



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

21 MARCH 2026

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

PCS Special:	21 March
21Mar	Oscar-nominated film on Gaza orally rejected by CBFC, says distributor गाज़ा पर ऑस्कर-नामांकित फिल्म को CBFC ने मौखिक रूप से खारिज किया, वितरक का दावा

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Oscar-nominated film on Gaza orally rejected by CBFC, says distributor

PCS

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Voice of Hind Rajab, an Oscar-nominated film about a five-year-old Palestinian girl who was killed by Israeli forces in early 2024 in the Gaza war, has been orally rejected by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the film's India distributor Manoj Nandwana said.

The theatrical ban on the film was first reported on Thursday by Hollywood trade publication *Variety*.

Mr. Nandwana told *The Hindu* that he "had a feeling" that the film would be refused certification, as multiple film festivals – which require the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's clearance for movies that don't have a CBFC certificate – were not granted approval for this film over the last year.

He added that he was not going to proceed with a legal challenge to the film, and said that he did not get the rejection from the CBFC in writing. "In the



A still from the film *The Voice of Hind Rajab*.

past, we submitted a film called *Land Jihad ...* but then the Censor Board gave it in writing that this could cause communal issues, and rejected it in writing," he said.

The Ministry and the CBFC did not respond to a query by *The Hindu*. A senior official told *The Hindu* on Friday that the film had now been referred to a Revising Committee in the CBFC, and that it would be reviewed by them now. Over the past two years, the CBFC has rejected and censored many films that have progressive political messaging.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said that the film's ban was "disgraceful," adding that "screening a film is a reflection of our society's freedom of expression and has nothing to do with government to government relations".

Banning films for potentially harming foreign relations was "unworthy of a mature democracy", Mr. Tharoor said.

Mr. Nandwana purchased the rights for the Tunisian-produced film long before it was an Oscars contender, buying it for the equivalent of ₹1 crore in Venice. But the film was denied screening at multiple festivals, including the Bengaluru International Film Festival and the International Film Festival of India in Goa. The only festival it has played at in India is the Kolkata International Film Festival, Mr. Nandwana said, speculating that this was because the organisers did not bother with clearances from the Union government.

21Mar. Oscar-nominated film on Gaza orally rejected by CBFC, says distributor
गाज़ा पर ऑस्कर-नामांकित फिल्म को CBFC ने मौखिक रूप से खारिज किया, वितरक का दावा

- The **Voice of Hind Rajab**, an **Oscar-nominated film** about a five-year-old **Palestinian girl** who was killed by **Israeli forces** in early 2024 in the **Gaza war**, has been orally rejected by the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**, the film's India distributor **Manoj Nandwana** said.

द वॉइस ऑफ हिंद रजाब, एक **ऑस्कर-नामांकित फिल्म**, जो 2024 की शुरुआत में **गाज़ा युद्ध** में **इजरायली बलों** द्वारा मारी गई एक पांच वर्षीय **फिलिस्तीनी लड़की** पर आधारित है, को **केंद्रीय फिल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC)** ने मौखिक रूप से खारिज कर दिया है, फिल्म के भारत वितरक **मनोज नंदवाना** ने कहा।



- The theatrical ban on the film was first reported on Thursday by **Hollywood trade publication Variety**.
फिल्म पर थिएटर में प्रतिबंध की खबर सबसे पहले गुरुवार को **हॉलीवुड ट्रेड पब्लिकेशन Variety** ने दी।
- Mr. Nandwana told **The Hindu** that he “had a feeling” that the film would be refused certification, as multiple **film festivals** — which require the **Information and Broadcasting Ministry’s** clearance for movies that don’t have a CBFC certificate — were not granted approval for this film over the last year.
श्री नंदवाना ने **द हिंदू** को बताया कि उन्हें “अहसास था” कि फिल्म को प्रमाणन नहीं मिलेगा, क्योंकि कई **फिल्म फेस्टिवल** — जिनके लिए **सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय** की मंजूरी जरूरी होती है — ने पिछले एक साल में इस फिल्म को अनुमति नहीं दी।
- He added that he was not going to proceed with a **legal challenge** to the film, and said that he did not get the rejection from the CBFC in writing.
उन्होंने कहा कि वह फिल्म के खिलाफ **कानूनी चुनौती** आगे नहीं बढ़ाएंगे और उन्हें CBFC से लिखित रूप में अस्वीकृति नहीं मिली।
- “In the past, we submitted a film called **Land Jihad** ... but then the Censor Board gave it in writing that this could cause **communal issues**, and rejected it in writing,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “अतीत में हमने **लैंड जिहाद** नामक फिल्म प्रस्तुत की थी... लेकिन सेंसर बोर्ड ने लिखित रूप में कहा कि इससे **साम्प्रदायिक मुद्दे** पैदा हो सकते हैं और इसे लिखित रूप में खारिज कर दिया।”
- The **Ministry** and the **CBFC** did not respond to a query by **The Hindu**.
मंत्रालय और **CBFC** ने द हिंदू के प्रश्न का कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया।
- A senior official told **The Hindu** on Friday that the film had now been referred to a **Revising Committee** in the CBFC, and that it would be reviewed by them now.
एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने शुक्रवार को द हिंदू को बताया कि फिल्म को अब CBFC की **रीवाइजिंग कमेटी** को भेज दिया गया है और अब इसकी समीक्षा की जाएगी।
- Over the past two years, the CBFC has rejected and censored many films that have **progressive political messaging**.
पिछले दो वर्षों में CBFC ने कई ऐसी फिल्मों को खारिज और सेंसर किया है जिनमें **प्रगतिशील राजनीतिक संदेश** थे।
- **Congress leader Shashi Tharoor** said that the film’s ban was “**disgraceful**,” adding that “screening a film is a reflection of our society’s **freedom of expression** and has nothing to do with government to government relations”.
कांग्रेस नेता शशि थरूर ने कहा कि फिल्म पर प्रतिबंध “**शर्मनाक**” है और जोड़ा कि “किसी फिल्म का प्रदर्शन हमारे समाज की **अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** का प्रतिबिंब है और इसका सरकार-से-सरकार संबंधों से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।”
- Banning films for potentially harming **foreign relations** was “unworthy of a mature democracy”, Mr. Tharoor said.
श्री थरूर ने कहा कि **विदेशी संबंधों** को नुकसान पहुंचाने की आशंका के आधार पर फिल्मों पर प्रतिबंध लगाना “एक परिपक्व लोकतंत्र के योग्य नहीं है।”
- Mr. Nandwana purchased the rights for the **Tunisian-produced film** long before it was an Oscars contender, buying it for the equivalent of **₹1 crore** in **Venice**.
श्री नंदवाना ने **ट्यूनीशियाई निर्मित फिल्म** के अधिकार ऑस्कर की दौड़ में आने से पहले ही **वेनिस** में लगभग **₹1 करोड़** में खरीद लिए थे।
- But the film was denied screening at multiple festivals, including the **Bengaluru International Film Festival** and the **International Film Festival of India in Goa**.
लेकिन इस फिल्म को कई फेस्टिवल्स में प्रदर्शन की अनुमति नहीं मिली, जिनमें **बेंगलुरु इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल** और **गोवा में इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल ऑफ इंडिया** शामिल हैं।
- The only festival it has played at in India is the **Kolkata International Film Festival**, Mr. Nandwana said, speculating that this was because the organisers did not bother with clearances from the **Union government**.
श्री नंदवाना ने कहा कि भारत में यह फिल्म केवल **कोलकाता इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल** में दिखाई गई, और अनुमान लगाया कि ऐसा इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि आयोजकों ने **केंद्र सरकार** से अनुमति लेने की परवाह नहीं की।



GS Paper 1: History,

TOPICS COVERED

21 March 2026

21Mar	Hanging by a thread: West Asia conflict brings Kashmir-Iran carpet connection to spotlight धागे पर टंगा: पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष ने कश्मीर-ईरान कालीन संबंध को उजागर किया
21Mar	The politics of martyrdom, sacrifice and vengeance in Iran's body politic ईरान की राज्य-व्यवस्था में शहादत, बलिदान और प्रतिशोध की राजनीति

Hanging by a thread: West Asia conflict brings Kashmir-Iran carpet connection to spotlight

Kashmir has been competing with Iranian carpets for centuries, replicating the unique designs that are associated with Iranian cities like Kermanshah, Kashan, Tabriz, Khorasan, Isfahan, Hamadan, Ardabil, Mashhad, Qum and Shiraz

GS I: History: A&C
Peerzada Asif
SRINAGAR

Every time a missile strikes Iran, tremors are felt thousands of miles away in Srinagar's Badamwari carpet cluster.

For many artisans, the war has struck a personal chord – Kashmir's famed carpets are named after cities across Iran.

"I am a master of Kashan carpets, named after an Iranian city. My family has been weaving Iranian designs for ages now. Kashmiri carpets are incomplete without them," said 67-year-old Haider Magray from Srinagar's Hawal.

Kashmir has been replicating Iranian designs associated with cities like Kermanshah, Kashan, Tabriz, Khorasan, Isfahan, Hamadan, Ardabil,



Intricate work: Kashmiri artisans weaving a carpet in a factory in Srinagar. IMRAN NISSAR

Mashhad, Qum and Shiraz. Many of these major cities holding major carpet centres have been affected by the Iran-U.S.-Israel hostilities. "It's painful to see the names of Iranian cities we relate to through our craft being destroyed. We pray the war ends and their craft bazaars are again teeming with customers,"

said Mr. Magray. Each city of Iran has a different design signature – some are dominated by geometrical shapes and historical signage, while others are marked by floral designs. Kashmir's carpet industry has been influenced by Iranian designs. The shared skills of dense hand-knotting have made Kashmiri and

Persian carpets world famous.

"An Ardabil design carpet woven by Kashmiri artisans and displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the U.K. is a testimony to the relationship with Iranian carpets. We have been exporting Ardabil, Kashan and Tabrizi designs since our great-grandfathers set up the 'House of Ali Shah' in 1869. We have the design presets with us," said Iqbal Shah of the Artisan Art and Cultural Centre. "Many Iranian designs were improvised over time and renamed after local artisans," he added.

Trading hotspot

During the 16th century Mughal period and the 19th century Dogra period, traders from Iran considered Kashmir as

one of their favourite stops to sell goods; to mainly the elites.

"During the Mughal period, Iranian traders facilitated the transfer of skills. Iranian traders may have even taken artisans to Iran for skill development," said Saleem Beg of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage.

The ongoing war has also cast its shadow on future collaborations between Kashmir and Iranian artisans. Last year, Srinagar was named the World Craft City by the NGO World Crafts Council. "There are 14 Iranian cities also listed as craft cities by the Council. We were expecting that the inclusion of Srinagar would lead to knowledge exchange. The war has also cast a shadow on that too," said Mr. Beg.

21Mar. Hanging by a thread: West Asia conflict brings Kashmir-Iran carpet connection to spotlight

धागे पर टंगा: पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष ने कश्मीर-ईरान कालीन संबंध को उजागर किया

- Kashmir has been competing with Iranian carpets for centuries, replicating the unique designs that are associated with Iranian cities like Kermanshah, Kashan, Tabriz, Khorasan, Isfahan, Hamadan, Ardabil, Mashhad, Qum and Shiraz.

कश्मीर सदियों से ईरानी कालीनों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है, और ईरानी शहरों जैसे कर्मानशाह, काशान, तबरीज़, खुरासान, इस्फहान, हमदान, अर्दबील, मशहद, कुम और शिराज़ से जुड़े विशिष्ट डिज़ाइनों की नकल करता रहा है।

- Every time a missile strikes Iran, tremors are felt thousands of miles away in Srinagar's Badamwari carpet cluster.

हर बार जब ईरान पर मिसाइल हमला होता है, तो उसके झटके हजारों मील दूर श्रीनगर के बादामवारी कालीन क्लस्टर में महसूस होते हैं।

- For many artisans, the war has struck a personal chord — Kashmir's famed carpets are named after cities across Iran.



कई कारीगरों के लिए यह युद्ध व्यक्तिगत रूप से प्रभावित करता है — कश्मीर के प्रसिद्ध कालीनों के नाम ईरान के शहरों पर रखे गए हैं।

- “I am a master of **Kashan carpets**, named after an **Iranian city**.
“मैं काशान कालीनों का उस्ताद हूँ, जिसका नाम एक ईरानी शहर पर रखा गया है।
- My family has been weaving **Iranian designs** for ages now.
मेरा परिवार पीढ़ियों से ईरानी डिज़ाइन बुनता आ रहा है।
- **Kashmiri carpets** are incomplete without them,” said 67-year-old **Haider Magray** from **Srinagar’s Hawal**.
“कश्मीरी कालीन इनके बिना अधूरे हैं,” श्रीनगर के हवाल के 67 वर्षीय हैदर मगरे ने कहा।
- **Kashmir** has been replicating **Iranian designs** associated with cities like **Kermanshah, Kashan, Tabriz, Khorasan, Isfahan, Hamadan, Ardabil, Mashhad, Qum and Shiraz**.
कश्मीर ईरानी डिज़ाइनों की नकल करता रहा है, जो कर्मानशाह, काशान, तबरीज़, खुरासान, इस्फहान, हमदान, अर्दबील, मशहद, कुम और शिराज़ जैसे शहरों से जुड़े हैं।
- Many of these major cities holding major **carpet centres** have been affected by the **Iran-U.S.-Israel hostilities**.
इन प्रमुख शहरों के बड़े कालीन केंद्र ईरान-अमेरिका-इज़राइल संघर्ष से प्रभावित हुए हैं।
- “It’s painful to see the names of **Iranian cities** we relate to through our craft being destroyed.
“यह देखना दुखद है कि जिन ईरानी शहरों से हम अपने शिल्प के माध्यम से जुड़े हैं, वे नष्ट हो रहे हैं।
- We pray the war ends and their **craft bazaars** are again teeming with customers,” said Mr. **Magray**.
हम प्रार्थना करते हैं कि युद्ध समाप्त हो और उनके शिल्प बाज़ार फिर से ग्राहकों से भर जाएं,” श्री मगरे ने कहा।
- Each city of **Iran** has a different **design signature** — some are dominated by **geometrical shapes** and historical signage, while others are marked by **floral designs**.
ईरान के हर शहर की एक अलग डिज़ाइन पहचान होती है — कुछ में ज्यामितीय आकृतियाँ और ऐतिहासिक चिन्ह प्रमुख होते हैं, जबकि अन्य में फूलों के डिज़ाइन होते हैं।
- **Kashmir’s carpet industry** has been influenced by **Iranian designs**.
कश्मीर का कालीन उद्योग ईरानी डिज़ाइनों से प्रभावित रहा है।
- The shared skills of **dense hand-knotting** have made **Kashmiri and Persian carpets** world famous.
घने हाथ से गांठ बांधने की तकनीक ने कश्मीरी और फारसी कालीनों को विश्व प्रसिद्ध बनाया है।
- “An **Ardabil design carpet** woven by **Kashmiri artisans** and displayed at the **Victoria and Albert Museum in the U.K.** is a testimony to the relationship with **Iranian carpets**.
“कश्मीरी कारीगरों द्वारा बुना गया एक अर्दबील डिज़ाइन कालीन, जो यू.के. के विक्टोरिया एंड अल्बर्ट म्यूजियम में प्रदर्शित है, ईरानी कालीनों के साथ संबंध का प्रमाण है।
- We have been exporting **Ardabil, Kashan and Tabrizi designs** since our great-grandfathers set up the ‘**House of Ali Shah**’ in **1869**.
हम अर्दबील, काशान और तबरीज़ी डिज़ाइन का निर्यात कर रहे हैं जब से हमारे परदादाओं ने **1869** में ‘हाउस ऑफ अली शाह’ स्थापित किया।
- We have the **design presets** with us,” said **Iqbal Shah** of the **Artisane Art and Cultural Centre**.
हमारे पास डिज़ाइन प्रीसेट उपलब्ध हैं,” आर्टिसेन आर्ट एंड कल्चरल सेंटर के इकबाल शाह ने कहा।
- “Many **Iranian designs** were improvised over time and renamed after **local artisans**,” he added.
“कई ईरानी डिज़ाइनों को समय के साथ बदला गया और स्थानीय कारीगरों के नाम पर रखा गया,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

Trading hotspot व्यापारिक केंद्र

- During the **16th century Mughal period** and the **19th century Dogra period**, traders from **Iran** considered **Kashmir** as one of their favourite stops to sell goods; to mainly the elites.
16वीं सदी के मुगल काल और **19वीं सदी के डोगरा काल** में, ईरान के व्यापारी कश्मीर को अपने पसंदीदा ठिकानों में से एक मानते थे, जहाँ वे मुख्य रूप से अभिजात वर्ग को सामान बेचते थे।



- "During the **Mughal period**, **Iranian traders** facilitated the transfer of skills. "मुगल काल के दौरान, **ईरानी व्यापारियों** ने कौशल के आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा दिया।
- **Iranian traders** may have even taken artisans to **Iran** for skill development," said **Saleem Beg** of the **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage**.
ईरानी व्यापारी कारीगरों को कौशल विकास के लिए **ईरान** भी ले गए होंगे," **इंटेक** के **सलीम बेग** ने कहा।
- The ongoing war has also cast its shadow on future collaborations between **Kashmir and Iranian artisans**.
चल रहे युद्ध ने **कश्मीर और ईरानी कारीगरों** के बीच भविष्य के सहयोग पर भी छाया डाल दी है।
- Last year, **Srinagar** was named the **World Craft City** by the NGO **World Crafts Council**. पिछले वर्ष, **श्रीनगर** को NGO **वर्ल्ड क्राफ्ट्स काउंसिल** द्वारा **विश्व शिल्प शहर** घोषित किया गया था।
- "There are **14 Iranian cities** also listed as **craft cities** by the Council.
"काउंसिल द्वारा **14 ईरानी शहरों** को भी **शिल्प शहरों** के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किया गया है।
- We were expecting that the inclusion of **Srinagar** would lead to **knowledge exchange**. हमें उम्मीद थी कि **श्रीनगर** के शामिल होने से **ज्ञान का आदान-प्रदान** होगा।
- The war has also cast a shadow on that too," said Mr. Beg.
युद्ध ने उस पर भी छाया डाल दी है," श्री बेग ने कहा।

The politics of martyrdom, sacrifice and vengeance in Iran's body politic

Stanly Johny
On February 28, the U.S. and Israel assassinated Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 86-year-old Supreme Leader of Iran, along with a number of other leaders. On March 17, an Israeli air strike killed Ali Larjani, Secretary of Iran's National Security Council. The next day, Iran's intelligence minister was killed. This is not the first time Iran's senior military and political leaders are getting killed. These killings are clear setbacks to Iran. But despite losing its top leaders and commanders, the Iranian state continues to function while its military

refused to stop fighting against the U.S.-Israeli attack. If Israel and the U.S. thought the decapitation strikes would lead to a state collapse in Iran, the plan doesn't seem to be working. Iran has a long tradition of statecraft, and the core tenets of Shia Islam has remained a defining factor of state behaviour for centuries. Since the Safavid dynasty adopted Shia Islam as the official religion of the Persian empire in the early 16th century, Iran (Persia) has been majority Shia. And since the 1979 Islamic revolution that overthrew the Pahlavi monarchy, the revolutionary state came to rest on two pillars: political Shiism and nationalism. In Iran, martyrdom

lies at the heart of both. Shias venerate their martyrs, beginning with Imam Ali. By assassinating Khamenei, Larjani and others, the U.S. and Israel have elevated them, in the eyes of their supporters, to a higher realm of martyrdom.



People gather for the funeral of Iranian security chief Ali Larjani, amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Tehran. REUTERS

The first martyr
After Prophet Mohammed's death, his followers split over who should lead the *ummah* (the Muslim community). One faction backed Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law. The other supported Abu Bakr, a close companion of the Prophet, who became the first Caliph. Ali later became the fourth. Those who rallied behind Ali came to be known as Shias (Shi'at Ali), while the fol-

lowers of the Rashidun Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali) formed the Sunni tradition. Ali was assassinated, becoming the first martyr in Shia memory. His son Hassan, the second Shia Imam, briefly assumed the Caliphate but abdicated under threats from the Umayyads. Hussein, Ali's younger son, refused to pledge loyalty to the Umayyad ruler, Yazid. In 680, Hussein and 72 of his followers were killed in Karbala, in today's Iraq, by the forces of Yazid. The Battle for Karbala holds enormous significance in both Shia faith and political Shiism. For

believers, Hussein, the Imam who refused to compromise even at the cost of his life, embodies the highest ideal of sacrifice. (Every year, Shias around the world mark Ashura, on the 10th of Muharram, with processions commemorating the martyrdom of Hussein.) During the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini invoked both sacrifice and courage to mobilise opposition to Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The monarch, Khomeini argued, was the new Yazid. He called on Hussein's followers, "the oppressed", to rise. And they did. After the revolution, many experts and world leaders doubted that the theocratic state would endure. Within a year, Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein invaded Iran, hoping to hasten the collapse of the fledgling republic. The new state was struggling to stabilise a fractured post-revolutionary order. Leftists, trade unionists, Islamists and liberals had all opposed the Shah, and the clergy's consolidation of power deepened divisions within this coalition. **Core tenets**
But Saddam's invasion changed the equation. Iranians rallied behind the flag; Saddam was cast as the modern-day Yazid. The Islamic Republic moved to purge leftists and liberals at home without provoking any regime-threatening backlash, while the war was under way. In effect, the conflict helped the clergy tighten its grip on power. After Khamenei was killed on February 28, Larjani repeatedly invoked the ideas martyrdom. He said, "the children of Imam Hussein fear nothing". After Larjani was killed, Mojtaba Khamenei, current Supreme Leader, said, "shedding the blood of such people at the foot of the mighty tree of the Islamic system will only make it stronger". Iran's leaders know the post-revolutionary state faces its gravest challenge in 47 years. But their response is not to give up the fight and flee, but to embrace the ideological core of the revolutionary state – martyrdom, sacrifice and vengeance.

21Mar. The politics of martyrdom, sacrifice and vengeance in Iran's body politic

ईरान की राज्य-व्यवस्था में शहादत, बलिदान और प्रतिशोध की राजनीति

- On February 28, the U.S. and Israel assassinated Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 86-year-old Supreme Leader of Iran, along with a number of other leaders.
28 फरवरी को, अमेरिका और इज़राइल ने ईरान के 86 वर्षीय सर्वोच्च नेता आयतुल्लाह अली खामेनेई सहित कई अन्य नेताओं की हत्या कर दी।
- On March 17, an Israeli air strike killed Ali Larjani, Secretary of Iran's National Security Council.
17 मार्च को, एक इज़राइली हवाई हमले में ईरान की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के सचिव अली लारिजानी मारे गए।
- The next day, Iran's intelligence minister was killed.
अगले दिन, ईरान के खुफिया मंत्री की हत्या कर दी गई।
- This is not the first time Iran's senior military and political leaders are getting killed.
यह पहली बार नहीं है जब ईरान के वरिष्ठ सैन्य और राजनीतिक नेताओं की हत्या की गई हो।
- These killings are clear setbacks to Iran.
ये हत्याएं ईरान के लिए स्पष्ट झटके हैं।
- But despite losing its top leaders and commanders, the Iranian state continues to function while its military refused to stop fighting against the U.S.-Israeli attack.
लेकिन अपने शीर्ष नेताओं और कमांडरों को खोने के बावजूद, ईरानी राज्य कार्य करता रहा और उसकी सेना ने अमेरिका-इज़राइल के हमले के खिलाफ लड़ाई रोकने से इनकार कर दिया।
- If Israel and the U.S. thought the decapitation strikes would lead to a state collapse in Iran, the plan doesn't seem to be working.



यदि इज़राइल और अमेरिका ने सोचा कि नेतृत्व को खत्म करने वाले हमले ईरान में राज्य के पतन का कारण बनेंगे, तो यह योजना सफल होती नहीं दिख रही है।

- Iran has a long tradition of statecraft, and the core tenets of Shia Islam has remained a defining factor of state behaviour for centuries.
ईरान के पास राज्य-शिल्प की लंबी परंपरा है, और शिया इस्लाम के मूल सिद्धांत सदियों से राज्य के व्यवहार को निर्धारित करते रहे हैं।
- Since the Safavid dynasty adopted Shia Islam as the official religion of the Persian empire in the early 16th century, Iran (Persia) has been majority Shia.
16वीं सदी की शुरुआत में सफ़वीद वंश द्वारा शिया इस्लाम को आधिकारिक धर्म अपनाने के बाद से, ईरान (फारस) में शिया बहुसंख्यक रहे हैं।
- And since the 1979 Islamic revolution that overthrew the Pahlavi monarchy, the revolutionary state came to rest on two pillars: political Shiism and nationalism.
और 1979 की इस्लामी क्रांति के बाद, जिसने पहलवी राजतंत्र को उखाड़ फेंका, क्रांतिकारी राज्य दो स्तंभों पर आधारित हो गया: राजनीतिक शियावाद और राष्ट्रवाद।
- In Iran, martyrdom lies at the heart of both.
ईरान में, शहादत इन दोनों के केंद्र में है।
- Shias venerate their martyrs, beginning with Imam Ali.
शिया अपने शहीदों का सम्मान करते हैं, जिसकी शुरुआत इमाम अली से होती है।
- By assassinating Khamenei, Larijani and others, the U.S. and Israel have elevated them, in the eyes of their supporters, to a higher realm of martyrdom.
खामेनेई, लारिजानी और अन्य की हत्या करके, अमेरिका और इज़राइल ने उन्हें उनके समर्थकों की नजर में शहादत के उच्च स्तर पर पहुंचा दिया है।

The first martyr पहला शहीद

- After Prophet Mohammed's death, his followers split over who should lead the ummah (the Muslim community).
पैगंबर मोहम्मद की मृत्यु के बाद, उनके अनुयायियों में इस बात पर विभाजन हो गया कि उम्मा (मुस्लिम समुदाय) का नेतृत्व कौन करेगा।
- One faction backed Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law.
एक समूह ने पैगंबर के चचेरे भाई और दामाद अली का समर्थन किया।
- The other supported Abu Bakr, a close companion of the Prophet, who became the first Caliph.
दूसरे ने पैगंबर के करीबी साथी अबू बक्र का समर्थन किया, जो पहले खलीफा बने।
- Ali later became the fourth.
अली बाद में चौथे खलीफा बने।
- Those who rallied behind Ali came to be known as Shias [Shi'at Ali], while the followers of the Rashidun Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali) formed the Sunni tradition.
जो लोग अली के समर्थन में आए, वे शिया [शियात अली] कहलाए, जबकि राशिदुन खलीफाओं (अबू बक्र, उमर, उस्मान और अली) के अनुयायियों ने सुन्नी परंपरा बनाई।
- Ali was assassinated, becoming the first martyr in Shia memory.
अली की हत्या कर दी गई, और वे शिया परंपरा में पहले शहीद बने।
- His son Hassan, the second Shia Imam, briefly assumed the Caliphate but abdicated under threats from the Umayyads.
उनके पुत्र हसन, दूसरे शिया इमाम, ने थोड़े समय के लिए खिलाफत संभाली, लेकिन उमय्यदों के दबाव में त्याग दिया।
- Hussein, Ali's younger son, refused to pledge loyalty to the Umayyad ruler, Yazid.
हुसैन, अली के छोटे पुत्र, ने उमय्यद शासक यज़ीद के प्रति निष्ठा की शपथ लेने से इनकार कर दिया।
- In 680, Hussein and 72 of his followers were killed in Karbala, in today's Iraq, by the forces of Yazid.
680 में, हुसैन और उनके 72 अनुयायियों को आज के इराक के करबला में यज़ीद की सेना ने मार दिया।
- The Battle for Karbala holds enormous significance in both Shia faith and political Shiism.
करबला की लड़ाई शिया आस्था और राजनीतिक शियावाद दोनों में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।



- For believers, Hussein, the Imam who refused to compromise even at the cost of his life, embodies the highest ideal of sacrifice.
विश्वसियों के लिए, हुसैन, वह इमाम जिन्होंने अपने जीवन की कीमत पर भी समझौता नहीं किया, बलिदान का सर्वोच्च आदर्श हैं।
- (Every year, Shias around the world mark Ashura, on the 10th of Muharram, with processions commemorating the martyrdom of Hussein.)
(हर वर्ष, दुनिया भर के शिया मुहर्रम की 10वीं तारीख को आशूरा मनाते हैं, जिसमें हुसैन की शहादत को याद किया जाता है।)
- During the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini invoked both sacrifice and courage to mobilise opposition to Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.
इस्लामी क्रांति के दौरान, आयतुल्लाह खुमैनी ने शाह मोहम्मद रज़ा पहलवी के खिलाफ विरोध को संगठित करने के लिए बलिदान और साहस दोनों का आह्वान किया।
- The monarch, Khomeini argued, was the new Yazid.
खुमैनी ने तर्क दिया कि सम्राट नया यज़ीद है।
- He called on Hussein's followers, "the oppressed", to rise.
उन्होंने हुसैन के अनुयायियों, "पीड़ितों", से उठ खड़े होने का आह्वान किया।
- And they did.
और उन्होंने ऐसा किया।
- After the revolution, many experts and world leaders doubted that the theocratic state would endure.
क्रांति के बाद, कई विशेषज्ञों और विश्व नेताओं ने संदेह किया कि यह धार्मिक राज्य टिक पाएगा।
- Within a year, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Iran, hoping to hasten the collapse of the fledgling republic.
एक वर्ष के भीतर, इराकी राष्ट्रपति सद्दाम हुसैन ने नवगठित गणराज्य के पतन को तेज करने के उद्देश्य से ईरान पर हमला किया।
- The new state was struggling to stabilise a fractured post-revolutionary order.
नया राज्य क्रांति के बाद की विभाजित व्यवस्था को स्थिर करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा था।
- Leftists, trade unionists, Islamists and liberals had all opposed the Shah, and the clergy's consolidation of power deepened divisions within this coalition.
वामपंथी, ट्रेड यूनियन, इस्लामवादी और उदारवादी सभी शाह के विरोध में थे, और पादरियों द्वारा सत्ता के केंद्रीकरण ने इस गठबंधन में विभाजन को गहरा कर दिया।

Core tenets मुख्य सिद्धांत

- But Saddam's invasion changed the equation.
लेकिन सद्दाम के आक्रमण ने स्थिति बदल दी।
- Iranians rallied behind the flag; Saddam was cast as the modern-day Yazid.
ईरानी झंडे के पीछे एकजुट हो गए; सद्दाम को आधुनिक यज़ीद के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया।
- The Islamic Republic moved to purge leftists and liberals at home without provoking any regime-threatening backlash, while the war was under way.
इस्लामी गणराज्य ने युद्ध के दौरान बिना किसी बड़े विरोध के देश के भीतर वामपंथियों और उदारवादियों को हटाना शुरू कर दिया।
- In effect, the conflict helped the clergy tighten its grip on power.
वास्तव में, इस संघर्ष ने पादरियों को सत्ता पर अपनी पकड़ मजबूत करने में मदद की।
- After Khamenei was killed on February 28, Larijani repeatedly invoked the ideas martyrdom.
28 फरवरी को खामेनेई की हत्या के बाद, लारिजानी ने बार-बार शहादत के विचारों का उल्लेख किया।
- He said, "the children of Imam Hussein fear nothing".
उन्होंने कहा, "इमाम हुसैन के बच्चे किसी से नहीं डरते।"
- After Larijani was killed, Mojtaba Khamenei, current Supreme Leader, said, "shedding the blood of such people at the foot of the mighty tree of the Islamic system will only make it stronger".
लारिजानी की हत्या के बाद, वर्तमान सर्वोच्च नेता मोजतबा खामेनेई ने कहा, "इस्लामी व्यवस्था के शक्तिशाली वृक्ष के नीचे ऐसे लोगों का खून बहाना इसे और मजबूत ही करेगा।"



- Iran's leaders know the post-revolutionary state faces its gravest challenge in 47 years. ईरान के नेता जानते हैं कि क्रांति के बाद का राज्य 47 वर्षों में अपनी सबसे बड़ी चुनौती का सामना कर रहा है।
- But their response is not to give up the fight and flee, but to embrace the ideological core of the revolutionary state — martyrdom, sacrifice and vengeance. लेकिन उनकी प्रतिक्रिया लड़ाई छोड़ने और भागने की नहीं है, बल्कि क्रांतिकारी राज्य के वैचारिक मूल — शहादत, बलिदान और प्रतिशोध — को अपनाने की है।

GS Paper II: Polity,	
TOPICS COVERED	21 March 2026
21Mar	Nitish Kumar can remain CM for next six months: Minister नीतीश कुमार अगले छह महीने तक CM बने रह सकते हैं: मंत्री
21Mar	Parties must get advertisements pre-certified पार्टियों को विज्ञापनों का पूर्व-प्रमाणीकरण कराना होगा
21Mar	HC raps govt. over not filling minorities panel posts उच्च न्यायालय ने अल्पसंख्यक पैनल पद न भरने पर सरकार को फटकारा

Nitish Kumar can remain CM for next six months: Minister

GS II: Polity

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar Rural Development Minister Sharwan Kumar on Friday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar can remain in the post for the next six months, despite being elected to the Rajya Sabha in the recent elections. His comments came amid the debate over Mr. Nitish Kumar's successor to the Chief Minister post.

He also said Mr. Nitish Kumar will resign within 14 days as member of the Bihar Legislative Council. "One has to resign within 14 days as member of either House of the State legislature [after being elected as an MP]. He can resign within the stipulated time

frame but can remain the Chief Minister for the next six months as per provisions of the Constitution."

The Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950, framed under Article 101 of the Constitution, prohibits simultaneous membership in both Parliament and State legislature. Individuals have to resign from their legislature seat within 14 days of being elected to the Parliament, failing which their seat in the Parliament falls vacant.

However, Article 164(4) of the Constitution allows a person to be appointed as Chief Minister or Minister for up to six months without being a member of a State legislature.

but can remain the Chief Minister for the next six months as per provisions of the Constitution."

21Mar. Nitish Kumar can remain CM for next six months: Minister
नीतीश कुमार अगले छह महीने तक CM बने रह सकते हैं: मंत्री

• Bihar Rural Development Minister Sharwan Kumar on Friday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar can remain in the post for the next six months, despite being elected to the Rajya Sabha in the recent elections.

बिहार के ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री शरवन कुमार ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार हाल के चुनावों में राज्यसभा के लिए चुने जाने के बावजूद अगले छह महीने तक पद पर बने रह सकते हैं।

• His comments came amid the debate over Mr. Nitish Kumar's successor to the Chief Minister post. उनकी यह टिप्पणी मुख्यमंत्री पद के लिए श्री नीतीश कुमार के उत्तराधिकारी को लेकर चल रही बहस के बीच आई।

• He also said Mr. Nitish Kumar will resign within 14 days as a member of the Bihar Legislative Council.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि श्री नीतीश कुमार बिहार विधान परिषद के सदस्य के रूप में 14 दिनों के भीतर इस्तीफा देंगे।

• "One has to resign within 14 days as a member of either House of the State legislature [after being elected as an MP].

"किसी को भी राज्य विधानमंडल के किसी भी सदन के सदस्य के रूप में [सांसद चुने जाने के बाद] 14 दिनों के भीतर इस्तीफा देना होता है।

• He can resign within the stipulated time frame



वह निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर इस्तीफा दे सकते हैं लेकिन **संविधान** के प्रावधानों के अनुसार अगले छह महीने तक मुख्यमंत्री बने रह सकते हैं।”

- The **Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950**, framed under **Article 101 of the Constitution**, prohibits simultaneous membership in both **Parliament and State legislature**.

समकालिक सदस्यता निषेध नियम, 1950, जो **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 101** के तहत बनाए गए हैं, **संसद और राज्य विधानमंडल** दोनों की एक साथ सदस्यता पर रोक लगाते हैं।

- Individuals have to resign from their legislature seat within 14 days of being elected to the Parliament, failing which their seat in the Parliament falls vacant.
व्यक्तियों को संसद के लिए चुने जाने के 14 दिनों के भीतर अपनी विधायिका सीट से इस्तीफा देना होता है, अन्यथा संसद में उनकी सीट रिक्त हो जाती है।
- However, **Article 164(4) of the Constitution** allows a person to be appointed as **Chief Minister or Minister** for up to six months without being a member of a **State legislature**.
हालांकि, **संविधान का अनुच्छेद 164(4)** किसी व्यक्ति को **मुख्यमंत्री या मंत्री** के रूप में अधिकतम छह महीने तक नियुक्त होने की अनुमति देता है, भले ही वह **राज्य विधानमंडल** का सदस्य न हो।

Parties must get advertisements pre-certified

GS II: Polity

Ahead of the Assembly polls in four States and one Union Territory, the **Election Commission (EC)** on Friday directed political parties to **get their advertisements pre-certified by the media certification and monitoring committees (MCMC)**.

Further it has directed individual candidates to share

details of their **authentic social media accounts at the time of filing nominations in their affidavits**.

The MCMCs shall also keep strict vigil on suspected cases of paid news in the media and take suitable action, the poll body said in a statement.

The EC has also asked political parties to submit a statement of expenditure incurred on campaigning through Internet to it within 75 days of the completion of the Assembly election.

21Mar. Parties must get advertisements pre-certified पार्टियों को विज्ञापनों का पूर्व-प्रमाणीकरण कराना होगा

- In four States and one **Union Territory**, the **Election Commission (EC)** on Friday directed political parties to get their advertisements pre-certified by the **media certification and monitoring committees (MCMC)**.

चार राज्यों और एक **केंद्र शासित प्रदेश** में, **चुनाव आयोग (EC)** ने शुक्रवार को राजनीतिक दलों को अपने विज्ञापनों को **मीडिया सर्टिफिकेशन एंड मॉनिटरिंग कमेटी (MCMC)** से पूर्व-प्रमाणित कराने का निर्देश दिया।

- Further it has directed individual candidates

HC raps govt. over not filling minorities panel posts

GS II: Polity
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday expressed displeasure with the Centre for failing to provide a “timeline” for completing the process of filling the vacant posts of chairperson and members of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.

Noting that it had earlier sought an affidavit specifically on the timeline for filling the vacancies, a Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia asked the Deputy Secretary in the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs to explain the lapse within two weeks.

The court observed that the affidavit “only stated” that the Ministry had initiated the necessary action for appointments to the vacant posts, and that biodata and nominations were under examination.

The court was dealing with a plea by petitioner Mujahid Nafees over the vacancies in the NCM. The matter would be heard next on July 3.

to share details of their **authentic social media accounts** at the time of filing nominations in their **affidavits**.

इसके अलावा, इसने व्यक्तिगत उम्मीदवारों को नामांकन दाखिल करते समय अपने **हलफनामों (affidavits)** में अपने असली **सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट्स** का विवरण साझा करने का निर्देश दिया है।

- The **MCMCs** shall also keep a strict vigil on suspected cases of **paid news** in the media and take suitable action, the poll body said in a statement.

MCMC मीडिया में संदिग्ध **पेड न्यूज़** के मामलों पर कड़ी नजर रखेगी और उचित कार्रवाई करेगी, चुनाव आयोग ने एक बयान में कहा।

- The **EC** has also asked political parties to submit a statement of expenditure incurred on campaigning through the Internet to it within **75 days** of the completion of the **Assembly election**.

चुनाव आयोग (EC) ने राजनीतिक दलों से यह भी कहा है कि वे **विधानसभा चुनाव** समाप्त होने के **75 दिनों** के भीतर **इंटरनेट** के माध्यम से किए गए प्रचार खर्च का विवरण प्रस्तुत करें।

21Mar.HC raps govt. over not filling minorities panel posts उच्च न्यायालय ने अल्पसंख्यक पैनल पद न भरने पर सरकार को फटकारा

- The Delhi High Court on Friday expressed displeasure with the Centre for failing to provide a “timeline” for completing the process of filling the vacant posts of chairperson and members of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने शुक्रवार को केंद्र सरकार पर असंतोष व्यक्त किया क्योंकि वह राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक



आयोग (NCM) के अध्यक्ष और सदस्यों के रिक्त पदों को भरने की प्रक्रिया के लिए “समयसीमा” देने में विफल रही।

- Noting that it had earlier sought an affidavit specifically on the timeline for filling the vacancies, a Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia asked the Deputy Secretary in the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs to explain the lapse within two weeks.
यह ध्यान देते हुए कि उसने पहले रिक्तियों को भरने की समयसीमा पर विशेष रूप से एक हलफनामा मांगा था, मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी.के. उपाध्याय और न्यायमूर्ति तेजस कारिया की पीठ ने अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के उप सचिव से दो सप्ताह के भीतर इस चूक का स्पष्टीकरण देने को कहा।
- The court observed that the affidavit “only stated” that the Ministry had initiated the necessary action for appointments to the vacant posts, and that biodata and nominations were under examination.
अदालत ने कहा कि हलफनामे में “केवल यह बताया गया” कि मंत्रालय ने रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवश्यक कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी है और बायोडाटा तथा नामांकन जांच के अधीन हैं।
- The court was dealing with a plea by petitioner Mujahid Nafees over the vacancies in the NCM.
अदालत एनसीएम में रिक्तियों को लेकर याचिकाकर्ता मुजाहिद नफीस की याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी।
- The matter would be heard next on July 3.
मामले की अगली सुनवाई 3 जुलाई को होगी।

GS Paper II: Governance,

TOPICS COVERED

21 March 2026

21Mar

CAPF Bill gives priority to IPS officers; govt. says new law will curb unnecessary litigation
CAPF विधेयक IPS अधिकारियों को प्राथमिकता देता है; सरकार कहती है कि नया कानून अनावश्यक मुकदमों को रोकेगा

CAPF Bill gives priority to IPS officers; govt. says new law will curb unnecessary litigation

The Bill seeks to negate a Supreme Court judgment which asked the Home Ministry to progressively reduce IPS deputation; retired officials have opposed the draft law stating that the govt. is discriminating against cadre officers as they face career stagnation, despite leading from the front

GS II: Governance

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, that is likely to be tabled in the Rajya Sabha next week, states that in all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), 50% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector General, at least 67% posts in the rank of Additional Director General and all posts in the rank of Special Director General and Director General shall be filled by Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on deputation. Till now, such postings were done based on executive orders, and the Bill will codify the provisions.

The Bill seeks to negate a May 23, 2025 Supreme Court judgment which asked the Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA) to “progressively reduce” IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the rank of I-Gs in the next two years.

Stagnant careers

Retired CAPF officials have opposed the Bill stating that the government is discriminating against cadre officers who won the case after 10 years of litigation to overcome career stagnation.

Due to absence of senior level posts, it takes an officer who joins as an Assistant Commandant in CAPFs, at least 15-18 years for her/his first promotion.

The officers have argued that despite leading operations from the front, and several of them having been killed in the line of action, they face career stagnation and most times the first promotion comes only



Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel undergo a parade rehearsal at Gandhi Maidan in Patna. FILE PHOTO

after 15-18 years of service.

The Bill circulated among Rajya Sabha members late on Friday said the CAPFs perform functions of national security in close coordination with State authorities, and in the interest of maintaining Centre-State relationship, the IPS officers are neces-

sary for effective functioning of these forces. It said that “it is considered necessary to enact an umbrella law to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of Group A General Duty Officers and other officers appointed to the CAPFs with a view to ensure legislative clarity,

preserving its operational distinctiveness, and harmonising judicial directions with administrative and federal requirements.”

Statement of reasons

The statement of objects and reasons by Home Minister Amit Shah said that in recent years, due to the absence of an umbrella law, regulatory provisions have evolved in a fragmented manner resulting in several litigations on service-related matters, leading to some functional and administrative difficulties.

It added that the Bill was being brought to “avoid unnecessary litigations.”

It said the CAPFs play a vital role in maintaining national security and discharging important functions such as securing the borders of the country, undertaking anti-insurgency

operations and maintaining internal security of the Union and the States, adding that these Forces are also designed to supplement Armed Forces of the Union during war.

It added that under Article 312 of the Constitution, IPS is an All India Service and “historically, IPS officers are an integral and important part of the CAPFs.”

Presently, 20% of posts in the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and 50% of posts in the rank of Inspector General (IG) in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers through an executive order. The total strength of CAPFs is around 10 lakh, which includes 13,000 Group A cadre officers.

The Parliament was recently informed that there are around 93,000 vacancies in all ranks in CAPFs.



21Mar. CAPF Bill gives priority to IPS officers; govt. says new law will curb unnecessary litigation

CAPF विधेयक IPS अधिकारियों को प्राथमिकता देता है; सरकार कहती है कि नया कानून अनावश्यक मुकदमों को रोकेगा

- The **Bill** seeks to negate a **Supreme Court judgment** which asked the **Home Ministry** to progressively reduce **IPS deputation**; retired officials have opposed the draft law stating that the govt. is discriminating against cadre officers as they face career stagnation, despite leading from the front.
यह विधेयक सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय को निष्प्रभावी करना चाहता है, जिसमें गृह मंत्रालय को **IPS प्रतिनियुक्ति** को धीरे-धीरे कम करने को कहा गया था; सेवानिवृत्त अधिकारियों ने मसौदा कानून का विरोध करते हुए कहा कि सरकार कैडर अधिकारियों के साथ भेदभाव कर रही है क्योंकि उन्हें करियर में ठहराव का सामना करना पड़ता है, जबकि वे अग्रिम पंक्ति में नेतृत्व करते हैं।
- The **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026**, that is likely to be tabled in the **Rajya Sabha** next week, states that in all **CAPFs**, 50% of the total posts in the rank of **Inspector General**, at least 67% posts in the rank of **Additional Director General** and all posts in the rank of **Special Director General** and **Director General** shall be filled by **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officers on deputation.
केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (सामान्य प्रशासन) विधेयक, 2026, जिसे अगले सप्ताह राज्यसभा में पेश किया जा सकता है, कहता है कि सभी **CAPFs** में इंस्पेक्टर जनरल के 50% पद, एडिशनल डायरेक्टर जनरल के कम से कम 67% पद और स्पेशल डायरेक्टर जनरल तथा डायरेक्टर जनरल के सभी पद भारतीय पुलिस सेवा (IPS) अधिकारियों द्वारा प्रतिनियुक्ति पर भरे जाएंगे।
- Till now, such postings were done based on **executive orders**, and the Bill will codify the provisions.
अब तक ऐसी नियुक्तियां कार्यकारी आदेशों के आधार पर होती थीं, और यह विधेयक इन प्रावधानों को संहिताबद्ध करेगा।
- The Bill seeks to negate a **May 23, 2025 Supreme Court judgment** which asked the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to “progressively reduce” IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the rank of **IGs** in the next two years.
यह विधेयक 23 मई 2025 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय को निष्प्रभावी करना चाहता है, जिसमें गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) को अगले दो वर्षों में IG स्तर तक CAPFs में IPS प्रतिनियुक्ति को “धीरे-धीरे कम” करने को कहा गया था।

Stagnant careers स्थिर करियर

- Retired **CAPF officials** have opposed the Bill stating that the government is discriminating against cadre officers who won the case after 10 years of litigation to overcome career stagnation.
सेवानिवृत्त **CAPF अधिकारियों** ने विधेयक का विरोध करते हुए कहा कि सरकार कैडर अधिकारियों के साथ भेदभाव कर रही है, जिन्होंने करियर ठहराव को दूर करने के लिए 10 साल की कानूनी लड़ाई के बाद केस जीता था।
- Due to absence of **senior level posts**, it takes an officer who joins as an **Assistant Commandant** in CAPFs, at least 15-18 years for her/his first promotion.
वरिष्ठ स्तर के पदों की कमी के कारण, CAPFs में **असिस्टेंट कमांडेंट** के रूप में शामिल होने वाले अधिकारी को पहली पदोन्नति पाने में कम से कम 15-18 वर्ष लगते हैं।
- The officers have argued that despite leading operations from the front, and several of them having been killed in the line of action, they face career stagnation and most times the first promotion comes only after 15-18 years of service.
अधिकारियों ने तर्क दिया है कि अग्रिम पंक्ति में संचालन का नेतृत्व करने और कई के ड्यूटी के दौरान मारे जाने के बावजूद, उन्हें करियर ठहराव का सामना करना पड़ता है और अधिकांश मामलों में पहली पदोन्नति 15-18 साल की सेवा के बाद ही मिलती है।
- The Bill circulated among **Rajya Sabha members** late on Friday said the CAPFs perform functions of **national security** in close coordination with **State authorities**, and in the interest of maintaining **Centre-State relationship**, the IPS officers are necessary for effective



functioning of these forces.

शुक्रवार देर रात **राज्यसभा सदस्यों** के बीच वितरित विधेयक में कहा गया कि CAPFs **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** से जुड़े कार्य **राज्य प्राधिकरणों** के साथ समन्वय में करते हैं, और **केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों** को बनाए रखने के हित में इन बलों के प्रभावी संचालन के लिए IPS अधिकारियों की आवश्यकता है।

- It said that “it is considered necessary to enact an **umbrella law** to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of **Group A General Duty Officers** and other officers appointed to the CAPFs with a view to ensure **legislative clarity**, preserving its operational distinctiveness, and harmonising **judicial directions** with administrative and federal requirements.”

इसमें कहा गया कि “**समूह A सामान्य ड्यूटी अधिकारियों** और अन्य नियुक्त अधिकारियों की भर्ती और सेवा शर्तों को विनियमित करने के लिए एक **समग्र कानून (umbrella law)** बनाना आवश्यक है, ताकि **विधायी स्पष्टता** सुनिश्चित हो सके, संचालन की विशिष्टता बनी रहे और **न्यायिक निर्देशों** को प्रशासनिक व संघीय आवश्यकताओं के साथ समन्वित किया जा सके।”

Statement of reasons

कारणों का विवरण

- The statement of objects and reasons by **Home Minister Amit Shah** said that in recent years, due to the absence of an **umbrella law**, regulatory provisions have evolved in a fragmented manner resulting in several litigations on service-related matters, leading to some functional and administrative difficulties.
गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** द्वारा दिए गए कारणों के विवरण में कहा गया कि हाल के वर्षों में **समग्र कानून** के अभाव में नियम विखंडित रूप में विकसित हुए हैं, जिससे सेवा संबंधी मामलों में कई मुकदमे हुए और कुछ कार्यात्मक व प्रशासनिक कठिनाइयाँ उत्पन्न हुईं।
- It added that the Bill was being brought to “avoid unnecessary litigation.”
इसमें जोड़ा गया कि यह विधेयक “अनावश्यक मुकदमों से बचने” के लिए लाया जा रहा है।
- It said the CAPFs play a vital role in maintaining **national security** and discharging important functions such as securing the **borders** of the country, undertaking **anti-insurgency operations** and maintaining **internal security** of the Union and the States, adding that these Forces are also designed to supplement **Armed Forces of the Union** during war.
इसमें कहा गया कि CAPFs **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** बनाए रखने, देश की **सीमाओं** की सुरक्षा, **विद्रोह विरोधी अभियानों** और **आंतरिक सुरक्षा** बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, और युद्ध के समय ये बल **संघ के सशस्त्र बलों** का पूरक भी हैं।
- It added that under **Article 312 of the Constitution**, IPS is an **All India Service** and “historically, IPS officers are an integral and important part of the CAPFs.”
इसमें जोड़ा गया कि **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 312** के तहत IPS एक **अखिल भारतीय सेवा** है और “ऐतिहासिक रूप से IPS अधिकारी CAPFs का अभिन्न और महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा रहे हैं।”
- Presently, 20% of posts in the rank of **Deputy Inspector General (DIG)** and 50% of posts in the rank of **Inspector General (IG)** in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers through an **executive order**.
वर्तमान में CAPFs में **डिप्टी इंस्पेक्टर जनरल (DIG)** के 20% और **इंस्पेक्टर जनरल (IG)** के 50% पद **कार्यकारी आदेश** के माध्यम से IPS अधिकारियों के लिए आरक्षित हैं।
- The total strength of CAPFs is around **10 lakh**, which includes **13,000 Group A cadre officers**.
CAPFs की कुल संख्या लगभग **10 लाख** है, जिसमें **13,000 समूह A कैडर अधिकारी** शामिल हैं।
- The Parliament was recently informed that there are around **93,000 vacancies** in all ranks in CAPFs.
हाल ही में संसद को बताया गया कि CAPFs में सभी रैंकों में लगभग **93,000 रिक्तियां** हैं।

GS Paper II: International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

21 March 2026

21Mar

India's Iran stance does fuel a foreign policy debate
भारत का ईरान पर रुख विदेश नीति पर बहस को बढ़ाता है



21Mar **Gulf dreams turn sour for Konaseema women**
कोनसीमा की महिलाओं के लिए खाड़ी के सपने टूटे



India's Iran stance does fuel a foreign policy debate

GS II: IR **MOB**

A debate, for the most part civilised, is going on in India about foreign policy. The provocation for the debate is the ongoing Israeli-American war on Iran, now in its third week and India's response to it. I belong to the tribe of 'professional' diplomats. We consider ourselves experts with special skills to propound on foreign policy issues. It is true that we are trained to read between the lines and to research whatever issue occupies the attention of the international community at a given time. However, it is not as if we are born with a particular gift for foreign policy; the gift or expertise is cultivated over a period of time. Almost anybody can handle foreign policy with experience and exposure to the issues. Everyone has an opinion on foreign policy, and it would not be correct to dismiss those opinions as ill-informed or irrelevant.

The two sides

The debate is argued between those who generally support the government's stand on the war, which began on February 28, and those who criticise it as weak-kneed or surrendering to the Americans, or as hostile to Iran, a close and civilisational friend. The deliberate decision not to condole the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has come in for particular criticism.

Foreign policy is an instrument in the hands of the government to protect and promote the country's national interests. It follows that it is within the province of the government of the day to define what the national interests are and how to protect them. Some interests are sui generis, such as defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. For a country such as India, the improvement in the standard of living of its citizens is an extremely important objective.

In a highly globalised and interdependent world, this task imposes on the government the duty to chart its policy with deliberation and calculation. A government led by one party may take one position whereas a government led by another party may take another. The same party may take one position when in opposition but might pursue that very policy when in power. The Congress-led government under Manmohan Singh decided that obtaining the nuclear deal



Chinmaya R. Gharekhan
is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and a former Special Envoy of India for West Asia

New Delhi's Iran policy may be influenced by U.S.-Israel dynamics in the war

with America was in India's interest whereas the Bharatiya Janata Party at the time opposed the deal. Once in power, it went beyond what even the previous government had not agreed; it absolved the suppliers of nuclear reactors from any liability, for accident or defect in the reactors.

Foreign policy often is, but should not be, influenced by the ideological orientation of the ruling party. If it is to adhere strictly to the objective of promoting national interest, it cannot afford to be too concerned about principles or rights and wrongs. At times, a particular position might offend our sense of justice or morality, but the government of the day will have to make an objective decision, even if it is not popular.

Equally important, the government must explain to the people the rationale for its decision. In a democracy, this is extremely important. People, certainly the Indian people, are fully capable of understanding and approving or disapproving of the government's actions.

Labels and policy

Much time and intellectual energy is spent on giving a label to foreign policy. The one currently in fashion is 'strategic autonomy'. By adding the word 'strategic', it sounds profound and gives the impression of a concept beyond the understanding of ordinary citizens. But then, why 'autonomy'? Why not 'independent'? Is not independence more precious than autonomy? P.V. Narasimha Rao used to say that Kashmiris can have as much autonomy as they want, but not independence. In any case, why give any label at all? How many countries have given adjectives to their foreign policy? If a name has to be given, just call it 'independent'.

The best definition of foreign policy was given by Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter to Einstein written a few weeks before India's independence. Foreign policy, Nehru wrote, essentially is selfish. The only principle it follows is the principle of national interest.

The Narendra Modi government is essentially following Nehru's foreign policy, that is 'selfish' foreign policy. Its approach to the Iran war seems to be based on a cold calculation that India has too much at stake with America and the Gulf states. America is India's largest trading partner, and India needs its support for state-of-the-art

technology, especially for developing India's defence capabilities. As for the Gulf countries, nearly 10 million Indians are working there. Their welfare is of overriding concern. They send hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of remittances back home. Collectively, the Gulf countries are a most valuable source for India's energy needs.

Application of 'strategic autonomy'

These are valid considerations. Nevertheless, within the parameters of these factors, the government could and should have shown some 'strategic autonomy'. No harm would have been done if the assassination of Ayatollah Khamenei had been condoned or if the External Affairs Minister rather than the Foreign Secretary had signed the condolence book in the Iranian Embassy in Delhi. Since the Prime Minister did speak to the Iranian President to press for the safety of the 9,000-strong Indian community in Iran, would it not have been proper for him to also express condolences for the assassination?

His telephone conversations with the leaders of the Gulf states would surely have ensured their support to take care of India's citizens living there. The fact that Iran has allowed oil tankers destined for India safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz speaks not so much to the success of India's diplomacy as to the graciousness of the Iranians. Despite India's unfriendly attitude, Iran took a friendly approach towards India. In the final analysis, India needs to be on the winning side. The government has obviously concluded that the Israeli-American coalition will come out the winner and that Iran will be defeated or surrender.

There is also the question of the Prime Minister's visit to Israel (February 25-26, 2026), its timing more than the visit per se. It was evident from watching his address to the Israeli Knesset that he was deeply moved by the warm reception that was accorded to him by its members. His visit was a demonstration of the ideological affinity that he feels with Israel and, more so with its Prime Minister. That Israel and the U.S. were going to attack Iran any day was known to all those following such matters. The timing of the visit was unfortunate.

Let the debate continue.

21Mar. India's Iran stance does fuel a foreign policy debate
भारत का ईरान पर रुख विदेश नीति पर बहस को बढ़ाता है

- A debate, for the most part civilised, is going on in India about **foreign policy**. भारत में **विदेश नीति** को लेकर एक बहस चल रही है, जो अधिकांशतः सभ्य है।



- The provocation for the debate is the ongoing **Israeli-American war on Iran**, now in its third week and India's response to it.
इस बहस का कारण चल रहा **इजरायल-अमेरिका का ईरान पर युद्ध** है, जो अब तीसरे सप्ताह में है और इस पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया है।
- I belong to the tribe of 'professional' diplomats.
मैं 'पेशेवर' राजनयिकों के समूह से संबंध रखता हूँ।
- We consider ourselves experts with special skills to propound on foreign policy issues.
हम खुद को विदेश नीति के मुद्दों पर विशेष कौशल वाले विशेषज्ञ मानते हैं।
- It is true that we are trained to read between the lines and to research whatever issue occupies the attention of the international community at a given time.
यह सच है कि हमें पंक्तियों के बीच पढ़ने और उस समय अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय के ध्यान में आने वाले मुद्दों पर शोध करने का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है।
- However, it is not as if we are born with a particular gift for foreign policy; the gift or expertise is cultivated over a period of time.
हालांकि, ऐसा नहीं है कि हम विदेश नीति के लिए किसी विशेष प्रतिभा के साथ पैदा होते हैं; यह कौशल समय के साथ विकसित होता है।
- Almost anybody can handle foreign policy with experience and exposure to the issues.
लगभग कोई भी व्यक्ति अनुभव और मुद्दों की समझ के साथ विदेश नीति को संभाल सकता है।
- Everyone has an opinion on foreign policy, and it would not be correct to dismiss those opinions as ill-informed or irrelevant.
हर किसी की विदेश नीति पर राय होती है, और उन रायों को गलत या अप्रासंगिक कहना सही नहीं होगा।

The two sides दो पक्ष

- The debate is between those who generally support the government's stand on the war, which began on February 28, and those who criticise it as weak-kneed or surrendering to the Americans, or as hostile to Iran, a close and civilisational friend.
यह बहस उन लोगों के बीच है जो 28 फरवरी से शुरू हुए युद्ध पर सरकार के रुख का समर्थन करते हैं और उन लोगों के बीच जो इसे कमजोर, अमेरिका के आगे झुकने वाला या ईरान जैसे करीबी और सभ्यतागत मित्र के प्रति शत्रुतापूर्ण मानते हैं।
- The deliberate decision not to condone the assassination of Iran's **Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, has come in for particular criticism.
ईरान के **सुप्रीम लीडर, अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई** की हत्या पर शोक व्यक्त न करने के जानबूझकर लिए गए निर्णय की विशेष रूप से आलोचना हुई है।
- Foreign policy is an instrument in the hands of the government to protect and promote the country's **national interests**.
विदेश नीति सरकार के हाथ में देश के **राष्ट्रीय हितों** की रक्षा और उन्हें बढ़ावा देने का एक साधन है।
- It follows that it is within the province of the government of the day to define what the national interests are and how to protect them.
इसका अर्थ है कि राष्ट्रीय हित क्या हैं और उन्हें कैसे सुरक्षित किया जाए, यह तय करना सरकार का अधिकार क्षेत्र है।
- Some interests are sui generis, such as defending the **sovereignty** and **territorial integrity** of the country.
कुछ हित विशिष्ट होते हैं, जैसे देश की **संप्रभुता** और **क्षेत्रीय अखंडता** की रक्षा करना।
- For a country such as India, the improvement in the **standard of living** of its citizens is an extremely important objective.
भारत जैसे देश के लिए नागरिकों के **जीवन स्तर** में सुधार एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्य है।
- In a highly globalised and interdependent world, this task imposes on the government the duty to chart its policy with deliberation and calculation.
एक अत्यधिक वैश्वीकृत और परस्पर निर्भर दुनिया में, यह कार्य सरकार पर सोच-समझकर और गणना के साथ नीति बनाने की जिम्मेदारी डालता है।
- A government led by one party may take one position whereas a government led by another party may take another.



एक पार्टी द्वारा संचालित सरकार एक रुख अपना सकती है, जबकि दूसरी पार्टी द्वारा संचालित सरकार दूसरा रुख अपना सकती है।

- The same party may take one position when in opposition but might pursue that very policy when in power.
वही पार्टी विपक्ष में रहते हुए एक रुख अपना सकती है लेकिन सत्ता में आने पर उसी नीति को लागू कर सकती है।
- The **Congress-led government under Manmohan Singh** decided that obtaining the **nuclear deal with America** was in India's interest whereas the **Bharatiya Janata Party** at the time opposed the deal.
मनमोहन सिंह के नेतृत्व वाली कांग्रेस सरकार ने अमेरिका के साथ परमाणु समझौता भारत के हित में माना, जबकि उस समय **भारतीय जनता पार्टी** ने इसका विरोध किया।
- Once in power, it went beyond what even the previous government had not agreed; it absolved the suppliers of nuclear reactors from any liability, for accident or defect in the reactors.
सत्ता में आने के बाद, उसने पिछले सरकार से भी आगे बढ़ते हुए परमाणु रिएक्टर आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को दुर्घटना या दोष के लिए किसी भी जिम्मेदारी से मुक्त कर दिया।
- Foreign policy often is, but should not be, influenced by the **ideological orientation** of the ruling party.
विदेश नीति अक्सर सत्तारूढ़ दल की **वैचारिक दिशा** से प्रभावित होती है, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए।
- If it is to adhere strictly to the objective of promoting national interest, it cannot afford to be too concerned about principles or rights and wrongs.
यदि इसका उद्देश्य राष्ट्रीय हित को बढ़ावा देना है, तो यह सिद्धांतों या सही-गलत के बारे में अत्यधिक चिंतित नहीं हो सकती।
- At times, a particular position might offend our sense of justice or morality, but the government of the day will have to make an objective decision, even if it is not popular.
कभी-कभी कोई निर्णय हमारे न्याय या नैतिकता की भावना को आहत कर सकता है, लेकिन सरकार को वस्तुनिष्ठ निर्णय लेना होगा, भले ही वह लोकप्रिय न हो।
- Equally important, the government must explain to the people the rationale for its decision.
उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है कि सरकार अपने निर्णय के पीछे का कारण लोगों को समझाए।
- In a democracy, this is extremely important.
लोकतंत्र में यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- People, certainly the Indian people, are fully capable of understanding and approving or disapproving of the government's actions.
लोग, विशेषकर भारतीय लोग, सरकार के कार्यों को समझने और उन्हें स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने में सक्षम हैं।

Labels and policy लेबल और नीति

- Much time and intellectual energy is spent on giving a label to foreign policy.
विदेश नीति को नाम देने में काफी समय और बौद्धिक ऊर्जा खर्च होती है।
- The one currently in fashion is '**strategic autonomy**'.
वर्तमान में प्रचलित शब्द '**रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता**' है।
- By adding the word 'strategic', it sounds profound and gives the impression of a concept beyond the understanding of ordinary citizens.
'रणनीतिक' शब्द जोड़ने से यह गहरा लगता है और सामान्य नागरिकों की समझ से परे प्रतीत होता है।
- But then, why 'autonomy'?
लेकिन फिर 'स्वायत्तता' क्यों?
- Why not 'independent'?
'स्वतंत्र' क्यों नहीं?
- Is not independence more precious than autonomy?
क्या स्वतंत्रता स्वायत्तता से अधिक मूल्यवान नहीं है?
- **P.V. Narasimha Rao** used to say that Kashmiris can have as much autonomy as they want, but not independence.
पी.वी. नरसिम्हा राव कहा करते थे कि कश्मीरियों को जितनी चाहें स्वायत्तता मिल सकती है, लेकिन स्वतंत्रता नहीं।



- In any case, why give any label at all?
किसी भी स्थिति में, कोई लेबल देना ही क्यों?
- How many countries have given adjectives to their foreign policy?
कितने देशों ने अपनी विदेश नीति को विशेषण दिए हैं?
- If a name has to be given, just call it 'independent'.
यदि नाम देना ही है, तो इसे 'स्वतंत्र' कहें।
- The best definition of foreign policy was given by **Jawaharlal Nehru** in a letter to **Einstein** written a few weeks before India's independence.
विदेश नीति की सबसे अच्छी परिभाषा **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** ने भारत की स्वतंत्रता से कुछ सप्ताह पहले **आइंस्टीन** को लिखे पत्र में दी थी।
- Foreign policy, Nehru wrote, essentially is selfish.
नेहरू ने लिखा कि विदेश नीति मूल रूप से स्वार्थी होती है।
- The only principle it follows is the principle of national interest.
यह केवल राष्ट्रीय हित के सिद्धांत का पालन करती है।
- The **Narendra Modi government** is essentially following Nehru's foreign policy, that is 'selfish' foreign policy.
नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार मूल रूप से नेहरू की 'स्वार्थी' विदेश नीति का पालन कर रही है।
- Its approach to the Iran war seems to be based on a cold calculation that India has too much at stake with **America** and the **Gulf states**.
ईरान युद्ध के प्रति इसका दृष्टिकोण इस ठंडी गणना पर आधारित लगता है कि भारत के **अमेरिका** और **खाड़ी देशों** के साथ बहुत कुछ दांव पर लगा है।
- America is India's largest trading partner, and India needs its support for state-of-the-art technology, especially for developing India's defence capabilities.
अमेरिका भारत का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है, और भारत को अत्याधुनिक तकनीक, विशेषकर रक्षा क्षमताओं के विकास के लिए उसका समर्थन चाहिए।
- As for the Gulf countries, nearly 10 million Indians are working there.
जहां तक खाड़ी देशों का सवाल है, वहां लगभग 1 करोड़ भारतीय काम कर रहे हैं।
- Their welfare is of overriding concern.
उनका कल्याण अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- They send hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of remittances back home.
वे सैकड़ों अरब डॉलर की राशि घर भेजते हैं।
- Collectively, the Gulf countries are a most valuable source for India's energy needs.
सामूहिक रूप से, खाड़ी देश भारत की ऊर्जा जरूरतों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत हैं।

Application of 'strategic autonomy' 'रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता' का अनुप्रयोग

- These are valid considerations.
ये सभी उचित विचार हैं।
- Nevertheless, within the parameters of these factors, the government could and should have shown some 'strategic autonomy'.
फिर भी, इन कारकों के भीतर सरकार को कुछ 'रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता' दिखानी चाहिए थी।
- No harm would have been done if the assassination of **Ayatollah Khamenei** had been condoned or if the **External Affairs Minister** rather than the **Foreign Secretary** had signed the condolence book in the Iranian Embassy in Delhi.
यदि **अयातुल्ला खामेनेई** की हत्या पर शोक व्यक्त किया जाता या **विदेश सचिव** के बजाय **विदेश मंत्री** ने दिल्ली स्थित ईरानी दूतावास में शोक पुस्तिका पर हस्ताक्षर किए होते, तो कोई नुकसान नहीं होता।
- Since the Prime Minister did speak to the Iranian President to press for the safety of the 9,000-strong Indian community in Iran, would it not have been proper for him to also express condolences for the assassination?
चूंकि प्रधानमंत्री ने ईरान में 9,000 भारतीयों की सुरक्षा के लिए ईरानी राष्ट्रपति से बात की, तो क्या उनके लिए हत्या पर शोक व्यक्त करना उचित नहीं होता?
- His telephone conversations with the leaders of the Gulf states would surely have ensured their support to take care of India's citizens living there.
खाड़ी देशों के नेताओं से उनकी बातचीत से वहां रहने वाले भारतीयों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित हो सकती थी।

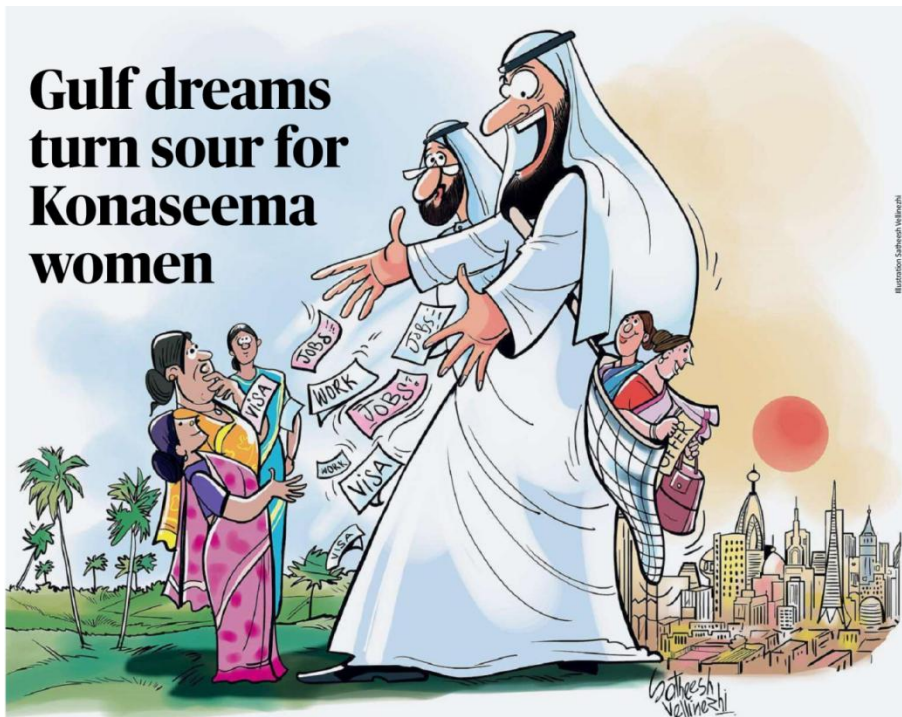


- The fact that Iran has allowed oil tankers destined for India safe passage through the **Strait of Hormuz** speaks not so much to the success of India's diplomacy as to the graciousness of the Iranians.
यह तथ्य कि ईरान ने भारत के लिए तेल टैंकरों को **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से सुरक्षित मार्ग दिया, भारत की कूटनीति से ज्यादा ईरान की उदारता को दर्शाता है।
- Despite India's unfriendly attitude, Iran took a friendly approach towards India.
भारत के कथित असहज रवैये के बावजूद, ईरान ने भारत के प्रति मैत्रीपूर्ण दृष्टिकोण अपनाया।
- In the final analysis, India needs to be on the winning side.
अंततः भारत को विजयी पक्ष में होना चाहिए।
- The government has obviously concluded that the Israeli-American coalition will come out the winner and that Iran will be defeated or surrender.
सरकार ने स्पष्ट रूप से निष्कर्ष निकाला है कि इजरायल-अमेरिका गठबंधन विजयी होगा और ईरान पराजित होगा या आत्मसमर्पण करेगा।
- There is also the question of the Prime Minister's visit to Israel (February 25-26, 2026), its timing more than the visit per se.
प्रधानमंत्री की इजरायल यात्रा (25-26 फरवरी 2026) के समय को लेकर भी सवाल उठता है।
- It was evident from watching his address to the Israeli **Knesset** that he was deeply moved by the warm reception that was accorded to him by its members.
इजरायली **नेसेट (Knesset)** में उनके संबोधन से स्पष्ट था कि वह वहां मिले गर्मजोशी भरे स्वागत से बहुत प्रभावित हुए।
- His visit was a demonstration of the **ideological affinity** that he feels with Israel and, more so with its Prime Minister.
उनकी यात्रा इजरायल और उसके प्रधानमंत्री के साथ उनके **वैचारिक जुड़ाव** को दर्शाती है।
- That Israel and the U.S. were going to attack Iran any day was known to all those following such matters.
यह बात उन सभी को पता थी जो इन मामलों पर नजर रख रहे थे कि इजरायल और अमेरिका किसी भी दिन ईरान पर हमला कर सकते हैं।
- The timing of the visit was unfortunate.
इस यात्रा का समय दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण था।

PATRIOTIC IAS



- Let the debate continue
बहस जारी रहने दें



Driven by economic need and the hope of a better future, many women from the Konaseema region migrate to Gulf nations in search of employment. In their desperate pursuit of opportunities, they often fall prey to unauthorised agents who recruit them as housemaids. Thousands of women fighting a lone battle against financial coercion, isolation, and physical abuse in their workplaces, seek safe repatriation—at the cost of heavy expenses and compromised security. T. Appala Naidu highlights the ordeal of these victims.

With dreams of building a better life for themselves and their families, Kamala (22) boarded a sleeper-class private bus on May 12, 2025, along with her younger sister Raji (20), from Amalapuram—the administrative headquarters of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district—bound for Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad. Along with the sisters were several other women on board the bus, all sharing the same destination: Muscat. The group arrived at Muscat International Airport (MCT) in Oman the following evening via Mumbai.

Recalling the initial excitement of taking the first step towards her dream, Kamala said that their Muscat-based agent, who was also a native of Konaseema, had sent a driver to pick them up from the airport.

The driver identified the sisters using their photographs, collected their passports immediately after the introduction, and then dropped them off at the agent's office. For the next fortnight, the sisters, along with other young women, were trained by the agent to work as "housemaids".

"Like us, there was another group of 13 young women, mostly from our area, who were brought by our agent with the promise of the same work—as housemaids," said Kamala, a mother of two boys aged 7 and 5.

Kamala, who had worked as a nurse in a private hospital, quit her job, while Raji, an intermediate dropout, gave up studying for their shared dream—to fly to the Gulf, earn money, and return to build their own house in their village.

Kamala and Raji, also a mother of two children, live in separate rented houses with their families in the same village on the outskirts of Amalapuram, part of Konaseema district—a land of coconuts in Andhra Pradesh, where the river Godavari meets the Bay of Bengal.

The sisters said that an opportunity came their way after their husbands supported their decision and helped them find agents recruiting women for jobs in the Gulf.

"By December 2025, nearly 15,000 unemployed workers from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district had migrated to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. More than 70% of them were young women, most of whom found employment as housemaids," said G. Ramesh, Manager, Konaseema Centre for Migration (KCM).

Overwork and Isolation

Kamala said that her ordeal began within a fortnight after their grooming session ended. "Once our grooming session was over, all of us were presented to visitors who came to select women of their choice to be appointed as housemaids. My sister Raji was the first to be chosen by a sponsor for a five-day trial assignment in his house before being offered full-time work," said Kamala. However, Kamala added, "Five days after the first assignment, which tested my sister's physical endurance, Raji decided not to continue. Frightened by the labor involved, she returned to India within a month."

As per an unwritten condition observed by both agents and employers, the sponsor is entitled to retain the woman as a housemaid if satisfied with her work. At the same time, she is allowed to reject the offer if she is unwilling to continue.

Kamala, who chose to stay back, was hired by another sponsor under a two-year work agreement with a monthly salary of 100 Omani rials (24,452). The sponsor obtained a "resident card" (issued by the Oman government) and a two-year work visa for Kamala by signing a "guarantee of responsibility," as mandated.

By November, however, Kamala began to suffer repeated illnesses, reportedly due to overwork, and was also subjected to isolation. "When I complained of sickness, my sponsor gave me medicines meant for body pain. Suspecting that I might quit, he cut off my internet access to prevent communication with my family. I had to continue working while on medication," said Kamala.

"When I asked my sponsor to return my passport, he told me that I had to pay money for my freedom. It was then that I learned my agent had supplied me to him for a commission of ₹5 lakh, which I was required to repay in order to secure my freedom and retrieve my passport. I never knew such a transaction existed between my agent and the sponsor," she said.

Migrants turn on-site agents

Allegedly, this is the modus operandi of unregistered agents recruiting young women aspiring to work in the Gulf countries. The price for housemaids varies depending on the duration of employment, ranging from one month to two years. Officials highlight that many unauthorised agents are personally known to the victims. Complaints reveal that job offers often come

through relatives or acquaintances settled in Gulf countries. Many former migrants themselves act as on-site agents, offering commissions to local contacts to recruit women.

Referring to the e-Migrate portal data of the Ministry of External Affairs, the KCM stated that about 1,800 agents are registered to recruit people from Andhra Pradesh for overseas jobs. However, in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district alone, at least 165 unauthorised agents—including 30 women—are active, none of whom are registered on the portal. A deposit of ₹5 lakh and a registered office are basic requirements for authorisation.

The KCM repatriated Kamala on December 18, 2025. The process began after her sponsor returned her passport once the ₹5 lakh commission was arranged and paid by her family. Her one month's salary is still pending, she said.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh established the KCM in Amalapuram in March 2025, after District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar urged the government to set up the centre following several online appeals for repatriation from victims in GCC countries.

KCM Manager G. Ramesh said, "Since March 2025, we have secured the repatriation of 78 victims from GCC countries. Of these, 76 are women whose families approached us to free them from the clutches of unauthorised agents. Seven bodies of workers, including two women who died due to accidents or illness, were also brought back." "Most repatriated workers reported excessive workloads beyond their contracts, health issues due to lack of rest, and physical abuse. They are often abandoned by both local and on-site agents," he added.

Most victims are not repatriated through Indian embassies. "We try to facilitate repatriation through the recruiting agent. In this model, the agent is required to return the commission to the sponsor in order to retrieve the victim's passport. This makes the process faster; otherwise, the victim has to repay the commission," said Mr. Ramesh. "The 76 victims repatriated since March, only two were assisted through Indian embassies. Currently, the KCM is handling nearly 180 grievances related to fraud and workplace abuse."

Awareness

Another victim, G. Padma, 36, a mother of two children aged 16 and 14, was repatriated on

March 13, 2026. A native of Uppalagupam mandal, she had flown to Muscat in June 2023 and completed a two-year term.

"My sponsor forcibly renewed my contract for another year; I was not allowed to contact my family after the renewal. I was finally freed after my family approached the KCM. However, I was not paid for four months, during which I was also subjected to physical abuse," she said. Padma's husband works as an agricultural labourer.

Sama, who was repatriated from Oman, said, "In my sponsor's house, I survived on one meal for nearly two months. My agent blocked my number, leaving me alone."

According to the Special Branch of Konaseema police, at least 48 cases have been registered against unauthorised agents in the district under the Emigration Act, 1983.

Over the past 12 months, ten such cases have been filed. District Superintendent of Police Raju Meena said that many repatriated victims were unwilling to pursue legal action against the agents.

Police personnel are part of the KCM and help trace agents and facilitate repatriation based on complaints filed by victims' families.

According to an official release by District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar, the Protector of Emigrants (POE), Hyderabad, has been approached to strengthen coordination with Indian embassies. POE official D. Anand and his team have conducted awareness programmes on safe overseas recruitment practices.

Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Trivani Society (ANPTS) president Venuru Ravi Kumar said that the State government had prohibited recruitment of housemaids through private agents and mandated hiring through OMCAP for better protection.

"Over 90% of abuse complaints come from those not recruited through OMCAP," he said, adding that contracts are often in Arabic, making them difficult to understand.

Surge continues amid tensions

He noted that migration from Konaseema is largely driven by economic need, with many women entering on tourist visas and later struggling to obtain work permits.

Even as agents temporarily slow recruitment due to the war, the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra in Amalapuram is witnessing a surge in applications. Passport Verification Officer G. Yuga Kiran said, "We receive around 600 applications every month. Over 90% are from women aspiring to migrate to Gulf countries."

Meanwhile, the KCM continues to receive distress calls daily from migrant workers seeking help. Even as the repatriation of 11 victims, including nine women, has been delayed due to disruptions in airport operations in GCC countries due to the ongoing tensions in the West Asia, (Names of the victims have been changed to protect their identity)

21Mar. dreams turn sour for Konaseema women कोनसीमा की महिलाओं के लिए खाड़ी के सपने टूटे

- Driven by **economic need** and the hope of a **better future**, many women from the Konaseema region migrate to Gulf nations in search of employment.
आर्थिक आवश्यकता और बेहतर भविष्य की उम्मीद से प्रेरित होकर, कोनसीमा क्षेत्र की कई महिलाएं रोजगार की तलाश में खाड़ी देशों में प्रवास करती हैं।
- In their desperate pursuit of opportunities, they often fall prey to **unauthorised agents** who recruit them as **housemaids**.



अवसरों की तलाश में वे अक्सर अवैध एजेंटों का शिकार हो जाती हैं, जो उन्हें घरेलू नौकरानी के रूप में भर्ती करते हैं।

- Thousands of women, fighting a lone battle against **financial coercion, isolation, and physical abuse**, seek safe repatriation—at the cost of heavy expenses and compromised security.
हजारों महिलाएं आर्थिक दबाव, अलगाव और शारीरिक शोषण के खिलाफ अकेली लड़ाई लड़ते हुए भारी खर्च और असुरक्षा के साथ सुरक्षित वापसी चाहती हैं।
- T. Appala Naidu highlights the ordeal of these victims.
टी. अप्पाला नायडू इन पीड़ितों की कठिनाइयों को उजागर करते हैं।
- With dreams of building a better life for themselves and their families, Kamala (32) boarded a sleeper-class private bus on May 12, 2025, along with her younger sister Raji (30), from Amalapuram—the administrative headquarters of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district—bound for Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.
अपने और अपने परिवार के लिए बेहतर जीवन के सपनों के साथ, कमला (32) ने 12 मई 2025 को अपनी छोटी बहन राजी (30) के साथ अमलापुरम से हैदराबाद के राजीव गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के लिए बस पकड़ी।
- Along with the sisters were several other women on board the bus, all sharing the same destination: Muscat.
उनके साथ बस में कई अन्य महिलाएं भी थीं, जिनका गंतव्य मस्कट था।
- The group arrived at Muscat International Airport (MCT) in Oman the following evening via Mumbai.
यह समूह अगले दिन शाम को मुंबई होते हुए ओमान के मस्कट अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पहुंचा।
- Recalling the initial excitement of taking the first step towards her dream, Kamala said that their Muscat-based agent had sent a driver to pick them up.
कमला ने बताया कि उनके मस्कट स्थित एजेंट ने उन्हें लेने के लिए ड्राइवर भेजा था।
- The driver identified the sisters using their photographs, collected their passports, and dropped them at the agent's office.
ड्राइवर ने तस्वीरों से पहचान कर उनके पासपोर्ट ले लिए और उन्हें एजेंट के दफ्तर छोड़ दिया।
- For the next fortnight, they were trained to work as housemaids.
अगले पंद्रह दिनों तक उन्हें घरेलू काम के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया गया।
- Kamala said another group of 13 women was also brought with similar promises.
कमला ने बताया कि 13 अन्य महिलाओं का समूह भी इसी वादे के साथ लाया गया था।
- Kamala quit her job as a nurse, and Raji left tailoring for their dream of earning in the Gulf.
कमला ने नर्स की नौकरी छोड़ी और राजी ने सिलाई का काम छोड़ दिया ताकि वे खाड़ी में कमाई कर सकें।
- Their husbands supported their decision and helped them find agents.
उनके पतियों ने उनका समर्थन किया और एजेंट ढूँढने में मदद की।
- By December 2025, nearly 15,000 workers from Konaseema migrated to Gulf countries, over 70% being women.
दिसंबर 2025 तक लगभग 15,000 लोग खाड़ी देशों में गए, जिनमें 70% से अधिक महिलाएं थीं।

Overwork and isolation

अत्यधिक काम और अलगाव

- Kamala said her ordeal began after the grooming session ended.
कमला ने कहा कि उनकी परेशानी प्रशिक्षण खत्म होने के बाद शुरू हुई।
- Women were presented to sponsors for selection as housemaids.
महिलाओं को घरेलू काम के लिए चयन हेतु प्रस्तुत किया गया।
- Raji was chosen for a trial assignment but returned to India within a month due to hardship.
राजी को परीक्षण के लिए चुना गया लेकिन कठिनाई के कारण वह एक महीने में लौट आई।
- Kamala stayed and was hired under a two-year contract with a monthly salary of 100 Omani rials.
कमला रुकी और दो साल के अनुबंध पर 100 ओमानी रियाल मासिक वेतन पर काम करने लगी।
- She later suffered illness due to overwork and was isolated by her sponsor.
अधिक काम के कारण वह बीमार हो गई और उसे अलग-थलग कर दिया गया।



- Her internet access was cut off to prevent communication with her family. परिवार से संपर्क रोकने के लिए उसका इंटरनेट बंद कर दिया गया।
- She was asked to pay ₹1.5 lakh to retrieve her passport. पासपोर्ट वापस पाने के लिए उससे ₹1.5 लाख मांगे गए।

Migrants turn on-site agents प्रवासी बनते हैं ऑन-साइट एजेंट

- Many unauthorised agents are personally known to victims. कई अवैध एजेंट पीड़ितों के जान-पहचान के होते हैं।
- Former migrants often act as agents and recruit women. पूर्व प्रवासी खुद एजेंट बनकर महिलाओं की भर्ती करते हैं।
- Only about 1,100 agents are registered, while many operate illegally. लगभग 1,100 एजेंट पंजीकृत हैं जबकि कई अवैध रूप से काम करते हैं।
- Kamala was repatriated after her family paid the commission. कमला को उसके परिवार द्वारा पैसा चुकाने के बाद वापस लाया गया।
- Since March 2025, 78 victims have been repatriated, mostly women. मार्च 2025 से 78 पीड़ितों को वापस लाया गया, जिनमें अधिकतर महिलाएं हैं।
- Most reported **overwork, abuse, and health issues**. अधिकांश ने अत्यधिक काम, शोषण और स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं की शिकायत की।

Awareness जागरूकता

- Another victim Padma was repatriated after forced contract renewal and abuse. एक अन्य पीड़िता पद्मा को जबरन अनुबंध बढ़ाने और शोषण के बाद वापस लाया गया।
- Many victims are unwilling to take legal action. कई पीड़ित कानूनी कार्रवाई करने से हिचकते हैं।
- Police have registered cases under the **Emigration Act, 1983**. पुलिस ने प्रवासन अधिनियम 1983 के तहत मामले दर्ज किए हैं।
- Authorities are conducting awareness programmes for safe recruitment. प्राधिकरण सुरक्षित भर्ती के लिए जागरूकता कार्यक्रम चला रहे हैं।
- Recruitment through private agents is prohibited; OMCAP is mandated. निजी एजेंटों के माध्यम से भर्ती प्रतिबंधित है और OMCAP अनिवार्य है।
- Over 90% abuse complaints come from unregistered recruitment. 90% से अधिक शिकायतें अवैध भर्ती से जुड़ी हैं।

Surge continues amid tensions तनाव के बीच बढ़ती प्रवासन प्रवृत्ति

- Migration continues due to **economic need** despite risks. जोखिम के बावजूद आर्थिक कारणों से प्रवासन जारी है।
- Passport applications are increasing, mostly from women. पासपोर्ट आवेदन बढ़ रहे हैं, जिनमें अधिकतर महिलाएं हैं।
- KCM continues to receive distress calls from migrant workers. KCM को प्रवासी मजदूरों से लगातार मदद के कॉल मिल रहे हैं।
- Repatriation of some victims is delayed due to West Asia tensions. पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव के कारण कुछ पीड़ितों की वापसी में देरी हो रही है।

GS Paper III: Economy,

TOPICS COVERED

21 March 2026

21Mar Renewable Energy Ministry demands sweeping powers



नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय व्यापक शक्तियों की मांग करता है

Renewable Energy Ministry demands sweeping powers

Ministry says it should be recognised as 'Central Government' in matters pertaining to renewables under Electricity Act; Power Ministry currently exercises primary authority over Act's provisions

GS III: Economy

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The New and Renewable Energy Ministry has made a case before a parliamentary committee for a significant expansion of its administrative authority over India's renewable energy sector, arguing that it should be recognised as the "Central Government" in all matters pertaining to renewables under the Electricity Act, 2003.

The demand, part of a detailed reply furnished to the committee in February but made public this month, in response to "stakeholder requests" for a standalone Renewable Energy Act, effectively seeks to redraw the institutional boundaries between the Renewable Energy Ministry and the Power Ministry, which currently exercises primary authority over the Electricity Act's provisions, including those



The Renewable Energy Ministry's stated target is 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

governing grid-connected renewable energy.

As of January 31, 2026 – the Renewable Energy Ministry cited in a submission – India has installed 271.96 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, a little over half the country's total installed generation capacity of 520.50 GW. Of this, 263.18 GW is from renewable energy. However, the actual electricity generated from non-fossil sources is about 25%.

While the Ministry conceded that a separate Act

was unnecessary as electricity from renewable sources is already integrated into the grid and governed under the existing framework, it laid out a sweeping list of empowerments it believes are needed to bring "institutional clarity and effective administration" to the sector.

The Ministry wants the power to design electricity markets for renewable energy, prepare and notify bidding guidelines for renewable energy projects, frame tariff determination

principles for the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), and guide the CERC on matters related to renewables.

It has also sought oversight of the planning and monitoring of Renewable Purchase Obligations, the mechanism that compels distribution companies and large consumers to procure a minimum share of their electricity from clean sources. Several States are laggards in these aspects.

The Renewable Energy Ministry has further asked that the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) coordinate with it while framing regulations related to renewable energy, and that the National Committee on Transmission work under the Ministry's guidance – a significant institutional claim, given that transmission planning has traditionally been the turf of the Power Ministry and the CEA.

21Mar. Renewable Energy Ministry demands sweeping powers नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय व्यापक शक्तियों की मांग करता है

- The Ministry says it should be recognised as 'Central Government' in matters pertaining to **renewables** under the **Electricity Act**; the **Power Ministry** currently exercises primary authority over Act's provisions.
मंत्रालय का कहना है कि **बिजली अधिनियम** के तहत **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** से संबंधित मामलों में उसे 'केंद्र सरकार' के रूप में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए; वर्तमान में **विद्युत मंत्रालय** अधिनियम के प्रावधानों पर प्रमुख अधिकार रखता है।
- The **New and Renewable Energy Ministry** has made a case before a **parliamentary committee** for a significant expansion of its administrative authority over India's renewable energy sector, arguing that it should be recognised as the "**Central Government**" in all matters pertaining to renewables under the **Electricity Act, 2003**.
नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय ने **संसदीय समिति** के समक्ष भारत के नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र पर अपने प्रशासनिक अधिकारों के महत्वपूर्ण विस्तार की मांग रखी है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि **बिजली अधिनियम, 2003** के तहत नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा से जुड़े सभी मामलों में उसे "केंद्र सरकार" के रूप में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए।
- The demand, part of a detailed reply furnished to the committee in February but made public this month, in response to "**stakeholder requests**" for a standalone **Renewable Energy Act**,



effectively seeks to redraw the institutional boundaries between the Renewable Energy Ministry and the **Power Ministry**, which currently exercises primary authority over the Electricity Act's provisions, including those governing **grid-connected renewable energy**.

यह मांग फरवरी में समिति को दिए गए विस्तृत उत्तर का हिस्सा है, जिसे इस महीने सार्वजनिक किया गया, जो एक अलग **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा अधिनियम** के लिए "हितधारकों के अनुरोध" के जवाब में है, और यह प्रभावी रूप से नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय और **विद्युत मंत्रालय** के बीच संस्थागत सीमाओं को पुनर्परिभाषित करने का प्रयास करता है, जो वर्तमान में **ग्रिड से जुड़ी नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** सहित बिजली अधिनियम के प्रावधानों पर प्रमुख अधिकार रखता है।

- As of January 31, 2026 — the Renewable Energy Ministry cited in a submission — India has installed **271.96 GW** of capacity from **non-fossil fuel sources**, a little over half the country's total installed generation capacity of **520.50 GW**.

31 जनवरी 2026 तक — मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रस्तुत जानकारी के अनुसार — भारत ने **गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों से 271.96 गीगावाट** क्षमता स्थापित की है, जो देश की कुल स्थापित उत्पादन क्षमता **520.50 गीगावाट** का थोड़ा अधिक आधा है।

- Of this, **263.18 GW** is from renewable energy.
इसमें से **263.18 गीगावाट** नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा से है।
- However, the actual electricity generated from non-fossil sources is about **25%**.
हालांकि, गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों से वास्तविक बिजली उत्पादन लगभग **25%** है।
- While the Ministry conceded that a separate Act was unnecessary as electricity from renewable sources is already integrated into the **grid** and governed under the existing framework, it laid out a sweeping list of empowerments it believes are needed to bring "**institutional clarity and effective administration**" to the sector.
हालांकि मंत्रालय ने माना कि अलग अधिनियम आवश्यक नहीं है क्योंकि नवीकरणीय स्रोतों से बिजली पहले से ही **ग्रिड** में एकीकृत है और मौजूदा ढांचे के तहत संचालित होती है, फिर भी उसने "संस्थागत स्पष्टता और प्रभावी प्रशासन" लाने के लिए आवश्यक शक्तियों की विस्तृत सूची प्रस्तुत की।

- The Ministry wants the power to design **electricity markets** for renewable energy, prepare and notify **bidding guidelines** for renewable energy projects, frame **tariff determination principles** for the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**, and guide the CERC on matters related to renewables.

मंत्रालय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के लिए **बिजली बाजार** डिजाइन करने, परियोजनाओं के लिए **बोली दिशानिर्देश** तैयार और अधिसूचित करने, **केंद्रीय विद्युत नियामक आयोग (CERC)** के लिए **टैरिफ निर्धारण सिद्धांत** तय करने और नवीकरणीय मामलों पर CERC का मार्गदर्शन करने की शक्ति चाहता है।

- It has also sought oversight of the planning and monitoring of **Renewable Purchase Obligations**, the mechanism that compels **distribution companies** and large consumers to procure a minimum share of their electricity from **clean sources**.

इसने **नवीकरणीय खरीद दायित्व (RPO)** की योजना और निगरानी पर भी नियंत्रण की मांग की है, जो **वितरण कंपनियों** और बड़े उपभोक्ताओं को अपनी बिजली का न्यूनतम हिस्सा **स्वच्छ स्रोतों** से लेने के लिए बाध्य करता है।

- Several States are laggards in these aspects.
इन मामलों में कई राज्य पीछे हैं।

- The Renewable Energy Ministry has further asked that the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** coordinate with it while framing regulations related to renewable energy, and that the **National Committee on Transmission** work under the Ministry's guidance — a significant institutional claim, given that transmission planning has traditionally been the turf of the **Power Ministry** and the CEA.

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय ने यह भी कहा है कि **केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण (CEA)** नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा से संबंधित नियम बनाते समय उसके साथ समन्वय करे, और **नेशनल कमेटी ऑन ट्रांसमिशन** मंत्रालय के मार्गदर्शन में काम करे — यह एक महत्वपूर्ण संस्थागत दावा है, क्योंकि ट्रांसमिशन योजना पारंपरिक रूप से **विद्युत मंत्रालय** और CEA के अधिकार क्षेत्र में रही है।

GS Paper III: Environment,

TOPICS COVERED

21 March 2026

21Mar Veterinary officer killed in hippo attack in Karnataka zoo



	कर्नाटक चिड़ियाघर में हिप्पो के हमले में पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी की मौत
21Mar	SC warns officials on Chambal sand mining सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चंबल रेत खनन पर अधिकारियों को चेतावनी दी
21Mar	'Undemocratic' politics in Great Nicobar over land ग्रेट निकोबार में भूमि को लेकर 'अलोकतांत्रिक' राजनीति

Veterinary officer killed in hippo attack in Karnataka zoo



The trainee officer was checking the body temperature of a pregnant hippopotamus when the animal attacked her. S.K. DINESH

The Hindu Bureau

SS III: Environment

A 27-year-old veterinary officer under training died after she suffered serious injuries following an attack by a hippopotamus at Tyavarekoppa Lion and Tiger Safari in Shivamogga in Karnataka.

Trainee at the safari

Dr. Sameeksha Reddy, a native of Bengaluru, had been recently recruited as a trainee veterinary officer at the safari. She had been

While she was taking temperature using non-invasive infrared thermography, the animal suddenly attacked the trainee

entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the health condition of two ailing sun conure birds. She was at the veterinary hospital around 10.30 p.m. on Thursday.

Later, she decided to check the body tempera-

ture of a pregnant hippopotamus. While she was checking the temperature using non-invasive infrared thermography, the animal suddenly attacked her.

The staff of the safari shifted her to a private hospital in Shivamogga. She had suffered deep wounds, excessive bleeding, and damage to her liver, which led to cardiac arrest, according to official sources. She succumbed to injuries around 6.30 a.m. on Friday.

According to officials,

she was undergoing training as a veterinary officer, and there was an additional 45-day training period.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has mourned the death of the veterinary officer and instructed officials to ensure standard operating procedures are followed strictly to avoid such incidents.

Probe ordered

He has also asked officers to constitute a team of officials to investigate the incident and submit a report.

21Mar. Veterinary officer killed in hippo attack in Karnataka zoo कर्नाटक चिड़ियाघर में हिप्पो के हमले में पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी की मौत

- A 27-year-old veterinary officer under training died after she suffered serious injuries following an attack by a hippopotamus at Tyavarekoppa Lion and Tiger Safari in Shivamogga in Karnataka.
एक 27 वर्षीय प्रशिक्षु पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी की कर्नाटक के शिवमोग्गा स्थित त्यावरेकोप्पा लायन एंड टाइगर सफारी में हिप्पोपोटामस के हमले में गंभीर चोटों के कारण मृत्यु हो गई।

Trainee at the safari सफारी में प्रशिक्षु

- Dr. Sameeksha Reddy**, a native of Bengaluru, had been recently recruited as a trainee veterinary officer at the safari.
डॉ. समीक्षा रेड्डी, जो बंगलुरु की निवासी थीं, हाल ही में सफारी में प्रशिक्षु पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी के रूप में नियुक्त हुई थीं।
- She had been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the health condition of two ailing sun conure birds.
उन्हें दो बीमार सन कॉन्योर पक्षियों की स्वास्थ्य स्थिति की निगरानी की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई थी।
- She was at the veterinary hospital around 10.30 p.m. on Thursday.
वह गुरुवार रात लगभग 10:30 बजे पशु चिकित्सा अस्पताल में थीं।
- Later, she decided to check the body temperature of a pregnant hippopotamus.
बाद में उन्होंने एक गर्भवती हिप्पोपोटामस के शरीर का तापमान जांचने का निर्णय लिया।
- While she was checking the temperature using non-invasive infrared thermography, the animal suddenly attacked her.
जब वह नॉन-इनवेसिव इंफ्रारेड थर्मोग्राफी से तापमान जांच रही थीं, तभी जानवर ने अचानक उन पर हमला कर दिया।
- The staff of the safari shifted her to a private hospital in Shivamogga.
सफारी के कर्मचारियों ने उन्हें शिवमोग्गा के एक निजी अस्पताल में स्थानांतरित किया।
- She had suffered deep wounds, excessive bleeding, and damage to her liver, which led to cardiac arrest, according to official sources.



आधिकारिक सूत्रों के अनुसार, उन्हें गहरे घाव, अत्यधिक रक्तस्राव, और यकृत (लिवर) को नुकसान हुआ, जिससे हृदय गति रुकना (कार्डियक अरेस्ट) हुआ।

- She succumbed to injuries around 6.30 a.m. on Friday.
उन्होंने शुक्रवार सुबह लगभग 6:30 बजे चोटों के कारण दम तोड़ दिया।
- According to officials, she was undergoing training as a veterinary officer, and there was an additional **45-day training period**.
अधिकारियों के अनुसार, वह पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी के रूप में प्रशिक्षण ले रही थीं, और इसके अलावा **45 दिनों का अतिरिक्त प्रशिक्षण** भी था।
- **Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre** has mourned the death of the veterinary officer and instructed officials to ensure **standard operating procedures** are followed strictly to avoid such incidents.

वन मंत्री ईश्वर खांडेरे ने पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी की मृत्यु पर शोक व्यक्त किया और अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया कि ऐसी घटनाओं से बचने के लिए **मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाओं (SOPs)** का सख्ती से पालन सुनिश्चित करें।

Probe ordered जांच के आदेश

- He has also asked officers to constitute a team of officials to investigate the incident and submit a report.
उन्होंने अधिकारियों को घटना की जांच के लिए एक टीम गठित करने और रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए भी कहा है।

SC warns officials on Chambal sand mining

GS III: Environment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that officials who by their “lethargy and inaction” allowed sand mining to flourish in the fragile lotic ecosystem of the National Chambal Sanctuary would be vicariously liable to aiding and abetting of the illegal activity.

A Bench of Justices Vik-

ram Nath and Sandeep Mehta in a *suo motu* case, reminded Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, in whose tri-junction the sanctuary is located, that every act of destruction of wildlife habitat in a protected area would attract offences and penalties under multiple laws including the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

21Mar. SC warns officials on Chambal sand mining

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चंबल रेत खनन पर अधिकारियों को चेतावनी दी

- The **Supreme Court** on Friday observed that officials who by their “**lethargy and inaction**” allowed **sand mining** to flourish in the fragile **lotic ecosystem** of the **National Chambal Sanctuary** would be vicariously liable to aiding and abetting the illegal activity.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि वे अधिकारी, जिन्होंने अपनी “**सुस्ती और निष्क्रियता**” के कारण **रेत खनन** को **राष्ट्रीय चंबल अभयारण्य** के नाजुक **लोटिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** में बढ़ने दिया, उन्हें इस अवैध गतिविधि में सहायता और उकसाने के लिए परोक्ष रूप से जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाएगा।



- A Bench of Justices **Vikram Nath** and **Sandeep Mehta** in a **suo motu case**, reminded **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh** and **Uttar Pradesh**, in whose **tri-junction** the sanctuary is located, that every act of destruction of **wildlife habitat** in a protected area would attract offences and penalties under multiple laws including the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

न्यायमूर्ति विक्रम नाथ और संदीप मेहता की पीठ ने एक स्वतः संज्ञान (सुओ मोटू) मामले में राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश, जिनके त्रि-जंक्शन पर यह अभयारण्य स्थित है, को याद दिलाया कि संरक्षित क्षेत्र में वन्यजीव आवास के विनाश का हर कार्य कई कानूनों के तहत अपराध और दंड को आकर्षित करेगा, जिनमें वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 और पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 शामिल हैं।

'Undemocratic' politics in Great Nicobar over land

GS III: Environment

On January 18 this year a Great Nicobar Island based online news portal, www.nicobarimes.com, published an important news item related to the mega-infrastructure project on the island that has been headline news across the country for many months now. This particular issue has, however, barely been noticed, leave alone creating anything close to even a ripple.

The report, "DEF-GNI Objects to Low Minimum Circle Rates Fixed for Villages of Campbell Bay Tehsil, Seeks Revision Ahead of Airport Land Acquisition", highlighted the grievances of the Great Nicobar's settler (non-tribal) community in the matter of the compensation being awarded for their land that is being acquired for the mega-project under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013. About 300 families of ex-servicemen were settled in Great Nicobar between 1969 and 1975 for which about 40 square kilometres were de-notified from the Tribal Reserve. The descendants of these settlers now form the majority of the population here. "The Dependents and Ex-Servicemen Forum for Equitable Negotiation, Compensation & Entitlements - Great Nicobar Island (DEF-GNI)", the report noted, "has raised strong objections to the minimum circle rates fixed for villages under Campbell Bay Tehsil, terming them unreasonably low and unjust."

Inadequate compensation

At the heart of the matter is the low rates of compensation, ranging from ₹113 to ₹180 per square metre, they are being offered as against the ₹11,370 - ₹20,500 per square metre offered in the Andaman islands when land is acquired for tourism projects. The forum requested that the rates be fixed in a manner that ensures a minimum compensation of not less than ₹1 crore per acre of agricultural land to affected landowners.

The matter has also been raised regularly by the lone Member of Parliament (MP) from the



Pankaj Sekhsaria

is the author/editor of seven books on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the latest being 'The Great Nicobar Betrayal' (Frontline Magazine, 2024) and 'Island on Edge - The Great Nicobar Crisis' (2025)

Inequities arise between settler families and original islanders over land compensation for the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bishnu Pada Ray of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In December, he had written to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister making a number of related points: that the land was being acquired from ex-servicemen settler families who were originally brought here by the government to serve strategic and national security purposes; these families had already faced two major displacements, one during the initial settlement and then again after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami; there were major procedural violations in the land acquisition process; there were serious deficiencies in the social impact assessment carried out for this land, and that compensation being offered should be ₹32 lakh per hectare as against ₹9 lakh being offered currently.

There are two things that stand out: first the claim makers – the MP included – are explicit that they, the settler families, are not opposing the project. Their only request is adherence to due process and ensuring that no family is left without land or livelihood.

The second is the deep contradiction at the heart of (un)democratic representation and politics here: the settler community and their representatives, while seen seeking fairness and justice over their own land, are also collaborating with the same authorities in alienating land, livelihood and the resources of Great Nicobar's tribal communities (the Shompen and the Great Nicobarese) to make it available for the same project.

Alienating tribal lands

In a process marked by serious substantive and procedural impropriety, nearly 84 sq.km of legally notified tribal reserve is sought to be denotified and handed over to project authorities. Everyone from local agencies such as the Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Welfare Department, to the local settler communities, to national level bodies such as the Union Ministries of Environment and of Tribal Affairs have been complicit.

Evidence of this can be seen in the near-complete absence of the Shompen in discussions, the pressure being exerted on the Nicobarese to 'voluntarily' surrender their lands for the project, the public and vociferous support expressed by settlers and authorities, and the explicit violation of provisions of the Forest Rights Act, in which representatives of the settler community have signed documents freeing up tribal reserve land for the project.

Pertinent issues being ignored

No one can deny the right of the settlers to adequate compensation. But what about the original islanders such as the nomadic hunter gatherer Shompen that is notified as a particularly vulnerable tribal group, a PVTG? They may not want compensation because they have no use for the money we offer. What about the Nicobarese who wish to return to their traditional pre-tsunami lands and settlements but are not being provided the means to do so? And what of the impact on lives, livelihoods and cultures of these communities that are completely dependent on the sea and the forests? What also of the pristine forests and unique biodiversity that will be lost forever?

This situation underlines multiple things at the same time. On the ground it highlights the stark nature of (un)democratic local politics as adjacent communities are forced into competition and conflict over land and resources. At the macro level, it highlights how local communities and rights to resources are only minor pawns in the larger geo-political and development agendas of the state, of its larger political economy, and indeed the rhetoric of national sovereignty and strategic autonomy.

The contradictions might not be visible to the local settler communities or perhaps they do not have the agency or the choice. The same surely cannot be said for the state, the nation and for society at large. There is much for us to think about and ponder over.

The views expressed are personal

21Mar. 'Undemocratic' politics in Great Nicobar over land

ग्रेट निकोबार में भूमि को लेकर 'अलोकतांत्रिक' राजनीति

- On January 18 this year a **Great Nicobar Island** based online news portal published an important news item related to the **mega-infrastructure project** on the island that has been headline news across the country for many months now. इस वर्ष 18 जनवरी को ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप आधारित एक ऑनलाइन समाचार पोर्टल ने द्वीप के मेगा-इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोजेक्ट से संबंधित एक महत्वपूर्ण खबर प्रकाशित की, जो कई महीनों से देशभर में सुर्खियों में है।
- This particular issue has, however, barely been noticed, leave alone creating anything close to even a ripple. हालांकि, इस विशेष मुद्दे पर शायद ही ध्यान दिया गया है, इसे लेकर कोई हलचल तक नहीं हुई।
- The report, "DEF-GNI Objects to Low Minimum Circle Rates Fixed for Villages of Campbell Bay Tehsil, Seeks Revision Ahead of Airport Land Acquisition", highlighted the grievances of the Great Nicobar's settler (non-tribal) community in the matter of the compensation being awarded for their land that is being acquired for the mega-project under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation



and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013.

रिपोर्ट “DEF-GNI द्वारा कैम्बेल बे तहसील के गांवों के लिए तय न्यूनतम सर्किल रेट पर आपत्ति, एयरपोर्ट भूमि अधिग्रहण से पहले संशोधन की मांग” में ग्रेट निकोबार के बसने वाले (गैर-जनजातीय) समुदाय की शिकायतों को उजागर किया गया, जो उनकी जमीन के लिए दिए जा रहे मुआवजे से संबंधित हैं, जिसे **RFCTLARR अधिनियम, 2013** के तहत अधिग्रहित किया जा रहा है।

- About 300 families of **ex-servicemen** were settled in Great Nicobar between 1969 and 1975 for which about 40 square kilometres were de-notified from the **Tribal Reserve**. लगभग 300 **पूर्व सैनिकों** के परिवारों को 1969 से 1975 के बीच ग्रेट निकोबार में बसाया गया, जिसके लिए लगभग 40 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र को **जनजातीय आरक्षित क्षेत्र** से अलग किया गया।
- The descendants of these settlers now form the majority of the population here. इन बसने वालों के वंशज अब यहां की आबादी का अधिकांश हिस्सा बनाते हैं।
- “The **Dependents and Ex-Servicemen Forum for Equitable Negotiation, Compensation & Entitlements – Great Nicobar Island (DEF-GNI)**”, the report noted, “has raised strong objections to the minimum circle rates fixed for villages under **Campbell Bay Tehsil**, terming them unreasonably low and unjust.”

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि “**डिपेंडेंट्स एंड एक्स-सर्विसमेन फोरम फॉर इक्विटेबल नेगोशिएशन, कम्पेंसेशन एंड एंटाइटलमेंट्स – ग्रेट निकोबार (DEF-GNI)**” ने कैम्बेल बे तहसील के गांवों के लिए तय न्यूनतम सर्किल रेट पर कड़ी आपत्ति जताई है और उन्हें अनुचित रूप से कम बताया है।

Inadequate compensation अपर्याप्त मुआवजा

- At the heart of the matter is the low rates of compensation, ranging from **₹113 to ₹180 per square metre**, they are being offered as against the **₹11,370 - ₹20,500 per square metre** offered in the Andaman islands when land is acquired for tourism projects. मामले का मुख्य मुद्दा मुआवजे की कम दरें हैं, जो **₹113 से ₹180 प्रति वर्ग मीटर** तक हैं, जबकि अंडमान द्वीपों में पर्यटन परियोजनाओं के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण पर **₹11,370 से ₹20,500 प्रति वर्ग मीटर** दिए जाते हैं।
- The forum requested that the rates be fixed in a manner that ensures a minimum compensation of not less than **₹1 crore per acre** of agricultural land to affected landowners. फोरम ने मांग की कि दरें इस तरह तय की जाएं कि प्रभावित भूमिधारकों को कृषि भूमि के लिए कम से कम **₹1 करोड़ प्रति एकड़** का मुआवजा मिले।
- The matter has also been raised regularly by the lone Member of Parliament (MP) from the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bishnu Pada Ray** of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**. इस मुद्दे को **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह** के एकमात्र सांसद **बिष्णु पदा राय (भाजपा)** द्वारा भी नियमित रूप से उठाया गया है।
- In December, he had written to the **Prime Minister** and the **Home Minister** making a number of related points: that the land was being acquired from **ex-servicemen settler families** who were originally brought here by the government to serve strategic and national security purposes; these families had already faced two major displacements, one during the initial settlement and then again after the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**; there were major procedural violations in the land acquisition process; there were serious deficiencies in the **social impact assessment** carried out for this land, and that compensation being offered should be **₹32 lakh per hectare** as against **₹9 lakh** being offered currently. दिसंबर में उन्होंने **प्रधानमंत्री** और **गृह मंत्री** को पत्र लिखकर कई मुद्दे उठाए: कि भूमि **पूर्व सैनिक बसने वाले परिवारों** से ली जा रही है जिन्हें पहले रणनीतिक और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा उद्देश्यों के लिए बसाया गया था; इन परिवारों ने दो बार विस्थापन झेला है—पहले बसावट के समय और फिर **2004 की हिंद महासागर सुनामी** के बाद; भूमि अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया में गंभीर प्रक्रियात्मक उल्लंघन हुए हैं; **सामाजिक प्रभाव आकलन** में गंभीर कमियां हैं; और मुआवजा **₹32 लाख प्रति हेक्टेयर** होना चाहिए, जबकि वर्तमान में **₹9 लाख** दिया जा रहा है।
- There are two things that stand out: first the claim makers — the MP included — are explicit that they, the settler families, are not opposing the project. दो बातें स्पष्ट हैं: पहली, दावेदार — जिनमें सांसद भी शामिल हैं — स्पष्ट रूप से कहते हैं कि वे इस परियोजना का विरोध नहीं कर रहे हैं।
- Their only request is adherence to due process and ensuring that no family is left without land or livelihood.



उनकी केवल यह मांग है कि उचित प्रक्रिया का पालन हो और कोई भी परिवार भूमि या आजीविका से वंचित न हो।

- The second is the deep contradiction at the heart of (un)democratic representation and politics here: the settler community and their representatives, while seen seeking fairness and justice over their own land, are also collaborating with the same authorities in alienating land, livelihood and the resources of Great Nicobar's tribal communities (the **Shompen** and the **Great Nicobarese**) to make it available for the same project.

दूसरी बात (अ)लोकतांत्रिक प्रतिनिधित्व और राजनीति के भीतर गहरे विरोधाभास को दर्शाती है: बसने वाला समुदाय और उनके प्रतिनिधि अपनी भूमि के लिए न्याय की मांग करते हुए भी उन्हीं प्राधिकरणों के साथ मिलकर ग्रेट निकोबार की जनजातीय समुदायों (**शोम्पेन** और **ग्रेट निकोबारी**) की भूमि, आजीविका और संसाधनों को परियोजना के लिए उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं।

Alienating tribal lands जनजातीय भूमि का अलगाव

- In a process marked by serious substantive and procedural impropriety, nearly **84 sq.km** of legally notified **tribal reserve** is sought to be denotified and handed over to project authorities.
एक ऐसी प्रक्रिया में, जिसमें गंभीर प्रक्रियात्मक अनियमितताएं हैं, लगभग **84 वर्ग किमी** के कानूनी रूप से अधिसूचित **जनजातीय आरक्षित क्षेत्र** को हटाकर परियोजना प्राधिकरणों को सौंपने की योजना है।
- Everyone from local agencies such as the **Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Welfare Department**, to the local settler communities, to national level bodies such as the **Union Ministries of Environment and of Tribal Affairs** have been complicit.
अंडमान और निकोबार जनजातीय कल्याण विभाग जैसी स्थानीय एजेंसियों से लेकर स्थानीय बसने वाले समुदायों और **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय** तथा **जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय** जैसे राष्ट्रीय स्तर के निकाय भी इसमें शामिल रहे हैं।
- Evidence of this can be seen in the near-complete absence of the **Shompen** in discussions, the pressure being exerted on the **Nicobarese** to 'voluntarily' surrender their lands for the project, the public and vociferous support expressed by settlers and authorities, and the explicit violation of provisions of the **Forest Rights Act**, in which representatives of the settler community have signed documents freeing up tribal reserve land for the project.
इसका प्रमाण चर्चाओं में **शोम्पेन** की लगभग अनुपस्थिति, **निकोबारी** पर भूमि 'स्वेच्छा' से छोड़ने का दबाव, बसने वालों और अधिकारियों का खुला समर्थन, और **वन अधिकार अधिनियम** के प्रावधानों का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन है, जिसमें बसने वाले समुदाय के प्रतिनिधियों ने जनजातीय भूमि को परियोजना के लिए मुक्त करने वाले दस्तावेजों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

Pertinent issues being ignored महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों की अनदेखी

- No one can deny the right of the settlers to adequate compensation.
बसने वालों के पर्याप्त मुआवजे के अधिकार से इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता।
- But what about the original islanders such as the nomadic hunter gatherer **Shompen** that is notified as a **particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)**?
लेकिन मूल निवासी जैसे घुमंतू शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता **शोम्पेन**, जिन्हें **विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह (PVTG)** के रूप में अधिसूचित किया गया है, उनका क्या?
• They may not want compensation because they have no use for the money we offer.
वे शायद मुआवजा नहीं चाहते क्योंकि उन्हें हमारे दिए गए पैसे की जरूरत नहीं है।
- What about the **Nicobarese** who wish to return to their traditional pre-tsunami lands and settlements but are not being provided the means to do so?
उन **निकोबारी** का क्या जो अपने पारंपरिक सुनामी-पूर्व क्षेत्रों में लौटना चाहते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें ऐसा करने के साधन नहीं दिए जा रहे हैं?
- And what of the impact on lives, livelihoods and cultures of these communities that are completely dependent on the **sea** and the **forests**?
और उन समुदायों के जीवन, आजीविका और संस्कृति पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा जो पूरी तरह **समुद्र** और **जंगलों** पर निर्भर हैं?



- What also of the pristine forests and unique **biodiversity** that will be lost forever?
और उन स्वच्छ जंगलों और अद्वितीय **जैव विविधता** का क्या जो हमेशा के लिए नष्ट हो जाएगी?
- This situation underlines multiple things at the same time.
यह स्थिति एक साथ कई बातों को उजागर करती है।
- On the ground it highlights the stark nature of (un)democratic local politics as adjacent communities are forced into competition and conflict over land and resources.
जमीनी स्तर पर यह (अ)लोकतांत्रिक स्थानीय राजनीति की कठोर सच्चाई को दिखाता है, जहां समुदायों को भूमि और संसाधनों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा और संघर्ष में धकेला जाता है।
- At the macro level, it highlights how local communities and rights to resources are only minor pawns in the larger **geo-political** and **development agendas** of the state, of its larger political economy, and indeed the rhetoric of **national sovereignty** and **strategic autonomy**.
वृहद स्तर पर यह दिखाता है कि स्थानीय समुदाय और संसाधनों पर उनके अधिकार बड़े **भू-राजनीतिक** और **विकास एजेंडा**, राजनीतिक अर्थव्यवस्था, तथा **राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता** और **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** के विमर्श में केवल छोटे मोहरे हैं।
- The contradictions might not be visible to the local settler communities or perhaps they do not have the agency or the choice.
ये विरोधाभास स्थानीय बसने वाले समुदायों को दिखाई नहीं दे सकते या शायद उनके पास विकल्प नहीं है।
- The same surely cannot be said for the state, the nation and for society at large.
लेकिन राज्य, राष्ट्र और व्यापक समाज के लिए ऐसा नहीं कहा जा सकता।
- There is much for us to think about and ponder over.
हमारे लिए सोचने और विचार करने के लिए बहुत कुछ है।
- The views expressed are personal
व्यक्त विचार व्यक्तिगत हैं
- 'Undemocratic' politics in Great Nicobar over land
ग्रेट निकोबार में भूमि को लेकर 'अलोकतांत्रिक' राजनीति
- **Pankaj Sekhsaria** is the author/editor of seven books on the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, the latest being **'The Great Nicobar Betrayal'** (Frontline Magazine, 2024) and **'Island on Edge – The Great Nicobar Crisis'** (2025).
पंकज सेखसरिया अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह पर सात पुस्तकों के लेखक/संपादक हैं, जिनमें नवीनतम 'द ग्रेट निकोबार बिट्रेयल' (फ्रंटलाइन मैगजीन, 2024) और 'आइलैंड ऑन एज – द ग्रेट निकोबार क्राइसिस' (2025) शामिल हैं।
- Inequities arise between settler families and original islanders over land compensation for the **Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure**.
ग्रेट निकोबार मेगा-इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए भूमि मुआवजे को लेकर बसने वाले परिवारों और मूल निवासियों के बीच असमानताएं उत्पन्न हो रही हैं।

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS(GS Paper IV and Essay)

TOPICS COVERED

21 March 2026

21Mar **Fight against hate speech must be on behalf of all, says SC**
घृणा भाषण के खिलाफ लड़ाई सभी की ओर से होनी चाहिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा



Fight against hate speech must be on behalf of all, says SC

GS IV: Ethics

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Friday said the fight against hate speech must be on behalf of all, and not just limited to one's own community.

"Why should a particular community come up and say 'protect my community against hate speech'? Rather, we should say 'no one should indulge in hate speech'," Justice B.V. Nagarathna, heading a Bench, observed orally.

Justice Nagarathna's remark came while hearing a petition seeking the court's intervention against hate speech targeting the Brahmin community.

The court found that the petitioner-in-person, Mahalingam Balaji, had even coined a term, 'Brahmophobia', which he said should be treated as caste-based discrimination and duly punished.

Mr. Balaji submitted that the petition was a result of years of research on the

Petitioner had sought court's intervention against hate speech targeting the Brahmin community

"selective and inconsistent application" of the hate speech jurisprudence. He said hate speech has affected the community.

"We do not want hate speech against any community. That would depend on the level of education, intellectual development, tolerance and patience in the society. Once everyone follows fraternity, then automatically there would be no hate speech," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Nagarathna advised the petitioner to "develop the capacity to not be influenced by it". "Many things, if ignored, will fade away. If you react, it will only trigger another reaction," Justice Nagarathna said. The court allowed the withdrawal of the plea.

21Mar. Fight against hate speech must be on behalf of all, says SC

घृणा भाषण के खिलाफ लड़ाई सभी की ओर से होनी चाहिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा

• The **Supreme Court of India** on Friday said the fight against **hate speech** must be on behalf of all, and not just limited to one's own community.

भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि **घृणा भाषण** के खिलाफ लड़ाई सभी की ओर से होनी चाहिए, न कि केवल किसी एक समुदाय तक सीमित।

• "Why should a particular community come up and say 'protect my community against hate speech'?"

"क्यों कोई विशेष समुदाय यह कहे कि 'मेरे समुदाय को घृणा भाषण से बचाओ'?"

• Rather, we should say 'no one should indulge in hate speech'," **Justice B.V.**

Nagarathna, heading a Bench, observed orally. बल्कि हमें यह कहना चाहिए कि 'कोई भी घृणा भाषण में शामिल न हो'," **न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरथना**, जो पीठ की अध्यक्षता कर रही थीं, ने मौखिक रूप से कहा।

• Justice Nagarathna's remark came while hearing a petition seeking the court's intervention against hate speech targeting the **Brahmin community**.

न्यायमूर्ति नागरथना की यह टिप्पणी उस याचिका की सुनवाई के दौरान आई, जिसमें **ब्राह्मण समुदाय** को लक्षित घृणा भाषण के खिलाफ अदालत के हस्तक्षेप की मांग की गई थी।

• The court found that the petitioner-in-person, **Mahalingam Balaji**, had even coined a term, 'Brahmophobia', which he said should be treated as **caste-based discrimination** and duly punished.

अदालत ने पाया कि याचिकाकर्ता **महालिंगम बालाजी** ने

'**ब्राह्मोफोबिया**' शब्द भी गढ़ा है, जिसे उन्होंने **जाति आधारित भेदभाव** के रूप में मानकर दंडित करने की बात कही।

• Mr. Balaji submitted that the petition was a result of years of research on the "**selective and inconsistent application**" of the hate speech jurisprudence.

श्री बालाजी ने कहा कि यह याचिका घृणा भाषण न्यायशास्त्र के "**चयनात्मक और असंगत अनुप्रयोग**" पर वर्षों के शोध का परिणाम है।

• He said hate speech has affected the community. उन्होंने कहा कि घृणा भाषण ने समुदाय को प्रभावित किया है।

• "We do not want hate speech against any community. "हम किसी भी समुदाय के खिलाफ घृणा भाषण नहीं चाहते।

• That would depend on the level of **education, intellectual development, tolerance and patience** in the society.

यह समाज में **शिक्षा, बौद्धिक विकास, सहिष्णुता** और **धैर्य** के स्तर पर निर्भर करेगा।

• Once everyone follows **fraternity**, then automatically there would be no hate speech," Justice Nagarathna said.

जब सभी **बंधुत्व (fraternity)** का पालन करेंगे, तो स्वाभाविक रूप से घृणा भाषण समाप्त हो जाएगा," न्यायमूर्ति नागरथना ने कहा।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



- Justice Nagarathna advised the petitioner to “develop the capacity to not be influenced by it”.
न्यायमूर्ति नागरथना ने याचिकाकर्ता को सलाह दी कि “इससे प्रभावित न होने की क्षमता विकसित करें।”
- “Many things, if ignored, will fade away.
“कई चीजें, यदि अनदेखा कर दी जाएं, तो अपने आप समाप्त हो जाती हैं।”
- If you react, it will only trigger another reaction,” Justice Nagarathna said.
यदि आप प्रतिक्रिया देंगे, तो यह केवल एक और प्रतिक्रिया को जन्म देगा,” न्यायमूर्ति नागरथना ने कहा।
- The court allowed the withdrawal of the plea.
अदालत ने याचिका को वापस लेने की अनुमति दे दी।

PATRIOTIC IAS