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PM inaugurates Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow

Spread over 65 acres, the lotus-shaped memorial has three towering bronze statues of ex-PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Hindutva ideologues Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mookerjee

PCS

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal to honour the life and ideals of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and two other Bharatiya Janata Party icons in Lucknow on Thursday.

Spread over 65 acres, close to the banks of the Gomti river on Hardoi Road, the Rashtra Prerna Sthal is dedicated to Vajpayee, and Hindutva ideologues Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. Shaped like a lotus, reflecting the BJP's election symbol, the memorial has three towering bronze statues of the late leaders.

Historic event: Modi

Describing the event marking the late Prime Minister's 101st birth anniversary as historic, Mr. Modi said Lucknow was witnessing a new inspiration. He further said "birth anniversaries of two great sons of our country", Vajpayee and Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya, "who had left an ineradicable mark on nation-building through their contributions", fell on the day.

"The Rashtriya Prerna Sthal is an inspirational memorial dedicated to the lives, ideals, and invaluable heritage of our country's greatest figures. I felt immense pride and spiritual satisfaction inaugurating it in Lucknow on Good Governance Day. Atal ji's birth anniversary is also a day to celebrate good governance. Today, we are expanding the legacy of good governance created by the BJP-led National De-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.P. Governor Anandiben Patel, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others at the inauguration in Lucknow on Thursday. PTI

mocratic Alliance government.

"The National Prerna Sthal embodies the spirit that has guided India to self-respect, unity, and service. The statues of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee give us the message that every step and every effort should be dedicated to nation-building," Mr. Modi said.

He said the state-of-the-art lotus-shaped museum at the venue brings to life the spirit of selfless leadership and good governance. "It will continue to inspire future generations to embrace and embody the ideals of our leaders," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the land on which the Prerna Sthal has been built had, for decades, accumulated a mountain of gar-

bage across over 30 acres, which had been cleared in the past three years.

Addressing the gathering, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the country's progress over the past decade was guided by the principle of taking pride in India's leadership, heritage and values, a theme consistently emphasised by the Prime Minister. "Leaders such as Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had played a decisive role in shaping Independent India's sense of identity, self-respect and national purpose," said Mr. Singh.

Referring to Mukherjee, the Defence Minister said his political struggle was centred on safeguarding India's unity and integrity. He noted that the abrogation of Article 370 reflected

the fulfilment of Dr. Mukherjee's long-standing position on Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said "the legacies of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee ji, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji and Atal ji had provided India with a new national vision". Welcoming Mr. Modi, he added, "It is a matter of pride that the Rashtra Prerna Sthal, the grand statues of the three towering leaders and the museum are being dedicated to the nation in Lucknow by the Prime Minister."

He described Mr. Modi as a strong proponent of the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" (One India, Great India), and a leader committed to *Antyodaya* by giving concrete shape to the "ideals of good governance envisioned by Vajpayee.



PM inaugurates Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow प्रधानमंत्री ने लखनऊ में राष्ट्र प्रेरणा स्थल का उद्घाटन किया

Spread over 65 acres, the lotus-shaped memorial has three towering bronze statues of ex-PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Hindutva ideologues Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mookerjee

65 एकड़ में फैले कमल के आकार के इस स्मारक में पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी और हिंदुत्व विचारक दीन दयाल उपाध्याय तथा श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी की तीन विशाल कांस्य प्रतिमाएं हैं

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Thursday inaugurated the **Rashtra Prerna Sthal** to honour the life and ideals of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and two other **Bharatiya Janata Party** icons in **Lucknow** on Thursday.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गुरुवार को लखनऊ में पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी और भारतीय जनता पार्टी के दो अन्य प्रतीकों के जीवन और आदर्शों के सम्मान में राष्ट्र प्रेरणा स्थल का उद्घाटन किया।

- Spread over **65 acres**, close to the banks of the **Gomti river** on **Hardoi Road**, the **Rashtra Prerna Sthal** is dedicated to **Vajpayee**, and Hindutva ideologues **Deen Dayal Upadhyay** and **Shyama Prasad Mookerjee**.

हरदोई रोड पर गोमती नदी के तट के निकट 65 एकड़ में फैला राष्ट्र प्रेरणा स्थल, वाजपेयी तथा हिंदुत्व विचारक दीन दयाल उपाध्याय और श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी को समर्पित है।

- Shaped like a **lotus**, reflecting the **BJP's election symbol**, the memorial has three towering **bronze statues** of the late leaders.

भाजपा के चुनाव चिह्न को दर्शाते हुए कमल के आकार का यह स्मारक दिवंगत नेताओं की तीन विशाल कांस्य प्रतिमाओं से सुसज्जित है।



Historic event: Modi ऐतिहासिक आयोजन: मोदी

- Describing the event marking the late Prime Minister's **101st birth anniversary** as historic, Mr. Modi said **Lucknow** was witnessing a new inspiration.
दिवंगत प्रधानमंत्री की **101वीं जयंती** पर आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम को ऐतिहासिक बताते हुए श्री मोदी ने कहा कि लखनऊ एक नई प्रेरणा का साक्षी बन रहा है।
- He further said "birth anniversaries of **two great sons of our country**", **Vajpayee** and **Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya**, "who had left an ineradicable mark on nation-building through their contributions", fell on the day.
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि देश के दो महान सपूतों, वाजपेयी और महामना मदन मोहन मालवीय की जयंती, जिन्होंने अपने योगदान से राष्ट्र निर्माण पर अमिट छाप छोड़ी, इसी दिन पड़ी।
- "The **Rashtriya Prerna Sthal** is an inspirational memorial dedicated to the lives, ideals, and invaluable heritage of our country's greatest figures.
"राष्ट्रीय प्रेरणा स्थल हमारे देश की महान विभूतियों के जीवन, आदर्शों और अमूल्य विरासत को समर्पित एक प्रेरणादायक स्मारक है।
- I felt immense pride and spiritual satisfaction inaugurating it in **Lucknow** on **Good Governance Day**.
सुशासन दिवस पर लखनऊ में इसका उद्घाटन करते हुए मुझे अत्यंत गर्व और आध्यात्मिक संतोष की अनुभूति हुई।
- **Atal ji's birth anniversary** is also a day to celebrate **good governance**.
अटल जी की जयंती सुशासन का उत्सव मनाने का भी दिन है।
- Today, we are expanding the legacy of good governance created by the **BJP-led National Democratic Alliance** government.



आज हम **भाजपा के नेतृत्व वाली राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन सरकार** द्वारा स्थापित सुशासन की विरासत का विस्तार कर रहे हैं।

- “The **National Prerna Sthal** embodies the spirit that has guided India to **self-respect, unity, and service**.
“राष्ट्रीय प्रेरणा स्थल उस भावना का प्रतीक है जिसने भारत को **स्वाभिमान, एकता और सेवा** के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ाया है।
- The statues of **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee** give us the message that every step and every effort should be dedicated to **nation-building**,” Mr. Modi said.
डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय और अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की प्रतिमाएं हमें यह संदेश देती हैं कि हर कदम और हर प्रयास **राष्ट्र निर्माण** के लिए समर्पित होना चाहिए,” श्री मोदी ने कहा।
- He said the **state-of-the-art lotus-shaped museum** at the venue brings to life the spirit of **selfless leadership and good governance**.
उन्होंने कहा कि परिसर में बना **अत्याधुनिक कमल-आकार का संग्रहालय निस्वार्थ नेतृत्व और सुशासन** की भावना को जीवंत करता है।
- “It will continue to inspire future generations to embrace and embody the ideals of our leaders,” Mr. Modi said.
“यह आने वाली पीढ़ियों को हमारे नेताओं के आदर्शों को अपनाने और आत्मसात करने की प्रेरणा देता रहेगा,” श्री मोदी ने कहा।
- The Prime Minister said the land on which the **Prerna Sthal** has been built had, for decades, accumulated a mountain of **garbage across over 30 acres**, which had been cleared in the past **three years**.
प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि जिस भूमि पर **प्रेरणा स्थल** का निर्माण हुआ है, वहां दशकों से **30 एकड़ से अधिक क्षेत्र** में कचरे का पहाड़ जमा था, जिसे पिछले **तीन वर्षों** में साफ किया गया।
- Addressing the gathering, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** said the country’s progress over the past **decade** was guided by the principle of taking pride in **India’s leadership, heritage and values**.
सभा को संबोधित करते हुए **रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह** ने कहा कि पिछले **दशक** में देश की प्रगति **भारत के नेतृत्व, विरासत और मूल्यों** पर गर्व करने के सिद्धांत से निर्देशित रही है।
- He said this theme was consistently emphasised by the **Prime Minister**.
उन्होंने कहा कि इस विषय पर **प्रधानमंत्री** लगातार बल देते रहे हैं।
- “Leaders such as **Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya** and former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** had played a decisive role in shaping **Independent India’s** sense of identity, self-respect and national purpose,” said Mr. Singh.
“**श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय** और पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी** जैसे नेताओं ने **स्वतंत्र भारत** की पहचान, स्वाभिमान और राष्ट्रीय उद्देश्य को आकार देने में निर्णायक भूमिका निभाई,” श्री सिंह ने कहा।
- Referring to **Mukherjee**, the Defence Minister said his political struggle was centred on safeguarding **India’s unity and integrity**.
मुखर्जी का उल्लेख करते हुए रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि उनका राजनीतिक संघर्ष **भारत की एकता और अखंडता** की रक्षा पर केंद्रित था।
- He noted that the abrogation of **Article 370** reflected the fulfilment of Dr. Mukherjee’s long-standing position on **Jammu and Kashmir**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **अनुच्छेद 370** को निरस्त किया जाना **जम्मू-कश्मीर** पर डॉ. मुखर्जी के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे रुख की पूर्ति को दर्शाता है।
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** said “the legacies of **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee ji, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji** and **Atal ji** had provided India with a **new national vision**”.
मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने कहा कि “**डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी जी, पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी और अटल जी** की विरासत ने भारत को एक **नई राष्ट्रीय दृष्टि** प्रदान की है।”
- Welcoming Mr. Modi, he added, “It is a matter of pride that the **Rashtra Prerna Sthal**, the grand statues of the three towering leaders and the museum are being dedicated to the nation in **Lucknow** by the **Prime Minister**.”
श्री मोदी का स्वागत करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, “यह गर्व की बात है कि **राष्ट्र प्रेरणा स्थल**, तीन महान नेताओं की भव्य प्रतिमाएं और संग्रहालय **लखनऊ** में **प्रधानमंत्री** द्वारा राष्ट्र को समर्पित किए जा रहे हैं।”



- He described Mr. Modi as a strong proponent of the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', and a leader committed to **Antyodaya** by giving concrete shape to the **ideals of good governance envisioned by Vajpayee**.

उन्होंने श्री मोदी को 'एक भारत, श्रेष्ठ भारत' की परिकल्पना का प्रबल समर्थक और अंत्योदय के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध नेता बताया, जिन्होंने वाजपेयी द्वारा परिकल्पित सुशासन के आदर्शों को ठोस रूप दिया।



PCS

Constitution of India released in Santhali language

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Santhali language is spoken by a significant number of tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar. The President said it is a matter of pride for all the Santhali people that the Constitution of India is now available in their language, written in the **OI Chiki script**. It will enable them to understand the Constitution in their own language, she added. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal were present on the occasion. PTI

- It will enable them to **understand the Constitution** in their own language, she added. उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इससे वे संविधान को अपनी भाषा में समझ सकेंगे।
- **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan** and **Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** were present on the occasion. इस अवसर पर उपराष्ट्रपति सी. पी. राधाकृष्णन और केंद्रीय मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल उपस्थित थे।

Constitution of India released in Santhali language

संथाली भाषा में भारत का संविधान जारी

- **Constitution of India released in Santhali language** संथाली भाषा में भारत का संविधान जारी

• **President Droupadi Murmu** on Thursday released the **Constitution of India** in the **Santhali language** at a function held at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु ने गुरुवार को राष्ट्रपति भवन में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में **संथाली भाषा में भारत का संविधान जारी** किया।

- The **Santhali language** is spoken by a **significant number of tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar**.

संथाली भाषा झारखंड, ओडिशा, पश्चिम बंगाल और बिहार में रहने वाले आदिवासी लोगों की बड़ी संख्या द्वारा बोली जाती है।

- The **President** said it is a matter of **pride** for all the **Santhali people** that the **Constitution of India** is now available in their language, written in the **OI Chiki script**.

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि यह सभी संथाली लोगों के लिए गौरव की बात है कि **भारत का संविधान** अब उनकी भाषा में **ओल चिकी लिपि** में उपलब्ध है।



India to head conflict-free diamond body Kimberley Process from January

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Through a consensus, the Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to be its chairperson from January 1, 2026. This is the third time India will chair the Kimberley Process, a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and the civil society to prevent the trade in "conflict diamonds"—rough diamonds used by rebel groups or allies to finance conflicts undermining legitimate governments, as defined in UN Security Council resolutions.

"India's selection reflects global trust in the government's commitment to fostering integrity and transparency in international trade," Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a statement.

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the nodal agency for the Kimberley Process (KP) in India, has welcomed India's selection.

India to head conflict-free diamond body Kimberley Process from January

भारत जनवरी से संघर्ष-मुक्त हीरा निकाय किम्बरली प्रक्रिया का नेतृत्व करेगा

- India to head conflict-free diamond body Kimberley Process from January
भारत जनवरी से संघर्ष-मुक्त हीरा निकाय किम्बरली प्रक्रिया का नेतृत्व करेगा

- Through a consensus, the Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to be its chairperson from January 1, 2026.

सर्वसम्मति से किम्बरली प्रक्रिया (केपी) पूर्ण सत्र ने 1 जनवरी 2026 से भारत को अपना अध्यक्ष चुना है।

- This is the third time India will chair the Kimberley Process, a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and the civil society to prevent the trade in "conflict diamonds"—rough diamonds used by rebel groups or allies to finance conflicts undermining legitimate governments, as defined in UN Security Council resolutions.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Bethlehem celebrates first festive Christmas since Gaza war

PCS

Agence France-Presse
BETHLEHEM

Hundreds of worshippers gathered for mass at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Wednesday night as the Palestinian city ushered in its first festive Christmas in over two years, emerging from the shadow of the war in Gaza.

Throughout the conflict that began with Hamas's attack on Israel in October 2023, a sombre tone had marked Christmases in the biblical birthplace of Jesus Christ.

But celebrations returned full swing on Wednesday with crowded parades and music in the occupied West Bank city, as a fragile truce held in Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people face winter in makeshift tents.

In his homily, Jerusalem's Latin Patriarch, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa urged peace, hope and rebirth, saying the Nativity story still held relevance in the turbulence of modern times. "Christmas... invites us to look beyond the logic of domination, to rediscover the power of love, solidarity, and of justice," he told the congregation.

He spoke of his visit to war-battered Gaza over the weekend, where he said "suffering is still present" despite the ceasefire.

At the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV delivered his first Christmas Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica, after he called for "24 hours of peace in the whole world".

Bethlehem celebrates first festive Christmas since Gaza war

गाजा युद्ध के बाद बेथलहम में पहली उत्सवपूर्ण क्रिसमस का जश्न

- Bethlehem celebrates first festive Christmas since Gaza war
बेथलहम गाजा युद्ध के बाद पहली उत्सवपूर्ण क्रिसमस मनाई

- Hundreds of worshippers gathered for mass at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Wednesday night as the Palestinian city ushered in its first festive Christmas in over two years, emerging from the shadow of the war in Gaza.

बुधवार रात बेथलहम के चर्च ऑफ द नैटिविटी में सैकड़ों श्रद्धालु प्रार्थना सभा के लिए एकत्र हुए, जब फिलिस्तीनी शहर ने गाजा युद्ध की छाया से बाहर निकलते हुए दो वर्षों से अधिक समय बाद अपनी पहली उत्सवपूर्ण क्रिसमस का स्वागत किया।

- Throughout the conflict that began with Hamas's attack on Israel in October 2023, a sombre tone had marked Christmases in the biblical birthplace of Jesus Christ.

GS Paper 1: History,

TOPICS COVERED

26 December 2025

- Carrying the red flag into the next century
अगली सदी में लाल झंडे को आगे ले जाना



Wielding fire



GS I: History

Traditional performance: Sikh devotees display Gatka martial art skills during a 'Nagar Kirtan' procession taken out as part of 'Prakash Utsav', on the occasion of 358th birth anniversary of the 10th and last Sikh Guru Gobind Singh, in Prayagraj on Thursday. ANI

PATRIK



Carrying the red flag into the next century

As the Communist Party of India marks a century of political engagement, its legacy invites reflection on the task to rebuild India on the foundations of equality, secularism, and justice

GS 1: History

On December 26, 2025, the Communist Party of India turns 100. This centenary is not merely the marking of time for a political party but a moment of historical reflection on a movement that profoundly shaped India's freedom struggle, its vision for the future of the nation, and its social and economic vision. From its earliest years, the CPI gave voice to the revolutionary slogan "Inquilab Zindabad", coined by Maulana Hasrat Mohani — who chaired the Reception Committee of the historic Kanpur Conference — and immortalised by Bhagat Singh and his comrades. Through communist activists, this call for revolutionary transformation travelled to every nook and corner of the country, becoming a living expression of resistance, hope and patriotism. The CPI emerged confronting colonial rule and sought to answer a fundamental question confronting the national movement: freedom for whom and to what end. Over a century, the CPI has consistently argued that political independence without social and economic transformation would leave the masses trapped in old and new forms of exploitation.

The historical roots of the CPI lie in its uncompromising struggle against colonial capitalism. British imperialism subordinated India's economy to the needs of foreign capital, destroyed indigenous industries, imposed exploitative land relations, and produced widespread poverty. At the same time, it created a modern working class and exposed Indian revolutionaries to global currents of socialist thought, particularly after the Russian Revolution of 1917. In-

dian activists and revolutionaries who encountered Marxism abroad or through international networks began to see that national liberation and social emancipation were inseparable. This understanding matured into organisational form with the founding of the CPI in December 1925 at Kanpur.

Marxist theory, Indian realities
The Kanpur conference brought together revolutionaries, trade unionists, and anti-imperialist activists committed to building a revolutionary party rooted in Marxist theory and Indian realities.

The CPI's role in the fight against colonial rule was uncompromising and profoundly patriotic. Unlike strands of nationalism that sought accommodation with imperial power, the communists understood colonialism as a system of economic exploitation sustained by political domination. They fought British rule through trade union struggles, peasant movements, underground resistance, and ideological battles. Their patriotism was rooted not in elite negotiations but in the lives and struggles of ordinary Indians.

One of the CPI's most enduring contributions was its emphasis on building mass organisations. The party recognised that political emancipation could not be achieved without mobilising society in all its diversity. It helped build and strengthen platforms such as the All India Trade Union Congress, the All India Kisan Sabha, the All India Students' Federation, cultural and writers' organisations like the Progressive Writers' Association and the Indian People's Theatre Association, and, later, organisations of women and youth.



Social emancipation: It was through mass struggles that communist politics acquired its deepest roots. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Through these formations, the CPI united workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, and artists around shared struggles.

