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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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PCS

Secretary of Bangalore Film Society George Kutty no more

George Kutty A.L., a veteran of the film society movement in Bengaluru, Karnataka, passed away on Tuesday. Kutty, who served as the secretary of the Bangalore Film Society, was also the editor of *Deep Focus*, a magazine known for serious cinema writing. He was also the founder-coordinator of *Voices from the Waters* initiated in 2005 – the world's biggest film festival on water issues. "Kutty was deeply committed to the idea of cinema as a medium of political and social awareness," said filmmaker Prashant Pandit.

जिसकी शुरुआत 2005 में हुई — यह जल मुद्दों पर दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा फिल्म महोत्सव है।

- "Kutty was deeply committed to the idea of cinema as a medium of political and social awareness," said filmmaker Prashant Pandit.

फिल्म निर्माता प्रशांत पंडित ने कहा, "कुट्टी सिनेमा को राजनीतिक और सामाजिक जागरूकता के माध्यम के रूप में गहराई से मानते थे।"

22A. Secretary of Bangalore Film Society George Kutty no more

बैंगलोर फिल्म सोसाइटी के सचिव जॉर्ज कुट्टी का निधन

- **George Kutty A.L.**, a veteran of the film society movement in Bengaluru, Karnataka, passed away on Tuesday.

जॉर्ज कुट्टी ए.एल., फिल्म सोसाइटी आंदोलन के एक वरिष्ठ सदस्य, बैंगलुरु, कर्नाटक में मंगलवार को निधन हो गया।

- **Kutty, who served as the secretary of the Bangalore Film Society**, was also the editor of **Deep Focus**, a magazine known for serious cinema writing.

कुट्टी, जो बैंगलोर फिल्म सोसाइटी के सचिव रहे, डीप फोकस पत्रिका के संपादक भी थे, जो गंभीर सिनेमा लेखन के लिए जानी जाती है।

- He was also the founder-coordinator of **Voices from the Waters** initiated in 2005 — the world's biggest film festival on water issues.

वह वॉयसेस फ्रॉम द वाटर्स के संस्थापक-संयोजक भी थे,

SRMIST, The Hindu to host a webinar on public health

Career Counselling

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and *The Hindu* will organise a webinar on "Public health in India: from reactive care to preventive ecosystems" on Saturday, exploring the evolving healthcare landscape with a focus on the shift from curative to preventive care. It is part of the Future Career Conversations series.

Policy and practice

The discussion will dwell upon key policy developments, the role of data, AI, and telemedicine in strengthening public health systems, and the need to bridge the urban-rural healthcare divide, while examining lessons from re-



The session will also provide insights into academic pathways, career opportunities in the field

cent challenges such as the pandemic and the importance of building resilient and inclusive healthcare ecosystems.

Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and Principal Adviser, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Ministry of Health and Fa-

mily Welfare, Government of India; J. Amalorpavanathan, Member, State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu; Hari Singh, Dean, School of Public Health, SRMIST; and Prakash M., Associate Professor, School of Public Health, SRMIST, would be the resource persons for the webinar, which will be moderated by Athira Elssa Johnson, Senior Reporter, *The Hindu*.

The panellists will provide insights into emerging trends in public health, growing relevance of preventive healthcare, and academic pathways and career opportunities in the field. It will be held at 11.30 a.m. Those interested may register on newsth.live/THSRMPE



22A. SRMIST, The Hindu to host a webinar on public health

SRMIST और द हिंदू सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पर वेबिनार आयोजित करेंगे

- The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and *The Hindu* will organise a webinar on "Public health in India: from reactive care to preventive ecosystems" on Saturday, exploring the evolving healthcare landscape with a focus on the shift from curative to preventive care.

SRM इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी (SRMIST) और द हिंदू शनिवार को "भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य: प्रतिक्रियात्मक देखभाल से निवारक प्रणाली तक" विषय पर वेबिनार आयोजित करेंगे, जिसमें स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के बदलते परिदृश्य और उपचारात्मक से निवारक



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देखभाल की ओर बदलाव पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

- The discussion will dwell upon key **policy developments**, the role of **data, AI, and telemedicine** in strengthening public health systems, and the need to bridge the **urban-rural healthcare divide**, while examining lessons from recent challenges such as the **pandemic** and the importance of building **resilient and inclusive healthcare ecosystems**.

चर्चा में प्रमुख **नीतिगत विकास**, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को मजबूत करने में **डेटा, एआई और टेलीमेडिसिन** की भूमिका, तथा **शहरी-ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य अंतर** को पाटने की आवश्यकता पर विचार किया जाएगा, साथ ही **महामारी** जैसी हाल की चुनौतियों से सीख और **सशक्त व समावेशी स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली** बनाने के महत्व पर भी चर्चा होगी।

Shrawon Kumar takes over as Legislature Party leader of JD(U)

PCS

Amit Bhelari

PATNA

Eight-time MLA Shrawon Kumar was appointed leader of the Janata Dal(U) Legislature Party on Tuesday. The appointment was notified by the Bihar Legislative Assembly after JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha informed the House Secretariat about it.

On Monday, JD(U) national president Nitish Kumar was authorised by the party to decide on its Legislature Party leader.

Mr. Shrawon Kumar, Nalanda MLA, is considered close to the former Chief Minister, with both leaders hailing from the same district and the Kurmi caste.

“Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to MLA Shrawon Kumar on being appointed as the leader of the JD(U) Legislature Party by the national president of JD(U), Nitish Kumar. We are fully confident that under your leadership, the party will gain new direction and strength. With your experience, dedication and commitment to public welfare, Bihar’s development will receive fresh momentum. May God grant you the strength to successfully fulfil your duties and live

up to the expectations of the people,” Mr. Jha said in a post on the social media platform X.

The post fell vacant after Mr. Nitish resigned as Chief Minister on April 14. He has picked a leader from his caste to keep his vote bank intact, and send a message to his supporters, sources in the JD(U) said.

No experimentation

“Nitish Kumar did not want to experiment after his resignation, so he chose a leader from his caste to maintain the ‘Luv-Kush’ (Kurmi and Kushwaha-Koiri caste) equation in the Assembly since Samrat Choudhary, who belongs to the Koiri community, is occupying the post of Chief Minister,” a senior JD(U) leader told *The Hindu*.

The “Luv-Kush” communities are Mr. Nitish Kumar’s core vote bank, and an influential Other Backward Class (OBC) grouping, which has played an important role in keeping him in power for more than two decades.

Meanwhile, Nishant Kumar, Mr. Nitish’s son, following a meeting with the leaders from the Magadh and Patna divisions, has announced he would be touring Bihar from May 3.

- Soumya Swaminathan**, Chairperson, **M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation**, and Principal Adviser, **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,

- The panellists will provide insights into **emerging trends in public health**, growing relevance of **preventive healthcare**, and academic pathways and career opportunities in the field.

पैनलिस्ट **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य** के उभरते रुझानों, **निवारक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल** के बढ़ते महत्व, और इस क्षेत्र में शैक्षणिक मार्ग तथा करियर अवसरों पर जानकारी देंगे।

22A. Shrawon Kumar takes over as Legislature Party leader of JD(U)

श्रवण कुमार ने जेडीयू के विधानमंडल दल के नेता के रूप में पदभार संभाला

- Eight-time MLA **Shrawon Kumar** was appointed leader of the **Janata Dal (U) Legislature Party** on Tuesday.

आठ बार के विधायक **श्रवण कुमार** को मंगलवार को **जनता दल (यू) विधानमंडल दल** का नेता नियुक्त किया गया।

- The appointment was notified by the **Bihar Legislative Assembly** after JD(U) working president **Sanjay Kumar Jha** informed the House Secretariat about it.

यह नियुक्ति **बिहार विधानसभा** द्वारा अधिसूचित की गई, जब जेडीयू के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष **संजय कुमार झा** ने सदन सचिवालय को इसकी जानकारी दी।

- On Monday, **JD(U) national president Nitish Kumar** was authorised by the party to decide on its Legislature Party leader.

सोमवार को जेडीयू के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष **नीतीश कुमार** को पार्टी द्वारा विधानमंडल दल के नेता पर निर्णय लेने के लिए अधिकृत किया गया था।

- Mr. Shrawon Kumar**, Nalanda MLA, is considered close to the former Chief Minister, with both leaders hailing from the same district and the **Kurmi caste**.

नालंदा के विधायक श्री **श्रवण कुमार** को पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री का करीबी



माना जाता है, क्योंकि दोनों नेता एक ही जिले और **कुर्मी जाति** से आते हैं।

Alcaraz, Sabalenka win top Laureus awards

PCS



Alcaraz. REUTERS



Sabalenka. REUTERS

Associated Press
MADRID

Tennis players Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka were named sportsman and sportswoman of the year at the Laureus awards while Paris Saint-Germain was the team of the year.

Alcaraz won the French and U.S. Opens last year plus the Australian Open in January. Sabalenka, the top-ranked woman, won her second consecutive U.S. Open last year. PSG broke through with its first Champions League title in

2025. Rory McIlroy, who successfully defended the Masters title this month, received the comeback of the year award.

The awardees: Sportsman: Carlos Alcaraz. **Sportswoman:** Aryna Sabalenka. **Team:** Paris St. Germain. **Breakthrough:** Lando Norris. **Comeback:** Rory McIlroy.

Sportsperson with a disability: Gabriel Araujo.

Action sportsperson: Chloe Kim. **Young sportsperson:** Lamine Yamal Laureus.

Sporting inspiration: Toni Kroos. **Lifetime achievement:** Nadia Comaneci.

Sport for good: Futbol Mas.

• “Nitish Kumar did not want to experiment after his resignation, so he chose a leader from his caste to maintain the ‘Luv-Kush’ (Kurmi and Kushwaha-Koiri caste) equation in the Assembly since Samrat Choudhary, who belongs to the Koiri community, is occupying the post of Chief Minister,” a senior JD(U) leader told The Hindu.

“नीतीश कुमार अपने इस्तीफे के बाद कोई प्रयोग नहीं करना चाहते थे, इसलिए उन्होंने विधानसभा में ‘लव-कुश’ (कुर्मी और कुशवाहा-कोइरी जाति) समीकरण बनाए रखने के लिए अपनी जाति से नेता चुना, क्योंकि कोइरी समुदाय से आने वाले **सम्राट चौधरी** मुख्यमंत्री पद पर हैं,” एक वरिष्ठ जेडीयू नेता ने द हिंदू को बताया।

• The “Luv-Kush” communities are Mr. Nitish Kumar’s core vote bank, and an influential Other Backward Class (OBC) grouping, which has played an important role in keeping him in power for more than two decades.

“लव-कुश” समुदाय श्री नीतीश कुमार का मुख्य वोट बैंक हैं और एक प्रभावशाली अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC) समूह हैं, जिन्होंने उन्हें दो दशकों से अधिक समय तक सत्ता में बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।

22A. Alcaraz, Sabalenka win top Laureus awards अल्काराज़, सबालेन्का ने शीर्ष लॉरियस पुरस्कार जीते

• Tennis players **Carlos Alcaraz** and **Aryna Sabalenka** were named **sportsman** and **sportswoman of the year** at the **Laureus awards** while **Paris Saint-Germain** was the **team of the year**.

टेनिस खिलाड़ी कार्लोस अल्काराज़ और आर्यना सबालेन्का को लॉरियस पुरस्कारों में क्रमशः वर्ष का सर्वश्रेष्ठ खिलाड़ी और वर्ष की सर्वश्रेष्ठ महिला खिलाड़ी चुना गया, जबकि पेरिस सेंट-जर्मेन को वर्ष की सर्वश्रेष्ठ टीम घोषित किया गया।

- Alcaraz won the **French Open** and **U.S. Open** last year plus the **Australian Open** in January.

अल्काराज़ ने पिछले वर्ष फ्रेंच ओपन और यू.एस. ओपन जीते तथा जनवरी में ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन भी जीता।

- Sabalenka, the **top-ranked woman**, won her second consecutive **U.S. Open** last year.

शीर्ष रैंकिंग वाली महिला सबालेन्का ने पिछले वर्ष लगातार दूसरी बार यू.एस. ओपन जीता।

- PSG broke through with its **first Champions League** title in 2025.

पीएसजी ने 2025 में अपना पहला चैंपियंस लीग खिताब जीतकर सफलता हासिल की।



Aronyak relieved at becoming a GM, aims to reach 2600 rating

FCS
CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

As a four-year-old, he was fascinated by the chess pieces and began playing for fun. Noticing the child's interest, father Mrinal Ghosh thought the game would be part of son Aronyak's life.

The 22-year-old from Kolkata has come a long way since those toddler days and a couple of days ago became India's 95th Grandmaster after tying for the top place at the Bangkok Chess Club Open.

Though it took him a while to secure the third and final norm to achieve the title, Aronyak said he's relieved to have become a GM and has set his sights on reaching the 2600 Elo mark (currently 2533).

"For sure it's a relief because it has been a long time to be honest," the country's newest GM told



Morale-booster: Aronyak is thankful to his father for the constant encouragement. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu. Aronyak, who picked up his first norm at an event in Spain in 2023 and the second in 2024, said: "I was a bit unlucky at times. But also I played very less, you know, the GM tournaments because it's quite costly to go and play abroad."

Better late than never, it can be said and he is glad the GM title requirements have been met and is looking forward to playing more in a bid to push up his rating.

It was his father, a chess player and arbiter, who

coached him initially and encouraged him.

"I think my father saw my interest in chess and felt I might become a chess player.

"He kept motivating me, especially in the last few years when I was kind of stuck, unable to make the norms," said Aronyak.

He was all praise for R. Vaishali, who won the Candidates tournament, and said she held her nerve to win such a tough event. Maybe, Aronyak needs to take cue from her and fight his way up.

teachings to guide us and bestow his blessings.

2533) तक पहुंचना है।

22A. Aronyak relieved at becoming a GM, aims to reach 2600 rating

गैंडमास्टर बनने पर अरोन्याक को राहत, 2600 रेटिंग तक पहुंचने का लक्ष्य

- The 22-year-old from **Kolkata** has come a long way since those toddler days and a couple of days ago became **India's 95th Grandmaster** after tying for the top place at the **Bangkok Chess Club Open**.

कोलकाता के 22 वर्षीय खिलाड़ी ने उन बचपन के दिनों से लंबा सफर तय किया है और कुछ दिन पहले बैकॉक चैस क्लब ओपन में शीर्ष स्थान साझा कर भारत के 95वें गैंडमास्टर बने।

- Though it took him a while to **secure the third and final norm** to achieve the title, Aronyak said he's relieved to have become a **GM** and has set his sights on reaching the **2600 Elo** mark (currently **2533**).

हालांकि खिताब पाने के लिए तीसरा और अंतिम नॉर्म हासिल करने में समय लगा, अरोन्याक ने कहा कि जीएम बनने पर उन्हें राहत मिली है और अब उनका लक्ष्य **2600 ईलो** रेटिंग (वर्तमान में

GS Paper 1: History		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	The saviour of Ramanuja रामानुज के रक्षक	
22A	QUIZ	

22A. The saviour of Ramanuja

रामानुज के रक्षक

- Embar Swamigal** was a prominent guru in the **Sri Vaishnava tradition** and is revered for his unwavering **devotion** and **spiritual dedication**.
एम्बार स्वामीगल श्री वैष्णव परंपरा के एक प्रमुख गुरु थे और अपनी अटूट भक्ति और आध्यात्मिक समर्पण के लिए पूजनीय हैं।
- Born as **Govinda** in **Maduramangalam**, a village near **Sriperumbudur**, he was closely related to the **great philosopher-saint Ramanuja**, being his cousin.
उनका जन्म गोविंदा के रूप में मदुरमंगलम में हुआ, जो श्रीपेरंबुदूर के पास एक गांव है, और वे महान दार्शनिक-संत रामानुज के चचेरे भाई थे।

22A. QUIZ



Foundation of Rome (21 April 753 BC)

- According to Roman tradition, Rome was founded on 21 April 753 BC, a date calculated by Marcus Terentius Varro.
- The legend of Romulus and Remus explains its origin.
- Archaeological evidence shows settlements near the Tiber River in the 8th century BC.
- The date became culturally significant as Romans used “Ab Urbe Condita” for chronology, marking Rome’s symbolic and political beginnings.

Romulus – Founder of Rome

- Romulus is the legendary founder of Rome in Roman mythology. According to tradition, he and his twin brother Remus were raised by a she-wolf.
- Romulus killed Remus after a dispute and established Rome around 753 BC on the Palatine Hill.

She-wolf (Lupa) – Symbol in Roman Foundation Myth

- The she-wolf (lupa) is central to Roman mythology, believed to have nursed the abandoned twins Romulus and Remus.

Ab Urbe Condita (AUC) – Roman Chronological System

- Ab Urbe Condita (AUC) means “from the founding of the City” and refers to Rome’s traditional founding in 753 BC. This system was used by Roman historians like Livy to date events from Rome’s origin. Although Romans commonly used consular years, AUC later became a standard historical reference.

Aeneas – Trojan Ancestor of Rome’s Founders

- Aeneas, a hero of the Trojan War, is considered the mythical ancestor of Romulus and Remus.
- According to Roman tradition, Aeneas fled Troy and settled in Italy, where his descendants eventually founded Rome.

