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18A	Changing job market tweaks students' choices बदलता जॉब मार्केट छात्रों के विकल्पों को प्रभावित कर रहा है



Changing job market tweaks students' choices

As students choose courses and combinations that are more likely to fetch them jobs, many traditional courses are seeing no or minimum enrolment. As many as 1,091 UG and PG combinations with zero enrolment have been closed, while new ones are taking their place, writes Jayanth R.

English is taught as a subject in engineering courses, B.Sc, B.Com, BA, and several other others. So those who opt for English have better job opportunities in both the government and private sectors. We have good infrastructure and excellent faculty in the English department too. Yet, no student has enrolled for MA in English this year, said the principal of a Government First Grade College in Bengaluru.

A faculty member of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) in the heart of the city lamented, "Our college, being developed on the IT model, is providing quality engineering education. Earlier, there was a huge demand for Post Graduate Electronics and Communication Engineering seats. But no student has enrolled in it this year. There are no students in PG courses of Control and Instrumentation, Power and Energy System, Thermal Science Engineering, etc. either."

This story of waning interest in certain subjects and combinations - repeats across colleges in Karnataka, not restricted to only government-run colleges.

Continuing courses with zero or single-digit admissions has become a challenge for the government. Responding to a question in the recent Legislature session by Legislative Council member K. Vivekananda, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said that a review is being conducted to withdraw courses with zero admissions for the last three years from 2026-27.

Zero enrolment combinations
There are 440 government first-grade colleges under Collegiate Education Department in the State where there was zero enrolment for 1,091 Under Graduate (UG) combinations for the year 2025-26. Single-digit enrolments were registered in 190 combinations.

No students were enrolled in 170 Post Graduate (PG) courses in government first-grade colleges. And, single-digit students have enrolled in 47 PG courses.

The largest number of colleges with zero enrolment and single-digit enrolment are in tier-2, tier-3 cities and rural areas. Enrolment has also fallen in many government first-grade colleges in tier-1 cities, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, too.

Among the UG and PG courses where students have not enrolled, Optional Kannada, History, Economics, Political Science, and Social Science combinations are the most prominent. There are no students enrolled in several colleges in combinations that have subjects such as Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Maths in rural areas and tier-3 cities.

While several combination of BA in subjects - for example, Kannada, History, Economics, Political Science/Sociology - have no takers, even job-oriented courses such as Computer Science have no students in many degree colleges.

Three Sanskrit colleges have also seen a significant drop in admission. Chamrajendra Government Sanskrit College has more than 20 PG courses that are lying vacant, while Sri Mannaharaja Sanskrit college has 23 courses with zero enrolment.

Government First Grade College for Women in Chintamani, the home constituency of Dr. Sudhakar, has only one student each enrolled in Chemistry, Microbiology, and Zoology combinations.



There is a mad rush for the courses that get jobs. The mindset of parents and students has changed. Currently, jobs related to hybrid courses are becoming more available in the job market.

AKARNATAKA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL OFFICIAL

One student each is enrolled in 18 combinations in more than 10 other government first grade colleges.

Job-oriented courses
It is the hope of finding a job in an increasingly tough market that is attracting many students towards hybrid courses to meet the emerging technology needs. As a result, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Blockchain and other technology-based arts and commerce courses are in big demand, even as the demand for traditional courses and combinations is falling in arts, commerce and science streams. Enrolment has also declined in private colleges for such courses, especially in humanities. As a result, several private colleges have cancelled many core combinations, including History, Economics, Sociology, Political Science in the humanities department.

"There is a mad rush for the courses that get jobs. The mindset of parents and students has changed. Currently, jobs related to hybrid courses are becoming more available in the job market. Therefore, young people are getting attracted towards these courses. We cannot force students and parents when jobs are of the essence," said an official of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

"Earlier, Computer Science was a major course. It included all the subjects including AI and ML, ML and Cyber Security and so on. Basically, they have mixed and matched everything. So, students are joining these courses. Due to this, there is a gap between traditional and core subjects, and even if there is the best possible professor for any subject, students are not enrolling," the Minister said.

Can they be drawn back?
Prof. Venugopal K.R., former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, asserted that the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) has best solutions to attract students to traditional and core subjects and combinations.

"NEP had provision for multidisciplinary courses. Arts stream students had the opportunity to study science and commerce subjects. Similarly, science students had the opportunity to

study law, optional Kannada and other subjects. Now that State Education Policy (SEP) is implemented, a similar approach can be adopted," he said.

Further he stated that, for any course to be attractive to students, those courses should be inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary, cross-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary. Intra-disciplinary means dividing the same subject into two and allowing a student to pick both. Inter-disciplinary means combining two subjects that are traditionally not studied together. Trans-disciplinary means the subject is required to be studied by all combinations and all disciplines. For example, climate change, he argued, should be studied irrespective of combinations. In the Inter-disciplinary courses students can learn, AI and law, law and engineering, and so on.

"Similarly, if social science courses are blended with science subjects, it becomes more attractive and students get the opportunity to learn the subject of their choice," Prof. Venugopal stated, arguing that it is the only way to ensure survival of all subjects, both new and old.

Tweaking engineering
"Earlier the same situation prevailed in engineering hybrid courses, it was difficult to get a job. In this context, electronics was embedded to mechanical engineering and mechatronics was made. Computer science, AI, robotics, ML and other courses have been blended with mechanical and civil engineering to make it more attractive. This is also creating more job opportunities. AI and other technologies have been implemented in all disciplines including Arts, Commerce, Science," Prof. Venugopal pointed out.

Similarly, humanities courses should also be blended and provided with opportunities to learn. For example, if courses that solve social problems such as para-engineering, para-social science, para-commerce, clinical psychology are implemented on the model of para-medical courses, there will be more demand for these combinations," he said.

Dr. Sudhakar said that being aware of this issue, government colleges are also attempting a similar pattern. "We also have to compete in offering new courses according to the changed situation and technology. Therefore, while closing some courses and combinations with zero en-

rolment may be inevitable, new courses and combinations are also being offered," he said.

He pointed out that in 2023, about 15,000 seats were sanctioned for all degree colleges in the State. However, almost all these seats were withdrawn due to lack of admission. Instead, about 20,000 seats have been approved for other courses including BBA, BCA, Journalism, Hospitality and other courses. "Closing zero enrolment courses only means that we are trying to focus more on courses that are newly emerging and are in demand. If we do not introduce new courses, students will turn to private colleges by paying fat fees."

50% fee reduction
Meanwhile, more than 15,000 seats remained vacant in engineering colleges across the State in the 2025-26 academic year. Students are particularly hesitant to enroll in core subjects such as civil, mechanical, automobile, and electrical engineering. In this context, the State government had reduced fees by 50% in the 2025-26 academic year to attract students.

"We have reduced the fees by 50% for core engineering subjects in government and aided engineering colleges, including mechanical and civil engineering. But even then students did not enroll in the expected number. Instead, only 15% more admissions were made compared to previous years. However, a larger number of students are expected to enroll in the coming years," Dr. Sudhakar hoped.

It is in this context that the Higher Education Department has launched four new Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/Diploma Programmes (AEDPs) in 45 government first grade colleges in 21 districts in 2024-25 academic year. The four new degree programmes are B.Com in retail, logistics, e-commerce and banking finance services and insurance.

In response to increased demand from students, it has extended the AEDP in B.Com courses to 85 government first-grade colleges across the State for the 2025-26 academic year. In addition, the paid apprenticeship, which was limited to the sixth semester earlier for AEDP programmes, has been extended to the fifth semester for the 2025-26 academic year. In addition, it will pursue a regular college education in the first and second year and undergo apprenticeship training with companies in their final year. The students will get a stipend ranging from ₹8,000 to ₹18,000. "There has been a huge demand for Commerce courses due to the AEDP programme. Some colleges have 2 to 3 sections. There is a demand for BBA, BCA even in rural areas. Therefore, it is sensible for government degree colleges to close courses for which there is no admission," Dr. Sudhakar stated.

Monica, a B.Com. student of a private college in Bengaluru, said that the number of students in the commerce section is more compared to the Science and Arts sections. "Naturally, students choose courses that offer job opportunities. If more emphasis is placed on skill development along with graduation at the college level, it will be easier for students to get jobs in the future. Also, if new courses are adopted as per the needs of current technology and industry demand, it will be more beneficial," she said.

Fresh look at arts streams
There is also a plan to revitalise humanities courses by taking a fresh look at what is on offer. "Earlier, many who graduated in Arts tended to appear in Civil Service Exams (CSE), including Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Karnataka Administration Service (KAS), and other such. However, now, medical, engineering, B.Sc (Agril), and veterinary science graduates are being selected in large numbers in these exams. Therefore, steps have been taken to implement a skill development programmes for Arts, Science, and Commerce students at the UG level. In addition, emphasis has been placed on English language learning. In this regard, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with several multinational companies and foreign universities. Also, there are some plans to provide training for competitive exams at the graduation level," the Minister said.



18A. Changing job market tweaks students' choices बदलता जाँब मार्केट छात्रों के विकल्पों को प्रभावित कर रहा है

- As students choose courses and combinations that are more likely to fetch them jobs, many **traditional courses** are seeing no or minimum enrolment. जैसे-जैसे छात्र ऐसे पाठ्यक्रम चुन रहे हैं जो उन्हें नौकरी दिला सकें, कई पारंपरिक पाठ्यक्रमों में नामांकन शून्य या बहुत कम हो गया है।
- As many as **1,091 UG and PG combinations** with zero enrolment have been closed, while new ones are taking their place, writes **Jayanth R.** कुल **1,091 स्नातक और स्नातकोत्तर संयोजन** जिनमें शून्य नामांकन था, बंद कर दिए गए हैं, जबकि उनकी जगह नए कोर्स ले रहे हैं, **जयनाथ आर.** लिखते हैं।
- English is taught as a subject in **engineering courses, B.Sc, B.Com, BA**, and several other others. अंग्रेजी इंजीनियरिंग, बी.एससी., बी.कॉम., बीए और कई अन्य पाठ्यक्रमों में पढ़ाई जाती है।
- So those who opt for English have better job opportunities in both the **government and private sectors.** इसलिए अंग्रेजी चुनने वालों के पास **सरकारी और निजी क्षेत्रों** में बेहतर नौकरी के अवसर होते हैं।
- We have good infrastructure and excellent faculty in the English department too. हमारे पास अंग्रेजी विभाग में अच्छा बुनियादी ढांचा और उत्कृष्ट शिक्षक भी हैं।
- Yet, no student has enrolled for **MA in English** this year, said the principal of a Government First Grade College in Bengaluru.



फिर भी इस वर्ष एमए अंग्रेजी में कोई छात्र नामांकित नहीं हुआ, बेंगलुरु के एक सरकारी प्रथम श्रेणी कॉलेज के प्राचार्य ने कहा।

- A faculty member of **University Visvesvarya College of Engineering (UVCE)** in the heart of the city lamented.
शहर के केंद्र में स्थित **यूवीसीई** के एक शिक्षक ने दुख जताया।
- “Our college, being developed on the **IIT model**, is providing quality engineering education. “हमारा कॉलेज **आईआईटी मॉडल** पर विकसित किया गया है और गुणवत्तापूर्ण इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा दे रहा है।
- Earlier, there was a huge demand for **Post Graduate Electronics and Communication Engineering** seats.
पहले **पीजी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और कम्युनिकेशन इंजीनियरिंग** की सीटों की भारी मांग थी।
- But no student has enrolled in it this year.
लेकिन इस वर्ष इसमें कोई छात्र नामांकित नहीं हुआ।
- There are no students in PG courses of **Control and Instrumentation, Power and Energy System, Thermal Science Engineering**, etc. either.”
कंट्रोल एंड इंस्ट्रूमेंटेशन, पावर एंड एनर्जी सिस्टम, थर्मल साइंस इंजीनियरिंग जैसे पीजी कोर्सों में भी कोई छात्र नहीं है।”
- This story – of waning interest in certain subjects and combinations – repeats across colleges in **Karnataka**, not restricted to only government-run colleges.
यह कहानी – कुछ विषयों और संयोजनों में घटती रुचि – पूरे **कर्नाटक** के कॉलेजों में देखी जा रही है, केवल सरकारी कॉलेजों तक सीमित नहीं है।
- Continuing courses with zero or single-digit admissions has become a challenge for the government.
शून्य या एकल अंक नामांकन वाले कोर्स जारी रखना सरकार के लिए चुनौती बन गया है।
- Responding to a question in the recent Legislature session by Legislative Council member **K. Vivekananda**, Higher Education Minister **M.C. Sudhakar** said that a review is being conducted to withdraw courses with zero admissions for the last three years from **2026-27**.
विधान परिषद सदस्य **के. विवेकानंद** के प्रश्न पर, उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री **एम.सी. सुधाकर** ने कहा कि पिछले तीन वर्षों से शून्य नामांकन वाले कोर्स को **2026-27** से हटाने के लिए समीक्षा की जा रही है।

Zero enrolment combinations

शून्य नामांकन वाले संयोजन

- There are **440 government first-grade colleges** under Collegiate Education Department in the State where there was zero enrolment for **1,091 UG combinations** for the year **2025-26**.
राज्य में **440 सरकारी प्रथम श्रेणी कॉलेजों** में **2025-26** के लिए **1,091 यूजी संयोजनों** में शून्य नामांकन रहा।
- Single-digit enrolments were registered in **190 combinations**.
190 संयोजनों में एकल अंक नामांकन दर्ज किया गया।
- No students were enrolled in **170 PG courses** in government first-grade colleges.
सरकारी कॉलेजों में **170 पीजी कोर्सों** में कोई छात्र नामांकित नहीं हुआ।
- And, single-digit students have enrolled in **47 PG courses**.
और **47 पीजी कोर्सों** में एकल अंक छात्र नामांकित हुए।
- The largest number of colleges with zero enrolment and single-digit enrolment are in **tier-2, tier-3 cities and rural areas**.
सबसे अधिक शून्य और कम नामांकन वाले कॉलेज **टियर-2, टियर-3 शहरों और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** में हैं।
- Enrolment has also fallen in many government first-grade colleges in **tier-1 cities**, including **Bengaluru and Mysuru**, too.
बेंगलुरु और मैसूर जैसे **टियर-1 शहरों** में भी नामांकन घटा है।
- Among the UG and PG courses where students have not enrolled, **Optional Kannada, History, Economics, Political Science, and Social Science** combinations are the most prominent.
जिन यूजी और पीजी कोर्सों में नामांकन नहीं हुआ, उनमें **वैकल्पिक कन्नड़, इतिहास, अर्थशास्त्र, राजनीति विज्ञान और सामाजिक विज्ञान** प्रमुख हैं।
- There are no students enrolled in several colleges in combinations that have subjects such as **Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Maths** in rural areas and tier-3 cities.



