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Minister introduces Bodhan AI at conclave

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said here on Thursday that artificial intelligence must be embedded in education to empower students and support teachers.

At the inaugural session of the Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave, Mr. Pradhan launched Bodhan AI, which has been established as a non-profit organisation under the Education Ministry to build an open-source “Bharat EduAI Stack” to introduce artificial intelligence across all levels of education.

IIT initiative

Mitesh Khapra of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras unveiled Bodhan AI and outlined plans for the Bharat EduAI Stack as digital public infrastructure. IIT Director V. Kamakoti said that Bodhan AI would aid in making education equitable, of high quality, affordable, and easily accessible.

Minister introduces Bodhan AI at conclave मंत्री ने सम्मेलन में बोधन एआई पेश किया

• Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said here on Thursday that artificial intelligence must be embedded in education to empower students and support teachers.

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेश प्रधान ने यहां गुरुवार को कहा कि छात्रों को सशक्त बनाने और शिक्षकों को समर्थन देने के लिए शिक्षा में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को समाहित किया जाना चाहिए।

• At the inaugural session of the Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave, Mr. Pradhan launched Bodhan AI, which has been established as a non-profit organisation under the Education Ministry to build an open-source “Bharat EduAI Stack” to introduce artificial intelligence across all levels of education.

भारत बोधन एआई कॉन्क्लेव के उद्घाटन सत्र में, श्री प्रधान ने बोधन एआई का शुभारंभ किया, जिसे शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत एक गैर-लाभकारी संगठन के रूप में स्थापित किया गया है ताकि शिक्षा के सभी स्तरों पर कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को लागू करने के लिए एक ओपन-सोर्स “भारत EduAI स्टैक” का निर्माण किया जा सके।

IIT initiative

आईआईटी पहल

• Mitesh Khapra of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras unveiled Bodhan AI and outlined plans for the Bharat EduAI Stack as digital public infrastructure.

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, मद्रास के मितेश खापरा ने बोधन एआई का अनावरण किया और भारत EduAI स्टैक को डिजिटल सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना के रूप में विकसित करने की योजनाओं की रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत की।

• IIT Director V. Kamakoti said that Bodhan AI would aid in making education equitable, of high quality, affordable, and easily accessible.

आईआईटी निदेशक वी. कामकोटी ने कहा कि बोधन एआई शिक्षा को समान, उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली, किफायती और आसानी से सुलभ बनाने में सहायता करेगा।



Digi Yatra to extend digital identity to foreign travel



Suresh Khadakhbavi, CEO, Digi Yatra Foundation, in conversation with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, at The Hindu Tech Summit 2026 in Chennai. M. SRINATH

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Digi Yatra Foundation is working on extending its decentralised digital identity platform to international air travel, with passport-based enrolment already tested and discussions under way with global aviation bodies, its Chief Executive Officer Suresh Khadakhbavi said at The Hindu Tech Summit 2026 on Thursday.

Speaking with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, at a fireside chat on 'Data Privacy & Security in Biometric Travel Platform', he said the planned feature would allow passengers to share verified digital credentials with both departure and destination airports, facilitating seamless travel without repeated identity checks.

"If you are travelling from Chennai to London, you can share credentials at Chennai, enjoy a seamless process, and when you reach London, you do not have to stand in two-hour queues again for immigration," he said.

Origin of Digi Yatra

Explaining the origins of Digi Yatra, Mr. Khadakhbavi said he had earlier been part of an advisory group for One ID, a global seamless air travel initiative, wherein discussions focused on privacy-preserving technologies and self-sovereign identity. Self-sovereign identity, he said, meant that individuals remained in control of their identity data, which led to the decision to build a decentralised ecosystem rather than a centralised identity platform.

Under Digi Yatra, enrolment is a one-time process, using Aadhaar-based verification.

Digi Yatra CEO Suresh Khadakhbavi says the platform has 21 million app users. On an average, around 30%-35% of domestic flyers use Digi Yatra, while adoption has crossed 60% at some airports and terminals

Users authenticate with an OTP at the airport verifier, after which limited KYC data – name, date of birth, gender, photograph, and the last four digits of the Aadhaar number – are retrieved. Mr. Khadakhbavi said this is significantly less information than what is routinely shared in other settings, such as hotel check-ins.

To prevent misuse, the platform incorporates liveness detection and facial matching. A live selfie is captured and matched with the KYC photograph, after which the Aadhaar-linked image is discarded for privacy reasons and only the verified selfie is retained. Acknowledging the growing sophistication of deepfake technologies, he said multiple safeguards were built into the system.

Decentralised system

Addressing concerns over data security, Mr. Khadakhbavi said Digi Yatra follows a decentralised architecture in which credentials reside in users' own devices rather than in a central database. As a result, any attempt to breach the system would require compromising individual devices rather than a single repository.

He said the platform has 21 million app users across Android and iOS, with the number of uses reaching nearly 85 million over a three-year period. On an average, around 30%-35% of domestic air passengers use Digi Yatra, while adoption has crossed 60% at some airports and terminals.

Data security measures include encryption of data in transit using TLS 1.3 and encryption at rest using AES-256. Session tokens generated during enrolment are stored locally and expire after 90 days of inactivity.

Long-term objective

Mr. Khadakhbavi said the long-term objective was to eliminate the need for carrying physical identity documents and extend the identity ecosystem beyond airports to hotels, cab services, and other touchpoints.

Responding to a question from the audience on name mismatches, where Aadhaar permits initials while passports and airline tickets require fully expanded names, Mr. Khadakhbavi said this was a major operational challenge. To address this, he said multiple alternatives were being enabled, some of which were already live. They include validation through driving licences and password-based enrolment that captures the full name.

Support for PAN cards and other digital identity documents, he further said, would be rolled out soon to ensure consistent name validation across platforms.

share verified digital credentials with both departure and

destination airports, facilitating seamless travel without repeated identity checks.

'बायोमेट्रिक ट्रेवल प्लेटफॉर्म में डेटा गोपनीयता और सुरक्षा' पर आयोजित फायरसाइड चैट में **द हिंदू ग्रुप** के सीईओ **एल.वी. नवनीत** के साथ बातचीत करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि प्रस्तावित सुविधा यात्रियों को प्रस्थान और गंतव्य दोनों हवाई अड्डों के साथ सत्यापित डिजिटल प्रमाणपत्र साझा करने की अनुमति देगी, जिससे बार-बार पहचान जांच के बिना निर्बाध यात्रा संभव होगी।

Digi Yatra to extend digital identity to foreign travel

डिजी यात्रा विदेशी यात्रा के लिए डिजिटल पहचान का विस्तार करेगी

- The **Digi Yatra Foundation** is working on extending its decentralised digital identity platform to international air travel, with passport-based enrolment already tested and discussions under way with global aviation bodies, its Chief Executive Officer **Suresh Khadakhbavi** said at **The Hindu Tech Summit 2026** on Thursday.

डिजी यात्रा फाउंडेशन अपने विकेन्द्रीकृत डिजिटल पहचान मंच को अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई यात्रा तक विस्तारित करने पर काम कर रहा है, पासपोर्ट-आधारित नामांकन का परीक्षण पहले ही किया जा चुका है और वैश्विक विमानन निकायों के साथ चर्चा जारी है, इसके मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी **सुरेश खडाकभावी** ने गुरुवार को **द हिंदू टेक समिट 2026** में कहा।

- Speaking with **L.V. Navaneeth**, CEO, **The Hindu Group**, at a fireside chat on '**Data Privacy & Security in Biometric Travel Platform**', he said the planned feature would allow passengers to



- “If you are travelling from **Chennai to London**, you can share credentials at Chennai, enjoy a seamless process, and when you reach London, you do not have to stand in two-hour queues again for immigration,” he said.
“यदि आप **चेन्नई** से **लंदन** की यात्रा कर रहे हैं, तो आप चेन्नई में अपने प्रमाणपत्र साझा कर सकते हैं, निर्बाध प्रक्रिया का आनंद ले सकते हैं, और लंदन पहुंचने पर आपको आत्रजन के लिए दो घंटे की कतार में फिर से खड़ा नहीं होना पड़ेगा,” उन्होंने कहा।

Origin of Digi Yatra डिजी यात्रा की उत्पत्ति

- Explaining the origins of **Digi Yatra**, Mr. Khadakbhavi said he had earlier been part of an advisory group for **One ID**, a global seamless air travel initiative, wherein discussions focused on privacy-preserving technologies and self-sovereign identity.
डिजी यात्रा की उत्पत्ति समझाते हुए, श्री खडाकभावी ने कहा कि वे पहले **वन आईडी** नामक वैश्विक निर्बाध हवाई यात्रा पहल के सलाहकार समूह का हिस्सा थे, जहां चर्चा गोपनीयता-संरक्षण तकनीकों और स्व-स्वामित्व पहचान पर केंद्रित थी।
- Self-sovereign identity, he said, meant that individuals remained in control of their identity data, which led to the decision to build a decentralised ecosystem rather than a centralised identity platform.
उन्होंने कहा कि स्व-स्वामित्व पहचान का अर्थ है कि व्यक्ति अपनी पहचान संबंधी डेटा पर नियंत्रण बनाए रखते हैं, जिसके कारण केंद्रीकृत पहचान मंच के बजाय विकेन्द्रीकृत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाने का निर्णय लिया गया।
- Under **Digi Yatra**, enrolment is a one-time process, using **Aadhaar-based verification**.
डिजी यात्रा के तहत, नामांकन एक बार की प्रक्रिया है, जिसमें **आधार-आधारित सत्यापन** का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- Users authenticate with an **OTP** at the airport verifier, after which limited **KYC** data — name, date of birth, gender, photograph, and the last four digits of the Aadhaar number — are retrieved.
उपयोगकर्ता हवाई अड्डे के सत्यापक पर **ओटीपी** के माध्यम से प्रमाणीकरण करते हैं, जिसके बाद सीमित **केवाईसी** डेटा — नाम, जन्म तिथि, लिंग, फोटोग्राफ और आधार संख्या के अंतिम चार अंक — प्राप्त किए जाते हैं।
- Mr. Khadakbhavi said this is significantly less information than what is routinely shared in other settings, such as hotel check-ins.
श्री खडाकभावी ने कहा कि यह जानकारी अन्य परिस्थितियों, जैसे होटल चेक-इन, में नियमित रूप से साझा की जाने वाली जानकारी से काफी कम है।
- To prevent misuse, the platform incorporates liveness detection and facial matching.
दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए, प्लेटफॉर्म में लाइवनेस डिटेक्शन और चेहरे की मिलान प्रणाली शामिल है।
- A live selfie is captured and matched with the KYC photograph, after which the Aadhaar-linked image is discarded for privacy reasons and only the verified selfie is retained.
एक लाइव सेल्फी ली जाती है और केवाईसी फोटो से मिलाई जाती है, जिसके बाद गोपनीयता कारणों से आधार-लिंक्ड छवि को हटा दिया जाता है और केवल सत्यापित सेल्फी रखी जाती है।
- Acknowledging the growing sophistication of deepfake technologies, he said multiple safeguards were built into the system.
डीपफेक तकनीकों की बढ़ती जटिलता को स्वीकार करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि प्रणाली में कई सुरक्षा उपाय शामिल किए गए हैं।

Decentralised system विकेन्द्रीकृत प्रणाली

- Addressing concerns over data security, Mr. Khadakbhavi said Digi Yatra follows a decentralised architecture in which credentials reside in users' own devices rather than in a central database.
डेटा सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंताओं का जवाब देते हुए, श्री खडाकभावी ने कहा कि डिजी यात्रा विकेन्द्रीकृत संरचना का पालन करती है, जिसमें प्रमाणपत्र केंद्रीय डेटाबेस के बजाय उपयोगकर्ताओं के अपने उपकरणों में रहते हैं।
- As a result, any attempt to breach the system would require compromising individual devices rather than a single repository.



इसके परिणामस्वरूप, प्रणाली को भंग करने का कोई भी प्रयास एकल भंडार के बजाय व्यक्तिगत उपकरणों से समझौता करने की आवश्यकता होगी।

- He said the platform has **21 million** app users across **Android and iOS**, with the number of uses reaching nearly **85 million** over a three-year period.
उन्होंने कहा कि इस प्लेटफॉर्म के **एंड्रॉयड और iOS** पर **21 मिलियन** ऐप उपयोगकर्ता हैं, और तीन वर्षों में उपयोग की संख्या लगभग **85 मिलियन** तक पहुंच गई है।
- On an average, around **30%-35%** of domestic air passengers use Digi Yatra, while adoption has crossed **60%** at some airports and terminals.
औसतन, लगभग **30%-35%** घरेलू हवाई यात्री डिजी यात्रा का उपयोग करते हैं, जबकि कुछ हवाई अड्डों और टर्मिनलों पर इसका उपयोग **60%** से अधिक हो गया है।
- Data security measures include encryption of data in transit using **TLS 1.3** and encryption at rest using **AES-256**.
डेटा सुरक्षा उपायों में ट्रांजिट में डेटा एन्क्रिप्शन के लिए **TLS 1.3** और संग्रहित डेटा के लिए **AES-256** का उपयोग शामिल है।
- Session tokens generated during enrollment are stored locally and expire after **90 days** of inactivity.
नामांकन के दौरान उत्पन्न सत्र टोकन स्थानीय रूप से संग्रहीत किए जाते हैं और **90 दिनों** की निष्क्रियता के बाद समाप्त हो जाते हैं।

Long-term objective दीर्घकालिक उद्देश्य

- Mr. Khadakbhavi said the long-term objective was to eliminate the need for carrying physical identity documents and extend the identity ecosystem beyond airports to hotels, cab services, and other touchpoints.
श्री खडाकभावी ने कहा कि दीर्घकालिक उद्देश्य भौतिक पहचान दस्तावेजों को साथ रखने की आवश्यकता समाप्त करना और पहचान पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को हवाई अड्डों से आगे होटलों, कैब सेवाओं और अन्य संपर्क बिंदुओं तक विस्तारित करना है।
- Responding to a question from the audience on name mismatches, where Aadhaar permits initials while passports and airline tickets require fully expanded names, Mr. Khadakbhavi said this was a major operational challenge.
नाम में असंगति से संबंधित दर्शकों के प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए, जहां आधार में आद्याक्षर की अनुमति है जबकि पासपोर्ट और एयरलाइन टिकट में पूरा नाम आवश्यक है, श्री खडाकभावी ने कहा कि यह एक बड़ा परिचालन चुनौती है।
- To address this, he said multiple alternatives were being enabled, some of which were already live.
इसे संबोधित करने के लिए, उन्होंने कहा कि कई विकल्प सक्षम किए जा रहे हैं, जिनमें से कुछ पहले से ही सक्रिय हैं।
- They include validation through driving licences and password-based enrolment that captures the full name.
इनमें ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस के माध्यम से सत्यापन और पासवर्ड-आधारित नामांकन शामिल है, जो पूरा नाम दर्ज करता है।
- Support for **PAN cards** and other digital identity documents, he further said, would be rolled out soon to ensure consistent name validation across platforms.
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि **पैन कार्ड** और अन्य डिजिटल पहचान दस्तावेजों के लिए समर्थन जल्द ही शुरू किया जाएगा ताकि विभिन्न प्लेटफार्मों पर नाम का सुसंगत सत्यापन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।



ISLAMABAD

Pak. launches its indigenous Earth Observation Satellite from China



PCS GETTY IMAGES
Pakistan on Thursday successfully launched its second indigenous Earth Observation Satellite, EO-2, from China's Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre, according to the state media. The satellite is designed to significantly enhance the country's earth observation and high-resolution imaging capabilities. PTI

Pak. launches its indigenous Earth Observation Satellite from China **पाक. ने चीन से अपना स्वदेशी पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रह लॉन्च किया**

- **Pakistan** on Thursday successfully launched its second indigenous **Earth Observation Satellite, EO-2**, from **China's Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre**, according to the state media.

Pakistan ने गुरुवार को अपना दूसरा स्वदेशी **Earth Observation Satellite, EO-2**, **China's Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre** से सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च किया, राज्य मीडिया के अनुसार।

- The satellite is designed to significantly enhance the country's earth observation and high-resolution imaging capabilities.

यह उपग्रह देश की earth observation और high-resolution

imaging क्षमताओं को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।

GS Paper 1: History,

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

1. **Vande Mataram, its six stanzas and a settled question**
वंदे मातरम्, इसके छह पद और एक सुलझा हुआ प्रश्न

2. **QUIZ**



Vande Mataram, its six stanzas and a settled question

BS I History

The January 28, 2026 order of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), directing that all six stanzas of *Vande Mataram* be played at official functions, with everyone present required to stand at attention, is not an act of patriotism. It is constitutional vandalism dressed up in national pride. To understand why, we need to go back to 1937, look at what the Constituent Assembly decided, and remember what the Supreme Court of India had said in the landmark case, *Bijoe Emmanuel and Ors. vs State of Kerala and Ors.* (1986).

1937 settlement is not weakness, but wisdom

In October 1937, the Congress Working Committee had met in Calcutta. What happened there was not appeasement, as some now claim. Dr. Rajendra Prasad moved the resolution while Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel seconded it. Mahatma Gandhi was there as a special invitee. The resolution was unanimous. They recognised “the validity of objections raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song” and concluded that “the first two stanzas alone, accepted as the national song at national gatherings, are in no sense objectionable”.

This was not cowardice. It was common sense. The later stanzas of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s poem (*Vande Mataram*) call out, by name, the Hindu goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. One verse literally describes the motherland as “*Tvam hi Durga dasa-praharana-dharini* (You are Durga, wielder of the 10 weapons)”.

Think about what it means to force a Muslim civil servant, a Christian schoolteacher, a Sikh soldier, a Buddhist monk, or an atheist scientist to stand at attention while these verses are sung. That is not fostering unity. That is imposing a religious test in a secular republic.

Even Rabindranath Tagore supported keeping it to two stanzas. The whole freedom movement – from the moderate to the radical, from the secular to the devout – agreed that the first two stanzas captured the song’s spirit without hurting anyone’s faith. This was not a fringe decision. It was the collective wisdom of the people who fought for India’s freedom.

On January 24, 1950, President Rajendra Prasad announced that *Jana Gana Mana* would be the National Anthem, and that *Vande Mataram* would “be honoured equally” with it. But here is what matters: the Constituent Assembly adopted only the two-stanza version as the National Song. Those four other stanzas were not accidentally forgotten. They were deliberately left out because our founders understood something crucial: a secular republic cannot make verses devoted to specific gods and goddesses into official symbols.

In the Constitution, Article 51A(a) tells every citizen “to abide by ...the National Flag, and the National Anthem”. If one notices carefully, the National Song is not mentioned. When Parliament added fundamental duties through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976, it specifically listed the Flag and the Anthem. It



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did not include the Song. This was not an oversight. This was a choice. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, protects the National Anthem, the Flag, the Constitution. It does not cover *Vande Mataram*. There is no legal penalty for not singing it, not standing for it, or not showing it any particular respect. This is not accidental. The constitutional framework deliberately treats the anthem (which is secular and inclusive) differently from the song (which has religious elements that need to be carefully limited).

The case about the right not to sing

In July 1985, Bijoe, Binu Mol, and Bindu Emmanuel, three children in Kerala, were expelled from school. They were Jehovah’s Witnesses. Every morning during assembly, they stood respectfully while the National Anthem played. But they did not sing it, because their faith did not allow it. They did not cause trouble. They did not disrupt anyone. Then a State Minister got involved, and they were sent out. While the Kerala High Court said the expulsion was fine, the Supreme Court said absolutely not.

In his judgment, Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy said the expulsion violated their fundamental rights to free speech and freedom of religion. Then he wrote something that should be carved in stone: “Proper respect is shown to the National Anthem by standing up when it is sung. It will not be right to say that disrespect is shown by not joining in the singing.”

The Court went further. “It will not be right to say that disrespect is shown by not joining in the singing.” “Standing respectfully but staying silent does not break any law”. The children’s right to remain silent, which is itself part of free speech, was constitutionally protected. Justice Reddy quoted an American judge, Justice Robert H. Jackson, from a case, *West Virginia State Board of Education vs Barnette* (1943): “if there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.” That star has not stopped shining.

Now, consider what the MHA order does. It mandates the playing of the complete six-stanza version at civil investitures, presidential events, and flag ceremonies. Everyone must stand at attention. Schools must start the day with community singing of the National Song. And, yes. It includes the four stanzas that the Constituent Assembly deliberately excluded. The stanzas invoking Durga with her weapons, Lakshmi with her blessings and Saraswati with her knowledge. The logic is simple. If the Court said that you cannot force people to sing even the National Anthem (which has constitutional protection under Article 51A and legal protection under a specific Act), then you certainly cannot force them to sing the National Song (which has neither constitutional mention nor legal protection). What is forbidden for the greater

must surely be forbidden for the lesser.

But this order does something worse. It is not just asking people to stand. It is making them participate, even passively, in singing explicitly religious verses. Consider the position of a Muslim bureaucrat compelled to stand at attention as “You are Durga, wielder of the ten weapons” echoes through the hall, or a Christian child in a school assembly where Hindu deities are invoked. That is not a formality. That is a wound to conscience.

That is exactly what Article 25 of the Constitution protects against. India’s founders were not naive. They were building something extraordinary: a constitutional order that could hold together a civilization of staggering diversity. They understood what we seem to have forgotten. Real patriotism does not require everyone to pray the same way.

The first two stanzas – “*Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja sheetalam*” – celebrate our motherland’s rivers, fruits, cool breezes, moonlit nights. They belong to every Indian, regardless of faith. The later stanzas are beautiful devotional poetry, but they are addressed to specific deities of one religious tradition. To mix them together and force everyone to participate in both is to break the republic’s founding promise.

What this is really about

Nobody is questioning whether *Vande Mataram* deserves respect. Of course it does. Its first two stanzas lit the fire of resistance against colonial rule. People sang them in streets and in jail cells, Hindus and Muslims together, as a battle cry for freedom.

The real question is simpler: Can the government force citizens to participate in religious observance by calling it patriotism? Any honest reading of the Constitution and the Supreme Court’s judgments gives you the answer. No. *Bijoe Emmanuel* is not some dusty old precedent. It is alive. It stands for something essential – in a constitutional democracy, the right to disagree, even silently and respectfully, is not treason. It is freedom itself.

The MHA order overturns the 1937 settlement. It ignores what the Constituent Assembly deliberately chose. It disregards Article 51A. It sidesteps the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act. It violates the principles in *Bijoe Emmanuel*. And it does all this through executive order, without any law being passed, without any constitutional amendment, without any court approval.

If there is any fixed star in our constitutional sky, it is this. The Republic belongs equally to all its citizens. To those who sing and to those who, for reasons of conscience, stand in respectful silence. To put out that star in patriotism’s name is to betray the very idea of India that its founders fought to build. The Constitution does not demand that we all worship the same way. It demands that we are all equal citizens. Those are not the same thing, and no amount of forced standing can make them so.

The order of the Home Ministry mandating the full version of *Vande Mataram* is constitutionally indefensible

Vande Mataram, its six stanzas and a settled question

वंदे मातरम्, इसके छह पद और एक सुलझा हुआ प्रश्न

- The January 28, 2026 order of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), directing that all six stanzas of *Vande Mataram* be played at official functions, with everyone present required to stand at attention, is not an act of patriotism. It is constitutional vandalism dressed up in national pride.

28 जनवरी 2026 को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) के आदेश में निर्देश दिया गया कि वंदे मातरम् के सभी छह पद आधिकारिक कार्यक्रमों में बजाए जाएँ, और उपस्थित सभी लोग सावधान की मुद्रा में खड़े हों, यह देशभक्ति का कार्य नहीं है। यह राष्ट्रीय गौरव के नाम पर संवैधानिक तोड़फोड़ है।

- To understand why, we need to go back to 1937, look at what the Constituent Assembly decided, and remember what the Supreme Court of India had said in the landmark case, *Bijoe Emmanuel and Ors. vs State of Kerala and Ors.* (1986).

यह समझने के लिए हमें 1937 में जाना होगा, देखना होगा कि संविधान सभा ने क्या निर्णय लिया, और याद करना होगा कि भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने ऐतिहासिक मामले *Bijoe Emmanuel and Ors. vs State of Kerala and Ors.* (1986) में क्या कहा था।



1937 settlement is not weakness, but wisdom 1937 का समझौता कमजोरी नहीं, बल्कि बुद्धिमत्ता था

- In **October 1937, the Congress Working Committee met in Calcutta.**
अक्टूबर 1937 में कांग्रेस कार्यसमिति की बैठक कलकत्ता में हुई थी।
- What happened there was not appeasement, as some now claim.
वहाँ जो हुआ वह तुष्टिकरण नहीं था, जैसा कुछ लोग अब दावा करते हैं।
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad moved the resolution while Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel seconded it.**
डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद ने प्रस्ताव रखा और सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल ने उसका समर्थन किया।
- **Mahatma Gandhi** was there as a special invitee.
महात्मा गांधी विशेष आमंत्रित के रूप में उपस्थित थे।
- The resolution was **unanimous.**
प्रस्ताव सर्वसम्मति से पारित हुआ।
- They recognised “**the validity of objections raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song**” and concluded that “**the first two stanzas alone, accepted as the national song at national gatherings, are in no sense objectionable**”.
उन्होंने “गीत के कुछ भागों पर मुस्लिम मित्रों द्वारा उठाई गई आपत्तियों की वैधता” को स्वीकार किया और निष्कर्ष निकाला कि “केवल पहले दो पद, जो राष्ट्रीय सभाओं में राष्ट्रीय गीत के रूप में स्वीकार किए गए, किसी भी रूप में आपत्तिजनक नहीं हैं”।
- This was not cowardice. It was **common sense.**
यह कायरता नहीं थी। यह सामान्य बुद्धि थी।
- The later stanzas of **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s poem (Vande Mataram)** call out, by name, the Hindu goddesses **Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.**
बंकिम चंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय की कविता (वंदे मातरम्) के बाद के पदों में हिंदू देवियों दुर्गा, लक्ष्मी और सरस्वती का नाम लिया गया है।
- **One verse literally describes the motherland as “Tvam hi Durga dasa-praharana-dharini (You are Durga, wielder of the 10 weapons)”.**
एक पद में मातृभूमि का वर्णन “त्वं हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरणधारिणी (तुम दुर्गा हो, दस अस्त्र धारण करने वाली)” के रूप में किया गया है।
- **Think about what it means to force a Muslim civil servant, a Christian schoolteacher, a Sikh soldier, a Buddhist monk, or an atheist scientist to stand at attention while these verses are sung.**
सोचिए इसका क्या अर्थ है कि मुस्लिम सिविल सेवक, ईसाई शिक्षक, सिख सैनिक, बौद्ध भिक्षु या नास्तिक वैज्ञानिक को इन पदों के गाए जाने पर सावधान मुद्रा में खड़ा होने के लिए बाध्य किया जाए।
- That is not fostering unity. That is **imposing a religious test in a secular republic.**
यह एकता को बढ़ावा देना नहीं है। यह धर्मनिरपेक्ष गणराज्य में धार्मिक परीक्षा थोपना है।
- Even **Rabindranath Tagore** supported keeping it to **two stanzas.**
रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने भी इसे दो पदों तक सीमित रखने का समर्थन किया।
- **The whole freedom movement — from the moderate to the radical, from the secular to the devout — agreed that the first two stanzas captured the song’s spirit without hurting anyone’s faith.**
पूरा स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन — उदार से उग्र, धर्मनिरपेक्ष से आस्थावान — इस बात पर सहमत था कि पहले दो पद गीत की भावना को व्यक्त करते हैं बिना किसी की आस्था को ठेस पहुँचाए।
- This was not a fringe decision. It was the **collective wisdom** of the people who fought for India’s freedom.
यह कोई सीमांत निर्णय नहीं था। यह भारत की स्वतंत्रता के लिए संघर्ष करने वालों की सामूहिक बुद्धिमत्ता थी।
- **On January 24, 1950, President Rajendra Prasad announced that Jana Gana Mana would be the National Anthem, and that Vande Mataram would “be honoured equally” with it.**
24 जनवरी 1950 को राष्ट्रपति राजेंद्र प्रसाद ने घोषणा की कि जन गण मन राष्ट्रीय गान होगा, और वंदे मातरम् को “समान सम्मान” दिया जाएगा।
- But here is what matters: the **Constituent Assembly adopted only the two-stanza version as the National Song.**
पर महत्वपूर्ण यह है: संविधान सभा ने केवल दो पदों वाले संस्करण को राष्ट्रीय गीत के रूप में अपनाया।
- Those **four other stanzas were not accidentally forgotten.** They were **deliberately left out** because our founders understood something crucial: a **secular republic cannot make**



verses devoted to specific gods and goddesses into official symbols.

वे अन्य चार पद भूलवश नहीं छोड़े गए थे। उन्हें जानबूझकर हटाया गया क्योंकि हमारे संस्थापकों ने समझा कि धर्मनिरपेक्ष गणराज्य विशिष्ट देवताओं को समर्पित पदों को आधिकारिक प्रतीक नहीं बना सकता।

- In the **Constitution, Article 51A(a)** tells every citizen “to abide by ...the National Flag, and the National Anthem”.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 51A(क) में प्रत्येक नागरिक को “राष्ट्रीय ध्वज और राष्ट्रीय गान का सम्मान करने” का निर्देश दिया गया है।

- If one notices carefully, the **National Song is not mentioned**. यदि ध्यान से देखें तो **राष्ट्रीय गीत का उल्लेख नहीं है**।
- When Parliament added **fundamental duties through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976**, it specifically listed the **Flag and the Anthem**. It did **not include the Song**.

जब संसद ने 1976 के 42वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के माध्यम से मौलिक कर्तव्य जोड़े, तब उसने विशेष रूप से ध्वज और गान को सूचीबद्ध किया। उसने गीत को शामिल नहीं किया।

- This was not an oversight. This was a **choice**. यह कोई चूक नहीं थी। यह एक **चयन** था।
- The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**, protects the **National Anthem, the Flag, the Constitution**. It **does not cover Vande Mataram**. राष्ट्रीय सम्मान अपमान निवारण अधिनियम, 1971 राष्ट्रीय गान, ध्वज और संविधान की रक्षा करता है। यह वंदे मातरम् को शामिल नहीं करता।
- There is **no legal penalty** for not singing it, not standing for it, or not showing it any particular respect. इसे न गाने, इसके लिए न खड़े होने या विशेष सम्मान न देने पर **कोई कानूनी दंड नहीं है**।
- This is not accidental. The **constitutional framework deliberately treats the anthem (which is secular and inclusive) differently from the song (which has religious elements that need to be carefully limited)**.

यह आकस्मिक नहीं है। संवैधानिक ढाँचा जानबूझकर राष्ट्रीय गान (जो धर्मनिरपेक्ष और समावेशी है) और गीत (जिसमें धार्मिक तत्व हैं जिन्हें सावधानी से सीमित करना आवश्यक है) को अलग-अलग तरीके से देखता है।

The case about the right not to sing न गाने के अधिकार से संबंधित मामला

- In **July 1985, Bijoe, Binu Mol, and Bindu Emmanuel**, three children in **Kerala**, were expelled from school. **जुलाई 1985 में बिजो, बिनु मोल और बिंदु इमैनुएल**, केरल के तीन बच्चों को स्कूल से निष्कासित कर दिया गया।
- They were **Jehovah's Witnesses**. वे **Jehovah's Witnesses** थे।
- Every morning during assembly, they **stood respectfully while the National Anthem played**. हर सुबह सभा के दौरान वे **राष्ट्रीय गान बजते समय सम्मानपूर्वक खड़े रहते थे**।
- But they **did not sing it**, because their **faith did not allow it**. लेकिन वे **इसे गाते नहीं थे**, क्योंकि उनका **धर्म इसकी अनुमति नहीं देता था**।
- They **did not cause trouble**. They **did not disrupt anyone**. उन्होंने **कोई परेशानी नहीं पैदा की**। उन्होंने **किसी को बाधित नहीं किया**।
- Then a **State Minister** got involved, and they were sent out. फिर एक **राज्य मंत्री** शामिल हुए, और उन्हें **बाहर निकाल दिया गया**।
- While the **Kerala High Court** said the expulsion was fine, the **Supreme Court** said **absolutely not**. जहाँ **केरल उच्च न्यायालय** ने निष्कासन को सही कहा, वहीं **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने **बिलकुल नहीं** कहा।
- In his judgment, **Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy** said the expulsion violated their **fundamental rights to free speech and freedom of religion**. अपने निर्णय में **न्यायमूर्ति ओ. चिन्नप्पा रेड्डी** ने कहा कि निष्कासन ने उनके **अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और धर्म की स्वतंत्रता के मौलिक अधिकारों** का उल्लंघन किया।



- Then he wrote something that should be carved in stone: **“Proper respect is shown to the National Anthem by standing up when it is sung. It will not be right to say that disrespect is shown by not joining in the singing.”**
फिर उन्होंने लिखा जिसे पत्थर पर अंकित किया जाना चाहिए: **“राष्ट्रीय गान के समय खड़े होकर उचित सम्मान दिया जाता है। गाने में शामिल न होने को अपमान नहीं कहा जा सकता।”**
- The Court went further. **“Standing respectfully but staying silent does not break any law.”**
न्यायालय ने आगे कहा: **“सम्मानपूर्वक खड़े रहना लेकिन मौन रहना किसी कानून का उल्लंघन नहीं है।”**
- The children’s **right to remain silent**, which is itself part of **free speech**, was **constitutionally protected**.
बच्चों का **मौन रहने का अधिकार**, जो **अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** का हिस्सा है, **संवैधानिक रूप से संरक्षित** था।
- Justice Reddy quoted Justice Robert H. Jackson from **West Virginia State Board of Education vs Barnette (1943)**: **“If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.”**
न्यायमूर्ति रेड्डी ने न्यायमूर्ति रॉबर्ट एच. जैक्सन को **West Virginia State Board of Education vs Barnette (1943)** से उद्धृत किया: **“यदि हमारे संवैधानिक आकाश में कोई स्थिर तारा है, तो वह यह है कि कोई भी अधिकारी यह निर्धारित नहीं कर सकता कि राजनीति, राष्ट्रवाद, धर्म या विचारों में क्या सही है, और नागरिकों को शब्द या कर्म से अपनी आस्था स्वीकार करने के लिए बाध्य नहीं कर सकता।”**
- That star has **not stopped shining**.
वह तारा **अब भी चमक रहा है।**
- Now, consider what the **MHA order** does.
अब देखें कि **MHA का आदेश** क्या करता है।
- It **mandates the playing of the complete six-stanza version at civil investitures, presidential events, and flag ceremonies**.
यह **सिविल सम्मान समारोहों, राष्ट्रपति कार्यक्रमों और ध्वज समारोहों में छहों पदों के पूर्ण संस्करण को बजाना अनिवार्य करता है।**
- **Everyone must stand at attention**.
सभी को **सावधान की मुद्रा में खड़ा होना होगा।**
- **Schools must start the day with community singing of the National Song**.
स्कूलों को दिन की शुरुआत राष्ट्रीय गीत के सामूहिक गायन से करनी होगी।
- And, yes. It includes the **four stanzas that the Constituent Assembly deliberately excluded**.
और हाँ, इसमें वे **चार पद शामिल हैं जिन्हें संविधान सभा ने जानबूझकर हटाया था।**
- The stanzas invoking **Durga with her weapons, Lakshmi with her blessings and Saraswati with her knowledge**.
वे पद जो **दुर्गा (अपने अस्त्रों सहित), लक्ष्मी (अपने आशीर्वाद सहित) और सरस्वती (अपने ज्ञान सहित) का आह्वान करते हैं।**
- The logic is simple. If the Court said that you **cannot force people to sing even the National Anthem**, then you certainly **cannot force them to sing the National Song**.
तर्क सरल है। यदि न्यायालय ने कहा कि आप **राष्ट्रीय गान गाने के लिए भी लोगों को बाध्य नहीं कर सकते**, तो निश्चित ही आप **राष्ट्रीय गीत गाने के लिए बाध्य नहीं कर सकते।**
- What is **forbidden for the greater must surely be forbidden for the lesser**.
जो **बड़े के लिए निषिद्ध है, वह छोटे के लिए भी निषिद्ध होगा।**
- But this order does something worse.
लेकिन यह आदेश कुछ और भी गंभीर करता है।
- It is **not just asking people to stand**. It is **making them participate, even passively, in singing explicitly religious verses**.
यह **सिर्फ खड़े होने को नहीं कहता, बल्कि लोगों को स्पष्ट रूप से धार्मिक पदों के गायन में, भले ही निष्क्रिय रूप से, भाग लेने को बाध्य करता है।**
- Consider the position of a **Muslim bureaucrat** compelled to stand as **“You are Durga, wielder of the ten weapons”** echoes, or a **Christian child** in a school assembly where **Hindu deities are invoked**.



