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THE HINDU NEWSPAP

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Actions and repercussions

A member of Madagascar's Army CAPSAT unit monitors the access to the CAPSAT base on Wednesday, a day after the unit announced it would assume power in Antananarivo. The African Union said it was suspending Madagascar "with immediate effect" after the coup. AFP

A member of Madagascar's Army CAPSAT unit monitors the access to the CAPSAT base on Wednesday, a day after the unit announced it
would assume power in Antananarivo. The African Union said it was suspending Madagascar "with immediatee□ ect" after the coup

PCS

Pankaj Dheer, Karna of *Mahabharat* series, dies

Television star Pankaj Dheer, known for playing Karna in B.R. Chopra's 'Mahabharat' and king Shivdutt in the fantasy drama 'Chandrakanta', died at the age of 68 on Wednesday following a battle with cancer. Dheer is survived by his wife, Anita Dheer, and son, Nikitin Dheer, who is also an actor. His last rites were conducted at the Pawan Hans crematorium in Mumbai in the evening. Salman Khan, Sidharth Malhotra, Arbaaz Khan, Puneet Issar, and Mika Singh among others paid their last respects to Dheer at the crematorium. Dheer, who hailed from Punjab, started out as an actor in the 1980s, featuring in minor roles in many movies. PTI

Pankaj Dheer, Karna of Mahabharat series, dies
महाभारत श्रृंखला के कर्ण, पंकज धीर का निधन

- Television star **Pankaj Dheer**, known for playing **Karna** in **B.R. Chopra's 'Mahabharat'** and king **Shivdutt** in the fantasy drama **'Chandrakanta'**, died at the age of **68** on **Wednesday** following a battle with **cancer**.

 टेलीविज़न स्टार **पंकज धीर**, जिन्होंने **बी.आर. चोपड़ा की 'महाभारत'** में **कर्ण** और फैंटेसी ड्रामा **'चंद्रकांता'** में राजा **शिवदत्त** की भूमिका निभाई थी, का **बुधवार** को **कैंसर** से जूझने के बाद **68 वर्ष** की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- Dheer is survived by his wife, **Anita Dheer**, and son, **Nikitin Dheer**, who is also an **actor**.

 धीर अपने पीछे पत्नी **अनीता धीर** और पुत्र **निकीतीन धीर** को छोड़ गए हैं, जो स्वयं भी एक **अभिनेता** हैं।

- His **last rites** were conducted at the **Pawan Hans crematorium** in **Mumbai** in the evening.

 उनके **अंतिम संस्कार** का आयोजन **मुंबई** के **पवन हंस शवदाह गृह** में शाम के समय किया गया।

- **Salman Khan**, **Sidharth Malhotra**, **Arbaaz Khan**, **Puneet Issar**, and **Mika Singh** among others paid their **last respects** to Dheer at the crematorium.

 सलमान खान, **सिद्धार्थ मल्होत्रा**, **अरबाज़ खान**, **पुनीत इस्सर**, और **मीका सिंह** सहित कई हस्तियों ने शवदाह गृह में धीर को अपनी **अंतिम श्रद्धांजलि** दी।

- Dheer, who hailed from **Punjab**, started out as an **actor** in the **1980s**, featuring in **minor roles** in many **movies**.

 पंजाब से संबंध रखने वाले धीर ने **1980 के दशक** में एक **अभिनेता** के रूप में अपने करियर की शुरुआत की थी और कई **फिल्मों** में **छोटे किरदारों** में नजर आए थे।

Nagaland parties NPF, NDPP set to merge

The **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)**, which rules Nagaland in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party, is set to merge with the regional party it was born out of. The merger of the NDPP and the **Naga People's Front (NPF)** is likely within a week.

On Tuesday, the NPF joined the People's Democratic Alliance government led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. "The two parties are merging and we hope to declare it on October 21," NPF legislator Küzholüzo Nienü told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The NDPP was formed by NPF rebels, including Mr. Rio, ahead of the 2017 Nagaland Assembly election. Although the NPF emerged as the single-largest party, the NDPP and BJP formed the government along with some smaller parties.

NPF's alignment with NDPP-led ruling alliance has left the State without Oppn.

Convention of parties

The NDPP and NPF are scheduled to hold their conventions in the State's capital, Kohima, on October 18 and October 21, respectively. The merger is expected after the NPF convention.

The NPF's alignment with the NDPP-led alliance has left the Nagaland Assembly without any Opposition.

Nagaland parties NPF, NDPP set to merge
नागालैंड की पार्टियां NPF और NDPP के विलय की तैयारी में

- The **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)**, which rules **Nagaland** in alliance with the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**, is set to merge with the regional party it was born out of. The merger of the **NDPP** and the **Naga People's Front (NPF)** is likely within a **week**.

  राष्ट्रीय लोकतांत्रिक प्रगतिशील पार्टी (NDPP), जो भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) के साथ गठबंधन में नागालैंड पर शासन कर रही है, अपने ही मूल क्षेत्रीय दल से विलय करने जा रही है। NDPP और नागा पीपुल्स फ्रंट (NPF) का विलय एक सप्ताह के भीतर होने की संभावना है।

- On **Tuesday**, the **NPF** joined the **People's Democratic Alliance** government led by **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio**. "The two parties are merging and we hope to declare it on **October 21**," **NPF** legislator **Küzholüzo Nienü** told *The Hindu* on **Wednesday**.

  मंगलवार को NPF ने मुख्यमंत्री नेफियू रियो के नेतृत्व वाली पीपुल्स डेमोक्रेटिक एलायंस सरकार में शामिल हो गई। "दोनों पार्टियां विलय कर रही हैं और हम इसे 21 अक्टूबर को घोषित करने की उम्मीद करते हैं," ऐसा कहना है NPF विधायक कूझोलूजो निएनू का, जिन्होंने यह बात बुधवार को *द हिंदू* से कही।

- The **NDPP** was formed by **NPF rebels**, including **Mr. Rio**, ahead of the **2017 Nagaland Assembly election**. Although the **NPF** emerged as the **single-largest party**, the **NDPP** and **BJP** formed the **government** along with some **smaller parties**.

  NDPP का गठन NPF के बागियों, जिनमें श्री रियो भी शामिल थे, ने 2017 के नागालैंड विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले किया था। हालांकि NPF सबसे बड़ी पार्टी बनकर उभरी थी, लेकिन NDPP और BJP ने कुछ छोटी पार्टियों के साथ मिलकर सरकार बनाई थी।

Convention of parties
पार्टियों का अधिवेशन

- The **NDPP** and **NPF** are scheduled to hold their **conventions** in the State's capital, **Kohima**, on **October 18** and **October 21**, respectively. The **merger** is expected after the **NPF convention**.

  NDPP और NPF अपने-अपने अधिवेशन राज्य की राजधानी कोहिमा में क्रमशः 18 अक्टूबर और 21 अक्टूबर को आयोजित करने वाले हैं। विलय की घोषणा NPF अधिवेशन के बाद होने की संभावना है।

- The **NPF's alignment** with the **NDPP-led alliance** has left the **Nagaland Assembly** without any **Opposition**.

  NDPP-नेतृत्व वाले गठबंधन के साथ NPF के जुड़ने से नागालैंड विधानसभा में अब कोई विपक्षी दल नहीं बचा है।

Former Kenya PM Raila Odinga dies in Kerala

Odinga suffers cardiac failure during his morning walk; he was undergoing Ayurvedic treatment in Ernakulam after suffering a stroke; Kerala Governor pays tributes to the departed leader

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Raila Odinga, former Prime Minister of Kenya, died at a private hospital in Koothattukulam in Ernakulam district of Kerala on Wednesday. He was 80.

He suffered a cardiac failure around 8 a.m. during his morning walk at Sreedhareeyam Ayurvedic Eye Hospital-cum-Research Centre in Koothattukulam where he had been under treatment for the past five days. He was rushed to Devamatha Hospital in Koothattukulam, where his death was confirmed at 9.52 a.m. The authorities at Sreedhareeyam Hospital said he had initially sought treatment at a private hospital in Mumbai after suffering a stroke.

Signs of recovery
He was accompanied by his youngest daughter and a personal doctor. Though he had arrived at the Sreedhareeyam hospital in a wheelchair, he had shown signs of recovery after undergoing Ayurveda treatment, they added.

His body was later shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, for post-mortem examination.

Odinga had a close connection with the hospital as his elder daughter Rosemary Odinga had undergone treatment there after she had lost her sight in 2017. He had expressed gratitude to the physicians at the centre for helping her regain her vision. He had served as the Leader of the Opposition in Kenya for many years.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar paid tributes to the departed leader when his body was kept at the Kochi airport. The body would be flown to Mumbai on a non-scheduled flight soon, according to a release.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar paying last respects to Raila Odinga in Ernakulam on Wednesday. ANI

Former Kenya PM Raila Odinga dies in Kerala
केन्या के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री रैला ओडिंगा का केरल में निधन

- **Odinga suffers cardiac failure** during his **morning walk**; he was undergoing **Ayurvedic treatment in Ernakulam** after suffering a **stroke**; **Kerala Governor** pays tributes to the **departed leader**.
  ओडिंगा को सुबह की सैर के दौरान हृदय गति रुकने (cardiac failure) का सामना करना पड़ा; वे स्ट्रोक के बाद एर्नाकुलम में आयुर्वेदिक उपचार ले रहे थे; केरल के राज्यपाल ने स्वर्गीय नेता को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

- **Raila Odinga**, former **Prime Minister of Kenya**, died at a **private hospital in Koothattukulam** in **Ernakulam district of Kerala** on **Wednesday**. He was **80**.
  केन्या के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री रैला ओडिंगा का बुधवार को केरल के एर्नाकुलम जिले के कूथाट्टुकुलम स्थित एक निजी अस्पताल में 80 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- He suffered a **cardiac failure** around **8 a.m.** during his **morning walk** at **Sreedhareeyam Ayurvedic Eye Hospital-cum-Research Centre in Koothattukulam**, where he had been under treatment for the past **five days**.
  उन्होंने सुबह लगभग 8 बजे अपनी सुबह की सैर के दौरान कूथाट्टुकुलम स्थित श्रीधारीयम आयुर्वेदिक आई हॉस्पिटल-कम-रिसर्च सेंटर में हृदय गति रुकने (cardiac failure) से दम तोड़ दिया, जहां वे पिछले पांच दिनों से उपचाराधीन थे।

- He was rushed to **Devamatha Hospital in Koothattukulam**, where his death was **confirmed at 9.52 a.m.** The authorities at **Sreedhareeyam Hospital** said he had initially sought treatment at a **private hospital in Mumbai** after suffering a **stroke**.
उन्हें तुरंत **कूथाट्टुकुलम के देवमाथा अस्पताल** ले जाया गया, जहां **सुबह 9.52 बजे** उन्हें **मृत घोषित किया गया**। श्रीधारीयम अस्पताल के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि **स्ट्रोक** के बाद उन्होंने पहले **मुंबई के एक निजी अस्पताल** में उपचार कराया था।

Signs of recovery
सुधार के संकेत

- He was accompanied by his **youngest daughter** and a **personal doctor**. Though he had arrived at the **Sreedhareeyam hospital in a wheelchair**, he had shown **signs of recovery** after undergoing **Ayurveda treatment**, they added.
वे अपनी **सबसे छोटी बेटी** और एक **निजी डॉक्टर** के साथ थे। हालांकि वे **श्रीधारीयम अस्पताल में व्हीलचेयर** पर पहुंचे थे, लेकिन **आयुर्वेदिक उपचार** के बाद उन्होंने **सुधार के संकेत** दिखाए थे, उन्होंने बताया।
- His **body** was later shifted to the **Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam**, for **post-mortem examination**.
उनका **शव** बाद में **पोस्टमार्टम जांच** के लिए **सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, एर्नाकुलम** ले जाया गया।
- **Odinga** had a close connection with the hospital as his **elder daughter Rosemary Odinga** had undergone **treatment there in 2017** after she had **lost her sight**.
ओडिंगा का इस अस्पताल से गहरा संबंध था क्योंकि उनकी **बड़ी बेटी रोज़मेरी ओडिंगा** ने **2017 में अपनी दृष्टि खोने के बाद** वहीं **उपचार** कराया था।
- He had expressed **gratitude** to the **physicians** at the centre for **helping her regain her vision**. He had served as the **Leader of the Opposition in Kenya** for many years.
उन्होंने अपनी बेटी की **दृष्टि वापस लाने में सहायता करने** के लिए केंद्र के **चिकित्सकों के प्रति आभार** व्यक्त किया था। उन्होंने कई वर्षों तक **केन्या में विपक्ष के नेता** के रूप में कार्य किया था।
- **Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** paid **tributes** to the **departed leader** when his **body was kept at the Kochi airport**. The **body would be flown to Mumbai** on a **non-scheduled flight** soon, according to a release.
केरल के राज्यपाल राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ अर्लेकर ने स्वर्गीय नेता को श्रद्धांजलि दी जब उनका **शव कोच्चि हवाई अड्डे** पर रखा गया। एक विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, **शव को जल्द ही एक गैर-निर्धारित उड़ान (non-scheduled flight)** से **मुंबई भेजा जाएगा**।

In certain isolated systems, adding energy can actually lower their entropy, making them appear hotter than an infinite 'amount' of temperature. What is the counterintuitive name for this paradoxical thermodynamic state?

Answers to October 14 quiz:

1. Time for a nerve impulse to travel from ear to brain to leg muscles – Ans: 0.1 s
2. Property of sprinters' legs allowing release of elastic energy – Ans: Stiffness
3. Athlete who reinvented the high jump to be more efficient – Ans: Dick Fosbury
4. Direction of change of javelins' centre of gravity to reduce range – Ans: Forward
5. Tailwind limit for sprinters attempting to set/break records – Ans: 2 m/s

Visual: **James Ray Hines**

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QUIZ

Nerve Impulse Transmission: Ear to Brain to Leg Muscles

Introduction

- **Nerve impulses** are electrical signals transmitted along neurons, allowing rapid communication between different parts of the body.
- These impulses enable sensory input, like hearing a sound, to trigger motor responses, such as moving leg muscles.

Pathway of Impulse from Ear to Leg Muscles

- **Ear (Cochlea)**: Sound is detected by hair cells in the cochlea of the inner ear.
- **Auditory Nerve**: Impulse travels through the **auditory nerve** to the **brainstem**.
- **Brain Processing**: The impulse is processed in the **auditory cortex** and relayed to the **motor cortex** for response.

- **Motor Neurons**: Signal travels via **spinal cord neurons** to **leg muscles**, triggering contraction.

Time Taken

- **Total transmission time** from ear detection to leg muscle response is approximately **0.1 seconds (100 milliseconds)**.
- This rapid response allows humans to react quickly to auditory stimuli, such as avoiding danger or catching a falling object.

Factors Affecting Transmission Speed

- **Myelination of Neurons**: Myelin sheath increases conduction velocity.
- **Distance**: Longer pathways slightly increase transmission time.
- **Type of Neuron**: Motor neurons can conduct signals faster than unmyelinated sensory neurons.

Illustrative Example

- **Scenario**: Hearing a loud clap and jumping immediately.
  - Sound is detected by ear → Auditory nerve → Brain → Motor neurons → Leg muscles
  - Reaction occurs in **~0.1 s**.

Property of Sprinters' Legs Allowing Release of Elastic Energy: Stiffness

Introduction

- Sprinters' exceptional speed is not only due to muscle strength but also due to the **mechanical properties of their legs**.
- One critical property is **stiffness**, which allows the storage and release of **elastic energy** during running.

Definition of Stiffness in Biomechanics

- **Stiffness** refers to the resistance of a leg (muscles, tendons, ligaments) to deformation when subjected to force.
- Higher stiffness enables **tendons and muscles to store elastic energy during foot strike** and release it efficiently during push-off.
- This property improves **running economy** and **stride efficiency**.

Mechanism of Elastic Energy Release

- During the **stance phase** of sprinting, the foot strikes the ground, compressing the leg tendons.
- Elastic energy is stored in **Achilles tendon and plantar fascia**.
- Upon **push-off**, this energy is released, adding to muscle-generated force, propelling the sprinter forward faster.
- This process reduces **metabolic energy expenditure** while maximizing **speed**.

Factors Affecting Leg Stiffness

- **Tendon Composition**: High collagen content increases resilience.
- **Muscle Strength**: Stronger muscles stabilize joints, enhancing energy storage.
- **Technique**: Optimal stride frequency and foot strike pattern influence effective stiffness.

Illustrative Example

- **Usain Bolt's sprinting** demonstrates high leg stiffness: fast foot turnover, minimal ground contact time (~0.08–0.12 s), and maximal propulsion from stored elastic energy.

Athlete Who Reinvented the High Jump to Be More Efficient: Dick Fosbury

Introduction

- **Dick Fosbury**, an American athlete, revolutionized the high jump in the 1960s.
- He introduced the **"Fosbury Flop"**, a technique that allowed jumpers to clear higher bars with greater efficiency.
- Before Fosbury, athletes primarily used the **straddle method** or **scissors technique**, which were less effective in maximizing clearance.

The Fosbury Flop Technique

- The **Fosbury Flop** involves **jumping backward over the bar**, landing on the back.
- Key aspects:
    - **Approach**: Run in a curved path toward the bar to generate rotational momentum.
    - **Take-off**: Push off the outside leg to rotate the body in mid-air.
    - **Body Position**: Arch the back to lower the center of mass relative to the bar.
    - **Landing**: Fall on the shoulders and upper back, minimizing injury risk due to foam landing mats.

Advantages of the Fosbury Flop

- Allows the **center of mass to pass below the bar**, making higher jumps possible with the same effort.
- Reduces **energy expenditure** compared to older techniques.
- Safer landing with the advent of foam mats, reducing **risk of injury**.
- Widely adopted in **modern athletics** due to efficiency and effectiveness.

Historical Achievement

- **1968 Mexico City Olympics**: Fosbury won the **gold medal** with a jump of **2.24 meters**, introducing the world to his innovative technique.
- His method is now **standard in high jump competitions worldwide**.

Direction of Change of Javelin's Centre of Gravity to Reduce Range: Forward

Introduction

- In **javelin throw**, the **centre of gravity (CG)** of the javelin plays a crucial role in determining its **flight distance and stability**.
- The **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** introduced modifications in the **1980s** to reduce excessively long throws for safety reasons.

Principle of Centre of Gravity in Javelins

- **Centre of Gravity (CG):** The point in an object where its mass is considered to be concentrated.
- In a javelin, **CG affects aerodynamics and flight trajectory**.
- **Forward shift of CG:** Moves the weight toward the tip of the javelin.

Effect of Forward CG on Range

- Causes the **javelin to pitch downward earlier** during flight.
- Reduces the **total flight distance** because the aerodynamic lift is less effective.

- Helps prevent throws from going **too far and hitting spectators or crossing field boundaries**.

Historical Context

- Before the 1980s, throws by elite male javelin throwers exceeded **100 meters**, creating **safety hazards**.
- In **1986**, the **men's javelin specifications** were revised:
  - **CG moved 4 cm forward**.
  - Tail surface area is reduced to **enhance stability**.
- The **women's javelin** underwent a similar adjustment in **1999**.

Illustrative Example

- **Before adjustment:** Throws often exceeded 100 m; javelin could land flat or tail-first, creating safety risks.
- **After forward CG adjustment:** Throws reduced by 10–15 meters on average; javelin lands **tip-first**, improving safety and predictability.

Tailwind Limit for Sprinters Attempting to Set/Break Records: 2 m/s

Introduction

- In **track and field events**, environmental conditions such as **wind speed** significantly affect **sprint performance**.
- To maintain **fairness and standardization**, there is an **official limit on tailwind** during record attempts.

Definition of Tailwind

- **Tailwind:** Wind blowing in the same direction as the sprinter's motion.
- **Effect:** Reduces air resistance, allowing sprinters to run **faster than their actual capability**.

Official Tailwind Limit

- According to **World Athletics (formerly IAAF)** rules:
  - Maximum allowable **tailwind = 2.0 meters per second (m/s)** for a record to be **officially recognized**.
- **Reason for limit:**
  - Ensures **performance comparability** across competitions.
  - Maintains **integrity of records** by preventing artificially enhanced results.

Measurement Procedure

- Wind speed is measured using an **anemometer** placed near the track, typically **1.22 m above the ground** and **within 2 meters of lane 1**.
- Measurement is taken **over the first 10 seconds** of a 100 m sprint or **duration of relevant segment** in other sprint events.

Illustrative Example

- **Usain Bolt's 100 m World Record (9.58 s, 2009):**
  - Wind speed recorded: **+0.9 m/s** (within the 2 m/s limit).
- If wind had exceeded 2 m/s, the time **would not be eligible** as a world record.

Impact of Tailwind on Sprint Performance

- Tailwind <2 m/s: Legally helps sprinters improve performance.

- Tailwind >2 m/s: Gives **unfair advantage**, record is **disqualified for official purposes**.
- Helps coaches and athletes **plan training and competition strategies**.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The title A.P.J Abdul Kalam was mainly associated with. **Ans: Missile Man of India**

2. It is said that Kalam narrowly missed out on this ambition of his. **Ans: Indian Air Force**

3. Kalam was the project director of India's first satellite launch vehicle which deployed this satellite. **Ans: Rohini**

4. The definition of Kalam-Raju stents and Kalam-Raju tablets. **Ans: Kalam worked with cardiologist Bhupathiraju Somaraju and developed a low cost coronary stent, named the "Kalam-Raju stent" and designed a tablet computer named the "Kalam-Raju tablet"**

5. This is the toughest decision he had to take during his tenure as the President. **Ans: Office of profit**

Visual: Identify this person. **Ans: Lakshmi Sahgal. She was the sole opponent of Kalam during the 2002 presidential elections**

Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Tom Alan Faith| Tito Shiladitya| Arjun Debnath| Piyali Tuli

QUIZ
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam: The Missile Man of India
Early Life and Education

- **Born on October 15, 1931**, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, to a humble family.
- Graduated in **Physics** from St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli.
- Earned a degree in **Aerospace Engineering** from the **Madras Institute of Technology (MIT)** in 1960.

Career in Space and Missile Development

- **Joined DRDO** in 1958, working on **hovercraft technology**.
- Moved to **ISRO** in 1969, leading the **Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3)** project, which successfully deployed the **Rohini satellite** in 1980.
- Played a pivotal role in the development of **India's first indigenous rocket** in the 1960s.
- Directed **Project Devil** and **Project Valiant** in the 1970s, aiming to develop ballistic missiles using SLV technology.
- Led the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**, resulting in the development of missiles like **Prithvi**, **Agni**, **Akash**, **Trishul**, and **Nag**.

Nuclear Contributions

- Coordinated the **Pokhran-II nuclear tests** in May 1998, which established India as a nuclear power.
- Served as the **Chief Scientific Adviser** to the Prime Minister and **Secretary of DRDO** from 1992 to 1999.

Presidency and Legacy

- Elected as the **11th President of India** in 2002, serving until 2007.
- Known as the **"People's President"** for his approachable and humble demeanor.
- Advocated for **education**, **youth empowerment**, and **national development**.
- Authored several books, including his autobiography **"Wings of Fire"**.

Recent Tributes

- On **October 15, 2025**, Bollywood actor **Jackie Shroff** paid tribute to Dr. Kalam, highlighting his contributions to science, education, and the nation, and acknowledging his legacy as a visionary leader who inspired millions.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam: The Fighter Pilot Dream
Early Aspirations

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- **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam harbored a deep desire to become a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF).**
- **In 1958, he appeared for the IAF selection process at Dehradun, where he secured the 9th position out of 25 candidates, missing the selection by just one rank, as only eight slots were available.**

Turning Point

- **Devastated by this setback, Kalam traveled to Rishikesh.**
- **There, he met a sadhu who shared a verse from the Bhagavad Gita, inspiring him to persevere and pursue his dreams through alternative paths.**

Pursuit of Aerospace Engineering

- **Undeterred, Kalam pursued Aerospace Engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), graduating in 1960.**
- **This education laid the foundation for his illustrious career in aerospace science and technology.**

Legacy and Tribute

- **In 2006, at the age of 74, while serving as the President of India, Kalam had the opportunity to fly a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet at the Lohegaon Air Force Base in Pune, fulfilling his childhood dream.**
- **On October 15, 2025, Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff paid tribute to Dr. Kalam, acknowledging his contributions to science, education, and the nation, and highlighting his legacy as a visionary leader who inspired millions**

India's First Satellite Launch: The Rohini RS-1 Mission

On **July 18, 1980**, India achieved a significant milestone in its space journey by launching the **Rohini Satellite RS-1**, marking the nation's entry into the exclusive group of countries capable of deploying satellites into orbit using indigenous launch vehicles.

Key Facts:

- **Launch Vehicle:** The satellite was deployed using the **Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3)**, India's first indigenously developed launch vehicle.
- **Project Director:** Dr. **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** served as the Project Director for the SLV-3 mission, overseeing its development and successful deployment.
- **Launch Site:** The launch took place at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota, India.
- **Satellite Specifications:**
  - **Weight:** 35 kg
  - **Power:** 16 watts
  - **Instruments:** Digital sun sensor, magnetometer, and temperature sensors
  - **Orbit:** 305 km x 919 km with an inclination of 44.7°
  - **Mission Duration:** 1.2 years (operational), remained in orbit for 20 months

Significance:

- **Technological Achievement:** The successful deployment of RS-1 demonstrated India's capability to design, develop, and launch satellites using its own technology.
- **International Recognition:** With this achievement, India became the **seventh country** globally to possess the capability to launch satellites into orbit using indigenous technology.
- **Legacy:** The success of the SLV-3 mission paved the way for subsequent advancements in India's space program, leading to the development of more sophisticated launch vehicles and satellites.

Kalam-Raju Stent and Kalam-Raju Tablet
Introduction

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, renowned as the "Missile Man of India," made significant contributions beyond aerospace and defense. Collaborating with Dr. Bhupathiraju Soma Raju, a distinguished cardiologist, Kalam ventured into healthcare innovation. Together, they developed two notable technologies aimed at improving medical care accessibility in India: the **Kalam-Raju Stent** and the **Kalam-Raju Tablet**.

Kalam-Raju Stent

- **Development and Purpose**: In 1998, Dr. Kalam and Dr. Soma Raju developed a low-cost coronary stent named the "Kalam-Raju Stent." The primary objective was to provide an affordable solution for coronary artery disease, which was previously treated using imported stents costing over ₹1 lakh.
- **Impact**: The introduction of the Kalam-Raju Stent significantly reduced the cost of coronary stents in India, making heart treatment more accessible to the general population.
- **Recognition**: The innovation was recognized with the Defence Technology Spin-off Award in 1998, highlighting its contribution to civilian healthcare through defense technology.

Kalam-Raju Tablet

- **Development and Purpose**: In 2012, Dr. Kalam and Dr. Soma Raju designed a rugged tablet computer tailored for healthcare administration in rural and remote areas. The "Kalam-Raju Tablet" aimed to equip healthcare workers with a portable device capable of performing various medical tasks, thereby enhancing healthcare delivery in underserved regions.
- **Features**: The tablet was designed to withstand harsh conditions, ensuring durability and reliability in challenging environments.
- **Impact**: The deployment of the Kalam-Raju Tablet facilitated improved healthcare services in rural areas, bridging the gap between urban and rural medical facilities.

Conclusion

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's collaboration with Dr. Bhupathiraju Soma Raju led to the creation of the Kalam-Raju Stent and the Kalam-Raju Tablet, both of which have had a lasting impact on healthcare accessibility in India. These innovations reflect Kalam's vision of applying scientific advancements to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's Toughest Decision: The Office of Profit Bill

Introduction

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, renowned as the "People's President," faced numerous challenges during his tenure from 2002 to 2007. Among these, his decision regarding the Office of Profit Bill stands out as the most difficult.

What Is the Office of Profit?

In Indian parliamentary terms, an "office of profit" refers to a position that offers a salary or perks from the government, which could influence a legislator's independence. The Constitution mandates that MPs and MLAs should not hold such offices to prevent conflicts of interest.

The Controversy

In 2006, the Indian Parliament passed the Office of Profit Bill, which retrospectively exempted certain positions from this definition, including the National Advisory Council (NAC) headed by Sonia Gandhi. This move was perceived by many as a way to shield MPs and MLAs from disqualification.

Kalam's Response

Upon receiving the bill, President Kalam returned it to Parliament, citing concerns over its retrospective application and the need for clearer guidelines. He emphasized the importance of transparency and fairness in such matters.

Despite his reservations, when the bill was sent back unchanged, President Kalam signed it, acknowledging the constitutional process.

Legacy

This episode highlighted the delicate balance a President must maintain between constitutional duties and personal convictions. Dr. Kalam's decision remains a significant moment in India's political history.

Visual Aids

To further understand this topic, consider the following visual aids:

- **Image of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**: A portrait of the 11th President of India.
- **Diagram of the Office of Profit Concept**: An infographic explaining what constitutes an office of profit in the Indian context.
- **Timeline of the Office of Profit Bill**: A chronological chart detailing the events leading up to and following the bill's passage.

Ahmedabad all set to host 2030 C'wealth Games

PCS
Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Executive Board (EB) of Commonwealth Sport on Wednesday recommended Ahmedabad as the proposed host city for the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games.

Even though a press release said the final decision on this will be taken at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow on November 26, it is likely to be a formality.

Ahmedabad, which is also in the race to bid for the 2036 Olympics, and Nigerian capital Abuja had submitted their proposals to host the 2030 Games.

Following a detailed process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport Evaluation Committee, which assessed candidate cities against a wide range of criteria, Ahmedabad was chosen over Abuja.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Commonwealth Games Association India (CGAI)

president P.T. Usha said, "The Games would not only showcase India's world-class sporting and event capabilities, but also play a meaningful role in our journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047."

Sporting hub: Ahmedabad will be abuzz with activity. PTI

Ahmedabad all set to host 2030 C'wealth Games
अहमदाबाद 2030 कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स की मेजबानी के लिए तैयार

- The **Executive Board (EB)** of **Commonwealth Sport** on Wednesday recommended **Ahmedabad** as the proposed host city for the **2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games**.
  कॉमनवेल्थ स्पोर्ट के **एक्जीक्यूटिव बोर्ड (EB)** ने बुधवार को **2030 सेंचुरी कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स** की मेजबानी के लिए **अहमदाबाद** को प्रस्तावित मेजबान शहर के रूप में सुझाया।

- Even though a press release said the final decision on this will be taken at the **Commonwealth Sport General Assembly** in **Glasgow** on **November 26**, it is likely to be a formality.
  हालांकि एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया कि इस पर अंतिम निर्णय **26 नवंबर** को **ग्लासगो** में **कॉमनवेल्थ स्पोर्ट जनरल असेंबली** में लिया जाएगा, यह संभावना है कि यह केवल औपचारिकता होगी।

- **Ahmedabad**, which is also in the race to bid for the **2036 Olympics**, and **Nigerian capital Abuja** had submitted their proposals to host the **2030 Games**.
  अहमदाबाद, जो **2036 ओलंपिक्स** की बोली में भी है, और **नाइजीरियाई राजधानी अबुजा** ने **2030 गेम्स** की मेजबानी के लिए अपने प्रस्ताव जमा किए थे।

- Following a detailed process overseen by the **Commonwealth Sport Evaluation Committee**, which assessed candidate cities against a wide range of criteria, **Ahmedabad** was chosen over **Abuja**.
  कॉमनवेल्थ स्पोर्ट एवाल्यूएशन कमिटी द्वारा देखे गए विस्तृत प्रक्रिया के बाद, जिसने उम्मीदवार शहरों का मूल्यांकन कई मानदंडों के आधार पर किया, **अहमदाबाद** को **अबुजा** पर चुना गया।

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and **Commonwealth Games Association India (CGAI)** president **P.T. Usha** said, "The Games would not only showcase India's world-class sporting and event capabilities, but also play a meaningful role in our journey towards **Viksit Bharat 2047**."
  इंडियन ओलंपिक एसोसिएशन (IOA) और **कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स एसोसिएशन इंडिया (CGAI)** की अध्यक्ष **P.T. उषा** ने कहा, "गेम्स न केवल भारत की विश्व-स्तरीय खेल और आयोजन क्षमताओं को प्रदर्शित करेंगे, बल्कि हमारे **विकसित भारत 2047** की यात्रा में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका भी निभाएंगे।"

GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography	
TOPICS COVERED	**16 October 2025**
1. **Kashmir college changes name of auditorium to 'Lal Ded' from 'Lalla Arifa' following protests** **विरोध के बाद कश्मीर कॉलेज ने ऑडिटोरियम का नाम 'लल्ला अरिफा' से बदलकर 'लाल डेड' किया**	
2. **Weather system to bring heavy rain in T.N. till October 21** **मौसम प्रणाली से 21 अक्टूबर तक तमिलनाडु में भारी वर्षा होगी**	
3. **The Road to Gender Equity in Courts** **न्यायालयों में लिंग समानता की दिशा**	

Kashmir college changes name of auditorium to 'Lal Ded' from 'Lalla Arifa' following protests

GS I: A&C

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Kashmir's prominent Government College for Women in Srinagar on Wednesday announced that it had changed the name of its auditorium to 'Lal Ded' from 'Lalla Arifa'.

The development comes in the wake of protests by Kashmiri Pandits.

"Good to see the auditorium's name changed from Lalla Arifa to Lal Ded. When will the other names be restored? Lal Ded, the mystic saint, will live forever for Kashmir," said Ravinder Pandita, head of the Save Sharda Committee.

During the day, the college hosted a function at the 'Lal Ded' auditorium, which was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakeena Itoo. The Minister commended the college for being a "cornerstone of women's empowerment" and announced the construction of a new 1,000-seat auditorium at the event held to mark the college's 75th anniversary.

In August this year, Abhay Sopori, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit santoor player, composer, and conductor, refused to perform at the college over the name given to the auditorium after the 14th-century poet, referred to as Lalleshwari by Kashmiri Pandits and Lalla Arifa by Muslims.

Welcoming the development, Mr. Sopori told *The Hindu*: "Lal Ded is a name that is equally regarded by both communities. I did not perform at the college's musical festival after the auditorium's name was pointed out to me. I cancelled my performance in protest."

The college had planned a festival to celebrate India's classical music heritage from August 23 to 25 at the auditorium.

"Kashmir has seen a lot, and the time has come not to invest in names that cause friction. I will always stand for the culture of Kashmir," added Mr. Sopori.

When contacted, the college principal, Prof. Yasmeen Farooq, refused to comment.

Abhay Sopori, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit santoor player, had refused to perform at the college over the auditorium's name. FILE PHOTO

Kashmir college changes name of auditorium to 'Lal Ded' from 'Lalla Arifa' following protests

विरोध के बाद कश्मीर कॉलेज ने ऑडिटोरियम का नाम 'लल्ला अरिफा' से बदलकर 'लाल डेड' किया

- Kashmir's prominent **Government College for Women in Srinagar** on **Wednesday** announced that it had changed the name of its **auditorium** to **'Lal Ded'** from **'Lalla Arifa'**.
  कश्मीर के प्रसिद्ध **गवर्नमेंट कॉलेज फॉर वीमेन, श्रीनगर** ने **बुधवार** को घोषणा की कि उसने अपने **ऑडिटोरियम** का नाम **'लल्ला अरिफा'** से बदलकर **'लाल डेड'** कर दिया है।

- The development comes in the wake of **protests by Kashmiri Pandits**.
  यह निर्णय **कश्मीरी पंडितों के विरोध** के बाद लिया गया है।

- "Good to see the auditorium's name changed from Lalla Arifa to Lal Ded. When will the other names be restored? Lal Ded, the mystic saint, will live forever for Kashmir," said **Ravinder Pandita**, head of the **Save Sharda Committee**.

  "यह देखकर अच्छा लगा कि ऑडिटोरियम का नाम **लल्ला अरिफा से लाल डेड** कर दिया गया। बाकी नाम कब बहाल होंगे? **लाल डेड**, यह **सूफी संत** कश्मीर के लिए हमेशा जीवित रहेंगी," ऐसा कहना है **सेव शारदा कमेटी** के प्रमुख **रविंदर पंडिता** का।

- During the day, the college hosted a **function** at the **'Lal Ded' auditorium**, which was attended by **Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakeena Itoo**.

  दिन में कॉलेज ने **'लाल डेड' ऑडिटोरियम** में एक **कार्यक्रम** आयोजित किया, जिसमें **जम्मू और कश्मीर की शिक्षा मंत्री सकीना इत्तो** शामिल हुईं।

- The Minister commended the college for being a "cornerstone of **women's empowerment**" and announced the construction of a new **1,000-seat auditorium** at the event held to mark the college's **75th anniversary**.

  मंत्री ने कॉलेज को **"महिला सशक्तिकरण का आधार स्तंभ"** बताया और कॉलेज की **75वीं वर्षगांठ** के उपलक्ष्य में एक नया **1,000-सीट वाला ऑडिटोरियम** बनाने की घोषणा की।

- In **August this year**, **Abhay Sopori**, a prominent **Kashmiri Pandit santoor player, composer, and conductor**, refused to perform at the college over the name given to the auditorium after the **14th-century poet**, referred to as **Lalleshwari** by **Kashmiri Pandits** and **Lalla Arifa** by **Muslims**.

  इस वर्ष अगस्त में, प्रसिद्ध **कश्मीरी पंडित संतूर वादक, संगीतकार और संचालक अभय सोपोड़ी** ने कॉलेज में प्रदर्शन करने से इनकार कर दिया था क्योंकि ऑडिटोरियम का नाम **14वीं सदी की कवयित्री** के नाम पर रखा गया था, जिन्हें **कश्मीरी पंडित लल्लेश्वरी** और **मुस्लिम समुदाय लल्ला अरिफा** के नाम से जानते हैं।

- Welcoming the development, Mr. Sopori told *The Hindu*: "Lal Ded is a name that is equally regarded by both communities. I did not perform at the college's musical festival after the auditorium's name was pointed out to me. I cancelled my performance in protest."

  इस निर्णय का स्वागत करते हुए **श्री सोपोड़ी** ने *द हिंदू* से कहा: "**लाल डेड** ऐसा नाम है जिसे दोनों समुदाय समान रूप से सम्मान देते हैं। जब मुझे ऑडिटोरियम का नाम बताया गया, तो मैंने कॉलेज के **संगीत उत्सव** में प्रदर्शन नहीं किया और **विरोध स्वरूप** अपना कार्यक्रम रद्द कर दिया।"

- The college had planned a **festival** to celebrate **India's classical music heritage** from **August 23 to 25** at the auditorium.