ग्रामीण और टियर-3 क्षेत्रों में रसायन, कंप्यूटर विज्ञान, भौतिकी और गणित वाले संयोजनों में भी छात्रों की कमी है।

- While several combination of BA in subjects – for example, **Kannada, History, Economics, Political Science/Sociology** – have no takers.
कन्नड़, इतिहास, अर्थशास्त्र, राजनीति विज्ञान/समाजशास्त्र जैसे बीए संयोजनों के लिए भी कोई इच्छुक नहीं है।
- Even job-oriented courses such as **Computer Science** have no students in many degree colleges.
यहां तक कि **कंप्यूटर साइंस** जैसे जॉब-ओरिएंटेड कोर्स में भी कई कॉलेजों में छात्र नहीं हैं।
- Three **Sanskrit colleges** have also seen a significant drop in admission.
तीन **संस्कृत कॉलेजों** में भी प्रवेश में भारी गिरावट आई है।
- **Chamarajendra Government Samskrita College** has more than **20 PG courses** that are lying vacant.
चामराजेंद्र सरकारी संस्कृत कॉलेज में **20 से अधिक पीजी कोर्स** खाली हैं।
- While **Sri Manmaharaja Samskrita College** has **23 courses** with zero enrolment.
जबकि **श्री मन्महराज संस्कृत कॉलेज** में **23 कोर्स** में शून्य नामांकन है।
- Government First Grade College for Women in **Chintamani** has only one student each enrolled in **Chemistry, Microbiology, and Zoology** combinations.
चिंतामणि के महिला कॉलेज में **रसायन, सूक्ष्मजीव विज्ञान और प्राणी विज्ञान** में केवल एक-एक छात्र है।
- One student each is enrolled in **18 combinations** in more than 10 other government colleges.
10 से अधिक कॉलेजों में **18 संयोजनों** में एक-एक छात्र नामांकित है।
- **Job-oriented courses**
रोजगार उन्मुख पाठ्यक्रम
- It is the hope of finding a job in an increasingly tough market that is attracting many students towards **hybrid courses**.
कठिन होते जॉब मार्केट में नौकरी की उम्मीद छात्रों को **हाइब्रिड कोर्स** की ओर आकर्षित कर रही है।
- As a result, **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Blockchain** and other technology-based courses are in big demand.
इस कारण **AI, ML, रोबोटिक्स, ब्लॉकचेन** जैसे कोर्स की भारी मांग है।
- Demand for traditional courses is waning in **arts, commerce and science streams**.
आर्ट्स, कॉमर्स और साइंस में पारंपरिक कोर्स की मांग घट रही है।
- “There is a mad rush for the courses that get jobs.
“जिन कोर्स से नौकरी मिलती है, उनके लिए होड़ लगी हुई है।
- The mindset of parents and students has changed.
माता-पिता और छात्रों की सोच बदल गई है।
- Currently, jobs related to hybrid courses are becoming more available in the job market.
वर्तमान में हाइब्रिड कोर्स से जुड़ी नौकरियां अधिक उपलब्ध हो रही हैं।
- Therefore, young people are getting attracted towards these courses.”
इसलिए युवा इन कोर्सों की ओर आकर्षित हो रहे हैं।”
- **Can they be drawn back?**
क्या उन्हें वापस लाया जा सकता है?
- **Prof. Venugopal K.R.** said **NEP-2020** has solutions to attract students to traditional subjects.
प्रो. वेणुगोपाल के.आर. ने कहा कि **NEP-2020** में पारंपरिक विषयों को आकर्षक बनाने के समाधान हैं।
- “NEP had provision for **multidisciplinary courses**.”
“NEP में **बहुविषयक पाठ्यक्रम** का प्रावधान था।”
- Further he stated that courses should be **inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary, cross-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary**.
उन्होंने कहा कि कोर्स **इंटर, इंट्रा, क्रॉस, मल्टी और ट्रांस-डिसिप्लिनरी** होने चाहिए।

Tweaking engineering इंजीनियरिंग में बदलाव

- Earlier the same situation prevailed in **engineering courses**.
पहले यही स्थिति **इंजीनियरिंग कोर्स** में भी थी।



- Now **AI, robotics, ML** and other courses have been blended with engineering.
अब **AI, रोबोटिक्स, ML** को इंजीनियरिंग के साथ जोड़ा गया है।
- Similarly, humanities courses should also be blended.
इसी तरह मानविकी कोर्सों को भी मिश्रित किया जाना चाहिए।
- **50% fee reduction**
50% शुल्क में कमी
- More than **15,000 seats** remained vacant in engineering colleges in **2025-26**.
2025-26 में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में **15,000 से अधिक सीटें** खाली रहीं।
- The government reduced fees by **50%** to attract students.
सरकार ने छात्रों को आकर्षित करने के लिए फीस में **50% कमी** की।
- However, only **15% more admissions** were made compared to previous years.
फिर भी केवल **15% अधिक प्रवेश** हुए।
- The department has launched **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDPs)**.
विभाग ने **एप्रेंटिसशिप एम्बेडेड डिग्री प्रोग्राम (AEDP)** शुरू किए।
- Students will get a stipend ranging from **₹8,000 to ₹18,000**.
छात्रों को **₹8,000 से ₹18,000** तक वजीफा मिलेगा।
- "There has been a huge demand for **Commerce courses** due to AEDP programme."
"AEDP के कारण **कॉमर्स कोर्स** की भारी मांग है।"

Fresh look at arts streams आर्ट्स स्ट्रीम पर नया दृष्टिकोण

- There is a plan to revitalise **humanities courses**.
मानविकी कोर्स को पुनर्जीवित करने की योजना है।
- Earlier, many Arts graduates appeared for **Civil Service Exams (IAS, KAS)**.
पहले कई आर्ट्स छात्र **IAS, KAS** परीक्षाओं में जाते थे।
- Now **medical, engineering, agriculture graduates** are also getting selected.
अब **मेडिकल, इंजीनियरिंग, कृषि** छात्र भी चयनित हो रहे हैं।
- Steps have been taken for **skill development programmes**.
स्किल डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम शुरू किए गए हैं।
- MoUs have been signed with **multinational companies and foreign universities**.
बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों और विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ समझौते हुए हैं।
- There are also plans to provide training for **competitive exams**.
प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की तैयारी के लिए भी योजना बनाई गई है।

GS Paper 1: Geography	18 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18A	

Fire and smoke



A satellite image shows smoke rising from the Tuapse oil refinery in Tuapse, Russia. Firefighters continued extinguishing a blaze more than 24 hours after Ukrainian drone attacks, local authorities said. The attack on Thursday killed two people, including a 14-year-old girl. Ukraine's military said it had struck two oil depots in Russian-controlled Crimea and infrastructure in Tuapse. AP

A satellite image shows smoke rising from the Tuapse oil refinery in Tuapse, Russia. Firefighters continued extinguishing a blaze more than 24 hours after Ukrainian drone attacks, local authorities said. The attack on Thursday killed two people, including a 14-year-old girl. Ukraine's military said it had struck two oil depots in Russian-controlled Crimea and infrastructure in Tuapse.



GS Paper II: Polity		18 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
18A	United Opposition defeats Delimitation Bill संयुक्त विपक्ष ने परिसीमन विधेयक को पराजित किया	
18A	SC asks if judges must rise above religious beliefs in matters of conscience सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूछा क्या न्यायाधीशों को अंतरात्मा के मामलों में धार्मिक मान्यताओं से ऊपर उठना चाहिए	
18A	A violation of 'one person, one vote, one value': Shah 'एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य' का उल्लंघन: शाह	
18A	Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation: Tharoor परिसीमन राजनीतिक विमुद्रीकरण साबित होगा: थरूर	
18A	Harivansh secures third term as RS Deputy Chairman हरिवंश ने राज्यसभा के उपसभापति के रूप में तीसरा कार्यकाल हासिल किया	
18A	Why women's reservation cannot wait any longer महिलाओं के आरक्षण में अब और विलंब क्यों नहीं किया जा सकता	

United Opposition defeats Delimitation Bill

The Bill falls short of the two-thirds mark of 352 votes, with 298 in favour and 230 against in the House where 528 members were present at the time of voting. Home Minister Amit Shah warns Opposition that it will face the 'wrath of women voters, claims opposition to delimitation meant opposition to increasing the number of seats for SCs/STs

GS II Polity
Sobhana K. Nair
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

A United Opposition on Friday defeated the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the opposition of playing "ruthless politics" and warned that it would face the "wrath of women" voters. A total of 298 members voted in favour of the Bill and 230 against it, with the House strength at the time of voting being 528. It failed to meet the two-thirds majority mark of 352 required for a Constitution Amendment Bill to pass.

Following the defeat, the government withdrew two allied legislations – the

Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Delimitation Bill, 2026 – which were linked to the constitutional amendment.

The government extended the Budget session after a short interlude for deliberating on these Bills.

Mr. Shah said that the legislative package of three Bills was aimed at fulfilling two objectives – time-bound implementation of the women's reservation Bill for the 2029 general election and to apply the "foundational" democratic principle of "one person, one vote and one value".

Maintaining that the government remained committed to women's reservation, Mr. Shah said this was the "fifth time" that parties of the Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance had stalled the legislation.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in post

Opposition joins hands

Opposition parties defeated a Constitution Amendment Bill which sought to implement delimitation and increase Lok Sabha seats based on the 2011 Census

Category	Number of MPs	Share
In favour	298	56.4%
Against	230	43.6%
Abstentions	0	0%
Total present and voting	528	100%
Required (2/3 rd majority)	352	66.7%



House vote: Members of Parliament vote on the Constitution Amendment Bill, which was part of a delimitation legislative package, during a special session in New Delhi on Friday. P11

on X, described the government's move to link women's reservation with delimitation based on the 2011 Census as a "hollow attempt" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to project himself as the "messiah of women".

Responding to a key Opposition objection that the Bill lacked an explicit guarantee that representation of all States in the Lok Sabha would rise uniformly by 50%, Mr. Shah offered to

move an amendment incorporating this assurance if the House agreed to suspend proceedings for an hour.

Senior Congress leader and Kerala MP K.C. Venugopal countered this offer with two conditions: that not only should the provision be written into the Bill, but the government should also introduce a separate amendment delimiting the implementation of women's reservation

from delimitation. Mr. Shah rejected the second demand, calling it a "trap". He and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier given verbal assurances that all States would see a uniform 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats as the House goes from the current cap of 550 to about 850 members.

Mr. Shah accused the Opposition of manufacturing a north-south divide by propagating what he called

South made its voice heard, says Stalin

GHENNAI
After the Bill, introduced by the BJP-led Union government, was defeated in the Lok Sabha, DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin said the South stood united, made its voice heard and democracy prevailed. » PAGE 3

a false narrative that southern States would lose Parliamentary representation. "Southern States have equal rights in this House as northern States. In fact, Lakshadweep has the same rights as Uttar Pradesh or Bihar," he said. Lakshadweep has fewer than 50,000 voters.

Making a strong pitch for delimitation, Mr. Shah argued that the principle of "one person, one vote, one value" has been violated

due to the freeze based on the 1971 Census. He pointed out that India's population has grown from about 54.79 crore then to nearly 140 crore in 2026, leading to stark disparities in constituency sizes. Citing Malkajgiri in Telangana, which has about 48 lakh voters, he asked how a single MP could represent such a large electorate. Mr. Shah also argued that opposition to delimitation effectively meant opposition to increasing the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He also addressed Opposition allegations that the government was trying to sidestep the ongoing caste count while implementing women's reservation.

EDITORIAL
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18A. United Opposition defeats Delimitation Bill

संयुक्त विपक्ष ने परिसीमन विधेयक को पराजित किया

- The Bill falls short of the two-thirds mark of 352 votes, with 298 in favour and 230 against in the House where 528 members were present at the time of voting.
यह विधेयक 352 मतों के दो-तिहाई बहुमत से कम रह गया, जिसमें 298 पक्ष में और 230 विरोध में वोट पड़े, जबकि मतदान के समय सदन में 528 सदस्य उपस्थित थे।
- Home Minister Amit Shah warns the Opposition that it will face the 'wrath of women voters', claiming opposition to delimitation meant opposition to increasing the number of seats for SCs/STs.
गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने विपक्ष को चेतावनी दी कि उसे 'महिला मतदाताओं के क्रोध' का सामना करना पड़ेगा, और कहा कि परिसीमन का विरोध करना SC/ST सीटों की संख्या बढ़ाने का विरोध है।



- A united Opposition on Friday defeated the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the **2011 Census** to expedite the implementation of **women's reservation**.
शुक्रवार को संयुक्त विपक्ष ने संविधान (131वां संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 को पराजित कर दिया, जिसका उद्देश्य 2011 जनगणना के आधार पर लोकसभा सीटों का पुनर्वितरण कर महिला आरक्षण लागू करना था।
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** accused the Opposition of playing “**ruthless politics**” and warned that it would face the “**wrath of women**” voters.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने विपक्ष पर “निर्दयी राजनीति” करने का आरोप लगाया और चेतावनी दी कि उसे “महिला मतदाताओं के क्रोध” का सामना करना पड़ेगा।
- A total of **298 members** voted in favour of the Bill and **230 against it**, with the House strength at the time of voting being **528**.
कुल **298 सदस्यों** ने विधेयक के पक्ष में और **230 ने विरोध में** मतदान किया, जबकि मतदान के समय सदन की संख्या **528** थी।
- It failed to meet the **two-thirds majority mark of 352** required for a **Constitution Amendment Bill** to pass.
यह संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के पारित होने के लिए आवश्यक **352 के दो-तिहाई बहुमत** को प्राप्त नहीं कर सका।
- Following the defeat, the government withdrew two allied legislations — the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, and the **Delimitation Bill, 2026** — which were linked to the constitutional amendment.
हार के बाद, सरकार ने दो संबंधित विधेयक — **केंद्र शासित प्रदेश कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026** और **परिसीमन विधेयक, 2026** — वापस ले लिए, जो इस संशोधन से जुड़े थे।
- The government extended the **Budget session** after a short interlude for deliberating on these Bills.
सरकार ने इन विधेयकों पर चर्चा के लिए **बजट सत्र** को थोड़े अंतराल के बाद बढ़ा दिया।
- Mr. Shah said that the legislative package of three Bills was aimed at fulfilling two objectives — **time-bound implementation of women's reservation** for the **2029 general election** and applying the “**one person, one vote and one value**” principle.
श्री शाह ने कहा कि तीन विधेयकों का यह पैकेज दो उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए था — **2029 आम चुनाव** के लिए **महिला आरक्षण का समयबद्ध कार्यान्वयन** और “**एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य**” सिद्धांत लागू करना।
- Maintaining that the government remained committed to **women's reservation**, Mr. Shah said this was the “**fifth time**” that parties of the alliance had stalled the legislation.
महिला आरक्षण के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता दोहराते हुए, श्री शाह ने कहा कि यह “**पांचवीं बार**” है जब गठबंधन दलों ने इस विधेयक को रोका है।
- Congress leader **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra**, in a post on X, described the move as a “**hollow attempt**” by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to project himself as the “**messiah of women**”.
कांग्रेस नेता **प्रियंका गांधी वाड्रा** ने X पर पोस्ट में इसे **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** द्वारा खुद को “**महिलाओं का मसीहा**” दिखाने का “**खोखला प्रयास**” बताया।
- Responding to Opposition objections, Mr. Shah offered to move an amendment ensuring a uniform **50% increase** in representation of all States if proceedings were suspended for an hour.
विपक्ष की आपत्तियों के जवाब में, श्री शाह ने एक संशोधन लाने का प्रस्ताव दिया जिसमें सभी राज्यों के प्रतिनिधित्व में **समान 50% वृद्धि** सुनिश्चित हो, यदि कार्यवाही एक घंटे के लिए स्थगित की जाए।
- Senior Congress leader **K.C. Venugopal** demanded that the provision be written into the Bill and that women's reservation be **delinked from delimitation**.
कांग्रेस नेता **के.सी. वेणुगोपाल** ने मांग की कि यह प्रावधान विधेयक में लिखा जाए और महिला आरक्षण को **परिसीमन से अलग किया जाए**।
- Mr. Shah rejected the second demand, calling it a “**trap**”.
श्री शाह ने दूसरी मांग को “**जाल**” बताते हुए खारिज कर दिया।
- He and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had earlier assured that all States would see a **50% increase in Lok Sabha seats**, raising the House strength to about **850 members**.
उन्होंने और प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने पहले आश्वासन दिया था कि सभी राज्यों में लोकसभा सीटों में **50% वृद्धि** होगी, जिससे कुल संख्या लगभग **850 सदस्य** हो जाएगी।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Mr. Shah accused the Opposition of creating a **north-south divide** with a **false narrative** that southern States would lose representation.
श्री शाह ने विपक्ष पर **उत्तर-दक्षिण विभाजन** पैदा करने और यह **झूठा नैरेटिव** फैलाने का आरोप लगाया कि दक्षिणी राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व घटेगा।
- He said **southern States have equal rights** as northern states, citing **Lakshadweep** having the same rights as **Uttar Pradesh or Bihar**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **दक्षिणी राज्यों के समान अधिकार** हैं, और उदाहरण दिया कि **लक्षद्वीप** के अधिकार **उत्तर प्रदेश या बिहार** के समान हैं।
- Making a strong pitch, Mr. Shah said the principle of “**one person, one vote, one value**” has been violated due to the freeze based on the **1971 Census**.
श्री शाह ने कहा कि **1971 जनगणना** पर आधारित स्थगन के कारण “**एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य**” सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन हुआ है।
- He noted India's population has grown from **54.79 crore** to nearly **140 crore in 2026**, creating disparities in constituency sizes.
उन्होंने बताया कि भारत की जनसंख्या **54.79 करोड़** से बढ़कर **2026 में लगभग 140 करोड़** हो गई है, जिससे निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में असमानता बढ़ी है।
- Citing **Malkajgiri in Telangana** with about **48 lakh voters**, he questioned how one MP could represent such a large electorate.
उन्होंने **तेलंगाना के मलकाजगिरी** का उदाहरण देते हुए, जहां लगभग **48 लाख मतदाता** हैं, पूछा कि एक सांसद इतने बड़े क्षेत्र का प्रतिनिधित्व कैसे कर सकता है।
- Mr. Shah argued that opposing delimitation means opposing an increase in seats for **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**.
श्री शाह ने कहा कि परिसीमन का विरोध करना **अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति** की सीटों में वृद्धि का विरोध है।
- He also addressed allegations that the government was trying to sidestep the ongoing **caste count** while implementing women's reservation.
उन्होंने इस आरोप का भी जवाब दिया कि सरकार महिला आरक्षण लागू करते समय चल रही **जातिगत गणना** को नजरअंदाज कर रही है।



SC asks if judges must rise above religious beliefs in matters of conscience

GS II: Polity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a clarification from senior advocate and jurist Rajeev Dhavan whether judges, functioning as a constitutional court, must rise above their own personal religious consciousness while called on to examine matters of freedom of conscience.