कल्पना करें एक मुस्लिम अधिकारी की जिसे “तुम दुर्गा हो, दस अस्त्रों वाली” सुनते हुए खड़ा होना पड़े, या एक ईसाई बच्चे की जो स्कूल सभा में हिंदू देवताओं का आह्वान सुन रहा हो।

- That is **not a formality**. That is a **wound to conscience**. यह औपचारिकता नहीं है। यह अंतरात्मा पर आघात है।
- That is exactly what **Article 25 of the Constitution protects against**. यही वह चीज है जिससे संविधान का अनुच्छेद 25 रक्षा करता है।
- India's founders were **not naive**. They were building a **constitutional order for a civilization of staggering diversity**. भारत के संस्थापक भोले नहीं थे। वे अद्भुत विविधता वाली सभ्यता के लिए संवैधानिक व्यवस्था बना रहे थे।
- They understood something we seem to have forgotten. **Real patriotism does not require everyone to pray the same way**. उन्होंने वह समझा जिसे हम भूलते प्रतीत होते हैं। सच्ची देशभक्ति सबको एक ही तरीके से प्रार्थना करने की मांग नहीं करती।
- The **first two stanzas — “Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja sheetalam” — celebrate rivers, fruits, cool breezes, moonlit nights**. पहले दो पद — “सुजलाम, सुफलाम, मलयज शीतलाम” — नदियों, फलों, शीतल हवाओं और चांदनी रातों का उत्सव मनाते हैं।
- They **belong to every Indian, regardless of faith**. वे हर भारतीय के हैं, चाहे उसका धर्म कोई भी हो।
- The **later stanzas are beautiful devotional poetry**, but they are addressed to **specific deities of one religious tradition**. बाद के पद सुंदर भक्ति काव्य हैं, लेकिन वे एक धर्म की विशिष्ट देवताओं को संबोधित हैं।
- To mix them together and **force everyone to participate in both is to break the republic's founding promise**. उन्हें मिलाकर सभी को दोनों में भाग लेने के लिए बाध्य करना गणराज्य के मूल वादे को तोड़ना है।

What this is really about यह वास्तव में किस बारे में है

- Nobody is questioning whether **Vande Mataram deserves respect**. कोई यह सवाल नहीं उठा रहा कि वंदे मातरम् सम्मान के योग्य है या नहीं।
- Of course it does. Its **first two stanzas lit the fire of resistance against colonial rule**. निश्चित ही है। इसके पहले दो पदों ने औपनिवेशिक शासन के खिलाफ प्रतिरोध की आग जगाई।
- People **sang them in streets and in jail cells, Hindus and Muslims together, as a battle cry for freedom**. लोगों ने उन्हें सड़कों और जेलों में, हिंदू और मुसलमान साथ-साथ, स्वतंत्रता के युद्धघोष के रूप में गाया।
- The real question is simpler: **Can the government force citizens to participate in religious observance by calling it patriotism?** असल सवाल सरल है: क्या सरकार देशभक्ति के नाम पर नागरिकों को धार्मिक अनुष्ठान में भाग लेने के लिए बाध्य कर सकती है?
- Any honest reading of the **Constitution and the Supreme Court's judgments** gives you the answer. **No**. संविधान और सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णयों का ईमानदार अध्ययन आपको उत्तर देता है। नहीं।
- **Bijoe Emmanuel is not some dusty old precedent. It is alive**. बिजो इमैनुएल कोई पुराना अप्रासंगिक फैसला नहीं है। यह आज भी जीवित है।
- It stands for something essential — in a **constitutional democracy, the right to disagree, even silently and respectfully, is not treason. It is freedom itself**. यह एक मूलभूत सिद्धांत का प्रतीक है — संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र में असहमति का अधिकार, भले ही मौन और सम्मानपूर्वक हो, देशद्रोह नहीं बल्कि स्वतंत्रता है।
- The **MHA order overturns the 1937 settlement**. MHA का आदेश 1937 के समझौते को पलट देता है।
- It **ignores what the Constituent Assembly deliberately chose**. यह संविधान सभा के जानबूझकर किए गए निर्णय को नजरअंदाज करता है।



- It disregards Article 51A.
यह अनुच्छेद 51A की अवहेलना करता है।
- It sidesteps the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act.
यह राष्ट्रीय सम्मान अपमान निवारण अधिनियम को दरकिनार करता है।
- It violates the principles in Bijoe Emmanuel.
यह बिजो इमैनुएल के सिद्धांतों का उल्लंघन करता है।
- And it does all this through executive order, without any law being passed, without any constitutional amendment, without any court approval.
और यह सब कार्यपालिका के आदेश से, बिना कोई कानून पारित किए, बिना संवैधानिक संशोधन, बिना न्यायालय की स्वीकृति के करता है।
- If there is any fixed star in our constitutional sky, it is this.
यदि हमारे संवैधानिक आकाश में कोई स्थिर तारा है, तो वह यही है।
- The Republic belongs equally to all its citizens.
गणराज्य अपने सभी नागरिकों का समान रूप से है।
- To those who sing and to those who, for reasons of conscience, stand in respectful silence.
उनका भी जो गाते हैं, और उनका भी जो अंतरात्मा के कारण सम्मानपूर्वक मौन खड़े रहते हैं।
- To put out that star in patriotism's name is to betray the very idea of India that its founders fought to build.
उस तारे को देशभक्ति के नाम पर बुझाना भारत की उस मूल भावना से विश्वासघात है जिसे इसके संस्थापकों ने बनाया।
- The Constitution does not demand that we all worship the same way.
संविधान यह नहीं मांगता कि हम सब एक ही तरीके से पूजा करें।
- It demands that we are all equal citizens.
यह मांग करता है कि हम सब समान नागरिक हों।
- Those are not the same thing, and no amount of forced standing can make them so.
ये एक ही बात नहीं हैं, और किसी को जबरन खड़ा करने से वे समान नहीं हो जाते।

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Lincoln was elected from the newly formed Republican Party. To which party did he belong before that? **Ans: The Whig Party**

- Lincoln was very good in a contact sport and is enshrined in the Hall of Fame for that sport. Name the sport. **Ans: Wrestling**
 - What is the relevance of the phrase 'You sockdologizing old man-trap' in the life of Lincoln? **Ans: It was the line from 'Our American Cousin' that acted as a cue for John Wilkes Booth to fire the shots at the President**
 - If the famous President's memorial is in Washington DC, where is his resting place? **Ans: Springfield, Illinois**
 - Which national holiday did he establish in 1863 during the Civil War? **Ans: Thanksgiving Day**
 - On May 22, 1849, Lincoln was given Patent No. 6469 and is the only U.S. President to have a patent. What did he devise? **Ans: A buoying vessel to lift boats over shoals**
 - Apart from Kansas, which two States were admitted to the Union during Lincoln's presidency? **Ans: West Virginia and Nevada**
 - What does the landmark 13 Amendment, passed by Congress shortly before Lincoln's death, deal with? **Ans: Abolishment of slavery**
- Visual: Name this legendary English scientist who was born on the same date and year as Lincoln. **Ans: Charles Darwin**

Early Birds: Mohan Lal Patel | Sukdev Shet | Arun Kumar Singh | Dodo Jayaditya | Sadhan Panda

principles, especially opposition to the expansion of slavery and support for national unity, influenced his leadership. Lincoln was elected U.S. President in 1860 as a Republican, guiding the nation through the Civil War and preserving the Union.

Abraham Lincoln and Wrestling

QUIZ

Abraham Lincoln and the Whig Party

Background

Abraham Lincoln began his political career as a member of the Whig Party, one of the major political parties in the United States during the early nineteenth century. The Whig Party supported constitutional governance, economic modernization, banking reforms, and infrastructure development, which shaped Lincoln's early political thinking and leadership style in public life.

Transition and Significance

After the collapse of the Whig Party in the 1850s over the issue of slavery, Lincoln joined the newly formed Republican Party. His earlier Whig



Background

Abraham Lincoln, before becoming the sixteenth President of the United States, was known for his physical strength and athletic ability. During his youth in Illinois, he participated in frontier-style wrestling, a popular contact sport in rural America. Lincoln gained a strong local reputation for his skill, sportsmanship, and remarkable record in wrestling contests among his contemporaries.

Recognition and Significance

Lincoln reportedly won most of his nearly three hundred wrestling matches, losing only once according to historical accounts. In recognition of his achievements, he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1992 under the "Outstanding American" category. His wrestling career contributed to his public image as strong, disciplined, and resilient, qualities later reflected in his leadership.

The Phrase and Lincoln's Assassination

Background

The phrase "You sockdologizing old man-trap" comes from the popular comedy play *Our American Cousin*, performed at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1865. President Abraham Lincoln was attending the play when actor and Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth entered the presidential box during the performance, choosing a dramatic and loud moment in the play to carry out his attack.

Significance

Booth used this humorous line, which provoked loud laughter from the audience, as a cue to fire his pistol at President Lincoln from behind. The noise masked the gunshot, allowing him to escape briefly. Lincoln succumbed to his injuries the next morning, and the incident marked the first assassination of a U.S. President, profoundly shaping American history and national memory.

Abraham Lincoln's Resting Place

Background

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, is memorialized at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., a national symbol honoring his leadership during the Civil War and his role in abolishing slavery. However, after his assassination in April 1865, his body was transported by a special funeral train across several states, allowing millions of Americans to pay their final respects.

Resting Place and Significance

Lincoln was finally laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, the city where he built his political and professional life. His tomb, now part of the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, remains a place of national remembrance and historical importance, visited by people from across the world.

Thanksgiving Day and Abraham Lincoln

Background

During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln sought to promote national unity and gratitude amid conflict and hardship. Influenced by writer Sarah Josepha Hale's campaign for a national thanksgiving observance, Lincoln issued a presidential proclamation in October 1863, designating the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving and praise.

Significance



This proclamation formally established Thanksgiving as a recurring national holiday in the United States. It encouraged citizens to reflect on blessings, express gratitude, and support reconciliation during wartime. The tradition has continued annually, later standardized to the fourth Thursday of November, becoming one of America's most important cultural and national observances.

Abraham Lincoln's Patent – Buoying Vessel

Background

On May 22, 1849, Abraham Lincoln received U.S. Patent No. 6469, becoming the only U.S. President to hold a patent. His invention was designed to help boats navigate shallow waters and obstructions on rivers, reflecting his practical interest in engineering and river transportation, shaped by his experiences traveling on flatboats during his early life.

Invention and Significance

Lincoln devised a system of inflatable bellows attached to a vessel's sides that could be expanded to buoy the boat over shoals and sandbars. Though never commercially built, the design demonstrated innovative thinking and problem solving. The original patent model is preserved at the Smithsonian Institution, symbolizing Lincoln's creativity beyond politics and leadership.

States Admitted During Lincoln's Presidency

Background

During Abraham Lincoln's presidency from 1861 to 1865, the United States was undergoing the Civil War, and the admission of new states was politically significant for strengthening the Union. While Kansas had been admitted shortly before Lincoln took office in 1861, two more states joined the Union during his leadership, reflecting strategic and administrative priorities.

West Virginia and Nevada

West Virginia was admitted in 1863 after separating from Confederate Virginia, supporting the Union cause. Nevada joined in 1864, partly to strengthen Union political support and provide resources such as silver for the war effort. Their admission during wartime demonstrated Lincoln's efforts to preserve national unity and expand the Union despite ongoing conflict.

The Thirteenth Amendment and Abolition of Slavery

Background

The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed by Congress in January 1865, during the final months of the Civil War and shortly before President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. It built upon Lincoln's earlier Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, aiming to permanently end the institution of slavery across the entire nation through constitutional authority.

Significance

The amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime, throughout the United States. Ratified in December 1865, it marked a historic transformation in American society, legally freeing millions of enslaved people. The Thirteenth Amendment became a cornerstone of civil rights, laying the foundation for later constitutional amendments promoting equality and citizenship rights.



GS Paper 1: Geography

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

- In blunt warning, the U.S. says Peru could lose its sovereignty to China**
कड़ी चेतावनी में, अमेरिका ने कहा कि पेरू अपनी संप्रभुता चीन को खो सकता है

LIMA

In blunt warning, the U.S. says Peru could lose its sovereignty to China



GS I: Geography: Mapping

The Trump administration on Wednesday expressed concern that China was costing Peru its sovereignty in solidifying control over the South American nation's critical infrastructure, a blunt warning after a Peruvian court ruling restricted a local regulator's oversight of a Chinese-built mega port. AP

In blunt warning, the U.S. says Peru could lose its sovereignty to China
कड़ी चेतावनी में, अमेरिका ने कहा कि पेरू अपनी संप्रभुता चीन को खो सकता है

- The **Trump administration** on Wednesday expressed concern that **China** was costing **Peru** its sovereignty in solidifying control over the South American nation's critical infrastructure, a blunt warning after a Peruvian court ruling restricted a local regulator's oversight of a Chinese-built mega port.

Trump administration ने बुधवार को चिंता व्यक्त की कि **China** दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश के महत्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढांचे पर नियंत्रण मजबूत करते हुए **Peru** की संप्रभुता को नुकसान पहुँचा रहा है, यह कड़ी चेतावनी एक पेरू की अदालत के फैसले के बाद आई जिसने एक चीनी-निर्मित मेगा पोर्ट पर स्थानीय नियामक की निगरानी को सीमित कर दिया।

GS Paper II: Polity,

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

- Simultaneous polls do not violate Constitution's Basic Structure: Justice Gavai**
समानांतर चुनाव संविधान की मूल संरचना का उल्लंघन नहीं करते: न्यायमूर्ति गवई
- Modi to inaugurate new PMO and Central Secretariat buildings today**
मोदी आज नए पीएमओ और केंद्रीय सचिवालय भवनों का उद्घाटन करेंगे
- Dubey moves Substantive Motion against Rahul in Lower House**
दुबे ने लोकसभा में राहुल के खिलाफ सब्सटैंटिव मोशन पेश किया



Simultaneous polls do not violate Constitution's Basic Structure: Justice Gavai

GS II: Polity

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Simultaneous elections do not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution or its federal framework, former Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai told Parliament's Joint Committee reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which aims to synchronise elections for the Lok Sabha and Assemblies.

At the panel's meeting on Thursday, Justice Gavai said the legislation brings "only a change in the manner of elections once", which does not breach the doctrine. The structure of elections and voter rights remain the same, he noted, and therefore, the amendment would be constitutional. He further explained that it is well within Parliamentary competence to bring in such a law.

Since instruments such as the "no-confidence mo-



B.R. Gavai

tion" remain intact, Justice Gavai said, there is no impact on the accountability of the Union or State governments.

Divided opinions

So far, six former CJs have spoken to the panel.

Two of them – Justices U.U. Lalit and Sanjiv Khanna – have raised questions about the Bill in relation to the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution. Justice Lalit had said that the legislation in its present form will not withstand a legal challenge in the Supreme Court, while Justice Khan-

na said that it is open to question as "violating and offending the basic structure of the Constitution".

However, four of the other former CJs – Justices Ranjan Gogoi, D.Y. Chandrachud, J.S. Khehar, and now, Justice Gavai – told the panel that the Bill does not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024.

Mr. Chaudhary also told presspersons that in Thursday's meeting, several members suggested creating a common electoral roll for panchayat/municipal, Assembly, and national elections.

"Making separate electoral rolls for each of these elections is a tedious task that usually falls on government teachers..." he said.

Simultaneous polls do not violate Constitution's Basic Structure: Justice Gavai

समानांतर चुनाव संविधान की मूल संरचना का उल्लंघन नहीं करते: न्यायमूर्ति गवई

- Simultaneous elections do not violate the **Basic Structure of the Constitution** or its federal framework, former Chief Justice of India **B.R. Gavai** told Parliament's **Joint Committee** reviewing the **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024**, which aims to synchronise elections for the **Lok Sabha** and Assemblies.
समानांतर चुनाव संविधान की मूल संरचना या उसके संघीय ढांचे का उल्लंघन नहीं करते, भारत के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश **बी.आर. गवई** ने संसद की **संयुक्त समिति** को बताया, जो **संविधान (एक सौ उनतीसवां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024** की समीक्षा कर रही है, जिसका उद्देश्य **लोकसभा** और विधानसभाओं के चुनावों को समकालिक करना है।
- At the panel's meeting on Thursday, Justice Gavai said the legislation brings "only a change in the manner of elections once", which does not breach the doctrine.
गुरुवार को पैनल की बैठक में न्यायमूर्ति गवई ने कहा कि यह विधेयक "चुनाव की प्रक्रिया में केवल एक बार बदलाव" लाता है, जो इस सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन नहीं करता।



- The structure of elections and voter rights remain the same, he noted, and therefore, the amendment would be constitutional.
उन्होंने कहा कि चुनावों की संरचना और मतदाता अधिकार समान रहते हैं, और इसलिए यह संशोधन संवैधानिक होगा।
- He further explained that it is well within Parliamentary competence to bring in such a law.
उन्होंने आगे समझाया कि ऐसा कानून लाना संसद की क्षमता के भीतर है।
- Since instruments such as the “no-confidence motion” remain intact, Justice Gavai said, there is no impact on the accountability of the Union or State governments.
न्यायमूर्ति गवई ने कहा कि “अविश्वास प्रस्ताव” जैसे साधन यथावत बने हुए हैं, इसलिए केंद्र या राज्य सरकारों की जवाबदेही पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता।

Divided opinions विभाजित मत

- So far, six former CJIs have spoken to the panel.
अब तक छह पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीशों ने पैनल से बातचीत की है।
- **Two of them — Justices U.U. Lalit and Sanjiv Khanna — have raised questions about the Bill in relation to the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution.**
इनमें से दो — न्यायमूर्ति यू.यू. ललित और संजीव खन्ना — ने भारतीय संविधान की मूल संरचना के संदर्भ में विधेयक पर सवाल उठाए हैं।
- Justice Lalit had said that the legislation in its present form will not withstand a legal challenge in the **Supreme Court**, while Justice Khanna said that it is open to question as “violating and offending the basic structure of the Constitution”.
न्यायमूर्ति ललित ने कहा था कि वर्तमान स्वरूप में यह विधेयक **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में कानूनी चुनौती का सामना नहीं कर पाएगा, जबकि न्यायमूर्ति खन्ना ने कहा कि इसे “संविधान की मूल संरचना का उल्लंघन और अपमान” करने के रूप में प्रश्नांकित किया जा सकता है।
- However, **four of the other former CJIs — Justices Ranjan Gogoi, D.Y. Chandrachud, J.S. Khehar, and now, Justice Gavai — told the panel that the Bill does not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution.**
हालांकि, अन्य चार पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश — न्यायमूर्ति रंजन गोगोई, डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़, जे.एस. खेहर, और अब न्यायमूर्ति गवई — ने पैनल को बताया कि यह विधेयक **संविधान की मूल संरचना** का उल्लंघन नहीं करता।
- The **Parliamentary Joint Committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024.**
बीजेपी सांसद पी.पी. चौधरी की अध्यक्षता वाली **संसदीय संयुक्त समिति संविधान (एक सौ उनतीसवां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024** की समीक्षा कर रही है, जिसे **17 दिसंबर, 2024** को **लोकसभा** में पेश किया गया था।
- Mr. Chaudhary also told presspersons that in Thursday's meeting, several members suggested creating a common electoral roll for **panchayat/municipal, Assembly, and national elections.**
श्री चौधरी ने पत्रकारों से कहा कि गुरुवार की बैठक में कई सदस्यों ने **पंचायत/नगरपालिका, विधानसभा और राष्ट्रीय चुनावों** के लिए एक सामान्य मतदाता सूची बनाने का सुझाव दिया।
- “Making separate electoral rolls for each of these elections is a tedious task that usually falls on government teachers...,” he said.
“इनमें से प्रत्येक चुनाव के लिए अलग-अलग मतदाता सूची बनाना एक कठिन कार्य है, जो आमतौर पर सरकारी शिक्षकों पर आता है...,” उन्होंने कहा।



Modi to inaugurate new PMO and Central Secretariat buildings today

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Friday formally inaugurate the new Prime Minister's Office and the Central Secretariat buildings, and Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2. He will also preside over the last meeting of the Union Cabinet in South Block.

An era will end when the iconic North and South Blocks are vacated. North and South Blocks initially housed the British government, and were taken over by the Indian government in 1947. They were designed by Herbert Baker.

South Block houses the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the offices of the Union Ministries of External Affairs and Defence.



Making history: The last meeting of the Union Cabinet at South Block will be held on Friday. FILE PHOTO

North Block houses the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance.

The Prime Minister's Office will be moved on Friday to the newly built 'Seva Teerth' complex.

'Seva Teerth' will also house the National Security Council Secretariat and

the Cabinet Secretariat, all of which were previously situated across different locations.

Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2 house several key Ministries, including the Ministries of Finance, Defence, Health and Family Welfare, Education, Corporate Af-

fairs, Culture, Law and Justice, Information and Broadcasting, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Tribal Affairs.

Both building complexes feature digitally integrated offices, structured public interface zones, and centralised reception facilities. Designed in accordance with 4-Star GRIHA standards, the complexes incorporate renewable energy systems, water conservation measures, waste management solutions, and high-performance building envelopes.

"The new building complexes address these issues by consolidating administrative functions within modern, future-ready facilities," an official statement said.

Modi to inaugurate new PMO and Central Secretariat buildings today मोदी आज नए पीएमओ और केंद्रीय सचिवालय भवनों का उद्घाटन करेंगे

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will on Friday formally inaugurate the new **Prime Minister's Office** and the **Central Secretariat** buildings, and **Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2**.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शुक्रवार को नए प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय और केंद्रीय सचिवालय भवनों, तथा कर्तव्य भवन 1 और 2 का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करेंगे।
- He will also preside over the last meeting of the **Union Cabinet** in **South Block**.
वह साउथ ब्लॉक में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की अंतिम बैठक की भी अध्यक्षता करेंगे।
- An era will end when the iconic **North and South Blocks** are vacated.
जब प्रतिष्ठित नॉर्थ और साउथ ब्लॉक्स खाली किए जाएंगे तो एक युग का अंत होगा।
- North and South Blocks initially housed the **British government**, and were taken over by the **Indian government** in 1947.
नॉर्थ और साउथ ब्लॉक्स में प्रारंभ में ब्रिटिश सरकार का कार्यालय था, और 1947 में इन्हें भारतीय सरकार ने अपने अधीन ले लिया।
- They were designed by **Herbert Baker**.
इनका डिज़ाइन हर्बर्ट बेकर द्वारा किया गया था।
- South Block houses the **Prime Minister's Office**, as well as the offices of the **Union Ministries of External Affairs and Defence**.
साउथ ब्लॉक में प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय के साथ-साथ विदेश मंत्रालय और रक्षा मंत्रालय के कार्यालय स्थित हैं।



- North Block houses the **Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance**.
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक में गृह मंत्रालय और वित्त मंत्रालय स्थित हैं।
- The Prime Minister's Office will be moved on Friday to the newly built '**Seva Teerth**' complex.
प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय को शुक्रवार को नव निर्मित 'सेवा तीर्थ' परिसर में स्थानांतरित किया जाएगा।
- 'Seva Teerth' will also house the **National Security Council Secretariat** and the **Cabinet Secretariat**, all of which were previously situated across different locations.
'सेवा तीर्थ' में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद सचिवालय और मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय भी होंगे, जो पहले अलग-अलग स्थानों पर स्थित थे।
- **Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2** house several key Ministries, including the **Ministries of Finance, Defence, Health and Family Welfare, Education, Corporate Affairs, Culture, Law and Justice, Information and Broadcasting, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Tribal Affairs**.
कर्तव्य भवन 1 और 2 में कई प्रमुख मंत्रालय स्थित हैं, जिनमें वित्त, रक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण, शिक्षा, कॉर्पोरेट कार्य, संस्कृति, विधि और न्याय, सूचना और प्रसारण, कृषि और किसान कल्याण, रसायन और उर्वरक, तथा जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय शामिल हैं।
- Both building complexes feature **digitally integrated offices**, structured **public interface zones**, and **centralised reception facilities**.
दोनों भवन परिसरों में डिजिटली एकीकृत कार्यालय, संरचित जन संपर्क क्षेत्र, और केंद्रीकृत स्वागत सुविधाएँ हैं।
- Designed in accordance with **4-Star GRIHA standards**, the complexes incorporate **renewable energy systems, water conservation measures, waste management solutions, and high-performance building envelopes**.
4-स्टार GRIHA मानकों के अनुरूप डिज़ाइन किए गए इन परिसरों में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रणालियाँ, जल संरक्षण उपाय, कचरा प्रबंधन समाधान, और उच्च-प्रदर्शन भवन आवरण शामिल हैं।
- "The new building complexes address these issues by consolidating administrative functions within modern, future-ready facilities," an official statement said.
"नए भवन परिसर आधुनिक, भविष्य-उन्मुख सुविधाओं के भीतर प्रशासनिक कार्यों को समेकित कर इन मुद्दों का समाधान करते हैं," एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया।



Dubey moves Substantive Motion against Rahul in Lower House

GS II: Polity
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday said he had initiated a **Substantive Motion** against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for allegedly being “hand in glove” with “anti-national” forces.

A Substantive Motion is an independent, self-contained proposal submitted for the approval of a Legislative House or Assembly, drafted to express a decision or opinion. The motion entails a debate followed by a compulsory vote if the notice is accepted and the motion is moved.

Mr. Dubey’s remarks during Zero Hour that he has submitted a notice for the substantive motion led to a furore in the House, leading to adjournment for the day.

The Substantive Motion comes a day after Mr. Gandhi tore into the India-



Nishikant Dubey says he initiated a Substantive Motion against Rahul Gandhi for being ‘hand in glove’ with ‘anti-national’ forces. ANI

The motion follows Rahul Gandhi’s criticism of the India-U.S. interim trade agreement

U.S. interim trade deal, accusing the government of compromising national interests.

Many parts of his speech were expunged from the records, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren

Rijiju said that the ruling side would move a Privilege Motion against the Congress leader.

On Thursday though, government sources said there had been no decision on moving such a motion and instead it would seek removal from the records of more words and lines from the speech that Mr. Gandhi has not authenticated so far.

In the Lok Sabha, Mr. Dubey said that he men-

tioned in the notice that Mr. Gandhi has engaged with the Soros Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and USAID, and has travelled to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the U.S. to engage in “anti-India” activities.

The notice said that Mr. Gandhi, with the help of the foreign organisations, has “very cleverly” been able to “capture the most pious dais of Parliament to foment public sentiments, levelling unsubstantiated allegations not only against the Election Commission but even the Supreme Court, lowering the dignity of the government without any substantive evidence and putting various other institutions in bad light.

Speaking to the media outside the House, Mr. Dubey said he had demanded the cancellation of Mr. Gandhi’s membership. “He should be debarred from contesting the election for lifetime,” the BJP leader said.

Dubey moves Substantive Motion against Rahul in Lower House दुबे ने लोकसभा में राहुल के खिलाफ सब्सटैटिव मोशन पेश किया

- **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey** on Thursday said he had initiated a **Substantive Motion** against **Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi** for allegedly being “hand in glove” with “anti-national” forces.
भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) सांसद निशिकांत दुबे ने गुरुवार को कहा कि उन्होंने **लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी** के खिलाफ कथित रूप से “राष्ट्र-विरोधी” ताकतों के साथ “मिलीभगत” के आरोप में एक **सब्सटैटिव मोशन** शुरू किया है।
- A **Substantive Motion** is an independent, self-contained proposal submitted for the approval of a **Legislative House or Assembly**, drafted to express a decision or opinion.
सब्सटैटिव मोशन एक स्वतंत्र, स्व-निहित प्रस्ताव होता है जिसे किसी **विधान सदन या विधानसभा** की स्वीकृति के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, जो किसी निर्णय या राय को व्यक्त करने के लिए तैयार किया जाता है।
- The motion entails a debate followed by a compulsory vote if the notice is accepted and the motion is moved.
यदि नोटिस स्वीकार कर लिया जाता है और प्रस्ताव पेश किया जाता है, तो इस मोशन में बहस के बाद अनिवार्य मतदान शामिल होता है।
- Mr. Dubey’s remarks during **Zero Hour** that he has submitted a notice for the substantive motion led to a furore in the House, leading to adjournment for the day.
शून्य काल (Zero Hour) के दौरान श्री दुबे की यह टिप्पणी कि उन्होंने सब्सटैटिव मोशन के लिए नोटिस दिया है, सदन में हंगामे का कारण बनी, जिससे दिन भर के लिए स्थगन करना पड़ा।
- The **Substantive Motion** comes a day after Mr. Gandhi tore into the **India-U.S. interim trade deal**, accusing the government of compromising national interests.



यह **सब्सटैटिव मोशन** एक दिन बाद आया जब श्री गांधी ने **भारत-अमेरिका अंतरिम व्यापार समझौते** पर तीखा हमला करते हुए सरकार पर राष्ट्रीय हितों से समझौता करने का आरोप लगाया।

- Many parts of his speech were expunged from the records, and **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju** said that the ruling side would move a **Privilege Motion** against the Congress leader.
उनके भाषण के कई हिस्सों को अभिलेख से हटा दिया गया, और **संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरन रिजिजू** ने कहा कि सत्तापक्ष कांग्रेस नेता के खिलाफ **विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव (प्रिविलेज मोशन)** लाएगा।
- On Thursday though, government sources said there had been no decision on moving such a motion and instead it would seek removal from the records of more words and lines from the speech that Mr. Gandhi has not authenticated so far.
हालांकि गुरुवार को, सरकारी सूत्रों ने कहा कि ऐसे किसी प्रस्ताव को लाने पर कोई निर्णय नहीं हुआ है और इसके बजाय वे भाषण के उन और शब्दों तथा पंक्तियों को अभिलेख से हटाने की मांग करेंगे जिन्हें अब तक श्री गांधी ने प्रमाणित नहीं किया है।
- In the **Lok Sabha**, Mr. Dubey said that he mentioned in the notice that Mr. Gandhi has engaged with the **Soros Foundation**, the **Ford Foundation**, and **USAID**, and has travelled to **Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the U.S.** to engage in “anti-India” activities.
लोकसभा में, श्री दुबे ने कहा कि उन्होंने नोटिस में उल्लेख किया है कि श्री गांधी ने **सोरस फाउंडेशन, फोर्ड फाउंडेशन, और यूएसएआईडी (USAID)** के साथ संपर्क किया है, और “भारत-विरोधी” गतिविधियों में शामिल होने के लिए **थाईलैंड, कंबोडिया, वियतनाम, और अमेरिका** की यात्रा की है।
- The notice said that Mr. Gandhi, with the help of the foreign organisations, has “very cleverly” been able to “capture the most pious dais of Parliament to foment public sentiments, levelling unsubstantiated allegations not only against the **Election Commission** but even the **Supreme Court**, lowering the dignity of the government without any substantive evidence and putting various other institutions in bad light.
नोटिस में कहा गया है कि श्री गांधी ने विदेशी संगठनों की मदद से “बहुत चतुराई से” “संसद के सबसे पवित्र मंच पर कब्जा कर जनभावनाओं को भड़काने, केवल **चुनाव आयोग** ही नहीं बल्कि **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के खिलाफ भी निराधार आरोप लगाने, बिना किसी ठोस साक्ष्य के सरकार की गरिमा को कम करने और अन्य विभिन्न संस्थानों को खराब रोशनी में प्रस्तुत करने” का कार्य किया है।
- Speaking to the media outside the House, Mr. Dubey said he had demanded the cancellation of Mr. Gandhi’s membership.
सदन के बाहर मीडिया से बात करते हुए, श्री दुबे ने कहा कि उन्होंने श्री गांधी की सदस्यता रद्द करने की मांग की है।
- “He should be debarred from contesting the election for lifetime,” the **BJP** leader said.
“उन्हें आजीवन चुनाव लड़ने से वंचित किया जाना चाहिए,” **भाजपा** नेता ने कहा।

GS Paper II: Governance,

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

1. **T.N. can have two members on panel to choose DGP: SC**
डीजीपी चयन पैनल में तमिलनाडु के दो सदस्य हो सकते हैं: सुप्रीम कोर्ट
2. **Too fake to be good**
इतना नकली कि अच्छा नहीं



T.N. can have two members on panel to choose DGP: SC

GS II: Governance

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday underscored that Tamil Nadu must have full and due representation on the empanelment committee of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) set to recommend a regular police chief for the State.

The order by a Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, ensured that States' representation is not undercut in the selection of their police chiefs. The committee comprises the UPSC Chairperson or his nominee, the Union Home Secretary or his nominee, the Chief Secretary of the State concerned, the incumbent DGP, and an officer nominated by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In Tamil Nadu's case, the last regular DGP, Shankar Jiwai, had retired on August 31 last year. The State had appointed G. Venkataraman as the DGP in-charge. However, Mr. Venkataraman is also one of the candidates in the running for the post. Tamil Nadu had written to the UPSC to allow the Additional Chief Secretary to come in place of the DGP on the empanelment committee, as Mr. Venkataraman could not sit on a selection panel

when he himself was a candidate in the reckoning.

The UPSC rejected the State's request and convened a meeting in September last year, in which Mr. Venkataraman did not participate on the principle that "no one can be a judge of his own cause", though the Chief Secretary did attend.

In its application before the Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate P. Wilson and advocate Sabarish Subramaniam, contested the UPSC's stand.