GS Paper 1: Society	22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22A	Understanding Kshatriyaisation and its relevance in contemporary India क्षत्रियकरण की समझ और समकालीन भारत में इसकी प्रासंगिकता



Understanding Kshatriyaisation and its relevance in contemporary India

The celebration of the Kshatriya identity by communities like Marathas, Jats, Yadavs, Thevars, and Nairs illustrates the concept of 'Kshatriyaisation'. This assertion of caste pride helps consolidate political support while reinforcing existing caste hierarchies

GS I: Society **MOB**
Aparajay

In the recent past, warrior men and women like Maharaja Suheldev from Uttar Pradesh, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar from Maharashtra, Veeramangai Rani Velu Nachiyar from Tamil Nadu, Rani Abbakka from Karnataka, Rani Durgavati from Madhya Pradesh, Lachit Borphukan from Assam, the Travancore ruler Marthanda Varma from Kerala, and Veer Kunwar Singh from Bihar, among others, have been celebrated by various BJP-RSS affiliated fronts for fighting against Portuguese, Dutch, British, Mughal, and Afghan rulers in different parts of India. This is in addition to figures like Shivaji, Maharana Pratap, and Prithviraj Chauhan, who were already being celebrated by the BJP-RSS for their martial prowess. Do these celebrations have any precedence? Is there a conceptual lens, which can help us understand the sudden spurt in these celebrations? Do these celebrations have any socio-political relevance in contemporary India?

Historical precedence
A cursory glance at reality tells us that there are indeed socio-political groups associated with jats. Communities like Nairs and Ezhavas in Kerala; Vainnyars and Thevars in Tamil Nadu; Gonds in Madhya Pradesh; Marathas in Maharashtra; Rajbanshi in West Bengal and Assam; Ahom in Assam; Kurmi/Patels, Yadavs, Jats, Kayasthas, Rajbharas, and Pasis in North Indian States, among others, who have periodically reiterated through the media (and social media in recent times) their claims of having performed Kshatriya varna functions as militia and elite landholders in various regimes in the past.
There is a historical precedence to these claims. Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha was established in 1897, at the

initiation of Rajput leader Raja Balwant Singh Ji Avagarj in coordination with Thakur Umrao Singh Ji. Simultaneously, many other claimants, whom Rajput organisations as well as the then British government did not recognise as Kshatriya, formed similar organisations. The formation of organisations such as the Akhil Gomantak Kshatriya Maratha Samaj (1940), Ahir Yadav Kshatriya Mahasabha (1910), All India Kurmi Kshatriya Mahasabha (1894), Vanniyakula Kshatriya Mahasabha (1888), Dushashan Bansiya Kshatriya Mahasabha during this period is also well known. MSS Pandian (2013) and A R Venkatachalapathy (2010) note that during the same period in present-day Tamil Nadu, Nadars and Vanniyar were in a bitter struggle to claim Kshatriya status. Thevars (Mukkulathor) in Tamil Nadu also frequently claimed Kshatriya status in petitions to the British administration and during post-independence social mobilisation.

Socio-psychological explanation
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in his seminal work 'Castes in India', invoking the work of economist Walter Bagehot, and sociologist and psychologist Jean Tarde's laws of imitation, emphasised the role of "the infection of imitation" in the formation of many castes in India.
This is the bedrock on which sociologist M.N. Srinivas's concept of Sanskritization (1952) seems to rest. Srinivas suggested that apart from Brahminical model of Sanskritization, there could be Kshatriya or Vaishya or Shudra model of Sanskritization as well. In fact, S.K. Srivastava in 1963, found that in rural Agra both underprivileged castes and Brahmins, especially when they became a land-owning class and zamindars, were "kshatriyaising" themselves "in order to acquire the status of landlord rather than of the Brahmin priest".
Hermann Kulke, an eminent German

Indologist and historian, who worked extensively on Odisha's rich history, died recently on March 10, 2026. His work focused on state formation, kingship, and religious legitimation in early medieval India. Kulke's research has been particularly influential in the study of regional political structures in eastern India, especially Odisha. Kulke (1976), while recognising the Kshatriya model of Sanskritization, where other castes adopt Kshatriya rites and status symbols, distinguished it from Kshatriyaisation. According to Kulke, in a "functional sense", Kshatriyaisation could be called social change "from above" which was initiated in tribal areas by the Kshatriyas, i.e., zamindars, chiefs or rajas to strengthen their claims to legitimacy in the society and to broaden the basis of their economic and political power. He went on to show that in 17th and 18th century Odisha, regional rulers "encouraged Kshatriyaisation "from above" by granting special rights and status symbols to" tribal chiefs. This "transmission of Kshatriya values, rites and status symbols" from above were complementary to Sanskritization "from below". He makes an important point that Kshatriyaisation "from above" whereby "the temples of the powerful tribal gods and goddesses regain their previous dominating positions" can be superficially seen as "a process of de-Sanskritization or even re-tribalisation", which may not be actually so. Thus, Kshatriyaisation was not merely a social process but also a political strategy of legitimation, allowing rulers of diverse origins to become integrated into the hierarchical order of caste and kingship. He presented these examples as evidence of the fact that a "changing India need not necessarily be a modern India".
Sociologist André Beteille (1991) also argues that modern caste hierarchy is shaped increasingly by power, class, and politics rather than ritual status alone.

Similarly, French political scientist Christophe Jaffrelot (2003) shows that caste groups mobilise politically by constructing historical identities and claims to warrior or ruling status.
Contemporary socio-political relevance
The celebration of the Kshatriya identity by communities like Marathas, Jats, Yadavs, Thevars, and Nairs, actively promoted by the BJP-RSS, illustrates Kulke's concept of "Kshatriyaisation", where martial or landholding groups assert higher varna status to legitimise their social authority. Moreover, by linking historical warrior roles to contemporary Hindu nationalist narratives, these claims reinforce both caste pride and political allegiance, strengthening vote banks for the party. Significantly, this process demonstrates how the caste system persists and sustains. The ritual and historical hierarchies are continuously reinterpreted, codified, and mobilised to reproduce social stratification, even as communities seek upward mobility through Sanskritization or Kshatriyaisation. Thus, political appropriation of castes as historically warrior communities not only consolidates power but also perpetuates the structural inequalities entrenched in the caste framework. By linking historical warrior roles to Hindu nationalist narratives, these claims consolidate political support while reinforcing caste hierarchies. In summary, the RSS-BJP's use of Kshatriyaisation is a strategic reinterpretation of history to transform passive Hindu identity into an active, assertive, and political "warrior" identity, which they use to claim socio-political legitimacy for their "Hindu Rashtra" project.
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22A. Understanding Kshatriyaisation and its relevance in contemporary India क्षत्रियकरण की समझ और समकालीन भारत में इसकी प्रासंगिकता

- The celebration of the Kshatriya identity by communities like Marathas, Jats, Yadavs, Thevars, and Nairs illustrates the concept of 'Kshatriyaisation'.

मराठा, जाट, यादव, थेवर और नायर जैसे समुदायों द्वारा क्षत्रिय पहचान का उत्सव 'क्षत्रियकरण' की अवधारणा को दर्शाता है।

- This assertion of caste pride helps consolidate political support while reinforcing existing caste hierarchies

जातिगत गौरव का यह दावा राजनीतिक समर्थन को सुदृढ़ करने में सहायता करता है, साथ ही मौजूदा जाति-आधारित पदानुक्रम को भी मजबूत करता है

- In the recent past, warrior men and women like Maharaja Suheldev, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Velu Nachiyar, Rani Abbakka, Rani Durgavati, Lachit Borphukan, Marthanda Varma, and Veer Kunwar Singh, among others, have been celebrated by various BJP-RSS affiliated fronts for fighting against Portuguese, Dutch, British, Mughal, and Afghan rulers in different parts of India.

हाल के समय में महाराजा सुहेलदेव, महारानी अहिल्याबाई होल्कर, रानी वेलु नाचियार, रानी अब्बकका, रानी दुर्गावती, लचिit बोरफुकन, मार्तंड वर्मा, और वीर कुंवर सिंह जैसे योद्धाओं को विभिन्न BJP-RSS संबद्ध



संगठनों द्वारा पुर्तगाली, डच, ब्रिटिश, मुगल और अफगान शासकों के विरुद्ध संघर्ष के लिए सम्मानित किया गया है।

- This is in addition to figures like **Shivaji, Maharana Pratap, and Prithviraj Chauhan**, who were already being celebrated for their **martial prowess**.

यह शिवाजी, महाराणा प्रताप, और पृथ्वीराज चौहान जैसे व्यक्तित्वों के अतिरिक्त है, जिन्हें उनके सैन्य पराक्रम के लिए पहले से ही सम्मानित किया जा रहा था।

- Do these celebrations have any **precedence**?
क्या इन उत्सवों का कोई ऐतिहासिक आधार है?
- Is there a **conceptual lens** to understand this sudden **spurt**?
क्या इस अचानक वृद्धि को समझने के लिए कोई सैद्धांतिक दृष्टिकोण है?
- Do these celebrations have **socio-political relevance** in contemporary India?
क्या इन उत्सवों का समकालीन भारत में सामाजिक-राजनीतिक महत्व है?

Historical precedence / ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- There are **socio-political groups associated with jatis**.
जातियों से जुड़े सामाजिक-राजनीतिक समूह मौजूद हैं।
- **Communities like Nairs, Ezhavas, Vainnyars, Thevars, Gonds, Marathas, Rajbanshi, Ahom, Kurmi/Patels, Yadavs, Jats, Kayastha, Rajbhars, and Pasis** have asserted **Kshatriya functions**.
नायर, एझावा, वैनियार, थेवर, गोंड, मराठा, राजबंशी, अहोम, कुर्मी/पटेल, यादव, जाट, कायस्थ, राजभर और पासी समुदायों ने क्षत्रिय भूमिका का दावा किया है।
- These claims include **roles as militia and elite landholders**.
इन दावों में सैन्य भूमिका और भूमि स्वामित्व शामिल हैं।
- There is a **historical precedence** to these claims.
इन दावों का ऐतिहासिक आधार है।
- **Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha (1897)** was established.
अखिल भारतीय क्षत्रिय महासभा (1897) की स्थापना हुई।
- **Other organisations like Ahir Yadav Kshatriya Mahasabha, All India Kurmi Kshatriya Mahasabha, and Vanniyakula Kshatriya Mahasabha** were also formed.
अन्य संगठन जैसे अहीर यादव क्षत्रिय महासभा, ऑल इंडिया कुर्मी क्षत्रिय महासभा, और वन्नियाकुला क्षत्रिय महासभा भी बनाए गए।
- Scholars like **MSS Pandian** and **A R Venkatachalapathy** noted struggles for **Kshatriya status**.
विद्वानों एमएसएस पंडियन और ए.आर. वेंकटचलपति ने क्षत्रिय दर्जे के संघर्ष को रेखांकित किया।

Socio-psychological explanation / सामाजिक-मानसिक व्याख्या

- **Dr. B.R Ambedkar**, in '**Castes in India**', invoked **Walter Bagehot** and **Jean Tarde's laws of imitation**.
डॉ. बी.आर. आंबेडकर ने '**Castes in India**' में **वाल्टर बैजहॉट** और **जीन टार्डे** के अनुकरण सिद्धांत का उल्लेख किया।
- He emphasised "**infection of imitation**" in caste formation.
उन्होंने "अनुकरण के संक्रमण" पर बल दिया।
- This forms the basis of **M.N. Srinivas's Sanskritization (1952)**.
यह एम.एन. श्रीनिवास के संस्कृतिकरण (1952) का आधार है।
- Srinivas suggested **multiple models** — **Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra**.
श्रीनिवास ने ब्राह्मण, क्षत्रिय, वैश्य, शूद्र मॉडल की बात कही।



- **S.K. Srivastava (1963)** found “kshatriyaising” in rural Agra.
एस.के. श्रीवास्तव (1963) ने ग्रामीण आगरा में “क्षत्रियकरण” पाया।
- **This aimed to achieve landlord status rather than Brahmin priesthood.**
इसका उद्देश्य जमींदार की स्थिति प्राप्त करना था, न कि ब्राह्मण पुजारी की भूमिका।
- **Hermann Kulke, an eminent German Indologist and historian, who worked extensively on Odisha's rich history, died recently on March 10, 2026.**
Hermann Kulke, एक प्रतिष्ठित जर्मन इंडोलॉजिस्ट और इतिहासकार, जिनका कार्य ओडिशा के समृद्ध इतिहास पर केंद्रित था, का निधन 10 मार्च 2026 को हुआ।
- **His work focused on state formation, kingship, and religious legitimation in early medieval India.**
उनका कार्य राज्य निर्माण, राजसत्ता (Kingship) और धार्मिक वैधता पर केंद्रित था, विशेषकर प्रारंभिक मध्यकालीन भारत में।
- **Kulke (1976), while recognising the Kshatriya model of Sanskritization, distinguished it from Kshatriyaisation.**
Kulke (1976) ने Sanskritization के Kshatriya मॉडल को स्वीकार करते हुए उसे Kshatriyaisation से अलग बताया।
- **According to Kulke, Kshatriyaization could be called social change “from above”.**
Kulke के अनुसार, Kshatriyaisation को “ऊपर से सामाजिक परिवर्तन” (social change from above) कहा जा सकता है।
- **It was initiated in tribal areas by Kshatriyas such as zamindars, chiefs or rajas.**
यह प्रक्रिया जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में जमींदारों, प्रमुखों और राजाओं द्वारा आरंभ की गई थी।
- **The aim was to strengthen legitimacy and expand economic and political power.**
इसका उद्देश्य वैधता को मजबूत करना और आर्थिक व राजनीतिक शक्ति का विस्तार करना था।
- **Kulke showed that in 17th and 18th century Odisha, rulers encouraged Kshatriyaisation “from above”.**
Kulke ने दर्शाया कि 17वीं और 18वीं शताब्दी के ओडिशा में शासकों ने “ऊपर से क्षत्रियकरण” को प्रोत्साहित किया।
- **They granted special rights and status symbols to tribal chiefs.**
उन्होंने जनजातीय प्रमुखों को विशेष अधिकार और प्रतिष्ठा प्रतीक प्रदान किए।
- **This transmission of Kshatriya values complemented Sanskritization “from below”.**
क्षत्रिय मूल्यों का यह संचरण “नीचे से संस्कृतिकरण” के साथ पूरक था।
- **Kulke noted that Kshatriyaisation from above may appear as de-Sanskritization or re-tribalisation.**
Kulke ने कहा कि ऊपर से क्षत्रियकरण सतही रूप से de-Sanskritization या re-tribalisation जैसा प्रतीत हो सकता है।
- **However, it was not actually so.**
हालाँकि, वास्तव में ऐसा नहीं था।
- **Kshatriyaisation was a political strategy of legitimation.**
Kshatriyaisation एक राजनीतिक वैधता की रणनीति थी।
- **It enabled rulers of diverse origins to integrate into caste and kingship hierarchy.**
इसने विभिन्न मूल के शासकों को जाति और राजसत्ता की पदानुक्रम में समाहित होने में सहायता की।
- **Kulke argued that a “changing India need not necessarily be a modern India”.**
Kulke ने कहा कि “परिवर्तनशील भारत आवश्यक रूप से आधुनिक भारत नहीं होता”।
- **Sociologist André Beteille argued that caste hierarchy is shaped by power, class, and politics.**
समाजशास्त्री André Beteille ने तर्क दिया कि जाति व्यवस्था अब शक्ति, वर्ग और राजनीति से अधिक प्रभावित होती है।



- Christophe Jaffrelot showed that caste groups mobilise by constructing historical identities.
Christophe Jaffrelot ने दर्शाया कि जाति समूह ऐतिहासिक पहचान निर्माण के माध्यम से राजनीतिक रूप से सक्रिय होते हैं।

Contemporary socio-political relevance / समकालीन सामाजिक-राजनीतिक महत्व

- The celebration of Kshatriya identity by Marathas, Jats, Yadavs, Thevars, and Nairs illustrates Kshatriyaisation.
मराठा, जाट, यादव, थेवर और नायर समुदायों द्वारा क्षत्रिय पहचान का उत्सव Kshatriyaisation को दर्शाता है।
- These groups assert higher varna status to legitimise social authority.
ये समूह अपनी सामाजिक वैधता के लिए उच्च वर्ण स्थिति का दावा करते हैं।
- Linking warrior roles to Hindu nationalist narratives strengthens caste pride and political allegiance.
योद्धा भूमिकाओं को हिंदू राष्ट्रवादी विचारधारा से जोड़ना जातीय गौरव और राजनीतिक निष्ठा को मजबूत करता है।

GS Paper 1: Geography		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	Indian Army chief holds talks with U.S. Army's Pacific head भारतीय सेना प्रमुख ने अमेरिकी सेना के पैसिफिक प्रमुख से वार्ता की	
22A	Ukraine ready to restart Russian oil supplies via Druzhba to Europe यूक्रेन ड्रुज़्बा के माध्यम से यूरोप को रूसी तेल आपूर्ति फिर शुरू करने के लिए तैयार	



GS I: Geography

Indian Army chief holds talks with U.S. Army's Pacific head

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, held high-level talks with General Ronald P. Clark, Commanding General of the United States Army Pacific, in Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii, focusing on strengthening defence cooperation and advancing a shared vision for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Upon arrival at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, General Dwivedi was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. "The COAS undertook an aerial tour of Oahu island to gain insights into the U.S. Army's training ecosystem and multi-domain operational readiness," the Indian Army posted on social media platform X.

