is one of the **top senders of international students**, with the **United States** and **Canada** as the top destinations (**40%**), followed by the **United Kingdom, Australia and Germany**.
भारत **अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों के प्रमुख प्रेषक देशों** में से एक है, जहाँ **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और कनाडा** शीर्ष गंतव्य हैं (**40%**), इसके बाद **यूनाइटेड किंगडम, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और जर्मनी** आते हैं।
- This significant development is reflected in the report of the **Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Indian Diaspora (2022)** which engages with students as one of India's major **diaspora categories**.



यह महत्वपूर्ण विकास भारतीय प्रवासी कल्याण पर संसदीय समिति (2022) की रिपोर्ट में परिलक्षित होता है, जिसमें छात्रों को भारत की प्रमुख प्रवासी श्रेणियों में शामिल किया गया है।

The true picture वास्तविक तस्वीर

- While all this is seen by some as a **democratisation of foreign education**, with doors opening to students from different **socio-economic classes**, the reality is more complex. जहाँ कुछ लोग इसे **विदेशी शिक्षा का लोकतंत्रीकरण** मानते हैं, जिससे विभिन्न सामाजिक-आर्थिक वर्गों के छात्रों के लिए अवसर खुलते हैं, वहीं वास्तविकता कहीं अधिक जटिल है।
- Many of these students are channelled into **lower-tier institutions and vocational colleges**, into courses often unrelated to their **expertise** and without much **job prospects**, due to **recruitment agencies** that operate in a **grey legal zone**. इनमें से कई छात्रों को **निम्न-स्तरीय संस्थानों** और **व्यावसायिक कॉलेजों** में भेज दिया जाता है, ऐसे पाठ्यक्रमों में जो उनकी **विशेषज्ञता** से असंबद्ध होते हैं और जिनमें **रोज़गार की संभावनाएँ** कम होती हैं, क्योंकि **भर्ती एजेंसियाँ** एक **कानूनी धूसर क्षेत्र** में काम करती हैं।
- The partnership between **recruitment networks** and less credible **private colleges abroad** is driven primarily by **commissions and profit**, reflecting the largely **unregulated expansion** of the foreign education industry. **भर्ती नेटवर्क** और विदेशों के कम विश्वसनीय **निजी कॉलेजों** के बीच साझेदारी मुख्यतः **कमीशन और लाभ** से संचालित होती है, जो विदेशी शिक्षा उद्योग के बड़े पैमाने पर **अनियमित विस्तार** को दर्शाती है।
- The outcome is widespread **deskilling** and **underemployment**, with many graduates unable to transition into **skilled work**. इसका परिणाम व्यापक **कौशल-क्षरण** और **अपर्याप्त रोज़गार** के रूप में सामने आता है, जहाँ कई स्नातक **कुशल कार्य** में स्थानांतरित नहीं हो पाते।
- In the **U.K.**, what were once **polytechnics** have become **universities post-1992** that cater primarily to **international students**, sometimes waiving **entry requirements** and triggering controversy due to **declining academic standards**. **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** में, जो पहले **पॉलीटेक्निक** थे, वे **1992 के बाद विश्वविद्यालय** बन गए, जो मुख्यतः **अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों** को आकर्षित करते हैं, कभी-कभी **प्रवेश मानदंडों** में छूट देते हैं और **शैक्षणिक मानकों** में **गिरावट** को लेकर विवाद खड़ा करते हैं।
- Reports suggest that approximately only **one in four Indian postgraduates** in the **U.K.** secures a **sponsored skilled visa**. रिपोर्टों से पता चलता है कि **यूके** में केवल लगभग **चार में से एक भारतीय परास्नातक छात्र** ही प्रायोजित **कुशल वीज़ा** प्राप्त कर पाता है।
- Student migration from India represents a **middle-class aspiration** with **significant risks**. भारत से छात्र प्रवासन एक **मध्यम वर्गीय आकांक्षा** को दर्शाता है, जिसमें **महत्वपूर्ण जोखिम** निहित हैं।
- **Kerala**, historically defined by **Gulf labour migration**, illustrates this transformation as the **Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2023** reports that student migration **doubled in five years**, from **1.29 lakh in 2018 to 2.5 lakh in 2023**, which is **11.3% of total emigrants**. **केरल**, जो ऐतिहासिक रूप से **खाड़ी श्रम प्रवासन** से परिभाषित रहा है, इस परिवर्तन को दर्शाता है, क्योंकि **केरल माइग्रेशन सर्वे (KMS) 2023** के अनुसार छात्र प्रवासन **पाँच वर्षों में दोगुना** हो गया, **2018 में 1.29 लाख** से बढ़कर **2023 में 2.5 लाख**, जो **कुल प्रवासियों का 11.3%** है।
- **Outward student remittances from Kerala** are estimated at **₹43,378 crore**, equivalent to about **20% of total inward remittances from labour migrants**. **केरल से बाहर जाने वाले छात्र प्रेषण** का अनुमान **₹43,378 करोड़** है, जो **श्रम प्रवासियों से आने वाले कुल प्रेषण का लगभग 20%** है।

Reverse remittance रिवर्स रेमिटेंस

- Most students migrate through **self-financing** or **education loans**, often **mortgaging family property**, with the hope of better employment and **higher wages** that would repay debts and enable **higher living standards**. अधिकांश छात्र **स्व-वित्तपोषण** या **शिक्षा ऋण** के माध्यम से प्रवास करते हैं, अक्सर **पारिवारिक संपत्ति गिरवी**



रखकर, इस उम्मीद में कि बेहतर रोज़गार और उच्च वेतन से कर्ज़ चुकाया जा सके और उच्च जीवन स्तर हासिल हो सके।

- However, for many, this journey ends in **debt, underemployment or forced return**, a phenomenon that economists describe as **reverse remittances**, where **Indian households subsidise foreign economies**.
लेकिन कई लोगों के लिए यह यात्रा कर्ज़, अल्प-रोज़गार या मजबूरन वापसी पर समाप्त होती है, जिसे अर्थशास्त्री रिवर्स रेमिटेंस कहते हैं, जहाँ भारतीय परिवार विदेशी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को सब्सिडी देते हैं।
- Foreign students contribute significantly to **host economies**.
विदेशी छात्र मेज़बान अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देते हैं।
- In **Canada**, international students contributed about **\$30.9 billion to GDP in 2022**, supporting over **3,61,000 jobs**.
कनाडा में, अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों ने 2022 में GDP में लगभग \$30.9 अरब का योगदान दिया, जिससे 3,61,000 से अधिक नौकरियाँ समर्थित हुईं।
- In **2023**, **Canada hosted over 4,27,000 Indian students**, which is roughly **45% of international enrolments**.
2023 में, कनाडा में 4,27,000 से अधिक भारतीय छात्र थे, जो कुल अंतरराष्ट्रीय नामांकन का लगभग 45% है।
- In the **U.S.**, roughly **4,00,000 Indian students**, in **2024**, spent an estimated **\$7 billion–\$8 billion annually** on tuition, housing and living costs, sustaining **universities and local economies**.
अमेरिका में, 2024 में लगभग 4,00,000 भारतीय छात्रों ने ट्यूशन, आवास और जीवन-यापन लागत पर अनुमानित \$7–\$8 अरब प्रति वर्ष खर्च किए, जिससे विश्वविद्यालयों और स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को सहारा मिला।
- Across destinations, students shoulder substantial **financial burdens**, sometimes to the tune of **₹40 lakh–₹50 lakh**, to finance studies abroad.
विभिन्न गंतव्यों पर छात्र पढ़ाई के लिए भारी वित्तीय बोझ उठाते हैं, कभी-कभी ₹40 लाख–₹50 लाख तक।
- **Rising rents, restricted working hours, and visa caps exacerbate financial and mental strains**.
बढ़ते किराए, सीमित कार्य घंटे और वीज़ा सीमाएँ वित्तीय और मानसिक दबाव को और बढ़ाती हैं।
- Unable to find **skilled work**, many take up **low-wage unskilled jobs**, often juggling **multiple part-time jobs**, sometimes **undocumented**, to work longer hours, and facing **exploitation**.
कुशल काम न मिलने पर कई लोग कम वेतन वाले अकुशल काम करते हैं, अक्सर कई अंशकालिक नौकरियाँ संभालते हैं, कभी-कभी बिना दस्तावेज़ों के, लंबे घंटे काम करते हुए शोषण झेलते हैं।
- **Restrictive visa rules, limited post-study employment options** and a **lack of placement support** from **low-ranked colleges** exacerbate this **downward mobility**.
कठोर वीज़ा नियम, अध्ययन-उपरांत सीमित रोज़गार विकल्प और निम्न-रैंक कॉलेजों से प्लेसमेंट समर्थन की कमी इस अवरोही सामाजिक गतिशीलता को और गहरा करती है।
- For instance, until **2024**, the **U.K.** allowed students to convert **student visas into care visas**, offering a **survival route** in a tight job market, but this pathway has since become **impossible** due to **new restrictions**.
उदाहरण के लिए, 2024 तक यूके छात्रों को स्टूडेंट वीज़ा से केयर वीज़ा में बदलने की अनुमति देता था, जो तंग नौकरी बाज़ार में जीवित रहने का रास्ता था, लेकिन नई पाबंदियों के कारण यह मार्ग अब असंभव हो गया है।

The local context

स्थानीय परिप्रेक्ष्य

- This **outflow of students** needs to be understood within the **domestic context** that is driving it.
छात्रों के इस बहिर्गमन को उसे प्रेरित करने वाले घरेलू परिप्रेक्ष्य में समझने की आवश्यकता है।
- Is it the perceived **lack of quality in domestic institutions** or an inability to find **well-paid domestic employment**?
क्या यह घरेलू संस्थानों की गुणवत्ता की धारणा में कमी है या अच्छी तनख़्वाह वाली घरेलू नौकरियाँ न मिल पाने की समस्या?



- With **foreign universities** establishing **offshore campuses** in **Dubai, Singapore**, and other destinations offering **western degrees at lower costs**, it is telling that **Indian students rarely choose them**.
जब **विदेशी विश्वविद्यालय दुबई, सिंगापुर** और अन्य स्थानों पर **कम लागत पर पश्चिमी डिग्रियाँ** देने वाले **ऑफशोर कैंपस** स्थापित कर रहे हैं, तब भी **भारतीय छात्रों का उन्हें कम चुनना** बहुत कुछ बताता है।
- The reason is more **structural**.
कारण अधिक **संरचनात्मक** है।
- For many, studying in **OECD countries** is not only about **education** but about **permanent residency, social mobility and an escape from a third world identity**.
कई लोगों के लिए **OECD देशों** में पढ़ाई केवल **शिक्षा** नहीं, बल्कि **स्थायी निवास, सामाजिक गतिशीलता** और **तीसरी दुनिया की पहचान से मुक्ति** से जुड़ी है।
- Ironically, this wave of student migration has also created a new form of **cheap labour for OECD countries**, akin to **Gulf labour migration**, except that it is now accompanied by **reverse remittances** often financed through **savings and debt**.
विडंबना यह है कि छात्र प्रवासन की यह लहर **OECD देशों** के लिए **सस्ते श्रम** का नया रूप भी बना रही है, **खाड़ी श्रम प्रवासन** की तरह, अंतर यह कि अब इसके साथ **रिवर्स रेमिटेंस** भी हैं, जो अक्सर **बचत और कर्ज़** से वित्तपोषित होते हैं।
- This rapid expansion of **Indian student migration** exposes deep **systemic contradictions** between **aspiration and outcome**, and between **opportunity and exploitation**, resulting in a phenomenon that can be described as **brain waste**.
भारतीय छात्र प्रवासन का यह तेज़ विस्तार **आकांक्षा और परिणाम**, तथा **अवसर और शोषण** के बीच गहरे **प्रणालीगत विरोधाभासों** को उजागर करता है, जिससे **ब्रेन वेस्ट** जैसी स्थिति पैदा होती है।
- It calls for **stronger regulation of education agents, pre-departure counselling, and bilateral frameworks** to ensure **institutional accountability abroad**.
यह **शिक्षा एजेंटों के सख्त नियमन, प्रस्थान-पूर्व परामर्श, और द्विपक्षीय ढाँचों** की माँग करता है ताकि **विदेशों में संस्थागत जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित** की जा सके।



Overseas Bill betrays migrant workers

GS I: Society: Migration

MCQ

In the shadow of India's economic ascent, millions of its citizens – predominantly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Kerala – embark on perilous journeys abroad, chasing the mirage of dignity through sweat and sacrifice.

These are India's labour migrants: construction workers scaling Gulf skyscrapers, domestic helpers scrubbing floors in Arab mansions, factory hands assembling gadgets in Southeast Asian sweatshops. They remit billions, fuelling families back home and propping up a gross domestic product that aspires to superpower status. Yet, as the Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025, wends its way through the Indian Parliament, it stands not as a shield for these foot soldiers of globalisation, but as a conveyor belt accelerating their slide into exploitation.

This legislation, billed as a sleek upgrade to the 1983 Emigration Act, is a Trojan horse of deregulation dressed in the garb of efficiency. It promises "facilitation" but delivers fragility, prioritising bureaucratic streamlining over the blood-and-bone realities of migrant workers. If passed unamended, it will etch deeper scars into India's global workforce.

Key issues

At its core, the Bill eviscerates enforceable rights that could anchor labour migrants against the tempests of abuse. The 2021 draft, for all its flaws, at least envisioned migrants as agents of their fate – empowering them to haul exploiters into court with their own hands. The 2025 version yanks that lifeline away, consigning workers to the whims of indifferent state machinery.

Worse still, the Bill abandons the most vulnerable flanks of the migrant army. Labour migration is a gendered battlefield, with women bearing the brunt of trafficking and sexual violence. The 2021 draft imposed heftier penalties for crimes against



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women and children; the new one dilutes this to a vapid nod towards "vulnerable classes," a catch-all that invites judicial foot-dragging.

The Bill's silence on human trafficking leaves a yawning chasm. Labour migrants are not statistics; they are sons and daughters, dispatched to high-risk corridors, where exploitation is not an aberration but architecture. By scrubbing these safeguards, the Bill does not facilitate mobility – it fertilises the soil for modern-day slavery.

Exploitation's machinery hums on unchecked, too, as the Bill guts anti-predation tools that once kept recruitment agencies in line. Gone is the 2021 mandate for transparent fee disclosure, the very dam against the flood of debt bondage that drowns migrants before they even board the flight.

Today, a worker from rural Bihar might fork over lakhs to a shadowy agent for a "guaranteed" job in Riyadh, only to arrive facing a substituted contract at half the pay – if he arrives at all.

The Bill's "accreditation" system for agencies invites a carnival of crooks. Emigration Check Posts vanish in favour of digital nods – convenient for Delhi's desks, catastrophic for the worker signing away his life in a back-alley deal.

Once abroad, the betrayal deepens. The 2021 vision held agencies responsible for reception, dispute mediation, and document renewals. Now, these duties dissolve into "functions" for government bodies, overburdened and under-resourced.

The Integrated Information System, touted as tech-savvy salvation, morphs instead into a surveillance spectre, hoovering migrant data without consent. Who benefits? Not the worker phoning home in desperation, but the state logging his every move – while foreign bosses, spared direct penalties, laugh from afar. Illicit online recruitment, the

digital Wild West where fake jobs lure the desperate via WhatsApp scams, goes unmentioned.

Reintegration, that fragile bridge home, fares no better. The Bill murmurs of "safe return" but skimps on funds for vocational training or trauma counselling, cynically excluding deportees within 182 days as non-"returnees."

This centralised colossus compounds the cruelty, erecting a Delhi-dominated edifice that sidelines the federal mosaic where migration pulses. States such as Kerala, with its migrant-sending savvy, or Uttar Pradesh, cradle of the exodus, get no seat at the Overseas Mobility Council's table, nor do trade unions or rights groups.

State Nodal Committees, grassroots sentinels in the 2021 draft, evaporate under centrally anointed officers. Crises brew

locally – family pleas in Lucknow, hospital vigils in Thrissur – yet solutions gestate in air-conditioned isolation. Penalties, meanwhile, limp:

recruitment rackets fined, but traffickers and overseas tyrants are untouched.

Time to act

India's labour migrants are not expendable exports; they are the sinew of a nation that preens on their remittances while pocketing their perils. The 2025 Bill will turbocharge this inequity. Parliament must intervene, reinstate self-advocacy rights, mandate fee transparency and post-arrival safeguards, federalise governance with civil society's roar, and arm penalties with compensation claws. Define trafficking, broaden "work" to embrace gig frontiers, and fund reintegration that rebuilds lives. The hour demands not facilitation, but fortification. For these workers, whose hands build empires abroad and homes within, anything short is not reform – it is rupture.



The legislation, billed as a sleek upgrade to the 1983 Emigration Act, is a Trojan horse of deregulation dressed in the garb of efficiency

Overseas Bill betrays migrant workers

ओवरसीज़ विधेयक प्रवासी श्रमिकों के साथ विश्वासघात करता है

- In the shadow of India's economic ascent, millions of its citizens — predominantly from **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Kerala** — embark on perilous journeys abroad, chasing the mirage of dignity through sweat and sacrifice.

भारत की आर्थिक उन्नति की छाया में, इसके लाखों नागरिक — मुख्यतः उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और केरल से —



पसीने और बलिदान के माध्यम से गरिमा के मृगतृष्णा का पीछा करते हुए विदेशों में जोखिम भरी यात्राओं पर निकल पड़ते हैं।

- These are India's **labour migrants**: construction workers scaling **Gulf skyscrapers**, domestic helpers scrubbing floors in **Arab mansions**, factory hands assembling gadgets in **Southeast Asian sweatshops**.
ये हैं भारत के **श्रम प्रवासी**: **खाड़ी देशों** की गगनचुंबी इमारतों पर काम करने वाले निर्माण श्रमिक, **अरब महलों** में फर्श साफ़ करने वाले घरेलू सहायक, और **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** की स्वेटशॉप्स में उपकरण जोड़ने वाले फैक्ट्री मज़दूर।
- They remit **billions**, fuelling families back home and propping up a **gross domestic product** that aspires to **superpower status**.
वे **अरबों** की धनराशि भेजते हैं, जिससे देश में परिवारों का पालन होता है और उस **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद** को सहारा मिलता है जो **महाशक्ति** बनने की आकांक्षा रखता है।
- Yet, as the **Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025**, wends its way through the **Indian Parliament**, it stands not as a shield for these foot soldiers of globalisation, but as a conveyor belt accelerating their slide into **exploitation**.
फिर भी, जब **ओवरसीज़ मोबिलिटी (सुविधा और कल्याण) विधेयक, 2025** भारतीय संसद से होकर आगे बढ़ रहा है, तो यह वैश्वीकरण के इन पैदल सिपाहियों के लिए ढाल नहीं, बल्कि उन्हें **शोषण** की ओर तेज़ी से धकेलने वाली कन्वेयर बेल्ट के रूप में सामने आता है।
- This legislation, billed as a sleek upgrade to the **1983 Emigration Act**, is a **Trojan horse of deregulation** dressed in the garb of efficiency.
यह विधेयक, जिसे **1983 के प्रवासन अधिनियम** के आधुनिक संस्करण के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, दक्षता के आवरण में छिपा **नियमन-उन्मूलन का ट्रोजन हॉर्स** है।
- It promises **“facilitation”** but delivers fragility, prioritising **bureaucratic streamlining over the blood-and-bone realities of migrant workers**.
यह **“सुविधा”** का वादा करता है, लेकिन प्रवासी श्रमिकों की **खून-पसीने से जुड़ी वास्तविकताओं** पर **नौकरशाही सरलीकरण** को प्राथमिकता देकर असुरक्षा देता है।
- If passed unamended, it will etch deeper scars into India's **global workforce**.
यदि इसे बिना संशोधन के पारित किया गया, तो यह भारत के **वैश्विक श्रमबल** पर और गहरे घाव छोड़ेगा।

Key issues

मुख्य मुद्दे

- At its core, the Bill eviscerates **enforceable rights** that could anchor labour migrants against the tempests of abuse.
मूल रूप से, यह विधेयक उन **प्रवर्तनीय अधिकारों** को समाप्त कर देता है जो श्रम प्रवासियों को शोषण के तूफ़ानों से बाँधकर रख सकते थे।
- The **2021 draft**, for all its flaws, at least envisioned migrants as **agents of their fate** — empowering them to haul exploiters into court with their own hands.
अपने सभी दोषों के बावजूद, **2021 का मसौदा** कम से कम प्रवासियों को **अपने भाग्य के कर्ता** के रूप में देखता था — उन्हें शोषकों को अदालत तक खींच लाने की शक्ति देता था।
- The **2025 version** yanks that lifeline away, consigning workers to the whims of **indifferent state machinery**.
2025 का संस्करण उस जीवनरेखा को छीन लेता है और श्रमिकों को **उदासीन राज्य मशीनरी** की दया पर छोड़ देता है।
- Worse still, the Bill abandons the most **vulnerable flanks** of the migrant army.
इससे भी बुरा यह है कि विधेयक प्रवासी श्रमबल के सबसे **संवेदनशील वर्गों** को छोड़ देता है।
- Labour migration is a **gendered battlefield**, with **women bearing the brunt of trafficking and sexual violence**.
श्रम प्रवासन एक **लैंगिक युद्धक्षेत्र** है, जहाँ **महिलाएँ तस्करी और यौन हिंसा** का सबसे अधिक बोझ उठाती हैं।
- The **2021 draft** imposed **heftier penalties** for crimes against **women and children**; the new one dilutes this to a rapid nod towards **“vulnerable classes”**, a catch-all that invites **judicial foot-dragging**.
2021 के मसौदे में **महिलाओं और बच्चों** के खिलाफ अपराधों के लिए **कठोर दंड** का प्रावधान था; नया मसौदा इसे **“संवेदनशील वर्गों”** जैसे खोखले शब्दों तक सीमित कर देता है, जिससे **न्यायिक टालमटोल** को बढ़ावा मिलता है।



- The **Bill's silence on human trafficking** leaves a yawning chasm.
मानव तस्करी पर विधेयक की चुप्पी एक गहरी खाई छोड़ देती है।
- Labour migrants are not statistics; they are **sons and daughters**, dispatched to **high-risk corridors**, where exploitation is not an aberration but **architecture**.
श्रम प्रवासी आँकड़े नहीं हैं; वे **बेटे-बेटियाँ** हैं, जिन्हें **उच्च-जोखिम गलियारों** में भेजा जाता है, जहाँ शोषण अपवाद नहीं बल्कि **संरचना** है।
- **By scrubbing these safeguards, the Bill does not facilitate mobility — it fertilises the soil for modern-day slavery.**
इन सुरक्षा उपायों को हटाकर, विधेयक आवागमन को सुगम नहीं बनाता — बल्कि **आधुनिक दासता** के लिए ज़मीन तैयार करता है।
- Exploitation's machinery hums on unchecked, too, as the Bill guts **anti-predation tools** that once kept **recruitment agencies** in line.
शोषण की मशीनरी बिना रोक-टोक चलती रहती है, क्योंकि यह विधेयक उन **शोषण-रोधी उपायों** को समाप्त कर देता है जो कभी **भर्ती एजेंसियों** को नियंत्रित रखते थे।
- **Gone is the 2021 mandate for transparent fee disclosure, the very dam against the flood of debt bondage that drowns migrants before they even board the flight.**
शुल्क की पारदर्शी जानकारी के लिए **2021 का अनिवार्य प्रावधान** समाप्त कर दिया गया है, जो उस **कर्ज़-बँधुआपन** की बाढ़ के खिलाफ बाँध था जो प्रवासियों को उड़ान भरने से पहले ही डुबो देता है।
- Today, a worker from **rural Bihar** might fork over **lakhs** to a shadowy agent for a **“guaranteed” job in Riyadh**, only to arrive facing a **substituted contract at half the pay** — if he arrives at all.
आज **ग्रामीण बिहार** का एक मज़दूर **रियाद** में **“गारंटीड” नौकरी** के लिए किसी संदिग्ध एजेंट को **लाखों रुपये** दे सकता है, और पहुँचने पर **आधे वेतन** वाले बदले हुए अनुबंध का सामना कर सकता है — यदि वह पहुँच पाए तो।
- The Bill's **“accreditation” system** for agencies invites a **carnival of crooks**.
एजेंसियों के लिए विधेयक की **“मान्यता प्रणाली”** ठगों के **मेले** को आमंत्रण देती है।
- **Emigration Check Posts** vanish in favour of **digital nods** — convenient for **Delhi's desks**, catastrophic for the worker signing away his life in a **back-alley deal**.
प्रवासन जाँच चौकियाँ डिजिटल मंजूरीयों के पक्ष में समाप्त कर दी गई हैं — **दिल्ली के दफ्तरों** के लिए सुविधाजनक, लेकिन **गली-कूचे के सौदे** में अपना जीवन दाँव पर लगाने वाले मज़दूर के लिए विनाशकारी।