Mr. Wilson argued that the UPSC's refusal to accommodate the alternative choice of Additional Chief Secretary had deprived Tamil Nadu of its rightful number of representatives on the committee.

The court agreed with Tamil Nadu that the slot of DGP in the panel should not remain vacant merely because the acting DGP was also a candidate in the zone of consideration. "Such a situation cannot lead to a reduction of representation for Tamil Nadu in the selection committee. Like States, Tamil Nadu is also entitled to two representatives – the Chief Secretary and a substitute for the acting DGP [Mr. Venkataraman]," Chief Justice Surya Kant observed.

he himself was a candidate in the reckoning.

तमिलनाडु ने UPSC को लिखा था कि पैनल समिति में डीजीपी के स्थान पर अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव को शामिल करने की अनुमति दी जाए, क्योंकि श्री वेंकटरमन स्वयं उम्मीदवार होने के कारण चयन पैनल में नहीं बैठ सकते थे।

- The UPSC rejected the State's request and convened a meeting in **September** last year, in which Mr. Venkataraman did not participate on the principle that "no one can be a judge of his own cause", though the Chief Secretary did attend. UPSC ने राज्य के अनुरोध को अस्वीकार कर दिया और पिछले वर्ष **सितंबर** में बैठक बुलाई, जिसमें श्री वेंकटरमन ने "कोई भी अपने ही मामले में न्यायाधीश नहीं हो सकता" सिद्धांत के आधार पर भाग नहीं लिया, हालांकि मुख्य सचिव उपस्थित थे।
- In its application before the **Supreme Court**, Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate **P. Wilson** and advocate **Sabarish Subramaniam**, contested the UPSC's stand.

T.N. can have two members on panel to choose DGP: SC

डीजीपी चयन पैनल में तमिलनाडु के दो सदस्य हो सकते हैं: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

• The **Supreme Court** on Thursday underscored that **Tamil Nadu** must have full and due representation on the empanelment committee of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** set to recommend a regular police chief for the State.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को रेखांकित किया कि **तमिलनाडु** को राज्य के नियमित पुलिस प्रमुख की सिफारिश करने वाली **संघ लोक सेवा आयोग (UPSC)** की पैनल समिति में पूर्ण और उचित प्रतिनिधित्व मिलना चाहिए।

• The order by a Bench, headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant**, ensured that States' representation is not undercut in the selection of their police chiefs.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ के आदेश ने सुनिश्चित किया कि राज्यों के पुलिस प्रमुखों के चयन में उनका प्रतिनिधित्व कम न किया जाए।

• The committee comprises the **UPSC Chairperson** or his nominee, the **Union Home Secretary** or his nominee, the **Chief Secretary of the State concerned**, the incumbent **DGP**, and an officer nominated by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

समिति में **UPSC अध्यक्ष** या उनके नामित प्रतिनिधि, **केंद्रीय गृह सचिव** या उनके नामित प्रतिनिधि, संबंधित राज्य के **मुख्य सचिव**, वर्तमान **डीजीपी**, और **गृह मंत्रालय** द्वारा नामित एक अधिकारी शामिल होते हैं।

• In **Tamil Nadu's case**, the last regular **DGP, Shankar Jiwai**, had retired on **August 31** last year.

तमिलनाडु के मामले में, अंतिम नियमित **डीजीपी शंकर जीवाल** ने पिछले वर्ष **31 अगस्त** को सेवानिवृत्ति ली थी।

• The State had appointed **G. Venkataraman** as the DGP in-charge.

राज्य ने **जी. वेंकटरमन** को प्रभारी डीजीपी नियुक्त किया था।

• However, Mr. Venkataraman is also one of the candidates in the running for the post.

हालांकि, श्री वेंकटरमन भी इस पद के लिए दावेदारों में से एक हैं।

• Tamil Nadu had written to the **UPSC** to allow the **Additional Chief Secretary** to come in place of the DGP on the empanelment committee, as Mr. Venkataraman could not sit on a selection panel when



सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपनी याचिका में, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **पी. विल्सन** और अधिवक्ता **सबरीश सुब्रमणियम** द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व किए गए तमिलनाडु ने UPSC के रुख को चुनौती दी।

- Mr. Wilson argued that the UPSC's refusal to accommodate the alternative choice of Additional Chief Secretary had deprived Tamil Nadu of its rightful number of representatives on the committee.

श्री विल्सन ने तर्क दिया कि अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव के वैकल्पिक विकल्प को स्वीकार न करने से UPSC ने तमिलनाडु को समिति में उसके वैध प्रतिनिधियों की संख्या से वंचित कर दिया।

- The court agreed with **Tamil Nadu** that the slot of **DGP** in the panel should not remain vacant merely because the acting DGP was also a candidate in the zone of consideration.

अदालत ने **तमिलनाडु** से सहमति जताई कि पैनल में **डीजीपी** का स्थान केवल इस कारण खाली नहीं रहना चाहिए कि कार्यवाहक डीजीपी भी विचाराधीन उम्मीदवार हैं।

- "Such a situation cannot lead to a reduction of representation for Tamil Nadu in the selection committee. Like States, Tamil Nadu is also entitled to two representatives — the Chief Secretary and a substitute for the acting DGP [Mr. Venkataraman]," **Chief Justice Surya Kant** observed.

"ऐसी स्थिति चयन समिति में तमिलनाडु के प्रतिनिधित्व में कमी का कारण नहीं बन सकती। अन्य राज्यों की तरह, तमिलनाडु भी दो प्रतिनिधियों — मुख्य सचिव और कार्यवाहक डीजीपी [श्री वेंकटरमन] के स्थानापन्न — का हकदार है," **मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत** ने टिप्पणी की।

PATRIOTIC IAS



GS II: Governance

Too fake to be good

Labelling of synthetically generated content on social media is a must

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, add a critical requirement for social media platforms: AI-generated imagery must now be labelled prominently. Since the draft rules were released in October, there have been some improvements in this mandate: it is no longer prescribing a set size for such a disclosure, nor is it applicable to any AI-generated imagery that does not seek to pass off as the real thing. AI-generated imagery has flooded users' feeds and they have a right to know that this imagery is not real. The requirement that users declare synthetically generated content as such is welcome. As India approaches the AI Impact Summit with a stated intent to regulate AI only insofar as necessary, the requirement shows considerable restraint. Since the technology for creating synthetic imagery is rapidly evolving, the government will, however, have to revisit parts of the Rules that impose proactive detection of synthetic content by platforms – after all, while tech platforms are generally able to detect synthetic media automatically, this capability is constantly challenged by the billions of dollars being invested into ironing out the flaws that these detection mechanisms rely upon.

What is problematic is the government's insertion – with absolutely no public forewarning – of reducing the timelines for taking down content under the Rules to a mere two or three hours. Reducing such compliance timelines creates one of two incentives for social media platforms: either have empowered representatives at all times who can appropriately weigh the merits of a take-down notice and balance it against freedom of expression; or implement a take-down-and-ask-questions-later approach. Any delay would implicate firms in court by removing their safe harbour, an outcome they understandably wish to avoid. This shortening applies to all platforms, adding a barrier of entry to a space that should be open to constant challengers in an open Internet. This shorter timeline was not indicated in October, and since comments are not public, there is no way to confirm if all interests were properly considered.. The lack of open consultation is a particularly pressing issue when the main stakeholders are hyperscalers with hundreds of billions of dollars in planned investments over the years ahead. Their views need to be open to scrutiny, as must the deliberations their inputs lead to. The IT Rules remain contested in multiple court cases, and it is inappropriate to make sudden changes to social media governance that may have ramifications for the freedom of expression without parliamentary debate.

mechanisms rely upon.

चूँकि कृत्रिम छवि बनाने की तकनीक तेजी से विकसित हो रही है, सरकार को उन नियमों के हिस्सों की समीक्षा करनी होगी जो प्लेटफॉर्म द्वारा कृत्रिम सामग्री की सक्रिय पहचान लागू करते हैं — क्योंकि यद्यपि तकनीकी प्लेटफॉर्म आमतौर पर कृत्रिम मीडिया का स्वतः पता लगा लेते हैं, यह क्षमता उन अरबों डॉलर के निवेश से लगातार चुनौती में है जो पहचान तंत्र की कमजोरियों को दूर करने में लगाए जा रहे हैं।

Too fake to be good इतना नकली कि अच्छा नहीं

• Labelling of synthetically generated content on social media is a must
सोशल मीडिया पर कृत्रिम रूप से निर्मित सामग्री की लेबलिंग अनिवार्य है

• The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, add a critical requirement for social media platforms: AI-generated imagery must now be labelled prominently.

सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यस्थ दिशानिर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया आचार संहिता) संशोधन नियम, 2026 सामाजिक मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता जोड़ते हैं: AI-जनित छवियों को अब स्पष्ट रूप से लेबल करना अनिवार्य होगा।

• Since the draft rules were released in October, there have been some improvements in this mandate: it is no longer prescribing a set size for such a disclosure, nor is it applicable to any AI-generated imagery that does not seek to pass off as the real thing.

जब अक्टूबर में मसौदा नियम जारी किए गए, तब से इस प्रावधान में कुछ सुधार हुए हैं: अब ऐसे प्रकटीकरण के लिए निश्चित आकार निर्धारित नहीं है, और यह उन AI-जनित छवियों पर लागू नहीं है जो वास्तविक जैसी दिखने का प्रयास नहीं करतीं।

• AI-generated imagery has flooded users' feeds and they have a right to know that this imagery is not real.

AI-जनित छवियों ने उपयोगकर्ताओं की फीड भर दी हैं और उन्हें यह जानने का अधिकार है कि यह छवि वास्तविक नहीं है।

• The requirement that users declare synthetically generated content as such is welcome.

उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा कृत्रिम रूप से उत्पन्न सामग्री को उसी रूप में घोषित करने की आवश्यकता स्वागत योग्य है।

• As India approaches the AI Impact Summit with a stated intent to regulate AI only insofar as necessary, the requirement shows considerable restraint.

जैसे-जैसे भारत AI Impact Summit की ओर बढ़ रहा है और केवल आवश्यक सीमा तक AI को विनियमित करने का इरादा रखता है, यह प्रावधान उल्लेखनीय संयम दर्शाता है।

• Since the technology for creating synthetic imagery is rapidly evolving, the government will, however, have to revisit parts of the Rules that impose proactive detection of synthetic content by platforms — after all, while tech platforms are generally able to detect synthetic media automatically, this capability is constantly challenged by the billions of dollars being invested into ironing out the flaws that these detection



What is problematic क्या समस्या है

- What is problematic is the government's insertion — with **absolutely no public forewarning** — of reducing the timelines for taking down content under the Rules to a mere **two or three hours**.
समस्या यह है कि सरकार ने बिना किसी सार्वजनिक पूर्व सूचना के नियमों के तहत सामग्री हटाने की समयसीमा घटाकर केवल दो या तीन घंटे कर दी है।
- Reducing such **compliance timelines** creates one of two incentives for social media platforms: either have **empowered representatives at all times** who can appropriately weigh the merits of a takedown notice and balance it against **freedom of expression**; or implement a **take-down-and-ask-questions-later approach**.
ऐसी अनुपालन समयसीमा घटाने से सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के लिए दो विकल्प बनते हैं: या तो हमेशा सशक्त प्रतिनिधि उपलब्ध रखें जो हटाने के नोटिस के गुण-दोष का आकलन कर अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के साथ संतुलन बनाएँ; या पहले हटाओ, बाद में पूछो दृष्टिकोण अपनाएँ।
- Any delay would implicate firms in court by removing their **safe harbour**, an outcome they understandably wish to avoid.
किसी भी देरी से कंपनियों का सेफ हार्बर हट सकता है और वे अदालत में फंस सकती हैं, जिसे वे स्वाभाविक रूप से टालना चाहती हैं।
- This shortening applies to **all platforms**, adding a **barrier of entry** to a space that should be open to constant challengers in an **open Internet**.
यह कमी सभी प्लेटफॉर्म पर लागू होती है और खुले इंटरनेट में नए प्रतिस्पर्धियों के लिए प्रवेश बाधा पैदा करती है।
- This shorter timeline was **not indicated in October**, and since comments are not public, there is no way to confirm if **all interests were properly considered**.
यह छोटी समयसीमा अक्टूबर में संकेतित नहीं थी, और चूंकि टिप्पणियाँ सार्वजनिक नहीं हैं, यह पुष्टि करने का कोई तरीका नहीं है कि सभी हितों पर उचित विचार किया गया।
- The **lack of open consultation** is a particularly pressing issue when the main stakeholders are **hyperscalers with hundreds of billions of dollars in planned investments** over the years ahead.
खुली परामर्श की कमी विशेष रूप से गंभीर मुद्दा है जब मुख्य हितधारक सैकड़ों अरब डॉलर के नियोजित निवेश वाले हाइपरस्केलर हैं।
- Their views need to be **open to scrutiny**, as must the deliberations their inputs lead to.
उनके विचारों को सार्वजनिक जांच के लिए खुला होना चाहिए, और उनके सुझावों से होने वाली चर्चाएँ भी।
- The **IT Rules remain contested in multiple court cases**, and it is inappropriate to make sudden changes to social media governance that may have ramifications for **freedom of expression without parliamentary debate**.
आईटी नियम कई अदालती मामलों में विवादित बने हुए हैं, और बिना संसदीय बहस के अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर प्रभाव डालने वाले सोशल मीडिया शासन में अचानक बदलाव करना अनुचित है।

GS Paper II:

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

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| 1. | As multilateralism erodes, India must reframe its foreign policy
जैसे-जैसे बहुपक्षवाद कमजोर हो रहा है, भारत को अपनी विदेश नीति को पुनर्गठित करना चाहिए |
| 2. | 'India's Neighbourhood First policy has largely failed; ties have taken a hit'
'भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति काफी हद तक विफल रही; संबंधों को झटका लगा है' |



GETTY IMAGES

As multilateralism erodes, India must reframe its foreign policy

Multilateral structures and international institutions are withering away as power politics and transactional relationships reshape the new world order; India must reframe foreign policy beyond strategic autonomy, build endogenous capabilities, diversify trade, and pursue Viksit Bharat 2047

GS II: IR
Mukul Sanwal

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally acknowledged the new world order. The hard part is to formulate a new national identity and approach to international relations.

Eroding multilateralism

India's leadership of the Global South at the United Nations General Assembly was the foundation of its long-standing foreign policy of 'strategic autonomy'. The global rules agreed in the UN established by former colonial powers led by the U.S. served their interests in the post-colonial world. India's Oxbridge-educated diplomats had unquestioned leadership in the UN negotiating text on principles and rules, successfully diverting pressure on poor countries. Climate negotiations ending in 1992 were left entirely to India by the Global South.

However, China's rise around 2010, through the creation of alternative funding, economic and security institutions, impacted the intellectual leadership position of India and also changed the UN irreversibly. China heads four principal UN agencies, and its aid volumes exceed those of the West. The U.S., now unable to manage the UN process, has withdrawn from 31 UN institutions.

In 1986, the U.S. launched the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, leading to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, where developing countries' interests became more differentiated, and India struggled to secure its interests. In a more equal world, since 2019, the U.S. has rejected the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO, making it dysfunctional and reverting to unilateral tariffs. China, in contrast, has diversified

its exports away from the U.S. and is now the largest trading partner of 120 countries.

The problem India faces is not from the rise of China. While the EU and Canada acknowledge the collapse of the multilateral structures, developing countries are wondering how to revive them. With the potential to become the world's third-largest economy, India is particularly impacted in the U.S.-dominated world of transactional relationships, even willing to discard NATO.

The evolution of strategic autonomy

First, leadership of the Global South gave India outsized influence and now where do you speak for developing countries when international institutions and law have withered away? The U.S. and China are competing for technological dominance, not votes in the UN.

Second, 'strategic autonomy' applied to the Cold War when India led the Non-Aligned Movement. It lost relevance after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and gradually became a self-declared identity used to rationalise foreign policy choices. India joined the U.S.-led rejuvenated Quad in 2017 and then chose the Russian S-400 missile system over the U.S. Patriot system in 2018.

The reality is that India gravitated towards the Soviet Union after its 1951 veto prevented discussion of Kashmir in the UN Security Council. Russia remains India's only long-trusted partner giving cutting-edge military technology, which the U.S. is chipping away at testing India's resolve to remain a third pole in a multipolar world.

Third, with China's rise, U.S. analysts began describing India not as strategically autonomous but as a "swing state." The current U.S. military strategy rejects

containment of China.

Power politics

The major scope of international relations, outside of alliances, was within multilateral institutions which has now returned to asymmetric relations. Reciprocity in tariffs is redefined as "America first", implying others are in a subordinate relationship. Under the India-U.S. Framework Agreement, India has agreed to double imports, largely industrial products, while the U.S. continues an 18% tariff, unilaterally deciding reductions clearly after further concessions. The EU trade agreement eliminated 70% tariff lines with phased reciprocal reductions.

The real question for India is why it was targeted by the U.S. tariffs and how to grow in a world marked by flux.

The U.S. is determined to prevent the rise of another China and India alone has the potential to overtake the U.S. China exploited multilateral rules to become a fiercely independent global manufacturing power and that opportunity no longer exists. The long-term U.S. policy of keeping India apart from Russia and China has now gained greater force and blunting it will test Indian diplomacy.

Reframing foreign policy

India's comparative advantage lies in its young population; nearly half of Silicon Valley's workforce traces its roots to India. Building and attracting that talent can develop the capability to become a 'cyber superpower', spreading AI across security, manufacturing and services to secure development space.

To achieve this, India needs good economic and technological relations with the U.S., Russia, and China, Free Trade Agreements (FTA), and,

importantly foreign policy replacing 'strategic autonomy' with 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

First, taking a leaf from China and the U.S. in the early 1900s, India should bide its time, maintain a low international profile and develop endogenous capabilities, requiring a diplomatic posture to accelerate the Asian Century and a passive role in all other regions.

Second, India must prioritise trade diplomacy by diversifying exports away from the U.S., even as vulnerabilities remain in bilateral relationships. Now that India is open to industrial imports, the push for FTAs must continue with Asia, soon to have two-thirds of global wealth, and Africa, the fastest-growing continent.

Third, India should create new technological, cyber and space relations with Russia, its steadfast and tested partner, now more an Asian than European power. It should also enable China to invest in infrastructure and partner manufacturing, with safeguards, to take advantage of trade opportunities and accelerate growth.

Fourth, India should treat relations with Pakistan as a foreign policy issue rather than a security challenge. A new water-sharing arrangement incorporating the needs of the Kashmir Valley, revival of the Iran-Pakistan-India Peace Pipeline with Pakistan benefiting from transit fees, and even a trade agreement could create economic incentives.

Lastly, as chair of BRICS, India has an opportunity to articulate its new foreign policy by building consensus on repositioning BRICS as an economic cooperation community, not a political multilateral body. Linking official digital currencies to make cross-border trade, repatriation and tourism payments smoother will be a good first step. (Mukul Sanwal is a former UN diplomat)

As multilateralism erodes, India must reframe its foreign policy

जैसे-जैसे बहुपक्षवाद कमजोर हो रहा है, भारत को अपनी विदेश नीति को पुनर्गठित करना चाहिए

- **Multilateral structures and international institutions are withering away as power politics and transactional relationships reshape the new world order; India must reframe foreign policy beyond strategic autonomy, build endogenous capabilities, diversify trade, and pursue Viksit Bharat 2047**

बहुपक्षीय संरचनाएँ और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाएँ कमजोर हो रही हैं क्योंकि शक्ति राजनीति और लेन-देन आधारित संबंध नए विश्व व्यवस्था को आकार दे रहे हैं; भारत को रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता से आगे बढ़कर अपनी विदेश नीति का पुनर्गठन करना चाहिए, आंतरिक क्षमताएँ विकसित करनी चाहिए, व्यापार का विविधीकरण करना चाहिए और विकसित भारत 2047 का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना चाहिए



New world order and India's strategic autonomy

नई विश्व व्यवस्था और भारत की सामरिक स्वायत्तता

- Speaking in the **Rajya Sabha**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** formally acknowledged the **new world order**.
राज्यसभा में बोलते हुए **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने औपचारिक रूप से **नई विश्व व्यवस्था** को स्वीकार किया।



- The hard part is to formulate a **new national identity** and approach to **international relations**.
कठिन भाग है नई राष्ट्रीय पहचान और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों के प्रति दृष्टिकोण तैयार करना।

Eroding multilateralism क्षीण होता बहुपक्षवाद

- India's leadership of the **Global South at the UN General Assembly** was the foundation of its foreign policy of **strategic autonomy**.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में ग्लोबल साउथ के नेतृत्व ने भारत की सामरिक स्वायत्तता आधारित विदेश नीति की नींव रखी।
- Global rules agreed in the **UN**, led by former colonial powers headed by the **U.S.**, served their interests in the post-colonial world.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र में बने वैश्विक नियम, जिनका नेतृत्व अमेरिका सहित पूर्व उपनिवेशवादी शक्तियों ने किया, उन्होंने उपनिवेशोत्तर दुनिया में उनके हित साधे।
- India's **Oxbridge-educated diplomats** led UN negotiating texts, diverting pressure on **poor countries**.
भारत के ऑक्सब्रिज शिक्षित राजनयिकों ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र वार्ताओं में गरीब देशों पर दबाव को मोड़ा।
- Climate negotiations ending in 1992** were left entirely to India by the **Global South**.
1992 में समाप्त जलवायु वार्ताएँ पूरी तरह ग्लोबल साउथ ने भारत पर छोड़ दी थीं।
- China's rise around **2010** through alternative **funding, economic and security institutions** changed the UN and weakened India's intellectual leadership.
लगभग 2010 के आसपास चीन के वैकल्पिक वित्तीय, आर्थिक और सुरक्षा संस्थानों के माध्यम से उदय ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र को बदला और भारत के बौद्धिक नेतृत्व को कमजोर किया।
- China heads **four principal UN agencies** and its **aid volumes exceed the West**.
चीन चार प्रमुख संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसियों का नेतृत्व करता है और उसकी सहायता मात्रा पश्चिम से अधिक है।
- The **U.S.** has withdrawn from **31 UN institutions**.
अमेरिका 31 संयुक्त राष्ट्र संस्थाओं से बाहर हो चुका है।
- In 1986, the U.S. launched the Uruguay Round, creating the WTO in 1995, where India struggled to secure interests.**
1986 में अमेरिका ने उरुग्वे दौर शुरू किया जिससे 1995 में WTO बना, जहाँ भारत अपने हित सुरक्षित करने में संघर्ष करता रहा।
- Since 2019, the U.S. rejected the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, making it dysfunctional and reverting to unilateral tariffs.**
2019 से अमेरिका ने WTO विवाद निपटान तंत्र को अस्वीकार कर दिया, जिससे यह निष्क्रिय हुआ और एकतरफा शुल्क लागू हुए।
- China is now the **largest trading partner of 120 countries**.
चीन अब 120 देशों का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार है।
- India's challenge is not China's rise but the **collapse of multilateral structures** in a **U.S.-dominated transactional world**.
भारत की चुनौती चीन का उदय नहीं बल्कि अमेरिका-प्रधान लेन-देन आधारित दुनिया में बहुपक्षीय ढांचे का पतन है।

The evolution of strategic autonomy सामरिक स्वायत्तता का विकास

- Leadership of the **Global South** once gave India outsized influence, but now **international institutions and law have withered**.
ग्लोबल साउथ का नेतृत्व कभी भारत को बड़ा प्रभाव देता था, पर अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाएँ और कानून कमजोर हो गए हैं।
- The **U.S. and China** now compete for **technological dominance**, not UN votes.
अब अमेरिका और चीन तकनीकी प्रभुत्व के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे हैं, संयुक्त राष्ट्र वोटों के लिए नहीं।
- 'Strategic autonomy' applied during the **Cold War** when India led the **Non-Aligned Movement**.
शीत युद्ध के दौरान भारत के गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन नेतृत्व में सामरिक स्वायत्तता लागू थी।



- It lost relevance after the **1991 collapse of the Soviet Union**.
1991 में सोवियत संघ के पतन के बाद इसका महत्व घट गया।
- **India joined the U.S.-led Quad in 2017 and chose Russian S-400 over U.S. Patriot in 2018.**
भारत ने **2017 में अमेरिकी नेतृत्व वाले क्वाड** में प्रवेश किया और **2018 में अमेरिकी पैट्रियट की बजाय रूसी S-400** चुना।
- **India gravitated towards the Soviet Union after its 1951 veto on Kashmir in the UN Security Council.**
भारत **1951 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में कश्मीर पर सोवियत वीटो** के बाद सोवियत संघ की ओर झुका।
- Russia remains India's **long-trusted partner providing cutting-edge military technology**.
रूस भारत का **दीर्घकालिक विश्वसनीय साझेदार** बना हुआ है जो **उन्नत सैन्य तकनीक** प्रदान करता है।
- The U.S. is testing India's resolve to remain a **third pole in a multipolar world**.
अमेरिका भारत की **बहुध्रुवीय दुनिया में तीसरा ध्रुव बने रहने की प्रतिबद्धता** को परख रहा है।
- With China's rise, U.S. analysts call India a **"swing state"** rather than strategically autonomous.
चीन के उदय के बाद अमेरिकी विश्लेषक भारत को **"स्विंग स्टेट"** कहते हैं, न कि सामरिक रूप से स्वायत्त।
- The current U.S. military strategy **rejects containment of China**.
वर्तमान अमेरिकी सैन्य रणनीति **चीन को रोकने की नीति को अस्वीकार करती है**।

Power politics शक्ति राजनीति

- The major scope of **international relations**, outside of alliances, was within **multilateral institutions** which has now returned to **asymmetric relations**.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों का मुख्य दायरा, गठबंधनों से बाहर, **बहुपक्षीय संस्थानों** में था जो अब फिर **असममित संबंधों** में बदल गया है।
- Reciprocity in **tariffs** is redefined as **"America first"**, implying others are in a **subordinate relationship**.
टैरिफ में पारस्परिकता को **"अमेरिका फर्स्ट"** के रूप में पुनर्परिभाषित किया गया है, जिससे अन्य **अधीनस्थ संबंध** में दिखते हैं।
- Under the **India-U.S. Framework Agreement**, India has agreed to **double imports**, largely **industrial products**, while the U.S. continues an **18% tariff**, deciding reductions after further concessions.
भारत-अमेरिका फ्रेमवर्क समझौते के तहत भारत ने **आयात दोगुना** करने पर सहमति दी है, मुख्यतः **औद्योगिक उत्पाद**, जबकि अमेरिका **18% टैरिफ** जारी रखता है और और रियायतों के बाद कटौती तय करता है।
- The **EU trade agreement** eliminated **70% tariff lines** with phased reciprocal reductions.
ईयू व्यापार समझौते ने **70% टैरिफ लाइनों** को समाप्त किया और चरणबद्ध पारस्परिक कटौती की।
- The real question for India is why it was **targeted by U.S. tariffs** and how to grow in a **world marked by flux**.
भारत के लिए असली प्रश्न है कि उसे **अमेरिकी टैरिफ का लक्ष्य** क्यों बनाया गया और **परिवर्तनशील दुनिया** में कैसे बढ़े।
- The **U.S.** is determined to prevent the rise of another **China** and **India alone** has the potential to overtake the U.S.
अमेरिका दूसरे **चीन** के उदय को रोकने के लिए दृढ़ है और **केवल भारत** में अमेरिका को पीछे छोड़ने की क्षमता है।
- China exploited **multilateral rules** to become an independent **global manufacturing power**, an opportunity that no longer exists.
चीन ने **बहुपक्षीय नियमों** का उपयोग कर स्वतंत्र **वैश्विक विनिर्माण शक्ति** बनकर दिखाया, ऐसा अवसर अब नहीं है।
- The long-term U.S. policy of keeping India apart from **Russia and China** has gained greater force.
भारत को **रूस और चीन** से अलग रखने की दीर्घकालिक अमेरिकी नीति अब और मजबूत हो गई है।



Reframing foreign policy विदेश नीति का पुनर्निर्धारण

- India's advantage lies in its **young population**; nearly half of **Silicon Valley workforce** traces roots to India.
भारत की ताकत उसकी **युवा आबादी** है; **सिलिकॉन वैली कार्यबल** का लगभग आधा हिस्सा भारत से जुड़ा है।
- Building and attracting this talent can make India a '**cyber superpower**' spreading **AI across security, manufacturing and services**.
इस प्रतिभा को विकसित और आकर्षित कर भारत '**साइबर सुपरपावर**' बन सकता है जो **AI** को **सुरक्षा, विनिर्माण और सेवाओं** में फैलाए।
- India needs strong **economic and technological relations** with the **U.S., Russia and China, FTAs**, and a shift from **strategic autonomy** to **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
भारत को **अमेरिका, रूस और चीन** के साथ मजबूत **आर्थिक व तकनीकी संबंध, एफटीए, और सामरिक स्वायत्तता** से **विकसित भारत 2047** की ओर बदलाव चाहिए।
- India should maintain a **low international profile**, develop **endogenous capabilities**, and accelerate the **Asian Century**.
भारत को **निम्न अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रोफाइल** बनाए रखते हुए **आंतरिक क्षमताएँ** विकसित कर **एशियाई सदी** को तेज करना चाहिए।
- India must prioritise **trade diplomacy** and diversify exports away from the **U.S.** while pushing **FTAs with Asia and Africa**.
भारत को **व्यापार कूटनीति** को प्राथमिकता देते हुए **अमेरिका से निर्यात विविधीकरण** और **एशिया व अफ्रीका के साथ एफटीए** बढ़ाने चाहिए।
- India should build new **technological, cyber and space relations with Russia** and allow **China investment in infrastructure and manufacturing** with safeguards.
भारत को **रूस के साथ तकनीकी, साइबर और अंतरिक्ष सहयोग** बढ़ाना चाहिए और **सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ चीन के निवेश** को अनुमति देनी चाहिए।
- India should treat relations with **Pakistan** as a **foreign policy issue**, including a **new water-sharing arrangement**, revival of **Iran-Pakistan-India Peace Pipeline**, and possible **trade agreement**.
भारत को **पाकिस्तान संबंधों** को **विदेश नीति का मुद्दा** मानते हुए **नया जल-वितरण समझौता, ईरान-पाकिस्तान-भारत पाइपलाइन पुनर्जीवन, और संभावित व्यापार समझौता** करना चाहिए।
- As **BRICS chair**, India can reposition BRICS as an **economic cooperation community**, linking **digital currencies** for smoother **cross-border trade and payments**.
ब्रिक्स अध्यक्ष के रूप में भारत इसे **आर्थिक सहयोग समुदाय** में बदल सकता है और **डिजिटल मुद्राओं को जोड़कर सीमापार व्यापार व भुगतान** को सुगम बना सकता है।



'India's Neighbourhood First policy has largely failed; ties have taken a hit'

As Bangladesh and Nepal witness a consolidation and reconsolidation of political forces, New Delhi must reflect on whether the subordination of its regional interests to the domestic needs of BJP is helping, says Editor of *Himal Southasian*; India's standing in the region taking a hit, he says

GS II: IR

INTERVIEW

Roman Gautam

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

As Bangladesh and Nepal hold crucial elections – on February 12, and March 5, respectively – following dramatic youth-led uprisings, the outcomes will be closely watched, for they will not only reshape domestic politics in the two countries but also impact regional dynamics. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Roman Gautam, Editor of *Himal Southasian*, reflects on the political churn in the region, India's role, and the prospects for regional cooperation. Edited excerpts:

The region has seen three uprisings in recent years – Sri Lanka in 2022, Bangladesh in 2024, and Nepal last year. When you look back, what was most striking?

The most obvious take away was the depth of discontent that has existed in all of these countries. While some say it is all social media – social media certainly played a significant role – it is the economic drivers that we must pay more attention to.

In Sri Lanka you had an outright economic crisis that was in many ways more than the political discontent. It was economic desperation that was driving so many people out onto the streets. In Bangladesh, the focus was on the authoritarianism and the brutality of the Sheikh Ha-

sina regime. But if you remember in the lead up to these uprisings in both Bangladesh and Nepal, cost of living was a big question that kept coming up.

The fixation on politics in the near-term is because it is easier to make sense of, especially when there is an election. The economic dynamics evolve over a longer term. The frustration with corruption was such a universal theme.

In Sri Lanka, the presidential and general elections were held [after the uprising] and we saw a pretty thorough sweeping out of the old political order and the first real opportunity at governance for the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. I remember conversations back home in Kathmandu, where when [the uprisings in] Sri Lanka and then Bangladesh happened, on a few occasions I heard people saying “we have the same problems, our turn will come too”, and it did, very shockingly and violently.

Both Bangladesh and Nepal are going to the polls. What does the political landscape look like now?

With the elections, it is now the consolidation phase. The question is how much of an overhaul are we likely to see. In Bangladesh, was the uprising against the entire old order or much more against the Awami League? The BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] is the front runner, the favourite in the election right now, which is not a complete root-and-stem overhaul of the system.



Roman Gautam

The BNP has its own, very problematic history. The BNP's record shows many of the same sins that the Awami League was castigated for.

The big question in Bangladesh now is what is the BNP? With Khaleda Zia's passing, there is a generational shift and [emerging] dynamics within the party, including over exactly how the new leadership takes shape. So what kind of BNP are we likely to get and what is the BNP now going to stand for?

There are fears within Bangladesh of a return to some of the old ways. The security apparatus that Hasina inherited and built up remains largely intact. The students-led party [National Citizen Party], born out of the July revolution, has tied up with the Jamaat [Jamaat-e-Islami], which some people saw coming, but a lot of people were surprised and shocked. Women leaders are asking if this party is really going to represent the spirit of what they came out onto the streets for. The Jamaat is making statements that it will not throttle women's rights. Given its record, that needs to be taken with

a big grain of salt.

What about Nepal? The old actors are still in the fray, isn't it?

In Nepal, it is that process of reconsolidation. It is fair to predict that the old parties, the traditional three for us in recent times, the Nepali Congress, the UML [Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)], and also the Maoists, will take a beating at the polls.

Even within each of those parties, there has been a process of trying to reinvent themselves, certainly within the UML and the Congress. Voters are trying to understand what kind of party each of them will emerge as.

The frustration and the memory of the revolt remain very fresh. We have seen some consolidation among the newer political forces. Especially now, the two newer faces of Nepali politics, Rabi Lamichhane and Balen Shah, have come together under a single party structure. That in itself has its own contradictions and clashes, and we will have to wait and see how long it lasts. There is a

very good chance that we see a scattered mandate in Nepal. Compared to Sri Lanka or Bangladesh, Nepal is more unpredictable because of the sheer number of little parties.

India is avowedly pursuing a 'Neighbourhood First' policy. How would you evaluate that?

A realistic assessment of 'Neighbourhood First' from the time the slogan was launched is that it has been little more than a slogan. Whatever efforts there have been out of New Delhi, they have largely failed because overall New Delhi's relationships and ties with its neighbours are not better than they were back then [2014]. In many cases, they are severely worse. Bangladesh is a stark example. Anti-India sentiment has become an increasing part of the political landscape in the Maldives and in Nepal.