22A. Indian Army chief holds talks with U.S. Army's Pacific head

भारतीय सेना प्रमुख ने अमेरिकी सेना के पैसिफिक प्रमुख से वार्ता की

- The Chief of the Army Staff, **General Upendra Dwivedi**, held high-level talks with **General Ronald P. Clark**, Commanding General of the **United States Army Pacific**, in **Honolulu**, the **capital of Hawaii**, focusing on strengthening **defence cooperation** and advancing a shared vision for **peace and stability** in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

थलसेना प्रमुख जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी ने जनरल रोनाल्ड पी. क्लार्क, यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स आर्मी पैसिफिक के कमांडिंग जनरल के साथ होनोलूलू, जो हवाई की राजधानी है, में उच्च स्तरीय वार्ता की, जिसमें रक्षा सहयोग को मजबूत करने और इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में शांति और स्थिरता के साझा दृष्टिकोण को आगे बढ़ाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।



Ukraine ready to restart Russian oil supplies via Druzhba to Europe



GS I: Geography AFP

Ukraine has repaired the damaged Druzhba pipeline that carries Russian oil to Europe and is ready to resume supplies — unblocking what Kyiv hopes was the last hurdle to securing tens of billions of euros in support from Brussels. The pipeline has been at the centre of a stand-off between Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the EU. AFP

22A. Ukraine ready to restart Russian oil supplies via Druzhba to Europe

यूक्रेन ड्रुज़्बा के माध्यम से यूरोप को रूसी तेल आपूर्ति फिर शुरू करने के लिए तैयार

- Ukraine has repaired the damaged Druzhba pipeline that carries Russian oil to Europe and is ready to resume supplies — unblocking what Kyiv hopes was the last hurdle to securing tens of billions of euros in support from Brussels.

यूक्रेन ने क्षतिग्रस्त ड्रुज़्बा पाइपलाइन की मरम्मत कर ली है, जो रूसी तेल को यूरोप तक पहुंचाती है, और अब आपूर्ति फिर से शुरू करने के लिए तैयार है — जिससे कीव को उम्मीद है कि ब्रसेल्स से अरबों यूरो की सहायता प्राप्त करने में अंतिम बाधा दूर हो गई है।

- The pipeline has been at the centre of a stand-off between Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the EU.

यह पाइपलाइन हंगरी, स्लोवाकिया, यूक्रेन और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) के बीच चल रहे गतिरोध का केंद्र रही है।

GS Paper II: Polity		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	Panel formed by LS Speaker reviews disqualification under anti-defection law at Puri meet लोकसभा अध्यक्ष द्वारा गठित पैनल ने पुरी बैठक में दल-बदल कानून के तहत अयोग्यता की समीक्षा की	
22A	Invidious speech घृणास्पद भाषण	
22A	On the Yashwant Varma probe's future यशवंत वर्मा जांच के भविष्य पर	



Panel formed by LS Speaker reviews disqualification under anti-defection law at Puri meet

GS II: Polity
Press Trust of India
PURI

A committee of presiding officers, set up by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, on Tuesday reviewed the constitutional and procedural framework governing disqualification of legislators under the anti-defection law, officials said.

The deliberations were held during the second meeting of the Committee of Presiding Officers in Puri, they said.

The four-member panel, headed by Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, was constituted in January 2020 to examine issues relating to the powers of presiding officers under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and rules framed under it.

On the basis of the deliberations, a guideline would be prepared by the committee.



The four-member panel, headed by Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, was constituted in January 2020. FILE PHOTO

tee for presiding officers of all State legislatures, officials said.

Other members

Karnataka Assembly speaker U.T. Khader, Nagaland's Sharingain Longkumer and Odisha's Surama Padhi are the other members of the committee.

Senior Lok Sabha officials, secretaries of various State assemblies, constitutional experts and Odisha's

Advocate General Pitambar Acharya were present at the meeting.

Officials said experts shared their views on legal and procedural aspects relating to the disqualification of members on grounds of defection.

The inaugural session focused on strengthening parliamentary democracy and improving the functioning of legislative institutions, they said.

22A. Panel formed by LS Speaker reviews disqualification under anti-defection law at Puri meet

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष द्वारा गठित पैनल ने पुरी बैठक में दल-बदल कानून के तहत अयोग्यता की समीक्षा की

A committee of presiding officers, set up by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, on Tuesday reviewed the constitutional and procedural framework governing disqualification of legislators under the anti-defection law, officials said.

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला द्वारा गठित पीठासीन अधिकारियों की एक समिति ने मंगलवार को दल-बदल कानून के तहत विधायकों की अयोग्यता से संबंधित संवैधानिक और प्रक्रियात्मक ढांचे की समीक्षा की, अधिकारियों ने कहा।

The deliberations were held during the second meeting of the Committee of Presiding Officers in Puri, they said.

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यह चर्चा पुरी में आयोजित पीठासीन अधिकारियों की समिति की दूसरी बैठक के दौरान हुई।

- The four-member panel, headed by Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, was constituted in January 2020 to examine issues relating to the powers of presiding officers under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and rules framed under it.

चार सदस्यीय पैनल, जिसकी अध्यक्षता महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा अध्यक्ष राहुल नार्वेकर कर रहे हैं, जनवरी 2020 में गठित किया गया था ताकि संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची और उसके तहत बनाए गए नियमों के अंतर्गत पीठासीन अधिकारियों की शक्तियों से जुड़े मुद्दों की जांच की जा सके।

- On the basis of the deliberations, a guideline would be prepared by the committee for presiding officers of all State legislatures, officials said.

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इन चर्चाओं के आधार पर सभी राज्य विधानसभाओं के पीठासीन अधिकारियों के लिए एक दिशानिर्देश तैयार किया जाएगा।

Other members

अन्य सदस्य

- Karnataka Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, Nagaland's Sharingain Longkumer and Odisha's Surama Padhi are the other members of the committee.

कर्नाटक विधानसभा अध्यक्ष यू.टी. खादर, नागालैंड के शेयरिंगेन लॉन्गकुमेर और ओडिशा की सुरमा पाधी समिति के अन्य सदस्य हैं।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



GS II: Polity

Invidious speech

ECI's inaction on the Prime Minister's violations of model code is troubling

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on April 18 differed from a speech he made at a similar election-eve juncture in 2019, it was nonetheless problematic. In 2019, following a successful anti-satellite missile test, private news channels aired a speech by Mr. Modi extolling the mission and his government's commitment to the country's technological prowess even as the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force ahead of the general election. Late last week, Mr. Modi's transgression was greater as Doordarshan and Sansad TV broadcast his speech even as he accused the Congress, DMK, Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party of committing the "sin of foeticide" after they blocked the combined women's reservation and delimitation Bills, and suggested that women voters would punish them electorally in the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal elections on April 23. Thus far, the Opposition in Parliament as well as numerous academics and activists have written to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) urging that the Election Commission of India (ECI) should sanction Mr. Modi for violating the MCC. In a familiar but also increasingly dispiriting turn, the ECI has yet to respond. It is expected to act reasonably quickly, as it has against Opposition parties.

Since the facts are not in dispute in this instance and the ECI's reluctance to sanction the Prime Minister has become well-known, it is hard to believe that the delay is benign. The constitutional body allowed the Prime Minister's monthly radio programme to continue broadcasting during the State polls in 2015 and 2017 and permitted NaMo TV to air in 2019 after prior approval of its contents. In 2024, the ECI issued a notice regarding a controversial speech by Mr. Modi in Rajasthan, but addressed it to the BJP president rather than to him. After the 2019 missile test, critics argued that the ECI's refusal to sanction had created a loophole whereby major announcements could be framed as "official", thus having an electoral impact while affording the ECI plausible deniability. As the letter to the CEC specified, Mr. Modi's violation is clear if he delivered his address without the ECI's prior approval. If the ECI did approve it, it must explain why it saw fit to grant the Prime Minister this precious privilege, investigate the speech's contents, remove it from official platforms, and sanction Mr. Modi. The ECI's inaction – rendered more pronounced by the two States voting on April 23 – only reinforces its partisan character, and undermines the fairness of polls as well as its own credibility.

22A. Invidious speech

घृणास्पद भाषण

- ECI's inaction on the Prime Minister's violations of model code is troubling

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा आदर्श आचार संहिता के उल्लंघनों पर भारत निर्वाचन आयोग की निष्क्रियता चिंताजनक है

Prime Minister's Address and MCC Concerns / प्रधानमंत्री के संबोधन और MCC से संबंधित चिंताएँ

- While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on April 18 differed from a speech he made at a similar election-eve juncture in 2019, it was nonetheless problematic.

हालाँकि प्रधानमंत्री Narendra Modi का 18 अप्रैल को राष्ट्र के नाम संबोधन 2019 में दिए गए समान चुनाव-पूर्व भाषण से भिन्न था, फिर भी यह समस्यात्मक था।

- In 2019, following a successful anti-satellite missile test, private news channels aired a speech by Mr. Modi extolling the mission and his government's commitment to technological prowess even as the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force.

2019 में, सफल एंटी-सैटेलाइट मिसाइल परीक्षण के बाद, निजी समाचार चैनलों ने श्री मोदी का भाषण प्रसारित किया जिसमें उन्होंने मिशन और सरकार की तकनीकी क्षमता की सराहना की, जबकि Model Code of Conduct (MCC) लागू था।

- Late last week, Mr. Modi's transgression was greater as Doordarshan and Sansad TV broadcast his speech.

पिछले सप्ताह के अंत में, श्री मोदी का उल्लंघन अधिक था क्योंकि Doordarshan और Sansad TV ने उनका भाषण प्रसारित किया।

- He accused the Indian National Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, All India Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party of committing the "sin of foeticide".

उन्होंने Indian National Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, All

India Trinamool Congress और Samajwadi Party पर भ्रूण हत्या का "पाप" करने का आरोप लगाया।

- The constitutional body allowed the Prime Minister's monthly radio programme during State polls in 2015 and 2017.

संवैधानिक निकाय ने 2015 और 2017 के राज्य चुनावों के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री के मासिक रेडियो कार्यक्रम को जारी रखने की अनुमति दी।

- It also permitted NaMo TV to air in 2019 after prior approval.

इसने 2019 में NaMo TV को पूर्व स्वीकृति के बाद प्रसारण की अनुमति दी।



- It also undermines its own **credibility** and suggests a **partisan character**.
यह उसकी अपनी विश्वसनीयता को भी कमजोर करता है और पक्षपातपूर्ण चरित्र का संकेत देता है।

On the Yashwant Varma probe's future

Justice Yashwant Varma's resignation raises questions over the fate of the statutory inquiry against him. The Constitution asks Parliament to enact a law regulating the investigation of allegations against a judge and an address for seeking removal. The key issue is whether the inquiry's survival can hinge on the judge's continued tenure

IGS II: Polity

MOB

LETTER AND SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

The resignation of Justice Yashwant Varma has revived a question Indian law has not answered satisfactorily in the past 14 years. When a judge quits in the shadow of parliamentary removal, does the statutory inquiry against him fall with him? The question has arisen before. When Justice P.D. Dinakaran resigned in July 2011, the committee was wound up, despite its sittings after his resignation. Justice Soumitra Sen's case went further. His inquiry committee returned adverse findings. The Rajya Sabha voted to remove him in August 2011. He resigned on the eve of the Lok Sabha vote, and the motion was dropped as infructuous. Justice Varma has now resigned as his committee nears conclusion. The first two episodes produced no reform. The third is still in progress.

Speaker Om Birla stands at the same fork. One road leads back to the choice Vice-President Hamid Ansari made in September 2011, when he wound up the committee examining charges against Justice P.D. Dinakaran. The other was set out that year by Jurist G. Mohan Gopal, a member of that committee, in a letter to his two colleagues. The letter, later obtained under the RTI Act, was read and circulated. Its reasoning prevailed within the committee, which did not bring the inquiry to an end. Mr. Ansari did.

Constitutional provisions

Mr. Gopal's case begins with Article 124(5). The Constitution asks Parliament to enact a law regulating two exercises. The first is an investigation into whether the allegations against a judge are proved. The second is the presentation of an address seeking his removal. The first produces findings of fact and guilt. If these are established, the second results in a political decision on removal. One is



MPs submit a memorandum to the Lok Sabha Speaker seeking Justice Varma's removal in July 2025. ANI

owed to the truth; the other to Parliament's conscience.

The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 preserves the distinction. Sections 3 and 4 govern investigative work and depend on no decision of the House. The inquiry, in Mr. Gopal's reading, is a public good in itself. It is owed to the citizenry, entitled to know whether serious charges against a high constitutional functionary stand or fall. It is owed to a judge who maintains his innocence, for whom only a formal clearance settles the record.

The Supreme Court's observations

The Supreme Court has endorsed the dichotomy in terms unchanged for three decades. In *Sub-Committee on Judicial Accountability vs. Union of India* (1991), the Constitution Bench treated the investigative stage as judicial in character. The decision to remove was political and rested only with the two Houses. In *Saregini Ramaswami vs. Union of India* (1992), the Court went further. Until the

report reaches the Speaker, the process is statutory and open to judicial review.

If the inquiry is a statutory procedure and not a parliamentary one, its survival cannot depend on the respondent's continued tenure. A disciplinary proceeding does not collapse because the officer resigns. The Act, read with the Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969 already anticipates a judge who does not participate. Rule 8, 'Effect of non-appearance', covers two situations: where notice under Rule 5 may have been served on the judge, or where it may have been published. In either case, if the judge does not appear, the committee may proceed in his absence. The rule-makers thus foresaw a respondent who might not cooperate. Their answer was to let the committee continue.

The opposite view, adopted by Mr. Ansari in 2011, carries a consequence that bears naming. If resignation extinguishes the inquiry, every judge facing statutory

proceedings acquires a way to abort them. He can read the committee's direction of travel and leave office before an adverse finding is written. Evidence already gathered becomes unusable. Benefits are preserved and reputation is not formally dented. The record is sealed. Mr. Gopal called this an "absurd situation" that the Constitution could not have intended. A removal procedure the respondent can unilaterally terminate cannot, in any serious sense, be called one. The framers designed the two-thirds majority, the two-House requirement, and the investigative threshold to make arbitrary removal difficult. They cannot have meant those safeguards to double as an easy exit.

Gaps in the 2011 precedent

Mr. Ansari gave no public reasoning for winding up the committee. The reasoning emerged only when the Rajya Sabha Secretariat replied to the RTI petition. The reply admitted that the 1968 Act provided no mechanism for dissolving a duly constituted committee. The decision, it said, had been taken "on the basis of law and precedents". The precedents named were two American cases. Judge Samuel Kent of the Southern District of Texas had resigned on 30 June 2009. Judge George English of the Eastern District of Illinois had resigned on 4 November 1926. Neither bore the load. Kent had pleaded guilty to sexual misconduct charges before quitting. English was impeached by the House of Representatives in 1926 and resigned to avoid the Senate trial. Justice Dinakaran's case resembled neither. No charge had been proved; no House had spoken. The law, on the Secretariat's own reading, was silent.

The silence the Secretariat conceded is the one Mr. Gopal's 2011 letter sought to fill. The first occasion to apply it closed before it could be tested. A second occasion is now before the Speaker. (V. Venkatesan is a journalist and legal researcher.)

THE GIST

An inquiry committee's investigation into allegations against a judge produces findings of fact and guilt. If established, the presentation of an address in Parliament leads to a political decision on removal.

If resignation extinguishes the inquiry, a judge facing proceedings can abort them, raising questions about the meaningfulness of a removal process that the respondent can unilaterally terminate.

22A. On the Yashwant Varma probe's future

यशवंत वर्मा जांच के भविष्य पर

- Justice Yashwant Varma's resignation raises questions over the fate of the statutory inquiry against him.

न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा का इस्तीफा उनके विरुद्ध चल रही वैधानिक जांच के भविष्य पर प्रश्न खड़े करता है।

- The Constitution asks Parliament to enact a law regulating the investigation of allegations against a judge and an address for seeking removal.

संविधान संसद से अपेक्षा करता है कि वह न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध आरोपों की जांच को विनियमित करने तथा उनके पद से हटाने के लिए अभिभाषण की प्रक्रिया से संबंधित कानून बनाए।

- The key issue is whether the inquiry's survival can hinge on the judge's continued tenure

मुख्य मुद्दा यह है कि क्या जांच का अस्तित्व न्यायाधीश के पद पर बने रहने पर निर्भर कर सकता है

- The resignation of Justice Yashwant Varma has revived a question Indian law has not answered satisfactorily in the past 14 years.

न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा के इस्तीफे ने एक ऐसे प्रश्न को पुनर्जीवित कर दिया है जिसका उत्तर भारतीय कानून ने पिछले 14 वर्षों में संतोषजनक रूप से नहीं दिया है।

- When a judge quits in the shadow of parliamentary removal, does the statutory inquiry against him fall with him?



जब कोई न्यायाधीश संसदीय पदच्युति की प्रक्रिया के दौरान इस्तीफा देता है, तो क्या उसके विरुद्ध चल रही वैधानिक जांच भी समाप्त हो जाती है?