It was through mass struggles that communist politics acquired its deepest roots. The CPI led historic movements for land and dignity, including the Telangana armed struggle against feudal oppression, the Tebhaga movement in Bengal that asserted peasants' rights over their produce, the Punnapra-Vayalar struggle in Kerala against landlord tyranny, and the militant land struggles of the Thanjavur delta. In industrial centres such as Kanpur, Bombay, Calcutta, and Pudukcherry, the trade union movement under communist leadership won major labour victories, securing rights, wages, and dignity for workers.

The CPI decisively radicalised the agenda of the national struggle. At a time when dominion status was being debated as a possible compromise, the communists in-

sisted on complete independence. They were among the earliest and most consistent advocates of the demand for a Constituent Assembly, arguing that only a sovereign body elected by the people could frame a democratic Constitution. This demand later became central to India's transition to independence. The party placed structural reforms at the centre of the freedom struggle, arguing that independence without land reforms, labour rights, and social equality would merely replace foreign rulers with indigenous elites.

Land redistribution, abolition of landlordism, protection of tenants, trade union rights, minimum wages, and social security were pushed into the national agenda through communist-led movements. The CPI articulated the vision of a classless and casteless India, recognising caste not as a cultural residue but as a material system deeply intertwined with class exploitation. By linking caste

oppression to economic structures, the party broadened the meaning of social justice and gave the freedom struggle a transformative content. Many of these demands found reflection in the Constitution and in post-independence policy debates.

Independence in 1947 did not end the CPI's struggle. It marked the beginning of a new phase focused on dismantling feudal structures, resisting monopolistic capitalism, and deepening democracy. The party led historic peasant struggles against landlordism and played a decisive role in advancing land reforms in States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Tripura, and Bihar. In parliamentary and extra-parliamentary arenas, the CPI championed public ownership of key sectors of the economy and consistently advocated the nationalisation of banks, coal, insurance, and other core industries, arguing that strategic resources must serve national development and social welfare rather than private accumulation.

Defender of federalism

The CPI was also a strong defender of federalism and linguistic and cultural diversity, strengthening India's democratic fabric. Its commitment to social justice found expression in its defence of the rights of Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and women, as well as its steadfast adherence to secularism and rational thought. Across decades, the red flag symbolised reform, progress, and resistance to reactionary forces.

Today, as the CPI enters its second century, India confronts grave challenges. Communalism and emerging fascism threaten the

foundations of the Republic. Economic growth has been accompanied by massive unemployment, precarity, and widening inequalities.

For the Left, the challenge is to once again become synonymous with the aspirations of the masses. This requires renewing its understanding of contemporary capitalism while remaining anchored in its core values of equality, democracy and justice.

At this critical juncture in our history, the centenary of the CPI is not merely a moment of remembrance but a call to action. Democracy itself is under assault, people's rights and livelihoods are being systematically eroded, and the achievements of the freedom movement are being deliberately undone. The RSS-BJP combine seeks to dismantle our social solidarity, hollow out our economic sovereignty, and subvert the Constitution to impose an authoritarian, exclusionary order. This danger cannot be resisted in fragments. The CPI and the Left must be strengthened and brought closer together to form a broad democratic resistance. Class exploitation, caste oppression, and patriarchy remain formidable structures of domination, demanding organised and uncompromising struggle. The task before us is clear: cleanse institutions of their corrosive influence, reclaim the Republic, and rebuild India on the foundations of equality, secularism, and justice. United we must resist. United we must advance. United we must create a new India: egalitarian, democratic, and prosperous. The red flag must rise higher. The people must prevail. The future must be ours.

Carrying the red flag into the next century अगली सदी में लाल झंडे को आगे ले जाना

- Carrying the red flag into the next century
अगली सदी में लाल झंडे को आगे ले जाना
- As the **Communist Party of India** marks a century of political engagement, its legacy invites reflection on the task to rebuild India on the foundations of **equality, secularism, and justice** जैसे ही **भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी** राजनीतिक सहभागिता के एक शताब्दी वर्ष को चिह्नित करती है, उसकी विरासत **समानता, धर्मनिरपेक्षता और न्याय** की नींव पर भारत के पुनर्निर्माण के कार्य पर विचार के लिए आमंत्रित करती है
- On **December 26, 2025**, the **Communist Party of India** turned **100**.
26 दिसंबर 2025 को **भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी 100 वर्ष** की हो जाती है।
- This centenary is not merely the marking of time for a political party but a moment of historical reflection on a movement that profoundly shaped **India's freedom struggle**, its vision for the future of the nation, and its **social and economic vision**.
यह शताब्दी केवल किसी राजनीतिक दल के समय की गणना नहीं है, बल्कि एक ऐसे आंदोलन पर ऐतिहासिक चिंतन का क्षण है जिसने **भारत के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम**, राष्ट्र के भविष्य की दृष्टि और उसकी **सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक सोच** को गहराई से आकार दिया।
- From its earliest years, the **CPI gave voice to the revolutionary slogan "Inquilab Zindabad"**, coined by **Maulana Hasrat Mohani** — who chaired the Reception Committee of the historic **Kanpur Conference** — and immortalised by **Bhagat Singh** and his comrades.
अपने शुरुआती वर्षों से ही **सीपीआई** ने क्रांतिकारी नारे **"इंकलाब जिंदाबाद"** को स्वर दिया, जिसे **मौलाना हसरत मोहानी** ने गढ़ा — जिन्होंने ऐतिहासिक **कानपुर सम्मेलन** की स्वागत समिति की अध्यक्षता की — और जिसे **भगत सिंह** और उनके साथियों ने अमर कर दिया।
- Through communist activists, this call for revolutionary transformation travelled to every nook and corner of the country, becoming a living expression of **resistance, hope and patriotism**.
कम्युनिस्ट कार्यकर्ताओं के माध्यम से क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन की यह पुकार देश के हर कोने तक पहुँची, और **प्रतिरोध, आशा और देशभक्ति** की जीवंत अभिव्यक्ति बन गई।



- The **CPI** emerged confronting **colonial rule** and sought to answer a fundamental question confronting the national movement: **freedom for whom and to what end**.
सीपीआई औपनिवेशिक शासन का सामना करते हुए उभरी और राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन के सामने खड़े एक मूल प्रश्न का उत्तर तलाशा: **स्वतंत्रता किसके लिए और किस उद्देश्य से।**
- Over a century, the **CPI** has consistently argued that political independence without **social and economic transformation** would leave the masses trapped in old and new forms of **exploitation**.
एक सदी से अधिक समय तक **सीपीआई** लगातार यह तर्क देती रही है कि **सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन** के बिना राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता जनता को **शोषण** के पुराने और नए रूपों में फँसा देगी।
- The historical roots of the **CPI** lie in its uncompromising struggle against **colonial capitalism**.
सीपीआई की ऐतिहासिक जड़ें **औपनिवेशिक पूँजीवाद** के विरुद्ध उसके अडिग संघर्ष में निहित हैं।
- British imperialism** subordinated India's economy to the needs of foreign capital, destroyed indigenous industries, imposed exploitative land relations, and produced widespread **poverty**.
ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद ने भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था को विदेशी पूँजी की आवश्यकताओं के अधीन कर दिया, स्वदेशी उद्योगों को नष्ट किया, शोषणकारी भूमि संबंध थोपे और व्यापक **गरीबी** पैदा की।
- At the same time, it created a modern **working class** and exposed Indian revolutionaries to global currents of **socialist thought**, particularly after the **Russian Revolution of 1917**.
इसी समय इसने एक आधुनिक **मज़दूर वर्ग** को जन्म दिया और विशेष रूप से **1917 की रूसी क्रांति** के बाद भारतीय क्रांतिकारियों को **समाजवादी विचार** की वैश्विक धाराओं से परिचित कराया।
- Indian activists and revolutionaries who encountered **Marxism** abroad or through international networks began to see that **national liberation** and **social emancipation** were inseparable.
जो भारतीय कार्यकर्ता और क्रांतिकारी विदेशों में या अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क के माध्यम से **मार्क्सवाद** से जुड़े, उन्होंने समझना शुरू किया कि **राष्ट्रीय मुक्ति** और **सामाजिक मुक्ति** एक-दूसरे से अलग नहीं हैं।
- This understanding matured into organisational form with the founding of the **CPI in December 1925 at Kanpur**.
यह समझ दिसंबर 1925 में कानपुर में **सीपीआई की स्थापना** के साथ संगठनात्मक रूप में विकसित हुई।

Marxist theory, Indian realities मार्क्सवादी सिद्धांत, भारतीय यथार्थ

- The **Kanpur conference** brought together revolutionaries, trade unionists, and anti-imperialist activists committed to building a revolutionary party rooted in **Marxist theory** and **Indian realities**.
कानपुर सम्मेलन ने क्रांतिकारियों, ट्रेड यूनियन कार्यकर्ताओं और साम्राज्यवाद-विरोधी कार्यकर्ताओं को एक साथ लाया, जो **मार्क्सवादी सिद्धांत** और **भारतीय यथार्थ** में निहित एक क्रांतिकारी पार्टी के निर्माण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध थे।
- The **CPI's role** in the fight against **colonial rule** was uncompromising and profoundly **patriotic**.
औपनिवेशिक शासन के विरुद्ध संघर्ष में **सीपीआई की भूमिका** अडिग और गहराई से **देशभक्तिपूर्ण** थी।
- Unlike strands of nationalism that sought accommodation with imperial power, the communists understood **colonialism** as a system of **economic exploitation** sustained by political domination.
राष्ट्रवाद की उन धाराओं के विपरीत जो साम्राज्यवादी सत्ता से समझौता चाहती थीं, कम्युनिस्टों ने **औपनिवेशिकता** को राजनीतिक वर्चस्व द्वारा टिके **आर्थिक शोषण** की प्रणाली के रूप में समझा।
- They fought British rule through **trade union struggles**, **peasant movements**, **underground resistance**, and **ideological battles**.
उन्होंने **ट्रेड यूनियन संघर्षों**, **किसान आंदोलनों**, **भूमिगत प्रतिरोध** और **वैचारिक लड़ाइयों** के माध्यम से ब्रिटिश शासन से मुकाबला किया।
- Their patriotism was rooted not in elite negotiations but in the lives and struggles of **ordinary Indians**.
उनकी देशभक्ति अभिजात वर्ग की बातचीत में नहीं, बल्कि **साधारण भारतीयों** के जीवन और संघर्षों में निहित थी।
- One of the **CPI's most enduring contributions** was its emphasis on building **mass organisations**.
सीपीआई का एक सबसे स्थायी योगदान **जन-संगठनों** के निर्माण पर उसका जोर था।



- The party recognised that political emancipation could not be achieved without mobilising society in all its diversity.
पार्टी ने समझा कि समाज की समूची विविधता को संगठित किए बिना राजनीतिक मुक्ति संभव नहीं है।
- It helped build and strengthen platforms such as the **All India Trade Union Congress**, the **All India Kisan Sabha**, the **All India Students' Federation**, cultural and writers' organisations like the **Progressive Writers' Association** and the **Indian People's Theatre Association**, and, later, organisations of **women and youth**.
इसने ऑल इंडिया ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस, ऑल इंडिया किसान सभा, ऑल इंडिया स्टूडेंट्स फेडरेशन, प्रोग्रेसिव राइटर्स एसोसिएशन और इंडियन पीपल्स थिएटर एसोसिएशन जैसे सांस्कृतिक व लेखक संगठनों तथा बाद में महिलाओं और युवाओं के संगठनों के निर्माण और सुदृढीकरण में मदद की।
- Through these formations, the **CPI united workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, and artists** around shared struggles.
इन संगठनों के माध्यम से सीपीआई ने मज़दूरों, किसानों, छात्रों, बुद्धिजीवियों और कलाकारों को साझा संघर्षों के इर्द-गिर्द एकजुट किया।
- It was through **mass struggles** that communist politics acquired its deepest roots.
जन संघर्षों के माध्यम से ही कम्युनिस्ट राजनीति ने अपनी सबसे गहरी जड़ें जमाईं।
- The **CPI** led historic movements for land and dignity, including the **Telangana armed struggle**, the **Tebhaga movement**, the **Punnapra-Vayalar struggle**, and the militant land struggles of the **Thanjavur delta**.
सीपीआई ने भूमि और गरिमा के लिए ऐतिहासिक आंदोलनों का नेतृत्व किया, जिनमें तेलंगाना सशस्त्र संघर्ष, तेभागा आंदोलन, पुन्नप्रा-वायलार संघर्ष और तंजावुर डेल्टा के उग्र भूमि संघर्ष शामिल हैं।
- In industrial centres such as **Kanpur, Bombay, Calcutta**, and **Puducherry**, the trade union movement under communist leadership won major labour victories, securing **rights, wages, and dignity** for workers.
कानपुर, बॉम्बे, कलकत्ता और पुदुचेरी जैसे औद्योगिक केंद्रों में कम्युनिस्ट नेतृत्व में ट्रेड यूनियन आंदोलन ने मज़दूरों के लिए अधिकार, मज़दूरी और गरिमा सुनिश्चित करते हुए बड़ी जीतें हासिल कीं।
- The **CPI** decisively radicalised the agenda of the **national struggle**.
सीपीआई ने राष्ट्रीय संघर्ष के एजेंडे को निर्णायक रूप से उग्र बनाया।
- At a time when **dominion status** was being debated, the communists insisted on **complete independence**.
जब डोमिनियन स्टेटस पर बहस चल रही थी, तब कम्युनिस्टों ने पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता पर जोर दिया।
- They were among the earliest advocates of a **Constituent Assembly**.
वे संविधान सभा की मांग के शुरुआती समर्थकों में थे।
- The party placed **structural reforms** at the centre of the freedom struggle.
पार्टी ने संरचनात्मक सुधारों को स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के केंद्र में रखा।

Defender of federalism

संघवाद का रक्षक

- The **CPI** was also a strong defender of **federalism** and **secularism**.
सीपीआई संघवाद और धर्मनिरपेक्षता की एक मज़बूत रक्षक रही।
- Today, as the **CPI** enters its second century, the task is clear: rebuild India on the foundations of **equality, secularism, and justice**.
आज, जब सीपीआई अपनी दूसरी सदी में प्रवेश कर रही है, तो कार्य स्पष्ट है: समानता, धर्मनिरपेक्षता और न्याय की नींव पर भारत का पुनर्निर्माण।



GS Paper 1: Society	
TOPICS COVERED	26 December 2025
1. The urban future with cities as dynamic ecosystems गतिशील पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के रूप में शहरों के साथ शहरी भविष्य	

The urban future with cities as dynamic ecosystems

GS I: Society: Urbanization

MOB

Cities stand at the epicentre of global discourse, driving development, policymaking, science, and technology. Yet, amidst all the planning and progress, we often overlook the most fundamental element: the diverse people who inhabit these urban spaces and make them home. The disconnect between the cities we design, the cities we wish to inhabit, and the cities we live in is the critical missing link in our tale of interconnected realities.

The invisible tax of exclusion

When individuals migrate, there is an unspoken expectation of assimilation, often summarised as “do what the Romans do”. Language emerges as the primary, non-negotiable standard for integration, necessary for communication and alignment with the city’s linguistic identity. The failure to meet this linguistic standard often results in an invisible tax paid by “new residents” and migrants from different linguistic zones.

This marginalisation reflects a systemic tension between the vibrant, multi-lingual reality of major metropolitan hubs and the emotional, cultural and political expectations placed upon those seeking a better life within them. The core issue is about the validation of belonging within the city that a resident calls home.

This “linguistic tax” translates directly into economic disadvantage. Navigating a job search, negotiating complex housing agreements, or accessing essential government benefits or health care becomes a bureaucratic maze when official documents and primary communication channels are monolingual.

This cultural and linguistic friction serves as an



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Merely designing better infrastructure will not deliver the desired outcome if the human element of belonging is ignored

economic roadblock. It often channels migrants into the informal economy, where exploitation is higher and opportunities for formal social mobility are curtailed. Ironically, the city, which relies heavily on the labour, skills and taxes contributed by these new residents, structurally denies them full and equal access to the very opportunities and services they were promised. The failure to integrate them linguistically and culturally is a self-inflicted wound that undermines the long-term social and economic resilience of the city itself.

The fundamental flaw in modern urban planning is the assumption of a static, homogenous user base. Urban infrastructure – the actual blueprint of the designed city – is often conceived for the established resident, rendering the new resident invisible. We design ‘smart’ cities, but they are often only smart for those who already speak the right language and possess the right documents.

This invisibility is compounded by a lack of culturally diverse governance. When local bodies and planning committees fail to reflect on the cosmopolitan reality of the metropolis, homogeneous perspectives inevitably dominate plans for profoundly heterogeneous spaces. Planning for schools, transport hubs or public parks often misses the mark when planners do not recognise, or account for, the needs of recent, diverse demographic shifts.

Designing cities ‘for all’

The urban future we wish to reimagine must be layered. Simply designing better infrastructure will not deliver the desired outcome if the human element of belonging is ignored. Cities are not

static blueprints; they are dynamic ecosystems. We need to stop viewing them as spaces defined by fixed, hard boundaries and start seeing them as fluid entities with an infinite capacity to expand, reconfigure and include.

To proactively bridge the cultural divide, city planners must anticipate potential friction – the clash between the ‘known’ and the ‘new’, the ‘us’ and the ‘them’. A small, targeted investment in cultural sensitisation training for public-facing staff could be the essential ingredient. This training is not just about politeness; it is about operational efficiency and upholding democratic rights.

For any truly transformative change to succeed, we must prepare for temporary commotion on the path to greater development and a better social outcome.

A city must be imagined, designed and governed with all the inhabitants who call it home: those who were born here, those who have lived here for decades, and those who will arrive tomorrow. We must design a city that is dynamic enough to embrace future growth, welcome diversity and encourage amalgamation and regeneration.

The missing link

For an inclusive, sustainable, urban future, let us commit to designing cities – not just for the infrastructure they contain but for the people that they are built to serve. The true missing link in the tale of our interconnected realities is empathy: the recognition that the comfort, security and validated belonging of the lived experience is the ultimate measure of successful urban design.