The question came from Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, who is a member of the nine-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant hearing the Sabarimala review case primarily on the extent to which courts could judicially review religious practices, and whether an “inquisitorial” scrutiny would be a breach of Article 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion) and Article 26 (right to manage religious affairs).

“You said freedom of conscience has a very wide amplification. Are you hinting that as judges, as a constitutional court, religion and conscience can-



not be equated as religion may be personal to me, but then when I have to judge, I have to rise above that religious consciousness to a level where I balance it with constitutional provisions and see the larger picture emerging from it?” Justice Amanullah asked Mr. Dhavan.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, also on the Bench, asked if Mr. Dhavan was arguing that “conscience was something larger than religion” or whether conscience should take its colour from religion. She asked if conscience and religion were co-terminus.

“So far we have been told ‘that when it is religion, do not touch’... Probably as a constitutional authority, and under the

scheme of the Constitution, when we are called upon to get into the area of conscience, we should not be restricted by the term ‘religion’? Justice Amanullah asked.

Mr. Dhavan responded that the persona of a judge cuts across the Constitution. He illustrated that a judge cannot be identified with his personal religion when asked to examine a matter of faith and conscience. He said the freedom of conscience, which is mentioned separately from the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion in Article 25, is an expansive right. “There are two rights. They are two vital rights. Exercise of the right to conscience must be done respectfully and in a bona fide manner,” he said.

Internal right

Justice M.M. Sundresh indicated that freedom of conscience was an internal right to nurse a belief while the freedom of religion was an external manifestation of that conscience.

The Supreme Court would resume the hearing on April 21.

18A. SC asks if judges must rise above religious beliefs in matters of conscience

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पूछा क्या न्यायाधीशों को अंतरात्मा के मामलों में धार्मिक मान्यताओं से ऊपर उठना चाहिए

- The **Supreme Court** on Friday sought a clarification from senior advocate and jurist **Rajeev Dhavan** whether judges, functioning as a **constitutional court**, must rise above their own



personal **religious consciousness** while called on to examine matters of **freedom of conscience**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता और विधिवेत्ता राजीव धवन से यह स्पष्ट करने को कहा कि क्या न्यायाधीश, एक **संवैधानिक न्यायालय** के रूप में कार्य करते हुए, **अंतरात्मा की स्वतंत्रता** से जुड़े मामलों की जांच करते समय अपनी व्यक्तिगत **धार्मिक चेतना** से ऊपर उठना चाहिए।

- The question came from **Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah**, who is a member of the **nine-judge Bench** headed by Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** hearing the **Sabarimala review case** primarily on the extent to which courts could **judicially review religious practices**, and whether an **“inquisitorial” scrutiny** would be a breach of **Article 25** and **Article 26**.

यह प्रश्न **न्यायमूर्ति अहसानुद्दीन अमानुल्लाह** ने उठाया, जो भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश **सूर्यकांत** की अध्यक्षता वाली **नौ-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ** के सदस्य हैं, जो **सबरीमाला पुनर्विचार मामले** की सुनवाई कर रही है, जिसमें यह देखा जा रहा है कि अदालतें किस हद तक **धार्मिक प्रथाओं की न्यायिक समीक्षा** कर सकती हैं, और क्या **“जांच-पड़ताल” अनुच्छेद 25** और **अनुच्छेद 26** का उल्लंघन होगी।

- “You said **freedom of conscience** has a very wide amplification.
“आपने कहा कि **अंतरात्मा की स्वतंत्रता** का दायरा बहुत व्यापक है।
- Are you hinting that as judges, as a constitutional court, religion and conscience cannot be equated as religion may be personal to me, but then when I have to judge, I have to rise above that religious consciousness to a level where I balance it with constitutional provisions and see the larger picture emerging from it?” Justice Amanullah asked Mr. Dhavan.
क्या आप यह संकेत दे रहे हैं कि न्यायाधीशों के रूप में, एक संवैधानिक न्यायालय के रूप में, धर्म और अंतरात्मा को समान नहीं माना जा सकता क्योंकि धर्म मेरे लिए व्यक्तिगत हो सकता है, लेकिन जब मुझे निर्णय करना होता है, तो मुझे उस धार्मिक चेतना से ऊपर उठकर उसे संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के साथ संतुलित करना चाहिए और व्यापक दृष्टिकोण देखना चाहिए?” न्यायमूर्ति अमानुल्लाह ने श्री धवन से पूछा।

- **Justice B.V. Nagarathna**, also on the Bench, asked if Mr. Dhavan was arguing that “conscience was something larger than religion” or whether conscience should take its colour from religion.

पीठ में शामिल **न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरत्ना** ने पूछा कि क्या श्री धवन यह तर्क दे रहे हैं कि “अंतरात्मा धर्म से बड़ी चीज है” या अंतरात्मा को धर्म से प्रभावित होना चाहिए।

- She asked if conscience and religion were **co-terminus**.
उन्होंने पूछा कि क्या अंतरात्मा और धर्म **समानार्थी** हैं।
- “So far we have been told ‘that when it is religion, do not touch’...
“अब तक हमें बताया गया है कि ‘जब बात धर्म की हो, तो हस्तक्षेप न करें’...”
- Probably as a constitutional authority, and under the scheme of the Constitution, when we are called upon to get into the area of conscience, we should not be restricted by the term ‘religion’? Justice Amanullah asked.
संभवतः एक संवैधानिक प्राधिकरण के रूप में, और संविधान की रूपरेखा के तहत, जब हमें अंतरात्मा के क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करना हो, तो हमें ‘धर्म’ शब्द तक सीमित नहीं रहना चाहिए?” न्यायमूर्ति अमानुल्लाह ने पूछा।

- Mr. Dhavan responded that the persona of a judge cuts across the **Constitution**.
श्री धवन ने उत्तर दिया कि न्यायाधीश की भूमिका **संविधान** से परे नहीं बल्कि उसी के अनुरूप होती है।

- He illustrated that a judge cannot be identified with his personal religion when asked to examine a matter of **faith and conscience**.

उन्होंने कहा कि जब **आस्था और अंतरात्मा** से जुड़े मामलों की जांच की जाती है, तो न्यायाधीश को उसके व्यक्तिगत धर्म से नहीं जोड़ा जा सकता।

- He said the **freedom of conscience**, which is mentioned separately from the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion in **Article 25**, is an expansive right.
उन्होंने कहा कि **अनुच्छेद 25** में धर्म के पालन, आचरण और प्रचार के अधिकार से अलग उल्लिखित **अंतरात्मा की स्वतंत्रता** एक व्यापक अधिकार है।

- “There are two rights.
“दो अधिकार हैं।
- They are two vital rights.
वे दो महत्वपूर्ण अधिकार हैं।
- Exercise of the right to conscience must be done respectfully and in a bona fide manner,” he said.
अंतरात्मा के अधिकार का प्रयोग सम्मानपूर्वक और सद्भावना के साथ किया जाना चाहिए,” उन्होंने कहा।



Internal right आंतरिक अधिकार

- **Justice M.M. Sundresh** indicated that **freedom of conscience** was an internal right to nurse a belief while **freedom of religion** was an external manifestation of that conscience. **न्यायमूर्ति एम.एम. सुंदरेश** ने संकेत दिया कि **अंतरात्मा की स्वतंत्रता** एक आंतरिक अधिकार है जिसमें व्यक्ति अपने विश्वास को रखता है, जबकि **धर्म की स्वतंत्रता** उस अंतरात्मा की बाहरी अभिव्यक्ति है।
- The **Supreme Court** would resume the hearing on **April 21**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट 21 अप्रैल को सुनवाई फिर से शुरू करेगा।

A violation of 'one person, one vote, one value': Shah

Home Minister points to the vast disparities in the number of people represented by MPs; he says 'north-south divide' narrative is detrimental to India and it will not diminish popularity of govt.

GS II: Polity

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the principle of "one person, one vote, one value" was being violated, pointing out that while some MPs represented 48 lakh people, the others represented barely six lakh.

Mr. Shah said the "north-south divide" narrative being engineered was detrimental to the country, and that the people of Lakshadweep had as much right on Parliament as those from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh. He said the narrative was not going to diminish the popularity of the government and even if the Opposition "greyed their hair", they would not be able to occupy the Treasury benches.

A Constitutional Amendment Bill that sought to implement 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Assembly constituencies through delimitation was defeated in the Lok Sabha, as it could not get two-thirds of votes from members present in the House. According to available figures, out of 528 MPs present, 298 voted in favour and 230 against the Bill.

"From 1971, there is a freeze on the increase of Lok Sabha seats. Malkajgir in Telangana has 48 lakh voters, Bengaluru North has 29 lakh, Ghaziabad, represented by Defence Mi-



Home Minister Amit Shah pointed out that while some MPs represent 48 lakh people, others represent barely six lakh. ANI

nister Rajnath Singh once, has 28 lakh voters, North-west Delhi 27 lakh voters. There are 127 seats where there are more than 20 lakh voters. How can one MP fulfil the aspirations of 48 lakh people? One person, one vote, one value is being violated, somewhere it is 48 lakh and somewhere it is six lakh. There is no value for one person, one vote. If they (Opposition) support the delimitation, then each vote will have the same value," Mr. Shah said.

Responding to Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav, who intervened to say that the figure for Ghaziabad was much more, the Home Minister said that the member did not know if he was speaking in favour of the Delimitation Bill, 2026, or against it, and that was the precise point he intended to make.

Mr. Shah said that in 1976, the population of the

country was 54.89 crore and today it is 140 crore. "They (Opposition) want the number of MPs then and now to remain the same," he said.

The Minister said the Delimitation Commission would have required public hearings in all the 543 constituencies and it could not have been completed by 2029, affecting the implementation of the women's reservation Act by the 2029 general election. "If the women's reservation Act is to be implemented, then the delimitation will have to be done now, that is why the Bill is being brought now," he said.

He said Tamil Nadu had 39 Lok Sabha seats and if the women's quota was applied, 13 seats would be reserved for women and 26 seats would be in the open category. "If the delimitation was done according to 2011 Census, then the State

would lose six seats. That is why we are increasing 50% seats in all States, so that the pro-rata distribution is not affected. Now, 20 seats will be added, taking the total number to 59 and those reserved for women will be 20," he said.

Caste count

The Minister said that the decennial Census was delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2024, when the process started, several parties demanded that caste should also be enumerated.

"We decided in 2025 that caste enumeration will be done. The column for caste will be there when population enumeration (second phase) is done. Caste is not enumerated during the household Census (first phase), which is ongoing. They are not interested in caste count, they want to tie us in knots," he said.

Refuting the claims of the Opposition that the Bill was brought to negate the caste Census, Mr. Shah said the process started three months ago and the first phase of Population Census 2027 was going on.

"I thought they wouldn't oppose the reservation for mothers... The Bill has provision to count the latest published Census. I can bring an amendment in one-hour... They are opposing the Bill because it will enhance the PM's goodwill among the women..." he said.



18A. A violation of 'one person, one vote, one value': Shah 'एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य' का उल्लंघन: शाह

- **The Home Minister** points to the vast disparities in the number of people represented by MPs; he says the 'north-south divide' narrative is detrimental to India and it will not diminish the popularity of the government.
गृह मंत्री ने सांसदों द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व किए जाने वाले लोगों की संख्या में भारी असमानता की ओर इशारा किया; उन्होंने कहा कि 'उत्तर-दक्षिण विभाजन' का नैरेटिव भारत के लिए हानिकारक है और इससे सरकार की लोकप्रियता कम नहीं होगी।
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** on Friday said the principle of "one person, one vote, one value" was being violated, pointing out that while some MPs represented **48 lakh people**, the others represented barely **six lakh**.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि "एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य" का सिद्धांत उल्लंघन हो रहा है, यह बताते हुए कि कुछ सांसद **48 लाख लोगों** का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, जबकि अन्य मुश्किल से **छह लाख** का।
- Mr. Shah said the "north-south divide" narrative being engineered was detrimental to the country, and that the people of **Lakshadweep** had as much right in Parliament as those from **Bihar or Uttar Pradesh**.
श्री शाह ने कहा कि बनाया जा रहा "उत्तर-दक्षिण विभाजन" का नैरेटिव देश के लिए हानिकारक है, और **लक्षद्वीप** के लोगों का संसद पर उतना ही अधिकार है जितना **बिहार या उत्तर प्रदेश** के लोगों का।
- He said the narrative was not going to diminish the popularity of the government and even if the Opposition "greyed their hair", they would not be able to occupy the **Treasury benches**.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह नैरेटिव सरकार की लोकप्रियता को कम नहीं करेगा और भले ही विपक्ष "बाल सफेद कर ले", वे **ट्रेजरी बेंच** पर नहीं बैठ पाएंगे।
- A **Constitutional Amendment Bill** that sought to implement **33% reservation for women** in Parliament and Assembly constituencies through **delimitation** was defeated in the Lok Sabha, as it could not get **two-thirds** of votes from members present in the House.
एक **संविधान संशोधन विधेयक**, जो **परिसीमन** के माध्यम से संसद और विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में **33% महिला आरक्षण** लागू करना चाहता था, लोकसभा में पराजित हो गया क्योंकि उसे उपस्थित सदस्यों के **दो-तिहाई** वोट नहीं मिले।
- According to available figures, out of **528 MPs present**, **298 voted in favour** and **230 against** the Bill.
उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **528 सांसदों** में से **298 ने पक्ष में** और **230 ने विरोध में** मतदान किया।
- "From **1971**, there was a freeze on the increase of **Lok Sabha seats**.
"1971 से **लोकसभा सीटों** की वृद्धि पर रोक लगी हुई है।
- **Malkajgir in Telangana** has **48 lakh voters**, **Bengaluru North** has **29 lakh**, **Ghaziabad**, represented by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** once, has **28 lakh voters**, **Northwest Delhi** **27 lakh voters**.
तेलंगाना के **मलकाजगिरी** में **48 लाख मतदाता**, **बेंगलुरु नॉर्थ** में **29 लाख**, **गाजियाबाद** (जिसका प्रतिनिधित्व कभी रक्षा मंत्री **राजनाथ सिंह** ने किया) में **28 लाख मतदाता**, और **नॉर्थवेस्ट दिल्ली** में **27 लाख मतदाता** हैं।
- There are **127 seats** where there are more than **20 lakh voters**.
ऐसी **127 सीटें** हैं जहां **20 लाख से अधिक मतदाता** हैं।
- How can one MP fulfil the aspirations of **48 lakh people**?
एक सांसद **48 लाख लोगों** की आकांक्षाओं को कैसे पूरा कर सकता है?
- One person, one vote, one value is being violated, somewhere it is **48 lakh** and somewhere it is **six lakh**.
एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट, एक मूल्य का उल्लंघन हो रहा है, कहीं **48 लाख** है तो कहीं **छह लाख**।
- There is no value for one person, one vote.
एक व्यक्ति, एक वोट का कोई समान मूल्य नहीं रह गया है।
- If they (Opposition) support the **delimitation**, then each vote will have the same value," Mr. Shah said.
यदि वे (विपक्ष) **परिसीमन** का समर्थन करें, तो हर वोट का समान मूल्य होगा," श्री शाह ने कहा।
- Responding to **Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav**, who intervened to say that the figure for Ghaziabad was much more, the Home Minister said that the member did not know if he



was speaking in favour of the **Delimitation Bill, 2026**, or against it, and that was the precise point he intended to make.