  कॉलेज ने **23 से 25 अगस्त** तक ऑडिटोरियम में **भारत की शास्त्रीय संगीत विरासत** का जश्न मनाने के लिए एक **उत्सव** आयोजित करने की योजना बनाई थी।

- "Kashmir has seen a lot, and the time has come not to invest in names that cause friction. I will always stand for the culture of Kashmir," added Mr. Sopori.

  "**कश्मीर** ने बहुत कुछ देखा है, अब समय आ गया है कि ऐसे नामों में निवेश न किया जाए जो **विभाजन** पैदा करें। मैं हमेशा **कश्मीर की संस्कृति** के पक्ष में खड़ा रहूंगा," श्री **सोपोड़ी** ने जोड़ा।

- When contacted, the **college principal**, **Prof. Yasmeen Farooq**, refused to comment.

  संपर्क करने पर **कॉलेज की प्रिंसिपल प्रोफेसर यासमीन फारूक** ने टिप्पणी करने से इनकार कर दिया।

Weather system to bring heavy rain in T.N. till October 21

GS I: Geography: Climate

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Widespread rainfall lashed several parts of Tamil Nadu in the early hours of Wednesday, with a few coastal areas experiencing intense downpour, under the influence of a prevailing weather system over the Bay of Bengal. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue over many districts this week.

The strengthening of easterly/northeasterly winds over the region signals the impending arrival of the northeast monsoon. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) said the simultaneous withdrawal of the southwest monsoon and onset of Northeast monsoon was likely on Thursday.

An upper air cyclonic circulation over coastal Tamil Nadu and adjoining Comorin area is cited as one of the reasons for wet weather in the State. In its bulletin, the RMC forecast the wet spell to continue till October 21.

On Thursday, four districts, including Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram, may receive very heavy rainfall. Heavy rain is likely in 22 districts, including Virudhunagar, Villupuram and the Nilgiris.

Many coastal districts, including Chennai and neighbouring districts, are likely to receive intense rainfall.

Water released

In the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, Ennore in Chennai recorded very heavy rainfall of 14 cm. Kathivakkam (10 cm), Manali New Town in Chennai and Kodanad in Nilgiris district (9 cm each), Wimco Nagar in Chennai (8 cm) also reported heavy rainfall. Several districts received light to moderate rainfall.

The Water Resources Department released about 700 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water from the Poondi reservoir, and 200 cusecs from the Red Hills reservoir on Wednesday as precaution.

Weather system to bring heavy rain in T.N. till October 21
मौसम प्रणाली से 21 अक्टूबर तक तमिलनाडु में भारी वर्षा होगी

- Widespread rainfall lashed several parts of **Tamil Nadu** in the early hours of **Wednesday**, with a few **coastal areas** experiencing intense downpour, under the influence of a prevailing **weather system over the Bay of Bengal**. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue over many districts this week.
बुधवार की सुबह तमिलनाडु के कई हिस्सों में व्यापक वर्षा हुई, जबकि कुछ तटीय क्षेत्रों में बंगाल की खाड़ी पर मौजूद मौसम प्रणाली के प्रभाव से भारी बारिश देखी गई। इस सप्ताह कई जिलों में भारी वर्षा जारी रहने की संभावना है।

Water gushing out of the Poondi reservoir in Tiruvallur district after the Public Works Department opened the shutters ahead of northeast monsoon on Wednesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

- The strengthening of **easterly/northeasterly winds** over the region signals the impending arrival of the **northeast monsoon**.
क्षेत्र में पूर्वी/उत्तर-पूर्वी हवाओं की मजबूती उत्तर-पूर्व मानसून के आगमन का संकेत देती है।

- The **Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)** said the simultaneous **withdrawal of the southwest monsoon** and **onset of Northeast monsoon** was likely on **Thursday**.
क्षेत्रीय मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र (RMC) ने कहा कि दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून की वापसी और उत्तर-पूर्व मानसून की शुरुआत संभवतः गुरुवार को होगी।

- An **upper air cyclonic circulation** over **coastal Tamil Nadu** and adjoining **Comorin area** is cited as one of the reasons for **wet weather** in the State. In its bulletin, the **RMC forecast** the wet spell to continue till **October 21**.
तटीय तमिलनाडु और आसपास के कोमोरिन क्षेत्र में ऊपरी वायुमंडलीय चक्रवाती परिसंचरण को राज्य में बरसाती मौसम का एक कारण बताया गया है। अपने बुलेटिन में, RMC ने 21 अक्टूबर तक बारिश जारी रहने का पूर्वानुमान जताया।

- On **Thursday**, four districts, including **Tirunelveli** and **Ramanathapuram**, may receive **very heavy rainfall**. Heavy rain is likely in **22 districts**, including **Virudhunagar**, **Villupuram**, and **the Nilgiris**.
गुरुवार को तिरुनेलवेली और रामनाथपुरम सहित चार जिलों में अत्यधिक भारी वर्षा हो सकती है। विरुधुनगर, विलुपुरम और नीलगिरी सहित 22 जिलों में भारी बारिश की संभावना है।

- Many **coastal districts**, including **Chennai** and neighbouring districts, are likely to receive **intense rainfall**.
चेन्नई सहित कई तटीय जिलों और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में तीव्र वर्षा होने की संभावना है।

- In the **24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday**, **Ennore** in Chennai recorded **very heavy rainfall of 14 cm**. **Kathivakkam (10 cm)**, **Manali New Town** in Chennai and **Kodanad** in Nilgiris district (**9 cm each**), **Wimco Nagar** in Chennai (**8 cm**) also reported **heavy rainfall**. Several districts received **light to moderate rainfall**.

  बुधवार सुबह 8.30 बजे तक के 24 घंटों में, चेन्नई के एन्नोर में **14 सेमी की बहुत भारी वर्षा** दर्ज की गई। **कथिवक्कम (10 सेमी)**, चेन्नई का मनाली न्यू टाउन और नीलगिरी जिले का कोडानाड (**9 सेमी प्रत्येक**), चेन्नई का विम्को नगर (**8 सेमी**) में भी **भारी वर्षा** हुई। कई जिलों में **हल्की से मध्यम वर्षा** दर्ज की गई।

- The **Water Resources Department** released about **700 cubic feet per second (cusecs)** of water from the **Poondi reservoir**, and **200 cusecs** from the **Red Hills reservoir** on **Wednesday** as precaution.

  जल संसाधन विभाग ने **सावधानी** के तौर पर **बुधवार** को **पूंडी जलाशय** से लगभग **700 क्यूसेक** पानी और **रेड हिल्स जलाशय** से **200 क्यूसेक** पानी छोड़ा।

The road to gender equity in courts

GS I: Society

Women's under-representation, particularly in India's higher judiciary, continues to be a sad reality. As highlighted by the India Justice Report 2025, women constitute only 14% of judges in the High Courts and a mere 3.1% in the Supreme Court. Among the 34 judges of the Supreme Court, there is only one woman. The silver lining is her expected elevation as the first woman Chief Justice of India. If no woman is inducted before she completes her tenure, the highest court of the country may have the unenviable distinction of not having even a token representation of women. Out of 25 High Courts, only one is headed by a woman Chief Justice.

This stark deficiency has been flagged in the past, and several judges have also voiced their concern. However, no serious effort seems to have been made to correct this imbalance, and the situation remains dismal in this hollowed domain.

The main reason for this gender disparity is the current Collegium system of induction of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. The Collegium consists of the Chief Justice and a few other judges. In such a highly networked 'elitist club', women and other underprivileged sections of society are at a great disadvantage.

Archana Ramasundaram is a retired DGP and has also served as a Member, Lokpal

Need for reform

The lower courts fare much better on this front, since judges at this level are selected through competitive examinations that open the doors equally to women and men. As a result, women account for nearly 38% of the overall strength of the lower judiciary.

The numbers could rise further with better promotional opportunities and a gender-friendly infrastructure. Nearly 20% of the district court complexes in 2023 lacked separate toilets for women, according to a report published by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court.

This gender imbalance in the higher judiciary can be corrected if there is an open, national-level competition for judicial appointments, similar to those for the IAS, IFS, and IPS. This suggestion is not new.

In recent years, this idea has gained traction and found support from President Droupadi Murmu. In her address at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court in November 2023, she suggested the creation of an All-India Judicial Service. This, she said, would be a system "in which judges can be recruited through a process which is merit-based, competitive and transparent. Such a system can offer opportunities to the less-represented social groups also."

Unfortunately, this suggestion has faced stiff resistance from both the judiciary and the Bar; in their view, this may result in executive interference and dilute the judicial autonomy. However, this argument is not convincing. If there is no evidence of any executive interference in the selection of the lower judiciary through competitive exams, how would a similar system affect the independence of the higher judiciary? On the contrary, an open competitive examination would ensure a uniform merit-based selection process and bring the much-needed transparency, while reducing the influence of biases and patronage, and creating a more inclusive judiciary.

> The gender imbalance in the higher judiciary can be corrected if there is a national-level competition for judicial appointments

UPSC as a model

To counter such concerns, a special mention needs to be made of the crucial role played by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in holding a pan-India competitive examination annually for recruitment to the Civil Services.

Over the decades, the profiles of successful candidates in the UPSC Civil Services examination have witnessed a remarkable diversity in their social and economic backgrounds. Out of the 1,009 candidates selected in the year 2024, there are 318 from the OBC, 160 from SC, 87 from ST, and 109 from EWS. Women have scripted a new history; the top 25 successful candidates include 11 women. In fact, both first and second ranks were secured by women.

The scenario in the IPS is even more heartening. In 2024, 54 women joined the IPS, comprising 28% of the total strength.

Way forward

Article 312 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to create new All-India Services, including an All-India Judicial Service, to ensure uniform recruitment, training, and service standards. One hopes that such a service comes into existence soon. Once constituted, the control over the Indian Judicial Service should vest with the Supreme Court.

However, the examination should be open to all Indians and conducted by the UPSC, based on the eligibility standards and other criteria prescribed by the Supreme Court in consultation with the High Courts. This would inject the much-needed impartiality, transparency, and diversity in the selection process of the higher judiciary.

Those selected should work under the control of the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned, as the case may be. The modalities, of course, are to be decided by these courts, including those relating to a comprehensive basic training programme after their selection.

To recall the famous words of a former Prime Minister of France, Georges Clemenceau, "War is too important a matter to be left to generals".

Similarly, justice is also too serious a matter to be left entirely to the judiciary.

The citizens of this country also have a stake in this matter and need to be given access to the selection process to ensure an inclusive judiciary.

The Road to Gender Equity in Courts
न्यायालयों में लिंग समानता की दिशा

Women's Under-Representation in Higher Judiciary
उच्च न्यायपालिका में महिलाओं का अल्प-प्रतिनिधित्व

- Women's **under-representation**, particularly in India's **higher judiciary**, continues to be a sad reality.
  महिलाओं का **अल्प-प्रतिनिधित्व**, विशेष रूप से भारत की **उच्च न्यायपालिका** में, एक दुखद वास्तविकता बनी हुई है।
- As highlighted by the **India Justice Report 2025**, women constitute only **14%** of judges in the High Courts and a mere **3.1%** in the Supreme Court.
  जैसा कि **India Justice Report 2025** में उजागर किया गया है, महिलाओं की संख्या हाई कोर्ट में केवल **14%** और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केवल **3.1%** है।
- Among the **34 judges** of the Supreme Court, there is only **one woman**.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट के **34 न्यायाधीशों** में केवल **एक महिला** हैं।
- The silver lining is her expected elevation as the **first woman Chief Justice of India**.
  सकारात्मक पहलू यह है कि उन्हें भारत की **पहली महिला मुख्य न्यायाधीश** बनने की संभावना है।
- If no woman is inducted before she completes her tenure, the **highest court** of the country may have the unenviable distinction of not having even a **token representation of women**.
  यदि उनकी कार्यकाल पूरी होने से पहले कोई महिला नियुक्त नहीं होती, तो देश के **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व न होने का अभिशाप रह जाएगा।
- Out of **25 High Courts**, only **one** is headed by a **woman Chief Justice**.
  25 हाई कोर्टों में से केवल **एक** का नेतृत्व **महिला मुख्य न्यायाधीश** करती हैं।
- This stark deficiency has been flagged in the past, and several judges have also voiced their concern.
  इस स्पष्ट कमी को पहले भी उजागर किया गया है, और कई न्यायाधीशों ने अपनी चिंता व्यक्त की है।
- However, no serious effort seems to have been made to correct this imbalance, and the situation remains dismal in this hollowed domain.
  हालांकि, इस असंतुलन को सुधारने के लिए कोई गंभीर प्रयास नहीं किया गया, और इस क्षेत्र की स्थिति निराशाजनक बनी हुई है।

Reasons for Gender Disparity
लैंगिक असमानता के कारण

- The main reason for this gender disparity is the current **Collegium system** of induction of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
  इस लैंगिक असमानता का मुख्य कारण हाई कोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति का वर्तमान **कोलेजियम सिस्टम** है।
- The **Collegium** consists of the **Chief Justice** and a few other judges.
  कोलेजियम में **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** और कुछ अन्य न्यायाधीश शामिल हैं।
- In such a highly networked 'elitist club', women and other underprivileged sections of society are at a **great disadvantage**.
  ऐसे अत्यधिक नेटवर्क वाले 'एलिटिस्ट क्लब' में, महिलाएं और समाज के अन्य वंचित वर्गों को **महान असुविधा** होती है।

Need for Reform
सुधार की आवश्यकता

- The lower courts fare much better on this front, since judges at this level are selected through **competitive examinations** that open the doors equally to women and men.
  निचली अदालतों में इस मामले में स्थिति बेहतर है, क्योंकि इस स्तर के न्यायाधीशों का चयन **प्रतिस्पर्धी परीक्षाओं** के माध्यम से होता है, जो महिलाओं और पुरुषों दोनों के लिए समान अवसर प्रदान करती हैं।

- As a result, women account for nearly **38%** of the overall strength of the lower judiciary.
  परिणामस्वरूप, महिलाओं की संख्या निचली न्यायपालिका की कुल शक्ति में लगभग **38%** है।
- The numbers could rise further with **better promotional opportunities** and a **gender-friendly infrastructure**.
  बेहतर **पदोन्नति के अवसर** और **लैंगिक अनुकूल अवसंरचना** के साथ यह संख्या और बढ़ सकती है।
- Nearly **20%** of the district court complexes in **2023** lacked **separate toilets for women**, according to a report by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट के रिसर्च और प्लानिंग सेंटर की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **2023** में जिला न्यायालय परिसरों का लगभग **20%** में महिलाओं के लिए **अलग शौचालय** नहीं थे।
- This gender imbalance in the higher judiciary can be corrected if there is an **open, national-level competition** for judicial appointments, similar to those for the **IAS, IFS, and IPS**.
  उच्च न्यायपालिका में इस लैंगिक असंतुलन को सुधारा जा सकता है यदि न्यायिक नियुक्तियों के लिए **खुली, राष्ट्रीय-स्तरीय प्रतियोगिता** हो, जैसे **IAS, IFS और IPS** के लिए होती है।
- In recent years, this idea has gained traction and found support from **President Droupadi Murmu**.
  हाल के वर्षों में, इस विचार को गति मिली है और इसे **राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू** का समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ है।
- In her address at the **Constitution Day function** organised by the Supreme Court in **November 2023**, she suggested the creation of an **All-India Judicial Service**.
  नवंबर 2023 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा आयोजित **संविधान दिवस कार्यक्रम** में अपने संबोधन में, उन्होंने **सर्व-भारत न्यायिक सेवा** बनाने का सुझाव दिया।
- She said it would be a system "in which judges can be recruited through a process which is **merit-based, competitive, and transparent**. Such a system can offer opportunities to the less-represented social groups also."
  उन्होंने कहा कि यह एक ऐसा प्रणाली होगी जिसमें न्यायाधीशों को **मेरिट-आधारित, प्रतिस्पर्धी और पारदर्शी** प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से नियुक्त किया जा सकता है। ऐसी प्रणाली **कम प्रतिनिधित्व वाले सामाजिक समूहों** को भी अवसर प्रदान कर सकती है।
- Unfortunately, this suggestion has faced **stiff resistance** from both the **judiciary and the Bar**, as they fear **executive interference** and dilution of **judicial autonomy**.
  दुर्भाग्यवश, इस सुझाव का सामना **न्यायपालिका और बार** दोनों से **कड़ी प्रतिरोध** हुआ है, क्योंकि उन्हें **कार्यपालिका हस्तक्षेप** और **न्यायिक स्वायत्तता** में कमी का डर है।
- However, this argument is not convincing. If there is no evidence of any **executive interference** in the selection of the lower judiciary through **competitive exams**, how would a similar system affect the **independence of the higher judiciary**?
  हालांकि, यह तर्क संतोषजनक नहीं है। यदि **प्रतिस्पर्धी परीक्षाओं** के माध्यम से निचली न्यायपालिका के चयन में कोई **कार्यपालिका हस्तक्षेप** का प्रमाण नहीं है, तो ऐसा समान प्रणाली उच्च न्यायपालिका की **स्वतंत्रता** को कैसे प्रभावित करेगी?
- On the contrary, an **open competitive examination** would ensure a **uniform merit-based selection process**, bring **transparency**, reduce the influence of **biases and patronage**, and create a more **inclusive judiciary**.
  इसके विपरीत, एक **खुली प्रतियोगी परीक्षा** सुनिश्चित करेगी **समान मेरिट-आधारित चयन प्रक्रिया**, लाएगी **पारदर्शिता**, कम करेगी **पूर्वग्रह और संरक्षकवाद का प्रभाव**, और बनाएगी एक अधिक **समावेशी न्यायपालिका**।

UPSC as a Model
UPSC एक मॉडल के रूप में

- To counter such concerns, a special mention needs to be made of the crucial role played by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** in holding a **pan-India competitive examination annually** for recruitment to the **Civil Services**.
  इन चिंताओं का सामना करने के लिए, यह विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय है कि **संगठनिक लोक सेवा आयोग (UPSC)** का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान, जो **संपूर्ण भारत स्तर पर वार्षिक प्रतियोगी परीक्षा** आयोजित करता है **सिविल सेवा भर्ती** के लिए।
- Over the decades, the profiles of successful candidates in the **UPSC Civil Services examination** have witnessed a remarkable diversity in their social and economic backgrounds.

दशकों के दौरान, **UPSC सिविल सेवा परीक्षा** में सफल उम्मीदवारों की प्रोफ़ाइल में उनके सामाजिक और आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि में उल्लेखनीय विविधता देखी गई है।

- Out of the **1,009 candidates** selected in the year **2024**, there are **318 from OBC, 160 from SC, 87 from ST, and 109 from EWS**.
  वर्ष 2024 में चयनित **1,009 उम्मीदवारों** में से, **318 OBC, 160 SC, 87 ST और 109 EWS** से हैं।

- Women have scripted a new history; the **top 25 successful candidates** include **11 women**.
  महिलाओं ने नई इतिहास रची है; **शीर्ष 25 सफल उम्मीदवारों** में **11 महिलाएं** शामिल हैं।

- In fact, both **first and second ranks** were secured by women.
  वास्तव में, **पहली और दूसरी रैंक** दोनों महिलाओं ने प्राप्त की।

- The scenario in the **IPS** is even more heartening. In **2024**, **54 women joined the IPS**, comprising **28%** of the total strength.
  IPS में स्थिति और भी उत्साहजनक है। **2024** में, **54 महिलाएं IPS में शामिल हुईं**, जो कुल संख्या का **28%** है।

Way Forward
आगे का मार्ग

- **Article 312** of the Constitution empowers Parliament to create new **All-India Services**, including an **All-India Judicial Service**, to ensure uniform recruitment, training, and service standards.
  संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 312** के तहत संसद को नए **सर्व-भारत सेवाओं** की स्थापना का अधिकार है, जिसमें **सर्व-भारत न्यायिक सेवा** भी शामिल है, ताकि समान भर्ती, प्रशिक्षण और सेवा मानक सुनिश्चित किए जा सकें।

- One hopes that such a service comes into existence soon. Once constituted, the control over the **Indian Judicial Service** should vest with the **Supreme Court**.
  आशा है कि ऐसी सेवा जल्द अस्तित्व में आएगी। एक बार गठित होने पर, **भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा** पर नियंत्रण **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के पास होना चाहिए।

- However, the examination should be open to **all Indians** and conducted by the **UPSC**, based on eligibility standards and other criteria prescribed by the **Supreme Court** in consultation with the **High Courts**.
  हालांकि, परीक्षा **सभी भारतीयों** के लिए खुली होनी चाहिए और **UPSC** द्वारा आयोजित की जानी चाहिए, जो **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** द्वारा **हाई कोर्ट्स** के परामर्श से निर्धारित पात्रता मानकों और अन्य मानदंडों पर आधारित हो।

- This would inject the much-needed **impartiality, transparency, and diversity** in the selection process of the **higher judiciary**.
  इससे **उच्च न्यायपालिका** के चयन प्रक्रिया में अत्यंत आवश्यक **निष्पक्षता, पारदर्शिता और विविधता** आएगी।

- Those selected should work under the control of the **Supreme Court** or the **High Court concerned**, as the case may be.
  चयनित उम्मीदवारों को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** या संबंधित **हाई कोर्ट** के नियंत्रण में कार्य करना चाहिए।

- The modalities, of course, are to be decided by these courts, including those relating to a **comprehensive basic training programme** after their selection.
  प्रक्रियाएँ, निश्चित रूप से, इन अदालतों द्वारा तय की जाएंगी, जिसमें चयन के बाद **व्यापक मूल प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम** से संबंधित बातें भी शामिल हैं।

- To recall the famous words of a former Prime Minister of France, **Georges Clemenceau**, **"War is too important a matter to be left to generals."**
  फ्रांस के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **जॉर्ज क्लेमेन्सो** के प्रसिद्ध शब्द याद करें, **"युद्ध एक ऐसा महत्वपूर्ण मामला है जिसे सिर्फ जनरल पर छोड़ना सही नहीं है।"**

- Similarly, justice is also too serious a matter to be left entirely to the **judiciary**.
  इसी तरह, न्याय भी एक गंभीर मामला है जिसे पूरी तरह से **न्यायपालिका** पर छोड़ना सही नहीं है।

- The citizens of this country also have a stake in this matter and need to be given access to the **selection process** to ensure an **inclusive judiciary**.
  इस देश के नागरिकों का भी इस मामले में हित है और उन्हें **चयन प्रक्रिया** तक पहुँच दी जानी चाहिए ताकि एक **समावेशी न्यायपालिका** सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations	
TOPICS COVERED	**16 October 2025**

1.	**NSA Doval in Bishkek for security talks with Central Asia partners** सेंटरल एशिया के साझेदारों के साथ सुरक्षा वार्ता के लिए बिश्केक में NSA दवे
2.	**Indian-origin former official Ashley Tellis held in the U.S** अमेरिका में भारतीय मूल के पूर्व अधिकारी एशली टेलिस को हिरासत में लिया गया
3.	**Delhi HC seeks response on vacancies in National Commission for Minorities** दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने नेशनल कमीशन फॉर माइनॉरिटीज में रिक्तियों पर जवाब मांगा
4.	**Refugees, Infiltrators** शरणार्थी, घुसपैठिए
5.	**The future of the IMEC** IMEC का भविष्य
6.	**Why is the fiscal architecture of municipalities flawed?** नगरपालिकाओं की वित्तीय संरचना क्यों त्रुटिपूर्ण (flawed) है?
7.	**China files WTO complaint on India's EV, battery subsidies** चीन ने भारत के ईवी और बैटरी सब्सिडी पर डब्ल्यूटीओ में शिकायत दर्ज की
8.	**Sri Lanka PM Amarasuriya to arrive in New Delhi today** श्रीलंका की प्रधानमंत्री अमारासुरीया आज नई दिल्ली पहुंचेंगी
9.	**Indonesia to buy 42 fighter jets from China in first non-Western aircraft purchase deal** इंडोनेशिया चीन से 42 लड़ाकू विमान खरीदेगा, पहला गैर-पश्चिमी हवाई जहाज खरीद समझौता

NSA Doval in Bishkek for security talks with Central Asia partners

GS II: India-Central Asia

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Kyrgyz capital Bishkek will host the meeting of National Security Advisers (NSAs) of India and the Central Asian Republics this week where security and terrorism will be in focus.

NSA Ajit Doval reached Bishkek on Wednesday to participate in the dialogue with India's Central Asian security partners.

The overall security situation, especially the Afghanistan-Pakistan border conflict is expected to be part of the discussion which comes days after the Moscow format where four Central Asian republics participated in dialogue with India, Pakistan, Russia and the Afghan delegation led by Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Soon after his arrival in Bishkek, Mr. Doval held a

Ajit Doval

meeting with the Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov.

"Both sides discussed bilateral cooperation and agreed to enhance existing collaboration on countering terrorism, radicalisation, extremism and drug trafficking," said the Embassy of India in an announcement.

On June 6, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar led the 4th India-Central Asia dialogue that was held in New Delhi.

NSA Doval in Bishkek for security talks with Central Asia partners
सेंटरल एशिया के साझेदारों के साथ सुरक्षा वार्ता के लिए बिश्केक में NSA दवे

- Kyrgyz capital **Bishkek** will host the meeting of **National Security Advisers (NSAs)** of **India and the Central Asian Republics** this week where **security and terrorism** will be in focus.
  किर्गिज़ राजधानी **बिश्केक** इस सप्ताह **भारत और केंद्रीय एशियाई गणराज्यों** के **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकारों (NSA)** की बैठक की मेज़बानी करेगी, जहां **सुरक्षा और आतंकवाद** पर ध्यान केंद्रित होगा।

- **NSA Ajit Doval** reached **Bishkek** on Wednesday to participate in the dialogue with India's **Central Asian security partners**.
  NSA अजीत दवे बुधवार को **बिश्केक** पहुंचे ताकि भारत के **केंद्रीय एशियाई सुरक्षा साझेदारों** के साथ संवाद में भाग ले सकें।

- The overall **security situation**, especially the **Afghanistan-Pakistan border conflict** is expected to be part of the discussion which comes days after the **Moscow format** where four **Central Asian republics** participated in dialogue with **India, Pakistan, Russia**, and the **Afghan delegation** led by **Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi**.
  कुल मिलाकर **सुरक्षा स्थिति**, विशेष रूप से **अफ़ग़ानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान सीमा संघर्ष**, चर्चा का हिस्सा होने की उम्मीद है, जो **मॉस्को फॉर्मेट** के कुछ दिनों बाद आता है, जिसमें चार **केंद्रीय एशियाई गणराज्यों** ने **भारत, पाकिस्तान, रूस**, और **तालिबान के विदेश मंत्री आमिर खान मुत्ताक़ी** के नेतृत्व वाली **अफ़ग़ान प्रतिनिधि मंडल** के साथ संवाद में भाग लिया था।

- Soon after his arrival in **Bishkek**, Mr. Doval held a meeting with the **Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov**.
  बिश्केक पहुंचने के तुरंत बाद, श्री दवे ने **किर्गिज़ गणराज्य की सुरक्षा परिषद के सचिव ले. जनरल बक्तीबेक बेकबोलोतोव** के साथ बैठक की।

- "Both sides discussed **bilateral cooperation** and agreed to enhance existing collaboration on **countering terrorism, radicalisation, extremism**, and **drug trafficking**," said the **Embassy of India** in an announcement.
  "दोनों पक्षों ने **द्विपक्षीय सहयोग** पर चर्चा की और **आतंकवाद, कट्टरता, चरमपंथ**, और **ड्रग तस्करी** को रोकने में मौजूदा सहयोग बढ़ाने पर सहमति व्यक्त की," **भारत के दूतावास** ने एक घोषणा में कहा।

- On June 6, **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** led the 4th **India-Central Asia dialogue** that was held in **New Delhi**.
  6 जून को, **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर** ने **नई दिल्ली** में आयोजित चौथे **भारत-केंद्रीय एशिया संवाद** का नेतृत्व किया।

Indian-origin former official Ashley Tellis held in the U.S.

U.S. Department of Justice's affidavit says that during surveillance, former diplomat was found meeting Chinese officials on various occasions and accessing information on military hardware

GS II: India-US-China

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Officials, diplomats, and policy planners in think tanks reacted with shock and disbelief on the arrest of Ashley Tellis, an Indian-origin former U.S. government official, who has been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with being in possession of secret defence documents and accessing sensitive information on military hardware. He had been under surveillance over meetings with Chinese officials for at least three years.

Mr. Tellis, 64, is a well-known figure and public speaker in foreign policy circles, and knew most officials handling the India-U.S. relationship in Delhi and Washington over the past decades, since his tenure as Special Assistant to the former U.S. Ambassador to India Robert Blackwill (2000-2003).

The news was particularly surprising for officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, given how Mr. Tellis had what one former official called "extraordinary access" to all levels of foreign policy, defence, and national security structures in New Delhi.
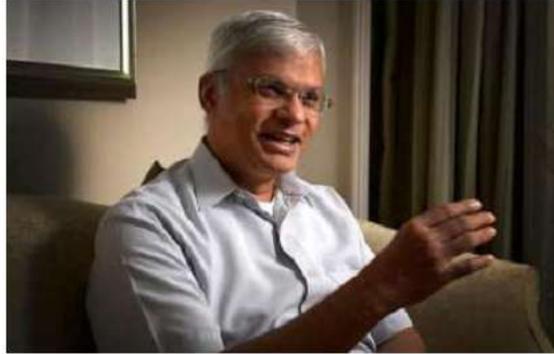
Ashley Tellis was arrested in the U.S. over charges of being in possession of secret defence documents. GETTY IMAGES

"Ashley was among the few foreigners who had an equally good equation with both [the late former] Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," a former official, who called Mr. Tellis a "highly regarded scholar", said.

Over the weekend, Mr. Tellis was arrested for the "unlawful retention of national defense information, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 793(e)", a law pertaining to "gathering, transmitting or losing national security information, documents, codes, etc.", a statement issued by the U.S. Attorney's office in Virginia said on Wednesday, adding that a Federal district judge would determine his sentencing if he was convicted, with up to 10 years in prison or fines.

FBI affidavit
The 10-page affidavit filed by Intelligence Analyst and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Jeffery Scott on October 13 said Mr. Tellis was taken into custody on October 11, following seizures at his residence in the town of Vienna, Virginia, based on a special warrant. "Investigators located over a thousand pages of paper documents with classification markings at the TOP SECRET and/or SECRET levels at various locations within the house," the affidavit said, adding Mr. Tellis had cooperated in directing investigators, providing keys, and unlocking his computer.

The Hindu spoke to a number of experts, some of whom referred to Mr. Tellis as a "close friend", and expressed surprise over the preliminary findings of a cache of classified documents at his home outside Washington D.C. Allegations that he had been in touch with Chinese officials, including a meeting on September 15, 2022 where he is alleged to have carried documents in a "manila envelope", and received a "red gift bag" from the officials have been met with particular comment, as Mr. Tellis has in articles and speeches argued for better India-U.S. relations in order to contain and manage the challenge from China.

The External Affairs ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Delhi did not comment on the case.

I ndian-origin former official Ashley Tellis held in the U.S
अमेरिका में भारतीय मूल के पूर्व अधिकारी एशली टेलिस को हिरासत में लिया गया

- Officials, diplomats, and policy planners in think tanks reacted with shock and disbelief on the arrest of **Ashley Tellis**, an **Indian-origin former U.S. government official**, who has been charged by the **U.S. Department of Justice** with being in possession of **secret defence documents** and accessing **sensitive information on military hardware**.

  अधिकारियों, राजनयिकों और थिंक टैंक में नीति निर्माताओं ने **एशली टेलिस** की गिरफ्तारी पर **आश्चर्य और disbelief** व्यक्त किया, जो **भारतीय मूल के पूर्व अमेरिकी सरकारी अधिकारी** हैं और जिन्हें **अमेरिका के न्याय विभाग** ने **गुप्त रक्षा दस्तावेजों के कब्जे** और **सैन्य हार्डवेयर पर संवेदनशील जानकारी तक पहुंच** के आरोप में चार्ज किया है।

- He had been under surveillance over meetings with **Chinese officials** for at least three years.
  वह कम से कम तीन वर्षों तक **चीनी अधिकारियों** के साथ बैठकों के कारण निगरानी में थे।

- Mr. Tellis, 64, is a well-known figure and public speaker in **foreign policy circles**, and knew most officials handling the **India-U.S. relationship** in Delhi and Washington over the past decades, since his tenure as **Special Assistant to the former U.S. Ambassador to India Robert Blackwill (2000-2003)**.
  श्री टेलिस, 64, **विदेश नीति क्षेत्रों** में एक प्रसिद्ध व्यक्ति और सार्वजनिक वक्ता हैं, और पिछले दशकों से **दिल्ली और वॉशिंगटन में भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों** को संभालने वाले अधिकांश अधिकारियों को जानते थे, जब वह **पूर्व अमेरिकी राजदूत रॉबर्ट ब्लैकविल (2000-2003) के विशेष सहायक** थे।

- The news was particularly surprising for officials of the **Ministry of External Affairs**, given how Mr. Tellis had what one former official called "extraordinary access" to all levels of **foreign policy, defence, and national security structures** in Delhi.
  यह खबर विशेष रूप से **विदेश मंत्रालय** के अधिकारियों के लिए चौंकाने वाली थी, क्योंकि श्री टेलिस के पास दिल्ली में सभी स्तरों के **विदेश नीति, रक्षा और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संरचनाओं** तक "असाधारण पहुंच" थी।

- "Ashley was among the few foreigners who had an equally good equation with both [the late former] **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**," a former official, who called Mr. Tellis a "highly regarded scholar", said.
  "एशली कुछ विदेशी में से थे जिनका समान रूप से अच्छा संबंध [स्व. पूर्व] **प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह** और **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** दोनों के साथ था," एक पूर्व अधिकारी ने कहा, जिन्होंने श्री टेलिस को "उच्च सम्मानित विद्वान" बताया।

- Over the weekend, Mr. Tellis was arrested for the "unlawful retention of **national defense information, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 793(e)**", a law pertaining to "gathering, transmitting or losing **national security information, documents, codes, etc.**", a statement issued by the **U.S. Attorney's office in Virginia** said on Wednesday, adding that a **Federal district judge** would determine his sentencing if he was convicted, with up to **10 years in prison or fines**.
  सप्ताहांत में, श्री टेलिस को "**राष्ट्रीय रक्षा जानकारी के गैरकानूनी कब्जे, 18 U.S.C. § 793(e) के उल्लंघन**" के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया, जो कानून "**राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा जानकारी, दस्तावेज़, कोड आदि को एकत्र करने, प्रेषित करने या खोने**" से संबंधित है, जैसा कि **वर्जीनिया में अमेरिका के अटॉर्नी कार्यालय** ने बुधवार को कहा, और जोड़ा कि यदि दोषी पाए गए तो **संघीय जिला न्यायाधीश** उनके सजा का निर्धारण करेंगे, जिसमें **10 साल तक जेल या जुर्माना** हो सकता है।

FBI affidavit
FBI हलफनामा

- The 10-page affidavit filed by **Intelligence Analyst and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Jeffery Scott** on October 13 said Mr. Tellis was taken into custody on **October 11**, following seizures at his residence in the town of **Vienna, Virginia**, based on a **special warrant**.
  10 पृष्ठों का हलफनामा, जो **इंटेलिजेंस विश्लेषक और FBI विशेष एजेंट जेफरी स्कॉट** द्वारा 13 अक्टूबर को दायर किया गया, में कहा गया कि श्री टेलिस को **11 अक्टूबर** को उनके वासस्थान **विएना, वर्जीनिया** में छापे के बाद **विशेष वारंट** के आधार पर हिरासत में लिया गया।

- "Investigators located over a thousand pages of paper documents with **classification markings at the TOP SECRET and/or SECRET levels** at various locations within the house," the affidavit said, adding Mr. Tellis had **cooperated in directing investigators, providing keys, and unlocking his computer**.
  "जांचकर्ताओं ने घर के विभिन्न स्थानों पर **TOP SECRET और/या SECRET स्तरों पर वर्गीकृत दस्तावेजों** के एक हजार से अधिक पृष्ठ पाए," हलफनामे में कहा गया, और जोड़ा कि श्री टेलिस ने **जांचकर्ताओं का मार्गदर्शन करने, चाबियाँ प्रदान करने, और अपने कंप्यूटर को अनलॉक करने** में सहयोग किया।

- The Hindu spoke to a number of experts, some of whom referred to Mr. Tellis as a "close friend", and expressed surprise over the preliminary findings of a cache of **classified documents** at his home outside **Washington D.C.**
  The Hindu ने कई विशेषज्ञों से बातचीत की, जिनमें से कुछ ने श्री टेलिस को "नजदीकी मित्र" कहा, और **वॉशिंगटन डी.सी. के बाहर उनके घर में वर्गीकृत दस्तावेजों** की प्रारंभिक खोज पर आश्चर्य व्यक्त किया।

- Allegations that he had been in touch with **Chinese officials**, including a meeting on **September 15, 2022**, where he is alleged to have carried documents in a **"manila**

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envelope", and received a **"red gift bag"** from the officials have been met with particular comment, as Mr. Tellis has in articles and speeches argued for **better India-U.S. relations** in order to contain and manage the challenge from **China**.

यह आरोप कि वह **चीनी अधिकारियों** के संपर्क में थे, जिसमें **15 सितंबर 2022** की बैठक शामिल है, जहां कथित रूप से उन्होंने **"मनीला लिफाफा"** में दस्तावेज़ ले जाने और अधिकारियों से **"लाल उपहार बैग"** प्राप्त करने का आरोप है, पर विशेष टिप्पणी की गई है, क्योंकि श्री टेलिस ने अपने लेखों और भाषणों में **भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में सुधार** का समर्थन किया है ताकि **चीन** की चुनौती को नियंत्रित और प्रबंधित किया जा सके।

- The **External Affairs ministry** and the **U.S. Embassy in Delhi** did not comment on the case.
  विदेश मंत्रालय और **दिल्ली में अमेरिकी दूतावास** ने इस मामले पर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की।

Delhi HC seeks response on vacancies in National Commission for Minorities

GS II: Statutory Bodies

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Union government on long-pending vacancies in the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, while hearing a PIL plea filed by Mujahid Nafees, who claimed to be the convener of the Minority Coordination Committee working on the welfare of minorities across India, pointed out that the commission cannot remain headless for so long.