The urban future with cities as dynamic ecosystems

गतिशील पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के रूप में शहरों के साथ शहरी भविष्य

Cities and the Missing Link of Belonging

शहर और अपनत्व की अनुपस्थित कड़ी

- Cities stand at the **epicentre of global discourse**, driving **development, policymaking, science, and technology**
शहर **वैश्विक विमर्श के केंद्र** में हैं और **विकास, नीति निर्माण, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी** को आगे बढ़ाते हैं
- Yet, amidst all the planning and progress, we often overlook the most **fundamental element**
फिर भी, तमाम योजना और प्रगति के बीच, हम अक्सर सबसे **मूलभूत तत्व** को नज़रअंदाज़ कर देते हैं
- The diverse people who inhabit these **urban spaces** and make them **home**
वे विविध लोग जो इन **शहरी स्थानों** में रहते हैं और इन्हें अपना **घर** बनाते हैं
- The disconnect between the cities we **design**, the cities we **wish to inhabit**, and the cities we **live in** is the critical missing link in our tale of **interconnected realities**
जिन शहरों को हम **डिज़ाइन** करते हैं, जिनमें हम **रहना चाहते हैं**, और जिनमें हम वास्तव में **रहते हैं**, उनके बीच का अंतर हमारी **परस्पर जुड़ी वास्तविकताओं** की कहानी की सबसे बड़ी कड़ी की कमी है



The invisible tax of exclusion

बहिष्करण का अदृश्य कर

- When individuals **migrate**, there is an unspoken expectation of **assimilation**, often summarised as **“do what the Romans do”**
जब लोग प्रवास करते हैं, तो उनसे बिना कहे **समायोजन** की अपेक्षा की जाती है, जिसे अक्सर **“रोम में रहो तो रोमनों जैसा करो”** कहकर समझाया जाता है
- **Language** emerges as the primary, **non-negotiable standard for integration**, necessary for **communication** and alignment with the city's **linguistic identity**
भाषा एक प्राथमिक और **अपरिहार्य मानक** के रूप में उभरती है, जो **संचार** और शहर की **भाषाई पहचान** से जुड़ाव के लिए आवश्यक है
- The failure to meet this **linguistic standard** often results in an **invisible tax** paid by **“new residents”** and migrants from different **linguistic zones**
इस **भाषाई मानक** को पूरा न कर पाने की स्थिति में **“नए निवासी”** और विभिन्न **भाषाई क्षेत्रों** से आए प्रवासी एक **अदृश्य कर** चुकाते हैं
- This **marginalisation** reflects a **systemic tension** between the vibrant, **multi-lingual reality** of major metropolitan hubs and the **emotional, cultural and political expectations** placed upon those seeking a better life
यह **हाशियाकरण** बड़े महानगरों की **बहुभाषी वास्तविकता** और बेहतर जीवन की तलाश में आए लोगों पर थोपे गए **भावनात्मक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक अपेक्षाओं** के बीच के **संरचनात्मक तनाव** को दर्शाता है
- The core issue is about the **validation of belonging** within the city that a resident calls **home**
मूल मुद्दा उस शहर में **अपनत्व की मान्यता** का है जिसे कोई निवासी अपना **घर** कहता है
- This **“linguistic tax”** translates directly into **economic disadvantage**
यह **“भाषाई कर”** सीधे तौर पर **आर्थिक नुकसान** में बदल जाता है
- Navigating a **job search**, negotiating **complex housing agreements**, or accessing **essential government benefits or health care** becomes a **bureaucratic maze** when official documents and primary communication channels are **monolingual**
जब आधिकारिक दस्तावेज़ और संचार माध्यम **एकभाषी** होते हैं, तब **नौकरी खोज**, **आवास समझौतों** की जटिल बातचीत, या **सरकारी लाभ और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** तक पहुँच एक **नौकरशाही भूलभुलैया** बन जाती है
- This **cultural and linguistic friction** serves as an **economic roadblock**
यह **सांस्कृतिक और भाषाई टकराव** एक **आर्थिक अवरोध** के रूप में काम करता है
- It often channels migrants into the **informal economy**, where **exploitation** is higher and opportunities for **formal social mobility** are curtailed
यह प्रवासियों को अक्सर **अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था** की ओर धकेल देता है, जहाँ **शोषण** अधिक होता है और **औपचारिक सामाजिक गतिशीलता** के अवसर सीमित हो जाते हैं
- Ironically, the city, which relies heavily on the **labour, skills and taxes** contributed by these new residents, structurally denies them **full and equal access** to the very opportunities and services they were promised
विडंबना यह है कि जिन **श्रम, कौशल और करों** पर शहर निर्भर करता है, उन्हीं नए निवासियों को वही शहर **समान और पूर्ण पहुँच** देने से संरचनात्मक रूप से वंचित कर देता है
- The failure to integrate them **linguistically and culturally** is a **self-inflicted wound** that undermines the **long-term social and economic resilience** of the city itself
उन्हें **भाषाई और सांस्कृतिक रूप से एकीकृत** न कर पाना एक **स्व-प्रेरित घाव** है, जो शहर की **दीर्घकालिक सामाजिक और आर्थिक सहनशीलता** को कमजोर करता है
- The **fundamental flaw in modern urban planning** is the assumption of a **static, homogenous user base**
आधुनिक शहरी नियोजन की मूल **खामी** एक **स्थिर और समरूप उपयोगकर्ता वर्ग** की धारणा है
- **Urban infrastructure**, the actual **blueprint of the designed city**, is often conceived for the **established resident**, rendering the **new resident invisible**



शहरी अवसंरचना, यानी डिज़ाइन किए गए शहर की वास्तविक रूपरेखा, अक्सर स्थायी निवासियों के लिए बनाई जाती है, जिससे नए निवासी अदृश्य हो जाते हैं

- We design 'smart' cities, but they are often only smart for those who already speak the right language and possess the right documents
हम 'स्मार्ट' शहर बनाते हैं, लेकिन वे प्रायः केवल उन्हीं के लिए स्मार्ट होते हैं जो सही भाषा बोलते हैं और जिनके पास सही दस्तावेज़ होते हैं
- This invisibility is compounded by a lack of culturally diverse governance
यह अदृश्यता सांस्कृतिक रूप से विविध शासन के अभाव से और गहरी हो जाती है
- When local bodies and planning committees fail to reflect the cosmopolitan reality of the metropolis, homogeneous perspectives inevitably dominate plans for profoundly heterogeneous spaces
जब स्थानीय निकाय और योजना समितियाँ महानगर की बहुसांस्कृतिक वास्तविकता को प्रतिबिंबित नहीं करतीं, तो गहराई से विविध स्थानों के लिए एकरूप दृष्टिकोण हावी हो जाते हैं
- Planning for schools, transport hubs or public parks often misses the mark when planners do not recognise, or account for, the needs of recent, diverse demographic shifts
विद्यालयों, परिवहन केंद्रों या सार्वजनिक पार्कों की योजना अक्सर लक्ष्य से चूक जाती है, जब योजनाकार हालिया विविध जनसांख्यिकीय बदलावों की ज़रूरतों को पहचानने या शामिल करने में विफल रहते हैं

Designing cities 'for all'

'सभी के लिए' शहरों की रूपरेखा

- The urban future we wish to reimagine must be layered
जिस शहरी भविष्य की हम पुनर्कल्पना करना चाहते हैं, वह स्तरीय होना चाहिए
- Simply designing better infrastructure will not deliver the desired outcome if the human element of belonging is ignored
केवल बेहतर अवसंरचना डिज़ाइन करना अपेक्षित परिणाम नहीं देगा यदि अपनत्व के मानवीय तत्व को नज़रअंदाज़ किया जाए
- Cities are not static blueprints; they are dynamic ecosystems
शहर स्थिर नक्शे नहीं हैं बल्कि गतिशील पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र हैं
- We need to stop viewing them as spaces defined by fixed, hard boundaries and start seeing them as fluid entities with an infinite capacity to expand, reconfigure and include
हमें उन्हें स्थिर और कठोर सीमाओं से परिभाषित स्थानों के रूप में देखना बंद करना होगा और लचीली इकाइयों के रूप में देखना होगा जिनमें विस्तार, पुनर्संरचना और समावेशन की असीम क्षमता है
- To proactively bridge the cultural divide, city planners must anticipate potential friction — the clash between the 'known' and the 'new', the 'us' and the 'them'
सांस्कृतिक विभाजन को पहले से पाटने के लिए, शहर नियोजकों को संभावित टकराव का अनुमान लगाना चाहिए — 'परिचित' और 'नए', 'हम' और 'वे' के बीच का संघर्ष
- A small, targeted investment in cultural sensitisation training for public-facing staff could be the essential ingredient
जन-संपर्क में रहने वाले कर्मचारियों के लिए सांस्कृतिक संवेदनशीलता प्रशिक्षण में एक छोटा लेकिन लक्षित निवेश एक आवश्यक तत्व हो सकता है
- This training is not just about politeness; it is about operational efficiency and upholding democratic rights
यह प्रशिक्षण केवल शिष्टाचार तक सीमित नहीं है बल्कि संचालनात्मक दक्षता और लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों को बनाए रखने से जुड़ा है
- For any truly transformative change to succeed, we must prepare for temporary commotion on the path to greater development and a better social outcome



किसी भी वास्तविक परिवर्तनकारी बदलाव की सफलता के लिए, अधिक विकास और बेहतर सामाजिक परिणाम की राह में अस्थायी असहजता के लिए तैयार रहना होगा

- A city must be imagined, designed and governed with **all the inhabitants** who call it **home**
एक शहर की कल्पना, डिज़ाइन और शासन उन सभी निवासियों को ध्यान में रखकर होना चाहिए जो इसे अपना घर कहते हैं
- Those who were **born here**, those who have **lived here for decades**, and those who will **arrive tomorrow**
वे जो यहाँ जन्मे, वे जो दशकों से यहाँ रहते हैं, और वे जो कल आएँगे
- We must design a city that is **dynamic enough to embrace future growth, welcome diversity and encourage amalgamation and regeneration**
हमें ऐसा शहर डिज़ाइन करना चाहिए जो भविष्य की वृद्धि को अपनाने, विविधता का स्वागत करने और समेकन व पुनर्जनन को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए पर्याप्त गतिशील हो

The missing link

अनुपस्थित कड़ी

- For an **inclusive, sustainable, urban future**, let us commit to designing cities — not just for the **infrastructure** they contain but for the **people** that they are built to serve
एक समावेशी, सतत और शहरी भविष्य के लिए, हमें शहरों को केवल उनकी अवसंरचना के लिए नहीं बल्कि उन लोगों के लिए डिज़ाइन करने का संकल्प लेना चाहिए जिनकी सेवा के लिए वे बनाए जाते हैं
- The true missing link in the tale of our **interconnected realities** is **empathy**
हमारी परस्पर जुड़ी वास्तविकताओं की कहानी में वास्तविक अनुपस्थित कड़ी सहानुभूति है
- The recognition that the **comfort, security and validated belonging** of the lived experience is the **ultimate measure** of successful urban design
यह मान्यता कि जीए गए अनुभव का आराम, सुरक्षा और मान्य अपनत्व ही सफल शहरी डिज़ाइन का अंतिम मापदंड है

GS Paper II: Governance,	
TOPICS COVERED	26 December
1. Doping menace डोपिंग का खतरा	



GS II: Governance MOB

Doping menace

India must make National Anti-Doping Agency well-funded and independent

One of the biggest impediments for India in achieving the status of a global sports power is strongly rooted in its dubious distinction of being the table topper in dope positive cases for the third consecutive year. As the country is set to host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games and the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, the low-on-performance and high-on-doping trend may prove detrimental to its aspirations of bidding for the 2036 Olympic Games. As in the 2024 figures by the global watchdog, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), India logged 260 adverse analytical findings (AAFs) out of 7,113 tests, at 3.6%. France (91) and Italy (85) were second and third in terms of numbers. India, far behind China (24,214), was seventh in terms of overall testing figures. Nevertheless, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) looks at the brighter side of the picture, claiming that the higher positivity rate is due to bigger testing numbers. In the post-COVID-19 era, the AAFs and total number of samples were 125 and 3,865 (at 3.2%), respectively, in 2022, and 213 and 5,606 (at 3.8%), respectively, in 2023.

NADA takes pride in stating that up to December 16 this year, it has carried out 7,068 tests with fewer number of positive cases (110), at 1.5%. It has adopted several measures, including awareness drives and encouraging the use of 'Know Your Medicine' app, to curb doping. There are many instances of NADA officials pursuing athletes and them trying to escape to avoid testing. Such cat-and-mouse stories point a finger at the sorry state of affairs and a deeper malaise within the sports ecosystem that includes support staff, who have been suspended for abetting doping. Even as the Sports Ministry is addressing the concern, it acknowledges that government jobs through sports quota are a big lure for the athletes to take shortcuts. It cannot be denied that lucrative cash awards for big international medals may also be prompting elite athletes to take banned performance-enhancing drugs, despite the risks of adverse effects on one's health, over the years. India has passed the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to add muscle to its anti-doping efforts. Whether doping is triggered by need or greed or ignorance, the country, under pressure from the International Olympic Committee over the issue, should make NADA a truly independent entity and provide more funds to put up a stronger fight against this menace, which has kept pace with modern scientific developments.

सातवें स्थान पर था

- Nevertheless, the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** looks at the brighter side of the picture, claiming that the higher positivity rate is due to **bigger testing numbers**
इसके बावजूद राष्ट्रीय डोपिंग रोधी एजेंसी (NADA) इसे सकारात्मक रूप में देखते हुए कहती है कि अधिक पॉजिटिविटी दर का कारण अधिक परीक्षण संख्या है
- In the **post-COVID-19 era**, the **AAFs** and total number of samples were **125 and 3,865 (3.2%)** respectively in **2022**, and **213 and 5,606 (3.8%)** respectively in **2023**
कोविड-19 के बाद के दौर में 2022 में AAF 125 और कुल नमूने 3,865 (3.2%) थे, जबकि 2023 में 213 AAF और 5,606 नमूने (3.8%) दर्ज किए गए
- **NADA takes pride in stating that up to December 16 this year, it has carried out 7,068 tests with fewer number of positive cases (110), at 1.5%**
NADA ने यह बताते हुए गर्व जताया कि इस वर्ष 16 दिसंबर तक उसने 7,068 परीक्षण किए, जिनमें केवल 110 पॉजिटिव मामले (1.5%) पाए गए
- It has adopted several measures, including **awareness drives** and encouraging the use of **'Know Your Medicine' app**, to curb doping

Doping menace डोपिंग का खतरा

- **India must make National Anti-Doping Agency well-funded and independent**
भारत को राष्ट्रीय डोपिंग रोधी एजेंसी को पर्याप्त रूप से वित्तपोषित और स्वतंत्र बनाना चाहिए

India and the Doping Challenge in Sports भारत और खेलों में डोपिंग की चुनौती

- One of the biggest impediments for India in achieving the status of a **global sports power** is strongly rooted in its dubious distinction of **being the table topper in dope positive cases for the third consecutive year**
वैश्विक खेल महाशक्ति बनने की भारत की राह में सबसे बड़ी बाधाओं में से एक इसका लगातार तीसरे वर्ष डोप पॉजिटिव मामलों में शीर्ष पर रहना है
- As the country is set to host the **2029 World Police and Fire Games and the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad**, the **low-on-performance and high-on-doping trend** may prove detrimental to its aspirations of bidding for the **2036 Olympic Games**
जब देश 2029 वर्ल्ड पुलिस एंड फायर गेम्स और 2030 शताब्दी राष्ट्रमंडल खेल, अहमदाबाद की मेज़बानी के लिए तैयार है, तब कम प्रदर्शन और अधिक डोपिंग की प्रवृत्ति 2036 ओलंपिक खेलों की मेज़बानी की उसकी आकांक्षाओं के लिए नुकसानदेह साबित हो सकती है
- As in the **2024 figures** by the global watchdog, the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**, India logged **260 adverse analytical findings (AAFs)** out of **7,113 tests**, at **3.6%**
वैश्विक निगरानी संस्था वर्ल्ड एंटी-डोपिंग एजेंसी (WADA) के 2024 के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत में 7,113 परीक्षणों में से 260 प्रतिकूल विश्लेषणात्मक निष्कर्ष (AAF) पाए गए, जो 3.6% है
- **France (91) and Italy (85) were second and third in terms of numbers**
मामलों की संख्या के आधार पर फ्रांस (91) दूसरे और इटली (85) तीसरे स्थान पर रहे
- **India, far behind China (24,214), was seventh in terms of overall testing figures**
कुल परीक्षण संख्या के मामले में भारत चीन (24,214) से काफी पीछे रहते हुए



डोपिंग पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए इसने जागरूकता अभियानों सहित 'Know Your Medicine' ऐप के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने जैसे कई कदम अपनाए हैं

- There are many instances of NADA officials pursuing athletes and them trying to escape to avoid testing
ऐसे कई मामले सामने आए हैं जब **NADA अधिकारी** खिलाड़ियों का पीछा करते रहे और खिलाड़ी **परीक्षण से बचने की कोशिश** करते पाए गए
- Such **cat-and-mouse stories** point a finger at the sorry state of affairs and a **deeper malaise** within the sports ecosystem that includes **support staff, who have been suspended for abetting doping**
ऐसी **बिल्ली-चूहे की कहानियाँ** खेल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की **दयनीय स्थिति** और एक **गहरी बीमारी** की ओर इशारा करती हैं, जिसमें **सहायक स्टाफ** भी शामिल है, जिन्हें **डोपिंग में सहयोग** के लिए निलंबित किया गया है
- Even as the **Sports Ministry** is addressing the concern, it acknowledges that **government jobs through sports quota are a big lure for the athletes to take shortcuts**
जबकि **खेल मंत्रालय** इस चिंता को दूर करने की कोशिश कर रहा है, वह यह भी मानता है कि **खेल कोटा के तहत सरकारी नौकरियाँ** खिलाड़ियों के लिए **शॉर्टकट अपनाने का बड़ा आकर्षण** हैं
- It cannot be denied that **lucrative cash awards for big international medals may also be prompting elite athletes to take banned performance-enhancing drugs, despite the risks of adverse effects on health over the years**
इससे इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि बड़े अंतरराष्ट्रीय पदकों पर मिलने वाले **आकर्षक नकद पुरस्कार** भी **शीर्ष खिलाड़ियों** को वर्षों में **स्वास्थ्य पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव** के जोखिम के बावजूद **प्रतिबंधित प्रदर्शन-वर्धक दवाएँ** लेने के लिए प्रेरित कर रहे हैं
- India has passed the **National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, to add muscle to its anti-doping efforts
भारत ने अपने डोपिंग विरोधी प्रयासों को **मज़बूती** देने के लिए **राष्ट्रीय डोपिंग रोधी (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025** पारित किया है
- Whether doping is triggered by **need or greed or ignorance**, the country, under pressure from the **International Olympic Committee**, should make **NADA a truly independent entity** and provide **more funds** to put up a stronger fight against this **menace**, which has kept pace with **modern scientific developments**
चाहे डोपिंग **ज़रूरत, लालच** या **अज्ञानता** से प्रेरित हो, अंतरराष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति के दबाव में देश को **NADA को वास्तव में स्वतंत्र संस्था** बनाना चाहिए और **अधिक धन** उपलब्ध कराना चाहिए, ताकि इस **खतरे** के विरुद्ध मज़बूत लड़ाई लड़ी जा सके, जो **आधुनिक वैज्ञानिक विकास** के साथ कदम मिलाकर बढ़ रहा है

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A year of dissipating promises for Indian foreign policy

GS II: International Relations

MOJ

The year 2025 began as one of considerable promise for Indian foreign policy. After 2024, a year that was dominated by national elections and political recalibration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was expected to resume active diplomacy, with a full calendar of bilateral visits and multilateral engagements. Relations with the United States were expected to be reset under the second term of the Trump administration, continuing from Donald Trump's first term. Long-running Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations with partners such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the European Union (EU) seemed imminent, with commitments to complete them by the end of the year.

Across the geopolitical divide, a new engagement appeared to be taking shape with China after years of a stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), especially after Mr. Modi's visit to China. Economic ties with Russia were also at a high point: India's oil imports from Russia had surged to \$52 billion, with U.S. and EU sanctions pressure having eased. Regionally, the government attempted to repair frayed relationships by reaching out to the Yunus administration in Bangladesh with a visit, in December 2024, by the Foreign Secretary, Vikram Misri, sending External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Pakistan (October 2024), engaging the Taliban leadership in Dubai (January 2025), and preparing for regional visits from Nepal, Sri Lanka, and others. Five years after the Balakot strikes and the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi was also projecting confidence in its security posture and its deterrent capacity for terrorism from Pakistan.

