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24F Youngest-ever and first openly gay PM Jetten ushers in a new era for Dutch politics
सबसे कम उम्र के और पहले खुले तौर पर समलैंगिक पीएम जेटन ने डच राजनीति में नए युग की शुरुआत की

Up to speed



NCC cadets get a closer look at Infantry Combat Vehicles during the MILAN-2026 naval exercise in Visakhapatnam on Monday. A.R. DEBNAK

NCC cadets get a closer look at Infantry Combat Vehicles during the **MILAN-2026 naval exercise** in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

24F. Punjab govt. announces 'Meri Rasoī' ration scheme
पंजाब सरकार ने 'मेरी रसोई' राशन योजना की घोषणा की

- Ahead of the upcoming **Assembly election in Punjab**, due in early **2027**, the **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** government in the State on Monday announced to provide **wheat, sugar, oil and salt** to families covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**, even as the **Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)** termed it another attempt to trick the people in the run up to the poll.

आगामी पंजाब विधानसभा चुनाव, जो 2027 की शुरुआत में होने हैं, से पहले राज्य की आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP) सरकार ने सोमवार को राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA) के तहत आने वाले परिवारों को गेहूं, चीनी, तेल और नमक देने की घोषणा की, जबकि शिरोमणि अकाली दल (SAD) ने इसे चुनाव से पहले लोगों को गुमराह करने का एक और प्रयास बताया।

- Talking to **mediapersons**, he said under the **'Meri Rasoī Yojna'**, **40 lakh families will receive free quarterly food kits starting April**, in addition to wheat provided under the **National Food Security Act**.

मीडिया कर्मियों से बात करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि 'मेरी रसोई योजना' के तहत 40 लाख परिवारों को अप्रैल से राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम के अंतर्गत मिलने वाले गेहूं के अतिरिक्त निःशुल्क त्रैमासिक खाद्य किट दिए जाएंगे।

Punjab govt. announces 'Meri Rasoī' ration scheme

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly election in Punjab, due in early 2027, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the State on Monday announced to provide wheat, sugar, oil and salt to families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), even as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) termed it another attempt to trick the people in the run up to the poll.

Quarterly food kits

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Talking to mediapersons, he said under the 'Meri Rasoī Yojna', 40 lakh families will receive free quarterly food kits starting April, in addition to wheat provided under the National Food Security Act.



Mukul Roy, Trinamool Congress leader and former Railway Minister, dies at 71

PCS
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Roy passed away in the early hours of Monday morning. He was 71.

He was admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata with several ailments. Mukul Roy's son Subhanshu Roy said that his father suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away at 1.30 a.m.

One of the founding members of the Trinamool Congress, Mukul Roy was considered a Chanakya of West Bengal politics. Before the rise of Abhishek Banerjee in the Trinamool Congress, Mr. Roy was



Mukul Roy

widely considered the number two in the party.

A trusted aide of Trinamool Congress chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Mr. Roy was key to the par-

ty's organisation and served as a link between the party and the government. Hailing from Kanchrapara in North 24 Parganas, Mr. Roy started his political career with the Congress and decided to set up Trinamool Congress with Ms. Banerjee in 1998.

It was under Mr. Roy's influence that several leaders from Congress joined the Trinamool Congress. Mr. Roy had also served as Railway Minister from March to September 2012.

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms. Banerjee described Mr. Roy as her "long-time political colleague and a comrade-in-arms in many

political struggles", and said that the "news of his departure has left me heartbroken". Ms. Banerjee also added that Mr. Roy "devoted his life to the party from the very inception of the Trinamool Congress". The Trinamool chief in her message on social media added that "later he took a different path, only to return again".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his death on X, saying, "Pained by the passing of former Union Minister Shri Mukul Roy ji. He will be remembered for his political experience and efforts to serve society..."

24F. Mukul Roy, Trinamool Congress leader and former Railway Minister, dies at 71

मुकुल रॉय, तृणमूल कांग्रेस नेता और पूर्व रेल मंत्री, 71 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Roy passed away in the early hours of Monday morning.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस के नेता मुकुल रॉय का सोमवार तड़के निधन हो गया।

- Hailing from Kanchrapara in North 24 Parganas, Mr. Roy started his political career with the Congress and decided to set

up Trinamool Congress with Ms. Banerjee in 1998.

उत्तर 24 परगना के कांचरापाड़ा से आने वाले श्री रॉय ने अपने राजनीतिक करियर की शुरुआत कांग्रेस से की और 1998 में ममता बनर्जी के साथ तृणमूल कांग्रेस की स्थापना का निर्णय लिया।

- Mr. Roy had also served as Railway Minister from March to September 2012.

श्री रॉय ने मार्च से सितंबर 2012 तक रेल मंत्री के रूप में भी कार्य किया।

Pray for peace to return in Manipur, says Boong director after BAFTA win

Pr PCS
LONDON

Filmmaker Lakshmi Priya Devi, whose debut feature *Boong* won a BAFTA award at a glittering ceremony in London on Sunday, used the moment on stage to pray for peace in her home State of Manipur.

"The walk up till here felt like the last few steps to reach the summit of a mountain we never knew we were climbing in the first place. I just want to use this opportunity to say that we pray for peace to return in Manipur," Ms. Devi said in her acceptance speech.

Boong, a Manipuri film starring Gugun Kipgen and Bala Hijam, won the award in the Best Children's and Family Film category.

"We pray that all the internally displaced children, including the child



Winning team: Director Lakshmi Priya Devi with producers Alan McAlex, left, Farhan Akhtar, and Ritesh Sidhwani in London. AP

actors in the film, regain their joy, their innocence, and their dreams once again. We pray that no conflict is ever formidable enough to destroy the one superpower that all of us have as human beings, that is forgiveness," she added.

In a backstage interaction with presspersons, she said the movie was inspired by the folk tales of her grandmother.

"I come from a very troubled State. Those folk tales always cushioned me. There would be gunshots in the distance but I felt safe with her. I wanted *Boong* to be an urban version of her folk tales with the same kind of warmth that made you feel safe. It's also a closure for myself from those memories of having grown up in a place like that," she said.

Producer Farhan Akhtar said backing the film set in a region of India from which we rarely get to watch films "just felt right".

'Moment of joy'

Congratulatory messages poured in from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh, and many in the industry.

"Congratulations to all those associated with this film. This is indeed a moment of immense joy, especially for Manipur. It also highlights the immense creative talent in our country," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

Mr. Singh said the win was a moment of immense pride not only for Manipur but for the entire nation.

LIST OF WINNERS
» WORLD PAGE

24F. Pray for peace to return in Manipur, says Boong director after BAFTA win

BAFTA जीत के बाद बूंग की निर्देशक ने मणिपुर में शांति लौटने की प्रार्थना की

- Filmmaker Lakshmi Priya Devi, whose debut feature *Boong* won a BAFTA award at a glittering ceremony in London on

Sunday, used the moment on stage to pray for peace in her home State of Manipur.

फिल्मकार लक्ष्मीप्रिया देवी, जिनकी पहली फीचर फिल्म बूंग ने रविवार को लंदन में आयोजित भव्य समारोह में BAFTA पुरस्कार जीता, ने मंच पर उस पल का उपयोग अपने गृह राज्य मणिपुर में शांति की प्रार्थना करने के लिए

किया।

- Boong*, a Manipuri film starring Gugun Kipgen and Bala Hijam, won the award in the Best Children's and Family Film category.

बूंग, गुगुन क्पिगेन और बाला हिजाम अभिनीत एक मणिपुरी फिल्म है, जिसने सर्वश्रेष्ठ बाल एवं पारिवारिक फिल्म श्रेणी में पुरस्कार जीता।

- I wanted *Boong* to be an urban version of her folk tales with the same kind of warmth that made you feel safe.

मैं चाहती थी कि बूंग उनकी लोककथाओं का एक शहरी रूप हो, जिसमें वही गर्मजोशी हो जो आपको सुरक्षित महसूस कराए।



- Producer **Farhan Akhtar** said backing the film set in a region of India from which we rarely get to watch films “just felt right”.
निर्माता **फरहान अख्तर** ने कहा कि भारत के उस क्षेत्र में आधारित फिल्म का समर्थन करना, जहाँ से हमें शायद ही कभी फिल्में देखने को मिलती हैं, “बिल्कुल सही लगा”।

One Battle After Another triumphs at BAFTAs, wins one award after another

PCS

Associated Press
LONDON

Paul Thomas Anderson's politically charged thriller *One Battle After Another* won six prizes, including best picture, at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, building momentum ahead of Hollywood's Academy Awards next month.

Blues-steeped vampire epic *Sinners* and gothic horror story *Frankenstein* won three awards each, while Shakespearean family tragedy *Hamnet* won two including best British film.

Mr. Anderson's explosive film about a group of revolutionaries in chaotic conflict with the state, won awards for directing, adapted screenplay, cinematography and editing, as well as for Sean Penn's supporting performance as an obsessed military officer.

Bookies' favourite Jessie Buckley won the best actress prize for playing grieving mother Agnes Hathaway, wife of William Shakespeare, in *Hamnet*. Ms. Buckley, 36, is the first Irish performer to win a best actress prize at the awards.

Sinners took home trophies for director Ryan Coogler's original screen-



In the limelight: Director Paul Thomas Anderson and cast at the 79th British Academy Film Awards in London on Sunday. AP

play, the film's musical score and for Wunmi Mosaku's supporting actress performance as herbalist and healer Annie.

Major upset

In a major upset, Robert Aramayo won the best actor category for his performance in *I Swear*, a fact-based British indie drama about a campaigner for people with Tourette syndrome. The Rising Star award, which is decided by public vote, also went to Mr. Aramayo.

The 33-year-old British actor called the victory over Ethan Hawke, Michael B. Jordan, Leonardo DiCaprio and Timothee Chalamet “absolutely mad.”

Hollywood stars and British celebrities, from Paddington Bear to the Prince and Princess of Wales, gathered at London's Royal Festival Hall

for the awards.

Frankenstein took awards for production design, costume design and for the hair and makeup artists who spent 10 hours a day transforming Jacob Elordi into the movie's monstrous creature.

Sentimental Value won the prize for the best film not in English.

The best-documentary prize went to *Mr. Nobody Against Putin*, about a Russian teacher who documented the propaganda imposed on Russian schools after the invasion of Ukraine.

Scottish actor Alan Cumming was host of the ceremony.

Donna Langley, the U.K.-born chairwoman of NBC Universal Entertainment, was awarded the Academy's highest honour, the BAFTA fellowship.

24F. One Battle After Another triumphs at BAFTAs, wins one award after another वन बैटल आफ्टर अनदर की BAFTA में शानदार जीत, एक के बाद एक पुरस्कार

• Paul Thomas Anderson's politically charged thriller *One Battle After Another* won six prizes, including best picture, at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, building momentum ahead of Hollywood's Academy Awards next month.

पॉल थॉमस एंडरसन की राजनीतिक रूप से प्रभावशाली थ्रिलर वन बैटल आफ्टर अनदर ने रविवार को ब्रिटिश अकादमी फिल्म अवॉर्ड्स में सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म सहित छह पुरस्कार जीते, जिससे अगले महीने होने वाले हॉलीवुड के अकादमी अवॉर्ड्स से पहले इसकी गति और तेज़ हो गई।

• Blues-steeped vampire epic *Sinners* and gothic horror story *Frankenstein* won three awards each, while Shakespearean family tragedy *Hamnet* won two including best British film.

ब्लूज़ से भरपूर वैम्पायर महाकाव्य सिनर्स और गॉथिक हॉरर कहानी फ्रेंकस्टीन ने तीन-तीन पुरस्कार जीते, जबकि शेक्सपीयरकालीन पारिवारिक त्रासदी हैमनेट ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ ब्रिटिश फिल्म सहित दो पुरस्कार हासिल किए।

• Mr. Anderson's explosive film about a group of revolutionaries in chaotic conflict with the state, won awards for directing, adapted screenplay, cinematography and editing, as well as for Sean Penn's supporting performance as an obsessed

military officer.

राज्य के साथ अराजक संघर्ष में शामिल क्रांतिकारियों के एक समूह पर आधारित श्री एंडरसन की विस्फोटक फिल्म ने निर्देशन, अनुकूलित पटकथा, छायांकन और संपादन के लिए पुरस्कार जीते, साथ ही एक सनकी सैन्य अधिकारी की भूमिका में सीन पेन के सहायक अभिनय के लिए भी सम्मान मिला।

- Bookies' favourite **Jessie Buckley** won the best actress prize for playing grieving mother Agnes Hathaway, wife of William Shakespeare, in *Hamnet*. सट्टेबाजों की पसंदीदा **जेसी बकली** ने हैमनेट में विलियम शेक्सपीयर की पत्नी एग्नेस हैथवे की शोकग्रस्त माँ की भूमिका निभाने के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेत्री का पुरस्कार जीता।



Ghanaians embrace the 'fugu' with pride after online mockery

PCS

Associated Press

ACCRA

On a busy street in central Accra, Clement Azaabire hangs neatly sewn fugu smocks on lines, the striped, multicolored fabrics swaying in the breeze. For 15 years, Mr. Azaabire has proudly sold the garment that is associated with his community in northern Ghana. Now, it is the talk of town. More Ghanaians are wearing the colorful traditional outfit with pride in a trend triggered by online mockery.

Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama, in early February, visited Zambia wearing a fugu garment, prompting ridicule from some social media users. Ghanaians responded by defending what they felt was a rich cultural heritage, and Tourism Minister Abba Dzifa Gomashie took it a step further by declaring Wednesdays as "Fugu Day."

Also known locally as batakari, the loose-fitting fugu smock is made from handwoven strips of cotton fabric stitched together to form a flowing robe, often worn over trousers and paired with a matching cap. "It makes me feel connected to where I come from," said Wango Abdul Karim, a businessman who wears fugu to work every Wednesday.

In Ghana, widely known for its rich fashion style and an age-long weaving heritage, traditional production of smock weaves has been the preserve of the north and an art skill handed down through generations. The fugu smock, however, gained more prominence in March 1957 when Ghana's first President Kwame Nkrumah wore it during the country's inaugural independence ceremony. Today, it is worn at festivals, state functions, and increasingly in contemporary fashion.

- The fugu smock, however, gained more prominence in **March 1957** when Ghana's first President **Kwame Nkrumah** wore it during the country's inaugural independence ceremony. हालाँकि, फुगु स्मॉक को **मार्च 1957** में अधिक पहचान मिली, जब घाना के पहले राष्ट्रपति **क्वामे एनक्रूमा** ने देश के प्रथम स्वतंत्रता समारोह के दौरान इसे पहना।
- Today, it is worn at **festivals, state functions, and increasingly in contemporary fashion.** आज यह त्योहारों, राजकीय समारोहों, और बढ़ते रूप में **आधुनिक फैशन** में पहना जा रहा है।

- In a major upset, **Robert Aramayo** won the **best actor** category for his performance in **I Swear**, a fact-based British indie drama about a campaigner for people with **Tourette syndrome**.

एक बड़े उलटफेर में, **रॉबर्ट अरामायो** ने टॉरेंट सिंड्रोम से पीड़ित लोगों के लिए अभियान चलाने वाले व्यक्ति पर आधारित तथ्यपरक ब्रिटिश इंडी ड्रामा **आई स्वेयर** में अपने अभिनय के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेता** का पुरस्कार जीता।

- The 33-year-old British actor called the victory over **Ethan Hawke, Michael B. Jordan, Leonardo DiCaprio and Timothee Chalamet** "absolutely mad."

33 वर्षीय ब्रिटिश अभिनेता ने **ईथन हॉक, माइकल बी. जॉर्डन, लियोनार्डो डिकैप्रियो** और **टिमोथी शैलमे** पर जीत को "बिल्कुल पागलपन" बताया।

24F. Ghanaians embrace the 'fugu' with pride after online mockery

ऑनलाइन उपहास के बाद घाना के लोग 'फुगु' को गर्व के साथ अपना रहे हैं

- **Ghanaians embrace the 'fugu' with pride after online mockery**

ऑनलाइन उपहास के बाद घाना के लोग **'फुगु'** को गर्व के साथ अपना रहे हैं

- **More Ghanaians are wearing the colorful traditional outfit with pride in a trend triggered by online mockery.**

ऑनलाइन उपहास से शुरू हुए इस चलन में अब अधिक घानावासी इस रंगीन पारंपरिक पोशाक को **गर्व** के साथ पहन रहे हैं।

- **Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama, in early February, visited Zambia wearing a fugu garment, prompting ridicule from some social media users.**

घाना के राष्ट्रपति **जॉन ड्रामानी महामा** ने फरवरी की शुरुआत में **ज़ाम्बिया** की यात्रा फुगु पहनकर की, जिससे कुछ सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ताओं ने **मज़ाक** उड़ाया।

- **Ghanaians responded by defending what they felt was a rich cultural heritage, and Tourism Minister Abba Dzifa Gomashie took it a step further by declaring Wednesdays as "Fugu Day."**

घानावासियों ने इसे अपनी **समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत** की रक्षा के रूप में देखा और पर्यटन मंत्री **अबला ज़ीफा गोमाशी** ने इसे आगे बढ़ाते हुए बुधवार को **"फुगु डे"** घोषित कर दिया।

Youngest-ever and first openly gay PM Jetten ushers in a new era for Dutch politics

PCS
Associated Press
THE HAGUE

Dutch King Willem-Alexander on Monday swore in a new minority coalition government led by the youngest-ever and first openly gay Prime Minister in the Netherlands.

Rob Jetten, 38, heads a three-party administration and will have to use all his bridge-building skills to pass laws and see out a full four-year term in office.

The coalition is made up of Mr. Jetten's centrist D66, the center-right Christian Democrats and the center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy. Together, the parties hold only 66 of the lower house

of Parliament's 150 seats. That means he will have to negotiate with opposition lawmakers to find support for every piece of legislation his government wants to pass.

That is likely to be tough with the biggest opposition bloc, the newly merged Green Left and Labor Party, already expressing strong objections to Mr. Jetten's plans to cut health care and welfare costs.

Opposition leader Jesse Klaver said on Friday in a message on X that under the new government's plans, "ordinary people will have to pay hundreds of euros more, while the wealthiest are not asked to contribute anything extra."

He added: "We are taking responsibility to adjust these plans. This must change."

Mr. Jetten and his team of Ministers formally accepted their new roles when they were sworn in by the King at his palace in a forest on the edge of The Hague. Mr. Jetten narrowly won the October 29, 2025, election, taking the same number of seats as anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders's Party for Freedom, but with slightly more votes. The final result was decided by a count of postal ballots.

The snap election was forced when Mr. Wilders, who won the previous election, withdrew his Mi-



Fresh face: New PM Rob Jetten, left, with King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands in The Hague on Monday. REUTERS

nisters from the four-party right-wing coalition his party led in June last year. Outgoing premier Dick Schoof, whose 11-month-old administration was one of the shortest-lived go-

vernments in Dutch political history, has been caretaker leader ever since.

The Ministers' posts in the new Cabinet are shared between Mr. Jetten's party and his coalition partners.

The new Foreign Minister is Christian Democrat Tom Berendsen. He is expected to seek to rejuvenate country's position in Europe having previously served as the leader of his party's bloc in the European Parliament.

One name that is not changing is the Finance Minister. Eelco Heinen retains the job he held in the previous administration, where he was seen as a steady hand on the government's purse strings.

Dilan Yesilgöz-Zegerius, a former Justice Minister and leader of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, moves to the Defense Ministry where she will oversee moves to beef

up the nation's military.

Bart van den Brink, a Christian Democrat, has been tapped to be Minister for Asylum and Immigration Policy and is expected to continue moves by the previous government to rein in migration and speed up procedures for handling asylum applications.

Mr. Jetten wants to usher in a new era of consensus in the Dutch Parliament, after years of factional bickering across the splintered political spectrum. He is also looking for a reset of the influential role the Netherlands has in the European Union, which was widely seen as having eroded un-

der the previous government.

Mr. Jetten, who has in the past voiced criticism of U.S. President Donald Trump, said last month that one of the first things he will do after taking office is "talk to my colleagues in Europe to see what role the Dutch can play again in strengthening the European cooperation."

But he also underscored the importance of ties with the United States, a major trading partner for the Dutch economy.

Mr. Jetten has pledged to maintain strong Dutch support for Ukraine as it battles against Russia's four-year-old invasion.



24F. Youngest-ever and first openly gay PM Jetten ushers in a new era for Dutch politics

सबसे कम उम्र के और पहले खुले तौर पर समलैंगिक पीएम जेटन ने डच राजनीति में नए युग की शुरुआत की

- **Youngest-ever and first openly gay PM Jetten ushers in a new era for Dutch politics**
सबसे कम उम्र के और पहले खुले तौर पर समलैंगिक प्रधानमंत्री जेटन ने डच राजनीति में नए युग की शुरुआत की
- Dutch King **Willem-Alexander** on Monday swore in a new minority coalition government led by the **youngest-ever and first openly gay Prime Minister in the Netherlands**.
डच राजा **विलेम-अलेक्जेंडर** ने सोमवार को नीदरलैंड्स के सबसे कम उम्र के और पहले खुले तौर पर समलैंगिक प्रधानमंत्री के नेतृत्व वाली नई अल्पसंख्यक गठबंधन सरकार को शपथ दिलाई।
- **Rob Jetten**, 38, heads a three-party administration and will have to use all his bridge-building skills to pass laws and see out a full four-year term in office.
38 वर्षीय **रॉब जेटन** तीन दलों की सरकार का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं और उन्हें कानून पारित कराने तथा पूरे चार साल का कार्यकाल पूरा करने के लिए अपनी सभी समझौता कराने की क्षमताओं का उपयोग करना होगा।
- The coalition is made up of Mr. Jetten's centrist **D66**, the center-right **Christian Democrats** and the center-right **People's Party for Freedom and Democracy**.
यह गठबंधन श्री जेटन की मध्यमार्गी **D66**, केंद्र-दक्षिणपंथी **क्रिश्चियन डेमोक्रेट्स** और केंद्र-दक्षिणपंथी **पीपुल्स पार्टी फॉर फ्रीडम एंड डेमोक्रेसी** से मिलकर बना है।
- Together, the parties hold only 66 of the lower house of Parliament's 150 seats.
मिलकर इन दलों के पास संसद के निचले सदन की 150 में से केवल 66 सीटें हैं।

GS Paper 1: History,	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	President unveils bust of Rajaji, hails move to shed 'colonial mindset' राष्ट्रपति ने राजाजी की प्रतिमा का अनावरण किया, 'औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता' से मुक्ति की पहल की सराहना की



President unveils bust of Rajaji, hails move to shed 'colonial mindset'

GS I: History
Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the bust of C. Rajagopalachari at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday, hailing it as a step towards "shedding the vestiges of colonial mindset".

The bust of Rajaji, the only Indian Governor-General of Independent India, has been installed at the Grand Open Staircase near Ashok Mandap and replaces that of Edwin Lutyens, the British architect who designed New Delhi.

"This initiative is part of a series of steps being taken towards shedding the vestiges of the colonial mindset and embracing, with pride, the richness of India's culture, heritage, timeless traditions and honouring those who served Bharat Mata with their extraordinary contributions," said a statement from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Ms. Murmu visited the



In remembrance: The President unveils C. Rajagopalachari's bust at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. PTI

venue of Rajaji Utsav that will be open to the public from February 24 to March 1. Speaking on the occasion, she said that when Rajaji arrived at the Government House (now known as Rashtrapati Bhavan), he placed portraits of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Mahatma Gandhi in his room.

"Rajaji sent a clear message that while India was formally still a dominion, Swaraj had been fully established in the hearts of Indians. Thus, Rajaji set an inspiring example of men-

tal decolonisation. His ideals are reflected in the national campaign adopted by the people of India to take pride in India's heritage... Indian consciousness and connection with all Indians, especially the weaker sections, are reflected in Rajaji's thoughts and actions," she said.

The President said that while India moved towards "Viksit Bharat", icons such as Rajaji would inspire people with their ideas and ideals. She called for promoting the spirit of enterprise to fulfil his dreams.

24F. President unveils bust of Rajaji, hails move to shed 'colonial mindset'

राष्ट्रपति ने राजाजी की प्रतिमा का अनावरण किया, 'औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता' से मुक्ति की पहल की सराहना की

• President **Droupadi Murmu** unveiled the bust of **C. Rajagopalachari** at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on Monday, hailing it as a step towards "shedding the vestiges of colonial mindset".

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने सोमवार को राष्ट्रपति भवन में सी. राजगोपालाचारी की प्रतिमा का अनावरण किया और इसे "औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता के अवशेषों को त्यागने" की दिशा में एक कदम बताया।

• The **bust of Rajaji, the only Indian Governor-General of Independent India**, has been installed at the **Grand Open Staircase** near **Ashok Mandap** and replaces that of **Edwin Lutyens, the British architect who designed New Delhi**.

राजाजी की यह प्रतिमा, जो स्वतंत्र भारत के एकमात्र भारतीय गवर्नर-जनरल थे, अशोक मंडप के पास स्थित ग्रैंड ओपन सीढ़ी पर स्थापित की गई है और यह नई दिल्ली के डिज़ाइनर ब्रिटिश वास्तुकार एडविन

लुटियंस की प्रतिमा का स्थान लेती है।

- "This initiative is part of a series of steps being taken towards shedding the vestiges of the **colonial mindset** and embracing, with pride, the **richness of India's culture, heritage, timeless traditions** and honouring those who served **Bharat Mata** with their **extraordinary contributions**.

राष्ट्रपति भवन की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया, "यह पहल औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता के अवशेषों को त्यागने और भारत की संस्कृति, विरासत, कालातीत परंपराओं की समृद्धि को गर्व के साथ अपनाने तथा भारत माता की असाधारण सेवाओं के लिए समर्पित व्यक्तियों का सम्मान करने की दिशा में उठाए जा रहे कदमों की श्रृंखला का हिस्सा है।"

- Speaking on the occasion, she said that when **Rajaji** arrived at the **Government House** (now known as **Rashtrapati Bhavan**), he placed portraits of **Ramakrishna Paramahansa** and **Mahatma Gandhi** in his room.

इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि जब राजाजी गवर्नमेंट हाउस (अब राष्ट्रपति भवन) पहुंचे, तो उन्होंने अपने कक्ष में रामकृष्ण परमहंस और महात्मा गांधी के चित्र लगाए।

GS Paper 1: Society	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	Interfaith marriages not prohibited under new U.P. conversion law: HC नई उत्तर प्रदेश धर्मांतरण क़ानून के तहत अंतरधार्मिक विवाह प्रतिबंधित नहीं: हाईकोर्ट
24F	The quiet crisis of adolescent mental health in India भारत में किशोर मानसिक स्वास्थ्य का मौन संकट
24F	Rethinking tribal women's inheritance rights आदिवासी महिलाओं के उत्तराधिकार अधिकारों पर पुनर्विचार



Interfaith marriages not prohibited under new U.P. conversion law: HC

Allahabad HC orders police protection for 12 interfaith live-in couples, tells respondents to refrain from interfering with their private life; State argued that the relationships were unlawful

CS I, Society
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Stating that no one among the 12 interfaith live-in partners have converted from his/her religion and hence do not attract penalty under the anti-conversion law, the Allahabad High Court on Monday allowed police protection to the couples and asked the Uttar Pradesh government and private respondents to refrain from interfering with their life, liberty and privacy.

A Bench led by Justice Vivek Kumar Singh was hearing a batch of 12 writ petitions involving seven cases where Muslim women were living with Hindu men and five cases where Hindu women were living with Muslim men. The judge observed that the court did not view the petitioners through the lens of religion but as adults who had voluntarily chosen to live together peacefully for a considerable period.

"It is the bounden duty



The HC said it does not view the petitioners through the lens of religion but as adults who have chosen to live together. FILE PHOTO

of the state as per the Constitutional obligations cast upon it to protect the life and liberty of every citizen. Right to human life is to be treated on much higher pedestal, regardless of a citizen's religious belief. The mere fact that the petitioners are living in an interfaith relationship would not deprive them of their fundamental right as envisaged in the Constitution of India, being citizens of India. No discrimination can be made on the basis of caste, creed, sex or religion," the court said.

The State government, however, argued that the couples had failed to comply with Sections 8 and 9 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021, as no application for religious conversion had been submitted since the law came into force in November 2020. The State further contended that their relationship was unlawful and therefore not entitled to protection under the Act. Rejecting this argument,

the court observed that the anti-conversion law applies only when there is an actual conversion from one religion to another through misrepresentation, force, coercion, undue influence, allurement, fraud, or through marriage or a relationship in the nature of marriage. It noted that even interfaith marriages are not prohibited under the Act.

'Freedom of choice'

"This court fails to understand that if the law permits two persons even of the same sex to live together peacefully, then neither any individual nor a family nor even the state can have objection to heterosexual relationship of two major individuals who out of their own free will are living together," the Bench said.

It said to disregard the choice of a person who is of the age of majority would not only be antithetical to the freedom of choice of a grown-up individual but also be a threat to the concept of unity in diversity.

24F. Interfaith marriages not prohibited under new U.P. conversion law: HC

नई उत्तर प्रदेश धर्मांतरण क़ानून के तहत अंतरधार्मिक विवाह प्रतिबंधित नहीं: हाईकोर्ट

• Allahabad HC orders police protection for 12 interfaith live-in couples, tells respondents to refrain from interfering with their private life; State argued that the relationships were unlawful
इलाहाबाद हाईकोर्ट ने 12 अंतरधार्मिक लिब-इन जोड़ों को पुलिस सुरक्षा देने का आदेश दिया, प्रतिवादियों से उनके निजी जीवन में हस्तक्षेप न करने को कहा; राज्य ने संबंधों को अवैध बताया

• Stating that no one among the 12 interfaith live-in partners have converted from his/her religion and hence do not attract penalty under the anti-conversion law, the Allahabad High Court on Monday allowed police protection to the couples and

asked the Uttar Pradesh government and private respondents to refrain from interfering with their life, liberty and privacy.

यह कहते हुए कि 12 अंतरधार्मिक लिब-इन साझेदारों में से किसी ने भी अपने धर्म से धर्मांतरण नहीं किया है और इसलिए वे धर्मांतरण विरोधी क़ानून के तहत दंड के पात्र नहीं हैं, इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने सोमवार को जोड़ों को पुलिस सुरक्षा की अनुमति दी और उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार तथा निजी प्रतिवादियों से उनके जीवन, स्वतंत्रता और निजता में हस्तक्षेप न करने को कहा।

- A Bench led by Justice Vivek Kumar Singh was hearing a batch of 12 writ petitions involving seven cases where Muslim women were living with Hindu men and five cases where Hindu women were living with Muslim men.

न्यायमूर्ति विवेक कुमार सिंह की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ 12 रिट याचिकाओं के एक समूह की सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिनमें सात मामलों में मुस्लिम महिलाएँ हिंदू पुरुषों के साथ और पाँच मामलों में हिंदू महिलाएँ मुस्लिम पुरुषों के साथ रह रही थीं।

- No discrimination can be made on the basis of caste, creed, sex or religion," the court said. अदालत ने कहा कि जाति, पंथ, लिंग या धर्म के आधार पर कोई भेदभाव नहीं किया जा सकता।"
- The State government, however, argued that the couples had failed to comply with Sections 8 and 9 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021, as no application for religious conversion had been submitted since the law came into force in November 2020.

हालाँकि राज्य सरकार ने तर्क दिया कि जोड़े उत्तर प्रदेश अवैध धर्मांतरण निषेध अधिनियम, 2021 की धाराएँ 8 और 9 का पालन करने में विफल रहे हैं, क्योंकि नवंबर 2020 में क़ानून लागू होने के बाद से धर्मांतरण के लिए कोई आवेदन प्रस्तुत नहीं किया गया।

- The State further contended that their relationship was unlawful and therefore not entitled to protection under the Act. राज्य ने आगे दलील दी कि उनका संबंध अवैध है और इसलिए अधिनियम के तहत संरक्षण का पात्र नहीं है।



- Rejecting this argument, the court observed that the **anti-conversion law** applies only when there is an actual conversion from one religion to another through **misrepresentation, force, coercion, undue influence, allurement, fraud**, or through marriage or a relationship in the nature of marriage.
इस तर्क को खारिज करते हुए अदालत ने कहा कि **धर्मांतरण विरोधी क़ानून** केवल तब लागू होता है जब **गलत प्रस्तुतीकरण, बल, दबाव, अनुचित प्रभाव, प्रलोभन, धोखाधड़ी** के माध्यम से या विवाह अथवा विवाह की प्रकृति के संबंध के जरिए एक धर्म से दूसरे धर्म में वास्तविक धर्मांतरण हो।
- It noted that even **interfaith marriages** are not prohibited under the Act.
अदालत ने यह भी कहा कि अधिनियम के तहत **अंतरधार्मिक विवाह** भी प्रतिबंधित नहीं हैं।

‘Freedom of choice’ ‘पसंद की स्वतंत्रता’

- “This court fails to understand that if the law permits two persons even of the **same sex** to live together peacefully, then neither any individual nor a family nor even the state can have objection to **heterosexual relationships** of two major individuals who out of their own free will are living together,” the Bench said.
पीठ ने कहा, “यदि क़ानून **एक ही लिंग** के दो व्यक्तियों को भी शांतिपूर्वक साथ रहने की अनुमति देता है, तो किसी व्यक्ति, परिवार या यहाँ तक कि राज्य को भी दो वयस्क व्यक्तियों के **विषमलैंगिक संबंध** पर आपत्ति नहीं हो सकती, जो अपनी स्वतंत्र इच्छा से साथ रह रहे हैं।”
- It said to disregard the choice of a person who is of the **age of majority** would not only be antithetical to the **freedom of choice** of a grown-up individual but also be a threat to the concept of **unity in diversity**.
अदालत ने कहा कि **वयस्क आयु** के व्यक्ति की पसंद की उपेक्षा करना न केवल एक परिपक्व व्यक्ति की **पसंद की स्वतंत्रता** के विपरीत होगा, बल्कि **विविधता में एकता** की अवधारणा के लिए भी खतरा होगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



The quiet crisis of adolescent mental health in India

ISSUE: Society, Children

The passing of three adolescent girls in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, earlier this month, is a case that deeply unsettled the public. The intense media attention reflects collective grief – but treating this tragedy as an isolated incident risks ignoring a larger reality. India faces a growing, largely neglected crisis in child and adolescent mental health, rooted in early vulnerability and worsened by an unregulated digital environment.

Mental health challenges are no longer limited to adults or older teens. Clinicians increasingly see anxiety, depression, attention disorders and behavioural issues in much younger children. Yet, many families, schools and even parts of the health-care system still view these as “adult issues”. In fact, emotional and behavioural disorders can appear as early as four or five years of age. Early trauma, neglect and chronic stress can disrupt emotional and cognitive development, often resurfacing with greater intensity during adolescence.

These conditions have also grown more complex. Where children showed a single diagnosis, comorbidities are now common – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with anxiety, depression with compulsive digital use, learning difficulties with emotional distress—making early recognition crucial.

The extent of the problem

Population-level data mirrors what clinicians observe daily. Findings from the National Mental Health Survey and subsequent studies suggest that between seven per cent to 10% of Indian adolescents have diagnosable mental health conditions, and five per cent to seven per cent of school-aged children have ADHD. Yet early signs – withdrawal, impulsivity, sudden behavioural changes – are often dismissed, leading to academic, social and long-term emotional harm. India faces an acute shortage of trained child and adolescent mental health professionals. With fewer than 10,000 psychiatrists for a population exceeding 1.4 billion—and only a small fraction specialising in child mental health – the gap is stark. Shortages of clinical psychologists, child psychologists and psychiatric social workers further strain an already fragile system. Families are left to navigate fragmented care largely on their own.

Childhood vulnerability has been amplified by a transformed digital landscape. The rise in mental health concerns parallels the spread of smartphones and low-priced Internet data, now used by over 800 million Indians—many of them children. The COVID-19 pandemic further embedded screens into daily life including education, recreation and social interaction.

With schoolwork, communication and entertainment all on the same device, boundaries have blurred. Internet addiction which is marked by loss of control, irritability, sleep disruption and social withdrawal, is now a routine clinical concern.

As early as 2019, the World Health



Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

is a practising cardio-metabolic physician, health policy expert and a specialist in parenting and child development



Dr. Deepak Gupta

is a leading child and adolescent psychiatrist

Organization issued guidelines and had cautioned against excessive screen exposure among children and adolescents, highlighting its adverse effects on sleep, attention, emotional regulation and overall wellbeing. These recommendations predated the pandemic. It is important to understand that the excessive screen use does not cause neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD or autism spectrum disorders. However, it can significantly exacerbate symptoms, delay diagnosis and displace the human interaction essential for healthy brain development during periods of heightened neuroplasticity. In vulnerable children, this displacement can have lasting consequences.

Against this backdrop, parents and families have to assume a central role. They are not merely caregivers but a child's first mental health buffer – as the earliest observers of emotional change and the most consistent source of psychological safety. Trauma-informed parenting, which recognises how stress, loss and adversity shape behaviour, must extend beyond clinical settings into everyday life. Listening without judgement, noticing changes in sleep, mood or social engagement, and seeking help early can dramatically alter outcomes.

Support groups are proven to further strengthen this protective environment. Parent support groups reduce isolation, normalise help-seeking and enable shared learning. Adolescent peer-support groups provide safe spaces for emotional expression, resilience-building and the development of coping skills. Evidence consistently shows that such collective, community-based approaches are more effective than isolated, clinic-centred interventions.

Schools are a weak link

Schools, however, remain a critical weak link. Academic performance continues to dominate institutional priorities, often at the expense of emotional wellbeing. Examinations, rankings and competition define school culture, while structured attention to emotional regulation, stress management and happiness remains limited. This imbalance is neither benign nor sustainable. Mental wellbeing is foundational to learning, creativity and long-term productivity; without it, academic success is fragile and transient.

A further challenge lies in the gap between evidence and practice. India's research base on child and adolescent mental health, digital behaviour and early intervention has grown steadily. Yet, translation into routine care remains slow. Paediatricians – often the first point of contact for families – must routinely inquire about emotional wellbeing, sleep patterns, screen use and peer relationships, and not just physical growth. Teachers, counsellors, psychologists and all professionals working with children need structured training to identify early signs of mental health problems and Internet-related harms. Stigma continues to delay care, with

families often seeking help only during crises.

In today's context, child and adolescent mental health is intricately linked to social media and Internet use. These concerns were explicitly acknowledged in India's Economic Survey 2025-26, released in January 2026, which highlighted rising mental health challenges among young people and proposed a range of preventive strategies. Several Indian States, drawing on precedents in Australia, France and South Korea, are considering regulatory steps to limit adolescent social media use. This is an idea whose time has come, provided it is implemented thoughtfully, alongside education and support rather than punitive controls.

Actions to implement

Policy and programmatic action must now align with reality. India can strengthen existing platforms – the National Mental Health Programme, school health services under Ayushman Bharat – health and wellness centre initiative, and tele-mental health initiatives – by introducing routine school-based screening, training teachers and frontline workers in early identification of child and adolescent mental health issues, and reinforcing referral pathways. Earmarked funding for child mental health initiatives, clear guidelines on digital use in schools, and affordable community-based counselling, especially for low- and middle-income families, are urgently needed.

Implementation, however, faces practical hurdles. Stigma surrounding mental health remains pervasive, and child psychiatry carries an even heavier burden of fear and misunderstanding. Concerns about labelling, judgement and long-term consequences often delay help-seeking until distress escalates into crisis. Normalising conversations around mental health within families, schools and health-care systems is not optional; it is a public health imperative.

The Ghaziabad case must not remain just a headline. Preventing similar tragedies requires coordinated action between schools, paediatricians, mental health professionals, and communities. Even modest, timely interventions can change developmental paths. While telepsychiatry and digital platforms have expanded reach, access remains unequal; extending these services to underserved families, alongside investment in training and interdisciplinary care, must be a priority.

Parents need guidance on early warning signs and healthy digital use. Schools should make mental wellbeing part of daily learning. Paediatricians must screen for emotional and behavioural issues, and community support networks strengthened. Policy must treat mental health as central to child development.

Equally important is a need to shift in what we value as outcomes. Childhood should foster wellbeing, resilience, and connection—not just competitiveness. Neglecting it now will carry far higher social and economic costs later.

Families, schools and policymakers must prioritise youth mental wellbeing

24F. The quiet crisis of adolescent mental health in India भारत में किशोर मानसिक स्वास्थ्य का मौन संकट

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Crisis बाल और किशोर मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संकट

- The passing of three adolescent girls in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, earlier this month, is a case that deeply unsettled the public. इस महीने की शुरुआत में उत्तर प्रदेश के गाज़ियाबाद में तीन किशोरियों की मृत्यु ने जनता को गहराई से झकझोर दिया।
- भारत बाल और किशोर मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में बढ़ते और काफी हद तक उपेक्षित संकट का सामना कर रहा है, जो प्रारंभिक संवेदनशीलता से जुड़ा है और अनियंत्रित डिजिटल वातावरण से और गंभीर हुआ है।
- Mental health challenges are no longer limited to adults or older teens. मानसिक स्वास्थ्य की चुनौतियाँ अब केवल वयस्कों या बड़े किशोरों तक सीमित नहीं हैं।
- Clinicians increasingly see anxiety, depression, attention disorders and behavioural issues in much younger children. चिकित्सक अब छोटे बच्चों में भी चिंता, अवसाद, ध्यान विकार और व्यवहार संबंधी समस्याएँ देख रहे हैं।



- Yet, many families, schools and parts of the **health-care system** still view these as “**adult issues**”.
फिर भी कई परिवार, स्कूल और **स्वास्थ्य-प्रणाली** के कुछ हिस्से इन्हें “**वयस्क समस्याएँ**” मानते हैं।
- In fact, emotional and behavioural disorders can appear **as early as four or five years of age**.
वास्तव में भावनात्मक और व्यवहार संबंधी विकार **चार या पाँच वर्ष की आयु** में भी दिखाई दे सकते हैं।
- **Early trauma, neglect and chronic stress** can disrupt **emotional and cognitive development**, often resurfacing with greater intensity during **adolescence**.
प्रारंभिक आघात, उपेक्षा और दीर्घकालिक तनाव भावनात्मक और संज्ञानात्मक विकास को बाधित कर सकते हैं और **किशोरावस्था** में अधिक तीव्रता से फिर उभर सकते हैं।
- These conditions have also grown more **complex**.
ये स्थितियाँ अब अधिक **जटिल** हो गई हैं।
- Where children showed a single diagnosis, **comorbidities are now common — attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with anxiety, depression with compulsive digital use, learning difficulties with emotional distress — making early recognition crucial**.
जहाँ पहले बच्चों में एक ही निदान होता था, अब **सह-रुग्णता सामान्य है — एडीएचडी के साथ चिंता, अवसाद के साथ अनियंत्रित डिजिटल उपयोग, सीखने की कठिनाइयों के साथ भावनात्मक तनाव — जिससे प्रारंभिक पहचान महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है।**
- Findings from the **National Mental Health Survey** suggest that between **7% to 10% of Indian adolescents** have diagnosable mental health conditions.
राष्ट्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार **7% से 10% भारतीय किशोरों** में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी निदान योग्य स्थितियाँ हैं।
- With fewer than **10,000 psychiatrists** for a population exceeding **1.4 billion**, and only a small fraction specialising in **child mental health**, the gap is stark.
1.4 अरब से अधिक जनसंख्या के लिए **10,000 से कम मनोचिकित्सक** हैं और उनमें से भी बहुत कम **बाल मानसिक स्वास्थ्य** में विशेषज्ञ हैं, जिससे अंतर स्पष्ट है।
- The **rise in mental health concerns parallels the spread of smartphones and low-priced Internet data**, now used by over **800 million Indians** — many of them children.
मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं में वृद्धि **स्मार्टफोन और सस्ते इंटरनेट डेटा** के प्रसार के साथ हुई है, जिसका उपयोग अब **80 करोड़ से अधिक भारतीय** करते हैं — जिनमें कई बच्चे हैं।
- As early as **2019**, the **World Health Organization** cautioned against **excessive screen exposure** among children and adolescents, highlighting adverse effects on **sleep, attention, emotional regulation and wellbeing**.
2019 में ही **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन** ने बच्चों और किशोरों में **अत्यधिक स्क्रीन उपयोग** के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी थी, और इसके **नींद, ध्यान, भावनात्मक नियंत्रण और समग्र कल्याण** पर दुष्प्रभाव बताए थे।



Rethinking tribal women's inheritance rights

GS I: Society

MCQ

The question of women's inheritance rights in tribal communities remains unresolved. Customary laws of most tribal communities deny absolute property rights to their women, and the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which grants daughters inheritance rights in ancestral property, keeps tribal women out of its purview. Until recently, however, the Supreme Court had in some cases granted inheritance rights to tribal women who had 'Hinduised', i.e., adopted Hindu customs and traditions after abandoning their customary practices. This inconsistent approach – excluding tribal women from inheritance rights in some cases due to the acceptance of exclusion clauses under Hindu laws, while granting rights in others because of 'Hinduisation' – created uncertainty for tribal women whenever questions of inheritance arose.

Reaffirming an old principle
This came to an end when, on October 8, 2025, the Court delivered a verdict, upholding the core inheritance provisions of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra stated that the Act cannot be applied to Scheduled Tribes under any circumstances. While this observation was not new, it reaffirmed the law's principle of providing special protection to indigenous communities under the legal system.

The verdict was given in the case of *Nawang v. Bahadur*. The civil appeal challenged the order dated June 23, 2015, passed by the High Court of Himachal Pradesh at Shimla, pertaining to a particular property case. The High Court had said that tribal daughters who had been 'Hinduised' ought to have an opportunity to inherit property under the Hindu Succession Act. The Supreme Court overturned that order stating that only Parliament had the authority to extend the Act to tribal



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Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that the Hindu Succession Act does not apply to tribal communities, a separate law could be introduced to govern inheritance among indigenous populations

communities. The Court brought to light the fact that the High Court had overstepped its jurisdiction by directing legislative changes. It affirmed that tribal inheritance falls under the rubric of the customary practices of communities unless the Central government officially intervenes.

The Supreme Court's decision came just months after it recognised, in *Ram Charan v. Sukhrum*, that excluding daughters from ancestral property violates their fundamental right to equality. It invites not only deep analysis, but also partially answers certain questions. Is 'Hinduising' a tribe the only way to secure inheritance rights for tribal women? Should Scheduled Tribes be granted inheritance rights solely on the basis of religion, disregarding their unique social and cultural characteristics? Can they not be given equal inheritance rights by expanding any other statute? Or, in the absence of consistent statutory and customary law guaranteeing tribal women inheritance rights, should tribal women continue to face discrimination under the pretext of upholding tradition?

Defining Hindu

On defining the term 'Hindu', the Supreme Court, in *Sastri Yagnapurushadji v. Muldas Brudardas Vaishya* (1966), said that "unlike other religions in the world, the Hindu religion does not claim any one prophet, it does not worship any one God, it does not subscribe to any one dogma, it does not believe in any one philosophic concept, it does not follow any one set of religious rites or performances, in fact, it does not appear to satisfy the narrow traditional features of any religion or creed. It may broadly be described as a way of life and nothing more". A person can be a Hindu either by birth or by conversion. Conversion means a bonafide intention to follow a particular faith with an unequivocal conduct expressing sufficient evidence of conversion.

A converted person continues to be a member of the tribe unless his ancestors had converted long time ago and have stopped following tribal customs including the customary laws of inheritance and marriage, as are expected of the members of that tribe.

This judgment of the Supreme Court raises a question. Was not the earlier practice of 'Hinduisation' of tribal people a negation of the constitutional guarantee to protect the unique identity of tribal people? The ruling affirms the constitutional validity of Section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act, which excludes Scheduled Tribes from the Act. This provision had previously been challenged on the grounds that it created invidious discrimination between women belonging to Scheduled Tribes and those outside the category.

Earlier, the courts used to broaden the scope of Section 2(1) of the Hindu Succession Act to include Scheduled Tribes by holding that since they are not expressly excluded under the section, they would be included within the definition of 'Hindu' under Section 2(1) of the Act. This is not only contrary to Section 2(2), which states that notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 2(1), no provisions of the Act shall apply to notified Scheduled Tribes, but was also used to force tribal women to choose between their tribal identity and becoming followers of Hinduism.

An opportunity

Now that the Supreme Court has stated that the Act cannot be extended to tribal people irrespective of their religious allegiance, it would be wise to introduce a special enactment governing inheritance rights among the indigenous population. Codifying customary laws of succession in other States with significant tribal populations on the lines of Mizoram could provide a solution to ensure gender parity while preserving tribal identity.

24F.

Rethinking tribal women's inheritance rights

आदिवासी महिलाओं के उत्तराधिकार अधिकारों पर पुनर्विचार

- Customary laws of most tribal communities **deny absolute property rights to women**. अधिकांश जनजातीय समुदायों के प्रथागत कानून महिलाओं को पूर्ण संपत्ति अधिकार से वंचित करते हैं।
- **The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 grants daughters inheritance rights but excludes tribal women from its purview.** हिंदू उत्तराधिकार अधिनियम, 1956 बेटियों को उत्तराधिकार अधिकार देता है, लेकिन जनजातीय महिलाओं को इसके दायरे से बाहर रखता है।
- A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra ruled that the **Act cannot apply to Scheduled Tribes under any circumstances.** न्यायमूर्ति संजय करोल और प्रशांत कुमार मिश्रा की पीठ ने निर्णय दिया कि यह अधिनियम अनुसूचित जनजातियों पर किसी भी स्थिति में लागू नहीं हो सकता।
- The **verdict reaffirmed the principle of special legal protection for indigenous communities.** इस निर्णय ने आदिवासी समुदायों के लिए विशेष कानूनी संरक्षण के सिद्धांत की पुनर्पुष्टि की।



- The High Court had allowed '**Hinduised**' tribal daughters to inherit under the **Hindu Succession Act**.
उच्च न्यायालय ने 'हिंदूकरण' अपनाने वाली जनजातीय बेटियों को हिंदू उत्तराधिकार अधिनियम के तहत संपत्ति उत्तराधिकार की अनुमति दी थी।
- The **Supreme Court overturned** the order, stating only **Parliament** can extend the Act to tribal communities.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदेश रद्द किया, और कहा कि केवल संसद ही इस अधिनियम को जनजातीय समुदायों तक बढ़ा सकती है।
- The Court held that the High Court had **overstepped its jurisdiction** by suggesting legislative change.
न्यायालय ने कहा कि उच्च न्यायालय ने अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र का अतिक्रमण किया।
- It affirmed that **tribal inheritance** remains governed by **customary practices** unless the **Central government intervenes**.
न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि जनजातीय उत्तराधिकार प्रथागत परंपराओं द्वारा संचालित होगा, जब तक कि केंद्र सरकार हस्तक्षेप न करे।
- Earlier, in **Ram Charan v. Sukhram**, the Court held excluding daughters from ancestral property violates the **fundamental right to equality**.
इससे पहले राम चरण बनाम सुखराम मामले में न्यायालय ने कहा था कि बेटियों को पैतृक संपत्ति से वंचित करना समानता के मौलिक अधिकार का उल्लंघन है।
- The verdict raises key questions.
यह निर्णय महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाता है।
- Is '**Hinduising**' a tribe the only way to secure inheritance rights for tribal women?
क्या 'हिंदूकरण' ही जनजातीय महिलाओं के उत्तराधिकार अधिकार पाने का एकमात्र तरीका है?
- Should Scheduled Tribes get inheritance rights solely on the basis of **religion**, ignoring their **unique cultural identity**?
क्या अनुसूचित जनजातियों को केवल धर्म के आधार पर उत्तराधिकार अधिकार मिलना चाहिए, उनकी विशिष्ट सांस्कृतिक पहचान को अनदेखा कर?

Defining Hindu 'हिंदू' की परिभाषा

- On defining the term '**Hindu**', the Supreme Court in **Sastri Yagnapurushadji v. Muldas Brudardas Vaishya (1966)** stated that the Hindu religion does not claim **one prophet, one God, one dogma, one philosophy, or one set of rites**, and may broadly be described as a **way of life**.
'हिंदू' शब्द की परिभाषा देते हुए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शास्त्री यज्ञपुरुषदासजी बनाम मुलदास ब्रुडरदास वैश्य (1966) में कहा कि हिंदू धर्म एक पैगंबर, एक ईश्वर, एक सिद्धांत, एक दर्शन या एक धार्मिक पद्धति तक सीमित नहीं है और इसे व्यापक रूप से जीवन शैली कहा जा सकता है।
- The ruling reaffirmed the constitutional validity of **Section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act**, which **excludes Scheduled Tribes** from its scope.
निर्णय ने हिंदू उत्तराधिकार अधिनियम की धारा 2(2) की संवैधानिक वैधता को पुनः पुष्टि की, जो अनुसूचित जनजातियों को इसके दायरे से बाहर रखती है।
- This was contrary to **Section 2(2)**, which clearly states that the Act **shall not apply to notified Scheduled Tribes**.
यह धारा 2(2) के विपरीत था, जो स्पष्ट करता है कि यह अधिनियम सूचित अनुसूचित जनजातियों पर लागू नहीं होगा।

GS Paper II: Polity,	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	Directions in hate crime ruling may be unmanageable: CJI हेट क्राइम फैसले में दिए गए निर्देश अव्यवहारिक हो सकते हैं: CJI
24F	On the independence of the EC चुनाव आयोग की स्वतंत्रता पर



Directions in hate crime ruling may be unmanageable: CJI

GS II: Polity
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday described as “unmanageable” the “general directions” issued by the Supreme Court in a 2018 judgment to the Centre and States to prevent and prosecute cow vigilantism and mobocracy.

Rather, the CJI observed in favour of an individualistic approach, taking up each crime on its singular facts and merits, and acting on any infraction of a person’s right or abuse of law with immediate effect.

He said the top court only lays down general principles of law for the authorities to comply with and the people to raise in their protection in case of any violation of their rights. In case of any breach of rights, the public has a remedy in law through the courts concerned, he indicated.

The court refused to entertain contempt petitions that the State governments and authorities had not been acting in compliance with the 2018 Tehseen Poonawalla judgment. “If somebody’s rights are infringed or some action is taken in excess of the protection of law. Their rights must be protected. Immediate action must be taken in such cases,” Chief Justice Kant, heading a Bench comprising Justice JoyMaya Bagchi, observed.

The eight-year-old verdict had reverberated as a sharp judicial criticism against a spate of lynchings and communally coloured mob violence which had occurred since 2014. The court had described these as “creeping” threats. It had warned that the rising wave of frenzied mobs – fed by fake news, self-professed morality and false stories – would consume the country like a “typhoon-like monster”.

The three-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra had imposed that the primary obligation of the government was to protect all individuals irrespective of race, caste, class, or religion. It had directed preventive, remedial and punitive measures to deal with lynching and mob violence while ordering the Centre and the States to implement the measures and file compliance reports.

However, when the case came up in February 2025, the court was of the opinion that it could possibly not “micro-manage” criminal prosecutions of mob lynchings and violence in “different areas or different States” sitting in Delhi. It urged victims to approach local courts and State authorities to comply with the directions in the 2018 judgment to prevent and fairly investigate hate crimes and communal violence.

court was of the opinion that it could possibly not “micro-manage” criminal prosecutions of mob lynchings and violence in “different areas or different States” sitting in Delhi.

हालांकि, जब मामला फरवरी 2025 में आया, तो अदालत की राय थी कि वह दिल्ली में बैठकर “विभिन्न क्षेत्रों या विभिन्न राज्यों” में भीड़ लिंगिंग और हिंसा के आपराधिक अभियोजन को “सूक्ष्म-प्रबंधन” नहीं कर सकती।

- It urged victims to approach local courts and State authorities to comply with the directions in the 2018 judgment to prevent and fairly investigate hate crimes and communal violence. अदालत ने पीड़ितों से आग्रह किया कि वे स्थानीय अदालतों और राज्य प्राधिकरणों के पास जाएं ताकि 2018 के फैसले के निर्देशों के अनुसार हेट क्राइम और सांप्रदायिक हिंसा को रोका जा सके और निष्पक्ष जांच हो सके।

24F. Directions in hate crime ruling may be unmanageable: CJI

हेट क्राइम फैसले में दिए गए निर्देश अव्यवहारिक हो सकते हैं: CJI

- The court refused to entertain contempt petitions that the State governments and authorities had not been acting in compliance with the 2018 Tehseen Poonawalla judgment.

अदालत ने यह कहते हुए अवमानना याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई से इनकार कर दिया कि राज्य सरकारें और प्राधिकरण 2018 के तहसीन पूनावाला फैसले का पालन नहीं कर रहे हैं।

- The eight-year-old verdict had reverberated as a sharp judicial criticism against a spate of lynchings and communally coloured mob violence which had occurred since 2014.

आठ साल पुराने इस फैसले ने 2014 से हुई लिंगिंग और सांप्रदायिक रंग वाली भीड़ हिंसा की घटनाओं के खिलाफ तीखी न्यायिक आलोचना के रूप में गूँज पैदा की थी।

- The court had described these as “creeping” threats. अदालत ने इन्हें “धीरे-धीरे बढ़ते” खतरे बताया था।

- It had warned that the rising wave of frenzied mobs – fed by fake news, self-professed morality and false stories – would consume the country like a “typhoon-like monster”.

उसने चेतावनी दी थी कि फर्जी खबरों, स्वयं-घोषित नैतिकता और झूठी कहानियों से पोषित उन्मादी भीड़ों की बढ़ती लहर देश को “तूफान जैसे राक्षस” की तरह निगल लेगी।

- The three-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra had imposed that the primary obligation of the government was to protect all individuals irrespective of race, caste, class, or religion.

तत्कालीन मुख्य न्यायाधीश दीपक मिश्रा के नेतृत्व वाली तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने यह निर्धारित किया था कि सरकार का प्राथमिक दायित्व जाति, वर्ग, नस्ल या धर्म से परे सभी व्यक्तियों की रक्षा करना है।

- It had directed preventive, remedial and punitive measures to deal with lynching and mob violence while ordering the Centre and the States to implement the measures and file compliance reports.

उसने लिंगिंग और भीड़ हिंसा से निपटने के लिए निवारक, उपचारात्मक और दंडात्मक उपायों के निर्देश दिए थे और केंद्र व राज्यों को इन्हें लागू कर अनुपालन रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने का आदेश दिया था।

- However, when the case came up in February 2025, the



On the independence of the EC

An independent Election Commission is the bedrock of Indian democracy. To ensure that it remains so, various safeguards are built into the basic structure of the Constitution

LETTER & SPIRIT

C.B.P. Srivastava

Free and fair elections are key to a successful and vibrant democracy, a maxim included in the Basic Structure of the Constitution via *Indira Gandhi versus Raj Narain* (1975). However, in recent times, the fairness of the electoral process in India has been under question for many reasons, culminating in a resolution by the Opposition alliance to remove the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). These controversies centre around the issue of alleged 'vote theft', and the manipulation of electoral rolls in the much-talked about Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

It has been alleged that the Election Commission (EC) has allowed massive irregularities in voter lists, specifically targeting minority and Opposition-supporting voters. It was alleged that the SIR in Bihar was rushed and designed to delete voters in order to target minorities. The names of approximately 65 lakh voters have been deleted during the SIR exercise which was challenged in the Supreme Court. This is quite a casual way of doing away with a citizen's 'right to vote'. Adult franchise as provided in Article 326 of the Constitution is the bedrock of democracy. Any procedural impropriety would affect its merit and sanctity.

On selecting the EC

The process of appointing election commissioners had caused controversy when the Government passed the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Office and Terms of Office) Act, 2023, which regulates the appointment and removal of the CEC and election commissioners, replacing the 1991 Act. The 2023 Act stipulates that election commissioners should be appointed by the President based on a selection committee comprised of the Prime Minister, a Union Minister and the Leader of Opposition. It was alleged that the passing of the Act was in contravention of the decision of the Supreme Court in *Anoop Baramwal versus Union of India*, 2023 in which the Court held that the Chief Justice of India should also be included in the committee. However, this provision was removed which created a controversy on the grounds that the independence of the EC would be adversely affected. The Act has been challenged again in *Jaya Thakur versus Union of India*, 2024. The next hearing for the same is scheduled for March 2026.

The Constitutional mandate

The Constitution of India, under Article 324, provides for a permanent Election Commission with powers of superintendence, direction and control of the elections of the President, Vice-President, Parliament and of the legislature of the States. This constitutional basis and permanency of the Commission creates a background for its independence. The 2023 Act provides that the CEC will hold office for six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier. By far the most significant provision ensuring independence of the EC is the provision for the removal of the CEC and other election commissioners. Clause (5) of Article 324 says that the CEC can be removed only in the manner prescribed for the removal of a Supreme Court judge under Article 124(4), which are either



Speaking out: Activists from various groups stage a protest against the SIR at Freedom park in Bengaluru on February 7. ALLEN EGENUSE. J

proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Under Article 324(5), the CEC's conditions of service cannot be varied to their disadvantage during their tenure.

The removal of other election commissioners is done by the President on the advice of the CEC. However, the Supreme Court in *Vineet Narain versus Union of India*, 1997 held that the CEC shall not give his advice *suo motu*. This provision strikes a balance between the executive power and the independence of the election commissioners.

The CEC's position

Article 324 provides for an EC with a CEC and other commissioners, and also includes a provision for regional commissioners. In 1989, the commission was made multi-member but the two additional posts were abolished in 1990. Again on October 1, 1993 after drawing strength from clause (2) of Article 324, it was made a multi-member commission permanently which was validated by the Supreme Court in *T. N. Seshan versus Union of India* (1995).

Interestingly, Clause (3) of Article 324 provides that when any Election Commissioner is so appointed the CEC, he/she shall act as the Chairman of the EC. The language of Article 324 makes it crystal clear that the CEC is appointed and commissioned as the commissioner having certain exclusive powers, and in case of making the Commission multi-member, he shall preside over the meeting as its chairman. The idea behind this provision is to ensure that the conduct of elections is done by an administrator and at the same time to make the decision of the Commission consensus-based or democratic. Such provisions also ensure the independence of this constitutional body.

The procedure to remove the CEC is

very complex and rigorous. It is a quasi-judicial Parliamentary procedure. The complexity of the process ensures its independence from any possible arbitrary action by the government. While the Representation of the People Act of 1950 and 1951 focuses on electoral procedures, voter registration, and candidate qualifications, Section 11 of the CEC and other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Terms of Office) Act, 2023 gives the procedure to remove the CEC and other Commissioners.

For the removal of the CEC, Article 324 (5) shall be read with Article 124(4) in order to understand the grounds for removal and the procedure.

Section 3 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, deals with the investigation into misbehaviour or incapacity by a commission member. It says that if notice is given to the Lok Sabha, at least 100 members must sign, while in the case of the Rajya Sabha, the minimum number of signatories to such a motion shall not be less than 50. Following this, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman may admit or refuse the motion.

The Speaker or Chairman thereafter constitutes a three-member committee comprising the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge, the Chief Justice of a High Court and a distinguished jurist.

In order to ensure coordination between the two Houses of Parliament, a provision is made that if the notice is given to both Houses on the same day, the committee shall be constituted only after both Houses accept the motion.

Further, definite charges must be framed and communicated on which investigation needs to be conducted. The CEC should be given reasonable time and opportunity to present his statement of defence. This is a provision which ensures the protection of the Doctrine of

Natural Justice by way of protecting the 'Rule of Fair Hearing'. This is again one of the most significant features of India's Constitution. In the case of allegations of any physical or mental incapacity, medical examination by a medical board appointed by the Speaker or Chairman, as the case may be, needs to be conducted.

The political angle

Though the Opposition has said that it will adopt democratic tools to move the motion against the CEC, it is unlikely to get passed as the ruling alliance holds sufficient majority in Parliament. The ruling government has rejected the allegations of any bias. The moot point is that constitutional bodies must be well-respected by all, be it citizens, ruling parties or the Opposition; otherwise, it sends a wrong signal to the masses across the country.

All political parties need to consider that constitutional or statutory bodies operate according to the provisions provided in the Constitution or in the respective statutes. While dissent against the actions of such bodies is not wrong, it should also be considered that the politicisation of the Constitution or constitutional bodies would be detrimental to Indian democracy.

The political safeguard provided by the Constitution must be taken care of and any dilution would be politically sensitive mainly because it would affect fairness in the electoral process and in the balance of power between the Government and independent and credible democratic institutions. The rule of thumb in Indian democracy is that it thrives on a blend of liberty and command, by balancing the authority of the state with the liberty of its citizens.

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THE GIST

It has been alleged that the Election Commission (EC) has allowed massive irregularities in voter lists, specifically targeting minority and Opposition-supporting voters.

Article 324 provides for an EC with a CEC and other commissioners, and also includes a provision for regional commissioners.

Though the Opposition has said that it will adopt democratic tools to move the motion against the CEC, it is unlikely to get passed as the ruling alliance holds sufficient majority in Parliament.

24F. On the independence of the EC
चुनाव आयोग की स्वतंत्रता पर



- An independent Election Commission is the bedrock of Indian democracy. एक स्वतंत्र चुनाव आयोग भारतीय लोकतंत्र की आधारशिला है।
- To ensure that it remains so, various safeguards are built into the basic structure of the Constitution इसे ऐसा बनाए रखने के लिए संविधान की मूल संरचना में विभिन्न सुरक्षा प्रावधान शामिल किए गए हैं
- Free and fair elections are key to a successful and vibrant democracy, a maxim included in the Basic Structure of the Constitution via Indira Gandhi versus Raj Narain (1975). स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सफल और सशक्त लोकतंत्र की कुंजी हैं, जिसे इंदिरा गांधी बनाम राज नारायण (1975) के माध्यम से संविधान की मूल संरचना में शामिल किया गया।
- Adult franchise under Article 326 is the bedrock of democracy, and any procedural impropriety affects its sanctity. अनुच्छेद 326 के तहत वयस्क मताधिकार लोकतंत्र की आधारशिला है, और किसी भी प्रक्रियात्मक त्रुटि से इसकी पवित्रता प्रभावित होती है।

On Selecting the EC चुनाव आयोग की नियुक्ति पर

- The appointment process became controversial after the passage of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Office and Terms of Office) Act, 2023, replacing the 1991 Act. मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (नियुक्ति, सेवा की शर्तें और कार्यकाल) अधिनियम, 2023 पारित होने के बाद नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया विवादित हो गई, जिसने 1991 के अधिनियम को प्रतिस्थापित किया।
- The 2023 Act provides that commissioners are appointed by the President based on a selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister, and the Leader of Opposition. 2023 अधिनियम के अनुसार आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति राष्ट्रपति द्वारा प्रधानमंत्री, एक केंद्रीय मंत्री और विपक्ष के नेता वाली चयन समिति की सिफारिश पर होगी।
- It was alleged that the Act contravened the Supreme Court's decision in Anoop Baranwal versus Union of India, 2023, which included the Chief Justice of India in the committee. आरोप है कि यह अधिनियम अनूप बरनवाल बनाम भारत संघ, 2023 के निर्णय के विपरीत है, जिसमें चयन समिति में भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश को शामिल किया गया था।
- The Act has been challenged again in Jaya Thakur versus Union of India, 2024. इस अधिनियम को जया ठाकुर बनाम भारत संघ, 2024 में पुनः चुनौती दी गई है।
- The next hearing is scheduled for March 2026. अगली सुनवाई मार्च 2026 के लिए निर्धारित है।

The Constitutional mandate संवैधानिक प्रावधान

- The Constitution of India, under Article 324, provides for a permanent Election Commission with powers of superintendence, direction and control of elections of the President, Vice-President, Parliament and State legislatures. भारत का संविधान, अनुच्छेद 324 के तहत, चुनाव आयोग को राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति, संसद और राज्य विधानमंडलों के चुनावों पर पर्यवेक्षण, निर्देशन और नियंत्रण की शक्तियों सहित एक स्थायी निकाय के रूप में स्थापित करता है।
- This constitutional basis and permanency creates a background for the independence of the Commission. यह संवैधानिक आधार और स्थायित्व आयोग की स्वतंत्रता की पृष्ठभूमि तैयार करता है।
- The 2023 Act provides that the CEC will hold office for six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier. 2023 अधिनियम के अनुसार मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त का कार्यकाल छह वर्ष या 65 वर्ष की आयु तक, जो पहले हो, रहेगा।
- The most significant provision ensuring independence is the removal process of the CEC and election commissioners.



स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने वाला सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधान **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्तों की हटाने की प्रक्रिया** है।

- **Clause (5) of Article 324 states that the CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge under Article 124(4) on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.**
अनुच्छेद 324(5) के अनुसार **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त को केवल अनुच्छेद 124(4) के तहत सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश की तरह ही हटाया जा सकता है**, अर्थात् सिद्ध दुराचार या अक्षमता के आधार पर।
- Under **Article 324(5), the conditions of service of the CEC cannot be varied to their disadvantage during tenure.**
अनुच्छेद 324(5) के अनुसार कार्यकाल के दौरान **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की सेवा शर्तों को उनके प्रतिकूल नहीं बदला जा सकता।**
- The removal of other election commissioners is done by the **President on the advice of the CEC.**
अन्य चुनाव आयुक्तों को राष्ट्रपति द्वारा **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की सलाह पर हटाया जाता है।**
- The Supreme Court in **Vineet Narain versus Union of India, 1997** held that the **CEC shall not give advice suo motu.**
विनीत नारायण बनाम भारत संघ, 1997 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त स्वप्रेरणा से सलाह नहीं देंगे।**
- This provision balances **executive power and independence of election commissioners.**
यह प्रावधान **कार्यपालिका की शक्ति और चुनाव आयुक्तों की स्वतंत्रता** के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करता है।

The CEC's position

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की स्थिति

- **Article 324 provides for an Election Commission consisting of a CEC and other commissioners, including provision for regional commissioners.**
अनुच्छेद 324 के अनुसार **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य आयुक्तों वाला चुनाव आयोग तथा क्षेत्रीय आयुक्तों का प्रावधान है।**
- **In 1989, the Commission became multi-member, but the two additional posts were abolished in 1990.**
1989 में आयोग **बहु-सदस्यीय** बना, परंतु **1990** में दो अतिरिक्त पद समाप्त कर दिए गए।
- **Again on October 1, 1993, using Article 324(2), it was made permanently multi-member, validated by the Supreme Court in T. N. Seshan versus Union of India (1995).**
फिर **1 अक्टूबर 1993** को **अनुच्छेद 324(2)** के आधार पर इसे स्थायी रूप से बहु-सदस्यीय बनाया गया, जिसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **टी. एन. शेषन बनाम भारत संघ (1995)** में मान्यता दी।
- **Clause (3) of Article 324 states that when an Election Commissioner is appointed, the CEC shall act as Chairman of the Commission.**
अनुच्छेद 324(3) के अनुसार जब चुनाव आयुक्त नियुक्त होते हैं, तो **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त आयोग के अध्यक्ष के रूप में कार्य करेंगे।**
- The Article makes clear that the **CEC has certain exclusive powers** and presides over meetings when the Commission is multi-member.
यह अनुच्छेद स्पष्ट करता है कि **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त के पास कुछ विशिष्ट शक्तियाँ होती हैं** और बहु-सदस्यीय आयोग में वे बैठकों की अध्यक्षता करते हैं।
- The objective is to ensure elections are conducted by an **administrator** while making decisions **consensus-based and democratic.**
इसका उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि चुनाव **प्रशासक द्वारा संचालित हों** और निर्णय **सहमति आधारित तथा लोकतांत्रिक हों।**
- Such provisions help ensure the **independence of this constitutional body.**
ऐसे प्रावधान इस **संवैधानिक संस्था की स्वतंत्रता** सुनिश्चित करते हैं।

The Procedure to Remove the CEC

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त को हटाने की प्रक्रिया

- The procedure to remove the **CEC** is very **complex and rigorous**, and it is a **quasi-judicial Parliamentary procedure.**



मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त को हटाने की प्रक्रिया बहुत जटिल और कठोर है और यह एक अर्ध-न्यायिक संसदीय प्रक्रिया है।

- The complexity ensures independence from arbitrary government action. यह जटिलता सरकार की मनमानी कार्रवाई से स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करती है।
- The Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951 focuses on electoral procedures, voter registration and candidate qualifications, while Section 11 of the 2023 Act provides the removal procedure.

जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम 1950 और 1951 चुनावी प्रक्रिया, मतदाता पंजीकरण और प्रत्याशी योग्यता पर केंद्रित है, जबकि 2023 अधिनियम की धारा 11 हटाने की प्रक्रिया बताती है।

- For removal, Article 324(5) must be read with Article 124(4) to understand grounds and procedure.

हटाने की प्रक्रिया समझने के लिए अनुच्छेद 324(5) को अनुच्छेद 124(4) के साथ पढ़ना आवश्यक है।

- Section 3 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 deals with investigation into misbehaviour or incapacity.

न्यायाधीश (जांच) अधिनियम 1968 की धारा 3 दुराचार या अक्षमता की जांच से संबंधित है।

- If notice is given in Lok Sabha, at least 100 members must sign; in Rajya Sabha, at least 50 members must sign.

यदि प्रस्ताव लोकसभा में दिया जाए तो कम से कम 100 सदस्यों के हस्ताक्षर आवश्यक हैं, जबकि राज्यसभा में कम से कम 50 सदस्यों के हस्ताक्षर आवश्यक हैं।

- The Speaker or Chairman may admit or refuse the motion.

अध्यक्ष या सभापति प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार कर सकते हैं।

- The Speaker or Chairman then constitutes a three-member committee consisting of Chief Justice of India or Supreme Court Judge, Chief Justice of High Court and a distinguished jurist.

इसके बाद तीन सदस्यीय समिति गठित की जाती है जिसमें भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश या सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश, उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश और एक प्रतिष्ठित विधिवेत्ता शामिल होते हैं।

- If notice is given in both Houses on the same day, the committee is formed only after both Houses admit the motion.

यदि प्रस्ताव दोनों सदनों में एक ही दिन दिया जाए तो समिति का गठन तभी होगा जब दोनों सदन प्रस्ताव स्वीकार करें।

- Definite charges must be framed and communicated for investigation.

जांच के लिए स्पष्ट आरोप निर्धारित और संप्रेषित किए जाने चाहिए।

- The CEC must be given reasonable opportunity to present defence, ensuring the Doctrine of Natural Justice and Rule of Fair Hearing.

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त को बचाव प्रस्तुत करने का उचित अवसर दिया जाना चाहिए, जिससे प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांत और निष्पक्ष सुनवाई के नियम की रक्षा होती है।

- In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, medical examination by a medical board appointed by the Speaker or Chairman must be conducted.

यदि शारीरिक या मानसिक अक्षमता का आरोप हो, तो अध्यक्ष या सभापति द्वारा नियुक्त चिकित्सा बोर्ड द्वारा चिकित्सीय परीक्षण कराया जाना चाहिए।

The Political Angle

राजनीतिक पहलू

- Though the Opposition has said it will use democratic tools to move a motion against the CEC, it is unlikely to pass because the ruling alliance has majority in Parliament.

हालाँकि विपक्ष ने कहा है कि वह लोकतांत्रिक उपार्यों से मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त के खिलाफ प्रस्ताव लाएगा, लेकिन इसके पारित होने की संभावना कम है क्योंकि सत्तारूढ़ गठबंधन के पास संसद में बहुमत है।

- The ruling government has rejected allegations of bias.

सत्तारूढ़ सरकार ने पक्षपात के आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया है।

- While dissent is not wrong, politicisation of constitutional bodies would harm Indian democracy.

हालाँकि असहमति गलत नहीं है, लेकिन संवैधानिक संस्थाओं का राजनीतिकरण भारतीय लोकतंत्र के लिए हानिकारक होगा।



- The **political safeguards in the Constitution** must be protected.
संविधान में दिए गए राजनीतिक सुरक्षा उपायों की रक्षा की जानी चाहिए।
- Any **dilution** would be politically sensitive as it affects **fair elections and balance of power** between the **Government and independent institutions**.
किसी भी कमजोरी का राजनीतिक प्रभाव होगा क्योंकि यह निष्पक्ष चुनाव और सरकार तथा स्वतंत्र संस्थाओं के बीच शक्ति संतुलन को प्रभावित करेगा।
- The **guiding principle of Indian democracy** is a balance between **state authority and citizen liberty**.
भारतीय लोकतंत्र का मूल सिद्धांत राज्य की शक्ति और नागरिकों की स्वतंत्रता के बीच संतुलन है।

GS Paper II: Governance,	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	Rescue efforts on after air ambulance with 7 aboard crashes in Jharkhand झारखंड में 7 लोगों को लेकर जा रही एयर एंबुलेंस के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद बचाव प्रयास जारी
24F	'Adulterated milk' claims four lives in Andhra Pradesh 'मिलावटी दूध' ने आंध्र प्रदेश में चार लोगों की जान ली
24F	M.P. govt. to extend Bhavantar scheme to mustard farmers for pricing power मूल्य शक्ति के लिए सरसों किसानों तक भावांतर योजना का विस्तार करेगी मध्य प्रदेश सरकार
24F	WhatsApp tells SC it does not share data with Meta व्हाट्सएप ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बताया कि वह मेटा के साथ डेटा साझा नहीं करता

Rescue efforts on after air ambulance with 7 aboard crashes in Jharkhand

GS II: Governance
Press Trust of India
RANCHI

A Delhi-bound air ambulance carrying seven persons crashed in a forest near Simaria in Chatra district of Jharkhand on Monday, Ranchi airport Director Vinod Kumar said.

Search and rescue teams have been dispatched, but there was no immediate confirmation about casualties, officials said. The crash occurred after the air ambulance took off from the Ranchi airport at 7.10 p.m. The Beechcraft C90 plane operated by Redbird Airways lost contact with air traffic control around 20 minutes after take off. Inclement weather could be a reason behind the crash, but the actual reason would be as-



The wreckage of the air ambulance after it crashed near Simaria in Chatra district of Jharkhand. PTI

certained only after a probe, Mr. Kumar added.

An Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) team is being dispatched for investigation.

"The aircraft was airborne from Ranchi at 7.11 p.m. After establishing contact with Kolkata at 7.34 p.m., the aircraft lost communication and RA-

DAR contact with Kolkata at approximately 100 NM South-East of Varanasi," The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation said in a statement.

24F. Rescue efforts on after air ambulance with 7 aboard crashes in Jharkhand
झारखंड में 7 लोगों को लेकर जा रही एयर एंबुलेंस के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद बचाव प्रयास जारी

- The **Beechcraft C90 plane** operated by **Redbird Airways** lost contact with **air traffic control** around **20 minutes** after take off. रेडबर्ड एयरवेज़ द्वारा संचालित बीचक्राफ्ट C90 विमान ने उड़ान भरने के लगभग 20 मिनट बाद एयर टैफिक कंट्रोल से संपर्क खो दिया।

- An **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** team is being dispatched for investigation. जांच के लिए एयरक्राफ्ट एक्सीडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो (AAIB) की एक टीम भेजी जा रही है।



'Adulterated milk' claims four lives in Andhra Pradesh

GS II: Governance
T. Appala Naidu
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Four elderly persons have died from acute renal failure after consuming adulterated milk in Rajamahendravaram City in Andhra Pradesh, the East Godavari district administration said on Monday.

Officials said 12 people, including the dead, had taken ill after consuming the milk. Eight victims are suffering from anuria (absence of urine), and are undergoing treatment and dialysis. Three of them are children aged below four and are critical, said doctors.

The deceased have been identified as N. Seshagiri-rao, 72, Radha Krishna Murthy, 74, Thadi Krishnaveni, 76, and Thadi Ramanani, 58.

East Godavari District Collector Kirthi Chekuri said the victims consumed milk supplied by the same vendor, Addala Ganeswara Rao. The vendor, who procured milk from 46 dairy farmers and supplied to 106 families, has been detained.

"All the 12 persons are from Swaroop Nagar and Chowdeswari Nagar areas of Rajamahendravaram," Ms. Kirthi said.

"People in the age group of 50-70 and those below five years are prone to anuria. A State-level expert team has collected blood samples from 73 families who consumed milk supplied by the vendor. The samples have been sent to the forensic laboratory for tests," she said. Experts have also collected the fodder given to the cattle for tests, she said.

Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore said post-mortem reports, which are awaited, will establish the reasons that caused anuria and acute renal failure in the deceased.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced an *ex gratia* of ₹10 lakh each for the families of the dead. He informed the Assembly that samples collected from the victims have been sent for detailed analysis.

Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that negligence in enforcing food safety norms has endangered public lives and demanded strict action against those responsible for the deaths. He urged the Health Department to ensure comprehensive medical care for those unwell.

24F. 'Adulterated milk' claims four lives in Andhra Pradesh

'मिलावटी दूध' ने आंध्र प्रदेश में चार लोगों की जान ली

• Four elderly persons have died from **acute renal failure** after consuming **adulterated milk** in **Rajamahendravaram City in Andhra Pradesh**, the **East Godavari district administration** said on Monday.

सोमवार को पूर्वी गोदावरी जिला प्रशासन ने बताया कि आंध्र प्रदेश के राजमहेंद्रवरम शहर में मिलावटी दूध का सेवन करने के बाद तीव्र गुर्दा विफलता से चार बुजुर्गों की मृत्यु हो गई।

• Officials said 12 people, including the dead, had taken ill after consuming the milk.

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि मृतकों सहित 12 लोग दूध का सेवन करने के बाद बीमार पड़े।

• Eight victims are suffering from **anuria (absence of urine)**, and are undergoing treatment and **dialysis**.

आठ पीड़ित एन्यूरिया (मूत्र न बनना) से पीड़ित हैं और उनका उपचार तथा डायलिसिस चल रहा है।

24F. M.P. govt. to extend Bhavantar scheme to mustard farmers for pricing power

मूल्य शक्ति के लिए सरसों किसानों तक भावांतर योजना का विस्तार करेगी मध्य प्रदेश सरकार

• **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** declared in the Assembly on Monday that the State government is planning to extend the **Bhavantar Yojana**

to mustard farmers to compensate them for the **difference between the government procurement price and the market price**.

मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री मोहन यादव ने सोमवार को विधानसभा में घोषणा की कि राज्य सरकार सरसों किसानों को सरकारी खरीद मूल्य और बाज़ार मूल्य के बीच के अंतर की भरपाई के लिए भावांतर योजना का विस्तार करने की योजना बना रही है।

• The **Bhavantar Yojana**, which pays farmers the difference if their crop is sold in the market at a price less than the government-declared **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** or procurement price, currently benefits **soyabean farmers** in the State.

भावांतर योजना, जिसके तहत यदि फसल सरकार द्वारा घोषित न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एमएसपी) या खरीद मूल्य से कम दाम पर बाज़ार में बिकती

M.P. govt. to extend Bhavantar scheme to mustard farmers for pricing power

GS II: Governance
Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav declared in the Assembly on Monday that the State government is planning to extend the Bhavantar Yojana to mustard farmers to compensate them for the difference between the government procurement price and the market price.

Mr. Yadav said his government has sent a proposal in this regard to the Centre and that the move is expected to benefit about 80 lakh farmers.

The Bhavantar Yojana, which pays farmers the difference if their crop is sold in the market at a price less than the government-declared Minimum Support Price (MSP) or procurement price, currently benefits soyabean farmers in the State.

Meanwhile, the day's proceedings in the Assembly witnessed protests by



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav told the Assembly that the move is expected to benefit about 80 lakh farmers. FILE PHOTO

Congress MLAs as they demanded that fresh registrations under the government's flagship Ladli Behna scheme be opened. The Opposition MLAs also staged a walkout from the House following a heated exchange with the Treasury Benches on the issue.

The discussion on the issue was started by Congress MLA Mahesh Parmar, who asked the Minister for Women and Child Development, Nirmala Bhuria, multiple questions regarding the scheme, including

when the registrations will commence for the women who have entered the eligible age.

Ms. Bhuria, in her response, said that there is no proposal regarding new registration under consideration at present.

The scheme was launched by then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in March 2023 with an allowance of ₹1,000 a month, which was increased to ₹1,250 in October the same year, ahead of the State Assembly election.

The current regime of Mr. Yadav increased the allowance amount to ₹1,500 in October this year. As per the scheme, women between 21 and 60 years of age, and having an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh, receive the monthly allowance from the State government.

'Govt. betrayed women' The situation in the House, however, turned chaotic and witnessed heated exchanges after Mr. Parmar alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party government had "betrayed" the women of the State after earning their votes with the help of the scheme and promising them that the allowance would be increased to ₹3,000 per month.

He also said that since the formation of new BJP government in 2023, about 25 lakh women have crossed the age of 21 and have been waiting for their registrations.

है तो किसानों को अंतर की राशि दी जाती है, वर्तमान में राज्य के सोयाबीन किसानों को लाभ पहुंचा रही है।

- Meanwhile, the day's proceedings in the Assembly witnessed protests by **Congress MLAs** as they demanded that fresh registrations under the government's flagship **Ladli Behna scheme** be opened.



इस बीच, विधानसभा की कार्यवाही के दौरान कांग्रेस विधायकों ने विरोध प्रदर्शन किया और सरकार की प्रमुख लाइली बहना योजना के तहत नए पंजीकरण खोले जाने की मांग की।

- The scheme was launched by then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in March 2023 with an allowance of ₹1,000 a month, which was increased to ₹1,250 in October the same year, ahead of the State Assembly election.

यह योजना तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान द्वारा मार्च 2023 में ₹1,000 प्रति माह की सहायता राशि के साथ शुरू की गई थी, जिसे उसी वर्ष अक्टूबर में राज्य विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले बढ़ाकर ₹1,250 कर दिया गया।

- The current regime of Mr. Yadav increased the allowance amount to ₹1,500 in October this year.

श्री यादव की वर्तमान सरकार ने इस वर्ष अक्टूबर में सहायता राशि बढ़ाकर ₹1,500 कर दी।

- As per the scheme, women between 21 and 60 years of age, and having an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh, receive the monthly allowance from the State government.

योजना के अनुसार, 21 से 60 वर्ष की आयु की वे महिलाएं जिनकी वार्षिक पारिवारिक आय ₹2.5 लाख से कम है, उन्हें राज्य सरकार की ओर से मासिक सहायता राशि मिलती है।

WhatsApp tells SC it does not share data with Meta

Will fully comply with National Company Law Appellate Tribunal directions on user consent for sharing data with parent company, it says as both challenge imposition of penalty of ₹213.14 crore

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The instant messaging platform WhatsApp maintained in the Supreme Court on Monday that it was not "quite right" to say the on-line entity was sharing data with other Meta platforms.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for WhatsApp and its parent company, Meta, said its technology was very clear and put a premium on privacy. "There is no question of violating the law," Mr. Sibal submitted.

He said the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, comprehensively addressed the privacy concerns raised in the Supreme Court.

The court was hearing petitions filed by Meta and WhatsApp against a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) decision to uphold a ₹213.14-crore penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The CCI had found WhatsApp's "take-it-or-leave-it" approach in its

Privacy message

WhatsApp submits its view before SC on user consent and sharing of data with Meta

■ WhatsApp and Meta challenge NCLAT order upholding ₹213.14-crore penalty imposed by CCI

■ Case arises from CCI findings on WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy

2021 privacy policy an abuse of its market dominance. It found the prior consent sought from users to share their data with Meta "manufactured". It had concluded that users were forced to share data for continued access to WhatsApp messaging services.

In an appeal last year, the NCLAT concluded that the "core principle is to remove exploitation by restoring user choice".

"The users can be given choice if users retain the right to decide what data is collected from them, for which purposes, and for how long. We had also stat-

KEY ALLEGATION

■ CCI found WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy a "take-it-or-leave-it" practice

■ Regulator said users were forced to share data with Meta to keep using the app

■ Tribunal stressed user choice and consent for non-essential data use

DEFENDING STATEMENTS

■ WhatsApp denies improper sharing, cites encryption and DPDP Act

■ Company says it will follow NCLAT directions by March 16, 2026

■ CCI argued the matter also involves competition law and consumer protection

ed in our findings that any non-essential collection or cross-use (like advertising etc.) can occur only with the concerned user's express and revocable consent," the NCLAT had observed.

On Monday, WhatsApp said it would fully comply with the NCLAT directions relating to user consent for sharing data with Meta under its controversial 2021 privacy policy by March 16, 2026. The tribunal had, however, found the CCI's five-year ban on sharing data for advertisement purposes "redundant", considering that the user

had already been given a choice to opt in or out.

WhatsApp has filed a comprehensive affidavit explaining its technology of end-to-end encryption, following scathing oral remarks from the Bench in the previous hearing on February 3.

The Bench had cautioned that it would not permit the platform and Meta to breach the right to privacy of millions of their "silent consumers" in India through the sharing and commercial exploitation of personal data. It had even compared sharing of private data to a "decent way of committing theft". Though WhatsApp and Meta had protested that users could "opt out" of the data-sharing provision, the court had persisted in its criticism.

Senior advocate Madhavi Goradia Divan, for CCI, said there was also a competition law concern attached to the case.

"Data-sharing has many facets. One may be privacy and data protection. But there is another aspect, protecting market and consumer, which stands on a totally different footing," Ms. Divan submitted.

24F. WhatsApp tells SC it does not share data with Meta

व्हाट्सऐप ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बताया कि वह मेटा के साथ डेटा साझा नहीं करता

- Will fully comply with National Company Law Appellate Tribunal directions on user consent for sharing data with parent company, it says as both challenge imposition of penalty of ₹213.14 crore

मूल कंपनी के साथ डेटा साझा करने पर उपयोगकर्ता की सहमति संबंधी राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून अपीलिय न्यायाधिकरण के निर्देशों का पूरी तरह पालन करेगा, ऐसा उसने कहा, जबकि दोनों ने ₹213.14 करोड़ के जुर्माने को चुनौती दी है

- The court was hearing petitions filed by Meta and WhatsApp against a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) decision to uphold a ₹213.14-crore penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

अदालत मेटा और व्हाट्सऐप द्वारा दायर उन याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिनमें राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून अपीलिय न्यायाधिकरण (NCLAT) के उस फैसले

को चुनौती दी गई थी, जिसने भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) द्वारा लगाए गए ₹213.14 करोड़ के जुर्माने को बरकरार रखा था

- The CCI had found WhatsApp's "take-it-or-leave-it" approach in its 2021 privacy policy an abuse of its market dominance.

सीसीआई ने 2021 की निजता नीति में व्हाट्सऐप के "लेना है तो लो, नहीं तो छोड़ो" दृष्टिकोण को उसके बाज़ार प्रभुत्व का दुरुपयोग पाया था



- It found the prior consent sought from users to share their data with Meta “manufactured”. उसने मेटा के साथ डेटा साझा करने के लिए उपयोगकर्ताओं से ली गई पूर्व सहमति को “गढ़ी हुई” पाया
- It had concluded that users were forced to share data for continued access to WhatsApp messaging services.
उसने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि व्हाट्सएप संदेश सेवाओं की निरंतर पहुंच के लिए उपयोगकर्ताओं को डेटा साझा करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया
- In an appeal last year, the NCLAT concluded that the “core principle is to remove exploitation by restoring **user choice**”.
पिछले वर्ष अपील में एनसीएलएटी ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि “मूल सिद्धांत **उपयोगकर्ता की पसंद** बहाल कर शोषण को समाप्त करना है”
- “The users can be given choice if users retain the right to decide what data is collected from them, for which purposes, and for how long. We had also stated in our findings that any non-essential collection or cross-use (like advertising etc.) can occur only with the concerned user’s **express and revocable consent**,” the NCLAT had observed.
“उपयोगकर्ताओं को विकल्प तब दिया जा सकता है जब वे यह तय करने का अधिकार रखें कि उनसे कौन-सा डेटा, किस उद्देश्य से और कितने समय के लिए एकत्र किया जाए। हमने अपने निष्कर्षों में यह भी कहा था कि कोई भी गैर-आवश्यक संग्रह या क्रॉस-उपयोग (जैसे विज्ञापन आदि) केवल संबंधित उपयोगकर्ता की **स्पष्ट और वापस ली जा सकने वाली सहमति** से ही हो सकता है,” एनसीएलएटी ने कहा था
- The tribunal had, however, found the CCI’s **five-year ban** on sharing data for advertisement purposes “redundant”, considering that the user had already been given a choice to opt in or out.
हालांकि, न्यायाधिकरण ने विज्ञापन उद्देश्यों के लिए डेटा साझा करने पर सीसीआई के **पांच वर्षीय प्रतिबंध** को “अनावश्यक” पाया, यह देखते हुए कि उपयोगकर्ता को पहले ही शामिल होने या बाहर रहने का विकल्प दिया जा चुका था
- WhatsApp has filed a comprehensive affidavit explaining its technology of **end-to-end encryption**, following scathing oral remarks from the Bench in the previous hearing on **February 3**.
व्हाट्सएप ने **एंड-टू-एंड एन्क्रिप्शन** की अपनी तकनीक को समझाते हुए एक विस्तृत हलफनामा दायर किया है, जो **3 फरवरी** की पिछली सुनवाई में पीठ की कड़ी मौखिक टिप्पणियों के बाद किया गया
- The Bench had cautioned that it would not permit the platform and Meta to breach the **right to privacy** of millions of their “silent consumers” in India through the sharing and commercial exploitation of personal data.
पीठ ने चेतावनी दी थी कि वह मंच और मेटा को भारत में उनके “मौन उपभोक्ताओं” के **निजता के अधिकार** का उल्लंघन, व्यक्तिगत डेटा के साझा और व्यावसायिक दोहन के माध्यम से, करने की अनुमति नहीं देगी
- It had even compared sharing of private data to a “decent way of committing theft”.
उसने निजी डेटा साझा करने की तुलना “चोरी करने के सभ्य तरीके” से भी की थी
- Though WhatsApp and Meta had protested that users could “opt out” of the data-sharing provision, the court had persisted in its criticism.
हालांकि व्हाट्सएप और मेटा ने यह कहते हुए आपत्ति जताई थी कि उपयोगकर्ता डेटा-साझाकरण प्रावधान से “ऑफ आउट” कर सकते हैं, फिर भी अदालत अपनी आलोचना पर कायम रही
- Senior advocate **Madhavi Goradia Divan**, for CCI, said there was also a **competition law** concern attached to the case.
सीसीआई की ओर से वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **माधवी गोरडिया दीवान** ने कहा कि इस मामले से **प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून** से जुड़ी चिंता भी जुड़ी हुई है
- “Data-sharing has many facets. One may be privacy and data protection. But there is another aspect, protecting market and consumer, which stands on a totally different footing,” Ms. Divan submitted.
“डेटा साझा करने के कई पहलू होते हैं। एक निजता और डेटा संरक्षण हो सकता है। लेकिन एक और पहलू है—बाज़ार और उपभोक्ता की सुरक्षा—जो बिल्कुल अलग आधार पर खड़ा है,” सुश्री दीवान ने प्रस्तुत किया

GS Paper II: International Relations

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Canadian PM arriving on February 27 for trade talks

Carney to meet Modi on March 2 and discuss new tie-ups in energy, AI, defence; officials hope the visit will reset the ties ruptured by allegations over killing of Khalistani separatist leader Nijjar

GS II: IR
Sahasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will travel to Mumbai and Delhi this week as part of a three-nation tour of India, Australia and Japan aimed at enhancing and diversifying Canada's trade relations, his office announced on Monday.

Mr. Carney is expected to land first in Mumbai on February 27, and meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on March 2, and discuss "new partnerships in trade, energy, technology and artificial intelligence (AI), talent and culture, and defence", a statement released in Ottawa said. The visit to three of Canada's "strongest Indo-Pacific partners", who are all part of the Quad with the U.S., is also a significant push for Canada's own Indo-Pacific policy.

"In a more uncertain world, Canada is focused on what we can control. We are diversifying our trade and attracting massive new investment to create new opportunities for our workers and businesses," Mr. Carney was quoted as saying about the 10-day visit to all three countries. "We are forging new partnerships abroad



PM Narendra Modi met Canadian PM Mark Carney in June 2025 on the sidelines of the G7 Leaders' Summit in Canada. REUTERS

to create greater certainty, security and prosperity at home," he added.

Ahead of the visit, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with his Canadian counterpart, Anita Anand, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Forum last week.

During the visit, Mr. Carney is expected to focus on India-Canada trade negotiations for comprehensive economic partnership agreement, investment opportunities, cooperation in fossil fuel and nuclear energy, as well as critical minerals technology. He will also seek to put behind years of mistrust and sharp rhetoric between the Modi government and his predecessor, Justin Trudeau, whose last visit to India for

the G-20 summit in 2023 proved to be particularly acrimonious over the Khalistan issue.

Last year, Mr. Modi's visit to Canada for the G-7 outreach and meeting with Mr. Carney began the process of repairing ties, which the return visit this week is expected to complete, officials said.

Thaw in ties

In what was seen as a particular breakthrough, National Security Ajit Doval visited Canada in early February, after years of India-Canada tensions over the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, that the Canadian police accused the Indian government of orchestrating through

agents there. The trial of four men who have been arrested is expected to begin later this year, but in a sign that the Canadian government wants to be sensitive to India's concerns over the case, the Canadian Attorney-General has, according to local reports, requested permission to suppress certain evidence disclosures as they could be "injurious to international relations and national security".

In a statement about the meeting between Mr. Doval and his counterpart Nathalie Drouin, the Ministry of External Affairs did not refer directly to the case but said that they "agreed to a shared work-plan to guide bilateral cooperation on national security and law enforcement issues and to enable practical collaboration on respective priorities".

Mr. Carney will meet Mr. Modi for official talks on Monday and fly that evening to Australia, before travelling to Tokyo to meet newly re-elected PM Sanae Takaichi.

Mr. Carney's visit comes a month after his trip to Beijing, where Canada and China restored trade ties, visas, and reduced restrictions on Chinese electric vehicles.

24F. Canadian PM arriving on February 27 for trade talks

कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री व्यापार वार्ता के लिए 27 फ़रवरी को आ रहे हैं

- Carney to meet **Modi on March 2** and discuss new tie-ups in **energy, AI, defence**; officials hope the visit will reset the ties ruptured by allegations over killing of **Khalistani separatist leader Nijjar**.

कार्नी 2 मार्च को मोदी से मुलाकात करेंगे और ऊर्जा, एआई, रक्षा में नए सहयोग पर चर्चा करेंगे; अधिकारियों को उम्मीद है कि यह दौरा खालिस्तानी अलगाववादी नेता निज्जर की हत्या के आरोपों से बिगड़े संबंधों को फिर से सामान्य करेगा।

- Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney** will travel to **Mumbai and Delhi** this week as part of a three-nation tour of **India, Australia and Japan** aimed at enhancing and diversifying Canada's trade relations, his office announced on Monday.

कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री **मार्क कार्नी** इस सप्ताह **भारत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और जापान** की तीन देशों की यात्रा के तहत **मुंबई** और **दिल्ली** आएंगे, जिसका उद्देश्य कनाडा के व्यापार संबंधों को मजबूत और विविध बनाना है, यह घोषणा उनके कार्यालय ने सोमवार को की।

- Ahead of the visit, External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** held talks with his

Canadian counterpart, Anita Anand, on the sidelines of the **Munich Security Forum** last week.

दौरे से पहले, विदेश मंत्री **एस. जयशंकर** ने पिछले सप्ताह **म्यूनिख सुरक्षा सम्मेलन** के दौरान अपने कनाडाई समकक्ष **अनिता आनंद** से बातचीत की।

- During the visit, Mr. Carney is expected to focus on **India-Canada trade negotiations** for comprehensive economic partnership agreement, investment opportunities, cooperation in **fossil fuel and nuclear energy**, as well as **critical minerals technology**.

दौरे के दौरान, श्री कार्नी से **भारत-कनाडा व्यापार वार्ता**, व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते, निवेश अवसरों,



जीवाश्म ईंधन और परमाणु ऊर्जा में सहयोग तथा महत्वपूर्ण खनिज प्रौद्योगिकी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की उम्मीद है।

- Mr. Carney will meet Mr. Modi for **official talks** on Monday and fly that evening to **Australia**, before travelling to **Tokyo** to meet newly re-elected PM **Sanae Takaichi**.
श्री कार्नी सोमवार को **आधिकारिक वार्ता** के लिए श्री मोदी से मिलेंगे और उसी शाम **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** रवाना होंगे, इसके बाद वे नव-निर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री **सानाए ताकाइची** से मिलने **टोक्यो** जाएंगे।
- Mr. Carney's visit comes a month after his trip to **Beijing**, where **Canada and China** restored trade ties, visas, and reduced restrictions on **Chinese electric vehicles**.
श्री कार्नी की यह यात्रा **बीजिंग** दौरे के एक महीने बाद हो रही है, जहां **कनाडा और चीन** ने व्यापार संबंध बहाल किए, वीजा व्यवस्था सुधारी और **चीनी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों** पर प्रतिबंध कम किए।

Parliamentary groups to seek legislative ties worldwide

GS II: IR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a major step to deepen India's parliamentary engagement across the world, **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** has constituted **Parliamentary Friendship Groups**, aimed at strengthening **inter-parliamentary cooperation and legislative dialogue, with more than 60 countries**.

A wide spectrum of political leaders are part of the groups.

The first phase involves engagements with countries such as **Sri Lanka, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Maldives, the U.S., Russia, members of the European Parliament, South Korea, Nepal, the U.K., France, Japan, Italy, Australia, Greece, Singapore, Brazil, Vietnam, Mexico, Iran, and the UAE**. These groups are expected to facilitate regular dialogue, exchange of legislative practices, and cooperation on trade, technology, culture, and shared global challenges.

The initiative seeks to build on the Centre's post-Operation Sindoor outreach, which saw multiparty delegations representing India abroad on issues of national interest.

24F. Parliamentary groups to seek legislative ties worldwide संसदीय समूह दुनिया भर में विधायी संबंध स्थापित करेंगे

- In a major step to deepen **India's parliamentary engagement** across the world, **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** has constituted **Parliamentary Friendship Groups**, aimed at strengthening **inter-parliamentary cooperation and legislative dialogue, with more than 60 countries**.

दुनिया भर में **भारत की संसदीय सहभागिता** को गहरा करने के एक बड़े कदम के रूप में, **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला** ने **संसदीय मैत्री समूहों** का गठन किया है, जिनका उद्देश्य **अंतर-संसदीय सहयोग और विधायी संवाद को 60 से अधिक देशों** के साथ मजबूत करना है।

- A wide spectrum of **political leaders** are part of the groups.
इन समूहों में **राजनीतिक नेताओं** का एक व्यापक वर्ग शामिल है।
- The **first phase** involves engagements with countries such as **Sri Lanka, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Maldives, the U.S., Russia, members of the European Parliament, South Korea, Nepal, the U.K., France, Japan, Italy, Australia, Greece, Singapore, Brazil, Vietnam, Mexico, Iran, and the UAE**.
पहले चरण में **श्रीलंका, जर्मनी, न्यूजीलैंड, स्विट्ज़रलैंड, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, भूटान, सऊदी अरब, इज़राइल, मालदीव, अमेरिका, रूस, यूरोपीय संसद के सदस्य, दक्षिण कोरिया, नेपाल, यू.के., फ्रांस, जापान, इटली, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, ग्रीस, सिंगापुर, ब्राज़ील, वियतनाम, मेक्सिको, ईरान और यूएई** जैसे देशों के साथ सहभागिता शामिल है।
- These groups are expected to facilitate **regular dialogue, exchange of legislative practices, and cooperation on trade, technology, culture, and shared global challenges**.
इन समूहों से **नियमित संवाद, विधायी प्रथाओं के आदान-प्रदान और व्यापार, प्रौद्योगिकी, संस्कृति तथा साझा वैश्विक चुनौतियों** पर सहयोग को बढ़ावा मिलने की उम्मीद है।
- The initiative seeks to build on the Centre's post-**Operation Sindoor** outreach, which saw **multiparty delegations** representing India abroad on issues of **national interest**.
यह पहल केंद्र सरकार के **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के बाद के कूटनीतिक प्रयासों को आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास है, जिसके तहत **राष्ट्रीय हित** के मुद्दों पर भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले **बहुदलीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** विदेश भेजे गए थे।



GS II: IR

Stick together

India and Brazil have realised the importance of their groupings

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's India visit last week sent important messages for both India-Brazil ties, and for solidarity in the developing world, as two Global South powers focused on global governance and leadership. After his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India and Brazil agreed to try and double trade to \$30 billion by 2030, and signed agreements on critical minerals, steel mining, and digital cooperation to diversify beyond China-led supply chains. Mr. Lula, along with French President Emmanuel Macron, was among about 20 leaders at India's AI Impact Summit and was later accorded a state visit. The 80-year-old Brazilian President's presence was important, as he faces elections later this year, which may make it difficult for him to attend India's BRICS summit if it coincides with his campaigning for a fourth term. It also came amidst fresh turmoil over U.S.-imposed trade tariffs, after the American Supreme Court struck down U.S. President Donald Trump's rationale for the reciprocal tariffs. India and Brazil were both the highest taxed countries by the U.S. – 50% tariffs each – and both faced further possible tariffs over BRICS ties, Iran trade, and Russian oil imports. India and Brazil are also key members of the BRICS grouping of developing nations, the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA), G-4 with Germany and South Africa on UNSC reform, and co-founders of the biofuel alliance for alternative energy; each of these has faced challenges from Mr. Trump's policies on trade, territorial sovereignty, multilateralism and the UN, and fossil fuels. Amid such uncertainty, Mr. Modi and Mr. Lula reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the multilateral order.

Before leaving India, Mr. Lula, who is set to visit Washington next month, did not mince words while speaking to journalists about the challenges posed by the U.S. government. As a former trade union leader, he said he believed that the only way of tackling geopolitical uncertainty unleashed by the U.S. was for countries to "unionise", rather than cutting deals individually with Washington, which leave smaller nations at a disadvantage. The words are particularly important for both Delhi and Brasilia, as both have negotiated with the Trump administration on tariffs, but have not so far signed trade deals with the U.S. The U.S. court ruling offers an opportunity to reset the terms of the agreements, and it is significant that New Delhi has postponed a meeting of trade negotiators this week to give the U.S. and India time to assess the ruling. India and Brazil, and their developing world partners, should coordinate the next steps and stay engaged with Washington. Mr. Lula's warning is clear: it is easy to break a single stick, but far more difficult to do so if the sticks are bundled tightly together.

24F. Stick together साथ मिलकर रहें

- After his talks with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, India and Brazil agreed to try and **double trade to \$30 billion by 2030**, and signed agreements on **critical minerals, steel mining, and digital cooperation to diversify beyond China-led supply chains**.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से वार्ता के बाद भारत और ब्राज़ील ने 2030 तक व्यापार को 30 अरब डॉलर तक दोगुना करने पर सहमति दी और महत्वपूर्ण खनिज, इस्पात खनन और डिजिटल सहयोग पर समझौते किए ताकि चीन-नेतृत्व वाली आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं से आगे विविधता लाई जा सके।

- Mr. Lula, along with French President **Emmanuel Macron**, was among about **20 leaders at India's AI Impact Summit and was later accorded a state visit**.

श्री लूला, फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों के साथ, भारत के एआई प्रभाव शिखर सम्मेलन में लगभग 20 नेताओं में शामिल थे और बाद में उन्हें राजकीय यात्रा प्रदान की गई।

- India and Brazil are also key members of the **BRICS grouping, IBSA, G-4 on UNSC reform**, and co-founders of the **biofuel alliance**, each facing challenges from **Trump's policies on trade, territorial sovereignty, multilateralism, the UN, and fossil fuels**.

भारत और ब्राज़ील ब्रिक्स समूह, आईबीएसए, संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद सुधार पर जी-4 के प्रमुख सदस्य हैं और जैव ईंधन गठबंधन के सह-संस्थापक हैं, जिनमें से प्रत्येक को ट्रंप की व्यापार, क्षेत्रीय संप्रभुता, बहुपक्षवाद, संयुक्त राष्ट्र और जीवाश्म ईंधन नीतियों से चुनौतियाँ मिली हैं।

- As a former **trade union leader**, he said the only way to tackle **geopolitical uncertainty was for countries to "unionise"**, rather than cutting deals individually with **Washington, which leaves smaller nations at a disadvantage**.

पूर्व ट्रेड यूनियन नेता के रूप में उन्होंने कहा कि भू-राजनीतिक अनिश्चितता से निपटने का एकमात्र तरीका देशों का "एकजुट होना" है, न कि वाशिंगटन के साथ अलग-अलग समझौते करना, जिससे छोटे देश नुकसान में रहते हैं।

- The words are particularly important for both **Delhi and Brasilia**, as both have negotiated with the **Trump administration on tariffs**, but have not yet signed trade deals with the **U.S.**

ये शब्द दिल्ली और ब्रासीलिया दोनों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, क्योंकि दोनों ने ट्रंप प्रशासन के साथ शुल्क पर बातचीत की है, लेकिन अभी तक अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए हैं।



GENEVA

UN chief decries 'rule of force', says human rights under attack globally



GS II: IR
United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres warned on Monday that "the rule of force" was spreading, as the powerful trample on international law. "Human rights are under a full-scale attack around the world," Mr. Guterres told the opening of the UN Human Rights Council's annual session in Geneva. AFP

24F. UN chief decries 'rule of force', says human rights under attack globally
संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख ने 'बल के शासन' की निंदा की, कहा वैश्विक स्तर पर मानवाधिकारों पर हमला

• UN chief decries 'rule of force', says human rights under attack globally
संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख ने 'बल के शासन' की निंदा की, कहा वैश्विक स्तर पर मानवाधिकारों पर हमला

• United Nations secretary-general **Antonio Guterres** warned on Monday that "the rule of force" was spreading, as the powerful trample on international law.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव **एंतोनिओ गुटेरेस** ने सोमवार को चेतावनी दी कि "बल का शासन" फैल रहा है, क्योंकि शक्तिशाली देश **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** को कुचल रहे हैं।

- "Human rights are under a full-scale attack around the world," Mr. Guterres told the opening of the UN Human Rights Council's annual session in Geneva.

24F. ICC begins hearing into ex-Philippine President

आईसीसी ने पूर्व फिलीपींस राष्ट्रपति के खिलाफ सुनवाई शुरू की

ICC begins hearing into ex-Philippine President

GS II: IR
Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

Rodrigo Duterte personally authorised murders and hand-picked some of the victims of his "war on drugs", the International Criminal Court (ICC) heard on Monday, as proceedings against the former Philippines President kicked off.

ICC deputy prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang said the week-long "confirmation of charges" hearings, where judges will decide whether to open a full trial against Mr. Duterte, was "a reminder that those in power are not above the law".

Mr. Niang said Mr. Duterte played a "pivotal" role in the extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and users, first as Mayor of Davao City then as President. He "authorised murders and personally selected some of the victims", said Mr. Niang.

'Maintains innocence'

Mr. Duterte's defence lawyer Nicholas Kaufman hit back, calling the charges "grievously misplaced and politically motivated."

Mr. Duterte "stands behind his legacy resolutely. He maintains his innocence absolutely," said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity.

• ICC begins hearing into ex-Philippine President
आईसीसी ने पूर्व फिलीपींस राष्ट्रपति के खिलाफ सुनवाई शुरू की

• **Rodrigo Duterte personally authorised murders and hand-picked some of the victims of his "war on drugs", the International Criminal Court (ICC)** heard on Monday, as proceedings against the former Philippines President kicked off.

पूर्व फिलीपींस राष्ट्रपति **रोड्रिगो दुतेर्ते** ने अपनी "ड्रग्स के खिलाफ जंग" के तहत **हत्याओं** को व्यक्तिगत रूप से मंजूरी दी और कुछ पीड़ितों को स्वयं चुना, यह बात सोमवार को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC)** में सुनवाई के दौरान सामने आई, जब उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही शुरू हुई।

Wounds from the past, fear of future keep Ethiopia's Tigrayans on edge

GS II: IR
Associated Press
MEKELE

Gebreegziabher Berehe has steepled waiting for tourists to arrive as many worry about a return to war. The 37-year-old tour guide in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray says his bookings have dried up, ATMs in the city of Mekele are empty, and he is considering leaving a country where he can no longer afford to live.

"If war arises again, I think the situation will be even more severe than before," he says. "My colleagues and I are now facing serious economic and moral crises, even before hearing the sound of any gun."

There is a tense calm in Mekele, the regional capital, but tensions have been rising again between local authorities and Ethiopia's



Life between wars: Local farmers walk next to an abandoned tank in Mekele of Tigray region in Ethiopia. AFP

government in Addis Ababa, the federal capital.

Tigray has been bracing for the possibility of renewed conflict after the parties signed a peace deal in November 2022, ending fighting that killed thousands of people as Ethiopian government troops, backed by allied forces from neighbouring Eritrea, fought Tigrayan forces.

Now, Tigray's rulers accuse Ethiopian federal authorities of breaching that agreement with drone strikes. At the same time, Ethiopia's government accuses Eritrea of pivoting to mobilise and fund armed groups in Tigray, with which it shares a border.

In the feared scenario, Eritrea would team up with the Tigray People's

Liberation Front, the group that governs Tigray, in armed hostilities against Ethiopian forces.

The conflict that ended in 2022 was brutal, with widespread allegations of sexual violence and the withholding of food as a weapon of war. Many residents of Mekele are looking for opportunities to escape any new fighting while they can, recalling the communications blackout and travel restrictions that Ethiopia's government imposed on the region during the conflict. Some observers see a possible war trigger in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's forceful stance on efforts to regain Red Sea access for landlocked Ethiopia through Eritrea, which was lost when Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after decades of guerrilla warfare.



24F. Wounds from the past, fear of future keep Ethiopia's Tigrayans on edge अतीत के घाव और भविष्य का डर इथियोपिया के टिग्रायवासियों को बेचैन रखे हुए हैं

- Wounds from the past, fear of future keep **Ethiopia's Tigrayans** on edge
अतीत के घाव और भविष्य का डर इथियोपिया के टिग्रायवासियों को बेचैन रखे हुए हैं
- The 37-year-old tour guide in **Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray** says his bookings have dried up, ATMs in the city of **Mekele** are empty, and he is considering leaving a country where he can no longer afford to live.
इथियोपिया के उत्तरी क्षेत्र **टिग्राय** में 37 वर्षीय टूर गाइड का कहना है कि उनकी बुकिंग समाप्त हो गई है, **मेकेले** शहर में एटीएम खाली हैं, और वह उस देश को छोड़ने पर विचार कर रहे हैं जहाँ वह अब रहने का खर्च नहीं उठा सकते।
- "If war arises again, I think the situation will be even more severe than before," he says.
"अगर फिर से युद्ध शुरू हुआ, तो मुझे लगता है कि स्थिति पहले से भी अधिक गंभीर होगी," वह कहते हैं।
- "My colleagues and I are now facing serious economic and moral crises, even before hearing the sound of any gun."
"किसी भी बंदूक की आवाज़ सुनने से पहले ही मेरे सहकर्मी और मैं गंभीर आर्थिक और नैतिक संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं।"
- There is a **tense calm** in Mekele, the regional capital, but tensions have been **rising again between local authorities and Ethiopia's government in Addis Ababa, the federal capital.**
क्षेत्रीय राजधानी मेकेले में **तनावपूर्ण शांति** है, लेकिन स्थानीय प्रशासन और संघीय राजधानी **अदीस अबाबा** स्थित इथियोपिया की सरकार के बीच तनाव फिर से बढ़ रहा है।
- Tigray has been bracing for the possibility of **renewed conflict** after the parties signed a **peace deal** in November 2022, ending fighting that killed thousands of people as Ethiopian government troops, backed by allied forces from neighbouring **Eritrea**, fought Tigrayan forces.
नवंबर 2022 में **शांति समझौते** पर हस्ताक्षर के बाद टिग्राय **नए संघर्ष** की आशंका के लिए खुद को तैयार कर रहा है, जिससे वह लड़ाई समाप्त हुई थी जिसमें हज़ारों लोग मारे गए थे, जब पड़ोसी **इरिट्रिया** की सहयोगी सेनाओं के समर्थन से इथियोपियाई सरकारी सैनिकों ने टिग्रायन बलों से लड़ाई की थी।
- Now, Tigray's rulers accuse Ethiopian federal authorities of breaching that agreement with **drone strikes.**
अब, टिग्राय के शासक इथियोपियाई संघीय अधिकारियों पर **ड्रोन हमलों** के ज़रिए उस समझौते के उल्लंघन का आरोप लगा रहे हैं।
- At the same time, Ethiopia's government accuses Eritrea of pivoting to mobilise and fund **armed groups** in Tigray, with which it shares a border.
इसी समय, इथियोपिया की सरकार इरिट्रिया पर टिग्राय में **सशस्त्र समूहों** को संगठित करने और वित्तपोषित करने का आरोप लगा रही है, जिसके साथ उसकी सीमा लगती है।
- Some observers see a possible war trigger in Prime Minister **Abiy Ahmed's forceful stance on efforts to regain Red Sea access for landlocked Ethiopia through Eritrea, which was lost when Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after decades of guerrilla warfare.**
कुछ पर्यवेक्षक संभावित युद्ध के कारण को प्रधानमंत्री **अबी अहमद** के उस कड़े रुख में देखते हैं, जिसमें उन्होंने भू-आवृत इथियोपिया के लिए इरिट्रिया के माध्यम से **रेड सी तक पहुँच** फिर से हासिल करने की कोशिशों का समर्थन किया है, जो **1993** में दशकों की **गुरिल्ला युद्ध** के बाद इरिट्रिया के इथियोपिया से स्वतंत्र होने पर खो गई थी।

GS Paper III: Economy,	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	'Self-reliance key to India's ambition of becoming maritime superpower' 'समुद्री महाशक्ति बनने की भारत की महत्वाकांक्षा की कुंजी आत्मनिर्भरता'
24F	India's energy shift through the green ammonia route ग्रीन अमोनिया मार्ग के माध्यम से भारत का ऊर्जा परिवर्तन
24F	The explosive rise and inherent risks of prediction markets



	प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट्स की विस्फोटक वृद्धि और अंतर्निहित जोखिम
24F	What happens to India's Russian oil imports, \$500-bn U.S. import goal? भारत के रूसी तेल आयात और 500 अरब डॉलर के अमेरिकी आयात लक्ष्य का क्या होगा?
24F	Focus on core business, stop mis-selling insurance products, FM tells banks मुख्य व्यवसाय पर ध्यान दें, बीमा उत्पादों की गलत बिक्री बंद करें: वित्त मंत्री ने बैंकों से कहा

'Self-reliance key to India's ambition of becoming maritime superpower'

India has to create a maritime ecosystem to take leadership in the sector, says Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways; India will be among top five ship-building nations by 2047, he says

GS III: Economy

INTERVIEW

Sarbananda Sonowal

Shankari Nivethitha. B
THOOTHUKUDI

India cannot keep depending on foreign shipping lines for trade and has to create a maritime ecosystem to take leadership in the sector, says Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. The Minister spoke about India's push towards green shipping fuels, shipbuilding expansion, and progress of the Sagarmala projects. Edited excerpts:



RAJESH.N

How does the Centre plan to scale green hydrogen and e-methanol hubs to ensure India leads as the primary bunker destination for global green shipping corridors by 2030?

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Hydrogen Mis-

sion, it was to promote green transport to achieve a blue economy. As follow-up action, we are developing infrastructure, so that in the near future, hydrogen, ammonia, and all our renewable energy can be promoted. Our target is to combat climate change.

Given the nation's goal to reach the top five countries in the ship-building sector, what are the specific execution milestones up ahead?

India cannot depend on foreign ships all the time. We want to grow on our own, that is why, in the principle of "Atmanirbhar Bharat", we want to create the ecosystem within India, so we

can take leadership in this sector. For this, the Prime Minister has indicated two paths: Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

As part of this, by 2030, we will be one of the top 10 ship-building nations in the world, and by 2047, we will be among the top five.

The Sagarmala programme has been witnessing a reduction in funds. Will that affect any ongoing projects in Tamil Nadu?

No, we are committed to whatever projects we have already accepted, we have already approved and committed. The project's work will definitely be done within the timeline.

24F. 'Self-reliance key to India's ambition of becoming maritime superpower' 'समुद्री महाशक्ति बनने की भारत की महत्वाकांक्षा की कुंजी आत्मनिर्भरता'

- The Minister spoke about India's push towards **green shipping fuels, shipbuilding expansion, and progress of the Sagarmala projects**.
मंत्री ने **ग्रीन शिपिंग ईंधन, जहाज निर्माण के विस्तार, और सागरमाला परियोजनाओं** की प्रगति पर भारत के प्रयासों के बारे में बात की
- Edited excerpts:
संपादित अंश:
- How does the Centre plan to scale **green hydrogen and e-methanol hubs** to ensure India leads as the primary bunker destination for global green shipping corridors by **2030**?
केंद्र **ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन और ई-मेथनॉल हब** को कैसे विस्तार देने की योजना बना रहा है ताकि **2030** तक भारत वैश्विक ग्रीन शिपिंग कॉरिडोर के लिए प्रमुख बंकर गंतव्य के रूप में नेतृत्व कर सके?
- When Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **National Hydrogen Mission**, it was to promote green transport to achieve a **blue economy**.
जब प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने **नेशनल हाइड्रोजन मिशन** शुरू किया, तो इसका उद्देश्य **ब्लू इकॉनमी** हासिल करने के लिए हरित परिवहन को बढ़ावा देना था



- As follow-up action, we are developing infrastructure, so that in the near future, **hydrogen, ammonia, and all our renewable energy** can be promoted.
अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के रूप में, हम बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास कर रहे हैं ताकि निकट भविष्य में हाइड्रोजन, अमोनिया, और हमारी सभी नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके
- Our target is to **combat climate change**.
हमारा लक्ष्य जलवायु परिवर्तन से लड़ना है
- Given the nation's goal to reach the top five countries in the ship-building sector**, what are the specific execution milestones up ahead?
जहाज निर्माण क्षेत्र में शीर्ष पाँच देशों में पहुंचने के राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य को देखते हुए, आगे के विशिष्ट कार्यान्वयन मील के पत्थर क्या हैं?
- For this, the Prime Minister has indicated two paths: **Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
इसके लिए प्रधानमंत्री ने दो मार्ग बताए हैं: **मैरिटाइम इंडिया विज़न 2030 और मैरिटाइम अमृत काल विज़न 2047**
- As part of this, by 2030, we will be one of the top 10 ship-building nations in the world, and by 2047, we will be among the top five.**
इसके तहत, **2030 तक हम दुनिया के शीर्ष 10 जहाज निर्माण देशों में होंगे, और 2047 तक शीर्ष पाँच में शामिल होंगे**
- The **Sagarmala programme** has been witnessing a reduction in funds.
सागरमाला कार्यक्रम में धनराशि में कमी देखी जा रही है
- Will that affect any ongoing projects in **Tamil Nadu**?
क्या इससे तमिलनाडु में चल रही किसी परियोजना पर असर पड़ेगा?

India's energy shift through the green ammonia route

GS III: Economy/Environment

MOB

At the inaugural session of the **India Energy Week (IEW)**, in January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi positioned India's ambitions at the centre of the global energy discourse, highlighting investment opportunities worth \$500 billion across the sector. As India raises its ambition from energy security to energy independence, the affordability of clean energy such as green hydrogen and its derivatives is critical to the long-term competitiveness of India's energy transition. But from fertilizers to clean energy and marine fuel, there are now green ammonia applications which are wide-ranging. Green ammonia – produced by combining nitrogen with green hydrogen – is currently leading in the adoption of green hydrogen, with its strategic adoption advanced across regions such as the European Union (EU), India and South Korea.

Aggregated procurement mechanisms are starting to lay the foundation for a global green ammonia market. Some noteworthy examples include H2Global's tender of green ammonia under the EU's hydrogen import strategy, South Korea's Clean Hydrogen Portfolio Standard (CHPS) tender for clean ammonia procurement as a bulk fuel, and the recent tender concluded by the **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** under the **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT)** programme of **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission**.

Green ammonia auction

Compared to these global procurement practices, India's green ammonia auction under SECI demonstrates broader market participation, attracting 15 bidders and resulting in seven unique successful awardees. Under the SIGHT programme, SECI floated a tender in June 2024 for an aggregated demand of up to 724,000 tonnes of green ammonia annually across 13 fertilizer plants in India. These tenders concluded

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The country's green ammonia auction model has the potential to redefine global standards for clean energy adoption

in August 2025, and offered a 10-year, fixed-price offtake agreements to successful bidders. This clarity in price and offtake provided producers with the market certainty required for investment. The auctions established a significant breakthrough in cost-competitive green ammonia procurement, setting new global benchmarks, almost 40%-50% less than the prices from the H2Global auction

The tender process faced multiple extensions and revisions, primarily to resolve concerns around risk allocation, payment security, and clarity on offtake and pricing conditions, raised by both project developers and offtakers. These refinements successfully addressed concerns, leading to a balanced win-win framework for all stakeholders.

In this auction, seven bidders secured a total of 13 delivery contracts for green ammonia. Notably, one company won six contracts for 3,70,000 tonnes/year. These contracts include production subsidies of ₹8.82 a kilogramme, ₹7.06 a kg, and ₹5.3 a kg for the first three years and a 10-year fixed price supply agreement to existing fertilizer manufacturers in India.

The discovered prices of green ammonia across these tenders range from ₹49.75 and ₹64.74/kg (\$572 and \$744 a tonne). In India, the grey ammonia price is as high as \$515 a tonne. When factoring in the newly discovered price of green ammonia, supported by longer-term contracts, the cost gap has significantly narrowed.

On delivery and transportation

Notably, a standout feature of SECI's tender is the pre-identification of delivery points, as most fertilizer plants where the green ammonia is to be delivered are located near coastal areas, enabling the transportation of green ammonia through shipping as well. The contracted volumes of green ammonia contribute to approximately 30%

of the total ammonia being imported, offering price predictability and greater insulation from global gas market volatility, currency risks and geopolitical pressures. In locations where grey ammonia costs are higher, green ammonia procurement increases its appeal for scale-up.

Propelling the momentum

India's approach is increasingly shaping the clean ammonia landscape worldwide, owing to its combination of low renewable energy costs, large-scale logistics, robust contract design and targeted incentives. As more countries seek reliable clean ammonia imports to decarbonise industry, power and transport, India's successful auction model is well placed to shape emerging global market structures and accelerate adoption at scale.

However, sustaining the momentum created by India's green ammonia auctions will require coordinated and sustained action from policymakers, project developers and financiers. Developers must focus on strong technical and financial due diligence, integrate hybrid renewable systems with storage, and adopt transparent monitoring frameworks to ensure long-term operational viability. Policymakers, in turn, need to provide stable and harmonised regulations on grid access, banking and incentives, while strengthening safety standards and aligning certification frameworks with evolving global norms.

Long-tenor, blended finance facilities, backed by extended offtake agreements and dedicated risk-mitigation instruments, can further enhance project bankability and crowd in private capital. Together, these measures can reinforce investor confidence, accelerate scale-up, and firmly position India not just as a participant but also as a global leader in clean ammonia markets.

The views expressed are personal

24F. India's energy shift through the green ammonia route
ग्रीन अमोनिया मार्ग के माध्यम से भारत का ऊर्जा परिवर्तन



India Energy Week and Green Ammonia

इंडिया एनर्जी वीक और ग्रीन अमोनिया

- At the inaugural session of the **India Energy Week (IEW), in January 2026**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** highlighted investment opportunities worth **\$500 billion** across the energy sector.
जनवरी 2026 में इंडिया एनर्जी वीक के उद्घाटन सत्र में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में 500 अरब डॉलर के निवेश अवसरों को रेखांकित किया।
- As **India moves from energy security to energy independence**, the **affordability of clean energy** such as **green hydrogen** and its derivatives is critical for long-term competitiveness. जैसे-जैसे भारत ऊर्जा सुरक्षा से ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर बढ़ रहा है, ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन जैसी स्वच्छ ऊर्जा की किफायती उपलब्धता दीर्घकालिक प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- From **fertilizers to clean energy and marine fuel**, **green ammonia applications** are now wide-ranging.
उर्वरक, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और समुद्री ईंधन तक ग्रीन अमोनिया के उपयोग अब व्यापक हो चुके हैं।
- Green ammonia, produced by combining nitrogen with green hydrogen**, is leading the adoption of **green hydrogen** globally.
ग्रीन अमोनिया, जो नाइट्रोजन और ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन के संयोजन से बनता है, वैश्विक स्तर पर ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन अपनाने में अग्रणी है।
- Its strategic adoption is advancing in regions such as the **European Union, India and South Korea**.
इसका रणनीतिक उपयोग यूरोपीय संघ, भारत और दक्षिण कोरिया जैसे क्षेत्रों में बढ़ रहा है।
- Global Procurement and Market Formation**
वैश्विक खरीद और बाजार निर्माण
- Aggregated procurement mechanisms** are laying the foundation for a **global green ammonia market**.
सामूहिक खरीद तंत्र एक वैश्विक ग्रीन अमोनिया बाजार की नींव रख रहे हैं।
- Examples include **H2Global's tender** under the EU hydrogen import strategy, **South Korea's Clean Hydrogen Portfolio Standard (CHPS)** for bulk ammonia fuel, and **SECI tender under the SIGHT programme of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission**.
उदाहरणों में यूरोपीय संघ की हाइड्रोजन आयात रणनीति के अंतर्गत H2Global निविदा, दक्षिण कोरिया का क्लीन हाइड्रोजन पोर्टफोलियो मानक, और भारत के राष्ट्रीय ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन मिशन के SIGHT कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत SECI निविदा शामिल हैं।

Green ammonia auction

ग्रीन अमोनिया नीलामी

- Compared to global practices, India's **SECI green ammonia auction** saw broader participation with **15 bidders** and **7 successful awardees**.
वैश्विक प्रथाओं की तुलना में भारत की SECI ग्रीन अमोनिया नीलामी में 15 बोलीदाता और 7 सफल विजेता शामिल हुए, जिससे व्यापक भागीदारी दिखी।
- Under the **SIGHT programme**, **SECI issued a tender in June 2024 for up to 724,000 tonnes annually across 13 fertilizer plants**.
SIGHT कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत जून 2024 में SECI ने 13 उर्वरक संयंत्रों के लिए प्रतिवर्ष 7,24,000 टन ग्रीन अमोनिया की निविदा जारी की।
- The **discovered prices of green ammonia range from ₹49.75 to ₹64.74/kg (\$572 to \$744 per tonne)**.
ग्रीन अमोनिया की खोजी गई कीमतें ₹49.75 से ₹64.74/किग्रा (572 से 744 डॉलर प्रति टन) के बीच हैं।
- In India, **grey ammonia price is as high as \$515 per tonne**.
भारत में ग्रे अमोनिया की कीमत 515 डॉलर प्रति टन तक है।
- With the newly discovered green ammonia price supported by **long-term contracts**, the **cost gap has significantly narrowed**.
दीर्घकालिक अनुबंधों से समर्थित नई ग्रीन अमोनिया कीमत के साथ लागत अंतर काफी कम हो गया है।



- India's approach is shaping the global **clean ammonia landscape due to low renewable energy costs, large-scale logistics, robust contract design and targeted incentives**.
भारत का दृष्टिकोण वैश्विक **स्वच्छ अमोनिया परिदृश्य** को आकार दे रहा है, क्योंकि **कम नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा लागत, बड़े पैमाने की लॉजिस्टिक्स, मजबूत अनुबंध संरचना और लक्षित प्रोत्साहन** हैं।
- As countries seek **clean ammonia imports to decarbonise industry, power and transport, India's auction model can shape global market structures and accelerate adoption**.
जैसे-जैसे देश **उद्योग, ऊर्जा और परिवहन को डीकार्बोनाइज** करने के लिए **स्वच्छ अमोनिया आयात** चाहते हैं, भारत का नीलामी मॉडल **वैश्विक बाजार संरचना** को आकार दे सकता है और अपनाने की गति बढ़ा सकता है।
- However, sustaining momentum requires **coordinated action from policymakers, developers and financiers**.
हालाँकि, इस गति को बनाए रखने के लिए **नीति-निर्माताओं, डेवलपर्स और वित्तदाताओं की समन्वित कार्रवाई** आवश्यक है।
- Developers must ensure **technical and financial due diligence, integrate hybrid renewable systems with storage, and adopt transparent monitoring frameworks**.
डेवलपर्स को **तकनीकी और वित्तीय सावधानी, भंडारण सहित हाइब्रिड नवीकरणीय प्रणाली, और पारदर्शी निगरानी ढाँचा** अपनाना चाहिए।
- **Policymakers need stable regulations on grid access, banking and incentives, strengthen safety standards, and align certification frameworks with global norms**.
नीति-निर्माताओं को **ग्रिड पहुँच, बैंकिंग और प्रोत्साहनों पर स्थिर नियम, सुरक्षा मानक मजबूत करना, और प्रमाणीकरण ढाँचा वैश्विक मानकों के अनुरूप बनाना** होगा।
- **Long-tenor blended finance, backed by extended offtake agreements and risk-mitigation tools, can improve project bankability and attract private capital**.
दीर्घकालिक मिश्रित वित्त, लंबी अवधि के ऑफटेक समझौतों और जोखिम-नियंत्रण साधनों के साथ, परियोजना वित्तीय क्षमता बढ़ा सकता है और निजी निवेश आकर्षित कर सकता है।
- These measures can strengthen **investor confidence, accelerate scale-up, and position India as a global leader in clean ammonia markets**.
ये कदम **निवेशक विश्वास** को मजबूत करेंगे, **विस्तार** को तेज करेंगे और भारत को **स्वच्छ अमोनिया बाजार में वैश्विक नेता** के रूप में स्थापित करेंगे।



The explosive rise and inherent risks of prediction markets

Polymarket and Kalshi, two popular prediction market platforms, allow users to bet on anything from Bitcoin prices to bombings, raising a host of legal and ethical red flags. Such prediction markets are also sparking interest in India

GS III: Economy

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

In a booming section of the Internet, gamblers do not restrict their bets to sports teams and horses. They also bet on the possibility of Israel launching strikes against Gaza, the U.S. election results, the possible return of Jesus Christ, and the number of tweets Elon Musk might post on a given day. These bets are placed on prediction market platforms like Kalshi and Polymarket, where speculators bet on the outcomes of real world events including wars, the Oscars, ongoing court cases, gold prices, government proceedings, and even the local weather.

How do prediction markets work?

A prediction market is a platform where users buy units of a "probable event" to make a profit when that event happens (or not). Generally, users can fund their trading accounts through crypto, credit/debit cards, or bank transfers. A platform fee may or may not be charged. Once set up, users can browse topics such as science, sports, culture, finance, etc. to find an event they want to bet on. Kalshi and Polymarket both claim to be the largest prediction market platforms. For transactions, Polymarket uses the USDC stablecoin – a non-official cryptocurrency pegged to the value of the U.S. dollar – via the Polygon network.

Take a real question from Polymarket, as of February 4: "Will anyone be jailed over Epstein disclosures?" Here, the answer 'Yes' was worth 19 cents at the time, while 'No' was worth 82 cents. Clearly, users were betting on the latter outcome. Users choose to buy 'Yes' or 'No' "shares," and these values may continue to change based on new developments. A Polymarket calculator showed that buying \$100 worth of 'Yes' shares meant the user would get \$499.43 in case anyone was jailed due to the Epstein disclosures. If they bought \$100 worth of 'No' shares, they would get \$121.95 in case the situation panned out as they predicted. Remember the "unit" prices can change drastically at any time. Users can also choose to sell their "shares" before the stipulated deadline, in case they want to cash in their profits or cut their losses.

Prediction markets are surging in popularity because of their design, ease, and social media virality. Kalshi and Polymarket give speculators the confidence to bet on real-world events they are familiar with, instead of forcing them to research unfamiliar asset classes or learn about technical investment options and indicators. Zooming out, prediction markets claim that such economies are focused on crowdsourced truth or crowd wisdom, and that there is less chance of bias and deception, since a large number of people bet on outcomes

they truly believe will happen.

Regarding the controversial West Asia-related prediction markets that allow bets on future air strikes, Polymarket's website stated: "After discussing with those directly affected by the attacks, who had dozens of questions, we realized that prediction markets could give them the answers they needed in ways TV news and X could not".

Kalshi tells its users that they "have the ability to make the same smart trades and strategic investments that were once the exclusive domain of the financial elite".

Why are they being criticised?

Those opposing prediction market platforms list risks including the promotion of irresponsible gambling, people being encouraged to bet on violence, the rapid spread of false news, and the potential for insider trading due to powerful individuals becoming involved in sensitive markets where privileged information results in profits.

In January 2025, Kalshi announced that Donald Trump Jr. had joined as a strategic advisor. Mr. Trump Jr. claimed on X that people close to him used Kalshi during the election night to know that Mr. Trump had won "hours ahead of the fake news media". In August, media outlets reported that the Trump Jr.-linked venture capital firm 1789 Capital invested in Polymarket, and that he had joined its advisory board. Both Kalshi and Polymarket are also

active on social media platforms like Elon Musk-owned X and Meta-owned Instagram, where they post clickbait-style news snippets to their huge followings and depict their users' bets as though they are fact-based statistics.

Moreover, both Polymarket and Kalshi have published fake news in the past. In fact, Amazon's Jeff Bezos once disputed Polymarket's claim that he asked Gen Z entrepreneurs to get "real world jobs" at McDonalds or Palantir before starting a business. Meanwhile, the Axios outlet reported that Kalshi falsely posted about U.S. and Denmark discussions, leading to an official clarification from Denmark.

Are prediction markets regulated?

This is a grey area. Prediction markets are regulated in some jurisdictions while banned in others. Kalshi reported it was regulated by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), but it faces restrictions and legal challenges in multiple U.S. states. Meanwhile, 33 countries are completely restricted from accessing Polymarket, including the U.S., Germany, the U.K., and Singapore.

Prediction markets are also sparking interest in India. In recent months, multiple Reddit users have created threads to ask whether betting via platforms such as Polymarket is legal in India. Other Redditors explored ways to make money off prediction markets without attracting legal scrutiny.

24F. The explosive rise and inherent risks of prediction markets प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट्स की विस्फोटक वृद्धि और अंतर्निहित जोखिम

- Polymarket and Kalshi, two popular prediction market platforms, allow users to bet on anything from Bitcoin prices to bombings, raising a host of legal and ethical red flags. Polymarket और Kalshi, दो लोकप्रिय प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट प्लेटफॉर्म, उपयोगकर्ताओं को Bitcoin की कीमतों से लेकर बम विस्फोटों तक किसी भी चीज़ पर दांव लगाने की अनुमति देते हैं, जिससे कई कानूनी और नैतिक चिंताएँ उत्पन्न होती हैं।

- Such prediction markets are also sparking interest in India ऐसे प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट्स भारत में भी रुचि पैदा कर रहे हैं

- In a booming section of the Internet, gamblers do not restrict their bets to sports teams and horses.

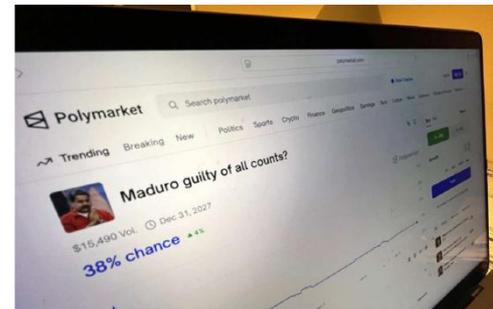
इंटरनेट के एक तेजी से बढ़ते हिस्से में जुआरी अपने दांव केवल खेल टीमों और घोड़ों तक सीमित नहीं रखते।

- They also bet on the possibility of Israel launching strikes against Gaza, the U.S. election results, the possible return of Jesus Christ, and the number of tweets Elon Musk might post on a given day.

वे इज़राइल द्वारा गाज़ा पर हमले की संभावना, अमेरिकी चुनाव परिणाम, यीशु मसीह की संभावित वापसी, और किसी दिन एलन मस्क द्वारा किए गए ट्वीट्स की संख्या पर भी दांव लगाते हैं।

- These bets are placed on prediction market platforms like Kalshi and Polymarket, where speculators bet on the outcomes of real world events including wars, the Oscars, ongoing court cases, gold prices, government proceedings, and even the local weather.

ये दांव Kalshi और Polymarket जैसे प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट प्लेटफॉर्म पर लगाए जाते हैं, जहाँ सट्टेबाज युद्ध, ऑस्कर, चल रहे अदालती मामले, सोने की कीमतें, सरकारी कार्यवाही और यहाँ तक कि स्थानीय मौसम जैसे वास्तविक घटनाओं के परिणामों पर दांव लगाते हैं।





How do prediction markets work? प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट कैसे काम करते हैं?

- A **prediction market** is a platform where users buy units of a 'probable event' to make a profit when that event happens (or not).
प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट एक ऐसा मंच है जहाँ उपयोगकर्ता किसी 'संभावित घटना' की इकाइयाँ खरीदते हैं ताकि घटना होने या न होने पर लाभ कमा सकें।
- Generally, users can fund their trading accounts through **crypto, credit/debit cards, or bank transfers**.
आम तौर पर उपयोगकर्ता अपने ट्रेडिंग खातों में **क्रिप्टो, क्रेडिट/डेबिट कार्ड या बैंक ट्रांसफर** के माध्यम से धन जमा कर सकते हैं।
- A platform fee may or may not be charged.
प्लेटफॉर्म शुल्क लिया भी जा सकता है या नहीं भी।
- Once set up, users can browse topics such as **science, sports, culture, finance** to find an event to bet on.
खाता बनाने के बाद उपयोगकर्ता **विज्ञान, खेल, संस्कृति, वित्त** जैसे विषयों में दांव लगाने के लिए घटनाएँ खोज सकते हैं।
- **Kalshi and Polymarket** both claim to be the **largest prediction market platforms**.
Kalshi और Polymarket दोनों स्वयं को **सबसे बड़े प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट प्लेटफॉर्म** बताते हैं।
- For transactions, **Polymarket** uses the **USDC stablecoin**, a non-official cryptocurrency pegged to the **U.S. dollar**, via the **Polygon network**.
लेनदेन के लिए **Polymarket USDC स्टेबलकोइन** का उपयोग करता है, जो **अमेरिकी डॉलर** से जुड़ी एक गैर-आधिकारिक क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी है और यह **Polygon नेटवर्क** के माध्यम से संचालित होती है।
- Take a real question from Polymarket, as of **February 4**: "Will anyone be jailed over **Epstein disclosures**?"
4 फरवरी तक Polymarket पर एक वास्तविक प्रश्न था: "क्या **एपस्टीन खुलासों** पर किसी को जेल होगी?"
- Here, '**Yes**' was worth **19 cents**, while '**No**' was worth **82 cents**.
यहाँ '**हाँ**' की कीमत **19 सेंट** थी जबकि '**नहीं**' की कीमत **82 सेंट** थी।
- Users choose to buy 'Yes' or 'No' **shares**, and these values may change based on developments.
उपयोगकर्ता '**हाँ**' या '**नहीं**' के **शेयर** खरीदते हैं और ये मूल्य परिस्थितियों के अनुसार बदल सकते हैं।
- Buying **\$100** worth of 'Yes' shares meant getting **\$499.43** if someone was jailed.
'हाँ' के **100 डॉलर** के शेयर खरीदने पर किसी के जेल जाने की स्थिति में **499.43 डॉलर** मिलते।
- Buying **\$100** worth of 'No' shares meant getting **\$121.95** if no one was jailed.
'नहीं' के **100 डॉलर** के शेयर खरीदने पर किसी के जेल न जाने की स्थिति में **121.95 डॉलर** मिलते।
- The "unit" prices can change drastically at any time.
'इकाई' की कीमतें कभी भी तेजी से बदल सकती हैं।
- Users can also sell their **shares before the deadline** to book profits or cut losses.
उपयोगकर्ता अंतिम तिथि से पहले अपने **शेयर बेचकर** लाभ कमा सकते हैं या नुकसान कम कर सकते हैं।
- Prediction markets are surging in popularity due to their **design, ease and social media virality**.
डिज़ाइन, सरलता और सोशल मीडिया पर लोकप्रियता के कारण प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट तेजी से लोकप्रिय हो रहे हैं।
- These platforms allow speculators to bet on **real-world events they are familiar with** instead of complex investment tools.
ये प्लेटफॉर्म सट्टेबाजों को उन **वास्तविक घटनाओं पर दांव लगाने** का अवसर देते हैं जिनसे वे परिचित हैं, बजाय जटिल निवेश साधनों के।
- Prediction markets claim they rely on **crowdsourced truth or crowd wisdom**, reducing bias and deception as many people bet on outcomes they truly believe in.
प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट दावा करते हैं कि वे **भीड़ आधारित सत्य या सामूहिक बुद्धिमत्ता** पर आधारित हैं, जिससे पक्षपात और धोखे की संभावना कम होती है क्योंकि बड़ी संख्या में लोग उन परिणामों पर दांव लगाते हैं जिन पर वे वास्तव में विश्वास करते हैं।
- Regarding controversial **West Asia-related prediction markets** that allow bets on future **air strikes**, **Polymarket** stated that after discussions with those directly affected, they believed prediction markets could provide answers better than **TV news and X**.



भविष्य के हवाई हमलों पर दांव लगाने की अनुमति देने वाले पश्चिम एशिया से जुड़े विवादास्पद प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट के संदर्भ में, Polymarket ने कहा कि प्रभावित लोगों से चर्चा के बाद उन्हें लगा कि प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट टीवी समाचार और X की तुलना में बेहतर उत्तर दे सकते हैं।

- Kalshi tells users they can make the same smart trades and strategic investments once limited to the financial elite.

Kalshi अपने उपयोगकर्ताओं से कहता है कि वे वही स्मार्ट ट्रेड और रणनीतिक निवेश कर सकते हैं जो पहले केवल वित्तीय अभिजात वर्ग तक सीमित थे।

Why are they being criticised? इनकी आलोचना क्यों हो रही है?

- Critics cite risks such as irresponsible gambling, betting on violence, spread of false news, and insider trading due to access to privileged information.
आलोचकों के अनुसार जोखिमों में गैर-जिम्मेदार जुआ, हिंसा पर सट्टा, झूठी खबरों का प्रसार और विशेष जानकारी के आधार पर अंदरूनी व्यापार शामिल हैं।
- In January 2025, Kalshi announced that Donald Trump Jr. joined as a strategic advisor.
जनवरी 2025 में Kalshi ने घोषणा की कि डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प जूनियर रणनीतिक सलाहकार के रूप में शामिल हुए।
- Mr. Trump Jr. claimed on X that people close to him used Kalshi on election night to know Mr. Trump had won "hours ahead of the fake news media".
ट्रम्प जूनियर ने X पर दावा किया कि उनके करीबी लोगों ने चुनाव रात Kalshi का उपयोग कर यह जान लिया था कि ट्रम्प जीत चुके हैं, "फर्जी समाचार मीडिया से कई घंटे पहले।"
- In August, reports said the Trump Jr.-linked 1789 Capital invested in Polymarket and he joined its advisory board.
अगस्त में रिपोर्टों के अनुसार ट्रम्प जूनियर से जुड़ी 1789 Capital ने Polymarket में निवेश किया और वे इसके सलाहकार बोर्ड में शामिल हुए।
- Both platforms are active on Elon Musk-owned X and Meta-owned Instagram, posting clickbait-style news and presenting bets as fact-based statistics.
दोनों प्लेटफॉर्म एलन मस्क के स्वामित्व वाले X और Meta के स्वामित्व वाले Instagram पर सक्रिय हैं, जहाँ वे क्लिकबेट शैली की खबरें पोस्ट करते हैं और दांव को तथ्य आधारित आँकड़ों की तरह प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- Both Polymarket and Kalshi have published fake news in the past.
Polymarket और Kalshi दोनों ने पहले फर्जी खबरें प्रकाशित की हैं।
- Jeff Bezos once disputed Polymarket's claim that he advised Gen Z entrepreneurs to get "real world jobs" at McDonalds or Palantir.
जेफ बेजोस ने Polymarket के उस दावे का खंडन किया जिसमें कहा गया था कि उन्होंने Gen Z उद्यमियों को McDonalds या Palantir में "वास्तविक नौकरी" करने की सलाह दी।
- Axios reported that Kalshi falsely posted about U.S.-Denmark discussions, leading to an official clarification from Denmark.
Axios ने रिपोर्ट किया कि Kalshi ने अमेरिका-डेनमार्क वार्ता पर गलत पोस्ट किया, जिसके बाद डेनमार्क को आधिकारिक स्पष्टीकरण देना पड़ा।

Are prediction markets regulated? क्या प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट विनियमित हैं?

- This is a grey area; regulated in some places and banned in others.
यह एक धुंधला क्षेत्र है; कुछ स्थानों पर विनियमित और अन्य में प्रतिबंधित।
- Kalshi says it is regulated by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) but faces restrictions in several U.S. states.
Kalshi का कहना है कि यह अमेरिकी कमोडिटी फ्यूचर्स ट्रेडिंग आयोग (CFTC) द्वारा विनियमित है, लेकिन कई अमेरिकी राज्यों में प्रतिबंधों का सामना करता है।
- 33 countries including the U.S., Germany, U.K., and Singapore are restricted from accessing Polymarket.
33 देश जिनमें अमेरिका, जर्मनी, ब्रिटेन और सिंगापुर शामिल हैं, Polymarket तक पहुँच से प्रतिबंधित हैं।
- Prediction markets are also drawing attention in India.
प्रेडिक्शन मार्केट भारत में भी ध्यान आकर्षित कर रहे हैं।



- Reddit users have asked whether betting on platforms like **Polymarket** is **legal in India**, while others explored ways to earn without attracting **legal scrutiny**.
Reddit उपयोगकर्ताओं ने पूछा है कि **Polymarket** जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म पर सट्टेबाजी भारत में कानूनी है या नहीं, जबकि अन्य ने कानूनी जांच से बचते हुए पैसा कमाने के तरीके तलाशे हैं।

What happens to India's Russian oil imports, \$500-bn U.S. import goal?

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Indian trade delegation's last-minute postponement of trip to Washington to finalise an Interim Agreement with the U.S., and the U.S. Supreme Court's order on tariffs both have implications for India's imports from Russia as well as the U.S.

The Indian delegation was to be in the U.S. on February 23-25 to finalise the Interim Agreement, which Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said could be implemented between mid-March and early April. However, sources in the Commerce Ministry on February 22 said that the meeting will be rescheduled "at a mutually convenient date".

"The two sides are of the view that the proposed visit of the Indian chief negotiator and the team be scheduled after each side has had the time to evaluate the latest developments and its implications," the official said.

Mr. Goyal had earlier said India would be able to remove or lower tariffs for American imports only after a deal is signed. The U.S., on the other hand, could so far modify tariffs through executive orders.

No Russian oil threats

Trade and legal experts, said U.S. SC order meant President Trump no longer had any law enabling him to levy tariffs on India if it continues buying Russian oil in large quantities.

Without the tariff threat, India can once again reduce its purchase of the relatively expensive



Pressure tactics: The value of India's Russian oil imports fell to a 38-month low in December 2025. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

American oil and sour Venezuelan oil.

"With reciprocal tariffs gone, the U.S. now does not have any law under which it can penalise India for buying Russian oil," Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative and former Director General of Foreign Trade said. "Even if we were to continue our oil imports from the U.S., which have nearly doubled in the last few months, we should refrain from buying oil from Venezuela."

It is important to note Mr. Trump had, on February 6 itself, removed the tariffs linked to India's import of Russian oil. As per Ramesh K. Vaidyanathan, managing partner at law firm BTG Advaya, tariffs could theoretically return, but they would need the backing of U.S. Congress.

Multiple mechanisms

"There are multiple legal mechanisms under which he can do this, but I think what is coming to the fore is that he cannot do these through executive orders and will have to do it under legislative backing for the purpose for which they are designed." In other words, if Mr. Trump can convince the U.S. Congress that ta-

riffs linked to Russian oil imports are necessary, then they could return.

An analysis by *The Hindu* found the value of India's crude oil imports from Russia fell to a 38-month low in December 2025 with Russia's share falling to less than a quarter from 34% a month ago. However, oil imports from the U.S. rose almost 31% over December 2024.

The analysis showed India imported oil from the U.S. at an average price of \$506.7 per tonne in December 2025 or almost 8% higher than the average price of Russian oil imported that month.

Uncertainty over deal

"India should follow a wait-and-watch approach and should see how other countries that have signed deals with the U.S. are reacting," said Pankaj Chadha, chairman of exporter body EEPC India.

Mr. Srivastava says the decision to postpone the Indian team's visit to Washington could simply be an "administrative delay".

"There is a possibility that this delay in the Indian team's visit to the U.S. could have been at the request of the U.S. since their officials would be under

fire trying to figure out the way forward."

Impact on imports

A delayed Interim Agreement will also push back the date from which India will have to reduce tariffs for imports from the U.S. This can have a dual effect.

On the one hand, local manufacturers can breathe a bit easier since they will not have to compete with duty-free U.S. imports.

On the other several items India imports will continue to face import tariffs, thereby making them more expensive than they would have been had the deal gone through.

Mr. Goyal had previously told *The Hindu* there were several items such as oil, LPG, LNG, aircraft and parts, parts for data centres and quantum computing that India needs but does not manufacture, and so would need to import.

India's imports of electronic parts grew 117% year-on-year to about \$2.1 billion in April-December 2025. Similarly, the import of telecom instruments rose 25% and organic chemicals by almost 34%.

A joint statement said India intends to import \$500 billion worth of energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal from the U.S. over the next 5 years.

The European Union (EU) also said the U.S. must provide more clarity before EU Parliament can ratify the U.S.-EU deal.

Meanwhile, Japanese officials said they won't immediately be revisiting the deal adding, the crux of Japan's deal with U.S. was on lowering auto-related tariffs, which stay unaffected by the U.S. SC decision.



24F. What happens to India's Russian oil imports, \$500-bn U.S. import goal? भारत के रूसी तेल आयात और 500 अरब डॉलर के अमेरिकी आयात लक्ष्य का क्या होगा?