Granting time to the Central government's counsel to obtain instructions in the matter, the

The petition says NCM posts have remained vacant since April, when Chairman Iqbal Singh Lalpura's term ended

court said the petition was raising a very important issue.

"Do not wait for the next date of hearing. Please ensure that things start moving," the court said. The petition stated that the posts of chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the NCM have been vacant since April, the month Iqbal Singh Lalpura completed his term as chairman.

The National Commission for Minorities which works under the Ministry of Minority Affairs and has

quasi-judicial powers, should have seven members, including the Chairperson, and the Vice-Chairperson. The National Commission of Minorities Act, 1992 mandates the appointment of one member from each of the six minority communities – Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, and Jain.

"There is a complete and systematic incapacitation of the National Commission for Minorities due to the Centre's failure to appoint its head and members," the plea states.

The petition added that the government's inaction is further aggravated by the fact that it is in direct contravention of the spirit and letter of a prior order from the High Court where it had expressed its dissatisfaction with such delays.

Delhi HC seeks response on vacancies in National Commission for Minorities
दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने नेशनल कमीशन फॉर माइनॉरिटीज में रिक्तियों पर जवाब मांगा

- The **Delhi High Court** on Wednesday sought a response from the **Union government** on long-pending vacancies in the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.
  बुधवार को **दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट** ने केंद्र सरकार से **नेशनल कमीशन फॉर माइनॉरिटीज (NCM)** में लंबे समय से लंबित रिक्तियों पर जवाब मांगा।

- A Division Bench of **Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** and **Justice Tushar Rao Gedela**, while hearing a **PIL plea** filed by **Mujahid Nafees**, who claimed to be the convener of the **Minority Coordination Committee** working on the welfare of minorities across India, pointed out that the **commission cannot remain headless for so long**.
  मुख्य न्यायाधीश देवेन्द्र कुमार उपाध्याय और जस्टिस तुषार राव गेडेला की डिविजन बेंच ने, मुजाहिद नफीस द्वारा दायर पीआईएल याचिका सुनते हुए, जिन्होंने खुद को माइनॉरिटी कोऑर्डिनेशन कमिटी का संयोजक बताया, जो भारत में अल्पसंख्यकों के कल्याण पर काम करती है, यह इंगित किया कि कमीशन इतनी लंबी अवधि तक बिना अध्यक्ष के नहीं रह सकता।

- Granting time to the **Central government's counsel** to obtain instructions in the matter, the court said the petition was raising a very important issue.
  मामले में केंद्र सरकार के वकील को निर्देश लेने का समय देते हुए, कोर्ट ने कहा कि याचिका एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा उठा रही है।

- "Do not wait for the next date of hearing. Please ensure that things start moving," the court said.
  "अगली सुनवाई की तारीख का इंतजार न करें। कृपया सुनिश्चित करें कि काम शुरू हो," कोर्ट ने कहा।

- The petition stated that the posts of **chairperson, vice-chairperson and members** of the NCM have been vacant since April, the month **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** completed his term as chairman.
  याचिका में कहा गया कि **NCM के अध्यक्ष, उपाध्यक्ष और सदस्यों** के पद अप्रैल से रिक्त हैं, जब **इकबाल सिंह लालपुरा** ने अध्यक्ष के रूप में अपना कार्यकाल पूरा किया।

- The **National Commission for Minorities**, which works under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** and has **quasi-judicial powers**, should have **seven members**, including the **Chairperson**, and the **Vice-Chairperson**.
  नेशनल कमीशन फॉर माइनॉरिटीज, जो माइनॉरिटी अफेयर्स मंत्रालय के तहत काम करता है और जिसमें अर्ध-न्यायिक शक्तियाँ हैं, में सात सदस्य होने चाहिए, जिनमें अध्यक्ष और उपाध्यक्ष शामिल हैं।

- The **National Commission of Minorities Act, 1992** mandates the appointment of **one member from each of the six minority communities — Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, and Jain**.
  नेशनल कमीशन ऑफ माइनॉरिटीज एक्ट, 1992 छह अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों — मुस्लिम, ईसाई, सिख, बौद्ध, पारसी और जैन — में से प्रत्येक से एक सदस्य नियुक्त करने का प्रावधान करता है।

- "There is a complete and systematic incapacitation of the **National Commission for Minorities** due to the **Centre's failure** to appoint its head and members," the plea states.
  याचिका में कहा गया, "**केंद्र की विफलता** के कारण **नेशनल कमीशन फॉर माइनॉरिटीज** पूरी तरह और व्यवस्थित रूप से निष्क्रिय हो गया है।"

- The petition added that the **government's inaction** is further aggravated by the fact that it is in **direct contravention of the spirit and letter of a prior order from the High Court** where it had expressed its dissatisfaction with such delays.
  याचिका में यह भी कहा गया कि **सरकार की निष्क्रियता** और बढ़ गई है क्योंकि यह **हाई कोर्ट के पहले के आदेश की भावना और पत्र के सीधे उल्लंघन** में है, जिसमें इस तरह की देरी से असंतोष व्यक्त किया गया था।

GS II: Refugees

Refugees, infiltrators

India needs a refugee policy document that is non-discriminatory

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has rightly stressed the need to make a distinction between refugees and infiltrators. Though valid, the problem lies in the application of objective parameters by those in power to make a distinction. Even where proper policy and a legal framework exist, issues may arise. Also at play is the level of official understanding. In India, which is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, there is no comprehensive single law defining who a refugee is, leaving scope for arbitrary action. Till the end of March 2025, apart from the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Passports Act 1967, three laws (the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920) were applied to deal with foreign nationals, including refuge seekers. From April, the Immigration and Foreigners Act replaced the three pre-Independence laws and subsumed the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. While this streamlined the legal framework, the absence of a refugee policy document has also led to different yardsticks for the refugee community in India. While there was a rehabilitation policy in 2014 for about 63,000 Tibetan refugees, there is no such document for the nearly 90,000 Sri Lankan Tamils. At the end of June 2023, the population of refugees or persons of concern in India was over 2.11 lakh (also counting those from Myanmar, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Africa and West Asia). Any undocumented or overstaying refugee is regarded as an illegal migrant (Citizenship Act). He can also be called an infiltrator. Thus, genuine and harmless refugees risk facing harassment.

Even though the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 was aimed at providing citizenship to six religious minorities belonging to Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, it drew sharp criticism as it discriminated on the lines of religion and left out sections of Muslims, and also Sri Lankan Tamils and the Rohingya, both minorities in their countries. But in a notification last month, undocumented or overstaying Tamil refugees, who have registered themselves with the authorities, were granted exemption from penal provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, provided they took shelter in India on or before January 9, 2015. Other groups too have been covered. Still, there is no change when it comes to the recent trend of religion-based exclusions. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with the approach of discreet humanitarian relief to refugees in general but this has to be backed by consistent, rational and fair treatment for all.

Refugees, Infiltrators
शरणार्थी, घुसपैठिए

- India needs a **refugee policy document** that is **non-discriminatory**.
भारत को एक **शरणार्थी नीति दस्तावेज** की आवश्यकता है जो **भेदभावरहित** हो।

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has rightly stressed the need to make a distinction between **refugees** and **infiltrators**.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने सही रूप से **शरणार्थियों** और **घुसपैठियों** के बीच अंतर करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया है।

- Though valid, the problem lies in the **application of objective parameters** by those in power to make a distinction.
हालांकि यह सही है, समस्या यह है कि सत्ता में बैठे लोग **वस्तुनिष्ठ मापदंडों** को लागू करने में कठिनाई महसूस करते हैं।

- Even where proper **policy** and a **legal framework** exist, **issues** may arise.
जहां उचित **नीति** और **कानूनी ढांचा** मौजूद हैं, वहाँ भी **समस्याएँ** उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।

- Also at play is the level of **official understanding**.
इसमें **अधिकारियों की समझ** का स्तर भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

- India is not a signatory to the **1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees** and the **1967 Protocol**.
भारत **1951 के शरणार्थी स्थिति पर UN सम्मेलन** और **1967 प्रोटोकॉल** का सदस्य नहीं है।

- There is no comprehensive **single law** defining who a **refugee is**, leaving scope for **arbitrary action**.
कोई व्यापक **एकल कानून** नहीं है जो यह परिभाषित करे कि **शरणार्थी** कौन है, जिससे **मनमाना कार्य** करने की गुंजाइश रहती है।

- Till the end of **March 2025**, apart from the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the **Passports Act 1967**, three laws (the **Foreigners Act, 1946**, the **Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939**, and the **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**) were applied to deal with foreign nationals, including **refuge seekers**.
मार्च 2025 के अंत तक, **नागरिकता अधिनियम 1955** और **पासपोर्ट अधिनियम 1967** के अलावा तीन कानून (**विदेशी अधिनियम, 1946**, **विदेशियों के पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1939**, और **पासपोर्ट (भारत में प्रवेश) अधिनियम, 1920**) विदेशी नागरिकों, जिनमें **शरणार्थी** भी शामिल हैं, के लिए लागू थे।

- From April, the **Immigration and Foreigners Act** replaced the three pre-Independence laws and subsumed the **Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000**.
अप्रैल से, **आप्रवासन और विदेशी अधिनियम** ने तीन स्वतंत्रता पूर्व कानूनों को प्रतिस्थापित किया और **आप्रवासन (कैरियर्स की जिम्मेदारी) अधिनियम, 2000** को शामिल किया।

- While this streamlined the **legal framework**, the absence of a **refugee policy document** has led to different **yardsticks** for the **refugee community** in India.
जबकि इसने **कानूनी ढांचे** को सरल बनाया, **शरणार्थी नीति दस्तावेज** की अनुपस्थिति ने भारत में **शरणार्थी समुदाय** के लिए अलग-अलग **मापदंड** पैदा किए।

- There was a **rehabilitation policy in 2014** for about **63,000 Tibetan refugees**, but no such document exists for nearly **90,000 Sri Lankan Tamils**.
 लगभग **63,000 तिब्बती शरणार्थियों** के लिए **2014 में पुनर्वास नीति** थी, लेकिन लगभग **90,000 श्रीलंकाई तमिलों** के लिए ऐसा कोई दस्तावेज नहीं है।

- At the end of **June 2023**, the population of **refugees** or **persons of concern** in India was over **2.11 lakh** (also counting those from **Myanmar, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Africa, and West Asia**).
 जून 2023 के अंत में, भारत में **शरणार्थियों** या **संबंधित व्यक्तियों** की संख्या **2.11 लाख** से अधिक थी (जिसमें **म्यांमार, अफगानिस्तान, बांग्लादेश, अफ्रीका और पश्चिम एशिया** से आने वाले लोग भी शामिल हैं)।

- Any **undocumented or overstaying refugee** is regarded as an **illegal migrant** (**Citizenship Act**) and can also be called an **infiltrator**.
 कोई भी **अप्रलेखित या अधिक समय तक रहने वाला शरणार्थी अवैध प्रवासी** (**नागरिकता अधिनियम**) माना जाता है और उसे **घुसपैठिया** भी कहा जा सकता है।

- Thus, **genuine and harmless refugees** risk facing **harassment**.
 इस प्रकार, **सच्चे और हानिरहित शरणार्थियों** को **उत्पीड़न** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

- The **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019** was aimed at providing **citizenship to six religious minorities** from **Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan**, but it drew sharp criticism for discriminating on **religion** and excluding **Muslims, Sri Lankan Tamils, and Rohingya**.
 नागरिकता (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2019 का उद्देश्य **बांग्लादेश, पाकिस्तान और अफगानिस्तान** के **छह धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों** को **नागरिकता** प्रदान करना था, लेकिन इसे **धर्म के आधार पर भेदभाव** और **मुस्लिमों, श्रीलंकाई तमिलों और रोहिंग्या** को बाहर करने के कारण कड़ी आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ा।

- In a **notification last month**, undocumented or overstaying **Tamil refugees**, who have registered with authorities, were granted **exemption** from **penal provisions** of the **Immigration and Foreigners Act**, provided they entered India on or before **January 9, 2015**.
 पिछले महीने एक **सूचना** में, जो **अप्रलेखित या अधिक समय तक रहने वाले तमिल शरणार्थी** हैं और जिन्होंने अधिकारियों के पास **पंजीकरण** कराया है, उन्हें **आप्रवासन और विदेशी अधिनियम** के **दंडात्मक प्रावधानों** से **छूट** दी गई, बशर्ते उन्होंने **9 जनवरी, 2015** तक भारत में प्रवेश किया हो।

- Other groups have also been **covered**, but there is no change regarding the **recent trend of religion-based exclusions**.
 अन्य समूहों को भी **कवर** किया गया है, लेकिन **धर्म आधारित बहिष्करण** के हालिया रुझान में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है।

- There is nothing fundamentally wrong with **discreet humanitarian relief** to refugees, but it must be backed by **consistent, rational, and fair treatment** for all.
 शरणार्थियों के लिए **संकोचित मानवीय राहत** में मूल रूप से कुछ गलत नहीं है, लेकिन इसे सभी के लिए **सुसंगत, तर्कसंगत और निष्पक्ष व्यवहार** के साथ समर्थित होना चाहिए।

The future of the IMEC

The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor visualises maritime connectivity between India and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as high-speed trains running from the ports in the UAE to the Haifa port through Saudi Arabia and Jordan. However, the situation in West Asia mandates that the corridor's routes adapt to political dynamics

WORLD INSIGHT

GS II. India_West Asia-Europe

The recent trade friction with the U.S. has prompted India to intensify its efforts to further diversify its economic interactions with various countries worldwide. While India has signed an agreement with the U.K., it is also negotiating a similar agreement with the EU. In addition to such compacts, India should also proactively develop frameworks such as the India–Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

The IMEC visualises the upgradation of maritime connectivity between India and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as high-speed trains running from the ports in the UAE to the Haifa port in Israel through Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The goods transported on these networks would be shipped to and from European countries. Additionally, the IMEC seeks to build a clean hydrogen pipeline, an electricity cable, a high-speed undersea digital cable and consolidate existing infrastructure such as ports.

Historical background

In 2023, the geopolitical context was favourable for the operationalisation of the IMEC. The Abraham Accords had generated considerable optimism that peace would prevail in West Asia, with Israel and Arab countries working to build a stable relationship. Consequently, proposals were made to build railway lines for regional peace, connecting the Israeli port of Haifa with the Jordanian railway network, which would be linked to other ports in the Gulf region. Furthermore, there was significant improvement in India's relations with Arab countries, particularly with the UAE and Saudi Arabia. India's relations with the U.S. were also on an upward trajectory. Such convergences facilitated the emergence of the India, Israel, UAE, and U.S. (I2U2) framework. These

New routes: A general view of the Haifa Port in Israel in 2022. REUTERS

geopolitical developments created a favourable environment for the launch of the IMEC on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Delhi, with various leaders of the EU, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia etc. endorsing the initiative.

However, within a few weeks of the launch of the IMEC, the security situation in West Asia deteriorated significantly. The October 7 Hamas attacks, followed by Israel's military actions in the region, contributed to the deterioration in the relationship between Israel and other countries in the region. These developments have raised questions about the feasibility of the IMEC.

Mediterranean concerns

Climate change has now opened new transport routes through the Arctic, with the principal beneficiaries being countries such as the U.S., Russia, China, and other northern European nations. It is now possible to transport more goods through the Arctic, significantly reducing transportation time and associated costs. Consequently, there is an expectation that port cities near the Arctic will emerge as new commercial centres.

Among IMEC's European signatories, France has both the Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines. On the other hand, Italy has only the Mediterranean coast. Thus, there is significant concern about the implications of an Arctic trade route on its economy. As a result, Italy and other Mediterranean countries view the IMEC as a vital platform to preserve their influence in maritime trade. Mediterranean countries maintain that to hold a strong position in global trade requires new thinking, new partners, and scaling up of economic engagement with leading economies. India, with its four trillion-plus economy and sustained high growth, is seen as a viable partner to meet future challenges. Currently, it is still uncertain whether the Arctic route

confers any unique advantages to India in terms of reduced transportation costs. Therefore, for India, accessing European markets through the Mediterranean route will continue to be important.

Given higher per capita income, technological advancements, and educational progress, Europe will continue to retain its trade significance for India. With trade over $136 billion, the EU is the largest trade partner of India. India and European countries need to scale up connectivity corridors and logistics networks to build resilient supply chains between the two.

The importance of the IMEC

The recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated that the security of sea lanes is unpredictable. The Houthi disruption in the Red Sea trade has prompted considerable trade to go around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, increasing the time and costs of transportation of goods. It is also still too early to determine if the recent Gaza peace plan will hold in the long run. Therefore, it is essential to find new routes to amplify economic relations between India, West Asia, and Europe.

Since the IMEC is a multi-member initiative, it gives considerable space for innovative approaches to adapt to changing geopolitical dynamics, which India and Arab countries should leverage. In addition to the proposed routes in IMEC, there is a need to explore the possibility of engaging other commercial centres and ports in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Robust economic interactions between India and the Arab countries will also nullify Pakistan's attempt to build an alliance-like relationship in the region.

While focusing on the security challenges of IMEC, it is critical not to lose sight of economic opportunities that can be derived from India-Europe interactions. India and Europe should act as bookends by pooling their resources to promote prosperity in the IMEC region.

Sanjay Pulipaka is the Chairperson of Politeia Research Foundation.

THE GIST

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In 2023, the Abraham Accords had generated considerable optimism that peace would prevail in West Asia, with Israel and Arab countries working to build a stable relationship.

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However, within a few weeks of the launch of the IMEC, the security situation in West Asia deteriorated significantly. The October 7 Hamas attacks, followed by Israel's military actions in the region, contributed to the deterioration in the relationship between Israel and other countries in the region.

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Since the IMEC is a multi-member initiative, it gives considerable space for innovative approaches to adapt to changing geopolitical dynamics, which India and Arab countries should leverage. It is also critical not to lose sight of economic opportunities that can be derived from India-Europe interactions.

The future of the IMEC
IMEC का भविष्य

India's Efforts to Diversify Economic Interactions
भारत के आर्थिक संपर्कों को विविध बनाने के प्रयास

- The recent **trade friction with the U.S.** has prompted India to intensify its efforts to further **diversify its economic interactions** with various countries worldwide.
  हाल की **अमेरिका के साथ व्यापारिक तनाव** ने भारत को दुनिया के विभिन्न देशों के साथ अपने **आर्थिक संपर्कों को और अधिक विविध बनाने** के प्रयास तेज करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है।
- While India has signed an agreement with the **U.K.**, it is also negotiating a similar agreement with the **EU**.
  भारत ने **यू.के.** के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, वहीं यह **EU** के साथ एक समान समझौते पर बातचीत भी कर रहा है।
- In addition to such compacts, India should also proactively develop frameworks such as the **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.
  ऐसे समझौतों के अलावा, भारत को सक्रिय रूप से **भारत–मिडिल ईस्ट–यूरोप आर्थिक कॉरिडोर (IMEC)** जैसे ढांचे विकसित करने चाहिए।
- The **IMEC** visualises the upgradation of **maritime connectivity** between India and the **Arabian Peninsula**, as well as **high-speed trains** running from the ports in the **UAE** to the **Haifa port in Israel** through **Saudi Arabia** and **Jordan**.

IMEC भारत और **अरब प्रायद्वीप** के बीच **सामुद्रिक संपर्क** के उन्नयन की कल्पना करता है, साथ ही UAE के बंदरगाहों से **इज़राइल के हाइफा बंदरगाह** तक **सुपरफास्ट ट्रेनें** चलाने की योजना है, जो **सऊदी अरब** और **जॉर्डन** से होकर गुजरेंगी।

- The goods transported on these networks would be shipped to and from **European countries**.
  इन नेटवर्क पर परिवाहित वस्तुओं को **यूरोपीय देशों** में और वहां से भेजा जाएगा।
- Additionally, the **IMEC** seeks to build a **clean hydrogen pipeline**, an **electricity cable**, a **high-speed undersea digital cable** and consolidate existing infrastructure such as **ports**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, IMEC एक **साफ हाइड्रोजन पाइपलाइन**, एक **बिजली केबल**, एक **सुपरफास्ट अंडरसी डिजिटल केबल** बनाने और **बंदरगाहों** जैसी मौजूदा अवसंरचना को समेकित करने का प्रयास करता है।

Historical Background
ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- In **2023**, the geopolitical context was favourable for the operationalisation of the **IMEC**.
  2023 में, IMEC को लागू करने के लिए भू-राजनीतिक संदर्भ अनुकूल था।
- The **Abraham Accords** had generated considerable optimism that **peace would prevail in West Asia**, with **Israel** and Arab countries working to build a **stable relationship**.
  अब्राहम समझौते ने पर्याप्त आशावाद पैदा किया कि **पश्चिम एशिया में शांति कायम रहेगी**, और **इज़राइल** और अरब देश एक **स्थिर संबंध** बनाने के लिए काम कर रहे थे।
- Consequently, proposals were made to build **railway lines** for **regional peace**, connecting the **Israeli port of Haifa** with the **Jordanian railway network**, which would be linked to other ports in the **Gulf region**.
  परिणामस्वरूप, **क्षेत्रीय शांति** के लिए **रेलमार्ग** बनाने का प्रस्ताव आया, जो **इज़राइल के हाइफा बंदरगाह** को **जॉर्डन रेलवे नेटवर्क** से जोड़ेगा, जो **खाड़ी क्षेत्र** के अन्य बंदरगाहों से जुड़ा होगा।
- Furthermore, there was significant improvement in India's relations with **Arab countries**, particularly with the **UAE** and **Saudi Arabia**.
  इसके अलावा, भारत के **अरब देशों** के साथ संबंधों में विशेष रूप से UAE और **सऊदी अरब** के साथ महत्वपूर्ण सुधार हुआ।
- India's relations with the **U.S.** were also on an upward trajectory.
  भारत के **अमेरिका के साथ संबंध** भी सुधरते हुए थे।
- Such convergences facilitated the emergence of the **India, Israel, UAE, and U.S. (I2U2) framework**.
  ऐसे संगम ने **भारत, इज़राइल, UAE और अमेरिका (I2U2) ढांचे** के उदय को सक्षम किया।
- These geopolitical developments created a favourable environment for the launch of the **IMEC** on the sidelines of the **G-20 Summit in Delhi**, with various leaders of the **EU, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia** etc. endorsing the initiative.
  इन भू-राजनीतिक विकासों ने **G-20 शिखर सम्मेलन, दिल्ली** के दौरान IMEC की शुरुआत के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण बनाया, और **EU, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, इटली, सऊदी अरब** आदि के विभिन्न नेताओं ने इस पहल को समर्थन दिया।
- However, within a few weeks of the launch of the **IMEC**, the **security situation in West Asia** deteriorated significantly.
  हालांकि, IMEC की शुरुआत के कुछ ही हफ्तों में, **पश्चिम एशिया में सुरक्षा स्थिति** काफी खराब हो गई।
- The **October 7 Hamas attacks**, followed by **Israel's military actions**, contributed to the deterioration in the relationship between **Israel** and other countries in the region.
  7 अक्टूबर को हमास के हमले, इसके बाद **इज़राइल की सैन्य कार्रवाइयों** ने **इज़राइल** और क्षेत्र के अन्य देशों के बीच संबंधों को बिगाड़ने में योगदान दिया।
- These developments have raised questions about the **feasibility of the IMEC**.
  इन विकासों ने **IMEC की व्यवहार्यता** पर सवाल उठाए हैं।

Mediterranean Concerns
भूमध्यसागरीय चिंताएँ

- **Climate change** has now opened new **transport routes through the Arctic**, with the principal beneficiaries being countries such as the **U.S., Russia, China**, and other northern

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European nations.

जलवायु परिवर्तन ने अब **आर्कटिक के माध्यम से नए परिवहन मार्ग** खोल दिए हैं, जिनके मुख्य लाभार्थी देश **अमेरिका, रूस, चीन** और अन्य उत्तरी **यूरोपीय देशों** हैं।

- It is now possible to transport more **goods through the Arctic**, significantly reducing **transportation time** and associated **costs**.

  अब आर्कटिक के माध्यम से अधिक **सामान परिवहन** संभव है, जिससे **परिवहन समय** और संबंधित **लागत** में उल्लेखनीय कमी आएगी।

- Consequently, there is an expectation that **port cities near the Arctic** will emerge as new **commercial centres**.

  परिणामस्वरूप, यह अपेक्षा की जा रही है कि **आर्कटिक के निकट बंदरगाह शहर** नए **वाणिज्यिक केंद्र** के रूप में उभरेंगे।

- Among **IMEC's European signatories**, **France** has both the **Mediterranean** and **Atlantic coastlines**, while **Italy** has only the **Mediterranean coast**.

  IMEC के यूरोपीय हस्ताक्षरकर्ताओं में, **फ्रांस** के पास **भूमध्यसागरीय** और **अटलांटिक तटरेखा** दोनों हैं, जबकि **इटली** के पास केवल **भूमध्यसागरीय तट** है।

- There is significant concern about the implications of an **Arctic trade route** on **Italy's economy**.

  आर्कटिक व्यापार मार्ग के **इटली की अर्थव्यवस्था** पर प्रभाव को लेकर काफी चिंता है।

- Italy and other **Mediterranean countries** view the **IMEC** as a vital platform to **preserve their influence in maritime trade**.

  इटली और अन्य **भूमध्यसागरीय देश IMEC** को समुद्री व्यापार में अपने प्रभाव को **बनाए रखने** के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच मानते हैं।

- Mediterranean countries maintain that holding a strong position in **global trade** requires **new thinking, new partners**, and **scaling up economic engagement** with leading economies.

  भूमध्यसागरीय देश मानते हैं कि **वैश्विक व्यापार** में मजबूत स्थिति बनाए रखने के लिए **नई सोच, नए साझेदार** और प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के साथ **आर्थिक जुड़ाव बढ़ाना** आवश्यक है।

- India, with its **four trillion-plus economy** and sustained **high growth**, is seen as a viable partner to meet **future challenges**.

  भारत, जिसकी **चार ट्रिलियन से अधिक अर्थव्यवस्था** है और लगातार **उच्च वृद्धि**, को **भविष्य की चुनौतियों** को पूरा करने के लिए एक संभावित साझेदार माना जाता है।

- Currently, it is still uncertain whether the **Arctic route** confers any unique advantages to **India** in terms of **reduced transportation costs**.

  वर्तमान में यह अभी भी अनिश्चित है कि **आर्कटिक मार्ग** भारत को **कम परिवहन लागत** के संदर्भ में कोई विशिष्ट लाभ प्रदान करता है या नहीं।

- Therefore, for **India**, accessing **European markets** through the **Mediterranean route** will continue to be important.

  इसलिए, भारत के लिए **भूमध्यसागरीय मार्ग** के माध्यम से **यूरोपीय बाजारों** तक पहुंचना महत्वपूर्ण बना रहेगा।

- Given higher **per capita income, technological advancements**, and **educational progress**, **Europe** will continue to retain its **trade significance** for **India**.

  उच्च **प्रति व्यक्ति आय, तकनीकी प्रगति** और **शैक्षिक प्रगति** के मद्देनज़र, **यूरोप** भारत के लिए अपनी **व्यापारिक महत्व** बनाए रखेगा।

- With trade over **$136 billion**, the **EU** is the **largest trade partner** of **India**.

  $136 बिलियन से अधिक व्यापार के साथ, **EU** भारत का **सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार** है।

- India and **European countries** need to scale up **connectivity corridors** and **logistics networks** to build **resilient supply chains** between the two.

  भारत और **यूरोपीय देशों** को दोनों के बीच **मजबूत आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएं** बनाने के लिए **संपर्क कॉरिडोर** और **लॉजिस्टिक्स नेटवर्क** बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है।

The Importance of the IMEC
IMEC का महत्व

- Recent **geopolitical developments** have demonstrated that the **security of sea lanes** is **unpredictable**.

  हाल की **भू-राजनीतिक घटनाओं** ने दिखाया है कि **समुद्री मार्गों की सुरक्षा अनिश्चित** है।

- The **Houthi disruption** in the **Red Sea trade** has prompted considerable trade to go around the **Cape of Good Hope in South Africa**, increasing the **time and costs** of transportation.
  लाल सागर व्यापार में हौथी बाधा ने काफी व्यापार को **साउथ अफ्रीका के केप ऑफ गुड होप** के चारों ओर जाने के लिए प्रेरित किया, जिससे परिवहन का **समय और लागत** बढ़ गई।

- It is also still too early to determine if the recent **Gaza peace plan** will hold in the long run.
  यह अभी भी तय करना बहुत जल्दी है कि हाल की **गाज़ा शांति योजना** लंबी अवधि में स्थायी रहेगी या नहीं।

- Therefore, it is essential to find **new routes** to amplify **economic relations** between **India, West Asia**, and **Europe**.
  इसलिए, **भारत, पश्चिम एशिया**, और **यूरोप** के बीच **आर्थिक संबंधों** को बढ़ाने के लिए **नए मार्ग** खोजना आवश्यक है।

- Since the **IMEC** is a **multi-member initiative**, it gives considerable space for **innovative approaches** to adapt to **changing geopolitical dynamics**, which **India and Arab countries** should leverage.
  चूंकि **IMEC** एक **बहु-सदस्य पहल** है, यह **भू-राजनीतिक परिवर्तनों** के अनुसार **नवाचारपूर्ण दृष्टिकोण** अपनाने के लिए पर्याप्त अवसर प्रदान करता है, जिसका लाभ **भारत और अरब देशों** को उठाना चाहिए।

- In addition to the proposed routes in **IMEC**, there is a need to explore the possibility of engaging other **commercial centres** and **ports** in **Saudi Arabia** and **Egypt**.
  IMEC में प्रस्तावित मार्गों के अलावा, **सऊदी अरब** और **मिस्र** में अन्य **वाणिज्यिक केंद्रों** और **बंदरगाहों** को शामिल करने की संभावना का पता लगाने की आवश्यकता है।

- Robust **economic interactions** between **India** and the **Arab countries** will also nullify **Pakistan's attempt** to build an **alliance-like relationship** in the region.
  भारत और **अरब देशों** के बीच मजबूत **आर्थिक संपर्क** क्षेत्र में **पाकिस्तान के गठबंधन जैसे संबंध बनाने के प्रयास** को भी निष्फल कर देंगे।

- While focusing on the **security challenges** of IMEC, it is critical not to lose sight of **economic opportunities** that can be derived from **India-Europe interactions**.
  IMEC की **सुरक्षा चुनौतियों** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते समय, यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि **भारत-यूरोप संबंधों** से मिलने वाले **आर्थिक अवसरों** को नजरअंदाज न किया जाए।

- **India and Europe** should act as **bookends** by pooling their **resources** to promote **prosperity** in the **IMEC region**.
  भारत और यूरोप को अपने **संसाधनों** को मिलाकर **IMEC क्षेत्र** में **समृद्धि** बढ़ाने के लिए **बुकएंड्स** के रूप में कार्य करना चाहिए।

Why is the fiscal architecture of municipalities flawed?

Are municipal bonds the new frontier of local finance? Is over-centralisation of taxes a problem?

GS3 II Local Bodies

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

Urban India generates nearly two-thirds of the national GDP, yet its municipalities control less than one per cent of the country's tax revenue. Indian cities are not generating revenue, not because they are inefficient, but because the fiscal architecture has failed them. Today, municipal finance is dependent on intergovernmental transfers, loans, and schemes. The core of the problem lies in the centralisation of taxation powers.

How did cities lose its tax revenues?

After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Indian cities lost nearly 19% of their own revenue sources. Octroi, entry tax, and local surcharges – the traditional lifelines of municipal budgets – were subsumed into the GST framework. Promised compensatory mechanisms have largely bypassed the municipal level, deepening cities' dependence on State and Central grants.

Therefore, municipalities lack both fiscal autonomy and predictable revenue streams. The result is a peculiar inversion of democracy – where power is centralised and responsibility decentralised. Cities are expected to deliver solid waste management, affordable housing, climate resilience, and digital infrastructure, but without the resources to fund such services.

What about municipal bonds?

Every major policy pronouncement – from NITI Aayog's urban strategy to the latest reform-linked incentive grant – promotes bonds as the new frontier of local finance. However, the credibility of Indian municipal bonds remains abysmally low. It is not merely that cities are unable to generate capital to back their bonds; it is that the very framework of assessing credibility is skewed. A city's creditworthiness is often judged narrowly by its "own revenue" performance – property taxes, user charges, and fees – while completely discounting the regular flow of grants and transfers from higher levels of government. This is not just an accounting error; it is an ideological one. When the RBI or credit rating agencies discount grants as "non-recurring income," they perpetuate the myth that cities survive on charity. In truth, these grants are legitimate entitlements, part of a redistributive compact enshrined in the Constitution. The 74th Amendment did not conceive of cities as beggars before the State or the Union but as equal tiers of governance entitled to a share of the tax pool. Similarly, institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have long argued that cities should become "self-reliant" by focusing on property tax collection and user fees. While property tax reform is important, this narrow prescription is inadequate and unjust. It is inadequate because property tax typically accounts for only 20-25% of a city's total revenue potential, and is often politically and administratively constrained. It is unjust because it shifts the burden of urban financing disproportionately onto residents, especially in lower-income settlements already struggling with poor services. The obsession with "user pays" logic converts public goods into private commodities. Clean water, sanitation, public lighting, and mobility – these are not marketable products but collective entitlements.

What is the way ahead?

India must democratise the fiscal contract. In Scandinavian countries, where cities enjoy strong fiscal health, the local tax base is not an afterthought – it is the foundation of the welfare state. Municipalities in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway have the right to levy and collect income taxes directly, ensuring a transparent and accountable relationship between citizens and local governments.

This decentralised model has produced both efficiency and equity: citizens can see where their money goes, and cities have the flexibility to plan for the long term. Most importantly, transfers from higher levels of government are treated as part of a shared fiscal ecosystem, not as discretionary favours. India can learn from this. What is needed is a reimagined model of fiscal federalism, where municipalities have predictable, adequate, and untied revenues – both from their own sources and from constitutionally mandated transfers.

Similarly, for municipal bonds to become credible instruments, the first step is to recognise grants and shared taxes as legitimate components of city income. Only then can cities build a trustworthy balance sheet. Second, the rating system must account for the governance capacity of a city – transparency, audit compliance, citizen participation – rather than solely relying on financial metrics. Third, cities should be empowered to earmark a portion of their GST compensation or State share as collateral for municipal borrowing. Such reforms would restore the principle of cooperative federalism that the Constitution envisaged.

India's urban future depends on fiscal justice. Municipal finance must be seen not as a bookkeeping exercise but as a moral and political question. The grants that flow to cities are not gifts; they are part of a social contract. The revenues that cities generate are not charity; they are a right. True reform will begin only when India accepts that cities are not cost centres – they are the foundation of national prosperity.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a former Deputy Mayor of Shimla and currently a member of the Kerala Urban Commission.

Why is the fiscal architecture of municipalities flawed?
नगरपालिकाओं की वित्तीय संरचना क्यों त्रुटिपूर्ण (flawed) है?

The Story So Far
अब तक की कहानी

- Urban India generates nearly **two-thirds of the national GDP**, yet its **municipalities control less than one per cent** of the country's **tax revenue**.
  शहरी भारत लगभग **राष्ट्रीय GDP का दो-तिहाई** उत्पन्न करता है, फिर भी इसके **नगरपालिकाएं देश की कर आय का एक प्रतिशत से कम** नियंत्रित करती हैं।

- Indian cities are not generating revenue, not because they are **inefficient**, but because the **fiscal architecture** has failed them.
  भारतीय शहर राजस्व उत्पन्न नहीं कर रहे हैं, इसका कारण यह नहीं है कि वे **अप्रभावी** हैं, बल्कि इसलिए कि **राजकोषीय संरचना** उन्हें असफल कर रही है।

- Today, **municipal finance** is dependent on **intergovernmental transfers, loans**, and **schemes**.
  आज, **नगरपालिका वित्त अंतरसरकारी हस्तांतरण, ऋण**, और **योजनाओं** पर निर्भर है।

- The core of the problem lies in the **centralisation of taxation powers**.
  समस्या का मूल कारण **कराधान शक्तियों का केंद्रीकरण** है।

How did cities lose its tax revenues?
शहरों ने अपनी कर आय कैसे खोई?

- After the introduction of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, Indian cities lost nearly **19% of their own revenue sources**.
  वस्तु और सेवा कर (GST) की शुरुआत के बाद, भारतीय शहरों ने अपनी लगभग **19% आय स्रोत** खो दिए।

- **Octroi, entry tax**, and local **surcharges** — the traditional lifelines of municipal budgets — were subsumed into the **GST framework**.
  ऑक्ट्रोई, प्रवेश कर, और स्थानीय **सर्फ़चार्ज** — नगरपालिका बजट की पारंपरिक जीवनरेखाएँ — को **GST ढांचे** में शामिल कर लिया गया।

- Promised **compensatory mechanisms** have largely bypassed the municipal level, deepening cities' dependence on **State and Central grants**.

वादे किए गए **प्रतिपूर्ति तंत्र** ज्यादातर नगरपालिका स्तर को छोड़कर गए, जिससे शहरों की **राज्य और केंद्रीय अनुदानों** पर निर्भरता बढ़ गई।

- Therefore, municipalities lack both **fiscal autonomy** and **predictable revenue streams**.
  इसलिए, नगरपालिकाओं के पास **राजकोषीय स्वायत्तता** और **पूर्वानुमेय राजस्व धाराएँ** दोनों की कमी है।
- The result is a peculiar inversion of **democracy** — where **power is centralised** and **responsibility decentralised**.
  इसका परिणाम **लोकतंत्र** का एक विचित्र उलटाव है — जहाँ **सत्ता केंद्रीकृत** है और **जिम्मेदारी विकेन्द्रीकृत**।
- Cities are expected to deliver **solid waste management, affordable housing, climate resilience**, and **digital infrastructure**, but without the resources to fund such services.
  शहरों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे **ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, सस्ती आवास, जलवायु लचीलापन**, और **डिजिटल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर** प्रदान करें, लेकिन इसके लिए संसाधनों के बिना।

What about municipal bonds?
नगरपालिका बॉन्ड के बारे में क्या?