There is a process under way of the subordination of New Delhi's regional interests to the domestic needs of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], rather than the bilateral interests or regional interests.

For New Delhi, the greater metric of success right now is perhaps whether the complexities of the region can be saffronised in a way that becomes palatable to the domestic audience. The BJP does have a lot of domestic electoral and political gain to harvest from pushing this narrative on Bangladesh, as much as that narrative is deeply injurious to Bangladesh-India ties.

The amount of damage that does to India's stand-

ing and goodwill towards India cannot be overstated. Indian aid in the wake of the economic crisis or the natural disaster in Sri Lanka, for instance, is enormously to India's credit. In Nepal, too, we are in India's debt after the earthquake. And yet you have all these positives in the balance sheet, and you have this massive negative that very often wipes out a lot of the positives.

We must also ask where is India trading the most? India's biggest trade partner in terms of materials being imported is China and yet you have New Delhi coming to Kathmandu or Dhaka and putting pressure on the governments there to throttle trade with China. The hypocrisy of that is noticed and known, and it counts as a massive negative in that balance sheet of bilateral and multilateral regional ties with India.

Where does that leave regional cooperation?

Things are in many ways quite bleak politically for any kind of South Asian regionalism. That is not the ultimate goal to pursue. The ultimate goal for each of our countries to pursue independently is the well-being of their own citizens. The logical course of that will lead to greater regional integration simply because of the economic logic. With that frame in mind, it is tragic the way that politics is standing in the way of that. For all its regional and global ambitions, India is not taking a hard enough look at the extent to which its domestic politics is poisoning the well regionally and beyond.

'India's Neighbourhood First policy has largely failed; ties have taken a hit'
'भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति काफी हद तक विफल रही; संबंधों को झटका लगा है'

- As **Bangladesh** and **Nepal** witness a consolidation and reconsolidation of political forces, New Delhi must re-elect on whether the subordination of its regional interests to the domestic needs of **BJP** is helping, says Editor of **Himal Southasian**; India's standing in the region taking a hit, he says.

जैसे-जैसे **Bangladesh** और **Nepal** में राजनीतिक शक्तियों का पुनर्गठन और सुदृढीकरण हो रहा है, **Himal Southasian** के संपादक का कहना है कि नई दिल्ली को यह विचार करना चाहिए कि क्या उसके क्षेत्रीय हितों को **BJP** की घरेलू आवश्यकताओं के अधीन करना मददगार है; उनका कहना है कि क्षेत्र में भारत की स्थिति को झटका लग रहा है।

- As Bangladesh and Nepal hold crucial elections — on **February 12**, and **March 5**, respectively — following dramatic youth-led uprisings, the outcomes will be closely watched, for they will not only reshape domestic politics in the two countries but also impact regional



dynamics.

युवा-नेतृत्व वाले नाटकीय आंदोलनों के बाद **Bangladesh** और **Nepal** क्रमशः **February 12** और **March 5** को महत्वपूर्ण चुनाव करा रहे हैं, जिनके परिणामों पर कड़ी नजर रहेगी, क्योंकि वे न केवल दोनों देशों की घरेलू राजनीति को नया आकार देंगे बल्कि क्षेत्रीय गतिशीलता को भी प्रभावित करेंगे।

- Speaking to **The Hindu**, **Roman Gautam**, Editor of **Himal Southasian**, reflects on the political churn in the region, India's role, and the prospects for regional cooperation.
The Hindu से बात करते हुए, **Roman Gautam**, Editor, **Himal Southasian**, ने क्षेत्र में राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल, भारत की भूमिका और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग की संभावनाओं पर विचार व्यक्त किया।
- The region has seen three uprisings in recent years — **Sri Lanka in 2022**, **Bangladesh in 2024**, and **Nepal last year**.
हाल के वर्षों में क्षेत्र में तीन विद्रोह हुए — **Sri Lanka in 2022**, **Bangladesh in 2024**, और **Nepal last year**।
- The most obvious take away was the depth of discontent that has existed in all of these countries.
सबसे स्पष्ट निष्कर्ष इन सभी देशों में मौजूद असंतोष की गहराई थी।
- In Sri Lanka you had an outright economic crisis that was in many ways more than the political discontent.
Sri Lanka में एक खुला आर्थिक संकट था जो कई मायनों में राजनीतिक असंतोष से भी अधिक था।
- In Bangladesh, the focus was on the authoritarianism and the brutality of the **Sheikh Hasina** regime.
Bangladesh में ध्यान **Sheikh Hasina** शासन के अधिनायकवाद और कठोरता पर था।
- The frustration with corruption was such a universal theme.
भ्रष्टाचार के प्रति निराशा एक सार्वभौमिक विषय थी।
- Both Bangladesh and Nepal are going to the polls.
Bangladesh और **Nepal** दोनों चुनाव की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।
- The BNP [**Bangladesh Nationalist Party**] is the front runner, the favourite in the election right now.
BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) इस समय चुनाव में अग्रणी और पसंदीदा मानी जा रही है।
- The big question in Bangladesh now is what is the BNP?
Bangladesh में बड़ा सवाल यह है कि BNP अब क्या है?
- With **Khaleda Zia's** passing, there is a generational shift.
Khaleda Zia के निधन के साथ एक पीढ़ीगत बदलाव आया है।
- The students-led party [**National Citizen Party**], born out of the July revolution, has tied up with the Jamaat [**Jamaat-e-Islami**].
छात्र-नेतृत्व वाली पार्टी [**National Citizen Party**], जो जुलाई क्रांति से निकली, ने **Jamaat-e-Islami** के साथ गठबंधन किया है।
- What about Nepal? The old actors are still in the fray.
Nepal में पुराने खिलाड़ी अब भी मैदान में हैं।
- The traditional three for us in recent times, the **Nepali Congress**, the **UML (Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist))**, and also the Maoists, will take a beating at the polls.
हाल के समय में पारंपरिक तीन दल — **Nepali Congress**, **UML (Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist))**, और माओवादी — चुनाव में झटका खा सकते हैं।
- The two newer faces of Nepali politics, **Rabi Lamichhane** and **Balen Shah**, have come together under a single party structure.
नेपाली राजनीति के दो नए चेहरे, **Rabi Lamichhane** और **Balen Shah**, एक ही पार्टी ढांचे के तहत साथ आए हैं।
- India is avowedly pursuing a '**Neighbourhood First**' policy.
भारत घोषित रूप से '**Neighbourhood First**' नीति का पालन कर रहा है।
- A realistic assessment of '**Neighbourhood First**' from the time the slogan was launched is that it has been little more than a slogan.
'**Neighbourhood First**' का यथार्थ मूल्यांकन यह है कि नारे के रूप में शुरू होने के बाद यह काफी हद तक केवल नारा ही बना रहा है।
- Whatever efforts there have been out of New Delhi, they have largely failed because overall New Delhi's relationships and ties with its neighbours are not better than they were back then



[2014].

नई दिल्ली से जो भी प्रयास हुए, वे काफी हद तक विफल रहे क्योंकि उसके पड़ोसियों के साथ संबंध 2014 की तुलना में बेहतर नहीं हैं।

- In many cases, they are severely worse.
कई मामलों में वे गंभीर रूप से खराब हुए हैं।
- Bangladesh is a stark example.
Bangladesh इसका स्पष्ट उदाहरण है।
- Anti-India sentiment has become an increasing part of the political landscape in the **Maldives** and in **Nepal**.
Maldives और **Nepal** में भारत-विरोधी भावना राजनीतिक परिदृश्य का बढ़ता हिस्सा बन गई है।
- There is a process under way of the subordination of New Delhi's regional interests to the domestic needs of the **BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party)**.
नई दिल्ली के क्षेत्रीय हितों को **BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party)** की घरेलू आवश्यकताओं के अधीन करने की प्रक्रिया जारी है।
- Indian aid in the wake of the economic crisis or the natural disaster in **Sri Lanka**, for instance, is enormously to India's credit.
आर्थिक संकट या प्राकृतिक आपदा के बाद **Sri Lanka** को दी गई भारतीय सहायता भारत के लिए बहुत श्रेय की बात है।
- In Nepal, too, we are in India's debt after the earthquake.
Nepal में भी भूकंप के बाद हम भारत के ऋणी हैं।
- India's biggest trade partner in terms of materials being imported is **China**.
आयातित सामग्रियों के संदर्भ में भारत का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार **China** है।
- The hypocrisy of that is noticed and known, and it counts as a massive negative in that balance sheet of bilateral and multilateral regional ties with India.
इस पाखंड को देखा और जाना जाता है, और यह भारत के साथ द्विपक्षीय और बहुपक्षीय क्षेत्रीय संबंधों की संतुलन शीट में एक बड़ा नकारात्मक कारक बनता है।
- Where does that leave regional cooperation?
इससे क्षेत्रीय सहयोग कहाँ खड़ा होता है?
- Things are in many ways quite bleak politically for any kind of South Asian regionalism.
किसी भी प्रकार के दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीयवाद के लिए राजनीतिक रूप से स्थिति कई मायनों में काफी निराशाजनक है।
- For all its regional and global ambitions, India is not taking a hard enough look at the extent to which its domestic politics is poisoning the well regionally and beyond.
अपनी क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक महत्वाकांक्षाओं के बावजूद, भारत इस बात पर पर्याप्त कठोर दृष्टि नहीं डाल रहा है कि उसकी घरेलू राजनीति क्षेत्रीय और उससे परे माहौल को किस हद तक विषाक्त बना रही है।

GS Paper III: Economy,

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

1.	Zero tariff textiles exports to U.S. possible for India: Goyal भारत के लिए अमेरिका को शून्य शुल्क पर वस्त्र निर्यात संभव: गोयल
2.	Retail inflation at 2.75% in new Consumer Price Index with 2024 as the base year नए उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक में 2024 को आधार वर्ष रखते हुए खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति 2.75% पर
3.	For Bengaluru florists, nothing is coming up roses even amid Valentine's Day hype बंगलुरु के फूल उत्पादकों के लिए वैलेंटाइन डे की चर्चा के बीच भी हालात अनुकूल नहीं
4.	Lok Sabha passes Industrial Relations Code Bill to avoid confusion over 2020 Act लोकसभा ने 2020 अधिनियम पर भ्रम से बचने के लिए इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस कोड विधेयक पारित किया



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|----|---|
| 5. | Farmers' pulse
किसानों की नब्ज |
| 6. | Is a double-engine government crucial for growth?
क्या डबल-इंजन सरकार विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है? |

Zero tariff textiles exports to U.S. possible for India: Goyal

Commerce Minister says India will receive concessions on textiles exports as Dhaka got through its deal with Washington; the agreement is being finalised, will have details in fine print, he adds

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India will receive the same benefits on textiles exports under its interim trade agreement with the U.S. as Bangladesh gained through its own deal, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

"Just as Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from America, then if you process it and make cloth and export it, then it will be available at zero reciprocal tariff, India also has the same facility and India will also get it," he said.

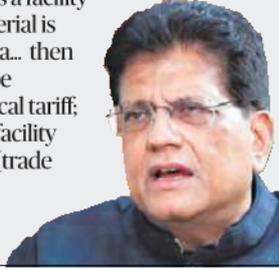
The Minister pointed out that India's agreement with the U.S. is still being finalised. "When the interim agreement is finalised, then you will get to see this in the fine print," Mr. Goyal told presspersons.

Trade provisions

Under the Bangladesh-U.S. deal inked on Monday, reciprocal tariffs on Bangladesh's exports to the U.S. will be reduced to 19% ov-

Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from America... then it [textiles exports] will be available at zero reciprocal tariff; India also has the same facility and India will also get it [trade benefits]

PIYUSH GOYAL
Union Commerce Minister



erall. However, the deal also has a provision saying that if Bangladesh imports cotton from the U.S., then the tariffs on its textile exports will fall to 0%.

The Congress had attacked the Centre regarding this clause, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that India, which is expected to see tariffs of 18% on exports to the U.S. under the interim agreement, has already been rendered uncompetitive in textiles even before the agreement is signed. "He [Rahul Gandhi] spread another lie in Parliament that Bangladesh has got more benefits from the

trade deal than India," Mr. Goyal said.

In an interview with *The Hindu* earlier this week, he said that the interim deal is expected to be signed in mid-March.

'Farmers will benefit'

The Commerce Minister added that Indian farmers also stand to benefit from increased exports to the European Union, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, and Australia due to India's free trade agreements with these countries and groupings.

This latest shift in the contours of the India-U.S. deal is not a new one. The U.S. government on Wed-

MEA refuses to deny claims on Russian imports

NEW DELHI

After a U.S. official said that India had cut import of Russian oil, as the U.S. "wanted [India] to," the Ministry of External Affairs has once again refused to deny the claims. » PAGE 8

nesday amended a fact sheet it had uploaded a few days earlier, by removing references to "pulses", "agricultural products", and "digital service tax". The new version of the fact sheet also said India "intends" to buy \$500 billion worth of American goods as opposed to the earlier phrasing that said India has "committed to buy" this amount.

P. Krishnaprasad, a senior functionary of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, said the organisation will examine the impact of Bangladesh-United States deal on cotton farmers in India.

(With inputs from A.M. Jigesh)

Zero tariff textiles exports to U.S. possible for India: Goyal भारत के लिए अमेरिका को शून्य शुल्क पर वस्त्र निर्यात संभव: गoyal

- The Commerce Minister says India will receive concessions on textiles exports as **Dhaka** got through its deal with **Washington**; the agreement is being finalised, will have details in fine print, he adds.
वाणिज्य मंत्री ने कहा कि **ढाका** को **वॉशिंगटन** के साथ अपने समझौते के माध्यम से जैसे रियायतें मिलीं, वैसे ही भारत को वस्त्र निर्यात पर रियायतें मिलेंगी; समझौता अंतिम रूप में है और विवरण सूक्ष्म प्रिंट में होंगे।



- India will receive the same benefits on textiles exports under its interim trade agreement with the **U.S.** as **Bangladesh** gained through its own deal, Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** said on Thursday.
भारत को **अमेरिका** के साथ अपने अंतरिम व्यापार समझौते के तहत वस्त्र निर्यात पर वही लाभ मिलेगा जो **बांग्लादेश** को अपने समझौते से मिला, वाणिज्य मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** ने गुरुवार को कहा।
- “Just as Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from **America**, then if you process it and make cloth and export it, then it will be available at **zero reciprocal tariff**, India also has the same facility and India will also get it,” he said.
“जैसे बांग्लादेश को यह सुविधा है कि यदि कच्चा माल **अमेरिका** से खरीदा जाए और उसे प्रोसेस कर कपड़ा बनाकर निर्यात किया जाए, तो वह **शून्य पारस्परिक शुल्क** पर उपलब्ध होगा, भारत को भी वही सुविधा मिलेगी,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The Minister pointed out that India’s agreement with the **U.S.** is still being finalised.
मंत्री ने बताया कि भारत का **अमेरिका** के साथ समझौता अभी अंतिम रूप में है।
- “When the interim agreement is finalised, then you will get to see this in the fine print,” Mr. Goyal told presspersons.
“जब अंतरिम समझौता अंतिम रूप ले लेगा, तब आप इसे सूक्ष्म प्रिंट में देख पाएंगे,” श्री गोयल ने पत्रकारों से कहा।

Trade provisions व्यापार प्रावधान

- Under the **Bangladesh-U.S. deal** inked on Monday, reciprocal tariffs on Bangladesh’s exports to the **U.S.** will be reduced to **19% overall**.
सोमवार को हस्ताक्षरित **बांग्लादेश-अमेरिका समझौते** के तहत, बांग्लादेश के **अमेरिका** को निर्यात पर पारस्परिक शुल्क कुल मिलाकर **19%** तक घटाया जाएगा।
- However, the deal also has a provision saying that if Bangladesh imports cotton from the **U.S.**, then the tariffs on its textile exports will fall to **0%**.
हालांकि, समझौते में यह प्रावधान भी है कि यदि बांग्लादेश **अमेरिका** से कपास आयात करता है, तो उसके वस्त्र निर्यात पर शुल्क **0%** हो जाएगा।
- The **Congress** had attacked the Centre regarding this clause, with Leader of the Opposition in the **Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi** saying that India, which is expected to see tariffs of **18%** on exports to the **U.S.** under the interim agreement, has already been rendered uncompetitive in textiles even before the agreement is signed.
कांग्रेस ने इस प्रावधान को लेकर केंद्र पर हमला किया, और **लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी** ने कहा कि भारत, जिसे अंतरिम समझौते के तहत **अमेरिका** को निर्यात पर **18%** शुल्क का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर से पहले ही वस्त्र क्षेत्र में प्रतिस्पर्धा से बाहर हो गया है।
- “He [Rahul Gandhi] spread another lie in Parliament that Bangladesh has got more benefits from the trade deal than India,” Mr. Goyal said.
“उन्होंने [राहुल गांधी] संसद में एक और झूठ फैलाया कि बांग्लादेश को व्यापार समझौते से भारत से अधिक लाभ मिला है,” श्री गोयल ने कहा।
- In an interview with **The Hindu** earlier this week, he said that the interim deal is expected to be signed in **mid-March**.
इस सप्ताह **द हिंदू** को दिए साक्षात्कार में उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरिम समझौता **मार्च मध्य** में हस्ताक्षरित होने की संभावना है।

‘Farmers will benefit’ ‘किसानों को लाभ होगा’

- The Commerce Minister added that Indian farmers also stand to benefit from increased exports to the **European Union**, the **United Kingdom**, **Switzerland**, **Norway**, and **Australia** due to India’s free trade agreements with these countries and groupings.
वाणिज्य मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत के किसानों को भी **यूरोपीय संघ**, **यूनाइटेड किंगडम**, **स्विट्जरलैंड**, **नॉर्वे** और **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों के कारण बढ़े हुए निर्यात से लाभ होगा।
- The **U.S.** government on Wednesday amended a fact sheet it had uploaded a few days earlier, by removing references to “pulses”, “agricultural products”, and “digital service tax”.



अमेरिका सरकार ने बुधवार को कुछ दिन पहले अपलोड की गई तथ्य पत्रक में संशोधन करते हुए “pulses”, “agricultural products” और “digital service tax” के संदर्भ हटा दिए।

- The new version of the fact sheet also said India “intends” to buy **\$500 billion** worth of American goods as opposed to the earlier phrasing that said India has “committed to buy” this amount.

तथ्य पत्रक के नए संस्करण में यह भी कहा गया कि भारत **\$500 अरब** मूल्य के अमेरिकी सामान खरीदने का “इरादा रखता है”, जबकि पहले कहा गया था कि भारत ने यह राशि “खरीदने के लिए प्रतिबद्धता” जताई है।

- **P. Krishnaprasad**, a senior functionary of **Samyukt Kisan Morcha**, said the organisation will examine the impact of the **Bangladesh-United States deal** on cotton farmers in India.

पी. कृष्णप्रसाद, संयुक्त किसान मोर्चा के वरिष्ठ पदाधिकारी, ने कहा कि संगठन भारत के कपास किसानों पर बांग्लादेश-अमेरिका समझौते के प्रभाव की जांच करेगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Retail inflation at 2.75% in new Consumer Price Index with 2024 as the base year

GS III: Economy
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data based on a new series with 2024 as base year, placing retail inflation in January 2026 at 2.75%.

As this is the first data release under the new series, a historical comparison is not yet possible.

The new series of the CPI, which updated the base year from 2012, was released in the presence of MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, and other officials of the Ministry.

Increase in items

The total number of items covered under the new series has increased to 358 from the 299 items in the older series.

The number of goods covered under the new series has increased to 308 from 259, and the number of services has gone up to 50 from the earlier 40.

The updated CPI series gives new weights to goods and services based on consumption patterns revealed in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24.

"The economy has undergone a significant transformation in the last decade," Mr. Nageswaran said in his speech. "Consumption behaviour, market structures, and the compositions of household expenditure have evolved and the new CPI structure unsurprisingly reflects these changes."

The new series also collects data from more sources across the country. Data are collected from 1,465 rural markets, up from 1,181. The number of urban markets covered has gone up to 1,395 from 1,114. Notably, the new series also collects data from 12 online marketplaces, a new category that has been included now.

The new series of the

Index overhaul

The 2024-base CPI basket includes 358 items vs. earlier 299, with goods covered rising from 259 to 308 and services from 40 to 50



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of rural markets covered rose from 1,181 to 1,465, urban from 1,114 to 1,395, with 12 online platforms added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The weightage assigned to the food and beverages category is now 36.75% from earlier 45.86% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CPI framework has been expanded from 6 broad groups to 12, offering more granular tracking of goods and services
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CPI provides more granular data by dividing the underlying goods and services into 12 broad groups compared to the six groups under the older series.

As a result of this, and also based on the consumption patterns of the HCES 2023-24, the weights assigned to these goods and services have also been revised to better reflect current consumption.

New weights

The weightage assigned to the food and beverages category has been revised downward in the new series to 36.75% from the earlier 45.86%.

"The lower weightage on the relatively volatile food category may make the headline inflation number less volatile, all other things remaining equal," Mr. Nageswaran said.

The housing category, with an earlier weight of 10.07%, has been expanded to also include water, electricity, gas and other fuels, and this combined category now has a weight of 17.67% in the new series.

The additional groups in the new series include furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (with a weight of 4.47%), health (6.1%), transport (8.8%), information and communication (3.61%), recreation,

sports and culture (1.52%), education services (3.33%), restaurants and accommodation services (3.35%), and personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services (5.04%).

The paan, tobacco and intoxicants category saw its weight increase to 2.99% from 2.38% in the older series. The clothing and footwear category's weight fell to 2.38% from 6.53%.

"Since the basket is aligned with recent expenditure data, the inflation signals from this will be more closely matched to the prevailing economic conditions," Mr. Nageswaran said. "This includes the information basis for calibrating monetary and fiscal policy."

Past data on inflation

While releasing the data for January 2026, the Ministry provided the index values based on the new methodology going back to January 2025. However, since earlier index values are not readily available, the year-on-year inflation rate can only be measured for January 2026.

"We are following international practice to give a linking factor, so you can calculate the index as far back as 2013," Mr. Garg explained.

Retail inflation at 2.75% in new Consumer Price Index with 2024 as the base year

नए उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक में 2024 को आधार वर्ष रखते हुए खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति 2.75% पर

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data based on a new series with 2024 as base year, placing retail inflation in January 2026 at 2.75%.

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) ने गुरुवार को 2024 को आधार वर्ष रखते हुए नई श्रृंखला पर आधारित उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) के आंकड़े जारी किए, जिसमें जनवरी 2026 में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति को 2.75% पर रखा गया।

As this is the first data release under the new series, a historical comparison is not yet possible.

चूंकि यह नई श्रृंखला के तहत पहला डेटा जारी है, इसलिए ऐतिहासिक तुलना अभी संभव नहीं है।

The new series of the CPI, which updated the base year from 2012, was released in the presence of MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, and other officials of the Ministry.

CPI की नई श्रृंखला, जिसमें आधार वर्ष 2012 से अपडेट किया गया, को MoSPI सचिव सौरभ गर्ग, मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार वी. अनंता नागेश्वरन, और मंत्रालय के अन्य अधिकारियों की उपस्थिति में जारी किया गया।

Increase in items वस्तुओं की संख्या में वृद्धि

The total number of items covered under the new series has increased to 358 from the 299 items in the older series.

नई श्रृंखला के तहत शामिल कुल वस्तुओं की संख्या बढ़कर 358 हो गई है, जो पुरानी श्रृंखला में 299 वस्तुएं थीं।

The number of goods covered under the new series has increased to 308 from 259, and the number of services has gone up to 50 from the earlier 40.

नई श्रृंखला में शामिल वस्तुओं की संख्या 259 से बढ़कर 308 हो गई है, और सेवाओं की संख्या 40 से बढ़कर 50 हो गई है।

- The updated CPI series gives new weights to goods and services based on consumption patterns revealed in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24. अद्यतन CPI श्रृंखला में वस्तुओं और सेवाओं को घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण (HCES) 2023-24 में प्रकृत उपभोग पैटर्न के आधार पर नए भार दिए गए हैं।
- "The economy has undergone a significant transformation in the last decade," Mr. Nageswaran said in his speech. "पिछले दशक में अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन हुआ है," श्री नागेश्वरन ने अपने भाषण में कहा।
- "Consumption behaviour, market structures, and the compositions of household expenditure have evolved and the new CPI structure unsurprisingly reflects these changes."



“उपभोग व्यवहार, बाजार संरचनाएं, और घरेलू व्यय की संरचना विकसित हुई है और नई CPI संरचना स्वाभाविक रूप से इन परिवर्तनों को दर्शाती है।”

- The new series also collects data from more sources across the country.
नई श्रृंखला देश भर में अधिक स्रोतों से भी डेटा एकत्र करती है।
- Data is collected from **1,465 rural markets**, up from **1,181**.
डेटा **1,465 ग्रामीण बाजारों** से एकत्र किया जाता है, जो पहले **1,181** थे।
- The number of urban markets covered has gone up to **1,395** from **1,114**.
शहरी बाजारों की संख्या **1,114** से बढ़कर **1,395** हो गई है।
- Notably, the new series also collects data from **12 online marketplaces**, a new category that has been included now.
विशेष रूप से, नई श्रृंखला अब **12 ऑनलाइन मार्केटप्लेस** से भी डेटा एकत्र करती है, जो एक नई श्रेणी के रूप में शामिल की गई है।
- The new series of the **CPI** provides more granular data by dividing the underlying goods and services into **12 broad groups** compared to the **six groups** under the older series.
नई **CPI श्रृंखला** आधारभूत वस्तुओं और सेवाओं को पुरानी श्रृंखला के **छह समूहों** की तुलना में **12 व्यापक समूहों** में विभाजित कर अधिक सूक्ष्म डेटा प्रदान करती है।
- As a result of this, and also based on the consumption patterns of the **HCES 2023-24**, the weights assigned to these goods and services have also been revised to better reflect current consumption.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप, और **HCES 2023-24** के उपभोग पैटर्न के आधार पर, इन वस्तुओं और सेवाओं को दिए गए भारों को वर्तमान उपभोग को बेहतर दर्शाने के लिए संशोधित किया गया है।

New weights नए भार

- The weightage assigned to the food and beverages category has been revised downward in the new series to **36.75%** from the earlier **45.86%**.
नई श्रृंखला में खाद्य और पेय पदार्थ श्रेणी का भार **45.86%** से घटाकर **36.75%** कर दिया गया है।
- “The lower weightage on the relatively volatile food category may make the headline inflation number less volatile, all other things remaining equal,” Mr. Nageswaran said.
“अपेक्षाकृत अस्थिर खाद्य श्रेणी पर कम भार मुख्य मुद्रास्फीति संख्या को कम अस्थिर बना सकता है, यदि अन्य सभी बातें समान रहें,” श्री नागेश्वरन ने कहा।
- The housing category, with an earlier weight of **10.07%**, has been expanded to also include water, electricity, gas and other fuels, and this combined category now has a weight of **17.67%** in the new series.
आवास श्रेणी, जिसका पूर्व भार **10.07%** था, को जल, बिजली, गैस और अन्य ईंधनों को शामिल करने के लिए विस्तारित किया गया है, और इस संयुक्त श्रेणी का भार नई श्रृंखला में **17.67%** हो गया है।
- The additional groups in the new series include furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (with a weight of **4.47%**), health (**6.1%**), transport (**8.8%**), information and communication (**3.61%**), recreation, sports and culture (**1.52%**), education services (**3.33%**), restaurants and accommodation services (**3.35%**), and personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services (**5.04%**).
नई श्रृंखला में अतिरिक्त समूहों में साज-सज्जा, घरेलू उपकरण और नियमित घरेलू रखरखाव (**4.47%**), स्वास्थ्य (**6.1%**), परिवहन (**8.8%**), सूचना और संचार (**3.61%**), मनोरंजन, खेल और संस्कृति (**1.52%**), शिक्षा सेवाएं (**3.33%**), रेस्तरां और आवास सेवाएं (**3.35%**), तथा व्यक्तिगत देखभाल, सामाजिक सुरक्षा और विविध वस्तुएं और सेवाएं (**5.04%**) शामिल हैं।
- The paan, tobacco and intoxicants category saw its weight increase to **2.99%** from **2.38%** in the older series.
पान, तंबाकू और मादक पदार्थ श्रेणी का भार पुरानी श्रृंखला के **2.38%** से बढ़कर **2.99%** हो गया है।
- The clothing and footwear category’s weight fell to **2.38%** from **6.53%**.
वस्त्र और जूते श्रेणी का भार **6.53%** से घटकर **2.38%** हो गया है।
- “Since the basket is aligned with recent expenditure data, the inflation signals from this will be more closely matched to the prevailing economic conditions,” Mr. Nageswaran said.
“चूंकि यह बास्केट हाल के व्यय आंकड़ों के अनुरूप है, इसलिए इससे मिलने वाले मुद्रास्फीति संकेत वर्तमान आर्थिक परिस्थितियों से अधिक निकटता से मेल खाएंगे,” श्री नागेश्वरन ने कहा।



- “This includes the information basis for calibrating monetary and fiscal policy.”
“इसमें मौद्रिक और राजकोषीय नीति के समायोजन के लिए सूचना आधार भी शामिल है।”

Past data on inflation मुद्रास्फीति के पूर्व आंकड़े

- While releasing the data for **January 2026**, the Ministry provided the index values based on the new methodology going back to **January 2025**.
जनवरी 2026 के लिए आंकड़े जारी करते समय, मंत्रालय ने नई पद्धति के आधार पर **जनवरी 2025** तक के सूचकांक मान भी प्रदान किए।
- However, since earlier index values are not readily available, the year-on-year inflation rate can only be measured for **January 2026**.
हालांकि, चूंकि पूर्व के सूचकांक मान आसानी से उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, इसलिए वर्ष-दर-वर्ष मुद्रास्फीति दर केवल **जनवरी 2026** के लिए ही मापी जा सकती है।
- “We are following international practice to give a linking factor, so you can calculate the index as far back as **2013**,” Mr. Garg explained.
“हम लिंकिंग फैक्टर देने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथा का पालन कर रहे हैं, ताकि आप सूचकांक की गणना **2013** तक कर सकें,” श्री गर्ग ने समझाया।

For Bengaluru florists, nothing is coming up roses even amid Valentine’s Day hype

GS III: Economy

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Bengaluru’s rose exports to meet Valentine’s Day demand have fallen by over 50% in five years. Exports have fallen from five to six million stems five years ago to 10-15 lakh stems in the current season, apex body representatives and farmers told *The Hindu*.

The export of roses has become unviable for most growers after the government imposed an 18% GST on freight for the sector. Stakeholders said the industry was already under huge cost pressure, especially after the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) with-



The export of roses has become unviable for most growers after the government imposed an 18% GST on freight for the sector. AFP

drew its transport subsidy in 2021, which had helped offset high freight costs for certain agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture produce, including roses.

“..The landing cost of our roses in global markets is much higher than that of roses from Ethiopia or Kenya,” said T.M. Aravind,

president of the South India Floriculture Association (SIFA). He added that Indian roses are facing tough conditions in international markets – including Japan, Singapore, Australia, the Middle East, and Canada – even though southern states produce high-quality roses with a

shelf life of up to 15 days. In contrast, roses from other countries typically have a shelf life of only seven to ten days, Mr. Aravind said.

“We used to have up to 5,000 active rose growers in both domestic and export markets. Now, exporters have reduced to 150 or 200,” he said. According to SIFA, Karnataka now produces 10-15 lakh stems of roses, including varieties like Taj Mahal or Bangalore Red, which fetch ₹30-₹35 per stem, Yellow Gold Strike at ₹20, and Dark Purple at ₹25 per stem. Of this, only 10-15% goes to the export market during the Valentine’s Day season. Before the pandemic, around 30-35% of the State’s rose production was exported.

For Bengaluru florists, nothing is coming up roses even amid Valentine’s Day hype

बेंगलुरु के फूल उत्पादकों के लिए वैलेंटाइन डे की चर्चा के बीच भी हालात अनुकूल नहीं



- **Bengaluru's** rose exports to meet **Valentine's Day** demand have fallen by over **50%** in five years.
बेंगलुरु से वैलेंटाइन डे की मांग पूरी करने के लिए गुलाब का निर्यात पांच वर्षों में **50%** से अधिक घट गया है।
- Exports have fallen from five to six million stems five years ago to **10-15 lakh stems** in the current season, apex body representatives and farmers told The Hindu.
निर्यात पांच वर्ष पहले पांच से छह मिलियन तनों से घटकर मौजूदा सीजन में **10-15 लाख तनों** पर आ गया है, शीर्ष निकाय के प्रतिनिधियों और किसानों ने बताया।
- The export of roses has become unviable for most growers after the government imposed an **18% GST** on freight for the sector.
सरकार द्वारा इस क्षेत्र के लिए माल ढुलाई पर **18% जीएसटी** लगाने के बाद अधिकांश उत्पादकों के लिए गुलाब का निर्यात अव्यवहारिक हो गया है।
- Stakeholders said the industry was already under huge cost pressure, especially after the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** withdrew its transport subsidy in **2021**, which had helped offset high freight costs for certain agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture produce, including roses.
हितधारकों ने कहा कि उद्योग पहले से ही भारी लागत दबाव में था, विशेषकर जब **कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (APEDA)** ने **2021** में अपनी परिवहन सब्सिडी वापस ले ली थी, जिसने गुलाब सहित कुछ कृषि, बागवानी और पुष्प उत्पादों के लिए उच्च माल ढुलाई लागत की भरपाई में मदद की थी।
- “..The landing cost of our roses in global markets is much higher than that of roses from **Ethiopia or Kenya**,” said **T.M. Aravind**, president of the **South India Floriculture Association (SIFA)**.
“वैश्विक बाजारों में हमारे गुलाब की लैंडिंग लागत **इथियोपिया** या **केन्या** के गुलाबों से कहीं अधिक है,” **दक्षिण भारत फ्लोरीकल्चर एसोसिएशन (SIFA)** के अध्यक्ष **टी.एम. अरविंद** ने कहा।
- He added that Indian roses are facing tough conditions in international markets — including **Japan, Singapore, Australia, the Middle East, and Canada** — even though southern states produce high-quality roses with a shelf life of up to **15 days**.
उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय गुलाब अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों — जिनमें **जापान, सिंगापुर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, मध्य पूर्व और कनाडा** शामिल हैं — में कठिन परिस्थितियों का सामना कर रहे हैं, जबकि दक्षिणी राज्य **15 दिनों** तक की शेल्फ लाइफ वाले उच्च गुणवत्ता के गुलाब पैदा करते हैं।
- In contrast, roses from other countries typically have a shelf life of only **seven to ten days**, Mr. Aravind said.
इसके विपरीत, अन्य देशों के गुलाबों की शेल्फ लाइफ सामान्यतः केवल **सात से दस दिन** होती है, श्री अरविंद ने कहा।
- “We used to have up to **5,000 active rose growers** in both domestic and export markets. Now, exporters have reduced to **150 or 200**,” he said.
“हमारे पास घरेलू और निर्यात दोनों बाजारों में **5,000 सक्रिय गुलाब उत्पादक** हुआ करते थे। अब निर्यातक घटकर **150 या 200** रह गए हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- According to **SIFA**, **Karnataka** now produces **10–15 lakh stems** of roses, including varieties like **Taj Mahal** or **Bangalore Red**, which fetch **₹30–₹35 per stem**, **Yellow Gold Strike** at **₹20**, and **Dark Purple** at **₹25 per stem**.
SIFA के अनुसार, **कर्नाटक** अब **10–15 लाख तने** गुलाब का उत्पादन करता है, जिनमें **ताज महल** या **बैंगलोर रेड** जैसी किस्में शामिल हैं, जिनकी कीमत **₹30–₹35 प्रति तना**, **येलो गोल्ड स्ट्राइक** की **₹20**, और **डार्क पर्पल** की **₹25 प्रति तना** है।
- Of this, only **10–15%** goes to the export market during the **Valentine's Day** season.
इनमें से केवल **10–15%** ही **वैलेंटाइन डे** सीजन के दौरान निर्यात बाजार में जाता है।
- Before the pandemic, around **30–35%** of the State's rose production was exported.
महामारी से पहले, राज्य के गुलाब उत्पादन का लगभग **30–35%** निर्यात किया जाता था।



Lok Sabha passes Industrial Relations Code Bill to avoid confusion over 2020 Act

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to help avoid any “future unwarranted complication” over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the Industrial Relations Code of 2020.

The Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026, contains savings provisions to ensure continuity and legal certainty.

The Bill would help avoid any “future unwarranted complication” over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the Industrial Relations Code of 2020.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 replaces the

Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, relating to trade unions, industrial employment and industrial disputes, according to statement of objects and reasons of the proposed law.

It contains savings provisions under Section 104 to ensure continuity and legal certainty. “Though the repeal has occurred by operation of Section 104 of the Code itself, there is a possibility of future confusion being created on a misconceived ground that the Act delegates the power to repeal the said enactments to the executive,” it explained.

The provisions of Section 104 and a February 2026 notification are clear that the repeal has occurred by the operation of Section 104 of the Code itself. “It is considered desirable to introduce the proposed amendment to avoid any future unwarranted complication,” it said.

The four Labour Codes implemented nearly three months ago ensures guarantee of minimum wage. These Codes also ensure compulsory issuance of appointment letters as well as uniform wages for the same work irrespective of gender, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in the discussion before the passage of the Bill.

Lok Sabha passes Industrial Relations Code Bill to avoid confusion over 2020 Act

लोकसभा ने 2020 अधिनियम पर भ्रम से बचने के लिए इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस कोड विधेयक पारित किया

- The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to help avoid any “future unwarranted complication” over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the **Industrial Relations Code of 2020**.

लोकसभा ने गुरुवार को एक विधेयक पारित किया ताकि **इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस कोड, 2020** द्वारा प्रतिस्थापित कुछ कानूनों की निरंतरता को लेकर किसी भी “भविष्य की अनावश्यक जटिलता” से बचा जा सके।

- The **Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, contains savings provisions to ensure continuity and legal certainty.

इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस कोड (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 में निरंतरता और कानूनी निश्चितता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बचत प्रावधान शामिल हैं।

- The Bill would help avoid any “future unwarranted complication” over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the **Industrial Relations Code of 2020**. यह विधेयक **इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस कोड, 2020** द्वारा प्रतिस्थापित कुछ कानूनों की निरंतरता को लेकर किसी भी “भविष्य की अनावश्यक जटिलता” से बचने में मदद करेगा।
- The **Industrial Relations Code, 2020** replaces the **Trade Unions Act, 1926**, the **Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946** and the **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**, relating to trade unions, industrial employment and industrial disputes, according to statement of objects and reasons of the proposed law.



प्रस्तावित कानून के उद्देश्यों और कारणों के वक्तव्य के अनुसार, **इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस कोड, 2020** ने **ट्रेड यूनियन्स एक्ट, 1926**, **इंडस्ट्रियल एम्प्लॉयमेंट (स्टैंडिंग ऑर्डर्स) एक्ट, 1946** और **इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट्स एक्ट, 1947** को प्रतिस्थापित किया है, जो ट्रेड यूनियनों, औद्योगिक रोजगार और औद्योगिक विवादों से संबंधित हैं।

- It contains savings provisions under **Section 104** to ensure continuity and legal certainty. इसमें निरंतरता और कानूनी निश्चितता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **धारा 104** के तहत बचत प्रावधान शामिल हैं।
- “Though the repeal has occurred by operation of **Section 104** of the Code itself, there is a possibility of future confusion being created on a misconceived ground that the Act delegates the power to repeal the said enactments to the executive,” it explained.
“यद्यपि निरसन स्वयं कोड की **धारा 104** के संचालन से हुआ है, फिर भी इस गलत धारणा के आधार पर भविष्य में भ्रम उत्पन्न होने की संभावना है कि अधिनियम उक्त अधिनियमों को निरस्त करने की शक्ति कार्यपालिका को सौंपता है,” इसमें स्पष्ट किया गया।
- The provisions of **Section 104** and a **February 2026 notification** are clear that the repeal has occurred by the operation of **Section 104** of the Code itself.
धारा 104 और **फरवरी 2026 की अधिसूचना** के प्रावधान स्पष्ट करते हैं कि निरसन स्वयं कोड की **धारा 104** के संचालन से हुआ है।
- “It is considered desirable to introduce the proposed amendment to avoid any future unwarranted complication,” it said.
“किसी भी भविष्य की अनावश्यक जटिलता से बचने के लिए प्रस्तावित संशोधन को प्रस्तुत करना उचित समझा गया है,” इसमें कहा गया।
- The **four Labour Codes** implemented nearly three months ago ensures guarantee of minimum wage.
लगभग तीन महीने पहले लागू किए गए **चार श्रम संहिताएं (लेबर कोड्स)** न्यूनतम वेतन की गारंटी सुनिश्चित करती हैं।
- These Codes also ensure compulsory issuance of appointment letters as well as uniform wages for the same work irrespective of gender, **Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** said in the discussion before the passage of the Bill.
इन संहिताओं से नियुक्ति पत्रों का अनिवार्य निर्गमन तथा समान कार्य के लिए लिंग की परवाह किए बिना समान वेतन भी सुनिश्चित होता है, यह बात विधेयक पारित होने से पहले चर्चा में **श्रम मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया** ने कही।



GS III: Economy

Farmers' pulse

Only structural reforms in agriculture sector can ensure food security

India manages its prodigious demand for pulses using a mix of import policy, price stabilisation and conditional MSP procurement. Imports are the most sensitive because a single central decision can immediately lower household spending when supply is tight, at the expense of hurting farmers, and knowing that markets cannot always absorb 'extra' supply. So, when the U.S. said that its trade deal with India obligated India to purchase pulses from American suppliers, it implied that the government had agreed to committing imports against farmers' interests – a politically fraught stance in India since the 2020-21 farm law protests and which might see a revival now. India's pulse output has hovered around 2.5 crore tonnes in recent years while demand is estimated to be three crore tonnes; imports fill the gap. Pulses account for roughly a quarter of non-cereal protein intake and support five crore farmers and their families. In the absence of a reliable MSP regime as for rice and wheat, however, farmers face organised neglect due to weak procurement mechanisms, the risks of rain-fed cultivation, and yields lower than international competitors. In 2019-24, government procurement under the Price Support Scheme fluctuated between 2.9% and 12.4% of production. Many States also have inadequate procurement centres, forcing farmers to sell to private traders regardless of the official MSP. As a result, farmers are incentivised to underinvest in pulses, leading to a vicious cycle.

India recently announced ambitious initiatives to solve this problem, an example being the October 2025 self-sufficiency Mission, with a ₹11,440 crore outlay, targeting 310 lakh hectares of cultivation and 350 lakh tonnes of production by 2030-31. But farmers remain sceptical since older promises have yet to materialise. All this is why the initial apparent inclusion of pulses in the U.S. documents, describing what India would open to American agri-imports, hit a raw nerve among India's farmers. Opening the market to U.S. pulses would further depress domestic prices and directly contradict the government's new Mission. Breaking this cycle would require more than removing objectionable words from an agreement, including addressing the procurement infrastructure deficit, providing genuine MSP guarantees, investing in productivity improvements for rain-fed areas where pulses are grown, and creating market systems that explicitly reward farmers who choose to cultivate pulses. Until such structural reforms materialise, however, pulse farmers will continue to occupy a precarious position in India's agricultural economy and India will continue to depend on imports to meet its demand, perpetuating both food security vulnerabilities and political sensitivity around any trade agreement that appears to favour foreign producers.

किसानों को कमजोर खरीद तंत्र, वर्षा-आधारित खेती के जोखिम और अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धियों से कम उत्पादकता के कारण उपेक्षा झेलनी पड़ती है।

- In 2019-24, government procurement under the Price Support Scheme fluctuated between 2.9% and 12.4% of production.

Farmers' pulse किसानों की नब्ज

• Only structural reforms in agriculture sector can ensure food security
केवल संरचनात्मक सुधार ही कृषि क्षेत्र में खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं

• India manages its prodigious demand for pulses using a mix of import policy, price stabilisation and conditional MSP procurement.

भारत दालों की अपनी विशाल मांग का प्रबंधन आयात नीति, मूल्य स्थिरीकरण और सशर्त MSP खरीद के मिश्रण से करता है।

• Imports are the most sensitive because a single central decision can immediately lower household spending when supply is tight, at the expense of hurting farmers, and knowing that markets cannot always absorb 'extra' supply.

आयात सबसे संवेदनशील हैं क्योंकि एक केंद्रीय निर्णय आपूर्ति कम होने पर तुरंत घरेलू खर्च घटा सकता है, जिससे किसानों को नुकसान होता है, और यह जानते हुए कि बाजार हमेशा 'अतिरिक्त' आपूर्ति को नहीं समेट सकते।

• So, when the U.S. said that its trade deal with India obligated India to purchase pulses from American suppliers, it implied that the government had agreed to committing imports against farmers' interests — a politically fraught stance in India since the 2020-21 farm law protests and which might see a revival now.

इसलिए, जब अमेरिका ने कहा कि भारत के साथ उसके व्यापार समझौते ने भारत को अमेरिकी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से दाल खरीदने के लिए बाध्य किया, तो इसका अर्थ था कि सरकार ने किसानों के हितों के खिलाफ आयात के लिए सहमति दी — जो 2020-21 कृषि कानून विरोध के बाद भारत में राजनीतिक रूप से संवेदनशील स्थिति है और जो फिर उभर सकती है।

• India's pulse output has hovered around 2.5 crore tonnes in recent years while demand is estimated to be three crore tonnes; imports fill the gap.

भारत का दाल उत्पादन हाल के वर्षों में लगभग 2.5 करोड़ टन रहा है जबकि मांग तीन करोड़ टन आंकी गई है; आयात इस कमी को पूरा करते हैं।

• Pulses account for roughly a quarter of non-cereal protein intake and support five crore farmers and their families.

दालें लगभग गैर-अनाज प्रोटीन सेवन का एक-चौथाई प्रदान करती हैं और पांच करोड़ किसानों और उनके परिवारों का सहारा हैं।

• In the absence of a reliable MSP regime as for rice and wheat, however, farmers face organised neglect due to weak procurement mechanisms, the risks of rain-fed cultivation, and yields lower than international competitors.

चावल और गेहूं की तरह विश्वसनीय MSP व्यवस्था के अभाव में,



2019-24 में प्राइस सपोर्ट स्कीम के तहत सरकारी खरीद उत्पादन के 2.9% से 12.4% के बीच उतार-चढ़ाव करती रही।

- Many States also have **inadequate procurement centres**, forcing farmers to sell to **private traders regardless of the official MSP**.
कई राज्यों में **अपर्याप्त खरीद केंद्र** हैं, जिससे किसान **आधिकारिक MSP की परवाह किए बिना निजी व्यापारियों को बेचने को मजबूर** होते हैं।
- As a result, farmers are incentivised to **underinvest in pulses**, leading to a **vicious cycle**. परिणामस्वरूप, किसान **दालों में कम निवेश करने के लिए प्रेरित** होते हैं, जिससे **दुष्चक्र** बनता है।
- **India recently announced ambitious initiatives to solve this problem**
भारत ने हाल ही में इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए **महत्वाकांक्षी पहल की घोषणा की**
- India recently announced ambitious initiatives to solve this problem, an example being the **October 2025 self-sufficiency Mission**, with a **₹11,440 crore outlay**, targeting **310 lakh hectares of cultivation and 350 lakh tonnes of production by 2030-31**.
भारत ने हाल ही में इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए **महत्वाकांक्षी पहल की घोषणा की**, जिसका एक उदाहरण **अक्टूबर 2025 आत्मनिर्भरता मिशन** है, जिसमें **₹11,440 करोड़ का प्रावधान** है और **2030-31 तक 310 लाख हेक्टेयर खेती और 350 लाख टन उत्पादन का लक्ष्य** है।
- But farmers remain sceptical since **older promises have yet to materialise**.
लेकिन किसान सशंकित हैं क्योंकि **पुराने वादे अभी तक पूरे नहीं हुए हैं**।
- All this is why the initial apparent inclusion of pulses in the **U.S. documents**, describing what India would open to **American agri-imports**, hit a raw nerve among India's farmers.
इसी कारण **अमेरिकी दस्तावेजों** में दालों के प्रारंभिक उल्लेख, जिसमें बताया गया था कि भारत **अमेरिकी कृषि आयात** के लिए क्या खोलेगा, ने भारत के किसानों को झकझोर दिया।
- Opening the market to **U.S. pulses** would further **depress domestic prices** and directly contradict the government's new Mission.
अमेरिकी दालों के लिए बाजार खोलना घरेलू कीमतों को और **गिरा देगा** और सरकार के नए मिशन का सीधा विरोध करेगा।
- Breaking this cycle would require more than removing objectionable words from an agreement, including **addressing the procurement infrastructure deficit, providing genuine MSP guarantees, investing in productivity improvements for rainfed areas, and creating market systems that explicitly reward farmers who choose to cultivate pulses**.
इस चक्र को तोड़ने के लिए केवल समझौते से आपत्तिजनक शब्द हटाना पर्याप्त नहीं होगा, बल्कि **खरीद अवसंरचना की कमी को दूर करना, वास्तविक MSP गारंटी देना, वर्षा-आधारित क्षेत्रों में उत्पादकता सुधार में निवेश करना और दाल उगाने वाले किसानों को स्पष्ट रूप से पुरस्कृत करने वाली बाजार व्यवस्था बनाना** आवश्यक होगा।
- Until such **structural reforms** materialise, pulse farmers will continue to occupy a **precarious position** in India's agricultural economy and India will continue to **depend on imports**, perpetuating both **food security vulnerabilities and political sensitivity** around any trade agreement that appears to favour foreign producers.
जब तक ऐसे **संरचनात्मक सुधार** लागू नहीं होते, दाल किसान भारत की कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था में **असुरक्षित स्थिति** में बने रहेंगे और भारत **आयात पर निर्भर** रहेगा, जिससे **खाद्य सुरक्षा की कमजोरियाँ और राजनीतिक संवेदनशीलता** बनी रहेगी।



Is a double-engine government crucial for growth?



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PARLEY

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kerala and Tamil Nadu, scheduled to have Assembly elections in a few months, and stressed the need for a double-engine government. A double-engine government refers to having the same political party (in this case, the Bharatiya Janata Party or its allies in the National Democratic Alliance) in power at both the Centre and in a State. Critics of this model include Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who has asked how Opposition-ruled States are doing well without a double-engine government. Is a double-engine government crucial for growth? Louise Tillin and Yamini Aiyar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by N. Sai Charan. Edited excerpts:

Does the discourse around a double-engine government imply an inherent bias against non-BJP/non-NDA governments in the States?

Louise Tillin: In a literal sense, yes. It suggests that political alignment between the Union and State governments is better for voters than the lack of it. However, this is different from asking whether the Union government actually governs in a way that is biased against non-NDA States.

At one level, we see that States that are not ruled by the NDA do not receive special treatment. We saw in last year's Budget, for instance, that coalition partners of the BJP at the Centre received special fiscal packages that non-NDA States did not receive. But can we say therefore that NDA-ruled States receive other forms of preferential treatment?

We can think about this in fiscal and political terms. A large quantity of Centre-State transfers take place through formulas set by the Finance Commission. And these are not inherently biased against Opposition-ruled States. Even if a number of States currently ruled by Opposition parties contribute more to the Central kitty than they receive in return, that is because of the way fiscal redistribution works in India. So, we can't say that the Finance Commission is partisan in the way it manages Centre-State transfers.

But there is more room for discretion in other types of transfers. Opposition-ruled States complain about delays or non-payment of matching funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Because these transfers allow for more discretion, they create more scope for potential partisan bias compared to transfers governed by the Finance Commission. At the same time, all States, regardless of political alignment, are operating within a broader context of increasing fiscal centralisation.

The other way to think about this question is



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai. VEDHAN M.

politically. States which are politically aligned with the Centre are likely to experience a lower degree of interference by Union agencies.

It is difficult to say that we can detect partisan bias in some of the more rule-bound operations of the Government of India. But there is noise around it, which is politically driven, which suggests that there is partisan bias going on.

Yamini Aiyar: A principal problem with the idea of 'double engine' is in its framing. It undermines the core principle of federal accommodation. Federalism allows for multiple political identities to cohere within the framework of the nation state. Thus, a truly federal India, with its diverse identities, is going to have different types of political parties. The idea of 'double engine' invokes a challenge to this principle of accommodation. It is presented to voters as a means by which efficiency can be entrenched within Centre-State relations.

Constitutionally, India's federal structure is dependent on cooperation between the Centre and States. What the framework of 'double engine' posits is the idea that different political parties across States and the Centre make cooperation harder and therefore require more symmetry. In that sense, it pits efficiency against democracy. So, the idea of 'double engine' undermines the fundamental principle of federalism and pits Opposition parties against the political party at the Centre.

It is important to say that even in a world where the framework of 'double engine' was not invoked, in moments of political dominance, national parties have misused their constitutional powers in ways that have politicised the dynamic of Centre-State relations. However, the framing of 'double engine' seeks to legitimise this form of political control.

Is the absence of a 'double engine' setup



The idea of 'double engine' invokes a challenge to the principle of accommodation. It is presented to voters as a means by which efficiency can be entrenched within Centre-State relations.

YAMINI AIYAR

hindering the financial autonomy of States, particularly regarding the timely release of Central funds?

LT: We have to think about the discourse of 'double-engine' government within the wider context of an ideological assault on the idea of federalism in India. Under the weight of a dominant national party, we are seeing the steady erosion of what I would describe as a culture of federal restraint in which the Centre and States mutually respect each other's spheres of autonomy. But the shrinking of the fiscal autonomy of States is not simply a 'double engine' question. All States are seeing their fiscal autonomy shrink for a number of reasons, including the introduction of GST and the introduction of new cesses and surcharges.

YA: Since 2008-09, at the Accountability Initiative at the Center for Policy Research, we began tracking the flow of funds for CSS released by the Centre which go into the State treasury and then through layers of administration to the last mile where there is expenditure. We began to notice expenditure units spend a significant part of the financial year awaiting funds, and then rush to spend it before March 31 to show utilisation certificates so that next year's money gets released. This was largely on account of a complete administrative failure caused by rules and conditionalities imposed on the flow and use of CSS.

States have long demanded greater fiscal devolution from the Centre. The 14th Finance Commission pushed for enhanced devolution of the divisible pool of taxes to States, and said CSS conditionalities that make fund flows difficult and create inefficiencies must be addressed. The Modi government dismantled the Planning Commission, claiming that allocation of funds was centralising. It replaced it with NITI Aayog, which established a Chief Ministers' subcommittee tasked with examining the restructuring of CSS to address inefficiencies in fund flows. But its recommendations were ignored.

Thus India has had a history of administrative failure when it comes to fund flows and these

have affected all States. The big shift now is that discretionary channels of CSS are being used, and administrative failures are being leveraged more politically. So we are no longer merely in the arena of administrative failures creating inefficiencies; those inefficiencies are being deployed politically to create deeper problems.

Does the claim that double-engine governments benefit States hold up against the reality of the south, where several States with better socio-economic indicators are ruled by non-BJP/non-NDA governments?

LT: The notion that there is a consistent pattern of what double-engine government does for economic outcomes or fiscal redistribution is fiction. It is fiction that India can achieve greater efficiency and economic growth by negating its pluralism. The southern States are good examples of that. Tamil Nadu has seen a high pace of economic growth over the last few decades. Why is that the case? It is not only a question of the party in power. Historically, changes in land ownership patterns and political mobilisation around social justice for lower caste communities took place in the south much earlier than in the north. Those have been important preconditions for the economic dynamism we see in the south today.

We also have to acknowledge that India has a skewed pattern of development, where industrial development is heavily concentrated in the south. Tamil Nadu's growth rate is also a result of investments from other parts of India; it is built on the back of internal labour migration from poorer regions, often with exploitative wage levels.

YA: If you look at patterns of growth in India, there is an aggregate national picture. But a closer look reveals that individual States have followed distinct trajectories of economic growth and human development. These variations reflect their own historical and political path dependencies, many of which predate independence. Kerala's growth comes from remittances, which is different from Tamil Nadu's attempt at trying to hasten its growth via manufacturing. All this points to the fact that deeper federalism plays a role in shaping growth. It is only through a deeper and more effective federalism that we will arrive at a cooperative federal bargain.



Is a double-engine government crucial for growth?

क्या डबल-इंजन सरकार विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है?

Double-engine government and federalism debate

डबल-इंजन सरकार और संघवाद पर बहस

- Recently, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kerala and Tamil Nadu**, scheduled to have **Assembly elections in a few months**, and stressed the need for a **double-engine government**.
हाल ही में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने केरल और तमिलनाडु का दौरा किया, जहाँ कुछ महीनों में विधानसभा चुनाव होने वाले हैं, और डबल-इंजन सरकार की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- A **double-engine government refers to having the same political party** (in this case, the **Bharatiya Janata Party or its allies in the National Democratic Alliance**) in power at both the **Centre and in a State**.
डबल-इंजन सरकार का अर्थ है एक ही राजनीतिक दल (इस मामले में भारतीय जनता पार्टी या उसके सहयोगी राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन) का केंद्र और राज्य दोनों में सत्ता में होना।
- Critics of this model include **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, who has asked how **Opposition-ruled States are doing well without a double-engine government**.
इस मॉडल के आलोचकों में तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन शामिल हैं, जिन्होंने पूछा कि **विपक्ष शासित राज्य बिना डबल-इंजन सरकार के भी कैसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं**।
- Is a **double-engine government crucial for growth**? Louise Tillin and Yamini Aiyar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **N. Sai Charan**. Edited excerpts:
क्या **डबल-इंजन सरकार विकास के लिए आवश्यक है**? इस प्रश्न पर **लुईस टिलिन और यामिनी अय्यर** ने **एन. साई चरण** द्वारा संचालित चर्चा में विचार व्यक्त किए।



- Does the discourse around a **double-engine government** imply an inherent bias against **non-BJP/non-NDA governments in the States**?
क्या डबल-इंजन सरकार की चर्चा राज्यों में गैर-भाजपा/गैर-एनडीए सरकारों के खिलाफ अंतर्निहित पक्षपात दर्शाती है?

Louise Tillin
लुईस टिलिन

- In a literal sense, **yes**. It suggests that **political alignment between the Union and State governments is better for voters than the lack of it**.
शाब्दिक रूप से हाँ। यह संकेत देता है कि **केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के बीच राजनीतिक तालमेल मतदाताओं के लिए बेहतर है।**
- However, this is different from asking whether the **Union government actually governs in a way that is biased against non-NDA States**.
हालाँकि, यह अलग प्रश्न है कि क्या **केंद्र सरकार वास्तव में गैर-एनडीए राज्यों के खिलाफ पक्षपातपूर्ण तरीके से शासन करती है।**
- At one level, we see that **States that are not ruled by the NDA do not receive special treatment**.
एक स्तर पर हम देखते हैं कि **गैर-एनडीए शासित राज्यों को विशेष व्यवहार नहीं मिलता।**
- We saw in last year's **Budget**, for instance, that **coalition partners of the BJP at the Centre received special fiscal packages that non-NDA States did not receive**.
पिछले वर्ष के **बजट** में देखा गया कि **केंद्र में भाजपा के गठबंधन सहयोगियों को विशेष वित्तीय पैकेज मिले, जो गैर-एनडीए राज्यों को नहीं मिले।**
- But can we say therefore that **NDA-ruled States receive other forms of preferential treatment?**
लेकिन क्या यह कहा जा सकता है कि **एनडीए शासित राज्यों को अन्य प्रकार का विशेष लाभ मिलता है?**
- We can think about this in **fiscal and political terms**.
इसे **वित्तीय और राजनीतिक दृष्टि से समझा जा सकता है।**
- A large quantity of **Centre-State transfers take place through formulas set by the Finance Commission**.
काफी मात्रा में **केंद्र-राज्य हस्तांतरण वित्त आयोग द्वारा निर्धारित सूत्रों के माध्यम से होते हैं।**
- And these are **not inherently biased against Opposition-ruled States**.
और ये **स्वाभाविक रूप से विपक्ष शासित राज्यों के खिलाफ पक्षपाती नहीं हैं।**
- Even if a number of States currently ruled by **Opposition parties contribute more to the Central kitty than they receive in return**, that is because of the way **fiscal redistribution works in India**.
यदि कुछ **विपक्ष शासित राज्य केंद्र को अधिक योगदान देते हैं और बदले में कम प्राप्त करते हैं**, तो यह **भारत में वित्तीय पुनर्वितरण की प्रकृति के कारण है।**
- So, we can't say that the **Finance Commission is partisan in the way it manages Centre-State transfers**.
इसलिए यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि **वित्त आयोग केंद्र-राज्य हस्तांतरण में पक्षपाती है।**
- But there is more room for **discretion in other types of transfers**.
लेकिन अन्य प्रकार के हस्तांतरणों में **विवेकाधिकार की अधिक गुंजाइश होती है।**
- Opposition-ruled States complain about **delays or non-payment of matching funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**.
विपक्ष शासित राज्य **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं (CSS) के लिए मिलान अनुदान में देरी या भुगतान न होने की शिकायत करते हैं।**
- Because these transfers allow for more discretion, they create **more scope for potential partisan bias compared to transfers governed by the Finance Commission**.
इन हस्तांतरणों में अधिक विवेकाधिकार होने से **वित्त आयोग द्वारा नियंत्रित हस्तांतरणों की तुलना में पक्षपात की संभावना अधिक होती है।**
- At the same time, all States, regardless of **political alignment**, are operating within a **broader context of increasing fiscal centralisation**.
साथ ही सभी राज्य, **राजनीतिक तालमेल से परे**, बढ़ते वित्तीय केंद्रीकरण के व्यापक संदर्भ में कार्य कर रहे हैं।



- The other way to think about this question is **politically**.
इस प्रश्न को राजनीतिक दृष्टि से भी समझा जा सकता है।
- States which are **politically aligned with the Centre** are likely to experience a **lower degree of interference by Union agencies**.
जो राज्य केंद्र के साथ राजनीतिक रूप से संरेखित हैं, उन्हें केंद्रीय एजेंसियों के हस्तक्षेप का कम सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- It is difficult to say that we can detect **partisan bias in some of the more rule-bound operations of the Government of India**.
यह कहना कठिन है कि भारत सरकार की नियम-आधारित प्रक्रियाओं में स्पष्ट पक्षपात पाया जा सकता है।
- But there is **noise around it, which is politically driven, suggesting partisan bias**.
लेकिन इसके आसपास राजनीतिक रूप से प्रेरित शोर है, जो पक्षपात का संकेत देता है।

Yamini Aiyar यामिनी अय्यर

- A principal problem with the idea of 'double engine' is in its framing.
'डबल इंजन' की अवधारणा की मुख्य समस्या इसकी रूपरेखा में है।
- It **undermines the core principle of federal accommodation**.
यह संघीय समायोजन के मूल सिद्धांत को कमजोर करती है।
- Federalism allows for **multiple political identities to cohere within the framework of the nation state**.
संघवाद राष्ट्र-राज्य के ढाँचे में अनेक राजनीतिक पहचानों के सह-अस्तित्व की अनुमति देता है।
- Thus, a truly **federal India, with its diverse identities, is going to have different types of political parties**.
इस प्रकार, एक वास्तविक संघीय भारत, अपनी विविध पहचान के साथ, विभिन्न प्रकार के राजनीतिक दलों को स्वीकार करेगा।
- The idea of 'double engine' **invokes a challenge to this principle of accommodation**.
'डबल इंजन' की अवधारणा इस समायोजन के सिद्धांत को चुनौती देती है।
- It is presented to voters as a means by which **efficiency can be entrenched within Centre-State relations**.
इसे मतदाताओं के सामने केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में दक्षता स्थापित करने के माध्यम के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाता है।
- Constitutionally, **India's federal structure is dependent on cooperation between the Centre and States**.
संवैधानिक रूप से भारत का संघीय ढाँचा केंद्र और राज्यों के सहयोग पर आधारित है।
- What the framework of 'double engine' **posits is the idea that different political parties across States and the Centre make cooperation harder and therefore require more symmetry**.
'डबल इंजन' का ढाँचा यह मानता है कि राज्यों और केंद्र में अलग-अलग दल होने से सहयोग कठिन हो जाता है, इसलिए अधिक समानता आवश्यक है।
- In that sense, it **pits efficiency against democracy**.
इस अर्थ में यह दक्षता को लोकतंत्र के विरुद्ध खड़ा करता है।
- So, the idea of 'double engine' **undermines the fundamental principle of federalism and pits Opposition parties against the political party at the Centre**.
इस प्रकार 'डबल इंजन' संघवाद के मूल सिद्धांत को कमजोर करता है और विपक्षी दलों को केंद्र की सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी के खिलाफ खड़ा करता है।
- It is important to say that even in a world where the framework of 'double engine' was not **invoked**, in moments of **political dominance, national parties have misused their constitutional powers, politicising Centre-State relations**.
यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि 'डबल इंजन' के बिना भी, राजनीतिक प्रभुत्व के समय राष्ट्रीय दलों ने अपने संवैधानिक अधिकारों का दुरुपयोग किया है, जिससे केंद्र-राज्य संबंध राजनीतिक हो गए।
- However, the framing of 'double engine' **seeks to legitimise this form of political control**.
हालाँकि, 'डबल इंजन' की रूपरेखा इस प्रकार के राजनीतिक नियंत्रण को वैध ठहराने का प्रयास करती है।



Financial autonomy of States and 'double engine' debate राज्यों की वित्तीय स्वायत्तता और 'डबल इंजन' बहस

- Is the absence of a 'double engine' setup hindering the financial autonomy of States, particularly regarding the timely release of Central funds?
क्या 'डबल इंजन' व्यवस्था की अनुपस्थिति राज्यों की वित्तीय स्वायत्तता को प्रभावित कर रही है, विशेषकर केंद्रीय धन की समय पर रिहाई के संदर्भ में?

LT एलटी

- We have to think about the discourse of 'double-engine' government within the wider context of an ideological assault on the idea of federalism in India.
हमें 'डबल इंजन' सरकार की बहस को भारत में संघवाद की अवधारणा पर वैचारिक हमले के व्यापक संदर्भ में समझना होगा।
- Under the weight of a dominant national party, we are seeing the steady erosion of what I would describe as a culture of federal restraint in which the Centre and States mutually respect each other's spheres of autonomy.
एक प्रभुत्वशाली राष्ट्रीय दल के दबाव में हम उस संघीय संयम की संस्कृति के धीरे-धीरे क्षरण को देख रहे हैं, जिसमें केंद्र और राज्य एक-दूसरे की स्वायत्तता का सम्मान करते हैं।
- But the shrinking of the fiscal autonomy of States is not simply a 'double engine' question.
लेकिन राज्यों की वित्तीय स्वायत्तता में कमी केवल 'डबल इंजन' का प्रश्न नहीं है।
- All States are seeing their fiscal autonomy shrink for a number of reasons, including the introduction of GST and the introduction of new cesses and surcharges.
सभी राज्य विभिन्न कारणों से अपनी वित्तीय स्वायत्तता घटती देख रहे हैं, जिनमें जीएसटी की शुरुआत और नए उपकर व सरचार्ज शामिल हैं।

YA वाईए

- Since 2008-09, at the Accountability Initiative at the Center for Policy Research, we began tracking the flow of funds for CSS released by the Centre which go into the State treasury and then through layers of administration to the last mile where there is expenditure.
2008-09 से सेंटर फॉर पॉलिसी रिसर्च की अकाउंटैबिलिटी इनिशिएटिव में हमने केंद्र द्वारा जारी CSS फंड के प्रवाह को ट्रैक करना शुरू किया, जो राज्य कोष में जाते हैं और फिर प्रशासनिक स्तरों से होते हुए अंतिम खर्च तक पहुँचते हैं।
- We began to notice expenditure units spend a significant part of the financial year awaiting funds, and then rush to spend it before March 31 to show utilisation certificates so that next year's money gets released.
हमने देखा कि व्यय इकाइयाँ वित्तीय वर्ष का बड़ा हिस्सा धन की प्रतीक्षा में बिताती हैं और फिर 31 मार्च से पहले खर्च दिखाने के लिए तेजी से धन खर्च करती हैं ताकि अगले वर्ष की राशि जारी हो सके।
- This was largely on account of a complete administrative failure caused by rules and conditionalities imposed on the flow and use of CSS.
यह मुख्यतः CSS के प्रवाह और उपयोग पर लगाए गए नियमों व शर्तों से उत्पन्न प्रशासनिक विफलता के कारण था।
- States have long demanded greater fiscal devolution from the Centre.
राज्य लंबे समय से केंद्र से अधिक वित्तीय विकेंद्रीकरण की मांग करते रहे हैं।
- The 14th Finance Commission pushed for enhanced devolution of the divisible pool of taxes to States, and said CSS conditionalities that make fund flows difficult and create inefficiencies must be addressed.
14वें वित्त आयोग ने करों के विभाज्य पूल का अधिक हिस्सा राज्यों को देने पर जोर दिया और कहा कि CSS की शर्तें जो धन प्रवाह को कठिन बनाती हैं और अक्षमताएँ पैदा करती हैं, उन्हें सुधारा जाना चाहिए।



- The **Modi government dismantled the Planning Commission**, claiming that allocation of funds was centralising.
मोदी सरकार ने योजना आयोग को समाप्त कर दिया, यह कहते हुए कि धन आवंटन केंद्रीकृत हो गया था।
- It replaced it with **NITI Aayog**, which established a **Chief Ministers' subcommittee tasked with examining the restructuring of CSS to address inefficiencies in fund flows**.
इसे नीति आयोग से बदला गया, जिसने मुख्यमंत्रियों की उपसमिति गठित की ताकि CSS के पुनर्गठन द्वारा धन प्रवाह की अक्षमताओं को दूर किया जा सके।
- **But its recommendations were ignored**.
लेकिन उसकी सिफारिशों को नजरअंदाज कर दिया गया।
- Thus India has had a history of **administrative failure when it comes to fund flows and these have affected all States**.
इस प्रकार भारत में धन प्रवाह के मामले में प्रशासनिक विफलताओं का इतिहास रहा है, जिसने सभी राज्यों को प्रभावित किया है।
- The big shift now is that **discretionary channels of CSS are being used, and administrative failures are being leveraged more politically**.
अब बड़ा बदलाव यह है कि CSS के विवेकाधीन चैनलों का उपयोग हो रहा है और प्रशासनिक विफलताओं का राजनीतिक रूप से अधिक इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।
- So we are no longer merely in the arena of **administrative failures creating inefficiencies; those inefficiencies are being deployed politically to create deeper problems**.
इसलिए अब हम केवल प्रशासनिक विफलताओं से उत्पन्न अक्षमताओं तक सीमित नहीं हैं; इन्हें राजनीतिक रूप से उपयोग कर गहरी समस्याएँ पैदा की जा रही हैं।

Double-engine governments and southern States' reality डबल-इंजन सरकारें और दक्षिणी राज्यों की वास्तविकता

- Does the claim that **double-engine governments benefit States hold up against the reality of the south, where several States with better socioeconomic indicators are ruled by non-BJP/non-NDA governments?**
क्या यह दावा कि **डबल-इंजन सरकारें राज्यों को लाभ देती हैं**, दक्षिण की वास्तविकता के सामने सही ठहरता है, जहाँ बेहतर सामाजिक-आर्थिक संकेतकों वाले कई राज्य **गैर-भाजपा/गैर-एनडीए सरकारों** द्वारा शासित हैं?