However, many of those expectations for 2025 dissipated by the end of the year. India's foreign policy planners found themselves wrestling with profound challenges across four interconnected domains: economic security, energy security, global strategic stability and regional security.

Economic and energy security

Instead of resetting India-U.S. ties, 2025 proved to be the most difficult year of this century. Actions by the Trump administration on tariffs, immigration and sanctions pushed trust levels back by decades. Washington's decision to levy a steep 25% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods hit key labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, gems and jewellery, and seafood. This followed from the Trump first term, where India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade privileges were withdrawn.

To compound matters, the U.S. introduced a 25% surcharge on Indian imports of Russian oil, effectively making India the most heavily tariffed trading partner. Even if a forthcoming BTA softens the blow, the losses in contracts mean that factory-line closures and the retrenchment of workers remain. Immigration restrictions, particularly on H-1B visas, further undermined remittances, a key pillar of India's foreign exchange inflows. Of all the trade deals on the anvil, India signed FTAs with the U.K., Oman and New Zealand. But the big prizes that leaders had committed to signing in 2025, with the U.S. and the EU, are still pending.

Ties with China and Russia remained tenuous despite the iconic photo-moment of Mr.



Suhasini Haider

Modi-President Xi-President Putin holding hands at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit (September 2025) and the Modi-Putin bear hug on the tarmac of New Delhi airport earlier this month. While India-China flight-visa-pilgrimage links were restored, more fundamental security guarantees for the LAC were not. Neither have economic investment regulations been removed. The hours-long detention of an Indian air passenger from Arunachal Pradesh at Shanghai (November 2025) has raised new concerns.

After three years of resisting western pressure over Russian Ural energy imports, New Delhi appeared to bend, after a new wave of U.S. sanctions. Whether India will be compelled to zero out its Ural imports – similar to how it halted Iranian and Venezuelan oil imports under U.S. pressure in the past – remains uncertain, but the choice carries economic and reputational costs. The India-Russia summit, that ended without any major agreements in strategic spheres such as defence, energy, nuclear and space cooperation, disappointed all the hype preceding it.

Global and regional security

A central challenge for Indian strategists in 2025 has been the rise in global unpredictability. In its 2017 National Security Strategy (NSS), Washington identified China and Russia as "revisionist powers" seeking to undermine U.S. influence and global stability. In contrast, the 2025 NSS presents a softened, more ambiguous stance – avoiding direct mentions of China's aggression in the South China Sea and toward Taiwan, and treating Russia with more caution than criticism. The 2017 NSS hailed India's rise as a "leading global power" and "major defense partner", but the 2025 version offers only a limited articulation of India's role, primarily in the context of Indo-Pacific security and critical minerals. Given the short shrift to traditional U.S. allies in Europe and Asia, any deeper alignment with Washington, as had earlier been envisaged, seems risky now. Mr. Trump's references to his meeting with Xi Jinping as a potential "G-2" only intensify concerns about India's position in the Asian power balance.

At the same time, global acceptance of the Gaza and Ukraine peace proposals – both of which critics argue favour the aggressors – signals a weakening of the international rules-based order. China's rollout of a framework for "Global Governance" reflects its ambition to shape an alternative international architecture. For India, this requires serious thought about its own vision for a future global order, especially as the UN's failures at controlling conflict grow.

India's immediate neighbourhood, which initially appeared stable in early 2025, became more volatile as the year progressed. The terror attack in Pahalgam (April) was a grim reminder that even with the security crackdown in Jammu and Kashmir and past cross-border operations in 2016 and 2019, threats remain embedded. That terrorists came hundreds of kilometres inside the Valley to carry out the killings and escaped should merit serious introspection. India's retaliatory Operation Sindoor was militarily effective, but New Delhi's diplomatic campaign following the strike encountered setbacks. While countries condemned the terror attack, few openly supported India's cross-border response.

Persistent questions – particularly regarding speculation about the loss of Indian jets – damaged India's credibility, as the government neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

Complicating matters were claims that other countries supported Pakistan's military actions. While India set aside concerns over China's role in Pakistan Air Force strikes, ties with Türkiye and Azerbaijan have nose-dived. The announcement of a Saudi-Pakistan mutual defence pact was an additional blow to India's regional calculus.

Mr. Modi's declaration of a "new normal" after the Pahalgam attack led to international worries over rapid escalation of the next conflict in South Asia. India's restrained handling of the Delhi blasts conspiracy (November 2025) eased some of those worries, but the broader issue remains: how will New Delhi respond to the next major attack, especially with Pakistan's political landscape increasingly shaped by the ultra-hawkish Field Marshal Asim Munir?

The 2024 regime-change protests in Bangladesh and the 2025 Gen-Z demonstrations in Nepal have created fragile transitional governments, reducing predictability in India's periphery. With elections in both countries scheduled for early 2026, New Delhi must prepare to engage with new leadership that is not necessarily positively disposed to it. With Bangladesh in particular, the end of the year has seen relations at their lowest ebb yet. The elections in Myanmar, on December 28, will be held on the Junta's terms, despite New Delhi's best attempts at fostering talks with the deposed NUG members and to ask for the more humane treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Lessons for 2026

Several lessons from 2025 stand out clearly. India must recognise the limits of performative diplomacy – warm embraces, highly publicised summits and symbolic gestures such as awards and leaders driving together in the same car do not necessarily translate into tangible gains. Performative aggression – threats to isolate or boycott countries only mean something if other countries join in. The government was sensible in shifting its projection of India as "Vishwaguru" (global teacher) during the G-20 year in 2023 to "Vishwamitra" (global friend). But it must now avoid slipping into the narrative of a "Vishwa-victim", blaming all others – American sanctions, Chinese manoeuvring, Pakistan's machinations, or the "ingratitude" of neighbouring states – for its disappointments.

New Delhi must stop being blind to its own double standards too – concerns over the lynching of a minority member in Bangladesh can only ring true only if the Modi government is prepared to condemn and stop similar attacks on minorities in India. The same is true for concerns about democracy and inclusive elections in the neighbourhood. If rising Islamism in the region is an issue, then how does the government sanguinely sup with the Taliban? In 2026, with a world turning increasingly transactional, India can only bring up principles if it follows them consistently, regardless of whether they pertain to ties with geopolitical powers, or its own neighbours.

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New Delhi confronts challenges that concern economic and energy security, global strategic stability, and regional security

A year of dissipating promises for Indian foreign policy भारतीय विदेश नीति के लिए वादों के बिखरने का एक वर्ष

India's Foreign Policy in 2025 2025 में भारत की विदेश नीति

- The year **2025** began as one of considerable promise for **Indian foreign policy** वर्ष **2025** की शुरुआत **भारतीय विदेश नीति** के लिए काफ़ी उम्मीदों के साथ हुई
- After **2024**, a year that was dominated by **national elections** and **political recalibration**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was expected to resume **active diplomacy**, with a full calendar of **bilateral visits** and **multilateral engagements** **2024** के बाद, जो **राष्ट्रीय चुनावों** और **राजनीतिक पुनर्संयोजन** से प्रभावित रहा, प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** से **सक्रिय कूटनीति** फिर से शुरू करने की अपेक्षा थी, जिसमें **द्विपक्षीय यात्राएँ** और **बहुपक्षीय सहभागिताएँ** शामिल थीं



- Relations with the **United States** were expected to be **reset** under the **second term of the Trump administration**, continuing from **Donald Trump's first term**
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ संबंधों के रीसेट होने की उम्मीद थी, ट्रंप प्रशासन के दूसरे कार्यकाल में, जो डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के पहले कार्यकाल से आगे बढ़ता
- **Long-running Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations** with partners such as the **United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the European Union (EU)** seemed imminent, with commitments to complete them by the **end of the year**
द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते (BTA) को लेकर अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) जैसे साझेदारों के साथ चल रही बातचीत को वर्ष के अंत तक पूरा करने की प्रतिबद्धता दिखाई दे रही थी
- Across the geopolitical divide, a new engagement appeared to be taking shape with **China** after years of a stand-off along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, especially after **Mr. Modi's visit to China**
वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC) पर वर्षों के गतिरोध के बाद, चीन के साथ नए संवाद के संकेत मिले, विशेषकर प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की चीन यात्रा के बाद
- **Economic ties with Russia** were also at a high point as **India's oil imports from Russia** surged to **\$52 billion**, with **U.S. and EU sanctions pressure** having eased
रूस के साथ आर्थिक संबंध भी उच्च स्तर पर थे, क्योंकि रूस से भारत का तेल आयात \$52 बिलियन तक पहुँच गया था और अमेरिका व EU के प्रतिबंधों का दबाव कुछ कम हुआ था
- **Regionally, the government attempted to repair frayed relationships** by reaching out to the **Yunus administration in Bangladesh** with a visit in **December 2024** by the **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri**, sending **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Pakistan (October 2024)**, engaging the **Taliban leadership in Dubai (January 2025)**, and preparing for regional visits from **Nepal, Sri Lanka, and others**
क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर सरकार ने बांग्लादेश में युनुस प्रशासन से संपर्क साधते हुए दिसंबर 2024 में विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिसरी की यात्रा कराई, अक्टूबर 2024 में विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर को पाकिस्तान भेजा, जनवरी 2025 में दुबई में तालिबान नेतृत्व से संवाद किया और नेपाल, श्रीलंका सहित अन्य देशों की यात्राओं की तैयारी की
- Five years after the **Balakot strikes** and the **reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir**, **New Delhi** was projecting confidence in its **security posture** and **deterrent capacity** for terrorism from **Pakistan**
बालाकोट स्ट्राइक और जम्मू-कश्मीर के पुनर्गठन के पाँच वर्ष बाद, नई दिल्ली पाकिस्तान से होने वाले आतंकवाद के विरुद्ध अपनी सुरक्षा स्थिति और प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को लेकर आत्मविश्वास दिखा रही थी
- However, many of those expectations for **2025** dissipated by the **end of the year**
हालाँकि, 2025 के लिए बनी ये कई अपेक्षाएँ वर्ष के अंत तक समाप्त होती दिखीं
- **India's foreign policy planners found themselves wrestling with profound challenges across four interconnected domains** namely **economic security, energy security, global strategic stability, and regional security**
भारत के विदेश नीति नियोजक स्वयं को चार परस्पर जुड़े क्षेत्रों में गहरी चुनौतियों से जूझता पाए, जिनमें आर्थिक सुरक्षा, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, वैश्विक रणनीतिक स्थिरता और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा शामिल हैं

Economic and Energy Security आर्थिक और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा

- Instead of resetting **India-U.S. ties**, **2025** proved to be the **most difficult year of this century**
भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों के रीसेट होने के बजाय, 2025 इस सदी का सबसे कठिन वर्ष सिद्ध हुआ
- Actions by the **Trump administration** on **tariffs, immigration, and sanctions** pushed **trust levels** back by decades
ट्रंप प्रशासन के टैरिफ, आव्रजन और प्रतिबंधों से जुड़े फैसलों ने आपसी विश्वास को दशकों पीछे धकेल दिया
- Washington's decision to levy a steep **25% reciprocal tariff** on **Indian goods** hit key **labour-intensive sectors** such as **apparel, gems and jewellery, and seafood**
वॉशिंगटन द्वारा भारतीय वस्तुओं पर 25% प्रतिशोधी टैरिफ लगाने से परिधान, रत्न एवं आभूषण और समुद्री खाद्य जैसे श्रम-प्रधान क्षेत्रों को गहरा झटका लगा



- This followed from **Trump's first term**, where India's **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** trade privileges were **withdrawn**
यह ट्रंप के पहले कार्यकाल की निरंतरता थी, जब भारत के **GSP व्यापार लाभ** वापस ले लिए गए थे
- To compound matters, the **U.S.** introduced a **25% surcharge** on Indian imports of **Russian oil**, effectively making India the **most heavily tariffed trading partner**
स्थिति को और जटिल बनाते हुए **अमेरिका** ने **रूसी तेल के भारतीय आयात पर 25% अधिभार** लगाया, जिससे भारत **सबसे अधिक टैरिफ झेलने वाला व्यापारिक साझेदार** बन गया
- Even if a forthcoming **BTA** softens the blow, the **losses in contracts** mean that **factory-line closures** and **retrenchment of workers** remain
भविष्य का कोई **BTA** असर को कुछ कम भी कर दे, तब भी **ठेकों के नुकसान** के कारण **कारखानों की बंदी** और **श्रमिकों की छँटनी** की आशंका बनी रहती है
- **Immigration restrictions**, particularly on **H-1B visas**, further undermined **remittances**, a key pillar of India's **foreign exchange inflows**
विशेषकर **H-1B वीजा** पर **आव्रजन प्रतिबंधों** ने **प्रवासी आय** को और कमजोर किया, जो भारत के **विदेशी मुद्रा प्रवाह** का अहम स्तंभ है
- Of all the trade deals on the anvil, **India signed FTAs with the U.K., Oman, and New Zealand**
विचाराधीन सभी व्यापार समझौतों में से भारत ने **ब्रिटेन, ओमान और न्यूज़ीलैंड** के साथ **FTA** पर हस्ताक्षर किए
- But the big prizes that leaders had committed to signing in **2025**, with the **U.S.** and the **EU**, are still **pending**
लेकिन **2025** में **अमेरिका** और **EU** के साथ जिन बड़े समझौतों का वादा किया गया था, वे अब भी **लंबित** हैं
- Ties with **China** and **Russia** remained **tenuous** despite the iconic photo-moment of **Mr. Modi, President Xi, and President Putin** holding hands at the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit (September 2025)** and the **Modi-Putin bear hug** on the tarmac of **New Delhi airport** earlier this month
चीन और रूस के साथ संबंध **कमज़ोर** बने रहे, भले ही **शंघाई सहयोग संगठन शिखर सम्मेलन (सितंबर 2025)** में **मोदी-शी-पुतिन** की प्रतीकात्मक तस्वीर और हाल ही में **नई दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर मोदी-पुतिन** **आलिंगन** देखने को मिला
- While **India-China flight, visa and pilgrimage links** were restored, more fundamental **security guarantees for the LAC** were not
हालाँकि **भारत-चीन उड़ान, वीजा और तीर्थयात्रा संबंध** बहाल हुए, लेकिन **LAC** के लिए बुनियादी **सुरक्षा गारंटी** नहीं मिली
- Neither have **economic investment regulations** been removed
न ही **आर्थिक निवेश से जुड़े प्रतिबंधात्मक नियम** हटाए गए
- The **hours-long detention of an Indian air passenger from Arunachal Pradesh at Shanghai (November 2025)** has raised **new concerns**
नवंबर 2025 में **शंघाई** में **अरुणाचल प्रदेश के एक भारतीय यात्री** को घंटों हिरासत में रखने की घटना ने **नई चिंताओं** को जन्म दिया
- After **three years** of resisting **western pressure over Russian Ural energy imports**, **New Delhi** appeared to bend, after a new wave of **U.S. sanctions**
तीन वर्षों तक **रूसी यूराल ऊर्जा आयात** को लेकर **पश्चिमी दबाव** का विरोध करने के बाद, **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** की नई लहर के पश्चात **नई दिल्ली** झुकती हुई दिखाई दी
- Whether India will be compelled to **zero out its Ural imports** — similar to how it halted **Iranian and Venezuelan oil imports** under **U.S. pressure** in the past — remains **uncertain**, but the choice carries **economic and reputational costs**
क्या भारत को अपने **यूराल आयात शून्य** करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाएगा, जैसे उसने अतीत में **अमेरिकी दबाव** में **ईरानी और वेनेज़ुएलाई तेल आयात** रोके थे, यह **अनिश्चित** है, लेकिन यह विकल्प **आर्थिक और प्रतिष्ठागत लागत** लेकर आता है
- The **India-Russia summit**, that ended without any major agreements in strategic spheres such as **defence, energy, nuclear and space cooperation**, disappointed all the **hype** preceding it
भारत-रूस शिखर सम्मेलन बिना **रक्षा, ऊर्जा, परमाणु और अंतरिक्ष सहयोग** जैसे रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में किसी बड़े समझौते के समाप्त हुआ, जिससे उससे पहले बनी सारी **उम्मीदें** टूट गईं



Global and Regional Security

वैश्विक और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा

- A central challenge for Indian strategists in 2025 has been the rise in **global unpredictability**
2025 में भारतीय रणनीतिकारों के लिए सबसे बड़ी चुनौती वैश्विक अनिश्चितता में वृद्धि रही
- In its **2017 National Security Strategy (NSS)**, Washington identified **China and Russia** as “**revisionist powers**” seeking to undermine **U.S. influence** and **global stability**
अपनी 2017 की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा रणनीति (NSS) में वॉशिंगटन ने चीन और रूस को “संशोधनवादी शक्तियाँ” बताया था, जो अमेरिकी प्रभाव और वैश्विक स्थिरता को कमजोर करना चाहती हैं
- In contrast, the **2025 NSS** presents a **softened, more ambiguous stance**, avoiding direct mentions of **China’s aggression** in the **South China Sea** and toward **Taiwan**, and treating **Russia** with more **caution than criticism**
इसके विपरीत, 2025 NSS एक नरम और अधिक अस्पष्ट रुख अपनाती है, जिसमें दक्षिण चीन सागर और ताइवान के प्रति चीन की आक्रामकता का सीधा उल्लेख नहीं है और रूस के प्रति आलोचना से अधिक सावधानी दिखाई गई है
- The **2017 NSS** hailed India’s rise as a “**leading global power**” and “**major defense partner**”, but the **2025 version** offers only a **limited articulation** of India’s role, primarily in the context of **Indo-Pacific security** and **critical minerals**
2017 NSS ने भारत के उदय को “प्रमुख वैश्विक शक्ति” और “महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा साझेदार” के रूप में सराहा था, लेकिन 2025 संस्करण में भारत की भूमिका का केवल सीमित वर्णन है, वह भी मुख्यतः इंडो-पैसिफिक सुरक्षा और महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के संदर्भ में
- Given the **short shrift** to traditional **U.S. allies** in **Europe and Asia**, any deeper alignment with **Washington**, as earlier envisaged, seems **risky now**
यूरोप और एशिया में पारंपरिक अमेरिकी सहयोगियों को कम महत्व दिए जाने के कारण, वॉशिंगटन के साथ गहरे संरेखण की पहले की कल्पना अब जोखिमपूर्ण लगती है
- **Mr. Trump’s references** to his meeting with **Xi Jinping** as a potential “**G-2**” only intensify concerns about **India’s position** in the **Asian power balance**
शी जिनपिंग के साथ अपनी बैठक को संभावित “G-2” बताने वाले ट्रंप के संदर्भ एशियाई शक्ति संतुलन में भारत की स्थिति को लेकर चिंताओं को और बढ़ाते हैं
- At the same time, global acceptance of the **Gaza and Ukraine peace proposals** — which critics argue **favour the aggressors** — signals a weakening of the **international rules-based order**
साथ ही, गाज़ा और यूक्रेन शांति प्रस्तावों को वैश्विक स्वीकार्यता मिलना, जिन्हें आलोचक आक्रांताओं के पक्ष में मानते हैं, नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था के कमजोर होने का संकेत देता है
- **China’s rollout** of a framework for “**Global Governance**” reflects its ambition to shape an **alternative international architecture**
“वैश्विक शासन” के लिए चीन द्वारा ढाँचे की शुरुआत उसकी वैकल्पिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संरचना गढ़ने की महत्वाकांक्षा को दर्शाती है
- For **India**, this requires serious thought about its **own vision** for a **future global order**, especially as the **UN’s failures** at controlling **conflict** grow
भारत के लिए यह आवश्यक हो जाता है कि वह भविष्य की वैश्विक व्यवस्था के लिए अपनी स्वयं की दृष्टि पर गंभीरता से विचार करे, विशेषकर जब संघर्ष नियंत्रण में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की विफलताएँ बढ़ रही हैं
- **India’s immediate neighbourhood**, which initially appeared **stable** in early 2025, became **more volatile** as the year progressed
2025 की शुरुआत में जो भारत का पड़ोसी क्षेत्र स्थिर दिख रहा था, वह वर्ष बढ़ने के साथ अधिक अस्थिर होता गया
- The **terror attack in Pahalgam (April)** was a grim reminder that even with the **security crackdown** in **Jammu and Kashmir** and past **cross-border operations** in 2016 and 2019, threats remain **embedded**
पहलगाम में आतंकवादी हमला (अप्रैल) इस बात की कड़वी याद दिलाता है कि जम्मू-कश्मीर में सुरक्षा कार्रवाई और 2016 व 2019 की सीमापार कार्रवाइयों के बावजूद खतरे अब भी जमे हुए हैं
- That terrorists came **hundreds of kilometres** inside the **Valley**, carried out the killings and **escaped**, should merit **serious introspection**