- **The question has arisen before.**
यह प्रश्न पहले भी उठ चुका है।
- **When Justice P.D. Dinakaran resigned in July 2011, the committee was wound up, despite its sittings after his resignation.**
जब न्यायमूर्ति पी.डी. दिनाकरन ने जुलाई 2011 में इस्तीफा दिया, तो उनके इस्तीफे के बाद भी बैठकों के बावजूद समिति को भंग कर दिया गया।
- **Justice Soumitra Sen's case went further.**
न्यायमूर्ति सौमित्र सेन का मामला इससे आगे बढ़ा।
- **His inquiry committee returned adverse findings.**
उनकी जांच समिति ने प्रतिकूल निष्कर्ष प्रस्तुत किए।
- **The Rajya Sabha voted to remove him in August 2011.**
राज्यसभा ने अगस्त 2011 में उन्हें हटाने के पक्ष में मतदान किया।
- **He resigned on the eve of the Lok Sabha vote, and the motion was dropped as infructuous.**
उन्होंने लोकसभा मतदान से ठीक पहले इस्तीफा दे दिया और प्रस्ताव को निष्प्रभावी मानकर समाप्त कर दिया गया।
- **Justice Varma has now resigned as his committee nears conclusion.**
अब न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा ने भी उस समय इस्तीफा दिया है जब उनकी समिति अपने निष्कर्ष के करीब है।
- **The first two episodes produced no reform.**
पहले दो मामलों में कोई सुधार नहीं हुआ।
- **The third is still in progress.**
तीसरा मामला अभी भी प्रक्रिया में है।
- **Speaker Om Birla stands at the same fork.**
स्पीकर ओम बिड़ला अब उसी दुविधा पर खड़े हैं।
- **One road leads back to the choice Vice-President Hamid Ansari made in September 2011.**
एक रास्ता उस निर्णय की ओर जाता है जो उपराष्ट्रपति हमिद अंसारी ने सितंबर 2011 में लिया था।
- **He wound up the committee examining charges against Justice P.D. Dinakaran.**
उन्होंने न्यायमूर्ति पी.डी. दिनाकरन के विरुद्ध आरोपों की जांच कर रही समिति को भंग कर दिया था।
- **The other was set out by jurist G. Mohan Gopal in a letter to his colleagues.**
दूसरा विकल्प विधिवेत्ता जी. मोहन गोपाल द्वारा अपने सहयोगियों को लिखे गए पत्र में प्रस्तुत किया गया था।
- **The letter was later obtained under the RTI Act and circulated.**
यह पत्र बाद में RTI अधिनियम के तहत प्राप्त किया गया और प्रसारित किया गया।
- **Its reasoning prevailed within the committee, which did not bring the inquiry to an end.**
उसका तर्क समिति के भीतर प्रभावी रहा और जांच को समाप्त नहीं किया गया।
- **Mr. Ansari did.**
लेकिन श्री अंसारी ने ऐसा किया।

Constitutional provisions / संवैधानिक प्रावधान

- **Mr. Gopal's case begins with Article 124(5).**
श्री गोपाल का तर्क अनुच्छेद 124(5) से प्रारंभ होता है।
- **The Constitution asks Parliament to enact a law regulating two exercises.**
संविधान संसद से दो प्रक्रियाओं को नियंत्रित करने हेतु कानून बनाने को कहता है।
- **The first is an investigation into whether the allegations against a judge are proved.**
पहली प्रक्रिया यह है कि क्या न्यायाधीश के विरुद्ध लगाए गए आरोप सिद्ध होते हैं या नहीं।



- The second is the presentation of an address seeking his removal.
दूसरी प्रक्रिया न्यायाधीश को हटाने के लिए प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करना है।
- The first produces findings of fact and guilt.
पहली प्रक्रिया तथ्यों और दोष के निष्कर्ष देती है।
- If these are established, the second results in a political decision on removal.
यदि ये सिद्ध हो जाते हैं, तो दूसरी प्रक्रिया राजनीतिक निर्णय के रूप में हटाने की ओर ले जाती है।
- One is owed to the truth; the other to Parliament's conscience.
एक प्रक्रिया सत्य के प्रति उत्तरदायी है और दूसरी संसद की अंतरात्मा के प्रति।
- The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 preserves the distinction.
न्यायाधीश (जांच) अधिनियम, 1968 इस भेद को बनाए रखता है।
- Sections 3 and 4 govern investigative work and depend on no decision of the House.
धारा 3 और 4 जांच कार्य को नियंत्रित करती हैं और यह संसद के निर्णय पर निर्भर नहीं होता।
- The inquiry, in Mr. Gopal's reading, is a public good in itself.
श्री गोपाल के अनुसार, जांच अपने आप में एक सार्वजनिक हित है।
- It is owed to the citizenry, entitled to know whether serious charges stand or fall.
यह नागरिकों के प्रति उत्तरदायी है, जिन्हें यह जानने का अधिकार है कि गंभीर आरोप सत्य हैं या नहीं।
- It is owed to a judge who maintains his innocence.
यह उस न्यायाधीश के प्रति भी उत्तरदायी है जो अपनी निर्दोषता का दावा करता है।
- Only a formal clearance settles the record.
केवल एक औपचारिक निष्कर्ष ही इस मामले को अंतिम रूप देता है।

The Supreme Court's observations / सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की टिप्पणियाँ

- The Supreme Court has endorsed the dichotomy in terms unchallenged for three decades.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने इस द्वैत (dichotomy) को पिछले तीन दशकों से बिना चुनौती के स्वीकार किया है।
- In Sub-Committee on Judicial Accountability vs. Union of India (1991), the Constitution Bench treated the investigative stage as judicial in character.
Sub-Committee on Judicial Accountability vs. Union of India (1991) में संविधान पीठ ने जांच चरण को न्यायिक प्रकृति का माना।
- The decision to remove was political and rested only with the two Houses.
न्यायाधीश को हटाने का निर्णय राजनीतिक है और यह केवल दोनों सदनों पर निर्भर करता है।
- In Sarojini Ramaswami vs. Union of India (1992), the Court went further.
Sarojini Ramaswami vs. Union of India (1992) में न्यायालय ने इससे आगे का दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत किया।
- Until the report reaches the Speaker, the process is statutory and open to judicial review.
जब तक रिपोर्ट स्पीकर तक नहीं पहुँचती, तब तक प्रक्रिया वैधानिक रहती है और न्यायिक समीक्षा के लिए खुली रहती है।
- If the inquiry is a statutory procedure and not a parliamentary one, its survival cannot depend on the respondent's continued tenure.
यदि जांच एक वैधानिक प्रक्रिया है और संसदीय नहीं, तो उसका अस्तित्व प्रतिवादी के पद पर बने रहने पर निर्भर नहीं हो सकता।
- A disciplinary proceeding does not collapse because the officer resigns.
किसी अधिकारी के इस्तीफा देने से अनुशासनात्मक कार्यवाही समाप्त नहीं होती।
- The Act, read with the Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969 already anticipates a judge who does not participate.



यह अधिनियम, **Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969** के साथ मिलकर ऐसे न्यायाधीश की संभावना को स्वीकार करता है जो भाग नहीं लेता।

- **Rule 8, 'Effect of non-appearance', covers two situations.**
नियम 8, 'अनुपस्थिति का प्रभाव', दो स्थितियों को कवर करता है।
- **Where notice under Rule 5 may have been served on the judge, or where it may have been published.**
जहाँ नियम 5 के तहत नोटिस न्यायाधीश को दिया गया हो या प्रकाशित किया गया हो।
- **If the judge does not appear, the committee may proceed in his absence.**
यदि न्यायाधीश उपस्थित नहीं होता, तो समिति उसकी अनुपस्थिति में कार्यवाही जारी रख सकती है।
- **The rule-makers thus foresaw a respondent who might not cooperate.**
नियम निर्माताओं ने ऐसे प्रतिवादी की संभावना पहले ही देख ली थी जो सहयोग न करे।
- **Their answer was to let the committee continue.**
उनका समाधान था कि समिति को जारी रखा जाए।

Opposing view and consequences / विपरीत दृष्टिकोण और परिणाम

- **The opposite view, adopted by Mr. Ansari in 2011, carries a consequence that bears naming.**
2011 में श्री अंसारी द्वारा अपनाया गया विपरीत दृष्टिकोण एक महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम उत्पन्न करता है।
- **If resignation extinguishes the inquiry, every judge facing proceedings gains a way to abort them.**
यदि इस्तीफा जांच को समाप्त कर देता है, तो प्रत्येक न्यायाधीश को कार्यवाही रोकने का अवसर मिल जाता है।
- **He can leave office before an adverse finding is written.**
वह प्रतिकूल निष्कर्ष आने से पहले पद छोड़ सकता है।
- **Evidence already gathered becomes unusable.**
पहले से एकत्रित साक्ष्य अनुपयोगी हो जाते हैं।
- **Benefits are preserved and reputation is not formally dented.**
लाभ सुरक्षित रहते हैं और प्रतिष्ठा पर औपचारिक प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता।
- **The record is sealed.**
रिकॉर्ड सील हो जाता है।
- **Mr. Gopal called this an "absurd situation".**
श्री गोपाल ने इसे "विसंगत स्थिति" कहा।
- **A removal procedure the respondent can unilaterally terminate cannot be meaningful.**
ऐसी हटाने की प्रक्रिया जिसे प्रतिवादी एकतरफा समाप्त कर सके, सार्थक नहीं हो सकती।
- **The framers designed safeguards like two-thirds majority and investigative thresholds.**
संविधान निर्माताओं ने दो-तिहाई बहुमत और जांच मानकों जैसे सुरक्षा उपाय बनाए।
- **They did not intend these safeguards to become an easy exit.**
इनका उद्देश्य इन्हें आसान बचाव का मार्ग बनाना नहीं था।
- **Gaps in the 2011 precedent / 2011 के उदाहरण की कमियाँ**
- **Mr. Ansari gave no public reasoning for dissolving the committee.**
श्री अंसारी ने समिति भंग करने के लिए कोई सार्वजनिक कारण नहीं दिया।
- **The reasoning emerged later through an RTI reply.**
कारण बाद में RTI उत्तर के माध्यम से सामने आया।
- **The reply admitted the 1968 Act had no mechanism for dissolving a committee.**
उत्तर में स्वीकार किया गया कि 1968 अधिनियम में समिति भंग करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।
- **The decision was based on "law and precedents".**
निर्णय "कानून और पूर्व उदाहरणों" पर आधारित बताया गया।



- The precedents cited were two American cases.
जिन उदाहरणों का उल्लेख किया गया वे दो अमेरिकी मामले थे।
- Judge Samuel Kent resigned in 2009 and Judge George English in 1926.
जज सैमुअल केंट ने 2009 में और जज जॉर्ज इंग्लिश ने 1926 में इस्तीफा दिया।
- Neither case was comparable to Justice Dinakaran's case.
इनमें से कोई भी मामला न्यायमूर्ति दिनाकरन के मामले के समान नहीं था।

GS Paper II: Governance

22 April 2026

TOPICS COVERED

22A	<p>Power of vote and strength of self-reliance: tea garden workers in West Bengal's Alipurduar plan a new course</p> <p>मतदान की शक्ति और आत्मनिर्भरता की ताकत: पश्चिम बंगाल के अलीपुरद्वार के चाय बागान श्रमिक नई दिशा की योजना बना रहे हैं</p>
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Power of vote and strength of self-reliance: tea garden workers in West Bengal's Alipurduar plan a new course

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

Shiv Sahay Singh
ALIPURDUAR

Basanti Naik, the widow of tea garden worker Gunjan Naik, who died in June 2025 in the Garganda tea garden of Alipurduar district in West Bengal, survives solely on foodgrains provided under her Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) card.

The 51-year-old, also a tea garden worker, is too weak to work. Wages at the garden, run by the Merico Group, have been irregular. But officially, the garden is not closed, and workers do not get any assistance under the Financial Assistance to the Workers of Locked Out Industries (FAWLOI) scheme, which those of closed tea gardens are entitled to. The only cash Ba-

santi Naik receives is ₹1,500 under the West Bengal government's Lakshmir Bhandar scheme.

But many women in the Garganda tea garden have decided to take matters into their own hands. "If Mamata Banerjee can run the State, we can manage a tea garden," Sonika Sahu, one of the workers, said.

"We approached everyone with our demands, but nobody paid heed. So we have decided to run the tea garden as a cooperative," she said.

Amid the high-pitched campaign for the Assembly polls, tea garden workers have turned out to be an important constituency for parties. The districts of Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling have nearly 20 seats, where the fate of the



Women from the Garganda tea garden in Alipurduar district who are trying to set up a cooperative to run its operations. SHIV SAHAY SINGH

candidates depends on tea garden workers.

Many promises

During a campaign, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee promised to increase daily wages from ₹250 to ₹300, pointing out that when the

party came to power in 2011, the wages were only ₹67.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while campaigning across the State, raised the plight of tea garden workers but blamed the Trinamool for their condition. He alleged that the

party has not implemented the PM Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana in tea gardens. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that around 3.79 lakh tea garden workers had been denied benefits because of non-implementation of the scheme.

Madhu Tea Garden under the Kalchini Assembly constituency in Alipurduar district has emerged as an example of an all-women-led cooperative running successfully. Workers said the owner suddenly left the garden last year, leaving about 250 workers in the lurch. "We think we will be able to run the tea garden successfully in the future, and we will vote for those who support the cooperative," said Shyamoli Oraon, one of the workers at Madhu Tea Garden.

Like Garganda, Madhu Tea Garden has witnessed death due to malnutrition. Dhani Oraon (58), a permanent worker of the garden, died from severe malnutrition in February 2024.

Asarani Oraon, the widow of Dhani Oraon, receives neither Lakshmir Bhandar benefits nor AAY support.

Amid the prevailing distress, candidates across political parties have been reaching out to tea garden workers during the election season.

On April 12, candidates from different political parties reached out to the workers of eight tea gardens under the Madarihata assembly seat and listened to their demands, which included non-payment of wages and pending Provident Fund (PF) dues.

22A. Power of vote and strength of self-reliance: tea garden workers in West Bengal's Alipurduar plan a new course

मतदान की शक्ति और आत्मनिर्भरता की ताकत: पश्चिम बंगाल के अलीपुरद्वार के चाय बागान श्रमिक नई दिशा की योजना बना रहे हैं

- **Basanti Naik**, the widow of tea garden worker **Gunjan Naik**, who died in June 2025 in the **Garganda tea garden** of Alipurduar district in **West Bengal**, survives solely on foodgrains provided under her **Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) card**.

बसंती नायक, चाय बागान श्रमिक गुंजन नायक की विधवा, जिनकी जून 2025 में पश्चिम बंगाल के अलीपुरद्वार जिले के गर्गंडा चाय बागान में मृत्यु हो गई थी, अपने अंत्योदय अन्न योजना (AAY) कार्ड के तहत मिलने वाले खाद्यान्न पर ही जीवित हैं।



- But officially, the garden is not closed, and workers do not get any assistance under the **Financial Assistance to the Workers of Locked Out Industries (FAWLOI)** scheme, which those of closed tea gardens are entitled to.
लेकिन आधिकारिक रूप से बागान बंद नहीं है, और श्रमिकों को **फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस टू द वर्कर्स ऑफ लॉकड आउट इंडस्ट्रीज (FAWLOI)** योजना के तहत कोई सहायता नहीं मिलती, जिसका लाभ बंद चाय बागानों के श्रमिकों को मिलता है।
- He alleged that the party has not implemented the **PM Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana** in tea gardens.
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि पार्टी ने चाय बागानों में **पीएम चाय श्रमिक प्रोत्साहन योजना** लागू नहीं की है।
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said that around **3.79 lakh tea garden workers** had been denied benefits because of non-implementation of the scheme.
केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने कहा कि योजना के लागू न होने के कारण लगभग **3.79 लाख चाय बागान श्रमिकों** को लाभ नहीं मिला।

GS Paper II: International Relations		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	India-Africa Summit to focus on development initiatives भारत-अफ्रीका शिखर सम्मेलन विकास पहलों पर केंद्रित होगा	
22A	India must draw a red line on U.S. unilateral sanctions भारत को अमेरिका के एकतरफा प्रतिबंधों पर एक स्पष्ट लाल रेखा निर्धारित करनी चाहिए	
22A	Lunar governance should be multilateral चंद्र शासन बहुपक्षीय होना चाहिए	
22A	'Predator' leaders seek to impose new world order, says Amnesty 'शिकारी' नेता नया विश्व व्यवस्था थोपना चाहते हैं, एमनेस्टी का कहना	

India-Africa Summit to focus on development initiatives

The upcoming summit is being held more than a decade after the **third IAFS in October 2015**; will provide India with an opportunity to take stock of its strategic and diplomatic footprint in Africa

GS INIR

Kalol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Development initiatives, education, capacity building, expansion of diplomatic footprint, and defence cooperation are expected to be on the agenda when New Delhi hosts the **Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) 2026** in Mayend, official sources said on Tuesday. Plans for the summit will be presented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced.

India has been holding consultations with partner countries in Africa as the plans for the IAFS have been under way for some time. In March, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Ministers and diplomats of the Africa Group members on the sidelines of the 14th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon where he discussed plans for expanding India's investment agenda in Africa and the upcoming summit in India.

The upcoming summit



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar chairing a consultative committee meeting on India-Africa ties in New Delhi on April 7. ANI

is especially significant as it is being held after more than a decade as the third IAFS was held in October 2015. The fourth IAFS has an additional dimension as it is being organised against the backdrop of supply chain disruption that has gripped the global economy following U.S.-Israel attack on Iran.

Stable supply chain
Analysts are saying that unlike the energy disruption in the Gulf region, Africa does not have a similar supply chain shock potential for India as despite nearly 50 conflicts on the continent, supply chains of

Foreign Direct Investment. "For that, Indian big business has to step in. But can they avoid the western dominance of African continent while investing in critical areas? That is what we have to see," said Mr. Dubey, arguing that Indian attempts for engaging Africa in "small and medium enterprises" was not attractive to African partners anymore as they were looking for investments from the Global South leaders as well.

The summit will provide India with an opportunity to highlight some of the latest initiatives that the Government of India has undertaken like the opening of the IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar and it will also provide India to take stock of its strategic and diplomatic footprint in the vast continent.

India has already opened 16 new missions in Africa since 2018 which has pushed India's diplomatic presence to 45 countries in the continent and the summit will provide an opportunity to take stock of its diplomatic outreach among the member countries of the African Union.

22A. India-Africa Summit to focus on development initiatives

भारत-अफ्रीका शिखर सम्मेलन विकास पहलों पर केंद्रित होगा

- The upcoming summit is being held more than a decade after the third **IAFS (India-Africa Forum Summit)** in October 2015; will provide India with an opportunity to take stock of its **strategic and diplomatic footprint** in Africa.