LT एलटी

- The notion that there is a **consistent pattern of what double-engine governance does for economic outcomes or fiscal redistribution is fiction**.
यह धारणा कि **डबल-इंजन शासन आर्थिक परिणामों या वित्तीय पुनर्वितरण पर एक समान प्रभाव डालता है, एक कल्पना है।**
- It is fiction that **India can achieve greater efficiency and economic growth by negating its pluralism**.
यह भी एक कल्पना है कि **भारत अपनी बहुलता को नकारकर अधिक दक्षता और आर्थिक वृद्धि प्राप्त कर सकता है।**
- The **southern States are good examples** of that.
दक्षिणी राज्य इसका अच्छा उदाहरण हैं।
- **Tamil Nadu has seen a high pace of economic growth over the last few decades**.
तमिलनाडु ने पिछले कुछ दशकों में तेज आर्थिक वृद्धि देखी है।
- Why is that the case? It is **not only a question of the party in power**.
ऐसा क्यों है? यह **सिर्फ सत्ता में मौजूद पार्टी का प्रश्न नहीं है।**
- Historically, **changes in land ownership patterns and political mobilisation around social justice for lower caste communities took place in the south much earlier than in the north**.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से **भूमि स्वामित्व के पैटर्न में बदलाव और निम्न जाति समुदायों के लिए सामाजिक न्याय के इर्द-गिर्द राजनीतिक लामबंदी दक्षिण में उत्तर की तुलना में बहुत पहले हुई।**



- Those have been **important preconditions for the economic dynamism we see in the south today.**
ये आज दक्षिण में दिखाई देने वाली आर्थिक गतिशीलता के महत्वपूर्ण पूर्व-आवश्यक कारक रहे हैं।
- We also have to acknowledge that **India has a skewed pattern of development, where industrial development is heavily concentrated in the south.**
हमें यह भी स्वीकार करना होगा कि **भारत का विकास असंतुलित है, जहाँ औद्योगिक विकास दक्षिण में अधिक केंद्रित है।**
- **Tamil Nadu's growth rate is also a result of investments from other parts of India; it is built on the back of internal labour migration from poorer regions, often with exploitative wage levels.**
तमिलनाडु की वृद्धि दर भारत के अन्य हिस्सों से निवेश का परिणाम भी है; यह गरीब क्षेत्रों से आंतरिक श्रम प्रवासन पर आधारित है, जहाँ अक्सर शोषणकारी मजदूरी स्तर होते हैं।

YA
वाईए

- If you look at **patterns of growth in India, there is an aggregate national picture.**
यदि आप **भारत में वृद्धि के पैटर्न** देखें, तो एक समग्र राष्ट्रीय तस्वीर दिखाई देती है।
- But a closer look reveals that **individual States have followed distinct trajectories of economic growth and human development.**
लेकिन गहराई से देखने पर पता चलता है कि **अलग-अलग राज्यों ने आर्थिक वृद्धि और मानव विकास के अलग-अलग मार्ग अपनाए हैं।**
- These variations reflect **their own historical and political path dependencies, many of which predate Independence.**
ये भिन्नताएँ **उनकी ऐतिहासिक और राजनीतिक मार्ग-निर्भरता को दर्शाती हैं, जिनमें से कई स्वतंत्रता से पहले की हैं।**
- **Kerala's growth comes from remittances, which is different from Tamil Nadu's attempt at trying to hasten its growth via manufacturing.**
केरल की वृद्धि **प्रवासी आय (रेमिटेंस) से आती है, जो तमिलनाडु के विनिर्माण के माध्यम से वृद्धि तेज करने के प्रयास से भिन्न है।**
- All this points to the fact that **deeper federalism plays a role in shaping growth.**
यह सब दर्शाता है कि **गहरा संघवाद विकास को आकार देने में भूमिका निभाता है।**
- It is only through a **deeper and more effective federalism that we will arrive at a cooperative federal bargain.**
केवल **गहरे और अधिक प्रभावी संघवाद के माध्यम से ही हम सहयोगात्मक संघीय समझौते तक पहुँच सकते हैं।**

GS Paper III: S&T,

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

1.	Bacteria are multilingual, can talk to each other: biologist बैक्टीरिया बहुभाषी हैं, एक-दूसरे से बात कर सकते हैं: जीवविज्ञानी
2.	'Higher education is key to eliminating inequality and powering economy' 'उच्च शिक्षा असमानता समाप्त करने और अर्थव्यवस्था को शक्ति देने की कुंजी है'
3.	Personalised learning through AI is the future, says VIT vice-president एआई के माध्यम से व्यक्तिगत शिक्षण ही भविष्य है, वीआईटी के उपाध्यक्ष ने कहा
4.	'Governing decisions is more important than governing infra' 'निर्णयों का शासन करना इंफ्रा के शासन से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है'
5.	'Unlearn, relearn to stay relevant in technological era' 'तकनीकी युग में प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए अनलर्न और रीलर्न करें'
6.	The many lives of breast cancer: understanding special subtypes स्तन कैंसर के कई रूप: विशेष उपप्रकारों को समझना



7. A case against the SHANTI Act शांति अधिनियम के विरुद्ध एक मामला

Bacteria are multilingual, can talk to each other: biologist

CS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bacteria can get into us, make us sick, and they can even kill us — but they give us our life too. Bonnie Bassler, renowned molecular biologist and professor of Princeton University, best known for her work in bacterial communication, described bacteria as “magical microbes” holding great promise in the fields of medicine, environment and agriculture. “Bacteria can talk to

each other and are multilingual, have so much to teach us about how collective behaviours evolved on earth,” Prof. Bassler said at a lecture on Wednesday titled ‘A chemical language that enables communication between diverse organisms’.

“It’s the bacteria in your gut that digests food and gives you those [nutrients].” This phenomenon of bacterial communication, or “quorum sensing” could indeed be a game changer for medi-



Professor Bonnie Bassler delivers the lecture at IISc, Bengaluru, on Wednesday. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

cine, by opening new avenues to develop anti-quorum sensing therapies instead of antibiotics. Several are “notorious bacte-

rial characters,” she said, specifically citing the deadly cholera-causing *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium, and perspectives on treating

the disease. This bacterium is “the terrible cousin” to an obscure but brilliantly bioluminescent bacterium, the *Vibrio fischeri* that makes blue light and lives in a wonderful one-to-one symbiosis with a squid, she explained.

The large squids live in knee-deep water along the coast of Hawaii. When scavenging under a bright moonlit sky, it needs a way to protect itself from predators that track the squid through their moving shadow. And this is where *Vi-*

brio fischeri glows under the squid, making it shadowless.

Prof. Bassler said she was delighted to be delivering the lecture on the International Day for Women and Girls in Science.

The lecture was organised by TNQ, a non-profit foundation set up in India to support basic research in maths and the life sciences. Prof. Bassler is the 2022 winner of the Wolf Prize in Chemistry and the 2023 winner of the Canada Gairdner Award.

Bacteria are multilingual, can talk to each other: biologist बैक्टीरिया बहुभाषी हैं, एक-दूसरे से बात कर सकते हैं: जीवविज्ञानी

- Bacteria can get into us, make us sick, and they can even kill us — but they give us our life too.
बैक्टीरिया हमारे शरीर में प्रवेश कर सकते हैं, हमें बीमार कर सकते हैं, और हमें मार भी सकते हैं — लेकिन वे हमें जीवन भी देते हैं।
- Bonnie Bassler**, renowned molecular biologist and professor of **Princeton University**, best known for her work in bacterial communication, described **bacteria as “magical microbes” holding great promise in the fields of medicine, environment and agriculture.**
प्रसिद्ध आणविक जीवविज्ञानी और **प्रिंसटन विश्वविद्यालय** की प्रोफेसर **बोनी बैसलर**, जो बैक्टीरियल संचार पर अपने कार्य के लिए जानी जाती हैं, ने बैक्टीरिया को “जादुई सूक्ष्मजीव” बताया जो चिकित्सा, पर्यावरण और कृषि के क्षेत्रों में बड़ी संभावनाएं रखते हैं।
- “**Bacteria can talk to each other and are multilingual, have so much to teach us about how collective behaviours evolved on earth,**” Prof. Bassler said at a lecture on Wednesday titled ‘A chemical language that enables communication between diverse organisms’.
“बैक्टीरिया एक-दूसरे से बात कर सकते हैं और बहुभाषी हैं, और हमें यह सिखाने के लिए बहुत कुछ है कि पृथ्वी पर सामूहिक व्यवहार कैसे विकसित हुए,” प्रो. बैसलर ने बुधवार को ‘A chemical language that enables communication between diverse organisms’ शीर्षक वाले व्याख्यान में कहा।
- “**It’s the bacteria in your gut that digests food and gives you those [nutrients].**”
“आपकी आंत में मौजूद बैक्टीरिया ही भोजन को पचाते हैं और आपको वे [पोषक तत्व] देते हैं।”
- This phenomenon of bacterial communication, or “quorum sensing” could indeed be a game changer for medicine, by opening new avenues to develop anti-quorum sensing therapies instead of antibiotics.**
बैक्टीरियल संचार की यह प्रक्रिया, या “क्वोरम सेंसिंग”, एंटीबायोटिक्स के बजाय एंटी-क्वोरम सेंसिंग उपचार विकसित करने के नए रास्ते खोलकर वास्तव में चिकित्सा के लिए गेम चेंजर साबित हो सकती है।
- Several are “notorious bacterial characters,” she said, specifically citing the deadly cholera-causing **Vibrio cholerae** bacterium, and perspectives on treating the disease.
उन्होंने कहा कि कई “कुख्यात बैक्टीरियल पात्र” हैं, विशेष रूप से घातक हैजा पैदा करने वाले **विब्रियो कॉलेरी (Vibrio cholerae)** बैक्टीरिया का उल्लेख करते हुए, और इस बीमारी के उपचार के दृष्टिकोण पर बात की।
- This bacterium is “the terrible cousin” to an obscure but brilliantly bioluminescent bacterium, the **Vibrio fischeri** that makes blue light and lives in a wonderful one-to-one symbiosis with a squid, she explained.
उन्होंने समझाया कि यह बैक्टीरिया एक कम ज्ञात लेकिन शानदार जैवदीप्तिमान बैक्टीरिया **विब्रियो फिशेरी**



(*Vibrio fischeri*) का “भयानक चचेरा भाई” है, जो नीली रोशनी पैदा करता है और एक स्किड के साथ अद्भुत एक-से-एक सहजीवन में रहता है।

- The large squids live in knee-deep water along the coast of **Hawaii**. बड़े स्किड **हवाई** के तट के किनारे घुटने-भर पानी में रहते हैं।
- When scavenging under a bright moonlit sky, it needs a way to protect itself from predators that track the squid through their moving shadow. जब वह चमकीले चांदनी आकाश के नीचे भोजन खोजता है, तो उसे उन शिकारी जीवों से खुद को बचाने का तरीका चाहिए जो उसकी चलती हुई छाया के माध्यम से उसका पीछा करते हैं।
- And this is where **Vibrio fischeri** glows under the squid, making it shadowless. और यहीं पर **विब्रियो फिशेरी** स्किड के नीचे चमकता है, जिससे उसकी छाया समाप्त हो जाती है।
- Prof. Bassler said she was delighted to be delivering the lecture on the **International Day for Women and Girls in Science**. प्रो. बैसलर ने कहा कि वह **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला और बालिका विज्ञान दिवस** पर व्याख्यान देने से प्रसन्न थीं।
- The lecture was organised by **TNQ**, a non-profit foundation set up in **India** to support basic research in maths and the life sciences. यह व्याख्यान **TNQ** द्वारा आयोजित किया गया था, जो **भारत** में गणित और जीवन विज्ञान में बुनियादी अनुसंधान का समर्थन करने के लिए स्थापित एक गैर-लाभकारी संस्था है।
- Prof. Bassler is the **2022 winner of the Wolf Prize in Chemistry** and the **2023 winner of the Canada Gairdner Award**. प्रो. बैसलर **2022 की वुल्फ प्राइज इन केमिस्ट्री** की विजेता और **2023 की कनाडा गार्डनर अवॉर्ड** की विजेता हैं।

‘Higher education is key to eliminating inequality and powering economy’

At the inaugural session of *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026*, jointly organised by The Hindu Group, VIT, and Sify Technologies, VIT Founder and Chancellor G. Viswanathan points out that as India's economy grew, inequality widened. Only education can help to curb this situation, he says

GS III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Providing quality education and increasing college and university enrolment hold the key to improving the economy of the country and curtailing inequality. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), said in Chennai on Thursday.

At the inaugural session of *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026*, organised by The Hindu Group, Vellore Institute of Technology, and Sify Technologies, he said that in the past 20 years or so, India had grown to become the fourth largest economy, overtaking Japan in 2025. Inequality had grown too, with only about 70 lakh people declaring themselves as belonging to the higher income group.

‘Policy needed’

“They say India is the most unequal country in the world, next only to Russia. Unless we provide education, this cannot be curtailed. It requires government policy,” Dr. Viswanathan said. For this, education should reach all children belonging to poor families and the middle class.

He said Japan's per capi-



Tech focus: G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*; L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group; and Raju Vegesna, chairman and managing director, Sify Technologies, at the inauguration of *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026* in Chennai on Thursday. B. VELANKANNI RAO

ta income was 12 times that of India. While India's per capita income stood at \$2,900, Japan's was \$36,000. While some government officials exuded confidence that India could overtake Germany in a few years, it should be borne in mind that Germany's per capita income was \$58,000, 20 times that of India.

“In the year 2000, there were only nine billionaires in the country. Now, we have grown beyond 300,” he said.

The National Education Policy's thrust on improv-

‘Owing to the lack of spending, only four crore children out of 14 crore eligible for higher education are at colleges and universities’

ing the gross enrolment ratio from the present 28% to 50% in the next 15 years would mean the number of students in colleges and universities must be doubled. This, Dr. Viswanathan said, meant someone had to pay for them. In the present scenario, the bur-



den of higher education was mostly on the learner; the government spent barely 3% to 4% of the GDP, though the Kothari Com-

mission in the 1960s had recommended an expenditure of at least 6% of the GDP. Owing to the lack of spending, only four crore children out of 14 crore eligible for higher education were in colleges and universities. Similarly, if India were to compete with developed countries, the spending on research and development should be increased manifold from the present 0.7%.

Tracing the history of VIT, Dr. Viswanathan said that what started in 1984 with 180 students had grown to accommodate 1

lakh students from all Indian States and 75 other countries.

Role of AI

“AI is not a disruptor; AI is an evolution,” said Raju Vegesna, chairman and managing director, Sify Technologies, in his keynote address. “Just as the Internet enabled us to reach places and share knowledge, we will get all those benefits from AI,” he added. While India could be lagging behind in higher education, Mr. Vegesna exuded confidence that the country would have its unique way to address the transformations and the market. Giving an example, he said AI was like giving bicycle-riders a motorcycle; it ensured that they reached more places faster, though the tech would have to be adopted with caution. India's chances in the game were on how to adopt AI technology for the benefit of enterprises.

Among those present at the inaugural session were Santhosh T.G., Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*; L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group; and Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer, The Hindu Group.



‘Higher education is key to eliminating inequality and powering economy’ ‘उच्च शिक्षा असमानता समाप्त करने और अर्थव्यवस्था को शक्ति देने की कुंजी है’

- At the inaugural session of **The Hindu Tech Summit 2026**, jointly organised by **The Hindu Group, VIT, and Sify Technologies**, **VIT Founder and Chancellor G. Viswanathan** points out that as India’s economy grew, inequality widened. Only education can help to curb this situation, he says.
द हिंदू टेक समिट 2026 के उद्घाटन सत्र में, जिसे **द हिंदू ग्रुप, वीआईटी और सिफी टेक्नोलॉजीज** ने संयुक्त रूप से आयोजित किया, **वीआईटी के संस्थापक और कुलाधिपति जी. विश्वनाथन** ने कहा कि जैसे-जैसे भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था बढ़ी, असमानता भी बढ़ी। इस स्थिति को केवल शिक्षा ही नियंत्रित कर सकती है, उन्होंने कहा।
- Providing quality education and increasing college and university enrolment hold the key to improving the economy of the country and curtailing inequality, **G. Viswanathan**, Founder and Chancellor, **Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)**, said in **Chennai** on Thursday.
गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करना और कॉलेज व विश्वविद्यालय नामांकन बढ़ाना देश की अर्थव्यवस्था सुधारने और असमानता कम करने की कुंजी है, यह बात **वेल्लोर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (वीआईटी)** के संस्थापक और कुलाधिपति **जी. विश्वनाथन** ने गुरुवार को **चेन्नई** में कही।
- At the inaugural session of **The Hindu Tech Summit 2026**, organised by **The Hindu Group, Vellore Institute of Technology, and Sify Technologies**, he said that in the past 20 years or so, India had grown to become the fourth largest economy, overtaking **Japan** in **2025**.
द हिंदू टेक समिट 2026 के उद्घाटन सत्र में, जिसे **द हिंदू ग्रुप, वेल्लोर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी और सिफी टेक्नोलॉजीज** ने आयोजित किया, उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले लगभग 20 वर्षों में भारत चौथी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन गया है, जिसने **2025** में **जापान** को पीछे छोड़ दिया।
- Inequality had grown too, with only about **70 lakh** people declaring themselves as belonging to the higher income group.
असमानता भी बढ़ी है, जिसमें केवल लगभग **70 लाख** लोगों ने स्वयं को उच्च आय वर्ग का बताया है।

‘Policy needed’ ‘नीति की आवश्यकता’

- “They say India is the most unequal country in the world, next only to **Russia**. Unless we provide education, this cannot be curtailed. It requires government policy,” Dr. Viswanathan said.
“कहा जाता है कि भारत दुनिया का सबसे असमान देश है, केवल **रूस** के बाद। जब तक हम शिक्षा प्रदान नहीं करेंगे, इसे नियंत्रित नहीं किया जा सकता। इसके लिए सरकारी नीति की आवश्यकता है,” डॉ. विश्वनाथन ने कहा।
- For this, education should reach all children belonging to poor families and the middle class. इसके लिए शिक्षा गरीब परिवारों और मध्यम वर्ग से संबंधित सभी बच्चों तक पहुंचनी चाहिए।
- He said **Japan’s** per capita income was 12 times that of India. While India’s per capita income stood at **\$2,900**, Japan’s was **\$36,000**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **जापान** की प्रति व्यक्ति आय भारत से 12 गुना है। जहां भारत की प्रति व्यक्ति आय **\$2,900** है, वहीं जापान की **\$36,000** है।
- While some government officials exuded confidence that India could overtake **Germany** in a few years, it should be borne in mind that Germany’s per capita income was **\$58,000**, 20 times that of India.
जहां कुछ सरकारी अधिकारियों ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि भारत कुछ वर्षों में **जर्मनी** को पीछे छोड़ सकता है, वहीं यह ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि जर्मनी की प्रति व्यक्ति आय **\$58,000** है, जो भारत से 20 गुना है।
- “In the year **2000**, there were only **nine billionaires** in the country. Now, we have grown beyond **300**,” he said.
“वर्ष **2000** में देश में केवल **नौ अरबपति** थे। अब यह संख्या **300** से अधिक हो गई है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The **National Education Policy’s** thrust on improving the gross enrolment ratio from the present **28% to 50%** in the next **15 years** would mean the number of students in colleges and universities must be doubled.
राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति का वर्तमान **28%** से अगले **15 वर्षों** में **50%** तक सकल नामांकन अनुपात बढ़ाने पर जोर है, जिसका अर्थ है कि कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में छात्रों की संख्या दोगुनी करनी होगी।



- This, Dr. Viswanathan said, meant someone had to pay for them.
डॉ. विश्वनाथन ने कहा कि इसका अर्थ है कि किसी को इसके लिए भुगतान करना होगा।
- In the present scenario, the burden of higher education was mostly on the learner; the government spent barely **3% to 4% of the GDP**, though the **Kothari Commission** in the **1960s** had recommended an expenditure of at least **6% of the GDP**.
वर्तमान परिदृश्य में उच्च शिक्षा का बोझ मुख्यतः शिक्षार्थी पर है; सरकार **GDP का केवल 3% से 4%** खर्च करती है, जबकि **1960 के दशक में कोठारी आयोग** ने कम से कम **GDP का 6%** खर्च करने की सिफारिश की थी।
- Owing to the lack of spending, only **four crore** children out of **14 crore** eligible for higher education were in colleges and universities.
खर्च की कमी के कारण, उच्च शिक्षा के लिए पात्र **14 करोड़** बच्चों में से केवल **चार करोड़** ही कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में थे।
- Similarly, if India were to compete with developed countries, the spending on research and development should be increased manifold from the present **0.7%**.
इसी प्रकार, यदि भारत विकसित देशों से प्रतिस्पर्धा करना चाहता है, तो अनुसंधान और विकास पर खर्च को वर्तमान **0.7%** से कई गुना बढ़ाना होगा।
- Tracing the history of **VIT**, Dr. Viswanathan said that what started in **1984** with **180 students** had grown to accommodate **1 lakh students** from all Indian States and **75 other countries**.
वीआईटी के इतिहास का उल्लेख करते हुए, डॉ. विश्वनाथन ने कहा कि **1984** में **180 छात्रों** से शुरू हुई संस्था अब सभी भारतीय राज्यों और **75 अन्य देशों** के **1 लाख छात्रों** को समायोजित कर रही है।

Role of AI एआई की भूमिका

- “AI is not a disruptor; AI is an evolution,” said **Raju Vegesna**, chairman and managing director, **Sify Technologies**, in his keynote address.
“एआई विघटनकारी नहीं है; एआई एक विकास है,” यह बात **सिफी टेक्नोलॉजीज** के चेयरमैन और प्रबंध निदेशक **राजू वेगेसना** ने अपने मुख्य भाषण में कही।
- “Just as the Internet enabled us to reach places and share knowledge, we will get all those benefits from AI,” he added.
“जैसे इंटरनेट ने हमें स्थानों तक पहुंचने और ज्ञान साझा करने में सक्षम बनाया, वैसे ही हमें एआई से भी ये सभी लाभ मिलेंगे,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- While India could be lagging behind in higher education, Mr. Vegesna exuded confidence that the country would have its unique way to address the transformations and the market.
जहां भारत उच्च शिक्षा में पीछे हो सकता है, वहीं श्री वेगेसना ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि देश परिवर्तनों और बाजार से निपटने का अपना अनूठा तरीका विकसित करेगा।
- Giving an example, he said AI was like giving bicycle-riders a motorcycle; it ensured that they reached more places faster, though the tech would have to be adopted with caution.
उदाहरण देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि एआई साइकिल चलाने वालों को मोटरसाइकिल देने जैसा है; इससे वे अधिक स्थानों तक तेजी से पहुंच सकते हैं, हालांकि इस तकनीक को सावधानी के साथ अपनाना होगा।
- India's chances in the game were on how to adopt AI technology for the benefit of enterprises.
इस प्रतिस्पर्धा में भारत की संभावना इस पर निर्भर है कि वह उद्यमों के लाभ के लिए एआई तकनीक को कैसे अपनाता है।
- Among those present at the inaugural session were **Santhosh T.G., Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, The Hindu; L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group; and Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer, The Hindu Group**.
उद्घाटन सत्र में उपस्थित लोगों में **संतोष टी.जी., चीफ डिजिटल ऑफिसर, स्विच मोबिलिटी; एन. राम, निदेशक, द हिंदू ग्रुप; सुरेश नंबाथ, संपादक, द हिंदू; एल.वी. नवनीत, मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, द हिंदू ग्रुप; और सुरेश बालकृष्ण, मुख्य राजस्व अधिकारी, द हिंदू ग्रुप** शामिल थे।



Personalised learning through AI is the future, says VIT vice-president

Sekar Viswanathan says VIT has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students. He also underscores the importance of updating faculty members with technology to enlighten students about various developments

CS III, S&T
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is actively working towards integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the education sector, especially for personalised learning, as the future of academic advancement, VIT vice-president Sekar Viswanathan said at *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026*, hosted by *The Hindu*, presented by VIT, and co-presented by Sify Technologies, in Chennai on Thursday.

Noting that the institution has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students, he said the faculty also need to be updated with technology to enlighten students about various developments.

Knowledge sessions

In a conversation with Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), *The Hindu*, on 'From Classrooms to Cosmos', Mr. Sekar elaborated on various facilities, such as a Teaching Learning Centre of Excellence and faculty deve-



Focus on future: VIT vice-president Sekar Viswanathan in conversation with Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), *The Hindu*, at the Tech Summit 2026. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

lopment centres, where faculty members are encouraged to attend knowledge sessions on Agentic AI and AI in solar energy. Faculty training is key to providing quality education, he said.

Responding to a question on using AI and Internet of Things (IoT) in various disciplines, he said non-engineering schools also get the advantage of technology. For instance, law school students learn

about cyber security law and AI in law, and agriculture students are exposed to drone technology and remote sensing in agriculture and smart farming. "We make sure that AI is used in every subject, and it is the common denominator so that students gain domain expertise and also learn to integrate technology in all fields," he said.

Highlighting programmes like curriculum for applied learning and

adaptive curriculum for excellence, Mr. Sekar said students are allowed to study other subjects apart from their discipline. For instance, a mechanical engineering student can learn marketing or specialise in IoT. "We allow programme migration. Multi-disciplinary education will increase their employability," he said.

Digital divide

Answering a question on

digital divide and limitations to students' access to technology, he said VIT has started online courses to reach out to students in remote areas. The country has also made significant progress in providing technological access to students, he added.

Appreciating the State government's scheme to provide free laptops to students and the Centre's policy to reduce the cost of bandwidth, Mr. Sekar said the government must ensure network reach in remote, hilly areas. Underlining the need for providing affordable higher education to more youngsters, he said the government must increase funding for education, as private institutions have their limits in extending scholarships. Programmes such as the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship must reach all institutions. The government must adopt a liberal approach, allowing institutions to open more campuses and increase the intake of students.

Relevance of hackathons

To a question about the relevance of mentorship and hackathons at educational institutions, Mr. Sekar cit-

ed examples at VIT, wherein hackathons are conducted as assessment tools and startups are funded. Students are encouraged to solve problems provided by industries as part of their course and this, in turn, develops entrepreneurship. What starts as simple problem-solving in a classroom leads to the creation of startups through the Technology Business Incubator at VIT, and eventually, the betterment of society.

Collaborative initiatives

Elaborating on collaborative initiatives with the industry, he said close connect with the industries ensure better job prospects for students and prepare them for reality. Besides modules taught by industry experts, students learn soft skills for better employability. VIT also offers programmes for industry professionals.

Later, answering a question on the education sector's response to pandemic resilience by N. Ram, Director, *The Hindu Group*, Mr. Sekar said VIT switched to live online education and provided device and network access to students.

Personalised learning through AI is the future, says VIT vice-president एआई के माध्यम से व्यक्तिगत शिक्षण ही भविष्य है, वीआईटी के उपाध्यक्ष ने कहा

- **Sekar Viswanathan** says VIT has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students.
सेकर विश्वनाथन ने कहा कि वीआईटी छात्रों के समग्र शिक्षण अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने के लिए नवोन्मेषी एआई-आधारित उपकरणों और प्रणालियों को अपना रहा है।
- He also underscores the importance of updating faculty members with technology to enlighten students about various developments.
उन्होंने विभिन्न विकासों के बारे में छात्रों को जागरूक करने के लिए संकाय सदस्यों को प्रौद्योगिकी से अद्यतन रखने के महत्व पर भी जोर दिया।
- **Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)** is actively working towards integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the education sector, especially for personalised learning, as the future of academic advancement, VIT vice-president **Sekar Viswanathan** said at **The Hindu Tech Summit 2026**, hosted by **The Hindu**, presented by VIT, and co-presented by **Sify Technologies**, in **Chennai** on Thursday.
वेल्लोर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (वीआईटी) शिक्षा क्षेत्र में, विशेष रूप से व्यक्तिगत शिक्षण के लिए,



कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई) के एकीकरण की दिशा में सक्रिय रूप से काम कर रहा है, यह बात वीआईटी के उपाध्यक्ष सेकर विश्वनाथन ने गुरुवार को चेन्नई में आयोजित द हिंदू टेक समिट 2026, जिसे द हिंदू द्वारा आयोजित, वीआईटी द्वारा प्रस्तुत और सिफ़ी टेक्नोलॉजीज द्वारा सह-प्रस्तुत किया गया, में कही।

- Noting that the institution has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students, he said the faculty also need to be updated with technology to enlighten students about various developments.
यह उल्लेख करते हुए कि संस्थान छात्रों के समग्र शिक्षण अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने के लिए नवोन्मेषी एआई-आधारित उपकरणों और प्रणालियों को अपना रहा है, उन्होंने कहा कि विभिन्न विकासों के बारे में छात्रों को जागरूक करने के लिए संकाय को भी प्रौद्योगिकी से अद्यतन रहना चाहिए।

Knowledge sessions

ज्ञान सत्र

- In a conversation with **Ramya Kannan**, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), **The Hindu**, on 'From Classrooms to Cosmos', Mr. Sekar elaborated on various facilities, such as a **Teaching Learning Centre of Excellence** and faculty development centres, where faculty members are encouraged to attend knowledge sessions on **Agentic AI** and **AI in solar energy**.
'From Classrooms to Cosmos' विषय पर द हिंदू की ब्यूरो प्रमुख (तमिलनाडु) रम्या कन्नन के साथ बातचीत में, श्री सेकर ने टीचिंग लर्निंग सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस और संकाय विकास केंद्रों जैसी विभिन्न सुविधाओं पर विस्तार से चर्चा की, जहां संकाय सदस्यों को एजेंटिक एआई और सौर ऊर्जा में एआई पर ज्ञान सत्रों में भाग लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।
- Faculty training is key to providing quality education, he said.
उन्होंने कहा कि गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करने की कुंजी संकाय प्रशिक्षण है।
- Responding to a question on using AI and **Internet of Things (IoT)** in various disciplines, he said non-engineering schools also get the advantage of technology.
विभिन्न विषयों में एआई और इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग्स (IoT) के उपयोग पर प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि गैर-इंजीनियरिंग स्कूलों को भी प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ मिलता है।
- For instance, law school students learn about cyber security law and AI in law, and agriculture students are exposed to drone technology and remote sensing in agriculture and smart farming.
उदाहरण के लिए, विधि विद्यालय के छात्र साइबर सुरक्षा कानून और विधि में एआई के बारे में सीखते हैं, और कृषि के छात्र ड्रोन तकनीक तथा कृषि और स्मार्ट खेती में रिमोट सेंसिंग से परिचित होते हैं।
- "We make sure that AI is used in every subject, and it is the common denominator so that students gain domain expertise and also learn to integrate technology in all fields," he said.
"हम सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि एआई का उपयोग हर विषय में हो, और यह सामान्य आधार बने ताकि छात्र विषयगत विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त करें और सभी क्षेत्रों में प्रौद्योगिकी को एकीकृत करना भी सीखें," उन्होंने कहा।
- Highlighting programmes like curriculum for applied learning and adaptive curriculum for excellence, Mr. Sekar said students are allowed to study other subjects apart from their discipline.
एप्लाइड लर्निंग के लिए पाठ्यक्रम और उत्कृष्टता के लिए अनुकूली पाठ्यक्रम जैसे कार्यक्रमों को रेखांकित करते हुए, श्री सेकर ने कहा कि छात्रों को अपने विषय के अलावा अन्य विषय पढ़ने की अनुमति दी जाती है।
- For instance, a mechanical engineering student can learn marketing or specialise in IoT.
उदाहरण के लिए, एक मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग छात्र मार्केटिंग सीख सकता है या IoT में विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त कर सकता है।
- "We allow programme migration. Multidisciplinary education will increase their employability," he said.
"हम कार्यक्रम परिवर्तन की अनुमति देते हैं। बहु-विषयक शिक्षा उनकी रोजगार क्षमता बढ़ाएगी," उन्होंने कहा।

Digital divide

डिजिटल विभाजन

- Answering a question on digital divide and limitations to students' access to technology, he said VIT has started online courses to reach out to students in remote areas.
डिजिटल विभाजन और छात्रों की प्रौद्योगिकी तक पहुंच की सीमाओं पर प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि वीआईटी ने दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों के छात्रों तक पहुंचने के लिए ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किए हैं।



- The country has also made significant progress in providing technological access to students, he added.
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि देश ने छात्रों को तकनीकी पहुंच प्रदान करने में भी महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की है।
- Appreciating the State government's scheme to provide free laptops to students and the Centre's policy to reduce the cost of bandwidth, Mr. Sekar said the government must ensure network reach in remote, hilly areas.
राज्य सरकार की छात्रों को मुफ्त लैपटॉप प्रदान करने की योजना और केंद्र की बैंडविड्थ लागत कम करने की नीति की सराहना करते हुए, श्री सेकर ने कहा कि सरकार को दूरस्थ और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में नेटवर्क पहुंच सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए।
- Underlining the need for providing affordable higher education to more youngsters, he said the government must increase funding for education, as private institutions have their limits in extending scholarships.
अधिक युवाओं को किफायती उच्च शिक्षा प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार को शिक्षा के लिए वित्त पोषण बढ़ाना चाहिए, क्योंकि निजी संस्थानों की छात्रवृत्ति बढ़ाने की अपनी सीमाएं हैं।
- Programs such as the **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship** must reach all institutions.
प्रधानमंत्री अनुसंधान फेलोशिप जैसे कार्यक्रम सभी संस्थानों तक पहुंचने चाहिए।
- The government must adopt a liberal approach, allowing institutions to open more campuses and increase the intake of students.
सरकार को उदार दृष्टिकोण अपनाना चाहिए, जिससे संस्थानों को अधिक परिसर खोलने और छात्रों की संख्या बढ़ाने की अनुमति मिले।

Relevance of hackathons हैकथॉन की प्रासंगिकता

- To a question about the relevance of mentorship and hackathons at educational institutions, Mr. Sekar cited examples at VIT, wherein hackathons are conducted as assessment tools and startups are funded.
शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में मेंटरशिप और हैकथॉन की प्रासंगिकता पर प्रश्न के उत्तर में, श्री सेकर ने वीआईटी के उदाहरण दिए, जहां हैकथॉन को मूल्यांकन उपकरण के रूप में आयोजित किया जाता है और स्टार्टअप को वित्त पोषण दिया जाता है।
- Students are encouraged to solve problems provided by industries as part of their course and this, in turn, develops entrepreneurship.
छात्रों को अपने पाठ्यक्रम के हिस्से के रूप में उद्योगों द्वारा दिए गए समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है, और इससे उद्यमिता विकसित होती है।
- What starts as simple problem-solving in a classroom leads to the creation of startups through the **Technology Business Incubator at VIT**, and eventually, the betterment of society.
जो कक्षा में साधारण समस्या-समाधान से शुरू होता है, वह **वीआईटी के टेक्नोलॉजी बिजनेस इनक्यूबेटर** के माध्यम से स्टार्टअप के निर्माण और अंततः समाज के उत्थान तक पहुंचता है।

Collaborative initiatives सहयोगात्मक पहल

- Elaborating on collaborative initiatives with the industry, he said close connect with the industries ensure better job prospects for students and prepare them for reality.
उद्योग के साथ सहयोगात्मक पहलों पर विस्तार से चर्चा करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि उद्योगों से निकट संबंध छात्रों के लिए बेहतर रोजगार संभावनाएं सुनिश्चित करते हैं और उन्हें वास्तविकता के लिए तैयार करते हैं।
- Besides modules taught by industry experts, students learn soft skills for better employability.
उद्योग विशेषज्ञों द्वारा पढ़ाए गए मॉड्यूल के अलावा, छात्र बेहतर रोजगार क्षमता के लिए सॉफ्ट स्किल्स भी सीखते हैं।
- VIT also offers programmes for industry professionals.
वीआईटी उद्योग पेशेवरों के लिए भी कार्यक्रम प्रदान करता है।
- Later, answering a question on the education sector's response to pandemic resilience by **N. Ram**, Director, **The Hindu Group**, Mr. Sekar said VIT switched to live online education and provided device and network access to students.