Once abroad, the betrayal deepens विदेश पहुँचने के बाद, विश्वासघात और गहराता है

- **The 2021 vision** held agencies responsible for **reception, dispute mediation, and document renewals**.
2021 की परिकल्पना में एजेंसियों को **स्वागत, विवाद मध्यस्थता, और दस्तावेज़ नवीनीकरण** के लिए उत्तरदायी ठहराया गया था।
- **Now, these duties dissolve into “functions” for government bodies, overburdened and under-resourced.**
अब, ये दायित्व **सरकारी निकायों** के लिए **“कार्य”** बनकर घुल जाते हैं, जो पहले से ही अत्यधिक बोझिल और संसाधनों से वंचित हैं।
- **The Integrated Information System, touted as tech-savvy salvation, morphs instead into a surveillance spectre, hoovering migrant data without consent.**
एकीकृत सूचना प्रणाली, जिसे **तकनीकी समाधान** के रूप में प्रचारित किया गया, दरअसल **निगरानी के भूत** में बदल जाती है, और **प्रवासी डेटा** को **सहमति** के बिना समेट लेती है।
- Who benefits?
किसे लाभ होता है?
- Not the worker phoning home in desperation, but the **state logging his every move** — while **foreign bosses**, spared **direct penalties**, laugh from afar.
हताशा में घर फोन करने वाले मज़दूर को नहीं, बल्कि **राज्य को**, जो उसकी **हर गतिविधि दर्ज** करता है — जबकि **विदेशी नियोक्ता, प्रत्यक्ष दंड** से बचे हुए, दूर से हँसते हैं।
- **Illicit online recruitment, the digital Wild West where fake jobs lure the desperate via WhatsApp scams, goes unmentioned.**



अवैध ऑनलाइन भर्ती, वह डिजिटल वाइल्ड वेस्ट जहाँ नकली नौकरियाँ व्हाट्सएप घोटालों के ज़रिये हाताश लोगों को फँसाती हैं, का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है।

- **Reintegration**, that fragile bridge home, fares no better.
पुनर्वास, घर लौटने का वह नाजूक पुल, भी बेहतर स्थिति में नहीं है।
- The Bill murmurs of “**safe return**” but skimps on funds for **vocational training** or **trauma counselling**, cynically excluding **deportees within 182 days** as non-“**returnees**”.
विधेयक “**सुरक्षित वापसी**” की बात तो करता है, लेकिन **व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण** या **आघात परामर्श** के लिए धन से कतराता है, और **182 दिनों के भीतर निर्वासित** लोगों को निष्ठुरता से “**वापसी करने वाले**” की श्रेणी से बाहर कर देता है।
- This **centralised colossus** compounds the cruelty, erecting a **Delhi-dominated edifice** that sidelines the **federal mosaic** where migration pulses.
यह **केंद्रीकृत दैत्य** क्रूरता को और बढ़ाता है, एक **दिल्ली-प्रधान ढाँचा** खड़ा करता है जो उस **संघीय विविधता** को हाशिये पर डाल देता है जहाँ प्रवासन की धड़कनें चलती हैं।
- States such as **Kerala**, with its migrant-sending savvy, or **Uttar Pradesh**, cradle of the exodus, get **no seat** at the **Overseas Mobility Council’s** table, nor do **trade unions** or **rights groups**.
केरल, जो प्रवासी भेजने का अनुभव रखता है, या **उत्तर प्रदेश**, जो इस पलायन की जन्मभूमि है, को **ओवरसीज़ मोबिलिटी काउंसिल** की मेज़ पर **कोई स्थान** नहीं मिलता, न ही **ट्रेड यूनियनों** या **अधिकार समूहों** को।
- **State Nodal Committees**, grassroots sentinels in the **2021 draft**, evaporate under **centrally anointed officers**.
राज्य नोडल समितियाँ, जो **2021 के मसौदे** में जमीनी प्रहरी थीं, **केंद्र द्वारा नियुक्त अधिकारियों** के अधीन लुप्त हो जाती हैं।
- Crises brew locally — **family pleas in Lucknow**, **hospital vigils in Thrissur** — yet solutions gestate in **air-conditioned isolation**.
संकट स्थानीय स्तर पर उभरते हैं — **लखनऊ में पारिवारिक गुहार**, **त्रिशूर में अस्पतालों की पहरेदारी** — लेकिन समाधान **एयर-कंडीशन्ड एकांत** में पकते हैं।
- **Penalties**, meanwhile, limp: **recruitment rackets fined**, but **traffickers** and **overseas tyrants** are untouched.
इस बीच **दंड** लँगड़े रह जाते हैं: **भर्ती रैकेटों** पर जुर्माना तो लगता है, लेकिन **तस्कर** और **विदेशी अत्याचारी** अछूते रहते हैं।

Time to act

अब कार्रवाई का समय

- India’s **labour migrants** are not **expendable exports**; they are the **sinew of a nation** that preens on their **remittances** while pocketing their **perils**.
भारत के **श्रम प्रवासी** कोई **त्याज्य निर्यात** नहीं हैं; वे उस **राष्ट्र की नसें** हैं जो उनकी **रेमिटेंस** पर गर्व करता है और उनके **जोखिम** को नज़रअंदाज़ करता है।
- The **2025 Bill** will **turbocharge** this inequity.
2025 का विधेयक इस असमानता को **तेज़ी से बढ़ाएगा**।
- **Parliament** must intervene, **reinstate self-advocacy rights**, **mandate fee transparency** and **post-arrival safeguards**, **federalise governance** with **civil society’s roar**, and arm **penalties with compensation laws**.
संसद को हस्तक्षेप करना चाहिए, **स्व-पक्षधरता के अधिकार** बहाल करने चाहिए, **शुल्क पारदर्शिता** और **आगमन-पश्चात सुरक्षा उपाय** अनिवार्य करने चाहिए, **नागरिक समाज की आवाज़** के साथ **संघीय शासन** को सुदृढ़ करना चाहिए, और **दंड** को **मुआवज़े के प्रावधानों** से लैस करना चाहिए।
- **Define trafficking**, broaden “**work**” to embrace **gig frontiers**, and **fund reintegration** that **rebuilds lives**.
तस्करी की स्पष्ट परिभाषा तय करें, “**काम**” की परिधि को **गिग अर्थव्यवस्था** तक विस्तारित करें, और जीवन को फिर से बसाने वाला **पुनर्वास** वित्तपोषित करें।
- The hour demands not **facilitation**, but **fortification**.
यह समय **सुविधा** नहीं, बल्कि **संरक्षण** की माँग करता है।
- For these workers, whose hands build **empires abroad** and **homes within**, anything short is not **reform** — it is **rupture**.



इन श्रमिकों के लिए, जिनके हाथ विदेशों में साम्राज्य और देश में घर बनाते हैं, इससे कम कुछ भी सुधार नहीं — बल्कि विच्छेद है।

Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025

The Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025 is a new proposed law by the Government of India to protect, support, regulate and help Indians who go abroad for work, study, training, or migration.

It aims to:

- Make migration **safer and easier**
- Stop fraud in foreign job recruitment
- Provide **welfare & support** to Indians abroad
- Modernize old laws and bring everything under **one single framework**

It replaces the outdated Emigration Act, 1983.

Why Was This Bill Needed?

Millions of Indians go abroad every year for:

- Jobs
- Education
- Training
- Internships

But many face:

- Fraud by illegal agents
- Contract violations
- Non-payment of wages
- Passport confiscation
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of help during emergencies
- Abuse by employers

The old law (1983) covered only **unskilled workers**, not students, professionals, or interns.

Hence, the government created a **modern, protective, welfare-based law**.

Features of the Bill



Covers ALL categories of migrants

Previously only “emigration clearance workers” (like domestic workers, labourers) were protected.

Now the bill covers:

- Students
- Nurses
- Engineers
- Seafarers
- IT professionals
- Domestic workers
- Construction workers
- Interns & trainees
- Anyone going abroad for ANY work or long-term stay

Complete digital system for migration

The bill creates a **full digital platform** where migrants can:

- Register online
- See verified foreign job offers
- Track recruitment status
- Check employer background
- Report complaints
- Get updates from embassies

This reduces middlemen and fraud.

Strict control on recruitment agents

All foreign job recruiters must:

- Register with the government
- Follow strict norms
- Give written contracts
- Be transparent about wages & work

Fraudulent agents face:

- Heavy fines
- Jail
- Blacklisting

This protects workers from scams.

Better welfare system through embassies



Indian Embassies will have a **stronger legal role:**

- Support during emergencies
- Help during crises (war, disasters)
- Provide legal assistance
- Resolve contract disputes
- Protect women workers
- Run shelter homes if needed

Crisis management mechanisms

For situations like:

- Civil war
- COVID-like pandemics
- Natural disasters
- Mass evacuation (example: Operation Ganga from Ukraine)

The Bill gives government power to bring Indians back safely.

Migrant Welfare Fund

A special **Overseas Indian Welfare Fund** will support:

- Emergency loans
- Shelter
- Legal support
- Repatriation
- Skill training
- Rehabilitation for returnees

Protection from exploitation abroad

The Bill ensures:

- No passport confiscation
- No underpayment
- No forced labour
- Safe working conditions
- Grievance redressal through embassies

GS Paper II: Polity,

TOPICS COVERED

18 December



1.

Uttarakhand Governor returns UCC, religious conversion Bills
उत्तराखंड के राज्यपाल ने यूसीसी और धार्मिक धर्मांतरण विधेयक लौटाए

Uttarakhand Governor returns UCC, religious conversion Bills

GS II: Polity

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a setback to the Pushkar Singh Dhami-led Uttarakhand government, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (retd.) has returned the amendment Bills related to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the State's Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Act, citing technical flaws.

Sources in the government confirmed that the Governor's office has returned the Bills.

"Apart from some grammatical and technical errors, the Governor has also raised issues with the punishment term for a couple of offences in the new legislations," an official involved in the drafting of the Bills told *The Hindu*.



Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

He added that since the Bills have now come back from the Governor's office, they will have to be re-drafted, removing the mistakes pointed out and addressing other technical glitches. "The government then will be left with two options, either pass the amendments by bringing an ordinance or get them passed again in the State Assembly and send them again for the Governor's consideration," the official added.

Although the State government has claimed that the Governor's office returned the Bills due to minor faults, the Congress termed the move a tactic to keep the issues alive in public memory ahead of the Assembly elections due in 2027.

"If they were just minor flaws, the Governor's office could have unofficially sent them back for corrections. ...it is just a tactic of the government to recall the Bills and once again pass them in the Assembly sometime around the elections which are due in early 2027 because the BJP has already used all its divisive tactics to win elections and now they are left with nothing new," Uttarakhand Congress vice-president Suryakant Dhasmana said.

Uttarakhand Governor returns UCC, religious conversion Bills उत्तराखंड के राज्यपाल ने यूसीसी और धार्मिक धर्मांतरण विधेयक लौटाए

- In a setback to the **Pushkar Singh Dhami-led Uttarakhand government**, **Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (retd.)** has returned the amendment Bills related to the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** and the State's **Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Act**, citing **technical flaws**

पुष्कर सिंह धामी के नेतृत्व वाली उत्तराखंड सरकार को झटका देते हुए, राज्यपाल लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल गुरमीत सिंह (सेवानिवृत्त) ने समान नागरिक संहिता (यूसीसी) और राज्य के धर्म की स्वतंत्रता और अवैध धर्मांतरण निषेध अधिनियम से संबंधित संशोधन विधेयकों को तकनीकी खामियों का हवाला देते हुए लौटा दिया है



- Sources in the government confirmed that the **Governor's office** has returned the **Bills** सरकारी सूत्रों ने पुष्टि की कि **राज्यपाल कार्यालय** ने **विधेयकों** को लौटा दिया है
- "Apart from some **grammatical and technical errors**, the Governor has also raised issues with the **punishment term** for a couple of **offences** in the new legislations," an official involved in the drafting of the Bills told **The Hindu**
"कुछ **व्याकरणिक और तकनीकी त्रुटियों** के अलावा, राज्यपाल ने नए कानूनों में कुछ **अपराधों** के लिए निर्धारित **दंड अवधि** पर भी सवाल उठाए हैं," विधेयकों के मसौदे से जुड़े एक अधिकारी ने **द हिंदू** से कहा
- He added that since the Bills have now come back from the **Governor's office**, they will have to be **redrafted**, removing the mistakes pointed out and addressing other **technical glitches** उन्होंने आगे कहा कि चूंकि विधेयक अब **राज्यपाल कार्यालय** से वापस आ गए हैं, इसलिए उन्हें **पुनः मसौदा** तैयार करना होगा, जिसमें बताई गई गलतियों को हटाना और अन्य **तकनीकी खामियों** को दूर करना शामिल होगा
- "The government then will be left with two options, either pass the amendments by bringing an **ordinance** or get them passed again in the **State Assembly** and send them again for the **Governor's consideration**," the official added
"इसके बाद सरकार के पास दो विकल्प बचेंगे, या तो **ऑर्डिनेंस** लाकर संशोधनों को पारित करे या उन्हें फिर से **राज्य विधानसभा** से पारित कराकर **राज्यपाल की स्वीकृति** के लिए दोबारा भेजे," अधिकारी ने जोड़ा
- Although the **State government** has claimed that the **Governor's office** returned the Bills due to **minor faults**, the **Congress** termed the move a tactic to keep the issues alive in **public memory** ahead of the **Assembly elections** due in **2027**
हालांकि **राज्य सरकार** ने दावा किया है कि **राज्यपाल कार्यालय** ने **मामूली खामियों** के कारण विधेयक लौटाए, लेकिन **कांग्रेस** ने इसे **2027** में होने वाले **विधानसभा चुनावों** से पहले मुद्दों को **जन स्मृति** में जीवित रखने की रणनीति बताया
- "If they were just **minor flaws**, the Governor's office could have **unofficially** sent them back for corrections. ...it is just a tactic of the government to recall the Bills and once again pass them in the Assembly sometime around the elections which are due in **early 2027** because the **BJP** has already used all its **divisive tactics** to win elections and now they are left with nothing new," **Uttarakhand Congress vice-president Suryakant Dhasmana** said
"यदि ये केवल **मामूली खामियां** थीं, तो राज्यपाल कार्यालय उन्हें **अनौपचारिक रूप से** सुधार के लिए वापस भेज सकता था। ...यह सरकार की केवल एक रणनीति है कि विधेयकों को वापस बुलाकर उन्हें फिर से **2027 की शुरुआत** में होने वाले चुनावों के आसपास विधानसभा में पारित किया जाए, क्योंकि **भाजपा** चुनाव जीतने के लिए अपनी सभी **विभाजनकारी रणनीतियां** पहले ही इस्तेमाल कर चुकी है और अब उसके पास कुछ नया नहीं बचा है," उत्तराखंड कांग्रेस के उपाध्यक्ष **सूर्यकांत धसमाना** ने कहा

GS Paper II: Governance,

TOPICS COVERED

18 December

1.

Kerala eyes freight electrification with e-truck corridor under PM E-DRIVE
पीएम ई-ड्राइव के तहत ई-ट्रक कॉरिडोर के साथ केरल की माल परिवहन विद्युतीकरण पर नजर

2.

Change for the worse
बदतर बदलाव



Kerala eyes freight electrification with e-truck corridor under PM E-DRIVE

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala hopes to develop a model electric truck (e-truck) corridor along National Highway (NH) 66 as part of the State's efforts to promote freight electrification under the Centre's PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme.

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), in collaboration with the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICTT), organised a workshop here on Wednesday, 'Driving E-Truck Ecosystem with PM E-DRIVE Scheme,' for positioning the State as a frontrunner in this emerging area.

Kerala has a little over



Kerala is in the process of laying the groundwork to set up charging infrastructure for e-trucks along freight corridors. FILE PHOTO

three lakh electric vehicles, mostly passenger vehicles, on its roads at present. The State is now in the process of laying the groundwork for establishing high-capacity charging infrastructure and related facilities for e-trucks along

freight corridors. Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty, addressing the workshop, said electrification of trucks and other freight carriers is imperative for controlling carbon emissions and reducing air pollution.

Puneet Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Power), described freight and logistics as the "next critical frontier" if the State is serious about decarbonisation and long-term sustainability. The ICTT is closely collaborating with the KSEB and its EV Accelerator Cell to support evidence-based planning in this area, he said.

"This includes corridor-driven charging requirements, grid integration strategies, and early pilot designs. This collaboration ensures that Kerala's approach is data-driven, internationally benchmarked, and aligned with global best practices while remaining firmly grounded in local operational realities," Mr. Puneet Kumar said.

Kerala eyes freight electrification with e-truck corridor under PM E-DRIVE

पीएम ई-ड्राइव के तहत ई-ट्रक कॉरिडोर के साथ केरल की माल परिवहन विद्युतीकरण पर नजर

- Kerala hopes to develop a model **electric truck (e-truck) corridor along National Highway (NH) 66** as part of the State's efforts to promote **freight electrification** under the Centre's **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme**
केरल को उम्मीद है कि वह **नेशनल हाईवे (NH) 66** के साथ एक मॉडल **इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रक (ई-ट्रक) कॉरिडोर** विकसित करेगा, जो केंद्र की **पीएम इलेक्ट्रिक ड्राइव रेवोल्यूशन इन इनोवेटिव व्हीकल एन्हांसमेंट (PM E-DRIVE) योजना** के तहत **माल परिवहन विद्युतीकरण** को बढ़ावा देने के राज्य के प्रयासों का हिस्सा है
- The **Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)**, in collaboration with the **International Council on Clean Transportation (ICTT)**, organised a workshop here on **Wednesday, 'Driving E-Truck Ecosystem with PM E-DRIVE Scheme,'** for positioning the State as a **frontrunner** in this emerging area
केरल राज्य विद्युत बोर्ड (KSEB) ने इंटरनेशनल काउंसिल ऑन क्लीन ट्रांसपोर्टेशन (ICTT) के सहयोग से **बुधवार** को यहां '**पीएम ई-ड्राइव योजना के साथ ई-ट्रक इकोसिस्टम को आगे बढ़ाना**' विषय पर एक कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया, ताकि इस उभरते क्षेत्र में राज्य को **अग्रणी** के रूप में स्थापित किया जा सके
- Kerala has a little over **three lakh electric vehicles**, mostly **passenger vehicles**, on its roads at present
वर्तमान में केरल की सड़कों पर **तीन लाख से अधिक इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन** हैं, जिनमें अधिकांश **यात्री वाहन** हैं
- The State is now in the process of laying the groundwork for establishing **high-capacity charging infrastructure** and related facilities for **e-trucks** along **freight corridors**
राज्य अब **माल परिवहन कॉरिडोरों** के साथ **ई-ट्रकों** के लिए **उच्च-क्षमता चार्जिंग अवसंरचना** और संबंधित सुविधाएं स्थापित करने की आधारशिला रखने की प्रक्रिया में है



- **Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty**, addressing the workshop, said electrification of trucks and other **freight carriers** is imperative for controlling **carbon emissions** and reducing **air pollution**
कार्यशाला को संबोधित करते हुए **विद्युत मंत्री के. कृष्णनकुट्टी** ने कहा कि ट्रकों और अन्य **माल वाहकों** का विद्युतीकरण **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** को नियंत्रित करने और **वायु प्रदूषण** को कम करने के लिए अनिवार्य है
- **Puneet Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Power)**, described **freight and logistics** as the “**next critical frontier**” if the State is serious about **decarbonisation** and **long-term sustainability**
अपर मुख्य सचिव (ऊर्जा) पुनीत कुमार ने **माल और लॉजिस्टिक्स** को “**अगला महत्वपूर्ण मोर्चा**” बताया, यदि राज्य **डीकार्बोनाइजेशन** और **दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता** को लेकर गंभीर है
- The **ICTT** is closely collaborating with the **KSEB** and its **EV Accelerator Cell** to support **evidence-based planning** in this area, he said
उन्होंने कहा कि **ICTT**, **KSEB** और उसकी **ईवी एक्सेलेरेटर सेल** के साथ मिलकर इस क्षेत्र में **साक्ष्य-आधारित योजना** का समर्थन करने के लिए निकट सहयोग कर रही है
- “This includes **corridor-driven charging requirements, grid integration strategies, and early pilot designs**”
“इसमें **कोरिडोर-आधारित चार्जिंग आवश्यकताएं, ग्रिड एकीकरण रणनीतियां, और प्रारंभिक पायलट डिज़ाइन** शामिल हैं
- This collaboration ensures that Kerala’s approach is **data-driven, internationally benchmarked**, and aligned with **global best practices** while remaining firmly grounded in **local operational realities**,” Mr. Puneet Kumar said
यह सहयोग सुनिश्चित करता है कि केरल का दृष्टिकोण **डेटा-आधारित, अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुरूप, और वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं** के साथ संरेखित हो, जबकि **स्थानीय संचालन वास्तविकताओं** से मजबूती से जुड़ा रहे,” **पुनीत कुमार** ने कहा

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

PM E-DRIVE = Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement

It is a new Government of India scheme aimed at promoting:

- ✓ Electric vehicles (EVs)
- ✓ Electric mobility infrastructure
- ✓ Battery manufacturing
- ✓ Innovation and Make in India technologies
- ✓ Cleaner and greener transportation

Why Was PM E-DRIVE Launched?

India faces major challenges like:

- High oil import bill
- Urban pollution
- Traffic emissions
- Need for green mobility



- Global competition in EV technology

PM E-DRIVE tries to solve these by:

- 👉 Making EVs cheaper
- 👉 Expanding battery + charging infrastructure
- 👉 Supporting Indian companies to lead EV manufacturing
- 👉 Boosting clean energy and jobs

Key Components of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme

1 Cheaper Electric Vehicles (Subsidies + Tax Benefits)

The government will provide incentives to:

- EV manufacturers
- Buyers of EVs
- Battery makers

This reduces EV prices similar to earlier FAME subsidies.

Charging Infrastructure Everywhere

PM E-DRIVE aims to set up:

- High-speed charging stations
- Slow/medium chargers
- Highway charging corridors
- Charging points in housing societies, malls & offices

This removes the “range anxiety” of EV users.

Boost to Indian EV Manufacturing

To make India a global EV hub:

- Support for Indian companies
- Grants for R&D
- EV component manufacturing clusters
- Encouraging startups in EV technology

Battery Innovation & Local Production



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



Batteries are the **most expensive part** of EVs.

The scheme focuses on:

- **Lithium-ion battery manufacturing**
- **Alternative batteries (sodium-ion, solid-state)**
- Battery swapping networks
- Recycling of old batteries

This lowers EV cost and reduces import dependence.