आगामी शिखर सम्मेलन अक्टूबर 2015 में हुए तीसरे **IAFS (भारत-अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन)** के एक दशक से अधिक समय बाद आयोजित हो रहा है; यह भारत को अफ्रीका में अपने **रणनीतिक और कूटनीतिक प्रभाव** का आकलन करने का अवसर देगा।

- Development initiatives, **education, capacity building, expansion of diplomatic footprint, and defence cooperation** are expected to be on the agenda when **New Delhi hosts the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) 2026** in Mayend, official sources said on Tuesday.

अधिकारियों ने मंगलवार को बताया कि जब नई दिल्ली में चौथे **भारत-अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन (IAFS)**



2026 की मेजबानी करेगा, तो विकास पहल, शिक्षा, क्षमता निर्माण, कूटनीतिक विस्तार और रक्षा सहयोग एजेंडा में शामिल होंगे।

- In March, Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** met with Ministers and diplomats of the **Africa Group** members on the sidelines of the **14th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon**, where he discussed plans for expanding India's **investment agenda** in Africa and the upcoming summit in India.

मार्च में, वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** ने कैमरून के याउंडे में आयोजित विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) के 14वें मंत्रिस्तरीय सम्मेलन के दौरान अफ्रीका समूह के मंत्रियों और राजनयिकों से मुलाकात की, जहां उन्होंने अफ्रीका में भारत के निवेश एजेंडा के विस्तार और आगामी शिखर सम्मेलन पर चर्चा की।

- The fourth **IAFS** has an additional dimension as it is being organised against the backdrop of **supply chain disruption** that has gripped the global economy following the U.S.-Israel **attack on Iran**.

चौथे **IAFS** का एक अतिरिक्त पहलू है क्योंकि यह **सप्लाई चेन व्यवधान** की पृष्ठभूमि में आयोजित हो रहा है, जो **अमेरिका-इजरायल द्वारा ईरान पर हमले** के बाद वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रभावित कर रहा है।

Stable supply chain

स्थिर आपूर्ति श्रृंखला

- Analysts are saying that unlike the energy disruption in the **Gulf region**, Africa does not have a similar supply chain shock potential for India as despite nearly 50 conflicts on the continent, supply chains of critical items remain stable.

विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि **खाड़ी क्षेत्र** में ऊर्जा व्यवधान के विपरीत, अफ्रीका में भारत के लिए ऐसा आपूर्ति झटका नहीं है, क्योंकि लगभग 50 संघर्षों के बावजूद आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला स्थिर बनी हुई है।

- However, India will have to ensure that it matches its commitment to African states with implementation.

हालांकि, भारत को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि वह अफ्रीकी देशों के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को कार्यान्वयन के साथ पूरा करे।

- **“As of now, India is able to implement only 40% of what it commits to Africa.**

“वर्तमान में, भारत अफ्रीका के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं का केवल **40%** ही लागू कर पाता है।

- The **summit will provide India with an opportunity to highlight some of the latest initiatives that the Government of India has undertaken like the opening of the IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar** and it will also provide India to take stock of its **strategic and diplomatic footprint in the vast continent**.

यह शिखर सम्मेलन भारत को **भारत सरकार** द्वारा किए गए नवीनतम पहलों को प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर देगा, जैसे **जांजीबार में IIT मद्रास परिसर** का उद्घाटन, और साथ ही अफ्रीका में अपने **रणनीतिक और कूटनीतिक प्रभाव** का आकलन करने का अवसर देगा।

- **India has already opened 16 new missions in Africa since 2018 which has pushed India's diplomatic presence to 45 countries in the continent** and the summit will provide an opportunity to take stock of its **diplomatic outreach** among the member countries of the **African Union**.

भारत ने 2018 से अफ्रीका में **16 नए मिशन** खोले हैं, जिससे महाद्वीप में उसकी कूटनीतिक उपस्थिति **45 देशों** तक पहुंच गई है और यह शिखर सम्मेलन **अफ्रीकी संघ** के सदस्य देशों के बीच अपने **कूटनीतिक पहुंच** का आकलन करने का अवसर देगा।



India must draw a red line on U.S. unilateral sanctions

GS II: IR

MGB

The dust – nuclear and otherwise – has yet to settle on how the United States-Israel war against Iran will ultimately end, but its impact on India's growth projections is evident. Already reeling from U.S. tariffs, the Indian economy has seen damage pile up due to the U.S.-Israel initiation of the war, Iran's targeting of Gulf countries, and now the 'double blockade' of the Strait of Hormuz by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and U.S. forces – manifested in rising energy bills, higher shipping and insurance costs, supply chain disruptions, a slump in exports (down 7% in March), and mounting inflation. The rupee's fall has resulted in India slipping from being projected to fourth spot, to sixth in terms of the largest economies rankings, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Break sanction alignment

India is by no means the only country thus affected, but as the world's most populous nation, it is bound to feel the effects more acutely. Given the little attention that the U.S. has paid to India's economic concerns, it is surprising that the Narendra Modi government continues to pay heed to U.S. unilateral sanctions amid the war. This month, as temporary waivers on many of those sanctions come up for renewal, it is time for New Delhi to unequivocally denounce them and declare that it will no longer abide by them.

A cursory list of U.S. sanctions with which India has partially or fully complied is both illustrative and eye-opening. Since May 2019, India has not purchased any Iranian or Venezuelan oil following U.S. President Donald Trump's demand for 'zeroing out. India faced similar secondary sanctions from the U.S., during 2012-14, when the Barack Obama administration used them as leverage in Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiations (the Iran nuclear deal).

While India reduced its imports of Iranian oil from about 18.5 million tonnes in 2010-2011 to 11 million tonnes in 2013-2014, it never agreed to halt them altogether. In 2015, following the signing of the JCPOA, India stepped up its oil imports again and also signed a strategic connectivity trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Chabahar port, along with road and rail links connecting it to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Early in his second term in 2025, Mr. Trump pushed India to end all its imports of Russian oil, adding a 25% penalty on top of existing 25% tariffs to enforce his demand. For three months – from November 2025 to February 2026 – India complied, halving its intake of about two million barrels per day (bpd) to one million bpd. As the U.S. has issued temporary sanctions waivers to deal with oil price hikes during the war with Iran, India has increased its intake of both Russian and Iranian oil, but will have to decide what to do once the waivers end.

Since the U.S. kidnapping of Venezuelan



Suhasini Haidar

President Nicolás Maduro in January 2026 and the subsequent easing of sanctions, India's intake of Venezuelan oil has also increased. Meanwhile, the U.S.'s waiver extension on India's use of Chabahar port is set to expire on April 26. Mr. Trump has also said that he intends to impose sanctions on any country conducting trade with Iran or holding Iranian funds, and will sanction all BRICS members if they seek to establish a non-dollar payment mechanism among themselves.

The result of all these on-again, off-again sanctions, waivers, extensions and exemptions is to defeat India's best efforts to diversify and broad-base its energy, food and fertilizer sourcing. India's decision not to protest the US's decision to go to war with Iran in the first place is presumably out of concern that the U.S. may come down even more heavily on the Indian economy.

"The sui generis 'whack-a-mole' nature of these measures only adds to their capriciousness," former Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel concludes in his book *The Great Sanctions Hack*. According to his research, the U.S. stands out as the world's main sanctioning power, having imposed 365 sanctions in the present century, with the European Union a distant second at about 133. Only 12 counter-sanctions by China, Russia and Iran are active. According to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. today maintains sanctions on at least 23 countries and has more than a dozen sanction regimes on specific issues (cyber-terror, non-proliferation, and foreign interference). The United Nations Security Council, in comparison, has only about 15 active sanction regimes in all.

Compliance increases coercion

It is therefore necessary to analyse India's experience with U.S. sanctions over the past decade and draw conclusions about the pros and cons of yielding to them. There is little evidence that yielding to unilateral U.S. sanctions curbs its appetite, as India's experience since 2019 shows; it instead leads to additional demands for compliance.

Conversely, when India ignored sanctions such as Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) and purchased Russian S-400 air defence systems in 2018, it faced no U.S. penalties and benefitted from the decision, as during Operation Sindoor (May 2025). The "opportunity costs" of complying must also be calculated – had India continued to buy discounted sweeter Iranian crude or Venezuelan oil from 2019-25, as it did with Russian oil (2022-25), the government could have saved billions, and built strategic energy reserves (as China has) that would have been useful today.

Had India not complied with sanctions against the Chabahar port, built rail and road infrastructure in Iran, and not curtailed its plans for the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) through Iran's Bandar Abbas, it

may have had connectivity in place that could have reduced its dependence on imports coming through the Strait of Hormuz today. Moreover, India's compliance with U.S. international sanctions has further weakened the rules-based international order and the UN's multilateral mandate.

Going forward, if the Indian government decides to turn course and announce a national resolve against unilateral sanctions, it will not only spur its own private sector to seek braver options but also inspire countries in the neighbourhood and the Global South to follow suit, pushing back on other coercive measures employed by big powers such as China as well.

The government has a number of avenues to pursue if it decides to do so – from building payment mechanisms such as the rupee-rial trade system with Iran, to developing national payment systems including intra-BRICS settlement arrangements, to using 'air-gapped' banking and financial institutions insulated from western pressure, as well as exponentially expanding renewable and alternative energy sources.

Unfortunately, by withdrawing its bid to host the United Nations Climate Conference of the Parties (COP33) in 2028, New Delhi may have lost an opportunity to lead discussions on such options in the wake of the war, but it must take advantage of other such forums to do so.

History as policy guide

Lessons from history are worth revisiting. In 1966, U.S. President Lyndon Johnson amended the United States' 'Food for Peace' (PL-480) law – formally the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 – under which India, then suffering from famine, received millions of tonnes of wheat. Johnson's amendments, called the "short-tether" policy, limited the U.S.'s grain shipments to monthly or bi-monthly approvals, leading to what was called a "ship to mouth" existence for India.

That the amendments followed closely on the heels of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to Moscow – where she had called on Washington to stop bombing Vietnam to make space for peace efforts – was no coincidence, although the U.S. insisted that the changes were intended to spur agricultural reforms in India.

The move, and the subsequent international pressure for a major rupee devaluation, pushed the then neophyte Prime Minister into a corner. In a national address, Mrs Gandhi vowed that India should never again find itself in such a humiliating position, and intensified efforts toward the Green Revolution and agricultural self-sufficiency. A "New Green revolution" and energy independence can only follow if New Delhi draws a red line on U.S. sanctions in the next few weeks. These sanctions do not just harm India's economy. They also seek to bend India's foreign policy to another's will, and are a blow to its proudly-held tenets of strategic autonomy.

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For India to launch a new Green Revolution in energy independence, it must first rebuff U.S. sanctions

22A. India must draw a red line on U.S. unilateral sanctions

भारत को अमेरिका के एकतरफा प्रतिबंधों पर एक स्पष्ट लाल रेखा निर्धारित करनी चाहिए

- The 'double blockade' of the Strait of Hormuz by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and U.S. forces has worsened the situation. इस्लामिक रिवालयूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC) और अमेरिकी बलों द्वारा हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य की दोहरी नाकाबंदी ने स्थिति को और खराब कर दिया है।
- This is manifested in rising energy bills, higher shipping and insurance costs, supply chain disruptions, export slump (down 7% in March), and mounting inflation.



यह ऊर्जा लागत में वृद्धि, शिपिंग और बीमा लागत में बढ़ोतरी, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में बाधा, निर्यात में गिरावट (मार्च में 7%) और बढ़ती मुद्रास्फीति के रूप में दिखाई देता है।

- The **rupee's fall** has caused India to slip from **fourth to sixth position** in global economy rankings as per the **International Monetary Fund**.

रुपये की गिरावट के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) के अनुसार भारत वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था रैंकिंग में चौथे से छठे स्थान पर आ गया है।

Break sanction alignment / प्रतिबंध संरेखण को तोड़ना

- Since **May 2019**, India stopped purchasing **Iranian and Venezuelan oil** after **Donald Trump's** demand for **'zeroing out'**.
मई 2019 से, डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की 'शून्य आयात' की मांग के बाद भारत ने ईरानी और वेनेजुएला तेल खरीदना बंद कर दिया।
- Earlier, during **2012-14**, similar sanctions were imposed during **JCPOA negotiations** under **Barack Obama**.
पहले 2012-14 के दौरान, बराक ओबामा के समय JCPOA वार्ताओं के दौरान समान प्रतिबंध लगाए गए थे।
- India reduced imports from **18.5 million tonnes (2010-11)** to **11 million tonnes (2013-14)** but did not halt them fully.
भारत ने आयात को 18.5 मिलियन टन (2010-11) से घटाकर 11 मिलियन टन (2013-14) किया, लेकिन पूरी तरह बंद नहीं किया।
- After the **2015 JCPOA**, India increased imports and signed the **Chabahar port agreement** with Iran and Afghanistan.
2015 के JCPOA के बाद भारत ने आयात बढ़ाया और ईरान तथा अफगानिस्तान के साथ चाबहार बंदरगाह समझौता किया।
- In **2025**, Trump pressured India to stop **Russian oil imports**, imposing a **25% penalty**.
2025 में ट्रंप ने भारत पर रूसी तेल आयात रोकने का दबाव डाला और 25% दंड लगाया।
- Frequent changes in sanctions, waivers, and exemptions hinder India's **energy, food and fertilizer diversification** efforts.
प्रतिबंधों, छूटों और अपवादों में बार-बार परिवर्तन भारत के ऊर्जा, खाद्य और उर्वरक स्रोतों के विविधीकरण के प्रयासों को बाधित करते हैं।
- India avoided protesting the U.S. war decision due to fear of further **economic pressure**.
भारत ने अमेरिका के युद्ध निर्णय का विरोध नहीं किया, संभवतः अधिक आर्थिक दबाव के भय से।
- Former RBI Governor **Urjit Patel** described sanctions as **'whack-a-mole'** and **capricious** in his book.
पूर्व RBI गवर्नर उर्जित पटेल ने अपनी पुस्तक में प्रतिबंधों को 'whack-a-mole' और मनमाना बताया।
- The U.S. has imposed **365 sanctions** in this century, far more than the **European Union (133)**.
अमेरिका ने इस शताब्दी में 365 प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं, जो यूरोपीय संघ (133) से कहीं अधिक हैं।
- **Only 12 counter-sanctions** by **China, Russia, and Iran** are active.
चीन, रूस और ईरान द्वारा केवल 12 प्रतिप्रतिबंध सक्रिय हैं।
- The U.S. currently maintains sanctions on at least **23 countries** and multiple issue-based regimes.
अमेरिका वर्तमान में कम से कम 23 देशों पर प्रतिबंध और कई विषय-आधारित व्यवस्थाएँ लागू करता है।
- In comparison, the **United Nations Security Council** has about **15 active sanction regimes**.
तुलनात्मक रूप से, संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद के पास लगभग 15 सक्रिय प्रतिबंध व्यवस्थाएँ हैं।
- Conversely, when India ignored sanctions such as **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** and purchased **Russian S-400 air defence systems** in



2018, it faced no U.S. penalties.

इसके विपरीत, जब भारत ने CAATSA जैसे प्रतिबंधों की अनदेखी करते हुए 2018 में रूसी S-400 वायु रक्षा प्रणाली खरीदी, तो उसे कोई अमेरिकी दंड नहीं झेलना पड़ा।

- India benefitted from this decision, as seen during **Operation Sindoor (May 2025)**.
भारत को इस निर्णय से लाभ हुआ, जैसा कि ऑपरेशन सिंदूर (मई 2025) के दौरान देखा गया।
- The **opportunity costs of complying must also be calculated**.
अनुपालन की अवसर लागत (opportunity cost) का भी मूल्यांकन किया जाना चाहिए।
- Had India continued buying **discounted Iranian crude or Venezuelan oil**, it could have saved billions and built **strategic energy reserves**.
यदि भारत रियायती ईरानी कच्चा तेल या वेनेजुएला तेल खरीदता रहता, तो वह अरबों की बचत कर सकता था और रणनीतिक ऊर्जा भंडार बना सकता था।
- Had India not complied with sanctions on **Chabahar port** and developed infrastructure and **INSTC connectivity**, it could have reduced dependence on the **Strait of Hormuz**.
यदि भारत ने चाबहार बंदरगाह पर प्रतिबंधों का पालन नहीं किया होता और INSTC कनेक्टिविटी विकसित की होती, तो वह हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पर निर्भरता कम कर सकता था।
- India's compliance has also weakened the **rules-based international order** and the **UN's multilateral mandate**.
भारत के अनुपालन ने नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था और संयुक्त राष्ट्र की बहुपक्षीय व्यवस्था को भी कमजोर किया है।
- If India takes a stand against **unilateral sanctions**, it could encourage its **private sector** and inspire the **Global South**.
यदि भारत एकतरफा प्रतिबंधों के विरुद्ध रुख अपनाता है, तो यह उसके निजी क्षेत्र को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है और ग्लोबल साउथ को प्रेरित कर सकता है।
- It may also help counter **coercive measures by powers like China**.
यह चीन जैसी शक्तियों के दबावपूर्ण उपायों का मुकाबला करने में भी सहायक हो सकता है।
- India can develop **rupee-rial trade systems, intra-BRICS payment mechanisms, and air-gapped financial systems**.
भारत रुपया-रियाल व्यापार प्रणाली, BRICS के भीतर भुगतान तंत्र, और एयर-गैप्ड वित्तीय प्रणाली विकसित कर सकता है।
- It should also expand **renewable and alternative energy sources**.
इसे नवीकरणीय और वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों का विस्तार करना चाहिए।
- India withdrew its bid to host **COP33 (2028)**, losing an opportunity for global leadership.
भारत ने COP33 (2028) की मेजबानी की बोली वापस लेकर वैश्विक नेतृत्व का एक अवसर खो दिया।
- In 1966, U.S. President **Lyndon Johnson** amended the **PL-480 Food for Peace programme**.
1966 में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति लिंडन जॉनसन ने PL-480 फूड फॉर पीस कार्यक्रम में संशोधन किया।
- India, then facing **famine**, depended on U.S. wheat shipments.
उस समय अकाल से जूझ रहा भारत अमेरिकी गेहूं आपूर्ति पर निर्भर था।
- The “**short-tether policy**” restricted shipments, leading to a “**ship-to-mouth**” existence.
“शॉर्ट-टेथर नीति” ने आपूर्ति सीमित कर दी, जिससे “जहाज से भोजन” जैसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई।
- This followed Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi's** visit to Moscow and criticism of U.S. actions in **Vietnam**.
यह तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री इंदिरा गांधी की मॉस्को यात्रा और वियतनाम में अमेरिकी कार्रवाई की आलोचना के बाद हुआ।
- The move and pressure for **rupee devaluation** put India in a difficult position.
इस कदम और रुपये के अवमूल्यन के दबाव ने भारत को कठिन स्थिति में डाल दिया।



- Mrs Gandhi vowed that India should never again face such **humiliation**.
श्रीमती गांधी ने संकल्प लिया कि भारत फिर कभी ऐसी **अपमानजनक स्थिति** में नहीं आएगा।
- This led to the **Green Revolution** and push for **agricultural self-sufficiency**.
इससे **हरित क्रांति** और **कृषि आत्मनिर्भरता** को बढ़ावा मिला।
- A **New Green Revolution** and **energy independence** require drawing a **red line on sanctions**.
एक **नई हरित क्रांति** और **ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता** के लिए प्रतिबंधों पर **स्पष्ट सीमा रेखा** खींचना आवश्यक है।

Lunar governance should be multilateral

GS II: IR

MOB

The NASA Apollo 8 mission to the moon captured the iconic earthrise image the same year in which U.S. forces were responsible for the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. Similarly, on April 6, as the crew of the NASA Artemis II mission swung around the moon in their spacecraft, they photographed the earth rising above the lunar limb – an earthset – only months after the first casualty of coordinated strikes by the U.S. and Israel against Iran was a girls' primary school. The Refugees International president called it "likely the largest number of child casualties in a single U.S. military attack" since My Lai.