बाद में, **द हिंदू ग्रुप** के निदेशक **एन. राम** द्वारा महामारी से निपटने में शिक्षा क्षेत्र की प्रतिक्रिया पर प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए, श्री सेकर ने कहा कि वीआईटी ने लाइव ऑनलाइन शिक्षा की ओर रुख किया और छात्रों को उपकरण तथा नेटवर्क पहुंच प्रदान की।

‘Governing decisions is more important than governing infra’

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With AI systems influencing real-time decisions across sectors, experts at *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026* cautioned that traditional governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) models are yet to catch up, exposing organisations to new and poorly understood risks.

At a session titled ‘Governance, Risk, and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework’, Balakrishna Kanniah, vice-president, IT, IS and Digital, Alten India Pvt. Ltd., said that while platforms change, some things remain standard and static.

Agentic AI

“Agentic AI has not changed the fundamentals of GRC. Governance models may change, but GRC itself has not been reinvented for projects. What has changed is the adoption rate. In my 25 years in the industry, earlier GRC was seen as audit-driven. Now that has changed. GRC has become a key



Experts at a discussion on ‘Governance, Risk, and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework’ say traditional governance, risk, and compliance models are yet to catch up with emerging AI systems. M. SRINATH

driver of success for risk frameworks, operations, new projects, and products. Everything falls under it,” he said.

Responding to a question on whether companies now govern infrastructure or decision-making, Gowdhaman Jothilingam, Global CISO and Head of IT at LatentView Analytics Ltd., said organisations today govern decisions, not infrastructure, which has largely been stabilised and scaled. The real differentiator, he said, is accountability.

FAIR model

From a cybersecurity standpoint, Mr. Jothilingam

recommended the FAIR (Factor Analysis of Information Risk) model, an open-source standard for quantifying cyber risk.

Governance oversight

Speaking about the shift to continuous governance oversight in regulated sectors such as banking, Venimalai Sundaresan, vice-president, data governance, Standard Chartered, said that while banks already have robust GRC frameworks and strong regulatory oversight, the real challenge lies in aligning traditional governance models with adaptive, real-time technologies.

A fundamental issue with AI, Sakthi Balan Muthaiah, Professor, Shiv Nadar University, pointed out, is anthropomorphism.

“We use words like intelligence, learning, and understanding, assuming AI behaves like humans. It does not. For example, humans learn multiplication assuming addition is already understood. AI models do not learn that way – they learn through pattern recognition. This assumption can go wrong, especially in auditing and regulation,” he said.

The session was moderated by Koushik Ramani, Managing Partner, NetworkGain.

‘Governing decisions is more important than governing infra’ ‘निर्णयों का शासन करना इंफ्रा के शासन से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है’

- With **AI systems** influencing **real-time decisions** across sectors, experts at **The Hindu Tech Summit 2026** cautioned that traditional **governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) models** are yet to catch up, exposing organisations to new and poorly understood risks. विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में **AI प्रणालियों** द्वारा **रियल-टाइम निर्णयों** को प्रभावित करने के साथ, **The Hindu Tech Summit 2026** में विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी कि पारंपरिक **गवर्नेंस, रिस्क और कंप्लायंस (GRC) मॉडल** अभी तक साथ नहीं दे पाए हैं, जिससे संगठन नए और कम समझे गए जोखिमों के संपर्क में आ रहे हैं।
- At a session titled ‘**Governance, Risk, and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework**’, **Balakrishna Kanniah**, vice-president, IT, IS and Digital, **Alten India Pvt. Ltd.**, said that while platforms change, some things remain standard and static.



‘Governance, Risk, and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework’ शीर्षक वाले सत्र में, **Balakrishna Kanniah**, वाइस-प्रेसिडेंट, IT, IS और डिजिटल, **Alten India Pvt. Ltd.**, ने कहा कि प्लेटफॉर्म बदलते रहते हैं, लेकिन कुछ चीजें मानक और स्थिर रहती हैं।

Agentic AI एजेंटिक AI

- “ **Agentic AI** has not changed the fundamentals of **GRC**. Governance models may change, but **GRC** itself has not been reinvented for projects. What has changed is the adoption rate. In my **25 years** in the industry, earlier **GRC** was seen as audit-driven. Now that has changed. **GRC** has become a key driver of success for risk frameworks, operations, new projects, and products. Everything falls under it,” he said.
“ **Agentic AI** ने **GRC** के मूल सिद्धांतों को नहीं बदला है। गवर्नेंस मॉडल बदल सकते हैं, लेकिन **GRC** को परियोजनाओं के लिए फिर से आविष्कृत नहीं किया गया है। जो बदला है वह अपनाने की दर है। उद्योग में मेरे **25 वर्षों** में, पहले **GRC** को ऑडिट-चालित माना जाता था। अब यह बदल गया है। **GRC** जोखिम ढांचे, संचालन, नई परियोजनाओं और उत्पादों की सफलता का एक प्रमुख चालक बन गया है। सब कुछ इसके अंतर्गत आता है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Responding to a question on whether companies now govern infrastructure or decisionmaking, **Gowdhaman Jothilingam**, Global CISO and Head of IT at **LatentView Analytics Ltd.**, said organisations today govern decisions, not infrastructure, which has largely been stabilised and scaled.
इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में कि क्या कंपनियां अब इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर या निर्णय-निर्माण का शासन करती हैं, **Gowdhaman Jothilingam**, ग्लोबल CISO और IT प्रमुख, **LatentView Analytics Ltd.**, ने कहा कि आज संगठन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर नहीं बल्कि निर्णयों का शासन करते हैं, जिसे काफी हद तक स्थिर और विस्तारित किया जा चुका है।
- The real differentiator, he said, is accountability.
उन्होंने कहा कि वास्तविक अंतर करने वाला तत्व जवाबदेही है।

F AIR model F AIR मॉडल

- From a cybersecurity standpoint, Mr. Jothilingam recommended the **F AIR (Factor Analysis of Information Risk) model**, an open-source standard for quantifying cyber risk.
साइबर सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से, श्री Jothilingam ने **F AIR (Factor Analysis of Information Risk) मॉडल** की सिफारिश की, जो साइबर जोखिम को मापने के लिए एक ओपन-सोर्स मानक है।

Governance oversight गवर्नेंस निगरानी

- Speaking about the shift to continuous governance oversight in regulated sectors such as banking, **Vennimalai Sundaresan**, vice president, data governance, **Standard Chartered**, said that while banks already have robust **GRC frameworks** and strong regulatory oversight, the real challenge lies in aligning traditional governance models with adaptive, real-time technologies.
बैंकिंग जैसे विनियमित क्षेत्रों में सतत गवर्नेंस निगरानी की ओर बदलाव पर बोलते हुए, **Vennimalai Sundaresan**, वाइस-प्रेसिडेंट, डेटा गवर्नेंस, **Standard Chartered**, ने कहा कि जबकि बैंकों के पास पहले से मजबूत **GRC ढांचे** और सशक्त नियामक निगरानी है, वास्तविक चुनौती पारंपरिक गवर्नेंस मॉडलों को अनुकूलनीय, रियल-टाइम तकनीकों के साथ संरेखित करने में है।
- A fundamental issue with **AI**, **Sakthi Balan Muthaiah**, Professor, **Shiv Nadar University**, pointed out, is anthropomorphism.
Sakthi Balan Muthaiah, प्रोफेसर, **Shiv Nadar University**, ने बताया कि **AI** के साथ एक मूलभूत समस्या मानव-सदृश मान लेना (anthropomorphism) है।
- “We use words like intelligence, learning, and understanding, assuming **AI** behaves like humans. It does not. For example, humans learn multiplication assuming addition is already understood. **AI models** do not learn that way — they learn through pattern recognition. This assumption can go wrong, especially in auditing and regulation,” he said.



“हम intelligence, learning और understanding जैसे शब्दों का उपयोग करते हैं, यह मानते हुए कि AI मनुष्यों की तरह व्यवहार करता है। ऐसा नहीं है। उदाहरण के लिए, मनुष्य गुणा सीखते समय यह मानते हैं कि जोड़ पहले से समझा गया है। AI मॉडल उस तरह नहीं सीखते — वे पैटर्न पहचान के माध्यम से सीखते हैं। यह धारणा गलत हो सकती है, विशेष रूप से ऑडिटिंग और विनियमन में,” उन्होंने कहा।

- The session was moderated by **Koushik Ramani**, Managing Partner, **NetworkGain**.

‘Unlearn, relearn to stay relevant in technological era’

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Resilience is non-negotiable, but with technology evolving rapidly, organisations must unlearn outdated practices and relearn new skills to stay relevant and effective, panellists said on Thursday at *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026* hosted by *The Hindu* along with VIT.

Speaking at a session on ‘The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery’, Amrish Kumar Jain, Chief Information Officer, Tally Solution, said it is difficult to predict technology upgradation

and build resilience in the evolving technological landscape. But organisations must continue to upscale and adapt themselves to emerging technology. While resilience remains non-negotiable, real-time testing is essential to build robust disaster recovery system.

Noting that addition of an AI layer is enhancing every aspect, from design to operations, Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Center Projects, SIFY Innit Spaces Limited, highlighted the use of AI in predictive monitoring to prevent disasters. An additional AI layer in monitoring system



Panelists at a session on ‘The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery’ stress the need to unlearn outdated practices and relearn new skills to stay relevant and effective. M. SRINATH

are being deployed to improve efficiency and avoid the risk of incidents.

Recalling how business continuity was sustained during the 2015 Chennai floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, Sendil Kumar Venkatesan, CTO, Shriram

Capital, said the organisation made efforts to strengthen its system with resilience plan to reduce downtime. Application programming interface plays a major role in disaster recovery strategies. Every organisation must have

a blueprint for data recovery drills, especially when operating in a multi-cloud environment.

At the session moderated by Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, *The Hindu*, panellists also discussed the use of application monitor-

ing tools that provide clear picture of whether alerts are genuine or false to address issues. Tracing the evolution of data technology since floppy disks, Santhosh T.G., Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility, said organisations must ensure back-up mechanisms and embed technology in business operations.

Highlighting how cloud technology has transformed AI ecosystem and simplified data recovery for customers, Suraj Ramesh, Senior Principal Product Manager, Oracle India Private Limited, said automation plays a critical role in data recovery.

इस सत्र का संचालन **Koushik Ramani**, मैनेजिंग पार्टनर, **Network Gain**, ने किया।

‘Unlearn, relearn to stay relevant in technological era’ ‘तकनीकी युग में प्रासंगिक बने रहने के लिए अनलर्न और रीलर्न करें’

- Resilience is non-negotiable, but with technology evolving rapidly, organisations must unlearn outdated practices and relearn new skills to stay relevant and effective, panellists said on Thursday at *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026* hosted by *The Hindu* along with VIT.

Resilience अपरिहार्य है, लेकिन तेजी से विकसित होती तकनीक के साथ, संगठनों को पुरानी प्रथाओं को छोड़कर नई कौशल सीखनी होंगी ताकि वे प्रासंगिक और प्रभावी बने रहें, पैनलिस्टों ने गुरुवार को *The Hindu Tech Summit 2026* में कहा, जिसका आयोजन *The Hindu* ने VIT के साथ किया।

- Speaking at a session on ‘The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery’, Amrish Kumar Jain, Chief Information Officer, Tally Solution, said it is difficult to predict technology upgradation and build resilience in the evolving technological landscape.

‘The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery’ विषय पर सत्र में बोलते हुए, Amrish Kumar Jain, Chief Information Officer, Tally Solution, ने कहा कि विकसित हो रहे तकनीकी परिदृश्य में तकनीकी उन्नयन की भविष्यवाणी करना और resilience बनाना कठिन है।

- But organisations must continue to upscale and adapt themselves to emerging technology. लेकिन संगठनों को उभरती तकनीक के अनुसार स्वयं को उन्नत और अनुकूलित करते रहना चाहिए।
- While resilience remains non-negotiable, real-time testing is essential to build a robust disaster recovery system.

जहाँ resilience अपरिहार्य है, वहीं मजबूत disaster recovery system बनाने के लिए real-time testing आवश्यक है।

- Noting that addition of an AI layer is enhancing every aspect, from design to operations, Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Center Projects, SIFY Innit Spaces Limited, highlighted the use of AI in predictive monitoring to prevent disasters.

यह उल्लेख करते हुए कि AI layer का समावेश डिजाइन से लेकर संचालन तक हर पहलू को सशक्त बना रहा है, Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Center Projects, SIFY Innit Spaces Limited, ने आपदाओं को रोकने के लिए predictive monitoring में AI के उपयोग पर प्रकाश डाला।

- An additional AI layer in the monitoring system is being deployed to improve efficiency and avoid the risk of incidents.

निगरानी प्रणाली में एक अतिरिक्त AI layer तैनात की जा रही है ताकि दक्षता में सुधार हो और घटनाओं के जोखिम से बचा जा सके।



- Recalling how business continuity was sustained during the **2015 Chennai floods** and the **COVID-19 pandemic**, **Sendil Kumar Venkatesan**, CTO, **Shriram Capital**, said the organisation made efforts to strengthen its system with a resilience plan to reduce downtime. **2015 Chennai floods** और **COVID-19 pandemic** के दौरान व्यवसाय निरंतरता कैसे बनाए रखी गई, इसे याद करते हुए, **Sendil Kumar Venkatesan**, CTO, **Shriram Capital**, ने कहा कि संगठन ने downtime कम करने के लिए resilience plan के साथ अपनी प्रणाली को मजबूत करने के प्रयास किए।
- Application programming interface plays a major role in disaster recovery strategies. Application programming interface disaster recovery रणनीतियों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।
- Every organisation must have a blueprint for data recovery drills, especially when operating in a multi-cloud environment.
हर संगठन के पास data recovery drills के लिए एक blueprint होना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से जब वह multi-cloud environment में कार्य कर रहा हो।
- At the session moderated by **Suresh Vijayaraghavan**, CTO, **The Hindu**, panellists also discussed the use of application monitoring tools that provide a clear picture of whether alerts are genuine or false to address issues.
Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, **The Hindu**, द्वारा संचालित सत्र में, पैनलिस्टों ने application monitoring tools के उपयोग पर भी चर्चा की, जो यह स्पष्ट चित्र प्रदान करते हैं कि alerts वास्तविक हैं या गलत, ताकि समस्याओं का समाधान किया जा सके।
- Tracing the evolution of data technology since floppy disks, **Santhosh T.G.**, Chief Digital Officer, **Switch Mobility**, said organisations must ensure back-up mechanisms and embed technology in business operations.
floppy disks से लेकर डेटा तकनीक के विकास का अनुसरण करते हुए, **Santhosh T.G.**, Chief Digital Officer, **Switch Mobility**, ने कहा कि संगठनों को back-up mechanisms सुनिश्चित करने चाहिए और business operations में तकनीक को समाहित करना चाहिए।
- Highlighting how cloud technology has transformed the AI ecosystem and simplified data recovery for customers, **Suraj Ramesh**, Senior Principal Product Manager, **Oracle India Private Limited**, said automation plays a critical role in data recovery.
यह उजागर करते हुए कि cloud technology ने **AI ecosystem** को कैसे परिवर्तित किया है और ग्राहकों के लिए data recovery को सरल बनाया है, **Suraj Ramesh**, Senior Principal Product Manager, **Oracle India Private Limited**, ने कहा कि automation data recovery में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।



The many lives of breast cancer: understanding special subtypes

Breast cancer is not just one story. There are many variations — some relatively gentle, some more aggressive — but all of them are treatable when found early and approached without fear or delay; paying attention to the quiet signals that something is different, and acting on them, is the most powerful step to take

GS III & T

Nisha Hariharan

Conversations about breast cancer usually bring up a single picture in one's mind: a woman feels a lump, gets it tested, is told she has breast cancer, and then follows a pathway of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and hormone tablets. That picture is almost always based on the commonest form of the disease — what the World Health Organization now calls "invasive carcinoma of no special type" (NST), formerly known as invasive ductal carcinoma. Around 70-80% of invasive breast cancers fall into this group.

But breast cancer is not one disease. Under the microscope, it is a family of diseases that all happen to arise in the breast. Some are aggressive, some are surprisingly gentle, some have not yet turned into true cancer, and some occur in groups we rarely talk about, such as men. The subtype of breast cancer in the pathology report can change the likely behaviour of the disease and the kind of treatment it needs.

In India, where breast cancer has become the most-commonly diagnosed cancer among women in many urban registries, these rare forms are not a side-show: they are part of the everyday reality of oncology.

en may both words 'you have cancer' but have rent diseases microscopically primary breast important to are types safely

Once a lump is detected on examination or imaging, the next crucial step is tissue diagnosis. In modern practice, this is usually done on small samples taken with a core needle biopsy. The pathologist then studies thin slices of this tissue under the microscope and performs special stains to look for hormone receptors and other markers.

From this process comes the pathological diagnosis. It tells us: whether there is cancer at all, where it seems to have started, what pattern the cells form, and whether they express oestrogen, progesterone or HER2 receptors.

Two women may both hear the words "you have breast cancer" but have very different diseases under the microscope. At this stage, communication between the radiologist, pathologist and surgeon is indispensable. The image, the biopsy and the clinical examination must all make sense together, especially when the pattern is unusual. This is why multidisciplinary breast units — where these specialists work together — are important to manage rare types safely.

The most important non-ductal subtype to understand is invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) — the second-most common kind of invasive breast cancer, accounting for roughly one in ten cases. It begins in the lobules — the milk-producing glands — rather than the ducts. Under the microscope, ILC cells tend to line up in single files, slipping between normal structures instead of clumping into a ball. This microscopic pattern creates some very practical differences.

Compared to usual ductal cancer, ILC may not form a well-defined lump that is easy to feel, can make the breast feel generally fuller, heavier, or slightly firmer in one area, may cause subtle pulling in the skin or nipple rather than a distinct nodule, and can be harder to pick up on a mammogram, because it sometimes blends in with normal tissue.

Most ILCs are hormone-receptor positive, which means they respond well to anti-oestrogen tablets given for several years after surgery. Long-term outcomes can be very good when the disease is caught early. The challenge lies in recognising the disease early, both for women, who may not feel a classic lump, and for clinicians, who must be alert to more subtle changes.

The key message is that breast awareness is not just about "feeling a lump". If one breast slowly begins to look or feel different from the other — in size, shape, firmness or texture — and those changes don't go away, it is worth getting checked, even if you cannot point to a discrete lump.

The gentler outliers

Not all special subtypes of breast cancer are very dangerous. Some are biologically gentle and, when detected early, can be controlled remarkably well with relatively modest treatment.

A group of these "good outcome cancers" includes tubular carcinoma, colloid (mucinous) carcinoma, and adenoid cystic carcinoma.

Tubular carcinoma is made up of tiny, well-formed tube-like structures. These tumours are usually small, slow-growing and respond very well to treatment.

Mucinous (colloid) carcinoma produces pools of mucus in which cancer cells appear to float. This form often occurs in older women and tends to behave less aggressively than typical NST cancers. Adenoid cystic carcinomas of the breast are rare tumours with a distinctive cribriform pattern; they are often low-grade and less prone to spread to lymph nodes.

In many women with these subtypes, disease can be effectively controlled by first-line surgery and anti-oestrogen tablets, without the need for intensive chemotherapy. Despite being "rare", these cancers are immensely treatable, provided they are recognised in time and managed with due care.

At the other end are subtypes that tend to behave more aggressively. Among these are invasive micropapillary carcinoma and metaplastic carcinoma.

In micropapillary carcinoma, the cancer cells form clusters that seem to float in empty spaces under the microscope. This pattern is strongly associated with a higher risk of lymphovascular invasion and lymph node spread. Even when the primary tumour in the breast is not very large, the nodes can be significantly involved. Recognising this pattern alerts the treating team to the need for careful axillary assessment and appropriate systemic therapy.

Metaplastic carcinoma is rarer but particularly important. Here, the tumour contains areas where the cancer cells have transformed into forms that



Once a lump is detected on examination or imaging, the next crucial step is tissue diagnosis. ISTOCKPHOTO

resemble bone, cartilage or spindle-shaped connective tissue. These tumours often present as rapidly enlarging, firm lumps, are more likely to be triple-negative (lacking ER, PR and HER2), and can be less responsive to standard chemotherapy compared to ordinary NST tumours.

Outcomes for these aggressive subtypes depend heavily on stage at diagnosis and access to expertise. These tumours underscore once again how crucial accurate pathology and multidisciplinary planning are, to achieve good outcomes in breast cancer.

When the lump keeps growing

While all the tumours discussed so far are unequivocally cancers, phyllodes tumours are somewhat different. They arise from the fibrous and glandular tissue of the breast and are classified as benign, borderline, or malignant based on their microscopic features, depending on how active and abnormal the stromal component appears. They are, in other words, tumours of the breast, but not breast carcinoma in the usual sense. Under the microscope, they have a leaf-like architecture, which is where the name "phyllodes" comes from.

Clinically, a phyllodes tumour typically presents as a smooth, mobile lump, which at first glance can resemble a common fibroadenoma (a benign breast lump) and then begin to grow quickly, sometimes over just a few months.

In countries like India, where women may delay seeking care because of fear, stigma or distance, it is not unusual to encounter phyllodes tumours that have been allowed to reach very large sizes.

Unlike typical breast cancers, phyllodes tumours rarely involve the lymph nodes, so routine removal of nodes is often unnecessary. The mainstay of treatment is surgical excision with a rim of healthy tissue around the tumour, to reduce the risk of it coming back in the same area. Malignant phyllodes tumours, however, can spread through the bloodstream, most commonly to the lungs.

If you have been told you have a "fibroadenoma" or a "benign lump", but it keeps increasing in size or returns quickly after a minor operation, it is worth asking your doctor if a phyllodes tumour has been ruled out by proper pathology.

Finally, there is a group that is rare not because of the tumour type, but because

of who it affects: men. Public campaigns about breast cancer overwhelmingly depict women. Yet men have breast tissue too, and they can also develop breast cancer.

Warning signs in men are similar to those in women: a firm lump behind or close to the nipple, nipple retraction, ulceration or crusting, discharge or bleeding from the nipple, and occasionally a lump in the armpit.

The most important step is the first one: recognising that a breast lump in a man is not something to be ignored, but something to be examined. For men who are affected, the experience can be doubly isolating.

Many have never heard of male breast cancer before their own diagnosis and some delay seeking help because breast cancer is perceived as a "women's disease". Treatment follows the same broad principles as in women — surgery, hormone tablets for hormone-receptor-positive disease, and chemotherapy or targeted therapy where indicated. When diagnosed early and treated appropriately, male breast cancer can usually be brought under control.

What to watch for?

No one can tell the subtype of a breast lesion by touch alone. That is the work of imaging and pathology. But there are certain patterns of change that should never be ignored or endlessly reassured away: Any new lump in the breast or armpit that persists beyond a few weeks, in women or men; a known "benign" lump that suddenly begins to grow faster; one breast becoming noticeably different in size, shape or firmness compared to the other; nipple changes — new inversion, distortion, crusting, or discharge, especially if blood-stained or from a single duct; and skin changes — such as persistent thickening or dimpling — that do not settle.

Most of these will turn out to be benign. Some will be common NST/ductal cancers. A small minority will be the rarer entities described above. For all of them, timely evaluation including imaging, core needle biopsy, and expert interpretation is far better than months of waiting and watching.

Rare breast cancer subtypes are a quiet rest of our systems. They ask whether radiologists, pathologists and surgeons are talking to each other; whether multidisciplinary care is available beyond a few big cities; and whether our registries are capturing the full spectrum of disease, not just its most familiar face.

For all of us, the message is simple: breast cancer is not just one story. There are many variations — some gentle, some more demanding — but all of them are very treatable when found early and approached without fear or delay. Paying attention to the quiet signals that something is different, and acting on them, remains the most powerful step we can take.

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THE GIST

Breast cancer is not one disease. Under the microscope, it is a family of diseases that all happen to arise in the breast. The subtype of breast cancer in the pathology report can change the likely behaviour of the disease and the kind of treatment it needs.

The key message is that breast awareness is not just about "feeling a lump". If one breast slowly begins to look or feel different from the other — in size, shape, firmness or texture — and those changes don't go away, it is worth getting checked.

Rare breast cancer subtypes are a quiet rest of our systems. They ask whether radiologists, pathologists and surgeons are talking to each other; whether multidisciplinary care is available beyond a few big cities; and whether our registries are capturing the full spectrum of disease, not just its most familiar face.

The many lives of breast cancer: understanding special subtypes स्तन कैंसर के कई रूप: विशेष उपप्रकारों को समझना

- **Breast cancer** is not just one story. There are many **variations** — some relatively gentle, some more **aggressive** — but all of them are **treatable** when found **early** and approached without **fear** or **delay**; paying attention to the **quiet signals** that something is **different**, and acting on them, is the most **powerful** step to take

स्तन कैंसर केवल एक कहानी नहीं है। इसके कई रूप हैं — कुछ अपेक्षाकृत हल्के, कुछ अधिक आक्रामक — लेकिन ये सभी उपचार योग्य हैं जब इन्हें शुरुआत में पहचान लिया जाए और बिना डर या देरी के इलाज



किया जाए; किसी भी **सूक्ष्म संकेत** पर ध्यान देना कि कुछ **अलग** है, और उस पर कार्रवाई करना सबसे **शक्तिशाली** कदम है।

Conversations about breast cancer स्तन कैंसर पर चर्चा

- Conversations about **breast cancer** usually bring up a single picture in one's mind: a woman feels a **lump**, gets it tested, is told she has **breast cancer**, and then follows a pathway of **surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and hormone tablets**.
स्तन कैंसर पर चर्चा अक्सर एक ही तस्वीर सामने लाती है: एक महिला को **गांठ** महसूस होती है, जांच कराती है, उसे **स्तन कैंसर** बताया जाता है, और फिर **सर्जरी, कीमोथेरेपी, रेडिएशन और हार्मोन दवाओं** का उपचार शुरू होता है।
- That picture is almost always based on the commonest form of the disease — what the **World Health Organization** calls “**invasive carcinoma of no special type (NST)**”, formerly **invasive ductal carcinoma**.
यह तस्वीर अक्सर बीमारी के सबसे सामान्य रूप पर आधारित होती है — जिसे **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन** “**इनवेसिव कार्सिनोमा ऑफ नो स्पेशल टाइप (NST)**” कहता है, जिसे पहले **इनवेसिव डक्टल कार्सिनोमा** कहा जाता था।
- Around **70–80%** of invasive breast cancers fall into this group.
लगभग **70–80%** इनवेसिव स्तन कैंसर इसी समूह में आते हैं।
- But **breast cancer is not one disease**.
लेकिन **स्तन कैंसर एक ही बीमारी नहीं है**।
- Under the microscope, it is a **family of diseases** that arise in the breast.
माइक्रोस्कोप के नीचे यह **बीमारियों का एक समूह** है जो स्तन में उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- Some are **aggressive**, some are **gentle**, some have **not yet become true cancer**, and some occur in **rare groups such as men**.
कुछ **आक्रामक** होती हैं, कुछ **धीमी**, कुछ अभी **सच्चे कैंसर में नहीं बदली**, और कुछ **पुरुषों जैसे कम चर्चित समूहों** में होती हैं।
- The **subtype in the pathology report** can change the behaviour of the disease and the **treatment required**.
पैथोलॉजी रिपोर्ट का उपप्रकार बीमारी के व्यवहार और आवश्यक **उपचार** को बदल सकता है।
- In **India**, where breast cancer is the **most commonly diagnosed cancer among women** in many urban registries, these rare forms are part of **everyday oncology reality**.
भारत में, जहाँ स्तन कैंसर कई शहरी रजिस्ट्रियों में **महिलाओं में सबसे अधिक पाया जाने वाला कैंसर** है, ये दुर्लभ रूप भी **ऑन्कोलॉजी की दैनिक वास्तविकता** का हिस्सा हैं।



Diagnosis after lump detection गांठ मिलने के बाद निदान

- Once a **lump is detected** on examination or imaging, the next crucial step is **tissue diagnosis**.
जांच या इमेजिंग में **गांठ मिलने** के बाद अगला महत्वपूर्ण कदम **ऊतक निदान** होता है।
- In modern practice, this is usually done using a **core needle biopsy** on small tissue samples.
आधुनिक चिकित्सा में यह आमतौर पर **कोर नीडल बायोप्सी** द्वारा छोटे ऊतक नमूनों से किया जाता है।
- The **pathologist studies thin tissue slices under microscope** and performs **special stains** to detect **hormone receptors and markers**.
पैथोलॉजिस्ट माइक्रोस्कोप के नीचे ऊतक के पतले स्लाइस का अध्ययन करता है और **विशेष रंगाई** करके **हार्मोन रिसेप्टर और अन्य मार्कर** की जांच करता है।



Pathological diagnosis from this process इस प्रक्रिया से पैथोलॉजिकल निदान

- From this process comes the **pathological diagnosis**.
इस प्रक्रिया से पैथोलॉजिकल निदान प्राप्त होता है।
- It tells whether **cancer is present**, where it started, what **cell pattern** is seen, and whether **oestrogen, progesterone or HER2 receptors** are expressed.
यह बताता है कि कैंसर है या नहीं, यह कहाँ शुरू हुआ, कोशिकाओं का पैटर्न क्या है, और क्या एस्ट्रोजन, प्रोजेस्टेरोन या HER2 रिसेप्टर मौजूद हैं।
- Two women may both hear “**you have breast cancer**” but have very **different diseases under microscope**.
दो महिलाओं को “आपको स्तन कैंसर है” कहा जा सकता है, लेकिन माइक्रोस्कोप के नीचे उनकी बीमारी अलग हो सकती है।
- At this stage, **communication between radiologist, pathologist and surgeon** is essential.
इस चरण पर रेडियोलॉजिस्ट, पैथोलॉजिस्ट और सर्जन के बीच समन्वय आवश्यक है।
- The **image, biopsy and clinical examination must match**, especially when the **pattern is unusual**.
इमेज, बायोप्सी और क्लिनिकल जांच का मेल होना चाहिए, खासकर जब पैटर्न असामान्य हो।
- This is why **multidisciplinary breast units** are important to manage **rare types safely**.
इसीलिए मल्टीडिसिप्लिनरी ब्रेस्ट यूनिट्स दुर्लभ प्रकारों को सुरक्षित रूप से संभालने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) इन्वेसिव लोब्यूलर कार्सिनोमा (ILC)

- The most important non-ductal subtype is **invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC)** — the **second most common invasive breast cancer**, about **1 in 10 cases**.
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण नॉन-डक्टल प्रकार इन्वेसिव लोब्यूलर कार्सिनोमा (ILC) है — यह दूसरा सबसे सामान्य इन्वेसिव स्तन कैंसर है, लगभग 10 में 1 केस।
- It begins in the **lobules (milk-producing glands)** rather than the ducts.
यह लोब्यूलस (दूध बनाने वाली ग्रंथियों) में शुरू होता है, डक्ट्स में नहीं।
- Under microscope, **ILC cells line up in single files**, slipping between normal structures instead of forming a lump.
माइक्रोस्कोप में ILC कोशिकाएँ एक लाइन में दिखती हैं, और गांठ बनाने के बजाय सामान्य संरचनाओं के बीच फैलती हैं।
- This microscopic pattern creates **practical clinical differences**.
यह माइक्रोस्कोपिक पैटर्न व्यावहारिक चिकित्सीय अंतर पैदा करता है।

How ILC differs from usual ductal cancer ILC सामान्य डक्टल कैंसर से कैसे अलग है

- May **not form a clear lump** easy to feel.
यह स्पष्ट गांठ नहीं बनाता जिसे आसानी से महसूस किया जा सके।
- May make the breast feel **fuller, heavier or firmer** in one area.
यह स्तन को एक हिस्से में भरा हुआ, भारी या कठोर महसूस करा सकता है।
- May cause **subtle pulling of skin or nipple** instead of a distinct nodule.
यह स्पष्ट गांठ के बजाय त्वचा या निप्पल में हल्का खिंचाव पैदा कर सकता है।
- Can be **harder to detect on mammogram**, sometimes blending with normal tissue.
यह मैमोग्राम में पहचानना कठिन हो सकता है क्योंकि यह सामान्य ऊतक में मिल जाता है।

Treatment and prognosis of ILC ILC का उपचार और परिणाम

- Most ILCs are **hormone-receptor positive**, so they respond well to **anti-oestrogen tablets** after surgery.



