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<b>PCS Special:</b>		<b>30 March</b>
<b>30Mar</b>	<b>A lucky break sees Antonelli become youngest F1 championship leader</b>	
	<b>एक भाग्यशाली मौके से एंटोनेली बने सबसे युवा F1 चैम्पियनशिप लीडर</b>	

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# A lucky break sees Antonelli become youngest F1 championship leader

The 19-year-old Mercedes driver takes advantage of a mid-race safety car to leapfrog into the lead after a dreadful start from pole position

## JAPANESE GP

Agence France-Presse  
SUZUKA

**M**ercedes' Kimi Antonelli won the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday for his second straight victory, as the 19-year-old Italian became the youngest driver in Formula One history to lead the world championship standings.

Antonelli took advantage of a mid-race safety car to leapfrog into the lead after a dreadful start from pole position and led home McLaren's Oscar Piastri by 13.722sec with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc a further 1.548sec back in third. He moved up to 72 points and leads the championship by nine points after three races, building on the first Grand Prix win of his career two weeks ago in China.

"Of course it's still too early to think about the championship but we're on a good way," said Antonelli.

His Mercedes teammate George Russell finished fourth to drop to second in the championship stand-

I don't know what would have happened, what the outcome would have been without the safety car, but it definitely made my life a lot easier

ANTONELLI

ings on 63 points. Leclerc is third on 49.

Russell battled Piastri for the lead over the first half of the race but pitted just before the safety car which dropped him out of contention for the win.

Piastri secured second in his first Grand Prix start of the season, after crashing on his way to the grid in the opener in Australia and missing the race in China because of a technical problem.

Piastri led for the first half of the race before the safety car gave Antonelli his chance.

McLaren's world champion Lando Norris was fifth ahead of Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton and Alpine's Pierre Gasly. Red Bull's four-time world champion Max Verstappen, the winner in Japan for the past four years, was eighth after

starting from 11th. Formula One now takes an extended break until the Miami Grand Prix on May 3.

**The results:** 1. Antonelli (Mercedes) 1h 28m 3.403s, 2. Piastri (McLaren) at +13.722s, 3. Leclerc (Ferrari) +15.270, 4. Russell (Mercedes) +15.754, 5. Norris (McLaren) +23.479, 6. Hamilton (Ferrari) +25.037, 7. Gasly (Alpine) +32.340, 8. Verstappen (Red Bull) +32.677, 9. Lawson (Racing Bulls) +50.180, 10. Ocon (Haas) +51.216, 11. Hulkenberg (Audi) +52.280, 12. Hadjar (Red Bull) +56.154, 13. Bortoleto (Audi) +59.078, 14. Lindblad (Racing Bulls) +59.848, 15. Sainz Jr (Williams) +1m 05.008s, 16. Colapinto (Alpine) +1m 05.773s, 17. Perez (Cadillac) +1m 32.453s, 18. Alonso (Aston Martin) +1 lap, 19. Bottas (Cadillac) +1 lap, 20. Albon (Williams) +2 laps.

**Retirements: 21st lap:** Bearman (Haas), 31st lap: Stroll (Aston Martin).

**Championship standings:**  
**Drivers:** 1. Antonelli 72 points, 2. Russell 63, 3. Leclerc 49, 4. Hamilton 41, 5. Norris 25, 6. Piastri 21, 7. Bearman 17, 8. Gasly 15, 9. Verstappen 12, 10. Lawson 10, 11. Lindblad 4, 12. Hadjar 4, 13. Bortoleto 2, 14. Sainz Jr. 2, 15. Ocon 1, 16. Colapinto 1.  
**Constructors:** 1. Mercedes 135 points, 2. Ferrari 90, 3. McLaren 46, 4. Haas 18, 5. Alpine 16, 6. Red Bull 16, 7. Racing Bulls 14, 8. Audi 2, 9. Williams 2.

**THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 53-LAP RACE AT SUZUKA**

**Lights to flag**

1 Antonelli (19y 7m 4d) breaks Hamilton's record (22y 4m 6d) to become the youngest driver to lead the drivers' championship

1 Antonelli is the first driver to win multiple races as a teenager, and the first Italian to win consecutive races since Ascari in 1953

1 The Italian is the first whose first two wins have both been hat-tricks (pole, race win, fastest lap)

6 After three races, Red Bull sits P6 in the constructors' standings. Only in 2006, 2007 and 2008 was it in such a position after the first three races

6 For the first time since his Suzuka debut in 2009, Hamilton has finished the race

Every driver who has won at Suzuka since 2004 has either gone on to bag the drivers' title or finish at least as runner-up that season

18 Alonso and Aston Martin finally took the chequered flag in 2026

30 McLaren has become the first team to record as many as 30 top three finishes at the Japanese GP

52 Leclerc goes level with Raikkonen for the fourth most podiums by a Ferrari driver

88 Antonelli has led more races than every other driver combined this season (Russell - 36, Leclerc - 23, Piastri - 16, Hamilton - 4)

31 Mercedes goes past podium finishes in F1

500 The Japanese GP was the 500th round of the world championship to be won by the pole-sitter. Incidentally, the first race won from pole was also by an Italian (Farina, 1950 British GP)

Compiled by ANRUDH VELAMURI




## 30Mar. A lucky break sees Antonelli become youngest F1 championship leader एक भाग्यशाली मौके से एंटोनेली बने सबसे युवा F1 चैम्पियनशिप लीडर

- The 19-year-old **Mercedes driver** takes advantage of a mid-race **safety car** to leapfrog into the lead after a dreadful start from **pole position**.  
19 वर्षीय **मर्सिडीज ड्राइवर** ने रेस के बीच में आए **सेफ्टी कार** का फायदा उठाकर **पोल पोजीशन** से खराब शुरुआत के बाद बढ़त हासिल की।
- Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli won the Japanese Grand Prix** on Sunday for his second straight victory, as the **19-year-old Italian** became the **youngest driver in Formula One history** to lead the world championship standings.  
**मर्सिडीज के किमी एंटोनेली** ने रविवार को **जापानी ग्रां प्री** जीता, जो उनकी लगातार दूसरी जीत थी, और 19 वर्षीय इतालवी **फॉर्मूला वन इतिहास** में विश्व चैम्पियनशिप में बढ़त लेने वाले सबसे युवा ड्राइवर बन गए।
- Antonelli took advantage of a mid-race **safety car** to leapfrog into the lead after a dreadful start from pole position and led home **McLaren's Oscar Piastri** by 13.722sec with **Ferrari's Charles Leclerc** a further 1.548sec back in third.  
एंटोनेली ने रेस के बीच में आए **सेफ्टी कार** का फायदा उठाकर **पोल पोजीशन** से खराब शुरुआत के बाद बढ़त हासिल की और **मैकलारेन के ऑस्कर पियास्त्री** को 13.722 सेकंड से हराया, जबकि **फेरारी के चार्ल्स लेक्लेर** 1.548 सेकंड पीछे तीसरे स्थान पर रहे।
- He moved up to 72 points and leads the championship by nine points after three races, building on the first **Grand Prix win** of his career two weeks ago in China.  
उन्होंने 72 अंक प्राप्त किए और तीन रेस के बाद नौ अंकों की बढ़त के साथ चैम्पियनशिप में आगे हैं, दो सप्ताह पहले चीन में अपने पहले **ग्रां प्री जीत** के आधार पर।
- "Of course it's still too early to think about the championship but we're on a good way," said Antonelli.  
एंटोनेली ने कहा, "बेशक अभी चैम्पियनशिप के बारे में सोचना बहुत जल्दी है, लेकिन हम सही दिशा में हैं।"
- His **Mercedes teammate George Russell** finished fourth to drop to second in the championship standings on 63 points.



उनके **मर्सिडीज टीममेट जॉर्ज रसेल** चौथे स्थान पर रहे और 63 अंकों के साथ चैम्पियनशिप में दूसरे स्थान पर आ गए।

- Leclerc is third on 49.  
लेक्लेर 49 अंकों के साथ तीसरे स्थान पर हैं।
- Russell battled **Piastri** for the lead over the first half of the race but pitted just before the safety car which dropped him out of contention for the win.  
रसेल ने रेस के पहले आधे हिस्से में **पियास्त्री** के साथ बढ़त के लिए संघर्ष किया, लेकिन सेफ्टी कार से ठीक पहले पिट स्टॉप करने के कारण जीत की दौड़ से बाहर हो गए।
- Piastri secured second in his first **Grand Prix start** of the season, after crashing on his way to the grid in the opener in Australia and missing the race in China because of a technical problem.  
पियास्त्री ने सीजन के अपने पहले **ग्रां प्री स्टार्ट** में दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया, ऑस्ट्रेलिया में शुरुआती रेस में ग्रिड तक जाते समय दुर्घटना के बाद और चीन में तकनीकी समस्या के कारण रेस मिस करने के बाद।
- Piastri led for the first half of the race before the safety car gave Antonelli his chance.  
पियास्त्री ने रेस के पहले हिस्से में बढ़त बनाई, लेकिन सेफ्टी कार ने एंटोनेली को मौका दे दिया।
- **McLaren's world champion Lando Norris** was fifth ahead of **Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton** and **Alpine's Pierre Gasly**.  
मैकलारेन के विश्व चैम्पियन **लैंडो नॉरिस** पांचवें स्थान पर रहे, उनके पीछे **फेरारी के लुईस हैमिल्टन** और **अल्पाइन के पियरे गैस्ली** रहे।
- **Red Bull's four-time world champion Max Verstappen**, the winner in Japan for the past four years, was eighth after  
**रेड बुल के चार बार के विश्व चैम्पियन मैक्स वेरस्टैपेन**, जो पिछले चार वर्षों से जापान में विजेता रहे थे, आठवें स्थान पर रहे।

<b>GS Paper 1: History,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>30 March 2026</b>
<b>30Mar</b>	<b>On TDP's 44th foundation day, leaders call for unity, continued development</b> टीडीपी के 44वें स्थापना दिवस पर नेताओं ने एकता और निरंतर विकास का आह्वान किया
<b>30Mar</b>	<b>Challenging times, says PM on West Asia crisis</b> पश्चिम एशिया संकट पर पीएम ने कहा, चुनौतीपूर्ण समय



## On TDP's 44th foundation day, leaders call for unity, continued development

**GS I: History**  
**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Sunday celebrated its 44th foundation day, with leaders across the political spectrum extending greetings and emphasising the need to strengthen alliance unity for the continued development of Andhra Pradesh.

Founded by actor-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao on the plank of Telugu self-respect, the party has completed over four decades of a significant political journey, marked by electoral successes, challenges and ideological battles.

Chief Minister and TDP national president N.



TDP leaders pay tribute to TDP founder N.T. Rama Rao at his statue in Kadapa on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chandrababu Naidu, in his message, described the party as a reflection of the aspirations of generations of Telugu people. He reiterated the party's commitment to the welfare of the poor and its founding principle of ensuring food,

shelter and clothing for the underprivileged. Calling the foundation day a "festival for every party worker," he conveyed greetings to cadres across the State.

TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh highlighted the party's role in

uplifting marginalised communities and bringing welfare-oriented governance into national discourse. He said the TDP continues to strive toward making Telugu people globally prominent while carrying forward the ideals of its founder.

Extending wishes on the occasion, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president K. Pawan Kalyan recalled the party's historic role in shaping the political landscape of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Stressing that the State's progress is closely tied to coalition unity, he called upon alliance partners to further strengthen their collective spirit.

### 30Mar. On TDP's 44th foundation day, leaders call for unity, continued development

#### टीडीपी के 44वें स्थापना दिवस पर नेताओं ने एकता और निरंतर विकास का आह्वान किया

- The **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)** on Sunday celebrated its **44th foundation day**, with leaders across the political spectrum extending greetings and emphasising the need to strengthen **alliance unity** for the continued development of **Andhra Pradesh**.

तेलुगु देशम पार्टी (टीडीपी) ने रविवार को अपना 44वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया, जिसमें विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं ने शुभकामनाएं दीं और आंध्र प्रदेश के निरंतर विकास के लिए गठबंधन की एकता को मजबूत करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- Founded by actor turned politician **N.T. Rama Rao** on the plank of **Telugu self-respect**, the party has completed over four decades of a significant political journey, marked by electoral successes, challenges and ideological battles.

अभिनेता से राजनेता बने एन.टी. रामाराव द्वारा तेलुगु स्वाभिमान के आधार पर स्थापित इस पार्टी ने चार दशकों से अधिक की महत्वपूर्ण राजनीतिक यात्रा पूरी की है, जो चुनावी सफलताओं, चुनौतियों और वैचारिक संघर्षों से चिह्नित रही है।

- Chief Minister** and TDP national president **N. Chandrababu Naidu**, in his message, described the party as a reflection of the aspirations of generations of Telugu people. **मुख्यमंत्री** और टीडीपी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष **एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू** ने अपने संदेश में पार्टी को तेलुगु लोगों की पीढ़ियों की आकांक्षाओं का प्रतिबिंब बताया।

- He reiterated the party's commitment to the welfare of the poor and its founding principle of ensuring **food, shelter and clothing** for the underprivileged.

उन्होंने गरीबों के कल्याण के प्रति पार्टी की प्रतिबद्धता और वंचितों के लिए भोजन, आवास और वस्त्र सुनिश्चित करने के मूल सिद्धांत को दोहराया।

- Calling the foundation day a "festival for every party worker," he conveyed greetings to cadres across the State.

उन्होंने स्थापना दिवस को "हर कार्यकर्ता के लिए एक उत्सव" बताते हुए पूरे राज्य के कार्यकर्ताओं को शुभकामनाएं दीं।

- TDP national general secretary **Nara Lokesh** highlighted the party's role in uplifting **marginalised communities** and bringing **welfare-oriented governance** into national



discourse.

टीडीपी के राष्ट्रीय महासचिव नारा लोकेश ने वंचित समुदायों के उत्थान और कल्याणकारी शासन को राष्ट्रीय विमर्श में लाने में पार्टी की भूमिका को रेखांकित किया।

- He said the TDP continues to strive toward making Telugu people globally prominent while carrying forward the ideals of its founder.  
उन्होंने कहा कि टीडीपी अपने संस्थापक के आदर्शों को आगे बढ़ाते हुए तेलुगु लोगों को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रमुख बनाने का प्रयास जारी रखे हुए है।
- Extending wishes on the occasion, **Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president K. Pawan Kalyan** recalled the party's historic role in shaping the political landscape of **undivided Andhra Pradesh**.  
इस अवसर पर शुभकामनाएं देते हुए **आंध्र प्रदेश के उपमुख्यमंत्री और जन सेना पार्टी (जेएसपी)** के अध्यक्ष **के. पवन कल्याण** ने **अविभाजित आंध्र प्रदेश** के राजनीतिक परिदृश्य को आकार देने में पार्टी की ऐतिहासिक भूमिका को याद किया।
- Stressing that the State's progress is closely tied to **coalition unity**, he called upon alliance partners to further strengthen their **collective spirit**.  
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि राज्य की प्रगति **गठबंधन की एकता** से निकटता से जुड़ी है और सहयोगी दलों से अपनी **सामूहिक भावना** को और मजबूत करने का आह्वान किया।

## Challenging times, says PM on West Asia crisis

Modi warns against politicising the issue, says the region is a major centre of India's energy needs, and due to the ongoing war, a 'crisis' regarding petrol and diesel is emerging around the world

**GS I: History**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday noted that the situation in West Asia had created "challenging times" and called for those "politicising" the issue to refrain from doing so. He cautioned Indians against believing rumours related to the crisis.

Speaking during his monthly *Mann Ki Baat* address, the Prime Minister said that following the COVID-19 pandemic, it was expected that the world would move forward on a path of renewed progress.

"However, situations of war and conflict have continuously kept arising in different parts of the world," he said.

"At present, a fierce war has been going on in our neighbourhood for a month. Millions of our family members, near and dear ones, live in these countries, especially working in the Gulf countries."

### Deeply grateful

"I am deeply grateful to the Gulf countries for providing all kinds of assistance to more than one crore Indians there," he added.

Mr. Modi noted that the

I would once again urge all my countrymen that we must unitedly overcome this challenge. Those who are politicising even this issue should refrain from doing so. This is a matter concerning the interests of 140 crore countrymen; there is no place for self-serving politics.

**NARENDRA MODI**  
Prime Minister



West Asian region is a major centre of India's energy needs, and due to the ongoing war, a "crisis" regarding petrol and diesel is emerging around the world.

"These certainly are challenging times," he said. "I would once again urge all my countrymen that we must unitedly overcome this challenge. Those who are politicising even this issue should refrain from doing so. This is a matter concerning the interests of 140 crore countrymen; there is no place for self-serving politics."

"Therefore, those who are spreading rumours are causing a major harm to the country," Mr. Modi added. "I would also appeal to all citizens to remain vigilant and not be misled by rumours. Trust only the

continuous information provided by the government and take action based only on that."

### Key initiatives

During his address, the Prime Minister also took note of various initiatives aimed at nation-building. One such initiative was the **Gyan Bharatam Survey** aimed at **collecting information about manuscripts across the country**.

"If you have a manuscript or information about it, do share its image on the Gyan Bharatam App," Mr. Modi said, adding, "Information related to each entry is being verified before it is recorded. I am glad that thousands of manuscripts have been shared so far."

Another initiative he highlighted was MY Bharat

Budget Quest. "It aims to connect the youth across the country with the Budget process and policymaking," the Prime Minister said. "Nearly 12 lakh youth from across the country participated in the quiz."

### Sports achievements

The Prime Minister also devoted a section of his address to India's sporting achievements in the recent past.

"When India achieved a historic victory in the **T20 World Cup**, a wave of joy swept across the country," he said. "We are all very proud of our team's thumping success."

"Late last month, a thrilling match was witnessed in Hubli, Karnataka. By winning this match, the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team secured for themselves the Ranji Trophy," he said. He remarked that this success for Jammu and Kashmir will encourage many young people to take up sports, adding that the people of J&K have a "tremendous passion" for sports. "I am glad that it is now becoming a hub for major sporting events," Mr. Modi said. "I hope this winning streak of J&K sports persons continues in the future."



### 30Mar. Challenging times, says PM on West Asia crisis पश्चिम एशिया संकट पर पीएम ने कहा, चुनौतीपूर्ण समय

- **Modi warns against politicising the issue, says the region is a major centre of India's energy needs, and due to the ongoing war, a 'crisis' regarding petrol and diesel is emerging around the world**  
मोदी ने मुद्दे के राजनीतिकरण के खिलाफ चेताया, कहा यह क्षेत्र भारत की ऊर्जा जरूरतों का प्रमुख केंद्र है और जारी युद्ध के कारण पेट्रोल और डीजल को लेकर विश्वभर में 'संकट' उभर रहा है
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on Sunday noted that the situation in **West Asia** had created "**challenging times**" and called for those "**politicising**" the issue to refrain from doing so.  
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रविवार को कहा कि **पश्चिम एशिया** की स्थिति ने "**चुनौतीपूर्ण समय**" पैदा कर दिया है और इस मुद्दे का "**राजनीतिकरण**" करने वालों से ऐसा न करने का आह्वान किया।
- He cautioned Indians against believing **rumours** related to the crisis.  
उन्होंने भारतीयों को इस संकट से जुड़े **अफवाहों** पर विश्वास न करने की चेतावनी दी।
- Speaking during his monthly **Mann Ki Baat** address, the Prime Minister said that following the **COVID-19 pandemic**, it was expected that the world would move forward on a path of renewed progress.  
अपने मासिक **मन की बात** कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि **कोविड-19 महामारी** के बाद यह उम्मीद की जा रही थी कि दुनिया फिर से प्रगति के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ेगी।
- "However, situations of **war and conflict** have continuously kept arising in different parts of the world," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, "हालांकि, दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में **युद्ध और संघर्ष** की स्थितियां लगातार उत्पन्न होती रही हैं।"
- "At present, a fierce war has been going on in our neighbourhood for a month.  
"वर्तमान में, हमारे पड़ोस में एक महीने से भीषण युद्ध चल रहा है।"
- Millions of our family members, near and dear ones, live in these countries, especially working in the **Gulf countries**."  
हमारे लाखों परिवारजन और प्रियजन इन देशों में रहते हैं, विशेषकर **गल्फ देशों** में काम करते हैं।"

#### Deeply grateful गहराई से आभारी

- "I am deeply grateful to the **Gulf countries** for providing all kinds of assistance to more than one crore Indians there," he added.  
उन्होंने कहा, "मैं **गल्फ देशों** का अत्यंत आभारी हूँ, जिन्होंने वहाँ एक करोड़ से अधिक भारतीयों को हर प्रकार की सहायता प्रदान की।"
- Mr. Modi noted that the **West Asian region** is a major centre of India's **energy needs**, and due to the ongoing war, a "**crisis**" regarding **petrol and diesel** is emerging around the world.  
श्री मोदी ने कहा कि **पश्चिम एशियाई क्षेत्र** भारत की **ऊर्जा जरूरतों** का प्रमुख केंद्र है और जारी युद्ध के कारण **पेट्रोल और डीजल** को लेकर विश्वभर में एक "**संकट**" उभर रहा है।
- "These certainly are **challenging times**," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, "यह निश्चित रूप से **चुनौतीपूर्ण समय** है।"
- "I would once again urge all my countrymen that we must unitedly overcome this challenge.  
"मैं एक बार फिर अपने सभी देशवासियों से आग्रह करता हूँ कि हमें मिलकर इस चुनौती का सामना करना चाहिए।"
- Those who are **politicising** even this issue should refrain from doing so.  
जो लोग इस मुद्दे का भी **राजनीतिकरण** कर रहे हैं, उन्हें ऐसा करने से बचना चाहिए।
- This is a matter concerning the interests of **140 crore countrymen**; there is no place for **self-serving politics**."  
यह **140 करोड़ देशवासियों** के हित से जुड़ा मामला है; इसमें **स्वार्थी राजनीति** के लिए कोई स्थान नहीं है।"
- "Therefore, those who are spreading **rumours** are causing a major harm to the country," Mr. Modi added.  
उन्होंने आगे कहा, "इसलिए जो लोग **अफवाहें** फैला रहे हैं, वे देश को बड़ा नुकसान पहुंचा रहे हैं।"
- "I would also appeal to all citizens to remain **vigilant** and not be misled by rumours.  
"मैं सभी नागरिकों से अपील करता हूँ कि वे **सतर्क** रहें और अफवाहों से गुमराह न हों।"



- Trust only the continuous information provided by the **government** and take action based only on that.”  
केवल **सरकार** द्वारा दी जा रही निरंतर जानकारी पर ही भरोसा करें और उसी के आधार पर कार्रवाई करें।”