In Washington, the administration was simultaneously dismantling legal protections for immigrants, imposing tariffs which fall afoul of trade law, and enabling an Israeli military campaign in Gaza that the International Court of Justice has been scrutinising for genocide since January 2024. Thus, the country that asks the world to celebrate humankind's return to the moon has demonstrated a simultaneous contempt for human rights and international law.

Disregard for law, due process

The International Commission of Jurists and the Red Cross have found that U.S. and Israeli forces have struck multiple sites protected by international humanitarian law. Before the assault, the Pentagon had dismantled the Civilian Protection Center of Excellence and shelved a framework to avoid civilian harm, among other measures. In 2025, a UN commission confirmed that Israel was responsible for the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israel's prime minister and former defence minister for war crimes. However, the U.S. continued to supply arms to Israel and responded to the warrants with sanctions against officials.

The Trump administration has



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The U.S. asks the world to celebrate humankind's return to the moon. At the same time, it has demonstrated a simultaneous contempt for human rights and international law

also invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act in an unusual way to impose sweeping tariffs. While the World Trade Institute found the move violated the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, there could be no relief as the U.S. has been blocking new appointments to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Appellate Body since 2019. Affected countries could file complaints and the U.S. could appeal, but the appeals would languish with a body that had been hollowed out.

Additionally, the U.S. administration has deported Venezuelan migrants, many with no gang affiliation, to notorious prisons – a process that the U.S. Supreme Court said violated due process rights. Independent estimates indicate that in Mr. Trump's second term as president, around six lakh people have so far been deported for alleged illegal immigration. Donald Trump has also asked whether due process protections should apply in such cases, as his administration continues to highlight the "success" of his deportation programme.

All these actions are of a nation whose principal policy is unmitigated self-interest, commitments be damned. And given the sustained manner in which the U.S. has applied this policy, it supervenes the universalism NASA invoked when it called its Artemis II mission "humanity's return to the moon".

Doesn't inspire confidence

In 2015, the U.S. passed a law that allows its citizens to possess, use, and sell resources extracted from the moon, and which the Artemis Accords use as a governing norm. Legal expert Christopher Newman has argued that the Accords are thus a mechanism for the U.S. to force other countries to accept its interpretation of resource rights. The lunar south pole contains water ice that can be used to make rocket fuel, enabling missions to Mars and beyond, but it is

available only in finite quantities in a few locations. The Accords also introduce "safety zones" around lunar sites ostensibly to prevent harmful interference. They could in practice create exclusion zones around resource-rich areas, allowing early movers to consolidate control without formally violating the Outer Space Treaty. Thus, as the frameworks for managing these resources remain underdeveloped, the country moving fastest to fill the gap is one whose recent conduct inspires the least confidence.

The way forward

The U.S.'s space governance framework is more transparent than China's. The Accords also articulate principles of peaceful use and emergency assistance. However, Chinese leadership is not the sole alternative to U.S. leadership. The more important question is whether we should allow either power to set the rules unilaterally for a domain that belongs to all of humankind. Even the Accords sidestep the multilateral process of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in favour of forging bilateral agreements, while still formally acknowledging the Committee's role. In fact, they risk allowing practices among a subset of states to become the industry's rules before other states can reach consensus through multilateral negotiations. If the U.S. expects to be a credible leader in space, it must desist from erecting a governance architecture for the moon that, by excluding China, effectively sets up a confrontation. Instead, it must pursue treaty-level rules on lunar resources that give all nations a stake. This requires the U.S. to engage with the 1979 Moon Agreement, which calls for an international regime to govern their exploitation. While the claim that the Agreement deters private investment has merit, that is no reason to foreclose a multilateral framework.

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22A. Lunar governance should be multilateral

चंद्र शासन बहुपक्षीय होना चाहिए

- This law forms a governing norm under the **Artemis Accords**.
यह कानून **Artemis Accords** के अंतर्गत एक शासकीय मानदंड बनाता है।
- Legal expert **Christopher Newman** argued that the Accords force other countries to accept the U.S. view of **resource rights**.
कानूनी विशेषज्ञ **Christopher Newman** का तर्क है कि ये समझौते अन्य देशों को **संसाधन अधिकारों** पर अमेरिकी दृष्टिकोण स्वीकार करने के लिए बाध्य करते हैं।
- The **lunar south pole** contains **water ice** that can be used to produce **rocket fuel**.
चंद्र दक्षिण ध्रुव में **जल-बर्फ** मौजूद है, जिसका उपयोग **रॉकेट ईंधन** बनाने में किया जा सकता है।
- This resource is limited and available only in **few locations**.
यह संसाधन सीमित है और केवल **कुछ स्थानों** पर उपलब्ध है।
- The Accords introduce "**safety zones**" around lunar sites.
ये समझौते चंद्र स्थलों के आसपास "**सुरक्षा क्षेत्र**" स्थापित करते हैं।
- These could become **exclusion zones** around resource-rich areas.
ये **संसाधन-समृद्ध क्षेत्रों** के आसपास **बहिष्करण क्षेत्र** बन सकते हैं।
- This allows early movers to **consolidate control** without violating the **Outer Space Treaty**.
इससे प्रारंभिक देशों को **नियंत्रण स्थापित** करने का अवसर मिलता है, बिना **Outer Space Treaty** का उल्लंघन किए।
- Thus, the country moving fastest may shape rules despite lacking **global confidence**.
इस प्रकार, जो देश सबसे तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है, वह नियम निर्धारित कर सकता है, भले ही उस पर **वैश्विक विश्वास** कम हो।
- The Accords bypass the **UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space** in favour of **bilateral agreements**.
ये समझौते **संयुक्त राष्ट्र की बाह्य अंतरिक्ष के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोग समिति** को दरकिनार कर **द्विपक्षीय समझौतों** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- This risks turning practices of a few states into **global norms** prematurely.
इससे कुछ देशों की प्रथाएँ समय से पहले **वैश्विक मानदंड** बन सकती हैं।
- The U.S. must avoid creating a system that excludes **China** and leads to **confrontation**.
अमेरिका को ऐसा ढांचा बनाने से बचना चाहिए जो **चीन** को बाहर रखे और **टकराव** उत्पन्न करे।
- It should pursue **treaty-level rules** for lunar resources involving all nations.
उसे चंद्र संसाधनों के लिए सभी देशों को शामिल करते हुए **संधि-स्तरीय नियम** बनाने चाहिए।
- This requires engagement with the **1979 Moon Agreement**.
इसके लिए **1979 के चंद्र समझौते** के साथ जुड़ाव आवश्यक है।
- The Agreement proposes an **international regime** for resource governance.
यह समझौता संसाधनों के प्रबंधन के लिए एक **अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था** का प्रस्ताव करता है।

GS Paper III: Economy		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	India's LPG crisis is the wake-up call it cannot ignore भारत का एलपीजी संकट एक ऐसा चेतावनी संकेत है जिसे वह अनदेखा नहीं कर सकता	
22A	Challenges for India's informal urban workforce भारत के अनौपचारिक शहरी कार्यबल के समक्ष चुनौतियाँ	
22A	'March oil imports dip on war, Russian volumes hit record'	



‘मार्च में तेल आयात युद्ध के कारण घटा, रूसी मात्रा रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुंची’

India's LPG crisis is the wake-up call it cannot ignore

ISS III: Economy

India is staring at an energy reality it can no longer ignore. The gas crisis of 2026, marked by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) shortages, volatile liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices, and soaring import bills, is not a temporary disruption. It is a structural warning. For a country aiming to sustain high economic growth and emerge as a global manufacturing hub, energy insecurity is not just an inconvenience; it is a strategic risk. The real question is no longer whether India should act, but how quickly it can pivot toward self-reliance.

Unsustainable energy gap

The numbers tell a troubling story. India's crude oil import dependence has reached a staggering 88.6%, with domestic production unable to keep pace with rising demand. LNG imports are projected to hit 28 million metric tonnes (MMT)-29 MMT this year, even as domestic gas production meets barely half of the requirement. Meanwhile, energy demand is expected to triple by 2047.

This widening gap between demand and domestic supply is not sustainable. Every global price shock, geopolitical disruption, and currency fluctuation directly impacts India's economy – fuelling inflation, straining public finances, and exposing systemic vulnerabilities.

What makes the situation more concerning is that existing systems are clearly failing to keep up. India has invested in LNG infrastructure, with regasification capacity exceeding 50 MMT annually. Yet, utilisation remains stuck at 50%-60% due to pipeline constraints and demand mismatches. LPG supply chains are even more fragile, heavily dependent on imports from West Asia.

The recent disruptions – which led to shortages in cities such as Mumbai and Bengaluru and triggered price spikes of up to five times – highlight just how exposed India remains.



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A push towards **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** will ensure energy security, environmental sustainability, and rural economic growth

Government interventions have helped manage the crisis in the short term, but they are reactive by design. They do not solve the fundamental problem: India's overdependence on imported fuels.

Decisive steps to take

And yet, the solution lies in plain sight.

Compressed Biogas (CBG) offers India a rare combination of energy security, environmental sustainability and rural economic growth. The country has an estimated potential of 62 MMT of CBG annually from agricultural residues, animal waste, and municipal solid waste. But the current output is just 920 tonnes per day from 132 operational plants. This is not a resource constraint – it is an execution failure.

To be fair, the policy intent is strong. Initiatives such as **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** and **Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources (GOBAR-DHAN)** have laid the groundwork, offering assured offtake, financial incentives, and a clear vision for a bioenergy ecosystem. But progress on the ground has been slow. Feedstock supply remains fragmented and unreliable. Financing is often delayed or inadequate. Regulatory approvals can take months. And the market for digestate – a key by-product – remains underdeveloped. In short, India has built the vision but not yet the system to deliver it at scale.

This is where decisive action is needed. First, India must establish a national feedstock security framework. Without a reliable and predictable supply of biomass, no CBG project can succeed. This means State-wise mapping of feedstock availability, creation of aggregation models, and long-term contracts that give developers confidence. It also requires aligning feedstock types with suitable technologies to improve efficiency and viability.

Second, the regulatory and financial ecosystem

must be streamlined. Single-window clearance systems are no longer optional; they are essential. Project developers should not spend six to nine months navigating approvals. At the same time, financial support mechanisms need to go beyond traditional subsidies. Viability gap funding, green bonds and carbon credit integration can significantly improve project economics and attract private investment.

Third, India must think beyond waste and actively promote dedicated energy crops. Napier grass, for instance, offers high yields and can serve as a reliable feedstock. Allocating even 2%-3% of agricultural land – particularly in regions with surplus production – can create a stable biomass base without compromising food security. This is not about replacing existing crops, but about strategic diversification.

Meaningful energy reform

If these interventions are implemented with urgency, the impact could be transformative. India can scale CBG production to 20 MMT by 2030. But the benefits go far beyond numbers. A robust CBG ecosystem would reduce stubble burning, improve air quality, create rural jobs and enhance farmer incomes. It would turn waste into wealth and shift India toward a truly circular economy.

The lesson from the current crisis is clear: incremental fixes will not work. India needs a structural shift in how it produces and consumes energy. The success of the ethanol blending programme shows that large-scale transformation is possible when policy clarity meets execution discipline. CBG can – and must – be the next big success story.

India's gas crisis is not just a challenge; it is a test of intent. The country can either continue to rely on volatile global markets or invest in building a resilient, domestic energy system. The choice should be obvious. The time to act is now.

22A. India's LPG crisis is the wake-up call it cannot ignore

भारत का एलपीजी संकट एक ऐसा चेतावनी संकेत है जिसे वह अनदेखा नहीं कर सकता

India's Energy Reality / भारत की ऊर्जा वास्तविकता

- India's **crude oil import dependence** has reached **88.6%**.
भारत की कच्चे तेल पर आयात निर्भरता 88.6% तक पहुँच गई है।
- Domestic production cannot match rising **energy demand**.
घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ती हुई ऊर्जा मांग के साथ तालमेल नहीं बैठा पा रहा है।
- Energy demand is expected to **triple by 2047**.
ऊर्जा की मांग 2047 तक तीन गुना होने की संभावना है।
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** offers India a rare combination of **energy security, environmental sustainability, and rural economic growth**.
संपीड़ित बायोगैस (CBG) भारत को ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता और ग्रामीण आर्थिक विकास का अनूठा संयोजन प्रदान करती है।
- The country has an estimated potential of **62 MMT of CBG annually** from **agricultural residues, animal waste, and municipal solid waste**.
देश में कृषि अवशेष, पशु अपशिष्ट और नगर ठोस कचरे से प्रति वर्ष लगभग 62 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन CBG उत्पादन की क्षमता है।



'March oil imports dip on war, Russian volumes hit record'

GS III: Economy
Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's crude oil imports fell 13% in March from pre-war levels in February, with half coming from Russia, after the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran halted Middle Eastern shipments via the Strait of Hormuz, shipping data showed.

The world's third-largest oil importer and consumer imported 4.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude in March, the data showed.

Imports from Russia almost doubled from February to 2.25 million bpd in March while shipments from the Middle East slumped 61% to 1.18 million



Russia imports almost doubled.

bpd.

Traffic at the Strait of Hormuz, which typically handles roughly one-fifth of the world's oil supply, has come to a standstill after Iran and the United States blocked vessels from passing.

• But the current output is just **920 tonnes per day** from **132 operational plants**.
लेकिन वर्तमान उत्पादन केवल **920 टन प्रतिदिन** है, जो **132 संचालित संयंत्रों** से हो रहा है।

• This is not a **resource constraint** — it is an **execution failure**.

यह **संसाधनों की कमी** नहीं है — बल्कि **कार्यान्वयन की विफलता** है।

• **Policy initiatives** such as **SATAT** and **GOBAR-DHAN** have laid the groundwork.

SATAT और **GOBAR-DHAN** जैसी नीतिगत पहलों ने आधार तैयार किया है।

• Financial support must include **viability gap funding**, **green bonds**, and **carbon credits**.

वित्तीय सहायता में **वायबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग**, **ग्रीन बॉन्ड**, और **कार्बन क्रेडिट** शामिल होने चाहिए।

22A. 'March oil imports dip on war, Russian volumes hit record'

'मार्च में तेल आयात युद्ध के कारण घटा, रूसी मात्रा रिकॉर्ड

स्तर पर पहुंची'

- The world's third-largest **oil importer and consumer** imported **4.5 million barrels per day (bpd)** of crude in March, the data showed.

दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा तेल आयातक और उपभोक्ता मार्च में 4.5 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन (bpd) कच्चा तेल आयात किया, डेटा में यह दिखाया गया।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	Peripheral neuropathy: why only some mutations cause disease परिधीय न्यूरॉपैथी: केवल कुछ उत्परिवर्तन ही रोग क्यों उत्पन्न करते हैं	
22A	Hahnöfersand bone: of contention हैनोफर्सैंड अस्थि: विवाद का विषय	



Peripheral neuropathy: why only some mutations cause disease

Long nerves in our limbs may be particularly sensitive to even slight interference from particular mutations; if researchers can find ways to target and block the mRNA or protein made from the mutant genes, it might be possible to treat inherited peripheral neuropathies

GS III S&T

D.P. Kasbekar

Inherited peripheral neuropathies (IPN) are cruel genetic diseases that affect around 1 in 2,500 individuals. A person affected by IPN develops high foot arches, curled toes, thin calves, and walks awkwardly or trips. Their fingers may become clawed and, because they lose sensation, they may not notice minor injuries. In some cases, the weakness of the muscles supporting the torso can lead to a curved spine.