यह तथ्य कि आतंकवादी **सैकड़ों किलोमीटर** भीतर घाटी में आए, हत्याएँ कीं और **भाग निकले, गंभीर आत्ममंथन** की माँग करता है

- India's retaliatory **Operation Sindoor** was **militarily effective**, but **New Delhi's diplomatic campaign** following the strike encountered **setbacks**
भारत की प्रतिशोधात्मक **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** सैन्य रूप से **प्रभावी** रही, लेकिन उसके बाद **नई दिल्ली का कूटनीतिक अभियान असफलताओं** से घिर गया
- While countries **condemned the terror attack**, few openly supported **India's cross-border response**
हालाँकि देशों ने **आतंकी हमले की निंदा** की, लेकिन बहुत कम ने **भारत की सीमापार कार्रवाई** का खुलकर समर्थन किया
- **Persistent questions**, particularly regarding speculation about the **loss of Indian jets**, **damaged India's credibility**, as the government **neither confirmed nor denied** the reports
विशेष रूप से **भारतीय विमानों के नुकसान** को लेकर चल रही अटकलों से जुड़े लगातार सवालोंने **भारत की विश्वसनीयता** को नुकसान पहुँचाया, क्योंकि सरकार ने न तो रिपोर्टों की **पुष्टि** की और न ही **खंडन**
- **Complicating matters** were claims that **other countries** supported **Pakistan's military actions**
स्थिति को और जटिल बनाते हुए यह दावे सामने आए कि **अन्य देशों** ने **पाकिस्तान की सैन्य कार्रवाइयों** का समर्थन किया
- While India set aside concerns over **China's role in Pakistan Air Force strikes**, ties with **Türkiye** and **Azerbaijan** have **nose-dived**
हालाँकि भारत ने **पाकिस्तानी वायुसेना हमलों** में **चीन की भूमिका** को लेकर चिंताओं को अलग रखा, लेकिन **तुर्किये** और **अज़रबैजान** के साथ संबंध **तेज़ी से गिर गए**
- The **announcement of a Saudi-Pakistan mutual defence pact** was an **additional blow to India's regional calculus**
सऊदी-पाकिस्तान पारस्परिक रक्षा समझौते की घोषणा **भारत की क्षेत्रीय रणनीति** के लिए एक और झटका साबित हुई
- **Mr. Modi's declaration** of a **"new normal"** after the **Pahalgam attack** led to international worries over **rapid escalation** of the next **South Asian conflict**
पहलगाम हमले के बाद **मोदी** द्वारा घोषित **"न्यू नॉर्मल"** ने अगले **दक्षिण एशियाई संघर्ष** के **तेज़ी से बढ़ने** को लेकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय चिंताएँ पैदा कीं
- India's **restrained handling** of the **Delhi blasts conspiracy (November 2025)** eased some of those worries
नवंबर 2025 में दिल्ली विस्फोट साज़िश को लेकर भारत के **संयमित रवैये** ने इन चिंताओं को कुछ हद तक कम किया
- But the broader issue remains how will **New Delhi respond** to the **next major attack**, especially with **Pakistan's political landscape** increasingly shaped by the **ultra-hawkish Field Marshal Asim Munir**
लेकिन बड़ा सवाल बना हुआ है कि **अगले बड़े हमले पर नई दिल्ली** कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देगी, खासकर जब **पाकिस्तान की राजनीति** पर **अति-आक्रामक फ़िल्ड मार्शल असीम मुनीर** का प्रभाव बढ़ रहा है
- The **2024 regime-change protests in Bangladesh** and the **2025 Gen-Z demonstrations in Nepal** have created **fragile transitional governments**, reducing **predictability** in India's periphery
बांग्लादेश में 2024 के सत्ता परिवर्तन विरोध और **नेपाल में 2025 के Gen-Z प्रदर्शन** ने **कमज़ोर संक्रमणकालीन सरकारें** बनाई हैं, जिससे भारत के पड़ोस में **अनिश्चितता** बढ़ी है
- With **elections scheduled for early 2026** in both countries, **New Delhi** must prepare to engage with **new leadership** not necessarily **positively disposed** to it
दोनों देशों में **2026 की शुरुआत** में होने वाले चुनावों के मद्देनज़र, **नई दिल्ली** को ऐसे **नए नेतृत्व** से जुड़ने की तैयारी करनी होगी जो आवश्यक नहीं कि उसके प्रति **सकारात्मक** हो
- With **Bangladesh** in particular, the **end of the year** has seen relations at their **lowest ebb yet**
विशेष रूप से **बांग्लादेश** के साथ, **वर्ष के अंत** तक संबंध अपने **सबसे निचले स्तर** पर पहुँच गए
- The **elections in Myanmar**, on **December 28**, will be held on the **Junta's terms**, despite **New Delhi's** best attempts at fostering talks with the **deposed NUG members** and asking for **more humane treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi**
म्यांमार में 28 दिसंबर को होने वाले चुनाव **जुंटा की शर्तों** पर ही होंगे, बावजूद इसके कि **नई दिल्ली** ने



अपदस्थ NUG सदस्यों से बातचीत बढ़ाने और आंग सान सू ची के साथ अधिक मानवीय व्यवहार की अपील करने की पूरी कोशिश की

Lessons for 2026 2026 के लिए सबक

- Lessons from 2025 stand out clearly
2025 से कई महत्वपूर्ण सबक स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आते हैं
- India must recognise the limits of **performative diplomacy** — warm embraces, **highly publicised summits** and **symbolic gestures** such as awards and leaders driving together in the same car do not necessarily translate into **tangible gains**
भारत को **प्रदर्शनीय कूटनीति** की सीमाओं को समझना चाहिए — गर्मजोशी भरे आलिंगन, **अत्यधिक प्रचारित शिखर सम्मेलन** और पुरस्कार या नेताओं का एक ही कार में साथ चलना जैसे **प्रतीकात्मक इशारे** हमेशा **ठोस लाभ** में परिवर्तित नहीं होते
- **Performative aggression** — threats to isolate or boycott countries only mean something if **other countries join in**
प्रदर्शनीय आक्रामकता — किसी देश को अलग-थलग करने या बहिष्कार की धमकियाँ तभी मायने रखती हैं जब **अन्य देश भी साथ दें**
- The government was sensible in shifting its projection of India as **“Vishwaguru”** during the **G-20 year in 2023 to “Vishwamitra”**
सरकार ने **2023 के G-20 वर्ष** में भारत को **“विश्वगुरु”** के रूप में प्रस्तुत करने के बजाय **“विश्वमित्र”** की छवि अपनाकर समझदारी दिखाई
- But it must now avoid slipping into the narrative of a **“Vishwa-victim”**, blaming **American sanctions, Chinese manoeuvring, Pakistan’s machinations, or the “ingratitude” of neighbouring states** for its disappointments
लेकिन अब उसे **“विश्व-पीड़ित”** की कहानी में फिसलने से बचना चाहिए, जहाँ असफलताओं के लिए **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों, चीनी चालों, पाकिस्तान की साजिशों** या पड़ोसी देशों की **“कृतघ्नता”** को दोष दिया जाता है
- **New Delhi must stop being blind to its own double standards too**
नई दिल्ली को अपने ही **दोहरे मानदंडों** के प्रति अंधा रहना भी बंद करना होगा
- Concerns over the **lynching of a minority member in Bangladesh** can ring true only if the **Modi government is prepared to condemn and stop similar attacks on minorities in India**
बांग्लादेश में किसी अल्पसंख्यक की लिंगिंग पर चिंता तभी विश्वसनीय होगी जब **मोदी सरकार** भारत में **अल्पसंख्यकों पर होने वाले ऐसे ही हमलों** की निंदा करने और उन्हें रोकने के लिए तैयार हो
- The same is true for concerns about **democracy and inclusive elections** in the neighbourhood
यही बात पड़ोसी देशों में **लोकतंत्र** और **समावेशी चुनावों** को लेकर व्यक्त की जाने वाली चिंताओं पर भी लागू होती है
- **If rising Islamism in the region is an issue, then how does the government sanguinely sup with the Taliban**
यदि क्षेत्र में **बढ़ता इस्लामवाद** एक समस्या है, तो फिर सरकार **तालिबान के साथ सहजता से संवाद** कैसे कर सकती है
- In **2026**, with a world turning increasingly **transactional**, India can only bring up **principles** if it follows them **consistently**
2026 में, जब दुनिया तेजी से **लेन-देन आधारित** हो रही है, भारत तभी **सिद्धांतों** की बात कर सकता है जब वह उन्हें **निरंतरता** से अपनाए
- This must apply regardless of whether they pertain to ties with **geopolitical powers** or with its own **neighbours**
यह सिद्धांत चाहे **भू-राजनीतिक शक्तियों** के साथ संबंधों से जुड़ा हो या अपने ही **पड़ोसियों** से, हर स्थिति में **समान रूप से लागू होना चाहिए**



U.S. naval moves against Venezuela

Which tankers did the U.S. target near Venezuela? How does the U.S. use financial systems to enforce sanctions? What role do insurance and classification societies play? What role does the Office of Foreign Assets Control have?

GS II: IR

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

U.S. President Donald Trump has announced a "total and complete blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers going into and out of Venezuela."

What were the three merchant ships that faced action?

During the week of December 8, the U.S. seized the oil tanker "Skipper" off the coast of Venezuela, carrying nearly two million barrels of crude oil. The U.S. government has indicated it shipped oil at subsidised rates to Cuba, which has been helping the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Last weekend, the U.S. Coast Guard stopped and boarded *Centuries*, a Panamanian-flagged tanker carrying Venezuelan oil. The Venezuelan Navy had escorted the ship to the limit of Venezuela's Exclusive Economic Zone, after which the U.S. Coast Guard stopped it.

During the same day, the Coast Guard attempted to intercept *Bella I*, a tanker enroute to pick up crude oil in Venezuela. The U.S. had previously sanctioned the ship for trading Iranian oil.

What are U.S. sanctions?

As a global body, the United Nations can impose international sanctions that are binding and legally enforceable. These can be military, economic, or a combination of both.

On the other hand, U.S. sanctions can be said to be a type of unilateral, inexpensive economic warfare to achieve foreign policy objectives. Physical enforcement of sanctions is costly and often not effective. A physical blockade of ports and ships after the First Gulf War under the Oil for Food Programme for Iraq cost billions of dollars and did not deter Saddam Hussein from trading oil outside the framework.

Since the Second Gulf War, however, the U.S. has sought to use its leverage in the global financial system to enforce sanctions. The U.S. has direct leverage over the dollar, which is the currency of practically all global financial transactions and certainly all oil. The petrodollar is a tool the U.S. wields to enforce its writ.

The U.S. has direct control over its companies and prohibits them from doing business with nations it has sanctioned. Banks and companies headquartered outside the U.S. also comply with these sanctions to continue using the global financial system, which has the U.S. as the hub, and do business in the large U.S. market.

Non-U.S. banks such as HSBC were, for instance, wary of re-entering Iran even after the Barack Obama administration asked them to do so following the nuclear deal. Companies that had cut ties with Iran were fearful since U.S. companies were still forbidden from doing business with Iran.

In 2014, BNP Paribas agreed to pay \$9 billion in fines for sanctions violations. To curb North Korea's nuclear build-up and other activities, the U.S. threatened to keep a small bank in Macau, Banco Delta Asia, through which North Korea was doing business, out of the U.S. system. This was enough to make the bank pull back, which had its intended effect.

Many global financial transactions that do not involve the U.S. still need to be routed through American intermediaries



At sea: A satellite image shows the Skipper seized by the U.S. REUTERS

of the primary entities. This gives the U.S. government leverage over those transactions and it can block them.

What other shipping sanctions does the U.S. have in place?

Although ship owning, shipbuilding, repair, and operations are spread across various countries, insurance remains in the hands of Western nations, especially the U.K. Shipping is a high-risk business and insurance coverage of ships is an absolute requirement for importers, exporters, and ports.

Reputed insurance companies with deep pockets provide cover once the ship is certified as safe and seaworthy by a few well-known classification societies, which are typically members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). India's Indian Register of Shipping is a member of the IACS.

Once the U.S. slaps sanctions, classification societies withdraw their certification and major insurers withdraw their cover. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russian ships were held up in the Bosphorus because the protection and indemnity (P&I) club companies that cover liabilities for loss of life and environmental damage withdrew their cover. The ships were too risky to handle for Turkey. The Black Sea is the most important shipping route for Russian ships in the West.

Following sanctions on ships and shipping companies, some nations that allow ships to register with them may

choose to withdraw registration for fear of angering the U.S. Such ships or those that have lost their flag registration can be boarded by navies, as per international law, called the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Are U.S. sanctions effective in shipping?

The U.S. has sanctioned companies involved in the trade of Iranian or Russian oil. But Iran is an energy giant and has been able to find alternatives despite losing the cover of big insurers and certification. Russia, too, has been successful to a certain extent in bypassing sanctions that sought to cap the price of Russian oil. The U.S. agency that investigates using its own intelligence service and sanctions individuals and companies that are acting against U.S. foreign policy interests is the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Treasury Department. It periodically puts out lists of sanctioned individuals and companies.

In June 2024, OFAC sanctioned *Bella I* for allegedly carrying cargo for a Hezbollah-owned company. At that time, the U.S. termed it Panama-registered, but shipping databases now say its flag or nationality is unknown. Ships can be boarded by warships for not flying their flag of registration, on suspicion of piracy, including in the slave trade, and so on.

After evading the U.S. Coast Guard, *Bella I* has apparently given out distress signals. *Centuries*' registered owner is in Hong

Kong. *Centuries* was once certified by the American Bureau of Shipping, a big classification society and member of the IACS. In July of this year, the relatively smaller Overseas Marine Classification Society, which is not a member of the IACS and has a presence in China and some of the flags of convenience, stepped in to give certification. *Centuries* is now not listed as having the P&I cover provided by big insurers. Originally Greek-owned, *Centuries* had called on U.S. ports initially under another name, but after a change of hands has been calling on ports in the Middle America, Africa, China and so on.

Skipper was once owned by the Japanese NYK and later by a Greek company. It changed hands in 2019 to the present owner, which is headquartered in Nigeria. Shipping databases show that it had been classified by IACS members, but the last such certification was withdrawn in 2022. U.S. authorities said it flew the flag of Guyana falsely, which could make it legal for them to detain the vessel as per international law.

The above three ships are examples of what Western nations have dubbed the shadow fleet. They also show how countries such as Russia, Iran, Venezuela, and likely China have been collaborating to break the hold that the U.S. has on global finance and merchant shipping. That the U.S. government had to order a physical blockade in Venezuela would seem to indicate that they have been able to succeed to an extent.

THE GIST

▼ The U.S. seized or intercepted three Venezuelan oil tankers — *Skipper*, *Centuries*, and *Bella I* — for carrying crude oil or trading with sanctioned entities.

▼ *Skipper* was shipping oil to Cuba at subsidised rates, aiding the Maduro government; *Centuries* was stopped after a Venezuelan Navy escort; *Bella I* had been previously sanctioned for trading Iranian oil.

▼ These ships are examples of the shadow fleet, showing how countries like Venezuela bypass sanctions, prompting the U.S. to order a physical blockade.