## Key initiatives मुख्य पहल

- During his address, the Prime Minister also took note of various initiatives aimed at **nation-building**.  
अपने संबोधन के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री ने **राष्ट्र निर्माण** के उद्देश्य से चल रही विभिन्न पहलों का भी उल्लेख किया।
- One such initiative was the **Gyan Bharatam Survey** aimed at collecting information about **manuscripts** across the country.  
ऐसी ही एक पहल **ज्ञान भारतम सर्वेक्षण** थी, जिसका उद्देश्य देशभर में **पांडुलिपियों** के बारे में जानकारी एकत्र करना है।
- “If you have a manuscript or information about it, do share its image on the **Gyan Bharatam App**,” Mr. Modi said, **adding, “Information related to each entry is being verified before it is recorded.**  
श्री मोदी ने कहा, “यदि आपके पास कोई पांडुलिपि या उससे संबंधित जानकारी है, तो उसकी छवि **ज्ञान भारतम ऐप** पर साझा करें,” और जोड़ा, “प्रत्येक प्रविष्टि से संबंधित जानकारी को दर्ज करने से पहले सत्यापित किया जा रहा है।”
- I am glad that thousands of manuscripts have been shared so far.”  
मुझे खुशी है कि अब तक हजारों पांडुलिपियां साझा की जा चुकी हैं।”
- Another initiative he highlighted was **MY Bharat Budget Quest**.  
उन्होंने एक अन्य पहल **माई भारत बजट क्वेस्ट** का भी उल्लेख किया।
- “It aims to connect the youth across the country with the **Budget process and policy-making**,” the Prime Minister said.  
प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा, “इसका उद्देश्य देशभर के युवाओं को **बजट प्रक्रिया** और **नीति निर्माण** से जोड़ना है।”
- “Nearly **12 lakh youth** from across the country participated in the quiz.”  
“देशभर से लगभग **12 लाख युवाओं** ने इस क्विज में भाग लिया।”

## Sports achievements खेल उपलब्धियां

- The Prime Minister also devoted a section of his address to India's sporting achievements in the recent past.  
प्रधानमंत्री ने अपने संबोधन का एक हिस्सा हाल के समय में भारत की खेल उपलब्धियों को भी समर्पित किया।
- “When India achieved a historic victory in the **T20 World Cup**, a wave of joy swept across the country,” he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, “जब भारत ने **टी20 वर्ल्ड कप** में ऐतिहासिक जीत हासिल की, तो पूरे देश में खुशी की लहर दौड़ गई।”
- “We are all very proud of our team's **thumping success**.”  
“हम सभी अपनी टीम की **शानदार सफलता** पर बहुत गर्व महसूस करते हैं।”
- “Late last month, a thrilling match was witnessed in **Hubli, Karnataka**.  
“पिछले महीने के अंत में **कर्नाटक के हुबली** में एक रोमांचक मैच देखा गया।
- By winning this match, the **Jammu and Kashmir cricket team** secured for themselves the **Ranji Trophy**,” he said.  
इस मैच को जीतकर **जम्मू-कश्मीर क्रिकेट टीम** ने **रणजी ट्रॉफी** अपने नाम कर ली,” उन्होंने कहा।
- He remarked that this success for **Jammu and Kashmir** will encourage many young people to take up sports, adding that the people of J&K have a “**tremendous passion**” for sports.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **जम्मू-कश्मीर** की यह सफलता कई युवाओं को खेल अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित करेगी और जोड़ा कि J&K के लोगों में खेलों के प्रति “**जबर्दस्त जुनून**” है।
- “I am glad that it is now becoming a hub for major sporting events,” Mr. Modi said.  
श्री मोदी ने कहा, “मुझे खुशी है कि यह अब प्रमुख खेल आयोजनों का केंद्र बनता जा रहा है।”
- “I hope this winning streak of J&K sports persons continues in the future.”  
“मुझे आशा है कि J&K के खिलाड़ियों की यह जीत की लय भविष्य में भी जारी रहेगी।”



## GS Paper II: Polity

### TOPICS COVERED

30 March 2026

30Mar	<b>Curb unauthorised expenditure on projects, Railways directs officials</b> परियोजनाओं पर अनधिकृत व्यय पर रोक लगाएं, रेलवे ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए
30Mar	<b>On Maharashtra's anti-conversion Bill</b> महाराष्ट्र के धर्मांतरण विरोधी विधेयक पर

# Curb unauthorised expenditure on projects, Railways directs officials

GS II: Polity

S. Vijay Kumar  
CHENNAI

Expressing serious concern over the increasing instances of unauthorised expenditure running to thousands of crores of rupees, the Indian Railways has called for urgent measures to enforce financial discipline in the system.

The Railway Board has directed the General Managers of all Zonal Railways, Production Units, and others to initiate effective measures to curb the practice of incurring unauthorised expenses in the execution of projects and subsequently getting the same approved by the competent authority.

Pointing out that the cases of unauthorised expenditure had increased in the recent past, the Railway Board, in a note issued on March 27, said the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** had



Top officials were told to ensure that unauthorised expenditure does not become a norm.

highlighted the issue in various audit reports and the matter had now been taken up by **Public Accounts Committee** for review.

#### Financial propriety

"If expenditure is incurred beyond the sanctioned cost and the estimate is put up for approval on post facto basis, scrutiny of estimate by competent authority gets by-passed and only option left is to sanction it as a fait accompli. This

practice is against the spirit of financial propriety," the Railway Board said.

The Union government had put various restrictions or limits on the Railway Ministry for sanctioning estimates in respect of variation, cost, and so on. The practice of incurring expenditure beyond the sanctioned cost may exceed such restrictions and violate the guidelines of the Finance Ministry and attract criticism in audit reports.

The CAG had repeatedly raised the issue of incurring expenditure beyond the sanctioned cost. Unauthorised expenditure meant incurring expenditure on unauthorised scope or items, which was not a judicious decision, the note said.

"As soon as it becomes apparent that the expenditure on a work or project is likely to exceed the amount provided thereof

in the detailed estimate or construction estimate, a revised estimate should be prepared and submitted for the sanction of the competent authority," the Railway Board said, instructing the top officials to put in place a system to ensure that unauthorised expenditure does not become a norm.

#### ₹9,122 crore

The latest CAG report said during the fiscal 2023-24, the Railway Ministry had incurred an unauthorised expenditure of ₹9,122.24 crore involving 1999 cases. In the previous year, it reported that a similar expense to the tune of ₹6,483 crore was reported in 1,932 cases.

The Railways had spent ₹6,19,837.90 crore against the sanctioned grant of ₹6,47,031.69 crore registering a net saving of ₹27,193.69 crore in 2022-23.

## 30Mar. Curb unauthorised expenditure on projects, Railways directs officials परियोजनाओं पर अनधिकृत व्यय पर रोक लगाएं, रेलवे ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए

- Expressing serious concern over the increasing instances of **unauthorised expenditure** running to thousands of crores of rupees, the **Indian Railways** has called for urgent measures to enforce **financial discipline** in the system.

हजारों करोड़ रुपये के बढ़ते **अनधिकृत व्यय** पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए, **भारतीय रेलवे** ने प्रणाली में **वित्तीय अनुशासन** लागू करने के लिए तत्काल उपायों की मांग की है।

- The **Railway Board** has directed the General Managers of all **Zonal Railways**, Production Units, and others to initiate effective measures to curb the practice of incurring **unauthorised expenses** in the execution of projects and subsequently getting the same approved by the **competent authority**.

रेलवे बोर्ड ने सभी **जोनल रेलवे**, उत्पादन इकाइयों और अन्य के महाप्रबंधकों को निर्देश दिया है कि वे



परियोजनाओं के निष्पादन में अस्वीकृत व्यय करने और बाद में उसे सक्षम प्राधिकारी से मंजूरी दिलाने की प्रथा को रोकने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाएँ।

- Pointing out that the cases of **unauthorised expenditure** had increased in the recent past, the Railway Board, in a note issued on March 27, said the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** had highlighted the issue in various audit reports and the matter had now been taken up by **Public Accounts Committee** for review.

यह बताते हुए कि हाल के समय में **अनधिकृत व्यय** के मामलों में वृद्धि हुई है, रेलवे बोर्ड ने 27 मार्च को जारी एक नोट में कहा कि **भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG)** ने विभिन्न ऑडिट रिपोर्टों में इस मुद्दे को उठाया है और अब इस मामले को **लोक लेखा समिति** द्वारा समीक्षा के लिए लिया गया है।

## Financial propriety वित्तीय शुचिता

- “If expenditure is incurred beyond the **sanctioned cost** and the estimate is put up for approval on **post facto basis**, scrutiny of estimate by competent authority gets by-passed and only option left is to sanction it as a **fait accompli**.  
“यदि **स्वीकृत लागत** से अधिक व्यय किया जाता है और अनुमान को **बाद में मंजूरी के लिए प्रस्तुत** किया जाता है, तो सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा जांच को दरकिनार कर दिया जाता है और केवल इसे **पूर्ण तथ्य के रूप में मंजूरी** देने का विकल्प बचता है।
- This practice is against the spirit of **financial propriety**,” the Railway Board said.  
यह प्रथा **वित्तीय शुचिता** की भावना के विरुद्ध है,” रेलवे बोर्ड ने कहा।
- The **Union government** had put various restrictions or limits on the **Railway Ministry** for sanctioning estimates in respect of variation, cost, and so on.  
**केंद्र सरकार** ने **रेल मंत्रालय** पर लागत, परिवर्तन आदि के संदर्भ में अनुमान स्वीकृति के लिए विभिन्न प्रतिबंध या सीमाएं लगाई हैं।
- The practice of incurring expenditure beyond the **sanctioned cost** may exceed such restrictions and violate the guidelines of the **Finance Ministry** and attract criticism in audit reports.  
**स्वीकृत लागत** से अधिक व्यय करने की प्रथा इन प्रतिबंधों को पार कर सकती है और **वित्त मंत्रालय** के दिशा-निर्देशों का उल्लंघन कर सकती है तथा ऑडिट रिपोर्टों में आलोचना का कारण बन सकती है।
- The **CAG** had repeatedly raised the issue of incurring expenditure beyond the sanctioned cost.  
**CAG** ने बार-बार स्वीकृत लागत से अधिक व्यय के मुद्दे को उठाया है।
- Unsanctioned expenditure meant incurring expenditure on unsanctioned scope or items, which was not a judicious decision, the note said.  
नोट में कहा गया कि अस्वीकृत व्यय का मतलब अस्वीकृत दायरे या मदों पर खर्च करना है, जो एक उचित निर्णय नहीं है।
- “As soon as it becomes apparent that the expenditure on a work or project is likely to exceed the amount provided thereof in the detailed estimate or construction estimate, a **revised estimate** should be prepared and submitted for the sanction of the competent authority,” the Railway Board said, instructing the top officials to put in place a system to ensure that unsanctioned expenditure does not become a norm.  
“जैसे ही यह स्पष्ट हो जाए कि किसी कार्य या परियोजना पर व्यय विस्तृत या निर्माण अनुमान में निर्धारित राशि से अधिक होने वाला है, एक **संशोधित अनुमान** तैयार कर सक्षम प्राधिकारी की मंजूरी के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाना चाहिए,” रेलवे बोर्ड ने कहा, और शीर्ष अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया कि वे ऐसी प्रणाली स्थापित करें जिससे अस्वीकृत व्यय सामान्य प्रथा न बन जाए।

₹9,122 crore  
₹9,122 करोड़

- The latest **CAG report** said during the fiscal 2023-24, the **Railway Ministry** had incurred an unauthorised expenditure of ₹9,122.24 crore involving 1999 cases.  
नवीनतम **CAG रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार, वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 के दौरान **रेल मंत्रालय** ने 1999 मामलों में ₹9,122.24 करोड़ का अनधिकृत व्यय किया।



- In the previous year, it reported that a similar expense to the tune of ₹6,483 crore was reported in 1,932 cases.  
पिछले वर्ष, ₹6,483 करोड़ का समान व्यय 1,932 मामलों में दर्ज किया गया था।
- The Railways had spent ₹6,19,837.90 crore against the sanctioned grant of ₹6,47,031.69 crore registering a net saving of ₹27,193.69 crore in 2022-23.  
रेलवे ने 2022-23 में ₹6,47,031.69 करोड़ के स्वीकृत अनुदान के मुकाबले ₹6,19,837.90 करोड़ खर्च किए, जिससे ₹27,193.69 करोड़ की शुद्ध बचत दर्ज की गई।

# On Maharashtra's anti-conversion Bill

How does the 60-day notice requirement work? Who can file a complaint under the law? What penalties does the Bill prescribe for violations? When can a marriage be declared null and void? Why have civil rights groups raised concerns? How has the State justified the need for the law?

## ISSUE POLICY

### EXPLAINER

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

**The story so far:**  
The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, was passed by both Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature a few days ago. The Bill has been opposed by several civil society organisations, which have expressed apprehensions about the State encroaching on the personal liberty of its citizens. They claim that the Bill violates the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

#### What is the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill?

The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, has been defined as "a Bill to provide for protection of right to freedom of religion and prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." It aims to prohibit conversions carried out through allurements, misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, or any other fraudulent means.

It lays down an elaborate procedure for conversion, including a declaration of intent with a 60-day prior notice. A post-conversion declaration is also required.

#### What are the key provisions?

Under the proposed Act, it is mandatory for the police officer to register a complaint even if the relatives of the converted person approach them. The complainant may be the converted person, or their parents, siblings, or any other person related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Any marriage solemnised solely for unlawful conversion shall be declared null



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis says conversions causing disturbance to public order in the State. PTI

and void by the court, on a petition filed by either party. Any child born out of such a marriage or relationship belongs to the religion of the mother before such a marriage or relationship. The child will have succession rights to the property of both parents as per the prevailing laws. Maintenance will have to be given, and custody will remain with the mother unless decided otherwise by a court.

#### What punishment is proposed under the Bill?

Punishments for violation include imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹7 lakh. Offences under the Bill will be cognisable and non-bailable. The offence of unlawful conversion is punishable with up to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of ₹1 lakh. If the person converted is a minor, a woman, a person of unsound mind, or belongs to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, the punishment increases to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of ₹5 lakh. Mass conversions will attract similar penalties. Repeat offenders may face

imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹7 lakh. Institutions found guilty of forced conversions may face cancellation of registration and withdrawal of government aid or grants. Office-bearers may also face imprisonment of up to seven years and a fine of ₹5 lakh. Victims will be entitled to rehabilitation, maintenance, and custody of children.

#### What are the concerns raised?

Concerns have been raised on several grounds, including the lack of empirical evidence to justify such legislation, the social implications of the 60-day prior notice requirement, the curtailment of the individual's right to freedom of religion, and administrative overreach into personal matters. Last year, the State government appointed a seven-member special committee under the Director General of Police to study legal issues related to religious conversion. Its report has not yet been made public, though the government has said that the committee recommended enacting a special law.

Opposition leaders have termed the Bill 'regressive' and alleged that it targets a particular community.

Since offences under the Bill are non-bailable, civil rights activists have expressed concerns that it may target interfaith marriages and minority religious practices. They also fear the intervention of families and vigilante groups in pressuring consenting adult couples.

"In any case, this places State surveillance over deeply personal decisions related to faith and marriage," a civil rights activist said.

Bureaucrats have also raised administrative concerns. "There is no established certification system for religions right now. We will have to develop a system. This is an administrative concern. We will have to look into the models that other States have developed. An entire gamut of administrative mechanisms will have to be created," a senior IAS officer said, adding that the revenue authorities will now come into the picture for matters of marriage and personal laws, which were managed by the civil courts so far. "Personal law is increasingly becoming a matter of administrative authorities. This creates a complication for marriages out of free will, too," an IAS officer said.

#### How has the State government addressed these apprehensions?

The government has said that the right to freedom of religion is not absolute. It has also been said that the cases of forcible religious conversions have been increasing in the State, and that the government does not currently have effective laws to tackle the law and order issues arising out of them.

"These instances are causing disturbance to public order in the State and are affecting social harmony," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has said.

## THE GIST

▼ The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, seeks to prohibit unlawful religious conversions and mandates procedures such as a 60-day prior notice and post-conversion declaration, with violations attracting imprisonment, fines, and non-bailable offences.

▼ The Bill has drawn criticism from civil society and Opposition leaders, who argue it curtails personal liberty, enables State interference in faith and marriage, and may target interfaith relationships, while the government defends it as necessary to address forcible conversions and maintain public order.

## 30Mar. On Maharashtra's anti-conversion Bill

### महाराष्ट्र के धर्मांतरण विरोधी विधेयक पर

#### Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026

#### महाराष्ट्र धर्म स्वतंत्रता विधेयक, 2026

- The **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026** was passed by both Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature a few days ago.  
**महाराष्ट्र धर्म स्वतंत्रता विधेयक, 2026** को कुछ दिन पहले महाराष्ट्र विधानमंडल के दोनों सदनों द्वारा पारित किया गया।
- The Bill has been opposed by several **civil society organisations**.  
इस विधेयक का कई **नागरिक समाज संगठनों** ने विरोध किया है।
- They expressed apprehensions about the State encroaching on **personal liberty**.  
उन्होंने राज्य द्वारा **व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता** में हस्तक्षेप की आशंका जताई है।
- They claim that the Bill violates **fundamental rights** in the Constitution.  
उनका कहना है कि यह विधेयक **मौलिक अधिकारों** का उल्लंघन करता है।



## What is the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill?

### महाराष्ट्र धर्म स्वतंत्रता विधेयक क्या है?

- The Bill is defined as a law to protect the **right to freedom of religion** and prohibit **unlawful conversion**.  
यह विधेयक धर्म की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार की रक्षा और अवैध धर्मांतरण पर रोक लगाने के लिए बनाया गया है।
- It targets conversions through **allurement, misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, or fraud**.  
यह प्रलोभन, गलत प्रस्तुति, बल, अनुचित प्रभाव, दबाव या धोखाधड़ी से होने वाले धर्मांतरण को रोकता है।
- It lays down a procedure including **60-day prior notice** for conversion.  
इसमें धर्मांतरण के लिए **60 दिन पूर्व सूचना** देना अनिवार्य है।
- A **post-conversion declaration** is also required.  
धर्मांतरण के बाद भी घोषणा देना आवश्यक है।

## What are the key provisions?

### मुख्य प्रावधान क्या हैं?

- It is mandatory for the **police officer to register a complaint**.  
पुलिस अधिकारी के लिए शिकायत दर्ज करना अनिवार्य है।
- Complaint can be filed by the **converted person or relatives** (parents, siblings, etc.).  
शिकायत धर्मांतरित व्यक्ति या उसके रिश्तेदार (माता-पिता, भाई-बहन आदि) कर सकते हैं।
- Any marriage done solely for **unlawful conversion** will be declared **null and void**.  
केवल अवैध धर्मांतरण के लिए किया गया विवाह अमान्य घोषित होगा।
- A petition can be filed by **either party**.  
इस हेतु दोनों में से कोई भी पक्ष याचिका दायर कर सकता है।
- **A child born will belong to the mother's religion before marriage**.  
ऐसे विवाह से जन्मा बच्चा माता के पूर्व धर्म से संबंधित होगा।
- **The child will have property rights from both parents**.  
बच्चे को दोनों माता-पिता की संपत्ति में अधिकार होगा।
- **Maintenance will be provided and custody will remain with the mother, unless court decides otherwise**.  
भरण-पोषण दिया जाएगा और अभिरक्षा माता के पास रहेगी, जब तक न्यायालय अन्यथा न कहे।

## What punishment is proposed under the Bill?

### विधेयक के तहत क्या दंड प्रस्तावित है?

- Punishment includes **imprisonment up to 10 years and fine up to ₹7 lakh**.  
दंड में 10 वर्ष तक कारावास और ₹7 लाख तक जुर्माना शामिल है।
- Offences will be **cognisable and non-bailable**.  
अपराध संज्ञेय और गैर-जमानती होंगे।
- Unlawful conversion is punishable with up to **7 years imprisonment and ₹1 lakh fine**.  
अवैध धर्मांतरण पर 7 वर्ष कारावास और ₹1 लाख जुर्माना होगा।
- If the victim is a **minor, woman, mentally unsound, SC/ST**, punishment increases to **7 years and ₹5 lakh fine**.  
यदि पीड़ित नाबालिग, महिला, मानसिक रूप से अस्वस्थ या अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति से है तो दंड 7 वर्ष और ₹5 लाख जुर्माना होगा।
- **Mass conversions** attract similar penalties.  
सामूहिक धर्मांतरण पर भी समान दंड होगा।
- Repeat offenders may face **10 years imprisonment and ₹7 lakh fine**.  
दोहराने वाले अपराधियों को 10 वर्ष कारावास और ₹7 लाख जुर्माना हो सकता है।
- Institutions may face **cancellation of registration and withdrawal of aid**.  
संस्थाओं का पंजीकरण रद्द और अनुदान समाप्त किया जा सकता है।
- Office-bearers may face **7 years imprisonment and ₹5 lakh fine**.  
पदाधिकारियों को 7 वर्ष कारावास और ₹5 लाख जुर्माना हो सकता है।



- Victims will be entitled to **rehabilitation, maintenance, and custody of children.**  
पीड़ितों को पुनर्वास, भरण-पोषण और बच्चों की अभिरक्षा का अधिकार होगा।

### What are the concerns raised? कौन-कौन सी चिंताएँ उठाई गई हैं?

- Concerns have been raised on several grounds, including the lack of **empirical evidence** to justify such legislation.  
इस कानून के औचित्य के लिए **प्रायोगिक साक्ष्य की कमी** पर चिंता जताई गई है।
- There are concerns about the social implications of the **60-day prior notice requirement.**  
**60 दिन पूर्व सूचना** की सामाजिक प्रभावों को लेकर भी चिंता है।
- It is argued that the Bill curtails the **individual's right to freedom of religion.**  
कहा गया है कि यह विधेयक **व्यक्ति के धर्म की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार** को सीमित करता है।
- There are also concerns about **administrative overreach into personal matters.**  
**व्यक्तिगत मामलों में प्रशासनिक हस्तक्षेप** को लेकर भी चिंता है।
- Last year, the State government appointed a **seven-member special committee** under the **Director General of Police.**  
पिछले वर्ष राज्य सरकार ने **पुलिस महानिदेशक के अधीन सात सदस्यीय समिति** बनाई।
- The report has not yet been made public.  
इसकी रिपोर्ट अभी तक सार्वजनिक नहीं की गई है।
- The government stated that the committee recommended a **special law.**  
सरकार ने कहा कि समिति ने **विशेष कानून** की सिफारिश की।
- Opposition leaders termed the Bill '**regressive**' and said it targets a **particular community.**  
विपक्ष ने इसे **पिछड़ा हुआ कानून** बताया और कहा कि यह **एक विशेष समुदाय** को निशाना बनाता है।
- Since offences are **non-bailable**, activists fear misuse against **interfaith marriages and minority practices.**  
चूंकि अपराध **गैर-जमानती** हैं, इसलिए **अंतरधार्मिक विवाह और अल्पसंख्यक प्रथाओं** के खिलाफ दुरुपयोग का डर है।
- They fear intervention by **families and vigilante groups.**  
उन्हें **परिवारों और स्वयंभू समूहों** के हस्तक्षेप का डर है।
- There is concern about pressure on **consenting adult couples.**  
**सहमति से विवाह करने वाले वयस्कों** पर दबाव की आशंका है।
- It places **State surveillance** over personal decisions related to **faith and marriage.**  
यह **धर्म और विवाह जैसे निजी निर्णयों पर राज्य की निगरानी** स्थापित करता है।
- Bureaucrats have raised **administrative concerns.**  
अधिकारियों ने **प्रशासनिक चिंताएँ** जताई हैं।
- There is no established **certification system for religions** currently.  
वर्तमान में **धर्मों के लिए कोई प्रमाणन प्रणाली** नहीं है।
- A new **administrative mechanism** will have to be created.  
एक नया **प्रशासनिक तंत्र** बनाना होगा।
- Authorities may need to study models of **other States.**  
अन्य **राज्यों के मॉडल** का अध्ययन करना पड़ेगा।
- Revenue authorities** will now be involved in matters of marriage and personal laws.  
अब **राजस्व अधिकारी** विवाह और व्यक्तिगत कानून के मामलों में शामिल होंगे।
- Earlier, these matters were handled by **civil courts.**  
पहले ये मामले **नागरिक न्यायालयों** द्वारा संभाले जाते थे।
- This may complicate marriages based on **free will.**  
इससे **स्वेच्छा से किए गए विवाह** जटिल हो सकते हैं।

### How has the State government addressed these apprehensions? राज्य सरकार ने इन चिंताओं का क्या जवाब दिया है?

- The government stated that the **right to freedom of religion is not absolute.**  
सरकार ने कहा कि **धर्म की स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार पूर्ण नहीं है।**



- It said cases of **forcible religious conversions** have been increasing. सरकार के अनुसार **जबरन धर्मांतरण के मामले बढ़ रहे हैं।**
- It claimed there are no **effective laws** to handle such issues. सरकार ने कहा कि इससे निपटने के लिए **प्रभावी कानून नहीं हैं।**
- These incidents disturb **public order and social harmony**. ये घटनाएं **सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था और सामाजिक सद्भाव** को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** stated this concern. यह बात मुख्यमंत्री **देवेन्द्र फडणवीस** ने कही।

**GS Paper II: Governance,**

**TOPICS COVERED**

**30 March 2026**

<b>30Mar</b>	<b>Despite assurance from Centre, MGNREGS workers denied work</b> <b>केंद्र के आश्वासन के बावजूद, MGNREGS श्रमिकों को काम से वंचित किया गया</b>
<b>30Mar</b>	<b>On a wing</b> <b>उड़ान पर</b>

# Despite assurance from Centre, MGNREGS workers denied work

From Bihar to Rajasthan, thousands of rural workers say work has been halted; as the Centre continues talks with the States on the VB-G RAM G Act, some district officials say they have been directed not to start new work under the old scheme

**GS II: Government Scheme**  
**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

For the past 87 days, MGNREGS workers have been protesting at the Muzaffarpur district headquarters in Bihar. The Union government had assured them that until the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, passed by Parliament in December, is rolled out, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will continue unchanged. But on the ground, workers say the story is very different.

The protest in Muzaffarpur began on January 2. Nearly 12,000 workers in the district have not received work for the past three or four months – even before the new rural employment law was introduced.

**Uncertainty continues**  
There is no clarity on when the new scheme under the VB-G RAM G Act will be implemented on the ground, as the Centre is still hold-



**Hold on:** The scheme under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 is yet to be rolled out. MOORTHY G.

ing talks with the States to establish the necessary framework.

“Usually, no work is given during the rain. We waited for the monsoon to end, then for the water-logged areas to drain. By December, the MGNREGA season normally begins. But despite repeated demand, no work has been provided. This is a blatant violation of the law,” said Sanjay Sahni of MGNREGA Watch-Bihar, an organisation working with rural

workers. Facing repeated rejections, around 16,000 workers – most of them women – gathered at the district headquarters to demand work. A delegation also travelled to Delhi on March 25 to meet senior officials in the Rural Development Ministry.

“The district officials claim they have instructions not to start any new work. But the Ministry officials insist that no such order exists,” Mr. Sahni said. He wonders whether it is

lack of information or whether there is an informal signal from the Centre to stop all work under the MGNREGS.

**Ground reality**

In Dungarpur district of Rajasthan, similar complaints have emerged. At Balwarha panchayat, around 40 women workers arrived on March 23 to complete paperwork for April’s work cycle. Panchayat officials asked them to return later, citing a lack

of clarity. On Saturday, they were told that the MGNREGS had been discontinued and no further work would be available under the scheme.

At Padarmarhi Mewarha panchayat, nearly 30 women workers sat for four hours last Friday, demanding work for the first week of April. Local officials initially claimed that directions had been issued not to start new MGNREGS works. After the women refused to leave, their applications were eventually accepted, but uncertainty continues whether any work will actually be assigned.

“For each household, MGNREGA work brings in about ₹25,000 to ₹28,000 annually. In some women-led households, MGNREGA and government pensions are the only sources of income,” said Madhulika of the Rajasthan Ansangathit Mazdoor Union.

“There are no formal orders. The VB-G RAM G Act clearly states that until it is implemented, MGNREGA will continue. But on the ground, we are being told otherwise,” she said.

**30Mar. Despite assurance from Centre, MGNREGS workers denied work**  
**केंद्र के आश्वासन के बावजूद, MGNREGS श्रमिकों को काम से वंचित किया गया**

- From Bihar to Rajasthan, thousands of rural workers say work has been halted; as the Centre continues talks with the States on the VB-G RAM G Act,



some district officials say they have been directed not to start new work under the old scheme

बिहार से राजस्थान तक, हजारों ग्रामीण श्रमिकों का कहना है कि काम बंद कर दिया गया है; जबकि केंद्र VB-G RAM G अधिनियम पर राज्यों से बातचीत जारी रखे हुए है, कुछ जिला अधिकारियों का कहना है कि उन्हें पुराने योजना के तहत नया काम शुरू न करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं

- For the past **87 days**, **MGNREGS workers** have been protesting at the **Muzaffarpur district headquarters** in Bihar.  
पिछले **87 दिनों** से **MGNREGA श्रमिक** बिहार के **मुजफ्फरपुर जिला मुख्यालय** पर विरोध प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं।
- The **Union government** had assured them that until the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025**, passed by Parliament in December, is rolled out, the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** will continue unchanged.  
केंद्र सरकार ने उन्हें आश्वासन दिया था कि जब तक **विकसित भारत-गारंटी फॉर रोजगार एंड आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) (VB-G RAM G) अधिनियम, 2025**, जो दिसंबर में संसद द्वारा पारित हुआ, लागू नहीं होता, तब तक **महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (MGNREGS)** बिना बदलाव के जारी रहेगी।
- But on the ground, workers say the story is very different.  
लेकिन जमीनी स्तर पर श्रमिकों का कहना है कि स्थिति बहुत अलग है।
- The protest in **Muzaffarpur** began on **January 2**.  
**मुजफ्फरपुर** में यह विरोध **2 जनवरी** से शुरू हुआ।
- Nearly **12,000 workers** in the district have not received work for the past **three or four months** — even before the new rural employment law was introduced.  
जिले के लगभग **12,000 श्रमिकों** को पिछले **तीन या चार महीनों** से काम नहीं मिला है — यहां तक कि नए ग्रामीण रोजगार कानून लागू होने से पहले भी।

### Uncertainty continues अनिश्चितता जारी

- There is no clarity on when the new scheme under the **VB-G RAM G Act** will be implemented on the ground, as the Centre is still holding talks with the **States** to establish the necessary framework.  
यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि **VB-G RAM G अधिनियम** के तहत नई योजना जमीनी स्तर पर कब लागू होगी, क्योंकि केंद्र अभी भी **राज्यों** के साथ आवश्यक ढांचा तैयार करने के लिए बातचीत कर रहा है।
- “Usually, no work is given during the rain.  
“आमतौर पर बारिश के दौरान कोई काम नहीं दिया जाता।
- We waited for the **monsoon** to end, then for the waterlogged areas to drain.  
हमने **मानसून** खत्म होने का इंतजार किया, फिर जलभराव वाले क्षेत्रों के सूखने का इंतजार किया।
- By December, the **MGNREGA season** normally begins.  
दिसंबर तक सामान्यतः **MGNREGA सीजन** शुरू हो जाता है।
- But despite repeated demand, no work has been provided.  
लेकिन बार-बार मांग के बावजूद कोई काम नहीं दिया गया।
- This is a blatant **violation of the law**,” said **Sanjay Sahni** of **MGNREGA Watch-Bihar**, an organisation working with rural workers.  
यह कानून का खुला **उल्लंघन** है,” ग्रामीण श्रमिकों के साथ काम करने वाले संगठन **MGNREGA वॉच-बिहार** के **संजय साहनी** ने कहा।
- Facing repeated rejections, around **16,000 workers** — most of them **women** — gathered at the district headquarters to demand work.  
बार-बार अस्वीकृति का सामना करते हुए लगभग **16,000 श्रमिक** — जिनमें अधिकांश **महिलाएं** थीं — काम की मांग को लेकर जिला मुख्यालय पर एकत्र हुए।



- A delegation also travelled to **Delhi** on **March 25** to meet senior officials in the **Rural Development Ministry**.  
एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल **25 मार्च** को **दिल्ली** गया और **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय** के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों से मिला।
- “The district officials claim they have instructions not to start any new work.  
“जिला अधिकारी दावा करते हैं कि उन्हें कोई नया काम शुरू न करने के निर्देश मिले हैं।
- But the Ministry officials insist that no such order exists,” Mr. Sahni said.  
लेकिन मंत्रालय के अधिकारी कहते हैं कि ऐसा कोई आदेश नहीं है,” श्री साहनी ने कहा।
- He wonders whether it is lack of information or whether there is an informal signal from the **Centre** to stop all work under the **MGNREGS**.  
उन्होंने सवाल उठाया कि यह जानकारी की कमी है या फिर **केंद्र** की ओर से **MGNREGS** के तहत सभी काम रोकने का कोई अनौपचारिक संकेत है।

## Ground reality जमीनी हकीकत

- In **Dungarpur district** of **Rajasthan**, similar complaints have emerged.  
**राजस्थान** के **डूंगरपुर जिले** में भी इसी तरह की शिकायतें सामने आई हैं।
- At **Balwarha panchayat**, around **40 women workers** arrived on **March 23** to complete paperwork for April’s work cycle.  
**बलवरहा पंचायत** में लगभग **40 महिला श्रमिक 23 मार्च** को अप्रैल के कार्य चक्र के लिए कागजी कार्यवाही पूरी करने पहुंचीं।
- Panchayat officials asked them to return later, citing a lack of clarity.  
पंचायत अधिकारियों ने स्पष्टता की कमी का हवाला देते हुए उन्हें बाद में आने को कहा।
- On Saturday, they were told that the **MGNREGS** had been discontinued and no further work would be available under the scheme.  
शनिवार को उन्हें बताया गया कि **MGNREGS** बंद कर दिया गया है और इस योजना के तहत अब कोई काम उपलब्ध नहीं होगा।
- At **Padarmarhi Mewarha panchayat**, nearly **30 women workers** sat for **four hours** last Friday, demanding work for the first week of April.  
**पदारमरही मेवाड़हा पंचायत** में लगभग **30 महिला श्रमिक** पिछले शुक्रवार को **चार घंटे** तक बैठीं और अप्रैल के पहले सप्ताह के लिए काम की मांग करती रहीं।
- Local officials initially claimed that directions had been issued not to start new **MGNREGS** works.  
स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने शुरुआत में दावा किया कि नए **MGNREGS** कार्य शुरू न करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं।
- After the women refused to leave, their applications were eventually accepted, but uncertainty continues whether any work will actually be assigned.  
महिलाओं के जाने से इनकार करने के बाद उनके आवेदन अंततः स्वीकार किए गए, लेकिन यह अनिश्चितता बनी हुई है कि वास्तव में कोई काम मिलेगा या नहीं।
- “For each household, **MGNREGA work** brings in about **₹25,000 to ₹28,000 annually**.  
“प्रत्येक परिवार के लिए **MGNREGA कार्य** से लगभग **₹25,000 से ₹28,000 प्रतिवर्ष** की आय होती है।
- In some **women-led households**, MGNREGA and government pensions are the only sources of income,” said **Madhulika** of the **Rajasthan Asangathit Mazdoor Union**.  
कुछ **महिला-प्रधान परिवारों** में MGNREGA और सरकारी पेंशन ही आय के एकमात्र स्रोत हैं,” **राजस्थान असंगठित मजदूर यूनियन** की **मधुलिका** ने कहा।
- “There are no formal orders.  
“कोई औपचारिक आदेश नहीं हैं।
- The **VB-G RAM G Act** clearly states that until it is implemented, **MGNREGA** will continue.  
**VB-G RAM G अधिनियम** स्पष्ट रूप से कहता है कि जब तक इसे लागू नहीं किया जाता, तब तक **MGNREGA** जारी रहेगा।
- But on the ground, we are being told otherwise,” she said.  
लेकिन जमीनी स्तर पर हमें कुछ और ही बताया जा रहा है,” उन्होंने कहा।



GS II: Government Scheme

## On a wing

Subsidies will not create demand for air travel to small towns

In a bid to revive the regional aviation sector, the Union Cabinet has signed off on a 'Modified UDAN' scheme with a sixfold higher outlay. The scheme had first been launched to expand aviation to interior areas, using scheduled commuter airlines. Even then, industry analysts and experts had complained that UDAN did not make a viable business case for small regional airlines due to a lack of supporting infrastructure, low or unpredictable passenger demand, insufficient coverage of operating costs, and lack of awareness. In Modified UDAN, the subsidy period for tier-II and tier-III routes has been increased from three years to five years, an extension at least one of the small carriers had sought under UDAN before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The exchequer will also fund the subsidies directly rather than having airlines levy an additional charge from passengers, with the government setting aside ₹10,043 crore over the next decade to this end. The government will also spend ₹12,159 crore to redevelop a hundred unused airstrips, ₹3,661 crore to build 200 helipads in remote areas, and purchase aircraft and helicopters for state carriers to boost last-mile connectivity to better match the mode of transport to actual demand and geography. The scheme will also pay for ongoing costs such as staffing and maintenance of low-traffic airports.

Regional aviation in India is structurally fragile and unlikely to become widely self-sustaining due to the unyieldingly high cost per passenger, price sensitivity, competition from rail and road transport, and operational inefficiencies. UDAN did not address them adequately and, sadly, Modified UDAN carries that failing over. The foremost one is weak underlying demand, with UDAN often picking routes with insufficient economic activity even as leisure and occasional travel could not sustain regular flights. Extending the subsidies, even if they are eased from the third year onwards, could keep routes alive for longer but will not of itself create demand. In this sense, the government's reluctance to revisit how it identifies and nurtures routes, and how different transport modes might substitute for air travel in low-density regions, seems inexplicable. The emphasis on last-mile connectivity and better planning also appears only partially incorporated as the details the Civil Aviation Ministry shared did not mention ground transport links or integrated scheduling, among others. Whether the decision to sustain connectivity using sustained government support, rather than cultivate a market that can stand on its own, will lead to lasting changes depends on whether route selection and integration with broader transport and economic networks improve in practice.

redevelop a hundred unused airstrips, ₹3,661 crore to build 200 helipads in remote areas, and purchase aircraft and helicopters for state carriers to boost last-mile connectivity to better match the mode of transport to actual demand and geography.

सरकार ₹12,159 करोड़ खर्च कर 100 अनुपयोगी हवाई पट्टियों का पुनर्विकास करेगी, ₹3,661 करोड़ से 200 हेलिपैड बनाएगी और अंतिम छोर तक संपर्क बढ़ाने के लिए विमान और हेलीकॉप्टर खरीदेगी।

- The scheme will also pay for ongoing costs such as staffing and maintenance of low-traffic airports.

यह योजना कम यातायात वाले हवाई अड्डों के कर्मचारी और रखरखाव की लागत भी वहन करेगी।

## 30Mar. On a wing उड़ान पर

- Subsidies will not create demand for air travel to small towns  
सब्सिडी छोटे शहरों के लिए हवाई यात्रा की मांग पैदा नहीं करेगी

### Modified UDAN Scheme and Regional Aviation संशोधित उड़ान योजना और क्षेत्रीय विमानन

- In a bid to revive the regional aviation sector, the Union Cabinet has signed off on a 'Modified UDAN' scheme with a sixfold higher outlay.

क्षेत्रीय विमानन क्षेत्र को पुनर्जीवित करने के प्रयास में, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने छह गुना अधिक बजट के साथ 'संशोधित उड़ान योजना' को मंजूरी दी है।

- The scheme had first been launched to expand aviation to interior areas, using scheduled commuter airlines.

इस योजना को पहली बार आंतरिक क्षेत्रों तक विमानन सेवा पहुंचाने के लिए निर्धारित कम्प्यूटर एयरलाइनों के माध्यम से शुरू किया गया था।

- Even then, industry analysts and experts had complained that UDAN did not make a viable business case for small regional airlines due to a lack of supporting infrastructure, low or unpredictable passenger demand, insufficient coverage of operating costs, and lack of awareness.

तब भी विशेषज्ञों ने शिकायत की थी कि उड़ान योजना छोटे क्षेत्रीय विमानों के लिए व्यावसायिक रूप से व्यवहार्य नहीं थी क्योंकि बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी, कम या अनिश्चित यात्री मांग, परिचालन लागत की अपर्याप्त पूर्ति और जागरूकता की कमी थी।

- In Modified UDAN, the subsidy period for tier-II and tier-III routes has been increased from three years to five years, an extension at least one of the small carriers had sought under UDAN before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

संशोधित योजना में स्तर-दो और स्तर-तीन मार्गों के लिए सब्सिडी अवधि को तीन वर्ष से बढ़ाकर पांच वर्ष कर दिया गया है, जिसकी मांग पहले भी की गई थी।

- The exchequer will also fund the subsidies directly rather than having airlines levy an additional charge from passengers, with the government setting aside ₹10,043 crore over the next decade to this end.

सरकार सीधे सब्सिडी प्रदान करेगी और यात्रियों से अतिरिक्त शुल्क नहीं लिया जाएगा, इसके लिए अगले दस वर्षों में ₹10,043 करोड़ निर्धारित किए गए हैं।

- The government will also spend ₹12,159 crore to redevelop a hundred unused airstrips, ₹3,661 crore to build 200 helipads in remote areas, and purchase aircraft and helicopters for state carriers to boost last-mile connectivity to better match the mode of transport to actual demand and geography.



- Regional aviation in India is **structurally fragile** and unlikely to become widely **self-sustaining** due to the unyieldingly high **cost per passenger**, **price sensitivity**, competition from **rail and road transport**, and **operational inefficiencies**.  
भारत में क्षेत्रीय विमानन **संरचनात्मक रूप से कमजोर** है और उच्च **प्रति यात्री लागत**, **मूल्य संवेदनशीलता**, **रेल और सड़क परिवहन से प्रतिस्पर्धा** तथा **संचालन अक्षमताओं** के कारण आत्मनिर्भर नहीं बन सकता।
- UDAN did not address them adequately and, sadly, Modified UDAN carries that failing over. उड़ान योजना इन समस्याओं को पर्याप्त रूप से हल नहीं कर पाई और संशोधित योजना में भी यह कमी बनी हुई है।
- The foremost one is **weak underlying demand**, with UDAN often picking routes with insufficient **economic activity** even as leisure and occasional travel could not sustain regular flights.  
सबसे बड़ी समस्या **कम मांग** है, जहां ऐसे मार्ग चुने गए जिनमें पर्याप्त **आर्थिक गतिविधि** नहीं थी और अनियमित यात्रा नियमित उड़ानों को बनाए नहीं रख सकी।
- Extending the subsidies, even if they are eased from the third year onwards, could keep routes alive for longer but will not of itself create demand.  
सब्सिडी बढ़ाने से मार्ग कुछ समय तक चल सकते हैं, लेकिन इससे मांग स्वतः उत्पन्न नहीं होगी।
- In this sense, the government's reluctance to revisit how it identifies and nurtures routes, and how different transport modes might substitute for air travel in low-density regions, seems inexplicable.  
इस दृष्टि से सरकार का मार्ग चयन और कम घनत्व वाले क्षेत्रों में अन्य परिवहन साधनों के उपयोग पर पुनर्विचार न करना समझ से परे है।
- The emphasis on **last-mile connectivity** and better planning also appears only partially incorporated as the details the Civil Aviation Ministry shared did not mention **ground transport links** or **integrated scheduling**, among others.  
**अंतिम छोर संपर्क** और बेहतर योजना पर जोर आंशिक रूप से ही शामिल है क्योंकि विवरण में **स्थलीय परिवहन संपर्क** या **समन्वित समय-सारणी** का उल्लेख नहीं है।
- Whether the decision to sustain connectivity using sustained government support, rather than cultivate a market that can stand on its own, will lead to lasting changes depends on whether **route selection** and integration with broader **transport and economic networks** improve in practice.  
सरकारी समर्थन से संपर्क बनाए रखने का निर्णय दीर्घकालिक परिवर्तन लाएगा या नहीं, यह इस बात पर निर्भर करेगा कि **मार्ग चयन** और **परिवहन व आर्थिक नेटवर्क** के साथ समन्वय में कितना सुधार होता है।

## GS Paper II: International Relations

### TOPICS COVERED

30 March 2026

30Mar	<b>Pak. as U.S. mediator with Iran recalls Nixon's China outreach</b> ईरान के साथ अमेरिका के मध्यस्थ के रूप में पाकिस्तान, निक्सन के चीन संपर्क की याद दिलाता है
30Mar	<b>Egypt's Fahmy appointed as new Arab League chief</b> मिस्र के फहमी नए अरब लीग प्रमुख नियुक्त किए गए



# Pak. as U.S. mediator with Iran recalls Nixon's China outreach

Washington's decision is shaped by Pakistan's proximity, its ties with Tehran, and its lack of ties with Israel

ESS II IR  
WORLD INSIGHT

Suhasini Haidar

**P**akistan's emergence as Washington's choice as a mediator in talks with Iran can be explained in a number of ways. Since Operation Sindoor in May 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump has been flattered by Pakistan's description of him as a "peacemaker", and he has reportedly built a personal rapport with Pakistan's Field Marshal General Asim Munir and Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif, meeting them several times.

In particular, Mr. Trump hosted General Munir to lunch at the White House in June last year, amidst the last U.S.-Israeli strikes, in an effort reportedly to ensure that Pakistan would not support Iran militarily.

Pakistan's offer of a critical minerals deal to the U.S. and decision to join the Gaza Board of Peace (BoP) have also helped forge the relationship.

For Iran, Pakistan's advantage over many other possible mediators is not only its proximity but also the fact that it does not recognise Israel, and thus is not

amenable to concerns or inputs from the Benjamin Netanyahu government. This may suit Mr. Trump as well, who has reportedly conveyed a 15-point proposal to the government in Tehran, which it hopes will lead to a ceasefire.

**Cold War precedent**  
However, Washington's decision to engage Pakistan as a facilitator for talks may also be rooted in history, given Islamabad and a different General's role in facilitating U.S. talks with China 55 years ago, at the height of the Cold War. At that time, U.S. President Richard Nixon had begun to work on his plan to open up relations with Beijing (the U.S. still formally recognised Taiwan as the Republic of China), but direct Sino-U.S. Ambassadorial talks had floundered. Pakistan was not the first option, as he and his National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger, considered others.

Mao Zedong, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and leader of the People's Republic of China (PRC), turned down the idea of France as he wanted a "non-Western" channel. The Warsaw track fell apart after two rounds of talks between U.S. and Chinese officials, as Mr. Mao protested U.S. attacks on Cambodia,

which were part of a U.S. Army effort to cut off supplies to Vietnamese troops. While Mr. Nixon's need for partners in Asia, as the Vietnam War drained the U.S., drove him to seek China, Sino-Soviet tensions gave Mr. Mao a reason to engage with Washington.

The U.S. tried Romania, working through President Nicolae Ceausescu to reach out to the Chinese government, but hit an unexpected block. "We went to the Romanians, thinking they were most independent of the East Europeans and they were communists and therefore the Chinese would like that. Turns out the one group the Chinese didn't trust were Communists," Mr. Kissinger told Journalist Tom Brokaw decades later, explaining that Beijing feared Romanian officials would divulge details to the Kremlin, which would attempt to sabotage the process.

By then, Mr. Nixon had also established a secret channel to the PRC's leadership through Pakistani President General Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan. "In Nixon's view, Khan was an attractive intermediary since he had good relations with the leaders of the U.S. and the PRC, and he provided a means to circumvent the U.S. Department of State, which Nixon feared

might oppose or publicise his initiative," records the U.S. Office of the Historian, in a note about the China opening.

According to one account, the White House sent two identical notes, one through President Yahya Khan and another through President Ceausescu, but it was Pakistan's Ambassador to Washington, Agha Hilaly, who returned with a response first, a whole month before his Romanian counterpart did. In July 1971, Mr. Kissinger travelled to Pakistan, where he feigned an illness and was taken to Nathiagali (near Murree), away from the eyes of the press corps and even his own diplomats in Islamabad. Gen. Khan had arranged for a commercial PIA flight 707 to take him from Rawalpindi to Peking (Beijing) for talks.

Mr. Kissinger, who had been hosted by Indian officials a day before, reportedly used "Delhi belly" as his excuse to ensure a 64-hour getaway that included meeting Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and others in China for the first time. Planning for Mr. Nixon's visit to China in February 1972, which he referred to as the 'week that changed the world', had begun.

**Cost of back-channel diplomacy**  
The event had deep and lasting impacts on South Asia as well. Mr. Nixon's preoccupation with his back-channel to China and deep-seated rancour against India led him to turn a blind eye as Pakistan's troops unleashed a genocide on Bengalis in East Pakistan. On March 25, 1971, the Pakistan Army launched Operation Searchlight, killing an estimated three million over the next nine months, according to the Bangladesh government.

On April 28, 1971, Mr. Kissinger sent a

memo to Mr. Nixon detailing options before the U.S.: (1) support Pakistan militarily; (2) maintain neutrality; (3) help "Yahya achieve a negotiated settlement".

Mr. Nixon's instructions, despite desperate telegrams from the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka about the violence, were clear. "To all hands, don't squeeze Yahya at this time," he wrote, checking option (3).

The crackdown led lakhs of refugees to flee to India, spurring India's support to the Mukti Bahini movement led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had won Pakistani General elections in December 1970 but was imprisoned. The India-Pakistan war followed, where the U.S. even attempted to threaten India by dispatching a naval fleet, but ultimately, Bangladesh was formed by December that year. India's perspective was shaped by the 20-year Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation signed in August 1971.

Pakistan has played the role several times. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reminded opposition MPs at an all-party meeting last week, when they criticised the government's failure to play a bigger role in the crisis. Since 1981, Pakistan has represented Tehran through its Embassy in Washington's "Iran Interest Section". During the two-decade-long U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan, Pakistan also acted as a mediator with the Taliban. Islamabad was the venue for Quadrilateral talks between Egypt-Pakistan-Turkiye-Saudi Foreign Ministers on Sunday, and could host a U.S. delegation this week. Much depends on whether the Iranian leadership, which accused the U.S. of planning a ground invasion, will join the talks.

## 30Mar. Pak. as U.S. mediator with Iran recalls Nixon's China outreach

ईरान के साथ अमेरिका के मध्यस्थ के रूप में पाकिस्तान, निक्सन के चीन संपर्क की याद दिलाता है

### Pakistan's emergence as Washington's choice as a mediator in talks with Iran

ईरान के साथ वार्ता में वाशिंगटन की पसंद के रूप में पाकिस्तान का उभरना

- Pakistan's emergence as **Washington's choice** as a mediator in talks with **Iran** can be explained in a number of ways.  
ईरान के साथ वार्ता में वाशिंगटन की पसंद के रूप में पाकिस्तान का उभरना कई तरीकों से समझाया जा सकता है।
- Since **Operation Sindoor (May 2025)**, U.S. President **Donald Trump** has been • atttered by Pakistan's description of him as a "**peacemaker**", and he has reportedly built a personal rapport with Pakistan's Field Marshal General **Asim Munir** and Pakistani PM **Shehbaz Sharif**, meeting them several times.  
**ऑपरेशन सिंदूर (मई 2025)** के बाद, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** पाकिस्तान द्वारा उन्हें "शांतिदूत" कहे जाने से प्रभावित हुए हैं, और उन्होंने कथित तौर पर पाकिस्तान के फील्ड मार्शल जनरल **आसिम मुनीर** और प्रधानमंत्री **शहबाज शरीफ** के साथ व्यक्तिगत संबंध बनाए हैं, उनसे कई बार मुलाकात की है।
- In particular, Mr. Trump hosted General **Munir** to lunch at the **White House (June last year)**, amidst the last **U.S.-Israeli strikes**, in an e• ort reportedly to ensure that Pakistan would not support **Iran militarily**.  
विशेष रूप से, श्री ट्रंप ने जनरल **मुनीर** को **व्हाइट हाउस (पिछले वर्ष जून)** में दोपहर के भोजन के लिए आमंत्रित किया, अंतिम **अमेरिका-इज़राइल हमलों** के दौरान, ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि पाकिस्तान **ईरान को सैन्य समर्थन** न दे।
- Pakistan's o• er of a **critical minerals deal** to the U.S. and decision to join the **Gaza Board of Peace (BoP)** have also helped forge the relationship.  
पाकिस्तान द्वारा **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज समझौते** की पेशकश और **गाजा बोर्ड ऑफ पीस (BoP)** में शामिल होने के निर्णय ने भी संबंध मजबूत करने में मदद की है।
- For Iran, Pakistan's advantage over many other possible mediators is not only its **proximity** but also the fact that it does not recognise **Israel**, and thus is not amenable to concerns or inputs from the **Benjamin Netanyahu government**.  
ईरान के लिए पाकिस्तान का लाभ केवल उसकी **निकटता** ही नहीं है, बल्कि यह भी है कि वह **इज़राइल को मान्यता नहीं देता**, और इसलिए **बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू सरकार** के प्रभाव में नहीं आता।
- This may suit Mr. Trump as well, who has reportedly conveyed a **15-point proposal** to the government in **Tehran**, which it hopes will lead to a **cease• re**.



यह श्री ट्रंप के लिए भी उपयुक्त हो सकता है, जिन्होंने कथित तौर पर तेहरान सरकार को 15-सूत्रीय प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिससे संघर्षविराम होने की उम्मीद है।

## Cold War precedent शीत युद्ध का उदाहरण

- However, Washington's decision to engage Pakistan as a facilitator for talks may also be rooted in **history (55 years ago)**, given Islamabad and a different General's role in facilitating U.S. talks with **China** 55 years ago, at the height of the **Cold War**.  
हालाँकि, वार्ता के लिए पाकिस्तान को मध्यस्थ बनाने का वॉशिंगटन का निर्णय **इतिहास (55 वर्ष पहले)** में भी निहित हो सकता है, जब इस्लामाबाद और एक अन्य जनरल ने **शीत युद्ध** के दौरान अमेरिका-चीन वार्ता में भूमिका निभाई थी।
- At that time, U.S. President **Richard Nixon** had begun to work on his plan to open up relations with **Beijing** (the U.S. still formally recognised **Taiwan as the Republic of China**), but direct **Sino-U.S. Ambassadorial talks** had • ounded.  
उस समय, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **रिचर्ड निक्सन** ने **बीजिंग** के साथ संबंध खोलने की योजना शुरू की थी (अमेरिका तब भी औपचारिक रूप से **ताइवान को रिपब्लिक ऑफ चाइना** मानता था), लेकिन प्रत्यक्ष **चीन-अमेरिका राजनयिक वार्ता** विफल हो गई थी।
- Pakistan was not the • rst option, as he and his National Security Advisor, **Henry Kissinger**, considered others.  
पाकिस्तान पहला विकल्प नहीं था, क्योंकि उन्होंने और उनके राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार **हेनरी किसिंजर** ने अन्य विकल्पों पर विचार किया।
- **Mao Zedong**, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and leader of the **People's Republic of China (PRC)**, turned down the idea of **France** as he wanted a "non-Western" channel.  
**माओ जेडोंग**, चीनी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के अध्यक्ष और **पीपुल्स रिपब्लिक ऑफ चाइना (PRC)** के नेता, ने **फ्रांस** के विचार को अस्वीकार कर दिया क्योंकि वे "गैर-पश्चिमी" चैनल चाहते थे।
- The **Warsaw track** fell apart after two rounds of talks between U.S. and Chinese o• cials, as Mr. Mao protested U.S. attacks on **Cambodia**, which were part of a U.S. Army e• ort to cut o• supplies to **Vietnamese troops**.  
**वारसा वार्ता मार्ग** अमेरिका और चीनी अधिकारियों के बीच दो दौर की वार्ता के बाद टूट गया, क्योंकि श्री माओ ने **कंबोडिया** पर अमेरिकी हमलों का विरोध किया, जो **वियतनामी सैनिकों** को आपूर्ति रोकने के प्रयास का हिस्सा थे।
- While Mr. Nixon's need for partners in Asia, as the **Vietnam War** drained the U.S., drove him to seek China, **Sino-Soviet tensions** gave Mr. Mao a reason to engage with Washington.  
जबकि **वियतनाम युद्ध** के कारण अमेरिका कमजोर हो रहा था और एशिया में सहयोगियों की आवश्यकता ने निक्सन को चीन की ओर प्रेरित किया, वहीं **चीन-सोवियत तनाव** ने माओ को वॉशिंगटन से जुड़ने का कारण दिया।
- The U.S. tried **Romania**, working through President **Nicolae Ceausescu** to reach out to the Chinese government, but hit an unexpected block.  
अमेरिका ने **रोमानिया** को आजमाया, राष्ट्रपति **निकोलाए चाउशेस्कु** के माध्यम से चीनी सरकार तक पहुँचने की कोशिश की, लेकिन एक अप्रत्याशित बाधा आई।
- "We went to the Romanians, thinking they were most independent of the East Europeans and they were communists and therefore the Chinese would like that. Turns out the one group the Chinese didn't trust were **Communists**," Mr. Kissinger told journalist **Tom Brokaw** decades later.  
"हम रोमानियाई लोगों के पास गए, यह सोचकर कि वे पूर्वी यूरोप से सबसे स्वतंत्र हैं और कम्युनिस्ट हैं, इसलिए चीनी उन्हें पसंद करेंगे। लेकिन पता चला कि जिस समूह पर चीनी भरोसा नहीं करते थे, वह **कम्युनिस्ट** थे," श्री किसिंजर ने पत्रकार **टॉम ब्रोका** को दशकों बाद बताया।
- He explained that **Beijing** feared Romanian o• cials would divulge details to the **Kremlin**, which would attempt to sabotage the process.  
उन्होंने समझाया कि **बीजिंग** को डर था कि रोमानियाई अधिकारी जानकारी **क्रेमलिन** को दे देंगे, जो इस प्रक्रिया को विफल करने की कोशिश करेगा।
- By then, Mr. Nixon had also established a secret channel to the **PRC's leadership** through Pakistani President General **Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan**.



तब तक, श्री निक्सन ने पाकिस्तानी राष्ट्रपति जनरल **आगा मोहम्मद याह्या खान** के माध्यम से **PRC** नेतृत्व के साथ एक गुप्त चैनल स्थापित कर लिया था।

- “In Nixon’s view, Khan was an attractive intermediary since he had good relations with the leaders of the **U.S. and the PRC**, and he provided a means to circumvent the **U.S. Department of State**, which Nixon feared might oppose or publicise his initiative,” records the **U.S. Office of the Historian**.

“निक्सन के दृष्टिकोण में, खान एक आकर्षक मध्यस्थ थे क्योंकि उनके **अमेरिका और PRC के नेताओं** के साथ अच्छे संबंध थे, और उन्होंने **अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग** को दरकिनार करने का माध्यम प्रदान किया, जिससे निक्सन को डर था कि वह उनके प्रयास का विरोध या खुलासा कर सकता है,” यह **अमेरिकी इतिहास कार्यालय** के रिकॉर्ड में दर्ज है।

### Back-channel diplomacy and its consequences

#### बैक-चैनल कूटनीति और उसके परिणाम

- According to one account, the **White House** sent two identical notes, one through President **Yahya Khan** and another through President **Ceausescu**, but it was Pakistan’s Ambassador to Washington, **Agha Hilaly**, who returned with a response • rst, a whole **month** before his Romanian counterpart did.  
एक विवरण के अनुसार, **व्हाइट हाउस** ने दो समान नोट भेजे, एक राष्ट्रपति **याह्या खान** के माध्यम से और दूसरा राष्ट्रपति **चाउशेस्कु** के माध्यम से, लेकिन वाशिंगटन में पाकिस्तान के राजदूत **आगा हिलाली** सबसे पहले उत्तर लेकर लौटे, अपने रोमानियाई समकक्ष से पूरे **एक महीने** पहले।
- In **July 1971**, Mr. **Kissinger** travelled to Pakistan, where he feigned an illness and was taken to **Nathiagali (near Murree)**, away from the eyes of the press corps and even his own diplomats in Islamabad.  
**जुलाई 1971** में, श्री **किसिंगर** पाकिस्तान गए, जहाँ उन्होंने बीमारी का बहाना किया और उन्हें **नाथियागली (मुरी के पास)** ले जाया गया, जो प्रेस और इस्लामाबाद में उनके अपने राजनयिकों की नजरों से दूर था।
- Gen. **Khan** had arranged for a commercial **PIA flight 707** to take him from **Rawalpindi to Peking (Beijing)** for talks.  
जनरल **खान** ने एक वाणिज्यिक **PIA फ्लाइट 707** की व्यवस्था की थी ताकि उन्हें **रावलपिंडी से पेकिंग (बीजिंग)** वार्ता के लिए ले जाया जा सके।
- Mr. **Kissinger**, who had been hosted by Indian officials a day before, reportedly used **‘Delhi belly’** as his excuse to ensure a **64-hour getaway** that included meeting Chinese Premier **Zhou Enlai** and others in China for the • rst time.  
श्री **किसिंगर**, जिन्हें एक दिन पहले भारतीय अधिकारियों द्वारा आतिथ्य दिया गया था, ने कथित तौर पर **‘दिल्ली बेली’** को बहाना बनाकर **64 घंटे की गुप्त यात्रा** सुनिश्चित की, जिसमें चीन में पहली बार चीनी प्रधानमंत्री **झोउ एनलाई** और अन्य लोगों से मुलाकात शामिल थी।
- Planning for Mr. **Nixon’s visit to China (February 1972)**, which he referred to as the **‘week that changed the world’**, had begun.  
श्री **निक्सन की चीन यात्रा (फरवरी 1972)** की योजना, जिसे उन्होंने **‘दुनिया बदलने वाला सप्ताह’** कहा, शुरू हो चुकी थी

### Cost of back-channel diplomacy

#### बैक-चैनल कूटनीति की कीमत

- The event had **deep and lasting impacts** on South Asia as well.  
इस घटना का दक्षिण एशिया पर **गहरा और स्थायी प्रभाव** पड़ा।
- Mr. **Nixon’s** preoccupation with his back-channel to **China** and deep-seated rancour against **India** led him to turn a blind eye as Pakistan’s troops unleashed a **genocide** on Bengalis in East Pakistan.  
श्री **निक्सन का चीन** के साथ बैक-चैनल पर ध्यान और **भारत** के प्रति गहरी नाराजगी ने उन्हें पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में बंगालियों पर पाकिस्तान की सेना द्वारा किए गए **नरसंहार** को नजरअंदाज करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।
- On **March 25, 1971**, the Pakistan Army launched **Operation Searchlight**, killing an estimated **three million** over the next nine months, according to the Bangladesh government.  
**25 मार्च 1971** को, पाकिस्तान सेना ने **ऑपरेशन सर्चलाइट** शुरू किया, जिसमें अगले नौ महीनों में लगभग **30 लाख** लोग मारे गए, बांग्लादेश सरकार के अनुसार।



- On **April 28, 1971**, Mr. Kissinger sent a memo to Mr. Nixon detailing options before the U.S.:  
**28 अप्रैल 1971** को, श्री किस्सिंजर ने श्री निक्सन को एक ज्ञापन भेजा जिसमें अमेरिका के सामने विकल्प बताए गए:
- (1) support Pakistan **militarily**;  
(1) पाकिस्तान को **सैन्य रूप से समर्थन** देना;
- (2) maintain **neutrality**;  
(2) **तटस्थता** बनाए रखना;
- (3) help “Yahya achieve a **negotiated settlement**”.  
(3) “याह्या को **समझौता समाधान** दिलाने में मदद करना”।
- Mr. Nixon’s instructions, despite desperate telegrams from the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka about the violence, were clear.  
ढाका में अमेरिकी दूतावास से हिंसा के बारे में निराशाजनक टेलीग्राम के बावजूद, श्री निक्सन के निर्देश स्पष्ट थे।
- “**To all hands, don’t squeeze Yahya at this time,**” he wrote, checking option (3).  
“**सभी के लिए, इस समय याह्या पर दबाव न डालें,**” उन्होंने लिखा, विकल्प (3) चुनते हुए।
- The crackdown led lakhs of refugees to • ee to **India**, spurring India’s support to the **Muktibahini movement** led by **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, who had won Pakistani General elections in **December 1970** but was imprisoned.  
इस दमन के कारण लाखों शरणार्थी **भारत** भागे, जिससे भारत ने **मुक्तिबाहिनी आंदोलन** का समर्थन किया, जिसका नेतृत्व **शेख मुजीबुर रहमान** कर रहे थे, जिन्होंने **दिसंबर 1970** में पाकिस्तान के आम चुनाव जीते थे लेकिन उन्हें कैद कर लिया गया था।
- The **India-Pakistan war** followed, where the U.S. even attempted to threaten India by dispatching a **naval • eet**, but ultimately, **Bangladesh was formed (December 1971)**.  
इसके बाद **भारत-पाक युद्ध** हुआ, जिसमें अमेरिका ने भारत को धमकाने के लिए **नौसैनिक बेड़ा** भेजने का प्रयास किया, लेकिन अंततः **बांग्लादेश का गठन (दिसंबर 1971)** हुआ।
- India’s perspective was shaped by the **Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation (August 1971)**.  
भारत का दृष्टिकोण **भारत-सोवियत शांति, मैत्री और सहयोग संधि (अगस्त 1971)** से प्रभावित था।
- Pakistan has played the role several times.  
पाकिस्तान ने कई बार यह भूमिका निभाई है।
- External A• airs Minister **S. Jaishankar** reminded opposition MPs at an all-party meeting last week.  
विदेश मंत्री **एस. जयशंकर** ने पिछले सप्ताह सर्वदलीय बैठक में विपक्षी सांसदों को इसकी याद दिलाई।
- Since **1981**, Pakistan has represented **Tehran** through its Embassy in **Washington’s “Iran Interests Section”**.  
**1981** से, पाकिस्तान ने **तेहरान** का प्रतिनिधित्व वाशिंगटन में अपने दूतावास के “**ईरान इंटररेस्ट्स सेक्शन**” के माध्यम से किया है।
- During the **two-decade-long U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan**, Pakistan also acted as a mediator with the **Taliban**.  
**अफगानिस्तान में दो दशक लंबे अमेरिकी सैन्य हस्तक्षेप** के दौरान, पाकिस्तान ने **तालिबान** के साथ भी मध्यस्थ की भूमिका निभाई।
- Islamabad was the venue for **Quadrilateral talks (Egypt-Pakistan-Turkiye-Saudi Foreign Ministers)** on Sunday.  
इस्लामाबाद रविवार को **चतुर्पक्षीय वार्ता (मिस्र-पाकिस्तान-तुर्किये-सऊदी विदेश मंत्री)** का स्थल था।
- It could host a **U.S. delegation** this week.  
यह इस सप्ताह **अमेरिकी प्रतिनिधिमंडल** की मेजबानी कर सकता है।
- Much depends on whether the **Iranian leadership** will join the talks.  
बहुत कुछ इस पर निर्भर करता है कि **ईरानी नेतृत्व** वार्ता में शामिल होगा या नहीं।
- It has accused the U.S. of planning a **ground invasion**.  
उसने अमेरिका पर **जमीनी आक्रमण** की योजना बनाने का आरोप लगाया है।



## Egypt's Fahmy appointed as new Arab League chief

GS II: IR  
Associated Press  
CAIRO

Veteran Egyptian diplomat Nabil Fahmy was on Sunday appointed as the head of the 22-member Arab League, at a time West Asia is plunged in a war that shows no sign of abating.

Mr. Fahmy, a former Egyptian Foreign Minister, won the support of Foreign Ministers of member countries in a virtual meeting, according to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

His five-year term will start in July, succeeding Ahmed Aboul Gheit, who served as Arab League chief since 2016. Mr. Fahmy, 75, served as Egypt's top diplomat between July 2013 and June 2014. He was Egypt's ambassador to the United States between 1999 and 2008.

## 30Mar. Egypt's Fahmy appointed as new Arab League chief

### मिस्र के फहमी नए अरब लीग प्रमुख नियुक्त किए गए

• Veteran Egyptian diplomat **Nabil Fahmy** was on Sunday appointed as the head of the **22-member Arab League**, at a time **West Asia** is plunged in a war that shows no sign of abating.

अनुभवी मिस्र के राजनयिक **नबील फहमी** को रविवार को **22 सदस्यीय अरब लीग** का प्रमुख नियुक्त किया गया, ऐसे समय में जब **पश्चिम एशिया** एक ऐसे युद्ध में घिरा हुआ है जो कम होने के कोई संकेत नहीं दिखा रहा है।

• Mr. Fahmy, a former **Egyptian Foreign Minister**, won the support of **Foreign Ministers of member countries** in a virtual meeting, according to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

श्री फहमी, जो पूर्व **मिस्र के विदेश मंत्री** रह चुके हैं, ने एक वर्चुअल बैठक में **सदस्य देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों** का समर्थन प्राप्त किया, जैसा कि मिस्र के विदेश मंत्रालय ने बताया।

• His five-year term will start in July, succeeding **Ahmed Aboul Gheit**, who served as Arab League chief since 2016.

उनका पांच वर्ष का कार्यकाल जुलाई में शुरू होगा, और वे **अहमद अबौल घैत** का स्थान लेंगे, जो 2016 से अरब लीग प्रमुख के रूप में कार्यरत थे।

• Mr. Fahmy, 75, served as Egypt's **top diplomat** between July 2013 and June 2014.

75 वर्षीय श्री फहमी ने जुलाई 2013 से जून 2014 के बीच मिस्र के **शीर्ष राजनयिक** के रूप में कार्य किया।

• He was Egypt's **ambassador to the United States** between 1999 and 2008.

वे 1999 से 2008 के बीच **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** में मिस्र के राजदूत रहे।

## GS Paper III: Economy,

### TOPICS COVERED

30 March 2026

30Mar

How to secure India's supply chains

भारत की आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को कैसे सुरक्षित किया जाए



# How to secure India's supply chains

**CS III: Economy**

India's manufacturing ecosystem is deeply embedded in global supply chains. From energy and fertilizers to electronics and chemicals, several sectors rely heavily on imported raw materials and intermediates. The recent geopolitical development in West Asia has shown how quickly supply disruptions can ripple through the economy, underscoring a stark reality that while global interdependence is beneficial, it also amplifies vulnerability. As the country navigates ongoing supply chain disruptions, the events have reinforced the need for building long-term resilience through reduced import dependence.

## Ensuring flow of energy

Energy is the backbone of any economy, powering manufacturing, transport, agriculture and services. India imports about 85% of its crude oil and over 50% of its gas, making it highly vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. Price spikes transmit quickly across sectors, raising input costs across manufacturing; increasing logistics expenses; and even pushing up consumer prices via diesel and fertilizer linkages. It is estimated that every \$10 per barrel hike in crude prices can cause a \$13-\$14 billion rise in the import bill, 30-40 bps rise in consumer inflation (with complete pass through), and could even lower Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by 0.2-0.3 percentage points. Long-term energy security is, therefore, critical and must be anchored in diversification, domestic capacity, and technological transition.

Accelerating renewable energy is central to reducing import dependence on oil. India's progress towards the target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 is noteworthy. However, resilience requires significant investments in RE storage to manage intermittency. The National Green Hydrogen Mission offers a pathway to decarbonise industries



**Anant Goenka**  
President of the FICCI

reliant on imported oil and gas.

Even as the country steps up renewable energy adoption, expanding domestic oil and gas exploration is necessary to ensure long-term energy resilience. Strengthening buffers by expanding strategic petroleum reserves can help the country withstand short-term supply disruptions. India has already started to diversify oil import sources, which is a positive step.

## Securing food security

Even as India has emerged as a net exporter of several agri-commodities such as cereals and marine products, some of the most critical segments of the food value chain are deeply import-dependent. India's high import dependence on edible oils, pulses and fertilizers is a key concern as any supply disruption can have direct consequences on inflation and rural livelihoods.

Pulses and oilseeds need assured procurement, price support, and region-specific crop diversification. Scaling and accelerating the existing missions on oilseeds can reduce the current import gap, where domestic output meets barely 44% of demand. The government must also work towards buffering and holding strategic reserves for edible oils and pulses to meet any contingency requirements. Fertilizer sector reforms must focus on the diversification of suppliers mix, enhancing the domestic production of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, and the introduction of alternative bio-fertilizers that can be adopted at scale.

Supply chain risks in manufacturing (raw materials and intermediates) can also have a deep impact. India's imports account for nearly 19% of GDP. Of this, raw materials make up 34%, intermediates 31%, and capital goods 24%. Consumer goods account for just 12%. India dominates downstream manufacturing but is exposed to imports in upstream and

midstream inputs such as APIs, electronics, and industrial intermediates, amongst others.

## The need for diversification

On the raw material front, copper, lithium, cobalt and other rare earth minerals remain globally concentrated, making India vulnerable given their centrality to electronics, electric mobility, and advanced manufacturing. On intermediates, India imports nearly 65-70% of its pharmaceutical intermediates from China despite being a global leader in generic drug exports. Likewise, with respect to electronic imports, India has a high dependence on semiconductors, display units, and components from East Asia. Limited domestic capability in high-end industrial machinery constrains India's manufacturing competitiveness and reinforces reliance on external ecosystems. These are not easily substitutable inputs. When they are disrupted, production stops.

The first and most critical priority is thus deepening domestic manufacturing in intermediates. While current policy frameworks have largely incentivised final assembly, the next phase must target overall domestic ecosystems such as strengthening the manufacturing of APIs, and semiconductors. Diversification must also continue, with long-term supply agreements and strategic partnerships across regions, including in the markets of Africa and Latin America. Re-engineering of industrial processes can also help reduce import intensity. Encouraging industry to adopt direct conversion technologies, alternative materials, and input-efficient production methods will gradually lower structural vulnerability.

Supply chain resilience cannot be built through isolated interventions. It requires an integrated, forward-looking approach involving government, industry, and global partners.

Supply chain resilience cannot be built through isolated interventions. It requires an integrated, forward-looking approach

## 30Mar. How to secure India's supply chains भारत की आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को कैसे सुरक्षित किया जाए

### India's Manufacturing and Supply Chain Vulnerability भारत का विनिर्माण और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की संवेदनशीलता

- India's **manufacturing ecosystem** is deeply embedded in **global supply chains**. भारत का **विनिर्माण तंत्र** वैश्विक **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- From **energy and fertilizers to electronics and chemicals**, several sectors rely heavily on **imported raw materials and intermediates**. **ऊर्जा और उर्वरक** से लेकर **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और रसायन तक** कई क्षेत्र **आयातित कच्चे माल** पर निर्भर हैं।
- The recent **geopolitical development in West Asia** has shown how quickly supply disruptions can ripple through the economy. हाल की **पश्चिम एशिया की भू-राजनीतिक घटनाओं** ने दिखाया कि आपूर्ति बाधाएं कितनी तेजी से अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- This underscores a stark reality that while **global interdependence** is beneficial, it also amplifies **vulnerability**. यह दर्शाता है कि **वैश्विक परस्पर निर्भरता** लाभकारी होने के साथ-साथ **संवेदनशीलता** भी बढ़ाती है।



- As the country navigates ongoing **supply chain disruptions**, the events have reinforced the need for building **long-term resilience through reduced import dependence**.  
वर्तमान आपूर्ति व्यवधानों के बीच यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि आयात निर्भरता घटाकर दीर्घकालिक लचीलापन आवश्यक है।

### Ensuring • ow of energy ऊर्जा आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करना

- Energy is the backbone of any economy, powering **manufacturing, transport, agriculture and services**.  
ऊर्जा किसी भी अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ है, जो विनिर्माण, परिवहन, कृषि और सेवाओं को संचालित करती है।
- India imports about **85% of its crude oil** and over **50% of its gas**, making it highly vulnerable to **geopolitical shocks**.  
भारत अपने कच्चे तेल का 85% और गैस का 50% से अधिक आयात करता है, जिससे यह भू-राजनीतिक झटकों के प्रति संवेदनशील है।
- Price spikes transmit quickly across sectors, raising **input costs**, increasing **logistics expenses**, and pushing up **consumer prices**.  
मूल्य वृद्धि से उत्पादन लागत, परिवहन खर्च और उपभोक्ता कीमतें तेजी से बढ़ती हैं।
- It is estimated that every **\$10 per barrel hike** can cause a **\$13-\$14 billion rise in import bill**, **30-40 bps rise in inflation**, and lower **GDP growth by 0.2-0.3%**.  
अनुमान है कि प्रति 10 डॉलर प्रति बैरल वृद्धि से 13-14 अरब डॉलर आयात बिल, 30-40 आधार अंक मुद्रास्फीति, और जीडीपी वृद्धि में 0.2-0.3% कमी हो सकती है।
- Long-term **energy security** must be anchored in **diversification, domestic capacity, and technological transition**.  
दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को विविधीकरण, घरेलू क्षमता और तकनीकी परिवर्तन पर आधारित होना चाहिए।
- Accelerating **renewable energy** is central to reducing import dependence on oil.  
**नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** को बढ़ावा देना आयात निर्भरता कम करने का प्रमुख उपाय है।
- India's progress towards **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030** is noteworthy.  
भारत का 2030 तक 500 गीगावाट गैर-जीवाश्म क्षमता का लक्ष्य महत्वपूर्ण है।
- However, resilience requires investments in **energy storage** to manage intermittency.  
लेकिन लचीलापन के लिए ऊर्जा भंडारण में निवेश आवश्यक है।
- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** offers a pathway to decarbonise industries reliant on imported oil and gas.  
**राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन** आयातित ऊर्जा पर निर्भर उद्योगों को हरित बनाने का मार्ग देता है।
- Expanding domestic **oil and gas exploration** is necessary for long-term resilience.  
घरेलू तेल और गैस अन्वेषण को बढ़ाना आवश्यक है।
- Strengthening bu• ers by expanding **strategic petroleum reserves** can help withstand short-term disruptions.  
**रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार** बढ़ाने से अल्पकालिक संकट से निपटा जा सकता है।
- India has already started to **diversify oil import sources**, which is a positive step.  
भारत ने तेल आयात स्रोतों का विविधीकरण शुरू किया है, जो सकारात्मक कदम है।

### Securing food security खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना

- Even as India has emerged as a **net exporter** of several agri-commodities, some segments remain **import-dependent**.  
भारत कई कृषि उत्पादों का शुद्ध निर्यातक बनने के बावजूद कुछ क्षेत्र अभी भी आयात पर निर्भर हैं।
- India's high import dependence on **edible oils, pulses and fertilizers** is a key concern.  
भारत की खाद्य तेल, दालें और उर्वरकों पर उच्च निर्भरता चिंता का विषय है।
- Any supply disruption can impact **inflation and rural livelihoods**.  
आपूर्ति बाधा से मुद्रास्फीति और ग्रामीण आजीविका प्रभावित होती है।
- Pulses and oilseeds** need assured **procurement, price support, and crop diversification**.  
दालों और तिलहनों के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन, खरीद और फसल विविधीकरण आवश्यक है।



- Domestic output meets barely **44% of demand** in oilseeds.  
तिलहन उत्पादन केवल **44% मांग** को पूरा करता है।
- The government must build **strategic reserves** for edible oils and pulses.  
सरकार को **रणनीतिक भंडार** बनाना चाहिए।
- **Fertilizer sector reforms** must focus on **diversification of suppliers**, enhancing **domestic production**, and promoting **bio-fertilizers**.  
उर्वरक क्षेत्र सुधार में **आपूर्तिकर्ताओं का विविधीकरण**, घरेलू उत्पादन वृद्धि, और **जैव उर्वरकों** को बढ़ावा देना शामिल होना चाहिए।

### Supply chain risks in manufacturing (raw materials and intermediates) विनिर्माण में आपूर्ति श्रृंखला जोखिम (कच्चा माल और मध्यवर्ती उत्पाद)

- Supply chain risks in **manufacturing (raw materials and intermediates)** can also have a **deep impact**.  
विनिर्माण में आपूर्ति श्रृंखला जोखिम (कच्चा माल और मध्यवर्ती उत्पाद) का गहरा प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।
- India's imports account for nearly **19% of GDP**.  
भारत का आयात लगभग **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 19%** है।
- Of this, **raw materials** make up **34%**, **intermediates 31%**, and **capital goods 24%**.  
इसमें **कच्चा माल 34%**, **मध्यवर्ती उत्पाद 31%**, और **पूंजीगत वस्तुएं 24%** हैं।
- **Consumer goods** account for just **12%**.  
उपभोक्ता वस्तुएं केवल **12%** हैं।
- India dominates **downstream manufacturing** but is exposed to imports in **upstream and midstream inputs** such as **APIs, electronics, and industrial intermediates**.  
भारत **निम्न स्तर के विनिर्माण** में मजबूत है लेकिन **प्रारंभिक और मध्य स्तर के इनपुट** जैसे **औषधि घटक, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और औद्योगिक मध्यवर्ती उत्पादों** के लिए आयात पर निर्भर है।

### The need for diversification विविधीकरण की आवश्यकता

- On the raw material front, **copper, lithium, cobalt and rare earth minerals** remain globally concentrated, making India **vulnerable**.  
कच्चे माल के स्तर पर **तांबा, लिथियम, कोबाल्ट और दुर्लभ खनिज** सीमित क्षेत्रों में केंद्रित हैं, जिससे भारत **संवेदनशील** है।
- These are central to **electronics, electric mobility, and advanced manufacturing**.  
ये **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, विद्युत गतिशीलता और उन्नत विनिर्माण** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- On intermediates, India imports nearly **65-70% of pharmaceutical intermediates from China**.  
मध्यवर्ती उत्पादों में भारत लगभग **65-70% औषधीय घटक चीन से आयात** करता है।
- Despite being a global leader in **generic drug exports**.  
इसके बावजूद भारत **सामान्य दवाओं के निर्यात** में अग्रणी है।
- India has high dependence on **semiconductors, display units, and components from East Asia**.  
भारत **अर्धचालक, डिस्प्ले इकाइयों और पूर्वी एशिया से घटकों** पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है।
- Limited domestic capability in **high-end industrial machinery** constrains manufacturing competitiveness.  
उच्च स्तरीय **औद्योगिक मशीनरी** में सीमित क्षमता प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रभावित करती है।
- These are not easily **substitutable inputs**.  
ये आसानी से **प्रतिस्थापित होने वाले इनपुट** नहीं हैं।
- When they are disrupted, **production stops**.  
इनकी आपूर्ति रुकने पर **उत्पादन रुक जाता है**।
- The first and most critical priority is **deepening domestic manufacturing in intermediates**.  
पहली और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिकता **मध्यवर्ती उत्पादों में घरेलू विनिर्माण बढ़ाना** है।
- While current policies focus on **final assembly**, the next phase must target **overall domestic ecosystems**.  
वर्तमान नीतियां **अंतिम संयोजन** पर केंद्रित हैं, लेकिन अगला चरण **घरेलू पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** पर होना चाहिए।



- Such as strengthening **APIs and semiconductors manufacturing**.  
जैसे **औषधि घटक और अर्धचालक निर्माण** को मजबूत करना।
- Diversification must continue with **long-term supply agreements and strategic partnerships** across regions including **Africa and Latin America**.  
**दीर्घकालिक आपूर्ति समझौते और रणनीतिक साझेदारी** के माध्यम से विविधीकरण जारी रहना चाहिए, विशेषकर **अफ्रीका और लैटिन अमेरिका** में।
- Re-engineering of industrial processes can reduce **import intensity**.  
औद्योगिक प्रक्रियाओं के पुनर्गठन से **आयात निर्भरता** कम हो सकती है।
- Encouraging adoption of **direct conversion technologies, alternative materials, and input-efficient methods** will lower structural vulnerability.  
**प्रत्यक्ष रूपांतरण तकनीक, वैकल्पिक सामग्री और कुशल उत्पादन विधियों** को अपनाने से संरचनात्मक जोखिम कम होगा।
- Supply chain resilience cannot be built through **isolated interventions**.  
आपूर्ति श्रृंखला लचीलापन **अलग-अलग उपायों** से नहीं बनाया जा सकता।
- It requires an **integrated, forward-looking approach** involving **government, industry, and global partners**.  
इसके लिए **सरकार, उद्योग और वैश्विक भागीदारों** के साथ **समन्वित और दूरदर्शी दृष्टिकोण** आवश्यक है।

## GS Paper III: S&T,

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**exRNA: on a mission**  
**exRNA: एक मिशन पर**

## exRNA: on a mission

GS III: S&T

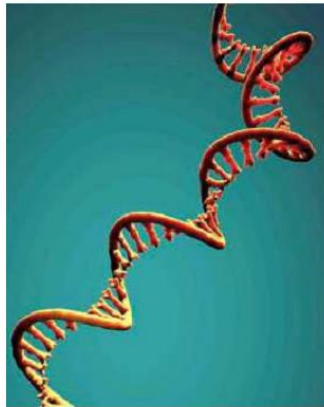
Vasudevan Mukunth

In a study published in the journal *Clean Water* on March 28, scientists reported that extracellular RNA (exRNA) from bacteria can persist in disinfected drinking water. They also found that by studying the exRNA, they could figure out what the bacteria were doing just before they were damaged or killed, releasing the exRNA. This way, the scientists could figure out which survival strategies worked for the bacteria — which can be used to make better disinfectants.

exRNA is RNA that exists outside cells, in body fluids such as blood, saliva, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid. For decades, scientists believed RNA only functioned inside the cell and assumed that if RNA 'leaked' out, enzymes in the blood would destroy it. However, researchers have found that cells in fact intentionally 'export' RNA.

To survive outside the cell, exRNA travels in its own molecular containers that prevent enzymes from breaking it down before it reaches its destination.

exRNA has been found to be part of a sophisticated long-distance communication system. A cell releases RNA to deliver instructions to another cell elsewhere in the body, changing how it behaves or which genes it activates. This process helps coordinate responses in the immune system, tissue repair, and development. However, cancer cells can also release exRNA to



An illustration of the RNA called mRNA. GETTY IMAGES

promote tumour growth.

The discovery of exRNA changed modern medicine. For instance, just by testing a patient's blood or other body fluids, doctors can identify specific RNA patterns linked to cancer or heart disease.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to [science@thehindu.co.in](mailto:science@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Daily page'

## 30Mar. exRNA: on a mission exRNA: एक मिशन पर

### exRNA Study in Clean Water Journal स्वच्छ जल पत्रिका में बाह्य आरएनए अध्ययन

In a study published in the journal *Clean Water* on March 28, scientists reported that **extracellular RNA (exRNA)** from bacteria can persist in **disinfected drinking water**.

**28 मार्च** को प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में वैज्ञानिकों ने बताया कि बैक्टीरिया का **बाह्य आरएनए** कीटाणुरहित पेयजल में बना रह सकता है।

They also found that by studying the **exRNA**, they could figure out what the **bacteria were doing just before they were damaged or killed, releasing the exRNA**.

उन्होंने यह भी पाया कि **बाह्य आरएनए** का अध्ययन करके यह पता लगाया जा सकता है कि बैक्टीरिया क्षतिग्रस्त या नष्ट होने से पहले क्या कर रहे थे।

This way, the scientists could figure out which **survival strategies worked for the bacteria** — which can be **used to make better disinfectants**.

इस प्रकार वैज्ञानिक यह समझ सकते हैं कि कौन-सी **जीवित रहने की रणनीतियाँ** बैक्टीरिया के लिए

कारगर थीं — जिनका उपयोग बेहतर **कीटाणुनाशक** बनाने में किया जा सकता है।



- **exRNA**

- **बाह्य आरएनए**

- **exRNA is RNA that exists outside cells, in body fluids such as blood, saliva, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid.**

बाह्य आरएनए वह आरएनए है जो कोशिकाओं के बाहर पाया जाता है, जैसे रक्त, लार, मूत्र और मस्तिष्कमेरु द्रव में।

- For decades, scientists believed RNA only functioned inside the cell and assumed that if RNA 'leaked' out, enzymes in the blood would destroy it.

दशकों तक वैज्ञानिक मानते थे कि आरएनए केवल कोशिका के अंदर कार्य करता है और यदि यह बाहर निकल जाए तो रक्त के एंजाइम इसे नष्ट कर देंगे।

- However, researchers have found that cells in fact intentionally 'export' RNA.

हालांकि, शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि कोशिकाएं वास्तव में आरएनए को जानबूझकर बाहर भेजती हैं।

- To survive outside the cell, exRNA travels in its own molecular containers that prevent enzymes from breaking it down before it reaches its destination.

कोशिका के बाहर जीवित रहने के लिए बाह्य आरएनए अपने आणविक आवरण में यात्रा करता है, जो एंजाइमों द्वारा इसके विघटन को रोकते हैं।

- exRNA has been found to be part of a sophisticated long-distance communication system.

बाह्य आरएनए एक जटिल दीर्घ दूरी संचार प्रणाली का हिस्सा पाया गया है।

- A cell releases RNA to deliver instructions to another cell elsewhere in the body, changing how it behaves or which genes it activates.

एक कोशिका आरएनए को दूसरी कोशिका तक निर्देश पहुंचाने के लिए छोड़ती है, जिससे उसका व्यवहार या सक्रिय होने वाले जीन बदल जाते हैं।

- This process helps coordinate responses in the immune system, tissue repair, and development.

यह प्रक्रिया प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र, ऊतक मरम्मत, और विकास में समन्वय स्थापित करने में मदद करती है।

- However, cancer cells can also release exRNA to promote tumour growth.

हालांकि, कैंसर कोशिकाएं भी बाह्य आरएनए छोड़कर ट्यूमर वृद्धि को बढ़ावा दे सकती हैं।

- **Impact on Medicine**

- **चिकित्सा पर प्रभाव**

- The discovery of exRNA changed modern medicine.

बाह्य आरएनए की खोज ने आधुनिक चिकित्सा को बदल दिया।

- For instance, just by testing a patient's blood or other body fluids, doctors can identify specific RNA patterns linked to cancer or heart disease.

उदाहरण के लिए, केवल रोगी के रक्त या अन्य शारीरिक द्रव की जांच से डॉक्टर कैंसर या हृदय रोग से जुड़े विशिष्ट आरएनए पैटर्न की पहचान कर सकते हैं।

## GS Paper III: Environment,

### TOPICS COVERED

30 March 2026

30Mar

**Secretive jungle cats need habitats outside protected areas: study**  
गुप्त स्वभाव वाली जंगल बिल्लियों को संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के बाहर आवास की आवश्यकता: अध्ययन



A handout picture taken in 2023 off Dominique Island shows female sperm whales holding a newborn calf above water until it can swim on its own. Last week, U.S.-based Project CETI researchers reported they had witnessed the rare spectacle of a wild sperm whale being born, immediately carried to the surface by members of its clan. [View more](#)

A handout picture taken in 2023 on Dominique Island shows female sperm whales holding a newborn calf above water until it can swim on its own. Last week, U.S.-based Project CETI researchers reported they had witnessed the rare spectacle of a wild sperm whale being born, immediately carried to the surface by members of its clan.

## Secretive jungle cats need habitats outside protected areas: study

A new study's finding that jungle cats use agricultural landscapes aligns with previous knowledge of the species, in and around farms, these cats keep rodent populations in check, thus 'protecting' crops; however, these landscapes lie outside protected areas and harbour several threats, including fragmented habitats and speeding vehicles

**ANANYA SINGH**

Ananya Singh

**J**ungle cats (*Felis chaus*) are found across diverse habitats, from grasslands and wetlands to deserts. They are present across Asia, with large populations in India and Nepal, among others. The IUCN Red List lists the species as being of 'least concern'.

This has led to a "misconception that they are doing fine", Kathan Bandyopadhyay, a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said.

Jungle cats' populations are in fact considered to be shrinking. In India, they are protected under Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which means hunting or trading them is illegal.

Despite being the most widespread of India's small cats, jungle cats are understudied and have received little conservation attention relative to larger carnivores such as tigers and leopards.

### Conservation baseline

This animal – with a white muzzle, yellow irises, large ears ending in black tufts, and the sometimes faint striping on its long legs – avoids dense forests and heavily-modified landscapes, preferring agro-pastoral and open habitats, according to a new study based on the largest dataset on the species in India.

The study was published in *Scientific Reports*, and provides a baseline for future conservation planning.

"Until now, we didn't know about their population status or how they are responding to several habitat and climatic covariates," Dr. Bandyopadhyay, who undertook this research as a PhD student at the University of Wyoming, said.

The team found human pressure to be the foremost factor influencing where jungle cats live and that while they can tolerate moderate levels of human disturbance, they avoid densely populated areas.

"Our results highlight the importance of agro-pastoral landscapes in conserving wildlife beyond protected areas, especially as urbanisation continues to expand," Dr. Bandyopadhyay said.

### 'An important analysis'

To estimate how many jungle cats were in India and where, the team compiled camera-trap records from more than 26,000 locations across India. These records were a 'bycatch' of tiger surveys and were supplemented with data from previous studies, radio-collared individuals, and the authors' personal observations. The researchers then included one camera-trap record every 25 sq. km, one radio-collar data point from



A jungle cat in Rajasthan, 2021. KANDUKURU NAGARJUN

every 5 sq. km, plus all secondary data (from outside protected areas). Then they used machine-learning to model suitable habitats using the final dataset of over 6,000 records.

The team combined these results with sex-specific home range data to estimate a countrywide population of over 3 lakh jungle cats, with at least 1.57 lakh and at most 4.59 lakh individuals. "It's an estimate. It gives you a limit within which the cat is likely to be," Yadvendradev Jhala, senior scientist at the National Centre for Biological Sciences and the study's co-author and co-supervisor, said.

Across 21 States with suitable habitats, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha were estimated to support the largest populations.

The study is an "important analysis" and has "strengthened the observation that the jungle cat is tightly associated with open natural ecosystems, currently under enormous threat of conversion to other forms of land use, such as built-up areas and large-scale linear infrastructure like highways," Shomita Mukherjee, senior principal scientist at the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, and a member of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialists Group, said. Dr. Mukherjee was not a part of the study.

### Ideal landscapes

For the study, jungle cats prefer warm, semi-arid regions that are seasonally dry, with moderate rainfall and canopy cover. Their predicted hotspots lie in India's east rather than in the drier west.



Our results highlight the importance of agro-pastoral landscapes in conserving wildlife beyond protected areas, especially as urbanisation continues to expand

**KATHAN BANDYOPADHYAY**  
Postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

India needs land policies that recognise the ecological value of open ecosystems, Dr. Mukherjee added.

According to her, the finding that jungle cats use agricultural landscapes aligns with previous knowledge of the species. In and around farms, these cats keep rodent populations in check, thus 'protecting' crops.

However, these landscapes lie outside protected areas and harbour several threats, including fragmented habitats, speeding vehicles on roads, and poaching, according to the study.

It also pointed to a potential threat from hybridisation with domestic cats, which could compromise their genetic lineage, although Dr. Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Mukherjee cautioned that this idea doesn't have enough evidence.

Another key threat is the stray dog population, which "acts as a source of wildlife diseases and kleptoparasitism – that means snatching kills from jungle cats and other carnivores," Dr. Bandyopadhyay said.

Per the study, stray dogs could share

foraging spaces with other livestock, so where there is livestock, there could be the risk of these canines as well.

### A policy for small cats

According to Dr. Mukherjee, the study's strengths lie in its large spatial coverage and sample size, although she added that jungle cats from Sikkim had been left out and that the population figures were based on a "meagre dataset of a few radio-collared individuals in just a couple of locations".

"Yet this should not be seen as a limitation but an effort to get the best out of data currently available," she added.

Dr. Bandyopadhyay said the records from Sikkim were sporadic and insufficiently viable for the models.

Scientists still have a great number of unknowns, including jungle cats' denning sites, litter sizes, ranging patterns, densities, and diets.

Small cats are generally hard to study because they are nocturnal and secretive. Public awareness is also low, and few organisations have been willing to fund more study.

Going forward, Dr. Jhala said, there is a need to plan wildlife passageways alongside infrastructure development in agro-pastoral and open habitats. "When roads pass through a tiger or elephant corridor, there is a policy to try and mitigate those. But when they pass through agro-pastoral landscapes, we don't plan for it even though these areas support rich biodiversity," he said.

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### THE GIST

Despite being the most widespread of India's small cats, jungle cats are understudied and have received little conservation attention relative to larger carnivores

According to a new study, the estimated countrywide population of jungle cats is over 3 lakh

Jungle cats avoid dense forests and heavily-modified landscapes, preferring agro-pastoral and open habitats

**30Mar. Secretive jungle cats need habitats outside protected areas: study**  
**गुप्त स्वभाव वाली जंगल बिल्लियों को संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के बाहर आवास की आवश्यकता: अध्ययन**



- Jungle cats (**Felis chaus**) are found across **diverse habitats**, from grasslands and wetlands to deserts.  
जंगल कैट (**Felis chaus**) विभिन्न आवासों में पाए जाते हैं, जैसे घासभूमि, आर्द्रभूमि से लेकर रेगिस्तान तक।
- They are present across **Asia**, with large populations in **India and Nepal**, among others.  
ये पूरे एशिया में पाए जाते हैं, जिनकी बड़ी आबादी **भारत और नेपाल** में है।
- The **IUCN Red List** lists the species as being of '**least concern**'.  
अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रकृति संरक्षण संघ की सूची इस प्रजाति को **न्यूनतम चिंता** की श्रेणी में रखती है।
- This has led to a "misconception that they are doing fine", **Kathan Bandyopadhyay**, a postdoctoral research associate at the **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**, said.  
इससे यह "भ्रान्ति कि ये ठीक स्थिति में हैं" उत्पन्न हुई है, ऐसा **कथन बंद्योपाध्याय** ने कहा, जो एक शोध सहयोगी हैं।
- Jungle cats' populations are in fact considered to be **shrinking**.  
वास्तव में जंगल कैट की आबादी **घटती हुई** मानी जाती है।
- In **India**, they are protected under **Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**, which means **hunting or trading them is illegal**.  
**भारत** में इन्हें **वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972 की अनुसूची द्वितीय** के तहत संरक्षित किया गया है, जिसका अर्थ है कि इनका शिकार या व्यापार **अवैध** है।
- Despite being the most widespread of India's small cats, jungle cats are **understudied** and have received little conservation attention relative to larger carnivores such as **tigers and leopards**.  
भारत की सबसे व्यापक छोटी बिल्ली होने के बावजूद, जंगल कैट पर **कम अध्ययन** हुआ है और इन्हें बड़े मांसाहारी जीवों जैसे बाघ और तेंदुए की तुलना में कम संरक्षण मिला है।

### Conservation baseline संरक्षण आधार

- This animal — with a **white muzzle, yellow irises, large ears ending in black tufts**, and the sometimes faint striping on its long legs — avoids **dense forests and heavily-modified landscapes, preferring agro-pastoral and open habitats**, according to a new study based on the largest dataset on the species in India.  
यह जीव — जिसकी **सफेद थूथन, पीली आँखें, बड़े कान जिनके सिरे काले गुच्छों में होते हैं**, और लंबे पैरों पर हल्की धारियाँ होती हैं — **घने जंगलों** और अत्यधिक परिवर्तित परिदृश्यों से बचता है और **कृषि-पशुपालन तथा खुले आवासों** को पसंद करता है।
- The team found **human pressure** to be the foremost factor influencing where jungle cats live and that while they can tolerate **moderate levels of human disturbance**, they avoid **densely populated areas**.  
टीम ने पाया कि **मानव दबाव** सबसे प्रमुख कारक है और ये **मध्यम स्तर के मानव हस्तक्षेप** को सह सकते हैं, लेकिन **घनी आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों** से बचते हैं।
- "Our results highlight the importance of **agro-pastoral landscapes** in conserving wildlife beyond **protected areas**, especially as **urbanisation** continues to expand," Dr. Bandyopadhyay said.  
"हमारे परिणाम **संरक्षित क्षेत्रों से बाहर भी कृषि-पशुपालन परिदृश्यों** के महत्व को दर्शाते हैं, विशेष रूप से जब **शहरीकरण** लगातार बढ़ रहा है," उन्होंने कहा।

### 'An important analysis' 'एक महत्वपूर्ण विश्लेषण'

- To estimate how many jungle cats were in **India** and where, the team compiled **camera-trap records** from more than **26,000 locations** across India.  
**भारत** में जंगल कैट की संख्या और वितरण का अनुमान लगाने के लिए टीम ने **26,000 से अधिक स्थानों** से **कैमरा ट्रैप रिकॉर्ड** संकलित किए।
- These records were a '**bycatch**' of tiger surveys and were supplemented with data from previous studies, **radio-collared individuals**, and the authors' personal observations.  
ये रिकॉर्ड बाघ सर्वेक्षणों के दौरान प्राप्त '**अतिरिक्त डेटा**' थे और इन्हें पूर्व अध्ययनों, **रेडियो कॉलर लगे व्यक्तियों**, तथा लेखकों के व्यक्तिगत अवलोकनों से पूरक किया गया।



- The researchers then included one camera-trap record every **25 sq. km**, one radio-collar data point from every **5 sq. km**, plus all secondary data (from outside protected areas).  
इसके बाद शोधकर्ताओं ने प्रत्येक **25 वर्ग किमी** पर एक कैमरा ट्रैप रिकॉर्ड, प्रत्येक **5 वर्ग किमी** पर एक रेडियो कॉलर डेटा बिंदु, तथा सभी द्वितीयक डेटा शामिल किए।
- Then they used **machine-learning** to model suitable habitats using the final dataset of over **6,000 records**.  
इसके बाद उन्होंने **6,000 से अधिक रिकॉर्ड** के अंतिम डेटा सेट का उपयोग करते हुए उपयुक्त आवासों का आकलन किया।
- The team combined these results with **sex-specific home range data** to estimate a countrywide population of over **3 lakh jungle cats**, with at least **1.57 lakh** and at most **4.59 lakh individuals**.  
टीम ने इन परिणामों को **लिंग-विशिष्ट क्षेत्रीय डेटा** के साथ मिलाकर पूरे देश में **3 लाख से अधिक जंगल कैट** की आबादी का अनुमान लगाया, जिसमें कम से कम **1.57 लाख** और अधिकतम **4.59 लाख** जीव शामिल हैं।
- "It's an estimate. It gives you a limit within which the cat is likely to be," **Yadvendradev Jhala**, senior scientist at the **National Centre for Biological Sciences** and the study's co-author and co-supervisor, said.  
"यह एक अनुमान है। यह एक सीमा बताता है जिसके भीतर इनकी संख्या होने की संभावना है," **यदवेन्द्रदेव झाला** ने कहा।
- Across **21 States** with suitable habitats, **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha** were estimated to support the largest populations.  
उपयुक्त आवास वाले **21 राज्यों** में **मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और ओडिशा** में सबसे बड़ी आबादी होने का अनुमान लगाया गया।
- The **jungle cat is tightly associated with open natural ecosystems**, currently under enormous threat of conversion to other forms of land use, such as built-up areas and large-scale linear infrastructure like highways.  
यह अध्ययन एक **"महत्वपूर्ण विश्लेषण"** है और इसने इस तथ्य को **मजबूत किया है** कि जंगल कैट खुले प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिक तंत्र से जुड़ी है, जो वर्तमान में भूमि उपयोग परिवर्तन जैसे निर्माण क्षेत्र और बड़े बुनियादी ढांचे जैसे राजमार्गों के कारण गंभीर खतरे में हैं, ऐसा **शोमिता मुखर्जी** ने कहा।
- Dr. Mukherjee was not a part of the study.  
डॉ. मुखर्जी इस अध्ययन का हिस्सा नहीं थीं।

### Ideal landscapes आदर्श परिदृश्य

- Per the study, **jungle cats prefer warm, semi-arid regions that are seasonally dry, with moderate rainfall and canopy cover**.  
अध्ययन के अनुसार, जंगल कैट **गर्म, अर्ध-शुष्क क्षेत्रों** को पसंद करते हैं जो **मौसमी रूप से शुष्क** होते हैं, जहां **मध्यम वर्षा** और **वनस्पति आवरण** होता है।
- Their predicted **hotspots lie in India's east rather than in the drier west**.  
इनके संभावित प्रमुख क्षेत्र भारत के **पूर्वी भाग** में हैं, न कि **अधिक शुष्क पश्चिमी भाग** में।
- **India needs land policies that recognise the ecological value of open ecosystems**, Dr. Mukherjee added.  
भारत को ऐसी **भूमि नीतियों** की आवश्यकता है जो **खुले पारिस्थितिक तंत्र के पारिस्थितिक महत्व** को पहचानें।
- **Jungle cats use agricultural landscapes, in and around farms, these cats keep rodent populations in check, thus 'protecting' crops**.  
खेतों के आसपास ये **बिल्लियां कृंतक आबादी को नियंत्रित** रखती हैं, जिससे फसलों की **'सुरक्षा'** होती है।
- **However, these landscapes lie outside protected areas and harbour several threats, including fragmented habitats, speeding vehicles on roads, and poaching**, according to the study.  
हालांकि, ये परिदृश्य **संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के बाहर स्थित** हैं और इनमें कई खतरे हैं, जैसे **खंडित आवास, सड़कों पर तेज गति वाले वाहन, और अवैध शिकार**।
- It also pointed to a potential threat from **hybridisation with domestic cats, which could compromise their genetic lineage**.



इसमें घरेलू बिल्लियों के साथ संकरण से संभावित खतरे की ओर भी संकेत किया गया है, जो इनके आनुवंशिक वंश को प्रभावित कर सकता है, हालांकि इस विचार के पर्याप्त प्रमाण नहीं हैं।

- Another key threat is the **stray dog population**, which “acts as a source of **wildlife diseases and kleptoparasitism** — that means snatching kills from jungle cats and other carnivores,”

Dr. Bandyopadhyay said.

एक अन्य प्रमुख खतरा **आवारा कुत्तों की आबादी** है, जो **वन्यजीव रोगों** का स्रोत बनती है और **भोजन छीनने की प्रवृत्ति** के माध्यम से अन्य मांसाहारी जीवों से शिकार छीन लेती है।

- Per the study, **stray dogs could share foraging spaces with other livestock, so where there is livestock, there could be the risk of these canines as well.**

अध्ययन के अनुसार, आवारा कुत्ते अन्य पशुधन के साथ **भोजन खोजने के क्षेत्र** साझा कर सकते हैं, इसलिए जहां पशुधन है वहां इनका खतरा भी हो सकता है।

### A policy for small cats छोटी बिल्लियों के लिए नीति

- According to Dr. Mukherjee, the study’s strengths lie in its **large spatial coverage and sample size**, although she added that jungle cats from **Sikkim** had been left out and that the population figures were based on a **meagre dataset** of a few radio-collared individuals in just a couple of locations”.

डॉ. मुखर्जी के अनुसार, इस अध्ययन की मजबूती इसका **विस्तृत क्षेत्रीय कवरेज** और **नमूना आकार** है, हालांकि उन्होंने कहा कि **सिक्किम** के जंगल कैट इसमें शामिल नहीं थे और जनसंख्या के आंकड़े **सीमित डेटा** पर आधारित थे।

- “Yet this should not be seen as a **limitation** but an effort to get the best out of data currently available,” she added.

उन्होंने कहा कि इसे **सीमा** के रूप में नहीं बल्कि उपलब्ध डेटा का सर्वोत्तम उपयोग करने के प्रयास के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।

- Dr. Bandyopadhyay said the records from **Sikkim** were sporadic and insufficiently viable for the models.

डॉ. बंद्योपाध्याय ने कहा कि **सिक्किम** के रिकॉर्ड अनियमित थे और मॉडल के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं थे।

- Scientists still have a great number of **unknowns**, including jungle cats’ **denning sites, litter sizes, ranging patterns, densities, and diets.**

वैज्ञानिकों के पास अभी भी कई **अज्ञात तथ्य** हैं, जैसे इनके **आवास स्थल, बच्चों की संख्या, क्षेत्रीय व्यवहार, घनत्व और आहार**।

- **Small cats are generally hard to study because they are nocturnal and secretive.**

छोटी बिल्लियों का अध्ययन करना कठिन होता है क्योंकि वे **रात्रिचर और गुप्त स्वभाव** की होती हैं।

- Public awareness is also low, and few organisations have been willing to **fund more study.** जन जागरूकता भी कम है और बहुत कम संगठन **अधिक अध्ययन के लिए वित्त** देने को तैयार हैं।

- Going forward, Dr. Jhala said, there is a need to plan **wildlife passageways** alongside **infrastructure development in agro-pastoral and open habitats.**

आगे बढ़ते हुए, यह आवश्यक है कि **कृषि-पशुपालन और खुले आवासों में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास** के साथ **वन्यजीव मार्गों** की योजना बनाई जाए।

- “When roads pass through a **tiger or elephant corridor**, there is a policy to try and **mitigate** those. But when they pass through agro-pastoral landscapes, we don’t plan for it even though these areas support **rich biodiversity**,” he said.

“जब सड़कें **बाघ या हाथी गलियारे** से गुजरती हैं, तो उन्हें **कम करने के उपाय** किए जाते हैं, लेकिन जब वे कृषि-पशुपालन क्षेत्रों से गुजरती हैं, तो हम योजना नहीं बनाते, जबकि ये क्षेत्र **समृद्ध जैव विविधता** का समर्थन करते हैं।”

### GS Paper III: IS

#### TOPICS COVERED

30 March 2026

30Mar	<b>FATF report points to India’s action against fraudulent entities</b> <b>FATF रिपोर्ट भारत की धोखाधड़ी करने वाली संस्थाओं के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की ओर संकेत करती है</b>
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30Mar	<b>Four killed as NSCN cadres open fire on compatriots</b>
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	<b>NSCN कैडरों द्वारा अपने साथियों पर गोलीबारी, चार की मौत</b>
<b>30Mar</b>	<b>A Bill that secures IPS officers' role in deputation</b> <b>एक विधेयक जो IPS अधिकारियों की प्रतिनियुक्ति में भूमिका को सुरक्षित करता है</b>

## FATF report points to India's action against fraudulent entities

**CS III: Internal Security**

**Devesh K. Pandey**  
NEW DELHI

A recent Financial Action Task Force (FATF) report has highlighted instances where India has taken action against offshore Virtual Asset Service Providers (oVASPs) to counter money laundering and terror financing threats.

The March 2026 report on 'Understanding and Mitigating the Risks of Offshore Virtual Asset Service Providers' has discussed India's regulatory perimeter, enforcement actions, and detection tools.

The report states that the Indian Financial Intelligence Unit has been leveraging Suspicious Activity Reports (STRs) from domestic VASPs. A prominent instance quoted pertains to "scam compounds".

Registered Indian VASPs detected unusual deposit patterns from offshore wallets. The FIU analysis revealed that oVASPs were being used to convert illicit proceeds into Virtual Assets (VAs) and then routed through registered Indian VASPs to domestic accounts as real money.

The NIA, CBI, and the ED are probing offshore scam compounds along the Myanmar-Thailand border, in Cambodia, and Laos, where illegally trafficked Indian citizens were

### **The Indian Financial Intelligence Unit has been leveraging Suspicious Activity Reports from domestic VASPs**

forced to commit cybercrimes.

"In another case the FIU found an oVASP using the cover of an online gambling platform, based in the Caribbean, and leveraging AML (anti-money laundering) blind spots to move value across borders. Access to the platform was blocked in India," it said.

The FIU has made it mandatory for Principal Officers (POs) of VASPs to be based in India. A PO is the main liaison with regulatory bodies. The officer must hold legal responsibility for transaction monitoring, STRs and ensuring Prevention of Money Laundering Act compliance.

The report said analyses indicate that after India introduced virtual assets tax regime in 2022, a significant proportion of trading traffic moved from Indian to offshore unregistered VASPs. A large number of Indian clients moved to such entities which do not comply with Indian laws. They encourage the use of VPNs or shell companies to circumvent domestic regulations.

- The FIU analysis revealed that oVASPs were being used to convert **illicit proceeds** into **Virtual Assets (VAs)** and then routed through registered Indian VASPs to domestic accounts as **real money**.  
FIU के विश्लेषण से पता चला कि oVASPs का उपयोग **अवैध आय** को **वर्चुअल एसेट्स (VAs)** में बदलने और फिर पंजीकृत भारतीय VASPs के माध्यम से घरेलू खातों में **वास्तविक धन** के रूप में भेजने के लिए किया जा रहा था।
- The **NIA, CBI, and ED** are probing offshore scam compounds along the **Myanmar-Thailand border**, in **Cambodia**, and **Laos**, where illegally trafficked Indian citizens were forced to

### **30Mar. FATF report points to India's action against fraudulent entities**

**FATF रिपोर्ट भारत की धोखाधड़ी करने वाली संस्थाओं के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की ओर संकेत करती है**

- A recent **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** report has highlighted instances where India has taken action against **offshore Virtual Asset Service Providers (oVASPs)** to counter **money laundering** and **terror financing threats**.

हाल ही की **फाइनेशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (FATF)** की रिपोर्ट ने उन उदाहरणों को उजागर किया है जहाँ भारत ने **ऑफशोर वर्चुअल एसेट सर्विस प्रोवाइडर्स (oVASPs)** के खिलाफ **मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग** और **आतंकी वित्तपोषण खतरों** का मुकाबला करने के लिए कार्रवाई की है।

- The March 2026 report on '**Understanding and Mitigating the Risks of Offshore Virtual Asset Service Providers**' has discussed India's **regulatory perimeter, enforcement actions, and detection tools**.

मार्च 2026 की '**ऑफशोर वर्चुअल एसेट सर्विस प्रोवाइडर्स के जोखिमों को समझना और कम करना**' रिपोर्ट में भारत के **नियामक दायरे, प्रवर्तन कार्रवाइयों** और **पता लगाने के उपकरणों** पर चर्चा की गई है।

- The report states that the **Indian Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)** has been leveraging **Suspicious Activity Reports (STRs)** from domestic VASPs.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारतीय **फाइनेशियल इंटेलिजेंस यूनिट (FIU)** घरेलू VASPs से प्राप्त **संदिग्ध गतिविधि रिपोर्ट (STRs)** का उपयोग कर रही है।

- A prominent instance quoted pertains to "**scam compounds**".

एक प्रमुख उदाहरण "**स्कैम कंपाउंड्स**" से संबंधित बताया गया है।

- Registered Indian VASPs detected unusual **deposit patterns** from offshore wallets.

पंजीकृत भारतीय VASPs ने ऑफशोर वॉलेट्स से असामान्य **जमा पैटर्न** का पता लगाया।



commit **cybercrimes**.

**NIA, CBI और ED म्यांमार-थाईलैंड सीमा, कंबोडिया और लाओस** में स्थित ऑफशोर स्कैम कंपाउंड्स की जांच कर रहे हैं, जहाँ अवैध रूप से तस्करी किए गए भारतीय नागरिकों को **साइबर अपराध** करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया।

- “In another case the FIU found an oVASP using the cover of an **online gambling platform**, based in the **Caribbean**, and leveraging **AML (anti-money laundering)** blind spots to move value across borders.  
“एक अन्य मामले में FIU ने पाया कि एक oVASP **ऑनलाइन जुआ प्लेटफॉर्म** (जो **कैरेबियन** में आधारित था) के आवरण का उपयोग कर रहा था और सीमाओं के पार धन स्थानांतरित करने के लिए **AML (एंटी-मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग)** की कमजोरियों का फायदा उठा रहा था।
- Access to the platform was blocked in India,” it said.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि इस प्लेटफॉर्म की पहुँच भारत में अवरुद्ध कर दी गई।
- The FIU has made it mandatory for **Principal Officers (POs)** of VASPs to be based in India. FIU ने VASPs के **प्रिंसिपल ऑफिसर्स (POs)** के लिए भारत में स्थित होना अनिवार्य कर दिया है।
- A PO is the main liaison with **regulatory bodies**.  
एक PO **नियामक निकायों** के साथ मुख्य संपर्क अधिकारी होता है।
- The officer must hold **legal responsibility** for **transaction monitoring**, STRs and ensuring **Prevention of Money Laundering Act** compliance.  
अधिकारी के पास **लेन-देन निगरानी**, STRs और **मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग निवारण अधिनियम** के अनुपालन को सुनिश्चित करने की **कानूनी जिम्मेदारी** होनी चाहिए।
- The report said analyses indicate that after India introduced **virtual assets tax regime in 2022**, a significant proportion of trading traffic moved from Indian to offshore unregistered VASPs.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि विश्लेषण से संकेत मिलता है कि 2022 में भारत द्वारा **वर्चुअल एसेट कर व्यवस्था** लागू करने के बाद व्यापारिक गतिविधियों का एक बड़ा हिस्सा भारतीय से ऑफशोर अपंजीकृत VASPs की ओर स्थानांतरित हो गया।
- A large number of Indian clients moved to such entities which do not comply with **Indian laws**.  
बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय ग्राहक ऐसे संस्थानों की ओर चले गए जो **भारतीय कानूनों** का पालन नहीं करते।
- They encourage the use of **VPNs** or **shell companies** to circumvent **domestic regulations**.  
ये संस्थाएं **VPNs** या **शेल कंपनियों** के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देती हैं ताकि **घरेलू नियमों** को दरकिनार किया जा सके।



## Four killed as NSCN cadres open fire on compatriots

GS III: Internal Security  
The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Members of the **National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN)** allegedly killed four compatriots in Manipur's Kamjong district over what is seen as a clash of business interests.

The NSCN was formerly known as the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah)**.

According to a statement issued by the Eastern Flank of the NSCN, members of the outfit's Wung Region ambushed and killed four of its soldiers while they were returning from "monitoring timber and other business activities" along the India-Myanmar border. The incident happened on the night of March 28.

The Wung Region refers to the **Ukhrul district**, adjoining Kamjong. The Eastern Flank comprises a stretch along the Sagaing Region and Chin State of Myanmar.

The statement, signed by "Lt. Gen." A. Raman, named two "Second Lieutenants" of the Wung Region as the leaders of the assailants, who fired indiscriminately after declaring that they had orders to shoot.

इलाका शामिल है।

- The statement, signed by "Lt. Gen. A. Raman," named two "Second Lieutenants" of the **Wung Region** as the leaders of the assailants, who fired indiscriminately after declaring that they had orders to shoot.  
"लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल ए. रमन" द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित बयान में वुंग क्षेत्र के दो "सेकंड लेफ्टिनेंट्स" को हमलावरों का नेता बताया गया, जिन्होंने यह घोषणा करने के बाद अंधाधुंध गोलीबारी की कि उन्हें गोली चलाने के आदेश दिए गए थे।

## 30Mar. Four killed as NSCN cadres open fire on compatriots

### NSCN कैडरों द्वारा अपने साथियों पर गोलीबारी, चार की मौत

- Members of the **National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN)** allegedly killed four compatriots in **Manipur's Kamjong district** over what is seen as a clash of **business interests**.  
नेशनल सोशलिस्ट काउंसिल ऑफ नागालिम (NSCN) के सदस्यों ने कथित तौर पर मणिपुर के कामजोंग जिले में व्यावसायिक हितों के टकराव को लेकर अपने चार साथियों की हत्या कर दी।

- The **NSCN** was formerly known as the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah)**.  
NSCN को पहले नेशनल सोशलिस्ट काउंसिल ऑफ नागालैंड (इसाक-मुइवाह) के नाम से जाना जाता था।

- According to a statement issued by the **Eastern Flank of the NSCN**, members of the outfit's **Wung Region** ambushed and killed four of its soldiers while they were returning from "monitoring timber and other business activities" along the **India-Myanmar border**.  
NSCN के ईस्टर्न फ्लैंक द्वारा जारी बयान के अनुसार, संगठन के वुंग क्षेत्र के सदस्यों ने भारत-म्यांमार सीमा के पास "लकड़ी और अन्य व्यावसायिक गतिविधियों की निगरानी" से लौट रहे अपने चार सैनिकों पर घात लगाकर हमला किया और उनकी हत्या कर दी।

- The incident happened on the night of **March 28**.

यह घटना 28 मार्च की रात को हुई।

- The **Wung Region** refers to the **Ukhrul district**, adjoining **Kamjong**.

वुंग क्षेत्र का संबंध उखरुल जिले से है, जो कामजोंग से सटा हुआ है।

- The **Eastern Flank** comprises a stretch along the **Sagaing Region** and **Chin State of Myanmar**.

ईस्टर्न फ्लैंक में सगाइंग क्षेत्र और म्यांमार के चिन राज्य के साथ लगने वाला



# A Bill that secures IPS officers' role in deputation

GS III: Internal Security

MOB

**I**n March 25, 2026, the central government introduced the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha to regulate the general rules governing the recruitment and conditions of service of 'Group A General Duty Officers' (GAGDO) and other officers in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). This Bill provides that 50% of Inspector General posts, a minimum of 67% of Additional Director General posts (ADG), and all Special Director General (SDG) and Director General posts shall be filled by deputation from the Indian Police Service.

## Applies across CAPFs

By implication, deputation to the rank of the Deputy Inspector General and below, shall continue to be regulated by the prevailing rules. The Bill also saves any financial benefits granted to the GAGDO (Group A officer of the rank of Assistant Commandant and above) issued before. This Act shall apply to the five CAPFs – Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police and Sashastra Seema Bal. While the Bill aims to institutionalise the historical contributions and representation of the IPS in the CAPFs, it is seen by some as an instrument to undo the directions issued by the Supreme Court of India in *Sanjay Prakash and Others vs Union of India and Others* (May 2025).

The Court ruled mainly on two issues; to complete the pending cadre review and undertake the review of service rules in a given time-period; and to progressively reduce the number of posts earmarked for deputation in the CAPFs up to the level of Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) i.e., Inspector General rank, within a period of two years. It is thus clear that the recognition of the CAPFs as Organised Group 'A' Services (OGAS) was subject of the provision of



**R.K. Vij**  
A former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 strengthens service rules and clarifies IPS deputation policy

deputation of IPS officers to various CAPFs.

The Court noted that there are various issues connected with the deployment of CAPFs, including coordination with the State Governments and the State police force. The appointment of IPS officers in each CAPF is vital to maintain the character of each CAPF. This is a policy decision manifest through the service rules of the CAPFs. The question of who shall head these forces was never contentious. It was not even a case that the petitioners' service conditions had worsened since they joined the service.

## A 'unifying link'

Most of the senior operational posts in States are held by ADG or SDG rank officers. Therefore, the appointment of IPS officers to the CAPFs at senior ranks is essential for smooth relations with the State forces. Their selection process and training, along with field experience, give them a broader vision and an edge in leading forces whose main aim is to assist or work in tandem with State forces. Those who use the term 'parachuting IPS officers into CAPFs' seem unaware of Sardar Patel's vision, which envisaged the IPS as a unifying link between the Union and the States. The IPS officers have lived up to his dreams for decades, upholding the constitutional mandate.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in January 2026, modified the empanelment guidelines of IPS officers at the Centre and made a minimum two-year stint at the Centre mandatory for empanelment at the rank of Inspector General. Therefore, the appointment of IPS officers in the Superintendent of Police (SP)/Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) ranks in the CAPFs will further cement their camaraderie with the cadre officers.

As far as reducing the posts of deputation is concerned, the Court seems to have ruled on the

policy matter which exclusively falls within the domain of the legislature and executive. While the Court clearly stated that the matter of taking IPS officers on deputation is a policy matter and the central government in its wisdom had taken a view that the presence of IPS officers in each CAPFs is vital, it erred in directing the central government to reduce the posts of deputation.

## Judiciary's role

The duty of the court is to interpret law. Courts may fill gaps in certain spheres, but they are not to plunge into policy making by adding something. The court is not expected to sit as an appellate authority on an option it feels wiser to. The Court has previously held that 'the wisdom and advisability of the policies are ordinarily not amenable to judicial review unless the policies are contrary to statutory or constitutional provisions or arbitrary or irrational or an abuse of power'.

The Court, in *Gazula Dasaratha Rama Rao vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh & Others* (1960), held that 'the service provisions under ... the Constitution do not enshrine any fundamental right of citizens; they relate to recruitment condition and tenure of service of persons, ... appointed to a Civil Service or to posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or any State'. Rightly so. The Court, in *Indian Ex Servicemen Movement and Ors. Vs. Union of India and Ors.*, held that it did not find any constitutional infirmity in the 'One Rank One Pension' principle.

The service conditions of CAPFs can be enhanced through regular intake and timely cadre reviews. The appointment of IPS officers on deputation to the CAPFs, being a policy matter beyond the scope of adjudication, is rightly being codified, leaving no room for divergent interpretations in the future.

## 30Mar. A Bill that secures IPS officers' role in deputation

एक विधेयक जो IPS अधिकारियों की प्रतिनियुक्ति में भूमिका को सुरक्षित करता है

### Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (सामान्य प्रशासन) विधेयक, 2026

- On **March 25, 2026**, the central government introduced the **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026** in the **Rajya Sabha** to regulate the general rules governing the recruitment and conditions of service of 'Group A General Duty Officers' (GAGDO) and other officers in the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**.  
25 मार्च 2026 को केंद्र सरकार ने राज्यसभा में केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (सामान्य प्रशासन) विधेयक, 2026 प्रस्तुत किया, जिसका उद्देश्य समूह 'ए' सामान्य ड्यूटी अधिकारियों और अन्य अधिकारियों की भर्ती एवं सेवा शर्तों को विनियमित करना है।
- This Bill provides that **50% of Inspector General posts**, a minimum of **67% of Additional Director General posts (ADG)**, and all **Special Director General (SDG) and Director General posts** shall be filled by deputation from the Indian Police Service.  
यह विधेयक प्रावधान करता है कि **50% निरीक्षक जनरल पद**, कम से कम **67% अतिरिक्त महानिदेशक पद**, तथा सभी विशेष महानिदेशक और महानिदेशक पद भारतीय पुलिस सेवा से प्रतिनियुक्ति द्वारा भरे जाएंगे।

### Applies across CAPFs

सभी केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों पर लागू

- By implication, deputation to the rank of the **Deputy Inspector General and below**, shall continue to be regulated by the **prevailing rules**.  
अर्थात् उप निरीक्षक जनरल और उससे नीचे के पदों पर प्रतिनियुक्ति वर्तमान नियमों के अनुसार जारी रहेगी।
- The Bill also saves any financial benefits granted to the **GAGDO** (Group A officer of the rank of Assistant Commandant and above) issued before.



यह विधेयक पहले से दिए गए **वित्तीय लाभों** को भी सुरक्षित रखता है, जो **सहायक कमांडेंट और उससे ऊपर के अधिकारियों** को दिए गए थे।

- This Act shall apply to the • **ve CAPFs — Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police and Sashastra Seema Bal.**  
यह अधिनियम **पांच बलों — केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल, सीमा सुरक्षा बल, केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल, भारत तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस और सशस्त्र सीमा बल** पर लागू होगा।
- While the Bill aims to institutionalise the historical contributions and representation of the **IPS** in the **CAPFs**, it is seen by some as an instrument to undo the directions issued by the **Supreme Court of India in Sanjay Prakash and Others vs Union of India and Others (May 2025).**  
यह विधेयक **भारतीय पुलिस सेवा** की भूमिका को संस्थागत रूप देने का प्रयास करता है, लेकिन कुछ लोग इसे **मई 2025 के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय** को निष्प्रभावी करने का साधन मानते हैं।
- The Court ruled mainly on two issues; to complete the pending **cadre review** and undertake the review of **service rules** in a given time-period; and to progressively reduce the number of posts earmarked for **deputation in the CAPFs up to the level of Senior Administrative Grade (SAG)** i.e., Inspector General rank, within a period of **two years.**  
न्यायालय ने दो मुख्य मुद्दों पर निर्णय दिया — **कैडर समीक्षा** पूरी करना और **सेवा नियमों की समीक्षा** निर्धारित समय में करना; तथा **दो वर्षों में वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक ग्रेड तक प्रतिनियुक्ति पदों की संख्या घटाना।**
- It is thus clear that the recognition of the **CAPFs as Organised Group 'A' Services (OGAS)** was subject the provision of deputation of **IPS o• cers** to various CAPFs.  
इससे स्पष्ट है कि **केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों को संगठित समूह 'ए' सेवा** के रूप में मान्यता **भारतीय पुलिस सेवा अधिकारियों की प्रतिनियुक्ति** पर आधारित थी।
- The Court noted that there are various issues connected with the deployment of **CAPFs**, including coordination with the **State Governments and the State police force.**  
न्यायालय ने कहा कि **केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों की तैनाती** से जुड़े कई मुद्दे हैं, जैसे **राज्य सरकारों और राज्य पुलिस के साथ समन्वय।**
- The appointment of **IPS o• cers in each CAPF** is vital to maintain the character of each CAPF.  
प्रत्येक बल में **भारतीय पुलिस सेवा अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति** उसकी पहचान बनाए रखने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- This is a policy decision manifest through the **service rules of the CAPFs.**  
यह एक नीतिगत निर्णय है जो **सेवा नियमों** में परिलक्षित होता है।
- The question of who shall head these forces was never **contentious.**  
इन बलों का नेतृत्व कौन करेगा, यह कभी **विवादास्पद नहीं रहा।**
- It was not even a case that the petitioners' **service conditions had worsened** since they joined the service.  
यह भी मामला नहीं था कि याचिकाकर्ताओं की **सेवा शर्तें खराब हुई हों।**

### A 'unifying link' एक 'एकीकृत कड़ी'

- Most of the **senior operational posts in States** are held by **ADG or SDG rank o• cers.**  
राज्यों में अधिकांश **वरिष्ठ संचालन पद एडीजी या एसडीजी स्तर के अधिकारियों** द्वारा संभाले जाते हैं।
- Therefore, the appointment of **IPS o• cers to the CAPFs at senior ranks** is essential for smooth relations with the **State forces.**  
इसलिए **उच्च पदों पर भारतीय पुलिस सेवा अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति** राज्य बलों के साथ बेहतर संबंधों के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Their selection process and training, along with • **eld experience**, give them a broader vision and an edge in leading forces whose main aim is to assist or work in tandem with **State forces.**  
उनकी चयन प्रक्रिया, प्रशिक्षण और **मैदानी अनुभव** उन्हें व्यापक दृष्टि प्रदान करता है और राज्य बलों के साथ कार्य करने में बढ़त देता है।
- Those who use the term '**parachuting IPS o• cers into CAPFs**' seem unaware of **Sardar Patel's vision**, which envisaged the IPS as a **unifying link between the Union and the States.**



जो लोग 'आईपीएस अधिकारियों को जबरन भेजना' कहते हैं, वे सरदार पटेल के दृष्टिकोण से अनभिज्ञ हैं, जिसमें आईपीएस को केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच एकीकृत कड़ी माना गया था।

- The IPS officers have lived up to his dreams for decades, upholding the **constitutional mandate**.

भारतीय पुलिस सेवा अधिकारियों ने दशकों से **संवैधानिक दायित्व** को निभाते हुए इस दृष्टि को पूरा किया है।

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs**, in **January 2026**, modified the **empanelment guidelines of IPS officers** at the Centre and made a minimum **two-year stint at the Centre** mandatory for empanelment at the rank of **Inspector General**.

**जनवरी 2026** में गृह मंत्रालय ने आईपीएस अधिकारियों के पैनल नियमों में संशोधन किया और **निरीक्षक जनरल पद** के लिए **दो वर्ष का केंद्रीय कार्यकाल** अनिवार्य किया।

- Therefore, the appointment of IPS officers in the **Superintendent of Police (SP)/Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) ranks in the CAPFs** will further cement their **camaraderie with the cadre officers**.

इसलिए **एसपी और डीआईजी स्तर** पर आईपीएस अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति **कैडर अधिकारियों के साथ सहयोग** को और मजबूत करेगी।

- As far as reducing the posts of **deputation** is concerned, the Court seems to have ruled on the **policy matter** which exclusively falls within the domain of the **legislature and executive**. प्रतिनियुक्ति पदों को घटाने के मामले में न्यायालय ने एक ऐसे **नीतिगत विषय** पर निर्णय दिया जो **विधायिका और कार्यपालिका** के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आता है।

- While the Court clearly stated that the matter of taking IPS officers on deputation is a **policy matter** and the central government in its wisdom had taken a view that the presence of IPS officers in each CAPFs is vital, it erred in directing the central government to reduce the posts of deputation.

न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि आईपीएस अधिकारियों की प्रतिनियुक्ति एक **नीतिगत विषय** है, फिर भी उसने प्रतिनियुक्ति पदों को घटाने का निर्देश देकर त्रुटि की।

## Judiciary's role

### न्यायपालिका की भूमिका

- The duty of the court is to **interpret law**.  
न्यायालय का कर्तव्य **कानून की व्याख्या करना** है।
- Courts may fill gaps in certain spheres, but they are not to plunge into **policy making** by adding something.  
न्यायालय कुछ क्षेत्रों में रिक्त स्थान भर सकते हैं, लेकिन **नीति निर्माण** में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करना चाहिए।
- The court is not expected to sit as an **appellate authority** on an option it feels wiser to.  
न्यायालय को अपने अनुसार बेहतर विकल्प पर **अपील प्राधिकारी** के रूप में कार्य नहीं करना चाहिए।
- The Court has previously held that 'the **wisdom and advisability of the policies** are ordinarily not amenable to judicial review unless the policies are contrary to **statutory or constitutional provisions** or arbitrary or irrational or an abuse of power'.  
न्यायालय ने पहले कहा है कि **नीतियों की उपयुक्तता** सामान्यतः न्यायिक समीक्षा के दायरे में नहीं आती जब तक वे **कानूनी या संवैधानिक प्रावधानों** के विरुद्ध न हों।
- The Court, in **Gazula Dasaratha Rama Rao vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh & Others (1960)**, held that 'the service provisions under the Constitution do not enshrine any **fundamental right** of citizens; they relate to **recruitment condition and tenure of service** of persons'.  
**1960 के निर्णय** में न्यायालय ने कहा कि सेवा संबंधी प्रावधान किसी **मौलिक अधिकार** को सुनिश्चित नहीं करते बल्कि **भर्ती और सेवा अवधि** से संबंधित होते हैं।
- Rightly so.  
यह उचित है।
- The Court, in **Indian Ex Servicemen Movement and Ors. Vs. Union of India and Ors.**, held that it did not endorse any **constitutional infirmity** in the '**One Rank One Pension**' principle.  
एक अन्य मामले में न्यायालय ने '**वन रैंक वन पेंशन**' सिद्धांत में कोई **संवैधानिक त्रुटि** नहीं पाई।
- The **service conditions of CAPFs** can be enhanced through regular intake and timely **cadre reviews**.

**केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों की सेवा शर्तों** को नियमित भर्ती और समय पर **कैडर समीक्षा** से बेहतर बनाया जा सकता है।



- The appointment of **IPS officers on deputation to the CAPFs**, being a policy matter beyond the scope of adjudication, is rightly being **codified**, leaving no room for divergent interpretations in the future.  
**आईपीएस अधिकारियों की प्रतिनियुक्ति**, जो एक नीतिगत विषय है, का **विधायीकरण** उचित है ताकि भविष्य में अलग-अलग व्याख्याओं की गुंजाइश न रहे।

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS(GS Paper IV and Essay)

### TOPICS COVERED

30 March 2026

30Mar	<b>Time management key</b> समय प्रबंधन कुंजी है
30Mar	<b>From memory to archive, women's writing creates new ways to narrate the past</b> स्मृति से अभिलेख तक, महिलाओं का लेखन अतीत को बयान करने के नए तरीके रचता है

### Time management key

GS IV: Ethics & Essay

Human life and time are extremely precious because, unlike material things that can be regained or replaced, time once lost is gone forever. Effective time management is essential for leading a purposeful and meaningful life. Valluvar says postponement, forgetfulness, laziness, and excessive sleep lead to destruction of human life.

Managing time well through **planning, prioritisation, scheduling and avoiding delays and distractions** is the foundation for a productive and purposeful life. By organising responsibilities, we can make the most of our valuable time. Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that, from a spiritual viewpoint, the productive use of time means **fulfilling duties, performing righteous actions (dharma), gaining wisdom, and maintaining an elevated mind**. Wasting time is, therefore, neglecting life's true purpose.

Many people spend most of their time pursuing worldly pleasures such as **material possessions, status, or enjoyment**. However, such experiences do not provide lasting satisfaction or permanent results. Eventually, people realise that what they once believed to be permanent is actually temporary. Realising later in life that time was spent on temporary pursuits can bring regret or a **sense of lost meaning**. Understanding life's true purpose early helps avoid this and encourages wise use of time. According to spiritual philosophy, the **human body is influenced by three qualities: Sattva (purity and wisdom), Rajas (activity and desire), and Tamas (ignorance and inertia)**. To attain lasting happiness and spiritual growth, one must cultivate **Sattva guna** while reducing influence of **Rajas and Tamas**.

**ध्यान भंग से बचाव** के माध्यम से समय का सही प्रबंधन एक उत्पादक और उद्देश्यपूर्ण जीवन की नींव है।

- By organising responsibilities, we can make the most of our valuable time.  
जिम्मेदारियों को व्यवस्थित करके हम अपने मूल्यवान समय का सर्वोत्तम उपयोग कर सकते हैं।
- Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swamy** said in a discourse that, from a **spiritual viewpoint**, the productive use of time means **fulfilling duties, performing righteous actions (dharma), gaining wisdom, and maintaining an elevated mind**.  
**थन्नैरपल्ली श्री कृष्णन स्वामी** ने एक प्रवचन में कहा कि **आध्यात्मिक दृष्टिकोण** से समय का उत्पादक उपयोग कर्तव्यों का पालन, धार्मिक कार्य (**धर्म**) करना, ज्ञान प्राप्त करना और उच्च मानसिक स्थिति बनाए रखना है।
- Wasting time is, therefore, neglecting life's true purpose.  
इसलिए समय बर्बाद करना जीवन के वास्तविक उद्देश्य की उपेक्षा करना है।

### 30Mar. Time management key

#### समय प्रबंधन कुंजी है

- Human life and **time** are extremely precious because, unlike material things that can be regained or replaced, time once lost is gone forever.

मानव जीवन और **समय** अत्यंत मूल्यवान हैं क्योंकि भौतिक वस्तुओं के विपरीत जिन्हें पुनः प्राप्त या बदला जा सकता है, एक बार खोया हुआ समय हमेशा के लिए चला जाता है।

- Effective **time management** is essential for leading a purposeful and meaningful life.  
प्रभावी **समय प्रबंधन** एक उद्देश्यपूर्ण और सार्थक जीवन जीने के लिए आवश्यक है।

- Valluvar says postponement, forgetfulness, laziness, and excessive sleep lead to destruction of human life.

वल्लुवर कहते हैं कि टालमटोल, भूलना, आलस्य और अत्यधिक नींद मानव जीवन के विनाश का कारण बनते हैं।

- Managing time well through **planning, prioritisation, scheduling and avoiding delays and distractions** is the foundation for a productive and purposeful life.

**योजना, प्राथमिकता निर्धारण, समय निर्धारण और देरी तथा**



- Many people spend most of their time pursuing **worldly pleasures** such as material possessions, status, or enjoyment.  
कई लोग अपना अधिकांश समय **भौतिक सुखों** जैसे संपत्ति, प्रतिष्ठा या आनंद के पीछे बिताते हैं।
- However, such experiences do not provide lasting satisfaction or permanent results.  
हालांकि, ऐसे अनुभव स्थायी संतोष या स्थायी परिणाम नहीं देते।
- Eventually, people realise that what they once believed to be permanent is actually temporary.  
अंततः लोग समझते हैं कि जिसे वे स्थायी मानते थे वह वास्तव में अस्थायी है।
- Realising later in life that time was spent on temporary pursuits can bring regret or a sense of lost meaning.  
जीवन के बाद के चरण में यह महसूस करना कि समय अस्थायी चीजों में बिताया गया, पछतावा या अर्थहीनता की भावना ला सकता है।
- Understanding life's true purpose early helps avoid this and encourages wise use of time.  
जीवन के वास्तविक उद्देश्य को जल्दी समझना इससे बचने में मदद करता है और समय के विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
- According to **spiritual philosophy**, the human body is influenced by three qualities: **Sattva (purity and wisdom), Rajas (activity and desire), and Tamas (ignorance and inertia)**.  
**आध्यात्मिक दर्शन** के अनुसार, मानव शरीर तीन गुणों से प्रभावित होता है: **सत्त्व (शुद्धता और ज्ञान), रजस (क्रियाशीलता और इच्छा), और तमस (अज्ञान और जड़ता)**।
- To attain lasting happiness and **spiritual growth**, one must cultivate **Sattva guna** while reducing influence of **Rajas and Tamas**.  
स्थायी सुख और **आध्यात्मिक विकास** प्राप्त करने के लिए, व्यक्ति को **सत्त्व गुण** को बढ़ाना चाहिए और **रजस तथा तमस** के प्रभाव को कम करना चाहिए।

## From memory to archive, women's writing creates new ways to narrate the past

Using literature, memoir, and ethnography, women's stories challenge male-dominated narratives; they reclaim history by turning personal memory into a powerful record of lived experience and structural inequality

Essay

Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta

Over the years, women's writing has engaged in both creative expression and historical excavation. Probing the gaps and omissions in traditional historiography, it has produced new ways to narrate, archive, and comprehend individual and collective life. Weaving strands from history, literature, ethnography, and memoir, it unsettles the boundaries between the subjective and the analytical and challenges conventions long shaped by institutional archives and male-dominated narratives by bringing in lived experience, especially that of women.

In her Nobel Lecture, delivered in 2022, Annie Ernaux articulates this project with powerful clarity: "I will write to *avenge my people*." For Ernaux, writing is an instrument with which to strip off surface layers and reveal deeper truths about gender, class, and time. Reading Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, she came to recognise that the world was made "by men and for men." Searingly personal experiences – a backstreet abortion, her father's death, her mother's Alzheimer's, and the relentless weight of class – are crafted into narratives that go far beyond the individual. "All these factors," she writes, "brought me back...to my 'people', and gave my desire to write a quality of secret and absolute urgency."

Ernaux is sharply aware of the limits of writing as a corrective to injustice. Personal accomplishment cannot erase centuries of oppression and humiliation,

of being "the last in a line of landless labourers, factory workers and shopkeepers, people despised for their manners, their accent, their lack of education." Nevertheless, she can still bear witness. Going beyond memoir, her writing becomes a form of historical witnessing in which memory operates as an archive of loss and longing. Literature is her "continent," and her mission is "nothing less than the possibility of transfiguring reality."

**Documenting individual histories**  
Contemporary ethnographic work similarly documents individual histories in everyday lived experience. *Asiya Islam's A Woman's Job: Making Middle Lives in New India* follows the lives of young lower-middle-class women through education and employment in cafes and call centres in globalising Delhi. At the crossroads of modern aspirations and traditional constraints, these young, educated, urban women move in an unstable middle space circumscribed by expectations about caste, class, gender, and sexuality.

Sheela, a café barista, has studied up to Class 12 but could not go further due to a lack of money. Her mother is a domestic worker in multiple homes; her father is unemployed. Knowing a few standard English phrases – "Good morning, sir/ma'am"; "What can I get for you?"; "Have in or take away?" – she is aware of her lack of options: "I'll continue here because I'm unable to get out of it. If I leave this, I'll have to sit at home." Jahnvi's parents are *presswallahs*, like

her grandparents. She gets paid ₹9,000 per month but tells her family she gets less, saving the rest. Fired from her first job for "not talking nicely" to a male manager, she now works at a specialty tea café.

Ranjini juggles a 10-hour shift in a fast food chain, a distance BCom, and housework; she also wakes up early to prepare for Delhi Police selections.

In these narratives of young women in new India, ethnography makes visible what is overlooked by dominant narratives. These stories, while intensely personal, also point to the structural.

**Studying and writing history**

The question of who writes and interprets such histories remains key. This brings us to another dimension of women's engagement with history: studying and writing it. *Women Writing History: Three Generations*, by Romila Thapar, Kumkum Roy, and Preeti Gulati, brings together the voices of three Indian women historians across three generations.

Romila Thapar's entry into the field of history was accidental. Starting college in Pune, her education was interrupted by her family's move to Delhi – it was believed a young girl could not stay in a college hostel in the 1950s. At the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, she was taught by Arthur Basham. Reading de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* was "a big milestone in terms of how it anchored me." Listening to Eric Hobsbawm made her question who writes history and why. London exposed her to currents of change in the ideas of

Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Stuart Hall, Raymond Williams, and others. She became curious about the role of the individual in history. This question led her to research Ashoka, and her first book was published in 1961. "There were no book launches in those days, thank God."

Kumkum Roy grew up in Calcutta amid political discussions. College brought freedom. Moving to Delhi in the 1970s was different. The university included impressive women faculty – Thapar, R. Champakalakshmi, K. Meenakshi, Shereen Ratnagar, and Suvira Jaiswal. But a Sanskrit guru refused to teach Kumkum Vedic Sanskrit as she was a woman. Harassment was common on Delhi buses: "We learnt to use our shoulder bags as shields and our elbows as weapons...Carefree commuting was out of the question."

She also experienced harassment within the academic space. "I could not help thinking about how slowly things change, if at all they do."

Preeti Gulati, too, recalls harassment on the Metro. Within the family, too, gender norms were slow to change: "My Nani cried at the birth of every single girl child." Her interest in history began with silences around the Partition in her own family.

About her work as a historian, she reflects: "I think I subconsciously refuse to place gender at the forefront of my research because it occupies so much of my present and my everyday that I might risk losing my mind if I give it more space." (Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta is in the IAS)

**30Mar. From memory to archive, women's writing creates new ways to narrate the past**

**स्मृति से अभिलेख तक, महिलाओं का लेखन अतीत को बयान करने के नए तरीके रचता है**

**Over the years, women's writing has engaged in both creative expression and historical excavation**

**वर्षों के दौरान, महिलाओं का लेखन रचनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति और ऐतिहासिक खोज दोनों में संलग्न रहा है**



- Over the years, women's writing has engaged in both **creative expression** and **historical excavation**.  
वर्षों के दौरान, महिलाओं का लेखन **रचनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति** और **ऐतिहासिक खोज** दोनों में संलग्न रहा है।
- Probing the gaps and omissions in traditional historiography, it has produced new ways to narrate, archive, and comprehend individual and collective life.  
पारंपरिक इतिहासलेखन की खामियों और छूटों की जांच करते हुए, इसने व्यक्तिगत और सामूहिक जीवन को वर्णित, संग्रहीत और समझने के नए तरीके विकसित किए हैं।
- Weaving strands from history, literature, ethnography, and memoir, it unsettles the boundaries between the subjective and the analytical and challenges conventions long shaped by institutional archives and male-dominated narratives by bringing in lived experience, especially that of women.  
इतिहास, साहित्य, नृवंशविज्ञान और संस्मरण के तत्वों को जोड़ते हुए, यह व्यक्तिपरक और विश्लेषणात्मक के बीच की सीमाओं को चुनौती देता है और संस्थागत अभिलेखों और पुरुष-प्रधान कथाओं द्वारा स्थापित परंपराओं को महिलाओं के अनुभवों के माध्यम से बदलता है।
- In her Nobel Lecture, delivered in **2022**, **Annie Ernaux** articulates this project with powerful clarity: "I will write to avenge my people."  
अपने **2022** के नोबेल व्याख्यान में, **एनी एर्नो** ने इस विचार को स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त किया: "मैं अपने लोगों का बदला लेने के लिए लिखूंगी।"
- For Ernaux, writing is an instrument with which to strip surface layers and reveal deeper truths about **gender, class, and time**.  
एर्नो के लिए, लेखन एक ऐसा माध्यम है जो सतही परतों को हटाकर **लिंग, वर्ग और समय** के गहरे सत्य को उजागर करता है।
- Reading **Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex**, she came to recognise that the world was made "by men and for men."  
**सिमोन द बोउवार की 'द सेकंड सेक्स'** पढ़कर, उन्होंने समझा कि दुनिया "पुरुषों द्वारा और पुरुषों के लिए" बनाई गई है।
- Searingly personal experiences — a **backstreet abortion**, her father's death, her mother's **Alzheimer's**, and the relentless weight of class — are crafted into narratives that go far beyond the individual.  
गहरे व्यक्तिगत अनुभव — **गुप्त गर्भपात**, पिता की मृत्यु, माँ का **अल्जाइमर**, और वर्ग का बोझ — ऐसे कथानकों में बदल जाते हैं जो व्यक्ति से परे जाते हैं।
- "All these factors," she writes, "brought me back...to my 'people', and gave my desire to write a quality of **secret and absolute urgency**."  
"इन सभी कारकों ने मुझे मेरे 'लोगों' के पास वापस लाया और मेरे लिखने की इच्छा को **गुप्त और अत्यंत जरूरी** बना दिया," वह लिखती हैं।
- Ernaux is sharply aware of the limits of writing as a corrective to injustice.  
एर्नो लेखन की सीमाओं से भली-भांति परिचित हैं कि यह अन्याय को पूरी तरह सुधार नहीं सकता।
- Personal accomplishment cannot erase centuries of oppression and humiliation, of being "the last in a line of **landless labourers, factory workers and shopkeepers**".  
व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धि सदियों के **भूमिहीन मजदूरों, फैक्ट्री श्रमिकों और दुकानदारों** के उत्पीड़न और अपमान को मिटा नहीं सकती।
- Nevertheless, she can still bear witness.  
फिर भी, वह साक्ष्य प्रस्तुत कर सकती हैं।
- Going beyond memoir, her writing becomes a form of **historical witnessing** in which memory operates as an archive of loss and longing.  
संस्मरण से आगे बढ़ते हुए, उनका लेखन **ऐतिहासिक साक्ष्य** का रूप ले लेता है, जिसमें स्मृति हानि और आकांक्षा का अभिलेख बन जाती है।
- Literature is her "**continent**," and her mission is "nothing less than the possibility of **trans•guring reality**."  
साहित्य उनका "**महाद्वीप**" है, और उनका उद्देश्य "वास्तविकता को बदलने की संभावना" से कम नहीं है।

**Documenting individual histories**  
**व्यक्तिगत इतिहास का दस्तावेजीकरण**



- Contemporary ethnographic work similarly documents individual histories in everyday lived experience.  
समकालीन नृवंशविज्ञान भी दैनिक जीवन के अनुभवों में व्यक्तिगत इतिहास को दर्ज करता है।
- Asiya Islam's A Woman's Job: Making Middle Lives in New India** follows the lives of young lower-middle-class women through education and employment in cafes and call centres in globalising **Delhi**.  
**आसिया इस्लाम की 'ए वुमन'स जॉब: मेकिंग मिडल लाइव्स इन न्यू इंडिया'** वैश्वीकरण के दौर के दिल्ली में कैफे और कॉल सेंटर में काम करने वाली निम्न-मध्यम वर्ग की महिलाओं के जीवन का अनुसरण करती है।
- At the crossroads of modern aspirations and traditional constraints, these young, educated, urban women move in an unstable middle space circumscribed by expectations about **caste, class, gender, and sexuality**.  
आधुनिक आकांक्षाओं और पारंपरिक सीमाओं के बीच, ये युवा, शिक्षित महिलाएँ जाति, वर्ग, लिंग और यौनिकता की अपेक्षाओं से घिरी अस्थिर स्थिति में रहती हैं।
- Sheela, a café barista, has studied up to **Class 12** but could not go further due to a lack of money.  
शीला, एक कैफे बारिस्ता, ने कक्षा 12 तक पढ़ाई की है, लेकिन पैसे की कमी के कारण आगे नहीं पढ़ सकी।
- Her mother is a **domestic worker** in multiple homes; her father is unemployed.  
उसकी माँ कई घरों में घरेलू कामगार है; उसके पिता बेरोजगार हैं।
- Knowing a few standard English phrases — “Good morning, sir/ma'am”; “What can I get for you?”; “Have in or take away?” — she is aware of her lack of options.  
कुछ सामान्य अंग्रेज़ी वाक्यांश जानने के बावजूद — “गुड मॉर्निंग”, “क्या लेंगे?”, “यहाँ खाएँगे या ले जाएँगे?” — वह अपने सीमित विकल्पों से परिचित है।
- “I'll continue here because I'm unable to get out of it. If I leave this, I'll have to sit at home.”  
“मैं यहाँ काम जारी रखूँगी क्योंकि मैं इससे बाहर नहीं निकल सकती। अगर मैं इसे छोड़ दूँ, तो मुझे घर बैठना पड़ेगा।”
- Jahnavi's parents are **presswallahs**, like her grandparents.  
जाह्नवी के माता-पिता प्रेसवाले हैं, जैसे उसके दादा-दादी थे।
- She gets paid **₹9,000 per month** but tells her family she gets less, saving the rest.  
उसे ₹9,000 प्रति माह मिलते हैं, लेकिन वह अपने परिवार को कम बताती है और बाकी बचाती है।
- Fired from her first job for “not talking nicely” to a male manager, she now works at a **specialty tea café**.  
पहली नौकरी से “ठीक से बात न करने” के कारण निकाले जाने के बाद, वह अब एक स्पेशलिटी टी कैफे में काम करती है।
- Ranjini juggles a **10-hour shift** in a fast food chain, a **distance BCom**, and housework; she also wakes up early to prepare for **Delhi Police selections**.  
रंजिनी एक 10 घंटे की शिफ्ट, डिस्टेंस BCom, और घर के काम को संभालती है; वह दिल्ली पुलिस चयन की तैयारी के लिए जल्दी उठती है।
- In these narratives of young women in **new India**, ethnography makes visible what is overlooked by dominant narratives.  
न्यू इंडिया की युवा महिलाओं की इन कहानियों में, नृवंशविज्ञान उन चीज़ों को उजागर करता है जिन्हें प्रमुख कथाएँ अनदेखा करती हैं।
- These stories, while intensely personal, also point to the **structural**.  
ये कहानियाँ व्यक्तिगत होने के बावजूद संरचनात्मक पहलुओं की ओर भी संकेत करती हैं।

### Studying and writing history इतिहास का अध्ययन और लेखन

- The question of who writes and interprets such histories remains key.  
ऐसे इतिहास को कौन लिखता और व्याख्या करता है, यह प्रश्न महत्वपूर्ण बना रहता है।
- This brings us to another dimension of women's engagement with history: studying and writing it.  
यह हमें इतिहास के साथ महिलाओं की भागीदारी के एक और आयाम तक ले जाता है: उसका अध्ययन और लेखन।
- Women Writing History: Three Generations**, by Romila Thapar, Kumkum Roy, and Preeti Gulati, brings together the voices of three Indian women historians across three



generations.

रोमिला थापर, कुमकुम रॉय और प्रीति गुलाटी की पुस्तक 'Women Writing History: Three Generations' तीन पीढ़ियों की भारतीय महिला इतिहासकारों की आवाज़ों को एक साथ लाती है।

- Romila Thapar's entry into the field of history was accidental.  
रोमिला थापर का इतिहास के क्षेत्र में प्रवेश आकस्मिक था।
- Starting college in Pune, her education was interrupted by her family's move to Delhi — it was believed a young girl could not stay in a college hostel in the 1950s.  
पुणे में कॉलेज शुरू करने के बाद, उनके परिवार के दिल्ली जाने से उनकी पढ़ाई बाधित हो गई — माना जाता था कि 1950 के दशक में एक लड़की कॉलेज हॉस्टल में नहीं रह सकती।
- At the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, she was taught by Arthur Basham.  
लंदन के School of Oriental and African Studies में उन्हें आर्थर बाशम ने पढ़ाया।
- Reading de Beauvoir's The Second Sex was "a big milestone in terms of how it anchored me."  
दे बोउवार की 'The Second Sex' पढ़ना उनके लिए "एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर" था।
- Listening to Eric Hobsbawm made her question who writes history and why.  
एरिक हॉब्सबॉम को सुनकर उन्होंने सोचा कि इतिहास कौन लिखता है और क्यों।
- London exposed her to currents of change in the ideas of Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Stuart Hall, Raymond Williams, and others.  
लंदन ने उन्हें एमे सेज़ेयर, फ्रान्ज़ फैनन, स्टुअर्ट हॉल, रेमंड विलियम्स जैसे विचारकों के विचारों से परिचित कराया।
- She became curious about the role of the individual in history.  
उन्हें इतिहास में व्यक्ति की भूमिका के प्रति जिज्ञासा हुई।
- This question led her to research Ashoka, and her first book was published in 1961.  
इस प्रश्न ने उन्हें अशोक पर शोध करने के लिए प्रेरित किया, और उनकी पहली पुस्तक 1961 में प्रकाशित हुई।  
"There were no book launches in those days, thank God."  
"उन दिनों कोई पुस्तक विमोचन नहीं होते थे, भगवान का शुक्र है।"
- Kumkum Roy grew up in Calcutta amid political discussions.  
कुमकुम रॉय का पालन-पोषण कलकत्ता में राजनीतिक चर्चाओं के बीच हुआ।
- College brought freedom.  
कॉलेज ने स्वतंत्रता दी।
- Moving to Delhi in the 1970s was different.  
1970 के दशक में दिल्ली जाना अलग अनुभव था।
- The university included impressive women faculty – Thapar, R. Champakalakshmi, K. Meenakshi, Shereen Ratnagar, Suvira Jaiswal.  
विश्वविद्यालय में प्रभावशाली महिला शिक्षकों में थापर, आर. चंपकलक्ष्मी, के. मीनाक्षी, शिरीन रत्नागर, सुवीरा जायसवाल शामिल थीं।
- But a Sanskrit guru refused to teach Kumkum Vedic Sanskrit as she was a woman.  
लेकिन एक संस्कृत गुरु ने कुमकुम को वैदिक संस्कृत पढ़ाने से मना कर दिया क्योंकि वह महिला थीं।
- Harassment was common on Delhi buses.  
दिल्ली की बसों में उत्पीड़न आम था।
- "We learnt to use our shoulder bags as shields and our elbows as weapons... Carefree commuting was out of the question."  
"हमने अपने बैग को ढाल और कोहनी को हथियार की तरह इस्तेमाल करना सीखा... बिना चिंता के यात्रा करना संभव नहीं था।"
- She also experienced harassment within the academic space.  
उन्हें अकादमिक क्षेत्र में भी उत्पीड़न का सामना करना पड़ा।
- "I could not help thinking about how slowly things change, if at all they do."  
"मैं यह सोचने से खुद को रोक नहीं पाई कि चीज़ें कितनी धीरे बदलती हैं, अगर बदलती भी हैं।"
- Preeti Gulati, too, recalls harassment on the Metro.  
प्रीति गुलाटी भी मेट्रो में उत्पीड़न को याद करती हैं।
- Within the family, too, gender norms were slow to change.  
परिवार के भीतर भी लैंगिक मानदंड धीरे-धीरे बदलते थे।
- "My Nani cried at the birth of every single girl child."  
"मेरी नानी हर लड़की के जन्म पर रोती थीं।"



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- Her interest in history began with silences around the **Partition** in her own family.  
इतिहास में उनकी रुचि उनके परिवार में **विभाजन** से जुड़ी चुप्पियों से शुरू हुई।
- About her work as a historian, she reflects: "I think I subconsciously refuse to place **gender** at the forefront of my research because it occupies so much of my present and my everyday that I might risk losing my mind if I give it more space."  
अपने इतिहासकार के रूप में काम के बारे में वह कहती हैं: "मैं अवचेतन रूप से **लिंग** को अपने शोध के केंद्र में रखने से बचती हूँ क्योंकि यह मेरे वर्तमान और दैनिक जीवन में इतना अधिक है कि अगर मैं इसे और जगह दूँ तो मैं अपना मानसिक संतुलन खो सकती हूँ।"

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