Mutations in more than 100 genes can cause IPN, including in seven of the 37 genes that code for enzymes called aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (ARS). However, only some mutations in the ARS genes result in peripheral neuropathy. Others do not.

A research team led by scientists at the University of Michigan Medical School in the U.S. has now found why this is so. The disease-causing mutations were found to have a dominant-negative property, meaning the faulty protein created by the mutations doesn't just stop working; it actively interferes with the healthy version.

The findings now offer medical researchers a way to devise therapies.

The findings were published in two papers: one in 2023 in the journal *Human Molecular Genetics* and the other, this January in *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances*.

When two is less than one

Each one of us possesses two copies of every gene, one copy inherited from each parent. An ARS gene bearing a dominant-negative mutation makes a non-functional mutant protein. Additionally, the faulty protein also blocks the function of the normal protein made from the healthy copy inherited from the other parent.

As a result, ARS enzyme activity in people with one mutant copy is even less than in individuals bearing one normal gene and a second 'null' mutation that produces no protein at all. This explains why people with a missing copy of the gene often remain healthy, while those with the specific neuropathy mutation become ill.

A dominant-negative effect usually involves proteins that function as dimers, i.e. two molecules of the protein have to pair up to work correctly. The neuropathy-associated protein paired with the healthy protein to create a broken duo, thus accounting for the reduced function.

Charging up

When a gene is expressed, its DNA base sequence is first copied into the base sequence of its mRNA molecules. The mRNA is loaded onto cell structures



When a gene is expressed, its DNA base sequence is first copied into the base sequence of its mRNA molecules. MUH SHIKDER/UNSPLASH

called ribosomes, which function as protein-making factories. The base sequence of the mRNA specifies the sequence in which amino acids are joined together to make the encoded protein. Twenty different amino acids are used to build all proteins.

Another RNA, called tRNA, delivers the amino acids to the ribosomes. Each tRNA attaches to a specific amino acid. tRNA molecules attached to their matching amino acids are said to be 'charged'. Sets of three bases in the mRNA (codons) pair with their corresponding bases in the tRNA (anti-codons).

Correct codon-anticodon pairing ensures that the correct amino acid is added in the correct sequence to the growing protein.

This 'charging' of the correct amino acid is done based on the tRNA's anti-codon and performed by the ARS specific to that amino acid. In humans, the amino acids alanine and asparagine are attached to their corresponding tRNAs by ARSs encoded by the AARS1 and NARS1 genes, respectively.

Playing with yeast

The dominant-negative effect of neuropathy-associated AARS1 and NARS1 mutations was uncovered using budding yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*). Genetics experiments are easier to do in yeast than in humans, other animals, or in cells derived from them.

First, the scientists engineered the yeast cells to shut off their own native Ala-ARS or Asp-ARS gene when an

Researchers found that disease-causing mutations had the dominant-negative property, meaning the faulty protein created by the mutations doesn't just stop working, it actively interferes with the healthy version

antibiotic was added to the growth medium. Next, they inserted human AARS1 or NARS1 DNA sequences into the cells via two delivery vehicles in parallel. One vehicle was a chromosome-like DNA containing the normal AARS1 or NARS1 gene. The other vehicle was an extra-chromosomal DNA that carried either the healthy AARS1 or NARS1 gene or one of their mutant versions.

The mutants were neuropathy mutations as well as 'null' mutations (which produce no protein and are not expected to interfere with healthy ones) from patients with IPN.

All the engineered yeast cells grew equally well in normal growth medium containing the sugar glucose. This showed that the cells were not adversely affected by the mere presence of the human DNA sequences. The differences only became evident when the researchers added the antibiotic to the medium to turn off the yeast's own ARS gene, and another sugar to express its extra-chromosomal human counterpart.

Cells containing only a human 'null' mutation did not grow. This suggested

that a functional Ala-ARS or Asp-ARS gene is essential for growth. In contrast, cells with one healthy human gene and one human 'null' mutant grew robustly, meaning the healthy human gene could do the job alone and that the 'null' version did not get in its way.

However, cells containing one healthy human gene and one neuropathy-associated mutation failed to grow. This showed the neuropathy-associated mutations, unlike the nulls, actively interfered with the healthy version. That is, they had a dominant-negative effect.

Finding treatments

The neuropathy-associated mutant protein traps healthy protein in non-functional pairs, thus reducing functional ARS, decreasing the pool of available amino acids for building proteins, affecting protein synthesis, and ultimately causing disease.

The authors wrote in their paper that long nerves in our limbs, which must maintain protein production far from the cell's main body, may be particularly sensitive to even slight interference from these mutations.

If researchers can find ways to target and block the mRNA or protein made from the dominant-negative gene, it might be possible to treat the IPNs, and the yeast strains developed in these studies could prove useful in this search.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist and an independent science writer: kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

THE GIST

Mutations in more than 100 genes can cause inherited peripheral neuropathies, including in seven of the 37 genes that code for enzymes called aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (ARS)

Only some mutations in the ARS genes result in IPN and others do not

A research team led by scientists at the University of Michigan Medical School in the U.S. has now found why this is so

22A. Peripheral neuropathy: why only some mutations cause disease

परिधीय न्यूरोपैथी: केवल कुछ उत्परिवर्तन ही रोग क्यों उत्पन्न करते हैं

- Long nerves in our limbs may be particularly sensitive to even slight interference from particular mutations; if researchers can find ways to target and block the mRNA or protein made from the mutant genes, it might be possible to treat inherited peripheral neuropathies
- हमारे अंगों में स्थित लंबी तंत्रिकाएँ विशेष रूप से कुछ उत्परिवर्तनों से होने वाले हल्के हस्तक्षेप के प्रति भी अत्यधिक संवेदनशील हो सकती हैं; यदि शोधकर्ता म्यूटेंट जीन द्वारा निर्मित mRNA या प्रोटीन को लक्षित करके अवरुद्ध करने के उपाय खोज लें, तो वंशानुगत परिधीय न्यूरोपैथियों का उपचार संभव हो सकता है

Inherited peripheral neuropathies (IPN) / वंशानुगत परिधीय न्यूरोपैथियाँ (IPN)



- **Inherited peripheral neuropathies (IPN)** are cruel genetic diseases that affect around 1 in 2,500 individuals.
वंशानुगत परिधीय न्यूरोपैथियाँ (IPN) क्रूर आनुवंशिक रोग हैं जो लगभग 2,500 में से 1 व्यक्ति को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- A person affected by IPN develops **high foot arches, curled toes, thin calves, and walks awkwardly or trips.**
IPN से प्रभावित व्यक्ति में ऊँचे पैर के मेहराब, मुड़े हुए पैर की उंगलियाँ, पतली पिंडलियाँ विकसित होती हैं, और वह अजीब ढंग से चलता है या ठोकर खाता है।
- **Their fingers may become clawed and, because they lose sensation, they may not notice minor injuries.**
उनकी उंगलियाँ पंजे जैसी हो सकती हैं और संवेदना की कमी के कारण वे छोटी चोटों को भी महसूस नहीं कर पाते हैं।
- In some cases, the weakness of the muscles supporting the torso can lead to a curved spine.
कुछ मामलों में, धड़ को सहारा देने वाली मांसपेशियों की कमजोरी से रीढ़ की हड्डी में वक्रता हो सकती है।
- **Mutations in more than 100 genes can cause IPN, including in seven of the 37 genes that code for enzymes called aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (ARS).**
100 से अधिक जीनों में उत्परिवर्तन IPN का कारण बन सकते हैं, जिनमें 37 जीनों में से सात शामिल हैं जो aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (ARS) नामक एंजाइम के लिए कोड करते हैं।
- However, **only some mutations in the ARS genes result in peripheral neuropathy.**
हालाँकि, ARS जीनों में केवल कुछ उत्परिवर्तन ही परिधीय न्यूरोपैथी का कारण बनते हैं।
- Others do not.
अन्य ऐसा नहीं करते हैं।
- A research team led by scientists at the University of Michigan Medical School in the U.S. has now found why this is so.
अमेरिका के यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मिशिगन मेडिकल स्कूल के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए एक शोध दल ने अब यह पता लगाया है कि ऐसा क्यों होता है।
- **The disease-causing mutations were found to have a dominant-negative property, meaning the faulty protein created by the mutations doesn't just stop working; it actively interferes with the healthy version.**
रोग उत्पन्न करने वाले उत्परिवर्तनों में dominant-negative गुण पाया गया, जिसका अर्थ है कि उत्परिवर्तन द्वारा निर्मित दोषपूर्ण प्रोटीन केवल काम करना बंद नहीं करता बल्कि स्वस्थ प्रोटीन के कार्य में सक्रिय रूप से हस्तक्षेप करता है।
- The findings now offer medical researchers a way to devise therapies.
ये निष्कर्ष अब चिकित्सा शोधकर्ताओं को उपचार विकसित करने का एक तरीका प्रदान करते हैं।
- The findings were published in two papers: one in 2023 in the journal Human Molecular Genetics and the other, this January in Human Genetics and Genomics Advances.
ये निष्कर्ष दो शोध पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुए: एक 2023 में Human Molecular Genetics पत्रिका में और दूसरा इस वर्ष जनवरी में Human Genetics and Genomics Advances में।

When two is less than one / जब दो एक से कम होते हैं

- Each one of us possesses two copies of every gene, one copy inherited from each parent.
हममें से प्रत्येक के पास हर जीन की दो प्रतियाँ होती हैं, एक प्रत्येक माता-पिता से प्राप्त होती है।
- An ARS gene bearing a dominant-negative mutation makes a non-functional mutant protein.
dominant-negative उत्परिवर्तन वाला ARS जीन एक गैर-कार्यात्मक उत्परिवर्ती प्रोटीन बनाता है।
- Additionally, the faulty protein also blocks the function of the normal protein made from the healthy copy inherited from the other parent.



इसके अतिरिक्त, दोषपूर्ण प्रोटीन दूसरे माता-पिता से प्राप्त स्वस्थ जीन द्वारा बने सामान्य प्रोटीन के कार्य को भी अवरुद्ध करता है।

- As a result, ARS enzyme activity in people with one mutant copy is even less than in individuals bearing one normal gene and a second 'null' mutation that produces no protein at all.
परिणामस्वरूप, एक उत्परिवर्तित प्रति वाले व्यक्तियों में ARS एंजाइम की गतिविधि उन व्यक्तियों से भी कम होती है जिनमें एक सामान्य जीन और एक 'null' उत्परिवर्तन होता है जो कोई प्रोटीन उत्पन्न नहीं करता।
- This explains why people with a missing copy of the gene often remain healthy, while those with the specific neuropathy mutation become ill.
यह बताता है कि जिन लोगों में जीन की एक प्रति अनुपस्थित होती है वे अक्सर स्वस्थ रहते हैं, जबकि विशिष्ट न्यूरोपैथी उत्परिवर्तन वाले लोग बीमार हो जाते हैं।
- A dominant-negative effect usually involves proteins that function as dimers, i.e. two molecules of the protein have to pair up to work correctly.
dominant-negative प्रभाव सामान्यतः उन प्रोटीनों में देखा जाता है जो dimer के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, अर्थात् प्रोटीन के दो अणुओं को सही कार्य के लिए जोड़ी बनानी होती है।
- The neuropathy-associated protein paired with the healthy protein to create a broken duo, thus accounting for the reduced function.
न्यूरोपैथी से संबंधित प्रोटीन स्वस्थ प्रोटीन के साथ मिलकर एक दोषपूर्ण जोड़ी बनाता है, जिससे कार्यक्षमता कम हो जाती है।

Charging up / चार्जिंग की प्रक्रिया

- When a gene is expressed, its DNA base sequence is first copied into the base sequence of its mRNA molecules.
जब कोई जीन अभिव्यक्त होता है, तो उसका DNA आधार अनुक्रम पहले mRNA के आधार अनुक्रम में कॉपी किया जाता है।
- The mRNA is loaded onto cell structures called ribosomes, which function as protein-making factories.
mRNA को कोशिका की संरचनाओं, जिन्हें राइबोसोम कहा जाता है, पर लोड किया जाता है, जो प्रोटीन बनाने के कारखाने के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- The base sequence of the mRNA specifies the sequence in which amino acids are joined together to make the encoded protein.
mRNA का आधार अनुक्रम यह निर्धारित करता है कि अमीनो अम्ल किस क्रम में जुड़कर प्रोटीन बनाते हैं।
- Twenty different amino acids are used to build all proteins.
सभी प्रोटीन बनाने के लिए 20 विभिन्न अमीनो अम्लों का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- Another RNA, called tRNA, delivers the amino acids to the ribosomes.
एक अन्य RNA, जिसे tRNA कहा जाता है, अमीनो अम्लों को राइबोसोम तक पहुँचाता है।
- Each tRNA attaches to a specific amino acid.
प्रत्येक tRNA एक विशिष्ट अमीनो अम्ल से जुड़ता है।
- tRNA molecules attached to their matching amino acids are said to be 'charged'.
अपने संबंधित अमीनो अम्ल से जुड़े tRNA अणुओं को 'charged' कहा जाता है।
- Sets of three bases in the mRNA (codons) pair with their corresponding bases in the tRNA (anti-codons).
mRNA में तीन आधारों के समूह (codons) tRNA में उनके संबंधित आधारों (anti-codons) के साथ जुड़ते हैं।
- Correct codon-anticodon pairing ensures that the correct amino acid is added in the correct sequence to the growing protein.
सही codon-anticodon युग्मन यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि सही अमीनो अम्ल सही क्रम में बढ़ते हुए प्रोटीन में जुड़ें।



- This 'charging' of the correct amino acid is done based on the tRNA's anti-codon and performed by the ARS specific to that amino acid.
सही अमीनो अम्ल की यह 'charging' tRNA के anti-codon के आधार पर होती है और इसे उस अमीनो अम्ल के लिए विशिष्ट ARS द्वारा किया जाता है।
- In humans, the amino acids alanine and asparagine are attached to their corresponding tRNAs by ARSs encoded by the AARS1 and NARS1 genes, respectively.
मनुष्यों में, अमीनो अम्ल alanine और asparagine अपने संबंधित tRNA से क्रमशः AARS1 और NARS1 जीन द्वारा कोडित ARS के माध्यम से जुड़ते हैं।

Playing with yeast / यीस्ट के साथ प्रयोग

- The **dominant-negative effect** of **neuropathy-associated AARS1 and NARS1 mutations** was uncovered using **budding yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae)**.
neuropathy से संबंधित AARS1 और NARS1 उत्परिवर्तनों के dominant-negative प्रभाव को budding yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) का उपयोग करके उजागर किया गया।
- **Genetics experiments** are easier to do in **yeast** than in humans, other animals, or in cells derived from them.
आनुवंशिक प्रयोग यीस्ट में करना मनुष्यों, अन्य जीवों या उनसे प्राप्त कोशिकाओं की तुलना में अधिक सरल होता है।
- First, the scientists engineered the yeast cells to shut off their own native **Ala-ARS or Asp-ARS gene** when an **antibiotic** was added to the growth medium.
प्रथम, वैज्ञानिकों ने यीस्ट कोशिकाओं को इस प्रकार अभिकल्पित किया कि जब वृद्धि माध्यम में **एंटीबायोटिक** जोड़ा जाए तो वे अपने मूल **Ala-ARS या Asp-ARS जीन** को बंद कर दें।
- Next, they inserted human **AARS1 or NARS1 DNA sequences** into the cells via two delivery vehicles in parallel.
इसके पश्चात उन्होंने मानव के **AARS1 या NARS1 DNA अनुक्रमों** को दो वाहक प्रणालियों के माध्यम से समानांतर रूप से कोशिकाओं में प्रविष्ट कराया।
- One vehicle was a **chromosome-like DNA** containing the normal **AARS1 or NARS1 gene**.
एक वाहक **chromosome-जैसा DNA** था जिसमें सामान्य **AARS1 या NARS1 जीन** उपस्थित था।
- The other vehicle was an **extra-chromosomal DNA** that carried either the healthy **AARS1 or NARS1 gene** or one of their **mutant versions**.
दूसरा वाहक एक **extra-chromosomal DNA** था जिसमें या तो स्वस्थ **AARS1 या NARS1 जीन** या उनके **उत्परिवर्तित संस्करण** मौजूद थे।
- The mutants were **neuropathy mutations** as well as '**null**' mutations (which produce no protein and are not expected to interfere with healthy ones) from patients with **IPN**.
ये उत्परिवर्तन **neuropathy उत्परिवर्तन** तथा '**null**' उत्परिवर्तन थे (जो कोई प्रोटीन उत्पन्न नहीं करते और स्वस्थ प्रोटीन में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करते), जो **IPN** रोगियों से लिए गए थे।
- All the engineered yeast cells grew equally well in normal growth medium containing the sugar **glucose**.
सभी अभिकल्पित यीस्ट कोशिकाएँ **ग्लूकोज़** युक्त सामान्य वृद्धि माध्यम में समान रूप से विकसित हुईं।
- This showed that the cells were not adversely affected by the mere presence of the human DNA sequences.
इससे स्पष्ट हुआ कि मानव DNA अनुक्रमों की मात्रा उपस्थिति से कोशिकाओं पर कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा।
- The differences only became evident when the researchers added the **antibiotic** to the medium to turn off the yeast's own **ARS gene**, and another sugar to express its **extra-chromosomal human counterpart**.
अंतर केवल तब स्पष्ट हुआ जब शोधकर्ताओं ने माध्यम में **एंटीबायोटिक** जोड़कर यीस्ट के अपने **ARS जीन** को बंद किया और एक अन्य शर्करा द्वारा **extra-chromosomal मानव जीन** को अभिव्यक्त किया।



- Cells containing only a human 'null' mutation did not grow.
केवल मानव 'null' उत्परिवर्तन वाली कोशिकाएँ विकसित नहीं हुईं।
- This suggested that a functional **Ala-ARS or Asp-ARS gene** is essential for growth.
इससे संकेत मिला कि कार्यात्मक **Ala-ARS या Asp-ARS जीन** वृद्धि के लिए आवश्यक है।
- In contrast, cells with one healthy human gene and one human 'null' mutant grew robustly, meaning the healthy human gene could do the job alone and that the 'null' version did not get in its way.
इसके विपरीत, एक स्वस्थ मानव जीन और एक 'null' उत्परिवर्तन वाली कोशिकाएँ अच्छी तरह विकसित हुईं, जिससे स्पष्ट हुआ कि स्वस्थ जीन अकेले ही कार्य कर सकता है और 'null' उत्परिवर्तन बाधा नहीं बनता।

Hahnöfersand bone: of contention

GS III: S&T

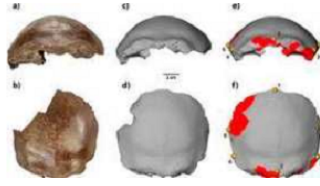
Vasudevan Mukunth

Researchers recently reevaluated a famous fossil known as the Hahnöfersand frontal bone. It was first found in Germany in 1973, with scientists dating the bone to 36,000 years ago.