U.S. naval moves against Venezuela वेनेजुएला के विरुद्ध अमेरिकी नौसैनिक कदम

- U.S. President Donald Trump has announced a "total and complete blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers going into and out of Venezuela"
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने "वेनेजुएला में आने-जाने वाले सभी प्रतिबंधित तेल टैंकरों की पूर्ण और संपूर्ण नाकेबंदी" की घोषणा की है

What were the three merchant ships that faced action
वे तीन व्यापारी जहाज़ कौन से थे जिन पर कार्रवाई हुई



- During the week of **December 8**, the **U.S. seized the oil tanker "Skipper" off the coast of Venezuela, carrying nearly two million barrels of crude oil**
8 दिसंबर के सप्ताह के दौरान अमेरिका ने वेनेजुएला के तट के पास "स्किपर" तेल टैंकर को ज़ब्त किया, जो लगभग 20 लाख बैरल कच्चा तेल ले जा रहा था
- The U.S. government has indicated it shipped oil at **subsidised rates to Cuba**, which has been helping the government of Venezuelan President **Nicolás Maduro**
अमेरिकी सरकार ने संकेत दिया कि यह तेल **क्यूबा** को **सब्सिडी दरों** पर भेजा गया था, जो वेनेजुएला के राष्ट्रपति **निकोलस माद्रो** की सरकार की मदद कर रहा है
- Last weekend, the **U.S. Coast Guard stopped and boarded "Centuries"**, a **Panamanian-flagged tanker carrying Venezuelan oil**
पिछले सप्ताहांत **अमेरिकी तटरक्षक बल** ने "सेंचुरीज़" नामक **पनामाई ध्वज वाले टैंकर** को रोका और उस पर चढ़ाई की, जो **वेनेजुएला का तेल** ले जा रहा था
- The **Venezuelan Navy** had escorted the ship to the limit of **Venezuela's Exclusive Economic Zone**
वेनेजुएला की नौसेना ने जहाज़ को **वेनेजुएला के विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र** की सीमा तक पहुँचाया था
- After which the **U.S. Coast Guard stopped it**
इसके बाद **अमेरिकी तटरक्षक बल** ने उसे रोक लिया
- During the same day, the Coast Guard attempted to intercept "**Bella 1**", a tanker **enroute to pick up crude oil in Venezuela**
उसी दिन तटरक्षक बल ने "**बेला 1**" नामक टैंकर को रोकने की कोशिश की, जो **वेनेजुएला में कच्चा तेल लेने जा रहा था**
- The U.S. had previously **sanctioned the ship** for trading **Iranian oil**
अमेरिका ने पहले ही इस जहाज़ पर **ईरानी तेल के व्यापार** के कारण **प्रतिबंध** लगाया था

What are U.S. sanctions अमेरिकी प्रतिबंध क्या हैं

- **As a global body, the United Nations can impose international sanctions that are binding and legally enforceable**
एक वैश्विक निकाय के रूप में **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** ऐसे **अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबंध** लगा सकता है जो **बाध्यकारी और कानूनी रूप से लागू** होते हैं
- **These can be military, economic, or a combination of both**
ये **सैन्य, आर्थिक, या दोनों का संयोजन** हो सकते हैं
- On the other hand, **U.S. sanctions can be said to be a type of unilateral, inexpensive economic warfare to achieve foreign policy objectives**
दूसरी ओर **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** को **विदेश नीति उद्देश्यों** को हासिल करने के लिए **एकपक्षीय और कम लागत वाले आर्थिक युद्ध** के रूप में देखा जा सकता है
- **Physical enforcement of sanctions is costly and often not effective**
प्रतिबंधों का **भौतिक प्रवर्तन महंगा** होता है और अक्सर **प्रभावी नहीं** होता
- **A physical blockade of ports and ships after the First Gulf War under the Oil for Food Programme for Iraq cost billions of dollars**
पहले खाड़ी युद्ध के बाद **इराक के लिए ऑयल फॉर फूड प्रोग्राम** के तहत **बंदरगाहों और जहाज़ों की भौतिक नाकेबंदी पर अरबों डॉलर खर्च** हुए
- And did **not deter Saddam Hussein** from trading oil outside the framework
और इससे **सद्दाम हुसैन** को **ढाँचे के बाहर तेल व्यापार** करने से **नहीं रोका जा सका**
- **Since the Second Gulf War, however, the U.S. has sought to use its leverage in the global financial system to enforce sanctions**
लेकिन **दूसरे खाड़ी युद्ध** के बाद से अमेरिका ने प्रतिबंध लागू करने के लिए **वैश्विक वित्तीय प्रणाली में अपनी पकड़ का उपयोग** करना शुरू किया
- The U.S. has **direct leverage over the dollar**, which is the currency of **practically all global financial transactions and certainly all oil**
अमेरिका का **डॉलर पर प्रत्यक्ष नियंत्रण** है, जो लगभग **सभी वैश्विक वित्तीय लेनदेन और निश्चित रूप से सभी तेल व्यापार** की मुद्रा है
- The **petrodollar is a tool the U.S. wields to enforce its writ**
पेट्रोडॉलर वह उपकरण है जिसके माध्यम से अमेरिका **अपना आदेश लागू** करता है



- The U.S. has **direct control over its companies** and prohibits them from **doing business with sanctioned nations**
अमेरिका का अपनी **कंपनियों पर प्रत्यक्ष नियंत्रण** है और वह उन्हें **प्रतिबंधित देशों** के साथ व्यापार करने से रोकता है
- **Banks and companies headquartered outside the U.S. also comply with these sanctions**
अमेरिका के बाहर **मुख्यालय** वाली बैंक और कंपनियाँ भी इन **प्रतिबंधों का पालन** करती हैं
- To continue using the **global financial system**, which has the **U.S. as the hub**, and do business in the **large U.S. market**
ताकि वे **वैश्विक वित्तीय प्रणाली** का उपयोग जारी रख सकें, जिसका **केंद्र अमेरिका** है, और **बड़े अमेरिकी बाज़ार** में व्यापार कर सकें
- **Non-U.S. banks such as HSBC were wary of re-entering Iran even after the Barack Obama administration** asked them to do so following the **nuclear deal**
HSBC जैसे गैर-अमेरिकी बैंक **ईरान में फिर से प्रवेश** करने से हिचक रहे थे, भले ही **बराक ओबामा प्रशासन** ने **परमाणु समझौते** के बाद उनसे ऐसा करने को कहा था
- Companies that had **cut ties with Iran** were **fearful** since **U.S. companies** were still **forbidden** from doing business with Iran
जिन कंपनियों ने **ईरान से संबंध तोड़ लिए** थे, वे **डरी हुईं** थीं क्योंकि **अमेरिकी कंपनियों** को अभी भी ईरान के साथ व्यापार करने से **प्रतिबंधित** किया गया था

U.S. financial and shipping sanctions अमेरिकी वित्तीय और शिपिंग प्रतिबंध

- In 2014, **BNP Paribas** agreed to pay **\$9 billion in fines** for **sanctions violations**
2014 में **बीएनपी पारिबा** ने **प्रतिबंध उल्लंघन** के लिए **9 अरब डॉलर का जुर्माना** चुकाने पर सहमति दी
- To curb **North Korea's nuclear build-up** and other activities, the U.S. threatened to keep a **small bank in Macau, Banco Delta Asia**, through which North Korea was doing business, **out of the U.S. system**
उत्तर कोरिया के परमाणु विस्तार और अन्य गतिविधियों पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए अमेरिका ने **मकाऊ के एक छोटे बैंक, बैंको डेल्टा एशिया**, जिसे उत्तर कोरिया व्यापार के लिए उपयोग कर रहा था, को **अमेरिकी प्रणाली से बाहर रखने** की धमकी दी
- This was enough to make the **bank pull back**, which had its **intended effect**
यह **बैंक को पीछे हटने** के लिए पर्याप्त था और इसका **वांछित प्रभाव** पड़ा
- **Many global financial transactions that do not involve the U.S. still need to be routed through American intermediaries of the primary entities**
कई **वैश्विक वित्तीय लेनदेन** जो **अमेरिका से सीधे जुड़े नहीं** होते, उन्हें भी मुख्य संस्थाओं के **अमेरिकी मध्यस्थों** के माध्यम से **रूट** करना पड़ता है
- This gives the **U.S. government leverage** over those transactions and it can **block them** इससे **अमेरिकी सरकार** को उन लेनदेन पर **दबाव की शक्ति** मिलती है और वह उन्हें **रोक** सकती है

What other shipping sanctions does the U.S. have in place अमेरिका के पास और कौन से शिपिंग प्रतिबंध हैं

- Although **ship owning, shipbuilding, repair, and operations** are spread across **various countries, insurance** remains in the hands of **Western nations, especially the U.K.**
हालाँकि **जहाज़ स्वामित्व, जहाज़ निर्माण, मरम्मत और संचालन विभिन्न देशों** में फैले हैं, लेकिन **बीमा** अब भी **पश्चिमी देशों**, विशेषकर **यूके**, के हाथों में है
- **Shipping is a high-risk business** and **insurance coverage** of ships is an **absolute requirement** for **importers, exporters, and ports**
शिपिंग एक **उच्च जोखिम वाला व्यवसाय** है और **आयातकों, निर्यातकों और बंदरगाहों** के लिए जहाज़ों का **बीमा कवरेज अनिवार्य** है
- **Reputed insurance companies with deep pockets** provide cover once the ship is **certified as safe and seaworthy** by **well-known classification societies**
मजबूत पूंजी वाली **प्रतिष्ठित बीमा कंपनियाँ** तब कवरेज देती हैं जब जहाज़ को **प्रसिद्ध वर्गीकरण संस्थाओं** द्वारा **सुरक्षित और समुद्र-योग्य** प्रमाणित किया जाता है



- These societies are typically members of the **International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)**
ये संस्थाएँ सामान्यतः इंटरनेशनल एसोसिएशन ऑफ क्लासिफिकेशन सोसाइटीज़ (IACS) की सदस्य होती हैं
- **India's Indian Register of Shipping is a member of the IACS**
भारत का इंडियन रजिस्टर ऑफ शिपिंग IACS का सदस्य है
- **Once the U.S. slaps sanctions, classification societies withdraw certification and major insurers withdraw cover**
जैसे ही अमेरिका प्रतिबंध लगाता है, वर्गीकरण संस्थाएँ प्रमाणन वापस ले लेती हैं और बड़े बीमाकर्ता कवरेज हटा लेते हैं
- Following **Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russian ships were held up in the Bosphorus**
रूस द्वारा यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण के बाद रूसी जहाज़ बॉस्फोरस में रोक दिए गए
- Because the **protection and indemnity (P&I) club companies** that cover **loss of life and environmental damage withdrew their cover**
क्योंकि प्रोटेक्शन एंड इंडेन्निटी (P&I) क्लब कंपनियों ने मानव जीवन की हानि और पर्यावरणीय नुकसान के लिए दिया जाने वाला कवरेज वापस ले लिया
- The ships were **too risky** to handle for **Turkiye**
ये जहाज़ तुर्किये के लिए संभालना अत्यधिक जोखिमपूर्ण थे
- The **Black Sea** is the **most important shipping route** for **Russian ships in the West**
ब्लैक सी पश्चिम में रूसी जहाज़ों के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण शिपिंग मार्ग है
- Following **sanctions on ships and shipping companies**, some **nations** that allow ships to **register with them** may choose to **withdraw registration**
जहाज़ों और शिपिंग कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंधों के बाद कुछ देश, जो जहाज़ों को अपने यहाँ पंजीकरण की अनुमति देते हैं, पंजीकरण वापस ले सकते हैं
- For fear of **angering the U.S.**
अमेरिका को नाराज़ करने के डर से
- Such ships or those that have **lost their flag registration** can be **boarded by navies**
ऐसे जहाज़ या वे जिनका ध्वज पंजीकरण समाप्त हो गया हो, उन्हें नौसेनाएँ बोर्ड कर सकती हैं
- As per **international law**, called the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**
अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के अनुसार, जिसे संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री क़ानून संधि कहा जाता है

Are U.S. sanctions effective in shipping क्या शिपिंग में अमेरिकी प्रतिबंध प्रभावी हैं

- The U.S. has **sanctioned companies** involved in the trade of **Iranian or Russian oil**
अमेरिका ने ईरानी या रूसी तेल के व्यापार में शामिल कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं
- But **Iran is an energy giant** and has been able to **find alternatives** despite losing the cover of **big insurers** and **certification**
लेकिन ईरान एक ऊर्जा महाशक्ति है और बड़े बीमाकर्ताओं तथा प्रमाणीकरण के कवरेज खोने के बावजूद विकल्प खोजने में सक्षम रहा है
- **Russia**, too, has been **successful to a certain extent** in **bypassing sanctions** that sought to **cap the price of Russian oil**
रूस भी कुछ हद तक रूसी तेल की कीमत सीमित करने वाले प्रतिबंधों को दरकिनार करने में सफल रहा है
- The **U.S. agency that investigates using its own intelligence service** and **sanctions individuals and companies** acting against **U.S. foreign policy interests** is the **Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)** of the **Treasury Department**
अमेरिका की वह एजेंसी जो अपनी खुफिया सेवा के माध्यम से जांच करती है और अमेरिकी विदेश नीति हितों के विरुद्ध काम करने वाले व्यक्तियों और कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध लगाती है, वह ट्रेज़री विभाग का ऑफिस ऑफ फॉरेन एसेट्स कंट्रोल (OFAC) है
- **It periodically puts out lists of sanctioned individuals and companies**
यह समय-समय पर प्रतिबंधित व्यक्तियों और कंपनियों की सूचियाँ जारी करता है
- In **June 2024**, **OFAC sanctioned Bella 1** for allegedly carrying cargo for a **Hezbollah-owned company**



जून 2024 में OFAC ने बेला 1 पर हिज़्बुल्लाह के स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी के लिए कार्गो ले जाने के आरोप में प्रतिबंध लगाया

- At that time, the U.S. termed it **Panama-registered**, but **shipping databases** now say its **flag or nationality is unknown**
उस समय अमेरिका ने इसे पनामा-पंजीकृत बताया था, लेकिन अब शिपिंग डेटाबेस कहते हैं कि इसका ध्वज या राष्ट्रीयता अज्ञात है
- **Ships can be boarded by warships for not flying their flag of registration, on suspicion of piracy, slave trade, and so on**
यदि जहाज़ अपना पंजीकृत ध्वज नहीं फहराते हैं तो समुद्री डकैती, दास व्यापार आदि के संदेह में युद्धपोतों द्वारा बोर्ड किए जा सकते हैं
- After **evading the U.S. Coast Guard**, **Bella 1** has apparently **given out distress signals**
अमेरिकी तटरक्षक बल से बच निकलने के बाद बेला 1 ने कथित तौर पर संकट संकेत भेजे हैं
- **Centuries' registered owner is in Hong Kong**
सेंचुरीज़ का पंजीकृत स्वामी हांगकांग में है
- **Centuries was once certified by the American Bureau of Shipping, a major classification society and member of the IACS**
सेंचुरीज़ को कभी अमेरिकन ब्यूरो ऑफ शिपिंग द्वारा प्रमाणित किया गया था, जो एक प्रमुख वर्गीकरण संस्था और IACS का सदस्य है
- In **July of this year**, the **smaller Overseas Marine Classification Society**, which is **not a member of the IACS** and has a presence in **China** and some **flags of convenience**, stepped in to **give certification**
इस वर्ष जुलाई में ओवरसीज़ मरीन क्लासिफिकेशन सोसाइटी, जो IACS की सदस्य नहीं है और चीन तथा कुछ फ्लैग ऑफ कन्वीनियंस देशों में मौजूद है, ने प्रमाणीकरण प्रदान किया
- **Centuries is now not listed as having the P&I cover provided by big insurers**
अब सेंचुरीज़ को बड़े बीमाकर्ताओं द्वारा दिया गया P&I कवरेज प्राप्त जहाज़ के रूप में सूचीबद्ध नहीं किया गया है
- Originally **Greek-owned**, **Centuries** had called on **U.S. ports** initially under **another name**
मूल रूप से ग्रीक स्वामित्व वाला सेंचुरीज़, पहले किसी अन्य नाम से अमेरिकी बंदरगाहों पर गया था
- But after a **change of hands**, it has been calling on ports in **Middle America, Africa, China**, and so on
लेकिन स्वामित्व परिवर्तन के बाद यह मध्य अमेरिका, अफ्रीका, चीन आदि के बंदरगाहों पर जा रहा है
- **Skipper** was once owned by the **Japanese NYK** and later by a **Greek company**
स्किपर पहले जापानी NYK और बाद में एक ग्रीक कंपनी के स्वामित्व में था
- It **changed hands in 2019** to the **present owner**, headquartered in **Nigeria**
यह 2019 में नाइजीरिया मुख्यालय वाले वर्तमान स्वामी के पास गया
- **Shipping databases** show that it had been **classified by IACS members**, but the **last certification was withdrawn in 2022**
शिपिंग डेटाबेस दर्शाते हैं कि इसे IACS सदस्यों द्वारा वर्गीकृत किया गया था, लेकिन अंतिम प्रमाणन 2022 में वापस ले लिया गया
- U.S. authorities said it **flew the flag of Guyana falsely**
अमेरिकी अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह गयाना का ध्वज झूठे रूप से फहरा रहा था
- Which could make it **legal to detain the vessel as per international law**
जिससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत इस जहाज़ को हिरासत में लेना वैध हो सकता है
- The above **three ships** are examples of what **Western nations** have dubbed the **shadow fleet**
उपरोक्त तीन जहाज़ उन उदाहरणों में हैं जिन्हें पश्चिमी देश शैडो फ्लीट कहते हैं
- They also show how **countries such as Russia, Iran, Venezuela, and likely China** have been **collaborating**
ये यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि रूस, ईरान, वेनेजुएला और संभवतः चीन किस तरह सहयोग कर रहे हैं
- **To break the hold that the U.S. has on global finance and merchant shipping**
ताकि वैश्विक वित्त और व्यापारी शिपिंग पर अमेरिका की पकड़ को तोड़ा जा सके
- **That the U.S. government had to order a physical blockade in Venezuela** would seem to indicate that they have been able to **succeed to an extent**
यह तथ्य कि अमेरिकी सरकार को वेनेजुएला में भौतिक नाकेबंदी का आदेश देना पड़ा, यह संकेत देता है कि वे कुछ हद तक सफल रहे हैं



GS Paper III: Economy,	
TOPICS COVERED	26_12_2025
1.	Narsapuram crochet lace regains its mojo नरसापुरम क्रोशे लेस ने फिर से अपनी रौनक पाई
2.	Fragile attractiveness नाजूक आकर्षण

Narsapuram crochet lace regains its mojo

Two years after craft was paralysed by pandemic, product exports cross ₹150-crore mark; GI tag, design and development by International Lace Trade Centre are driving forces for the recovery

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NARSAPURAM

The exports of Narsapuram crochet lace products crossed the ₹150-crore mark in the present fiscal year till December-end, two years after the craft was paralysed with the economic impact of the COVID-19.

Nearly 15,000 artisans are involved in the craft, which received the Geographical Indication tag in March. The craft is now back on track in the 19 mandals in West Godavari and Dr. B.R.



Intricate design: K.N. Tulasi Rao, convener of EPCH, interacting with a crochet lace artisan in Narsapuram. T. APPALA NAIDU

Ambedkar Konaseema districts in Andhra Pradesh. Nearly 60% of craftspeople are women. "The exports of

Narsapuram crochet lace, crafted by the artisans of our region, have crossed ₹150 crore by the end of December. Europe, U.S.,

France and the Middle East remain the major importers of the crochet lace products from Narsapuram," said K.N. Tulasi Rao, convener of South Region Exports Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH, Ministry of Textiles).

"The Geographical Indication tag, exhibitions, design and development being done in the International Lace Trade Centre (ILTC-Narsapuram), quality of products compared with Panipat and Meerut have been driving forces," Mr. Rao added.

Narsapuram crochet lace regains its mojo नरसापुरम क्रोशे लेस ने फिर से अपनी रौनक पाई

- Two years after craft was paralysed by pandemic, product exports cross **₹150-crore** mark; **GI tag**, design and development by **International Lace Trade Centre** are driving forces for the recovery
महामारी से शिल्प के ठप पड़ने के दो साल बाद, उत्पाद निर्यात **₹150 करोड़** के आंकड़े को पार कर गया; **जीआई टैग**, इंटरनेशनल लेस ट्रेड सेंटर द्वारा डिजाइन और विकास पुनरुद्धार की प्रमुख ताकतें हैं
- The exports of **Narsapuram crochet lace** products crossed the **₹150-crore** mark in the present fiscal year till **December-end**, two years after the craft was paralysed with the economic impact of the **COVID-19**.
नरसापुरम क्रोशे लेस उत्पादों का निर्यात चालू वित्त वर्ष में **दिसंबर अंत तक ₹150 करोड़** के आंकड़े को पार कर गया, जो **कोविड-19** के आर्थिक प्रभाव से शिल्प के ठप पड़ने के दो साल बाद हुआ।
- Nearly **15,000 artisans** are involved in the craft, which received the **Geographical Indication** tag in **March**.
लगभग **15,000 कारीगर** इस शिल्प से जुड़े हैं, जिसे **मार्च** में **भौगोलिक संकेत (जीआई)** टैग मिला।
- The craft is now back on track in the **19 mandals** in **West Godavari** and **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema** districts in **Andhra Pradesh**.
यह शिल्प अब **आंध्र प्रदेश** के **पश्चिम गोदावरी** और **डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर कोनसीमा** जिलों के **19 मंडलों** में फिर से पटरी पर लौट आया है।



- Nearly **60%** of craftspeople are **women**.
लगभग **60%** कारीगर **महिलाएं** हैं।
- “The exports of **Narsapuram crochet lace**, crafted by the artisans of our region, have crossed **₹150 crore** by the end of **December**. **Europe, U.S., France and the Middle East** remain the major importers of the crochet lace products from **Narsapuram**,” said **K.N. Tulasi Rao**, convener of **South Region Exports Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH, Ministry of Textiles)**.
“हमारे क्षेत्र के कारीगरों द्वारा तैयार **नरसापुरम क्रोशे लेस** का निर्यात **दिसंबर** के अंत तक **₹150 करोड़** को पार कर गया है। **यूरोप, अमेरिका, फ्रांस और मध्य पूर्व** नरसापुरम के क्रोशे लेस उत्पादों के प्रमुख आयातक बने हुए हैं,” **के.एन. तुलसी राव**, संयोजक, **दक्षिण क्षेत्र हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद (ईपीसीएच, वस्त्र मंत्रालय)** ने कहा।
- “The **Geographical Indication** tag, exhibitions, design and development being done in the **International Lace Trade Centre (ILTC Narsapuram)**, quality of products compared with **crochet lace products of Panipat and Meerut** have been driving forces,” Mr. Rao added.
“**भौगोलिक संकेत (जीआई)** टैग, प्रदर्शनियां, **इंटरनेशनल लेस ट्रेड सेंटर (आईएलटीसी नरसापुरम)** में हो रहा डिजाइन और विकास, तथा **पानीपत और मेरठ** के क्रोशे लेस उत्पादों की तुलना में उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता — ये सभी प्रेरक शक्तियां रही हैं,” श्री राव ने जोड़ा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



GS III: Economy

MQB

Fragile attractiveness

India's best efforts to bring in investment can be upended by the U.S.