PATRIOTIC IAS



GS II: Governance

Change for the worse

The move to alter MGNREGS beyond recognition must be dropped

The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G Bill, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), deserves to be rejected for more than one reason. What is sought to be changed is not only the nomenclature but also the fundamental character of the existing Scheme (MGNREGS). This marks yet another attempt by the BJP-led government at the Centre to reduce the size of the development space to States. The only plausible reason for the name change is the fact that the BJP's ideological master, the RSS, had strong differences with Gandhi. The use of Gandhi's name in the 20-year-old scheme signifies the link to his Gram Swaraj concept that gives importance to democratic decentralisation. But the new Bill, by making the Union government virtually the sole decision maker in the proposed law, will not make any positive contribution in this direction. Supporters of the government point out that the increase in the days of work to 125 in a year is a major benefit for people in rural India. But, the data, on employment given to households under the MGNREGS, reveal that it was only during 2020-21, the COVID-19 pandemic year, that 9.5% (nearly 7.2 million) of households actually worked for 100 days. Over the last two years, only around 7% of families could get the full quota.

By calling the VB-G RAM G "a centrally sponsored scheme", the Union government has done away with the special status that the MGNREGS had enjoyed, wherein it had been absorbing the entire cost of wages payment for unskilled manual labour. In the proposed scheme, the fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States generally would be 60:40. A benefit of the existing scheme was that rural wages have gone up sharply. The finances of States are not in a robust condition and there are apprehensions about the likely impact of the restructuring of the GST. Besides, when direct cash transfer schemes are increasingly being viewed as a political game changer, it is an open secret that not many States will be keen on participating in the fresh scheme. More importantly, the soul of the current law - a bottom up demand-based scheme - has been taken away. What has been proposed is a supply-driven framework wherein allocations will be capped, as decided by the Union government. Also, States will have to bear any excess expenditure, which is a new feature. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have opposed the Bill citing an undermining of States' interests. A feature of the Bill, which is meant to ensure that work does not clash with farm work during sowing/harvesting, may be included explicitly in the MGNREGS, after consultations with States. Howsoever passionately Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan may say that the new law is in line with Gandhi's sentiments, good governance, which is the goal of the idea of Ram Rajya, does not become a reality without diffused grassroots democracy - a condition neither sought to be promoted nor nourished by the proposed legislation.

125 तक बढ़ाना ग्रामीण भारत के लोगों के लिए एक बड़ा लाभ है।

- But, the data, on employment given to households under the MGNREGS, reveal that it was only during 2020-21, the COVID-19 pandemic year, that 9.5% (nearly 7.2 million) of

Change for the worse

बदतर बदलाव

- The move to alter MGNREGS beyond recognition must be dropped
MGNREGS को पहचान से परे बदलने का यह कदम अवश्य छोड़ा जाना चाहिए

The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)

विकसित भारत – रोज़गार और आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) की गारंटी

- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G Bill, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), deserves to be rejected for more than one reason.

विकसित भारत – रोज़गार और आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) की गारंटी, या VB-G RAM G विधेयक, जिसे मंगलवार को लोकसभा में महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोज़गार गारंटी अधिनियम (MGNREGA) के स्थान पर पेश किया गया, एक से अधिक कारणों से खारिज किए जाने योग्य है।

- What is sought to be changed is not only the nomenclature but also the fundamental character of the existing Scheme (MGNREGS).

जिसे बदला जाना प्रस्तावित है वह केवल नामकरण ही नहीं, बल्कि मौजूदा योजना (MGNREGS) का मूलभूत स्वरूप भी है।

- This marks yet another attempt by the BJP-led government at the Centre to reduce the size of the development space to States.

यह केंद्र में भाजपा-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार द्वारा राज्यों के लिए विकास के दायरे को सीमित करने का एक और प्रयास है।

- The only plausible reason for the name change is the fact that the BJP's ideological master, the RSS, had strong differences with Gandhi.

नाम परिवर्तन का एकमात्र संभावित कारण यह तथ्य है कि भाजपा के वैचारिक मार्गदर्शक RSS के गांधी के साथ गहरे मतभेद रहे हैं।

- The use of Gandhi's name in the 20-year-old scheme signifies the link to his Gram Swaraj concept that gives importance to democratic decentralisation.

20 वर्ष पुरानी योजना में गांधी के नाम का प्रयोग उनके ग्राम स्वराज की अवधारणा से जुड़ाव को दर्शाता है, जो लोकतांत्रिक विकेंद्रीकरण को महत्व देती है।

- But the new Bill, by making the Union government virtually the sole decision maker in the proposed law, will not make any positive contribution in this direction.

लेकिन नया विधेयक, प्रस्तावित क़ानून में केंद्र सरकार को लगभग एकमात्र निर्णयकर्ता बनाकर, इस दिशा में कोई सकारात्मक योगदान नहीं देगा।

- Supporters of the government point out that the increase in the days of work to 125 in a year is a major benefit for people in rural India.

सरकार के समर्थक यह इंगित करते हैं कि एक वर्ष में काम के दिनों को



households actually worked for 100 days.

लेकिन **MGNREGS** के तहत परिवारों को दिए गए रोज़गार के आँकड़े बताते हैं कि केवल **2020-21**, यानी **COVID-19 महामारी वर्ष**, में ही **9.5%** (लगभग **72 लाख**) परिवारों ने वास्तव में **100 दिन** काम किया।

- Over the last two years, only around **7%** of families could get the full quota.
पिछले दो वर्षों में केवल लगभग **7%** परिवारों को ही पूरा कोटा मिल सका।
- By calling the **VB-G RAM G** “a centrally sponsored scheme”, the Union government has done away with the special status that the **MGNREGS** had enjoyed, wherein it had been absorbing the **entire cost of wages payment for unskilled manual labour**.
VB-G RAM G को “केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना” कहकर, केंद्र सरकार ने **MGNREGS** को प्राप्त उस विशेष दर्जे को समाप्त कर दिया है, जिसके तहत **अकुशल श्रम की पूरी मज़दूरी लागत** केंद्र वहन करता था।
- In the proposed scheme, the **fund-sharing pattern** between the Centre and States generally would be **60:40**.
प्रस्तावित योजना में केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच **फंड साझेदारी का अनुपात** सामान्यतः **60:40** होगा।
- A benefit of the existing scheme was that **rural wages** have gone up sharply.
मौजूदा योजना का एक लाभ यह था कि **ग्रामीण मज़दूरी** में तेज़ वृद्धि हुई।
- The finances of States are not in a robust condition and there are apprehensions about the likely impact of the restructuring of the **GST**.
राज्यों की वित्तीय स्थिति मज़बूत नहीं है और **GST** के पुनर्गठन के संभावित प्रभाव को लेकर आशंकाएँ हैं।
- Besides, when **direct cash transfer schemes** are increasingly being viewed as a **political game changer**, it is an open secret that not many States will be keen on participating in the fresh scheme.
इसके अलावा, जब **प्रत्यक्ष नकद हस्तांतरण योजनाओं** को बढ़ते तौर पर **राजनीतिक गेम चेंजर** माना जा रहा है, तो यह एक खुला रहस्य है कि बहुत से राज्य नई योजना में भाग लेने के इच्छुक नहीं होंगे।
- More importantly, the **soul of the current law** — a **bottom up demand-based scheme** — has been taken away.
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि मौजूदा क़ानून की आत्मा — एक **नीचे से ऊपर, मांग-आधारित योजना** — को छीन लिया गया है।
- What has been proposed is a **supply-driven framework** wherein allocations will be **capped, as decided by the Union government**.
जो प्रस्तावित किया गया है वह एक **आपूर्ति-आधारित ढाँचा** है, जिसमें आवंटन **सीमित** होंगे, जैसा कि केंद्र सरकार तय करेगी।
- Also, States will have to bear any **excess expenditure**, which is a new feature.
इसके अलावा, किसी भी **अतिरिक्त व्यय** का भार राज्यों को उठाना होगा, जो एक नई विशेषता है।
- **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala** have opposed the Bill citing an undermining of **States’ interests**.
तमिलनाडु और **केरल** ने **राज्यों के हितों** को कमजोर करने का हवाला देते हुए विधेयक का विरोध किया है।
- A feature of the Bill, which is meant to ensure that **work does not clash with farm work during sowing/harvesting**, may be included explicitly in the **MGNREGS**, after consultations with States.
विधेयक की एक विशेषता, जिसका उद्देश्य **बुवाई/कटाई** के दौरान काम को **कृषि कार्य** से टकराने से रोकना है, राज्यों से परामर्श के बाद **MGNREGS** में स्पष्ट रूप से शामिल की जा सकती है।
- Howsoever passionately **Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan** may say that the new law is in line with **Gandhi’s sentiments**, good governance, which is the goal of the idea of **Ram Rajya**, does not become a reality without **diffused grassroots democracy**.
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री **शिवराज सिंह चौहान** चाहे जितने जोश से यह कहें कि नया क़ानून **गांधी की भावनाओं** के अनुरूप है, लेकिन **राम राज्य** की अवधारणा का लक्ष्य **सुशासन** बिना **विकेन्द्रित जमीनी लोकतंत्र** के साकार नहीं हो सकता।
- A condition neither sought to be promoted nor nourished by the proposed legislation.
ऐसी स्थिति जिसे प्रस्तावित विधेयक न तो बढ़ावा देता है और न ही पोषित करता है।



GS Paper II: International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

18 December

1. **India, Ethiopia 'natural partners' in regional peace, connectivity: Modi**
भारत, इथियोपिया क्षेत्रीय शांति और संपर्क में 'स्वाभाविक साझेदार': मोदी
2. **Number of government schools with zero students**
शून्य छात्रों वाले सरकारी स्कूलों की संख्या
3. **Why have Thailand-Cambodia border clashes flared up again?**
थाईलैंड-कंबोडिया सीमा पर झड़पें फिर से क्यों भड़क उठी हैं?

India, Ethiopia 'natural partners' in regional peace, connectivity: Modi

GS II: IR: India-Africa

Press Trust of India

ADDIS ABABA

India and Ethiopia are "natural partners" in regional peace, security and connectivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Ethiopian Parliament on Wednesday, asserting that the two countries work for a world that is "more just, more equal, and more peaceful".

Mr. Modi, who arrived here on Tuesday on his maiden bilateral visit, said it was wonderful to be in Ethiopia.

"Our commitment to mutual security became stronger with the signing of the Defence Cooperation Agreement earlier this year. This agreement focuses on closer military cooperation. It includes collaboration in cybersecurity, defence industries, joint research, and capaci-



Building bonds: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting Ethiopia's parliamentarians after addressing the joint session of Parliament in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AFP

ty building," he said.

Mr. Modi said the Global South is writing its own destiny, and India and Ethiopia share a vision for it. He said the Prime Minister said he was honoured to receive the Grand Honour,

Nishan of Ethiopia. "I accept this award with folded hands, with humility, on behalf of the people of India," he added.

Mr. Modi is the first global head of state to receive Ethiopia's highest award.

Mr. Modi said the Indian companies have invested more than \$5 billion in diverse sectors like textiles, manufacturing, agriculture, health, etc and created more than 75,000 local jobs.



India, Ethiopia 'natural partners' in regional peace, connectivity: Modi भारत, इथियोपिया क्षेत्रीय शांति और संपर्क में 'स्वाभाविक साझेदार': मोदी

- India and Ethiopia are “natural partners” in regional peace, security and connectivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Ethiopian Parliament on Wednesday, asserting that the two countries work for a world that is “**more just, more equal, and more peaceful**”
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने बुधवार को इथियोपियाई संसद में कहा कि भारत और इथियोपिया क्षेत्रीय शांति, सुरक्षा और संपर्क में “स्वाभाविक साझेदार” हैं, और दोनों देश एक ऐसे विश्व के लिए काम करते हैं जो “और अधिक न्यायपूर्ण, अधिक समान और अधिक शांतिपूर्ण” हो
- Mr. Modi, who arrived here on Tuesday on his maiden bilateral visit, said it was wonderful to be in Ethiopia
मंगलवार को अपनी पहली द्विपक्षीय यात्रा पर यहां पहुंचे श्री मोदी ने कहा कि इथियोपिया में होना अद्भुत है
- “Our commitment to mutual security became stronger with the signing of the **Defence Cooperation Agreement** earlier this year
“पारस्परिक सुरक्षा के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में रक्षा सहयोग समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर के साथ और मजबूत हुई
- This agreement focuses on closer military cooperation
यह समझौता अधिक निकट सैन्य सहयोग पर केंद्रित है
- It includes collaboration in **cybersecurity, defence industries, joint research, and capacity building,**” he said
उन्होंने कहा कि इसमें साइबर सुरक्षा, रक्षा उद्योग, संयुक्त अनुसंधान और क्षमता निर्माण में सहयोग शामिल है
- Mr. Modi said the **Global South** is writing its own destiny, and **India and Ethiopia** share a vision for it
श्री मोदी ने कहा कि ग्लोबल साउथ अपना भविष्य स्वयं लिख रहा है, और भारत और इथियोपिया इसके लिए एक साझा दृष्टि रखते हैं
- The Prime Minister said he was honoured to receive the **Grand Honour, Nishan of Ethiopia**
प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि उन्हें ग्रेंड ऑनर, निशान ऑफ इथियोपिया प्राप्त करने का सम्मान मिला है
- “I accept this award with folded hands, with **humility**, on behalf of the **people of India**,” he added
उन्होंने जोड़ा, “मैं यह पुरस्कार नम्रता के साथ, हाथ जोड़कर, भारत के लोगों की ओर से स्वीकार करता हूँ”
- **Mr. Modi is the first global head of state to receive Ethiopia's highest award**
श्री मोदी इथियोपिया के सर्वोच्च सम्मान को प्राप्त करने वाले पहले वैश्विक राष्ट्राध्यक्ष हैं
- Mr. Modi said the **Indian companies** have invested more than **\$5 billion** in diverse sectors like **textiles, manufacturing, agriculture, health,** etc and created more than **75,000 local jobs**
श्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारतीय कंपनियों ने वस्त्र, विनिर्माण, कृषि, स्वास्थ्य आदि जैसे विविध क्षेत्रों में \$5 बिलियन से अधिक का निवेश किया है और 75,000 से अधिक स्थानीय नौकरियां सृजित की हैं



NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of government schools with zero students

GS II: Education

5,149 Of the 10.13 lakh government schools across India, 5,149 have no students at all. And more than 70% of these schools reporting zero enrolment in the 2024-25 academic year are in **Telangana and West Bengal**, according to government data. PTI

Number of government schools with zero students

शून्य छात्रों वाले सरकारी स्कूलों की संख्या

- Of the **10.13 lakh** government schools across India, **5,149** have no students at all भारत भर में मौजूद 10.13 लाख सरकारी स्कूलों में से 5,149 में एक भी छात्र नहीं है
- And more than **70%** of these schools reporting zero enrolment in the **2024-25 academic year** are in **Telangana and West Bengal**, according to government data और सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2024-25 शैक्षणिक वर्ष में शून्य नामांकन दर्ज कराने वाले इन स्कूलों में से 70% से अधिक तेलंगाना और पश्चिम बंगाल में हैं

Why have Thailand-Cambodia border clashes flared up again?

Why is the border between the two countries contested? How did the U.S. broker a ceasefire?

GS II: IR

R. Preetha

The story so far:

On December 8, Thailand launched airstrikes into Cambodia after clashes erupted along their disputed border, with both sides accusing each other of breaching the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in October. On December 12, after calls with both leaders, President Trump stated that Thailand and Cambodia had agreed to "cease all shooting". However, Thailand has vowed to continue military actions until threats are neutralised.

What happened early this year?

In May 2025, tensions between the two countries escalated when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a skirmish, leading to troop buildup and diplomatic strains. July witnessed five days of intense fighting involving artillery, rockets, and Thai

airstrikes that killed at least 48 people and displaced over 3,00,000. A ceasefire was brokered through U.S. pressure and Malaysian mediation, ending the tensions. The truce was formalised in October with an agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur. However, in November, Thailand suspended its implementation after a landmine injured a soldier. It accused Cambodia of planting new mines.

On December 7 and 8, clashes renewed, escalating to Thai airstrikes targeting Cambodian military sites, including alleged rocket positions. As of now, casualties include over 15 Thai soldiers and dozens on the Cambodian side, along with mass civilian evacuations.

What is the border dispute about?

The core issue is sovereignty over un-demarcated sections of the 817-km border, inherited from colonial-era treaties concluded in 1904 and 1907 between France (which ruled Cambodia)

and Siam (present-day Thailand) respectively. These agreements planned for the boundary to follow the Dangrek Mountains watershed, but the French-drawn maps placed key ancient Khmer temples, particularly Preah Vihear, on the Cambodian side.

The 11th century Hindu temple Preah Vihear has been central to the dispute, with both countries claiming historical ownership. In 1962, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Preah Vihear belonged to Cambodia, although the surrounding promontory remained contested. Later, in 2013, the ICJ clarification affirmed Cambodian sovereignty over most of the area.

Nationalist sentiments in both countries complicate the bilateral issue, with temples reflecting historical Khmer glory for Cambodia and territorial integrity for Thailand. Between 2008-2011, deadly clashes occurred after Cambodia tried to list Preah Vihear as a

UNESCO World Heritage site.

How have mediation efforts fared?

Since the major clashes in 2008-11, several mediation efforts involving the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ICJ, and external actors, aimed at resolving the dispute, have failed. In 2011, ASEAN, under Indonesia's chairmanship, played a key role. It proposed deploying Indonesian observers to monitor a ceasefire and support troop withdrawals from a demilitarised zone ordered by the ICJ that year. But Thailand resisted any third-party involvement.

In 2025, renewed fighting in July led to fresh mediation efforts. President Trump held calls with leaders in Bangkok and Phnom Penh; his threats of 36% tariffs on exports to the U.S., their biggest market, led to an unconditional ceasefire.

What is the way forward?

At the border level, de-escalation should build on measures attempted under the October agreement, including verifiable troop withdrawals, joint de-mining, and direct military communication. At the bilateral level, sustained engagement through joint commissions is necessary for border demarcation; Thailand's preference for bilateral talks must be reconciled with Cambodia's openness to third-party involvement.

R. Preetha is pursuing a postgraduate degree at Stella Maris College, Chennai.

THE GIST

On December 8, Thailand launched airstrikes into Cambodia after clashes erupted along their disputed border, with both sides accusing each other of breaching the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in October.

The 11th century Hindu temple Preah Vihear has been central to the dispute, with both countries claiming historical ownership.

At the border level, de-escalation should build on measures attempted under the October agreement, including verifiable troop withdrawals, joint de-mining, and direct military communication.

Why have Thailand-Cambodia border clashes flared up again?

थाईलैंड-कंबोडिया सीमा पर झड़पें फिर से क्यों भड़क उठी हैं?

- On **December 8**, Thailand launched **airstrikes** into Cambodia after clashes erupted along their **disputed border**, with both sides accusing each other of breaching the **U.S.-brokered ceasefire in October**
8 दिसंबर को, थाईलैंड ने कंबोडिया में हवाई हमले किए, जब उनके विवादित सीमा क्षेत्र में झड़पें हुईं, और दोनों पक्षों ने अक्टूबर में अमेरिका द्वारा कराए गए संघर्षविराम के उल्लंघन का एक-दूसरे पर आरोप लगाया
- On **December 12**, after calls with both leaders, **President Trump** stated that **Thailand and Cambodia** had agreed to "**cease all shooting**"
12 दिसंबर को, दोनों नेताओं से बातचीत के बाद, राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने कहा कि थाईलैंड और कंबोडिया ने "सभी गोलीबारी रोकने" पर सहमति जताई है



- However, **Thailand has vowed to continue military actions until threats are neutralised** हालाँकि, थाईलैंड ने तब तक सैन्य कार्रवाई जारी रखने की कसम खाई है जब तक खतरे समाप्त नहीं हो जाते

What happened early this year?

इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में क्या हुआ?

- **In May 2025, tensions between the two countries escalated when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a skirmish, leading to troop buildup and diplomatic strains**
मई 2025 में, एक झड़प में कंबोडियाई सैनिक की मौत के बाद दोनों देशों के बीच तनाव बढ़ गया, जिससे सेना की तैनाती और कूटनीतिक तनाव उत्पन्न हुए
- **July witnessed five days of intense fighting involving artillery, rockets, and Thai airstrikes that killed at least 48 people and displaced over 3,00,000**
जुलाई में पाँच दिनों तक तीव्र लड़ाई हुई, जिसमें तोपखाने, रॉकेट और थाई हवाई हमले शामिल थे, जिनमें कम से कम 48 लोग मारे गए और 3,00,000 से अधिक लोग विस्थापित हुए
- **A ceasefire was brokered through U.S. pressure and Malaysian mediation, ending the tensions**
तनाव समाप्त करने के लिए अमेरिकी दबाव और मलेशियाई मध्यस्थता से एक संघर्षविराम कराया गया
- **The truce was formalised in October with an agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur**
अक्टूबर में कुआलालंपुर में हस्ताक्षरित समझौते के साथ संघर्षविराम को औपचारिक रूप दिया गया
- **However, in November, Thailand suspended its implementation after a landmine injured a soldier**
हालाँकि, नवंबर में थाईलैंड ने एक बारूदी सुरंग से सैनिक के घायल होने के बाद इसके कार्यान्वयन को निलंबित कर दिया
- **It accused Cambodia of planting new mines**
इसने कंबोडिया पर नई सुरंगों बिछाने का आरोप लगाया
- **On December 7 and 8, clashes renewed, escalating to Thai airstrikes targeting Cambodian military sites, including alleged rocket positions**
7 और 8 दिसंबर को झड़पें फिर शुरू हुईं, जो कथित रॉकेट ठिकानों सहित कंबोडियाई सैन्य ठिकानों पर थाई हवाई हमलों तक बढ़ गईं
- **As of now, casualties include over 15 Thai soldiers and dozens on the Cambodian side, along with mass civilian evacuations**
वर्तमान में हताहतों में 15 से अधिक थाई सैनिक और कंबोडिया पक्ष के दर्जनों लोग, साथ ही बड़े पैमाने पर नागरिकों का पलायन शामिल है

What is the border dispute about?

सीमा विवाद किस बारे में है?

- **The core issue is sovereignty over un-demarcated sections of the 817-km border, inherited from colonial-era treaties concluded in 1904 and 1907**
मुख्य मुद्दा 817 किमी लंबी सीमा के अचिह्न हिस्सों पर संप्रभुता का है, जो 1904 और 1907 में हुए औपनिवेशिक काल के समझौतों से विरासत में मिला
- **These treaties were between France (which ruled Cambodia) and Siam (present-day Thailand)**
ये समझौते फ्रांस (जो कंबोडिया पर शासन करता था) और सियाम (वर्तमान थाईलैंड) के बीच हुए थे
- **The agreements planned for the boundary to follow the Dangrek Mountains watershed, but French-drawn maps placed key ancient Khmer temples, particularly Preah Vihear, on the Cambodian side**
समझौतों में सीमा को डांगरेक पर्वतमाला के जलविभाजक के अनुसार तय करने की योजना थी, लेकिन फ्रांसीसी मानचित्रों में प्रमुख प्राचीन खमेर मंदिर, विशेषकर प्रीह विहेयर, को कंबोडिया पक्ष में दिखाया गया
- **The 11th century Hindu temple Preah Vihear has been central to the dispute, with both countries claiming historical ownership**
11वीं सदी का हिंदू मंदिर प्रीह विहेयर इस विवाद का केंद्र रहा है, जिस पर दोनों देश ऐतिहासिक स्वामित्व का दावा करते हैं
- **In 1962, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Preah Vihear belonged to Cambodia, although the surrounding promontory remained contested**



1962 में, अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ) ने फैसला दिया कि ग्रीह विहेयर कंबोडिया का है, हालाँकि आसपास का क्षेत्र विवादित रहा

- Later, in 2013, the ICJ clarification affirmed **Cambodian sovereignty** over most of the area बाद में 2013 में, ICJ की व्याख्या ने अधिकांश क्षेत्र पर कंबोडियाई संप्रभुता की पुष्टि की
- **Nationalist sentiments** in both countries complicate the bilateral issue, with temples reflecting **historical Khmer glory** for Cambodia and **territorial integrity** for Thailand दोनों देशों में राष्ट्रवादी भावनाएँ द्विपक्षीय मुद्दे को जटिल बनाती हैं, जहाँ मंदिर कंबोडिया के खमेर गौरव और थाईलैंड की क्षेत्रीय अखंडता का प्रतीक हैं
- Between 2008–2011, **deadly clashes** occurred after Cambodia tried to list **Preah Vihear** as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** 2008–2011 के बीच, कंबोडिया द्वारा ग्रीह विहेयर को यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल के रूप में सूचीबद्ध कराने के प्रयास के बाद घातक झड़पें हुईं

How have mediation efforts fared?