Scientists' early descriptions of the bone suggested that, going by its robust appearance, the individual who had it was a hybrid between a Neanderthal and a modern human. However, newer dating methods recently revealed that the bone is much younger, originating only about 7,500 years ago, from the Mesolithic period.

To resolve these conflicting estimates, researchers from Germany and Italy used a 3D imaging technique called surface registration. This method creates a nearly clean map of a fossil's surface, allowing the team to compare its shape to other known bones from a dataset of Neanderthal, Middle Pleistocene hominin, and various modern human bones.

Thus, the team found that the geometry of the Hahnöfersand specimen was within the natural variation of comparable modern human (*Homo sapien*) bones. Statistical analyses found no evidence of intermediate or hybrid morphology. Instead, the bone's shape closely matched that of other Holocene-era



The Hahnöfersand frontal bone: (a) and (b) show the bone in its current state and (c)-(f) depict its reconstruction. SCI. REP. 16, 12696 (2026)

humans, specifically individuals from the Mesolithic and Medieval periods.

The researchers concluded that the previous "hybrid" interpretation was likely the result of subjective visual observations plus difficulties of placing fragments at the right orientation. Per the new study, the Hahnöfersand is a modern human. Its authors have also said surface registration provides a more accurate way to identify fragmented fossils and study human evolution.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

22A. Hahnöfersand bone: of contention

हैनोफर्सैंड अस्थि: विवाद का विषय

Hahnöfersand frontal bone / हाहनोफर्सैंड फ्रंटल बोन

- Researchers recently reevaluated a famous fossil known as the **Hahnöfersand frontal bone**.
शोधकर्ताओं ने हाल ही में एक प्रसिद्ध जीवाश्म जिसे **हाहनोफर्सैंड फ्रंटल बोन** कहा जाता है, का पुनर्मूल्यांकन किया।
- It was first found in **Germany** in 1973, with scientists dating the bone to **36,000 years ago**.
यह पहली बार **जर्मनी** में 1973 में पाया गया था, और वैज्ञानिकों ने इसे लगभग **36,000 वर्ष पुराना** माना था।
- Scientists' early descriptions of the bone suggested that, going by its **robust appearance**, the individual was a **hybrid between a Neanderthal and a modern human**.
वैज्ञानिकों के प्रारंभिक विवरण के अनुसार, इसकी **मजबूत संरचना** के आधार पर यह माना गया कि यह **निएंडरथल**

और **आधुनिक मानव** के बीच एक **संकर (हाइब्रिड)** था।

- However, newer **dating methods** revealed that the bone is much younger, **about 7,500 years old, from the Mesolithic period**.

हालाँकि, नवीन **डेटिंग विधियों** से पता चला कि यह हड्डी केवल लगभग **7,500 वर्ष पुरानी** है और **मध्य पाषाण काल (Mesolithic period)** की है।

- To resolve these conflicting estimates, researchers from **Germany and Italy** used a **3D imaging technique** called **surface registration**.
इन विरोधाभासी निष्कर्षों को सुलझाने के लिए **जर्मनी और इटली** के शोधकर्ताओं ने **3D इमेजिंग तकनीक** जिसका नाम **surface registration** है, का उपयोग किया।
- **This method creates a nearly clean map of a fossil's surface, allowing comparison with Neanderthal, Middle Pleistocene hominin, and modern human bones.**

यह विधि **जीवाश्म की सतह** का लगभग साफ मानचित्र बनाती है, जिससे **निएंडरथल, मिडिल प्लाइस्टोसीन होमिनिन** और **आधुनिक मानव की हड्डियों** से तुलना संभव होती है।



GS Paper III: Environment		22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
22A	Gauhati High Court orders Assam govt. to stop buffalo fights गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय ने असम सरकार को भैंसों की लड़ाई रोकने का आदेश दिया	
22A	Biofuels back in vogue as Iran war triggers oil price surge ईरान युद्ध से तेल कीमतों में उछाल, बायोफ्यूल फिर से प्रचलन में	

Summer snack



Litter left to linger: On the eve of Earth Day, a chimpanzee relishes a slice of watermelon while holding a snack packet discarded by a visitor at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. K.R. DEEPAK

Litter left to linger: On the eve of Earth Day, a chimpanzee relishes a slice of watermelon while holding a snack packet discarded by a visitor at the **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam** on Tuesday

stop buffalo fights

Gauhati High Court orders Assam govt. to stop buffalo fights

GS III: Environment
The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has directed the Assam government to ensure that no buffalo fights (Moh-Juj) take place in the State and to initiate appropriate penal action against any organisers of such events until further orders.

Justice Anjan Moni Kalita heard the case on April 4. The interim order, released on Tuesday, was passed following a writ petition filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India (PETA), citing illegal buffalo fights conducted in Assam during Magh Bihu in January.

The court observed that buffalo fights in Assam cannot be permitted under the

statutory provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and that any subsequent organisation of such events would violate binding judicial precedents.

PETA had filed new photographic evidence of alleged cruelty to buffaloes before the Gauhati High Court. The documentation showed buffaloes with open wounds, often beaten with thick sticks during the events and pulled by nose ropes to force them to fight, resulting in injuries.

PETA India sought accountability and urgent action against the events that took place and immediate intervention to prevent future events from being held in defiance of the Gauhati High Court's order.

cruelty to buffaloes before the Gauhati High Court.

PETA ने गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष भैंसों के साथ कथित क्रूरता के नए फोटोग्राफिक साक्ष्य प्रस्तुत किए।

- The documentation showed buffaloes with open wounds, often beaten with thick sticks during the events and pulled by nose ropes to force them to fight, resulting in injuries. दस्तावेजों में भैंसों को खुले घावों के साथ दिखाया गया, जिन्हें कार्यक्रमों के दौरान मोटी लाठियों से पीटा जाता था और नाक की रस्सियों से खींचकर लड़ने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता था, जिससे उन्हें चोटें आती थीं।

22A. Gauhati High Court orders Assam govt. to

गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय ने असम सरकार को भैंसों की लड़ाई रोकने का आदेश दिया

- The **Gauhati High Court** has directed the **Assam government** to ensure that no buffalo fights (**Moh-Juj**) take place in the State and to initiate appropriate **penal action** against any organisers of such events until further orders.

गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय ने असम सरकार को निर्देश दिया है कि राज्य में कोई भी भैंसों की लड़ाई (मोह-जुज) न हो और ऐसे आयोजनों के आयोजकों के खिलाफ उचित दंडात्मक कार्रवाई की जाए, जब तक आगे आदेश न हों।

- The court observed that buffalo fights in Assam cannot be permitted under the statutory provisions of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, and that any subsequent organisation of such events would violate binding **judicial precedents**.

न्यायालय ने कहा कि असम में भैंसों की लड़ाई पशु क्रूरता निवारण

अधिनियम, 1960 के प्रावधानों के तहत अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती और ऐसे

आयोजनों का आयोजन करना बाध्यकारी न्यायिक मिसालों का उल्लंघन होगा।

- PETA had filed new photographic evidence of alleged



Biofuels back in vogue as Iran war triggers oil price surge

GS III: Environment

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
LONDON

Soaring oil prices in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran are driving renewed demand for biofuels as the need to tackle a fossil fuel shortage outweighs concerns that using crops for fuel will drive up food prices.

The conflict has disrupted about 20% of the world's oil and gas supplies, which typically pass through the Strait of Hormuz in the Middle East Gulf. Crude prices are up more than 30% since late February, before the war started. In contrast, prices for corn, a key biofuel ingredient, have risen

just 5%. Biofuels, made from any organic feedstock, are usually blended into gasoline or used to replace diesel. They become more economical when fossil fuel prices rise. They can also help keep prices down at the pump and reduce dependency on costly crude oil and fuel imports.

Countries in Asia, heavily dependent on Middle East oil imports, have sought to increase biofuel use since the war began. Asia buys about 80% of the oil shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, which has largely been closed to shipping since the conflict began.

Vietnam said in late March it would switch fully to ethanol-blended gasoline from April due to the



New source: An ethanol plant with its giant corn silos next to a cornfield in Windsor, Colorado.

energy price surge, bringing forward a previous target of June 1. Ethanol is produced mostly from corn or sugarcane.

Indonesia has said it will raise the mandatory blend-

ing rate for biodiesel made from palm oil to 50% from 40%. Indonesia is the world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil.

"In Asia, countries do look at biofuels that can be

produced from locally sourced feedstocks as they can reach two goals at once - limit energy imports and increase profitability for farmers," Kpler biofuels analyst Beata Wojtkowska

said. Asian countries are trying to soften the impact on their economies of the war-induced energy price surge with measures like fuel rationing, shorter work weeks and alternating driving days.

Asian biofuel boost

"I expect the crisis to give the Asian biofuel sector a boost," International Sugar Organization senior economist Peterde Clerk said, adding India was planning to raise the amount of ethanol blended into gasoline, while Thailand was also looking at ethanol options.

Food versus fuel

Measures to boost biofuel production and use, like crop subsidies and mandates, came under scrutiny in the 2007-2008 food

price crisis, prompting a fierce debate among policymakers over food versus fuel security.

Biofuel production can take up a large amount of crops. About 40% of the corn in top grower the U.S. is used to make ethanol, while top sugar producer Brazil uses 50% of its sugarcane to make the biofuel.

The war-fueled surge in energy, transport and fertilizer costs has already triggered a rise in world food prices, which hit a six-month high in March. Increased use of biofuels could potentially drive food prices higher still.

But Phil Aikman, Southeast Asia campaign director for non-profit Mighty Earth said significantly higher food prices would only come about if biofuel

makers build new plants at scale, which would take years.

Pentiful supplies

Also, global grain and vegetable oil supplies are plentiful at present, so the food vs fuel debate has not been nearly as prominent as it was in 2007-2008.

Biofuels account for a fraction of global energy needs - meeting just 4% of transport fuel demand. Consultants BMI, a unit of Fitch, expect biofuels to meet 5% of transport energy needs by 2035.

As well as the time and cost involved in building new plants, fuel blending limitations and feedstock supply constraints would prevent large and rapid growth in biofuel demand, Kpler's Wojtkowska said.

22A. Biofuels back in vogue as Iran war triggers oil price surge

ईरान युद्ध से तेल कीमतों में उछाल, बायोफ्यूल फिर से प्रचलन में

- Soaring **oil prices** in the wake of the **U.S.-Israeli war on Iran** are driving renewed demand for **biofuels** as the need to tackle a **fossil fuel shortage** outweighs concerns that using crops for fuel will drive up **food prices**.

तेल कीमतों में तेज वृद्धि, जो अमेरिका-इजरायल द्वारा ईरान पर युद्ध के बाद हुई, बायोफ्यूल की मांग को फिर बढ़ा रही है क्योंकि जीवाश्म ईंधन की कमी से निपटने की आवश्यकता, फसलों के उपयोग से खाद्य कीमतों बढ़ने की चिंता से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है।

- **Biofuels, made from any organic feedstock, are usually blended into gasoline or used to replace diesel.**

बायोफ्यूल, जो किसी भी जैविक कच्चे माल से बनते हैं, आमतौर पर पेट्रोल में मिलाए जाते हैं या डीजल के स्थान पर उपयोग होते हैं।

- **Vietnam** said in late March it would switch fully to **ethanol-blended gasoline** from April due to the energy price surge, bringing forward a previous target of June 1.

वियतनाम ने मार्च के अंत में कहा कि वह ऊर्जा कीमतों में वृद्धि के कारण अप्रैल से पूरी तरह एथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल अपनाएगा, जो पहले 1 जून का लक्ष्य था।

- **Ethanol is produced mostly from corn or sugarcane.**

एथेनॉल मुख्यतः मक्का या गन्ना से बनाया जाता है।

- **Indonesia** has said it will raise the mandatory blending rate for **biodiesel** made from **palm oil** to **50%** from **40%**.

इंडोनेशिया ने कहा है कि वह पाम ऑयल से बने बायोडीजल की अनिवार्य मिश्रण दर को 40% से बढ़ाकर 50% करेगा।

- **Indonesia is the world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil.**

इंडोनेशिया दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा पाम ऑयल उत्पादक और निर्यातक है।

- "Measures to boost biofuel production and use, like **crop subsidies** and mandates, came under scrutiny in the **2007-2008 food price crisis**, prompting a fierce debate among policymakers over **food versus fuel security**."

बायोफ्यूल उत्पादन और उपयोग बढ़ाने के उपाय, जैसे फसल सब्सिडी और अनिवार्यता, 2007-2008 खाद्य मूल्य संकट के दौरान जांच के दायरे में आए, जिससे नीति निर्माताओं के बीच खाद्य बनाम ईंधन सुरक्षा पर तीखी बहस हुई।



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

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

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- Biofuel production can take up a large amount of crops.
बायोफ्यूल उत्पादन में बड़ी मात्रा में फसलों का उपयोग होता है।
- About **40%** of the corn in top grower the **U.S.** is used to make ethanol, while top sugar producer **Brazil** uses **50%** of its sugarcane to make the biofuel.
शीर्ष उत्पादक **अमेरिका** में लगभग **40%** मक्का एथेनॉल बनाने में उपयोग होता है, जबकि शीर्ष गन्ना उत्पादक **ब्राजील** अपने **50%** गन्ने का उपयोग बायोफ्यूल बनाने में करता है।
- The war-fuelled surge in **energy, transport and fertilizer costs** has already triggered a rise in world **food prices**, which hit a six-month high in March.
युद्ध के कारण **ऊर्जा, परिवहन और उर्वरक लागत** में वृद्धि से वैश्विक **खाद्य कीमतों** में पहले ही बढ़ोतरी हो चुकी है, जो मार्च में छह महीने के उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गई।
- Increased use of biofuels could potentially drive food prices higher still.
बायोफ्यूल के बढ़ते उपयोग से खाद्य कीमतें और बढ़ सकती हैं।
- Also, global **grain and vegetable oil supplies** are plentiful at present, so the food vs fuel debate has not been nearly as prominent as it was in **2007-2008**.
वर्तमान में वैश्विक **अनाज और वनस्पति तेल** की आपूर्ति प्रचुर है, इसलिए **2007-2008** की तरह खाद्य बनाम ईंधन बहस उतनी प्रमुख नहीं है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	22 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22A	'Ghazwa-e-Hind' conspiracy: Gujarat ATS arrests two men 'ग़ज़वा-ए-हिंद' साजिश: गुजरात एटीएस ने दो लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया

'Ghazwa-e-Hind' conspiracy: Gujarat ATS arrests two men

GS III: Internal Security
Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

A social media trail has led the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) to arrest two people accused of allegedly plotting activities against national security and attempting to radicalise youth online, officials said.

According to investigators, the suspects were allegedly working towards building a network with the intent of carrying out attacks and promoting the idea of "Ghazwa-e-Hind".

Authorities said the duo had identified potential targets, including political figures associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Officials received information regarding Irfan Ka-

lekhan Pathan, 22, a resident of Siddhpur in Patan district, who was allegedly under the influence of extremist ideology.

ATS officials summoned Pathan for questioning. A preliminary analysis of his mobile phone reportedly revealed communication with individuals suspected to have links with the Islamic State, and other radical elements through social media, officials said.

Officials also identified the alleged involvement of Murshid Zahid Akhtar Sheikh, 21, a resident of Sakinaka in Mumbai. The team, with support from the Maharashtra Police, detained Sheikh.

A local court on Tuesday remanded both to 14 days of ATS custody.

22A. 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' conspiracy: Gujarat ATS arrests two men

'ग़ज़वा-ए-हिंद' साजिश: गुजरात एटीएस ने दो लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया

- Attempting to radicalise youth online, officials said.
- According to investigators, the suspects were allegedly **working towards building a network with the intent of carrying out attacks and promoting the idea of "Ghazwa-e-Hind"**.

जांचकर्ताओं के अनुसार, आरोपी एक नेटवर्क बनाने की दिशा में काम कर रहे थे, जिसका उद्देश्य हमले करना और "ग़ज़वा-ए-हिंद" की विचारधारा को बढ़ावा देना था।

- **Authorities said the duo had identified potential targets, including political figures associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).**

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि दोनों ने संभावित लक्ष्यों की पहचान की थी, जिनमें **राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (RSS)** से जुड़े राजनीतिक व्यक्ति शामिल थे।