The latest foreign direct investment (FDI) data show how India's attractiveness as an investment destination is not yet cemented and remains fragile. Net FDI remained negative for the third consecutive month in October 2025, which means that more direct investment was taken out of India than invested in it. The timing reveals a lot. At the end of July, U.S. President Donald Trump revealed that he would be levying a 25% tariff on India. A week later, he raised this to 50%. That is when investment began to leave India. Prior to August, India's net FDI position in 2025-26 had been quite comfortable. In the April-July 2025 period, net FDI totalled \$10.7 billion, more than triple what it was in the same period of the previous year. However, in August 2025, investors pulled out \$622 million more than they put in, followed by \$1.7 billion in September, and \$1.5 billion in October. India's cumulative net FDI position in 2025-26 by the end of October 2025 had fallen to \$6.2 billion. This is still nearly double what it was in April-October 2024, but the point is that the direction has changed. One defence of the FDI numbers has been that the net FDI figure looks poor because outflows are simply exceeding robust inflows. However, in both August and October, gross inflows themselves were lower on a year-on-year basis. This contrasts against an average growth rate of about 33% in April-July 2025. In addition, this financial year has shown that the increase in outflows has been driven by Indian companies looking to invest abroad. One way to look at this is with satisfaction – that Indian companies are increasingly becoming internationally competitive in scale and resources. However, with the Indian economy far from saturated in terms of supply, the question to be asked is why these companies are not investing here. This is not merely a shifting of profits abroad in the form of repatriation. It reveals a deeper issue.

From the 2019 corporate tax rate cuts, to Production Linked Incentives, to trying to boost demand through income-tax and Goods and Services Tax cuts, the government has done a lot to encourage the private sector to invest. These were all welcomed by Indian and foreign corporations, who touted them as “structural reforms”. Yet, it took just one episode of tariffs by one country to rock India's image as a good investment destination. Even the Reserve Bank of India said that uncertainty over the U.S. trade deal was pushing foreign portfolio investors to exit Indian equities. This goes to show that shiny headlines of ‘fastest-growing’, ‘largest market’, and ‘third-fastest’ do not cut much ice with investors. They work in fair weather, but are flimsy in the face of the slightest headwinds. Such claims need real structural reforms to bolster them.

Fragile attractiveness

नाज़ुक आकर्षण

- Net FDI remained **negative** for the third consecutive month in **October 2025**, which means that more direct investment was taken out of India than invested in it
- Prior to **August**, India's net FDI position in **2025-26** had been quite **comfortable**

अगस्त से पहले, 2025-26 में भारत की शुद्ध FDI स्थिति काफ़ी संतोषजनक थी

- In the **April–July 2025** period, net FDI totalled **\$10.7 billion**, more than **triple** what it was in the same period of the previous year

- India's **cumulative net FDI position in 2025-26** by the end of **October 2025** had fallen to **\$6.2 billion**

- In addition, this financial year has shown that the increase in **outflows** has been driven by **Indian companies looking to invest abroad**

इसके अतिरिक्त, इस वित्तीय वर्ष में बहिर्वाह में वृद्धि का कारण भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेश में निवेश की तलाश रहा है

- One way to look at this is with satisfaction — that Indian companies are increasingly becoming **internationally competitive in scale and resources** इसे संतोष के रूप में भी देखा जा सकता है कि भारतीय कंपनियाँ पैमाने और संसाधनों में लगातार अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बन रही हैं

- However, with the Indian economy far from **saturated** in terms of supply, the question to be asked is why these companies are **not investing here**

- From the **2019 corporate tax rate cuts**, to **Production Linked Incentives**, to trying to boost demand through **income-tax** and **Goods and Services Tax cuts**, the government has done a lot to encourage the **private sector** to invest

- Even the **Reserve Bank of India** said that uncertainty over the **U.S. trade deal** was pushing **foreign portfolio investors** to exit Indian equities



GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	26 12 2025
1. Rabies: the cruel and expensive disease of India's most impoverished रेबीज़: भारत के सबसे वंचित वर्गों की क्रूर और महंगी बीमारी	

Rabies: the cruel and expensive disease of India's most impoverished

Of the 59,000 rabies-mediated human deaths in the world every year, India represents a third, around 20,000, and more than any other country, according to a paper; besides a lack of awareness of the disease, poor accessibility, affordability, and availability of PEP makes it a serious public health problem

SS III, S&T
Divya Gandhi
Afshan Yasmeen

There is a ward at the government Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Bengaluru from where every single patient is wheeled out dead. The windows are blackened, the room is airless, the only piece of furniture is a solitary cot. This room is not a punitive space: on the contrary, it is refuge for rabies patients who suffer hydrophobia, the fear of light, even of air.

Recently, a 50-year-old construction worker from Delhi was brought in after a rabid dog bit him months ago. "He will be dead by tonight," says Suresh N.V., Bengaluru district surgeon, who is also the medical superintendent of the hospital. This was patient number 17 this year, just in this one hospital. "Some patients can be sedated to stop them from hallucinating and for hyperactivity, but others can get very aggressive," he says. One patient, the doctor recalls, lay crumpled with fear that the army was out to get him. Death by rabies is frightening, painful, and inexorably cruel.

Of the 59,000 rabies-mediated human deaths in the world every year, India represents a third, around 20,000, and more than any other country, according to a paper published in *One Health* in December 2024. Rabies is endemic to India, with the main reservoir of the virus being dogs, and the poorest, the majority of the patients.

Days, weeks or months after a rabid dog bite, if the victim is not vaccinated, death is inevitable. The symptoms begin with paralysis from the feet upwards, typically followed by cardio-respiratory failure that finally strikes the victims down. Rabies is a neurotropic virus, and unlike other pathogens, travel via the peripheral nerves (not blood) to the spinal chord, and then to the brain. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) involves immediately washing the wound under running water with soap for 15 minutes, followed by the anti-rabies vaccination (ARV), rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) and a tetanus shot.

Who is at risk? "Human populations inhabiting areas that sustain free-roaming dogs are at the high risk of being bitten," says Harish Kumar Tiwari, of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, and co-author of the *One Health* paper, describing rabies as being a disease of the poor and vulnerable. These are usually daily wage workers, often living on the margins of the society: brick kiln workers, waste collectors, rural and remote populations, farming communities. "Besides a lack of awareness of the disease, there is poor accessibility, affordability, and availability of PEP," he points out.

In November 2025, the Supreme Court directed all States to remove stray dogs



Need for care: Controlling street dog population involves birth control surgeries, anti-rabies vaccination, and establishment of shelters. H. VISU

from hospital premises, educational institutions, railway stations and other spaces of public use and place them in shelters after they are sterilised and vaccinated. Animal rights activists have, ever since the court order, claimed that this prospective programme is "impractical" and "cruel". According to data available, there are 80 million free roaming dogs in India and 20 million dog bites per year, making rabies a large public health problem.

Economics at play

Access to good quality, affordable healthcare continues to remain unavailable to large parts of the country, out-of-pocket expenditure on health is high, and families, to date, are pushed into poverty due to medical costs. But with rabies, finances play a role even before health is compromised.

Take the case of a 59-year-old man in a village in Assam (as recounted by the *One Health* paper researchers), who died of rabies after being bitten by a neighbour's pup. The pup was not immunised by the family because of financial constraints. In May 2023, the pup "attacked the victim unprovoked, causing deep bite wounds." Even though he was administered PEP and RIG (at a private hospital because the government one refused to hospitalise him citing "unsatisfactory care by the staff") he soon developed a headache, high fever, began drooling saliva and experienced difficulty in drinking or swallowing one month later. He then became violent, and eventually died.

"In the order of significance of the actions that led to rabies death, the lack of seriousness on the part of the hospital staff to attend to dog bite injury, prompting the patient to approach a local

private nursing home, ranks foremost," states the *One Health* paper. While the patient in this case faced unacceptable delays in treatment, the treatment itself – PEP and RIG – continues to remain out of reach for many dog bite victims. A January 2025 study in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, which surveyed 3,37,808 individuals in 60 districts in 15 Indian States, found that among those who had been bitten by a dog, 20.5% did not receive ARV and nearly half (49%) of those who received one dose "did not complete their full course of vaccination", says M. K. Sudarshan, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Rabies, one of the authors of the paper.

Doctors note that when it comes to a small bleed or severe dog / animal bite, the rabies vaccine alone is not enough. An RIG that is injected into the dog bite wounds is needed: RIG is life saving. But the country suffers from a severe shortage of RIG, and it is only used for bites that bleed, not for a lick on a scratch, which could cause rabies too, says Aniruddha Belsare, assistant professor of disease ecology at Auburn University, U.S. "Most public health hospitals do not even have doctors, leave alone RIG for bite victims," he says, forcing families to run from pillar to post to try and obtain it. RIG is also prohibitively expensive: costing anywhere between ₹5,000 and ₹20,000. As a result, dog bite victims, mainly children under 15 (forming 40% of cases in India), are taken to local quacks who use substances such as chilli powder and chalk to "cure" the disease, Dr. Belsare says.

RIG apart, even ARV, is in short supply. "We need 60 million doses of ARV vaccinations. But India produces only 50 million, out of which 15 million are

exported," he adds.

Hearteningly, recently, two novel rabies monoclonal antibodies have been produced in India. mAbs are cheaper than human rabies immunoglobulin, but being new drugs, are currently under pharmacovigilance and are yet to be included in the national guidelines, says Dr. Sudarshan, who is also the founder president and mentor of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India.

Tackling the source

Even though India has one of the highest populations globally of free-ranging dogs (FRD) and the highest incidence of dog-mediated human rabies, it "only deploys Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release for FRD control as a humane alternative to lethal methods, without evidence of it working successfully," the *One Health* paper states.

So what is the solution? "My advice would be that dog lovers, who feed strays on the roads, should fully support 20 dogs in their area, have them neutered and regularly vaccinated," says Dr. Belsare. Every city, municipality, gram panchayat has to ensure a dog bite is attended to with PEP and and also that families are compensated for the expenses they bear, he says. Dr. Tiwari adds that we need "good quality shelters, with closed and enclosed spaces for homeless dogs." Increasing awareness about washing wounds from animals and seeking immediate medical help, ensuring the vaccine and immunoglobulin are available and speeding up processes to make cheaper, indigenous drugs available, are all crucial. (divya.gandhi@thehindu.co.in) (yasmeen.afshan@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

Rabies is endemic to India, with the main reservoir of the virus being dogs, and the poorest, the majority of the patients. Days, weeks or months after a rabid dog bite, if the victim is not vaccinated, death is inevitable. The symptoms begin with paralysis from the feet upwards, typically followed by cardio-respiratory failure that finally strikes the victims down

Doctors note that when it comes to a small bleed or severe dog / animal bite, the rabies vaccine alone is not enough. An RIG that is injected into the dog bite wounds is needed. But the country suffers from a severe shortage of RIG

Increasing awareness about washing wounds from animals and seeking immediate medical help, ensuring the vaccine and immunoglobulin are available across the length and breadth of the country and speeding up processes to make cheaper, indigenous drugs available, are all crucial

Rabies: the cruel and expensive disease of India's most impoverished

रेबीज़: भारत के सबसे वंचित वर्गों की क्रूर और महंगी बीमारी

- Of the 59,000 rabies-mediated human deaths in the world every year, India represents a third, around 20,000, and more than any other country, according to a paper; besides a lack of awareness of the disease, poor accessibility, affordability, and availability of PEP makes it a serious public health problem



दुनिया में हर वर्ष होने वाली 59,000 रेबीज़-जनित मानव मौतों में से भारत लगभग एक-तिहाई, यानी करीब 20,000, का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, जो किसी भी अन्य देश से अधिक है, एक शोध पत्र के अनुसार; बीमारी के प्रति जागरूकता की कमी के अलावा, PEP की कम पहुंच, कम वहन-क्षमता, और सीमित उपलब्धता इसे एक गंभीर सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या बनाती है

- There is a ward at the **government Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Bengaluru** from where **every single patient is wheeled out dead**
बेंगलुरु के सरकारी महामारी रोग अस्पताल में एक वार्ड है जहाँ से हर एक मरीज मृत अवस्था में बाहर लाया जाता है
- The **windows are blackened, the room is airless**, the only piece of furniture is a **solitary cot**
इस कमरे की खिड़कियाँ काली की गई हैं, कमरा हवादार नहीं है, और फर्नीचर के नाम पर केवल एक चारपाई है
- This room is **not a punitive space**, on the contrary, it is a **refuge for rabies patients** who suffer **hydrophobia, the fear of light, even of air**
यह कमरा दंडात्मक स्थान नहीं है बल्कि रेबीज रोगियों के लिए शरणस्थली है जो हाइड्रोफोबिया, यानी रोशनी और हवा के डर से पीड़ित होते हैं
- Recently, a **50-year-old construction worker from Delhi** was brought in after a **rabid dog bit him months ago**
हाल ही में दिल्ली का 50 वर्षीय निर्माण श्रमिक लाया गया जिसे महीनों पहले पागल कुत्ते ने काटा था
- “He will be **dead by tonight**,” says **Suresh N V, Bengaluru district surgeon and medical superintendent** of the hospital
“वह आज रात तक मर जाएगा,” ऐसा कहना है बेंगलुरु जिला सर्जन और अस्पताल के मेडिकल सुपरिंटेंडेंट सुरेश एन वी का
- This was **patient number 17 this year**, just in **this one hospital**
यह इस वर्ष का 17वाँ मरीज था, केवल इसी एक अस्पताल में
- Some patients can be **sedated** to stop **hallucinations and hyperactivity**, but others can become **very aggressive**
कुछ मरीजों को भ्रम और अति-सक्रियता रोकने के लिए सिडेट किया जा सकता है, लेकिन कुछ अत्यधिक आक्रामक हो जाते हैं
- One patient lay **crumpled with fear** believing that the **army was out to get him**
एक मरीज डर से सिकुड़ा पड़ा था, उसे लग रहा था कि सेना उसे पकड़ने आ रही है
- **Death by rabies is frightening, painful, and inexorably cruel**
रेबीज से मृत्यु भयानक, पीड़ादायक और अत्यंत क्रूर होती है
- Of the **59,000 rabies-mediated human deaths every year in the world, India accounts for about one-third, nearly 20,000 deaths**
दुनिया में हर साल होने वाली 59,000 रेबीज जनित मानव मौतों में से लगभग एक तिहाई यानी 20,000 मौतें भारत में होती हैं
- This is **more than any other country**, according to a paper published in **One Health in December 2024**
यह किसी भी अन्य देश से अधिक है, जैसा कि दिसंबर 2024 में One Health में प्रकाशित शोध पत्र में बताया गया है
- **Rabies is endemic to India, with dogs as the main reservoir of the virus, and the poorest forming the majority of patients**
रेबीज भारत में स्थानिक रोग है, जिसमें वायरस का मुख्य स्रोत कुत्ते हैं और अधिकांश मरीज गरीब वर्ग से होते हैं
- **Days, weeks or months after a rabid dog bite, if the victim is not vaccinated, death is inevitable**
पागल कुत्ते के काटने के बाद यदि टीकाकरण नहीं हुआ, तो मृत्यु अवश्यंभावी है
- **Symptoms begin with paralysis from the feet upwards, followed by cardio-respiratory failure**
लक्षणों की शुरुआत पैरों से ऊपर की ओर लकवे से होती है, जिसके बाद हृदय और श्वसन विफलता होती है
- **Rabies is a neurotropic virus and travels through peripheral nerves, not blood, to the spinal cord and then the brain**
रेबीज एक न्यूरोट्रॉपिक वायरस है जो रक्त नहीं बल्कि नसों के माध्यम से रीढ़ और फिर मस्तिष्क तक पहुँचता है



- **Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)** involves **washing the wound for 15 minutes**, followed by **ARV, RIG, and a tetanus shot**
पोस्ट एक्सपोज़र प्रोफिलैक्सिस (PEP) में 15 मिनट तक घाव धोना, फिर एंटी रेबीज वैक्सीन, रेबीज इम्युनोग्लोबुलिन, और टेटनस इंजेक्शन शामिल हैं
- Human populations living with **free-roaming dogs** are at **high risk of being bitten**
आवारा कुत्तों के बीच रहने वाली मानव आबादी को काटे जाने का उच्च जोखिम होता है
- Rabies is a disease of the **poor and vulnerable**, including **daily wage workers, waste collectors, rural and remote populations, and farming communities**
रेबीज गरीब और कमजोर वर्गों की बीमारी है जिसमें दैनिक मजदूर, कचरा बीनने वाले, ग्रामीण और दूरदराज़ की आबादी, तथा किसान समुदाय शामिल हैं
- There is a **lack of awareness**, along with **poor accessibility, affordability, and availability of PEP**
इस रोग के प्रति जागरूकता की कमी है और PEP की उपलब्धता, पहुँच, और वहन-क्षमता भी कम है
- In **November 2025**, the **Supreme Court** directed all **States** to remove **stray dogs** from **hospitals, educational institutions, railway stations, and other public spaces**
नवंबर 2025 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सभी राज्यों को अस्पतालों, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों, रेलवे स्टेशनों और अन्य सार्वजनिक स्थलों से आवारा कुत्ते हटाने का निर्देश दिया
- The dogs are to be placed in **shelters** after being **sterilised and vaccinated**
कुत्तों को नसबंदी और टीकाकरण के बाद आश्रय स्थलों में रखा जाना है
- **Animal rights activists** have called this programme **impractical and cruel**
पशु अधिकार कार्यकर्ताओं ने इस कार्यक्रम को अव्यावहारिक और क्रूर बताया है
- There are **80 million free-roaming dogs** and **20 million dog bites per year** in India
भारत में लगभग 8 करोड़ आवारा कुत्ते हैं और हर साल 2 करोड़ कुत्ते काटने की घटनाएँ होती हैं
- This makes **rabies a major public health problem**
यह स्थिति रेबीज को एक गंभीर सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या बनाती है