अधिकांश ILC हार्मोन-रिसेप्टर पॉजिटिव होते हैं, इसलिए सर्जरी के बाद एंटी-एस्ट्रोजन दवाओं से अच्छा असर होता है।

- **Long-term outcomes can be very good** if detected early.
यदि जल्दी पता चल जाए तो **दीर्घकालिक परिणाम बहुत अच्छे** हो सकते हैं।
- The main challenge is **early recognition**, since classic lump may not be present.
मुख्य चुनौती **जल्दी पहचान** है, क्योंकि सामान्य गांठ नहीं होती।

Key message on breast awareness स्तन जागरूकता का मुख्य संदेश

- Breast awareness is **not only about feeling a lump**.
स्तन जागरूकता केवल **गांठ महसूस करने** तक सीमित नहीं है।
- If one breast slowly becomes **different in size, shape, firmness or texture**, and the change persists, it should be **checked medically**.
यदि एक स्तन धीरे-धीरे **आकार, आकृति, कठोरता या बनावट में बदल जाए** और यह बदलाव बना रहे, तो **डॉक्टरी जांच आवश्यक** है, भले ही स्पष्ट गांठ न हो।

The gentler outliers

कम आक्रामक प्रकार (Gentler outliers)

- Not all special subtypes of **breast cancer** are very dangerous.
सभी विशेष प्रकार के **स्तन कैंसर** बहुत खतरनाक नहीं होते।
- Some are **biologically gentle** and, when detected early, can be **controlled well with modest treatment**.
कुछ **जैविक रूप से कम आक्रामक** होते हैं और यदि जल्दी पता चल जाए तो **कम उपचार से नियंत्रित** हो सकते हैं।
- A group of these “**good outcome cancers**” includes **tubular carcinoma, colloid (mucinous) carcinoma, and adenoid cystic carcinoma**.
इन “**अच्छे परिणाम वाले कैंसर**” में **ट्यूबुलर कार्सिनोमा, कोलॉइड (म्यूकिनस) कार्सिनोमा और एडेनोइड सिस्टिक कार्सिनोमा** शामिल हैं।

Tubular carcinoma ट्यूबुलर कार्सिनोमा

- Tubular carcinoma is made up of **tiny well-formed tube-like structures**.
ट्यूबुलर कार्सिनोमा **छोटी सुव्यवस्थित ट्यूब जैसी संरचनाओं** से बना होता है।
- These tumours are usually **small, slow-growing and respond very well to treatment**.
ये ट्यूमर सामान्यतः **छोटे, धीरे बढ़ने वाले और उपचार के प्रति संवेदनशील** होते हैं।
- **Mucinous (colloid) carcinoma**
म्यूकिनस (कोलॉइड) कार्सिनोमा
- Mucinous carcinoma produces **pools of mucus** in which **cancer cells float**.
म्यूकिनस कार्सिनोमा में **म्यूकस के पूल** बनते हैं जिनमें **कैंसर कोशिकाएँ तैरती हुई** दिखती हैं।
- This form often occurs in **older women** and behaves **less aggressively than NST cancers**.
यह प्रकार अक्सर **अधिक उम्र की महिलाओं** में होता है और **NST कैंसर से कम आक्रामक** होता है।

Adenoid cystic carcinoma एडेनोइड सिस्टिक कार्सिनोमा

- Adenoid cystic carcinomas are **rare tumours with cribriform pattern**.
एडेनोइड सिस्टिक कार्सिनोमा **दुर्लभ ट्यूमर** हैं जिनमें **क्रिब्रिफॉर्म पैटर्न** होता है।
- They are often **low-grade and less likely to spread to lymph nodes**.
ये सामान्यतः **लो-ग्रेड होते हैं और लिम्फ नोड्स में फैलने की संभावना कम** होती है।
- In many women with these subtypes, disease can be controlled by **first-line surgery and anti-oestrogen tablets**, without **intensive chemotherapy**.



इन प्रकारों में कई महिलाओं में बीमारी पहली सर्जरी और एंटी-एस्ट्रोजन दवाओं से नियंत्रित हो जाती है, बिना गंभीर कीमोथेरेपी के।

- Despite being **rare**, these cancers are **highly treatable if detected early**. दुर्लभ होने के बावजूद ये कैंसर जल्दी पहचान होने पर अत्यधिक उपचार योग्य हैं।
- **More aggressive subtypes**
अधिक आक्रामक प्रकार
- At the other end are subtypes that behave **more aggressively**, such as **invasive micropapillary carcinoma and metaplastic carcinoma**. दूसरी ओर कुछ प्रकार अधिक आक्रामक होते हैं, जैसे इन्वेसिव माइक्रोपैपिलरी कार्सिनोमा और मेटाप्लास्टिक कार्सिनोमा।

Micropapillary carcinoma माइक्रोपैपिलरी कार्सिनोमा

- Cancer cells form **clusters floating in empty spaces** under microscope. माइक्रोस्कोप में कैंसर कोशिकाएँ खाली स्थानों में तैरते समूहों के रूप में दिखती हैं।
- This pattern is linked to **higher risk of lymphovascular invasion and lymph node spread**. यह पैटर्न लिम्फोवेस्कुलर इन्वेज़न और लिम्फ नोड्स में फैलाव के उच्च जोखिम से जुड़ा है।
- Even if tumour in breast is **small**, lymph nodes may be **significantly involved**. भले ही स्तन में ट्यूमर छोटा हो, लिम्फ नोड्स अधिक प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।
- This requires **careful axillary assessment and systemic therapy**. इसके लिए सावधानीपूर्वक एक्सिलरी जांच और उचित सिस्टमेटिक थेरेपी आवश्यक होती है।

Metaplastic carcinoma मेटाप्लास्टिक कार्सिनोमा

- Metaplastic carcinoma is **rarer but important**. मेटाप्लास्टिक कार्सिनोमा दुर्लभ लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Tumour cells may resemble **bone, cartilage or spindle-shaped tissue**. ट्यूमर कोशिकाएँ हड्डी, कार्टिलेज या स्पिंडल आकार के ऊतक जैसी दिख सकती हैं।
- These tumours often present as **rapidly enlarging firm lumps**. ये ट्यूमर अक्सर तेजी से बढ़ती कठोर गांठ के रूप में दिखते हैं।
- They are often **triple-negative (ER, PR, HER2 absent)** and may be **less responsive to chemotherapy**. ये अक्सर ट्रिपल-नेगेटिव (ER, PR, HER2 अनुपस्थित) होते हैं और कीमोथेरेपी के प्रति कम संवेदनशील हो सकते हैं।
- **Outcomes and importance of pathology**
परिणाम और पैथोलॉजी का महत्व
- Outcomes depend on **stage at diagnosis and expert care**. परिणाम निदान के चरण और विशेषज्ञ उपचार पर निर्भर करते हैं।
- These tumours highlight the importance of **accurate pathology and multidisciplinary planning** for good outcomes. ये ट्यूमर अच्छे परिणाम के लिए सटीक पैथोलॉजी और मल्टीडिसिप्लिनरी योजना के महत्व को दर्शाते हैं।

When the lump keeps growing जब गांठ लगातार बढ़ती रहती है

- While all the tumours discussed so far are unequivocally **cancers**, **phyllodes tumours** are somewhat different. अब तक चर्चा किए गए सभी ट्यूमर स्पष्ट रूप से कैंसर हैं, लेकिन फिलोड्स ट्यूमर कुछ अलग होते हैं।
- They arise from the **fibrous and glandular tissue** of the breast and are classified as **benign, borderline, or malignant** based on microscopic features. ये स्तन के फाइब्रस और ग्रंथीय ऊतक से उत्पन्न होते हैं और माइक्रोस्कोपिक विशेषताओं के आधार पर सौम्य, बॉर्डरलाइन या घातक वर्गों में बाँटे जाते हैं।



- They are tumours of the breast, but **not breast carcinoma in the usual sense**.
ये स्तन के ट्यूमर हैं, लेकिन सामान्य अर्थ में **स्तन कार्सिनोमा नहीं** हैं।
- Under the microscope, they show a **leaf-like architecture**, hence the name “**phyllodes**”.
माइक्रोस्कोप में इनमें **पत्ते जैसी संरचना** दिखती है, इसलिए इन्हें “**फिलोड्स**” कहा जाता है।
- Clinically, a phyllodes tumour appears as a **smooth, mobile lump** that may resemble a **fibroadenoma** at first and then **grow quickly**.
क्लिनिकल रूप से फिलोड्स ट्यूमर **चिकनी और हिलने-डुलने वाली गांठ** के रूप में दिखता है जो शुरुआत में **फाइब्रोएडेनोमा** जैसा लगता है और फिर **तेजी से बढ़ता है**।
- In countries like **India**, delays due to **fear, stigma or distance** may allow tumours to reach **very large sizes**.
भारत जैसे देशों में **डर, कलंक या दूरी** के कारण देरी से इलाज होने पर ट्यूमर **बहुत बड़े आकार** तक पहुँच सकते हैं।
- Unlike typical breast cancers, phyllodes tumours **rarely involve lymph nodes**.
सामान्य स्तन कैंसर के विपरीत फिलोड्स ट्यूमर **लिम्फ नोड्स को कम प्रभावित करते हैं**।
- The main treatment is **surgical excision with a margin of healthy tissue** to reduce recurrence.
मुख्य उपचार **स्वस्थ ऊतक के किनारे सहित सर्जरी** है ताकि पुनरावृत्ति कम हो।
- **Malignant phyllodes tumours** can spread through the **bloodstream**, most commonly to the **lungs**.
घातक फिलोड्स ट्यूमर रक्त के माध्यम से, विशेषकर **फेफड़ों तक फैल** सकते हैं।
- If a “**fibroadenoma**” or “**benign lump**” keeps **growing or recurring**, ask if **phyllodes tumour** has been ruled out.
यदि “**फाइब्रोएडेनोमा**” या “**सौम्य गांठ**” लगातार **बढ़ती या लौटती** रहे, तो पूछें कि **फिलोड्स ट्यूमर** को ठीक से खारिज किया गया है या नहीं।

Breast cancer in men पुरुषों में स्तन कैंसर

- Some cases are rare not by tumour type but by **who it affects — men**.
कुछ मामले ट्यूमर के प्रकार से नहीं बल्कि **किसे प्रभावित करते हैं — पुरुषों से दुर्लभ** होते हैं।
- Men also have **breast tissue** and can develop **breast cancer**.
पुरुषों में भी **स्तन ऊतक** होता है और उन्हें **स्तन कैंसर** हो सकता है।
- Warning signs in men include **firm lump near nipple, nipple retraction, ulceration, discharge or bleeding, and armpit lump**.
पुरुषों में चेतावनी संकेत हैं **निप्पल के पास कठोर गांठ, निप्पल का अंदर जाना, घाव, स्राव या रक्तस्राव, और बगल में गांठ**।
- The key step is recognising that a **breast lump in a man must not be ignored**.
मुख्य कदम यह समझना है कि **पुरुष में स्तन की गांठ को नजरअंदाज नहीं करना चाहिए**।
- Many men delay help because breast cancer is seen as a “**women’s disease**”.
कई पुरुष मदद लेने में देर करते हैं क्योंकि स्तन कैंसर को “**महिलाओं की बीमारी**” माना जाता है।
- Treatment follows similar principles as in women — **surgery, hormone therapy, chemotherapy or targeted therapy**.
उपचार महिलाओं जैसा ही होता है — **सर्जरी, हार्मोन थेरेपी, कीमोथेरेपी या टारगेटेड थेरेपी**।
- When detected **early and treated properly**, male breast cancer can usually be **controlled**.
यदि **जल्दी पता चल जाए और सही इलाज हो**, तो पुरुषों में स्तन कैंसर सामान्यतः **नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है**।

What to watch for? किन बातों पर ध्यान दें?

- No one can tell the **subtype of a breast lesion by touch alone**; this is the work of **imaging and pathology**.
कोई भी केवल छूकर **स्तन के घाव का सबटाइप नहीं बता सकता**; यह कार्य **इमेजिंग और पैथोलॉजी** का है।
- There are certain **patterns of change** that should **never be ignored**.
कुछ **परिवर्तन के पैटर्न** ऐसे हैं जिन्हें **कभी नजरअंदाज नहीं करना चाहिए**।



- Any **new lump in breast or armpit** persisting beyond a few weeks, in **women or men**.
स्तन या बगल में कोई भी **नई गांठ** जो कुछ हफ्तों से अधिक बनी रहे, **महिलाओं या पुरुषों** में।
- A known **benign lump** that suddenly **begins to grow faster**.
पहले से ज्ञात **सौम्य गांठ** जो अचानक **तेजी से बढ़ने लगे**।
- One breast becoming **noticeably different in size, shape or firmness** compared to the other.
एक स्तन का दूसरे की तुलना में **आकार, आकृति या कठोरता में स्पष्ट बदलाव**।
- **Nipple changes** — new inversion, distortion, crusting, or **discharge (especially blood-stained or single duct)**.
निप्पल में बदलाव — अंदर धंसना, विकृति, पपड़ी, या **स्राव (खासकर खून वाला या एक ही डक्ट से)**।
- **Skin changes** — persistent thickening or **dimpling** that does not settle.
त्वचा में बदलाव — लगातार मोटापन या **गड्ढे जैसा पड़ना** जो ठीक न हो।
- Most of these cases turn out to be **benign**, some are **common NST/ductal cancers**, and a small minority are **rare subtypes**.
इनमें से अधिकांश **सौम्य** होते हैं, कुछ **सामान्य NST/डक्टल कैंसर**, और थोड़े से **दुर्लभ प्रकार** होते हैं।
- For all, **timely evaluation with imaging, core needle biopsy, and expert interpretation** is better than waiting.
सभी के लिए **समय पर जांच** — इमेजिंग, कोर नीडल बायोप्सी और विशेषज्ञ व्याख्या — इंतजार करने से बेहतर है।

Rare breast cancer subtypes test our health systems. दुर्लभ स्तन कैंसर प्रकार हमारे स्वास्थ्य तंत्र की परीक्षा लेते हैं।

- They check whether **radiologists, pathologists and surgeons coordinate**, and whether **multidisciplinary care** exists beyond big cities.
ये देखते हैं कि **रेडियोलॉजिस्ट, पैथोलॉजिस्ट और सर्जन समन्वय करते हैं या नहीं**, और क्या **मल्टीडिसिप्लिनरी देखभाल** बड़े शहरों से बाहर उपलब्ध है।
- They also test whether **registries capture the full disease spectrum**.
ये यह भी परखते हैं कि **रजिस्ट्रियाँ बीमारी के पूरे स्पेक्ट्रम को दर्ज करती हैं या नहीं**।
- The message is simple: **breast cancer is not one story**.
संदेश सरल है: **स्तन कैंसर केवल एक प्रकार की कहानी नहीं है**।
- There are **many variations** — some gentle, some demanding — but all are **treatable when detected early**.
इसके **कई रूप हैं** — कुछ हल्के, कुछ गंभीर — पर सभी का इलाज संभव है यदि **जल्दी पहचान हो**।
- Paying attention to **quiet signals of change and acting early** is the most powerful step.
छोटे संकेतों पर ध्यान देना और समय पर कार्रवाई करना सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

GS Paper III: Environment,

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

1. **Why has J&K shelved the Dal Lake restoration plan?**
जम्मू-कश्मीर ने डल झील पुनर्स्थापन योजना को क्यों स्थगित किया?



Doting mommy



Family time: A greater one-horned rhinoceros calf nuzzles its mother in a wetland at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, in Morigaon district, Assam, on Thursday. PTI

Family time: A greater one-horned rhinoceros calf nuzzles its mother in a wetland at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, in Morigaon district, Assam, on Thursday.

Why has J&K shelved the Dal Lake restoration plan?

What environmental pressures have degraded Dal Lake over the decades?

SS III: Environment

Peerzada Ashiq

The story so far:

The Jammu and Kashmir government this month decided to shelve the ₹416.72-crore restoration and conservation plan for the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. The decision was made public in the J&K Assembly in response to a question by ruling National Conference (NC) legislator Tanvir Sadiq. The government has now proposed an *in-situ* conservation plan that would allow the dwellers to live on the lake. The shelved restoration and preservation plan, introduced by the Manmohan Singh government in 2009, aimed to address key issues ailing the lake by shifting around 9,000 Dal Lake dwellers. It sought to tackle problems such as the shrinking area of the lake, depleting water quality, uncontrolled discharge of effluents into the water body and growing population.

What issues does Dal Lake face?

Over the past four decades, the lake has recorded an extreme decline in water quality due to anthropogenic pressures, according to a 2022 survey conducted by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). It warned of extreme pollution loads and encroachment in and around the lake, the incursion of invasive plants and animals leading to rapid degradation of water quality.

The study observed that untreated sewage discharged from several point and non-point sources has severely deteriorated water quality. The situation has been further exacerbated by deforestation, grazing, agriculture, and changes in land use and land cover patterns in the lake's catchment area. The reduction in the number of inflows and internal water channels has also led to poor water circulation.

Nutrient enrichment of the lake water and sediments has caused extreme weed growth and altered the lake's biodiversity, it warned.

What were the contours of the earlier proposal?

In 2009, the Manmohan Singh government approved the ₹416.72-crore plan, which envisaged the shifting of 9,000 families in the first phase to a new location in Srinagar's Bemina area. Each Dal Lake family was offered a plot of land, ₹1.05 lakh for structure, and ₹3.91 lakh as one-time compensation. The colony earmarked for the Dal Lake dwellers, named Rakh-e-Arth, was located in a low-lying, flood-prone area of Bemina and required extensive land filling. With a significant amount spent on land filling, the government failed to fully establish basic facilities. This slowed down the pace of shifting of the lake dwellers.

According to official figures, around 1808 families were successfully rehabilitated in 17 years. "However, it has failed to yield tangible outcomes on the ground," according to the J&K government.

It said the lake conservation efforts recorded only 27% of the goal.

What new measures are proposed?

In 2022, the J&K government set up a High-Level Committee, which proposed an in-situ conservation plan. It termed the Dal Lake dwellers an "integral part of the lake ecosystem".

The J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has been directed to work out a comprehensive policy to implement in-situ conservation. It has also advocated that relocation and rehabilitation of left-out structures in the priority hamlets, however, will proceed concurrently in consonance with the present acquisition procedure in vogue. The government has identified 58 hamlets within the lake, of which six will be equipped with two modular Sewage Treatment Plants. Under the Prime Minister's Development Package, an integrated management programme for the conservation of the Dal-Nigeen Lake ecosystem has been framed.

Officials said Kachri Mohalla within the lake already functions as a modern village. A Detailed Project Report has been drafted by the IIT Roorkee and an amount of ₹212.38 crore will be spent over a period of five years. The project aims to address sewerage issues in 28 internal hamlets, treat inflow from catchment areas, and dredge interior channels. It is currently awaiting final approval from the Finance Department, officials said. It also proposes widening the development of interior water channels for the revival of interior circulation and smooth navigation.

THE GIST

The ₹416.72-crore restoration plan was shelved as it failed to yield tangible outcomes on the ground, prompting the government to propose an in-situ conservation plan treating dwellers as an integral part of the lake ecosystem.

Dal Lake faces extreme decline in water quality due to anthropogenic pressures, including untreated sewage discharge, extreme pollution loads, encroachment, invasive plants and animals, deforestation, land use changes, poor water circulation, and nutrient enrichment leading to extreme weed growth and altered biodiversity.

Why has J&K shelved the Dal Lake restoration plan?

जम्मू-कश्मीर ने डल झील पुनर्स्थापन योजना को क्यों स्थगित किया?

Dal Lake conservation decision

डल झील संरक्षण निर्णय

- The Jammu and Kashmir government this month decided to shelve the ₹416.72-crore restoration and conservation plan for the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. इस महीने जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार ने प्रसिद्ध श्रीनगर की डल झील के लिए ₹416.72 करोड़ की बहाली और संरक्षण योजना को स्थगित करने का निर्णय लिया।
- The decision was made public in the J&K Assembly in response to a question by ruling National Conference (NC) legislator Tanvir Sadiq. यह निर्णय जम्मू-कश्मीर विधानसभा में सत्तारूढ़ नेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस (NC) विधायक तनवीर सादिक के प्रश्न के उत्तर में सार्वजनिक किया गया।
- The government has now proposed an in-situ conservation plan that would allow the dwellers to live on the lake.



सरकार ने अब इन-सिटू संरक्षण योजना प्रस्तावित की है जो झील पर रहने वालों को वहीं रहने की अनुमति देगी।

- The shelved restoration and preservation plan, introduced by the **Manmohan Singh government in 2009**, aimed to shift around **9,000 Dal Lake dwellers**.
2009 में मनमोहन सिंह सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई स्थगित योजना का उद्देश्य लगभग **9,000 डल झील निवासियों को स्थानांतरित करना** था।
- It sought to address problems such as **shrinking lake area, depleting water quality, uncontrolled discharge of effluents, and growing population**.
इसका उद्देश्य **झील का सिकुड़ता क्षेत्र, गिरती जल गुणवत्ता, अनियंत्रित अपशिष्ट जल प्रवाह और बढ़ती जनसंख्या** जैसी समस्याओं का समाधान करना था।

What issues does Dal Lake face?

डल झील किन समस्याओं का सामना कर रही है?

- Over the past **four decades**, the lake recorded an **extreme decline in water quality** due to **anthropogenic pressures**, according to a **2022 survey by SKUAST**.
पिछले **चार दशकों** में **मानवजनित दबाव** के कारण झील की **जल गुणवत्ता में अत्यधिक गिरावट** दर्ज हुई, **SKUAST के 2022 सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार।
- It warned of **extreme pollution loads, encroachment, invasive plants and animals**, leading to rapid **degradation of water quality**.
इसमें **अत्यधिक प्रदूषण, अतिक्रमण, आक्रामक पौधों और जीवों** के कारण **जल गुणवत्ता के तेजी से क्षरण** की चेतावनी दी गई।
- The study observed that **untreated sewage from multiple sources** severely deteriorated water quality.
अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **कई स्रोतों से बिना उपचारित सीवेज** ने **जल गुणवत्ता को गंभीर रूप से खराब** किया।
- The situation worsened due to **deforestation, grazing, agriculture, and land-use changes in the catchment area**.
यह स्थिति **वनों की कटाई, चराई, कृषि और कैचमेंट क्षेत्र में भूमि उपयोग परिवर्तन** से और बिगड़ी।
- Reduction in **inflows and internal water channels** also led to **poor water circulation**.
जल प्रवाह और आंतरिक जल चैनलों में कमी से **जल परिसंचरण खराब** हुआ।
- **Nutrient enrichment** caused **extreme weed growth and biodiversity alteration**.
पोषक तत्वों की वृद्धि से **अत्यधिक खरपतवार वृद्धि और जैव विविधता में बदलाव** हुआ।

What were the contours of the earlier proposal?

पहले प्रस्ताव की रूपरेखा क्या थी?

- In **2009**, the government approved a **₹416.72-crore plan** to shift **9,000 families in the first phase to Bemina, Srinagar**.
2009 में सरकार ने ₹416.72 करोड़ योजना के तहत **पहले चरण में 9,000 परिवारों को बेमिना, श्रीनगर स्थानांतरित करने की मंजूरी** दी।
- Each family was offered **land, ₹1.05 lakh for structure, and ₹3.91 lakh compensation**.
प्रत्येक परिवार को **भूमि, ₹1.05 लाख संरचना के लिए और ₹3.91 लाख मुआवजा** दिया गया।
- The colony **Rakh-e-Arth** was in a **low-lying flood-prone area**, requiring **extensive land filling**.
राख-ए-अर्थ कॉलोनी **निचले बाढ़-प्रवण क्षेत्र** में थी और **व्यापक भूमि भराई** की आवश्यकता थी।
- Despite spending heavily on land filling, the government **failed to fully establish basic facilities**, slowing relocation.
भूमि भराई पर भारी खर्च के बावजूद सरकार **मूलभूत सुविधाएँ पूरी तरह स्थापित नहीं कर सकी**, जिससे पुनर्वास धीमा हुआ।
- Only **1808 families** were rehabilitated in **17 years**.
17 वर्षों में केवल 1808 परिवारों का पुनर्वास हुआ।
- The government said conservation efforts achieved only **27% of the goal**.
सरकार के अनुसार संरक्षण प्रयास केवल **27% लक्ष्य तक पहुँचे**।



What new measures are proposed? नए उपाय क्या प्रस्तावित हैं?

- In **2022**, a **High-Level Committee** proposed an **in-situ conservation plan**, calling dwellers an **“integral part of the ecosystem.”**
2022 में उच्च स्तरीय समिति ने इन-सिटू संरक्षण योजना प्रस्तावित की और निवासियों को “पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का अभिन्न हिस्सा” बताया।
- The **J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA)** was directed to frame a **comprehensive policy.**
जम्मू-कश्मीर झील संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (LCMA) को व्यापक नीति बनाने का निर्देश दिया गया।
- Relocation of remaining structures in **priority hamlets** will continue alongside conservation.
प्राथमिक बस्तियों में शेष संरचनाओं का पुनर्वास संरक्षण के साथ जारी रहेगा।
- The government identified **58 hamlets**, with **six to get modular Sewage Treatment Plants.**
सरकार ने 58 बस्तियाँ चिन्हित कीं, जिनमें से छह में मॉड्यूलर सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट लगाए जाएंगे।
- Under the **Prime Minister’s Development Package**, an **integrated Dal-Nigeen Lake conservation programme** was framed.
प्रधानमंत्री विकास पैकेज के तहत समेकित डल-निगीन झील संरक्षण कार्यक्रम बनाया गया।
- **Kachri Mohalla** already functions as a **modern village.**
कचरी मोहल्ला पहले से आधुनिक गाँव की तरह कार्य करता है।
- A **Detailed Project Report by IIT Roorkee** proposes **₹212.38 crore over five years.**
IIT रुड़की की विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट में पाँच वर्षों में ₹212.38 करोड़ खर्च का प्रस्ताव है।
- The project aims to fix **sewerage in 28 hamlets, treat catchment inflow, and dredge interior channels.**
परियोजना का उद्देश्य 28 बस्तियों में सीवेज सुधार, कैचमेंट जल उपचार और आंतरिक चैनलों की ड्रेजिंग है।
- It awaits **final approval from the Finance Department.**
यह वित्त विभाग की अंतिम स्वीकृति की प्रतीक्षा में है।
- It also proposes **widening interior water channels** to revive **water circulation and smooth navigation.**
यह आंतरिक जल चैनलों को चौड़ा करने का भी प्रस्ताव देता है ताकि जल परिसंचरण और सुचारु नौवहन बहाल हो सके।

GS Paper III: IS

TOPICS COVERED

13 February 2026

1. **DAC clears purchase of 114 Rafales for IAF, and six P-81 aircraft for Navy**
DAC ने IAF के लिए 114 राफेल और नौसेना के लिए छह P-81 विमान की खरीद को मंजूरी दी

DAC clears purchase of 114 Rafales for IAF, and six P-81 aircraft for Navy

GS11 mains 2026
Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹3.6 lakh crore.

The proposals include 114 Rafale fighter jets from France for the Air Force and six P-81 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the United States for the Navy.

The Defence Ministry said that for the IAF, the AoN was approved for the

procurement of 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA), combat missiles, and an air-ship-based high-altitude pseudo satellite (AS-HAPS). The Rafale jets are expected to significantly enhance the IAF’s air-dominance capability across the full spectrum of conflict and strengthen its long-range offensive and deterrence posture.

Manufacturing in India
A majority of the aircraft will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic defence production.

The Ministry further said that the combat mis-



Air power: Most of the jets will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic industry. K. MURALI KUMAR

siles would enhance the IAF’s stand-off ground attack capability with deep-strike precision and high

accuracy. The AS-HAPS platform will be deployed for persistent intelligence, surveil-

lance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic intelligence (ELINT), telecommunications and remote sensing for military applications.

For the Army, the DAC accorded AoN for the procurement of anti-tank mines (Vibhav) and the overhaul of vehicle platforms of armoured recovery vehicles (ARVs), T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles (BMP-1).

The Vibhav mines will serve as an anti-tank obstacle system to delay and disrupt advancing enemy mechanised forces. The overhaul of existing armoured platforms is aimed

at extending their service life and ensuring operational readiness, it added.

The Navy received AoN for six additional P-81 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the U.S., along with a 4 MW marine gas turbine-based electric power generator. The P-81 aircraft will significantly bolster the Navy’s long-range anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and maritime strike capabilities.

Reducing dependence
The induction of the marine gas turbine-based generator under the Make-I category of the Defence

Acquisition Procedure, 2020 is expected to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers and enhance self-reliance in naval power generation systems.

For the Indian Coast Guard, the AoN was granted for the procurement of electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) systems for its Dornier aircraft. The systems will enhance maritime surveillance and strengthen coastal security operations.

The approvals mark one of the largest capital acquisition clearances in recent years, underlining the government’s thrust on force modernisation.



DAC clears purchase of 114 Rafales for IAF, and six P-81 aircraft for Navy DAC ने IAF के लिए 114 राफेल और नौसेना के लिए छह P-81 विमान की खरीद को मंजूरी दी

- The **Defence Acquisition Council**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, on Thursday accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately **₹3.6 lakh crore**.
रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद, जिसकी अध्यक्षता रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने की, ने गुरुवार को लगभग **₹3.6 लाख करोड़** के पूंजीगत अधिग्रहण प्रस्तावों के लिए **आवश्यकता की स्वीकृति (AoN)** प्रदान की।
- The proposals include **114 Rafale fighter jets** from **France** for the Air Force and **six P-81 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft** from the **United States** for the Navy.
इन प्रस्तावों में वायुसेना के लिए **फ्रांस से 114 राफेल लड़ाकू विमान** और नौसेना के लिए **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका से छह P-81 लंबी दूरी के समुद्री टोही विमान** शामिल हैं।
- The **Defence Ministry** said that for the **IAF**, the **AoN** was approved for the procurement of **114 multirole fighter aircraft (MRFA)**, combat missiles, and an air-ship-based high-altitude pseudo satellite (**AS-HAPS**).
रक्षा मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **IAF** के लिए **114 बहु-भूमिका लड़ाकू विमान (MRFA)**, युद्धक मिसाइलें और एयर-शिप आधारित उच्च-ऊंचाई छद्म उपग्रह (**AS-HAPS**) की खरीद के लिए **AoN** को मंजूरी दी गई।
- The Rafale jets are expected to significantly enhance the **IAF's air-dominance capability** across the full spectrum of conflict and strengthen its long-range offensive and deterrence posture.
राफेल विमान से **IAF की वायु प्रभुत्व क्षमता** में पूरे संघर्ष स्पेक्ट्रम में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि होने और इसकी लंबी दूरी की आक्रामक तथा प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को मजबूत करने की अपेक्षा है।

Manufacturing in India भारत में निर्माण

- A majority of the aircraft will be manufactured in **India**, providing a boost to domestic defence production.
अधिकांश विमान **भारत** में निर्मित किए जाएंगे, जिससे घरेलू रक्षा उत्पादन को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।
- The Ministry further said that the combat missiles would enhance the IAF's stand-off ground attack capability with deep-strike precision and high accuracy.
मंत्रालय ने आगे कहा कि युद्धक मिसाइलें गहरे प्रहार की सटीकता और उच्च शुद्धता के साथ IAF की स्टैंड-ऑफ ग्राउंड अटैक क्षमता को बढ़ाएंगी।
- The **AS-HAPS** platform will be deployed for persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (**ISR**), electronic intelligence (**ELINT**), telecommunications and remote sensing for military applications.
AS-HAPS प्लेटफॉर्म को सैन्य उपयोग के लिए निरंतर खुफिया, निगरानी और टोही (**ISR**), इलेक्ट्रॉनिक इंटेलिजेंस (**ELINT**), दूरसंचार और रिमोट सेंसिंग के लिए तैनात किया जाएगा।
- For the Army, the **DAC** accorded **AoN** for the procurement of anti-tank mines (**Vibhav**) and the overhaul of vehicle platforms of armoured recovery vehicles (**ARVs**), **T-72 tanks** and infantry combat vehicles (**BMP-II**).
सेना के लिए, **DAC** ने एंटी-टैंक माइंस (**विभव**) की खरीद और बख्तरबंद रिकवरी वाहन (**ARVs**), **T-72 टैंक** और इन्फैंट्री कॉम्बैट व्हीकल (**BMP-II**) के वाहन प्लेटफॉर्म के ओवरहॉल के लिए **AoN** प्रदान की।
- The **Vibhav mines** will serve as an anti-tank obstacle system to delay and disrupt advancing enemy mechanised forces.
विभव माइंस अग्रसर हो रही दुश्मन की मैकेनाइज्ड फोर्स को विलंबित और बाधित करने के लिए एंटी-टैंक अवरोध प्रणाली के रूप में कार्य करेंगी।
- The overhaul of existing armoured platforms is aimed at extending their service life and ensuring operational readiness, it added.
मौजूदा बख्तरबंद प्लेटफॉर्म का ओवरहॉल उनकी सेवा आयु बढ़ाने और परिचालन तत्परता सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से किया जा रहा है, यह जोड़ा गया।
- The Navy received **AoN** for six additional **P-81 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft** from the **U.S.**, along with a **4 MW marine gas turbine-based electric power generator**.



नौसेना को U.S. से छह अतिरिक्त P-8I लंबी दूरी के समुद्री टोही विमान और एक 4 मेगावाट मरीन गैस टर्बाइन आधारित विद्युत शक्ति जनरेटर के लिए AoN प्राप्त हुआ।

- The P-8I aircraft will significantly bolster the Navy's long-range anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and maritime strike capabilities.
P-8I विमान नौसेना की लंबी दूरी की एंटी-सबमरीन युद्ध, समुद्री निगरानी और समुद्री प्रहार क्षमताओं को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से मजबूत करेंगे।

Reducing dependence निर्भरता में कमी

- The induction of the marine gas turbine-based generator under the **Make-I category** of the **Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020** is expected to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers and enhance self-reliance in naval power generation systems.
रक्षा अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया, 2020 की मेक-1 श्रेणी के तहत मरीन गैस टर्बाइन आधारित जनरेटर का समावेशन विदेशी निर्माताओं पर निर्भरता कम करने और नौसैनिक विद्युत उत्पादन प्रणालियों में आत्मनिर्भरता बढ़ाने की अपेक्षा है।
- For the **Indian Coast Guard**, the **AoN** was granted for the procurement of electro-optical/infrared (**EO/IR**) systems for its **Dornier aircraft**.
भारतीय तटरक्षक बल के लिए, उसके डॉर्नियर विमान हेतु इलेक्ट्रो-ऑप्टिकल/इन्फ्रारेड (**EO/IR**) सिस्टम की खरीद के लिए **AoN** प्रदान की गई।
- The systems will enhance maritime surveillance and strengthen coastal security operations.
ये सिस्टम समुद्री निगरानी को बढ़ाएंगे और तटीय सुरक्षा अभियानों को मजबूत करेंगे।
- The approvals mark one of the largest capital acquisition clearances in recent years, underlining the government's thrust on force modernisation.
ये स्वीकृतियां हाल के वर्षों में सबसे बड़े पूंजीगत अधिग्रहण अनुमोदनों में से एक हैं, जो बल आधुनिकीकरण पर सरकार के जोर को रेखांकित करती हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS