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Women cricketers steal the show on Aces night

Double delight for shooting prodigy Suruchi as she shares the Sportswoman of the Year honour with weightlifter Mirabai, and also claims the Young Achiever of the Year (Girl) award

ACES AWARDS

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

The eighth edition of the Sportstar Aces Awards was held at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel here on Friday, celebrating the athletes, teams and defining moments that shaped the past year in Indian sport.

If the evening had a unifying thread, it was the journey of women's cricket in India and the generations that carried it forward.

Ten former captains of the national side — Diana Edulji, Shubhangi Kulkarni, Sudha Shah, Nilima Jogalekar, Sandhya Agarwal, Pramila Bhat, Purnima Rau, Chanderkanta Kaul, Anju Jain and Jhulan Goswami — were honoured.

Unprecedented heights Their felicitations came at a moment when the women's game in India has reached unprecedented heights.

The national team captured its maiden ODI World Cup title last November, while India soon added another landmark by winning the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup.

Reflecting on the journey of women's sport in India, Nirmla Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu



Galaxy of stars: The award winners in the various categories and jury members strike a pose after the celebration of sporting excellence. R.V. MOORTHY

Group, paid tribute to the pioneers who laid the foundation for the present generation.

"Long before the spotlight arrived, pioneers like P.T. Usha, Karnam Malleswari, Diana Edulji and Shantha Rangaswamy carried the dreams of Indian women's sport on their shoulders," she said. "They competed for India in an era with limited infrastructure, little recognition and almost no financial support. Yet they persevered, driven purely by passion and pride."

She added that their courage created the path-

way for the progress visible today, noting that Sportstar too has sought to honour that spirit through its work.

"For 48 years, Sportstar has carried forward that legacy in the world of sport, celebrating not just victories but the spirit, sacrifice and perseverance that define great athletes."

Union of past & present Sportstar editor Ayon Sen Gupta said the awards evening was as much about remembering those who built the foundations of Indian sport as it was about celebrating its present

champions. "At Sportstar, we have been fortunate to chronicle the journey of Indian sport and of Indian women in sport since 1978," he said. "Many of these pioneers have appeared in our pages, on our covers and in the iconic centre spreads that generations of sports fans have grown up with."

Two stalwarts of Indian sport were recognised with Lifetime Achievement honours during the evening.

Former India Test captain Nari Contractor was celebrated for a career defined by skill, leadership and remarkable resilience,

while hurdler M.D. Valsamma was honoured for her lasting contribution to Indian athletics.

Contractor's moment on stage proved particularly emotional. The award was presented by Sunil Gavaskar, who spoke movingly about how Contractor had inspired him early in his career.

As Gavaskar recalled those memories, his voice briefly faltered, drawing a warm response from the audience. Contractor received a standing ovation.

Australian great Glenn McGrath was honoured with the International Icon

Award, presented by Sportstar Aces Awards jury chair Gavaskar, in recognition of a career that helped define an era of fast bowling.

One to cherish

Shooting prodigy Suruchi Singh enjoyed a memorable evening, completing a double. She was named Sportswoman of the Year (Olympic Sports), sharing the honour with Olympic weightlifting medalist Mirabai Chanu, and also claimed the Young Achiever of the Year (Girl) award.

Deepti Sharma was named Sportswoman of the Year in Team Sports,

recognising her influence in India's World Cup triumph.

Among the evening's most celebrated figures were boxing legend Mary Kom and Olympic wrestling medalist Sakshi Malik, who received the Ace of Aces award for their enduring impact on Indian sport.

The Award of Excellence recognised three athletes: Woman Grandmaster Tanja Sachdev, table tennis star Manika Batra and former Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, each of whom has played a vital role in raising

the global profile of Indian sport. Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the Comeback of the Year award, while GMR Sports received the award for Best Corporate for the Promotion of Sport.

IndianOil Corporation Ltd. was recognised as the Best PSU for the Promotion of Sport, the International Institute of Sports & Management was named Best Educational Institution for the Promotion of Sport, and Project Nani Kali received the Sports for Social Good award while Bihar won the Best State for Promotion of Sport.

14Mar. Women cricketers steal the show on Aces night एसेस नाइट पर महिला क्रिकेटर्स ने शो चुरा लिया

- Double delight for shooting prodigy Suruchi as she shares the Sportswoman of the Year honour with weightlifter Mirabai, and also claims the Young Achiever of the Year (Girl) award

शूटिंग प्रतिभा सुरुची के लिए दोहरी खुशी, क्योंकि उन्होंने वेटलिफ्टर मीराबाई के साथ स्पोर्ट्सवुमन ऑफ द ईयर का सम्मान साझा किया और यंग अचीवर ऑफ द ईयर (गर्ल) पुरस्कार भी जीता

- The eighth edition of the Sportstar Aces Awards was held at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel here on Friday, celebrating the athletes, teams and defining moments that shaped the past year in Indian sport.

स्पोर्टस्टार एसेस अवॉर्ड्स का आठवां संस्करण शुक्रवार को ताज महल पैलेस होटल में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें भारतीय खेलों के पिछले वर्ष को आकार देने वाले खिलाड़ियों, टीमों और महत्वपूर्ण क्षणों का जश्न मनाया गया।

- If the evening had a unifying thread, it was the journey of women's cricket in India and the generations that carried it forward.

यदि इस शाम का कोई मुख्य विषय था, तो वह भारत में महिला क्रिकेट की यात्रा और उसे आगे बढ़ाने वाली पीढ़ियां थीं।

- Ten former captains of the national side — Diana Edulji, Shubhangi Kulkarni, Sudha Shah, Nilima Jogalekar, Sandhya Agarwal, Pramila Bhat, Purnima Rau, Chanderkanta Kaul, Anju Jain and Jhulan Goswami — were honoured.

राष्ट्रीय टीम की दस पूर्व कप्तानों — डायना एडुलजी, शुभांगी कुलकर्णी, सुधा शाह, नीलिमा जोगलेकर, संध्या अग्रवाल, प्रमिला भट्ट, पूर्णिमा राउ, चंद्रकांता कौल, अंजू जैन और झूलन गोस्वामी — को सम्मानित किया गया।

Unprecedented heights
अभूतपूर्व उंचाइयां



- Their felicitation came at a moment when the **women's game in India** has reached **unprecedented heights**.
उनका सम्मान ऐसे समय पर हुआ जब **भारत में महिला खेल अभूतपूर्व ऊंचाइयों** पर पहुंच चुका है।
- The national team captured its maiden **ODI World Cup title** last November.
राष्ट्रीय टीम ने पिछले नवंबर अपना पहला **वनडे विश्व कप खिताब** जीता।
- India soon added another landmark by winning the inaugural **Blind Women's T20 World Cup**.
भारत ने जल्द ही पहला **ब्लाइंड महिला T20 विश्व कप** जीतकर एक और उपलब्धि हासिल की।
- Reflecting on the journey of **women's sport in India**, **Nirmala Lakshman**, Chairperson of **The Hindu Group**, paid tribute to the pioneers.
भारत में महिला खेलों की यात्रा पर विचार करते हुए, **द हिंदू समूह** की अध्यक्ष **निर्मला लक्ष्मण** ने अग्रदूतों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।
- "Long before the spotlight arrived, pioneers like **P.T. Usha, Karnam Malleswari, Diana Edulji and Shantha Rangaswamy** carried the dreams of Indian women's sport," she said.
"प्रसिद्धि मिलने से बहुत पहले, **पी.टी. उषा, कर्णम मल्लेश्वरी, डायना एडुलजी और शांथा रंगास्वामी** जैसे अग्रदूतों ने भारतीय महिला खेलों के सपनों को आगे बढ़ाया," उन्होंने कहा।
- "They competed for India in an era with **limited infrastructure**, little recognition and almost no financial support."
"उन्होंने ऐसे दौर में भारत के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा की जब **बुनियादी ढांचा सीमित**, पहचान कम और वित्तीय समर्थन लगभग नहीं था।"
- "Yet they persevered, driven purely by **passion and pride**."
"फिर भी उन्होंने **जुनून और गर्व** से प्रेरित होकर संघर्ष जारी रखा।"
- She added that their courage created the pathway for the progress visible today.
उन्होंने कहा कि उनके साहस ने आज दिखाई देने वाली प्रगति का मार्ग बनाया।
- "For **48 years**, **Sportstar** has carried forward that legacy in the world of sport."
"**48 वर्षों** से, **स्पोर्टस्टार** ने खेल जगत में इस विरासत को आगे बढ़ाया है।"

Union of past & present अतीत और वर्तमान का संगम

- **Sportstar editor Ayon Sengupta** said the awards evening celebrated both past and present champions.
स्पोर्टस्टार के संपादक अयन सेनगुप्ता ने कहा कि यह पुरस्कार समारोह अतीत और वर्तमान दोनों के चैंपियनों का जश्न है।
- Two stalwarts of Indian sport were recognised with **Lifetime Achievement honours**.
भारतीय खेलों के दो दिग्गजों को **लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट सम्मान** दिया गया।
- Former India Test captain **Nari Contractor** and hurdler **M.D. Valsamma** were honoured.
पूर्व भारतीय टेस्ट कप्तान **नारी कॉन्ट्रैक्टर** और धाविका **एम.डी. वालसम्मा** को सम्मानित किया गया।
- The award was presented by **Sunil Gavaskar**.
यह पुरस्कार **सुनील गावस्कर** द्वारा प्रदान किया गया।
- Australian great **Glenn McGrath** received the **International Icon Award**.
ऑस्ट्रेलिया के महान खिलाड़ी **ग्लेन मैकग्रा** को **इंटरनेशनल आइकन अवॉर्ड** मिला।

One to cherish यादगार पल

- Shooting prodigy **Suruchi Singh** enjoyed a memorable evening.
शूटिंग प्रतिभा **सुरुचि सिंह** ने एक यादगार शाम बिताई।
- She was named **Sportswoman of the Year (Olympic Sports)** along with **Mirabai Chanu**.
उन्हें **स्पोर्ट्सवुमन ऑफ द ईयर (ओलंपिक खेल)** चुना गया, जिसे उन्होंने **मीराबाई चानू** के साथ साझा किया।
- She also won the **Young Achiever of the Year (Girl)** award.
उन्होंने **यंग अचीवर ऑफ द ईयर (गर्ल)** पुरस्कार भी जीता।
- **Deepti Sharma** was named Sportswoman of the Year in **Team Sports**.
दीप्ति शर्मा को **टीम खेलों** में स्पोर्ट्सवुमन ऑफ द ईयर चुना गया।



- Long jumper **Murali Sreeshankar** won the **Comeback of the Year** award.
लंबी कूद खिलाड़ी **मुरली श्रीशंकर** ने **कमबैक ऑफ द ईयर** पुरस्कार जीता।
- **GMR Sports** received the award for **Best Corporate for Promotion of Sport**.
GMR स्पोर्ट्स को खेल प्रोत्साहन के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ कॉर्पोरेट** पुरस्कार मिला।
- **IndianOil Corporation Ltd.** was recognised as the **Best PSU for Promotion of Sport**.
इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड को खेल प्रोत्साहन के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ पीएसयू** के रूप में सम्मानित किया गया।
- **The International Institute of Sports & Management** was named **Best Educational Institution for Promotion of Sport**.
इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ स्पोर्ट्स एंड मैनेजमेंट को खेल प्रोत्साहन के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ शैक्षणिक संस्थान** घोषित किया गया।
- **Project Nanhi Kali** received the **Sports for Social Good** award.
प्रोजेक्ट नन्ही कली को **स्पोर्ट्स फॉर सोशल गुड अवॉर्ड** मिला।
- **Bihar** won the **Best State for Promotion of Sport**.
बिहार ने खेल प्रोत्साहन के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य** का पुरस्कार जीता।

Contractor and Valsamma honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards



Lauding the legends: A proud Contractor and Valsamma with their trophies and special gifts in the presence of cricketing greats Gavaskar and Diana and the MD of Amul, Jayen Mehta. VAIJAY SONER, EMMANUEL YOGIE

PCS Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Former India captain Nari Contractor was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award (Male) at the Sportstar Aces Awards 2026 on Friday, an evening that celebrated not only a distinguished career but also one of Indian cricket's most enduring stories of courage.

As Contractor walked on stage to receive the honour from Sunil Gavaskar and Jayen Mehta the packed ballroom rose for a rapturous standing ovation.

Nariman Jamshedji 'Nari' Contractor was one of India's finest opening batters of the late 1950s and early 1960s. A stylish left-hander with compact technique and immense resolve, he made his Test debut in 1955 and went on to play 31 Tests, scoring 1,611 runs. In 1961, aged just 26, Contractor became India's youngest Test captain at the time.

Under his leadership, India secured a historic series victory over England

in 1961-62, a landmark moment in the country's cricketing journey.

Yet Contractor's career is remembered as much for his bravery as for his runs. During India's tour of the West Indies in 1962, he suffered a life-threatening injury after being struck on the head by a bouncer from fast bowler Charlie Griffith. The blow fractured his skull and required multiple surgeries.

Contractor survived after receiving several blood transfusions, including one from West Indies cap-

tain Frank Worrell.

Even after such trauma, Contractor returned to the game he loved, resuming domestic cricket and building a fine First Class career. Across 138 matches, he scored 8,611 runs at an average close to 40, including 22 centuries. For Gavaskar, presenting the award carried deep personal meaning. "For me it is an incredible honour to be able to present this award to Nari bhai," Gavaskar said, his voice thick with emotion.

Earlier, former Indian hurdler M.D. Valsamma

Sportstar Aces Awards Winners 2026

JURY AWARDS	Amul SPORTSTAR ACES 2026	POPULAR CHOICE AWARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sportsman Of The Year (Olympic Sports): Samrat Rana • Sportswoman Of The Year (Olympic Sports): Mirshah Channu, Suruchi Singh • Sportsman Of The Year (Non-Olympic Sports): R. Praggnanandhaa • Sportswoman Of The Year (Non-Olympic Sports): Jyothi Surekha • Sportsman Of The Year (Team Sports): Shubman Gill • Sportsman Of The Year (Para Sports): Sheetal Devi • Special Jury Recognition: Preethi Pal • Coach Of The Year: Amol Muzumdar, Naval Singh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor Of The Roots: Pritam Siwach • Best Corporate For Promotion Of Sport: GMR Sports • Best PSU For Promotion Of Sport: IndianOil Corporation Ltd. • Best Educational Institution For Promotion Of Sport: International Institute of Sports & Management • Best State For Promotion Of Sport: Bihar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports For Social Good: Project Nanhi Kali • Lifetime Achievement Award (Male): Nari Contractor • Lifetime Achievement Award (Female): M.D. Valsamma • Young Achiever Of The Year (Boy): Jonathan Gavin Antony • Young Achiever Of The Year (Girl): Suruchi Singh • Captain Of The Year: Harmanspreet Kaur • Special Recognition Award: Indian Blind Women's Cricket Team • Award Of Excellence: Tania Sachdev, Manika Batra and Rani Rampal • Ace Of Aces: Sakshi Malik, M.C. Mary Kom • International Icon: Glenn McGrath • Comeback Of The Year: Murali Sreeshankar

was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award (Female), recognising her pioneering role in Indian athletics. The Kannur-born athlete emerged as one of India's leading track and field competitors in the

late 1970s and 1980s. She created history at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, winning the gold medal with a time of 58.47 seconds that set both Asian and national records.

(The 2026 Sportstar Aces Awards are presented by Amul, co-presented by Casagrand in association with SRM Institute of Science and Technology, SBI, Christ University, Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC, Next

IAS, Indian Softball Cricket Foundation, Jaguar And Co. Pvt. Ltd. are associate partners. Reva University is the education partner. Blue Star is the cooling partner while Times Now is the telecast partner).

14Mar. Contractor and Valsamma honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards कॉन्ट्रैक्टर और वालसम्मा को लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवॉर्ड से सम्मानित किया गया

- Former India captain **Nari Contractor** was honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award (Male)** at the **Sportstar Aces Awards 2026** on Friday, an evening that celebrated not only a distinguished career but also one of Indian cricket's most enduring stories of **courage**.
पूर्व भारतीय कप्तान **नारी कॉन्ट्रैक्टर** को शुक्रवार को **स्पोर्टस्टार एसेस अवॉर्ड्स 2026** में **लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवॉर्ड (पुरुष)** से सम्मानित किया गया, यह एक ऐसी शाम थी जिसने न केवल एक शानदार करियर बल्कि भारतीय क्रिकेट की सबसे प्रेरणादायक **साहस** की कहानियों में से एक का जश्न मनाया।
- As Contractor walked on stage to receive the honour from **Sunil Gavaskar** and **Jayen Mehta**, the packed ballroom rose for a **standing ovation**.
जैसे ही कॉन्ट्रैक्टर **सुनील गावस्कर** और **जयेन मेहता** से सम्मान लेने मंच पर पहुंचे, भरे हुए हॉल में लोगों ने **खड़े होकर तालियां बजाईं**।
- **Nariman Jamshedji 'Nari' Contractor** was one of India's finest **opening batters** of the late 1950s and early 1960s.
नरीमन जमशेदजी 'नारी' कॉन्ट्रैक्टर 1950 के दशक के अंत और 1960 के दशक की शुरुआत के भारत के सर्वश्रेष्ठ **ओपनिंग बल्लेबाजों** में से एक थे।



- A stylish **left-hander** with compact technique and immense resolve, he made his **Test debut in 1955** and went on to play **31 Tests**, scoring **1,611 runs**.
एक शानदार बाएं हाथ के बल्लेबाज, सटीक तकनीक और दृढ़ संकल्प के साथ, उन्होंने 1955 में टेस्ट डेब्यू किया और 31 टेस्ट खेले, जिसमें 1,611 रन बनाए।
- In **1961**, aged just **26**, Contractor became India's **youngest Test captain** at the time.
1961 में, मात्र 26 वर्ष की आयु में, कॉन्ट्रेक्टर भारत के उस समय के सबसे युवा टेस्ट कप्तान बने।
- Under his leadership, India secured a historic **series victory over England in 1961-62**.
उनके नेतृत्व में, भारत ने 1961-62 में इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ ऐतिहासिक श्रृंखला जीत हासिल की।
- Yet Contractor's career is remembered as much for his **bravery** as for his runs.
फिर भी कॉन्ट्रेक्टर का करियर उनके रनों जितना ही उनके साहस के लिए याद किया जाता है।
- During India's tour of the **West Indies in 1962**, he suffered a **life-threatening injury** after being struck by a bouncer from **Charlie Griffith**.
1962 में वेस्ट इंडीज दौरे के दौरान, उन्हें चार्ली ग्रिफिथ की बाउंसर से लगने पर जानलेवा चोट लगी।
- The blow fractured his **skull** and required multiple surgeries.
इस चोट से उनकी खोपड़ी टूट गई और कई सर्जरी करनी पड़ी।
- Contractor survived after receiving several **blood transfusions**, including one from **Frank Worrell**.
कॉन्ट्रेक्टर कई ब्लड ट्रांसफ्यूजन के बाद बचे, जिसमें एक फ्रैंक वॉरेल से मिला था।
- Even after such trauma, Contractor returned to the game and built a fine **First Class career**.
इतनी बड़ी चोट के बाद भी, कॉन्ट्रेक्टर खेल में लौटे और एक शानदार प्रथम श्रेणी करियर बनाया।
- Across **138 matches**, he scored **8,611 runs** with **22 centuries**.
138 मैचों में, उन्होंने 8,611 रन बनाए, जिसमें 22 शतक शामिल हैं।
- For Gavaskar, presenting the award carried deep **personal meaning**.
गावस्कर के लिए यह पुरस्कार देना एक गहरा व्यक्तिगत महत्व रखता था।
- Earlier, former Indian hurdler **M.D. Valsamma** was honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award (Female)**.
इससे पहले, पूर्व भारतीय धाविका एम.डी. वालसम्मा को लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवॉर्ड (महिला) से सम्मानित किया गया।
- The **Kannur-born athlete** emerged as one of India's leading **track and field competitors** in the late 1970s and 1980s.
कन्नूर में जन्मी खिलाड़ी 1970 और 1980 के दशक में भारत की प्रमुख ट्रैक एंड फील्ड एथलीट बनीं।
- She created history at the **1982 Asian Games in New Delhi**, winning **gold medal** with a time of **58.47 seconds**.
उन्होंने 1982 एशियाई खेल (नई दिल्ली) में इतिहास रचा, जहां उन्होंने 58.47 सेकंड के समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता।
- (The **2026 Sportstar Aces Awards** are presented by **Amul**, co-presented by **Casagrand** in association with **SRM Institute of Science and Technology**.
(2026 स्पोर्ट्स स्टार एसेस अवॉर्ड्स को अमूल द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया गया, और कैसाग्रैंड द्वारा सह-प्रस्तुत किया गया, एसआरएम इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी के सहयोग से।
- **SBI, Christ University, Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC, Next IAS, Indian Softball Cricket Foundation, Jaquar And Co. Pvt. Ltd.** are associate partners.
एसबीआई, क्राइस्ट यूनिवर्सिटी, भारत पेट्रोलियम, एलआईसी, तेलंगाना स्पोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी, एनटीपीसी, नेक्स्ट IAS, इंडियन सॉफ्टबॉल क्रिकेट फाउंडेशन, जैकार एंड कंपनी प्रा. लि. सहयोगी साझेदार हैं।
- **Reva University** is the education partner.
रेवा यूनिवर्सिटी शिक्षा साझेदार है।
- **Blue Star** is the cooling partner while **Times Now** is the telecast partner).
ब्लू स्टार कूलिंग पार्टनर है, जबकि टाइम्स नाउ टेलीकास्ट पार्टनर है।

GS Paper II: Polity,

TOPICS COVERED

14 March 2026

14Mar

Lokpal asks SC to clarify on procedure for grant of sanctions
लोकपाल ने मंजूरी देने की प्रक्रिया पर स्पष्टीकरण के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट से अनुरोध



किया

Lokpal asks SC to clarify on procedure for grant of sanctions

CS II: Polity
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to clarify the procedure for the Lokpal to grant sanction in corruption complaints, after the top anti-graft ombudsman was criticised by the Delhi High Court for "mutilating" the law while dealing with the cash-for-query allegations against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra.

The Delhi High Court had set aside the Lokpal's November 12, 2025 order sanctioning a chargesheet on the basis of a CBI probe report on the allegations. The Lokpal order was based on a complaint that Ms. Moitra allegedly took cash and favours for asking Parliamentary questions to further the interests of Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

Ms. Moitra had argued that the sharing of Lok Sabha member portal login credentials for clerical purposes was neither prohibited nor unusual, and that she had personally finalised her own Parliamentary Questions. She had also questioned the jurisdiction of the Lokpal.

The High Court's judgment in December last year was peppered with scathing remarks about the ombudsman indulging in "a form of statutory ingenuity or re-engineering of the Lokpal Act" in the case. The judgment went on to "request" the Lokpal to consider the question of sanction in Ms. Moitra's case "strictly in accordance with the provisions" of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, on Friday, halted the implementation of this "request", and issued notice to Ms. Moitra on the Lokpal's appeal.

At the hearing in the top court, senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, for the Lokpal, said that the ombudsman wanted definite clarity on the law and procedure for accordance of sanction under Section 20 of the 2013 Act.

14Mar. Lokpal asks SC to clarify on procedure for grant of sanctions

लोकपाल ने मंजूरी देने की प्रक्रिया पर स्पष्टीकरण के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट से अनुरोध किया

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to clarify the procedure for the Lokpal to grant sanction in corruption complaints, after the top anti-graft ombudsman was criticised by the Delhi High Court for "mutilating" the law while dealing with the cash-for-query allegations against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को लोकपाल द्वारा भ्रष्टाचार शिकायतों में मंजूरी देने की प्रक्रिया स्पष्ट करने पर सहमति जताई, जब शीर्ष भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी लोकपाल की दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने आलोचना की कि उसने कैश-फॉर-क्वेरी आरोपों से जुड़े तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद महुआ मोइत्रा के मामले में कानून को "विकृत" किया।

The Delhi High Court had set aside the Lokpal's November 12, 2025 order sanctioning a chargesheet on the basis of a CBI probe report on the allegations.

दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने 12 नवंबर 2025 के लोकपाल आदेश को रद्द कर दिया था, जिसमें आरोपों पर CBI जांच रिपोर्ट के आधार पर चार्जशीट को मंजूरी दी गई थी।

The Lokpal order was based on a complaint that Ms. Moitra allegedly took cash and favours for asking Parliamentary questions to further the interests of Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

लोकपाल का आदेश इस शिकायत पर आधारित था कि सुश्री मोइत्रा ने नकद और लाभ लेकर संसदीय प्रश्न पूछे ताकि दुबई स्थित व्यवसायी दर्शन हीरानंदानी के हितों को आगे बढ़ाया जा सके।

Ms. Moitra had argued that the sharing of Lok Sabha member portal login credentials for clerical purposes was neither prohibited nor unusual, and that she had personally finalized her own Parliamentary Questions.

सुश्री मोइत्रा ने तर्क दिया था कि लोकसभा सदस्य पोर्टल लॉगिन क्रेडेंशियल्स का क्लेरिकल कार्यों के लिए साझा करना न तो प्रतिबंधित है और न ही असामान्य, और उन्होंने स्वयं अपने संसदीय प्रश्नों को अंतिम रूप दिया था।

She had also questioned the jurisdiction of the Lokpal. उन्होंने लोकपाल के अधिकार क्षेत्र पर भी सवाल उठाया था।

The High Court's judgment in December last year was peppered with scathing remarks about the ombudsman indulging in "a form of statutory ingenuity or re-engineering of the Lokpal Act" in the case.

पिछले वर्ष दिसंबर में हाई कोर्ट के निर्णय में लोकपाल पर "लोकपाल अधिनियम के एक प्रकार के वैधानिक पुनर्निर्माण या पुनः अभियांत्रिकी" में लिप्त होने के कड़े टिप्पणी किए गए थे।

The judgment went on to "request" the Lokpal to consider the question of sanction in Ms. Moitra's case "strictly in accordance with the provisions" of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.

निर्णय में लोकपाल से "अनुरोध" किया गया कि वह सुश्री मोइत्रा के मामले में मंजूरी के प्रश्न पर लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के प्रावधानों के अनुसार "सख्ती से" विचार करे।

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, on Friday, halted the implementation of this "request", and issued notice to Ms. Moitra on the Lokpal's appeal.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली सुप्रीम कोर्ट की पीठ ने शुक्रवार को इस "अनुरोध" के क्रियान्वयन पर रोक लगा दी और लोकपाल की अपील पर सुश्री मोइत्रा को नोटिस जारी किया।



- At the hearing in the top court, senior advocate **Ranjit Kumar**, for the **Lokpal**, said that the ombudsman wanted definite clarity on the law and procedure for accordance with sanction under **Section 20 of the 2013 Act**.
शीर्ष अदालत में सुनवाई के दौरान, **लोकपाल** की ओर से वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **रंजीत कुमार** ने कहा कि लोकपाल **2013 अधिनियम की धारा 20** के तहत मंजूरी देने की प्रक्रिया और कानून पर स्पष्टता चाहता है।

GS Paper II: International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

14 March 2026

14Mar	India and Seychelles carry out joint military exercise भारत और सेशेल्स ने संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास किया
14Mar	The India-Canada turnaround is about deliverables भारत-कनाडा संबंधों में सुधार का केंद्र ठोस परिणाम हैं
14Mar	'U.S. and Israel wanted a quick win, but they failed' 'अमेरिका और इज़राइल जल्दी जीत चाहते थे, लेकिन वे असफल रहे'



GS II: IR

India and Seychelles carry out joint military exercise

The ongoing 11th edition of the **India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026**, being conducted at the Seychelles Defence Academy from March 10 to 22, witnessed professional exchanges and joint training aimed at strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries. The exercise marks the first tri-services edition, bringing together personnel from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force alongside the Seychelles Defence Forces. The training focuses on enhancing interoperability in sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments, particularly within the framework of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

in **sub-conventional operations** in **semi-urban environments**, particularly within the framework of **United Nations peacekeeping missions**.

यह प्रशिक्षण **अर्ध-शहरी वातावरण** में **उप-पारंपरिक अभियानों** में **अंतर-संचालन क्षमता** को बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित है, विशेष रूप से **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना मिशनों** के ढांचे के भीतर।

14Mar. India and Seychelles carry out joint military exercise भारत और सेशेल्स ने संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास किया

The ongoing **11th edition** of the **India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026**, being conducted at the **Seychelles Defence Academy** from March 10 to 22, witnessed **professional exchanges** and **joint training** aimed at strengthening **defence cooperation** between the two countries.

चल रहा **11वां संस्करण** **भारत-सेशेल्स संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास LAMITIYE-2026**, जो 10 से 22 मार्च तक **सेशेल्स डिफेंस अकादमी** में आयोजित हो रहा है, ने **पेशेवर आदान-प्रदान** और **संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण** देखा, जिसका उद्देश्य दोनों देशों के बीच **रक्षा सहयोग** को मजबूत करना है।

The exercise marks the **first tri-services edition**, bringing together personnel from the **Indian Army, Navy and Air Force** alongside the **Seychelles Defence Forces**.

यह अभ्यास **पहला त्रि-सेवा संस्करण** है, जिसमें **भारतीय सेना, नौसेना और वायु सेना** के साथ **सेशेल्स रक्षा बलों** के कर्मियों को एक साथ लाया गया है।

The training focuses on enhancing **interoperability** in **sub-conventional operations** in **semi-urban environments**, particularly within the framework of **United Nations peacekeeping missions**.



The India-Canada turnaround is about deliverables

GS II: IR MOB

When the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, visited India (February 27-March 2, 2026), the bilateral relationship saw a remarkable turnaround, especially in the backdrop of the no-nonsense style ties had taken under his predecessor, Justin Trudeau.

Mr. Carney's visit focused on deliverables and avoided getting bogged down by past issues. The visit also marked the culmination of bilateral efforts to put the relationship back on track, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kananaskis (Canada) in June 2025 and, also the bilateral meeting in Johannesburg in November 2025. Canada has shown particular pragmatism in tiding over domestic politics to curate its relationship with India carefully, skirting some of the legacy issues.

Spotlight on economic issues

Coming on the back of significant geopolitical churn, the focus on economic issues was unmissable. Canada has faced pressure from its southern neighbour, the United States, which is among its largest trade partners, due to supply chains concentrated toward Washington. U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policy, together with unending wars in Europe, West Asia, as well as the broader Levant region, have shaken global powers with economic momentum and purpose. India and Canada perhaps fall in the same spectrum of countries which want to avoid war and focus on deliverables for their countries.

However, with global supply chains deeply interconnected, it is virtually impossible for countries to avoid some of the fallout from conflicts and realignments. India and Canada see diversification in trade, energy, investment, and security as essential.



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The Canadian Prime Minister's visit has strengthened India-Canada ties, with a focus on India's needs

The Carney visit resulted in at least eight agreements and contracts, spread over a slew of important sectors. At the top was, of course, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), for which the terms of agreement have been signed, marking the road map and structure of negotiations.

There was another memorandum of understanding (MoU) under the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership on cooperation in technology and innovation, designed to support long-term partnership in these areas and enhance Ottawa's engagements with key Indo-Pacific countries.

The focus areas

There were other agreements on augmenting research partnership, cultural exchange, and collaboration in the areas of food and nutrition. Perhaps two of the most significant agreements were the commercial contract between India's Department of Atomic Energy and Canada's Cameco for the supply of uranium ore concentrates, as well as the MoU on critical minerals cooperation.

These areas of cooperation are aligned with the current needs of India, but also a future road map in which technology and critical minerals are indispensable. First, there is a global rush to secure critical mineral supply chains, vital for technology and everyday life in the modern age. Second, supply chains for critical minerals are concentrated in the hands of a few countries, most notably China.

After China showed its ability to leverage critical mineral supply chains – most recently against the U.S. in the face of tariffs imposed by the Trump administration – other nations have

recognised the need to secure their own supply chains that could be affected in times of crises. As such, the bilateral commitments on critical minerals between India and Canada are in sync with the U.S.-led Pax Silica coalition, strengthening strategic cooperation in AI and semiconductors, and which includes India among other 10-odd countries.

Energy at forefront

Among the sectors that India and Canada sought to strengthen, it was energy that took centre stage. Conventional and renewable energy are critical – Canada as a resource-rich nation, and India facing growing demand. For India, growth has to be a function of the usage of clean energy, given its sustainable development goals and zero-emission targets. The fastest way in which India can ensure energy sustainability and predictability is to reduce its reliance on external imports of energy and gradually increase homegrown production of energy. Arguably, the most efficient way to achieve this is by expanding the role of nuclear energy in India's energy mix. India's passing the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025 was seen as a step toward that goal. If the U.S. could be a source country for nuclear reactors, the long-term agreement with Canada for the supply of uranium ore concentrates can add predictability to fuel supply.

Overall, India's dependence on external actors for its energy sources has left it vulnerable in the new era of unending wars. Thus, the uranium deal with Canada is most apt for India in order to reduce external risks, help meet its development goals and also reach its target of achieving 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047.

14Mar. The India-Canada turnaround is about deliverables भारत-कनाडा संबंधों में सुधार का केंद्र ठोस परिणाम हैं

- When the **Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney**, visited **India (February 27–March 2, 2026)**, the bilateral relationship saw a **remarkable turnaround**, especially in the backdrop of the **no-nonsense style ties** had taken under his predecessor, **Justin Trudeau**.

जब कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री मार्क कार्नी ने भारत की यात्रा (27 फरवरी–2 मार्च 2026) की, तब द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में एक महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन देखा गया, विशेषकर उस पृष्ठभूमि में जब उनके पूर्ववर्ती जस्टिन टूडो के समय संबंधों ने कठोर और स्पष्ट शैली अपना ली थी।

- **Mr. Carney's visit** focused on **deliverables** and avoided getting bogged down by **past issues**.

कार्नी की यात्रा का मुख्य ध्यान ठोस परिणामों (deliverables) पर था और इसने पुराने विवादों में उलझने से बचने का प्रयास किया।

- The visit also marked the culmination of **bilateral efforts** to put the relationship back on track, initiated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kananaskis (Canada) in June 2025** and, also the **bilateral meeting in Johannesburg in November 2025**.

यह यात्रा उन द्विपक्षीय प्रयासों की परिणति भी थी जिनका उद्देश्य संबंधों को पुनः पटरी पर लाना था, जिसकी शुरुआत प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की कनानास्किस (कनाडा) यात्रा, जून 2025 तथा नवंबर 2025 में जोहान्सबर्ग में हुई द्विपक्षीय बैठक से हुई थी।

- **Canada** has shown particular **pragmatism** in tiding over **domestic politics** to curate its relationship with **India** carefully, skirting some of the **legacy issues**.

कनाडा ने घरेलू राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर भारत के साथ अपने संबंधों को सावधानीपूर्वक आगे बढ़ाने में विशेष व्यावहारिकता (pragmatism) दिखाई है और कुछ पुराने विवादास्पद मुद्दों से बचते हुए संबंधों को आगे बढ़ाया है।

Spotlight on economic issues आर्थिक मुद्दों पर विशेष ध्यान



- Coming on the back of significant **geopolitical churn**, the focus on **economic issues** was unmissable.
महत्वपूर्ण भूराजनीतिक उथल-पुथल की पृष्ठभूमि में आर्थिक मुद्दों पर ध्यान देना स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दिया।
- **Canada** has faced pressure from its **southern neighbour, the United States**, which is among its **largest trade partners**, due to **supply chains** concentrated toward **Washington**.
कनाडा को अपने दक्षिणी पड़ोसी संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका से दबाव का सामना करना पड़ा है, जो उसका सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है, क्योंकि सप्लाई चेन का झुकाव वाशिंगटन की ओर केंद्रित है।
- **U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policy**, together with unending wars in **Europe, West Asia**, as well as the broader **Levant region**, have shaken **global powers** with economic momentum and purpose.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की टैरिफ नीति, साथ ही यूरोप, पश्चिम एशिया और व्यापक लेवांत क्षेत्र में जारी युद्धों ने वैश्विक शक्तियों की आर्थिक दिशा और उद्देश्य को प्रभावित किया है।
- **India and Canada** perhaps fall in the same spectrum of countries which want to **avoid war** and focus on **deliverables for their countries**.
भारत और कनाडा संभवतः उन देशों के समूह में आते हैं जो युद्ध से बचना चाहते हैं और अपने देशों के लिए ठोस परिणामों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहते हैं।
- However, with **global supply chains** deeply interconnected, it is virtually impossible for countries to avoid some of the **fallout from conflicts and realignments**.
हालाँकि, वैश्विक सप्लाई चेन के गहराई से जुड़े होने के कारण देशों के लिए संघर्षों और नए रणनीतिक सरिखणों के प्रभाव से पूरी तरह बचना लगभग असंभव है।
- **India and Canada** see **diversification in trade, energy, investment, and security** as essential.
भारत और कनाडा व्यापार, ऊर्जा, निवेश और सुरक्षा में विविधीकरण को अत्यंत आवश्यक मानते हैं।
- The **Carney visit** resulted in at least **eight agreements and contracts**, spread over a slew of **important sectors**.
कार्नी की यात्रा के परिणामस्वरूप कम से कम आठ समझौते और अनुबंध हुए, जो कई महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में फैले हुए हैं।
- At the top was, of course, the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, for which the **terms of agreement** have been signed, marking the **road map and structure of negotiations**.
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण था समग्र आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौता (CEPA), जिसके लिए समझौते की शर्तों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए, जिससे वार्ताओं की रूपरेखा और संरचना निर्धारित हुई।
- There was another **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** under the **Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership** on cooperation in **technology and innovation**, designed to support **long-term partnership** in these areas and enhance **Ottawa's engagements with key Indo-Pacific countries**.
इसके अतिरिक्त ऑस्ट्रेलिया-कनाडा-भारत प्रौद्योगिकी एवं नवाचार साझेदारी के अंतर्गत प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार में सहयोग के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) भी हुआ, जिसका उद्देश्य इन क्षेत्रों में दीर्घकालिक साझेदारी को बढ़ावा देना और ओटावा के प्रमुख इंडो-पैसिफिक देशों के साथ संबंधों को सुदृढ़ करना है।

The focus areas मुख्य फोकस क्षेत्र

- There were other agreements on augmenting **research partnership, cultural exchange**, and collaboration in the areas of **food and nutrition**.
अनुसंधान साझेदारी, सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान, तथा खाद्य और पोषण के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने से संबंधित अन्य समझौते भी हुए।
- Perhaps two of the most significant agreements were the **commercial contract** between **India's Department of Atomic Energy** and **Canada's Cameco** for the supply of **uranium ore concentrates**, as well as the **MoU on critical minerals cooperation**.
संभवतः दो सबसे महत्वपूर्ण समझौते भारत के परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग और कनाडा की कंपनी Cameco के बीच यूरेनियम अयस्क सकेन्द्रण (uranium ore concentrates) की आपूर्ति के लिए व्यावसायिक अनुबंध, तथा महत्वपूर्ण खनिज सहयोग पर MoU थे।
- These areas of cooperation are aligned with the **current needs of India**, but also a **future road map** in which **technology** and **critical minerals** are indispensable.



ये सहयोग के क्षेत्र **भारत की वर्तमान आवश्यकताओं** के अनुरूप हैं, साथ ही एक **भविष्य की रूपरेखा** भी प्रस्तुत करते हैं जिसमें **प्रौद्योगिकी** और **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज** अनिवार्य हैं।

- First, there is a **global rush to secure critical mineral supply chains**, vital for **technology** and **everyday life** in the **modern age**.
पहला, **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** को सुरक्षित करने के लिए **वैश्विक दौड़** चल रही है, जो **प्रौद्योगिकी** और **आधुनिक जीवन** के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- Second, **supply chains for critical minerals** are concentrated in the hands of a few countries, most notably **China**.
दूसरा, **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** कुछ ही देशों के हाथों में केंद्रित है, विशेष रूप से **चीन** के पास।
- After **China** showed its ability to leverage **critical mineral supply chains** — most recently against the **U.S.** in the face of **tariffs imposed by the Trump administration** — other nations have recognised the need to secure their own **supply chains** that could be affected in times of **crises**.
जब **चीन** ने **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** का उपयोग करने की अपनी क्षमता दिखाई — हाल ही में **ट्रम्प प्रशासन** द्वारा **लगाए गए टैरिफ** के संदर्भ में **अमेरिका** के खिलाफ — तब अन्य देशों ने भी यह समझा कि संकट के समय प्रभावित हो सकने वाली अपनी **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** को सुरक्षित करना आवश्यक है।
- As such, the **bilateral commitments on critical minerals between India and Canada** are in sync with the **U.S.-led Pax Silica coalition**, strengthening **strategic cooperation in AI and semiconductors**, and which includes **India** among other **10-odd countries**.
इस प्रकार **भारत और कनाडा के बीच महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों पर द्विपक्षीय प्रतिबद्धताएँ अमेरिका-नेतृत्व वाले Pax Silica गठबंधन** के अनुरूप हैं, जो **AI और सेमीकंडक्टर** में **रणनीतिक सहयोग** को मजबूत करता है और जिसमें **भारत सहित लगभग 10 देश** शामिल हैं।

Energy at forefront ऊर्जा प्रमुख केंद्र में

- Among the sectors that **India and Canada** sought to strengthen, it was **energy** that took **centre stage**.
जिन क्षेत्रों को **भारत और कनाडा** ने मजबूत करने का प्रयास किया, उनमें **ऊर्जा क्षेत्र** सबसे प्रमुख रहा।
- **Conventional and renewable energy** are critical — **Canada** as a **resource-rich nation**, and **India** facing **growing demand**.
पारंपरिक और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा दोनों महत्वपूर्ण हैं — **कनाडा** एक **संसाधन-समृद्ध राष्ट्र** है, जबकि **भारत** बढ़ती **ऊर्जा मांग** का सामना कर रहा है।
- For **India**, growth has to be a function of the usage of **clean energy**, given its **sustainable development goals** and **zero-emission targets**.
भारत के लिए विकास का आधार **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा** का उपयोग होना चाहिए, क्योंकि उसके **सतत विकास लक्ष्य** और **शून्य उत्सर्जन लक्ष्य** निर्धारित हैं।
- The fastest way in which **India** can ensure **energy sustainability** and **predictability** is to reduce its reliance on **external imports of energy** and gradually increase **homegrown production of energy**.
जिस सबसे तेज तरीके से **भारत ऊर्जा स्थिरता** और **पूर्वानुमेयता** सुनिश्चित कर सकता है, वह है **ऊर्जा के बाहरी आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना** और **घरेलू ऊर्जा उत्पादन** को धीरे-धीरे बढ़ाना।
- Arguably, the most efficient way to achieve this is by expanding the role of **nuclear energy** in **India's energy mix**.
संभवतः इसे प्राप्त करने का सबसे प्रभावी तरीका **भारत के ऊर्जा मिश्रण में परमाणु ऊर्जा** की भूमिका को बढ़ाना है।
- India's passing the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025** was seen as a step toward that goal.
भारत द्वारा Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025 पारित करना इस लक्ष्य की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना गया।
- If the **U.S.** could be a source country for **nuclear reactors**, the **long-term agreement with Canada** for the supply of **uranium ore concentrates** can add **predictability to fuel supply**.
यदि **अमेरिका परमाणु रिएक्टरों** का स्रोत देश बन सकता है, तो **यूरेनियम अयस्क संकेंद्रण** की आपूर्ति के लिए **कनाडा के साथ दीर्घकालिक समझौता ईंधन आपूर्ति की स्थिरता** बढ़ा सकता है।



- Overall, **India's dependence on external actors for its energy sources has left it vulnerable** in the new era of unending wars.
कुल मिलाकर, ऊर्जा स्रोतों के लिए बाहरी देशों पर भारत की निर्भरता ने उसे लगातार युद्धों के नए दौर में असुरक्षित बना दिया है।
- Thus, the **uranium deal with Canada** is most apt for **India** in order to reduce external risks, help meet its **development goals** and also reach its target of achieving **100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047**.
इसलिए कनाडा के साथ युरेनियम समझौता भारत के लिए अत्यंत उपयुक्त है ताकि बाहरी जोखिम कम किए जा सकें, विकास लक्ष्यों को पूरा किया जा सके और 2047 तक 100 GW परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जा सके।

'U.S. and Israel wanted a quick win, but they failed'

As time goes on, the price of oil is going to go up. And the world knows that this is not Iran's fault. This is the fault of the Trump regime and Netanyahu, says the Iranian academic, in an interview with *The Hindu*, he talks about Tehran's next plan of action, the 'neutrality' of Arab countries hosting American bases, the role of its allies involved in the conflict and the future of its nuclear programme

CS II (R: West Asia)
INTERVIEW

Mohammad Marandi

Stanly Johny

Almost two weeks after the U.S. and Israel started the war on Iran, the conflict has spread across the region. Iran retaliated by attacking Arab countries in the Persian Gulf, American assets in the region as well as Israel. The Strait of Hormuz, a critical international maritime checkpoint, remains effectively shut, driving up fuel prices.

"The U.S. and Israel miscalculated big time," Mohammad Marandi, professor of English literature and oriental at Tehran University, told *The Hindu* in an interview. He said the Arab countries in the Gulf are not neutral players as they are hosting American bases. "As time goes on, the price of oil is going to go up. And the world knows that this is not Iran's fault. This is the fault of the Trump regime and Netanyahu," he added. Edited excerpts:

What is the status of the war now, and how do you assess Iran's response?

I think it's pretty clear that the U.S. and the Israeli regime have failed. They were hoping for a quick win. And we know that this would not be the case. They miscalculated big

time. Even Mr. Trump admitted this when he said he did not expect that Iran would attack U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf.

It either indicates that he is very ignorant or it indicates that the people around him knew, but they didn't tell him because they're Israeli flunkies. And for Israeli flunkies, the only thing that's important is the Israeli regime. So we are where we are. Iran is striking U.S. assets across the Persian Gulf region. And, of course, it's striking the Israeli regime regularly. There are estimates about Iranian missiles and drones and how many of these exist; they were, of course, wrong. Iran's drone and missile factories are underground. They are producing drones and missiles as we speak.

The longer the war lasts, the worse it is going to be for them. That doesn't mean that we're not paying a price. Just before we spoke, they bombed Tehran.

Marco Rubio has listed out three objectives of the war: destroy Iran's missiles, its missile production facilities, and its navy. If the war continues, what kind of impact these sustained attacks will have on Iran's capabilities?

The bulk of Iran's naval forces are in underground bases. The speedboats, which form the bulk of Iran's naval capabilities, and which fire missiles are all well protected. And Iran has not used them yet. Iran

is playing the long game. We are planning a war that could go into next year and after the U.S. midterm elections. This was the planning from the beginning. And so neither of these three objectives have been met. But more importantly, there were other objectives. Regime change and so on and so forth. It's all failed. All they're doing is killing innocent people.

The U.S. has destroyed its soft power image over Gaza. And now, it is losing on the battlefield. Economically, it is also losing because the U.S. has in the Persian Gulf region are enormous. As time goes on, the price of oil is going to go up. And the world knows that this is not Iran's fault. This is the fault of the [Donald] Trump regime and [Benjamin] Netanyahu.

But Tehran's retaliation is also having an impact on Iran's ties with its neighbours. What is your take on that?

Well, the countries that it has an impact on mainly are in the Persian Gulf. And these are tiny Arab family dictatorships. And they are beginning to recognise that U.S. bases are a liability. They're recognising that they cannot have their cake and eat it too. They cannot have U.S. bases in their territory to be used to bomb Iran and then call themselves neutral. So they are being punished for their own policies. The Persian Gulf will never be like it was before. After this war is over, Iran will de-



mand full compensation. And it will not allow these countries to ever again be used as platforms to threaten Iran.

Iran did not start this war. Iran did not want this war. Iran wanted to carry on with its business, its economic ties, and allow others to do the same. But these regimes allowed the U.S. to conspire against Iran. They gave them bases, they gave them the air-space, even missiles were fired from their territory, from Kuwait, from Bahrain, from the Emirates, and probably from Qatar and Saudi Arabia too. During the 12-day war (June 2025), they launched a blitzkrieg attack. And they were the ones who were begging for a ceasefire, as we all know.

Do you think it was a mistake that Iran agreed to a ceasefire in June 2025?

No, back then, the Iranians had two considerations. One is that they did teach the Israeli regime a lesson. That's why the Israeli regime was seeking a ceasefire. They didn't accept the ceasefire right away. They

to go all out on day one. If Iran wanted to do that, Iran could have destroyed all the tankers in the Persian Gulf; it could have destroyed all the oil and gas installations, and there would be no more oil and gas from the Persian Gulf for the next few years, and that would destroy the global economy. Iran doesn't want that.

Look at the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has effectively shut it. The Americans can do nothing about it. The side that has brought about this crisis is the U.S., the Israeli regime, and the Zionist lobby. They are the ones who are putting the global economy at risk for the sake of the Israeli regime. Because the Israeli regime does not care about any entity but itself. But on the other hand, we do not want the global economy to collapse. So this escalation is managed. When the time comes, Iran's allies in Yemen will be more active.

Iran has maintained that it would not talk to the U.S. But if the war continues, everybody is going to suffer, economically. What is the endgame scenario?

Iran wants the global economy to function normally. This is not a war that we started. This is an unprovoked war of aggression where they murdered our leaders and they murdered citizens, including many children, and they never showed remorse for even murdering little girls. This war has to end in a way Iran doesn't feel three-

times six months down the road. We already negotiated with the Americans twice. And as we were negotiating, they carried out an attack.

Iran knows that the U.S. is in deep trouble. They're running out of ammunition. And the war is very costly, very costly, at multiple levels. So what Iran wants is that while it's putting pressure on the U.S., it wants the region to recognise that it can no longer be used as a platform for aggression against Iran.

It's like a neighbour of India giving a base to a third party; let's say they give bases to the U.S., and the U.S. starts striking India from those bases. And then those countries or that country tells the Indian government that we're neutral. You can't be neutral. That's your country. Iran rights as a sovereign, independent country, to have a peaceful nuclear programme, must all be respected.

There was a fatwa in Iran issued by the former Supreme Leader against nuclear weapons. Iran has faced two attacks in the last eight months. Do you think Iran's nuclear posture was a strategic mistake?

Before the [1979] revolution, the U.S. had taken huge amounts of money from Iran to develop a nuclear programme here. Iran paid a lot of money to develop a nuclear programme. And the Americans and the Europeans

were behind it, the Germans in particular. And the French. After the revolution, Iran wanted to continue that. We know from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Iran was producing a nuclear weapon. They should be very thankful that Iran has this fatwa. And there's a reason for this fatwa. It's an ugly weapon. And Iran did the same when the West gave Saddam Hussein chemical weapons [during the Iran-Iraq war]. Iran's leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, back then, who passed away in 1989, did not allow the Iranians to make their own chemical weapons.

With regards to nuclear weapons, Iran has decided not to do so for moral reasons, but also because of all these tiny Arab family dictatorships, which are not very stable.

Does the fatwa still stand?

The fatwa is still there. I don't think that any new decision has been made. The Iranians have already said that the only thing that could change Iran's policy is an existential threat to the nation. And of course, Iran is winning this war. The Americans and Israelis are not winning. And they may go crazy because they're losing; and that's why they're bombing people. But if there is an existential threat, then Iran's nuclear posture would change. So for the time being, I see continuity with regards to Iran's foreign policy, its internal policy, and its nuclear policy.

14Mar. 'U.S. and Israel wanted a quick win, but they failed' 'अमेरिका और इज़राइल जल्दी जीत चाहते थे, लेकिन वे असफल रहे'

- "As time goes on, the **price of oil** is going to go up.
"जैसे-जैसे समय बीतता जाएगा, तेल की कीमत बढ़ेगी।
- And the world knows that this is not **Iran's fault**.
और दुनिया जानती है कि यह **ईरान की गलती नहीं है**।
- This is the fault of the **Trump regime** and **Netanyahu**," says the Iranian academic.
यह **ट्रम्प शासन** और **नेतन्याहू** की गलती है," ईरानी विद्वान कहते हैं।
- In an interview with **The Hindu**, he talks about **Tehran's next plan of action**, the '**neutrality**' of Arab countries hosting American bases, the role of its allies involved in the conflict and the future of its **nuclear programme**.
द हिंदू को दिए गए साक्षात्कार में, उन्होंने **तेहरान की अगली रणनीति**, अमेरिकी ठिकानों की मेजबानी करने वाले अरब देशों की '**तटस्थता**', संघर्ष में शामिल सहयोगियों की भूमिका और उसके **परमाणु कार्यक्रम** के भविष्य पर बात की।



- Almost two weeks after the **U.S. and Israel** started the war on **Iran**, the conflict has spread across the region.
अमेरिका और इज़राइल द्वारा **ईरान** पर युद्ध शुरू किए जाने के लगभग दो सप्ताह बाद, यह संघर्ष पूरे क्षेत्र में फैल गया है।
- Iran retaliated by attacking **Arab countries in the Persian Gulf, American assets** in the region as well as **Israel**.
ईरान ने जवाबी कार्रवाई करते हुए **पर्सियन गल्फ के अरब देशों**, क्षेत्र में **अमेरिकी ठिकानों** और **इज़राइल** पर हमला किया।
- The **Strait of Hormuz**, a critical international maritime checkpoint, remains effectively shut, driving up **fuel prices**.
हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री मार्ग है, प्रभावी रूप से बंद है, जिससे **ईंधन की कीमतें** बढ़ रही हैं।
- “The **U.S. and Israel** miscalculated big time,” **Mohammad Marandi**, professor at **Tehran University**, told The Hindu.
“**अमेरिका और इज़राइल** ने बड़ी गलत गणना की,” **तेहरान विश्वविद्यालय** के प्रोफेसर **मोहम्मद मरांदी** ने द हिंदू को बताया।
- He said the **Arab countries in the Gulf** are not neutral players as they are hosting **American bases**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **गल्फ के अरब देश** तटस्थ नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे **अमेरिकी ठिकानों** की मेजबानी कर रहे हैं।
- “As time goes on, the **price of oil** is going to go up.
“जैसे-जैसे समय बीतता जाएगा, **तेल की कीमत** बढ़ेगी।
- And the world knows that this is not **Iran’s fault**.
और दुनिया जानती है कि यह **ईरान की गलती** नहीं है।
- This is the fault of the **Trump regime and Netanyahu**,” he added.
यह **ट्रम्प शासन** और **नेतन्याहू** की गलती है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- What is the status of the war now, and how do you assess **Iran’s response**?
अब युद्ध की स्थिति क्या है, और आप **ईरान की प्रतिक्रिया** का कैसे आकलन करते हैं?
- I think it’s pretty clear that the **U.S. and the Israeli regime** have failed.
मुझे लगता है कि यह स्पष्ट है कि **अमेरिका और इज़राइली शासन** असफल रहे हैं।
- They were hoping for a **quick win**.
वे **जल्दी जीत** की उम्मीद कर रहे थे।
- And we knew that this would not be the case.
और हमें पता था कि ऐसा नहीं होगा।
- They miscalculated big time.
उन्होंने बहुत बड़ी गलत गणना की।
- Even **Mr. Trump** admitted this when he said he did not expect that **Iran** would attack **U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf**.
यहां तक कि **ट्रम्प** ने भी इसे स्वीकार किया जब उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद नहीं थी कि **ईरान** **पर्सियन गल्फ में अमेरिकी ठिकानों** पर हमला करेगा।
- It either indicates that he is very ignorant or it indicates that the people around him knew, but they didn’t tell him because they’re **Israeli firsters**.
यह या तो दर्शाता है कि वह बहुत अज्ञानी हैं या यह कि उनके आसपास के लोग जानते थे लेकिन उन्होंने उन्हें नहीं बताया क्योंकि वे **इज़राइल-प्रथम समर्थक** हैं।
- And for Israeli firsters, the only thing that’s important is the **Israeli regime**.
और इज़राइल-प्रथम समर्थकों के लिए केवल **इज़राइली शासन** ही महत्वपूर्ण है।
- So we are where we are.
इसलिए हम इस स्थिति में हैं।
- Iran is striking **U.S. assets across the Persian Gulf region**.
ईरान **पर्सियन गल्फ क्षेत्र में अमेरिकी ठिकानों** पर हमला कर रहा है।
- And, of course, it’s striking the **Israeli regime** regularly.
और निश्चित रूप से, यह नियमित रूप से **इज़राइली शासन** पर भी हमला कर रहा है।
- There are estimates about Iranian **missiles and drones**, and how many of them exist; they were, of course, wrong.
ईरानी मिसाइलों और ड्रोन की संख्या के बारे में अनुमान लगाए गए थे; वे निश्चित रूप से गलत थे।



- Iran's **drone and missile factories** are underground.
ईरान के **ड्रोन और मिसाइल कारखाने** भूमिगत हैं।
- They are producing drones and missiles as we speak.
वे इस समय भी ड्रोन और मिसाइल बना रहे हैं।
- The longer the war lasts, the worse it is going to be for them.
जितना लंबा यह युद्ध चलेगा, उनके लिए उतना ही बुरा होगा।
- That doesn't mean that we're not paying a price.
इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम इसकी कीमत नहीं चुका रहे हैं।
- Just before we spoke, they bombed **Tehran**.
हमारी बातचीत से ठीक पहले, उन्होंने **तेहरान** पर बमबारी की।
- Marco Rubio has listed out three objectives of the war: destroy **Iran's missiles, its missile production facilities, and its navy**.
मार्को रुबियो ने युद्ध के तीन उद्देश्य बताए हैं: **ईरान की मिसाइलों, उसके मिसाइल उत्पादन केंद्रों, और उसकी नौसेना** को नष्ट करना।
- If the war continues, what kind of impact will these sustained attacks have on **Iran's capabilities**?
यदि युद्ध जारी रहता है, तो इन लगातार हमलों का **ईरान की क्षमताओं** पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा?
- The bulk of Iran's **naval forces** are in underground bases.
ईरान की अधिकांश **नौसैनिक ताकत** भूमिगत ठिकानों में है।
- The speedboats, which form the bulk of Iran's naval capabilities, are all well protected.
स्पीडबोट्स, जो ईरान की नौसैनिक क्षमता का बड़ा हिस्सा हैं, अच्छी तरह सुरक्षित हैं।
- Iran has not used them yet.
ईरान ने अभी तक उनका उपयोग नहीं किया है।
- Iran is playing the **long game**.
ईरान **दीर्घकालिक रणनीति** अपना रहा है।
- We are planning a war that could go into next year and after the **U.S. midterm elections**.
हम एक ऐसे युद्ध की योजना बना रहे हैं जो अगले वर्ष और **अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनावों** के बाद तक चल सकता है।
- And so neither of these three objectives have been met.
और इसलिए इन तीनों उद्देश्यों में से कोई भी पूरा नहीं हुआ है।
- But more importantly, there were other objectives like **regime change**.
लेकिन इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण, अन्य उद्देश्य जैसे **शासन परिवर्तन** भी थे।
- It all failed.
यह सब विफल हो गया है।
- All they're doing is killing **innocent people**.
वे केवल **निर्दोष लोगों** को मार रहे हैं।
- The **U.S.** has destroyed its **soft power image** over Gaza.
अमेरिका ने गाज़ा में अपनी **सॉफ्ट पावर छवि** को नष्ट कर दिया है।
- And now, it is losing on the battlefield.
और अब यह युद्धक्षेत्र में हार रहा है।
- Economically, it is also losing because the assets that the **U.S.** has in the **Persian Gulf region** are enormous.
आर्थिक रूप से भी यह हार रहा है क्योंकि **पर्शियन गल्फ क्षेत्र** में **अमेरिका** की संपत्तियां बहुत बड़ी हैं।
- As time goes on, the **price of oil** is going to go up.
जैसे-जैसे समय बीतता जाएगा, **तेल की कीमत** बढ़ेगी।
- And the world knows that this is not **Iran's fault**.
और दुनिया जानती है कि यह **ईरान की गलती** नहीं है।
- This is the fault of the **Trump regime** and **Netanyahu**.
यह **ट्रम्प शासन** और **नेतन्याहू** की गलती है।



GS Paper III: Economy,

TOPICS COVERED

14 March 2026

14Mar	Centre sets aside ₹57,381 crore to address 'global headwinds' केंद्र ने 'वैश्विक चुनौतियों' से निपटने के लिए ₹57,381 करोड़ अलग रखे
14Mar	Price pressures मूल्य दबाव
14Mar	The fate of the Washington Consensus, once talisman वॉशिंगटन कंसेंसस का भविष्य, जो कभी ताबीज़ समान माना जाता था
14Mar	Sugar mills to report 5-8% revenue growth in FY26: ICRA report ICRA रिपोर्ट: FY26 में चीनी मिलों की आय में 5-8% वृद्धि की संभावना

Centre sets aside ₹57,381 crore to address 'global headwinds'

Lok Sabha clears grant with around ₹2 lakh crore cash outgo; the 'Economic Stabilisation Fund' from supplementary grants will provide fiscal space amid global uncertainties, including 'unanticipated supply chain disruptions', say Finance Minister

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

Amid the \$100-per-barrel oil shock and fears of energy shortage and supply chain disruptions arising out of the West Asia conflict, the Centre has allocated ₹57,381 crore for an Economic Stabilisation Fund that would provide it fiscal space to address global headwinds, including "the recent crisis or unanticipated supply chain disruptions", Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

She was replying to the debate on the Second Supplementary Demand for Grants the government placed before Parliament.

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Centre's demand for a net cash outgo of ₹2.01 lakh crore, includ-

Emergency response

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Centre's Second Supplementary Demand for Grants

- Approval sought for gross additional expenditure of around **₹2.81 lakh crore**
- Savings and receipts aggregates to around **₹80,000 crore**
- Around **₹2.01 lakh crore** net cash outgo for additional expenditures

I want to highlight the point that the proposed Economic Stabilisation Fund will provide fiscal headroom to allow India to respond to the global headwinds

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
Union Finance Minister



ing the ₹57,381-crore allocation. Ms. Sitharaman said the Centre would meet its fiscal deficit target for 2025-26 even after taking these fresh allocations into consideration. The Centre had sought approval for spending around ₹2.81 lakh crore extra in the current fiscal. With ad-

ditional receipts of around ₹80,000 crore estimated in the supplementary, the net additional cash spending will be ₹2.01 lakh crore.

'Strong framework'

The Minister said policy initiatives undertaken post COVID-19 "made sure that the economy recovered

well" and helped the government strengthen the macroeconomic framework.

This has enabled the country to absorb economic shocks without deviating from the fiscal consolidation roadmap, she said.

"But I want to highlight the point that the proposed Economic Stabilisation Fund will provide fiscal headroom to allow India to respond to the global headwinds, such as the recent crisis, unanticipated supply chain disruptions, unexpected shocks to sub-sectors in the Indian economy and any other event that may have significant fiscal implications," Ms. Sitharaman said.

She added that the extra expenditure would not entail the Centre's fiscal deficit target being missed.

In her Budget speech on

February 1, Ms. Sitharaman had stated that the government was targeting a fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of India's GDP.

"I wish to reiterate that with all these extras that we are coming up with, whether it is technical supplementaries or cash supplementaries, I don't want any Member of Parliament to wonder if I will be able to reach the fiscal deficit number that I have said while placing the Budget," Ms. Sitharaman said on Friday.

"The commitment given to this House, inclusive of the second supplementary demand for grants, will be within the fiscal deficit target that had been presented in this Parliament on February 1, 2026," she added.

'SLIGHT CONCERN'

» PAGE 4

14Mar. Centre sets aside ₹57,381 crore to address 'global headwinds' केंद्र ने 'वैश्विक चुनौतियों' से निपटने के लिए ₹57,381 करोड़ अलग रखे

- Lok Sabha clears grant with around ₹2 lakh crore cash outgo; the 'Economic Stabilisation Fund' from supplementary grants will provide fiscal space amid global uncertainties, including 'unanticipated supply chain disruptions', say Finance Minister
लोकसभा ने लगभग ₹2 लाख करोड़ के नकद व्यय के साथ अनुदान को मंजूरी दी; अनुपूरक अनुदानों से 'आर्थिक स्थिरीकरण कोष' वैश्विक अनिश्चितताओं, जैसे 'अप्रत्याशित आपूर्ति श्रृंखला व्यवधानों' के बीच राजकोषीय गुंजाइश प्रदान करेगा, वित्त मंत्री ने कहा



- Amid the **\$100-per-barrel oil shock** and fears of **energy shortage** and **supply chain disruptions** arising out of the **West Asia conflict**, the Centre has allocated ₹57,381 crore for an **Economic Stabilisation Fund** that would provide it **fiscal space** to address **global headwinds**, including “the recent crisis or unanticipated supply chain disruptions”, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.
\$100 प्रति बैरल तेल झटके, ऊर्जा संकट और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला व्यवधानों के बीच, जो पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष से उत्पन्न हुए हैं, केंद्र ने ₹57,381 करोड़ का आर्थिक स्थिरीकरण कोष आवंटित किया है जो राजकोषीय गुंजाइश प्रदान करेगा ताकि वैश्विक चुनौतियों से निपटा जा सके, जिसमें “हालिया संकट या अप्रत्याशित आपूर्ति श्रृंखला व्यवधान” शामिल हैं, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने शुक्रवार को लोकसभा में कहा।
- She was replying to the debate on the **Second Supplementary Demand for Grants** the government placed before Parliament.
वह संसद के सामने रखी गई **द्वितीय अनुपूरक अनुदान मांग** पर बहस का जवाब दे रही थीं।
- The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Centre’s demand for a **net cash outgo of ₹2.01 lakh crore**, including the ₹57,381-crore allocation.
लोकसभा ने शुक्रवार को केंद्र की **₹2.01 लाख करोड़ के शुद्ध नकद व्यय** की मांग को पारित किया, जिसमें ₹57,381 करोड़ का आवंटन शामिल है।
- Ms. Sitharaman said the Centre would meet its **fiscal deficit target for 2025-26** even after taking these fresh allocations into consideration.
सुश्री सीतारमण ने कहा कि केंद्र इन नए आवंटनों को ध्यान में रखने के बाद भी **2025-26 के राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य** को पूरा करेगा।
- The Centre had sought approval for spending around **₹2.81 lakh crore extra** in the current fiscal.
केंद्र ने चालू वित्त वर्ष में लगभग **₹2.81 लाख करोड़ अतिरिक्त खर्च** के लिए मंजूरी मांगी थी।
- With additional receipts of around **₹80,000 crore** estimated in the supplementary, the net additional cash spending will be ₹2.01 lakh crore.
अनुपूरक में लगभग **₹80,000 करोड़ की अतिरिक्त प्राप्तियों** के अनुमान के साथ, शुद्ध अतिरिक्त नकद व्यय ₹2.01 लाख करोड़ होगा।

‘Strong framework’ ‘मजबूत ढांचा’

- The Minister said policy initiatives undertaken post **COVID-19** “made sure that the economy recovered well” and helped the government strengthen the **macroeconomic framework**.
मंत्री ने कहा कि **COVID-19** के बाद किए गए नीतिगत प्रयासों ने “यह सुनिश्चित किया कि अर्थव्यवस्था अच्छी तरह से उभरे” और सरकार को **मैक्रोइकोनॉमिक ढांचे** को मजबूत करने में मदद मिली।
- This has enabled the country to absorb **economic shocks** without deviating from the **fiscal consolidation roadmap**, she said.
इससे देश को **आर्थिक झटकों** को सहन करने में मदद मिली है बिना **राजकोषीय समेकन मार्ग** से विचलित हुए, उन्होंने कहा।
- “But I want to highlight the point that the proposed **Economic Stabilisation Fund** will provide **fiscal headroom** to allow India to respond to the **global headwinds**, such as the recent crisis, unanticipated supply chain disruptions, unexpected shocks to sub-sectors in the Indian economy and any other event that may have significant fiscal implications,” Ms. Sitharaman said.
“लेकिन मैं यह रेखांकित करना चाहती हूँ कि प्रस्तावित **आर्थिक स्थिरीकरण कोष** भारत को **राजकोषीय गुंजाइश** प्रदान करेगा ताकि वह **वैश्विक चुनौतियों** जैसे हालिया संकट, अप्रत्याशित आपूर्ति श्रृंखला व्यवधान, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के उप-क्षेत्रों में अप्रत्याशित झटके और अन्य घटनाओं का सामना कर सके जिनका महत्वपूर्ण राजकोषीय प्रभाव हो सकता है,” सुश्री सीतारमण ने कहा।
- She added that the extra expenditure would not entail the Centre’s **fiscal deficit target** being missed.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह अतिरिक्त खर्च केंद्र के **राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य** को प्रभावित नहीं करेगा।
- In her **Budget speech** on February 1, Ms. Sitharaman had stated that the government was targeting a **fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP**.
1 फरवरी को अपने **बजट भाषण** में, सुश्री सीतारमण ने कहा था कि सरकार **GDP के 4.4% के राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य** को हासिल करने का लक्ष्य रख रही है।



- “I wish to reiterate that with all these extras that we are coming up with, whether it is technical supplementaries or cash supplementaries, I don’t want any Member of Parliament to wonder if I will be able to reach the fiscal deficit number that I have said while placing the Budget,” Ms. Sitharaman said on Friday.
“मैं यह दोहराना चाहती हूँ कि इन सभी अतिरिक्त प्रावधानों के बावजूद, चाहे वे तकनीकी अनुपूरक हों या नकद अनुपूरक, मैं नहीं चाहती कि कोई भी सांसद यह सोचे कि क्या मैं बजट प्रस्तुत करते समय बताए गए राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर पाऊँगी,” सुश्री सीतारमण ने शुक्रवार को कहा।
- “The commitment given to this House, inclusive of the second supplementary demand for grants, will be within the fiscal deficit target that had been presented in this Parliament on February 1, 2026,” she added.
“इस सदन को दिया गया वचन, जिसमें द्वितीय अनुपूरक अनुदान मांग भी शामिल है, 1 फरवरी 2026 को संसद में प्रस्तुत राजकोषीय घाटा लक्ष्य के भीतर ही रहेगा,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

GS III: Economy

Price pressures

India must find sources of sustainable energy to curb inflation

The new series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the second data release of which was issued on Thursday, does not yet have enough historical data for robust comparisons, but does include enough information to provide clues about the future. Retail inflation in India quickened to a 10-month high of 3.2% in February 2026, largely driven by food inflation and precious metal prices. This rise is something that the government should take note of early, avoiding any complacency that might have crept in due to the low inflation levels of the last year or so. Food has a lower weight in the new series as compared to the old one, but is nevertheless a major driver of inflation with a 36.75% weight in the overall CPI. Inflation in food and beverages rose to 3.35% in February from 2.1% in the previous month, driven by quickening price levels in the meat, oils, and fruits and nuts categories. Notably, inflation in tomato prices stood at more than 45%. Thankfully, this was accompanied by a contraction in prices of the two other staples – onions and potatoes – by 28% and 18%, respectively. A large part of the low inflation last year was due to a statistical base effect that is now gone. Looking ahead, there are various factors that could result in rapidly rising food inflation. The first is that climate scientists are predicting the return of the El Niño effect in the middle of the monsoon this year. A weak monsoon will naturally raise food prices. The second impact will depend on how long the conflict in West Asia continues. Sustained natural gas supply constraints will hurt fertilizer production, affecting food output and, eventually, prices.

The other factor that has driven inflation up, and which will likely remain a major driver in the near future, is the price of gold and silver. Gold jewellery saw inflation rise to 48.2% in February from an already-blistering 46.8% in January. Inflation in silver jewellery stood at more than 160% in both January and February. With global uncertainty and anxiety skyrocketing, the demand for safe-haven precious metals is not going to let up any time soon. Rising oil prices and LPG and LNG shortages are already raising input prices for industry, which will eventually be passed on to consumers. The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee has a tough job in its next meeting in April. Inflation is being driven by supply constraints, so trying to reduce demand by raising interest rates will not only have a minimal impact on inflation but could also further hurt growth when fuel constraints are already impacting it. The onus lies with the government and its efforts to expedite alternative sources of fuel.

14Mar. Price pressures

मूल्य दबाव

- India must find sources of sustainable energy to curb inflation
भारत को मुद्रास्फीति (inflation) को नियंत्रित (curb) करने के लिए सतत ऊर्जा (sustainable energy) के स्रोत खोजने होंगे
- The new series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the second data release of which was issued on Thursday, does not yet have enough historical data for robust comparisons.
उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) की नई श्रृंखला, जिसका दूसरा डेटा जारी गुरुवार को किया गया, अभी तक मजबूत ऐतिहासिक तुलना के लिए पर्याप्त डेटा नहीं रखती।
- However, it includes enough information to provide clues about the future.
हालाँकि इसमें इतना डेटा मौजूद है कि यह भविष्य के संकेत प्रदान कर सकता है।
- Retail inflation in India rose to a 10-month high of 3.2% in February 2026.
भारत में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति फरवरी 2026 में 3.2% के 10-महीने के उच्च स्तर पर पहुँच गई।
- This increase was largely driven by food inflation and precious metal prices.
यह वृद्धि मुख्यतः खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति और कीमती धातुओं की कीमतों के कारण हुई।
- The government should take note of this rise early.
सरकार को इस वृद्धि पर प्रारम्भिक स्तर पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- It should avoid complacency caused by the low inflation levels of the past year.
पिछले वर्ष की कम मुद्रास्फीति के कारण उत्पन्न आत्मसंतोष से बचना चाहिए।
- Food has a lower weight in the new CPI series compared to the old one.
नई CPI श्रृंखला में खाद्य पदार्थों का भार पुराने की तुलना में कम है।
- However, food still remains a major driver of inflation.
फिर भी खाद्य वस्तुएँ मुद्रास्फीति की प्रमुख चालक बनी हुई हैं।
- Food has a 36.75% weight in the overall CPI.
कुल CPI में खाद्य पदार्थों का भार 36.75% है।
- Inflation in food and beverages increased to 3.35% in February from 2.1% in the previous month.
खाद्य और पेय पदार्थों की मुद्रास्फीति फरवरी में 3.35% हो गई, जो पिछले महीने 2.1% थी।
- This rise was driven by higher prices in meat, oils, fruits and nuts.



- यह वृद्धि मांस, तेल, फल और मेवा की कीमतों में वृद्धि से हुई।
- Inflation in **tomato prices** stood at **more than 45%**.
टमाटर की कीमतों में मुद्रास्फीति 45% से अधिक रही।
 - At the same time, prices of **onions and potatoes** declined.
इसी समय **प्याज और आलू की कीमतों** में गिरावट आई।
 - Onion prices declined by **28%**.
प्याज की कीमतें 28% कम हुईं।
 - Potato prices declined by **18%**.
आलू की कीमतें 18% कम हुईं।
 - A large part of the **low inflation last year** was due to a **statistical base effect**.
पिछले वर्ष की **कम मुद्रास्फीति** का बड़ा कारण **सांख्यिकीय आधार प्रभाव (base effect)** था।
 - That base effect has **now disappeared**.
अब वह **आधार प्रभाव समाप्त हो चुका है।**
 - Looking ahead, several factors could **increase food inflation rapidly**.
आगे देखते हुए कई कारक **खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति को तेजी से बढ़ा सकते हैं।**
 - The first factor is the possible return of **El Niño during the middle of the monsoon this year**.
पहला कारण इस वर्ष **मानसून के मध्य में एल नीनो की वापसी** की संभावना है।
 - Climate scientists have **predicted the return of El Niño**.
जलवायु वैज्ञानिकों ने **एल नीनो की वापसी की भविष्यवाणी** की है।
 - A **weak monsoon** would raise food prices.
कमजोर मानसून से खाद्य कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं।
 - Another factor depends on the **duration of the conflict in West Asia**.
दूसरा कारक **पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष की अवधि** पर निर्भर करता है।
 - **Natural gas supply constraints** could hurt **fertilizer production**.
प्राकृतिक गैस आपूर्ति में कमी से उर्वरक उत्पादन प्रभावित हो सकता है।
 - This could affect **food output and prices**.
इससे **खाद्य उत्पादन और कीमतें** प्रभावित हो सकती हैं।
 - Another major driver of inflation is the **price of gold and silver**.
मुद्रास्फीति का एक और प्रमुख कारण **सोना और चाँदी की कीमतें** हैं।
 - Inflation in **gold jewellery** rose to **48.2% in February** from **46.8% in January**.
सोने के आभूषणों की मुद्रास्फीति जनवरी के 46.8% से बढ़कर फरवरी में 48.2% हो गई।
 - Inflation in **silver jewellery** was **more than 160% in both January and February**.
चाँदी के आभूषणों की मुद्रास्फीति जनवरी और फरवरी दोनों में 160% से अधिक रही।
 - With **global uncertainty increasing**, demand for **safe-haven precious metals** is rising.
वैश्विक अनिश्चितता बढ़ने के कारण सुरक्षित निवेश के रूप में कीमती धातुओं की मांग बढ़ रही है।
 - This demand is **unlikely to decline soon**.
यह मांग **जल्द कम होने की संभावना नहीं है।**
 - Rising **oil prices and shortages of LPG and LNG** are increasing **industrial input costs**.
तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि और LPG तथा LNG की कमी से उद्योगों की लागत बढ़ रही है।
 - These costs will eventually be **passed on to consumers**.
ये लागत अंततः **उपभोक्ताओं पर डाली जाएँगी।**
 - The **Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** faces a **difficult decision in its April meeting**.
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की मौद्रिक नीति समिति (MPC) को अप्रैल की बैठक में कठिन निर्णय लेना होगा।
 - Inflation is currently driven by **supply constraints**.
वर्तमान में मुद्रास्फीति मुख्यतः **आपूर्ति बाधाओं से प्रेरित है।**
 - Raising **interest rates to reduce demand** may have **minimal impact on inflation**.
मांग कम करने के लिए ब्याज दर बढ़ाना मुद्रास्फीति पर कम प्रभाव डाल सकता है।
 - It could also **hurt economic growth**.
यह **आर्थिक विकास को भी प्रभावित कर सकता है।**
 - Fuel shortages are already **impacting growth**.
ईंधन की कमी पहले से ही आर्थिक वृद्धि को प्रभावित कर रही है।



- Therefore, the responsibility lies with the **government to expedite alternative fuel sources**.
इसलिए जिम्मेदारी सरकार पर है कि वह वैकल्पिक ईंधन स्रोतों को तेजी से विकसित करे।

The fate of the Washington Consensus, once talisman

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MOB

Once upon a late-20th-century lecture circuit, the phrase “Washington Consensus” (WC) did the work of a talisman: 10 tidy policy prescriptions that promised macro stability, market-led growth, and a path out of crisis for beleaguered states. John Williamson, who coined the term in 1989, formulated its 10 commandments: fiscal discipline; reordering public spending toward pro-growth priorities; tax reform to broaden the tax base and lower rates; liberalisation of interest rates; competitive exchange rates; trade liberalisation through lowering tariffs; liberalisation of inward foreign direct investment; privatisation of state-owned enterprises; deregulation to remove barriers to entry and competition; and securing property rights. These were presented as near-universal remedies, administered by institutions in the West that watched the global macro-economy like physicians with a single, favoured prescription, summed up in the words liberalise, privatise, and deregulate. Three decades on, the prescription seems obsolete, overtaken by the onrush of global events.

Its shaping, its legacy

The Washington Consensus was never merely technocratic; it carried a political history. Adopted in moments of crisis, its reforms arrived bound up with conditionality, bargaining power, and a belief that markets, once set free, would generate growth that trickled down. The core tenets of the “consensus” emerged from the ideological crucible of Reaganomics and Thatcherite structural adjustment programmes. These principles – fiscal austerity, deregulation, privatisation, and trade liberalisation – were adopted with little critical scrutiny by the Bretton Woods Institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, or BWIs) and their regional counterparts such as the Asian Development Bank during the mid to late 1980s. Their embrace was largely a response to the debt crises and macroeconomic instability that afflicted many developing countries at the time.

Yet, the consequences of this orthodoxy were far-reaching and, in many cases, deeply destabilising. The Asian financial crisis, which erupted in Bangkok in 1997, and the global financial meltdown of 2008, were among the most visible symptoms of the Consensus’s systemic flaws. Equally telling were the breakdowns of the WTO ministerial meetings in Seattle (1999) and Cancun (2003), which exposed the deepening rift between developed and developing nations – a divide the Doha Round never managed to bridge.

One of the most damaging legacies of the Consensus was its categorical rejection of industrial strategy. Promoted by the BWIs on behalf of industrialised nations, this taboo was reinforced through WTO rules on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), intellectual property (TRIPS), and subsidies – all of which



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constrained the policy space for developing countries seeking to nurture domestic industries. Another pillar of WC dogma was deregulation in favour of an idealised “free market”, even in contexts where market institutions were weak or non-existent – as was the case across much of Africa and the least developed countries. For decades, the IMF advanced the notion that inequality was irrelevant so long as growth occurred and would eventually “trickle down”. In practice, however, Structural Adjustment Programmes proved particularly harmful to the poorest nations, which lacked even the minimal institutional foundations upon which the WC’s assumptions were built.

Compounding these issues was the manner in which the WC was conceived – largely in western capitals, without meaningful consultation with the developing countries that would bear the brunt of its implementation. The results were mixed enough to invite reappraisal, even during the WC’s heyday. Some countries – parts of East Asia, Pinochet’s Chile – found ways to combine market openings with strong state direction and industrial strategy. Others – several Latin American cases, some post-Soviet transitions – suffered debt crises, inequality spikes and social backlash.

A loss of faith

The conditionalities imposed by the BWIs and the rigidity of WTO rules led to widespread discontent, manifesting in street protests across the Global South throughout the 1990s and beyond. The backlash against globalisation – whether from the anti-capitalist left in earlier decades or the far right after 2008, with its toxic blend of white supremacy, racism, and anti-immigration sentiment – can be traced, at least in part, to the failures of the WC and the global financial crisis it helped precipitate. Movements such as MAGA and Brexit reflect this disillusionment.

Ironically, none of the countries that successfully industrialised – neither the United States nor Japan before the Second World War, nor South Korea, Taiwan, or Singapore in the post-war era – adhered to the WC’s prescriptions during their formative years. Their success was rooted in state-led strategies that prioritised industrial policy, precisely the kind of intervention the “consensus” sought to delegitimise.

The WC may have dominated the late 20th century, but its time has passed. The task now is to craft a new consensus – one that is inclusive, context-sensitive, and responsive to the realities of a multipolar, digital, and ecologically fragile world.

We must revisit the policy mix that enabled the rare post-war success stories – South Korea, Taiwan, and in its own way, China – to ascend into the ranks of advanced economies. This does not mean a wholesale return to 20th-century models, but rather a thoughtful adaptation of

their core principles to contemporary challenges. Education, public health, infrastructure investment, and “infant industry” protection remain as vital today as they were then. But new imperatives – digital trade, climate resilience, and AI governance – demand fresh thinking and innovative frameworks.

We are witnessing two new trends: one, the emergence of a “post-Washington consensus” that insists on public accountability, social safety nets, and the politics of redistribution; the other, the Beijing counter-narrative, where state-led intervention, targeted industrial policy, and limited political liberalisation offer an alternative template.

If the late 20th century was the triumph of liberalisation, the mid-2020s have seen its theatrical undoing in the form of the Trump tariff tempest – sweeping, erratic and punitive. Protectionism is being brandished as an instrument of geopolitics and domestic politics alike. Supply chains are being reconfigured, not so much for efficiency but for dominance and national security. The implicit bargain that underwrote the WC – that free markets would be the engine of prosperity, and supply chains the neutral plumbing of global commerce – has been strained by a revived appetite for economic nationalism, and the wielding of sovereign power as a battle-axe rather than a shield.

Tariffs and industrial subsidies signal a re-politicisation of economic policy. They reveal that Trump’s America is willing to accept short-run costs and global friction to reclaim perceived strategic advantage. If in 1990 the default was “liberalise”, in 2025 the default is “what will protect our interests?”

The shattering of a myth

Has the world moved to a new consensus? Not exactly. What has emerged is less a single set of new verities and more an acceptance that policy must be politically context-sensitive. A pragmatic eclecticism now rules: fiscal prudence still matters, but so does targeted public investment; markets are powerful allocators, but they need rules, institutions, and buffers; trade is growth-enhancing, but national security can justify strategic decoupling and politics can justify tariffs.

The neat ideological narrative – liberalise, privatise, deregulate – has given way to a toolbox from which policymakers pick instruments with explicit geopolitical and distributional aims. In that messy landscape, success will come from the hard work of designing policies that fit national capacities, global constraints, and political realities.

That is not the end of globalised liberalisation; it is the end of the myth that there is a ready-made template that every nation subscribes to. The struggle to grow and prosper is still every nation’s struggle. But each has to find its own path forward amid the policy mess into which all have been plunged.

The Washington Consensus no longer fits a multipolar, digital and fragile world

14Mar. The fate of the Washington Consensus, once talisman वाशिंगटन कंसेंसस का भविष्य, जो कभी ताबीज़ समान माना जाता था

- Once upon a late-20th-century lecture circuit, the phrase “Washington Consensus” (WC) did the work of a talisman: 10 tidy policy prescriptions that promised macro stability, market-led growth, and a path out of crisis for beleaguered states.

एक समय 20वीं सदी के उत्तरार्ध के व्याख्यान मंचों पर “Washington Consensus (WC)” वाक्यांश एक ताबीज़ की तरह कार्य करता था: 10 सुव्यवस्थित नीति निर्देश जो मैक्रो स्थिरता, बाज़ार-आधारित विकास, और संकटग्रस्त राज्यों के लिए संकट से बाहर निकलने का मार्ग देने का वादा करते थे।

- John Williamson, who coined the term in 1989, formulated its 10 commandments. जॉन विलियमसन, जिन्होंने 1989 में यह शब्द गढ़ा, उन्होंने इसके 10 आदेश तैयार किए।



- fiscal discipline
- राजकोषीय अनुशासन
- reordering public spending toward pro-growth priorities
- सार्वजनिक व्यय को विकासोन्मुख प्राथमिकताओं की ओर पुनर्गठित करना
- tax reform to broaden the tax base and lower rates
- कर आधार को व्यापक बनाने और दरें कम करने के लिए कर सुधार
- liberalisation of interest rates
- ब्याज दरों का उदारीकरण
- competitive exchange rates
- प्रतिस्पर्धी विनिमय दर
- trade liberalisation through lowering tariffs
- टैरिफ कम करके व्यापार उदारीकरण
- liberalisation of inward foreign direct investment
- प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश के आगमन का उदारीकरण
- privatisation of state-owned enterprises
- राज्य-स्वामित्व वाले उद्यमों का निजीकरण
- deregulation to remove barriers to entry and competition
- प्रवेश और प्रतिस्पर्धा की बाधाओं को हटाने के लिए विनियमन समाप्त करना
- securing property rights
- संपत्ति अधिकारों की सुरक्षा
- These were presented as **near-universal remedies**, administered by **institutions in the West** that watched the **global macro-economy** like **physicians with a single, favoured prescription**, summed up in the words **liberalise, privatise, and deregulate**.
इन्हें लगभग सार्वभौमिक उपचार के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया, जिन्हें पश्चिमी संस्थाओं द्वारा लागू किया गया जो वैश्विक मैक्रो अर्थव्यवस्था को ऐसे देखते थे जैसे डॉक्टर एक पसंदीदा दवा के साथ, जिसे liberalise, privatise, and deregulate शब्दों में संक्षेपित किया गया।
- **Three decades on**, the prescription seems **obsolete**, overtaken by the **onrush of global events**.
तीन दशकों बाद, यह नुस्खा पुराना और अप्रासंगिक प्रतीत होता है, क्योंकि इसे वैश्विक घटनाओं की तेज़ लहर ने पीछे छोड़ दिया है।

Its shaping, its legacy इसका निर्माण, इसकी विरासत

- The **Washington Consensus** was never merely **technocratic**; it carried a **political history**. **Washington Consensus** कभी केवल तकनीकी नीति नहीं था; इसमें राजनीतिक इतिहास भी शामिल था।
- Adopted in moments of **crisis**, its reforms arrived bound up with **conditionality, bargaining power**, and a belief that **markets, once set free, would generate growth that trickled down**.
संकट के समय अपनाए गए इन सुधारों के साथ शर्तें, सौदेबाज़ी शक्ति, और यह विश्वास जुड़ा था कि मुक्त बाज़ार अंततः ऐसा विकास उत्पन्न करेगा जो नीचे तक पहुँचेगा।
- The core tenets of the “**consensus**” emerged from the ideological crucible of **Reaganomics** and **Thatcherite structural adjustment programmes**.
इस “**consensus**” के मुख्य सिद्धांत **Reaganomics** और **Thatcherite structural adjustment programmes** के वैचारिक स्रोतों से उभरे।
- These principles — **fiscal austerity, deregulation, privatisation, and trade liberalisation** — were adopted with little critical scrutiny by the **Bretton Woods Institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund)** and their regional counterparts such as the **Asian Development Bank** during the **mid to late 1980s**.
ये सिद्धांत — **fiscal austerity, deregulation, privatisation, और trade liberalisation** — को **Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank और International Monetary Fund)** तथा उनके क्षेत्रीय समकक्ष जैसे **Asian Development Bank** द्वारा **1980 के दशक के मध्य से उत्तरार्ध** में बिना अधिक आलोचनात्मक समीक्षा के अपनाया गया।



- Their embrace was largely a response to the **debt crises** and **macroeconomic instability** that afflicted many **developing countries** at the time.
इनका अपनाया जाना मुख्यतः उस समय कई **विकासशील देशों** को प्रभावित करने वाले **ऋण संकट** और **मैक्रो आर्थिक अस्थिरता** की प्रतिक्रिया था।
- Yet, the consequences of this **orthodoxy** were **far-reaching** and, in many cases, **deeply destabilising**.
फिर भी, इस **विचारधारा** के परिणाम **दूरगामी** और कई मामलों में **गंभीर रूप से अस्थिर करने वाले** रहे।
- The **Asian financial crisis**, which erupted in **Bangkok in 1997**, and the **global financial meltdown of 2008**, were among the most visible symptoms of the **Consensus's systemic flaws**.
एशियाई वित्तीय संकट, जो **1997 में बैंकॉक में शुरू हुआ**, और **2008 का वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट**, **Consensus की प्रणालीगत कमजोरियों** के सबसे स्पष्ट उदाहरणों में थे।
- Equally telling were the breakdowns of the **WTO ministerial meetings in Seattle (1999) and Cancún (2003)**, which exposed the deepening **rift between developed and developing nations** — a divide the **Doha Round** never managed to bridge.
इसी तरह **WTO मंत्रीस्तरीय बैठकों Seattle (1999) और Cancún (2003)** का विफल होना भी महत्वपूर्ण था, जिसने **विकसित और विकासशील देशों के बीच बढ़ती खाई** को उजागर किया — एक ऐसा विभाजन जिसे **Doha Round** भी समाप्त नहीं कर सका।
- One of the most damaging legacies of the **Consensus** was its **categorical rejection of industrial strategy**.
Consensus की सबसे हानिकारक विरासतों में से एक इसका **औद्योगिक रणनीति का पूर्ण अस्वीकार** था।
- Promoted by the **BWIs** on behalf of **industrialised nations**, this taboo was reinforced through **WTO rules on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), intellectual property (TRIPS), and subsidies**.
औद्योगिक देशों की ओर से **BWIs** द्वारा प्रोत्साहित इस निषेध को **WTO के नियमों जैसे Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), intellectual property (TRIPS), और subsidies** के माध्यम से और मजबूत किया गया।
- These rules constrained the **policy space for developing countries** seeking to **nurture domestic industries**.
इन नियमों ने **घरेलू उद्योगों को विकसित करने की कोशिश** कर रहे **विकासशील देशों की नीति स्वतंत्रता** को सीमित कर दिया।
- Another pillar of **WC dogma** was **deregulation in favour of an idealised “free market”**.
WC सिद्धांत का एक और आधार था **आदर्शिकृत “free market” के पक्ष में विनियमन समाप्त करना**।
- This approach was applied even in contexts where **market institutions were weak or non-existent**, as across much of **Africa and the least developed countries**.
यह दृष्टिकोण उन परिस्थितियों में भी लागू किया गया जहाँ **बाज़ार संस्थाएँ कमजोर या अस्तित्वहीन थीं**, जैसे **अफ्रीका और सबसे कम विकसित देशों** में।
- For decades, the **IMF** advanced the notion that **inequality was irrelevant so long as growth occurred**.
दशकों तक **IMF** ने यह धारणा आगे बढ़ाई कि **जब तक विकास होता है, असमानता महत्वहीन है**।
- The assumption was that growth would eventually **“trickle down”**.
यह मान लिया गया था कि विकास अंततः **“trickle down”** होगा।
- In practice, however, **Structural Adjustment Programmes** proved particularly harmful to the **poorest nations**.
व्यवहार में, हालांकि, **Structural Adjustment Programmes** ने विशेष रूप से **सबसे गरीब देशों** को नुकसान पहुँचाया।
- These countries lacked even the **minimal institutional foundations** upon which the **Washington Consensus assumptions** were built.
इन देशों के पास वह **न्यूनतम संस्थागत आधार** भी नहीं था जिन पर **Washington Consensus की धारणाएँ** आधारित थीं।
- Compounding these issues was the manner in which the **WC** was conceived — largely in **western capitals**, without meaningful consultation with the **developing countries** that would bear the **brunt of its implementation**.
इन समस्याओं को और बढ़ाने वाला कारण यह था कि **WC** की अवधारणा मुख्यतः **पश्चिमी राजधानियों** में की



गई थी, बिना उन **विकासशील देशों** से सार्थक परामर्श किए जिन्हें इसके **कार्यान्वयन का सबसे अधिक भार** उठाना था।

- The results were **mixed enough** to invite **reappraisal**, even during the **WC's heyday**. इसके परिणाम इतने **मिश्रित** थे कि **WC के स्वर्णकाल** के दौरान ही इसके **पुनर्मूल्यांकन** की आवश्यकता महसूस होने लगी।
- Some countries — parts of **East Asia, Pinochet's Chile** — found ways to combine **market openings** with strong **state direction** and **industrial strategy**. कुछ देशों — **पूर्वी एशिया** के हिस्सों और **पिनोशे का चिली** — ने **बाज़ार खोलने** को मजबूत **राज्यीय निर्देशन** और **औद्योगिक रणनीति** के साथ जोड़ने के तरीके खोज लिए।
- Others — several **Latin American cases**, some **post-Soviet transitions** — suffered **debt crises, inequality spikes** and **social backlash**. अन्य देशों — कई **लैटिन अमेरिकी उदाहरणों** और कुछ **सोवियत-पश्चात संक्रमणों** — को **ऋण संकट**, **असमानता में तेज वृद्धि** और **सामाजिक प्रतिक्रिया** का सामना करना पड़ा।

A loss of faith विश्वास की हानि

- The **conditionalities** imposed by the **BWIs** and the rigidity of **WTO rules** led to widespread **discontent**, manifesting in **street protests** across the **Global South** throughout the **1990s** and beyond. **BWIs** द्वारा लगाए गए **शर्तों** और **WTO नियमों** की कठोरता ने व्यापक **असंतोष** को जन्म दिया, जो **1990 के दशक** और उसके बाद पूरे **ग्लोबल साउथ** में **सड़क प्रदर्शनों** के रूप में दिखाई दिया।
- The **backlash against globalisation** — whether from the **anti-capitalist left** in earlier decades or the **far right after 2008**, with its toxic blend of **white supremacy, racism, and anti-immigration sentiment** — can be traced, at least in part, to the failures of the **WC** and the **global financial crisis** it helped precipitate. **वैश्वीकरण के खिलाफ प्रतिक्रिया** — चाहे वह पहले के दशकों में **पूंजीवाद-विरोधी वामपंथ** से आई हो या **2008 के बाद के अतिदक्षिणपंथ** से, जिसमें **श्वेत वर्चस्व, नस्लवाद** और **आप्रवासन-विरोधी भावना** का मिश्रण था — आंशिक रूप से **WC की विफलताओं** और उससे जुड़े **वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट** से जुड़ी हुई है।
- Movements such as **MAGA** and **Brexit** reflect this **disillusionment**. **MAGA** और **Brexit** जैसे आंदोलन इस **निराशा और मोहभंग** को दर्शाते हैं।
- Ironically, none of the countries that successfully **industrialised** — neither the **United States** nor **Japan before the Second World War**, nor **South Korea, Taiwan, or Singapore** in the **post-war era** — adhered to the **WC's prescriptions** during their **formative years**. विडंबना यह है कि जिन देशों ने सफलतापूर्वक **औद्योगिकीकरण** किया — न तो **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**, न **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध से पहले का जापान**, और न ही **दक्षिण कोरिया, ताइवान या सिंगापुर** ने अपने प्रारंभिक **विकास चरणों** में **WC की नीतियों** का पालन किया।
- Their success was rooted in **state-led strategies** that prioritised **industrial policy**, precisely the kind of **intervention** the “**consensus**” sought to **delegitimise**. उनकी सफलता **राज्य-नेतृत्व वाली रणनीतियों** पर आधारित थी जो **औद्योगिक नीति** को प्राथमिकता देती थीं, ठीक उसी प्रकार के **हस्तक्षेप** को “**कंसेंसस**” ने **अवैध ठहराने** की कोशिश की थी।
- The **WC** may have dominated the **late 20th century**, but its time has **passed**. **20वीं सदी के उत्तरार्ध** में **WC** का प्रभुत्व रहा होगा, लेकिन उसका समय अब **समाप्त हो चुका है**।
- The task now is to craft a **new consensus** — one that is **inclusive, context-sensitive**, and responsive to the realities of a **multipolar, digital, and ecologically fragile world**. अब कार्य यह है कि एक **नया सहमति ढांचा** तैयार किया जाए — जो **समावेशी, संदर्भ-संवेदनशील** हो और **बहुध्रुवीय, डिजिटल तथा पर्यावरणीय रूप से नाजुक दुनिया** की वास्तविकताओं के अनुरूप हो।
- We must revisit the **policy mix** that enabled the rare **post-war success stories** — **South Korea, Taiwan, and in its own way, China** — to ascend into the ranks of **advanced economies**. हमें उस **नीति मिश्रण** की पुनः समीक्षा करनी चाहिए जिसने दुर्लभ **युद्धोत्तर सफलता की कहानियों** — **दक्षिण कोरिया, ताइवान, और अपने तरीके से चीन** — को **उन्नत अर्थव्यवस्थाओं** की श्रेणी में पहुँचने में सक्षम बनाया।
- This does not mean a wholesale return to **20th-century models**, but rather a thoughtful adaptation of their **core principles** to **contemporary challenges**.



इसका अर्थ 20वीं सदी के मॉडलों की पूर्ण वापसी नहीं है, बल्कि उनके मूल सिद्धांतों को समकालीन चुनौतियों के अनुसार सोच-समझकर अनुकूलित करना है।

- **Education, public health, infrastructure investment, and “infant industry” protection** remain as vital today as they were then.

शिक्षा, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, बुनियादी ढाँचे में निवेश, और “शिशु उद्योग” संरक्षण आज भी उतने ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं जितने पहले थे।

- But new imperatives — **digital trade, climate resilience, and AI governance** — demand **fresh thinking and innovative frameworks**.

लेकिन नई आवश्यकताएँ — डिजिटल व्यापार, जलवायु सहनशीलता, और AI शासन — नए विचार और नवोन्मेषी ढाँचे की मांग करती हैं।

- We are witnessing **two new trends**: one, the emergence of a “**post-Washington consensus**” that insists on **public accountability, social safety nets, and the politics of redistribution**; the other, the **Beijing counter-narrative**, where **state-led intervention, targeted industrial policy, and limited political liberalisation** offer an **alternative template**.

हम दो नई प्रवृत्तियाँ देख रहे हैं: पहली, “पोस्ट-वॉशिंगटन कंसेंसस” का उभरना जो सार्वजनिक जवाबदेही, सामाजिक सुरक्षा जाल, और पुनर्वितरण की राजनीति पर जोर देता है; दूसरी, बीजिंग प्रतिपक्षीय कथा, जहाँ राज्य-नेतृत्व वाला हस्तक्षेप, लक्षित औद्योगिक नीति, और सीमित राजनीतिक उदारीकरण एक वैकल्पिक मॉडल प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

The shattering of a myth एक मिथक का टूटना

- If the **late 20th century** was the triumph of **liberalisation**, the **mid-2020s** have seen its theatrical undoing in the form of the **Trump tariff tempest** — sweeping, erratic and punitive. यदि **20वीं सदी के उत्तरार्ध** को **उदारीकरण की विजय** कहा जाए, तो **मध्य-2020 के दशक** में इसका नाटकीय विघटन **ट्रम्प टैरिफ तूफान** के रूप में देखा गया — व्यापक, अनियमित और दंडात्मक।

- Protectionism is being brandished as an instrument of **geopolitics** and **domestic politics** alike.

संरक्षणवाद (Protectionism) को अब **भूराजनीति** और **घरेलू राजनीति** दोनों के एक उपकरण के रूप में प्रयोग किया जा रहा है।

- Supply chains are being **reconfigured**, not so much for **efficiency** but for **dominance** and **national security**.

सप्लाई चेन को अब **दक्षता** के बजाय **प्रभुत्व** और **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** के लिए **पुनर्गठित** किया जा रहा है।

- The implicit bargain that underwrote the **WC** — that **free markets** would be the engine of **prosperity**, and **supply chains** the neutral plumbing of **global commerce** — has been strained by a revived appetite for **economic nationalism**, and the wielding of **sovereign power** as a **battle-axe** rather than a **shield**.

वह अप्रत्यक्ष समझौता जिसने **WC** को आधार दिया था — कि **मुक्त बाज़ार समृद्धि** के इंजन होंगे और **सप्लाई चेन वैश्विक व्यापार** की तटस्थ संरचना होंगी — अब **आर्थिक राष्ट्रवाद** की पुनरुत्थानशील प्रवृत्ति और **सार्वभौमिक शक्ति** के **ढाल** के बजाय **हथियार** की तरह प्रयोग से कमजोर हो गया है।

- Tariffs and **industrial subsidies** signal a **re-politicisation of economic policy**.

टैरिफ और **औद्योगिक सब्सिडी** आर्थिक नीति के पुनः-राजनीतिकरण का संकेत देते हैं।

- They reveal that **Trump’s America** is willing to accept **short-run costs** and **global friction** to reclaim perceived **strategic advantage**.

वे यह दर्शाते हैं कि **ट्रम्प का अमेरिका** कथित **रणनीतिक लाभ** को पुनः प्राप्त करने के लिए **अल्पकालिक लागत** और **वैश्विक तनाव** को स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार है।

- If in **1990** the default was “**liberalise**”, in **2025** the default is “**what will protect our interests?**”

यदि **1990** में मूल प्रवृत्ति “**उदारीकरण**” थी, तो **2025** में मूल प्रश्न है — “**हमारे हितों की रक्षा क्या करेगा?**”

- Has the world moved to a **new consensus**? Not exactly.

क्या दुनिया किसी **नए सहमति ढाँचे** की ओर बढ़ गई है? बिल्कुल नहीं।

- What has emerged is less a single set of new verities and more an acceptance that **policy must be politically context-sensitive**.



जो उभरा है वह किसी एक नए सिद्धांतों का समूह नहीं बल्कि यह स्वीकार्यता है कि नीतियाँ राजनीतिक संदर्भ के प्रति संवेदनशील होनी चाहिए।

- A **pragmatic eclecticism** now rules: **fiscal prudence** still matters, but so does **targeted public investment**; **markets** are powerful allocators, but they need **rules, institutions, and buffers**; **trade** is growth-enhancing, but **national security** can justify **strategic decoupling** and **politics** can justify **tariffs**.

अब **व्यावहारिक बहुलवाद (pragmatic eclecticism)** का प्रभुत्व है: **राजकोषीय अनुशासन** अभी भी महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन **लक्षित सार्वजनिक निवेश** भी उतना ही आवश्यक है; **बाज़ार** संसाधनों के शक्तिशाली आवंटक हैं, पर उन्हें **नियमों, संस्थानों और सुरक्षा-तंत्र** की आवश्यकता होती है; **व्यापार** विकास को बढ़ाता है, पर **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा रणनीतिक अलगाव (strategic decoupling)** को उचित ठहरा सकती है और **राजनीति टैरिफ** को उचित ठहरा सकती है।

- The neat ideological narrative — **liberalise, privatise, deregulate** — has given way to a **toolbox** from which policymakers pick instruments with explicit **geopolitical** and **distributional aims**.

साफ-सुथरी वैचारिक कथा — **उदारीकरण, निजीकरण, विनियमन-मुक्ति** — अब एक **नीति-उपकरणों के बॉक्स** में बदल गई है, जहाँ नीति-निर्माता स्पष्ट **भूराजनीतिक** और **वितरणात्मक लक्ष्यों** के साथ उपकरण चुनते हैं।

- In that messy landscape, success will come from the hard work of designing policies that fit **national capacities, global constraints, and political realities**.

इस जटिल परिदृश्य में सफलता उन नीतियों के कठिन निर्माण से आएगी जो **राष्ट्रीय क्षमताओं, वैश्विक सीमाओं** और **राजनीतिक वास्तविकताओं** के अनुकूल हों।

- That is not the end of **globalised liberalisation**; it is the end of the **myth** that there is a **ready-made template** that every nation subscribes to.

यह **वैश्वीकृत उदारीकरण** का अंत नहीं है; बल्कि यह उस **मिथक का अंत** है कि हर देश के लिए कोई **तैयार-मिला मॉडल** मौजूद है।

• The struggle to **grow and prosper** is still every nation's struggle.

विकास और समृद्धि के लिए संघर्ष अभी भी हर राष्ट्र का संघर्ष है।

• But each has to find **its own path forward** amid the **policy mess** into which all have been plunged.

लेकिन प्रत्येक देश को उस **नीतिगत अव्यवस्था** के बीच **अपना मार्ग स्वयं खोजना** होगा जिसमें सभी देश फँस गए हैं।

Sugar mills to report 5-8% revenue growth in FY26: ICRA report

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Integrated sugar mills are likely to see moderate revenue growth of 5-8% in FY26, driven by improved sugarcane availability and stable sugar prices, a report said on Friday.

However, margins are likely to remain broadly stable as cane prices have increased, while ethanol prices have remained largely stagnant, rating agency ICRA said in the report.

For sugar year (SY) 2026, the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane has been increased by ₹15 to ₹355 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.

ICRA expects the operating margins of integrated sugar mills to remain range-bound at around 10-10.5% in FY26 compared to 9.6% in the previous year.

The revenue growth for



For SY 2026, the FRP for sugarcane has been increased by ₹15 to ₹355 per quintal.

integrated sugar mills is projected to remain moderate at 5-8% in FY26, supported by higher cane availability and stable sugar prices, the rating agency said.

ICRA also noted that borrowings of its sample set are likely to moderate in FY26, supported by profit accretion and repayment of distillery loans, which is expected to keep the capital structure comfortable and improve coverage metrics.

14Mar. Sugar mills to report 5-8% revenue growth in FY26: ICRA report

ICRA रिपोर्ट: FY26 में चीनी मिलों की आय में 5-8% वृद्धि की संभावना

• **Integrated sugar mills** are likely to see **moderate revenue growth of 5-8% in FY26**, driven by improved **sugarcane availability** and **stable sugar prices**, a report said on Friday.

एकीकृत चीनी मिलों में FY26 में 5-8% की मध्यम आय वृद्धि देखने की संभावना है, जो बेहतर **गन्ना उपलब्धता** और **स्थिर चीनी कीमतों** से प्रेरित है, शुक्रवार को एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।

• However, **margins** are likely to remain broadly stable as **cane prices** have increased, while **ethanol prices** have remained largely stagnant, rating agency **ICRA** said in the report.

हालांकि, **मार्जिन** लगभग स्थिर रहने की संभावना है क्योंकि **गन्ने की कीमतें** बढ़ी हैं, जबकि **एथेनॉल की कीमतें** काफी हद तक स्थिर रही हैं, रेटिंग एजेंसी **ICRA** ने रिपोर्ट में कहा।

• For sugar year (SY) 2026, the **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)** for sugarcane has been increased by ₹15 to ₹355 per quintal for a basic recovery



rate of 10.25%.

चीनी वर्ष (SY) 2026 के लिए, गन्ने का उचित और लाभकारी मूल्य (FRP) ₹15 बढ़ाकर ₹355 प्रति क्विंटल कर दिया गया है, जो 10.25% की रिकवरी दर पर आधारित है।

- ICRA expects the **operating margins** of integrated sugar mills to remain range-bound at around **10-10.5% in FY26** compared to **9.6%** in the previous year.

ICRA का अनुमान है कि एकीकृत चीनी मिलों के परिचालन मार्जिन FY26 में 10-10.5% के आसपास सीमित रहेंगे, जो पिछले वर्ष के 9.6% की तुलना में है।

GS III: S&T

Duty of care

The state must not evade responsibility when it pushes for vaccination

The Supreme Court of India's directive in **Rachana Gangu to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to design a no-fault compensation scheme for serious adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) arising from India's COVID-19 vaccination campaign** marks a shift from a **fault-based liability system to a no-fault one in state-run public health programmes**. The case arose from writ petitions filed in various courts by families claiming that their relatives had died or suffered serious injury after receiving COVID-19 vaccines. **Rachana Gangu was over the deaths, in 2021, of two women aged 18 and 20, allegedly from vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), a rare complication of the Covishield vaccine.** Affected families contended that India had no dedicated mechanism to compensate those harmed in a state-run programme. For several years, the government resisted establishing a compensation policy because it held that vaccination was voluntary, serious AEFI rates were extremely low, and aggrieved citizens could sue vaccine manufacturers in civil court – a position the Court has since rejected as being impractical for ordinary individuals. The new ruling also builds on **Jacob Puliyl (2022)**, in which the Court rejected challenges to emergency vaccine approvals but emphasised the need to make AEFI data publicly available.

In 2024, a few years after scientists had established the same concern in medical literature, AstraZeneca acknowledged in a U.K. court document that Covishield could, in rare instances, cause VITT. Since most Indians were vaccinated with Covishield, the admission further undermined the government's position that links between the vaccine and certain deaths were unproven or coincidental. Despite operating one of the world's largest immunisation efforts, India has historically lacked a dedicated national vaccine injury compensation programme. Many countries, including the U.S. and the U.K., have such vaccine injury compensation programmes where claimants need not prove negligence, but only a plausible link to vaccination. Even the global COVAX facility established a no-fault mechanism for 92 low- and middle-income countries. During the pandemic, the government had reported over 1,100 deaths following vaccination across 219 crore doses administered. The Court ruled that for a welfare state, these represent individual human lives and that the absence of a formal policy left affected families in a legal vacuum. It has also been clear that its directive is not based on adjudicating whether the vaccines caused specific injuries or deaths nor does it replace all fault-based liabilities in public health. However, it sets an important precedent for future vaccination drives, including the new one for HPV, affirming the state's duty of care when endorsing medical interventions for the public good.

- The **revenue growth** for integrated sugar mills is projected to remain moderate at **5-8% in FY26**, supported by higher **cane availability** and **stable sugar prices**, the rating agency said.

रेटिंग एजेंसी ने कहा कि एकीकृत चीनी मिलों की आय वृद्धि FY26 में 5-8% के स्तर पर मध्यम रहने का अनुमान है, जिसे अधिक गन्ना उपलब्धता और स्थिर चीनी कीमतों का समर्थन मिलेगा।

- ICRA also noted that **borrowings** of its sample set are likely to moderate in **FY26**, supported by **profit accretion** and repayment of **distillery loans**, which is expected to keep the **capital structure** comfortable and improve **coverage metrics**.

ICRA ने यह भी कहा कि उसके नमूना समूह के उधार FY26 में कम होने की संभावना है, जिसे लाभ वृद्धि और डिस्टिलरी ऋणों की अदायगी का समर्थन मिलेगा, जिससे पूंजी संरचना आरामदायक बनी रहेगी और कवरेज मीट्रिक्स में सुधार होगा।

GS Paper III: S&T,

TOPICS COVERED

14 March 2026

14Mar

Duty of care

देखभाल का दायित्व

14Mar. Duty of care
देखभाल का दायित्व

- The **state must not evade responsibility** when it **pushes for vaccination**

जब राज्य (state) टीकाकरण (vaccination) के लिए प्रोत्साहित (pushes) करता है, तब उसे अपनी जिम्मेदारी (responsibility) से बचने (evade) का प्रयास नहीं करना चाहिए

- The **Supreme Court of India's directive in Rachana Gangu to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to design a no-fault compensation scheme for serious Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)** marks a shift from a **fault-based liability system to a no-fault one in state-run public health programmes**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट का Rachana Gangu मामले में निर्देश, जिसमें स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय को गंभीर टीकाकरण के बाद प्रतिकूल घटनाओं (AEFI) के लिए नो-फॉल्ट मुआवजा योजना बनाने को कहा गया, दोष-आधारित उत्तरदायित्व प्रणाली से नो-फॉल्ट प्रणाली की ओर बदलाव को दर्शाता है, विशेषकर सरकारी सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों में।

- The case arose from **writ petitions filed in various courts by families** claiming that their relatives had **died or suffered serious injury after receiving COVID-19 vaccines**.

यह मामला उन रिट याचिकाओं से उत्पन्न हुआ जो विभिन्न अदालतों में उन परिवारों द्वारा दायर की गई थीं जिनका दावा था कि उनके रिश्तेदारों की COVID-19 टीका लेने के बाद मृत्यु हो गई या गंभीर चोट लगी।



- **Rachana Gangu** was related to the **deaths in 2021 of two women aged 18 and 20.**
Rachana Gangu मामला 2021 में 18 और 20 वर्ष की दो महिलाओं की मृत्यु से जुड़ा था।
- These deaths were allegedly caused by **Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT).**
इन मौतों का कारण कथित रूप से **Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT)** बताया गया।
- **VITT is a rare complication associated with the Covishield vaccine.**
VITT को Covishield टीके से जुड़ी एक दुर्लभ जटिलता माना जाता है।
- Affected families argued that **India lacked a dedicated compensation mechanism** for those harmed in a **state-run vaccination programme.**
प्रभावित परिवारों का तर्क था कि **भारत में सरकारी टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम से प्रभावित लोगों के लिए समर्पित मुआवजा व्यवस्था नहीं थी।**
- For several years, the **government resisted creating a compensation policy.**
कई वर्षों तक **सरकार ने मुआवजा नीति बनाने का विरोध किया।**
- The government argued that **vaccination was voluntary and serious AEFI rates were extremely low.**
सरकार का तर्क था कि **टीकाकरण स्वैच्छिक था और गंभीर AEFI की दर बहुत कम थी।**
- It also argued that aggrieved citizens could **sue vaccine manufacturers in civil courts.**
सरकार ने यह भी कहा कि पीड़ित नागरिक **सिविल अदालत में वैक्सीन निर्माताओं के खिलाफ मुकदमा कर सकते हैं।**
- The **Supreme Court rejected this argument** stating it was **impractical for ordinary individuals.**
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस तर्क को अस्वीकार करते हुए कहा कि यह सामान्य नागरिकों के लिए अव्यावहारिक है।
- The ruling builds upon the earlier **Jacob Puliye (2022) case.**
यह निर्णय पहले के **Jacob Puliye (2022) मामले पर आधारित है।**
- In that case, the Court rejected challenges to **emergency vaccine approvals.**
उस मामले में अदालत ने **आपातकालीन वैक्सीन स्वीकृति को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं को खारिज कर दिया था।**
- However, it emphasised the need to **make AEFI data publicly available.**
लेकिन अदालत ने **AEFI डेटा को सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध कराने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।**
- In **2024, AstraZeneca acknowledged in a U.K. court document that Covishield could in rare cases cause VITT.**
2024 में AstraZeneca ने यू.के. अदालत में दस्तावेज़ के माध्यम से स्वीकार किया कि Covishield दुर्लभ मामलों में VITT का कारण बन सकता है।
- Most Indians received the **Covishield vaccine** during the COVID-19 campaign.
COVID-19 टीकाकरण अभियान के दौरान अधिकांश भारतीयों को **Covishield टीका** लगाया गया था।
- This admission weakened the government's earlier claim that the **link between vaccines and certain deaths was unproven or coincidental.**
इस स्वीकारोक्ति से सरकार का यह दावा कमजोर हुआ कि **टीके और कुछ मौतों के बीच संबंध सिद्ध नहीं हुआ या केवल संयोग था।**
- Despite conducting **one of the world's largest immunisation programmes**, India historically lacked a **national vaccine injury compensation programme.**
दुनिया के सबसे बड़े टीकाकरण कार्यक्रमों में से एक चलाने के बावजूद, भारत में ऐतिहासिक रूप से राष्ट्रीय टीका चोट मुआवजा कार्यक्रम नहीं था।
- Many countries such as the **U.S. and the U.K. have such vaccine injury compensation programmes.**
अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन जैसे कई देशों में टीका चोट मुआवजा कार्यक्रम मौजूद हैं।
- In these systems, claimants need not prove **negligence**, only a **plausible link to vaccination.**
इन प्रणालियों में दावेदारों को **लापरवाही साबित करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती, केवल टीकाकरण से संभावित संबंध दिखाना होता है।**
- Even the global **COVAX facility** created a **no-fault compensation mechanism** for **92 low- and middle-income countries.**



वैश्विक COVAX सुविधा ने भी 92 निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों के लिए नो-फॉल्ट मुआवजा तंत्र बनाया था।

- During the pandemic, the government reported over 1,100 deaths following vaccination. महामारी के दौरान सरकार ने टीकाकरण के बाद 1,100 से अधिक मौतों की रिपोर्ट दी।
- These occurred across 219 crore vaccine doses administered. ये घटनाएँ 219 करोड़ टीका खुराक दिए जाने के दौरान दर्ज की गईं।
- The Court stated that in a welfare state, each case represents an individual human life. अदालत ने कहा कि कल्याणकारी राज्य में हर मामला एक मानव जीवन का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।
- The absence of a formal policy left affected families in a legal vacuum. औपचारिक नीति की अनुपस्थिति ने प्रभावित परिवारों को कानूनी शून्य (legal vacuum) में छोड़ दिया।
- The directive does not determine whether vaccines caused specific injuries or deaths. यह निर्देश यह तय नहीं करता कि टीकों ने विशेष चोट या मृत्यु का कारण बना या नहीं।
- It also does not replace all fault-based liabilities in public health programmes. यह सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों में सभी दोष-आधारित उत्तरदायित्वों को समाप्त नहीं करता।
- However, it establishes an important precedent for future vaccination drives. हालाँकि यह भविष्य के टीकाकरण अभियानों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मिसाल स्थापित करता है।
- This includes upcoming campaigns such as the HPV vaccination programme. इसमें आने वाले अभियान जैसे HPV टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम भी शामिल हैं।
- The ruling affirms the state's duty of care when promoting medical interventions for public welfare. यह निर्णय सार्वजनिक हित के लिए चिकित्सा हस्तक्षेप को बढ़ावा देते समय राज्य की देखभाल की जिम्मेदारी को स्थापित करता है।

SC steps in to save Chambal sanctuary from sand mining

GS III: Environment
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to step in to save the fragile lotic ecosystem of the National Chambal Sanctuary, home and breeding spot for the critically endangered gharials or fish-eating crocodiles, situated at the trijunction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, from rampant and illegal sand mining.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta took suo motu cognisance of media reports about the constant threat caused by sand mining.

The court said that the gharials were relocated. But, eventually, the area to which they had been shifted to by the Madhya Pradesh government had also been dug into by the sand mining mafia. The problem had become so acute that the National Green Tribunal had taken cognisance of *The Hindu's* report "Digging up the Chambal" of March 2022 and ordered to periodically monitor

and control illegal mining.

A comprehensive plan submitted for the conservation of the Chambal ecology in the NGT had alerted that "sand mining is the biggest threat to the sanctuary". The report submitted before the tribunal had said that the activity was not only degrading habitat for sand nesting species, but also affecting the morphology of the river and its water-retaining properties.

"Most of the sand mining is carried out by organised mafia that confront in the form of severe aggression against the forest department. Tractor-trolleys are mainly involved in excavation of sand from the river bed and dumping it in their fields around the villages, from where it gets exported by trucks. The mafias use vehicles which do not have their registration number displayed. This prevents the forest department from capturing the true culprit. Lack of support from other law enforcing agencies further aggravates the issue," the report had detailed.

GS Paper III: Environment,

TOPICS COVERED 14 March 2026

14Mar SC steps in to save Chambal sanctuary from sand mining
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चंबल अभयारण्य को रेत खनन से बचाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया

14Mar. SC steps in to save Chambal sanctuary from sand mining
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चंबल अभयारण्य को रेत खनन से बचाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया

• The Supreme Court on Friday decided to step in to save the fragile lotic ecosystem of the National Chambal Sanctuary, home and breeding spot for the critically endangered gharials or fish-eating crocodiles, situated at the trijunction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, from rampant and illegal sand mining.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को नेशनल चंबल अभयारण्य के नाजुक प्रवाही पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बचाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप करने का निर्णय लिया, जो गंभीर रूप से संकटग्रस्त घड़ियालों का आवास और प्रजनन स्थल है, और राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश के त्रिसंगम पर स्थित है, जहाँ अवैध और व्यापक रेत खनन हो रहा है।

• A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta took suo motu cognisance of media reports about the constant threat caused by sand mining.

न्यायमूर्ति विक्रम नाथ और संदीप मेहता की पीठ ने रेत खनन से उत्पन्न लगातार खतरे पर मीडिया रिपोर्टों का स्वतः संज्ञान लिया।



- The court said that the **gharials were relocated**.
अदालत ने कहा कि **घड़ियालों को स्थानांतरित किया गया था**।
- But, eventually, the area to which they had been shifted to by the **Madhya Pradesh government** had also been dug into by the **sand mining mafia**.
लेकिन अंततः जिस क्षेत्र में उन्हें **मध्य प्रदेश सरकार** द्वारा स्थानांतरित किया गया था, वहां भी **रेत खनन माफिया** ने खुदाई कर दी।
- The problem had become so acute that the **National Green Tribunal** had taken cognisance of **The Hindu's report "Digging up the Chambal" of March 2022** and ordered it to periodically monitor and control **illegal mining**.
समस्या इतनी गंभीर हो गई कि **नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल** ने **मार्च 2022 की 'द हिंदू' रिपोर्ट "Digging up the Chambal"** का संज्ञान लिया और **अवैध खनन** की समय-समय पर निगरानी और नियंत्रण का आदेश दिया।
- A comprehensive plan submitted for the conservation of the **Chambal ecology** in the NGT had warned that "**sand mining is the biggest threat to the sanctuary**".
एनजीटी में प्रस्तुत **चंबल पारिस्थितिकी** के संरक्षण के लिए एक व्यापक योजना ने चेतावनी दी थी कि "**रेत खनन अभयारण्य के लिए सबसे बड़ा खतरा है**"।
- The report submitted before the tribunal had said that the activity was not only degrading habitat for **sand nesting species**, but also affecting the **morphology of the river** and its **water-retaining properties**.
ट्रिब्यूनल के समक्ष प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि यह गतिविधि न केवल **रेत में घोंसला बनाने वाली प्रजातियों** के आवास को नुकसान पहुंचा रही है, बल्कि **नदी की संरचना** और उसकी **जल धारण क्षमता** को भी प्रभावित कर रही है।
- "Most of the **sand mining** is carried out by organised mafia that confront in the form of severe aggression against the **forest department**.
"अधिकांश **रेत खनन** संगठित माफिया द्वारा किया जाता है जो **वन विभाग** के खिलाफ गंभीर आक्रामकता दिखाते हैं।
- Tractor-trolleys are mainly involved in excavation of sand from the **river bed** and dumping it in their fields around the villages, from where it gets exported by trucks.
ट्रैक्टर-टॉली मुख्य रूप से **नदी तल** से रेत निकालने और उसे गांवों के आसपास अपने खेतों में जमा करने में शामिल हैं, जहां से इसे ट्रकों द्वारा बाहर भेजा जाता है।
- The mafias use vehicles which do not have their **registration number displayed**.
माफिया ऐसे वाहनों का उपयोग करते हैं जिन पर **पंजीकरण संख्या प्रदर्शित नहीं होती**।
- This prevents the **forest department** from capturing the true culprit.
इससे **वन विभाग** असली अपराधी को पकड़ने में असमर्थ रहता है।
- Lack of support from other **law enforcing agencies** further aggravates the issue," the report had detailed.
अन्य **कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों** से समर्थन की कमी इस समस्या को और बढ़ाती है," रिपोर्ट में विस्तार से बताया गया।

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (GS Paper IV and Essay)

TOPICS COVERED

14 March 2026

14Mar	A.P. man held for filming wife's suicide instead of preventing it आंध्र प्रदेश के व्यक्ति को पत्नी की आत्महत्या रोकने के बजाय उसका वीडियो बनाने के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया
14Mar	Rama sets an example for all राम सभी के लिए एक उदाहरण स्थापित करते हैं



A.P. man held for filming wife's suicide instead of preventing it

GS IV: Ethics

The Andhra Pradesh police on Friday arrested a man for filming his wife's suicide instead of preventing her from taking the extreme step. According to the police, Sriram Srinivas, a loco pilot, used to frequently quarrel with his wife Krishnaveni. "During one such argument, Krishnaveni threatened to commit suicide. Instead of stopping, her husband filmed the entire episode," the police said. (Persons having suicidal thoughts may 'Dial 100' for help).

बजाय उसे चरम कदम उठाने से रोकने के।

- According to the police, **Sriram Srinivas**, a loco pilot, used to frequently quarrel with his wife **Krishnaveni**. पुलिस के अनुसार, श्रीराम श्रीनिवास, जो एक लोको पायलट है, अपनी पत्नी कृष्णावेणी से अक्सर झगड़ा करता था।
- "During one such argument, **Krishnaveni threatened to commit suicide**. "ऐसे ही एक विवाद के दौरान, कृष्णावेणी ने आत्महत्या करने की धमकी दी।
- Instead of stopping, her husband filmed the entire episode," the police said. उसे रोकने के बजाय, उसके पति ने पूरे घटनाक्रम का वीडियो बनाया," पुलिस ने कहा।
- (Persons having suicidal thoughts may 'Dial 100' for help). (आत्महत्या के विचार आने पर व्यक्ति सहायता के लिए '100 डायल' कर सकते हैं)।

14Mar. A.P. man held for filming wife's suicide instead of preventing it

आंध्र प्रदेश के व्यक्ति को पत्नी की आत्महत्या रोकने के बजाय उसका वीडियो बनाने के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया

- The **Andhra Pradesh police** on Friday arrested a man for **filming his wife's suicide** instead of preventing her from taking the **extreme step**. आंध्र प्रदेश पुलिस ने शुक्रवार को एक व्यक्ति को पत्नी की आत्महत्या का वीडियो बनाने के लिए गिरफ्तार किया,

GS IV: Ethics

Rama sets an example for all

Nature itself is blended with discipline and dharma, and human life should be aligned with this natural order. Thiruvalluvar perceived this truth and expressed it in his immortal work, the Thirukkural. He declares that a person who leads a life of perfect conduct and virtue on earth is regarded as one among the gods in heaven (kural 50).

Lanka Sri Jayaraj said in a discourse that the Ramayana begins with Vishnu descending to earth as Rama. Rama is the embodiment of all virtues and discipline. Through his life and actions, Rama set himself as an example for all.

Life is filled with ups and downs. A person should neither become excessively elated when good things happen nor sink into deep sorrow during adverse situations. The life of Rama teaches us this noble virtue. One day, Rama was informed of his impending coronation, but the very next day, he was asked to leave for exile in the forest. Rama accepted both situations with the same calmness and composure, thereby showing the world how one should remain balanced and unaffected by life's changing circumstances. When Guha, the hunter chief, came to meet Rama in the forest, he brought honey and fish as offerings. Fish is found in the deep waters of the sea, while honey is obtained high up in the trees on the hills. Through this imagery, the great poet Kambar symbolically conveys that Guha's devotion extends from the heights of the mountains to the depths of the sea – boundless and profound. During the war, when Ravana lost his strength and weapons in battle, Rama asked Ravana to return the next day, prepared for battle, thereby displaying extraordinary compassion and adherence to the code of dharma.

14Mar. Rama sets an example for all राम सभी के लिए एक उदाहरण स्थापित करते हैं

- **Nature** itself is blended with **discipline** and **dharma**, and human life should be aligned with this **natural order**. प्रकृति स्वयं अनुशासन और धर्म के साथ जुड़ी हुई है, और मानव जीवन को इस प्राकृतिक व्यवस्था के अनुरूप होना चाहिए।
- **Thiruvalluvar** perceived this truth and expressed it in his immortal work, the **Thirukkural**. तिरुवल्लुवर ने इस सत्य को समझा और इसे अपने अमर ग्रंथ तिरुक्कुरल में व्यक्त किया।
 - He declares that a person who leads a life of **perfect conduct** and **virtue** on earth is regarded as one among the **gods in heaven** (kural 50). उन्होंने कहा कि जो व्यक्ति पृथ्वी पर संपूर्ण आचरण और सद्गुण का जीवन जीता है, उसे स्वर्ग के देवताओं (कुरल 50) में गिना जाता है।
- **Lanka Sri Jayaraj** said in a discourse that the **Ramayana** begins with **Vishnu** descending to



earth as **Rama**.

लंका श्री जयराज ने एक प्रवचन में कहा कि **रामायण** की शुरुआत **विष्णु** के **राम** के रूप में पृथ्वी पर अवतरण से होती है।

- **Rama** is the embodiment of all **virtues** and **discipline**.
राम सभी **सद्गुणों** और **अनुशासन** के प्रतीक हैं।
- Through his life and actions, **Rama** set himself as an example for all.
अपने जीवन और कार्यों के माध्यम से, **राम** ने स्वयं को सभी के लिए एक आदर्श के रूप में स्थापित किया।
- Life is filled with **ups and downs**.
जीवन **उतार-चढ़ाव** से भरा हुआ है।
- A person should neither become excessively elated when good things happen nor sink into deep sorrow during adverse situations.
मनुष्य को अच्छे समय में अत्यधिक प्रसन्न नहीं होना चाहिए और न ही विपरीत परिस्थितियों में गहरे दुख में डूबना चाहिए।
- The life of **Rama** teaches us this noble virtue.
राम का जीवन हमें यह महान गुण सिखाता है।
- One day, **Rama** was informed of his impending **coronation**, but the very next day, he was asked to leave for **exile in the forest**.
एक दिन **राम** को उनके **राज्याभिषेक** की सूचना दी गई, लेकिन अगले ही दिन उन्हें **वनवास** के लिए जाने को कहा गया।
- **Rama** accepted both situations with the same **calmness** and **composure**, thereby showing the world how one should remain **balanced** and unaffected by life's changing circumstances.
राम ने दोनों परिस्थितियों को समान **शांति** और **धैर्य** के साथ स्वीकार किया, जिससे उन्होंने दुनिया को दिखाया कि व्यक्ति को जीवन के बदलते हालातों में **संतुलित** और अप्रभावित कैसे रहना चाहिए।
- When **Guha**, the hunter chief, came to meet **Rama** in the forest, he brought **honey** and **fish** as offerings.
जब **गुहा**, शिकारी प्रमुख, जंगल में **राम** से मिलने आए, तो वे **शहद** और **मछली** भेंट के रूप में लाए।
- Fish is found in the deep waters of the **sea**, while honey is obtained high up in the trees on the **hills**.
मछली **समुद्र** के गहरे पानी में पाई जाती है, जबकि शहद **पहाड़ों** पर ऊंचे पेड़ों से प्राप्त होता है।
- Through this imagery, the great poet **Kambar** symbolically conveys that **Guha's devotion** extends from the heights of the mountains to the depths of the sea — **boundless and profound**.
इस प्रतीक के माध्यम से महान कवि **कंबर** यह दर्शाते हैं कि **गुहा की भक्ति** पहाड़ों की ऊंचाइयों से लेकर समुद्र की गहराइयों तक फैली हुई है — **असीम और गहन**।
- During the war, when **Ravana** lost his strength and weapons in battle, **Rama** asked **Ravana** to return the next day, prepared for battle, thereby displaying extraordinary **compassion** and adherence to the **code of dharma**.
युद्ध के दौरान, जब **रावण** ने अपनी शक्ति और हथियार खो दिए, तब **राम** ने **रावण** से अगले दिन युद्ध के लिए तैयार होकर आने को कहा, जिससे उन्होंने असाधारण **करुणा** और **धर्म के नियमों** के पालन का प्रदर्शन किया।