- Every major policy pronouncement — from **NITI Aayog's urban strategy** to the latest **reform-linked incentive grant** — promotes **bonds** as the new frontier of **local finance**.
  हर प्रमुख नीति घोषणा — **नीति आयोग की शहरी रणनीति** से लेकर नवीनतम **सुधार-संबंधी प्रोत्साहन अनुदान** तक — **बॉन्ड** को **स्थानीय वित्त** के नए क्षेत्र के रूप में बढ़ावा देती है।
- However, the **credibility** of Indian **municipal bonds** remains abysmally low.
  हालांकि, भारतीय **नगरपालिका बॉन्ड** की **विश्वसनीयता** अत्यंत कम बनी हुई है।
- It is not merely that cities are unable to generate **capital** to back their bonds; it is that the very framework of assessing **credibility** is skewed.
  केवल यह नहीं कि शहर अपने बॉन्ड को समर्थन देने के लिए **पूंजी** उत्पन्न करने में असमर्थ हैं; बल्कि यह कि **विश्वसनीयता** का मूल्यांकन करने का ढांचा ही **विकृत** है।
- A city's **creditworthiness** is often judged narrowly by its "own revenue" performance — **property taxes, user charges**, and **fees** — while completely discounting the regular flow of **grants and transfers** from higher levels of government.
  किसी शहर की **क्रेडिटवर्थनेस** अक्सर केवल इसके "स्वयं के राजस्व" प्रदर्शन — **संपत्ति कर, उपयोगकर्ता शुल्क**, और **शुल्क** — से आंका जाता है, जबकि **अनुदान और हस्तांतरण** की नियमित धारा को पूरी तरह से नजरअंदाज किया जाता है।
- This is not just an accounting error; it is an **ideological** one.
  यह केवल लेखांकन **त्रुटि** नहीं है; यह एक **वैचारिक** त्रुटि है।
- When the **RBI** or **credit rating agencies** discount **grants** as "non-recurring income," they perpetuate the myth that **cities survive on charity**.
  जब **RBI** या **क्रेडिट रेटिंग एजेंसियां** अनुदान को "गैर-पुनरावर्ती आय" के रूप में अनदेखा करती हैं, तो वे यह मिथक बढ़ाती हैं कि **शहर दान पर जीवित रहते हैं**।
- In truth, these **grants** are legitimate **entitlements**, part of a **redistributive compact** enshrined in the **Constitution**.
  सच्चाई में, ये **अनुदान** वैध **अधिकार** हैं, जो **संविधान** में निहित **पुनर्वितरण समझौते** का हिस्सा हैं।
- The **74th Amendment** did not conceive of cities as **beggars** before the **State or the Union**, but as equal **tiers of governance** entitled to a share of the **tax pool**.
  74वां संशोधन ने शहरों को **राज्य या संघ** के सामने **भिक्षु** के रूप में नहीं देखा, बल्कि समान **शासन स्तर** के रूप में, जिन्हें **कर पूल** में हिस्सा मिलने का अधिकार है।
- Institutions like the **World Bank** and **Asian Development Bank** have long argued that cities should become **self-reliant** by focusing on **property tax collection** and **user fees**.
  विश्व बैंक और **एशियाई विकास बैंक** जैसी संस्थाओं ने लंबे समय से कहा है कि शहरों को **स्वावलंबी** बनना चाहिए, **संपत्ति कर संग्रह** और **उपयोगकर्ता शुल्क** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके।
- While **property tax reform** is important, this narrow prescription is inadequate and **unjust**.
  जबकि **संपत्ति कर सुधार** महत्वपूर्ण है, यह संकीर्ण उपाय अपर्याप्त और **अन्यायपूर्ण** है।
- It is inadequate because **property tax** typically accounts for only **20-25%** of a city's total **revenue potential**, and is often politically and administratively constrained.
  यह अपर्याप्त है क्योंकि **संपत्ति कर** आमतौर पर शहर की कुल **राजस्व क्षमता** का केवल **20-25%** ही बनाता है, और अक्सर राजनीतिक और प्रशासनिक रूप से सीमित होता है।

- It is unjust because it shifts the burden of **urban financing** disproportionately onto **residents**, especially in **lower-income settlements** already struggling with **poor services**.
   यह अन्यायपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह **शहरी वित्तपोषण** का बोझ असमान रूप से **निवासियों** पर डालता है, विशेषकर **निम्न-आय वाले बस्तियों** में, जो पहले ही **खराब सेवाओं** से जूझ रही हैं।

- The obsession with "**user pays**" logic converts **public goods** into **private commodities**.
   "**उपयोगकर्ता भुगतान**" तर्क के प्रति आसक्ति **सार्वजनिक वस्तुओं** को **निजी वस्तुओं** में बदल देती है।

- **Clean water, sanitation, public lighting**, and **mobility** — these are not **marketable products** but **collective entitlements**.
   साफ पानी, स्वच्छता, सार्वजनिक प्रकाश, और **गतिशीलता** — ये **बाजार योग्य उत्पाद** नहीं बल्कि **सामूहिक अधिकार** हैं।

What is the way ahead?
आगे का रास्ता क्या है?

- India must **democratise the fiscal contract**.
   भारत को **राजकोषीय अनुबंध को लोकतांत्रित** करना चाहिए।

- In **Scandinavian countries**, where cities enjoy strong **fiscal health**, the local **tax base** is not an afterthought — it is the **foundation of the welfare state**.
   स्कैंडिनेवियाई देशों में, जहाँ शहर मजबूत **राजकोषीय स्वास्थ्य** का आनंद लेते हैं, स्थानीय **कर आधार** एक परे विचार नहीं है — यह **कल्याणकारी राज्य** की नींव है।

- Municipalities in **Denmark, Sweden**, and **Norway** have the right to levy and collect **income taxes directly**, ensuring a transparent and accountable relationship between **citizens** and **local governments**.
   डेनमार्क, स्वीडन, और **नॉर्वे** की नगरपालिकाओं को **प्रत्यक्ष आयकर** लगाने और संग्रह करने का अधिकार है, जिससे **नागरिकों** और **स्थानीय सरकारों** के बीच पारदर्शी और उत्तरदायी संबंध सुनिश्चित होता है।

- This **decentralised model** has produced both **efficiency** and **equity**: citizens can see where their money goes, and cities have the **flexibility to plan for the long term**.
   इस **विकेंद्रीकृत मॉडल** ने दोनों **कुशलता** और **समानता** प्रदान की है: नागरिक देख सकते हैं कि उनका पैसा कहाँ जाता है, और शहरों के पास **दीर्घकालिक योजना** बनाने की लचीलापन है।

- Most importantly, transfers from higher levels of government are treated as part of a shared **fiscal ecosystem**, not as **discretionary favours**.
   सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, उच्च स्तर की सरकार से हस्तांतरण को साझा **राजकोषीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** का हिस्सा माना जाता है, न कि **इच्छाधीन उपकार** के रूप में।

- India can learn from this.
   भारत इससे सीख सकता है।

- What is needed is a reimagined model of **fiscal federalism**, where municipalities have **predictable, adequate**, and **untied revenues** — both from their **own sources** and from **constitutionally mandated transfers**.
   आवश्यकता है एक पुनःकल्पित **राजकोषीय संघवाद** मॉडल की, जहाँ नगरपालिकाओं के पास **पूर्वानुमेय, पर्याप्त**, और **अबंधित राजस्व** हो — अपने **स्वयं के स्रोतों** और **संवैधानिक रूप से अनिवार्य हस्तांतरणों** से।

- For **municipal bonds** to become credible instruments, the first step is to recognise **grants** and **shared taxes** as legitimate components of **city income**.
   नगरपालिका बॉन्ड को विश्वसनीय उपकरण बनाने के लिए, पहला कदम यह है कि **अनुदान** और **साझा कर** को **शहर की आय** के वैध घटक के रूप में मान्यता दी जाए।

- Second, the **rating system** must account for the **governance capacity** of a city — **transparency, audit compliance, citizen participation** — rather than solely relying on **financial metrics**.
   दूसरा, **रेटिंग सिस्टम** को शहर की **शासन क्षमता** — **पारदर्शिता, ऑडिट अनुपालन, नागरिक भागीदारी** — का ध्यान रखना चाहिए, न कि केवल **वित्तीय मापदंडों** पर निर्भर करना।

- Third, cities should be empowered to **earmark** a portion of their **GST compensation** or **State share** as **collateral** for **municipal borrowing**.
   तीसरा, शहरों को अपने **GST मुआवजे** या **राज्य हिस्से** का एक हिस्सा **नगरपालिका उधारी** के लिए **जमानत** के रूप में अलग करने का अधिकार दिया जाना चाहिए।

- Such reforms would restore the principle of **cooperative federalism** that the **Constitution** envisaged.
  ऐसे सुधार **सहकारी संघवाद** के सिद्धांत को पुनर्स्थापित करेंगे, जिसे **संविधान** ने कल्पना की थी।
- India's **urban future** depends on **fiscal justice**.
  भारत का **शहरी भविष्य राजकोषीय न्याय** पर निर्भर करता है।
- Municipal finance must be seen not as a **bookkeeping exercise** but as a **moral and political question**.
  नगरपालिका वित्त को केवल **लेखाकर्म अभ्यास** के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि **नैतिक और राजनीतिक प्रश्न** के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।
- The **grants** that flow to cities are not **gifts**; they are part of a **social contract**.
  शहरों में आने वाले **अनुदान उपहार** नहीं हैं; वे एक **सामाजिक अनुबंध** का हिस्सा हैं।
- The revenues that cities generate are not **charity**; they are a **right**.
  शहरों द्वारा उत्पन्न की जाने वाली आय **दान** नहीं है; यह एक **अधिकार** है।
- True **reform** will begin only when India accepts that **cities are not cost centres** — they are the **foundation of national prosperity**.
  सच्चा **सुधार** तभी शुरू होगा जब भारत यह स्वीकार करेगा कि **शहर लागत केंद्र नहीं हैं** — वे **राष्ट्रीय समृद्धि की नींव** हैं।

China files WTO complaint on India's EV, battery subsidies

GS II: WTO

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

China has filed a complaint against India in the World Trade Organization (WTO) over New Delhi's subsidies for electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said that the Ministry will look into the detailed submissions made by China.

Similar applications

Confirming the move, an official said that China had also filed similar applications against Turkiye, Canada and the EU.

"They have sought consultations with India," the official said.

Seeking consultation is the first step of the dispute settlement process as per WTO rules.

If the consultations requested with India do not result in a satisfactory solution, the EU can request the WTO set up a panel in the case to rule on the issue raised.

China is the second-largest trading partner of India. In the last fiscal, India's exports to China contracted 14.5% to $14.25 billion against $16.66 billion in 2023-24.

The imports, however, rose by 11.52% in 2024-25 to $113.45 billion against $101.73 billion in 2023-24.

India's trade deficit with China had widened to $99.2 billion during the year 2024-25.

China files WTO complaint on India's EV, battery subsidies
चीन ने भारत के ईवी और बैटरी सब्सिडी पर डब्ल्यूटीओ में शिकायत दर्ज की

- **China** has filed a complaint against **India** in the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** over New Delhi's subsidies for **electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries**.
  चीन ने **भारत** के खिलाफ **विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO)** में शिकायत दर्ज की है, जिसमें नई दिल्ली द्वारा **इलेक्ट्रिक व्हीकल (EV) और बैटरी** के लिए दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी को चुनौती दी गई है।
- **Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal** said that the **Ministry** will look into the detailed submissions made by **China**.
  कॉमर्स सचिव राजेश अग्रवाल ने कहा कि **मंत्रालय** चीन द्वारा किए गए विस्तृत प्रस्तुतियों की समीक्षा करेगा।

Similar applications
समान आवेदन

- Confirming the move, an official said that **China** had also filed similar applications against **Turkiye, Canada, and the EU**.
  इस कदम की पुष्टि करते हुए, एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि **चीन** ने **तुर्की, कनाडा और ईयू** के खिलाफ भी समान आवेदन दायर किए हैं।
- "They have sought **consultations with India**," the official said.
  "उन्होंने **भारत के साथ परामर्श** मांगा है," अधिकारी ने कहा।
- Seeking **consultation** is the first step of the **dispute settlement process** as per **WTO rules**.

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परामर्श मांगना **विवाद निपटान प्रक्रिया** का पहला कदम है, जैसा कि **डब्ल्यूटीओ नियमों** में है।

- If the consultations requested with **India** do not result in a satisfactory solution, the **EU** can request the **WTO** set up a panel in the case to rule on the issue raised.
  यदि **भारत** के साथ मांगे गए परामर्श से संतोषजनक समाधान नहीं निकलता है, तो **ईयू WTO** से अनुरोध कर सकता है कि मामले में एक पैनल गठित किया जाए और उठाए गए मुद्दे पर निर्णय दिया जाए।

- **China** is the second-largest trading partner of **India**.
  चीन भारत का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साथी है।

- In the last fiscal, **India's exports to China** contracted 14.5% to **$14.25 billion** against **$16.66 billion in 2023-24**.
  पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष में, **भारत का चीन को निर्यात** 14.5% घटकर **$14.25 बिलियन** रह गया, जबकि 2023-24 में यह **$16.66 बिलियन** था।

- The **imports**, however, rose by 11.52% in 2024-25 to **$113.45 billion** against **$101.73 billion in 2023-24**.
  हालांकि, **आयात** 2024-25 में 11.52% बढ़कर **$113.45 बिलियन** हो गया, जबकि 2023-24 में यह **$101.73 बिलियन** था।

- **India's trade deficit with China** had widened to **$99.2 billion** during the year 2024-25.
  2024-25 में **भारत का चीन के साथ व्यापार घाटा $99.2 बिलियन** तक बढ़ गया।

Sri Lanka PM Amarasuriya to arrive in New Delhi today

GS II: India-Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya will arrive in New Delhi on Thursday for events and high-level meetings with Indian leaders and business community representatives, on the heels of her visit to Beijing, where she attended the 'Global Leaders' Meeting on Women 2025.

During her three-day visit to India, her first since assuming charge as Premier last year, Ms. Amarasuriya is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is scheduled to call on her on Thursday, according to official sources in New Delhi.

The visiting Sri Lankan leader will also interact with representatives of business chambers and industry bodies, officials said, as India and Sri Lanka seek to enhance partnership in trade, investment, and development cooperation.

Mr. Modi was in Sri Lanka in April 2025 and said he was "grateful" for President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's "sensitivity towards Indian interests".

Mr. Dissanayake – the leftist leader who was elected to the country's top office in a watershed election in 2024 – and his government have vowed to

Harini Amarasuriya

pursue a neutral foreign policy, including with India and China, both key partners for the island nation.

On Tuesday, Ms. Amarasuriya met Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. "Our discussion focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, advancing development partnerships under the Belt and Road Initiative, and deepening collaboration across multiple sectors," she said in a social media post following the meeting.

A statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry described China and Sri Lanka as "fellow travellers" and said "China always regards Sri Lanka as a priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy".

Further, Mr. Xi, in his meeting with Ms. Amarasuriya, said China stands ready to work with Sri Lan-

ka on "high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, expand cooperation in port economy, modern agriculture, digital economy, green economy, tourism, and other areas to boost Sri Lanka's economic and social development." The two sides agreed to strengthen security cooperation, according to the statement.

Ms. Amarasuriya's engagements in New Delhi also include a felicitation event at Hindu College, Delhi University, from where the academic-turned-politician obtained her first degree. An anthropologist by training, she was a prominent voice in Sri Lankan academia, teaching at the Open University of Sri Lanka, before joining active politics. Her research in areas including mental health, gender, labour, and involvement as an activist in campaigns for higher state spending on public education drew attention. Prior to her entry into active politics in 2020, when the National People's Power nominated her to Parliament, Ms. Amarasuriya served as a member of the Public Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms in Sri Lanka, a Cabinet-appointed mechanism tasked with the first country-wide public consultations on constitutional reform.

Sri Lanka PM Amarasuriya to arrive in New Delhi today
श्रीलंका की प्रधानमंत्री अमारासुरीया आज नई दिल्ली पहुंचेंगी

- **Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya** will arrive in **New Delhi** on **Thursday** for events and high-level meetings with **Indian leaders** and **business community representatives**, on the heels of her visit to **Beijing**, where she attended the **'Global Leaders' Meeting on Women 2025'**.
  श्रीलंका की प्रधानमंत्री हरिनी अमारासुरीया गुरुवार को **नई दिल्ली** पहुंचेंगी, जहां वह **भारतीय नेताओं** और **व्यापार समुदाय के प्रतिनिधियों** के साथ उच्च-स्तरीय बैठकें और कार्यक्रमों में भाग लेंगी, इसके पहले वह **बीजिंग** गई थीं, जहां उन्होंने **'Global Leaders' Meeting on Women 2025'** में भाग लिया।

- During her **three-day visit to India**, her first since assuming charge as Premier last year, **Ms. Amarasuriya** is scheduled to meet with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**, who is scheduled to call on her on **Thursday**, according to official sources in **New Delhi**.
  अपनी **तीन-दिवसीय भारत यात्रा** के दौरान, जो पिछले साल प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में जिम्मेदारी संभालने के बाद उनकी पहली यात्रा है, **सुश्री अमारासुरीया** की **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** और **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर** से मुलाकात होने वाली है, जो **गुरुवार** को उनसे मिलने वाले हैं, ऐसा **नई दिल्ली** के अधिकारियों ने बताया।

- The visiting **Sri Lankan leader** will also interact with representatives of **business chambers** and **industry bodies**, officials said, as **India and Sri Lanka** seek to enhance partnership in **trade, investment, and development cooperation**.
  आगंतुक **श्रीलंकाई नेता व्यापार मंडलों** और **उद्योग संगठनों** के प्रतिनिधियों से भी बातचीत करेंगी, अधिकारियों ने कहा, क्योंकि **भारत और श्रीलंका वाणिज्य, निवेश और विकास सहयोग** में साझेदारी बढ़ाना चाहते हैं।

- **Mr. Modi** was in **Sri Lanka** in **April 2025** and said he was "grateful" for **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's** "sensitivity towards Indian interests".
  श्री मोदी अप्रैल 2025 में श्रीलंका में थे और उन्होंने कहा कि वह **राष्ट्रपति अनुरा कुमारा डिसानायके** की **भारतीय हितों के प्रति संवेदनशीलता** के लिए "आभारी" हैं।

- **Mr. Dissanayake**, the **leftist leader** who was elected to the country's top office in a **watershed election in 2024**, and his government have vowed to pursue a **neutral foreign policy**, including with **India and China**, both key partners for the island nation.
  श्री डिसानायके, जो **वामपंथी नेता** हैं और 2024 के **महत्वपूर्ण चुनाव** में देश के शीर्ष पद के लिए चुने गए, और उनकी सरकार ने **निष्पक्ष विदेश नीति** अपनाने का वादा किया है, जिसमें **भारत और चीन** दोनों शामिल हैं, जो द्वीप राष्ट्र के महत्वपूर्ण साझेदार हैं।

- On **Tuesday**, **Ms. Amarasuriya** met **Chinese President Xi Jinping** at the **Great Hall of the People in Beijing**.
  मंगलवार को, **सुश्री अमारासुरीया** की बीजिंग के **ग्रेट हॉल ऑफ द पीपल** में **चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग** से मुलाकात हुई।

- "Our discussion focused on **strengthening bilateral cooperation, advancing development partnerships under the Belt and Road Initiative, and deepening collaboration across multiple sectors**," she said in a social media post following the meeting.
  "हमारी चर्चा का ध्यान **दोतरफा सहयोग मजबूत करने, बेल्ट एंड रोड पहल** के तहत विकास साझेदारी को आगे बढ़ाने, और कई क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को गहरा करने पर था," उन्होंने बैठक के बाद सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा।

- A statement from the **Chinese Foreign Ministry** described **China and Sri Lanka** as "fellow travellers" and said "**China always regards Sri Lanka as a priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy**".
  चीनी विदेश मंत्रालय के एक बयान ने **चीन और श्रीलंका** को "साथी यात्रियों" के रूप में वर्णित किया और कहा कि "**चीन हमेशा श्रीलंका को अपने पड़ोस कूटनीति में प्राथमिकता देता है**।"

- Further, **Mr. Xi**, in his meeting with **Ms. Amarasuriya**, said China stands ready to work with Sri Lanka on **high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, expand cooperation in port economy, modern agriculture, digital economy, green economy, tourism, and other areas to boost Sri Lanka's economic and social development**.
  इसके अलावा, **श्री शी** ने **सुश्री अमारासुरीया** से अपनी बैठक में कहा कि **चीन श्रीलंका के साथ उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली बेल्ट एंड रोड सहयोग, बंदरगाह अर्थव्यवस्था, आधुनिक कृषि, डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था, हरित अर्थव्यवस्था, पर्यटन और अन्य क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार है**, ताकि श्रीलंका के **आर्थिक और सामाजिक विकास** को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

- The two sides agreed to **strengthen security cooperation**, according to the statement.
  बयान के अनुसार, दोनों पक्षों ने **सुरक्षा सहयोग मजबूत करने** पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

- **Ms. Amarasuriya's engagements in New Delhi** also include a **felicitation event at Hindu College**

- श्रीमती **अमारासूरिया** की **नई दिल्ली** में गतिविधियों में **हिंदू कॉलेज, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय** में एक सम्मान समारोह भी शामिल है, जहाँ से अकादमिक से राजनेता बनी उन्होंने अपनी पहली डिग्री प्राप्त की।

- An **anthropologist** by training, she was a prominent voice in **Sri Lankan academia**, teaching at the **Open University of Sri Lanka**, before joining active politics.
  प्रशिक्षण में एक **एंथ्रोपोलॉजिस्ट**, वह **श्रीलंका की अकादमिक दुनिया** में एक प्रमुख आवाज थीं, उन्होंने सक्रिय राजनीति में शामिल होने से पहले **ओपन यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ श्रीलंका** में पढ़ाया।

- Her research in areas including **mental health, gender, labour**, and involvement as an activist in campaigns for **higher state spending on public education** drew attention.
  उनके शोध में **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, लिंग, श्रम** जैसे क्षेत्रों और **सार्वजनिक शिक्षा पर उच्च सरकारी खर्च** के लिए अभियान में सक्रिय भूमिका ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया।

- Prior to her entry into active politics in **2020**, when the **National People's Power** nominated her to **Parliament**, Ms. Amarasuriya served as a member of the **Public Representations**

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Committee on Constitutional Reforms in Sri Lanka, a **Cabinet-appointed mechanism** tasked with the first country-wide public consultations on constitutional reform.

सक्रिय राजनीति में प्रवेश करने से पहले 2020 में, जब **नेशनल पीपल्स पावर** ने उन्हें **संसद** के लिए नामांकित किया, श्रीमती **अमरासूरिया** ने श्रीलंका में **संवैधानिक सुधारों पर सार्वजनिक प्रतिनिधित्व समिति** की सदस्य के रूप में सेवा दी, यह एक **कैबिनेट-नियुक्त तंत्र** था जिसे संवैधानिक सुधार पर पहले देशव्यापी सार्वजनिक परामर्श का कार्य सौंपा गया था।

Indonesia to buy 42 fighter jets from China in first non-Western aircraft purchase deal

GS II: South East Asia

Associated Press
JAKARTA

Indonesia's top defence official said on Wednesday that Jakarta will acquire at least 42 Chinese-made Chengdu J-10C fighter jets, marking the country's first non-Western aircraft purchase deal.

Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin told reporters in the capital, Jakarta, that Indonesia would soon buy fighter jets from China as part of a plan to modernise its military. Analysts said the deal could touch regional sensitivities and have geopolitical implications.

"They will be flying over Jakarta soon," Mr. Sjamsoeddin said. He declined to provide further details of the purchase.

The plan to buy the J-10s was first disclosed last month by Defence Ministry spokesperson Brig. Gen. Frega Wenas. Local media had reported that the Indonesian Air Force was still reviewing the Chinese-made fighter jets to ensure their acquisition would effectively strengthen Indonesia's air defense capabilities.

Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa on Wednesday confirmed that his Ministry had approved a Budget for the purchase of the aircraft from China that reached more than $9 billion.

Indonesia to buy 42 fighter jets from China in first non-Western aircraft purchase deal
इंडोनेशिया चीन से 42 लड़ाकू विमान खरीदेगा, पहला गैर-पश्चिमी हवाई जहाज खरीद समझौता

- Indonesia's top **defence official** said on Wednesday that **Jakarta** will acquire at least **42 Chinese-made Chengdu J-10C fighter jets**, marking the country's first **non-Western aircraft purchase deal**.
  इंडोनेशिया के शीर्ष **रक्षा अधिकारी** ने बुधवार को कहा कि **जकार्ता** कम से कम **42 चीनी निर्मित चेंगदू J-10C लड़ाकू विमान** खरीदेगा, जो देश का पहला **गैर-पश्चिमी हवाई जहाज खरीद समझौता** होगा।

- **Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin** told reporters in the capital, **Jakarta**, that Indonesia would soon buy fighter jets from **China** as part of a plan to modernise its **military**.
  रक्षा मंत्री शाफरी श्यामसुएद्दिन ने राजधानी **जकार्ता** में पत्रकारों से कहा कि इंडोनेशिया जल्द ही अपनी **सैन्य** को आधुनिक बनाने की योजना के हिस्से के रूप में **चीन** से लड़ाकू विमान खरीदेगा।

- Analysts said the deal could touch **regional sensitivities** and have **geopolitical implications**.
  विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि यह समझौता **क्षेत्रीय संवेदनशीलताओं** को छू सकता है और इसके **भू-राजनीतिक प्रभाव** हो सकते हैं।

- "They will be flying over Jakarta soon," Mr. Sjamsoeddin said. He declined to provide further details of the purchase.
  "वे जल्द ही **जकार्ता** के ऊपर उड़ेंगे," श्री श्यामसुएद्दिन ने कहा। उन्होंने खरीद के बारे में और विवरण प्रदान करने से इनकार कर दिया।

- The plan to buy the **J-10s** was first disclosed last month by **Defence Ministry spokesperson Brig. Gen. Frega Wenas**.

J-10 खरीदने की योजना का पहली बार पिछले महीने **रक्षा मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता ब्रिगेडियर जनरल फ्रेगा वेनास** ने खुलासा किया।

- Local media had reported that the **Indonesian Air Force** was still reviewing the Chinese-made fighter jets to ensure their acquisition would effectively strengthen **Indonesia's air defense capabilities**.

  स्थानीय मीडिया ने बताया कि **इंडोनेशियाई वायु सेना** अभी भी चीनी निर्मित लड़ाकू विमानों की समीक्षा कर रही थी ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि उनकी खरीद **इंडोनेशिया की हवाई रक्षा क्षमताओं** को प्रभावी रूप से मजबूत करेगी।

- **Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa** on Wednesday confirmed that his Ministry had approved a **Budget** for the purchase of the aircraft from China that reached more than **$9 billion**.

  वित्त मंत्री पुरबाया युधि सादेवा ने बुधवार को पुष्टि की कि उनके मंत्रालय ने **चीन से विमानों की खरीद** के लिए **$9 बिलियन** से अधिक का **बजट** स्वीकृत किया है।

GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, &IS	
TOPICS COVERED	**16_10_2025**
1.	**SC allows sale of green fireworks in Delhi** दिल्ली में हरे पटाखों की बिक्री की अनुमति दी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने
2.	**Trade deficit widens 93% in Sept. as services slump** सितंबर में सेवाओं की गिरावट से व्यापार घाटा 93% बढ़ा
3.	**Police destroy nearly 10,000 ganja plants in Attappady** अत्तापडी में पुलिस ने लगभग 10,000 गांजा पौधों को नष्ट किया
4.	**Three weak cubs shifted from tiger reserve to rescue centre** तीन कमजोर शावकों को टाइगर रिज़र्व से रेस्क्यू सेंटर स्थानांतरित किया गया
5.	**Maoist violence restricted to 11 districts, says government** माओवादी हिंसा केवल 11 जिलों तक सीमित, सरकार ने कहा
6.	**Aquaculture model of Sundarbans wins FAO recognition** सुंदरबन का मत्स्य पालन मॉडल FAO की मान्यता प्राप्त

7.	**Opposition leaders target Centre over EPFO rule changes** **विपक्षी नेताओं ने EPF नियमों में बदलाव को लेकर केंद्र सरकार को निशाना बनाया**
8.	**Biotech surge builds momentum but faces scaling bottlenecks** **बायोटेक क्षेत्र में तेजी आ रही है, लेकिन विस्तार में बाधाएँ बनी हुई हैं**
9.	**Phase of matter where order, disorder coexist in time found** **पदार्थ की वह अवस्था जहाँ व्यवस्था और अव्यवस्था समय के साथ सह-अस्तित्व में पाई गई**
10	**Evolution, Revolution** **उत्क्रांति, क्रांति**
11.	**The 'Critical Factor' in India's Clean Energy Ambitions** **भारत की स्वच्छ ऊर्जा महत्वाकांक्षाओं में 'महत्वपूर्ण कारक'**
12.	**Balancing Lives and Conservation** **जीवन और संरक्षण में संतुलन**
13.	**Indonesia detects radioactive element traces at clove farm** **इंडोनेशिया ने लौंग की खेती में रेडियोधर्मी तत्व के निशान पाए**

SC allows sale of green fireworks in Delhi

▌ Relaxation is a 'test' to examine whether regulation could coexist with efforts to mitigate air pollution

▌ Over the years, these green crackers have caused a significant reduction in emissions, the SC observes

▌ Both NCTD and Centre are seeking relaxation of the ban at least during festivals, court says

GS III: Environment

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Deepavali, the Supreme Court on Wednesday relaxed the blanket ban on firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) and allowed the sale of green fireworks approved by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) from October 18 to 20.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran restricted their use to October 19 and 20, between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., and 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The Bench described the relaxation as a "test case" to examine whether a carefully regulated framework could coexist with

efforts to mitigate air pollution. It stressed that the measure was temporary and directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and respective State Pollution Control Boards to monitor air and water quality from October 14 to 25 and submit a report detailing the daily Air Quality Index.

"We have to take a balanced approach, taking into account the conflicting interests and permitting in moderation, while not compromising the environmental concerns arising," the Bench observed.

It noted that a complete prohibition during the festive season had been counterproductive, resulting in the smuggling and use of conventional fireworks that were far more harmful than the green variants developed in recent years.

Referring to its 2018

Festive fare: Fireworks being sold in New Delhi on Wednesday after the court allowed their limited use. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

judgment in Arjun Gopal v. Union of India, which first introduced the concept of green fireworks, the court observed that over the years, such fireworks had led to a significant reduction in emissions.

The court said that the Delhi government's order of October 14, 2024, imposing a year-long ban on

the manufacture, sale, and use of fireworks, which was later extended across the NCR, merited reconsideration in light of cleaner and less harmful alternatives.

It also took note of submissions by advocate Uttara Babbar, who assisted the court as amicus curiae, that there was no "substantial

difference" in AQI levels between 2018, when green fireworks were introduced, and 2024, when the blanket ban was imposed. "It has been fairly stated that there is not much difference, except during the COVID period when the AQI had drastically come down," the court said.

States seek relaxation
The court noted that Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and NCR States, had made a "fervent plea" to lift the ban during Deepavali and other major festivals, including Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Mr. Mehta had earlier submitted a detailed enforcement plan restricting sales to licensed traders and prohibiting e-commerce platforms such as Flipkart and Amazon from

facilitating online sales.

"However, now the situation is different. Both the Government of NCTD and the Government of India themselves are seeking relaxation of the said ban at least during the festive periods," the court recorded.

It also took note of submissions by advocate Uttara Babbar that there was no "substantial difference" in AQI levels between 2018, when green fireworks were introduced, and 2024, when the blanket ban was imposed.

"It has been fairly stated that there is not much difference, except during the COVID period when the AQI had drastically come down," the court said.

The court noted that Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and NCR States, had made a "fervent plea"

to lift the ban during Deepavali and other major festivals, including Christmas and New Year's Eve.

It also took note of the Haryana government's concern that 14 of its 22 districts fall within the NCR, effectively bringing "almost 70 per cent of the State" under the ban. Similar pleas were also made on behalf of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Acknowledging the "deleterious effect" of granting the fireworks industry a free hand, the Bench laid down a detailed regulatory framework to ensure that the relaxation did not compromise environmental safety.

"Fireworks shall be sold only through licensed traders and must be manufactured by entities registered with NEERI and holding a valid licence from PESO," the court directed.

SC allows sale of green fireworks in Delhi
दिल्ली में हरे पटाखों की बिक्री की अनुमति दी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने

- The **Supreme Court** on Wednesday relaxed the **blanket ban** on **firecrackers** in **Delhi** and the **National Capital Region (NCR)** and allowed the sale of **green fireworks** approved by the **National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)** and the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)** from **October 18 to 20**.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को **दिल्ली** और **राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर)** में पटाखों पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध को ढीला करते हुए **राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान (नीरी)** और **पेट्रोलियम एवं विस्फोटक सुरक्षा संगठन (पेसो)** द्वारा स्वीकृत **हरे पटाखों** की बिक्री को **18 अक्टूबर से 20 अक्टूबर** तक अनुमति दी।

- A **Bench** of **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai** and **Justice K. Vinod Chandran** restricted their use to **October 19 and 20**, between **6 a.m. and 7 a.m.**, and **8 p.m. and 10 p.m.**
  भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई और **न्यायमूर्ति के. विनोद चंद्रन** की **पीठ** ने इनके उपयोग को **19 और 20 अक्टूबर** तक सीमित किया, जो **सुबह 6 से 7 बजे** और **रात 8 से 10 बजे** के बीच ही किया जा सकेगा।

- The **Bench** described the relaxation as a **"test case"** to examine whether a carefully regulated framework could coexist with efforts to mitigate **air pollution**.
  पीठ ने इस **रियायत** को एक **"परीक्षण मामला"** बताया ताकि यह देखा जा सके कि क्या एक सावधानीपूर्वक विनियमित ढांचा **वायु प्रदूषण** को कम करने के प्रयासों के साथ सह-अस्तित्व में रह सकता है।

- It stressed that the measure was **temporary** and directed the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** and respective **State Pollution Control Boards** to monitor **air and water quality** from **October 14 to 25** and submit a report detailing the daily **Air Quality Index (AQI)**.
  इसने जोर देकर कहा कि यह उपाय **अस्थायी** है और **केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी)** तथा संबंधित **राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों** को निर्देश दिया कि वे **14 अक्टूबर से 25 अक्टूबर** तक **वायु और जल गुणवत्ता** की निगरानी करें और **दैनिक वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक (AQI)** पर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें।

- "We have to take a balanced approach, taking into account the conflicting interests and permitting in moderation, while not compromising the **environmental concerns** arising," the Bench observed.
  "हमें **पर्यावरण संबंधी चिंताओं** से समझौता किए बिना परस्पर विरोधी हितों को ध्यान में रखकर एक **संतुलित दृष्टिकोण** अपनाना होगा," पीठ ने कहा।

- It noted that a complete prohibition during the festive season had been **counterproductive**, resulting in **smuggling** and use of **conventional fireworks** that were far more harmful than the **green variants** developed in recent years.

इसने नोट किया कि त्योहारों के मौसम में पूर्ण प्रतिबंध **उल्टा प्रभावी** रहा, जिससे **पारंपरिक पटाखों** की **तस्करी** और उपयोग बढ़ गया, जो हाल के वर्षों में विकसित **हरे पटाखों** की तुलना में अधिक हानिकारक थे।

- Referring to its **2018 judgment** in **Arjun Gopal v. Union of India**, which first introduced the concept of **green fireworks**, the court observed that over the years, such fireworks had led to a significant reduction in **emissions**.
  अपने **2018 के निर्णय अर्जुन गोपाल बनाम भारत संघ** का उल्लेख करते हुए, जिसमें **हरे पटाखों** की अवधारणा पहली बार पेश की गई थी, अदालत ने कहा कि वर्षों में ऐसे पटाखों से **उत्सर्जन** में उल्लेखनीय कमी आई है।

- The court said that the **Delhi government's order of October 14, 2024**, imposing a year-long ban on the manufacture, sale, and use of **fireworks**, which was later extended across the **NCR**, merited reconsideration in light of cleaner and less harmful alternatives.
  अदालत ने कहा कि **दिल्ली सरकार के 14 अक्टूबर 2024 के आदेश**, जिसने **पटाखों के निर्माण, बिक्री और उपयोग** पर सालभर का प्रतिबंध लगाया था और बाद में इसे **एनसीआर** तक बढ़ाया गया, अब **स्वच्छ और कम हानिकारक विकल्पों** के आलोक में पुनर्विचार योग्य है।

- It also took note of the **Haryana government's concern** that **14 of its 22 districts** fall within the **NCR**, effectively bringing "almost **70 per cent** of the State" under the ban.
  अदालत ने यह भी नोट किया कि **हरियाणा सरकार** ने चिंता जताई है कि उसके **22 में से 14 जिले** एनसीआर के दायरे में आते हैं, जिससे राज्य का "लगभग **70 प्रतिशत** हिस्सा" प्रतिबंध के तहत आ जाता है।

- Similar pleas were also made on behalf of **Uttar Pradesh** and **Rajasthan**.
  इसी तरह की अपीलें **उत्तर प्रदेश** और **राजस्थान** की ओर से भी की गईं।

- Acknowledging the **deleterious effect** of granting the **fireworks industry** a free hand, the Bench laid down a detailed **regulatory framework** to ensure that the relaxation did not compromise **environmental safety**.
  पटाखा उद्योग को खुली छूट देने के **हानिकारक प्रभाव** को स्वीकार करते हुए, पीठ ने एक विस्तृत **नियामक ढांचा** तैयार किया ताकि यह **रियायत पर्यावरणीय सुरक्षा** से समझौता न करे।

- "**Fireworks shall be sold only through licensed traders** and must be manufactured by entities registered with **NEERI** and holding a valid licence from **PESO**," the court directed.
  अदालत ने निर्देश दिया, "**पटाखों की बिक्री केवल लाइसेंस प्राप्त व्यापारियों के माध्यम से होगी** और उनका निर्माण केवल **नीरी** में पंजीकृत और **पेसो** से वैध लाइसेंस प्राप्त संस्थाओं द्वारा किया जाएगा।"

- The court also prohibited **e-commerce platforms** such as **Flipkart** and **Amazon** from facilitating **online sales**.
  अदालत ने **फ्लिपकार्ट** और **अमेज़न** जैसे **ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफार्मों** को **ऑनलाइन बिक्री** की सुविधा देने से भी रोका।

- "However, now the situation is different. Both the **Government of NCTD** and the **Government of India** themselves are seeking relaxation of the said ban at least during the festive periods," the court recorded.
  "हालांकि, अब स्थिति अलग है। **दिल्ली सरकार** और **भारत सरकार** दोनों ही अब कम से कम त्योहारों के दौरान इस प्रतिबंध में **राहत** चाह रही हैं," अदालत ने दर्ज किया।

- It also took note of submissions by **advocate Uttara Babbar** that there was no "substantial difference" in **AQI levels** between **2018**, when **green fireworks** were introduced, and **2024**, when the blanket ban was imposed.
  अदालत ने **अधिवक्ता उत्तरा बब्बर** की प्रस्तुतियों पर भी ध्यान दिया, जिन्होंने कहा कि **2018** (जब **हरे पटाखे** पेश किए गए थे) और **2024** (जब पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लगाया गया था) के बीच **AQI स्तरों** में कोई "महत्वपूर्ण अंतर" नहीं था।

- "It has been fairly stated that there is not much difference, except during the **COVID period** when the AQI had drastically come down," the court said.
  अदालत ने कहा, "यह उचित रूप से कहा गया है कि **कोविड अवधि** को छोड़कर, जब **AQI** में भारी गिरावट आई थी, अन्यथा ज्यादा अंतर नहीं था।"

States seek relaxation
राज्य राहत की मांग करते हैं

- The court noted that **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta**, appearing for the **Centre** and **NCR States**, had made a **"fervent plea"** to lift the ban during **Deepavali** and other major festivals, including **Christmas** and **New Year's Eve**.

अदालत ने नोट किया कि **केंद्र** और **एनसीआर राज्यों** की ओर से पेश हुए **सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता** ने **दीवाली**, **क्रिसमस** और **नए साल की पूर्व संध्या** जैसे प्रमुख त्योहारों के दौरान प्रतिबंध हटाने की "**गंभीर अपील**" की।

- Mr. Mehta had earlier submitted a detailed **enforcement plan** restricting sales to **licensed traders** and prohibiting **e-commerce platforms** from the manufacture, sale, and use of **fireworks**.

  श्री मेहता ने पहले एक विस्तृत **कार्यान्वयन योजना** प्रस्तुत की थी, जिसमें **पटाखों के निर्माण, बिक्री और उपयोग** को **लाइसेंस प्राप्त व्यापारियों** तक सीमित करने और **ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफार्मों** पर रोक लगाने का प्रस्ताव था।

- difference in **AQI levels** between **2018**, when **green fireworks** were introduced, and **2024**, when the **blanket ban** was imposed. "It has been fairly stated that there is not much difference, except during the **COVID period** when the **AQI** had drastically come down," the court said.

  2018 में जब **हरे पटाखे** शुरू किए गए थे और **2024** में जब **पूर्ण प्रतिबंध** लगाया गया था, उनके बीच **AQI स्तरों** में कोई बड़ा अंतर नहीं है। अदालत ने कहा, "यह उचित रूप से कहा गया है कि **कोविड अवधि** को छोड़कर जब **AQI** में भारी गिरावट आई थी, अन्यथा अधिक अंतर नहीं था।"

- The court noted that **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta**, appearing for the **Centre** and **NCR States**, had made a "**fervent plea**" to lift the **ban** during **Deepavali** and other major festivals, including **Christmas** and **New Year's Eve**.

  अदालत ने नोट किया कि **केंद्र** और **एनसीआर राज्यों** की ओर से पेश हुए **सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता** ने **दीवाली**, **क्रिसमस** और **नए साल की पूर्व संध्या** जैसे प्रमुख त्योहारों के दौरान **प्रतिबंध हटाने की** "**गंभीर अपील**" की थी।

- Mr. Mehta had earlier submitted a detailed **enforcement plan** restricting sales to **licensed traders** and prohibiting **e-commerce platforms** such as **Flipkart** and **Amazon** from facilitating **online sales**.

  श्री मेहता ने पहले एक विस्तृत **कार्यान्वयन योजना** प्रस्तुत की थी जिसमें बिक्री को केवल **लाइसेंस प्राप्त व्यापारियों** तक सीमित करने और **फ्लिपकार्ट** तथा **अमेज़न** जैसे **ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफार्मों** पर **ऑनलाइन बिक्री** को रोकने का प्रस्ताव था।

- "However, now the situation is different. Both the **Government of NCTD** and the **Government of India** themselves are seeking **relaxation** of the said **ban** at least during the **festive periods**," the court recorded.

  "हालांकि अब स्थिति अलग है। **दिल्ली सरकार (एनसीटीडी)** और **भारत सरकार** दोनों ही अब कम से कम **त्योहारों के दौरान** इस **प्रतिबंध में राहत** चाह रही हैं," अदालत ने दर्ज किया।

- It also took note of submissions by **advocate Uttara Babbar** that there was no "substantial difference" in **AQI levels** between **2018**, when **green fireworks** were introduced, and **2024**, when the **blanket ban** was imposed.

  अदालत ने **अधिवक्ता उत्तरा बब्बर** की प्रस्तुतियों पर भी ध्यान दिया, जिन्होंने कहा कि **2018** (जब **हरे पटाखे** पेश किए गए थे) और **2024** (जब **पूर्ण प्रतिबंध** लगाया गया था) के बीच **AQI स्तरों** में कोई "महत्वपूर्ण अंतर" नहीं था।

- "It has been fairly stated that there is not much difference, except during the **COVID period** when the **AQI** had drastically come down," the court said.

  अदालत ने कहा, "यह उचित रूप से कहा गया है कि **कोविड अवधि** को छोड़कर, जब **AQI** में भारी गिरावट आई थी, अन्यथा अधिक अंतर नहीं था।"

- The court noted that **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta**, appearing for the **Centre** and **NCR States**, had made a "**fervent plea**" to lift the **ban** during **Deepavali** and other major festivals, including **Christmas** and **New Year's Eve**.

  अदालत ने नोट किया कि **केंद्र** और **एनसीआर राज्यों** की ओर से पेश हुए **सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता** ने **दीवाली**, **क्रिसमस** और **नए साल की पूर्व संध्या** जैसे प्रमुख त्योहारों के दौरान **प्रतिबंध हटाने की** "**गंभीर अपील**" की थी।

- It also took note of the **Haryana government's concern** that **14 of its 22 districts** fall within the **NCR**, effectively bringing "almost **70 per cent** of the State" under the **ban**. Similar pleas were also made on behalf of **Uttar Pradesh** and **Rajasthan**.

  अदालत ने यह भी नोट किया कि **हरियाणा सरकार** ने चिंता जताई है कि उसके **22 में से 14 जिले एनसीआर** के दायरे में आते हैं, जिससे राज्य का "लगभग **70 प्रतिशत हिस्सा**" प्रतिबंध के तहत आ जाता है। इसी तरह की अपीलें **उत्तर प्रदेश** और **राजस्थान** की ओर से भी की गईं।

- Acknowledging the **deleterious effect** of granting the **fireworks industry** a free hand, the **Bench** laid down a detailed **regulatory framework** to ensure that the **relaxation** did not compromise **environmental safety**.

  पटाखा उद्योग को खुली छूट देने के **हानिकारक प्रभाव** को स्वीकार करते हुए, **पीठ** ने एक विस्तृत **नियामक ढांचा** तैयार किया ताकि यह **राहत पर्यावरणीय सुरक्षा** से समझौता न करे।

- "**Fireworks shall be sold only through licensed traders** and must be manufactured by entities registered with **NEERI** and holding a valid licence from **PESO**," the court directed.

  अदालत ने निर्देश दिया, "**पटाखों की बिक्री केवल लाइसेंस प्राप्त व्यापारियों के माध्यम से होगी** और उनका निर्माण केवल **नीरी** में पंजीकृत और **पेसो** से वैध लाइसेंस प्राप्त संस्थाओं द्वारा किया जाएगा।"

Trade deficit widens 93% in Sept. as services slump

GS III: Economy: External Sector

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit grew 93% in September due to imports outpacing exports during the month. However, the data shows that for the first half of the financial year – April to September 2025, the trade deficit shrank by 2.3%.

Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday showed that India's total exports stood at $67.2 billion in September 2025, up 0.8% over September 2024. Total imports, on the other hand, grew 11.3% to $83.8 billion over the same period. As a result, the trade deficit in September nearly doubled to $16.6 billion, compared to $8.6 billion in September 2024.

Goods exports grow
Notably, the relatively poor performance of the export sector was due to lower exports of services and not goods. India's goods exports grew 6.7% to $36.4 billion in September 2025 despite that being the first full month of 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India.

Services, which have so far bolstered India's export performance, saw exports shrinking 5.5% in September 2025 to $30.8 billion.

However, while the data shows that India's exports to the U.S. are indeed 13.4% higher in the cumulative April-September 2025 period than in the same period last year, they have been declining steadily over the last few months. That is, where India's exports to the U.S. stood at $8.8 billion in May 2025, they were valued at $5.5 billion in September 2025.

"It is heartening to know that in this turbulence, our merchandise exports have kept up," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said in a press briefing. "That means our industry has been resilient and they have been able to withstand the turbulence by retaining their supply chains and business. They might be taking on some of the costs on themselves," Mr. Agrawal added.

Mr. Agrawal also sought to downplay the increase in the trade deficit in September, saying that international trade does not always follow the same pattern from year to year.

"On a cumulative basis, we are still doing better than last year," he said. "That means the part of the exports that are not facing tariffs are growing well, but also the part of the exports that do face the tariffs are also growing. The exports have not come down." Looking at the first half of the financial year, the data shows that total exports grew 4.45% in the April-September 2025 period to $413.3 billion. Total imports grew at a relatively slower 3.55% to $472.8 billion over the same period. As a result, the trade deficit during the first half of the financial year shrank by 2.3%.

Steady growth in **exports**

Merchandise and services exports together grew **4.45%** in April -September, outpacing import rise and narrowing the trade gap by **2.3%**

		April-September 2024-25 (US$ Billion)	April-September 2025-26 (US$ Billion)	Change in %
Merchandise	Exports	213.68	220.12	3.02
	Imports	358.85	375.11	4.53
Services*	Exports	182.03	193.18	6.12
	Imports	97.73	97.68	-0.05

*The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for August 2025. The data for September 2025 is an estimation

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Trade deficit widens 93% in Sept. as services slump
सितंबर में सेवाओं की गिरावट से व्यापार घाटा 93% बढ़ा

- India's **trade deficit** grew **93%** in **September** due to **imports outpacing exports** during the month. However, the data shows that for the first half of the **financial year — April to September 2025**, the trade deficit shrank by **2.3%**.

  भारत का **व्यापार घाटा सितंबर** में **93%** बढ़ गया क्योंकि इस महीने **आयात निर्यात से अधिक** रहा। हालांकि, आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि **वित्तीय वर्ष 2025 (अप्रैल से सितंबर)** की पहली छमाही में व्यापार घाटा **2.3%** घटा।

- Data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** on **Wednesday** showed that India's **total exports** stood at **$67.2 billion** in **September 2025**, up **0.8%** over **September 2024**.

  बुधवार को **वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय** द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों से पता चला कि **सितंबर 2025** में भारत का **कुल निर्यात $67.2 अरब** रहा, जो **सितंबर 2024** की तुलना में **0.8%** अधिक है।

- **Total imports**, on the other hand, grew **11.3%** to **$83.8 billion** over the same period.

  वहीं **कुल आयात** इसी अवधि में **11.3%** बढ़कर **$83.8 अरब** हो गया।

- As a result, the **trade deficit** in **September** nearly doubled to **$16.6 billion**, compared to **$8.6 billion** in **September 2024**.

  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, **सितंबर** में **व्यापार घाटा** लगभग दोगुना होकर **$16.6 अरब** हो गया, जबकि **सितंबर 2024** में यह **$8.6 अरब** था।

Goods exports grow

सामान निर्यात में वृद्धि

- Notably, the relatively poor performance of the **export sector** was due to lower exports of **services** and not **goods**.
  ध्यान देने योग्य बात यह है कि **निर्यात क्षेत्र** के कमजोर प्रदर्शन का कारण **वस्तुओं** का नहीं बल्कि **सेवाओं का कम निर्यात** था।

- India's **goods exports** grew 6.7% to $36.4 billion in **September 2025** despite that being the first full month of **50% tariffs** imposed by the **U.S.** on imports from India.
  सितंबर 2025 में भारत का **वस्तु निर्यात 6.7%** बढ़कर **$36.4 अरब** हो गया, जबकि यह वह पहला महीना था जब **अमेरिका** ने भारत से आयात पर **50% शुल्क** लगाया था।

- **Services**, which have so far bolstered India's **export performance**, saw exports shrinking **5.5%** in **September 2025** to **$30.8 billion**.
  अब तक भारत के **निर्यात प्रदर्शन** को सहारा देने वाली **सेवाओं** का निर्यात **सितंबर 2025 में 5.5%** घटकर **$30.8 अरब** रह गया।

- However, while the data shows that India's **exports to the U.S.** are indeed **13.4% higher** in the cumulative **April-September 2025** period than in the same period last year, they have been declining steadily over the last few months.
  हालांकि आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि **अप्रैल-सितंबर 2025** की अवधि में भारत का **अमेरिका को निर्यात** पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में वास्तव में **13.4% अधिक** है, लेकिन पिछले कुछ महीनों में इसमें लगातार गिरावट आई है।

- That is, where India's **exports to the U.S.** stood at **$8.8 billion** in **May 2025**, they were valued at **$5.5 billion** in **September 2025**.
  अर्थात्, **मई 2025** में भारत का **अमेरिका को निर्यात $8.8 अरब** था, जो **सितंबर 2025** में घटकर **$5.5 अरब** रह गया।

- "It is heartening to know that in this turbulence, our **merchandise exports** have kept up," **Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal** said in a press briefing.
  "यह जानकर अच्छा लगता है कि इस अस्थिरता के बीच हमारे **माल निर्यात** ने अपनी गति बनाए रखी है," **वाणिज्य सचिव राजेश अग्रवाल** ने एक प्रेस ब्रीफिंग में कहा।

- "That means our **industry** has been **resilient** and they have been able to withstand the turbulence by retaining their **supply chains** and **business**. They might be taking on some of the costs on themselves," Mr. Agrawal added.
  "इसका मतलब है कि हमारा **उद्योग लचीला** रहा है और उसने अपनी **सप्लाई चेन** और **व्यवसाय** को बनाए रखकर अस्थिरता का सामना किया है। संभवतः उन्होंने कुछ लागत खुद वहन की होगी," श्री अग्रवाल ने जोड़ा।

- Mr. Agrawal also sought to downplay the increase in the **trade deficit** in **September**, saying that **international trade** does not always follow the same pattern from year to year.
  श्री अग्रवाल ने **सितंबर में व्यापार घाटे** में वृद्धि को कमतर आंकते हुए कहा कि **अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार** हर वर्ष एक ही पैटर्न का पालन नहीं करता।

- "On a cumulative basis, we are still doing better than last year," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "कुल मिलाकर, हम अभी भी पिछले साल से बेहतर प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं।"

- "That means the part of the **exports** that are not facing **tariffs** are growing well, but also the part of the exports that do face the **tariffs** are also growing. The exports have not come down."
  "इसका मतलब है कि **शुल्कों** का सामना न करने वाले **निर्यात** भी अच्छी तरह बढ़ रहे हैं, और जो **शुल्कों** के दायरे में हैं वे भी बढ़ रहे हैं। **निर्यात घटे नहीं हैं।**"

- Looking at the first half of the **financial year**, the data shows that **total exports** grew **4.45%** in the **April-September 2025** period to **$413.3 billion**.
  वित्तीय वर्ष की पहली छमाही को देखते हुए, आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि **अप्रैल-सितंबर 2025** की अवधि में **कुल निर्यात 4.45%** बढ़कर **$413.3 अरब** हो गया।

- **Total imports** grew at a relatively slower **3.55%** to **$472.8 billion** over the same period.
  कुल आयात इसी अवधि में अपेक्षाकृत धीमी गति से **3.55%** बढ़कर **$472.8 अरब** हो गया।

- As a result, the **trade deficit** during the first half of the **financial year** shrank by **2.3%**.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, **वित्तीय वर्ष** की पहली छमाही में **व्यापार घाटा 2.3%** घटा।

GS III: Agriculture

Police destroy nearly 10,000 ganja plants in Attappady

The police on Tuesday destroyed a large number of ganja plants illegally cultivated for commercial gain deep inside the forests of Attappady in Kerala. They said nearly 10,000 plants, with three months' growth, were eradicated from 60 cents of land in the Pudur forest area. A joint team comprising the members of the Anti-Terrorist Squad, District Anti Narcotics Special Action Force and Pudur police station took part in the raid. They said it was one of the biggest anti-ganja operations by the Kerala Police.

Police destroy nearly 10,000 ganja plants in Attappady
अत्तापडी में पुलिस ने लगभग 10,000 गांजा पौधों को नष्ट किया

- The police on Tuesday destroyed a large number of **ganja plants** illegally cultivated for **commercial gain** deep inside the forests of **Attappady in Kerala**.
  मंगलवार को पुलिस ने **केरल के अत्तापडी के जंगलों** के भीतर **व्यावसायिक लाभ** के लिए अवैध रूप से उगाए गए बड़ी संख्या में **गांजा पौधों** को नष्ट किया।

- They said nearly **10,000 plants**, with **three months' growth**, were eradicated from **60 cents of land** in the **Pudur forest area**.
  उन्होंने बताया कि लगभग **10,000 पौधों**, जिनकी **तीन महीने की वृद्धि** हो चुकी थी, को **पुद्दूर वन क्षेत्र** में **60 सेंट भूमि** से उखाड़ दिया गया।

- A joint team comprising the members of the **Anti-Terrorist Squad**, **District Anti Narcotics Special Action Force** and **Pudur police station** took part in the raid.
  एंटी-टेररिस्ट स्क्वाड, **जिला एंटी-नारकोटिक्स स्पेशल एक्शन फोर्स** और **पुद्दूर पुलिस स्टेशन** के सदस्यों से मिलकर बनी एक **संयुक्त टीम** ने इस छापे में भाग लिया।

- They said it was one of the **biggest anti-ganja operations** by the **Kerala Police**.
  उन्होंने बताया कि यह **केरल पुलिस** द्वारा की गई **सबसे बड़ी एंटी-गांजा कार्रवाइयों** में से एक थी।

Three weak cubs shifted from tiger reserve to rescue centre

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Three tiger cubs, found in an emaciated condition at the Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT) Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district, have been rescued by the Forest Department, and will be shifted to a wild animals' rescue centre in Mysuru, Karnataka as their mother has not been found in the vicnity.

On October 13, forest guards sighted two cubs near the Punjanur-Beduguli road during regular patrolling. Surmising that the cubs were awaiting their mother, the guards continued their patrolling and returned to the same spot after some time. The cubs were still moving around

One of the three cubs rescued from the BRT Tiger Reserve by the forest department.

and seemed to be disoriented.

The guards combed the area looking for signs of the mother in the vicinity, but did not find any. Based on the directives of higher officials, camera traps were installed at the area for surveillance and monitoring.

Despite the efforts, the mother could not be traced. Later, a third cub emerged from the thickets during the combing operation.

B.S. Sripathi, Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director, BRT Tiger Reserve, said the cubs were about a month old and that there was no possibility of their survival in the absence of their mother.

A Standard Technical Guidance and Monitoring Committee was constituted as per the norms and the three cubs are being monitored by veterinarians.

Officials said that the cubs will be shifted to the Chamundi Wild Animals Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Koorgalli on the outskirts of Mysuru.

Three weak cubs shifted from tiger reserve to rescue centre
तीन कमजोर शावकों को टाइगर रिज़र्व से रेस्क्यू सेंटर स्थानांतरित किया गया

- Three **tiger cubs**, found in an **emaciated condition** at the **Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve** in **Chamarajanagar district**, have been **rescued** by the **Forest Department**, and will be shifted to a **wild animals' rescue centre in Mysuru, Karnataka** as their **mother has not been found** in the vicinity.

  चामराजनगर जिले के **बिलिगिरी रंगनाथस्वामी टेंपल (BRT) टाइगर रिज़र्व** में **कमजोर हालत** में पाए गए तीन **बाघ शावकों** को **वन विभाग** ने **बचाया**, और उनकी **माँ के आसपास न मिलने** के कारण उन्हें **कर्नाटक के मैसूरु स्थित वन्यजीव रेस्क्यू सेंटर** में स्थानांतरित किया जाएगा।

- On **October 13**, **forest guards** sighted **two cubs** near the **Punjanur-Beduguli road** during regular **patrolling**. Surmising that the cubs were awaiting their mother, the guards continued their patrolling and returned to the same spot after some time. The cubs were still moving around and seemed to be **disoriented**.

  13 अक्टूबर को **वन रक्षकों** ने नियमित **गश्त** के दौरान **पुंजनूर-बेडुगुली सड़क** के पास **दो शावकों** को देखा। यह मानते हुए कि शावक अपनी माँ की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे थे, रक्षक गश्त जारी रखते हुए कुछ समय बाद उसी स्थान पर लौटे। शावक अब भी घूम रहे थे और **भ्रमित** लग रहे थे।

- The guards **combed the area** looking for signs of the **mother** in the vicinity, but did not find any. Based on the directives of **higher officials**, **camera traps** were installed at the area for **surveillance and monitoring**.

  रक्षकों ने क्षेत्र में **माँ के निशान खोजने** के लिए **तलाशी अभियान** चलाया, लेकिन कोई सुराग नहीं मिला। **उच्च अधिकारियों** के निर्देश पर उस क्षेत्र में **निगरानी और मॉनिटरिंग** के लिए **कैमरा ट्रैप** लगाए गए।

- Despite the efforts, the **mother could not be traced**. Later, a **third cub** emerged from the thickets during the **combing operation**.

  प्रयासों के बावजूद **माँ का पता नहीं लगाया जा सका।** बाद में, **तलाशी अभियान** के दौरान झाड़ियों से **तीसरा शावक** बाहर आया।

- **B.S. Sripathi**, **Deputy Conservator of Forest** and **Director, BRT Tiger Reserve**, said the **cubs were about a month old** and that there was **no possibility of their survival** in the absence of their mother.

  बी.एस. श्रीपाठी, **वन उपरक्षक** और **BRT टाइगर रिज़र्व के निदेशक**, ने कहा कि **शावक लगभग एक महीने के हैं** और **माँ के बिना उनके जीवित रहने की कोई संभावना नहीं** है।

- A **Standard Technical Guidance and Monitoring Committee** was constituted as per the norms and the **three cubs are being monitored by veterinarians**.

  नियमों के अनुसार एक **मानक तकनीकी मार्गदर्शन और निगरानी समिति** गठित की गई है और **तीनों शावकों की निगरानी पशु चिकित्सकों द्वारा की जा रही है।**

- Officials said that the cubs will be **shifted to the Chamundi Wild Animals Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre** at **Koorgalli** on the outskirts of **Mysuru**.

  अधिकारियों ने कहा कि शावकों को **मैसूरु के बाहरी इलाके कूर्गल्ली स्थित चामुंडी वाइल्ड एनिमल्स रेस्क्यू एंड रिहैबिलिटेशन सेंटर** में **स्थानांतरित** किया जाएगा।

Maoist violence restricted to 11 districts, says government

Only three districts — Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur districts of Chhattisgarh — marked as most affected, says Home Ministry; in 2013, there were 126 districts affected by left-wing extremism

GS III: Naxalism

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On a day when senior CPI (Maoist) leader Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias Bhupati, and 60 other cadres surrendered in Maharashtra, the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday said the number of districts affected by left-wing extremism-had come down to 11 from 18 earlier this year.

The number of "most-affected" districts has reduced from six to three, with Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur districts of Chhattisgarh now falling in the category, the Ministry said on Wednesday.

In 2013, there were 126 affected districts and following continuous operations, the number was restricted to 18 in April 2025.

Since 2021, more than 100 forward-operating bases or camps of security forces have been established in affected areas, a majority of them in Chhattisgarh, said a senior government official.

Besides Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur, the other affected districts are Dan-

Beginning of the end: Naxal leader Bhupati surrendering before Maharashtra Chief Minister in Gadchiroli on Wednesday. PTI

tewada, Gariaband, Kanker, and Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki in Chhattisgarh, West Singhbhum in Jharkhand, Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, and Kandhamal in Odisha.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced that Maoism will be completely eradicated from the country by March 31, 2026.

The Ministry said that this year, 312 cadres had been killed, including a CPI (Maoist) general secretary and eight other Polit Bureau/Central Committee

members; 836 cadres have been arrested, and 1,639 have surrendered and joined the mainstream. The surrendered cadres include one Polit Bureau member and a Central Committee member.

Sustained operations
The Ministry said that the National Action Plan and Policy, which envisages a multi-pronged approach, helped in eradicating the influence of left-wing extremism.

The policy includes precise intelligence-based and

people-friendly counter operations. "These steps were accompanied by swift domination of areas with security vacuum, targeting of top leaders as well as overground workers, countering the ideology, rapid development of infrastructure and saturation of welfare schemes, choking of finances, enhanced coordination between states and centre governments and accelerated investigation and prosecution of Maoist related cases," the Ministry said.

Referring to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assessment of the Maoist insurgency, the Ministry said, "Once called India's biggest internal security challenge by the then Prime Minister in 2010, Naxalism is now visibly retreating. Naxals had planned a Red Corridor - stretching from Pashupati in Nepal to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. In 2013, 126 districts from different States reported Naxal-related violence; by March 2025, this tally had fallen to just 18, with only six classified as most-affected districts."

Maoist violence restricted to 11 districts, says government
माओवादी हिंसा केवल 11 जिलों तक सीमित, सरकार ने कहा

- Only **three districts** — **Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur districts** of **Chhattisgarh** — marked as **most affected**, says the Home **Ministry**; in 2013, there were **126 districts affected** by left-wing extremism.
  केवल **तीन जिले** — **बिजापुर, सुकमा और नारायणपुर जिले** (छत्तीसगढ़) — को **सबसे प्रभावित** के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया, **गृह मंत्रालय** ने कहा; 2013 में, **बाएंपंथी चरमपंथ** से **126 जिले प्रभावित** थे।
- On a day when senior **CPI (Maoist) leader Mallojula Venugopal Rao**, alias **Bhupati**, and **60 other cadres surrendered** in **Maharashtra**, the **Union Home Ministry** on **Wednesday** said

the number of districts affected by **left-wing extremism** had come down to **11** from **18 earlier this year**.

जिस दिन वरिष्ठ **CPI (माओवादी) नेता मल्लोजुला वेणुगोपाल राव**, उर्फ **भूपति**, और **60 अन्य कैडर** ने **महाराष्ट्र में समर्पण किया**, उसी दिन **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** ने बुधवार को कहा कि **बाएंपंथी चरमपंथ** से प्रभावित जिलों की संख्या इस साल के आरंभ में **18** से घटकर **11** हो गई है।

- The number of **"most-affected" districts** has reduced from **six to three**, with **Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur districts of Chhattisgarh** now falling in the category, the **Ministry said on Wednesday**.

  "सबसे प्रभावित" जिलों की संख्या **छह से घटकर तीन** हो गई है, जिसमें अब **बिजापुर, सुकमा और नारायणपुर जिले (छत्तीसगढ़)** इस श्रेणी में आते हैं, **मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को कहा**।

- In 2013, there were **126 affected districts** and following continuous operations, the number was restricted to **18 in April 2025**.

  2013 में, **126 प्रभावित जिले** थे और लगातार संचालन के बाद, संख्या **अप्रैल 2025 में 18 तक सीमित** हो गई।

- Since 2021, more than **100 forward-operating bases or camps of security forces** have been established in affected areas, a majority of them in **Chhattisgarh**, said a **senior government official**.

  2021 से, प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में **100 से अधिक अग्रिम संचालन आधार या सुरक्षा बलों के शिविर** स्थापित किए गए हैं, जिनमें से अधिकांश **छत्तीसगढ़** में हैं, एक **वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी** ने कहा।

- Besides **Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur**, the other affected districts are **Dantewada, Gariaband, Kanker, and Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki** in Chhattisgarh, **West Singhbhum** in Jharkhand, **Balaghat** in Madhya Pradesh, **Gadchiroli** in Maharashtra, and **Kandhamal** in Odisha.

  बिजापुर, सुकमा और नारायणपुर के अलावा अन्य प्रभावित जिले हैं **दंतेवाड़ा, गारीबंद, कांकेर और मोहला-मानपुर-अंबागार चौकी (छत्तीसगढ़), पश्चिम सिंहभूम (झारखंड), बालाघाट (मध्य प्रदेश), गडचिरोली (महाराष्ट्र)** और **कंधमाल (ओड़िशा)**।

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** has announced that **Maoism will be completely eradicated** from the country by **March 31, 2026**.

  केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने घोषणा की है कि **31 मार्च 2026** तक देश से **माओवादीवाद पूरी तरह समाप्त** कर दिया जाएगा।

- The **Ministry** said that this year, **312 cadres had been killed**, including a **CPI (Maoist) general secretary** and **eight other Polit Bureau/Central Committee members**; 836 cadres have been arrested, and **1,639 have surrendered and joined the mainstream**.

  मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इस साल, **312 कैडर मारे गए**, जिनमें एक **CPI (माओवादी) महासचिव** और **8 अन्य पोलिट ब्यूरो/सेंट्रल कमिटी सदस्य** शामिल हैं; **836 कैडर गिरफ्तार किए गए**, और **1,639** ने समर्पण कर मुख्यधारा में शामिल हो गए।

- The surrendered cadres include **one Polit Bureau member** and a **Central Committee member**.

  समर्पित कैडरों में **एक पोलिट ब्यूरो सदस्य** और एक **सेंट्रल कमिटी सदस्य** शामिल हैं।

Sustained operations
लगातार संचालन

- The **Ministry** said that the **National Action Plan and Policy**, which envisages a **multi-pronged approach**, helped in eradicating the influence of **left-wing extremism**.

  मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजना और नीति**, जो **बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण** को दर्शाती है, ने **बाएंपंथी चरमपंथ** के प्रभाव को समाप्त करने में मदद की।

- The policy includes **precise intelligence-based** and **people-friendly counter operations**.

  नीति में **सटीक खुफिया आधारित** और **जनहितकारी प्रतिकर्मी संचालन** शामिल हैं।

- "These steps were accompanied by **swift domination of areas with security vacuum**, **targeting of top leaders as well as overground workers**, **countering the ideology**, **rapid development of infrastructure and saturation of welfare schemes**, **choking of finances**, **enhanced coordination between states and centre governments** and **accelerated investigation and prosecution of Maoist related cases**," the Ministry said.

  "इन कदमों के साथ **सुरक्षा रिक्त क्षेत्रों पर त्वरित नियंत्रण, शीर्ष नेताओं और ओवरग्राउंड कार्यकर्ताओं पर निशाना, विचारधारा का मुकाबला, इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर का तेजी से विकास और कल्याण योजनाओं का

वितरण, **वित्त का दबाव, राज्य और केंद्र सरकारों के बीच समन्वय बढ़ाना**, और **माओवादी संबंधित मामलों की त्वरित जांच और अभियोजन** शामिल थे," मंत्रालय ने कहा।

- Referring to former **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's** assessment of the **Maoist insurgency**, the Ministry said, "Once called **India's biggest internal security challenge** by the then Prime Minister in 2010, **Naxalism is now visibly retreating**. Naxals had planned a **Red Corridor** – stretching from **Pashupati in Nepal to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh**. In 2013, **126 districts** from different States reported Naxal-related violence; by **March 2025**, this tally had fallen to just **18**, with only **six classified as most-affected districts**."

पूर्व **प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह** के **माओवादी विद्रोह** के आकलन का हवाला देते हुए मंत्रालय ने कहा, "2010 में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा इसे **भारत की सबसे बड़ी आंतरिक सुरक्षा चुनौती** कहा गया था, **नक्सलवाद अब स्पष्ट रूप से पीछे हट रहा है**। नक्सलियों ने एक **रेड कॉरिडोर** की योजना बनाई थी – **नेपाल के पशुपति से आंध्र प्रदेश के तिरुपति** तक। 2013 में, विभिन्न राज्यों के **126 जिलों** ने नक्सल संबंधी हिंसा रिपोर्ट की; **मार्च 2025** तक यह संख्या घटकर केवल **18** रह गई, जिसमें केवल **छह को सबसे प्रभावित जिले** के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया।"

Aquaculture model of Sundarbans wins FAO recognition

GS III: Environment

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A model of Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) developed by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS) in West Bengal's Sundarbans has been conferred Global Technical Recognition by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

The recognition was conferred on the non-governmental organisation on October 15, during FAO's 80th Anniversary Celebrations and the World Food Forum at its headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The SAIME initiative in the Indian Sundarbans exemplifies an ecosystem-based, climate-adaptive, and conservation-linked livelihood approach, ensuring 5%–30% mangrove coverage in aquaculture ponds. After a few years of implementation across 29.84 hectares of farm area by 42 fish farmers, the annual average net profit of farmers increased by over 100%, owing to a significant reduction in production costs.

Farmers practising sustainable aquaculture at Chaital in North 24 Parganas and Madhabpur in South 24 Parganas districts use mangrove litter as fodder for the input-intensive monoculture of Black Tiger Shrimp (Penaeus monodon).

"This climate-adaptive model enhances coastal resilience, supports sustainable livelihoods, promotes chemical-free shrimp farming, and aids carbon sequestration and climate action in the context of global sea-level rise," Ajanta Dey, Joint Secretary of NEWS, who received the award said.

Aquaculture model of Sundarbans wins FAO recognition
सुंदरबन का मत्स्य पालन मॉडल FAO की मान्यता प्राप्त

- A model of **Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME)** developed by the **Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)** in **West Bengal's Sundarbans** has been conferred **Global Technical Recognition** by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the **United Nations**.

पश्चिम बंगाल के सुंदरबन में नेचर एनवायरनमेंट एंड वाइल्डलाइफ सोसाइटी (NEWS) द्वारा विकसित मैंग्रोव इकोसिस्टम में सतत् मत्स्य पालन मॉडल (SAIME) को संयुक्त राष्ट्र की खाद्य और कृषि संगठन (FAO) द्वारा वैश्विक तकनीकी मान्यता प्रदान की गई है।

- The recognition was conferred on the **non-governmental organisation** on **October 15**, during **FAO's 80th Anniversary Celebrations** and the **World Food Forum** at its headquarters in **Rome, Italy**.

यह मान्यता **15 अक्टूबर** को **FAO की 80वीं वर्षगांठ समारोह** और **विश्व खाद्य मंच** के दौरान **रोम, इटली** में इसके मुख्यालय पर **गैर-सरकारी संगठन** को प्रदान की गई।

- The **SAIME initiative** in the **Indian Sundarbans** exemplifies an **ecosystem-based, climate-adaptive, and conservation-linked livelihood approach**, ensuring **5%–30% mangrove coverage** in aquaculture ponds.

भारतीय सुंदरबन में SAIME पहल एक **इकोसिस्टम-आधारित, जलवायु-अनुकूल, और संरक्षण-संबंधित आजीविका दृष्टिकोण** का उदाहरण है, जो **मत्स्य पालन तालाबों में 5%–30% मैंग्रोव कवरेज** सुनिश्चित करता है।

- After a few years of implementation across **29.84 hectares of farm area** by **42 fish farmers**, the **annual average net profit** of farmers increased by over **100%**, owing to a significant reduction in **production costs**.

42 मछली किसानों द्वारा **29.84 हेक्टेयर फार्म क्षेत्र** में कुछ वर्षों के क्रियान्वयन के बाद, किसानों का **वार्षिक औसत शुद्ध लाभ 100% से अधिक** बढ़ गया, मुख्य रूप से **उत्पादन लागत** में महत्वपूर्ण कमी के कारण।

- Farmers practising sustainable aquaculture at **Chaital** in **North 24 Parganas** and **Madhabpur** in **South 24 Parganas districts** use **mangrove litter** as fodder for the **input-intensive monoculture of Black Tiger Shrimp (Penaeus monodon)**.

  उत्तर 24 परगना के चैतल और **दक्षिण 24 परगना के माधबपुर जिलों** में सतत मत्स्य पालन कर रहे किसान **काला टाइगर झींगा (Penaeus monodon)** की **इनपुट-गहन एकल खेती** के लिए **मैंग्रोव कचरा** का उपयोग चारे के रूप में करते हैं।

- "This **climate-adaptive model** enhances **coastal resilience**, supports **sustainable livelihoods**, promotes **chemical-free shrimp farming**, and aids **carbon sequestration** and **climate action** in the context of **global sea-level rise**," said **Ajanta Dey**, Joint Secretary of **NEWS**, who received the award.

  "यह **जलवायु-अनुकूल मॉडल** तटीय लचीलापन बढ़ाता है, **सतत् आजीविका** का समर्थन करता है, **रासायनिक-मुक्त झींगा पालन** को बढ़ावा देता है, और **वैश्विक समुद्र स्तर वृद्धि** के संदर्भ में **कार्बन अवशोषण** और **जलवायु कार्रवाई** में मदद करता है," **NEWS की संयुक्त सचिव अजन्ता डे**, जिन्होंने पुरस्कार प्राप्त किया, ने कहा।

Opposition leaders target Centre over EPFO rule changes

GS III: Employment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders from several Opposition parties on Wednesday targeted the Union government over the recent changes to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) rules, which has raised the period for provident fund account holders to withdraw their money if remaining unemployed.

Salaried class were being punished for the Narendra Modi government's "mishandling of the economy", Manickam Tagore of the Congress, and Saket Gokhale of the Trinamool Congress said on social media, calling for the withdrawal of the provisions by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The decision to amend the scheme was taken by the Central Board of Trustees on Monday. Unemployed members of retirement fund body EPFO will now be able to get final settlement or full withdrawal of funds from the provident fund and pension accounts after 12 months and 36 months of unemployment, respectively. At present, the scheme provides for withdrawal of all funds from the provident fund as well as pension account after two months of continuous unemployment.