मध्यस्थता के प्रयास कैसे रहे हैं?

- Since the major clashes in 2008–11, several **mediation efforts** involving **ASEAN**, the **ICJ**, and **external actors** have **failed** 2008–11 की बड़ी झड़पों के बाद, आसियान, ICJ और बाहरी पक्षों की भागीदारी वाले कई मध्यस्थता प्रयास असफल रहे
- In 2011, **ASEAN**, under **Indonesia's chairmanship**, played a **key role** 2011 में, इंडोनेशिया की अध्यक्षता में आसियान ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई
- It proposed deploying **Indonesian observers** to monitor a **ceasefire** and support **troop withdrawals** from a **demilitarised zone** ordered by the **ICJ** इसने ICJ द्वारा आदेशित असैन्यीकृत क्षेत्र से सेना की वापसी और संघर्षविराम की निगरानी के लिए इंडोनेशियाई पर्यवेक्षकों की तैनाती का प्रस्ताव रखा
- **But Thailand resisted any third-party involvement** लेकिन थाईलैंड ने किसी भी तीसरे पक्ष की भागीदारी का विरोध किया
- In 2025, renewed fighting in **July** led to **fresh mediation efforts** 2025 में, जुलाई की नई लड़ाई ने नए मध्यस्थता प्रयासों को जन्म दिया
- **President Trump** held calls with leaders in **Bangkok** and **Phnom Penh** राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने बैंकॉक और नोम पेन्ह के नेताओं से बातचीत की
- His threats of **36% tariffs** on exports to the **U.S.**, their **biggest market**, led to an **unconditional ceasefire** उनके 36% शुल्क लगाने की धमकी, जो अमेरिका जैसे उनके सबसे बड़े बाज़ार को लक्षित थी, ने बिना शर्त संघर्षविराम कराया

What is the way forward?

आगे की राह क्या है?

- At the **border level**, **de-escalation** should build on measures attempted under the **October agreement**, including **verifiable troop withdrawals**, **joint de-mining**, and **direct military communication** सीमा स्तर पर, तनाव कम करने के प्रयास अक्टूबर समझौते के तहत अपनाए गए उपायों पर आधारित होने चाहिए, जिनमें सत्यापन योग्य सेना वापसी, संयुक्त बारूदी सुरंग हटाना, और प्रत्यक्ष सैन्य संवाद शामिल हैं
- At the **bilateral level**, sustained engagement through **joint commissions** is necessary for **border demarcation** द्विपक्षीय स्तर पर, संयुक्त आयोगों के माध्यम से निरंतर संवाद सीमा निर्धारण के लिए आवश्यक है
- **Thailand's preference for bilateral talks** must be reconciled with **Cambodia's openness to third-party involvement** द्विपक्षीय वार्ता के लिए थाईलैंड की प्राथमिकता को तीसरे पक्ष की भागीदारी के प्रति कंबोडिया की खुली सोच के साथ समन्वित करना होगा



Preah Vihear Temple — A Sacred Hindu Monument



6

Preah Vihear is a 1,000-year-old Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, located on top of a dramatic cliff in the Dangrek Mountains, on the border of Cambodia and Thailand.

It is considered one of the most spectacularly located temples in the world.

Where is Preah Vihear?

- Located in Cambodia
- On the Thai–Cambodia border
- Built on a 525-meter-high cliff



Because of its location on the border, the temple has been at the center of **territorial disputes** between Cambodia and Thailand.

Who Built It?

The temple was built by the **Khmer Empire**, mostly during the reigns of:

- **King Suryavarman I**
- **King Suryavarman II** (the same king who built Angkor Wat)

Time period: **9th–12th century CE**

To Whom Is It Dedicated?

✓ Lord Shiva

It is known in Sanskrit as "**Shikhareshvara**", meaning "The Lord of the Mountain Peak."

The temple was an important **Shaivite pilgrimage site**.

Architecture and Special Features

The temple is famous for:

✓ 1. Stunning Hilltop Location

It stands on a long north–south ridge, giving majestic views across Cambodia's plains.

✓ 2. Khmer Temple Layout

Built in a series of **structures connected by staircases and courtyards** — typical of Khmer religious architecture.

✓ 3. Beautiful Sandstone Carvings

Intricate carvings of:

- Hindu gods
- Mythological scenes
- Naga balustrades
- Devatas (sacred female figures)



✓ 4. Long Processional Path

The temple is built as a **processional complex**—pilgrims walked upward through successive sacred gateways (gopuras).

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Preah Vihear was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in:

 2008

UNESCO praised it for:

- Its extraordinary architecture
- Perfect integration with the natural landscape
- Its importance in Khmer history

Thailand–Cambodia Dispute

Because the temple sits *right on the border*, both countries have claimed control.

Key points:

- In 1962, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** ruled that **the temple belongs to Cambodia**.
- Thailand accepted the ruling but disputes continued over the **surrounding land**.
- In 2013, the ICJ clarified that **Cambodia has sovereignty over the entire promontory** on which the temple stands.

Today, the area is largely peaceful, but still sensitive.

GS Paper III: Economy,

TOPICS COVERED

18_12_2025

1.	RS passes Bill for 100% FDI in insurance sector राज्यसभा ने बीमा क्षेत्र में 100% एफडीआई के लिए विधेयक पारित किया
2.	Anti-collision system installed on 2,000 km of rail network, Vaishnav tells Lok Sabha



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	रेल नेटवर्क के 2,000 किमी पर एंटी-कोलिजन सिस्टम स्थापित, वैष्णव ने लोकसभा को बताया
3.	Number of National Highway projects behind schedule समय-सीमा से पीछे चल रही राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं की संख्या
4.	Parliamentary committee moots tighter timelines in IBC overhaul आईबीसी सुधार में सख्त समय-सीमा का सुझाव देने वाली संसदीय समिति

PATRIOTIC IAS



RS passes Bill for 100% FDI in insurance sector

During debate, Opposition says Bill should be sent to a Select Committee of Parliament given its far-reaching impact; House passes Repealing and Amending Bill that annuls 71 obsolete laws

GS III: Economy: FDI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Lok Sabha passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the legislation which allows 100% foreign direct investment in the insurance sector.

The Upper House also cleared the Repealing and Amending Bill that repeals 71 obsolete laws. The Bill was also passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The structure of insurance regulation is very clearly laid out in the Bill, and the premium collected from Indians by foreign insurance companies will be kept in the country, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, replying to a debate on the Bill. Private sector insurance companies were participating in all welfare schemes of the Union government, and the Bill would ensure that foreign companies would also participate in social sector-related activities and government schemes, Ms. Sitharaman said. "We are not giving them any room to get away from that responsibility," she said.

The increase in the FDI limit to 100% would ensure more foreign companies invest in India as, in many cases, they did not find joint venture partners for

New policy

The Rajya Sabha passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill

- The Bill allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the insurance sector
- Mergers of non-insurance and insurance companies allowed
- It allows for cap on commission of insurance agents and intermediaries
- It mandates data collection in compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act

...this government through this Bill is favouring foreign investors and burdening our own insurance companies

KANIMOZHI N.V.N. SOMU, DMK MP

The increase in the FDI limit will ensure more foreign companies invest in India as, in many cases, they did not find joint venture partners

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, Union Finance Minister

various reasons, she said. With more companies, the competition would increase, and premiums should drop, she said.

Earlier, during the debate, the Opposition demanded that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee of Parliament given the far-reaching impact it has on the insurance sector.

'Threat to data privacy'

Initiating the debate, senior Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil said the Bill posed a threat to data privacy as foreign companies would demand PAN and Aadhaar of their customers, which may lead to digital frauds. The Centre should learn from the experience of privatising the civil aviation sector, Mr. Gohil said. He demanded that the Bill be sent to a

lect Committee.

Questioning the use of both Hindi and English in the name of the Bill, Saket Gokhale of the All India Trinamool Congress said the Bill opened the door to profit extraction by foreign companies.

A market share of \$600 billion would go to foreign investors once the Bill was implemented, Kanimozhi N.V.N. Somu of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said. "This is daylight robbery. The government should not squander opportunities to promote and strengthen its own PSUs (public sector undertakings), but this government through this Bill is favouring foreign investors and burdening our own insurance companies," Ms. Kanimozhi said.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Repealing and Amend-

ing Bill. The Bill would remove 71 outdated laws, correcting errors that had crept in during the law-making process, and removing discriminatory aspects of certain laws, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said.

"We give priority to ease of living along with ease of doing business," he said. "These reforms are a step towards liberation from a colonial mindset," he added. It seeks to repeal Acts, including the Indian Tramways Act, 1886; the Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Act, 1976; the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Determination of Conditions of Service of Employees) Act, 1988; the General Clauses Act, 1897; the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908; and the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

RS passes Bill for 100% FDI in insurance sector

राज्यसभा ने बीमा क्षेत्र में 100% एफडीआई के लिए विधेयक पारित किया



- During debate, **Opposition** says Bill should be sent to a **Select Committee of Parliament** given its **far-reaching impact**; **House passes Repealing and Amending Bill** that annuls **71 obsolete laws**
बहस के दौरान **विपक्ष** ने कहा कि इसके **दूरगामी प्रभाव** को देखते हुए विधेयक को **संसद की चयन समिति** को भेजा जाना चाहिए; सदन ने **रिपीलिंग एंड अमेंडिंग बिल** भी पारित किया, जो **71 अप्रचलित कानूनों** को समाप्त करता है
- A day after the **Lok Sabha** passed the **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill**, the **Rajya Sabha** on **Wednesday** passed the legislation which allows **100% foreign direct investment** in the **insurance sector**
लोकसभा द्वारा **सबका बीमा सबकी रक्षा (बीमा कानून संशोधन) विधेयक** पारित किए जाने के एक दिन बाद, **बुधवार** को **राज्यसभा** ने उस कानून को पारित किया, जो **बीमा क्षेत्र में 100% प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश** की अनुमति देता है
- The structure of **insurance regulation** is very clearly laid out in the Bill, and the **premium collected from Indians by foreign insurance companies will be kept in the country**, **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** said, replying to a debate on the Bill
विधेयक में **बीमा विनियमन** की संरचना को बहुत स्पष्ट रूप से निर्धारित किया गया है, और **विदेशी बीमा कंपनियों** द्वारा भारतीयों से एकत्र किया गया **प्रीमियम देश में ही रखा जाएगा**, यह बात विधेयक पर बहस का जवाब देते हुए **केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण** ने कही
- **Private sector insurance companies** were participating in all **welfare schemes of the Union government**, and the Bill would ensure that **foreign companies** would also participate in **social sector-related activities and government schemes**, Ms. Sitharaman said
निजी क्षेत्र की बीमा कंपनियां केंद्र सरकार की सभी **कल्याणकारी योजनाओं** में भाग ले रही थीं, और यह विधेयक सुनिश्चित करेगा कि **विदेशी कंपनियां** भी **सामाजिक क्षेत्र से जुड़ी गतिविधियों और सरकारी योजनाओं** में भाग लें, श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा
- “We are not giving them any room to get away from that **responsibility**,” she said
उन्होंने कहा, “हम उन्हें उस **जिम्मेदारी** से बचने की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं दे रहे हैं”
- The increase in the **FDI limit to 100%** would ensure more **foreign companies** invest in India as, in many cases, they did not find **joint venture partners** for various reasons, she said
उन्होंने कहा कि **एफडीआई सीमा** को **100%** तक बढ़ाने से अधिक **विदेशी कंपनियां** भारत में निवेश करेंगी, क्योंकि कई मामलों में उन्हें विभिन्न कारणों से **संयुक्त उद्यम साझेदार** नहीं मिल पाए
- **With more companies, the competition would increase, and premiums should drop**, she said
अधिक कंपनियों के आने से **प्रतिस्पर्धा** बढ़ेगी और **प्रीमियम** कम होने चाहिए, उन्होंने कहा
- Earlier, during the debate, the **Opposition** demanded that the Bill be sent to a **Select Committee of Parliament** given the **far-reaching impact** it has on the **insurance sector**
इससे पहले बहस के दौरान **विपक्ष** ने मांग की कि **बीमा क्षेत्र** पर इसके **दूरगामी प्रभाव** को देखते हुए विधेयक को **संसद की चयन समिति** को भेजा जाए

‘Threat to data privacy’

‘डेटा गोपनीयता के लिए खतरा’

- Initiating the debate, senior **Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil** said the **Bill posed a threat to data privacy** as **foreign companies** would demand **PAN and Aadhaar** of their customers, which may lead to **digital frauds**
बहस की शुरुआत करते हुए वरिष्ठ **कांग्रेस सांसद शक्तिसिंह गोहिल** ने कहा कि यह विधेयक **डेटा गोपनीयता के लिए खतरा** है, क्योंकि **विदेशी कंपनियां** अपने ग्राहकों से **पैन और आधार** मांगेंगी, जिससे **डिजिटल धोखाधड़ी** हो सकती है
- The **Centre** should learn from the experience of **privatising the civil aviation sector**, Mr. Gohil said
श्री गोहिल ने कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार** को **नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र के निजीकरण** के अनुभव से सीख लेनी चाहिए
- He demanded that the Bill be sent to a **Select Committee**
उन्होंने मांग की कि विधेयक को **चयन समिति** को भेजा जाए
- Questioning the use of both **Hindi and English** in the name of the Bill, **Saket Gokhale** of the **All India Trinamool Congress** said the **Bill opened the door to profit extraction by foreign**



companies

विधेयक के नाम में हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों के उपयोग पर सवाल उठाते हुए ऑल इंडिया तृणमूल कांग्रेस के साकेत गोखले ने कहा कि यह विधेयक विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा मुनाफा निकालने का रास्ता खोलता है

- A market share of **\$600 billion** would go to **foreign investors** once the Bill was implemented, **Kanimozhi N.V.N. Somu** of the **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam** said
द्रविड़ मुनेत्र कडगम की कनिमोझी एन.वी.एन. सोमु ने कहा कि विधेयक लागू होने के बाद **\$600 बिलियन** का बाजार हिस्सा विदेशी निवेशकों को चला जाएगा
- “This is **daylight robbery**. The government should not squander opportunities to promote and strengthen its own **PSUs (public sector undertakings)**, but this government through this Bill is favouring **foreign investors** and burdening our own **insurance companies**,” Ms. Kanimozhi said
उन्होंने कहा, “यह दिनदहाड़े लूट है। सरकार को अपने पीएसयू (सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों) को बढ़ावा देने और मजबूत करने के अवसर नहीं गंवाने चाहिए, लेकिन यह सरकार इस विधेयक के जरिए विदेशी निवेशकों को लाभ पहुंचा रही है और अपनी बीमा कंपनियों पर बोझ डाल रही है”
- The **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Repealing and Amending Bill**
राज्यसभा ने रिपीलिंग एंड अमेंडिंग बिल पारित किया
- The Bill would remove **71 outdated laws**, correcting **errors** that had crept in during the **law-making process**, and removing **discriminatory aspects** of certain laws, **Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** said
केंद्रीय कानून मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने कहा कि यह विधेयक **71 पुराने कानूनों** को हटाएगा, कानून निर्माण प्रक्रिया के दौरान आई त्रुटियों को सुधारेगा और कुछ कानूनों के भेदभावपूर्ण प्रावधानों को समाप्त करेगा
- “We give priority to **ease of living along with ease of doing business**,” he said
उन्होंने कहा, “हम जीवन की सुगमता के साथ-साथ व्यवसाय करने में सुगमता को प्राथमिकता देते हैं”
- “These reforms are a step towards liberation from a **colonial mindset**,” he added
उन्होंने जोड़ा, “ये सुधार औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता से मुक्ति की दिशा में एक कदम हैं”
- It seeks to repeal Acts, including the **Indian Tramways Act, 1886**; the **Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Act, 1976**; the **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Determination of Conditions of Service of Employees) Act, 1988**; the **General Clauses Act, 1897**; the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**; and the **Indian Succession Act, 1925**



Anti-collision system installed on 2,000 km of rail network, Vaishnaw tells Lok Sabha

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that the indigenous anti-collision Kavach safety system had been fully commissioned on over 2,000 km of the rail network.

In a reply during Question Hour, Mr. Vaishnaw said that Kavach was a highly complex Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system comprising five major components. It required continuous laying of optical fibre cable (OFC) along tracks and the installation



Ashwini Vaishnaw

of telecom towers.

The Minister said the Railways had so far laid 7,129 km of OFC, installed 860 telecom towers, connected 767 stations to data centres, deployed trackside equipment along 3,413 km, and equipped 4,154 lo-

comotives with the system. "Complete commissioning has crossed 2,000 km," he said, adding that the pace of work was "very fast".

The Minister said around 40,000 technicians and operators had been trained, underlining that Kavach was a "totally new and very complex" system.

On rail accidents

Responding to a supplementary by DMK MP Kalanidhi Veeraswamy on rail accidents, Mr. Vaishnaw said consequential accidents had fallen by nearly 90% – from 135 in 2014 to

11 now. In response to another supplementary question, he said redeveloping railway stations without disrupting train services was a "complex task". He noted that several countries suspended rail operations for three to four years during station redevelopment. "In India, where 7.5 crore passengers travel by train, this is simply not possible," he said.

He said stations were being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which adopts a long-term, phased approach based on master plans.

Anti-collision system installed on 2,000 km of rail network, Vaishnaw tells Lok Sabha

रेल नेटवर्क के 2,000 किमी पर एंटी-कोलिजन सिस्टम स्थापित, वैष्णव ने लोकसभा को बताया

- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that the **indigenous anti-collision Kavach safety system** had been fully commissioned on over 2,000 km of the rail network
केंद्रीय रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बुधवार को लोकसभा को बताया कि स्वदेशी एंटी-कोलिजन कवच सुरक्षा प्रणाली को रेल नेटवर्क के 2,000 किमी से अधिक हिस्से में पूरी तरह से चालू कर दिया गया है
- In a reply during **Question Hour**, Mr. Vaishnaw said that **Kavach was a highly complex Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system comprising five major components**
प्रश्नकाल के दौरान उत्तर देते हुए श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि कवच एक अत्यंत जटिल ऑटोमैटिक ट्रेन प्रोटेक्शन (ATP) प्रणाली है, जिसमें पांच प्रमुख घटक शामिल हैं
- It required continuous laying of **optical fibre cable (OFC)** along tracks and the installation of **telecom towers**
इसके लिए पटरियों के साथ ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल (OFC) बिछाने और टेलीकॉम टावरों की स्थापना की निरंतर आवश्यकता होती है
- The Minister said the **Railways** had so far laid **7,129 km of OFC**, installed **860 telecom towers**, connected **767 stations to data centres**, deployed **trackside equipment** along **3,413 km**, and equipped **4,154 locomotives** with the system
मंत्री ने कहा कि रेलवे ने अब तक 7,129 किमी OFC बिछाया है, 860 टेलीकॉम टावर स्थापित किए हैं, 767 स्टेशनों को डेटा सेंटरों से जोड़ा है, 3,413 किमी तक ट्रैकसाइड उपकरण लगाए हैं और 4,154 इंजनों को इस प्रणाली से सुसज्जित किया है
- "**Complete commissioning has crossed 2,000 km**," he said, adding that the pace of work was "**very fast**"
उन्होंने कहा, "पूर्ण कमीशनिंग 2,000 किमी से अधिक हो चुकी है," और जोड़ा कि काम की गति "बहुत तेज" है



- The Minister said around **40,000 technicians and operators** had been trained, underlining that **Kavach** was a “**totally new and very complex**” system
मंत्री ने कहा कि लगभग **40,000 तकनीशियनों और ऑपरेटरों** को प्रशिक्षित किया गया है, यह रेखांकित करते हुए कि **कवच** एक “**पूरी तरह नया और अत्यंत जटिल**” सिस्टम है

On rail accidents रेल दुर्घटनाओं पर

- Responding to a supplementary by **DMK MP Kalanidhi Veeraswamy** on rail accidents, Mr. Vaishnav said **consequential accidents** had fallen by nearly **90%** — from **135 in 2014** to **11 now**
रेल दुर्घटनाओं पर **डीएमके सांसद कलानिधि वीरास्वामी** के पूरक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि **परिणामी दुर्घटनाएं** लगभग **90%** घट गई हैं — **2014 में 135** से घटकर अब **11** रह गई हैं
- In response to another supplementary question, he said redeveloping **railway stations** without disrupting **train services** was a “**complex task**”
एक अन्य पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा कि **रेलवे स्टेशनों** का पुनर्विकास **ट्रेन सेवाओं** को बाधित किए बिना करना एक “**जटिल कार्य**” है
- He noted that several countries suspended **rail operations** for **three to four years** during station redevelopment
उन्होंने कहा कि कई देशों ने स्टेशन पुनर्विकास के दौरान **तीन से चार वर्षों** के लिए **रेल संचालन** निलंबित कर दिया था
- “**In India, where 7.5 crore passengers travel by train, this is simply not possible,**” he said
उन्होंने कहा, “**भारत में, जहां 7.5 करोड़ यात्री ट्रेन से यात्रा करते हैं, यह बिल्कुल संभव नहीं है**”
- He said **stations were being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, which adopts a **long-term, phased approach** based on **master plans**
उन्होंने कहा कि स्टेशनों का उन्नयन **अमृत भारत स्टेशन योजना** के तहत किया जा रहा है, जो **मास्टर प्लान** पर आधारित **दीर्घकालिक, चरणबद्ध दृष्टिकोण** अपनाती है

Number of National Highway projects behind schedule

GS III: Economy

574 As many as 574 under construction National Highway (NH) projects

worth ₹3.60 lakh crore have exceeded their completion schedule. Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said 133 NH projects with total cost of about ₹1 lakh crore have been awarded. PTI

Number of National Highway projects behind schedule

▶ समय-सीमा से पीछे चल रही राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं की संख्या

- As many as **574 under construction National Highway (NH) projects** worth **₹3.60 lakh crore** have exceeded their **completion schedule**

निर्माणाधीन **574 राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग (NH) परियोजनाएँ**, जिनकी लागत **₹3.60 लाख करोड़** है, अपनी निर्धारित पूर्णता समय-सीमा से आगे निकल चुकी हैं

- Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** said **133 NH projects** with total cost of about **₹1 lakh crore** have been **awarded**

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने कहा कि कुल लगभग **₹1 लाख करोड़** की लागत वाली **133 एनएच परियोजनाएँ** आवंटित की जा चुकी हैं



Parliamentary committee moots tighter timelines in IBC overhaul

GS III: Economy

Shishir Shinde
NEW DELHI

A select committee on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) amendment bill has recommended further rationalisation of creditor-initiated insolvency, group insolvency and cross-border insolvency frameworks, while also proposing statutory timelines for case disposal by insolvency tribunals.

The committee, chaired by Baijayant Panda, tabled its report in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Based on its recommendations, the reworked Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, introduced during the monsoon session, is expected to be taken up in the Budget session of Parliament. The proposed amendments seek to speed up admissions, resolution and liquidation processes, maximise asset value and strengthen governance under the Code.