Economics at play अर्थशास्त्र की भूमिका

- Access to **good quality, affordable healthcare** continues to remain unavailable to **large parts of the country**, **out-of-pocket expenditure** on health is **high**, and families are **pushed into poverty** due to **medical costs**
अच्छी गुणवत्ता और सस्ती स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच देश के बड़े हिस्से के लिए अब भी उपलब्ध नहीं है, स्वास्थ्य पर जब से खर्च अधिक है और चिकित्सा खर्च के कारण परिवार गरीबी में धकेले जाते हैं
- But with **rabies**, **finances play a role even before health is compromised**
लेकिन रेबीज के मामले में स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ने से पहले ही वित्तीय स्थिति भूमिका निभाती है
- Take the case of a **59-year-old man in a village in Assam**, who **died of rabies** after being bitten by a **neighbour's pup**
असम के एक गाँव में 59 वर्षीय व्यक्ति का मामला लें, जिसकी पड़ोसी के पिल्ले के काटने के बाद रेबीज से मृत्यु हो गई
- The **pup was not immunised** by the family due to **financial constraints**
आर्थिक सीमाओं के कारण परिवार ने उस पिल्ले का टीकाकरण नहीं कराया था
- In **May 2023**, the **pup attacked the victim unprovoked, causing deep bite wounds**
मई 2023 में पिल्ले ने बिना उकसावे के हमला किया, जिससे गहरे काटने के घाव हुए
- Even though he was administered **PEP and RIG** at a **private hospital** because the **government hospital refused to hospitalise** him citing **unsatisfactory care by the staff**
हालाँकि उसे PEP और RIG दिए गए, वह भी निजी अस्पताल में क्योंकि सरकारी अस्पताल ने स्टाफ की असंतोषजनक देखभाल का हवाला देकर भर्ती करने से मना कर दिया
- He soon developed a **headache, high fever, began drooling saliva, and experienced difficulty in drinking or swallowing one month later**
इसके तुरंत बाद उसे सिरदर्द, तेज बुखार, लार टपकना, और पीने या निगलने में कठिनाई होने लगी
- He then became **violent**, and **eventually died**
इसके बाद वह हिंसक हो गया और अंततः मृत्यु हो गई
- In the **order of significance** of actions that led to **rabies death**, the **lack of seriousness by hospital staff** to attend to **dog bite injury** ranks **foremost**, states the **One Health paper**



रेबीज से मृत्यु तक ले जाने वाले कारकों के महत्वक्रम में अस्पताल स्टाफ की गंभीरता की कमी और कुत्ते के काटने की चोट पर ध्यान न देना सबसे ऊपर है, ऐसा One Health शोध पत्र बताता है

- While the patient faced **unacceptable delays in treatment**, the **treatment itself, PEP and RIG**, remains **out of reach for many dog bite victims**
जहाँ इस मरीज को **अस्वीकार्य देरी** झेलनी पड़ी, वहीं **उपचार स्वयं**, यानी **PEP और RIG**, आज भी **कई कुत्ते काटे गए लोगों** की पहुँच से बाहर है
- A **January 2025 study in The Lancet Infectious Diseases**, **surveying 3,37,808 individuals in 60 districts across 15 Indian States**, found **20.5% of dog bite victims did not receive ARV**
जनवरी 2025 में The Lancet Infectious Diseases में प्रकाशित अध्ययन, जिसमें **15 भारतीय राज्यों के 60 जिलों में 3,37,808 लोगों** का सर्वे हुआ, बताता है कि **20.5%** कुत्ते काटे गए लोगों को **ARV नहीं मिली**
- **Nearly half 49% of those who received one dose did not complete the full course of vaccination**
जिन्हें **एक खुराक** मिली, उनमें से लगभग **49%** ने **टीकाकरण का पूरा कोर्स पूरा नहीं किया**
- **When it comes to a small bleed or severe dog or animal bite, the rabies vaccine alone is not enough**
हल्के रक्तस्राव या गंभीर कुत्ते या पशु के काटने में केवल रेबीज वैक्सीन पर्याप्त नहीं होती
- **An RIG injected into bite wounds is life saving**
काटने के घावों में दी जाने वाली RIG जीवन रक्षक है
- **The country suffers from a severe shortage of RIG, and it is used only for bleeding bites, not for a lick on a scratch, which can also cause rabies**
देश में **RIG की गंभीर कमी** है और इसे **केवल खून बहने वाले काटने में दिया जाता है, खरोंच पर चाटने में नहीं**, जबकि उससे भी **रेबीज हो सकता है**
- **Most public health hospitals do not even have doctors, let alone RIG for bite victims**
अधिकांश **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य अस्पतालों में डॉक्टर तक उपलब्ध नहीं, RIG तो दूर की बात है**
- This forces families to **run from pillar to post** to obtain it
इससे परिवारों को इसे पाने के लिए **दर-दर भटकना पड़ता है**
- **RIG is prohibitively expensive, costing ₹5,000 to ₹20,000**
RIG अत्यधिक महँगी है, जिसकी कीमत **₹5,000 से ₹20,000 तक** होती है
- As a result, **dog bite victims, mainly children under 15, forming 40% of cases in India**, are taken to **local quacks** using **chilli powder and chalk** to 'cure' the disease
परिणामस्वरूप **कुत्ते काटे गए लोग, खासकर 15 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चे, जो भारत में 40% मामलों का हिस्सा हैं, स्थानीय झोलाछापों के पास ले जाए जाते हैं जो मिर्च पाउडर और चाक जैसी चीजों से 'इलाज' करते हैं**
- Apart from RIG, even ARV is in **short supply**
RIG के अलावा ARV भी कम उपलब्ध है
- India needs **60 million doses of ARV**, but produces only **50 million**, of which **15 million are exported**
भारत को **ARV की 60 मिलियन खुराकें** चाहिए, लेकिन उत्पादन **50 मिलियन** है, जिनमें से **15 मिलियन निर्यात** हो जाती हैं
- **Recently, two novel rabies monoclonal antibodies have been produced in India**
हाल ही में **रेबीज की दो नई मोनोक्लोनल एंटीबॉडी** भारत में **विकसित** की गई हैं
- **RmAbs are cheaper than human rabies immunoglobulin**, but being **new drugs**, are under **pharmacovigilance** and **not yet included in national guidelines**
RmAbs, मानव रेबीज इम्युनोग्लोबुलिन से सस्ती हैं, लेकिन **नई दवाएँ** होने के कारण **फार्माकोविजिलेंस** में हैं और अभी **राष्ट्रीय दिशानिर्देशों में शामिल नहीं** की गई हैं
- This is stated by **Dr M K Sudarshan, founder president and mentor of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India**
यह जानकारी **डॉ एम के सुदर्शन, Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India के संस्थापक अध्यक्ष और मार्गदर्शक**, द्वारा दी गई है

Tackling the source
स्रोत से निपटना



- Even though **India** has one of the **highest populations globally of free-ranging dogs (FRD)** and the **highest incidence of dog-mediated human rabies**, it “only deploys **Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release** for **FRD control** as a **humane alternative to lethal methods**, without evidence of it **working successfully**,” the **One Health paper** states.
यद्यपि भारत में विश्व स्तर पर मुक्त विचरण करने वाले कुत्तों (FRD) की सबसे अधिक आबादी में से एक है और कुत्तों से फैलने वाले मानव रेबीज की सबसे अधिक घटनाएँ हैं, फिर भी यह “FRD नियंत्रण के लिए **Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release** को घातक तरीकों के मानवीय विकल्प के रूप में ही अपनाता है, इसके सफलतापूर्वक काम करने के प्रमाण के बिना,” ऐसा **One Health paper** में कहा गया है।

So what is the solution?
तो समाधान क्या है?

- “My advice would be that **dog lovers**, who **feed strays on the roads**, should **fully support 20 dogs** in their area, have them **neutered** and **regularly vaccinated**,” says **Dr. Belsare**.
डॉ. बेलसारे कहते हैं, “मेरी सलाह यह होगी कि कुत्ता प्रेमी, जो सड़कों पर आवारा कुत्तों को खाना खिलाते हैं, वे अपने क्षेत्र में **20 कुत्तों का पूरा समर्थन** करें, उन्हें **नसबंदी** कराएँ और **नियमित रूप से टीकाकरण** कराएँ।”
- **Every city, municipality, gram panchayat** has to ensure a **dog bite** is attended to with **PEP** and also that **families are compensated** for the **expenses** they bear, he says.
वे कहते हैं कि प्रत्येक शहर, नगरपालिका, ग्राम पंचायत को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि कुत्ते के काटने के मामलों में **PEP** दिया जाए और साथ ही **परिवारों को उनके खर्चों की भरपाई** भी की जाए।
- **Dr. Tiwari** adds that we need “**good quality shelters**, with **closed and enclosed spaces** for **homeless dogs**.”
डॉ. तिवारी जोड़ते हैं कि हमें बेघर कुत्तों के लिए **बंद और सुरक्षित स्थानों** वाले उच्च गुणवत्ता के आश्रय स्थलों की आवश्यकता है।
- **Increasing awareness** about **washing wounds from animals** and **seeking immediate medical help**, ensuring the **vaccine** and **immunoglobulin** are available and **speeding up processes** to make **cheaper, indigenous drugs** available, are all **crucial**.
जानवरों के काटने के बाद घाव धोने और तत्काल चिकित्सा सहायता लेने के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना, टीका और इम्युनोग्लोबुलिन की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना तथा **सस्ती, स्वदेशी दवाओं** को उपलब्ध कराने की प्रक्रिया को तेज़ करना, ये सभी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Rabies

- **Rabies** is a **fatal viral zoonotic disease** that affects the **central nervous system (brain and spinal cord)**
- It is caused by the **Rabies virus**, belonging to the **Lyssavirus genus**
- The disease is transmitted from **infected animals to humans**, most commonly through **bites, scratches, or saliva entering broken skin or mucous membranes**
- Once clinical symptoms appear, **rabies is almost always 100% fatal**, but it is **completely preventable** with timely intervention

GS Paper III: IS

TOPICS COVERED

26 12 2025

1. **National Intelligence Grid linked to NPR with details of 119 crore residents: govt.**
राष्ट्रीय खुफिया ग्रिड को 119 करोड़ निवासियों के विवरण वाले एनपीआर से जोड़ा गया: सरकार



National Intelligence Grid linked to NPR with details of 119 crore residents: govt.

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), a secure platform for the police and other investigating agencies to access government and private databases in real-time, has been linked to the National Population Register (NPR), which has the family-wise details of 119 crore residents in India, government officials have said.

The Union Home Ministry has been pushing for the enhanced use of NATGRID by the State police forces and Central law and security agencies for intelligence gathering and speedy investigation of criminal cases through indigenous and secure platforms.

On December 9, the Ministry informed the Lok Sabha that an Organised Crime Network Database was being developed on NATGRID's IT platform to facilitate secure data-sharing between the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the State Anti-Terror Squads (ATS). The reply said that upgraded NATGRID tools, particularly "Gandiva", are supporting multi-source data collection and analysis.

The *Hindu* reported on December 7 that NATGRID is, on an average, getting nearly 45,000 requests a month. The platform, ac-

Tying it up

Upgraded NATGRID tools support multi-source data collection and analysis

- One such tool is 'Gandiva' used for facial recognition and entity resolution
- Details of all family members of a suspect or a person of interest, if available in NPR, could be accessed through the platform



The data for NPR were first collected in 2010 with the first phase of the 2011 Census. PTI

3 categories of access requests: non-sensitive, sensitive, and highly sensitive

cessible only to security agencies, became operational last year after being conceptualised in 2009 in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

The data for NPR, which stores information family wise, were first collected in 2010 with the first phase of the 2011 Census and was last updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration. It was to be updated further during the 2021 Census, which has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Census 2027

On December 12, when the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for conducting Census 2027 at a cost of ₹11,718 crore, there was no separate allocation for the NPR. Earlier on July 29, the government informed the Lok Sabha that no decision had been taken to update the NPR during the forthcoming Census exercise.

The NPR is the first step for the creation of a countrywide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Elaborating about "Gandiva", a State police official said the details of all family members of a suspect or a person of interest if available in NPR could be accessed through the platform. Gandiva can be used for facial recognition and entity resolution.

Asked about privacy concerns as the police and security agencies can access almost all kinds of data about a citizen without even having to register a first information report, the official said, "Each query is logged in the system. The purpose of the information being sought has to be stated and the senior police officers have an oversight. There are several checks and balances."

The Ministry has asked the States to liberally use the platform.

National Intelligence Grid linked to NPR with details of 119 crore residents: govt.

राष्ट्रीय खुफिया ग्रिड को 119 करोड़ निवासियों के विवरण वाले एनपीआर से जोड़ा गया: सरकार

- The **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)**, a **secure platform** for the police and other investigating agencies to access government and private databases in **real-time**, has been



linked to the **National Population Register (NPR)**, which has the **family-wise details of 119 crore residents** in India, government officials have said.

राष्ट्रीय खुफिया ग्रिड (NATGRID), जो पुलिस और अन्य जांच एजेंसियों के लिए सरकारी और निजी डेटाबेस तक **रीयल-टाइम पहुंच** के लिए एक **सुरक्षित मंच** है, को **राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या रजिस्टर (NPR)** से जोड़ा गया है, जिसमें भारत के **119 करोड़ निवासियों के परिवार-वार विवरण** हैं, सरकारी अधिकारियों ने कहा है।

- The **Union Home Ministry** has been pushing for the enhanced use of **NATGRID** by the **State police forces** and **Central law and security agencies** for **intelligence gathering** and **speedy investigation of criminal cases** through indigenous and secure platforms.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय स्वदेशी और सुरक्षित प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से **खुफिया जानकारी जुटाने** और **आपराधिक मामलों की त्वरित जांच** के लिए **राज्य पुलिस बलों** और **केंद्रीय कानून एवं सुरक्षा एजेंसियों** द्वारा **NATGRID** के अधिक उपयोग पर जोर दे रहा है।

- On **December 9**, the Ministry informed the **Lok Sabha** that an **Organised Crime Network Database** was being developed on **NATGRID's IT platform** to facilitate secure data-sharing between the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** and the **State Anti-Terror Squads (ATS)**.

9 दिसंबर को मंत्रालय ने **लोकसभा** को बताया कि **NATGRID** के **आईटी प्लेटफॉर्म** पर संगठित अपराध **नेटवर्क डेटाबेस** विकसित किया जा रहा है, ताकि **राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA)** और **राज्य आतंकवाद-रोधी दस्तों (ATS)** के बीच सुरक्षित डेटा-साझाकरण हो सके।

- The reply said that **upgraded NATGRID tools**, particularly **"Gandiva"**, are supporting **multi-source data collection and analysis**.

उत्तर में कहा गया कि उन्नत **NATGRID उपकरण**, विशेष रूप से **"गांडीव"**, **बहु-स्रोत डेटा संग्रह और विश्लेषण** का समर्थन कर रहे हैं।

- The **Hindu** reported on **December 7** that **NATGRID** is, on an average, getting nearly **45,000 requests a month**.

द हिंदू ने **7 दिसंबर** को रिपोर्ट किया कि **NATGRID** को औसतन प्रति माह लगभग **45,000 अनुरोध** मिल रहे हैं।

- The platform, accessible only to **security agencies**, became operational last year after being conceptualised in **2009** in the aftermath of the **26/11 Mumbai terror attacks**.

यह प्लेटफॉर्म, जो केवल **सुरक्षा एजेंसियों** के लिए सुलभ है, **26/11 मुंबई आतंकी हमलों** के बाद **2009** में परिकल्पित किए जाने के बाद पिछले वर्ष चालू हुआ।

- The data for **NPR**, which stores information **family wise**, were first collected in **2010** with the first phase of the **2011 Census** and was last updated in **2015** through **door-to-door enumeration**.

NPR के लिए डेटा, जो **परिवार-वार** जानकारी संग्रहीत करता है, पहली बार **2010** में **2011 की जनगणना** के पहले चरण के साथ एकत्र किया गया था और आखिरी बार **2015** में **घर-घर गणना** के माध्यम से अपडेट किया गया था।

- It was to be updated further during the **2021 Census**, which has been delayed by the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

इसे **2021 की जनगणना** के दौरान और अपडेट किया जाना था, जो **COVID-19 महामारी** के कारण विलंबित हो गई।

Census 2027 जनगणना 2027

- On **December 12**, when the **Union Cabinet** approved the proposal for conducting **Census 2027** at a cost of **₹11,718 crore**, there was **no separate allocation for the NPR**.

12 दिसंबर को जब **केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल** ने **₹11,718 करोड़** की लागत से **जनगणना 2027** कराने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी, तो **NPR** के लिए **कोई अलग आवंटन नहीं** था।

- Earlier on **July 29**, the government informed the **Lok Sabha** that **no decision had been taken** to update the **NPR** during the forthcoming Census exercise.

इससे पहले **29 जुलाई** को सरकार ने **लोकसभा** को बताया था कि आगामी जनगणना अभ्यास के दौरान **NPR** को **अपडेट करने का कोई निर्णय नहीं** लिया गया है।

- The **NPR** is the first step for the creation of a countrywide **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**.

NPR, देशव्यापी **राष्ट्रीय नागरिक रजिस्टर (NRC)** के निर्माण का पहला कदम है।



- Elaborating about **“Gandiva”**, a **State police official** said the details of all family members of a suspect or a person of interest if available in **NPR** could be accessed through the platform. **“गांडीव”** के बारे में विस्तार से बताते हुए एक **राज्य पुलिस अधिकारी** ने कहा कि यदि **NPR** में उपलब्ध हों तो किसी संदिग्ध या रुचि के व्यक्ति के सभी परिवार के सदस्यों के विवरण प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
- **Gandiva** can be used for **facial recognition** and **entity resolution**. **गांडीव** का उपयोग **चेहरा पहचान** और **एंटीटी रेज़ोल्यूशन** के लिए किया जा सकता है।
- Asked about **privacy concerns** as the police and security agencies can access almost all kinds of data about a citizen without even having to register a **first information report**, the official said, **“Each query is logged in the system**. The purpose of the information being sought has to be stated and the **senior police officers have an oversight**. There are **several checks and balances**.”
गोपनीयता संबंधी चिंताओं पर पूछे जाने पर, क्योंकि पुलिस और सुरक्षा एजेंसियां बिना **प्राथमिकी** दर्ज किए भी नागरिक से संबंधित लगभग सभी प्रकार के डेटा तक पहुंच सकती हैं, अधिकारी ने कहा, **“प्रत्येक क्वेरी सिस्टम में लॉग की जाती है।** मांगी जा रही जानकारी का उद्देश्य बताना होता है और **वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारियों की निगरानी** रहती है। **कई जांच और संतुलन मौजूद हैं।”**
- The **Ministry** has asked the **States** to **liberally use the platform**. **मंत्रालय** ने राज्यों से **प्लेटफॉर्म का व्यापक रूप से उपयोग** करने को कहा है।

PATRIOTIC IAS