Mr. Tagore called the change in rules nothing short of "cruelty", and asked, "Who benefits from this, Mr. Modi?", before arguing that this move would "finish" the lives of pensioners who depended on the EPF to survive. Mr. Gokhale called the changes "shocking and ridiculous".

The government, in a fact sheet, said these statements were "misleading" and a "misinterpretation of facts". "The decision of the CBT enables a member to have a fine balance between liberal withdrawal options for various exigencies and personal needs by allowing the withdrawal of 75% of the funds without documentation and still leaving a decent corpus that will be available at the time of retirement," it said.

The government said that statements alleging workers can only withdraw "75% of their savings" were "incorrect". It said, "100% of the Eligible balance (excluding the 25% minimum balance) can be withdrawn" by those who have finished at least 12 months of services under any of the "simplified provisions" any time during the year.

Opposition leaders target Centre over EPFO rule changes
विपक्षी नेताओं ने EPF नियमों में बदलाव को लेकर केंद्र सरकार को निशाना बनाया

- Leaders from several **Opposition parties** on Wednesday targeted the **Union government** over the recent changes to the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) rules**, which has raised the period for provident fund account holders to withdraw their money if remaining unemployed.

  कई **विपक्षी दलों** के नेताओं ने बुधवार को **केंद्र सरकार** को **कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (EPFO) के नियमों में हालिया बदलाव** को लेकर निशाना बनाया, जिसने बेरोजगार रहने पर भविष्य निधि खाता धारकों के लिए पैसा निकालने की अवधि बढ़ा दी है।

- Salaried class were being punished for the **Narendra Modi government's "mishandling of the economy"**, Manickam Tagore of the **Congress**, and Saket Gokhale of the **Trinamool Congress** said on social media, calling for the withdrawal of the provisions by **Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**.

  सैलरीभोगी वर्ग को **नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार की "अर्थव्यवस्था की ग़लत हैंडलिंग"** के लिए दंडित किया जा रहा है, **कांग्रेस** के माणिकम टैगोर और **तृणमूल कांग्रेस** के साकेत गोखले ने सोशल मीडिया पर कहा, और **केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया** से इन प्रावधानों को वापस लेने की मांग की।

- The decision to amend the scheme was taken by the **Central Board of Trustees** on Monday.

  इस योजना में संशोधन करने का निर्णय **सेंट्रल बोर्ड ऑफ ट्रस्टीज़** ने सोमवार को लिया।

- Unemployed members of retirement fund body **EPFO** will now be able to get final settlement or full withdrawal of funds from the **provident fund and pension accounts** after 12 months and 36 months of unemployment, respectively.

  अब **EPFO** के बेरोजगार सदस्य **भविष्य निधि और पेंशन खातों** से क्रमशः 12 महीने और 36 महीने बेरोजगारी के बाद **अंतिम निपटान या पूर्ण निकासी** कर सकेंगे।

- At present, the scheme provides for withdrawal of all funds from the **provident fund** as well as **pension account** after two months of continuous unemployment.

  वर्तमान में, योजना **भविष्य निधि** और **पेंशन खाते** से लगातार दो महीने बेरोजगारी के बाद सभी फंड निकालने की अनुमति देती है।

- Mr. Tagore called the change in rules nothing short of "cruelty", and asked, "Who benefits from this, Mr. Modi?", before arguing that this move would "finish" the lives of **pensioners** who depended on the **EPF** to survive.

  श्री टैगोर ने नियमों में बदलाव को "क्रूरता" बताया और पूछा, "इससे किसे लाभ होगा, श्री मोदी?", और यह तर्क दिया कि इस कदम से **पेंशनभोगियों** की जिंदगी खत्म हो जाएगी, जो **EPF** पर निर्भर थे।

- Mr. Gokhale called the changes "shocking and ridiculous".

  श्री गोखले ने बदलाव को "चौंकाने वाला और हास्यास्पद" बताया।

- The government, in a **fact sheet**, said these statements were "misleading" and a "misinterpretation of facts".

  सरकार ने एक **फैक्ट शीट** में कहा कि ये बयान "भ्रामक" और "तथ्यों की गलत व्याख्या" हैं।

- "The decision of the **CBT** enables a member to have a fine balance between liberal withdrawal options for various exigencies and personal needs by allowing the withdrawal of 75% of the funds without documentation and still leaving a decent corpus that will be available at the time of retirement," it said.

  इसमें कहा गया, "**CBT** का निर्णय एक सदस्य को विभिन्न आकस्मिकताओं और व्यक्तिगत आवश्यकताओं के लिए उदार निकासी विकल्पों में संतुलन बनाए रखने में सक्षम बनाता है, जिससे 75% फंड बिना दस्तावेज़ के निकाले जा सकते हैं और फिर भी एक पर्याप्त राशि बची रहती है जो **सेवानिवृत्ति** के समय उपलब्ध होगी।"

- The government said that statements alleging workers can only withdraw "75% of their savings" were "incorrect".

  सरकार ने कहा कि जिन बयानों में कहा गया कि मजदूर केवल अपनी **संचित राशि का 75%** ही निकाल सकते हैं, वे "गलत" हैं।

- It said, "100% of the Eligible balance (excluding the 25% minimum balance) can be withdrawn by those who have finished at least 12 months of services under any of the "simplified provisions" any time during the year.

  इसमें कहा गया, "जो लोग किसी भी 'सरलीकृत प्रावधान' के तहत कम से कम 12 महीने की सेवा पूरी कर चुके हैं, वे पूरे वर्ष के दौरान **100% पात्र शेष राशि** (25% न्यूनतम शेष राशि को छोड़कर) निकाल सकते हैं।

Biotech surge builds momentum but faces scaling bottlenecks

Leadership in biotechnology will require India to streamline its ecosystem and channel resources into high-impact areas; the government, industry leaders, and academia need to consolidate funding, build integrated infrastructure, and reconcile regulation with international best practices

GS III: S&T
Deepakshi Kasat

India's biotech surge has been nothing short of extraordinary over the past several years. From a modest count of roughly 500 startups in 2018, the number has soared to over 10,000 in 2025. This rapid expansion is supported by a network of 94 incubators across 25 States, fuelling innovation that's transforming healthcare and the life sciences.

Government-backed initiatives including the BioE3 Policy and an ambitious vision to create a $300-billion bioeconomy by 2030 have set the stage for a sector poised to become a global powerhouse. Established companies such as Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech have long showcased India's prowess in delivering affordable vaccines and generics, while home-grown pioneers like MedGenome and Strand Life Sciences are now driving breakthroughs in precision medicine and diagnostics.

Strong governmental support, investor confidence, and inherent competitive advantages are key factors behind the vibrant biotech ecosystem. Schemes such as Startup India, BIRAC-funded initiatives, and production-linked incentives have streamlined processes and attracted significant foreign direct investment (as India permits 100% FDI in many biotech segments). This openness has allowed the nation to become a leader in generics and vaccine production, supplying over 60% of global doses for immunisations such as DPT, BCG, and measles.

After the early stage

At the same time, startups are embracing artificial intelligence (AI) to revolutionise research and development. Companies like MedGenome are using AI-driven analytics to accelerate drug discovery and refine clinical diagnostics, cutting costs and enhancing patient outcomes. The unique combination of affordable R&D, a diverse and young talent pool, and rapid digital integration has positioned India at the forefront of biotech innovation.

Despite these achievements, the sector faces significant challenges that keep this momentum from continuing. Although headline investments over the past two years have reached around $3 billion, capital is extremely scarce when companies require tens of millions of dollars to scale for phase II clinical trials or build dedicated good-manufacturing-practice (GMP) facilities.

While companies such as Inovio and Mylab Discovery Solutions have successfully navigated early-stage hurdles, others have found it difficult to secure additional rounds required to scale up to global markets.

Consider a hypothetical Mumbai-based healthcare startup developing an AI platform for early cancer detection that stalled its $15 million funding round because investors demanded extensive, geographically diverse clinical validation. Pilot studies covering both rural and urban regions for regulatory approval ultimately would have led to value leakage and shifted potential growth to a larger acquirer.

Strategic priorities

Fragmentation is another major concern. Despite hosting over 70 incubators, few are equipped with the complete suite of specialised facilities, such as pilot-scale purification systems, fill-and-finish suites, and robust regulatory affairs support. These are critical to advance promising technologies. As a result, entrepreneurs are often forced to shuttle between cities to complete a single development cycle, duplicating expensive equipment and bureaucratic processes, and wasting precious scientific talent.

Regulatory complexities also slow progress. India's existing frameworks for clinical trials, patent laws, and product approval were designed in an earlier era and now often fall short of the dynamic demands posed by AI-driven innovation and cutting-edge biologics. These delays don't only postpone market entry; they also deter international collaboration and investment.

To overcome these challenges and unlock the full potential of the biotech ecosystem, India needs to address several strategic priorities. Foremost, the system must focus on being deep rather than wide. That is, rather than dispersing resources across a fragmented incubator landscape, India needs to consolidate its efforts into a few robust clusters.

For instance, a "GMP Commons" in Genome Valley or a Mumbai-Pune corridor, jointly funded by the government, multinationals, and development finance institutions, could pool expensive downstream equipment and expert services that individual startups could never afford alone.

Talent challenges

Bridging the financing gap is imperative. A dedicated biotechnology fund modelled on innovative digital venture structures could provide matching equity or venture debt for companies that have demonstrated proof-of-concept but are not yet market-ready. Blended-finance structures would draw in institutional capital from insurance companies and pension funds while providing partial guarantees to cushion scientific risks.

Third, establishing late phase trial hubs would streamline product development significantly. For instance, a network of

> **Bridging the financing gap is imperative. A dedicated biotechnology fund could provide matching equity or venture debt for companies that have demonstrated proof-of-concept. Blended-finance structures would draw in institutional capital while providing partial guarantees to cushion scientific risks**

specialty centers within the All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospitals could allocate dedicated ward space, imaging suites, and integrated electronic-health-record systems exclusively for industry-sponsored clinical trials. Harmonised ethics committees and centralised laboratories could subsequently reduce trial delays, ensuring data integrity and reassuring international regulators.

Fourth, addressing talent challenges through a reverse brain drain initiative is paramount. Policies including tax holidays, relocation grants, and soft loans could attract post-doctoral scientists back to India, while micro-credential courses in areas such as CRISPR process engineering, GMP data integrity, and AI-driven biostatistics would ensure the workforce stays competitive.

Finally, adopting a risk-based, context-specific regulatory framework that mirrors successful models like the European Union's tiered AI Act and the US Food and Drug Administration's Predetermined Change Control Plans could help tailor validations for dataset diversity and algorithm performance without imposing unnecessarily rigid controls on all innovations.

Streamlining and reconciliation

There are several promising focus areas for startups looking to capture new value. AI-driven drug design, molecular diagnostics, and digital health platforms are gaining significant traction in innovation hubs such as Bangalore and Hyderabad, particularly in accelerating drug discovery and improving clinical diagnostics. Precision genomics and affordable gene therapies which utilise technologies like CRISPR hold potential to address chronic diseases that burden both domestic and international markets.

In parallel, sustainable agricultural biotechnology continues to offer immense opportunities. With 85% of Indian farms being smaller than 2 hectares, startups are deploying precision farming techniques that optimise irrigation and pest control; for instance, pioneering companies like Cropin and Fasal have demonstrated how localised AI integration can enhance yield and cut input costs.

Further, India's established strengths in vaccine production, biosimilars, and generics only solidify its potential as a global export hub. Bharat Biotech's launch of the world's first intranasal COVID-19 vaccine exemplifies how Indian innovation can achieve global impact. Meanwhile, long-established giants such as Serum Institute of India and Biocon have set international benchmarks for quality and cost efficiency, laying the groundwork for domestic startups to leverage their expertise into products of higher value.

Looking forward, global leadership in biotechnology will require India to smartly streamline its ecosystem and channel resources into high-impact areas. The government, industry leaders, and academia need to work collaboratively to consolidate funding, build integrated infrastructure, and reconcile regulatory standards with international best practices.

By focusing on these strategic priorities, India will be able to sustain its remarkable quantitative growth as well as achieve qualitative breakthroughs that will transform its biotechnology sector into a model of global excellence in healthcare and life sciences.

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A unique combination of affordable R&D, a diverse and young talent pool, and rapid digital integration has positioned India at the forefront of biotech innovation. Representative image. USCDC

Biotech surge builds momentum but faces scaling bottlenecks
बायोटेक क्षेत्र में तेजी आ रही है, लेकिन विस्तार में बाधाएँ बनी हुई हैं

India's Biotech Surge
भारत की जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी में उछाल

- **India's biotech surge** has been nothing short of extraordinary over the past several years.
  पिछले कुछ वर्षों में **भारत की जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी में उछाल** असाधारण रहा है।

- From a modest count of roughly **500 startups in 2018**, the number has soared to **over 10,000 in 2025**.
  लगभग **2018 में 500 स्टार्टअप्स** से बढ़कर यह संख्या **2025 में 10,000 से अधिक** हो गई है।

- This rapid expansion is supported by a network of **94 incubators across 25 States**, fuelling innovation that's transforming **healthcare and life sciences**.
  यह तीव्र वृद्धि **25 राज्यों में फैले 94 इनक्यूबेटर्स** के नेटवर्क से समर्थित है, जो **स्वास्थ्य सेवा और जीवन विज्ञान** में नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं।

- **Government-backed initiatives** including the **BioE3 Policy** and an ambitious vision to create a **$300-billion bioeconomy by 2030** have set the stage for a sector poised to become a **global powerhouse**.
  BioE3 नीति और **2030 तक 300 अरब डॉलर की जैव-अर्थव्यवस्था** बनाने की महत्वाकांक्षी दृष्टि सहित **सरकारी पहलें** इस क्षेत्र को एक **वैश्विक शक्ति** बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर कर रही हैं।

- Established companies such as **Serum Institute of India** and **Bharat Biot ech** have long showcased India's prowess in **affordable vaccines and generics**.
  सीरम इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया और **भारत बायोटेक** जैसी कंपनियों ने **सस्ती वैक्सीन और जेनेरिक दवाओं** में भारत की क्षमता को लंबे समय से प्रदर्शित किया है।

- Home-grown pioneers like **MedGenome** and **Strand Life Sciences** are now driving breakthroughs in **precision medicine and diagnostics**.
  MedGenome और **Strand Life Sciences** जैसी देशी अग्रणी कंपनियाँ अब **प्रिसिशन मेडिसिन और डायग्नोस्टिक्स** में नई प्रगति कर रही हैं।

- **Strong governmental support**, **investor confidence**, and **competitive advantages** are key factors behind the vibrant biotech ecosystem.
  मजबूत सरकारी समर्थन, **निवेशकों का विश्वास**, और **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ** इस जीवंत जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के प्रमुख कारण हैं।

- Schemes such as **Startup India**, **BIRAC-funded initiatives**, and **Production Linked Incentives (PLI)** have streamlined processes and attracted significant **foreign direct investment (FDI)**.
  Startup India, **BIRAC योजनाएँ**, और **उत्पादन आधारित प्रोत्साहन (PLI)** जैसी योजनाओं ने प्रक्रियाओं को सरल किया है और **प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI)** को आकर्षित किया है।

- India permits **100% FDI in many biotech segments**, making it a leader in **generics and vaccine production**.
  भारत कई जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्रों में **100% FDI** की अनुमति देता है, जिससे वह **जेनेरिक और वैक्सीन उत्पादन** में अग्रणी बन गया है।

- India now supplies **over 60% of global vaccine doses** for immunisations such as **DPT, BCG, and measles**.
  भारत अब **वैश्विक वैक्सीन खुराकों का 60% से अधिक** (जैसे **DPT, BCG, और खसरा**) प्रदान करता है।

After the Early Stage
प्रारंभिक चरण के बाद

- Startups are increasingly embracing **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to revolutionise **research and development (R&D)**.
  स्टार्टअप्स अब **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** को अपनाकर **अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D)** में क्रांति ला रहे हैं।

- Companies like **MedGenome** are using **AI-driven analytics** to accelerate **drug discovery** and refine **clinical diagnostics**, cutting costs and improving outcomes.
  MedGenome जैसी कंपनियाँ **AI आधारित विश्लेषण** का उपयोग करके **दवा खोज** और **नैदानिक परीक्षणों** को तेज कर रही हैं, जिससे **लागत कम** हो रही है और **परिणाम बेहतर** हो रहे हैं।

- The unique combination of **affordable R&D**, a **diverse and young talent pool**, and **rapid digital integration** has positioned India at the forefront of **biotech innovation**.
  सस्ती R&D, **विविध और युवा प्रतिभा**, तथा **तेजी से डिजिटल एकीकरण** का अद्वितीय संयोजन भारत को **जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी नवाचार** के अग्रभाग में ला खड़ा करता है।

Challenges in Scaling and Capital Gaps
विस्तार की चुनौतियाँ और पूंजी की कमी

- Despite these achievements, the sector faces **significant challenges** that threaten continued momentum.
  इन उपलब्धियों के बावजूद, यह क्षेत्र **महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों** का सामना कर रहा है जो इसकी निरंतर प्रगति को बाधित करती हैं।

- Although **investments of around $3 billion** were recorded over the past two years, **capital remains scarce** for companies seeking tens of millions of dollars for **Phase II clinical trials** or **GMP facility construction**.
  पिछले दो वर्षों में **लगभग $3 अरब का निवेश** हुआ है, लेकिन **फेज II क्लिनिकल ट्रायल्स** या **GMP सुविधाओं के निर्माण** के लिए कंपनियों को आवश्यक **पूंजी की भारी कमी** का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

- Companies such as **Inovio** and **Mylab Discovery Solutions** have navigated early-stage hurdles successfully.
  Inovio और **Mylab Discovery Solutions** जैसी कंपनियाँ **प्रारंभिक चरण की बाधाओं** को सफलतापूर्वक पार कर चुकी हैं।

- However, others have struggled to secure additional funding needed for **global market scaling**.
  हालांकि, अन्य कंपनियों को **वैश्विक बाजार विस्तार** के लिए आवश्यक **अतिरिक्त फंडिंग** प्राप्त करने में कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा है।

- Consider a hypothetical **Mumbai-based healthcare startup** developing an **AI platform for early cancer detection** that stalled its **$15 million funding round** because investors demanded extensive and geographically diverse **clinical validation**.
  मान लें कि एक **मुंबई स्थित हेल्थकेयर स्टार्टअप**, जो कैंसर के शुरुआती निदान के लिए **AI प्लेटफॉर्म** विकसित कर रहा था, उसका **$15 मिलियन फंडिंग राउंड** इसलिए रुक गया क्योंकि निवेशकों ने **विस्तृत और भौगोलिक रूप से विविध नैदानिक सत्यापन (clinical validation)** की मांग की।

- Pilot studies covering **rural and urban regions** for regulatory approval would have caused **value leakage** and shifted potential growth to a **larger acquirer**.
  ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों को शामिल करने वाले **पायलट अध्ययन** (regulatory approval के लिए) अंततः **मूल्य हास (value leakage)** का कारण बनते और संभावित वृद्धि को किसी **बड़ी अधिग्रहक कंपनी** की ओर स्थानांतरित कर देते।

Strategic priorities
रणनीतिक प्राथमिकताएँ

- **Fragmentation** is another major concern.
  खंडन एक और प्रमुख चिंता का विषय है।

- Despite hosting over **70 incubators**, few are equipped with the complete suite of specialised facilities, such as **pilot-scale purification systems**, **fill-and-finish suites**, and **robust regulatory affairs support**.
  70 से अधिक इनक्यूबेटर होने के बावजूद, कुछ ही में **पायलट-स्तरीय शुद्धिकरण प्रणालियों, फिल-एंड-फिनिश सूट्स**, और **मजबूत नियामक मामलों के समर्थन** जैसी सभी विशेष सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध हैं।

- These are critical to advance promising technologies.
  ये उभरती हुई **प्रौद्योगिकियों को आगे बढ़ाने** के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- As a result, entrepreneurs are often forced to **shuttle between cities** to complete a single development cycle, duplicating expensive equipment and bureaucratic processes, and wasting precious scientific talent.
  परिणामस्वरूप, उद्यमियों को एक ही विकास चक्र को पूरा करने के लिए **शहरों के बीच यात्रा** करनी पड़ती है, जिससे **महंगे उपकरणों और नौकरशाही प्रक्रियाओं** की पुनरावृत्ति होती है और **कीमती वैज्ञानिक प्रतिभा** बर्बाद होती है।

- **Regulatory complexities** also slow progress.
  नियामक जटिलताएँ भी प्रगति को धीमा करती हैं।

- India's existing frameworks for **clinical trials**, **patent laws**, and **product approval** were designed in an earlier era and now often fall short of the dynamic demands posed by **AI-driven innovation** and **cutting-edge biologics**.
  भारत के वर्तमान **क्लिनिकल ट्रायल**, **पेटेंट कानून** और **उत्पाद स्वीकृति** ढाँचे पुराने समय में बनाए गए थे और अब **AI-आधारित नवाचार** और **अत्याधुनिक जैव प्रौद्योगिकी** की गतिशील मांगों को पूरा करने में विफल हो रहे हैं।

- These delays don't only postpone market entry: they also deter **international collaboration** and **investment**.
  ये देरी न केवल **बाज़ार में प्रवेश** को टालती हैं बल्कि **अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग** और **निवेश** को भी हतोत्साहित करती हैं।

- To overcome these challenges and unlock the full potential of the **biotech ecosystem**, India needs to address several **strategic priorities**.
  इन चुनौतियों से निपटने और **बायोटेक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** की पूरी क्षमता को उजागर करने के लिए, भारत को कई **रणनीतिक प्राथमिकताओं** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है।

- Foremost, the system must focus on being **deep rather than wide**.
  सबसे पहले, प्रणाली को **विस्तार के बजाय गहराई** पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

- Rather than dispersing resources across a **fragmented incubator landscape**, India needs to consolidate its efforts into a few **robust clusters**.
  विखंडित इनक्यूबेटर परिदृश्य में संसाधनों को फैलाने के बजाय, भारत को अपने प्रयासों को कुछ **मजबूत क्लस्टर्स** में समेकित करना चाहिए।

- For instance, a **"GMP Commons"** in **Genome Valley** or a **Mumbai-Pune corridor**, jointly funded by the **government**, **multinationals**, and **development finance institutions**, could pool expensive downstream equipment and expert services that individual startups could never afford alone.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **जीनोम वैली** में एक **"GMP कॉमन्स"** या **मुंबई-पुणे कॉरिडोर**, जिसे **सरकार**, **बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों**, और **विकास वित्त संस्थानों** द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से वित्तपोषित किया जाए, महंगे उपकरणों और विशेषज्ञ सेवाओं को साझा कर सकता है जिन्हें व्यक्तिगत स्टार्टअप अकेले वहन नहीं कर सकते।

Talent challenges
प्रतिभा संबंधी चुनौतियाँ

- Bridging the **financing gap** is imperative.
  वित्तीय अंतर को पाटना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

- A **dedicated biotechnology fund** modelled on **innovative digital venture structures** could provide **matching equity** or **venture debt** for companies that have demonstrated **proof-of-concept** but are not yet market-ready.
  नवोन्मेषी डिजिटल उद्यम संरचनाओं पर आधारित एक **समर्पित जैव प्रौद्योगिकी कोष** उन कंपनियों को **समान इक्विटी** या **वेंचर ऋण** प्रदान कर सकता है जिन्होंने **सिद्धांत का प्रमाण (proof-of-concept)** प्रस्तुत किया है लेकिन अभी बाज़ार के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।

- **Blended-finance structures** would draw in **institutional capital** from **insurance companies** and **pension funds** while providing **partial guarantees** to cushion scientific risks.
  ब्लेंडेड-फाइनेंस संरचनाएँ बीमा कंपनियों और **पेंशन फंड्स** से **संस्थागत पूंजी** आकर्षित करेंगी, साथ ही **वैज्ञानिक जोखिमों** को कम करने के लिए **आंशिक गारंटी** प्रदान करेंगी।

- Third, establishing **late phase trial hubs** would streamline **product development** significantly.
  तीसरा, **लेट फेज ट्रायल हब्स** की स्थापना **उत्पाद विकास** को काफी हद तक सरल बना सकती है।

- For instance, a network of **specialty centers** within the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** hospitals could allocate **dedicated ward space**, **imaging suites**, and **integrated electronic-health-record systems** exclusively for **industry-sponsored clinical trials**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **एम्स (AIIMS)** अस्पतालों के भीतर **विशेष केंद्रों** का एक नेटवर्क **उद्योग-प्रायोजित क्लिनिकल ट्रायल्स** के लिए विशेष रूप से **वार्ड स्पेस**, **इमेजिंग सूट्स**, और **ई-हेल्थ रिकॉर्ड सिस्टम्स** आवंटित कर सकता है।

- **Harmonised ethics committees** and **centralised laboratories** could reduce trial delays, ensuring **data integrity** and reassuring **international regulators**.
  संगठित नैतिकता समितियाँ और **केंद्रीकृत प्रयोगशालाएँ** परीक्षण में होने वाली देरी को कम कर सकती हैं, जिससे **डेटा की अखंडता** सुनिश्चित हो और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियामकों** को विश्वास मिले।

- Fourth, addressing **talent challenges** through a **reverse brain drain initiative** is paramount.
  चौथा, **रिवर्स ब्रेन ड्रेन पहल** के माध्यम से **प्रतिभा चुनौतियों** का समाधान अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

- Policies including **tax holidays**, **relocation grants**, and **soft loans** could attract **post-doctoral scientists** back to India, while **micro-credential courses** in areas such as **CRISPR process engineering**, **GMP data integrity**, and **AI-driven biostatistics** would ensure the workforce stays competitive.
  कर छूट (tax holidays), **स्थानांतरण अनुदान**, और **सॉफ्ट लोन** जैसी नीतियाँ **पोस्ट-डॉक्टरल वैज्ञानिकों** को भारत लौटने के लिए आकर्षित कर सकती हैं, जबकि **CRISPR प्रक्रिया इंजीनियरिंग**, **GMP डेटा अखंडता**, और **AI-आधारित बायोस्टैटिस्टिक्स** जैसे क्षेत्रों में **सूक्ष्म-प्रमाणन पाठ्यक्रम** कार्यबल को प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाए रखेंगे।

- Finally, adopting a **risk-based, context-specific regulatory framework** that mirrors successful models like the **European Union's tiered AI Act** and the **US FDA's Predetermined Change Control Plans** could help tailor validations for **dataset diversity** and **algorithm performance** without imposing unnecessarily rigid controls on all innovations.
  अंत में, एक **जोखिम-आधारित, संदर्भ-विशिष्ट नियामक ढाँचा** अपनाना, जो **यूरोपीय संघ के टियरड AI अधिनियम** और **अमेरिकी FDA के Predetermined Change Control Plans** जैसे सफल मॉडलों से मेल खाता हो, **डेटासेट विविधता** और **एल्गोरिदम प्रदर्शन** के लिए मान्यता को अनुकूलित करने में मदद कर सकता है, बिना सभी नवाचारों पर **अनावश्यक कठोर नियंत्रण** लगाए।

Streamlining and reconciliation
सरलीकरण और समन्वय

- There are several promising **focus areas** for startups looking to capture new value.
  नए मूल्य को प्राप्त करने की तलाश में **स्टार्टअप्स** के लिए कई आशाजनक **केंद्रित क्षेत्र** हैं।

- **AI-driven drug design**, **molecular diagnostics**, and **digital health platforms** are gaining significant traction in innovation hubs such as **Bangalore** and **Hyderabad**, particularly in accelerating **drug discovery** and improving **clinical diagnostics**.
  AI-आधारित दवा डिजाइन, **आणविक निदान**, और **डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य प्लेटफॉर्म** जैसे क्षेत्र **बेंगलुरु** और **हैदराबाद** जैसे **नवाचार केंद्रों** में तेज़ी से उभर रहे हैं, विशेष रूप से **दवा खोज** को तेज़ करने और **क्लिनिकल निदान** को बेहतर बनाने में।

- **Precision genomics** and **affordable gene therapies** which utilise technologies like **CRISPR** hold potential to address **chronic diseases** that burden both **domestic** and **international markets**.
  प्रिसिजन जीनोमिक्स और **सस्ती जीन थेरेपी**, जो **CRISPR तकनीक** का उपयोग करती हैं, उन **दीर्घकालिक बीमारियों** से निपटने की क्षमता रखती हैं जो **घरेलू** और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों** दोनों पर बोझ डालती हैं।

- In parallel, **sustainable agricultural biotechnology** continues to offer immense opportunities.
  साथ ही, **सतत कृषि जैव प्रौद्योगिकी** अपार अवसर प्रदान करती रहती है।

- With **85% of Indian farms** being smaller than **2 hectares**, startups are deploying **precision farming techniques** that optimise **irrigation** and **pest control**.

भारत के **85% खेत 2 हेक्टेयर** से छोटे होने के कारण, स्टार्टअप्स **सटीक कृषि तकनीकों (precision farming techniques)** का उपयोग कर रहे हैं जो **सिंचाई** और **कीट नियंत्रण** को अनुकूलित करती हैं।

- For instance, pioneering companies like **Cropin** and **Fasal** have demonstrated how **localised AI integration** can enhance **yield** and cut **input costs**.

  उदाहरण के लिए, **क्रॉपिन (Cropin)** और **फसल (Fasal)** जैसी अग्रणी कंपनियों ने दिखाया है कि **स्थानीयकृत AI एकीकरण** कैसे **उत्पादकता** बढ़ा सकता है और **इनपुट लागतों** को घटा सकता है।

- Further, India's established strengths in **vaccine production**, **biosimilars**, and **generics** only solidify its potential as a **global export hub**.

  इसके अलावा, **टीका उत्पादन**, **बायोसिमिलर्स**, और **जेनेरिक दवाओं** में भारत की स्थापित ताकतें इसे एक **वैश्विक निर्यात केंद्र** के रूप में और मजबूत बनाती हैं।

- **Bharat Biotech's** launch of the world's first **intranasal COVID-19 vaccine** exemplifies how **Indian innovation** can achieve **global impact**.

  भारत बायोटेक द्वारा दुनिया के पहले **इंट्रानासल COVID-19 वैक्सीन** का लॉन्च यह दर्शाता है कि **भारतीय नवाचार** कैसे **वैश्विक प्रभाव** डाल सकता है।

- Meanwhile, long-established giants such as **Serum Institute of India** and **Biocon** have set **international benchmarks** for **quality** and **cost efficiency**, laying the groundwork for domestic startups to leverage their expertise into products of higher value.

  इस बीच, **सीरम इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया** और **बायोकॉन** जैसी पुरानी कंपनियों ने **गुणवत्ता** और **लागत दक्षता** के लिए **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानक** स्थापित किए हैं, जिससे घरेलू स्टार्टअप्स को अपनी विशेषज्ञता को उच्च मूल्य वाले उत्पादों में बदलने का अवसर मिलता है।

- Looking forward, **global leadership in biotechnology** will require India to **smartly streamline** its ecosystem and **channel resources** into **high-impact areas**.

  आगे बढ़ते हुए, **जैव प्रौद्योगिकी में वैश्विक नेतृत्व** प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत को अपने **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का समझदारी से सरलीकरण** करना होगा और **संसाधनों को उच्च प्रभाव वाले क्षेत्रों** की ओर निर्देशित करना होगा।

- The **government**, **industry leaders**, and **academia** need to work collaboratively to **consolidate funding**, **build integrated infrastructure**, and **reconcile regulatory standards** with **international best practices**.

  सरकार, **उद्योग जगत के नेता**, और **शैक्षणिक संस्थान** मिलकर **वित्त पोषण को एकीकृत**, **समेकित अवसंरचना का निर्माण**, और **नियामक मानकों** को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं** के अनुरूप बनाना आवश्यक है।

- By focusing on these **strategic priorities**, India will be able to sustain its **remarkable quantitative growth** as well as achieve **qualitative breakthroughs** that will transform its **biotechnology sector** into a **model of global excellence** in **healthcare** and **life sciences**.

  इन **रणनीतिक प्राथमिकताओं** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके, भारत अपने **उल्लेखनीय मात्रात्मक विकास** को बनाए रख सकेगा और **गुणात्मक प्रगति** हासिल कर सकेगा, जो इसके **जैव प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र** को **स्वास्थ्य सेवा** और **जीव विज्ञान** में **वैश्विक उत्कृष्टता के मॉडल** में बदल देगा।

Phase of matter where order, disorder coexist in time found

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Scientists have discovered a new phase of matter called a time rondeau crystal that shows an unusual kind of order in time, rather than in space like solids and liquids. The phase is related to, but distinct from, a time crystal.

In normal matter, the arrangement of atoms can be either ordered or disordered. For example a (solid) crystal has a repeating structure while a liquid doesn't. The order in a crystal comes from breaking the perfect symmetry of space: instead of looking the same everywhere, it repeats in a regular pattern.

A time crystal, predicted in 2012 and observed in later experiments, shows a similar idea in time rather than space. When a system is periodically imparted some energy – like pushing a swing at regular intervals – it might oscillate at a different rhythm, such as every two pulses instead of one. Now the system can be said to be behaving in a repeating way in time, forming a crystal pattern in time rather than in space.

A time rondeau crystal (TRC), which an international research team reported on October 14 in *Nature Physics*, takes this concept further. In a time crystal, the motion is perfectly regular, like a clock ticking at a fixed beat. In a TRC, the system has a mix of order and randomness: it keeps a repeating pattern over long times, but between those repeating moments the motion is disordered or irregular.

The researchers created a TRC using the spins of the nuclei of carbon-13 atoms

A TRC is a state in which long-term regularity and short-term randomness coexist. It shows that time itself can host patterns richer than repetition and that even in disorder, order may lie hidden

in diamond. They controlled the spins, which is an implicit property of these particles, using microwave pulses. They didn't impart the pulses at strictly periodic intervals – there was some randomness – but the randomness itself had structure. They caused the nuclei's spins to be partly unpredictable in the short term but predictable when observed over longer intervals.

The time rondeau crystal's order was found to be metastable, i.e. it lasted for several seconds, which was far longer than the timescales at which microscopic processes happened in the diamond, but which faded as the system heated up.

A TRC is thus a state of matter in which long-term regularity and short-term randomness coexist in time, like a melody with unpredictable variations that also keeps returning to a familiar refrain. It shows that time itself can host patterns richer than simple repetition, and that even in disorder, order may lie hidden.

The discovery matters because it expands physicists' understanding of what 'order' means in physics. Researchers have believed time order could only exist in strictly periodic systems like time crystals. The TRC shows however that new, more complex forms of time-wise organisation are also possible, even when the timing of the external drive is not regular. According to the study's authors, this opens the door to exploring many new kinds of "temporal orders" lying between perfect order and complete randomness. Physicists expect such systems to have practical uses as well. For instance, a TRC can be used to encode information in its beats or to create new kinds of quantum sensors that respond to specific frequencies.

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- A **time crystal**, predicted in **2012** and observed in later experiments, shows a similar idea in **time** rather than **space**.
  एक **टाइम क्रिस्टल**, जिसका **2012** में पूर्वानुमान लगाया गया था और बाद में प्रयोगों में देखा गया, **स्थान** की बजाय **समय** में समान विचार दिखाता है।

- When a system is periodically imparted some **energy** — like pushing a swing at **regular intervals** — it might oscillate at a **different rhythm**, such as every **two pulses** instead of one.
  जब किसी प्रणाली को समय-समय पर कुछ **ऊर्जा** दी जाती है — जैसे झूले को **नियमित अंतराल** पर धक्का देना — तो यह **अलग लय** में दोलन कर सकती है, जैसे हर एक की बजाय हर **दो पल्स** में।

- Now the system can be said to be behaving in a **repeating way in time**, forming a **crystal pattern in time** rather than in **space**.
  अब कहा जा सकता है कि प्रणाली **समय में दोहराने वाले तरीके** से व्यवहार कर रही है, और **स्थान की बजाय समय में क्रिस्टल पैटर्न** बना रही है।

- A **time rondeau crystal (TRC)**, reported on **October 14** in **Nature Physics**, takes this concept further.
  एक **टाइम रोंडो क्रिस्टल (TRC)**, जिसका **14 अक्टूबर** को **Nature Physics** में विवरण दिया गया, इस विचार को आगे बढ़ाता है।

- In a **time crystal**, the motion is **perfectly regular**, like a clock ticking at a **fixed beat**.
  एक **टाइम क्रिस्टल** में, गति **संपूर्ण रूप से नियमित** होती है, जैसे घड़ी एक **स्थिर ताल** पर टिक रही हो।

- In a **TRC**, the system has a mix of **order and randomness**: it keeps a **repeating pattern over long times**, but between those repeating moments the motion is **disordered** or **irregular**.
  एक **TRC** में, प्रणाली में **क्रम और अनियमितता** का मिश्रण होता है: यह लंबे समय तक **दोहराई जाने वाली संरचना** बनाए रखता है, लेकिन उन दोहराए जाने वाले क्षणों के बीच गति **अव्यवस्थित** या **अनियमित** होती है।

- The researchers created a **TRC** using the **spins of the nuclei of carbon-13 atoms** in **diamond**.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने **हीरा** में **कार्बन-13 परमाणुओं के नाभिक के स्पिन** का उपयोग करके **TRC** बनाया।

- They controlled the **spins**, using **microwave pulses**, without strictly periodic intervals — there was some **randomness**, but the **randomness itself had structure**.
  उन्होंने **स्पिन** को **माइक्रोवेव पल्स** का उपयोग करके नियंत्रित किया, बिना सख्त रूप से **नियमित अंतराल** पर — कुछ **अनियमितता** थी, लेकिन **खुद अनियमितता में संरचना** थी।

- The nuclei's spins were **partly unpredictable** in the short term but **predictable** over longer intervals.
  नाभिक के स्पिन **अल्पकालिक रूप से कुछ हद तक अप्रत्याशित** थे, लेकिन लंबे अंतराल में **पूर्वानुमानित** थे।

- The **TRC's order** was found to be **metastable**, lasting for **several seconds**, longer than microscopic processes in **diamond**, but faded as the system **heated up**.
  TRC का क्रम अर्धस्थायी पाया गया, जो **कुछ सेकंड** तक टिकता है, जो हीरे में सूक्ष्म प्रक्रियाओं की तुलना में लंबा है, लेकिन जैसे ही प्रणाली **गर्म** हुई, यह धीरे-धीरे गायब हो गया।

- A **TRC** is thus a state of matter in which **long-term regularity** and **short-term randomness** coexist in **time**, like a **melody** with **unpredictable variations** that returns to a **familiar refrain**.
  इस प्रकार, **TRC** पदार्थ की वह अवस्था है जिसमें **दीर्घकालिक नियमितता** और **अल्पकालिक अनियमितता** समय में सह-अस्तित्व में होती हैं, जैसे एक **सुर** जिसमें **अप्रत्याशित विविधताएं** होती हैं, लेकिन यह एक **परिचित धुन** पर लौट आती है।

- It shows that **time itself** can host patterns richer than **simple repetition**, and even in **disorder**, **order may lie hidden**.
  यह दिखाता है कि **समय** खुद **सरल पुनरावृत्ति** से अधिक समृद्ध पैटर्न रख सकता है, और **अव्यवस्था** में भी **क्रम** छिपा हो सकता है।

- The discovery expands **physicists' understanding** of what **'order'** means in **physics**.
  यह खोज **भौतिकविदों** की समझ को बढ़ाती है कि **भौतिकी** में **'क्रम'** का क्या अर्थ है।

- Researchers believed **time order** could only exist in **strictly periodic systems**, but the **TRC** shows that more **complex forms** of **time-wise organisation** are possible.
  शोधकर्ताओं का मानना था कि **समय में क्रम** केवल **कड़ाई से आवर्ती प्रणालियों** में मौजूद हो सकता है, लेकिन **TRC** दिखाता है कि **समय-आधारित संगठन** के अधिक **जटिल रूप** भी संभव हैं।

- The study opens the door to exploring new kinds of **temporal orders**, lying between **perfect order** and **complete randomness**.