- The Indian trade delegation's last-minute postponement of trip to Washington to finalise an **Interim Agreement with the U.S., and the U.S. Supreme Court's order on tariffs** both have implications for India's imports from Russia as well as the U.S.
अमेरिका के साथ अंतरिम समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए वॉशिंगटन जाने वाले भारतीय व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमंडल की अंतिम समय में यात्रा टलने और अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट के टैरिफ़ संबंधी आदेश, दोनों का भारत के रूस और अमेरिका से आयात पर असर पड़ेगा।
- The Indian delegation was to be in the U.S. on February 23-25 to finalise the Interim Agreement, which Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said could be implemented between mid-March and early April.
भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल को 23-25 फरवरी को अमेरिका में रहकर अंतरिम समझौते को अंतिम रूप देना था, जिसे वाणिज्य मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** ने कहा था कि मार्च के मध्य से अप्रैल की शुरुआत के बीच लागू किया जा सकता है।
- However, sources in the Commerce Ministry on February 22 said that the meeting will be rescheduled "at a mutually convenient date".
हालांकि, 22 फरवरी को वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने कहा कि बैठक को "दोनों पक्षों की सुविधा की तिथि" पर पुनर्निर्धारित किया जाएगा।
- "The two sides are of the view that the proposed visit of the Indian chief negotiator and the team be scheduled after each side has had the time to evaluate the latest developments and its implications," the official said.
अधिकारी ने कहा, "दोनों पक्षों का मानना है कि भारतीय मुख्य वार्ताकार और टीम की प्रस्तावित यात्रा तब तय की जाए जब दोनों पक्ष हालिया घटनाक्रम और उसके प्रभावों का मूल्यांकन कर लें।"
- Mr. Goyal had earlier said India would be able to remove or lower tariffs for American imports only after a deal is signed.
श्री गोयल ने पहले कहा था कि भारत अमेरिकी आयात पर शुल्क तभी हटाएगा या घटाएगा जब समझौता हो जाएगा।
- The U.S., on the other hand, could so far modify tariffs through executive orders.
दूसरी ओर, अमेरिका अब तक कार्यकारी आदेशों के माध्यम से टैरिफ़ में बदलाव कर सकता था।
- Mr. Goyal had previously told The Hindu there were several items such as oil, LPG, LNG, aircraft and parts, parts for data centres and quantum computing that India needs but does not manufacture, and so would need to import.
श्री गोयल ने पहले **द हिंदू** से कहा था कि तेल, एलपीजी, एलएनजी, विमान और उनके पुर्जे, डेटा सेंटर और क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग के हिस्से जैसी कई वस्तुएं हैं, जिनकी भारत को जरूरत है लेकिन वह उनका निर्माण नहीं करता, इसलिए आयात करना पड़ता है।
- India's imports of electronic parts grew 117% year-on-year to about \$2.1 billion in April-December 2025.
अप्रैल-दिसंबर 2025 के दौरान भारत के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक पुर्जों का आयात साल-दर-साल 117% बढ़कर लगभग 2.1 अरब डॉलर हो गया।
- Similarly, the import of telecom instruments rose 25% and organic chemicals by almost 34%.
इसी तरह, दूरसंचार उपकरणों का आयात 25% और जैविक रसायनों का लगभग 34% बढ़ा।
- A joint statement said India intends to import \$500 billion worth of energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal from the U.S. over the next 5 years.
एक संयुक्त बयान में कहा गया कि भारत अगले पांच वर्षों में अमेरिका से 500 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के ऊर्जा उत्पाद, विमान और उनके पुर्जे, कीमती धातुएं, तकनीकी उत्पाद और कोकिंग कोयला आयात करना चाहता है।
- The European Union (EU) also said the U.S. must provide more clarity before the EU Parliament can ratify the U.S.-EU deal.
यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू) ने भी कहा कि ईयू संसद द्वारा अमेरिका-ईयू समझौते की पुष्टि से पहले अमेरिका को और स्पष्टता देनी होगी।



Focus on core business, stop mis-selling insurance products, FM tells banks

GS III: Economy
Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked commercial banks to focus on their core business of lending and deposit mobilisation and stop mis-selling of insurance products, which had reached alarming proportions.

Answering a question at a press conference held after the customary post Budget meeting with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board of directors in New Delhi, the FM asked banks to return to traditional banking functions rather than mis-selling insurance and non-core products. She said that had inconvenienced bank customers to a large extent.

She wondered why a person mortgaging her/his



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra at a press conference after RBI central board meeting. ANI

land to avail a bank loan be forced to take an insurance policy by the bank.

Lauding the RBI for initiating steps to issue directions to banks on mis-selling, she said earlier neither the RBI nor the IRDAI were able to look into the 'grey area'. "I am glad that the RBI is coming up with guideline that why mis-selling is not going to be entertained. The message

should go to the banks that they can not afford to mis-sell." In a clarification, the Finance Ministry said, "The FM had said she does not clearly know if mis-selling is an offence under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). And banks should focus on their core business." "She did not categorically state that mis-selling is an offence." the Ministry clarified. The

621st meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India was held today at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra. "The Board assessed the global and domestic economic landscape, factoring in the challenges arising from geopolitical developments and financial market volatility," the RBI said in a statement.

"Union Minister of Finance articulated the strategic vision of the Union Budget 2026-27, which was inspired by the three Kartavyas, and delineated expectations from the financial sector toward achieving its goal of Viksit Bharat. The Directors expressed their appreciation for the Budget and shared their perspectives," the RBI statement added.

24F. Focus on core business, stop mis-selling insurance products, FM tells banks

मुख्य व्यवसाय पर ध्यान दें, बीमा उत्पादों की गलत बिक्री बंद करें: वित्त मंत्री ने बैंकों से कहा

• **Focus on core business, stop mis-selling insurance products, FM tells banks**

मुख्य व्यवसाय पर ध्यान दें, बीमा उत्पादों की गलत बिक्री बंद करें, वित्त मंत्री ने बैंकों से कहा

• **Commercial banks to focus on their core business of lending and deposit mobilisation and stop**

mis-selling of insurance products, which had reached alarming proportions.

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने सोमवार को वाणिज्यिक बैंकों से कहा कि वे ऋण देने और जमा जुटाने के अपने मुख्य व्यवसाय पर ध्यान दें और बीमा उत्पादों की गलत बिक्री बंद करें, जो चिंताजनक स्तर तक पहुँच चुकी है।

- Answering a question at a press conference held after the customary post Budget meeting with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board of directors in New Delhi, the FM asked banks to return to **traditional banking functions** rather than **mis-selling insurance and non-core products**.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) के बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स के साथ बजट के बाद होने वाली पारंपरिक बैठक के बाद नई दिल्ली में आयोजित प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए, वित्त मंत्री ने बैंकों से बीमा और गैर-प्रमुख उत्पादों की गलत बिक्री के बजाय **पारंपरिक बैंकिंग कार्यों** पर लौटने को कहा।

- "I am glad that the RBI is coming up with **guideline** that why mis-selling is not going to be entertained.
"मुझे खुशी है कि आरबीआई ऐसी **गाइडलाइन** लेकर आ रहा है कि गलत बिक्री को क्यों बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जाएगा।
- The message should go to the banks that they can not afford to **mis-sell**."
संदेश बैंकों तक जाना चाहिए कि वे **गलत बिक्री** बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकते।"
- In a clarification, the **Finance Ministry** said, "The FM had said she does not clearly know if mis-selling is an **offence** under **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**.
एक स्पष्टीकरण में **वित्त मंत्रालय** ने कहा, "वित्त मंत्री ने कहा था कि उन्हें स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं पता कि **भारतीय न्याय संहिता (BNS)** के तहत गलत बिक्री एक **अपराध** है या नहीं।
- And banks should focus on their **core business**."
और बैंकों को अपने **मुख्य व्यवसाय** पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।"
- "She did not categorically state that mis-selling is an offence." the Ministry clarified.
"उन्होंने स्पष्ट रूप से यह नहीं कहा कि गलत बिक्री एक अपराध है," मंत्रालय ने स्पष्ट किया।
- The **621st meeting** of the **Central Board of Directors** of the **Reserve Bank of India** was held today at **New Delhi** under the Chairmanship of **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के **केंद्रीय निदेशक मंडल** की **621वीं बैठक** आज नई दिल्ली में गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित की गई।
- "The Board assessed the **global and domestic economic landscape**, factoring in the challenges arising from **geopolitical developments** and **financial market volatility**," the RBI said in a statement.



आरबीआई ने एक बयान में कहा, “बोर्ड ने वैश्विक और घरेलू आर्थिक परिदृश्य का आकलन किया, जिसमें भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम और वित्तीय बाजारों की अस्थिरता से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों को शामिल किया गया।”

GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	Doctors suspect neurotoxin to be reason for seafood poisoning at hotel in Kerala डॉक्टरों को केरल के एक होटल में सीफूड विषाक्तता का कारण न्यूरोटॉक्सिन होने का संदेह
24F	Unusual ancient gene governs sex of ant, bee, wasp newborns चींटी, मधुमक्खी, ततैया के नवजातों का लिंग नियंत्रित करने वाला असामान्य प्राचीन जीन
24F	AI for all सभी के लिए एआई

Doctors suspect neurotoxin to be reason for seafood poisoning at hotel in Kerala

24F. Doctors suspect neurotoxin to be reason for seafood poisoning at hotel in Kerala

डॉक्टरों को केरल के एक होटल में सीफूड विषाक्तता का कारण न्यूरोटॉक्सिन होने का संदेह

- Food safety authorities as well as doctors who treated persons hospitalized with acute condition after consuming seafood from a restaurant at Vizhinjam in Thiruvananthapuram have pointed to the possibility of a neurotoxin present in the food.

विझिंजम स्थित तिरुवनंतपुरम के एक रेस्तरां से सीफूड खाने के बाद गंभीर स्थिति में अस्पताल में भर्ती लोगों का

GS III: S&T

C. Mava
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Food safety authorities as well as doctors who treated persons hospitalized with acute condition after consuming seafood from a restaurant at Vizhinjam in Thiruvananthapuram have pointed to the possibility of a neurotoxin present in the food.

They suspect that the seafood, which triggered serious symptoms, was contaminated by a naturally occurring and extremely potent marine neurotoxin, tetrodotoxin (TTX).

Present in fish roe?

They also pinpoint fish roe (eggs) to be the possible culprit, as all those who ended up in hospitals had consumed this seafood delicacy.



The duration in which people became ill, the neurological symptoms and death are consistent with TTX poisoning, say doctors. FILE PHOTO

Three persons belonging to a six-member family fell seriously ill after consuming seafood from the restaurant on February 16 night and two of them died within hours.

Following this, more reports of people taking ill, all of whom had eaten at the same restaurant on the same day, came out.

After the first incident,

six more cases of acute illness had been reported.

Having ruled out primary evidence of food poisoning due to spoilage or bacterial contamination, food safety officials had veered towards the angle that fish contaminated by marine algal toxins could have led to the deaths.

They based their suspicion on the fact that cigu-

toxin had been recently detected in some samples of red snapper (*chempalli*) fish sourced from the Tamil Nadu coast.

However, the short duration within which people became acutely ill, the predominantly neurological symptoms displayed by the affected and death within a few hours are clinically consistent with TTX poisoning, doctors believe.

Tetrodotoxin (TTX) is one of the most powerful neurotoxins known, which is very heat-stable. This toxin has no known antidote and ingestion leads to severe, often fatal, paralysis.

The results of the chemical analysis of internal samples collected from the deceased is awaited, which alone would confirm the cause of death.

इलाज करने वाले खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिकारियों और डॉक्टरों ने भोजन में न्यूरोटॉक्सिन मौजूद होने की संभावना जताई है।

- They suspect that the seafood, which triggered serious symptoms, was contaminated by a naturally occurring and extremely potent marine neurotoxin, tetrodotoxin (TTX).
उन्हें संदेह है कि गंभीर लक्षण पैदा करने वाला यह सीफूड प्राकृतिक रूप से पाए जाने वाले और अत्यंत शक्तिशाली समुद्री न्यूरोटॉक्सिन टेट्रोडोटॉक्सिन (TTX) से दूषित था।

Present in fish roe?

क्या मछली के अंडों में मौजूद था?

- They also pinpoint fish roe (eggs) to be the possible culprit, as all those who ended up in hospitals had consumed this seafood delicacy.
उन्होंने मछली के अंडों (फिश रो) को संभावित कारण बताया, क्योंकि अस्पताल पहुँचे सभी लोगों ने यह सीफूड व्यंजन खाया था।
- contamination, food safety officials had veered towards the angle that fish contaminated by marine algal toxins could have led to the deaths.
खराब होने या बैक्टीरियल संदूषण से हुई खाद्य विषाक्तता के प्राथमिक साक्ष्यों को खारिज करने के बाद, खाद्य



सुरक्षा अधिकारियों ने इस संभावना पर ध्यान दिया कि **समुद्री शैवाल विषाक्त पदार्थों** से दूषित मछली मौतों का कारण हो सकती है।

- **Tetrodotoxin (TTX) is one of the most powerful neurotoxins known, which is very heat-stable.**

टेट्रोडोटॉक्सिन (TTX) ज्ञात सबसे शक्तिशाली न्यूरोटॉक्सिन में से एक है, जो बहुत **ऊष्मा-स्थिर** होता है।

- **This toxin has no known antidote and ingestion leads to severe, often fatal, paralysis.**

इस विष का कोई ज्ञात प्रतिविष (एंटीडोट) नहीं है और इसके सेवन से गंभीर, अक्सर घातक, **पक्षाघात** हो जाता है।

CS III: S&T AI for all

The AI Impact Summit was a sign of things to come in India

The attendance at the AI Impact Summit, in New Delhi, showed an extreme enthusiasm for Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies by digitally connected Indians. While statistics shared by AI firms have frequently cited India as the biggest user base outside the U.S., the crowds over the week were the biggest indicator of just how keen many Indians are to adopt this technology. At its core, the summit was a continuation of a series of annual multilateral discussions on AI, and 89 countries have signed a declaration laying out a voluntary set of commitments to share knowledge on AI democratisation. The summit's context comes with foreboding challenges for India: namely, deploying and diffusing a technology whose capital and infrastructure reside abroad, and finding a place in the global AI ecosystem that will place Indians well in the economic transformations that this technology's adoption promises. India's data centre capacity is growing healthily, but the AI moment calls for further momentum, a difficult ask when the costs of graphics processing units (GPUs) driving AI push up the cost of domestic deployment so much, not to mention the additional electrical capacity that must be built. A national strategy that relies overwhelmingly on becoming a hub for the deployment of models, with less emphasis on their training and finetuning, could pose risks; after all, with fewer labour costs, the advantage that India has will be smaller than in the ITes era.

On the international cooperation front, it is disappointing that India has so eagerly enabled the U.S.'s hands-off impulses for AI. This is a technology with enormous scope for economic and social disruption. Countries must use the annual AI forum to collectively build tools and safety standards that can exercise actual leverage over how LLMs diffuse throughout society. Leadership of the Global South entails empowering countries that are individually vulnerable to collateral damage in an era of great power rivalries. AI is increasingly defining that era more and more acutely. Consensus at all costs is not the appropriate approach. As a country of enthusiastic AI adopters, India has the leverage and capacity to articulate an optimistic but prudent way forward for AI governance, and the summit declaration showed no signs of this power. The summit's central pillar remains an important one: for AI to be a net good, its capabilities need to be democratised. As India closes its digital divide, there cannot be an inference gap. If the summit made anything clear, it was that India is as capable of organically contributing to worldwide growth as it has the capacity, should it choose, to be a force to shape its orderly growth. **MOB**

leverage and capacity to articulate an **optimistic but prudent way forward for AI governance**, and the summit declaration showed no signs of this power.

उत्साही **एआई** अपनाने वाले देश के रूप में भारत के पास **आशावादी लेकिन विवेकपूर्ण मार्ग** प्रस्तुत करने की क्षमता है, लेकिन शिखर घोषणा में इसका संकेत नहीं मिला।

24F. AI for all सभी के लिए एआई

- While statistics shared by **AI firms have frequently cited India as the biggest user base outside the U.S.**, the crowds over the week were the biggest indicator of just how keen many Indians are to adopt this technology.

एआई कंपनियों द्वारा साझा आंकड़ों में भारत को अक्सर **अमेरिका के बाहर सबसे बड़ा उपयोगकर्ता आधार** बताया गया है, लेकिन पूरे सप्ताह की भीड़ इस बात का सबसे बड़ा संकेत थी कि भारतीय इस तकनीक को अपनाने के लिए कितने उत्सुक हैं।

- At its core, the summit was a continuation of a **series of annual multilateral discussions on AI**, and **89 countries have signed a declaration laying out a voluntary set of commitments to share knowledge on AI democratisation.**

मूल रूप से, यह शिखर सम्मेलन **एआई पर वार्षिक बहुपक्षीय चर्चाओं** की श्रृंखला की निरंतरता था, और **89 देशों** ने **एआई लोकतंत्रीकरण** पर ज्ञान साझा करने के लिए स्वैच्छिक प्रतिबद्धताओं की घोषणा पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- **India's data centre capacity is growing healthily, but the AI moment calls for further momentum, a difficult ask when the costs of graphics processing units (GPUs) driving AI push up the cost of domestic deployment so much, not to mention the additional electrical capacity that must be built.**

भारत की **डेटा सेंटर क्षमता** अच्छी तरह बढ़ रही है, लेकिन एआई के इस दौर में और गति की आवश्यकता है, जो कठिन है क्योंकि **ग्राफिक्स प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट (जीपीयू)** की लागत घरेलू तैनाती को महंगा बनाती है और अतिरिक्त **विद्युत क्षमता** भी बनानी होगी।

- **This is a technology with enormous scope for economic and social disruption.**

यह एक ऐसी तकनीक है जिसमें **आर्थिक और सामाजिक बदलाव** की विशाल संभावना है।

- Countries must use the **annual AI forum** to collectively build tools and **safety standards** that can **exercise actual leverage over how LLMs diffuse throughout society.**

देशों को वार्षिक **एआई मंच** का उपयोग कर ऐसे उपकरण और **सुरक्षा मानक** विकसित करने चाहिए जो समाज में **बड़े भाषा मॉडल** के प्रसार पर वास्तविक नियंत्रण स्थापित कर सकें।

- Leadership of the **Global South** entails empowering countries that are individually vulnerable to **collateral damage in an era of great power rivalries.**

ग्लोबल साउथ का नेतृत्व उन देशों को सशक्त बनाना है जो **महाशक्ति प्रतिस्पर्धा** के दौर में **दुष्प्रभावों** के प्रति संवेदनशील हैं।

- As a country of enthusiastic **AI adopters**, India has the



- The summit's central pillar remains an important one: for AI to be a net good, its capabilities need to be democratised.
शिखर सम्मेलन का मुख्य स्तंभ महत्वपूर्ण है: एआई को समग्र रूप से लाभकारी बनाने के लिए इसकी क्षमताओं का लोकतंत्रीकरण आवश्यक है।
- As India closes its digital divide, there cannot be an inference gap.
जैसे-जैसे भारत डिजिटल विभाजन को कम कर रहा है, अनुमान अंतर नहीं होना चाहिए।

GS Paper III: Environment,	
TOPICS COVERED	24 February 2026
24F	Top court seeks Centre's response on proposal to tackle air pollution वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के प्रस्ताव पर शीर्ष अदालत ने केंद्र से जवाब मांगा
24F	India a big contributor to global toxicity by pesticides कीटनाशकों के कारण वैश्विक विषाक्तता में भारत एक बड़ा योगदानकर्ता
24F	QUIZ

Top court seeks Centre's response on proposal to tackle air pollution

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider a proposal to shift coal-based industries out of the Delhi-NCR while agreeing to examine a suggestion to bar coal-based thermal power plants within 300 km of the national capital as measures to ensure clean air.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant sought replies from the Union Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Power and Petroleum on the aspect of shifting coal-based industries outside Delhi-NCR. The recommendation was mooted by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

"On the issue of abatement of industry pollution, the Commission has suggested the following long-term measures...The com-



The court agreed to examine a suggestion to bar thermal power plants within 300 km of Delhi-NCR to prevent air pollution. PTI

mission has recommended that, considering the emissions from coal-based thermal power plants, henceforth, no new coal-based thermal power plant may be established within 300 kilometres of Delhi," the Bench observed.

The Bench also decided to take up for hearing the long-term recommendations made by the CAQM to control vehicular emissions.

The court said the government ought to first identify coal-dependent industries while considering

which ones could be shifted outside the vicinity of the capital. It also asked Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to issue public notices inviting "suggestions, proposal, recommendations" from all stakeholders, including coal-based industries.

"On the issue of abatement of industry pollution, the Commission has suggested the following long-term measures...The commission has recommended that, considering the emissions from coal-based thermal power plants, hence-

forth, no new coal-based thermal power plant may be established within 300 kilometres of Delhi," it said.

The Bench also took note of the suggestions of the CAQM on the prevention and control of stubble-burning.

It said that the proposal shall firstly identify the industries and what can be alternative fuel sources for them.

It asked Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to issue public notices inviting "suggestions, proposal, recommendations" from all stakeholders, including coal-based industries. "Notices to be deemed as served by this court. The action taken plan by all States shall give a full description of the notices given in this regard. Notices to mention they have been issued per the directions of this court. Objections to the proposed replacement may be submitted," it said.

24F. Top court seeks Centre's response on proposal to tackle air pollution
वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के प्रस्ताव पर शीर्ष अदालत ने केंद्र से जवाब मांगा



- The **Supreme Court** on Monday asked the **Centre** to consider a proposal to shift **coal-based industries** out of the **Delhi-NCR** while agreeing to examine a suggestion to bar **coal-based thermal power plants** within **300 km** of the national capital as measures to ensure **clean air**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को केंद्र से दिल्ली-एनसीआर से कोयला आधारित उद्योगों को स्थानांतरित करने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करने को कहा, साथ ही स्वच्छ हवा सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय के रूप में राष्ट्रीय राजधानी से **300 किमी** के भीतर कोयला आधारित ताप विद्युत संयंत्रों पर रोक लगाने के सुझाव की जांच करने पर सहमति जताई।
- A three-judge **Bench** headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** sought replies from the **Union Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Power and Petroleum** on the aspect of shifting coal-based industries outside **Delhi-NCR**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्या कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने दिल्ली-एनसीआर से बाहर कोयला आधारित उद्योगों को स्थानांतरित करने के मुद्दे पर पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC), बिजली और पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालयों से जवाब मांगा।
- The recommendation was mooted by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**.
यह सिफारिश वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM) द्वारा प्रस्तुत की गई थी।
- “On the issue of **abatement of industry pollution**, the Commission has suggested the following **long-term measures**...The commission has recommended that, considering the **emissions** from coal-based thermal power plants, henceforth, **no new coal-based thermal power plant** may be established within **300 kilometres of Delhi**,” the Bench observed.
“औद्योगिक प्रदूषण में कमी के मुद्दे पर आयोग ने निम्नलिखित दीर्घकालिक उपाय सुझाए हैं...आयोग ने उत्सर्जन को ध्यान में रखते हुए सिफारिश की है कि आगे से दिल्ली से **300 किलोमीटर** के भीतर कोई नया कोयला आधारित ताप विद्युत संयंत्र स्थापित न किया जाए,” पीठ ने कहा।

India a big contributor to global toxicity by pesticides

GS III: Environment

India is among just four countries that contribute almost 70% to the world's total applied toxicity (TAT) in the form of pesticides directed at agricultural pests, but in effect unleashes collateral damage among “non-target” species.

In 2022, at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, countries committed to reducing pesticide risk by 50% by 2030.

According to a new paper in *Science*, however, efforts to fulfill the pact are not on track. Researchers, for the very first time, calculated the TAT from 2013 to 2019 across more than 600 pesticides, in 65 countries, and found that it had increased. China, Brazil, the U.S., and India are the biggest contributors of global TAT, accounting for nearly 70%. Pesticides were used copiously on fruits, vegetables, maize, soybean, rice, and other cereals. The study also found that toxicity increased in India, the U.S., Brazil and countries in Africa.

China, Brazil, the U.S., and India are the biggest contributors of global TAT, accounting for nearly 70%. Pesticides were used copiously on fruits, vegetables, maize, soybean, rice, and cereals

To estimate TAT at a national level, the scientists checked the annual amount of pesticide used in agriculture in the study countries and the compounds' toxicity and lethality for different non-target species, such as pollinators, aquatic plants, invertebrates, fish, terrestrial arthropods, soil organisms, terrestrial vertebrates, and plants. The researchers found that terrestrial arthropods were most affected, followed by soil organisms and fish. The toxicity has been affecting people as well.

“These chemicals now permeate daily life in ways that are often invisible: in wall paints, incense sticks, furniture, aircraft cabins, stored grains, and even temple prasad,” the author, Narasimha Reddy Donthi, an independent public policy expert, wrote.

24F. India a big contributor to global toxicity by pesticides कीटनाशकों के कारण वैश्विक विषाक्तता में भारत एक बड़ा योगदानकर्ता

The Insecticides Act 1968 focuses on agricultural use, with few provisions for “ordinary use” in homes, hotels, construction sites, and transport systems, he added. The 1968 Act is obsolete, Mr. Donthi told *The Hindu*. “The use, misuse, and overuse have changed since 1968. Pesticides have become more toxic. They are persistent across food, water and soil.” India uses at least 66 pesticides that are banned elsewhere, he added.

The new Pesticides Management Bill 2025 is expected to be passed in March this year. It aims to reduce the risk to the environment and push for pesticides that are “biological and based on traditional knowledge”. But without taking expert inputs, it could be worse-off than the 1968 Act, he said. “India needs a long-term transformation policy in agriculture, shifting away from ‘green revolution’ packages, which includes pesticides, in view of the farmers’ crisis, climate change, chemical-residue laden environment. Liability has to be inbuilt into law, as a policy,” Mr. Donthi said.

To ensure comprehensive monitoring, it is essential that all countries regularly report updated annual data on agricultural pesticide use, broken down by active ingredient, study co-author Jakob Wolfram, of the Institute for Environmental Sciences, University Kaiserslautern-Landau in Germany, said.

As the environmental activist Rachel Carson wrote in her 1962 book *Silent Spring*: “If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals eating and drinking them, taking them into the very marrow of our bones,” we had better know something about the power of the “who’s who of pesticides”.

- India is among just **four countries** that contribute almost **70%** to the world's total **applied toxicity (TAT)** in the form of **pesticides** directed at agricultural pests, but in effect unleashes collateral damage among “**non-target**” species.

भारत उन केवल चार देशों में शामिल है जो विश्व की कुल अनुप्रयुक्त विषाक्तता (TAT) का लगभग 70% योगदान करते हैं, जो कृषि कीटों के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले कीटनाशकों के रूप में है, लेकिन इसका दुष्प्रभाव “गैर-लक्षित” प्रजातियों पर पड़ता है।

- In 2022, at the **United Nations Biodiversity Conference**, countries committed to reducing pesticide risk by **50% by 2030**.

2022 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जैव विविधता सम्मेलन में देशों ने 2030 तक कीटनाशक जोखिम को 50% कम करने का संकल्प लिया।

- **China, Brazil, the U.S., and India** are the biggest contributors of global TAT, accounting for nearly **70%**.

चीन, ब्राज़ील, अमेरिका और भारत वैश्विक TAT के सबसे बड़े योगदानकर्ता हैं, जो लगभग 70% हिस्सा रखते हैं।

- Pesticides were used copiously on **fruits, vegetables, maize, soybean, rice, and other cereals**.

कीटनाशकों का व्यापक उपयोग फलों, सब्जियों, मक्का, सोयाबीन, चावल और अन्य अनाजों पर किया गया।

- The study also found that **toxicity**



increased in India, the U.S., Brazil and countries in Africa.

अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि **भारत, अमेरिका, ब्राज़ील और अफ्रीका के देशों में विषाक्तता बढ़ी है।**

- To estimate **TAT at a national level**, the scientists checked the **annual amount of pesticide used in agriculture** in the study countries and the compounds' **toxicity and lethality** for **different non-target species**, such as **pollinators, aquatic plants, invertebrates, fish, terrestrial arthropods, soil organisms, terrestrial vertebrates, and plants.**
राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर **TAT का अनुमान** लगाने के लिए वैज्ञानिकों ने अध्ययन देशों में कृषि में उपयोग किए गए **वार्षिक कीटनाशक मात्रा** और विभिन्न **गैर-लक्षित प्रजातियों** जैसे **परागणकर्ता, जलीय पौधे, अकशेरुकी, मछलियाँ, स्थलीय आर्थ्रोपॉड, मृदा जीव, स्थलीय कशेरुकी और पौधे** पर **यौगिकों की विषाक्तता और घातकता** की जांच की।
- The researchers found that **terrestrial arthropods were most affected**, followed by **soil organisms and fish.**
शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि **स्थलीय आर्थ्रोपॉड सबसे अधिक प्रभावित हुए**, उसके बाद **मृदा जीव और मछलियाँ** प्रभावित हुईं।
- The toxicity has been **affecting people** as well.
यह **विषाक्तता मनुष्यों** को भी प्रभावित कर रही है।
- “These chemicals now permeate daily life in ways that are often invisible: in **wall paints, incense sticks, furniture, aircraft cabins, stored grains, and even temple prasad**,” the author, **Narasimha Reddy Donthi**, an independent public policy expert, wrote.
“ये रसायन अब दैनिक जीवन में अदृश्य रूप से प्रवेश कर चुके हैं: जैसे **दीवार पेंट, अगरबत्ती, फर्नीचर, विमान के केबिन, संग्रहीत अनाज और यहां तक कि मंदिर प्रसाद** में,” लेखक **नरसिम्हा रेड्डी डॉन्थी**, एक स्वतंत्र सार्वजनिक नीति विशेषज्ञ, ने लिखा।
- The **Insecticides Act 1968** focuses on agricultural use, with few provisions for **“ordinary use” in homes, hotels, construction sites, and transport systems**, he added.
कीटनाशक अधिनियम 1968 कृषि उपयोग पर केंद्रित है, और **घरों, होटलों, निर्माण स्थलों और परिवहन प्रणालियों में सामान्य उपयोग** के लिए बहुत कम प्रावधान हैं, उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- The **1968 Act is obsolete**, Mr. Donthi told The Hindu.
श्री डॉन्थी ने कहा कि **1968 का अधिनियम अप्रासंगिक हो चुका है।**
- “The use, misuse, and overuse have changed since **1968**. Pesticides have become **more toxic**. They are **persistent across food, water and soil**.”
“**1968 के बाद उपयोग, दुरुपयोग और अत्यधिक उपयोग बदल गया है। कीटनाशक अधिक विषैले हो गए हैं और भोजन, पानी और मिट्टी में बने रहते हैं।**”
- India uses at least **66 pesticides** that are **banned elsewhere**, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि भारत कम से कम **66 कीटनाशकों** का उपयोग करता है जो **अन्य जगहों पर प्रतिबंधित हैं।**
- The new **Pesticides Management Bill 2025** is expected to be passed in **March** this year.
नया **कीटनाशक प्रबंधन विधेयक 2025** इस वर्ष **मार्च** में पारित होने की उम्मीद है।
- It aims to reduce the **risk to the environment** and push for pesticides that are **biological and based on traditional knowledge**.
इसका उद्देश्य **पर्यावरणीय जोखिम को कम करना** और **जैविक तथा पारंपरिक ज्ञान आधारित कीटनाशकों** को बढ़ावा देना है।
- But without taking **expert inputs**, it could be worse-off than the **1968 Act**, he said.
उन्होंने कहा कि बिना **विशेषज्ञ सुझावों** के यह **1968 अधिनियम** से भी खराब हो सकता है।
- “India needs a **long-term transformation policy in agriculture**, shifting away from **‘green revolution’ packages**, which includes pesticides, in view of the **farmers’ crisis, climate change, chemical-residue laden environment**. Liability has to be **inbuilt into law**, as a policy,” Mr. Donthi said.
“भारत को **कृषि में दीर्घकालिक परिवर्तन नीति** की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें **हरित क्रांति पैकेज** से हटना होगा, जिसमें **कीटनाशक शामिल हैं, क्योंकि किसान संकट, जलवायु परिवर्तन और रासायनिक अवशेष युक्त पर्यावरण मौजूद हैं। जिम्मेदारी को कानून में अंतर्निहित किया जाना चाहिए**,” श्री डॉन्थी ने कहा।
- As the environmental activist **Rachel Carson wrote in her 1962 book Silent Spring**: “If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals eating and drinking them, taking them into the very marrow of our bones,” we had better know something about the power of the **“who’s who of pesticides”**.
जैसा कि पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता **रेचल कार्सन** ने अपनी **1962 की पुस्तक साइलेंट स्पिंग** में लिखा: “यदि हम इन



रसायनों के साथ इतने निकट रहकर उन्हें खा और पी रहे हैं, और उन्हें अपनी हड्डियों के मज्जा तक ले जा रहे हैं,” तो हमें “कीटनाशकों की शक्ति” के बारे में जानना चाहिए।

Answers to February 17 quiz:

1. Proverb related to fresh-cut grass – **Ans: Make hay while the sun shines**
 2. Time perception when you constantly monitor it – **Ans: Prospective**
 3. Part of the nervous system that regulates finger temperature – **Ans: Sympathetic**
 4. Principle that explains people spending “bad” money – **Ans: Gresham’s law**
 5. Climate phenomena denoting points of no return – **Ans: Tipping points**
- Visual: **Ethylene**
First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal

24F. QUIZ: Proverb: Make Hay While the Sun Shines

- The proverb “**Make hay while the sun shines**” means one should **use favourable opportunities at the right time** before they pass.
- In modern life, **it teaches time management, preparedness, and productivity.**
- Students should study when they have time, and societies must use periods of stability and growth to build long-term progress and resilience.

Time Perception Type: Prospective

- **Prospective time perception** occurs when a person **actively monitors time while an event is happening.**
- Psychological research explains that the **more attention given to time, the longer the duration appears.**
- This concept is widely used in **cognitive psychology and behavioural studies.** For example, during exams or waiting situations, people consciously track time, which influences judgment, planning, and performance efficiency in real-life activities.

Part of Nervous System: Sympathetic Nervous System

- The **sympathetic nervous system**, a division of the **autonomic nervous system**, regulates **involuntary body functions** including control of **blood flow to the skin and fingers**, which influences finger temperature.
- It causes **vasoconstriction in cold conditions** to conserve body heat and **vasodilation in warm conditions** to release heat, maintaining thermal balance.
- This mechanism is essential for **thermoregulation and homeostasis.** Scientific and medical studies confirm that sympathetic nerve activity directly controls peripheral blood vessels, thereby regulating skin and finger temperature efficiently.

Principle: Gresham’s Law

- **Gresham’s Law** states that “**bad money drives out good money**” when both circulate at the same face value by law.
- People tend to **spend money with lower intrinsic value** (debased or overvalued currency) and **hoard money with higher intrinsic value** (full-value coins or stable currency).
- The principle, discussed in standard economics texts, explains currency behaviour during **inflation, debasement, or parallel currency circulation.**
- It highlights how public confidence and legal tender rules influence spending, saving patterns, and overall monetary stability in an economy.

Climate Phenomenon: Tipping Points

- **Tipping points** in climate science refer to **critical thresholds where small changes can trigger irreversible and self-reinforcing environmental shifts.**
- Once crossed, systems such as **ice sheets, rainforests, or ocean currents** may undergo rapid transformation, even if global temperatures stabilise later.
- Scientific assessments, including findings reported in international climate research and recognised in environmental studies curricula, warn that exceeding certain warming levels increases these risks.
- Tipping points highlight the urgency of mitigation policies to prevent long-term ecological, economic, and social consequences.



GS Paper III: IS

TOPICS COVERED

24 February 2026

24F Centre unveils policy to tackle terror threats

केंद्र ने आतंकवादी खतरों से निपटने के लिए नीति का अनावरण किया

Centre unveils policy to tackle terror threats

PRAHAAR states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts — water, land and air; capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, it adds; policy aims at criminalising all terrorist acts and denying terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funding, weapons and safe havens, says Union Home Ministry

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Monday released the country's first-ever anti-terror policy, emphasising that other than terror sponsored from across the border, "criminal hackers and nation states continue to target India through cyber-attacks".

The policy — titled PRAHAAR — has been uploaded on the Ministry's website.

It states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts — water, land and air — and that capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, including power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy, from both state and non-state actors. The Hindu first reported

on December 23, 2025, that the National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy had been finalised and would be released soon. The policy underlines that "India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation".

Cross-border terrorism However, it notes that India has been affected by "sponsored terrorism" from across the border, with "jihadist terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations" continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks. "India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and IS, which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells," it says, adding that extremists operating from foreign countries



Assessing threats: India has been affected by 'sponsored terrorism', the policy says. They have hatched conspiracies to promote terrorism. "Their handlers from across the border frequently use the latest technologies, including the use of drones, for facilitating terror-related activities and attacks in Punjab and J&K. Increasingly, terrorist groups are engaging organised criminal networks for

logistics and recruitment to execute and facilitate terror strikes in India," the policy says. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had announced on November 7, 2024, that a National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy was being drafted to fight terrorism and its ecosystem.

Following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgalam terror incident, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted meetings with anti-terror units of all States and apprised them of the measures aimed at preventing and pre-empting such attacks.

The policy further states that for propaganda, communication, funding and guiding terror attacks, these terror groups use social media platforms as well as 'instant messaging applications' and technological advancements such as encryption, dark web, crypto wallets etc, enabling them to operate anonymously.

"Disrupting/Intercepting terrorist efforts to access and use CBRNED (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive, Digital) materials remains a challenge for

Counter Terrorism (CT) agencies. The threat of state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes remains another area of concern," it flags.

As a way forward, the policy suggests that to make appropriate cases against the perpetrators of acts of terrorism, there is a need to associate legal experts at every stage of investigation.

"Terrorist groups based outside (from abroad) nowadays use the infrastructure, logistics and terrain knowledge of local outfits for launching attacks. National actions, coupled with international and regional cooperation, are key elements in addressing the transnational terrorism challenge," it emphasises.

The MHA said Indian intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been

continuously working to prevent the recruitment of Indian youth by extremist groups.

Underscoring the role of community and religious leaders, the policy states that moderate preachers and NGOs are engaged to spread awareness about the adverse consequences and impacts of radicalisation and extremist violence.

The Ministry said there is a move to establish a uniform anti-terrorism structure across States, as standardisation of processes and procedures would ensure similar and synergistic responses to terror attack.

It said that the policy aims to criminalise all terrorists acts and deny access to terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

24F. Centre unveils policy to tackle terror threats

केंद्र ने आतंकवादी खतरों से निपटने के लिए नीति का अनावरण किया

- **PRAHAAR states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts — water, land and air; capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy,** it adds.

PRAHAAR में कहा गया है कि भारत को जल, थल और वायु—तीनों मोर्चों पर आतंकवादी खतरों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है; साथ ही यह भी जोड़ा गया है कि अर्थव्यवस्था के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों की सुरक्षा के लिए क्षमताएँ विकसित की गई हैं।

- The policy aims at **criminalising all terrorist acts** and denying terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to **funding, weapons and safe havens**, says the **Union Home Ministry**. यह नीति सभी आतंकवादी कृत्यों को अपराध घोषित करने तथा आतंकवादियों, उनके वित्तपोषकों और समर्थकों को धन, हथियार और सुरक्षित ठिकानों तक पहुँच से वंचित करने का लक्ष्य रखती है, ऐसा केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने कहा।
- The Union Home Ministry on Monday released the country's **first-ever anti-terror policy**, emphasising that other than terror sponsored from across the border, **criminal hackers and nation states** continue to target India through **cyber-attacks**.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को देश की पहली आतंकवाद-रोधी नीति जारी की, जिसमें इस बात पर जोर दिया गया कि सीमा पार प्रायोजित आतंक के अलावा **आपराधिक हैकर और राष्ट्र-राज्य भी साइबर हमलों के माध्यम से भारत को निशाना बनाते रहते हैं।**

- The policy — titled **PRAHAAR** — has been uploaded on the Ministry's website. **PRAHAAR** नामक इस नीति को मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया गया है।
- It states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts — **water, land and air** — and that capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, including **power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy, from both state and non-state actors**.

इसमें कहा गया है कि भारत को जल, थल और वायु—तीनों मोर्चों पर आतंकवादी खतरों का सामना करना पड़



रहा है और राज्य तथा गैर-राज्य तत्वों से विद्युत, रेलवे, विमानन, बंदरगाह, रक्षा, अंतरिक्ष और परमाणु ऊर्जा सहित अर्थव्यवस्था के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों की सुरक्षा के लिए क्षमताएँ विकसित की गई हैं।

- The Hindu first reported on **December 23, 2025**, that the **National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy** had been finalised and would be released soon.
द हिंदू ने सबसे पहले **23 दिसंबर 2025** को रिपोर्ट किया था कि **राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद-रोधी नीति और रणनीति** को अंतिम रूप दे दिया गया है और इसे जल्द जारी किया जाएगा।
- The policy underlines that **“India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation”**.
नीति इस बात को रेखांकित करती है कि **“भारत आतंकवाद को किसी विशेष धर्म, जातीयता, राष्ट्रियता या सभ्यता से नहीं जोड़ता”**।

Cross-border terrorism सीमा पार आतंकवाद

- However, it notes that India has been affected by **“sponsored terrorism”** from across the border, with **“Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations”** continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks.
हालाँकि, इसमें कहा गया है कि भारत **सीमा पार से प्रायोजित आतंकवाद** से प्रभावित रहा है, जहाँ **“जिहादी आतंकी संगठन और उनके मुखौटा संगठन”** लगातार आतंकवादी हमलों की योजना बनाने, समन्वय करने, सुविधा प्रदान करने और उन्हें अंजाम देने में लगे हुए हैं।
- **“India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and IS, which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells,”** it says, adding that extremists operating from foreign countries have hatched conspiracies to promote terrorism.
इसमें कहा गया है कि **“भारत अल-कायदा और आईएस जैसे वैश्विक आतंकी संगठनों के निशाने पर रहा है, जो स्लीपर सेल के माध्यम से देश में हिंसा भड़काने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं,”** और यह भी जोड़ा गया है कि विदेशों से संचालित चरमपंथियों ने आतंकवाद को बढ़ावा देने की साजिशें रची हैं।
- Increasingly, **terrorist groups are engaging organised criminal networks** for logistics and recruitment to execute and facilitate terror strikes in India,” the policy says.
नीति में कहा गया है कि आतंकवादी समूह भारत में आतंकवादी हमलों को अंजाम देने और उन्हें सुगम बनाने के लिए तेजी से **संगठित अपराधिक नेटवर्क** को लॉजिस्टिक्स और भर्ती के लिए शामिल कर रहे हैं।
- The Ministry said **there is a move to establish a uniform anti-terrorism structure across States, as standardisation of processes and procedures would ensure similar and synergistic responses to terror attacks.**
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि राज्यों में **एक समान आतंकवाद-रोधी ढाँचा** स्थापित करने की दिशा में कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि प्रक्रियाओं और कार्यविधियों का मानकीकरण आतंकवादी हमलों पर **समान और समन्वित प्रतिक्रिया** सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- It said that the **policy aims to criminalise all terrorist acts and deny access to terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.**
इसमें कहा गया है कि नीति का उद्देश्य सभी आतंकवादी कृत्यों को अपराध घोषित करना और आतंकवादियों, उनके वित्तपोषकों और समर्थकों को **धन, हथियार और सुरक्षित ठिकानों** तक पहुँच से वंचित करना है।
- The policy flags that **Counter Terrorism (CT) agencies** face the threat of **state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes.**
नीति में यह चेतावनी दी गई है कि **आतंकवाद-रोधी (CT) एजेंसियों** के सामने **राज्य और गैर-राज्य तत्वों द्वारा ड्रोन और रोबोटिक्स के घातक उपयोग** का खतरा बना हुआ है।
- **As a way forward, the policy suggests that to make appropriate cases against the perpetrators of acts of terrorism, there is a need to associate legal experts at every stage of investigation.**
आगे की राह के रूप में नीति सुझाव देती है कि आतंकवादी कृत्यों के अपराधियों के खिलाफ ठोस मामले बनाने के लिए **जांच के हर चरण में कानूनी विशेषज्ञों को शामिल करना** आवश्यक है।
- **“Terrorist groups based outside nowadays use the infrastructure, logistics and terrain knowledge of local outfits for launching attacks.**
नीति में कहा गया है कि **“विदेश आधारित आतंकवादी समूह आजकल हमले करने के लिए स्थानीय संगठनों के ढाँचे, लॉजिस्टिक्स और भौगोलिक जानकारी का उपयोग करते हैं।**
- National actions, coupled with **international and regional cooperation**, are key elements in addressing the **transnational terrorism challenge**,” it emphasises.



इसमें इस बात पर जोर दिया गया है कि **राष्ट्रीय कार्रवाईयों**, साथ ही **अंतरराष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग, अंतरराष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद की चुनौती** से निपटने के प्रमुख तत्व हैं।

- The policy further states that for **propaganda, communication, funding and guiding terror attacks**, these terror groups use **social media platforms, instant messaging applications, and technological advancements** such as **encryption, dark web and crypto wallets**, enabling them to operate anonymously.

नीति में आगे कहा गया है कि **प्रचार, संचार, वित्तपोषण और आतंकी हमलों का मार्गदर्शन** करने के लिए आतंकी समूह **सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म, इंस्टेंट मैसेजिंग ऐप्स, तथा एन्क्रिप्शन, डार्क वेब और क्रिप्टो वॉलेट** जैसी तकनीकी प्रगति का उपयोग करते हैं, जिससे वे गुमनाम रूप से कार्य कर पाते हैं।

- It also flags that disrupting or intercepting terrorist efforts to access **CBRNED (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive, Digital) materials** remains a challenge for CT agencies.

नीति में यह भी कहा गया है कि आतंकवादियों द्वारा **CBRNED (रासायनिक, जैविक, विकिरणीय, परमाणु, विस्फोटक, डिजिटल) सामग्री** तक पहुँच बनाने के प्रयासों को बाधित या रोकना आतंकवाद-रोधी एजेंसियों के लिए एक चुनौती बना हुआ है।

- The **threat of state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes** remains another area of concern.

ड्रोन और रोबोटिक्स के घातक उपयोग को लेकर राज्य और गैर-राज्य तत्वों से उत्पन्न खतरा भी चिंता का एक और क्षेत्र बना हुआ है।

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS(GS Paper IV and Essay)

TOPICS COVERED

24 February 2026

24F Rahul, 'Mohammad' Deepak hit it out, Cong. leader to join 'Hulk' gym
राहुल, 'मोहम्मद' दीपक की मुलाकात, कांग्रेस नेता 'हल्क' जिम जाँइन करेंगे

Rahul, 'Mohammad' Deepak hit it out, Cong. leader to join 'Hulk' gym

GS IV: Ethics
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday met Deepak Kumar from Uttarakhand who confronted right-wing activists when they allegedly harassed a 71-year-old Muslim garment seller over the name of his shop.

Mr. Kumar had identified himself as 'Mohammad' Deepak to the men who had pressured the garment seller to change the name of his shop on Republic Day.

The meeting took place at 10 Janpath, the residence of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi in the national capital. Mr. Kumar was accompanied by his friend Vijay Rawat, who supported him during the confrontation.

'An example of unity'
The Congress posted pictures of the meeting on its official X handle and hailed Mr. Kumar for "setting an example of unity, brother-



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with gym owner 'Mohammad' Deepak in New Delhi on Monday. @INCINDIAx

hood, and courage — one that will inspire every young person in the country to muster the courage to fight against injustice and hatred."

"Do Bhai, Mohabbat Ke Sipahi (two brothers, soldiers of love)," read the caption of a picture showing Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kumar hugging each other.

Speaking to the media after meeting Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Kumar said that the Congress leader had extended solidarity with him and consoled his family

which feared for his life after his confrontation with the right-wing 'goons'.

"Rahul ji said that he will come to Kotdwar and take membership in my gym... He assured me that I am not alone in this fight. He also gave me courage saying that whatever I have done was right," Mr. Kumar said.

Mr. Kumar, who runs the Hulk gym in Kotdwar town of Uttarakhand, said that the incident on Republic Day, registration of a first information report ov-

er it, and subsequent protests by Vishva Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal members have taken a toll on his business. Mr. Kumar also said that he is now getting support from across the country.

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi had expressed support to Mr. Kumar. In a social media post, he had said that the episode had reflected the values of equality and unity, both central to India's ethos. He had said that the spirit of harmony and courage should be reflected among the country's youth.

'Unite Humanity March'
Two days before meeting the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kumar and Mr. Rawat had released a video on Instagram sharing their plan to organise a nationwide march which they named *"Insanayat Jado Yatra* (Unite Humanity March)".

"I am getting immense love from you people... Let me know what do you think about our plan," Mr. Kumar said in the video.

24F. Rahul, 'Mohammad' Deepak hit it out, Cong. leader to join 'Hulk' gym

राहुल, 'मोहम्मद' दीपक की मुलाकात, कांग्रेस नेता 'हल्क' जिम जाँइन करेंगे

- Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha **Rahul Gandhi** on Monday met **Deepak Kumar** from **Uttarakhand** who confronted right-wing activists when they allegedly harassed a **71-year-old Muslim garment seller** over the name of his shop.

लोकसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष **राहुल गांधी** ने सोमवार को उत्तराखंड के **दीपक कुमार** से मुलाकात की, जिन्होंने कथित तौर पर दुकान के नाम को लेकर **71 वर्षीय मुस्लिम कपड़ा विक्रेता** को परेशान करने वाले दक्षिणपंथी कार्यकर्ताओं का सामना किया था।

- Mr. Kumar had identified himself as **'Mohammad' Deepak** to the men who had pressured the garment seller to change the name of his shop on **Republic Day**.

श्री कुमार ने **गणतंत्र दिवस** पर कपड़ा विक्रेता पर दुकान का नाम बदलने का दबाव डालने वाले लोगों के सामने स्वयं को

'मोहम्मद' दीपक बताया था।

- "setting an example of **unity, brotherhood, and courage** — one that will inspire every young person in the country to muster the courage to fight against **injustice and hatred**." **कांग्रेस** ने अपने आधिकारिक **एक्स हैडल** पर मुलाकात की तस्वीरें साझा कीं और श्री कुमार की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने **एकता, भाईचारे और साहस** का उदाहरण पेश किया है, जो देश के हर युवा को **अन्याय और नफरत** के खिलाफ लड़ने का साहस देगा।



- Mr. Kumar, who runs the **Hulk gym** in **Kotdwar town of Uttarakhand**, said that the incident on **Republic Day**, registration of a **first information report**, and subsequent protests by **Vishva Hindu Parishad** and **Bajrang Dal** members have taken a toll on his business.
उत्तराखंड के कोटद्वार शहर में हल्क जिम चलाने वाले श्री कुमार ने कहा कि गणतंत्र दिवस की घटना, उस पर प्राथमिकी दर्ज होना, और बाद में विश्व हिंदू परिषद व बजरंग दल के सदस्यों के विरोध प्रदर्शन से उनके व्यवसाय पर असर पड़ा है।
- He had said that the spirit of **harmony and courage** should be reflected among the country's **youth**.
उन्होंने कहा था कि सद्भाव और साहस की भावना देश के युवाओं में दिखनी चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS