



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



PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

31 MARCH 2026

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

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

GS Paper 1: History,	
TOPICS COVERED	31 March 2026
31Mar	Advaita philosophy (अद्वैत दर्शन)

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



GS I: History: A&C

Advaita philosophy

Advaita Vedanta, a profound philosophical system established by Sri Adi Sankaracharya, teaches the principle of non-duality. Its central doctrine asserts that there exists only one ultimate reality, known as Brahman. This reality is infinite, formless and beyond all attributes. According to this philosophy, the individual self (Atman) is not different from Brahman; both are essentially one and the same.

A key concept in Advaita is Maya – the illusion that makes the world appear diverse and separate. This illusion, rooted in ignorance (Avidya), prevents individuals from realising the underlying unity of existence. Sri Kanchi Mahaswamy has lucidly explained the concept of Advaita philosophy, making it understandable even to a layman through various examples.

In a discourse, Smt. Desa Mangaiyarkarasi illustrated that when a person is asleep and dreaming, he may experience various situations – pleasant or unpleasant, joyful or distressing. These experiences feel real within the dream. However, upon waking, the individual recognises that the dream was merely an illusion, and their perception changes entirely. This analogy is used to explain the nature of reality. Just as the dream appears real until one awakens, the world appears divided and separate due to ignorance. In truth, there is only one unified existence. Similarly, there may be various ornaments in different shapes, sizes, and forms, but the common thing in all of them is the gold.

The concept of realising this oneness is not immediate. It requires time, deep understanding, and consistent practice.

अंतर नहीं है; दोनों मूल रूप से एक ही हैं।

- A key concept in **Advaita (अद्वैत)** is **Maya (माया)** — the illusion that makes the world appear diverse and separate.
अद्वैत में एक महत्वपूर्ण अवधारणा **माया** है — वह भ्रम जो संसार को विविध और अलग-अलग दिखाता है।
- This illusion, rooted in **ignorance (अविद्या)**, prevents individuals from realising the underlying unity of existence.
यह भ्रम, जो **अविद्या** में निहित है, व्यक्तियों को अस्तित्व की मूल एकता को समझने से रोकता है।
- In a discourse, **Smt. Desa Mangaiyarkarasi (श्रीमती देसा मंगैयर्करासी)** illustrated that when a person is asleep and dreaming, he may experience various situations — pleasant or unpleasant, joyful or distressing.
एक प्रवचन में, **श्रीमती देसा मंगैयर्करासी** ने बताया कि जब कोई व्यक्ति सो रहा होता है और सपना देखता है, तो वह विभिन्न परिस्थितियों का अनुभव कर सकता है — सुखद या दुःखद, आनंदमय या पीड़ादायक।
- These experiences feel real within the dream.
ये अनुभव सपने के भीतर वास्तविक प्रतीत होते हैं।
- However, upon waking, the individual recognises that the dream was merely an illusion, and their perception changes entirely.
लेकिन जागने पर व्यक्ति समझता है कि सपना केवल एक भ्रम था, और उसकी धारणा पूरी तरह बदल जाती है।
- This analogy is used to explain the nature of reality.
इस उपमा का उपयोग वास्तविकता के स्वरूप को समझने के लिए किया जाता है।
- Just as the dream appears real until one awakens, the world appears divided and separate due to **ignorance (अविद्या)**.
जैसे सपना जागने तक वास्तविक लगता है, उसी प्रकार **अविद्या** के कारण संसार विभाजित और अलग दिखाई देता है।
- In truth, there is only one unified existence.
वास्तव में, केवल एक ही एकीकृत अस्तित्व है।
- Similarly, there may be various ornaments in different shapes, sizes, and forms, but the common thing in all of them is the **gold (सोना)**.
इसी प्रकार, विभिन्न आकार, प्रकार और रूप के आभूषण हो सकते हैं, लेकिन उन सभी में समान तत्व **सोना** ही होता है।

31Mar. Advaita philosophy (अद्वैत दर्शन)

- **Advaita Vedanta (अद्वैत वेदान्त)**, a profound philosophical system established by **Sri Adi Sankaracharya (श्री आदि शंकराचार्य)**, teaches the principle of **non-duality (अद्वैत)**.

अद्वैत वेदान्त, जो श्री आदि शंकराचार्य द्वारा स्थापित एक गहन दार्शनिक प्रणाली है, अद्वैत (non-duality) के सिद्धांत को सिखाता है।

- Its central doctrine asserts that there exists only one ultimate reality, known as **Brahman (ब्रह्म)**.

इसका केंद्रीय सिद्धांत यह बताता है कि केवल एक ही परम सत्य है, जिसे **ब्रह्म** कहा जाता है।

- This reality is **infinite (अनंत)**, **formless (निर्गुण/निराकार)** and beyond all attributes.

यह सत्य अनंत, निर्गुण/निराकार है और सभी गुणों से परे है।

- According to this philosophy, the individual self (**Atman (आत्मा)**) is not different from **Brahman (ब्रह्म)**; both are essentially one and the same.

इस दर्शन के अनुसार, व्यक्तिगत आत्मा (आत्मा) और ब्रह्म में कोई

GS Paper 1: Society



TOPICS COVERED		31 March 2026
31Mar	<p>Earliest Census data set to be available in 2027; India has fewer villages than during Census 2011 सबसे पहले जनगणना डेटा 2027 में उपलब्ध होगा; भारत में 2011 की जनगणना की तुलना में कम गांव हैं</p>	

Earliest Census data set to be available in 2027; India has fewer villages than during Census 2011

GS I: Society

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As Census 2027 is being conducted digitally, most of the data gathered during the process will be published in 2027, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India, said on Monday.

He said the caste enumeration methodology for the second phase was yet to be finalised, and officials were studying multiple suggestions received on the subject.

Data shared by Census officials show that compared with Census 2011, there has been a decrease in the number of villages by over 1,000 and an increase in urban settlements – statutory towns and Census towns.

From Census 2011, the number of States and Union Territories increased



Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, and Biswajit Das (Left) addressing the media on Census 2027 in New Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

by one to 36; districts from 640 to 784, an increase of 144; sub-districts by 1,102 – from 5,990 to 7,092; statutory towns by 1,087 – from 4,041 to 5,128; and census towns by 688 – from 3,892 to 4,580. The number of villages declined by 1,030, from 6,40,932 in 2011 to 6,39,902, according to the administrative unit data presented by the

Commissioner.

Mr. Narayan said West Bengal was the only State that had not notified the Census process, and while deliberations were on with the State government, it had time till September 30 to carry out the exercise.

This would be the first digital Census, first to enumerate caste and first to allow a self-enumeration option to respondents. The

data keyed in during self-enumeration would be verified by enumerators during door-to-door visit and the option was only available for residents living in India, he said, allaying concerns of data manipulation.

“As per the Census Act 1948, the Census data are confidential and the respondents are to answer to the best of their knowledge. Only aggregate data is released, an individual’s data cannot be shared with States or even the judiciary and do not also come under the purview of the Right to Information Act (RTI). Census data cannot be used to provide reservation benefits to any individual,” Mr. Narayan said, while addressing a press conference before the first phase of Census kicks off on April 1 in certain States. He said Census data were beyond the “scope of

investigation.”

16 languages

Mr. Narayan said the self-enumeration portal, available in 16 languages, would be live from April 1 to 15 for residents of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Karnataka, Sikkim, Odisha, Lakshadweep, Mizoram and the NDMC and Delhi Cantonment areas. Self-enumeration option would be available 15 days before the first phase of Census – the House Listing Operations (HLO) begins. The window for the first phase is April 1-September 30 for all States. The second phase – population enumeration where each individual’s information in the household, such as religion, caste etc. would be asked, would be conducted in February 2027.

“People can use mobile phones and laptop to fill in the data,” he said.

31Mar. Earliest Census data set to be available in 2027; India has fewer villages than during Census 2011

सबसे पहले जनगणना डेटा 2027 में उपलब्ध होगा; भारत में 2011 की जनगणना की तुलना में कम गांव हैं

- As Census 2027 is being conducted digitally, most of the data gathered during the process will be published in 2027, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, said on Monday.

क्योंकि जनगणना 2027 डिजिटल रूप से की जा रही है, इसलिए प्रक्रिया के दौरान एकत्रित अधिकांश डेटा 2027 में प्रकाशित किया जाएगा, सोमवार को भारत के रजिस्ट्रार जनरल और जनगणना आयुक्त मृत्युंजय कुमार नारायण ने कहा।

- He said the caste enumeration methodology for the second phase was yet to be finalised, and officials were studying multiple suggestions received on the subject.

उन्होंने कहा कि दूसरे चरण के लिए जाति गणना पद्धति अभी अंतिम रूप नहीं दी गई है, और अधिकारी इस विषय पर प्राप्त कई सुझावों का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं।

- Data shared by Census officials show that compared with Census 2011, there has been a decrease in the number of villages by over 1,000 and an increase in urban settlements — statutory towns and Census towns.

जनगणना अधिकारियों द्वारा साझा किए गए आंकड़े बताते हैं कि जनगणना 2011 की तुलना में गांवों की



संख्या में **1,000 से अधिक** की कमी आई है और **शहरी बस्तियों** — वैधानिक नगर और जनगणना नगर — में वृद्धि हुई है।

- From Census 2011, the number of **States and Union Territories** increased by one to **36**; **districts from 640 to 784**, an increase of **144**; **sub-districts by 1,102** — from **5,990 to 7,092**; **statutory towns by 1,087** — from **4,041 to 5,128**; and **census towns by 688** — from **3,892 to 4,580**.

जनगणना 2011 के बाद **राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** की संख्या बढ़कर **36** हो गई; जिले **640 से 784** हो गए, यानी **144** की वृद्धि; उप-जिले **1,102** बढ़कर **5,990 से 7,092** हो गए; वैधानिक नगर **1,087** बढ़कर **4,041 से 5,128** हो गए; और जनगणना नगर **688** बढ़कर **3,892 से 4,580** हो गए।

- The number of villages declined by **1,030**, from **6,40,932 in 2011 to 6,39,902**, according to the administrative unit data presented by the Commissioner.

आयुक्त द्वारा प्रस्तुत प्रशासनिक इकाई के आंकड़ों के अनुसार गांवों की संख्या **1,030** घटकर **2011 में 6,40,932 से 6,39,902** हो गई।

- Mr. Narayan said **West Bengal** was the only State that had not notified the Census process, and while deliberations were on with the State government, it had time till **September 30** to carry out the exercise.

श्री नारायण ने कहा कि **पश्चिम बंगाल** एकमात्र राज्य था जिसने जनगणना प्रक्रिया को अधिसूचित नहीं किया है, और राज्य सरकार के साथ विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है, तथा उसे **30 सितंबर** तक यह प्रक्रिया पूरी करने का समय है।

- This would be the first **digital Census**, first to enumerate **caste** and first to allow a **self-enumeration option** to respondents.

यह पहली **डिजिटल जनगणना** होगी, पहली जिसमें **जाति** की गणना होगी और पहली जिसमें उत्तरदाताओं को **स्वयं-गणना विकल्प** मिलेगा।

- The **data keyed in during self-enumeration** would be verified by enumerators during door-to-door visit and the option was only available for residents living in India, he said, allaying concerns of **data manipulation**.

स्वयं-गणना के दौरान भरे गए डेटा को घर-घर जाकर गणनाकर्ताओं द्वारा सत्यापित किया जाएगा और यह विकल्प केवल भारत में रहने वाले निवासियों के लिए उपलब्ध होगा, उन्होंने कहा, जिससे **डेटा में हेरफेर** की चिंताओं को दूर किया गया।

- “As per the **Census Act 1948**, the Census data are **confidential** and the respondents are to answer to the best of their knowledge.

“**जनगणना अधिनियम 1948** के अनुसार, जनगणना डेटा **गोपनीय** होते हैं और उत्तरदाताओं को अपनी सर्वोत्तम जानकारी के अनुसार उत्तर देना होता है।

- Only **aggregate data** is released, an individual's data cannot be shared with States or even the judiciary and do not also come under the purview of the **Right to Information Act (RTI)**.

केवल **सामूहिक डेटा** जारी किया जाता है, किसी व्यक्ति का डेटा राज्यों या न्यायपालिका के साथ साझा नहीं किया जा सकता और यह **सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम (RTI)** के दायरे में भी नहीं आता।

- Census data cannot be used to provide **reservation benefits** to any individual,” Mr. Narayan said, while addressing a press conference before the first phase of Census kicks off on **April 1** in certain States.

जनगणना डेटा का उपयोग किसी व्यक्ति को **आरक्षण लाभ** देने के लिए नहीं किया जा सकता,” श्री नारायण ने कहा, जब वे कुछ राज्यों में **1 अप्रैल** से शुरू होने वाले पहले चरण से पहले प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस को संबोधित कर रहे थे।

- He said Census data were beyond the “scope of **investigation**.”
उन्होंने कहा कि जनगणना डेटा **जांच** के दायरे से बाहर हैं।

16 languages

16 भाषाएं

- Mr. Narayan said the **self-enumeration portal**, available in **16 languages**, would be live from **April 1 to 15** for residents of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Karnataka, Sikkim, Odisha, Lakshadweep, Mizoram and the NDMC and Delhi Cantonment areas**.

श्री नारायण ने कहा कि **स्वयं-गणना पोर्टल**, जो **16 भाषाओं** में उपलब्ध है, **1 अप्रैल से 15 अप्रैल** तक **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह, गोवा, कर्नाटक, सिक्किम, ओडिशा, लक्षद्वीप, मिजोरम और NDMC तथा दिल्ली कैंटोनमेंट क्षेत्रों** के निवासियों के लिए सक्रिय रहेगा।



- Self-enumeration option would be available 15 days before the first phase of Census — the **House Listing Operations (HLO)** begins.
स्वयं-गणना विकल्प जनगणना के पहले चरण — हाउस लिस्टिंग ऑपरेशंस (HLO) — शुरू होने से 15 दिन पहले उपलब्ध होगा।
- The window for the first phase is **April 1-September 30** for all States.
पहले चरण की अवधि सभी राज्यों के लिए **1 अप्रैल से 30 सितंबर** तक है।
- The second phase — **population enumeration** where each individual's information in the household, such as religion, caste etc. would be asked, would be conducted in **February 2027**.
दूसरा चरण — **जनसंख्या गणना**, जिसमें परिवार के प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की जानकारी जैसे धर्म, जाति आदि पूछी जाएगी — **फरवरी 2027** में आयोजित किया जाएगा।
- “People can use **mobile phones and laptops** to fill in the data,” he said.
“लोग डेटा भरने के लिए **मोबाइल फोन और लैपटॉप** का उपयोग कर सकते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

GS Paper II: Polity,

TOPICS COVERED

31 March 2026

31Mar	50% LS seat hike plan skewed against South: Telangana CM 50% लोकसभा सीट वृद्धि योजना दक्षिण के खिलाफ झूकी हुई: तेलंगाना CM
31Mar	Opposition walks out as BJP MP alleges OBC quota 'misuse' विपक्ष का वॉकआउट, भाजपा सांसद ने OBC आरक्षण के 'दुरुपयोग' का आरोप लगाया
31Mar	The continued pursuit of the perfect election संपूर्ण चुनाव की निरंतर खोज
31Mar	Ensuring federalism within delimitation परिसीमन के भीतर संघवाद सुनिश्चित करना
31Mar	On the implications of euthanasia इच्छामृत्यु के प्रभावों पर

50% LS seat hike plan skewed against South: Telangana CM

If the Centre's proposal is applied uniformly, the **five southern States collectively will gain 66 seats**, while the northern States will see an increase of roughly 142 seats, says Revanth Reddy

GS II: Polity

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has criticised the Union government's proposal to **increase the number of Lok Sabha seats by a blanket 50% across all States**, asserting that the move will disproportionately benefit northern States while leaving southern States politically marginalised.

'Existing disparities'

In the delimitation proposals of the Centre, the total strength of the Lok Sabha is anticipated to rise from the current 543 seats to 816, an addition of 273 seats, he said in an informal chat with presspersons. Mr. Reddy has op-



Unfair divide: The Chief Minister has opposed the Centre's plan for delimitation saying it widens existing disparities between States. ANI

posed the idea as it would widen existing disparities between States, particularly disadvantaging the southern States. “The current difference in representation between States must be maintained,” he said.

Mr. Reddy said that **Ut-**

tar Pradesh currently has 80 MPs and it would go up to 120 with a 50% increase.

Telangana, now with 17 seats, would go up to just 26. Under the existing framework, the difference between the two States is 63 seats; under the 50% model, it would expand to

94 seats, giving undue advantage and influence to U.P. Tamil Nadu (39 seats), Karnataka (28), Andhra Pradesh (25) and Kerala (20) would see increases proportionate to their existing allocations but remain significantly behind larger northern States, he pointed out.

If the 50% model is applied uniformly, the five southern States collectively would gain around 66 seats, increasing their total from 129 to 195. The relative imbalance is the core problem as the Hindi-belt and northern States would see a rise of roughly 142 seats, Mr. Reddy said.

“There is no objection to increasing the number of Assembly seats in States but Parliament is a different ball game,” he added.



31Mar. 50% LS seat hike plan skewed against South: Telangana CM 50% लोकसभा सीट वृद्धि योजना दक्षिण के खिलाफ झुकी हुई: तेलंगाना CM

- If the Centre's proposal is applied uniformly, the five southern States collectively will gain **66 seats**, while the northern States will see an increase of roughly **142 seats**, says **Revanth Reddy**.
यदि केंद्र का प्रस्ताव समान रूप से लागू किया जाता है, तो पांच दक्षिणी राज्य सामूहिक रूप से **66 सीटें** प्राप्त करेंगे, जबकि उत्तरी राज्यों में लगभग **142 सीटों** की वृद्धि होगी, ऐसा **रेवंत रेड्डी** ने कहा।
- **Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy** has criticised the Union government's proposal to increase the number of **Lok Sabha seats** by a blanket **50%** across all States, asserting that the move will disproportionately benefit northern States while leaving southern States politically marginalised.
तेलंगाना के मुख्यमंत्री ए. रेवंत रेड्डी ने सभी राज्यों में **लोकसभा सीटों** की संख्या में समान रूप से **50%** वृद्धि के केंद्र सरकार के प्रस्ताव की आलोचना की है, यह कहते हुए कि यह कदम उत्तरी राज्यों को असमान रूप से लाभ देगा जबकि दक्षिणी राज्यों को राजनीतिक रूप से हाशिये पर छोड़ देगा।

'Existing disparities' 'मौजूदा असमानताएं'

- In the delimitation proposals of the Centre, the **total strength of the Lok Sabha is anticipated to rise from the current 543 seats to 816, an addition of 273 seats**, he said in an informal chat with presspersons.
केंद्र के परिशीमन प्रस्तावों में, **लोकसभा** की कुल संख्या वर्तमान **543 सीटों** से बढ़कर **816** होने की संभावना है, जो **273 सीटों** की वृद्धि है, उन्होंने पत्रकारों से अनौपचारिक बातचीत में कहा।
- Mr. Reddy said that **Uttar Pradesh** currently has **80 MPs** and it would go up to **120** with a **50% increase**.
श्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि **उत्तर प्रदेश** में वर्तमान में **80 सांसद** हैं और **50% वृद्धि** के साथ यह बढ़कर **120** हो जाएगा।
- **Telangana**, now with **17 seats**, would go up to just **26**.
तेलंगाना, जिसमें अभी **17 सीटें** हैं, बढ़कर केवल **26** हो जाएगा।
- Under the existing framework, the difference between the two States is **63 seats**; under the **50% model**, it would expand to **94 seats**, giving undue advantage and influence to **U.P.**
मौजूदा ढांचे के तहत, दोनों राज्यों के बीच अंतर **63 सीटों** का है; **50% मॉडल** के तहत यह बढ़कर **94 सीटों** तक हो जाएगा, जिससे **उत्तर प्रदेश** को अनुचित लाभ और प्रभाव मिलेगा।
- **Tamil Nadu (39 seats)**, **Karnataka (28)**, **Andhra Pradesh (25)** and **Kerala (20)** would see increases proportionate to their existing allocations but remain significantly behind larger northern States, he pointed out.
तमिलनाडु (39 सीटें), **कर्नाटक (28)**, **आंध्र प्रदेश (25)** और **केरल (20)** में उनकी मौजूदा आवंटन के अनुसार वृद्धि होगी, लेकिन वे बड़े उत्तरी राज्यों से काफी पीछे रहेंगे, उन्होंने बताया।
- If the **50% model** is applied uniformly, the five southern States collectively would gain around **66 seats**, increasing their total from **129 to 195**.
यदि **50% मॉडल** समान रूप से लागू किया जाता है, तो पांच दक्षिणी राज्य मिलकर लगभग **66 सीटें** प्राप्त करेंगे, जिससे उनकी कुल संख्या **129 से बढ़कर 195** हो जाएगी।
- The relative imbalance is the core problem as the **Hindi-belt** and northern States would see a rise of roughly **142 seats**, Mr. Reddy said.
सापेक्ष असंतुलन मुख्य समस्या है क्योंकि **हिंदी पट्टी** और उत्तरी राज्यों में लगभग **142 सीटों** की वृद्धि होगी, श्री रेड्डी ने कहा।
- "There is no objection to increasing the number of **Assembly seats** in States but Parliament is a different ball game," he added.
उन्होंने कहा, "राज्यों में **विधानसभा सीटों** की संख्या बढ़ाने पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, लेकिन संसद एक अलग मामला है।"



Opposition walks out as BJP MP alleges OBC quota 'misuse'

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP K. Laxman's allegations that several States "misuse" the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota by including Muslims in the category created an uproar in the Rajya Sabha, leading to a walkout by Opposition members.

Mr. Laxman alleged that States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Telangana— all of them Opposition ruled— had extended OBC reservations to Muslim communities in violation of constitutional provisions.

He argued that the Constitution does not permit reservation on religious grounds.

"Unfortunately, reservations meant for socially and educationally backward OBCs are now being extended on the basis of religion," he said.

Mr. Laxman claimed that such decisions were driven by "vote-bank politics", depriving genuinely backward communities of their rightful share.

Calling for a "comprehensive review" of what he



K. Laxman

termed "religion-based reservations," Mr. Laxman urged the Centre to ensure that the principle of social and educational backwardness, not religious identity, remains the basis for affirmative action.

His speech was drowned in protests from the Opposition benches.

When neither Mr. Laxman refused to concede the ground and Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan also refused to allow the Opposition leaders to interject, so they staged a walkout.

The Leader of the House and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda strongly backed Mr. Laxman's intervention, accusing the Opposition members of disrupting proceedings and abandoning all parliamentary norms.

31Mar. Opposition walks out as BJP MP alleges OBC quota 'misuse'

विपक्ष का वॉकआउट, भाजपा सांसद ने OBC आरक्षण के 'दुरुपयोग' का आरोप लगाया

• Mr. Laxman alleged that States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Telangana— all of them Opposition ruled— had extended OBC reservations to Muslim communities in violation of constitutional provisions.

श्री लक्ष्मण ने आरोप लगाया कि कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, पश्चिम बंगाल, केरल और तेलंगाना जैसे राज्य— जो सभी विपक्ष शासित हैं— ने संवैधानिक प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करते हुए मुस्लिम समुदायों को OBC आरक्षण दिया है।

• He argued that the Constitution does not permit reservation on religious grounds.

उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि संविधान धार्मिक आधार पर आरक्षण की अनुमति नहीं देता।

• "Unfortunately, reservations meant for socially and educationally backward OBCs are now being extended on the basis of religion," he said.

"दुर्भाग्यवश, सामाजिक और शैक्षणिक रूप से पिछड़े OBC के लिए निर्धारित आरक्षण अब धर्म के आधार पर दिया जा रहा है," उन्होंने कहा।

• His speech was drowned in protests from the Opposition benches.

उनका भाषण विपक्षी बेंचों के विरोध के बीच दब गया।

• The Leader of the House and Union Health Minister J .P. Nadda strongly backed Mr. Laxman's intervention, accusing the Opposition members of disrupting proceedings and abandoning all parliamentary norms.

सदन के नेता और केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने श्री लक्ष्मण के हस्तक्षेप का जोरदार समर्थन किया और विपक्षी सदस्यों पर कार्यवाही बाधित करने तथा सभी संसदीय मर्यादाओं को छोड़ने का आरोप लगाया।



The continued pursuit of the perfect election

GS III Polity

MOE

Elections come and go in India with predictable regularity; largely and more predictable because a new legislature must be constituted before the house reaches the end of its term. Combined with the practice of bunching elections together for logistical efficiency, the timing of polls becomes no big mystery.

Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, announced earlier this month, stand apart as they follow the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which has not only pared down electoral rolls but also added to the political tensions between the Opposition parties in power in these States and the party ruling at the Centre. But that is not all.

Work extraordinary, the scale and phases

Setting up elections across 2.19 lakh polling stations in four States and one Union Territory, including those in the farthest corners, is no easy task even for a country with 75 years of electoral democracy. For example, polling officials trek three hours in the challenging terrain of the Varusanad hills in Tamil Nadu's Theni district to serve five electors at the Vellimalai polling station. In Kerala's Idukki, officials have to travel through 30 kilometres of rugged off-road terrain, followed by an eight kilometre walk to reach the Edamalakuddy booth. Polling teams in Assam make it to the remote Dhanekhana polling station after a journey over nearly 60 km by ferry, road and crossing the Brahmaputra river.

Over 25 lakh election officials will serve a 17.4 crore electorate in these elections, making it one official for every 70 electors. The number includes 8.5 lakh security personnel and 49,000 micro observers. In the midst of doubts being raised over the neutrality of officials, Section 28A of the Representation of the People Act binds their allegiance solely to the Election Commission of India (ECI). Over 1,100 central observers have already moved to the Assembly constituencies to make sure that nothing goes wrong.

The ECI has also made – and is still making – sizeable changes among senior administrative and police officials with the objective of ensuring fair polls, even as State governments such as West Bengal have been severely critical of these moves. Ideally, someday, heightened civic responsibility should make the deployment of forces around polling stations and poll time shifting of officials redundant.

Efforts in recent years to complete polling in the fewest possible phases suggest maturing election management and better governance. Multiple phases are often been attributed to the availability and movement of security forces, required to safeguard the integrity of polls. Polling days in politically volatile West Bengal



Akshay Rout

A former Director General, Election Commission of India

have been reduced to two phases – a significant reduction from the eight phases in 2021. This would be a confidence booster for election managers once concluded smoothly.

The four 'M' challenge

The ECI has said that these elections will be violence and inducement free. During the 2024 general election, the ECI had declared a war on the 4Ms – 'Money', 'Muscle', 'Misinformation' and 'Model Code of Conduct (MCC)' violations.

With strong security and practically indestructible electronic voting machines, elections in India have been largely free from open threats of muscle power; but polarised campaigns and the desperation of some political parties continue to pose challenges to the conduct of peaceful elections. West Bengal has a chequered history of election-related violence, especially acts of post-poll vengeance. The State has been on the radar of the ECI for several weeks now – the vulnerability should be lower, but fingers crossed. The ECI has ordered round-the-clock live webcasting of all polling stations.

Electoral inducements, in cash or kind, have long persisted in electoral politics irrespective of concerns being expressed in important fora from time to time, court observations and sporadic public debates. Electoral inducements now drive fierce political competition. Political parties and candidates have experienced the profitable effect of this malignant strategy. Cash transfers from governments to targeted groups just before the announcement of polls is routine – in these elections as well – with the ECI again clarifying that its ruling commences only after the MCC comes into force. Campaign freebies abound, and party manifestos often flout fiscal logic in a free-for-all manner. Moves by the Supreme Court of India and the ECI to rein in the 'promise bazaar' have made little headway.

Enforcement agencies monitor polling areas closely, aiming to catch bribes in action and tracking the inflow of cash, liquor, drugs, and other goodies including digital transactions. In the 2024 general election, the authorities seized over ₹10,000 crore worth of inducement material countrywide, almost three times the amount seized in 2019. Tamil Nadu, more than the other States, will be tested once again. In 2021, inducement material worth over ₹1,000 crore was seized in five States, almost half of it from Tamil Nadu. Specially constituted field units – 5,200 static surveillance teams and an equal number of flying squads – will be expected to deliver a stellar performance. Over ₹400 crore worth of illicit inducements have been seized in the first month.

Election managers have long faced offensive, misleading and inflammatory advertisements

close to polling day, leaving little room for rebuttal. The ECI has now banned political advertisements in the print media on poll day and one day prior to poll day unless pre-certified. A voluntary code of ethics for social media platforms – to prevent spurious use – has been only moderately effective, so poll officials aim to hold candidates' accounts more accountable for content and expenditure, tighten offline media regulation, and swiftly counter fake news and deepfakes on digital media.

The contests in 2021 in these States/Union Territory saw several violations of the model code, with appeals to caste, religion, sect, and ethnicity. In this election, Kerala's multiethnic fabric and West Bengal's majority-minority dynamics are under strain, which could intensify closer to polling day. Regulators will be closely watched, though some argue that all types of verbal assaults should fall under free speech rather than make a futile attempt at ensuring a balancing act.

These are four States and a Union Territory with a high degree of political awareness. These are also States and a Union Territory with a record of high voter turnout between 70% and 80%. The SIR process, which has removed absentee, shifted, and deceased voters, is expected to boost participation figures. Over the past one and a half decades, the ECI's Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVVEEP) programme has enhanced voter engagement. Collection of votes from the homes of electors over 85 years and persons with disabilities is a standout measure. Facility to deposit mobile phones at polling booths and ensuring colour photographs of candidates and larger font size on the EVM ballot are citizen-friendly innovations.

The duty of the voter

The voter's task will be to protect the sacred character of his entitlement from the acid rain of political campaigning and to make a moral choice at the electoral booth. Voter education has to be directed towards developing a civic resistance against blaring insinuations and provocations. Politicians should not be allowed a free walk over the moral judgement of the citizen- voter by gifts of cash and kind or false promise, or falsification of opponents. Falling prey to fake and seasonal narratives is an insult to the power of the vote and the Constitution of India. Let the elections this summer be a win for India and its citizens in the four States and Union Territory. Even while candidates and political parties score their victories and defeats, let election managers derive satisfaction from yet another successful exercise.

The views expressed are personal

Upholding integrity in India's elections is a shared challenge for voters, parties and officials

31Mar. The continued pursuit of the perfect election संपूर्ण चुनाव की निरंतर खोज

- Over 25 lakh election officials will serve a 17.4 crore electorate in these elections, making it one official for every 70 electors.

इन चुनावों में 25 लाख से अधिक चुनाव अधिकारी 17.4 करोड़ मतदाताओं की सेवा करेंगे, यानी हर 70 मतदाताओं पर एक अधिकारी।

- The number includes 8.5 lakh security personnel and 49,000 micro observers.

इसमें 8.5 लाख सुरक्षा कर्मी और 49,000 माइक्रो ऑब्ज़र्वर शामिल हैं।

- In the midst of doubts being raised over the neutrality of officials, Section 28A of the Representation of the People Act binds their allegiance solely to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

अधिकारियों की निष्पक्षता पर सवाल उठने के बीच, जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 28A उन्हें केवल भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) के प्रति जवाबदेह बनाती है।

- Over 1,100 central observers have already moved to the Assembly constituencies to make sure that nothing goes wrong.

1,100 से अधिक केंद्रीय पर्यवेक्षक विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में तैनात किए जा चुके हैं ताकि सब कुछ सही तरीके से हो।



The four 'M' challenge चार 'M' की चुनौती

- The ECI has said that these elections will be **violence and inducement free**.
ECI ने कहा है कि ये चुनाव **हिंसा और प्रलोभन मुक्त** होंगे।
- During the **2024 general election**, the ECI had declared a war on the **4Ms — 'Money', 'Muscle', 'Misinformation' and 'Model Code of Conduct (MCC)' violations**.
2024 के आम चुनाव के दौरान, ECI ने **4Ms — 'Money', 'Muscle', 'Misinformation' और 'MCC उल्लंघन'** के खिलाफ अभियान चलाया था।
- With strong security and practically indestructible **electronic voting machines**, elections in India have been largely free from open threats of **muscle power**; but **polarised campaigns and the desperation of some political parties continue to pose challenges to the conduct of peaceful elections**.
मजबूत सुरक्षा और लगभग अटूट **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीनों** के कारण भारत में चुनाव काफी हद तक **मसल पावर** से मुक्त रहे हैं; लेकिन **ध्रुवीकृत अभियान** और कुछ राजनीतिक दलों की हताशा अभी भी **शांतिपूर्ण चुनाव** के लिए चुनौती बनी हुई है।
- यह राज्य कई हफ्तों से **ECI की निगरानी** में है — संवेदनशीलता कम होनी चाहिए, लेकिन स्थिति अनिश्चित है।
- The **ECI has ordered round-the-clock live webcasting of all polling stations**.
ECI ने सभी मतदान केंद्रों की **24 घंटे लाइव वेबकास्टिंग** का आदेश दिया है।
- Electoral inducements, in cash or kind, have long persisted in electoral politics irrespective of concerns being expressed in important fora from time to time, court observations and sporadic public debates**.
नकद या वस्तु के रूप में चुनावी प्रलोभन लंबे समय से चुनावी राजनीति में मौजूद हैं, भले ही इस पर समय-समय पर चिंता जताई गई हो।
- Cash transfers from governments to targeted groups just before the announcement of polls is **routine** — in these elections as well — with the ECI again clarifying that its ruling commences only after the **MCC comes into force**.
चुनाव घोषणा से ठीक पहले लक्षित समूहों को **सरकारी नकद हस्तांतरण** अब **सामान्य बात** है — इन चुनावों में भी — जबकि ECI ने स्पष्ट किया है कि उसका नियंत्रण केवल **MCC लागू होने के बाद** शुरू होता है।
- Campaign **freebies abound**, and party manifestos often • flout • **fiscal logic** in a free-for-all manner.
चुनावी **मुफ्त योजनाएं (freebies)** बहुतायत में हैं, और पार्टी घोषणापत्र अक्सर **वित्तीय अनुशासन** की अनदेखी करते हैं।
- Moves by the **Supreme Court of India** and the **ECI** to rein in the '**promise bazaar**' have made little headway.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट और **ECI** द्वारा '**वायदों के बाजार**' को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयासों का ज्यादा असर नहीं हुआ है।
- Enforcement agencies monitor polling areas closely, aiming to catch **bribes in action** and tracking the in• ow of **cash, liquor, drugs, and other goodies including digital transactions**.
प्रवर्तन एजेंसियां मतदान क्षेत्रों की कड़ी निगरानी करती हैं, ताकि **रिश्वत पकड़ सकें** और **नकद, शराब, ड्रग्स और अन्य वस्तुओं (डिजिटल लेनदेन सहित)** के प्रवाह पर नजर रख सकें।
- In the **2024 general election**, the authorities seized over **₹10,000 crore worth of inducement material** countrywide, almost **three times** the amount seized in **2019**.
2024 के आम चुनाव में अधिकारियों ने पूरे देश में **₹10,000 करोड़ से अधिक का प्रलोभन सामग्री** जब्त की, जो **2019 की तुलना में तीन गुना** थी।
- The **ECI has now banned political advertisements in the print media on poll day and one day prior to poll day unless pre-certified**.
ECI ने अब मतदान दिवस और उससे एक दिन पहले **प्रिंट मीडिया में राजनीतिक विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध** लगा दिया है, जब तक कि वे **पूर्व-प्रमाणित** न हों।
- A voluntary **code of ethics for social media platforms** — to prevent spurious use — has been only **moderately effective**, so poll officials aim to hold candidates' accounts more **accountable** for content and expenditure, tighten **offline media regulation**, and swiftly counter **fake news and deepfakes** on digital media.
सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के लिए एक **स्वैच्छिक आचार संहिता** — दुरुपयोग रोकने के लिए — केवल **आंशिक रूप से प्रभावी** रही है, इसलिए अधिकारी उम्मीदवारों के खातों को अधिक **जवाबदेह** बनाने, **ऑफलाइन मीडिया नियंत्रण** को सख्त करने और **फेक न्यूज व डीपफेक** का तेजी से मुकाबला करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।



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



- Over the past **one and a half decades**, the **ECI's SVEEP programme** has enhanced **voter engagement**.
पिछले डेढ़ दशक में ECI का **SVEEP कार्यक्रम** मतदाता भागीदारी बढ़ाने में सहायक रहा है।
- **Collection of votes from the homes of electors over 85 years and persons with disabilities is a standout measure.**
85 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के मतदाताओं और दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के घर से मतदान की सुविधा एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल है।
- **Facility to deposit mobile phones at polling booths and ensuring colour photographs of candidates and larger font size on the EVM ballot are citizen-friendly innovations.**
मतदान केंद्रों पर **मोबाइल जमा करने की सुविधा** और **EVM पर उम्मीदवारों की रंगीन तस्वीरें व बड़े अक्षर** नागरिकों के लिए अनुकूल नवाचार हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Ensuring federalism within delimitation

GS II: Polity

MOB

Article 81 of the Constitution states that seats should be distributed among States and within constituencies based on population such that “the ratio between the number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States”. That ratio was similar in 1951 and 1971, since State populations had not diverged much. However, that situation does not hold any longer.

As India has become the world's most populous nation, and since Census 2026 is right around the corner, the delimitation exercise will also become due shortly. The 84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 extended the freeze on the number of seats in Parliament and State Legislatures from 2000 to 2026, stating that, “keeping in view the progress of family planning programmes in different parts of the country, the government, ...decided ...as a motivational measure to enable the state governments to pursue the agenda for population stabilisation.” Hence, Lok Sabha seats shall “remain unaltered till the first Census to be taken after the year 2026.” The Census results will be declared by October 2028, after which the Delimitation Commission (DC) will be constituted. After the outcome is declared, the 2029 Lok Sabha elections will follow.

Equal share to all

Given the constitutional amendment, it is legitimate to consider how much convergence has been achieved between fertility rates over the last two decades. The author examined which States had achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) needed to stabilise population growth, that is, 2.1 births per woman. The National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) were used for this analysis. As per the findings of the third NFHS (2005-6), which is the closest survey to the 2002 constitutional amendment, in



Santosh Mehrotra

Former Professor of Economics, JNU

2005, nine States (Himachal, Punjab, Delhi, Goa, Andhra (incl. Telengana), Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu) had achieved a TFR of 2.1 or less. By 2021, most major States had achieved a TFR of 2.1 except five States (Bihar, U.P., Jharkand, Meghalaya and Manipur).

Clearly, while there was an improvement in the TFR across the country, the mean TFR among States below the national TFR mean was 1.64, while the corresponding mean for States above the national mean was 2.38. Thus, those States which have a higher mean than the national mean, in the latest NFHS-5 (2019-21), are still 45% higher, with respect to fertility rates, than that of early achievers. Therefore, based on the 2002 constitutional amendment, and in light of this analysis, it is being suggested here that seat allocation should, post the 2026 Census, also be partially subject to this differential performance. However, how much weight should be given to States' population stabilisation efforts in determining seat allocation in the delimitation exercise?

Here, the logic underlying the Finance Commission (FC) can be considered. The FC uses, in addition to total population size (50% weight), various other criteria for allocating finances to States such as demographic performance, which rewards States for improved population growth. The delimitation exercise could also reward/penalise States for demographic performance. To arrive at the number of seats allotted per State, the DC could propose the following based on population size and the Demographic Performance (DemPer) of States.

No change is to be made to the seat allocation by State for the prevailing 543 seats in the Lok Sabha as of 2024; the DemPer principle can be applied only to the additional seats (over the existing 543), meaning that the population principle still remains overwhelmingly dominant.

Moreover, there are dimensions to the DemPer principle – first, early achievement (TFR of 2.1 or less before 2005), should be given only 10% weightage in the estimation of seat allocation to a State, and second, the rate of decline in TFR between 2005 and 2021 should be given 90% weightage. The main outcome of the application of these principles is that all States experience an increase in the number of seats, with the more populous States receiving more seats in absolute terms than the less populous ones. This system also ensures that the share of States that performed well in bringing down population growth do not lose their seat share. This is fair federalism.

Upholding federalism

What the DemPer principle acknowledges is that States are meaningful political units, and that democracy is about fair voice, and not just raw numbers. Federal stability matters as much as electoral arithmetic. Applying DemPer to the Lok Sabha would balance democratic equality with federal fairness, reduce regional resentment, protect incentives for good governance, and improve the quality of representation without undermining legitimacy.

However, what is the ideal Lok Sabha size after expansion? The average population per seat in a State in 1971 was between 10 and 11.1 lakh. But then the total population of India was barely 541 million; it is now almost three times as large (1.4 billion). If India is to keep democracy vibrant with serious time allocated to deep debate, then the Lok Sabha size cannot be permitted to increase beyond 700.

Moreover, the delimitation exercise should no longer be seen as a north-south matter. A host of States across India, such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Goa etc., had adopted the goal of containing their population, not just the southern States. Therefore, fair federalism is critical to the survival of our Union.

Democracy is about fair voice, and not just raw numbers. Federal stability matters as much as electoral arithmetic

31Mar. Ensuring federalism within delimitation

परिसीमन के भीतर संघवाद सुनिश्चित करना

Delimitation and Population Debate

सीमांकन और जनसंख्या बहस

- **Article 81 of the Constitution** states that seats should be distributed among **States and within constituencies based on population** such that “the ratio between the number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States”.
संविधान का अनुच्छेद 81 कहता है कि सीटों का वितरण राज्यों और निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में जनसंख्या के आधार



पर इस प्रकार होना चाहिए कि “राज्य की जनसंख्या और सीटों का अनुपात यथासंभव सभी राज्यों के लिए समान हो।”

- That ratio was similar in **1951 and 1971**, since State populations had not diverged much. यह अनुपात **1951 और 1971** में लगभग समान था क्योंकि राज्यों की जनसंख्या में ज्यादा अंतर नहीं था।
- The **84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002** extended the freeze on the number of seats in Parliament and State Legislatures from **2000 to 2026**, stating that, “keeping in view the progress of family planning programmes... as a motivational measure... for population stabilisation.”

84वां संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 2002 ने संसद और विधानसभाओं में सीटों की संख्या पर रोक को **2000 से 2026** तक बढ़ाया, ताकि **परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रमों** को प्रोत्साहन मिले।

- The Census results will be declared by **October 2028**, after which the **Delimitation Commission (DC)** will be constituted.

जनगणना के परिणाम **अक्टूबर 2028** तक घोषित होंगे, जिसके बाद **सीमांकन आयोग (DC)** का गठन होगा।

- As per the findings of the **NFHS-3 (2005-06)**, in **2005**, **nine States** (Himachal, Punjab, Delhi, Goa, Andhra incl Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu) had achieved a **TFR of 2.1 or less**.

NFHS-3 (2005-06) के अनुसार, **2005** में **9 राज्यों** (हिमाचल, पंजाब, दिल्ली, गोवा, आंध्र-तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक, केरल, तमिलनाडु) ने **2.1 या उससे कम TFR** हासिल कर लिया था।

- By **2021**, most major States had achieved a **TFR of 2.1** except **five States (Bihar, U.P., Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Manipur)**.

2021 तक अधिकांश राज्यों ने **2.1 TFR** हासिल कर लिया, केवल **5 राज्य (बिहार, यूपी, झारखंड, मेघालय, मणिपुर)** पीछे रह गए।

- Clearly, while there was an improvement in the TFR across the country, the **mean TFR** among States below the national mean was **1.64**, while for States above it was **2.38**. स्पष्ट है कि सुधार हुआ, लेकिन राष्ट्रीय औसत से नीचे राज्यों का **औसत TFR 1.64** और ऊपर वाले राज्यों का **2.38** रहा।

- Thus, States above the national mean in **NFHS-5 (2019-21)** are still **45% higher** in fertility rates than early achievers.

इस प्रकार, **NFHS-5 (2019-21)** में राष्ट्रीय औसत से ऊपर वाले राज्यों की प्रजनन दर शुरुआती सफल राज्यों से **45% अधिक** है।

- Therefore, based on the **2002 amendment**, it is suggested that seat allocation after **Census 2026** should also be partially based on this **differential performance**.

इसलिए **2002 संशोधन** के आधार पर, **2026 जनगणना** के बाद सीट आवंटन में **प्रदर्शन के अंतर** को भी ध्यान में रखना चाहिए।

- To arrive at the number of seats allotted per State, the **Delimitation Commission (DC)** could propose a formula based on **population size** and **Demographic Performance (DemPer)**. राज्यों को सीटें देने के लिए **सीमांकन आयोग (DC)** जनसंख्या और **DemPer** के आधार पर सूत्र अपना सकता है।

- No change is to be made to the **existing 543 Lok Sabha seats (2024)**; the **DemPer principle** applies only to **additional seats**.

2024 की 543 सीटों में कोई बदलाव नहीं होगा; **DemPer सिद्धांत** केवल नई सीटों पर लागू होगा।

- This ensures that the **population principle remains dominant**.

इससे **जनसंख्या आधारित सिद्धांत** प्रमुख बना रहेगा।

- There are two dimensions to **DemPer**:

DemPer के दो आयाम हैं:

- **Early achievement (TFR ≤ 2.1 before 2005)** should be given **10% weightage**.

पहले उपलब्धि (**2005 से पहले TFR ≤ 2.1**) को **10% भार** दिया जाए।

- **Rate of decline in TFR between 2005–2021** should be given **90% weightage**.

2005–2021 के बीच TFR में गिरावट की दर को **90% भार** दिया जाए।

- The outcome is that all States gain seats, with **more populous States** gaining more in **absolute numbers**.

इसका परिणाम यह होगा कि सभी राज्यों को सीटें मिलेंगी, और **अधिक जनसंख्या वाले राज्यों को अधिक सीटें** मिलेंगी।



- At the same time, States that performed well in **population stabilisation** do not lose their **seat share**.
साथ ही, जनसंख्या नियंत्रण में सफल राज्यों का सीट हिस्सा कम नहीं होगा।
- This is termed as **fair federalism**.
इसे न्यायसंगत संघवाद कहा गया है।
- **Federal stability** matters as much as **electoral arithmetic**.
संघीय स्थिरता उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितनी चुनावी गणना।
- Applying **DemPer** would balance **democratic equality** with **federal fairness**, reduce **regional resentment**, and improve **representation quality**.
DemPer लागू करने से लोकतांत्रिक समानता और संघीय न्याय के बीच संतुलन बनेगा, क्षेत्रीय असंतोष घटेगा और प्रतिनिधित्व बेहतर होगा।
- The **average population per seat in 1971 was 10–11.1 lakh**, when India's population was **about 541 million**.
1971 में प्रति सीट जनसंख्या 10–11.1 लाख थी, जब कुल जनसंख्या 541 मिलियन थी।

On the implications of euthanasia

The Supreme Court reaffirmed the right to die with dignity under Article 21, allowing withdrawal of life support and emphasising patient autonomy; it shows a shift towards dignity and relief from suffering, while raising concerns about misuse and social inequality

GS II: Polity

MOB

LETTER & SPIRIT

C.B.P. Srivastava

The recent judgment by the Supreme Court in the *Harish Rana v. Union of India* (2026) case has raised questions regarding the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of passive euthanasia. Euthanasia is related to the right to die with dignity, which was recognised by the Supreme Court in *Common Cause v. Union of India* (2018). The court held that the right to die with dignity is inseparable from the right to receive quality palliative care. Hence, in the *Harish Rana* case, the court, for the first time, allowed the withdrawal of the applicant's Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH).

The court had held in the *Common Cause* case that the right to die with dignity is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Allowing passive euthanasia and recognising the Advance Medical Directives (living wills) for terminally ill patients to refuse life-prolonging treatment was laid down in *Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India* (2011). Following this, in *Common Cause v. Union of India* (2023), the court streamlined the process of passive euthanasia, making its implementation easier.

In the new guidelines, the court changed the requirement for two medical boards, a hospital board and a district-level board, refining it to make the process smoother, and mandatory immediate judicial oversight in every case was removed. While addressing advance directives (living wills), the court emphasised patient autonomy, allowing individuals to refuse life-sustaining treatment and die naturally with dignity.

Considering the above, a few questions arise regarding euthanasia and its relevance in India. First, whether granting



GETTY IMAGES

passive euthanasia is ethical. It is logically perceived that birth and death are natural processes; hence, nature should decide when a person dies and how the body responds to illness. In this context, any interference with the rules of nature may be considered unethical.

However, it is also a fact that life is the period between birth and death, and it is spent in a society where dignity is of utmost importance. Life, therefore, can be viewed as more sociological than biological. Both the birth and the death should be dignified. In this context, the right to die with dignity assumes greater significance.

Ethical aspects of euthanasia

The ethical principles enshrined in this act of granting passive euthanasia further clarify this issue. The primary and probably the most significant aspect is the principle of autonomy, which grants the patient – or, in cases of terminal illness, their next of kin – the right to make

decisions. Second is the principle of beneficence, which is related to the patient's benefit, which the doctors treating the patient should consider. Third is the principle of non-maleficence, which suggests that the decision to allow passive euthanasia should not cause harm. Finally, the principle of justice must be protected to ensure that no injustice is done to the patient.

Apart from these principles, we may look at the decision from the viewpoint of the Theory of Double Effect proposed by St. Thomas Aquinas. According to this theory, every action creates two effects, and the one that is less harmful or beneficial should be considered ethical. In the case of passive euthanasia, the action – withdrawal of life support, or CANH in the *Harish Rana* case – leads to two effects. First, the death of the patient, and second, relief from suffering. If the decision is taken without malice, the act can be considered ethical as the patient was relieved of his pain.

Social implications

The right to die with dignity or passive euthanasia in India reflects a progressive but cautious approach, mainly due to a transition in societal values. This transition is from rigid moral traditions to a more compassionate, rights-based approach. While it promotes dignity, autonomy, and relief from suffering, it also raises concerns about misuse, ethical conflicts, and social inequality. There has also been a transition from the social attitude of protecting life at any cost to the quality of life being more important than its length.

Another major implication is economic in nature, as long-term life-support treatment without any hope of recovery would put the family under severe economic stress, especially in the middle- and lower-income groups. In this context, the right to die with dignity appears to be justified.

Further, social implications may include its possible misuse and especially vulnerable people like the elderly, disabled and poor may face coercion. This may create a situation where the decision may be driven by financial constraints, social neglect, and family pressure. Hence, critics may point out that it would amount to disguised abandonment.

The court has taken utmost care while delivering the judgment and stated that "passive euthanasia is an obsolete and incorrect term, and should not be used either in common usage or legal writing and discussions". It unnecessarily confuses the legal position on the issue, as the debate cannot be neatly divided into 'acts' and 'omissions'. Further, the court also held that the patient is not abandoned by withdrawing or withholding medical treatment. Palliative and end-of-life care must continue for these patients.

(C.B.P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi)

THE GIST

The right to die with dignity is inseparable from the right to receive quality palliative care, and the court allowed the withdrawal of Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration for the first time.

The revised guidelines streamlined the process by modifying the requirement of multiple medical boards and removing mandatory immediate judicial oversight, making implementation smoother.

31Mar. On the implications of euthanasia इच्छामृत्यु के प्रभावों पर

- The recent judgment by the Supreme Court in *Harish Rana v. Union of India* (2026) has raised questions regarding the **ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI)** of passive euthanasia.
हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के *Harish Rana बनाम भारत संघ* (2026) फैसले ने निष्क्रिय इच्छामृत्यु के नैतिक, कानूनी और सामाजिक प्रभावों (ELSI) पर सवाल उठाए हैं।
- **Euthanasia is related to the right to die with dignity**, recognised in *Common Cause v. Union of India* (2018).
इच्छामृत्यु का संबंध गरिमा के साथ मृत्यु के अधिकार से है, जिसे 2018 के *Common Cause* केस में मान्यता दी गई।



- The court held that the right to die with dignity is linked to **quality palliative care**. अदालत ने कहा कि गरिमा के साथ मृत्यु का अधिकार उचित पालीएटिव केयर से जुड़ा है।
- In the **Harish Rana case**, the court allowed withdrawal of **Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH)** for the first time.
Harish Rana केस में पहली बार CANH हटाने की अनुमति दी गई।
- The court in **Common Cause (2018)** held that this right is part of **Article 21 (Right to Life)**. Common Cause (2018) में अदालत ने इसे अनुच्छेद 21 (जीवन का अधिकार) का हिस्सा माना।
- Passive euthanasia and Advance Medical Directives (living wills)** were recognised in **Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011)**.
निष्क्रिय इच्छामृत्यु और लिविंग विल को Aruna Shanbaug केस (2011) में मान्यता मिली।
- Later, **Common Cause (2023)** simplified the procedure for passive euthanasia. बाद में Common Cause (2023) ने प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया।
- The court removed the requirement of **two medical boards and mandatory judicial oversight** in every case.
अदालत ने दो मेडिकल बोर्ड और हर मामले में न्यायिक निगरानी की अनिवार्यता हटाई।
- The **guidelines emphasised patient autonomy**, allowing refusal of **life-sustaining treatment**. नए दिशा-निर्देशों में रोगी की स्वायत्तता पर जोर दिया गया और जीवन रक्षक उपचार को अस्वीकार करने की अनुमति दी गई।

Ethical Questions

नैतिक प्रश्न

- A key question is whether **passive euthanasia is ethical**.
मुख्य प्रश्न है कि क्या निष्क्रिय इच्छामृत्यु नैतिक है।
- Birth and death are natural processes**, and interference may be seen as **unnatural**.
जन्म और मृत्यु प्राकृतिक प्रक्रियाएँ हैं, और हस्तक्षेप को अप्राकृतिक माना जा सकता है।
- However, life is lived in society where dignity is essential**.
लेकिन जीवन समाज में जीया जाता है जहाँ गरिमा महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Thus, life can be viewed as more sociological than biological**.
इसलिए जीवन को अधिक सामाजिक दृष्टि से देखा जा सकता है।
- The principle of **autonomy** gives patients (or kin) the right to make decisions.
स्वायत्तता का सिद्धांत रोगी (या परिजन) को निर्णय लेने का अधिकार देता है।
- The principle of **beneficence** focuses on the **patient's benefit**.
हितकारीता (beneficence) रोगी के लाभ पर केंद्रित है।
- The principle of **non-maleficence** ensures that no **harm is caused**.
अहानिकरता (non-maleficence) सुनिश्चित करती है कि कोई नुकसान न हो।
- The principle of **justice** ensures that no **injustice is done to the patient**.
न्याय का सिद्धांत सुनिश्चित करता है कि रोगी के साथ अन्याय न हो।

Theory of Double Effect and Ethical Justification

डबल इफेक्ट सिद्धांत और नैतिक औचित्य

- Apart from these principles, we may look at the decision from the viewpoint of the **Theory of Double Effect** proposed by **St. Thomas Aquinas**.
इन सिद्धांतों के अलावा, इस निर्णय को संत थॉमस एक्विनास के डबल इफेक्ट सिद्धांत के दृष्टिकोण से भी देखा जा सकता है।
- According to this theory, every action creates **two effects**, and the one that is **less harmful or beneficial** should be considered ethical.
इस सिद्धांत के अनुसार, हर क्रिया के दो प्रभाव होते हैं, और जो कम हानिकारक या अधिक लाभकारी हो, वही नैतिक माना जाता है।
- In passive euthanasia, the action — withdrawal of **life support or CANH** — leads to two effects.
निष्क्रिय इच्छामृत्यु में जीवन समर्थन या पोषण एवं जल आपूर्ति हटाने से दो प्रभाव होते हैं।
- First, the **death of the patient**, and second, **relief from suffering**.
पहला, रोगी की मृत्यु, और दूसरा, कष्ट से मुक्ति।



- If the decision is taken without **malice**, the act can be considered ethical as the patient is relieved of pain.
यदि निर्णय **बिना दुर्भावना** के लिया गया है, तो इसे नैतिक माना जा सकता है क्योंकि रोगी को दर्द से राहत मिलती है।

Social implications

सामाजिक प्रभाव

- The right to die with dignity in India reflects a **progressive yet cautious approach** due to changing **societal values**.
भारत में गरिमा के साथ मरने का अधिकार बदलते सामाजिक मूल्यों के कारण प्रगतिशील लेकिन सावधानीपूर्ण दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।
- This shift is from **rigid moral traditions** to a more **compassionate, rights-based approach**.
यह बदलाव कठोर नैतिक परंपराओं से संवेदनशील और अधिकार-आधारित दृष्टिकोण की ओर है।
- While it promotes **dignity, autonomy and relief from suffering**, it raises concerns about **misuse, ethical conflicts and inequality**.
यह गरिमा, स्वायत्तता और पीड़ा से राहत को बढ़ावा देता है, लेकिन दुरुपयोग, नैतिक संघर्ष और असमानता की चिंता भी पैदा करता है।
- There is a shift from protecting life **at any cost** to focusing on **quality of life**.
अब ध्यान किसी भी कीमत पर जीवन बचाने से हटकर जीवन की गुणवत्ता पर केंद्रित हो गया है।
- Economic implications are significant, as long-term **life-support treatment** creates **financial burden** on families, especially **middle and lower-income groups**.
आर्थिक प्रभाव भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं क्योंकि लंबे समय तक जीवन समर्थन उपचार परिवारों पर आर्थिक बोझ डालता है, विशेषकर मध्यम और निम्न आय वर्ग पर।
- In this context, the **right to die with dignity** appears justified.
इस संदर्भ में गरिमा के साथ मरने का अधिकार उचित प्रतीत होता है।
- There is risk of **misuse**, especially for **elderly, disabled and poor**, who may face **coercion**.
इसके दुरुपयोग का खतरा है, विशेषकर बुजुर्ग, विकलांग और गरीब लोगों के लिए, जो दबाव का सामना कर सकते हैं।
- Decisions may be driven by **financial constraints, social neglect and family pressure**.
निर्णय आर्थिक सीमाओं, सामाजिक उपेक्षा और पारिवारिक दबाव से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।
- Critics argue this may amount to **disguised abandonment**.
आलोचकों का मानना है कि यह छिपा हुआ परित्याग हो सकता है।
- The court stated that the term "**passive euthanasia**" is **obsolete and incorrect**.
अदालत ने कहा कि "निष्क्रिय इच्छामृत्यु" शब्द अप्रचलित और गलत है।
- It creates confusion as the issue cannot be divided into **acts and omissions**.
यह भ्रम पैदा करता है क्योंकि इस विषय को कर्म और निष्क्रियता में स्पष्ट रूप से विभाजित नहीं किया जा सकता।
- The court held that withdrawal of treatment does not mean **abandonment of the patient**.
अदालत ने स्पष्ट किया कि उपचार हटाने का अर्थ रोगी का परित्याग नहीं है।
- Palliative and end-of-life care must continue** even after withdrawal of treatment.
उपचार हटाने के बाद भी आरामदायक देखभाल और जीवन के अंतिम चरण की देखभाल जारी रहनी चाहिए।

GS Paper II: Governance,

TOPICS COVERED

31 March 2026

31Mar Pinarayi writes to Modi, urges Centre to withdraw proposed FCRA amendments
पिनाराई ने मोदी को लिखा, प्रस्तावित FCRA संशोधनों को वापस लेने का आग्रह

31Mar A flame the state cannot guarantee
एक ऐसी लौ जिसे राज्य सुनिश्चित नहीं कर सकता



Pinarayi writes to Modi, urges Centre to withdraw proposed FCRA amendments

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing concern that the proposed amendments to the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act** by the Centre has generated apprehensions among minority communities and religious institutions.

In his letter, he urged Mr. Modi to reconsider the Centre's position and to withdraw the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment has kicked up a storm in Kerala with both the CPI(M) and the Congress-led Opposition in



The proposed amendments has created apprehension among churches which fear arbitrary takeover of assets. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Kerala crying foul that the Bill was an attack on the minorities.

The parties alleged that the Centre, through the new amendments, was bidding to have sweeping control over NGOs and reli-

gious institutions.

One of the proposed amendments state that if an NGO's FCRA licence is cancelled or not renewed, the assets created using those funds will go to a designated authority appoint-

ed by the Centre. Through another provision, the government can permanently take over the assets if the registration of the NGO is not restored.

Even assets which have been created through partial foreign contribution would be taken over if the NGO loses the FCRA licence.

In Kerala, where many churches, educational institutions and charitable hospitals might be receiving foreign contributions, the proposed amendments to the FCRA has created much apprehension among the churches, which fear that the government could arbitrarily take over church-run assets.

31Mar. Pinarayi writes to Modi, urges Centre to withdraw proposed FCRA amendments

पिनाराई ने मोदी को लिखा, प्रस्तावित FCRA संशोधनों को वापस लेने का आग्रह

- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** has written to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressing concern that the proposed amendments to the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act** by the Centre has generated apprehensions among minority communities and religious institutions.
केरल के मुख्यमंत्री **पिनाराई विजयन** ने प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** को पत्र लिखकर चिंता व्यक्त की कि केंद्र द्वारा **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम** में प्रस्तावित संशोधनों से अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों और धार्मिक संस्थानों में आशंकाएं पैदा हुई हैं।
- In his letter, he urged Mr. Modi to reconsider the Centre's position and to withdraw the proposed amendment.
अपने पत्र में उन्होंने श्री मोदी से केंद्र के रुख पर पुनर्विचार करने और प्रस्तावित संशोधन को वापस लेने का आग्रह किया।
- The proposed amendment has kicked up a storm in Kerala with both the **CPI(M)** and the Congress-led Opposition in Kerala crying foul that the Bill was an attack on the minorities.
प्रस्तावित संशोधन ने केरल में तूफान खड़ा कर दिया है, जहां **सीपीआई(एम)** और कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व वाले विपक्ष दोनों ने आरोप लगाया कि यह विधेयक अल्पसंख्यकों पर हमला है।
- The parties alleged that the Centre, through the new amendments, was bidding to have sweeping control over **NGOs** and religious institutions.
पार्टियों ने आरोप लगाया कि केंद्र नए संशोधनों के माध्यम से **एनजीओ** और धार्मिक संस्थानों पर व्यापक नियंत्रण स्थापित करना चाहता है।
- One of the proposed amendments state that if an NGO's **FCRA licence** is cancelled or not renewed, the assets created using those funds will go to a designated authority appointed by the Centre.
प्रस्तावित संशोधनों में से एक में कहा गया है कि यदि किसी एनजीओ का **FCRA लाइसेंस** रद्द हो जाता है या



नवीनीकृत नहीं होता है, तो उन फंड्स से बनाई गई संपत्तियां केंद्र द्वारा नियुक्त एक निर्दिष्ट प्राधिकरण को चली जाएंगी।

- Through another provision, the government can permanently take over the assets if the registration of the NGO is not restored.
एक अन्य प्रावधान के माध्यम से, यदि एनजीओ का पंजीकरण बहाल नहीं होता है, तो सरकार स्थायी रूप से संपत्तियों का अधिग्रहण कर सकती है।
- Even assets which have been created through partial foreign contribution would be taken over if the NGO loses the FCRA licence.
यहां तक कि आंशिक विदेशी अंशदान से बनाई गई संपत्तियां भी अधिग्रहित कर ली जाएंगी यदि एनजीओ अपना FCRA लाइसेंस खो देता है।
- In Kerala, where many churches, educational institutions and charitable hospitals might be receiving foreign contributions, the proposed amendments to the FCRA has created much apprehension among the churches, which fear that the government could arbitrarily take over church-run assets.
केरल में, जहां कई चर्च, शैक्षणिक संस्थान और परोपकारी अस्पताल विदेशी अंशदान प्राप्त कर रहे हैं, FCRA में प्रस्तावित संशोधनों ने चर्चों के बीच काफी चिंता पैदा कर दी है, जिन्हें डर है कि सरकार मनमाने ढंग से चर्च द्वारा संचालित संपत्तियों का अधिग्रहण कर सकती है।

PATRIOTIC IAS



A flame the state cannot guarantee

CS II: Government Scheme

MOE

India's LPG crisis that began in March 2026, following the war in West Asia, has sparked familiar diagnoses: disrupted Strait of Hormuz shipping lanes, heavy import dependence, and inadequate storage. These observations are accurate as far as they go. What these fail to explain is why a decade-long welfare programme, which connected 32.83 crore households to clean cooking fuel, offered almost no protection to these households when a single chokepoint was disrupted. The supply chain describes the trigger; the welfare architecture explains why it hit so hard – and that is the more consequential question.

The welfare programme, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, has provided 10.33 crore connections to women from below-poverty-line households since 2016, more than doubling national LPG coverage over a decade. The ambition was genuine and the relief measurable. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) found that women saved about an hour in a day on cooking and cleaning after accessing LPG – a real difference for millions who had spent generations cooking on biomass.

Imperfections in a transition

The problem is not what PMUY delivered but what it quietly replaced. Before LPG, kerosene arrived through the Public Distribution System. Inefficient and leaky, it was a command-distribution system where the state held physical stock and the ration card determined access. When the government phased out PDS kerosene and enrolled households into LPG as a clean energy upgrade, it was also withdrawing from direct supply responsibility. By 2024, 13 States had become kerosene-free and millions of households depended on a globalised commodity market that the state does not control. The transition substituted imperfect but directly administered supply for higher-quality market supply, without asking what would happen when that market



Rahul Verma
An independent researcher and sociology educator

The West Asian war-driven LPG disruptions reveal weaknesses in India's clean cooking system

failed. India imports about 60% of its LPG consumption and 90% of those imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz. India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves cover about 9.5 days of crude oil supply and are currently at 64% capacity, with no equivalent LPG-specific buffer. The state's ability to meet its clean cooking targets depends entirely on uninterrupted global commodity flows, while the welfare architecture – designed to scale uptake – was not built to ensure continuity under stress.

Gaps in a sovereign responsibility

The PMUY promise was built on visible markers of sovereign responsibility. Government branding on the cylinder, the Direct Benefit Transfer credit in the woman's account, and the scheme's naming after the Prime Minister – all signalling that the state was present and accountable. The war in West Asia and the LPG crisis exposes that communication and capacity were never aligned. The branding belonged to the state while the supply chain moved through markets and chokepoints that the state observed from a distance once the transition to LPG was complete. But when the Strait of Hormuz closes, the sovereign guarantee has no physical infrastructure behind it.

The cost of that misalignment is not distributed neutrally. One in four PMUY beneficiaries took only one refill or none at all in normal times, because refill costs exceeded what the subsidy covered for the poorest quintiles. With mandatory booking gaps at 45 days for rural areas and 25 days for urban areas and prices rising by ₹60 a cylinder in March, those households are the first to revert to biomass and the last to receive any relief when allocations tighten. Scheduled Caste and tribal households have 10% to 30% lower LPG access than upper-caste households, independent of income, partly because distributor networks in segregated rural geographies replicate caste hierarchies in how they allocate scarce supply. A war in West Asia activates those hierarchies.

The gendered dimension of this design flaw is equally structural. The scheme made women the formal beneficiaries of an entitlement while leaving its actual delivery entirely outside their control. The IISD found that in 74% of surveyed households, women made decisions on cooking energy sources. When LPG prices rose sharply, 14% said they would revert to biomass, leaving women to manage the shift without institutional support. Access framed as liberation from drudgery quietly restores it when supply fails and women carry that burden without institutional recourse.

None of this requires starting over. A two-month strategic LPG buffer, a statutory minimum of imports routed outside the Strait of Hormuz, and publicly available crisis protocols are design measures the current system has never implemented. Community biogas under Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) with the Indian Biogas Association proposing a ₹10,000 per unit revival subsidy for five million dormant plants alongside accelerated piped gas for dense urban areas, provides targeted redundancy for the most exposed. A serious welfare architecture does not replace its primary delivery system when it comes under stress. Instead, it builds the redundancy underneath so that the stress never reaches the household.

In perspective

The deeper problem is that a decade of welfare expansion measured success in connections delivered and treated continuity under stress as a problem for another day. An entitlement that holds only in undisturbed markets is not durable by any standard worth defending. India extended clean cooking to hundreds of millions of its people and called it transformation. The question the war is now forcing is whether transformation built on unbroken global supply chains, without buffers, without triage rules and without alternatives, can honestly be called a guarantee at all.

31Mar. A flame the state cannot guarantee एक ऐसी लौ जिसे राज्य सुनिश्चित नहीं कर सकता

- India's **LPG crisis** that began in **March 2026**, following the war in **West Asia**, has sparked familiar diagnoses: disrupted **Strait of Hormuz** shipping lanes, heavy **import dependence**, and inadequate **storage**.
मार्च 2026 में **पश्चिम एशिया** के युद्ध के बाद शुरू हुआ भारत का **एलपीजी संकट** परिचित कारणों को सामने लाया: **हॉर्मूज़ जलडमरूमध्य** में बाधा, भारी **आयात निर्भरता**, और अपर्याप्त **भंडारण**।
- These observations are accurate as far as they go. ये अवलोकन जहाँ तक जाते हैं, सही हैं।
- What these fail to explain is why a decade-long welfare programme, which connected **32.83 crore households** to clean cooking fuel, offered almost no protection to these households when a single chokepoint was disrupted. लेकिन ये यह नहीं बताते कि एक दशक लंबे कार्यक्रम, जिसने **32.83 करोड़ परिवारों** को स्वच्छ ईंधन से जोड़ा, वह एक बाधा आने पर इन परिवारों को सुरक्षा क्यों नहीं दे सका।
- The supply chain describes the trigger; the **welfare architecture** explains why it hit so hard — and that is the more consequential question. आपूर्ति श्रृंखला कारण बताती है; लेकिन **कल्याण संरचना** यह बताती है कि प्रभाव इतना गंभीर क्यों था — और यही अधिक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है।
- The welfare programme, **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**, has provided **10.33 crore connections** to women from below-poverty-line households since **2016**, more than doubling national LPG coverage over a decade.
प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना (PMUY) ने **2016** से अब तक **10.33 करोड़ कनेक्शन** गरीबी रेखा से नीचे की महिलाओं को दिए, जिससे एलपीजी कवरेज दोगुना हो गया।
- The ambition was genuine and the relief measurable. इसकी महत्वाकांक्षा वास्तविक थी और लाभ मापनीय थे।
- The **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** found that women saved about **an hour a day** on cooking and cleaning after accessing LPG — a real difference for millions who had spent generations cooking on biomass.



IISD ने पाया कि महिलाओं ने खाना पकाने और सफाई में प्रतिदिन लगभग 1 घंटा बचाया, जो उन लाखों लोगों के लिए बड़ा बदलाव था जो पीढ़ियों से बायोमास पर निर्भर थे।

Imperfections in a transition संक्रमण की कमियां

- The problem is not what **PMUY delivered** but what it quietly **replaced**.
समस्या यह नहीं है कि **PMUY ने क्या दिया**, बल्कि यह है कि उसने क्या **बदला**।
- Before LPG, **kerosene** arrived through the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
एलपीजी से पहले **केरोसिन सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS)** के माध्यम से आता था।
- Inefficient and leaky, it was a **command-distribution system** where the state held physical stock and the **ration card** determined access.
यह एक **कमांड-डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन प्रणाली** थी, जहां राज्य भंडार रखता था और **राशन कार्ड** से पहुंच तय होती थी।
- When the government phased out **PDS kerosene** and enrolled households into LPG as a clean energy upgrade, it was also withdrawing from **direct supply responsibility**.
जब सरकार ने **PDS केरोसिन** को हटाकर एलपीजी अपनाया, तो वह **प्रत्यक्ष आपूर्ति जिम्मेदारी** से भी पीछे हट गई।
- By **2024, 13 States** had become kerosene-free and millions of households depended on a **globalised commodity market** that the state does not control.
2024 तक 13 राज्य केरोसिन-मुक्त हो गए और लाखों परिवार **वैश्विक बाजार** पर निर्भर हो गए, जिस पर राज्य का नियंत्रण नहीं है।
- The transition substituted imperfect but directly administered supply for higher-quality market supply, without asking what would happen when that market **failed**.
इस बदलाव ने प्रत्यक्ष आपूर्ति को हटाकर बाजार आधारित आपूर्ति अपनाई, बिना यह सोचे कि बाजार **विफल होने पर क्या होगा**।
- India imports about **60% of its LPG consumption** and **90% of those imports** pass through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
भारत अपनी **60% एलपीजी खपत आयात** करता है और उसमें से **90% हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से गुजरता है।
- India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserves** cover about **9.5 days of crude oil supply** and are currently at **64% capacity**, with no equivalent **LPG-specific buffer**.
भारत के **रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार** लगभग **9.5 दिनों** की आपूर्ति के बराबर हैं और अभी **64% क्षमता** पर हैं, जबकि **एलपीजी के लिए कोई विशेष भंडार** नहीं है।
- The state's ability to meet its **clean cooking targets** depends entirely on uninterrupted **global commodity flows**, while the welfare architecture — designed to scale uptake — was not built to ensure **continuity under stress**.
राज्य की **स्वच्छ ईंधन लक्ष्य** हासिल करने की क्षमता पूरी तरह **वैश्विक आपूर्ति** पर निर्भर है, जबकि कल्याण संरचना को **संकट के समय निरंतरता** बनाए रखने के लिए तैयार नहीं किया गया था।

Gaps in a sovereign responsibility सार्वभौमिक जिम्मेदारी में अंतराल

- The **PMUY promise** was built on visible markers of **sovereign responsibility**.
PMUY का वादा सार्वभौमिक जिम्मेदारी के स्पष्ट संकेतों पर आधारित था।
- Government **branding on the cylinder**, the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** credit in the woman's account, and the scheme's naming after the **Prime Minister** — all signalling that the **state was present and accountable**.
सिलेंडर पर सरकारी **ब्रांडिंग**, महिला के खाते में **DBT**, और योजना का नाम **प्रधानमंत्री** के नाम पर होना — ये सभी संकेत देते थे कि **राज्य मौजूद और जवाबदेह है**।
- The war in **West Asia** and the **LPG crisis** exposes that **communication and capacity were never aligned**.
पश्चिम एशिया के युद्ध और **एलपीजी संकट** ने दिखाया कि **संचार और क्षमता में तालमेल नहीं था**।
- The branding belonged to the **state** while the **supply chain** moved through markets and chokepoints that the state observed from a distance once the transition to LPG was complete.
ब्रांडिंग राज्य की थी, लेकिन **आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** बाजारों और बाधाओं से गुजरती थी, जिन पर राज्य का सीधा नियंत्रण नहीं था।



- But when the **Strait of Hormuz closes**, the **sovereign guarantee** has no physical infrastructure behind it.
लेकिन जब **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य बंद होता है**, तो **सार्वभौमिक गारंटी** के पीछे कोई वास्तविक ढांचा नहीं होता।
- The cost of that misalignment is not distributed neutrally.
इस असंतुलन की लागत समान रूप से वितरित नहीं होती।
- One in four **PMUY beneficiaries** took only **one or none at all** in normal times, because **one** costs exceeded what the subsidy covered for the **poorest quintiles**.
चार में से एक **PMUY लाभार्थी** ने सामान्य समय में केवल **एक रिफिल या कोई भी नहीं** लिया, क्योंकि रिफिल की लागत **सबसे गरीब वर्ग** के लिए सब्सिडी से अधिक थी।
- With mandatory booking gaps at **45 days (rural)** and **25 days (urban)** and prices rising by **₹60 a cylinder in March**, those households are the **first** to revert to **biomass** and the last to receive any relief when allocations tighten.
45 दिन (ग्रामीण) और **25 दिन (शहरी)** के बुकिंग अंतराल और **मार्च में ₹60 प्रति सिलेंडर वृद्धि** के कारण, ये परिवार सबसे पहले **बायोमास** पर लौटते हैं और राहत सबसे अंत में प्राप्त करते हैं।
- **Scheduled Caste and tribal households** have **10% to 30% lower LPG access** than upper-caste households, independent of income, partly because distributor networks in segregated rural geographies replicate **caste hierarchies** in allocation.
अनुसूचित जाति और जनजातीय परिवारों को उच्च जातियों की तुलना में **10% से 30% कम एलपीजी पहुंच** है, क्योंकि वितरण प्रणाली में **जातिगत असमानता** बनी रहती है।
- A war in **West Asia** activates those hierarchies.
पश्चिम एशिया का युद्ध इन असमानताओं को और बढ़ा देता है।
- The **gendered dimension** of this design **law** is equally structural.
इस डिजाइन की **लैंगिक समस्या** भी संरचनात्मक है।
- The scheme made **women the formal beneficiaries** of an entitlement while leaving its actual delivery entirely outside their control.
इस योजना ने **महिलाओं को लाभार्थी** बनाया, लेकिन वास्तविक नियंत्रण उनके पास नहीं था।
- The **IISD** found that in **74% households**, women made decisions on cooking energy sources.
IISD ने पाया कि **74% परिवारों** में महिलाएं ऊर्जा स्रोत का निर्णय लेती हैं।
- When LPG prices rose sharply, **14% said they would revert to biomass**, leaving women to manage the shift without **institutional support**.
जब एलपीजी कीमतें बढ़ीं, तो **14% ने बायोमास पर लौटने** की बात कही, जिससे महिलाओं पर बिना **संस्थागत समर्थन** के बोझ पड़ा।
- Access framed as **liberation from drudgery** quietly restores it when supply fails and women carry that burden without **institutional recourse**.
जो सुविधा **मुक्ति** के रूप में दी गई थी, वह आपूर्ति विफल होने पर फिर से **श्रम का बोझ** बन जाती है।
- None of this requires starting over.
इसके लिए सब कुछ नए सिरे से शुरू करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- A **two-month strategic LPG buffer**, a statutory minimum of imports routed outside the **Strait of Hormuz**, and publicly available **crisis protocols** are design measures the current system has never implemented.
दो महीने का रणनीतिक एलपीजी भंडार, **हॉर्मुज़ के बाहर आयात**, और **सार्वजनिक संकट प्रोटोकॉल** जैसे उपाय अभी लागू नहीं किए गए हैं।
- **Community biogas** under **GOBARdhan** with the **Indian Biogas Association** proposing a **₹10,000 subsidy per unit** revival for **one million dormant plants**, alongside accelerated **pipelined gas** for dense urban areas, provides targeted **redundancy**.
GOBARdhan योजना के तहत **सामुदायिक बायोगैस**, जिसमें **₹10,000 प्रति यूनिट सब्सिडी** और **50 लाख प्लांट पुनर्जीवन**, तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों में **पाइपड गैस**, एक वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था प्रदान करते हैं।
- A serious welfare architecture does not replace its primary delivery system when it comes under **stress**.
एक मजबूत कल्याण प्रणाली **संकट के समय अपनी मूल आपूर्ति प्रणाली को नहीं बदलती**।
- Instead, it builds the **redundancy underneath** so that the stress never reaches the household.
बल्कि यह **वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था तैयार करती है**, ताकि संकट घरों तक न पहुंचे।



In perspective परिप्रेक्ष्य में

- The deeper problem is that a decade of welfare expansion measured success in **connections delivered** and treated **continuity under stress** as a problem for another day. मुख्य समस्या यह है कि कल्याण विस्तार को **कनेक्शन की संख्या** से मापा गया और **संकट में निरंतरता** को नजरअंदाज किया गया।
- An entitlement that holds only in **undisturbed markets** is not **durable** by any standard worth defending. जो अधिकार केवल **स्थिर बाजार** में काम करे, वह **टिकाऊ नहीं** होता।
- India extended clean cooking to **hundreds of millions**, and called it **transformation**. भारत ने **करोड़ों लोगों** को स्वच्छ ईंधन दिया और इसे **परिवर्तन** कहा।
- The question the war is now forcing is whether transformation built on **unbroken global supply chains**, without **bu• ers, triage rules, and alternatives**, can honestly be called a **guarantee** at all. अब प्रश्न यह है कि क्या **वैश्विक आपूर्ति**, बिना **भंडार, नियम और विकल्प** के, वास्तव में एक **गारंटी** कही जा सकती है।

GS Paper III: Economy,	
TOPICS COVERED	31 March 2026
31Mar	Manufacturing, capital goods lift IIP growth to 5.2% in Feb. विनिर्माण, पूंजीगत वस्तुओं ने फरवरी में IIP वृद्धि को 5.2% तक बढ़ाया।
31Mar	IRDAI approves India AS framework for insurers IRDA ने बीमाकर्ताओं के लिए India AS फ्रेमवर्क को मंजूरी दी
31Mar	Nifty 50 marks worst month in 6 years, falls 11.4% in March Nifty 50 ने 6 वर्षों में सबसे खराब महीना दर्ज किया, मार्च में 11.4% गिरा
31Mar	Sitharaman defends IBC citing higher recoveries, turnarounds सिथारमन ने IBC का बचाव किया, उच्च वसूली और पुनरुद्धार का हवाला दिया

Manufacturing, capital goods lift IIP growth to 5.2% in Feb.

GS III: Economy
NEW DELHI

The data on the **Index of Industrial Production** for February, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, shows that the final growth for January was also upgraded to 5.1% from the provisional 4.8% stated

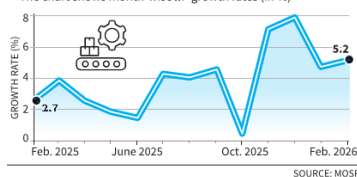
as part of last month's data release.

Within the Index, growth in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 6% in February, from 5.3% in the previous month. This was also considerably faster than the 2.8% in growth in February last year. The **mining and quarrying sector, on the other hand, saw growth slowing to a four-month low of 3.1% in February 2026, down from 4.3% in January.** This was, however, faster than the 1.6% seen in February 2025.

Growth in the electricity sector, too, slowed to 2.3%

Industrial uptick

The chart shows month-wise IIP growth rates (in %)



in February 2026 from 5.1% in January.

"The growth is investment led, with basic metals, automobiles, machin-

ery, and double digit gains in capital goods and infrastructure/construction goods pointing to a capex and infrastructure driven

upcycle." Rajeev Sharan, Head of Research at Brickwork Ratings said.

Notably, growth in the **capital goods sector** accelerated to a **nine-month high of 12.5%** in February 2026 from 4.1% in the previous month. This performance on the back of a relatively strong performance of 8.1% in February of last year.

Consumer demand, however, seems to have slumped, according to the data. The **consumer durables sector contracted 2.1%** in February 2026, the sector's worst performance in 27 months. The consumer

non-durables sector, too, contracted 0.6%, the second consecutive month of contraction.

"Overall, the data confirms that investment linked sectors are anchoring growth, while softer consumer non durables and modest mining and electricity gains highlight areas where the recovery is still incomplete," Mr. Sharan said. "From a credit rating perspective, sustained manufacturing and investment momentum support credit strength, though uneven demand means fundamentals are still evolving."

31Mar. Manufacturing, capital goods lift IIP growth to 5.2% in Feb. विनिर्माण, पूंजीगत वस्तुओं ने फरवरी में IIP वृद्धि को 5.2% तक बढ़ाया।

- Growth in India's industrial activity accelerated marginally to **5.2%** in February, driven by a quickening of growth in the **manufacturing** and **capital goods** sectors, data released by the Centre on Monday showed.



भारत की औद्योगिक गतिविधि में वृद्धि फरवरी में मामूली रूप से बढ़कर **5.2%** हो गई, जिसे **विनिर्माण** और **पूंजीगत वस्तुओं** क्षेत्रों में तेजी से बढ़ोतरी ने प्रेरित किया, सोमवार को केंद्र द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों से यह पता चला।

- The data on the **Index of Industrial Production** for February, released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, shows that the final growth for January was also upgraded to **5.1%** from the provisional **4.8%** stated as part of last month's data release. फरवरी के लिए **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP)** के आंकड़े, जिन्हें **सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय** द्वारा जारी किया गया, यह दर्शाते हैं कि जनवरी की अंतिम वृद्धि को भी पिछले महीने के अस्थायी **4.8%** से बढ़ाकर **5.1%** कर दिया गया।
- Within the Index, growth in the **manufacturing sector** accelerated to **6%** in February, from **5.3%** in the previous month. सूचकांक के भीतर, **विनिर्माण क्षेत्र** में वृद्धि फरवरी में **6%** तक तेज हुई, जो पिछले महीने **5.3%** थी।
- This was also considerably faster than the **2.8%** growth in February last year. यह पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में **2.8%** की वृद्धि की तुलना में काफी तेज था।
- The **mining and quarrying sector**, on the other hand, saw growth slowing to a four-month low of **3.1%** in February 2026, down from **4.3%** in January. दूसरी ओर, **खनन और खदान क्षेत्र** में वृद्धि घटकर फरवरी 2026 में चार महीने के निचले स्तर **3.1%** पर आ गई, जो जनवरी में **4.3%** थी।
- This was, however, faster than the **1.6%** seen in February 2025. हालांकि, यह फरवरी 2025 में देखे गए **1.6%** से तेज था।
- Growth in the **electricity sector**, too, slowed to **2.3%** in February 2026 from **5.1%** in January. **विद्युत क्षेत्र** में वृद्धि भी जनवरी के **5.1%** से घटकर फरवरी 2026 में **2.3%** हो गई।
- "The growth is **investment led**, with **basic metals, automobiles, machinery**, and double digit gains in **capital goods** and **infrastructure/construction goods** pointing to a capex and infrastructure driven upcycle," **Rajeev Sharan**, Head of Research at **Brickwork Ratings** said. "यह वृद्धि **निवेश-आधारित** है, जिसमें **बेसिक मेटल्स, ऑटोमोबाइल्स, मशीनरी**, और **पूंजीगत वस्तुओं** तथा **इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर/निर्माण वस्तुओं** में दो अंकों की वृद्धि, पूंजीगत व्यय और बुनियादी ढांचे द्वारा संचालित उछाल की ओर संकेत करती है," **ब्रिकवर्क रेटिंग्स** के रिसर्च प्रमुख **राजीव शरण** ने कहा।
- Notably, growth in the **capital goods sector** accelerated to a nine-month high of **12.5%** in February 2026 from **4.1%** in the previous month. विशेष रूप से, **पूंजीगत वस्तु क्षेत्र** में वृद्धि पिछले महीने के **4.1%** से बढ़कर फरवरी 2026 में नौ महीने के उच्च स्तर **12.5%** पर पहुंच गई।
- This performance on the back of a relatively strong performance of **8.1%** in February of last year. यह प्रदर्शन पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में अपेक्षाकृत मजबूत **8.1%** के प्रदर्शन के आधार पर हुआ।
- **Consumer demand**, however, seems to have slumped, according to the data. हालांकि, आंकड़ों के अनुसार **उपभोक्ता मांग** में गिरावट दिखाई देती है।
- The **consumer durables sector** contracted **2.1%** in February 2026, the sector's worst performance in **27 months**. **उपभोक्ता टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र** फरवरी 2026 में **2.1%** घट गया, जो इस क्षेत्र का **27 महीनों** में सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन है।
- The **consumer non-durables sector**, too, contracted **0.6%**, the second consecutive month of contraction. **उपभोक्ता गैर-टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र** भी **0.6%** घट गया, जो लगातार दूसरा महीना है जब इसमें गिरावट आई है।
- "Overall, the data confirms that **investment linked sectors** are anchoring growth, while softer **consumer non durables** and modest **mining** and **electricity** gains highlight areas where the recovery is still incomplete," Mr. Sharan said. "कुल मिलाकर, आंकड़े पुष्टि करते हैं कि **निवेश से जुड़े क्षेत्र** वृद्धि को सहारा दे रहे हैं, जबकि कमजोर **उपभोक्ता गैर-टिकाऊ वस्तुएं** और सीमित **खनन** तथा **विद्युत** वृद्धि यह दर्शाती हैं कि पुनरुद्धार अभी अधूरा है," श्री शरण ने कहा।
- "From a **credit rating** perspective, sustained **manufacturing** and **investment momentum** support credit strength, though uneven demand means fundamentals are still evolving." "**क्रेडिट रेटिंग** के दृष्टिकोण से, निरंतर **विनिर्माण** और **निवेश गति** क्रेडिट मजबूती को समर्थन देती है, हालांकि असमान मांग का मतलब है कि बुनियादी कारक अभी विकसित हो रहे हैं।"



GS III: Economy

IRDAI approves India AS framework for insurers

IRDAI has approved amendments mandating insurers to prepare and present financial statements in accordance with applicable Indian Accounting Standards effective April 1, 2026. The implementation of Ind AS will be applicable to all categories of insurers - life, general, stand alone health insurers and reinsurers. The amendment sets out the regulatory framework governing the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of financial statements under Ind AS. Introduction of Ind AS aims to enhance consistency, transparency and comparability in financial reporting across the insurance sector, in alignment with globally accepted standards, IRDAI said on Monday, announcing approval for the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Actuarial, Finance and Investment Functions of Insurers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

- IRDAI has approved amendments mandating insurers to prepare and present **financial statements** in accordance with applicable **Indian Accounting Standards** effective April 1, 2026.
 - IRDA ने संशोधनों को मंजूरी दी है, जो बीमाकर्ताओं को 1 अप्रैल 2026 से लागू **भारतीय लेखा मानकों** के अनुसार **वित्तीय विवरण** तैयार करने और प्रस्तुत करने के लिए अनिवार्य बनाते हैं।
 - The implementation of Ind AS will be applicable to all categories of insurers - life, general, stand alone health insurers and reinsurers.**
 - Ind AS** का कार्यान्वयन सभी प्रकार के बीमाकर्ताओं - **जीवन, सामान्य, स्टैंड-अलोन स्वास्थ्य बीमाकर्ता और पुनर्बीमाकर्ता** - पर लागू होगा।
 - The amendment sets out the regulatory framework governing the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of financial statements under Ind AS.**
- यह संशोधन **नियामक ढांचा** निर्धारित करता है जो Ind AS के तहत वित्तीय विवरणों की **मान्यता, मापन, प्रस्तुति और प्रकटीकरण** को नियंत्रित करता है।
- Introduction of Ind AS aims to enhance consistency, transparency and comparability in financial reporting across the insurance sector, in alignment with globally accepted standards,** IRDAI said on Monday, announcing approval for the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Actuarial, Finance and Investment Functions of Insurers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.**
- Ind AS** की शुरुआत का उद्देश्य बीमा क्षेत्र में वित्तीय रिपोर्टिंग में **संगति, पारदर्शिता और तुलनीयता** को बढ़ाना है, जो **वैश्विक रूप से स्वीकृत मानकों** के अनुरूप है, IRDA ने सोमवार को कहा, और बीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण भारत (**एक्चुरियल, वित्त और निवेश कार्य**) (संशोधन) विनियम, 2026 की मंजूरी की घोषणा की।

Nifty 50 marks worst month in 6 years, falls 11.4% in March

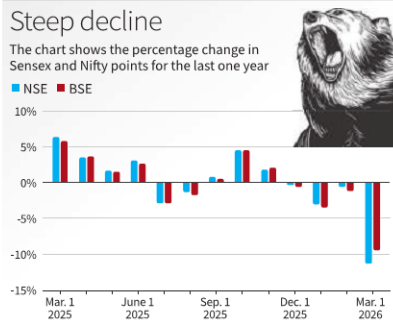
Index dips 2.14% on Monday; decline broad-based with 2,762 stocks declining and just 570 advancing from among the more than 3,000 stocks that traded in the National Stock Exchange

GS III: Economy
Ashtokamishra
MUMBAI

Indian investors faced their worst March in six years as benchmark **Nifty** fell 11.36%, its steepest decline since March 2020, as global markets reel under the war between the U.S. and Iran. **Nifty** fell 2.14% to 22,331.4 points on Monday, extending the six weeks of continuous declines. Sensex fell 2.22% to 71,947.5 points.

Both Nifty and Sensex opened at 22,549.65 points and 72,565.22 points respectively, down over 1% from the previous close. After gaining a few points on the way down to the day's high, the benchmark indices tumbled down to the day's close.

The decline was broad-



based with 2,762 stocks down and just 570 advancing from the over 3,000 stocks that traded in the **National Stock Exchange (NSE).**

There were just 13 months since 1995, when monthly returns declined

by 10% or more, and four of them were in 2008. The worst monthly decline recorded was in October 2008, when Nifty crashed by over 26%.

All the 21 sectoral Nifty indices dipped, with Nifty PSU Bank dropping by

more than 4% in a session.

Oil prices continued to be a pain point for the market as Brent Crude Futures stayed over \$108 a barrel. The Iran-U.S. war showed no signs of de-escalation even as U.S. President Donald Trump reportedly "prefers diplomacy" and claims talks are ongoing.

Markets have been in flux ever since the West Asian crisis and the volatility measure India VIX hit a four-year high of 27.75 on Monday, up 3% in a day.

Analysts maintained that markets were fragile. "On the higher side 22,800 stands as the immediate hurdle on any recovery attempt. On the downside, 21,700-21,900 band is likely to act as immediate support," said Nandish Shah - Deputy Vice President, HDFC Securities.



31Mar. Nifty 50 marks worst month in 6 years, falls 11.4% in March Nifty 50 ने 6 वर्षों में सबसे खराब महीना दर्ज किया, मार्च में 11.4% गिरा

- **Index dips 2.14% on Monday; decline broad-based with 2,762 stocks declining and just 570 advancing from among the more than 3,000 stocks that traded in the National Stock Exchange**
सोमवार को सूचकांक 2.14% गिरा; गिरावट व्यापक रही जिसमें 2,762 शेयर गिरे और 3,000 से अधिक ट्रेड हुए शेयरों में से केवल 570 बढ़े, जो National Stock Exchange में कारोबार कर रहे थे
- Indian investors faced their worst March in six years as benchmark **Nifty** fell 11.36%, its steepest decline since March 2020, as global markets reel under the war between the U.S. and Iran.
भारतीय निवेशकों ने छह वर्षों में अपना सबसे खराब मार्च देखा क्योंकि बेंचमार्क **Nifty** 11.36% गिरा, जो मार्च 2020 के बाद सबसे बड़ी गिरावट है, क्योंकि वैश्विक बाजार अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच युद्ध के प्रभाव में हैं।
- Nifty fell 2.14% to 22,331.4 points on Monday, extending the six weeks of continuous declines.
सोमवार को **Nifty** 2.14% गिरकर 22,331.4 अंक पर आ गया, जिससे लगातार छह सप्ताह की गिरावट जारी रही।
- Sensex fell 2.22% to 71,947.5 points.
Sensex 2.22% गिरकर 71,947.5 अंक पर आ गया।
- Both Nifty and Sensex opened at 22,549.65 points and 72,565.22 points respectively, down over 1% from the previous close.
Nifty और **Sensex** क्रमशः 22,549.65 अंक और 72,565.22 अंक पर खुले, जो पिछले बंद से 1% से अधिक नीचे थे।
- After gaining a few points on the way down to the day's high, the benchmark indices tumbled down to the day's close.
दिन के उच्च स्तर तक जाते समय कुछ अंक बढ़ाने के बाद, बेंचमार्क सूचकांक दिन के अंत तक तेजी से गिर गए।
- The decline was broad-based with 2,762 stocks down and just 570 advancing from the over 3,000 stocks that traded in the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
यह गिरावट व्यापक थी जिसमें 2,762 शेयर गिरे और 3,000 से अधिक ट्रेड हुए शेयरों में से केवल 570 बढ़े, जो **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** में कारोबार कर रहे थे।
- There were just 13 months since 1995, when monthly returns declined by 10% or more, and four of them were in 2008.
1995 के बाद से केवल 13 महीने ऐसे रहे हैं जब मासिक रिटर्न 10% या उससे अधिक गिरा, और उनमें से चार 2008 में थे।
- The worst monthly decline recorded was in October 2008, when Nifty crashed by over 26%.
सबसे खराब मासिक गिरावट अक्टूबर 2008 में दर्ज की गई थी, जब **Nifty** 26% से अधिक गिर गया था।
- All the 21 sectoral Nifty indices dipped, with Nifty PSU Bank dropping by more than 4% in a session.
सभी 21 सेक्टरल **Nifty** सूचकांक गिरे, जिसमें **Nifty PSU Bank** एक सत्र में 4% से अधिक गिरा।
- Oil prices continued to be a pain point for the market as Brent Crude Futures stayed over \$108 a barrel.
तेल की कीमतें बाजार के लिए चिंता का कारण बनी रहीं क्योंकि **Brent Crude Futures** \$108 प्रति बैरल से ऊपर बना रहा।
- The Iran-U.S. war showed no signs of de-escalation even as U.S. President Donald Trump reportedly "prefers diplomacy" and claims talks are ongoing.
ईरान-अमेरिका युद्ध में तनाव कम होने के कोई संकेत नहीं दिखे, भले ही अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **Donald Trump** कथित रूप से "कूटनीति को प्राथमिकता देते हैं" और बातचीत जारी होने का दावा करते हैं।
- Markets have been in flux ever since the West Asian crisis and the volatility measure India VIX hit a four-year high of 27.75 on Monday, up 3% in a day.
पश्चिम एशियाई संकट के बाद से बाजार अस्थिर बने हुए हैं और अस्थिरता सूचकांक **India VIX** सोमवार को 27.75 के चार साल के उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गया, जो एक दिन में 3% बढ़ा।
- Analysts maintained that markets were fragile.
विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि बाजार नाजुक स्थिति में हैं।



- “On the higher side 22,800 stands as the immediate hurdle on any recovery attempt. “ऊपरी स्तर पर 22,800 किसी भी रिकवरी प्रयास में तत्काल बाधा के रूप में खड़ा है।
- On the downside, the 21,700-21,900 band is likely to act as immediate support,” said Nandish Shah - Deputy Vice President, HDFC Securities.
नीचे की ओर 21,700-21,900 का दायरा तत्काल समर्थन के रूप में काम कर सकता है,” **Nandish Shah**, डिप्टी वाइस प्रेसिडेंट, **HDFC Securities** ने कहा।

Sitharaman defends IBC citing higher recoveries, turnarounds

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday defended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in Parliament, citing the high level of realisations from distressed assets, recovery for creditors, and turnaround of companies that have emerged from the resolution process.

Replying to the debate on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment)

Bill 2026, Ms. Sitharaman said the point of the IBC was not debt recovery, but the rescue of viable businesses and addressing their financial stress.

“The IBC is a framework for rescuing viable businesses and resolving financial stress while preserving the enterprise value,” Ms. Sitharaman said. “It was never intended to be a debt-recovery tool. Recovery values are a by-product,” she added.

She said, the IBC pro-

cess is market-driven and recoveries reflect the underlying asset quality and commercial viability of the distressed enterprise. “The IBC actually realises 94.95% of the fair value of the company at the time of admission,” she said.

The Lok Sabha passed the Bill to amend the insolvency law to provide for strict timelines, an out-of-court settlement option and enable the framework for cross-border insolvency processes.

31Mar. Sitharaman defends IBC citing higher recoveries, turnarounds सिथारमन ने IBC का बचाव किया, उच्च वसूली और पुनरुद्धार का हवाला दिया

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on Monday defended the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** in Parliament, citing the high level of realisations from distressed assets, recovery for creditors, and turnaround of companies that have emerged from the resolution process.
वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने सोमवार को संसद में **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** का बचाव किया, और संकटग्रस्त परिसंपत्तियों से उच्च प्राप्ति, लेनदारों के लिए वसूली, और समाधान प्रक्रिया से उभरी कंपनियों के पुनरुद्धार का हवाला दिया।
- Replying to the debate on the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill 2026**, Ms. Sitharaman said the point of the IBC was not debt recovery, but the rescue of viable businesses and addressing their financial stress.
Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill 2026 पर बहस का जवाब देते हुए, श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा कि IBC का उद्देश्य ऋण वसूली नहीं, बल्कि व्यवहार्य व्यवसायों को बचाना और उनके वित्तीय तनाव को दूर करना है।
- “The IBC is a framework for rescuing viable businesses and resolving financial stress while preserving the enterprise value,” Ms. Sitharaman said.
“**IBC** व्यवहार्य व्यवसायों को बचाने और वित्तीय तनाव को दूर करने का एक ढांचा है, साथ ही एंटरप्राइज वैल्यू को संरक्षित करता है,” श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा।
- “It was never intended to be a debt-recovery tool. Recovery values are a by-product,” she added.



“इसे कभी भी ऋण-वसूली के उपकरण के रूप में नहीं बनाया गया था। वसूली मूल्य एक सह-उत्पाद हैं,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- She said, the IBC process is market-driven and recoveries reflect the underlying asset quality and commercial viability of the distressed enterprise.
उन्होंने कहा कि IBC प्रक्रिया बाजार-आधारित है और वसूली संकटग्रस्त उद्यम की अंतर्निहित परिसंपत्ति गुणवत्ता और व्यावसायिक व्यवहार्यता को दर्शाती है।
- “The IBC actually realises 94.95% of the fair value of the company at the time of admission,” she said.
“IBC वास्तव में प्रवेश के समय कंपनी के उचित मूल्य का 94.95% प्राप्त करता है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The **Lok Sabha** passed the Bill to amend the insolvency law to provide for strict timelines, an out-of-court settlement option and enable the framework for cross-border insolvency processes.
लोक सभा ने दिवालियापन कानून में संशोधन हेतु विधेयक पारित किया, जिसमें सख्त समय-सीमा, अदालत के बाहर निपटान का विकल्प और सीमा-पार दिवालियापन प्रक्रियाओं के लिए ढांचा प्रदान किया गया है।

GS Paper III: S&T

TOPICS COVERED

31 March 2026

31Mar	Newfound brain network ‘SCAN’ implicated in Parkinson’s disease नई खोजा गया मस्तिष्क नेटवर्क ‘SCAN’ पार्किंसन रोग से जुड़ा पाया गया
31Mar	What the Meta-YouTube ruling means for social media Meta-YouTube निर्णय का सोशल मीडिया के लिए क्या अर्थ है
31Mar	How the OpenAI-Microsoft partnership is coming undone OpenAI-Microsoft साझेदारी कैसे बिखर रही है



Newfound brain network 'SCAN' implicated in Parkinson's disease

A study has uncovered previously elusive targets that could improve efficacy of modulatory therapies for Parkinson's, in a trial with 18 people with the disease, those who received transcranial magnetic stimulation targeted at the brain's SCAN regions had significantly less tremors and instability

DISCUSSION

Sheetal Potdar

Parkinson's disease affects more than 10 million people worldwide. A patient struggles to perform coordinated movement, requiring conscious effort and attention even for a simple task like buttoning a shirt. Natural movements like walking and turning have to be planned as the person will struggle to start and stop actions.

Over time, the person will move slower, become unstable, and suffer tremors.

Now, new research reveals a brain network promising precise targets for treatment.

Higher order networks

To date, various treatment options are available, but none are ideal. For example, pharmacological treatment with levodopa, a dopamine precursor, partially alleviates Parkinson's symptoms. However, the effect of levodopa is variable and repeated use causes side-effects like uncontrolled movements. Another approved therapy is deep brain stimulation (DBS), wherein electrodes are surgically implanted inside specific brain regions.

"However, DBS is expensive and invasive, albeit not risky," Prashanth Kukkle, consultant neurologist at the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Clinic, Bengaluru, said.

Non-invasive therapies like transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), where magnetic fields are applied to stimulate nerve cells, are at an experimental stage and require "sweet spots, or precise targets that can bring about dramatic improvement, which are still being explored," Dr. Kukkle added.

Until recently, neurologists were probing motor-effector areas of the motor cortex, which are surface-level brain areas controlling muscular activity of individual body parts like the foot, arm, and mouth. However, dysfunction in these regions has not been sufficient to explain the coordination deficits seen in Parkinson's.

A prevailing hypothesis has been that higher order networks – large-scale, interconnected clusters integrating information across brain regions for complex cognitive functions like planning and attention – may be involved. A new study in *Nature* addressed this hypothesis and found that Parkinson's disease is associated with the abnormal strengthening of a brain network called the somatic cognitive action network (SCAN).

The study's findings have uncovered previously elusive precise targets that could improve efficacy of modulatory therapies for Parkinson's.

Discovery of SCAN

Historically, neurologists have been interested in mapping the precise brain regions that directly control movement of specific body parts. Around a century ago, the American-Canadian neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield electrically stimulated the surface of the brain in awake patients and recorded which body parts moved in response. He found that neighbouring parts of the body were represented in neighbouring areas of the



Parkinson's disease affects more than 10 million people worldwide. GETTY IMAGES

motor cortex, creating a continuous "map" of the body across the brain's surface.

Over time, however, this map has been questioned for its limited precision. Nico Dosenbach, a neurologist at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and a co-author of the Parkinson's disease study, pioneered a method called precision functional mapping (PFM), which helped refine the Penfield map.

"Previously, most imaging studies relied on averaging data across individuals," he explained. "It's like averaging the faces of 100 people – you would end up with a cartoon face, not a real face."

PFM allowed functional mapping of individual brains, thus producing "maps" of higher resolution.

Typically, in low-resolution maps, only the specific motor-effector area would be visible as a single dot when a particular body part moved. But in a 2023 paper, using PFM, Dr. Dosenbach and colleagues reported a new pattern where three additional zones appeared as "three dots" along the motor cortex whenever unrelated body parts were stimulated. "These three zones were interspersed between the motor-effector regions controlling arm, foot, and mouth. Whether the ankle was stimulated or the elbow, the three-dots pattern would be activated."

"The regularity of the pattern across individuals made me suspect that there might be an entirely different organisational principle at work," Dr. Dosenbach said. These patterns were later renamed SCAN, and they were found to connect to higher-order brain areas involved in coordinating movement.

Other experts agree that the discovery of SCAN changed their impression of the way the motor cortex is organised.

"We don't only have a series of 'effectors' controlling individual body parts in the primary motor cortex. We also have integrative areas that oversee and coordinate movements," Alfonso Fasano, a neurologist at the University of



In Parkinson's disease patients, the SCAN network is closely connected with key Parkinson's-related brain regions such as the basal ganglia and thalamus, showing pathological abnormal strengthening of these connections

HESHENG LIU
Professor at Changping Laboratory, Beijing

Toronto who wasn't involved in the study, said.

SCAN in the picture

Using the same PFM technique, the authors examined functional MRI scans and electrocorticographs – records of electrical signals from the cortex – of 863 people with Parkinson's disease, many of whom were receiving different approved therapies like DBS and levodopa.

"In Parkinson's disease patients, the SCAN network is closely connected with key Parkinson's-related brain regions such as the basal ganglia and thalamus, showing pathological abnormal strengthening of these connections," Hesheng Liu, professor at Changping Laboratory, Beijing, and the lead author of the study, said.

In contrast, the SCAN network was not abnormally strengthened in patients with another motor disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

A key strength of the paper was the sheer size of the datasets – which Dr. Liu and his team had been gathering since 2016. "Hesheng Liu and team ran several complex clinical studies in record time and networked with other scientists around the world to pool data," Dr. Dosenbach said.

"The other strength of the paper is that it uses multiple cohorts of patients treated with different modalities and shows a consistent finding: over-connectivity of SCAN to basal ganglia in Parkinson's disease," Dr. Fasano added. "Importantly,

when a treatment has worked, there's a common denominator: the reduction of SCAN over-connectivity."

On the flip side, Dr. Fasano expressed belief that framing Parkinson's disease as a SCAN disorder is an oversimplistic conclusion. "First, Parkinson's disease is heterogeneous. Second, other conditions such as parkinsonism or dystonia may involve similar network abnormalities," he said.

Nevertheless, SCAN over-connectivity with basal ganglia represents a new network-level biomarker for Parkinson's disease.

Cautious optimism

The findings have clinical implications. In the study, the authors conducted a preliminary trial where 18 people with Parkinson's disease were randomly assigned to receive TMS directed at the SCAN regions. Compared to a control cohort whose brains were stimulated at the effector regions, the SCAN-targeted group showed significantly less tremors, rigidity, slowness, and instability within two weeks.

Both Dr. Dosenbach and Dr. Fasano agreed that a TMS therapy directed at SCAN for Parkinson's disease patients is on the horizon.

"In future, there will be both non-invasive and minimally invasive neuromodulatory therapies aimed directly at SCAN in a personalised manner using PFM," Dr. Dosenbach said.

Dr. Kukkle remained cautiously optimistic: "Being superficially located in the cortex, SCAN is easily accessible by TMS for non-invasive modulation." However, he added that SCAN is also a newly discovered brain region that has yet to be included in standard medical textbooks and atlases: "While this paper shows rational, biological plausibility and early clinical evidence, it has to be seen whether it converts to routine clinical practice."

(Sheetal Potdar has a PhD in neuroscience and is a freelance science journalist. sheetalpotdar@gmail.com)

31Mar. Newfound brain network 'SCAN' implicated in Parkinson's disease
नई खोजा गया मस्तिष्क नेटवर्क 'SCAN' पार्किंसन रोग से जुड़ा पाया गया

Parkinson's disease
पार्किंसन रोग

- **Parkinson's disease affects more than 10 million people worldwide.**
पार्किंसन रोग दुनिया भर में 10 मिलियन से अधिक लोगों को प्रभावित करता है।
- **A patient struggles to perform coordinated movement, requiring conscious effort and attention even for a simple task like buttoning a shirt.**
एक मरीज को समन्वित गतिविधि करने में कठिनाई होती है, यहां तक कि शर्ट के बटन लगाने जैसे सरल कार्य के लिए भी सचेत प्रयास और ध्यान की आवश्यकता होती है।



- Natural movements like **walking and turning** have to be planned as the person will struggle to **start and stop actions**.
चलना और मुड़ना जैसी प्राकृतिक गतिविधियों की भी योजना बनानी पड़ती है क्योंकि व्यक्ति को **क्रियाओं को शुरू और रोकने** में कठिनाई होती है।
- **Over time, the person will move slower, become unstable, and suffer tremors.**
समय के साथ व्यक्ति **धीमा** हो जाता है, **अस्थिर** हो जाता है और **कंपन (tremors)** से पीड़ित होता है।
- Now, new research reveals a **brain network** promising **precise targets for treatment**.
अब, नए शोध में एक **मस्तिष्क नेटवर्क** सामने आया है जो उपचार के लिए **सटीक लक्ष्य** प्रदान करने का संकेत देता है।

Higher order networks उच्च-स्तरीय नेटवर्क

- To date, various **treatment options** are available, but none are **ideal**.
अब तक विभिन्न **उपचार विकल्प** उपलब्ध हैं, लेकिन कोई भी **आदर्श** नहीं है।
- For example, pharmacological treatment with **levodopa, a dopamine precursor**, partially alleviates Parkinson's symptoms.
उदाहरण के लिए, **लेवोडोपा** (जो एक **डोपामाइन पूर्ववर्ती** है) से उपचार पार्किंसन के लक्षणों को आंशिक रूप से कम करता है।
- However, the effect of **levodopa** is **variable** and repeated use causes **side-effects like uncontrolled movements**.
हालांकि, **लेवोडोपा** का प्रभाव **भिन्न-भिन्न** होता है और बार-बार उपयोग से **अनियंत्रित गतिविधियों जैसे दुष्प्रभाव** होते हैं।
- Another approved therapy is **deep brain stimulation (DBS)**, wherein electrodes are surgically implanted inside specific brain regions.
एक अन्य स्वीकृत उपचार **डीप ब्रेन स्टिम्यूलेशन (DBS)** है, जिसमें इलेक्ट्रोड को विशेष मस्तिष्क क्षेत्रों में सर्जरी द्वारा प्रत्यारोपित किया जाता है।
- **"However, DBS is expensive and invasive, albeit not risky," Prashanth Kukkle**, consultant neurologist at the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Clinic, Bengaluru, said.
"हालांकि, DBS महंगा और आक्रामक है, हालांकि यह जोखिम भरा नहीं है," बेंगलुरु के न्यूरोलॉजिस्ट **प्रशांत कुक्कले** ने कहा।
- **Non-invasive therapies like transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)**, where **magnetic fields** are applied to stimulate nerve cells, are at an **experimental stage** and require **"sweet spots, or precise targets that can bring about dramatic improvement, which are still being explored,"** Dr. Kukkle added.
गैर-आक्रामक उपचार जैसे **ट्रांसक्रैनिअल मैग्नेटिक स्टिम्यूलेशन (TMS)**, जिसमें **चुंबकीय क्षेत्र** का उपयोग कर तंत्रिका कोशिकाओं को उत्तेजित किया जाता है, अभी **प्रयोगात्मक चरण** में हैं और इन्हें **"सटीक लक्ष्य (sweet spots)"** की आवश्यकता होती है, जिनकी अभी खोज की जा रही है।
- Until recently, neurologists were probing **motor-ector areas of the motor cortex**, which are **surface-level brain areas** controlling muscular activity of individual body parts like the **foot, arm, and mouth**.
हाल तक, न्यूरोलॉजिस्ट **मोटर कॉर्टेक्स के मोटर-इफेक्टर क्षेत्रों** का अध्ययन कर रहे थे, जो **मस्तिष्क की सतही परतें** हैं और **पैर, हाथ और मुंह** जैसी गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करती हैं।
- However, dysfunction in these regions has not been sufficient to explain the **coordination deficits** seen in Parkinson's.
लेकिन इन क्षेत्रों की खराबी **समन्वय की कमी** को पूरी तरह समझाने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं रही है।
- A prevailing hypothesis has been that **higher order networks** — large-scale, interconnected clusters integrating information across brain regions for complex cognitive functions like **planning and attention** — may be involved.
एक प्रमुख परिकल्पना यह रही है कि **उच्च-स्तरीय नेटवर्क** — जो बड़े और परस्पर जुड़े हुए समूह हैं और **योजना तथा ध्यान** जैसे जटिल कार्यों के लिए जानकारी का समन्वय करते हैं — इसमें शामिल हो सकते हैं।
- A new study in **Nature** addressed this hypothesis and found that Parkinson's disease is associated with the abnormal strengthening of a brain network called the **somatic cognitive action network (SCAN)**.



Nature में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन ने इस परिकल्पना की जांच की और पाया कि पार्किंसन रोग **सोमैटिक कॉन्ट्रिब्यूटिव एक्शन नेटवर्क (SCAN)** नामक मस्तिष्क नेटवर्क की असामान्य मजबूती से जुड़ा है।

- The study's findings have uncovered previously elusive **precise targets** that could improve efficacy of **modulatory therapies** for Parkinson's.

इस अध्ययन के निष्कर्षों ने पहले से अज्ञात **सटीक लक्ष्यों** को उजागर किया है, जो पार्किंसन के **मॉड्यूलेटरी उपचारों** की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ा सकते हैं।

Discovery of SCAN

SCAN की खोज

- Historically, neurologists have been interested in mapping the **precise brain regions** that directly control movement of specific body parts.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, न्यूरोलॉजिस्ट उन **सटीक मस्तिष्क क्षेत्रों** का मानचित्रण करने में रुचि रखते रहे हैं जो विशेष शरीर के अंगों की गतिविधि को सीधे नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- Around a century ago, the American-Canadian neurosurgeon **Wilder Penfield** electrically stimulated the surface of the brain in awake patients and recorded which body parts moved in response.

लगभग एक सदी पहले, अमेरिकी-कनाडाई न्यूरोसर्जन **वाइल्डर पेनफील्ड** ने जाग्रत मरीजों के मस्तिष्क की सतह को विद्युत रूप से उत्तेजित किया और यह दर्ज किया कि कौन से शरीर के अंग प्रतिक्रिया में हिले।

- He found that neighbouring parts of the body were represented in neighbouring areas of the **motor cortex**, creating a continuous **"map"** of the body across the brain's surface.
उन्होंने पाया कि शरीर के आस-पास के अंग **मोटर कॉर्टेक्स** के आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में दर्शाए जाते हैं, जिससे मस्तिष्क की सतह पर शरीर का एक निरंतर **"मानचित्र"** बनता है।

- Over time, however, this map has been questioned for its **limited precision**.
समय के साथ, इस मानचित्र की **सीमित सटीकता** के कारण इस पर प्रश्न उठाए गए।

- **Nico Dosenbach**, a neurologist at **Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis** and a co-author of the Parkinson's disease study, pioneered a method called **precision functional mapping (PFM)**, which helped refine the Penfield map.

निको डोज़ेनबाख, जो **वाशिंगटन यूनिवर्सिटी स्कूल ऑफ मेडिसिन, सेंट लुइस** में न्यूरोलॉजिस्ट हैं और इस अध्ययन के सह-लेखक हैं, ने **प्रिसीजन फंक्शनल मैपिंग (PFM)** नामक विधि विकसित की, जिसने पेनफील्ड के मानचित्र को और सटीक बनाया।

- "Previously, most imaging studies relied on **averaging data across individuals**," he explained.

उन्होंने बताया, "पहले, अधिकांश इमेजिंग अध्ययन **विभिन्न व्यक्तियों के डेटा का औसत** निकालने पर निर्भर थे।"

- "It's like averaging the faces of **100 people** — you would end up with a **cartoon face**, not a real face."

"यह **100 लोगों** के चेहरों का औसत निकालने जैसा है — इससे आपको एक **कार्टून चेहरा** मिलेगा, असली चेहरा नहीं।"

- **PFM** allowed functional mapping of **individual brains**, thus producing 'maps' of **higher resolution**.

PFM ने **व्यक्तिगत मस्तिष्कों** का कार्यात्मक मानचित्रण संभव किया, जिससे **उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन** वाले मानचित्र प्राप्त हुए।

- Typically, in low-resolution maps, only the specific **motor-ector area** would be visible as a single dot when a particular body part moved.

आमतौर पर, कम-रिज़ॉल्यूशन वाले मानचित्रों में केवल विशिष्ट **मोटर-इफेक्टर क्षेत्र** एक बिंदु के रूप में दिखाई देता था जब कोई विशेष अंग हिलता था।

- But in a **2023** paper, using **PFM**, Dr. Dosenbach and colleagues reported a new pattern where three additional zones appeared as **"three dots"** along the motor cortex whenever unrelated body parts were stimulated.

लेकिन **2023** के एक शोध पत्र में, **PFM** का उपयोग करते हुए, डॉ. डोज़ेनबाख और उनके सहयोगियों ने एक नया पैटर्न बताया जिसमें तीन अतिरिक्त क्षेत्र **"तीन बिंदुओं"** के रूप में मोटर कॉर्टेक्स के साथ दिखाई दिए जब असंबंधित अंगों को उत्तेजित किया गया।



- These three zones were interspersed between the **motor-ector regions** controlling arm, foot, and mouth.
ये तीन क्षेत्र **मोटर-इफेक्टर क्षेत्रों** के बीच स्थित थे जो हाथ, पैर और मुंह को नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- Whether the ankle was stimulated or the elbow, the **three-dots pattern** would be activated.
चाहे टखने को उत्तेजित किया जाए या कोहनी को, **तीन-बिंदु पैटर्न** सक्रिय हो जाता था।
- “The regularity of the pattern across individuals made me suspect that there might be an entirely different **organisational principle** at work,” Dr. Dosenbach said.
डॉ. डोज़ेनबाख ने कहा, “व्यक्तियों में इस पैटर्न की नियमितता ने मुझे संदेह दिलाया कि यहां कोई अलग **संगठनात्मक सिद्धांत** काम कर रहा है।”
- These patterns were later renamed **SCAN**, and they were found to connect to **higher-order brain areas** involved in coordinating movement.
इन पैटर्न को बाद में **SCAN** नाम दिया गया और पाया गया कि ये **उच्च-स्तरीय मस्तिष्क क्षेत्रों** से जुड़े हैं जो गतिविधियों के समन्वय में शामिल हैं।
- Other experts agree that the discovery of **SCAN** changed their impression of the way the motor cortex is organised.
अन्य विशेषज्ञ भी सहमत हैं कि **SCAN** की खोज ने मोटर कॉर्टेक्स के संगठन के बारे में उनकी समझ को बदल दिया।
- “We don’t only have a series of ‘**ectors**’ controlling individual body parts in the primary motor cortex. We also have **integrative areas** that oversee and coordinate movements,” **Alfonso Fasano**, a neurologist at the **University of Toronto** who wasn’t involved in the study, said.
“हमारे पास केवल **इफेक्टर** नहीं हैं जो प्राथमिक मोटर कॉर्टेक्स में अलग-अलग अंगों को नियंत्रित करते हैं, बल्कि हमारे पास **समेकित क्षेत्र** भी हैं जो गतिविधियों की निगरानी और समन्वय करते हैं,” **टोरंटो विश्वविद्यालय** के न्यूरोलॉजिस्ट **अल्फोंसो फासानो** ने कहा।

SCAN in the picture चित्र में SCAN

- Using the same **PFM technique**, the authors examined **functional MRI scans** and **electrocorticographs** — records of electrical signals from the cortex — of **863 people with Parkinson’s disease**, many of whom were receiving different approved therapies like **DBS and levodopa**.
उसी **PFM तकनीक** का उपयोग करते हुए, लेखकों ने **फंक्शनल MRI स्कैन** और **इलेक्ट्रोकोर्टिकोग्राफ** — जो कॉर्टेक्स से विद्युत संकेतों के रिकॉर्ड होते हैं — का अध्ययन किया, जिसमें **863 पार्किंसन रोगियों** को शामिल किया गया था, जिनमें से कई को **DBS और लेवोडोपा** जैसी उपचार मिल रहे थे।
- “In Parkinson’s disease patients, the **SCAN network** is closely connected with key Parkinson’s-related brain regions such as the **basal ganglia and thalamus**, showing pathological abnormal strengthening of these connections,” **Hesheng Liu**, professor at Changping Laboratory, Beijing, and the lead author of the study, said.
“पार्किंसन रोगियों में, **SCAN नेटवर्क** का संबंध **बेसल गैंग्लिया और थैलेमस** जैसे महत्वपूर्ण मस्तिष्क क्षेत्रों से निकटता से होता है, और इन कनेक्शनों में रोगजन्य असामान्य मजबूती देखी जाती है,” बीजिंग के **हेशेंग लियू** ने कहा।
- In contrast, the **SCAN network** was not abnormally strengthened in patients with another motor disorder, **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)**.
इसके विपरीत, **SCAN नेटवर्क** अन्य मोटर विकार **एमियोट्रोफिक लेटरल स्क्लेरोसिस (ALS)** वाले मरीजों में असामान्य रूप से मजबूत नहीं पाया गया।
- A key strength of the paper was the sheer size of the datasets — which Dr. Liu and his team had been gathering since **2016**.
इस शोध की एक प्रमुख ताकत इसका बड़ा डेटा सेट था — जिसे डॉ. लियू और उनकी टीम **2016** से एकत्र कर रहे थे।
- “Hesheng Liu and team ran several complex clinical studies in record time and networked with other scientists around the world to pool data,” Dr. Dosenbach said.
“हेशेंग लियू और उनकी टीम ने रिकॉर्ड समय में कई जटिल क्लिनिकल अध्ययन किए और दुनिया भर के वैज्ञानिकों के साथ डेटा साझा किया,” डॉ. डोज़ेनबाख ने कहा।
- “The other strength of the paper is that it uses multiple cohorts of patients treated with different modalities and shows a consistent **• nding: over-connectivity of SCAN to basal**



ganglia in Parkinson's disease," Dr. Fasano added.

“इस शोध की एक और ताकत यह है कि इसमें विभिन्न उपचार विधियों से इलाज किए गए कई समूहों का उपयोग किया गया और एक समान निष्कर्ष सामने आया: **पार्किंसन रोग में SCAN और बेसल गैंग्लिया के बीच अत्यधिक कनेक्टिविटी**,” डॉ. फासानो ने कहा।

- “Importantly, when a treatment has worked, there's a common denominator: the **reduction of SCAN over-connectivity.**”
“महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, जब उपचार सफल होता है, तो एक सामान्य तत्व होता है: **SCAN की अधिक कनेक्टिविटी में कमी।**”
- On the other side, Dr. Fasano expressed belief that framing Parkinson's disease as a **SCAN disorder** is an **oversimplistic conclusion.**
दूसरी ओर, डॉ. फासानो का मानना है कि पार्किंसन को केवल **SCAN विकार** के रूप में देखना एक **अत्यधिक सरल निष्कर्ष** है।
- “First, Parkinson's disease is **heterogeneous.** Second, other conditions such as **parkinsonism or dystonia** may involve similar network abnormalities,” he said.
“पहला, पार्किंसन रोग **विविध (heterogeneous)** है। दूसरा, **पार्किंसनिज्म या डिस्टोनिया** जैसी अन्य स्थितियों में भी समान नेटवर्क असामान्यताएं हो सकती हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Nevertheless, **SCAN over-connectivity with basal ganglia** represents a new **network-level biomarker** for Parkinson's disease.
फिर भी, **SCAN और बेसल गैंग्लिया की अधिक कनेक्टिविटी** पार्किंसन रोग के लिए एक नया **नेटवर्क-स्तरीय बायोमार्कर** प्रस्तुत करती है।

Cautious optimism

सतर्क आशावाद

- The findings have **clinical implications.**
इन निष्कर्षों के **क्लिनिकल प्रभाव** हैं।
- In the study, the authors conducted a preliminary trial where **18 people with Parkinson's disease** were randomly assigned to receive **TMS directed at the SCAN regions.**
इस अध्ययन में, लेखकों ने एक प्रारंभिक परीक्षण किया जिसमें **18 पार्किंसन रोगियों** को यादृच्छिक रूप से **SCAN क्षेत्रों पर लक्षित TMS** दिया गया।
- Compared to a control cohort whose brains were stimulated at the **motor regions**, the **SCAN-targeted group** showed significantly less **tremors, rigidity, slowness, and instability within two weeks.**
उस नियंत्रण समूह की तुलना में, जिनके मस्तिष्क के **इफेक्टर क्षेत्रों** को उत्तेजित किया गया था, **SCAN-लक्षित समूह में दो सप्ताह के भीतर कंपन, कठोरता, धीमापन और अस्थिरता में उल्लेखनीय कमी** देखी गई।
- Both Dr. Dosenbach and Dr. Fasano agreed that a **TMS therapy directed at SCAN** for Parkinson's disease patients is **on the horizon.**
डॉ. डोजेनबाख और डॉ. फासानो दोनों सहमत हैं कि पार्किंसन रोगियों के लिए **SCAN पर लक्षित TMS** थैरेपी जल्द ही उपलब्ध हो सकती है।
- “In future, there will be both **non-invasive and minimally invasive neuromodulatory therapies** aimed directly at SCAN in a personalised manner using **PFM**,” Dr. Dosenbach said.
“भविष्य में, **गैर-आक्रामक और न्यूनतम आक्रामक न्यूरोमॉड्यूलेटरी उपचार** होंगे जो **PFM** का उपयोग कर व्यक्तिगत रूप से SCAN को लक्षित करेंगे,” डॉ. डोजेनबाख ने कहा।
- Dr. Kukkle remained **cautiously optimistic:** “Being super-closely located in the cortex, **SCAN is easily accessible by TMS for non-invasive modulation.**”
डॉ. कुक्कले **सतर्क आशावादी** रहे: “कॉर्टेक्स में सतही स्थिति के कारण, **SCAN को TMS द्वारा आसानी से लक्षित किया जा सकता है।**”
- However, he added that **SCAN is also a newly discovered brain region** that has yet to be included in standard medical textbooks and atlases:
हालांकि, उन्होंने जोड़ा कि **SCAN एक नया खोजा गया मस्तिष्क क्षेत्र है**, जिसे अभी तक मानक चिकित्सा पुस्तकों और एटलस में शामिल नहीं किया गया है:
- “While this paper shows **rational, biological plausibility and early clinical evidence**, it has to be seen whether it converts to **routine clinical practice.**”



“हालांकि यह शोध तार्किक, जैविक संभावना और प्रारंभिक क्लिनिकल प्रमाण दिखाता है, यह देखना बाकी है कि क्या यह सामान्य क्लिनिकल अभ्यास में बदलता है।”

What the Meta-YouTube ruling means for social media

What did the jury hold the platforms liable for? How did the case focus on platform design over content?

ISSUE & SCOPE

Saeed Pande

The story so far:

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury, on March 25, found Meta Platforms and Alphabet's YouTube liable for designing platforms in ways that foster addiction and harm users' mental health. The case centred on a woman who was addicted to social media platforms. The jury awarded \$3 million in compensatory damages, which dispensed 70% to Meta and 30% to YouTube, and designated punitive damages of up to \$3 million, subject to judicial confirmation.

What did the verdict say?

The presiding judge at the Los Angeles Superior Court has yet to formalise the final judgment. The 20-year-old woman, known as Kaley, testified that her social media use began as early as age 6 on YouTube and age 9 on Instagram because of their attention-grabbing design.

Kaley's lawyers argued that features like infinite scroll, autoplay, and algorithm-driven notifications were specifically engineered to “hook” young users. She testified that this addiction

exacerbated her depression, anxiety, and body dysmorphia.

The case focused on platform design rather than content, sidestepping Section 230 immunity by characterising social media platforms as “defective products,” focusing on design elements such as algorithmic amplification and addictive features rather than third-party content, making it harder for the companies to avert liability.

Snapchat and TikTok were defendants in the trial, while both settled with the plaintiff before it began; the terms of the agreements were not disclosed.

What evidence swayed the jury?

The case reportedly relied on internal corporate documents, expert testimony, and user-behaviour data, pointing to evidence such as the ‘Facebook Files’, internal research reported by *The Wall Street Journal* in 2021 showing Meta knew Instagram could worsen body image issues for teenage girls, with one study noting that “32% of teen girls said Instagram made them feel worse.” They also cited findings referenced in U.S. Senate hearings, where whistleblower Frances Haugen testified that company

research linked platform design to anxiety and compulsive use.

In YouTube's case, it pointed to concerns that its recommendation system steers users toward increasingly engaging content to maximise watch time, an issue noted in academic research and media reports.

Why is this verdict a landmark?

The ruling is significant because it shifts liability from content to platform design. It challenges protections under Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act, long used to shield firms from responsibility for user-generated content. Courts have typically dismissed such cases under Section 230 protections. For instance, in *Gonzalez v. Google* (2023), the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hold Google liable for YouTube's algorithmic recommendations of ISIS-related content. Similarly, in *Twitter v. Taamneh* (2023), claims against Twitter, Facebook, and Google for aiding terrorism were rejected due to insufficient proof of direct liability. These rulings reinforced that platforms are generally not responsible for third-party content, even when amplified by algorithms.

What changes for social media companies?

The verdict came a day after a jury in New Mexico found Meta liable for the way in which its platforms endangered children and exposed them to sexually explicit material and contact with sexual predators. If upheld, the verdict could compel platforms to rethink core design features. The ruling heightens demands for algorithmic transparency, as seen in proposals like the U.S. Algorithmic Accountability Act. Crucially, the risk of punitive damages and over 1,600 pending lawsuits could trigger costly, copycat litigation, making aggressive engagement-driven design legally vulnerable.

What is next for regulation?

At least half of American teens use YouTube or Instagram daily, according to the Pew Research Center. California is considering stricter rules on teen social media use, including potential restrictions on addictive features. At the federal level, lawmakers have proposed bills mandating algorithmic transparency and stronger child-safety protections. Recently, countries such as Australia have imposed restrictions on children to stop or limit their use of social media. The U.K. is running a pilot programme to see how a ban on social media for people aged under 16 may work. If upheld on appeal, it could mark the beginning of a new era in which algorithmic design is scrutinised not just for efficiency, but for its societal and psychological impact. (Saeed Pande is a freelance writer with a focus on politics, current affairs, international relations, and geopolitics)

THE GIST

A Los Angeles jury found Meta and YouTube liable for fostering addiction and harmed mental health, shifting focus from content to algorithmic amplification and addictive features.

The ruling challenges Section 230 protections and could trigger costly litigation, regulatory scrutiny, and changes to engagement-driven design.

31Mar. What the Meta-YouTube ruling means for social media Meta-YouTube निर्णय का सोशल मीडिया के लिए क्या अर्थ है

- A Los Angeles Superior Court jury, on March 25, found Meta Platforms and Alphabet's YouTube liable for designing platforms in ways that foster addiction and harm users' mental health.

25 मार्च को लॉस एंजलिस सुपीरियर कोर्ट की जूरी ने मेटा प्लेटफॉर्म और यूट्यूब को ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म डिजाइन करने के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया जो लत बढ़ाते हैं और उपयोगकर्ताओं के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं।

- The case centred on a woman who was addicted to social media platforms. यह मामला एक ऐसी महिला पर केंद्रित था जो सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म की आदी थी।
- The jury awarded \$3 million compensatory damages, allocating 70% to Meta and 30% to YouTube, and designated punitive damages up to \$3 million. जूरी ने 3 मिलियन डॉलर मुआवजा दिया, जिसमें 70% मेटा और 30% यूट्यूब को दिया गया, तथा 3 मिलियन डॉलर तक दंडात्मक हर्जाना निर्धारित किया।

What did the verdict say?

फैसले में क्या कहा गया?

- The presiding judge has yet to formalise the final judgment. अध्यक्ष न्यायाधीश ने अभी अंतिम निर्णय को औपचारिक रूप नहीं दिया है।
- The 20-year-old woman, known as Kaley, said her social media use began at age 6 (YouTube) and 9 (Instagram) due to attention-grabbing design. 20 वर्षीय महिला, जिसे केली कहा गया, ने बताया कि उसका सोशल मीडिया उपयोग 6 वर्ष (यूट्यूब) और 9 वर्ष (इंस्टाग्राम) की उम्र में शुरू हुआ, जिसका कारण ध्यान आकर्षित करने वाला डिजाइन था।
- Lawyers argued features like infinite scroll, autoplay, algorithm-driven notifications were designed to “hook” young users. वकीलों ने कहा कि अनंत स्क्रॉल, ऑटोप्ले और एल्गोरिदम आधारित नोटिफिकेशन को युवाओं को आदी बनाने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया था।
- She testified that addiction worsened her depression, anxiety, and body dysmorphia. उसने कहा कि इस लत ने उसकी डिप्रेशन, चिंता और बॉडी डिस्मॉर्फिया को बढ़ा दिया।



- The case focused on **platform design**, not content, calling platforms “**defective products**”. यह मामला **सामग्री नहीं बल्कि प्लेटफॉर्म डिजाइन** पर केंद्रित था और इन्हें **दोषपूर्ण उत्पाद** बताया गया।
- It targeted **algorithmic amplification and addictive features**, avoiding **Section 230 immunity**. इसमें **एल्गोरिदमिक बढ़ावा और लत पैदा करने वाले फीचर्स** पर ध्यान दिया गया, जिससे **सेक्शन 230 की सुरक्षा** से बचा जा सके।
- **Snapchat and TikTok** were defendants but settled with the plaintiff before trial; terms were undisclosed. **स्नैपचैट और टिकटॉक** भी आरोपी थे, लेकिन उन्होंने ट्रायल से पहले समझौता कर लिया; शर्तें सार्वजनिक नहीं हुईं।

What evidence swayed the jury?

कौन से साक्ष्य जूरी को प्रभावित कर गए?

- The case used **internal documents, expert testimony, and user behaviour data**. इस मामले में **आंतरिक दस्तावेज, विशेषज्ञ गवाही और उपयोगकर्ता व्यवहार डेटा** का उपयोग किया गया।
- Evidence included the **Facebook Files** and **2021 report by The Wall Street Journal**. साक्ष्यों में **फेसबुक फाइल्स** और **2021 की वॉल स्ट्रीट जर्नल रिपोर्ट** शामिल थी।
- Research showed **Instagram worsened body image issues**, with **32% teen girls** saying it made them feel worse. शोध में पाया गया कि **इंस्टाग्राम बॉडी इमेज समस्याओं को बढ़ाता है**, जिसमें **32% किशोरियों** ने कहा कि इससे उन्हें और बुरा महसूस हुआ।
- References were made to **U.S. Senate hearings**, where whistleblower **Frances Haugen** linked platform design to **anxiety and compulsive use**. **अमेरिकी सीनेट सुनवाई** का भी उल्लेख किया गया, जहां **फ्रान्सेस हाउगेन** ने प्लेटफॉर्म डिजाइन को **चिंता और बाध्यकारी उपयोग** से जोड़ा।
- In YouTube's case, concerns were raised about its **recommendation system** pushing users towards **more engaging content** to maximise watch time. **यूट्यूब** के मामले में उसके **रिकमेंडेशन सिस्टम** पर चिंता जताई गई, जो उपयोगकर्ताओं को **अधिक आकर्षक कंटेंट** की ओर ले जाता है ताकि देखने का समय बढ़े।
- This issue has been noted in **academic research and media reports**. यह समस्या **शैक्षणिक शोध और मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स** में भी सामने आई है।

Why is this verdict a landmark?

यह फैसला ऐतिहासिक क्यों है?

- The ruling is significant because it shifts **liability from content to platform design**. यह फैसला महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह **जिम्मेदारी को कंटेंट से प्लेटफॉर्म डिजाइन की ओर स्थानांतरित करता है**।
- It challenges protections under **Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act**, long used to shield **platforms** from responsibility for **user-generated content**. यह **अमेरिकी संचार शिष्टाचार अधिनियम की धारा 230** को चुनौती देता है, जिसका उपयोग लंबे समय से कंपनियों को **उपयोगकर्ता-निर्मित सामग्री** के लिए जिम्मेदारी से बचाने में होता रहा है।
- Courts have typically dismissed such cases under **Section 230 protections**. अदालतें आमतौर पर ऐसे मामलों को **धारा 230 की सुरक्षा** के तहत खारिज करती रही हैं।
- For instance, in **Gonzalez v. Google (2023)**, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hold Google liable for YouTube's **algorithmic recommendations of ISIS-related content**. उदाहरण के लिए, **गोंजालेज बनाम गूगल (2023)** में अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यूट्यूब के **एल्गोरिदमिक सिफारिशों द्वारा आईएसआईएस से संबंधित सामग्री** के लिए गूगल को जिम्मेदार ठहराने से इंकार किया।
- Similarly, in **Twitter v. Taamneh (2023)**, claims against Twitter, Facebook, and Google for **aiding terrorism** were rejected due to **insufficient proof of direct liability**. इसी प्रकार, **ट्विटर बनाम तामनेह (2023)** में आतंकवाद में सहायता के आरोपों को **प्रत्यक्ष जिम्मेदारी के अपर्याप्त प्रमाण** के कारण खारिज कर दिया गया।
- These rulings reinforced that platforms are generally not responsible for **third-party content**, even when amplified by **algorithms**.



इन फैसलों ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि प्लेटफॉर्म सामान्यतः तीसरे पक्ष की सामग्री के लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं होते, भले ही उसे एल्गोरिदम द्वारा बढ़ाया गया हो।

What changes for social media companies? सोशल मीडिया कंपनियों के लिए क्या बदलेगा?

- The verdict came a day after a jury in **New Mexico** found Meta liable for exposing children to **sexually explicit material and predators**.
यह फैसला न्यू मैक्सिको में एक जूरी द्वारा मेटा को बच्चों को अश्लील सामग्री और शिकारियों के संपर्क में लाने के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराने के एक दिन बाद आया।
- If upheld, the verdict could compel platforms to rethink **core design features**.
यदि यह फैसला बरकरार रहता है, तो प्लेटफॉर्म को अपने **मुख्य डिजाइन फीचर्स** पर पुनर्विचार करना पड़ेगा।
- The ruling heightens demands for **algorithmic transparency**, as seen in proposals like the **Algorithmic Accountability Act**.
यह फैसला एल्गोरिदमिक पारदर्शिता की मांग को बढ़ाता है, जैसा कि एल्गोरिदमिक जवाबदेही अधिनियम के प्रस्तावों में देखा गया है।
- The risk of **punitive damages** and over **1,600 pending lawsuits** could trigger costly **copycat litigation**.
दंडात्मक हर्जाने और 1600 से अधिक लंबित मुकदमों का जोखिम महंगे नकल आधारित मुकदमों को जन्म दे सकता है।
- This makes **engagement-driven design** legally vulnerable.
इससे एंगेजमेंट आधारित डिजाइन कानूनी रूप से कमजोर हो जाता है।

What is next for regulation? नियमन में आगे क्या होगा?

- At least **half of American teens** use YouTube or Instagram daily, according to the **Pew Research Center**.
प्यू रिसर्च सेंटर के अनुसार, कम से कम आधे अमेरिकी किशोर प्रतिदिन यूट्यूब या इंस्टाग्राम का उपयोग करते हैं।
- **California** is considering stricter rules, including restrictions on **addictive features**.
कैलिफोर्निया सख्त नियमों पर विचार कर रहा है, जिसमें लत पैदा करने वाले फीचर्स पर प्रतिबंध शामिल हैं।
- At the federal level, lawmakers have proposed bills for **algorithmic transparency and child-safety protections**.
संघीय स्तर पर कानून निर्माताओं ने एल्गोरिदमिक पारदर्शिता और बाल सुरक्षा उपायों के लिए विधेयक प्रस्तावित किए हैं।
- Countries such as **Australia** have imposed restrictions on children's **social media use**.
ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे देशों ने बच्चों के सोशल मीडिया उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं।
- The **U.K.** is testing a ban on social media for those **under 16 years**.
यूके में 16 वर्ष से कम आयु के लोगों के लिए सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध का परीक्षण किया जा रहा है।
- If upheld on appeal, it could mark a new era where **algorithmic design** is scrutinised for **societal and psychological impact**.
यदि अपील में यह बरकरार रहता है, तो यह एक नए युग की शुरुआत होगी जहां एल्गोरिदमिक डिजाइन का मूल्यांकन उसके सामाजिक और मनोवैज्ञानिक प्रभाव के आधार पर किया जाएगा।



How the OpenAI-Microsoft partnership is coming undone

The Microsoft-OpenAI partnership is under strain, with cracks, unresolved discomfort, and a slow unravelling. OpenAI is diversifying toward independence while Microsoft is hedging toward self-sufficiency, turning it into a competitive partnership

ES III SAT
John Xavier

There is a kind of awkwardness in a relationship when both parties know something has changed, but neither wants to say it out loud. The partnership between Microsoft and OpenAI seems to have arrived at exactly that moment.

The duo that joined hands even before the ChatGPT-triggered AI boom took the tech world by storm.

Microsoft invested a billion dollars in OpenAI back in June 2019, to "build beneficial AGI." The move was aimed at extending Microsoft's cloud capabilities in large-scale AI systems that were still not completely built. The logic was clean and mutually beneficial. OpenAI needed Microsoft's money and cloud infrastructure to build large language models, and Satya Nadella needed Sam Altman's researchers and cutting-edge technology. The partnership worked fine for both sides.

In late 2022, ChatGPT exploded into public consciousness, making Microsoft increase its funding in OpenAI with a \$10 billion investment in January 2023 as the software maker rushed to integrate the technology into Bing – the company's search engine – and its broader Office suite, which is now rebranded as Copilot.

At that point, Mr. Nadella taunted Google's Sundar Pichai, asking to show what his company could do with AI, making Mr. Pichai's researchers double down on building Gemini. But the past few years have been quite dynamic, and signs of strain in the partnership between the ChatGPT maker and the Windows maker were becoming visible.

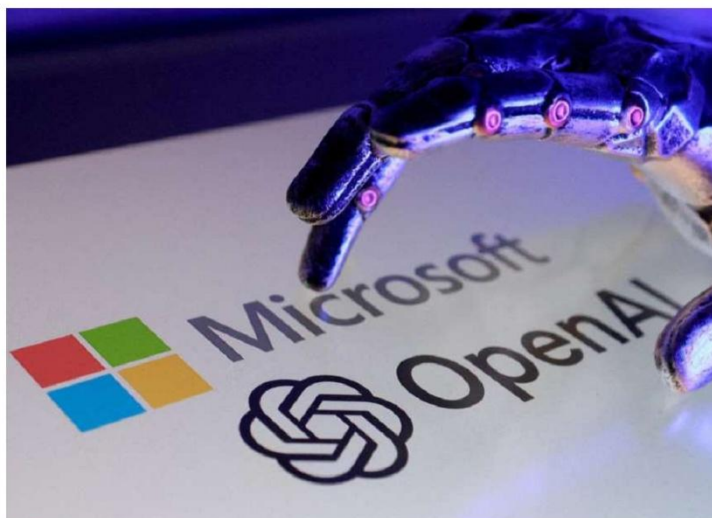
The first crack

The first real crack appeared when Microsoft was blindsided in November 2023 when OpenAI's board abruptly fired Mr. Altman. Mr. Nadella quickly moved to bring Mr. Altman back. After Mr. Altman took back his position, dissolving most of the board, Microsoft obtained a non-voting observer seat – a concession that looked like influence but was, in practice, something far more modest.

What then followed was a slow, deliberate unravelling. In March 2024, Microsoft worked on a strategy that would enable it to build its own in-house AI. In a \$650 million deal, the Redmond-headquartered company acquired Inflection AI and hired its founder, Mustafa Suleiman, to lead Microsoft AI.

OpenAI read that signal and responded accordingly. In June 2024, it signed a roughly \$300 billion deal with Oracle, a move that would loosen Microsoft's grip on the startup for compute infrastructure. Rather than end the exclusivity clause with Microsoft, this collaboration was presented as a three-way deal between Microsoft, OpenAI and Oracle, in which OpenAI would continue to pre-train its frontier models on Microsoft Azure. It was the beginning of a pattern that would repeat itself with increasing boldness.

According to a report by The Information, OpenAI had proposed capping Microsoft's future equity stake at 33% in exchange for it foregoing rights to future profits. Microsoft, which by this point had invested over \$13 billion, had balked at these terms. OpenAI also wanted to eliminate the clause that gives Azure exclusive cloud hosting rights.



Turn of events: Microsoft invested a billion dollars in OpenAI in June 2019, to 'build beneficial AGI'. REUTERS

A truce was eventually reached in which Microsoft and OpenAI signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding in September 2025, fundamentally restructuring how enterprises would deploy artificial intelligence. The formal renegotiation came in October, when Microsoft acquired a 27% stake in OpenAI Group PBC, valued at approximately \$135 billion at the time of signing. In exchange, Microsoft's former right of first refusal to be OpenAI's sole compute provider was formally removed.

Unresolved discomfort

The deal was packaged as a new chapter, but the underlying discomfort had not been resolved, only paused. Per a CNBC report citing a document circulated to prospective investors, OpenAI said that Microsoft is responsible for "a substantial portion of our financing and compute," and warned that any modification or termination of the commercial partnership could adversely affect OpenAI's business. The AI company also stated that its operating results would depend on its ability to successfully develop relationships with partners beyond Microsoft.

While an OpenAI spokesperson told the outlet, "This is a standard legal risk factor disclosure, unrelated to any potential IPO prospectus," it does reflect the reality that a company is telling investors that its most important relationship is also one of its greatest vulnerabilities.

And OpenAI has also been busy raising funds and partnering with other players in the ecosystem. In February, the company announced a combined \$110 billion funding at a valuation of \$730 billion from Amazon, Nvidia and Softbank. After this funding round, the ChatGPT maker has expanded its access

to compute infrastructure as Amazon's compute commitments to OpenAI now exceed Microsoft's.

Competitive partnership

Separately, OpenAI is also selling ChatGPT Enterprise, a product that rivals Microsoft's Copilot offering. This effectively makes the two companies competitors even as they are bound together by billions of dollars in contracts, IP licences and revenue-sharing agreements.

Microsoft, to its credit, has been playing its own long game. It has begun to offer Anthropic's Claude 4 within Office 365, revealing that it isn't trapped by OpenAI's models.

In fact, Microsoft began its reassessment exercise back in 2024 when it added OpenAI to the list of companies it considers competitors in its annual report. And with the Inflection AI acquisition, the software maker sent a clear signal that OpenAI is not its AI strategy, but merely a part of it.

What remains in place, for now, is the contractual scaffolding that neither side has fully dismantled.

Azure remains the exclusive cloud provider for stateless OpenAI APIs, and Microsoft maintains its exclusive license to OpenAI's intellectual property across all models and products. Microsoft will relinquish rights to OpenAI's research once an independent expert panel verifies AGI, or by 2030, whichever comes first. The AGI clause, in particular, is one of the stranger provisions in recent tech history – a contractual trigger for an event that most experts believe does not yet exist. Both companies felt it necessary to restate in February 2026 that its definition remained unchanged. The fact that they needed to say so tells you something about the state of trust between them.

The growing-up phase

There is a school of thought that says all of this is simply what successful partnerships look like when the companies involved grow up. What starts as a patron-and-dependent relationship inevitably evolves, and evolution is not the same thing as collapse.

Microsoft got what it needed from the partnership – an early lead in the AI era, the credibility of being the company that backed ChatGPT, the infrastructure deals and Azure growth that followed. OpenAI, in turn, got the capital and computing resources it needed to become the defining AI company of its generation. Both parties have now outgrown the original arrangement.

But outgrowing a partnership and peacefully departing from it are two different things. OpenAI is headed toward a public market debut – expected in the second half of 2026 – at a potential valuation approaching one trillion dollars. That valuation will be scrutinised intensely, and prospective shareholders will spend a great deal of time reading precisely the kind of risk disclosures from OpenAI. The message to investors is mixed and, on close reading, somewhat alarming. We are, says OpenAI, a company with 900 million weekly active users and \$13.1 billion in 2025 revenue. We are also a company whose future is materially dependent on the goodwill of a partner that now competes with us and which has been preparing its own AI capabilities for years.

The clouds over this particular affair have been gathering for a while. The renegotiated deal of last year bought time, but it did not buy resolution. OpenAI is diversifying its way toward independence, and Microsoft is hedging its way toward self-sufficiency. And somewhere in the fine print of investor documents, the truth will keep quietly presenting itself.

31Mar. How the OpenAI-Microsoft partnership is coming undone OpenAI-Microsoft साझेदारी कैसे बिखर रही है

- There is a kind of **awkwardness** in a relationship when both parties know something has changed, but neither wants to say it out loud.
किसी संबंध में एक तरह की असहजता होती है जब दोनों पक्ष जानते हैं कि कुछ बदल गया है, लेकिन कोई भी इसे खुलकर कहना नहीं चाहता।
- The partnership between **Microsoft and OpenAI** seems to have arrived at exactly that moment.
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट और ओपनएआई के बीच साझेदारी भी अब उसी स्थिति में पहुंचती दिख रही है।



- The duo that joined hands even before the **ChatGPT-triggered AI boom** took the tech world by storm.
इस जोड़ी ने **चैटजीपीटी से पहले ही एआई उछाल** आने से पहले साथ काम करना शुरू कर दिया था।
- Microsoft invested a billion dollars in OpenAI, back in **June 2019**, to “build **beneficial AGI.**”
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने **जून 2019** में ओपनएआई में एक बिलियन डॉलर का निवेश किया ताकि **लाभकारी एजीआई** बनाया जा सके।
- The move was aimed at extending Microsoft’s **cloud capabilities** in large-scale AI systems that were still not completely built.
इस कदम का उद्देश्य माइक्रोसॉफ्ट की **क्लाउड क्षमताओं** को बड़े पैमाने के एआई सिस्टम में बढ़ाना था जो अभी पूरी तरह विकसित नहीं हुए थे।
- The logic was clean and **mutually beneficial.**
यह तर्क स्पष्ट और **आपसी लाभकारी** था।
- OpenAI needed Microsoft’s money and **cloud infrastructure** to build **large language models**, and Satya Nadella needed Sam Altman’s researchers and **cutting-edge technology.**
ओपनएआई को **बड़े भाषा मॉडल** बनाने के लिए माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के पैसे और **क्लाउड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर** की जरूरत थी, और सत्य नडेला को सैम अल्टमैन के शोधकर्ताओं और **आधुनिक तकनीक** की जरूरत थी।
- The partnership worked • ne for both sides.
यह साझेदारी दोनों पक्षों के लिए अच्छी तरह काम करती रही।
- In **late 2022**, ChatGPT exploded into public consciousness, making Microsoft increase its funding in OpenAI with a **\$10 billion investment in January 2023.**
2022 के अंत में चैटजीपीटी तेजी से लोकप्रिय हुआ, जिससे माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने **जनवरी 2023 में 10 बिलियन डॉलर** का निवेश बढ़ाया।
- The software maker rushed to integrate the technology into **Bing** and its broader **Office suite**, now rebranded as **Copilot.**
सॉफ्टवेयर कंपनी ने इस तकनीक को **बिंग** और अपने व्यापक **ऑफिस सूट**, जिसे अब **कोपायलट** कहा जाता है, में शामिल किया।
- At that point, Mr. Nadella taunted Google’s Sundar Pichai, asking to show what his company could do with AI, making Mr. Pichai’s researchers double down on building **Gemini.**
उस समय श्री नडेला ने गूगल के सुंदर पिचाई को चुनौती दी, जिससे उनके शोधकर्ताओं ने **जेमिनी** बनाने पर जोर बढ़ाया।
- But the past few years have been quite dynamic, and signs of **strain in the partnership** between the ChatGPT maker and the Windows maker were becoming visible.
लेकिन पिछले कुछ वर्षों में काफी बदलाव हुए हैं, और चैटजीपीटी बनाने वाली कंपनी और विंडोज बनाने वाली कंपनी के बीच **तनाव के संकेत** दिखाई देने लगे।

The • rst crack पहली दरार

- The • rst real crack appeared when Microsoft was blindsided in **November 2023** when OpenAI’s board abruptly • red **Mr. Altman.**
पहली वास्तविक दरार तब आई जब माइक्रोसॉफ्ट को **नवंबर 2023** में झटका लगा, जब ओपनएआई बोर्ड ने अचानक **श्री अल्टमैन को हटा दिया**।
- Mr. Nadella quickly moved to bring Mr. Altman back.
श्री नडेला ने जल्दी ही उन्हें वापस लाने के लिए कदम उठाया।
- After Mr. Altman took back his position, dissolving most of the board, Microsoft obtained a **non-voting observer seat.**
श्री अल्टमैन के वापस आने और अधिकांश बोर्ड को हटाने के बाद, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट को **बिना मतदान वाला पर्यवेक्षक स्थान** मिला।
- It was a concession that looked like **in• uence** but was, in practice, something far more modest.
यह एक ऐसा समझौता था जो **प्रभाव** जैसा दिखता था, लेकिन वास्तव में काफी सीमित था।
- What then followed was a slow, deliberate **unravelling.**
इसके बाद धीरे-धीरे और योजनाबद्ध तरीके से **संबंधों में ढीलापन** आया।



- In **March 2024**, Microsoft worked on a strategy that would enable it to build its own **in-house AI**.
मार्च 2024 में माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने अपनी खुद की **इन-हाउस एआई** बनाने की रणनीति पर काम किया।
- In a **\$650 million deal**, the Redmond-headquartered company acquired **Inflection AI** and hired its founder, **Mustafa Suleiman**, to lead Microsoft AI.
650 मिलियन डॉलर के सौदे में रेडमंड स्थित कंपनी ने **इन्फ्लेक्शन एआई** का अधिग्रहण किया और उसके संस्थापक **मुस्तफा सुलेमान** को माइक्रोसॉफ्ट एआई का नेतृत्व करने के लिए नियुक्त किया।
- OpenAI read that signal and responded accordingly.
ओपनएआई ने इस संकेत को समझा और उसी के अनुसार प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- In **June 2024**, it signed a roughly **\$300 billion deal with Oracle**, a move that would loosen Microsoft's grip on the startup for **compute infrastructure**.
जून 2024 में उसने **ओरेकल के साथ लगभग 300 बिलियन डॉलर का समझौता** किया, जिससे माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का **कंप्यूट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर नियंत्रण** कमजोर हुआ।
- Rather than end the exclusivity clause with Microsoft, this collaboration was presented as a **three-way deal** between Microsoft, OpenAI and Oracle.
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के साथ विशेषाधिकार समाप्त करने के बजाय, इसे माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, ओपनएआई और ओरेकल के बीच **तीन पक्षीय समझौते** के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया।
- OpenAI would continue to pre-train its frontier models on **Microsoft Azure**.
ओपनएआई अपने मॉडल का प्रशिक्षण **माइक्रोसॉफ्ट एज़ोर** पर जारी रखेगा।
- It was the beginning of a pattern that would repeat itself with **increasing boldness**.
यह एक ऐसे पैटर्न की शुरुआत थी जो आगे **बढ़ती स्पष्टता और साहस** के साथ दोहराया जाएगा।

Microsoft–OpenAI Partnership Developments माइक्रोसॉफ्ट–ओपनएआई साझेदारी के विकास

- According to a report by **The Information**, OpenAI had proposed capping Microsoft's future equity stake at **33%** in exchange for it foregoing rights to future profits.
द इन्फॉर्मेशन की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, ओपनएआई ने माइक्रोसॉफ्ट की भविष्य की हिस्सेदारी को **33%** तक सीमित करने का प्रस्ताव दिया, बदले में भविष्य के मुनाफे के अधिकार छोड़ने के लिए।
- Microsoft, which by this point had invested over **\$13 billion**, had balked at these terms.
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, जिसने इस समय तक **13 बिलियन डॉलर से अधिक** निवेश किया था, इन शर्तों से पीछे हट गया।
- OpenAI also wanted to eliminate the clause that gives **Azure exclusive cloud hosting rights**.
ओपनएआई उस शर्त को भी हटाना चाहता था जो **एज़ोर को विशेष क्लाउड होस्टिंग अधिकार** देती है।
- A truce was eventually reached in which Microsoft and OpenAI signed a **non-binding memorandum of understanding in September 2025**, fundamentally restructuring how enterprises would deploy artificial intelligence.
अंततः एक समझौता हुआ जिसमें माइक्रोसॉफ्ट और ओपनएआई ने **सितंबर 2025 में एक गैर-बाध्यकारी समझौता ज्ञापन** पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे कंपनियों द्वारा **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के उपयोग के तरीके** में बदलाव आया।
- The formal renegotiation came in **October**, when Microsoft acquired a **27% stake** in OpenAI Group PBC, valued at approximately **\$135 billion**.
औपचारिक पुनर्विचार **अक्टूबर** में हुआ, जब माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने ओपनएआई ग्रुप पीबीसी में **27% हिस्सेदारी** खरीदी, जिसकी कीमत लगभग **135 बिलियन डॉलर** थी।
- In exchange, Microsoft's former right of **first refusal** to be OpenAI's sole compute provider was formally removed.
इसके बदले माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का ओपनएआई का एकमात्र कंप्यूट प्रदाता बनने का **पहला अधिकार** समाप्त कर दिया गया।

Unresolved discomfort अनसुलझी असहजता

- The deal was packaged as a new chapter, but the underlying **discomfort** had not been resolved, only paused.



इस समझौते को एक नए अध्याय के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया, लेकिन मूल **असहजता** समाप्त नहीं हुई, केवल रुकी रही।

- Per a **CNBC report**, OpenAI said Microsoft is responsible for “a substantial portion of our **• nancing and compute**”.
- सीएनबीसी रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार, ओपनएआई ने कहा कि माइक्रोसॉफ्ट उसके **वित्त और कंप्यूट का बड़ा हिस्सा** प्रदान करता है।
- It warned that any modi• cation or termination of the partnership could adversely a• ect OpenAI’s **business**.
उसने चेतावनी दी कि साझेदारी में किसी भी बदलाव या समाप्ति से ओपनएआई के **व्यवसाय** पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।
 - OpenAI stated its results depend on building relationships with partners **beyond Microsoft**. ओपनएआई ने कहा कि उसके परिणाम **माइक्रोसॉफ्ट से बाहर अन्य साझेदारों** के साथ संबंध बनाने पर निर्भर करेंगे।
 - An OpenAI spokesperson said it is a **standard legal risk factor disclosure**, not linked to any **IPO**.
ओपनएआई के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि यह एक **सामान्य कानूनी जोखिम प्रकटीकरण** है, किसी **आईपीओ** से जुड़ा नहीं है।
 - However, it shows that its most important relationship is also a **major vulnerability**. हालांकि, यह दिखाता है कि उसका सबसे महत्वपूर्ण संबंध ही उसकी **सबसे बड़ी कमजोरी** है।
 - OpenAI has also been raising funds and partnering with other players. ओपनएआई अन्य कंपनियों के साथ साझेदारी और फंड जुटाने में भी लगा है।
 - In **February**, it announced **\$110 billion funding** at a valuation of **\$730 billion** from Amazon, Nvidia and Softbank.
फरवरी में इसने **110 बिलियन डॉलर फंडिंग** की घोषणा की, जिसका मूल्यांकन **730 बिलियन डॉलर** था, जिसमें अमेजन, एनवीडिया और सॉफ्टबैंक शामिल थे।
 - After this, Amazon’s compute commitments to OpenAI exceeded Microsoft’s. इसके बाद अमेजन की कंप्यूट प्रतिबद्धताएं माइक्रोसॉफ्ट से अधिक हो गईं।

Competitive partnership प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक साझेदारी

- OpenAI is also selling **ChatGPT Enterprise**, which rivals Microsoft’s **Copilot**. ओपनएआई **चैटजीपीटी एंटरप्राइज** भी बेच रहा है, जो माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के **कोपायलट** का प्रतिस्पर्धी है।
- This makes the two companies **competitors** despite being tied by contracts, licences and revenue-sharing agreements.
इससे दोनों कंपनियां अनुबंध, लाइसेंस और राजस्व साझा समझौतों के बावजूद **प्रतिद्वंद्वी** बन जाती हैं।
- Microsoft has started offering **Anthropic’s Claude 4** within **Office 365**. माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने **ऑफिस 365** में **एंथ्रोपिक का क्लाउड 4** देना शुरू कर दिया है।
- This shows Microsoft is not dependent solely on OpenAI’s models. यह दिखाता है कि माइक्रोसॉफ्ट केवल ओपनएआई के मॉडल पर निर्भर नहीं है।

The growing-up phase विकास का चरण

- In fact, Microsoft began its **reassessment exercise** back in **2024** when it added OpenAI to the list of companies it considers **competitors** in its annual report.
वास्तव में, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने **2024** में अपना **पुनर्मूल्यांकन अभ्यास** शुरू किया जब उसने ओपनएआई को अपनी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में **प्रतिद्वंद्वी कंपनियों** की सूची में शामिल किया।
- And with the **In• action AI acquisition**, the software maker sent a clear signal that OpenAI is not its AI strategy, but merely a part of it.
और **इन्फ्लेक्शन एआई अधिग्रहण** के साथ, कंपनी ने स्पष्ट संकेत दिया कि ओपनएआई उसकी एआई रणनीति नहीं बल्कि उसका केवल एक हिस्सा है।
- What remains in place, for now, is the **contractual sca• olding** that neither side has fully dismantled.
अभी जो बना हुआ है वह **संविदात्मक ढांचा** है जिसे किसी भी पक्ष ने पूरी तरह समाप्त नहीं किया है।



- Azure remains the **exclusive cloud provider** for stateless OpenAI APIs, and Microsoft maintains its **exclusive license** to OpenAI's intellectual property across all models and products.
एज़्योर अभी भी ओपनएआई एपीआई के लिए **विशेष क्लाउड प्रदाता** बना हुआ है, और माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के पास ओपनएआई की बौद्धिक संपदा पर **विशेष लाइसेंस** है।
- Microsoft will relinquish rights to OpenAI's research once an independent expert panel verifies **AGI**, or by **2030**, whichever comes first.
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ओपनएआई के अनुसंधान पर अधिकार छोड़ देगा जब एक स्वतंत्र विशेषज्ञ पैनल **एजीआई** की पुष्टि करेगा या **2030** तक, जो भी पहले हो।
- The **AGI clause** is one of the stranger provisions — a contractual trigger for an event that most experts believe does not yet exist.
एजीआई क्लॉज एक असामान्य प्रावधान है — ऐसा अनुबंध जो एक ऐसी घटना पर आधारित है जिसे अधिकांश विशेषज्ञ अभी अस्तित्व में नहीं मानते।
- Both companies restated in **February 2026** that its definition remained unchanged.
दोनों कंपनियों ने **फरवरी 2026** में कहा कि इसकी परिभाषा अपरिवर्तित है।
- The fact that they needed to say so tells you something about the state of **trust** between them.
यह तथ्य बताता है कि उनके बीच **विश्वास** की स्थिति कैसी है।
- There is a school of thought that says all of this is simply what successful partnerships look like when the companies involved **grow up**.
एक विचारधारा यह कहती है कि यह सब वही है जो सफल साझेदारियों में होता है जब कंपनियां **परिपक्व होती हैं**।
- What starts as a **patron-and-dependent relationship** inevitably evolves, and evolution is not the same thing as collapse.
जो शुरुआत में **सरक्षक और आश्रित संबंध** होता है, वह विकसित होता है और विकास पतन के समान नहीं होता।
- Microsoft got what it needed — an early lead in the **AI era**, credibility, infrastructure deals and **Azure growth**.
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट को वह मिला जो उसे चाहिए था — **एआई युग में बढ़त**, विश्वसनीयता, इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर समझौते और **एज़्योर का विस्तार**।
- OpenAI got **capital and computing resources** to become a leading AI company.
ओपनएआई को अग्रणी एआई कंपनी बनने के लिए **पूंजी और कंप्यूटिंग संसाधन** मिले।
- Both parties have now **outgrown** the original arrangement.
दोनों पक्ष अब मूल व्यवस्था से आगे बढ़ चुके हैं।
- But outgrowing a partnership and peacefully departing are two different things.
लेकिन साझेदारी से आगे बढ़ना और शांति से अलग होना दो अलग बातें हैं।
- OpenAI is headed toward a **public market debut** in the second half of **2026** at a valuation nearing **one trillion dollars**.
ओपनएआई **2026** के दूसरे भाग में **सार्वजनिक बाजार में प्रवेश** की ओर बढ़ रहा है, जिसका मूल्यांकन लगभग **एक ट्रिलियन डॉलर** हो सकता है।
- That valuation will be **scrutinised intensely** by investors.
इस मूल्यांकन की निवेशकों द्वारा **गहन जांच** की जाएगी।
- OpenAI says it has **900 million weekly active users** and **\$13.1 billion revenue in 2025**.
ओपनएआई कहता है कि उसके पास **900 मिलियन साप्ताहिक सक्रिय उपयोगकर्ता** हैं और **2025 में 13.1 बिलियन डॉलर राजस्व** है।
- But it is also dependent on the **goodwill of a partner** that now competes with it.
लेकिन यह एक ऐसे **साझेदार की सद्भावना** पर भी निर्भर है जो अब उसका प्रतिस्पर्धी है।
- Microsoft has been preparing its own **AI capabilities** for years.
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट कई वर्षों से अपनी **एआई क्षमताओं** को विकसित कर रहा है।
- The clouds over this relationship have been **gathering for a while**.
इस संबंध पर संकट के बादल **काफी समय से मंडरा रहे हैं**।
- The renegotiated deal bought **time**, not resolution.
पुनःसमझौते ने **समय दिया**, समाधान नहीं।



- OpenAI is diversifying toward **independence**, and Microsoft is moving toward **self-sufficiency**.
ओपनएआई स्वतंत्रता की ओर बढ़ रहा है और माइक्रोसॉफ्ट आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर।
- The truth will keep appearing quietly in **investor documents**.
सच्चाई निवेशक दस्तावेजों में धीरे-धीरे सामने आती रहेगी।

GS Paper III: Environment,

TOPICS COVERED

31 March 2026

31Mar

Falcon 9 reentry pollutes upper atmosphere

फाल्कन 9 पुनः प्रवेश ऊपरी वायुमंडल को प्रदूषित करता है

Bear drift



Wild wanderer: A female sloth bear staggers after being hit with a tranquilliser dart by Forest Department officials near Shivamogga airport in Karnataka on Monday. The bear, which had been straying into villages, was taken for rehabilitation. S.K. DINESH

Wild wanderer: A female sloth bear staggers after being hit with a tranquilliser dart by Forest Department officials near Shivamogga airport in Karnataka on Monday. The bear, which had been straying into villages, was taken for rehabilitation.



Falcon 9 reentry pollutes upper atmosphere

GS III: Environment
Vasudevan Mukunth

The world is in the throes of a second Space Age, with space-based data and assets being increasingly integrated into terrestrial activities – from helping cars and ships find their way to predicting impending disasters. For this, various countries have launched thousands of satellites to orbit, with orders of magnitude more poised to launch in the coming years.

While this proliferation has raised concerns about orbital debris, scientists are increasingly also concerned about a different kind of fallout: the chemical pollution left behind when these objects burn up in the atmosphere.

Now, for the first time, researchers from Germany, Peru, and the U.K. have tracked a plume of metal vapour created by a Falcon 9 rocket reentering the atmosphere. Their findings, published in *Communications Earth & Environment*, confirm that space traffic is actively altering the chemistry of the atmosphere's uppermost reaches.

The study was driven by the rise of

Researchers tracked metal vapour created by a Falcon 9 rocket reentering the atmosphere and their findings confirmed that space traffic is altering the chemistry of the atmosphere

mega-constellations like Starlink, as part of which thousands of satellites are designed to de-orbit and burn up at the end of their five-year lifespans. When they do, they inject metals like aluminum and lithium into the mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT).

जहाँ इस बढ़ती संख्या ने कक्षीय मलबे की चिंता बढ़ाई है, वहीं वैज्ञानिक अब एक अन्य समस्या — रासायनिक प्रदूषण — को लेकर भी चिंतित हैं, जो इन वस्तुओं के वायुमंडल में जलने से उत्पन्न होता है।

- Now, for the first time, researchers from **Germany, Peru, and the U.K.** have tracked a plume of **metal vapour** created by a **Falcon 9 rocket** reentering the atmosphere. अब पहली बार, **जर्मनी, पेरू और यू.के.** के शोधकर्ताओं ने वायुमंडल में पुनः प्रवेश करने वाले **Falcon 9 रॉकेट** द्वारा उत्पन्न धातु वाष्प (**metal vapour**) के गुबार को ट्रैक किया है।
- Their findings, published in **Communications Earth & Environment**, confirm that **space traffic** is actively altering the **chemistry of the atmosphere's uppermost reaches**. उनके निष्कर्ष, **Communications Earth & Environment** में प्रकाशित, पुष्टि करते हैं कि **अंतरिक्ष यातायात** वायुमंडल की **ऊपरी परतों की रासायनिकी** को सक्रिय रूप से बदल रहा है।

Scientists are concerned that this pollution could harm the ozone layer and change how the atmosphere traps heat.

On February 19, 2025, when the upper stage of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket made an uncontrolled re-entry over Europe, the researchers used a resonance lidar located in Kùhlungsborn in Germany. The instrument fired a laser into the sky to measure the density of specific atoms nearly 100 km up.

To prove the connection to the rocket, the researchers combined a sophisticated atmospheric model with wind data from local meteor radars and they calculated backwards trajectories. This allowed them to trace the movement of air masses from the observation point in Germany back to the exact time and location where the rocket disintegrated. About 20 hours after the reentry, the lidar detected a surge in the number of lithium atoms at an altitude of 96 km – a concentration 10 times higher than natural levels.

Natural space dust, like that shed by meteors, contains very little lithium. In fact, the entire earth usually receives only about 80 g of natural lithium from space dust per day. But modern rockets and satellites use lithium-aluminum alloys for their hulls and lithium-ion batteries for power; a single Falcon 9 stage contains roughly 30 km of the metal.

The team's models showed the air mass had drifted 1,600 km from the west coast of Ireland, over which the rocket reentered, to the skies over Northern Germany. The team also checked for natural explanations such as geomagnetic storms and ionospheric interference.

As the mass of human-made objects re-entering the atmosphere begins to rival the mass of natural meteors, the ability to identify and track pollutants coming from the skies will be important. "The upper atmosphere, as the first part of the earth's environment impacted by re-entry, offers a valuable opportunity to observe ablated materials close to their source, before they undergo chemical transformation and atmospheric dispersion," the researchers wrote in their paper.

31Mar. Falcon 9 reentry pollutes upper atmosphere

फाल्कन 9 पुनः प्रवेश ऊपरी वायुमंडल को प्रदूषित करता है

Second Space Age and Atmospheric Pollution
द्वितीय अंतरिक्ष युग और वायुमंडलीय प्रदूषण

• The world is in the throes of a **second Space Age**, with **space-based data and assets** being increasingly integrated into **terrestrial activities** — from helping cars and ships find their way to predicting **impending disasters**.

दुनिया दूसरे अंतरिक्ष युग के दौर से गुजर रही है, जहाँ अंतरिक्ष आधारित डेटा और संसाधन धीरे-धीरे स्थलीय गतिविधियों में शामिल हो रहे हैं — जैसे कारों और जहाजों को रास्ता दिखाने से लेकर **आसन्न आपदाओं की भविष्यवाणी** तक।

• For this, various countries have launched **thousands of satellites** to orbit, with orders of magnitude more poised to launch in the coming years.

इसके लिए विभिन्न देशों ने कक्षा में **हजारों उपग्रह** लॉन्च किए हैं, और आने वाले वर्षों में इससे भी अधिक संख्या में लॉन्च होने वाले हैं।

• While this proliferation has raised concerns about **orbital debris**, scientists are increasingly also concerned about a different kind of fallout: the **chemical pollution** left behind when these objects burn up in the atmosphere.



- The study was driven by the rise of **mega-constellations like Starlink**, as part of which thousands of satellites are designed to **de-orbit and burn up** at the end of their **• ve-year lifespans**.
यह अध्ययन **Starlink जैसे मेगा-कॉन्स्टेलेशन** के बढ़ते उपयोग से प्रेरित था, जिसमें हजारों उपग्रहों को उनके **पांच वर्ष के जीवनकाल** के अंत में **कक्षा से हटाकर जलाने** के लिए डिजाइन किया जाता है।
- When they do, they inject metals like **aluminum and lithium** into the **mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT)**.
जब ऐसा होता है, तो वे **एल्युमिनियम और लिथियम** जैसे धातुओं को **मेसोस्फीयर और निचले थर्मोस्फीयर (MLT)** में छोड़ते हैं।
- Scientists are concerned that this pollution could harm the **ozone layer** and change how the atmosphere **traps heat**.
वैज्ञानिकों को चिंता है कि यह प्रदूषण **ओजोन परत** को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है और वायुमंडल की **ऊष्मा को रोकने की क्षमता** को बदल सकता है।
- On **February 19, 2025**, when the upper stage of a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** made an uncontrolled re-entry over Europe, the researchers used a **resonance lidar** located in **Kühlungsborn in Germany**.
19 फरवरी 2025 को, जब **SpaceX Falcon 9 रॉकेट** का ऊपरी चरण यूरोप के ऊपर अनियंत्रित रूप से पुनः प्रवेश कर रहा था, तब शोधकर्ताओं ने **जर्मनी के Kühlungsborn** में स्थित **रेज़ोनेंस लिडार** का उपयोग किया।
- The instrument **• red a laser into the sky to measure the density of speci• c atoms nearly 100 km up**.
इस उपकरण ने आकाश में लेजर किरणें भेजकर लगभग **100 किमी ऊंचाई पर विशेष परमाणुओं के घनत्व** को मापा।
- To prove the connection to the rocket, the researchers combined a **sophisticated atmospheric model** with wind data from local **meteor radars** and they calculated **backwards trajectories**.
रॉकेट से संबंध सिद्ध करने के लिए, शोधकर्ताओं ने एक **उन्नत वायुमंडलीय मॉडल** को स्थानीय **मौसम रडार** के पवन डेटा के साथ मिलाया और **पिछली दिशा की गति (backwards trajectories)** की गणना की।
- This allowed them to trace the movement of **air masses** from the observation point in Germany back to the exact time and location where the rocket disintegrated.
इससे उन्हें जर्मनी के अवलोकन स्थल से **वायु द्रव्यमानों** की गति को उस स्थान और समय तक ट्रैक करने में मदद मिली जहां रॉकेट विघटित हुआ था।
- About **20 hours after the reentry**, the lidar detected a surge in the number of **lithium atoms** at an altitude of **96 km** — a concentration **10 times higher than natural levels**.
पुनः प्रवेश के लगभग **20 घंटे बाद**, लिडार ने **96 किमी ऊंचाई पर लिथियम परमाणुओं** की संख्या में वृद्धि दर्ज की — जो प्राकृतिक स्तर से **10 गुना अधिक** थी।
- Natural space dust, like that shed by meteors, contains very little **lithium**.
प्राकृतिक अंतरिक्ष धूल, जैसे उल्काओं से निकलने वाली, में बहुत कम **लिथियम** होता है।
- In fact, the entire earth usually receives only about **80 g of natural lithium per day** from space dust.
वास्तव में, पूरी पृथ्वी को अंतरिक्ष धूल से प्रतिदिन केवल लगभग **80 ग्राम प्राकृतिक लिथियम** ही प्राप्त होता है।
- But modern rockets and satellites use **lithium-aluminum alloys** for their hulls and **lithium-ion batteries** for power; a single **Falcon 9 stage contains roughly 30 km of the metal**.
लेकिन आधुनिक रॉकेट और उपग्रह अपने ढांचे के लिए **लिथियम-एल्युमिनियम मिश्रधातु** और ऊर्जा के लिए **लिथियम-आयन बैटरियों** का उपयोग करते हैं; एक **Falcon 9 चरण में लगभग 30 किमी धातु** होती है।
- The team's models showed the air mass had drifted **1,600 km** from the **west coast of Ireland**, over which the rocket reentered, to the skies over **Northern Germany**.
टीम के मॉडल ने दिखाया कि वायु द्रव्यमान **आयरलैंड के पश्चिमी तट** से, जहां रॉकेट पुनः प्रवेश हुआ था, **1600 किमी** की दूरी तय कर **उत्तरी जर्मनी** के आकाश तक पहुंच गया।
- The team also checked for natural explanations such as **geomagnetic storms** and **ionospheric interference**.
टीम ने **भू-चुंबकीय तूफान** और **आयनोस्फेरिक हस्तक्षेप** जैसे प्राकृतिक कारणों की भी जांच की।
- As the mass of **human-made objects re-entering the atmosphere** begins to rival the mass of **natural meteors**, the ability to identify and track **pollutants** coming from the skies will be important.



जैसे-जैसे वायुमंडल में पुनः प्रवेश करने वाली **मानव-निर्मित वस्तुओं** का द्रव्यमान **प्राकृतिक उल्काओं** के बराबर होने लगा है, आकाश से आने वाले **प्रदूषकों** की पहचान और ट्रैकिंग महत्वपूर्ण हो जाएगी।

- “The upper atmosphere, as the first part of the earth’s environment impacted by reentry, offers a valuable opportunity to observe **ablated materials** close to their source, before they undergo **chemical transformation and atmospheric dispersion**,” the researchers wrote in their paper.

शोधकर्ताओं ने लिखा, “**ऊपरी वायुमंडल**, जो पुनः प्रवेश से प्रभावित होने वाला पृथ्वी का पहला हिस्सा है, **वाष्पीकृत पदार्थों (ablated materials)** को उनके स्रोत के पास ही देखने का अवसर देता है, इससे पहले कि वे रासायनिक परिवर्तन और वायुमंडलीय प्रसार से गुजरें।”

GS Paper III:

TOPICS COVERED

31 March 2026

31Mar	Barring one, entire top leadership of Maoists wiped out from country, Shah tells Lok Sabha एक को छोड़कर, माओवादी शीर्ष नेतृत्व पूरी तरह समाप्त, शाह ने लोकसभा में कहा
31Mar	Opposition says Bill will demoralise CAPF, BJP defends draft legislation विपक्ष का कहना है कि विधेयक से CAPF का मनोबल गिरेगा, BJP ने मसौदा कानून का बचाव किया

Barring one, entire top leadership of Maoists wiped out from country, Shah tells Lok Sabha

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that barring one, the entire leadership of Maoists had been wiped out in the past two years.

He said that at the beginning of 2024, there were 21 politburo and central committee members of the Communist Party of India (Maoists) but as of today, one was arrested, seven surrendered, 12 were killed, and dialogue is on with the absconding member who is expected to surrender soon.

“Thus, their politburo and central structure have been almost completely dismantled. Our goal was a Naxal-free India by March 31. The country will be informed once the entire



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Monday. ANI

process is formally completed, but I can say that we have become Naxal-free,” Mr. Shah said, while replying to a discussion on Maoism in the Lok Sabha.

In the past three years, 706 Maoists were killed, 2,218 were arrested, and more than 4,800 cadres have surrendered.

Attacking the then Congress-led UPA government, he said the police and Central Armed Police Forces personnel were there before 2014 as well but what changed was clear policy and strong political will.

He said dialogue and discussion was futile with some people and force had

to be used against them. “They planted bombs in farmers’ fields, crippling them... I have said it many times – lay down arms, complete arrangements for rehabilitation will be made but a bullet will be answered with a bullet.”

Mr. Shah said 12 States had become part of the Red Corridor (belt affected by Maoism) and there was no rule of law there.

Three tools

In the fight against left-wing extremism (LWE) three tools – dialogue, security, and coordination – were deployed, he said. “By using the latest technology, we carried out precise surveillance and analysed a large volume of telephone bills. With the help of location-tracking systems, mobile phone ac-

tivity data, call logs, social media analysis, and support from forensic and technical institutions, the Ministry of Home Affairs led this operation,” he said.

“Before 2024, Bihar had already become Naxal-free, Maharashtra had become Naxal-free, and Jharkhand too, except for one district. Only Chhattisgarh remained, because the Congress government there protected the Naxalites. In January 2024, our government was formed in Chhattisgarh, and from the very next day, full support was assured. A joint strategy was formulated, and on 24 August 2024 we announced that Naxalism would be eliminated from the country by 31 March 2026,” he said.

31Mar. Barring one, entire top leadership of Maoists wiped out from country, Shah tells Lok Sabha

एक को छोड़कर, माओवादी शीर्ष नेतृत्व पूरी तरह समाप्त, शाह ने लोकसभा में कहा



- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** said on Monday that barring one, the entire leadership of Maoists had been wiped out in the past two years.
सोमवार को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने कहा कि एक को छोड़कर पिछले दो वर्षों में माओवादियों का पूरा नेतृत्व समाप्त कर दिया गया है।
- He said that at the beginning of 2024, there were **21 politburo and central committee members** of the Communist Party of India (Maoists) but as of today, one was arrested, seven surrendered, 12 were killed, and dialogue is on with the absconding member who is expected to surrender soon.
उन्होंने कहा कि 2024 की शुरुआत में भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (माओवादी) के **21 पोलितब्यूरो और केंद्रीय समिति सदस्य** थे, लेकिन आज तक एक गिरफ्तार हुआ, सात ने आत्मसमर्पण किया, 12 मारे गए, और फरार सदस्य से बातचीत चल रही है जो जल्द आत्मसमर्पण करने की उम्मीद है।
- “Thus, their **politburo and central structure** have been almost completely dismantled.
“इस प्रकार उनका **पोलितब्यूरो और केंद्रीय ढांचा** लगभग पूरी तरह ध्वस्त हो गया है।
- Our goal was a **Naxal-free India by March 31**.
हमारा लक्ष्य **31 मार्च तक नक्सल-मुक्त भारत** था।
- The country will be informed once the entire process is formally completed, but I can say that we have become **Naxal-free**,” Mr. Shah said, while replying to a discussion on Maoism in the Lok Sabha.
पूरे प्रक्रिया के औपचारिक रूप से पूर्ण होने पर देश को सूचित किया जाएगा, लेकिन मैं कह सकता हूँ कि हम **नक्सल-मुक्त** हो गए हैं,” श्री शाह ने लोकसभा में माओवाद पर चर्चा के दौरान कहा।
- In the past three years, **706 Maoists were killed, 2,218 were arrested**, and more than **4,800 cadres have surrendered**.
पिछले तीन वर्षों में **706 माओवादी मारे गए, 2,218 गिरफ्तार हुए, और 4,800 से अधिक कैडरों ने आत्मसमर्पण किया।**
- Attacking the then **Congress-led UPA government**, he said the police and Central Armed Police Forces personnel were there before 2014 as well but what changed was **clear policy and strong political will**.
तत्कालीन **कांग्रेस-नेतृत्व वाली यूपीए सरकार** पर हमला करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि 2014 से पहले भी पुलिस और केंद्रीय सशस्त्र बल मौजूद थे, लेकिन जो बदला वह था **स्पष्ट नीति और मजबूत राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति।**
- He said **dialogue and discussion** was futile with some people and force had to be used against them.
उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ लोगों के साथ **संवाद और चर्चा** व्यर्थ है और उनके खिलाफ बल का उपयोग करना पड़ा।
- “They planted bombs in farmers’ fields, crippling them...
“उन्होंने किसानों के खेतों में बम लगाए, जिससे वे अपंग हो गए...
I have said it many times — lay down arms, complete arrangements for **rehabilitation** will be made but a **bullet will be answered with a bullet**.”
मैंने कई बार कहा है — हथियार डाल दो, **पुनर्वास** की पूरी व्यवस्था की जाएगी, लेकिन **गोली का जवाब गोली से दिया जाएगा।**
- Mr. Shah said **12 States** had become part of the **Red Corridor** (belt affected by Maoism) and there was no **rule of law** there.
श्री शाह ने कहा कि **12 राज्य रेड कॉरिडोर** (माओवाद प्रभावित क्षेत्र) का हिस्सा बन गए थे और वहां **कानून का शासन** नहीं था।
- In the fight against **left-wing extremism (LWE)** three tools — **dialogue, security, and coordination** — were deployed, he said.
वामपंथी उग्रवाद (LWE) के खिलाफ लड़ाई में तीन उपकरण — **संवाद, सुरक्षा और समन्वय** — का उपयोग किया गया।
- “By using the latest **technology**, we carried out precise **surveillance** and analysed a large volume of telephone bills.
“नवीनतम **तकनीक** का उपयोग करके हमने सटीक **निगरानी** की और बड़ी मात्रा में टेलीफोन बिलों का विश्लेषण किया।
- With the help of **location-tracking systems, mobile phone activity data, call logs, social media analysis**, and support from **forensic and technical institutions**, the Ministry of Home Affairs led this operation,” he said.
लोकेशन ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम, मोबाइल फोन गतिविधि डेटा, कॉल लॉग, सोशल मीडिया विश्लेषण और फॉरेंसिक व तकनीकी संस्थानों के सहयोग से गृह मंत्रालय ने इस अभियान का नेतृत्व किया,” उन्होंने कहा।



- “Before 2024, **Bihar** had already become Naxal-free, **Maharashtra** had become Naxal-free except for one tehsil, **Odisha** had become Naxal-free, and **Jharkhand** too, except for one district.
“2024 से पहले बिहार पहले ही नक्सल-मुक्त हो चुका था, महाराष्ट्र एक तहसील को छोड़कर नक्सल-मुक्त हो गया था, ओडिशा नक्सल-मुक्त हो चुका था, और झारखंड भी एक जिले को छोड़कर।
- Only **Chhattisgarh** remained, because the Congress government there protected the Naxalites.
केवल छत्तीसगढ़ बचा था, क्योंकि वहां की कांग्रेस सरकार ने नक्सलियों को संरक्षण दिया।
- In January 2024, our government was formed in Chhattisgarh, and from the very next day, full support was assured.
जनवरी 2024 में छत्तीसगढ़ में हमारी सरकार बनी और अगले ही दिन से पूरा समर्थन सुनिश्चित किया गया।
- A **joint strategy** was formulated, and on **24 August 2024** we announced that Naxalism would be eliminated from the country by **31 March 2026**,” he said.
एक संयुक्त रणनीति बनाई गई और 24 अगस्त 2024 को हमने घोषणा की कि 31 मार्च 2026 तक देश से नक्सलवाद समाप्त कर दिया जाएगा,” उन्होंने कहा।

Opposition says Bill will demoralise CAPF, BJP defends draft legislation

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Echoing the concerns of senior non-IPS officers in the Central Armed Police Forces, the Opposition argued in the Rajya Sabha on Monday that the CAPF (General Administration) Bill went against constitutional values and principles of natural justice and demanded that it be sent to a Select Committee for examination.

BJP leaders said the Bill is an example of the fact that the government stands with its paramilitary forces and that, unlike in the past, there are structured provisions in the Bill for promotions for an officer who joins as Assistant Commandant.

BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said at the Deputy Inspector General level, there would be no reservation for officers from the IPS cadre and officers who join as Assistant Commandants can become DIGs. “50% officers can reach up



CAPF personnel have flagged career stagnation because of the deputation of IPS officers in the forces. ANI

to Inspector General level and one-third of the officers can be posted at Additional Director General level,” he said, adding that the Bill offers a clear structure for promotions.

“It is not true to say that the Bill will have impact on the morale of the CAPF,” Mr. Trivedi said. “Four or five promotions will be available to officers of all strata,” he added.

Lawyer and Congress MP Vivek Tankha said the Bill lacked a purpose. “What was the necessity of

this umbrella Bill when officers are not interested in deputation and about 18 posts of IGs are vacant in the forces?” he asked.

Mr. Tankha said as an organised force, the CAPF officers were asking equal treatment and courts had agreed on this demand.

“This Bill is to negate the Supreme Court judgement and it will not succeed,” he said, adding that the Centre was trying to nullify a court order. “I don’t think the Law Ministry has vetted this Bill,” he

said, noting that the provisions were against at least two orders of the Supreme Court.

“This Bill is for demoralising the force,” Mr. Tankha said.

Supreme Court cases

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva said the provisions of the Bill went against remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 that anomalies in the CAPF structures would be addressed and the Supreme Court guidance accepted.

“In May 2025, the Supreme Court very clearly gave a judgement that slowly, within two years, the Home Ministry should phase out the deputation of IPS officers in the CAPF and enable their own officers reach those rank. However, Clause 3(1) of this Bill says that IPS deputation is a must and you [the government] are insisting upon that. Are the CAPF officers incompetent to lead their own teams?” Mr. Siva asked.



31Mar. Opposition says Bill will demoralise CAPF, BJP defends draft legislation

विपक्ष का कहना है कि विधेयक से CAPF का मनोबल गिरेगा, BJP ने मसौदा कानून का बचाव किया

- Echoing the concerns of senior non-IPS officers in the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)**, the Opposition argued in the **Rajya Sabha** on Monday that the **CAPF (General Administration) Bill** went against **constitutional values** and principles of **natural justice** and demanded that it be sent to a **Select Committee** for examination.
केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (CAPF) के वरिष्ठ गैर-IPS अधिकारियों की चिंताओं को दोहराते हुए, विपक्ष ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में तर्क दिया कि CAPF (जनरल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन) विधेयक संवैधानिक मूल्यों और प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ है और इसे जांच के लिए चयन समिति को भेजने की मांग की।
- **BJP** leaders said the Bill is an example of the fact that the government stands with its **paramilitary forces** and that, unlike in the past, there are structured provisions in the Bill for **promotions** for an officer who joins as **Assistant Commandant**.
भाजपा नेताओं ने कहा कि यह विधेयक इस बात का उदाहरण है कि सरकार अपने अर्धसैनिक बलों के साथ खड़ी है और पहले के विपरीत, इसमें सहायक कमांडेंट के रूप में शामिल होने वाले अधिकारी के लिए पदोन्नति के संरचित प्रावधान हैं।
- **BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi** said at the **Deputy Inspector General (DIG)** level, there would be no **reservation** for officers from the **IPS cadre** and officers who join as **Assistant Commandants** can become **DIGs**.
भाजपा सांसद सुधांशु त्रिवेदी ने कहा कि उप महानिरीक्षक (DIG) स्तर पर **IPS कैडर** के अधिकारियों के लिए कोई आरक्षण नहीं होगा और सहायक कमांडेंट के रूप में शामिल होने वाले अधिकारी **DIG** बन सकते हैं।
- "50% officers can reach up to **Inspector General (IG)** level and one-third of the officers can be posted at **Additional Director General (ADG)** level," he said, adding that the Bill offers a **clear structure for promotions**.
"50% अधिकारी महानिरीक्षक (IG) स्तर तक पहुंच सकते हैं और एक-तिहाई अधिकारी अतिरिक्त महानिदेशक (ADG) स्तर पर तैनात हो सकते हैं," उन्होंने कहा, और जोड़ा कि यह विधेयक पदोन्नति के लिए स्पष्ट संरचना प्रदान करता है।
- "It is not true to say that the Bill will have impact on the **morale of the CAPF**," Mr. Trivedi said.
"यह कहना सही नहीं है कि यह विधेयक CAPF के मनोबल पर प्रभाव डालेगा," श्री त्रिवेदी ने कहा।
- "Four or five promotions will be available to officers of all strata," he added.
"सभी स्तरों के अधिकारियों को चार या पांच पदोन्नतियां उपलब्ध होंगी," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- **Lawyer and Congress MP Vivek Tankha** said the Bill lacked a **purpose**.
वकील और कांग्रेस सांसद विवेक तन्खा ने कहा कि इस विधेयक में कोई स्पष्ट उद्देश्य नहीं है।
- "What was the necessity of this umbrella Bill when officers are not interested in **deputation** and about 18 posts of **IGs are vacant** in the forces?" he asked.
"जब अधिकारी प्रतिनियुक्ति में रुचि नहीं रखते और बलों में लगभग 18 **IG के पद खाली** हैं, तो इस व्यापक विधेयक की क्या आवश्यकता थी?" उन्होंने पूछा।
- Mr. Tankha said as an organised force, the CAPF officers were asking for equal **treatment** and courts had agreed on this demand.
श्री तन्खा ने कहा कि एक संगठित बल के रूप में CAPF अधिकारी समान व्यवहार की मांग कर रहे थे और अदालतों ने इस मांग को स्वीकार किया है।
- "This Bill is to negate the **Supreme Court judgement** and it will not succeed," he said, adding that the Centre was trying to **nullify a court order**.
"यह विधेयक सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले को निष्प्रभावी करने के लिए है और यह सफल नहीं होगा," उन्होंने कहा, और जोड़ा कि केंद्र अदालती आदेश को निरस्त करने की कोशिश कर रहा है।
- "I don't think the **Law Ministry** has vetted this Bill," he said, noting that the provisions were against at least two orders of the **Supreme Court**.
"मुझे नहीं लगता कि कानून मंत्रालय ने इस विधेयक की जांच की है," उन्होंने कहा, यह बताते हुए कि इसके प्रावधान सुप्रीम कोर्ट के कम से कम दो आदेशों के खिलाफ हैं।
- "This Bill is for demoralising the force," Mr. Tankha said.
"यह विधेयक बल का मनोबल गिराने के लिए है," श्री तन्खा ने कहा।



Supreme Court cases

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मामले

- **DMK MP Tiruchi Siva** said the provisions of the Bill went against remarks made by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in 2019 that anomalies in the **CAPF structures** would be addressed and the **Supreme Court guidance** accepted.
DMK सांसद तिरुचि शिवा ने कहा कि विधेयक के प्रावधान 2019 में प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** द्वारा दिए गए उस बयान के खिलाफ हैं, जिसमें कहा गया था कि **CAPF संरचनाओं** में विसंगतियों को दूर किया जाएगा और **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मार्गदर्शन** को स्वीकार किया जाएगा।
- “In May 2025, the **Supreme Court** very clearly gave a judgement that slowly, within two years, the **Home Ministry** should phase out the **deputation of IPS officers** in the CAPF and enable their own officers to reach those ranks.
“मई 2025 में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने स्पष्ट रूप से फैसला दिया कि दो वर्षों के भीतर धीरे-धीरे **गृह मंत्रालय** को CAPF में **IPS अधिकारियों की प्रतिनियुक्ति** समाप्त करनी चाहिए और उनके अपने अधिकारियों को उन पदों तक पहुंचने देना चाहिए।
- However, Clause 3(1) of this Bill says that **IPS deputation is a must** and you [the government] are insisting upon that.
हालांकि, इस विधेयक की धारा 3(1) कहती है कि **IPS प्रतिनियुक्ति अनिवार्य है** और आप [सरकार] इस पर जोर दे रहे हैं।
- Are the CAPF officers **incompetent** to lead their own teams?” Mr. Siva asked.
क्या CAPF अधिकारी अपनी टीमों का नेतृत्व करने में **अक्षम** हैं?” श्री शिवा ने पूछा।

PATRIOTIC IAS