On creditor-initiated insolvency, the committee flagged stakeholder con-



The proposed amendments seek to speed up admissions, resolution and liquidation.

cerns over the enforceability and binding nature of conduct standards for the committee of creditors (CoC). It said prescribing both standards of conduct and decision-making timelines would enhance governance, improve predictability and reinforce the Code's time-bound resolution objective.

Accordingly, it recommended modifying clause (sa) under Section 196(1) to read: "specify the standards of conduct for the Committee of Creditors and its members, including the period within which the Committee of

Creditors shall take decisions." The committee also made two key recommendations on cross-border insolvency. First, it proposed amending Section 240C to explicitly require rules to spell out procedures for recognition of proceedings involving specified foreign jurisdictions, as well as mechanisms for relief, judicial cooperation, assistance and coordination. Second, it recommended adding an explanation to Section 240C to clarify and widen the definition of "corporate debtor" to explicitly include any person incorporated with limited liability outside India.

On group insolvency, the committee cautioned that the operational framework must be carefully tailored to India's institutional realities, including promoter-driven litigation, related-party influence and the complexity of cross-entity claims. It recommended that the rule-making process ensure procedural coordination improves efficiency with-

out introducing additional complexity or increasing the scope for legal disputes.

A significant recommendation relates to liquidation proceedings. The committee suggested moving away from the automatic appointment of the resolution professional (RP) as liquidator. It proposed revising Section 34 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to provide that an RP who has conducted the corporate insolvency resolution process or pre-packaged insolvency resolution process for a corporate debtor shall be ineligible for appointment as liquidator.

Separately, the committee proposed a clear statutory timeline for appeals, recommending insertion of a new clause mandating that the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal dispose of appeals within three months from the date of receipt.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Parliamentary committee moots tighter timelines in IBC overhaul आईबीसी सुधार में सख्त समय-सीमा का सुझाव देने वाली संसदीय समिति

- A select committee on **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) amendment bill** has recommended further rationalisation of **creditor-initiated insolvency, group insolvency and cross-border insolvency frameworks**, while also proposing **statutory timelines** for case disposal by **insolvency tribunals**

दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता संहिता (आईबीसी) संशोधन विधेयक पर गठित एक चयन समिति ने ऋणदाता-प्रेरित दिवालियापन, समूह दिवालियापन और सीमा-पार दिवालियापन ढांचे के और युक्तिकरण की सिफारिश की है, साथ ही दिवाला न्यायाधिकरणों द्वारा मामलों के निपटान के लिए वैधानिक समय-सीमा का भी प्रस्ताव रखा है

- The committee, chaired by **Baijayant Panda**, tabled its report in the **Lok Sabha** on **Wednesday**
बैजयंत पांडा की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने **बुधवार** को **लोकसभा** में अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश की
- Based on its recommendations, the reworked **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill**, introduced during the **monsoon session**, is expected to be taken up in the **Budget session** of Parliament



इन सिफारिशों के आधार पर, मानसून सत्र में पेश किया गया पुनर्गठित दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता संहिता (संशोधन) विधेयक संसद के बजट सत्र में लिया जाने की उम्मीद है

- The proposed amendments seek to speed up admissions, resolution and liquidation processes, maximise asset value and strengthen governance under the Code प्रस्तावित संशोधनों का उद्देश्य प्रवेश, समाधान और परिसमापन प्रक्रियाओं को तेज करना, परिसंपत्ति मूल्य को अधिकतम करना और संहिता के तहत शासन व्यवस्था को मजबूत करना है
- On creditor-initiated insolvency, the committee flagged stakeholder concerns over the enforceability and binding nature of conduct standards for the committee of creditors (CoC) ऋणदाता-प्रेरित दिवालियापन पर समिति ने ऋणदाताओं की समिति (CoC) के लिए आचरण मानकों की प्रवर्तनीयता और बाध्यकारी प्रकृति को लेकर हितधारकों की चिंताओं को रेखांकित किया
- It said prescribing both standards of conduct and decision-making timelines would enhance governance, improve predictability and reinforce the Code's time-bound resolution objective उसने कहा कि आचरण मानकों और निर्णय-निर्माण की समय-सीमा दोनों को निर्धारित करने से शासन, पूर्वानुमेयता में सुधार होगा और संहिता के समयबद्ध समाधान उद्देश्य को बल मिलेगा
- Accordingly, it recommended modifying clause (sa) under Section 196(1) to read: "specify the standards of conduct for the Committee of Creditors and its members, including the period within which the Committee of Creditors shall take decisions." तदनुसार, उसने धारा 196(1) के तहत खंड (sa) में संशोधन की सिफारिश की, जिसे इस प्रकार पढ़ा जाए: "ऋणदाताओं की समिति और उसके सदस्यों के लिए आचरण मानक निर्दिष्ट करना, जिसमें वह अवधि भी शामिल हो जिसके भीतर ऋणदाताओं की समिति निर्णय लेगी।"
- The committee also made two key recommendations on cross-border insolvency समिति ने सीमा-पार दिवालियापन पर दो प्रमुख सिफारिशें भी कीं
- First, it proposed amending Section 240C to explicitly require rules to spell out procedures for recognition of proceedings involving specified foreign jurisdictions, as well as mechanisms for relief, judicial cooperation, assistance and coordination पहले, उसने धारा 240C में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव किया ताकि नियमों में निर्दिष्ट विदेशी अधिकार क्षेत्रों से संबंधित कार्यवाहियों की मान्यता की प्रक्रियाएँ, तथा राहत, न्यायिक सहयोग, सहायता और समन्वय के तंत्र स्पष्ट रूप से बताए जा सकें
- Second, it recommended adding an explanation to Section 240C to clarify and widen the definition of "corporate debtor" to explicitly include any person incorporated with limited liability outside India दूसरे, उसने धारा 240C में एक व्याख्या जोड़ने की सिफारिश की ताकि "कॉर्पोरेट देनदार" की परिभाषा स्पष्ट और विस्तृत हो सके और भारत के बाहर सीमित दायित्व के साथ पंजीकृत किसी भी व्यक्ति को स्पष्ट रूप से शामिल किया जा सके
- On group insolvency, the committee cautioned that the operational framework must be carefully tailored to India's institutional realities, including promoter-driven litigation, related-party influence and the complexity of cross-entity claims समूह दिवालियापन पर समिति ने चेतावनी दी कि परिचालन ढांचे को भारत की संस्थागत वास्तविकताओं के अनुरूप सावधानीपूर्वक ढाला जाना चाहिए, जिसमें प्रवर्तक-प्रेरित मुकदमेबाजी, संबंधित-पक्ष प्रभाव और अंतर-इकाई दावों की जटिलता शामिल है
- It recommended that the rule-making process ensure procedural coordination improves efficiency without introducing additional complexity or increasing the scope for legal disputes उसने सिफारिश की कि नियम-निर्माण प्रक्रिया यह सुनिश्चित करे कि प्रक्रियात्मक समन्वय से दक्षता बढ़े, बिना अतिरिक्त जटिलता लाए या कानूनी विवादों की गुंजाइश बढ़ाए
- A significant recommendation relates to liquidation proceedings एक महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिश परिसमापन कार्यवाहियों से संबंधित है
- The committee suggested moving away from the automatic appointment of the resolution professional (RP) as liquidator समिति ने समाधान पेशेवर (RP) की स्वचालित नियुक्ति को परिसमापक के रूप में करने से हटने का सुझाव दिया
- It proposed revising Section 34 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to provide that an RP who has conducted the corporate insolvency resolution



process or pre-packaged insolvency resolution process for a corporate debtor shall be ineligible for appointment as liquidator

उसने दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता संहिता (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 की धारा 34 में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव किया ताकि जिस आरपी ने किसी कॉर्पोरेट देनदार के लिए कॉर्पोरेट दिवाला समाधान प्रक्रिया या प्री-पैकेज्ड दिवाला समाधान प्रक्रिया संचालित की हो, वह परिसमापक के रूप में नियुक्ति के लिए अयोग्य हो

- Separately, the committee proposed a clear **statutory timeline** for appeals, recommending insertion of a new clause mandating that the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** dispose of appeals within **three months** from the date of receipt

अलग से, समिति ने अपीलों के लिए स्पष्ट वैधानिक समय-सीमा का प्रस्ताव किया और एक नए खंड को जोड़ने की सिफारिश की, जिसके तहत राष्ट्रीय कंपनी विधि अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को प्राप्ति की तिथि से तीन महीनों के भीतर अपीलों का निपटान करना अनिवार्य होगा

GS Paper III: S&T,

TOPICS COVERED

18_12_2025

1.

LS clears nuclear Bill allowing privatisation

लोकसभा ने निजीकरण की अनुमति देने वाला परमाणु विधेयक पारित किया

2.

Possible discovery of dark matter sparks debate, experts urge caution

डार्क मैटर की संभावित खोज ने बहस छेड़ी, विशेषज्ञों ने सावधानी बरतने की सलाह दी

LS clears nuclear Bill allowing privatisation

The Lower House passed the SHANTI Bill despite demands from Opposition parties to refer it to a parliamentary panel; Congress protests the removal of clause holding equipment supplier responsible for failure, questions the Bill's timing and interest shown by a 'conglomerate house'; Centre defends the many controversial provisions

GS III: S&T
Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, despite demands by several Opposition parliamentarians for referring the legislation to a parliamentary panel.

The Bill, which aims to incentivise private sector participation, both Indian and foreign, into nuclear power production, now moves to the Rajya Sabha for discussion.

Congress MP Manish Tewari, who opened discussions on the Bill following introductory remarks by Science Minister Jitendra Singh, sought to know if it was a "coincidence" that a legislation enabling private sector participation in the nuclear sector coincided with interest expressed by

the "conglomerate house... Adani" in November to enter the nuclear sector.

Mr. Singh, amidst uproar in the House over the remark, retorted that the Bill had nothing to do with any specific company and such an aspersions "brought disrepute to the House".

Mr. Tewari also burrowed into what is perhaps the most significant element of the Bill: the removal of a clause in the existing Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 that allows the operator of a nuclear power plant to claim recourse from suppliers if their equipment was found to be responsible in case of an accident. In 2008, the BJP had moved a no-confidence motion against the Manmohan Singh government for, among other things, the absence of such a clause. Subsequently, this was also a reason for the

Core changes

The SHANTI Bill repeals existing legislation on nuclear activity and opens up private participation in civil nuclear sector

- It enables private companies to run nuclear power plants and bring foreign investment into the sector
- It places the responsibility of managing nuclear plants on the 'operator' of the facility
- It limits operator liability to the capacity of the plants
- Govt. to stay in control of nuclear waste management



lack of foreign participation in India's nuclear sector, despite the U.S.-India nuclear deal that granted India a waiver from Nuclear Suppliers Group sanction as it opened foreign companies to potentially unlimited liability.

Privatising the nuclear power sector – that currently makes up 1.5% of India's installed power capacity and 3% of the electricity produced – has

been on the government's agenda in recent years to boost clean energy production, improve grid stability and move towards its 2070 net-zero (zero net-carbon emissions) targets. This includes scaling up installed nuclear power to 100 GW up from the current 8.8 GW by 2047 and a ₹20,000-crore mission announced in the Budget this year to develop 'small modular reactors' and a

slew of customised 220 MW Pressurised Heavy Water reactors (Bharat Small Modular Reactors): "I now see that there is no reference to suppliers... god forbid if there is an accident... shouldn't a foreign supplier be liable?" Mr. Tewari questioned.

Mr. Singh acknowledged that the BJP had voiced opposition in the past and said that the existence of the clause "had caused reservations in collaborators" but the scenario was different from 2010. "Times have changed... technology has changed... We are now into small modular reactors, which didn't exist as a technology at that time. There will now be reactors – following the just announced Nuclear Mission – that will give power in dense areas. The risk of catastrophe has now changed. This Bill is coming in because the scenario

has changed," he said.

Opposition's criticism
Aditya Yadav of the Samajwadi Party accused the government of bringing in the Bill by "sacrificing the old laws... that kept public interest first" because the government faced with a "dollar that has crossed ₹90" and "unable to attract foreign investment" was "desperately trying to throw a red carpet to American companies" under pressure from the "prevailing Trump tariffs".
Supriya Sule, the MP from the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) asked how it was possible to cap the liability of plant operators at ₹3,000 crore. "How can you put a cap on that... how have you calculated this magic number?" she asked.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor reiterated this point. "The clean-up costs of the Fukushima disaster

have already exceeded \$182 billion dollars. Chernobyl's (disaster) impact at \$700 billion dollars... however, the total liability as per this Bill is capped at ₹3,000 crore (or about \$400 million). This hasn't changed in 15 years, doesn't account for inflation and the experience we have had so far," he said.

Mr. Singh said that ₹3,000 crore was only the maximum liability of the plant operator, and if higher amounts were required, it would come in from a nuclear insurance pool as well as additionally, source funds from the newly proposed Nuclear Liability Fund (pooled through tariffs). "The reason for a 'graded operator liability' was because it was necessary to encourage companies to invest in developing small reactors," he said.

RS CLEARS INSURANCE BILL
» PAGE 5



LS clears nuclear Bill allowing privatisation

लोकसभा ने निजीकरण की अनुमति देने वाला परमाणु विधेयक पारित किया

- The Lower House passed the **SHANTI Bill** despite demands from **Opposition parties** to refer it to a **parliamentary panel**; **Congress** protests the removal of clause holding **equipment supplier responsible for failure**, questions the Bill's **timing** and interest shown by a **'conglomerate house'**; **Centre** defends the many **controversial provisions**
निचले सदन ने **SHANTI विधेयक** को पारित किया, जबकि **विपक्षी दलों** ने इसे **संसदीय समिति** को भेजने की मांग की थी; **कांग्रेस** ने **उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ता को विफलता के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराने वाले प्रावधान** को हटाने का विरोध किया, विधेयक के **समय** और एक **'कॉरपोरेट समूह'** द्वारा दिखाई गई रुचि पर सवाल उठाए; **केंद्र सरकार** ने कई **विवादास्पद प्रावधानों** का बचाव किया
- The Lok Sabha on **Wednesday** passed the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025**, despite demands by several **Opposition parliamentarians** for referring the legislation to a **parliamentary panel**
बुधवार को लोकसभा ने **सस्टेनेबल हार्नेसिंग एंड एडवांसमेंट ऑफ न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी फॉर ट्रांसफॉर्मिंग इंडिया (SHANTI) विधेयक, 2025** पारित किया, जबकि कई **विपक्षी सांसदों** ने इस कानून को **संसदीय समिति** को भेजने की मांग की थी
- The Bill, which aims to incentivise **private sector participation**, both **Indian and foreign**, into **nuclear power production**, now moves to the **Rajya Sabha** for discussion
यह विधेयक, जिसका उद्देश्य **निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी, भारतीय और विदेशी**, को **परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन** में प्रोत्साहित करना है, अब चर्चा के लिए **राज्यसभा** में जाएगा
- Congress MP Manish Tewari**, who opened discussions on the Bill following introductory remarks by **Science Minister Jitendra Singh**, sought to know if it was a **"coincidence"** that a legislation enabling **private sector participation** in the **nuclear sector** coincided with interest expressed by the **"conglomerate house... Adani"** in **November** to enter the nuclear sector
कांग्रेस सांसद मनीष तिवारी, जिन्होंने **विज्ञान मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह** की प्रारंभिक टिप्पणी के बाद विधेयक पर चर्चा की शुरुआत की, ने पूछा कि क्या यह **"संयोग"** है कि **परमाणु क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी** को सक्षम बनाने वाला कानून उसी समय आया जब **नवंबर** में **"कॉरपोरेट समूह... अडानी"** ने इस क्षेत्र में प्रवेश की रुचि दिखाई
- Mr. Singh, amidst uproar in the House over the remark, retorted that the Bill had nothing to do with any **specific company** and such an aspersion **"brought disrepute to the House"**
सदन में इस टिप्पणी पर हंगामे के बीच श्री सिंह ने पलटवार करते हुए कहा कि इस विधेयक का किसी **विशिष्ट कंपनी** से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है और इस तरह का आरोप **"सदन की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाता है"**
- Mr. Tewari also burrowed into what is perhaps the most **significant element** of the Bill: the removal of a clause in the existing **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010** that allows the operator of a nuclear power plant to claim recourse from **suppliers** if their equipment was found to be responsible in case of an **accident**
श्री तिवारी ने विधेयक के शायद सबसे **महत्वपूर्ण तत्व** पर भी सवाल उठाया: मौजूदा **न्यूक्लियर डैमेज के लिए नागरिक दायित्व अधिनियम, 2010** में उस प्रावधान को हटाना, जो **आपूर्तिकर्ताओं** से क्षतिपूर्ति का दावा करने की अनुमति देता है यदि **दुर्घटना** की स्थिति में उनका उपकरण जिम्मेदार पाया जाए
- In **2008**, the **BJP** had moved a **no-confidence motion** against the **Manmohan Singh government** for, among other things, the absence of such a clause
2008 में **भाजपा** ने **मनमोहन सिंह सरकार** के खिलाफ **अविश्वास प्रस्ताव** लाया था, जिसमें अन्य कारणों के साथ ऐसे ही प्रावधान की अनुपस्थिति भी शामिल थी
- Subsequently, this was also a reason for the lack of **foreign participation** in India's nuclear sector, despite the **U.S.-India nuclear deal** that granted India a waiver from **Nuclear Suppliers Group** sanction as it opened foreign companies to potentially **unlimited liability**
इसके बाद, यह भारत के परमाणु क्षेत्र में **विदेशी भागीदारी** की कमी का भी एक कारण बना, जबकि **अमेरिका-भारत परमाणु समझौते** ने भारत को **न्यूक्लियर सप्लायर्स ग्रुप** के प्रतिबंध से छूट दी थी और विदेशी कंपनियों को संभावित रूप से **असीमित दायित्व** के लिए खोल दिया था



- Privatising the **nuclear power sector** — that currently makes up **1.5%** of India's installed power capacity and **3%** of the electricity produced — has been on the government's agenda in recent years to boost **clean energy production**, improve **grid stability** and move towards its **2070 net-zero** targets
परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र का निजीकरण — जो वर्तमान में भारत की स्थापित बिजली क्षमता का **1.5%** और उत्पादित बिजली का **3%** है — हाल के वर्षों में सरकार के एजेंडे में रहा है, ताकि **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उत्पादन** बढ़ाया जा सके, **ग्रिड स्थिरता** में सुधार हो और **2070 नेट-ज़ीरो** लक्ष्यों की ओर बढ़ा जा सके
- This includes scaling up installed nuclear power to **100 GW** up from the current **8.8 GW** by **2047** and a **₹20,000-crore mission** announced in the **Budget** this year to develop 'small modular reactors' and a slew of customised **220 MW Pressurised Heavy Water reactors (Bharat Small Modular Reactors)**
इसमें स्थापित परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता को वर्तमान **8.8 GW** से बढ़ाकर **2047** तक **100 GW** करना और इस वर्ष के **बजट** में घोषित **₹20,000 करोड़ के मिशन** के तहत 'स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर' तथा कई अनुकूलित **220 मेगावाट प्रेशराइज्ड हेवी वॉटर रिएक्टर (भारत स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर)** विकसित करना शामिल है
- "I now see that there is no reference to **suppliers**... god forbid if there is an **accident**... shouldn't a **foreign supplier** be liable?" Mr. Tewari questioned
"अब मैं देखता हूँ कि **आपूर्तिकर्ताओं** का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है... भगवान न करे अगर कोई **दुर्घटना** हो जाए... क्या **विदेशी आपूर्तिकर्ता** को जिम्मेदार नहीं ठहराया जाना चाहिए?" श्री तिवारी ने सवाल किया
- Mr. Singh acknowledged that the **BJP** had voiced opposition in the past and said that the existence of the clause "had caused **reservations in collaborators**" but the scenario today was **different from 2010**
श्री सिंह ने स्वीकार किया कि **भाजपा** ने अतीत में विरोध किया था और कहा कि उस प्रावधान की मौजूदगी ने "**सहयोगियों में संदेह**" पैदा किया था, लेकिन आज की स्थिति **2010 से अलग** है
- "**Times have changed... technology has changed. We are now into small modular reactors**, which didn't exist as a technology at that time"
"समय बदल गया है... तकनीक बदल गई है। हम अब **स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टरों** के दौर में हैं, जो उस समय मौजूद नहीं थे"
- "There will now be reactors — following the just announced **Nuclear Mission** — that will give power in **dense areas**. The **risk of catastrophe** has now changed. This Bill is coming in because the **scenario has changed**," he said
"अब — हाल ही में घोषित **न्यूक्लियर मिशन** के तहत — ऐसे रिएक्टर होंगे जो **घनी आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों** में बिजली देंगे। अब **विनाश का जोखिम** बदल गया है। यह विधेयक इसलिए आ रहा है क्योंकि **परिस्थिति बदल चुकी है**," उन्होंने कहा

Opposition's criticism विपक्ष की आलोचना

- Aditya Yadav** of the **Samajwadi Party** accused the government of bringing in the Bill by "**sacrificing the old laws**... that kept **public interest first**" because the government faced with a "**dollar that has crossed ₹90**" and "unable to attract **foreign investment**" was "**desperately trying** to throw a **red carpet to American companies**" under pressure from the "**prevailing Trump tariffs**"
समाजवादी पार्टी के **आदित्य यादव** ने सरकार पर आरोप लगाया कि वह "**पुराने कानूनों की बलि देकर**... जो **जनहित को सर्वोपरि** रखते थे" यह विधेयक लाई है, क्योंकि सरकार "**डॉलर ₹90 के पार**" होने और **विदेशी निवेश** आकर्षित करने में असमर्थ होने के कारण "**बेचैनी में अमेरिकी कंपनियों** के लिए **रेड कार्पेट** बिछाने की कोशिश कर रही है" और यह "**मौजूदा ट्रंप टैरिफ़**" के दबाव में है
- Supriya Sule**, the MP from the **Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar)** asked how it was possible to cap the liability of plant operators at **₹3,000 crore**
राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (शरद पवार) की सांसद **सुप्रिया सुले** ने पूछा कि संयंत्र संचालकों की देयता को **₹3,000 करोड़** पर सीमित करना कैसे संभव है
- "How can you put a cap on that... how have you calculated this **magic number**?" she asked
"आप इस पर सीमा कैसे लगा सकते हैं... आपने इस **जादुई संख्या** की गणना कैसे की?" उन्होंने पूछा
- Congress MP Shashi Tharoor** reiterated this point
कांग्रेस सांसद **शशि थरूर** ने इस बिंदु को दोहराया



- “The clean-up costs of the **Fukushima disaster** have already exceeded **\$182 billion dollars**. **Chernobyl’s** (disaster) impact at **\$700 billion dollars**... however, the total liability as per this Bill is capped at **₹3,000 crore** (or about **\$400 million**)”
“फुकुशिमा आपदा की सफाई लागत पहले ही **\$182 अरब डॉलर** से अधिक हो चुकी है। **चेर्नोबिल** आपदा का प्रभाव **\$700 अरब डॉलर** तक आंका गया है... लेकिन इस विधेयक के अनुसार कुल देयता **₹3,000 करोड़** (या लगभग **\$400 मिलियन**) पर सीमित है”
- “This hasn’t changed in **15 years**, doesn’t account for **inflation** and the experience we have had so far,” he said
“यह **15 वर्षों** में नहीं बदला है, इसमें **मुद्रास्फीति** और अब तक के अनुभव को शामिल नहीं किया गया है,” उन्होंने कहा
- Mr. Singh said that **₹3,000 crore** was only the **maximum liability** of the plant operator, and if higher amounts were required, it would come in from a **nuclear insurance pool** as well as additionally, source funds from the newly proposed **Nuclear Liability Fund** (pooled through **tariffs**)
श्री सिंह ने कहा कि **₹3,000 करोड़** केवल संयंत्र संचालक की **अधिकतम देयता** है, और यदि अधिक राशि की आवश्यकता हुई तो वह **न्यूक्लियर बीमा पूल** से आएगी तथा अतिरिक्त रूप से प्रस्तावित **न्यूक्लियर देयता कोष** (जो **टैरिफ़** के माध्यम से एकत्र होगा) से धन जुटाया जाएगा
- “The reason for a ‘**graded operator liability**’ was because it was necessary to encourage companies to invest in developing **small reactors**,” he said
उन्होंने कहा, “**ग्रेडेड ऑपरेटर देयता** का कारण यह था कि कंपनियों को **स्मॉल रिएक्टरों** के विकास में निवेश के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना आवश्यक था”

PATRIOTIC



Possible discovery of dark matter sparks debate, experts urge caution

Physicists don't know what makes up dark matter; one hypothesis is that it is a new type of subatomic particle called WIMPs, which barely interact with normal matter and never with light; the trick to finding them then is high-energy particles released when two WIMPs annihilate each other

SS III S&T
Prakash Chandra

Is it a false alarm or a discovery that solves one of the greatest mysteries in cosmology? This is the question weighing on astronomers as they examine a study published recently in the *Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics*, which claims to have finally detected the elusive "dark matter".

Dark matter is believed to have been around for most of the 14-billion-year history of the universe. Astronomers began searching for it in the early 1930s after the Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky observed that galaxies in the Coma Cluster were moving too quickly for the amount of ordinary matter it contained. He realised the speed of their rotation was so great that they should have flown apart as they didn't have enough matter to generate the gravity needed to hold them together. He deduced that some hidden mass could be providing the "extra gravity" required for the galaxies to stay intact. He named this dark matter.

Invisible WIMPs

According to the Standard Model of particle physics, ordinary (baryonic) matter that makes up the world around us consists of elementary particles such as baryons (protons and neutrons) and electrons, along with massless photons of electromagnetic radiation such as light. Baryons themselves are made up of even smaller particles called quarks and gluons. But all these fundamental particles form just 5% of all mass in the known universe. Dark matter accounts for 27%, while a mysterious force called "dark energy" makes up the rest.

Physicists don't know what dark matter is made up of, but one hypothesis they have is a hitherto unknown type of subatomic particle called WIMPs. The name is short for 'weakly interacting massive particles'. According to physicists, WIMPs barely interact with normal matter and not at all with any form of electromagnetic radiation. Since dark matter doesn't emit, absorb or reflect light, astronomers can only study its gravitational effect on visible matter, such as stars and galaxies.

The trick to finding it is then to spot its tell-tale signature: high-energy particles, such as gamma-ray photons that are released when two WIMPs collide and annihilate each other.

New claim

Tomonori Totani of the University of Tokyo has now claimed to have identified just such a gamma-ray signal in his study, using data from the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

"We detected gamma rays with a photon energy of 20 giga-electron-volts (or 20 billion electron-volts, an extremely large amount of energy) extending in a halo-like structure towards the centre of the Milky Way galaxy", Prof. Totani said. "The gamma-ray emission component closely matches the shape expected from the dark matter halo."

He added that the measured gamma ray energy spectrum "closely matches model predictions for the annihilation of hypothetical WIMPs with masses roughly 500-times that of a proton."

Astronomers always knew dark matter must be virtually hiding in plain sight and that they'd find it sooner or later. Has Prof. Totani found it, however? Not quite, say experts, as the research data have to



Scientists believe the Milky Way galaxy's disc lies within a much larger, roughly spherical dark matter halo. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

survive rigorous scrutiny and critical evaluation by more independent researchers.

'Excess' radiation

"When we see a signal that looks like it could be dark matter, we can check other regions that are rich in dark matter to look for a comparable signal there," Tracy Slatyer, professor of physics and Director, MIT Centre for Theoretical Physics, told this correspondent via email.

"Studying the detailed properties of the signal would tell if it's consistent with what we expect from dark matter or if it has traits more consistent with an alternative source. So far, we have had many signals that seemed at first glance likely to be dark matter, but subsequent in-depth analysis revealed they were from a different source. Moreover, the overall size of the signal is not what you would expect from classic WIMP models (it is too large), and when we do the test of looking at other dark-matter-rich regions, we do not see a corresponding signal."

According to Rishi Khatri of the Department of Theoretical Physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, the findings suggest the detection of an excess of radiation compared to what cosmologists expect from the model of the Milky Way galaxy. "It is possible that this excess is just



The measured gamma ray energy spectrum closely matches model predictions for the annihilation of hypothetical WIMPs with masses roughly 500-times that of a proton

TOMONORI TOTANI
UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

pointing to something missing in the model of our galaxy rather than dark matter." Prof. Khatri said in an email interview. "Based on what the study claims, we can predict what kind of signal we can expect from other nearby galaxies and then try to observe these signals. There have been similar claims many times in the past about the detection of dark matter, but they turned out to be false."

Radiation from other sources

Discoveries in particle physics have typically reach a confidence level called '5 sigma' before they are considered valid. Where does the new finding stand on this scale?

"The excess reported in the paper seems to be quite more than 5-sigma, without taking into account the uncertainty in modelling," Prof. Khatri said. "The author has not given a number

with the modelling uncertainty included. This should give you an idea about how uncertain we are about the uncertainty (i.e. error on the error bars), which is very important in such studies." An immediate task for astronomers would be to rule out the possibility of the radiation coming from some other sources of high-energy radiation like supernovae, the explosive deaths of massive stars; neutron stars, the ultra-dense collapsed cores of massive stars after supernova explosions; or black holes.

The gravity of dark matter, like normal matter, should cause the light passing nearby to bend, in a phenomenon called gravitational lensing. A spectacular example of this is the Bullet Cluster, where the collision of two clusters of galaxies resulted in the separation of dark matter from normal matter, and astronomers could discern the halos of dark matter around the galaxies by how they bent the path of light.

The LCDM model

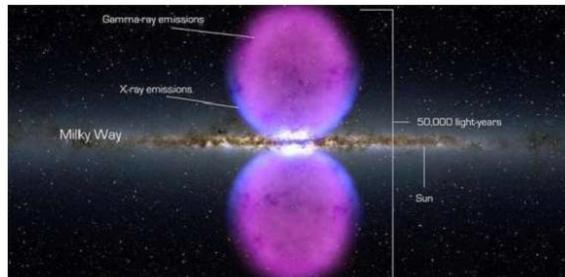
If the findings stand up to scrutiny and it turns out that a dark matter particle has actually been found, the widely accepted Lambda-Cold Dark Matter model of the universe wouldn't have to be modified. This is because, as Prof. Khatri said, "A new particle that would form dark matter is actually included in the LCDM model."

Instead, "what we do not know is the exact nature of dark matter."

And "if the dark matter is a 500 GeV WIMP as is claimed, it would be expected to have only very tiny interactions with other dark matter particles or with ordinary matter," Prof. Slatyer said. "So it would be safe to treat it as having only gravitational interactions, and many of the predictions of LCDM could remain almost unchanged."

One thing that can be said with certainty is that this grand cosmic narrative is at an exciting stage as astronomers untangle the fabric of the universe to try to understand its evolution and nature.

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)



An illustration of the two gigantic X-ray/gamma-ray bubbles (blue-violet) known to be associated with the Milky Way (centre). NASA



Possible discovery of dark matter sparks debate, experts urge caution डार्क मैटर की संभावित खोज ने बहस छेड़ी, विशेषज्ञों ने सावधानी बरतने की सलाह दी

- **Physicists** don't know what makes up **dark matter**; one hypothesis is that it is a new type of **subatomic particle** called **WIMPs**, which barely interact with **normal matter** and never with **light**; the trick to finding them then is **high-energy particles** released when two **WIMPs** annihilate each other

भौतिकविदों को यह नहीं पता कि **डार्क मैटर** किससे बना है; एक परिकल्पना यह है कि यह **उप-परमाण्विक कण** का एक नया प्रकार है जिसे **WIMPs** कहा जाता है, जो **सामान्य पदार्थ** के साथ बहुत कम संपर्क करता है और **प्रकाश** के साथ कभी नहीं; इसलिए उन्हें खोजने की युक्ति तब **उच्च-ऊर्जा कणों** की पहचान करना है जो दो **WIMPs** के एक-दूसरे को नष्ट करने पर निकलते हैं

Is it a false alarm or a discovery that solves one of the greatest mysteries in cosmology?

क्या यह एक झूठा अलार्म है या ब्रह्मांड विज्ञान के सबसे बड़े रहस्यों में से एक को सुलझाने वाली खोज है?

- This is the question weighing on astronomers as they examine a study published recently in the **Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics**, which claims to have finally detected the elusive "**dark matter**".
यह प्रश्न खगोलविदों के मन में है जब वे हाल ही में **Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन की जांच कर रहे हैं, जो दावा करता है कि उसने अंततः रहस्यमय **डार्क मैटर** का पता लगा लिया है।
- Dark matter is believed to have been around for most of the **14-billion-year history of the universe**.
माना जाता है कि **डार्क मैटर** ब्रह्मांड के **14 अरब वर्ष** के अधिकांश इतिहास से मौजूद है।
- Astronomers began searching for it in the **early 1930s** after the Swiss astronomer **Fritz Zwicky** observed that galaxies in the **Coma Cluster** were moving too quickly for the amount of ordinary matter it contained.
खगोलविदों ने **1930 के दशक की शुरुआत** में इसकी खोज शुरू की, जब स्विस् खगोलविद **फ्रिट्ज़ ज़्विकी** ने देखा कि **कोमा क्लस्टर** की आकाशगंगाएँ उसमें मौजूद सामान्य पदार्थ की मात्रा के लिए बहुत तेज़ी से गति कर रही थीं।
- He realised the speed of their rotation was so great that they should have flown apart as they didn't have enough matter to generate the gravity needed to hold them together.
उन्होंने समझा कि उनके घूर्णन की गति इतनी अधिक थी कि पर्याप्त गुरुत्वाकर्षण उत्पन्न करने के लिए पर्याप्त पदार्थ न होने के कारण उन्हें बिखर जाना चाहिए था।
- He deduced that some hidden mass could be providing the "**extra gravity**" required for the galaxies to stay intact.
उन्होंने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि कोई छिपा हुआ द्रव्यमान आकाशगंगाओं को एक साथ बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक **अतिरिक्त गुरुत्वाकर्षण** प्रदान कर रहा होगा।
- He named this **dark matter**.
उन्होंने इसे **डार्क मैटर** नाम दिया।

Invisible WIMPs

अदृश्य WIMPs

- According to the **Standard Model of particle physics**, ordinary (**baryonic**) matter that makes up the world around us consists of elementary particles such as **baryons (protons and neutrons)** and **electrons**, along with massless **photons** of electromagnetic radiation such as light.
कण भौतिकी के मानक मॉडल के अनुसार, हमारे आसपास की दुनिया बनाने वाला सामान्य (**बैरोनिक**) पदार्थ **बैरोन (प्रोटॉन और न्यूट्रॉन)**, **इलेक्ट्रॉन**, तथा प्रकाश जैसे विद्युतचुंबकीय विकिरण के द्रव्यमानहीन **फोटॉन** से मिलकर बना है।
- Baryons themselves are made up of even smaller particles called **quarks and gluons**.
स्वयं **बैरोन** और भी छोटे कणों से बने होते हैं जिन्हें **क्वार्क और ग्लूऑन** कहा जाता है।



- But all these fundamental particles form just **5%** of all mass in the known universe.
लेकिन ये सभी मूलभूत कण ज्ञात ब्रह्मांड के कुल द्रव्यमान का केवल **5%** ही बनाते हैं।
- Dark matter accounts for **27%**, while a mysterious force called "**dark energy**" makes up the rest.
डार्क मैटर का योगदान **27%** है, जबकि शेष भाग एक रहस्यमय शक्ति **डार्क एनर्जी** से बना है।
- Physicists don't know what dark matter is made up of, but one hypothesis they have is a hitherto unknown type of subatomic particle called **WIMPs**.
भौतिकविद यह नहीं जानते कि **डार्क मैटर** किससे बना है, लेकिन एक परिकल्पना यह है कि यह **WIMPs** नामक एक अज्ञात उप-परमाण्विक कण से बना हो सकता है।
- The name is short for '**weakly interacting massive particles**'.
यह नाम **वीकली इंटरैक्टिंग मैसिव पार्टिकल्स** का संक्षिप्त रूप है।
- According to physicists, **WIMPs** barely interact with normal matter and not at all with any form of **electromagnetic radiation**.
भौतिकविदों के अनुसार, **WIMPs** सामान्य पदार्थ के साथ बहुत कम और **विद्युतचुंबकीय विकिरण** के किसी भी रूप के साथ बिल्कुल भी अंतःक्रिया नहीं करते।
- Since dark matter doesn't emit, absorb or reflect **light**, astronomers can only study its **gravitational effect** on visible matter, such as **stars and galaxies**.
चूंकि **डार्क मैटर** प्रकाश का उत्सर्जन, अवशोषण या परावर्तन नहीं करता, इसलिए खगोलविद केवल **तारों और आकाशगंगाओं** जैसे दृश्य पदार्थ पर इसके **गुरुत्वीय प्रभाव** का अध्ययन कर सकते हैं।
- The trick to finding it is then to spot its tell-tale signature: **high-energy particles**, such as **gamma-ray photons** that are released when two **WIMPs** collide and annihilate each other.
इसे खोजने की कुंजी इसके संकेत को पहचानना है, अर्थात् **उच्च-ऊर्जा कण**, जैसे **गामा-रे फोटॉन**, जो तब निकलते हैं जब दो **WIMPs** आपस में टकराकर एक-दूसरे का विनाश कर देते हैं।

New claim

नया दावा

- Tomonori Totani of the **University of Tokyo** has now claimed to have identified just such a **gamma-ray signal** in his study, using data from the **Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope**.
टोक्यो विश्वविद्यालय के **तोमोनोरी टोटानी** ने अब दावा किया है कि उन्होंने अपने अध्ययन में ठीक ऐसा ही एक **गामा-रे संकेत** पहचाना है, जिसमें **फर्मी गामा-रे स्पेस टेलीस्कोप** के डेटा का उपयोग किया गया है।
- "We detected gamma rays with a photon energy of **20 giga-electron-volts** (or **20 billion electron-volts**, an extremely large amount of energy) extending in a halo-like structure towards the centre of the **Milky Way galaxy**", Prof. Totani said.
"हमने **20 गीगा-इलेक्ट्रॉन-वोल्ट** (या **20 अरब इलेक्ट्रॉन-वोल्ट**, जो ऊर्जा की अत्यंत बड़ी मात्रा है) की फोटॉन ऊर्जा वाले गामा किरणों का पता लगाया, जो **मिल्की वे आकाशगंगा** के केंद्र की ओर एक हेलो-जैसी संरचना में फैली हुई हैं," प्रो. टोटानी ने कहा।
- "The gamma-ray emission component closely matches the shape expected from the **dark matter halo**."
"गामा-रे उत्सर्जन घटक का आकार **डार्क मैटर हेलो** से अपेक्षित आकृति से काफ़ी मेल खाता है।"
- He added that the measured gamma ray energy spectrum "closely matches model predictions for the annihilation of hypothetical **WIMPs** with masses roughly **500-times** that of a **proton**."
उन्होंने यह भी जोड़ा कि मापा गया गामा-रे ऊर्जा स्पेक्ट्रम काल्पनिक **WIMPs** के विनाश के लिए मॉडल की भविष्यवाणियों से काफ़ी मेल खाता है, जिनका द्रव्यमान **प्रोटॉन** के द्रव्यमान से लगभग **500 गुना** है।
- Astronomers always knew dark matter must be virtually hiding in plain sight and that they'd find it sooner or later.
खगोलविद हमेशा जानते थे कि **डार्क मैटर** वस्तुतः खुली नज़र के सामने छिपा हुआ है और वे इसे देर-सबेर खोज ही लेंगे।
- Has Prof. Totani found it, however? Not quite, say experts, as the research data have to survive rigorous scrutiny and critical evaluation by more independent researchers.
लेकिन क्या प्रो. टोटानी ने इसे वास्तव में खोज लिया है? विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि अभी नहीं, क्योंकि शोध डेटा को अन्य स्वतंत्र शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा कड़ी जांच और आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन से गुजरना होगा।

'Excess' radiation

'अधिक' विकिरण



- “When we see a signal that looks like it could be dark matter, we can check other regions that are rich in dark matter to look for a comparable signal there,” Tracy Slatyer, professor of physics and Director, **MIT Centre for Theoretical Physics**, told this correspondent via email. “जब हम ऐसा कोई संकेत देखते हैं जो **डार्क मैटर** जैसा लगता है, तो हम डार्क मैटर से भरपूर अन्य क्षेत्रों की जांच कर सकते हैं कि वहाँ भी कोई समान संकेत है या नहीं,” भौतिकी की प्रोफेसर और **MIT सेंटर फॉर थ्योरिटिकल फिज़िक्स** की निदेशक **ट्रेसी स्लैटियर** ने ईमेल के माध्यम से इस संवाददाता से कहा।
- “Studying the detailed properties of the signal would tell if it’s consistent with what we expect from dark matter or if it has traits more consistent with an alternative source. “संकेत के विस्तृत गुणों का अध्ययन यह बताएगा कि क्या यह **डार्क मैटर** से हमारी अपेक्षाओं के अनुरूप है या इसमें किसी वैकल्पिक स्रोत से अधिक मेल खाने वाले लक्षण हैं।
- So far, we have had many signals that seemed at first glance likely to be dark matter, but subsequent in-depth analysis revealed they were from a different source. अब तक, हमारे पास कई ऐसे संकेत आए हैं जो पहली नज़र में डार्क मैटर जैसे लगे, लेकिन बाद के गहन विश्लेषण से पता चला कि वे किसी अन्य स्रोत से थे।
- Moreover, the overall size of the signal is not what you would expect from classic **WIMP models** (it is too large), and when we do the test of looking at other **dark-matter-rich regions**, we do not see a corresponding signal.” इसके अलावा, संकेत का कुल आकार पारंपरिक **WIMP मॉडलों** से अपेक्षित आकार जैसा नहीं है (यह बहुत बड़ा है), और जब हम अन्य **डार्क मैटर-समृद्ध क्षेत्रों** में देखने का परीक्षण करते हैं, तो हमें वहाँ कोई समान संकेत नहीं दिखता।
- According to **Rishi Khatri** of the Department of Theoretical Physics at the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**, Mumbai, the findings suggest the detection of an excess of radiation compared to what cosmologists expect from the model of the **Milky Way galaxy**. मुंबई स्थित **टाटा इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ फंडामेंटल रिसर्च** के सैद्धांतिक भौतिकी विभाग के **ऋषि खत्री** के अनुसार, ये निष्कर्ष **मिल्की वे आकाशगंगा** के मॉडल से ब्रह्मांड विज्ञानी जितना विकिरण अपेक्षित करते हैं, उसकी तुलना में अधिक विकिरण का पता चलने का संकेत देते हैं।
- “It is possible that this excess is just pointing to something missing in the model of our galaxy rather than dark matter.” Prof. Khatri said in an email interview. “यह संभव है कि यह अतिरिक्त विकिरण **डार्क मैटर** के बजाय हमारी आकाशगंगा के मॉडल में किसी कमी की ओर संकेत कर रहा हो,” प्रो. खत्री ने एक ईमेल साक्षात्कार में कहा।
- “Based on what the study claims, we can predict what kind of signal we can expect from other nearby galaxies and then try to observe these signals. “अध्ययन के दावों के आधार पर, हम यह अनुमान लगा सकते हैं कि अन्य निकटवर्ती आकाशगंगाओं से किस प्रकार के संकेत अपेक्षित हो सकते हैं और फिर इन संकेतों को देखने का प्रयास कर सकते हैं।
- There have been similar claims many times in the past about the detection of dark matter, but they turned out to be false.” अतीत में **डार्क मैटर** की खोज को लेकर ऐसे कई समान दावे किए गए हैं, लेकिन वे अंततः गलत साबित हुए।”

Radiation from other sources

अन्य स्रोतों से विकिरण

- Discoveries in **particle physics** have to typically reach a confidence level called ‘**5 sigma**’ before they are considered valid. **कण भौतिकी** में खोजों को सामान्यतः ‘**5 सिग्मा**’ नामक विश्वास स्तर तक पहुँचना होता है, तभी उन्हें मान्य माना जाता है।
- Where does the new finding stand on this scale? इस पैमाने पर नई खोज कहाँ खड़ी है?
- “The excess reported in the paper seems to be quite more than **5-sigma**, without taking into account the uncertainty in modelling,” Prof. **Khatri** said. “पेपर में रिपोर्ट किया गया अतिरिक्त संकेत **5-सिग्मा** से काफ़ी अधिक प्रतीत होता है, यदि मॉडलिंग में अनिश्चितता को ध्यान में न रखा जाए,” प्रो. **खत्री** ने कहा।
- “The author has not given a number with the modelling uncertainty included. “लेखक ने मॉडलिंग की अनिश्चितता को शामिल करते हुए कोई संख्या नहीं दी है।
- This should give you an idea about how uncertain we are about the uncertainty (i.e. error on the error bars), which is very important in such studies.”



यह इस बात का अंदाज़ा देता है कि हम अनिश्चितता के बारे में कितने अनिश्चित हैं (अर्थात त्रुटि-सीमाओं पर त्रुटि), जो ऐसे अध्ययनों में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।”

- An immediate task for astronomers would be to rule out the possibility of the radiation coming from some other sources of **high-energy radiation** like **supernovae**, the explosive deaths of massive stars; **neutron stars**, the ultra-dense collapsed cores of massive stars after supernova explosions; or **black holes**.

खगोलविदों के लिए तत्काल कार्य यह होगा कि **उच्च-ऊर्जा विकिरण** के अन्य स्रोतों जैसे **सुपरनोवा**, जो विशाल तारों की विस्फोटक मृत्यु होते हैं; **न्यूट्रॉन तारे**, जो सुपरनोवा विस्फोटों के बाद विशाल तारों के अति-सघन ध्वस्त कोर होते हैं; या **ब्लैक होल** से आने वाले विकिरण की संभावना को खारिज किया जाए।

- The gravity of dark matter, like normal matter, should cause the light passing nearby to bend, in a phenomenon called **gravitational lensing**.

सामान्य पदार्थ की तरह **डार्क मैटर** का गुरुत्वाकर्षण भी पास से गुजरने वाले प्रकाश को मोड़ना चाहिए, जिसे **गुरुत्वीय लेंसिंग** कहा जाता है।

- A spectacular example of this is the **Bullet Cluster**, where the collision of two clusters of galaxies resulted in the separation of dark matter from normal matter, and astronomers could discern the halos of dark matter around the galaxies by how they bent the path of light.

इसका एक शानदार उदाहरण **बुलेट क्लस्टर** है, जहाँ दो आकाशगंगा समूहों की टक्कर से डार्क मैटर सामान्य पदार्थ से अलग हो गया, और खगोलविदों ने प्रकाश के मार्ग के मुड़ने के तरीके से आकाशगंगाओं के चारों ओर डार्क मैटर के हेलो को पहचाना।

The LCDM model एलसीडीएम मॉडल

- If the findings stand up to scrutiny and it turns out that a dark matter particle has actually been found, the widely accepted **Lambda-Cold Dark Matter (LCDM) model** of the universe wouldn't have to be modified.

यदि ये निष्कर्ष कड़ी जाँच में टिके रहते हैं और वास्तव में कोई डार्क मैटर कण मिल जाता है, तो ब्रह्मांड का व्यापक रूप से स्वीकृत **लैम्ब्डा-कोल्ड डार्क मैटर (LCDM) मॉडल** बदले जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।

- This is because, as Prof. Khatri said, “A new particle that would form dark matter is actually included in the **LCDM model**.”

ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि, जैसा कि प्रो. खत्री ने कहा, “डार्क मैटर बनाने वाला नया कण वास्तव में **LCDM मॉडल** में शामिल है।”

- Instead, “what we do not know is the exact nature of dark matter.”

इसके बजाय, “जो हम नहीं जानते हैं वह डार्क मैटर की सटीक प्रकृति है।”

- And “if the dark matter is a **500 GeV WIMP** as is claimed, it would be expected to have only very tiny interactions with other dark matter particles or with ordinary matter,” Prof. **Slatyer** said.

और “यदि डार्क मैटर दावा किए अनुसार **500 GeV WIMP** है, तो उससे अन्य डार्क मैटर कणों या सामान्य पदार्थ के साथ केवल बहुत ही सूक्ष्म अंतःक्रियाएँ होने की अपेक्षा की जाएगी,” प्रो. **स्लैटियर** ने कहा।

- “So it would be safe to treat it as having only **gravitational interactions**, and many of the predictions of **LCDM** could remain almost unchanged.”

“इसलिए इसे केवल **गुरुत्वीय अंतःक्रियाएँ** रखने वाला मानना सुरक्षित होगा, और **LCDM** की कई भविष्यवाणियाँ लगभग अपरिवर्तित रह सकती हैं।”

- One thing that can be said with certainty is that this grand cosmic narrative is at an **exciting stage** as astronomers untangle the fabric of the **universe** to try to understand its **evolution and nature**.

एक बात निश्चित रूप से कही जा सकती है कि यह विशाल ब्रह्मांडीय कथा एक **रोमांचक चरण** में है, जब खगोलविद **ब्रह्मांड** के ताने-बाने को सुलझाकर उसके **विकास और प्रकृति** को समझने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।



GS Paper III: Environment,

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2.	Rearguard action पिछलग्गू कार्रवाई
3.	How is the Aravalli range to be protected? अरावली पर्वतमाला की सुरक्षा कैसे की जाए?

Pamir ice cores could provide answers to the loss of glaciers

GS III: Environment
Agence France Presse

Dressed in an orange puffer jacket, Japanese scientist Yoshinori Iizuka stepped into a storage freezer to retrieve an ice core he hopes will help experts protect the world's disappearing glaciers.

The fist-sized sample drilled from a mountaintop is part of an international effort to understand why glaciers in Tajikistan have resisted the rapid melting seen almost everywhere else.

"If we could learn the mechanism behind the increased volume of ice there, then we may be able to apply that to all the other glaciers around the world," potentially even helping revive them, said Iizuka, a professor at Hokkaido University.

Thousands of glaciers will vanish each year in the coming decades, leaving only a fraction standing by the end of the century unless global warming is curbed, a study published in *Nature Climate Change* reported on December 15.

Earlier this year, Iizuka and other scientists braved harsh conditions to a site at an altitude of 5,810 m on the Kon-Chukurbashi ice cap in the Pamir Mountains.

The area is the only mountainous region on the planet where glaciers have not only resisted melting, but have even grown slightly, a phenomenon called the Pamir-Karakoram anomaly.

The team drilled two ice columns approximately 105 m long out of the glacier.

One is being stored in an underground sanctuary in Antarctica; the other was shipped to Iizuka's facility, the Institute of Low Temperature Science at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, where the team is hunting clues on why precipitation in the region increased over the last century and how the glacier has resisted melting.

The area is the only mountainous region on the planet where glaciers have not only resisted melting, but have even grown slightly

Some link the anomaly to the area's cold climate or even increased use of agricultural water in Pakistan that creates more vapour. But the ice cores are the first opportunity to examine the anomaly scientifically.

"By understanding the causes behind the continuous build-up of snow from the past to the present, we can clarify what will happen going forward and why the ice has grown," Iizuka said.

Since the samples arrived in November, his team has worked in freezing storage facilities to log the density, alignment of snow grains, and the structure of ice layers.

In December, the scientists were kitted out like polar explorers to cut and shave ice samples in the comparatively balmy minus 20 C of their lab.

The samples can tell stories about weather conditions going back decades or even centuries.

A layer of clear ice indicates a warm period when the glacier melted and then refroze, while a low-density layer suggests packed snow, rather than ice, which can help estimate precipitation.

Brittle samples with cracks, meanwhile, indicate snowfall on half-melted layers that then refroze.

And other clues can reveal more information. Volcanic materials like sulphate ions can serve as time markers while water isotopes can reveal temperatures.

The scientists hope that the samples contain material dating back 10,000 years or more, though much of the glacier melted during a warm spell around 6,000 years ago.

Ancient ice would help scientists answer questions such as "what kind of snow was falling in this region 10,000 years ago? What was in it?" Iizuka said.

Pamir ice cores could provide answers to the loss of glaciers
पामीर हिम-कोर ग्लेशियरों के नुकसान के उत्तर प्रदान कर सकते हैं

Dressed in an orange puffer jacket
नारंगी पफर जैकेट पहने हुए

• Dressed in an orange puffer jacket, Japanese scientist **Yoshinori Iizuka** stepped into a storage freezer to retrieve an ice core he hopes will help experts protect the world's disappearing glaciers.

नारंगी पफर जैकेट पहने हुए, जापानी वैज्ञानिक **योशिनोरी इइजुका** एक स्टोरेज फ्रीज़र में गए ताकि एक आइस कोर निकाल सकें, जिससे उन्हें उम्मीद है कि दुनिया के गायब होते ग्लेशियरों की रक्षा में विशेषज्ञों को मदद मिलेगी।

• The fist-sized sample drilled from a mountaintop is part of an international effort to understand why glaciers in **Tajikistan** have resisted the rapid melting seen almost everywhere else.

पहाड़ की चोटी से निकाला गया मुट्ठी के आकार का यह नमूना एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रयास का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य यह समझना है कि **ताजिकिस्तान** के ग्लेशियर लगभग हर जगह देखी गई तेज़ पिघलन का विरोध कैसे कर पाए हैं।

• "If we could learn the mechanism behind the increased volume of ice there, then we may be able to apply that to all the other glaciers around the world," potentially even helping revive them, said Iizuka, a professor at **Hokkaido University**.

"यदि हम वहाँ बर्फ की मात्रा में वृद्धि के पीछे के तंत्र को समझ सकें, तो हम इसे दुनिया भर के अन्य ग्लेशियरों पर लागू कर सकते हैं," जिससे संभवतः उन्हें पुनर्जीवित करने



में भी मदद मिल सकती है, **होक्काइदो विश्वविद्यालय** के प्रोफेसर इइजुका ने कहा।

- Thousands of glaciers will vanish each year in the coming decades, leaving only a fraction standing by the end of the century unless **global warming** is curbed, a study published in **Nature Climate Change** reported on **December 15**.
आने वाले दशकों में हर वर्ष हजारों ग्लेशियर गायब हो जाएंगे, और यदि **वैश्विक तापन** को नहीं रोका गया तो सदी के अंत तक केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा ही बचेगा, **15 दिसंबर** को **Nature Climate Change** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में यह बताया गया।
- Earlier this year, Iizuka and other scientists braved harsh conditions to a site at an altitude of **5,810 m** on the **Kon-Chukurbashi ice cap** in the **Pamir Mountains**.
इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, इइजुका और अन्य वैज्ञानिकों ने **पामीर पर्वत** में **कोन-चुकुरबाशी आइस कैप** पर **5,810 मीटर** की ऊँचाई वाले स्थल पर कठोर परिस्थितियों का सामना किया।
- The area is the only mountainous region on the planet where glaciers have not only resisted melting, but have even grown slightly, a phenomenon called the **Pamir-Karakoram anomaly**. यह क्षेत्र पृथ्वी का एकमात्र पर्वतीय इलाका है जहाँ ग्लेशियर न केवल पिघलने का विरोध कर रहे हैं, बल्कि थोड़ा बढ़े भी हैं, जिसे **पामीर-काराकोरम विसंगति** कहा जाता है।
- The team drilled two ice columns approximately **105 m** long out of the glacier.
टीम ने ग्लेशियर से लगभग **105 मीटर** लंबे दो बर्फ स्तंभ निकाले।
- One is being stored in an underground sanctuary in **Antarctica**; the other was shipped to Iizuka's facility, the **Institute of Low Temperature Science at Hokkaido University** in **Sapporo**, where the team is hunting clues on why precipitation in the region increased over the last century and how the glacier has resisted melting.
एक को **अंटार्कटिका** में एक भूमिगत अभयारण्य में रखा जा रहा है; दूसरे को इइजुका की सुविधा, **होक्काइदो विश्वविद्यालय** के **लो टेम्परेचर साइंस संस्थान, साप्पोरो** भेजा गया, जहाँ टीम यह जानने के सुराग खोज रही है कि पिछले एक शताब्दी में क्षेत्र में वर्षा क्यों बढ़ी और ग्लेशियर पिघलने से कैसे बचा रहा।
- Some link the anomaly to the area's **cold climate** or even increased use of **agricultural water in Pakistan** that creates more vapour.
कुछ लोग इस विसंगति को क्षेत्र की **ठंडी जलवायु** या **पाकिस्तान में कृषि जल** के बढ़ते उपयोग से जोड़ते हैं, जिससे अधिक वाष्प बनती है।
- But the ice cores are the first opportunity to examine the anomaly **scientifically**.
लेकिन आइस कोर इस विसंगति की **वैज्ञानिक** जांच का पहला अवसर प्रदान करते हैं।
- "By understanding the causes behind the continuous build-up of snow from the past to the present, we can clarify what will happen going forward and why the ice has grown," Iizuka said.
"अतीत से वर्तमान तक बर्फ के निरंतर जमाव के कारणों को समझकर, हम यह स्पष्ट कर सकते हैं कि आगे क्या होगा और बर्फ क्यों बढ़ी है," इइजुका ने कहा।
- Since the samples arrived in **November**, his team has worked in freezing storage facilities to log the **density, alignment of snow grains, and the structure of ice layers**.
नमूने **नवंबर** में आने के बाद से, उनकी टीम जमे हुए भंडारण स्थलों में **घनत्व, हिम कणों की व्यवस्था, और बर्फ की परतों की संरचना** दर्ज करने पर काम कर रही है।
- In **December**, the scientists were kitted out like polar explorers to cut and shave ice samples in the comparatively balmy **minus 20 C** of their lab.
दिसंबर में, वैज्ञानिक ध्रुवीय अन्वेषकों की तरह सुसज्जित होकर अपनी प्रयोगशाला के अपेक्षाकृत हल्के **-20°C** तापमान में बर्फ के नमूनों को काटने और घिसने का काम कर रहे थे।
- The samples can tell stories about weather conditions going back decades or even centuries. ये नमूने दशकों या यहाँ तक कि सदियों पुराने मौसम की परिस्थितियों की कहानियाँ बता सकते हैं।
- A layer of clear ice indicates a warm period when the glacier melted and then refroze, while a **low-density layer** suggests packed snow, rather than ice, which can help estimate **precipitation**.
स्वच्छ बर्फ की एक परत उस गर्म अवधि को दर्शाती है जब ग्लेशियर पिघला और फिर जम गया, जबकि **कम-घनत्व वाली परत** बर्फ की बजाय दबे हुए हिम का संकेत देती है, जिससे **वर्षा** का अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है।
- Brittle samples with cracks, meanwhile, indicate snowfall on half-melted layers that then refroze.
इस बीच, दरारों वाले भंगुर नमूने उन परतों पर हुई बर्फबारी का संकेत देते हैं जो आधी पिघली थीं और बाद में फिर जम गईं।



- And other clues can reveal more information.
और अन्य संकेत और भी जानकारी उजागर कर सकते हैं।
- Volcanic materials like **sulphate ions** can serve as time markers while **water isotopes** can reveal temperatures.
सल्फेट आयन जैसे ज्वालामुखीय पदार्थ समय-सूचक का काम कर सकते हैं, जबकि **जल समस्थानिक** तापमान को उजागर कर सकते हैं।
- The scientists hope that the samples contain material dating back **10,000 years** or more, though much of the glacier melted during a warm spell around **6,000 years ago**.
वैज्ञानिकों को उम्मीद है कि नमूनों में **10,000 वर्ष** या उससे भी पुराने पदार्थ होंगे, हालांकि लगभग **6,000 वर्ष पहले** के एक गर्म दौर में ग्लेशियर का बड़ा हिस्सा पिघल गया था।
- Ancient ice would help scientists answer questions such as “what kind of snow was falling in this region **10,000 years ago**? What was in it?” Iizuka said.
प्राचीन बर्फ वैज्ञानिकों को ऐसे प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने में मदद करेगी जैसे “इस क्षेत्र में **10,000 वर्ष पहले** किस प्रकार की बर्फ गिरती थी? उसमें क्या शामिल था?” इजुका ने कहा।

CS III: Environment

Rearguard action

India needs year-round action to tackle fallout of change in weather

The fog season has commenced in India, kickstarting the annual cycle of adversity, accidents and chaos in northern India. The spike in particulate matter pollution after monsoon winds, and how it lays bare the year-round unmitigated pollution – now characteristic of not only Delhi, its surrounding capital regions and vast swathes of the Indo-Gangetic plains but, increasingly, even Mumbai, Kolkata and mushrooming urban clusters – is well known. Fog, which results from the fall in temperatures and an accumulation of moisture close to the ground, is also accompanied by air quality nose-diving. The air quality index (AQI) – that anyway hovers in the danger zones of 300-400 or ‘very poor’ air – breaks through into the worst categories of ‘severe’ and ‘severe+’ (400+) triggering extended waves of panic among citizens already besieged by poor quality air. Fog does not necessarily increase the toxicity of the air, which is anyway beyond permissible limits, but brings in additional catastrophes from poor visibility. So far, at least 25 people have been killed and 59 injured in fog-linked road accidents across Uttar Pradesh, with the worst tragedy unfolding on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura, where a multi-vehicle pile-up turned into an inferno. Airline operations are in disarray in Delhi as 228 flights, including 131 departures and 97 arrivals, were cancelled and hundreds delayed on Monday.

The plummeting AQI saw emergency-level restrictions, called GRAP-4, come into effect in Delhi – it bans construction and demolition activities, pushes schools online and restricts the kinds of vehicles that can ply. On top of this, the Delhi government delivered a vacuous threat that vehicles without a pollution under control certificate would be denied fuel at refuelling stations, and those that did not comply with Bharat Stage-6 emission norms would be barred from entering city limits. This does not account for the fact that it is the residual emissions that are unabated in the capital region, trapped by moisture, that depresses the index. The Centre announces a spate of ‘meetings’ that do little other than regurgitate exhortations that are unheeded. This is the time that the Commission for Air Quality Management, an empowered body, must stress its independence and take year-round action to ensure that whatever the weather, Delhi’s AQI stays below 350.

फैल जाती है।

Rearguard action पिछलग्गू कार्रवाई

- India needs **year-round action** to tackle **fallout of change in weather**

भारत को **मौसम में परिवर्तन** के **प्रभावों** से निपटने के लिए **साल भर कार्रवाई** की आवश्यकता है

The fog season has commenced in India भारत में कोहरे का मौसम शुरू हो गया है

- The fog season has **commenced** in **India**, kickstarting the annual cycle of adversity, accidents and chaos in **northern India**.
भारत में कोहरे का मौसम शुरू हो गया है, जिससे **उत्तरी भारत** में प्रतिवर्ष होने वाली विपत्तियों, दुर्घटनाओं और अव्यवस्था का सिलसिला शुरू हो गया है।
- The **spike in particulate matter pollution after monsoon winds**, and how it lays bare the **year-round unmitigated pollution** — now characteristic of not only **Delhi**, its surrounding capital regions and **vast swathes of the Indo-Gangetic plains** but, increasingly, even **Mumbai, Kolkata** and mushrooming urban clusters — is well known.
मानसून की हवाओं के बाद **कणिकीय पदार्थ प्रदूषण** में वृद्धि और यह तथ्य कि यह **साल भर बिना नियंत्रण वाला प्रदूषण** उजागर कर देता है — जो अब केवल **दिल्ली**, उसके आसपास के राजधानी क्षेत्र और **इंडो-गैंगेटिक मैदानों** तक सीमित नहीं बल्कि बढ़ते रूप में **मुंबई, कोलकाता** और उभरते शहरी समूहों की भी विशेषता बन चुका है — भली-भांति ज्ञात है।

- **Fog, which results from the fall in temperatures and an accumulation of moisture close to the ground**, is also accompanied by **air quality nose-diving**.

कोहरा, जो तापमान में गिरावट और ज़मीन के पास **नमी के जमाव** से बनता है, **वायु गुणवत्ता में तेज़ गिरावट** के साथ भी आता है।

- The **air quality index (AQI)** — that anyway hovers in the danger zones of **300–400** or ‘very poor’ air — breaks through into the worst categories of ‘severe’ and ‘severe+’ (400+) triggering extended waves of panic among citizens already besieged by poor quality air.

वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक (AQI) — जो वैसे भी **300–400** या ‘बहुत खराब’ श्रेणी में बना रहता है — ‘गंभीर’ और ‘गंभीर+’ (400+) की सबसे खराब श्रेणियों में पहुँच जाता है, जिससे पहले से ही खराब हवा से त्रस्त नागरिकों में लंबे समय तक घबराहट



- Fog does not necessarily increase the **toxicity of the air**, which is anyway beyond **permissible limits**, but brings in additional catastrophes from **poor visibility**.
कोहरा अनिवार्य रूप से हवा की **विषाक्तता** नहीं बढ़ाता, जो वैसे ही **अनुमेय सीमाओं** से बाहर होती है, लेकिन **कम दृश्यता** के कारण अतिरिक्त आपदाएँ लेकर आता है।
- So far, at least **25 people** have been killed and **59 injured** in fog-linked road accidents across **Uttar Pradesh**, with the worst tragedy unfolding on the **Yamuna Expressway in Mathura**, where a **multi-vehicle pile-up** turned into an inferno.
अब तक **उत्तर प्रदेश** में कोहरे से जुड़ी सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में कम से कम **25 लोगों** की मौत और **59 लोग** घायल हुए हैं, जिनमें सबसे भीषण हादसा **मथुरा के यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे** पर हुआ, जहाँ **कई वाहनों की टक्कर** आग के गोले में बदल गई।
- Airline operations are in disarray in **Delhi** as **228 flights**, including **131 departures** and **97 arrivals**, were cancelled and hundreds delayed on **Monday**.
दिल्ली में एयरलाइन परिचालन अस्त-व्यस्त है क्योंकि **सोमवार** को **228 उड़ानें**, जिनमें **131 प्रस्थान** और **97 आगमन** शामिल हैं, रद्द कर दी गईं और सैकड़ों में देरी हुई।
- The plummeting **AQI** saw **emergency-level restrictions**, called **GRAP-4**, come into effect in **Delhi** — it **bans construction and demolition activities**, **pushes schools online** and **restricts the kinds of vehicles that can ply**.
तेजी से गिरते **AQI** के कारण **दिल्ली** में **GRAP-4** नामक आपातकालीन स्तर के प्रतिबंध लागू किए गए — जिनमें **निर्माण और विध्वंस गतिविधियों** पर रोक, **स्कूलों को ऑनलाइन** करना और चलने वाले **वाहनों** के प्रकारों पर प्रतिबंध शामिल है।
- On top of this, the **Delhi government** delivered a vacuous threat that vehicles without a **pollution under control certificate** would be denied fuel at refuelling stations, and those that did not comply with **Bharat Stage-6 emission norms** would be barred from entering city limits.
इसके अतिरिक्त, **दिल्ली सरकार** ने एक खोखली चेतावनी दी कि जिन वाहनों के पास **प्रदूषण नियंत्रण प्रमाणपत्र** नहीं होगा उन्हें ईंधन नहीं दिया जाएगा, और जो **भारत स्टेज-6 उत्सर्जन मानकों** का पालन नहीं करते, उन्हें शहर की सीमा में प्रवेश से रोका जाएगा।
- This does not account for the fact that it is the **residual emissions** that are unabated in the capital region, trapped by **moisture**, that depresses the index.
यह इस तथ्य को नहीं मानता कि राजधानी क्षेत्र में **अवशिष्ट उत्सर्जन** बिना नियंत्रण के बना रहता है, जो **नमी** में फँसकर सूचकांक को नीचे गिराता है।
- The **Centre** announces a spate of '**meetings**' that do little other than regurgitate exhortations that are unheeded.
केंद्र कई '**बैठकों**' की घोषणा करता है, जो अनसुनी अपीलों को दोहराने के अलावा बहुत कम करती हैं।
- This is the time that the **Commission for Air Quality Management**, an **empowered body**, must stress its **independence** and take **year-round action** to ensure that whatever the weather, **Delhi's AQI stays below 350**.
यह वह समय है जब **वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग**, एक **सशक्त निकाय**, को अपनी **स्वतंत्रता** पर जोर देना चाहिए और **साल भर कार्रवाई** करनी चाहिए ताकि मौसम चाहे जैसा हो, **दिल्ली का AQI 350 से नीचे** बना रहे।



The AQI scale is divided into 6 colour-coded categories:

AQI Range	Category	Meaning
0–50	Good	Air is clean & healthy
51–100	Satisfactory	Acceptable; very minor health issues possible
101–200	Moderate	Sensitive groups may feel discomfort
201–300	Poor	Breathing issues for many people
301–400	Very Poor	Can cause respiratory illness
401–500	Severe	Dangerous; affects healthy people too

AQI is based on **8 pollutants**:

- **PM2.5** (very tiny particles)
- **PM10** (dust particles)
- **NO₂** (nitrogen dioxide)
- **SO₂** (sulphur dioxide)
- **CO** (carbon monoxide)
- **O₃** (ozone)
- **Ammonia (NH₃)**
- **Lead (Pb)**

Of these, **PM2.5 and PM10** are the most harmful because they enter deep into the lungs.

GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan)

- It is a system used in **Delhi–NCR** to **control air pollution** whenever AQI becomes dangerous.
- It was created by **EPCA** (now CAQM) and is enforced every winter.
- GRAP is a **step-by-step emergency plan**: As pollution increases, **stricter actions** automatically start.

GRAP has **4 stages**, based on AQI levels:

AQI Level	GRAP Stage	Meaning



201–300	Stage 1 (Poor)	Initial restrictions
301–400	Stage 2 (Very Poor)	Stronger measures
401–450	Stage 3 (Severe)	Strict controls
450+	Stage 4 (Severe+)	Complete emergency mode

Stage 1 — “Poor” AQI (201–300)

Actions include:

- Stop construction dust control violators
- Ban on waste burning
- Increased mechanised road cleaning
- Promote work-from-home, carpooling

Example:

Like telling a child to “be careful” when air starts getting bad.

Stage 2 — “Very Poor” AQI (301–400)

Stricter measures:

- Ban on diesel generator sets (except essential services)
- Dust control at construction sites becomes mandatory
- Parking fees increased to discourage car use
- More CNG/electric buses introduced

Example:

Warning level increases → stricter rules.

Stage 3 — “Severe” AQI (401–450)

Actions include:

- Ban on **non-essential construction**
- Ban on **brick kilns, hot mix plants, stone crushers**
- Ban on certain truck entries into Delhi
- Schools may get online classes
- Industrial units using dirty fuel shut down



Example:

Like switching to “red alert mode.”

Stage 4 — “Severe+” AQI (Above 450)

This is the **highest emergency level**:

- **Complete ban** on construction activities
- Ban on entry of **all trucks except essentials**
- Schools often closed
- Diesel LMVs (except BS-VI) restricted
- Shutdown of polluting industries
- Movement of vehicles highly restricted

Example:

Like telling everyone “stay indoors, air is dangerous.”

Why Was GRAP Created?

- Delhi’s winter pollution becomes dangerously high
- The government needed a **pre-planned emergency system**
- GRAP ensures all agencies act **automatically**, not waiting for decisions

Who Enforces GRAP?

CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management)

Earlier: **EPCA** (Environment Pollution Control Authority)



How is the Aravalli range to be protected?