यह अध्ययन नए प्रकार के **कालिक आदेश** का पता लगाने का मार्ग खोलता है, जो **पूर्ण क्रम** और **पूर्ण अनियमितता** के बीच स्थित हैं।

- **TRC systems** are expected to have practical uses, such as **encoding information** in beats or creating new kinds of **quantum sensors** responsive to **specific frequencies**.

अनुमान है कि **TRC प्रणालियों** के व्यावहारिक उपयोग होंगे, जैसे बीट्स में **सूचना एन्कोड करना** या नए प्रकार के **क्वांटम सेंसर** बनाना जो **विशिष्ट आवृत्तियों** पर प्रतिक्रिया करते हैं।

GS III: Economy

Evolution, revolution
The economics Nobel is a nod to freedom and innovation

This year's Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt and Joel Mokyr, who have, over decades, attempted to explain humanity's unprecedented progress over the past two centuries. While Mokyr has provided the long historical and cultural context, Aghion and Howitt have given it a formal mathematical frame or the "creative destruction" model. The idea itself is older. It originates with economist Joseph Schumpeter, who described capitalism as an evolutionary system in which innovation continuously displaces old technologies, firms and industries — a process both creative and destructive. But Schumpeter's framework rested on certain assumptions: that markets are free, competition is open, and the state acts only as an enabler of private enterprise, not as a driver of innovation. This assumption sits uneasily with the historical record. The long vision of the erstwhile Soviet state, and now the Chinese model of developmental capitalism, reveal how the state itself can shape and direct innovation. The creative destruction model, refined by Aghion and Howitt in the early 1990s, emerged during the twilight years of the Cold War, just as the Washington Consensus and neoliberalism became the dominant global economic paradigm. These models reinterpreted Schumpeter's idea in mathematical form through the endogenous growth theory – the notion that long-term growth is generated not by external forces but by innovation, education, and research arising within the economy. Crucially, it assumed that competition and private incentives – not central planning – are the engines of technological progress.

But the Nobel recognition comes at a time when the very conditions for this model to succeed have been upended by U.S. President Donald Trump. His administration has weaponised global trade, politicised science and technology, and turned markedly protectionist, departing from the open, rent-seeking capitalism of the post-war American economic order. While the creative destruction and endogenous growth models remain powerful tools to understand progress within a specific system – that of neoliberal capitalism – they fail to explain the exponential technological advances of state-led economies such as China. These models also overlook how geopolitics, institutional fragility and widening inequalities can reshape the very structure of innovation. It is thus telling that the Nobel Committee has chosen to honour a framework whose ideal conditions – liberal markets, global openness, and scientific freedom – are under strain. This perhaps must be viewed as a warning that for liberal democracies to thrive, they must not renege on the ideals of institutional freedoms within state-enabled capitalist societies.

Evolution, Revolution
उत्क्रांति, क्रांति

- The **economics Nobel** is a nod to **freedom** and **innovation**.

अर्थशास्त्र में नोबेल पुरस्कार स्वतंत्रता और **नवोन्मेष** की ओर एक संकेत है।

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025
नॉबेल पुरस्कार आर्थिक विज्ञान 2025

- This year's **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** has been awarded to **Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt, and Joel Mokyr**, who over decades attempted to explain humanity's **unprecedented progress** over the past two centuries.

इस वर्ष का **नॉबेल पुरस्कार आर्थिक विज्ञान** में फिलिप अगिओन, पीटर हाउइट और जोएल मोकिर को दिया गया है, जिन्होंने दशकों तक मानवता की **पिछले दो सदियों में अभूतपूर्व प्रगति** को समझाने का प्रयास किया।

- While **Mokyr** has provided the long **historical and cultural context**, **Aghion and Howitt** have given it a formal **mathematical frame** or the **"creative destruction"** model.

जबकि **मोकिर** ने लंबी **ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि** प्रदान की, **अगिओन और हाउइट** ने इसे औपचारिक **गणितीय ढांचा** या "**क्रिएटिव डिस्ट्रक्शन**" मॉडल में प्रस्तुत किया।

- The idea originates with economist **Joseph Schumpeter**, who described **capitalism** as an **evolutionary system** in which **innovation continuously displaces old technologies, firms, and industries** — a process both **creative and destructive**.

यह विचार अर्थशास्त्री **जोसेफ शुम्पेटर** से उत्पन्न हुआ, जिन्होंने **पूंजीवाद** को एक **सांविधानिक प्रणाली** के रूप में वर्णित किया, जिसमें **नवाचार पुराने तकनीकों, फर्मों और उद्योगों को लगातार विस्थापित करता है** — यह प्रक्रिया **सृजनात्मक और विनाशकारी** दोनों है।

- Schumpeter's framework rested on assumptions: markets are **free**, competition is **open**, and the **state acts only as an enabler** of private enterprise, not as a **driver of innovation**.

शुम्पेटर के ढांचे का आधार यह था कि बाजार **स्वतंत्र** हैं, प्रतिस्पर्धा **खुली** है, और **राज्य केवल निजी उद्यम को सक्षम बनाने वाला** है, नवाचार का **प्रेरक नहीं**।

- Historical records reveal that the **state itself can shape and direct innovation**, as seen in the **Soviet model** and now the **Chinese developmental capitalism** model.

ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड से पता चलता है कि **राज्य स्वयं नवाचार को आकार और दिशा दे सकता है**, जैसा कि **सोवियत मॉडल** और अब **चीनी विकासात्मक पूंजीवाद** मॉडल में देखा गया है।

- The **creative destruction model**, refined by **Aghion and Howitt** in the **early 1990s**, emerged during the **twilight years of the Cold War**, as the **Washington Consensus** and **neoliberalism** became dominant

global economic paradigms.

क्रिएटिव डिस्ट्रक्शन मॉडल, जिसे **अगिओन और हाउइट** ने **1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में** परिष्कृत किया, **शीत युद्ध के अंतिम वर्षों में** उभरा, जब **वॉशिंगटन कंसेंसस** और **नवउदारवाद** वैश्विक आर्थिक मानक बन गए।

* These models reinterpreted Schumpeter's idea through **endogenous growth theory** — long-term growth generated not by external forces but by **innovation, education, and research within the economy**.

इन मॉडलों ने शुम्पेटर के विचार की पुनः व्याख्या **एंडोजेनस ग्रोथ थ्योरी** के माध्यम से की — दीर्घकालिक वृद्धि बाहरी ताकतों द्वारा नहीं बल्कि **अर्थव्यवस्था के भीतर नवाचार, शिक्षा और अनुसंधान** से उत्पन्न होती है।

* Crucially, it assumed that **competition and private incentives**, not **central planning**, are the engines of **technological progress**.

महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि इसने माना कि **प्रतिस्पर्धा और निजी प्रोत्साहन**, न कि **केंद्रीय योजना**, **तकनीकी प्रगति** के इंजन हैं।

* Nobel recognition comes at a time when these conditions are disrupted by **U.S. President Donald Trump**, whose administration has **weaponised global trade, politicised science and technology**, and become markedly **protectionist**.

नॉबेल मान्यता ऐसे समय में आई है जब ये परिस्थितियां **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प** द्वारा बाधित हो गई हैं, जिनका प्रशासन **वैश्विक व्यापार को हथियार बनाया, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी को राजनीतिक बनाया**, और स्पष्ट रूप से **संरक्षात्मक** हो गया।

* While the **creative destruction** and **endogenous growth models** remain powerful tools to understand progress in **neoliberal capitalism**, they fail to explain the **exponential technological advances** of **state-led economies** such as **China**.

जबकि **क्रिएटिव डिस्ट्रक्शन** और **एंडोजेनस ग्रोथ मॉडल नवउदारवादी पूंजीवाद** में प्रगति को समझने के लिए शक्तिशाली उपकरण बने रहते हैं, वे **राज्य-नेतृत्व वाली अर्थव्यवस्थाओं** जैसे **चीन** की **घातीय तकनीकी प्रगति** को समझाने में असफल हैं।

* These models also overlook how **geopolitics, institutional fragility, and widening inequalities** reshape the structure of **innovation**.

ये मॉडल यह भी अनदेखा करते हैं कि कैसे **भू-राजनीति, संस्थागत कमजोरियां, और बढ़ती असमानताएँ नवाचार** की संरचना को बदलती हैं।

* It is telling that the **Nobel Committee** honoured a framework whose **ideal conditions** — **liberal markets, global openness, and scientific freedom** — are currently **under strain**.

यह दर्शाता है कि **नॉबेल समिति** ने उस ढांचे को सम्मानित किया जिसका **आदर्श वातावरण — उदार बाजार, वैश्विक खुलापन और वैज्ञानिक स्वतंत्रता** — वर्तमान में **तनाव में** है।

* This serves as a **warning** that for **liberal democracies** to thrive, they must uphold **institutional freedoms** within **state-enabled capitalist societies**.

यह एक **चेतावनी** के रूप में कार्य करता है कि **उदार लोकतंत्रों** को फलने-फूलने के लिए, उन्हें **राज्य-सक्षम पूंजीवादी समाजों** में **संस्थागत स्वतंत्रताओं** को बनाए रखना चाहिए।

The 'critical factor' in India's clean energy ambitions

IAS III: Environment

India's ambition to be a global leader in clean energy and sustainable growth depends on securing critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt and Rare Earth Elements (REEs). These minerals drive key technologies – electric vehicles (EV), solar panels, wind turbines and energy storage – making them vital to India's green transition and long-term energy goals. As the country aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2070, ensuring the supply of critical minerals and rare earths becomes important. India's reliance on imported critical minerals amid global competition demands stronger domestic mining, better infrastructure and global partnerships.

Investing in mines and modern recycling technologies will build resilient supply chains and advance the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision in the clean energy race.

Critical minerals in India's green transition

Critical minerals are indispensable to India's clean energy goals. Lithium and cobalt are essential for EV batteries, with India's EV market projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 49% from 2023 to 2030. This will be driven by government initiatives such as the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024. In 2023, India's battery storage market was valued at $2.8 billion, with demand expected to surge as renewable energy adoption accelerates.

However, India's reliance on imports for these minerals – nearly 100% for lithium, cobalt, nickel and over 90% for REEs – exposes it to supply chain vulnerabilities. Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions and global competition, particularly from countries such as China (which controls 60% of global REE production and 85% of processing capacity), underscore the urgency of building a self-reliant supply chain to achieve its clean energy ambitions, industrial growth and national security.

India has vast untapped mineral potential, with lithium in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Rajasthan, and REEs in Odisha and Andhra

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Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions and global competition highlight the urgency of building a self-reliant supply chain for critical minerals

Pradesh. The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), launched in 2016 and subsequent developments through the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act in 2021 has accelerated exploration by encouraging private participation and using advanced geophysical surveys. In 2023, the Geological Survey of India identified 5.9 million tonnes of inferred lithium resources in J&K, a promising step toward domestic production. Last year alone, auctions of 20 critical mineral blocks covering lithium, graphite and REEs attracted bids from both Indian and multinational companies, signalling growing investor interest.

Exploration is just the first step. With India contributing less than 1% of the global REE production, it must rapidly build processing and refining capacity through public-private partnerships. Private partners can bring advanced processing technologies and support recycling infrastructure, while domestic lithium and cobalt pilots need greater government backing through subsidies, tax breaks and research grants to scale effectively.

Investment in mines

Investment in domestic mining is central to India's critical mineral strategy. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 opened up private exploration, but the sector still faces high costs, regulatory hurdles and environmental concerns. In 2022, mining contributed just 2.5% to India's GDP, compared to 13.6% in Australia. To bridge this gap, the government must streamline licensing processes and offer financial incentives such as production-linked subsidies to attract private capital. The Government of India has launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a ₹34,300 crore plan to strengthen value chains across exploration, mining, processing and recovery from end-of-life products.

State-backed companies such as the NMDC have diversified through their Australian arm, and outlined plans to enter the critical mineral

sector. IREL (India) Limited (formerly Indian Rare Earths Ltd) is preparing to extract neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium, but both need stronger private partnerships for greenfield projects. KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.), formed in 2019 to secure overseas mineral assets, must expedite acquisitions. Meanwhile, the government has bolstered domestic supply security through the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, to enhance critical mineral recovery and recycling.

Moving towards a circular economy

Upgrading India's mining and processing infrastructure is equally critical. Modernising infrastructure requires significant investment in mechanised mining equipment, automated processing plants and waste management systems. Infrastructure upgrades also extend to recycling. India generates close to four million metric tonnes of e-waste annually, yet only 10% is formally recycled. Advanced recycling facilities could recover critical minerals, strengthening the circular economy. The Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 set recycling targets, but weak implementation and limited infrastructure pose challenges. Public-private hubs could boost recycling technologies, cut costs and reduce environmental impact.

India's clean energy transition and industrial growth depend on securing critical minerals through mine development and a circular economy. Priority should be given to operationalising mining leases, investing in mines, upgrading recycling, fast-tracking exploration in Chhattisgarh, promoting urban mining, and boosting research and development to cut import dependence, create jobs and drive innovation.

The National Critical Mineral Mission and recent auctions are positive steps, but their success requires strong state support, clear policies and public-private collaboration. A robust mineral ecosystem will drive India's EV, solar and storage goals while positioning it as a green economy leader.

The 'Critical Factor' in India's Clean Energy Ambitions
भारत की स्वच्छ ऊर्जा महत्वाकांक्षाओं में 'महत्वपूर्ण कारक'

Critical Minerals and India's Green Transition
भारत के हरित परिवर्तन में महत्वपूर्ण खनिज

- India's ambition to be a **global leader** in **clean energy** and **sustainable growth** depends on securing **critical minerals** such as **lithium, cobalt, and Rare Earth Elements (REEs)**.
  भारत की **साफ ऊर्जा** और **सतत विकास** में **वैश्विक नेता** बनने की महत्वाकांक्षा **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** जैसे **लिथियम, कोबाल्ट और रेयर अर्थ एलिमेंट्स (REEs)** को सुरक्षित करने पर निर्भर करती है।

- These minerals drive **key technologies** — **electric vehicles (EV), solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage** — making them vital to India's **green transition** and **long-term energy goals**.
  ये खनिज **मुख्य तकनीकों** को संचालित करते हैं — **इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV), सौर पैनल, पवन टरबाइन और ऊर्जा भंडारण** — जो भारत के **हरित परिवर्तन** और **दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- As India aims to achieve **500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030** and **net zero emissions by 2070**, ensuring the supply of **critical minerals** and **rare earths** becomes important.
  भारत का लक्ष्य **2030 तक 500 GW अक्षय ऊर्जा क्षमता** और **2070 तक शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन** प्राप्त करना है, इसलिए **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** और **रेयर अर्थ एलिमेंट्स** की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है।

- India's reliance on **imported critical minerals** amid global competition demands **stronger domestic mining, better infrastructure, and global partnerships**.
  वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा के बीच भारत की **आयातित महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** पर निर्भरता **मजबूत घरेलू खनन, बेहतर अवसंरचना और वैश्विक साझेदारी** की मांग करती है।

- Investing in **mines** and **modern recycling technologies** will build **resilient supply chains** and advance the **Atmanirbhar Bharat vision** in the **clean energy race**.
  खनिजों और **आधुनिक रीसाइक्लिंग तकनीकों** में निवेश **मजबूत आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** बनाएगा और **साफ ऊर्जा प्रतियोगिता** में **आत्मनिर्भर भारत विजन** को आगे बढ़ाएगा।

Critical Minerals in India's Green Transition
भारत के हरित परिवर्तन में महत्वपूर्ण खनिज

- **Critical minerals** are indispensable to India's **clean energy goals**.
  भारत के **साफ ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों** के लिए **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज** अनिवार्य हैं।
- **Lithium** and **cobalt** are essential for **EV batteries**, with India's EV market projected to grow at a **CAGR of 49% from 2023 to 2030**.
  लिथियम और **कोबाल्ट EV बैटरी** के लिए आवश्यक हैं, और भारत का EV बाजार **2023 से 2030 तक 49% की CAGR** से बढ़ने का अनुमान है।
- Growth will be driven by government initiatives such as the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024**.
  विकास को सरकार की पहलों जैसे **इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी प्रमोशन स्कीम (EMPS) 2024** द्वारा बढ़ावा मिलेगा।
- In **2023**, India's **battery storage market** was valued at **$2.8 billion**, with demand expected to surge as **renewable energy adoption accelerates**.
  2023 में भारत का **बैटरी स्टोरेज बाजार $2.8 बिलियन** का था, और जैसे-जैसे **अक्षय ऊर्जा अपनाने की गति बढ़ेगी**, मांग में वृद्धि की उम्मीद है।
- India's reliance on **imports** for these minerals — nearly **100% for lithium, cobalt, nickel** and over **90% for REEs** — exposes it to **supply chain vulnerabilities**.
  इन खनिजों के लिए भारत की **आयात पर निर्भरता** — लगभग **100% लिथियम, कोबाल्ट, निकेल** और **90% से अधिक REEs** — इसे **सप्लाई चेन कमजोरियों** के लिए उजागर करती है।
- **Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions**, and **global competition**, particularly from **China** (which controls **60% of global REE production** and **85% of processing capacity**), underscore the urgency of **building a self-reliant supply chain**.
  भू-राजनीतिक तनाव, व्यापार प्रतिबंध और **वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा**, विशेष रूप से **चीन** से (जो **वैश्विक REE उत्पादन का 60%** और **प्रसंस्करण क्षमता का 85%** नियंत्रित करता है), **आत्मनिर्भर आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** बनाने की तत्काल आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हैं।
- India has vast untapped **mineral potential**, with **lithium in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Rajasthan**, and **REEs in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
  भारत में विशाल अप्रयुक्त **खनिज क्षमता** है, जिसमें **जम्मू और कश्मीर (J&K) और राजस्थान में लिथियम**, और **ओडिशा और आंध्र प्रदेश में REEs** शामिल हैं।
- The **National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP)**, launched in **2016**, and developments through the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 2021**, have accelerated **exploration** by encouraging **private participation** and **advanced geophysical surveys**.
  राष्ट्रीय खनिज अन्वेषण नीति (NMEP), जो **2016 में** शुरू हुई, और **खनिज और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम 2021** के माध्यम से विकास, **खोज को तेज** कर चुके हैं, **निजी भागीदारी** और **उन्नत भौगर्भीय सर्वेक्षण** को प्रोत्साहित करके।
- In **2023**, the **Geological Survey of India** identified **5.9 million tonnes of inferred lithium resources** in **J&K**, a promising step toward **domestic production**.
  2023 में, **भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण** ने **J&K में 5.9 मिलियन टन अनुमानित लिथियम संसाधनों** की पहचान की, जो **घरेलू उत्पादन** की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।
- Auctions of **20 critical mineral blocks** covering **lithium, graphite, and REEs** attracted bids from **Indian and multinational companies**, signalling growing **investor interest**.
  लिथियम, ग्रेफाइट और REEs को कवर करने वाले **20 महत्वपूर्ण खनिज ब्लॉकों** की नीलामी में **भारतीय और बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों** ने बोली लगाई, जो बढ़ती **निवेशक रुचि** का संकेत देती है।
- Exploration is just the **first step**. India contributes **less than 1% of global REE production** and must rapidly build **processing and refining capacity** through **public-private partnerships**.

खोज केवल **पहला कदम** है। भारत **वैश्विक REE उत्पादन का 1% से कम** योगदान करता है और **सार्वजनिक-निजी साझेदारी** के माध्यम से तेजी से **प्रसंस्करण और शोधन क्षमता** का निर्माण करना चाहिए।

- Private partners can bring **advanced processing technologies** and support **recycling infrastructure**, while domestic **lithium and cobalt pilots** need greater **government backing** through **subsidies, tax breaks, and research grants** to scale effectively.
  निजी साझेदार उन्नत प्रसंस्करण तकनीकें ला सकते हैं और **रीसाइक्लिंग अवसंरचना** का समर्थन कर सकते हैं, जबकि घरेलू **लिथियम और कोबाल्ट पायलट** को **सरकारी समर्थन** की अधिक आवश्यकता है जैसे **अनुदान, कर छूट और अनुसंधान अनुदान** ताकि इसे प्रभावी रूप से बढ़ाया जा सके।

Investment in Mines
खनिजों में निवेश

- Investment in **domestic mining** is central to India's **critical mineral strategy**.
  घरेलू खनन में निवेश भारत की **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज रणनीति** का केंद्र है।
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023** opened up **private exploration**, but the sector still faces **high costs, regulatory hurdles and environmental concerns**.
  खनिज और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2023 ने **निजी अन्वेषण** को खोला, लेकिन इस क्षेत्र को अभी भी **उच्च लागत, नियामक बाधाओं और पर्यावरणीय चिंताओं** का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- In **2022**, mining contributed just **2.5%** to India's GDP, compared to **13.6% in Australia**.
  2022 में, खनन का भारत के GDP में योगदान केवल **2.5%** था, जबकि ऑस्ट्रेलिया में यह **13.6%** था।
- To bridge this gap, the government must **streamline licensing processes** and offer **financial incentives** such as **production-linked subsidies** to attract **private capital**.
  इस अंतर को पाटने के लिए, सरकार को **लाइसेंसिंग प्रक्रियाओं को सरल** करना चाहिए और **उत्पादन-लिंक्ड सब्सिडी** जैसे **वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन** देकर **निजी पूंजी** को आकर्षित करना चाहिए।
- The Government of India has launched the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** with a **₹34,300 crore plan** to strengthen **value chains** across **exploration, mining, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products**.
  भारत सरकार ने **राष्ट्रीय महत्वपूर्ण खनिज मिशन (NCMM)** शुरू किया है, जिसमें **₹34,300 करोड़ का** योजना है, जो **अन्वेषण, खनन, प्रसंस्करण और पुराने उत्पादों से पुनर्प्राप्ति** में **वैल्यू चेन** को मजबूत करेगा।
- **State-backed companies** such as the **NMDC** have diversified through their **Australian arm**, and outlined plans to enter the **critical minerals sector**.
  राज्य-समर्थित कंपनियों जैसे **NMDC** ने अपने **ऑस्ट्रेलियाई शाखा** के माध्यम से विविधीकरण किया है और **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज क्षेत्र** में प्रवेश करने की योजनाएं बनाई हैं।
- **IREL (India) Limited** (formerly **Indian Rare Earths Ltd**) is preparing to extract **neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium**, but both need stronger **private partnerships** for **greenfield projects**.
  IREL (India) Limited (पूर्व में **Indian Rare Earths Ltd**) **नियोडिमियम, प्रासियोडिमियम और डिस्प्रोसियम** निकालने की तैयारी कर रही है, लेकिन दोनों को **ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजनाओं** के लिए मजबूत **निजी साझेदारी** की आवश्यकता है।
- **KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.)**, formed in **2019** to secure **overseas mineral assets**, must **expedite acquisitions**.
  KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.), जो **2019** में **विदेशी खनिज संपत्तियों** को सुरक्षित करने के लिए बनाई गई थी, को **अधिग्रहण तेज** करना चाहिए।
- Meanwhile, the government has bolstered **domestic supply security** through the **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022**, to enhance **critical mineral recovery and recycling**.
  इस बीच, सरकार ने **ई-वेस्ट (प्रबंधन) नियम, 2022** के माध्यम से **घरेलू आपूर्ति सुरक्षा** को मजबूत किया है, ताकि **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की पुनर्प्राप्ति और रीसाइक्लिंग** बढ़ सके।

Moving Towards a Circular Economy
सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी की ओर बढ़ना

- Upgrading India's **mining and processing infrastructure** is equally critical.
  भारत के **खनन और प्रसंस्करण अवसंरचना** को अपग्रेड करना भी उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है।

- Modernising infrastructure requires significant investment in **mechanised mining equipment, automated processing plants, and waste management systems**.
  अवसंरचना के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए **मैकेनाइज्ड खनन उपकरण, स्वचालित प्रसंस्करण संयंत्र और अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन प्रणाली** में महत्वपूर्ण निवेश की आवश्यकता है।

- Infrastructure upgrades also extend to **recycling**. India generates close to **four million metric tonnes of e-waste annually**, yet only **10%** is formally recycled.
  अवसंरचना उन्नयन **रीसाइक्लिंग** तक भी फैला है। भारत वार्षिक लगभग **चार मिलियन मीट्रिक टन ई-वेस्ट** उत्पन्न करता है, लेकिन केवल **10%** का औपचारिक रूप से पुनर्चक्रण होता है।

- Advanced recycling facilities could recover **critical minerals**, strengthening the **circular economy**.
  उन्नत रीसाइक्लिंग सुविधाएँ **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** को पुनर्प्राप्त कर सकती हैं, जिससे **सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी** मजबूत होगी।

- The **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022** set **recycling targets**, but weak implementation and limited infrastructure pose challenges.
  बैटरी वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट रूल्स, 2022 ने **रीसाइक्लिंग लक्ष्य** निर्धारित किए हैं, लेकिन कमजोर कार्यान्वयन और सीमित अवसंरचना चुनौतियाँ पैदा करती हैं।

- **Public-private hubs** could boost **recycling technologies, cut costs, and reduce environmental impact**.
  सार्वजनिक-निजी हब्स रीसाइक्लिंग तकनीकों को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं, लागत घटा सकते हैं और **पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव** कम कर सकते हैं।

- India's **clean energy transition** and **industrial growth** depend on securing **critical minerals** through **mine development** and a **circular economy**.
  भारत का **साफ ऊर्जा परिवर्तन** और **औद्योगिक विकास खनन विकास** और **सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी** के माध्यम से **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** को सुरक्षित करने पर निर्भर करता है।

- Priority should be given to **operationalising mining leases, investing in mines, upgrading recycling, fast-tracking exploration in Chhattisgarh, promoting urban mining, and boosting research and development** to **cut import dependence, create jobs, and drive innovation**.
  प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए **खनन लीज़ को सक्रिय करने, खनिजों में निवेश करने, रीसाइक्लिंग को अपग्रेड करने, छत्तीसगढ़ में अन्वेषण को तेज करने, शहरी खनन को बढ़ावा देने, और अनुसंधान एवं विकास को बढ़ावा देने** पर ताकि **आयात निर्भरता कम, रोजगार सृजन और नवाचार** बढ़ सके।

- The **National Critical Mineral Mission** and recent **auctions** are positive steps, but their success requires **strong state support, clear policies, and public-private collaboration**.
  राष्ट्रीय महत्वपूर्ण खनिज मिशन और हाल की **नीलामियां** सकारात्मक कदम हैं, लेकिन इनकी सफलता के लिए **मजबूत राज्य समर्थन, स्पष्ट नीतियां, और सार्वजनिक-निजी सहयोग** की आवश्यकता है।

- A robust **mineral ecosystem** will drive India's **EV, solar and storage goals** while positioning it as a **green economy leader**.
  एक मजबूत **खनिज पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** भारत के **EV, सौर और स्टोरेज लक्ष्यों** को बढ़ावा देगा और इसे **हरी अर्थव्यवस्था नेता** के रूप में स्थापित करेगा।

Balancing lives and conservation

Kerala amends wildlife laws to tackle conflicts while raising some concerns

GS III: Environment

STATE OF PLAY

Mohan Chandra Pargaien

One of India's most literate States, Kerala is known for its strong grassroots institutions and rich biodiversity. With globally significant ecological hotspots such as the Western Ghats and Silent Valley, over 64.26% of its land is under Forest & Trees cover. The rise in tiger numbers and the improving elephant population further reflect its conservation saga.

In recent years, Kerala has faced a sharp rise in human-wildlife conflicts – declared a disaster – resulting in significant loss of life, crop damage, and widespread fear. In the last decade, these conflicts injured nearly 9,000 people and caused over 900 deaths. A Forest Department study identified 273 local bodies as critical conflict zones, including 30 major hotspots, nine of which are highly critical due to frequent incidents.

Recently, the Kerala Cabinet approved amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, with provisions empowering the Chief Wildlife Warden to order the immediate killing of wild animals attacking humans in residential areas, bypassing central approvals for faster redressal. These also allow the State to declare species such as wild boars as vermin, permitting controlled culling to protect crops and livelihoods, and downgrading the bonnet macaque from Schedule I to Schedule II for easier population management. Further, the State can authorise relocation and birth control measures for certain species without prior central approval. These are aimed at balancing conservation and safety.

The Act bans hunting and sets protected areas. Being on the Concurrent List, both the State and Union governments can legislate on it, with central law prevailing to ensure a unified national policy in case of dissent. Despite successful conservation initiatives, wildlife in India continues to face challenges such as habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflicts. Kerala's current situation is a clear testimony to these challenges, prompting the State to propose amendments as a potential solution.

Ecological impact

Regardless of intent, these amendments may create legal conflicts with the central Act, bypass key protocols, and threaten the consistent national protection framework. They could face judicial review for contradicting the central objectives, raising concerns over India's unified conservation regime.

Whether it is a mass culling of wild boar or reducing protection for the bonnet macaque, these measures endanger biodiversity and predator-prey balance by disrupting local ecology. This concern is heightened given Kerala's progress in conserving key species.

Decentralised authority also raises concerns of misuse or unscientific application, leading to inconsistent wildlife management that may cause more ecological harm. Environmentalists warn that these acts are unscientific, legally questionable, and contrary to both public interest and constitutional principles.

Cooperation with dialogue

The proposed amendments reflect a commitment to quick, local solutions, while the Centre emphasises unified, science-based conservation to avoid fragmentation and legal confusion. The conflicting views on this matter demand a collaborative solution that balances human safety along with ecological considerations under a national conservation strategy.

Cooperation allowing State-specific flexibility within central laws via faster approvals or science-backed exceptions could be one solution, with measures such as joint task forces for implementing lasting, non-lethal measures, including habitat restoration, early warning systems, and conflict management. Empowering communities, transparent monitoring, and clear legal protocols – backed by streamlined processes and central funding – would help manage conflicts without breaking national policy.

God's own country, echoing with tiger roars and elephant trumpets, symbolises ecological pride and heritage. Its future depends on how well Kerala and the nation balance conservation with conflict. Whether vibrant or diminished, this legacy depends on collaborative, science-based solutions balancing human and wildlife needs. Kerala's decision today will shape and guide India's conservation legacy for the future.

Mohan Chandra Pargaien is former Chief Wild Life Warden & Advisor, SCCL, Telangana

Views are personal

Balancing Lives and Conservation
जीवन और संरक्षण में संतुलन

Kerala's Human-Wildlife Conflict and Wildlife Protection
केरल में मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष और वन्यजीव संरक्षण

- One of India's most literate States, **Kerala** is known for its strong grassroots institutions and rich biodiversity.
  भारत के सबसे साक्षर राज्यों में से एक, **केरल**, अपने मजबूत ग्रामस्तरीय संस्थानों और समृद्ध जैव विविधता के लिए जाना जाता है।

- With globally significant ecological hotspots such as the **Western Ghats** and **Silent Valley**, over **64.26%** of its land is under **Forest & Trees cover**.
  पश्चिमी घाट और **साइलेंट वैली** जैसे वैश्विक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण पारिस्थितिक हॉटस्पॉट के साथ, इसके **64.26%** से अधिक भूमि **वन और वृक्ष आवरण** के अंतर्गत है।

- The rise in **tiger numbers** and the improving **elephant population** further reflect its conservation saga.
  बाघों की संख्या में वृद्धि और **हाथियों की आबादी में सुधार** इसके संरक्षण कहानी को और दर्शाते हैं।

- In recent years, Kerala has faced a sharp rise in **human-wildlife conflicts** — declared a **disaster** — resulting in significant loss of life, **crop damage**, and widespread fear.
  हाल के वर्षों में, केरल में **मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष** में तेज वृद्धि हुई है — जिसे **आपदा** घोषित किया गया — जिससे जान का महत्वपूर्ण नुकसान, **फसलों का नुकसान**, और व्यापक डर फैला।

- In the last decade, these conflicts injured nearly **9,000 people** and caused over **900 deaths**.
  पिछले दशक में, इन संघर्षों में लगभग **9,000 लोग घायल** हुए और **900 से अधिक मौतें** हुईं।

- A **Forest Department study** identified **273 local bodies** as critical conflict zones, including **30 major hotspots**, nine of which are **highly critical** due to frequent incidents.

एक **वन विभाग अध्ययन** ने **273 स्थानीय निकायों** को महत्वपूर्ण संघर्ष क्षेत्र के रूप में पहचाना, जिसमें **30 प्रमुख हॉटस्पॉट** शामिल हैं, जिनमें से नौ **अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण** हैं क्योंकि घटनाएं बार-बार होती हैं।

- Recently, the **Kerala Cabinet** approved amendments to the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, with provisions empowering the **Chief Wildlife Warden** to order the **immediate killing of wild animals attacking humans** in residential areas, bypassing **central approvals** for faster redressal.

  हाल ही में, **केरल कैबिनेट** ने **वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972** में संशोधन को मंजूरी दी, जिसमें प्रावधान हैं जो **मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक** को आवासीय क्षेत्रों में **मानव पर हमला करने वाले जंगली जानवरों को तुरंत मारने** का अधिकार देते हैं, और तेज समाधान के लिए **केंद्रीय अनुमोदन** को बायपास करते हैं।

- These also allow the State to declare species such as **wild boars** as **vermin**, permitting **controlled culling** to protect crops and livelihoods, and downgrading the **bonnet macaque** from **Schedule I** to **Schedule II** for easier population management.

  ये राज्य को **जंगली सुअर** जैसी प्रजातियों को **कीट** घोषित करने, **नियंत्रित हत्या** की अनुमति देने और **बोनेट मैकाक** को **अनुसूची I** से **अनुसूची II** में डाउनग्रेड करने की अनुमति देते हैं ताकि आबादी का प्रबंधन आसान हो सके।

- Further, the State can authorize **relocation** and **birth control measures** for certain species without prior central approval. These are aimed at balancing **conservation** and **safety**.

  इसके अलावा, राज्य कुछ प्रजातियों के लिए **पुनर्वास** और **जनसंख्या नियंत्रण उपाय** केंद्रीय अनुमोदन के बिना अधिकृत कर सकता है। ये **संरक्षण** और **सुरक्षा** के संतुलन के लिए हैं।

- The Act **bans hunting** and sets **protected areas**. Being on the **Concurrent List**, both the **State** and **Union governments** can legislate on it, with **central law prevailing** to ensure a **unified national policy** in case of dissent.

  यह अधिनियम **शिकार पर प्रतिबंध** लगाता है और **सुरक्षित क्षेत्र** निर्धारित करता है। **समान सूची** में होने के कारण, **राज्य** और **केंद्र सरकार** दोनों इस पर कानून बना सकते हैं, और किसी भी असहमति की स्थिति में **केंद्रीय कानून एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय नीति** सुनिश्चित करता है।

- Despite successful conservation initiatives, **wildlife in India** continues to face challenges such as **habitat fragmentation** and **human-wildlife conflicts**.

  सफल संरक्षण पहलों के बावजूद, **भारत में वन्यजीव आवास विखंडन** और **मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष** जैसी चुनौतियों का सामना करते हैं।

- Kerala's current situation is a clear testimony to these challenges, prompting the State to propose **amendments** as a potential solution.

  केरल की वर्तमान स्थिति इन चुनौतियों का स्पष्ट प्रमाण है, जिससे राज्य को **संशोधन** प्रस्तावित करने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया है।

Ecological Impact
पारिस्थितिकीय प्रभाव

- Regardless of intent, these **amendments** may create **legal conflicts** with the **central Act**, bypass key **protocols**, and threaten the consistent **national protection framework**.

  उद्देश्य की परवाह किए बिना, ये **संशोधन केंद्रीय अधिनियम** के साथ **कानूनी संघर्ष** पैदा कर सकते हैं, प्रमुख **प्रोटोकॉल** को बायपास कर सकते हैं, और निरंतर **राष्ट्रीय संरक्षण ढांचे** को खतरे में डाल सकते हैं।

- They could face **judicial review** for contradicting the **central objectives**, raising concerns over India's **unified conservation regime**.

  ये **कानूनी समीक्षा** का सामना कर सकते हैं यदि ये **केंद्रीय उद्देश्यों** के विरोध में हैं, जिससे भारत के **एकीकृत संरक्षण व्यवस्था** पर चिंता बढ़ती है।

- Whether it is a **mass culling** of **wild boar** or reducing protection for the **bonnet macaque**, these measures endanger **biodiversity** and **predator-prey balance** by disrupting local ecology.