समाजवादी पार्टी सांसद अखिलेश यादव के हस्तक्षेप पर, जिन्होंने कहा कि गाजियाबाद का आंकड़ा इससे अधिक है, गृह मंत्री ने कहा कि सदस्य को यह नहीं पता कि वह **परिसीमन विधेयक, 2026** के पक्ष में बोल रहे हैं या विरोध में, और यही उनका मुख्य बिंदु था।

- Mr. Shah said that in **1976**, the population of the country was **54.89 crore** and today it is **140 crore**.

श्री शाह ने कहा कि **1976** में देश की जनसंख्या **54.89 करोड़** थी और आज यह **140 करोड़** है।

- “They (Opposition) want the number of MPs then and now to remain the same,” he said. उन्होंने कहा, “वे (विपक्ष) चाहते हैं कि तब और अब सांसदों की संख्या समान रहे।”
- The Minister said the **Delimitation Commission** would have required public hearings in all the **543 constituencies** and it could not have been completed by **2029**, affecting the implementation of the **women’s reservation Act** by the **2029 general election**. मंत्री ने कहा कि **परिसीमन आयोग** को सभी **543 निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों** में सार्वजनिक सुनवाई करनी होती, जो **2029** तक पूरी नहीं हो सकती थी, जिससे **2029 के आम चुनाव** तक **महिला आरक्षण अधिनियम** के कार्यान्वयन पर प्रभाव पड़ता।
- “If the **women’s reservation Act** is to be implemented, then the delimitation will have to be done now, that is why the Bill is being brought now,” he said. उन्होंने कहा, “यदि **महिला आरक्षण अधिनियम** लागू करना है, तो परिसीमन अभी करना होगा, इसलिए यह विधेयक अभी लाया जा रहा है।”
- He said **Tamil Nadu** had **39 Lok Sabha seats** and if the women’s quota was applied, **13 seats** would be reserved for women and **26 seats** would be in the open category. उन्होंने कहा कि **तमिलनाडु** में **39 लोकसभा सीटें** हैं और यदि महिला आरक्षण लागू किया जाए तो **13 सीटें** महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षित होंगी और **26 सीटें** सामान्य श्रेणी में रहेंगी।
- “If the delimitation was done according to the 2011 **Census**, then the State would lose **six seats**. “यदि **2011 जनगणना** के अनुसार परिसीमन किया जाए, तो राज्य **छह सीटें** खो देगा।
- That is why we are increasing **50% seats in all States**, so that the **pro-rata distribution** is not affected. इसीलिए हम सभी राज्यों में **50% सीटें बढ़ा रहे हैं**, ताकि **अनुपातिक वितरण** प्रभावित न हो।
- Now, **20 seats** will be added, taking the total number to **59** and those reserved for women will be **20**,” he said. अब **20 सीटें** जोड़ी जाएंगी, जिससे कुल संख्या **59** हो जाएगी और इनमें से **20 सीटें** महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षित होंगी,” उन्होंने कहा।

Caste count जातिगत गणना

- The Minister said that the **decennial Census** was delayed due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, and in **2024**, when the process started, several parties demanded that caste should also be enumerated. मंत्री ने कहा कि **दशकीय जनगणना कोविड-19 महामारी** के कारण विलंबित हुई, और **2024** में जब प्रक्रिया शुरू हुई, तो कई दलों ने जाति की गणना की मांग की।
- “We decided in **2025** that caste enumeration will be done. “हमने **2025** में निर्णय लिया कि जातिगत गणना की जाएगी।
- The column for caste will be there when **population enumeration (second phase)** is done. जब **जनसंख्या गणना (दूसरा चरण)** होगा, तब जाति का कॉलम शामिल होगा।
- Caste is not enumerated during the **household Census (first phase)**, which is ongoing. जाति की गणना **घरेलू जनगणना (पहला चरण)** के दौरान नहीं की जाती, जो वर्तमान में चल रही है।
- They are not interested in caste count, they want to tie us in knots,” he said. उन्होंने कहा, “वे जातिगत गणना में रुचि नहीं रखते, वे हमें उलझाना चाहते हैं।”
- Refuting the claims of the Opposition that the Bill was brought to negate the **caste Census**, Mr. Shah said the process started **three months ago** and the first phase of **Population Census 2027** was going on.



विपक्ष के इस दावे को खारिज करते हुए कि विधेयक **जातिगत जनगणना** को नकारने के लिए लाया गया है, श्री शाह ने कहा कि प्रक्रिया **तीन महीने पहले** शुरू हुई थी और **जनगणना 2027** का पहला चरण चल रहा है।

- "I thought they wouldn't oppose the reservation for mothers...
"मुझे लगा था कि वे माताओं के लिए आरक्षण का विरोध नहीं करेंगे..."
- The Bill has provision to count the latest published Census.
विधेयक में नवीनतम प्रकाशित जनगणना को गिनने का प्रावधान है।
- I can bring an amendment in one-hour...
मैं एक घंटे में संशोधन ला सकता हूँ...
- They are opposing the Bill because it will enhance the PM's goodwill among the women..., he said.
वे इस विधेयक का विरोध कर रहे हैं क्योंकि इससे महिलाओं के बीच प्रधानमंत्री की लोकप्रियता बढ़ेगी..." उन्होंने कहा।

Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation: Tharoor

GS II: Polity

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The march towards a new India should not create a disunited India, Congress member Shashi Tharoor said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Sharpening his attack on the government, Mr. Tharoor said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had wrapped the promise of justice to *nari shakti* (women power) in "barbed wire" by tethering women's reservation to delimitation and the expansion of the Parliament.

Participating in the debate on the three Bills that sought to amend the women's reservation law and set up a Delimitation Commission, the Congress leader urged the government to defer delimitation and decouple it from the reservation measure.

Linking the two, he argued, held the aspirations of Indian women hostage to "one of the most conten-



Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said delimitation requires engagement with States, political parties, and civil society. ANI

tious and complex" exercises in the country's history.

"There is near-unanimous support for women's reservation. Pass it now, and let it take effect in the next general election on the existing seat matrix," he said, adding that the government must demonstrate that its commitment goes beyond rhetoric.

Calling for wider consultations, Mr. Tharoor said delimitation required engagement with States, pol-

itical parties, and civil society, and could not be rushed. He proposed a formal mechanism, such as a Joint Parliamentary Committee, to evolve a new federal compact that safeguards the interests of all States.

"You have proposed delimitation with such haste, the same haste that you showed on demonetisation. Unfortunately, we all know what damage that did to the country. Delimitation will turn out to be

political demonetisation. Don't do it, sir," he said.

"Tyranny of majority"

He warned that a population-based redraw risked deepening fault lines – between large and small States, the North and the South, and contributor and recipient States. "We risk a tyranny of the demographic majority," he said, cautioning that economically productive and demographically stabilised States could be reduced to "bystanders in their own country".

Referring to Home Minister Amit Shah's assurance that no State would lose seats under a proposed expansion, Mr. Tharoor termed the "50% formula" a "precarious political assurance", not a constitutional guarantee. The legislation, he noted, left the delimitation commission's decisions beyond judicial review and open to alteration by a simple majority.

18A. Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation: Tharoor परिसीमन राजनीतिक विमुद्रीकरण साबित होगा: थरूर

- The march towards a **new India** should not create a **disunited India**, Congress member **Shashi Tharoor** said in the **Lok Sabha** on Friday.
नए भारत की ओर बढ़ने की यात्रा से **विभाजित भारत** नहीं बनना चाहिए, कांग्रेस सांसद **शशि थरूर** ने शुक्रवार को **लोकसभा** में कहा।



- Sharpening his attack on the government, Mr. Tharoor said Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had wrapped the promise of justice to **nari shakti (women power)** in “**barbed wire**” by tethering **women’s reservation** to **delimitation** and the expansion of the Parliament.
सरकार पर हमला तेज करते हुए, श्री थरूर ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने **नारी शक्ति** को न्याय देने के वादे को “**कांटेदार तार**” में लपेट दिया है, क्योंकि उन्होंने **महिला आरक्षण** को **परिसीमन** और संसद के विस्तार से जोड़ दिया है।
- Participating in the debate on the three Bills that sought to amend the **women’s reservation law** and set up a **Delimitation Commission**, the Congress leader urged the government to defer delimitation and **decouple it** from the reservation measure.
तीन विधेयकों पर बहस में भाग लेते हुए, जो **महिला आरक्षण कानून** में संशोधन और **परिसीमन आयोग** के गठन से जुड़े थे, कांग्रेस नेता ने सरकार से परिसीमन को टालने और इसे आरक्षण से **अलग करने** का आग्रह किया।
- Linking the two, he argued, held the aspirations of Indian women hostage to “**one of the most contentious and complex**” exercises in the country’s history.
उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि दोनों को जोड़ने से भारतीय महिलाओं की आकांक्षाएं देश के इतिहास की “**सबसे विवादास्पद और जटिल**” प्रक्रियाओं में बंधक बन जाती हैं।
- “There is near-unanimous support for **women’s reservation**.
“**महिला आरक्षण** के लिए लगभग सर्वसम्मति से समर्थन है।
- Pass it now, and let it take effect in the next **general election** on the existing seat matrix,” he said, adding that the government must demonstrate that its commitment goes beyond rhetoric.
इसे अभी पारित करें और इसे अगली **आम चुनाव** में वर्तमान सीट व्यवस्था पर लागू होने दें,” उन्होंने कहा, और जोड़ा कि सरकार को दिखाना चाहिए कि उसकी प्रतिबद्धता केवल बयानबाजी से आगे है।
- Calling for wider consultations, Mr. Tharoor said delimitation required engagement with **States, political parties, and civil society**, and could not be rushed.
व्यापक परामर्श की मांग करते हुए, श्री थरूर ने कहा कि परिसीमन के लिए **राज्यों, राजनीतिक दलों और नागरिक समाज** के साथ संवाद आवश्यक है और इसे जल्दबाजी में नहीं किया जा सकता।
- He proposed a formal mechanism, such as a **Joint Parliamentary Committee**, to evolve a new federal compact that safeguards the interests of all States.
उन्होंने सभी राज्यों के हितों की रक्षा करने वाले नए संघीय ढांचे के लिए **संयुक्त संसदीय समिति** जैसे औपचारिक तंत्र का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- “You have proposed delimitation with such haste, the same haste that you showed on **demonetisation**.
“आपने परिसीमन को इतनी जल्दबाजी में प्रस्तावित किया है, जैसी जल्दबाजी आपने **नोटबंदी** में दिखाई थी।
- Unfortunately, we all know what damage that did to the country.
दुर्भाग्य से, हम सभी जानते हैं कि इससे देश को कितना नुकसान हुआ।
- Delimitation will turn out to be **political demonetisation**.
परिसीमन **राजनीतिक नोटबंदी** साबित होगा।
- Don’t do it, sir,” he said.
कृपया ऐसा न करें,” उन्होंने कहा।

‘Tyranny of majority’ ‘बहुमत की तानाशाही’

- He warned that a population-based redraw risked deepening fault lines — between **large and small States**, the **North and the South**, and **contributor and recipient States**.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि जनसंख्या आधारित पुनर्निर्धारण से **बड़े और छोटे राज्यों, उत्तर और दक्षिण**, तथा **योगदानकर्ता और प्राप्तकर्ता राज्यों** के बीच विभाजन गहरा सकता है।
- “We risk a tyranny of the **demographic majority**,” he said, cautioning that economically productive and demographically stabilised States could be reduced to “**bystanders in their own country**”.
उन्होंने कहा, “हम **जनसंख्या बहुमत की तानाशाही** का जोखिम उठा रहे हैं,” और चेतावनी दी कि आर्थिक रूप से उत्पादक और जनसंख्या स्थिर राज्यों को “**अपने ही देश में दर्शक**” बना दिया जा सकता है।
- Referring to Home Minister **Amit Shah’s** assurance that no State would lose seats under a proposed expansion, Mr. Tharoor termed the “**50% formula**” a “**precarious political**”



assurance", not a constitutional guarantee.

गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** के इस आश्वासन का जिक्र करते हुए कि प्रस्तावित विस्तार में कोई राज्य सीट नहीं खोएगा, श्री थरूर ने "50% फार्मूले" को "अस्थिर राजनीतिक आश्वासन" बताया, न कि संवैधानिक गारंटी।

- The legislation, he noted, left the **delimitation commission's decisions** beyond judicial review and open to alteration by a **simple majority**.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह विधेयक **परिसीमन आयोग के निर्णयों** को न्यायिक समीक्षा से बाहर रखता है और उन्हें **साधारण बहुमत** से बदला जा सकता है।



GS II: Polity

Harivansh secures third term as RS Deputy Chairman

Harivansh was elected unopposed for a third consecutive term as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, making him the first nominated member to occupy the chair. His appointment was lauded by members from across party lines. Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan described it as a "resounding affirmation" of the trust Mr. Harivansh enjoys across parties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called his election a tribute to his experience and intuitive leadership. Leader of the House J.P. Nadda lauded his integrity, clarity of thought and dedication to democratic values. Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge termed the election "historic".

democratic values.

सदन के नेता **जेपी नड्डा** ने उनकी **ईमानदारी, विचारों की स्पष्टता और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों** के प्रति समर्पण की सराहना की।

- Leader of Opposition **Mallikarjun Kharge** termed the election "historic".
विपक्ष के नेता **मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे** ने इस चुनाव को "ऐतिहासिक" बताया।

18A. Harivansh secures third term as RS Deputy Chairman

हरिवंश ने राज्यसभा के उपसभापति के रूप में तीसरा कार्यकाल हासिल किया

- Harivansh was elected **unopposed** for a **third consecutive term** as **Deputy Chairman** of the **Rajya Sabha** on Friday, making him the **first nominated member** to occupy the chair.