How do the Aravalli hills and ranges prevent the desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plain? What were the recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee? Why was it necessary to arrive at a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills? Has the Supreme Court completely banned mining in the ranges?

SS III Environment

MOB

EXPLAINER

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The Supreme Court (SC), in an order last month, settled on a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges, and paused the grant of fresh mining leases inside its areas spanning Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

What is the range's significance?

Apart from being nearly two billion years old and India's oldest mountain range, they serve as an important ecological barrier to prevent the desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plains. They help arrest the eastward spread of the Thar Desert into Haryana, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh, and play a major role in stabilising climate, supporting biodiversity, and recharging groundwater. Stretching from Delhi to Gujarat across 650 km, the mountains support water-recharge systems and are the source of important rivers such as the Chambal, Sabarnati, and Luni. It is richly endowed with sandstone, limestone, marble, granite, and minerals such as lead, zinc, copper, gold, and tungsten. While historically mined for these resources, it has in the past four decades been excessively quarried for stone and sand. This has contributed to deteriorating air quality as well as plummeting groundwater recharge. A proportion of the mining has also been illegal. The Court noted that India is bound by international commitments, under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, to protect vulnerable ecosystems such as the Aravalli range.

Was action taken against mining?

The Environment Ministry, since the early 1990s, has laid down rules restricting mining to only sanctioned projects but these have been flagrantly violated. In 2009, the SC stepped in and imposed a



Threatened landscapes: A sunrise against the Aravalli mountain ranges in Ajmer, Rajasthan, in 2022. AP

blanket ban on mining in the Faridabad, Gurugram, and Mewat districts of Haryana. In May 2024, the SC prohibited granting of fresh mining leases and renewals in the range and directed its Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to undertake a detailed examination, leading to a set of recommendations submitted in March 2024. The CEC proposed a comprehensive approach that included a complete scientific mapping of the Aravalli range across all States; a macro-level environmental impact assessment of mining activities; and strict prohibition of mining in ecologically sensitive areas such as protected habitats, water bodies, tiger corridors, key aquifer recharge zones and areas within the National Capital Region. It urged stringent regulation of stone-crushing units. It also recommended that no new mining leases or renewals be permitted until proper mapping and impact assessments were

completed. These recommendations were taken up by the Court in its order of November 2025. Further, in June, 2025, the Centre started an Aravalli 'Green Wall' project. The plan is to expand green cover in the five-km buffer area around the Aravallis in 29 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. The government said this initiative will play a crucial role in restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Why a uniform definition?

The Court found that States were using inconsistent criteria to identify Aravalli formations. There have also been differing definitions, including by expert groups such as the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on what makes up 'Aravalli Hills and Ranges'. In 2010, the FSI had said hills with "(i) slope >3°, (ii) foothill buffer = 100m, (iii) inter hill distance or valley width= 500m and (iv) the area enclosed

by above defined hills from all sides," would make up Aravalli hill and ranges. To resolve this, it constituted a committee comprising representatives from the Environment Ministry, the FSI, State Forest Departments, the Geological Survey of India and the CEC. This committee was tasked with creating a scientifically grounded, nationwide definition of the Aravallis. The committee submitted its findings in October 2025. The SC committee finally ruled that only hills above 100 metres would make the cut. The amicus curiae, K. Parameswar, objected that this was too narrow a definition and potentially opened all the hills below 100 metres for mining, compromising "...their continuity and integrity." However, the Additional Solicitor General, Aishwarya Bhati countered that the definition on slopes, foothill buffers etc. as proposed by the FSI would, on the contrary, exclude large areas from the Aravalli Hills and Ranges. The committee recommendations of 100m was far more inclusive.

What are the SC's other directions?

The Court directed the preparation of a detailed Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) covering the entire Aravalli range. The plan must demarcate areas where mining must be absolutely prohibited, identify zones where limited and highly regulated mining may be permitted, map sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors, evaluate cumulative ecological impacts, determine ecological carrying capacity, and articulate restoration and rehabilitation measures.

Why was there no ban on mining?

The Court explained that past experiences show total bans often lead to the rise of illegal mining syndicates, violent sand mafias and unregulated extraction. The Court therefore opted for a calibrated approach: existing legal mining continues under tight regulation, new mining is paused until a scientifically driven plan is prepared, and permanently sensitive areas remain off-limits.

THE GIST

The Environment Ministry, since the early 1990s, has laid down rules restricting mining to only sanctioned projects but these have been flagrantly violated.

In June, 2025, the Centre started an Aravalli 'Green Wall' project. The plan is to expand green cover in the five-km buffer area around the Aravallis in 29 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. The government said this initiative will play a crucial role in restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

The Court explained that past experiences show total bans often lead to the rise of illegal mining syndicates, violent sand mafias and unregulated extraction.

How is the Aravalli range to be protected? अरावली पर्वतमाला की सुरक्षा कैसे की जाए?

Supreme Court order on Aravalli hills and mining अरावली पहाड़ियों और खनन पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का आदेश

- The **Supreme Court (SC)**, in an order **last month**, settled on a **uniform definition** of the **Aravalli hills and ranges**, and paused the grant of **fresh mining leases** inside its areas spanning **Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat**
सुप्रीम कोर्ट (SC) ने पिछले महीने अपने आदेश में अरावली पहाड़ियों और श्रेणियों की एक समान परिभाषा तय की और दिल्ली, हरियाणा, राजस्थान और गुजरात में फैले क्षेत्रों में नए खनन पट्टों के आवंटन पर रोक लगा दी

What is the range's significance? इस श्रेणी का महत्व क्या है?

- Apart from being nearly **two billion years old** and **India's oldest mountain range**, they serve as an important **ecological barrier** to prevent the **desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plains**



लगभग दो अरब वर्ष पुराने और भारत की सबसे प्राचीन पर्वत श्रृंखला होने के अलावा, ये इंडो-गंगेटिक मैदानों के मरुस्थलीकरण को रोकने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण पारिस्थितिक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती हैं

- They help arrest the **eastward spread of the Thar Desert** into **Haryana, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh**, and play a major role in **stabilising climate**, supporting **biodiversity**, and **recharging groundwater**
ये थार मरुस्थल के पूर्व की ओर फैलाव को हरियाणा, राजस्थान और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में रोकने में मदद करती हैं और जलवायु स्थिरीकरण, जैव विविधता के संरक्षण तथा भूजल पुनर्भरण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं
- Stretching from **Delhi to Gujarat** across **650 km**, the mountains support **water-recharge systems** and are the source of important rivers such as the **Chambal, Sabarmati, and Luni**
650 किमी तक दिल्ली से गुजरात तक फैली ये पहाड़ियाँ जल-पुनर्भरण प्रणालियों का समर्थन करती हैं और चंबल, साबरमती और लूणी जैसी महत्वपूर्ण नदियों का स्रोत हैं
- It is richly endowed with **sandstone, limestone, marble, granite**, and minerals such as **lead, zinc, copper, gold, and tungsten**
यह क्षेत्र सैंडस्टोन, लाइमस्टोन, मार्बल, ग्रेनाइट तथा सीसा, जस्ता, तांबा, सोना और टंगस्टन जैसे खनिजों से समृद्ध है
- While historically mined for these resources, it has in the **past four decades** been excessively **quarried for stone and sand**
हालाँकि ऐतिहासिक रूप से इन संसाधनों के लिए खनन किया गया, लेकिन पिछले चार दशकों में पत्थर और रेत के लिए अत्यधिक खदानें बनाई गईं
- This has contributed to **deteriorating air quality** as well as **plummeting groundwater recharge**
इससे वायु गुणवत्ता में गिरावट और भूजल पुनर्भरण में तेज़ कमी आई है
- A proportion of the mining has also been **illegal**
खनन का एक हिस्सा अवैध भी रहा है
- The Court noted that India is bound by **international commitments**, under the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**, to protect **vulnerable ecosystems** such as the **Aravalli range**
न्यायालय ने कहा कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र मरुस्थलीकरण से निपटने के कन्वेंशन के तहत अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं के कारण भारत अरावली श्रेणी जैसे संवेदनशील पारिस्थितिकी तंत्रों की रक्षा के लिए बाध्य है

Was action taken against mining?

क्या खनन के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई की गई?

- The **Environment Ministry**, since the **early 1990s**, has laid down rules restricting mining to only **sanctioned projects** but these have been **flagrantly violated**
पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने 1990 के शुरुआती वर्षों से खनन को केवल स्वीकृत परियोजनाओं तक सीमित करने के नियम बनाए, लेकिन इनका खुलेआम उल्लंघन हुआ
- In **2009**, the **SC** stepped in and imposed a **blanket ban** on mining in the **Faridabad, Gurugram, and Mewat** districts of **Haryana**
2009 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हस्तक्षेप कर हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद, गुरुग्राम और मेवात जिलों में खनन पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लगाया
- In **May 2024**, the **SC** prohibited granting of **fresh mining leases and renewals** in the range and directed its **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)** to undertake a **detailed examination**, leading to a set of recommendations submitted in **March 2024**
मई 2024 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस क्षेत्र में नए खनन पट्टों और नवीनीकरण पर रोक लगाई और अपनी केंद्रीय सशक्त समिति (CEC) को विस्तृत जांच का निर्देश दिया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप मार्च 2024 में सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत की गईं
- The **CEC** proposed a **comprehensive approach** that included a **complete scientific mapping** of the **Aravalli range across all States**; a **macro-level environmental impact assessment** of mining activities; and **strict prohibition of mining** in **ecologically sensitive areas** such as **protected habitats, water bodies, tiger corridors, key aquifer recharge zones** and areas within the **National Capital Region**
सीईसी ने एक समग्र दृष्टिकोण का प्रस्ताव दिया जिसमें सभी राज्यों में अरावली श्रेणी का पूर्ण वैज्ञानिक मानचित्रण, खनन गतिविधियों का मैक्रो-स्तरीय पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव आकलन, तथा संरक्षित आवास, जल



निकाय, बाघ गलियारे, प्रमुख एकिफर पुनर्भरण क्षेत्र और राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के भीतर पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में खनन पर कठोर प्रतिबंध शामिल है

- It urged **stringent regulation of stone-crushing units** इसने **स्टोन-क्रशिंग इकाइयों** के कठोर विनियमन पर जोर दिया
- It also recommended that **no new mining leases or renewals** be permitted until proper **mapping and impact assessments** were completed इसने यह भी सिफारिश की कि उचित **मानचित्रण और प्रभाव आकलन** पूरे होने तक **किसी भी नए खनन पट्टे या नवीनीकरण** की अनुमति न दी जाए
- These recommendations were taken up by the Court in its order of **November 2025** इन सिफारिशों को न्यायालय ने **नवंबर 2025** के अपने आदेश में स्वीकार किया
- Further, in **June, 2025**, the **Centre** started an **Aravalli 'Green Wall' project** इसके अतिरिक्त, **जून 2025** में **केंद्र सरकार** ने **अरावली 'ग्रीन वॉल' परियोजना** शुरू की
- The plan is to expand **green cover** in the **five-km buffer area** around the Aravallis in **29 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi** इस योजना के तहत **गुजरात, राजस्थान, हरियाणा और दिल्ली** के **29 जिलों** में अरावली के आसपास **पाँच किमी बफर क्षेत्र** में **हरित आवरण** बढ़ाया जाएगा
- The government said this initiative will play a **crucial role** in restoring **26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030** सरकार ने कहा कि यह पहल **2030** तक **26 मिलियन हेक्टेयर क्षरित भूमि** को बहाल करने में **महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका** निभाएगी

Why a uniform definition?

एक समान परिभाषा क्यों?

- The Court found that States were using **inconsistent criteria** to identify **Aravalli formations** न्यायालय ने पाया कि राज्य **अरावली संरचनाओं** की पहचान के लिए **असंगत मानदंडों** का उपयोग कर रहे थे
- There have also been **differing definitions**, including by expert groups such as the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** on what makes up **'Aravalli Hills and Ranges'** **अरावली पहाड़ियों और श्रेणियों** की संरचना को लेकर **भिन्न-भिन्न परिभाषाएँ** भी रही हैं, जिनमें **भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण (FSI)** जैसे विशेषज्ञ समूहों की परिभाषाएँ शामिल हैं
- In **2010**, the **FSI** had said hills with **"(i) slope >3°, (ii) foothill buffer = 100m, (iii) inter hill distance or valley width = 500m and (iv) the area enclosed by above defined hills from all sides,"** would make up **Aravalli hill and ranges** **2010** में, **FSI** ने कहा था कि **"(i) ढाल >3°, (ii) तलहटी बफर = 100 मीटर, (iii) पहाड़ियों के बीच दूरी या घाटी की चौड़ाई = 500 मीटर और (iv) ऊपर परिभाषित पहाड़ियों से चारों ओर घिरा क्षेत्र"** अरावली **पहाड़ियों और श्रेणियों** का निर्माण करेगा
- To resolve this, it constituted a **committee** comprising representatives from the **Environment Ministry, the FSI, State Forest Departments, the Geological Survey of India** and the **CEC** इसे सुलझाने के लिए **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय, FSI, राज्य वन विभागों, भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण और CEC** के प्रतिनिधियों को शामिल करते हुए एक **समिति** गठित की गई
- This committee was tasked with creating a **scientifically grounded, nationwide definition** of the **Aravallis** इस समिति को **अरावली** की एक **वैज्ञानिक आधार वाली, राष्ट्रव्यापी परिभाषा** तैयार करने का दायित्व सौंपा गया
- The committee submitted its **findings in October 2025** समिति ने अपने **निष्कर्ष अक्टूबर 2025** में प्रस्तुत किए
- The **SC committee** finally ruled that only hills **above 100 metres** would make the cut **सुप्रीम कोर्ट समिति** ने अंततः निर्णय दिया कि केवल **100 मीटर से अधिक ऊँचाई** वाली पहाड़ियाँ ही शामिल होंगी
- The **amicus curiae, K. Parameswar**, objected that this was **too narrow a definition** and potentially opened all the hills **below 100 metres** for mining, compromising **"their continuity and integrity"** **एमिकस क्यूरी, के. परमेश्वर** ने आपत्ति जताई कि यह **बहुत संकीर्ण परिभाषा** है और इससे **100 मीटर से नीचे** की सभी पहाड़ियों को खनन के लिए खोल दिया जाएगा, जिससे उनकी **"निरंतरता और अखंडता"** प्रभावित होगी



- However, the **Additional Solicitor General, Aishwarya Bhati**, countered that the definition on **slopes, foothill buffers** etc. as proposed by the **FSI** would, on the contrary, **exclude large areas** from the **Aravalli Hills and Ranges**
हालाँकि, अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल, ऐश्वर्या भाटी ने तर्क दिया कि **FSI** द्वारा प्रस्तावित ढाल, तलहटी बफर आदि की परिभाषा इसके विपरीत **अरावली पहाड़ियों और श्रेणियों से बड़े क्षेत्रों को बाहर कर देगी**
- The committee recommendations of **100m** was **far more inclusive**
समिति की **100 मीटर** की सिफारिश **काफी अधिक समावेशी** थी

What are the SC's other directions? सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अन्य निर्देश क्या हैं?

- The Court directed the preparation of a **detailed Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM)** covering the **entire Aravalli range**
न्यायालय ने **पूरी अरावली श्रेणी** को कवर करने वाली **सतत खनन हेतु विस्तृत प्रबंधन योजना (MPSM)** तैयार करने का निर्देश दिया
- The plan must **demarcate areas** where mining must be **absolutely prohibited**, identify zones where **limited and highly regulated mining** may be permitted, **map sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors**, evaluate **cumulative ecological impacts**, determine **ecological carrying capacity**, and articulate **restoration and rehabilitation measures**
योजना में उन क्षेत्रों का **सीमांकन** होना चाहिए जहाँ खनन **पूर्णतः प्रतिबंधित** हो, उन क्षेत्रों की पहचान जहाँ **सीमित और अत्यधिक विनियमित खनन** की अनुमति दी जा सकती है, **संवेदनशील आवासों और वन्यजीव गलियारों** का मानचित्रण, **संचयी पारिस्थितिक प्रभावों** का मूल्यांकन, **पारिस्थितिक वहन क्षमता** का निर्धारण तथा **पुनर्स्थापन और पुनर्वास उपायों** का विवरण
- **Why was there no ban on mining?**
खनन पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध क्यों नहीं लगाया गया?
- The Court explained that **past experiences** show total bans often lead to the rise of **illegal mining syndicates, violent sand mafias** and **unregulated extraction**
न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि **पूर्व अनुभव** बताते हैं कि पूर्ण प्रतिबंध से अक्सर **अवैध खनन गिरोह, हिंसक रेत माफिया और अनियंत्रित दोहन** बढ़ जाता है
- The Court therefore opted for a **calibrated approach: existing legal mining** continues under **tight regulation**, **new mining** is paused until a **scientifically driven plan** is prepared, and **permanently sensitive areas** remain **off-limits**
इसलिए न्यायालय ने एक **संतुलित दृष्टिकोण** अपनाया: **मौजूदा वैध खनन** कड़े नियमन के तहत जारी रहेगा, **नया खनन** तब तक रोका जाएगा जब तक **वैज्ञानिक आधार वाली योजना** तैयार न हो जाए, और **स्थायी रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र** पूरी तरह प्रतिबंधित रहेंगे

GS Paper III: IS

TOPICS COVERED

18_12_2025

1. **Navy commissions second MH-60R copter squadron, the Ospreys, at INS Hansa**
नौसेना ने INS हंसा में दूसरा MH-60R हेलीकॉप्टर स्क्वाड्रन 'ओस्प्रेज़' कमीशन किया
2. **ICG Ship Sarthak makes first port call at Iran's Chabahar**
आईसीजी जहाज़ सार्थक ने ईरान के चाबहार में पहली पोर्ट कॉल की



Navy commissions second MH-60R copter squadron, the Ospreys, at *INS Hansa*

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

INAS 335, the Ospreys, the second Indian Naval Air Squadron to operate MH-60R helicopters, was commissioned at INS Hansa, Goa, on Wednesday. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), marking another major milestone in the modernisation of Indian naval aviation.

The commissioning follows the induction of the first MH-60R helicopter squadron at Kochi, Kerala, in March 2024. With the induction of the versatile, multi-role MH-60R helicopter on the western seaboard as the first operational squadron, the Navy has significantly enhanced



With the latest commissioning, the Navy has significantly enhanced its rotary wing combat and surveillance capabilities. ANI

its rotary wing combat and surveillance capabilities.

Addressing the gathering, Admiral Tripathi said the commissioning assumes special significance as 2025 marks 75 years since the Government of India approved the formation of the Fleet Air Arm, a historic decision that gave wings to naval aviation.

Recalling earlier capability additions at INS Hansa, the CNS noted that the Navy had commissioned its second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron at the same airbase in 2022. Complementing the P-8I fleet, the Navy is going ahead with the acquisition of 15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft.

Navy commissions second MH-60R copter squadron, the Ospreys, at INS Hansa

नौसेना ने INS हंसा में दूसरा MH-60R हेलीकॉप्टर स्काड्रन 'ओस्प्रेज़' कमीशन किया

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INAS 335, ओस्प्रेज़, MH-60R हेलीकॉप्टरों का संचालन करने वाला दूसरा भारतीय नौसेना वायु स्काड्रन, बुधवार को INS हंसा, गोवा में कमीशन किया गया
- The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), marking another major milestone in the modernisation of Indian naval aviation
इस समारोह की अध्यक्षता नौसेना प्रमुख (CNS) एडमिरल दिनेश के. त्रिपाठी ने की, जो भारतीय नौसैनिक विमानन के आधुनिकीकरण में एक और महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है
- The commissioning follows the induction of the first MH-60R helicopter squadron at Kochi, Kerala, in March 2024



यह कमीशनिंग मार्च 2024 में कोच्चि, केरल में पहले MH-60R हेलीकॉप्टर स्क्वाड्रन के शामिल होने के बाद हुई है

- With the induction of the versatile, multi-role MH-60R helicopter on the western seaboard as the first operational squadron, the Navy has significantly enhanced its rotary wing combat and surveillance capabilities
पश्चिमी तट पर पहले परिचालन स्क्वाड्रन के रूप में बहुउपयोगी मल्टी-रोल MH-60R हेलीकॉप्टर के शामिल होने से नौसेना की रोटरी विंग युद्ध और निगरानी क्षमताओं में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है
- Addressing the gathering, Admiral Tripathi said the commissioning assumes special significance as 2025 marks 75 years since the Government of India approved the formation of the Fleet Air Arm, a historic decision that gave wings to naval aviation
सभा को संबोधित करते हुए एडमिरल त्रिपाठी ने कहा कि यह कमीशनिंग विशेष महत्व रखती है क्योंकि 2025 में भारत सरकार द्वारा फ्लीट एयर आर्म के गठन को मंजूरी दिए जाने के 75 वर्ष पूरे हो रहे हैं, जो नौसैनिक विमानन को पंख देने वाला ऐतिहासिक निर्णय था
- Recalling earlier capability additions at INS Hansa, the CNS noted that the Navy had commissioned its second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron at the same airbase in 2022
INS हंसा में पहले हुए क्षमता संवर्धन को याद करते हुए CNS ने कहा कि नौसेना ने 2022 में इसी एयरबेस पर अपना दूसरा P-8I समुद्री गश्ती विमान स्क्वाड्रन कमीशन किया था
- Complementing the P-8I fleet, the Navy is going ahead with the acquisition of 15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft
P-8I बेड़े के पूरक के रूप में, नौसेना 15 MQ-9B सी गार्डियन रिमोटली पायलटेड एयरक्राफ्ट की खरीद की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रही है



GS III: Internal Security

ICG Ship Sarthak makes first port call at Iran's Chabahar

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Sarthak, an offshore patrol vessel, entered the Chabahar port in Iran on December 16 for a four-day visit till December 19. According to the Defence Ministry, the port call, marking the first-ever visit of an Indian Coast Guard ship to Chabahar, underscored India's growing maritime engagement in the region and its ability to support secure supply lines to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The visit is aligned with India's SAGAR and MAHASAGAR vision of fostering secure and inclusive maritime engagements. ICG Ship Sarthak will engage in a range of professional and community-oriented activities.

द देने की भारत की सागर (SAGAR) और महासागर (MAHASAGAR) दृष्टि के अनुरूप है

ICG Ship Sarthak makes first port call at Iran's Chabahar आईसीजी जहाज़ सार्थक ने ईरान के चाबहार में पहली पोर्ट कॉल की

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Sarthak, an offshore patrol vessel, entered the Chabahar port in Iran on December 16 for a four-day visit till December 19

भारतीय तटरक्षक (ICG) का जहाज़ सार्थक, एक ऑफशोर पेट्रोल पोत, 16 दिसंबर को ईरान के चाबहार बंदरगाह में चार दिवसीय यात्रा के लिए प्रवेश किया, जो 19 दिसंबर तक चलेगी

- According to the Defence Ministry, the port call, marking the first-ever visit of an Indian Coast Guard ship to Chabahar, underscored India's growing maritime engagement in the region and its ability to support secure supply lines to Afghanistan and Central Asia

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, यह पोर्ट कॉल चाबहार में किसी भारतीय तटरक्षक जहाज़ की पहली यात्रा को चिह्नित करती है, जो क्षेत्र में भारत की बढ़ती समुद्री भागीदारी और अफगानिस्तान तथा मध्य एशिया के लिए सुरक्षित आपूर्ति लाइनों को समर्थन देने की उसकी क्षमता को रेखांकित करती है

- The visit is aligned with India's SAGAR and MAHASAGAR vision of fostering secure and inclusive maritime engagements

यह यात्रा सुरक्षित और समावेशी समुद्री सहभागिता को बढ़ावा



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- ICG Ship Sarthak will engage in a range of **professional and community-oriented activities**
आईसीजी जहाज़ सार्थक विभिन्न पेशेवर और सामुदायिक गतिविधियों में भाग लेगा

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