  चाहे यह **जंगली सुअर की बड़ी संख्या में हत्या** हो या **बोनेट मैकाक** के संरक्षण को कम करना, ये उपाय स्थानीय पारिस्थितिकी को प्रभावित करके **जैव विविधता** और **शिकार-शिकार संतुलन** को खतरे में डालते हैं।

- This concern is heightened given Kerala's progress in conserving **key species**.

  केरल में **मुख्य प्रजातियों** के संरक्षण में प्रगति को देखते हुए यह चिंता और बढ़ जाती है।

- **Decentralised authority** also raises concerns of **misuse** or **unscientific application**, leading to **inconsistent wildlife management** that may cause more **ecological harm**.

विकेंद्रीकृत प्राधिकरण भी **दुरुपयोग** या **अवैज्ञानिक अनुप्रयोग** की चिंता पैदा करता है, जिससे **असंगत वन्यजीव प्रबंधन** होता है जो अधिक **पारिस्थितिक नुकसान** कर सकता है।

- **Environmentalists** warn that these acts are **unscientific**, **legally questionable**, and contrary to both **public interest** and **constitutional principles**.
  पर्यावरणविद् चेतावनी देते हैं कि ये क़ानून **अवैज्ञानिक**, **कानूनी रूप से संदिग्ध**, और **सार्वजनिक हित** और **संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों** के विपरीत हैं।

Cooperation with Dialogue
संवाद के माध्यम से सहयोग

- The proposed **amendments** reflect a commitment to **quick, local solutions**, while the **Centre** emphasises **unified, science-based conservation** to avoid **fragmentation** and **legal confusion**.
  प्रस्तावित **संशोधन तेज़, स्थानीय समाधान** के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता दर्शाते हैं, जबकि **केंद्र एकीकृत, विज्ञान-आधारित संरक्षण** पर जोर देता है ताकि **विखंडन** और **कानूनी भ्रम** से बचा जा सके।
- The conflicting views on this matter demand a **collaborative solution** that balances **human safety** along with **ecological considerations** under a **national conservation strategy**.
  इस मामले में विरोधी दृष्टिकोण एक **सहयोगी समाधान** की मांग करते हैं जो **राष्ट्रीय संरक्षण रणनीति** के तहत **मानव सुरक्षा** और **पारिस्थितिकीय विचारों** का संतुलन बनाए।
- **Cooperation** allowing **State-specific flexibility** within **central laws** via faster approvals or **science-backed exceptions** could be one solution.
  केंद्रीय कानूनों के भीतर **तेज़ अनुमोदन** या **विज्ञान-समर्थित अपवादों** के माध्यम से **राज्य-विशिष्ट लचीलापन** की अनुमति देने वाला **सहयोग** एक समाधान हो सकता है।
- Measures such as **joint task forces** for implementing lasting, **non-lethal measures**, including **habitat restoration**, **early warning systems**, and **conflict management** are suggested.
  स्थायी, **अघातक उपायों** को लागू करने के लिए **संयुक्त टास्क फोर्स**, जिसमें **आवास पुनर्स्थापन**, **पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणाली**, और **संघर्ष प्रबंधन** शामिल हैं, जैसे उपाय सुझाए गए हैं
- **Empowering communities**, **transparent monitoring**, and **clear legal protocols** — backed by **streamlined processes** and **central funding** — would help manage conflicts without breaking **national policy**.
  समुदायों को सशक्त बनाना, **पारदर्शी निगरानी**, और **स्पष्ट कानूनी प्रोटोकॉल** — जिनका समर्थन **सरलीकृत प्रक्रियाओं** और **केंद्रीय वित्त पोषण** द्वारा किया गया है — **राष्ट्रीय नीति** को तोड़े बिना संघर्षों का प्रबंधन करने में मदद करेंगे।
- **God's own country**, echoing with **tiger roars** and **elephant trumpets**, symbolises **ecological pride** and **heritage**. Its future depends on how well Kerala and the nation balance **conservation** with **conflict**.
  ईश्वर का अपना देश, जो **बाघ की गर्जना** और **हाथी की शंखनाद** से गूंजता है, **पारिस्थितिकीय गर्व** और **संपदा** का प्रतीक है। इसका भविष्य इस पर निर्भर करता है कि केरल और राष्ट्र **संरक्षण** और **संघर्ष** का कितना संतुलन बनाए रखते हैं।
- Whether **vibrant or diminished**, this legacy depends on **collaborative, science-based solutions** balancing **human and wildlife needs**.
  चाहे यह **सजीव या घटित** हो, यह विरासत **मानव और वन्यजीव की आवश्यकताओं** के संतुलन के लिए **सहयोगी, विज्ञान-आधारित समाधानों** पर निर्भर करती है।
- Kerala's decision today will shape and guide India's **conservation legacy** for the future.
  आज केरल का निर्णय भविष्य के लिए भारत की **संरक्षण विरासत** को आकार देगा और मार्गदर्शन करेगा।

Indonesia detects radioactive element traces at clove farm

GS III: Environment

Associated Press

JAKARTA

Indonesia detected traces of radioactive cesium 137 at a clove plantation as it searches for the source of radioactive contamination that forced recalls of shrimp and spices exported to the U.S., a task force investigating the issue said on Wednesday.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials blocked the import of all spices processed by PT Natural Java Spice of Indonesia in September after federal inspectors detected cesium 137 in a shipment of cloves sent to California. That was the second food product from Indonesia to be recalled from sale due to radioactive contamination this year, following a recall of shrimp from another Indonesian company in August. The task force found cesium 137 at a clove plantation in Lampung province. It also inspected clove processing facilities in Surabaya city in East Java province and another plantation in Central Java province, working with Indonesia's Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency.

"We can confirm that contamination has been found on plantations in Lampung. The contamination was found in limited quantities and has not spread to other areas," said Bara Hasibuan, the task force's spokesperson. The nuclear regulatory agency recommended a temporary halt to sales of contaminated clove products pending further laboratory testing, while investigators continue to track the source of the contamination. "The government is moving quickly to localise this contamination so that it does not spread to other areas," Mr. Hasibuan said.

- Indonesia detected traces of **radioactive cesium 137** at a clove plantation as it searches for the source of radioactive contamination that forced recalls of shrimp and spices exported to the **U.S.**, a task force investigating the issue said on Wednesday.

A sticker labelled 'Danger Radiation' is seen on the wall of a kiosk in Banten province, Indonesia, on Monday. AFP

इंडोनेशिया ने **लौंग की खेती में रेडियोधर्मी सीज़ियम 137** के निशान पाए, जबकि यह उस स्रोत की तलाश कर रहा है जिसने **अमेरिका** में निर्यात की जाने वाली झींगा और मसालों को वापस बुलाने के लिए मजबूर किया, बुधवार को इस मुद्दे की जांच कर रही एक कार्यदल ने कहा।

- **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** officials blocked the import of all spices processed by **PT Natural Java Spice of Indonesia** in September after federal inspectors detected **cesium 137** in a shipment of cloves sent to **California**.

यू.एस. फूड एंड ड्रग एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के अधिकारियों ने **PT नेचुरल जावा स्पाइस, इंडोनेशिया** द्वारा संसाधित सभी मसालों के आयात को सितंबर में रोका, जब संघीय निरीक्षकों ने **कैलिफ़ोर्निया** भेजे गए लौंग के एक शिपमेंट में **सीज़ियम 137** का पता लगाया।

- That was the second food product from Indonesia to be recalled from sale due to radioactive contamination this year, following a recall of shrimp from another Indonesian company in August.

यह इस साल रेडियोधर्मी संदूषण के कारण बिक्री से वापस बुलाए गए इंडोनेशिया के दूसरे खाद्य उत्पाद थे, अगस्त में एक अन्य इंडोनेशियाई कंपनी के झींगा को वापस बुलाने के बाद।

- The task force found **cesium 137** at a clove plantation in **Lampung province**.

कार्यदल ने **लम्पुंग प्रांत** में एक लौंग की खेती में **सीज़ियम 137** पाया।

- It also inspected clove processing facilities in **Surabaya city** in **East Java province** and another plantation in **Central Java province**, working with Indonesia's **Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency**.

इसने **पूर्वी जावा प्रांत** के **सुराबाया शहर** में लौंग प्रसंस्करण सुविधाओं और **मध्य जावा प्रांत** के एक अन्य प्लांटेशन का निरीक्षण किया, इंडोनेशिया की **न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी रेगुलेटरी एजेंसी** के साथ मिलकर।

- "We can confirm that contamination has been found on plantations in **Lampung**. The contamination was found in limited quantities and has not spread to other areas," said **Bara Hasibuan**, the task force's spokesperson.

"हम पुष्टि कर सकते हैं कि **लम्पुंग** के प्लांटेशन में संदूषण पाया गया है। संदूषण सीमित मात्रा में पाया गया और यह अन्य क्षेत्रों में नहीं फैला है," कार्यदल के प्रवक्ता **बारा हासिबुआन** ने कहा।

- The nuclear regulatory agency recommended a temporary halt to sales of contaminated clove products pending further laboratory testing, while investigators continue to track the source of the contamination.

न्यूक्लियर रेगुलेटरी एजेंसी ने आगे की प्रयोगशाला जांच तक संदूषित लौंग उत्पादों की बिक्री पर अस्थायी रोक लगाने की सिफारिश की, जबकि जांचकर्ता संदूषण के स्रोत का पता लगाने का काम जारी रखते हैं।

- "The government is moving quickly to localise this contamination so that it does not spread to other areas," Mr. Hasibuan said.
  "सरकार तेजी से इस संदूषण को स्थानीयकृत करने की कार्रवाई कर रही है ताकि यह अन्य क्षेत्रों में न फैले," श्री हासिबुआन ने कहा।

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS(GS Paper IV and Essay)	
TOPICS COVERED	16_10_2025
1.	Death by Devotion: Hero-Worship and Its Discontents भक्ति के कारण मृत्यु: हीरो-पूजा और इसके प्रतिकूल प्रभाव

Sea of people: TVK president and actor Vijay during his rally in Karur on September 29. MOORTHY M

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS
CONTACT: 9971932488
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Pathshala
www.patrioticias.in
9971932488

Death by devotion: hero-worship and its discontents

Why do human societies, even in the modern era of reason and information, continue to fall prey to hero-worship? Psychologists have argued that the phenomenon stems from our evolutionary wiring

GS IV: Hero Worship
Prathmesh Kher

The recent tragedy at a political rally of actor-turned-politician Vijay, where a stampede claimed the lives of several of his supporters, should shake the conscience of any well-meaning individual. The dead were mostly fans – ordinary men and women who had thronged the event not merely for politics, but to catch a glimpse of their beloved star. That they perished in their devotion is a stark reminder of how perilous the cult of hero-worship can be.

In Tamil Nadu, the incident is neither unprecedented nor wholly unexpected. The State's political history is entwined with cinema, with a lineage of actors and writers who have turned the fan's gaze into a vote bank, and then into consolidated political power. The lines between reel and real life have been blurred for decades, with film scripts doubling up as political manifestos and larger-than-life cinematic personas re-enacted on the campaign trail. Vijay's entry into politics is therefore less an anomaly than an almost natural continuation of this tradition.

However, the cult of the leader is not unique to Tamil Nadu, nor even to India. It is a feature of human societies across geographies and epochs. But in India, with its long history of reverence for individuals – from spiritual gurus to kings, from poets to film stars – the danger of confusing adulation with citizenship has always been acute.

Historical warnings

India's freedom struggle was not just against colonialism, but against the feudal structures of thought that propped it up. Many of the leaders of that era recognised the peril of blind devotion to individuals. They knew from history that when loyalty is transferred from ideas to personalities, democracy weakens and authoritarianism strengthens.

B.R. Ambedkar, in his historic speech to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, offered perhaps the most searing warning: "The second thing we must do is to observe the caution which John Stuart Mill has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of democracy, namely, not to 'lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or to trust him with power which enable him to subvert their institutions.' ... In India, Bhakti or what may be called the path of devotion or hero-worship, plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in the politics of any other country in the world. Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

Even earlier, in a 1943 lecture, Dr. Ambedkar lamented how journalism itself had surrendered to this culture of uncritical adulation, "To accept a hero and worship him has become its principal duty. Under it, news gives place to sensation, reasoned opinion to unreasoning passion..."

The good doctor was not alone. Bhagat Singh, in his famous essay *Why I am an Atheist*, criticised precisely this tendency to treat leaders as infallible, "You go against popular feelings; you criticise a hero, a great man who is generally believed to be above criticism. What happens? No one will answer your arguments in a rational way; rather you will be considered vainglorious. ... Merciless criticism and independent thinking are the two necessary traits of revolutionary thinking. ... As Mahatmaji is great, he is above criticism ... This is not constructive thinking. We do not take a leap forward; we go many steps back." For Bhagat Singh, unquestioned devotion was not merely a political weakness but a regression of thought itself.

M.N. Roy, too, reflecting on the reputation of the Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek in *Men I Met*, warned against both the making of gods and the disappointment that inevitably follows, "Therefore, the objective historian must not be carried away by propaganda, for, or against him. He was neither a god nor a devil. If he failed to be a god-like hero, the fault is not his, but of the interested propagandists who wanted him to do what they wished. He was not a democrat; how could he serve the cause of democracy? He did not betray anybody; illusions about him were cruelly destroyed, because they were illusions. The disillusioned, whoever they may be, must blame themselves for the bitter experience. Hero-worship, not the man, is the real culprit." Roy's words cut to the core of the matter: it is not the leader alone who is at fault, but the society that demands heroes, invests them with expectations, and then writhes in disillusionment when reality intrudes.

The post-independence cult

Independent India's political history is dotted with examples of personality cults that often overrode institutional safeguards. During the time of Indira Gandhi, the Congress party had become almost synonymous with her persona. The slogan "Indira is India, India is Indira" encapsulated how thoroughly politics could collapse into personality. The Emergency of 1975 was a direct manifestation of the authoritarian potential of the cult of personality, evidenced by the swift return of Indira Gandhi to power after only a few years away from it.

In later decades, regional satraps – from N.T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh and Bal Thackeray in Maharashtra to Lalu Prasad in Bihar – built their political fortunes not just on policy or ideology but on cult-like charisma. Their followers often saw them not as fallible leaders but as embodiments of hope, identity, or even divinity. In Tamil Nadu, this trend was perhaps the most theatrical, with MGR's fans performing rituals, and even engaging in acts of self-harm at his death.

Today, the cult of Narendra Modi stands as the most striking national example. His image dominates campaigns, policies, and even institutions. Supporters frequently collapse the distinction between nation and leader, echoing the failings of the Indira era. The problem is not unique to the BJP but the scale of PM Modi's personal cult is unprecedented in contemporary Indian politics.

Why humans worship

The question, then, is why human societies, even in the modern era of reason and information, continue to fall prey to hero-worship. Psychologists have argued that the phenomenon stems from our evolutionary wiring: in complex groups, rallying around a single leader

Sea of people: TVK president and actor Vijay during his rally in Karur on September 29. MOORTHI M

अभूतपूर्व है और न ही पूरी तरह से **अनपेक्षित।**

- The State's **political history** is entwined with **cinema**, with a lineage of **actors and writers** who have turned the **fan's gaze into a vote bank**, and then into **consolidated political power**.

  राज्य का **राजनीतिक इतिहास सिनेमा** से जुड़ा हुआ है, जिसमें **अभिनेताओं और लेखकों** की एक पंक्ति है जिन्होंने **फैन्स की नजर** को **वोट बैंक** में बदल दिया और फिर इसे **एकीकृत राजनीतिक शक्ति** में परिवर्तित किया।

- The lines between **reel and real life** have been blurred for decades, with **film scripts doubling up as political manifestos** and **larger-than-life cinematic personas** re-enacted on the **campaign trail**.

  रियल और रील जीवन के बीच की रेखाएँ दशकों से धुंधली हो चुकी हैं, जहाँ **फिल्म की स्क्रिप्ट्स राजनीतिक घोषणापत्र** के रूप में काम करती हैं और **बड़ा-से-बड़ा सिनेमाई व्यक्तित्व प्रचार अभियान** में दोहराया जाता है।

- **Vijay's entry into politics** is therefore less an anomaly than an almost **natural continuation** of this tradition.

  इस प्रकार, **विजय का राजनीति में प्रवेश** इस परंपरा का लगभग **प्राकृतिक विस्तार है**, किसी असामान्य घटना से कम नहीं।

Cult of the Leader
नेता की पूजा का पंथ

- The cult of the **leader** is not unique to **Tamil Nadu**, nor even to **India**.
  नेता की पूजा का पंथ केवल **तमिलनाडु** या **भारत** तक सीमित नहीं है।

- It is a feature of **human societies** across **geographies and epochs**.
  यह **मानव समाजों** की एक विशेषता है जो **भूगोल और काल** के पार दिखाई देती है।

- In **India**, with its long history of **reverence for individuals** — from **spiritual gurus** to **kings**, from **poets** to **film stars** — the danger of confusing **adulation with citizenship** has always been acute.

  भारत में, जहाँ **व्यक्तियों के प्रति सम्मान** की लंबी परंपरा है — **आध्यात्मिक गुरु** से लेकर **राजाओं**, **कवियों** से लेकर **फिल्म सितारों** तक — **अंधभक्ति को नागरिकता के साथ भ्रमित** करने का खतरा हमेशा गंभीर रहा है।

Historical Warnings
ऐतिहासिक चेतावनियाँ

- India's **freedom struggle** was not just against **colonialism**, but against the **feudal structures of thought** that propped it up.

  भारत का **स्वतंत्रता संग्राम** केवल **उपनिवेशवाद** के खिलाफ नहीं था, बल्कि उन **जमींदारी मानसिक संरचनाओं** के खिलाफ भी था जिन्होंने इसे समर्थन दिया।

- Many of the **leaders** of that era recognised the peril of **blind devotion** to individuals.
  उस युग के कई **नेताओं** ने व्यक्तियों के प्रति **अंधभक्ति** के खतरे को पहचाना।

- They knew from **history** that when **loyalty is transferred from ideas to personalities**, **democracy weakens** and **authoritarianism strengthens**.

  उन्होंने **इतिहास** से जाना कि जब **वफादारी विचारों से व्यक्तित्वों की ओर स्थानांतरित** होती है, तो **लोकतंत्र कमजोर** और **सत्ता-केंद्रित तंत्र मजबूत** होता है।

- **B.R. Ambedkar**, in his historic speech to the **Constituent Assembly** on **November 25, 1949**, offered perhaps the most **searing warning**:

  बी.आर. अंबेडकर, ने अपने ऐतिहासिक भाषण में **संविधान सभा** को **25 नवंबर 1949** को शायद सबसे **कठोर चेतावनी** दी:

- "The second thing we must do is to observe the caution which **John Stuart Mill** has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of **democracy**, namely, not 'to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or to trust him with power which enable him to subvert their institutions.' … In India, **Bhakti** or what may be called the path of **devotion or hero-worship**, plays a part in its **politics unequalled in magnitude** by the part it plays in the politics of any other country in the world. **Bhakti** in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, **Bhakti** or **hero-worship** is a sure road to **degradation** and to eventual

dictatorship."

"दूसरी बात हमें यह देखनी चाहिए कि **जॉन स्टुअर्ट मिल** ने उन सभी को जो **लोकतंत्र** के संरक्षण में रुचि रखते हैं, क्या चेतावनी दी है, अर्थात, 'अपनी स्वतंत्रता को किसी महान व्यक्ति के चरणों में न रखें, या उसे वह शक्ति न दें जो उनकी संस्थाओं को नष्ट कर सके।' … भारत में, **भक्ति** या जिसे **भक्ति या नायक पूजा** का मार्ग कहा जा सकता है, इसकी **राजनीति में अद्वितीय भूमिका** निभाती है। धर्म में **भक्ति** आत्मा की मुक्ति का मार्ग हो सकता है। लेकिन राजनीति में, **भक्ति** या **नायक पूजा** निश्चित रूप से **अपमान** और अंततः **तानाशाही** की ओर ले जाती है।"

- Even earlier, in a **1943 lecture**, **Dr. Ambedkar** lamented how **journalism** itself had surrendered to this culture of **uncritical adulation**, "To accept a hero and worship him has become its principal duty. Under it, **news gives place to sensation**, reasoned opinion to unreasoning passion…"

उससे पहले, **1943 के व्याख्यान** में, **डॉ. अंबेडकर** ने अफसोस जताया कि कैसे **पत्रकारिता** खुद इस **अविचारी प्रशंसा** की संस्कृति के सामने समर्पित हो गई, "एक नायक को स्वीकार करना और उसकी पूजा करना इसका मुख्य कर्तव्य बन गया है। इसके तहत, **समाचार की जगह सनसनी** ले लेती है, तर्कपूर्ण राय की जगह **अविचारी भावनाएँ**…"

- The good doctor was not alone. **Bhagat Singh**, in his famous essay **Why I am an Atheist**, criticised precisely this tendency to treat **leaders as infallible**, "You go against popular feelings; you criticise a hero, a great man who is generally believed to be above criticism. What happens? No one will answer your arguments in a rational way; rather you will be considered vainglorious. … Merciless criticism and independent thinking are the two necessary traits of revolutionary thinking. … As Mahatmaji is great, he is above criticism … This is not constructive thinking. We do not take a leap forward; we go many steps back."

अच्छे डॉक्टर अकेले नहीं थे। **भगत सिंह**, अपने प्रसिद्ध निबंध **Why I am an Atheist** में, इसी प्रवृत्ति की आलोचना करते हैं कि **नेताओं को अपराजेय माना जाए**, "आप लोकप्रिय भावनाओं के खिलाफ जाते हैं; आप किसी नायक की आलोचना करते हैं, एक महान व्यक्ति जिसकी सामान्यतः आलोचना से परे माना जाता है। क्या होता है? कोई आपकी दलीलों का तर्कसंगत उत्तर नहीं देगा; बल्कि आपको घमंडी माना जाएगा। … निर्दय आलोचना और स्वतंत्र सोच क्रांतिकारी सोच की दो आवश्यक विशेषताएँ हैं। … जैसा कि महात्माजी महान हैं, वह आलोचना से परे हैं … यह रचनात्मक सोच नहीं है। हम आगे छलांग नहीं लगाते; हम कई कदम पीछे जाते हैं।"

- For **Bhagat Singh**, unquestioned **devotion** was not merely a **political weakness** but a **regression of thought** itself.

भगत सिंह के लिए, अंधभक्ति केवल **राजनीतिक कमजोरी** नहीं थी बल्कि यह **सोच का पिछड़ापन** था।

- **M.N. Roy**, too, reflecting on the reputation of the **Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek** in **Men I Met**, warned against both the making of **gods** and the **disappointment** that inevitably follows, "Therefore, the objective historian must not be carried away by propaganda, for, or against him. He was neither a god nor a devil. If he failed to be a god-like hero, the fault is not his, but of the interested propagandists who wanted him to do what they wished. He was not a democrat; how could he serve the cause of democracy? He did not betray anybody; illusions about him were cruelly destroyed, because they were illusions. The disillusioned, whoever they may be, must blame themselves for the bitter experience. **Hero-worship**, not the man, is the real culprit."

एम.एन. रॉय, ने भी, **चीनी नेता च्यांग काई-शेक** की प्रतिष्ठा पर विचार करते हुए **Men I Met** में, **देवता बनाने** और इसके बाद अनिवार्य **निराशा** से सावधान किया, "इसलिए, उद्देश्यपूर्ण इतिहासकार को प्रचार के बहाव में नहीं बहना चाहिए। वह न तो देवता था न शैतान। अगर वह देवता जैसे नायक बनने में असफल रहा, तो दोष उसका नहीं बल्कि उन प्रचारकों का है जिन्होंने उसे वह करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जो वे चाहते थे। वह लोकतांत्रिक नहीं था; वह लोकतंत्र के उद्देश्य की सेवा कैसे कर सकता था? उसने किसी को धोखा नहीं दिया; उसके बारे में भ्रम क्रूर रूप से नष्ट हुए क्योंकि वे भ्रम थे। **नायक पूजा**, आदमी नहीं, असली दोषी है।"

- Roy's words cut to the core of the matter: it is not the **leader alone** who is at fault, but the **society** that demands **heroes**, invests them with **expectations**, and then writhes in **disillusionment** when reality intrudes.

रॉय के शब्द मुद्दे के मूल तक जाते हैं: दोष केवल **नेता** का नहीं है, बल्कि उस **समाज** का है जो **नायकों** की मांग करता है, उन्हें **अपेक्षाओं** से सजाता है, और जब वास्तविकता आती है तो **निराशा** में तड़पता है।

The Post-Independence Cult
स्वतंत्रता के बाद का पंथ

- Independent India's **political history** is dotted with examples of **personality cults** that often overrode **institutional safeguards**.
  स्वतंत्र भारत का **राजनीतिक इतिहास व्यक्तित्व पंथों** के उदाहरणों से भरा है, जिन्होंने अक्सर **संस्थागत सुरक्षा उपायों** को पछाड़ दिया।

- During the time of **Indira Gandhi**, the **Congress party** had become almost synonymous with her **persona**.
  इंदिरा गांधी के समय, **कांग्रेस पार्टी** लगभग उनके **व्यक्तित्व** के पर्याय बन गई थी।

- The slogan "**Indira is India, India is Indira**" encapsulated how thoroughly **politics** could collapse into **personality**.
  नारा "**इंदिरा इज़ इंडिया, इंडिया इज़ इंदिरा**" यह दर्शाता है कि **राजनीति** किस हद तक **व्यक्तित्व** में बदल सकती है।

- The **Emergency of 1975** was a direct manifestation of the **authoritarian potential** of the **cult of personality**, evidenced by the swift return of **Indira Gandhi** to power after only a few years away from it.
  1975 की आपातकाल व्यक्तित्व पंथ की **सत्तावादी संभावनाओं** का सीधा उदाहरण था, जिसे इस बात से सिद्ध किया गया कि **इंदिरा गांधी** कुछ ही वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद सत्ता में जल्दी लौट आईं।

- In later decades, **regional satraps** — from **N.T. Rama Rao** in Andhra Pradesh and **Bal Thackeray** in Maharashtra to **Lalu Prasad** in Bihar — built their **political fortunes** not just on **policy or ideology** but on **cult-like charisma**.
  बाद के दशकों में, **क्षेत्रीय शासक** — **एन.टी. रामाराव** (आंध्र प्रदेश), **बाल ठाकरे** (महाराष्ट्र) से लेकर **लालू प्रसाद** (बिहार) तक — अपनी **राजनीतिक सफलता** केवल **नीति या विचारधारा** पर नहीं, बल्कि **पंथ-समान करिश्मा** पर बनाई।

- Their **followers** often saw them not as **fallible leaders** but as **embodiments of hope, identity, or even divinity**.
  उनके **अनुयायी** अक्सर उन्हें **त्रुटिपूर्ण नेता** के रूप में नहीं बल्कि **आशा, पहचान या देवत्व** का प्रतीक मानते थे।

- In **Tamil Nadu**, this trend was perhaps the most **theatrical**, with **MGR's fans performing rituals**, and even engaging in **acts of self-harm** at his death.
  तमिलनाडु में, यह प्रवृत्ति शायद सबसे **नाटकीय** थी, जहाँ **एम.जी.आर के फैन्स ने अनुष्ठान किए**, और उनकी मृत्यु पर **आत्महानि** तक की।

- Today, the **cult of Narendra Modi** stands as the most **striking national example**.
  आज, **नरेंद्र मोदी का पंथ** सबसे **प्रभावशाली राष्ट्रीय उदाहरण** के रूप में खड़ा है।

- His **image dominates campaigns, policies, and even institutions**.
  उनका **छवि प्रचार, नीतियों और यहां तक कि संस्थानों** में हावी है।

- Supporters frequently collapse the distinction between **nation and leader**, echoing the failings of the **Indira era**.
  समर्थक अक्सर **राष्ट्र और नेता** के बीच का अंतर मिटा देते हैं, जो **इंदिरा युग** की विफलताओं को दोहराता है।

- The problem is not unique to the **BJP** but the scale of **PM Modi's personal cult** is **unprecedented** in contemporary **Indian politics**.
  यह समस्या केवल **बीजेपी** तक सीमित नहीं है, लेकिन **प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के व्यक्तिगत पंथ** का पैमाना समकालीन **भारतीय राजनीति** में **अभूतपूर्व** है।

Why Humans Worship
मनुष्य क्यों पूजा करते हैं

- The question, then, is why **human societies**, even in the modern era of **reason and information**, continue to fall prey to **hero-worship**.
  सवाल यह है कि क्यों **मानव समाज**, आधुनिक **तर्क और सूचना** के युग में भी, **नायक पूजा** के शिकार होते रहते हैं।

- **Psychologists** have argued that the phenomenon stems from our **evolutionary wiring**: in **complex groups**, rallying around a **single leader** simplifies **decision-making**, reduces **uncertainty**, and provides a sense of **collective identity**.
  मनोवैज्ञानिकों का तर्क है कि यह प्रवृत्ति हमारे **उत्क्रांतिवादी तंत्र** से उत्पन्न होती है: **जटिल समूहों** में, एक **एकल नेता** के चारों ओर इकट्ठा होना **निर्णय लेने** को सरल बनाता है, **अनिश्चितता** घटाता है, और **सामूहिक पहचान** का अनुभव कराता है।

- **Sociologists** point out that in **unequal societies**, leaders often become **projections of people's own unrealised aspirations**.
  सामाजिक वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि असमान समाजों में नेता अक्सर लोगों की असफल आकांक्षाओं का प्रतिकल्प बन जाते हैं।

- A **farmer in rural Tamil Nadu** who struggles with **powerlessness** may see in **Vijay** a **redeemer** who carries the promise of **recognition**.
  एक ग्रामीण तमिलनाडु का किसान जो असहायता से जूझता है, वह विजय में एक उद्धारकर्ता देख सकता है जो पहचान का वादा लेकर आता है।

- The roots of this malaise stretch back further, into the **history of religion** itself.
  इस समस्या की जड़ें और भी पीछे जाती हैं, सीधे धर्म के इतिहास में।

- In the infancy of **human thought**, when knowledge of the **natural world** was **meagre**, explanations were sought not in **reason** but in **myth**.
  मानव सोच की प्रारंभिक अवस्था में, जब प्राकृतिक दुनिया का ज्ञान बहुत कम था, तो व्याख्या तर्क में नहीं बल्कि कथा में खोजी जाती थी।

- Figures in **sacred history** — **prophets, saints, and incarnations** — were invested with **absolute moral and metaphysical authority**.
  पवित्र इतिहास के व्यक्तित्व — भविष्यवक्ता, संत, और अवतार — को पूर्ण नैतिक और दार्शनिक अधिकार प्रदान किया गया।

- **Blind faith**, born of **ignorance**, hardened into **tradition**, and tradition ossified into **intolerance**.
  अंधविश्वास, जो अज्ञान से उत्पन्न हुआ, परंपरा में बदल गया, और परंपरा असहिष्णुता में जम गई।

- This reflex of **unquestioning devotion** later migrated into **politics and culture**.
  यह अंधभक्ति बाद में राजनीति और संस्कृति में प्रवेश कर गई।

- Even today, **artists** who dare to subject **religious figures** to critique — whether **M.F. Husain** with his paintings of **Hindu goddesses**, or the **cartoonists of Charlie Hebdo** in their satirical takes on **Islam** — are met not with **debate** but with **violence**.
  आज भी, कलाकार जो धार्मिक व्यक्तित्वों की आलोचना करते हैं — चाहे एम.एफ. हुसैन अपनी हिंदू देवी चित्रकारी में, या चार्ली हेब्डो के कार्टूनिस्ट इस्लाम पर व्यंग्य में — उन्हें विवाद नहीं बल्कि हिंसा का सामना करना पड़ता है।

- The **parties of God**, across **faiths**, insist that their **heroes** must remain **inviolable**, and that **offence** to them is **unforgivable**.
  ईश्वर के पक्षकार, सभी धर्मों में, जोर देते हैं कि उनके नायक अभेद्य रहने चाहिए, और उनके प्रति कोई अपमान अक्षम्य है।

- The **American revolutionary Thomas Paine** saw this clearly more than **two centuries ago**. "Lay then the **axe to the root**," he wrote, calling for an end to the **deification of men** and the enthronement of **reason** instead.
  अमेरिकी क्रांतिकारी थॉमस पेन ने इसे स्पष्ट रूप से देखा था दो सदियों से अधिक पहले। उन्होंने लिखा, "जड़ पर कुल्हाड़ी चलाओ," मानव की देवता बनाने की प्रवृत्ति को समाप्त करने और तर्क को प्रतिष्ठित करने की अपील की।

- Until that **axe** is swung against the **tree of hero-worship**, the cycle of **adulation, betrayal, and disillusionment** will repeat.
  जब तक यह कुल्हाड़ी नायक पूजा के वृक्ष पर नहीं चली, प्रशंसा, विश्वासघात और निराशा का चक्र दोहराया जाएगा।

- The costs of this phenomenon are borne not just by **democracy** but also by the **people** themselves.
  इस प्रवृत्ति की कीमत केवल लोकतंत्र नहीं बल्कि लोगों को भी भुगतनी पड़ती है।

- The **stampede at Vijay's rally** is a tragic **literalisation** of the phrase **crushed under the weight of devotion**.
  विजय की रैली में भीड़भाड़ भक्ति के बोझ तले कुचले जाने के मुहावरे का दुखद शाब्दिक रूप है।

- Beyond such **immediate tragedies**, there are **deeper consequences**.
  ऐसी तात्कालिक त्रासदियों से परे, गहरी परिणाम हैं।

- **Hero-worship erodes accountability**: leaders become **beyond question**, their **failures rationalised**, their **excesses forgiven**.
  नायक पूजा जवाबदेही को कमजोर करती है: नेता अलभ्य बन जाते हैं, उनकी विफलताओं को तर्कसंगत ठहराया जाता है, उनके अत्याचारों को माफ कर दिया जाता है।

- It breeds **intolerance**: criticism of the leader is seen as **betrayal** of the **community** or the **nation**.
  यह **असहिष्णुता** पैदा करती है: नेता की आलोचना को **समुदाय** या **राष्ट्र** के प्रति **विश्वासघात** माना जाता है।
- It diminishes the **citizen**: instead of **active participants** in a democracy, people are reduced to **passive spectators**, awaiting cues from their chosen **saviour**.
  यह **नागरिक** को कमजोर करता है: लोकतंत्र में **सक्रिय प्रतिभागियों** के बजाय लोग **निष्क्रिय दर्शक** बन जाते हैं, जो अपने चुने हुए **उद्धारकर्ता** के संकेतों का इंतजार करते हैं।
- **Hero-worship also distorts policymaking.**
  नायक पूजा नीतिगत निर्माण को भी **विकृत** करती है।
- Rather than responding to **collective needs** through **institutional mechanisms**, **policies** become instruments of **image-building**.
  संस्थागत तंत्रों के माध्यम से **सामूहिक जरूरतों** का जवाब देने के बजाय, **नीतियाँ छवि निर्माण** के उपकरण बन जाती हैं
- **Welfare schemes** are branded with **leaders' faces** and **national interest** is subordinated to **personal prestige**.
  कल्याणकारी योजनाओं पर **नेताओं के चेहरे** अंकित होते हैं और **राष्ट्रीय हित** को **व्यक्तिगत प्रतिष्ठा** के अधीन रखा जाता है।

Towards a Politics of Institutions
संस्थाओं की राजनीति की ओर

- The **antidote to hero-worship** is not **cynicism** but **maturity** — the maturity to separate **admiration** from **adulation**, **respect** from **surrender**.
  नायक पूजा का **उपाय निराशावाद** नहीं बल्कि **परिपक्वता** है — वह परिपक्वता जो **प्रशंसा** और **अंधभक्ति**, **सम्मान** और **समर्पण** को अलग कर सके।
- Leaders can and should be **admired** for their **vision**, their **achievements**, and their **service**.
  नेताओं की **दृष्टि**, उनकी **उपलब्धियों**, और उनकी **सेवा** के लिए **प्रशंसा** की जा सकती है और की जानी चाहिए।
- But **admiration must not curdle into devotion**.
  लेकिन **प्रशंसा को अंधभक्ति में बदलने** नहीं देना चाहिए।
- The **republic's health** depends on the **vigilance of its citizens** and the **strength of its institutions**.
  गणराज्य की सेहत इसके **नागरिकों की सतर्कता** और इसके **संस्थानों की मजबूती** पर निर्भर करती है।
- Citizens must reflect not only on the culture of **film-star politics** but also on the **fragility of its democracy** when **fandom substitutes for citizenship**.
  नागरिकों को केवल **फिल्म-स्टार राजनीति** की संस्कृति पर नहीं, बल्कि यह भी सोचना चाहिए कि जब **फैन कल्चर नागरिकता** की जगह ले लेता है, तब इसकी **लोकतंत्र की नाजुकता** कितनी होती है।
- India must heed the warnings of its **founding figures** and reinvest in building **institutions** that command **loyalty** beyond the **lifespan of individual leaders**.
  भारत को अपने **संस्थापक नेताओं** की चेतावनियों को मानना चाहिए और ऐसी **संस्थाओं** के निर्माण में निवेश करना चाहिए जो **व्यक्तिगत नेताओं की आयु** से परे **निष्ठा** बनाये रख सकें।
- Ultimately, the **lesson** is as much about **politics** as it is about **human society at large**.
  अंततः, यह **सबक** उतना ही **राजनीति** के बारे में है जितना कि **समग्र मानव समाज** के बारे में भी।
- Whether in **religion**, in **nationalism**, or in **celebrity culture**, the **temptation to worship heroes** is **perennial**.
  चाहे **धर्म**, **राष्ट्रवाद**, या **सेलेब्रिटी संस्कृति** में हो, **नायकों की पूजा** की प्रवृत्ति **सदैव** रहती है।
- It offers the **comfort of certainty and belonging**.
  यह **निश्चितता और अपनापन** का **सहारा** प्रदान करती है।

But the **price** is almost always the same: **disempowerment, manipulation**, and, in the worst cases, **tragedy**.
लेकिन इसका **मूल्य** लगभग हमेशा समान होता है: **शक्तिहीनता, छल**, और, सबसे बुरे मामलों में, **त्रासदी**।