हरिवंश को शुक्रवार को **राज्यसभा के उपसभापति** के रूप में लगातार **तीसरे कार्यकाल** के लिए **निर्विरोध** चुना गया, जिससे वे इस पद पर आसीन होने वाले **पहले मनोनीत सदस्य** बन गए।

- His appointment was lauded by members from across **party lines**.

उनकी नियुक्ति की सभी **दलीय सीमाओं** के पार सदस्यों द्वारा सराहना की गई।

- Chairman **C.P. Radhakrishnan** described it as a "**resounding affirmation**" of the trust Mr. Harivansh enjoys across parties.

सभापति **सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन** ने इसे विभिन्न दलों में हरिवंश पर जताए गए विश्वास की "**जोरदार पुष्टि**" बताया।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** called his election a tribute to his **experience** and **intuitive leadership**.

प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने उनके चुनाव को उनके **अनुभव** और **सहज नेतृत्व** को श्रद्धांजलि बताया।

- Leader of the House **J.P. Nadda** lauded his **integrity, clarity of thought** and dedication to



Why women's reservation cannot wait any longer

India stands at a curious democratic crossroads. It is one of the world's most vibrant democracies, marked by high voter participation and an increasingly engaged female electorate. Yet within its legislative institutions, women remain conspicuously underrepresented. This contradiction — between participation and representation — makes a compelling case for the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill. This gap has been repeatedly highlighted. While Indian women have emerged as a decisive electoral force, their presence in law-making bodies remains disproportionately low. Nowhere is this imbalance more evident than in the stark difference between State and national representation.

Women constitute, on average, only about 9% of legislators in State Assemblies, while their representation in Parliament hovers around 14%-15%. This is far from reflecting women's share in the total population of the country, which is nearly 50%.

This disparity is not just numerical — it is structural. Over the past two decades, women in India have transformed from passive voters into active political participants. In several States, female voter turnout now equals or even surpasses that of men. This is a remarkable democratic achievement. It signals agency, awareness, and a growing sense of political ownership among women. However, this surge in participation has not translated into equivalent gains in representation.

Structural faults

The reasons are deeply embedded in the functioning of India's political system. Political parties act as gatekeepers, and continue to nominate far fewer women candidates than men. Electoral politics is resource-intensive, requiring financial backing, networks, and social capital — areas where women often face systemic disadvantages. Cultural norms and safety concerns further discourage women from entering the political arena. The result is a cycle of exclusion that reproduces itself with each election. This is precisely why the Women's Reservation Bill is not just desirable but necessary. By mandating a fixed share of seats for women in legislatures, it directly addresses the structural barriers that prevent fair representation. Critics often argue that such



Shamika Ravi
Member, EAC-PM

High turnout among women voters is a sign of democratic vitality, but true empowerment requires a seat at the decision-making table

quotas compromise merit or lead to tokenism. But this argument assumes that the current system is meritocratic, which it clearly is not. Access to political power in India is shaped as much by privilege and networks as by competence.

Evidence from India's own experience with reservation at the local level offers a powerful counterpoint. In the Panchayati Raj institutions, where seats have been reserved for women, the results have been transformative. Women leaders have not only participated effectively but have also shifted policy priorities toward issues such as health, education, water, and sanitation. These are not marginal concerns; they are central to human development and economic progress.

Moreover, representation has a ripple effect. When women occupy positions of authority, they challenge entrenched social norms. Young girls grow up seeing leadership as attainable. Families and communities begin to accept women's public roles more readily, and over time, this creates a pipeline of future leaders. Reservation, therefore, is not a permanent solution but a catalytic intervention; one that helps correct historical imbalances and sets the stage for a more equitable system.

On State legislatures and Parliament

The comparison between State Assemblies and Parliament further underscores the urgency of the reform.

If representation is as low as 9% at the State level, it indicates that the problem is even more severe at the grassroots of legislative power. State governments play a critical role in shaping policies around healthcare, education, law and order, and local development, which directly affect citizens' daily lives. The near absence of women in these decision-making bodies means that half the population has a limited voice in shaping them.

At the national level, the slightly higher figure of 14%-15% in Parliament is often cited as progress. But this too falls short of global benchmarks and democratic ideals. A representative democracy must reflect the diversity of its people, not just in theory but in practice. The underrepresentation of women weakens the legitimacy and inclusiveness of India's democratic institutions.

Timing is another crucial factor. India is undergoing rapid social and economic

transformation. More women are entering higher education, joining the workforce, and asserting their rights. Their aspirations are evolving faster than the institutions meant to represent them. Delaying the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill risks widening this gap, and will lead to frustration and disengagement.

Some argue that political parties should voluntarily field more women candidates instead of relying on legislative mandates. While this is a desirable goal, past experience suggests that voluntary measures have not been effective. Despite repeated promises, the proportion of women candidates has remained low. Structural problems require structural solutions, and reservation is one such solution.

Deepening democracy

At its core, the argument for the Women's Reservation Bill is about deepening democracy. High turnout among women voters is a sign of democratic vitality, but true empowerment requires a seat at the decision-making table. Moving from participation to representation is the next logical step in India's democratic evolution.

There is also a strong developmental argument. Research across countries shows that gender-inclusive governance leads to better outcomes — more equitable policies, improved social indicators, and sustainable growth. In a country as diverse and complex as India, excluding half the population from political leadership is not just unjust, it is inefficient.

India has already shown that institutional reform can drive social change. The success of reservation in local governance demonstrates that change is possible when there is political will. Extending this principle to State Assemblies and Parliament is not a radical step, it is a necessary progression. Ultimately, the question is not whether India is ready for the Women's Reservation Bill, it is whether its democracy can afford to wait any longer for women's reservation; the gap between participation and representation is too large to ignore.

India's democratic journey has been remarkable, but it remains incomplete.

Bridging this gap requires bold action. Implementing the Women's Reservation Bill immediately is not just about fairness — it is about building a more representative, responsive, and resilient democracy.

18A. Why women's reservation cannot wait any longer महिलाओं के आरक्षण में अब और विलंब क्यों नहीं किया जा सकता

India stands at a curious democratic crossroads.
भारत एक जिज्ञासापूर्ण लोकतांत्रिक चौराहे पर खड़ा है।

- It is one of the world's most **vibrant democracies**, marked by high **voter participation** and an increasingly engaged **female electorate**.
यह विश्व के सबसे **जीवंत लोकतंत्रों** में से एक है, जो उच्च **मतदाता भागीदारी** और बढ़ती हुई सक्रिय **महिला मतदाता** से चिह्नित है।
- Yet within its **legislative institutions**, women remain conspicuously **underrepresented**.
फिर भी इसके **विधायी संस्थानों** में महिलाएँ स्पष्ट रूप से **अल्पप्रतिनिधित्व** में बनी हुई हैं।
- This contradiction — between **participation and representation** — makes a compelling case for the immediate implementation of the **Women's Reservation Bill**.
यह विरोधाभास — **भागीदारी और प्रतिनिधित्व** के बीच — **महिला आरक्षण विधेयक** के त्वरित कार्यान्वयन के लिए एक सशक्त तर्क प्रस्तुत करता है।
- This gap has been repeatedly highlighted.
इस अंतर को बार-बार उजागर किया गया है।
- While Indian women have emerged as a decisive **electoral force**, their presence in **law-making bodies** remains disproportionately low.
जहाँ भारतीय महिलाएँ एक निर्णायक **चुनावी शक्ति** के रूप में उभरी हैं, वहीं उनकी **विधि-निर्माण संस्थाओं** में उपस्थिति अत्यंत कम बनी हुई है।



- Nowhere is this imbalance more evident than in the stark difference between **State and national representation**.
यह असंतुलन कहीं भी इतना स्पष्ट नहीं है जितना कि **राज्य और राष्ट्रीय प्रतिनिधित्व** के बीच के तीव्र अंतर में।
- Women constitute, on average, only about **9% of legislators in State Assemblies**, while their representation in Parliament hovers around **14%-15%**.
महिलाएँ औसतन **राज्य विधानसभाओं में केवल लगभग 9% विधायक** हैं, जबकि संसद में उनका प्रतिनिधित्व लगभग **14%-15%** के आसपास है।
- This is far from reflecting women's share in the total population of the country, which is nearly **50%**.
यह देश की कुल जनसंख्या में महिलाओं की लगभग **50% हिस्सेदारी** को बिल्कुल भी प्रतिबिंबित नहीं करता।
- This disparity is not just numerical — it is **structural**.
यह असमानता केवल संख्यात्मक नहीं है — बल्कि **संरचनात्मक** है।
- Over the past two decades, women in India have transformed from **passive voters** into **active political participants**.
पिछले दो दशकों में, भारत की महिलाएँ **निष्क्रिय मतदाताओं से सक्रिय राजनीतिक भागीदारों** में परिवर्तित हुई हैं।
- In several States, female voter turnout now equals or even surpasses that of men.
कई राज्यों में महिला मतदाता सहभागिता अब पुरुषों के बराबर या उससे भी अधिक हो गई है।
- This is a remarkable **democratic achievement**.
यह एक उल्लेखनीय **लोकतांत्रिक उपलब्धि** है।
- It signals **agency, awareness**, and a growing sense of **political ownership** among women.
यह महिलाओं में **स्वायत्तता, जागरूकता** और बढ़ती हुई **राजनीतिक स्वामित्व की भावना** को दर्शाता है।
- However, this surge in participation has not translated into equivalent gains in **representation**.
हालाँकि, भागीदारी में यह वृद्धि **प्रतिनिधित्व** में समान वृद्धि में परिवर्तित नहीं हुई है।

Structural faults संरचनात्मक दोष

- The reasons are deeply embedded in the functioning of India's **political system**.
इसके कारण भारत की **राजनीतिक प्रणाली** के कार्य-प्रणाली में गहराई से निहित हैं।
- **Political parties** act as gatekeepers, and continue to nominate far fewer women candidates than men.
राजनीतिक दल द्वारपाल की भूमिका निभाते हैं और पुरुषों की तुलना में बहुत कम महिला उम्मीदवारों को नामित करते हैं।
- **Electoral politics** is resource-intensive, requiring **financial backing, networks, and social capital** — areas where women often face systemic disadvantages.
चुनावी राजनीति संसाधन-प्रधान होती है, जिसमें **वित्तीय समर्थन, नेटवर्क और सामाजिक पूंजी** की आवश्यकता होती है — ऐसे क्षेत्र जहाँ महिलाओं को अक्सर प्रणालीगत बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- **Cultural norms** and **safety concerns** further discourage women from entering the political arena.
सांस्कृतिक मानदंड और **सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताएँ** महिलाओं को राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने से और अधिक हतोत्साहित करती हैं।
- The result is a cycle of **exclusion** that reproduces itself with each election.
परिणामस्वरूप **बहिष्करण का एक चक्र** उत्पन्न होता है, जो प्रत्येक चुनाव के साथ स्वयं को दोहराता है।
- This is precisely why the **Women's Reservation Bill** is not just desirable but necessary.
यही कारण है कि **महिला आरक्षण विधेयक** केवल वांछनीय ही नहीं बल्कि आवश्यक है।
- By mandating a fixed share of seats for women in **legislatures**, it directly addresses the structural barriers that prevent fair representation.
विधायिकाओं में महिलाओं के लिए सीटों का निश्चित हिस्सा अनिवार्य करके यह उन संरचनात्मक बाधाओं को सीधे संबोधित करता है जो न्यायसंगत प्रतिनिधित्व को रोकती हैं।
- Critics often argue that such **quotas** compromise merit or lead to **tokenism**.
आलोचक अक्सर तर्क देते हैं कि ऐसे **आरक्षण** योग्यता से समझौता करते हैं या **प्रतीकात्मकता** को बढ़ावा देते हैं।



- But this argument assumes that the current system is **meritocratic**, which it clearly is not. लेकिन यह तर्क मानता है कि वर्तमान प्रणाली **योग्यता-आधारित** है, जो स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं है।
- Access to **political power** in India is shaped as much by **privilege and networks** as by competence. भारत में **राजनीतिक शक्ति** तक पहुँच उतनी ही **विशेषाधिकार और नेटवर्क** द्वारा निर्धारित होती है जितनी कि योग्यता द्वारा।
- Evidence from India's own experience with reservation at the **local level** offers a powerful counterpoint. **स्थानीय स्तर** पर आरक्षण के साथ भारत के अपने अनुभव से प्राप्त प्रमाण एक सशक्त प्रतिवाद प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- In the **Panchayati Raj institutions**, where seats have been reserved for women, the results have been **transformative**. **पंचायती राज संस्थाओं** में, जहाँ महिलाओं के लिए सीटें आरक्षित की गई हैं, परिणाम **परिवर्तनकारी** रहे हैं।
- Women leaders have not only participated effectively but have also shifted **policy priorities** toward issues such as **health, education, water, and sanitation**. महिला नेताओं ने न केवल प्रभावी ढंग से भाग लिया है बल्कि **नीतिगत प्राथमिकताओं** को **स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, जल और स्वच्छता** जैसे मुद्दों की ओर भी स्थानांतरित किया है।
- These are not marginal concerns; they are central to **human development and economic progress**. ये मामूली मुद्दे नहीं हैं; ये **मानव विकास और आर्थिक प्रगति** के केंद्र में हैं।
- Moreover, **representation** has a ripple effect. इसके अतिरिक्त, **प्रतिनिधित्व** का एक व्यापक प्रभाव होता है।
- When women occupy positions of **authority**, they challenge entrenched **social norms**. जब महिलाएँ **सत्ता के पदों** पर होती हैं, तो वे स्थापित **सामाजिक मानदंडों** को चुनौती देती हैं।
- Young girls grow up seeing **leadership as attainable**. युवा लड़कियाँ **नेतृत्व को प्राप्त करने योग्य** मानते हुए बड़ी होती हैं।
- Families and communities begin to accept women's **public roles** more readily, and over time, this creates a pipeline of **future leaders**. परिवार और समुदाय महिलाओं की **सार्वजनिक भूमिकाओं** को अधिक सहजता से स्वीकार करने लगते हैं, और समय के साथ यह **भविष्य के नेताओं** की एक श्रृंखला तैयार करता है।
- Reservation, therefore, is not a permanent solution but a **catalytic intervention**; one that helps correct **historical imbalances** and sets the stage for a more **equitable system**. अतः आरक्षण कोई स्थायी समाधान नहीं बल्कि एक **प्रेरक हस्तक्षेप** है; जो **ऐतिहासिक असंतुलनों** को सुधारने में सहायता करता है और एक अधिक **न्यायसंगत प्रणाली** की नींव रखता है।

On State legislatures and Parliament राज्य विधानसभाओं और संसद पर

- The comparison between **State Assemblies and Parliament** further underscores the urgency of the **reform**. **राज्य विधानसभाओं और संसद** के बीच तुलना इस **सुधार** की तात्कालिकता को और अधिक रेखांकित करती है।
- If representation is as low as **9% at the State level**, it indicates that the problem is even more severe at the **grassroots of legislative power**. यदि प्रतिनिधित्व **राज्य स्तर पर केवल 9%** है, तो यह दर्शाता है कि समस्या **विधायी शक्ति के जमीनी स्तर** पर और भी अधिक गंभीर है।
- **State governments** play a critical role in shaping policies around **healthcare, education, law and order, and local development**, which directly affect citizens' daily lives. **राज्य सरकारें स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, कानून-व्यवस्था और स्थानीय विकास** से संबंधित नीतियों के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं, जो सीधे नागरिकों के दैनिक जीवन को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- The near absence of **women in these decision-making bodies** means that half the population has a limited voice in shaping them. इन **निर्णय-निर्माण निकायों में महिलाओं की लगभग अनुपस्थिति** का अर्थ है कि आधी जनसंख्या की आवाज़ इनके निर्माण में सीमित है।



- At the national level, the slightly higher figure of **14%-15% in Parliament** is often cited as progress.
राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, संसद में **14%-15%** का थोड़ा अधिक आंकड़ा अक्सर प्रगति के रूप में उद्धृत किया जाता है।
- But this too falls short of **global benchmarks** and **democratic ideals**.
किन्तु यह भी **वैश्विक मानकों** और **लोकतांत्रिक आदर्शों** से कम है।
- A **representative democracy** must reflect the diversity of its people, not just in theory but in practice.
एक **प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र** को केवल सैद्धांतिक रूप से ही नहीं बल्कि व्यवहार में भी अपने लोगों की विविधता को प्रतिबिंबित करना चाहिए।
- The **underrepresentation of women** weakens the legitimacy and inclusiveness of India's **democratic institutions**.
महिलाओं का अल्पप्रतिनिधित्व भारत के **लोकतांत्रिक संस्थानों** की वैधता और समावेशिता को कमजोर करता है।
- Timing** is another crucial factor.
समय-निर्धारण एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कारक है।
- India is undergoing rapid **social and economic transformation**.
भारत तीव्र **सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन** के दौर से गुजर रहा है।
- More women are entering **higher education**, joining the **workforce**, and asserting their **rights**.
अधिक महिलाएँ **उच्च शिक्षा** में प्रवेश कर रही हैं, **कार्यबल** में शामिल हो रही हैं और अपने **अधिकारों** का दावा कर रही हैं।
- Their **aspirations** are evolving faster than the institutions meant to represent them.
उनकी **आकांक्षाएँ** उन संस्थानों की तुलना में अधिक तेजी से विकसित हो रही हैं, जो उनका प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए बनाए गए हैं।
- Delaying the implementation of the **Women's Reservation Bill** risks widening this gap, and will lead to **frustration and disengagement**.
महिला आरक्षण विधेयक के कार्यान्वयन में देरी इस अंतर को और बढ़ा सकती है तथा **निराशा और विमुखता** को जन्म देगी।
- Some argue that **political parties** should voluntarily field more women candidates instead of relying on **legislative mandates**.
कुछ लोग तर्क देते हैं कि **राजनीतिक दलों** को **विधायी अनिवार्यता** पर निर्भर रहने के बजाय स्वेच्छा से अधिक महिला उम्मीदवारों को मैदान में उतारना चाहिए।
- While this is a desirable goal, past experience suggests that **voluntary measures** have not been effective.
यद्यपि यह एक वांछनीय लक्ष्य है, लेकिन पिछले अनुभव बताते हैं कि **स्वैच्छिक उपाय** प्रभावी नहीं रहे हैं।
- Despite repeated promises, the proportion of **women candidates** has remained low.
बार-बार के वादों के बावजूद **महिला उम्मीदवारों** का अनुपात कम ही बना रहा है।
- Structural problems** require **structural solutions**, and reservation is one such solution.
संरचनात्मक समस्याओं के लिए **संरचनात्मक समाधान** आवश्यक हैं, और आरक्षण ऐसा ही एक समाधान है।

Deepening democracy

लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाना

- At its core, the argument for the **Women's Reservation Bill** is about deepening **democracy**.
मूलतः, **महिला आरक्षण विधेयक** के पक्ष में तर्क **लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाने** से संबंधित है।
- High turnout among **women voters** is a sign of **democratic vitality**, but true empowerment requires a seat at the **decision-making table**.
महिला मतदाताओं की उच्च भागीदारी **लोकतांत्रिक जीवंतता** का संकेत है, किन्तु वास्तविक सशक्तिकरण के लिए **निर्णय-निर्माण की प्रक्रिया** में स्थान आवश्यक है।
- Moving from **participation to representation** is the next logical step in India's **democratic evolution**.
भागीदारी से प्रतिनिधित्व की ओर बढ़ना भारत के **लोकतांत्रिक विकास** का अगला तार्किक चरण है।
- There is also a strong **developmental argument**.
इसके अतिरिक्त एक सशक्त **विकासात्मक तर्क** भी है।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

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- Research across countries shows that **gender-inclusive governance** leads to better outcomes — more **equitable policies**, improved **social indicators**, and **sustainable growth**.
विभिन्न देशों में हुए शोध दर्शाते हैं कि **लैंगिक समावेशी शासन** बेहतर परिणाम देता है — अधिक **समान नीतियाँ**, बेहतर **सामाजिक संकेतक** और **सतत विकास**।
- In a country as diverse and complex as India, excluding half the population from **political leadership** is not just unjust, it is inefficient.
भारत जैसे विविध और जटिल देश में आधी जनसंख्या को **राजनीतिक नेतृत्व** से बाहर रखना न केवल अन्यायपूर्ण है, बल्कि अक्षम भी है।
- India has already shown that **institutional reform** can drive **social change**.
भारत पहले ही दिखा चुका है कि **संस्थागत सुधार सामाजिक परिवर्तन** को प्रेरित कर सकते हैं।
- The success of reservation in **local governance** demonstrates that change is possible when there is **political will**.
स्थानीय शासन में आरक्षण की सफलता यह दर्शाती है कि जब **राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति** होती है, तब परिवर्तन संभव है।
- Extending this principle to **State Assemblies and Parliament** is not a radical step, it is a necessary progression.
इस सिद्धांत को **राज्य विधानसभाओं और संसद** तक विस्तारित करना कोई कट्टर कदम नहीं, बल्कि आवश्यक प्रगति है।
- Ultimately, the question is not whether India is ready for the **Women's Reservation Bill**, it is whether its democracy can afford to wait any longer for women's reservation; the gap between **participation and representation** is too large to ignore.
अंततः प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि भारत **महिला आरक्षण विधेयक** के लिए तैयार है या नहीं, बल्कि यह है कि क्या उसका लोकतंत्र महिलाओं के आरक्षण के लिए और प्रतीक्षा कर सकता है; **भागीदारी और प्रतिनिधित्व** के बीच का अंतर इतना बड़ा है कि उसे अनदेखा नहीं किया जा सकता।
- India's **democratic journey** has been remarkable, but it remains incomplete.
भारत की **लोकतांत्रिक यात्रा** उल्लेखनीय रही है, किन्तु यह अभी भी अधूरी है।
- Bridging this gap requires **bold action**.
इस अंतर को पाटने के लिए **साहसिक कदम** आवश्यक हैं।
- Implementing the **Women's Reservation Bill** immediately is not just about fairness — it is about building a more **representative, responsive, and resilient democracy**.
महिला आरक्षण विधेयक को तत्काल लागू करना केवल न्याय का प्रश्न नहीं है — यह एक अधिक प्रतिनिधित्वकारी, उत्तरदायी और **सुदृढ़ लोकतंत्र** के निर्माण से संबंधित है।

GS Paper II: International Relations		18 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
18A	Iran declares the Strait of Hormuz open; Trump says U.S. blockade will continue ईरान ने होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को खुला घोषित किया; ट्रंप ने कहा अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी जारी रहेगी	



Iran declares the Strait of Hormuz open; Trump says U.S. blockade will continue

GS II: IR
Stanly Johny

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran said on Friday the Strait of Hormuz is "completely open" for commercial vessels for the remainder of the two-week U.S.-Iran truce.

Mr. Trump "thanked" Iran for reopening the waterway but said the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports would continue until there is a deal between Tehran and Washington. Oil prices fell on Friday after the Strait was declared open.

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire, on the coordinated route as already announced by Ports and Maritime Organisation of Iran," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a social media post on Friday.

About 20% of the world's crude oil supply passed through the strait, which links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, before the U.S. and Israel launched their war on Iran. The waterway also carries a significant share of global LNG exports, mainly from Qatar.

After the war broke out, Iran took control of the waterway. Daily ship traffic through the Strait fell sharply, dropping from more than 100 vessels a day to single digits.

Mr. Trump welcomed Iran's decision. "Iran has just announced that the



After the war began daily ship traffic through the Strait fell sharply, dropping from over 100 vessels a day to single digits. FILE PHOTO

Strait of Hormuz is fully open and ready for full passage. Thank you," he said in a post in capital letters. He also said Iran, "with the help of the US, has removed or is removing all sea mines" in the waterway. "Iran has agreed to never close the Strait of Hormuz again. It will no longer be used as a weapon against the world," he added.

Mr. Trump, however, said the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, which he announced on April 12, "will remain in full force and effect... until such time as our transaction with Iran is 100% complete. This process should go very quickly in that most of the points are already negotiated".

The U.S. Central Command has said it has enforced a complete blockade of ships going to and coming from Iranian ports, though shipping data suggest some Iran-linked ships have crossed the U.S. blockade.

France and Britain said on Friday that they will lead a multinational mission to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, while emphasizing the force would be entirely defensive and only

deployed once lasting peace in the region was agreed.

The war in Lebanon was a key sticking point in the U.S.-Iran ceasefire that was announced on April 8. Iran said Lebanon was covered under the ceasefire agreement, but Israel initially rejected it and said its war against Hezbollah would continue. Mr. Trump said last week that he had asked Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to scale back attacks on Lebanon. On April 14, the U.S. held talks between Israel and Lebanese government officials in Washington. On Thursday, after announcing the 10-day ceasefire in Lebanon, Mr. Trump said he would invite Mr. Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to Washington for the first high-level summit between the two countries.

Israel said on Thursday it would halt attacks on Lebanon but its troops would stay in the seized territory in southern Lebanon.

Brent crude futures were down roughly 10% on Friday, extending earlier losses, at below \$90 a barrel. The U.S. benchmark WTI was also down 10% at around \$82 a barrel.

and Maritime Organisation of Iran," Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** wrote in a social media post on Friday.

"लेबनान में युद्धविराम के अनुरूप, होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से सभी वाणिज्यिक जहाजों के लिए मार्ग शेष युद्धविराम अवधि के लिए पूरी तरह खुला घोषित किया जाता है, जैसा कि पहले ही ईरान के बंदरगाह और समुद्री संगठन द्वारा घोषित समन्वित मार्ग पर है," विदेश मंत्री **अब्बास अराघची** ने शुक्रवार को सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में लिखा।

- About **20% of the world's crude oil supply** passed through the strait, which links the **Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea**, before the U.S. and Israel launched their war on Iran.

ईरान पर अमेरिका और इज़राइल के युद्ध शुरू करने से पहले, दुनिया की लगभग **20% कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति** इस जलडमरूमध्य से गुजरती थी, जो **फारस की खाड़ी को ओमान की खाड़ी और अरब सागर** से जोड़ता है।

- The waterway also carries a significant share of global **LNG exports**, mainly from **Qatar**. यह जलमार्ग वैश्विक **एलएनजी निर्यात** का भी बड़ा हिस्सा वहन करता है, मुख्य रूप से **कतर** से।
- After the war broke out, Iran took control of the waterway. युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद, ईरान ने इस जलमार्ग का नियंत्रण अपने हाथ में ले लिया।
- Daily ship traffic through the Strait fell sharply, dropping from more than **100 vessels a day** to single digits.

18A. Iran declares the Strait of Hormuz open; Trump says U.S. blockade will continue

ईरान ने होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को खुला घोषित किया; ट्रंप ने कहा अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी जारी रहेगी

• A day after **U.S. President Donald Trump** announced a **10-day ceasefire** between **Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon**, Iran said on Friday the **Strait of Hormuz** is "completely open" for commercial vessels for the remainder of the **two-week U.S.-Iran truce**.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** द्वारा **लेबनान में इज़राइल और हिज़्बुल्लाह के बीच 10-दिवसीय युद्धविराम** की घोषणा के एक दिन बाद, ईरान ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि **होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** शेष दो सप्ताह के **अमेरिका-ईरान संघर्षविराम** के लिए वाणिज्यिक जहाजों के लिए "पूरी तरह खुला" है।

• Mr. Trump "thanked" Iran for reopening the waterway but said the **U.S. blockade of Iranian ports** would continue until there is a deal between **Tehran and Washington**.

श्री ट्रंप ने जलमार्ग फिर से खोलने के लिए ईरान को "धन्यवाद" दिया, लेकिन कहा कि **ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी** तब तक जारी रहेगी जब तक **तेहरान और वाशिंगटन** के बीच समझौता नहीं हो जाता।

• Oil prices fell on Friday after the strait was declared open.

जलडमरूमध्य को खुला घोषित किए जाने के बाद शुक्रवार को **तेल की कीमतों** में गिरावट आई।

• "In line with the **ceasefire in Lebanon**, the passage for all commercial vessels through the **Strait of Hormuz** is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire, on the coordinated route as already announced by **Ports**



जलडमरूमध्य से दैनिक जहाज यातायात तेजी से घट गया, जो प्रतिदिन 100 से अधिक जहाजों से घटकर एकल अंक में आ गया।

- Mr. Trump welcomed Iran's decision.
श्री ट्रंप ने ईरान के इस फैसले का स्वागत किया।
- "Iran has just announced that the **Strait of Hormuz is fully open** and ready for full passage. Thank you," he said in a post in capital letters.
"ईरान ने अभी घोषणा की है कि **होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पूरी तरह खुला है** और पूर्ण आवाजाही के लिए तैयार है। धन्यवाद," उन्होंने बड़े अक्षरों में पोस्ट में कहा।
- He also said Iran, "with the help of the US, has removed or is removing all **sea mines**" in the waterway.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि ईरान ने "अमेरिका की मदद से" जलमार्ग में सभी **समुद्री बारूदी सुरंगों** को हटा दिया है या हटा रहा है।
- "Iran has agreed to never close the **Strait of Hormuz** again. It will no longer be used as a weapon against the world," he added.
उन्होंने कहा, "ईरान ने सहमति दी है कि वह **होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** को फिर कभी बंद नहीं करेगा। इसे अब दुनिया के खिलाफ हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाएगा।"
- Mr. Trump, however, said the **U.S. blockade of Iranian ports**, which he announced on **April 12**, "will remain in full force and effect.., until such time as our transaction with Iran is 100% complete."
हालांकि, श्री ट्रंप ने कहा कि **12 अप्रैल** को घोषित **ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी** "पूरी तरह लागू और प्रभावी रहेगी, जब तक कि ईरान के साथ हमारा समझौता 100% पूरा नहीं हो जाता।"
- "This process should go very quickly in that most of the points are already negotiated".
"यह प्रक्रिया बहुत तेजी से पूरी होनी चाहिए क्योंकि अधिकांश बिंदुओं पर पहले ही बातचीत हो चुकी है।"
- The **U.S. Central Command** has said it has enforced a complete blockade of ships going to and coming from Iranian ports, though shipping data suggest some Iran-linked ships have crossed the U.S. blockade.
अमेरिकी सेंट्रल कमांड ने कहा है कि उसने ईरानी बंदरगाहों से आने-जाने वाले जहाजों पर पूर्ण नाकेबंदी लागू की है, हालांकि शिपिंग डेटा से पता चलता है कि कुछ ईरान से जुड़े जहाज इस नाकेबंदी को पार कर चुके हैं।
- **France and Britain** said on Friday that they will lead a **multinational mission** to ensure freedom of navigation in the **Strait of Hormuz**, while emphasising the force would be entirely defensive and only deployed once lasting peace in the region was agreed.
फ्रांस और ब्रिटेन ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि वे **होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** में नौवहन की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक **बहुराष्ट्रीय मिशन** का नेतृत्व करेंगे, और जोर दिया कि यह बल पूरी तरह रक्षात्मक होगा और क्षेत्र में स्थायी शांति के बाद ही तैनात किया जाएगा।
- The war in Lebanon was a key sticking point in the **U.S.-Iran ceasefire** that was announced on **April 8**.
8 अप्रैल को घोषित **अमेरिका-ईरान युद्धविराम** में लेबनान का युद्ध एक प्रमुख विवाद का मुद्दा था।
- Iran said Lebanon was covered under the ceasefire agreement, but Israel initially rejected it and said its war against **Hezbollah** would continue.
ईरान ने कहा कि लेबनान इस युद्धविराम समझौते में शामिल है, लेकिन इज़राइल ने शुरुआत में इसे खारिज कर दिया और कहा कि उसका **हिज़बुल्लाह** के खिलाफ युद्ध जारी रहेगा।
- Mr. Trump said last week that he had asked Israel Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** to scale back attacks on Lebanon.
श्री ट्रंप ने पिछले सप्ताह कहा कि उन्होंने इज़राइल के प्रधानमंत्री **बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** से लेबनान पर हमले कम करने को कहा है।
- On **April 14**, the U.S. held talks between Israel and **Lebanese government officials** in Washington.
14 अप्रैल को अमेरिका ने वाशिंगटन में इज़राइल और **लेबनानी सरकारी अधिकारियों** के बीच बातचीत कराई।
- On Thursday, after announcing the **10-day ceasefire in Lebanon**, Mr. Trump said he would invite Mr. Netanyahu and Lebanese President **Joseph Aoun** to Washington for the first high-level summit between the two countries.
गुरुवार को **लेबनान में 10-दिवसीय युद्धविराम** की घोषणा के बाद, श्री ट्रंप ने कहा कि वे श्री नेतन्याहू और लेबनान के राष्ट्रपति **जोसेफ आउन** को दोनों देशों के बीच पहली उच्च-स्तरीय बैठक के लिए वाशिंगटन आमंत्रित करेंगे।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

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- Israel said on Thursday it would halt attacks on Lebanon but its troops would stay in the seized territory in southern Lebanon.
इज़राइल ने गुरुवार को कहा कि वह लेबनान पर हमले रोकेंगा, लेकिन उसकी सेना दक्षिणी लेबनान में कब्जाए गए क्षेत्र में बनी रहेगी।
- **Brent crude futures** were down roughly **10%** on Friday, extending earlier losses, at below **\$90 a barrel**.
शुक्रवार को **ब्रेट क्रूड फ्यूचर्स** लगभग **10%** गिरकर **90 डॉलर प्रति बैरल** से नीचे आ गए।
- The U.S. benchmark **WTI** was also down **10%** at around **\$82 a barrel**.
अमेरिकी मानक **WTI** भी लगभग **10%** गिरकर करीब **82 डॉलर प्रति बैरल** पर आ गया।

GS Paper III: Economy		18 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
18A	PNGRB close to finalising bids for four LPG pipelines पीएनजीआरबी चार एलपीजी पाइपलाइन के लिए बोलियों को अंतिम रूप देने के करीब	
18A	'Bengaluru is India base choice for 7 of top 10 AI firms' 'बेंगलुरु भारत में शीर्ष 10 एआई कंपनियों में से 7 की पहली पसंद'	
18A	Banking FDI for nuclear power projects on cards परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए बैंकिंग एफडीआई की तैयारी	

PATRIOTIC IAS



PNGRB close to finalising bids for four LPG pipelines

The suo motu proposal for the pipeline infrastructure is part of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board's objective of doing away with road transportation of bulk LPG by 2030

GS III: Economy
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seeking to further strengthen the infrastructure of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and ensure storage through pipeline infrastructure, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) informed on Friday that it was in the process of concluding bid proposals of four such pipelines.

Collectively, the four pipelines would span across approximately 2,500 kilometres and attract an investment of about ₹12,500 crore. The suo motu tendering of the overall LPG pipeline infrastructure is part of the regulator's broader objective of doing away with road transportation of bulk LPG by 2030.

"As part of the initiative, nine LPG pipeline projects



Safe bet: PNGRB said that averting road transportation would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. FILE PHOTO

were identified for development. PNGRB initiated suo motu proposal and carried out bidding of these pipelines," the regulator said in a statement. "Currently, PNGRB is in the process of concluding bid proposals of four pipelines," it added.

The first pipeline is from Telangana's Cherlapally to Nagpur in Maharashtra, the second from Maharashtra's Shikrapur to Hu-

bli in Karnataka and thereon to Goa, the third from Odisha's Paradip to Chhattisgarh's Raipur and the fourth from Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi to Uttarakhand's Sitaraganj.

Other than expanding on the infrastructure, the regulator emphasised that the pipeline infrastructure would enable storing the hydrocarbon cooking and alternative automobile gas through pipeline infras-

tructure so that they could be utilised in times of crisis, and avert the accidental risks associated with transportation by road.

"These pipelines would not only improve safety and efficiency in the supply chain, but would also prove to be more economical over other modes of transportation," it added.

PNGRB also said that averting road transportation via pipelines would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Separately, the regulator informed that State-owned IndianOil had won the bid for laying, building, operating and expanding the Kochi - Kanyakumari - Thoothukudi Natural Gas pipeline. The proposed pipeline covers approximately 425 km with a system capacity of 6.84 MMSCMD, including the common carrier capacity.

18A. PNGRB close to finalising bids for four LPG pipelines

पीएनजीआरबी चार एलपीजी पाइपलाइन के लिए बोलियों को अंतिम रूप देने के करीब

- The suo motu proposal for the pipeline infrastructure is part of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)'s objective of doing away with road transportation of bulk LPG by 2030.

पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना के लिए स्वप्रेरित प्रस्ताव पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (PNGRB) के उस उद्देश्य का हिस्सा है, जिसमें 2030 तक थोक एलपीजी के सड़क परिवहन को समाप्त करना शामिल है।

- Seeking to further strengthen the infrastructure of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and ensure storage through pipeline infrastructure, the PNGRB informed on Friday that it was in the process of concluding bid proposals of four such pipelines.

एलपीजी अवसंरचना को और मजबूत करने और पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से भंडारण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, पीएनजीआरबी ने शुक्रवार को बताया कि वह चार पाइपलाइनों की बोलियों को अंतिम रूप देने की प्रक्रिया में है।

- Collectively, the four pipelines would span across approximately 2,500 kilometres and attract an investment of about ₹12,500 crore.

ये चारों पाइपलाइन मिलकर लगभग 2,500 किलोमीटर तक फैली होंगी और करीब ₹12,500 करोड़ का निवेश आकर्षित करेंगी।

- The suo motu tendering of the overall LPG pipeline infrastructure is part of the regulator's broader objective.

एलपीजी पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना की स्वप्रेरित निविदा प्रक्रिया नियामक के व्यापक उद्देश्य का हिस्सा है।



- “As part of the initiative, **nine LPG pipeline projects** were identified for development.
“इस पहल के तहत **नौ एलपीजी पाइपलाइन परियोजनाओं** की पहचान विकास के लिए की गई।
- PNGRB initiated suo motu proposal and carried out bidding of these pipelines,” the regulator said in a statement.
पीएनजीआरबी ने स्वप्रेरित प्रस्ताव शुरू किया और इन पाइपलाइनों की बोली प्रक्रिया आयोजित की,” नियामक ने बयान में कहा।
- “Currently, PNGRB is in the process of concluding bid proposals of **four pipelines**,” it added.
“वर्तमान में पीएनजीआरबी **चार पाइपलाइनों** की बोलियों को अंतिम रूप देने की प्रक्रिया में है,” उसने जोड़ा।
- The first pipeline is from **Telangana’s Cherlapally to Nagpur in Maharashtra**.
पहली पाइपलाइन **तेलंगाना के चेरलापल्ली से महाराष्ट्र के नागपुर तक** होगी।
- The second from **Maharashtra’s Shikrapur to Hubli in Karnataka and thereon to Goa**.
दूसरी पाइपलाइन **महाराष्ट्र के शिक्रापुर से कर्नाटक के हुबली होते हुए गोवा तक** जाएगी।
- The third from **Odisha’s Paradip to Chhattisgarh’s Raipur**.
तीसरी पाइपलाइन **ओडिशा के पारादीप से छत्तीसगढ़ के रायपुर तक** होगी।
- The fourth from **Uttar Pradesh’s Jhansi to Uttarakhand’s Sitaraganj**.
चौथी पाइपलाइन **उत्तर प्रदेश के झांसी से उत्तराखंड के सितारगंज तक** होगी।
- Other than expanding on the infrastructure, the regulator emphasised that the pipeline infrastructure would enable storing the **hydrocarbon cooking and alternative automobile gas** through pipelines.
अवसंरचना विस्तार के अलावा, नियामक ने जोर दिया कि पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से **हाइड्रोकार्बन कुकिंग गैस और वैकल्पिक ऑटोमोबाइल गैस** का भंडारण संभव होगा।
- So that they could be utilised in times of **crisis**, and avert the **accidental risks** associated with transportation by road.
ताकि इन्हें **आपात स्थिति** में उपयोग किया जा सके और सड़क परिवहन से जुड़े **दुर्घटना जोखिम** से बचा जा सके।
- “These pipelines would not only improve **safety and efficiency** in the supply chain, but would also prove to be more **economical** over other modes of transportation,” it added.
“ये पाइपलाइन न केवल आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में **सुरक्षा और दक्षता** बढ़ाएंगी, बल्कि अन्य परिवहन साधनों की तुलना में अधिक **किफायती** भी होंगी,” उसने कहा।
- PNGRB also said that averting road transportation via pipelines would help reduce **greenhouse gas emissions**.
पीएनजीआरबी ने यह भी कहा कि पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से परिवहन करने से **ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन** कम होगा।
- Separately, the regulator informed that **State-owned IndianOil** had won the bid for laying, building, operating and expanding the **Kochi - Kanyakumari Thoothukudi Natural Gas pipeline**.
अलग से, नियामक ने बताया कि **सरकारी कंपनी इंडियनऑयल** ने **कोच्चि-कन्याकुमारी-तूतीकोरिन प्राकृतिक गैस पाइपलाइन** के निर्माण, संचालन और विस्तार की बोली जीत ली है।
- The proposed pipeline covers approximately **425 km** with a system capacity of **6.84 MMSCMD**, including the **common carrier capacity**.
प्रस्तावित पाइपलाइन लगभग **425 किमी** लंबी होगी और इसकी क्षमता **6.84 MMSCMD** होगी, जिसमें **कॉमन कैरियर क्षमता** भी शामिल है।



'Bengaluru is India base choice for 7 of top 10 AI firms'

GS III: Economy

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Seven out of the top 10 AI firms globally chose Bengaluru as their base, said Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge, pointing to firms such as Anthropic and Mistral AI.

Mr. Kharge was speaking on the sidelines of a roadshow in the national capital to promote the Bangalore Tech Summit, due to be held in November.

"We have the third highest talent penetration in the world for AI," Mr. Kharge told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"That's why we have got the Nipuna Karnataka initiative, where we are encouraging companies to tie up with the government. They give the curriculum for training, and we make our human resources the most employable ones across the world."

Asked about the growing integration of AI into the IT industry, Mr. Kharge said it was prudent to be cautious. "It's not a leap of faith," he said. "It needs to be a calculated risk because we have seen how it works in other ecosystems. You have seen what's happened in the US with respect to Anthropic, and with respect to ChatGPT... We need to tread a little more cautiously. Speed is important, but I think with caution."

On power and water requirements for data centres, Mr. Kharge said that the government was thinking of "sustainability" in their roll-out. "Two years back, we didn't have

a stabilised liquid cooling technology; now people are using that," Mr. Kharge said. "People are confident that no, we don't need to be such water guzzlers. Now there are edge and other types of data centres that are leveraging these things. Any emerging technology needs to be sustainable." "We are having consultations with the energy department, the water resource department, and more importantly with stakeholders on what they think should be our roadmap," Mr. Kharge said, when asked on what Karnataka's gigawattage target would be for datacentres.

On AI use in the State government, Mr. Kharge said that databases first needed sorting out.

"Every day, someone comes and says: look, this is what we can do for the government, from citizen delivery systems to grievance management to property identification... All right, but I think e-governance is dead," he said.

"We need to get into intelligent governance, where we stabilise the data sets, pick what verticals we want to see innovations in. Right now, everything is in silos. The idea is to ensure that we come up with a framework for the government itself. The medical education department is doing something with their data, the health department is trying... But you can't work in silos. So we're trying to see how and which departments can be accelerated, especially if I am able to deliver better governance."

18A. 'Bengaluru is India base choice for 7 of top 10 AI firms' 'बेंगलुरु भारत में शीर्ष 10 एआई कंपनियों में से 7 की पहली पसंद'

• Seven out of the top 10 AI firms globally chose Bengaluru as their base, said Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge, pointing to firms such as Anthropic and Mistral AI.

दुनिया की शीर्ष 10 एआई कंपनियों में से 7 ने बेंगलुरु को अपना आधार चुना है, कर्नाटक के आईटी मंत्री प्रियंक खड़गे ने कहा, और एंथ्रोपिक तथा मिस्ट्रल एआई जैसी कंपनियों का उदाहरण दिया।

• Mr. Kharge was speaking on the sidelines of a roadshow in the national capital to promote the Bangalore Tech Summit, due to be held in November. खड़गे राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में आयोजित एक रोडशो के दौरान बोल रहे थे, जो नवंबर में होने वाले बेंगलुरु टेक समिट को बढ़ावा देने के लिए था।

• "We have the third highest talent penetration in the world for AI," Mr. Kharge told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"एआई के क्षेत्र में हमारे पास दुनिया में तीसरा सबसे अधिक टैलेंट पेनिट्रेशन है," खड़गे ने एक साक्षात्कार में कहा।

• "That's why we have got the Nipuna Karnataka initiative, where we are encouraging companies to tie up with the government.

"इसी कारण हमने निपुण कर्नाटक पहल शुरू की है, जिसमें हम कंपनियों को सरकार के साथ जुड़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं।

• They give the curriculum for training, and we make our human resources the most employable ones across the world."

वे प्रशिक्षण के लिए पाठ्यक्रम देते हैं और हम अपने मानव संसाधन को दुनिया में सबसे अधिक रोजगार योग्य बनाते हैं।"

• Asked about the growing integration of AI into the IT industry, Mr. Kharge said it was prudent to be cautious.

आईटी उद्योग में एआई के बढ़ते एकीकरण पर पूछे जाने पर खड़गे ने कहा कि सावधानी बरतना जरूरी है।

• "It's not a leap of faith," he said.

"यह अंधविश्वास नहीं है," उन्होंने कहा।

• "It needs to be a calculated risk because we have seen how it works in other ecosystems."

"यह एक सोच-समझकर लिया गया जोखिम होना चाहिए क्योंकि हमने देखा है कि यह अन्य इकोसिस्टम में कैसे काम करता है।"

• "You have seen what's happened in the US with respect to Anthropic, and with respect to

ChatGPT..."

"आपने देखा है कि अमेरिका में एंथ्रोपिक और चैटजीपीटी के साथ क्या हुआ..."

- "We need to tread a little more cautiously.
"हमें थोड़ा और सावधानी से आगे बढ़ना होगा।
- Speed is important, but I think with caution."
गति महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन सावधानी भी जरूरी है।"



- On **power and water requirements for data centres**, Mr. Kharge said that the government was thinking of **sustainability** in their roll-out.
डेटा सेंटर के लिए बिजली और पानी की जरूरतों पर खड़गे ने कहा कि सरकार स्थिरता को ध्यान में रखकर काम कर रही है।
- “Two years back, we didn’t have a stabilised **liquid cooling technology**; now people are using that,” Mr. Kharge said.
“दो साल पहले हमारे पास स्थिर लिक्विड कूलिंग तकनीक नहीं थी; अब लोग इसका उपयोग कर रहे हैं,” खड़गे ने कहा।
- “People are confident that no, we don’t need to be such **water guzzlers**.”
“लोग अब आश्वस्त हैं कि हमें इतना अधिक पानी खर्च करने वाला नहीं होना पड़ेगा।”
- “Now there are **edge and other types of data centres** that are leveraging these things.”
“अब एज और अन्य प्रकार के डेटा सेंटर इन तकनीकों का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।”
- “Any emerging technology needs to be **sustainable**.”
“कोई भी उभरती तकनीक सतत होनी चाहिए।”
- “We are having consultations with the **energy department, the water resource department, and more importantly with stakeholders** on what they think should be our roadmap,” Mr. Kharge said.
“हम ऊर्जा विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग और अन्य हितधारकों के साथ चर्चा कर रहे हैं कि हमारी रूपरेखा क्या होनी चाहिए,” खड़गे ने कहा।
- On **AI use in the State government**, Mr. Kharge said that databases first needed sorting out. राज्य सरकार में एआई के उपयोग पर खड़गे ने कहा कि पहले डेटाबेस को व्यवस्थित करना जरूरी है।
- “Every day, someone comes and says: look, this is what we can do for the government, from **citizen delivery systems to grievance management to property identification...**”
“हर दिन कोई न कोई आता है और कहता है कि हम सरकार के लिए नागरिक सेवाओं, शिकायत प्रबंधन और संपत्ति पहचान में यह कर सकते हैं...”
- “All right, but I think **e-governance is dead**,” he said.
“ठीक है, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि ई-गवर्नेंस खत्म हो चुका है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- “We need to get into **intelligent governance**, where we stabilize the data sets, pick what verticals we want to see innovations in.”
“हमें इंटेलिजेंट गवर्नेंस की ओर बढ़ना होगा, जहां हम डेटा सेट को स्थिर करें और तय करें कि किन क्षेत्रों में नवाचार करना है।”
- “Right now, everything is in **silos**.”
“अभी सब कुछ अलग-अलग साइलो में है।”
- “The idea is to ensure that we come up with a **framework for the government itself**.”
“विचार यह है कि हम सरकार के लिए एक ढांचा तैयार करें।”
- “The medical education department is doing something with their data, the health department is trying...”
“मेडिकल शिक्षा विभाग अपने डेटा पर काम कर रहा है, स्वास्थ्य विभाग भी प्रयास कर रहा है...”
- “But you can’t work in silos.”
“लेकिन अलग-अलग साइलो में काम नहीं किया जा सकता।”
- “So we’re trying to see how and which departments can be accelerated, especially if I am able to deliver **better governance**.”
“इसलिए हम यह देखने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि किन विभागों को तेज किया जा सकता है, ताकि बेहतर शासन दिया जा सके।”



Banking FDI for nuclear power projects on cards

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Initiatives to secure infusion of foreign direct investment (FDI) and from the banking sector to finance nuclear power projects are in the pipeline and headed for inter-ministerial consultation, informed Seema Jain, Member of Finance at the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Workshop on the SHANTI Act, 2025 here, she said, "Financing will require all sorts of innovative measures to happen so that the kind of money and financial space is made for the sector." "For that, banking FDI initiatives are also in the pipeline, the Atomic



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Energy Commission has already approved the [FDI] policy, and is now going for inter-ministerial consultations," Ms. Jain added.

Earlier in her address, Ms. Jain had observed that considering a standard baseline cost requirement for setting up of a nuclear reactor is about ₹22 crore per megawatt, instituting 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy-based power would require about ₹20 lakh crore financing.

has already approved the FDI policy, and is now going for inter-ministerial consultations," Ms. Jain added.

"इसके लिए बैंकिंग एफडीआई पहल भी प्रक्रिया में हैं, परमाणु ऊर्जा आयोग पहले ही एफडीआई नीति को मंजूरी दे चुका है और अब यह अंतर-मंत्रालयी परामर्श के लिए जा रहा है," जैन ने जोड़ा।

- Earlier in her address, Ms. Jain had observed that considering a standard baseline cost requirement for setting up of a nuclear reactor is about ₹22 crore per megawatt. अपने संबोधन में जैन ने बताया कि एक परमाणु रिएक्टर स्थापित करने की मानक लागत लगभग ₹22 करोड़ प्रति मेगावाट है।
- Instituting 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy-based power would require about ₹20 lakh crore financing. 100 गीगावाट परमाणु ऊर्जा आधारित बिजली स्थापित करने के लिए लगभग ₹20 लाख करोड़ के वित्तपोषण की आवश्यकता होगी।

18A. Banking FDI for nuclear power projects on cards परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए बैंकिंग एफडीआई की तैयारी

• Initiatives to secure infusion of foreign direct investment (FDI) and from the banking sector to finance nuclear power projects are in the pipeline and headed for inter-ministerial consultation, informed Seema Jain, Member of Finance at the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) और बैंकिंग क्षेत्र से परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के वित्तपोषण के लिए पहल की जा रही है और यह अंतर-मंत्रालयी परामर्श के लिए आगे बढ़ रही है, यह जानकारी परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग (DAE) में वित्त सदस्य सीमा जैन ने दी।

• Speaking at the inaugural session of the Workshop on the SHANTI Act, 2025 here, she said.

यहां SHANTI Act, 2025 पर कार्यशाला के उद्घाटन सत्र में बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा।

• "Financing will require all sorts of innovative measures to happen so that the kind of money and financial space is made for the sector." "वित्तपोषण के लिए सभी प्रकार के नवाचारी उपायों की आवश्यकता होगी ताकि इस क्षेत्र के लिए आवश्यक धन और वित्तीय स्थान उपलब्ध हो सके।"

• "For that, banking FDI initiatives are also in the pipeline, the Atomic Energy Commission

GS Paper III: Environment		18 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
18A	SC warns Rajasthan, M.P., U.P. over illegal mining in Chambal sanctuary सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राजस्थान, म.प्र., उ.प्र. को चंबल अभयारण्य में अवैध खनन पर चेतावनी दी	



SC warns Rajasthan, M.P., U.P. over illegal mining in Chambal sanctuary

GS III: Environment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it would not hesitate to take the extraordinary step of deploying paramilitary forces to curb illegal sand mining in the ecologically fragile and protected National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary if the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh fail to take "concrete measures" to tackle the menace within a month, by the next date of hearing on May 11.

The warning was part of a 28-page order passed by a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which took *suo motu* cognisance of illegal sand mining within the sanctuary, resulting in severe degradation of critical wildlife habitats, including that of the endangered gharials.

Justice Mehta, who pronounced the operative part of the order in the courtroom, cautioned that the court would not only impose a complete ban on sand mining in the States but also impose "heavy penalties" on them for failing to safeguard critical habitats and the vital river ecosystem. "The continued degradation of natural re-



The degradation of natural resources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains cannot be countenanced, the court said. FILE PHOTO

sources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains and greed, coupled with administrative indifference, cannot be countenanced in a system governed by the rule of law," the court said.

The court said the States' explanations about sand mining happening right under their very noses reeked of apathy, tacit connivance and even a sense of helplessness in the face of the "superior firepower" and acts of lawlessness of the miners. The order referred to brutal murders of forest guards by sand miners in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Harikesh Gurjar was crushed under a truck by sand miners while trying to halt an illegal mining oper-

ation in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh on April 8. Earlier this year in January, Jitendra Singh Shekawat, another forest guard, this time in Dholpur district in Rajasthan, was killed using the same modus operandi while trying to stop miners' vehicles from fleeing.

Slams unpreparedness

"The disclosure [by the State of Madhya Pradesh] that forest officials do not possess the necessary equipment, more specifically, adequate weaponry, to effectively deal with the sand mafia, who are reportedly armed with superior weaponry and modern vehicles exposes a shocking state of unpreparedness and a lack of insti-

tutional will... The State cannot be permitted to plead helplessness," the court said.

Issuing a series of directions, the court ordered Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh to install high-resolution and Wi-Fi enabled CCTV cameras in areas affected by sand mining and ensure that live visuals from these cameras are fed directly to the offices of the district police chiefs and divisional forest officers.

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan should initiate a pilot project to install GPS tracking devices on vehicles used for mining in Morena and Dholpur districts.

The data from these devices must be accessible to the District Magistrates and the police. The three States have been directed to file reports by the next date of hearing on the feasibility of establishing dedicated control rooms in districts near the sanctuary.

Any vehicle or machinery found involved in illegal mining must be seized immediately and all those involved prosecuted without delay. The States have also been directed to constitute joint patrol teams in districts in and around the sanctuary.

18A. SC warns Rajasthan, M.P., U.P. over illegal mining in Chambal sanctuary सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राजस्थान, म.प्र., उ.प्र. को चंबल अभयारण्य में अवैध खनन पर चेतावनी दी

- The **Supreme Court** on Friday said it would not hesitate to take the **extraordinary step** of deploying **paramilitary forces** to curb **illegal sand mining** in the ecologically fragile and protected **National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary** if the States of **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh** fail to take "concrete measures" to tackle the menace within a month, by the next date of hearing on **May 11**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि वह **असाधारण कदम** उठाने से नहीं हिचकेगा और **अर्धसैनिक बलों** को तैनात करेगा ताकि पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील और संरक्षित **राष्ट्रीय चंबल घड़ियाल अभयारण्य** में **अवैध रेत खनन** को रोका जा सके, यदि **मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश** राज्य **11 मई** की अगली सुनवाई तक एक महीने के भीतर "ठोस उपाय" नहीं करते हैं।

- The warning was part of a **28-page order** passed by a Bench of Justices **Vikram Nath** and **Sandeep Mehta**, which took **suo motu cognisance** of illegal sand mining within the sanctuary, resulting in severe degradation of critical wildlife habitats, including that of the



endangered gharials.

यह चेतावनी न्यायमूर्ति **विक्रम नाथ** और **संदीप मेहता** की पीठ द्वारा पारित **28-पृष्ठीय आदेश** का हिस्सा थी, जिसने अभयारण्य में **अवैध रेत खनन** का **स्वतः संज्ञान** लिया, जिससे महत्वपूर्ण वन्यजीव आवासों, विशेषकर **लुप्तप्राय घड़ियालों** के आवास का गंभीर क्षरण हुआ है।

- Justice Mehta, who pronounced the operative part of the order in the courtroom, cautioned that the court would not only impose a **complete ban** on sand mining in the States but also impose **“heavy penalties”** on them for failing to safeguard critical habitats and the vital river ecosystem.

न्यायमूर्ति मेहता, जिन्होंने अदालत में आदेश का मुख्य भाग सुनाया, ने चेतावनी दी कि न्यायालय न केवल राज्यों में रेत खनन पर **पूर्ण प्रतिबंध** लगाएगा बल्कि महत्वपूर्ण आवासों और नदी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की रक्षा में विफल रहने पर **“भारी जुर्माना”** भी लगाएगा।

- “The continued degradation of natural resources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains and greed, coupled with **administrative indifference**, cannot be countenanced in a system governed by the **rule of law**,” the court said.

अदालत ने कहा, “अल्पकालिक लाभ और लालच के लिए प्राकृतिक संसाधनों और नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का निरंतर क्षरण, साथ ही **प्रशासनिक उदासीनता, कानून के शासन** वाले तंत्र में स्वीकार्य नहीं है।”

- The court said the States’ explanations about sand mining happening right under their very noses reeked of **apathy, tacit connivance** and even a sense of **helplessness** in the face of the “superior firepower” and acts of lawlessness of the miners.

अदालत ने कहा कि राज्यों के यह स्पष्टीकरण कि उनके सामने ही रेत खनन हो रहा है, **उदासीनता, मौन मिलीभगत** और यहां तक कि खननकर्ताओं की “बेहतर हथियार शक्ति” और कानूनहीनता के सामने **लाचारी** को दर्शाता है।

- The order referred to **brutal murders** of forest guards by sand miners in **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**.

आदेश में **मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान** में रेत खनन करने वालों द्वारा वन रक्षकों की **निर्दय हत्या** का उल्लेख किया गया।

- Harikesh Gurjar** was crushed under a truck by sand miners while trying to halt an illegal mining operation in **Morena district** of Madhya Pradesh on **April 8**.

हरीकेश गुर्जर को **8 अप्रैल** को मध्य प्रदेश के **मुरैना जिले** में अवैध खनन रोकने की कोशिश के दौरान रेत खनन करने वालों ने ट्रक से कुचल दिया।

- Earlier this year in **January, Jitendra Singh Shekhawat**, another forest guard, this time in **Dholpur district** in Rajasthan, was killed using the same modus operandi while trying to stop miners’ vehicles from fleeing.

इस वर्ष **जनवरी** में, एक अन्य वन रक्षक **जितेंद्र सिंह शेखावत** को राजस्थान के **धौलपुर जिले** में खननकर्ताओं के वाहनों को भागने से रोकने की कोशिश करते समय उसी तरीके से मार दिया गया।

Slams unpreparedness

तैयारी की कमी पर फटकार

- “The disclosure [by the State of Madhya Pradesh] that forest officials do not possess the necessary equipment, more specifically, adequate weaponry, to effectively deal with the **sand mafia**, who are reportedly armed with superior weaponry and modern vehicles exposes a shocking state of **unpreparedness** and a lack of **institutional will**... The State cannot be permitted to plead helplessness,” the court said.

अदालत ने कहा, “**मध्य प्रदेश राज्य** द्वारा यह खुलासा कि वन अधिकारियों के पास आवश्यक उपकरण, विशेष रूप से पर्याप्त हथियार नहीं हैं, जिससे वे **रेत माफिया** का प्रभावी ढंग से सामना कर सकें, जो बेहतर हथियारों और आधुनिक वाहनों से लैस हैं, **तैयारी की कमी** और **संस्थागत इच्छाशक्ति की कमी** को दर्शाता है... राज्य को लाचारी का बहाना करने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।”

- Issuing a series of directions, the court ordered **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh** to install **high-resolution and Wi-Fi enabled CCTV cameras** in areas affected by sand mining and ensure that live visuals from these cameras are fed directly to the offices of the district police chiefs and divisional forest officers.

अदालत ने निर्देशों की एक श्रृंखला जारी करते हुए **मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश** को आदेश दिया कि वे खनन प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में **उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन और वाई-फाई युक्त CCTV कैमरे** लगाएँ और सुनिश्चित करें कि इनसे प्राप्त लाइव दृश्य सीधे जिला पुलिस प्रमुखों और वन अधिकारियों के कार्यालयों तक पहुंचें।



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- **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan** should initiate a **pilot project** to install **GPS tracking devices** on vehicles used for mining in **Morena and Dholpur districts**.
मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान को मुरेना और धौलपुर जिलों में खनन में उपयोग होने वाले वाहनों पर **GPS ट्रैकिंग उपकरण** लगाने के लिए एक **पायलट परियोजना** शुरू करनी चाहिए।
- The data from these devices must be accessible to the **District Magistrates** and the police.
इन उपकरणों से प्राप्त डेटा **जिला मजिस्ट्रेट** और पुलिस के लिए सुलभ होना चाहिए।
- The three States have been directed to file reports by the next date of hearing on the feasibility of establishing **dedicated control rooms** in districts near the sanctuary.
तीनों राज्यों को अगली सुनवाई तक अभयारण्य के पास के जिलों में **विशेष नियंत्रण कक्ष** स्थापित करने की व्यवहार्यता पर रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया गया है।
- Any vehicle or machinery found involved in illegal mining must be seized immediately and all those involved prosecuted without delay.
अवैध खनन में शामिल पाए गए किसी भी वाहन या मशीनरी को तुरंत जब्त किया जाना चाहिए और इसमें शामिल सभी लोगों पर बिना देरी के मुकदमा चलाया जाना चाहिए।
- The States have also been directed to constitute **joint patrol teams** in districts in and around the sanctuary.
राज्यों को अभयारण्य के आसपास के जिलों में **संयुक्त गश्ती दल** बनाने का भी निर्देश दिया गया है।

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